

Buckenham Woods Update.

Parish Council Meeting 15 September 2026

Parish Councillor Robert Morgan.

The summer BADCOG work party that took place, saw the removal of sycamore saplings, cutting back of brambles, and path clearance. Ernest Hoyos kindly organised the topping of the open 'meadow' area. The use by BADCOG of BAWT's 'tree pullers' was repaid by several members of BADCOG joining the BAWT's August work party to pull sycamores. I have, along with five others, carried out butterfly monitoring - with me one of us visiting the wood once a week throughout the summer. Tony Mckie kindly provided the BADCOG September newsletter, and an interesting piece concerning butterflies in Buckenham Woods was included:

"There have been several interesting sightings in Buckenham Wood this year. As part of ongoing survey and monitoring work by the Buckenham Ancient Woodland Trust and Strumpshaw PC, Ernest and I have been helping with the UK Butterfly Monitoring Survey of the wood. The survey involves one person, or a small group, walking the same route each week and recording the butterfly species and numbers seen along a transect. Alongside a healthy population of peacock, comma, gatekeeper, holly blue, speckled wood and the white butterflies (Small, Large, Orange Tip & Green-veined), we have also recorded silver-washed fritillary (image above right). Even more excitingly, Ernest has evidence of a purple emperor butterfly (image left) in his garden. In a later Newsletter, I hope to share this year's survey data with you".

Unfortunately, a dead Barn Owl was found in the BAWT section of the woodland, foul-play was not suspected. Tawny Owls are present in the wood, and have been known to attack Barn Owls, it was found near the BAWT sign, and a suggestion is that it may have flown into it.

The spring on the carpark pedestrian gate is broken again. A more robust solution will be looked at for the return mechanism for this gate. No other reports of 'flashing' or inappropriate signs in cars have been reported, and local police have visited the wood on at least one occasion since.

BAWT held an open day and guided walks on Sunday 30 August. The feedback by the woodland's users was positive, although one person questioned the 'dogs on leads' policy in relation to BAWT's inclusivity and nature recovery aims.