

Back from the Brink – Species summary

Sap-groove Lichen

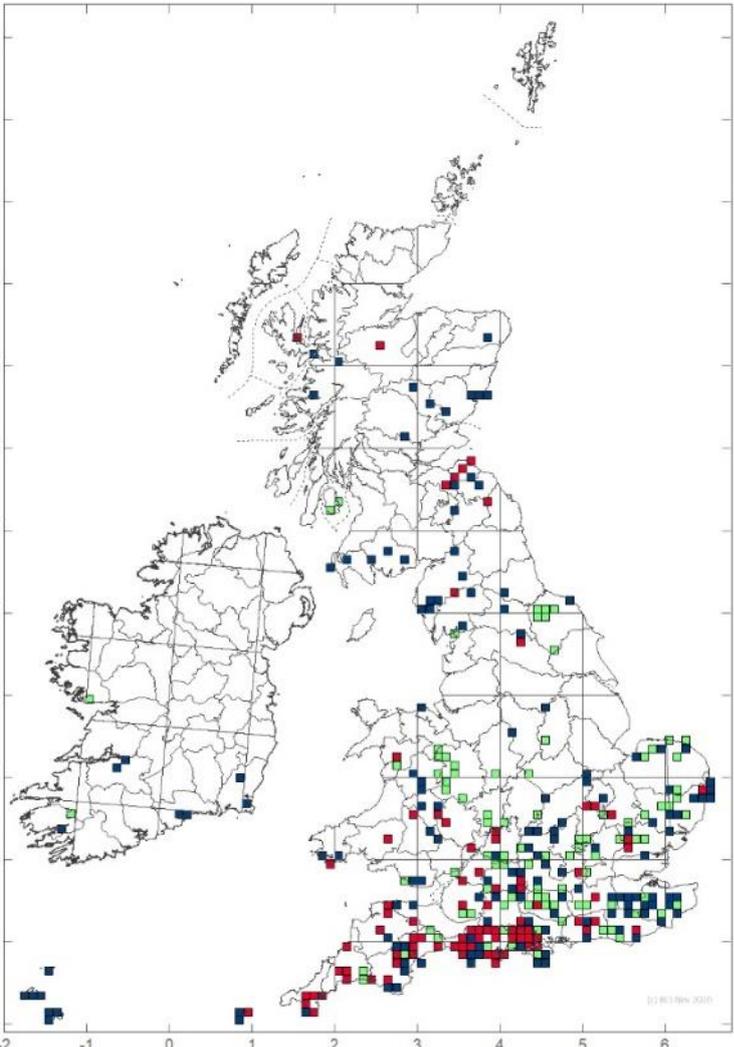
BftB project: IP02 Ancients of the Future

Project lead organisation: Buglife

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Partner organisation for species: Plantlife

Species name – common & scientific	Sap-groove lichen <i>Bellicidia incompta</i> (syn. <i>Bacidia incompta</i>)
Photograph	 <p style="text-align: center;">© Geof Howe / Back from the Brink</p>
Taxon group	Lichen
Conservation status	Vulnerable in Britain and a NERC Act Section 41 species.
UK distribution	Prior to Dutch elm disease this species was widespread in GB, especially in the southern half of England. It has declined enormously in recent decades with the loss of elm trees, one of its favoured trees, although new populations are still being found.

	<p style="text-align: center;">Bacidia incompta</p>  <p>Key to map date classes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 2000+ ■ 1960 - 1999 ■ 1950 - 1959 <p>© British Lichen Society</p>
<p>Habitat associations</p>	<p>Bellcidia incompta is mostly found on the trunks of mature trees with less acidic/base-rich bark and damaged bare wood of e.g. elm, ash, sycamore, field maple, horse chestnut, and old beech, holly and oak where there is a degree of natural nutrient enrichment resulting from wounds e.g. sap-runs and wound seepage tracks. Often found inside the hollow trunks of old pollards.</p> <p>It favours well-lit trees e.g. in parklands and wood pastures, and along boundaries, although is also found in woodland.</p>
<p>BftB work carried out:</p>	
<p>Survey & Monitoring</p>	<p>Recorded as part of lichen surveys at Moccas Park, Burnham Beeches, Franchises Lodge, Fountains Abbey (new site) and Knepp Estate (new site). Also recorded incidentally at Savernake (new locations) and Bredon Hill (new site). Monitoring has included monitoring of the translocations undertaken at Burnham Beeches.</p>

Sites habitat management works	Thinning of young beech at Burnham Beeches, pollarding and veteranisation of field maple at Savernake.
Conservation 'interventions' incl. reintroductions & translocations	Translocation at Burnham Beeches.
Technical advice provision	Advice given to the managers of project sites in survey reports and 'cross-taxa guidance'.
Links made with other taxa / conservation work?	Association (established through the project) with the western wood-vase hoverfly which utilises water-filled cavities and sap runs.
BftB results obtained:	
Recorded Distribution (in BftB focal areas)	Moccas Park, Burnham Beeches, Franchises Lodge, Fountains Abbey, Knepp Estate, Savernake, Bredon Hill
Recorded Abundance of species populations	Abundance recorded in survey reports, known from several trees at Moccas, Burnham Beeches and Savernake, two trees at Franchises Lodge and single trees at Knepp, Fountains Abbey and Bredon
Other results documented?	Burnham Beeches translocation monitored
Species Recovery Curve progress made	SRC score: 6. Translocation is being trialled at Burnham Beeches. Trial management - veteranisation of field maple - is being trialled at Savernake alongside improvements to the habitat structure (thinning) and management (introduction of grazing) that will benefit the species in broader terms.
Recommendations for future work:-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ref Section 41 actions • Habitat niche identified but more work could be done to understand this and its ecology more fully.