

Woodland Carbon Code executive board minutes

Wednesday 03 June 2026 via Microsoft Teams

Present: Pat Snowdon, Andy Baker, Pippa Lewis (Scottish Forestry), Fiona Hay (Welsh Government), Mark Broadmeadow (Forestry Commission), Aoife Smith (in place of Breandan Mulholland, DAERA)

Apologies: Jamie Smith, Vicky West (Scottish Forestry).

1. Outstanding actions

Pat provided an update on outstanding actions:

Action 1: Vicky to add units which are being held in inactive accounts as an agenda item for the next executive board meeting.

Update: Ongoing. Vicky will discuss this when she returns to work.

Action 2: Vicky to arrange a meeting with Howdens on insuring units, copying in Mark.

Update: Ongoing. Vicky will progress with this when she returns to work.

Action 3: Andy to prepare a paper for the Woodland Nature Market Strategy Board on project-specific issue.

Update: Completed – no longer an action

Action 4: Andy to discuss further with the Forestry Commission regarding nutrient neutrality.

Update: Completed - no longer an action

Action 5: Pat to identify an interim chair for the Disputes Panel until a permanent chair is appointed.

Update: In progress, will continue as an action.

Action 6: Susan to advertise Advisory Board vacancies through the Woodland Carbon Code channels and those of related organisations.

Update: Completed - no longer an action

Action 7: Andy to discuss with S&P Global and experts as appropriate how applications for trading accounts should be handled in future.

Update: Pat highlighted that suitable criteria are required for the award of trading accounts. Discussion are ongoing about this with relevant experts. This action will be carried over to the next advisory board.

Action 8: Andy to add compensatory planting to the agenda for the next Advisory Board meeting.

Update: This action is carried over to the next advisory board meeting.

2. Conflicts of interest

No members declared a conflict of interest.

3. General updates

Andy and Pat provided updates on the following topics:

Statistics

Andy shared statistics about the Woodland Carbon Code.

Key takeaways:

- Number of new registrations to the code is stable
- Number of validations processed is slightly up on last year
- Number of verifications processed has increased significantly on last year as more projects reach this stage
- Consistency in the number of validations has supported a stable level of income from carbon credit issuance levies, and a further contribution from DEFRA contribution has been confirmed for 2026-27

UK Land Carbon Registry

The current contract with S&P Global has been temporarily extended while arrangements are finalised for the new registry contract.

The Woodland Carbon Code team is working with S&P Global to provide an API to Rethink Carbon to support the operation of their workflow platform which is under development.

Staffing

- The team has been under strength in recent months due to absence through sickness and 2 members leaving the team.
- The WCC team should be back to full capacity soon. A new WCC coordinator has started this week, and applications are currently being assessed to recruit a new Communications Officer.

Woodland Nature Markets Strategy Board – read-out from meeting on 1st June

There was a positive response to a presentation by Rethink Codes, on the prototype they are developing for a new integrated workflow platform.

The agenda for the meeting was very full, and it was suggested that it may be necessary to extend future meetings if needed.

4. Risk register

Risks relating to Validation and Verification Body (VVB) capacity has been updated on the risk register, due to the ongoing need to find suitable new VVBs to meet future demand.

5. Clarification 2 to version 3.0 & Additionality Test Update

Additionality Test Update

Andy presented a paper detailing data updates within the additionality test cashflow due to be released on the 1st July 2026. Andy explained that, for the next 12 months, applicants can either use this new version when it is released or use the present version.

Mark said that EWCO will continue to use the provisional LCA dataset rather than the new predictive LCA dataset to prevent misalignment with their sensitivity maps. Andy agreed it was sensible for the WCC landuse platform to align with EWCO on this.

Clarification 2 to version 3.0

Andy informed the board that there would be some minor updates to the code in the upcoming clarification on 1st July 2026.

6. EWCO payments

Andy described how several projects currently submitting for validation in England had accidentally entered outdated grant information into the cashflow. The validators are now working with project developers to update documentation where necessary.

Action 9: Andy will include the January 2026 clarification relating to the cashflow (i.e. applicants must input/update the grant amount they are receiving for woodland creation at the time of document submission for validation), within the FAQ tab for the cashflow version 3.1.

7. Dispute Panel chair

Pat Snowdon asked the board for suggestions for a new chair as Peter Wilson has retired. The person must have a good understanding of the WCC.

Action 11: Aiofe Smith suggested a suitable applicant for the role. Pat Snowdon to follow up on this.

8. Freedom Of Information/ Environmental Information Regulations requests

A series recent of Freedom Of Information/Environmental Information Regulations requests has prompted discussions about how the WCC records data and evidence that support decisions.

There was a discussion around the importance of handling any new evidence and research papers in the context of the wider evidence base and scientific consensus, with particular care to assess the assumptions applied in any new research.

9. Rethink Codes

The future funding model for the Rethink Codes platform was discussed.

Action 12: Andy to request a breakdown of likely costs from Rethink Carbon and make this available to the board.

10. Woodland Carbon Purchase Fund

Pat gave an update on the fund development.

11. ICVCM

Pat provided a brief update regarding the WCC application to ICVCM. This is currently undergoing a full assessment by the ICVCM team.

12. AOB

Action 11: Andy to meet with Aoife to discuss additionality and thresholds to help inform future grant structure and design.