



ASHDOWN FOREST BYE-LAWS

Made by the Conservators of Ashdown Forest under the powers conferred on them by the Ashdown Forest Act, 1974.

1. In the construction of these Bye-Laws –

The word “Forest” means Ashdown Forest, referred to in the Ashdown Forest Act 1974, and as delineated and coloured green and red in the map annexed to the Award made by William Augustus Raper in the matter of the regulation of the Forest dated 28th March 1887, sealed and confirmed by the Land Commissioners for England on 31st March, 1887, or any part of the said Forest.

The term “The Conservators” means the body incorporated by the name “The Conservators of Ashdown Forest,” and the “Clerk” means the “Clerk to the Conservators of Ashdown Forest”.

The term “Recreation Ground” means any part of the Forest reserved under the provisions of the said Act or by the Conservators for the purpose of playing cricket and other games.

The term “Authorised person” in these Bye-Laws means and includes :-

- (a) Any person acting by virtue and in due pursuance and under the authority of some provision of the said Act, or of some Estate, interest, or right of a profitable or beneficial nature, in, over, or affecting the Forest or some part thereof, and legally entitled so to act.
- (b) Any servant of any authorised person expressly employed by him for any purpose within his rights. But a servant employed by an authorised person to take estovers, or to cut brakes or litter on the Forest shall not be deemed an authorised person within the meaning of this Clause, unless he shall produce, if demanded, by any Conservator, the Clerk or a Forest Ranger, an authority in writing, signed by his employer, and dated not more than twenty-one days previously.
- (c) Any person for the time being duly authorised by the Conservators in writing.
- (d) The term “unauthorised person” means and includes any person other than authorised person as above defined.

2. No unauthorised person shall, without written permission of the Conservators, at any time drive, draw, ride, place, take or use any motor or other wheeled vehicle upon the Forest except in Parking Areas set apart by the Conservators for that purpose and so marked. Provided that this Bye-Law shall not apply to the necessary use of roads and tracks leading to private property, and that this Bye-Law shall not apply to the wheeling of bicycles, perambulators or invalid chairs upon the Forest.

3. No person shall camp upon the Forest either in cars, caravans, tents or sleeping bags, and no person shall, except with written permission of the Conservators, place or permit to be placed upon the Forest any cars or caravans of any description between the hours of midnight and 6 a.m.

4. No person shall, unless expressly authorised by the Conservators or their Clerk in writing, light any fire, stove or other similar appliance upon the Forest or set fire to any gorse, furze, broom, brakes, fern, heather, rushes, grass, litter, herbage, underwood or other growth upon the Forest or place, throw or let fall thereon any substance, article or thing which may cause or be likely to cause damage by fire to anything growing or being upon the Forest, provided that this Bye-Law shall not apply to the use of picnic stoves during the months of July, August, September, October, November and December when

they may be used only within the confines of Authorised Parking Areas set aside by the Conservators and so marked.

5. No person shall, except by the authority of the Conservators, deposit or leave any building or trade materials, timber, faggots, soil, manure, refuse, rubbish, machines, machinery, equipment or litter upon the Forest.
6. A person shall not cause any dog belonging to him or in his charge to be upon the Forest or remain upon the Forest unless such dog be and continue to be under proper control and be effectively restrained from causing annoyance to any person and from worrying or disturbing any animal.
7. No unauthorised person shall, without a written permit from the Conservators, at any time use the Forest for the purpose of riding or exercising horses.
8. No unauthorised person shall cut, take, remove, or destroy any gorse, furze, broom, brakes, fern, heather, rushes, grass, litter, moss or herbage on or from the Forest.
9. No unauthorised person shall cut, fell, take, remove, damage or destroy any tree, sapling, teller, shrub, bush, underwood, or brushwood upon or from any part of the Forest.
10. No unauthorised person shall shoot, chase, trap, snare or take any animal, bird, insect or fish, or any egg or nest of any bird upon any part of the Forest or shall have in his possession upon the Forest any gun or part of a gun, or any trap, snare, net or other instrument used for any of these purposes.
11. No unauthorised person shall erect or place or suffer to remain upon the Forest any hut, booth, tent, stall, post, hurdle or other erection.
12. (a) No unauthorised person shall cut, dig, take or remove any sods, turf, peat, earth, sand, stone or other substance on or from any part of the Forest, or otherwise dig upon or in, or break up or disturb the surface of the Forest.
(b) Any authorised person who shall dig stone or other substance on the Forest, shall do as little damage to the surface as reasonably may be; he shall carefully preserve the top spit of soil, and, as soon as reasonably may be, he shall re-place and level the soil and re-spread the top spit thereon, so as to restore the surface as nearly as may be to its former condition, and so long as any excavation likely to be dangerous to man or beast shall remain open, he shall keep it securely fenced.
13. No person shall, without the consent of the Conservators, construct make up or metal any roadway over the Forest.
14. No person shall except in the case of accident or unavoidable cause land or any part of the Forest to take off therefrom in any aircraft, glider, balloon, or hovercraft, nor shall any person so land by parachute, nor shall the Forest be used for the flying of model aircraft in any form whatsoever without the licensed consent of the Conservators.
15. No person shall, except by the authority of the Conservators, post, or fix a bill, placard, notice, sign or marker, or advertisement upon the Forest, or upon any tree, bank, fence, building or other erection thereon.
16. (a) No person shall wilfully injure, destroy, damage, deface or, except by the authority of the Conservators, remove any notice board, notice post or make which may from time to time be placed upon the Forest by or by the authority of the Conservators.
(b) No person shall wilfully pull down, destroy, damage or, except by the authority of the Conservators, remove any building, fence, post, rail, chain, barrier, gate or other erection, of a similar

kind, or any mound, bank or prepared sward which may from time to time be erected, placed, raised or made upon the Forest by or by the authority of the Conservators.

