Confor
Promoting forestry and wood

Eskdalemuir

carbon benefit from forestry and timber

Planting trees for carbon is now globally recognised. In the UK, the ambitious targets set by the Committee on Climate Change have been key in driving up woodland creation in recent years. Forest owners can become accredited under the Woodland Carbon Code.

However, there is as yet no recognition of the vital role of timber, the harvest of the forest, in carbon reduction. 'Carbon Capture and Storage' technologies (CCS) are deemed to be those which would lock up carbon for millions of years. Yet CCS is generally admitted to be decades away; and the need to reduce our carbon emissions rapidly is urgent.

Harvesting timber and making it into products means that carbon is locked up as long as the forest supplies new material faster than the timber products degrade.

In this important study, Sandy Greig has calculated that the carbon benefit of Eskdalemuir in southern Scotland is 7.3 tonnes of CO_2 per hectare per year. It demonstrates that farmers integrating forestry into their enterprises, could make a major contribution to meeting climate change targets.

In 2013, UK carbon emissions were reported as 7.1 tonnes per person.* This means every hectare of forest (complying with the UK Forestry Standard with 75 % productive conifer, see right) saves approximately one person's carbon emissions.

Even more important is the methodology developed by this study. This could be used to demonstrate the carbon benefit of woodland with different compositions, or different uses – for example if technologies like Cross Laminated Timber allowed more wood to be used in construction. It also highlights where further research would yield more accurate calculations, for example in forest soil carbon.

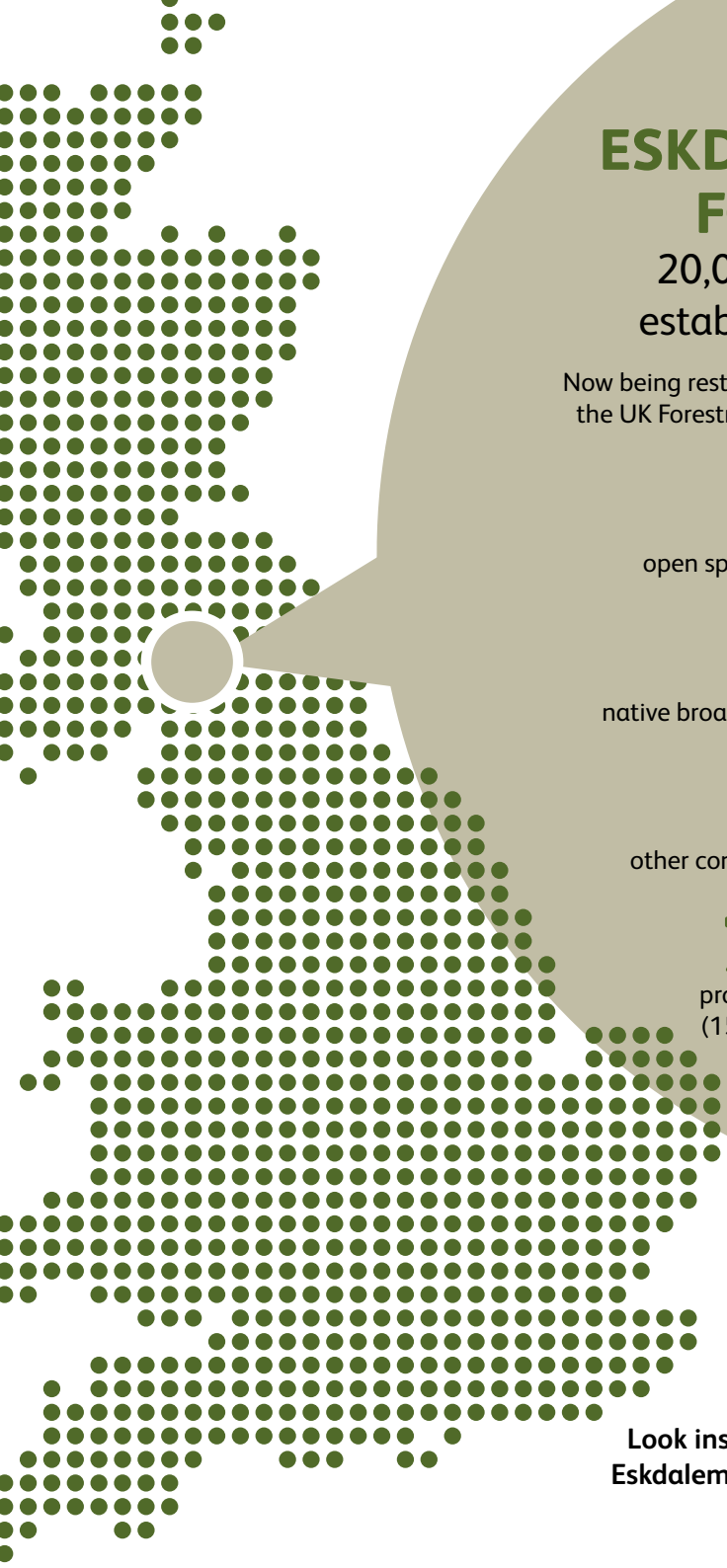
Besides carbon benefits, the restructuring of Eskdalemuir under the UK Forestry Standard is benefiting wildlife and providing places to walk and cycle. At only 40 years old, it demonstrates how significant a difference one generation can make.

The full report is available at http://www.confor.org.uk/resources/publications

** Carbon Dioxide Information Analysis Center*

This report is based on Eskdalemuir having been brought fully into sustainable production, with an equal distribution of tree ages. The report looks at the carbon benefits from the forest under sustainable management over a 100 year period.

Cover photo: Eskdalemuir forest. Webbaviation



ESKDALEMUIR FOREST

20,000 hectares
established 1960s

Now being restructured in compliance with the UK Forestry Standard to incorporate:

15%

open space (3,000 hectares)

5%

native broadleaves (1,000 hectares)

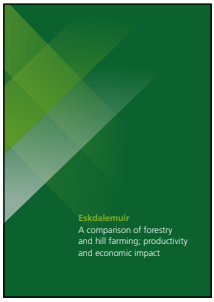
5%

other conifers (1,000 hectares)

75%

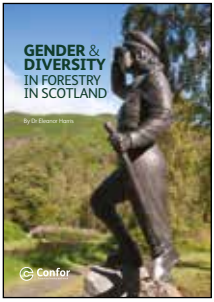
productive conifer
(15,000 hectares)

Look inside to find out how Eskdalemuir locks up carbon...



Eskdalemuir: a comparison of forestry and hill farming

Forestry and Flooding



Gender & Diversity in Forestry in Scotland

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