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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.

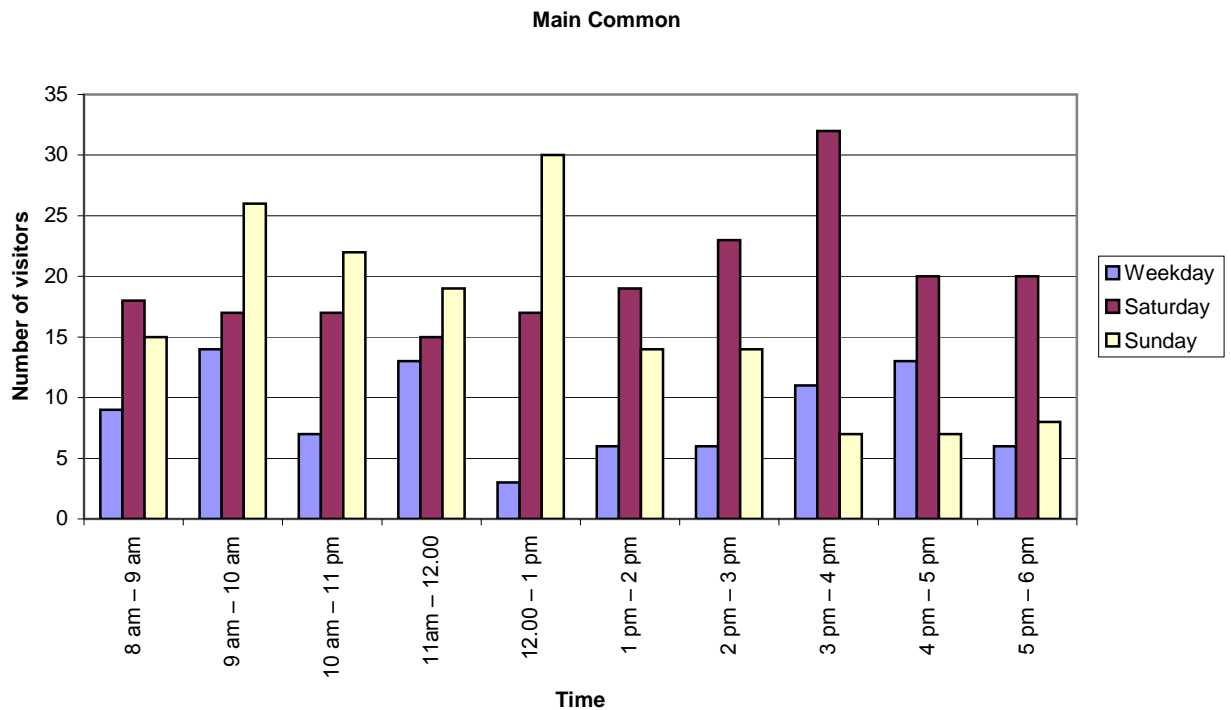
Although not the most represented group, families are more likely to be seen walking with their dog at the weekend, particularly on a Sunday.



