

## WOODLAND CARBON CODE BASIC INFORMATION

The **Woodland Carbon Code** is a voluntary standard, initiated in July 2011, for woodland creation projects that make claims about the carbon they lock up.

Carbon dioxide, CO<sub>2</sub>, is the most common of the greenhouse gases, which are changing the earth's climate through atmospheric warming. Growing trees sequester (absorb, take out of the atmosphere) CO<sub>2</sub> and use carbon atoms to form wood while emitting oxygen back into the atmosphere. The amounts of CO<sub>2</sub> removed from the atmosphere by the growing trees are measurable and are defined as **Woodland Carbon Units (WCUs)**.

Each individual Woodland Carbon Code project goes through a complex process of registration, assessment and validation to reach the stage where the WCUs can be placed on the market to attract companies needing to compensate for their greenhouse gas emissions.

Highfield Forestry Ltd has a track record of fully completed projects which brought extra income for the owners of recently planted new woodlands.

### Frequently Asked Questions

1. Does my woodland creation project qualify?

*The project must be registered with the Forestry Commission and must meet the UK Forestry Standard throughout its lifespan.*

2. How many Woodland Carbon Units (WCUs) can my woodland generate?

*The Carbon calculations are estimated using the models with many factors impacting the result (tree species, spacing, soil type, cultivation method, management regime etc). Examples can be found within the Woodland Carbon Code Technical Information.*

3. What information will I have to provide?

*The required information will include details of your project (those should all be included in your forestry grant application and woodland creation contract with the Forestry Commission) and some details about your farm business.*

4. How long does it take to place the units on the market?

*We can begin the process as soon as planting works are completed. The registration, assessment and validation process should not take longer than a few weeks, but it is highly dependent of the detail of information provided.*

5. Can I monitor the market?

*You can see all projects through the Markit Registry Public View: Access it at [www.forestry.gov.uk/carbonregistry](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/carbonregistry) and click on 'search the registry' but prices are confidential.*

6. What price per unit can I achieve?

*The average global price of woodland carbon in January 2014 was £6/tCO<sub>2</sub>, although there was wide variation around this figure, depending on the nature of the project. The carbon market continues to develop and generate interest.*

7. How much does it cost?

*WCUs are sold through a company called Markit. There is no registration fee, but carbon units cost 6p per unit to list and 3p to transfer at verification (see: [www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/inf-d-8vxmlf](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/inf-d-8vxmlf) ) (March 2018). Validating bodies also charge a fee to audit and approve the project (variable but in the region of £600). Highfield Forestry Ltd fees include the project preparation fee of £500 and 5% of commission on units when sold.*

8. When and how will I receive the payment for my units?

*You can choose to sell all units in one go or in stages at each verification (after the first 5 years and then every 10 years).*

*We notify you as soon as we receive any interest or offers from purchasers, if you accept the offer all you need to do is sign the paperwork and await the cheque or BACS payment.*

9. What are my commitments as an owner?

*All commitments are listed in the commitment statement signed at the beginning of the process. The main commitment is that the land involved will be kept in forestry use permanently (you won't be able to put it back to farming and if you harvest the timber at some point, you will be obliged to replant it).*

10. Where can I find more information?

*Please do not hesitate to contact our office at 01738 442 903, [info@highfieldforestry.com](mailto:info@highfieldforestry.com)*

*More information is also available through Forestry Commission websites:*

*<https://www.forestry.gov.uk/carboncode>*

*<https://www.forestry.gov.uk/carbonregistry>*