

## 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?

1. The Beeches is visited by 585,000 people each year of every age, faith, race and sexual/physical orientation.

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.

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

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.

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.

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 Trampler 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.

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.

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.

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.	