



## CASE STUDY 7: Conservation grazing – information and training

### Summary

Providing dog training facilities and credible information about grazing animals, helps to reduce conflict between dogs and livestock on an intensively used site.

### Good practice

- Specific, credible and regularly-updated information is given about where stock are grazing.
- Informed choice given to dog owners about whether to walk near livestock or not.
- Making practical dog training more accessible helps owners to more effectively control their dogs.
- Land managers seen as working positively with a major site user, lessening conflict and bad publicity.



### Description

The Malvern Hills are owned and managed by the Malvern Hills Conservators. The hills have extensive linear and open public access, and there were concerns about the impact of uncontrolled dogs on wildlife and conservation grazing. Whilst a Dog Control Order was initially considered, a more proactive approach was adopted that has significantly reduced problems in a positive way.

Because livestock are rotated around different open areas and enclosures, site managers started a weekly “Stockwatch” item in the local newspaper to regularly, accurately and credibly inform dog walkers about what is being grazed and where. Supported by website information, this helps owners avoid livestock altogether.

Free group and one-to-one training sessions have been regularly held on site for over 3 years, helping owners be happier and more in control with their dogs, benefiting themselves, livestock and other site users. Dogs are trained to ignore livestock and have a more reliable, rapid recall. Trainers and wardens also take an active approach to informing and educating dog owners. This positive, integrated approach creates goodwill with dog walkers, offers a positive alternative to greater ‘on lead’ restrictions, and takes away excuses for poor dog control.

Both site wardens go out with their own dogs; this is seen as an important factor in developing rapport and support with other dog owners. Also see case study 3.

### For more information contact:

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