



## Eden Local Agenda 21 Cumbria Green Build Fortnight 2007

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### Danny Frost Furniture Designer and Maker and Timber Sales

When Danny Frost set up his own business near Bothel in 1993, he was already an experienced and highly acclaimed furniture maker.

Danny accepts commissions for contemporary and traditional furniture of a very high standard, made with local hardwoods from renewable sources, and using traditional techniques.

The timber side of the business supplies fresh sawn, air dried, and kiln dried timbers to other furniture makers, joiners, woodturners and enthusiasts.

Danny manages all aspects of the business with regard for environmental sustainability. Wood is sourced as locally as possible, and only from trees that have fallen, are already dead, or have to be felled for other good reasons.

Each year Danny aims to overcompensate for the timber his business uses, by planting a thousand trees per year; not just on his own land, but anywhere where other landowners are amenable. All planting is of native UK trees, but the choice is by no means restricted to tree species that will yield a good timber crop for furniture making. Because of the economics of farming and forestry, land made available for woodland is often of poor quality in agricultural terms ... possibly wet, exposed and with poor soils. Such land might be unsuitable for growing the types of woods prized by furniture makers. Nonetheless, any native trees are better than none and Danny is happy to plant with resilient species that are better adapted to the terrain ... hazel, birch, willow, alder, rowan and Scots pine, for example. They might not have the same monetary value, but in ecological terms they are priceless.

Danny ensures that waste is eliminated or minimised, with by-products such as sawdust and shavings being passed-on to neighbouring businesses for food smoking or animal bedding. Offcuts are turned into charcoal for sale and for fueling an Aga

One of the kilns is heated partly by a Solar thermal panel and Danny is currently looking to install a biomass boiler to fuel all the business needs instead of oil.

Other 'inputs' such as waxes and oils are vetted for their 'eco credentials', before being used.

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