

Proposed Dog - Related Public Spaces Protection
Order

Consultation Response Report

Produced by Mark Simons
for **Dorset Council**

June 2020

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Proposed Dog - Related Public Spaces Protection Order

Consultation Response Report

What was the consultation about?	<p>There are a number of existing dog-related Public Spaces Protection Orders ('PSPOs') across the Dorset Council area. These were introduced by the former District and Borough Councils which have now become part of the new unitary Dorset Council. Some of these Orders will soon naturally expire and the council is taking the opportunity to consolidate them into one. The intention is that the new Order will provide clarity and consistency across the area for dog owners and non-owners alike about dog controls on public open spaces. We are required to consult with the public and other stakeholders on the content of new or revised PSPOs. This may see changes to the previous Orders dependent upon the views expressed. Councillors will make the final decision on the controls to be included in the new Order, having regard to the feedback received during the consultation. Further to this the council needed to understand more about the possible impacts of any changes and if so whether these could be mitigated.</p>
Over what period did the consultation run?	<p>The consultation originally ran for 12 weeks finishing on Sunday 19 April 2020. Over the latter part of this period the coronavirus pandemic meant council service points were closed. Following this the survey was extended 3 weeks finally closing at midnight on 12 May 2020. This allowed for a period to advertise and provide by post paper copies of the survey. The online survey remained open and further 1,000 responses were received overall.</p>
What consultation methods were used?	<p>The consultation was available both electronically online and in paper form from local libraries. The consultation was promoted widely through both the local press and social media. The consultation had a separate communications plan and consultation plan prepared beforehand.</p>
How many responses were received overall?	<p>8,602 overall responses were received. 83% of responses were from local residents, 15% from visitors and 2% other. This high response demonstrates the strong feeling over this issue. With one in four households in the UK owning a dog and around a 5% increase in ownership over the last few years this high response was anticipated.</p>
How representative is the response to the wider population?	<p>The response size is very high for a council consultation with 8,602 responses, 83% of responses were from local residents, 15% from visitors, 0.4% from councillors, 1% from businesses, 0.2% from representatives of organisations and 0.3% from parish councils. The response from residents was</p>

	reasonably representative of the Dorset population. There were more female respondents than male (a higher percentage than the Dorset population generally), but older age groups did not dominate the responses compared to the younger ones but matched the Dorset population as a whole. Middle aged groups were overrepresented. With 90% of the respondents saying their ethnic group was White British this is typical of the wider Dorset population. Responses from disabled people were quite high at 6.6% compared to an approximate Dorset figure of 4.6% based on those claiming either Disability Living Allowance, Personal Independence Payments or Attendance Allowance.
Where will the results be published?	Results will be published on the council's website www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk
How will the results be used?	Councillors will make the final decision on the controls to be included in the new Order, having regard to the feedback received during this consultation.
Who has produced this report?	Mark Simons, Consultation Officer, Dorset Council June 2020

Background

There are a number of existing dog-related Public Spaces Protection Orders ('PSPOs') across the Dorset Council area. These were introduced by the former District and Borough Councils which have now become part of the new unitary Dorset Council. Some of these Orders will soon naturally expire and the council is taking the opportunity to consolidate them into one. The intention is that the new Order will provide clarity and consistency across the area for dog owners and non-owners alike about dog controls on public open spaces.

We are required to consult with the public and other stakeholders on the content of new or revised PSPOs. This may see changes to the previous Orders dependent upon the views expressed. Councillors will make the final decision on the controls to be included in the new Order, having regard to the feedback received during the consultation. The views of residents, visitors, organisations and businesses are therefore very important.

Information on the current dog-related bylaws Public Spaces Protection Orders for East Dorset, North Dorset, Purbeck, West Dorset, Weymouth and Portland are available to view on our website.

All of the above Orders apart from North Dorset PSPO expire in 2020. To ensure the continuity of the above Orders prior to the making of a Dorset Council Dog Related Public Spaces Protection Order, those that will expire in 2020 have been granted an extension until 31 December 2020 in their current form.

