

Government launches new scheme to boost tree-planting

The government today (Monday 4 November) launched a £50 million scheme to help boost tree-planting rates in the fight against climate change.

The new Woodland Carbon Guarantee will encourage farmers and landowners to plant more trees and create new woodland in return for payments as those trees grow.

It gives land managers in England the long-term financial income they need to invest in carbon sequestration – the process by which trees lock up and store carbon from the atmosphere.

Successful participants will be offered the option to sell Woodland Carbon Units to the government over 35 years at a guaranteed price set by auction, providing new income for land managers who help businesses compensate for their carbon emissions.

Forestry and Climate Adaptation Minister Zac Goldsmith said:

Woodland creation is an excellent way to help combat the effects of climate change.

By supporting farmers and land managers who decide to invest in tree-planting, we are making sure we tackle climate change through nature-based solutions and – as part of our 25 Year Environment Plan – help leave the environment in a better state than we found it.

The Woodland Carbon Guarantee means that now – more than ever – there is no reason to delay planting trees.

Trees are a precious natural asset and, as a natural carbon sink, are a vital part of the fight against climate change. Woodlands and forests will play an important role in the UK's efforts to hit net zero carbon emissions by 2050, which is why the government is committed to planting 11 million trees by 2022. Funding for this scheme was announced by HM Treasury in the 2018 Autumn Budget.

By planting more trees and creating new woodland, land managers also provide a range of other ecosystem benefits such as preventing flood risk, soil conservation and boosting biodiversity.

Sir Harry Studholme, Chair of the Forestry Commission, said:

The Woodland Carbon Guarantee is an innovative new financial

incentive for the mitigation of carbon dioxide emissions. By underpinning the carbon price I hope it will give confidence to landowners and investors, and encourage the planting of the right kind of trees at a viable scale. I am delighted that the Forestry Commission has been able to work with Defra to launch the scheme.

Creating more woodland is vital in the fight against climate change, and the Guarantee provides land managers with long-term certainty of a guaranteed payment rate for carbon, which their trees lock up and store.

I urge all land managers and owners thinking about planting to look at the scheme and apply for the Woodland Carbon Guarantee ahead of the first auction which will be held early next year.

Government-appointed Tree Champion Sir William Worsley said:

Land managers across the country can support me in my role as Tree Champion by tapping into the environmental and economic benefits of planting more trees.

The Woodland Carbon Guarantee provides an exciting opportunity for land managers to be rewarded for enhancing the environment on a sustained long-term basis.

The role trees play in combating climate change cannot be underestimated and by applying to the Guarantee you will also play a crucial role in helping with the UK's efforts to hit Net Zero carbon emissions by 2050.

To apply for the Woodland Carbon Guarantee, land managers need to register their projects with the [Woodland Carbon Code](#) – the voluntary standard for UK woodland creation projects where claims are made about the carbon dioxide they sequester.

[Click here to apply for the Guarantee.](#)

Notes to editors:

- The Woodland Carbon Guarantee will offer successful participants a guarantee that the government will buy Woodland Carbon Units at an agreed price.
- The Woodland Carbon Guarantee is a long-term contract and recipients won't receive immediate payments. Instead, land managers will receive a guaranteed income for delivered carbon units at agreed dates over 35 years if they wish to sell carbon units to the government.
- The Woodland Carbon Guarantee can be used alongside other grants and funds available to plant new woodland as long as Additionality rules under the Woodland Carbon Code are met.
- The Woodland Carbon Code is the voluntary standard for UK woodland

creation projects which provides investor confidence in the claims are made about the carbon dioxide they sequester. Independent validation and verification to this standard provides assurance and clarity about the carbon savings of these sustainably managed woodlands. Businesses can buy Woodland Carbon Units to help compensate for their carbon emissions.

- The scheme applies to land in England.
- Further advice on how to register with the Woodland Carbon Code can be found at www.woodlandcarboncode.org.uk/landowners-apply

Forestry Commission Chief Executive Ian Gambles explains more about the Guarantee and why land managers should apply now:

We all know that urgent action to tackle climate change is needed.

