

Project developer forum notes

Thursday 8 October 2026

Introduction

Sarah Wann, the code's communications officer, introduced the forum.

The forum is a collaborative space to share challenges, ideas, information and resources.

This joint forum between the Woodland Carbon and Peatland Codes focuses on:

1. A walk-through of the Rethink online platform which will make it easier to manage woodland carbon and peatland code projects.
2. An update on the UK Land Carbon Registry and feedback on areas for improvement and development.

Rethink online Platform

Vicky West, the Woodland Carbon Code's senior development manager introduced the background to the Rethink online platform. The platform aims to speed up the registration, validation and verification processes.

The platform is currently being BETA tested between now and March 2027. Testing will roll out more widely with project developers from November 1 to gather more user feedback. Launch is expected early next financial year.

Both codes are exploring finance options to ensure a fair and affordable system for user groups.

Mark Caulfield, co-founder of Rethink Carbon, explained that the platform aims to make life easier for project developers and their customers. It is one shared workspace and provides a clear view of status and responsibility.

Freddie Ryan, head of product at Rethink Carbon, walked through the [Rethink platform](#). Freddie covered functionality for project developers for both codes including:

- Filter and search function, including by code and status.
- Status breakdown, including start date and where project is at in the process.
- How the system ensures one source of truth and no duplicates between documents.
- The map tool, which imports GIS data and carries out a number of checks across selected areas. The map tool automatically calculates carbon sequestration and feeds into the carbon calculator and cashflow tools.
- Map tool options, including spacing of trees, establishment technique, ground prep, drawing tools, fencing.

- Issues automatic flags on potential failures and the ability to address these flags with comments.
- The ability to upload supporting evidence and receive a consolidated PDF for submission.
- Inclusion of version history, consistent mapping and auto-error checking before submission.
- The workflow for the Woodland Carbon Code team when documents are received at each stage.
- The provision of a complete audit log which records every date, time and action - offering complete process transparency.
- For Peatland Code there are mapping options to add dams, gulleys and peatland conditions.

Project developer pilot testing of the [Rethink Platform](#) is encouraged between now – March 2027.

If you are open to testing the platform, providing constructive feedback, and sharing evidence of time saved, benefits gained or areas for improvement, follow these steps to take part in the testing pilot:

- [Book an initial one-hour session](#) with Rethink Carbon before testing. This introductory session includes discussing your project and an introduction to the platform.
- Agree support and feedback arrangements with the Rethink Carbon team.
- Test the platform with your own projects, keeping track of time taken and any benefits, challenges or issues encountered.
- Provide feedback throughout the pilot.
- Note on data format: project developers can use any project data, including shapefiles, spreadsheets, pdf documents or other formats.

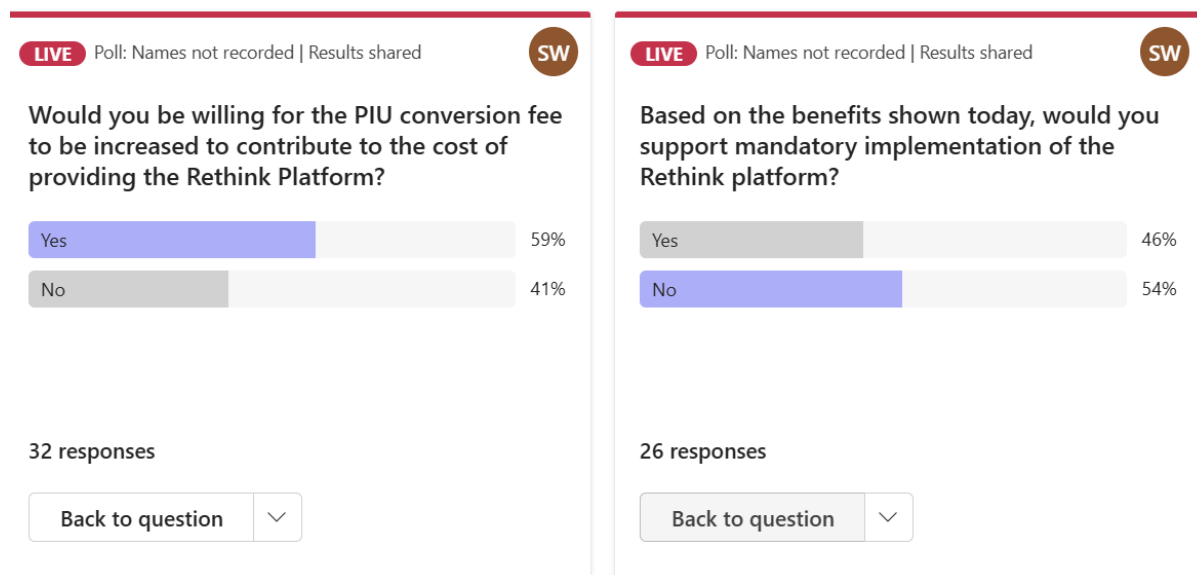
Questions focused on:

- Will the platform be mandatory? Vicky explained that certain elements will be mandatory. Mark acknowledged that many project developers have their own systems and that the platform provides the ability to automatically transfer in data from other platforms.
- Can you upload shapefiles from other platforms? Yes, you can import any shapefile geopackage, geojson, kml and others. All survey data can also be uploaded.
- Will current registered projects get copied across? All data in the registry is automatically loaded. You can also drop in your GIS files.
- If you have already completed validation, could you still use this tool to complete subsequent verifications? Yes.
- Can we chase for updates on here rather than sending emails? It handles the entire journey from draft through to ongoing verifications and sales reporting, and transparently shows the current status of a project.
- At what stage is the data/areas created on this map compared with the pdf map submitted with the FGS application? It compares as part of the checks -

you can also automatically link up your FGS grant application and use its map boundaries and species mixes to save you re-entering.

- For peatland projects, how are shallow areas removed and boundary defined? Currently this is based on the v2.1 of the Peatland Code, but Peatland Code team are working closely with the Rethink team ensure that any guidance/clarification that is agreed is also reflected in the platform.
- How does data IP work once it's in the platform? It stays as your data.
- If adding new costs, will the platform ultimately reduce VVB costs making projects more viable? We have some promising numbers coming out from our BETA testers showing large time and cost savings.

Polls were run on the below questions:



Both codes are exploring multiple finance options and levels of potential PIU fee changes.

UK Land Carbon Registry

Vicky West provided an update on the UK Land Carbon Registry. A tender went out in 2025, and a number of applications were received. After review, S&P Global were awarded the tender and the contract runs until 2031.

The Registry moved to a new platform in summer 2025. There are still bugs and use issues remaining.

To report bugs or feedback on the UK Land Carbon Registry please email (with screenshots): info@woodlandcarboncode.org.uk for woodland projects or peatlandcode@iucn.org.uk for peatland projects.

An implementation plan for developing new functionality and fixing bugs is as follows:

Development phase – winter 2026/27

- Gather user input
- Change or add some functionality
- Fix remaining bugs
- Test
- 'Go-live' date to be announced

Planned changes and improvements include the following:

Registry area	Changes	New	Improvement
Accounts	Permissions for agents	Y	
Projects	Improve group projects Milestone extensions Verification (with or without units to issue) Verification – between standard vintage dates		Y
Credits	PIU issuance PIU to WCU/PCU conversion Splitting credits between accounts (eg landowner/PD) Show units available for sale Putting buffer units on hold if there's a loss		Y
Credits	Assignment – alternative solution for small buyers -dealing with 'legacy' assignments	Y	
Data visualisation	Add tags like woodland benefits Improve the way data is show/ make sure it's correct		Y
Integration with other platforms	Rethink, metaregistries and other platforms	Y	
ICVCM compliance	Ensure registry ticks all ICVCM boxes		Y

Questions included:

- How did S&P win the tender? There were other viable options, but S&P Global came through the tender process with the highest score.
- Could the Woodland Carbon Purchase Fund pay towards costs of the platform? We are exploring all possible funding options.
- Will there be limits to the ability to assign units in future? Yes, we are moving towards removing the option to assign. We will continue to discuss this process with the project developer community to ensure a viable transition.

Actions for project developers

To find out more and try out the Rethink platform [book an initial one-hour session](#) with Rethink Carbon.

To report bugs or feedback on the UK Land Carbon Registry please email (with screenshots): info@woodlandcarboncode.org.uk or peatlandcode@iucn.org.uk for peatland projects.

Close

Forums may take place more frequently between November 2026 – March 2027 due to developments for both the Rethink online platform and The UK Land Carbon Registry. Project developers will be updated on the date for the next forum through project developer communications, including the monthly email and LinkedIn.

Sarah invited everyone to get in touch with topics and suggestions for the next forum meeting by emailing info@woodlandcarboncode.org.uk