The Consultation

This consultation survey was directed at both dog owners and non-dog owners, businesses and organisations. It covered a wide range of issues from fouling, lead length, taking dogs out in public places like playing fields. It also specifically looked at a range of beaches and asked about what controls people felt were appropriate on those beaches. It asked about bringing in standard controls over a set period of time for all beaches where controls are being considered. Because the consultation was about creating legal orders the questions were quite specific, quite numerous and comprehensive. Very few questions were compulsory. A copy of the survey is available in the appendix.

Analysis Method: Questions were considered on an individual basis. Overall responses were examined -and also specific responses of respondents who responded with a disability. The official organisational responses were looked at separately as were the responses from dog owners and non-dog owners. The main method of analysis was looking at the percentage of respondents who expressed a view on each question. For some questions the percentage strongly supporting and supporting are calculated. Those opposing and strongly opposing are also recoded. One is taken from the other giving a net agreement figure. This could be positive or negative. A figure of zero would mean an equal number of people supported and opposed a statement.

For each open question the text comments have been studied and coded depending on what issues were raised. The coded comments are then reported on based on the amount of times those individual issues have been raised. Total redacted comments are provided in an appendix.

Note: some figures may not sum due to rounding.

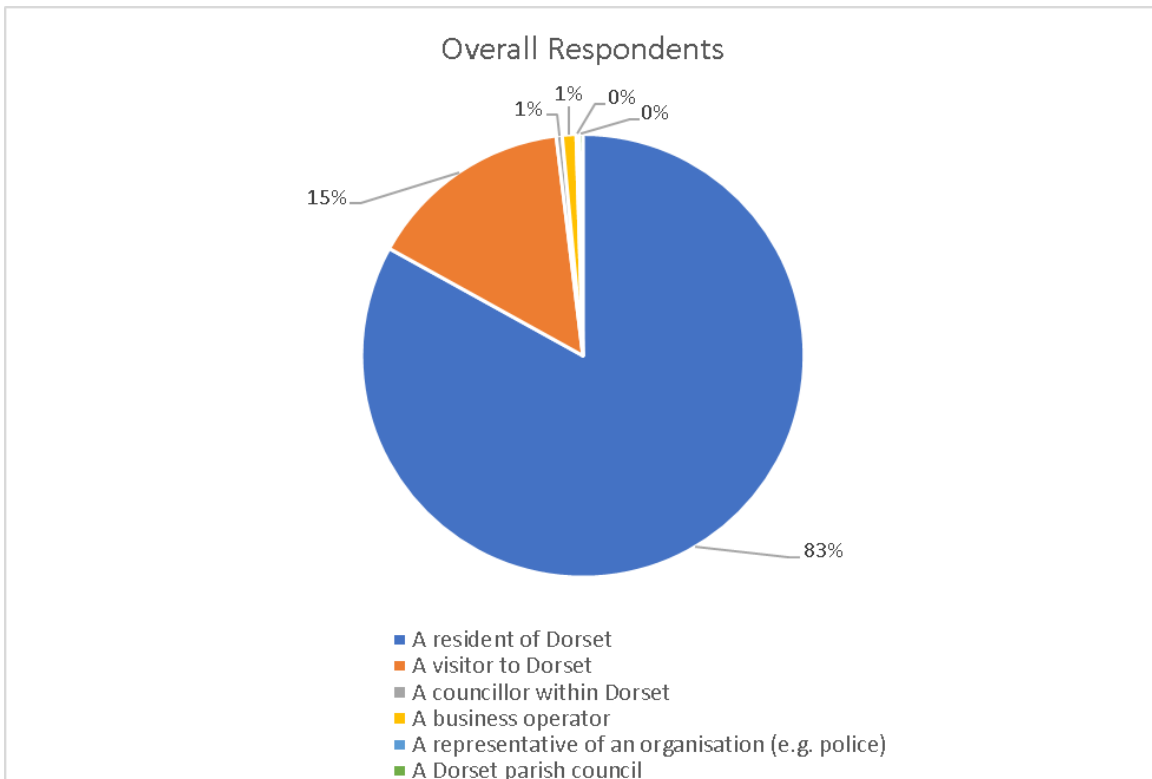
About respondents

8,602 overall responses were received.

