

# Woodland Carbon Code Statistics

Data to December 2016

**Release date:** 19 January 2017

**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. The figures presented here exclude projects that have been removed from the register (see Annex; Net changes in the number of projects).

*Woodland Carbon Code Statistics* are released on a quarterly basis. Figures to December 2016 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 243 projects were registered under the Woodland Carbon Code at 31 December 2016, covering an area of 16.0 thousand hectares of woodland and projected to sequester 5.9 million tonnes of carbon dioxide over their lifetime<sup>1</sup>.
- Of these projects, 138 projects had been validated by end December 2016, covering an area of 4.9 thousand hectares and projected to sequester 2.3 million tonnes of carbon dioxide over their lifetime<sup>1</sup>.
- Validated projects were predicted to sequester 903 thousand tonnes of carbon dioxide in England, 1,306 thousand tonnes in Scotland, 111 thousand tonnes in Wales and 3 thousand tonnes in Northern Ireland over their lifetime<sup>1</sup>.
- Three projects, all located in Scotland, were verified by the end of December 2016. These projects cover an area of 148 hectares and are projected to sequester 79 thousand tonnes of carbon dioxide over their lifetime<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> 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 data at December 2016

A total of 243 projects were registered under the Woodland Carbon Code at 31 December 2016, covering an area of 16.0 thousand hectares of woodland and projected to sequester 5.9 million tonnes of carbon dioxide over their life time of up to 100 years (Table 1). Most of the registered projects were in England (128) and Scotland (98), 16 were in Wales and one in Northern Ireland.

138 projects had been validated by end December 2016, covering an area of 4.9 thousand hectares and projected to sequester 2.3 million tonnes of carbon dioxide over their lifetime.

Three projects, all located in Scotland, were verified by the end of December 2016. These projects are projected to sequester 79 thousand tonnes of carbon dioxide over their lifetime.

**Table 1: Woodland Carbon Code projects in the UK at 31 December 2016**

	England	Scotland	Wales	Northern Ireland	UK
<b>Number of projects<sup>1</sup></b>					
Awaiting validation	62	31	9	0	102
Validated	66	64	7	1	138
Verified	0	3	0	0	3
Total	128	98	16	1	243
<b>Area of woodland (hectares)</b>					
Awaiting validation	692	10,285	35	0	11,012
Validated	1,614	3,031	231	9	4,885
Verified	0	148	0	0	148
Total	2,306	13,465	266	9	16,046
<b>Projected carbon sequestration<sup>2</sup> (thousand tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent)</b>					
Awaiting validation	394	3,064	17	0	3,475
Validated	903	1,306	111	3	2,323
Verified	0	79	0	0	79
Total	1,297	4,449	127	3	5,876

Source: Forestry Commission

Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Projects can be validated/verified individually or come together as part of a group. The statistics presented here show the number of projects validated or verified whether they were put through the process individually or as part of a group.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

