

BUCKENHAM ANCIENT WOODLAND TRUST

England & Wales · Charity number 1203670

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2023-06-21

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address Strumpshaw Community Hall
Mill Road
Strumpshaw
Norwich
NR13 4FS

Phone 07584938311

Email info@buckenhamancientwoodland.org

Website www.buckenhamancientwoodland.org

Activities

Objects: THE OBJECTS OF THE CIO ARE TO PROMOTE THE CONSERVATION OF THE PHYSICAL AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT OF THE CENTRAL 7.4 ACRES WITHIN BUCKENHAM WOOD COUNTY WILDLIFE SITE FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT AND TO COLLABORATE WITH THE OTHER LANDOWNERS WITHIN THE COUNTY WILDLIFE SITE TO ENCOURAGE A HOLISTIC AND SUSTAINABLE APPROACH TO ENHANCE BIODIVERSITY AND MAXIMISE QUIET ENJOYMENT BY THE PUBLIC.

Activities: The Buckenham Ancient Woodland Trust has purchased the central portion of Buckenham Woods off Wood Lane, Strumpshaw. Working with the neighbouring natural areas and woodland owners, we intend to protect and manage the woodland to allow wildlife to thrive and ensuring that our local community continues to benefit from this ancient green space for many generations to come.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Norfolk

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-06-30	£54,016	£6,623	-	-
2024-06-30	£16,354	£5,638	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
ANJU TIWARI		2023-06-01
Alasdair Graeme Fraser		2023-06-21
Ashley Richard Parfitt		2023-06-21
Caroline Davison		2025-04-07
Ernest George Swifte Hoyos		2023-06-21
Ian Carl White		2023-06-21
Robert Morgan		2025-05-08
Wendy Hazel Stuart		2023-06-21

BUCKENHAM ANCIENT WOODLAND TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1203670

Accounts



Buckenham Ancient Woodland Trustees’ Annual Report July 2024 - June 2025

Background

Buckenham Ancient Woodland Trust (BAWT) became a Charitable Incorporated Organisation charity in June 2023 and is registered with the Charity Commission: Registered Charity Number 1203670.

As our constitution document states, our aims are to promote the conservation of the physical and natural environment of the central 7.4 acres within Buckenham Wood County Wildlife Site, owned by BAWT, for quiet enjoyment by the public, and working in collaboration with other local landowners to encourage a holistic and sustainable approach.

The main achievements in the past year were:

- **Holding our first AGM September 2024**
- **Purchasing the central section of woodland in October 2024**
- **Commission of a 10-year management plan and 20-year woodland strategy, plus practical works to improve infrastructure funded by a grant from Greater Norwich Growth Board March 2025**
- **Volunteer activities within the woodland including formation of a team of wood wardens, regularly checking safety issues.**
- **Consolidating the charity structure and new Trustee appointments**
- **Fundraising, including a successful Barn Dance, and financial planning**

Inaugural AGM September 2024

We held our first AGM in Strumpshaw Community Hall on 20th September 2024 with a turnout of over 40 people present. We had excellent presentations on photography, the ecology of woodlands and results from a survey in our own woodland, followed by working groups to discuss the future of the wood.

Purchase of the Woodland

This was achieved on 2nd October 2024 with funding from UK Government and Broadland District Council through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and the councils Green Infrastructure Fund. Public Liability Insurance cover was arranged and information signage installed.

Grant from Greater Norwich Growth Board (GNGB)

This was applied for in summer 2024 when the purchase was progressing and confirmed in March 2025. It has been made available through the GNGB Infrastructure Investment Fund and is for over £100,000. We wish to acknowledge Helen Sibley, Broadland District Council Green Infrastructure Officer for her continued support.

The grant has enabled us to commission and develop a 10-year management plan and a 20-year strategy written by qualified experts in the field. We have had a tree safety survey completed and some emergency tree work completed on trees at risk near the paths.

Having set up a project board, we are now in the process of planning further infrastructure work included in the agreed grant. This includes aerating and then installing a permeable surface on the northern path to protect the veteran tree roots and bluebells; tree canopy work to support the smaller veteran trees and allow more light to the woodland floor; establishing permissive access routes through the wood, installing interpretation boards, and creating a protected wildlife area. We planned feedback from members and woodland users regarding these proposals and the others advised by the management plan (including dog policy) through surveys in the woodland and an online form.

Volunteer Work

We have had several volunteer days which included building a brash wall for safety at the edge of the large pit, filling in the old well to make it safe, clearing waste and old wire fencing, and removing some invasive sycamore saplings.

