



# **BURNHAM BEECHES PROGRESS UPDATE REPORT**

STRATEGIC ACCES MANAGEMENT AND  
MONITORING STRATEGY

APRIL 2023 - APRIL 2024





# BURNHAM BEECHES SAMMS: progress report to Buckinghamshire Council

April 2023- March 2024

---

## CONTEXT

### Burnham Beeches Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

In 2005, Burnham Beeches, a primarily wooded area in southern Buckinghamshire, was designated a Special Area of Conservation (SAC). This was to protect the 'beech forest on acid soil' habitat, and acknowledges the mosses, lichens, insects and other invertebrates that depend on the ancient trees. All SACs are protected under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2017), giving these areas the highest degree of protection available in law.



*Image 1. Burnham Beeches, Special Area of Conservation, National Nature Reserve and Site of Special Scientific Interest.*

The northern part of the SAC is private woodland, only accessible by public footpaths and a small number of permissive paths. The southern part, Burnham Beeches National Nature Reserve, is a Public Open Space owned and managed by the City of London Corporation as a charity. Other habitats on the reserve include wood pasture, heathland, grassland, mire and valley mire, grassland, ponds and streams.

To protect the reserve, Burnham Beeches NNR is managed through a series of 10-year management plans, drawn up with and given consent by Natural England. The current [Burnham Beeches management plan](#) runs from 2020 to 2030.

Although only 220 ha (approximately one square mile), the reserve receives approximately 600,000 visits each year, with an estimated 35-40% of those visits bringing at least one dog. It is extremely vulnerable to damage from overuse as well as from external stresses such as drought, fire or pollution.

Evidence has suggested that additional visitors to Burnham Beeches NNR, generated through additional local housing development, will harm the integrity of the SAC ([Footprint Ecology Report: Urban Development and Burnham Beeches SAC](#)). To alleviate the projected impact, no new dwellings are permitted within 500 m of the boundary of the SAC and all new developments within a 5.6km 'zone of influence' (see Appendix A for map) are required to make a financial contribution to Buckinghamshire Council.



*Image 2. Ancient beech pollards at Burnham Beeches National Nature Reserve.*

The [Burnham Beeches Strategic Access and Monitoring Strategy \(SAMMS\)](#) was adopted by Buckinghamshire Council in November 2020. It runs for 80 years and is currently being delivered through six core projects that specify how funds received by Buckinghamshire Council will be used to directly manage and avoid the negative impacts of an increase in recreation at Burnham Beeches National Nature Reserve.

Full details of each project may be found in Appendix B.

## BUDGET

The SAMMs contributions collected must cover expected expenditure for the first 10 years of project delivery and ultimately for the 80 years of the SAMMs agreement.

### Project summary and expenditure 2023/24

Project scope	Current agreed 10 yr expenditure 2020/21-2029/30	Exp 23/24
<b>Project 1:</b> provision of bespoke electronic information, to help visitors to the SAC understand the impact of their visit and/or actions.	£17,000 for bespoke interpretation 1x in 10 years, likely to be 2025/26 onwards	£0
<b>Project 2:</b> events and promotion of activities to raise awareness of recreation pressure and of alternative places to visit.	<b>Project 2 - annual</b> spend of £2,800 for CER to use for event/activities	£353.34
<b>Project 3:</b> appointment of a Community Engagement Ranger.	<b>Project 3 - &lt;£52,118 annually</b> to employ a Community Engagement Ranger (CER) to undertake range of engagement activity *10 months' salary due to CER resigning on 31/01/23 and replacement not in post until 01/04/2024.	£39,792.63 (10 months' salary*)
<b>Project 4:</b> visitor surveys.	<b>Project 4 - £10,000 – visitor survey /count 1 x every 10 years.</b> Project not due before 25/26.	£0
<b>Project 5:</b> monitoring visitor impacts on soils and the ecology of the SAC.	<b>Project 5 – £20,000 every 10 years,</b> to be spent at an average of £2000 /year on monitoring visitor impacts on features at Burnham Beeches SAC (ecology/lichens /soils etc)	£7925.76
<b>Project 6:</b> production of access plan/carrying capacity study.	<b>Project 6 - £15,000 for the one-off production of action plan /carrying capacity study</b>	£0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£48,071.73</b>

### Budget summary to date 2020/21 - 2023/24

#### Income received from SAMMS contributions to date

Year	Contributions collected	Number of developments	Number of properties
<b>2020/21</b>	£26,310.31	8	12
<b>2021/22</b>	£452,986.74	25	224
<b>2022/23</b>	£177,537.22	33	85
<b>2023/24</b>	£162,583	24	78
<b>Total</b>	<b>£819,417.27</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>399</b>

## Ten-year expenditure summary to date – no expenditure prior to 2022/23 (year 3)

Project	10 year value	Amount spent to date	Amount left to spend
Project 1 – Electronic Interpretation	£17,000	0	£17,000
Project 2 – Events/promotion	£28,000	£353.34	£27,646.66
Project 3 – CER employment	£521,180*	£51,349.94	£469,830.06
Project 4 – Visitor survey	£10,000	0	£10,000
Project 5 - Monitoring visitor impacts	£20,000	£7925.76	£12,074.24
Project 6 - Access Strategy	£15,000	£9,875	£5,125
<b>Totals</b>	<b>£611,180</b>	<b>£69,504.04</b>	<b>£541,675.96</b>

\*CER not employed until Jan 2023

## PROJECT OUTLINE AND PROGRESS

### **A: Project 1: provision of electronic information, to help visitors to the SAC understand the impact of their visit and/or actions.**

- No action 2023/24.

### **B: Project 2: events and promotion of activities to raise awareness of recreation pressure and of alternative places to visit and Project 3: appointment of a Community Engagement Ranger**

The objectives of the CER post are to:

- Mitigate the potential for harm to the protected habitats within Burnham Beeches and its SAC by being a public face and catalyst to effect behaviour change by visitors to the nature reserve;
- Work with the wider Ranger team to deliver a visible, approachable and proactive Ranger service to achieve sustainable outcomes for the reserve alongside a positive visitor experience;
- Undertake outreach, engaging with potential visitors off-site and promoting the use of other local natural greenspaces as alternative visitor destinations.

**It is worth noting that there are two CERs at Burnham Beeches**, with one post being funded by Buckinghamshire Council and the other by mitigation payments to Slough Borough Council from the Berkeley Group for the residential development at the Horlicks Quarter. The two Rangers are employed by the City of London Corporation and are based at the Burnham Beeches office. They work closely together, with the relevant officer taking responsibility for outreach work in their respective local authority areas. They support each other delivering their respective work programmes – each has different skills which bring more benefits to the delivery of both schemes/agreements than possible working as individuals.

The Buckinghamshire CER left the post at the end of January 24 due to personal reasons. As of April 1 2024, the position was filled by the Slough CER and as of April 15 2024, the Slough CER position was filled.

## B.1 ACTION ON THE NNR

### B.1.1 Patrols

Four regular patrol routes have been established, which are patrolled on different days and times each week. The schedule ensures equal coverage of the on-lead and off-lead areas.

Patrols are either undertaken with the Slough CER or alone; these have been on foot or by e-bike. When on foot, the CER also deals with any litter; this not only has a positive practical impact (studies have shown that 2+ pieces of litter tends to attract additional litter) but also offers a talking point that leads into conversations about other issues affecting the reserve.

The most common reasons to intervene with negative behaviour on the reserve relate to breaches in the Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs). Appendix C shows the PSPO areas. In these instances, visitors have been given verbal advice about the on and off lead areas and the fragility of the reserve, and maps/ supporting literature where needed. Where necessary, the CER has ensured dogs have been put on lead. All incidents are recorded immediately after the PSPO breach and later recorded on a central log with further action (formal letter or enforcement action) being authorised by the Head Ranger/Assistant Director, as required by the Burnham Beeches PSPO enforcement protocol.

Other interventions have related to:

- fires
- visitors approaching or feeding grazing livestock
- fungi picking
- off-road cycling
- quad bike incursion
- moving deadwood and den-building

Engagement has also included chatting or answering questions about wildlife, reasons for visiting or responding to particular needs such as giving directions. Where possible, core messages have been integrated into these conversations. As the CER's knowledge of the wider area has grown, it has also been possible to suggest other places visitors might enjoy visiting.

Over 99% of engagement has been positive, even when enforcing PSPOs.

There has also been multiple 'engagement weeks', where other members of staff patrolled with a CER, aiming to share their proactive approach to engagement.

#### Patrol engagement April 2023 to April 2024

- 296 hours and 25 minutes of patrol from 01/04/2023 to 09/01/2024 (manual/handwritten surveys).
- 66 hours and 27 minutes of patrol from 10/01/2024 to 31/03/2024 (surveying using Survey123).
- Total of 362 hours and 52 minutes of patrol from 01/04/2023 to 31/03/2024.
- An average of 30 hours of patrol per month.

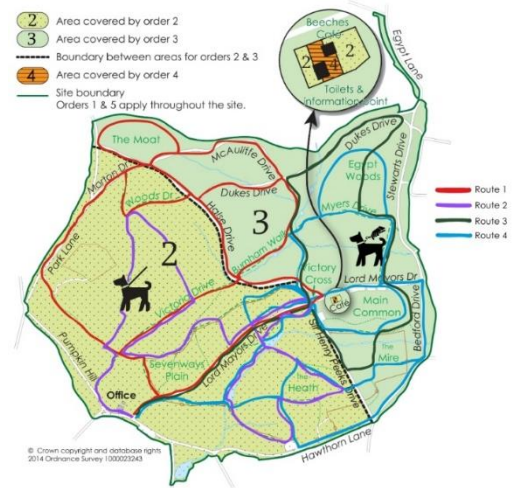


Image 3. Map of four patrol routes across Burnham Beeches.

Image 4. Visitor engagement about tree safety work.



PSPO enforcement April 2023 to April 2024	
No. interventions by CERs	236
No. interventions by all team members	552

CERs have enforced 42.75% of the total number of PSPOs enforced by the whole Ranger team in 2023/24.

