



Turn Your Ecological Impacts into Income

Project Background:

For community and small woodland owners, finding and applying for funding is often harder than the actual groundwork. Instead of planting trees or caring for their woodlands, these owners spend most of their time buried in paperwork. And unlike large commercial forests, small and community woods rarely sell timber or wood products to pay their bills. Instead they focus on enhancing or maintaining the natural benefits the woods provide, like soil, air and water quality, biodiversity and providing people with a green space for recreation or education. This makes it even harder to fund their management.

This project aims to form a network of woodlands that are ‘certification ready’. Transforming traditional routes to finance through the eventual development of an FSC group scheme with verified impacts¹.

This framework enables members to:

- Increase of the capacity of community and small woodland owners and managers across the UK to manage their woodlands for the range of benefits and ecosystem services that support wildlife and increase the potential for cultural, recreational and health benefits for their surrounding communities.
- Form a network and achieve FSC certification with third-party verified impacts.
- Monetise ecosystem services to generate new, reliable income streams.
- Connect with key funders, including impact investors, corporate sponsors, public institutions, and philanthropists.

What is a group scheme?

An FSC group scheme is a collaborative certification option allowing community and small woodland owners to unite under a single certificate, reducing administrative burdens and costs. This streamlined approach enables members to access premium markets while sharing the responsibilities of audit work and reducing the costs of certification. More information can be found here: <https://uk.fsc.org/chain-of-custody-certification/chain-of-custody-group-schemes>



ⁱ <https://uk.fsc.org/forest-management-certification/ecosystem-services-verification>