

## 4. Using products from your wood

### Timber

Using or selling products from your wood is an excellent way to offset some of the costs of management. To have value as timber, trees must generally be very straight with much of the trunk free of branches, knots and rot. They must also be accessible from a road or good track. If you have such trees then selling some of them could be worth a try. Timber marketing is a relatively complicated business and it is worth engaging an experienced contractor or agent to help. There are also publications where you can advertise small amounts of timber for sale. Given that most trees are of low commercial value, the best way of using them might be for the benefit of your own property. Not only can this be a sustainable use of local resources, but it can be a relatively cheap source of quality materials. Sheds and barns might need repairing, or you could use the timber in fences, gates and stiles. A good way to do this is to engage a contractor to fell the trees and then bring a mobile sawmill to the site to produce planks and beams. Even if you don't have trees worth sawing into planks, you can save yourself money by using other woodland products such as beanpoles and peasticks. It may not save you a fortune, but using sustainable products from your own wood will be very satisfying.



### Woodfuel

In recent years, wood burning stoves have become more common. These are much more efficient in producing heat than an open fire. As energy prices rise, then the attractions of wood become ever more apparent and with just two or three hectares of woodland it should be possible to obtain enough of a sustainable yield of firewood to heat a family home. Owners of larger woodlands may find that the energy market will provide good financial returns, but this will often involve the industrial production of wood chips or pellets needed in larger boilers. Supporting the management of other local woods A good way to help ensure the viability of woodland management in your local area is to buy products from local woods.

- Charcoal from local coppice is not only easy to light and of excellent quality, but it also substitutes for products produced in far less ecologically sensitive ways overseas.
- Instead of imported canes, try beanpoles and peasticks from local suppliers, and use local timber stakes to support new trees.
- Try hazel hurdles, sweet chestnut paling or post-and-rail instead of an unsightly chainlink fence.
- Seek out some of the beautiful furniture made from local timber. Using products from local woods is good for the woods, and good for the rural economy.

<https://www.rfs.org.uk/learning/forestry-knowledge-hub/woodland-management/so-you-own-a-woodland/>