

Peatland Code Project Developer Quarterly Meeting – Agenda and Papers

Date: 25th September 2025

Time: 10:30am – 12pm

Venue: Virtual, Microsoft Teams

Agenda

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1. Actions from June 2025 meeting

Please see Annex A for a list of actions and status from the June 2025 Project Developer Quarterly Q&A meeting.

2. Peatland Code general update

2.1. Staffing update

A new Biodiversity Crediting Project Manager will join the Peatland Code team in October 2025. This is a 9-month role, funded by the NatureScot Facility for Investment Ready Nature in Scotland (FIRNS) round 3 funding.

One of the two Peatland Code Officers, Euan Casey, will be leaving the Peatland Code team on 10th October 2025.

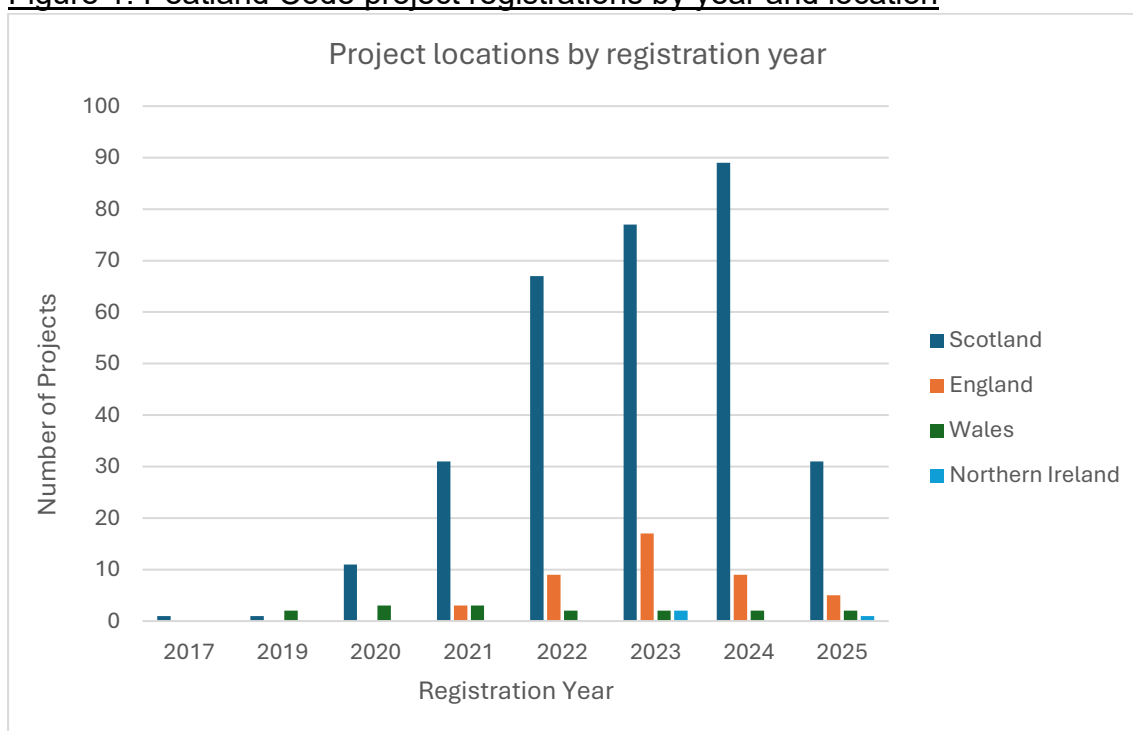
2.2. Project statistics

Project statistics correct as of 19th September 2025.

Table 1. Summary statistics

Total number of registered Peatland Code projects	370
Total registered area (ha)	52,541.56
Total carbon units	11,009,075.30
Total risk buffer carbon units	1,709,725.20
Total claimable units	9,284,101.00
Average project net area	142.39
Average project length	77.33
Average carbon units per project	30,079.44

Figure 1. Peatland Code project registrations by year and location



Changes in Peatland Action funding cycles/deadlines were discussed as a possible reason for a decline in registrations this year. A further funding announcement is expected this autumn.

2.3. Peatland Code website

The new version of the IUCN UK Peatland Programme website (containing Peatland Code webpages) went live in July 2025. The main Peatland Code webpage can be found here: [Peatland Code | IUCN UK Peatland Programme](#).

Updated webpages on how to use the Peatland Code and FAQs can be found here: [Using the Peatland Code | IUCN UK Peatland Programme](#).

Peatland Code documentation can be found here: [Peatland Code Key Documentation & Support | IUCN UK Peatland Programme](#). Any future clarification documents or version updates will be posted to this webpage.

Some links stopped working after the website migration. Most of these should have been resolved; please email peatlandcode@iucn.org.uk if you notice any further broken links or issues with the website.

2.4. S&P Registry update

The new version of the S&P Registry went live over the weekend of 16th August 2025. We are aware of ongoing teething issues. We are in regular contact with the S&P Registry team regarding any issues and fixes.

Please email the Peatland Code team if you encounter any issues with the Registry that require escalation.

There are some new processes as part of the Registry update. Please refer to the [UK Land Registry User Guide](#) when navigating the new Registry.

Action: Project developers to ensure that contact details on Registry accounts are kept up to date, to ensure Registry communications on project documents and PIU issuances are addressed to the correct team member.

3. Peatland Code development update

3.1. Accreditation

ICVCM accreditation status remains unchanged since the last meeting. The ICVCM application window re-opens on 26th April 2026. The Peatland Code team will be working towards this accreditation window.

UKAS accreditation of SAC and Soil Association is moving forward: both have had their witness assessments.

The ICROA application will be submitted this calendar year.

The Peatland Code has applied to join the BSI Flex 702 as an early adopter.

3.2. Executive Board decision – OF&G ‘paused’ status

Following the decision by the Peatland Code Executive Board on 3rd June 2025, OF&G remain paused from accepting any applications for new Peatland Code projects from 17th July 2025 onwards. The Peatland Code team have been having weekly meetings with OF&G to try and progress overdue projects. Any change in status will be communicated to all project developers via email and the Market and Investment Forum.

There has been some progress on OF&G reducing the backlog. OF&G have a new staff member who is assisting with Peatland Code project administration.

Soil Association have also increased internal capacity and expanded the team of validators.

The Peatland Code and Woodland Carbon Code teams are looking at options to onboard organisations with existing relevant ISO accreditation.

3.3. Biodiversity crediting project

Watch an overview of the project so far here: [Biodiversity Crediting for Woodlands and Peatlands | IUCN UK Peatland Programme](#). The new Biodiversity Crediting Project Manager will join the Peatland Code team in October 2025 on a 9-month contract to further develop the project.

Further details on piloting biodiversity baselining will be announced at a later date. There is no current guarantee that the biodiversity work will result in credit generation.

3.4. Rethink Carbon platform

The Woodland Carbon Code and Peatland Code have been awarded further funding, following the [CivTech challenge 10.6](#), to develop a new platform that aims to streamline Peatland Code processes and improve functionality. The platform will be developed by Rethink Carbon and will be integrated with the UK Land Carbon Registry.

4. Peatland Code governance update

4.1. Technical Advisory Board (TAB) update

The Peatland Code Technical Advisory Board (TAB) last met on 10th September 2025. Minutes from TAB meetings are published on the Peatland Code website here: [Peatland Code Technical Advisory Board | IUCN UK Peatland Programme](#).

4.2. Executive Board update

The Peatland Code Executive Board last met on 22nd September 2025. Minutes from this meeting are not published. Actions and agreements are published on the Peatland Code website here: [Peatland Code Executive Board | IUCN UK Peatland Programme](#).

5. Peatland Code Q&A session

The following questions have been received in the peatlandcode@iucn.org.uk inbox in recent weeks or discussed at previous Project Developer meetings. As these have been asked by several project developers or require further explanation, these will be discussed in this meeting.

5.1. Mapping

Harriet provided an overview of recent mapping queries, with anonymised examples from different projects.

These queries stem from areas of Assessment Units that do not have a 100x100m peat depth point nearby, as the map has been 'clipped' and the 100x100m grid point lies just outside the Assessment Unit areas, so is therefore not included on the map. This is particularly the case for areas of non-contiguous, 'outlying' areas of Assessment Units.

A concern raised was if this would require more extensive surveying across the entire estate/project boundary, whereas project developers often develop projects and surveying based on the clipped areas, rather than across the whole project boundary.

