



## Epping Forest & Commons Committee

**Date:** MONDAY, 8 SEPTEMBER 2014  
**Time:** 10.30 am  
**Venue:** COMMITTEE ROOM - 2ND FLOOR WEST WING, GUILDHALL

**Members:** Alderman Gordon Haines (Chairman)  
George Abrahams (Deputy Chairman)  
Deputy Stanley Ginsburg  
Deputy John Barker  
Alderman Jeffrey Evans  
Deputy Catherine McGuinness  
Barbara Newman  
Virginia Rounding  
Ian Seaton  
Sylvia Moys  
Deputy Alex Deane (Ex-Officio Member)  
Alderman Ian Luder (Ex-Officio Member)

*For consideration of Business Relating to Epping Forest Only*

Verderer Peter Adams  
Verderer Michael Chapman DL  
Verderer Richard Morris  
Verderer Dr. Joanna Thomas

**Enquiries:** Natasha Dogra  
Natasha.Dogra@cityoflondon.gov.uk

Lunch will be served in the Guildhall Club at the rising of the Committee

**John Barradell**  
Town Clerk and Chief Executive

# AGENDA

## Agenda

### Part 1 - Public Agenda

1. **APOLOGIES**

2. **MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

3. **MINUTES**

To agree the public minutes of the previous meeting.

**For Decision**  
(Pages 1 - 16)

### Epping Forest

4. **SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE**

The Superintendent of Epping Forest to be heard.

**For Information**

5. **EPPING FOREST TRUSTEE'S ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2014**

Report of the Chamberlain.

**For Information**  
(Pages 17 - 46)

6. **DEER MANAGEMENT OF THE SOUTH WEST ESSEX DEER HERD ON THE BUFFER LANDS AND EPPING FOREST.**

Report of the Superintendent.

**For Decision**  
(Pages 47 - 54)

7. **EPPING FOREST HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT POLICY**

Report of the Superintendent.

**For Decision**  
(Pages 55 - 66)

### Burnham Beeches, Stoke Common & City Commons

8. **SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE**

The Superintendent of Burnham Beeches, Stoke Common and City Commons to be heard.

**For Information**

**9. BURNHAM BEECHES AND STOKE COMMON TRUSTEE'S ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2014**

Report of the Superintendent.

**For Information**  
(Pages 67 - 92)

**10. CITY COMMONS TRUSTEE'S ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2014**

Report of the Chamberlain.

**For Information**  
(Pages 93 - 140)

**11. INTRODUCTION OF DOG CONTROL ORDERS AT BURNHAM BEECHES**

Report of the Superintendent.

**For Decision**  
(Pages 141 - 426)

**12. QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**

**13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT**

**Part 2 - Non-Public Agenda**

**14. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

MOTION: That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act.

**For Decision**

**15. NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**

To agree the non-public minutes of the previous meeting.

**For Decision**  
(Pages 427 - 430)

**16. HIGHAMS PARK LAKE - GATEWAY 5 APPROVAL REPORT**

Joint Report of the Director of the Built Environment and Director of Open Spaces.

**For Information**  
(Pages 431 - 442)

**17. GRANT OF LICENCE TO LONDON BOROUGH OF NEWHAM FOR A PUBLIC FIREWORKS DISPLAY**

Report of the Superintendent.

**For Decision**  
(Pages 443 - 450)

**18. LAND AVAILABLE FOR ACQUISITION AT EPPING FOREST**

Report of the Superintendent.

**For Decision**  
(Pages 451 - 462)

**19. WANSTEAD PARK REQUEST**

Report of the Superintendent.

**For Decision**  
(Pages 463 - 470)

**20. HIGH BEACH REFRESHMENT SITE**

Report to follow.

**For Information**

**21. NON PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**

**22. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE COMMITTEE AGREE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED**

**Part 3 - Members Only**

**23. REVIEW OF THE OPERATIONAL USE OF THE EPPING FOREST RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION AND THE CALL-OUT ROTA**

Report of the Director of Open Spaces (report circulated separately)

**For Decision**

**EPPING FOREST & COMMONS COMMITTEE**  
**Monday, 7 July 2014**

Minutes of the meeting of the Epping Forest & Commons Committee held at  
Committee Room - 2nd Floor West Wing, Guildhall on Monday, 7 July 2014 at 10.00  
am

**Present**

**Members:**

Alderman Gordon Haines (Chairman)  
Deputy Stanley Ginsburg  
George Abrahams (Deputy Chairman)  
Deputy John Barker  
Alderman Jeffrey Evans  
Deputy Catherine McGuinness  
Barbara Newman  
Virginia Rounding  
Ian Seaton  
Verderer Peter Adams  
Verderer Michael Chapman DL  
Verderer Richard Morris  
Verderer Dr. Joanna Thomas  
Sylvia Moys  
Alderman Ian Luder

**Officers:**

Natasha Dogra	Town Clerk's Department
Sue Ireland	Director of Open Spaces
Paul Thomson	Superintendent, Epping Forest
Andy Barnard	Superintendent, Burnham Beeches, Stoke Common & City Commons
Alison Elam	Group Accountant, Chamberlain's Department
Sue Rigley	Land Agency Officer, Epping Forest
Allan Cameron	Head Ranger, City Commons
Roger Adams	Senior Principal Surveyor, City Surveyor's Department
Andrew Buckingham	Public Relations Office

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies had been received from Deputy Alex Deane.

2. **MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT IN  
RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

There were no declarations of interest.

3. **MINUTES**

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as an accurate record.

**Matters Arising:**

The Director informed Members that the Epping Forest team had worked with colleagues in the Public Relations Office and banners had been positioned at the roadside and on a roundabout along the Tour De France route

In relation to the membership of the Epping Forest Management Plan Steering Group, the Town Clerk clarified that Verderer Richard Morris had been elected to serve on the steering group.

4. **SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE**

The Committee received the following update from the Superintendent of Epping Forest:

**Staff Changes**

A gardener, litter picker & maintenance worker had retired in the past two months. The Branching Out Project Manager had also left to join Royal Parks, 5 months before the project closure. An interim Senior Forest Centres Officer and Branching Out Project Manager had been appointed. North London Open Spaces were providing a senior manager to temporarily cover the role of Head Keeper and recruitment for the role of Head of Visitor Services was continuing.

**Dry Weather**

Both May and June were a 1 degree Celsius warmer than the last 20 year average. While May saw average rainfall, June had seen rainfall amounting to half the monthly average leading to very dry conditions across the forest.

**Fire Severity Index**

In response to the very warm and dry weather the Fire Severity Index as measured by the Meteorological Office had ventured into 4 (very high), on a scale of 1 to 5, much earlier in the year than normal.

**Ladies Day**

The weather was kind for Ladies Day, where 60 guests enjoyed walks on Fairmead Plain and The Warren. In a very welcome break with tradition the Lord Mayor attended the pre-lunch estate walk to observe progress with the grazing scheme.

**Football Season**

The Football season ended on the 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> May. 1,808 games were played between September and May generating £66,500 in income. A further 28 school sports days and 12 summer football matches and a summer soccer school were also held. Unusually 6 weekends were cancelled due to poor weather in January and February and the Superintendent's delegated powers were used to extend play for 3 weekends to 10/11<sup>th</sup> May.

**The FA Chairman's England Commission Report**

The FA Chairman's 84 page report had been published with a focus on increasing the levels of England Football talent. A key finding hidden away in the report showed that England lagged behind other countries in the quantity and quality of affordable grassroots facilities. A further report on new funding models for grassroots football was to be delivered in the Autumn.

### **Chingford Golf Course**

The number of rounds played in 2013/14 were up 1,657 or 8% from 20,497 to 22,154. The Sky Sports Golf Survey indicated that 70% of clubs reported a continuing fall in membership.

### **Rough Sleepers**

Forest Keepers were continuing to clear Rough Sleeper encampments. Figures were yet to be confirmed but the rate on increase compared to last year's caseload appeared to be slowing. According to CHAIN 6,508 people slept rough at some point in London during 2013/14, an increase of 15% on the previous year's total of 6,437 and a 64% increase on 2010.

The Autumn 2013 total of street counts and estimate in London was 543. This was a decrease of 3% from the 2012 figure of 557, which was an increase of 25% from the 2011 figure of 446. London accounted for 22% of the total England figure compared to 24% in 2012 and 20% in 2011.

### **Fly tipping**

Following the overall 24.8% fall in incidents across 2013, the first two months of 2014 have seen 105 fly tips up 21% on 87 for the same period last year.

### **Prosecutions**

3 cases of disfiguring the Forest were successfully prosecuted at Colchester Magistrates Court.

### **Advertising Encroachment at Woodford Green**

The City had commenced legal action to remove an advertising hoarding that was previously on London Borough of Redbridge allotment land but had been re-erected on Forest Land at Woodford Green.

### **Paws in the Park – 8<sup>th</sup> June**

Forest Keepers held a well-attended Dog Show event at The Temple, with Local Authority partners; vets; dog training clubs and the Kennel Club to share messages about responsible dog ownership and Dog Control Orders.

### **Fawn Tagging**

A further third year of tagging was completed in partnership with the Deer InitiativeWhere 7 fawns were successfully tagged.

### **High Beach Visitor Centre**

Visitor Numbers for first three months of operation by the Friends of Epping Forest totalled 4,355 visits (April 1,368, May 1,825 June 1,162). Volunteers provided 673 hours of volunteer time.

### **Evening Craft events at The View**

The mosaic making courses had sold out and proved to be a very popular event.

### **Wanstead Park Hydrology Study**

Final study had been presented by consultants JJB. The study found that The Basin was losing water due to springs at the edge of the Boyn Hill Gravels; the Shoulder of Mutton was largely a sealed system but sewers had reduced the effectiveness of surface water collection; Heronry Pond was leaking at a rate 13 litres/second making it the most problematic lake. Perch Pond was struggling to maintain a positive balance and Ornamental Pond was probably beyond intervention due to its construction in porous alluvium. A full report will be made to Committee in the Autumn.

### **Highams Park Lake**

Balfour Beatty had submitted project cost estimates on dam strengthening, but work has not commenced in June as scheduled. Desilting options for 5,000 M3 of the 14,000 M3 of silt were being considered including extraction from the north or south of the lake.

### **Grazing**

Redpolls were now out on Fairmead, Whitehouse and Almshouse Plains following grazing on the Buffer Land. Further cattle would follow once new collars had been supplied by Lacme and the invisible fencing was installed.

### **8<sup>th</sup> Symposium on the Conservation of Saproxylic (Woodloving) Beetle Fauna – Basel**

The Head of Conservation presented a scientific research paper at the conference. The paper outlining the success of the Forest's wood pasture restoration work had been well received.

### **Grassland Invertebrate Monitoring**

Epping Forest hosted Imperial College MSc students studying grassland invertebrate ecology for the 8<sup>th</sup> year.

### **Windsor Forest – Cooperation with Crown Estates**

The Head of Conservation met with the Superintendent of Windsor Park and the Chief Forester of Windsor Forest to consider ways of working together on wood pasture restoration and conservation grazing.

### **Proposed Development – Forest Lodge, Wake Arms**

As discussed on the recent Saturday visit an application for 19 new homes on the former play facility and stables had been submitted to the District Council.

### **Common Agricultural Policy - New Greening rules**

Staff were considering new guidance on Ecological Focus Areas.

### **Kew Gardens – Shed Limb Death**



The long awaited inquest that had been adjourned to study Kew's tree safety policies and pruning history of the tree in question. The Coroner had ruled accidental death and would not be producing a Prevention of Future Deaths Report.

### **The State of UK Public Parks**

Major report on The Condition of Parks published by Heritage Lottery Fund. The report showed that while 34million people visit parks, making them one of the most used of public services. 86% of parks were reporting cuts to revenue budgets since 2010, with 45% of Local authorities considering selling parks or transferring management to others. 77% of parks had lost staff since 2010.

### **Volunteer Hours**

Volunteers had helped replace revetment around Knighton Pond over tasks in April and May. Volunteers provided 1,470 hours of time between December and January.

### **Tour de France – 7<sup>th</sup> July**

The Head Keeper had been attending key meetings with race organisers and local authorities regarding the management of the events when it passed through Epping Forest. The Epping New Road would be closed on race day between 09.00 hours and 17.00 hours.

In response to a query from a Member regarding a sign illegally situated in Woodford, Officers explained that it had not been removed yet as it was a sizeable and costly task which Officers wanted to ensure would be paid for by the culprits.

The Committee thanked the Superintendent and his team for their hard work.

## **5. REVENUE OUTTURN 2013/14 - EPPING FOREST**

The Committee considered the joint report of the Chamberlain and Director of Open Spaces which compared the revenue outturn for the services overseen by the Committee in 2013/14 with the final agreed budget for the year. Members noted that in total, there was a worse than budget position of £398,000 for the services overseen by the Committee compared with the final agreed budget for the year. The better than budget position of £1,000 for Local Risk had been aggregated with the local risk variations on services overseen by other committees. The City Surveyor's overspend of £357,000 was due to re-phasing of the additional works programme and meeting historical claims for breakdown maintenance.

Officers informed Members that the 2013/14 latest approved budget for the services was received in November 2013 was £4,255m. This budget was endorsed by the Court of Common Council in March 2014 and subsequently updated for approved adjustments.

Members noted that the actual net expenditure for the Committee's services during 2013/14 totalled £4.665m, an overspend of £398,000 compared with the final agreed budget.

In response to a query from Members, Officers clarified that the Epping Forest logo now included the tagline “registered charity”. The webpage content was being expanded to include information about the registered charity status of Epping Forest.

**6. UPDATE ON THE EPPING FOREST VISITOR SURVEY**

The Committee considered the report of the Superintendent of Epping Forest which informed Members that the Questionnaire Survey provided the opportunity for visitors to express their opinions of Epping Forest and how it was managed. It was available at the Forest Centres, online and through face to face interviews conducted by the Visitor Services section, Forest Keeper section and volunteers.

Members noted that the total number of visits to 24 of the geographically distinct sites could now be calculated using data from 2010 - 2013. The results helped Officers estimate figures for the remaining six sites not yet surveyed. Other recorded statistics, such as visitor centre statistics and football pitch bookings, were included to develop a more accurate picture of the actual number of visits to Epping

Forest. The estimated total number of visits to Epping Forest in 2013 based on data from 2010-2013 was 4.4 million per annum. A more accurate picture would only be available at the end of 2014 when all of the 30 sites had been surveyed.

In response to a query from Members, Officers said the total volunteer time for the whole project was in excess of 400 hours in 2013. This included collecting and inputting the data from both the Observation Survey (384hrs) and the Questionnaire Survey (48hrs).

Members discussed the possibility of undertaking the visitor survey exercise at earlier and later times of the day to ensure the results recorded the use of Forest by all its visitors.

Members agreed that the use of the Temple by the public should be encouraged. Officers assured Members that action plans using the results of each survey and encouraging public use of the Temple would be included in the Community Engagement Officer’s action plan.

**7. EPPING FOREST PLANNING CASEWORK - 2013/14**

The Committee considered the report of the Superintendent of Epping Forest and Members noted that land surrounding Epping Forest continued to be subject to intense development pressure. Officers informed Members that in order to protect the context and setting of Epping Forest and its overall environmental condition, the Conservators continued to object to planning applications which are considered to pose significant threats to the Forest environment, and to lobby LPAs for the full representation of Forest interests as they revise their Local Plans.

Members noted that some 91 planning applications had been considered on the Committee's behalf. Objections were made to 28 applications. From these applications 28% were refused or withdrawn, 32% were granted permission, four applications remained undecided and the remaining three applications were for pre-application advice. The 28% refused or withdrawn level compares with national statistics for 2012/2013 which show a 13% refusal rate.

Discussions ensued regarding the relationship between City Corporation and Epping Forest District Council colleagues. In response to a query, Officers clarified that although colleagues from Epping Forest District Council were invited to Ladies Day many were unable to attend following a major restructure after the Chief Planning Officer's retirement. Officers informed Members that initiatives were underway to inaugurate a local Liaison group to include colleagues from Epping Forest District Council.

Members agreed that following the recent elections in neighbouring London Boroughs, Officers should seek to build relationships with the relevant Cabinet Members and Leaders of the Councils. The Superintendent informed Members that he had already written to the new Leader of the London Borough of Redbridge. It was noted that the Chairman of Policy and Resources Committee regularly met with the Leaders.

**8. WHIPPS CROSS ROUNDABOUT HIGHWAY DEDICATION SCHEME**

The Committee considered the report of the Superintendent of Epping Forest which informed Members that the Whipps Cross Roundabout was a major element of the A104/A114 highway infrastructure on Forest Land.

Members noted the large scale changes proposed by the current Highway Authority responsible for the dedicated land, the London Borough of Waltham Forest (LBWF). LBWF had been successful in securing a major grant award totalling £30 Million from the Mayor of London which involved the construction of a cycle "Super Highway" along the Lea Bridge Road (A104) and the redesign of the Whipps Cross Roundabout with protected cycleways and priority traffic lights on Forest Land.

Members were informed that the current proposals were contained within the existing land dedicated to Highway so the influence that the City of London may be to bring to bear on the project will be limited.

In response to a query from Members regarding the potential for conflict between different road users, Officers clarified that the Mini-Holland Scheme was designed to give cyclists and walkers greater priority over motorised vehicles and sufficient design detail would be put in place to manage this process. The final design will be subject to further discussion, including compensatory tree planting and a licenced contractor's depot. A more detailed would be submitted to the Committee for consideration at a later date.

**9. ANNUAL REPORT OF LICENCES ISSUED 1 APRIL 2013 TO 31 MARCH 2014**

The Committee considered the report of the Superintendent of Epping Forest. Members noted that there had been 227 licences issued for various events, activities and temporary use of Forest Land which together have raised a total of £66,235. The most popular licenses were Filming (73) 32%; Community Events (32) 14% and Fitness Events (27) 12%. A further 485 horse riding licences, including annual, weekly and replacement licences, were also issued raising a total of £17,092.00.

Members noted that the filming charges report is considered by the Open Spaces Committee. The number of students filming in the Forest who pay a nominal charge has brought down the overall average in relation to the number of licences issues.

In response to a query raised by a Member, Officers clarified that the annual Donkey Derby was a very popular event and an important local fundraiser. Members agreed that the licence should continue to be issued to the event and should include permission for organised gambling activities, which while prohibited under the byelaws are traditionally central to the event.

**10. VOLUNTEERING IN EPPING FOREST 2013/14**

The Committee considered the report of the Superintendent of Epping Forest and Members were informed of the progress with the implementation of the Epping Forest Volunteer Strategy, which was adopted on 8 March 2010.

A total of 21,186 hours of volunteer activity were donated during financial year 2013/2014, which includes 10,884 hours from volunteers managed by the City of London; 5,595 hours by the Epping Forest Centenary Trust and 4,707 hours by the Epping Forest Conservation Volunteers. This represents a 2.56% decrease in total volunteer hours on 2012/13, however this overall figure masked a 20% increase in City of London volunteers, whilst other partners had planned reductions. Members noted that at the end of March 2014, 227 people were volunteering for Epping Forest. A further 311 people have participated in mass volunteering days. 26 new volunteers were recruited during the year.

Members were informed that the annual Volunteer Party in February 2014 staged at Butler's Retreat was a great celebration. The Chairman awarded the following medals: Nine Gold (600 hours), seven Silver (300 hours) and seven Bronze medals (150 hours); £14,317 was spent on volunteer materials, equipment, travel and expenses in 2013/14, excluding training course fees. City of London volunteers contributed time equivalent to more than six full time staff and provide vital match funding for the Heritage Lottery funded Branching Out Project.

The Committee thanked the volunteers for all of their hard work and continued support.

**11. ANNUAL REPORT OF FLY TIPPING AND WASTE DISPOSAL 1 APRIL 2013 TO 31 MARCH 2014**

The Committee considered the report of the Superintendent of Epping Forest and Members were informed of the quantity of litter and rubbish removed from

Epping Forest in the year 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014. There had been 666 fly tips recorded on Forest land which vary from a single black sack of house waste to lorry loads of builders waste; it also includes fly tips of hazardous waste such as asbestos and tyres.

Members noted that over 325 tonnes of waste had been removed from the Forest comprising of over 160 tonnes taken to London waste, over 100 tonnes of general waste disposed of in skips, over 50 tonnes of mixed recycling and 4.6 tonnes of tyres. The total cost of removing waste from Epping Forest in this reporting year was £212,213.58 made up of £36,156.06 for general waste, £5,066.26 for recycling, £8,602.88 for hazardous waste and £162,388.38 in staff costs.

The Superintendent informed Members that new sentencing guidance had been issued on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2014 which increased the fine up to £3million for companies and £95,000 for individuals caught fly tipping hazardous waste. He confirmed that compensation costs and fees were sought following a prosecution.

Members agreed that the reward scheme offering rewards to anyone who reported a successful prosecution relating to fly tipping must be widely advertised to encourage members of the public to report the crime.

Members noted that a covert camera set up to catch fly tippers had recently itself been stolen. The Superintendent said that given the precarious nature of its deployment it was not able to insure the camera. Officers were now investigating different designs of covert cameras including the possibility of hiding their large battery packs in a more discreet manner. Members noted that although CCTV was available in the forest, often it was very time-consuming to search through footage to identify potential vehicles. Much of the fly tipping activity took place at night around the 52 car parks in the forest which were often located down roads where CCTV monitoring was extremely limited.

Officers informed Members that fly tipping was a national problem and cooperation with the CLBA's national campaign was continuing. Members agreed that it should be made clear to the public that money spent clearing up the waste could be spent on delivering the Charity's objectives by providing more services for member of the public to enjoy.

#### **12. EPPING FOREST FOOTBALL CHARGES 2014/15**

The Committee considered the report of the Superintendent of Epping Forest and Members noted the charges for the sport facilities that are provided at Epping Forest. The proposal was to increase the charge by 2.5% (3.5% for adults and 2.5% for juniors) and to hold the Sunday published tariff charges at current levels. The City had held Sunday prices for the past 5 years, while it had increased Saturday prices by 10% for the past 2 years. The Sunday price differential was now considered to be in balance. After 5 years of holding Sunday prices during the recession a moderate increase of 2.5%, which represented the current retail price index is considered proportionate.

In response to a query from Members, it was clarified that the Wanstead Flats Playing Fields Committee strongly supported the pricing differential that kept junior and youth football as affordable as possible.

**RESOLVED: That Members:**

- Approved that the proposed charges for sports facilities in Epping Forest for 2014/15
- Approved that the Superintendent retained delegated powers to discount or waive charges for trial periods in order to develop both new pitch configurations and offpeak and out-of-season use, and to help target underrepresented groups identified in the Sports Development Plan.
- Approved that the Superintendent retained delegated powers to revise the current sport charges terms and conditions and retain the deposit arrangement for clubs “block booking” pitches in advance that was introduced four years ago.

**13. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE**

The Committee received the following update from the Superintendent of Burnham Beeches, Stoke Common and City Commons, and noted the following:

**Staffing**

- The Head Ranger of West Wickham Commons had retired. A new post of ‘Support Services Manager’ was created as a direct replacement. This would bring cohesiveness to the administration of the division and allow the remaining three Head Rangers to concentrate on their staff and sites. The post should be filled by October 2014.
- Recruitment of an Information Ranger at City Commons was imminent with interviews being held in July for the 18 month contract. This role would ensure a closer focus was given to this aspect our work and the successful candidate would work closely with the Burnham Beeches team.

**Visits**

- The Lord Mayor visited Burnham Beeches for the annual pollard visit on 9<sup>th</sup> June. The visit appeared to be very successful and widely appreciated.
- The Committee had visited Spring Park and Stoke Common, and Consultative Committee site visits were also underway this month.

**Dog Control Orders**

- The Statutory Consultation Period for the Dog Control Orders at Burnham Beeches would draw to a close on 14<sup>th</sup> July. The Kennel Club had an active national campaign regarding the orders.
- Most respondents so far were dog walker’s and comments were largely based around the publicised Kennel Club briefing.
- Local Support from Farnham Parish Council, District Council, Consultative Group and local’s contributing to the survey. There was

active lobbying of Member's, local politicians and various groups to not support the orders.

#### Heritage Lottery Fund

- Kenley Airfield Heritage Lottery Project was progressing well.
- A concrete conservation workshop was hosted at the Merlewood Estate Office and expert attendees attended from Heritage Lottery Fund, English Heritage, Friends of Kenley Airfield and other interested parties. The group considered how best to conserve the built infrastructure such as the blast pens and fuel station.
- This work would inform the Conservation Plan and final bid for phase 2 funding.

#### Conservation Grazing

- A fourth invisible fence loop was installed at Burnham Beeches.
- Two new cows had been purchased for Burnham Beeches.
- Planning permission had been applied for to extend the grazing on Coulsdon Common at The Grove.
- Hay making had also commenced and the sheep had recently been sheared. A novice was introduced to the sheep shearing process in the form of new employee.

#### Oak Processionary Moth

- Spring Park was within the 2KM zone for monitoring and had been inspected and even with an extensive visual search, no caterpillars had been found.
- A precautionary check at West Wickham would also take place although it within the 5km outer zone.

#### Work Experience

- During June work experience opportunities were being delivered across the division and proved to be a great opportunity to give young people a taste for environmental work.
- Riddlesdown Collegiate continued to regularly participate in volunteering tasks.

#### Volunteers

- Over 1000 hours had been contributed during this last period.
- A charcoal making task on Kenley had produced over 140 bags of charcoal.
- The Pond clean up at Spring Park had taken place and a Greater Crested Newt survey at Ashted Common had been undertaken.

#### Events

- The programme of events for young people continued to take place, promoting the connection between conservation grazing and wildlife.

In response to a query from Members, Officers clarified that Oak Processionary Moth inspections were undertaken from ground level using binoculars.

The Committee thanked the Superintendent for all of his work in relation to Dog Control Orders. Members agreed that the Superintendent had dedicated a great deal of time and effort to this work, and his patience and tenacity were an asset to the work of the Committee.

**14. REVENUE OUTTURN 2013/14 - BURNHAM BEECHES, STOKE COMMON & CITY COMMONS**

The Committee considered the joint report of the Chamberlain and Director of Open Spaces and Members noted that in total, there was a better than budget position of £161,000 for the services overseen by the Committee compared with the final agreed budget for the year. The better than budget position of £69,000 for Local Risk had been aggregated with the City Surveyor's better than budget position £46,000, with additional works programme underspends being available to spend in subsequent years.

Members noted that it was proposed to carry forward £217,000 of this underspend. These requests would be considered by the Chamberlain in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Resource Allocation Sub Committee. Underspends in The City Surveyor's Additional Works Programme would be available to spend in subsequent years of the scheme.

**15. QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**

There were no questions.

**16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT**

There was one item of other business that the Chairman considered urgent in relation to a petition that had been received by the City of London Corporation.

The Director informed Members that she had received on behalf of the Chairman a petition addressed to this Committee from a delegation representing the 'Save the Tea Hut' Campaign. The petition based on [www.change.org](http://www.change.org) started on 17<sup>th</sup> June and had secured 7,493 signatories by the time it was presented at Irish Chambers on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2014. This was a lower figure than the claimed 8,002 signatories. The Director informed Members that it was important to make Members aware that the online petition now stood at 8,367 signatories.

Members noted that the petition was addressed to the 'City of London Corporation, the Open Spaces Committee and the Superintendent of Epping Forest and read as follows:

*'On this day, the 27<sup>th</sup> June in the year of 2014. We the people petition the above to leave the "Bikers" tea hut in High Beach Epping Forest alone. Do not put it out to tender and recognise this place as part of local history and to start listening to the people that use the forest'.*



*At 6.30 am of this day the current total of “we the people” stands at 8,002 and rising. We are comprised on many local residents to High Beech, Motorcyclists, Horse Riders, Cyclists, walkers and general users of this unique business. Unique by the nature of its historical presence in Epping Forest, its service provided and as a focus for the community that uses this as its central hub.*

*For the many views and evidence of the community and its support I urge you to view the social media page “save the tea hut” and to view the website [savetheteahut.com](http://savetheteahut.com) as well as attached comments to the petition signed on [change.org](http://change.org)’.*

Staff at Epping Forest analysed the data which revealed that some 33% of signatories were immediately local to Epping Forest and 20% were local to Greater London and Essex. Some 26% of all signatories added a comment. By postcode 610 or 25% were from immediate neighbours and 213 or 24% were from outer neighbouring postcode areas. The overwhelming majority of the comments, 32%, were in relation to the importance of the heritage of the tea hut. A further 16% were in relation to the community aspect of the tea hut as a place to meet and socialise. Some 14% focused on the family tradition of visiting the Forest and the tea hut, while another 10% expressed concern about the construction of a new café, especially by a High Street “chain”.

The Chairman invited the Superintendent of Epping Forest to address Members. He informed the Committee that the licence for this tea hut was first provided by the City of London in 1931, 83 years ago. The current steel hut which replaced the original wooden hut was installed 17 years ago in 1997 and was relocated as part of the car park expansion project in 2009.

Members noted that the market testing of this facility which was licensed until 31st December 2014, was discussed by the Committee during the visit of 8th May and in Non-Public Session on 10th May 2014. The Non-Public session was selected to protect the business details of the licensee. On consideration of the performance of the existing licence, the Committee determined to market test the commercial letting at Hill Wood.

The current licensee was informed of the Committee’s decision on 12<sup>th</sup> June. In response to the news, a Social Media ‘Facebook’ page was created by the newly formed ‘Save the Tea Hut’ campaign. The site currently has 7,572 ‘Likes’. On this matter, the City of London has received 28 emails, one letter, 3 Freedom of Information Requests and a formal complaint.

Members were informed that the local Member of Parliament Deputy Speaker Eleanor Laing had spoken in support of the tendering process but has asked the City of London to ensure that the strength of feeling of the local community are properly reflected in any selection process.

On the matter of the tender, the Committee were informed that adverts were placed in the weekly Epping Forest Guardian for 2 weeks on the 19<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>

June, weekly Caterer and Hotel Keeper on the 27<sup>th</sup> June and DaltonsBusiness.com for one month from 20<sup>th</sup> June. Sealed tender responses addressed to the Superintendent were expected at the Warren on or by 18<sup>th</sup> July. Bids were welcomed from the current licensee, along with any other interested parties. Tender opening would be witnessed in line with Financial Regulations and the tenders would be assessed by a team of staff for a range of criteria including quality; presentation; value and potential income. Officers stated that a central part of any successful tender would be an effective business plan which would demonstrate how improvements in quality, value, presentation and rental would be achieved. Customer loyalty and market development would be an integral part of any interested party's business plan, which would need to reflect on how the needs of the existing and very loyal clientele will be properly met and sustained.

The Chairman invited questions from Committee Members. One Member asked if the Superintendent could advise on recent street trading licence applications made to the District Council for the High Beach Area. The Superintendent informed Members that two applications had been made to the District Council by the current licensee for a Street Trading on Fairmead Road, close to the site of the current hut, and Manor Road at the Pillow Mounds car park. The joint application was on hold while issues of location were confirmed with the applicant.

A Member asked whether the hygiene levels and waste disposal methods exercised by the current licensee were a cause for concern. The Superintendent said the current licensee had received a 2 star rating under the National Food Hygiene Safety Rating Scheme, which indicated that improvement was needed. Other tea huts in the surrounding area had a higher rating. The treatment of waste had been brought to the attention of the current licensee on a number of occasions. Members agreed that the City Corporation had a duty to act in the public interest and should look to license businesses with a 3 star minimum hygiene rating.

Members noted that whilst it would be desirable for the operator of the tea hut to provide toilet facilities for the public, it was not a requirement. It was however, a requirement that a toilet was available for the operator and tea hut staff to use.

Members agreed that there was a high interest in this matter and it was imperative that accurate information be disseminated to the public. The Chairman agreed and said that Committee Members would recognise from their visits to Epping Forest that the existing facility at Hill Wood was a very popular venue for a range of Forest Visitors including motor cyclists; walkers; horse riders, mountain bikers and cyclists.

The Superintendent informed Members that the petition included a very clear request to recognise the interests of bikers using the Hill Wood facility. It was suggested that the Hill Wood Bikers, provided that they could demonstrate a sufficiently mandated individual, should be added to the Epping Forest Statement of Community Involvement which was approved by the Committee in

2012. Members welcomed this idea and agreed that a representative of the group should be included.

The Director informed Members that the City was committed to seeing all its commercial lettings continuing to improve both in terms of quality and the range of services provided. Given the very real reduction in contributions from City's Cash over the past 3 years, the requirement for the City to find another £20 million of savings in the next 3 years and the responsibilities of managing the charitable trust; there was also an equally real necessity for all tenants, and ultimately their customers, to help support the City's major investment in the Forest, which it had made for the past 136 years.

The Chairman concluded the discussion stating that Members would have read the often passionate contributions to the Facebook page, the 2,002 comments on the petition and numerous discussions strands on the dedicated website. While it was disappointing that the Superintendent and his family had been subject to some unpleasant comment, the majority of the comments focused on what was perceived to be the timeless nature of the facility; the camaraderie of the tea hut community and the continuity of the Miller family's involvement. Members agreed that they must allow the tender assessment to be properly and professionally made and that the balance of assessment parameters would allow the sentiments being expressed to be reflected in the aggregate scoring.

**17. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

**MOTION** - That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act

**18. NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as an accurate record.

**19. EPPING FOREST CAR PARKING - POLICY AND STRATEGY**

The Committee considered the report of the Superintendent of Epping Forest

**20. RENT REVIEW 2013**

The Committee considered the report of the Superintendent of Epping Forest

**21. NON PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**

There were no questions.

**22. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE COMMITTEE AGREE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED**

There was no urgent business.

**The meeting ended at 11.55 am**

-----  
Chairman

**Contact Officer: Natasha Dogra**  
**Natasha.Dogra@cityoflondon.gov.uk**

Committee(s):	Date(s):
Epping Forest and Commons	8 September 2014
Subject: Epping Forest Trustee's Annual report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2014	Public
Report of: The Chamberlain	For Information
<p><b><u>Summary</u></b></p> <p>The Trustee's Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2014 for Epping Forest are presented in the format required by the Charity Commission.</p> <p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is recommended that the Trustee's Annual Report and Financial Statements be noted.</li> </ul>	

## **Main Report**

1. The Trustee's Annual Report and Financial Statements, in the format that is required by the Charity Commission, are presented for information. The draft accounts were circulated to your Chairman and Deputy Chairman. Subsequently the accounts have been signed on behalf of the Trust by the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Finance Committee and have been audited.
2. Following the review of the charities for which the City is responsible a report to your Committee on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2010 detailed key reports that should be presented to your Committee in future. The Trustee's Annual Report and Financial Statements was one of these reports. Information from these statements will form the Annual return to the Charity Commission.
3. Much of the information contained within the Annual Report and Financial Statements has already been presented to your Committee via budget and outturn reports.

**Contact:**

*Alison Elam | [alison.elam@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:alison.elam@cityoflondon.gov.uk) | 020 7332 1081*

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***EPPING FOREST***  
***REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS***  
***FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2014***

**Charity Number: 232990**

# EPPING FOREST

## Trustee's Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2014

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# **EPPING FOREST**

## **Trustee's Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2014**

### **1. Reference and Administration Details**

Charity Name:	Epping Forest
Registered Charity Number:	232990
Principal Address:	Guildhall, London EC2P 2EJ
Trustee:	The Mayor, Commonalty and Citizens of the City of London
Chief Executive:	The Town Clerk of the City of London Corporation
Treasurer:	The Chamberlain of London
Solicitor:	The Comptroller and City Solicitor
Banker:	Lloyds TSB Bank plc City Office, PO Box 72 Bailey Drive Gillingham, Kent ME8 OLS
Auditor:	Moore Stephens LLP 150 Aldersgate Street London EC1A 4AB

### **2. Structure, Governance and Management**

#### **The governing document**

The governing documents are the Epping Forest Acts 1878 and 1880 as amended. The charity is constituted as a charitable trust.

#### **Trustee Selection methods**

The Mayor, Commonalty and Citizens of London known as the City of London Corporation is the Trustee of Epping Forest. Elected Aldermen and Members of the City of London Corporation are appointed to the committee, together with four Verderers - locally elected by Epping Forest Commoners - governing Epping Forest for the Court of Common Council of the City of London Corporation.

#### **Policies and procedures for the appointment, induction and training of Trustee**

The City of London Corporation makes available to its Members seminars and briefings on various aspects of the City's activities, including those concerning Epping Forest, as it considers necessary to enable the Members to efficiently carry out their duties.

## **EPPING FOREST**

### **Trustee's Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2014**

#### **2. Structure, Governance and Management (continued)**

##### **Organisational structure and decision making process**

The committee governing the charity's activities is noted above. The committee is ultimately responsible to the Court of Common Council of the City of London. The decision making processes of the Court of Common Council are set out in the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations governing all the Court of Common Council's activities.

The Standing Orders and Financial Regulations are available from the Town Clerk at the registered address.

##### **Details of related parties and wider networks**

Details of any related party transactions are disclosed in Note 16 of the notes to the Financial Statements.

##### **Risk identification**

The Trustee is committed to a programme of risk management as an element of its strategy to preserve the charity's assets, enhance productivity for service users and members of the public and protect the employees.

In order to embed sound practice a Risk Management Group has been established in the City of London Corporation to ensure that risk management policies are applied, that there is an ongoing review of risk management activity and that appropriate advice and support is provided to Members and officers.

The City of London Corporation has approved a strategic risk register for all of its activities. This register helps to formalise existing processes and procedures and enables the City of London Corporation to further embed risk management throughout the organisation.

A key risk register has been prepared for this charity which has been reviewed by the committee acting on behalf of the Trustee. It identifies the potential impact of key risks and the measures which are in place to mitigate such risks.

#### **3. Objectives and Activities for the Public Benefit**

The Trustee has due regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance when setting objectives and planning activities.

The purpose of the charity is the preservation of Epping Forest in perpetuity by the City of London Corporation as the Conservators of Epping Forest, as an Open Space for the recreation and enjoyment of the public. The Open Space consists of the lands known as Epping Forest including Wanstead Park and Highams Park in Essex. Various buffer lands have been acquired by the City Corporation around the edges of Epping Forest.

This charity is operated as part of the City of London Corporation's City's Cash. The City of London Corporation is committed to fund the ongoing net operational costs of the charity in accordance with the purpose which is the preservation of Epping Forest in perpetuity by the City of London Corporation as the Conservators of Epping Forest, as an Open Space for the recreation and enjoyment of the public.

## EPPING FOREST

### Trustee's Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2014

#### 4. Achievements and Performance

##### Key Targets for 2013/14 and review of achievement

The key targets for 2013/14 together with their outcomes were:

- **Management Plan – Pre-consultation document** – Complete consultation during Summer 2013 and publish report. *Unfortunately delayed and will be completed in 2014.*
- **Management Plan - Development** – Continue to develop topic areas with external reviews of learning and education, children's play, car park provision and wayleave management. *Unfortunately delayed and will be completed in 2014.*
- **Golf Course Review** – Implement Recovery Plan and tender contract management arrangements. *Review underway with all major stakeholders being consulted.*
- **Epping Forest Branching Out project** – Complete easy access trail at Jubilee Pond and complete development of gateway concept for key strategic entrances to the Forest. *Easy Access trail completed. Gateway concept at final draft stage.*
- **Forest Transport Strategy** – Develop plans for 5 safe crossing points in new 40mph zones, including a crossing for Rangers Road. *Crossing point locations noted and to be reviewed but dependant on future funding. Weight limit restrictions review being conducted to ensure new limits across all minor Forest roads to prevent HGVs and larger goods vehicles entering the Forest road system.*
- **Grazing Strategy Implementation** – Install Boviguard™ barrierless technology; fencing; cattle grids and bypass gates. Secure planning permission for overwintering facility and complete construction. *Contractor appointed to lay the Boviguard cable. ECC (Highways) completed 4 cattle grids with extra work done to provide easier access in by-passes following horse-rider feedback. Planning permission secured in September 2013 and all pre-start conditions satisfied by Nov 2013. Site clearance contractor appointed Jan 2014 and main Construction contractor appointed Mar 2014.*
- **Gifford Wood Appeal** – Support fundraising events including Lord Mayors Tree Party; secure Woodland Grant Funding and plant new wood alongside new memorial structure. *Fundraising events held and new woodland planted in winter 2013/14 through public and educational planting events. Commemorative Lych Gate at main entrance installed and awaiting final inscription.*
- **Highams Park** – Undertake dam strengthening feasibility study; secure necessary consents and Planning Permission; complete and consult on Conservation Management Plan. *Plans for dam strengthening, retaining existing Scout Hut submitted for Planning Permission to local Authority. Conservation Management Plan in draft.*
- **Jubilee Pond** – Complete pond lining; landscaping and implement volunteer-led planting scheme. *Successfully completed to timescale and budget.*
- **Forest Standard** – Further trial designs for a range of elements will be tested over 2013. *All elements tested with some adopted as standards already. Remainder to be rolled out as required.*
- **Land Registration Project – Phase 2** - Continue land registration process seeking approvals through dedicated Land Registration Working Party. *Main land registration work complete – just residual issues raised by registration process to resolve.*
- **Wanstead Park** - Tender and manage the lake cascade hydrological study. Build on English Heritage's Strategic Assessment to secure funding for a Conservation Management Plan. *Hydrological study complete.*

All of the above achievements enhanced the Open Space for the benefit of the public.

# **EPPING FOREST**

## **Trustee's Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2014**

### **5. Financial Review**

#### **Review of financial position**

Investment income of £6,617 (2012/13 £15,803) was earned during the year. Other income received included £9,197 from donations (2012/13 £13,077), £1,391,238 from grants (2012/13 £1,629,921), £645,842 from sales, fees and charges (2012/13 £465,032) and £338,259 from rents (2012/13 £264,236). The contribution towards the running costs of the charity amounted to £4,822,716 (2012/13 £4,622,644). This cost was met by the City of London Corporation's City's Cash.

Additions to land and capital expenditure on buildings are included in the financial statements as fixed assets at historic cost, less provision for depreciation and any impairment, where this cost can be reliably measured.

#### **Reserves Policy**

The charity is wholly supported by the City of London Corporation which is committed to maintain and preserve Epping Forest out of its City's Cash Funds. These Funds are used to meet the deficit on running expenses on a year by year basis. Consequently, this charity has no free reserves and a reserves policy is therefore inappropriate.

The charity has designated a number of unrestricted funds the details of which are set out in Note 14 to the financial statements.

#### **Investment Policy**

The charity's investments are held in units of the City of London Charities Pool. The investment policy of the Charities Pool is to provide a real increase in annual income in the long term whilst preserving the value of the capital base. The annual report and financial statements of the Charities Pool are available from the Chamberlain of London.

The majority of the surplus funds are invested with the Charities Pool administered by the City of London Corporation and the interest is received from the Chamberlain of London on balances held on behalf of the Trust. The increase in the market value of the investments held in the Charities Pool reflects the general recovery in the UK and overseas stock markets, together with some relative outperformance achieved by the Fund Manager which was mainly due to favourable asset allocation within the portfolio. The investments are managed by Artemis Investment Management LLP and in the year ended 31 December 2013 achieved a total return of 24.2%, which was a relative outperformance of 6.9% compared to its benchmark, the WM Unconstrained Charity Universe.

#### **Going Concern**

The Trustee considers the Trust to be a going concern. Please see Note 1(b) to the Financial Statements.

# EPPING FOREST

## Trustee's Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2014

### 6. Plans for Future Periods

The targets for 2014/15 and beyond are:

- **Forest Transport Strategy** - New section of surfaced ride to be constructed to allow alternative route for horse-riders around cattle grid at Forest Side.
- **Grazing Strategy** – out-wintering facility to be completed before October 2014. Additional wooden fencing and gates to be completed at 2 extra sites to allow grazing to be extended to south and west of main grazing area. Grazing by conservation herd to be expanded to allow free-range extensive and naturalistic grazing of the wood-pasture habitats, including at least 3 sites that have not been grazed for many decades.
- **Land Registration** – definitive boundary map to be prepared on GIS database in the next year. Also completing final phase of the work looking at fewer than 20 difficult cases and outstanding highways dedication issues.
- **Highams Park** – Planning permission to be secured and work to be completed on strengthening dam. Conservation Management Plan to be approved and adopted.
- **Management Plan** – Pre consultation document – full consultation to be carried out through Summer 2014 and report published.
- **Management Plan - Development** – Continue to develop topic areas with external reviews of learning and education, children's play, car park provision and wayleave management. This will set a series of goals for short, medium and long term.
- **Wanstead Park** - Build on English Heritage's Strategic Assessment to secure funding for a Conservation Management Plan.

### 7. The Financial Statements

The financial statements consist of the following and include comparative figures for the previous year.

- **Statement of Financial Activities** showing all resources available and all expenditure incurred and reconciling all changes in the funds of the charity.
- **Balance Sheet** setting out the assets and liabilities of the charity.
- **Cash Flow Statement** showing the cash inflows and outflows of the charity for the year.
- **Notes to the Financial Statements** describing the accounting policies adopted and explaining information contained in the financial statements.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with statutory requirements and the Statement of Recommended Practice *Accounting and Reporting by Charities (Revised 2005)*.

**EPPING FOREST**  
**Trustee's Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2014**

**8. Statement of Trustee's Responsibilities**

The Trustee is responsible for preparing the Trustee's Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the Trustee to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustee is required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The Trustee is responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enables the Trustee to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the charity's governing documents. The Trustee is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

**9. Adopted and signed for on behalf of the Trustee on 23 July 2014.**

R.A.H. Chadwick  
Chairman of Finance Committee  
Guildhall, London

J.P. Mayhew  
Deputy Chairman of  
Finance Committee  
Guildhall, London

## **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEE OF EPPING FOREST**

We have audited the financial statements of Epping Forest for the year ended 31 March 2014 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and the related notes 1 to 16. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 8 of the Charities Act 2011 and regulations made under section 154 of that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and its trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

### **Respective responsibilities of trustees and auditor**

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement set out on page 7, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view.

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with regulations made under section 154 of that Act. Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's (APB's) Ethical Standards for Auditors.

### **Scope of the audit of the financial statements**

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of: whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the charity's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the trustees; and the overall presentation of the financial statements. In addition, we read all the financial and non-financial information in the Trustee's Annual Report to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements and to identify any information that is apparently materially incorrect based on, or materially inconsistent with, the knowledge acquired by us in the course of performing the audit. If we become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies we consider the implications for our report.

### **Opinion on financial statements**

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 March 2014, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEE OF EPPING FOREST CHARITY (CONTINUED)**

**Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Charities Act 2011 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the Trustees' Annual Report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Moore Stephens LLP

Statutory Auditor

Moore Stephens LLP is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

150 Aldersgate Street  
London  
EC1A 4AB



## EPHING FOREST

### Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2014

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds			2013/14 £	2012/13 £
		General Fund	Designated Funds	Restricted Fund		
		£	£	£		
<b>Incoming resources</b>						
Incoming resources from generated funds						
Voluntary income		368,938	666,052	365,445	<b>1,400,435</b>	1,642,998
Investment income		6,617	-	-	<b>6,617</b>	15,803
Grant from City of London Corporation		4,701,220	121,496	-	<b>4,822,716</b>	4,622,644
Incoming resources from charitable activities		984,101	-	-	<b>984,101</b>	729,268
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	4	<b>6,060,876</b>	<b>787,548</b>	<b>365,445</b>	<b>7,213,869</b>	<b>7,010,713</b>
<b>Resources expended</b>						
Charitable activities		5,756,623	364,619	381,147	<b>6,502,389</b>	6,056,082
Governance costs		409,256	-	-	<b>409,256</b>	392,511
<b>Total resources expended</b>	5	<b>6,165,879</b>	<b>364,619</b>	<b>381,147</b>	<b>6,911,645</b>	<b>6,448,593</b>
<b>Net (outgoing)/incoming resources before transfers</b>		(105,003)	422,929	(15,702)	<b>302,224</b>	562,120
Transfer (from)/to designated funds		105,003	(105,003)	-	-	-
<b>Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before other recognised gains</b>		-	317,926	(15,702)	<b>302,224</b>	562,120
<b>Other recognised gains</b>						
Net gain on investment assets	10	-	637	-	<b>637</b>	1,081
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		-	318,563	(15,702)	<b>302,861</b>	563,201
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>						
Total funds brought forward	14	-	6,442,187	29,035	<b>6,471,222</b>	5,908,021
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	14	-	<b>6,760,750</b>	<b>13,333</b>	<b>6,774,083</b>	6,471,222

All operations are continuing.

# EPPING FOREST

## Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2014

	Notes	2014	2013
		£	£
<b>Fixed Assets</b>			
Heritage Assets	8	386,597	387,558
Tangible Fixed Assets	9	5,493,488	5,030,954
Investments - 1,202 Charities Pool Units	10	9,327	8,690
		<u>5,889,412</u>	<u>5,427,202</u>
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Stocks		26,247	32,769
Debtors	11	442,202	371,034
Cash at bank and in hand		826,163	1,171,671
		<u>1,294,612</u>	<u>1,575,474</u>
<b>Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year</b>	12	<u>(367,191)</u>	<u>(488,704)</u>
<b>Net Current Assets</b>		<u>927,421</u>	<u>1,086,770</u>
<b>Total Assets less Current Liabilities</b>		<b>6,816,833</b>	6,513,972
<b>Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year</b>	13	<u>(42,750)</u>	<u>(42,750)</u>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<u><u>6,774,083</u></u>	<u><u>6,471,222</u></u>
<b>The funds of the charity</b>			
<i>Unrestricted income funds</i>			
Designated Funds	14	6,760,750	6,442,187
Restricted Funds	14	13,333	29,035
<b>Total charity funds</b>		<u><u>6,774,083</u></u>	<u><u>6,471,222</u></u>

Approved and signed for and on behalf of the Trustee

The notes at pages 13 to 26 form part of these accounts.

---

Dr Peter Kane  
Chamberlain of London  
23<sup>rd</sup> July 2014

## EPPING FOREST

### Cash Flow Statement for the year ended 31 March 2014

	Notes	2013/14	2012/13
		£	£
Net cash inflow from operating activities	1	435,526	662,056
Returns on investments and servicing of finance	2	6,617	15,803
Capital expenditure		<u>(787,651)</u>	<u>(814,418)</u>
<b>Increase/(decrease) in cash in the year</b>		<b><u>(345,508)</u></b>	<b><u>(136,559)</u></b>

#### Notes to the Cash Flow Statement

##### **Note 1: Reconciliation of net incoming resources to net cash inflow from operating activities**

	£	£
Net incoming resources before other recognised gains	302,224	562,120
Depreciation	326,078	142,650
Investment income	(6,617)	(15,803)
Decrease/(increase) in stocks	6,522	(406)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(93,636)	(215,580)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(121,513)	199,586
(Decrease)/increase in long term creditors	-	(19,500)
Provisions	22,468	8,989
<b>Net cash inflow from operating activities</b>	<b><u>435,526</u></b>	<b><u>662,056</u></b>

##### **Note 2: Returns on investments and servicing of finance**

Investment income received	<u>6,617</u>	<u>15,803</u>
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##### **Note 3: Analysis of changes in net funds**

	1 April 2013	Cash Flow	1 April 2014
	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	1,171,671	(345,508)	826,163
<b>Change in net funds</b>	<b><u>1,171,671</u></b>	<b><u>(345,508)</u></b>	<b><u>826,163</u></b>

##### **Note 4: Reconciliation of net cash flow to movement in net funds**

	2014	2013
	£	£
Increase/(decrease) in cash in the year	(345,508)	(136,559)
Net funds balance brought forward	<u>1,171,671</u>	<u>1,308,230</u>
<b>Net funds balance carried forward</b>	<b><u>826,163</u></b>	<b><u>1,171,671</u></b>

# EPPING FOREST

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2014

### 1. Accounting Policies

The following accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the charity's financial statements.

#### *(a) Basis of Preparation*

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and Statement of Recommended Practice *Accounting and Reporting by Charities (Revised 2005)* and under the historical cost accounting rules (except for investments recorded at valuation), and in accordance with applicable United Kingdom accounting standards.

Activity is accounted for in the year that it takes place on an accruals basis, not simply when cash payments are made or received. In particular, where revenue and expenditure have been recognised but cash has not been received or paid, a debtor or creditor for the relevant amount is recorded in the Balance Sheet. Where debts may not be settled, the balance of debtors is written down and a charge made to revenue for the income that might not be collected.

#### *(b) Going Concern*

The governing documents place an obligation on the City of London Corporation to preserve the open spaces for the benefit of the public. The City of London Corporation is committed to fulfilling this obligation which is reflected through its proactive management of, and ongoing funding for, the services and activities required. The funding is provided from the City of London Corporation's City's Cash, which annually receives considerable income from its managed funds and property investments. Each year a medium term financial forecast is updated for City's Cash. The latest forecast for the period to 2017/18, anticipates that adequate funds will be available to enable the Trust to continue to fulfil its obligations. On this basis, the Trustee considers the Trust to be a going concern for the foreseeable future.

#### *(c) Fixed Assets*

##### *Heritage Land and Associated Buildings*

Epping Forest comprises 2,476 hectares (6,118 acres) of land stretching 12 miles from Manor Park in East London to just north of Epping in Essex, together with associated buildings. The objectives of the charity are the preservation of Epping Forest for the recreation and enjoyment of the public. Epping Forest is considered to be inalienable (i.e. may not be disposed of without specific statutory powers).

Land and the original associated buildings are considered to be heritage assets. In respect of the original land and buildings, cost or valuation amounts are not included in these accounts as reliable cost information is not available and a significant cost would be involved in the reconstruction of past accounting records, or in the valuation, which would be onerous compared to the benefit to the users of these accounts.

Additions to the original land and capital expenditure on buildings and other assets are included as fixed assets at historic cost, less provision for depreciation and any impairment, where this cost can be reliably measured.

**EPPING FOREST**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2014**

**1. Accounting Policies (continued)**

**(c) Fixed Assets (continued)**

***Tangible Fixed Assets***

These are included at historic cost less depreciation on a straight line basis to write off their costs over their estimated useful lives and less any provision for impairment. Land is not depreciated and other fixed assets are depreciated from the year following that of their acquisition. Typical asset lives are as follows:

	Years
Operational buildings	30 to 50
Landscaping/Conservation	up to 50
Improvements and refurbishments to buildings	up to 30
Equipment	5 to 10
Infrastructure	20
Heavy vehicles and plant	7

**(d) Recognition**

Expenditure on the acquisition, creation or enhancement of property, plant and equipment is capitalised provided that the expenditure is material (generally in excess of £50,000) and the asset yields benefits to the City of London, and the services it provides, for a period of more than one year. This excludes expenditure on routine repairs and maintenance of fixed assets which is charged directly within service costs.

**(e) Investments**

Investments are pooled with those from other small City of London charities. Underlying Listed Company investments are valued at The Stock Exchange Trading System price at 31 March 2014. Other investments are valued annually at the middle market price at the close of business on 31 March 2014. Gains and losses for the year on investments held as fixed assets are included in the Statement of Financial Activities.

The unrealised gain on investments at the balance sheet date is included in the Trust's funds. The net gain on investments shown in the Statement of Financial Activities represents the difference in the market value of investments between 1 April 2013 and 31 March 2014.

**(f) Incoming Resources**

***Recognition of incoming resources***

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities gross without deduction of expenses in the financial year in which they are entitled to be received.

***Voluntary income***

Voluntary income comprises public donations and government grants.

***Volunteers***

No amounts are included in the Statement of Financial Activities for services donated by volunteers, as this cannot be quantified.

## **EPPING FOREST**

### **Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2014**

#### **1. Accounting Policies (continued)**

##### ***(f) Incoming Resources (continued)***

###### ***Grants received***

Grants are included in the Statement of Financial Activities in the financial year in which they are entitled to be received.

###### ***Grant from City of London Corporation***

The City of London Corporation's City's Cash meets the deficit on running expenses of the charity and also provides grant funding for certain capital works.

###### ***Rental income***

Rental income is included in the Charity's incoming resources for the year and amounts due but not received at the year end are included in debtors.

##### ***(g) Resources Expended***

###### ***Allocation of costs between different activities***

The City of London Corporation charges staff costs to the charitable activity and governance costs on a time spent basis. Associated office accommodation is charged out proportionately to the square footage used. All other costs are charged to the charitable activity.

##### ***(h) Stocks***

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

##### ***(i) Pension Costs***

The City of London's Pension Scheme is a funded defined benefits scheme. City of London Corporation staff are eligible for membership of the pension scheme and may be employed in relation to the activities of any of the City Corporation's three main funds, or any combination of them (i.e. City Fund, City's Cash and Bridge House Estates). As the charity is unable to identify its share of the Pension Scheme assets and liabilities, this scheme is accounted for as a defined contribution scheme in the accounts.

##### ***(j) Fund Accounting***

The Trust may, at the Trustee's discretion, set aside funds, which would otherwise form part of general funds, for particular purposes. These funds are known as designated funds. The purposes of these funds are described in Note 14 to the accounts. Restricted funds are those received by Epping Forest to be used only for the purpose set out in the conditions of the grant. The purposes of these funds are described in Note 14 to the accounts.

##### ***(k) Governance Costs***

The nature of costs allocated to Governance is detailed in Note 6.

#### **2. Tax Status of the Charity**

Epping Forest is a registered charity and as such, its income and gains are exempt from income tax to the extent that they are applied to its charitable objectives.

## EPPING FOREST

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2014

#### 3. Indemnity Insurance

The City of London Corporation takes out indemnity insurance in respect of all of its activities. The charity does not contribute to the cost of that insurance.

#### 4. Incoming Resources

Incoming resources are comprised as follows:

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	2013/14	2012/13
	General Fund	Designated Funds			
	£	£			
<b>Incoming resources from generated funds</b>					
Voluntary income - Grants	359,741	666,052	365,445	<b>1,391,238</b>	1,629,921
Voluntary income - Donations	9,197	-	-	<b>9,197</b>	13,077
Investment income - Interest	6,617	-	-	<b>6,617</b>	15,803
	375,555	666,052	365,445	<b>1,407,052</b>	1,658,801
Revenue and capital grants from City of London Corporation	4,701,220	121,496	-	<b>4,822,716</b>	4,622,644
	5,076,775	787,548	365,445	<b>6,229,768</b>	6,281,445
<b>Incoming resources from charitable activities</b>					
Charges for use of facilities	581,548	-	-	<b>581,548</b>	406,162
Sales	64,294	-	-	<b>64,294</b>	58,870
Rental income	338,259	-	-	<b>338,259</b>	264,236
	984,101	-	-	<b>984,101</b>	729,268
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	6,060,876	787,548	365,445	<b>7,213,869</b>	7,010,713

#### Grants

Grants were received from the Rural Payments Agency, the Forestry Commission, the Environment Agency, the Heritage Lottery Fund, Natural England, the Football Foundation, Creative and Cultural Industries Ltd and the City Bridge Trust.

#### Sales

This income is generated from the sale of leaflets, books, maps, cards and other publications relating to Epping Forest.

## EPPING FOREST

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2014

#### 4. Incoming Resources (continued)

##### Designated Funds

Designated funds consist of a capital contribution of £653,691 from the Heritage lottery Fund towards the Epping Forest Branching Out Project and a contribution of £12,361 from Essex County Council.

##### Restricted Fund

Grant from the City Bride trust of £365,445 to provide educational and biodiversity services to support communities within the Greater London area.

##### Grant from City's Cash

The City of London Corporation's City's Cash meets the deficit on the running expenses of the charity.

##### Charges for the use of facilities

Fees and charges are made to the public for the use of facilities, admissions and services.

#### 5. Resources Expended

Resources expended are analysed between activities undertaken directly and support costs as follows:

	Activities undertaken directly £	Support costs £	2013/14 £	2012/13 £
Charitable activity Preservation and operation of Epping Forest	5,894,452	607,937	<b>6,502,389</b>	6,056,082
Governance costs	-	409,256	<b>409,256</b>	392,511
<b>Total resources expended</b>	5,894,452	1,017,193	<b>6,911,645</b>	6,448,593

No resources are expended by third parties to undertake charitable work on behalf of the charity.

##### Charitable activity

Expenditure on the charitable activity includes labour, premises costs, equipment, materials and other supplies and services incurred as the running costs of Epping Forest.

##### Governance costs

###### General

Governance costs relate to the general running of the charity, rather than specific activities within the charity and include strategic planning and costs associated with Trustee meetings. These costs are borne by the City of London Corporation and charged to individual charities on the basis of time spent, as part of support costs, where appropriate.



## EPPING FOREST

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2014

#### 5. Resources Expended (continued)

##### *Auditor's remuneration and fees for external financial services*

Moore Stephens are the auditors of the City of London City's Cash. The City of London Corporation does not attempt to apportion the audit fee between all the different charities but prefers to treat it as part of the cost to its private funds. No other external financial services were provided for the Trust during the year or in the previous year.

##### *Trustee's expenses*

Members of the City of London Corporation are unpaid and do not receive allowances in respect of the City of London Corporation activities in the City. However, Members may claim travelling expenses in respect of activities outside the City and receive allowances in accordance with a scale when attending a conference or activity on behalf of the City of London Corporation. No expenses were claimed in 2013/14 (2012/13: £Nil).

#### 6. Support Costs

The cost of administration which includes the salaries and associated costs of officers of the City of London Corporation, together with premises and office expenses, is allocated by the City of London Corporation to the activities under its control, including this charity, on the basis of employee time spent on the respective services. These expenses include the cost of administrative and technical staff and external consultants who work on a number of the City of London Corporation's activities.

Support costs allocated by the City of London Corporation to the charitable activity are derived as follows:

	Charitable activities £	Governance £	2013/14 £	2012/13 £
<b>Department</b>				
Chamberlain	-	124,524	<b>124,524</b>	108,267
Comptroller & City Solicitor	-	68,672	<b>68,672</b>	69,961
Open Spaces Directorate	169,149	-	<b>169,149</b>	149,597
Town Clerk	-	108,596	<b>108,596</b>	111,545
City Surveyor	273,751	86,775	<b>360,526</b>	303,378
Information Systems	95,023	-	<b>95,023</b>	75,978
Other governance and support costs	70,014	20,689	<b>90,703</b>	95,226
<b>Total support costs</b>	<b>607,937</b>	<b>409,256</b>	<b>1,017,193</b>	<b>913,952</b>

## EPPING FOREST

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2014

#### 6. Support Costs (continued)

The main support services provided by the City of London Corporation are:

<b>Chamberlain</b>	Accounting services, insurance, revenue collection, payments, financial systems and internal audit.
<b>Comptroller and City Solicitor</b>	Property, litigation, contracts, public law and administration of commercial rents and City of London Corporation records.
<b>Open Spaces Directorate</b>	Expenditure incurred by the Directorate, which is recharged to all Open Spaces Committees under the control of the Director of Open Spaces. The apportionments are calculated on the basis of budget resources available to each Open Space charity.
<b>Town Clerk</b>	Committee administration, management services, human resources, public relations, printing and stationery, emergency planning.
<b>City Surveyor</b>	Work undertaken on the management of the Estate properties, surveying services and advice, supervising and administering repairs and maintenance.
<b>Information Systems</b>	The support and operation of the City of London Corporation's central and corporate systems on the basis of usage of the systems; the provision of "desktop" and network support services and small IS development projects that might be required by the charity.
<b>Other support and governance costs</b>	Contribution towards various costs including publishing the annual report and financial statements, central training, the occupational health, union costs and the environmental and sustainability section.

#### 7. Staff Numbers and Costs

The full time equivalent number of staff employed by the City of London Corporation charged to Epping Forest in 2013/14 is 92 (2012/13 92) at a cost of £2,748,204 (2012/13 £2,745,021). The table below sets out the employment costs and the number of full time equivalent staff charged directly to the charity.

	No of employees	Gross Pay £	Employers' National Insurance £	Employers' Pension Contribution £	Total £
2013/14 Charitable activities	92	2,230,941	154,846	362,417	<b>2,748,204</b>
2012/13 Charitable activities	92	2,233,835	155,948	355,238	<b>2,745,021</b>

No employees earned more than £60,000 per annum (2012/13 £Nil).

**EPPING FOREST**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2014**

**8. Heritage Assets**

At 31 March 2014 the net book value of heritage assets relating to direct charitable purposes amounts to £386,597 (31 March 2013 £387,558) as set out below.

	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
	£	£	£	£
<b><u>Cost</u></b>				
At 1 April	-	-	115,600	388,382
Additions	-	115,600	272,782	-
<b>At 31 March</b>	-	<b>115,600</b>	<b>388,382</b>	<b>388,382</b>
<b><u>Depreciation</u></b>				
At 1 April	-	-	-	824
Charge for year	-	-	824	961
<b>At 31 March</b>	-	-	<b>824</b>	<b>1,785</b>
<b><u>Net book value</u></b>				
<b>At 31 March</b>	-	<b>115,600</b>	<b>387,558</b>	<b>386,597</b>
At 31 March	-	-	115,600	387,558

Since 1878 the primary purpose of the Charity has been the preservation of Epping Forest for the recreation and enjoyment of the public. As set out in accounting policy 1(c), the original heritage land and buildings are not recognised in the Financial Statements.

Policies for the preservation and management of Epping Forest are contained in the Epping Forest Conservation Management Plan 2010. Records of heritage assets owned and maintained by Epping Forest are held by the Director of Open Spaces.

Additions made to heritage land or buildings, where relevant information is available, are included at historic cost less accumulated depreciation in accordance with Note 1 (c).

**EPPING FOREST**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2014**

**9. Tangible Fixed Assets**

At 31 March 2014 the net book value of tangible fixed assets relating to direct charitable purposes amounts to £5,493,488 (31 March 2013 £5,030,954) as set out below.

	Land and Buildings £	Infrastructure £	Vehicles £	Equipment £	Total £
<b><u>Cost</u></b>					
At 1 April 2013	3,597,283	1,624,963	21,609	318,409	<b>5,562,264</b>
Additions	49,246	728,405	-	10,000	<b>787,651</b>
<b>At 31 March 2014</b>	<b>3,646,529</b>	<b>2,353,368</b>	<b>21,609</b>	<b>328,409</b>	<b>6,349,915</b>
<b><u>Depreciation</u></b>					
At 1 April 2013	123,943	207,367	12,153	187,847	<b>531,310</b>
Charge for year	191,202	80,362	4,728	48,825	<b>325,117</b>
<b>At 31 March 2014</b>	<b>315,145</b>	<b>287,729</b>	<b>16,881</b>	<b>236,672</b>	<b>856,427</b>
<b><u>Net book value</u></b>					
<b>At 31 March 2014</b>	<b>3,331,384</b>	<b>2,065,639</b>	<b>4,728</b>	<b>91,737</b>	<b>5,493,488</b>
At 31 March 2013	3,473,340	1,417,596	9,456	130,562	<b>5,030,954</b>

**10. Fixed Asset Investments**

The investments are held in the City of London Corporation Charities Pool as a registered UK charity with the Charities Commission (charity number 1021138) and are used internally by the City of London Corporation as a Unit trust.

The value of investments held by the charity is as follows:

	Designated Fund £	2014 £	2013 £
Market Value 1 April	8,690	<b>8,690</b>	7,609
Gain for the year	637	<b>637</b>	1,081
<b>Market Value 31 March</b>	<b>9,327</b>	<b>9,327</b>	8,690
<b>Cost 31 March</b>	<b>1,202</b>	<b>1,202</b>	1,202

The increase in the market value of the investments held in the Charities Pool reflects the general recovery in the UK and overseas stock markets, together with some relative outperformance achieved by the Fund Manager which was mainly due to favourable asset allocation within the portfolio.

The Charities Pool is a UK registered unit trust.

**EPPING FOREST**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2014**

**10. Fixed Asset Investments (continued)**

The geographical spread of listed investments at 31 March was as follows:

	<b>2014</b>	2013
	£	£
Equities		
UK	<b>6,939</b>	6,778
Overseas	<b>1,791</b>	1,364
Bonds - UK	<b>261</b>	313
Pooled Units - UK	<b>121</b>	87
Cash held by Fund Manager	<b>215</b>	148
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>9,327</b>	8,690

**11. Debtors**

Debtors consist of amounts owing to the charity due within one year. The debtors figure consists of the following amounts:

	<b>2014</b>	2013
	£	£
Rental Debtors	<b>54,003</b>	25,909
Other Debtors	<b>263,507</b>	263,509
Payments in Advance	<b>30,352</b>	29,269
Recoverable VAT	<b>94,340</b>	52,347
<b>Total</b>	<b>442,202</b>	371,034

**12. Creditors: due within one year**

The creditors figure consists of the following amounts:

	<b>2014</b>	2013
	£	£
Trade Creditors	<b>73,308</b>	91,876
Accruals	<b>266,079</b>	516,557
Other Creditors	<b>(43,391)</b>	(180,630)
Receipts In Advance	<b>71,195</b>	60,901
<b>Total</b>	<b>367,191</b>	488,704

## EPPING FOREST

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2014

#### 13. Creditors: due after more than one year

These consist of rent deposits held on behalf of the tenants. These deposits are refundable upon either the expiry of the term of the lease, or vacant possession of the premises.

	2014 £	2013 £
Sundry Deposits	42,750	42,750
<b>Total</b>	<b>42,750</b>	<b>42,750</b>

#### 14. Movement of funds during the year to 31 March 2014

	Balance at 1 April 2013 £	Net incoming/ (outgoing) resources £	Revaluation of investments £	Balance at 31 March 2014 £
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>				
<i>General Funds</i>	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
<i>Designated Funds</i>				
Tangible Fixed Assets	5,030,954	462,534	-	5,493,488
Heritage Assets	387,558	(961)	-	386,597
Capital Fund	538,804	-	-	538,804
Sports Ground Deposit	3,257	-	229	3,486
Golf Course Machinery Fund (CGC)	27,716	-	-	27,716
E.N. Buxton Knighton Wood	5,402	-	395	5,797
G.Gardner Bequest	170	-	13	183
Heritage Lottery Fund Match Funding	193,851	(112,823)	-	81,028
Green Arc Funding	37,269	(12,439)	-	24,830
Grazing Account	21,206	7,615	-	28,821
Fisheries Enhancement Partnership	1,600	(1,600)	-	-
Metropolitan Police Olympic Contribution	194,400	(24,400)	-	170,000
	<b>6,442,187</b>	317,926	637	<b>6,760,750</b>
<b>Total Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>6,442,187</b>	317,926	637	<b>6,760,750</b>
<b>Restricted Funds</b>				
Tubney Trust	28,692	(16,559)	-	12,133
City Bridge Trust	343	857	-	1,200
<b>Total Restricted Funds</b>	<b>29,035</b>	(15,702)	-	<b>13,333</b>
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>6,471,222</b>	<b>302,224</b>	<b>637</b>	<b>6,774,083</b>

## **EPPING FOREST**

### **Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2014**

#### **14. Movement of funds during the year to 31 March 2014 (continued)**

##### **Notes to the funds**

##### ***Unrestricted funds***

###### *1) Accumulated fund*

The accumulated fund has a balance of nil as the operating deficit of the charity is financed by the City of London Corporation.

##### ***Unrestricted Designated Funds***

###### *2) Sports Grounds deposit*

A sum of money was invested in 1968 relating to the Sports Ground.

###### *3) Golf Course machinery fund*

The purpose of this fund is to provide for the future replacement of plant and equipment at Chingford Golf Course. No purchases were made during 2013/14.

###### *4) E.N. Buxton Knighton Wood*

A gift was made in 1930 to be spent on maintaining the beauty of Knighton Wood. The unused balance of the fund was invested in 1931 for future use.

###### *5) G. Gardner bequest*

£50 was received in 1933 for the erection of seats fronting the drive, Snaresbrook. The seats were erected at a cost of £35 and the balance of the legacy was invested for future use.

###### *6) Heritage Lottery Fund*

Epping Forest was awarded a £4.76m Stage 3 grant by Heritage Lottery Fund in March 2009, towards the £6.8m cost of the 'Branching Out' project. The fund is used to finance the costs of the project that are not met by the grant and are to be provided by Epping Forest.

###### *7) Capital fund*

The Epping Forest capital fund was established under the Epping Forest and Open Spaces Act 1878. The fund finances the purchase, construction, or repair of Forest buildings and can also be used to purchase further charitable land. The income of the fund is comprised of income from the sale of buildings and by any contribution the City of London Corporation may wish to make to the fund.

###### *8) Green Arc Funding*

The Green Arc Partnership takes a strategic view of future 'green' infrastructure, principally the provision of further public open space in London's peri-urban fringe and metropolitan green belt.

###### *9) Grazing Account*

The purpose of this fund is to provide for the future purchase of cattle.

## **EPPING FOREST**

### **Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2014**

#### **14. Movement of funds during the year to 31 March 2014 (continued)**

##### **Notes to the funds (continued)**

###### *10) Tangible Fixed assets*

Land and associated buildings acquired prior to 1 April 2009 are considered to be heritage assets. They are included as fixed assets at historic cost, less provision for depreciation and any impairment. The net book value of tangible fixed assets at 31 March 2014 was £5,493,488 and is represented by a designated income fund.

###### *11) Heritage assets*

Additions made to heritage land or buildings.

###### *12) Fisheries Enhancement Partnership*

A contribution of £10,000 was received from the Environment Agency towards the cost of fisheries improvements. £1,600 was utilised in 2013/14.

###### *13) Metropolitan Police Olympic Contribution*

The City of London Corporation received a payment of £195,000 as a fee-in-lieu-of-rent in compensation for the temporary use of part of Wanstead Flats for 90 days spanning the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. It has been agreed that the payment would be used for the benefit of Wanstead Flats. £24,400 was utilised in 2013/14.

##### ***Restricted funds***

###### *14) 'Branching Out' Project – Tubney Trust*

A contribution of £171,301 was received from the Tubney Trust in 2011/12 towards the cost of the 'Branching Out' project. £16,559 was utilised in 2013/14.

###### *15) City Bridge Trust*

Funding from the City Bridge Trust to provide educational and biodiversity services to support communities within the Greater London area. Final year of a 3 year grant of £365,445 per annum.

#### **15. Pensions**

Following the statutory triennial valuation of the pension fund as at 31st March 2013, completed by independent consulting actuaries, an employer's contribution rate of 17.5% has been applied for 2014/15, 2015/16 and 2016/17.

In 2013/14, employer's contributions to the scheme for staff engaged on City's Cash activities was £8.6m (2012/13 £8.5m). There are no outstanding or pre-paid contributions at the balance sheet date.

The deficit of the scheme at 31 March 2014 is £401m (2012/13 £342m) as calculated in accordance with FRS17 disclosures.

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# **EPPING FOREST**

## **Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2014**

### **16. Related Party Transactions**

The following disclosures are made in recognition of the principles underlying Financial Reporting Standard 8 concerning related party transactions.

The City of London Corporation as well as being the Trustee also provides management, surveying and administrative services for the charity. The costs incurred by the City of London Corporation in providing these services are charged to the charity. The City of London Corporation also provides banking services, allocating all transactions to the charity at cost and crediting or charging interest at a commercial rate. The cost of these services is set out in the Statement of Financial Activities under "Resources expended" and an explanation of these services is set out in note 6 for support costs of £1,017,193 (2012/13: £913,952). The City of London Corporation's City's Cash meets the deficit on running expenses of the charity. This amounted to £4,822,716 (2012/13: £4,622,644) as shown in note 4 to the financial statements.

The City of London Corporation is also the Trustee of a number of other charitable Trusts, with the exception of the City Bridge Trust (charity number 1035628), these Trusts do not undertake transactions with Epping Forest. A full list of other charitable Trusts of which the City of London Corporation is Trustee is available on application to the Chamberlain of the City of London.

The Charities Pool is an investment mechanism operating in a similar way to a unit trust. It enables the City of London to "pool" small charitable investments together and consequently obtain better returns than would be the case if investments were made individually. Investment income consists of distribution from the Charities Pool and interest receivable on cash balances. Investment income of £6,617 was earned during the year (2012/13: £15,803).

Members of the City of London Corporation responsible for managing the Trust are required to comply with the Relevant Authority (model code of conduct) Order 2001 issued under the Local Government Act 2000 and the City of London Corporation's guidelines which require that:

- Members sign a declaration agreeing to abide by the City of London Corporation's code of conduct.
- A register of interests is maintained.
- Pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests are declared during meetings.
- Members do not participate in decisions where they have an interest.

There are corresponding arrangements for staff to recognise interests and avoid possible conflicts of those interests. In this way, as a matter of policy and procedure, the City Corporation ensures that Members and officers do not exercise control over decisions in which they have an interest. There are no material transactions with organisations related by virtue of Members and officers interests which require separate reporting. Transactions are undertaken by the Trust on a normal commercial basis.

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<b>Committee(s):</b>	<b>Date(s):</b>
Epping Forest and Commons	8 September 2014
<b>Subject:</b> Epping Forest: Deer Management of the South West Essex Deer Herd on the Buffer Lands and Epping Forest.	Public
<b>Report of:</b> The Superintendent of Epping Forest    SEF 21/14	For Decision

### Summary

The purpose of this report is to summarise the performance of the 2013//14 deer cull; to provide details of the 2014 deer count and propose 2014 deer cull targets for both Fallow and Reeves Muntjac Deer on the Buffer Lands and Epping Forest, reflecting the objectives set out in the Deer Management Plan (DMP) adopted by your Committee on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2012. The DMP recommended a 30% increase on the number of Fallow Deer culled, as part of a gradual population reduction over 5 years to 150 spring Fallow Deer, providing an average spring population density of 3 per 100 acres across the 5,146 acre count area.

The 2013/14 deer cull target was for 123 Fallow Deer and as many Reeves Muntjac Deer that could be shot across the count area. The actual City of London cull amounted to 65 Fallow and 18 Reeves Muntjac. Cull data from the area's other 12 landowners is not available. The Fallow Deer cull was therefore only 53% of the set cull figure. The culling shortfall was the result of low Deer numbers on the 15% of land in the count area under the City of London's direct culling control.

The 2014 day time deer count recorded 505 Fallow and 44 Reeves Muntjac. This shows a 69% increase on the previous year's Fallow Deer figure of 299. 44 Reeves Muntjac were also recorded as opposed to 43 in 2013. The number of Deer Vehicle Collisions (DVCs) in the Forest locality, an area wider than the count area, also increased from 64 to 123 DVCs, an increase of 92%. Year-on-year populations vary significantly due to variable factors such as weather; patterns of disturbance and the availability of winter food supplies. The more reliable five-year average for 2010-2014 (based on four counts) is 285 Fallow Deer, up 7% on the previous five-year average for 2009-2013 (based on four counts). This equates to an average population density of 5.5 deer per 100 acres. The proposed cull figures for the 2014/15 season recommended to your Committee are 105 Fallow Deer and as many Reeves Muntjac Deer as possible. The lower cull figures have been set using data from the deer count, recommendations from the DMP and the experience of stalkers during the 2013/14 cull.

While the City of London remains grateful to neighbouring landowners for their cooperation over access during the deer count, sadly, this cooperation has not extended to the sharing of cull figures which was to be mediated by the Deer Initiative. Without improved cooperation, the target of collective progress to a reduced deer population in the South West Essex herd by 2017 is in jeopardy. This report recommends increased engagement with local landowners to improve co-operation on the setting of a herd cull figure and the collation of progress by all landowners.

## **Recommendations**

Members are asked to

- Approve the cull figure of up to 105 Fallow deer and an unlimited cull of Reeves Muntjac, for the 2014/15 season in line with the Deer Management Plan.
- Approve a further meeting between the major estate owners for land within the South West Essex Deer Herd mediated by the Deer Initiative to encourage increased co-operation on the overall management of the Deer Herd.

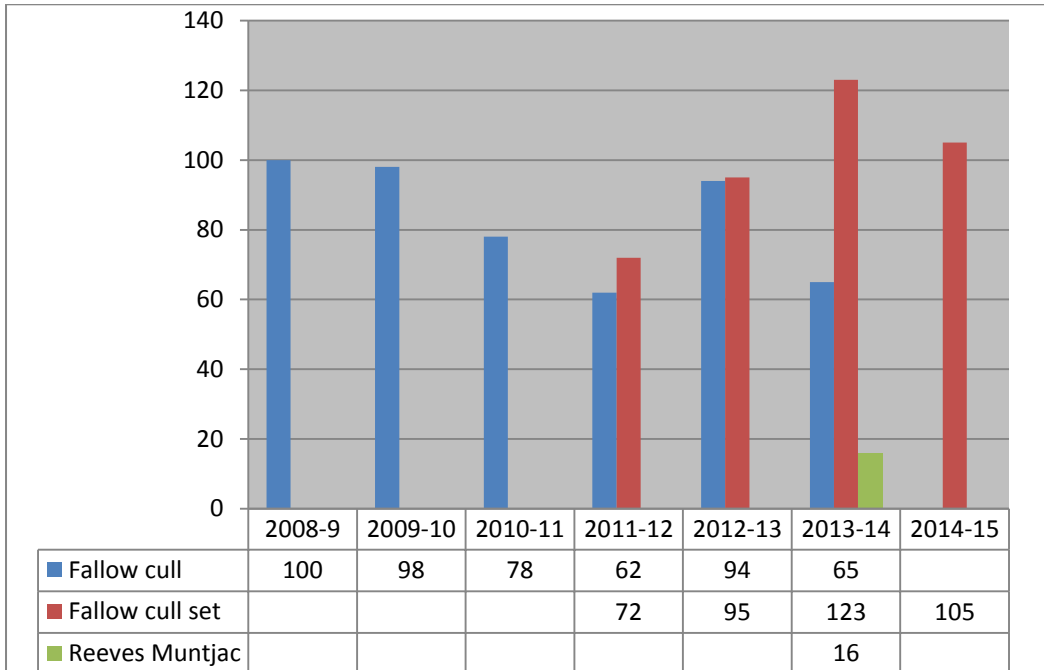
## **Main Report**

### **Background**

1. This annual report provides an update of the outcome of the spring deer count, the annual deer cull and proposes cull figures for the next season as a result of the data collected. .
2. An annual report to your Committee was approved by your Committee on 9 July 2012 as part of the “Deer Management on the Buffer Lands” (SEF 21/12). A second report was received at your meeting of 10 September 2012 entitled “English Woodland Grant Scheme (EWGS) application for the management of deer and woodlands in the Epping Forest Buffer Land Estate.” (SEF 30/12) which required a “Deer management Plan” (DMP) to be written which was approved by your Committee as “Appendix B” to the above mentioned report.
3. The DMP concluded that the level of damage by both Fallow and Reeves Muntjac Deer, to Buffer Land woodlands, was much higher than expected and that the level of cull targets needed to be set at a higher level. The DMP recommended a 30% increase on the number of Fallow Deer culled, as part of a gradual population reduction over 5 years to 150 spring Fallow Deer, providing an average spring population density of 3 per 100 acres across the 5,146 acre count area.
4. The recommendations of the DMP were taken into account when the annual Fallow deer cull figure was set by the Head Forest Keeper for the 2012/13 deer season. An increase of 30% on the previous year’s cull figure was set as part of the recommended 5 year plan to reduce spring herd numbers to 150. The resulting cull figure for 2012/13 was 95, while the actual cull achieved was 94. See Table 1 below.
5. The Deer Act 1991 restricts the ‘window’ for culling deer to between the 1 hour before sunrise and 1 hour after sunset. One of the concerns associated with the proposed larger scale cull was that the deer would change habits and become more nocturnal and increase their range due to the increased disturbance. This change in habit may restrict the amount of deer that could be effectively culled.
6. The DMP also recommended that the culling of Reeves Muntjac should be seen as a much higher priority. The licenced stalkers were therefore

instructed to cull as many of the population, estimated at 150, as possible in the 2013/14 season.

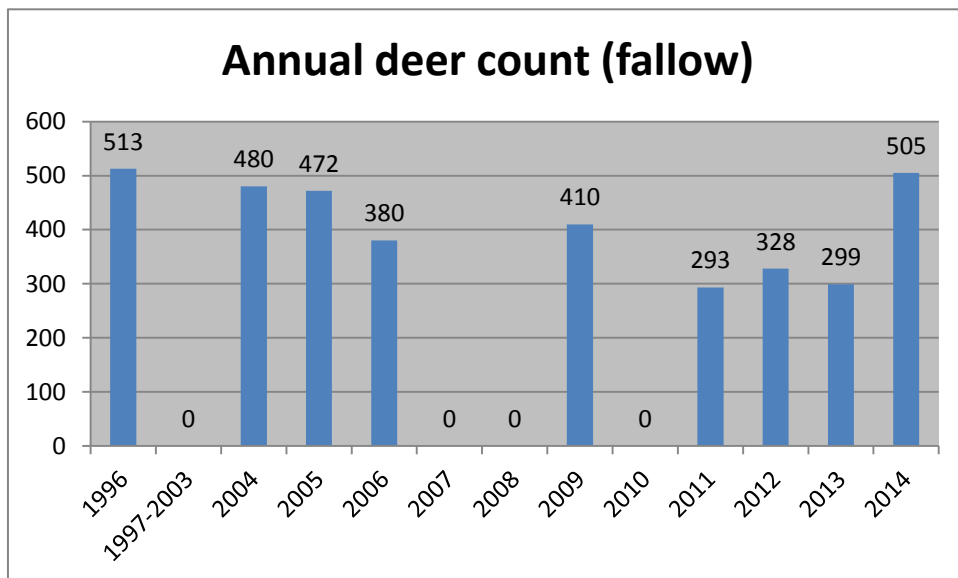
**Table 1**  
**Annual cull figures**



**Current Position**

- The annual “day time deer count” took place on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2014 which resulted in a count of 505 Fallow deer. This shows a 69% increase on the previous year’s figure of 299. (See Table 2 below.) 44 Reeves Muntjac were also recorded as opposed to 43 in 2013. 101 Fallow Deer were counted in the 770 acres of Epping Forest Land, which represents 15% of the count area.

**Table 2**  
**Annual day time count figures**



8. Year-on-year populations vary significantly due to variable factors such as weather; patterns of disturbance and the availability of winter food supplies. The more reliable five-year average for 2010-2014 (based on four counts) is 285 Fallow Deer, up 7% on the previous five-year average for 2009-2013 (based on four counts). This equates to an average of 5.5 deer per 100 acres almost double the DMP target of 3 deer per 100 acres.
9. In line with the recommendations of the DMP and using the data from the annual day time count, the annual cull figures for fallow deer are set each year in order to maintain a reduction in the number of deer counted in the spring until the annual count is reduced to the recommended figure of 150 and the desired ratio of males/females, young/ mature is achieved.
10. There are several contributing factors to the change in deer distribution recorded on the 2014 daytime count;
  - a. The milder winter has led to improved deer fecundity
  - b. The 2013/14 winter was one of the wettest on record restricting deer mobility; this coincided with the doe season, 1<sup>st</sup> November to 31<sup>st</sup> March.
  - c. 2013 was a 'Mast year' which meant there was a large amount of natural food, causing the deer to be more nomadic and spend more time in an area where they found the food, often on land where there was not any deer management taking place.
  - d. The cumulative increase in cull percentages over the past years has caused pressure on the Fallow herd encouraging deer to increase their range beyond the influence of the licenced stalkers.
  - e. The cull area managed by The City of London licensed stalkers is only 15% of the total area.
  - f. Not all City of London Buffer Land is currently included in the stalking agreement. On the daytime count in excess of 100 Fallow were seen on land, owned by the City of London, but not currently under the management of the licenced stalkers, including part of St Thomas' Quarters, Fern hill Wood and land North of Cobbing Brook adjacent to the Breach Barns static home site. To maximise efficiency there needs to be a more flexible approach to active deer management to prevent the Fallow deer taking refuge on land owned by The City of London but not under the existing deer management agreement.
11. The Muntjac cull so far this year stands at 16. As this species has no close season the culling can take place at any time of year, giving a greater chance for the licenced stalkers to reduce the numbers to an acceptable level. See Table 1 above. The Reeves Muntjac population has remained fairly static, an increase of 1 animal, this is likely to be due to the very wet Winter, Muntjac breed year round and any fawns born during wet weather will have a high mortality rate.
12. In 2012, the tagging of Fallow fawns was piloted for the first time. The aim was to further evaluate the extent of the Fallow range. This has now entered into a 3rd project year. Observations show that the South West Essex herd moves freely from East of Copped Hall to the edge of Harlow at Latton Priory/Hastingswood. It should be noted that there are current plans for development to take place over the Latton Priory area, which may place more

pressure on the Fallow population and contribute to further displacement which will directly impact future numbers.

13. While the deer count area extends to 5,146 acres, the area of land under the direct management of the Conservators included in the cull is approximately only 770 acres, or 15% of the land covered in the annual count. The remainder is owned by some 12 landowners, many of whom have differing views on and priorities for deer management. Some landowners apply significant pressure on the deer herd pushing them into quieter areas. A cooperative approach to Deer Management has been explored with these neighbours. Landowners remain very supportive in the annual count activity, but this level of co-ordination has not extended to joint cull setting and the comprehensive sharing of cull data.
14. The remaining 12 neighbouring landowners, which cover the remaining 85% of the count area, employ stalkers to control the deer numbers, these cull figures are not obtainable for reasons previously stated. The total number of stalkers on this land extends to some 12 individuals. One other area is managed under a EWG Scheme and this scheme has a cull of 70 Fallow and unlimited Reeves Muntjac. During the 2014 daytime count 20 of the total Reeves Muntjac of 44, were counted within this one area.
15. The numbers of "Deer Vehicle Collisions" (DVCs) in the Epping Forest area have not mirrored the changes in the annual day time count figures. The year, 1 March 2013 to 28 February 2014 the figure was 123 DVCs as opposed to the previous five year average of 64 DVCs, an increase of 92%, with the 2014 annual day time count showing a 62% increase in numbers. Though a matter of concern it should be noted that DVCs are measured across a much larger area than the count area. DVCs are also not a simple response to overall deer populations, and are the result of a range of factors including increased reporting; traffic volumes and the level of disturbance from estate operations and visitors.

