

# CHARTER FOR SUSTAINABLE BRITISH STEEL

## PURPOSE

This Charter is a UK Steel initiative and seeks to promote the use of sustainable British steel in construction projects.

## THE PLEDGE

Signatories of this Charter pledge to purchase carbon steel reinforcement for concrete only from vendors that adhere to the Framework Standard for Responsible Sourcing (BES 6001), as recognised by BRE as an associated independent third-party certification scheme.

## BACKGROUND

Signatories of this charter recognise that:

- I. The manufacture of British steel products makes a significant contribution to the British economy. Exports of British steel were worth £4.9bn in 2013 and contributed £2.4bn to the UK's balance of trade. The sector's overall contribution to the UK economy is worth around £9.5bn a year.
- II. The British steel industry employs approximately 20,000 people and additionally supports domestic businesses and employees in the supply chain, with the associated knock on benefits for the national economy generated by tax revenues.
- III. British steel is a quality product manufactured with high production values.
- IV. BES 6001 certification means the steel has been manufactured in a sustainable and responsibly sourced manner and can be traced back to its raw materials.
- V. Using steel manufactured to BES 6001 standards supports public and private bodies to reach sustainability targets.
- VI. There are significant benefits that arise when money invested in public and private projects is recirculated within the British economy, via the purchase of domestically produced products.
- VII. British businesses and organisations have a duty to lead the way in supporting sustainable, British steel.

**UK  
Steel**