## 2. WHAT TIME OF DAY THEY WALKED

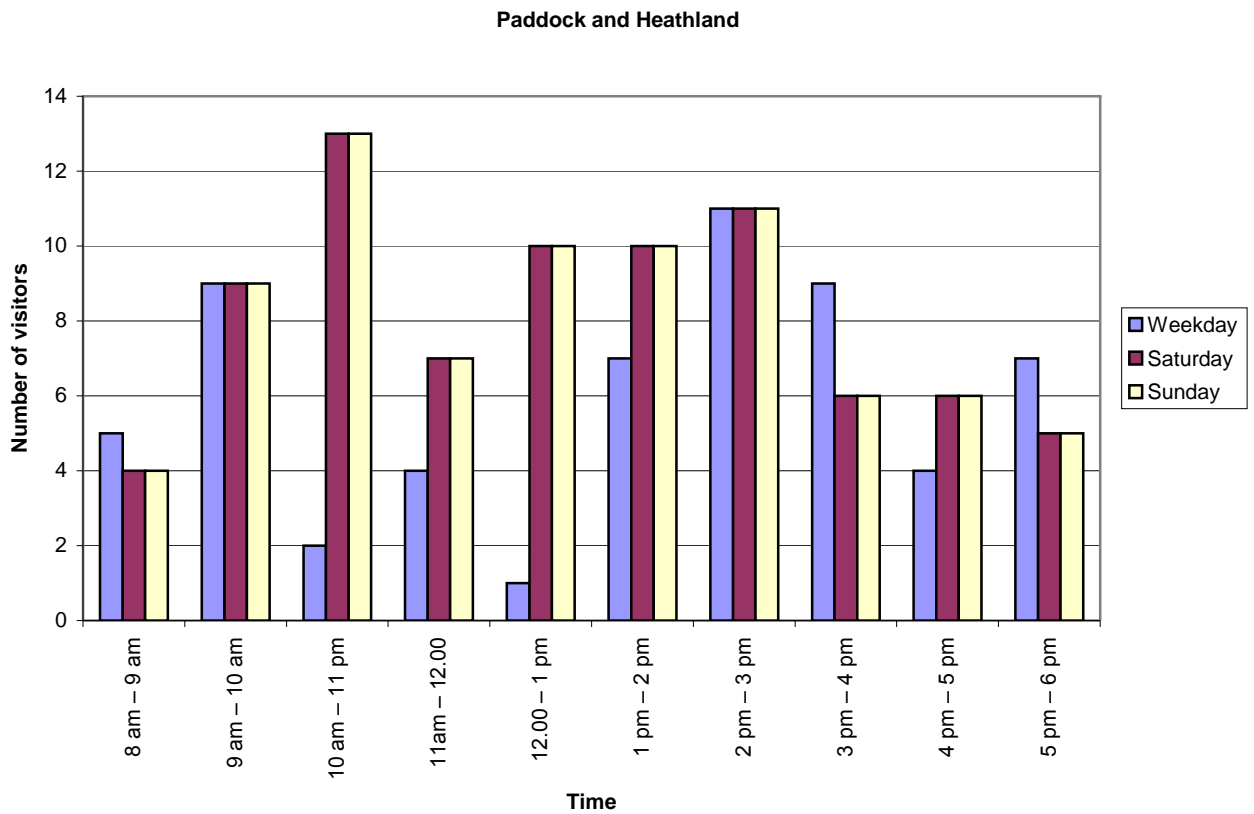
### 2.1 Main Common

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.

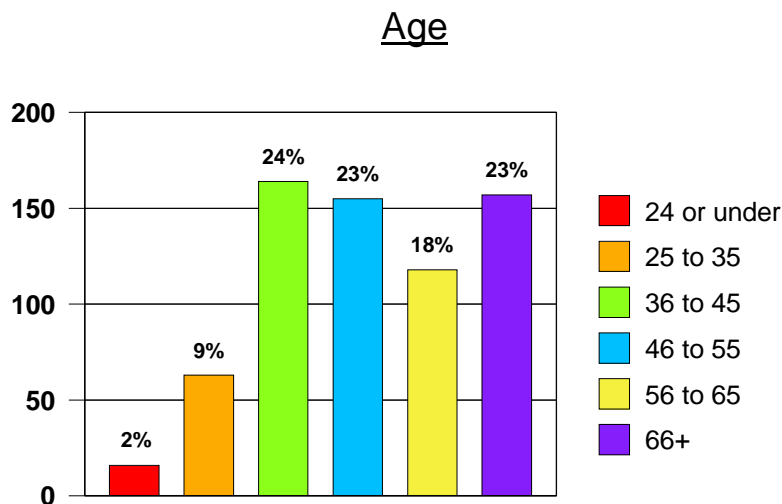
How distributed	Number distributed	Number returned	Response rate
Distributed under windscreens	150	25	16.7%
Posted to event attendees along with newsletter	40	7	17.5%
Distributed by hand to local properties along with newsletter	300	83	27.7%
Posted out to newsletter readers	271	98	36.0%
Posted to local 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 were 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

