
Vision 2025: Investing in the future
kronospan
Wood, perfected

Vision 2025: Investing in the future

The Kronospan site at Chirk underwent a major investment phase from 2015 to 2019, installing the latest production technology and reinforcing the future of the plant. We improved our value added production capacity by building a new press hall with additional plastic presses, a new MDF finishing line and an improved T&G line. We improved our raw material handling by building a new reception centre and storage silos for our incoming timber streams, and we increased our capacity for using recycled timber by building a new recycling tower and material refining plant. We also built a new power plant to enable us to become largely energy self-sufficient, and we upgraded our biomass boiler to enable us to reduce our gas consumption for our heat requirements.

Our path to Vision 2025…

Starting in 2021, we will move into a new investment phase, as we concentrate on improving site access, storage capacity and material handling in order to meet our customer's needs more efficiently.

We will further align our strategy with the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the UK Government net-zero strategy, by investing in ways to make the plant more sustainable through the economic, social and governance pillars of the sustainability model.

Timber panels will play a key part in sustainable housing, so we need to make sure we are equipped and ready to meet the demand.

Our investment plans will place Kronospan Chirk in the best possible position for a secure and sustainable future as a circular economy company.

In addition to this, we will make bold energy infrastructure investments supporting a greener future for our site.

Some of the larger projects that we have planned: High Bay Warehouse for Raw Board and Paper

Construction has already started on our purpose built, automated high-bay warehouse. This will improve the handling efficiency of semi-finished goods, and will ensure complete traceability through the process. It will give us greater flexibility in our production process by automating the transfer of product to the facing lines, and it will reduce waste caused by manual handling.

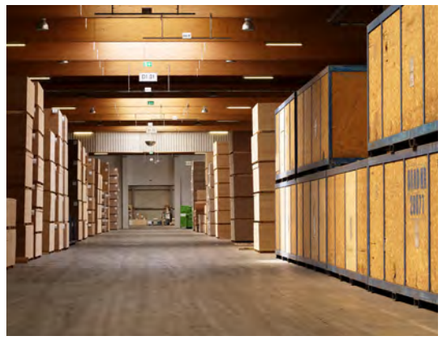
The warehouse will also incorporate a paper store to increase our storage capacity. This will add further flexibility and support the growth of our melamine faced ranges, which is key to our growth strategy. Furthermore, reducing the need to move products around with forklift trucks will reduce our energy consumption, which in turn will help us to decrease our carbon emissions.



High Bay Warehouse for Raw Board and Paper

East Road Warehouse and Front Despatch Yard Canopy

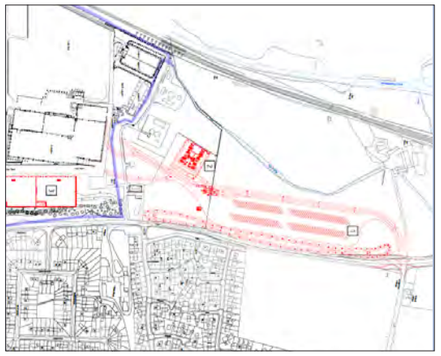
In addition to the high-bay warehouse, we will build further additional warehouses to increase our stockholding capacity.
This will help us meet customer needs more effectively and increase our production efficiency through the factory, allowing us to reduce our energy consumption per unit by doing longer production runs.
Crucially, more on-site storage will reduce our reliance on off-site warehousing, which is inefficient and generates avoidable emissions.
By using on-site storage, we will save over 1,800 unnecessary vehicle movements. Additionally, the Front Despatch Yard Pre-pick and Undercover Loading Area will provide an undercover loading solution which will improve the quality of our service.



Engineers stores, workshop and training centre

At Chirk, we run a successful training program for engineering apprentices to support our future plans. We will build a bespoke workshop and training space to further improve our education facilities on-site, building on our commitment to develop the next generation of engineers and leaders.
The new stores building for engineering spares will incorporate automated retrieval technology which will optimise our stock holding of spare parts, helping us both to reduce our working capital and to minimise downtime in the event of a mechanical breakdown.

Access Road



To help us reduce our impact on the local community, we will build a new road to access the plant. This will divert all site traffic away from the town, helping us improve the safety and wellbeing of our team and local community.
With modern weighbridge facilities, we will improve the flow of traffic to the site and away from the existing pedestrian entrance.

132kv Connection and Solar Plant (PV)

In order to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels to create our own electricity, we plan to build a connection to the 132kv network. This will allow us to purchase electricity from a green energy source, without interfering with the supply to the local community. Furthermore, this will also give us the added option to install a solar plant to supply us with renewable energy.



132kv Connection & Solar Plant (PV)

New OSB Production Line



In order to meet the UK demand for OSB, we currently ship it in from one of our European sister sites. We plan to incorporate an OSB production line into the plant at Chirk manufacturing sustainable OSB in Wales with UK sourced timber. Domestic product will reduce our transport miles, global carbon emissions, enabling us to be responsive to the UK market as timber based construction grows.

And a few of our other projects…

Electrification of our FLT fleet

Electrification of our FLT fleet will reduce noise and particulate emissions in the warehouse, creating a better environment for our team and the local community.

Timber recycling centres

Developing our ‘Urban Forest’ national network of timber recycling centres will allow us to secure our future supply of recycled timber, supporting our circular economy goals of locking thousands of tonnes of carbon into our chipboard products.



Others

Further projects will include the construction of two additional storage silos in our logyard, doubling our recycled timber storage capacity and increasing the sustainability of our finished product. By keeping the timber dry, we will reduce the energy needed to remove moisture.

Investing in our people will see us upgrade our office space giving teams a modern, productive and sustainable environment to work in. Alongside this we will be adding electric vehicle charging points to our car park to help our team and visitors to make sustainable choices for their commutes.



Electrification of our FLT Fleet

At Kronospan, we have big plans for a bright future. Our shareholders are committed to an investment program that promotes sustainability and the circular economy, which is why our plans have been built around the needs of all of our stakeholders. We believe that our products have a big role to play in the UK's journey to net-zero, and we will make them in the cleanest, greenest and most efficient way possible.