Strumpshaw Parish Council

Buckenham Wood – Update for the Council Meeting, 17 November 2026.
Prepared by Cllr. Robert Morgan

Woodland management and community use

Six members of SPC / the Woodland Group visited the woodland on the evening of 13 October to discuss the Parish Council's ambitions for the site, including path diversions, community use and conservation requirements.

RM contacted Lydia Kittle, Norfolk Wildlife Trust's County Wildlife Site Officer, to outline the support that SPC may require in future. It was also proposed that a short supplement to the woodland management plan be commissioned to examine new and alternative paths, provision for community groups and the implementation of conservation measures in greater detail.

Proposal for a meeting of the SPC woodland team in January, including LK from Norfolk Wildlife Trust. Intention of discussing the possibility of commissioning a supplementary plan, look into what possible assistance is available concerning advice and practical help from BDC, NWT and any other organisations. Look into possible funding streams.

Thanks to Tanya - the SPC section of the woodland has now been registered with the Rural Payments Agency.

Volunteer conservation work

Thanks are extended to BADCOG for their conservation work. Seven members attended the woodland on the 17th OCT. They cleared brambles and other vegetation from one of the main bluebell beds. The steps were cleared and raked, and sycamore saplings were removed.

Vegetation clearance is required around some of the trees provided and planted by the Yare Valley Rotary club. It will be carried out in this autumn, and the SPC will be informed when this is due to happen.

Publicity and engagement

A two-page feature published in the Eastern Daily Press in October highlighted the conservation work at Buckenham Ancient Woodland and the importance of County Wildlife Sites.

The BAWT annual general meeting was successful and included a talk on ancient woodlands and their management by Steve Collin of Norfolk Wildlife Trust.

Planned woodland works by BAWT

BAWT will begin work as prescribed by its current felling licence. This will include the reduction and veteranisation of several large sycamores in the north-west corner of the BAWT section of the woodland. This management work will be significant and very noticeable, so may attract public 'interest'. However, this work will include the planting of native trees along both the northern and southern edges.

BAWT will also begin coppicing and sycamore removal in the south-east section of its woodland.