

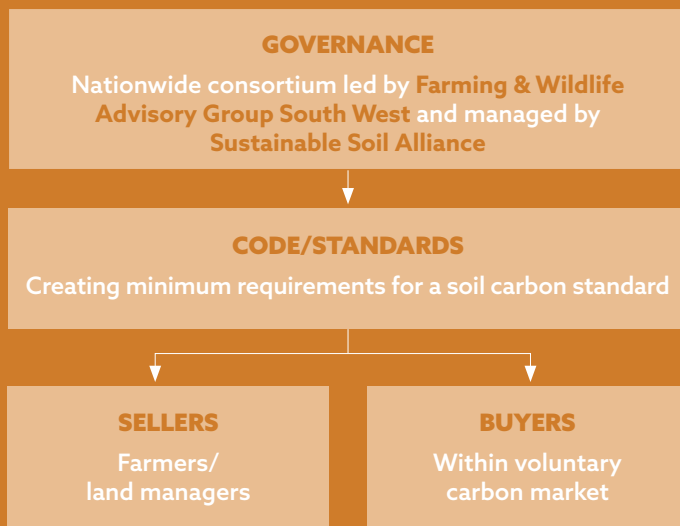
This is one of a suite of case studies of NEIRF funded projects, to highlight efforts to protect and enhance the natural environment, while generating revenue from ecosystem services.





Agricarbon sampling

FARMING AND WILDLIFE ADVISORY GROUP SOUTH WEST

HIGH LEVEL SUMMARY OF PROJECT



Habitat and geographical location

-  Farmland (excluding peat soils over 50cm deep, agroforestry or wetlands within the land)
-  England



PROJECT OVERVIEW

This project recommends minimum standards for investing in high-integrity soil carbon in the UK. It provides a recommended set of standards to apply across farm soil carbon projects, offering a means for this carbon to be measured, monitored, reported and verified transparently, robustly and consistently.

The outputs provide good practice guidance for existing and emerging standardisation schemes for farm soil carbon, to support these schemes to ensure additional and permanent carbon and environmental benefits, and give confidence to sellers, buyers and investors. The minimum standards seek to improve clarity for landowners and investors and help to

develop a national baseline for soil carbon, which can potentially be used in the voluntary carbon market. In addition, actions to increase carbon storage in soil will likely have positive impacts on soil health, water quality, biodiversity, and air quality.

All practices which this project advocates:

- should be based on **evidence** through publicly available sources;
- lead to an **increase in soil carbon stock** and/or **reduce GHG emissions**;
- **do no harm** to biodiversity, external (out of project boundary) carbon stocks, water and air quality.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR A SOIL CARBON CODE

Below gives an overview of the minimum requirements for a soil carbon code, the full list of minimum requirements can be found [here](#).

Measurement, reporting and verification	➔	Methodologies used to measure the change in soil carbon stocks should be scientifically robust and have no-net harm. They must state the methods/process for: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Data collection (including baselining), retention and modelling.• Accounting for leakage.• Measurement of co-benefits.• Project verification through a Validation and Verification Body (VVB).• Resale of credits.
Additionality	➔	Requirements on additionality that will safeguard carbon stocks and ensure it is not paying for change that would have happened anyway.
Permanence	➔	Provide a minimum permanence period, specify crediting periods and how to minimise soil carbon loss . Mechanisms for a change of land ownership should also be included.
Transparency	➔	Processes should be transparent through the entirety of a project (from verification to project closure) including engaging stakeholders through the design of a project.
Reversals	➔	Specify how to manage the loss of soil carbon either accidental or deliberate.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW MORE?

If you would like to learn more about the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group South West, please get in touch with Matthew Orman at matthew@sustainablesoils.org. More information on the project can be found [here](#). For questions regarding NEIRF, please contact NEIRF@environment-agency.gov.uk.

This case study was produced by Ecorys.