

# Woodland Carbon Code Statistics

Data to December 2012

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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.

This is the first edition of Woodland Carbon Code Statistics, further editions will be produced on a quarterly basis. Previous Statistics on the Woodland Carbon Code have been released directly on the Forestry Commission website at [www.forestry.gov.uk/carboncode](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/carboncode) and in *Forestry Statistics 2012* (for data to June 2012).

Figures to December 2012 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 89 projects were registered under the Woodland Carbon Code at 31 December 2012 in the UK, covering an area of 3.0 thousand hectares and projected to sequester 1.4 million tonnes of carbon dioxide.
- Of these projects, 22 had been validated by end December 2012, covering an area of 1.1 thousand hectares and projected to sequester 0.5 million tonnes of carbon dioxide.
- Validated projects were predicted to sequester 43 thousand tonnes of carbon dioxide in England, 433 thousand tonnes in Scotland and 24 thousand tonnes in Wales. No project has yet been validated in Northern Ireland at 31 December 2012.

# 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 89 projects were registered under the Woodland Carbon Code at 31 December 2012, covering an area of 3.0 thousand hectares of woodland and projected to sequester 1.4 million tonnes of carbon dioxide.

Twenty-two projects had been validated by end December 2012, covering an area of 1.1 thousand hectares and projected to sequester 0.5 million tonnes of carbon dioxide. This represents an increase of 4% in projected carbon sequestration since the previous quarter, and a 265% increase in the year since December 2011.

**Table 1: Woodland Carbon Code projects in the UK**

	Validated	Awaiting validation	Total
<b>Number of projects</b>			
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
<b>Area of woodland (hectares)</b>			
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
<b>Projected carbon sequestration<sup>1</sup> (thousand tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent)</b>			
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

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 December 2012 were in England (42) and Scotland (41), five were in Wales and one in Northern Ireland (Table 2).

In England, the five validated projects cover an area of 67 hectares and are expected to sequester 43 thousand tonnes of carbon dioxide.

In Scotland, the 15 validated projects cover an area of 1,030 hectares and are expected to sequester 433 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 December 2012.

**Table 2: Woodland Carbon Code projects at 31 December 2012**

	England	Scotland	Wales	Northern Ireland	UK
<b>Number of projects</b>					
Validated	5	15	2	0	22
Awaiting validation	37	26	3	1	67
Total	42	41	5	1	89
<b>Area of woodland (hectares)</b>					
Validated	67	1,030	37	0	1,134
Awaiting validation	678	1,021	173	5	1,877
Total	745	2,051	210	5	3,011
<b>Projected carbon sequestration<sup>1</sup> (thousand tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent)</b>					
Validated	43	433	24	0	500
Awaiting validation	389	422	80	4	895
Total	432	854	104	4	1,395

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 (tCO<sub>2</sub>e)** Emissions and sequestration can be presented as tonnes carbon or tonnes carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) equivalent. To convert from tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> 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](http://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](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infd-7zhk85)

### Revisions

Figures at December 2012 are published for the first time in this release.

Figures for earlier periods have not been revised from those previously published on the Forestry Commission website at [www.forestry.gov.uk/carboncode](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/carboncode) or in *Forestry Statistics 2012* (for data to June 2012) at

[www.forestry.gov.uk/website/forstats2012.nsf/LUContentsTop?openview&RestrictToCategory=1](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/website/forstats2012.nsf/LUContentsTop?openview&RestrictToCategory=1)

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](http://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](http://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 March 2013* will be published in April 2013.

*Woodland Carbon Code Statistics: data to June 2013* will be published in July 2013.

*Woodland Carbon Code Statistics: data to September 2013* will be published in October 2013.

*Woodland Carbon Code Statistics: data to December 2013* will be published in January 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](http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk).