FOREST CARBON

Verification REPORT

Results of Forest Carbon’s UK woodland verifications since the inception of the Woodland Carbon Code in 2011, plus data on projects in our verification pipeline.

This report documents the data Forest Carbon collected from its 113 ‘Year 5’ verifications to date. The first woodland verification occurs at year 5 under the Woodland Carbon Code and is primarily to ensure that the density of the woodland, measured in stems per hectare, is on track according to the densities stated at validation. It is also a time to record individual tree species and height, as well as the overall health of the trees and other broader site observations such as the condition of the fence (if present).

Our results are hugely encouraging. We are, on average, delivering 23% more trees per site than the Woodland Carbon Code expects. This is important as it shows that we haven’t been overestimating the success of these woodlands, giving us a useful buffer against failure going forward.

I’d like to take this opportunity to congratulate and thank the foresters and land managers that we’ve worked with on these projects. Without them, these woodlands literally wouldn’t have gone in the ground, and they deserve the credit for the outstanding tree survival rates that we are seeing.

Of course, it is hoped that surpassing the Code’s planting density target is an early indication that these woodlands may sequester more carbon than originally expected. While we remain cautiously optimistic (nature is both resilient and delicate) these figures have renewed our dedication to the cause, and we hope they do the same for you.

Remember: while these figures are a good start they are only one small part of a much bigger picture. In 10 years*, we will return to each of these 113 sites to carry out their next Woodland Carbon Code verification. At this stage, we will be taking a more in-depth measurement of the trees’ heights and diameters. It is only then that we will know how much carbon they have sequestered.

But for now, let’s take a moment to celebrate a small but meaningful win.

Eck Gordon, Head of Projects

*Thriving woodlands require active management. Forest Carbon visits its projects more regularly than the Code mandates, and we are always available to land/forest managers to lend our expertise.

Overall
RESULTS

113 projects verified across **3017** hectares

Scotland	73%	Wales	2%
England	24%	N. Ireland	1%

Average planting density

We surpassed the Woodland Carbon Code's target planting density by 11.4% (unweighted) and 22.8% (weighted)

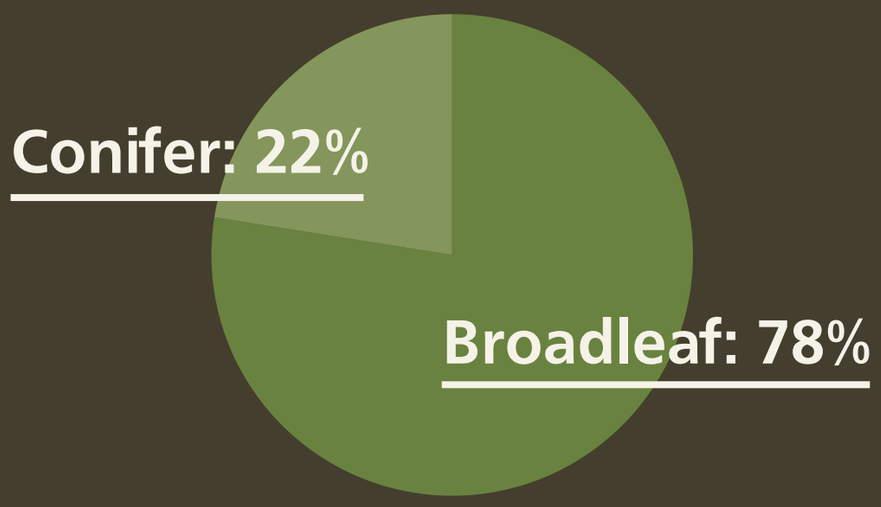
Target (100%)
Planting density target as prescribed by the Woodland Carbon Code

Overshoot, unweighted avg.
Average planting density across all 113 sites

Overshoot, weighted avg.
Weighted average takes into account project size.

Species breakdown

Planting split



Planting density

Conifers, weighted average

105.5%

Broadleaves, weighted average

125.5%

Commonly planted conifer

Sitka Spruce, Scots Pine, Douglas Fir, Norway Spruce

Commonly planted broadleaf

Birch, Oak, Rowan, Alder, Willow, Wild Cherry, Hawthorn

Standout projects

Largest

Ardochy, Scotland
260ha

Smallest

Merkland, Scotland
1.52ha

Most successful stratum*

Ardochy, Scotland
70ha

*A stratum is a sub-area of a project, typically split (by tree species or management) for verification.

Ardochy

This is a new native woodland comprising 190 ha of planted woodland and 70 ha of natural regeneration. It houses our most successful stratum (predominantly broadleaves) in terms of planting density, surpassing the Code’s target by just under 116%.

215.8%

Avg. planting density, weighted

Co-benefits

- Wildlife conservation
- Habitat improvement
- Sustainable source of timber
- Community involvement

Project duration	Carbon issuance	Buffer	Sellable credits
70 years	101,770 tCO2e	20,354 tCO2e	81,416 tCO2e

Co

BENEFITS

Beyond carbon, our projects deliver a host of ecological and social co-benefits. Below we've listed the most common co-benefits seen across the 113 projects.

Public access to green spaces: Gates and paths make this project accessible to the public.

Community involvement: The community is involved in this project and will share in the benefits, including jobs and skills creation.

Habitat conservation: This project supports the habitat of important species native to the areas.

Habitat corridors and linkage: This project links habitats previously separated by productive land or land less hospitable to wildlife.

Biodiversity uplift: This project was developed to increase the amount, and variety, of flora and fauna species in the area.

Improved water quality: By absorbing/filtering water, this project is improving water quality in surrounding and downstream areas.

Flood mitigation: By intercepting/slowing/absorbing surface and groundwater, this project is helping to prevent soil erosion.

Sustainable source of timber: Part of this woodland was developed to supply sustainable timber to the local economy.

Animal shelter: This woodland provides animals like deer, sheep, and cattle with protection from harsh weather.

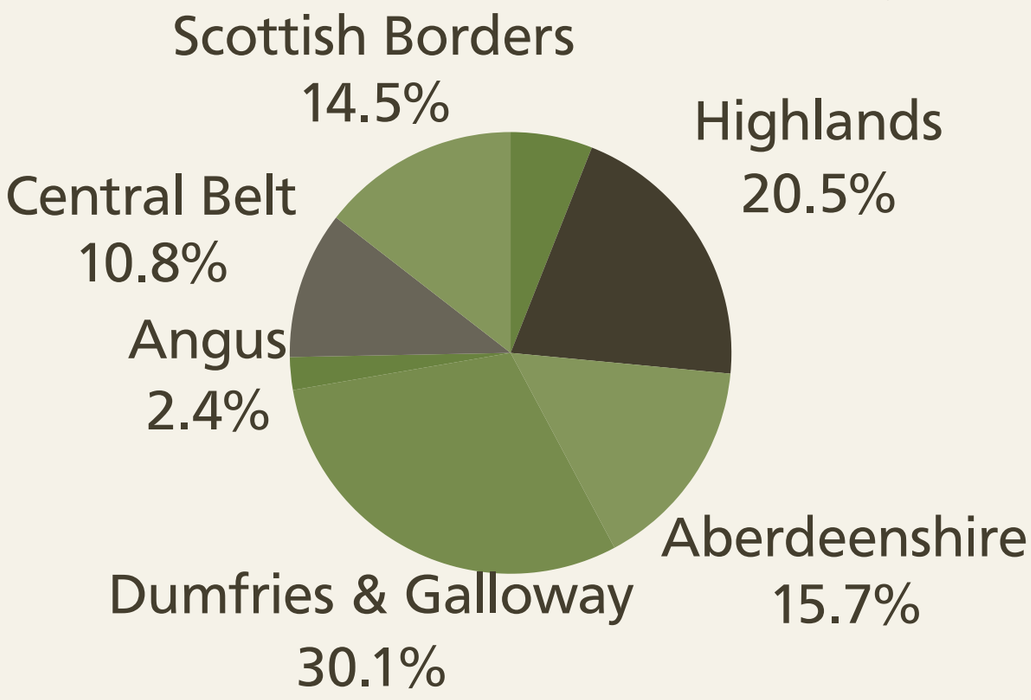
Diversified income: Project hosts, often farmers, have diversified their portfolios through this project.