## Options

16. There are a number of options available to your Committee:-
  - Option One is to increase the 2013/14 cull figure of 123 Fallow Deer by the 5 year average of 7% to 132 Fallow Deer within the existing area. This is not recommended as it would risk increasing the disturbance 'window' around sunset and sunrise and potentially further reduce the Deer population available for culling at this time.
  - Option Two is to retain the cull figure at 123 Fallow Deer within the existing area. Again this not recommended as available deer numbers in 2013/14 could not justify the cull level.
  - Option Three is to reduce the cull figure by 15% to 105 Fallow Deer within the existing area which represents 50% of the 2013/14 increase, but still may be more than the potentially available deer on existing City of London land.
  - Option Four is to reduce the cull figure by 15% to 105 Fallow Deer and increase the cull area to include part of St Thomas' Quarters, including Fernhill Wood and City of London land North of Cobbins Brook to maximise the cull potential and prevent the deer taking refuge in City of London land outside the current deer management agreement.

## Proposals

17. It is proposed that Option Four is approved, to increase the cull area. This option represents a more realistic use of current resources to meet the annual cull requirement. This is consistent with relevant advice and guidance from a range of organisations including Natural England.
18. In order to maximise the effective cull for 2013/14 a proposed minimum cull figure for 2014/15 of 105 Fallow deer is proposed. See Table 1 above. The proposed cull figure of 105 Fallow is recommended to be broken down as follows:
  - Fallow Bucks over 2 years old will not be culled to try and increase the number and quality of mature Bucks.
  - Prickets (1 to 2 years old male) 17
  - Buck fawns (up to 1 year old male) 5
  - Does (female) 69
  - Doe fawns (up to 1 year old female) 14
19. The Superintendent has previously given undertakings to market test the stalking contract in line with City of London Procurement Service guidance and a wider review of estate contracts and licences. The current contract holders the Cobbins Brook Deer Management Group have indicated that a three year stalking agreement would be preferential in managing infrastructure needed to support a cull.

## Corporate & Strategic Implications

20. The proposal, if approved, meets ***The City Together Strategy: the Heart of a World Class City 2008-14*** vision of a *World Class City* and, specifically, theme 3 of its 5 themes 'a world class city which protects, promotes and enhances our environment'.
21. The report also supports the Open Spaces Business Plan 2014-17 aims of protecting, promoting and enhancing our environment by delivering sustainable working practices to promote the variety of life.

## Implications

22. **Financial-** The culling of deer on the Buffer Lands is currently carried out at no cost to the Conservators. Four stalkers Licensed by The City of London carry out the cull and in return the carcasses of any deer culled become the property of the stalker.
23. **Risk Implications-** All of the licensed stalkers are fully qualified and hold all necessary firearms and food hygiene certificates to legally carry out the cull. Stalkers all have £10 million insurance cover to indemnify the City of London and produce annual risk assessments covering all tasks involved with culling the deer.
24. **Licensed stalkers-** Who are all qualified deer managers, provide all their own equipment and are obliged to follow policies laid down by the Head Forest



Keeper in respect of numbers of deer culled, times/days when stalking is permitted, areas allocated to each stalker and records to be kept. There is a commitment for the stalkers to carry out at least 100 outings each year, this has been exceeded and adds up to over 400 man hours in the season. Epping Forest conditions prevent the gralloching (disembowling) of deer on public access land.

25. **Legal Implication** - Under section 4 of the Epping Forest Act 1878, Deer on Forest Land are considered to be the property of the Conservators 'to be preserved as objects of ornament in the Forest'. Outside the Forest, Deer are wild animals, or *ferae naturae* under common law, and are not owned by anyone. A landowner has the right to kill or take game on his or her land or permit others to do so subject to statutory restrictions. The Deer Act 1991 restricts the killing of deer (other than Muntjac) during the close season and at night other than under licence.

### **Conclusion**

26. In the absence of natural predators, the culling of deer on the Buffer Lands is a necessity that benefits the overall health of deer populations, together with the economic viability of agricultural crops and grasslands. Critically for Forest Land and the Buffer Land woodlands, the South West Essex deer population needs to be managed at levels which allow sufficient levels of woodland regeneration through the growth of sufficient numbers of young tree seedlings, understorey plants and shrub species. Combining the future management of the woodlands with that of deer populations, particularly through the closer coordination and control of culling operations will be beneficial to all concerned and will help maintain this important area in the years ahead.
27. Given the wide range of the Epping Fallow Deer herd, which has recently been confirmed by ear tag observations, it is important that the 12 significant landowners in the 5,146 acre count area improve the current level of cooperation around shared objectives, counting, cull targets and cull reporting if the ambition of a sustainable deer herd is to be achieved by 2017.

### **Appendices**

- Appendix 1 - Map of annual day time deer count area
- Appendix 2 - Map of woodland within the daytime count area

### **Background Papers:**

"English Woodland Grant Scheme application for the management of deer and woodlands in the Epping Forest Buffer Land Estate." (SEF 30/12)

10 September 2012

University of East Anglia deer survey, "Journal of Wildlife Management" 7 March 2013

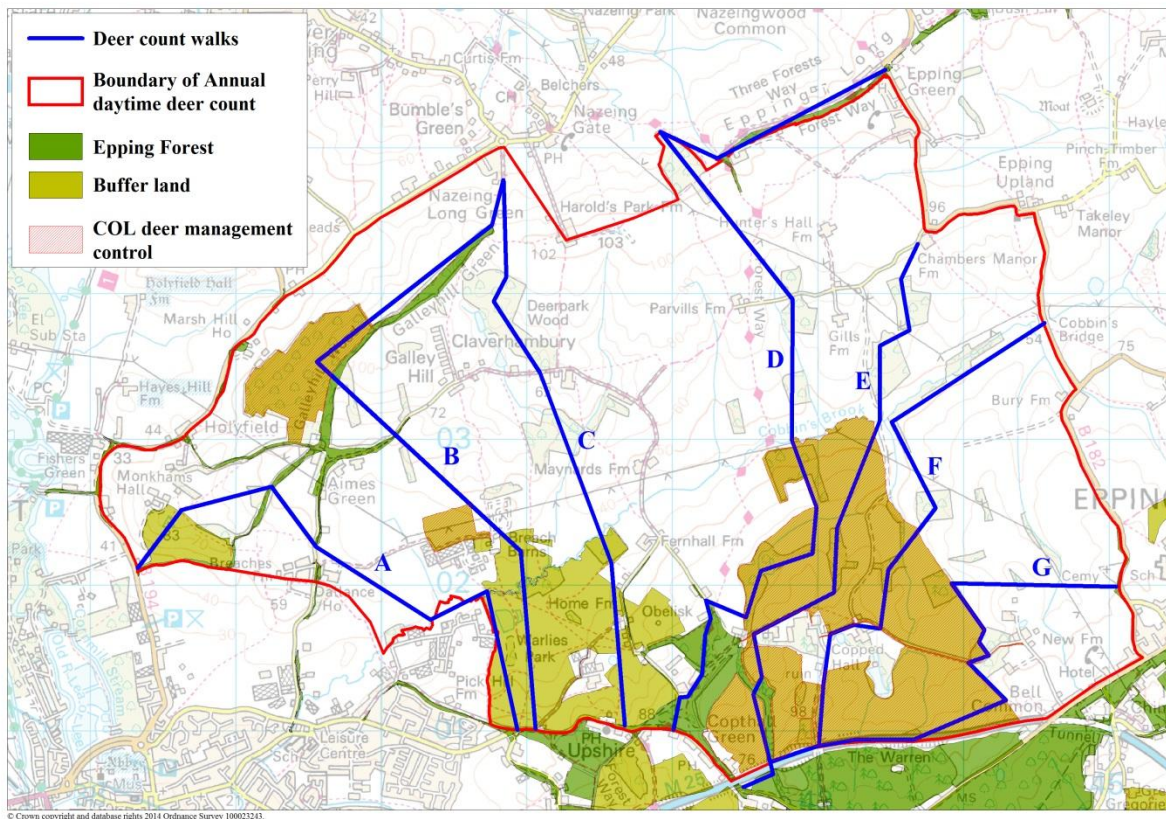
### **Nick Baker**

Senior Forest Keeper

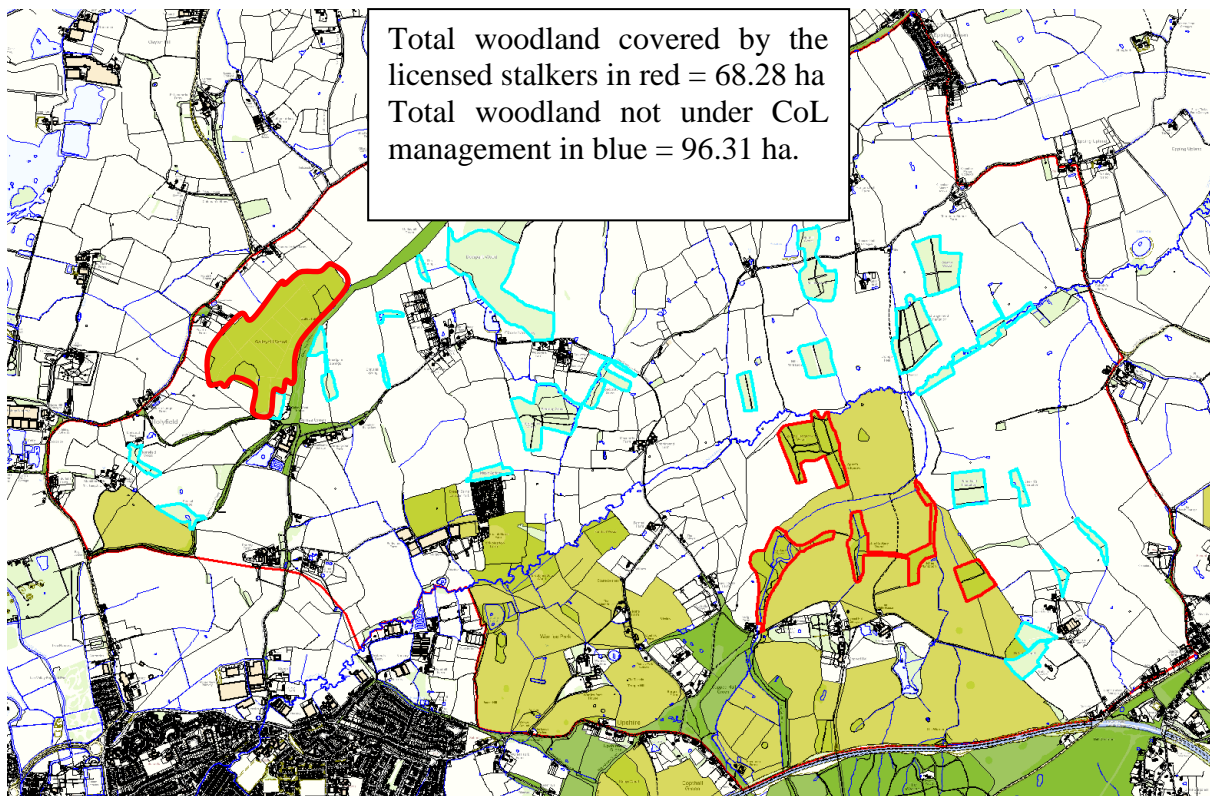
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- Appendix 1 – Map of annual day time deer count area.



- Appendix 2 – Map of woodland within the daytime count area.



<b>Committee(s):</b>	<b>Date(s):</b>
Epping Forest and Commons Open Spaces and City Gardens	8 September 2014
<b>Subject:</b> Epping Forest Historic Environment Policy	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Superintendent of Epping Forest SEF 28/14	<b>For Decision</b>

### Summary

The historic environment of Epping Forest and the heritage assets within it are a non-renewable resource that enables us to understand the origins and significance of our landscapes. The Epping Forest Act of 1878 contains specific duties to preserve and maintain historic features. Research into the history of Epping Forest and the City of London Conservators' responsibility under the 1878 Act is a continuing responsibility, which is addressed through conservation assessments, management plans, surveys and other processes.

The need for the historic environment of Epping Forest to be prioritised is becoming increasingly apparent: Wanstead Park is included on the English Heritage (EH) Heritage At Risk Register; an independent request has been made for EH to designate a site on Forest land; local groups have asked to undertake investigative work; and a new management plan for Epping Forest is being prepared which will cover the management of the historic environment.

In addition, evidence of enhanced management and recommendations for improvement, often as part of a conservation management plan or policy, have the potential to attract funding from organisations such as Natural England, English Heritage, the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The Historic Environment Policy aims to improve our understanding of the historic environment of Epping Forest in order to conserve and enhance it for the enjoyment of all, and to encourage visitors to value and care for it. The policy sets out principles for interacting with the historic environment of Epping Forest, rather than the Buffer Lands, whether by the City of London or by external bodies and individuals.

In 2013-14 £5238 was spent on heritage research to feed into various projects. Further minor spends are anticipated in the next few years. The Visitor Services Section has brought in £4869 in grants during 2010-14 to develop the museum collection, and further spends are anticipated to get the collection and archive store to accreditation standard.

### **Recommendation**

I recommend that the Historic Environment Policy (Appendix 1), the aims of which are summarised above, is adopted.

## Main Report

### Background

1. The Historic Environment is defined in the National Planning Policy Framework (2012) as:  
*'All aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time, including all surviving physical remains of past human activity, whether visible, buried or submerged, and landscaped and planted or managed flora.'*
2. The historic environment of Epping Forest and the heritage assets within it are non-renewable resources that enable us to understand the origins and significance of our landscapes. They range from listed buildings and ancient monuments to individual records, images and museum objects held within the Epping Forest museum collection and at the London Metropolitan Archive (LMA). They also include elements of the managed landscape such as veteran pollard trees.
3. The Epping Forest Act of 1878 contains specific duties to protect the historic environment. Section 7(iii) outlines the duty to ensure the preservation of the 'natural aspect' including 'Ambresbury Banks, and all other ancient remains', together with the 'Purlieu Bank and such other Forest Marks and boundaries, if any and as still exist in the Forest'. Protection extends to: 'the timber and other trees, pollards, shrubs, underwood, heather, gorse, turf and herbage growing on the Forest; and ... shall prevent all persons from felling, cutting, lopping or injuring the same, and from digging the gravel, clay, loam and soil of the Forest.'. Section 8 contains a specific duty to preserve and maintain the Queen Elizabeth Hunting Lodge and its garden, while an amendment to the Act in 1880 covers the duty to 'preserve and maintain other historic buildings acquired by the Conservators'. These obligations make the Conservancy one of the oldest heritage preservation organisations in Britain.
4. Heritage assets make a positive contribution to local character and sense of place. Designated heritage assets in the Forest include seven Listed Buildings, two listed structures, three Scheduled Ancient Monuments, two Registered Park and Garden and 17 Conservation Areas. Parts of the Forest are also identified by the Local Authorities as lying within Archaeological Priority Areas and are sometimes locally listed such as Highams Park.
5. Much of the Forest is a Site of Specific Scientific Interest, a Special Area of Conservation and ancient wood-pasture. Epping Forest is also accredited as a Green Heritage Site. Within it are an estimated 50,000 veteran pollards, a remnant of man's historic land use of the area and a defining feature of Epping Forest. Together with these worked trees, the land has been grazed throughout history and these two land uses through the wood-pasture system are what has shaped the habitats of Epping Forest that are present today.
6. This collection of protected sites and their settings are not the totality of what we consider important about Epping Forest's past. For example,

the Purlieu Bank is mentioned in the 1878 Act but is not a scheduled monument. Many heritage assets remain undesignated and others, such as below-ground archaeological remains, may yet be discovered. The absence of national designation does not necessarily indicate lower significance.

7. The City of London provides a range of guidance on heritage in relation to the planning process within the local authority boundary of the City, on its Heritage web pages  
<http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/services/environment-and-planning/planning/heritage-and-design/Pages/default.aspx>.
8. The following national guidance applies if we make a planning application within one of the local authority boundaries that incorporate the Forest. The National Planning Policy Framework published by Communities and Local Government in 2012 includes separate sections on conserving and enhancing the natural and historic environments. It states:  
*'Local planning authorities should set out in their Local Plan a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment, including heritage assets most at risk through neglect, decay or other threats. In doing so, they should recognise that heritage assets are an irreplaceable resource and conserve them in a manner appropriate to their significance.'*
9. Guidance by English Heritage, *Managing Local Authority Heritage Assets* 2003 states: 'Understanding the nature, significance, condition and potential of a heritage asset must be the basis for rational decisions about its management, use, alteration or disposal.'
10. The strongest form of protection is people valuing the past and wishing to protect it for future generations. In order to promote this, we need to understand it.
11. The importance of the historic environment in relation to City of London's reputation as the Conservators of Epping Forest and access to funding opportunities is demonstrated by: Wanstead Park being on English Heritage's At Risk Register; heritage-related works undertaken with Heritage Lottery (HLF) funding; Higher Level Stewardship grants; and the Green Flag awards. We also receive local requests for designation and investigative work. Through these works we liaise closely with the City Surveyor's department. The draft of the new Management Plan for Epping Forest intends to include a dedicated section on the historic environment.
12. The Visitor Services Section at Epping Forest is working towards recognised museum collection accreditation from the Arts Council England. Museum Accreditation will enable us to apply for any museum funding that is appropriate to our collection. Epping Forest's status as 'seeking accreditation' has enabled the Division to access small funding streams and subsidise a Visitor Services Intern for 6 months.
13. Integrated landscape management as promoted by the European Landscape Convention (UK ratified 2006) notes:

‘that the landscape has an important public interest role in the cultural, ecological, environmental and social fields. ... The landscape contributes to the formation of local cultures and that it is a basic component of the European natural and cultural heritage, contributing to human well-being and ... identity.’

14. More information on the heritage of Epping Forest can be found on our website <http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/things-to-do/green-spaces/epping-forest/heritage/Pages/default.aspx>, including an Archaeological and Historical Summary.

### **Current Position**

15. Although the greater focus for the management of the Forest has been on the natural environment, there is a need to improve the balance between management of the historic and natural environments.
16. There is a heritage objective in the Epping Forest Management Plan 2004-2010. Whilst this plan is now out of date the objectives found within still direct our work. The City of London and local partners are carrying out further research into heritage assets relating to the Epping Forest Acts 1878 and 1880, such as commissioning conservation assessments, management plans and surveys for our heritage assets. Other organisations have also commissioned Heritage Characterisation and Conservation Assessments for Epping Forest.
17. Quinquennial surveys are incorporated into the City Surveyor’s 20 year plan for significant Epping Forest heritage assets.
18. Epping Forest has also created a spreadsheet of all currently known Heritage Assets in Epping Forest, with a summary of their history, designation, location, current condition and recent works.
19. Regular Heritage Liaison meetings between the Epping Forest Division and the Heritage Estate Section of City Surveyor’s are resulting in better coordination of activities and better targeting of resources.
20. The current Environmental Stewardship Officer (ESO) (Conservation Section, Epping Forest Division) currently devotes up to 10% of her time to heritage in addition to managing the grants from Natural England (NE), which have related to the historic as well as the natural environment. Given her current commitments and existing vacancies in the Epping Forest Conservation Section, the ESO is unable to devote more time to heritage management. The historic environment element of the role includes:
  - maintaining a heritage asset register,
  - liaising with City of London and external heritage professionals,
  - managing consultants/contractors/students/volunteers undertaking historic environment field work and research
  - identifying funding opportunities to support historic environment work.

21. Heritage interpretation within the Forest Centres, and management of the museum collection, is managed by the Forest Centres Officer with responsibilities for heritage and interpretation. A range of heritage events and activities is delivered by the Visitor Services and Forest Keeper Sections and volunteers.
22. Items from the museum collection are on display at our three visitor centres, with the principal permanent exhibition being at The View. They are also used for learning activities and temporary exhibitions. The collection can be searched via an online catalogue <http://ehive.com/account/4145>.
23. The Epping Forest and Commons Committee as Conservators of Epping Forest is the governing body of the museum collection. A Visitor Services Intern is assisting with a submission this year to the Arts Council England for Museum Accreditation, the quality mark for museums and collections.
24. The principle Epping Forest archive collection is held by the LMA. Material that they have rejected, such as duplicates, repetitive material or reproductions, will be accessioned into the museum collection, assigned to a handling collection or the Epping Forest Division's reference library at The Warren as appropriate.
25. Very little archaeological fieldwork apart from non-intrusive survey has been done in recent times, although there has been excavation and survey at Wanstead Park and the Iron Age camps in the past.
26. Constraints mapping is being used to inform operations work in the Forest and includes known historic features.
27. The Epping Forest Historic Environment Policy (Appendix 1) has been produced with the advice of English Heritage's Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service and Essex County Council's Senior Historic Environment Consultant. The policy incorporates aspects of the Historic Environment Policy of NE (2009) and the Heritage Policy of British Waterways (2008) as along with English Heritage and Communities and Local Government publications.

### **Proposals**

28. The Epping Forest Historic Environment Policy aims to improve our understanding of the historic environment in order to conserve and enhance it for the recreation and enjoyment of the public, as well as encouraging visitors to value and care for it.
29. The policy focuses on the preservation of heritage assets in preference to intrusive investigation. However, the procedure would be for any site investigation to be preceded by an assessment of significance and agreed research aims as part of a methodology. Any investigative work must be recorded and disseminated in accordance with national guidance.
30. The historic environment should be a consideration in all relevant Epping Forest documentation, policies, procedures and risk

assessments, for example Epping Forest's Breaking Ground Procedure.

31. While it is anticipated that the conservation of Epping Forest's heritage will be a responsibility for all staff, there is currently no heritage advocate or champion nominated within the current staff structure. While the Forest Centres Officer (Heritage and Interpretation) and the ESO have particular responsibilities, future staff reviews will need to consider the overall heritage responsibility in a more co-ordinated fashion.
32. Arrangements are in place for documentary material relating to the management of Epping Forest to be periodically offered to the London Metropolitan Archives.
33. It is a requirement of Museum Accreditation that museum policies and procedures be approved by this Committee before being submitted to the Arts Council England. A report will be presented to Committee on the museum accreditation submission.

### **Financial Implications**

34. We undertake historic environment research and conservation work as part of the Local Risk budget. During 2013-14 £5,283 was spent on heritage research to feed into several projects across the Forest. Further heritage work will be included in future work programmes, these will include further research to feed into the management plans for Wanstead Park and the Iron Age hill forts.
35. The Environmental Stewardship Officer manages small to medium projects using external expertise. A business case to the Epping Forest's Local Risk budget would be made for larger projects requiring more resources, such as was done for the conservation statement for Wanstead Park.
36. The Environmental Stewardship Officer currently devotes 10% of her time specifically to the historic environment and any changes to this position would have to be part of the wider service based review.
37. There is the potential to access more grant funding for researching, conserving and improving access to the heritage assets of Epping Forest. A better understanding of our historic environment underlain by policy, and recommendations for improvement, often as part of a conservation management plan, will facilitate access to funding from Natural England, English Heritage, the Heritage Lottery Fund, and others.
38. The City Surveyor's Heritage Estate Section advises on heritage within Epping Forest and has a number of 20 year maintenance plans for surveys and conservation works. Where appropriate, bids may be made for Supplementary Revenue Funding or Capital funding for large schemes, such as those above £50,000.
39. The Forest Centres Officer (Heritage and Interpretation) has raised grants £4,869 in the last three financial years (2010-11 to 2013-14) to fund the development of the museum and the museum collection.



40. Epping Forest as a museum will continue to add to its collection by inviting and considering donations of objects from the public and by purchase. Accession of objects into the collection will be measured against a framework in the Museum Accreditation. Typically over the last three years, no more than £250 per year has been spent on such objects. If a significant object relating to Epping Forest were to come onto the public market, your Committee might wish to consider purchase but are otherwise expecting only small value additions.
41. The six month Visitor Services Intern post was subsidised to the value of £2500 by the Creative Employment Programme, working for Arts Council England (ACE) under the 'museum footprint'. The remaining cost of the post was met through vacant positions.
42. Museum Accreditation sets standards for storage, access, documentation and care of objects. These requirements are currently met within the Visitor Services budget: full Accreditation may require minor improvements to the Saw Mill to improve pest and damp infiltration and other ongoing minor costs.

### **Corporate and Strategic Implications**

43. The Historic Environment Policy will impact on all works to buildings or sites that are or may contain heritage assets. In effect, this will involve consideration of heritage for any works in Epping Forest.
44. The City Surveyor's Heritage Estate Section and the Epping Forest Division consult each other on all works, in particular those targeted at known heritage assets.
45. The advice of the City Surveyor is to reduce as much as possible any reputational risk to the City of London in its care of its heritage assets.
46. Adoption of the Historic Environment Policy, and allocation of sufficient time and resources to manage the historic environment programme in Epping Forest, primarily through Conservation Management Plans, will help ensure that the City of London conforms to government guidance and best practice in managing its heritage assets.
47. By promoting volunteering to a more diverse audience and reaching out to specific communities, such as faith groups or those with a physical impairment, Epping Forest is increasing access to our activities in the Forest. This helps meet a key Epping Forest Management Plan 2004-2010 vision to improve accessibility for the purposes of education and enjoyment. Volunteering activities also contributes to two more Management Plan visions - to enhance the diversity of wildlife habitats and improve recreational activities.
48. The policy meets the City Together vision of a World Class City and, specifically, 4 of its 5 themes for 'A World Class City that supports our communities; protects, promotes and enhances our environment; is competitive and promotes opportunity; and is vibrant and culturally rich'.
49. Furthermore the policy meets one of the three Open Spaces Departmental Strategic Objectives within the Open Spaces Business

Plan for 2014-15 which is 'widening and developing what we offer to Londoners through education, biodiversity and volunteering.' The Business Plan describes how the Department's values will be met through planned activities, one of which is to apply for the Green Heritage Award. Also set out are longer term projects; a preparation of a Heritage Lottery Fund bid for the Wanstead Park project is planned.

## **Conclusion**

50. The Forest has a communal heritage value that derives from traditional rights of access to the Forest safeguarded by the Epping Forest Act (1878), which ensures this important open space is conserved and protected for the recreation and enjoyment of the public. Under the Act, the Conservators have a duty to protect and enhance the historic environment.
51. The Epping Forest division is striving to ensure best practice in conserving and enhancing the historic environment and in particular our heritage assets. We recommend that the Historic Environment Policy be approved to support transparent decision making.

## **Appendices**

- Appendix 1 - Proposed Epping Forest Historic Environment Policy

Sally Gadsdon  
Environmental Stewardship Officer

T: 020 8532 5329

E: [Sally.gadsdon@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:Sally.gadsdon@cityoflondon.gov.uk)

## **Appendix 1: PROPOSED EPPING FOREST HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT POLICY**

### **AIM**

*The City of London Conservators aims to improve our understanding of the historic environment of Epping Forest in order to conserve and enhance it for the recreation and enjoyment of the public, as well as encouraging visitors to value and care for it.*

*The following policies and principles govern how the City of London and its contractors will manage and interact with the historic environment of Epping Forest (not including the Buffer Lands).*

*It does not contain comprehensive procedural guidelines, which are provided by relevant professional other organisations and government departments.*

### **Epping Forest Acts 1878 & 1880 extract:**

Collective these are the primary act governing management of the Forest, including its historic features. However, all management decisions are also placed within the broader context of other guidance such as the National Planning Policy Framework and relevant legislation. The following sections of the Act are relevant to this policy:

“The Conservators shall at all times as far as possible preserve the natural aspect of the Forest, and especially shall pre- serve and protect the ancient earthworks called Ambresbury Banks and all other ancient remains, and the Purlieu Bank, and such other Forest marks and boundaries, if any, as still exist in the Forest; and shall protect the timber and other trees, pollards, shrubs, underwood, heather, gorse, turf, and herbage growing on the Forest; and, subject to the provisions of this Act, shall prevent all persons from felling, cutting, lopping, or injuring the same, and from digging the gravel, clay, loam, and soil of the Forest.”

“Queen Elizabeth’s Hunting Lodge, with the garden thereof, is hereby vested in the Conservators, for all the estate and interest of the Crown therein, and shall be preserved and maintained by them as an object of public and antiquarian interest.”

“Subject to the provision of Act, the public shall have the right to use Epping Forest as an open space for recreation and enjoyment.”

An amendment to the Act in 1880 covers the duty to ‘preserve and maintain other historic buildings acquired by the Conservators’. These obligations make the Conservators of the oldest heritage preservation organisations in Britain.

### **Other legal acts**

Since the Epping Forest Act 1878 was written, further legislation that affects the management of the historic environment has come into place. These include the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 as well as the non-legislative guidance in the National Planning Policy

Framework. This policy lays out additional management policies the City of London will follow in the management of Epping Forest's historic environment.

## **POLICY**

### **1 We will continue to conserve and enhance both the historic and natural environment as a shared interrelated resource.**

The importance of the Forest derives from its long history of human activity and this legacy should be reflected in the way we conserve and protect the natural aspect of the Forest as an open space for the recreation and enjoyment of the public. The importance of the relationship between the natural and historic environment should be considered in the way we approach all of our activities.

### **2 We will improve our understanding of the value, present condition and significance of the historic environment to help us make informed decisions about the future management of the Forest.**

Understanding the value of a heritage asset, its present condition and what makes it significant is essential when making decisions about its future management, whether maintaining related habitats, enhancing its setting or improving public access. Assessing threats, for example from physical damage or erosion of legibility, and seeking the views of the local community is part of this process. Conservation Assessments, Management Plans, Surveys and Inspections will be prioritised for sites to which the 1878 Act applies and those that are most at risk, at an appropriate level of detail. Evidence that is captured should be made publicly available and used to inform the future management of the historic asset. All research, reports and relevant documentation will be submitted to the relevant Historic Environment Record.

### **3 We will care for the historic environment by maintaining our heritage assets, protecting them from harm and enhancing their setting.**

When planning maintenance and new projects, opportunities for protecting, conserving, enhancing and improving access to the historic environment should be identified and integrated into what we do. We will maintain records of works to heritage assets and their settings so we can monitor and evaluate outcomes. Sustaining historic assets includes putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation.

### **4 We will assess the effect of our actions on the historic environment.**

Before starting any work project, staff, volunteers and contractors should assess and understand how their work may affect the historic environment. Even vehicular movement, for example, can disturb archaeological remains. Primary assessment will be done in-house using an inventory of known historic features. Specialist assessment will be required where there is a risk of affecting a historic asset or there is uncertainty that all historic features have been identified.

### **5 We will minimise the impact of our activities on the historic environment**

Proposed works by our staff, volunteers, contractors and tenants should protect and enhance the significance of a heritage asset. If it is not possible to undertake work without impacting on a historic asset, a mitigation strategy should be agreed prior to work commencing. However, the ability to record evidence of our past should not be a factor in deciding whether such loss should be permitted.

**6 We will promote physical and intellectual access to Epping Forest's historic environment in a sustainable manner, so it can be valued and enjoyed by all visitors to the forest.**

Improved access and interpretation will contribute to visitors' understanding, knowledge and enjoyment of the Forest, encouraging them to care about its future. Engaging the public is vital for the future preservation of the Forest; increased heritage education will enhance public enjoyment of the Forest, raise awareness and encourage people to care for it.

**7 We will manage the physical impact of leisure activities in order to protect the Forest's historic environment.**

Activities in the Forest should either benefit or have a neutral effect on the conservation and enhancement of heritage assets. We will seek prosecution through Epping Forest byelaws and relevant legislation for any deliberate damage to the historic environment.

**8 We will continue to maintain and care for the museum collection, improving access to the story of Epping Forest.**

Objects from the museum collection and archive are essential in illustrating the story of the Forest, and contribute to the content of display and interpretation. We will care for the museum objects, document/catalogue them and provide access to them through our Forest centres and events in accordance with professional museum collection standards. We will consider museum accreditation, ensuring these standards are upheld, and develop a collections management policy in line with regulations for museums. We will liaise with the London Metropolitan Archive over the Epping Forest collection.

**9 We will seek to influence Local Authorities, statutory undertakers and other stakeholders in order to minimise the effect of development and other works on the significance of the Forest's historic environment.**

Development and other works undertaken by others in and near to the Forest have the potential to affect the historic environment. The impact of proposals on the heritage assets and their setting should be considered when responding to consultations by Local Authorities and enquiries from landowners, developers and other parties. Partnership working with stakeholders should aim to ensure development or other works in or near the Forest respect our policies for the conservation and enhancement of the historic environment.

**10 No site investigation with the potential to impact on the historic environment shall be undertaken within the Forest without the prior written consent of the City of London.**

Any intrusive investigation may reduce the significance of an asset or impact on the natural environment and should therefore only be undertaken with the permission of the landowner, The City of London, and in accordance with its guidance and policies. Conservation and non-intrusive investigation are preferred. Any artefacts discovered are the property of the City of London.

Please note that this policy does not override statutory and legal provision, such as the Epping Forest Act (1878) and its byelaws, the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended 2007), Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010, Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979, Treasure Trove (1996), and the National Planning Policy Framework. Nor can it be read as corporate policy beyond the Epping Forest division. All archaeological finds are the property of the City of London, unless alternative arrangements have been agreed in writing with the City of London.

Committee(s):	Date(s):
Epping Forest and Commons	8 September 2014
Subject: Burnham Beeches and Stoke Common Trustee's Annual report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2014	Public
Report of: The Chamberlain	For Information
<p><b><u>Summary</u></b></p> <p>The Trustee's Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2014 for Burnham Beeches and Stoke Common are presented in the format required by the Charity Commission.</p> <p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is recommended that the Trustees Annual Report and Financial Statements be noted.</li> </ul>	

### **Main Report**

1. The Trustees Annual Report and Financial Statements, in the format that is required by the Charity Commission, are presented for information. The draft accounts were circulated to your Chairman and Deputy Chairman. Subsequently the accounts have been signed on behalf of the Trust by the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Finance Committee and have been audited.
2. Following the review of the charities for which the City is responsible a report to your Committee on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2010 detailed key reports that should be presented to your Committee in future. The Trustees Annual Report and Financial Statements was one of these reports. The review also recommended that Stoke Common be registered as a charity and it be amalgamated with the Burnham Beeches Charity. This took place on 12 September 2011. Information from these statements will form the Annual return to the Charity Commission.
3. Much of the information contained within the Annual Report and Financial Statements has already been presented to your Committee via budget and outturn reports.

**Contact:**

*Alison Elam | [alison.elam@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:alison.elam@cityoflondon.gov.uk) | 020 7332 1081*

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***BURNHAM BEECHES AND STOKE COMMON***

***REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2014***

**Charity Number: 232987**

**BURNHAM BEECHES AND STOKE COMMON**  
**Trustee's Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2014**

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# **BURNHAM BEECHES AND STOKE COMMON**

## **Trustee's Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2014**

### **1. Reference and Administration Details**

Charity Name:	Burnham Beeches and Stoke Common
Registered Charity Number:	232987
Principal Address:	Guildhall, London EC2P 2EJ
Trustee:	The Mayor, Commonalty and Citizens of the City of London
Chief Executive:	The Town Clerk of the City of London Corporation
Treasurer:	The Chamberlain of London
Solicitor:	The Comptroller and City Solicitor
Banker:	Lloyds TSB Bank plc City Office, PO Box 72 Bailey Drive Gillingham, Kent ME8 OLS
Auditor:	Moore Stephens LLP 150 Aldersgate Street London EC1A 4AB

### **2. Structure, Governance and Management**

#### **The Governing Document and constitution of the charity**

The governing document is the Corporation of London (Open Spaces) Act 1878. The charity is constituted as a charitable trust.

#### **Trustee selection methods**

The Mayor, Commonalty and Citizens of London known as the City of London Corporation is the Trustee of Burnham Beeches and Stoke Common. Elected Aldermen and Members of the City of London Corporation are appointed to the Committee governing Burnham Beeches and Stoke Common by the Court of Common Council of the City of London Corporation.

#### **Policies and procedures for the induction and training of trustee**

The City of London Corporation makes available to its Members seminars and briefings on various aspects of the City's activities, including those concerning Burnham Beeches and Stoke Common, as it considers necessary to enable the Members to efficiently carry out their duties.

**BURNHAM BEECHES AND STOKE COMMON**  
**Trustee's Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2014**

## **2. Structure, Governance and Management (continued)**

### **Organisational structure and decision making process**

The committee governing the charity's activities is noted above. The committee is ultimately responsible to the Court of Common Council of the City of London. The decision making processes of the Court of Common Council are set out in the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations governing all the Court of Common Council's activities.

The Standing Orders and Financial Regulations are available from the Town Clerk at the registered address.

### **Details of related parties and wider networks**

Details of any related party transactions are disclosed in note 14 of the Notes to the Financial Statements.

### **Risk identification**

The Trustee is committed to a programme of risk management as an element of its strategy to preserve the charity's assets, enhance productivity for service users and members of the public and protect the employees.

In order to embed sound practice a Risk Management Group has been established in the City of London Corporation to ensure that risk management policies are applied, that there is an ongoing review of risk management activity and that appropriate advice and support is provided to Members and officers.

The City of London Corporation has approved a strategic risk register for all of its activities. This register helps to formalise existing processes and procedures and enables the City of London Corporation to further embed risk management throughout the organisation.

A key risk register has been prepared for this charity and has been reviewed by the committee acting on behalf of the Trustee. It identifies the potential impact of key risks and the measures which are in place to mitigate such risks.

## **3. Objectives and Activities for the Public Benefit**

The Trustee has due regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance when setting objectives and planning activities.

The Burnham Beeches charity was established under the Corporation of London (Open Spaces) Act 1878 which states that the purpose of the charity is the preservation of the Open Space known as Burnham Beeches, "the Beeches", for the recreation and enjoyment of the public.

On 12 September 2011 the assets of Stoke Common (unregistered) were transferred to Burnham Beeches (232987). After this date the Charity is called Burnham Beeches and Stoke Common.

The objects of the Charity are the preservation in perpetuity by the Corporation of London of the Open Spaces known as Burnham Beeches and Stoke Common, for the perpetual use thereof by the public for recreation and enjoyment.

# BURNHAM BEECHES AND STOKE COMMON

## Trustee's Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2014

### 3. Objectives and Activities for the Public Benefit (continued)

Burnham Beeches is also a National Nature Reserve and a candidate Special Area for Conservation; there are requirements under the Wildlife and Countryside Act and also a European obligation to manage the Beeches for the benefit of its wildlife.

Stoke Common contains the largest remnant of Buckinghamshire's once extensive heathland, and is also designated as Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

This charity is operated as part of the City of London Corporation's City's Cash. The City of London Corporation is committed to fund the ongoing net operational costs of the charity in accordance with the purpose which is the preservation of the Open Space known as Burnham Beeches, "the Beeches", for the recreation and enjoyment of the public.

### 4. Achievements and Performance

#### Key targets for 2013/14 and review of achievement

The key targets for 2013/14 together with their outcomes were:

- **Conservation Grazing Scheme.** Deliver the second phase trial of invisible fencing and review public comment and technical issues prior to expansion to whole site grazing. Completed successfully. New equipment designs awaited for further trials.
- **Regeneration of ancient pollards.** Continue programme of experimental projects arising from recommendations of the recent research report. Project completed.
- **Heathland regeneration.** Deliver projects detailed in the Stoke Common heathland regeneration plan for years 5. Project completed.
- **Capital funding for Burnham Beeches and Stoke Common.** Draw up capital works programmes and costs and apply for Higher Level Stewardship Scheme funding. Application submitted but no monies available from Natural England.
- **Sustainability.** Carry out the requirements of the second Departmental and Local Improvement Plans stemming from the Sustainability Audit System. Projects ongoing according to schedule.
- **Team Development.** Develop, implement and evaluate a programme of team learning opportunities to improve service delivery and enhance in-house knowledge base and experience. Visits to Newlands Corner and Brill Common were delivered.
- **Introduction of Dog Control Orders.** Gain approval for the Enforcement strategy and complete statutory consultation process prior to implementation in January 2014. Project delayed by 9 months but extensive informal consultation has taken place and the strategy is now ready for statutory consultation. Implementation now estimated as December 2014.
- **Works programme – general.** Deliver projects detailed in the Burnham Beeches Management Plan for years 4. Project completed.

**BURNHAM BEECHES AND STOKE COMMON**  
**Trustee's Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2014**

**4. Achievements and Performance (continued)**

**Key targets for 2013/14 and review of achievement (continued)**

- Work closely with South Bucks District Council (SBDC) via the Development Management Plan (DMDPD) to ensure the long – term protection of the Burnham Beeches Special Area of Conservation (SAC) from development. Research projects identified and completed in partnership with SBDC, Natural England and the Environment Agency. These will now be used to inform the draft Local Development Plan.
- Design and deliver changes to the entrance to Lord Mayors drive to improve access and visitor safety. Completed.

**Additional achievements during the year 2013/14 were:**

- Provision of new surface, drainage and access gates to the Beeches café
- Green Flag Accreditation
- Green Heritage Accreditation
- Installation of wood pellet boiler and associated grant income

**5. Financial Review**

**Review of financial position**

Income of £221,779 (2012/13 £225,210) was received including grant income of £96,150 (2012/13 £95,486), donations of £19,023 (2012/13 £18,397), interest of £1,363 (2012/13 £1,799), sales of £1,045 (2012/13 £5), fees and charges of £69,144 (2012/13 £73,221) and rental income of £35,054 (2012/13 £36,302). No reimbursements and contributions were received during the year. The contribution towards running costs of the charity amounted to £667,973 (2012/13 £714,737). This cost was met by the City of London Corporation's City's Cash.

**Reserves Policy**

The charity is wholly supported by the City of London Corporation which is committed to maintain and preserve Burnham Beeches and Stoke Common out of its City's Cash Funds. These Funds are used to meet the deficit on running expenses on a year by year basis. Consequently, this charity has no free reserves and a reserves policy is therefore inappropriate.

**Investment Policy**

The charity itself has no underlying supporting funds or investments and therefore there is no investment policy.

**Going Concern**

The Trustee considers the Commons to be a going concern. Please see note 1(b) to the Financial Statements.

# BURNHAM BEECHES AND STOKE COMMON

## Trustee's Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2014

### 6. Plans for Future Periods

The key targets for 2014/15 are to:

- **Conservation Grazing Scheme.** Repeat the second phase trial of invisible fencing and test new equipment. Agree final delivery plan for use of invisible fencing and install to ensure conservation grazing across approximately 90% of the site. Keep public informed of progress.
- **Regeneration of ancient pollards.** Continue programme of experimental projects arising from recommendations of the recent research report.
- **Heathland regeneration.** Deliver projects detailed in the Stoke Common heathland regeneration plan for years 6.
- **Capital funding for Burnham Beeches and Stoke Common.** Draw up capital works programmes and costs and apply for Higher Level Stewardship Scheme funding.
- **Sustainability.** Complete requirements of the second Departmental and Local Improvement Plans stemming from the Sustainability Audit System. Carry out fresh Sustainability Audit and contribute/develop to new Departmental/Local Improvement Plans
- **Team Development.** Develop, implement and evaluate a programme of team learning opportunities to improve service delivery and enhance in-house knowledge base and experience.
- **Introduction of Dog Control Orders.** Complete statutory consultation process and seek committee approval for any necessary amendments. Introduce DCO's at Burnham Beeches by end 2014
- **Works programme – general.** Deliver projects detailed in the Burnham Beeches Management Plan for year 5.
- Work closely with South Bucks District Council (SBDC) via the Development Management Plan (DMDPD) to ensure the long – term protection of the Burnham Beeches Special Area of Conservation (SAC) from development. For 2014 - Ensure research outcomes are embedded in the draft Local Development Plan and that this document ensures as far as is practicable the protection of Burnham Beeches from harmful developments either alone or cumulatively.

### 7. The Financial Statements

The financial statements consist of the following and include comparative figures for the previous year:

- **Statement of Financial Activities** showing all resources available and all expenditure incurred and reconciling all changes in the funds of the charity.
- **Balance Sheet** setting out the assets and liabilities of the charity.
- **Notes to the Financial Statements** describing the accounting policies adopted and explaining information contained in the financial statements.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with statutory requirements and the Statement of Recommended Practice *Accounting and Reporting by Charities (Revised 2005)*.

**BURNHAM BEECHES AND STOKE COMMON**  
**Trustee's Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2014**

**8. Statement of Trustee's Responsibilities**

The Trustee is responsible for preparing the Trustee's Report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the Trustee to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources of the charity for the period. In preparing these financial statements the Trustee is required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principals in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements that are estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The Trustee is responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enables the Trustee to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the charities' governing documents. It is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

**9. Adopted and signed for and on behalf of the Trustee on 23 July 2014.**

R.A.H. Chadwick  
Chairman of Finance Committee  
Guildhall, London

J P Mayhew  
Deputy Chairman of  
Finance Committee  
Guildhall, London



## **BURNHAM BEECHES AND STOKE COMMON**

### **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEE OF BURNHAM BEECHES AND STOKE COMMON**

We have audited the financial statements of Burnham Beeches and Stoke Common for the year ended 31 March 2014 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and the related notes 1 to 14. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 8 of the Charities Act 2011 and regulations made under section 154 of that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and its trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

#### **Respective responsibilities of trustees and auditor**

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement set out on page 7, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view.

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with regulations made under section 154 of that Act. Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's (APB's) Ethical Standards for Auditors.

#### **Scope of the audit of the financial statements**

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of: whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the charity's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the trustees; and the overall presentation of the financial statements. In addition, we read all the financial and non-financial information in the Trustee's Annual Report to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements and to identify any information that is apparently materially incorrect based on, or materially inconsistent with, the knowledge acquired by us in the course of performing the audit. If we become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies we consider the implications for our report.

#### **Opinion on financial statements**

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 March 2014, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

## **BURNHAM BEECHES AND STOKE COMMON**

### **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEE OF BURNHAM BEECHES AND STOKE COMMON CHARITY (CONTINUED)**

#### **Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Charities Act 2011 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the Trustees' Annual Report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Moore Stephens LLP

Statutory Auditor

Moore Stephens LLP is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

150 Aldersgate Street  
London  
EC1A 4AB

## BURNHAM BEECHES AND STOKE COMMON

### Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2014

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds		2013/14	2012/13
		General Fund	Designated Fund		
		£	£	£	£
<b>Incoming Resources</b>					
Incoming Resources from generated funds					
Voluntary Income		115,173		<b>115,173</b>	113,883
Investment Income		1,363		<b>1,363</b>	1,799
Grant from City of London Corporation		667,973		<b>667,973</b>	714,737
Incoming Resources from Charitable activities		105,243		<b>105,243</b>	109,528
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	4	<b>889,752</b>		<b>889,752</b>	939,947
<b>Resources Expended</b>					
Charitable activities		823,336	18,148	<b>841,484</b>	882,218
Governance costs		65,053	-	<b>65,053</b>	61,078
<b>Total resources expended</b>	5	<b>888,389</b>	18,148	<b>906,537</b>	943,296
<b>Net (outgoing)/incoming resources before transfers</b>					
		1,363	(18,148)	<b>(16,785)</b>	(3,349)
Transfer (to)/from designated funds		(1,363)	1,363	-	-
<b>Net (outgoing)/incoming resources for the financial year</b>		-	(16,785)	<b>(16,785)</b>	(3,349)
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>					
Funds brought forward	12	-	837,883	<b>837,883</b>	841,232
<b>Funds carried forward</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>821,098</b>	<b>821,098</b>	837,883

There are no recognised gains or losses other than as shown in the statement of financial activities above.

All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities.

## BURNHAM BEECHES AND STOKE COMMON

### Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2014

	Notes	2013/14 £	2012/13 £
<b>Fixed Assets</b>			
Tangible Fixed Assets	9	<u>693,637</u>	<u>711,785</u>
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Debtors	10	27,049	14,308
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>170,335</u>	<u>203,922</u>
		<b>197,384</b>	<b>218,230</b>
<b>Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year</b>	11	<u>(69,923)</u>	<u>(92,132)</u>
<b>Net Current Assets</b>		<u><b>127,461</b></u>	<u><b>126,098</b></u>
<b>Total Assets less Current Liabilities</b>		<u><b>821,098</b></u>	<u><b>837,883</b></u>
<b>The Funds of the Charity</b>			
<i>Unrestricted Income Fund</i>			
Designated Fund	12	<u>821,098</u>	<u>837,883</u>
<b>Total Charity Funds</b>		<u><b>821,098</b></u>	<u><b>837,883</b></u>

Approved and signed for and on behalf of the Trustee

The notes at pages 12 to 22 form part of these accounts.

Dr Peter Kane  
Chamberlain of London  
23<sup>rd</sup> July 2014

**BURNHAM BEECHES AND STOKE COMMON**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2014**

**1. Accounting Policies**

The following accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the charity's financial statements.

**(a) Basis of Preparation**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and Statement of Recommended Practice *Accounting and Reporting by Charities (Revised 2005)* and under the historical cost accounting rules, and in accordance with applicable United Kingdom accounting standards.

Activity is accounted for in the year that it takes place on an accruals basis, not simply when cash payments are made or received. In particular, where revenue and expenditure have been recognised but cash has not been received or paid, a debtor or creditor for the relevant amount is recorded in the Balance Sheet. Where debts may not be settled, the balance of debtors is written down and a charge made to revenue for the income that might not be collected.

**(b) Going Concern**

The governing documents place an obligation on the City of London Corporation to preserve the open space for the benefit of the public. The City of London Corporation is committed to fulfilling this obligation which is reflected through its proactive management of, and ongoing funding for, the services and activities required. The funding is provided from the City of London Corporation's City's Cash which annually receives considerable income from its managed funds and property investments. Each year a medium term financial forecast is prepared for City's Cash. The latest forecast to the period 2017/18 anticipates that adequate funding will be available to enable the Trust to continue to fulfil its obligations. On this basis the Trustee considers the Trust to be a going concern for the foreseeable future.

**(c) Fixed Assets**

***Heritage Land and Associated Buildings***

Burnham Beeches comprises 219 hectares (540 acres) and Stoke Common covers an area of 80 hectares of land located in Buckinghamshire, to the West of London, together with associated buildings. The objectives of the charity are the preservation in perpetuity by the Corporation of London of the Open Spaces known as Burnham Beeches and Stoke Common, for the perpetual use thereof by the public for recreation and enjoyment. Burnham Beeches and Stoke Common are considered to be inalienable (i.e. may not be disposed of without specific statutory powers). The land and the original associated buildings are considered to be heritage assets. In respect of the original land and buildings, cost or valuation amounts are not included in these accounts as reliable cost information is not available and a significant cost would be involved in the reconstruction of past accounting records, or in the valuation, which would be onerous compared to the benefit to the users of these accounts.

## BURNHAM BEECHES AND STOKE COMMON

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2014

### 1. Accounting Policies (continued)

#### (c) Fixed Assets (continued)

##### *Tangible Fixed Assets*

These are included at historic cost less depreciation on a straight line basis to write off their costs over their estimated useful lives and less any provision for impairment. Land is not depreciated and other fixed assets are depreciated from the year following that of their acquisition. Typical asset lives are as follows:

	Years
Operational buildings	30 to 50
Landscaping/Conservation	up to 50
Improvements and refurbishments to buildings	up to 30
Equipment	5 to 15
Infrastructure	20
Heavy vehicles and plant	7
Computer systems	3 to 7
Cars and light vans	5

#### (d) Recognition

Expenditure on the acquisition, creation or enhancement of property, plant and equipment is capitalized provided that the expenditure is material (generally in excess of £50,000) and the asset yields benefits to the City of London, and the services it provides, for a period of more than one year. This excludes expenditure on routine repairs and maintenance of fixed assets which is charged directly within service costs.

#### (e) Incoming Resources

##### *Recognition of incoming resources*

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities gross without deduction of expenses in the financial year in which they are entitled to be received.

##### *Voluntary income*

Voluntary income comprises public donations and government grants.

##### *Volunteers*

No amounts are included in the Statement of Financial Activities for services donated by volunteers, as this cannot be quantified.

##### *Grants received*

Grants are included in the Statement of Financial Activities in the financial year in which they are entitled to be received.

##### *Grant from City of London Corporation*

The City of London Corporation's City's Cash meets the deficit on running expenses of the charity and also provides grant funding for certain capital works and this income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when it is due from the City of London Corporation's City's Cash.

##### *Rental income*

Rental income is included in the Charity's incoming resources for the year and amounts due but not received at the year end are included in debtors.

## BURNHAM BEECHES AND STOKE COMMON

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2014

### 1. Accounting Policies (continued)

#### *(f) Resources Expended*

##### *Allocation of costs between different activities*

The City of London Corporation charges staff costs to the charitable activity and governance costs on a time spent basis. Associated office accommodation is charged out proportionately to the square footage used. All other costs are charged directly to the charitable activity.

#### *(g) Pension Costs*

The City of London's Pension Scheme is a funded defined benefits scheme. City of London Corporation staff are eligible for membership in the pension scheme and may be employed in relation to the activities of any of the City Corporation's three main funds, or any combination of them (i.e. City Fund, City's Cash and Bridge House Estates). As the charity is unable to identify its share of the Pension Scheme assets and liabilities, this scheme is accounted for as a defined contribution scheme in the accounts.

#### *(h) Fund Accounting*

The Trust may, at the Trustee's discretion, set aside funds, which would otherwise form part of general funds, for particular purposes. These funds are known as designated funds. The purpose of these funds are described in Note 12 to the accounts.

#### *(i) Cash flow Statement*

The Trust has taken advantage of the exemption in Financial Reporting Standard 1 (Revised) from the requirement to produce a cash flow statement in the grounds that it is a small entity.

#### *(j) Governance Costs*

The nature of costs allocated to Governance is detailed in note 5.

### 2. Tax Status of the Charity

Burnham Beeches and Stoke Common are registered charities and as such their income and gains are exempt from income tax to the extent that they are applied to their charitable objectives.

### 3. Indemnity Insurance

The City of London Corporation takes out indemnity insurance in respect of all its activities. The charity does not contribute to the cost of that insurance.

**BURNHAM BEECHES AND STOKE COMMON**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2014**

**4. Incoming Resources**

Incoming resources are comprised as follows:

	<b>2013/14</b>	2012/13
	£	£
<b>Incoming resources from generated funds</b>		
Grant income	<b>96,150</b>	95,486
Donations	<b>19,023</b>	18,397
Interest	<b>1,363</b>	1,799
Grant from City of London Corporation	<b>667,973</b>	714,737
	<b>784,509</b>	<b>830,419</b>
<b>Incoming resources from charitable activities</b>		
Sale of goods, products and materials	1,045	5
Fees and Charges	69,144	73,221
Rental income	35,054	36,302
	<b>105,243</b>	<b>109,528</b>
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<b>889,752</b>	<b>939,947</b>

**Grants**

Grants were received from the Rural Payments Agency and amounted to £96,150 (2012/13 £95,486).

**Grant from City of London Corporation**

The City of London Corporation's City's Cash meets the deficit on running expenses of the charity.

**Fees and Charges**

Fees and charges are in respect of film, refreshment licences and car parking income.



**BURNHAM BEECHES AND STOKE COMMON**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2014**

**5. Resources Expended**

Resources expended are analysed between activities undertaken directly and support costs as follows:

**Charitable activities**

	Activities undertaken directly  £	Support costs  £	<b>2013/14</b>  £	2012/13  £
Charitable activities	775,835	65,649	<b>841,484</b>	882,218
Governance costs	-	65,053	<b>65,053</b>	61,078
<b>Total resources expended</b>	775,835	130,702	<b>906,537</b>	943,296

Expenditure on charitable activities includes labour, premises costs, equipment, materials and other supplies and services incurred as the running costs of Burnham Beeches and Stoke Common.

**Governance costs**

*General*

Governance costs relate to the general running of the charity, rather than specific activities within the charity, and include strategic planning and costs associated with Trustee meetings. These costs are borne by the City of London Corporation and charged to individual charities on the basis of time spent, as part of support costs, where appropriate.

*Auditor's remuneration and fees for external financial services*

Moore Stephens are the auditors of the City of London City's Cash. The City of London Corporation does not attempt to apportion the audit fee between all the different charities but prefers to treat it as part of the cost to their private funds. No other external professional services were provided for the charity during the year or in the previous year.

*Trustee's expenses*

Members of the City of London Corporation are unpaid and do not receive allowances in respect of City of London Corporation activities in the City. However, Members may claim travelling expenses in respect of activities outside the City and receive allowances in accordance with a scale when attending a conference or activity on behalf of the City of London Corporation. No expenses have been claimed in the year. (2011/12: £Nil).

**BURNHAM BEECHES AND STOKE COMMON**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2014**

**6. Support Costs**

The cost of administration which includes the salaries and associated costs of officers of the City of London Corporation, together with premises and office expenses, is allocated by the City of London Corporation to the activities under its control, including this charity, on the basis of employee time spent on the respective services. These expenses include the cost of administrative and technical staff and external consultants who work on a number of the City of London Corporation's activities. Support costs allocated by the City of London Corporation to the charitable activity are derived as follows:

	Charitable activities £	Governance £	<b>2013/14</b> £	2012/13 £
<b>Department</b>				
Chamberlain	-	19,973	<b>19,973</b>	16,847
Comptroller & City Solicitor	-	10,872	<b>10,872</b>	10,887
Open Spaces Directorate	31,655	-	<b>31,655</b>	27,338
Town Clerk	-	17,193	<b>17,193</b>	17,357
City Surveyor	13,833	13,739	<b>27,572</b>	34,728
Information Systems	15,710	-	<b>15,710</b>	12,406
Other governance and support costs	4,451	3,276	<b>7,727</b>	8,503
<b>Total support costs</b>	<b>65,649</b>	<b>65,053</b>	<b>130,702</b>	128,066

The main support services provided by the City of London Corporation are:

<b>Chamberlain</b>	Accounting services, insurance, cashiers, revenue collection, payments, financial systems and internal audit.
<b>Comptroller and City Solicitor</b>	Property, litigation, contracts, public law and administration of commercial rents and City of London Corporation records.
<b>Open Spaces Directorate</b>	Expenditure incurred by the Directorate, which is recharged to all Open Spaces Committees under the control of the Director of Open Spaces. The apportionments are calculated on the basis of budget resources available to each Open Space charity.
<b>Town Clerk</b>	Committee administration, management services, personnel services, public relations, printing and stationery, emergency planning.
<b>City Surveyor</b>	Work undertaken on the management of the Estate properties, surveying services and advice, supervising and administering repairs and maintenance.

**BURNHAM BEECHES AND STOKE COMMON**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2014**

**6. Support Costs (continued)**

- Information Systems**      The support and operation of the City of London Corporation’s central and corporate systems on the basis of usage of the systems; the provision of “desktop” and network support services and small IS development projects that might be required by the charity.
- Other governance costs**      These include the cost of publishing the annual report and financial statements, and the allocation of public relations activities on behalf of the charity.

**7. Staff Numbers and Costs**

The full time equivalent number of staff employed by the City of London Corporation charged to Burnham Beeches and Stoke Common Trust is 13 (2012/13 14) at a cost of £425,342 (2012/13 £451,104). The table below sets out the employment costs and the number of full time equivalent staff charged directly to the charity.

	No of employees	Gross Pay £	Employer’s National Insurance £	Employer’s Pension Contribution £	Total £
2013/14 Charitable activities	13	338,116	25,235	61,991	<b>425,342</b>
2012/13 Charitable activities	14	357,658	27,023	66,423	<b>451,104</b>

No employees earned more than £60,000 during the year (2012/13 nil).

**8. Heritage Assets**

Since 1880 the primary purpose of the charity has been the preservation of Burnham Beeches for the recreation and enjoyment of the public. On 12<sup>th</sup> September 2011 this was extended to cover Stoke Common. As set out in accounting policy 1(c), the original heritage land and buildings are not recognised in the Financial Statements.

Policies for the preservation and management of Burnham Beeches and Stoke Common are contained in the Burnham Beeches and Stoke Common Conservation Management Plan 2010. Records of heritage assets owned and maintained by Burnham Beeches and Stoke Common can be obtained from the Director of Open Spaces at the principal address as set out on page 2.

**BURNHAM BEECHES AND STOKE COMMON**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2014**

**9. Tangible Fixed Assets**

At 31 March 2014 the net book value of tangible fixed assets relating to direct charitable purposes amounted to £693,637 (31 March 2013: £711,785) as set out below.

	Land and Buildings £	<b>Total £</b>
<b><u>Cost</u></b>		
At 1 April 2013 and <b>31 March 2014</b>	835,256	<b>835,256</b>
<b><u>Accumulated depreciation</u></b>		
At 1 April 2013	123,471	<b>123,471</b>
Charge for year	18,148	<b>18,148</b>
<b>At 31 March 2014</b>	<b>141,619</b>	<b>141,619</b>
<b><u>Net book values</u></b>		
<b>At 31 March 2014</b>	693,637	<b>693,637</b>
<b>At 31 March 2013</b>	711,785	<b>711,785</b>

**10. Debtors**

Debtors consist of amounts owing to the charity due within one year.

	<b>2013/14 £</b>	2012/13 £
Rental Debtors	4,725	6,213
Recoverable VAT	17,406	4,785
Other Debtors	1,185	1,234
Sundry Debtors	1,529	0
Prepayments	2,204	2,076
	<b>27,049</b>	<b>14,308</b>

**BURNHAM BEECHES AND STOKE COMMON**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2014**

**11. Creditors**

Creditors consist of amounts due within one year. The creditors figure consists of the following amounts:

	2013/14 £	2012/13 £
Trade Creditors	32,744	4,948
Accruals	16,325	66,430
Other Creditors	413	307
Sundry Deposits	14,250	14,250
Receipts In Advance	6,191	6,197
<b>Total</b>	<b>69,923</b>	<b>92,132</b>

**12. Movement of Funds during the year to 31 March 2014**

	Balance at 1 April 2013 £	Net Incoming/ (outgoing) resources £	Balance at 31 March 2014 £
<b>Unrestricted Income</b>			
<i>Designated Funds</i>			
Stoke Common	126,098	1,363*	<b>127,461</b>
Capital Adjustment Account	711,785	(18,148)**	<b>693,637</b>
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>837,883</b>	<b>(16,785)</b>	<b>821,098</b>

**Designated funds**

*Stoke Common*

Stoke Common was acquired by the City of London from South Bucks District Council on 31 October 2007.

On 12 September 2011 the assets and liabilities of Stoke Common were transferred to Burnham Beeches and Stoke Common. £109,872 was transferred to being the balance of the lump sum from South Buckinghamshire District Council. £1,363 is the interest earned on cash balances.

*Capital Adjustment Account*

Capital Adjustment Account consists of fixed assets at historic cost less accumulated depreciation in accordance with Note 1 (c).

\* Interest earned on cash balances.

\*\* Depreciation

**BURNHAM BEECHES AND STOKE COMMON**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2014**

**13. Pensions**

Following the statutory triennial valuation of the pension fund as at 31st March 2013, completed by independent consulting actuaries, an employer's contribution rate of 17.5% has been applied for 2014/15, 2015/16 and 2016/17.

In 2013/14, employer's contributions to the scheme for staff engaged on City's Cash activities was £8.6m (2012/13 £8.5m). There are no outstanding or pre-paid contributions at the balance sheet date.

The deficit of the scheme at 31 March 2014 is £401m (2012/13 £342m) as calculated in accordance with FRS17 disclosures.

**14. Related Party Transactions**

The following disclosures are made in recognition of the principles underlying Financial Reporting Standard 8 concerning related party transactions.

The City of London Corporation as well as being the Trustee also provides management, surveying and administrative services for the charity. The costs incurred by the City of London Corporation in providing these services are charged to the charity. The City of London Corporation also provides banking services, charging all transactions to the charity at cost and crediting or charging interest at a commercial rate. The cost of these services is set out in the Statement of Financial Activities under "Resources Expended" and an explanation of these services is set out in note 6 for support costs of £130,702 (2012/13: £128,066). The City of London Corporation's City's Cash meets the deficit on running expenses of the charity. This amounted to £667,973 (2012/13: £714,737) as shown in Note 4 to the financial statements.

The City of London Corporation is also the Trustee of a number of other charitable Trusts. These Trusts do not undertake transactions with Burnham Beeches and Stoke Common. A full list of other charitable Trusts of which the City of London Corporation is Trustee is available on application to the Chamberlain of the City of London.

Members of the City of London Corporation responsible for managing the Trust are required to comply with the Relevant Authority (model code of conduct) Order 2001 issued under the Local Government Act 2000 and the City of London Corporation's guidelines which require that:

- Members sign a declaration agreeing to abide by the City of London Corporation's code of conduct;
- a register of interests is maintained;
- pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests are declared during meetings; and

#### **14. Related Party Transactions (continued)**

- Members do not participate in decisions where they have an interest.

There are corresponding arrangements for staff to recognise interests and avoid possible conflicts of those interests.

In this way, as a matter of policy and procedure, the City of London Corporation ensures that Members and officers do not exercise control over decisions in which they have an interest. There are no material transactions with organisations related by virtue of Members and Officers interests which require separate reporting. Transactions are undertaken by the Trust on a normal commercial basis.

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Committee(s):	Date(s):
Epping Forest and Commons	8 September 2014
Subject: City Commons Trustee's Annual report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2014	Public
Report of: The Chamberlain	For Information
<p><b><u>Summary</u></b></p> <p>The Trustee's Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2014 for Ashtead Common and West Wickham Common and Spring Park Wood Coulsdon and Other Commons, which together form the City Commons, are presented in the format required by the Charity Commission.</p> <p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is recommended that the Trustees Annual Reports and Financial Statements be noted.</li> </ul>	

## **Main Report**

1. The Trustees Annual Report and Financial Statements, in the format that is required by the Charity Commission, are presented for information. The draft accounts were circulated to your Chairman and Deputy Chairman. Subsequently the accounts have been signed on behalf of the Trust by the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Finance Committee and have been audited.
2. Following the review of the charities for which the City is responsible a report to your Committee on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2010 detailed key reports that should be presented to your Committee in future. The Trustees Annual Report and Financial Statements was one of these reports. Information from these statements will form the Annual return to the Charity Commission.
3. Much of the information contained within the Annual Report and Financial Statements has already been presented to your Committee via budget and outturn reports.

**Contact:**

*Alison Elam | [alison.elam@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:alison.elam@cityoflondon.gov.uk) | 020 7332 1081*

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*ASHTEAD COMMON*  
*REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS*  
*FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2014*  
**Charity Number: 1051510**

# ASHTEAD COMMON

## Trustee's Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2014

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Notes to the Financial Statements	13-20

**ASHTEAD COMMON**  
**Trustee's Annual report for the year ended 31 March 2014**

**1. Reference and Administration Details**

Charity Name:	Ashtead Common
Registered Charity Number:	1051510
Principal Address:	Guildhall, London EC2P 2EJ
Trustee:	The Mayor, Commonalty and Citizens of the City of London
Chief Executive:	The Town Clerk of the City of London Corporation
Treasurer:	The Chamberlain of London
Solicitor:	The Comptroller and City Solicitor
Banker:	Lloyds TSB Bank plc City Office, PO Box 72 Bailey Drive Gillingham, Kent ME8 OLS
Auditor:	Moore Stephens LLP 150 Aldersgate Street London EC1A 4AB

**2. Structure, Governance and Management**

**The Governing Document and constitution of the charity**

The Governing Document is the Corporation of London (Open Spaces) Act 1878. The charity is constituted as a charitable trust.

**Trustee Selection methods**

The Mayor, Commonalty and Citizens of London known as the City of London Corporation is the Trustee of Ashtead Common. Elected Aldermen and Members of the City of London Corporation are appointed to the committee governing Ashtead Common by the Court of Common Council of the City of London Corporation.

**Policies and procedures for the induction and training of trustee**

The City of London Corporation makes available to its Members seminars and briefings on various aspects of the City's activities, including those concerning Ashtead Common, as it considers necessary to enable the Members to efficiently carry out their duties.

# **ASHTEAD COMMON**

## **Trustee's Annual report for the year ended 31 March 2014**

### **2. Structure, Governance and Management (continued)**

#### **Organisational structure and decision making process**

The committee governing the charity's activities is noted above. The committee is ultimately responsible to the Court of Common Council of the City of London. The decision making processes of the Court of Common Council are set out in the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations governing all the Court of Common Council's activities. The Standing Orders and Financial Regulations are available from the Town Clerk at the principal address.

#### **Details of related parties and wider networks**

Details of any related party transactions are disclosed in Note 12 of the Notes to the Financial Statements.

#### **Risk identification**

The Trustee is committed to a programme of risk management as an element of its strategy to preserve the charity's assets, enhance productivity for service users and members of the public and protect the employees.

In order to embed sound practice a Risk Management Group has been established in the City of London Corporation to ensure that risk management policies are applied, that there is an ongoing review of risk management activity and that appropriate advice and support is provided to Members and officers.

The City of London Corporation has approved a strategic risk register for all of its activities. This register helps to formalise existing processes and procedures and enables the City of London Corporation to further embed risk management throughout the organisation.

A key risk register has been prepared for this charity and has been reviewed by the committee acting on behalf of the Trustee. It identifies the potential impact of key risks and the measures which are in place to mitigate such risks.

### **3. Objectives and Activities for the Public Benefit**

The Trustee has due regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance when setting objectives and planning activities.

The Ashtead Common Charity was established under the Corporation of London (Open Spaces) Act 1878 which states that the purpose of the charity is the preservation of the common at Ashtead for the recreation and enjoyment of the public.

Almost the entire open space is designated as a National Nature Reserve and Site of Special Scientific Interest.

Past land use has influenced the common, creating its rich ecological and cultural diversity. Today it is an important amenity resource for local people, who use the site for a variety of informal recreational and educational activities. Local people are actively encouraged to become involved as volunteers in all aspects of managing the common.

**ASHTEAD COMMON**  
**Trustee's Annual report for the year ended 31 March 2014**

**3. Objectives and Activities for the Public Benefit (continued)**

This charity is operated as part of the City of London Corporation's City's Cash. The City Corporation is committed to fund the ongoing net operational costs of the charity in accordance with the purpose which is the preservation of the common at Ashtead for the recreation and enjoyment of the public.

**4. Achievements and Performance**

**Significant developments for 2013/14**

Ashtead Common is managed as part of the City Commons Division of the Open Spaces Department. In addition to managing the Ashtead Common charity, the City Commons Division is also responsible for the West Wickham Common and Spring Park Woods charity, and the Coulsdon and other Commons charity. Financial reporting arrangements reflect the fact that these charities are separate and distinct entities, with separate Sundry Trust reports produced for the Ashtead and the West Wickham and Coulsdon Commons charities.

A Divisional Plan and an annual priority plan set strategy and management objectives for the division as a whole, which are then cascaded to the individual site management plans and work programmes for the Commons.

At the heart of the Ashtead Common Management Plan is the recognition that three core elements, namely service provision, site protection and efficient service delivery, need to be fully integrated. The Management Plan reflects the requirement of the Corporation of London (Open Spaces) Act 1878 (the Governing Document) to protect the open space in perpetuity for the public to enjoy.

The introduction of a combined Entry Level and Higher Level Stewardship Scheme has significantly advanced the capacity of the City Commons Division to deliver an effective and sustainable programme of conservation management projects across the seven commons. Referred to as the Environmental Stewardship Scheme (ESS), the agreement with Natural England was signed on 21 March 2011 for implementation from April 2011 onwards and covering a period of 10 years. ESS provides incentive payments to manage land to conserve or restore habitats by compartmentalising areas into various options, each of which has its own management prescription.

# ASHTEAD COMMON

## Trustee's Annual report for the year ended 31 March 2014

### 4. Achievements and Performance (continued)

Volunteering across the Commons continues to flourish, with 6 directly supported groups undertaking work across all seven open spaces; the Ashtead Common Volunteers, New Hillbillies (Farthing Downs and New Hill), Kenley Volunteers, Coulsdon Common Volunteers, Riddlesdown Volunteers and WWaSP's (West Wickham and Spring Park). These groups were helped by volunteers from the Trust for Conservation Volunteers (formerly BTCV), Croydon Conservation Volunteers and a number of corporate volunteers groups to achieve a total of over 11,000 volunteer hours. The division continues to support TCV, and the Lower Mole and Downlands Countryside Management Projects to promote volunteering and champion local strategic partnerships.

The diversity of the Commons and extended catchment of seven Open Spaces spread over a 30 mile area makes City Commons ideally placed to offer an exciting and varied programme of interpretative activities. During the year the Division provided over 130 walks, talks and events on subjects as varied as wildflower and grass identification, looking for glow worms, astronomy and the Roman villa on Ashtead Common. The division also facilitated a number of educational events during the course of the year, some of which were licensed activities and some that were directly led by the ranger team. At Ashtead Common licences were issued on 4 occasions and there were 19 directly led educational events.

#### Key targets for 2013/14 and review of achievement

The key targets for 2013/14 together with their outcomes were:

- **Develop a meaningful Business Plan** – change culture, structure and processes to achieve the City Commons vision. *A new structure and processes were established to ensure the service is the right shape to deliver its objectives.*
- **Welcoming Site** – Implement Ashtead's Entrance Audit to present a clear and consistent message to visitors. *The audit was completed, clear and consistent signage was installed at all entrance points and entrances were rearranged to make them user-friendly and clutter free.*
- **Veteran trees** – carry out halo release around veteran oak pollards and review crown reduction in light of condition assessment. *Approximately 75 trees had aerial works and 130 had ground works in line with the individual management plans.*
- **Bracken control** –roll and mow areas restored as pasture and maintain routes designated as firebreaks. *Glades and rides were maintained according to the requirements of the management plan to control bracken.*
- **Successional areas** – continue scrub management to maintain favourable condition for breeding birds. *A concerted effort to manage scrub resulted in the re-establishment of a 50:50 scrub to grassland ratio in Pine Field and a significant improvement in the ratio in the Woodlands Road area.*



## ASHTEAD COMMON

### Trustee's Annual report for the year ended 31 March 2014

#### 4. Achievements and Performance (continued)

##### Key targets for 2013/14 and review of achievement (continued)

##### A review of other achievements:

- Retention of the Green Heritage Award
- Archaeologists from the Surrey Archaeological Society completed their seven year exploration of the Roman Villa and associated features
- A herd of 11 cattle grazed Phoenix Field and the lower slopes to maintain diversity of sward height
- A condition survey revealed that Woodfield now exhibits enough species diversity to warrant inclusion in the SSSI (Sites of Special Scientific Interest)
- The flow control structure and river restoration scheme prevented flooding of houses in Broadhurst during the wettest winter for 248 year
- Bridleway 38 between Craddocks Avenue and Lady Howards Crossing surfaced using natural materials
- Reptile and butterfly surveys completed
- Volunteer tree wardens recruited and deployed to check tree health and monitor for tree diseases

All of the above achievements enhanced the Open Space for the benefit of the public.

#### 5. Financial Review

##### Review of Financial Position

Income of £69,942 was received from grants (2012/13: £75,332), £19 from sale of goods, products and materials (2012/13: £nil), £1,409 from fees and charges (2012/13: £2,868), £1,713 from licences (2012/13: £265). The contribution towards running costs of the charity amounted to £464,699 (2012/13: £485,384). This cost was met by the City of London Corporation's City's Cash.

##### Reserves Policy

The charity is wholly supported by the City of London Corporation which is committed to maintain and preserve Ashtead Common out of its City's Cash Funds. These Funds are used to meet the deficit on running expenses on a year by year basis. Consequently, this charity has no free reserves and a reserves policy is therefore inappropriate.

## ASHTEAD COMMON

### Trustee's Annual report for the year ended 31 March 2014

#### 5. Financial Review (continued)

##### Investment Policy

The charity itself has no underlying supporting funds or investments and therefore there is no investment policy.

##### Going Concern

The Trustee considers the Common to be a going concern as detailed in note 1(b) of the accounting policies.

#### 6. Plans for Future Periods

The aims for 2014/15 are:

- **Volunteers** – create new opportunities for volunteers to get involved in caring for Ashtead Common
- **Grazing** – develop plans to expand conservation grazing into restored wood pasture areas
- **Veteran Trees** – maintain halo release but review programme of crown reduction
- **Successional areas** – continue scrub management work to re-establish the desired 50:50 scrub, grass balance in more areas
- **Woodland edge** – maintain rides and glades with ecotones to benefit wildlife and safe access

#### 7. The Financial Statements

The financial statements consist of the following and include comparative figures for the previous year:

- **Statement of Financial Activities** showing all resources available and all expenditure incurred and reconciling all changes in the funds of the charity.
- **Balance Sheet** setting out the assets and liabilities of the charity.
- **Notes to the Financial Statements** describing the accounting policies adopted and explaining information contained in the financial statements.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with statutory requirements and the Statement of Recommended Practice *Accounting and Reporting by Charities (Revised 2005)*.

**ASHTEAD COMMON**  
**Trustee's Annual report for the year ended 31 March 2014**

**8. Statement of Trustee's Responsibilities**

The Trustee is responsible for preparing the Trustee's Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the Trustee to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustee is required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The Trustee is responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enables the Trustee to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and provisions of the charity's governing documents. The Trustee is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

**9. Adopted and signed for on behalf of the Trustee on 23 July 2014.**

R.A.H. Chadwick  
Chairman of Finance Committee  
Guildhall, London

J. P. Mayhew  
Deputy Chairman of  
Finance Committee  
Guildhall, London

# ASHTEAD COMMON

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEE OF ASHTEAD COMMON

We have audited the financial statements of Ashtead Common for the year ended 31 March 2014 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and the related notes 1 to 12. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 8 of the Charities Act 2011 and regulations made under section 154 of that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and its trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

### **Respective responsibilities of trustees and auditor**

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement set out on page 8, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view.

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with regulations made under section 154 of that Act. Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's (APB's) Ethical Standards for Auditors.

### **Scope of the audit of the financial statements**

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of: whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the charity's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the trustees; and the overall presentation of the financial statements. In addition, we read all the financial and non-financial information in the Trustee's Annual Report to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements and to identify any information that is apparently materially incorrect based on, or materially inconsistent with, the knowledge acquired by us in the course of performing the audit. If we become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies we consider the implications for our report.

### **Opinion on financial statements**

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 March 2014, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

## **ASHTEAD COMMON**

### **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEE OF ASHTEAD COMMON (CONTINUED)**

#### **Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Charities Act 2011 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the Trustees' Annual Report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Moore Stephens LLP

Statutory Auditor

Moore Stephens LLP is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

150 Aldersgate Street  
London  
EC1A 4AB

## ASHTEAD COMMON

### Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2014

		<b>Unrestricted Fund</b>	
	Notes	<b>2013/14</b>	<b>2012/13</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Incoming Resources</b>			
Incoming resources from generated funds			
Voluntary income		<b>69,942</b>	77,537
Grant from City of London Corporation		<b>464,699</b>	485,384
Incoming resources from charitable activities		<b>3,141</b>	928
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	4	<b>537,782</b>	563,849
<b>Resources Expended</b>			
Charitable activities		<b>488,738</b>	518,729
Governance costs		<b>49,044</b>	45,120
<b>Total resources expended</b>	5	<b>537,782</b>	563,849
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		-	-
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>			
Funds brought forward		-	-
<b>Funds carried forward</b>		-	-

There are no recognised gains or losses other than as shown in the statement of financial activities above.

All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities.

**ASHTHEAD COMMON**  
**Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2014**

	Notes	2014 £	2013 £
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Debtors	9	25,134	39,563
Cash at bank and in hand		-	-
		<u>25,134</u>	<u>39,563</u>
<b>Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year</b>	10	<b>(25,134)</b>	<b>(39,563)</b>
		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Net Current Assets</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>The funds of the charity</b>			
Unrestricted income fund		-	-
<b>Total charity funds</b>		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

Approved and signed for and on behalf of the Trustee

The notes at pages 13 to 20 form part of these accounts.

Dr Peter Kane  
 Chamberlain of London

23<sup>rd</sup> July 2014

**ASHTEAD COMMON**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2014**

**1. Accounting Policies**

The following accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the charity's financial statements.

**(a) Basis of Preparation**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and Statement of Recommended Practice *Accounting and Reporting by Charities (Revised 2005)* and under the historical cost accounting rules, and in accordance with applicable United Kingdom accounting standards.

Activity is accounted for in the year that it takes place on an accruals basis, not simply when cash payments are made or received. In particular, where revenue and expenditure have been recognised but cash has not been received or paid, a debtor or creditor for the relevant amount is recorded in the Balance Sheet. Where debts may not be settled, the balance of debtors is written down and a charge made to revenue for the income that might not be collected.

**(b) Going Concern**

The governing documents place an obligation on the City of London Corporation to preserve the open space for the benefit of the public. The City of London Corporation is committed to fulfilling this obligation which is reflected through its proactive management of, and ongoing funding for, the services and activities required. The funding is provided from the City of London Corporation's City's Cash which annually receives considerable income from its managed funds and property investments. Each year a medium term financial forecast is prepared for City's Cash. The latest forecast to the period 2017/18 anticipates that adequate funding will be available to enable the Trust to continue to fulfil its obligations. On this basis the Trustee considers the Trust to be a going concern for the foreseeable future.

**(c) Fixed Assets**

***Heritage Land and Associated Buildings***

Ashtead Common comprises 200 hectares (500 acres) of land located in North East Surrey, together with associated buildings. The object of the charity is the preservation of the Common at Ashtead for the recreation and enjoyment of the public. Ashtead Common is considered to be inalienable (i.e. may not be disposed of without specific statutory powers). The land and the original associated buildings are considered to be heritage assets. In respect of the original land and buildings, cost or valuation amounts are not included in these accounts as reliable cost information is not available and a significant cost would be involved in the reconstruction of past accounting records, or in the valuation, which would be onerous compared to the benefit to the users of these accounts.

**(d) Recognition**

Expenditure on the acquisition, creation or enhancement of property, plant and equipment is capitalised provided that the expenditure is material (generally in excess of £50,000) and the asset yields benefits to the City of London, and the services it provides, for a period of more than one year. This excludes expenditure on routine repairs and maintenance of fixed assets which is charged directly within service costs.



## ASHTHEAD COMMON

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2014

#### 1. Accounting Policies (continued)

##### (e) *Incoming Resources*

###### *Recognition of incoming resources*

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities gross without deduction of expenses in the financial year in which they are entitled to be received.

###### *Voluntary income*

Voluntary income comprises government grants and contributions and is included in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable.

###### *Volunteers*

No amounts are included in the Statement of Financial Activities for services donated by volunteers, as this cannot be quantified.

###### *Grants received*

Grants are included in the Statement of Financial Activities in the financial year in which they are entitled to be received.

###### *Contribution from City's Cash*

The City of London Corporation's City's Cash meets the deficit on running expenses of the charity and also provides grant funding for certain capital works and this income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when it is due from the City of London Corporation's City's Cash.

###### *Rental income*

Rental income is included in the Charity's incoming resources for the year.

##### (f) *Resources Expended*

###### *Allocation of costs between different activities*

The City of London Corporation charges staff costs to the charitable activity and governance costs on a time spent basis. Associated office accommodation is charged out proportionately to the square footage used. All other costs are charged directly to the charitable activity.

##### (g) *Pension Costs*

The City of London's Pension Scheme is a funded defined benefits scheme. City of London Corporation staff are eligible for membership in the pension scheme and may be employed in relation to the activities of any of the City Corporation's three main funds, or any combination of them (i.e. City Fund, City's Cash and Bridge House Estates). As the charity is unable to identify its share of the Pension Scheme assets and liabilities, this scheme is accounted for as a defined contribution scheme in the accounts.

##### (h) *Fund Accounting*

All funds of the Trust are unrestricted and any deficit for the year is met by the City of London Corporation's City's Cash.

## ASHTEAD COMMON

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2014

#### 1. Accounting Policies (continued)

##### *(i) Cash flow Statement*

The Trust has taken advantage of the exemption in Financial Reporting Standard 1 (Revised) from the requirement to produce a cash flow statement on the grounds that it is a small entity.

##### *(j) Governance Costs*

The nature of costs allocated to Governance is detailed in note 5.

#### 2. Tax Status of the Charity

Ashtead Common is a registered charity and as such its income and gains are exempt from income tax to the extent that they are applied to its charitable objectives.

#### 3. Indemnity Insurance

The City of London Corporation takes out indemnity insurance in respect of all its activities. The charity does not contribute to the cost of that insurance.

#### 4. Incoming Resources

Incoming resources are comprised as follows:

	2013/14 £	2012/13 £
<b>Incoming Resources from generated Funds</b>		
Grants	69,942	75,332
Grant from City of London Corporation	464,699	485,384
	<b>534,641</b>	560,716
<b>Incoming resources from charitable activities</b>		
Sale of goods, products and materials	19	-
Fees and charges	1,409	2,868
Licences income	1,713	265
	<b>3,141</b>	3,133
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<b>537,782</b>	563,849

##### **Grants**

Grants were received from the Rural Payments Agency and Natural England.

##### **Grant from City of London Corporation**

The City of London Corporation's City's Cash meets the deficit on running expenses of the charity.

## ASHTEAD COMMON

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2014

#### 5. Resources Expended

Resources expended are analysed between activities undertaken directly and support costs as follows:

	Activities undertaken directly £	Support costs £	2013/14 £	2012/13 £
Charitable activity Preservation of Ashtead Common	451,531	37,207	<b>488,738</b>	518,729
Governance costs	-	49,044	<b>49,044</b>	45,120
<b>Total resources expended</b>	451,531	86,251	<b>537,782</b>	563,849

No resources are expended by third parties to undertake charitable work on behalf of the charity.

#### **Charitable activity**

Expenditure on the charitable activity includes labour, premises costs, equipment, materials and other supplies and services incurred as the running costs of Ashtead Common.

#### **Governance costs**

##### *General*

Governance costs relating to the general running of the charity, rather than specific activities within the charity including strategic planning and costs associated with Trustee meetings. These costs are initially borne by the City of London Corporation and then charged to individual charities on the basis of time spent, as part of support costs, where appropriate.

##### *Auditor's remuneration and fees for external financial services*

Moore Stephens are the auditors of the City of London City's Cash. The City of London Corporation does not attempt to apportion the audit fee between all the different charities but prefers to treat it as part of the cost to their private funds. No other external professional services were provided for the Charity during the year or in the previous year.

##### *Trustee's expenses*

Members of the City of London Corporation are all unpaid and do not receive allowances in respect of City of London Corporation activities in the City. However, Members may claim travelling expenses in respect of activities outside the City and receive allowances in accordance with a scale when attending a conference or activity on behalf of the City of London Corporation. No expenses were claimed in 2013/14 (2012/13: £Nil).

## ASHTEAD COMMON

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2014

#### 6. Support Costs

The cost of administration which includes the salaries and associated costs of officers of the City of London Corporation, together with premises and office expenses, is allocated by the City of London Corporation to the activities under its control, including this charity, on the basis of employee time spent on the respective services. These expenses include the cost of administrative, technical staff and external consultants who work on a number of the City of London Corporation's activities. Support costs allocated by the City of London Corporation to the charitable activity are derived as follows:

	Charitable activities £	Governance £	<b>2013/14</b> £	2012/13 £
<b>Department</b>				
Chamberlain	-	15,410	<b>15,410</b>	12,446
Comptroller & City Solicitor	-	8,112	<b>8,112</b>	8,042
Open Spaces Directorate	21,975	-	<b>21,975</b>	18,733
Town Clerk	-	12,828	<b>12,828</b>	12,822
City Surveyor	287	10,250	<b>10,537</b>	11,288
Information Systems	12,374	-	<b>12,374</b>	9,766
Other governance and support costs	2,571	2,444	<b>5,015</b>	4,875
<b>Total support costs</b>	<b>37,207</b>	<b>49,044</b>	<b>86,251</b>	<b>77,972</b>

The main support services provided by the City of London Corporation are:

<b>Chamberlain</b>	Accounting services, insurance, cashiers, revenue collection, payments, financial systems and internal audit.
<b>Comptroller and City Solicitor</b>	Property, litigation, contracts, public law and administration of commercial rents and City of London Corporation records.
<b>Open Spaces Directorate</b>	Expenditure incurred by the Directorate, which is recharged to all Open Spaces Committees under the control of the Director of Open Spaces. The apportionments are calculated on the basis of budget resources available to each Open Spaces charity.
<b>Town Clerk</b>	Committee administration, management services, personnel services, public relations, printing and stationery, emergency planning.
<b>City Surveyor</b>	Work undertaken on the management of the Estate properties, surveying services and advice, supervising and administering repairs and maintenance.

**ASHTEAD COMMON**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2014**

**6. Support Costs (continued)**

<b>Information Systems</b>	The support and operation of the City of London Corporation's central and corporate systems on the basis of usage of the systems; the provision of "desktop" and network support services and small IS development projects that might be required by the charity.
<b>Other Support and Governance Costs</b>	Contribution towards various costs including publishing the annual report and financial statements, central training, the dental service, occupational health, union costs and the environmental and sustainability section.

**7. Staff Numbers and Costs**

The full time equivalent number of staff employed by the City of London Corporation charged to Ashtead Common Trust in 2013/14 is 8 (2012/13:8) at a cost of £290,057 (2012/13: £282,160). The table below sets out the employment costs and the number of full time equivalent staff charged directly to the charity.

