



Sawmilling Guide Notes

On arrival it takes about twenty minutes to set up. The ideal location is on hard standing although any flat, solid ground will do. The timber to be cut should be close at hand and some mechanized handling equipment will be needed to bring the trunks to the mill and to offload any large beams too big to man handle.

Ideally this plant should have forks, a tele-handler is ideal, although a digger and chains can be used. If such plant is not owned it can be hired at a reasonable rate from your local plant hire company, or if you are within 10 miles of our yard we can provide our Auza CE11 rough terrain forklift truck at £80 per day.

In order to keep the sawmill running it is advisable to have one or two additional people who will be needed to load and off load the timber.

Sawdust is deposited by the mill in the area immediately behind the mill and over the course of the days a surprisingly large amount will build up. It may help you to clear up the area at the end of the day if you have a tarpaulin to lay down.

There will also be a large quantity of slabwood, the first cuts of the log with the bark on. A separate area should be set aside to throw it down, typically beyond the sawdust pile.

It is also useful to have some idea of your cutting list in advance and if you are unsure we can advise you. Just about the smallest dimension we work to is 3mm and the largest is 600mm, which is the size of the throat on the saw. Larger diameter butts up to 800mm can be worked by cutting flitches off to bring the dimensions down. The longest length that can be milled is almost six metres.

Larger rounds can be halved or quartered first using a Logosol chainsaw mill. This is much slower work, but is usually rewarded by the amount and quality of timber harvested.

Some thought should be given to how you want the wood stacked once cut and how you intend to season the wood. It is usual to set up the sawmill close to the area where you want the wood stored for the long term. The location should actually offer some shade so

that the stack does not overheat in the summer. It is also a good idea to place some sacrificial timber such as the slabwood at the top to add weight and keep the rain off.

The stack should be placed on level ground on bearers four to six inch square, with inch square stickers placed between the boards at 400mm intervals. We handle my stacks with a fork lift so we use additional four inch square bearers at about meter intervals. We typically cut all these from the tree at the start. You will also need to get spacing stickers and untreated batten is ideal and can be bought relatively cheaply from any DIY store. Bear in mind that we will be spacing the stickers at 400mm centres so you will find that you will need a lot of batten.

You may also wish to consider end sealing the timber to reduce splitting on the end grain of the timber. An emulsified sealing wax can be bought from somewhere like Craft Supplies of Buxton or you can just use masonry paint or PVA. This job is done more easily before the log is cut, so you may want to think about doing this some days before.

Two very useful links that cover this in detail are...

http://www.thebagpipeplace.com/school/Air_Drying_of_Timber.pdf

and

<http://woodtreks.com/how-to-air-dry-lumber-stack-it-and-check-for-moisture/336/>

Please note that in the event a saw blade is broken or damaged by foreign matter (nail, rock, metal, etc.), there is a charge of £20 per damaged blade.

It is understood that log handling and cutting may be hazardous. You will be responsible for conduct of helpers and observers and agree to hold me, the sawyer, harmless for any injury or damage whatsoever to helpers or observers arising out of operation of the mill and the handling of logs and lumber. It shall be customer's duty and obligation to keep all children, animals and observers out of the work area.

Should you wish to proceed you as the customer should represent that you are the owner of the timber and/or have the authority to enter into this agreement on behalf of all interested parties, and acknowledge that these terms are acceptable to you.