



BAWT report for Lingwood APM April 2024

Buckenhams Wood is an ancient wood which means it has been present since 1600, and it sits in Strumpshaw but borders Lingwood Parish. It is a beautiful woodland and has significant environmental importance.

It was all in private ownership and approximately 20 years ago the east section was sold to Strumpshaw Parish Council, and then the west section was sold to another private owner a couple of years ago.

The central section (approx. 7.4 acres) was proposed for sale 2 years ago however Strumpshaw Parish Council did not wish to acquire it and suggested the formation of a local charity in conjunction with Lingwood Parish Council to do so.

Following well attended open community meetings in early 2023 a charity was formed Buckenhams Ancient Woodland Trust (BAWT) which was registered with the charity commission in June 2023. It has up to 9 trustee posts one of which represents Strumpshaw Parish Council and one Lingwood Parish Council.

Since forming a lot of work has been achieved:

Setting up a bank account, initial governance documents, a Just Giving site which has raised over £8800, an excellent website <https://www.buckenhamancientwoodland.org/> and the start of a woodland management plan for the future. An environmental survey was completed supported by funding from the Strumpshaw Trust and Yare Valley Rotary Club.

Our first fundraising event was a very successful Barn Bance in March here in the village hall – and the trustees would like to thank especially the village hall team for their support throughout the year.

Various grants have been applied for, and we have recently been awarded monies from the UK SPF Pride in Place Community Grants – part of the government levelling up agenda and Broadland District Council, which mean we will be able to proceed with the land purchase this year.

There will still be a lot of work to do however – the site had been used as a gravel pit in the 1920s and then had waste from industrial use left following this. With the current landowner's permission and support from Lingwood and Strumpshaw Air Scouts and Yare Valley Rotary Club two clean up events were held in January prior to the bluebells coming up, which removed copious bags of waste and over 100 tyres. There is still an area of waste that requires covering with sand and gravel that will need mechanical diggers to achieve, and this is being planned for the end of the bird nesting season.

As we move forwards, we now need volunteers for both woodland and non-physical support work and also people to become members of BAWT (which is free) to help us steer the future of the site.