

# Woodland Carbon Code Statistics

Data to December 2013

**Release date:** 14 January 2014

**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 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 192 projects were registered under the Woodland Carbon Code at 31 December 2013, covering an area of 15.2 thousand hectares of woodland and projected to sequester 5.6 million tonnes of carbon dioxide.
- Of these projects, 63 had been validated by end December 2013, covering an area of 2.5 thousand hectares and projected to sequester 1.2 million tonnes of carbon dioxide.
- Validated projects were predicted to sequester 308 thousand tonnes of carbon dioxide in England, 816 thousand tonnes in Scotland and 33 thousand tonnes in Wales. No project has yet been validated in Northern Ireland at 31 December 2013.

# Woodland Carbon Code

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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.

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# Woodland Carbon Code

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
March 2013	36	69	105
June 2013	42	91	133
September 2013	49	93	142
December 2013	63	129	192
<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
March 2013	1,488	2,073	3,561
June 2013	2,063	12,105	14,168
September 2013	2,136	12,006	14,142
December 2013	2,503	12,679	15,183
<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
March 2013	655	1,137	1,792
June 2013	951	4,204	5,154
September 2013	986	4,097	5,083
December 2013	1,156	4,460	5,617

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.

Sixty-three projects had been validated by end December 2013, covering an area of 2.5 thousand hectares and projected to sequester 1.2 million tonnes of carbon dioxide. This represents an increase of 17% in projected carbon sequestration since the previous quarter, and a 131% increase in the year since December 2012.

# Woodland Carbon Code

Most of the projects registered under the Woodland Carbon Code at 31 December 2013 were in England (109) and Scotland (74), seven were in Wales and two in Northern Ireland (Table 2).

In England, the eighteen validated projects cover an area of 550 hectares and are expected to sequester 308 thousand tonnes of carbon dioxide.

In Scotland, the 42 validated projects cover an area of 1,901 hectares and are expected to sequester 816 thousand tonnes of carbon dioxide.

In Wales, the three validated projects cover an area of 52 hectares and are expected to sequester 33 thousand tonnes of carbon dioxide.

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

**Table 2: Woodland Carbon Code projects at 31 December 2013**

	England	Scotland	Wales	Northern Ireland	UK
<b>Number of projects</b>					
Validated	18	42	3	0	63
Awaiting validation	91	32	4	2	129
Total	109	74	7	2	192
<b>Area of woodland (hectares)</b>					
Validated	550	1,901	52	0	2,503
Awaiting validation	1,502	10,984	179	14	12,679
Total	2,052	12,885	231	14	15,182
<b>Projected carbon sequestration<sup>1</sup> (thousand tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent)</b>					
Validated	308	816	33	0	1,156
Awaiting validation	968	3,402	84	7	4,460
Total	1,275	4,218	116	7	5,617

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.

## 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 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 (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 UK Woodland Carbon Registry, housed on the Markit Environmental Registry ([www.markit.com/en/products/environmental/markit-environmental-registry.page](http://www.markit.com/en/products/environmental/markit-environmental-registry.page)). 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 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 September 2013*.

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 2013*:  
[www.forestry.gov.uk/website/forstats2013.nsf/LUContentsTop?openview&RestrictToCategory=1](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/website/forstats2013.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 2014* will be published on 10 April 2014.

*Woodland Carbon Code Statistics: data to June 2014* will be published on 15 July 2014.

*Woodland Carbon Code Statistics: data to September 2014* will be published on 9 October 2014.

*Woodland Carbon Code Statistics: data to December 2014* will be published on 15 January 2015.

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).