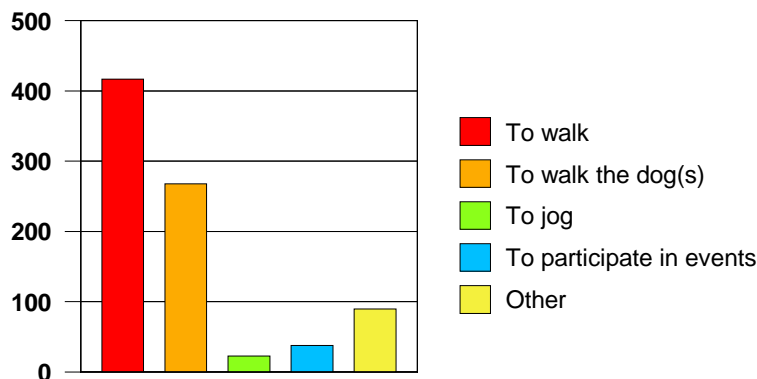
To be answered by all respondents

### 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"*

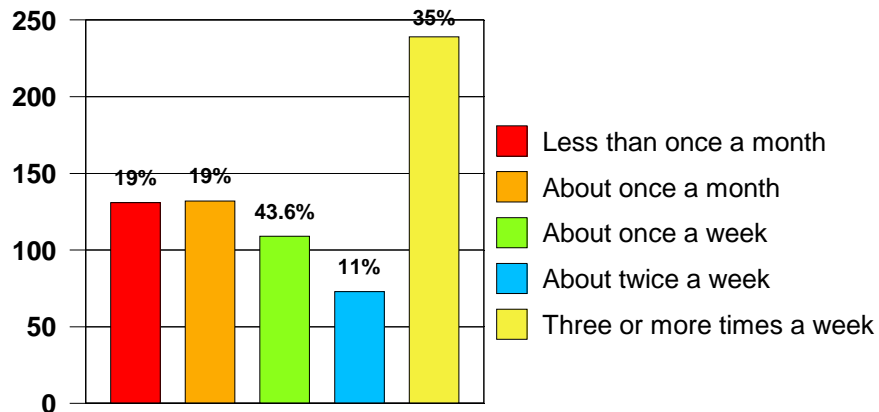
*"To read and write in the car"*

## 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.

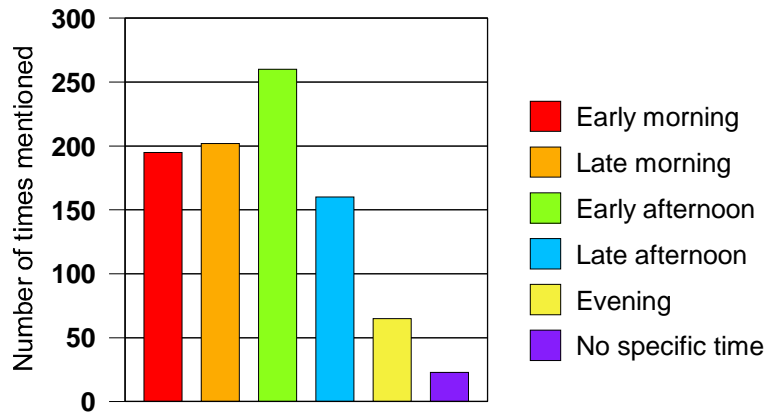
### How often do you visit Burnham Beeches?



### 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?

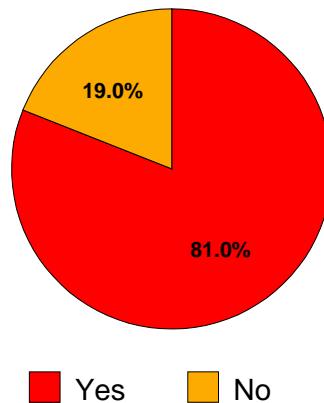


#### 4. ARE YOU AWARE THAT BURNHAM BEECHES IS AN INTERNATIONALLY IMPORTANT WILDLIFE SITE?

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

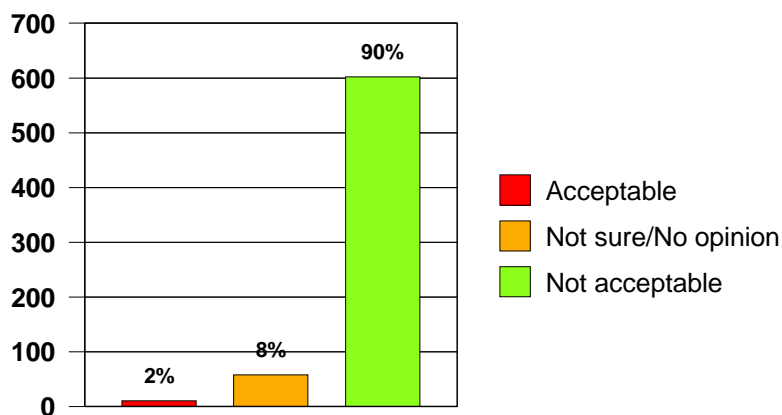
All the behaviour is perceived to be not acceptable by the majority of the respondents except for 'being approached by a dog that you don't know', which was acceptable for half of the respondents, with the remainder mainly finding it unacceptable.

