

# Back from the Brink – Species summary

## Geranium Firedot

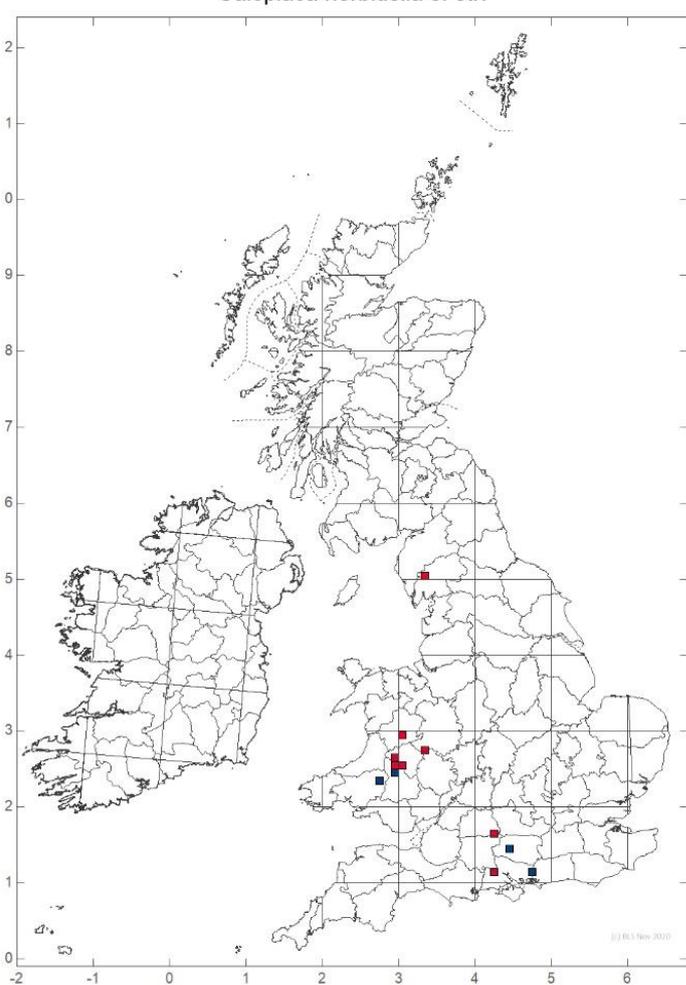
**BftB project:** IP02 Ancients of the Future

**Project lead organisation:** Buglife

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**Partner organisation for species:** Plantlife

<b>Species name – common &amp; scientific</b>	Geranium firedot <i>Blastenia herbidella</i> (syn. <i>Caloplaca herbidella</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.

<p>UK distribution</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Caloplaca herbidella</i> s. str.</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">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 style="text-align: center;">© British Lichen Society</p>
<p><b>Habitat associations</b></p>	<p><i>Blastenia herbidella</i> prefers the trunks of veteran oak trunks in well-lit situations e.g. on the edges of grazed woodland, in parkland and boundary and in-field trees in old unimproved farmland in areas with little or no acidifying air pollution.</p>
<p><b>BftB work carried out:</b></p>	
<p><b>Survey &amp; Monitoring</b></p>	<p>Recorded as part of lichen surveys at Rydal Park (Cumbria) and Mells Park (Dorset), the former a new recently discovered site, and the latter a new site discovered as part of BftB. Incidental BftB visits recorded a new tree for the species at Savernake.</p>
<p><b>Sites habitat management works</b></p>	<p>No habitat management works were undertaken as part of this project.</p>
<p><b>Conservation 'interventions' incl. reintroductions &amp; translocations</b></p>	<p>None specific to this species beyond the provision of management advice</p>
<p><b>Technical advice provision</b></p>	<p>Advice from the survey reports provided for site owners/managers.</p>

<b>Links made with other taxa / conservation work?</b>	Associated with other lichens of well-lit old parkland oak e.g. <i>Lecanora quercicola</i> , <i>L. sublivescens</i>
<b>BftB results obtained:</b>	
<b>Recorded Distribution (in BftB focal areas)</b>	Recorded from Mells Park, Rydal Park and Savernake
<b>Recorded Abundance of species populations</b>	Now known from several trees at Mells Park and Rydal Park, and two at Savernake
<b>Species Recovery Curve progress made</b>	SRC score: 6. Two new populations discovered through project surveys. Discovered at Rydal Park through BftB AotF, documented by survey with British Lichen Society - largest (of only three) and the only fertile population in England. Advisory work through BftB AotF at Savernake where habitat restoration is underway. Not specifically targeted at this species but one of a suite of species that should benefit (management is addressing key threats).
<b>Recommendations for future work:-</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wood pasture restoration needs to continue at Savernake</li> <li>• Management recommendations in survey reports followed up</li> <li>• Continue searching for new sites e.g. parklands/wood pastures with well-lit mature oaks in sub-oceanic areas. Ability to recognise sterile material will help.</li> </ul>