

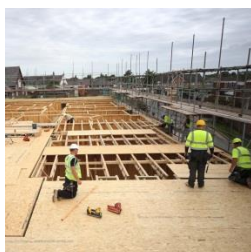
Introduction

The Home-Grown Homes Project aims to transform the Welsh timber construction sector and its local supply chain by substantially increasing the number and quality of timber homes in Wales. In doing so it should increase the demand for local timber, making it more readily available, increase confidence and investment in the saw milling sector and inspire a resurgence in forest establishment and management. It's a 30-month research project led by Powys County Council and being delivered by Woodknowledge Wales in partnership with Coed Cymru, Cardiff Metropolitan University and Exova BM TRADA. It's funded by the Welsh Government and EU. The Project has several elements which focus on building clients, manufacturers, growers and processors.

The project held its first quarterly management meeting with partners in September to review progress. Work has now started on every element of the project and it's on target to exceed all Welsh Government indicators. September also saw the first meeting of the project's management board chaired by Powys County Council (PCC).

Project work with clients

A number of local authorities and housing association projects are now being advised and supported: Bron Afon, Grŵp Cynefin, Mid Wales Housing, Powys CC, Pennaf and Cartrefi Cymunedol Gwynedd are developing schemes. Many of these schemes are funded under the Welsh Government's Innovative Housing Programme (some recently announced) and are using timber in their construction – including timber frames, cladding, insulation and windows. These exemplar projects are receiving support on design and specification, procurement, site visits and tool box talks. Meetings have been held with other organisations across Wales which have potential projects.



Overcoming Barriers

Project partners are collaborating with clients and their teams on construction projects to overcome the barriers to the use of timber, the use of local manufacturers and the use of local species. Some examples of current activities include:

- The manufacture of laminated window beams from home-grown timber
- The specification and sourcing of home-grown timber cladding

- Developing an efficient compliance route for Secured By Design (in collaboration with the Wood Window Alliance) to enable joinery companies to supply social housing projects
- The sourcing of home-grown structural timber for the manufacture of open panel timber frame
- Investigating the requirement for wood preservation in structural timber framing (the use of preservative treated timber for this application is less common in North America and Scandinavia)
- Exploring strategies for keeping wood dry during construction

More and Better Homes

Cardiff Metropolitan University is in the process of recruiting a Research Associate to run the day to day delivery of the part of the project which is focussed on producing more and better homes from wood. As part of a review of building performance methodologies the Building Performance Network has been sub-contracted to carry out a review and make recommendations on appropriate responses. An interim report is due by the end of 2018. A sub-contractor is in the process of being recruited for whole life carbon assessments on exemplar projects which will help inform future design and policy making on the use of materials in construction.

More and Better Local Manufacturing

The 'More and Better Local Manufacturing' element of the project is led by Exova BM TRADA. It begins with a survey of timber frame manufacturers to establish the current state of the sector. The first interviews have been carried out in Neath, Swansea and Cardiff. The results of the survey and a literature review will enable the project to show current challenges and the likely future direction of the sector.



More and Better Home-Grown Timber

Coed Cymru leads the element titled 'More and Better Home-Grown Timber'. This work includes an analysis of the current flow of timber which can be updated throughout the project to show a 'before and after' position as well as the potential for timber use in construction. It also includes the development of a business plan for a new timber supply chain, practical supply chain interventions and a detailed mapping system to enable better decision making for woodland creation/management and ensure the project is informed about the wider context of the land management decision making processes.



Demonstrator Buildings

The project includes the design and development of two demonstrator properties – a house and education facility. A design practice is being recruited to develop the house. The deadline for submissions has recently closed and project partners will scrutinise submissions ahead of interviews and an appointment in January 2019. Research is underway to prepare a briefing note for the education facility.

Project Dissemination

This element of the project is managed by Woodknowledge Wales. A project logo and project landing page has been designed. A library of information is being collected on project exemplars including images. The next project knowledge event is on 14th November in Bala. It will focus on Welsh joinery companies and include discussion on how to use Welsh wood in window manufacture. The first procurement tool on timber cladding is due in December as a result of design discussions with Powys CC and Bron Afon Housing. Information from timber cladding events run in 2017/18 will also be used to create a 'procurement tool'.

WKW will take exhibit at Community Housing Cymru's annual conference on 15th and 16th November in Cardiff. CHC is the trade body for housing associations in Wales. A number of WKW members are also members of CHC.

A project communication plan has been written and aligned with the communication plan written by the Powys Affordable Housing Development Team. The project has been featured in the Structural Timber Magazine (STMag) and featured in the WKW newsletter.

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