

# Linking sustainable forestry goals with woodland development in Scotland

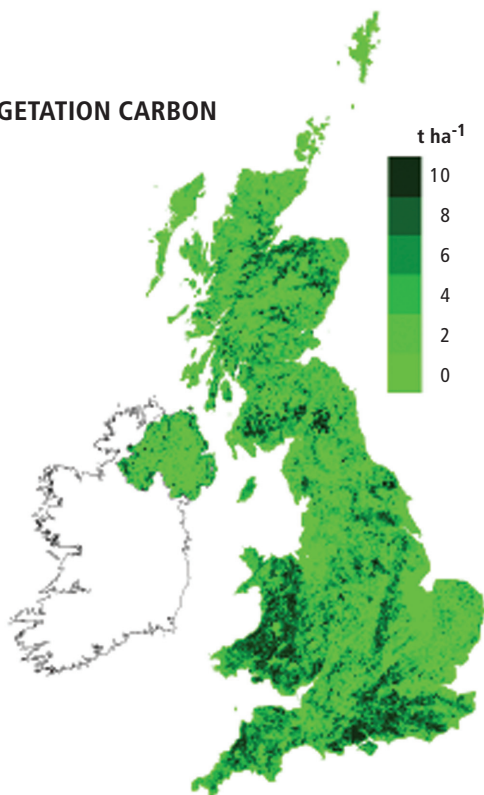
As well as providing recreational space and a habitat for wildlife, the role that woodlands and the forestry sector can play in reducing the effects of climate change is becoming increasingly important.

## Helping to tackle greenhouse gas emissions

Although efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions are the top priority, forests can help to tackle greenhouse gas emissions. Trees capture carbon from the air and store it in their trunks, branches, leaves and roots as they grow – a process called carbon sequestration. This helps to reduce the amount of carbon dioxide, a major greenhouse gas, in the atmosphere. In the UK, the equivalent of 10 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> is accumulated in growing trees each year, with removals of Scottish forests accounting for approximately 40% of UK removals. The equivalent of around 15% of Scotland's annual greenhouse gas emissions is removed as CO<sub>2</sub> by existing forests each year.

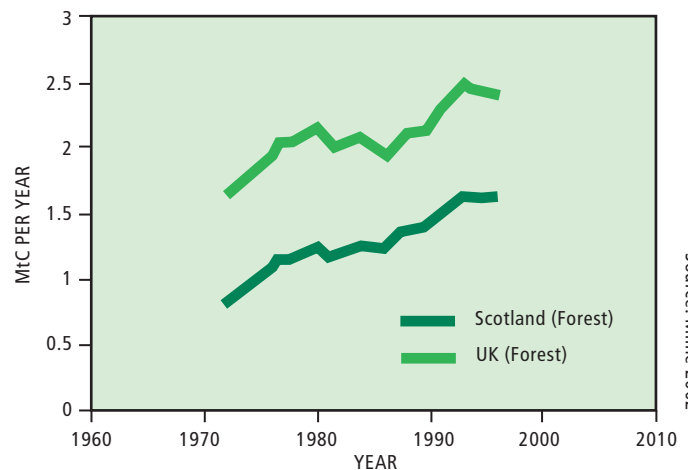
Fast growing trees, such as willow, can also be harvested to produce wood which can be burnt to provide heat and energy for homes and businesses, reducing our reliance on burning fossil fuels such as coal and gas.

## VEGETATION CARBON



Carbon storage by vegetation in the UK

## CHANGES IN FOREST CARBON



Source: Milne 2002

## Adapting to climate change

Native woodlands are one of the most diverse natural ecosystems in Scotland but climate change may threaten many of the plants, animals or insects that live in them. Developing new and existing woodlands aims to allow species to adjust and adapt to changing climatic conditions.