

Map of potential woodland creation sites in London's Green Belt

This map was created by the GLA in 2017 as a preliminary analysis of the potential for woodland creation in London's Green Belt, which covers 35,000 hectares.

The map shows land in London's Green Belt which could have potential for woodland creation, described as, 'plantable areas', based on an assessment of land use data. The following UKMAP landuse groups were identified as having potential for woodland planting:

Landuse order	Landuse group
Agriculture & Fisheries	Arable farm places
	Grazing places
	Non cultivated places
	Permanent pasture
	Rough grazing
	Scrub land
Mineral extraction	Mineral extraction places
Recreation and Leisure	Park
	Recreational open space
Unused land, water and buildings	Grass land
	Unused formerly developed land

Land protected for its nature conservation, heritage or landscape value and higher-grade agricultural land was excluded.

The map also shows where the land ownership of the plantable areas is known because it is recorded in the Land Registry and unregistered land, which may belong to the crown or church for example.

The map has been created from a desktop assessment and has not been checked on the ground. It is intended to provide a starting point for further investigations, including checking potential sites on the ground, identifying landowners and gaining approvals and funding for any woodland creation projects. Any woodland creation proposals would require a detailed ecological and environmental impact assessment of the site before commencing.

Summary of findings

The map identifies around 8,000 hectares of land across London's Green Belt where woodland creation could be possible, (subject to further investigations). According to the assessment, local authorities own 2,254 hectares and private companies own 1,528 hectares of this potentially plantable land.

Key figures for plantable areas

Area of London	159,469.7 ha
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Area of the Green Belt	35,269.9 ha
Area of the Green Belt with environmental / social designations	20,756.0 ha (59% of the Green Belt)
Area of the Green Belt that is unsuitable for planting due to designations and land use	27,150.7 ha (77% of the Green Belt)
Area of the Green Belt that is potentially suitable for woodland creation ('plantable areas')	8,192.8 ha (23% of the Green Belt)
Plantable areas with ownership records	4695.7 ha (57% of plantable areas and 13% of the Green Belt)

Ownership of plantable areas

Landowner Category (top ten by area)	Area of ownership (ha)	Percentage of plantable area owned
Local Authority	2,254.41	48.0%
Limited Company or Public Limited Company	1,528.51	32.6%
Corporate Body	831.29	17.7%
County Council	51.08	1.1%
Limited Liability Partnership	24.78	0.5%
Industrial and Provident Society (Company)	2.28	0.0%
Industrial and Provident Society (Corporate Body)	1.33	0.0%
Registered Society (Company)	1.02	0.0%
Registered Society (Corporate Body)	0.88	0.0%
Community Benefit Society (Company)	0.08	0.0%
Grand Total	4,695.70	100.0%

Local authority ownership of plantable areas

Local Authority (top ten by area)	Area of ownership (ha)	Percentage of local authority plantable areas
London Borough of Enfield	752.83	33.4%
London Borough of Hillingdon	491.80	21.8%
London Borough of Bromley	412.32	18.3%
London Borough of Croydon	152.38	6.8%
London Borough of Barnet	128.97	5.7%
London Borough of Havering	103.09	4.6%
London Borough of Redbridge	39.39	1.7%
London Borough of Hounslow	26.98	1.2%
The London Borough of Harrow	24.70	1.1%
London Borough of Bexley	22.69	1.0%