

ABOUT THE SUDBURY WATER MEADOWS

(Local Nature Reserve and County Wildlife Site)

The pasture lands either side of the River Stour as it runs through Sudbury have been grazed since at least the twelfth century.

Since 1897 the responsibility for management has been vested in the Trustees of the Sudbury Common Lands Charity, assisted in day to day operations by salaried and volunteer Rangers. The Rangers can be recognised by their green uniforms. Do please ask them for any information and tell them if anything is amiss.

The key to looking after these ancient water-meadows is that they are grazed by cattle; without grazing the pastures would soon turn into rough scrubland.

The Charity's publications contain greater detail about all the Charity's lands and how they are managed, including how the money needed to maintain them is raised through grazing rent, grants and donations.

There is much more information on our website at www.sudburycommonlandscharity.org



WE HAVE A PROBLEM - WE NEED YOUR HELP

Dogs MUST ALWAYS be kept under control around cattle and wildlife.

More dogs are exercised on Sudbury Water Meadows each year. Most dogs do not cause a problem but some get OUT OF CONTROL and worry the cattle.

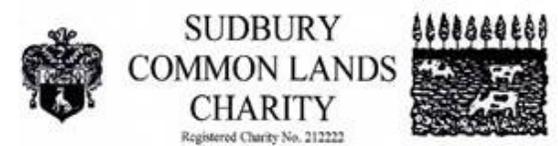
We must graze the Sudbury Water Meadows with cattle. Sudbury Water Meadows are NOT a public park, but farmland.

The LAW says dogs must be on a fixed lead near livestock.

We want EVERYONE to enjoy the Sudbury Water Meadows; please help us achieve this.

Thank you.

04/15



Enjoying Sudbury Water Meadows with your dog



Essential information from the Trustees for dog-walkers

Supported by:



The issue

Why it is a problem

How you can help

1 Dogs chasing cattle

The key to maintaining these pastures is grazing them with CATTLE, which is essential. If cattle are stressed or harmed by dogs no grazier will agree to place cattle here.

Sudbury Common Lands are not a public park, but farmland. It is an offence under the Dogs (Protection of Livestock) Act 1953 to allow a dog to worry livestock. KEEP YOUR DOG ON A LEAD NEAR LIVESTOCK.

2 Cattle and you

It is VERY UNLIKELY that cattle will chase you. They may come up to you as they are inquisitive by nature.

If the cows crowd around you, assert yourself by shooing them away. They will go.

3 Dogs harming wildlife

Even your much-loved dog has instincts! They may chase or even injure animals. It's an offence to cause harm to wildlife. You are responsible for your dog's actions.

Please keep your dog on a lead when near swans. Prosecutions can be brought against those who don't prevent their dogs from harming wildlife.

4 Injured animals

Injured animals are hurting and need help fast.

Please report any injured animal to the Ranger immediately on 07971 665870 or to the RSPCA on 0300 1234 999. Don't leave it to someone else.

5 Dogs out of control

Some people do not like dogs racing up to them or jumping up at them.

It is an offence under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 to allow a dog to be dangerously out of control.

Chasing, barking or jumping up at a person could lead to a complaint.

Please ensure that your dog is under control at all times and doesn't worry other people, or their dogs.

6 Calling your dog

Constant shouting and whistling for your dog is unpleasant and shows that your dog is not really under control.

Remember, your dog should always be under control. Take pride in having a well-trained dog.

7 Dog poo

Bacteria and parasites in dog poo are a health hazard, especially to children.

Bag it and bin it. Bins are available. Please don't fling bags of poo in the hedges or leave them anywhere other than in a bin.

Thank you for your help!