

Woodland Carbon Code Statistics

Data to March 2013

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Coverage: United Kingdom

Geographical breakdown: Country

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Introduction

The Woodland Carbon Code is a voluntary standard, initiated in July 2011, for woodland creation projects that make claims about the carbon they sequester (take out of the atmosphere).

All projects must be placed on the Register of UK Woodland Carbon Projects. Their claims about potential carbon sequestration are validated by an independent certification body. Validated projects are then verified on a regular basis to confirm the progress of carbon sequestration.

Woodland Carbon Code Statistics are released on a quarterly basis. Figures to March 2013 are published for the first time in this release. Figures for earlier periods have not been revised from those previously published. For further details, see the Revisions section of the Annex.

Please refer to the Annex for a glossary of terms used in this release.

Key findings

The main findings are:

- A total of 105 projects were registered under the Woodland Carbon Code at 31 March 2013 in the UK, covering an area of 3.6 thousand hectares and projected to sequester 1.8 million tonnes of carbon dioxide.
- Of these projects, 36 had been validated by end March 2013, covering an area of 1.5 thousand hectares and projected to sequester 0.7 million tonnes of carbon dioxide.
- Validated projects were predicted to sequester 45 thousand tonnes of carbon dioxide in England, 586 thousand tonnes in Scotland and 24 thousand tonnes in Wales. No project has yet been validated in Northern Ireland at 31 March 2013.

Woodland Carbon Code

Table 1 provides quarterly data on projects registered under the Woodland Carbon Code since September 2011. The table provides information on the number of projects, area of woodland covered by the projects and the total projected carbon sequestration over the lifetime (up to 100 years) of the projects.

A total of 105 projects were registered under the Woodland Carbon Code at 31 March 2013, covering an area of 3.6 thousand hectares of woodland and projected to sequester 1.8 million tonnes of carbon dioxide.

Thirty-six projects had been validated by end March 2013, covering an area of 1.5 thousand hectares and projected to sequester 0.7 million tonnes of carbon dioxide. This represents an increase of 31% in projected carbon sequestration since the previous quarter, and an 85% increase in the year since March 2012.

Table 1: Woodland Carbon Code projects in the UK

	Validated	Awaiting validation	Total
Number of projects			
September 2011	2	25	27
December 2011	3	36	39
March 2012	11	46	57
June 2012	17	41	58
September 2012	19	59	78
December 2012	22	67	89
March 2013	36	69	105
Area of woodland (hectares)			
September 2011	49	1,679	1,728
December 2011	319	1,887	2,206
March 2012	795	1,972	2,767
June 2012	1,098	1,684	2,782
September 2012	1,109	1,835	2,943
December 2012	1,134	1,877	3,011
March 2013	1,488	2,073	3,561
Projected carbon sequestration¹ (thousand tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent)			
September 2011	26	722	748
December 2011	137	791	928
March 2012	354	930	1,283
June 2012	474	824	1,298
September 2012	480	891	1,372
December 2012	500	895	1,395
March 2013	655	1,137	1,792

Source: Forestry Commission

Notes:

- Figures for carbon sequestration indicate the total projected sequestration of the projects over their lifetime of up to 100 years, and include the amount claimable by a project plus the amount allocated to a shared "buffer" in case of unanticipated losses.

Woodland Carbon Code

Most of the projects registered under the Woodland Carbon Code at 31 March 2013 were in England (51) and Scotland (45), seven were in Wales and two in Northern Ireland (Table 2).

In England, the six validated projects cover an area of 71 hectares and are expected to sequester 45 thousand tonnes of carbon dioxide.

In Scotland, the 28 validated projects cover an area of 1,379 hectares and are expected to sequester 586 thousand tonnes of carbon dioxide.

In Wales, the two validated projects cover an area of 37 hectares and are expected to sequester 24 thousand tonnes of carbon dioxide.

In Northern Ireland, no project has yet been validated at 31 March 2013.