One of the most successful volunteer activities is the establishment of a woodland warden's team who regularly walk around the whole wood and report back any hazards noted using an electronic form. These can then be reviewed by the trustees and acted on or noted as appropriate.

Charity structure

We have had regular monthly Trustee meetings to steer the Trust in this initial busy period which have all been well attended and have put robust governance policies in place. We have several subgroups leading on specific areas, and the comms team have continued to develop an excellent website to update both new and existing members.

www.buckenhamancientwoodland.org

In the year July 24 to July 25 there have been the following Trustee changes:

- October 24 – Mark Buckton appointed, Resigned – February 2025
- April 2025 – Caroline Davison appointed to be ratified at AGM

- May 2025 – Bob Morgan appointed to be ratified at AGM

We currently have the full complement of 9 Trustees which are listed on our website with biographies.

We have appointed a volunteer Trust Secretary, Anna Morgan, and have lead volunteer roles for Communications, IT, and Treasurer who all provide essential support to the charity.

Finances and Fundraising

Aside from the grants provided above we had a very successful second BAWT Barn Dance in March 2025 which as well as being very enjoyable raised approximately £1000, and we continue to receive other donations from local support events and Just Giving. BAWT would like to acknowledge and thank ‘Yare Folk’ for supporting the success of the barn dance again this year.

We also successfully claimed a significant refund from HMRC regarding Gift Aid donations. We have also secured income from the telecoms mast sited on our property.

We have formed a Trust Finance Committee that has met regularly, and the Trustees have agreed to set a reserve of £5000, initially to cover both contingency and continuity, as we need a period of time to assess the regular annual outgoings necessary, including public liability insurance and tree safety work. We have bought tree guards for newly self-seeded trees and have agreed purchase of equipment for volunteers to use.

The Future

We have a very busy year ahead with the GNGB-funded programme of works to be monitored and implemented by Spring 2026, and the establishment of a volunteer programme of activities to support ongoing woodland maintenance.

Buckenham Ancient Woodland Trust
Charity Commission for England and Wales, No. 1203670
Balance Sheet - Comparative
As at June 28, 2025

	28 Jun 2025	30 Jun 2024
<i>Fixed Assets</i>		
Tangible Assets	50,000	
<i>Current Assets</i>		
Cash At Bank And In Hand	8,109	10,716
<i>Creditors</i>		
Other Creditors	-51,103	
Net Assets	7,006	10,716
 <i>Funds & Reserves</i>		
Restricted Funds	25	25
Unrestricted Designated Funds	-1,822	
Unrestricted General Funds	8,803	10,691
Funds Provided	7,006	10,716

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

On accounts for the year ended



out

on

pages

remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ('the Trust') for the year ended 30/06/2025.

Responsibilities and As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation basis of report of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act

Buckenham Ancient Woodland Trust

30th June 2025

Charity
no (if
any)

1203670

2011 ("the Act").

Independent
examiner's statement

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (~~other than that disclosed below~~*) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

no accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or no the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

L. J. e

Date:

11 ZS

Name: Ms Lorna Clark

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):

F CC-A (retired)

Address:

2 Phoenix Drive
Lingwood, Norfolk
NR13 4FB

Section B [REDACTED] Disclosure

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

[Empty disclosure area]

BUCKENHAM ANCIENT WOODLAND TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1203670

Accounts



Buckenham Ancient Woodland Trustees' Annual Report July 2023- June 2024

Background

Buckenham Ancient Woodland Trust (BAWT) became a charity on 21st June 2023 and is registered with the charity commission: Registered charity number 1203670

As our constitution document states, our aims are to promote the conservation of the physical and natural environment of the central 7.4 acres within Buckenham Wood County Wildlife Site for the public benefit and to collaborate with the other landowners within the County Wildlife Site to encourage a holistic and sustainable approach to enhance biodiversity and maximise quiet enjoyment by the public.

BAWT was set up in response to the opportunity that arose for the local community to purchase the central section of the wood from its private owner. Nominated parish councillors from Strumpshaw and Lingwood Parish Councils worked together to organise a series of public consultations and meetings which enabled them to recruit appropriately skilled and experienced local people as potential trustees and volunteer officers. The group then set up a dedicated charity for purchasing and conserving the middle part of the wood. Information on our current trustees is available on BAWT's website <https://www.buckenhamancientwoodland.org/>.

We have since forming appointed a chair, vice-chair, secretary, treasurer and IT and governance leads, and nominated an auditor and solicitor. We have held monthly trustee meetings to facilitate speedy decision making and progress, and we have established separate subcommittees for developing recommendations to Trustees on specialist areas such as finance and governance.

