

Peatland Code

www.scottishwoodlands.co.uk



The Carbon team of Scottish Woodlands is well equipped to offer advice and project implementation services for any Peatland Code project.

**PEATLAND
CODE** 

Growing a Sustainable Future

The climate crisis is a global threat and as we rapidly accelerate towards Net Zero by 2045/2050, decarbonisation is at forefront of UK Government, public and private sector objectives. The UK Committee on Climate Change outlined a 'Balanced Pathway' for emissions reduction from 2025 – 2050 to reach Net Zero. The pathway recommends the proportion of UK peatlands in natural or rewetted conditions rise from 26% in 2023 to 55% by 2040.

Peatland is a super carbon store. The hydrology of peatland, in its natural waterlogged state, prevents carbon within organic matter at the surface oxidising and being released as carbon dioxide. Restoration is crucial as degraded peatland has been contributing to rising carbon emissions.

The Nature for Climate Peatland Grant Scheme, administered by Natural England, provides grant funding for peatland restoration in England.

The Peatland ACTION Fund, administered by NatureScot, provides grant funding for restoration projects in Scotland.

Wales have set out a National Peatland Action Programme 2025-2030, outlining the actions required to address peatland restoration.

In addition, peatlands deliver other critical ecosystem services such as flood attenuation, improved water quality, improved biodiversity, and places for wildlife.

The value of this carbon sink has been realised by the

development of the Peatland Code which is managed by the IUCN Peatland Programme. The reduction in carbon emissions by peatland restoration is quantified, validated and verified by an approved body. The emissions reduction benefit from restoring peatlands is permanent and linear therefore the carbon yield is the same ever year for the whole duration of the project.

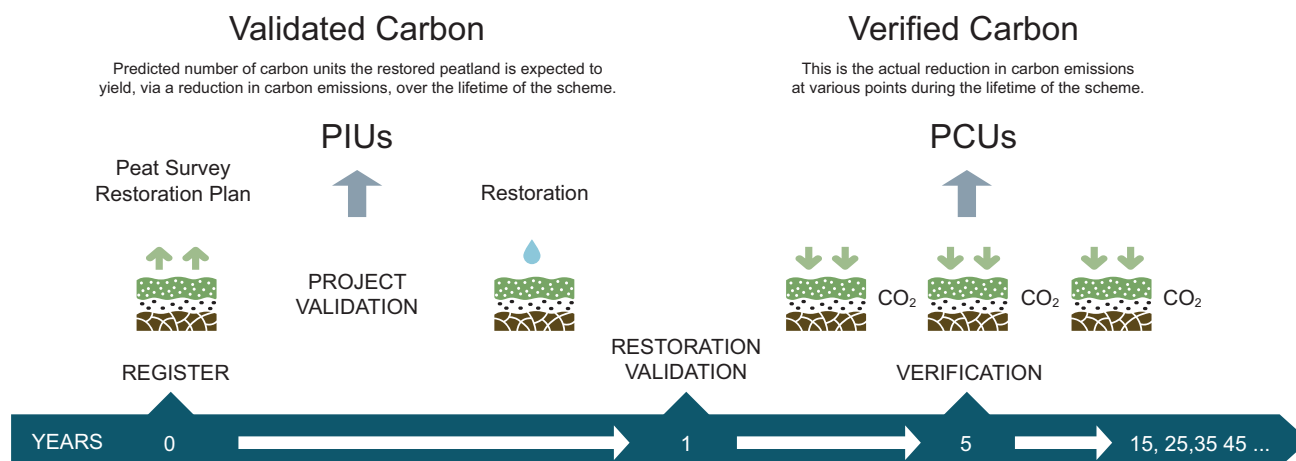
Projects yield tradeable carbon units, where 1 carbon unit equates to 1 tonne of carbon dioxide equivalent. Adding financial value to these natural assets has given rise to the voluntary carbon market and added value to peatland restoration.

Corporate entities can now offset their current and future UK based carbon emissions by purchasing carbon units from validated and verified peatland carbon projects. Landowners can also offset verified Peatland Carbon Units against their own UK based business emissions, known as insetting.

