

Woodland Carbon Code

www.scottishwoodlands.co.uk



The Carbon team of Scottish Woodlands is well equipped to offer advice and project implementation services for any Woodland Carbon Code project.

The climate crisis is a global threat and as we rapidly accelerate towards Net Zero by 2050, decarbonisation is at forefront of UK Government, public and private sector objectives.

The UK Committee on Climate Change outlined a 'Balanced Pathway' for emissions reduction from 2025 – 2050 to reach Net Zero. The pathway recommends increasing the annual planting rates from 17,000ha/year in 2025 to 37,000ha/year by 2030 and 60,000ha/year by 2050. There is a wealth of grant funding available to incentivise new woodland creation in the UK.

The biological growth of trees, via photosynthesis, absorbs carbon and woodlands have high rates of carbon sequestration. In addition, woodlands deliver other critical ecosystem services such as flood attenuation, timber, improved biodiversity, and more green space.

The value of this carbon sequestration has been realised by the development of the Woodland Carbon Code (WCC) in 2011. The carbon sequestered via new woodland creation is quantified, validated, and verified by an approved body.

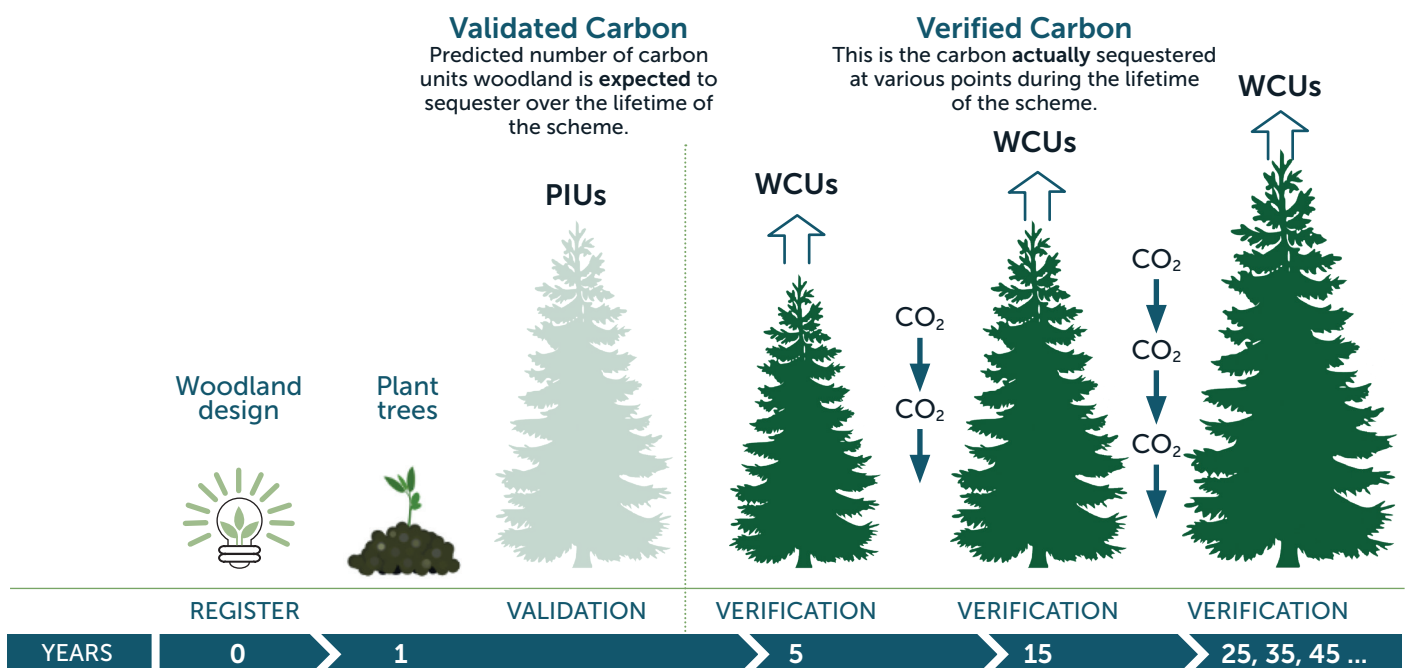
Eligible projects yield tradeable carbon units, where 1 carbon unit equates to 1 tonne of carbon dioxide equivalent.