The Trustees are committed to working with partners to conserve the wood for quiet enjoyment by the local community.

Initial Achievements

Once the charity was established, we focussed on four areas:

- **Obtaining information**
- **Fundraising**
- **Improving the site**
- **Communications**

Obtaining information

The first thing we needed to do was to commission an Environmental Survey (performed by Harrison Geotechnical Engineering), and this was kindly supported by funding from The Strumpshaw Trust and Yare Valley Rotary Club. We needed the survey for several reasons:

- to give information for the purchase;
- to support our applications for grants from other bodies; and
- to help inform future management of the wood

The report found that the site is suitable for the intended use but recommended removing areas of waste material.

Finance and Fundraising

In order to support our aims, we needed to raise funds for both the purchase and the ongoing management of the woodland. We started by using the JustGiving platform - this has raised just under £10,000 through generous donations from the public (we have of course applied for Gift Aid on these where we can).

As previously mentioned, the Strumpshaw Trust and Yare Valley Rotary Club gave us a critical early boost by donating money so we could commission the environmental survey we needed before proceeding with the purchase.

We held a very successful fundraising barn dance in March 2024 at Lingwood Village Hall, raising approximately £1500 – it was a fantastic evening of energetic dancing to amazing live music provided for free by local band YareFolk.

Significantly, we have also successfully applied for grants to enable the purchase of the land. These are part-funded by the UK Government and Broadland District Council through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, and thanks to them the purchase is now in progress.

Looking to the future, we have applied for further grants for work in the woodland once we have ownership – and I should take this opportunity to thank our trustee Michael Green and support from Helen Sibley at Broadland District Council, who have put in so much work to identify and apply for relevant grant opportunities. Their work has been critical in ensuring the future of our woodland.

Woodland work

Our third strand of work has been to start work on maintaining the woodland. The private landowner agreed that we could start this before our purchase was complete, so we arranged for local BAWT volunteers, Lingwood and Strumpshaw 1st Scout Group and Yare Valley Rotary Club to meet on 2 days last winter to clear litter and non-toxic waste - they cleared over 100 tyres and other rubbish from the site.

In addition, BAWT has cleared some small areas of historic waste needing specialised destruction, and in July 2024 the private landowner kindly arranged to cover an area of rubbish left from the area's previous commercial use with soil from the base of a quarry area.

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Communication

The marketing and IT group have established an excellent website and started a presence on social media with regular newsletters to members.

We have held multiple engagement events such as attending Village Fairs in Lingwood and Postwick with our stall, as well as at the barn dance; and erecting a new sign in the woodland (with the current owner's permission) to explain our purpose and how to get involved. In the bluebell season, trustees and volunteers spent a day in the wood chatting to visitors about BAWT's work. These events have increased our charity membership considerably with current membership of just over 100.

A local photography company (Phil Barnes Photography) has filmed and produced several drone videos of the woodland showing the changing habitat throughout the seasons and these are available to see via the website

A note for the future

Although this Annual Report is principally aimed at looking back at the preceding year, it is appropriate to note that at the AGM we are sadly losing Hans (Charles Watson) as a trustee but he will stay on with us as a volunteer to advise on environmental aspects of our work. We are therefore looking to recruit one or two new trustees who would like to make a difference to the future of the wood. Please do talk to one of the Trustees if you would like to know more about our role.

We would also like to hear from a member who would be interested in the Trust Secretary role going forwards.

Charity's principal address	Address: Strumpshaw Community Hall Mill Road Strumpshaw Norwich NR13 4FS Phone: 07584938311 Email: info@buckenhamancientwoodland.org Website: www.buckenhamancientwoodland.org
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Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)

--	--

Full name(s)

--	--

Position (eg
Secretary, Chair, etc)

--	--

Date

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Buckenham Ancient Woodland Trust

Statement of Financial Activities (Receipts & Payments)

July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	Total
<i>Receipts</i>				
Income and Endowments	10,754.43	5,600.00		16,354.43
Total Receipts	10,754.43	5,600.00	0.00	16,354.43
<i>Payments</i>				
Expenditure		5,575.20		5,575.20
Total Payments	0.00	5,575.20	0.00	5,575.20
<i>Other Recognised Gains/(Losses)</i>				
Accounting software	-31.08			-31.08
Hall hire	-32.00			-32.00
All Receipts	10,754.43	5,600.00	0.00	16,354.43
All Payments	0.00	5,575.20	0.00	5,575.20
Net Movement in Funds	10,691.35	24.80	0.00	10,716.15
Total Funds Brought Forward	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Funds Carried Forward	10,691.35	24.80	0.00	10,716.15