

PRESS RELEASE - FINAL

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MP visits Donaldson Timber Systems factory to discuss tackling the UK housing crisis

Leading offsite timber frame manufacturer, Donaldson Timber Systems, has welcomed Charlie Maynard MP to its Witney manufacturing facility to discuss the role of offsite timber frame construction in meeting housebuilding targets.

The visit came following Donaldson Timber Systems' investment of more than £10m at its Oxfordshire facility, which has increased offsite automation to scale up production and help deliver more high-quality, energy-efficient homes across the UK.

During the visit, Mr Maynard was given a tour of the site, which includes the most advanced automated pre-insulated closed panel wall production line in Europe. The visit provided an opportunity for Mr Maynard to see how Donaldson Timber Systems currently supports the delivery of private and affordable housing across the country, while demonstrating how the industry can help deliver 1.5 million new homes to meet Government targets.

Discussions included why offsite timber frame is the future of housebuilding in the UK and how Government can utilise these resources to build more houses of better quality and to higher standards of energy efficiency and sustainability.

They also covered how the offsite timber frame provides a solution to the well-documented skills and labour shortages.

Commenting on the offsite automation, Charlie Maynard MP said: "It's interesting and there's lots of ingenuity and lots determination here to say: 'how can we do things better?' We need more homes, and this is helping to do that."

Donaldson Offsite CEO, Alex Goodfellow said: "We were pleased to welcome Mr Maynard to our Witney site, and to have the opportunity to showcase the fantastic facilities and team we have here at Donaldson Timber Systems. We're a family business with a long heritage, celebrating 50 years in business this year, while our parent company spans back to 1860.

"We have long championed the use of offsite timber frame construction as the best way to achieve efficiencies and sustainable building practices – and with the labour shortages in the UK, it's the only way to achieve building 300,000 homes per year.

"Offsite timber frame is the future of UK housebuilding. It's efficient, scalable, and tailored for current and future market challenges, including meeting net zero. It's also tried, tested, and already widely used across the country. This is an exciting time for our industry, and we look forward to working more closely with Mr Maynard and his colleagues in Government to support in addressing the UK housing challenge."

Celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, Donaldson Timber Systems offers unrivalled experience and knowledge in offsite construction, operating from a network of manufacturing and technical centres across the UK.

Earlier this year, the business was awarded the 'Order of Distinction' by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA), in recognition of remarkable consistency in displaying the very highest levels of health and safety in the workplace for 16 consecutive years.

Along with its health and safety credentials, Donaldson Timber Systems has also achieved a range of third-party quality approvals, delivering the confidence that Donaldson Timber Systems products are durable and comply with building regulations and technical standards.

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Notes to Editors:

About Donaldson Timber Systems

Donaldson Timber Systems is the UK's market leading offsite manufacturer for timber frame build systems, with manufacturing bases in Oxfordshire and Aberdeenshire. They have the capacity to build 10,000 sustainable homes a year.

The business has been in operation for 50 years and in that time, the team has built over 150,000 homes, 300 hotels and numerous commercial and public buildings.

Donaldson Timber Systems adopts the principles of Modern Methods of Construction (MMC) to increase the precision quality of construction products and move the construction industry towards a different way to build. An offsite method that allows the sector to increase volume, while the wider construction industry is challenged with skills and labour shortages.

Since 2021, Donaldson Timber Systems has been part of the 165-year-old timber specialist and family business, The Donaldson Group. The Group consists of 16 individual businesses, each market leaders in their respective fields of timber engineering, saw-mills, distribution, merchants, roofing and cladding distribution, and laminate manufacture.

<https://www.donaldsontimbersystems.com/>