Adding financial value to these natural assets has given rise to the voluntary carbon market and added value to new woodland projects. The WCC is internationally recognised for high standards and is endorsed by International Carbon Offset & Reduction Alliance, the global body for carbon reduction and offset providers in the voluntary market.

Corporate entities can now offset their UK based carbon emissions by purchasing carbon units from verified woodland carbon projects. Landowners can also offset Woodland Carbon Units against their own UK based business emissions, known as insetting.

The Scottish Woodlands carbon team are experienced project developers for the UK Land Carbon Registry which is the platform for the Woodland Carbon Code. We can assist with project implementation of WCC projects from registration to sale of carbon units throughout the lifetime of the project.

Working closely with colleagues across the company, we can offer a comprehensive range of services to landowners from new woodland creation design, grant funding applications, forest establishment and planting through to long-term forest management and harvesting.



Woodland Carbon Code

- Full Project Implementation and Management
- Registration
- Validation
- Verification
- Woodland Carbon Guarantee Scheme
- Case study Reports
- Advisory service

Carbon Services

- Site assessment
- Woodland carbon projects
- Peatland carbon projects
- Registration, Validation and Verification
- Carbon unit sales



Registration

The first stage of the process is registration of new woodland creation projects on the UK Land Carbon Registry, a public environmental registry, under the Woodland Carbon Code.

All projects must be registered before establishment works start and planting begins.

Registration specifies the location, area, ground preparation and species mix of the proposed planting to predict a draft number of carbon units the new woodland will sequester over specified project length (between 40 and 100 years).



Validation

The second stage of the process is validation of the project. This step involves production of detailed documentation which is validated by a third party to verify the new woodland creation is legal, permanent and is additional.

Additionality confirms the new woodland creation is only financially viable with carbon income and must sequester carbon over and above the previous land use.

Validation produces Pending Issuance Units (PIUs) – which are the predicted number of carbon units the new woodland will sequester over a defined project length.

PIUs can only be purchased by businesses wishing to offset future UK based carbon emissions.



Verification

At year 5 and every 10 years thereafter at a minimum, the project is verified by a third party which involves a detailed site survey by the project developer and third party auditor.

At each verification, a set number of Pending Issuance Units are converted into actual Woodland Carbon Units (WCUs).

The WCUs represent the amount of carbon that has physically been sequestered in the previous 5 or 10 years.

WCUs can be purchased and used by businesses and corporate entities immediately to offset or inset UK based business carbon emissions.

There is a cost involved with validation and each verification.





Risks and Rights

Upon sale of carbon units, a carbon sales contract will be required for the number of vintages across which carbon has been sold. It will be necessary to have a robust legal agreement to protect the seller. We would recommend legal advice is taken in this regard and most legal firms can now advise on this process to ensure that the best outcome is achieved.

The rights to the carbon remain with the third party so if the property is sold it passes to the new owner with what is in effect a burden on title. The new owner will have to take on the carbon contract together with any restrictions.



Woodland Carbon Guarantee Scheme



The Woodland Carbon Guarantee is available for woodland planting in England only. It provides an option to sell to the Government at a guaranteed index linked price for verified Woodland Carbon Units until 2055.

If an owner prefers, units can still be sold on the open market rather than to the government. It operates by reverse auction with various auction rounds throughout the year.

Eligible projects must be registered and can only enter the auction before planting.

Typical Carbon Yield Estimates

Planting	Typical Carbon Yield (tCO ₂ /ha*)	Typical Scheme Duration (Years)
Predominantly Conifer	125	40
Minimum Intervention Broadleaf	350	65

**Figures are shown based on the Biomass Carbon Lookup Tables within Carbon Calculation version 2.4. Please note all schemes must meet the eligibility rules under the Woodland Carbon Code at the time of validation and the yields above are purely indicative.*

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