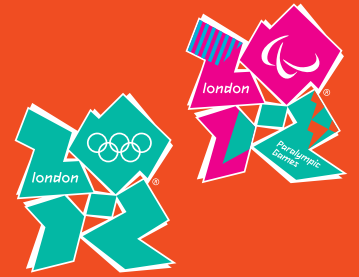


# Learning legacy



## Lessons learned from the London 2012 Games construction project

### Project FSC certification – assuring legal and well managed timber

As part of the Olympic Delivery Authority's (ODA) sustainable timber objectives, the Athletes' Village is on track to become the first project of its scale to achieve 100 per cent Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) sourced timber in the UK to date. This is helping the London 2012 construction project achieve responsible sourcing credits toward the Code for Sustainable Homes (CfSH) and the Building Research Establishment's Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) assessments. It also provides a lasting benefit in the supply chain by increasing the number of certified suppliers capable of delivering responsibly sourced timber.

#### Timber sourcing in the UK

Timber generally has low environmental impact and can be highly sustainable, provided it is responsibly sourced. However, there is a history of illegal and unsustainable timber from unknown sources entering the supply chain, much of which has ended up on Britain's building sites.

Around 50 million cubic metres of timber is used in the UK each year, two-thirds of which is imported predominantly from Scandinavia and the Baltic states. The UK construction industry is responsible for procuring and using approximately 60 per cent.

In 2006, FSC launched their project FSC certification standard which, for the first time, enabled construction projects to be certified.

#### FSC certification

The developer of the Village committed to using timber certified by the FSC, as this certification scheme was most widely accepted as providing credible evidence that timber is well managed and legally sourced.

Achieving FSC certification and use of the FSC logo support claims of sustainability. It also assists developers to achieve up to nine credits within the

CfSH and BREEAM assessments. This standard is higher than regulation and therefore also ensures compliance with the UK Government policy on timber procurement.

The standard allows for partial certification where only certain elements are covered. This partial basis had been achieved on only a handful of smaller-scale projects in the UK. The Village opted for full certification where all timber elements were covered by the scope of the certification – a first on a project of this scale and magnitude.



Aerial view of the Athletes' Village



FSC certified timber stock

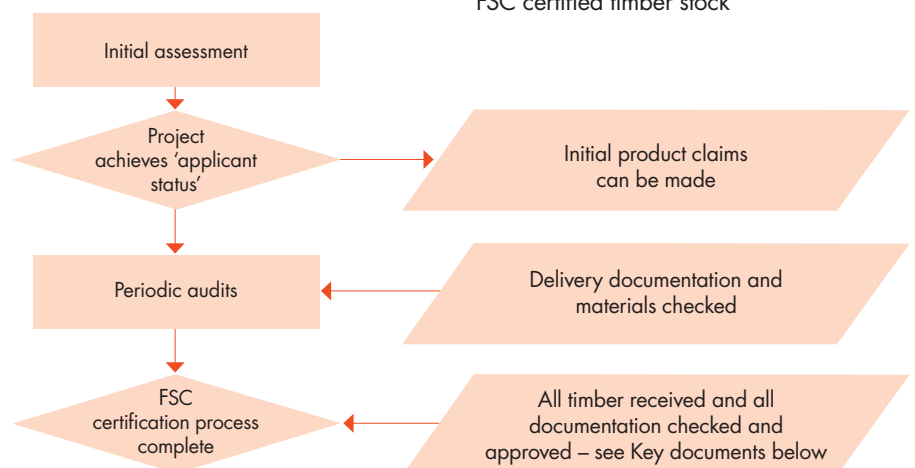


Figure 1: The FSC certification process

## Key documents

The process is only complete when all timber has been delivered, and all the documentation has been reviewed, with no outstanding non-conformances. Documents needed are:

- delivery notes to the site, including relevant details to prove chain of custody;
- supplier's chain of custody number, date and reference number; and
- approved FSC description and dimensional information or standard unit quantities.

The FSC Chain of Custody (CoC) demands that all organisations handling timber within the supply chain must be covered by an FSC certified CoC management system.

## Design changes

It was important to monitor design changes for compliance, for example, following the inclusion of timber veneers as a late design change, additional audits were undertaken to ensure the FSC CoC requirements were met and the certification was not jeopardised. All new suppliers appointed as a result of this change who were not certified were required to achieve the FSC CoC standard prior to deliveries arriving on site.

## Monthly monitoring

All timber volume, type and FSC certification type was recorded and summarised on a monthly return, EF4 form, and cross-referenced against the delivery notes to confirm the CoC to site.

The information was recorded on an internet-based data collection system based on the BRE's SMARTWaste system. This provided a key performance indicator for timber for the project.

Suppliers' certification was routinely validated on the FSC database using

the internet. A date-stamped copy of the validation was used in evidence for the audits.

To ensure proper communication of the requirements, a number of toolbox talks were developed. Signed registers gave evidence of the briefings.

## Lessons learned

Although FSC certification is widespread among timber suppliers, it is only just beginning to be taken up by contractors. So often the chain is broken and there is no guarantee that FSC timber has been used. The implementation of a recognised benchmark, that is higher than regulation project certification, acts as a demand signal to the supply chain and encourages improved best practice across the industry.

Certification is advantageous to CfSH and BREEAM. The Village certification for all timber elements contributes towards the achievement of responsible sourcing credits, improving the project's BREEAM/CfSH rating and providing market recognition for low environmental impact buildings.

Understanding the supply chain and communication within the chain is crucial to success, as it allows any potential breaks in the chain of custody to be identified at an early stage, avoiding delays or potential problems later. Additional audits and a potential change in supplier can be undertaken to ensure compliance.

One lasting benefit is that several suppliers achieved FSC CoC certification as a direct result of the requirements of this project. This enables the rest of the industry to benefit from improved availability of certified, responsibly sourced timber in the future.



FSC certified timber fencing



N15 block A balcony showing FSC certified timber flooring

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## Project

Athletes' Village

## Supplier

Lend Lease – Development Manager

## Author

Andrew Kinsey – Sustainability Manager, Lend Lease

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FSC certified wood specified for this project, 2009 TT-PRO-002826 (© 1996 Forest Stewardship Council A.C.)



department for  
culture, media  
and sport



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