

How to get involved with this project.

Our ancient trees need you. Come and join us as we secure a future for ancient trees and their precious wildlife.

As a volunteer you could help us survey sites for threatened species. You don't have to be an expert as we'll provide free identification and survey training to get you going. Or you might prefer to learn about ancient tree wildlife at your own pace using our downloadable resources.

There will be walks, talks and more for all to enjoy, so do come along to say hello. Why not follow what is happening on social media. Go to the website to find out more.

DONATE

We rely on your donations to fund these vital projects, so please donate today and support our work to bring nature back from the brink: naturebftb.co.uk

VOLUNTEER

Take part in surveys for our threatened species, help out at local events or enhance your knowledge with our downloadable resources.

EVENTS

We will be at various events over the summer where you can come and learn all about the amazing wildlife ancient trees support.

CONTACT US

Find out more about the Ancients of the Future project, and how you can get involved.

Email: info@buglife.org.uk

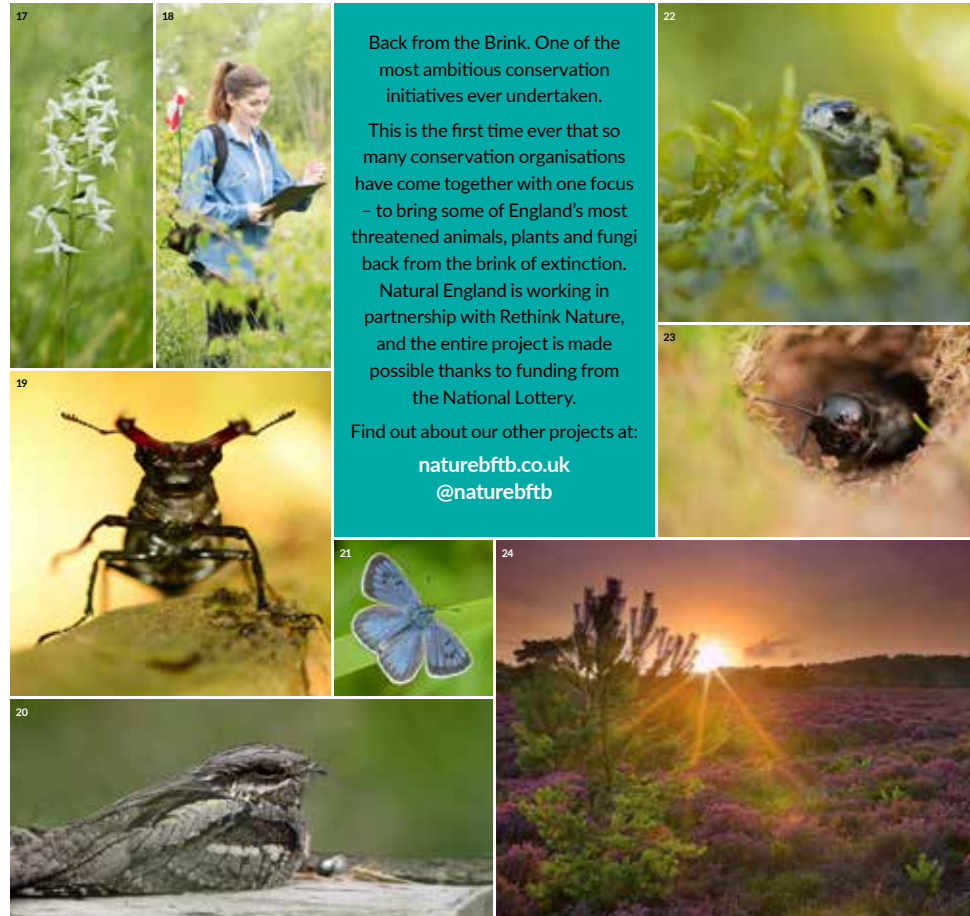
Online: naturebftb.co.uk

Twitter: [@naturebftb](https://twitter.com/naturebftb)



Donation administration and processing by Butterfly Conservation (Charity No: 254937) on behalf of the project partnership; all donations are shared by all project partners exclusively for Back from the Brink work.

About Back from the Brink.



Back from the Brink. One of the most ambitious conservation initiatives ever undertaken.

