

Concepts for sustainable, low-cost prefabricated housing made from domestically grown Sweet Chestnut timber.

The HomeGrownHouse project is addressing the underuse of locally sourced, small-diameter round wood in construction in the south-east of England.

The project focuses on coppiced Sweet Chestnut timber for its natural durability, strength and stability.

A demonstrator 'kit of parts' for constructing small scale buildings was exhibited in woodland on the Birling Estate, Kent.

Sweet Chestnut Coppicing + The Environment:

- High levels of carbon sequestration: 2640 kg/ha/yr or 9680 kg/ha/yr CO₂ e (only Poplar and Douglas Fir sequester more).
- No replanting coppice 'stools' regrow naturally.
 Rotation harvesting every 12-20 years.
- A durable hardwood timber with yields equivalent to Scots Pine: 8m³ per hectare per annum at 14 years.
- Coppicing beneficial to biodiversity by opening the woodland floor to light.
- Few current markets: biomass and fencing.



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