## B.1.2 Monitoring

### Patrol engagement

<b>Version 3 of patrol monitoring includes the following:</b>	<b>Observations for 01/04/23 – 09/01/24</b>
Number of visitors (the number of people seen at Burnham Beeches, including from a distance where there is no opportunity for engagement).	8288
Number of dogs (the number of dogs seen at Burnham Beeches).	2173
Visitors exhibiting positive behaviour (for example, a dog is on-lead in the on-lead area).	8041
Visitors exhibiting negative behaviour (for example, a visitor walking off the path).	281
Positive engagement with visitors.	2704
Negative engagement with visitors (for example, a conversation where the visitor disagrees with the Public Spaces Protection Orders).	6

The routes, frequency and monitoring of patrols has been evolving over the first year. Information from meetings with other SAMMS in 23/24 and data from existing transects has helped to inform the final procedures. Data in the key areas (as above) has been gathered on an ongoing basis, however from the 10<sup>th</sup> of January 2024, a new patrol monitoring system has been used (Appendix D). This new way of monitoring using Survey123 (an ArcGIS application) does not include the number of visitors or dogs seen, but records more information about the types of engagement, problems observed and mitigation (see also Project 4). This method of monitoring also enables the CERs to monitor patrols in wet weather conditions and no extra time is needed to upload the data to a spreadsheet after the patrol. The CERs now use two surveys whilst on patrol:

- One that is monitoring the whole patrol which includes information such as date, time, weather conditions, location, number of visitors greeted, number of dens dismantled, and the number of negative behaviours witnessed (such as dog fouls not picked up).
- The second survey is more focussed on engagement when on patrol and records information about conversations with visitors (Appendix E). This survey records information such as the number of visitors interacted with, location, the main topic of conversation, whether the visitor was aware of a particular issue such as soil erosion, whether the visitor was aware of rules in place, and if the visitor was aware of the wildlife value of Burnham Beeches.

<b>Patrol monitoring using Survey123:</b>	<b>Observations for 10/01/24 – 31/03/24</b>
Number of visitors greeted (hello, good morning)	630
Number of visitors engaged with (full conversations had with visitors)	287
Number of negative behaviours witnessed (dog fouling not picked up, foraging)	81

It is clear from this first year of monitoring that the issues affecting the National Nature Reserve are only occasionally those of overtly negative behaviour such as graffiti, littering or aggressive dogs. Although there is an on-going issue with dogs being off-lead in the on-lead area, or being far from the paths, or not under effective control in the off-lead area, these represent a relatively small proportion of the dogs walked on the reserve. Damage seems to result largely from the volume of footfall in relation to the fragility of the Beeches and conversations indicate lack of visitor awareness and/or interest about the value of the reserve or consequences of overuse (47% of visitors spoken to since 10/01/24 were aware of the wildlife value of Burnham Beeches). Fewer than 1% of the visitors seen were walking through undisturbed vegetation with the majority being on some kind of existing trail. The main topic of conversation had with visitors was a general chat (33% of engagements since 10/01/24) which could be about the walker's dog, the weather or a catch up. The next most common topic of conversation was regarding PSPOs, whether that was discussing the rules or enforcing the rules (16% of engagements since 10/01/24).

The new monitoring technique will enable the CERs to adapt messaging and create materials specific to topics that visitors are unsure about, providing a more targeted approach to mitigation.

### Other monitoring

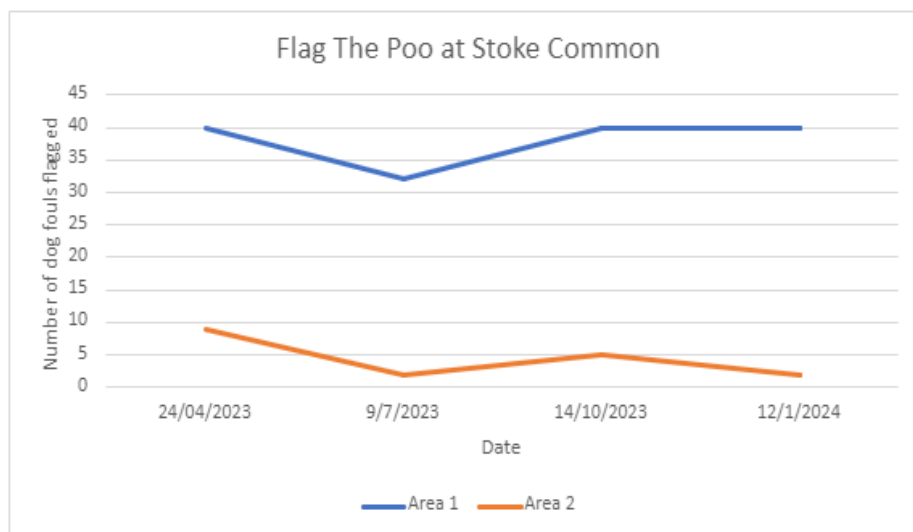


Two 'dog transects' are carried out each month. These follow two set routes around the reserve (Appendix F), and count the number, gender mix and approximate age of visitors in each section of the route, the number of dogs and whether these dogs are on or off-lead. Data from 24 transects conducted by the CERs in 2023/24 adds to records dating back to 2015 and is used to inform the three-yearly review of Public Space Protection Orders. It will now also be used to also help assess the impact of the CER presence.

Three new 'flag the poo' transects (counting the number of dog faeces left and placing flags next to them to raise awareness) have been established at Burnham Beeches: the first and second are along the two footpaths at the main entrance; the third is a stretch of path leading into Egypt Wood (Appendix G). The data from these transects, conducted quarterly, will add to the data collected from the two transects at Stoke Common and the two existing long-term dog poo transects which have shown a significant reduction in fouling in both the on-lead and off-lead areas.

Image 5: 'Flag the Poo' sign board at the main entrance to Burnham Beeches. The board includes information about dogs and their fouls.

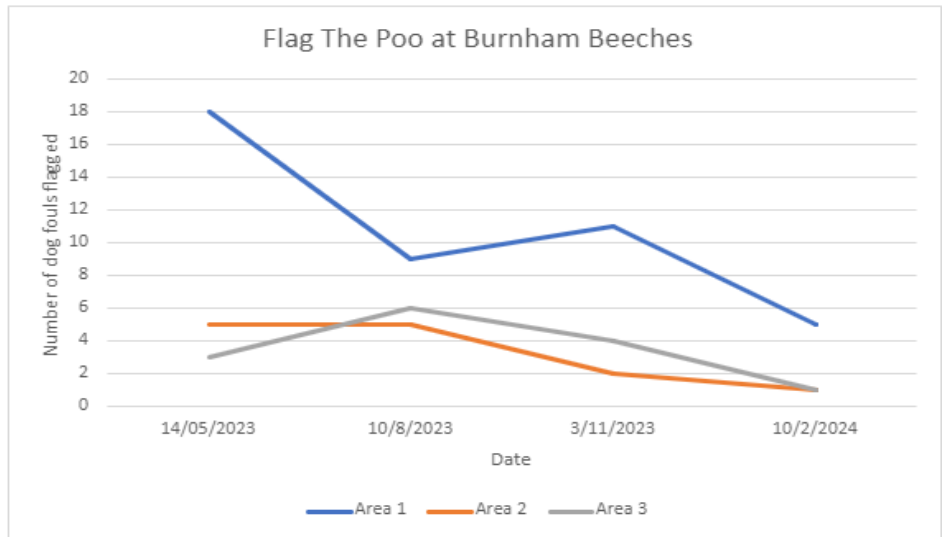
In area 2 at Stoke Common, the number of fouls being flagged has decreased, however the number of fouls being flagged in area 1 has remained high since July 2023. This could be due to area 1 being the most common entrance used by visitors at Stoke Common. Further messaging needs to be created to help stop dog fouls being left.





The number of dog fouls flagged at Burnham Beeches has decreased since the start of Flag The Poo in May 2023.

Whilst conducting Flag The Poo at Burnham Beeches and Stoke Common, many visitors approach the CERs to ask questions about the flags and primarily comment on how awful it is to see so many flags.



### B.1.3 Practical mitigation

#### B.1.3.i Trampling and erosion

One of the main issues affecting the reserve is the number of *desire lines* (tracks created by visitors walking the line that seems natural to them) that were created or widened over Covid lockdowns, when an estimated additional 250,000 visits were made to the Beeches. Many are continuing to widen as paths become muddy. As a result, vegetation and soil damage is occurring across the majority of the reserve.

#### Action included:

- Creating 5 dead hedges across the entry points to block desire lines off surfaced paths and protect vulnerable areas.
- Identifying further areas for the Burnham Beeches volunteers to dead-hedge to reduce path edge erosion.
- Creating informal path blocks using fallen or cut material
- Roping off particularly vulnerable areas for the winter months.
- Supporting practical action with signage and social media to explain why action is needed.
- Improvement of path sections so all main paths are clearly marked and accessible.



Image 6: This stretch of dead hedge protects an area of woodland damaged by visitors cutting through from one surfaced track to another.



Image 7: Winter ground conditions exacerbate the impact of footfall, hence some areas are closed.

## Recommendations

- Continue to carry out practical work as in 23/24 as opportunities arise, working alone and with volunteers;
- Work with the other staff and visitor data to draw up a map of which paths should be retained and prioritise closures and measures to encourage visitors to use particular paths, and use this to plan future practical work;
- Investigate ways to waymark desired routes;
- Integrate actions with the monitoring proposals under Project 4.
- Liaison with information team regarding routes of any trails produced.



Image 8: Blocking a desire line, helped by staff and students from Berkshire College of Agriculture.

### B.1.3.ii Damage to decaying wood

Much of the ecological value of Burnham Beeches relates to the animals, plants, fungi and lichens that depend on decaying wood for part or all of their life cycles. The scarcity, diversity and number of these species was a factor in the designation of Burnham Beeches as a Special Area of Conservation, and the subsequent need for the SAMMS. It is therefore critical that there is mitigation action to protect the volume and quality of this habitat.

Dead and decaying wood is found in the ancient trees, in standing and fallen or felled dead trees, in habitat piles built of cut wood and in the fallen branches that have been left where they fell.

**Damage to this habitat and the associated wildlife is caused mainly by visitors climbing on or in the ancient trees or by visitors moving sticks and logs, primarily to build dens.**



Image 9. Decaying wood provides shelter and food for rare and endangered species.