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

**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.

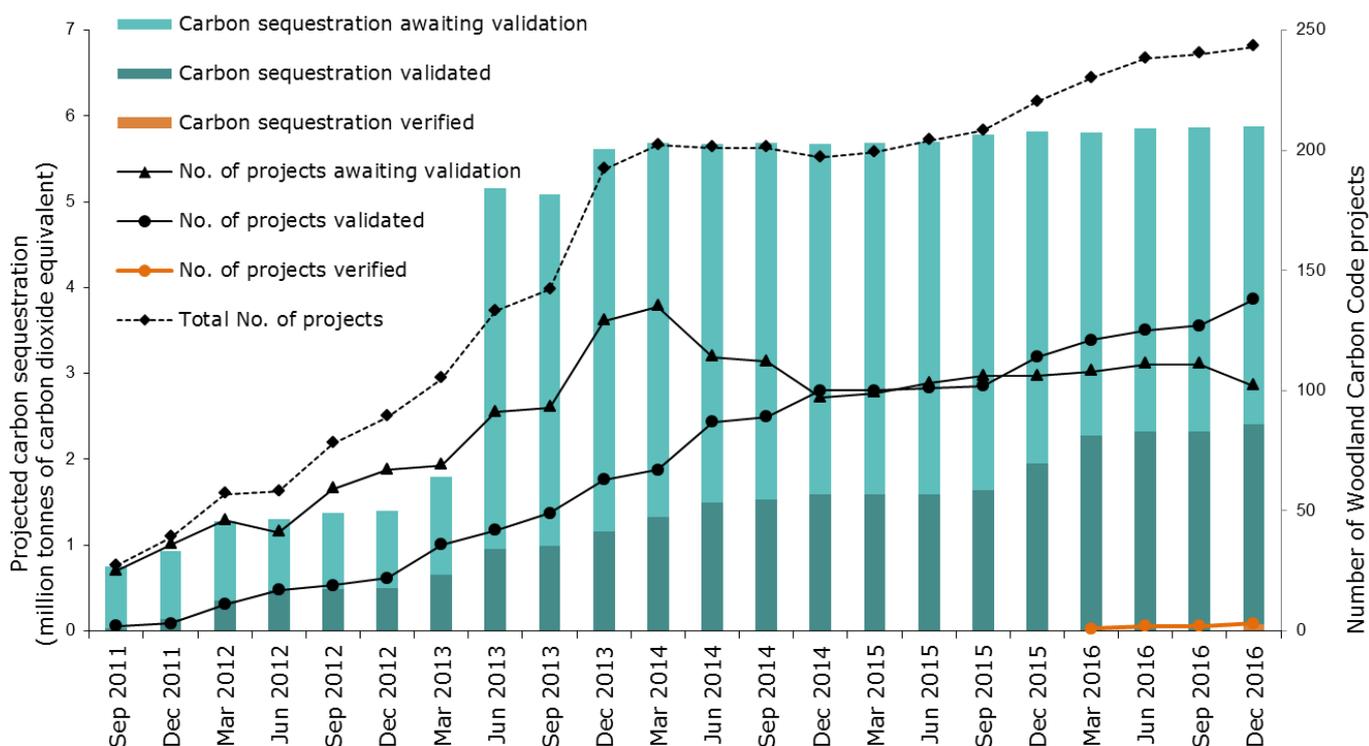
**Verified:** Verification is the evaluation of a project as it progresses to confirm the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> sequestered to date as well as that it continues to meet the requirements of the Code.

## Woodland Carbon Code projects in the UK

From the launch of the Woodland Carbon Code scheme in 2011 until March 2014 there was a steady increase in the total number of projects (Figure 1). The trend then stabilised, before rising again more recently with a 10% increase in the total number of projects in the year since December 2015 and a 1% increase in the last quarter. The number of validated projects has increased over the entire time period.

Total projected carbon sequestration is almost unchanged from the previous quarter and has increased by 1% in the year since December 2015. For validated projects, there has been a 19% increase in projected carbon sequestration in the year since December 2015.

Figure 1: Woodland Carbon Code projects in the UK<sup>1,2</sup>



Source: Forestry Commission

Notes:

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<sup>2</sup> 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.

### Net changes in the number of projects

Over the last quarter there were five new projects registered and two projects removed from the registry due to discontinuation. The figures presented here report the net change in the number of projects.

### 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.

**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)** England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

**Validated** The initial evaluation of a WCC 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.

**Verified** Verification is the evaluation of a project as it progresses to confirm the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> sequestered to date as well as that it continues to meet the requirements of the Code.

**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

Information about Woodland Carbon Code projects comes from the UK Woodland Carbon Registry, housed on the Markit Environmental Registry ([www.markit.com/product/registry](http://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](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 2016 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 2016*.

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 are 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](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/carboncode).

More statistics on UK forests and climate change can be found in *Forestry Statistics 2016*:  
[www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infd-7aqdgc](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infd-7aqdgc).

## Release schedule

Woodland Carbon Code statistics are published quarterly, in the month after each quarter ends.

The next editions will be released on the following dates:

*Woodland Carbon Code Statistics: data to March 2017* will be published on 13 April 2017.

*Woodland Carbon Code Statistics: data to June 2017* will be published on 20 July 2017.

*Woodland Carbon Code Statistics: data to September 2017* will be published on 19 October 2017.

*Woodland Carbon Code Statistics: data to December 2017* will be published on 25 January 2018.

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).