

Woodland Carbon Code Statistics

Data to September 2013

Release date: 10 October 2013

Coverage: United Kingdom

Geographical breakdown: Country

Issued by: Economics & Statistics, Forestry Commission,
231 Corstorphine Road, Edinburgh, EH12 7AT

Enquiries: Jackie Watson 0131 314 6171
statistics@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

Statistician: Jeremy Darot 0131 314 6218

Website: www.forestry.gov.uk/statistics

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 September 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 142 projects were registered under the Woodland Carbon Code at 30 September 2013, covering an area of 14.1 thousand hectares of woodland and projected to sequester 5.1 million tonnes of carbon dioxide.
- Of these projects, 49 had been validated by end September 2013, covering an area of 2.1 thousand hectares and projected to sequester 1.0 million tonnes of carbon dioxide.
- Validated projects were predicted to sequester 291 thousand tonnes of carbon dioxide in England, 662 thousand tonnes in Scotland and 33 thousand tonnes in Wales. No project has yet been validated in Northern Ireland at 30 September 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 142 projects were registered under the Woodland Carbon Code at 30 September 2013, covering an area of 14.1 thousand hectares of woodland and projected to sequester 5.1 million tonnes of carbon dioxide.

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
June 2013	42	91	133
September 2013	49	93	142
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
June 2013	2,063	12,105	14,168
September 2013	2,136	12,006	14,142
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
June 2013	951	4,204	5,154
September 2013	986	4,097	5,083

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

Forty-nine projects had been validated by end September 2013, covering an area of 2.1 thousand hectares and projected to sequester 1.0 million tonnes of carbon dioxide. This represents an increase of 4% in projected carbon sequestration since the previous quarter, and a 105% increase in the year since September 2012.

Most of the projects registered under the Woodland Carbon Code at 30 September 2013 were in Scotland (71) and England (62), seven were in Wales and two in Northern Ireland (Table 2).

In England, the sixteen validated projects cover an area of 524 hectares and are expected to sequester 291 thousand tonnes of carbon dioxide.

In Scotland, the 30 validated projects cover an area of 1,560 hectares and are expected to sequester 662 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 30 September 2013.

Table 2: Woodland Carbon Code projects at 30 September 2013

	England	Scotland	Wales	Northern Ireland	UK
Number of projects					
Validated	16	30	3	0	49
Awaiting validation	46	41	4	2	93
Total	62	71	7	2	142
Area of woodland (hectares)					
Validated	524	1,560	52	0	2,136
Awaiting validation	1,080	10,733	179	14	12,006
Total	1,604	12,293	231	14	14,142
Projected carbon sequestration¹ (thousand tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent)					
Validated	291	662	33	0	986
Awaiting validation	724	3,282	84	7	4,097
Total	1,016	3,944	116	7	5,083

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.

Please note that one of the 35 projects awaiting validation at 30 June 2013 in Scotland has since been split into seven smaller projects. The total number of projects awaiting validation in Scotland has accordingly increased to 41 at 30 September 2013. Further amendments to the data held for these projects have also resulted in the area of woodland awaiting validation in Scotland decreasing from 10,791 to 10,733 hectares since the last release, and the associated projected carbon sequestration decreasing from 3,355 to 3,282 thousand tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent.

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/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

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 September 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 June 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

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

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 December 2013 will be published on 14 January 2014.

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.

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.