	No of employees	Gross Pay £	Employers' National Insurance £	Employers' Pension Contribution £	Total £
2013/14 Charitable activities	8	233,154	16,893	40,010	<b>290,057</b>
2012/13 Charitable activities	8	229,653	16,729	35,778	<b>282,160</b>

No employees earned more than £60,000 during the year (2012/13: Nil).

**8. Heritage Assets**

Since 1995 the primary purpose of the Charity has been the preservation of Ashtead Common for the recreation and enjoyment of the public. As set out in accounting policy 1(c), the original heritage land and buildings are not recognised in the Financial Statements.

Policies for the preservation and management of Ashtead Common are contained in the Ashtead Common Heritage Conservation Plan 2010. Records of heritage assets owned and maintained by Ashtead Common can be obtained from the Director of Open Spaces at the principal address as set out on page 2.

## ASHTEAD COMMON

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2014

#### 9. Debtors

The debtors figure consists of:

	2014 £	2013 £
Recoverable VAT	7,009	4,551
Prepayments	684	656
Other Debtors	17,441	34,356
<b>Total</b>	<b>25,134</b>	<b>39,563</b>

#### 10. Creditors

The creditors figure consists of:

	2014 £	2013 £
Trade Creditors	2,691	1,925
Accruals	5,239	10,111
Other Creditors	105	7,555
Receipts In Advance	130	133
Sundry Deposits	3,000	3,000
Bank overdraft	13,969	16,839
<b>Total</b>	<b>25,134</b>	<b>39,563</b>

#### 11. Pensions

Following the statutory triennial valuation of the pension fund as at 31st March 2013, completed by independent consulting actuaries, an employer's contribution rate of 17.5% has been applied for 2014/15, 2015/16 and 2016/17.

In 2013/14, employer's contributions to the scheme for staff engaged on City's Cash activities was £8.6m (2012/13 £8.5m). There are no outstanding or pre-paid contributions at the balance sheet date.

The deficit of the scheme at 31 March 2014 is £401m (2012/13 £342m) as calculated in accordance with FRS17 disclosures.

## ASHTEAD COMMON

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2014

#### 12. Related Party Transactions

The following disclosures are made in recognition of the principles underlying Financial Reporting Standard 8 concerning related party transactions.

The City of London Corporation as well as being the Trustee also provides management, surveying and administrative services for the charity. The costs incurred by the City of London Corporation in providing these services are charged to the charity. The City of London Corporation also provides banking services, allocating all transactions to the charity at cost and crediting or charging interest at a commercial rate. The cost of these services is set out in the Statement of Financial Activities under "Resources Expended" and an explanation of these services is set out in Note 6 for support costs of £86,251 (2012/13: £77,972). The City of London Corporation's City's Cash meets the deficit on running expenses of the charity. This amounted to £464,699 (2012/13: £485,384) as shown in Note 4 to the financial statements.

The City of London Corporation is also the Trustee of a number of other charitable trusts. These Trusts do not undertake transactions with Ashtead Common. A full list of other charitable Trusts of which the City of London Corporation is Trustee is available on application to the Chamberlain of the City of London.

Members of the City of London Corporation responsible for managing the Trust are required to comply with the Relevant Authority (model code of conduct) Order 2001 issued under the Local Government Act 2000 and the City of London Corporation's guidelines which require that:

- Members sign a declaration agreeing to abide by the City of London Corporation's code of conduct;
- a register of interests is maintained;
- pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests are declared during meetings; and
- Members do not participate in decisions where they have an interest.

There are corresponding arrangements for staff to recognise interests and avoid possible conflicts of those interests.

In this way, as a matter of policy and procedure, the City Corporation ensures that Members and officers do not exercise control over decisions in which they have an interest. There are no material transactions with organisations related by virtue of Members and officers interests which require separate reporting. Transactions are undertaken by the Trust on a normal commercial basis.

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***WEST WICKHAM COMMON AND SPRING PARK WOOD COULSDON AND OTHER  
COMMONS***

***REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2014  
Charity Numbers 232988 and 232989***

**WEST WICKHAM COMMON AND SPRING PARK WOOD COULSDON  
AND OTHER COMMONS**

**Trustee's Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March  
2014**

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# WEST WICKHAM COMMON AND SPRING PARK WOOD COULSDON AND OTHER COMMONS

## Trustee's Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2014

### 1. Reference and Administration Details

Charity Name:	West Wickham Common And Spring Park Wood Coulsdon and Other Commons
Registered Charity Numbers:	232988 and 232989
Principal Address:	Guildhall, London EC2P 2EJ
Trustee:	The Mayor, Commonalty and Citizens of the City of London
Chief Executive:	The Town Clerk of the City of London Corporation
Treasurer:	The Chamberlain of London
Solicitor:	The Comptroller and City Solicitor
Banker:	Lloyds TSB Bank plc City Office, PO Box 72 Bailey Drive Gillingham, Kent ME8 OLS
Auditor:	Moore Stephens LLP 150 Aldersgate Street London EC1A 4AB

### 2. Structure, Governance and Management

#### **The Governing Document and constitution of the charities**

The governing document is the Corporation of London (Open Spaces) Act 1878. The charities are constituted as charitable trusts.

#### **Trustee Selection methods**

The Mayor, Commonalty and Citizens of London known as the City of London Corporation is the Trustee of West Wickham Common and Spring Park Wood Coulsdon and Other Commons. Elected Aldermen and Members of the City of London Corporation are appointed to the Epping Forest and Commons Committee governing West Wickham Common and Spring Park Wood Coulsdon and Other Commons by the Court of Common Council of the City of London Corporation.

#### **Policies and procedures for the induction and training of trustees**

The City of London Corporation makes available to its Members, seminars and briefings on various aspects of the City's activities, including those concerning West Wickham Common and Spring Park Wood Coulsdon and Other Commons, as it considers necessary to enable the Members to efficiently carry out their duties.

# WEST WICKHAM COMMON AND SPRING PARK WOOD COULSDON AND OTHER COMMONS

## Trustee's Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2014

### 2. Structure, Governance and Management (continued)

#### Organisational structure and decision making process

The committee governing the charities' activities is noted above. The Committee is ultimately responsible to the Court of Common Council of the City of London. The decision making processes of the Court of Common Council are set out in the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations governing all the Court of Common Council's activities.

The Standing Orders and Financial Regulations are available from the Town Clerk at the principal address.

#### Details of related parties and wider networks

Details of any related party transactions are disclosed in note 14 of the Notes to the Financial Statements.

#### Risk identification

The Trustee is committed to a programme of risk management as an element of its strategy to preserve the charities' assets, enhance productivity for service users and members of the public and protect the employees.

In order to embed sound practice a Risk Management Group has been established in the City of London Corporation to ensure that risk management policies are applied, that there is an ongoing review of risk management activity and that appropriate advice and support is provided to Members and officers.

The City of London Corporation has approved a strategic risk register for all of its activities. This register helps to formalise existing processes and procedures and enables the City of London Corporation to further embed risk management throughout the organisation.

A key risk register has been prepared for the charities and has been reviewed by the Committee acting on behalf of the Trustee. It identifies the potential impact of key risks and the measures which are in place to mitigate such risks.

### 3. Objectives and Activities for the Public Benefit

The Trustee has due regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance when setting objectives and planning activities.

The objectives of the two charities are the preservation of the Open Spaces known collectively as West Wickham Common and Spring Park Wood, and Coulsdon and Other Commons for the recreation and enjoyment of the public. The charities have identical objects and are managed and accounted for as one unit. It is therefore not possible to produce separate reports and financial statements relating to the individual charities.

These charities are operated as part of the City of London Corporation's City's Cash. The City of London Corporation is committed to fund the ongoing net operational costs of the charities in accordance with the purpose which is the preservation of the Open Spaces known collectively as West Wickham Common and Spring Park Wood, and Coulsdon and Other Commons for the recreation and enjoyment of the public.

# WEST WICKHAM COMMON AND SPRING PARK WOOD COULSDON AND OTHER COMMONS

## Trustee's Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2014

### 4. Achievements and Performance

#### **Significant developments for 2013/14:**

The West Wickham and Coulsdon Commons are managed as part of the City Commons Division of the Open Spaces Department. In addition to managing the West Wickham and Coulsdon Common charities, the City Commons Division is also responsible for the Ashtead Common charity. Financial reporting arrangements reflect the fact that these charities are separate and distinct entities, with separate Sundry Trust reports produced for the Ashtead and the West Wickham and Coulsdon Commons charities.

A Divisional Plan sets strategy and management objectives for the division as a whole, which are then cascaded to individual management plans for the Commons.

At the heart of the management plans is the recognition that three core elements, namely service provision, site protection and efficient service delivery need to be fully integrated. The management plans reflect the requirement of the Corporation of London (Open Spaces) Act 1878 (the Governing Document) to protect the open spaces in perpetuity for the public to enjoy.

The introduction of a combined Entry Level and Higher Level Stewardship Scheme has significantly advanced the capacity of the City Commons Division to deliver an effective and sustainable programme of conservation management projects across the seven commons. Referred to as the Environmental Stewardship Scheme (ESS), the agreement with Natural England was signed on 21 March 2011 for implementation from April 2011 onwards and covering a period of 10 years. ESS provides incentive payments to manage land to protect or restore habitats by compartmentalising areas into various options, each of which has its own management prescription.

Volunteering across the City Commons continues to flourish, with six directly supported groups undertaking work across all seven Open Spaces; the Ashtead Common Volunteers, New Hillbillies (Farthing Downs and New Hill), Kenley Volunteers, Coulsdon Common Volunteers, Riddlesdown Volunteers and WWaSP's (West Wickham and Spring Park). These groups were helped by volunteers from the Trust for Conservation Volunteers (formerly BTCV), Croydon Conservation Volunteers and a number of corporate volunteers groups to achieve a total of over 11,000 volunteer hours, 6,000 of which were on the West Wickham and Coulsdon Commons. The division continues to support TCV, and the Lower Mole and Downlands Countryside Management Projects to promote volunteering and champion local strategic partnerships.

The diversity of the Commons and extended catchment of Open Spaces spread over a 30 mile area makes City Commons ideally placed to offer an exciting and varied programme of interpretative activities. During the year the Division provided over 130 walks, talks and events on subjects as varied as wildflower and grass identification, looking for glow worms, astronomy and the Roman villa on Ashtead Common. The division also facilitated a number of educational events during the course of the year, some of which were licensed activities and some that were directly led by the ranger team. At the West Wickham and Coulsdon Commons licenses were issued on 16 occasions and there were 110 directly led health walks and educational events.

# WEST WICKHAM COMMON AND SPRING PARK WOOD COULSDON AND OTHER COMMONS

## Trustee's Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2014

### 4. Achievements and Performance (continued)

#### Key targets for 2013/14 and review of achievement

The key targets for 2013/14 together with their outcomes were:

- Develop a meaningful Business Plan - change culture, structure and processes to achieve the City Common vision.* A new structure and processes were established to ensure the service is the right shape to deliver its objectives.
- Kenley Revival – apply for Heritage Lottery funding to conserve and interpret the wartime features on Kenley Common.* A first-round pass was achieved to secure grant funding to develop the project in detail prior to a second-round application to be submitted in December 2014.
- Limewood Project – plan, fund and deliver a project to regenerate Small –Leaved Lime coppice at Spring Park.* Project successfully achieved, including the use of heavy horses to remove cut timber.
- Grassland Restoration – continue scrub management work to create the right environment for the restoration of grassland on Farthing Downs and New Hill, Kenley Common and Riddlesdown.* This year management program successfully achieved.

#### A review of other achievements:

- Retention of Green Flag Awards for all Commons
- Kenley Common and Farthing Downs achieved Green Heritage Awards
- A program of weekly health walks was maintained throughout the year
- Students from Riddlesdown Collegiate regularly contributed to the management of Riddlesdown, through projects such as planting Juniper trees
- Tree wardens were recruited and supported to monitor tree health and check for diseases
- A number of corporate volunteer groups helped manage Farthing Downs
- A successful Fun Day drew in crowds at Kenley Common
- The herd of Sussex Cattle went to Epping Forest to overwinter as part of a joint arrangement to share resources
- More interpretation panels were added to the Kenley Heritage Trail

All of the above achievements enhanced the Open Space for the benefit of the public

# WEST WICKHAM COMMON AND SPRING PARK WOOD COULSDON AND OTHER COMMONS

## Trustee's Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2014

### 5. Financial Review

#### Review of financial position

Income of £86,129 (2012/13 £76,124) was received from grants, donations, other contributions fees and charges and sales and £29,576 (2012/13 £28,393) from rents. The contribution towards the running costs of the charity amounted to £992,396 (2012/13 £1,251,258). This cost was met by the City of London Corporation's City's Cash grant income.

#### Reserves Policy

The charities are wholly supported by the City of London Corporation which is committed to maintain and preserve West Wickham Common and Spring Park Wood Coulsdon and Other Commons out of its City's Cash Funds. These Funds are used to meet the deficit on running expenses on a year by year basis. Consequently, these charities have no free reserves and a reserves policy is therefore not required.

#### Going Concern

The Trustee considers the Commons to be going concerns. Please see note 1(b) to the Financial Statements.

### 6. Plans for Future Periods

The key targets for 2014/15 are:

- Kenley Revival HLF Project – submit a second-round application to secure funding to implement the project
- Conservation grazing – implement the business plan to manage conservation grazing on the Coulsdon Commons
- Grassland restoration – restore open areas on Farthing Downs, Kenley and Riddlesdown
- Boundaries – review boundaries on all open spaces to ensure site protection and safety
- Small-leaved Lime Project – plan and deliver the second phase of this project on Spring Park

# WEST WICKHAM COMMON AND SPRING PARK WOOD COULSDON AND OTHER COMMONS

## Trustee's Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2014

### 7. The Financial Statements

The financial statements consist of the following and include comparative figures for the previous year.

- **Statement of Financial Activities** showing all resources available and all expenditure incurred and reconciling all changes in the funds of the charities.
- **Balance Sheet** setting out the assets and liabilities of the charities.
- **Notes to the Financial Statements** describing the accounting policies adopted and explaining information contained in the financial statements.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with statutory requirements and the Statement of Recommended Practice *Accounting and Reporting by Charities (Revised 2005)*.

### 8. Statement of Trustee's Responsibilities

The Trustee is responsible for preparing the Trustee's Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the Trustee to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustee is required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The Trustee is responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charities and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the charities' governing documents. It is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charities and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

### 9. Adopted and signed for on behalf of the Trustee on 23 July 2014.

R.A.H. Chadwick  
Chairman of Finance Committee  
Guildhall, London

J.P. Mayhew  
Deputy Chairman of  
Finance Committee



## **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF WEST WICKHAM COMMON AND SPRING PARK WOOD COULSDON AND OTHER COMMONS**

We have audited the financial statements of West Wickham Common and Spring Park Wood Coulsdon and Other Commons for the year ended 31 March 2014 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and the related notes 1 to 14. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 8 of the Charities Act 2011 and regulations made under section 154 of that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and its trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

### **Respective responsibilities of trustees and auditor**

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement set out on page 7, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view.

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with regulations made under section 154 of that Act. Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's (APB's) Ethical Standards for Auditors.

### **Scope of the audit of the financial statements**

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of: whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the charity's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the trustees; and the overall presentation of the financial statements. In addition, we read all the financial and non-financial information in the Trustee's Annual Report to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements and to identify any information that is apparently materially incorrect based on, or materially inconsistent with, the knowledge acquired by us in the course of performing the audit. If we become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies we consider the implications for our report.

### **Opinion on financial statements**

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 March 2014, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEE OF WEST WICKHAM  
COMMON AND SPRING PARK WOOD COULSDON AND OTHER COMMONS  
CHARITIES (CONTINUED)**

**Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Charities Act 2011 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the Trustees' Annual Report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Moore Stephens LLP

Statutory Auditor

Moore Stephens LLP is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

150 Aldersgate Street  
London  
EC1A 4AB

**WEST WICKHAM COMMON AND SPRING PARK WOOD COULSDON  
AND OTHER COMMONS**

**Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2014**

	Notes	Unrestricted Fund		2013/14	2012/13
		General Fund	Designated Fund		
		£	£	£	£
<b>Incoming Resources</b>					
Incoming resources from generated funds					
Voluntary income		63,495	5,375	<b>68,870</b>	61,306
Grant from City of London Corporation		985,876	6,520	<b>992,396</b>	1,251,258
Incoming resources from charitable activities		46,835	-	<b>46,835</b>	43,211
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	4	<b>1,096,206</b>	<b>11,895</b>	<b>1,108,101</b>	<b>1,355,775</b>
<b>Resources Expended</b>					
Charitable activities		1,010,135	-	<b>1,010,135</b>	1,278,465
Governance costs		86,071	-	<b>86,071</b>	77,310
<b>Total resources expended</b>	5	<b>1,096,206</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,096,206</b>	<b>1,355,775</b>
<b>Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers</b>		-	11,895	<b>11,895</b>	-
Transfers (to)/from designated funds		-	-	-	-
<b>Net incoming/(outgoing) resources for the financial year</b>		-	11,895	<b>11,895</b>	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		-	-	-	-
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>					
Funds brought forward		-	-	-	-
<b>Funds carried forward</b>	12	<b>-</b>	<b>11,895</b>	<b>11,895</b>	<b>-</b>

There are no recognised gains or losses other than as shown in the statement of financial activities above.

All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities.

**WEST WICKHAM COMMON AND SPRING PARK WOOD COULSDON  
AND OTHER COMMONS**

**Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2014**

	Notes	2013/14 £	2012/13 £
<b>Fixed Assets</b>			
Tangible Fixed Assets	9	11,895	-
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Debtors	10	32,267	53,986
Cash at bank and in hand		76,489	62,981
		<u>108,756</u>	<u>116,967</u>
<b>Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year</b>	11	<b>(108,756)</b>	(116,967)
<b>Net Current Assets</b>		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Total Assets Less Current Liabilities</b>		<u>11,895</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>The funds of the charity</b>			
Unrestricted income fund			
Designated Funds	12	11,895	-
<b>Total Charity Funds</b>		<u>11,895</u>	<u>-</u>

Approved and signed for and on behalf of the Trustee

The notes at pages 12 to 22 form part of these accounts.

---

Dr Peter Kane  
Chamberlain of London  
23<sup>rd</sup> July 2014

# WEST WICKHAM COMMON AND SPRING PARK WOOD COULSDON AND OTHER COMMONS

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2014

### 1. Accounting Policies

The following accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the charities financial statements.

#### *(a) Basis of Preparation*

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and Statement of Recommended Practice *Accounting and Reporting by Charities (Revised 2005)* and under the historical cost accounting rules, and in accordance with applicable accounting standards.

Activity is accounted for in the year that it takes place on an accruals basis, not simply when cash payments are made or received. In particular, where revenue and expenditure have been recognised but cash has not been received or paid, a debtor or creditor for the relevant amount is recorded in the Balance Sheet. Where debts may not be settled, the balance of debtors is written down and a charge made to revenue for the income that might not be collected.

#### *(b) Going Concern*

The governing documents place an obligation on the City of London Corporation to preserve the open spaces for the benefit of the public. The City of London Corporation is committed to fulfilling this obligation which is reflected through its proactive management of, and ongoing funding for, the services and activities required. The funding is provided from the City of London Corporation's City's Cash, which annually receives considerable income from its managed funds and property investments. Each year a medium term financial forecast is prepared for City's Cash. The latest forecast for the period to 2017/18, anticipates that adequate funds will be available to enable the City's Cash to continue to fulfil their obligations. On this basis, the Trustee considers the Commons to be going concerns for the foreseeable future.

#### *(c) Fixed Assets*

##### *Heritage Assets and Associated Buildings*

West Wickham Common and Spring Park Wood Coulsdon and Other Commons comprise 277 hectares (685 acres) of land located in the London Boroughs of Bromley and Croydon, together with associated buildings. The objects of the charities are the preservation of the Commons at West Wickham and Coulsdon for the recreation and enjoyment of the public. West Wickham Common and Spring Park Wood Coulsdon and Other Commons are considered to be inalienable (i.e. may not be disposed of without specific statutory powers).

Land and the original associated buildings are considered to be heritage assets. In respect of the original land and buildings, cost or valuation amounts are not included in these accounts as reliable cost information is not available and a significant cost would be involved in the reconstruction of past accounting records, or in the valuation, which would be onerous compared to the benefit to the users of these accounts.

**WEST WICKHAM COMMON AND SPRING PARK WOOD COULSDON  
AND OTHER COMMONS**

**Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2014**

**1. Accounting Policies (continued)**

*(c) Fixed Assets (continued)*

*Tangible Fixed Assets*

These are included at historic cost less depreciation on a straight line basis to write off their costs over their estimated useful lives and less any provision for impairment. Land is not depreciated and other fixed assets are depreciated from the year following that of their acquisition. Typical asset lives are as follows:

	Years
Operational buildings	30 to 50
Landscaping/Conservation	up to 50
Improvements and refurbishments to buildings	up to 30
Equipment	5 to 15
Infrastructure	20
Heavy vehicles and plant	7
Computer systems	3 to 7
Cars and light vans	5

*(d) Recognition*

Expenditure on the acquisition, creation or enhancement of property, plant and equipment is capitalized provided that the expenditure is material (generally in excess of £50,000) and the asset yields benefits to the City of London, and the services it provides, for a period of more than one year. This excludes expenditure on routine repairs and maintenance of fixed assets which is charged directly within service costs.

*(e) Incoming Resources*

*Recognition of incoming resources*

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities gross without deduction of expenses in the financial year in which they are due.

*Voluntary income*

Voluntary income comprises public donations and government grants.

*Volunteers*

No amounts are included in the Statement of Financial Activities for services donated by volunteers, as this cannot be quantified.

# WEST WICKHAM COMMON AND SPRING PARK WOOD COULSDON AND OTHER COMMONS

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2014

### 1. Accounting Policies (continued)

#### *Grants received*

Grants are included in the Statement of Financial Activities in the financial year in which they are receivable.

#### *Contribution from City's Cash*

The City of London Corporation's City's Cash meets the deficit on running expenses of the charity and also provides grant funding for certain capital works.

#### *Rental income*

Rental income is included in the Charities' incoming resources for the year and amounts due but not received at the year end are included in debtors.

#### *(f) Resources Expended*

##### *Allocation of costs between different activities*

The City of London Corporation charges staff costs to the charitable activity and governance costs on a time spent basis. Associated office accommodation is charged out proportionately to the square footage used. All other costs are charged directly to the charitable activity.

#### *(g) Pension Costs*

The City of London's Pension Scheme is a funded defined benefits scheme. City of London Corporation staff are eligible for membership of the pension scheme and may be employed in relation to the activities of any of the City Corporation's three main funds, or any combination of them (i.e. City Fund, City's Cash and Bridge House Estates). As the charities are unable to identify their share of the Pension Scheme assets and liabilities, this scheme is accounted for as a defined contribution scheme in the accounts.

#### *(h) Fund Accounting*

The Trust may, at the Trustee's discretion, set aside funds, which would otherwise form part of general funds, for particular purposes. These funds are known as designated funds. The purposes of these funds are described in Note 12 to the accounts.

#### *(i) Cash flow Statement*

The Commons have taken advantage of the exemption in Financial Reporting Standard 1 (Revised) from the requirement to produce a cash flow statement on the grounds that they are small entities.

#### *(j) Governance Costs*

The nature of costs allocated to Governance is detailed in Note 6.

### 2. Tax Status of the Charities

West Wickham Common and Spring Park Wood Coulsdon and Other commons are registered charities and as such their income and gains are exempt from income tax to the extent that they are applied to their charitable objectives.

### 3. Indemnity Insurance

The City of London Corporation takes out indemnity insurance in respect of all its activities. The charities do not contribute to the cost of the insurance.

**WEST WICKHAM COMMON AND SPRING PARK WOOD COULSDON  
AND OTHER COMMONS**

**Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2014**

**4. Incoming Resources**

Incoming resources are comprised as follows:

	<b>Unrestricted Funds £</b>	<b>Designated Funds £</b>	<b>2013/14 £</b>	<b>2012/13 £</b>
<b>Incoming resources from generated funds</b>				
Grants	52,146	5,375	<b>57,521</b>	57,224
Donations	4,048		<b>4,048</b>	4,082
Other Contributions	7,301		<b>7,301</b>	-
	63,495	5,375	<b>68,870</b>	61,306
Grant from City of London Corporation	985,876	6,520	<b>992,396</b>	1,251,258
	1,049,371	11,895	<b>1,061,266</b>	1,312,564
<b>Incoming resources from charitable activities</b>				
Sale of goods, products and materials	16,991		<b>16,991</b>	13,792
Fees and charges	268		<b>268</b>	1,026
Rents	29,576		<b>29,576</b>	28,393
	46,835		<b>46,835</b>	43,211
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<b>1,096,206</b>	<b>11,895</b>	<b>1,108,101</b>	<b>1,355,775</b>

**Grants**

Grants were received from the Rural Payments Agency, Natural England and Heritage Lottery Funding.

**Other Contributions**

A contribution of £7,301 from SITA UK Limited was received to restore a stand of small leaved lime by coppicing it at Spring Park.

**Grant from City of London Corporation**

The City of London Corporation's City's Cash meets the deficit on running expenses of the charities.

**Fees and Charges**

Charges are made to the public in respect of admission charges and licenses granted.



**WEST WICKHAM COMMON AND SPRING PARK WOOD COULSDON  
AND OTHER COMMONS**

**Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2014**

**5. Resources Expended**

Resources expended are analyzed between activities undertaken directly and support costs as follows:

	<b>Activities undertaken directly</b>	<b>Support costs</b>	<b>2013/14</b>	<b>2012/13</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Charitable activities	923,116	87,019	1,010,135	1,278,465
Governance costs	-	86,071	86,071	77,310
<b>Total resources expended</b>	<b>923,116</b>	<b>173,090</b>	<b>1,096,206</b>	<b>1,355,775</b>

No resources are expended by third parties to undertake charitable work on behalf of the charities.

**Charitable activities**

Expenditure on charitable activities includes labour, premises costs, equipment, materials and other supplies and services incurred as the running costs of West Wickham Common and Spring Park Wood Coulsdon and Other Commons.

**Governance costs**

***General***

Governance costs relating to the general running of the charities, rather than specific activities within the charities, include strategic planning and costs associated with Trustee meetings. These costs are initially borne by the City of London Corporation and then charged to individual charities on the basis of time spent, as part of support costs, where appropriate.

***Auditor's remuneration and fees for external financial services***

Moore Stephens are the auditors of the City of London City's Cash. The City of London Corporation does not attempt to apportion the audit fee between all the different charities but prefers to treat it as part of the cost to their private funds. No other external financial services were provided for the Commons during the year or in the previous year.

***Trustee's expenses***

Members of the City of London Corporation are unpaid and do not receive allowances in respect of City of London Corporation activities in the City. However, Members may claim travelling expenses in respect of activities outside the City and receive allowances in accordance with a scale when attending a conference or activity on behalf of the City of London Corporation. No expenses were claimed in 2013/14 (2012/13: £Nil).

**WEST WICKHAM COMMON AND SPRING PARK WOOD COULSDON  
AND OTHER COMMONS**

**Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2014**

**6. Support Costs**

The cost of administration, which includes the salaries and associated costs of officers of the City of London Corporation, together with premises and office expenses, is allocated by the City of London Corporation to the activities under its control, including these charities, on the basis of employee time spent on the respective services. These expenses include the cost of administrative and technical staff and external consultants who work on a number of the City of London Corporation's activities. Support costs allocated by the City of London Corporation to the charitable activity are derived as follows:

	<b>Charitable activities</b>	<b>Governance</b>	<b>2013/14</b>	<b>2012/13</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Department</b>				
Chamberlain	-	25,965	25,965	21,325
Comptroller & City Solicitor	-	14,496	14,496	13,779
Open Spaces Directorate	39,271	-	39,271	32,097
Town Clerk	-	22,924	22,924	21,970
City Surveyor	21,118	18,318	39,436	87,657
Information Systems	18,150	-	18,150	14,340
Other governance and support costs	8,480	4,368	12,848	14,580
<b>Total support costs</b>	<b>87,019</b>	<b>86,071</b>	<b>173,090</b>	<b>205,748</b>

The main support services provided by the City of London Corporation are:

<b>Chamberlain</b>	Accounting services, insurance, revenue collection, payments, financial systems and internal audit.
<b>Comptroller and City Solicitor</b>	Property, litigation, contracts, public law and administration of commercial rents and City of London Corporation records.
<b>Open Spaces Directorate</b>	Expenditure incurred by the Directorate, which is recharged to all Open Spaces Committees under the control of the Director of Open Spaces. The apportionments are calculated on the basis of budget resources available to each Open Space charity.
<b>Town Clerk</b>	Committee administration, management services, human resources, public relations, printing and stationery, emergency planning.
<b>City Surveyor</b>	Work undertaken on the management of the Estate properties, surveying services and advice, supervising and administering repairs and maintenance.
<b>Information Systems</b>	The support and operation of the City of London Corporation's central and corporate systems on the basis of usage of the systems; the provision of "desktop" and network support services and small IS development projects that might be required by the charity.
<b>Other governance costs</b>	Contribution towards various costs including publishing the annual report and financial statements, central training, occupational health, union costs and the environmental and sustainability section.

**WEST WICKHAM COMMON AND SPRING PARK WOOD COULSDON  
AND OTHER COMMONS**

**Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2014**

**7. Staff Numbers and Costs**

The full time equivalent number of staff employed by the City of London Corporation charged to West Wickham Common and Spring Park Wood Coulsdon and Other Commons in 2013/14 is 14 (2012/13 15) at a cost of £448,737 (2012/13 £476,752). The table below sets out the employment costs and the number of full time equivalent staff charged directly to the charities.

	No of employees	Gross Pay £	Employers' National Insurance £	Employers' Pension Contribution £	Total £
2013/14 Charitable activities	14	355,357	27,148	66,232	<b>448,737</b>
2012/13 Charitable activities	15	378,647	29,650	68,455	<b>476,752</b>

No employees earned more than £60,000 during the year (2012/13 Nil).

**8. Heritage Assets**

Since 1892 the primary purpose of the Charity has been the preservation of the commons at West Wickham Common and Spring Park Wood Coulsdon and Other Commons for the recreation and enjoyment of the public. As set out in accounting policy 1(c), the original heritage land and buildings are not recognised in the Financial Statements.

Policies for the preservation and management of West Wickham Common and Spring Park Wood Coulsdon and Other Commons are contained in the West Wickham Common and Spring Park Wood Coulsdon and Other Commons Heritage Conservation Plan 2010. Records of heritage assets owned and maintained by West Wickham Common and Spring Park Wood Coulsdon and Other Commons can be obtained from the Director of Open Spaces at the principal address as set out on page 2.

**WEST WICKHAM COMMON AND SPRING PARK WOOD COULSDON  
AND OTHER COMMONS**

**Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2014**

**9. Tangible Fixed Assets**

At 31 March 2014 the net book value of tangible fixed assets relating to direct charitable purposes amounts to £11,895 (31 March 2013: £Nil) as set out below. All tangible fixed assets are held by West Wickham and Spring Park Wood Coulsdon and Other Commons.

	Infrastructure (WIP) £	Total £
<b><u>Cost</u></b>		
At 1 April 2013		
Additions	11,895	<b>11,895</b>
<b>At 31 March 2014</b>	<b>11,895</b>	<b>11,895</b>
<b><u>Accumulated depreciation</u></b>		
At 1 April 2013	-	-
Charge for year	-	-
<b>At 31 March 2014</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b><u>Net Book Values</u></b>		
<b>At 31 March 2014</b>	<b>11,895</b>	<b>11,895</b>
At 31 March 2013	-	-

**10. Debtors**

The debtors figure consists of:

	2013/14 £	2012/13 £
Rental Debtors	418	1,538
Recoverable VAT	18,496	15,153
Other Debtors	13,353	37,295
<b>Total</b>	<b>32,267</b>	<b>53,986</b>

**WEST WICKHAM COMMON AND SPRING PARK WOOD COULSDON  
AND OTHER COMMONS**

**Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2014**

**11. Creditors**

The creditors figure consists of:

	<b>2013/14</b>	<b>2012/13</b>
	£	£
Trade Creditors	25,535	6,368
Accruals	25,411	75,408
Other Creditors	184	839
Sundry Deposits	26,820	26,820
Receipts In Advance	30,806	7,532
<b>Total</b>	<b>108,756</b>	<b>116,967</b>

**12. Movement of Funds during the year 31 March 2013**

	Balance at 1 April 2013	Net Incoming/ (outgoing) resources	<b>Balance at 31 March 2014</b>
	£	£	£
<b>Unrestricted Income</b>	-	-	-
<b>Capital Reserve Fund</b>	-	11,895	<b>11,895</b>
<b>Total Funds</b>	-	11,895	<b>11,895</b>

**Designated funds**

*Capital Reserve Fund – Heritage Lottery Fund Kenley Revival Project*

The Kenley Revival Project aims to conserve the historic airfield structures associated with Kenley Airfield during World War II and to promote the heritage resource to make it accessible to a wider range of people.

Capital Reserve Account consists of fixed assets at historic cost less accumulated depreciation in accordance with Note 1 (c).

## **WEST WICKHAM COMMON AND SPRING PARK WOOD COULSDON AND OTHER COMMONS**

### **Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2014**

#### **13. Pensions**

Following the statutory triennial valuation of the pension fund as at 31st March 2013, completed by independent consulting actuaries, an employer's contribution rate of 17.5% has been applied for 2014/15, 2015/16 and 2016/17.

In 2013/14, employer's contributions to the scheme for staff engaged on City's Cash activities was £8.6m (2012/13 £8.5m). There are no outstanding or pre-paid contributions at the balance sheet date.

The deficit of the scheme at 31 March 2014 is £401m (2012/13 £342m) as calculated in accordance with FRS17 disclosures.

#### **14. Related Party Transactions**

The following disclosures are made in recognition of the principles underlying Financial Reporting Standard 8 concerning related party transactions.

The City of London Corporation as well as being the Trustee also provides management, surveying and administrative services for the charities. The costs incurred by the City of London Corporation in providing these services are charged to the charities. The City of London Corporation also provides banking services, allocating all transactions to the charities at cost and crediting or charging interest at a commercial rate. The cost of these services is set out in the Statement of Financial Activities under "Resources Expended" and an explanation of these services is set out in Note 6 for support costs of £173,090 (2012/13: £205,748). The City of London Corporation's City's Cash meets the deficit on running expenses of the charity. This amounted to £992,396 (2012/13: £1,251,258) as shown in Note 4 to the financial statements.

The City of London Corporation is also the Trustee of a number of other charitable Trusts. These Trusts do not undertake transactions with West Wickham Common and Spring Park Wood Coulsdon and Other Commons. A full list of other charitable trusts of which the City of London Corporation is trustee is available on application to the Chamberlain of the City of London.

Members of the City of London Corporation responsible for managing the Commons are required to comply with the Relevant Authority (model code of conduct) Order 2001 issued under the Local Government Act 2000 and the City of London Corporation's guidelines which require that:

- Members sign a declaration agreeing to abide by the City of London Corporation's code of conduct;
- a register of interests is maintained;
- pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests are declared during meetings; and
- Members do not participate in decisions where they have an interest.

**WEST WICKHAM COMMON AND SPRING PARK WOOD COULSDON  
AND OTHER COMMONS**

**Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2014**

**14. Related Party Transactions (continued)**

There are corresponding arrangements for staff to recognise interests and avoid possible conflicts of those interests.

In this way, as a matter of policy and procedure, the City Corporation ensures that members and officers do not exercise control over decisions in which they have an interest. There are no material transactions with organisations related by virtue of members and officers interests which require separate reporting. Transactions are undertaken by the Commons on a normal commercial basis.

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<b>Committee(s):</b>	<b>Date(s):</b>
Epping Forest and Commons Committee	08/09/2014
<b>Subject:</b> Introduction of Dog Control Orders at Burnham Beeches	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> The Superintendent of Burnham Beeches, Stoke and City Commons	<b>For Decision</b>

### Summary

Burnham Beeches agreed a voluntary ‘Dog Walkers code’ with its local dog walking community in 2006. A review of the number of dog related incidents since that date reveals that they have not decreased.

Work to develop proposals to introduce Dog Control Orders (DCO’s) at Burnham Beeches, based upon guidance provided by the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, received Committee approval in September 2012. The aim being to further encourage, by enforcement where necessary, responsible dog ownership on the site. During 2013/14 informal consultation was undertaken resulting in a report to this Committee in May 2014. Approval was given at that point to commence the statutory consultation process.

The Home Office has recently advised that the power to make Dog Control Orders is expected to cease on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2014 when the relevant provisions of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 (ABC&P) come into force. Any Orders introduced after that date would be Public Space Protections Orders.

Formal public consultation on the DCO proposals has recently concluded with the majority of responses received from dog walkers. A good level of support was received for the introduction of Schedules 1, 4 and 5. Schedules 2 and 3 received less support.

Member decisions are now sought on a range of options using the powers provided under Secondary Authority status.

### **Recommendations**

**Schedule 1. Pick up dog faeces.** Approve one of the following:

- A.** Resolve to make The Fouling of Land by Dogs (Burnham Beeches) Order 2014 (Appendix 1.1), to be applied as proposed, across the whole site.
- B.** No use of Schedule 1.

**Schedule 2. Dogs on leads at all times.** Approve one of the following:

- A. Resolve to make The Dogs on Leads (Burnham Beeches) Order 2014 (Appendix 1.2), to be applied as proposed – Map 1.
- B. Defer a decision on Schedule 2 and consult as necessary under the ABC&P Act.

**Schedule 3. Dogs on leads where requested.** Approve one of the following:

- A. Resolve to make The Dogs on Leads by Direction (Burnham Beeches) Order 2014 (Appendix 1.3), to be applied as proposed – Map 1.
- C. Defer a decision on Schedule 3 and consult as necessary under the ABC&P Act.

**Schedule 4. Dog exclusion zones.** Approve one of the following:

- A. Resolve to make The Dogs Exclusion (Burnham Beeches) Order 2014 (Appendix 1.4), as proposed – dogs to be excluded from the area around the café, as currently applies using the existing voluntary agreement.
- B. No use of Schedule 4.

**Schedule 5. Maximum number of dogs per responsible person.** Approve one of the following:

- A. Resolve to make The Dogs (Specified Maximum) (Burnham Beeches) Order 2014 (Appendix 1.5), as proposed – maximum number of 4 dogs per responsible person.
- B. No use of Schedule 5.

**Further recommendations**

- i. On the basis that Members approve the proposals as presented formally to the public June 12<sup>th</sup> – July 14<sup>th</sup> 2014, i.e. Option A for all Schedules, Members must also agree a date when the Orders are to come into force, which must be included in the Orders and which must be at least 14 days after the Orders are made. It is recommended that this date should be 1

December 2014, which has been included in the draft Orders.

- ii. Should **i** above be the chosen approach, a further report will be submitted to this committee in November 2014 seeking approval for the Dog Management Strategy and associated authorisations relating to enforcement.

**or**

- iii. Should Members choose to differ from **i.** above, approve a re-consultation of the public under the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 on the chosen options, once the provisions relating to Public Space Protection Orders come into force.
- iv. Members are also asked to approve the principle of site improvements outlined in paragraph 56.
- v. Members are also asked to approve the principle of the appointment of a suitable candidate from the dog walking community to the Burnham Beeches Consultation Group.

## Main Report

### **Background**

1. The aim of introducing Dog Control Orders at Burnham Beeches is to encourage responsible dog ownership and thereby:
  - i. Ensure a fair and proportionate balance between the needs of visitors so that all can equally enjoy the site.
  - ii. Reduce the number of dog related incidents and complaints recorded each year.
  - iii. Reduce the impact of dog control management on the resources available to manage the site.
2. The majority of visiting dog walkers seek to ensure their pets behave according to the voluntary 'Dog Walkers Code' that was agreed and introduced following public consultation in 2006. Appendix 2. However, a significant number find it a challenge to meet these standards and this manifests itself in the following common issues:
  - i. Lost dogs (reported as such by site visitors)
  - ii. Dogs running loose with 'no owner in sight'

- iii. Dogs ‘disturbing/intimidating’ other site users.
  - iv. Injured dogs (fights, traffic accidents)
    - v. Dog mess being left on site
    - vi. Dogs without collars and identification(a byelaw offence)
  - vii. Dog noise – (nuisance barking)
  - viii. Dogs disturbing/chasing wildlife/livestock or similar
3. An annual report of the number and type of dog related incidents has been collated by the Ranger’s since 2002/3. 1043 incidents have been recorded in this manner over the last 5 years. It is important to note that this data does not provide the absolute number of incidents occurring at the Beeches each year, simply a standardised, measurable and repeatable record that can be compared over the years.

### **Visitors to Burnham Beeches**

4. The 2012 Visitor Survey estimates that 585,000 visits to Burnham Beeches take place each year. This estimate is based on a model designed by Manchester Metropolitan University using automated car counters and observation studies.
5. It is known that most visitors can be described as ‘frequent’ i.e. they come to the site many times per week (some many times a day). Manchester Metropolitan University has examined the effect of visitor frequency in terms of the total number of visitors coming to the site each year. This indicates that the 585,000 visits are ‘achieved’ by around 35,000 individual visitors each year i.e. the average frequency of visit by an individual is 17 per annum or just under two visits each month.
6. Using the same statistical approach the ratio of dog walkers that make up the figure of 35,000 annual visits can be estimated to be within a range of between 100 and 700 individuals. For the purposes of this report it is reasonable to assume that the regular dog walking population makes up no more and perhaps significantly less than, 700 individuals. The higher figure of 700 will be assumed for the purposes of this report.
7. Therefore, the number of non-dog walking visitors is in the region of 34,300 individuals (98% of the total) compared to a dog walking community of around 700 individuals or just 2% of the total population of individual visitors.
8. A previous visitor survey indicated that dog behaviour was at the top of the list of issues that hindered visitor enjoyment of the site with 22% of all visitors reporting this as a specific issue. Appendix 3.

9. 22% of visitors equates to approximately 6,868 individuals each year. This indicates that the enjoyment of a significant number of people is impacted by the activities of a small number (i.e. the minority of the 700 dog walking community whose dogs are involved in incidents which adversely affected enjoyment of other site users).
10. This information is important when considering the DEFRA's requirement for a demonstrable and proportionate balance when introducing DCO's to Burnham Beeches, particularly with regard to the need and scale of the use of Schedule 2.
11. Visitors who have a poor experience are less likely to wish to come to the site again or visit less frequently and this risks prejudicing the recreation and enjoyment, and reducing the public benefit, provided by the site. (It may also lead to a potential loss to the site of car park, café and donation income). This provides a balance to the Kennel Club's survey (2014) that warns of a loss to site based income due to a reduction in dog walkers using the site.

**Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) Guidance on the design and use of DCO's.**

12. The power to make Dog Control Orders ceases on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2014 when new legislation i.e. the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act, 2014 (ABC&P) comes into force. Any Dog Control Orders made before that date may remain in force for up to 3 years. However, it is the current guidance below that Members must consider for the purposes of this report which provides the following comment.
13. **On Consultation feedback.** *The Authority needs to balance the interests of those in charge of dogs against the interests of those affected by the activities of dogs bearing in mind the need for people. In particular children, to have access to dog free areas where dogs are best kept under strict control, and the needs of those in charge of dogs to have access to areas where they can exercise their dogs without undue restriction. A failure to give due consideration to these factors could make any subsequent DCO vulnerable to challenge in court.*
14. **On what happens after the Consultation has ended and a decision is required.** *At the end of the consultation period the Secondary Authority must consider the representations that have been received before coming*

*to a decision to make the order or not. If the Secondary Authority decides, having considered the representations, not to make the order then it does not need to do anything further. If however, the Secondary Authority decides significantly to amend the proposal on the back of the representations that it has received as part of the consultation it must start the proposal again, publishing a new notice describing the amended proposal in the local newspaper.*

15. **On the need for balance.** *When using dog control orders, a Secondary Authority needs to balance the needs of both dog owners and others. This balance is important, in that if it cannot demonstrate this balance then its DCO's could be challenged in court. What this means in practice is that dog owners need access to land where they can access their dogs and equally other people expect a right to enjoy land without interference from dogs and by implication some land from which either dogs are banned or restricted.*

*An Authority must be 'even handed' in coming to a decision to make an order. E.g. if the order is to ban dogs and the piece of land in question happens to be the only piece of open space in an area that is suitable for exercising dogs and the Secondary Authority receives a number of representations from dog owners objecting the PC would need to think very hard before it makes the order. Unless of course there were other factors such as the area was also a play area for children.*

16. **On how to proceed if the Primary authority formally objects to the proposals.** *If the District Council responds by objecting to the proposal, or with concerns, then the Secondary Authority should consider these carefully before it decides to proceed with the dog control order making process. However, just because a District Council objects doesn't mean that a secondary Authority cannot proceed with that order. That said, if the concerns are legitimate then it would be right for the parish council to consider them fully before any decision is taken to proceed or not.*
17. **On how to proceed given lack of community support.** *The decision by a Secondary Authority to push ahead with the use of the powers without support from the community is a political decision for the Secondary Authority and its Members. However, they would be best advised to consider their representational role before coming to a decision.*
18. DEFRA also requires that DCO's are easily understood by visitors and can be reasonably and proportionately enforced on site. This is why the internal tarmac roads have been used as boundaries between the various Schedules.

19. DEFRA guidance places a clear emphasis on the need to take account of local circumstances that can be clearly evidenced.
20. It is because of DEFRA's guidance that consideration of DCO's should be based on the needs of people rather than that of wildlife (albeit the City has a general duty to enhance biodiversity under the NERC Act, 2006) that it was determined to commission a visitor survey on the issues in the summer and autumn of 2013 so that any future proposals could be more clearly based on the views of site visitors. Appendix 4, Footprint Ecology Visitor Survey 2013.
21. South Bucks District Council (SBDC) is the Primary Authority for Burnham Beeches. Farnham Royal Parish Council and Burnham Parish Council are Secondary Authorities for Burnham Beeches. Neither the Primary nor Secondary Authorities intend to introduce DCO's on land covering Burnham Beeches.

### **Enforcement**

22. DEFRA guidance also considers the need to produce an Enforcement Strategy (called the Dog Management Strategy (DMS) at Burnham Beeches) and provides a broad template for its construction. This document is currently in draft form awaiting Members' final decision on the proposed Orders. It is proposed that if it is resolved to make the Orders this document is then submitted for approval in November 2014.
23. The effect of making a Dog Control Order, in terms of enforcement, is that it is an offence to act in contravention of the Order, punishable on summary conviction by a fine not exceeding level 3 (£1000). Breaches can also be dealt with by issuing Fixed Penalty Notices. The level would be identified in the DMS, but a much lower sum in the order of £80.00 would be proposed. The DMS would also identify circumstances (such as in the event of a first incident) where other measures such as advice or caution would be more suitable, and the DMS would also advise on the more limited circumstances where prosecution would be considered appropriate.

### **Dog Walking at Burnham Beeches**

24. Burnham Beeches is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest, National Nature Reserve and Special Area of Conservation. The site is extremely popular with dog walkers for its convenient location and because it remains one of the very few open spaces in the area that provides free car parking Monday to Friday each week (excluding Bank

Holidays). Site surveys indicate a steady rise in visitor numbers to Burnham Beeches each year and an associated increase in dog numbers.

25. The growing attraction of the site to dog walkers and the challenges this presents has been managed in a variety of ways including the Dog Walkers Code. In 2011 the Open Spaces Dog Policy and associated 'Agreement' with the Kennel Club restated the City's commitment to healthy exercise and good behaviour for dogs and their owners.
26. Given the local popularity of Burnham Beeches and the current level of dog management issues it was agreed that the site should pilot on behalf of the Open Spaces Department, the approach to the implementation of DCO's.
27. The following table gives the sample of frequency and type of dog behaviour related issues recorded on the site using in the period 2002 – 2014. (Please note comments concerning this data in paragraph 3.)
28. **Table 1. Number of Dog related incident recorded by staff. 2002-2013**

	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	Total
<b>2002 03</b>	8	74	70	25	15	28	220
<b>2003 04</b>	11	53	73	13	21	19	190
<b>2004 05</b>	12	36	63	24	18	15	168
<b>2005 06</b>	17	36	57	11	18	17	156
<b>2006 07</b>	11	28	46	10	15	23	133
<b>2007 08</b>	4	33	36	4	18	19	114
<b>2008 09</b>	7	17	39	7	9	6	85
<b>2009 10</b>	9	33	50	6	13	21	132
<b>2010 11</b>	11	81	88	17	28	29	254
<b>2011 12</b>	8	57	70	14	26	22	197
<b>2012 13</b>	15	56	78	18	72	13	252
<b>2013 14</b>	10	45	92	19	28	14	208
<b>Total</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>545</b>	<b>743</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>2109</b>
<b>% of Total</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>26.3</b>	<b>35.8</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>13.3</b>	<b>10.8</b>	

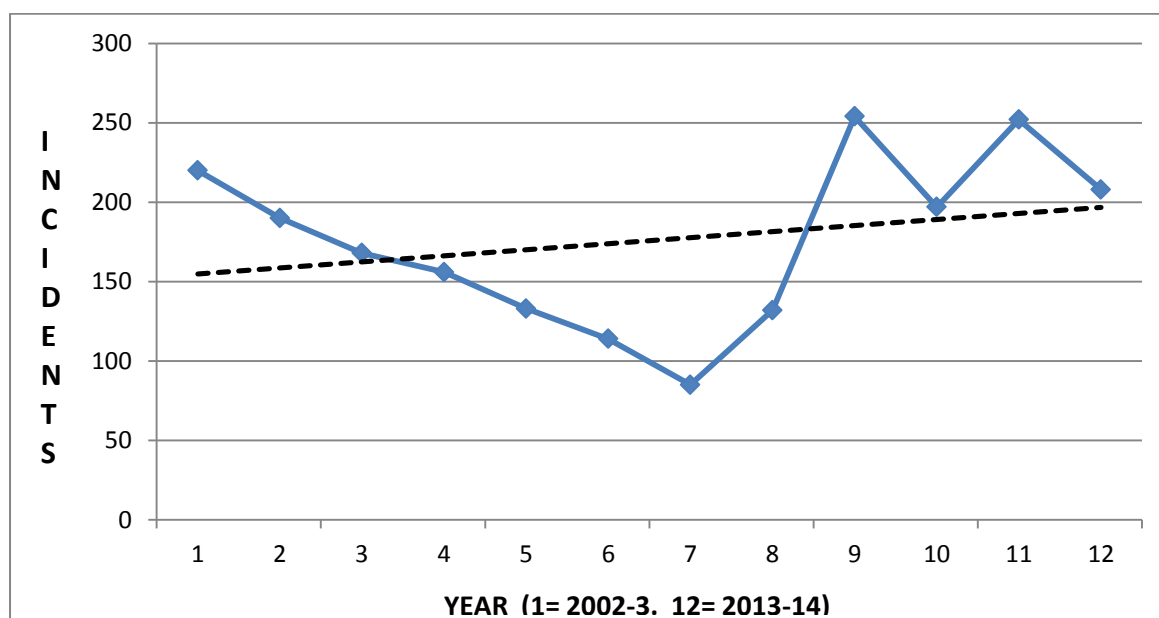
<b>KEY</b>
<b>1) Dogs reported missing</b>
<b>2) Dogs running loose with no owner is sight</b>



3) Owners who do not have dogs under effective control
4) Dogs running up to other visitors who unhappy with the approach
5) Fouling and not picking up
6) Dogs without collars and tags

29. **Chart 1** shows the same figures and demonstrates the reduction in sample size of dog incidents prior to and following the introduction of the voluntary dog code in 2006. The dotted line shows the overall trend.

**Chart 1.**



30. Footprint Ecology were employed to undertake an informal public consultation process (survey) during the second half of 2013. The purpose of the survey was to inform our understanding of where people who visit Burnham Beeches live; to understand more about visitors' behaviour and where people go on the site when they visit and to gather views on potential future management at the site relating to dogs and the implementation of Dog Control Orders. The survey was also designed to inform officer input in to the South Bucks District Council's Development Management Local Plan.

31. A total of 359 visitor groups were interviewed. When group size was taken into consideration dog walkers represented 44% of the sample. This figure matches previous visitor surveys. The survey results showed support for the use of all 5 Schedules at Burnham Beeches and were used by officers and Members of the Burnham Beeches Consultation Group to design each of the Schedules proposed, shown in **Map 1**.

32. On 11th December 2013, consideration was given to the 2013 survey by the Burnham Beeches Consultation Group. They considered the variables in terms of the need for balance and even-handedness and supported the proposals currently shown as Option A for each Schedule for further consideration by the Epping Forest and Commons Committee and as set out below paragraph 36.
33. The views of the Kennel Club were sought throughout this period and included a site meeting at Burnham Beeches with their Public Affairs Officer and Consultant. The Director of Open Spaces and the Superintendent also attended a meeting with Kennel Club officers at their headquarters in December 2013. Regular communication by email and letter also took place, and it was hoped that continued dialogue would enable the development of proposals capable of meeting the desires of all stakeholders, including the Kennel Club.
34. In February 2014, an informal working group consisting of three Members and one Verderer of the Epping Forest and Commons Committee met to consider specific and detailed issues raised by the Kennel Club.
35. One Member did *not concur with the general position adopted, or specific conclusion reached, on the question of on-lead requirements by officers and members of the informal working group convened to examine the question of Dog Control Orders at Burnham Beeches*. The minutes of this meeting and the separate comments provided are included in Appendices 5 and 6.
36. The working group concluded that the proposals recommended by the BBCG should be put unchanged and as presented to the Epping Forest and Commons Committee in March 2014 as shown below – **Map 1**.

## **Proposals**

**Schedule 1.** Fail to remove dog faeces. To be applied across the whole site.

**Schedule 2.** Fail to keep a dog on a lead in an area so designated. To be applied across 59% of the site

**Schedule 3.** Fail to put and keep a dog on a lead when directed to do so by an authorised officer. Maximum lead length to be 5m. To be applied across 41% of the site.

**Schedule 4.** Permit a dog to enter land from which dogs are excluded. To be applied only to land covered by the existing zone around the Burnham Beeches café since 2007.

**Schedule 5.** Take more than 3 dogs on to the land. To be applied across the whole site.

37. Exemptions concerning the use of Assistance dogs are provided by the legislation for each Schedule. Assistance dogs can be defined as being one of any of the following:

- Guide Dogs
- Hearing Dogs for deaf people
- Dogs for the disabled
- Canine Partners
- Support dogs
- Dog A.I.D
- Medical detection dogs

38. This matter is included in the training for Authorised Officers provided for the staff at Burnham Beeches by Keep Britain Tidy. Further, ongoing help from relevant organisations concerning this issue will be sought to facilitate compliance.

39. In March 2014 the Epping Forest and Commons Committee approved Schedule 1- 4 as set out above. Schedule 5 was amended with final approval given to formally consult on a maxim of 4 dogs per responsible individual.

### **Reasoning behind the proposals**

40. The proposed DCO's upon which the public consultation was based were originally approved for consultation by this Committee on the basis that they:

- a. Met as far as was reasonably practicable the outcome of the 2013 visitor survey, considerations of the BBCG and views of a Members working group on the comments provided by the Kennel Club.
- b. Provided a workable and enforceable compromise in terms of a balance between site users i.e. dog and non dog walking visitors.
- c. Ensured that all main access points either by car or foot are within Schedule 3 to minimise the need for owners to put their dogs on a lead as soon as they jump from the car or otherwise enter the site.
- d. Provided a large area (220 acres) of the NNR for dogs to exercise 'off lead' whilst remaining under effective control. The Visitor Survey responses indicate that this is three times larger than the area used by the typical dog walker at Burnham Beeches. (Footprint Visitor survey 2013)

- e. Would enhance the enjoyment and protection of children, the elderly /infirm and other visitors to the site by including a large part of the most popular recreation area, including the easy access path network, within Schedule 2 i.e. ‘the dogs on leads at all times’ area.
- f. Made use of the internal roads to create a highly visible and easily understood boundary between Schedules 2 and 3. This will greatly facilitate visitor compliance and reduce the need for enforcement by Rangers.
- g. Provided an area through use of Schedule 3 that is more open in nature and owners whose dogs are not under effective control may therefore be more easily identified and approached.
- h. Provided an area through the use of Schedule 3 that contains the majority of surfaced routes on the site as well as comparable terrain when compared to Schedule 2 in terms of overall topography and conditions underfoot. This issue has been assessed using an Equalities Impact Assessment approach. Appendix 7 and “Equalities Impacts” section later in this report.

## Responses from main Consultees

**The Kennel Club.** Full response Appendix 8.

- Supports the use of Schedules 1 and 4 as set out in this report
  - Is firmly opposed to the introduction of Schedule 2 of the Dog Control and consider that *they are more restrictive and extensive than any national law or byelaw than seen anywhere else in the UK.*
  - Suggests that Schedule 3 be applied to the whole site.
  - Recommends that, for Schedule 5, a maximum of 6 dogs per responsible person.
41. The Kennel Club also conducted a national survey regarding the use of Schedule 2 – i.e. Dogs on leads at all time. Our consultant has commented upon the design standards and conclusions drawn from this survey are attached. Appendices 9a and 9b. The KC expressed some disappointment about the limited numbers who participated (164).

**Natural England** – Appendix 10 - full NE response of 6/3/2014

42. The Superintendent has ensured that Natural England (NE) was consulted and fully aware of the complexity, extent and nature of the issues at

Burnham Beeches. On that basis, NE previously provided the following comments with regard to the introduction of DCO's at Burnham Beeches:

*Based on the information supplied, Natural England cannot find sufficient evidence to support dog control orders being necessary to protect the features for which the SSSI is designated. However, NE recognises that the City has consulted widely on the matter of DCO's at Burnham Beeches and that this information has been used to inform the final recommendation.*

*In conclusion we can find no scientific basis for controlling dogs at Burnham Beeches on nature conservation grounds."*

43. NE has also confirmed that they are content for the City of London, as owners and managers of the NNR, to formulate local policy and reflect this via the introduction of DCO's. Indeed they have adopted this approach on their own National Nature Reserves where in some instances dogs are required to be kept on leads at all times throughout the year 'to protect wildlife'.

*In our experience to date DCO's have typically been proposed on access land as a means to encourage people with dogs to adopt behaviours that are in keeping with the desires and expectations of other users, rather than as a means to protect wildlife. This is a separate matter on which we have tended not to provide a specific view, recognising that order-making authorities are better placed to come to a view based on local circumstances.*

### **The Primary Authority – South Bucks District Council**

44. SBDC indicated their acceptance of the proposals on 24 June. They were subsequently approached at individual member level by the Kennel Club. SBDC's final comments supported the proposals for Schedules 1, 3, 4 and 5 but urge flexibility on the latter. They do not support the proposals for Schedule 2 as they believe *it will adversely affect local people who have been reasonably walking their dogs at Burnham Beeches for many years and that it will put more pressure on other sites for dog walkers displaced because of the restrictions placed on them.* Appendix 11.

### **The Secondary Authorities**

45. The Farnham Royal Parish Council met to discuss the DCO proposals on 23<sup>rd</sup> June and agreed to give their full support to them. Appendix 12.
46. Burnham Parish Council were prompted on two occasions but did not respond to the formal consultation letter. This Parish Council is

represented on the Burnham Beeches Consultation Group and their representative was aware of the proposals.

### **Responses from Other Bodies consulted by the Kennel Club.**

- i. **The British Horse Society.** Objected to Schedule 2 on the grounds that it would displace problem dogs on to the wider Rights of Way network. They also noted that NE does not support the proposal for Schedule 2 on grounds of nature conservation. Appendix 13.
- ii. **The Open Spaces Society.** Objected to Schedule 2. They support Schedule 3 in principle. Schedule 4 is supported. They did not comment on Schedule 5. Appendix 14.
- iii. **Buckinghamshire County Council.** Stated as follows: *Although Buckinghamshire County Council are not a statutory consultee we would support the response to this consultation as given by Councillor Adrian Busby, Leader of South Bucks District Council. I hope this goes someway to show that we are now aware of the consultation and any input would be to support, as stated, our District Council colleagues in this instance.* Appendix 15.
- iv. **The Dogs Trust.** The Dogs Trust responded to the consultation and support the City's proposals. The Dogs Trust states that it is the UK's largest dog welfare organisation. Appendix 16.

### **Statutory Consultation results**

47. The notice was advertised in 4 local newspapers. Appendix 17. (The statutory minimum requirement is to publish the notice in a local newspaper circulating in the area. The notice was published in 4 newspapers to ensure coverage of the whole of the affected area, and to maximise awareness). In addition to the minimum statutory requirement, the same information was posted on each of the site's 11 notice boards, on 3 notice boards in the villages of Farnham Common and Burnham, on 'table talkers' at the Burnham Beeches café and on the Burnham Beeches website.
48. The statutory consultation period commenced on 12th June 2014 and ended 14th July 2014, a total of 33 days. (The statutory minimum notice period is 28 days).
49. On the 12<sup>th</sup> of June the Burnham Beeches team also published a newsletter update and 'Frequently asked Questions' document on the site's website

and in hard copy. These set out the proposals to the public. See Appendices 18 and 19.

### **Additional Representations Received**

50. Following the early discussions with the Kennel Club referred to in paragraph 33 above, and the decision to consult on the DCO made by Epping Forest and Commons Committee in March 2014 (but before the full statutory consultation documents and explanatory material had been finalised and published by officers), an article was presented in the 1<sup>st</sup> June 2014 edition of “Your Dog” (published 1<sup>st</sup> May 2014) entitled “Burnham Beeches ban unjustified says Kennel Club” (see Appendix 21). It is evident that this also provided wide publicity for the proposals amongst readers of “Your Dog”, prior to the statutory consultation commencing. Following that article 54 representations were received in advance of the statutory consultation period (and 5 of those were also later submitted in response to the statutory consultation).
51. Those representations have been included in the final analysis of consultation responses. The following are noted:
  - i. 26% of the total number of responses came from outside of the formal consultation period.
  - ii. There is notably greater opposition to Schedule 2 (69%) in the informal period than represented in the formal consultation period (54%).
  - iii. There was a period of 42 days from the publication of the article in “Your Dog” during which representations were received, in advance of the 33 day statutory consultation period.
52. The results of the representations received from 1<sup>st</sup> May to the start of the statutory consultation, and of the responses to the statutory consultation (i.e. over 75 days) can be summarised as follows:

#### **General**

- i. 189 responses were received. This is a small response given the media coverage and campaigning activity of the Kennel Club. All individual email/letter responses are publicly available from the Town Clerk or Burnham Beeches office. Collated results of the Consultation process are presented in tabular form in Appendix 20.
- ii. 187 were by email and 2 by letter.

- iii. Subsequent correspondence by email and letter continued after the closure of the consultation period with several existing consultees albeit without impact upon the statistics shown in this report. These are also available to members.
- iv. 5 Members of the public called in at the Burnham Beeches office to discuss the issues. The Superintendent also met with the General Secretary of the Open Spaces Society. The Director of Open Spaces also met with one local resident.
- iv. Number of dog walkers in the full sample (189 respondents). It can be seen that the number of responses by dog walkers is significantly higher than the expected site representation i.e. 2% of all individual visitors each year (44% of all visits). The number who 'did not declare' is much higher than in any previous survey.

Walk dog(s) at Burnham Beeches	Do not walk dog(s) at Burnham Beeches	Did not declare
55%	2%	43%

- 53. 22 different types of comment either in support or against the proposals were recorded. The most common from each schedule are also presented.
- 54. In all instances figures show the results from both the statutory consultation period and the earlier representations received between 1<sup>st</sup> May and 11 June and from the statutory consultation period only (i.e. the formal 33 days).

<b>SCHEDULE 1(as proposed). Failure to remove Dog Faeces.</b>							
<b>Against Schedule 1.</b>		<b>Neither for nor against.</b>		<b>Support Schedule 1.</b>		<b>Did not comment.</b>	
<b>Full period (75 days)</b>	<b>Formal period (33 days)</b>	<b>Full period (75 days)</b>	<b>Formal (33 days)</b>	<b>Full period (75 days)</b>	<b>Formal (33 days)</b>	<b>Full Period (75 days)</b>	<b>Formal (33 days)</b>
<b>6.9%</b>	<b>5.7%</b>	<b>3.7%</b>	<b>3.6%</b>	<b>57.1%</b>	<b>66.5%</b>	<b>32.3%</b>	<b>24.2%</b>



<b>Top issues raised re Schedule 1. (i = most frequent. iii = least frequent)</b>	
i.	Support Schedule 1.
ii.	All responsible dog walkers pick up their pets faeces.
iii.	Dog faeces are no worse than cow or horse faeces.

<b>SCHEDULE 2 (as proposed). Failure keep a dog on a lead in an area so designated.</b>							
<b>Against Schedule 2.</b>		<b>Neither for nor against.</b>		<b>Support Schedule 2.</b>		<b>Did not comment.</b>	
<b>Full period (75 days)</b>	<b>Formal period (33 days)</b>	<b>Full period (75 days)</b>	<b>Formal (33 days)</b>	<b>Full period (75 days)</b>	<b>Formal (33 days)</b>	<b>Full Period (75 days)</b>	<b>Formal (33 days)</b>
<b>58.2%</b>	<b>54.3%</b>	<b>4.2%</b>	<b>1.4%</b>	<b>32.8%</b>	<b>40.7%</b>	<b>4.8%</b>	<b>3.6%</b>

<b>General points.</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Of those who walk dogs the majority (66%) disagreed with the proposed area for Schedule 2.</li> <li>• Of those who walk dogs a minority (23%) of dog walkers agreed with Schedule 2 as proposed.</li> <li>• Of those who walk dogs 11% remained silent or stated neutrality on the issue</li> </ul>

<b>Top issues raised re Schedule 2. (i = most frequent. iv = least frequent)</b>	
i.	The Schedule 2 area is too large and will prevent me from exercising my dog adequately
ii.	Support Schedule 2 as it is proposed

<b>iii.</b>	The Schedule 2 area will ‘force’ the elderly and infirm into Schedule 3 and that land is wetter, steeper and less suitable for these visitors
<b>iv.</b>	It is unsafe for dogs and/or dog walkers
<b>v.</b>	It is unfair because only a few people break the rules

**SCHEDULE 3 (as proposed). Failure to put and keep a dog on a lead as directed by an authorised Officer**

<b>Against Schedule 3.</b>		<b>Neither for nor against.</b>		<b>Support Schedule 3.</b>		<b>Did not comment</b>	
<b>Full period (75 days)</b>	<b>Formal period (33 days)</b>	<b>Full period (75 days)</b>	<b>Formal (33 days)</b>	<b>Full period (75 days)</b>	<b>Formal (33 days)</b>	<b>Full Period (75 days)</b>	<b>Formal (33 days)</b>
<b>7.9%</b>	<b>7.1%</b>	<b>10.6%</b>	<b>12.2%</b>	<b>42.9%</b>	<b>50.7%</b>	<b>38.6%</b>	<b>30%</b>

**Top issues raised re Schedule 3. (i = most frequent. iii = least frequent).**

<b>i.</b>	Support Schedule 3 as it is proposed.
<b>ii.</b>	It is unsafe for dogs and/or dog walkers
<b>iii.</b>	The Schedule 3 area that land is wetter, steeper and less suitable for these elderly and infirm visitors

**SCHEDULE 4 (as proposed). Permit a dog to enter land from which dogs are excluded.**

<b>Against Schedule 4.</b>		<b>Neither for nor against.</b>		<b>Support Schedule 4.</b>		<b>Did not comment</b>	
<b>Full period (75 days)</b>	<b>Formal period (33 days)</b>	<b>Full period (75 days)</b>	<b>Formal (33 days)</b>	<b>Full period (75 days)</b>	<b>Formal (33 days)</b>	<b>Full Period (75 days)</b>	<b>Formal (33 days)</b>
<b>7.9%</b>	<b>6.4%</b>	<b>4.2%</b>	<b>3.6%</b>	<b>51.4%</b>	<b>61.4%</b>	<b>36.5%</b>	<b>28.6%</b>

**Top issues raised re Schedule 4. (i = most frequent. iii = least frequent).**

- i. Support Schedule 4 as it is proposed
- ii. It is not required by law or hygiene regulations
- iii. It is unnecessary – no problem exists

**SCHEDULE 5 (as proposed). Take more than 4 dogs on to the land.**

<b>Against Schedule 5.</b>		<b>Neither for nor against.</b>		<b>Support Schedule 5.</b>		<b>Did not comment</b>	
<b>Full period (75 days)</b>	<b>Formal period (33 days)</b>	<b>Full period (75 days)</b>	<b>Formal (33 days)</b>	<b>Full period (75 days)</b>	<b>Formal (33 days)</b>	<b>Full Period (75 days)</b>	<b>Formal (33 days)</b>
<b>16.9%</b>	<b>17.8%</b>	<b>4.2%</b>	<b>3.6%</b>	<b>41.8%</b>	<b>50.0%</b>	<b>37.1%</b>	<b>28.6%</b>

**Top issues raised re Schedule 5. (i = most frequent. iii = least frequent).**

- i. Support the Schedule 5 as it is proposed.
- ii. Setting a max number of dogs will not solve any problems
- iii. Setting the max number of dogs is a blunt tool.

## OPTIONS

55. **Following the results of both the Informal and Formal consultation periods the following options are available to Members:**

**Schedule 1. Pick up dog faeces.** Approve one of the following:

**A.** Resolve to make The Fouling of Land by Dogs (Burnham Beeches) Order 2014 (Appendix 1.1), to be applied as proposed, across the whole site.

**B.** No use of Schedule 1.

**The consultation suggests:**

- Support for **option A.**

**Schedule 2. Dogs on leads at all times.** Approve one of the following:

**A.** Resolve to make The Dogs on Leads (Burnham Beeches) Order 2014 (Appendix 1.2), to be applied as proposed – Map 1.

**B.** Defer a decision on Schedule 2 and consult as necessary under the ABC&P Act.

**The consultation suggests:**

- Support for use of Schedule 2 on the site in some form – Footprint 2013 survey.
- Dog walkers responded most clearly to this issue and were by some margin the most frequent objectors.
- Lack of support for option **A** within the dog walking community who make up approximately 44% of the total annual visits to the site and around 2% of individual site visitors.

**Schedule 3. Dogs on leads where requested.**

Approve one of the following:

- A. Resolve to make The Dogs on Leads by Direction (Burnham Beeches) Order 2014 (Appendix 1.3), to be applied as proposed – Map 1.
- B. Defer a decision on Schedule 3 and consult as necessary under the ABC&P Act.

**The consultation suggests:**

- Support for use of Schedule 3 on the site as presented as **option A** of those that commented.

**Schedule 4. Dog exclusion zones.**

Approve one of the following:

- A. Resolve to make The Dogs Exclusion (Burnham Beeches) Order 2014 (Appendix 1.4), as proposed – dogs to be excluded from the area around the café, as currently applies using the existing voluntary agreement.
- B. No use of Schedule 4.

**The consultation suggests:**

- Support for **option A** of those that commented.

**Schedule 5. Maximum number of dogs per responsible person.**

Approve one of the following:

- A. Resolve to make The Dogs (Specified Maximum) (Burnham Beeches) Order 2014 (Appendix 1.5), as proposed – maximum number of 4 dogs per responsible person.
- B. No use of Schedule 5.

**The consultation suggests:**

- Support for **option A** of those that commented.

**Further Management options.**

56. Members may also wish to be aware of the following potential site improvements, brought to light as part of the consultation process:

- i. Improvements to bench seat provision in the Schedule 3 area.
  - ii. Additional dog bins in areas of heavy usage should the need be clearly identified.
  - iii. Path repairs to further improve access within the Schedule 3 area.
  - iv. Increased Ranger Presence in the Schedule 3 area.
  - v. Seek funding for an additional Trampler 4 wheel-drive buggy should demand necessitate.
57. In addition, during the consultation, two respondents requested a dog walker's representative should be included in the Burnham Beeches Consultation Group. It is suggested that a suitable candidate is sought from the local dog walking community.

### **Corporate & Strategic Implications**

58. The proposals support the Strategic aims of the City and Open Spaces Department by:
- 1. Quality.** Providing, safe, secure and accessible Open Spaces and services on behalf of London and the nation.
  - 2. Inclusion.** Involving communities and partners in developing a sense of place through the care and management of our sites.
  - 3. Environment.** Delivering sustainable working practices to promote the variety of life and protect the Open Spaces for the enjoyment of future generations.
  - 4. Promotion.** Promote opportunities to value and enjoy the outdoors for recreation, learning and healthy living
  - 5. People.** Manage, develop and empower a capable and motivated work force to achieve high standards of safety and performance.

### **Legal Implications**

59. The Common Council of the City of London was designated as a Secondary Authority for the purposes of Chapter 1 of Part 6 of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 from 31<sup>st</sup> May 2012. This enables the Common Council to make Dog Control Orders in its open spaces outside the City where the relevant Primary Authority and other Secondary Authorities have not already made an Order in respect of the same offence on the same land.
60. The form of Dog Control Orders is prescribed by the Dog Control Orders (Prescribed Offences and Penalties, etc) Regulations 2006 – this has been reflected in the appended draft Dog Control Orders.

61. Any Authority making Dog Control Orders must be satisfied that they are justified and must be able to show that this is a necessary and proportionate response to problems caused by the activities of dogs and those in charge of them. Members should have regard to the relevant DEFRA Guidance and should carefully consider the representations received during the consultation process. Failure to do so could leave any decision vulnerable to a legal challenge.
62. The Kennel Club have expressed some concerns over procedural aspects of the consultation process, which could also lead to a legal challenge. They have suggested that some of the land in question is ‘access land’ under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, which would involve a statutory duty to consult additional bodies. They have also suggested that additional notices should have been displayed on site. However, officers are satisfied that the statutory requirements as to consultation have been met, and in many cases exceeded.

### **Equalities Impacts**

63. An Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out which identifies that there are no negative impacts on persons or groups with protected characteristics. Considerations include the following: In terms of mobility impacts, the terrain of the Schedule 2 and Schedule 3 areas are broadly comparable in terms of topography, conditions underfoot, and therefore accessibility; both areas are served by boardwalks and are similarly accessible by the 4wheel-drive Tramper wheel chair available for users; exemptions apply for assistance dogs as described above. The Orders specify that no breach arises where there is a reasonable excuse for failing to comply.

### **Financial and Risk Implications**

64. The cost of the DCO consultation and enforcement design process is estimated at £35,000 including officer time, training, consultation costs and the provision of appropriate signage and other materials. These costs are being met from local risk budgets and are set out in Table 2 below:

**Table 2.**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Research and informal Consultation (Footprint Ecology)	£7,000
Management time (estimated at 30 days)	£7,500
Staff Training (est)	£2,000

Administration (set up)	£4,500
Public Consultation – Advertising costs	£4,000
Staff costs	£10,000
<b>Total estimated costs</b>	<b>£35,000</b>

65. An income of around £2,000/annum is anticipated from Fixed Penalty Notice payments. It is estimated that the on-going cost to administer the scheme (staff time) will be approximately £2000/annum. Given the anticipated income the overall cost of the scheme should be cost neutral.

### **Public Relations Implications**

66. Individuals or bodies, such as the Kennel Club, who have expressed disagreement with some of the proposals may reiterate their views in the event that those proposals are progressed, including in the “Your Dog” publication which has already reported on this issue. Appendix 21.

### **HR Implications**

67. Staff at Burnham Beeches have been consulted throughout this process and are aware of the implications on their roles. Minor adjustments to the staff structure have also been made.
68. The Rangers at Burnham Beeches currently issue parking tickets for failure to ‘pay and display’. They would also enforce the DCO’s (perhaps with the assistance of local PCSO’s) and issue the FPN’s. They have recently received ‘appropriate training’, should it be required of them to fulfil this role. A refresher course is also planned.

### **The next steps**

69. In order to avoid undermining the effect of any DCO, it is important to consider how it will be enforced and the practicality of any enforcement agreements. This is currently set out in draft form in the Dog Management Strategy.
70. Should Member’s approve the proposals as consulted with the public in the period June 10<sup>th</sup> – July 14<sup>th</sup> 2014 then the following issues must be resolved at the November 2014 meeting of this Committee so that enforcement may commence December 2014.

The approval of the Dog Management Strategy will need to determine:



- i. The level of Fixed Penalty fines.
- ii. Delegated Authority for the Director and Superintendent to appoint 'authorised officers' for the purpose of issuing FPN's.
- iii. Agreement on type and frequency of new site signage.

## **Conclusion**

71. Dog walking at Burnham Beeches has grown in popularity over recent years. An annual report of the number and type of dog related incidents has been collated by the Ranger's since 2002/3. Whilst this data does not provide the absolute number of incidents occurring at the Beeches each year it does provide a record that can be compared over the years. This record indicates an increasing trend in the number of incidents despite proactive management such as the site's Dog Behaviour Code, waste removal and other 'dog friendly' services.
72. The site's byelaws and voluntary dog walking code have not been effective in reducing repetitive, nuisance behaviour (as set out in the previous report to this committee) and the use of DCO's at Burnham Beeches is proposed as a complementary enforcement mechanism.
73. DCO's offer additional controls and a more flexible approach to enforcement compared to the byelaws.
74. The Kennel Club has led an active media campaign specifically against the use of Schedules 2 and 5 as proposed for Burnham Beeches.
75. Following lobbying by the Kennel Club the Primary Authority, Buckinghamshire County Council, Open Spaces Society, British Horse Society and Kennel Club itself have stated that they do not support the use of Schedule 2 as proposed.
76. DEFRA guidance requires even-handedness and balance when considering use of DCOs. It also places a clear emphasis on a need to suite local, circumstances that can be clearly evidenced, rather than comparison with other open spaces across the country.
77. The comment from Natural England supports in principal, the use of DCO's for access management reasons whilst it explicitly does not do so for nature conservation reasons.
78. The Dog's Trust and local Farnham Royal Parish Council support the proposals as they were published to the public.

79. Members are presented with options for each of the five DCO Schedules. Should Members approve the original proposals (Recommendation 'Option A' in each instance) then a further report will be submitted in November 2014 seeking approval of the enforcement details.
80. Should Members choose other options then further public consultation must be undertaken using the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.
81. The introduction of several simple, low cost actions, stemming from the public consultation process, to further improve visitor services at Burnham Beeches are also described as to is the recommendation to include seek a local dog walking representative on the Burnham beeches Consultation Group.

## **Appendices**

- Appendix 1.1 – 1.5 DCO Orders
- Appendix 2. Dog Walkers Code 2006.
- Appendix 3. 2003 visitor Survey – England Marketing.
- Appendix 4. Footprint Ecology visitor survey 2013.
- Appendix 5. Outcome from Members Working Group.
- Appendix 6. Dissenting note from Members Working Group.
- Appendix 7. Equalities Impact Assessment – Stage 1.
- Appendix 8. Kennel Club – full response to public consultation. July 2014.
- Appendix 9a & 9b. Footprint Ecology responses to KC 'impact survey' 2014 and consultants response.
- Appendix 10. Natural England. Full response to proposals. March 2014.
- Appendix 11. SBDC. Formal response to proposals. July 2014.
- Appendix 12. FRPC. Formal response to proposals. July 2014.
- Appendix 13. BHS. Formal response to proposals. July 2014.
- Appendix 14. OSS. Formal response to proposals. July 2014.
- Appendix 15. BCC. Formal response to proposals. July 2014.
- Appendix 16. Dogs Trust. Formal response to proposals. July 2014.
- Appendix 17. Public Notice. Example from the Maidenhead Advertiser.

- Appendix 18. Burnham Beeches Newsletter update – public consultation.
- Appendix 19. Burnham Beeches FAQ's. Public consultation period.
- Appendix 20. Collated consultation feedback. 75 day period.
- Appendix 21. 'Your Dog' magazine article

## **Maps**

**Map 1.** Specifying areas covered by each DCO as proposed to the public.

## **Background Papers:**

1. Report to EFCC of Sept 2012. Use of Secondary Authority Powers to introduce Dog Control Orders at Burnham Beeches.
2. Report to EFCC and Open Spaces Committee – November 2013. Review of Pilot Study - Use of Secondary Authority Powers to introduce Dog Control Orders at Burnham Beeches.
3. Report to EFCC of May 2014 seeking approval to move the recommended proposals to the statutory consultation phase.

## **Andy Barnard**

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The Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005

The Dog Control Orders (prescribed Offences And Penalties, etc) Regulations 2006 (SI 2006/1059)

### **The Fouling of Land by Dogs (Burnham Beeches) Order 2014**

The Common Council of the City of London hereby makes the following Order:

- 1 This Order comes into force on 1 December 2014.
- 2 This Order applies to the land specified in the Schedule.

#### **Offence**

- 3 (1) If a dog defecates at any time on land to which this Order applies and a person who is in charge of the dog at that time fails to remove the faeces from the land forthwith, that person shall be guilty of an offence unless--
  - (a) he has a reasonable excuse for failing to do so; or
  - (b) the owner, occupier or other person or authority having control of the land has consented (generally or specifically) to his failing to do so.
- (2) Nothing in this article applies to a person who--
  - (a) is registered as a blind person in a register compiled under section 29 of the National Assistance Act 1948; or
  - (b) has a disability which affects his mobility, manual dexterity, physical co-ordination or ability to lift, carry or otherwise move everyday objects, in respect of a dog trained by a prescribed charity and upon which he relies for assistance.
- (3) For the purposes of this article--
  - (a) a person who habitually has a dog in his possession shall be taken to be in charge of the dog at any time unless at that time some other person is in charge of the dog;
  - (b) placing the faeces in a receptacle on the land which is provided for the purpose, or for the disposal of waste, shall be a sufficient removal from the land;
  - (c) being unaware of the defecation (whether by reason of not being in the vicinity or otherwise), or not having a device for or other suitable means of removing the faeces shall not be a reasonable excuse for failing to remove the faeces;
  - (d) each of the following is a "prescribed charity"--
    - (i) Dogs for the Disabled (registered charity number 700454);
    - (ii) Support Dogs (registered charity number 1088281);
    - (iii) Canine Partners for Independence (registered charity number 803680).

#### **Penalty**

- 4 A person who is guilty of an offence under article 3 shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale.

[Date]

[Attestation clause]

#### SCHEDULE

This Order applies to the whole of Burnham Beeches.

References to Burnham Beeches are to that area of land known as Burnham Beeches in the Parishes of Farnham Royal and Burnham owned by the Mayor and Commonalty and Citizens of the City of London which is open to the air (including land that is covered but open to the air on at least one side) and to which the public are entitled or permitted to have access with or without payment and including all roads, highways and other rights of way over that land.

The Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005

The Dog Control Orders (Prescribed Offences and Penalties, etc) Regulations 2006 (SI 2006/1059)

### **The Dogs on Leads (Burnham Beeches) Order 2014**

The Common Council of the City of London hereby makes the following Order:

- 1 This Order comes into force on 1 December 2014.
- 2 This Order applies to the land specified in the Schedule.

#### **Offence**

- 3 (1) A person in charge of a dog shall be guilty of an offence if, at any time, on any land to which this Order applies he does not keep the dog on a lead of not more than five metres in length, unless--
  - (a) he has a reasonable excuse for failing to do so; or
  - (b) the owner, occupier or other person or authority having control of the land has consented (generally or specifically) to his failing to do so.
- (2) For the purposes of this article a person who habitually has a dog in his possession shall be taken to be in charge of the dog at any time unless at that time some other person is in charge of the dog.

#### **Penalty**

- 4 A person who is guilty of an offence under article 3 shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale.

[Date]

[Attestation clause]

#### **SCHEDULE**

This Order applies to that part of Burnham Beeches to the west of Sir Henry Peeks Drive and Halse Drive and to the two enclosed areas of approximately 319 square metres and 221 square metres adjoining the café enclosure at Burnham Beeches.

References to Burnham Beeches are to that area of land known as Burnham Beeches in the Parishes of Farnham Royal and Burnham owned by the Mayor and Commonalty and Citizens of the City of London which is open to the air (including land that is covered but open to the air on at least one side) and to which the public are entitled or permitted to have access with or without payment and including all roads, highways and other rights of way over that land.

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The Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005

The Dog Control Orders (prescribed Offences And Penalties, etc) Regulations 2006 (SI 2006/1059)

### **The Dogs on Leads by Direction (Burnham Beeches) Order 2014**

The Common Council of the City of London (in this Order called "the Authority") hereby makes the following Order:

- 1 This Order comes into force on 1 December 2014.
- 2 This Order applies to the land specified in the Schedule.
- 3 In this Order "an authorised officer of the Authority" means an employee of the Authority who is authorised in writing by the Authority for the purpose of giving directions under this Order.

#### **Offence**

- 4 (1) A person in charge of a dog shall be guilty of an offence if, at any time, on any land to which this Order applies, he does not comply with a direction given him by an authorised officer of the Authority to put and keep the dog on a lead of not more than five metres in length, unless--
  - (a) he has a reasonable excuse for failing to do so; or
  - (b) the owner, occupier or other person or authority having control of the land has consented (generally or specifically) to his failing to do so.
- (2) For the purposes of this article--
  - (a) a person who habitually has a dog in his possession shall be taken to be in charge of the dog at any time unless at that time some other person is in charge of the dog;
  - (b) an authorised officer of the Authority may only give a direction under this Order to put and keep a dog on a lead if such restraint is reasonably necessary to prevent a nuisance or behaviour by the dog likely to cause annoyance or disturbance to any other person on any land to which this Order applies or the worrying or disturbance of any animal or bird.

#### **Penalty**

- 5 A person who is guilty of an offence under article 4 shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale.

[Date]

[Attestation clause]

#### **SCHEDULE**

This Order applies to that part of Burnham Beeches to the east of and including Sir Henry Peeks Drive and Halse Drive but excluding those enclosed areas to which The Dogs on Leads (Burnham Beeches) Order 2014 and The Dogs Exclusion (Burnham Beeches) Order 2014 apply.

References to Burnham Beeches are to that area of land known as Burnham Beeches in the Parishes of Farnham Royal and Burnham owned by the Mayor and Commonalty and Citizens of the City of London which is open to the air (including land that is covered but open to the air on at least one side)

and to which the public are entitled or permitted to have access with or without payment and including all roads, highways and other rights of way over that land.

The Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005

The Dog Control Orders (prescribed Offences And Penalties, etc) Regulations 2006 (SI 2006/1059)

### **The Dogs Exclusion (Burnham Beeches) Order 2014**

The Common Council of the City of London hereby makes the following Order:

- 1 This Order comes into force on 1 December 2014.
- 2 This Order applies to the land specified in the Schedule.

#### **Offence**

- 3 (1) A person in charge of a dog shall be guilty of an offence if, at any time, he takes the dog onto, or permits the dog to enter or to remain on, any land to which this Order applies unless--
  - (a) he has a reasonable excuse for doing so; or
  - (b) the owner, occupier or other person or authority having control of the land has consented (generally or specifically) to his doing so.
- (2) Nothing in this article applies to a person who--
  - (a) is registered as a blind person in a register compiled under section 29 of the National Assistance Act 1948; or
  - (b) is deaf, in respect of a dog trained by Hearing Dogs for Deaf People (registered charity number 293358) and upon which he relies for assistance; or
  - (c) has a disability which affects his mobility, manual dexterity, physical co-ordination or ability to lift, carry or otherwise move everyday objects, in respect of a dog trained by a prescribed charity and upon which he relies for assistance.
- (3) For the purposes of this article--
  - (a) a person who habitually has a dog in his possession shall be taken to be in charge of the dog at any time unless at that time some other person is in charge of the dog; and
  - (b) each of the following is a "prescribed charity"--
    - (i) Dogs for the Disabled (registered charity number 700454);
    - (ii) Support Dogs (registered charity number 1088281);
    - (iii) Canine Partners for Independence (registered charity number 803680).

#### **Penalty**

- 4 A person who is guilty of an offence under article 3 shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale.

[Date]

[Attestation clause]

## SCHEDULE

This Order applies to the café enclosure of approximately 245 square metres at Burnham Beeches.

References to Burnham Beeches are to that area of land known as Burnham Beeches in the Parishes of Farnham Royal and Burnham owned by the Mayor and Commonalty and Citizens of the City of London which is open to the air (including land that is covered but open to the air on at least one side) and to which the public are entitled or permitted to have access with or without payment.

The Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005

The Dog Control Orders (prescribed Offences and Penalties, etc) Regulations 2006 (SI 2006/1059)

### **The Dogs (Specified Maximum) (Burnham Beeches) Order 2014**

The Common Council of the City of London hereby makes the following Order:

- 1 This Order comes into force on 1 December 2014.
- 2 This Order applies to the land specified in the Schedule.
- 3 On land to which this Order applies, the maximum number of dogs which a person may take onto that land is four.

#### **Offence**

- 4 (1) A person in charge of more than one dog shall be guilty of an offence if, at any time, he takes onto any land in respect of which this Order applies more than the maximum number of dogs specified in article 3 of this Order, unless--
  - (a) he has a reasonable excuse for doing so; or
  - (b) the owner, occupier or other person or authority having control of the land has consented (generally or specifically) to his doing so.
- (2) For the purposes of this article a person who habitually has a dog in his possession shall be taken to be in charge of the dog at any time unless at that time some other person is in charge of the dog.

#### **Penalty**

- 5 A person who is guilty of an offence under article 4 shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale.

[Date]

[Attestation clause]

#### **SCHEDULE**

This Order applies to the whole of Burnham Beeches.

