



Report title:

Woodlands and Carbon Storage in the High Weald AONB

Commissioned by: High Weald AONB Joint Advisory Committee (JAC)
Commissioned from: Sandy Greig; Independent Consultant
Funded by: High Weald Joint Advisory Committee (JAC)
Status and date: Complete, July 2010

Research purpose:

As part of a programme of activities to understand more about how important our landscape is to our social and economic well being.

Research aim(s):

- To understand the role of High Weald woodlands in carbon storage.
- To inform the JAC's approach to support for the woodland industry in its ambition to improve the utilisation of local timber in buildings.

Research findings: show that trees growing naturally in High Weald woodlands 'lock up' equivalent to a fifth of the annual carbon emissions of each High Weald resident (In the UK the average carbon emissions per person are 10 tonnes of carbon per year).

AONB Unit comment: Woodlands and woodland management have a vital role to play in our response to climate change as growing trees absorb CO₂ from the atmosphere and store it as carbon both above and below ground. The preparation of a carbon account for woodlands is the first stage in providing advice to assist policy makers and land managers take decisions that reduce emissions and enhance sequestration, 'locking up', of carbon.

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