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.

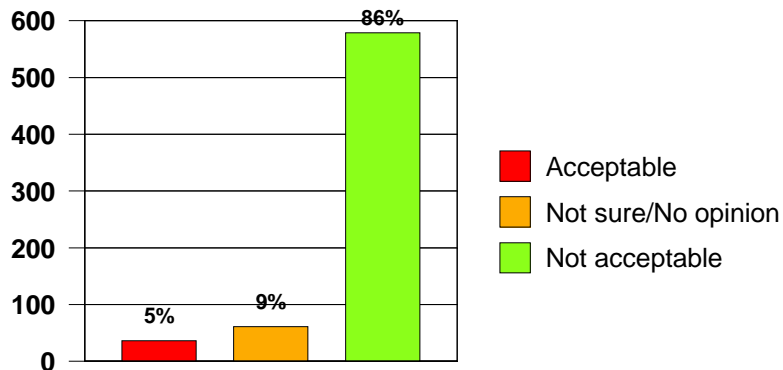
The types of behaviour in order of least acceptable are as follows

- 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%)

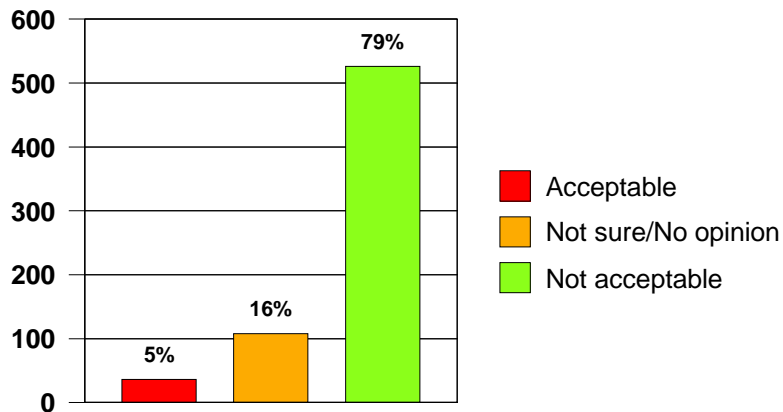
### A dog that is worrying the livestock