References to Burnham Beeches are to that area of land known as Burnham Beeches in the Parishes of Farnham Royal and Burnham owned by the Mayor and Commonalty and Citizens of the City of London which is open to the air (including land that is covered but open to the air on at least one side) and to which the public are entitled or permitted to have access with or without payment and including all roads, highways and other rights of way over that land.

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## 5 Clear Up After Your Dog

Standing in dog 'mess' will spoil a visit: please think about the others who walk and play here.

The thousands of dog visits to the Beeches each week could account for 50 tonnes of slowly decomposing faeces; these would leave nutrients and chemicals (e.g. from worm tablets) that could harm the wildlife here. The plants in particular need soil that is low in nutrients.

**So please 'pick up' everywhere** - in the woods as well as on the paths and open areas.

There are dog bags and bins near all the main entrances - please use these or take the bags away with you. Bags thrown into the bushes cause litter, pollution and are an eyesore.

---

*80% of visitors say dog owners should pick up after their pets*

---

### Want to know more?

Our website has more information about the sites, copies of the management plans, details of volunteer tasks and events, trails and up-to-date news. You can also contact the Rangers at the Burnham Beeches Office (weekdays) on 01753 647358.

### Finished with this fact sheet?

Please pass it on or put it back in the information point so someone else can use it.

---

Registered charity, no. 232987

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## Burnham Beeches and Stoke Common

### GUIDELINES FOR DOG WALKERS

**Burnham Beeches welcomes responsible dog walkers. This 540 acre nature reserve is enjoyed by 500,000 visitors each year; about 35% of these bring a dog to the reserve.** Like all our visitors, dog walkers must follow the site byelaws. These state that dogs must have a collar and tag, are not allowed to chase wildlife and must be kept under effective control.

**Why?** Your dog may be the most friendly pet in the world but all animals are unpredictable. If you cannot see your dog, it could be:

- ✗ leaving dog 'mess'
- ✗ chasing deer, rabbits or other wildlife
- ✗ running up to someone who doesn't like dogs
- ✗ disturbing nesting birds
- ✗ disturbing a picnic
- ✗ worrying livestock

Obviously, none of these are acceptable, particularly on a nature reserve and public open space.

### Follow the Dog Code

- ✓ Keep your dog under effective control.
- ✓ Do not let your dog disturb other visitors.
- ✓ Do not let your dog chase or disturb any wildlife or livestock.
- ✓ Ensure your dog has a collar and identity tag with your contact details.
- ✓ Always clear up after your dog.

Burnham Beeches is a National Nature Reserve, Site of Special Scientific Interest and European Special Area of Conservation; Stoke Common is a Site of Special Scientific Interest. They are owned and managed by the City of London.

[www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/burnhambeeches](http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/burnhambeeches)

## We have drawn up a dog code using feedback from our visitors.

### 1 Keep Your Dog Under Effective Control

Dogs should either be in sight at all times and return immediately when called or be kept on a lead. This is in the best interests of your dog, other site users and the wildlife and livestock of this National Nature Reserve.

If you cannot see your dog, you cannot tell what it is doing. It could be fouling the site, disturbing wildlife, disturbing other visitors or even fighting with someone else's dog.

It could be in danger. Every year a few dogs are hit on the surrounding roads after running out of sight of their owners.

These distressing incidents can be avoided by keeping your dog under effective control.

We recommend you keep a lead with you at all times whilst on site.



### 2 Do Not Let Your Dog Disturb Other Visitors

All our visitors are entitled to enjoy the Beeches; dog walkers must remember that not everyone is confident around dogs.

Please do not allow your dog to approach or chase after people

*20% of visitors say their trip has been spoilt by a dog*

in the Beeches. Some children or less mobile visitors may be particularly alarmed if a dog, or group of dogs, comes up to them.

Remember, dogs love picnics, but will the picnickers always be happy to see them?

*65% of visitors do not have a dog with them*



### 3 Do Not Let Your Dog Chase or Disturb Wildlife or Livestock

All dogs, no matter how gentle, have a natural instinct to chase and kill other animals. All animals, including your dog, can be unpredictable.

#### Dogs & Wildlife

Burnham Beeches is a National Nature Reserve. Your dog should not disturb any wildlife, including rabbits, squirrels, birds and deer.

*90% of visitors say dogs should not chase any wildlife or livestock*

Every year deer are chased into the road by dogs that are not under control. Some have been hit by cars and have had to be put down; a few have been savaged by dogs.



#### Dogs & Livestock

We use cattle, ponies, pigs and sheep to help manage the Beeches. If a dog runs amongst the livestock or disturbs them it may stress or harm our animals. There is also a very real danger that the livestock may see a dog as a threat and hurt it.



### 4 Ensure Your Dog Wears a Collar and Identity Tag

Many dogs are lost on site each year, distressing both pets and owners. If your dog is not wearing a collar and tag it may slow our efforts to reunite you quickly; we may have to pass the dog to the police or a dog warden.

If you lose your dog, please call us on the 24 emergency line (01372 279 488). The Rangers on site will keep a look out for it and let you know if it is found or spotted.





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## BACKGROUND

Burnham Beeches is owned and managed by the Corporation Of London. It is both an internationally important wildlife site (it is a site of special scientific interest (SSSI), a national nature reserve (NNR) and a candidate special area of conservation (cSAC) and a popular recreation site with approximately 500,000 visitors per year.

The management team at Burnham Beeches is charged with the role of balancing the needs of the visitors and the ecological maintenance of the site.

Approximately 35% of the visitors to the site are dog walkers. Whilst dogs in themselves are not a problem and are welcome on the site, the management team are concerned about the amount of dog mess that is left behind and that some of the owners that walk their dogs on the site do not have them under proper control.

Whilst Burnham Beeches welcomes dogs on the site, the issue of dog fouling is important for two reasons:

- It is a health issue for other visitors
- It interferes with the ecological maintenance of the site

The management team receive regular complaints regarding both fouling and out of control dogs. A written record is kept of any complaints and the keepers regularly patrol the site and record any offences observed.

The management team believes that the majority of visitors do respect the site. Most dog owners do clear up after their dogs (there are currently 11 dog bins around the main common and easy access parts of the site, and a number of bag dispensers), especially in the main common area, but once in the more remote areas they may not be so inclined to do so. However these tend to be the areas that are of more ecological importance.

England Marketing was commissioned to investigate attitudes towards the following at Burnham Beeches:

- Dog fouling
- Dog behaviour

The management team is intending to use the results of the survey to help them establish their new dog code of behaviour.

The visitor breakdown at Burnham Beeches is as follows:

- Visitor numbers are higher at the weekends with Sunday being the busiest day.
- There is a difference in the type of person that visits on a Saturday and Sunday.
- There are a higher proportion of visitors with dogs on weekdays.

## METHODOLOGY

Three types of research were undertaken

- Face to face questionnaires
- Self-completion questionnaires
- Observational

### 1. FACE TO FACE QUESTIONNAIRES

In order to capture the views of as many different visitors as possible the face to face interviews were carried out from 8 am to 5 pm at various locations in the site on the following days:

- Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2003
- Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2003
- Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2003

The questionnaire, which formed the basis of the interviews, was drawn up by England Marketing, approved by Burnham Beeches and is attached as appendix 1. Burnham Beeches arranged the interviewers for the face to face research.

### 2. SELF-COMPLETION QUESTIONNAIRES

A total of 1,262 questionnaires were distributed by hand or posted to local addresses. These included a pre-paid envelope for the return of replies

The same questionnaire was used for both the face to face and self completion research.

We aimed to achieve 500 completed questionnaires from the first two methods.

### 3. OBSERVATIONAL

The observational research concentrated on recording the number of dog owners that did or did not clean up after their dogs. In order to capture the behaviour of the range of visitors to the site, the observational research took place from 8 am to 6 pm on:

- Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2003
- Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2003
- Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2003

On each of these days as large an area as possible of the Main Common was observed for the whole day. The Paddock and Heathland areas was be observed for half a day each, as these areas are quite similar in that they are of a greater ecological importance and they are away from the main visitor area. We anticipated that the behavior of dog owners would be similar in both these areas.

The observational research was carried out by the staff at Burnham Beeches.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### General observations

- Burnham Beeches is a popular site, which many visitors feel very emotive about.
- Visitors primarily come to Burnham Beeches to walk or to walk with their dogs. They also come to participate in events, to cycle and to jog.
- Burnham Beeches is enjoyed for its peace and tranquillity. It is a place for the whole family, where they can walk relatively unhindered in a large open area, some of which is free from traffic. It is an area of natural beauty where they can enjoy the changes the seasons bring and feel close to nature as it has a wide variety of wildlife, plants and trees.
- 62% of the visitors come to Burnham Beeches once a week or more. Dog walkers make up the majority of visitors that come three or more times a week.
- Burnham Beeches attracts a steady stream of visitors throughout the day. Whilst there are slightly more visitors in the morning than the afternoon, the most popular visiting time is early afternoon, and they are least likely to visit in the evenings.
- The two main hindrances to people's enjoyment of Burnham Beeches are the dogs that are walked there, particularly when their owners do not clean up after they have fouled; and the amount and speed of the traffic that goes through the site and car crime.
- Whilst the majority of visitors claim to be aware that Burnham Beeches is an internationally important wildlife site, the amount of litter and dog faeces that are left around the site indicate that this is either not the case or that the visitors are not aware of how to maintain this status or that they should share the responsibility of maintaining it.

### Dog walkers and dog behaviour

- The questionnaire research indicated that dog walkers make up approximately 42% of the visitors to the site and usually walk one dog each, although the mean number of dogs per walker is between 1.4 and 1.5. (The figure of 42% is higher than the figure that Burnham Beeches believe is correct of 35%. One explanation for this may be because the majority of the face to face research was carried out on a Saturday and Sunday. Since a higher proportion of visitors walk their dogs at weekends than weekdays, this is likely to give a higher than average figure.
- Dogs that are worrying livestock, dog walkers that do not clean up after their dogs, a dog that is fighting with other dogs and a dog that is chasing or disturbing wild life are all generally considered, by both dog walkers and non-dog walkers, to be behaviour that is not acceptable at Burnham Beeches

- Being approached by a dog that you don't know was considered acceptable by 51% of respondents, although two thirds of this group were dog walkers. 80% of those who found this behaviour unacceptable were non-dog walkers.
- The majority (67%) of the respondents felt that the dogs that are walked at Burnham Beeches are kept under effective control. Although only 6% feel that all the dogs are under effective control and 21% said that only a few of the dog walkers have effective control over their dogs.
- The best definition, according to both dog owners and non-dog owners, of a dog that is under effective control is 'a dog that is kept within the owner's sight and returns to the owner when called'.
- The observational research identified that less than half of the dog walkers cleaned up after their dog had fouled, and that they were more likely to clean up on the Main Common than in the Paddock and Heathland areas. The questionnaire results followed a similar pattern.
- The female dog walkers are more likely to clean up after their dog has fouled than the males.
- Some walkers do not feel that it is necessary to clean up after their dogs in areas away from the Main Common, especially when there are other animals such as cows and sheep living in these areas that are not being cleaned up after. Clearly the dog owners need to be made aware of the ecological nature of the site and the reasons why dog faeces upset the ecological balance and those of the other animals that live there do not.
- The dog walkers are generally aware and make use of the dog bins and dog bag dispensers around the site, although many bring their own bags. It was suggested that there should be more bins, that bags should be available at all the bins and that the bins should be emptied more frequently and not allowed to overflow, particularly in the summer.
- The suggestion that there should be a dog code to guide the dog owners on how to enjoy Burnham Beeches with their dog and that there should be some areas where dogs are only allowed if on a lead were generally agreed to be a good idea. The majority of those that did not agree were dog walkers themselves.
- Whilst the majority of visitors agreed that a dog free zone would be a good idea, this suggestion elicited the highest proportion of disagreement, particularly from the dog walkers.

## **OBSERVATIONAL RESEARCH**

The observational research recorded:

- The number of dog walkers i.e. Individuals or group of people walking together
- The number of dogs per walked
- What time of day they were walking
- The number of dogs that fouled
- The number of owners that clean up after their dogs when they foul
- Whether the person that cleaned up was male or female

The aim of the observational research was to compare the comments given in the questionnaires with actual observation of the behaviour of dog walkers whilst on the site.

## 1. NUMBER AND TYPE OF DOG WALKERS

The total number of dog walkers observed at each site over the three days was 673 and between them they were walking 1,008 dogs, which is an average of 1.5 dogs per walker. The most dogs observed with one walker(s) was 10, (the dogs were being walked by a group of adults on the main Common on Sunday morning).

The table below shows for each day and area, the numbers of dogs and dog walkers, and the type of dog walker.

	Type of walker				Number of dog walkers observed	Total number of dogs	Average number of dogs per walker
	Single adult	More than one adult	Family	Other			
<b>MAIN COMMON</b>							
Weekday	54	13	20	1 <sup>1</sup>	88	133	1.5
Saturday	105	54	39	0	198	286	1.4
Sunday	62	58	41	1 <sup>2</sup>	162	270	1.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>448</b>	<b>689</b>	<b>1.5</b>
<b>PADDOCK AND HEATHLAND</b>							
Weekday	33	13	13	0	59	84	1.4
Saturday	50	15	14	2 <sup>3</sup>	81	107	1.3
Sunday	40	27	18	0	85	128	1.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>1.4</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>							
Weekday	87	26	33	1	147	217	1.5
Saturday	155	69	53	2	279	393	1.4
Sunday	102	127	59	1	247	398	1.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>673</b>	<b>1008</b>	<b>1.5</b>

<sup>1</sup> 2 children

<sup>2</sup> Owner not seen

<sup>3</sup> Owners not seen

As expected the number of dog walkers was higher at the weekends than during a weekday, although the number of walkers on the common was not higher on Sunday than Saturday.

Single adults are the most common dog walkers at Burnham Beeches, except on a Sunday when groups of more than one adult are more likely to be out with their dogs.

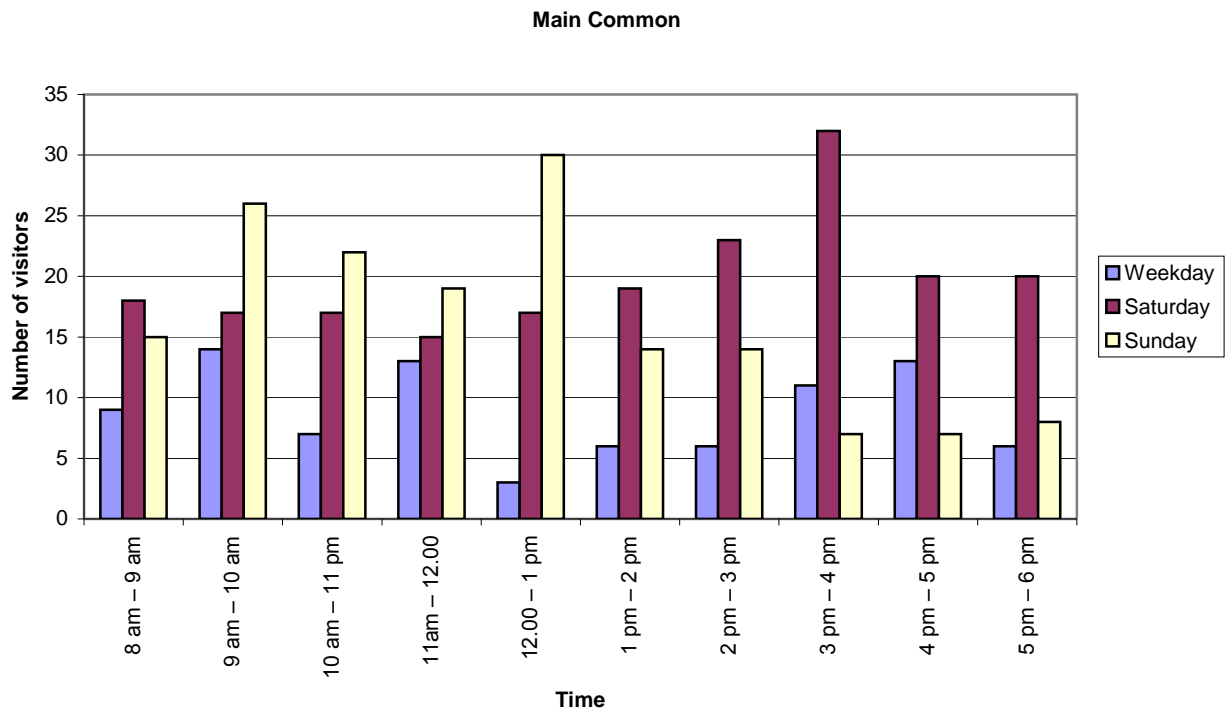
Although not the most represented group, families are more likely to be seen walking with their dog at the weekend, particularly on a Sunday.



## 2. WHAT TIME OF DAY THEY WALKED

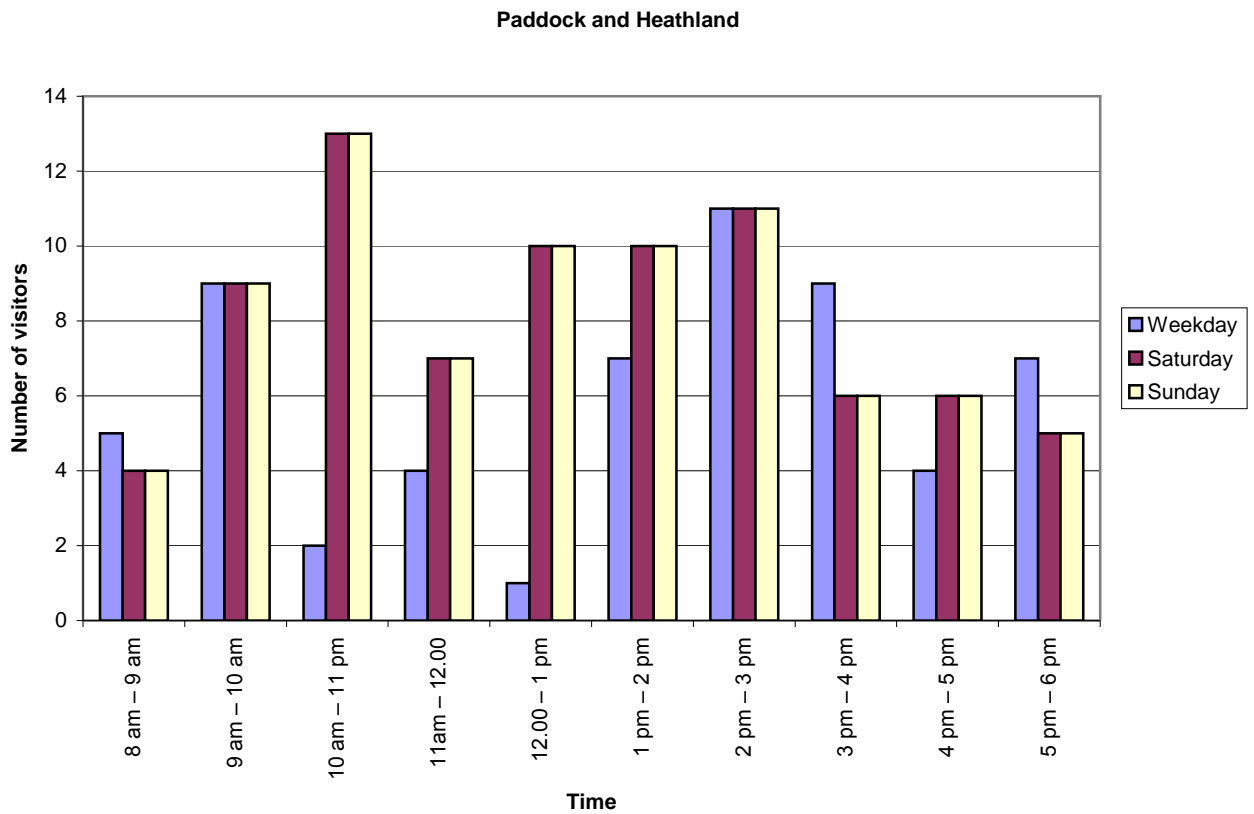
### 2.1 Main Common

On the Sunday the majority of dog walkers came in the morning, with the most observed between 12.00 and 1 pm. On the Saturday however more dog walkers were observed in the afternoon, with the majority visiting between 3 pm and 4 pm. On the weekday almost the same number of walkers were observed morning and afternoon, but the peak visiting times were between 9 am and 10 am, 11 am to 12.00 and 3 pm to 5 pm.



### 2.2 Paddock and Heathland

The Paddock and Heathland almost two thirds of the walkers were observed on the weekday in the afternoon, with the peak visiting times being between 1 pm and 4 pm and 5 pm and 6 pm. 9 am to 10 pm was also a popular weekday visiting time. The number of dog walkers observed on the Saturday and Sunday followed similar patterns, with the peak dog walking time being between 10 am and 11 am although 12.00 to 3 pm were also popular walking times.



### 3. NUMBER OF WALKERS WHOSE DOGS FOULED

A higher percentage of walker's dogs fouled on the Main Common than did in the Paddock or Heathland. From the comments on the questionnaires some walkers think it does not matter if they foul away from the main common and some even claimed that they train their dogs to foul in areas other than the Main Common.

	<b>Number of walkers whose dog(s) fouled</b>	<b>Percentage of the total number of dog walkers</b>
<b>MAIN COMMON</b>		
Weekday	30	34%
Saturday	74	37%
Sunday	46	28%
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>33%</b>
<b>PADDOCK AND HEATHLAND</b>		
Weekday	9	15%
Saturday	10	12%
Sunday	8	9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>12%</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		
Weekday	39	27%
Saturday	84	30%
Sunday	54	22%
<b>Total</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>26%</b>

#### 4. NUMBER AND GENDER OF DOG WALKERS THAT CLEANED UP AFTER THEIR DOG(S) FOULED?

As expected the number of dog walkers that cleaned up after their dog had fouled was considerably higher on the Main Common than in the Paddock and Heathland areas. Although at most, only 50% of owners cleaned up on the Main Common and 30% in the Paddock and Heathland areas.

In both areas walkers are more likely to pick up on a Saturday and least likely to pick up on a weekday.

Overall slightly more females (51) cleaned up than those that did not (46). However, this was not true of both areas, 57 % of the females cleaned up on the Main Common whilst only 29% cleaned up in the Paddock and Heathland areas.

Of the males walkers observed, a greater number (39) did not clean up than those that did (23). Again, they were more likely (39%) to clean up on the Main Common than in the Paddock and Heathland areas (17%).

	Number of walkers whose dog(s) fouled	Number of owners that cleaned up	Percentage of the number of walkers whose dog(s) fouled	Was the person that cleaned up male or female		Was the person that did not clean up male (M), female (F), a family or group of more than one adult (M&F), or don't know				
				M	F	M	F	M&F	DK	Total
<b>MAIN COMMON</b>										
Weekday	30	13	43%	7	6	9	5	3	0	17
Saturday	74	37	50%	8	29	17	20	0	0	37
Sunday	46	19	41%	7	12	8	11	7	1	27
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>81</b>
<b>PADDOCK AND HEATHLAND</b>										
Weekday	9	1	11%	1	0	2	4	2	0	8
Saturday	10	3	30%	0	3	2	3	1	1	7
Sunday	8	1	13%	0	1	1	3	2	1	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>										
Weekday	39	14	36%	8	6	11	9	5	0	25
Saturday	84	40	48%	8	32	19	19	1	1	44
Sunday	54	20	37%	7	13	9	9	9	2	34
<b>Total</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>103</b>

Whilst considering these figures it is also useful to take account of the following comments that were provided by one of the observers.

- It became apparent on a few occasions that the reason some people did not clear up after their dog was simply that they were unaware that it was fouling.
- On two occasions I witnessed people religiously clearing up only to then not clear up because the dog had nipped out of sight at the vital moment. The small areas of scrub on the main common are a clear favourite for the dogs and an area where owners can easily miss what's going on if the dog is allowed to go around the far side.
- On a number of occasions people made out to clear up after their dog whilst other people were nearby but as soon as the other people looked away or moved off didn't then pick up - clearly they thought they should but weren't going to if they could get away with it - I saw this three times in one session on the main common!

## FACE TO FACE AND SELF COMPLETION QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS

### 1. RESPONSE RATE

Overall we achieved a total of 681 completed questionnaires, 390 face to face and 291 self-completion. This exceeded our target of 500, but all the returned questionnaires were, however, inputted and included in the analysis. Of the 681 respondents 285 (42%) were regular dog walkers

The response rates from the self-completion questionnaires were very high, particularly amongst the newsletter readers.

Interestingly the response rate from local addresses was much higher when the newsletter was included with the questionnaire.

Burnham Beeches is a very emotive area for many of the respondents and three in particular added some lengthy comments to their questionnaire. These were felt worthy of inclusion and have been added as appendix 2.

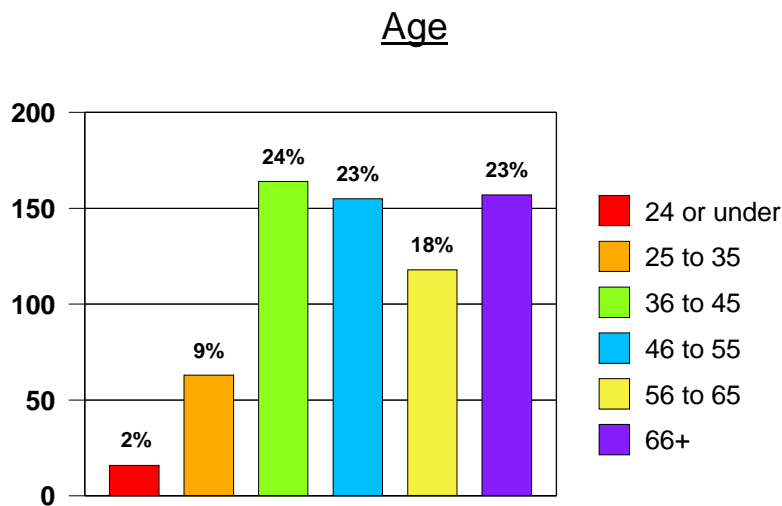
How distributed	Number distributed	Number returned	Response rate
Distributed under windscreens	150	25	16.7%
Posted to event attendees along with newsletter	40	7	17.5%
Distributed by hand to local properties along with newsletter	300	83	27.7%
Posted out to newsletter readers	271	98	36.0%
Posted to local addresses	501	77	15.4%
One questionnaire was returned with the ID number defaced		1	
<b>Total distributed</b>	<b>1,262</b>	<b>291</b>	<b>23.0%</b>
Face –to –face		390	
<b>Total</b>		<b>681</b>	

## 2. KEY DEMOGRAPHICS OF VISITORS THAT ANSWERED THE SURVEY

### 2.1 Age and gender

All age groups were represented in the survey. This question was answered by 673 of the respondents, 98.8% of the total number of respondents.

The survey was completed by a slightly higher percentage of females (53%) than males (47%). A total of 669 (98.2%) of the respondents answered this question.



### 2.2 Disability

Of the 633 (92.9%) respondents that answered this question, only 45 (7%) considered themselves to have a disability.

<b>Base</b>		<b>633 100%</b>
<b>Do you consider you have a disability?</b>	<b>No</b>	588 93%
	<b>Yes</b>	45 7%

### 2.3 Racial or cultural origin

Of the 673 (98.8%) respondents that were prepared to answer this question, the majority (92%) were White British or other white (3%).

The remainder of the respondents were Indian (2%), Pakistani (1%), Irish (1%), Black Caribbean and White (<1%), Other Mixed Background (<1%). Seven (1%) of the respondents did not feel that they fell into any of the categories and listed themselves as 'Other'.

It should be noted that a few of the respondents that we not prepared to answer this question objected to the fact that the 'White British' category was listed last, whereas they felt it should have been first on the list. The categories were listed as given by The Corporation of London and were listed in alphabetical order.

#### **Other 'White' (19)**

American (3)  
Anglo/Polish (2).  
Austrian  
Danish (2)  
Dutch.  
German (3)  
Polish.  
South African  
Swedish (3)  
New Zealand  
Norwegian

#### **Other**

European  
South African  
European - Macedonian  
Italian  
European  
Hungarian  
Jedi

#### **Other mixed background**

British National - Asian Origin (Sri Lanka)



## SECTION 1

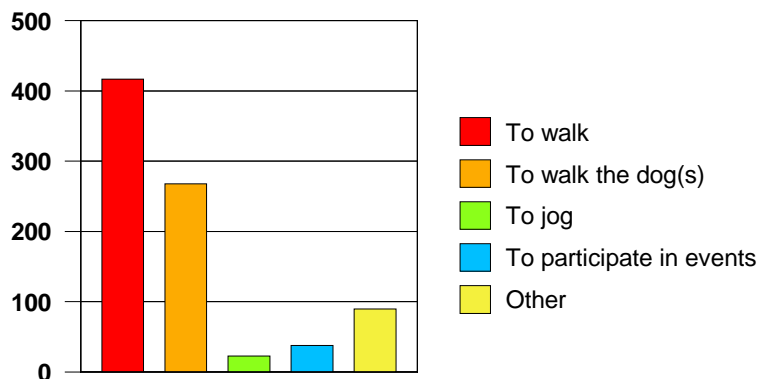
To be answered by all respondents

### 1. MAIN REASON FOR VISITING BURNHAM BEECHES?

Although all the respondents this question, some ticked more than one option and so the total number of responses is greater than the total number of respondents.

The majority of visitors to Burnham Beeches come to walk (mentioned 417 times) or to walk their dog(s) (mentioned 268 times). 38 of the visitors come to participate in events and 23 to jog.

Reason for visiting Burnham Beeches



Of the reasons given under 'other', the most common was to cycle, which was mentioned 29 times. The other reasons given under other are listed below with the number of times they were mentioned given in brackets.

- To take the children/grandchildren (16)

*"To take my grandchildren to play on the common. We go less and less because of dog mess"*

- To picnic (7)
- For bird watching (4)
- To use the cafeterias (4)
- To take photographs (3)

*"To sit on a rug, enjoying the sunshine. To photograph the beauty of Burnham Beeches throughout the seasons."*

- Horse riding (3)

*"Horse riding. At the moment it is too restricted since no paths are available to riders, this is an unnecessary restriction."*

The remainder of the visitors see Burnham Beeches as a quiet relaxing place to visit with beautiful scenery.

*"Enjoying the open space, serenity, hearing the birds, getting away from the crowds. Wonderful first thing in the morning."*

*"See the trees, fresh air, away from traffic."*

*"To enjoy the presence of others admiring the wonders of the Beeches."*

The following comments were also given.

*"For the woods and to see the ghost"*

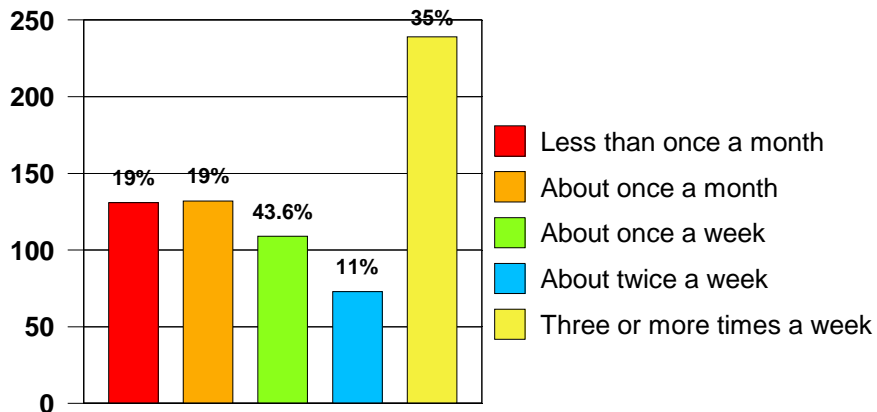
*"To read and write in the car"*

## 2. HOW OFTEN DO YOU VISIT BURNHAM BEECHES?

Burnham Beeches appears to be a popular place to visit, with 62% of the visitors coming once a week or more.

Whilst the majority of respondents (35%) visit Burnham Beeches three or more times a week, this group is mainly (73%) made up of dog walkers.

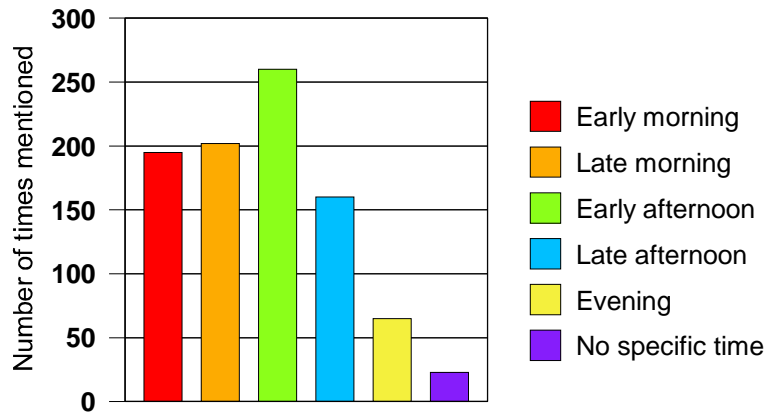
### How often do you visit Burnham Beeches?



### 3. WHAT TIME OF DAY DO YOU NORMALLY VISIT?

Burnham Beeches attracts a steady stream of visitors throughout the day. Whilst there are slightly more visitors in the morning than the afternoon, the most popular visiting time is early afternoon, and they are least likely to visit in the evenings.

#### What time of day do you normally visit?

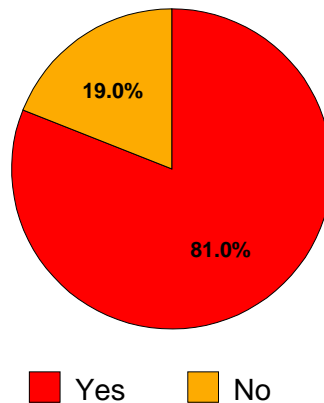


#### 4. ARE YOU AWARE THAT BURNHAM BEECHES IS AN INTERNATIONALLY IMPORTANT WILDLIFE SITE?

Whilst the majority of respondents did claim to be aware that Burnham Beeches is an internationally important wildlife site, care should be taken when interpreting the figures as the question may have been slightly leading.

Although many of the respondents are probably aware of the importance of the site the observational research has highlighted that some education is required as to how the ecological balance of the site is maintained, as many do not realise why they should always clean up after their dog if it fouls, especially in the Paddock and Heathland areas.

#### Are you aware that Burnham Beeches is an internationally important wildlife site?



## **5. WHAT DO YOU ENJOY MOST ABOUT YOUR VISITS TO BURNHAM BEECHES?**

Visitors enjoy Burnham Beeches for its peace and tranquillity. It is a place for the whole family, where they can walk relatively unhindered in a large open area, some of which is free from traffic. It is an area of natural beauty where they can enjoy the changes the seasons bring. It is a place where they feel close to nature as it has a wide variety of wildlife, plants and trees.

The following comments are typical of those given

*"The peace and quiet and beauty."*

*"We enjoy the conservation and care with which the Beeches are looked after and the way the staff make us welcome. Thoroughly enjoy the privilege of living in such a beautiful area and knowing that the Beeches are in such wonderful hands."*

*"The trees and especially the really old ones."*

*"Freedom to walk. Looking at the places of interest. Seeing the animals. Walking on roads free of cars"*

*"The ancient woodland, the peace and quiet, the different walks you can do."*

*"I enjoy listening to all natural sounds when walking."*

*"Its outstanding beauty and convenience."*

*"Seeing folk and children enjoying themselves in the beautiful surroundings and feeling the same way myself."*

*"The freedom of open space for the children to run, walk and play without the threat of vehicles."*

*"Sense of space and freedom for people and dogs."*

*"Its like being in another world."*

*"Freedom. Meeting other people."*

*"Scenery, nature, naturalness."*

*"The changing scenery and the natural environment."*

*"The peace and quiet and many beautiful deciduous trees."*

*"Living in an area of natural beauty. Even when crowded, it is still possible to experience quiet."*

*"The abundance of wild life, ambience, sense of history and perpetuity."*

*"Freedom for kids to run about and play and take part in treasure hunts etc."*

*"The fact that as an important, ancient site, it remains unspoilt over many years and that you can get a mug of tea!"*

*"Peace and quiet, solitude. Seeing the wildlife. Enjoying the environment, walks and the freedom to wander in such a beautiful area."*

*"Being able to walk even in wet weather, the rhododendrons (despite their invasiveness!), the colours of the beeches, the stream/ponds."*

*"The peace, tranquillity and beauty of the incredible natural environment."*

*"The changes in nature through the seasons. Meeting other dog walkers. We do appreciate and congratulate you on the way you have made good the paths."*

*"Its natural beauty (unspoilt, the rough and wild look), the peace and tranquillity. A bit of countryside I can escape to, away from busy roads, noise and pollution. Such a contrast from Slough - very therapeutic. I enjoy the fact Burnham Beeches has been around for my children who were growing up to enjoy as it has been for me when I was a child."*

*"The bird life and the quietness in the week but not at weekends."*

*"Being able to walk there relatively unhindered, in peace and quiet and meeting other dog walkers for exchanges of pleasantries."*

*"Lots of well behaved dogs and pleasant places to walk. Its a car free zone."*

## 6. IS THERE ANYTHING THAT HINDERS YOUR FULL ENJOYMENT OF BURNHAM BEECHES?

Encouragingly, for 254 (37%) of the respondents there is nothing that hinders the enjoyment of their visits to Burnham Beeches.

### Dogs

However, for the remainder the biggest hindrance to their enjoyment of the site is the dogs that are walked there. They cited a number of different reasons why they find the dogs an annoyance; these are listed below with the number of times they were mentioned given in brackets. Some of the comments have also been included.

- Dog mess (80)
- Dogs or dog owners generally (23)
- Dogs that are out of control (17)
- Dogs not on leads (12)
- Irresponsible dog owners (5)
- Being bothered by dogs (5)
- Aggressive dogs (3)
- Too many dogs (3)
- Noisy dog walkers (2)
- Dogs disturbing wildlife (1)

*"Dogs, I am terrified of them and very few are kept on leads. They are a bloody nuisance at times, you feel outnumbered by them. Please do something about dogs! Some dog owners don't even get out of their cars to exercise them; they just open the door and the dog runs by itself. I see this everyday."*

*"Dog mess, especially in areas where young children play."*

*"Too many large dogs out of control. I used to visit several times each week - but the dogs have won."*

*"Dogs, especially loose on the common, charging around out of control and even knocking down my children."*

*"Loose dogs as I was knocked over by one once."*

*"Irresponsible dog owners, especially re horses."*

*"The exceptionally high incidence of dog fouling prevents us from visiting very often and when we do, I am constantly anxious about somebody stepping in it. We would rather go to Black Park and other open spaces rather than Burnham Beeches, which is on our doorstep, purely because of the dog mess. PLEASE tighten up rules re dogs so that us dog free residents of Farnham Common can start to enjoy Burnham Beeches again!"*



*"Dog mess, we would love a dog free zone."*

*"Dog owners who let their dogs foul and if you stop for a cup of tea dogs can run around you. Out of control dogs." Cannot a designated area be made by the tea huts by use of fencing to allow people to take refreshment away from dogs i.e. dog free zones."*

*"I am an animal lover but some dogs need more control."*

*"Yes, I take my grandchildren for walks and picnics to Burnham Beeches and it is the owners of dogs allowed to foul without cleaning up after them and run anywhere"*

There were some dog owners that commented on what hinders their enjoyment of Burnham Beeches with their dog

*"Areas where dog has to be on lead."*

*"Cannot let dogs off the lead"*

*"Need fully enclosed areas for dog training"*

*"No separate area for the dogs."*

### **Cars/Traffic**

The volume of traffic in Burnham Beeches also detracts from the full enjoyment of the site. Car crime is a particular problem. The specific problems associated with cars at Burnham Beeches are listed below with the number of times they were mentioned given in brackets.

- Cars/traffic generally (18)
- Car crime (11)
- Fast cars (6)
- Too much traffic (5)
- Lack of parking (5)
- Traffic on Lord Mayors Drive (3)
- Too much traffic at weekends (2)
- Speed humps too high (2)
- Dangers of crossing Stewarts drive (2)

*"The speed bumps on the roads are too high, causing grounding of exhaust and making access to parking difficult and hazardous."*

*"Lord Mayor's Drive remaining open to traffic."*

*"Dangers of crossing Stewart Drive with dogs/push chairs to get to common"*

*"Cars. Have perimeter car parks."*

*"Insufficient parking in Park Lane, owing to inconsiderate parking at weekends."*

*"Park Road car park could be slightly larger with some parking lines."*

*"Cars - could do with a zebra crossing close to entrances to park as some approaches have blind corners"*

*"No but the ability to walk safely down Stewarts Drive without being run over by the cars!!!"*

### **Other people**

For some of the respondents (24), the other visitors are a problem. They would like to see less people at Burnham Beeches, particularly at the weekends.

- Too many people (8)
- Too many people at the weekends (5)
- Other visitors (4)
- Inconsiderate visitors (4)
- Gypsies (2)
- Kite flyers (1)

### **Amenities**

20 of the respondents would like to see more amenities at Burnham Beeches, particularly toilets and cafes. Their suggestions are listed below with the number of times they were mentioned in brackets.

- Not enough toilets (11)
- More cafes (3)
- Not enough seats (2)
- Baby changing facilities (1)
- Picnic tables (1)
- Bandstand (1)
- Playground (1)

*"More seating close to the car parking area would make it more user friendly for the disabled".*

## General management of the site

17 respondents were concerned about the general management of the site; their comments are listed below.

*"Flower areas that have become desecrated."*

*"Modern day pollarding."*

*"Probably it was left unkempt for too long, but I do sometimes think it may become too tame."*

*"Chopping down the trees"*

*"Felled trees at side of cafe, stopping a certain walk."*

*"Yes - paths obstructed and not cleared. Very few decent paths."*

*"I don't want it to be too obviously managed."*

*"The way that trees have been cut down and branches just left lying around. It looks a real mess. This also applies to the roadside along Hawthorn Lane"*

*"The entrance to Lord Mayors Drive/Egypt Lane needs planting and enhancing"*

*"The kerbstones placed in recent years are unsightly, detract from the rural nature of the woods and are dangerous for traffic."*

*"It is untidy in places. Dead wood just lying about can be unsightly."*

*"The way the park has been destroyed by people treating it like a park."*

*"Lack of Bluebells"*

*"Trees felled and not cleared."*

*"Turning more into a park - less woodland."*

*"Less well known areas not fully utilized"*

*"Various areas where trees are felled and left (untidy)."*

## Litter

The litter that is left around the site was cited as a problem for 11 of the respondents.

*"People littering over night – e.g. emptying ashtrays out of car windows."*

*"Everyone (but children in particular should be taught) to use the litter bins or their pockets if not near one - to put their rubbish in. This to me is the biggest 'spoiler' of our countryside- the Beeches included in certain areas."*

*"Rubbish and litter. We regularly fill a carrier bag with rubbish every week during one days short walk."*

*"Even worse than dogs out of control is the amount of litter and lack of bins. Whenever I go for a walk, I take two carrier bags and return with both full of rubbish"*

## **Better signage**

9 of the respondents would like more directional signs around the site and some better maps.

*"People getting lost. Why not name the Car Park areas and then have more 'You are here' maps."*

*"I am a little worried about the possibility of getting lost off a track as tracks are not marked with walk markers".*

*"Highlighted trails are good don't have to worry about route finding."*

*"More directional signs."*

*"Finding my way - the maps are difficult to follow."*

*"I wish there was more signage."*

*"A map would be useful at major routes."*

More marked walks was also suggested

*"Could do with some more walks marked out or better suggested walks on the map off the beaten track"*

## **Safety**

The issue of safety was particularly important to the female visitors and mentioned by six of the respondents.

*"That it is not considered safe anymore to walk alone"*

*"Concerns of my safety as a woman alone"*

*"I would not venture deep into the woods."*

*"The fact that you do not often see the Rangers walking, a lone woman does not feel that secure."*

*"No phone signal - a safety issue."*

*"Don't feel safe to go there by myself"*

## Cyclists and cycle paths

Cyclists were also mentioned as a hindrance to their enjoyment of the site by 6 of the respondents.

*"Cyclists who ignore the notices about footpaths and ring bells to get you out of their way and become abusive when you remind them of the rules."*

Two respondents mentioned the poor condition of the cycle paths.

*"The roads are not all in good condition for cycling on."*

*"Lack of adequate circular cycle paths or any cycle path for my family"*

## Paths

5 respondents were concerned about the poor state of the footpaths, particularly in the winter when they are often very muddy.

*"Poor state of footpaths in less used areas"*

*"Muddy paths in winter." (Mentioned 3 times)*

*"Parts of paths are difficult with the pram in wet weather. More board walk would be great."*

## Fences

The amount of fencing on the site is also a concern for four of the respondents.

*"Fences - the wildlife gets caught."*

*"Too much fencing, especially electric. It supposed to be a wildlife area and it's far too dangerous."*

*"Fences being put up."*

*"More and more areas have become restricted and fenced"*

## Noise

4 people mentioned the aircraft noise, although they do understand that this is unavoidable.

However noise from car stereos and other visitors was also mentioned 8 times.

## Ants

Four respondents mentioned the ants that are in the site in the summer. They are a nuisance to both humans and dogs.

*"The ants - my kid was scared"*

*"Wood ants - the dogs get bitten."*

### **Horses**

The two comments on horses were either from the riders complaining that there are not any suitable bridle paths or the non-riders because the horses are being ridden off the roads.

*"Horse riding off road."*

*"Nowhere to ride horses - no bridle paths"*

### **Other wildlife**

*"Snakes"*

*"Lack of songbirds"*

*"Sometimes overfriendly pigs, but they are mostly penned now"*

### **General**

*"I would like to have times and meeting points of all 'Walks' stated on the Events newsletter when booking is required e.g. Bunny Hunt."*

## 7. HOW ACCEPTABLE DO YOU FIND THE FOLLOWING BEHAVIOUR AT BURNHAM BEECHES?

- Dog walkers that do not clean up after their dogs foul
- A dog that is chasing/disturbing wildlife
- A dog that is fighting with other dogs
- A dog that is worrying the livestock
- Being approached by a dog that you don't know

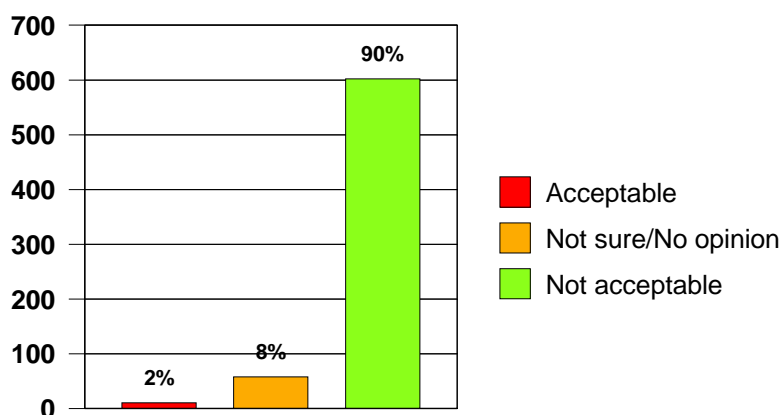
All the behaviour is perceived to be not acceptable by the majority of the respondents except for 'being approached by a dog that you don't know', which was acceptable for half of the respondents, with the remainder mainly finding it unacceptable.

The attitudes towards dog behaviour showed a similar pattern for dog walkers and non-dog walkers, except again for 'being approached by a dog that you don't know'. This was considered acceptable by 51% of respondents, although two thirds of this group were dog walkers. 80% of those who found this behaviour unacceptable were non-dog walkers.

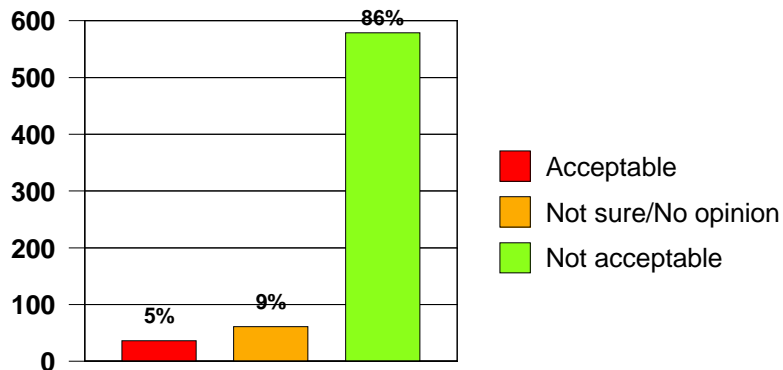
The types of behaviour in order of least acceptable are as follows

- A dog that is worrying the livestock (90%)
- Dog walkers that do not clean up after their dogs foul (86%)
- A dog that is fighting with other dogs (79%)
- A dog that is chasing/disturbing wildlife (78%)
- Being approached by a dog that you don't know (28%)

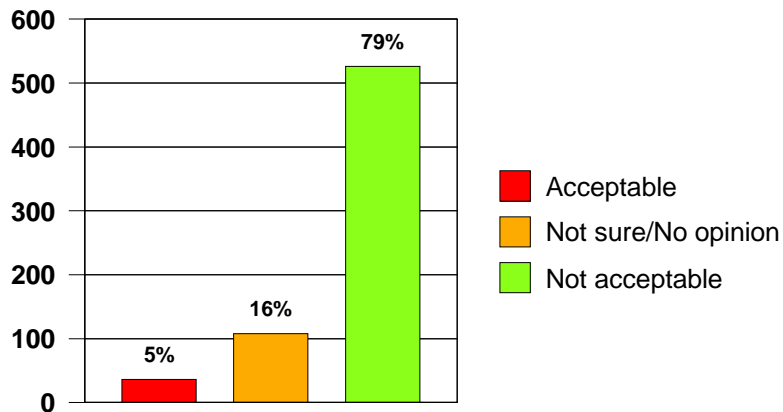
### A dog that is worrying the livestock



Dog walkers that do not clean up after their dogs foul

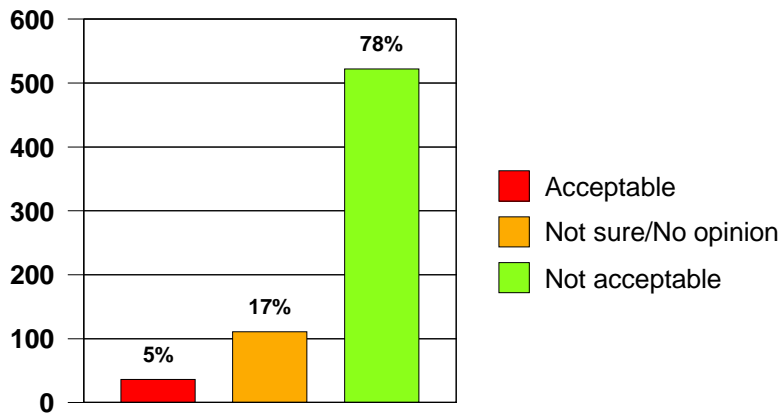


A dog that is fighting with other dogs

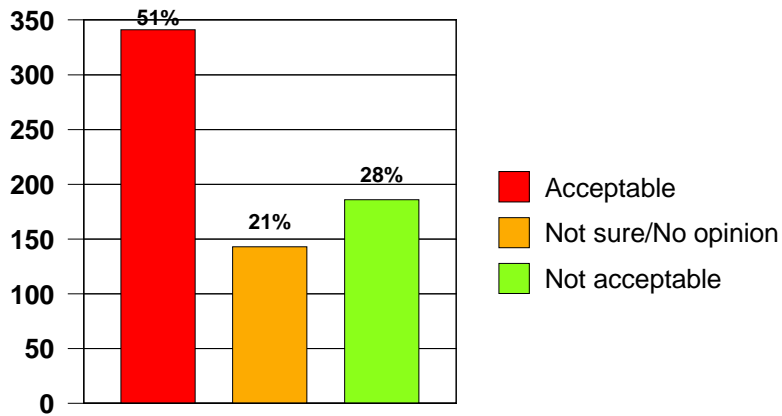




A dog that is chasing/disturbing wildlife



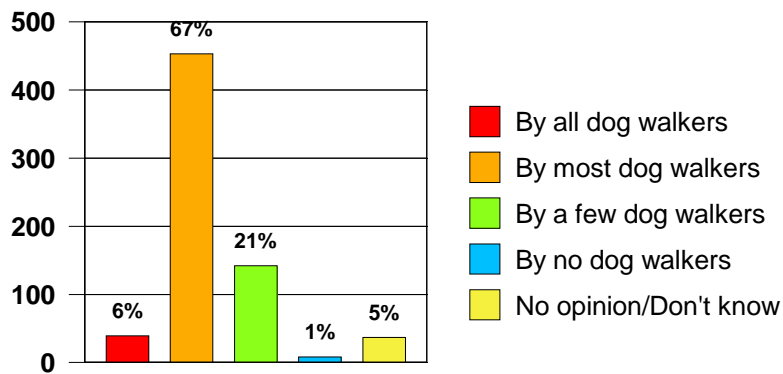
Being approached by a dog you don't know



## 8. THE BY-LAWS AT BURNHAM BEECHES REQUIRE 'DOGS TO BE KEPT UNDER EFFECTIVE CONTROL AT ALL TIMES'. DO YOU FEEL THAT THIS IS ADHERED TO?

The majority (67%) of the respondents felt that the dogs that are walked at Burnham Beeches are kept under effective control. Although only 6 % feel that all the dogs are under effective control and 21% said that only a few of the dog walkers have effective control over their dogs.

### Are the by-laws at Burnham Beeches adhered to?



## 9. WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS BEST FITS YOUR DEFINITION OF A DOG THAT IS UNDER 'EFFECTIVE CONTROL'?

- A dog that is kept within the owner's sight and returns to the owner when called
- A dog that is allowed out of sight but returns to the owner when called
- A dog that is kept at heel (within 5 meters of owner) at all times
- A dog that is kept on a lead at all times

The table below shows for each definition, the number and percentage of respondents for whom this is the best fit of what they considered to be a dog under effective control. It also shows the difference in the views of dog walkers and non-dog walkers.

Whilst the majority of both dog walkers and non-dog walkers feel that the best definition of a dog that is under effective control is one that is kept within the owner's sight and returns to the owner when called. More dog walkers than non-dog walkers consider that a dog that is allowed out of sight but returns to the owner when called, is one that is under effective control. And more non-dog walkers than dog walkers consider a dog that is kept at heel (within 5 meters of owner) at all times and a dog that is kept on a lead at all times as one that is under effective control.

Definition	Total respondents		Dog walkers	Non-dog walkers
	Number	%	%	%
A dog that is kept within the owner's sight and returns to the owner when called	428	63%	65%	61%
A dog that is allowed out of sight but returns to the owner when called	156	23%	33%	15%
A dog that is kept at heel (within 5 meters of owner) at all times	75	11%	6%	15%
A dog that is kept on a lead at all times	71	10%	4%	15%
Other	13	2%	1%	3%

**Other**

The definitions given under 'other' are listed below

*"A dog that is kept within the owner's sight and returns to the owner when called depending on where in the Beeches the dog is let off the lead"*

*" A dog that is kept on a lead at all times when on open ground like the area by Lord Mayors Drive."*

*"In the open areas or if returns when called on footpath when kept at heel. I get dogs running up to me or chasing me when running."*

*"When the pathways are busy perhaps kept on a lead at all times."*

*"Dogs should not be allowed to rush up at joggers or children on bikes."*

*I personally would feel safer if dogs were kept on a lead but realise they might not get proper exercise that way."*

*One dog per person under control is acceptable but so many have more than one."*

*"When over excited."*

*"Waggy tail and wet nose."*

*"Depends on breed of dog"*

*"Depends on how obedient the dog is."*

*"A dog that is likely to be a problem should be on a lead, a well controlled dog doesn't need to be on a lead. Dogs on heat shouldn't be walked there off the lead"*

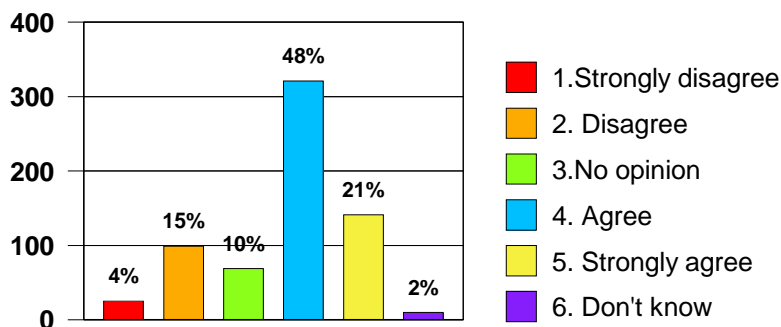
**10. HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS?**

- There should be a dog code to guide owners on how to enjoy Burnham Beeches with their dog.
- There should be some dog free zones at Burnham Beeches.
- There should be some areas where dogs are only allowed if on a lead.

Overall, the majority of respondents agree (44%) or agree strongly (22%) with each of the statements whilst only 19% disagreed and 4% strongly disagreed with them.

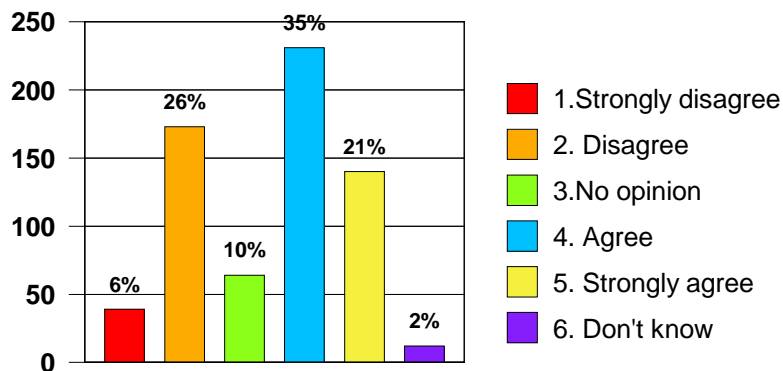
48% of the respondents agree and 21% strongly agree that there should be a dog code at Burnham Beeches. The highest proportion of those that disagreed (65%) or strongly disagreed (60%) with a dog code were dog walkers.

There should be a dog code to guide dog owners on how to enjoy Burnham Beeches with their dog?



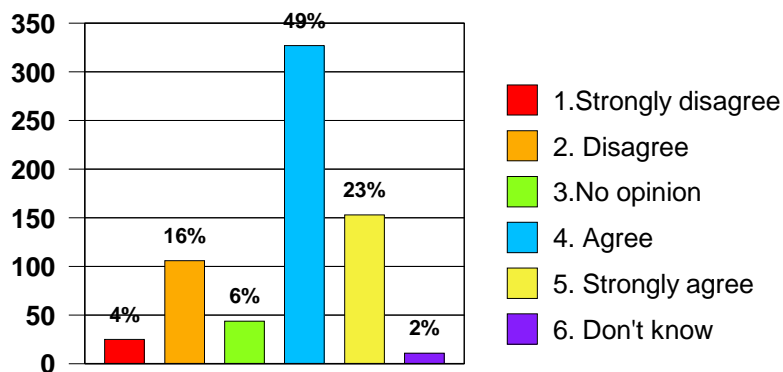
Whilst the majority of respondents agree (35%) or strongly agree (21%) that there should be some dog free zones at Burnham Beeches, this was the statement to which the most respondents disagreed 26% or strongly disagreed 6%. Of those that disagreed, 51% were dog walkers and of those that strongly disagreed, 69% were dog walkers.

### There should be some dog free zones at Burnham beeches?



49% of the respondents agreed that there should be some areas where dogs are only allowed if on a lead and 23% strongly agreed. Again the majority of respondents that disagreed (56%) or strongly disagreed (76%) with the statement were the dog walkers.

### There should be some areas where dogs are only allowed if on a lead?



## SECTION 2

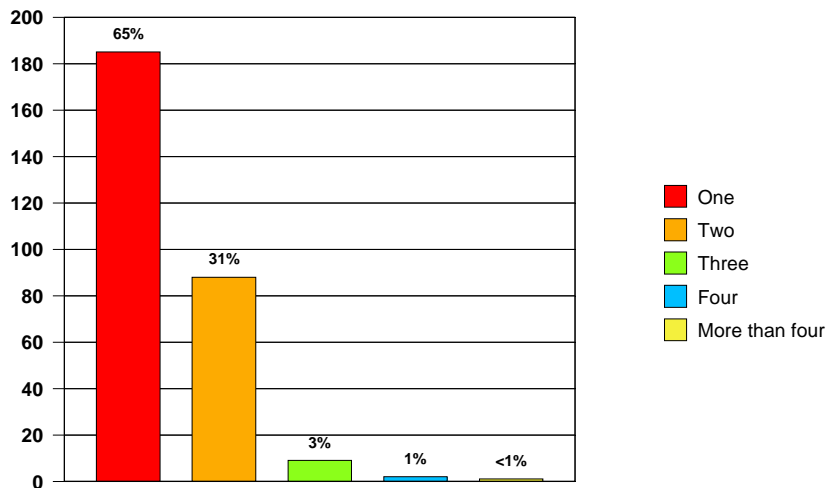
To be answered by the regular dog walkers

### 1. HOW MANY DOGS DO YOU NORMALLY WALK AT ONE TIME?

The majority of dog walkers only have one dog with them at a time, although the respondent that walks with more than four dogs walks with 7.

The average number of dogs per walker is 1.4, which is a similar figure to that obtained in the observation research, where the average number of dogs was 1.5

Number of dogs normally walked at one time



**2. IF YOUR DOG FOULS WHILST AT BURNHAM BEECHES WOULD YOU**

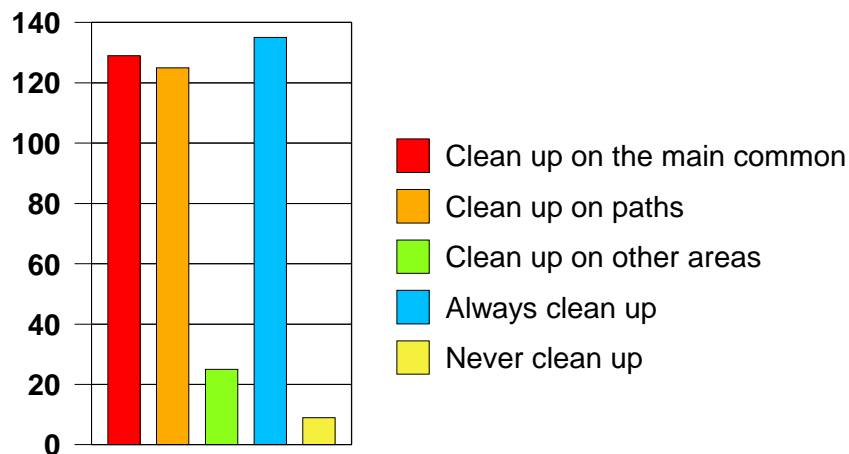
- Clean up on the Main Common
- Clean up on the paths
- Clean up in other areas
- Always clean up
- Never clean up

Whilst the greatest number of respondents (135, 47%) claim to always clean up after their dog fouls, a few (9) confessed to never cleaning up. In the observational research 42% of dog walkers cleaned up after their dog.

The remainder tend to only clean up whilst on the Main Common (129) and/or the paths (125), with only 25 claiming to clean up in the other areas.

The findings of those dog walkers that only clean up whilst in certain areas of the site reflect those from the observational research, where only 46% of the dog walkers cleaned up after their dog fouled on the Main Common and only 19% cleaned up in the Paddock and Heathland areas.

Do you clean up if your dog fouls?





### 3. WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING BEST DESCRIBES YOUR AWARENESS AND USE OF DOG BINS AND DOG BAG DISPENSERS AT BURNHAM BEECHES?

The majority (95%) of respondents claim to be aware of the dog bins at Burnham Beeches but 7% do not use them. Only 5% of the dog walkers claim not to be aware of the dog bins but the majority of these would use them if they were provided.

<b>Base</b>		<b>281 100%</b>
<b>Dog bins</b>	<b>I am aware of them and use them</b>	247 88%
	<b>I am aware of them but do not use them (please specify why below)</b>	21 7%
	<b>I am not aware of them but would use them if provided</b>	10 4%
	<b>I am not aware of them and would not use them anyway (please specify why below)</b>	4 1%

The majority (83%) of the respondents are also aware of the dog bag dispensers, and 67% actually use them. Of the 17% of respondents that are not aware of the dispensers, 13% would use them if they were provided.

<b>Base</b>		<b>264 100%</b>
<b>Dog bag dispensers</b>	<b>I am aware of them and use them</b>	177 67%
	<b>I am aware of them but do not use them (please specify why below)</b>	43 16%
	<b>I am not aware of them but would use them if provided</b>	34 13%
	<b>I am not aware of them and would not use them anyway (please specify why below)</b>	12 4%

## Reasons for not using the dog bins or dog bag dispensers

Encouragingly 27 of the dog owners do not use the dog bags as they bring their own. However as is clear from the comments below that some owners do not feel that it is necessary to clean up after their dogs if they foul in the woods, they believe that if it is out of the main areas then it doesn't matter. Other owners claim that there are either no bags or no bins available where they walk.

Clearly, the dog owners need to be made more aware of the ecological nature of the site and the reasons why dog faeces upset the ecological balance of the site as opposed to those of the other animals that actually live there.

*"Because of the difficulty of getting into undergrowth"*

*"Not felt inclined to clear up"*

*"Always walk dog in wooded areas."*

*"My dogs only foul in the woods and I don't consider it necessary to clean up there."*

*"No bins are available where I walk my dog and now the roads are closed, the bins that used to be available in the car parks have gone as well."*

*"Plastic bags (one for each excrement) add far more to environmental pollution than quickly decomposable excrement!"*

*"I used to clean up religiously until my dog rolled in some horse manure and I realised that horse owners had no obligation!!!"*

*"I have trained my dogs to use the woods, not paths or main common. There I consider their excrement to provide natural eventual nutrient for the soil. Who cleans up after the cows and horses, pigs and sheep?"*

*"I have been buying dog bags from the supermarket in Beaconsfield for years, but I will start using the Burnham Beeches one from now."*

*"My dog doesn't mess on paths - just in the undergrowth."*

*"I never use the common, and rarely use recognised footpaths"*

*"Sometimes the bins are full up."*

*"Never seen any bags on my walk"*

*"Normally there are no bags."*

*"Not enough bins"*

#### **4. IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WOULD LIKE TO MENTION THAT WOULD MAKE BURNHAM BEECHES A MORE ENJOYABLE PLACE TO WALK WITH YOUR DOG?**

The following suggestions were put forward:

- Regular emptying of the dog bins, as they are sometimes full or even overflowing. This is a particular problem in the summer as they begin to smell.
- Clear guidelines or a code of practice that is given out to all visitors on what should be acceptable behaviour from dog owners and their dogs.
- Control of dogs on leads at the two cafes.
- Make the common a dog free zone.
- Provide more dog bins, particularly at East Burnham Common (by the path leading to the boardwalk on the south side), in all parking areas and at road junctions.
- Provide dog bags at all bins and make sure that the bags do not run out.
- Site the dog bins away from public places.
- A dog friendly café.
- The common area should be patrolled more. Fines could be introduced for people who do not clean up their dog mess.

It is important the needs of the dogs are also considered, as is reflected in the following comment.

*"There should be a code for we humans that is enforced first before a dog code. My dog has had several cut paws due to broken glass and metal being thrown about by children and so called adult humans that has cost me several hundred pounds in vet fees. My father, grandfather have walked dogs in Burnham Beeches for years, I have walked mine for 30 years. Just because of a few humans burning out cars and dumping rubbish in Victoria Drive car park I hope the car park is not going to be closed off as well because if it is it will mean a lot of people with dogs will not be able to walk their dogs before 8 o'clock any more."*

Two respondents not only gave their opinions but also provided their telephone number, as they would be happy to discuss their views further if required.

*"Not really, I appreciate there are areas and times that are best to avoid taking the dogs. I try to keep away from people picnicking and where children etc are playing. I try to be a good citizen while still giving my dogs a good run. More bag dispensers would be good and may be opening up some of the blocked paths off Stewarts Drive where trees have come down and the badly*

*overgrown so I can avoid the common areas. Please contact me to discuss if you wish 01753 644400*

(Female, aged 46 – 55, questionnaire number 0245)

*"An area exclusively for dogs so that people who don't like dogs could avoid it. A dog free area i.e. the main common with perhaps a children's playground. I am quite happy to discuss my views on the Beeches. 01628 665953"*

(Male, aged 36 – 45, questionnaire number 0057)

# APPENDIX 1

## Burnham Beeches Visitor Survey



The management at Burnham Beeches is continually looking for ways in which they can make your visits more enjoyable whilst at the same time maintaining the conservation value of the site. This survey and others undertaken last year are part of this process. We would appreciate a few minutes of your time to answer a few simple questions to help us to know more about our visitors. The survey should take no longer than 10 minutes to complete.

The questionnaire is divided into three sections. In the first section we would like to know how you use Burnham Beeches National Nature Reserve

### SECTION 1

- Q1 Which of the following best describes your main reason for visiting Burnham Beeches?**  
*To walk*.....     *To walk the dog(s)*     *To jog*.....     *To participate in events* .....   
*Other (please specify)*
- Q2 How often do you visit Burnham Beeches?**  
*Less than once a month*.....     *About once a month*.....     *About once a week* .....     *About twice a week* .....     *Three or more times a week* .....
- Q3 And what time of day do you normally visit?**  
*Early morning*.....     *Late morning*     *Early afternoon* ....     *Late afternoon* ....     *Evening*.....
- Q4 Are you aware that Burnham Beeches is an internationally important wildlife site?**  
*Yes*.....     *No* .....
- Q5 What do you most enjoy about your visits to Burnham Beeches?**
- Q6 Is there anything that hinders your full enjoyment of Burnham Beeches?**
- Q7 How acceptable do you find the following behaviour at Burnham Beeches? (card 1)**
- |  | <i>Acceptable</i>        | <i>Not sure/No opinion</i> | <i>Not acceptable</i>    |
|--|--------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Dog walkers that do not clean up after their dogs foul | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| A dog that is chasing/disturbing wildlife              | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| A dog that is fighting with other dogs                 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| A dog that is worrying the livestock                   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Being approached by a dog you don't know               | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>   | <input type="checkbox"/> |

**Q8 The by-laws at Burnham Beeches require that 'dogs to be kept under effective control at all times'. Do you feel that this by-law is adhered to..**  
 By all dog walkers .....  By most dog walkers .....  By a few dog walkers .....  By no dog walkers .....  No opinion/Don't know .....

**Q9 Which of the following statements best fits your definition of a dog that is under 'effective control' (card 2)**  
 A dog that is kept within the owners sight and returns to the owner when called.....   
 A dog that is allowed out if its owners sight but returns to the owner when called.....   
 A dog that is kept at heel (within 5 meters of the owner )at all times.....   
 A dog that is kept on a lead at all times.....   
 Other (please specify)

**Q10 How do you feel about the following statements**

	1. Strongly disagree	2. Disagree	3. No opinion	4. Agree	5. Strongly agree	6. Don't know
There should be a dog code to guide dog owners on how to enjoy Burnham Beeches with their dog?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
There should be some dog free zones at Burnham beeches?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
There should be some areas where dogs are only allowed if on a lead?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If you are a regular dog walker at Burnham Beeches please go to SECTION 2, otherwise skip to SECTION 3

**SECTION 2**

As a dog walker we would appreciate your help in establishing the extent of dog walking at Burnham Beeches and your views on the facilities available for dog walkers.

**Q11 How many dogs do you normally walk at one time?**  
 One.....  Two.....  Three .....  Four .....  More than four - Please specify number .....

**Q12 If your dog fouls whilst at Burnham Beeches, would you... (card 3)**  
 Clean up on the main common .....  Clean up on paths .....  Clean up on other areas ..  Always clean up.....  Never clean up.....

**Q13 Which of the following best describes your awareness and use of dog bins and dog bag dispensers at Burnham Beeches? (card 4)**

	Dog bins	Dog bags
I am aware of them and use them	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I am aware of them but do not use them (please specify why below)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I am not aware of them but would use them if provided	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I am not aware of them and would not use them anyway (please specify why below)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reason for not using dog bins or bags	<input type="text"/>	

**Q14** Is there anything you would like to mention that would make Burnham Beeches a more enjoyable place for you to walk with your dog?

**SECTION 3**

In order to ensure that we do not discriminate in the provision of our services and also to comply with certain legal obligations, we would ask you to please complete the following questions. The information you provide is completely confidential and your details will not be passed on to any other organisation. You do not have to complete this section if you do not wish to but if you do it will help us evaluate our services and plan for future provision.

**Q15** I am

Male .....  Female .....

**Q16** Do you consider yourself to have a disability?

No .....  Yes .....

**Q17** Age

24 or under .....  25 to 35 .....  36 to 45 .....  46 to 55 .....  56 to 65 .....  66+ .....

**Q18** How would you describe your racial or cultural origin.

**a. Asian or Asian British**

Indian .....  Pakistani ..  Bangladeshi .....

Any other Asian background (please specify)

**b. Black or Black British**

Caribbean  African .....

Any other Black background (please specify)

**c. Chinese**

Chinese ....

**d. Irish**

Irish .....

**e. Mixed**

Asian & White .....  Black African & White .....  Black Caribbean & White ....

Any other Mixed background (please specify)

**f. White**

White British .....

White - other (please specify)

**g. Other ethnic group (please specify)**

**Thank you for your help**

Please return your completed form in the pre-paid envelope provided or drop it in at the address below by 30th April 2003

The Superintendent, The Corporation of London, Burnham Beeches Office, Hawthorn Lane, Farnham Common, Slough SL2 3TE. Telephone: 01753 647358

## APPENDIX 2

Female, aged 56 to 65 (ID number 0368)

As a resident of the area I have had unlimited access to the Beeches for over 50 years, so would like to mention a few points that do not fit into your survey.

You seem to be concentrating your efforts on dog walkers. Can I ask you to consider:

- Cyclists/mountain bikers who show no regard for walkers in general and regularly toss their empty water bottles into the undergrowth
- School holiday visitors who drop coke cans, sandwich wrappers etc wherever they happen to be
- Mothers with buggies and small children who leave anything from sweet and chocolate wrappers to used nappies.

I am aware of this as I frequently bring home bags of rubbish that I have picked up whilst walking with my dogs – I don't hear any concern raised over these issues, so why focus your attention on dogs?

I realise that many people use the Common for picnics – is it not possible to create a small fenced and gated, totally dog free area, with tables and benches – this would surely be a nicer environment in which to eat. I agree that the Common needs to be cleaner, but I am not sure that you will be able to enforce any additional measures. I personally never use the area to exercise my dogs and rarely use footpaths, so I admit I do not clean up after them while walking in virtually unused areas.

I am concerned that too many additional restrictions are going to effect local people more than visitors. Most local people are very aware that the Beeches are a great asset and a wonderful place in which to live. It would be regrettable to lose local support if your measures become too extreme.

My final comments would be concerning traffic. While you have closed some of the inner roads and used speed humps etc to slow cars down where possible, I would like to see more efforts made to control cars on the roads around the edges. Trying to cross into the woods from Egypt Lane, Stewarts Drive, Hawthorn Lane is a nightmare with or without dogs – speed restrictions and traffic-calming measures are long overdue and should be a high priority.



Female, aged 36-45 (ID number 0180)

- Some dogs charge towards me when I jog. (I jog on the grass of East Burnham common). I suppose I am like a moving target to the dogs.
- Dogs end up barking noisily at me as they charge towards me. In fact dogs often bark at me, when in my vicinity when I jog.
- Three or four times a dog has actually jumped up at me when I was jogging.
- Once there were two small dogs that ran up to me barking non stop as I jogged. They began attacking (biting) my trouser legs near my ankles. I was angry and upset at this incident in particular.
- Hindering my enjoyment of Burnham Beeches also are the few dog walkers who do not apologise for their dogs behaviour if I am confronted by a dog. Most dog walkers do apologise.
- One dog even jumped into the boot of my car!
- Stepping in dog faeces when walking is most unpleasant.
- Footballs rolling over dog faeces, and then having to clean hands when the ball has been picked up.
- I am furious at the amount of dog walkers who do not clean up their dogs faeces. It is so irresponsible! I can count on my fingers the number of people who do actually clean up their dog's mess. I honestly think dog walkers regard East Burnham common as a public toilet for their dogs.
- Dog bins are provided, but so few dog walkers use them – Why? I have never understood this!
- I could have taken many photos as evidence of people not cleaning up their dog's faeces, but this would have been a bit too antagonistic.
- Some dog walkers arrive at Burnham Beeches, release their dogs who use the Common (East Burnham Common) for their toilet needs, then 5-10 minutes later dog and walker and leave. Exercise or toilet?
- As I have had unpleasant experiences with dogs at Burnham Beeches I have had to adapt my jogging routine to minimise my anxiety. When a dog approaches me I stop jogging, begin to walk turning my head away from the dog. Also, I find Rottweiler dogs without a lead on quite frightening. I immediately run to the road and I continue jogging on the road.

Question 10

- In large open areas, such as East Burnham Common where there are toddlers and children playing, people picnicking or playing games, others sitting or lying on rugs on the grass enjoying the sun – it would be useful to make East Burnham Common a dog free zone. To find dog faeces on the Common is actually disgusting, in my opinion. Is there a slight health risk too, especially where there are children involved?

Female, aged 36-45 (ID number 0806)

As a regular dog walker in Burnham Beeches and also I live in Burnham Beeches, I am a little worried over the survey. Dog walkers can be a problem, so can children that are not under control. Today whilst walking I picked up 23 sweet wrappers, 14 crisp bags, 3 bottles (by lake) and one disposable diaper. This all was not here yesterday morning, we have had a Saturday and weekenders out. If you want to put "dog free zones" in place – will this be for a certain time frame i.e. Saturday – Sunday 10.00-6.00pm in the summer months?

Once September comes round or rainy days we will still be walking, the ones that complain the most will not be! I agree with dogs charging up to people however, where do you draw the line. My nine-month-old golden retriever was threatened with being kicked until he's dead by a so-called "dog lover" weekender. For what – he went up to this guy wagging his tail. Where do you draw the line – was he right? I certainly don't feel so. Please be careful that you don't support some of the idiots that get out there. Be sensible with the rules, support the dog walkers – we do support Burnham Beeches 365 days of the year.

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# Burnham Beeches Visitor Survey



Durwyn Liley, Louise Floyd and Helen Fearnley



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## Summary

This report describes a visitor survey undertaken in 2013 at Burnham Beeches National Nature Reserve. The survey was commissioned to understand where people who visit Burnham Beeches live; to understand more about visitors' behaviour and where people go on the site when they visit and to gather views on potential future management at the site relating to dogs and the implementation of dog control orders.

In total, 134 hours of face to face interviews were conducted between August and November 2013; spread over 67 two-hour sessions. A total of 359 interviews were conducted.

The main activities undertaken by interviewees were dog walking (56% in interviews), walking (28%), family outings (9%), jogging/running (3%) and cycling (1%). The majority of visits were relatively short (60% indicated they visit was for within an hour). Dog walkers and those jogging/running tended to visit for the shortest length of time. A little under half (44%) of all visitors indicated they visited at least three times per week, indicating frequent use of Burnham Beeches by certain visitors, particularly dog walkers. Overall nearly three quarters (74%) of interviewees visit equally all year round, again indicating a high degree of regular use. Surveys were focussed at car-parks and the majority of interviews (85%) were with people travelling by car.

The reason visitors specifically chose Burnham Beeches, rather than another local site varied, but the most commonly given response related to Burnham Beeches being close to home, which was the primary reason for 43% of visitors selecting the site. Just 2% of visitors cited the wildlife interest and 3% the old trees as a reason for visiting the site (no dog walkers mentioned these features). Despite the low level of responses relating to the choice of site and the nature conservation interest, the majority of visitors (93%) were aware that the site was important for nature conservation. The visitor questionnaire therefore suggests a pattern of frequent local use by nearby residents who, while aware that the site is important for nature conservation, visit for the convenience of the location.

In total, 321 visitor routes were mapped. The average length of route within the site was 2.75km, with no significant differences between activities. We calculated an area figure for each route – this area figure being equivalent to the area encompassed by the route, taking the route as a perimeter of a polygon. The average area encompassed by a routes was 26.1ha (indicating that most visits could be contained within an eighth of the site) and there were no significant differences between activities. We summarised the visitor data to derive maps of visitor 'intensity' within the site. These maps indicate few parts of the site where no-one visits and access focussed around the main car-park and main routes through the middle of the site.

Postcode data indicates that interviewed visitors lived between 0.3km and 77.4km from the location where interviewed. Excluding the small number of visitors staying with friends or on holiday, the median distance from visitor's postcode to the interview location was 3.1km. There were significant differences between activities, with joggers and dog walkers being those who lived closest to Burnham Beeches. Slough and Farnham Royal were by the most common home settlements, accounting for nearly two-thirds (62%) of geocoded interviews. Slough was the most common settlement for all activities apart from jogging, for which all eleven geocoded interviews were conducted with residents from Farnham Royal, highlighting a particularly local catchment for this activity.

Extrapolation of visitor data indicates that around 16% of visitors currently come from postcodes within 0.5km of the SAC boundary and 5% come from postcodes within 1km. Visit rates per

household decline sharply with distance away from the SAC. Within a 5km radius there is a marked change with distance. A development of 100 dwellings at 5km is estimated to have the same impact (in terms of access to Burnham Beeches SAC) as 1.3 dwellings within 500m.

Questions relating to management of dogs and dog control orders revealed:

- Strong support for dog owners to be required to pick up and dispose of their dogs' waste correctly (99% of all interviewees supporting this measure, of which the majority (88%) indicated it should apply to the whole site).
- Strong support for areas where dogs should be put on a lead if requested (82% supporting this measure, 52% of which suggesting it should apply to part of the site and 43% to all the whole site)
- Moderate support for areas where dogs must be kept on leads at all times (54% support, of which the majority (82%) indicated it should apply to part of the site)
- Some support for areas where dogs are excluded (37% support, of which the majority (89%) indicated it should apply to part of the site)
- Moderate support for a limit on the number of dogs that an individual can walk (66% support, of which 39% suggested a limit of 3 dogs and 37% a limit of 4 dogs)



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## 1. Introduction

1.1 This report describes a visitor survey undertaken in 2012 at Burnham Beeches. The survey was commissioned with three particular aims:

- To understand where people who visit Burnham Beeches live
- To understand more about visitors behaviour and where they go on the site
- To gather views on potential future management at the site relating to dogs and the implementation of dog control orders.

1.2 These aims relate to the long term management of the site. An understanding of where people come from is an important element in terms of spatial planning, as it will inform where new development may result in changes in use of Burnham Beeches. Understanding visitor behaviour on the site provides the potential to then consider links between visitor use and impacts to the nature conservation interest of the site. These links will mean that local planning authorities will be in a position to consider implications of new development at particular locations. Understanding visitors views in relation to dogs and dog management within the site is an important element in deciding what dog control measures should be implemented within the site.

### Burnham Beeches

1.3 Burnham Beeches is considered to be one of the most outstanding areas of acidic beech forest/beech wood pasture in the UK, and its importance for biodiversity is internationally recognised by its wildlife designations. The site is designated as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) under the provisions of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (the Habitats Regulations). Burnham Beeches is also a National Nature Reserve, in recognition of its outstanding combined value to people, biodiversity and scientific research.

1.4 Approximately 220ha of the site is managed as a freely accessible public open space. Burnham Beeches is a very attractive and well known greenspace, providing high quality visitor facilities, beautiful scenery and a 'close to nature' visitor experience. Two visitor surveys have been undertaken in recent years involving direct counts of visitors and analysing data from automated counters (Wheater & Cook 2003, 2012). These surveys cover the City of London Corporation owned area only. The 2002/3 visitor survey identifies an estimated 560,000 visitors per year, which increases to around 585,000 (accompanied by c.215, 000 dogs) in 2010/11.

1.5 Burnham Beeches lies entirely within South Bucks District. Its ownership however is mainly split between the City of London Corporation and the private ownership of the Portman Burtley Estate, along with a small section owned by the National Trust and a very small area enclosed as a private garden.

1.6 Geographically Burnham Beeches lies between the M40 to the north, and the M4 to the south, and the associated urban areas of Beaconsfield and Gerrards Cross on the northern M40 corridor, and Slough and Burnham on the southern M4 corridor; a densely populated area of the UK. Particularly in southern England, with high (and

growing) human populations, the pressures for land and resources are intense and there can be implications for the protected sites. Development and changes in land use outside the protected area boundary can have impacts on the sites themselves. Such impacts can happen gradually, be difficult to identify, tricky to monitor and typically require some kind of strategic approach to resolve.

### Recreation and Burnham Beeches

- 1.7 Liley *et al.* (2012) provided an overview of current issues in light of the potential impacts of future development near to Burnham Beeches SAC. Liley *et al.* (2012) also documented observed current impacts of recreational use on the site and these included trampling and soil compaction, climbing of veteran trees, dog fouling, disease spread, introduction/spread of alien species, litter/fly tipping, vandalism, fire incidence, reduction in water levels/supply and reduction in air quality. All of these may increase with a rise in local development without dedicated management/mitigation measures.
- 1.8 In recent years there have been a number of measures implemented at Burnham Beeches to manage visitor use and behaviour. These include car parking restrictions, a car free zone, relocation and improvement of visitor facilities, dog bins, signage, two surfaced trails and fencing around some of the feature trees. These measures have not only reduced the impact of visitors on the interest features of the site but also enhanced the visitor experience.
- 1.9 We know that the measures implemented have enhanced the visitor experience following public consultations and previous visitor work where people were asked to complete questionnaires. These visitor exercises did not however capture the home postcode of visitor groups nor did they capture the route taken on site. These pieces of information are key when considering links between housing and access patterns and also how people distribute within the site which allows links to be made between access patterns and the impacts of access.
- 1.10 South Bucks District Council, City of London and Natural England are working together to produce an evidence based specific planning policy for applications within the nearby urban area of Farnham Common and/or within 500m of the Burnham Beeches SAC boundary. Evidence is needed to establish where visitors to the Beeches live and the simplest method to gather this information is to collect home postcodes from visitors to the site – from this links can be drawn between access housing and visitor access to the SAC. At the same time information can also be collected on how each visitor group has used the site and where they went within the site, from which we can draw links between access patterns and the impacts of access on the SAC.
- 1.11 This visitor survey therefore sets out to address these gaps – home postcodes and movements within the site. An additional aim is to consider the responses of visitors to dog management measures - Dog Control Orders – which the City of London is considering implementing at the site.

## 2. Methods

### Visitor Survey questionnaire

2.1 The questionnaire was designed to gather numerous pieces of information from visitors to Burnham Beeches relating to:

- Visitor type (e.g. a local resident or a holiday maker)
- Visit seasonality, duration, timing and frequency
- Transport mode used to access site
- Activity undertaken during visit and motivation for visiting
- The route taken by the visitor and whether this was reflective of their normal route
- Visitor demographics (age and gender)
- Home postcode
- The number of dogs observed with a visitor and whether these were seen on or off the lead
- The names of other local sites visited by interviewed group

2.2 A separate section at the rear of the questionnaire specifically considered visitor opinions on the potential introduction of Dog Control Orders.

2.3 The questionnaire is included within this report in Appendix 1. The questionnaire avoided any questions relating to visitors' awareness of nature conservation designations and also to changes respondents might like to see. This was deliberate in order to limit the length of the questionnaire (such questions have been included in previous surveys at Burnham Beeches).

### Survey Methodology

2.4 The visitor surveys comprised face to face interviews with a randomly selected sample of visitors and a count ('tally') of all people, groups and dogs passing the surveyors location. Surveys were carried out at four locations (Map 1):

- The main car park on Lord Mayor's Drive (surveyors roamed between the gate, the cafe and other parking locations. No tally was maintained due to the scale of the car-park)
- The Stag car park
- The Dell car park
- The Moat (surveyors roamed around this area in the north west of the site, close to the shelter on the main path)

2.5 Survey dates are summarised in Table 1. Standardised counts and interviews were conducted in four two hour sessions per day (for summer: 0800 – 1000; 1100-1300; 1400-1600; 1700-1900 and in autumn: 0800-1000; 1015–1215; 1245–1445; 1500-1700). The 0800 start time coincided with the gates opening at the car-parks. Survey times were adjusted in autumn to account the reduction in daylight hours; no survey work was carried out in darkness. Face to face interview work was carried out over 18 dates,

totalling 134 hours. The allocation of days and survey points enabled a spread of survey effort and locations; with limited resources it was not possible to survey all survey points for all types of day (weekend/weekday) during all survey periods.