### Protecting ancient trees

The Beeches tree management programme already includes measures to deter visitors from getting too close to the ancient trees. These include creating barriers around vulnerable trees from cut material, or re-routing paths. The CER input has been primarily information-based (section B.1.4)

In January 2024, however, the CERs created a solution to a particularly vulnerable tree; this was adjacent to a busy path and showing accelerated disintegration from the number of people standing in or on it for a 'selfie'. This temporary barrier will be replaced by a palisade fence, and may be used for other trees at high-risk.



Image 10. Protecting the 'Fairy Tree'.

## Dens

Den building is seen as a fun, harmless activity, and is indeed promoted elsewhere as a way to encourage families to enjoy being outdoors. It is, however, not appropriate at Burnham Beeches. Although the wood may appear to be undamaged, movement changes light and moisture conditions needed by the animals, plants, fungi and lichens that had colonised the wood in its original location.

It is therefore vital that action is taken to protect particularly vulnerable trees and that dens are spotted and dealt with promptly to raise awareness that this activity is not permitted.



Image 11. A dismantled den. Each den uses a large number of logs and sticks and causes severe localised habitat disruption.

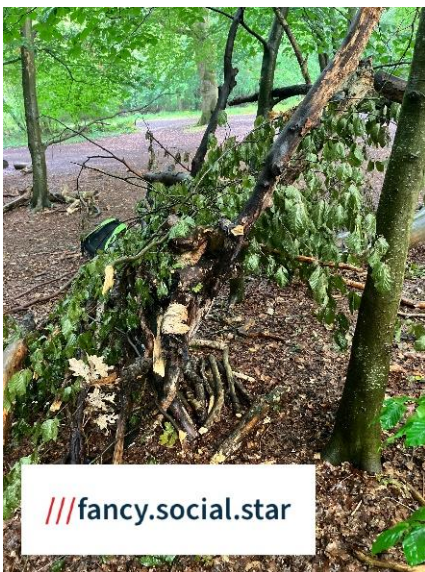


Image 12. Some dens use fresh materials too. Many attract litter.



Image 13 and 14. The sticks used in this den were used to block a desire line. Friendly signage explains the importance of this habitat and asks visitors to leave it



All the dens found have been dismantled and the wood either scattered around the surrounding habitat or built into a habitat pile. Where visitors have been seen building a den, the CER Ranger has explained the value of the wood and nature reserve to both the adults and the children, and encouraged them to help dismantle the den carefully and to try to replace the wood where they found it.

Prior to the creation and use of Survey123, the number of dens dismantled this year was not recorded formally, although it is estimated to be in the region of 25+, with 5 direct interventions with families. Since January with the use of Survey123, 13 dens have been dismantled and recorded, along with images and the locations of each den.

## Recommendations

- To continue to dismantle dens and engage with public, as required.
- To work with the Ranger team to ensure a consistent approach.
- To log locations and take pictures of dens, and a) target information and b) work with the Conservation Officer to agree removal of decaying materials to less accessible areas of the reserve.

### B.1.4 Message and resource development

In 22/23 the following key points were identified for on-site information/interpretation and integration into one-on-one conversations with visitors.

<b>Core message</b>	<b>Simple supplementary information to increase understanding that Burnham Beeches is a National Nature Reserve</b>
<b>The number of visitors here is damaging the nature reserve</b>	Burnham Beeches is one of the most important places for wildlife in Europe.
<b>Stay on the main paths</b>	The number of visitors is causing damage to soil structure: erosion and compaction is affecting the nature reserve.
<b>Pick up after your dog</b>	Nutrients impact on the nature reserve.
<b>This is part of the nature reserve where dogs need to be on a lead at all times</b>	The nature reserve is heavily used; the on-lead area is a 'safe space' not just for wildlife but for our many visitors who may not like dogs.
<b>Always keep your dog in sight</b>	Information about the variety of wildlife on the nature reserve that may be disturbed; impacts of fouling out sight.

In 23/24, the additional key points were added.

<b>Core message</b>	<b>Simple supplementary information to increase understanding that Burnham Beeches is a National Nature Reserve</b>
<b>We understand you love being here and don't mean any harm.</b>	This is one of the most important places in Europe for certain species and habitat. It is only one square mile, very popular, and the number of visitors puts it in danger of being loved to death.
<b>Keep your dog alongside.</b>	A dog doesn't have to chase wildlife to disturb it. Every time an animal is disturbed, it stops it from resting, feeding or breeding. This includes small birds, mammals and invertebrates you don't see.
<b>Do not climb in or on the ancient trees.</b>	There are things living in and around decaying wood that depend on it for all or part of their life cycle. Many are rare or endangered. The mix of species suggest these woods have been here since the Ice Age. The species are only here because the habitat is so old. This is the 3 <sup>rd</sup> most important place in the UK for saproxylic species.
<b>Leave logs and sticks on the ground. No den-building.</b>	As above. Plus, once wood has been moved, the light and moisture conditions are not those needed by the things living there. It can never be put back in exactly the right place. Moving dead wood also directly disturbs and may damage the wildlife in/under it.
<b>Do not approach or feed the cows or ponies.</b>	These are working animals, not pets. They are helping the reserve become better for wildlife using a traditional method. They create a better mix of plants for wildlife than mowing or cutting. Plus safety and nutrition information.
<b>No fires or BBQs; no litter.</b>	The value of NNR, as above.

Over the course of the year, the CER has researched the facts and figures underpinning these statements to be able to construct meaningful ‘arguments’ to underpin information delivery. Information aims to be as specific as possible so that visitors understand not just what is required but also why restrictions or changes in behaviour are required and how these will benefit the nature reserve.



Image 15: Display ending with the core behaviours.

The majority of information materials produced this year have included the five core behaviours (see Image 15) we want to encourage, aiming to establish a baseline awareness of appropriate behaviour.

The focus now is to:

a) make it easy for visitors to be aware of what is needed and how to comply. *Note: this work needs to be linked with practical measures; at present, for example, it is not always easy to tell which unsurfaced paths are the main paths.*

b) recognise the mismatch between visitor expectations (a park for recreation) and reality (a highly fragile and important area of conservation);

c) raise awareness and love of the things that make Burnham Beeches unique.

*Note: this work supplements and overlaps with that of the existing information team.*

The following approach is used for all resource development, from flyers to guided walks, to ensure that all action is meaningful.

Whilst some materials are purely informational, others are interpretative, aiming to link the visitor’s experience with the needs of the reserve. All aim to incorporate:

(a) **What** feature/species/ habitat is being impacted by a particular behaviour;

(b) **Why** action is needed (usually why a particular feature/species/habitat is important;

(c) **What** the threat is, e.g. trampling, disturbance, fire;

(d) **How** visitors can help.



Image 16. The picture on the outside of the cubicle of something the visitor is likely to see on the reserve.

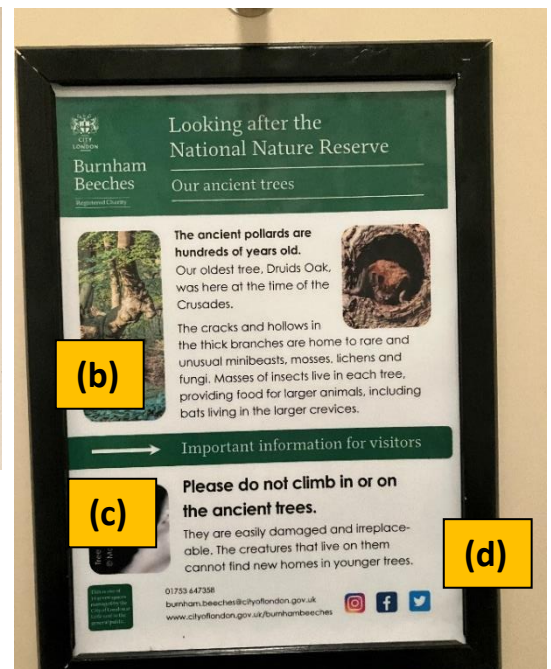


Image 17. Information on the inside of the cubicle relates to that image.

A suite of information was developed for the toilet block. The poster on the outside of the door highlights (a). The inside panel explains (b), (c), and (d).

*The six cubicles cover grazing (separate panels for cows and ponies), ancient trees, decaying wood, wildlife disturbance and picking flowers.*

**B.1.4.i Displays at the information point**

The information point is in the busy café area on the Main Common, and next to the toilet block. Although small, it has a display case, three notice boards and a leaflet rack. The display case and largest notice are available to the CERs for seasonal displays.



In spring, the display highlighted core behaviours that would help reptiles and amphibians coming out of hibernation.

Image 18 and 19. Spring display

The summer display targeted families with children, aiming to raise awareness of the five core behaviours. It was styled to complement a summer 'bucket list' of low impact activities organised by the information team and the CER summer engagement week activities.

Image 20 and 21. Summer flyer promoting other places to visit, and summer display.



The autumn display addressed the seasonal problem of fungi picking and aimed to educate visitors about the importance of fungi in the food chain. The core messages of keeping to the path and keeping dogs alongside were set in the context of the variety of life in leaf litter.

Image 22 and 23. Autumn display.



The winter display covered all five core messages again, with an additional safety message about ice. It also reinforced the autumn 'no foraging' messaging by highlighting the scarcity of food for wildlife at this time of year.

Image 24 and 25. Winter display



### B.1.4.ii Portable materials

In order to display information across the nature reserve in different areas and target a wider audience, a portable table was purchased. However, the table was difficult to carry on foot or by bike across the reserve. Therefore, a cargo bike was designed and purchased to solve this problem and help transport materials and displays to different parts of Burnham Beeches. The CERs aim to use the cargo bike regularly, especially during seasonal engagement weeks. The bike also enables the CERs to target specific problem areas and places where there is higher visitor pressure. The design shows visitors the various habitats within Burnham Beeches and highlights key aspects of the reserve such as the ancient pollards, decaying wood and fungi.



Image 26. Cargo bike.

It was agreed that the most important areas to target through interpretative and information materials were the ancient trees and decaying wood. Although they are a highly visible part of the reserve, conversations with visitors suggest that understanding of their importance is minimal.



Image 27. Ancient tree display.

A tabletop display was created to explore how the previous community use of Burnham Beeches created the ancient pollards.

