

Sharing best practice: Carbon Positive Project

At Welsh Government's request, and funded by them, we are working to become an exemplar in carbon management and are committed to sharing our learning with others to support Wales' transition to a low carbon economy.

The [Carbon Positive Project](#) has evaluated our net carbon status, accounting for both carbon sequestration and greenhouse gas emissions across the whole of our managed estate. The WGWE and peatland habitats make up approximately 84% of our managed estate and make a significant contribution to its' overall carbon status. We commissioned [Forest Research](#) to do the work.

#BeCarbonPositive

For the WGWE, the project looked at:

- Carbon dioxide emissions and removals due to carbon stock changes in the trees, litter and soil of the WGWE and harvested wood products (HWP)
- The main greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions arising from woodland operations (tree establishment, woodland management and harvesting).

For the base year of the study (2015), carbon stocks in the trees, deadwood/litter and soils associated with the WGWE and HWP from the estate were estimated at 26.6 MtC (million tonnes carbon). About 50% of the carbon stocks were in woodland soils, 30% in trees, 15% in HWP and the remaining 5% in deadwood and litter.

Under a business as usual scenario for woodland composition and management, as defined in the study, by 2040 the total carbon stocks associated with the WGWE are predicted to increase to 29.5 MtC, an increase of 2.9 MtC against the base year. About 64% of the projected increase in woodland carbon stocks is due to the accumulation of carbon stocks in trees, with a further 28% contributed by accumulating soil carbon stocks.

An improved understanding of carbon stocks associated with the WGWE will help us to plan how we can best manage them to protect existing carbon stocks and enhance sequestration. Work is underway to produce a costed, prioritised programme of work moving forward, and to [share information](#) with the wider Welsh public sector.

We have recently produced a summary [Infographic](#) of the project.

Pursuing SMNR:

