

## Building success in modified wood

A thermally modified timber developed during collaborative research between Bangor University and local companies has been used to clad the new Halen Mon's new Saltcote building on Anglesey. Larch timber from Welsh forests was thermally treated at the UK's only active thermal modification kiln on Anglesey. It was installed in winter 2014/2015 for the elegant new building.

The project which developed the thermal modification process involved eight partners and the BioComposites Centre at Bangor University. Project partners covered the supply chain from sawmill, timber merchant, timber treatment, joiners and other secondary processors of wood.

Thermal treatment processes are better known from European imports of Thermowood, but in this project a lower intensity process was developed to work well with local timbers and to be easily produced by small businesses. The treatment of larch was less severe than European processes, due to the inherent natural durability of larch heartwood. The product was an attractive colour, and was easily machined to a good finish with enhanced appearance and stability. High quality joinery products are another target market for the treated timber.

Project manager Dr Morwenna Spear said "The scale up of the technology from the lab and pilot scale (by BC and Coed Cymru) to the full scale (by Menter Mon and Coed Mon) was a significant output. Seeing the final installation of the thermally treated cladding product on a prominent tourist attraction is a brilliant showcase for this technology."

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