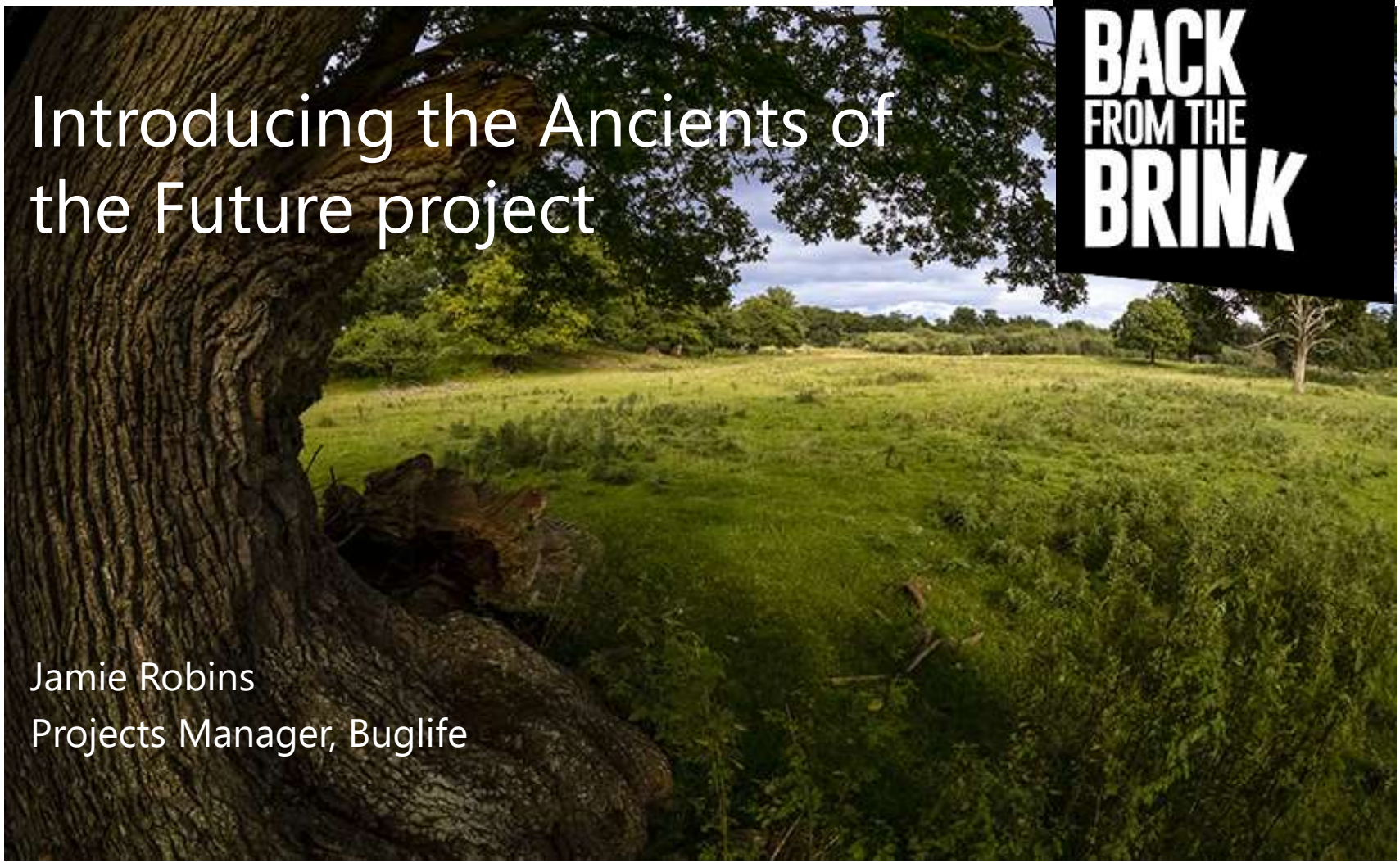
Introducing the Ancients of the Future project