Regional
RESULTS

SCOTLAND

83 total projects across **2695** hectares

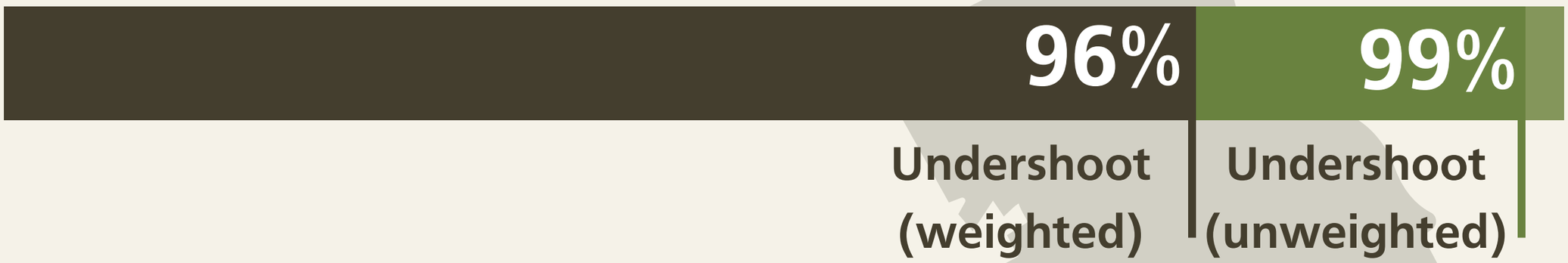
Breakdown by region



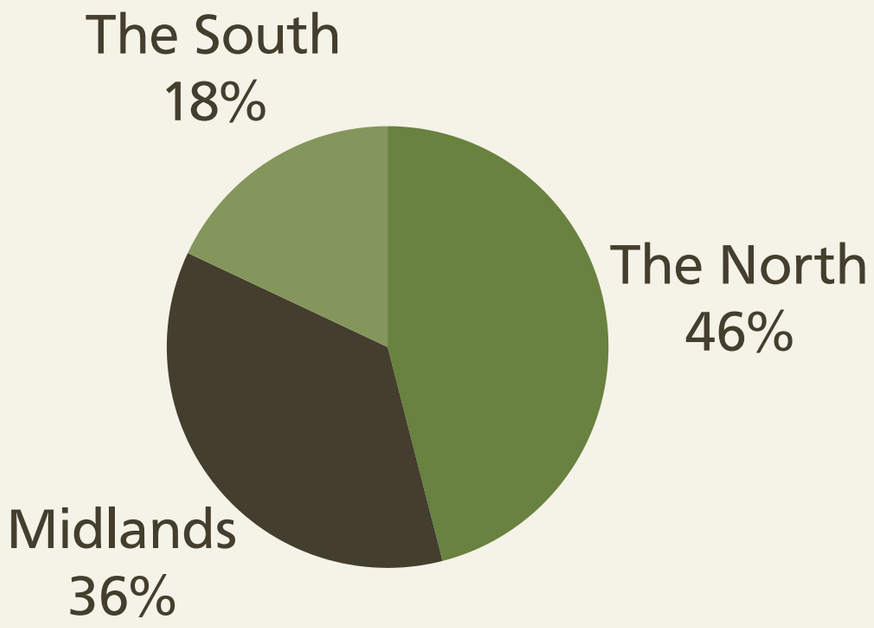
Regional
RESULTS

ENGLAND

28 total projects across **290** hectares



Breakdown by region



Regional
RESULTS

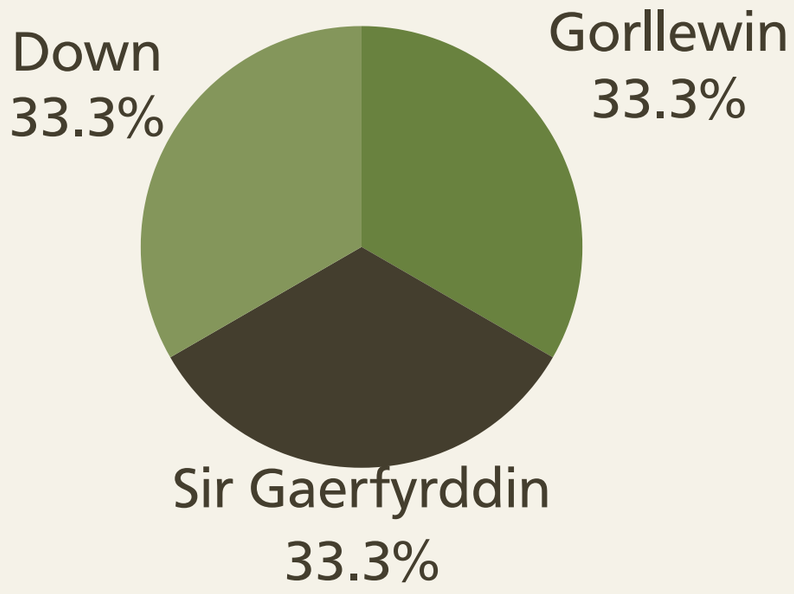
WALES & NI

3 total projects across **31** hectares

