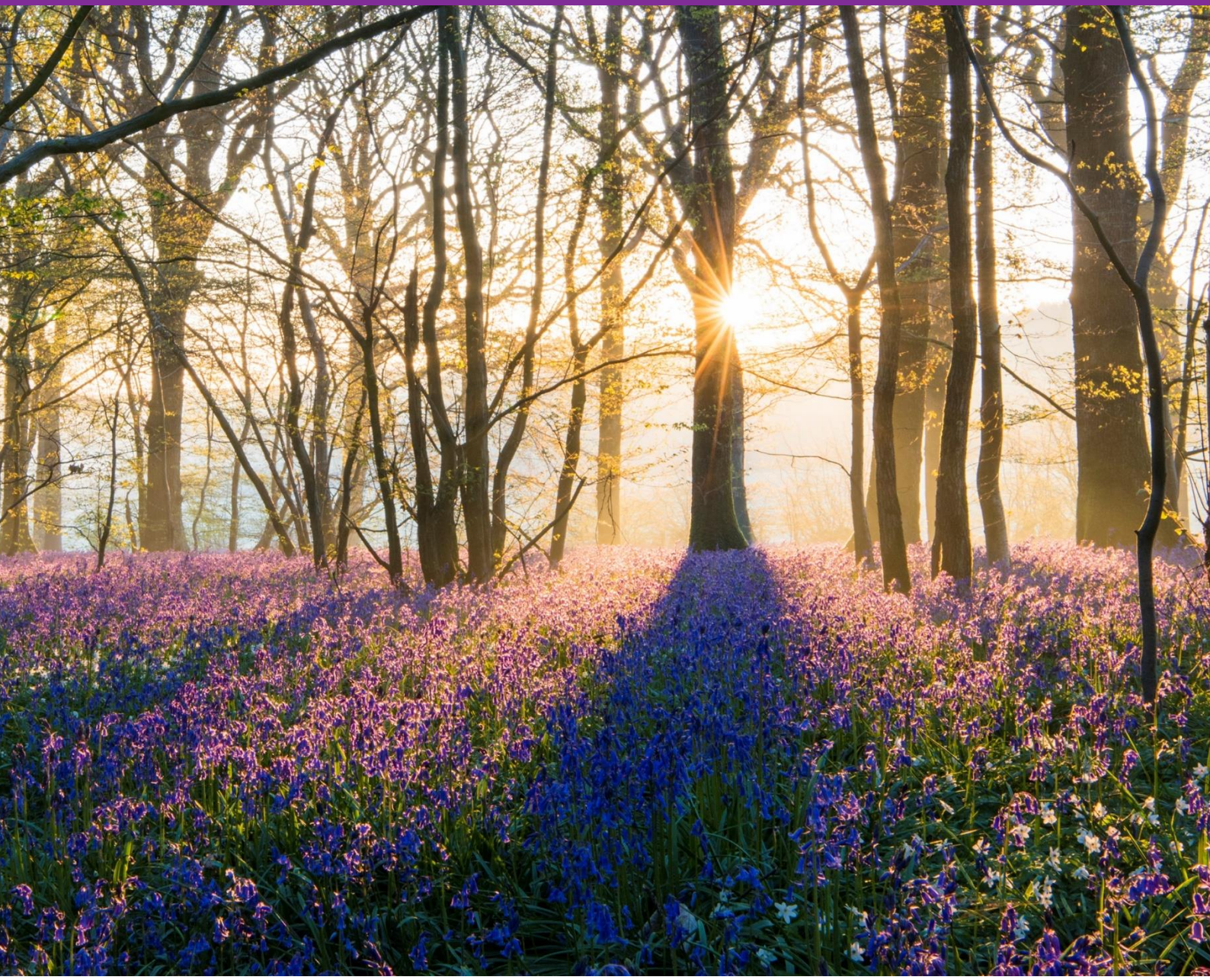


Developing a Woodland Water Code (WWC):

A project to research, develop, and undertake desk-based pilot testing of a UK-wide WWC for one or more water services by March 2025.

For further information on the project please visit the [Developing a Woodland Water Code webpage](#) or contact rosie.brook@forestresearch.gov.uk



What is the Woodland Water Code (WWC)?

Like the Woodland Carbon Code (WCC), the WWC represents a crediting mechanism to encourage private investment in trees for the ecosystem services they provide. It uses a robust methodology to calculate three different water benefits provided by woodland creation: **water quality, flood alleviation and water shading.**

Why develop a WWC?

Woodlands provide multifunctional benefits for the environment, as a key action under the England Trees Action Plan, the WWC aims to deliver coordinated woodland creation benefits within targeted catchments, harness private investment and maximise environmental benefits.

What is a Woodland Water Unit (WWU)?

WWUs will represent a new type of unit. Each unit will quantify the benefits provided by the new woodland for three water ecosystem services: water quality (nutrients, sediment, pesticides and faecal indicator organisms), flood alleviation and water shading. The benefits will be quantified using bespoke tools, optimised for use by the WWC.

Further work is needed to define how the different water benefits will be combined within a unit, the monetary value of a unit, and to establish when units will be released during the woodland creation project.

Who is likely to buy WWUs?

Market research is currently underway to identify potential buyers of WWUs through the WWC. Buyers include any company or organisation looking to invest in woodland creation with an interest in delivering water benefits. Initial research has indicated a particular interest from companies/organisations:

- with a direct reliance on a supply of clean water (e.g. food and drinks industry and water companies);
- impacted by flooding (e.g. insurance and reinsurance companies, local authorities and local communities);
- involved in river restoration (e.g. Wildlife/ Rivers Trusts and Fishery Groups).

Will all woodland creation projects be eligible for WWC?

The WWC is designed for woodland creation projects that meet UKFS requirements.

Target maps are being developed to define catchments where new woodland can contribute to improved water quality, flood alleviation and/or provide shading over watercourses.

To be eligible for water quality WWUs, projects must include agricultural land conversion to woodland, or planting in-field/riparian woodland buffers.

Will projects be able to register to the WCC as well as the WWC?

The project is working closely with the WCC. It is intended to be a voluntary code that has the potential to combine water, carbon, and other co-benefits from woodland creation.