

Woodland Carbon Code Statistics

Data to December 2015

Release date: 14 January 2016

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 December 2015 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 220 projects were registered under the Woodland Carbon Code at 31 December 2015, covering an area of 15.8 thousand hectares of woodland and projected to sequester 5.8 million tonnes of carbon dioxide.
- Of these projects, 114 projects had been validated by end December 2015, covering an area of 4.0 thousand hectares and projected to sequester 2.0 million tonnes of carbon dioxide.
- Validated projects were predicted to sequester 774 thousand tonnes of carbon dioxide in England, 1,147 thousand tonnes in Scotland, 33 thousand tonnes in Wales and 3 thousand tonnes in Northern Ireland.

UK Woodland Carbon Code Statistics

Woodland Carbon Code data at December 2015

A total of 220 projects were registered under the Woodland Carbon Code at 31 December 2015, covering an area of 15.8 thousand hectares of woodland and projected to sequester 5.8 million tonnes of carbon dioxide (Table 1). Most of the registered projects were in England (123) and Scotland (88), eight were in Wales and one in Northern Ireland.

114 projects had been validated by end December 2015, covering an area of 4.0 thousand hectares and projected to sequester 2.0 million tonnes of carbon dioxide. This represents a 20% increase in the projected carbon sequestration on the previous quarter and a 23% increase in the year since December 2014 (Figure 1).

Table 1: Woodland Carbon Code projects in the UK at 30 December 2015

	England	Scotland	Wales	Northern Ireland	UK
Number of projects					
Awaiting validation	73	28	5	0	106
Validated	50	60	3	1	114
Total	123	88	8	1	220
Area of woodland (hectares)					
Awaiting validation	871	10,768	187	0	11,826
Validated	1,385	2,570	52	9	4,015
Total	2,255	13,338	239	9	15,841
Projected carbon sequestration¹ (thousand tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent)					
Awaiting validation	503	3,263	88	0	3,854
Validated	774	1,147	33	3	1,956
Total	1,277	4,410	121	3	5,811

Source: Forestry Commission

Notes:

¹ 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.

Validated: is the initial evaluation of a project or group against the requirements of the Woodland Carbon Code. Upon completion a project/group will receive a 'Validation Opinion Statement'. The project/group will then be certified for a period of up to 5 years.

Awaiting validation: is when a project or group is undergoing assessment by a certification body.

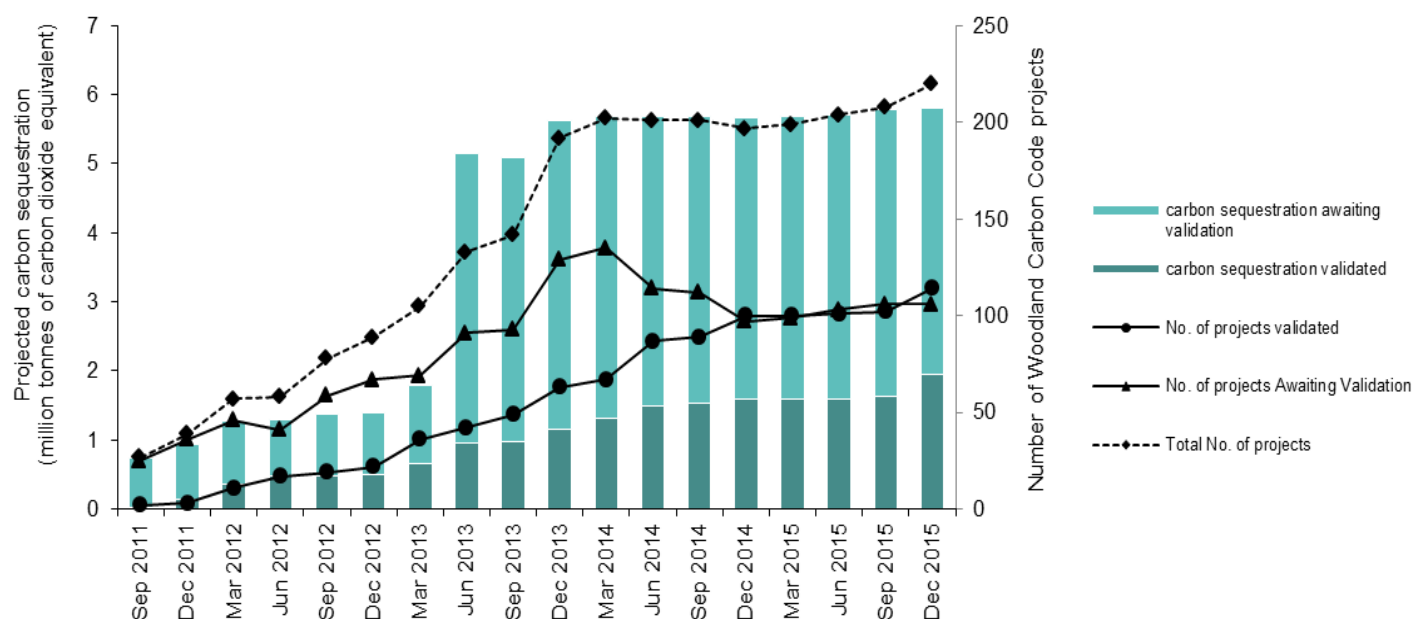
Woodland Carbon Code

Projected carbon sequestration of Woodland Carbon Code projects in the UK to December 2015

Since the launch of the Woodland Carbon Code scheme in 2011 until March 2014 there was a steady increase in the total number of projects joining the scheme (Figure 1). More recently, the rate of new projects joining the scheme has slowed. A similar pattern is observed in total projected carbon sequestration.

The number of projects validated has steadily increased since March 2012. After a period of steady increase, the number of projects awaiting validation has decreased as the rate of new projects joining the scheme slowed.

Figure 1: Projected carbon sequestration of Woodland Carbon Code projects in the UK¹



Source: Forestry Commission

Notes:

¹ 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.

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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

Awaiting validation When a project or group is undergoing assessment by a certification body.

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 England, Scotland and (until March 2013) Wales. The Forestry Commission's functions in Wales transferred to a new organisation, Natural Resources Wales, on 1 April 2013. The responsibility for forestry is devolved.

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.

Validated The initial evaluation of a project or group against the requirements of the Woodland Carbon Code. Upon completion a project/group will receive a 'Validation Opinion Statement'. The project/group will then be certified for a period of up to 5 years.

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 UK Woodland Carbon Registry, housed on the Markit Environmental Registry (www.markit.com/product/registry). 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 December 2015 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 September 2015*.

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

Figures in tables have been independently rounded, so may not add to the totals shown.

Supplementary data is available in the accompanying spreadsheet at:

<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infd-93yjte>.

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 2015*:

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

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 March 2016 will be published on 14 April 2016.

Woodland Carbon Code Statistics: data to June 2016 will be published on 12 July 2016.

Woodland Carbon Code Statistics: data to September 2016 will be published on 13 October 2016.

Woodland Carbon Code Statistics: data to December 2016 will be published on 19 January 2017.

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.