Organised by past, present and future, it details the value and variety of wildlife that depends on the old trees and the associated decaying wood.

It is accompanied by a 'treasure box' that provides talking points for the CER to explain in more detail about some of the species that need the trees and threats facing them.

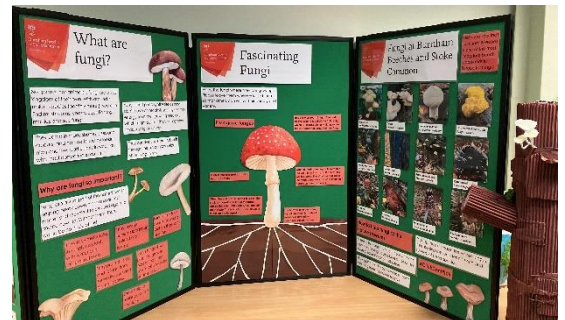


Image 28. A fungi display created by the Slough CER, also used for autumn/winter engagement to expand wildlife messaging.

It has been used at the village Orchard Day and in autumn engagement week, and will be used to support future pop-up events on the Reserve.

### Recommendations

- Further development of ancient tree and deadwood resources with:
- Taxidermy specimens, such as an owl or woodpecker, to raise interest.
- Bowls made from different woods, containing the relevant nuts or berries that help support wildlife on the Reserve.
- Duplicate treasure boxes, for use with school groups.
- Note cards for the treasure box, to enable other staff or volunteers to use the display.
- Development of displays and materials highlighting seasonal issues for use on pop up patrols, such as information on responsible dog walking, disturbance of ground nesting birds and reptiles.



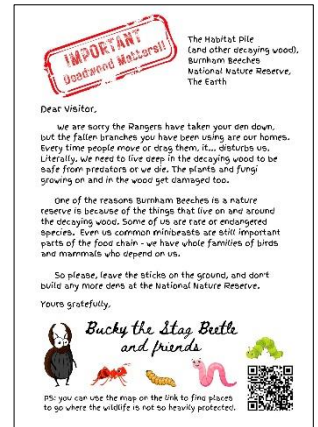
Image 29. The treasure box.

### B.1.4.iii Other materials

Temporary signs were created to target issues on the ground. Seasonal signs included grazing, fire and bird feeding while others supported practical mitigation work.

*Image 30. This sign at a dead hedge explains the benefit of staying on the main path in this part of the reserve.*

*Image 31. An A5 child-friendly laminated sign has been left where dens have been frequently built. All but one of these has remained in place without dens being rebuilt.*



### B.1.5 Activities and events

All events, walks and engagement weeks have a common aim of raising visitors' awareness on the importance of Burnham Beeches, educating visitors on how to visit Burnham Beeches respectfully to reduce disturbance (for example, sticking to the main paths or not building dens), and promoting other locations for visitors to explore. It is worth noting that the aim of these walks, events and engagement weeks is not to speak to as many people as possible or bring in more people to the reserve, but to instead talk to those who are already visiting and use Burnham Beeches on a regular basis.

- Summer engagement week 2023 was the first engagement week conducted by the CERs. The aim of this week was to trial a range of low preparation activities and to assess the effectiveness of various pop-up locations. Activities during the week included a bug hunt, nature art using homemade clay and a space to take time in noticing nature which involved inviting visitors into a quiet area to sit down and listen to the natural sounds around them. Over the week, 216 engagements were made.
- Autumn engagement week 2023 focussed on highlighting the importance of ancient trees, decaying wood and fungi. This week tied in with National Tree Week and included multiple pop-ups with displays and a walk at Burnham Park to show their tree trail.
- Spring engagement week 2024 had a theme of disturbance to make visitors aware of the species (reptiles, ground nesting birds) coming out of hibernation or breeding, and the importance of keeping to the paths, especially at this time. The week brought together the whole Ranger team for various pop-ups with a display and for patrols. 88 people were engaged with over the week.
- Farnham Common Infant school, which is a local school, came to visit to conduct a bug hunt. The CER ensured that the 59 children understood the importance of Burnham Beeches for invertebrates and explained why activities such a den building are not allowed at the reserve.



*Image 32. Educating Farnham Common Junior School about Burnham Beeches during WWII.*



*Image 33. Crafting Creatures event during the summer engagement week 2023.*



*Image 34. Game created for school/youth groups to stop them from running, shouting or stepping off path.*



- The CER has been supporting the Slough CER with walks on the reserve such as ‘Waggy Walks’ which aims to educate dog walkers on the PSPOs and help them better understand the on and off lead areas.
- A guided walk for 10 of the Land Management team from Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust (BBOWT) provided contact with professionals experiencing similar impacts.
- The CER supported a visit from Farnham Common Junior School (60 children) to explore the value of Seven Ways Plain and its history and the children were encouraged to explore the area respectfully.
- Guided walk with 36 Beavers. The CER rewarded them for following the undamaging the nature reserve rules through a simple game that made them think about how species such as mice need to be quiet to survive (see image 34).

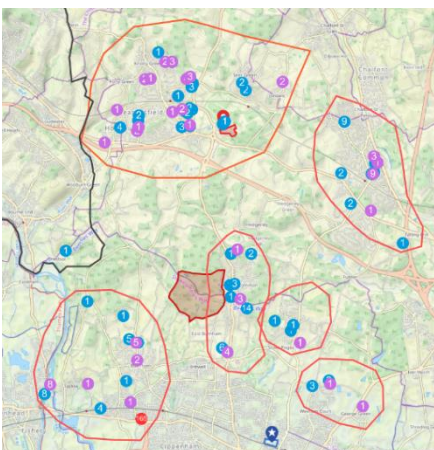
## Recommendations

- Continue and consolidate activities and events that continue to educate visitors to the nature reserve.
- Move more walk and talks onto surrounding areas.
- Use weekends for pop up patrolling at various locations at Burnham Beeches using the cargo bike.
- Offer frequent or repeat youth and school group visits and offer support at a green space closer to them.

## B.2 WORK OUTSIDE THE RESERVE

The aim of CER work in the wider community is to reduce pressure on the National Nature Reserve by encouraging residents within the 5.6k zone of influence to make greater use of their local green spaces and rights of way.

It should be noted that CER focus on outreach differs between Buckinghamshire and Slough. Although each Ranger takes responsibility for initiatives within their respective local authority, they support each other on the presumption that residents of each development will benefit from green space use in both Buckinghamshire and Slough.



With the exception of Wilton Park and Huntercombe Walk, the residential developments comprise a large number of small developments spread across the 5.6km zone of influence surrounding Burnham Beeches. Outreach events/activities and promotion of alternative green spaces/routes targeting residents of the small or individual developments is likely to be through community meeting points and local schools.

Within Slough, the 106 payment is exclusively from the development of the Horlicks Quarter; the Borough Council is investing in its existing green spaces to meet the needs of new residents. The Slough CER is targeting residents through work with the Quarter’s concierge service, which provides a range of activities for residents.

Image 35. Map of developments. Purple icons indicate S106 payments have been made. Blue icons indicate the planning application has been made.

## B.2.1 Fieldwork and liaison around Burnham

The first tranche of work linked to Burnham, aiming to identify spaces that might appeal to the residents of Huntercombe Walk (165 properties, 45 occupied as of Dec. 2023) and/or Berkeley Place (28 flats, 13 occupied as of December 23). It was anticipated some of these spaces might have potential for promotion to residents of the Britwell Estate and surrounding area.

A set of linked green spaces was identified fairly early on, comprising Cocksherd Wood, Lynch Hill Park/Lammas Meadow and Haymill Nature Reserve.

**Cocksherd Wood** is a remnant of ancient woodland managed by The Evergreen Trust. It is possible to walk a short circuit here.

**Lynch Hill Park/Lammas Meadow** is an attractive open space with some scrub that is a potential place to redirect dog walkers to.

**Haymill Nature Reserve** is wet woodland surrounding ponds and reedbeds.

All three sites are owned by Slough Council but managed with the help of external organisations. Links have been made with the Evergreen Green Trust (Cocksherd Wood), and BBOWT (Haymill Nature Reserve). Slough Council is supportive of any measures to increase local use of these spaces.

- Visits were also made to Burnham Park, Cherry Orchard, and several paths walked.
- As the map shows, it is possible to reach all these spaces (and also Burnham Station) on foot, although some sections use pavements beside fairly busy roads. Furthermore the route from Huntercombe Walk has a small uphill gradient which many might find off-putting. Nevertheless, there is potential to promote use of these spaces not just to residents of new developments but also of the area of Slough immediately to the south of the Beeches.
- Informal advice was given to Burnham Parish Council regarding the management of the Cherry Orchard reserve, which is currently mainly used by people walking their dogs.
- The Council is revising a booklet of circular walks within the Parish (several of which include the Beeches); this is an opportunity to ensure the walks through the Beeches follow surfaced paths and the Ranger has offered to walk and check these sections and some of these routes in the wider countryside, feeding back any revisions or clarifications to the Council.
- Advice was given to the Evergreen Trust regarding funding opportunities for conservation work in Cocksherd Wood.

### Recommendations

- Promoting the Cocksherd Wood to Burnham route to the residents of Berkeley Place.
- Follow up on Burnham Parish Council walks.
- Further exploration of the area to the south of Huntercombe Walk, looking at areas of accessible green space identified on Natural England's green infrastructure map and looking for routes down to the Thames Path.

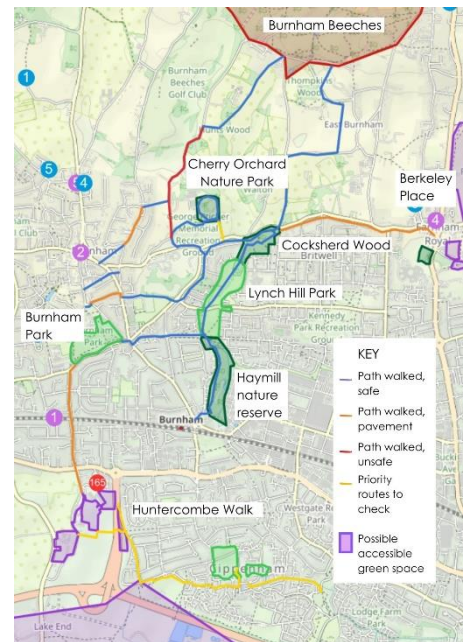


Image 36. Green areas and routes identified in and around Burnham. The area to the south of Huntercombe Place contains footpaths linking to the Thames Path and Jubilee River

- If these exist, production of a leaflet or other resource promoted via the Parish Council, local library, community centre/hub/Facebook group and directly to Huntercombe Walk and other developments in the Burnham sector.
- Linking Huntercombe Walk initiatives with any work by the Slough CER.

