



# Southhill Sawmills

## UC4 Desired Service Life

Timber Treated to last when used in ground contact

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### What is UC4?

Sometimes referred to as HC4, Use Class 4 or "UC4" is the standard of treatment required for timber which will be used directly in the ground as determined by BS EN 335-1.

### USE CLASS SUMMARY

Class	Use	Example
1	Internal.....	Dry eg. upper floor joists
2	Internal.....	Risk of wetting eg. tiling battens
3.1	Outdoors.....	Coated above ground eg. decorated cladding
3.2	Outdoors.....	Uncoated above ground eg. fence rails
4	DIRECT SOIL OR FRESHWATER CONTACT	eg. FENCE POSTS

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Assurances are often put forward which state a failing post will be replaced. The cost of a timber post is relatively small in relation to the overall cost of constructing a run of fencing when you consider labour and wire etc. The post is the vital component on which the fence is built. So isn't it better to know, correct and thorough procedure has been carried out to avoid problems with the post in the first place?

### Protect, Prolong, Progress...with our Pro-post range

Through a combination of selecting 100% Redwood Timber for our ground contact applications, kiln-drying to ensure an appropriate moisture content and using a highly effective preservative treatment, Southhill Sawmills can offer the trade our Pro-post range of high performance treated timbers. The Pro-post range comes with a **Lonza Wood Protection** backed 15 year desired service life to avoid premature failure from decay and insect attack.

All the raw material for our Pro-post range is sourced from the forests of Europe.

This includes slow grown Redwoods which when treated to our Use Class 4 standards give excellent results, even in the most challenging of environments.

All Pro-post ground contact timbers come with a branded identification stamp to give confidence to the consumer that the product is fit for purpose.

This sample has been sawn in half to check the depth of treatment chemical penetration. Timber will expand and contract in reaction to the ambient moisture level. This inevitably leads to splits naturally occurring in the post. The crucial factor in protecting for a long life is to ensure all the sapwood has absorbed the treatment. This way the post is protected even when the surface opens up with splits or shakes. By applying a copper spray reagent which reacts to the treatment chemical, the level of penetration is high-lighted as seen on the example on the right.