Dog walkers that do not clean up after their dogs foul

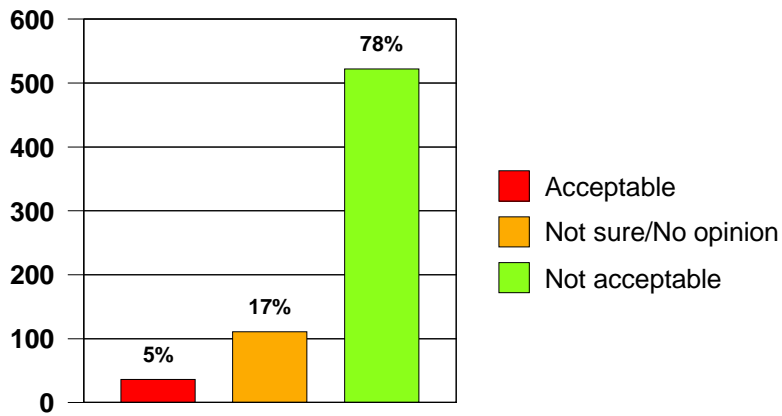


A dog that is fighting with other dogs

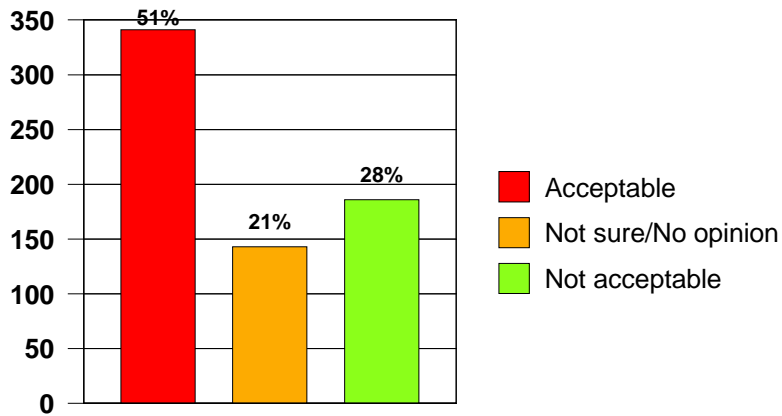




A dog that is chasing/disturbing wildlife



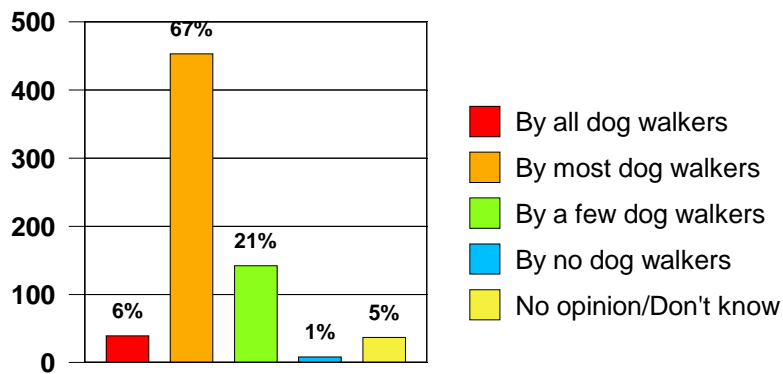
Being approached by a dog you don't know



## 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"*

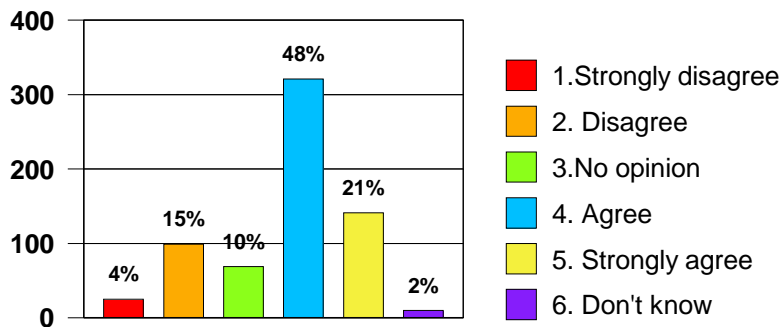
**10. HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS?**

- 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.

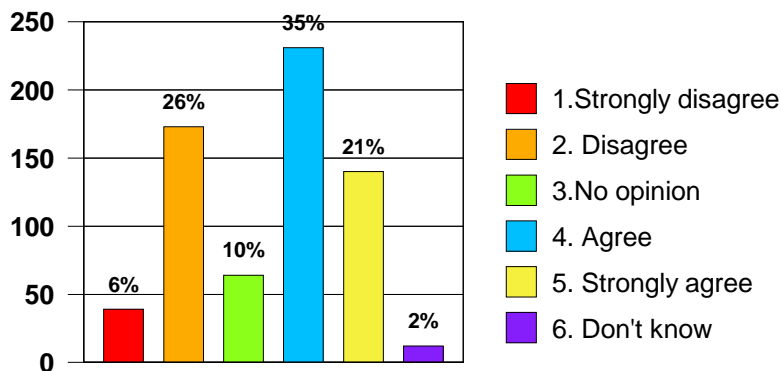
48% of the respondents agree and 21% strongly agree that there should be a dog code at Burnham Beeches. The highest proportion of those that disagreed (65%) or strongly disagreed (60%) with a dog code were dog walkers.

There should be a dog code to guide dog owners on how to enjoy Burnham Beeches with their dog?



