

This is a statement on the case currently in the High Court, not on the management of the woodland.

This case has brought by Lisa Otter-Barry and Chris Humphries as themselves – and as representatives of 6 other persons (Freda Ferne, David Gosling, Jane Watson, Stephen Dawson, Jeremy Wire and Nigel Tarrant) – against Bradford on Avon Town Council.

Bradford on Avon Town Council is the defendant in the case.

The claimants instigated the case, and the case can only end:

- if the claimants decide to end it by withdrawing their claim
- if the claimants come to an agreement to settle with the defendant (the council)
- or by a judgement at the trial.

A 4-day trial is set to commence on 30th April 2024.

The injunction obtained by the claimants remains.

The town council is working with the claimants (through their respective legal advisors) to appoint joint experts to advise upon a management plan for Becky Addy Wood which will lift the injunction.

There was a pre-trial review on 30 January 2024.

- ahead of the pre-trial review, the claimants requested that their claim be amended to account for new arguments around the creation of a trust. The town council did not oppose this application and the claimants were given permission by the court to amend their claim
- the town council made an application requiring the claimants to provide their disclosure in a manner which is consistent with the Civil Procedure Rules. The claimants' opposed our application but the court agreed with the council. The town council has now received the updated disclosure as ordered by the court
- the claimants were required to pay £11,500 costs to the council as a result of the council's successful application. This has now been paid.

The town council continues efforts to reach a settlement in the dispute the claimants have with the town council.