

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