



PRESS RELEASE

A DOG OWNER HAS BEEN HANDED A BILL FOR £360 AFTER ADMITTING FAILING TO CONTROL HER DOG WHICH ATTACKED SHEEP ON ASHDOWN FOREST.

Appearing before Hastings Magistrates on Monday 22 July, Georgina Atkinson-Turnbull, of Sharpthorne, East Grinstead, pleaded guilty to breaching Bye-law 6 of the Ashdown Forest Bye-laws.

The bye-law, set down in the the Ashdown Forest Act 1974 states:

“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”.

Ms Atkinson-Turnbull was fined £80 with a £30 victim surcharge and made to pay legal costs of £250 for allowing her Sussex Bulldog to be out of control in the Hebridean sheep grazing enclosure at the Isle of Thorns site.

Councillor Richard Stogdon, Chairman of the Board of Conservators of Ashdown Forest said: “We regularly receive reports of out-of-control dogs and sheep-worrying incidents on Ashdown Forest. This prosecution is a stark reminder that we will not hesitate to take action against anyone infringing the bye-laws.”

“Of course, dogs are welcome on Ashdown Forest provided that they are kept under control and don’t pose a risk to livestock or other Forest users. Owners are responsible for ensuring this.”

The Conservators have also thanked members of the public, whose support resulted in the successful conviction.

Please consider the Ashdown Forest Dog Walkers Code of Conduct when walking your dog on the Forest.

<https://www.ashdownforest.org/home/docs/DogWalk.pdf>

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For more information contact:

The Conservators of Ashdown Forest
The Ashdown Forest Centre
Wych Cross, Forest Row
East Sussex
RH18 5JP