

# BIRDLIFE AND WILDLIFE AT BENTLEY PRIORY NATURE RESERVE AND SSSI NEED YOU!

**YOU ARE OUR VOICE.**  
 JUSTICE MUST BE DONE.  
 DON'T LET US BECOME A DOG'S DINNER.



## VOTE FOR ALL DOGS TO BE ON THE LEAD AT ALL TIMES BY 6TH APRIL 2024

Bentley Priory is a recognised site of special scientific interest (SSSI) and a nature reserve in Stanmore, North West London.

Save us at: [talk.harrow.gov.uk/bentleypriory2024](https://talk.harrow.gov.uk/bentleypriory2024)

Look at this link for vital information: <https://www.harrowncf.org/>

Years of evidence of the harm to our fellow birds and biodiversity, including attacks on waterfowl and resident cattle were presented to Harrow Council.

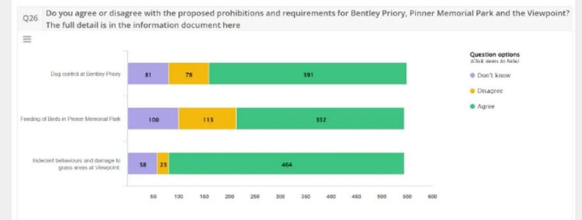
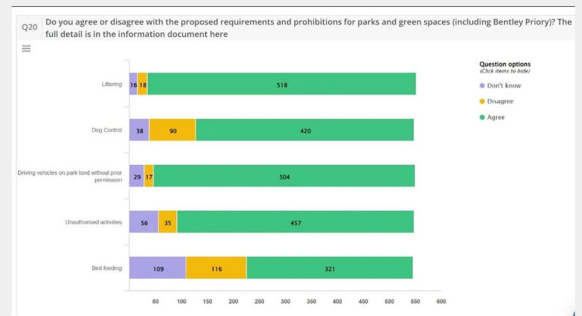
Surprisingly, Harrow Council have paused the rule pending a new consultation. This new consultation gives the option to strongly disagree with dogs on the leash in nesting season in Spring Meadow – a scrubland sanctuary where warblers such as whitethroat, garden warbler, blackcap, chiffchaff and willow warbler breed.

This current rule is routinely ignored and it is devastating for species such as the whitethroat warbler who have an arduous journey here north from Africa.

In 2021, the late Chief Warden of Bentley Priory since 1982, Peter Peretti, shared the following concerning data:

- Willow warbler – 12 years ago – dozen down to zero (total ground nesting)
- Lesser whitethroat – 75 % down in 12 years
- Garden warbler – Dropped 30 %
- Yellowhammer – disappeared entirely
- Dogs definitely disturb waterfowl
- Hawfinch – have not bred for the last two years
- Chaffinch – deer park – stay in flocks- disturbed in the winter
- Jacksnipe – disappeared from Boot Pond

After a full consultation in April 2023, Harrow Council decided to introduce a PSPO requiring all dogs to be on a lead in the nature reserve. Here are the results of the consultation:



Please look at these links for more information:

[Local news report on the PSPO/](#)

[Guide to Bentley Priory/](#)

[London Bird Club Wiki/](#)

[Dog attack on swans/](#)

[Stanmore Parks Police tweet on X about dog attacks/](#)

To protect nesting birds, all dogs are to be kept on a leash in the area hatched on the map during the main bird breeding season (April 1st through July 31st). Over this period, signs as shown above will be affixed to posts at the entrances to Spring Meadow. Please put your dog on a leash before passing these points.

Dogs off the leash at these times will be causing nuisance or endangerment to protected wildlife.

Migrant warblers such as the whitethroat build their nests in Spring Meadow on the west of Bentley Priory Nature Reserve. These birds breed on or near the ground, usually having two broods in a period from late March to early July. The parents are extraordinarily brave, but if a free running dog gets close they will leave the nest, and then the eggs and young will die of cold or be killed by predators.

Stanmore Park Police @MPSStanmorePark

Visitors to Bentley Priory, English Longhorn cattle will be a permanent fixture at the priory, if you're walking a dog nearby please keep it on a lead as so not to worry the herd. Sadly we have had several incidents in the past of dogs attacking cows & swans.



This photo shows the injury sustained by a swan at the site in 2020 which required medical attention

You do not have to live in Harrow to respond and please share this as widely as you can in order to help Harrow Council and its commitment to Government biodiversity guidelines here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/complying-with-the-biodiversity-duty>

Please vote for all dogs to be on a lead to help conserve this rare jewel:

<https://talk.harrow.gov.uk/bentleypriory2024>

\*Data corroborated by The National Biodiversity Network and Green Spaces Information for Greater London