(c) No person shall, except by the authority of the Conservators, fill up or damage any ditch, drain or grip upon the Forest, cut or made by or by the authority of the Conservators.

17. No person shall pollute the water in any pond, pool, spring, stream, or watercourse on the Forest, and no person, except by the authority of the Conservators, shall divert or permanently obstruct any such pond, pool, spring, stream or watercourse.

18. No person shall upon the Forest wilfully obstruct, disturb, interrupt or annoy an other person in the proper use or enjoyment of the Forest or wilfully obstruct, disturb or interrupt the Clerk or any Forest Ranger in the proper execution of his duty or any person or servant of any person employed by the Conservators in the proper execution of any work in connection with the maintenance of the Forest.

19. Any person, who by operating or causing or suffering to be operated any wireless set, gramophone, amplifier or similar instrument in the Forest makes or causes or suffers to be made any noise which is so loud and so continuous or repeated as to give reasonable cause for annoyance to other persons in the Forest shall be guilty of an offence.

20. No person shall drive any motor vehicles in excess of 10 miles per hour on any road in the Forest not being a road within the meaning of the Road Traffic Act 1972.

21. No person shall upon the Forest sell, or offer or expose for sale, or let to hire, or offer or expose for letting to hire, any commodity or article upon the Forest unless authorised to do so by the Conservators in writing or otherwise in the exercise of any lawful right or privilege, he is authorised to sell or let to hire upon the Forest such commodity or article.

22. No unauthorised person shall turn out, or keep, or suffer to remain on the Forest, any animal (whether commonable or not), for pasturage or any other purpose.

23. (a) The Conservators may from time to time fix the number of commonable animals which each authorised person may turn out on the Forest; and after notice thereof no person shall turn out or suffer to remain on the Forest a greater number of animals than the number so fixed as his proportion.

(b) No authorised person shall turn out any commonable animal upon the Forest unless it be clearly marked, and such person shall register his mark or brand with the Clerk to the Conservators.

24. (a) No person shall cut, take or remove brakes, litter or estovers on or from the Forest except for use on land having common appendant or appurtenant over the Forest except in such parts as for the better management of the Forest the Conservators may set apart and no person shall cut the same in areas set aside by the Conservators as unsuitable for cutting.

(b) No person shall cut, take or remove estovers for use as aforesaid in any of the following months, namely April, May, June, July, August, September and October.

(c) No person shall use a power driven saw upon the Forest on a Sunday.

25. (a) The Conservators shall have the power to set apart and either fence in or mark out in a conspicuous manner a portion of any Recreation Ground for the purpose of Cricket Matches or any other special purposes of recreation; and no person shall play any games on or drive or ride, or pass over the portion of the Recreation Ground so set apart as aforesaid. No person shall wilfully obstruct or interfere with any person playing at Cricket or any lawful game upon the Recreation Ground.

(b) No person shall wilfully obstruct or interfere with any person lawfully playing golf on or concerned in the maintenance of the Golf Courses licensed by the Lord of the Manor and Conservators to the Royal Ashdown Forest Golf Club.

(c) No person shall wilfully obstruct or interfere with any person engaged in any lawful activity authorised by the Conservators upon the Forest.

26. Except as provided by an Bye-Law no person shall enclose any part of the Forest. The Conservators shall have the power to remove any unauthorised enclosure.

27. Every person who shall infringe any Bye-Law for the regulation of the Forest may be removed therefrom by the Clerk or any Forest Ranger or by an constable in any one of the several cases hereinafter specified; that is to say -

(a) Where the infraction of the Bye-Law is committed within the view of the Clerk, such Forest Ranger or constable and the name and residence of the person infringing the Bye-Law are unknown to and cannot be readily ascertained by the Clerk, such Forest Ranger or constable:

(b) Where the infraction of the Bye-Law is committed within the view of the Clerk, such Forest Ranger or constable, and, from the nature of such infraction, or from any other fact of which the Clerk such Forest Ranger or constable may have knowledge, or of which he may be credibly informed, there may be reasonable ground for belief that the continuance upon the Forest of the person infringing the Bye-Law may result in another infraction of a Bye-Law, or that the removal of such person from the Forest is otherwise necessary as a security for the proper use and regulation thereof.

28. Nothing in these Bye-Laws shall be construed to take away, abridge or prejudicially affect the rights of the Lord of the Manor of Duddleswell, in or over the Forest.

29. Nothing in these Bye-Laws shall take away, abridge or prejudicially affect any right, power or authority vested otherwise than by these Bye-Laws in the Conservators, or in any Police Constable, or in any other legally existing authority, to prevent or punish the offences hereinbefore specified.

30. Any person offending against these Bye-Laws shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £50.

Signed on behalf of the Conservators of Ashdown Forest on the Twelfth day of May, 1976.

L. M. SCOTT, *Chairman*

C. R. BALFOUR-SMITH, *Vice-Chairman*
Conservators of Ashdown Forest.

The foregoing Bye-Laws are hereby confirmed by the Secretary of State and shall come into operation of the First day of November, 1976.

Signed by the authority of the Secretary of State

R. F. D. SHUFFREY,
An Assistant Under Secretary of State.

Home Office, Whitehall. 5th October, 1976.

I certify that this is a true copy of the Bye-Laws as confirmed by the Secretary of State.

J. P. ANGELL,
Clerk to the Conservators.