

Fencing Matters



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All Mended & Back to Health!

Our recent works at a local hospital have left them ship shape and tidy! The underground storage and waste areas needed re-organising and separating and this 4m high welded mesh panel fencing with added timber slats in some areas for screening, although a challenging project, really sorted the area out. Including a sliding gate to maximise the use of space and give them as much usable storage as possible.



Big and Beautiful

A striking pair of cantilever sliding gates—12m wide opening, manually operated. A smooth sliding action, fabricated on this occasion not by our in-house fabricator (bit large for our workshop) but by a trusted supplier. Coated in the customer's corporate colours. An impressive solution to their busy working yard and vehicle access needs. Gates this size are craned into position to sit on pre-cast concrete pads.



Congrats to Janine for successfully completing the NEBOSH National Certificate in Construction—now meaning we are fully qualified with our own in-house safety advisor. ✓



TIMBER TALK—Prices are up, but what's up??

THE PANDEMIC: During the pandemic, demand for timber increased hugely. With people focused on their homes during lockdown, DIY and home improvement projects became a priority in general. Alongside this many factories, sawmills, timber producers were closed for long periods, or operating with reduced staffing levels. This reduced supply simply couldn't meet the demand and prices began to rise.

DEMAND: Meanwhile a resurgent housing market in the UK and the US (where more houses are timber framed) and emerging foreign markets, such as China who are willing to pay higher prices for timber to acquire what they need, started to add more pressure on the supply chain as demand continued to increase. And with timber being used in more ways in other walks of life, for example, biomass power to generate electricity, there is extra demand from outside of the construction industry.

BAD WEATHER AND BEETLES: Bad weather in winter 2020/21 has meant that major timber exporting countries in Scandinavia have produced less timber and therefore have less timber to sell. At the same time, an insect infestation in North American forests has reduced the availability of timber over there, so a lot of American businesses are looking to buy their supplies in Europe—more demand, less supply, higher prices.

TRANSPORT COSTS: The cost of transporting freight – both at home and abroad – has increased dramatically. The pandemic has reduced the ability of foreign transport companies to fulfil orders at a time when travel bans were (and still are) in place. According to the BBC, shipping costs from Asia to Northern Europe have risen 500% in the year to May 2021 – imports of natural materials from the Far East are expensive, forcing timber merchants to look to Europe.

BREXIT: Britain's exit from the European Union has also had an affect on prices, due to the introduction of new customs rules, it is now slower, more difficult and costlier for haulage companies to transport timber from mainland Europe to the UK.



Bow top railings, apparently an uncanny match with Volvo's Bursting Blue!! ;-)

