

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



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

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.