This is the first time ever that so many conservation organisations have come together with one focus – to bring some of England's most threatened animals, plants and fungi back from the brink of extinction.

Natural England is working in partnership with Rethink Nature, and the entire project is made possible thanks to funding from the National Lottery.

Find out about our other projects at:

naturebftb.co.uk
[@naturebftb](https://twitter.com/naturebftb)

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Ancients of the Future

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

A BACK FROM THE BRINK PROJECT

How we will secure a future for our ancient trees.

Ancient trees in our wood pasture and parkland have inspired generations through their culture and folklore. They are also home to some of our rarest wildlife; particularly those associated with decaying wood and aged bark. But today our ancient trees are under threat from tree disease and climate change. The continuity of habitat they have provided through the centuries is at risk. There is a significant age gap between the existing trees which are rich in biological and cultural history, and the next generation - our 'Ancients of the Future'.



This project will work with landowners and site managers across England to ensure that ancient trees continue to thrive and provide a positive future for the rare and scarce species they support. It will also raise public awareness and change attitudes towards ancient trees and decay loving fauna and flora.

Species we are bringing back from the brink.

We will focus on endangered species that need dead and decaying wood or aged bark as part of their life cycle. This is mostly found in our oldest trees.

VIOLET CLICK BEETLE *Limoniscus violaceus*



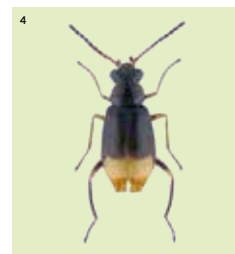
This beautiful beetle is confined to a small number of veteran trees at Windsor Forest and Bredon Hill. The larvae feed in the wood mould that accumulates in the base of hollowing trees. Wood mould can take more than a century to develop in a tree meaning this habitat is rare and largely restricted to old trees in the most advanced stages of decay.

OAK POLYPORE *Piptoporus quercinus*



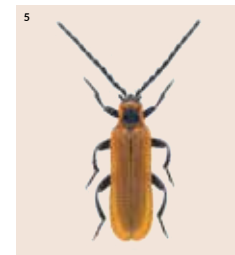
This is one of the specialist heartwood decay fungi that create vital habitats such as tree hollows that are needed by some of our rarest decaying wood invertebrates. This fungus likes the exposed heartwood found on mature and veteran oak trees in places such as Sherwood Forest.

MOCCAS BEETLE *Hypebaeus flavipes*



Known only from Moccas Park in the UK where it is associated with the galleries created by wood boring insects in ancient oaks. It is thought to feed upon the wood-boring insects themselves and possibly also aphids. Adults can be found flying around on warm days in June and July visiting flowers and foliage.

COSNARD'S NET-WINGED BEETLE *Erotides cosnardi*



Only known from around a dozen sightings across the Wye Valley and West Sussex Downs, this very rare beetle is most often associated with the rotting heartwood at the centre of veteran beech trees. Adults have been observed in May and June. We will continue work to better understand the ecology of this enigmatic beetle.

NOBLE CHAFER *Gnorimus nobilis*



This metallic green beetle is most often associated with the fruit-growing regions of England where it can be found living in the wood mould that accumulates in the decaying centre of old living fruit trees. Work during this project will help us to better understand the needs of this beetle in places like the New Forest where fruit trees are few and far between.

KNOTHOLE MOSS *Zygodon forsteri*



This tiny moss favours rain and wound tracks on veteran beech trees and is found in the knots, scars and damaged roots of trees in places like Burnham Beeches and the New Forest. We will be managing the area around these trees and where suitable habitat exists, as well as carrying out trials to artificially create new habitat.

GERANIUM FIREDOT *Caloplaca herbicella*



This very rare lichen is confined to the light and airy conditions found on ancient oaks in wood pasture. It has not been recorded in England for over 20 years. As part of this project we will be revisiting its last known English locations to try and re-find it and secure its future.

A POX LICHEN *Pyrenula nitida*



Associated with the smooth bark of ancient beech and hornbeam, this lichen likes areas where rain is channelled down tree trunks from the canopy above. The project will look to trial translocating lichens between trees at Burnham Beeches to save a threatened population, and ultimately increase the population and build resilience.

