

Creating new woodland: Woodland Carbon Code

Planting trees to tackle the effects of climate change



What is the Code?

The Woodland Carbon Code is the voluntary standard for UK woodland creation projects where claims are made about the carbon dioxide (CO₂) they sequester. Independent validation and verification to this standard provides assurance and clarity about the carbon emissions savings of these woodlands and means that projects:

- are responsibly and sustainably managed to national standards;
- can provide reliable estimates of the amount of carbon that will be sequestered or locked up as a result of the tree planting;
- must be publicly registered and independently verified; and
- meet transparent criteria and standards to ensure that real carbon benefits are delivered.

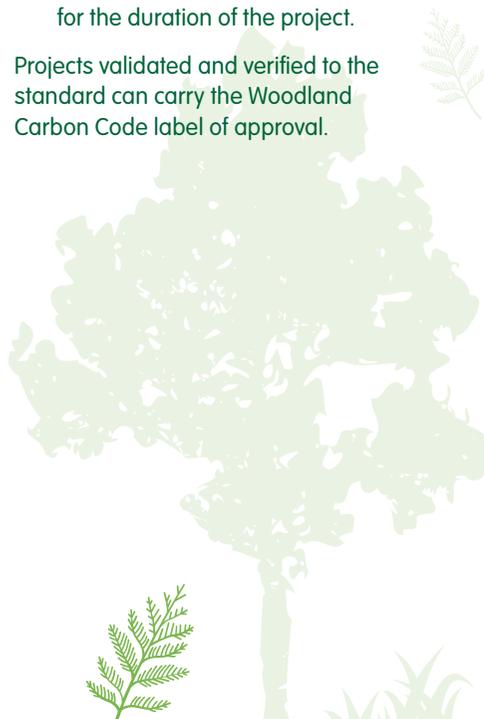


Am I eligible?

To be eligible for the code, woodland creation projects with suitable species and management (non-intervention, continuous cover and rotational clear-fell are all eligible) for the site must:

- be registered with the Woodland Carbon Code before you start planting;
- take place on a suitable site, which was not wooded in the past 25 years and is not deep peat (organic) soil;
- be sustainably and responsibly managed, meeting the requirements of the UK Forestry Standard, preferably with a long-term management plan in place;
- demonstrate that the extra carbon income is material to the project going ahead; and
- be validated within three years of registration and maintain verification for the duration of the project.

Projects validated and verified to the standard can carry the Woodland Carbon Code label of approval.





What are the benefits?

Planting woodland to remove CO₂ from the atmosphere, known as woodland carbon capture, is a cost-effective way of compensating for emissions while also providing many other social and environmental benefits.

People who want to invest in carbon capture projects need to feel confident that the woodlands will be well managed and really will capture the CO₂ claimed. Validation and verification to the Woodland Carbon Code provides this evidence. It also creates real and verifiable carbon 'rights' that can be sold to recoup the costs of creating the woodland and generate an income.

Selling the rights to the carbon captured by Woodland Carbon Code validated woodlands can provide new income for landowners, potentially supplementing other more traditional forestry and agricultural income streams.

A new native woodland can capture 300-400 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent per hectare by year 50. By year 100, it can capture 400-600 CO₂ equivalent per hectare.

Recently, companies have paid between £10 and £20 per tonne of CO₂. Remember, you need to deduct the on-going cost of involvement in the scheme from this income – either direct costs or through employing a project developer. Selling some of the rights to report on carbon capture upfront can help you to recoup the initial costs of validation. The remainder can be sold later as the woodland matures.

Woodland Carbon Guarantee

In England, it is also possible to sell your carbon units to the government, once your woodland has been validated and verified to the Woodland Carbon Code. Successful applicants will benefit from a guaranteed income upon delivery of verified Woodland Carbon Units every 5 or 10 years up to 2055/56. The price will be agreed through an auction. This gives a guaranteed income for delivery of verified Woodland Carbon Units in England over the next 30 years. Find out more at www.gov.uk/guidance/woodland-carbon-guarantee

How do I register?

You can register your project by following four simple steps. Further help is available on the Forestry Commission website – see **More information**.

1. Find a project developer

If you need help, there are a number of organisations that can help you develop your Woodland Carbon Code project and put it through validation and verification.

2. Register your project

Create an account on the UK Land Carbon Registry and register your project.

3. Validation: initial project check

Validation is the initial evaluation of your project or group against the requirements of the Woodland Carbon Code. For this stage, you need to prepare a Project Design Document.

4. Verification: ongoing check of carbon sequestered

Verification is the ongoing evaluation of your project or group against the requirements of the Woodland Carbon Code, confirming the actual carbon sequestered. For this stage, you need to monitor your woodland and prepare a Project Progress Report.

Can I apply for the Woodland Carbon Code alongside other grants?

If you apply for registration with the Woodland Carbon Code you are not excluded from applying for other grant and funding schemes, but projects must be registered with the Woodland Carbon Code before they are planted.

The England Woodland Creation Offer Application Form (Part B) gathers together the information you need to register with the Woodland Carbon Code if you want to access private funding for Woodland Carbon Units and apply to the Woodland Carbon Guarantee.

More information

For more information on the Woodland Carbon Code and how to register a project, please see: www.woodlandcarboncode.org.uk or email info@woodlandcarboncode.org.uk



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