## B.2.2 Fieldwork and liaison around Burnham Beeches

Fieldwork around the Beeches began in autumn 2023. Here the priority was to identify walks and additional green spaces not just for residents of new developments but also for existing residents, who make up the bulk of regular visitors to the NNR. Research on surrounding green spaces has been conducted using OS maps, existing staff knowledge and Natural England's green infrastructure map.

- Meeting with Farnham Royal Parish Council regarding routes from Hedgerley to link down to Burnham, and link to planned improvements to the Shakespeare Way. The Parish Council is considering whether it will be possible for the patches of woodland under their care to be 'offered' as an alternative place for families found building dens at the Beeches. It was agreed that Temple Dell, a parish-managed space located close to Farnham Common Infant and Junior Schools, would be a suitable location for schools-based activities (see B.2.4).
- A visit to Littleworth Common (a Site of Special Scientific Interest) showed it provides a similar landscape to the Beeches, suggesting it might prove an occasional alternative for local visitors; car parking is, however, limited. Furthermore, the condition of the footpath linking the two sites suggested the path between Littleworth Common and Burnham Beeches is already heavily and regularly used; some sections were extremely slippery and muddy. Due to the status of this site, it is not desirable to push large numbers of visitors here.
- Improved waymarking of both the permissive and statutory paths in the Portman-Burtley estate is needed. The Portman-Burtley estate is part of the SAC due to its wildlife value and therefore it is not desirable to push huge numbers of visitors here.
- Footpath reconnaissance found problems relating to path condition on all routes, with some sections flooded. This may well have been due to the persistent bouts of torrential rain, but this seems likely to be a continuing problem. The existing level of use is making many of the paths uninviting and needing wellingtons or sturdy footwear, therefore unsuitable for the casual recreational use that the majority of visitors to the Beeches are seeking.
- In addition to the properties that have made S106 payments, there are many re-developments around the Beeches where much larger houses have replaced relatively small dwellings. It seems likely that some of these account for the many new visitors to the Beeches.
- There is no off-road walking route close to the Parsonage Lane development, shown on the south of Image 37.

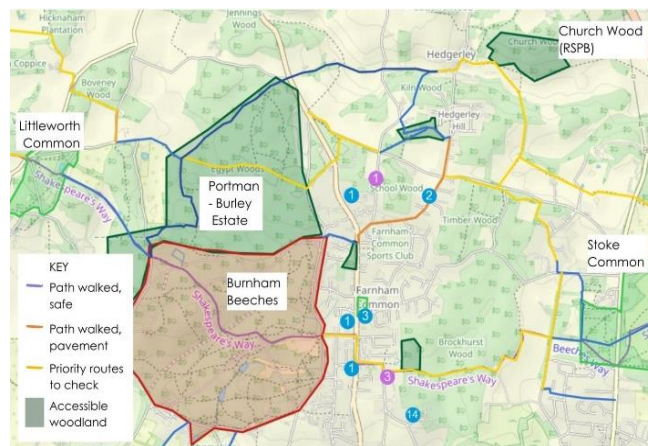


Image 37. Green areas and routes identified in Farnham Royal Parish around Burnham Beeches.

## Recommendations

- Further fieldwork to identify the best circular routes from Farnham Common, Farnham Royal, Hedgerley and Stoke Poges.
- Liaison with Buckinghamshire Council to resolve any access or waymarking issues along these routes.
- Liaison with Portman-Burtley to improve waymarking of any permissive sections of these routes.
- Promotion of the circular walking routes and local green spaces via parish websites, local community centre/hub/Facebook group and walks in the Beeches' events programme.
- Promotion of the above directly to new developments in this sector, e.g. by flyer.
- Working with the information team to resolve difficulties in making resources available through the City of London website.

### B.2.3 Events and activities

It is worth noting that when attending events away from Burnham Beeches, the CERs now have separate uniform that does not state 'Burnham Beeches and Stoke Common' on them so that members of the public aren't made aware of the nature reserves when it is not necessary.



Image 38. Stoke Poges Fete.

Both CERs attended the Stoke Poges fete, seeing this as an opportunity to work with the Friends of Stoke Common to direct local residents to the nearby heathland (also owned and managed by the City of London) within easy walking distance of the village. Care was taken to emphasise the nature value of this reserve and need to protect ground-nesting birds when visiting. 76 people were spoken with at the stall, including the local MP.



Image 39. Farnham Common Orchard Day.

Farnham Common Orchard Day was a chance to influence those living closest to Burnham Beeches, with the display emphasising both the positive and negative impacts of community use of the Reserve. The CERs spoke to 108 people, most of whom were overwhelmingly positive about the Beeches and mitigation efforts. The CER also spent time talking about community issues with other stall holders, including representatives of Farnham Royal Parish Council, Farnham Common School, the local Guides and Farnham Common Library.

As part of the autumn/winter engagement week, the CER led a guided walk around Burnham Park's tree trail. This was a trial first walk on an external site; it aimed to build the relationship with Burnham Parish Council and trial targeting an extremely local audience. The walk was publicised by flyers at Huntercombe Walk, posters in Burnham Library, Tesco and community hall, on Eventbrite, and on Burnham and the Beeches Facebook pages. Of the 8 participants, 4 found it through searching for nature walks on Eventbrite, 1 from a poster, and 2 from following the Beeches. Although numbers were small, links were made with a volunteer with BBOWT and the organiser of the Wycombe District Ramblers.



Image 40. Guided walk at Burnham Park about the tree trail.

The CER also supported the Slough CER with walks and event at the Horlicks Quarter, aiming to promote use of Slough parks and reaching 32 residents.

Other community events attended included a health initiative by the local GP surgery, a library coffee morning, and joining a 'Tilly's Trotters' walk (a new Simply Walk group coming to the Beeches each week).

### **Recommendations**

- Attendance in 24/25 at Farnham Common Orchard Day, Stoke Poges Horticultural Show (with FOSC), Burnham Donkey Derby, Burnham Park Wellbeing event and similar community events as they arise.
- Further walks away from Burnham Beeches (already planned through the Beeches event programme).
- Using a variety of publicity for walks and events, and monitoring in order to target walks/events at local residents.
- Liaising with Tilly's Trotters to ensure routes stay on surfaced paths.
- Visiting Farnham Common Community hub, a Friday morning drop in, on a more regular basis.

### **B.2.4 Schools and youth groups**

The CER has been interested in working with schools and youth groups that are very local to Burnham Beeches or those that frequently visit. When working with these groups on the nature reserve the aim is to educate them and to push mitigation messages through a fun and engaging way. However, there is scope to work with these groups at other green spaces that may be closer to them. The CER has explored these spaces to see whether they are suitable for schools or youth groups.

### **Recommendations**

- Hold a session at a nature reserve local to 1<sup>st</sup> Holtspur Scouts/Beavers/Cubs.
- Support sessions for the Hedgerley Scouts/Cubs in woods at the back of the Scout hut (which they already use).
- Run a series of sessions at Farnham Common Junior School with each year group and help the children use their school outside space to create better wildlife habitats in the grounds.
- Work with Farnham Common Infant School at their local greenspaces where activities such as den building and bug hunts can be conducted whilst being taught about the importance of being respectful.

## OTHER

### a) Links with other groups and organisations

Burnham Beeches is just one of many areas affected by visitor pressures. Efforts have been made over the year to learn from the experiences of others, and to begin to share our own.

Visits were made to three of the areas contacted in 2023: Thames Basin Heaths, the South Downs National Park and the Solent Special Protection Area (Bird Aware Solent). A return visit by members of the Thames Basin Heath team provided an opportunity to share our own experience. Although sharing experiences with other SAMMs projects has been extremely useful, the project at Burnham Beeches is very different to others. Burnham Beeches is a small nature reserve with a high density of visitors, whereas other SAMMs projects are working across multiple large areas so visitor numbers are more spread out. It also became apparent that the presence of a SANG has helped other projects immensely and reduced pressures to the highly valued nature sites.

The CERs have joined SCCAMP (the Southern Counties Canine Access Management Partnership). As a result, the CERs are learning from and sharing experiences of dog control and ways to educate dog walkers about being responsible and respecting nature.

A walk for the Land Management team from Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust (BBOWT) provided contact with professionals experiencing similar impacts on nature reserves often more akin to Burnham Beeches

Other walks or presentations were given to officers from Natural England, Buckinghamshire Council and the Burnham Beeches Consultation Group.

### Recommendations

- Visit to BBOWT sites.
- Liaise with those in charge of the SAMMs project at Ashridge Estate (National Trust) and organise visits there and at Burnham Beeches.
- Liaise with those in charge of the SAMMs project at Epping Forest and organise visits there and at Burnham Beeches.
- Maintain links with SCCAMP and other SAMMs projects.
- Attend annual mitigation conferences.
- Maintain and grow links with Buckinghamshire Council Country Parks' Team, with particular reference to opportunities to link with development of the new South Bucks Little Country Park and the possible redevelopment of Little Marlow Lakes Country Park as a Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace.



*Image 41. Visit to Thames Basin Heaths Partnership.*



*Image 42. Leading a walk for the Land Management Team from BBOWT.*

## b) Social media and press work

The Slough CER has taken the lead for social media but the Bucks CER has also created regular social media to promote positive recreational behaviour, highlight issues at Burnham Beeches and promote alternative destinations. This messaging aims to target those already visiting Burnham Beeches rather than attracting new visitors.

Over the past year Burnham Beeches' social media has transformed from only information about the reserve to posts that are specific to mitigation aims (see image 50). The main aim of social media is to educate followers on how important Burnham Beeches is and how they can help protect the reserve. All social media platforms are monitored and information such as engagements, reach and impressions are recorded on a weekly basis. This enables the CERs to understand which types of post are performing particularly well in comparison to others. Facebook is used more frequently and all information is posted on Facebook (e.g., events as well as mitigation messages) in order to reach a more local audience and to prevent attracting visitors from further afield.