BACK FROM THE BRINK

Jamie Robins
Projects Manager, Buglife

heritage lottery fund
LOTTERY FUNDED

naturebftb.co.uk
@naturebftb

Project partners

BACK FROM THE BRINK

rspb giving nature a home

CARDIFF UNIVERSITY
PRIFYSGOL CAERDYDD

Forestry Commission

people's trust for endangered species

LAND OWNERS

WOODLAND TRUST

UEL

NATURAL ENGLAND

ROYAL HOLLOWAY UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

National Trust

KNEPP CASTLE ESTATE

ANCIENT TREE FORUM

British Lichen Society

DOMINE DIRIGE NOS
CITY OF LONDON

THE CROWN ESTATE

VOLUNTEERS

Ancients in wood pasture and parkland

Wood pasture is a open mosaic habitat, characterised by big old trees growing in open pasture land.

Often relicts of royal forests, wooded commons and medieval deer parks they provide a direct link to a bygone era.

Ancient Beech, Oak, Field maple, Hawthorn and Ash- contain late-stage fungal induced decaying wood found nowhere else and provide **ecological continuity** spanning past centuries.

Habitats rich in biodiversity

Around 25% of wildlife found in these habitats is associated with decaying wood microhabitats

They support around 2000 (saproxylic) invertebrates alone - about 40% are rare or scarce

Particularly flies and beetles. Countless fungi, lichens, and mosses.

Ancients of the Future

Securing the future of our ancient tree landscapes and species that depend upon them

Providing important resources

© Neil Aldridge

© Paul Rutter

Key Challenges

Past decline

On-going pressures

New problems: tree diseases, climate change

Attitudes, values and management of ancient trees and deadwood.

Ecological continuity - gap between existing ancient trees, rich in biological and cultural history, and the 'Ancients of the Future'.

Target species

© A Sands

© Sarah Henshall

© Sarah Henshall

© Paul Brock

Royal splinter cranefly; Oak click beetle; Violet click beetle & Noble chafer

Target species

© Tim Wilkin

© Tim Wilkin

© Dave Lamacraft

© Wikimedia

Eagles claw; Sap groove; Geranium firedot; Orange fruited Elm lichen

Target species

© Vavrin CC

© Gljivarsko Drustro Nis

© Martin Hlauka

© Fred Rumsey

natu

Oak polypore; Coral tooth; The Pretender & Knot hole moss

Target species

© Hugh Clark

© Sergey Yeliseev

Noctule bat & Lesser spotted wood pecker

Objectives

Future proof ancient tree habitats and species at a site level.

Increase resilience and connectivity at a site and landscape level.

Increase conservation understanding of target species and secure recovery.

Moccas beetle survey © Paul Rutter

Objectives

Identify and breakdown barriers to protecting and retaining ancient trees.

Inspire new ways of working and cultivate a public sense of the value of ancient trees.

Learning about species at Petworth Primary School © Laura Thomas

19 project sites

- Windsor Great Park and Forest, Berkshire
- Moccas Park, Herefordshire
- Moccas Hill Wood, Herefordshire
- Bredon Hill, Worcestershire
- Savernake Forest, Wiltshire
- Burnham Beeches, Buckinghamshire
- Petworth Park, Sussex
- Norbury Park, Surrey
- Fowey Valley, Cornwall - Ethy & Lanhydrock
- New Forest, Wiltshire & Hampshire
- Sherwood Forest, Nottinghamshire
- Mells Park, Somerset
- Knepp Castle Estate, West Sussex
- Fountains Abbey/ Studley Royal Water Gardens
- Little Doward, Highbury Wood Herefordshire
- Dixton Wood, Gloucestershire
- Epping Forest, Essex
- Rydal Hall Estate, Cumbria
- Hatch Park/ Brockhanger Woods, Kent

