

Summary

The London i-Tree Project involved hundreds of volunteers conducting the largest city tree survey of its kind in the world in 2014. Using the information collected, the quantity and value of some of the benefits that London's trees and woodland provide were calculated, referred to as ecosystem services.



The benefits measured include air pollution removal, reduction of storm water run-off and carbon sequestration.

This leaflet provides just some of the headline information and key messages. For further information – including a breakdown of the trees and associated benefits for both inner and outer London - download the full report "Valuing London's Urban Forest" from www.urbantreecover.org/location/london

London's trees provide at least £133M of benefits every year in terms of air pollution removal, carbon sequestration and reducing the amount of water going into drains.

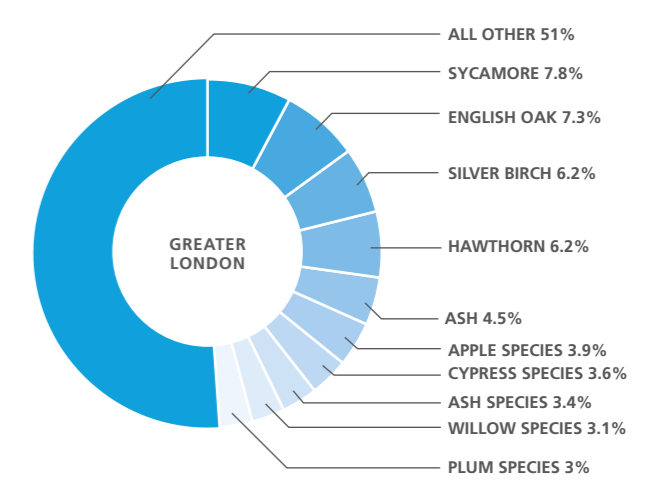
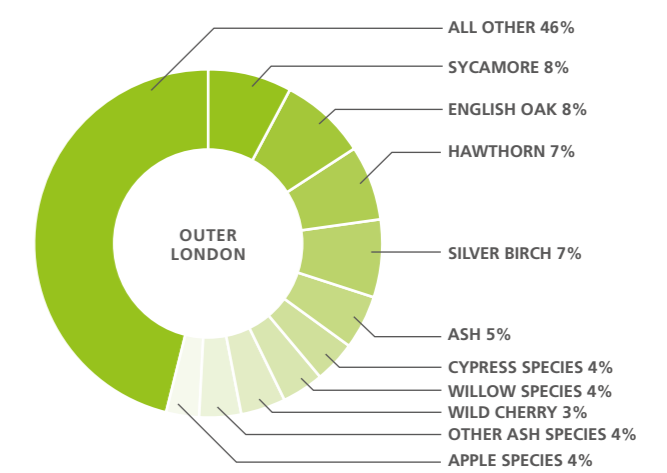
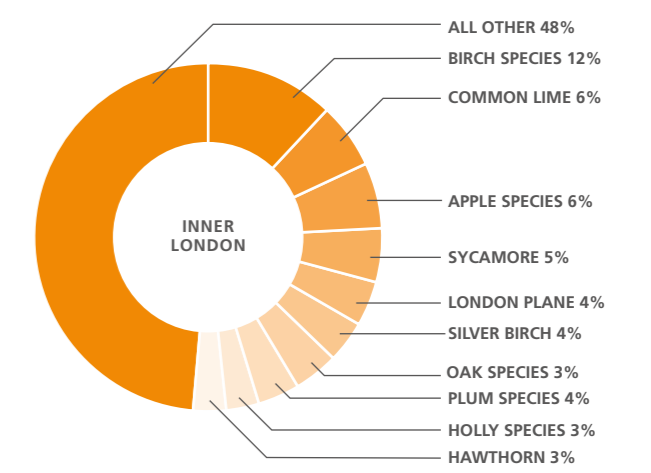


Pests and diseases – Asian Longhorn Beetle, if it established itself in London, could damage over 3 million of London's trees leading to a reduction in ecosystem services and associated economic cost.

Biodiversity – London's trees support and are closely associated with a wide range of priority species such as all bat species, birds like barn owl, butterflies like purple emperor, other insects like stag beetle, and fungi like oak polypore.

Trees prevent **10x** the volume of water in the Serpentine from entering London's drainage system. This helps reduce the risk of localised flooding.

There are **8.4M** trees in London





The project has highlighted just how significant London's trees and woodlands are. They improve the lives of people who live, work and visit the city in many different ways. There are other benefits that have not been measured or valued in this study, such as how trees improve both our physical and mental health and wellbeing, so the figures provided in this study are conservative calculations.



The report shows that London's trees and woodlands should be recognised, planned and managed as essential infrastructure, similar to the way we consider highways and utilities.

The survey shows that the size of canopy and leaf area, not just tree numbers, drive ecosystem service benefits – so we encourage the planting and management of trees that can fulfil their potential for a particular site.

London enjoys a legacy of tree planting from the Victorian era and we need to secure a sustainable legacy for the future. As well as planting more trees to increase tree canopy cover for future generations to enjoy, existing trees need protection and management so they can continue delivering benefits.

These results are based on the 2014 i-Tree Eco survey – but the survey can be repeated to monitor trends. We would also encourage people to carry out further i-Tree surveys for their own Borough, neighbourhood or even individual trees. The software we used is open source and freely available from www.itreetools.org