The UK is the first major economy to legislate for net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. Trees are vital in the fight against climate change, but trees take time to grow and store carbon which is why we need to plant trees now if we want to reach net zero emissions by 2050.

The new Woodland Carbon Guarantee will give you, the land managers, the security you need to invest in carbon sequestration. The scheme will offer successful participants the option to sell Woodland Carbon Units to government at a guaranteed price every five or ten years up until 2055/56, which provides an additional long-term income from your woodland.

If you prefer, you can still choose to sell your CO₂ on the open market rather than to the government. This can cover income foregone from planting woodland on marginal agricultural land and provide long-term security when making the decision to invest in tree planting.

The guaranteed price for your CO₂ is agreed with the government through an online reverse auction. A series of auctions will take place every six months for up to five years, beginning in early 2020. In order to bid in the auction you will need to calculate how much money you need (per tonne of CO₂) in order to make your project financially viable and worthwhile.

If you are successful in the auction, the government will buy the CO₂ for the price that you bid – which is protected against inflation for the life of the contract. This guaranteed price and the income you will get from it will also help to reduce the traditional risks associated with establishing new woodlands, thereby making the process of converting areas of your land to woodland a more attractive prospect.

Before you apply for the Guarantee, you will need to have registered with the Woodland Carbon Code, which provides the tools and information required to plan your woodland and calculate the

amount of carbon that it will remove from the atmosphere. The woodland will also need to comply with the requirements of the UK Forestry Standard. Your Guarantee application may also be made alongside applications for woodland creation grants (for example, Countryside Stewardship, the Woodland Carbon Fund or the HS2 Woodland Fund) – provided that any other contracts were signed after 29 October 2018.

There is no reason to delay applying for the Guarantee and plant trees now: the Guarantee provides you with long term certainty of a guaranteed payment rate for carbon which your trees lock up and store. This, in addition to being able to apply for the Guarantee alongside other woodland creation grants, makes planting new woodland a really attractive option for both farmers and land managers. I strongly encourage you to apply now ahead of the first auction which is being held early next year.

To apply for the Guarantee, you will need to submit an application form providing a few basic details for your proposed woodland creation project including the amount of CO₂ that it will remove from the atmosphere.

Government response to recommendation by the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse

Government response to recommendation 3 of the IICSA report of the 9 May 2019 Anglican Church Case Studies: the Diocese of Chichester and the response to allegations against Peter Ball.

Recommendation 3: The government should amend Section 21 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 so as to include clergy within the definition of a position of trust. This would criminalise under s16–s20 sexual activity between clergy and a person aged 16 to 18, over whom they exercise pastoral authority, involving the abuse of a position of trust.

Call for evidence launched on improving cyber security across the UK economy

The Review is looking at how Government can help organisations protect themselves online and aims to:

- understand the barriers which prevent organisations from improving their cyber security;
- understand the effectiveness of existing regulations and guidance including GDPR and NIS; and
- develop a range of policy proposals to address any gaps.

As part of this, the call for evidence is seeking information and data on the barriers to taking action on cyber security, the information which would help organisations invest in cyber security, and what more organisations and Government could do to stimulate more effective cyber risk management.

Digital Minister Matt Warman said:

Good cyber security is an absolute necessity but recent research shows less than a fifth of company Boards understand the impact associated with cyber threat. I hope this review will encourage the industry to think about what government could do to help and what incentives might encourage firms and businesses to manage their cyber risk.

By driving cyber security improvements across the whole economy we can help make the UK the safest place to live and do business online.

We welcome input from all types of organisations in all sectors, especially organisations that influence and set market expectations, such as membership bodies, consultancies, auditors, insurers, investors, corporate and risk governance bodies, regulators and professional associations.

The call for evidence is open until Friday 20 December 2019 and you can respond [here](#).

[Update on further extension by HMA Kate Smith for Brits in Greece](#)

You will all have seen that the European Union has agreed the UK's request for a further extension of our membership of the EU. The extension sets a new deadline of 31 January 2020. If a new Brexit deal is approved by the UK and European Parliaments before 31 January 2020, it is possible for the UK to leave earlier.

