



Burnham Beeches

Registered Charity

Map

This is one of
14 green spaces
managed by the
City of London at
little cost to the
general public.

Welcome to Burnham Beeches

Explore this internationally important nature reserve using the informal paths that weave through 220 hectares (540 acres) of woodland, heath, wood pasture and wetland. The closed tarmac roads are ideal for cyclists, horse-riders and families with buggies, East Burnham Common is perfect for picnics and informal games.

The site is always open to pedestrians, with buses from Slough and Beaconsfield stopping in nearby Farnham Common. Car parks are opened from 8am and closed at dusk; parking conditions apply at all times (see website and signs on site).

The Beeches Café, toilets and Information Point are open every day (except Christmas Day) 10am to 5pm (seasonal variations apply). The café serves hot and cold food and drinks and offers outdoor seating, including a dog free area.





Living history



There has been woodland here since the last Ice Age. People have used the site since at least the Iron Age, shaping the landscape through centuries of 'wood-pasture' management where livestock graze beneath pollarded trees. The Domesday Book records Burnham parish with "woodland enough to feed 600 swine."

This historic landscape was almost lost when, in 1879, it was put up for sale as "land suitable for the erection of superior residences". Fortunately, the City of London bought and preserved it as a public open space under the Open Spaces Act of 1878.





Wonderful wildlife

Burnham Beeches is a National Nature Reserve and European Special Area of Conservation famous for its ancient pollards; many are several hundred years old.

Pollarding involves regularly cutting the branches of a tree above head height and allowing new ones to grow. This produces a continuous crop of wood and makes the tree live longer. The age of our trees and the amount of deadwood in and around them helps make the woodland rich in wildlife.

We manage the reserve to provide maximum benefit to visitors and wildlife, working with a small team of Rangers and helped by our many volunteers. Grazing has been re-introduced to maintain the wonderful diversity

of the wood pasture - if you see the cattle, ponies or other livestock on site from spring to autumn, please keep your distance and do not feed or pet them.



Enjoying Burnham Beeches

Visitors with dogs

Responsible dog walkers are welcome but Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs) apply at all times. See insert map for details.

Cyclists and Horse Riders

Cyclists and horse riders can use the tarmac roads but, to prevent damage to the site and protect other visitors, off-road riding and cycling is not allowed.

Access for all

From Monday - Friday, 10am to 4pm, less mobile visitors may borrow an electric off-road buggy to explore the reserve; blue badge holders can also gain access to the Car Free Zone.

The tarmac roads are suitable for wheelchairs and link to the Easy Access Path and Sensory Trail which are ideal for visitors who prefer a more even surface.



Supporting Burnham Beeches

Burnham Beeches is a charitable trust and most of our funding comes from private sources; the money from parking charges, and any donations, funds work on the reserve.

Volunteers help with practical, information, office and ecology work, and act as 'eyes and ears' on the ground. Talk to a Ranger or visit our website to find out how you can help.



Contact us

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