

BADCOG Annual report for Strumpshaw Annual Parish Meeting 2026

The Blofield & District Conservation Group (BADCOG) has enjoyed another productive year, with its dedicated group of volunteers actively managing wildlife conservation areas across 14 sites in and around the local area. Two of these sites are within the Parish of Strumpshaw, those being the Parish Council owned part of Buckenham Wood and BADCOG own Railway Wood. The group also helps with maintaining Strumpshaw Stone Pit which now contains a small community orchard.

Since the last PC annual meeting, BADCOG has conducted four work parties at Buckenham Wood. Recent efforts have primarily focused on removing the increasingly prevalent sycamore trees, a task facilitated by the use of root-pulling tools provided by BAWT. In addition, volunteers installed barriers across unofficial paths to protect the woodland ground flora and ensure the preservation of bluebells. Several bird boxes, supplied by a local resident, were also placed throughout the site.

BADCOG has also contributed to the development of a Management Plan for the Wood, and two members are currently participating in the Butterfly Conservation's Butterfly Monitoring Scheme.

The group typically holds just one work party each year at Railway Wood, usually in December. At this work party we check for any potential hazards and carry out a general tidy up, which may include pollarding and coppicing. After heavy winter winds, a small tree toppled onto the public footpath that runs through the woodland. BADCOG volunteers responded quickly, clearing the fallen tree and ensuring the path was safe within 24 hours of being notified. Additional improvements to the path were made later during our annual work party. Network Rail also assisted by cutting back overhanging trees to keep the rail track clear and secure.

BADCOG was up until a few years ago responsible for the care of Strumpshaw Stone-pit. However, with the planting of the Community Orchard the site is now cared for by the local community, with some help still proved by BADCOG members.

Finally, over the years, BADCOG has planted numerous trees, shrubs, and hedgerows throughout the Parish, making significant improvements to both the local landscape and the environment.

You can find out more about BADCOG via our website.