For as long as we remain in the EU, the UK will continue to hold full membership rights and UK nationals will retain their full EU citizenship rights. So if you are a UK national living in Greece now, nothing has changed. The current rules on registering as a resident, accessing healthcare, travelling within the Schengen area, etc, remain exactly as they were until now.

However it is still very important to be prepared for Brexit. Please ensure you are correctly registered as resident in Greece, registered for healthcare, and have taken the necessary steps to exchange your driving licence. If you are planning to travel you should also check that your passport is up to date.

As always, we will keep you up to date with reliable information and advice as the situation develops in the coming weeks. Please stay in touch with us through our [@BritsinGreece Facebook page](#) and our @UKinGreece social media accounts on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#); and by signing up for email alerts for [our Living in Greece guide](#). Please also encourage your British friends and contacts in Greece to do the same.

Kind regards,

Kate Smith CMG

HM Ambassador

HMA Kate Smith CMG shared this message on the [@BritsinGreece Facebook page](#).

[Travel advice: Azerbaijan vs Wales](#)

UEFA Euro 2020 qualifier

Travel advice for Wales fans travelling to Baku for the Azerbaijan v Wales UEFA Euro 2020 qualifier match on Saturday 16 November 2019.

Date: Saturday 16 November 2019

Venue: [Bakcell Arena Stadium](#) (8km Stadionu), Baku, Azerbaijan

Kick-off time: 9pm (local time)

As well as this advice, check out our [travel advice for Azerbaijan](#).

Passports and visas

- you'll need to get a visa before you travel. You can get an [official e-visa online](#) or apply for a visa through the Azerbaijan Embassy-affiliated [Visa Service Centre](#) in the UK. Some specific exemptions may apply. See the [Azerbaijan Ministry of Foreign Affairs website](#) for further details
- your passport will need to be valid for at least 6 months on the date you enter Azerbaijan
- take out comprehensive [travel and medical insurance](#) – your European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) won't be valid in Azerbaijan, so travel and medical insurance is essential even if you're only staying for 1 night
- if you're visiting Azerbaijan for longer than 15 days, you must register within 15 working days of arrival. Hotels may provide this service for their guests, but visitors staying in apartments or private residences will have to register by themselves. Guidance on the process can be found on the [State Migration Service's website](#).
- police sometimes carry out checks of identity documents. You should carry your passport at all times. Keep it secure and leave a photocopy of the details page separately in a safe place
- for more guidance, see our [travel advice for Azerbaijan](#).

Getting to/from the airport

By taxi

- it takes 25 to 30 minutes to get from the airport to city centre. There are a variety of taxi options available in Baku including private hire, app-based and metered cabs
- some visitors have reported being over-charged by local taxis – with private hire it's best to negotiate a price before leaving – for a journey to one of the major hotels in central Baku expect to pay 20-30 Manats (AZN) and make sure any taxi you take has a yellow taxi sign or clear taxi branding on it

- if you take a metered cab, make sure the taxi meter is switched on
- check that the taxi has working seatbelts

By bus

Baku Bus runs a 24/7 service from the airport to the centrally located 28 May metro station. Details on departure times and route can be found on the Aero Express [website](#).

Getting to the Stadium: Bakcell Arena (8km Stadium)

Address for Bakcell Arena Stadium: Nizami district, 8 km, B.Nuiyev street 2397, Baku, Azerbaijan.

Metro

The Bakcell Arena is located a 15 minute walk from both Khalgar Dostlugu and Neftcilar metro stations. The Both stations are on the Qirmizi (red) and Yasil (green) metro lines – see the [Baku metro official website](#). Metro signs are displayed in both Azerbaijani and English.

Taxi

A taxi from central Baku to the Bakcell Arena is likely to cost 15 to 20 AZN in a purple coloured London taxi and slightly more for a private taxi. When taking a purple London taxi always make sure that the meter is used. For non-metered taxis it's best to negotiate a price before departure. Taxis are considered the easiest and most convenient way to get to the stadium, although the traffic can be very busy on match days so allow plenty of time.

Bus

Bus numbers 81, 15, 186, 22, 185 all stop at Bakcell Arena or nearby stop.

At the match

Entry to the stadium

The main entrance will be open to welcome all fans. Wales supporters will be seated in sector 2B – see stadium plan. In order to enter section 2B of the stadium, you should go through the Gate 2B. The stewards will guide you to your seats.