01/04/23 - 31/03/24	New Followers	Total Impressions	Total Engagements
X (Twitter)	37	53,363	1,388
Facebook	124	141,620	10,489
Instagram (Starting 06/23)	44	8,594	1,185

## c) Training and development

Training was targeted at opportunities to inform or deliver engagement work. The importance and diversity of saproxylic species is one of the reasons why Burnham Beeches is such an important site.

- One day course on the importance of dead and decaying wood.
- Causes of tree failure.
- Creativity conference (online attendance at a number of seminars of interest for activity development).



*Image 43. Post-Christmas message, anticipating the seasonal rise in occasional visitors who may not be familiar with restrictions on the reserve.*

## Project 4: Visitor Surveys

Project 4 is specified in the SAMMS as a major survey every ten years, to determine the total number of visitors and visitor use. The last detailed count of visitors to Burnham Beeches was carried out in 2015/16; it is planned to repeat this every 10 years to calibrate the automatic car counters. The next survey will be carried out in 2025. The external consultants will guide the work but the practical work will be carried out by staff, volunteers and/or contractors. One option under consideration is to use a contractor to analyse data collected by mobile phones carried by visitors to replace some aspects of previously used methods.

## Project 5: Monitoring visitor impacts on soils and the ecology of the SAC

A monitoring strategy has been drawn up by Footprint Ecology, working with the Conservation Officer, Head Ranger and Community Engagement Rangers. It recommends a number of improvements to some of the existing monitoring and five new monitoring actions. [The report produced is a monitoring strategy for Burnham Beeches](#) and specifically relates to recreation mitigation work. The report aims to establish a prioritised list of measures and set out further detail as to how they would work and fit into a long-term monitoring 'package'.

### Existing monitoring

- *Incident log*
- *Transects counting dog faeces*
- *Visitor interviews*
- *Visitor distribution*
- *Tree health and condition*
- *CER Ranger patrol time and engagement*

### Proposals for new monitoring

The new monitoring actions (see table below) will be undertaken alongside the existing monitoring listed above. The new monitoring actions will commence in May 2024, starting with path condition surveys to provide a baseline to work from in following years. Most other actions, except for the soil sampling, will be started in 2024 and some will be undertaken with help from volunteers. The CER will put together a plan to outline when each action will be completed, who they will be done by and the deadlines for reporting.

New monitoring actions:

Monitoring action	Done-by	1 <sup>st</sup> year to be undertaken	Frequency
a. Report and spreadsheet structure	Staff	2024	Annual
b. Path condition survey	Staff	2024	Repeated every other year
c. Follow-up monitoring path management/interventions	Staff	2024	Annual
d. Additional fixed-point photography of paths outside of RAG areas	Staff	2024	Repeated every other year
e. Soil sampling	Staff or volunteers and laboratory	2025	Repeated every 5 years
f. Vegetation wear on common	Staff or volunteers	2024	Annual
g. Species monitoring	Staff or volunteers	2024	Annual



## Project 6: Production of access plan/carrying capacity study

- A [review of sustainable visitor numbers at Burnham Beeches \(Liley et al. 2022\)](#) was commissioned from Footprint Ecology to identify what level of recreation use at Burnham Beeches might be sustainable in the long term and what steps might be necessary to achieve this level of recreation: this is being used to inform the new visitor access strategy.
- A draft of a new Sustainable Visitor Access and Mitigation Strategy is in progress, with completion expected 24/25 with the final document produced by Footprint Ecology.

## PRIORITIES FOR 2024/25

### Project 1 priorities

No action planned for 2024/25.

### Project 2 and 3 priorities

- To continue regular patrols, aiming to encourage positive outcomes on the reserve through regular one-to-one engagement and delivery of core messages. This will include weekend and out-of-hours patrols.
- To carry out regular visitor monitoring, including car park counts, visitor behaviour transects, dog transects and 'flag the poo' transects. This will be used to inform work programming and help assess the impact of CER action.
- To keep accurate records of patrol engagement and outreach using Survey123, including a qualitative assessment of their impact, amending work programming as required.
- To continue developing and trialling core messages and materials tackling the main issues caused by visitor activities.
- To visit more SAMMS projects to learn from their experience of developing and delivering similar campaigns. These visits will include various Wildlife Trust sites, Ashridge estate and Epping Forest. This will enable us learn from and provide information to others managing discreet sites/nature reserves who will have a similar aim to our project.
- To develop and undertake more regular on- and off-reserve activities that deliver campaign messaging.
- To support the above with regular social media posts reflecting the spectrum of visitor/recreation related pressures affecting Burnham Beeches and creating context for mitigation measures.
- To build on existing partnerships and create new partnerships with site owners/managers of alternative green spaces to find ways to promote their sites to new residents that complement each site's objectives, prioritising those sites closest to the two major developments, Huntercombe Walk and Wilton Park.
- To work with schools and community points close to Burnham Beeches and/or developments suitable for outreach activities.
- To keep records of and monitor all engagement activities, adjusting work priorities accordingly.
- Continue to carry out practical work as in 23/24 as opportunities arise, working alone and with volunteers.
- Work with the other staff and visitor data to draw up a map of which paths should be retained and prioritise closures and measures to encourage visitors to use particular paths, and use this to plan future practical work.
- Investigate ways to waymark desired routes.
- Liaison with information team regarding routes of any trails produced.
- To continue to dismantle dens and engage with public, as required.
- To log locations and take pictures of dens, and a) target information and b) work with the Conservation Officer to agree removal of decaying materials to less accessible areas of the reserve.

- To work with the Ranger team to ensure a consistent approach.
- Further development of ancient tree and deadwood resources with:
  - Taxidermy specimens, such as an owl or woodpecker, to raise interest.
  - Bowls made from different woods, containing the relevant nuts or berries that help support wildlife on the Reserve.
  - Duplicate treasure boxes, for use with school groups.
  - Note cards for the treasure box, to enable other staff or volunteers to use the display.
- Development of displays and materials highlighting seasonal issues for use on pop up patrols, such as information on responsible dog walking, disturbance of ground nesting birds and reptiles.
- Continue and consolidate activities and events that continue to educate visitors to the nature reserve.
- Move more walk and talks onto surrounding areas.
- Use weekends for pop up patrolling at various locations at Burnham Beeches using the cargo bike.
- Offer frequent or repeat youth and school group visits and offer support at a green space closer to them.
- Promoting the Cocksherd Wood to Burnham route to the residents of Berkeley Place.
- Follow up on Burnham Parish Council walks.
- Further exploration of the area to the south of Huntercombe Walk, looking at areas of accessible green space identified on Natural England's green infrastructure map and looking for routes down to the Thames Path.
  - If these exist, production of a leaflet or other resource promoted via the Parish Council, local library, community centre/hub/Facebook group and directly to Huntercombe Walk and other developments in the Burnham sector.
- Linking Huntercombe Walk initiatives with any work by the Slough CER.
- Further fieldwork to identify the best circular routes from Farnham Common, Farnham Royal, Hedgerley and Stoke Poges.
- Liaison with Buckinghamshire Council to resolve any access or waymarking issues along these routes.
- Liaison with Portman-Burtley to improve waymarking of any permissive sections of these routes.
- Promotion of the circular walking routes and local green spaces via parish websites, local community centre/hub/Facebook group and walks in the Beeches' events programme.
- Promotion of the above directly to new developments in this sector, e.g. by flyer.
- Working with the information team to resolve difficulties in making resources available through the City of London website.
- Hold a session at a nature reserve local to 1<sup>st</sup> Holtspur Scouts/Beavers/Cubs.
- Support sessions for the Hedgerley Scouts/Cubs in woods at the back of the Scout hut (which they already use).
- Run a series of sessions at Farnham Common Junior School with each year group and help the children use their school outside space to create better wildlife habitats in the grounds.
- Work with Farnham Common Infant School at their local greenspaces where activities such as den building and bug hunts can be conducted whilst being taught about the importance of being respectful.
- Maintain links with SCCAMP and other SAMMs projects.
- Attend annual mitigation conferences.
- Maintain and grow links with Buckinghamshire Council Country Parks' Team, with particular reference to opportunities to link with development of the new South Bucks Little Country Park and the possible redevelopment of Little Marlow Lakes Country Park as a Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace.
- To carry out outreach work to reach new residents, building a relationship with the Huntercombe Walk and Wilton Park developments.
- To develop a flexible welcome pack that can be modified and targeted to both the large and the individual developments across the zone of influence.
- To trial ways to reach the developments of one or two individual properties.

#### **Project 4 priorities**

No action planned for 2024/25.