Another issue raised was with projects that don't have uniform deep peat and have hummocked areas and shallow peat. Based on arials, these wouldn't be surveyed as it is known that these would be areas of shallow or no peat. So, if a 100x100m peat depth point outside the Assessment Unit area was required here, this would result in additional surveying costs and would present as shallow/no peat, whereas the nearby Assessment Unit area could actually be deep peat. An option for this could be to move the 100x100m grid point slightly so that it was inside the Assessment Unit area, but this wouldn't be included in the eligibility criteria for the project length.

A further issue raised was what to do if an isolated, non-contiguous Assessment Unit area had two points less than 50cm and then a further peat depth point outside of the Assessment Unit area (and therefore not included in the project or peat depth calculation spreadsheet) was also less than 50cm.

Action: The Peatland Code team will publish a clarification document in the coming weeks, after the IUCN UK Peatland Programme Conference, to address all questions and issues raised and provide further clarification on the exact requirements for mapping and peat depths.

There will also be clarification on the definition of deep peat being 50cm and above, to clarify the ambiguity in the field protocol and guidance.

5.2. Carbon costs calculator

The carbon costs calculator assumptions tab has been updated with further guidance to clarify recent questions asked by project developers.

As a reminder, the carbon costs element of the emissions calculator does not need to be completed at Registration. Best estimates are acceptable at Project Plan Validation. Actual figures are then required at Restoration Validation.

There was further discussion on the way the calculator is based on linear features, whereas some project developers design their projects on area-based designs and

therefore machine days. It was suggested that a direct machine days would be a better input for working out the project carbon costs.

Action: The Peatland Code team will publish a clarification document in the coming weeks, after the IUCN UK Peatland Programme Conference, to address all questions and issues raised and provide further clarification on the carbon costs calculator.

Action: The Peatland Code team will liaise with the carbon costs calculator developer to deliver a live training session and/or explainer videos.

Action: The Peatland Code team will work with a legal team to produce a disclaimer for the calculator that all information provided is true.

Action: Peatland Code team to seek and communicate clarification on why carbon costs of restoration work is split over the course of the entire project duration.

Action: Peatland Code team to speak with carbon costs calculator developer further on options for area-based designs and machine days.

5.3. Verification

Bidwells submitted a document with comments on the Peatland Code v2.1 verification survey guidelines. These have now been discussed at Technical Advisory Board and the Executive Board. The Peatland Code team are looking at improving the current guidance. There won't be a complete overhaul in approach to verification surveys, as this would require a new Peatland Code Version.

Action [Optional]: Project developers to review the Bidwells document (found [here](#)) and provide comments to the Peatland Code team.

5.4. Peat cuttings

There have been recent queries regarding mapping and categorising peat cuttings for several projects. There is currently no specific section on peat cuttings within the field protocol.

It has recently been raised by assessors that projects have been mapping peat cutting as Actively Eroding: Hagg/Gully and following that section of the Field Protocol "Only if the extent of bare peat cannot be determined from aerials, e.g., if bare peat is restricted to the steep bare cliffs, use a default width of two metres".

Assessors have stated that this is a materiality issue, as the peat cutting banks are effectively never 2m high. A potential figure of between 50-70cm has previously been discussed with assessors; this will be confirmed by the Peatland Code in a clarification document.

Action: The Peatland Code team will include peat cuttings guidance in the upcoming clarification guidance document published in the coming weeks.

Clarification was sought on the process, timelines and implementation of the clarification document. The clarification document and scheme document will be

published at the same time, to ensure all project developers and validators are informed with the same information at the same time. The clarification document will outline which guidance/requirements has a transition period and which applies immediately. As the peat cuttings issue relates to materiality, this will apply to all projects from the publication date of the clarification document.

The peat cuttings guidance will not apply retrospectively to projects that have already achieved Project Plan Validation or submitted for Restoration Validation. This will be confirmed in the upcoming clarification document.

5.5. Wildfire

There was not enough time to discuss this in the meeting. This was discussed at length in the Technical Advisory Board meeting on 10th September 2025. Minutes will be published [here](#).

Action [Optional]: Project developers to review what was discussed in the TAB meeting on wildfire.

5.6. NatureScot Carbon Contracts pilot

There was not enough time to discuss this in the meeting. Renee encouraged all to look into this development on a potential carbon price floor guarantee in Scotland. Further information can be found [here](#).

Action [Optional]: Project developers to review NatureScot Carbon Contracts pilot.