The Scottish Woodlands carbon team are experienced project developers for the UK Land Carbon Registry which is the platform for the Peatland Code.

We can assist with project implementation of peatland restoration projects from registration, management, to sale of carbon units throughout the lifetime of the project.

The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs have launched the Northern Ireland Peatland Strategy to 2040 to provide a framework for the restoration and conservation of peatland habitats across Northern Ireland.



Peatland Code

- Desktop assessment/ potential project appraisal
- Project design and implementation
- Registration
- Project and restoration validation
- Verification
- Advisory service

Carbon Services

- Site assessment
- Woodland carbon projects
- Peatland carbon projects
- Registration, Validation and Verification
- Carbon unit sales



Registration & Site Survey

The first stage of the process is registration of potential peatland restoration projects on the UK Land Carbon Registry, a public environmental registry, under the Peatland Code.

A site survey is required to assess the project's eligibility under the Peatland Code, create a restoration plan and calculate the reduction of carbon emissions over a specified project length (minimum 30 years).

Projects must be registered AND validated before restoration has begun.

Eligibility

- Blanket Bog, Lowland Raised Bog, Fens
- Actively eroding, drained and modified
- Minimum 30cm peat depth



Project Validation & Restoration Plan

The second stage of the process is validation of the project. This step involves production of detailed documentation which is validated by a third party to verify the peatland restoration is legal, permanent and is additional.

Additionally confirms the project is only financially viable with carbon income and provide carbon emissions abatement over and above previous land use.



Project Validation produces **Pending Issuance Units (PIUs)** – which are the predicted number of carbon units the restored peatland is expected to yield, via a reduction in carbon emissions, over a defined project length. PIUs can be purchased by businesses wishing to offset future UK based carbon emissions.

A validated restoration plan must then be implemented.

Restoration may include:

- Installation of peat dams
- Revegetating areas of bare peat
- Peat hagg and gully reprofiling

Restoration Validation & Verification

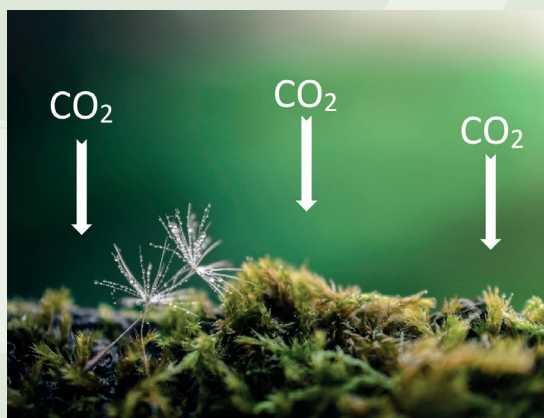
Within 1 year post restoration, the third stage is restoration validation to confirm the restoration is successful.

At year 5 and then every 10 years thereafter, the project is verified by a third party.

At each verification, a set number of Pending Issuance Units are converted into actual Peatland Carbon Units (PCUs).

The PCUs represent the reduction in carbon emissions that has physically been achieved by the restoration in the previous 5 or 10 years.

Only PCUs can be purchased and used by businesses and corporate entities immediately to offset or inset business UK based carbon emissions.





Risks and Rights

Upon sale of carbon units, a carbon sales contract will be required for the number of vintages across which carbon has been sold. It will be necessary to have a robust legal agreement to protect the seller. We would recommend legal advice is taken in this regard and most legal firms can now advise on this process to ensure that the best outcome is achieved.

The rights to the carbon remain with the third party so if the property is sold it passes to the new owner with what is in effect a burden on title. The new owner will have to take on the carbon contract together with any restrictions and obligations.



Carbon Yield

Peatland Condition	Post-restoration condition	Emission Reductions
Actively eroding (Hagg/Gully/Flat Bare)	Revegetated	Areas within Actively Eroding and Drained condition categories may claim emissions reductions <i>* subject to a 20% risk buffer and variable, site specific precision buffer</i>
Drained (Hagg/Gully)	Rewetted Modified Bog	
Drained (Artificial)		
Modified Bog		No PIUs issued

*Peatland Code bog emissions calculator v2.1.1 January 2025



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