**Table 1: Survey dates and locations**

Period	Day	Main CP	Stag CP	Dell CP	Moat/ Roaming
Pre-school holidays	weekday	23/7/13		19/7/13	22/7/13
	weekend	20/7/13		21/7/13	
School holidays	weekday	8/8/13	7/8/13		
	weekend	11/8/13	10/8/13		
Late October	weekday	28/10/13		28-29/10/13	
	weekend	27/10/13	27/10/13		
Mid November	weekday	12/11/13			13/11/13
	weekend	16/11/13		17/11/13	
<b>Total days</b>		<b>7.75*</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>

\*8 hours survey work were conducted on all dates indicated apart from the main car-park on the 28<sup>th</sup> Oct when strong winds led to temporary closure. For the same reason some survey sessions at the Dell on the same date were undertaken on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

- 2.6 As many people as practicable were interviewed; the surveyor randomly selected people to approach and where possible the focus was on those returning to the survey point rather than those just starting their visit.
- 2.7 Only one person per group was interviewed, with the group member being selected at random. No unaccompanied minors were interviewed and the number of people who refused to complete a survey or who had already been interviewed were also recorded. Weather conditions and any unusual activities, for example road works, access problems or other issues were noted and the surveyor provided an overview of the session at the end of the day.
- 2.8 Local visitors were made aware in advance that a visitor survey was taking place, through leaflets and face-face contact with site staff at Burnham Beeches, however no specific dates were shared, ensuring no visitors could time their visit to encounter (or avoid) being interviewed.
- 2.9 A standardised approach to interviewing was undertaken, with each surveyor wearing a high visibility jacket, carrying identification and placing a large poster in the window of their car to indicate that a visitor survey was underway. All surveyors were trained in the questionnaire protocol and survey design. Data were collected in the field using tablet computers. Effort was made to avoid inclement weather, however there were some surveys during hot days in the summer and particularly windy days in November.
- 2.10 Information on the routes taken by visitors was gathered to provide a clearer understanding of how people use the site. GPS units were trialled but the tree cover led to unreliable data from the units. It was hoped that the mid November surveys would provide the opportunity

to use the GPS units more as the trees usually have shed most of their leaves by this time, however this proved not to be the case in 2013 and the trees still retained much of their leaves.



Map 1: Survey Points

Contains Ordnance Survey data. Crown copyright and database right 2013



## Data and analysis

- 2.11 The data were automatically collated from the tablets into a single data file as fieldwork took place. These data were checked manually to ensure errors were removed and any duplicated surveys were deleted (duplicates being identified through home postcode and checks of responses); one individual completed two surveys, one of which was removed.
- 2.12 Data analysis was carried out using Minitab (v10). Some analyses compare summer and autumn data – where such comparisons were made we grouped the pre-school holiday and holiday period as summer and the October/November period as autumn. Box plots are used to graphically present data for different groups; the plots show the median (i.e. the mid-point, represented by a horizontal line), the interquartile range (i.e. 25-75% of the data, represented by a box) and the vertical lines show the upper and lower limits of the data, with outliers represented by asterisks.
- 2.13 In order to plot the distribution of people within the site, a 50m grid, aligned to the national grid was used and data summarised for each grid cell. The grid covered the area owned and managed by the Corporation of London. Within each grid cell the following were extracted within the GIS:
- number of routes (all activities) intersecting the cell,
  - the number of dog walker routes intersecting the cell
  - the total number of people walking through the cell (i.e. summing the number of people in each group where the routes intersected the cell)
- 2.14 In order to adjust for survey effort, the data were extracted for each grid cell separately for each survey point (i.e. people interviewed at the Main Car-park, the Dell, the Stag and the Moat). The values were then divided by the number of days of survey work conducted at each survey point (see Table 1).
- 2.15 Home postcodes were geocoded using RoyalMail Postzon data files. Data on interview postcodes and levels of development (number of residential properties per postcode) were extracted within 500m bands drawn around the SAC.

### 3. Overview of data

#### Number of interviews conducted

- 3.1 In total, 134 hours of face to face interviews were conducted between August and November 2013; spread over 67 two-hour sessions. During this time, 359 interviews were conducted, accounting for group size these data reflect data on 702 individuals. A total of 70 individuals refused to complete a survey and 49 people were approached but had already been interviewed.
- 3.2 The highest proportion of interviews were conducted at the main car park (this is also where most of the survey effort was focussed), accounting for 61% of interviews overall (Table 2).

Table 2: Number of interviews conducted at each survey location in each survey season. Percentages are in parentheses.

Interview Location	Summer	Autumn	Total
Main Car-park	115(61)	104(60)	219(61)
Dell	25(13)	32(19)	57(16)
Stag	32(17)	14(8)	46(13)
Moat / Roaming	15(8)	22(13)	37(10)
<b>Total</b>	<b>187(100)</b>	<b>172(100)</b>	<b>359(100)</b>

#### Tally data

- 3.3 Tally data were not collected at the main car-park. At the other survey points a total of 245 groups and 470 people were recorded entering during the survey work. Seventy-two hours of survey work were undertaken at these points: hourly rates were therefore 3.4 groups and 6.5 people per hour entering.

## 4. Questionnaire results

### Group size and number of dogs per group

4.1 Group sizes ranged from one to eight, with a median of two. The most commonly recorded group size was one (Figure 1).

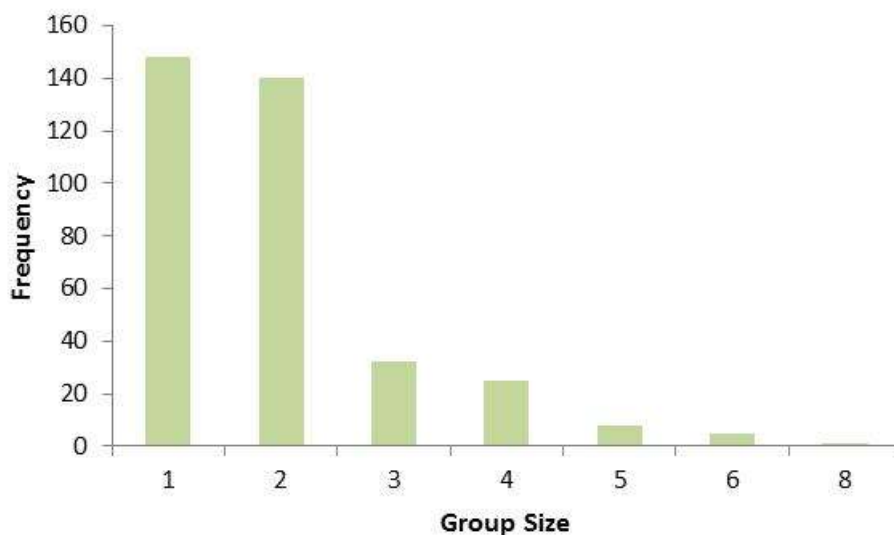


Figure 1: Frequency distribution of group sizes across the whole survey period at all survey locations.

4.2 Of the 359 groups that were interviewed, 62% had at least one dog with them; 312 dogs were recorded in all interviewed groups. While most interviewees (46%) had only one dog with them, the maximum was eight. A little over a third (38%) of interviewees did not have a dog with them on the day of the interview (Table 3). A higher number of respondents in the autumn did not have dogs with them than in the summer (41 and 35% respectively).

Table 3: Number of dogs per interviewed group, percentages are given in parentheses.

Number of dogs per group	Summer	Autumn	Total
0	65(35)	70(41)	135(38)
1	96(51)	70(41)	166(46)
2	17(9)	24(14)	41(11)
3	4(2)	5(3)	9(3)
4	4(2)	2(1)	6(2)
5	1(1)		1(0.3)
8	1(1)		1(0.3)
<b>Total</b>	<b>188(100)</b>	<b>171(100)</b>	<b>359(100)</b>

4.3 Overall, 52% of all dogs in interviewed groups were seen off the lead at some point by the surveyor (i.e. off the lead at the interview point).

## Activities

4.4 Visitors were asked what main activity they were undertaking during their visit (visitors were asked to provide only one answer). The most commonly cited main activity was dog walking, accounting for 56% of all responses; a further 28% of interviewees were walking (Table 4), family outing, jogging/running, cycling and commercial dog walking also featured. Some 2% of respondents cited 'other' as their main activity, these included 'meeting friends', 'photography' or 'enjoying the scenery'.

**Table 4: The range of main activities carried out by visitors interviewed during the summer and autumn survey periods. Percentages of the total number of responses are in parentheses.**

Main Activity	Summer	Autumn	Total
Dog walking	111(31)	91(25)	202(56)
Walking	45(13)	55(15)	100(28)
Family outing	16(4)	16(4)	32(9)
Jogging / Running	7(2)	5(1)	12(3)
Other	4(1)	3(1)	7(2)
Cycling	4(1)	1(0.3)	5(1)
Commercial dog walking	1(0.3)		1(0.3)
<b>Total</b>	<b>188(52)</b>	<b>171(48)</b>	<b>359(100)</b>

4.5 Considering just the main activities ('dog walking, walking, jogging/running and family outing), there was no significant difference between the frequency of responses between the summer and autumn survey periods ( $\chi^2_3 = 2.901$ ,  $p=0.407$ ).

## Time spent in the area

4.6 Visitors were asked how long they had spent, or intended to spend in the area on the day of their visit. Over the whole survey period, 49% of visitors stated that they had spent, or intended to spend, between thirty minutes and one hour on the site that day; 32% stated between one and two hours (Table 5).

4.7 There was a significant difference between the response frequencies for the two survey periods ( $\chi^2_3=12.979$ ,  $p=0.005$ ); values for the response 'more than three hours' were excluded for the purpose of this test due to the small sample size. In summer, higher numbers of visitors spent between thirty minutes and three hours on site than expected and lower proportion stayed for less than thirty minutes. Conversely, in the autumn, a higher proportion stayed less than thirty minutes.

**Table 5: Time spent on site by respondents during each survey season. The percentage of the total per season is given in parentheses.**

Time spent on site	Summer	Autumn	Total
Less than 30 minutes	10(5)	29(17)	39(11)
Between 30 minutes and 1 hour	96(51)	79(46)	175(49)
1 - 2 hours	63(34)	52(30)	115(32)
2 - 3 hours	14(7)	8(5)	22(6)
More than 3 hours	5(3)	3(2)	8(2)
<b>Total</b>	<b>188(100)</b>	<b>171(100)</b>	<b>359(100)</b>

4.8 The amount of time spent in the area varied according to the main activity being carried out that day (Table 6). The majority of dog walkers (60%) spent between thirty minutes and one hour on the site and none spent more than three hours. The majority of walkers spent between one and two hours on site (42%) or between thirty minutes and one hour (41%).

**Table 6: Amount of time spent on site according to main activity across the whole survey period. The percentage responses for each activity are given in parentheses. Grey shading indicates highest percentage for each activity.**

Main Activity	Less than 30 minutes	30 minutes to 1 hour	1 - 2 hours	2 - 3 hours	More than 3 hours	Total
Dog walking	29(14)	122(60)	47(23)	4(2)		202(100)
Walking	4(4)	41(41)	42(42)	9(9)	4(4)	100(100)
Family outing		3(9)	22(69)	5(16)	2(6)	32(100)
Jogging / Running	5(42)	7(58)				12(100)
Other			2(29)	3(43)	2(29)	7(100)
Cycling	1(20)	2(40)	1(20)	1(20)		5(100)
Commercial dog walking			1(100)			1(100)
<b>Total</b>	<b>39(11)</b>	<b>175(49)</b>	<b>115(32)</b>	<b>22(6)</b>	<b>8(2)</b>	<b>359(100)</b>

### Frequency of visit

4.9 Visitors were asked how often they normally visited the site; 357 interviewees responded to this question. There was no significant difference in the frequency of responses to this question between the summer and autumn survey periods ( $\chi^2_3=10.513$ ,  $p=0.062$ ); for the purpose of this test, 'other' responses were removed due to the small sample size.

4.10 Across the whole survey period, 44% of respondents visit the site three or more times per week; slightly more visit with this frequency in summer compared to winter (48 and 38% respectively) (Table 7). 8% of respondents stated that the visit on the day of the interview was their first, or did not know how frequently they visit.

**Table 7: The number of respondents who visit the site with different frequencies across both seasons. The percentage for each season is given in parentheses.**

Frequency	Summer	Autumn	Total
Three or more times per week	91(48)	65(38)	156(44)
Less than once per month	22(12)	32(19)	54(15)
About once a week	19(10)	25(15)	44(12)
About once per month	21(11)	15(9)	36(10)
About twice a week	14(7)	21(12)	35(10)
Don't know / First visit	17(9)	10(6)	27(8)
Other, please detail	4(2)	1(1)	5(1)
<b>Total</b>	<b>188(100)</b>	<b>169(100)</b>	<b>357(100)</b>

4.11 The frequency of visits varied according to the main activity carried out, with the majority of dog walkers visiting the site three or more times per week (63%) (Table 8). 32% of walkers visit the site less than once a month, while 17% visit three or more times per week. The one commercial dog walker interviewed visits the site three or more times per week.

**Table 8: The frequency of visits by respondents according to main activity carried out. The percentages for each activity are given in parentheses.**

Main Activity & Frequency	Dog walking	Walking	Family outing	Jogging / Running	Other	Cycling	Comm.d og walking	Total
3 or more times per week	126(63)	17(17)	1(3)	9(75)		2(40)	1(100)	156(44)
About once a week	29(14)	11(11)	4(13)					44(12)
About twice a week	23(11)	8(8)	1(3)	3(25)				35(10)
About once per month	12(6)	14(14)	10(31)					36(10)
Less than once per month	6(3)	32(32)	10(31)		4(57)	2(40)		54(15)
Other		3(3)			1(14)			5(1)
Don't know / First visit	4(2)	14(14)	6(19)		2(29)	1(20)		27(8)
<b>Total</b>	<b>201(100)</b>	<b>99(100)</b>	<b>32(100)</b>	<b>12(100)</b>	<b>7(100)</b>	<b>5(100)</b>	<b>1(100)</b>	<b>357(100)</b>

### Timing of visit

4.12 Visitors were asked if they tend to visit the site at a certain time of day and could choose multiple responses from six categories; 506 responses were recorded, 1.4 responses per person on average. The preferred time of day to visit the area provided by respondents differed significantly between the two survey seasons ( $\chi^2_5 = 15.027$ ,  $p=0.010$ ).

4.13 Overall, 19% of responses reflected a preference to visit the site in the early morning, followed by 17% who visit in late morning (Table 9). 31% stated that their preferred time of day to visit varies. Slightly more people tend to visit in the early morning and evening in summer compared to winter, possibly a reflection on the longer daylight hours in summer.

**Table 9: The preferred time of day to visit the site given by respondents in each season. The percentages for each survey season are given in parentheses.**

Time of Day	Summer	Autumn	Total
Early am. (before 9am)	50(20)	46(18)	96(19)
Late am. (between 9am and 12)	52(21)	36(14)	88(17)
Early pm. (between 12 and 2pm)	14(6)	34(13)	48(9)
Late pm. (between 2 and 4pm)	22(9)	36(14)	58(11)
Evening (after 4pm)	32(13)	27(10)	59(12)
Varies / Don't know / First visit	78(31)	79(31)	157(31)
<b>Total</b>	<b>248(100)</b>	<b>258(100)</b>	<b>506(100)</b>

4.14 The time of day to visit the site preferred by visitors also varied depending on the main activity undertaken. Many dog walkers and joggers tend to visit in the early morning (25 and 41% respectively) (Table 10). For all activities excluding the commercial dog walker interviewed, many visitors stated that their choice of time of day to visit varied (31% overall).

**Table 10: The preferred time of day to visit the site according to main activity undertaken. The percentages for each activity are given in parentheses.**

Main Activity	Early am.	Late am.	Early pm.	Late pm.	Evening	Varies/Don't know/ First visit	Total
Dog walking	74(25)	58(20)	19(6)	30(10)	45(15)	71(24)	297(100)
Walking	11(8)	20(15)	19(14)	19(14)	8(6)	56(42)	133(100)
Family outing	1(2)	8(18)	10(22)	6(13)	1(2)	19(42)	45(100)
Jogging / Running	7(41)			3(18)	4(24)	3(18)	17(100)
Other	1(14)					6(86)	7(100)
Cycling	2(33)	1(17)			1(17)	2(33)	6(100)
Commercial dog walking		1(100)					1(100)
<b>Total</b>	<b>96(19)</b>	<b>88(17)</b>	<b>48(9)</b>	<b>58(11)</b>	<b>59(12)</b>	<b>157(31)</b>	<b>506(100)</b>

4.15 Visitors were asked whether the time of year influenced the frequency with which they visit the site and could choose multiple responses from 6 categories; 390 responses were received for this question. There was no significant difference in the frequency of responses received during the summer and autumn survey periods ( $\chi^2_4 = 7.303$ ,  $p=0.121$ ); for the purpose of this test the responses for 'winter' were removed due to the small sample size.

4.16 Overall, the majority of visitors stated that they do not tend to visit the site at a specific time of year; choosing instead to visit equally throughout the year (74%) (Table 11). Only 1% of visitor responses stated that winter was a more preferable time of year to visit.

**Table 11: The total responses given by respondents for each season category. Percentages for each survey season are given in parentheses.**

Time of Year	Summer	Autumn	Total
Spring (Mar - May)	11(5)	7(4)	18(5)
Summer (Jun - Aug)	15(7)	11(6)	26(7)
Autumn (Sept - Nov)	8(4)	16(9)	24(6)
Winter (Dec - Feb)	2(1)	1(1)	3(1)
Don't know / First visit	21(10)	10(5)	31(8)
Equally all year	149(72)	139(76)	288(74)
<b>Total</b>	<b>206(100)</b>	<b>184(100)</b>	<b>390(100)</b>

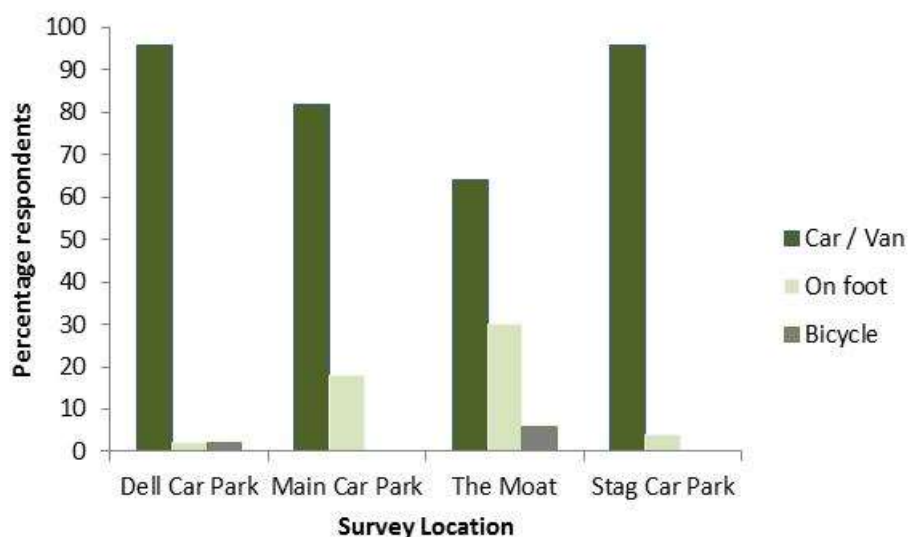
### Mode of transport

- 4.17 The mode of transport used by respondents to access the site was recorded; there was a significant difference between the transportation used in both survey periods ( $\chi^2_1=4.638, p=0.031$ ); the values for 'bicycle' were removed for the purpose of this test due to the small sample size.
- 4.18 The majority of visitors reached the site by car or van (85%); slightly more visitors reached the site by car in the summer than the autumn (88% and 81% respectively) (Table 12). A higher number of visitors reached the site on foot in the autumn; 19% compared to 11% in the summer.

**Table 12: Mode of transport used to visit the site across each survey season. Percentages are in parentheses.**

Transport Mode	Summer	Autumn	Total
Car / Van	166(88)	138(81)	304(85)
On foot	20(11)	32(19)	52(14)
Bicycle	2(1)	1(1)	3(1)
<b>Total</b>	<b>188(100)</b>	<b>171(100)</b>	<b>359(100)</b>

- 4.19 When considering the mode of transport used to reach the site based on interview location, there is some variation in the transportation chosen (Figure 2). At each location, the majority of visitors arrived by car and the highest number of respondents who arrived on foot were at The Moat. No cyclists were interviewed at the Main or Stag car parks.



**Figure 2: The percentage responses for each mode of transport used to reach the site by interview location**



### Reasons for visiting Burnham Beeches specifically

- 4.20 Visitors were asked to provide their reasons for choosing to visit Burnham Beeches specifically, rather than another local site. Multiple reasons could be chosen and these were categorised by the surveyor, then respondents were asked to determine which factor had the most influence in their decision to visit the site. In total, 1019 responses were given by the 359 interviewees.
- 4.21 There was a significant difference in the responses given in the summer and autumn survey periods ( $\chi^2_{215}=48.663$ ,  $p<0.001$ ). Overall, the most commonly cited reason for visiting the site over another local site was that it was close to home (19%); accounting for 22% of responses in summer and 17% in autumn (Table 13). Other reasons were commonly cited, including the choice of available routes (10%), the ability to let the dog off the lead (9%) and the size of the site (9%). Only 3% of responses stated that they chose to visit due to the presence of the veteran trees and 2% for the wildlife interest (but note that the old trees may, to some extent at least, contribute to the scenery and the rural feel).

**Table 13: Reasons for choosing to visit Burnham Beeches over another local site. Percentages are given in parentheses.**

Reasons	Summer	Autumn	Total
Close to home	94(22)	97(17)	191(19)
Choice of routes / circular routes / length	42(10)	61(10)	103(10)
Ability to let dog off lead / good for dog	39(9)	52(9)	91(9)
Large site	34(8)	54(9)	88(9)
Habit / familiarity	33(8)	53(9)	86(8)
Scenery / variety of views	45(10)	31(5)	76(8)
Other	26(6)	34(6)	60(6)
Feels safe	18(4)	33(6)	51(5)
Cafe	19(4)	21(4)	40(4)
Trees / old trees	4(1)	31(5)	35(3)
Rural feel	12(3)	20(3)	32(3)
Nearest place to let dog safely off lead	10(2)	19(3)	29(3)
Good / easy / free parking	11(3)	17(3)	28(3)
Good for children	9(2)	19(3)	28(3)
Wildlife interest	2(0.5)	22(4)	24(2)
Good location to meet friends / family	11(3)	6(1)	17(2)
Suitability in weather conditions	12(3)	3(1)	15(1)
Closest place to take the dog	4(1)	7(1)	11(1)
Can walk from home / don't need car	4(1)	4(1)	8(1)
<b>Total</b>	<b>429(100)</b>	<b>584(100)</b>	<b>1013(100)</b>

- 4.22 Visitors were asked to select which of the reasons stated had the most influence over their decision to visit the site that day; 339 main reasons were provided. The most commonly cited reason that had the most influence over the respondents' choice of site was that it was close to home (43%) (Table 14). 'Other' accounted for 20% of responses;

these included the scenery, the autumn colours, convenience or close to work and photography.

**Table 14: Primary reason for choosing to visit Burnham Beeches over another local site. Percentages are given in parentheses.**

Primary reason for choosing site	Summer	Autumn	Total
Close to home	72(42)	73(44)	145(43)
Other	31(18)	38(23)	69(20)
Scenery / variety of views	17(10)	8(5)	25(7)
Ability to let dog off lead / good for dog	11(6)	8(5)	19(6)
Habit / familiarity	10(6)	7(4)	17(5)
Good for children	2(1)	9(5)	11(3)
Suitability of area given weather	8(5)		8(2)
Large site	3(2)	4(2)	7(2)
Choice of routes / circular routes / length	4(2)	2(1)	6(2)
Wildlife interest		6(4)	6(2)
Feels safe	5(3)		5(1)
Nearest place to let dog safely off lead	3(2)	2(1)	5(1)
Good location to meet friends / family	3(2)	2(1)	5(1)
Trees / old trees	1(1)	3(2)	4(1)
Cafe	1(1)	2(1)	3(1)
Closest place to take the dog	1(1)	1(1)	2(1)
Good / easy / free parking		2(1)	2(1)
<b>Total</b>	<b>172(100)</b>	<b>167(100)</b>	<b>339(100)</b>

### Other locations visited

4.23 Visitors were asked to indicate whether they visit any other local sites for the same purposes that they were visiting that day. Black Park was the most commonly cited location, with around a third (35%) of all interviewees stating listing it as an alternative destination. It seemed particularly popular with dog walkers (47% of dog walkers listed it). The River Thames/Jubilee River seems a particular draw for walkers, with around a quarter (24%) of walkers naming this site as an alternative.

**Table 15: Other local sites visited by interviewees. Percentages are derived from total interviews (359) rather than total number of responses.**

Location	Number (%)
Black Park	125 (35)
Clivedon	66 (18)
River Thames / Jubilee River	61 (17)
Dorney Lake	59 (16)
Langley Park	35 (10)
Stoke Common	34 (9)
Windsor Great Park	23 (6)
Farnham Park	18 (5)

Location	Number (%)
Chilterns	13 (4)
Hedgerley	11 (3)
Hughenden Manor	11 (3)
River Thames	11 (3)
Virginia Water	11 (3)
Cookham	10 (3)
Richmond Park	5 (1)
Burnham Park	4 (1)
Marlow	4 (1)
Wooburn Green	4 (1)
Littleworth Common	4 (1)
Ashridge	3 (1)
Bourne End	3 (1)
Braywick Park	3 (1)
Penn Wood	3 (1)
Colne Valley / Denham Country Park	1 (0)

### Membership of countryside/recreation organisations

4.24 Visitors were asked if they were members of certain conservation or dog-related organisations. Results are summarised in Table 16, by activity.

Table 16: Membership levels of interviewees for different organisations. Percentages are in parentheses.

Activity	National Trust	RSPB	Woodland Trust	A Wildlife Trust	Dogs Trust	Kennel Club	Total
Dog walking	67 (33)	27 (13)	13 (6)	14 (7)	34 (17)	14 (7)	202 (100)
Walking	48 (48)	18 (18)	5 (5)	12 (12)	12 (12)	4 (4)	100 (100)
Family outing	21 (66)	4 (13)	(0)	3 (9)	(0)	(0)	32 (100)
Jogging / Running	7 (58)	1 (8)	1 (8)	1 (8)	(0)	(0)	12 (100)
Cycling	5 (100)	(0)	(0)	1 (20)	(0)	(0)	5 (100)
Other	2 (29)	2 (29)	2 (29)	2 (29)	(0)	(0)	7 (100)
<b>Total</b>	<b>150 (42)</b>	<b>52 (14)</b>	<b>21 (6)</b>	<b>33 (9)</b>	<b>46 (13)</b>	<b>18 (5)</b>	<b>359 (100)</b>

### Awareness of Burnham Beeches conservation importance

4.25 Respondents were asked if they were aware of the nature conservation value of Burnham Beeches; 357 responses were received and of these, 93% were aware of the importance of the site (Table 17). 94% of dog walkers and 90% of walkers were aware of its importance.

**Table 17: Visitor awareness of the site as important for nature conservation, according to main activity undertaken. Percentages are in parentheses.**

Main Activity	Yes	No	Not sure	Total
Dog walking	189(94)	8(4)	4(2)	201(100)
Walking	89(90)	9(9)	1(1)	99(100)
Family outing	30(94)	2(6)		32(100)
Jogging / Running	12(100)			12(100)
Other	7(100)			7(100)
Cycling	5(100)			5(100)
Commercial dog walking	1(100)			1(100)
<b>Total</b>	<b>333(93)</b>	<b>19(5)</b>	<b>5(1)</b>	<b>357(100)</b>

### Age profile of interviewees and groups

4.26 The surveyor categorised the age groups of all respondents and the number of people in each interviewed group; in total the ages of 486 individuals were recorded. In total, 24% of all people in the interviewed groups fell into the 46-55 age category and 21% were between 36 and 45 (Table 18). Only 9% fell into the 25-35 category.

**Table 18: Age categories of all interviewed groups. Percentages are in parentheses.**

Age group	Response Total
24 or under	74(15)
25 - 35	44(9)
36 - 45	101(21)
46 - 55	118(24)
56 - 65	75(15)
66+	74(15)
<b>Total</b>	<b>486(100)</b>

## 5. Routes taken within the site

### Choice of route

5.1 Visitors were asked whether the route they had taken, or planned to take, that day was reflective of the usual route taken when visiting the site; if the length of route was normal or influenced by other factors. In total, 356 respondents provided an answer to this question; 51% stated that the route was reflective of their normal route, 37% had no typical route or were not sure, 12% took a shorter route and 1% a longer route.

5.2 Respondents were also asked what factors, if any, had influenced their choice of route that day; comments were categorised by surveyors and multiple answers were accepted. Overall, 29% of responses related to previous knowledge or experience on the part of the respondent; time available and the activity undertaken that day each accounted for 18% of responses (Table 19). Few responses related to the information or interpretation available on site (2%). Weather influenced slightly more visitors in the autumn than the summer (14 and 10% respectively); in late October, high winds influenced the activities of many visitors.

**Table 19: Factors influencing route in each survey period. The percentage of the total for each survey season is given in parentheses.**

Factors influencing choice of route	Summer	Autumn	Total
Previous knowledge / experience	35(24)	72(33)	107(29)
Time available	32(22)	35(16)	67(18)
Activity undertaken	24(16)	41(19)	65(18)
Weather	14(10)	31(14)	45(12)
Group members (eg, kids / less able)	9(6)	16(7)	25(7)
Other	6(4)	10(5)	16(4)
Daylight	3(2)	6(3)	9(2)
Wanting to be near water	7(5)	2(1)	9(2)
Shade	9(6)		9(2)
Information / leaflets etc	4(3)	3(1)	7(2)
Other users	3(2)	2(1)	5(1)
<b>Total</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>364</b>

5.3 Overall, 30% of dog walkers stated that previous knowledge and experience influenced their choice of route on the day of the interview and 14% tailored their route to their activity (Table 20). Of those respondents on a family outing, 34% stated that group members, such as the presence of children, influenced their route.

**Table 20: Factors influencing route choice and duration by each activity undertaken. The percentage of the total for each activity is given in parentheses.**

Factors influencing choice of route	Dog walking	Walking	Family outing	Jogging	Other	Cycling	Commercial dog walking	Total
Previous knowledge / experience	63(30)	34(35)	5(13)	3(43)		2(100)		107(29)
Time available	47(22)	16(16)	3(8)		1(17)			67(18)

Activity undertaken	39(18)	17(18)	6(16)	2(29)	1(17)			65(18)
Weather	30(14)	9(9)	2(5)	1(14)	3(50)			45(12)
Group members (eg, kids)	4(2)	7(7)	13(34)	1(14)				25(7)
Other	7(3)	6(6)	2(5)		1(17)			16(4)
Daylight	9(4)							9(2)
Wanting to be near water	5(2)	2(2)	1(3)				1(100)	9(2)
Shade	6(3)	2(2)	1(3)					9(2)
Information / leaflets etc		4(4)	3(8)					7(2)
Other users	3(1)		2(5)					5(1)
<b>Total</b>	<b>213(100)</b>	<b>97(100)</b>	<b>38(100)</b>	<b>7(100)</b>	<b>6(100)</b>	<b>2(100)</b>	<b>1(100)</b>	<b>364(100)</b>

5.4 Respondents had the opportunity to provide further details about the factors influencing their route choice. Many respondents stated that they were taking a routine walk or run, while some chose their route based on paths and surfaces that were suitable in the given weather conditions. In the autumn, during one survey weekend, stormy weather played a role in the choice of route for many; high winds influenced the activities of some visitors due to car park closures and safety concerns.

#### Summary of route data relating to route lengths and route areas

5.5 In total 321 routes were mapped. Unfortunately GPS units proved too inaccurate to use due to the tree cover, and routes were therefore collected using paper maps and asking people where they had been within the site. All routes 321 routes are shown in Map 2. The length of these routes ranged from 0.06km to 6.7km. Across all routes the average length was 2.75km $\pm$ 0.06km (median =2.68km) and three quarters of routes were 3.42km or less.

5.6 Cyclists tended to have longer routes (Figure 3), but overall there was no significant difference between activities in the length of routes (Kruskal Wallis H = 7.03, df =5,  $p=0.219$ ).

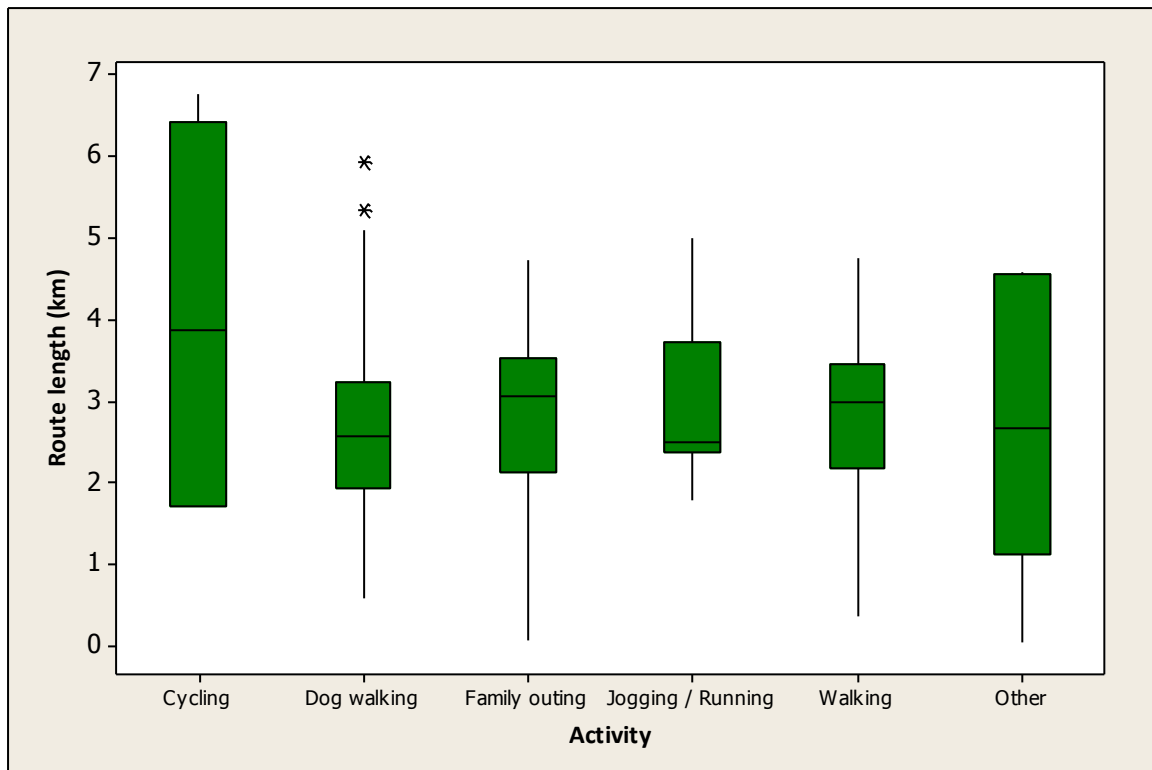


Figure 3: Route length by activity. The one commercial dog walkers is included with the other dog walkers.

- 5.7 We also extracted the area encompassed by each route. This area figure was derived by assuming that the route as mapped was the outer boundary of a polygon, rather than a line. Such values are useful as they provide an indication of the space each activity uses. The average area for all users was 26.1ha $\pm$ 1.23, with a median of 21.4ha and a range of 0.01ha-123.30ha.
- 5.8 There was no significant difference in the area values for each activity (Kruskal-Wallis H=5.89; df=5, p=0.317). Looking at the data (Figure 5) for different activities it can be seen that dog walkers were the users who had the least variation, with a median area of 19.19ha and an interquartile range from 9.33ha – 32.05ha (in other words half of all dog walks encompassed an area between 9.33 and 32.05ha).

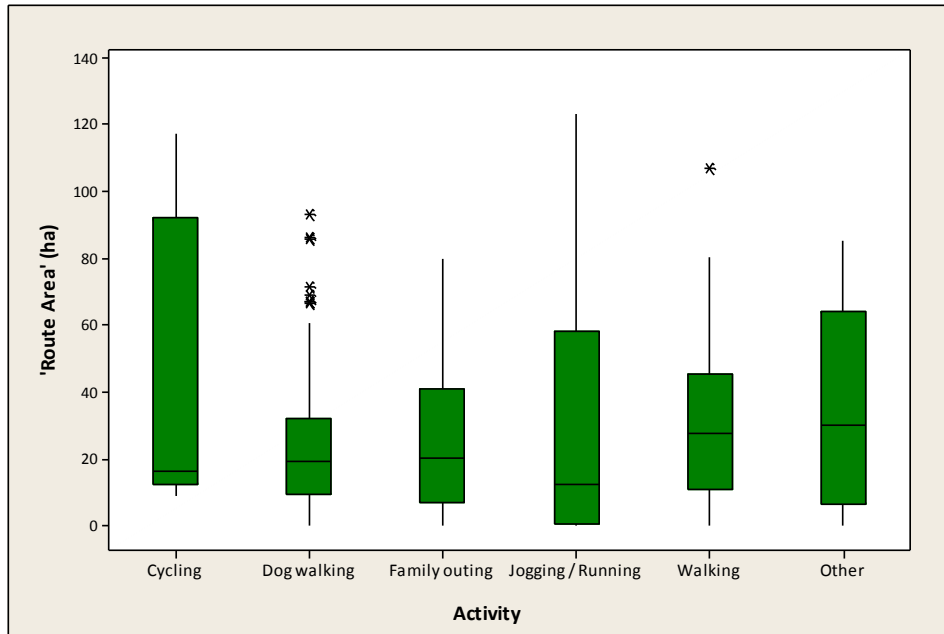
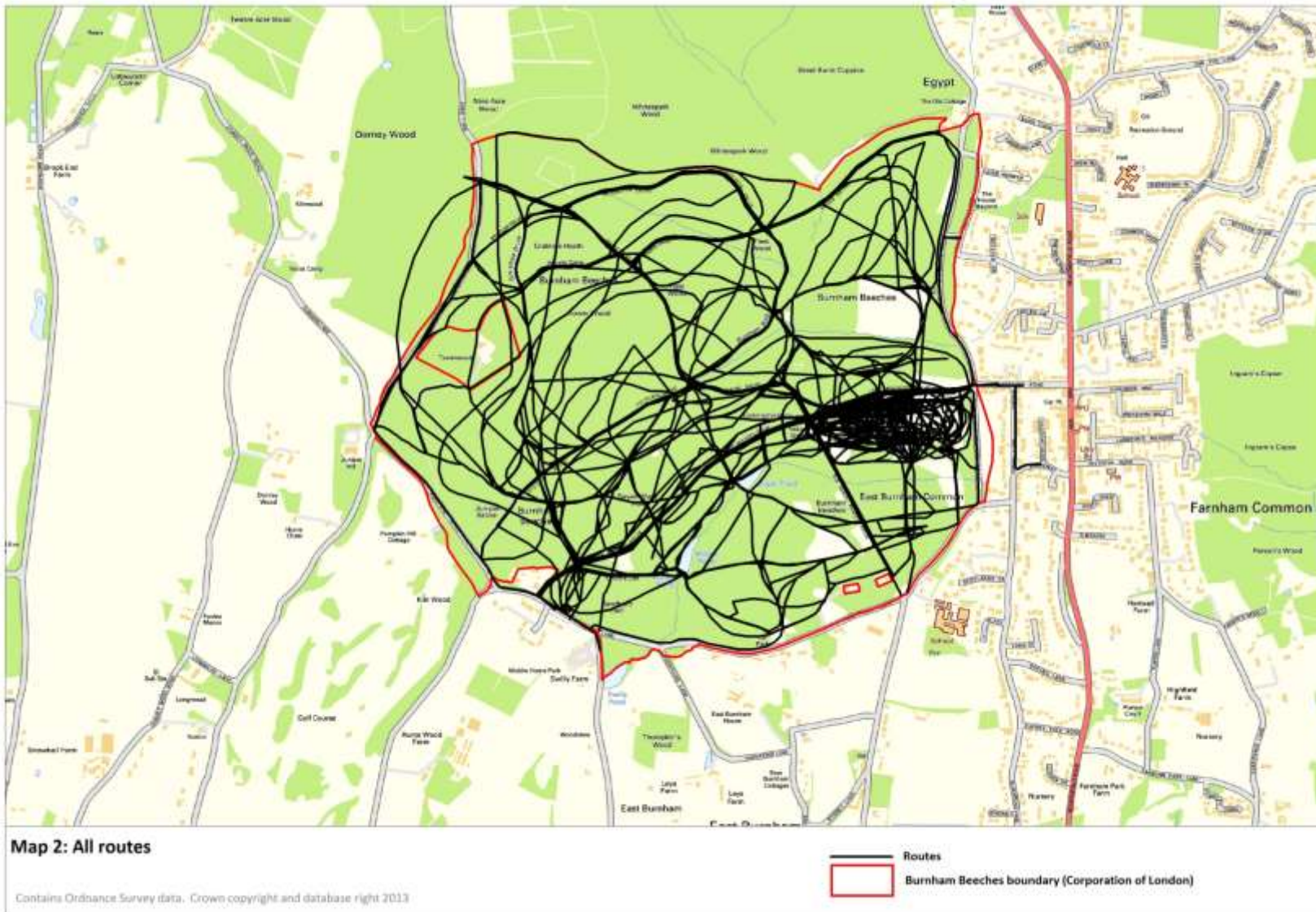


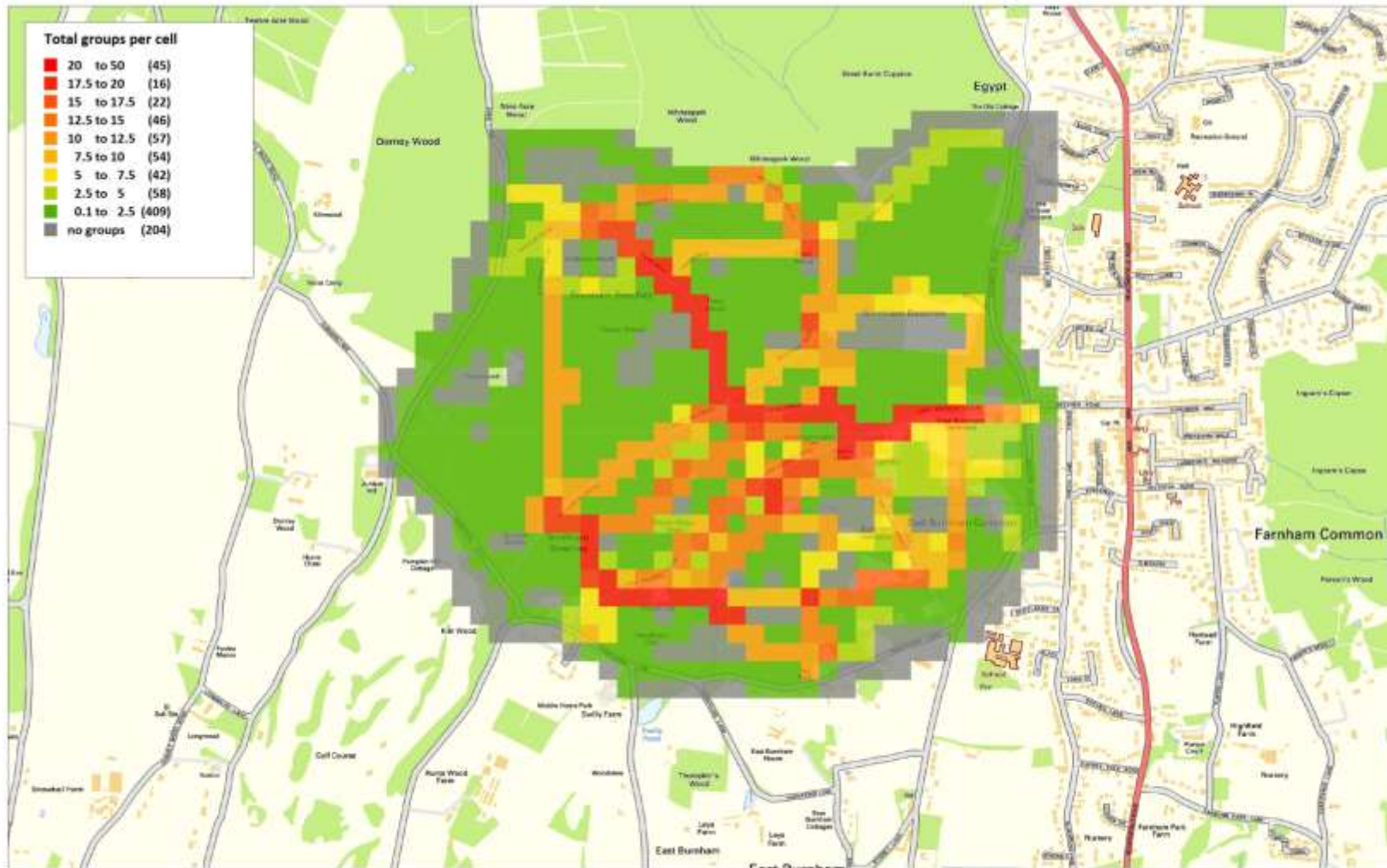
Figure 4: Route area by activity





### Visitor intensity maps

- 5.9 In order to summarise the spatial distribution of access within the SAC, route data were extracted using a 50m grid, and for each grid cell the number of routes intersecting the cell, the total number of people (i.e. accounting for group size of the interviewed visitors) and the total number of routes for which dog walking was the main activity. Three separate maps were then generated using these data.
- 5.10 Map 3 shows the total number of routes through each cell. Map 4 shows the total number of people (i.e. 'footfall') and Map 5 shows the total number of dog walking routes. In each of these maps we have accounted for survey effort by plotting the routes for each survey point separately and then by dividing the cell totals by the number of days survey work at each access point. The data were then combined to allow a single map to be generated.

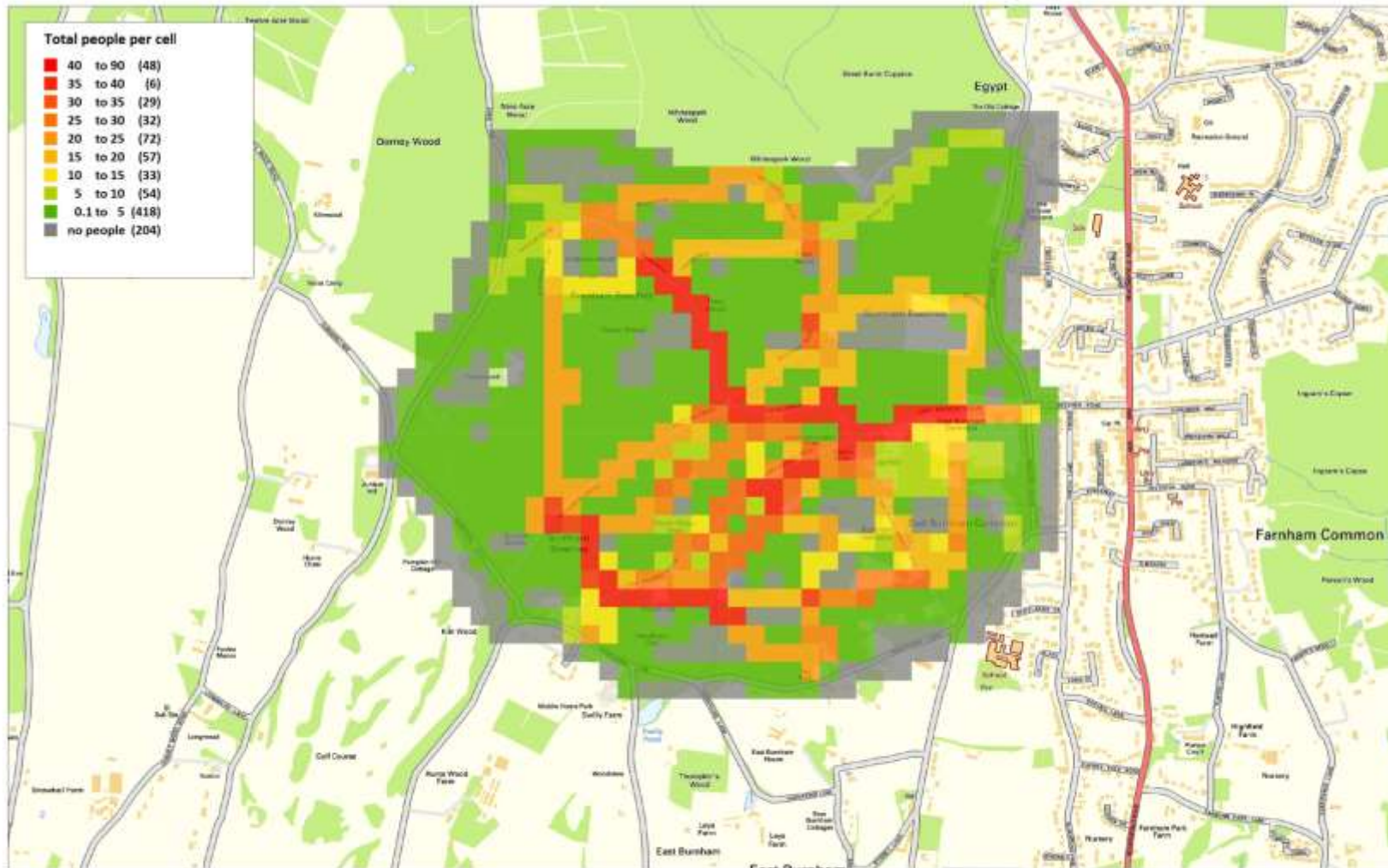


Map 3: Total groups per 50m grid cell (all activities, adjusted for survey effort)

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# Burnham Beeches Visitor Survey

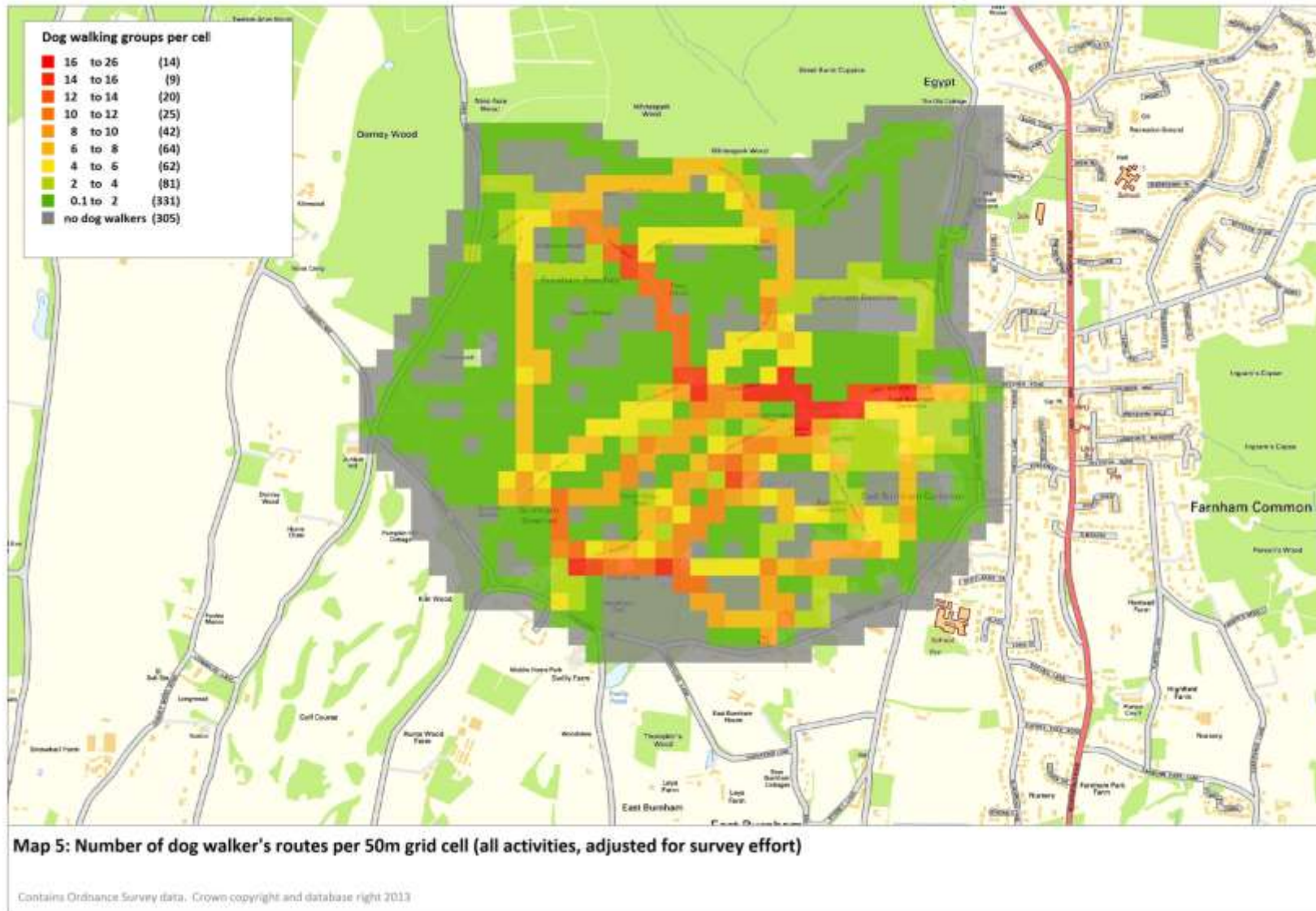
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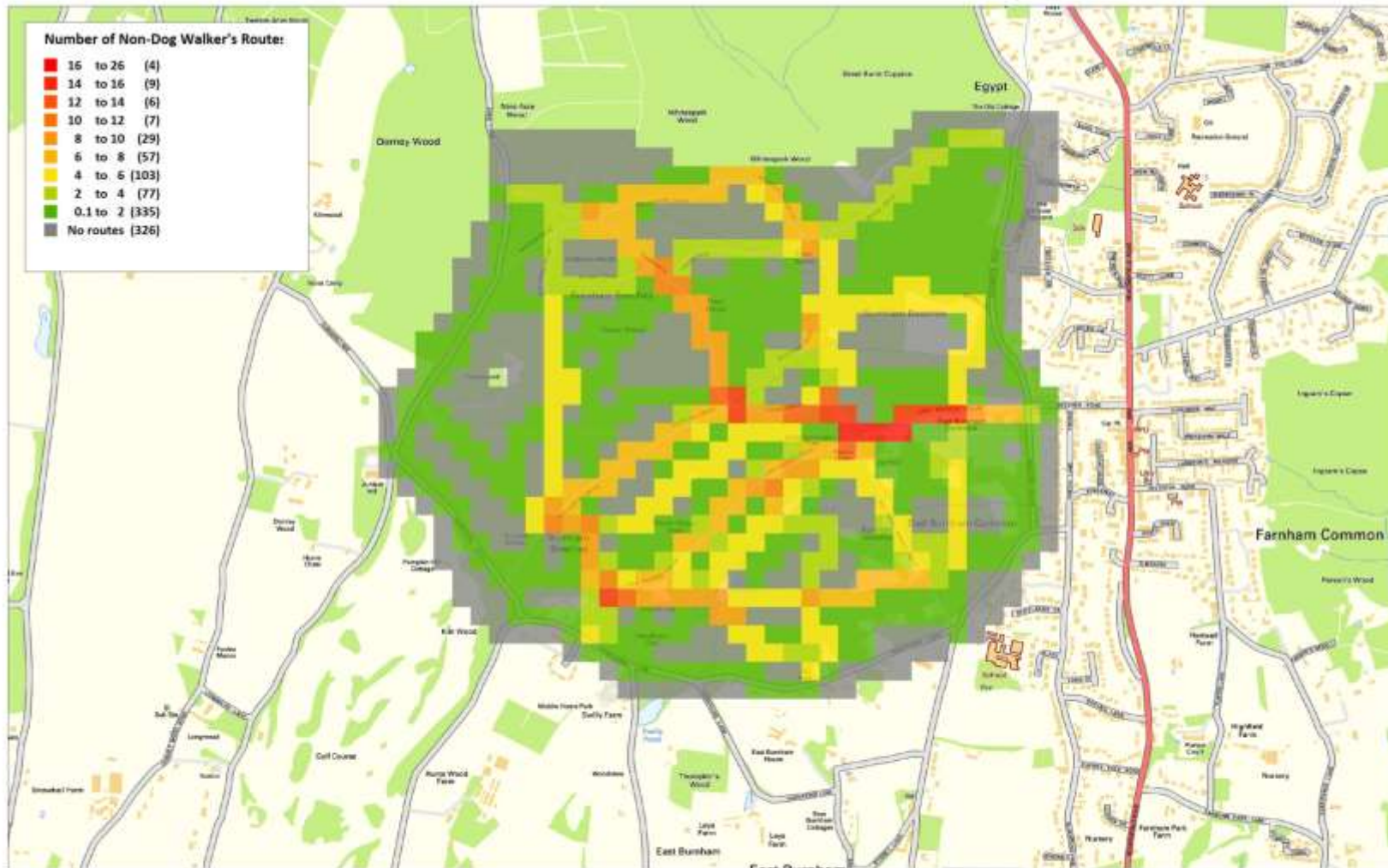


Map 4: Total people per 50m grid cell (all activities, adjusted for survey effort)

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# Burnham Beeches Visitor Survey





Map 6: Number of Non-dog walker's routes per 50m grid cell (all activities, adjusted for survey effort)

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## 6. Visitor Origins and Home Postcodes

### Introduction and Overview

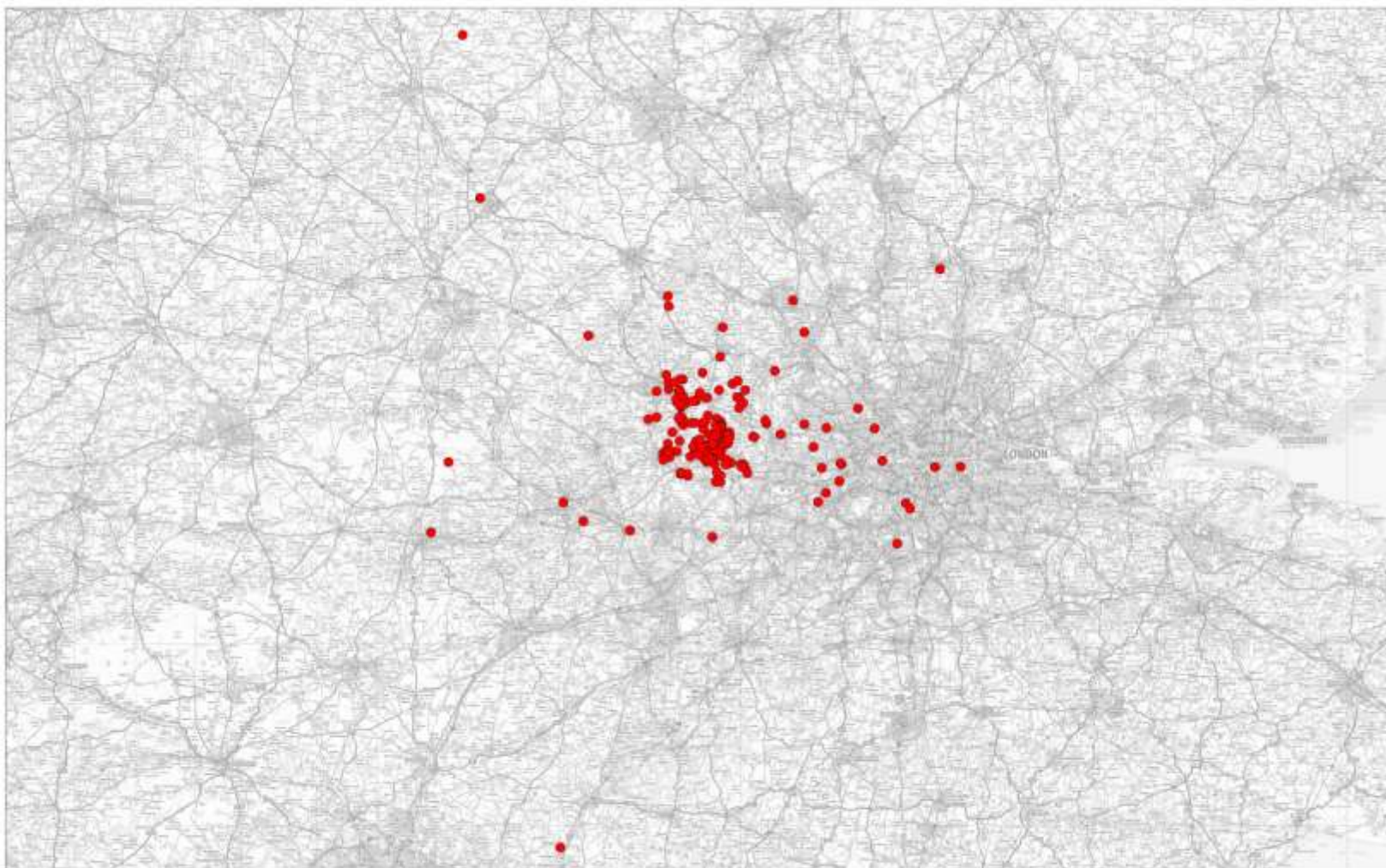
- 6.1 In total 314 postcodes were geocoded using the national postcode database. A further 13 responses could be mapped as respondents gave a settlement<sup>1</sup> and points were added manually to the approximate centre of the settlement. The remaining 32 (interviews either refused to give a postcode or weren't able to give one, for example one visitor was from Germany).
- 6.2 For the 327 data points reflecting visitor origins, distances from the home postcode to the survey point where interviewed ranged from 0.3km to 77.4km, with a mean of 6.6km and a median of 3.2km. Excluding those people on holiday in the area (N=10 geocoded postcodes) and those staying with friends (N=10 geocoded postcodes) the mean distance from home was 6.0km and median of 3.1km.
- 6.3 Map 6 shows all the visitor postcodes.

### Distances and survey location

- 6.4 There were significant differences in the distances for survey locations (Kruskal-Wallis  $H=19.55$  (3 df);  $p<0.001$ ); visitors to the Dell (median 6.2km) lived the furthest afield, followed by the Main car-park (median 3.3km), and the Stag and the Moat (median for both 2.4km).

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<sup>1</sup> These were: Farnham (1); Farnham Common (3); Burnham (1); Bray (1); Eton (1); Windsor (1); Slough (1); Cippenham (2) and Maidenhead (2).



**Map 7: All geocoded postcodes**

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**Distances and activity**

6.5 Map 7 shows visitor postcodes coloured by activity and shows a more limited geographical area than Map 6. There were also significant differences between activities (Kruskal-Wallis  $H=47.34$ , 5 df;  $p<0.001$ ; Figure 5); joggers (median 1.3km,  $N=12$ ) lived the closest; the median for dog walkers was 2.9km ( $N=186$ ), while those visiting to walk (median = 5.3km;  $N=91$ ) or for a family outing (median =5.5km,  $N=27$ ) lived further away. Those undertaking 'other activities' lived the furthest from the site (median = 18.7km,  $N=6$ ).

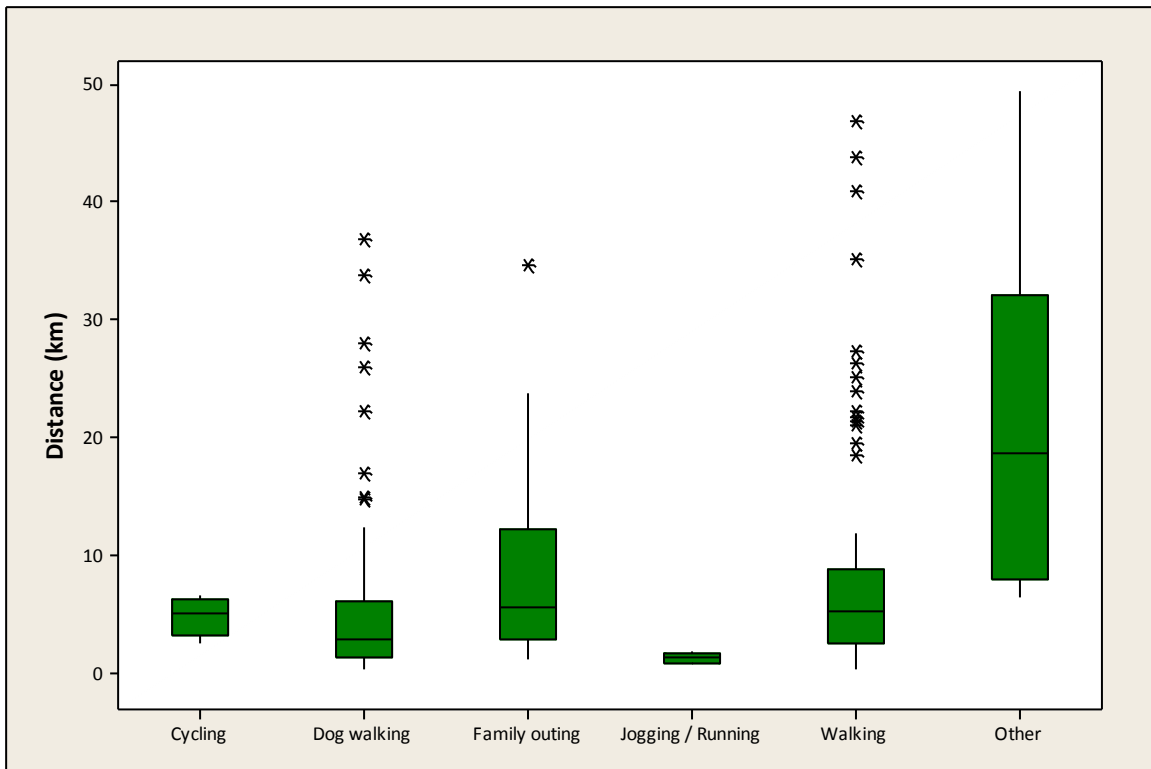
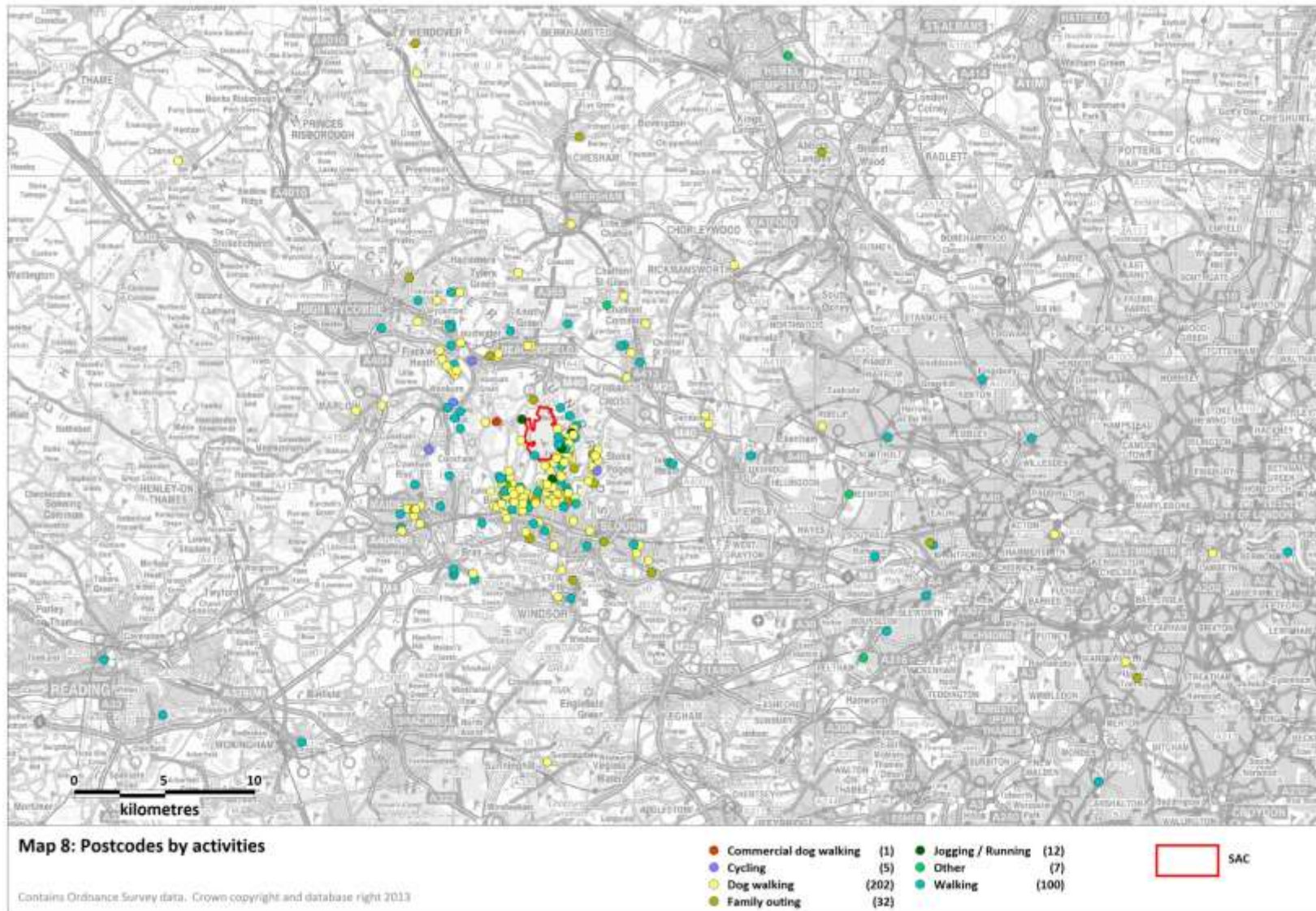


Figure 5: Distances (from home postcode to interview location) by activity. Note y axis truncated at 50km (3 postcodes were beyond this distance).



**Distances and season**

6.6 There was no significant difference between seasons (Kruskal-Wallis  $H = 0.05$ ,  $1df$ ,  $p=0.825$ ), with a median distance from home postcode to survey location of 3.2km in the summer (N=167) and 3.2km in the autumn (N=160). Looking at individual activities and differences between seasons (Figure 6), the distances from people’s home to the survey location were very similar between autumn and summer for dog walkers and walkers – who accounted for the majority of visitors. Those visiting for cycling and for family outings appeared to travel from further afield in the summer, but sample sizes were relatively small (5 interviews and 27 interviews).

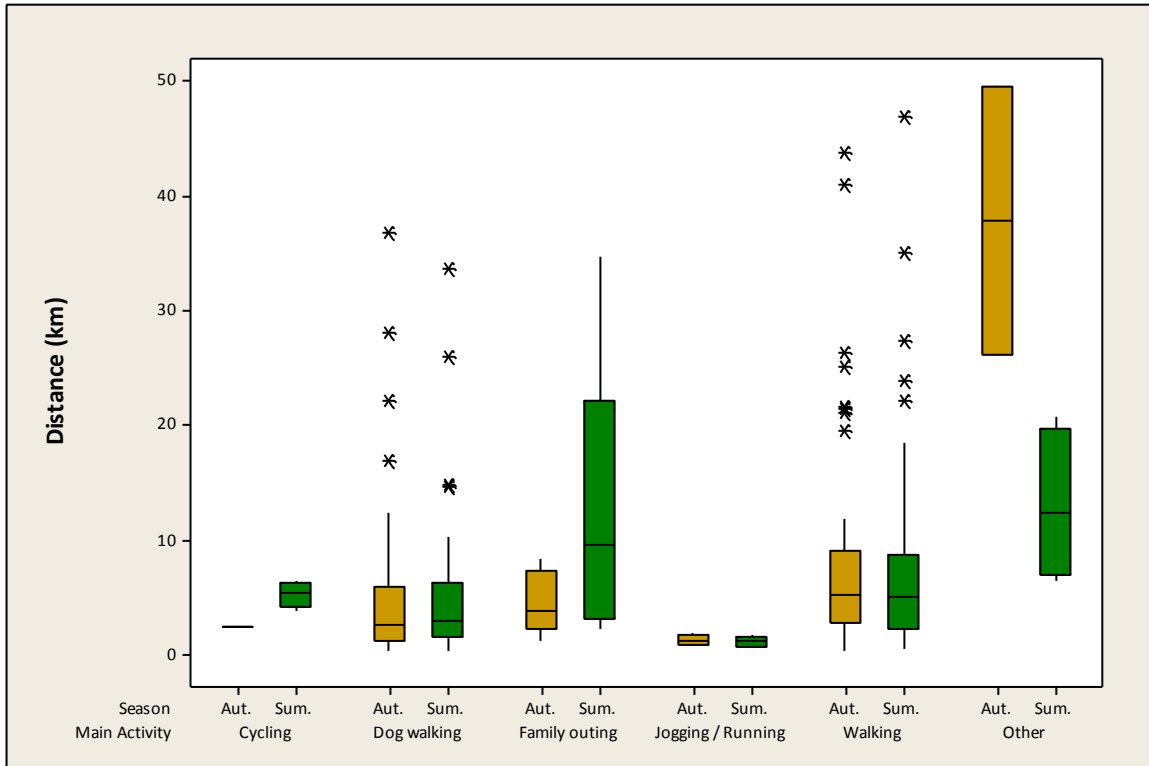


Figure 6: Distances (from home postcode to interview location) by activity and season (autumn in brown and summer in green). Note y axis truncated at 50km (3 postcodes were beyond this distance).

**Distances and Frequency of Visit**

6.7 Those interviewed who visited more frequently tended to live closer to Burnham Beeches than those who visited less frequently. Median distances (from home postcode to survey location) were successively larger for each frequency category (Figure 7) and ranged from 2.18km (those who visited at least three times per week) to 7.18km (those who visited less than once per month). Differences between groups were significant (Kruskal-Wallis  $H=107.4$ ,  $df = 5$ ,  $p<0.001$ ).

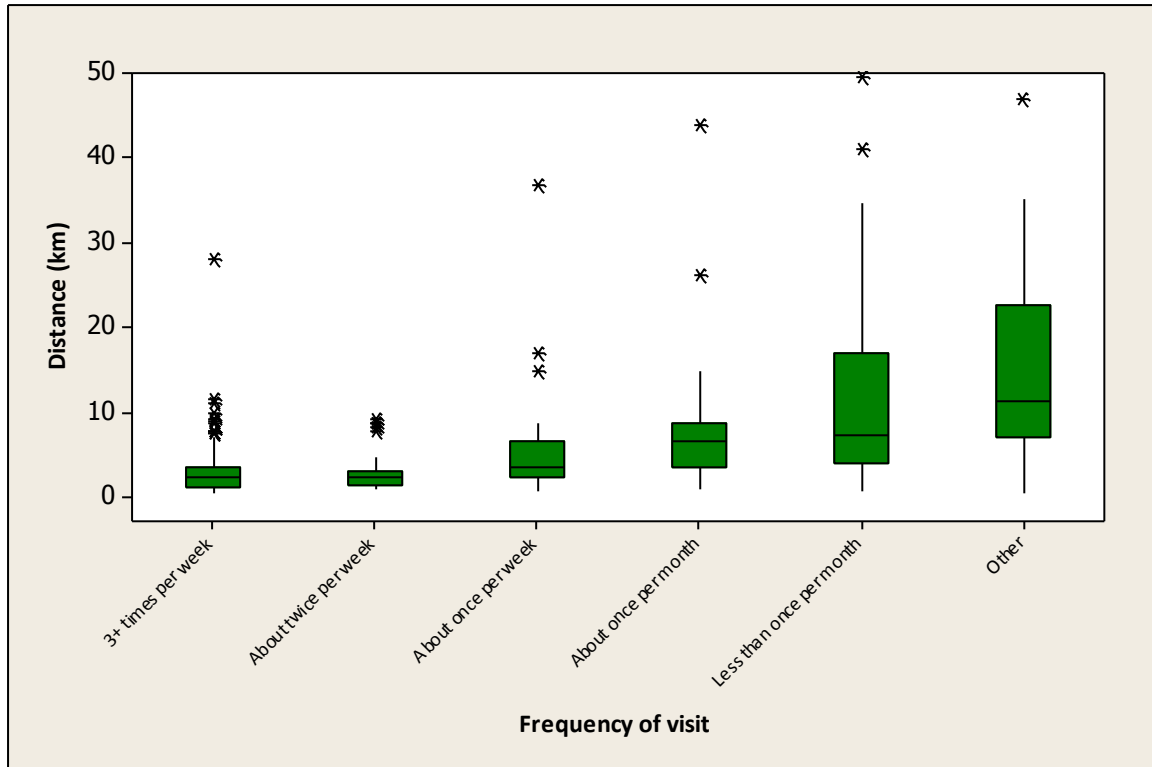
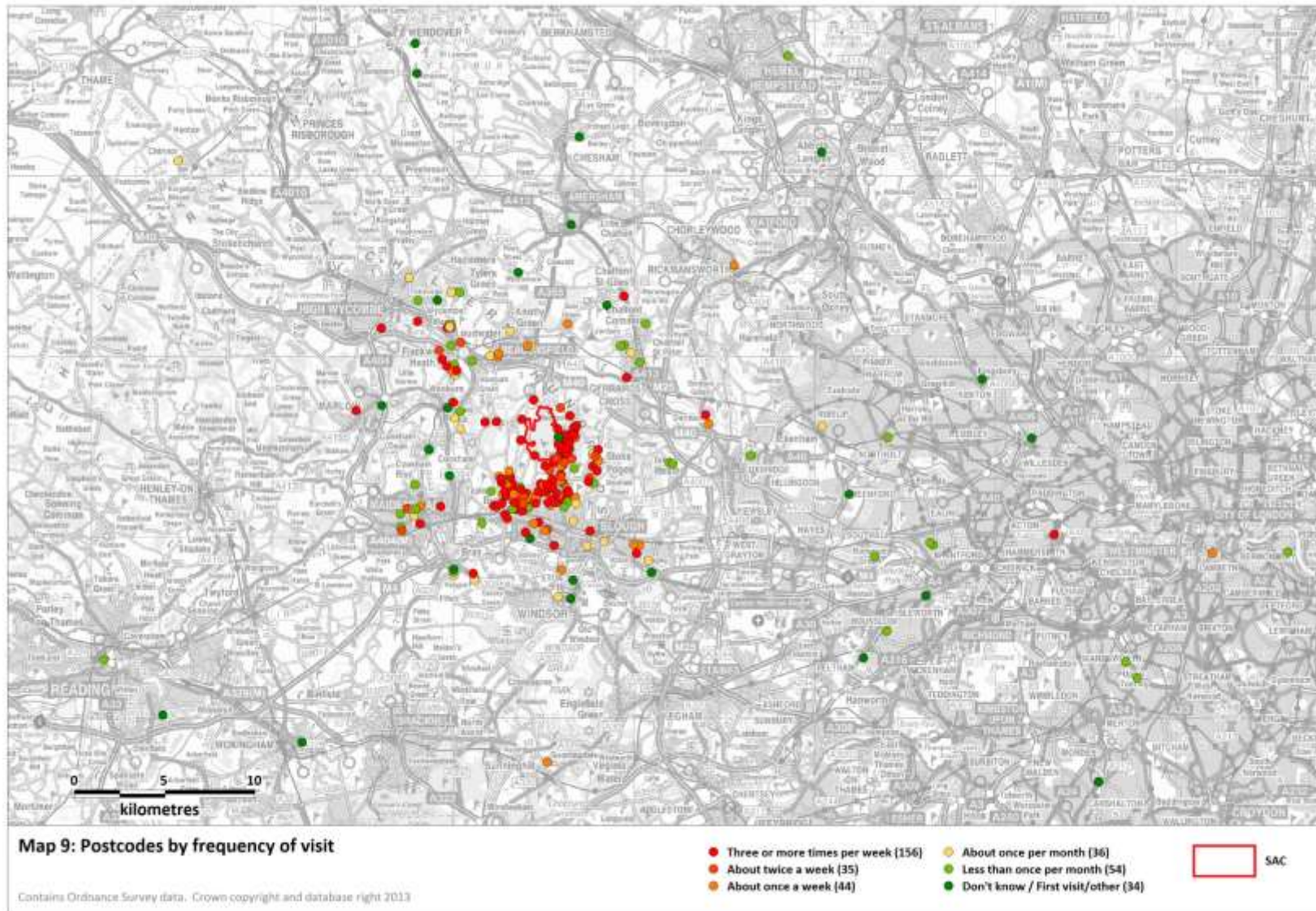
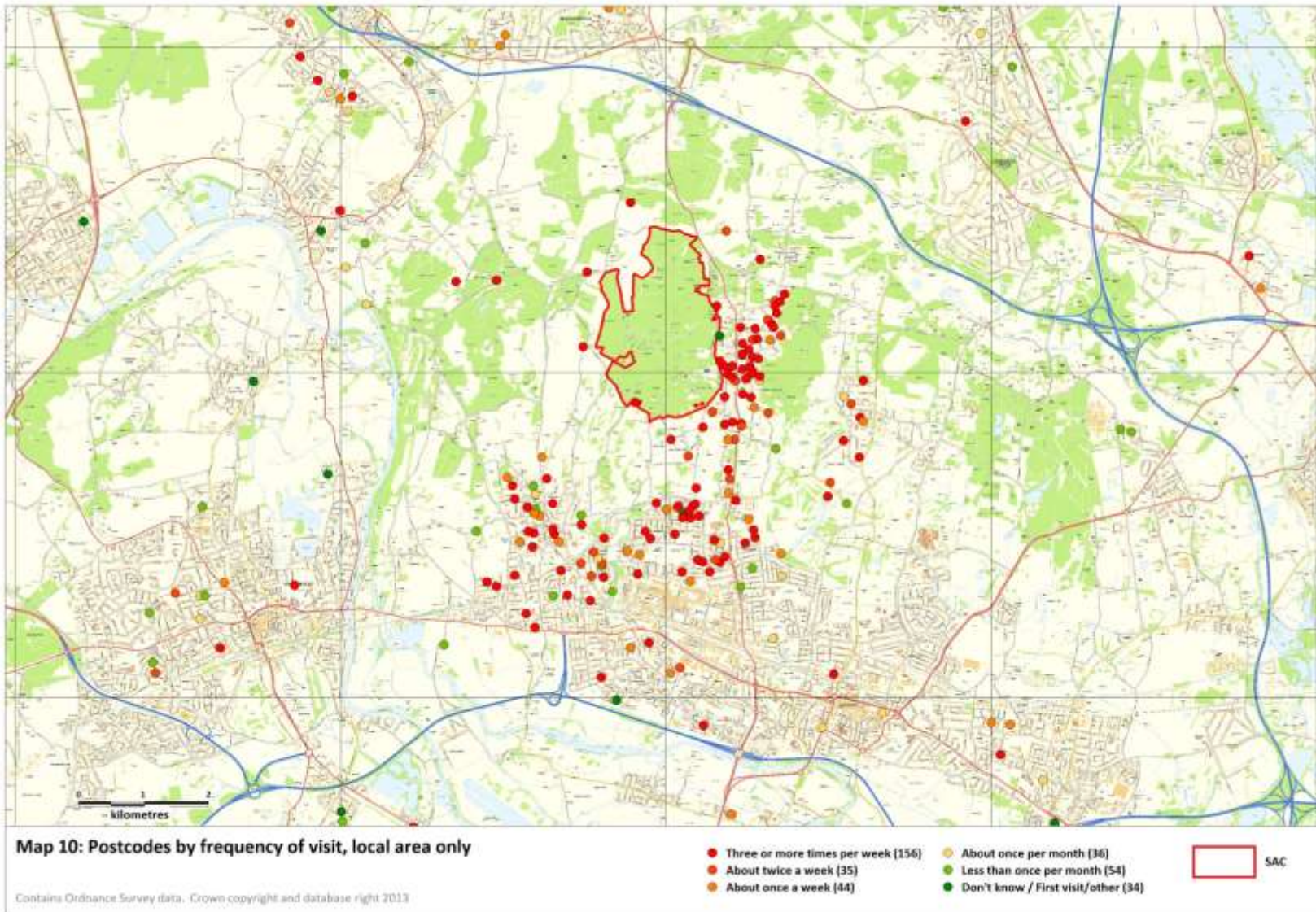


Figure 7: Distance from home postcode to interview location, in relation to frequency of visit. Note y axis truncated at 50km (3 postcodes were beyond this distance).

6.8 We show postcodes of interviewed visitors shaded to reflect their frequency of visit in Maps 8 (same scale as Map 7) and 9 (just area very local to Burnham Beeches). The concentration of frequent visitors in the local vicinity is clear.

# Burnham Beeches Visitor Survey





## Settlements

6.9 We summarise the number of people interviewed from each settlement in Table 21. In total, 304 of the geocoded postcodes fell within settlement boundaries<sup>2</sup> (i.e. 23 geocoded postcodes were from rural areas outside settlements). Slough and Farnham Royal were by the most common home settlements, accounting for nearly two-thirds (62%) of geocoded interviews. Slough was the most common settlement for all activities apart from jogging, for which all eleven interviews were conducted with residents from Farnham Royal, highlighting a particularly local catchment for this activity.

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<sup>2</sup> We defined settlements using the OS open source data for built up areas

Burnham Beeches Visitor Survey

Table 21: Number (%) of interviews with residents by settlement.

Settlement	Cycling	Dog walking	Family outing	Jogging / Running	Walking	Other	Total
Slough	1 (20)	65 (38)	10 (42)		22 (26)		98 (32)
Farnham Royal		58 (34)	2 (8)	11 (100)	19 (22)		90 (30)
Maidenhead		7 (4)	1 (4)		10 (12)		18 (6)
Bourne End/Flackwell Heath	1 (20)	9 (5)	1 (4)		4 (5)		15 (5)
High Wycombe	1 (20)	4 (2)	1 (4)		6 (7)		12 (4)
Stoke Poges	1 (20)	7 (4)	1 (4)				9 (3)
Beaconsfield		4 (2)	2 (8)		2 (2)		8 (3)
Chalfont St.Peter/Gerrards Cross		4 (2)			3 (4)		7 (2)
Ealing			1 (4)		3 (4)		4 (1)
Windsor/Eton		1 (1)	1 (4)		1 (1)		3 (1)
Brent					2 (2)		2 (1)
Chalfont St.Giles		1 (1)				1 (17)	2 (1)
Denham		2 (1)					2 (1)
Hazlemere/Tylers Green		1 (1)			1 (1)		2 (1)
Hillingdon		1 (1)				1 (17)	2 (1)
Hounslow					2 (2)		2 (1)
Iver/Iver Heath					1 (1)	1 (17)	2 (1)
Marlow		2 (1)					2 (1)
Reading					2 (2)		2 (1)
Southwark		1 (1)			1 (1)		2 (1)
Wandsworth		1 (1)	1 (4)				2 (1)
Amersham		1 (1)					1 (0)
Bicester			1 (4)				1 (0)
Chesham			1 (4)				1 (0)
Chinnor		1 (1)					1 (0)
Compton					1 (1)		1 (0)
Cookham	1 (20)						1 (0)
Hammersmith and Fulham		1 (1)					1 (0)
Hemel Hempstead						1 (17)	1 (0)
Hertford					1 (1)		1 (0)
Newbury						1 (17)	1 (0)
Richmond upon Thames						1 (17)	1 (0)
Rickmansworth		1 (1)					1 (0)
Seer Green					1 (1)		1 (0)
Sutton					1 (1)		1 (0)
Virginia Water		1 (1)					1 (0)
Waterlooville					1 (1)		1 (0)
Watford			1 (4)				1 (0)
Wokingham					1 (1)		1 (0)
No settlement		13 (7)	3 (11)	1 (8)	6 (7)		23 (7)
<b>Total</b>	<b>5 (100)</b>	<b>186 (100)</b>	<b>27 (100)</b>	<b>12 (100)</b>	<b>91 (100)</b>	<b>6 (100)</b>	<b>327 (100)</b>



**Understanding impacts of new development**

- 6.10 In order to understand how future development in the vicinity of Burnham Beeches may influence future visitor rates, it is necessary to understand how visitor rates change with distance from the site. Using 500m consecutive bands drawn around the SAC (out to a distance of 15km), we calculated the total number of interviews within each band and the total number of current residential properties.
- 6.11 The 15km distance band captured the majority of geocoded postcodes (295 postcodes, 90%), little different to the 10km band (290 postcodes, 89%). The five kilometre band encompassed 226 postcodes (69%).
- 6.12 The ratio of interviews to number of properties provides an indication of visit rate, and a plot of this visit rate with distance (Figure 8) shows that around 5km from the SAC the visit rate is relatively low. In other words, beyond 5km from the SAC boundary the number of visits made per house is low and the impact of new development will be relatively low (per new dwelling). Development within 4km of the SAC boundary will have a greater influence on visit rates.

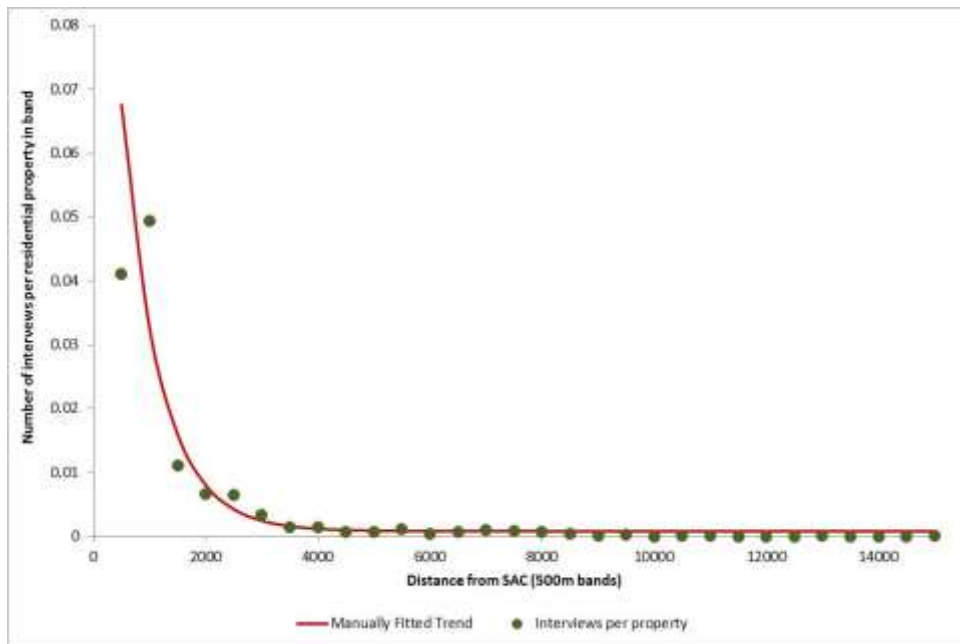


Figure 8: Visit rate in relation to distance. Visit rate calculated as number of interviews/number of residential properties in given distance band. Trend manually fitted by eye and from  $r^2$  value.  $Y=-0.14^{-1.48x}+0.008$ .  $r^2=0.80$

- 6.13 Using the visit rate curve shown in Figure 8 it is possible to estimate the relative changes in visitor rates as a result of development at different locations. The most recent annual total estimate for visitor numbers to Burnham Beeches is 585,000 visitors for the year 2010/11 (Wheater & Cook 2012). Our 15km distance band from the SAC encompassed 90% of the visitor postcodes in this survey, and (assuming group size to be constant with distance), then 527,752 visitors (90% of 585,000) would be expected to come from within 15km.

