



© PEFC UK



© Hufton and Crow/Bennetts Associates



© Alex Wroe Photography/Bennetts Associates

The Move to Responsible Timber Construction & PEFC Project Sourcing Standard Certification

Timber Square sets a new benchmark for sustainable commercial building design and is a pioneering development using PEFC-certified mass timber as key structural elements. It demonstrates the viability of large-scale timber construction combined with reuse of materials as the built environment grapples with how to meet its carbon and climate targets.

Delivered by Landsec in partnership with main contractor Mace the day will explore the building's defining features, sustainable design and how the project acts as a viable pathway for future timber construction plus details surrounding the route to securing the new PEFC Project Sourcing Standard Certification.

This event aims to bring people together from across the timber and responsible construction sectors, for an open and practical

discussion about how we improve the global built environment, increase responsible sourcing and procurement, adopt certification and understand from real project experience what this really looks like in practice on a landmark project.

The event also features the first UK screening of the 'Our Future: Built by Nature' documentary, which follows six pioneering projects and the value chains behind them.

Event Takeaways



Knowledge and tips on how timber can help reduce carbon in real-life projects



First insight into PEFC's new Project Sourcing Standard Certification requirements



Practical lessons from Timber Square, a landmark project in central London



A better understanding of wider industry challenges, including insurance, fire and moisture management



Evidence-based insight into the biggest myths surrounding timber, forestry and construction



How Built by Nature's Principles for Responsible Timber Construction are being applied to real world developments



Appreciate the wider benefits of timber, including circularity, wellbeing and healthier working environments.

9.00–9.20

Welcome: Arrival, refreshments and networking

On arrival and during the refreshment sessions there will be the opportunity for a tour of Timber Square and to ask any questions.

9.20–9.30



Introduction

John Kirkby | Executive Director, PEFC UK

Welcome, introductions and a few words about what the day has in store including why responsible timber sourcing is so important, how this can be demonstrated through PEFC certification, and why the Timber Square project will serve as an influential building for both.

09.30–10.30



Timber Square: a Landmark Building

Gregor Haran | Sustainability Manager, Landsec

Tomas Kangro | Senior Associate, Bennetts Associates

A developer and architect's overview of Timber Square covering the background to the project, the drivers behind its development alongside key successes, challenges and lessons learned. The presentation will focus on timber in construction, a circular approach to working with retained buildings, why PEFC was chosen and what should be considered for future projects. **Following on there will be a Q&A opportunity to discuss the points raised during the presentations.**

10.30–11.00



Project Sourcing Standard Certification

John Kirkby | Executive Director, PEFC UK

A summary of PEFC Project Sourcing Standard Certification, with an explanation behind its creation and development and how it ensures responsibly sourced timber across construction projects. This will outline its principles, benefits, and practical application, demonstrating how it provides a flexible pathway to PEFC certification to support sustainability goals and supply chain transparency.

11.00–11.30

Interval

11.30–12.15



Principles for Responsible Timber Construction

Paul King | CEO, Built by Nature

Built by Nature exists to accelerate the responsible use of timber and biobased materials in construction, for the benefit of the climate, nature and people. Its Principles for Responsible Timber Construction, already endorsed by over 350 organisations and more than 17 governments worldwide, create a universal framework to help ensure that increased demand leads to the right outcomes and mitigates the risks.

12.15–12.45



Why Timber Underpins Net Zero Construction

Andrew Waugh | Founding Director, Waugh Thistleton Architects

One of the UK's leading architects working with timber will explain why specifying timber is so important and outline the practice's approach to timber construction, drawing on several award-winning examples showcasing timber design and delivery. **This will also feature a Q&A session and introduction to the book 'The Timber Truth'.**

12.45–13.30



Separating Timber Fact from Fiction

Dr. Pablo van der Lugt | Architectural Engineer and Biobased Building Expert

As author of 'The Timber Truth: Busting the Myths about the Real Potential of Timber Buildings', Pablo will illustrate some of the latest insights and innovations in mass timber construction. The publication presents clear, science-based insights into topics such as fire safety, material availability, carbon storage, and sustainable forest management and is the basis of a brand new PEFC UK CPD.

13.30–14.30

Lunch and Networking

During the break delegates will also be able to pick up a FREE copy of Dr. Pablo van der Lugt's 'The Timber Truth: Busting the Myths about the Real Potential of Timber Buildings'.

14.30–14.55



Wood & Wellbeing: the health benefits of wood in buildings and spaces

Gijs Bruggink | Biophilic Design and Regenerative Building Expert, ORGA

Findings from the recent Built by Nature funded publication 'Wood & Wellbeing'. This evidence-based report provides insight on why timber is positioned as the primary building material to benefit health and presents opportunities on how to use timber in designing natural spaces.

14.55–15.20



Designing Biophilic Buildings with Timber

Daan Bruggink | Founder and Lead Architect, ORGA

Following on from Gijs's presentation, ORGA's founder and lead architect will take you on a journey along some of the firm's projects that demonstrate how to combine timber with biophilic design principles to create natural, healthy and low-impact architecture.

15.20–15.45



Delivering Timber Buildings: unlocking the value of timber

Dr. Joe Jack Williams | Head of Regenerative Strategy, Bywater

Bywater build offices and residential buildings in timber, using their knowledge to deliver low carbon regenerative buildings that compete with the wider market. Joe Jack will discuss how they create buildings that leverage the unique value of timber to meet cost and carbon budgets.