Expert and volunteer recording

- Expert surveys capture data on rare species to inform management
- Targeted species survey
- Research of historical data
- Recruit train and up skill volunteers to undertake survey and monitoring
- Citizen science – People's Trust for Endangered Species 'Great Stag Hunt'

Habitat works

Conserving veteran trees

Wood pasture restoration

Next generation veterans

Tree planting

Nectar enclosures with flowering scrub species

Landscape connectivity & partnership working




Pollarding, haloing, tree cribs and new trees and new nectar enclosures
@Paul Rutter

Addressing the age gap - veteranisation

Mimicking horse damage at Sherwood Forest © Owen Jones

Woodpecker hole at Sherwood Forest © Owen Green

Addressing the age gap - deadwood trails

Standing deadwood mimicry © Reg Harris

Renewed deadwood trail at Great Windsor Park © Jamie Simposn

Addressing the age gap - artificial habitats

Veteranisation by fungi inoculation
© Matt Wainhouse

Violet click beetle habitat boxes
© Steph Skipp

Innovation - species translocations

A pox lichen (*Pyrenula nitida*)
© Dave Lamacraft

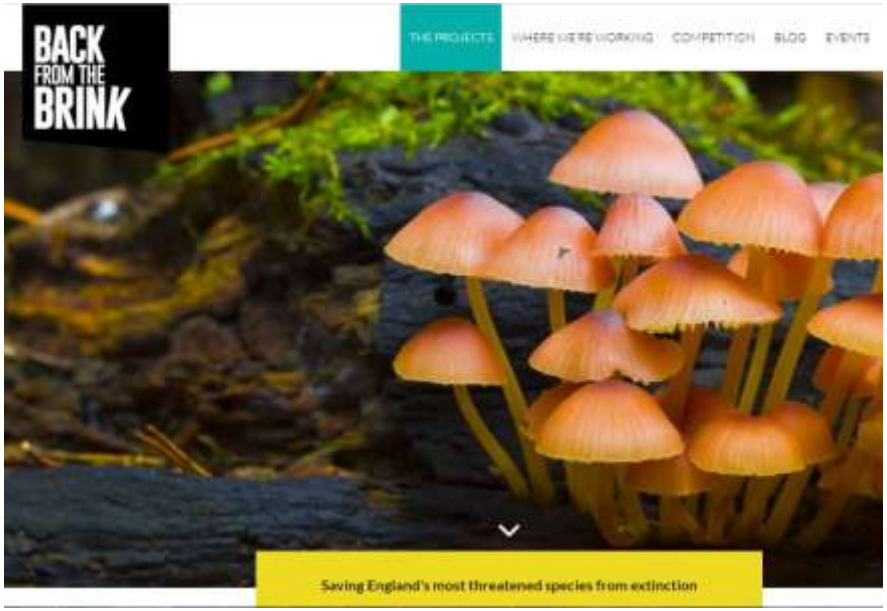
A pox lichen (*Pyrenula nitida*) translocation
© Dave Lamacraft

Inspiring and raising public awareness

- Recruit train and up skill volunteers to undertake species survey and monitoring
- Training for arborists
- Cross-taxa management workshops
- Public engagement: deadwood roadshow, walks, talks, schools & social media