### **Project 5 priorities**

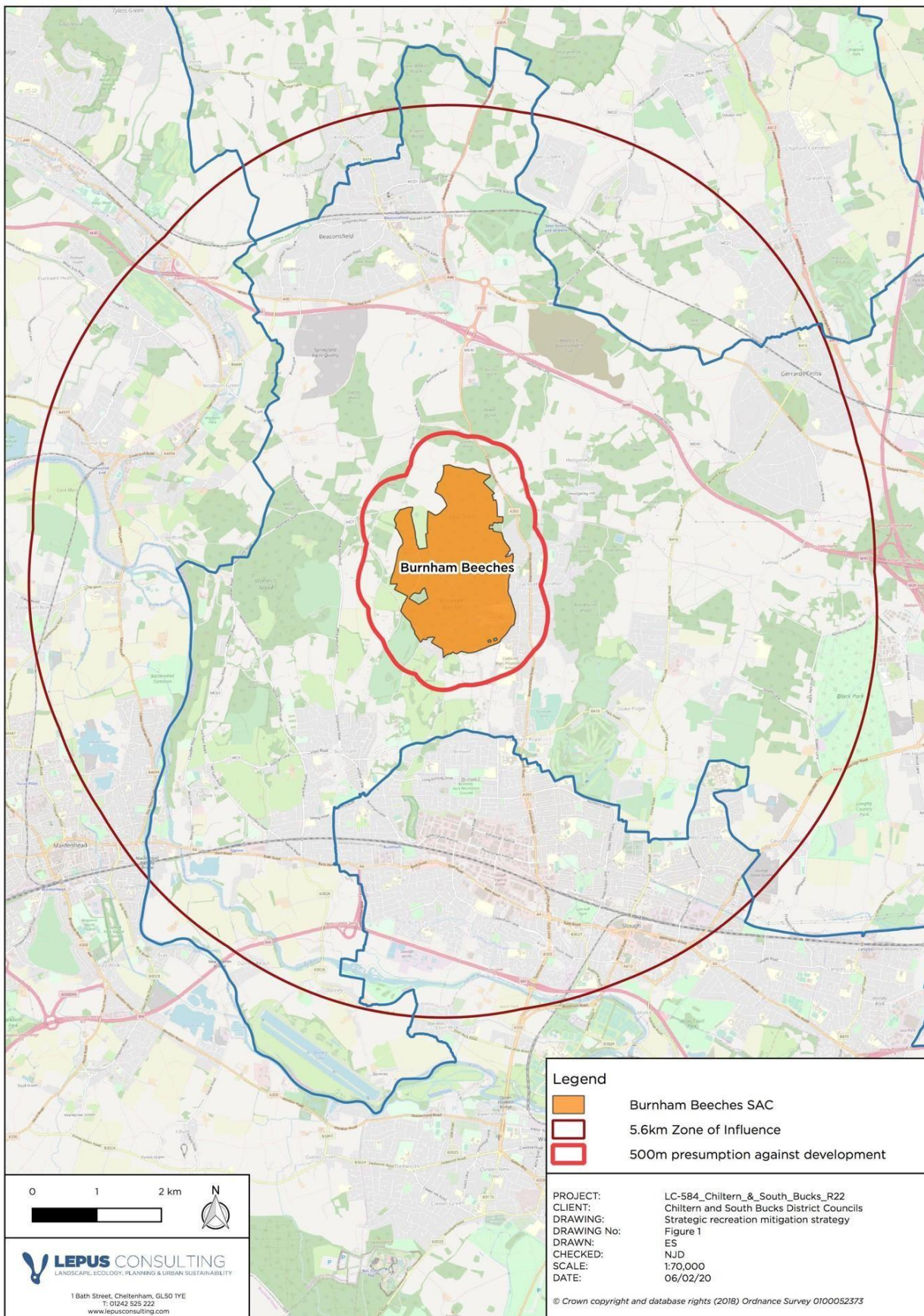
- Produce a plan and timeline that blends exiting monitoring with the proposal identified in 23/24
- Identify what can be carried out by the CERs, what can be carried out by other staff or volunteers and what might require expertise from contractors.
- Start/carry out most new monitoring actions in 2024, except for the soil sampling which will commence in 2025.

### **Project 6 priorities**

Further work on the Sustainable Visitor Access and Mitigation Strategy will be undertaken, bringing together and summarising the effort and actions to date that aim to manage and/or reduce visitor impacts. It will refer to the SAMMS and the CERs and mitigation activities. The strategy will also aim to identify further options should visitor impacts be shown, despite the mitigation measures of Projects 1-3, to be negatively impacting the SAC.

# APPENDICES:

## Appendix A – Zones of influence around Burnham Beeches



Appendix B – Strategy Projects and Costs, from Burnham Beeches SAMMS supplementary planning document.

Project Description	Unit Cost	Frequency	Funding Duration (prices provided in perpetuity based on 80 years)	Occurrence over 80 years	Total Cost	Rationale and justification
Project 1: Provision of electronic interpretation	£17,000.00	Once every 10 years	2020/21 - 2100/01	8	£136,000.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Bespoke interpretation to help visitors during their visit to better understand the consequences of their actions. Information will be linked electronically to visitor location. This will allow visitors to understand the areas within which they are walking. For instance, information will be provided to indicate 'dog on lead' areas or sensitive trees etc.</li> <li>➤ This is an area where there is currently no provision but where future provision is required to mitigate additional impacts from Local Plan development.</li> </ul>
Project 2: Events and promotion of activities aimed specifically at raising public awareness of recreation pressure and alternative places to visit. This project will be implemented by additional Ranger resource (see project 3).	£2,800.00	Annually	2020/21 - 2100/01	80	£224,000.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Targeted Visitor events to improve visitor understanding of the pressures at Burnham Beeches and how these can be mitigated.</li> <li>➤ Suitable events might include those aimed at dog owners or more general open days to explain the importance of the nature reserve and the work carried out to manage it.</li> <li>➤ Prices assume one large or two smaller events per year.</li> <li>➤ Costs are based on similar events hosted at Burnham Beeches and other local sites managed by the City of London Corporation.</li> </ul>

Project Description	Unit Cost	Frequency	Funding Duration (prices provided in perpetuity based on 80 years)	Occurrence over 80 years	Total Cost	Rationale and justification
Project 3:  SAC Engagement Ranger/SAC Ambassador (new member of staff).	£52,118.00	Annually	2020/21 - 2100/01	80	£4,169,440.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Ranger post to raise awareness of visitor impacts, including help with enforcement of Public Space Protection Orders, promotion of sustainable transport, responsible dog ownership, impact of recreation activities on wildlife to manage additional impacts from Local Plan development.</li> <li>➤ This role may include community outreach, to schools and local events.</li> <li>➤ This role will also ensure engagement with volunteers to help raise awareness of visitor impacts with additional visitor numbers from Local Plan.</li> <li>➤ Costs are based on a full- time Ranger. Note: full time Ranger costs are based on Grade C post within City of London Corporation including all employee related costs e.g. uniform, training etc.</li> </ul>

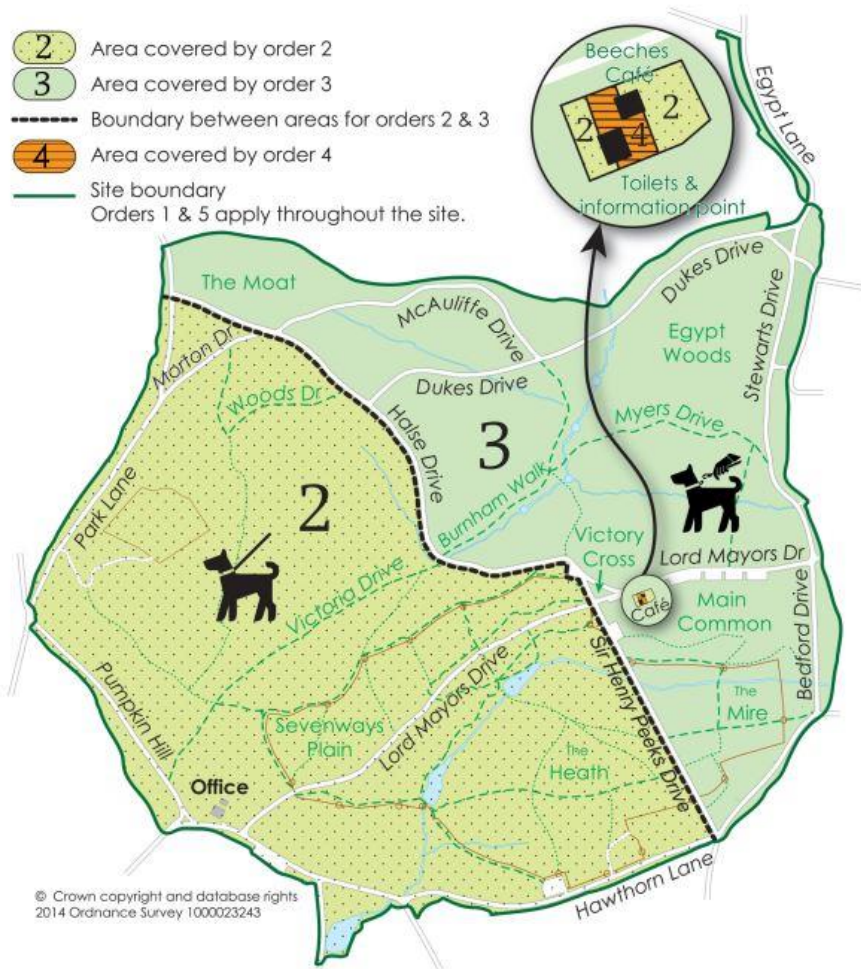
Project Description	Unit Cost	Frequency	Funding Duration (prices provided in perpetuity based on 80 years)	Occurrence over 80 years	Total Cost	Rationale and justification
Project 4:  Visitor surveys (numbers & visitor activities).	£10,000.00	Every 10 years	2020/21 - 2100/01	8	£80,000.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Visitor surveys will be undertaken to determine the total number of visitors and visitor use. This will target the additional visitors expected to be generated by development set out within the Local Plan.</li> <li>➤ Surveys will help to inform future revisions of the mitigation strategy.</li> <li>➤ Surveys will be delivered by external consultants.</li> <li>➤ Practical work may be by staff, volunteers, or contractors.</li> </ul>

Project Description	Unit Cost	Frequency	Funding Duration (prices provided in perpetuity based on 80 years)	Occurrence over 80 years	Total Cost	Rationale and justification
Project 5: Monitoring visitor impacts on soils and the ecology of the SAC.	£20,000.00	Every 10 years	2020/21 - 2100/01	8	£160,000.00	A provisional list of surveys is as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Path condition survey.</li> <li>➤ Follow-up monitoring of path management/interventions.</li> <li>➤ Additional fixed-point photography outside of RAG areas.</li> <li>➤ Soil sampling.</li> <li>➤ Vegetation wear on common (annual)</li> <li>➤ Species monitoring.</li>   <li>➤ Surveys will be conducted by staff, volunteers or contractors.</li> <li>➤ Surveys will be reported on in a 10 yearly monitoring report.</li> </ul>
Project 6: Production of access plan / carrying capacity study.	£15,000	1	2020/21 – 2021/22	1	£15,000.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Produce visitor access strategy for Burnham Beeches including an assessment of visitor carrying capacity.</li> </ul>
Total for 80 years					£4,784,440.00	



Strategic Access Management and Monitoring Strategy		Mitigation Total		Projected number of new homes	Cost to each Home
		Total	£4,784,440.00	2,364	£2,023.87
P1	£136,000.00				
P2	£224,000.00				
P3	£4,169,440.00				
P4	£80,000.00				
P5	£160,000.00				
P6	£15,000.00				

Appendix C – Map of Burnham Beeches showing areas covered by either order 2 (dogs on leads), order 3 (dogs on lead by direction), or order 4 (dogs exclusion area) of the Public Spaces Protection Orders relating to dog walking.