6.14 Using the curve in Figure 8 and the figure of 527,752 visitors from within 15km, it is possible to estimate the number of visitors from each distance band and the number of visits per residential property.

**Table 22: Distance bands from the SAC (500m bands) and visits per property, calculated using the curve in Figure 8 and the figure of 527,752 visitors from within 15km.**

Distance band (km)	Total residential properties	Visits per annum from band	% of total visits	visits per property
0.5	1,241	95,061	16	76.6
1	749	27,729	5	37
1.5	1,614	29,274	5	18.1
2	3,187	29,090	5	9.1
2.5	6,471	31,248	5	4.8
3	5,251	14,587	2	2.8
3.5	7,503	13,501	2	1.8
4	8,879	11,832	2	1.3
4.5	10,868	12,061	2	1.1
5	11,296	11,336	2	1
5.5	10,763	10,255	2	1
6	9,936	9,227	2	0.9
6.5	7,293	6,688	1	0.9
7	9,725	8,865	2	0.9
7.5	11,250	10,226	2	0.9
8	15,813	14,354	2	0.9
8.5	18,123	16,440	3	0.9
9	14,100	12,786	2	0.9
9.5	11,199	10,154	2	0.9
10	12,656	11,474	2	0.9
10.5	13,567	12,300	2	0.9
11	14,456	13,105	2	0.9
11.5	20,950	18,993	3	0.9
12	15,666	14,202	2	0.9
12.5	13,404	12,152	2	0.9
13	11,914	10,801	2	0.9
13.5	9,099	8,249	1	0.9
14	12,877	11,674	2	0.9
14.5	17,987	16,306	3	0.9
15	26,235	23,784	4	0.9

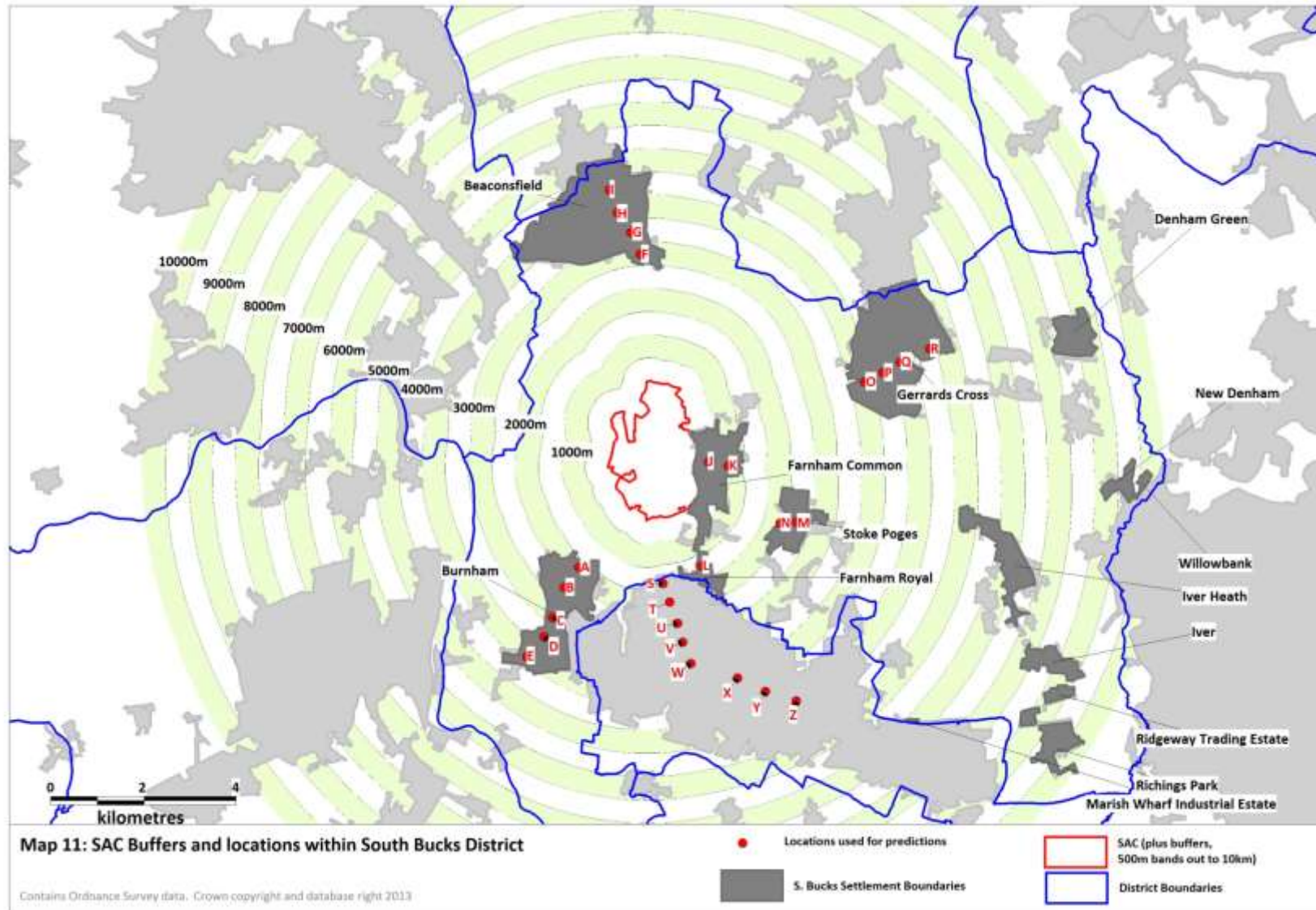
6.15 Using the information above, it is possible to estimate the impact of development at different locations around Burnham Beeches. In Map 10 we show the location of different settlements in South Bucks and the labelled red dots represent hypothetical locations where we consider the impact of development. We have also – for comparison – included some locations (S-Z) in Slough, outside South Bucks. The map

shows the buffers (500m bands) around the SAC (the pale green shading for the buffers represents alternate bands: 500-1000m; 1500-2000m; 2500-3000m etc.).

6.16 For each of the red dots we have considered the impact of 100 houses on the overall visitor rates, using the information in Table 22. We summarise the results in Table 23. It can be seen that development close to the SAC boundary (within 500m), such as the edge of Farnham Common, would have the biggest impact on visitor numbers, with an estimated 7,660 visitors per annum (i.e. 21 per day) resulting from 100 new dwellings.

**Table 23: Hypothetical locations (see Map 10) and impacts of development (100 houses) at each. The % change column indicates the overall net increase in visitors (585,000 total per annum) as a result of the 100 houses.**

Map Ref (Map 10)	Location	Distance Band (m)	Additional visitors per annum as a result of 100 new dwellings	% change
A	Burnham	2000	910	0.16
B	Burnham	2500	480	0.08
D	Burnham	3500	180	0.03
C	Burnham	3000	280	0.05
E	Burnham	4000	130	0.02
F	Beaconsfield	3000	280	0.05
G	Beaconsfield	3500	180	0.03
H	Beaconsfield	4000	130	0.02
I	Beaconsfield	4500	110	0.02
J	Farnham Common	500	7660	1.31
K	Farnham Common	1000	3700	0.63
L	Farnham Royal	1500	1810	0.31
M	Stoke Poges	2500	480	0.08
N	Stoke Poges	2000	910	0.16
O	Gerrards Cross	4000	130	0.02
P	Gerrards Cross	4500	110	0.02
Q	Gerrards Cross	5000	100	0.02
R	Gerrards Cross	5500	100	0.02
S	Slough	1500	1810	0.31
T	Slough	2000	910	0.16
U	Slough	2500	480	0.08
V	Slough	3000	280	0.05
W	Slough	3500	180	0.03
X	Slough	4000	130	0.02
Y	Slough	4500	110	0.02
Z	Slough	5000	100	0.02



- 6.17 In Table 23 we have considered hypothetical locations and the potential change resulting from 100 new dwellings at each location. These are hypothetical and simply allow comparison of the impacts of development at different locations. In order to consider more realistic totals we have also generated Table 24 which is similar to Table 23. In however we estimate visitor change as a result of new dwellings, using more realistic totals provided by S. Bucks District Council, allowing an approximation of the total increase in access that may occur as a result of the development set out in South Bucks' Core Strategy. We have also included some locations from Slough<sup>3</sup> as this helps to indicate the cumulative impact of development around Burnham Beeches SAC.
- 6.18 It can be seen that the levels of development set out in Table 24 for S. Bucks could generate nearly 12,000 additional visits to Burnham Beeches (the equivalent of around 32 people per day) and this equates to around a 2% increase in access at the site. The majority of this increase in access relates to development at Farnham Royal. The development locations listed for Slough are mostly locations relatively far from Burnham Beeches, however some parts of Slough, such as the area around Kennedy Park, fall within the 2000m distance band and therefore would have a disproportionate impact, compared to other parts of Slough. Development at Slough would be broadly similar (in terms of changes in access per dwelling) as development in Burnham.

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<sup>3</sup> We have selected some locations from the 2010 site allocations document where significant numbers of residential properties are set out and have used the figures from the report for the number of dwellings [http://static.slough.gov.uk/downloads/LDF\\_63\\_Site\\_Allocations\\_DPD\\_November\\_2010\(1\).pdf](http://static.slough.gov.uk/downloads/LDF_63_Site_Allocations_DPD_November_2010(1).pdf)

## Burnham Beeches Visitor Survey

**Table 24: Predictions of changes in visitor numbers at Burnham Beeches arising from particular levels of development (provided by S. Bucks Council or taken from Slough 2010 site allocations DPD. We have assumed development would be within a single distance band for each settlement and have used the distance band the lowest distance band that overlaps a significant part of the settlement).**

Location	Distance band used	Dwellings	Additional visitors per annum	% change
Beaconsfield	3000	101	280	0.05
Burnham	2000	22	910	0.16
Denham	8500	43	90	0.02
Dorney	6000	1	90	0.02
Farnham Royal	500	42	7660	1.31
Fulmer	5000	6	100	0.02
Gerrards Cross	4500	60	110	0.02
Hedgerley	1500	2	1810	0.31
Iver/Iver Heath	6500	60	90	0.02
Stoke Poges	2500	15	480	0.08
Taplow	5000	183	100	0.02
Wexham	4500	17	110	0.02
Wilton Park, Beaconsfield	4500	300	110	0.02
<b>Total (S. Bucks)</b>		<b>852</b>	<b>11,940</b>	<b>2.07</b>
Kennedy Park	2000	150	910	0.16
Cippenham, Phase 4	4500	127	110	0.02
Heart of Slough	4500	1598	110	0.02
Langley	7500	123	90	0.02
<b>Total (selected Slough locations)</b>		<b>1,998</b>	<b>1,220</b>	<b>0.22</b>

## 7. Responses relating to the management of dogs at Burnham Beeches

7.1 In this section we focus on the second part of the questionnaire and the responses of interviewees to questions relating to the management of dogs at Burnham Beeches.

### Overview of visitor data for dog walking visitor groups

7.2 In total the face to face visitor surveys captured visitor information from 359 groups and their 319 dogs (paragraph 4.2). Just over half (56%) of these interviewed groups stated the main activity they were undertaking during their visit was dog walking (paragraph 4.4 and Table 4). A higher proportion of interviewed groups were dog walking (31%) in the Summer in comparison to the proportion of interviewed dog walking groups (25%) from the Autumn surveys (5.1 and Table 7). The majority of dog walking visitor groups (88%) reached Burnham Beeches by car (Table 29). Overall 96% of interviewed dog walking visitor groups were on a day trip/short visit and had travelled from home (Table 28) meaning that the majority of interviewed dog walking groups lived locally.

7.3 The visit duration for the majority (60%) of dog walking groups was between 30 minutes and an hour (paragraph 4.8 and Table 6) and most (63%) dog walking groups stated they made their visits three times a week or more (paragraph 4.11 and Table 8).

7.4 Out of all the interviewed visitors at Burnham Beeches just over half (55%) were female and 45% were male. A higher proportion of interviewed dog walking visitors were female -nearly two thirds (63%) and just over a third (37%) were male whereas a higher proportion of males (56%) were interviewed undertaking non dog walking activities in comparison to females (44%).

7.5 Appendix 2 contains some summary tables for various interview responses for dog walkers only, and some comparisons are also provided for non-dog walkers.

### Visitor responses to dog managements questions

7.6 In Table 25 we summarise visitor responses to the difference management options and Table 26 considers only the responses that were supportive of a particular management option and summarises the proportion of the site that were proposed. Figure 9 provides a summary plot of the responses to the five main management options.

Table 25: Responses of visitor groups to survey questions about the management of dogs at Burnham Beeches.

<b>Q16) Should dog owners be required to pick up and dispose of their dogs' waste correctly on parts of the site?</b>				
<b>Main activity</b>	<b>Don't know/Not sure</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Total</b>
Dog walkers	1 (0)	3 (1)	199 (98)	203 (100)
Other activities	0 (0)	0 (0)	156 (100)	156 (100)
All	1 (0)	3 (1)	355 (99)	359 (100)
<b>Q18) Should areas be designated where dogs must be put on a lead if requested and owners required to comply?</b>				
<b>Main activity</b>	<b>Don't know / Not sure</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Total</b>
Dog walkers	7 (3)	37 (18)	159 (78)	203 (100)
Other activities	8 (5)	13 (8)	135 (87)	156 (100)
All	15 (4)	50 (14)	294 (82)	359 (100)
<b>Q20) Should areas be designated where dogs must be kept on leads at all times and owners required to comply?</b>				
<b>Main activity</b>	<b>Don't know / Not sure</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Total</b>
Dog walkers	12 (6)	103 (51)	88 (43)	203 (100)
Other activities	14 (9)	37 (24)	105 (67)	156 (100)
All	26 (7)	140 (39)	193 (54)	359 (100)
<b>Q22) Should areas be designated at Burnham Beeches where dogs are not allowed at all?</b>				
<b>Main activity</b>	<b>Don't know / Not sure</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Total</b>
Dog walkers	6 (3)	133 (66)	62 (31)	201 (100)
Other activities	10 (6)	75 (48)	70 (45)	155 (100)
All	16 (4)	208 (58)	132 (37)	356 (100)
<b>Q24) Should there be a maximum number of dogs that an individual dog walker can walk?</b>				
<b>Main activity</b>	<b>Don't know / Not sure</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Total</b>
Dog walkers	23 (11)	55 (27)	125 (62)	203 (100)
Other activities	9 (6)	33 (21)	112 (73)	154 (100)
All	32 (9)	88 (25)	237 (66)	357 (100)



Table 26: Response of visitors who supported possible dog management options categorised by the proportion of site they thought it should be applied and further categorised by activity either 'dog walking' or 'all other activities' (i.e. not dog walking). Small rounding errors may occur with the % values.

Area(s) of Burnham Beeches that owners should be required to pick up and dispose of their dogs waste correctly (for those respondents who supported the measure)				
Activity	All of site	Part of site	Don't know	Total
Dog walkers	160 (81)	37 (19)	0 (0)	197 (100)
All other activities	149 (96)	7 (4)	0 (0)	156 (100)
Total	309 (88)	44 (12)	0 (0)	353 (100)
Area(s) of Burnham Beeches where dogs on lead if requested (for those respondents who supported the measure)				
Activity	All of site	Part of site	Don't know	Total
Dog walkers	57 (36)	95 (60)	6 (4)	158 (100)
All other activities	70 (52)	57 (42)	8 (6)	135 (100)
Total	127 (43)	152 (52)	14 (5)	293 (100)
Area(s) of Burnham Beeches where dogs must be kept on a lead at all times and owners required to comply (for those respondents who supported the measure)				
Activity	All of the site	Part of the site	Don't know	Total
Dog walkers	7 (8)	78 (89)	3 (9)	88 (100)
All other activities	16 (15)	80 (76)	9 (15)	105 (100)
Total	23 (12)	158 (82)	12 (6)	193 (100)
Area(s) of Burnham Beeches where dogs are not allowed at all (for those respondents who supported the measure)				
Activity	All of the site	Part of the site	Don't know	Total
Dog walkers	1 (2)	59 (95)	2 (3)	62 (100)
All other activities	4 (6)	58 (83)	8 (11)	70 (100)
Total	5 (4)	117 (89)	10 (8)	132 (100)

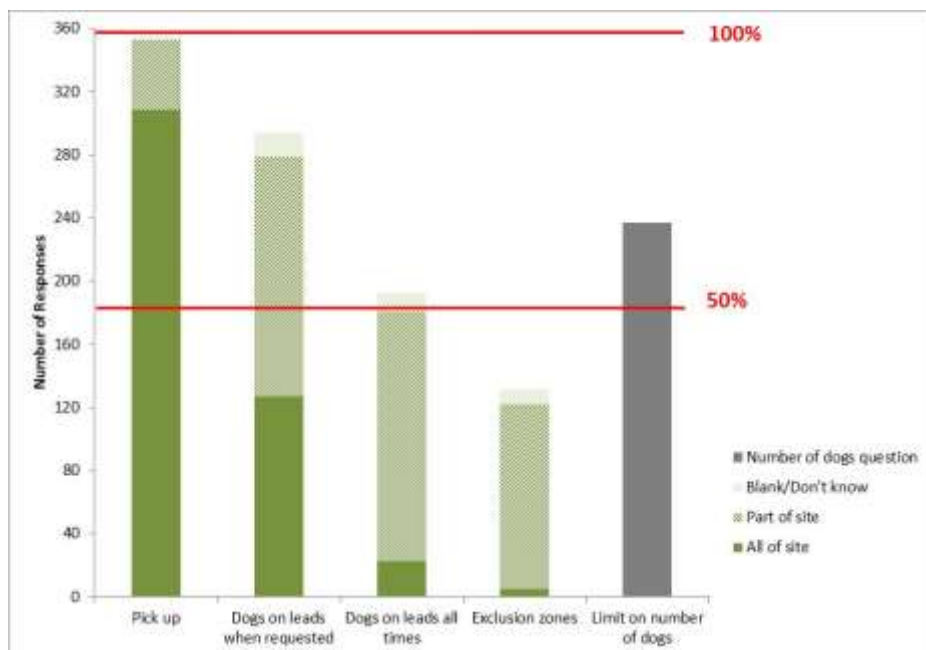


Figure 9: Summary plot of responses to dog management question. Columns indicate number of interview responses that were "yes", with the green shading then indicating the proportion of responses that indicated a part or all of the site.

- 7.7 There was clear support (99% of the responses) from both dog walking and non-dog walking visitor groups to require dog owners to pick up and dispose of their dogs waste correctly (Table 25). In total 88% of visitor responses which supported this dog management option indicated it should be applied to the whole site (Table 26). Of the 44 people who indicated that the measure should be applied to part of the site only, 16 indicated a percentage and these ranged from 30% to 90% of the site. Sixteen interviewees favoured a part of the site but, rather than specify a percentage indicated that the measure should be applied to paths, main tracks or 'open areas'. A further eleven interviewees indicated that the measure should not be applied to the woodland or deep woods.
- 7.8 There was also clear support (82% of the responses) that there should be designated areas where dogs must be put on a lead if requested to do so and the owners required to comply (Table 25). Interestingly there was relatively little difference in the proportion of visitors who supported the measure that were dog walking in comparison to the visitor groups who were not dog walking (Table 25). In terms of the area(s) where this should be applied, all of the site was favoured by 127 interviewees (43% of those that said supported the implementation of the measure, 35% of all interviewees). Forty-three respondents that favoured part of the site indicated a particular percentage, these ranged from 5-80%. The most common response was 50% (10 interviewees). Many interviewees struggled to give a percentage and instead indicated particular parts of the site such as the café/picnic area (50 interviewees), where there are grazing animals (49 interviewees), around play areas (16 interviewees), or in wildlife/conservation areas (4 interviewees).
- 7.9 The majority of visitor responses (193 interviewees, 54%) supported the dog management option of designated areas where dog must be kept on a lead at all times and owners required to comply. A higher proportion of non-dog walking visitor groups supported this measure (105 compared to 37) than dog walking groups (88 groups compared to 103). Of the 193 in support of the approach, the majority favoured that the measure should be applied to part of the site only (158 interviewees, 82% of those in favour, 44% of all interviewees). A further 6% of all people interviewed indicated that this should be applied across the whole site. Of those that suggested part of the site for the measure, 57 indicated a particular percentage, ranging from 5-80%. The most common percentage given was 50%, with seventeen people giving this value. The next most common percentage given was 20% (14 interviewees). Rather than give a set percentage many respondents indicated particular areas such as the cafe/picnic area (50 interviewees), play area/around children (21 interviewees), around livestock (12 interviewees) or where conservation interest (such as nesting birds) (7 interviewees). Fifteen respondents simply responded that the measure should simply be applied if good reasons.
- 7.10 The majority of interviewees (58%) did not support the idea of exclusion zones where no dogs should be allowed at all. There were 132 interviewees (37%) who were in support of this approach and of these, five (4% of those in favour of the measure; 1% of all interviewees) indicated that it should be applied to the whole site. For those that

suggested part of the site, 55 interviewees gave a particular percentage. These percentages ranged from 5% to 90% of the site. The most commonly given response was 10% (13 interviewees), and a further 9 interviewees suggested 5%. Relatively few (13 interviewees) in favour of this measure for part of the site felt that it should be applied to 50% or more of the site. Many interviewees did not feel able to give a particular percentage, but instead indicated a part of the site, such as the café/picnic areas (31 interviewees) or children’s play area (13 interviewees).

7.11 Question 24 addressed whether interviewees felt there should be a maximum number of dogs that an individual dog walker could walk and 66% of all visitor responses indicated ‘yes’ (Table 25). Visitor groups were then asked the maximum number of dogs they felt they would like to see established per visitor and 39% stated 3 and 37% stated 4 (Table 27).

**Table 27: Response of visitors when asked what the maximum number of dogs per visitor they would like to see established from those who gave a number or comment**

Maximum number of dogs per visitor interviewees would like to see established	Response total (as %)
2	33 (16)
3	82 (39)
4	77 (37)
5	16 (8)
Other	2 (<1)
<b>Total</b>	<b>210 (100)</b>

## 9. Discussion

### General Approach

- 9.1 The survey includes a total of 359 interviews, which represents an adequate sample size to consider the visitor origins and views of visitors. It is notable that 49 people were approached that had already been interviewed, indicating that a reasonably high proportion of regular local visitors had been interviewed.
- 9.2 The visitor survey involved survey work from a range of different months, covering included school holidays and periods outside school holidays and over the summer as well as late autumn. It therefore captures access patterns from a range of time periods. Survey effort was focussed at car-parks (though not entirely so), and so may have missed some direct use from local residents who – if on a bike or on foot and visiting from home – may not go through the main car-parks. Users such as cyclists and joggers – who may also avoid main car-parks and also travel past at speed are less likely to be interviewed than those who linger in the car-park. It may therefore be the case that the survey includes a slight bias towards dog walkers and car-borne visitors.

### Visitor intensity maps

- 9.3 It is disappointing the GPS units were not successful, and there may therefore be merit (at some point in the future) collecting some further data on routes in the period December – March, when leaves are less likely to cause problems with the GPS receivers picking up the satellite signal.
- 9.4 The maps provide an indication of where people went and the route data shows of how far people are travelling within the site, and what ‘area’ of the site is necessary to provide enough space for their activity. There are around 220ha of publicly accessible open space at Burnham Beeches. It is therefore interesting to note that the average area required for all the people interviewed was the equivalent of 12% of the area with public access. Looking at the data for dog walkers, 75% of dog walkers routes were 32.05ha or less, indicating that the majority of dog walks at Burnham Beeches require less than 15% of the site.
- 9.5 The maps of visitor intensity do clearly show the focus of use around the main car-park, visitor centre and café. The maps indicate that virtually no parts of the site are not visited – while the eye is drawn to the darker red, there is actually very little of the site in Maps 3 and 4, that is the darkest green indicating no access at all. There are a total of 953 grid cells shown in the spatial distribution maps – 204 cells (21%) had no routes crossing them, however most of these are cells around the very edge of the site (many cells only partly clip the boundary of the site) and therefore the actual proportion of the site with no footfall is very small.

### Visitor Rates and Development

- 9.6 We have estimated impacts of new development on visitor rates. These estimates are based on the assumption that visitor rates decline with distance from the SAC, and do not take into account other factors besides distance. We assume that people living at a

given distance from Burnham Beeches SAC in any direction are equally likely to visit the SAC. Other factors besides distance from the SAC may be important, for example the travel time or the presence of other green space sites nearby. Housing in different locations may be of a different type and this may have some impact on who lives there and what they do in their leisure time.

- 9.7 The visitor results presented here do not include data on total number of visitors. The survey was not designed to derive such data and so instead we use annual estimates from a different survey (Wheater & Cook 2012). These may of course be an underestimate given that they are based on data from 2010/11.
- 9.8 Our estimates of visitor rates are nonetheless broadly in line with national data. For example the latest results from national monitoring of access patterns suggests that adults living in South Bucks make, on average, 63 visits to the countryside per annum (TNS Research International 2013). Our estimate of visits per household to Burnham Beeches for people living within 500m is 76.6 person visits per household. Given that most households are larger than one person and that households will visit other sites besides those that are really local, 76.6 visits per household is not unreasonable.
- 9.9 We estimate the impacts of new development at a range of different locations. These estimates are for 100 houses, allowing direct comparison between locations. The percentage changes appear quite small, as Burnham Beeches is already a busy site and there is already a large population living locally who visit the site. Burnham Beeches is also a relatively small site, so relatively small increases in access are still likely to be discernable at the site (there are only the three main car-parks/access points). Table 23 is also deceptive in that we it does not consider the cumulative, in-combination impact of development occurring at many locations. Gradual change, involving new dwellings at multiple locations, will over time result in increases in access. The results suggest that, in particular, development within 5km is likely to result in changes in access levels. Within that 5km radius there is however a marked change with distance. A development of 100 dwellings at 5km would have the same impact (in terms of access to Burnham Beeches SAC) as 76.9 dwellings at 4km; as 35.7 dwellings at 3km; as 11 dwellings at 2km; as 2.7 dwellings at 1km from the SAC boundary and as 1.3 dwellings within 500m. In terms of spatial planning and impacts to Burnham Beeches SAC, these results would suggest that consideration needs to focus on all development in areas directly adjacent to the SAC, and that large developments within 5km are also of relevance.

### **Dog Walkers and Dog Control Orders**

- 9.10 One of the key aims of the survey was to gather information to underpin future consideration of approaches to the management of dogs at Burnham Beeches. Dog walkers accounted for a high proportion of the interviews (56%), and it is useful to consider this group separately and compare with other users.
- 9.11 Nearly all interviewed dog walking visitor groups were aware of the high nature conservation value of Burnham Beeches (paragraph 5.28 and Table 23). Interestingly no

interviewed dog walking visitor groups stated they were drawn to Burnham Beeches for its wildlife interest or the old trees, even though 94% of dog walking groups were aware of the high nature conservation value of the site (Table 30). The most frequently cited reason (50% of the responses) with the most influence as to why dog walking visitor groups made their visit to Burnham Beeches was because it was close to home (Table 30) and four additional responses cited that 'close to work' was the most influencing factor in making a visit to Burnham Beeches (Table 31). No specific reference was made to the presence of the trees or the autumn foliage (Table 31) from dog walking visitor groups. This isn't to say the area isn't valued by the interviewed dog walking groups, but it is interesting that neither the flora or fauna of Burnham Beeches was mentioned as a reason (or 'other' reason) which had the most influence over their choice to visit Burnham Beeches specifically, rather than another local site. In contrast, 7% of the responses from non-dog walking visitor groups specifically referenced either the veteran trees or the wildlife as reason why Burnham Beeches was visited over another local site (Table 32) and several of the 'other' reasons also referred to these features (Autumn foliage, look at veteran trees, nature photography) (Table 33) suggesting more of the non- dog walking visitors to the site appreciate and engage with nature conservation interest at Burnham Beeches and that these features are clearly a drawing some of these visitor groups.

- 9.12 It does seem that there is a clear distinction between what draws the different visitor groups to Burnham Beeches. The most popular responses from dog walking visitor groups which had the most influence over why they specifically chose to visit Burnham over another local site were the proximity to home, other reasons (of which none specifically link to wildlife features) and the ability to let the dog off the lead/good for dog (Table 30 and Table 31). Whereas equivalent responses from non- dog walking visitor groups were also close to home (but a lower proportions), 'other' (which included references to the wildlife interest of the site and the scenery (Table 32 and Table 33)).
- 9.13 The responses to the questions about introducing dog control orders indicated that most dog walkers were aware of potential impacts of their pets to other users, but it appeared few mentioned nature conservation impacts. For example most of the free text responses relating to picking up suggested that dog control orders (relating to picking) up should only be applied along paths, open areas etc., and not in the woods. Similarly the free text relating to dogs on leads seemed to suggest a focus for the café, picnic areas and areas with children, rather than areas important for their nature conservation interest.

## 10. References

Liley, D., Hoskin, R., Fearnley, H., White, J. & Underhill-Day, J. (2012) *Urban Development and Burnham Beeches SAC*. Footprint Ecology.

TNS Research International. (2013) *Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment: The National Survey on People and the Natural Environment. Annual Report from the 2012-13 Survey*. Natural England Commissioned Research Report, Natural England.

Wheater, C.P. & Cook, P.A. (2003) *Burnham Beeches Visitor Survey 2002/2003*. City of London.

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## Appendix 1: Survey Questionnaire

### Burnham Beeches Visitor Survey Questionnaire

Good am/pm. Please could you spare me a few minutes to take part in a short survey about your visit today. The survey is being conducted by the Corporation of London to understand how and why people visit this National Nature Reserve and inform future management of access at Burnham Beeches.

**1. Which of the following best describes your situation today?**

*Read list, tick only one.*

- On a day trip / short visit and travelled from home
- On a day trip / short visit and staying with friends or family
- On holiday in the area, staying away from home
- Other, please detail

*Further details:*

**2. What is the main activity you are undertaking today? Tick closest answer. Do not prompt. Single response only.**

- Dog walking
- Commercial dog walking
- Walking
- Jogging / Running
- Cycling
- Family outing
- Other, please detail

*Further details:*



**3. How long have you spent / will you spend in the area today? Do not prompt. Single response only.**

- Less than 30 minutes
- Between 30 minutes and 1 hour
- 1 - 2 hours
- 2 - 3 hours
- More than 3 hours

**4. How frequently do you tend to visit this Burnham Beeches? Tick closest answer. Do not prompt. Single response only.**

- Three or more times per week
- About twice a week
- About once a week
- About once per month
- Less than once per month
- Don't know / First visit
- Other, please detail

Further details:

**5. Do you tend to visit Burnham Beeches at a certain time of day? Tick closest answer. Do not prompt. Multiple responses ok.**

- Early morning (before 9am)
- Late morning (between 9am and 12)
- Early afternoon (between 12 and 2pm)
- Late afternoon (between 2 and 4pm)
- Evening (after 4pm)
- Varies / Don't know / First visit

**6. Do you tend to visit Burnham Beeches more at a particular time of year for [insert given activity]? Tick closest answer. Do not prompt. Multiple responses ok.**

- Spring (Mar - May)
- Summer (Jun - Aug)
- Autumn (Sept - Nov)
- Winter (Dec - Feb)
- Don't know / First visit
- Equally all year

**7. How did you get here today? What form of transport did you use? Tick closest answer. Do not prompt. Single response only.**

- Car / Van
- On foot
- Bicycle
- Other, please detail

Further details:

8. **Why did you choose to specifically visit Burnham Beeches today rather than another local site?** *Tick closest answer. Do not prompt. Multiple responses ok. Which would you say had the most influence on your choice of site to visit today?* *Tick closest answer. Do not prompt. Single response only.*

	<u>Reasons</u>	<u>Most influence</u>
Close to home	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Closest place to take the dog	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Good / easy / free parking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wildlife interest	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trees / old trees	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Habit / familiarity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cafe	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Scenery / variety of views	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ability to let dog off lead / good for dog	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nearest place to let dog safely off lead	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Large site	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rural feel	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Good location to meet friends / family	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Good for children	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Choice of routes / circular routes / length	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Suitability of area given weather	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Can walk from home / don't need car	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Feels safe	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other, please detail	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Now I would like to ask you about your route today. Looking at the area shown on the map, can you show me where you started your walk or visit today, the finish point and your route please. Probe to ensure route is accurately documented. Use **P** to indicate where the visitor parked, **E** to indicate start point and **X** to indicate the exit. Mark the route with a line; a solid line for actual route and a dotted line for expected or remaining route.

9. **Is / was your route today reflective of your usual route when you visit here for [insert given activity]?** *Tick closest answer. Do not prompt. Single response only.*
- Yes, normal
  - Much longer than normal
  - Much shorter than normal
  - Not sure / no typical visit

**10. What, if anything, influenced your choice of route here today?**

*Tick closest answer. Do not prompt. Multiple responses ok. Use free text box for additional influences and / or detail.*

- Weather
- Daylight
- Time available
- Other users
- Activity undertaken
- Shade
- Wanting to be near water
- Information / leaflets etc
- Previous knowledge / experience
- Group members (eg, kids / less able)
- Other, please detail

*Further details:*

**11. Aside from this location, do you visit any other places for similar purposes as you visited here today? If Yes, which 3 locations do you visit most often? Tick closest answer or enter names if not listed. Do not prompt. Multiple responses ok (up to 3).**

- Black Park
- Langley Park
- Clivedon
- Stoke Common
- Dorney Lake
- Littleworth Common
- River Thames / Jubilee River
- Colne Valley / Denham Country Park
- Other, please detail

*Other location (1)*

*Other location (2)*

*Other location (3)*

12. Are you currently a member of any of the following organisations? *Read list. Multiple ok.*

- The National Trust
- The RSPB
- The Woodland Trust
- A Wildlife Trust
- The Dogs Trust
- The Kennel Club

13. Were you aware that Burnham Beeches is of high nature conservation value? *Tick closest answer. Do not prompt. Single response only.*

- Yes
- No
- Not sure / other

Further details:

14. What is your full home postcode? *(this is the most important piece of information required from the survey, please make every effort to record correctly).*

*If visitor is unable or refuses to give postcode: What is the name of the nearest village / town?*

*If visitor is on holiday ask: Which village / town are you staying in?*

15. How many people in your party fall into the following age categories? *Enter the number of people per category.*

24 or under	<input type="text"/>
25 - 35	<input type="text"/>
36 - 45	<input type="text"/>
46 - 55	<input type="text"/>
56 - 65	<input type="text"/>
66+	<input type="text"/>

The City of London is reviewing how dogs should be managed at Burnham Beeches and various legal options such as dog control orders (which allow fines to be levied) are being considered. It is estimated that there are around 210,000 dog 'visits' per year at Burnham Beeches. The City of London would like your help with making these decisions. The rest of the questionnaire is therefore about the management of dogs at Burnham Beeches.

16. **Should dog owners be required to pick up and dispose of their dogs' waste correctly on parts of the site?** *Do not prompt. Single response only.*

- Yes
- No
- Don't know / Not sure

17. *If answer to Q16 is yes:* **Roughly, over what proportion of the site should this be applied?** *Tick closest answer. Do not prompt. Single response only.*

- All of the site
- None of the site
- Don't know / Not sure
- Part of the site, record response as a percentage

*Further details:*

18. **Should areas be designated where dogs must be put on a lead if requested and owners required to comply?** *Do not prompt. Single response only.*

- Yes
- No
- Don't know / Not sure

19. *If answer to Q18 is yes:* **Roughly, over what proportion of the site should this be applied?** *Tick closest answer. Do not prompt. Single response only.*

- All of the site
- None of the site
- Don't know / Not sure
- Part of the site, record response as a percentage

*Further details:*

20. **Should areas be designated where dogs must be kept on leads at all times and owners required to comply?** *Do not prompt. Single response only.*

- Yes
- No
- Don't know / Not sure

21. *If answer to Q20 is yes:* **Roughly, over what proportion of the site should this be applied?** *Tick closest answer. Do not prompt. Single response only.*

- All of the site
- None of the site
- Don't know / Not sure
- Part of the site, record response as a percentage

*Further details:*

22. **Should areas be designated at Burnham Beeches where dogs are not allowed at all?** *Do not prompt. Single response only.*

- Yes
- No
- Don't know / Not sure

23. *If answer to Q22 is yes:* **Roughly, over what proportion of the site should this be applied?** *Tick closest answer. Do not prompt. Single response only.*

- All of the site
- None of the site
- Don't know / Not sure
- Part of the site, record response as a percentage

*Further details:*

**24. Should there be a maximum number of dogs that an individual dog walker can walk?** *Do not prompt. Single response only.*

- Yes
- No
- Don't know / Not sure

**25. If answer to Q24 is yes: What maximum number of dogs per visitor would you like to see established?** *Do not prompt. Single response only.*

- Given number
- Don't know / Unsure

*Further details:*

**26. If answer to Q24 is yes: Roughly, over what proportion of the site should this be applied?** *Tick closest answer. Do not prompt. Single response only.*

- All of the site
- None of the site
- Don't know / Not sure
- Part of the site, record response as a percentage

*Further details:*

That is the end of the questionnaire. Many thanks for your time.

To be completed by the surveyor after the interview has finished

**27. Route mapped?**

- Yes
- No

**28. GPS used?**

- Yes
- No

*GPS unit number and start time*

29.

Surveyor initials	<input type="text"/>
Month (number)	<input type="text"/>
Day (number, including zero, not text)	<input type="text"/>
Hour (24hr, including zero, eg 09)	<input type="text"/>
Minute (number, including zero, eg 05)	<input type="text"/>
Survey location	<input type="text"/>
Gender of respondent	<input type="text"/>
Total number of people in interviewed group	<input type="text"/>
Total number of males	<input type="text"/>
Total number of females	<input type="text"/>
Number of dogs	<input type="text"/>
Number of dogs seen off lead	<input type="text"/>

30. **Surveyor Comments.** *Please use this space for any comments about this specific questionnaire, for example any issues, or changes that need to be made to the answers manually.*



## Appendix 2: Selection of summary tables for dog walkers and comparison of interview responses from dog walkers compared to all other groups

Table 28: Situation of interviewed visitor groups who stated their main activity was dog walking

Visit situation	Response total (as %)
On a day trip / short visit and travelled from home	194 (96)
On a day trip / short visit and staying with friends or family	4 (2)
On holiday in the area, staying away from home	4 (2)
<b>Total</b>	<b>202 (100)</b>

Table 29: The mode of transport used to reach Burnham Beeches by interviewed visitor groups who stated they were dog walking.

Transport mode	Response total (as %)
Car / Van	177 (88)
On foot	25 (12)
<b>Total</b>	<b>202 (100)</b>

Table 30: Reason with the most influence that dog walking visitor groups cited as to why they specifically made a visit to Burnham Beeches

Visit reason cited by dog walkers which had the most influence over why specifically they chose to visit Burnham Beeches	Response total (as %)
Close to home	97 (50)
Other, please detail	28 (14)
Ability to let dog off lead / good for dog	19 (10)
Habit / familiarity	12 (6)
Scenery / variety of views	12 (6)
Nearest place to let dog safely off lead	5 (3)
Large site	4 (2)
Choice of routes / circular routes / length	4 (2)
Feels safe	4 (2)
Suitability of area given weather	3 (2)
Closest place to take the dog	2 (1)
Good / easy / free parking	2 (1)
Cafe	2 (1)
Good for children	1 (1)
Wildlife interest	0 (0)
Trees / old trees	0 (0)
Good location to meet friends / family	0 (0)
Rural feel	0 (0)
Can walk from home / don't need car	0 (0)
<b>Total</b>	<b>195 (100)</b>

Table 31: Other cited reasons which had the most influence over the interviewed dog walking groups choice to visit Burnham Beeches

Other reasons given by interviewed dog walking groups as to the reason which had the most influence over why they specifically chose to visit	Number of responses (as %)
---	----------------------------

## Burnham Beeches Visitor Survey

Burnham Beeches	
Close to work	4
Lovely area/love coming here	2
Woods well managed, better quality of people and dogs	1
Visiting locally, good for dog walking	1
Free of traffic	1
Made friends with other dog walkers	1
Relaxing Cafe	1
Convenience, close to pub	1
Loves it, more dogs	1
Poo bags	1
Habit	1
Convenient	1
Another site was closed	1
Visited garden centre nearby	1
Varying visits to different sites	1
Looking at site	1
On way home from school run	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>21</b>

**Table 32: Reason with the most influence as to why non dog walking visitor groups chose specifically to make a visit to Burnham Beeches**

Visit reason cited by groups who were not dog walking which had the most influence over why specifically they visited Burnham Beeches	Response total (as %)
Close to home	47 (33)
Other, please detail	41 (29)
Scenery / variety of views	13 (9)
Good for children	10 (7)
Wildlife interest	6 (4)
Habit / familiarity	5 (3)
Good location to meet friends / family	5 (3)
Suitability of area given weather	5 (3)
Trees / old trees	4 (3)
Large site	3 (2)
Choice of routes / circular routes / length	2 (1)
Cafe	1 (1)
Feels safe	1 (1)
Closest place to take the dog	0 (0)
Good / easy / free parking	0 (0)
Ability to let dog off lead / good for dog	0 (0)
Nearest place to let dog safely off lead	0 (0)
Rural feel	0 (0)
Can walk from home / don't need car	0 (0)
<b>Total</b>	<b>143 (100)</b>

**Table 33: Other cited reasons which had the most influence over the interviewed non dog walking groups choice to visit Burnham Beeches**

Other reasons given by interviewed non dog walking groups as to the reason which had the most influence over why they specifically chose to visit Burnham Beeches	Number of responses (as %)
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## Burnham Beeches Visitor Survey

Autumn foliage	9
For a change	2
Recommendation, joined nature photographic group	2
Someone else chose to visit	3
Picked up a leaflet	1
To look at veteran trees	1
Adventure trip, nature	1
Free parking	1
Husband came as a child	1
Hadn't been here for time	1
Wonderful site	1
Good surfaces and routes for cyclists	1
Heard of the site, visited whilst in the area	1
Still quiet and peaceful	1
In the area	1
Very peaceful, also came to pray	1
On tv last night	1
Found in book	1
Heard of it but never visited before	1
Good surfaces for exercising	1
Convenience	1
Recommended by friends as a lovely place to walk	1
Looking for picnic area	1
Haven't been for a while	1
Spur of moment	1
Nearest to friends house	1
En route attracted by name. On way to Heathrow after holiday in Cotswolds.	1
Car free	1
Cafe and walk with wife	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>41</b>

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# **Dog Control Orders**

## **Members Working Group 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2014**

### **Officer response to comments provided by the Kennel Club 9<sup>th</sup> January 2014.**

#### **Introduction**

The Dog Control Working Group met on the 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2014 to consider the Kennel Club's response to the Superintendent of Burnham Beeches and City Commons report to the Epping Forest and Commons Committee on January 9<sup>th</sup> 2014.

As preparation for that meeting the Superintendent of Burnham Beeches provided working group members with a response to the points raised by the Kennel Club. The following report is the product of that meeting and is supported by 3 of the 4 working group members. It deals in turn with each matter raised and provides useful background information to assist members in their deliberations.

#### **Superintendents Background notes**

For the last two decades the principle aim of the site management plan has been to protect Burnham Beeches from the growing impact of urbanisation at its fringes. Major steps along that path have included the closure of private roads to traffic, the introduction of conservation grazing to enhance biodiversity, control of mountain biking activities, introduction of the 'honey pot' access policy and partnership work with planning and transport authorities to ameliorate the impact of population growth.

In many ways the growth in dog walking on the site is the most obvious sign of this challenge with the site being increasingly used as an urban green space rather than a truly rural open space that is also an internationally recognised and protected conservation area. Improved control over poor dog behaviour is perhaps the last obvious step along the path to protecting the site for future generations of people and wildlife to enjoy.

The explicit purpose of introducing controls at Burnham Beeches is to help reduce some of the many conflicts apparent at Burnham Beeches, on a daily basis. Data on such issues and other helpful documents were provided prior to the working group meeting.

The Superintendent's proposal is seeking to introduce an appropriate balance between those who walk dogs and those who wish to enjoy the nature reserve for other reasons. Officers are proposing to provide 220 acres of ancient woodland and grassland for dogs to run free and maintain their health and fitness. Site visitors with dogs will have access to the remainder of the site but here they will be required to simply put their pets on a lead. This approach ensures that:

- The City continues to meet its obligations under the City of London's Open Spaces Act of 1878.
- Visitors and their dogs can continue to use 100% of the site for exercise and benefit from the sense of wellbeing associated with being in a natural environment.
- Visitors (i.e. non dog walkers) will gain benefit from dogs being on leads in clearly understood and enforceable parts of the site.
- Wildlife making use of the proportion of the site where dogs must be kept on leads at all times will benefit from dogs being restrained in that part of the Nature Reserve.

Furthermore, the local population is set to increase over the next 15 years by 15.7% in the South Bucks District. Major infrastructure projects in the locality will also serve to further increase this estimate. The impact of Crossrail on the central London areas it serves has been much examined, but at the outer edges of the line there are towns and villages which will 'benefit' by proximity. Research by Savills indicates that for each minute saved on a journey to work, the value of a property rises by £1,937. This will further encourage development in the Maidenhead and Burnham Area. The expansion of Heathrow and recent consideration of the area around Gerrard's Cross and Stoke Poges for the development of a new town are also important when considering the long term welfare of Burnham Beeches.

**The KC's comments are now dealt with in turn:**

**1. We thank the Committee for the opportunity for our views to be heard; we are very willing to elaborate on the following and attend any future meetings. For now, we trust the following summary comments clarify both our support and concerns regarding the proposed Dog Control Orders at Burnham Beeches. The Kennel Club will support restrictions where they are evidence-based, proportionate and consistently and credibly applied. While some aspects of the proposal meet this standard, some aspects do not.**

### **Response**

**1.1.** The desire to have evidence is understandable and this was the initial *modus operandi* with the Kennel Club. However, after several weeks of discussion it was concluded that robust scientific evidence to guide our approach to DCO's on a sensitive site of high conservation value (in terms of impacts on dog walking on either wildlife, habitats or other site users) is nationally scant at best. That which does exist is generally specific to particular habitats and/or wildlife not found at Burnham Beeches. This means that scientific evidence to support either view on this particular site cannot be reliably used. It is for this reason that Natural England (NE) has had difficulty in developing a scientific argument to support your Officers views.

**1.2** Over the last 9 months the Superintendent has suggested to the KC and NE that there is an opportunity to develop their thoughts on the matter i.e. to carefully consider how and when a more prescriptive control of dogs could be justified on sensitive nature conservation sites. Neither organisation has acknowledged this opportunity.

**1.3** Understandably the KC's views are mainly concerned with a single issue i.e. the availability of a local open space amenity to enable dog walkers to exercise their pet(s) 'off lead'. To their credit they acknowledge that there should be some level of control employed and that dogs on leads may be appropriate under certain circumstances. Again understandably, the threshold for those circumstances reflects the narrow focus of their business. The City is obliged to take a broader view and reflect the needs of a much wider audience. It must ensure a balanced approach that, as far as is reasonably practicable, takes into consideration:

- Its detailed knowledge of the site
- The needs of all its visitors and their sensitivities and expectations
- The way in which people access and move/spread through the site
- Its duties under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act of 2005 to enhance biodiversity and the obligation to provide access to visitors under the Open Spaces Act, 1878.

**Schedule 1: Picking up fouling across the whole site**

**2. We support this proposal to aid national consistency about picking up in rural areas, and to reduce problems caused to a wide range of interests when dog faeces are not picked up, or left behind in bags.**

**Response**

**2.1.** This matches the approach advocated by your Officers and is supported by the Burnham Beeches Consultation Group.

**Schedule 2: Dogs on lead all year round across 59% of the site.**

**3. We oppose this proposal in the strongest possible terms, for reasons including:**

**The proposal is more extensive and restrictive than any Dog Control Order, national law or local bylaw, that we have seen anywhere else in the UK, including on sites with much higher levels of nature conservation designation than Burnham Beeches.**

**Response**

**3.1** The proposed Schedule 2 area is designed to further enhance opportunities for enjoyment, relaxation and appreciation of nature and the special environment that the Beeches provides. This is particularly important for those visitors who wish to avoid interactions with dogs as far as is possible, given the limits that high dog visitor activity on the site brings. It is also designed to provide an area for biodiversity, in all its forms or degree of abundance or scarcity, to cope with these same high levels of dog related access.

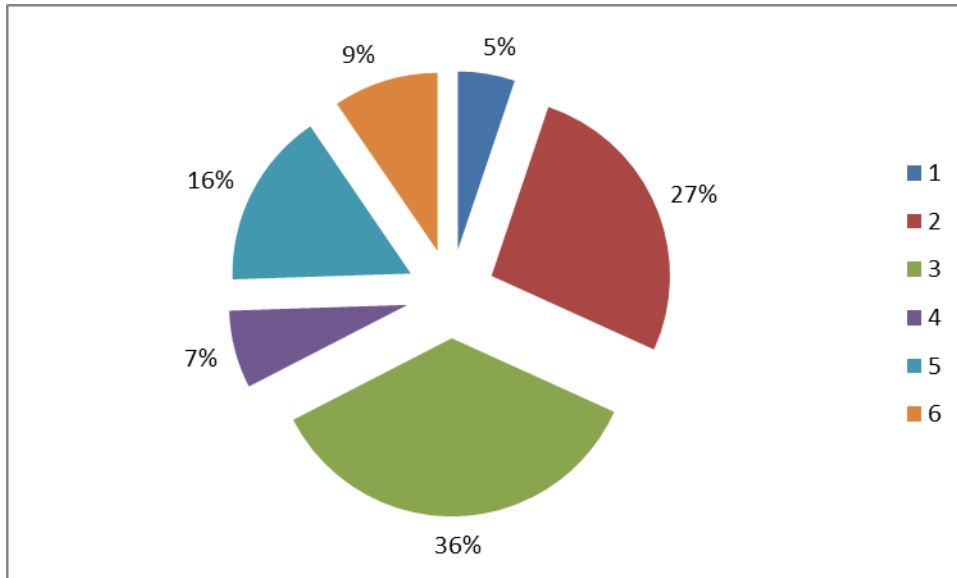
**3.2** Dogs chasing wildlife either inadvertently or deliberately, is an all too common sight at BB, as too are complaints about unwanted interactions with other visitors. These incidents form part of the monthly ‘incident recording process with records stretching back to the early 1990’s. These records rely on incidents being reported to the Rangers or being directly witnessed by them and this greatly reduces their accuracy in terms of the total number of incidents per annum. As an example; over the last 3 years the number of recorded dog related incidents has averaged over 200 per annum. However, if just 1% of all dogs were allowed to behave poorly on the site then the true number of incidents would be expected to be in the region of 2,000 per annum. Based on the 2003 site survey 20% visitors have reported having had the quality of their visit reduced by witnessing or experiencing unwanted interactions with dogs. This indicates that at around 20% of dog walkers have inadequate levels of control over their pets. As such a more accurate representation of the number of incidents at the Beeches is in the region of 10,000 per annum. The number would increase dramatically again if there was an accurate mechanism to report disturbance to wildlife. The following tables provide data concerning reported dog incidents for the period 2009 – 2014. It should be noted that the 2013/14 figures represent a 9 month period.

**Table 1. Total number of incidents – by type**

	<b>1)</b>	<b>2)</b>	<b>3)</b>	<b>4)</b>	<b>5)</b>	<b>6)</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>2009 10</b>	9	33	50	6	13	21	<b>132</b>
<b>2010 11</b>	11	81	88	17	28	29	<b>254</b>
<b>2011 12</b>	8	57	70	14	26	22	<b>197</b>
<b>2012 13</b>	15	56	78	18	72	13	<b>252</b>
<b>2013 14</b>	9	41	73	16	22	11	<b>172</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>359</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>1007</b>

**Table 2. Percentage – by type**

<b>Incident by Type - all periods</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>1) Dogs reported missing</b>	<b>5.2</b>
<b>2) Dogs running loose with no owner in sight</b>	<b>26.6</b>
<b>3) Owners who do not have dogs under effective control</b>	<b>35.7</b>
<b>4) Dogs running up to other visitors who unhappy with the approach</b>	<b>7.1</b>
<b>5) Fouling and not picking up</b>	<b>16.0</b>
<b>6) Dogs without collars and tags</b>	<b>9.5</b>



**3.3** As has been repeatedly stated, there are no other sites in the UK with higher levels of nature conservation status than Burnham Beeches. Burnham Beeches is unusual in that it not only is of extremely high conservation value but is thought to be the most highly visited Special Area of Conservation (SAC) in the country.

**Visitors per hectare per day (in ranked order)**

1. Burnham Beeches 8.01
2. Richmond Park 6.3
3. Sherwood Forest 5.3
4. Windsor Great Park 3.4
5. The New Forest National Park 1.2

**Number of houses per hectare within 5km of its boundary (in ranked order).**

1. Wimbledon Common 500 houses per ha
2. Richmond Park 350 houses per ha
3. Burnham Beeches 260 houses per ha
4. Epping Forest 225 houses per ha
8. Cannock Chase 50 houses per ha
10. Windsor great Park 45 houses per ha

This high level of visitor pressure makes Burnham Beeches very unusual and thus, the balance more difficult to achieve. The issue of seasonal use of DCO's was also carefully considered at Burnham Beeches. Seasonality is a useful tool when reducing the impact of dogs on, for example, breeding birds. However, this is not the case at Burnham Beeches where the impacts of irresponsible dog walking upon other site users and wildlife are spread across the calendar.



**3.4** There are many UK sites where dogs are banned such as beaches, children's play areas and grazed areas. The RSPB has many sites where dogs are banned. Queen Elizabeth's Country Park (Hampshire) has a substantial 'dogs on leads at all times' area in operation throughout the year and substantially larger area of 'dogs on leads at all times' when grazing occurs. See also 12.3.

**3.5** The Scottish Wildlife Trust recognises the issue and has published the following statement in its Dogs and Wildlife policy document:

*SWT believes that the current Scottish Outdoor Access Code is weak with respect to dogs and wildlife and urges Scottish Natural Heritage and Scottish Ministers to undertake a review of the Code at an early date to allow conservation bodies such as the Scottish Wildlife Trust to require that dogs should be on a lead (rather than under "close control") in certain areas or at certain times of the year and to allow for the exclusion of dogs from particularly sensitive areas'.*

The same can be said of the Countryside Code that applies to England and of Natural England's 'You and your Dog in the countryside' booklet both of which simply advocate 'best practice'.

**3.6** NE do not have a policy on the issue of dog walking and impact on wildlife and this is an area of work that is urgently needed.

**4. From research jointly-funded by Natural England, off-lead access close to home and away from traffic, is by far the most important amenity for most dog owners, who make up a very significant proportion of your visitors. These are mainly dog walkers. The recent Burnham Beeches visitor survey also endorses this fact. And yet this proposal seeks to deny this amenity – which has been enjoyed for many decades - over almost 60% of the Beeches.**

## **Response**

**4.1** We are not proposing to deny amenity, simply asking for dogs to be kept on leads across an agreed proportion of the site. Whilst we must always remain aware that dog walkers make up a significant proportion of all visits they are not the majority of those using the site, simply the most evident due to the extremely regular nature and frequency of their visits.

**4.2** Detailed visitor counts over the last 10 years indicate that dog walkers make up around 35% – 44% of all visits at BB. '**Visits**' is the important word here as dog walkers tend to be regular visitors and in real terms make up a smaller % of total number of annual visitors than they do of actual visits.

**4.3** As an example. Out of 100 people visiting the site each day for a week we could have 35 dog walkers, who visit us every day each week, and 65 people each day who only visit once a year. At the end of the week we have had 700 visits 35% of which have been by dog walkers. However, if you look at individual visitors we have had 35 dog walkers and (7x65) 455 'others' so in terms of total number of visitors, dog walkers make up a much smaller percentage; just 7.69 % in this very simplistic example.

**4.4** Officers also understand that dog walkers may prefer to exercise their pets 'off lead'. The recent consultation survey was carefully designed to indicate the size of area required by a typical, regular dog walker to the Beeches. The results show that for 75% of dog walkers an area of 32ha was sufficient. The area proposed where dogs can be exercised off lead (Schedule 3) is 90ha and thereby provides almost 3 times that requirement. Importantly, this allows dog walkers the choice of remaining within the Schedule 3 area for the totality of their visit or to cross into the Schedule 2 (dogs on leads at all times) area.

Either way the Superintendent's proposal more than meets the basic dog walking amenity requirements of the majority of dog walkers. The use of the private roads as clear boundaries between Schedules 2 and 3 should help to ensure that leads are used at the appropriate time.

**5. The proposal, and the related visitor survey, has perpetuated what we submit to be a false premise, namely that a crude percentage-based approach to restrictions is a valid way to approach the issue.**

### **Response**

**5.1** As Officers are dealing with a specific area of land it is very difficult to view the final result in anything other than percentage terms be it crude or otherwise.

**5.2** Having accepted that there was little scientific research available to support either view Officers set about obtaining a useful dataset via public consultation and by considering the larger management issues with the BBCG and EFCC.

**5.3** An early consultation event with the BBCG dealt with the matter as an individual 'pen and map' based exercise i.e. an opportunity for each member to draw their own preferred option. This served only to demonstrate that each member had their own specific views on the best solution based on their personal expectations and visiting habits. Individual opinion was both complex and polarised.

**5.4** Officers took lessons from this early experience and developed the final (and recently concluded) public consultation exercise as a 'broad percentage of the site' based exercise. This had the advantage of helping to disengage 'place from concept'. As such the recent public consultation exercise was an innovative and largely helpful attempt to provide some clarity (percentages) to the issues and has provided a sensible starting point for discussion and decision.

**5.5** It is unrealistic to expect that the survey would provide a definitive solution and an element of 'interpretation of results' was inevitable as too were any differences of opinion that would arise. In the final analysis Officers worked hard to consider the bigger picture and used the data available to help form the current proposals.

**5.6** Visitor access at Burnham Beeches is carefully influenced by the 'honey pot' strategy introduced in 2007. This approach has the benefit of concentrating visitors onto those parts of the site that are most capable of withstanding the pressure. This approach helps to protect the most sensitive features, particularly the majority of ancient beech woodland. The honey pot strategy has been achieved by focussing infrastructure such as major car parks, highway signage, café toilets and information point, easy access paths and cycleways in a central area. This maintains availability of the site to visitors but ensures that they have to make a small effort to reach certain parts i.e. walk, jog, cycle etc. The introduction of DCOs should remain sensitive to the needs of this larger strategy. The circular easy access paths are central to this principle and every effort should be made to ensure that these routes stay within the Schedule 3 Area i.e. 'Dogs on leads when requested'.

**5.7** Additionally, there is a statutory requirement to ensure that the DCO's can be easily understood and followed by dog walkers, other visitors and staff in their enforcement role. As large parts of Burnham Beeches consist of dense woodland with few easily recognised features (particularly for those who are new to the site or visit infrequently) it is in everyone's interests to ensure that any boundaries between parts of the site with different DCO's are easily seen, understood and remembered.

**5.8** Add to this the need to accommodate the differing expectations of a wide range of site users and the requirement to enhance biodiversity and it can be seen that Officers have taken a more nuanced approach than is recognised by the Kennel Club.

**It is timely to consider the wider enforcement issues and the impact upon staff resources and visitors.**

**5.9** Officers have considered the impact of DCO's upon staff resources. Based on experience gained when car park charges were introduced it is expected that the enforcement of DCO's will form a focus of Ranger Patrol work according to existing rotas for the first 3-6 months. Thereafter the focus will be relaxed. In the longer term it is hoped that DCO's will encourage a change in dog walking culture at the site so that irresponsible behaviour is seen as an exceptional occurrence. Eventually the issue of dog walking, as with mountain bike riding in the past, will become less of a focus.

**5.10** It is also important to stress that staff will not adopt a constabulary style approach to enforcement rather they will continue to patrol as rangers using their training and experience in this area to ensure that DCO's are discussed and enforced openly, fairly and proportionally. They will work to agreed and understood guidelines that will also be available to site visitors. In this manner visitors are more likely to view DCO's as a benefit to the site its users and wildlife, than an annoyance. This approach ensured that Car Park Charges were introduced on the site in 2012 without major incident or complaint.

**6. Focussing any restrictions on specific issues, features and sensitivities is a far more valid and credible way forward, which is why it is used elsewhere throughout UK.**

**Response**

**6.1** That is what Officers and BBCG members have done. See section 5

**7. The proposed off-lead area includes land where cattle are or – as we understand will be grazed, at a time when great efforts are being made nationally to have dogs on lead around livestock, to reduce the human fatalities that happen each year from dog walkers being trampled by cows. We suggest the Committee needs to consider its moral responsibilities and legal liabilities, if a potentially fatal incident occurs when they have concentrated off-lead access in a grazed area.**

**Response**

**7.1** National mortality figures for the UK indicate the following annual statistics:

- Around three members of the public are killed by livestock
- Around three people each year are killed by dogs
- Around 7 people die from bee and wasp stings

**7.2** The Kennel Club is perhaps unaware of the City's management experience when dealing with such matters. Officers have carefully considered these issues and have appropriate Risk Assessments, Safe Systems of Work and information provision for the public. This is based on over 20 years of conservation grazing at the site (amongst the first to introduce this type of management in the UK). If we were to use the 'grazed area' rule of thumb for Schedule 2, then it would apply to up to 95% of the site by 2015, something we consider to be disproportionate. The risk of adopting this approach has been previously discussed with the KC.

**8. We suggest the Committee similarly needs to consider its liabilities, as this proposal will also mean more off-lead access is taken nearer to unfenced public**

**roads, with thus an increased danger of injuries for all road users if a dog-related accident occurs.**

## **Response**

**8.1** From local knowledge and experience, officers do not consider that the proposals will lead to more off lead access nearer to unfenced public roads. The site is roughly circular with public roads defining its boundaries. To avoid proximity to roads may restrict dog walkers more than the existing proposals i.e. to a central portion of the site. The KC's suggestion could also be used to justify 'dogs on leads at all times' for their own safety.

**8.2** The City has no obligation to provide fenced areas for dogs. The responsibility for accidents remains with the dog owner and the car driver not the owner of the land.

**9. If walkers with dogs come to the Beeches in the same numbers after this DCO is imposed, it will concentrate existing alleged problems from off-lead access into 41% of the site that is also the busiest areas for visitors.**

**9.1** There is no evidence to suggest that dog walkers will behave as the Kennel Club have suggested. Based on experience of managing the site it is the Officers' view that many dog walkers will continue in their habits and use the larger site as before. Should some dog walkers prefer to stay within the Schedule 3 Area where their pets may be exercised 'off lead' then point 4.4 provides evidence to suggest that they may do so without loss of amenity.

**9.2** The problems experienced at BB are not 'alleged' they are an everyday experience for staff and visitors alike. Officers have previously provided the KC with data concerning dog related problems at the site. See section 3.2.

**9.3** The Superintendent's proposal neatly splits the areas of highest visitor activity between Schedules 2 and 3 zones. Visitors will simply migrate across the border as and when they wish. The Main Common will continue to be used as the starting point for the large majority of visitors and dog walkers will continue to spread out across the site without the need for their pets to be on a lead.

**10. While the justification given to us for this restriction is to protect wildlife, the Government's nature conservation agency, Natural England (NE) explicitly does not support this proposal.**

## **Response**

**10.1** The Superintendent has ensured that Natural England (NE) is aware of the complexity, extent and nature of the issues at Burnham Beeches. NE do not have a policy covering the impact of dog walking and wildlife on Sites of Scientific Interest (SSSI), nor is it felt that there is currently sufficient evidence to support such a policy. This 'evidence gap' remains a fundamental issue for the owners and managers of SSSI's and it may be many years before research is sufficient for NE's needs.

On that basis, NE have made the following comments with regard to the introduction of DCO's at Burnham Beeches:

*Based on the information supplied, Natural England cannot find sufficient evidence to support dog control orders being necessary to protect the features for which the SSSI is designated. However, NE recognises that the City has consulted widely on the matter of DCO's at Burnham Beeches and that this*

*information has been used to inform the final recommendation (Option/Map A).*

**10.2** As the Government's advisor NE has to take great care not to create precedent in the absence of research and policy. Under these circumstances it is understandable that NE has adopted this position. This is clearly not the same as denying that problems exist at Burnham Beeches, nor does it argue against Officer experience or, the need to properly manage the issues. It simply reflects the gaps in research that must be filled, before NE can form a considered policy that can be applied across England as a whole.

**10.3** A brief search of NE's website reveals NNR's owned and managed by them where dogs must be kept on leads at all times. Clearly the formal comment provided by NE to the KC and COL concerning Burnham Beeches NNR is inconsistent with its own practice.

**11. Given that NE supports restrictions on dogs for wildlife protection on their own and other land, we submit that this Committee must give great weight to its decision not to support this proposal.**

### **Response**

**11.1** This would appear to be a reference to dog restrictions under law such as on grouse moors, certain types of grazed areas (sheep etc) certain coastal paths and in some circumstance, CROW land. Clearly these situations are not pertinent at Burnham Beeches. NE does not have a general policy on wildlife and dogs and this remains a weakness.

**12. Officers at Burnham have used the site's wildlife designation to justify this restriction. However, unlike many other sites, the Beeches are not designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) area under the EU Birds Directive, which would be the case if the site was important for rare ground nesting birds; the site is primarily designated for its ancient trees, which we do not believe are threatened by off-lead dogs.**

### **Response**

**12.1** Burnham Beeches is a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and this designation provides the same level of protection as an SPA. The difference is that in the UK SPA's generally relate to sites important for birdlife whilst, SAC's are specific to rare or sensitive habitats. The EU law that governs both is closely entwined.

**12.2** Burnham Beeches is not designated as either an SSSI or SAC for its ancient trees, its designation is for Beech woodland, including specific types of understory and epiphytes. Research carried out by the City of London at both Epping Forest and Burnham Beeches indicates that the general health of the City's beech woodland is already in decline due to a number of factors including visitor pressure and a decline in air, water and soil quality. Many of these issues are linked and it is here that the knowledge gaps and research needs exist.

**12.3** Burnham Beeches is also a National Nature Reserve (NNR) and it is of note that many other owners/managers including the RSPB, Wildlife Trust, County Wildlife sites and Natural England ban dogs from their reserves or require dogs to be on a lead at all times

**12.4** However, because of the current difficulty of disentangling these matters and in showing the precise impact of dog walking on the health of our beech trees (it is reasonable to assume that there must be some in the form of increased soil compaction and the introduction of nutrients from dog waste), we have had to consider the proposals with a wider remit i.e. that of 'quality of visitor experience and biodiversity in general'.

**13. Even on sites that are designated as SPAs, restrictions are timed to coincide with the nesting season, and not year-round as proposed here. We can and do support such targeted, proportionate restrictions elsewhere.**

#### **Response**

**13.1** This is not relevant at Burnham Beeches. Here we are dealing with a high number of visits (currently 585,000 visits per annum) and uncommonly large numbers of dogs (220,000 dog visits per annum). The problems exist all year round and control measures must reflect this.

**14. Burnham Beeches staff have stated that the amount of dog urine is a problem, and a reason to impose such restrictions. If that was true, this proposal would concentrate existing levels of urine deposition into 41% of the site.**

#### **Response**

**14.1** Based on observation and management experience of the issues visitors are unlikely to restrict their access across the site in this manner. As such the suggested outcome is unlikely and no evidence has been provided to support this view.

**15. If actively enforced, this proposal is also likely to displace off-lead access onto other land in the vicinity, in both private and public ownership. It is also likely to mean people will use their cars more to get to such places on a daily basis. These environmental consequences have not, to our knowledge, been discussed with partners, the people likely to be affected.**

#### **Response**

**15.1** Visits to Open Spaces are highly price sensitive and Burnham Beeches offers good value in this respect. As a consequence the site has, for many years suffered from the impact of displacement from other sites i.e. the reverse of the KC's comment. Many dog walkers come to the site simply because car parking is free or cheaper than at other nearby open spaces. The DCO's will give dog owners a further matter to consider when planning their walks. Experience suggests that Burnham Beeches provides a high quality experience that cannot be replicated locally elsewhere and visitors will gravitate towards the site in the longer term as long as economic and enforcement issues are dealt with fairly. Neighbouring open space managers are aware of the issues.

**16. Reductions in income from car parking and the café due to dog walkers going elsewhere is also likely, affecting income for site management. We feel it a missed opportunity that the recent visitor survey did not investigate the likelihood and impact of such displacement effects to give us better data on this.**

#### **Response**

**16.1** Experience shows that there is unlikely to be a negative impact. The projected rate of population growth over the next 15 years and beyond means that visitor numbers will continue to grow irrespective of DCO's, car park charges etc. Officers are regularly made aware by members of the public that some visitors refuse to come to the Beeches because of the number of dogs present. The return of these visitors may also have an impact on income. Experience with car park charges, road closures etc have shown that an issue is often overstated by those who are against the proposal. Visitor numbers continue to increase. In 2007 the total number of visitors was estimated at 555,000 per annum. This figure had increased to 585,000 visits in 2012 with a consequent and demonstrable increase in income.

**17. The proposal has unduly dismissed more needs-based, least-restrictive approaches to restrictions widely used elsewhere in the UK, by bodies including local councils, Wildlife Trusts and Natural England. These include targeting sensitive areas, restricting off-lead access by time of year or day; having off-lead access in areas where livestock are not grazing.**

#### **Response**

**17.1** There are also many examples to contradict this view. Officers have considered these issues (referenced in earlier comments) and it can be reasonably argued that they would not help resolve the issues at Burnham Beeches. As an example the option to use Schedule 2 to ensure dogs are on leads at all times in grazed areas was dismissed by Officers at an early juncture as it would have meant that this would apply to 95% of the site. Members should strive to avoid complexity if officers are to reasonably enforce DCO's. See also comments in 12.3

**18. The recent visitor survey missed a great opportunity to identify the best approach by only exploring a year-round by proportion of site of land option.**

#### **Response**

**18.1** The KC was given an opportunity to comment on the survey at the design stage and did not raise this as an issue. Officers considered many enforcement models and survey methodologies and the circumstances that apply at Burnham Beeches dictated the adopted approach. The survey was independently designed and delivered by a consultancy that is recognised as an authority on access and recreation issues on sensitive sites.

#### **Schedule 3: Dogs on lead by direction**

**19. We support the principle of having such powers, as out of control dogs can cause problems for other visitors with and without dogs. Targeting restrictions at the people causing problems, as Schedule 3 can do, is the fairest way to do this.**

#### **Response**

**19.1** This does not solve the very common problem of dog walkers not concentrating on their animals and being unaware or unconcerned by their interactions with other site visitors or, wildlife. In practice, a significant number of dog walkers do not behave in a reasonable manner (surveys suggest 1:5) nor do they have effective control of their pets for sufficient time during their visits to Burnham Beeches.

**19.2** The Rangers team can only cover part of the site at any given time and some dog walkers would continue to take advantage of this; thus the improvements we are seeking would not be achieved. This is a particular problem in the more wooded areas of the site, where dogs need only be a few metres from the owner before they are out of sight. This is why the proposed Schedule 3 area includes the less wooded areas i.e. where poor behaviour can be most easily seen and tackled by the site's Rangers.

**20. However, as there seems to be no defined policy stating when and how this option is to be used, neither the Committee nor ourselves, can know what it means in practice. Until such a policy is defined in writing, we cannot support this proposal, as it has potential to be applied inconsistently and unfairly.**

#### **Response**

**20.1** We have previously informed the KC and its consultant that the guidance already exists i.e. the Burnham Beeches Dog Code. This is a 'voluntary' code which was drawn up in consultation with our dog walking community about 10 years ago. There will be no

change for visitors in this respect, as the voluntary agreement will simply become mandatory via Schedule 3. A little like the experience with voluntary car park charges at Burnham Beeches only a few visitors act positively in support of a voluntary principle. The introduction of DCO's will allow Officers to 'manage' those that have consistently chosen, are unable or otherwise need to be encouraged, to abide by the code.

**20.2** This matter has been made clear to the public via our newsletters and "What's New" articles as well as when queried on site. The Superintendent has previously met with the KC's consultant at Burnham Beeches, to demonstrate how the Dog Walking Code works in practice on the site.

**20.3** The Kennel Club's consultant visited Burnham Beeches in 2010 as preparation for the Concordat. It was explained that despite following theoretical best practice and use of the Dog Code for 6 years it was difficult not to conclude that the problems at Burnham Beeches had grown worse despite an extremely proactive marketing campaign. Herein rests the fundamental difference of opinion between the KC and Officers at Burnham Beeches. The former remains convinced by the effectiveness of voluntary 'best practice' approach and the latter that there is now clear evidence that this type of approach is ineffective in the longer term on sites such as Burnham Beeches.

#### **Schedule 4: No dogs area**

**21. While there is no legal or health and safety requirement to exclude dogs from where food is being consumed, we recognise and support choice being given to people who, for social or cultural reasons, like to eat in dog-free areas.**

**While the scale of the proposal plan supplied makes it hard to be certain, if Schedule 4 is just proposing to formalise the no dogs area that already informally covers part of the café seating area, we are willing to support this. However, we do not know of any other indoor or outdoor café that has needed to impose a Dog Control Order to provide a dog-free area; normally good management by staff will readily deal with this.**

#### **Response**

**21.1** The proposal is to introduce Schedule 4, only in the immediate area around the café that currently controls the presence of dogs in this manner, albeit voluntarily. The move to introduce this DCO in that particular area rather than continue to rely on the voluntary position is to better control those visitors who wilfully and repeatedly bring their pets into that area.

**21.2** Whilst the number of reported incidents of this type are low, perhaps as few as 6 per annum, it is frequent enough to have an impact on staff resources, leads to extremely difficult discussions with the visitors concerned and, as it is a voluntary agreement, can and does lead to an unhelpful standoff that encourages likeminded visitors to behave in a similar manner. This proposal is also supported by the BBCG.

#### **Schedule 5: Maximum number of dogs**

**22. We believe that taking action against those dog owners who are causing actual problems (irrespective of how many dogs they have) is a better way forward than an arbitrary limit on the number of dogs one person can walk. Three out of control off-lead Labradors can be more of a problem than 6 Chihuahuas on leads.**

**Indeed, Schedule 3 above, if implemented, will allow control on people with any number of dogs by having them put on leads.**



However, if a maximum number is to be imposed, we support the Defra recommended number of 6 dogs, which is clearly stated in its 2006 guidance for Dog Control Orders.

### **Response**

**22.1** Members should be aware that there is no obligation to follow DEFRA's generic guidelines that simply states 'expert advice is that this should not exceed six' as this does not consider the 'place' only the general concept. The guidance talks about the maximum number of dogs a person can control and is silent on whether or not that person is the owner of the dogs. This allows an interpretation best suited to the site. In terms of numbers of dogs, Members have previously stated that they wish the limit to be 4 dogs and this policy was in force at the time that the concordat was agreed with the KC. BBCG members favours a maximum of 3 dogs. Members may wish to compromise on this element of the DCO's.

**23. We do not believe that there is a need to for example, universally ban someone from visiting the Beeches all year round if they come with, eg, 6 dogs on-lead.**

### **Response**

**23.1** Equally, members might consider it reasonable for visitors to walk as two groups with a friend thus avoiding even the very slight likelihood of this ever being a problem.

**24. Imposing a limit of less than six dogs will also severely limit the Corporation's potential to gain some income from responsible Commercial Dog Walkers serving the local community.**

### **Response**

**24.1** Professional Dog walking is not a social service it is private enterprise. Use of the site by commercial dog walkers is low and generally Officers do not wish to encourage this business activity at Burnham Beeches. Professional dog walkers will simply move to the place of least resistance helping to reduce pressures at Burnham Beeches.

### **Public relations**

**25. The Committee also need to be mindful that even just consulting on the proposals suggested here by officers, is certain to be contentious. Coverage in newspapers and campaigns in social media are highly likely. We suggest the Committee carefully considers whether they wish to provoke such a situation, given all the other challenges facing it, the resources at its disposal, and relationships with its neighbours, visitors, partners and local politicians.**

### **Response**

**25.1** This could become a reality but Officers have ensured that visitors are aware of the issues via the sites' newsletters and monthly updates. Having adopted a similarly consultative and informative approach with road closures, café changes, car park charges and the expansion of grazing, experience suggests that matters will quickly settle down, as the majority of the visitors begin to realise the benefits of the change.

**25.2** There is a possibility KC may decide to campaign against the City's specific proposals to reflect not only the needs of all visitors to the site but also its particular obligation to enhance biodiversity. Their capacity for such a campaign is difficult to judge but it would be sensible to prepare for that eventuality with colleagues in public relations.

**25.3** The recent consultation exercise indicated that around 5% of all visitors to Burnham Beeches were members of the Kennel Club. This compares to 13% for the Dogs Trust, 14% for the RSPB and 42% for the National Trust.

**25.4** The KC's own 'Walkies Code' gives the following advice:

*There are places and times where you must keep your dog on a lead or avoid altogether - signs and rangers will tell you where. These can include: children's' playgrounds, parks, gardens and picnic areas, roads, car parks and places, where there are lots of people, land where protected animals and birds live and raise their young on the ground, especially between 1 March and 31 July.*

*Responsible, caring dog owners heed these requests; even the friendliest dog can injure or scare other people and animals. Not complying can mean a fine and even more restrictions on dogs. If you think a restriction is excessive or unlawful (e.g. banning dogs from public rights of way) please contact KC Dog and we'll investigate.*

**26. While officers rightly state that there has been consultation and support for the principle of DCOs, it is disingenuous to suggest this in any way means acceptance of the detail of what is now proposed. This is especially so as the most frequent response in visitor survey was that Schedule 2 should apply to, at most, 25%, of the site. Here the Committee is being asked to support an on-lead, year-round restriction on 59% of the site.**

### **Response**

**26.1** Both sides have firm views and as with all data, it is open to interpretation and sensitive to aggregation. Using the same data '50% of the site' is the most common survey response and therefore much closer to the final proposal being considered by this Working Group than the KC is suggesting. In terms of physical implementation of the data 59% is the closest to that response that the site can be sensibly split using the major boundaries (internal roads) as visual markers. Officers believe that, taken in the round, the data accrued over many years and more recently is a helpful support to the proposals agreed by the BBCG and currently presented to the EFCC.

**27. If Schedule 3 was also imposed as proposed, the KC would, with great regret, be minded to withdraw from its agreement of cooperation with the Corporation.**

### **Response**

**27.1** Perhaps this situation is inevitable given the nature of the issues and different values and purposes of organisations concerned. It might be more constructive for the KC to choose to support further research into this issue and work in partnership with Open Space managers and Natural England to gain a broader perspective and understanding of the issues. This would be an important step towards developing a policy to guide the management of dog walking on sites of high conservation value across England.

### **Alternative proposal (KC)**

As a positive way forward, we recommend the Committee:

- 1. Supports the Schedule 1 proposal for picking up across the whole site.**

**Response** - Agreed

- 2. Rejects the Schedule 2 proposals for extensive year-round, on-lead areas based on a simplistic percentage allocation.**

**Response** – Officers have not based the favoured option on a simplistic percentage allocation. Rather, they have considered all issues in the round, consulted the public and used their detailed knowledge of access and biodiversity issues on the site to inform the decision making process. Officers have then used the local and corporate committee structure to take the matter forward.

- 3. Asks officers to come back to Committee with a clear policy about when and how the Schedule 3 (on-lead by direction) power will be used.**

**Response** – Unnecessary. This policy exists as the Burnham Beeches Dog Code.

- 4. Formalises the existing no dogs area around part of the café using Schedule 4, if that is what is proposed.**

**Response** - Agreed

- 5. Sets the Schedule 5 maximum number of dogs to 6 as recommended by Defra in the DCO guidance.**

**Response** – Members may wish to seek a compromise on this issue.

Existing committee policy states a maximum 4 dogs. The BBCG and the recent consultation exercise indicate that a max of 3 is locally acceptable.

The Superintendent also recommends that, the final delivery of DCO's at BB is reviewed at year 3. This will allow time for issues to settle, problems to become apparent and solutions considered to ensure that the best balance is achieved in the longer term. The statutory duty to monitor and report annually will be followed and should this highlight major concerns the review could be brought forward

**Additional Appendices (contained in main report to EFCC – March 2014).**

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# Dog Control Orders at Burnham Beeches

## Members' Working Group 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2014

### Memo from Deputy Alex Deane

#### Introduction

I do not concur with the general position adopted, or specific conclusion reached, on the question of on-lead requirements by officers and members of the informal working group convened to examine the question of Dog Control Orders at Burnham Beeches. It seemed sensible to me, and to the officers concerned, that I write a separate short note about the issue rather than muddy any written Working Party or Officer response to be distributed as a result of our discussion with my perspective inserted in it.

**I restrict this dissenting perspective solely to the proposed Schedule 2 requirement that dogs must be on leads all year round across 59% of the site. I agree with all of the other conclusions reached by the officers.**

Even on this one point of concern, I still agree to an extent with our officers. I accept that a seasonal solution cannot work, and that an area designated for on-lead walking must be year-round. The point of my dissent is simply that, in designating a majority of our site, we have gone (really quite some way) too far.

#### A note on our officers

I would wish it to be clear that in my view our officers are first class. They work hard and they are highly skilled. So it is without criticism of them that I say that, in this instance, my fear is that we collectively have begun with a false premise, therefore reaching the wrong conclusion.

#### The absence of any pressing concern

In the example we are considering here, contrary to the borderline obsession some seem to feel about dogs, incidents are in fact very low. There are, on our own calculations, 220,000 dog visits to the site each year. Since 2003 there have been 1,900 reported incidents – which, had they occurred in one year instead of over eleven years, would still only constitute an incident rate of 0.0086%. Telescoped over a decade, the incident rate then falls to a position so low as to be almost daft as justification for the imposition of any rule, and hardly constitutes a “problem” that we as an authority need to be concerned about (let alone so perpetually absorbed). I am afraid that in my view, there is a certain, regrettable, lack of a sense of proportion in evidence (from both officers and some Members) in the desire to “solve” alleged problems like this rather than simply accept that, on occasion, users of what all agree is a “busy” open space will occasionally rub up against one another or fall out or take a dislike to one another or their pets. Such is life.

Instead, because the evidence does not in fact bear out the suggestion of any real problem, I am afraid that it seems to me that as an Authority we have sought to find different justifications for what we seem to want to do anyway.

Bluntly put, in my view the approach adopted by the City of London on this question has therefore been contrary to the direction of good public policy both at a national and a local level. The focus in determining questions of public policy should be on specific issues as

they occur, rather than seeking to impose blanket rules in response to relatively generic surveys which effectively invite the conclusions that they reach. As the above sets out, the “issue” simply isn’t here to “solve”. One doesn’t need to go into the benefits or otherwise of off-lead walking for animals to exercise (which officers agree is a desired benefit for at least some present users of the site): the question for us as an authority isn’t to tie ourselves in knots wondering about whether dogs and/or their owners are better off with or without access to such activities – it’s simply whether or not there’s a large enough problem to merit active intervention and control from the Corporation in such activity, imposing rules on users and the site. The answer is straightforward. There isn’t.

**So we will be perceived to be (and will actually be) using a sledgehammer to crack a nut if we activate wide prescriptive rules on a site because of this non-problem.**

It is also something that will have negative consequences for users, too. Beyond the principle that one rather dislikes rules for the sake of rules, and that authoritarian, illiberal measures are unattractive, the reason that this is worth dwelling on rather than shrugging and allowing the proposal to be passed is that we all want people to use our open spaces. Many (we all seem to agree) will wish to do so whilst exercising their dogs off-lead. The message conveyed by rules like this is that if you enjoy exercising your animal off-lead, this isn’t the place for you – this is a rule-laden site. Go elsewhere.

This is particularly unwise in my view because, ironically, those most likely to obey these new rules, or go away and not use the site, are those least likely to be inconsiderate in the first place. Contrariwise, those who are problematic users of the space now are those most likely to disobey these new rules if introduced.

I caution against our passing regulation by personal anecdote, as some seem inclined to do. As an authority we would, rightly, be a laughing stock if it became known that some wish to curtail off-lead walking on a site we control because they know someone who doesn’t like dogs. The undoubted existence of an irrational fear or phobia of dogs is regrettable, but the fact that someone might know someone else with such an irrational fear is irrelevant for us as the relevant authority: it is something that requires addressing, in and of itself, with appropriate help for the individual concerned, and is no justification for blanket regulation of everybody across the majority of an open space - any more than an irrational fear or phobia of open spaces would constitute justification for the curtailment or abolition of open spaces.

I note, too, that the correct role of an authority is sometimes to consider a situation and then not act, because the issue concerned can only be resolved by a device or rule which would be excessive or disproportionate. The elimination of risk in life is impossible. The aim was and is excessively prescriptive, and the methods following from that aim are naturally excessively prescriptive as a result. The default position of a public authority ought not to be that something is banned unless explicitly allowed: the reference in the course of the Working Group’s discussions to the “precautionary principle” was deeply disquieting on this point.

I have restricted my remarks solely to alleged dog “incidents” rather than addressing the supposed wildlife and nature concerns because, as is conceded in the officer response to the Kennel Club, there is simply no evidence available on this point either way. It is peculiar that this concession is made in the response, only to be followed by repeated assertions about wildlife and nature conservation anyway. Assertions in the absence of evidence do not become stronger by being repeatedly made – indeed, it might rather be

thought to reveal a desire to paper over the absence of evidence with the excessive presence of verbiage.

I am not an absolutist. I concede that there is sufficient, heartfelt, sincerely held concern amongst those who undertake the daily work of overseeing the site, and amongst officers and Members, to warrant the issue being discussed and whilst, on balance, the conclusion that I would draw from the situation with which we are presented is that, with a sense of proportion and willingness for individuals to compromise in using a shared open space, the status quo is adequate, in the face of the view of the majority in the working party (and perhaps the Committee) I acknowledge the need for compromise. **I do not argue for the abandonment of the proposed scheme in their entirety.** Indeed, as indicated at the outset, I accept all of the proposals bar one, and on that one issue, off-lead walking restrictions, I also suggest a compromise rather than adopting an absolutist position, too.

Whilst appreciating the need for both certainty and for a logically delineated area using existing, easily recognisable boundaries (for the convenience of our staff and visitors), the area currently proposed is simply far too large a part of the site.

### **Conclusion**

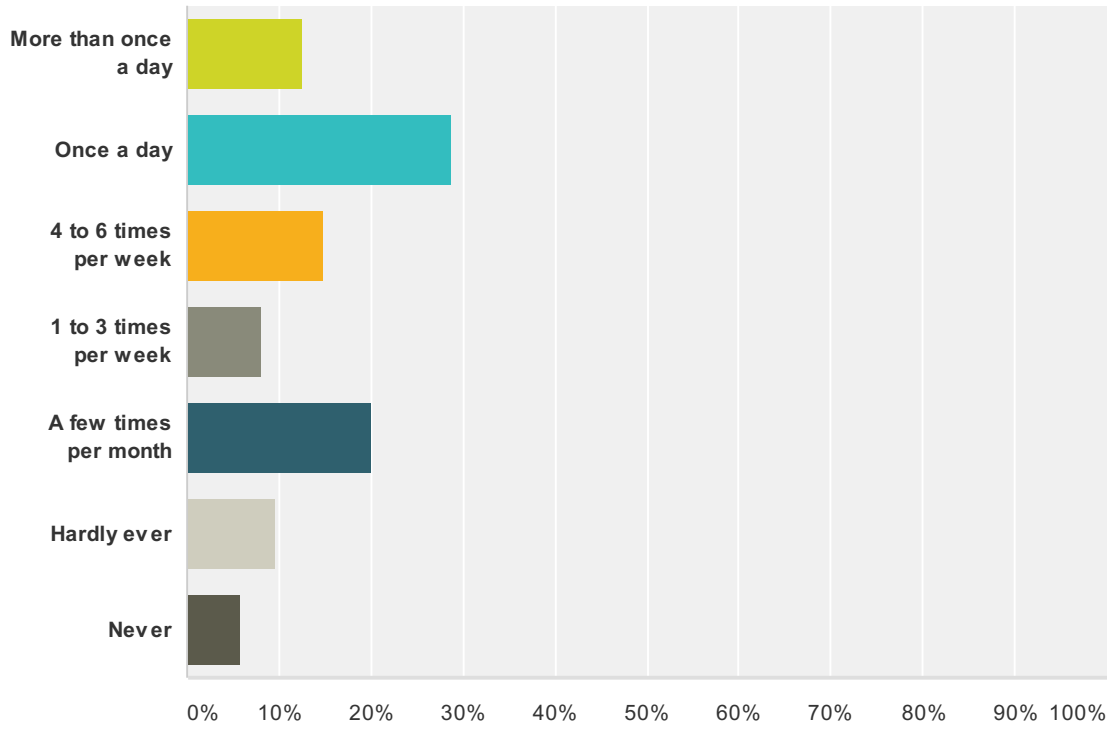
The current proposal, with a majority of the Open Space in Burnham Beeches included in the on-lead policy, goes too far and in my view it ought to be sent back and reconsidered by those responsible for the space with a view to designating a smaller area.

