

Update for Strumpshaw Parish Council re: BAWT's Activities – January 2026

1. Progress in developing a 20-year Strategy for Buckenham Wood and planning and implementing the management of BAWT's middle portion of woodland, funded by the Greater Norwich Growth Board, is continuing at a pace:
 - **Fencing** within and around BAWT's land as per the management plan has been completed, using sweet chestnut paling.
 - A deviation in the fence line between BAWT / SPC land was essential to maintain safety for contractors due to the eroding steep bank along this boundary and the contractor has discussed this with SPC. It is proposed that the true boundary should be mapped using a GPS for the record and future management/maintenance purposes. This needs to be considered by SPC at its meeting on 20 January 2026.
 - **4 kissing gates** to access the footpaths are planned: 2 are currently being installed and the other 2 plus a **cycle rack** await. The final two kissing gates and the cycle rack will be installed on the north path once the path resurfacing is completed.
 - **Gates:** Locally sourced sweet chestnut, cut by contractors as part of the canopy restoration work, has been used for a new five-bar gate and its two posts - sustainability at its best! A smaller lockable swing gate has been installed on the BAWT/SPC boundary for access to the pit.
 - **Benches** will be installed on 19th and 23rd January, locations to be discussed with the trustees.
 - **East-West Pathway** inside the northern boundary of Buckenham Wood has been delayed, due to Broadland District Council's high demands for good contractors at this time of year. The earliest start is mid-January and if it is not underway by end of February, it may have to be delayed until after the bluebell season in which case BDC would seek an extension to the project. BAWT's Project Coordinator has been advised by the contractor and other experts that it will not be necessary to aerate (oxygen) the existing path before laying the new material – as the footfall is not industrial scale.
Note that SPC has a common interest in this path and committed to the path being extended along much of its northern boundary.
 - **Tree works:** Canopy restoration continues with 2 days in planned January, 15-16.
 - **Volunteer days** have focused on removal of seedling/sapling sycamores; and planting individually selected trees in suitable places, freely sourced for BAWT, SPC and the private woodland to use as required.
 - **Interpretation boards** are at the design stage, BAWT and the Coordinator having agreed on the text. The 4 boards focus on:
 - Welcome to Buckenham Ancient Wood. You are entering a unique place!
 - A carpet of bluebells
 - A home for wildlife
 - The making of an Ancient Wood
2. BAWT has secured **100% matching funds** (maximum in 10,000) from Crowdfund Norfolk to complement the Trust's crowdfund held on JustGiving's platform, reaching over £10,000 in December 2025.
3. The northern **Permissive Footpath** was closed on 12 January for 24 hours, as agreed between the two respective owners, SPC and BAWT. The practice will continue annually on the second Monday of January.