

# Back from the Brink – Species summary

## Beech Marble Lichen

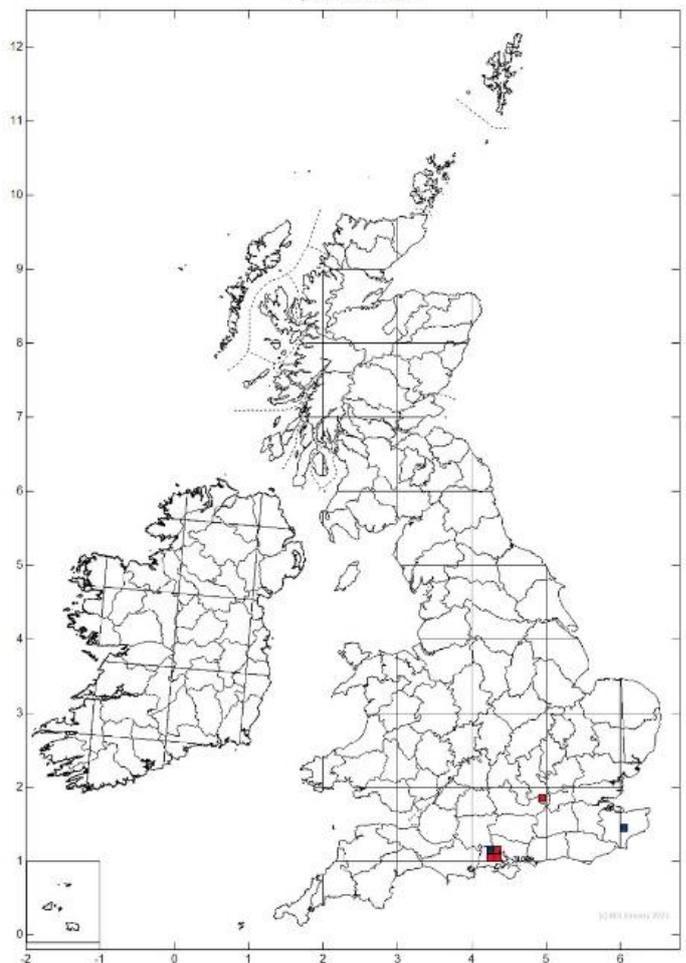
**BftB project:** IP02 Ancients of the Future

**Project lead organisation:** Buglife

**Contact:** [info@buglife.org.uk](mailto:info@buglife.org.uk)

**Partner organisation for species:** Plantlife

<b>Species name – common &amp; scientific</b>	Beech marble lichen <i>Pyrenula nitida</i>
<b>Photograph</b>	 <p style="text-align: center;">© Dave Lamacraft / Back from the Brink</p>
<b>Taxon group</b>	Lichen
<b>Conservation status</b>	Vulnerable in Britain and a NERC Act Section 41 species.
<b>UK distribution</b>	<p>This is primarily a continental species in Europe, avoiding oceanic areas and its GB distribution reflects this, being found in the south-east in old-growth beech woodland, It is currently found only in the New Forest and at Burnham Beeches. It is very locally frequent in the former but rather rare at the latter. It is very similar looking to the much commoner <i>Pyrenula macrospora</i> and the two were much confused in the past; many older records relate to the commoner species. Potentially overlooked, however, at other sites in the south east.</p>

	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Pyrenula nitida</i></p>  <p>Key to map date classes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 2000+</li> <li>■ 1960 - 1999</li> <li>■ 1650 - 1959</li> </ul> <p>© British Lichen Society</p>
<p><b>Habitat associations</b></p>	<p><i>Pyrenula nitida</i> is found on the smooth bark of well-lit yet moderately shaded trees with less acidic or base-rich bark, typically in rain tracks i.e. parts of the tree that receive a flow of rainwater down the trunk (stem-flow). It is found mostly on old beech and hornbeam in GB, in old-growth pasture woodlands or wood pasture. It is also found colonising younger trees e.g. at Burnham Beeches it has recently been found colonising mature beech. It is part of a rich assemblage of rare species found in our old-growth native beech woodlands.</p>
<p><b>BftB work carried out:</b></p>	
<p><b>Survey &amp; Monitoring</b></p>	<p>Recorded in project surveys of Burnham Beeches. Translocation monitored.</p>
<p><b>Sites habitat management works</b></p>	<p>Burnham Beeches – thinning of young beech.</p>
<p><b>Conservation 'interventions' incl. reintroductions &amp; translocations</b></p>	<p>Translocation at Burnham Beeches.</p>

<b>Technical advice provision</b>	Management advice given to site managers.
<b>Links made with other taxa / conservation work?</b>	Association with other species of well-lit old beech e.g. <i>Bellicidia incompta</i> .
<b>BftB results obtained:</b>	
<b>Recorded Distribution (in BftB focal areas)</b>	Burnham Beeches
<b>Recorded Abundance of species populations</b>	Known from a number of ancient, mature and young beech.
<b>Species Recovery Curve progress made</b>	SRC score: 6. Translocation is being trialled at Burnham Beeches alongside trial management (thinning). Survey efforts resulted in more records being made of this species at this site, which is now recognised as one of the most important native beech sites for lichens in the UK.
<b>Recommendations for future work:-</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continued monitoring of translocation.</li> <li>• Ref S41 actions</li> </ul>