Table 2: Woodland Carbon Code projects at 31 March 2013

	England	Scotland	Wales	Northern Ireland	UK
Number of projects					
Validated	6	28	2	0	36
Awaiting validation	45	17	5	2	69
Total	51	45	7	2	105
Area of woodland (hectares)					
Validated	71	1,379	37	0	1,488
Awaiting validation	1,147	718	194	14	2,073
Total	1,219	2,097	231	14	3,561
Projected carbon sequestration¹ (thousand tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent)					
Validated	45	586	24	0	655
Awaiting validation	748	290	92	7	1,137
Total	793	875	116	7	1,792

Source: Forestry Commission

Notes:

- Figures for carbon sequestration indicate the total projected sequestration of the projects over their lifetime of up to 100 years, and include the amount claimable by a project plus the amount allocated to a shared "buffer" in case of unanticipated losses.

Annex

Introduction

This annex provides background information on the Woodland Carbon Code statistics presented in this release. It covers the data sources and methodology used to produce the statistics, information on quality measures and on any revisions to historic data and links to further information.

Glossary

Forest In the United Kingdom, there is no formal definition of "forest"; the term is often used for large woodland areas (especially conifers) or for old Royal hunting preserves such as the New Forest or the Forest of Dean.

Forestry Commission (FC) The government department responsible for forestry matters in Great Britain. The responsibility for forestry is devolved to ministers in the Scottish Government and the Welsh Government, but some executive functions are exercised throughout Great Britain by the FC.

Great Britain (GB) England, Wales and Scotland.

Hectare (ha) Unit of area defined as 10,000 square metres (100 m by 100 m), approximately equivalent to 2.47 acres.

Tonne of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e) Emissions and sequestration can be presented as tonnes carbon or tonnes carbon dioxide (CO₂) equivalent. To convert from tonnes CO₂ to tonnes carbon multiply by 12/44.

United Kingdom (UK) Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Woodland Land under stands of trees with a canopy cover of at least 20% (25% in Northern Ireland), or having the potential to achieve this, including integral open space, and including felled areas that are awaiting restocking.

Data Sources and Methodology

Data sources

Information about Woodland Carbon Code projects comes from the Register of UK Woodland Carbon Projects, administered by the Forestry Commission. The register is a live database and summary data are extracted on a quarterly basis.

Further information on administrative sources can be found at:

www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infd-832ey5

Quality

Detailed information on the quality of the statistics presented in this publication is available in the *Quality Report: Woodland Carbon Code Statistics* at:

[www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/wccqrpt.pdf/\\$FILE/wccqrpt.pdf](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/wccqrpt.pdf/$FILE/wccqrpt.pdf)

Further quality information on FC Official Statistics is available at:

www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infd-7zhk85

Revisions

Figures at March 2013 are published for the first time in this release.

Figures for earlier periods have not been revised from those previously published in *Woodland Carbon Code Statistics: data to December 2012*.

The Forestry Commission's revisions policy sets out how revisions and errors to these statistics are dealt with, and can be found at:

[www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/FCrevisions.pdf/\\$FILE/FCrevisions.pdf](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/FCrevisions.pdf/$FILE/FCrevisions.pdf).

Further information

Further information on the Woodland Carbon Code is available at:

www.forestry.gov.uk/carboncode

More statistics on UK forests and climate change can be found in *Forestry Statistics 2012*:
www.forestry.gov.uk/website/forstats2012.nsf/LUContentsTop?openview&RestrictToCategory=1

Release schedule

Woodland Carbon Code statistics are published quarterly, in the month after which each quarter ends.

The next editions will be released on the following dates:

Woodland Carbon Code Statistics: data to June 2013 will be published on 11 July 2013.

Woodland Carbon Code Statistics: data to September 2013 will be published on 10 October 2013.

Woodland Carbon Code Statistics: data to December 2013 will be published in January 2014.

Woodland Carbon Code Statistics: data to March 2014 will be published in April 2014.

Summary results for the period to end June are also published in September in *Forestry Statistics*, available from the Forestry Commission website.

Official Statistics

This is an Official Statistics publication. For more information about Official Statistics and the UK Statistics Authority visit www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk.