

# NCA 159 Lundy

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## *Overview*

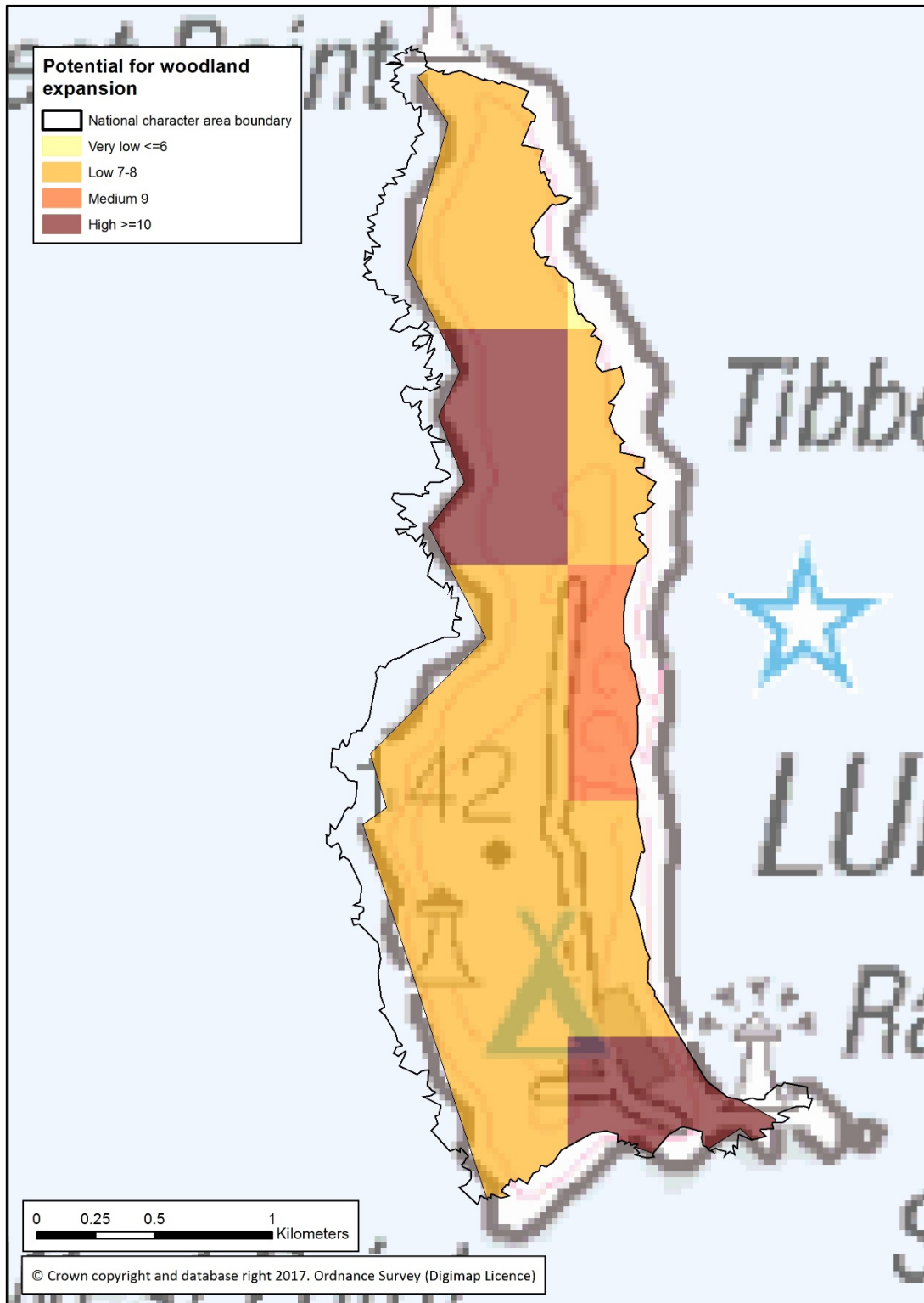
The Isle of Lundy is a very small NCA, covering the whole of the island, and is within the Western Mixed Agricultural Landscape Type. The island lies in the Bristol Channel 18km west of the Devon coast. The island is in the ownership of the National Trust, and most of the island is designated SSSI and is a candidate SAC. Although the western side is more sheltered, allowing vegetation to develop on the coastal slopes, the rugged coast is defined by steep cliffs. Most of the island comprises open heathland, but the southern part of the island has regular small enclosures with stone walls or wire fences, around the small settlement. The settlement comprises farm buildings, a few cottages, a shop, an inn and a church. There is one farm on Lundy, and agricultural use is grazing and pasture. The island has no woodland, other than a few clumps of stunted trees.

## *The Historic Environment Character*

There is extensive evidence for prehistoric settlement on the island, dating from the Bronze Age, including funerary monuments, hut circles and field systems, as well as an early Christian chapel and burial ground, and later medieval settlement. Lundy's strategic position in the Bristol Channel is represented by the presence of various medieval and later defensive structures, from the 13<sup>th</sup> century Marisco Castle in the south of the island, to several gun batteries and platforms that were built to protect landing sites in the post medieval period. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, a granite quarrying industry was established on the island.

## *Opportunities for Woodland Expansion*

The mapping of historic and natural environment attributes indicates a high level of potential for woodland expansion, though this is an artefact of the small size of the island in relation to the scale at which the historic and nature conservation attributes were recorded. The island has no significant woodland and has high historic and nature conservation value as an open landscape, therefore, new woodland planting would not be appropriate.



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