

# The London iTree Eco Project: Initial Findings May 2015



The [London i-Tree Eco Project](#) is the largest tree survey of its kind in the world. It is a recognised method of valuing the ecosystem service benefits such as carbon sequestration and air pollutant removal that trees provide; it was devised in the US and has been used throughout the world.

This document provides some initial findings that were announced at the London Tree & Woodland Awards on the 27<sup>th</sup> May 2015. A technical report with the full range of project findings - including valuation of the ecosystem services that London's trees provide - will be published in Autumn 2015.

## What are the most common trees in London?

The survey found that the most common trees in Inner London are Birch, Lime and Apple. Across London the survey identified 112 different tree species.

In Outer London the most common trees were Sycamore, Oak and Hawthorn. Interestingly, London plane is only the 5<sup>th</sup> most common tree in Inner London (in terms of tree numbers) - more on this later...



## How many trees are there in London?



There are 8.3 million trees in Greater London - this equates to one tree per person in London. 1.5 million trees are in Inner London and 6.8 million trees in Outer London.

8.3 million trees means there are on average 53 trees per hectare, 21 trees per acre or equivalent to 37 trees per area the size of Wembley football pitch - this is close to the national average for tree cover in UK towns & cities - amazing considering London is the most populated city in the UK!

## Who owns London's trees?

Whilst many of the trees we think of in London are in the public realm such as park and street trees, the survey found that 60% of the trees across London are privately owned. This reflects similar findings in other towns and cities in the UK.

In Outer London 81% of trees are privately owned. This highlights the crucial role that private owners have to play in protecting, improving and expanding tree cover in London.



## **Which trees store the most carbon and have the biggest canopy?**

Whilst London plane is only the 5<sup>th</sup> most common tree in Inner London, they store the largest amount of carbon and offer the most canopy cover – and canopy cover is key to the amount of benefits a tree provides such as air pollution reduction and shading. In outer London, Oak has the largest amount of carbon and biomass.



The London i-Tree Eco Project technical report will provide the monetary values associated with the benefits that London's trees provide and highlight the huge value they offer to society and the environment.

## **What next and what can I do?**

The London i-Tree Eco Project has already unearthed some fascinating information and the monetary values will add extra weight to the case for protecting and increasing tree canopy cover in London.

These initial findings highlight that everyone can play a part by planting trees on their property - whether you are an individual, a business, institution or public sector organisation – and that large canopy trees provide the greatest benefits.

Please share these initial findings and look out for the technical report in Autumn 2015 – and help everyone appreciate how London's trees make the city a wonderful place to live, work and play!

## **Further information**

The project is a partnership project including the following organisations:

[Forestry Commission](#), [Mayor of London](#), [London Tree Officers Association](#), [Trees for Cities](#), [The Tree Council](#), [Natural England](#) and [Treeconomics](#).

[www.forestry.gov.uk/london-itree](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/london-itree)