

UK Carbon Code of Conduct (UKCCC)

Public Assurance Statement on Credit Integrity, Permanence, and Governance

Purpose

This Assurance Statement sets out, in plain and accessible terms, how the UK Carbon Code of Conduct (UKCCC) safeguards the environmental integrity, scientific credibility, and long-term durability of carbon credits issued under its framework. It is intended for carbon credit buyers, regulators, investors, project developers, and other stakeholders.

This statement complements (but does not replace) the UKCCC's formal governance documents, methodologies, and protocols.

1. Integrity First

UKCCC carbon credits are issued only where genuine, additional, and measurable climate outcomes can be demonstrated.

We apply a **conservative-by-design approach**, meaning that where uncertainty exists, the UKCCC errs on the side of under-crediting rather than over-crediting. Credits are never issued on the basis of ambition alone; they must be supported by evidence.

No credit is issued unless it meets all UKCCC integrity thresholds.

2. Science-Led and Evidence-Based

All UKCCC methodologies are:

- Underpinned by peer-reviewed science or established scientific consensus
- Approved and overseen by an independent Scientific Board
- Reviewed on a regular cycle and updated when new evidence emerges

The UKCCC applies a **measurement hierarchy**, prioritising:

1. Direct measurement
2. Empirical proxies
3. Modelled estimates

Modelled approaches are used only where direct measurement is not currently feasible and must include transparent uncertainty ranges. Material uncertainty ranges are disclosed at both methodology and credit issuance level.

If a methodology is shown to be scientifically invalid, credit issuance under that methodology will be suspended or corrected.

3. Permanence and Long-Term Stewardship

UKCCC credits are designed to represent **durable climate outcomes**, not temporary claims.

For land-use and nature-based projects, permanence is addressed through:

- Long-term land management and stewardship obligations
- Legal, contractual, or governance mechanisms that extend beyond the crediting period
- Mandatory buffer pools to manage unavoidable reversal risks

Buffer pools and permanence safeguards remain ring-fenced even in the event of organisational wind-down.

4. Biodiversity and Ecosystem Integrity

All UKCCC methodologies must explicitly assess, monitor, and mitigate leakage risks, even where those risks are initially assessed as low.

The UKCCC does not permit carbon outcomes to be prioritised at the expense of ecosystem health.

Projects must demonstrate that they:

- Maintain or enhance biodiversity condition
- Avoid ecological harm or displacement
- Support long-term ecosystem function

Where carbon and biodiversity objectives conflict, ecological integrity takes precedence.

5. Transparency and Auditability

UKCCC operates on a transparency-first basis.

We commit to:

- Publicly available methodologies and governance rules
- Clear disclosure of assumptions and material uncertainties
- Independent third-party validation and verification
- Auditable and reproducible data systems

Carbon credits issued under the UKCCC can be traced, reviewed, and scrutinised.

UKCCC credits may not be used simultaneously for compliance and voluntary claims unless explicitly authorised by the UKCCC and clearly disclosed.

6. Safeguards for People and Communities

All UKCCC projects must respect human rights and community interests.

This includes:

- Free, prior, and informed consent (where applicable)
 - Accessible grievance and appeals mechanisms
 - Fair sharing of benefits from carbon revenues
 - Alignment with UKCCC human rights, gender equality, and anti-slavery policies
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7. Strong Governance and Accountability

The UKCCC is governed by independent boards with clear separation of duties, conflict-of-interest controls, and term limits.

We regularly conduct:

- Independent governance reviews
- Financial and operational audits
- Scenario stress testing for market, scientific, and operational risks

Material risks trigger corrective action, suspension, or—if necessary—orderly wind-down.

8. Orderly Wind-Down and Credit Protection

In the unlikely event that the UKCCC ceases operations:

- No new projects or credits would be accepted
- Issued credits remain valid and protected
- Projects would be novated to approved alternative carbon codes

- Registry data and buffer pools remain safeguarded

The UKCCC has a formal, board-approved wind-down and novation process designed to protect credit holders and environmental outcomes.

9. Continuous Improvement

The UKCCC recognises that climate science and carbon markets evolve.

We commit to:

- Continuous methodological improvement
- Incorporating new scientific evidence
- Updating governance where best practice advances

Integrity is not static. It must be actively maintained.

Closing Statement

UKCCC carbon credits are designed to withstand scrutiny—today and in the future.

They represent real climate outcomes, grounded in science, protected by governance, and supported by long-term stewardship.

This is our assurance to the market and the public.

Issued by the UK Carbon Code of Conduct