



States of  
Guernsey

## Access to Public Information Request

**Date of receipt:** 26<sup>th</sup> August 2020

**Date of response:** 28<sup>th</sup> September 2020

### Access to Public Information request

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#### Request:

Dear Sir or Madam:

The FAO report (2014; available at: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-az229e.pdf>) indicates that 200 ha of the territory of the Bailiwick of Guernsey is covered by forests.

I would greatly appreciate receiving a list of tree species forming these forests, with information on timber volume or biomass by tree species, if this information does exist. Usually, information of this kind could be found from the reports on country-wide forest inventories.

#### Response from Agriculture, Countryside & Land Management Services (ACLMS), States of Guernsey:

Thank you for your enquiry. The best available dataset would be the Phase 1 Habitat Survey from 2018, found at [gov.gg/habitatsurvey](http://gov.gg/habitatsurvey), which covers Guernsey and Herm. This would have the most up-to-date data that we possess on woodland cover and type.

Some points to note:

- Guernsey is only 25 square miles (65km<sup>2</sup>) and so we have no country-wide forest inventory.

- We have no forests – only small wooded areas. Many wooded areas are on private property and therefore the breakdown of wooded areas by tree species is unknown. Hence the biomass by tree species is also unknown.
- Tree coverage on Guernsey is 7.9% of total land area (excluding intertidal).
- One of the habitat classifications in the Habitat Survey is 'Plantation' which is mostly orchards rather than for timber. As our wooded areas are so small we have no timber industry per say. To our knowledge, there is only one area of woodland grown for biofuel, which is 3 ha in size.
- Purely observationally, we would estimate that the most abundant tree species is sycamore, with oak and ash forming the majority of our truly native woodland. Additional highly prevalent tree species include (in no particular order) Monterey pine, Sweet chestnut, Holly, Lime, Common alder & Evergreen oak. It is believed the plantation is comprised of a poplar species.
- We have large environmental gaps in most environmental areas. We would be very interested in the research you are conducting and whether you would be willing to share your findings with us.
- You may also wish to contact the Alderney Wildlife Trust for Alderney data and La Societe Serquaise for the Sark data.