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### Q1 On average, how often do you go for a walk in Burnham Beeches with one or more dogs?

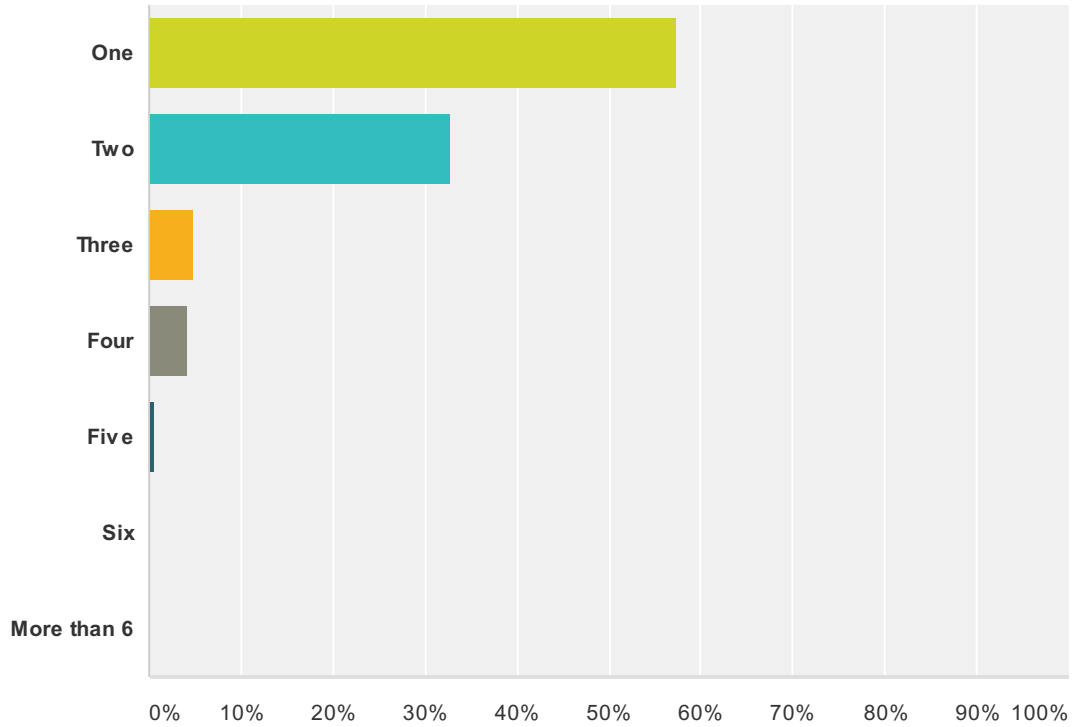
Answered: 135 Skipped: 30



Answer Choices	Responses
More than once a day	12.59% 17
Once a day	28.89% 39
4 to 6 times per week	14.81% 20
1 to 3 times per week	8.15% 11
A few times per month	20.00% 27
Hardly ever	9.63% 13
Never	5.93% 8
<b>Total</b>	<b>135</b>

## Q2 On those walks, on average how many dogs do you have with you?

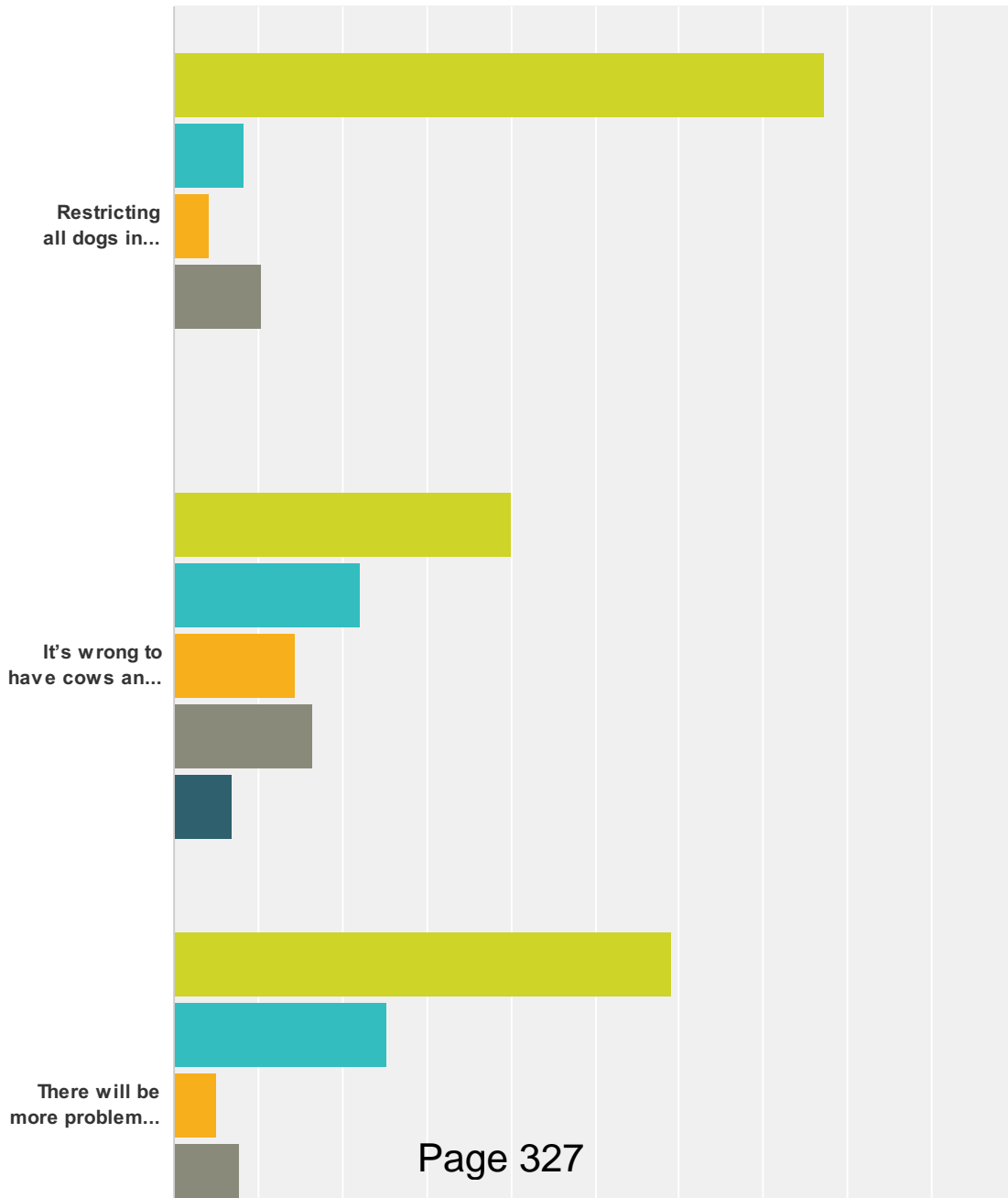
Answered: 143 Skipped: 22



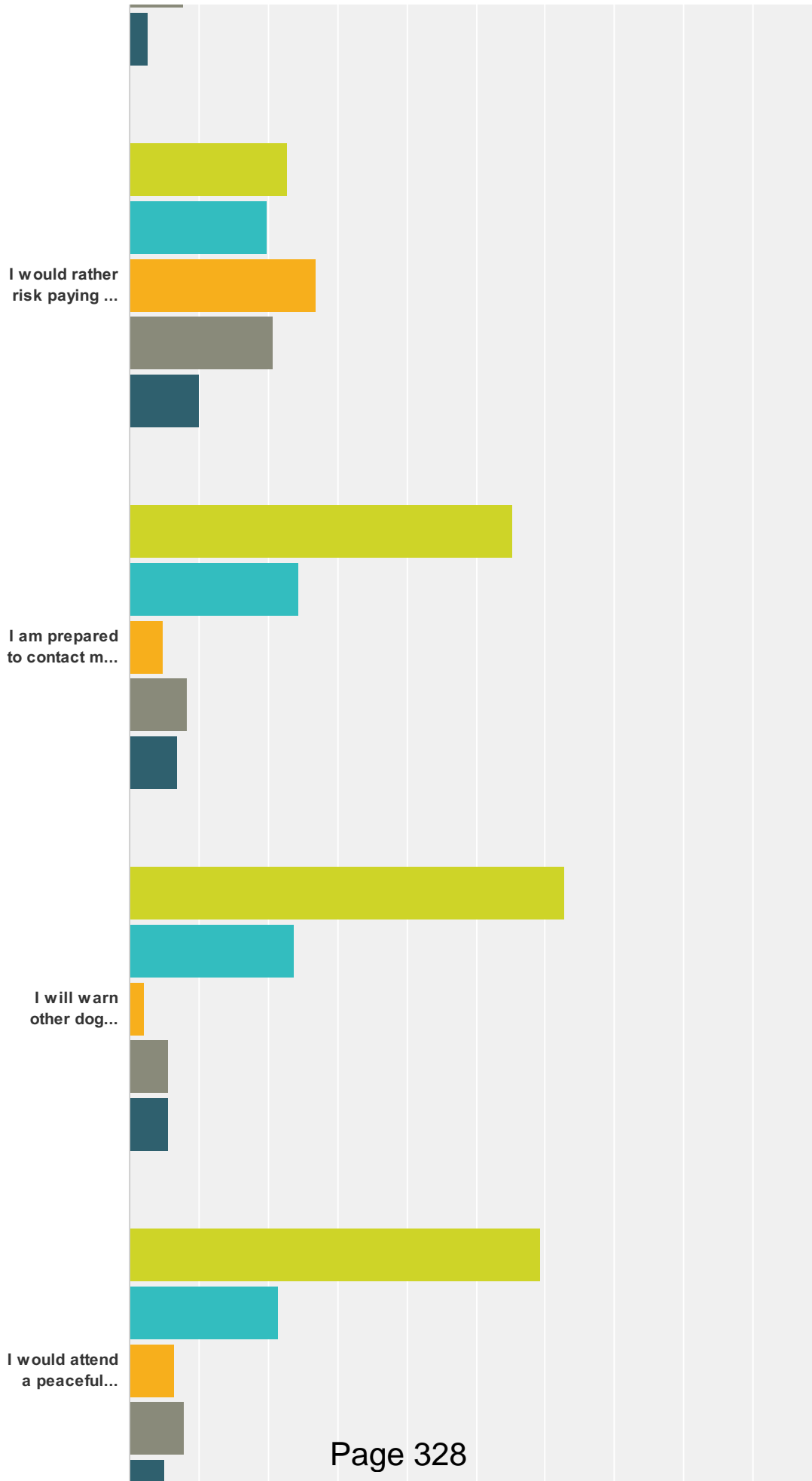
Answer Choices	Responses	
One	57.34%	82
Two	32.87%	47
Three	4.90%	7
Four	4.20%	6
Five	0.70%	1
Six	0.00%	0
More than 6	0.00%	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>143</b>

**Q3 The Corporation of London wants a year-round ban on off-lead dogs on nearly two-thirds (59%) of Burnham Beeches by 2015. If you don't comply, rangers will be instructed to give you an on-the-spot fine of up to £80 or face a £1,000 penalty in court. Off-lead dog walking will only be allowed in the area between Halse Drive / Sir Henry Peeks Drive and Farnham Common. Please select which option best reflects your views on the following statements:**

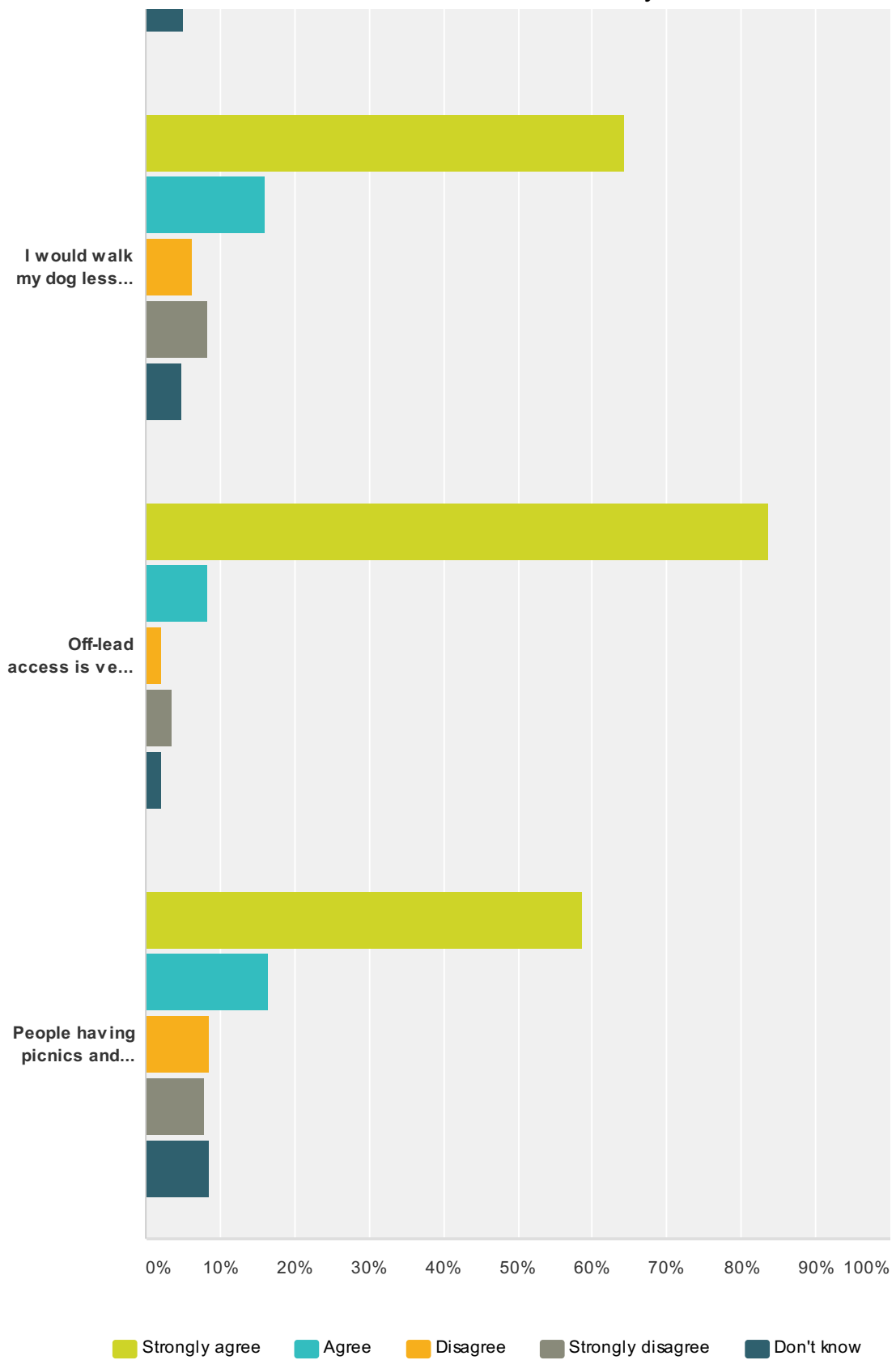
Answered: 146 Skipped: 19



# Burnham Beeches off-lead ban survey



# Burnham Beeches off-lead ban survey



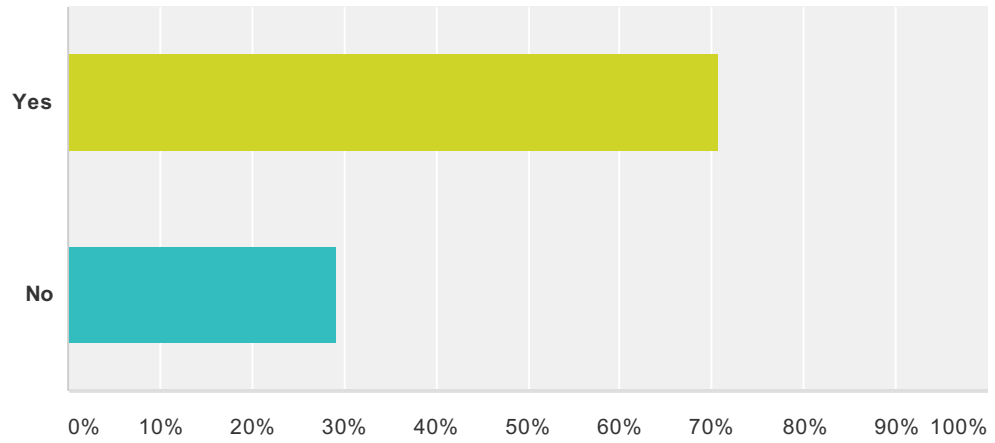
	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know	Total
Restricting all dogs in this way is unjustified	77.24% 112	8.28% 12	4.14% 6	10.34% 15	0.00% 0	145

## Burnham Beeches off-lead ban survey

It's wrong to have cows and ponies grazing in the designated off-lead area	<b>40.00%</b> 58	<b>22.07%</b> 32	<b>14.48%</b> 21	<b>16.55%</b> 24	<b>6.90%</b> 10	145
There will be more problems if you concentrate off-lead dogs in a smaller area	<b>59.15%</b> 84	<b>25.35%</b> 36	<b>4.93%</b> 7	<b>7.75%</b> 11	<b>2.82%</b> 4	142
I would rather risk paying an £80 fine than comply with the off-lead ban	<b>22.70%</b> 32	<b>19.86%</b> 28	<b>26.95%</b> 38	<b>20.57%</b> 29	<b>9.93%</b> 14	141
I am prepared to contact my local councillor and/or MP to complain about the off-lead ban	<b>55.24%</b> 79	<b>24.48%</b> 35	<b>4.90%</b> 7	<b>8.39%</b> 12	<b>6.99%</b> 10	143
I will warn other dog walkers about the off-lead ban	<b>62.94%</b> 90	<b>23.78%</b> 34	<b>2.10%</b> 3	<b>5.59%</b> 8	<b>5.59%</b> 8	143
I would attend a peaceful protest dog walk to show my opposition to the off-lead ban	<b>59.29%</b> 83	<b>21.43%</b> 30	<b>6.43%</b> 9	<b>7.86%</b> 11	<b>5.00%</b> 7	140
I would walk my dog less often at Burnham Beeches if this off-lead ban is imposed	<b>64.34%</b> 92	<b>16.08%</b> 23	<b>6.29%</b> 9	<b>8.39%</b> 12	<b>4.90%</b> 7	143
Off-lead access is very important to me	<b>83.80%</b> 119	<b>8.45%</b> 12	<b>2.11%</b> 3	<b>3.52%</b> 5	<b>2.11%</b> 3	142
People having picnics and playing games in the open areas by the main car park will be more disturbed by dogs if this is a designated off-lead area	<b>58.57%</b> 82	<b>16.43%</b> 23	<b>8.57%</b> 12	<b>7.86%</b> 11	<b>8.57%</b> 12	140

### Q4 Have you used the café within Burnham Beeches in the last 12 months?

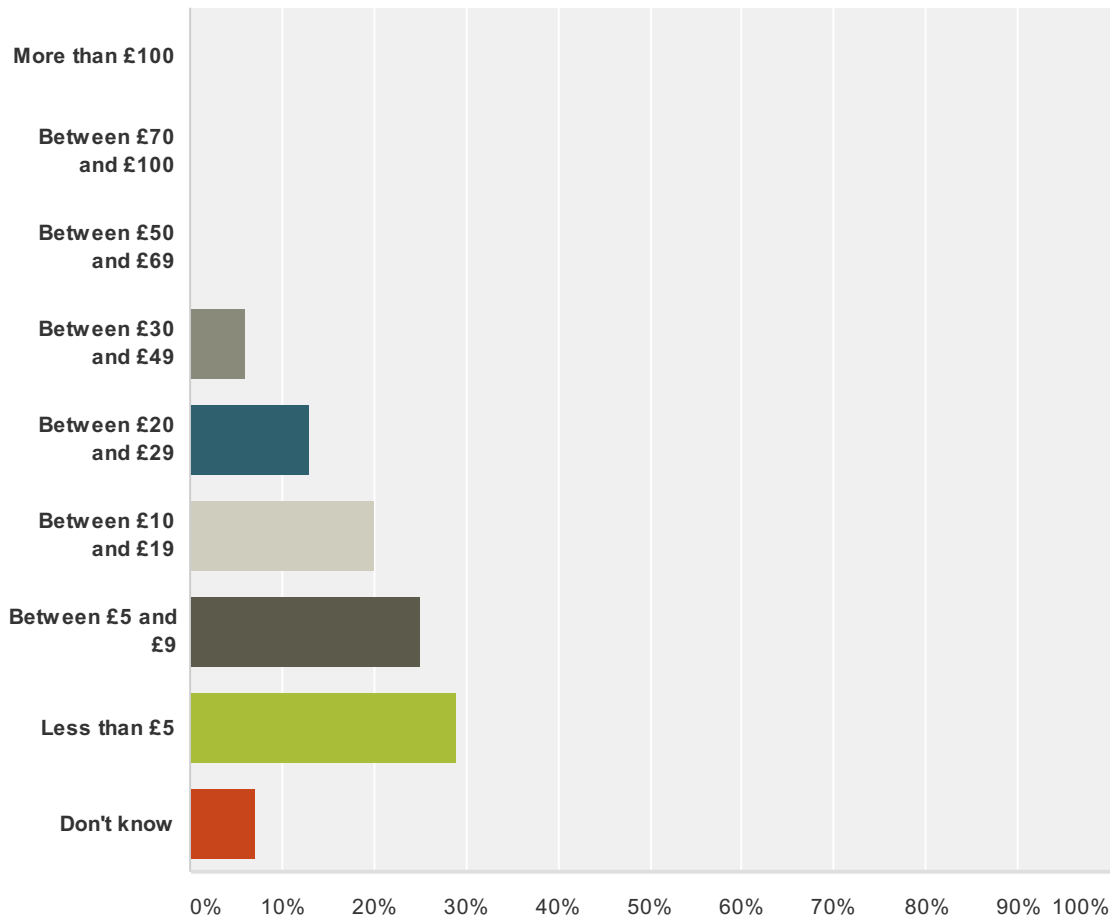
Answered: 154 Skipped: 11



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	70.78% 109
No	29.22% 45
<b>Total</b>	<b>154</b>

### Q5 On average, how much per week do you currently spend in the café at Burnham Beeches?

Answered: 100 Skipped: 65

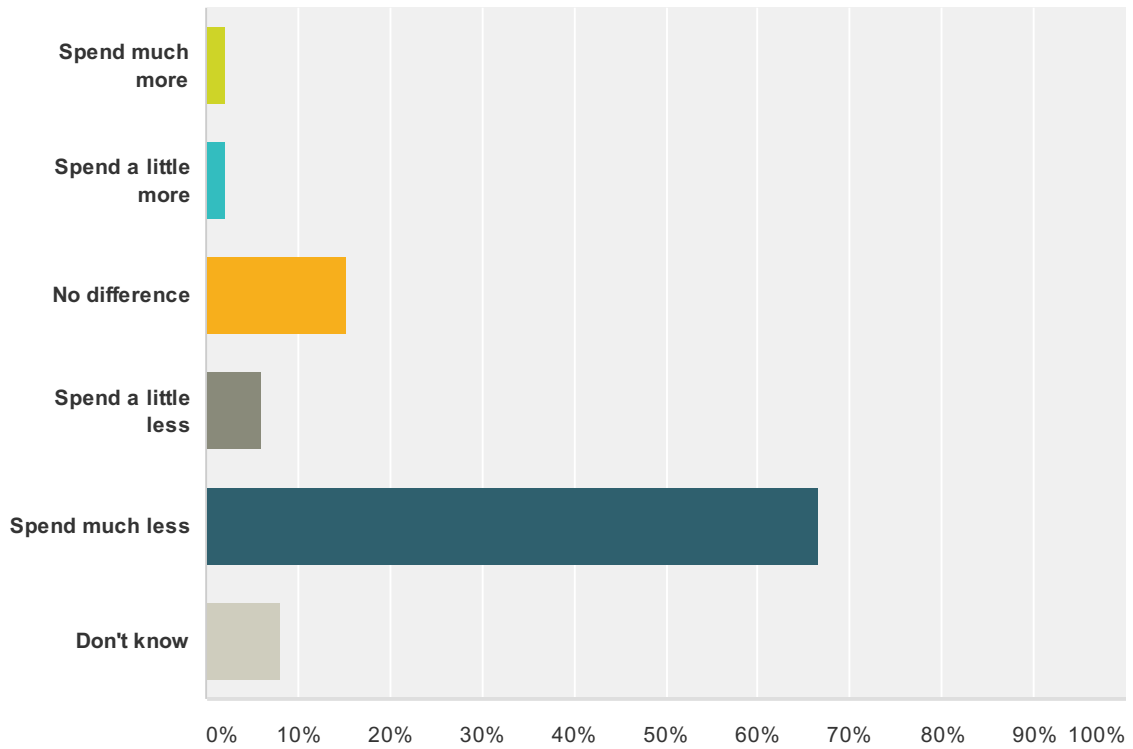


Answer Choices	Responses
More than £100	0.00% 0
Between £70 and £100	0.00% 0
Between £50 and £69	0.00% 0
Between £30 and £49	6.00% 6
Between £20 and £29	13.00% 13
Between £10 and £19	20.00% 20
Between £5 and £9	25.00% 25
Less than £5	29.00% 29
Don't know	7.00% 7
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>



**Q6 If the off-lead ban goes ahead, how would that affect what you spend in the Burnham Beeches café in the future?**

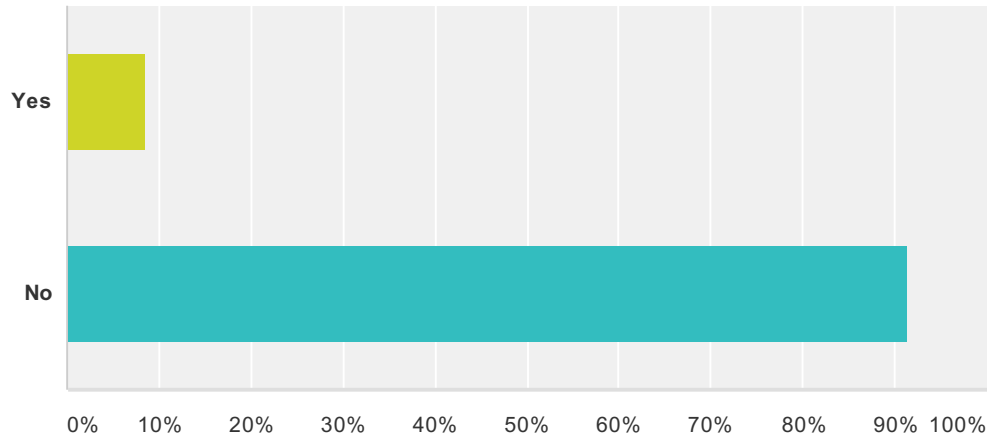
Answered: 99 Skipped: 66



Answer Choices	Responses
Spend much more	2.02% 2
Spend a little more	2.02% 2
No difference	15.15% 15
Spend a little less	6.06% 6
Spend much less	66.67% 66
Don't know	8.08% 8
<b>Total</b>	<b>99</b>

### Q7 Have you bought an annual car parking season ticket for Burnham Beeches in the last 12 months?

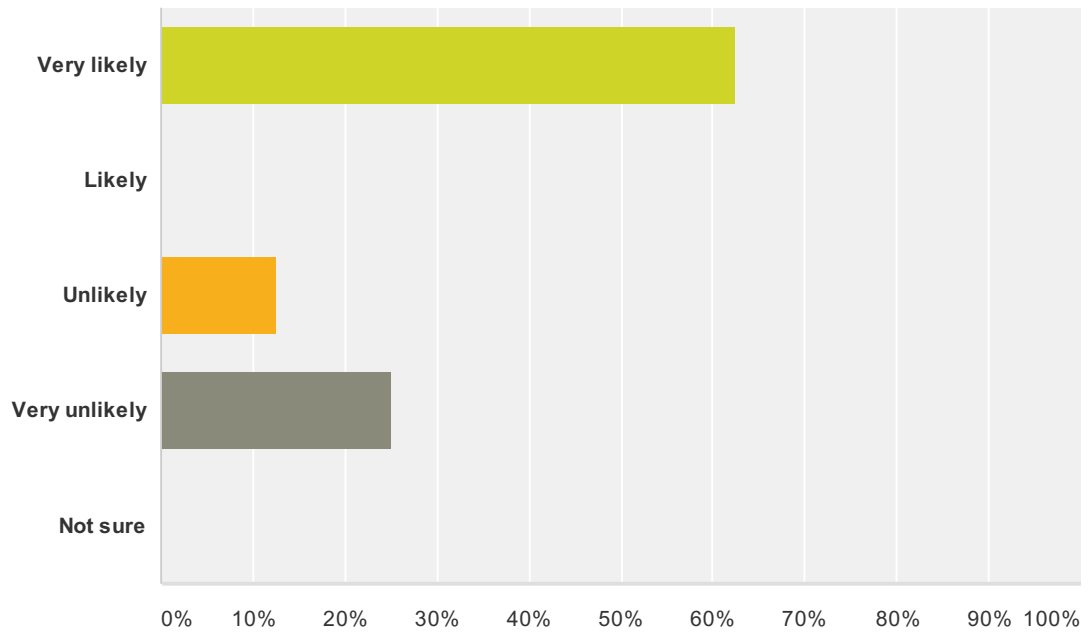
Answered: 153 Skipped: 12



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	8.50% 13
No	91.50% 140
<b>Total</b>	<b>153</b>

**Q8 If the planned off-lead ban goes ahead, how likely are you to buy another season ticket for car parking at Burnham Beeches?**

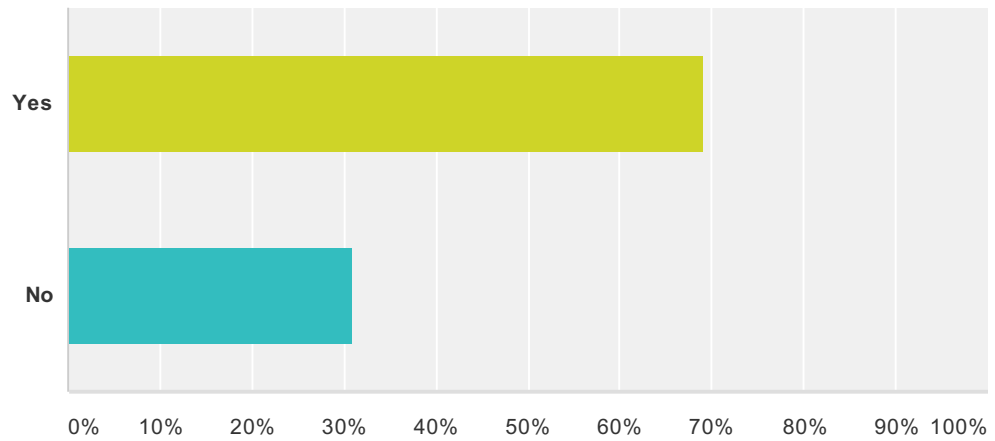
Answered: 8 Skipped: 157



Answer Choices	Responses
Very likely	62.50% 5
Likely	0.00% 0
Unlikely	12.50% 1
Very unlikely	25.00% 2
Not sure	0.00% 0
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>

**Q9 Have you paid for car parking or made a donation using the ticket machines at Burnham Beeches in the last 12 months?**

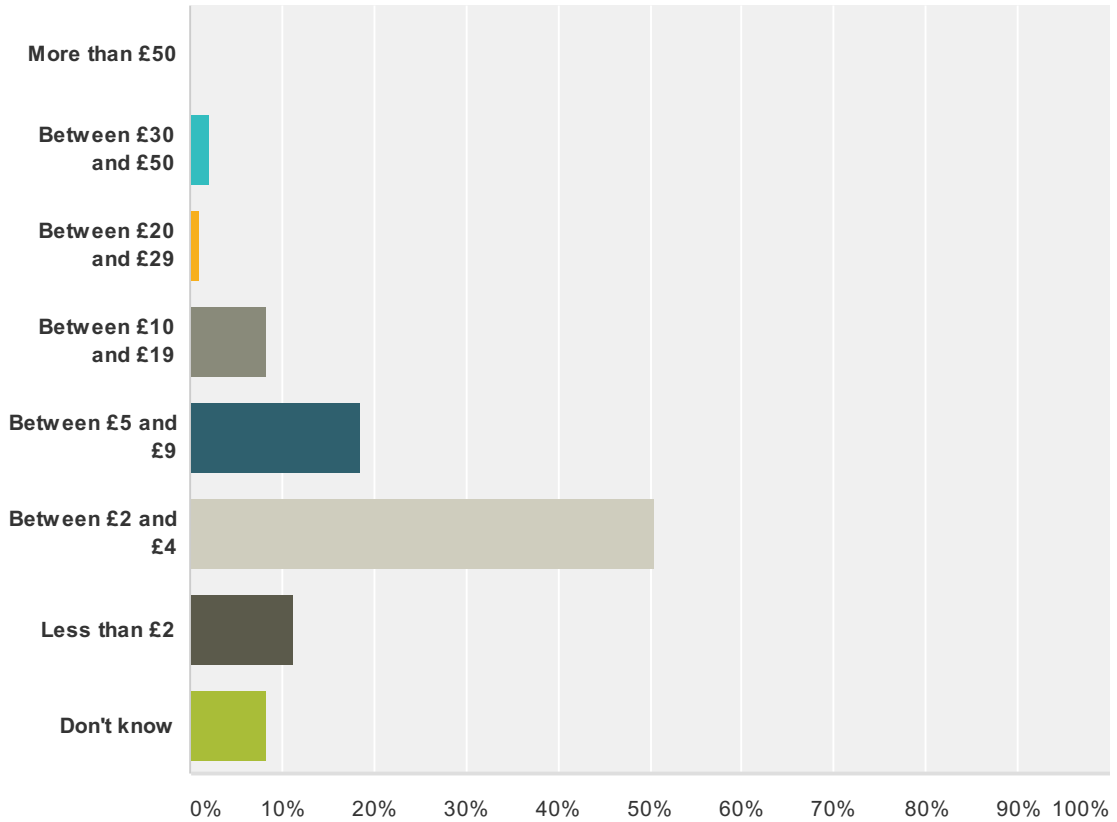
Answered: 149 Skipped: 16



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	69.13% 103
No	30.87% 46
<b>Total</b>	<b>149</b>

**Q10 On average, how much per week do you currently spend on parking or donations using the ticket machines in Burnham Beeches car parks?**

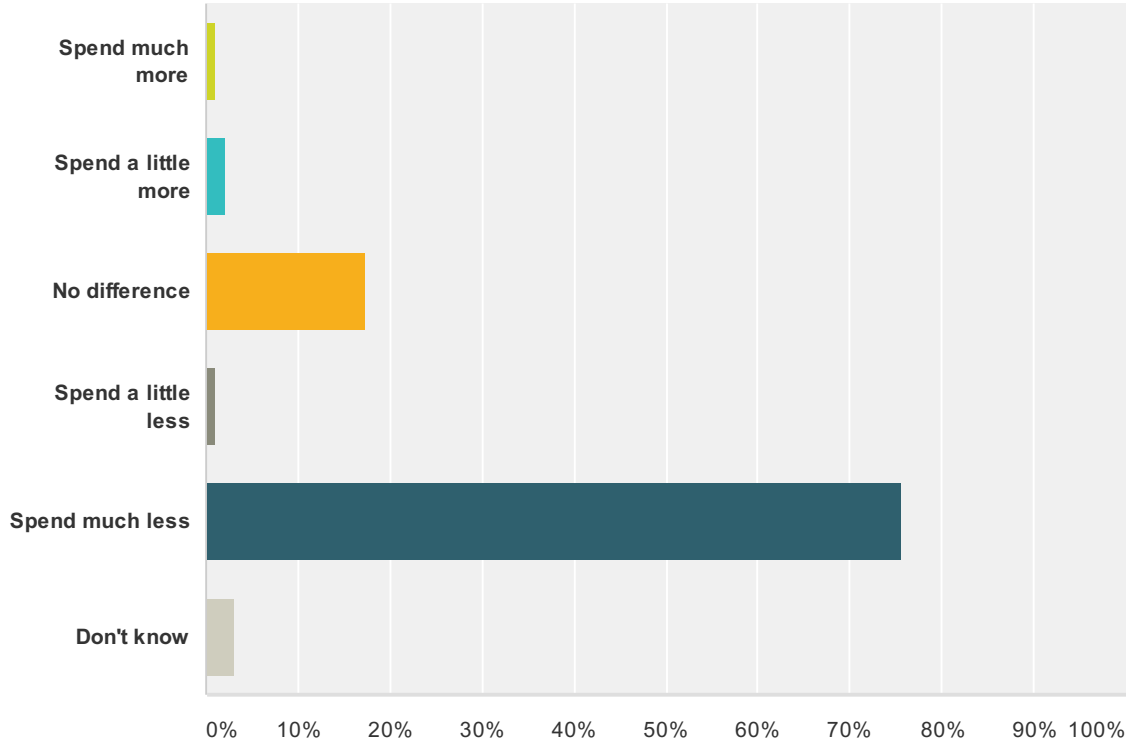
Answered: 97 Skipped: 68



Answer Choices	Responses
More than £50	0.00% 0
Between £30 and £50	2.06% 2
Between £20 and £29	1.03% 1
Between £10 and £19	8.25% 8
Between £5 and £9	18.56% 18
Between £2 and £4	50.52% 49
Less than £2	11.34% 11
Don't know	8.25% 8
<b>Total</b>	<b>97</b>

**Q11 If the off-lead ban goes ahead, how much would that change what you spend on car parking or donations using the ticket machines in Burnham Beeches car parks?**

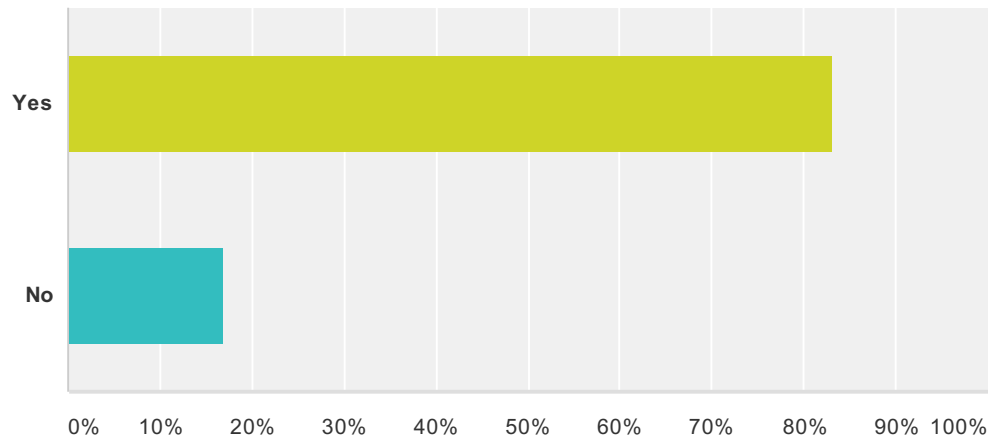
Answered: 98 Skipped: 67



Answer Choices	Responses
Spend much more	1.02% 1
Spend a little more	2.04% 2
No difference	17.35% 17
Spend a little less	1.02% 1
Spend much less	75.51% 74
Don't know	3.06% 3
<b>Total</b>	<b>98</b>

**Q12 If the off-lead ban goes ahead, would you walk your dog(s) more frequently in other places instead?**

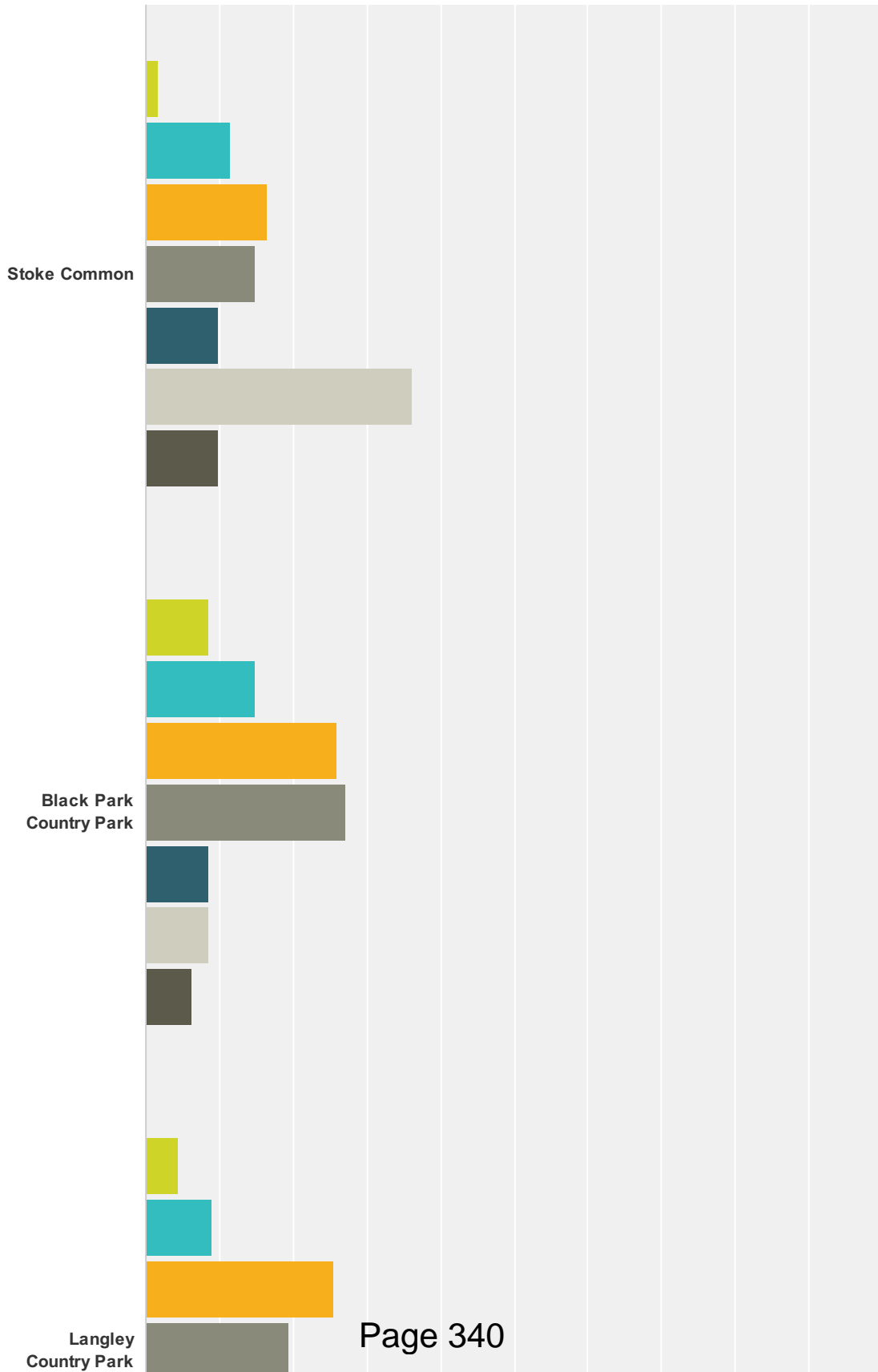
Answered: 147 Skipped: 18



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	82.99% 122
No	17.01% 25
<b>Total</b>	<b>147</b>

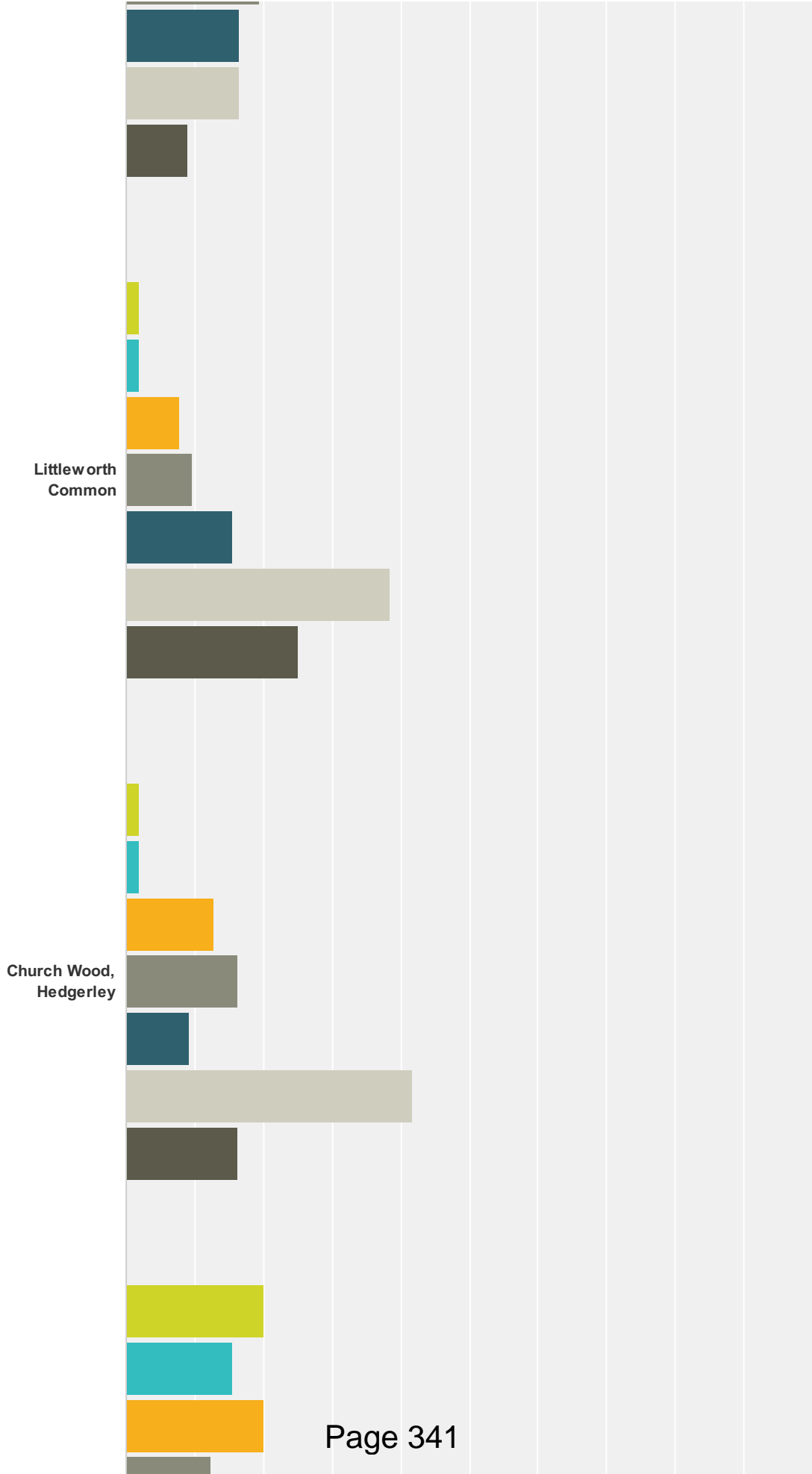
### Q13 Where would you walk you dog(s) instead, and how often, if the off-lead ban is imposed at Burnham Beeches?

Answered: 106 Skipped: 59

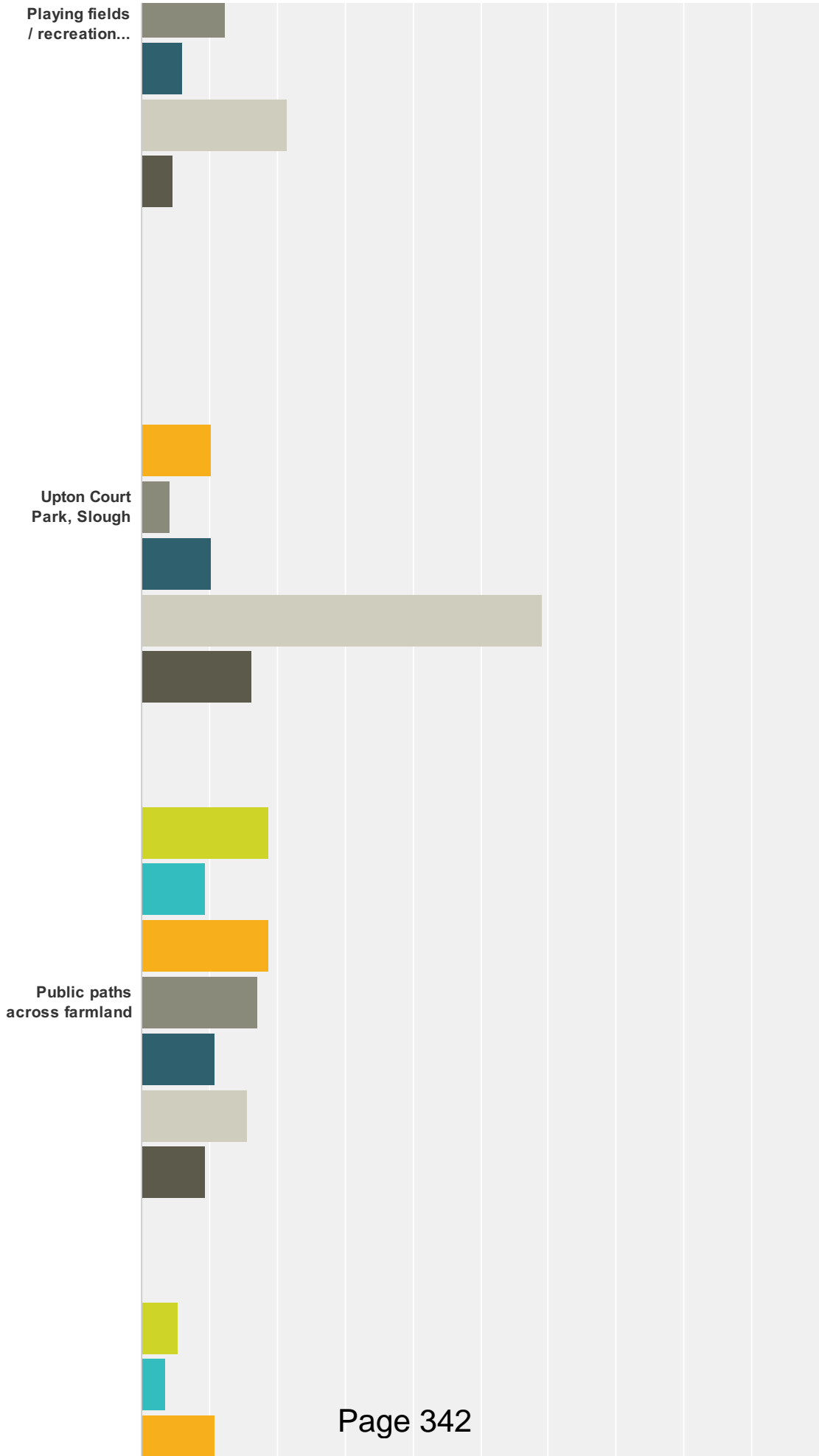




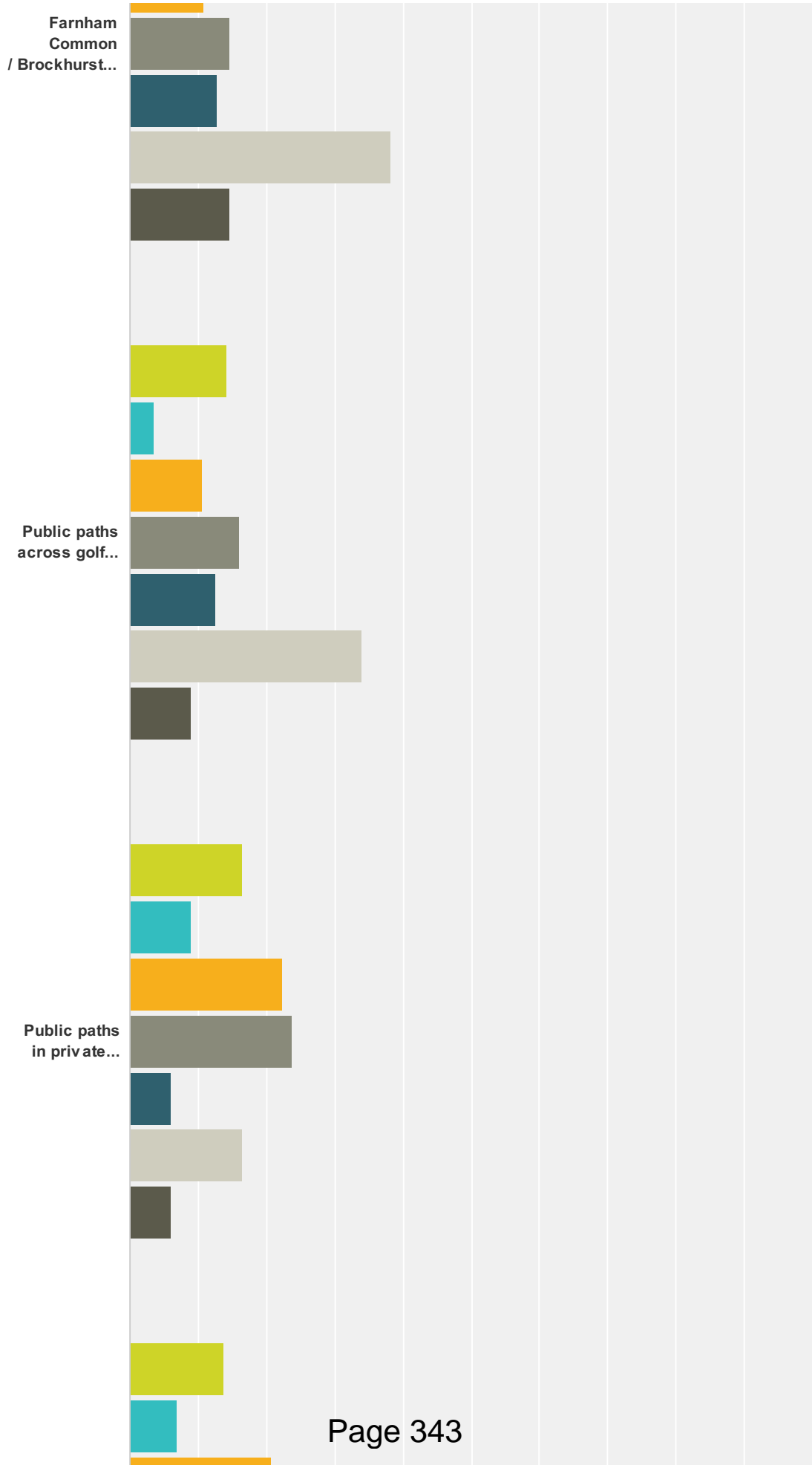
# Burnham Beeches off-lead ban survey



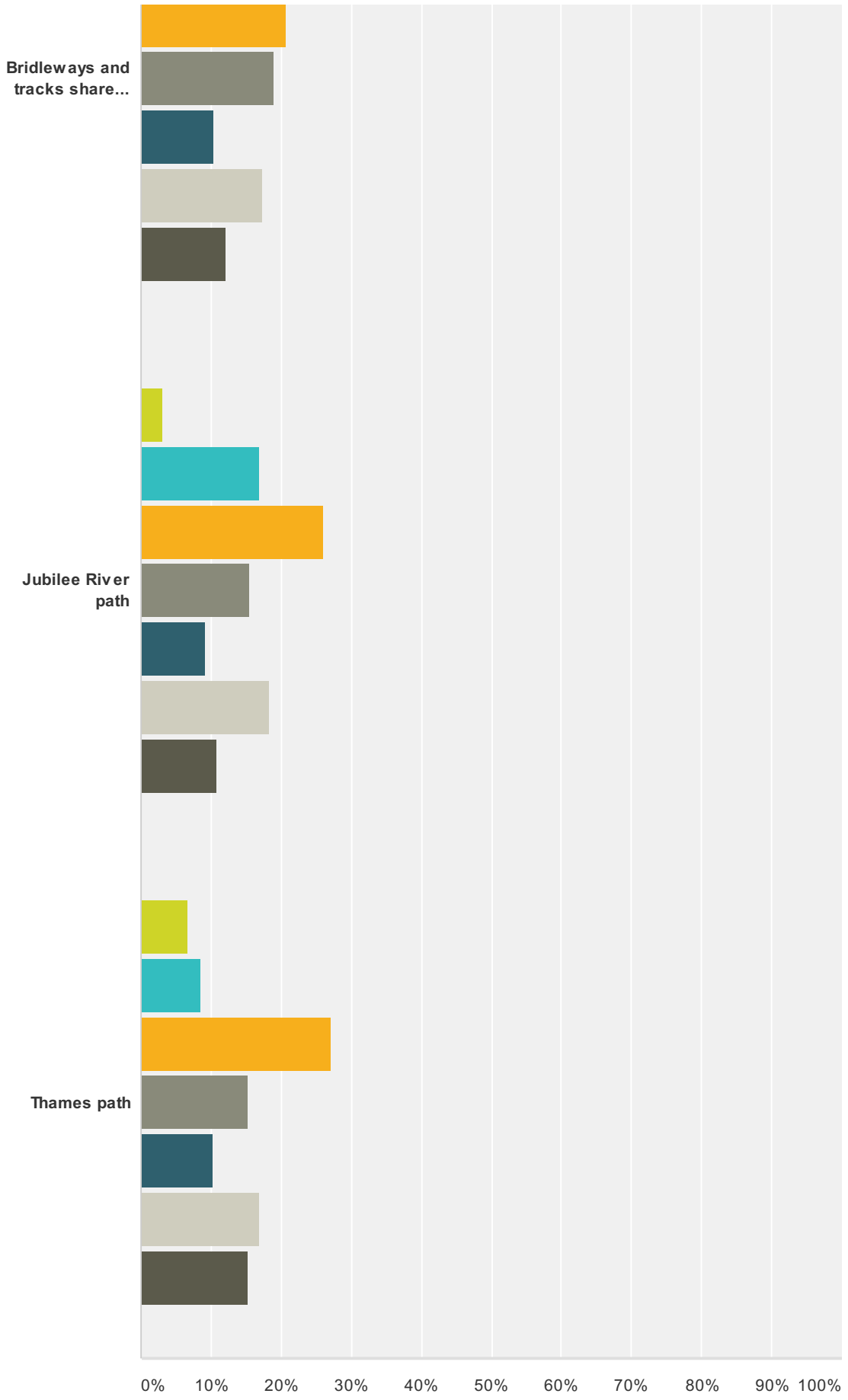
# Burnham Beeches off-lead ban survey



# Burnham Beeches off-lead ban survey



# Burnham Beeches off-lead ban survey



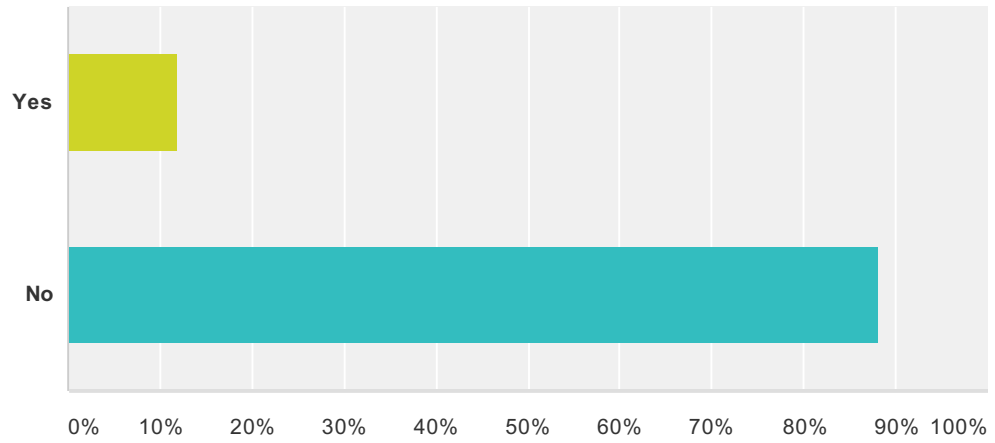
■ Every day   
 ■ 4 to 6 times per week   
 ■ 1 to 3 times per week  
■ A few times per month   
 ■ Hardly ever   
 ■ Never   
 ■ Don't know

## Burnham Beeches off-lead ban survey

	Every day	4 to 6 times per week	1 to 3 times per week	A few times per month	Hardly ever	Never	Don't know	Total
Stoke Common	1.64% 1	11.48% 7	16.39% 10	14.75% 9	9.84% 6	36.07% 22	9.84% 6	61
Black Park Country Park	8.64% 7	14.81% 12	25.93% 21	27.16% 22	8.64% 7	8.64% 7	6.17% 5	81
Langley Country Park	4.48% 3	8.96% 6	25.37% 17	19.40% 13	16.42% 11	16.42% 11	8.96% 6	67
Littleworth Common	1.92% 1	1.92% 1	7.69% 4	9.62% 5	15.38% 8	38.46% 20	25.00% 13	52
Church Wood, Hedgerley	1.82% 1	1.82% 1	12.73% 7	16.36% 9	9.09% 5	41.82% 23	16.36% 9	55
Playing fields / recreation grounds	20.00% 13	15.38% 10	20.00% 13	12.31% 8	6.15% 4	21.54% 14	4.62% 3	65
Upton Court Park, Slough	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	10.20% 5	4.08% 2	10.20% 5	59.18% 29	16.33% 8	49
Public paths across farmland	18.75% 12	9.38% 6	18.75% 12	17.19% 11	10.94% 7	15.63% 10	9.38% 6	64
Farnham Common / Brockhurst Wood	5.45% 3	3.64% 2	10.91% 6	14.55% 8	12.73% 7	38.18% 21	14.55% 8	55
Public paths across golf courses	14.29% 8	3.57% 2	10.71% 6	16.07% 9	12.50% 7	33.93% 19	8.93% 5	56
Public paths in private woods	16.42% 11	8.96% 6	22.39% 15	23.88% 16	5.97% 4	16.42% 11	5.97% 4	67
Bridleways and tracks shared with horse riders and cyclists	13.79% 8	6.90% 4	20.69% 12	18.97% 11	10.34% 6	17.24% 10	12.07% 7	58
Jubilee River path	3.08% 2	16.92% 11	26.15% 17	15.38% 10	9.23% 6	18.46% 12	10.77% 7	65
Thames path	6.78% 4	8.47% 5	27.12% 16	15.25% 9	10.17% 6	16.95% 10	15.25% 9	59

### Q14 Do you have a paid job related to dogs – eg vet, dog walker, trainer?

Answered: 142 Skipped: 23



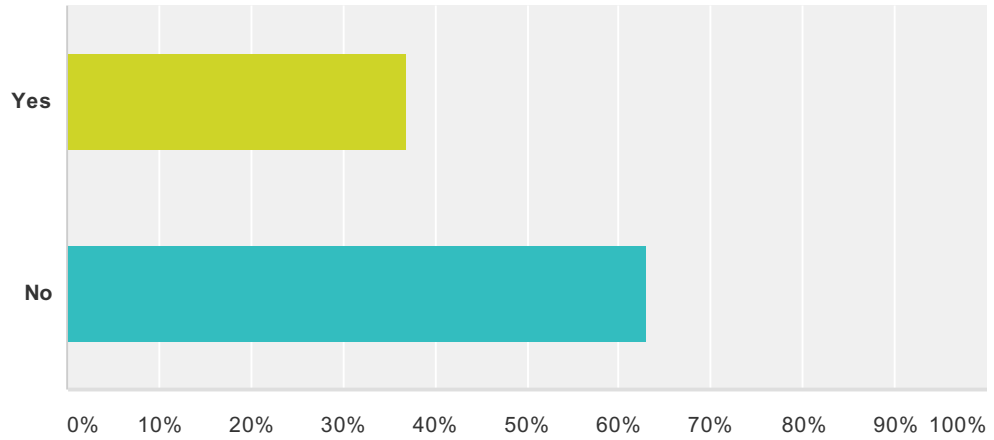
Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	11.97%	17
No	88.03%	125
<b>Total</b>		<b>142</b>

**Q15 Please briefly describe the nature of your paid work related to dogs:**

Answered: 11 Skipped: 154

**Q16 Would you like to be entered into a free draw for a pair of tickets to Discover Dogs at Earls Court (8-9 November 2014) or Crufts near Birmingham (5-8 March 2015)?**

Answered: 141 Skipped: 24



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	36.88%	52
No	63.12%	89
<b>Total</b>		<b>141</b>



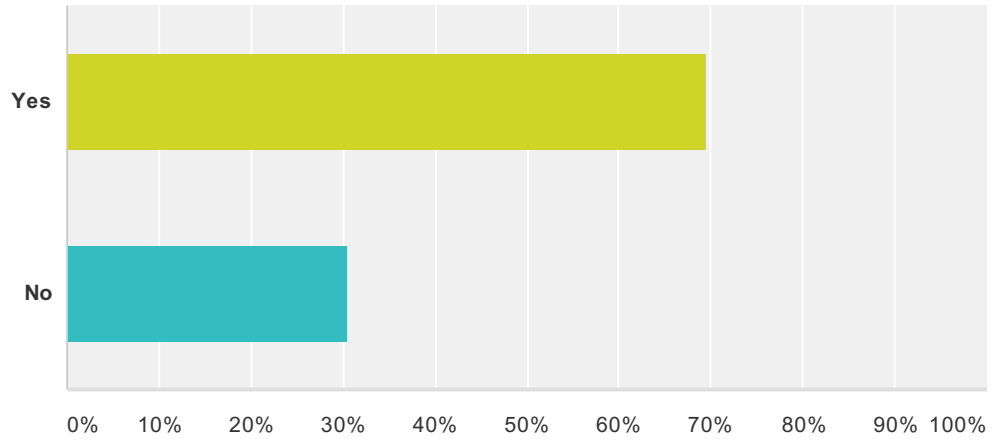
**Q17 Please let us know how to contact you if you've won free tickets. Draw closes on 1 August 2014 - winners will be notified by 31 August 2014. Please note this information will not be used to identify your other answers in this survey**

Answered: 46 Skipped: 119

Answer Choices	Responses	
Name	100.00%	46
Email	100.00%	46
Daytime phone number	86.96%	40

**Q18 Are you willing to be contacted again on this issue to help protect access for responsible dog walkers at Burnham Beeches and surrounding areas?**

Answered: 138 Skipped: 27



Answer Choices	Responses	Count
Yes	69.57%	96
No	30.43%	42
<b>Total</b>		<b>138</b>

**Q19 Please let us know how to contact you about access issues in and around Burnham Beeches. Please note this information will not be used to identify your other answers in this survey**

Answered: 86 Skipped: 79

Answer Choices	Responses	
Name	100.00%	86
Email	98.84%	85
Daytime phone number	84.88%	73

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## Appendix 7 - EQIA Stage One: Initial Screening Assessment Form

This should be used once it has been decided that a specific strategy, policy or project requires an initial screening.

**Name of strategy, project, policy:** Introduction of Dog Control Orders at Burnham Beeches  
**Department:** Open Spaces  
**Officer/s completing assessment:** Andy Barnard

The strategy, policy or project		
1.	What is the main purpose of the policy?	To introduce DCO's at Burnham Beeches as a means of encouraging responsible dog behaviour and enhance enjoyment of the site for all site visitors
2.	Is the policy affected by external drivers for change?	Increased occurrence of reported dog incidents and representations regarding their effect on enjoyment of the site.
3.	List the main activities of the policy?	<p>To make it an offence for a dog owner to:</p> <p>Schedule 1. Fail to pick up and remove faeces deposited on site</p> <p>Schedule 2. Fail to keep a dog on a lead, no more than 5m in length. In a designated area, at all times</p> <p>Schedule 3. Fail to put on a lead a dog in a designate area, when requested to do so by a Ranger</p> <p>Schedule 4. Fail to prevent a dog entering land from which they are excluded. NB this will only apply to the <u>existing</u> area (250sqm) around the BB café.</p> <p>Schedule 5. Bringing more than 4 dogs to the site</p> <p>Fixed penalty notices (max £80) can be issued by the Rangers should they witness an offence.</p>
4.	Who implements the policy?	The Director of Open Spaces

5.	Who will be affected by the policy?	<p>1. The Beeches is visited by 585,000 people each year of every age, faith, race and sexual/physical orientation.</p> <p>2. Dog walkers, are the main group to be affected by this report particularly with regard to Schedule 2 which provides an area where dogs must be kept on leads. Some dog walkers who also have mobility difficulties will be additionally affected by the reduction in area available for exercising dogs off lead if they wish to exercise dogs off lead because they are unable to exercise their dogs adequately while on lead due to their restricted mobility. The reduced area for exercising dogs off lead will also have additional impact on dog walkers who need to use boardwalks, or cannot use rougher terrain, as the area available for them is already limited to the boardwalk or gentler terrain, and the boardwalks or gentler terrain in the Schedule 2 area will no longer be available for exercising dogs off lead.</p> <p>3. Non dog walkers, are the majority group who will benefit from all Schedules particularly Schedule 2 that requires dogs to be on a lead in designated areas</p> <p>4. Car drivers and other road users will benefit by the reduce risk of dogs running onto the public highways, particularly those running through the Schedule 2 area.</p> <p>5. All current facilities for disabled visitors remain accessible with or without a dog albeit dogs will have to be on lead in the Schedule 2 area which contains the easy access paths.</p> <p>The Schedule 3 area (dogs off lead unless not under effective control) provides access to the majority (5km) of the private tarmac roads and other surfaced routes found on the site (site total 7.5km). The 4wd Trumper wheel chair will continue to provide access to rougher terrain across the site. Access for the necessarily car borne will continue within the car free zone. The existing wheel chair friendly boardwalks within the Schedules 2 and 3 areas will be maintained as currently.</p> <p>The topography and surface characteristics between Schedules 2 and 3 is shared with generally similar expanses of flattish ground, gradient, wetland, open terrain, natural obstacles and trip hazards.</p> <p>DEFRA provides specific guidance concerning enforcement of DCO's and the use of FPN's for disabled visitors and 'assistance dogs and this will be followed.</p>
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6.	What outcome do you want to achieve, why and for whom?	<p>The ultimate outcome is that the introduction of Dog Control Orders encourage responsible dog ownership by the dog walking community and thereby measurably reduce the number of dog related incidents on site recorded each year.</p> <p>This is expected to enhance the enjoyment of the site by other visitors, reduce the number of complaints and help the City of London in its legal duty to enhance biodiversity and maintain the site in favourable condition.</p>
7.	Are any other organisations involved?	See 9 below.
8.	Are there any existing assessments or inspections?	<p>Yes – Visitor Surveys 2009 and 2013.</p> <p>[several background surveys and research into urban impacts on the rare and sensitive habitats and wildlife found on the site, including that of dog walking.</p>

9.	Who have you consulted on the policy?	<p>We have consulted widely including by visitor surveys (see below), statutory press notice, site notice, non-statutory stakeholder consultation and leaflets, – main consultees include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2009 BB visitor survey (900 visitors).</li> <li>• 2013 BB DCO/visitor survey (360 visitors)</li> <li>• The Epping Forest and Commons Committee</li> <li>• The Burnham Beeches Consultation Group (BBCG - represents local users inc dog walkers)</li> <li>• Natural England</li> <li>• The Kennel Club</li> <li>• South Bucks District Council</li> <li>• Farnham Royal parish Council</li> <li>• Burnham Parish Council</li> </ul>
10.	Who are the main beneficiaries of the policy?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site visitors to Burnham Beeches. It is anticipated that enjoyment of the site will be generally enhanced.</li> <li>• [The Burnham Beeches SSSI and associated habitats and wildlife (nutrient deposition and wildlife disturbance).</li> <li>• The City of London – the policy will help to assure that the target of ‘favourable condition’ is maintained in a sustainable manner (nutrient deposition and wildlife disturbance).</li> <li>• Natural England - The policy will assist Natural England’s target to ensure SSSI’s are maintained in favourable condition.</li> </ul>



<b>The Impact:</b>	Tick the boxes which apply for each 'target group'					
<b>Equality Target Group</b>	<b>Positive Impact</b>		<b>Neutral Impact</b>	<b>Negative Impact</b>		<b>Reason/Comment</b>
	<b>High</b>	<b>Low</b>		<b>High</b>	<b>Low</b>	
<b>Gender</b>						
Women			X			Some women have commented that they feel safer when walking with their dogs. Conversely, some women have also commented that they will feel safer if dogs are kept on a lead or are under effective control.
Men			X			None anticipated
Transgender			X			None anticipated
<b>Race</b>						
Asian – Asian Bangladeshi; Asian British; Asian Indian; Asian Pakistani; Asian Other		X				Some ethnic Asian groups have cultural attitudes to dogs which mean that the introduction of dogs on leads in set areas of the site may encourage increased visits to sites from this visitor grouping.
Black – Black African; Black British; Black Caribbean; Black Other			X			None anticipated
Chinese			X			None anticipated
Irish			X			None anticipated
Mixed – Asian & White; Black &			X			None anticipated

<b>The Impact:</b>	Tick the boxes which apply for each 'target group'					
<b>Equality Target Group</b>	<b>Positive Impact</b>		<b>Neutral Impact</b>	<b>Negative Impact</b>		<b>Reason/Comment</b>
	<b>High</b>	<b>Low</b>		<b>High</b>	<b>Low</b>	
White; Mixed Other						
White – White British; White European Union; White Other			X			None anticipated
<b>Disabled people</b>			X			<p>All special access features will remain available to disabled visitors. The easy access paths within the Schedule 2 area will require all visitors (including disabled visitors) to keep their dogs on a lead however, suitable alternative routes are readily available and clear guidance on this issue has been provided by DEFRA.</p> <p>The Schedule 3 area (dogs off lead unless not under effective control) provides access to the majority (5km) of the private tarmac roads and other surfaced routes found on the site (site total 7.5km). The 4wd Trumper wheel chair will continue to provide access to rougher terrain across the site.</p> <p>Access for the necessarily</p>

<b>The Impact:</b>	Tick the boxes which apply for each 'target group'					
<b>Equality Target Group</b>	<b>Positive Impact</b>		<b>Neutral Impact</b>	<b>Negative Impact</b>		<b>Reason/Comment</b>
	<b>High</b>	<b>Low</b>		<b>High</b>	<b>Low</b>	
						<p>car borne will continue within the car free zone. The existing wheel chair friendly board walks within the Schedules 2 and 3 areas will be maintained as currently.</p> <p>The topography and surface characteristics between Schedules 2 and 3 is shared with generally similar expanses of flattish ground, gradient, wetland, open terrain, natural obstacles and trip hazards. As a potentially vulnerable group, disabled visitor may also benefit from dogs being on lead or under effective control at all times.</p>
<b>Lesbians, gay men and bisexuals</b>			<b>X</b>			None anticipated
<b>Older people</b>			<b>X</b>			The easy access paths within the Schedule 3 area will require all visitors (including elderly visitors) to keep their dogs on a lead and this has the potential to cause minor inconvenience to a small number. However, suitable alternative routes are readily available. The Tramper

The Impact:	Tick the boxes which apply for each 'target group'					
Equality Target Group	Positive Impact		Neutral Impact	Negative Impact		Reason/Comment
	High	Low		High	Low	
						<p>will continue to be provided as a free service to allow access to rougher terrain and the car free zone will continue to allow special access for this type of visitor.</p> <p>Schedule 3 (dogs off lead unless not under effective control) provides access to the majority (5km) of the private tarmac roads and other surfaced routes found on the site - site total 7.5km. The 4wd Trumper wheel chair will continue to provide access to rougher terrain across the site. Access for the necessarily car borne will continue within the car free zone. The existing wheel chair friendly board walks within Schedule areas 2 and 3 will be maintained as currently.</p> <p>The topography and surface characteristics between Schedules 2 and 3 is shared with generally similar expanses of flattish ground,</p>

<b>The Impact:</b>	Tick the boxes which apply for each 'target group'					
<b>Equality Target Group</b>	<b>Positive Impact</b>		<b>Neutral Impact</b>	<b>Negative Impact</b>		<b>Reason/Comment</b>
	<b>High</b>	<b>Low</b>		<b>High</b>	<b>Low</b>	
						gradient, wetland, open terrain, natural obstacles and trip hazards. As a potentially vulnerable group, elderly and disabled visitors may also benefit from dogs being on lead or under effective control at all times.
<b>Younger people and children</b>			<b>X</b>			None anticipated
<b>Faith groups</b>			<b>X</b>			None anticipated

<b>Further Action</b>	
Does the policy have a negative impact on any of the equality target groups? If so, you will need to proceed to Stage 2	No
Is the negative impact assessed as being of high significance? If so, you will need to proceed to Stage 2	No
Is progression to Stage 2: Full Assessment required?	No

Signed (Completing Officer):

A. Barnard

Date: 1<sup>st</sup> July 2014

Signed (Departmental Equality Champion):

Jennifer Allott

Date: 1<sup>st</sup> July 2014

## Actions Arising from Initial Screening

Issue	Action Required	Lead Officer	Timescale	Resource Implications	Comments
Monitoring the impact of the policy in terms of equality issues	Ensure all comments received following the implementation of the policy are recorded and discussed/resolved through the EFCC and the BBCG	Andy Barnard	July 2014 onwards	Could be resource heavy particularly in terms Officer time and finance if the proposals require significant amendment and re advertising.	

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**THE KENNEL CLUB**  
*Making a difference for dogs*

**Kennel Club Response to the City of London's dog control order consultation on Burnham Beeches**

Submitted on 11 July 2014 by: The Kennel Club, 1-5 Clarges Street, Piccadilly, London W1J 8AB, tel: 020 7518 1020, email: [denisa.delic@thekennelclub.org.uk](mailto:denisa.delic@thekennelclub.org.uk)

## Summary

- The Kennel Club supports Schedule 1 of the Dog Control Order (DCO) to require visitors with dogs to pick up dog faeces across this whole site. This is on the basis of problems caused to other visitors and grazing livestock from not doing so.
- We concur with Natural England's findings that "In conclusion we can find no scientific basis for controlling dogs at Burnham Beeches on nature conservation grounds"
- The Kennel Club opposes Schedule 2 for all dogs on leads across 59% of the site all year round. Off-lead access is the single most valued amenity for visitors with dogs, and walkers with dogs that are under control and not causing a problem should not lose this amenity. Moreover, such a restriction is also not justified for nature conservation reasons (as evidenced by Natural England's statement above) nor supported by views expressed by visitors - with or without dogs - as identified by the CoL's own survey last year.
- The imposition of Schedule 2 will also result in a greater intensity of off-lead dogs in the most heavily-used part of the site, combined with walkers with dogs being

displaced to other areas of public access in the district, intensifying the problems that the City of London (CoL) alleges exist on its own land, onto land managed by others. It will also result in reductions in income from the café and car parking / donations.

- If Schedule 2 is implemented, 67% of current walkers with dogs say they will spend “much less” in the café, with 75% saying they will spend “much less” on car parking or donations, with 25% “very unlikely” to purchase another annual parking permit.
- The Kennel Club supports Schedule 3 for dogs on lead by direction, and suggests this should apply to the whole site, including the area currently proposed for Schedule 2. This will ensure rangers have the power to deal with dogs that not under effective control wherever they are on the Beeches. Further work is needed to clearly, consistently and accurately define when such a power will be used.
- The Kennel Club does not object to having a dog-free area in and around the café (Schedule 4) to give choice to all visitors, but notes that good management everywhere else achieves this without the need for a DCO, and that there is no legal requirement for dogs to be excluded from where food is being consumed (as opposed to where it is being prepared).
- The Kennel Club does not support arbitrary limits on the number of dogs one person can walk if they are under control and/or on a lead. We thus submit that Schedule 3 and the existing byelaws are sufficient to deal with this issue. While we have seen no evidence as to why a limit needs be imposed, if one is needed, it should be for 6 dogs which is the number cited in the Defra guidance for Dog Control Orders.
- We do not believe the City of London Corporation has complied with the consultation requirements set out by Parliament for Dog Control Orders.

### ***About the Kennel Club***

The Kennel Club is the largest organisation in the UK devoted to dog health, welfare and training. Its objective is to ensure that dogs live healthy, happy lives with responsible owners.

It runs the country's largest registration database for both pedigree and crossbreed dogs and the Petlog database, which is the UK's biggest reunification service for microchipped animals. The Kennel Club Assured Breeder Scheme is the only scheme in the UK that monitors breeders, in order to protect the welfare of puppies and breeding bitches. It also runs the UK's largest dog training programme, the Good Citizen Dog Training Scheme and licenses shows and clubs across a wide range of activities, which help dog owners to bond and enjoy life with their dogs. The Kennel Club runs the world's greatest dog show, Crufts, and the Discover Dogs event at Earls Court, London, which is a fun family day out that educates people about how to buy responsibly and care for their dog.

The Kennel Club invests in welfare campaigns, dog training and education programmes and the Kennel Club Charitable Trust, which supports research into dog diseases and dog welfare charities, including Kennel Club Breed Rescue organisations that re-home dogs throughout the UK. The Kennel Club jointly runs health screening schemes with the British Veterinary Association and through the Charitable Trust, funds the Kennel Club Genetics Centre at the Animal Health Trust, which is at the forefront of pioneering research into dog health. The new Kennel Club Cancer Centre at the Animal Health Trust will contribute to the AHT's well-established cancer research programme, helping to further improve dog health.

# Response to the consultation

## *Introduction*

While the underlying principles of our support and concerns about the various proposals have already been discussed with the CoL at length, given the statutory nature of this consultation, we have reiterated these again here.

Significant additional information is also included here for the first time in this response arising from:

- Our additional liaison with local residents and dog walkers, the vast majority of whom support the concerns the KC has raised from the outset. This is as expected as our advice is based on a wide range of surveys and research spanning over 10 years, with all dog walkers all over the England; our advice does not just reflect opinions of Kennel Club members, as the CoL has previously sought to imply. Moreover, much of the latter research has been jointly funded with bodies such as Natural England, Forestry Commission, Scottish Natural Heritage and Hampshire County Council, and carried out by academic institutions, further underlining its credibility and applicability.
- An online survey of dog walker attitudes and likely responses to the Schedule 2 proposals. An unedited anonymised summary of the results thus is attached. We did want those issues explored (such as displacement, loss of income, value of off-lead access) to be included in the Corporation's own visitor survey last year; however that opportunity to have input into the survey was regrettably denied to us by the CoL. Nonetheless, given that the CoL estimates around 600 visits by dog walkers each day, we are very pleased with the representativeness of the results from the 164 people so far, 40% of whom visit with a dog at least once a day. While a greater sample would be even more helpful, in the absence of any data on these issues from the CoL, these clearly bolster the attitudes and impacts on which we have built our case against Schedule 2 from the start.

### ***Validity of the consultation***

We submit that on the evidence available to us from partners and local dog walkers, the Corporation has not fulfilled the requirements for a consultation under the Dog Control Orders (Procedures) Regulations 2006, and in particular the requirements to:

- Section 3(1)(c) – consult the access authority and local access forum, due to the area being access land. Given the evidence of displacement onto other forms of public access in the area, we submit this is a significant deficiency in the process.
- Section 3(3)(a) “... where practicable, place signs summarising the order in conspicuous positions on or near the land in respect of which it applies.”

We submit that the lack of compliance with section 3(3)(a) has occurred due to site visits indicating a failure to erect any such signs at many well-used access points on the south and west of the Beeches, on Park Lane, Pumpkin Hill, and that section of Hawthorn Lane to the west of the Dell car park, plus the Dukes Drive entry point on the north eastern perimeter.

We submit that this was a significant, prejudicial and needless failure in compliance given that:

- This lack of signage meant that visitors most likely to be affected by the DCO (namely those people that wholly or mainly use the Schedule 2 all dogs on lead area from the west and south) could readily visit without passing any on-site notices about the DCO.
- Equally, this means that the people least likely to be affected by Schedule 2 and less likely to object, were given the most frequent indication of the DCO through fixed signage and newsletters around the café and East Burnham Common.
- The Corporation recognises that access is regularly taken from these points, as it maintains orientation and byelaw information at many of them (eg the “West” “Morton Drive” entry points) as well as at other access points having metal entrance barriers, where usage by walkers with dogs was sufficient to warrant the CoL to erect and maintain general signage about dog control.

- The DCO visitor survey commissioned by the Corporation was planned to interview people in these subsequently un-notified areas over two days in July and November 2013, in recognition of the fact that only surveying people in the formal car parks would not engage with a representative sample of visitors.
- People who value off-lead access in the western part of the site and avoid the busy areas to reduce the potential for conflict with others, were thus least likely to know about the dog control orders.
- It was “practicable” (as required by the Regulations) to erect signs about the DCO at these entry points, as there is already signage in place onto which a notice could be fixed.
- Moreover, people who don’t use the formal car parks, such as people walking into the Beeches using the public rights of way network, would also not know about the DCO.

Thus unless and until all the above consultation requirements have been met, before any further decisions or consideration of this matter we submit the CoL needs to carry out a compliant consultation to ensure that the people and organisations the Westminster Government recognised as needing to be formally consulted have had that opportunity.

We thus request the Corporation's clarification within 28 days of whether it feels it has complied with the above requirements, and / or if it intends to commence a compliant consultation process, as we would not want to raise a formal challenge if the CoL recognises a deficiency. If the Corporation feels it has met the requirements of section 3(3)(a), we request details of where signs giving notice of the DCO were provided and maintained for the duration of the consultation.

## ***Misrepresentation in consultation materials***

We are also disappointed that in its consultation materials, the CoL has only published evidence that supports its pre-existing, unique and in our view flawed decision that a year-round, off-lead ban all dogs – determined by a crude percentage (rather than targeted at particular sensitivities) – across 59% of the site is needed.

Normally DCOs are processed by local councils where there is an expectation by the public and Members, that a balanced and open illustration of the facts will be brought forward by officers. However in this case, for example, the CoL has repeatedly failed to refer to the detailed, careful and much considered statement by Natural England that includes the very clear statements that:

*"In conclusion we can find no scientific basis for controlling dogs at Burnham Beeches on nature conservation grounds."*

*"We are not aware of any research that supports the hypothesis that the nature conservation value of beech woodland habitat can be damaged by access with dogs, though that remains a theoretical possibility."*

This greatly contrasts to efforts made by the Corporation to promote as undeniable facts, officer opinions and anecdotes that purport to support its case to the public and elected Members.

For example, District and Parish Councillor Ralph Bagge has recently told us in writing that: "I recently heard a presentation by the Superintendent, Andy Burnham, which concluded that the Beeches is being damaged by the high numbers of visitors... there is undeniable evidence that inconsiderate dog walkers are harming the fragile habitat of the Beeches."

One can accept that officers will have their own personal and anecdotal opinions about a site and wish to articulate those. However, it is misleading to not also give some public acknowledgement to the contrasting and clear views from a multidisciplinary team at Government's statutory nature conservation advisors,

Natural England, as these are undeniably relevant. Such third party, reputable and considered advice should have been made clear to the public, and we believe there is a reasonable expectation that in seeking to illustrate democracy and openness in action, CoL members would expect this to have occurred too.

Moreover, the COL has also failed to communicate significant evidence from its own survey in relation to the proposed DCO. For example, the most recent newsletter on the DCO failed to state that, of the less than two-thirds of visitors (with or without dogs) who felt that an always-on-lead restriction was needed at all, most said this should cover less than 25% of the site. This significant fact is very notable by its absence in the CoL information given to the public on the matter.

As the CoL has been given powers by Defra to apply legislation normally reserved for democratically-accountable local councils, we believe there is a moral – if not legal – imperative for it to uphold the principles of openness and balance which society rightly expects from public bodies. We submit the CoL's actions in the above regard have failed to meet such an expectation.

### ***Restrictions not needed to meet future housing developments***

We understand mention has also been made by officers of the need for these DCOs due to future housing developments in the area. However, if any such developments are likely to have a significant adverse effect on the Beeches, under European law the planning authority is required to either not allow the development as it stands or require relevant mitigation.

Thus at present we submit that future housing developments are not relevant as justification in this case, as there are already very strong legal requirements in place to ensure an adverse impact does not occur, and moreover to provide sufficient long-term resources for rangers, management or alternative areas to walk dogs by incoming residents.



### **Schedule 1: Fouling of Land by Dogs Order**

*This would make it an offence on land to which the order applies for anyone at any time to fail to remove dog faeces deposited by a dog for which he or she is responsible. The order, if made, will apply to the whole of Burnham Beeches.*

The Kennel Club supports this proposal to aid national consistency about picking up in rural areas, and to reduce problems that can be caused to a wide range of interests when dog faeces are not picked up, or left behind in bags.

However, it is not solely in itself justified by the local statistics about fouling as promoted by the CoL. While headline-grabbing figures are cited about the amount of faeces produced by dogs when visiting the Beeches, these figures in themselves are meaningless as:

- They do not identify actual consequential impacts on the site, and are based on a series of estimates that increasingly reduce any potential accuracy.
- The CoL highlights that it provides 100,000 dog waste bags and spends £7,000 each year, indicating an already high level of picking up. Indeed, a recent survey of bins in the proposed off-lead area showed bins were overflowing. Moreover, at least 50% of filled bags placed in the bins on the site were not those bags provided by the CoL, further highlighting compliance and how large numbers of dog walkers are taking responsibility for their dogs??.



