

NCA 112 Inner London

Overview

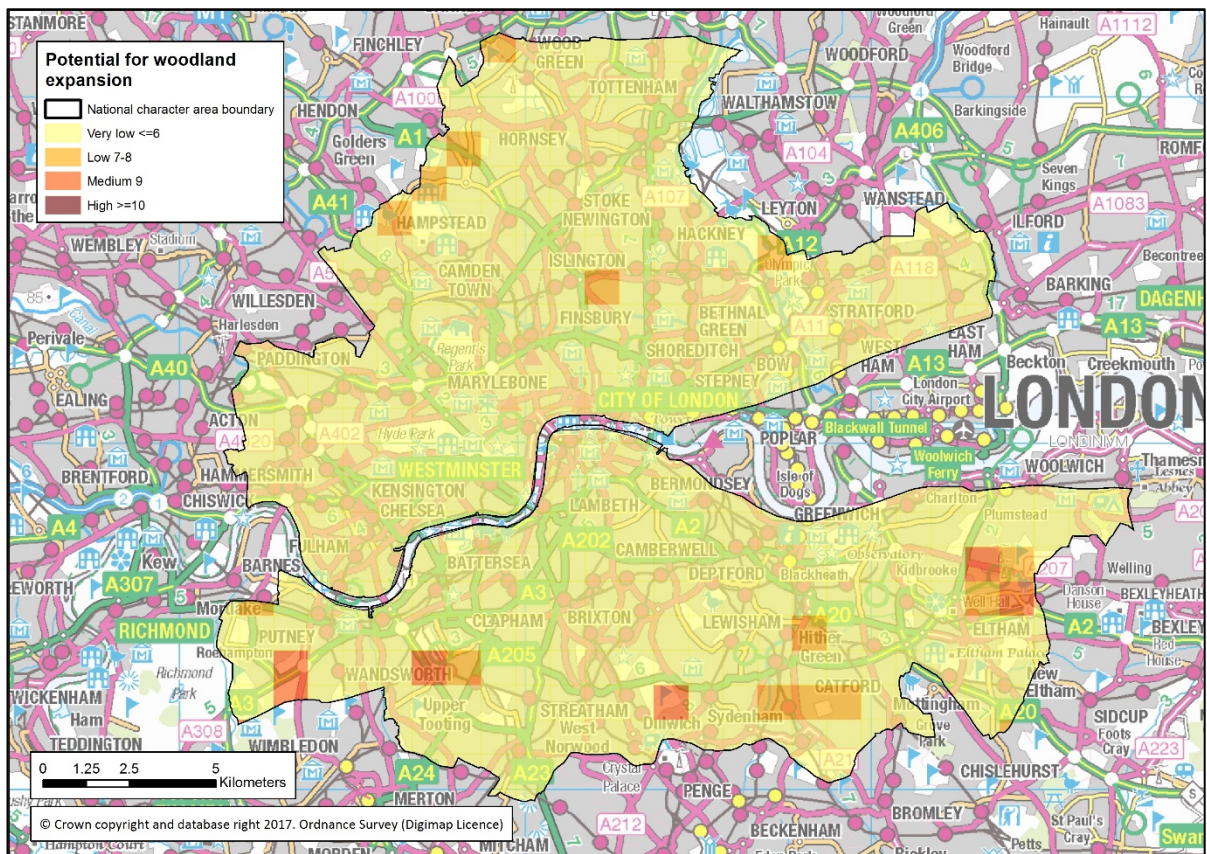
The Inner London NCA is an entirely urban area, lying to the north and south of the River Thames. It extends from Fulham in the west to East Ham, north of the river, and Eltham, south of the river. It extends from Tottenham and Wood Green in the north to Streatham and Catford in the south. It includes both the City of London and the City of Westminster, it is the centre of UK government and an international centre for finance, business, tourism, transport and recreation. Although an overwhelmingly dense urban development, the city also includes numerous small urban parks and squares, tree-lined streets and large public parks, forming an extensive network of green infrastructure. Some of the large central parks originated as hunting parks and are extensive. As a result of the many green spaces across the NCA, the woodland cover is reasonably good, accounting for 7% of the whole area, of which 10% is ancient woodland. Much of the woodland is broadleaved, and includes the many plane trees lined streets and squares, and which are a distinct characteristic of the urban landscape.

The Historic Environment Character

There is evidence for human activity in London in the form of prehistoric settlement along the gravel river terraces. Its urban history, however, dates from the Roman period, for which there is significant surviving evidence in both standing structures and below-ground remains. It was an important trading centre in the early medieval period and, following the Norman Conquest, soon became the seat of government. The historic city's international importance is reflected in the three World Heritage Sites within the NCA. The Tower of London was the royal castle built by William the Conqueror, the Palace of Westminster as is the seat of the UK government, and Maritime Greenwich reflects the UK's global role in maritime history. Many of the large urban parks within city began as royal hunting parks.

Opportunities for Woodland Expansion

The mapping of historic and natural environment assets does not identify any areas of high potential for woodland expansion. The very low score reflects the density of urban development across the NCA. There will be limited opportunities, however, for planting within some of the open spaces, though due care needs to be taken to respect and enhance the landscape character of individual parks. Within the NCA, the need to manage existing woodlands is of greater importance, as highlighted in the NCA profile.



NCA 112 Inner London