15.45–16.10



Approved Document B Update

Dr. Paul Newman | Technical Director, Structural Timber Association

Following the Grenfell Tower tragedy, Approved Document B (England) has been under continuous review. Following a huge programme of research, the Building Safety Regulator has produced a consultation which closes on 1 July. Paul will give his perspective on its work, the changes proposed and how industry can respond to future challenges.

16.10–16.35



Understanding Mass Timber Insurance Risks

Samantha Ferneley | Head of Specialist Risks, Vista Insurance

Insurance concerns and risk reduction are central to all construction projects. Offering invaluable specialist advice, Samantha will provide a detailed summary of the risks associated with large mass timber buildings and how to approach this with insurers for successful outcomes.

16.35–16.45

Closing Remarks and Thanks

John Kirkby | Executive Director, PEFC UK

16.45–18.00

Drinks Reception

A chance to relax and network with friends, colleagues and contacts after a full day of discussion. Kindly Sponsored by Timber Development UK.



Meet the Speakers

John Kirkby, Executive Director, PEFC UK

John leads the strategic direction of PEFC UK, working closely with current certificate holders, industry partners, stakeholders, and international colleagues to promote sustainable forest management and responsible supply chains both within the UK and at a global level. A qualified forester, he has worked for over 20 years in the UK timber industry.

Tomas Kangro, Senior Associate, Bennetts Associates

Tomas joined Bennetts Associates in 2012 and has worked on a range of mixed-used office developments including 70 Mark Lane and London Fruit and Wool Exchange. He is part of the Bennetts Associates Visualisation team, managing the in-house training and development of visual output for the practice. Tomas is the Project Architect for the Print building at Timber Square.

Gregor Haran, Sustainability Manager, Landsec

With a background as an environmental designer, Gregor is at the forefront of driving change by aiding Landsec's alignment of its corporate net zero carbon and sustainability strategy across its entire portfolio. This has allowed him to apply knowledge and skills on a larger scale, contributing to a more sustainable future across the corporate landscape.

Gijs Bruggink, Biophilic Design and Regenerative Building Expert, ORGA

As Chef de Bureau at ORGA, Gijs conducts research into biophilic design and natural construction. With a background as a historian and Living Future Accredited professional, he weaves knowledge with like-minded people across the globe and writes about topics concerning biophilic and regenerative architecture.

Daan Bruggink, Founder and Lead Architect, ORGA

Daan founded ORGA in 2007 based on one vision: biophilic and biobased construction is the future. With that focus he has managed to break through existing conventions and working methods in construction over the past two decades, to help shape the transition to fossil-free, circular and healthy buildings.

Paul King, CEO, Built by Nature

Paul joined Built by Nature as CEO in September 2023. Its mission is to accelerate the responsible use of timber and biobased materials to transform our built environment. Paul has held several pivotal leading roles in the sustainability sector including Managing Director, Sustainability and Social Impact at Lendlease Europe, the founding CEO of the UK Green Building Council and WWF-UK's Director of Campaigns.

Andrew Waugh, Founding Director, Waugh Thistleton Architects

A leading figure in global timber building design for over 25 years, Andrew is dedicated to delivering buildings and places of the highest architectural quality that acknowledge their impact on the environment. Founded by Andrew and Anthony Thistleton, the award-winning studio is built on a clear conviction that architecture should contribute to a thriving, equitable and low carbon future.

Dr. Pablo van de Lugt, Architectural Engineer, Biobased Building Expert and Author

Pablo is an architectural engineer and leading voice in mass timber and biobased construction. Author of Tomorrow's Timber and Booming Bamboo, he bridges science and practice to show how building with nature can combat climate change. As a TEDx speaker, he inspires audiences worldwide with his vision of a sustainable built environment.

Dr. Joe Jack Williams, Head of Regenerative Strategy, Bywater

Joe Jack is co-ordinating Bywater's core response to the climate crisis and approach to ESG. Prior to joining Bywater, Joe Jack was a partner at leading architectural practice Feilden Clegg Bradley Studios, where he led on research and sustainability, working across projects to drive forward innovation and minimise their impacts on the planet.

Dr. Paul Newman, Technical Director, Structural Timber Association

With over 30 years' experience in timber and construction including work at TRADA Technology and Kingspan Group, Paul joined the STA Board in 2024 at a critical time for the sector. Paul works hard to support members, engage with stakeholders and develop information to help structural timber businesses reach their potential in a safe and sustainable construction sector.

Samantha Ferneley, Head of Specialist Risks, Vista Insurance

Samantha has worked in the construction insurance industry for almost three decades, gaining vast experience working for structural warranty providers including Zurich, Premier Guarantee and BLP. Samantha's deep understanding of the accreditation and insurance requirements for timber construction projects has led her to be invited to speak on many expert panels.

Find Out More

PEFC UK is a national member of PEFC International and has supported the UK timber industry's sustainability commitments since 2000, working with stakeholders across the timber supply chain. Our mission is to champion and advance sustainable forest management and the supply of sustainable timber and

forest-based products across the UK through certification, advocacy, and collaboration. PEFC believes that sustainable forest management starts locally. With over 55 endorsed forest management systems globally, and nearly 300 million hectares certified, PEFC is the world's leading forest certification system.



PEFC UK
www.pefc.co.uk



PEFC International
www.pefc.org



Built By Nature
www.builtbn.org



Timber Development UK
www.timberdevelopment.uk