6. AOB

6.1. 6.1. IUCN UK Peatland Programme 2025 Conference

All Peatland Code team members will be working at the IUCN UK Peatland Programme 2025 in Derry, so responses from the team may be limited or delayed into the following week.

6.2. Making Project Plan Validation optional

This was raised as an urgent priority by a project developer. The Peatland Code team confirmed that this will be firmly back on the agenda now and will be picked back up again.

Action: Peatland Code team to review making Project Plan Validation optional.

Annex A: Actions from previous meeting (17th June 2025)

1. **Action:** Peatland Code team are working on improving guidance and ease of finding information, including explainer videos and a new website.
 - a. **Status: Complete**
 - b. New website published late July 2025. New and updated FAQ section, all documents listed in one place, hopefully new website is easier to navigate and find information / Code / Guidance / Field Protocol, use of PC inbox.
2. **Action:** Peatland Code team to share information on all the above items (FIRNS/Biodiversity Crediting, CivTech Rethink Carbon, Carbon Price Index, Registry Tender) with project developers once able to do so.
 - a. **Status: Complete**
 - b. Update provided during Quarterly Q&A meetings 17/06/2025 and 25/09/2025.
3. **Action:** Peatland Code team will publish all TAB and Quarterly Project Developer Q&A meetings on the new Peatland Code website.
 - a. **Status: Complete.**
 - b. Context: Please see [new Peatland Code Governance webpage](#).
4. **Action:** Peatland Code team to improve Field Protocol guidance on practically mapping flat bare and hagg gully.
 - a. **Status: Ongoing.**
5. **Action:** Peatland Code team to ensure that the agenda item raised by Rebecca Artz on aligning the GHG inventory and mapping linear features and adding a 1-2 metre buffer will be raised at the next TAB.
 - a. Status: Ongoing
6. **Action:** Peatland Code team to liaise with Jack Brennand (carbon costs calculator developer) to address bugs and usability issues raised above. Peatland Code team to liaise with Jack Brennand to produce further, clearer guidance and an explainer video.
 - a. **Status: Ongoing**
 - b. Context: Peatland Code team met with Jack Brennand August 2025. Jack updated carbon costs calculator in line with feedback received regarding international trade routes, linear mapping of restoration features, transportation etc. Peatland Code team liaising with Jack on producing guidance and explainer video.
7. **Action:** Peatland Code team to develop more specific guidance on consultation requirements, either via the new website FAQ section or a clarification document.
 - a. **Status: Ongoing.**

8. **Action:** Peatland Code team to discuss requirements for multi-year, multi-phase projects that completed consultation at the start of the first phases and provide further guidance to project developers.
 - a. Status: Ongoing.
9. **Action:** Peatland Code team to internally discuss opportunities for further engagement with project developers.
 - a. Status: Ongoing.
 - b. Context: Renée and Garance are discussing this internally.
10. **Action:** project developers to email Garance / peatlandcode@iucn.org.uk with suggestions on how they think the Peatland Code team could better engage with and consult with project developers.
 - a. Status: Complete.
 - b. Context: Thank you to those who did provide suggestions on this. Renée and Garance are discussing this internally.
11. **Action:** Peatland Code team to publish a development timeline and calendar of updates and consultations.
 - a. Status: Complete.
 - b. Context: There are no planned updates to the Peatland Code this calendar year. When there is a clearer idea of potential updates and/or any consultations, a timeline/calendar will be published.
12. **Action:** Peatland Code team to review Extension Request form to ensure it sends a confirmation email to submitters.
 - a. Status: Complete
 - b. Context: Peatland Code team amended Extension Request form questions to provide further guidance and clarity. Submitters should receive a confirmation message that they have submitted an extension request. They should then receive confirmation from the Peatland Code inbox
13. **Action:** Peatland Code team to upload all meeting minutes (TAB and developer meetings) to the website and forum.
 - a. Status: Complete.
 - b. Context: Please see [new Peatland Code Governance webpage](#).
14. **Action:** Peatland Code team to provide updated guidance on the new Registry processes, once launched, and an optional validation checklist for project developers.
 - a. Status: Ongoing.
 - b. Context: Registry launched 18th August 2025. Guidance can be found by clicking the '?' Help button in the top right corner when signed into the Registry or via this link:
https://www.spglobal.com/content/dam/spglobal/corporate/en/documents/general/UK_Land_Registry_User_Guide.pdf