

BAA STOOL

MATERIAL BREAKDOWN

Maddie Calthrop

British Wool

The cover is made from 100% British wool. I sourced and processed my own fleece, separating the fibres so they could be felted together to create a cover that is moulded to the desired shapes.

Sourcing

My fleece was sourced from Skipton, northwest of Leeds. I wanted British wool because it is underutilised, and using local materials helps reduce carbon output due to transportation. The fleece could have been sourced from thousands of locations across Britain, but this specific one was local, available to me, and reasonably priced.

Justification

The choice of wool was dictated by the felting process, but I chose to use natural fibres instead of synthetic ones. Natural fibres have many advantages, such as being stain- and fire-resistant, as well as having natural waterproof properties. Additionally, they are overall more beneficial to the environment. Using this wool is an economical choice as it is often a waste product that can cost farmers more to dispose of than it is worth.



Natural Dye

I tested multiple different dyeing methods, all from natural products. I chose turmeric because of the bright, vivid colour I was able to achieve, as the process was simple and efficient.

Sourcing

When testing, I used many different methods of natural dyeing, sourcing all the food-based materials from my local supermarket. I bought turmeric, beetroot, and black beans specifically for this process, and the onion skins were a household waste product. A range of colours can also be achieved by foraging for plants that are native to the UK, such as dandelions

Justification

I chose to use natural dyes in my project as they offer a more environmentally friendly alternative to synthetic dyes, which often rely on non-biodegradable chemicals and can have detrimental effects on ecosystems. Natural dyes, derived from sources like plants and minerals, are biodegradable and pose less risk of water pollution



British Ash

This initial prototype is made from scrap timber I found in the workshop, specifically pine and MDF. However, I would want the final product to be made from British ash. British ash had suffered severely due to the ash dieback, but I would hope that using it in this project would help

Sourcing

The legs of my prototype stool were crafted from pine that was left over from a previous project, allowing me to repurpose existing materials and reduce waste. The final design was made from British ash; materials could be sourced from companies such as British Timber Merchant, which supply certified British ash timber and are committed to sustainable tree harvesting practices. This approach ensures that the materials come from responsible sources that will conserve the ash population.

Justification

Using ash timber for furniture design is a great choice due to its strength, durability, and unique aesthetic appeal. Ash is resilient, making it ideal for long-lasting pieces, while its natural beauty enhances any design. By promoting ash timber, we

Felting Needles

The felting needles at the end of one of the legs are made from stainless steel, which I purchased online. Stainless steel is the standard material used for felting needles because it is strong, manageable, and retains its sharpness for a longer period.

