



## Approved Land Use Activity for UKCCC projects

**Introduction** The UK Carbon Code of Conduct (UKCCC) supports a range of nature-based solutions to meet climate and environmental objectives. The vision of the UKCCC focuses on promoting sustainable land management practices that remove atmospheric carbon, enhance biodiversity, improve water and air quality, and contribute to climate resilience. The approved land-use activities outlined below align with the UKCCC’s mission of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, adapting to climate change, and improving ecosystem health.

The UKCCC enables a holistic approach where all approved nature-based solutions can be included in a single project to maximise the opportunity to build climate resilience and reverse climate change and biodiversity collapse. Provided there is an appropriate and approved MRV protocol for the action and the net position can be ascertained and calculated within the whole landholding protocol then all nature-based solutions can be considered.

The 4 pillars of the code take primacy and must be upheld, if a nature-based solution cannot be certain of the following, it shall not be considered:

Assured additionality

Assured permanence

Avoidance of leakage

Avoidance of negative outcomes

UKCCC land use activity and protocols are for use in the UK. They can be used in other countries if the same standards of rigour, transparency and traceability can be assured.

The following list of approved activities is not exhaustive and the UKCCC will look at all and any nature-based activities that could contribute to the vision and mission of the UKCCC.

### 1. Transition to Regenerative Agriculture

#### **Description:**

Regenerative agriculture focuses on restoring soil health and enhancing ecosystem services. Practices include no-till farming, the introduction of livestock, cover cropping, crop rotation, integrated pest management, and organic composting. These methods improve soil structure, increase carbon sequestration, and reduce the need for chemical inputs.



**Key Outcomes:**

- Increased carbon sequestration in soils.
- Enhanced biodiversity and soil fertility.
- Improved water retention and resilience to extreme weather events.
- Reduced emissions

**Approval Status:**

Approved as it aligns with the UKCCC's goals to reduce emissions and promote sustainable food production systems.

**2. Agroforestry**

**Description:**

Agroforestry is the integration of trees and shrubs into agricultural landscapes. This practice helps mitigate climate change, improves biodiversity, enhances soil and water conservation, and supports diversified income for farmers.

**Key Outcomes:**

- Atmospheric carbon removal through biomass growth.
- Improved soil health and erosion control.
- Enhanced biodiversity through varied habitats.
- Diversification of landowner income.

**Approval Status:**

Approved as a sustainable land use practice that balances agricultural productivity with environmental conservation.

**3. Habitat Creation**

**Description:**

Creation of habitats such as wildflower meadows, wetlands, and grasslands to support wildlife and improve biodiversity. Habitat creation projects may be tailored to local needs and species, supporting ecosystem services like pollination and natural pest control.

**Key Outcomes:**

- Increase in biodiversity and support for endangered species.
- Improved ecosystem services (e.g., pollination).
- Enhanced recreational and educational opportunities.
- Atmospheric carbon removal



**Approval Status:**

Approved as a critical activity to support biodiversity and ecosystem resilience, fitting within the UKCCC's nature restoration priorities.

**4. Woodland Planting (Including Wood for Products)**

**Description:**

Woodland creation through the planting of native and mixed-species woodlands. This includes sustainable management practices for wood products, such as timber that is embedded into the built environment thus removing and storing carbon.

**Key Outcomes:**

- Significant carbon sequestration in tree biomass.
- Sustainable supply of wood products contributing to a circular economy.
- Enhanced biodiversity in woodlands.
- Increased resilience of ecosystems and landscapes.

**Approval Status:**

Approved, especially for projects that promote native species, sustainable timber, and long-term carbon removal and storage.

**5. Wetland Creation**

**Description:**

Wetlands are valuable carbon sinks and play a crucial role in water filtration, flood management, and biodiversity support. Wetland creation projects focus on restoring degraded wetlands or creating new wetlands in appropriate locations.

**Key Outcomes:**

- Significant carbon storage in wetland soils and biomass.
- Enhanced water quality and flood regulation.
- Increased habitat for aquatic and bird species.

**Approval Status:**

Approved for its multifaceted role in carbon sequestration, water management, and biodiversity enhancement.

**6. Enhanced Rock Weathering**



**Description:**

Enhanced rock weathering involves spreading finely ground silicate rocks (like basalt) on soils to accelerate natural processes that remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. This method not only captures carbon but also enhances soil health.

**Key Outcomes:**

- Direct carbon dioxide removal through mineral carbonation.
- Improvement of soil nutrient content and health.
- Potential synergy with regenerative agriculture.

**Approval Status:**

Approved as an innovative carbon removal solution that supports soil health and agricultural productivity.

## **7. Biochar Production and Use**

**Description:**

Biochar is a carbon-rich material produced by heating organic matter in the absence of oxygen (pyrolysis). When applied to soils, biochar enhances soil health, increases water retention, and sequesters carbon for hundreds of years.

**Key Outcomes:**

- Long-term carbon sequestration in soils.
- Improved soil fertility and water retention.
- Enhanced resilience of agricultural lands to extreme weather.

**Approval Status:**

Approved as it combines carbon storage with improved agricultural productivity and soil health.

## **8. Hedgerow Planting**

**Description:**

Hedgerow planting involves creating linear strips of mixed native shrubs and trees along field edges. Hedgerows act as wildlife corridors, enhance biodiversity, sequester carbon, and prevent soil erosion. They also provide windbreaks and support pollinators.

**Key Outcomes:**

- Carbon sequestration in hedgerow biomass.



- Improved biodiversity by providing habitat and connectivity for birds, insects, and small mammals.
- Reduction in soil erosion and improved microclimate regulation.
- Enhanced pollination services and pest control.

**Approval Status:**

Approved as a multifunctional land-use solution that supports biodiversity, carbon storage, and agricultural resilience.

**9. Peatland Restoration**

**Description:**

Peatland restoration focuses on rewetting and rehabilitating degraded peatlands. Peatlands are some of the most efficient carbon stores on Earth, but damaged peatlands release significant amounts of carbon dioxide. Restoration projects aim to reverse this by restoring natural water levels, thereby re-establishing their function as carbon sinks.

**Key Outcomes:**

- Significant carbon sequestration and prevention of carbon loss.
- Restoration of biodiversity, especially for species dependent on peatland ecosystems.
- Improved water regulation and flood mitigation.

**Approval Status:**

Approved as a critical nature-based solution to mitigate carbon emissions and restore degraded ecosystems.

**10. Other Nature-Based Solutions**

**Description:**

Additional nature-based solutions, such as coastal ecosystem restoration, urban greening, and sustainable land management practices, contribute to carbon sequestration, biodiversity, and climate resilience. These solutions are reviewed for alignment with the UKCCC's objectives on a case-by-case basis.

**Key Outcomes:**

- Carbon sequestration across various ecosystems.
- Improved climate resilience in both urban and rural areas.
- Enhanced biodiversity and ecosystem services.



**Approval Status:**

Approved when consistent with UKCCC's environmental and climate goals.