127%

Overshoot (weighted & unweighted)

Breakdown by region



Looking AHEAD

The following data represents the projects currently sitting in our verification pipeline.

40 projects in pipeline

covering

1578 ha

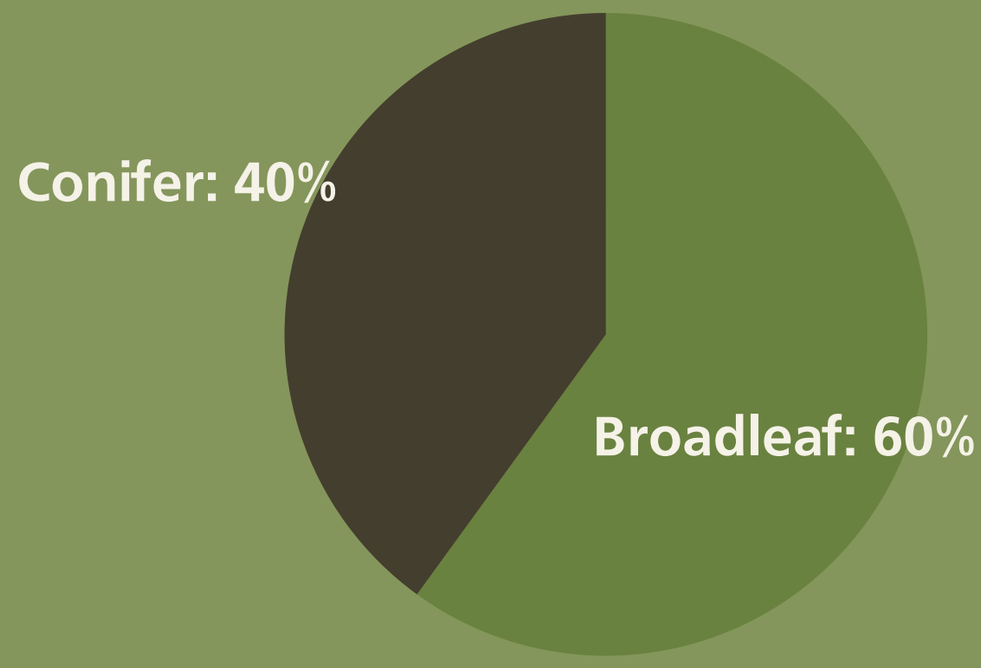
Biggest project:

254ha

Smallest project

2.2ha

Planting split



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