

Woodland Carbon Code Statistics

Data to December 2014

Release date: 15 January 2015

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 2014 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 197 projects were registered under the Woodland Carbon Code at 31 December 2014, covering an area of 15.4 thousand hectares of woodland and projected to sequester 5.7 million tonnes of carbon dioxide.
- Of these projects, 100 projects had been validated by end December 2014, covering an area of 3.3 thousand hectares and projected to sequester 1.6 million tonnes of carbon dioxide.
- Validated projects were predicted to sequester 498 thousand tonnes of carbon dioxide in England, 1,055 thousand tonnes in Scotland, 33 thousand tonnes in Wales and 3 thousand tonnes in Northern Ireland.

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 197 projects were registered under the Woodland Carbon Code at 31 December 2014, covering an area of 15.4 thousand hectares of woodland and projected to sequester 5.7 million tonnes of carbon dioxide. During the past quarter, two new projects entered the registry as “awaiting validation”, while six other projects which were “awaiting validation” were removed from the registry, as they decided not to proceed with validation within the allowable 3-year timescale.

One hundred projects had been validated by end December 2014, covering an area of 3.3 thousand hectares and projected to sequester 1.6 million tonnes of carbon dioxide. This represents an increase of 4% in projected carbon sequestration since the previous quarter, and a 37% increase in the year since December 2013.

Woodland Carbon Code

Table 1: Woodland Carbon Code projects in the UK

	Validated	Awaiting validation	Total
Number of projects			
December 2011	3	36	39
December 2012	22	67	89
December 2013	63	129	192
March 2014	67	135	202
June 2014	87	114	201
September 2014	89	112	201
December 2014	100	97	197
Area of woodland (hectares)			
December 2011	319	1,887	2,206
December 2012	1,134	1,877	3,011
December 2013	2,503	12,679	15,183
March 2014	2,824	12,576	15,401
June 2014	3,135	12,255	15,390
September 2014	3,201	12,188	15,389
December 2014	3,322	12,052	15,374
Projected carbon sequestration¹ (thousand tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent)			
December 2011	137	791	928
December 2012	500	895	1,395
December 2013	1,156	4,460	5,617
March 2014	1,323	4,364	5,687
June 2014	1,496	4,181	5,676
September 2014	1,528	4,154	5,682
December 2014	1,588	4,083	5,671

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.

Woodland Carbon Code

Most of the projects registered under the Woodland Carbon Code at 31 December 2014 were in England (110) and Scotland (79), seven were in Wales and one in Northern Ireland (Table 2).

In England, the 43 validated projects cover an area of 895 hectares and are expected to sequester 498 thousand tonnes of carbon dioxide.

In Scotland, the 53 validated projects cover an area of 2,367 hectares and are expected to sequester 1,055 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, the validated project covers an area of 9 hectares and is expected to sequester 3 thousand tonnes of carbon dioxide.

Table 2: Woodland Carbon Code projects at 31 December 2014

	England	Scotland	Wales	Northern Ireland	UK
Number of projects					
Validated	43	53	3	1	100
Awaiting validation	67	26	4	0	97
Total	110	79	7	1	197
Area of woodland (hectares)					
Validated	895	2,367	52	9	3,322
Awaiting validation	1,103	10,770	179	0	12,052
Total	1,998	13,137	231	9	15,374
Projected carbon sequestration¹ (thousand tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent)					
Validated	498	1,055	33	3	1,588
Awaiting validation	746	3,253	84	0	4,083
Total	1,244	4,308	116	3	5,671

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 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.

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 2014 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 2014*.

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 2014*:
www.forestry.gov.uk/website/forstats2014.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 2015 will be published on 9 April 2015.

Woodland Carbon Code Statistics: data to June 2015 will be published on 14 July 2015.

Woodland Carbon Code Statistics: data to September 2015 will be published on 15 October 2015.

Woodland Carbon Code Statistics: data to December 2015 will be published on 14 January 2016.

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.