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From: Kate Ashbrook [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

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*