

Notes of meeting

1. Introduction

Anna Brand, the WCC Operational Manager, led the forum.

There was a request at the last forum for the WCC team to update project developers on remote sensing monitoring developments. Leon DeBell (WCC Monitoring Advisor) is speaking today.

2. Cashflow update

Andrew Baker, the Senior WCC Operational Manager, led the discussion on the recent changes to the cashflow documentation.

Andrew highlighted the changes to the cashflow:

- Inflated income from timber, and project costs.
- The way income forgone is calculated for less favoured areas in England has changed slightly.
- Maintenance/upgrade for existing roads and tracks can now be accounted for in the costs.
- The Scots pine category has changed to native conifers to include juniper and yew. This was a request at the last forum.

Questions focused on:

- Clarity on what classes as an existing road/track maintenance vs. a new road/track. There was a discussion on whether if it has been used for forestry haulage before, does this count as an existing road/track.

Action 1: Code team to define existing and new road/track in the next version of the cashflow.

3. Clarification 2 to version 3.0

Anna Brand highlighted the clarifications and the changes to the survey protocol.

Questions focused on:

- Which document versions to use for verification if an earlier version has been used for validation. It was clarified that if submitting for verification after 1 July 2026, version 3.0 documents should be used.
- How to record extra trees if there were more than 60 stems in a plot. If there are more than 60 stems in a plot, then you should make clear how many how many extra/how many in total in the notes section, An estimate is fine (eg estimate 100 total, first 60 have been measured).

- What should we do if our plots don't 'fit' into a stratum area?
 - At the survey plan stage, if you think plots won't fit into the woodland area, please continue to contact the WCC team for advice.
- What about plot size/shape once we get to site?
 - Once onsite, if for example you realise the planting density is more/less you should be doing smaller/larger plots than given in your survey plan, you can change this without updating the survey plan, but state why you have changed the size in the notes section. Remember to use the same size plots for the entire stratum. Round plots are always preferred, but if you realise that square plots work better on this site (or vice versa), then it is fine to change round to square provided they are the same area, you use the same shape for the whole stratum, and you provide an explanation in the notes section.

4. Remote Sensing Monitoring Update

Leon DeBell, WCC Monitoring Advisor, gave an update on remote sensing developments.

Discussion points:

- A project developer offered their WCC project as a test site for the Yr5 verification remote sensing research.

Action point 2: Leon DeBell to set up a meeting with the project developer.

5. Any other business

Main questions:

Q. Can the landowner survey their own projects or if not, is there a recommended list of surveyors that could carry this out for them?

A. Yes the landowner can survey, if they have the right skill set (species ID etc.). You could also [ask other project developers](#) to help with this. Please [contact the WCC team](#) if you have questions about surveying.

Q. Will there be further guidance on partial revalidation?

A. [Current guidance is here](#). This is a new process and we'd welcome feedback from project developers using it. This will help improve the guidance.

Q. How is the 20% 'model estimation error' given back at verification?

A. When we predict carbon sequestration we take 20% of the model prediction to be conservative. When you survey your site from year 15 verification onwards, we assess the mass of carbon dioxide equivalent that's actually on site. We don't take 20% off this measurement. This is set out further in the ['result – total project carbon' tab of the year 15+ monitoring report](#).

Q. The public registry is not updating projects that have been validated/verified, instead these are still showing as 'pending payment', meaning the project developer can't request unit issuance. Can this be fixed?

A. We will raise this with the registry provider and try resolve as quickly as possible.

Action: Anna to raise with the registry provider.

Q. If we want an update having submitted a project administration form, who should we ask about this?

A. If you need an update, then please email info@woodlandcarboncode.org.uk.

Q. How does Cwiri help with monitoring woodland projects?

A. Leon DeBell explained that [Cwiri](#) will be providing sensors to track soil carbon changes for woodland and peatland projects. This will help us understand soil carbon changes with woodland creation.

Close

Anna invited everyone to [get in touch](#) with any additional issues or suggestions for the next forum agenda. Email info@woodlandcarboncode.org.uk

The next forum is 10 am on 8 October 2026.