Access to the stadium can be slow. Expect to be searched at least twice. To avoid last minute delays get to the stadium early. The stadium opens 2 hours before the kick-off.

Restrictions

In addition to items which would usually be prohibited in the UK, the following items will also not be allowed to be taken into the stadium: flares, fireworks, alcohol, cans, glass, plastic bottles or containers, coins, lighters and e-cigarettes. If you do bring any of these items they will be confiscated by the Azerbaijani authorities.

Alcohol and smoking

Alcohol is not sold in the stadium and cannot be brought in from outside. Smoking will not be allowed.

Food and drink

Food and drink outlets are available in the stadium. Items can be paid for by cash in local currency.

Disabled supporters

- there are designated area for wheelchair users referred as VIP Lounge, which can be reached via lifts from the ground floor
- the rest of Baku has limited facilities for the disabled traveller – the pavements, even on the main roads, can be difficult to negotiate for those with disabilities.

Local information

Climate and time

The average temperature in November is around 7-15°C during the day. You can find information on the [BBC weather website](#). The time in Baku is GMT+4.

Language

The main language is Azerbaijani. Russian is also widely spoken.

Crime

- crime levels in Baku are generally low
- don't get involved with drugs – the penalties are severe

Personal security

- look after your personal belongings, in particular your passport and your money
- keep a photocopy of the personal details pages of your passport and keep it in a safe place separate from your passport
- take sensible precautions: be vigilant, avoid carrying large sums of money and be aware of your personal security

Road safety

- pedestrians should be vigilant at all times when crossing roads; red traffic lights and zebra crossings don't necessarily mean a car will stop, use the underpasses where available
- when using a taxi make sure it has working seatbelts; many cars are poorly maintained and the standard of driving is erratic
- accidents are common, mainly due to poor or reckless driving and inconsistent enforcement of traffic rules
- if you're in a vehicle that's travelling at an unsafe speed you should instruct the driver to slow down

Religion

- most of the population of Azerbaijan is Muslim; Azerbaijan is a largely secular society and religion is usually considered a private matter
- respect local traditions, customs, laws and religions at all times and be aware of your actions to ensure they do not offend other cultures or religious beliefs

Telephones

- the international dialling code for Azerbaijan is +994; before travelling check with your mobile phone provider that it will work in Baku
- local sim cards are easily available with Azercell, Nar Mobile and Bakcell being the leading mobile operators; you can buy credit for Azerbaijani mobile numbers from many shops or top up online.

Currency

- all goods and services are paid in local currency (Manats – AZN)
- pounds sterling, US dollars and euros are easily exchanged; major hotels and international supermarkets and restaurants accept credit and debit cards
- ATMs in Baku will almost always accept UK credit and debit cards; before leaving the UK, let your bank know you're travelling to Azerbaijan.

Consular assistance

If you need urgent help from the British Embassy during your visit to Baku (e.g. one involving accident, injury or loss/theft of your passport), call +994 12 4377878 and follow the instructions to be put through to a consular officer.

Lost or stolen passports

If your passport is lost or stolen you can't travel back to the UK without a valid travel document. You'll need to apply to the Consular Section of the British Embassy Baku for an [Emergency Travel Document \(ETD\)](#). The fee for an Emergency Travel Document is £100.

Lost or stolen credit/debit cards

If you lose your wallet or purse try to cancel your credit/debit cards as soon as possible. British consular officials can't give you money to help you return home. You can transfer money from the UK using many of the commercial money transfer agencies in Baku, including Western Union. You can also use most major credit and debit cards to obtain money from ATMs.

For more information visit the [British Embassy Baku web page](#).

Contact the British Embassy, Baku

Our address is:

Khagani Street 45 A
Baku
Azerbaijan

Tel: +99412 4377878 (24 hrs)

You can also reach us via our [contact form](#).

The consular section of the British Embassy in Baku is open to the public from 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday, except public holidays

You can also check our [travel advice for Azerbaijan](#).

Emergency services numbers

- Fire – 101
- Police – 102
- Ambulance – 103

We hope you enjoy the game and your visit to Baku