

Name: James C Coulson, CEnv FIMMM FFB AIWSc

Qualifications:

BS 4978 - Certificate of Proficiency: Visual Strength Grading of Softwoods [1975]
Buckinghamshire College - Certificate in Timber Studies (Distinction) [1976]
Final Examination, Institute of Wood Science [1978] – *Diploma: Timber Engineering*
BS 2482 – Certificate in Scaffold Board Grading [1985]
Fellow of the Faculty of Building [1986]
BS 5756 - Certificates of Proficiency: Grading of Temperate Hardwoods [1997]
Grading of Tropical Hardwoods [1998]
Fellow of the Institute of Materials, Mineral & Mining (update of FIWSc) [2014]
Chartered Environmentalist [2016]

I studied at Buckinghamshire College (now Bucks New University) in High Wycombe, in the School of Art, Design, Furniture and Timber. There I achieved a Distinction in the Certificate in Timber Studies (Winning First Prize) and I gained a further two national Institute of Wood Science Prizes, whilst qualifying as an Associate of the Institute of Wood Science in 1978. In 2004 I became a Fellow of the IWSc, having served as National President from 2002-2004.

I was a member of the Council of Management of the Institute of Wood Science for 30 years until its merger with IOM3. I was elected a Fellow of the Faculty of Building in 1986, in recognition of my experience of technical investigations into matters involving timber and wood-based products. I have been an accredited Timber Consultant with UNIDO since 1991 (registered with the UN in Vienna). I joined the UK Wood Committee of ICOMOS (the International Council on Monuments and Sites) in 1992, and I was elected onto the ICOMOS-UK National Executive Committee in 2004; later being elected to membership of the ICOMOS International Wood Committee (IIWC). I have been a member of the UK Timber Grading Committee since 1994; and in 2006, I was appointed to the Sector Group 18 European Code Committee, concerned with Harmonised Timber Grading Standards for all of Europe. I am now a Member of the Board of the Wood Technology Society (a Division of the Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining) - the successor to the IWSc. In 2014 I was made a Fellow of the IOM3; and in 2016 I qualified as a Chartered Environmentalist (awarded by the Society for the Environment). I am also a member of the International Research Group on Wood Protection (IRG), which reviews the latest research on wood preservatives, finishes, fire treatments and other matters.

Experience:

I spent 16 years as a Regional Officer (latterly becoming Manager of the Regional Technical Consultancy Network) with the Timber Research and Development Association, before founding Technology For Timber (now trading as TFT Woodexperts Limited) in 1991. In over 40 years, I have investigated hundreds of technical problems with construction, shopfitting, furniture, fitted kitchens, joinery, decking and cladding. I work very closely with the sawmilling, construction, trussed rafter and timber engineering industries, as well as with producers and installers of all types of wood-based panel products. I am experienced in the specification, shipping, manufacturing, installation and quality aspects of both solid timber and all wood-based products and their uses in joinery, decking and packaging materials (crates, boxes, etc). I have therefore developed a very broad knowledge of the manufacturing processes and practical applications for all wood products in almost every aspect of the timber and wood-using industries. I work closely on Timber Engineering and joinery design projects; and I also give written technical advice to, and carry out investigations for, many Trade Bodies, such as the Timber Decking and Cladding Association (including wood-plastic composites), the Contract Flooring Association, Timcon (The Timber Packaging & Pallet Confederation) and BWF (the British Woodworking Federation). My “hands on” experience covers new and historic buildings, primary sawmills and all types of board-producing, joinery, flooring, kitchen, furniture and pallet/package manufacturing plants in the UK, Scandinavia, The Baltic States, Europe, USA, Canada, the Middle East, Hong Kong, Indonesia and Australia.

In March 2012 my textbook “Wood in Construction” was published; and my latest book, “The Sustainable Use of Wood” came out in September 2014.