**Order 1: Fouling by dogs**

Please make sure you pick up all poo that your dog drops, wherever you are in Burnham Beeches. Please also ensure that you dispose of it properly by using one of the bins provided or taking it home.



**Order 2: Dogs on leads**

If you are in the areas marked 2 on the map you must keep your dog on a lead no longer than 5m in length.



**Order 3: Dogs on leads by direction**

Dogs must be under effective control at all times in Burnham Beeches. If your dog is off a lead in the area marked 3 on the map and an authorised officer judges that it is not under effective control, they will ask you to put it on a lead. Please make sure you always carry a lead (not more than 5m in length) when you walk your dog at Burnham Beeches.



**Order 4: Dogs exclusion area**

Please do not allow your dog to enter the no dogs area at the café (marked 4 on the map). If you have a recognised assistance dog because of a disability, you are exempt.



**Order 5: Maximum number of dogs**

Each dog walker can bring a maximum of four dogs onto Burnham Beeches at one time.

**MAX 4**

# Appendix D – Burnham Beeches patrol monitoring using Survey123.

10:27 Thu 11 Apr

**Patrol Monitoring Data**

Name of individual filling in this form \*

Location of patrol \*

Date of patrol \*

Start time of patrol \*

End time of patrol \*

Pick the options that best describe the weather conditions during the patrol:

- Raining
- Cloudy
- Sunny
- Warm
- Hot
- Cold
- Windy
- Hailing
- Snowing

Did you dismantle any dens? \*

Yes

No

How many visitors did you engage with? \*

How many people were spoken to (full conversation).

Did you dismantle any dens? \*

Yes

No

How many dens did you dismantle? \*

1 10

How many visitors did you engage with? \*

How many people were spoken to (full conversation).

How many visitors did you greet? \*

E.g., Hello/good morning/good afternoon etc.

0 50

How many negative behaviours did you witness that weren't addressed? \*

This could be due to the visitor being too far away etc. This should be 1 per negative behaviour.

0 1 20

What and how many negative behaviours were witnessed?

Please pick which negative behaviours were witnessed during the patrol and how many of each.

1 2 3+

Dog off lead in area 2

What and how many negative behaviours were witnessed?

Please pick which negative behaviours were witnessed during the patrol and how many of each.

	1	2	3+
Dog off lead in area 2	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dog not under effective control	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cyclist off tarmac roads	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Horse rider off tarmac roads	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Littering	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dog in cafe exclusion area	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Owner not picking up after dog	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
More than four dogs brought onto the reserve with one person	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Foraging	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Den building	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fouling left (bagged or not)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
BBQ debris	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fire debris	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Quad bikes/other vehicles on site	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Drones	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Non-authorized filming	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Climbing ancient trees	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Additional comments about the patrol

Appendix E – Burnham Beeches patrol engagement using Survey123.

Note: when some topics of conversation are chosen, e.g., PSPOs, another question will appear asking whether the visitor was aware of the rules before the conversation.

10:27 Thu 11 Apr

Burnham Beeches Patrol Engagement

Name of individual filling in this form \*

Jordan.Payne\_CoL

Location of interaction

Date and time of interaction \*

How many people did you interact with? \*

Eg., Was there one person in the group or five?

What was the main topic of conversation? \*

Select one.

General information about BB/SC e.g., history of site, management etc.

Wildlife

PSPO issued

Information about the dogs on lead areas

Information about the dogs off lead areas

Dog fouling

Information about dogs under effective control

Information about maximum number of dogs per person

Specific directions around BB/SC

Soil erosion & trampling

Information about other green spaces in the surrounding areas

Information about CERs e.g., what is being surveyed.

Litter

Livestock

Information Point

Cycling

✓

10:27 Thu 11 Apr

Burnham Beeches Patrol Engagement

Cycling

Events

Horse riding

Cafe

General chat - about weather, walkers' dog, etc.

Other

Please tick if there was any other topic(s) of conversation had during the interaction.

Select multiple if necessary.

General information about BB/SC e.g., history of site, management etc.

Wildlife

PSPO issued

Information about the dogs on lead areas

Information about the dogs off lead areas

Dog fouling

Information about dogs under effective control

Information about maximum number of dogs per person

Specific directions around BB/SC

Soil erosion & trampling

Information about other green spaces in the surrounding areas

Information about CERs e.g., what is being surveyed.

Litter

Livestock

Information Point

Cycling

Events

Horse riding

Cafe

General chat - about weather, walkers' dog, etc.

Other

✓

10:28 Thu 11 Apr

Burnham Beeches Patrol Engagement

Did you give any leaflets to the visitor(s)? \*

Yes

No

How many leaflets did you give the visitor(s)? \*

Which leaflets did you give to the visitor(s)? \*

BB Map

Walking your dog at BB

Events Guide

Historical Trail

Geological Trail

Cycling / Horse riding

Wood Pasture

Pollards

Heathland

Fungi

Dead / Decaying wood

Vision

Grazing

Dog fact sheet

Other

Has the visitor(s) been spoken to by a ranger before? \*

Yes - already once today

Yes - on another day

No

Don't know

Was the visitor aware of the wildlife value of BB/SC? \*

Yes

✓

- Dog fact sheet
- Other

Has the visitor(s) been spoken to by a ranger before? \*

- Yes - already once today
- Yes - on another day
- No
- Don't know

Was the visitor aware of the wildlife value of BB/SC? \*

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Was the visitor(s) receptive to the key message? \*

- Yes
- No
- Don't know
- No key message mentioned

How was the interaction with the visitor(s)? \*

- Positive
- Neutral
- Negative

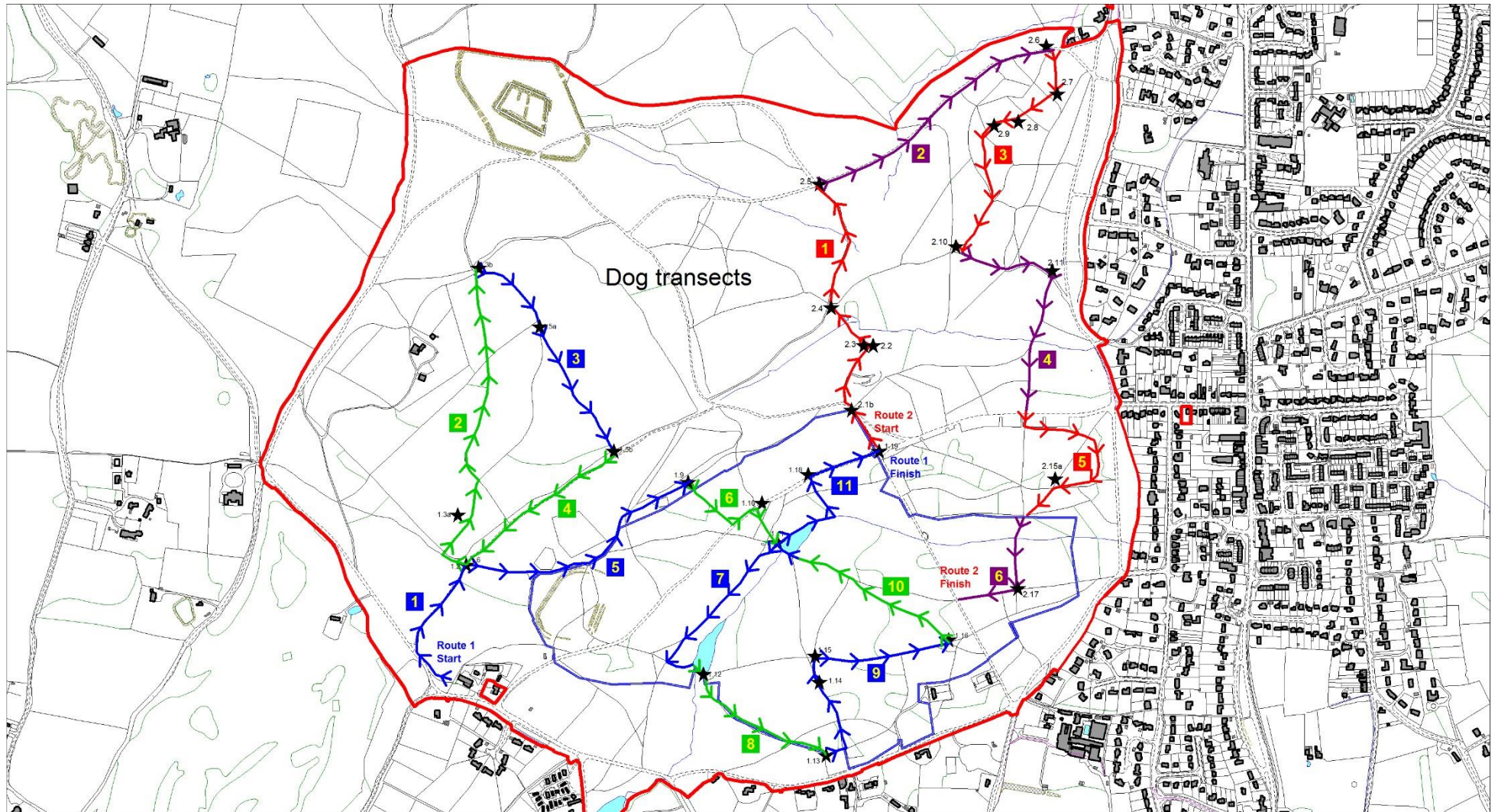
Did the visitor state any positive remarks?

I.e. about the management of the reserve, if we have been nice etc.

Is there anything else important about the interaction not captured in other questions?



Appendix F - Map of Burnham Beeches showing both dog transect areas. Route 1 covers those areas where dogs are required to be on lead. Route 2 covers those areas where dogs are required to be on lead if requested but must always be under effective control.



Appendix G – Map of ‘Flag The Poo’ areas at Burnham Beeches highlighted in yellow.