Bats and Arboriculture course © Sonia Reveley

Dead wood hub – this autumn



Back from the Brink website

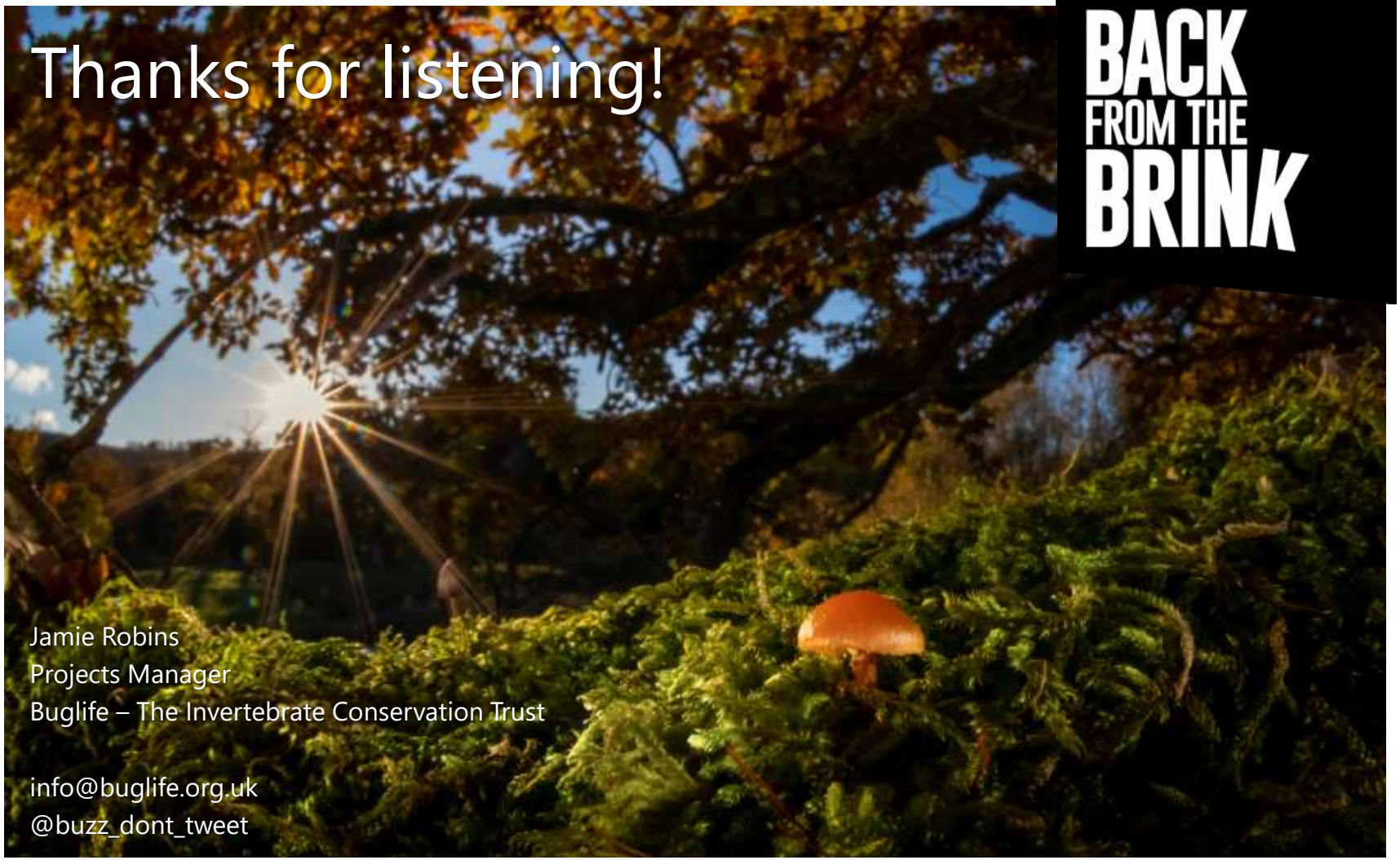
Buglife – Dead wood hub

Ancient tree hub

- Presentations from workshop
- Video ‘How-to’ guides
- Cross-taxa guidance
- Guidance sheets
- Learning materials
- Signposting

© Neil Aldridge

Thanks for listening!



Jamie Robins
Projects Manager
Buglife – The Invertebrate Conservation Trust

info@buglife.org.uk
@buzz_dont_tweet

BACK FROM THE BRINK

HERITAGE FUND

naturebftb.co.uk
@naturebftb