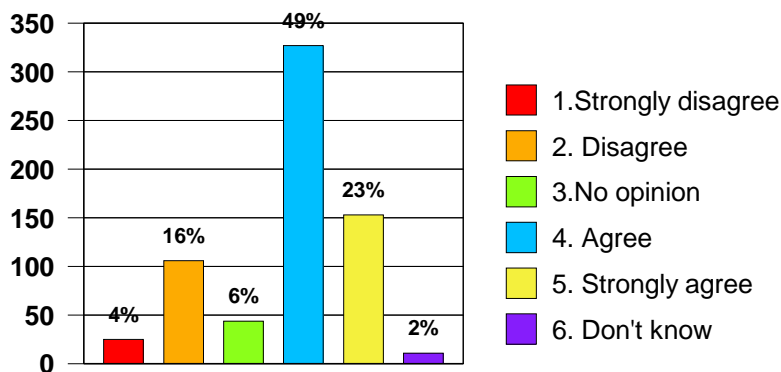
Whilst the majority of respondents agree (35%) or strongly agree (21%) that there should be some dog free zones at Burnham Beeches, this was the statement to which the most respondents disagreed 26% or strongly disagreed 6%. Of those that disagreed, 51% were dog walkers and of those that strongly disagreed, 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

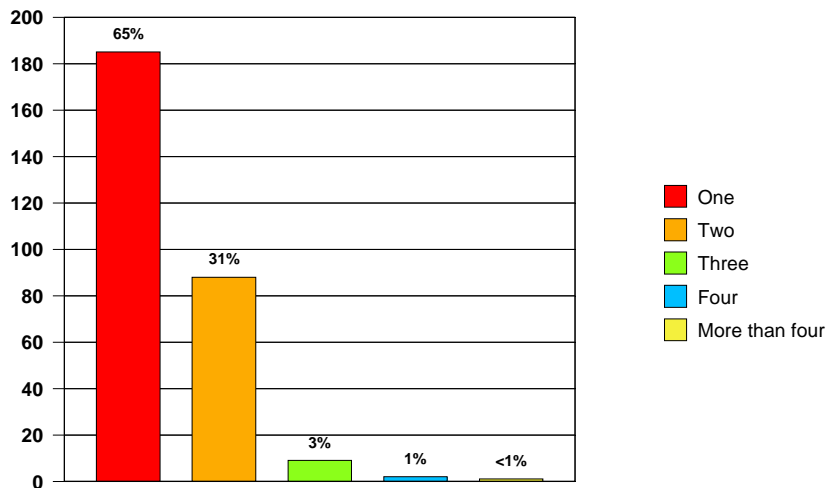
To be answered by the regular dog walkers

### 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

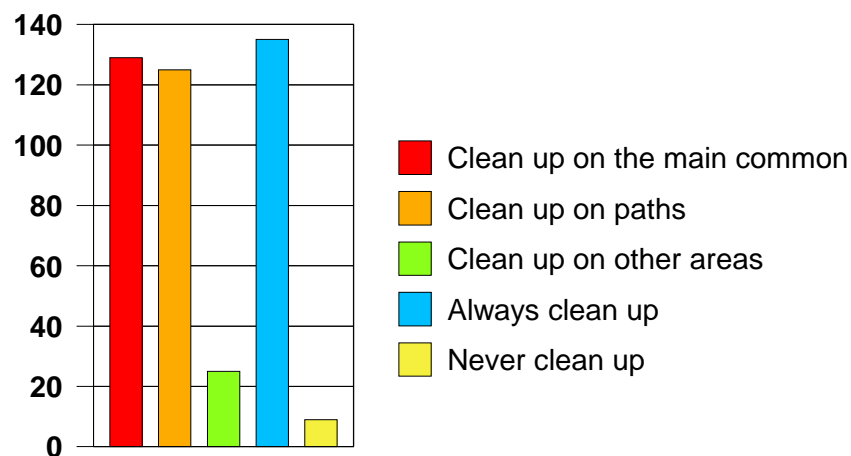
- Clean up on the Main Common
- Clean up on the paths
- Clean up in other areas
- Always clean up
- Never clean up

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)**
- |  | Acceptable               | Not sure/No opinion      | Not acceptable           |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 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**

	<i>1.Strongly disagree</i>	<i>2. Disagree</i>	<i>3.No opinion</i>	<i>4. Agree</i>	<i>5. Strongly agree</i>	<i>6. Don't know</i>
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*.....     *Three* .....     *More than four - Please specify number* .....   
*Two*.....     *Four* .....

**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)**

	<i>Dog bins</i>	<i>Dog bags</i>
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"/>
<i>Reason for not using dog bins or bags</i>	<input style="width: 250px; height: 20px;" 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 ..  Banglade-shi .....

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.