



Woodland Carbon Code Clarification 2 to Version 3.0

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Introduction

This document clarifies aspects of the Woodland Carbon Code to help project developers and validation and verification bodies interpret the standard. It should be read alongside Woodland Carbon Code Version 3.0. All clarifications are effective immediately.

The clarifications were approved by the Woodland Carbon Code team with input from project developers, validation and verification bodies and the Woodland Carbon Code Executive and Advisory Boards. They are incorporated into the online versions of the code.

Changes to requirements and guidance are shown using [track changes](#).

Scottish Forestry is committed to continually improving the Woodland Carbon Code programme. If any of the requirements or guidance are unclear, please email info@woodlandcarboncode.org.uk with details of the relevant section and text. Your feedback will be added to the request for change log and reviewed by the Woodland Carbon Code team. If a clarification is necessary, we will publish further clarifications.

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Introduction

Transition periods

Question	Answer
<p>What version of the code should I use?</p>	<p>We have updated the ‘standard version’ table to clarify that the dates apply to verification as well as validation submission:</p> <p>Transition periods – standard version table: Validation <u>or verification</u> submission date</p>

2. Project governance

2.1 Commitments

Question	Answer
<p>If I am submitting under Version 2.1, do I still need to provide a group agreement?</p>	<p>No. We removed the requirement for a group agreement under Version 3.0. Any projects already submitted for validation under version 2.1 are no longer required to produce a group agreement either.</p> <p>We have removed this as a ‘means of validation’ under 2.1 Commitments in Version 2.1: ● Group Agreement</p>

2.5 Monitoring

Question	Answer
How do I carry out my monitoring survey?	We have updated the survey protocol with some minor clarifications. This includes what to do if it is not safe to access an area of your site. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey protocol version 3.0.1 • Survey protocol version 3.0.1 – redline
Which monitoring report should I use for my verifications from year 15 onwards?	We have included an updated version of the year 15 monitoring report to align with v3.0 of the code. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 15+ monitoring report version 3.0

2.6 Registry and avoidance of double counting

Question	Answer
Can I assign Pending Issuance Units to buyers?	<p>We have updated the guidance for 2.6 registry and the avoidance of double counting:</p> <p>While it is currently possible to assign Pending Issuance Units to buyers, we will remove this option by 2026. In future, It will only be possible to transfer Pending Issuance Units to buyers with accounts on the UK Land Carbon Registry.</p>

Administrative details

Question	Answer
<p>What is the submission date?</p>	<p>We have added the following definitions to the glossary:</p> <p><u>Validation submission date</u> – The date the project developer submitted all Woodland Carbon Code validation documents, to their chosen validation/verification body for validation review.</p> <p><u>Verification submission date</u> – The date the project developer submitted all Woodland Carbon Code verification documents, to their chosen validation/verification body for verification review.</p>
<p>What is the definition of “wooded”?</p>	<p>We have updated the glossary:</p> <p>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. This definition includes integral open space and felled areas that are awaiting restocking (replanting). Consistent with the UK Forestry Standard, this includes short rotation coppice and short rotation forestry, but does not include individual trees, orchards, ornamental or garden trees, tree nurseries or the management of Christmas trees. (This definition is also applicable to ‘forest’ and <u>‘wooded’</u>).</p>