***One of many full and overflowing bins at East Burnham Common, showing a large proportion of non-CoL (light blue) bags in use – 1st July 2014***

Given the above, we also suggest that the CoL needs to increase its provision of bins, or frequency of their emptying, to meet the higher level of picking up it expects will ensue.

We also note allegations of the effect of dog urine on the site, but again have only heard anecdote and opinion rather than any evidence in this regard. Moreover, as off-lead access is so popular with walkers with dogs, the Schedule 2 proposal is likely to concentrate urine in the busiest area. If urine deposition was affecting the integrity of the site, Natural England would have supported the DCO proposals on this regard; but it has not done so.

We also note that a local dog walker and trainer had approached local CoL staff in writing about running a responsible dog ownership campaign in the last few years. However, there was no response to this offer, until this fact was highlighted in media coverage on the DCO proposals. This to us suggests that the CoL felt that the issue – or working with local dog walkers – was not actually a priority.

### **Schedule 2: All Dogs on Leads Order**

*This would make it an offence on the 59% of the Beeches to which the order applies for anyone at any time not to keep a dog for which he or she is responsible on a lead of not more than five metres in length.*

The Kennel Club opposes this proposal in the strongest possible terms, for the following reasons:

- The proposal is more extensive and restrictive than any Dog Control Order, national law or local bylaw, that we have seen anywhere else in the UK, including on sites with much higher levels of nature conservation designation and sensitivity than Burnham Beeches. **85% of dog walkers responding to our survey agreed that this restriction was unjustified.**
- From research jointly-funded by Natural England (NE), off-lead access close to home and away from traffic, is by far the most important amenity for 85% of dog owners nationally, who made up 62% of all visitors to the Beeches in the 2013 CoL-commissioned visitor survey. ***Our current survey of dog walkers at the***

**Beeches shows that 83% say that off-lead access is “very important” to them.** And yet Schedule 2 now seeks to deny this highly-valued amenity of controlled off-lead exercise – which has been enjoyed for many decades without opposition – across almost 60% of the Beeches for the majority of its visitors.

- This proposal, and the related CoL-commissioned 2013 visitor survey, has perpetuated what we submit to be a false premise, namely that a crude percentage-based approach to restrictions is a valid way to approach the issue. Focussing any restrictions on specific issues, features and sensitivities is a far more valid and credible way forward, which is why it is used elsewhere throughout UK. Moreover, the company commissioned to do the latter survey clearly stated that it found the people it interviewed also “struggled” with using a percentage to define the extent of any proposed restrictions, and yet the CoL still persists with its original premise.
- The proposed off-lead area includes land where cattle are or – as we understand – will be grazed, at a time when great efforts are being made nationally to have clarity about having dogs on lead around livestock, to reduce the human fatalities that happen each year from dog walkers being trampled by cattle. The Kennel Club suggests that City of London needs to consider its moral responsibilities and legal liabilities, if a potentially fatal incident occurs when they have concentrated off-lead access in a grazed area. If an on-lead area is needed, it makes sense for this to follow the area where cattle are grazing – a sensible and flexible approach that is adopted throughout the rest of the UK. **From our current survey, 62% of dog walkers visiting Burnham Beeches agree that it is wrong to have cattle grazing in a designated area for off-lead exercise.**
- We suggest that the City of London similarly needs to consider its liabilities, as this proposal will also mean more off-lead access is taken nearer to unfenced public roads, with thus an increased danger of injuries for all road users if a dog-related accident occurs.
- If walkers with dogs come to the Beeches in the same numbers after this DCO is imposed, it will concentrate existing alleged problems from off-lead access into 41% of the site, which is also the busiest area for visitors. **84% of dog walkers**

***responding to our survey agree Schedule 2 is likely to increase problems, with 75% saying it will also increase disturbance for people having picnics and playing games.***

- While the justification given to us for this restriction is to protect wildlife, the Government's nature conservation agency, Natural England, explicitly does not support this proposal. Given that NE – and the Kennel Club – support restrictions on dogs for wildlife protection on their own and other land **where there are known proven or likely adverse impacts**, we submit that CoL Members must give great weight to its decision not to support this proposal. Neither Natural England nor the Kennel Club are opposed to the principle of restrictions on where walkers with dogs go and what they do. ***But neither body will support restrictions that are disproportionate, substantially lacking in evidence, and out of step with good practice from across the rest of England and the UK, as is being proposed at Burnham Beeches.***
- Officers at Burnham have used the site's wildlife designation to justify this restriction. However, unlike many other sites, the Beeches are not designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) area under the EU Birds Directive, which would be the case if the site was important for rare ground nesting birds. The site is primarily designated for its ancient woodland, which we do not believe is threatened by off-lead dogs, a fact echoed by Natural England when they state: ***"We are not aware of any research that supports the hypothesis that the nature conservation value of beech woodland habitat can be damaged by access with dogs, though that remains a theoretical possibility."***
- Even on sites that are designated as SPAs, restrictions across the UK are timed to be the least restrictive, limiting restrictions to sensitive times and places (eg bird nesting or overwintering seasons), and not imposed year-round as proposed here at Burnham Beeches.
- More recently the CoL has claimed in its current Burnham Beeches newsletter that Schedule 2 will provide a "sanctuary" area for wildlife. As with the displacement issue below, we submit this illustrates how the DCO is being proposed in an insular way without reference to issues beyond the immediate

boundary of the CoL's land. For example, wildlife have access to all the surrounding woodland, whereas walkers are far more restricted in where they can go, being limited to the CoL's land, roads and narrow public rights of way. Moreover, the Burnham Beeches Site of Special Scientific Interest consists of 374ha split over 4 units, with the COL-owned area with public access being 200ha, meaning that there are there still 174 ha of the SSSI for wildlife with minimal or no access for walkers. Plus the area is surrounded by other habitats (including woodland) where wildlife can find sanctuary, but where there is little or no public access.

- **The Kennel Club does support targeted, and proportionate restrictions elsewhere.** This includes sites that have far higher levels of designation than Burnham Beeches, such as the international designation of a Ramsar site, and a Special Protection Area under the EU Birds Directive; Burnham Beeches has neither of the latter. It has only one EU designation, that of a Special Area of Conservation and is a UK National Nature Reserve, whereas we work with bodies such as Natural England to develop and apply restrictions on sites that have all four (namely NNR, SPA, SAC and Ramsar) designations. The latter are very clearly sites with higher levels of nature conservation designation than Burnham Beeches. However, we note CoL officers persist in falsely claiming to the public that Burnham Beeches in having just one European designation, is just as highly designated as sites with a second European wildlife designation and International designation.
- If actively enforced, this proposal is likely to displace off-lead access onto other land in the vicinity, in both private and public ownership. It is also likely to mean people will use their cars more to get to such places on a daily basis. These environmental consequences have not, to our knowledge, been discussed by CoL with the partners and landowners likely to be affected, as the CoL has consistently dismissed the potential for displacement. From our survey, dog walkers currently visiting the Beeches, **83% say they will walk their dogs more frequently elsewhere if Schedule 2 is implemented**, as indicated in the following table:

**Q13 Where would you walk your dog(s) instead, and how often, if the off-lead ban is imposed at Burnham Beeches?**

	Every day	4 to 6 times per week	1 to 3 times per week	A few times per month	Hardly ever	Never	Don't know	Total
Stoke Common	1.64% 1	11.48% 7	16.39% 10	14.75% 9	9.84% 6	36.07% 22	9.84% 6	61
Black Park Country Park	8.64% 7	14.81% 12	25.93% 21	27.16% 22	8.64% 7	8.64% 7	6.17% 5	81
Langley Country Park	4.48% 3	8.96% 6	25.37% 17	19.40% 13	16.42% 11	16.42% 11	8.96% 6	67
Littleworth Common	1.92% 1	1.92% 1	7.69% 4	9.62% 5	15.38% 8	38.46% 20	25.00% 13	52
Church Wood, Hedgerley	1.82% 1	1.82% 1	12.73% 7	16.36% 9	9.09% 5	41.82% 23	16.36% 9	55
Playing fields/ recreation grounds	20.00% 13	15.38% 10	20.00% 13	12.31% 8	6.15% 4	21.54% 14	4.62% 3	65
Upton Court Park, Slough	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	10.20% 5	4.08% 2	10.20% 5	59.18% 29	16.33% 8	49
Public paths across farmland	18.75% 12	9.38% 6	18.75% 12	17.19% 11	10.94% 7	15.63% 10	9.38% 6	64
Farnham Common / Brockhurst Wood	5.45% 3	3.64% 2	10.91% 6	14.55% 8	12.73% 7	38.18% 21	14.55% 8	55
Public paths across golf courses	14.29% 8	3.57% 2	10.71% 6	16.07% 9	12.50% 7	33.93% 19	8.93% 5	56
Public paths in private woods	16.42% 11	8.96% 6	22.39% 15	23.88% 16	5.97% 4	16.42% 11	5.97% 4	67
Bridleways and tracks shared with horse riders and cyclists	13.79% 8	6.90% 4	20.69% 12	18.97% 11	10.34% 6	17.24% 10	12.07% 7	58
Jubilee River path	3.08% 2	16.92% 11	26.15% 17	15.38% 10	9.23% 6	18.46% 12	10.77% 7	65
Thames path	6.78% 4	8.47% 5	27.12% 16	15.25% 9	10.17% 6	16.95% 10	15.25% 9	59

- Reductions in income from car parking and the café due to dog walkers going elsewhere is also likely, affecting income for site management and the catering tenant. From our survey, if Schedule 2 is implemented, **67% of current walkers with dogs say they will spend “much less” in the café, with 75% saying they will spend “much less” on car parking or donations, with 25% “very unlikely” to purchase another annual parking permit.**
- The CoL has unduly dismissed the needs-based, least-restrictive approaches to restrictions widely used elsewhere in the UK, by bodies including local councils, Wildlife Trusts and Natural England. These include targeting sensitive areas, restricting off-lead access by time of year or day; rotating off-lead access to areas where livestock are not grazing. The 2013 CoL visitor survey missed a great opportunity to identify the best approach by narrowly sticking to its original flawed

concept of having a year-round on-lead restriction based on a crude percentage of site figure.

- To summarise, both the Kennel Club and Natural England support and promote on-lead restrictions and dog bans for nature conservation and public amenity at many sites all over England. Thus neither body is opposed to the principle of restrictions. The reason why neither body supports this element of the DCO at Burnham Beeches is the fact that this site does not have the sensitivities, proven or reasonably argued as precautionary, of other sites where restrictions are in place. It is unfortunate that the CoL seem to assume that NE and the KC are wrong in their views and so focus on dismissing them, rather than reflecting on how its own reasoning is out of step with the least restrictive approach – based on a site's individual sensitivities – used and respected across the rest of England.

### **Schedule 3: Dogs on Leads by Direction Order**

*This would make it an offence on land to which the order applies for anyone at any time to fail to put and keep a dog for which he or she is responsible on a lead of not more than five metres in length when directed to do so by an authorised officer of the Common Council of the City of London. The order, if made, will apply to that part of Burnham Beeches to the east of and including Sir Henry Peeks Drive and Halse Drive but excluding those fenced areas covered by Schedules 2 and 4.*

The Kennel Club supports the principle of having such powers, as out of control dogs can cause problems for other visitors with and without dogs. Targeting restrictions at the people causing problems, as Schedule 3 can do, is the fairest way to do this.

However, there needs to be a clear, defined policy stating when and how this option is to be used. Until such a policy is defined in writing, the Kennel Club cannot support the implementation of this proposal, as it has potential to be applied inconsistently and unfairly.

While the CoL has suggested that its dog walking code already provides the latter, we submit that the evidence on site shows that current management still lacks clarity and consistency about what is required from visitors with dogs.

For example below, the same symbol of an on-lead dog with a green tick, is currently used both in areas where dogs only need to be under “effective control” rather than on a lead (as cited by Sue Ireland, email 30 April 2014), and also where leads are required.



***Officers state this sign means “dogs need to be under effective control”***



***Confusingly, the same sign is used where dogs need to be on a lead***

Another example of a lack of clarity and consistency in relation to the claimed clear “effective control” messages given in the CoL’s current Guidelines for Dog Walkers, is the signage currently on site, asking for “close control” without further explanation of what that means, as illustrated below:





***Existing signage for dog walkers requesting “close control”***

Apart from the practical meaning of “close control” not being defined in the CoL’s guidelines – and thus lack of clarity about what is expected, compared to “effective control” – the use of “close control” is widely accepted as not being good practice, given the lack of clarity about what it means, and because in legal terms (under the Dogs (Protection of Livestock) Act 1953) it only applies to enclosures containing sheep. Hence why the term was removed by Natural England from the last revision to the Countryside Code some years ago.

It has also come to light that signage erected by the CoL about where people can be fined for parking at the side of the road on Park Lane, Pumpkin Hill and Hawthorn Lane may also be inaccurate. While we are awaiting final confirmation of additional facts from the Highway Authority, indications are again that CoL signage has not accurately or consistently reflected the legislation in place.

Thus we assert that more clarity is still needed for Schedule 3 to be enforced in a clear, fair and effective way; existing information provision about where visitors with dogs can go and what they can do does not currently achieve this.

#### **Schedule 4: Dogs Exclusion Order**

*This would make it an offence for anyone at any time to allow a dog for which he or she is responsible to enter or remain on land to which the order applies. The order, if made, will apply to the café enclosure of approximately 245 square metres at Burnham Beeches.*

While there is no legal or health and safety requirement to exclude dogs from where food is being consumed, the Kennel Club recognises and supports informed choice being given to people who, for social or cultural reasons, like to eat in dog-free areas.

While the scale of the proposal plan supplied makes it hard to be certain, if Schedule 4 is just proposing to formalise the no dogs area that already informally covers part of the café seating area, we are willing to support this. However, the Kennel Club does not know of any other indoor or outdoor café that has needed to impose a Dog Control Order to provide a dog-free area; normally good management by staff deals with this.

#### **Schedule 5: Dogs (Specified Maximum) Order**

*This would make it an offence for anyone at any time to take more than four dogs for which he or she is responsible onto land to which the order applies. The order, if made, will apply to the whole of Burnham Beeches.*

The Kennel Club believes that taking action against those dog owners who are causing actual problems (irrespective of how many dogs they have) is a better way forward than an arbitrary limit on the number of dogs one person can walk. Three out of control off-lead Labradors can be more of a problem than six Chihuahuas on leads.

Indeed, we submit that Schedule 3 above, if implemented, will allow control over people with any number of dogs by having them put on leads.

However, if a maximum number is to be imposed, the Kennel Club supports the Defra recommended number of six dogs, which is clearly stated in its 2006 guidance for Dog Control Orders. Otherwise it would appear that the CoL chooses to give

weight to the latter guidance when it supports its case, but dismisses the advice when it does not agree with what it has already decided.

The Kennel Club does not believe that there is a need to ban someone from visiting the Beeches all year round if they come with, e.g., five well trained dogs on-leads.

Moreover, we are not convinced there is a need for this arbitrary rule, as no dog walkers said they came to the Beeches with more than six dogs in our own survey, plus the CoL has not shown evidence – for example from complaint logs – that more than 4 dogs has caused actual recurring problems. If that had been the case, then we would be much more minded to support Schedule 5. Indeed, we also note that in the report to the Epping Forest and Commons Committee on 10 March 2014, officers stated that “Use of the site by commercial dog walkers is low”, thus dismissing any justification of action being needed to deal with commercial walking of multiple dogs.

## **Conclusion**

The Kennel Club routinely supports restrictions where they are evidence-based, proportionate and consistently and credibly applied. While some aspects of the CoL’s proposals meet this standard (and thus we support them), some significant aspects do not. Thus we object to the latter elements and seek to have the DCOs amended to provide a fair and proportionate access management strategy at Burnham Beeches, that better reflects the views and interests of all its visitors (with and without dogs), Natural England and neighbouring land owners.

**Attachment:** dog walker survey results as of 10 July 2014

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## Comments on the Kennel Club Burnham Beeches Survey

I have been asked for comments on the Burnham Beeches survey of dog walkers, produced by the Kennel Club:

<http://www.burnhamdogwalkers.org.uk/>

I can't comment on how the survey is being circulated/promoted, but in order to in any way capture balanced views from a random selection of dog walkers it would be essential that the survey was not distributed alongside any hostile/negative/exaggerated claims about the proposed DCOs.

Page 1: The introductory text is very strongly worded and leads the respondent to a particular viewpoint. The text is written in such a way that the reader will form a negative opinion of the Corporation of London and the proposed measures, and the wording also clearly is likely to make people want to respond angrily and in a particular way. This effect is created immediately with the title ("off-lead ban") which appears throughout and is emotive.

The introduction states that the aim of the questionnaire is to "show the Corporation's decision-makers how .... Unpopular their off-lead ban will be".

Page 2: Response order would ideally be randomised. This applies to many of the questions, where there are categories in a set order. For example in question 5 the order is such that the highest value is most likely to be ticked.

Page 3: Question 3. It is not easy to understand the area in which off-lead dog walking will be allowed. A map would have been more appropriate.

The list of statements is biased and very negative. Ideally there would be a mix of positive and negative statements. The strongly agree button is closest to the statements and therefore the one most likely to be clicked in all cases.

The statements link to the view already heavily promoted in the introduction just two clicks previous: for example the introductory text states that measures are unjustified - people are likely to start completing the questionnaire with that in mind - and then they are asked whether they agree or not that "restricting all dogs in this way is unjustified", something they have already been told.

Page 4, question 4: not clear what the star means (subsequent clicks show that it reflects routed questions)

The offer of an incentive (tickets to events) means that individuals may respond multiple times and may get relatives etc to respond. This is likely to inflate the number of responses.

The final page makes it clear that the survey will be used to challenge the Corporation of London, it again makes strongly leading statements and then asks that the link is circulated to other dog walkers (which would suggest that it will be further circulated by people that have been stirred up by the wording).

In summary the survey is clearly designed to lead responses to a particular view and only to gather responses from people likely to provide such a view. The survey is promoted to gain as many responses as possible, rather than to simply gather responses from individuals who have a particular viewpoint.

Durwyn Liley, 9<sup>th</sup> June 2014

## Comments on the Kennel Club Burnham Beeches Survey

Durwyn Liley, 21<sup>st</sup> July 2014

### Clarification on numbers of dog walkers in the Footprint Ecology survey.

In the Footprint Ecology visitor survey undertaken in 2013, 359 interviews were undertaken, of which 56% were with dog walkers. The visitor survey involved interviews with a random sample of people, and only one person was interviewed per group, so for example, a family or a lone dog walkers would both be a single interview. Taking into account group size, then dog walkers accounted for 44% of the visitor volume.

### Responses to Kennel Club's questionnaire output

#### General points

The number of responses varies markedly with each question, with often over a third of respondents skipping the question. The bar charts for each question simply give percentages based on the number of answers. This creates some bias and is not made clear. This applies to many questions, but, for example, on Q11 (spend on parking) the bar chart suggests about 75% of respondents would spend much less. This is 75% of the 98 that answered the questions, but actually is less than half of all the people that responded.

The output appears to be simply that generated automatically by the software (survey monkey): there is no indication that the data have been checked by the kennel club (for example to check for anyone that might have responded twice). There is also no breakdown or filtering to allow the data to be queried in more detail – this is lacking throughout the output. For example with Q6 (relating to future spend in the café at Burnham Beeches) it would be useful to tell whether the people that indicated they would spend much less were the regular visitors or the infrequent visitors.

#### Specific points

Q1: the results would suggest 87 respondents visited Burnham Beeches regularly to walk their dog. This is a relatively small component of the overall numbers of visitors. For example if we use categorise each response according to an approximate number of annual visits (1), then it would suggest the respondents account for just over 30,000 annual visits to Burnham Beeches – a small proportion of the nearly 600,000 total person visits estimated each year (Wheater & Cook 2012).

**Table 1: Responses to question 1 in the Kennel Club questionnaire: “on average, how often do you go for a walk in Burnham Beeches....”. Suggested visits per year is our estimate of how many visits each category might represent – for example for ‘more than once a day’ we have assumed 1.5 visits per day, i.e. 547.5 visits per year.**

<b>Response categories to question 1</b>	<b>Number of respondents in Kennel Club questionnaire</b>	<b>Suggested visits per year</b>	<b>Total visits</b>
more than once a day	17	547.5	9307.5
once a day	39	365	14235
4-6 times per week	20	260	5200
1-3 times per week	11	104	1144
a few times per month	27	60	1620
hardly ever	13	5	65
never	8	0	0
<b>Total</b>			<b>31,571</b>

Q5: from the table in the Kennel Club summary it would appear that 93 respondents spend money in the café each week, yet Q1 indicates that only 87 respondents visit at least weekly. This may imply that some respondents struggled to answer these questions accurately.

Q7: the number of people who have bought an annual season ticket is just 13 – this is perhaps surprising given that 56 respondents indicated they visited at least daily (and therefore would benefit from buying a ticket).

Q8: Given that 13 people indicated they had purchased a season ticket, it is interesting that only 8 answered the question regarding renewing their ticket.

Q10: the response is particularly low.

Q11: the response is higher (by one) compared to question 10. The lack of routing and required answers makes it difficult to have much confidence in the responses.

Q13: the table would benefit from a totals row at the bottom. The first column indicates that 74 respondents would walk their dog every day somewhere else besides Burnham Beeches. This is considerably higher than the response in Q1 which indicates that 56 respondents walked their dog at least daily at Burnham Beeches. It seems throughout the kennel club’s output the totals in the tables do not seem to match up.

Q14 and 15: there is no summary of the responses (Q15). Are 17 respondents professional dog walkers. If so then these should be filtered and reported differently within the results. They are more likely to respond to the questionnaire if it means there may be implications for how they run their business. These 17 would make up a high proportion of the regular visitors.....



Dear Andy

The Kennel Club asked us to clarify our position on Dog Control Orders in advance of any decisions being made on your proposals.

The complete text comprising our response is shown below so that you have exactly the same information.

Best wishes

Alistair

Alistair Helliwell  
TL South East NNRs  
07774 629152

-----Original Message-----

From: Chester, Andrew (NE)

Sent: 06 March 2014 21:03

To: [steve@sjacm.co.uk](mailto:steve@sjacm.co.uk)

Cc: 'Denisa Delic'; Stevenson, Eleanor (NE); Helliwell, Alistair (NE)

Subject: RE: Burnham Beeches information

Dear Steve

Here is our response to your request for clarification of our position on the proposed dog control order proposals at Burnham Beeches. We will send a copy to the Corporation of London too.

Best wishes

Andrew

Natural England was asked by the Corporation of London for its views on the use of dog control orders at Burnham Beeches National Nature Reserve (NNR). It advised the Corporation of London in writing that it cannot find sufficient evidence to support dog control orders being necessary to protect the features for which the SSSI is designated. It acknowledged that the City has consulted widely on the matter of DCO's at Burnham Beeches and that this information has been used to inform the final recommendation. We would like to clarify these remarks further in response to a request from the Kennel Club and in order to avoid any misunderstanding about our advice by those considering the case for dogs control orders on the site.

In particular the Kennel Club has asked:

\* whether Natural England has views on the potential for adverse impacts on other designated sites to arise from the displacement of walkers with dogs as a result of the implementation of the proposed dog control orders at Burnham Beeches.

\* how on-lead requirements are used by Natural England on NNRs which it owns and manages.

We are copying our response to the Kennel Club's request to the Corporation of London so that both parties are sighted on our views and can refer to them in any forthcoming discussions about the dog control order proposals at Burnham Beeches.

1. Natural England has considerable experience in the use of statutory access restrictions and exclusions. It is the relevant authority in England for open access land (outside National Parks and Forestry Commission woodland) and all coastal margin. It also

issues statutory guidance to the other relevant authorities in England which are the National Park Authorities and the Forestry Commission.

2. Relevant authorities must decide whether it is necessary to restrict or exclude access rights on this land on a number of specified grounds. This includes consideration of access rights for people with dogs. Where we conclude on the basis of the available evidence that a restriction or exclusion is necessary, our policy is to adopt the solution which is the least restrictive on public access that will meet the need. This principle applies in relation to the period of any restriction on access rights, the extent of the restriction and the type of restriction.

3. We are currently in the process of dedicating NNRs in our freehold estate for public access. In doing so our use of access restrictions and exclusions to limit the dedicated rights is consistent with the evidence-based approach and least restrictive principle outlined above. There is a general restriction set out in the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW) which means that people have no right under that Act to bring dogs with them on to dedicated NNRs from March 1st to July 31st unless they are on leads. The general restriction is not a Natural England direction: it is a provision of the legislation and does not necessarily reflect conservation needs of individual sites. To supplement this national requirement we have put in place a localised year-round dog exclusion in several enclosures at Ainsdale NNR and proposed a further localised dog exclusion at Gait Barrows NNR (the latter is not confirmed). Other than these directions we have not restricted access for people with dogs on our NNRs.

4. As a CROW relevant authority we must also be consulted on dog control order proposals that would affect open access land. Where consulted we offer advice about whether there is evidence to support the need for a dog control order on nature conservation grounds and, if there is, what in our view would be the least restrictive option that would meet the need. This is consistent with our policy and approach as relevant authority for access restrictions and exclusion on access land.

5. In our experience to date dog control orders have typically been proposed on access land as a means to encourage people with dogs to adopt behaviours that are in keeping with the desires and expectations of other users, rather than as a means to protect wildlife. This is a separate matter on which we have tended not to offer a specific view, recognising that order-making authorities are better placed to come to a view on this based on local circumstances. However, we acknowledge and support the Government's guidance that the use of dog control orders should be proportionate and enforceable and we always recommend that the best way to achieve this balance is by adopting the least restrictive approach that will address the need - in line with our practice as a CROW relevant authority.

6. In our decisions and advice as a CROW relevant authority we draw a wide body of evidence about the impacts of recreational access on wildlife including the impacts of access with dogs. English Nature (now Natural England) and the Countryside Council for Wales commissioned The Wildlife and Access Advisory Group Guidance 2001 (Penny Anderson Associates, 2001). The report, Countryside and Rights of Way Act, 2000 Part I: Access to the Countryside - Guidance for Statutory Authorities involved in assessing the nature conservation implications of a statutory right of access in England and Wales under section 26(NEC012), is a collation of available scientific research into the effects of access on nature conservation, undertaken up to 2001. It should be used in tandem with the supplementary 2008 report, Access and Nature Conservation Reconciliation: supplementary guidance for England by Lowen, J., Liley, D., Underhill-Day, J. & Whitehouse, A. (2008) (links to these Natural England publications are provided below). We are not aware of any research that supports the hypothesis that the nature conservation value of beech woodland habitat can be damaged by access with dogs, though that remains a theoretical possibility.

7. We are currently considering a recent study that may have a

bearing on the management of Burnham Beeches in that it suggests that the cumulative effect of footfall around the base of trees may affect their health. There is no suggestion in the study that this effect is caused primarily by dogs or that dogs are a significant contributory factor.

8. The last formal condition assessments of the parts of Burnham Beeches in the ownership or Corporation of London were in 2010. These concluded that it was in favourable condition. We share concerns held by the Corporation of London that the site may have deteriorated since then due to a range of possible factors linked to population increase. These include changes in air quality and hydrology and an increase the overall number of visitors to the site, including visitors with dogs. But we are not aware of any conclusive evidence to support that hypothesis or that would help to gauge the relative importance of any of those factors in the overall health of the woodland. In conclusion we can find no scientific basis for controlling dogs at Burnham Beeches on nature conservation grounds.

9. We have been asked by the Kennel Club whether we have any concerns that the extensive use of a dog control order requiring people to keep their dogs on leads may have the unintended effect of displacing dog walkers to other nearby sites with nature conservation designations which evidence shows are more sensitive to the potential effects of access than the beech woodland habitat at Burnham Beeches. Displacement is sometimes a concern for two connected reasons: (a) we know that off lead access is the single most important factor in people's decisions about where to go to walk their dog (links to research published by Hampshire County Council below) and (b) recent Kennel Club research shows that people who walk dogs say they are likely to respond to greater restrictions on access by visiting other places instead.

10. We are not currently concerned about the potential for dog control orders at Burnham Beeches to displace visitors to other designated sites nearby. There is one nearby site (Stoke Common SSSI) where bird species have been recorded that are known to be sensitive to access, but these were not breeding records. We would not expect a great increase in visitors to this site because there is not sufficient parking available to accommodate a significant number of new visitors, whom we believe are therefore more likely to visit other less sensitive sites where better parking facilities are available.

<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/41007?category=211>

280

<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/44006?category=211>

280

<http://www3.hants.gov.uk/psychology-dgo-walkers.pdf>

<http://www3.hants.gov.uk/shu-research-paper.pdf>

-----Original Message-----

From: Stephen Jenkinson [<mailto:steve@sjacm.co.uk>]

Sent: 28 February 2014 15:39

To: Chester, Andrew (NE)

Cc: 'Denisa Delic'

Subject: RE: Burnham Beeches information

Hello Andrew

Many thanks for this - I quite understand as the timescales are quite tight, but something next week would be really helpful.

To be honest I'm not sure much will change at the meeting on 10th, but the information from NE will still be very helpful for the consultation period.

Best wishes for now - have a good weekend.

Steve

-----Original Message-----

From: Chester, Andrew (NE) [<mailto:Andrew.Chester@naturalengland.org.uk>]

Sent: 27 February 2014 10:03

To: [steve@sjacm.co.uk](mailto:steve@sjacm.co.uk)

Cc: Denisa Delic

Subject: RE: Burnham Beeches information

Hello Steve

Thanks for your email and sorry for the delay in replying. A few key people are on leave or out of the office so it's been difficult to agree a way forward.

We are going to put something together for you next week. We'll send the same thing to the Corporation of London so we do this in an even-handed way.

I hope that helps  
Andrew

-----Original Message-----

From: Stephen Jenkinson [<mailto:steve@sjacm.co.uk>]

Sent: 23 February 2014 21:47

To: Chester, Andrew (NE)

Cc: 'Denisa Delic'

Subject: Burnham Beeches information

Hello Andrew

I hope you had a good weekend.

At the end of this week the next COL committee report on the proposed DCOs is published, with a committee meeting planned for 10 March.

To help us best respond to that in the most constructive way, we are keen to better understand NE's position and discussions on this issue.

That said, we very much appreciate your need to not be partisan on this issue, and very much value how you have tried to be constructive without unduly disclosing discussions on either side. We also don't want COL to be given an impression that you may have disclosed any more information than you needed to.

So formally the most appropriate way forward would seem to be to make a FOI request for this information, although we'd feel a tad uncomfortable in doing so, as we have no complaints about our dialogue with you or anyone at NE on this issue. Moreover, you promptly revised your response to the proposals once we had raised our concerns, and we have no desire to revisit or flush out the

discussions relating to that original position. Our aim is simply for the facts, and not to make for any discomfort within NE as a very valued partner.

Consequently, rather than make an FOI request, may I ask that Ne voluntary provides us with:

- . overview of advice, opinion or comment made in writing/email to COL or internally about its proposal for DCOs at Burnham Beeches
- . internal NE reports or comments about the appropriateness, justification or evidential basis of the latter proposed DCOs
- . any internal, or external, comments / discussions about adverse impacts on other greenspace/designated sites arising from displacement of walkers with dogs due to the proposed DCOs at Burnham Beeches
- . details of any NE assessments of the condition Burnham Beeches that show evidence of adverse impacts on the SSSI arising from visitors with or without dogs, in particular in relation to designated features

We really are not after a deep trawl of every piece of information, just the facts as they relate to this site, the DCOs and the influence of walkers with dogs on it.

If you feel you cannot provide the above information voluntarily, there's no offence taken and we understand the challenging situation you are in. However, we would be minded to make a FOI request if that was the case.

Also, if there is any of the latter information that NE would rather we didn't circulate more widely, please let us know as we'd seek to respect that.

Do feel free to give me a call if you'd like to discuss this further.

If the information could be provided by first thing 3 March 2014, that would be most helpful.

Finally, may we again express how disappointing it is to be in this situation in the first place. In my 11 years in advising the KC on access issues, I've never come across a situation where the restrictions proposed were as extensive as they are entrenched, even on sites with higher designations. We all really do wish there was a more collaborative way forward, or a desire by COL to not impose all possible elements of a DCO in one go.

Best wishes and thank you for your help

Steve

Stephen Jenkinson  
Access Advisor to the Kennel Club

Access and Countryside Management

Tel: 08456 439435  
Mobile: 07973 721685

Fax: 01856 898078  
Email: [steve@sjacm.co.uk](mailto:steve@sjacm.co.uk)

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02/26/14



**Environmental Health**

**Martin Holt**

**Head of Health & Housing**

Andy Barnard  
City of London Burnham Beeches Office,  
Hawthorn Lane  
Farnham Common, Slough SL2 3TE

Dealt with by: David Gilmour  
Your Ref:  
My Ref: DCO/BB/DG  
e-mail: david.gilmour@southbucks.gov.uk  
Direct Line: 01895 837327  
Date: 14<sup>th</sup> July 2014

Dear Mr Barnard

**Re: Dog Control Orders proposed for Burnham Beeches**

I am writing on behalf of the Cabinet Member for Health and Housing, as you are aware following the committee meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2014 members are broadly supportive of the introduction of a form of Dog Control Orders at the Beeches but have a number of reservations relating to the current proposals.

In their current form we believe that the proposed controls will adversely affect local people who have been walking their dogs responsibly at Burnham Beeches for many years. They will also put more pressure on other sites for dog walkers displaced because of the restrictions placed on them.

The cabinet member for Health and Housing whilst wishing to support the Corporations aims is unable to support the proposals outlined.

Specifically we can support the controls in Schedules 1, 3 and 4 which are in line with responsible management and national guidance, and there is some support for the limit on numbers of dogs proposed in schedule 5 while the specified number appears overly restrictive and flexibility is urged.

The reservations expressed relate specifically to:

**Schedule 2.** Not keeping a dog on a lead (max length of lead 5m) will apply in areas marked by the red boundary i.e. up to 130ha.

While proportionately delivered Dog Control Orders can help to encourage responsible ownership and help to minimise the occurrence of the dangerous and nuisance dog related incidents, a blanket control of this kind will not simply target irresponsible dog owners but will impose additional controls over the majority of site users who attend with dogs and who behave responsibly.

The size of the area designated in schedule 2 seems to be too large and without full consideration of all of the risks posed to either dog walkers, members of the public or the environmental impact. There are areas covered by the dogs on leads requirement which don't appear to fall into a risk category while other areas not covered are those more likely to lead to interaction between dogs, people and cars i.e where the risk of a dog related incident is effectively greatest.

A more proportionate approach would be to increase the size of the Schedule 3 area to at least include the disused roads and paths of the popular walks around Lord Mayors Drive and by the

lakes. Owners who are less responsible could still be targeted by requesting that nuisance dogs are properly controlled or placed on a lead.

There is a perception that the effect of this order will be to drive dog walkers away from Burnham Beeches who will then find alternative sites to walk their pets thus putting an extra strain on areas currently not regulated.

The concerns expressed above are that the requirement is out of proportion to the issues which have been identified and the Corporation is asked to review the details of the proposal which are causing community concern before introducing the order in its current form.

Additionally it is noted that the drawn map of the area covered extends across the public highway in a number of locations, therefore the proposed controls will cross over or exist directly adjacent to areas outside the control of the Corporation. If the control order is to be imposed on land which is part of the Beeches but outside the natural boundary of the highway how will it be managed and enforced and how will the information be clearly communicated to members of the public? There are a number of road junctions and private driveways around the site where there seems to be a real possibility for confusion and misinterpretation.

Yours Faithfully



David Gilmour  
Environmental Health Manager



# FARNHAM ROYAL PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council  
Sherriff House  
The Broadway  
Farnham Common SL2 3QH

Mrs K H Holder  
Tel: 01753 648497  
Email: [clerk@farnhamroyal-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@farnhamroyal-pc.gov.uk)  
Website: [www.farnhamroyal-pc.gov.uk](http://www.farnhamroyal-pc.gov.uk)

30<sup>th</sup> June 2014

Mr Andy Barnard  
Superintendent  
Burnham Beeches  
Hawthorn Lane  
Farnham Common  
SL2 3TE

Dear Mr Barnard

## **Re: Proposed Dog Control Orders at Burnham Beeches**

Thank you for attending and making a presentation to our Parish Council meeting on Monday last week.

The Parish Council accepts that poor dog behaviour is a real problem at Burnham Beeches and fully supports the Dog Control Order proposals put forward to combat this problem.

Many thanks for all you do to protect this wonderful site.

Yours sincerely

*Hilda Holder*

Mrs K H Holder  
Clerk

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Patron Her Majesty The Queen

Mrs A Heath MBE, BHS

Email [alisonheath71@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:alisonheath71@hotmail.co.uk)

The  
British  
Horse  
Society

*The i Stalis*

County Access and

Website [www.bhs.org.uk](http://www.bhs.org.uk)

Bridleways Officer

Hill End Farm,

Fulfilling your passion for horses

Hogshaw,

Buckinghamshire, MK18 3JY

Mr Gordon Haines  
Chairman of the Epping Forest and Commons Committee  
City of London Corporation  
Guildhall  
PO Box 270  
London EC2P 2EJ

4<sup>th</sup> July 2014

BURHAM BEECHES  
RECEIVED  
07 JUL 2014

Dear Sir

### Displacement of dog walkers in Burnham Beeches

Some years ago the Corporation displaced horse riders from large areas of the park and they are now only permitted to ride on a few roads and tracks. It is not immediately apparent that the displacement of dog walkers from some 59% of the park should have any adverse affect on horse riding in the park, but it does mean that the heavily used bridleways, tracks and roads in the park and the surrounding area will increasingly be used by dog walkers. While most dog owners keep their charges in good control some dogs may bark or charge at horses which are easily spooked. So, in general, it is advisable not to place more dogs on roads, bridleways and tracks used by horse riders.

We also note with concern that Natural England does not support the proposal of the Corporation to limit dog walkers to a smaller area of the park on grounds of nature conservation.

We are strongly of the opinion that the Corporation should reconsider its proposals concerning dog walking in Burnham Beeches. The park is in an area where every bit of parkland and open space available to the public is of vital importance on recreational grounds and any further restrictions on the free use of this land would be very detrimental.

Yours sincerely

*Alison Heath*

Alison Heath MBE

Bucks County Access and Bridleways Officer for the British Horse Society

cc [ron.luder@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:ron.luder@cityoflondon.gov.uk) ; [alexanderdeane@ymail.com](mailto:alexanderdeane@ymail.com)

XCity of London Burnham Beeches Office X

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-----Original Message-----

**From:** Kate Ashbrook [[hq@oss.org.uk](mailto:hq@oss.org.uk)]

**Sent:** Wednesday, July 02, 2014 02:36 PM GMT Standard Time

**To:** COL - EB - Burnham Beeches

**Cc:** Haines, Mr Alderman Gordon; Luder, Mr Alderman Ian; [alexanderdeane@gmail.com](mailto:alexanderdeane@gmail.com)

**Subject:** Proposed Dog Control Orders at Burnham Beeches, Bucks

Dear Superintendent

The Open Spaces Society is concerned about your proposed Dog Control Orders (DCOs) at Burnham Beeches.

As you know, the society was responsible for ensuring that the Corporation was able to acquire Burnham Beeches in 1879, so naturally we take an interest in it.

Our concerns about the DCOs are as follows.

**Schedule 1, fouling of land by dogs order.**

We support this.

**Schedule 2: dogs on lead order**

We object to this.

Our reasons are that this is to be imposed over a very extensive area of land, indeed it is more extensive than any other DCO in the UK. We recognise that Burnham Beeches is of ecological importance but we note that Natural England, which advises government on such matters, does not support this proposal. Burnham Beeches is designated primarily for its ancient trees which are not affected by off-lead dogs. If there are reasons to restrict dogs for nesting birds etc, we would support time-limited and location-limited orders.

The effect of such a DCO will be to force dog-walkers to use the other part of Burnham Beeches, which present a threat to off-lead dogs, for instance there are grazing cattle there and busy roads nearby. It will also force dog walkers onto other land in the vicinity which may lead to further DCOs to restrict them.

This DCO is oppressive and unnecessary. We urge you to withdraw it.

**Schedule 3: dogs on lead by direction**

We would probably not object to this once we have seen a policy of how it will be applied. Please send this to us.

**Schedule 4: dogs exclusion order**

We accept this.

**Schedule 5: dogs (specified maximum) order**

No comment.

Yours sincerely

*Kate Ashbrook  
General Secretary  
The Open Spaces Society  
25a Bell Street  
Henley-on-Thames RG9 2BA  
tel 01491 573535, mob 07771 655694*

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Cabinet Member  
Planning and Environment

**Buckinghamshire County Council**

County Hall, Walton Street  
Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire HP20 1UA

Lesley Clarke OBE

Telephone 01296 382691  
Email [lmclarke@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto:lmclarke@buckscc.gov.uk)  
[www.buckscc.gov.uk](http://www.buckscc.gov.uk)

Ms Delic  
Public Affairs Officer  
The Kennel Club  
1-5 Clarges Street  
Piccadilly  
London W1J 8AB

7 July 2014

Dear Ms Delic

I thank you for your letter of 1 July 2014.

Although Buckinghamshire County Council are not a statutory consultee we would support the response to this consultation as given by Councillor Adrian Busby, Leader of South Bucks District Council.

I hope this goes some way to show that we are now aware of the consultation and any input would be to support, as stated, our District Council colleagues in this instance.

Kind regards

Yours sincerely

**Lesley Clarke OBE**

Cc: Councillor Adrian Busy  
Councillor Peter Hardy



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Dear Andy,

Dogs Trust has been made aware that Burnham Beeches Council is planning to introduce a series of Dog Control Orders. As the UK's largest dog welfare charity, we would like to make some comments for consideration.

1. Re; Fouling of Land by Dogs Order:

- Dogs Trust consider 'scooping the poop' to be an integral element of responsible dog ownership and would fully support a well-implemented order on fouling. We urge the Council to enforce any such order rigorously and to provide ample signage and disposal points for responsible owners to use.

2. Re; Dog Exclusion Order:

- Dogs Trust accepts that there are some areas where it is desirable that dogs should be excluded, such as children's play areas and sports grounds, however we would recommend that exclusion areas are kept to a minimum and that, for enforcement reasons, they are restricted to enclosed areas. We would consider it more difficult to enforce an exclusion order in areas that lack clear boundaries.

Dogs Trust would highlight the need to provide plenty of signage to direct owners to alternative areas nearby in which to exercise dogs.

3. Re; Dogs on Leads Order:

- Dogs Trust accept that there are some areas where it is desirable that dogs should be kept on a lead.
- Dogs Trust would urge the Council to consider the Animal Welfare Act 2006 section 9 requirements (the 'duty of care') that include the dog's need to exhibit normal behaviour patterns – this includes running off lead in appropriate areas. Dog Control Orders should not restrict the ability of dog keepers to comply with the requirements of this Act.
- The Council should ensure that there is an adequate number, and a variety of, well sign-posted areas locally for owners to exercise their dog off-lead.

4. Re; Dogs on Lead by Direction Order:

- Dogs Trust enthusiastically support Dogs on Leads by Direction orders (for dogs to be put on and kept on a lead when directed to do so by an authorised official).
- We consider that this order is by far the most useful, other than the fouling order, because it allows enforcement officers to target the owners of dogs that are allowing them to cause a nuisance without restricting the responsible owner and their dog. As none of the other orders, less fouling, are likely to be effective without proper enforcement we would be content if the others were dropped in favour of this order.

5. Re; Taking more than a specified number of dogs onto a land:

- Dogs Trust does not agree that there should be a limit on the number of dogs walked as so much depends on the ability of the person to control the dogs. A good owner may be able to control large numbers of dogs while a less responsible person may be incapable of controlling one. While we accept the motivation for introducing this order, we consider that proper use of a "Dogs on Leads by Direction" order, by authorised officers, would be a better solution that is less restrictive on responsible owners.

Whilst we believe that the vast majority of dog owners are responsible, Dogs Trust would be happy to talk to the Council about ways we could work together to encourage responsible behaviour amongst the small minority of owners who may cause problems.

We work with Councils across the UK in a variety of ways to help them to promote Responsible Dog Ownership. I enclose further information on our Dogs in the Community Campaign. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you wish to discuss this matter.

We would also be very grateful if you could inform us of the outcome of the consultation process and of subsequent decisions made in relation to the Dog Control Orders.

Yours faithfully,

Lee Paris  
Education & Community Officer

[www.thebigcoop.org.uk](http://www.thebigcoop.org.uk)

[lee.paris@dogtrust.org.uk](mailto:lee.paris@dogtrust.org.uk)  
Dogs Trust - A Dog Is For Life

Visit our website at <http://www.dogtrust.org.uk>  
or call us on: 020-7837 0006

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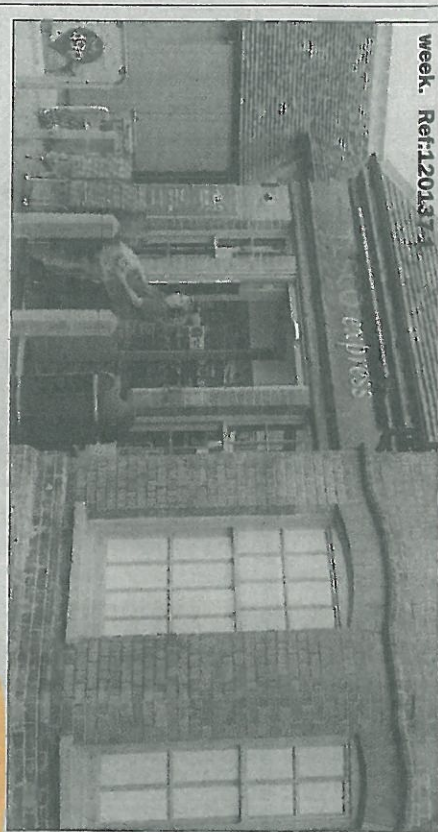
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**FURZE PLATT:** The chairman of an opposition group set up to stop Tesco Express opening in the Golden Harp pub building says seeing the shop up and running is 'heartbreaking'.

The store in Furze Platt Road finally opened on Wednesday, June 4, following more than 18 months of campaigning from Mark Newcombe and the Furze Platt Action Group (FPAG). Mark says the group is still working to encourage residents to boycott the store and is planning a large protest on the site in the coming weeks.

"We want it to be unprofitable," he said. "The feelings are still just as strong as they ever were."

An opening ceremony was held at the shop on Thursday, June 5, where £500 was donated to East Berkshire Downs Syndrome Support Group.

**INVERDE:** A staff from Bc Lock residents home have part in a c walk to raise for The Alzheimer Society.

Six walkers led a 10-mile from Windsor back to the hc Sheephouse R just over hours, before party and coll further donati

The team almost £1,000 home manage Morris said: "a charity very to our hearts."

The walk place on Sund

### CLEAN Linen Services Retirement Benefits Scheme

Notice is hereby given pursuant to section 27 of the Trustee Act 1925 that the CLEAN Linen Services Retirement Benefits Scheme ('the Scheme') has entered wind-up and the trustees of the Scheme are intending to distribute the assets of the Scheme in accordance with the Scheme's governing documentation.

The following are requested to write to Isobel Dyson at Osborne Clarke, 2 Temple Black East, Temple Quay, Bristol, BS1 6EG, on or before 12/8/14.

- Any employee or former employee of CLEAN Linen Services Limited (company registration no. 0087908) previously known as The Maidenhead District Laundry Company Limited) who believes that he/she was a member of the Scheme and who is not already receiving a pension in respect of his / her membership of the Scheme;
- Any person who believes themselves to be a beneficiary of the Scheme as the widow, widower or dependant of a deceased member of the Scheme; and
- Any person who believes they have a claim against, or an interest in the Scheme.

Claimants should provide their name, address, date of birth, National Insurance number and details of when they were members of the Scheme.

Claimants need not write if they have received correspondence from the trustees within the last 12 months.

After 12/8/14 the trustees will proceed to deal with the assets of the Scheme among the persons entitled to them, having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have prior notice and relation to the assets used for such distribution will not be liable to any person or persons for a claim of which they do not have notice.

### CITY OF LONDON PROPOSED DOG CONTROL ORDERS AT BURHAM BEECHES

This notice is to inform anyone with an interest that the Common Council of the City of London is considering making the following dog control orders at Burham Beches under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 and the relevant Schedule to the Dog Control Orders (Prescribed Offences and Penalties, etc.) Regulations 2006:

- Schedule 1: Fording of Land by Dogs Order:** This would make it an offence on land to which the order applies for anyone at any time to fail to remove dog faeces deposited by a dog for which he or she is responsible. The order, if made, will apply to the whole of Burham Beches.
- Schedule 2: Dogs on Leads Order:** This would make it an offence on land to which the order applies for anyone at any time not to keep a dog for which he or she is responsible on a lead of not more than five metres in length. The order, if made, will apply to that part of Burham Beches to the west of Sir Henry Pecks Drive and Halse Drive, and to the two fenced areas of approximately 319 square metres and 221 square metres adjoining the cat enclosure at Burham Beches.
- Schedule 3: Dogs on Leads by Direction Order:** This would make it an offence on land to which the order applies for anyone at any time to fail to put and keep a dog for which he or she is responsible on a lead of not more than five metres in length when directed to do so by an authorised officer of the Common Council of the City of London. The order, if made, will apply to that part of Burham Beches to the east of and including Sir Henry Pecks Drive and Halse Drive but excluding those fenced areas covered by Schedules 2 and 4.
- Schedule 4: Dogs Exclusion Order:** This would make it an offence for anyone at any time to allow a dog for which he or she is responsible to enter or remain on land to which the order applies. The order, if made, will apply to the cat enclosure of approximately 245 square metres at Burham Beches.
- Schedule 5: Dogs (Specified Maximum) Order:** This would make it an offence for anyone at any time to take more than four dogs for which he or she is responsible onto land to which the order applies. The order, if made, will apply to the whole of Burham Beches.

The above is only a summary of the proposed offences and certain exemptions and defences apply. References to Burham Beches are to that area of land known as Burham Beches in the Parishes of Parham Royal and Burham, owned by the Mayor and Commonalty and Citizens of the City of London and including all roads, highways and other rights of way over that land. A map of the area or areas to be covered by each of the proposed orders and further information as to their effect, can be viewed free of charge at the Burham Beches Office, Hawthorn Lane, Parham Common, South Bucks, SL2 3TE - Monday to Friday, between the hours of 9:00am and 5:00pm from 12 June 2014 until 14 July 2014. The map and further information can also be viewed on public notice boards within Burham Beches and on the Burham Beches website [www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/links-to-106-green-spaces/burham-beches-and-stoke-common/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/links-to-106-green-spaces/burham-beches-and-stoke-common/Pages/default.aspx). The Common Council of the City of London, invites any representations on the proposals. All representations need to be made to the Common Council of the City of London by 14 July 2014.

Representations should be sent to: The Superintendent, Burham Beches Office, Hawthorn Lane, Parham Common, South Bucks SL2 3TE or by email: [burham\\_beeches@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:burham_beeches@cityoflondon.gov.uk)

Andy Barnard  
Superintendent of Burham Beches,  
Stoke and City Commons  
CITY OF LONDON  
MA900316

- 14/01726/F/BC. Replace upVC windows with timber framed windows - Goodwyn House, 12 High Street, Datchet, Slough. (Listed Building Consent)
- 14/01672/L/BC. Existing third floor flat to be incorporated into the flat on second floor - 14 High Street, Windsor. (Listed Building Consent)
- 14/01742/F/FULL. Change of Use from public house (A4) to single residential dwelling (C3) - Sun and Stars, Forest Green Road, Holyport, Maidenhead. (Development Affecting Public Rights of Way)
- 14/01655/F/FULL. Replacement conservatory - June House, Langworthy Lane, Holyport, Maidenhead. (Development Affecting the Character or Appearance of a Conservation Area)
- 14/01702/F/FULL. Erection of part four storey and part five storey extension following demolition of three storey - Sir Christopher Wren Hotel and Spa, Thames Street, Windsor. (Development Affecting the Character or Appearance of a Conservation Area and Development Affecting the Setting of a Listed Building)
- 14/01639/F/FULL. Erection of replacement Pavilion with raised floor level - The Pavilion, St Georges Farm, Church Road, Old Windsor, Windsor. (Development Affecting the Character or Appearance of a Conservation Area)
- 14/01667/F/FULL. Single storey rear extension - The Stables, Storey Ware, Bisham Road, Bisham, Marlow. (Development Affecting the Character or Appearance of a Conservation Area)
- 14/01680/F/FULL. Single storey rear extension to replace existing - 8 Park Street, Windsor. (Development Affecting the Character or Appearance of a Conservation Area and Development Affecting the Setting of a Listed Building)
- 14/01745/F/FULL. Replacement shop front - Catwalk 9A, High Street, Maidenhead. (Development Affecting the Character or Appearance of a Conservation Area)
- 14/01699/F/FULL. Installation of air handling unit and external condensers on second floor roof - Princess Margaret Hospital, 38 - 42 Osborne Road, Windsor. (Development Affecting the Character or Appearance of a Conservation Area)
- 14/01698/F/FULL. Raised roof height and rear dormer - 78 Alexandra Road, Windsor. (Development Affecting the Character or Appearance of a Conservation Area)
- 14/01398/F/FULL. Alterations of the level to facilitate the layout of sports pitches with associated car parking - Land West of Main Farm Buildings, Lower Mount Farm, Long Lane, Cookham, Maidenhead. (Development Affecting Public Rights of Way)
- 14/01704/F/FULL. Change of use from Retail A1 to Business (Office) B1 - 13A Goswell Hill, Windsor. (Development Affecting the Character or Appearance of a Conservation Area)
- 14/01714/F/FULL. Partial demolition to the rear of the building. Alterations and extensions to the existing building in association with its use as a single retail unit (for flexible A1, A2, A3, or A4 use) at ground and basement and 11 residential units (Class C3) at first, second, third and fourth floor levels (7x one bedroom, 4x two bedrooms) and associated works - 71 - 73 High Street, Maidenhead. (Development Affecting the Character or Appearance of a Conservation Area and Major Development)

If you wish to comment, you must do so within 21 days from the date of this notice to the address shown below. You may inspect the application and plans on our website at [www.rdwim.gov.uk/environment\\_planning.htm](http://www.rdwim.gov.uk/environment_planning.htm) or during office hours at the Town Hall, St Ives Road, Maidenhead or York House, Sheet Street, Windsor. Date: 12 June 2014

**FOR ONLY NEWS SPOT ON TV**

**ANISLAW SLOWIEKA (Dec)**  
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any person having an estate or an interest in the Estate of the late Anislaw Slowieka (who died on 13/04/2013), to send particulars thereof to the undersigned at the address below, on or before 1<sup>st</sup> July 2014, after which date the Estate distributed having regard to the claims and interests of which notice is given.

**E Przewojski  
8 Bredon Road  
Burham St. 172L  
Maidenhead**

**JOHN REID CA (Deceased)**  
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim or an interest in the Estate of the late John Reid CA (who died on 13/07/2013), are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned at the address below, on or before 15/06/2014, after which date notice will be distributed to the persons entitled to the Estate which they have had in BAVEN SOLICITORS First Floor, 5 High Street, Maidenhead Berkshire SL6 6AA

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# Burnham Beeches & Stoke Common

Registered Charity



## Newsletter Update

### Get in Touch

The Superintendent  
Burnham Beeches Office  
Hawthorn Lane  
Farnham Common  
Bucks SL2 3TE

burnham.beeches@  
cityoflondon.gov.uk

01753 647358

The City of London provides 14 green spaces in and around London for the benefit of local communities. Most are registered charities operating at little cost to the general public.

## Introduction of Dog Control Orders at Burnham Beeches

### Information about the Statutory Public Consultation

Burnham Beeches is a nature reserve of local, national and international importance.

There are around 220,000 visits by dogs here every year. We welcome dog walkers but must, as with all activities on the site, consider their impact on both the wildlife and other visitors. The Burnham Beeches Dog Code makes it clear that visitors should pick up after their pets and keep them under effective control but rangers still deal with socially unacceptable dog-related incidents each week.

Following surveys and consultation, we propose to implement Dog Control Orders. Dogs will **not** be excluded from any of the site, other than the existing small dog-free area around the Beeches Café.

If you are a cyclist, rambler, picnicker, runner, nature watcher or dog walker, please read the information inside and contact us with your feedback (please include name and address).

### Consultation dates: 12 June - 14 July 2014

The Statutory Consultation documents may be viewed at the office, information point, website and the information boards on-site during the consultation period.

... find out more

[www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/burnhambeeches](http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/burnhambeeches)

# Finding the Right Balance

## A Public Open Space and Nature Reserve

Few urban communities have a Special Area of Conservation and National Nature Reserve of the quality and international significance of Burnham Beeches on the doorstep. The Beeches has always been, and always will be, hugely important - not just because of its recreational value but also because of its wildlife. Balancing the needs of both is one of the most important, and difficult, roles of the Open Spaces Department of the City of London Corporation.

Getting that balance right is absolutely critical. At Burnham Beeches we carry out surveys to ensure we understand not only the habitats and species present but also the numbers of visitors, their habits and any impact they may have within the reserve. These surveys show we have in the region of 585,000 visits per year and that this number is growing; around 40% of these visits are to walk one or more dogs, with the estimated total visits by dogs to the Beeches being somewhere around 220,000 each year.

We welcome dog walkers at Burnham Beeches: as dog walkers ourselves, we understand the benefits for human and canine health through taking a walk at any open space; both can enjoy improved fitness and general wellbeing, as well as having the opportunity to socialise with other dogs and walkers. We do, however, have to consider their impact on other site users and wildlife.

## Our track record of supporting dogs at the Beeches

- ◆ The voluntary Dog Code, adopted in 2006, was created with the help and support of our visitors. They helped define what is meant by 'effective control' and to come up with a simple set of rules: owners should pick up dog mess, keep their dog under control and ensure it does not disturb or chase wildlife, livestock or visitors.
- ◆ Leaflets, posters, news articles and ranger contact are used to highlight issues and help visitors understand why they need to follow the Dog Code.
- ◆ Dog waste bins were first installed in the 1990's and there are now 16 at key points of the reserve. When the first dog bag dispensers were installed in 2003, around 16,500 bags were distributed to dog walkers; we now provide over 100,000 bags each year and dispose of many tonnes of dog waste.
- ◆ Rangers talk to irresponsible dog owners and attempt to resolve difficulties; prosecutions have been brought under the site by-laws for serious incidents.

## Why we are introducing Dog Control Orders

Persistently high levels of dog related incidents show that this 'voluntary approach' to responsible dog ownership has not worked. The Dog Control Orders will provide a more enforceable approach to protect visitors, wildlife and livestock.



*The number of dogs visiting Burnham Beeches equals about 1,000 dogs/hectare.*



*Last year we highlighted the continuing issue of dog mess with 'flag the poo' days; in one 50 m stretch of path we flagged 75 piles of dog mess.*

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*The annual cost of providing dog gloves, dog bins and disposing of faeces is £7,000.*

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*Every year we still find evidence that not all dogs are being kept under effective control.*

# Dogs will continue to be welcome Burnham Beeches NNR

**The whole of Burnham Beeches will still be open to dogs** after the introduction of Dog Control Orders, apart from (as at present) the small exclusion area by the café.

**There will be 220 acres where dogs can be off lead;** the rest of the reserve will remain open to dogs on leads. The boundary has been carefully chosen to ensure that the majority of dog walkers have the choice of whether to walk in an 'on-lead' or 'off-lead' area as soon as they arrive; both provide walks in popular and quieter areas of the reserve.

The 'on-lead' area (**Schedule 2**) includes some of our most fragile habitats such as the mire, heath, paddocks, and ponds, as well as the popular easy access paths (where the majority of incidents are reported). It will guarantee a 'sanctuary' area for wildlife and walkers who do not want to interact with your dog.

The 'off-lead' area (**Schedule 3**) includes the main common, the majority of the car-free roads, the quiet woodlands of Egypt and the Moat and the car park on Lord Mayors Drive.

## We propose to introduce Dog Control Orders in September 2014

The DCOs build on the existing Dog Code. They should – with the exception of the introduction of the on-lead area - have little impact on the many responsible dog owners and walkers who enjoy coming to Burnham Beeches.

Dog walkers wishing to use Burnham Beeches National Nature Reserve will be expected to observe the rules listed below. Failure to comply may result in a fine or prosecution, issued according to specific DCO schedules. The legislation allows the option of offering the offender a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) of around £80 as a means of avoiding an appearance at a Magistrates' Court, which could result in a fine of up to £1,000.

### Dog walkers will be expected to:

#### 1) Pick up after their pet everywhere in Burnham Beeches.

95% of people surveyed support picking up at all times.

*DCO Schedule 1: Failure to pick up dog faeces.*

#### 2) Keep a dog on a lead (5 m or less) in designated areas.

We know, from observation surveys, that fouling often occurs when the dog is out of sight. When a dog is on a lead it is always in sight and faeces can therefore always be easily found and picked up. The wildlife of the nature reserve will benefit from reduced disturbance.

*DCO Schedule 2: Failure to keep a dog on a lead in an area so designated.*

#### 3) Put a dog on a lead (5 m or less) if requested by an authorised officer.

This will give Rangers the authority to insist that dogs are put on leads in response to bad behaviour and complaints from other users.

*DCO Schedule 3: Failure to put a dog on a lead when directed to do so by an authorised officer.*

#### 4) Observe the existing dog-free zone at the Beeches Café.

*DCO Schedule 4: Permitting a dog to enter land from which dogs are excluded.*

#### 5) Walk no more than four dogs at any one time.

*DCO Schedule 5: Taking more than a specified number of dogs onto the site.*

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#### Consultation Data, Nov 2013

- A large majority of respondents supported Schedule 1.
  - The majority of respondents supported the introduction of Schedules 2 and 3 across around 50% of the site.
  - A large majority supported Schedule 5; most respondents suggested no more than three dogs per person.
-

# Where will you be able to walk your dog?




Everywhere except the existing exclusion area by the Café.

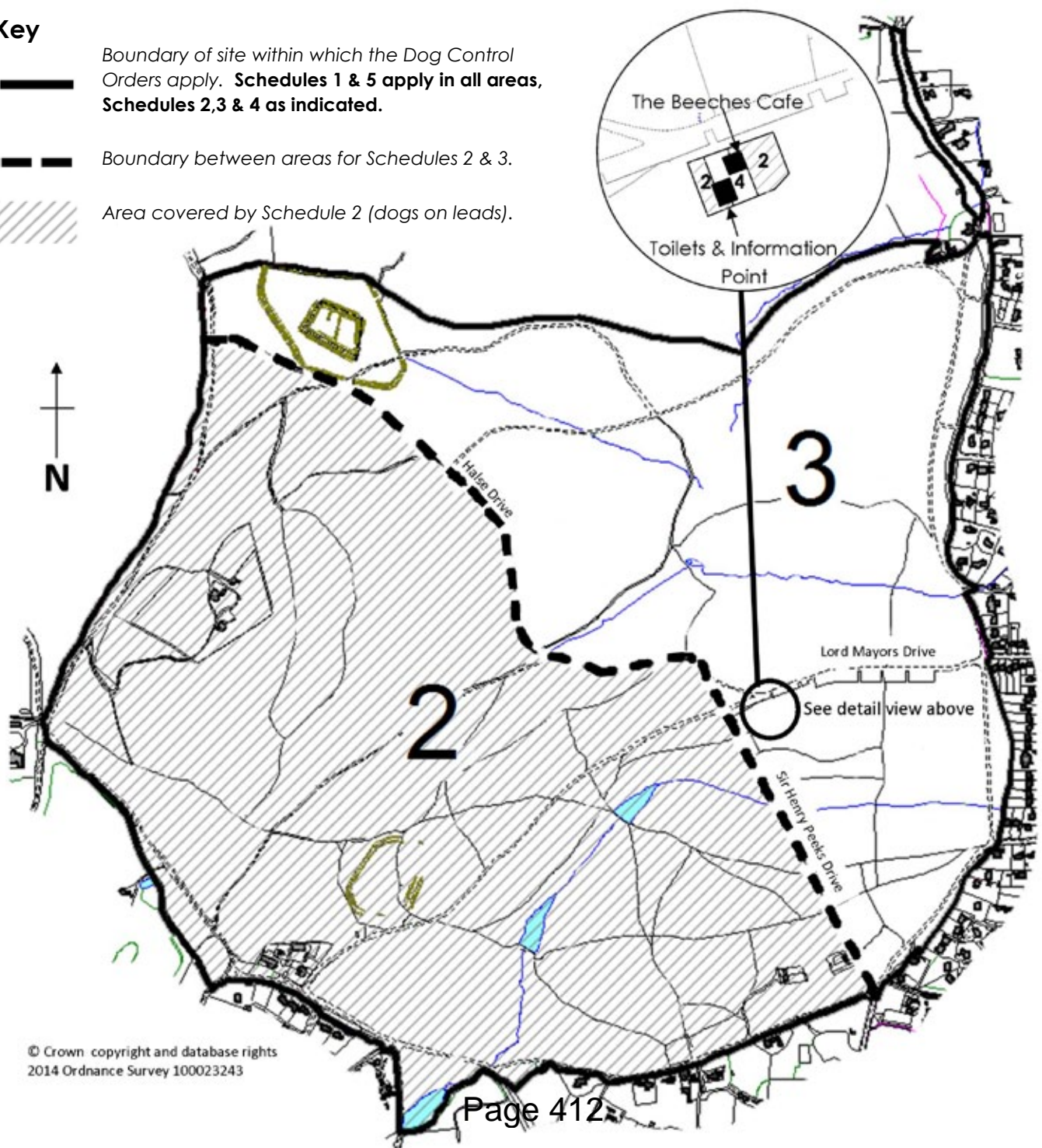
- ◆ Using the map below, as you enter from Beeches Road/ Lord Mayors Drive, all the areas to your right and left until you reach Victory Cross will be available for walking dogs off lead (**marked 3 on the map**).
- ◆ The boundary between the off-lead and on-lead areas is along Halse Drive and Sir Henry Peeks Drive (**marked with a dotted black line on the map**). Dogs can be walked off lead along these roads.
- ◆ Everything to the west of the boundary roads (**shaded and marked 2 on the map**) once you pass Victory Cross is where dogs must be on leads at all times.



Please note: the Rangers will be realistic and fair about applying the Dog Control Orders.

## Key

-  Boundary of site within which the Dog Control Orders apply. **Schedules 1 & 5 apply in all areas, Schedules 2,3 & 4 as indicated.**
-  Boundary between areas for Schedules 2 & 3.
-  Area covered by Schedule 2 (dogs on leads).





## Frequently Asked Questions – Dog control orders at Burnham Beeches




<p>What is a Dog Control Order (DCO)?</p>	<p>The Dog Control Orders come under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005. Under this act, primary and secondary authorities (the City of London has secondary authority status) have powers to make dog control orders. The DCO regulations provide for five offences which may be prescribed in a dog control order (see schedules listed below).</p>
<p>Why does the City of London plan to Introduce them</p>	<p>The Beeches has 585 000 visits per year with the estimated total number of dog visits being around 220 000 or 1000 dog visits /ha/year. Buckinghamshire provides an average of 1.23ha of green space for each dog in the County – in other words BB welcomes approx. 1500 more dogs per ha than is the average for Bucks. We welcome dog walkers but we have to consider their impact on the reserve and to balance their needs with those of all visitors (whether, cyclist, horse rider, nature watcher, picnicker or runner) and with the needs of the wildlife; research and surveys show there is currently an imbalance and that this is causing harm to the site and its wildlife. Voluntary codes brought in over the past 10 to 20 years have failed to redress the balance making the introduction of DCOs essential to minimise the detrimental impacts.</p>
<p>What will the rules be under the DCO?</p>	<p>Under schedule 1: dog walkers must remove all faeces deposited by their dog, at all times.  Under schedule 2: dogs must be on a lead, no more than 5m long, in the designated area, at all times.  Under schedule 3: dogs must be put on a lead when directed to do so by a Ranger.  Under schedule 4: dogs must not be allowed to enter land from which they are excluded (this only applies to the existing small exclusion zone by the café).  Under schedule 5: no more than 4 dogs will be allowed per dog walker.</p>
<p>What are the fines under the DCO?</p>	<p>The fine is likely to be around £80 for failing to stick to the DCO if dealt with by a Fixed Penalty notice (FPN). There could be an additional fine of £80 for refusing to give your name and address to a Ranger. If the offence goes to magistrates court the fine could be up to £1000.</p>
<p>Will dogs be banned from the Beeches?</p>	<p>No, dogs that are under effective control have always been and always will be welcome at the Beeches. This will simply allow us to ensure that all dog walkers visiting the site will do so in a responsible manner.</p>
<p>Where will I be able to walk my dog?</p>	<p>You can walk in all the areas that you could before but when you are in the area covered by schedule 2 you will have to keep it on a lead. This will be helpful to wildlife and site users</p>

	who do not wish to interact closely with dogs. It will also be easier to note when your dog has defecated. The only place where dogs are not allowed is in the existing small exclusion area directly around the café.
Will my dog have to be on a lead all the time?	No, in the area covered by schedule 3 dogs can be walked off a lead across 220 acres of the Beeches unless you are directed otherwise by a Ranger. Our research shows that this is 3 times larger than the area required by an average dog walk in the Beeches and provides plenty of space to ensure the health and mental wellbeing of your dogs. When off a lead, dogs must still be kept under effective control as defined by the current voluntary code. In the area covered by schedule 2 dogs will have to be on a lead at all times.
Where will I have to pick up after my dog?	You must pick up after your dog has fouled in ALL areas of the Beeches – this has not changed. The existing voluntary dog code, designed by visitors, already expects all dog walkers to pick up after their pet over the whole reserve.
Why isn't this being done as a voluntary scheme?	Over many years we adopted a 'voluntary approach' to encourage responsible dog ownership but despite this, the number of dog related incidents has remained high.
How was the size of area for schedule 2 decided?	The area had to be of sufficient size to achieve a benefit for the wildlife whilst balancing these needs with those of dog walkers and non-dog walkers. There also had to be an obvious boundary between areas where dogs could be walked on or off leads so the internal roads were chosen to mark this.
My dog is full of energy and needs to run around, what should I do?	The same rules will apply after DCOs are introduced as existed beforehand; dogs must be under effective control at all times. This means in sight at all times and returning immediately when called or on a lead. If you can follow this rule you can walk your dog off a lead in area 3 which is 220 acres and includes the areas most people arrive at on site.
My dog is always well behaved – will it apply to me?	Yes the DCO applies to all dog walkers across the entire site. This is the only way that it can be easily and fairly enforced.
I am a lady dog walker and walking with my dog makes me feel safe. There will be fewer dog walkers therefore I will be less safe.	The changes will not affect your situation as there is no correlation between safety and presence of dog walkers. The site has a high ranger presence and an exceptionally low level of criminal activity of any kind.
Dog walkers make a major financial contribution to the site	Currently the number of visitors is increasing each year. We do not expect the number of visitors to change significantly and finances are expected to remain stable.
I am an elderly dog walker with a disability so cannot use a lead	We will continue to provide 220 acres so that your dog can be off lead. The average dog walk on the Beeches covers 75 acres. Registered guide dogs are excluded from many of the DCO requirements.
Schedule 2 should only apply where the cattle graze	The cattle will graze 95% of the site. To expect dogs to be kept on a lead in an area that size would be too extreme.
The proposals are unfair, only a few	Schedule 2 brings clarity to 'the rules' and helps us to make

people break the rules. Why should all dog walkers suffer?	the site a better place for all visitors and wildlife to share. Dog walkers will be greatly appreciated by other user groups if their dogs are on leads at all times in the Schedule 2 area.
I have walked here for decades and never seen a dog out of control.	Our annual figures record hundreds of incidents each year, many of them extremely serious such as death of wildlife, attacks on livestock, people and other dogs.
Dog walkers will stop coming to Burnham Beeches	We will continue to provide an excellent level of service to dog walkers including the provision of over 500 acres of beautiful landscape. Dog bags (currently over 100 000 p/a), dog waste removal, dog friendly events and lost dog retrieval will remain free services.
What impact does dog walking have on the resources available to manage the site	Each year we spend between £6000 and £7000 on dog waste removal at BB. This is more than we spend on the conservation of the beautiful and rare veteran pollards.
What proof is there that dog walking harms the conservation value of Burnham Beeches?	Recent research has linked visitor pressure to the decline in the health of the Beech trees and other rare habitats and wildlife. Deposition each year of tons of dog faeces and urine is part of the problem. Every year Rangers deal with dogs that have chased and/or killed wildlife on the site – rarely is this intentional but the impact exists.
How can I give my feedback to the consultation?	You can send us your comments, giving your full name, address and post code, to: The Burnham Beeches Office, Hawthorn Lane, Farnham Common, Buckinghamshire, SL2 3TE OR email: <a href="mailto:burnham.beeches@cityoflondon.gov.uk">burnham.beeches@cityoflondon.gov.uk</a>  We hope to start the consultation in June, please check onsite and online for more information.

# Map showing proposed areas for Dog Control Order schedules

## Key:

-  Boundary of site within which the Dog Control Orders apply. Schedules 1 & 5 apply in all areas, schedules 2, 3 & 4 in the areas shown below.
-  Boundary between areas for schedules 2 & 3
-  Shaded section shows area covered by schedule 2

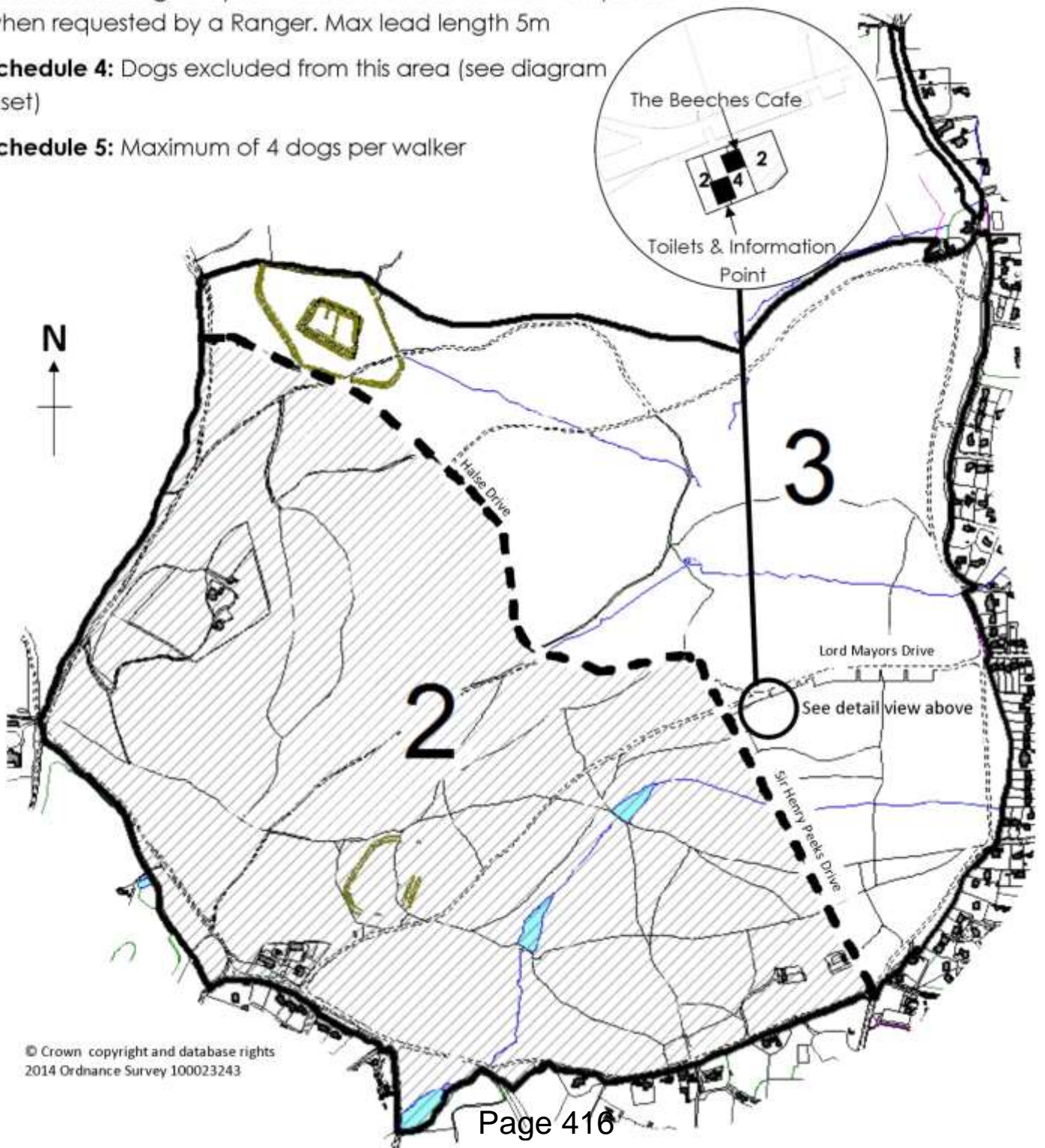
**Schedule 1:** You must remove from the site, any faeces deposited by dog(s) for which you are responsible

**Schedule 2:** Dogs on leads at all times in this area. Max lead length 5m

**Schedule 3:** Dogs may be walked off lead but must be put on a lead when requested by a Ranger. Max lead length 5m

**Schedule 4:** Dogs excluded from this area (see diagram inset)

**Schedule 5:** Maximum of 4 dogs per walker



## Formal Consultation Results - Burnham Beeches Dog Control Order p

Number	Period	Location	Dog Walker	Sched 1	Sched 2	Sched 3	Sched 4	Sched 5
1	Informal	Chalfont S	x					
2	Formal	local	x					
3	informal		x					
4	Informal		x					
5	Informal		x					
6	Informal							
7	Informal	local	x					
8	Informal	local	x					
9	Informal	?						
10	Informal	1753	no					
11	Informal	local	x					
12	Informal	local	x					
13	Informal	?						
14	Informal	Bourne Er	10					
15	Informal	?						
16	Informal	?						
17	Informal	local	x					
18	Informal	local	x					
19	Informal	local	x					
20	Informal	local						
21	Informal	local						
22	Informal	Knows the site						
23	Informal	?	x					
24	Informal	Glouceste	x					
25	Informal	?						
26	Informal	?	x					
27	Informal	?	x					
28	Informal	?	10					
29	Informal	?						
30	Informal	?	x					
31	Informal	Local Vet	x					
32	INformal	X	20					
33	Informal	local						
34	Informal	?	x					
35	Informal	local	x					
36	Informal	Local	x					
37	Informal	Icaol	x					
38	Informal	Local	x					
39	Formal	local	x					
40	Informal	local	x					
41	Informal	local	x					
42	Informal	local	x					
43	Informal	local	30					
44	Informal	local	x					
45	Informal	?	x					
46	Informal	local	x					

47	Informal	local	x					
48	Informal	local	x					
49	Informal	local	x					
50	Informal	local	x					
51	Formal	local	x					
52	Formal	?						
53	Formal	local	x					
54	Formal	?						
55	Formal	local	x					
56	Formal	local	40					
57	Formal	West York	x					
58	formal	local	x					
59	Formal	?						
60	Formal	?						
61	Formal	?						
62	Formal	Peacehaven						
63	Formal	local	x					
64	Formal	?						
65	Formal	x	x					
66	Formal	x	x					
67	Formal	x	x					
68	Formal	x						
69	Formal	x	x					
70	Formal	x	x					
71	Formal	Weybridge	no					
72	Formal	local	20					
73	Formal	Local	x					
74	Formal	Local	50					
75	Formal	Local	x					
76	Formal	local	x					
77	Formal	local	x					
78	Formal	?	x					
79	Formal	local						
80	Formal	Hitchin, H	x					
81	Formal	?						
82	Formal	Local						
83	Formal	Maidenhea	x					
84	Formal	local	x					
85	Formal	x	x					
86	Formal	x	x					
87	Formal	X	60					
88	Formal	x						
89	Formal	local	x					
90	Formal	local	x					
91	Formal	?						
92	Formal	?						
93	Formal	x	x					
94	Formal	Seaford						
95	Formal	X						
96	Formal	?						
97	Formal	Maidenhea	30					
98	Formal	local						
99	Formal	ex local	x					

100	Formal	local	x					
101	formal	local	x					
102	Formal	local	x					
103	Formal	local						
104	Formal	local	x					
105	formal	Surrey	x					
106	formal	local						
107	Formal	local						
108	Formal	local						
109	Formal	OSS						
110	Formal							
111	Formal	Surry	no					
112	formal	local						
113	Formal	local						
114	Formal	local	70					
115	Formal	local	X					
116	Formal	local	x					
117	Formal	local	x					
118	Formal	Local	40					
119	Formal	Primary Authority						
120	Formal	Local	X					
121	Formal	Organisation						
122	Formal	Organisation						
123	Formal	Lcaol	X					
124	Formal	Local	x					
125	Formal	Local Slough						
126	Informal	Local	x					
127	Formal	Local	x					
128	Formal	Local						
129	Formal	Local	x					
130	Formal	Local						
131	Formal	Local	80					
132	Formal	?						
133	Formal	Local						
134	Formal	Local						
135	Formal	Local	x					
136	Formal	?	x					
137	Formal	Local	x					
138	Formal	?	50					
139	Formal	x	x					
140	Formal	x						
141	Formal	x						
142	Formal	x						
143	Formal	x						
144	formal	x						
145	Formal	x	x					
146	Formal	x	x					
147	Formal	x	x					
148	Formal	x	no					
149	Formal	x						
150	Formal	na	x					
151	Formal	x						
152	Formal	x	x					

153	Formal	?						
154	Formal	x	90					
155	Formal	x	x					
156	formal	x	x					
157	Formal	x						
158	Formal	X	60					
159	Formal	x						
160	Formal	x	x					
161	Formal	x	x					
162	Formal	x						
163	Formal	x	x					
164	Formal	x	x					
165	Formal							
166	Formal							
167	Fromal	x	x					
168	Formal	x						
169	Formal	?						
170	Fromal	?	x					
171	Formal	x						
172	Formal	?						
173	Formal							
174	Formal	x	x					
175	Fromal	x	70					
176	Formal	x	100					
177	Formal	x						
178	Formal	x						
179	Fromal	x	x					
180	Formal							
181	Formal	?	x					
182	Formal	x						
183	Formal	x						
184	Formal	x	x					
185	Formal	x	x					
186	Formal	x						
187	Formal	Harrow						
188	Formal							
189	Formal							

189

Schedule 2

Sch ed 1	Sched 2	Sched 3	Sched 4	Sched 5
13	110	15	15	32
7	8	20	8	8
108	62	81	97	79
61	9	73	69	70



<b>189</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>189</b>
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Sch ed 1	Sched 2	Sched 3	Sched 4	Sched 5
6.9	58.2	7.9	7.9	16.9
3.7	4.2	10.6	4.2	4.2
57.1	32.8	42.9	51.4	41.8
32.3	4.8	38.6	36.5	37.1

<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
------------	------------	------------	------------	------------

Number		%
105	DW	55.6
4	NDW	2.1
80	DND	42.3
<b>189</b>		<b>100</b>


## roposals

<b>Key</b>
Does not support the Schedule
Is neutral in comment
Supports the Schedule
Has not commented

Unfortunately though the sites management team are trying to impose restric



Stay safe in the countryside with news and advice from access adviser **Stephen Jenkinson**.



**ABOUT STEPHEN**  
Stephen Jenkinson is an expert on where you can go and what you can do with your dog. He's access adviser to Your Dog Magazine, the Kennel Club and local councils across the UK. He's also been in Oxford with the Border Collie, Jess.

**Burnham Beeches ban unjustified says Kennel Club**

**T**he Kennel Club is fighting plans by the City of London Corporation to fine dog walkers who let their dogs go off-lead in woodland at Burnham Beeches, near Slough, in Buckinghamshire. The proposed ban will apply to 59 per cent of the COL's 540 acres of woodland and will come into force in September. Off-lead access is the single most important amenity for most dog walkers, and while the corporation's own survey found that 62 per cent of visitors had a dog with them, officials claim they are "not proposing to deny amenity, simply asking for dogs to be kept on leads..." Dog owners obeying nationally endorsed advice in the Countryside Code to keep dogs on leads around cows will be further penalised. Burnham Beeches officials have confirmed plans to have cows on "95 per cent of the site by 2015". The corporation also plans to fine people walking more than four dogs. Kennel Club secretary Caroline Kisko

said: "At no point in the last decade have we seen such a sustained and unjustified attempt to restrict where dog walkers go and what they do. "Wildlife sites across the UK, with far greater sensitivities, have fewer restrictions than are proposed at Burnham Beeches." Burnham Beeches staff claim restrictions will protect wildlife, but government officials deny this. A spokesman said: "Natural England has considerable experience in access restrictions and exclusions... and cannot find sufficient evidence to support dog control orders." In March, a majority of the corporation's Epping Forest and Commons Committee endorsed the restrictions requested by Burnham Beeches staff, despite the concerns of several committee members. These included deputy Alex Deane who said the number of problems from off-lead dogs were "so low as to be almost daft as justification."

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We are expecting a public consultation any time now & hope there will be a m alternative suggestions & hear the reasons which justify such harsh measures. involved in the consultation process.




The City of London Corporation manage other sites (Including Epping Forest, long line.

If you wish to know more, offer support, have ideas or suggestions that may h page

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# Map showing proposed areas for Dog Control Order Schedules

## Key:

-  Boundary of site within which the Dog Control Order applies. Schedules 1 & 5 apply in all areas, schedules 2, 3 & 4 in the areas shown below.
-  Boundary between areas for schedules 2 & 3
-  Shaded section shows area covered by schedule 2

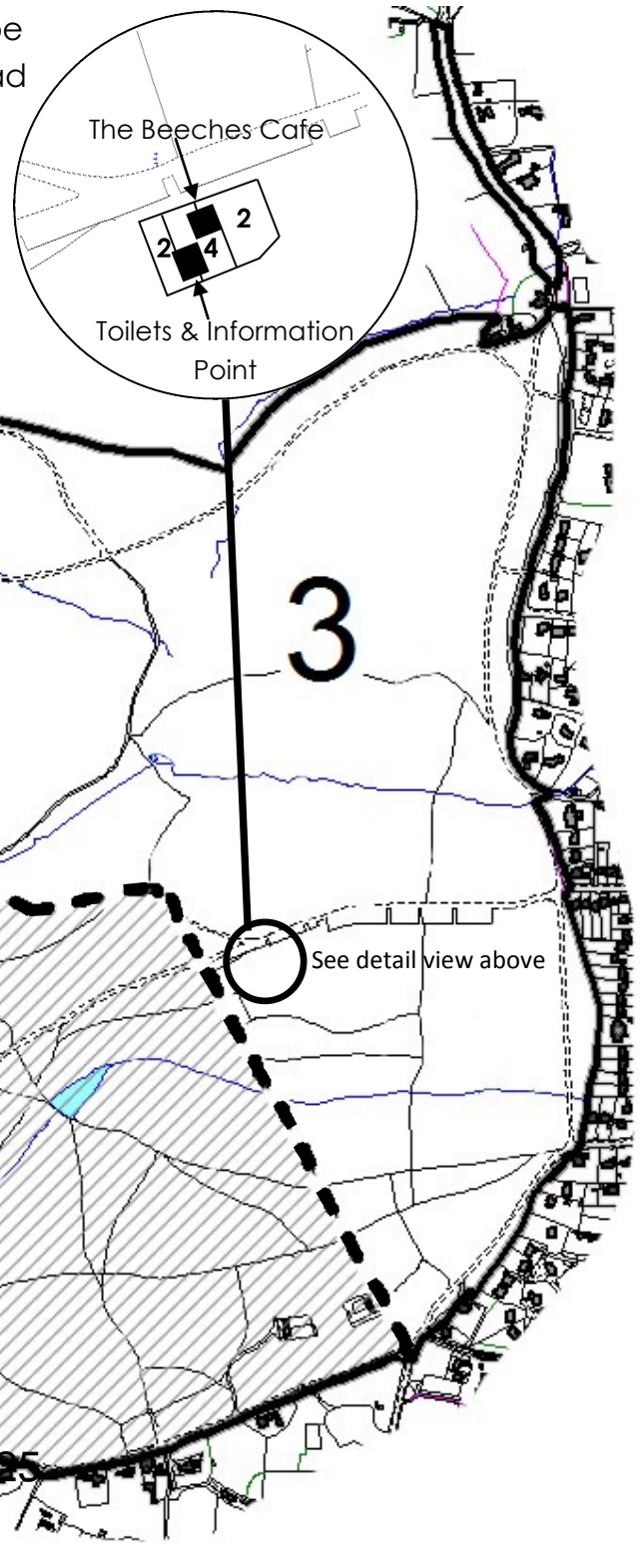
**Schedule 1:** You must remove from the site, any faeces deposited by dog(s) for which you are responsible

**Schedule 2:** Dogs on leads at all times in this area. Max lead length 5m

**Schedule 3:** Dogs may be walked off lead but must be put on a lead when requested by a Ranger. Max lead length 5m

**Schedule 4:** Dogs excluded from this area

**Schedule 5:** Maximum of 4 dogs per walker



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