

Proposal for discussion

New Wood project - Bloor Estate

03/03/2026

The Proposal

Cambridgeshire is one of England's least wooded counties with a total woodland cover of around 3.6%.

The parish of Buckden has only two small areas of woodland, one in The Towers and one near the Village Hall in the "Valley".

This proposal is to create a third woodland on an area of open land within the Bloor Estate.

The site

The Bloor estate has two areas of recreational open space; one has a large pond and grassland in the northeast corner while the main area runs along the southern and western edges of the estate butting up to Stirtloe Lane and the A1. It is within this area that it is proposed that a new woodland be planted.

This expanse has areas of mowed grassland for recreational uses [nearer the housing]] while the remainder is left wilder, planted with the odd tree and the edges onto the roads planted with several rows of saplings. It is in the southwest corner of this zone that seems a good site for a wood to be planted. This is highlighted on the attached map by some amateurish stripes!

The plan

In a brief discussion with George Allen, arboriculturist at HDC, he suggested that the area may need 3,000 whips and that HDC would be willing to supply them. These would be a mixture of native deciduous species such as Oak, Field Maple, Hawthorn, Hazel, Rowan and Silver Birch. Monitoring what species thrive in the existing planting could affect the final selection.

Because of the number of trees to be individually planted, it is recommended that the planting be spread over two or three seasons. If the proposal is accepted planting could start in Autumn 2026

The Buckden Biodiversity Group would help with the planting and maintenance of the plot, but it is hoped that the residents of the estate would be involved from the start, offering opportunities for developing community and inclusivity, while eventually take ownership of the site.

This is a long-term project, a new wood in the village; it will take several years before a wood is apparent but then it would be there for 100 years or more.

The benefits

There are many benefits to planting trees:

Environmental – They capture Co2 and other pollutants, especially relevant being next to the A1

Increased Biodiversity – Providing food, shelter and breeding sites for numerous species

Educational -Opportunities for the children of the village to get involved. To gain practical skills, observe and learn about wildlife.

Health & Well-being – Green spaces with trees enhance mental health, reduce stress and boost immunity.