

Countryside Survey: Ash Trees  
Ash tree distribution in areas <5ha (2007)  
Dataset Documentation

**Countryside Survey: Ash tree distribution in areas <5ha, 2007**

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Countryside Survey data © NERC - Centre for Ecology & Hydrology

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**‘CS07\_ashtree\_areas’ file details:**

- *File contains estimates of ash trees for Great Britain, in areas of broadleaved woodland less than 5ha. The estimates are based on Countryside Survey 2007 data.*

**Associated datasets:**

- ITE Land Classification (1990) <http://dx.doi.org/10.5285/ab320e08-faf5-48e1-9ec9-77a213d2907f>
- Land Cover Map 2007 (1km raster) <http://dx.doi.org/10.5285/337f9dea-726e-40c7-9f9b-e269911c9db6>
- Countryside Survey ([www.countrysidesurvey.org.uk](http://www.countrysidesurvey.org.uk))

**Columns in dataset:**

- **Gridcode** – Code for band interval relating to the hectares of ash per km square (in the Ha\_per\_km column) 1-7 (*numeric*)
- **Ha\_per\_km** – Estimate of the number of hectares of ash per km square, based on Countryside Survey measurements (in 7 bands: (0-0.2, 0.2-0.4, 0.4-0.6, 0.6-0.8, 0.8-1, 1-5, >5) (*text*))

Resolution	<b>1km</b>
Coordinate system	<b>British National Grid</b>
Projection	<b>Transverse Mercator</b>
Extent	<b>Great Britain</b>
Projection	<b>British National Grid OSGB1936</b>

### **Countryside Survey: Ash tree distribution estimates in broadleaved woodland areas <5ha**

The Countryside Survey samples 1km squares across GB using a stratified random sampling system (based on land classes which are comprised of the major national ecological gradients e.g. soils, geology and climate) (Bunce *et al.* 1996, Carey *et al.* 2008). This enables scaling up from samples to produce national estimates using the land classes.

In each CS 1km square habitats are mapped and are assigned to a Broad or Priority Habitat.

The dominant species are recorded according to Percentage cover categories (e.g. <10%, 10-25%, 25-50%, 50-75%, 75-95%, 95-100%). This dataset is based on areas where ash is present in 2007.

Although Countryside Survey also surveys larger woodlands, the dataset only represents woodlands less than 0.5ha to avoid duplicating analyses with the Forestry Commission.

Using the percentage cover data (mid-point of the range), the mean area of ash woodland within a 1km square by land class has been calculated. This is multiplied by the area of each land class and summed over all land classes to create a national estimate in hectares for the areal extent of ash for GB. The land classification used in this analysis was the 1990 ITE Land Classification, with 32 land classes. The means per land class were scaled to % of 1km by weighting by the proportion of Broadleaved Woodland in each 1km square in the corresponding land class according to Land Cover Map 2007.

More information about methods can be found at [www.countrysidesurvey.org.uk](http://www.countrysidesurvey.org.uk)

Map showing the Ash Tree distribution as estimated by Countryside  
Survey 2007



## Further reading:

- **Distribution of Ash trees (*Fraxinus excelsior*) in Countryside Survey data** (2013). Maskell, L.C., Henrys, P.A., Norton, L.R., Smart, S.M. and Wood, C.M. *January 2013*, NERC/Centre for Ecology & Hydrology, Lancaster.  
[http://www.countrysidesurvey.org.uk/sites/default/files/pdfs/Distribution%20of%20Ash%20trees%20in%20CS\\_9thJan2013.pdf](http://www.countrysidesurvey.org.uk/sites/default/files/pdfs/Distribution%20of%20Ash%20trees%20in%20CS_9thJan2013.pdf)
- Barr, C.J. (1998) **The Sampling Strategy for Countryside Survey** DETR CONTRACT No. CR0212. *Revised by Wood, C.M. (2011) as The Sampling Strategy for Countryside Survey (up to 2007)*
- [http://nora.nerc.ac.uk/19487/1/CS\\_Sampling\\_Strategy\\_Revised.pdf](http://nora.nerc.ac.uk/19487/1/CS_Sampling_Strategy_Revised.pdf)
- Bunce, R.G.H., Barr, C.J., Clarke, R.T., Howard, D.C. & Lane, A.M.J. (1996) **ITE Merlewood Land Classification of Great Britain**. *Journal of Biogeography*, 23, 625-634.
- Carey, P.D.; Wallis, S.; Chamberlain, P.M.; Cooper, A.; Emmett, B.A.; Maskell, L.C.; McCann, T.; Murphy, J.; Norton, L.R.; Reynolds, B.; Scott, W.A.; Simpson, I.C.; Smart, S.M.; Ulliyett, J.M.. (2008) **Countryside Survey: UK Results from 2007**. NERC/Centre for Ecology & Hydrology, 105pp. (CEH Project Number: C03259) <http://www.countrysidesurvey.org.uk/outputs/uk-results-2007>
- R.D. Morton, C. Rowland, C. Wood, L. Meek, C. Marston, G. Smith, R. Wadsworth, I. Simpson. July 2011 CS Technical Report No 11/07: **Final Report for LCM2007 - the new UK land cover map**. NERC/Centre for Ecology & Hydrology (CEH Project Number NEC03259). [http://nora.nerc.ac.uk/14854/1/LCM2007\\_Final\\_Report\\_-\\_vCS\\_Web.pdf](http://nora.nerc.ac.uk/14854/1/LCM2007_Final_Report_-_vCS_Web.pdf)