WESTERN WOOD-VASE HOVERFLY *Myolepta potens*



This hoverfly hadn't been seen in the UK for nearly 40 years before its discovery at Moccas Park in 2001. The larvae live in rainwater-filled hollows on veteran trees where they consume the leaf litter and other debris that accumulates in the bottom. We will help to better understand the current population of this wonderful fly and secure its future.

SAP-GROOVE LICHEN *Bacidia incompta*



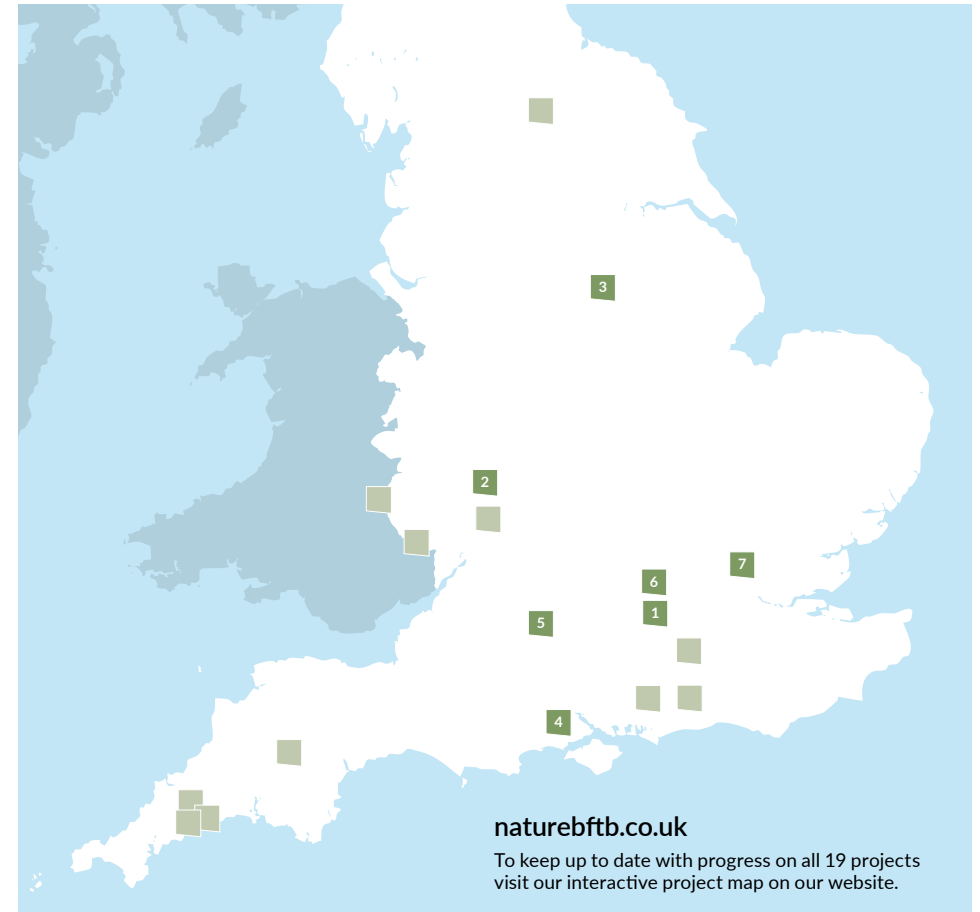
This rare lichen is found on mature trees with less acidic bark, like ash, field maple, elm and old beech, where it is often associated with sap runs leaking from damaged areas of bark. We will be working at various project sites to try to create new habitat for this species by artificially creating sap runs.

BARBASTELLE BAT *Barbastella barbastellus*



This rare woodland specialist will use older trees and decaying wood and typically roosts, breeds and hibernates in tree crevices and cavities behind lifted bark. We will be working at project sites to reduce the loss of habitat and roosts and improve connectivity to the countryside.

Where this project is taking place.



■ Ancients of the Future has projects throughout England.

■ Key sites which are publicly accessible:

- 1 Windsor
- 2 Bredon Hill
- 3 Sherwood Forest
- 4 New Forest

- 5 Savernake Forest
- 6 Burnham Beeches
- 7 Epping Forest

Working with land managers, tree surgeons and historic landscape architects, we will develop training, information and guidance, to influence how sites are managed in the future.