Q Are you responding as:

Respondents:

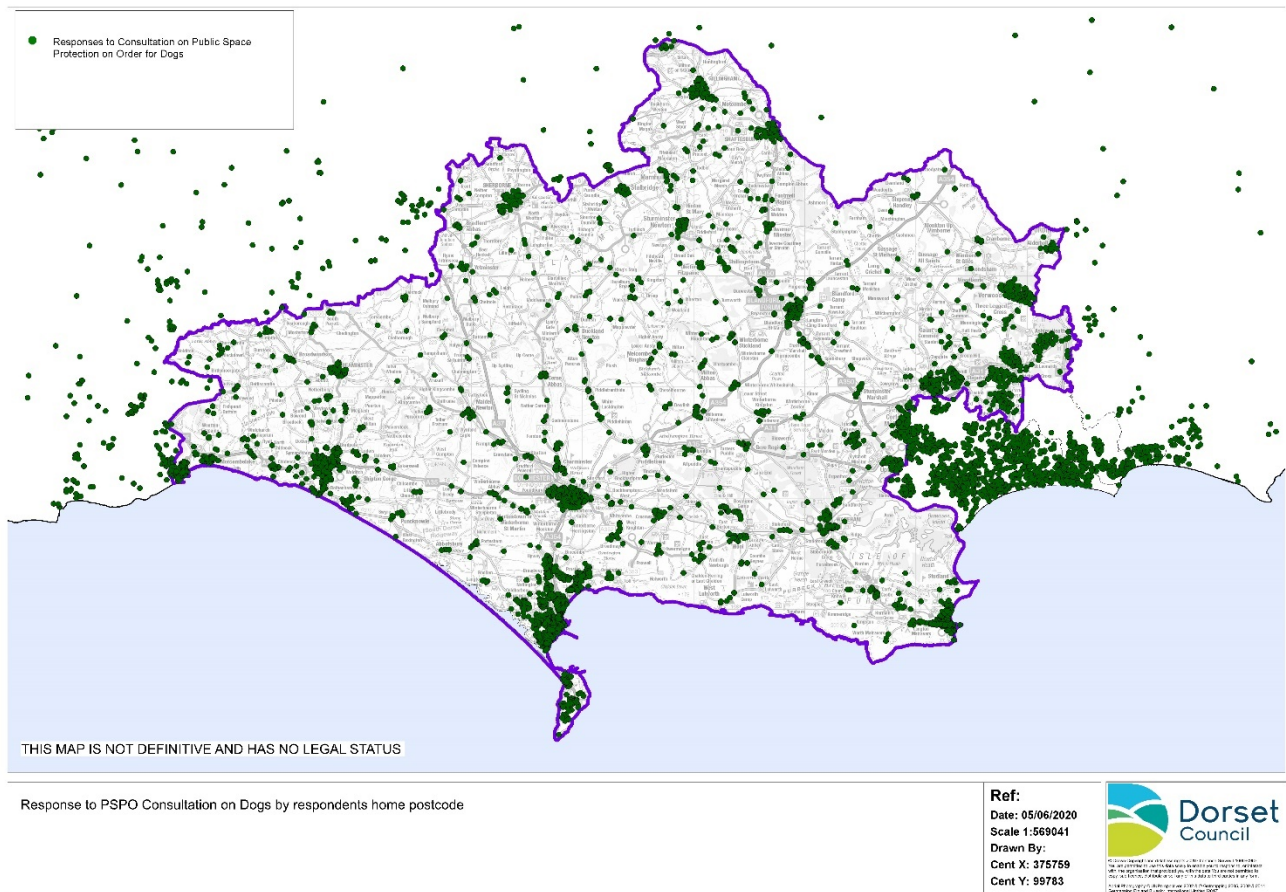
	% of all respondents	Number
A resident of Dorset	83.1%	7,146
A visitor to Dorset	15.0%	1,290
A councillor within Dorset	0.4%	37
A business operator	1.0%	88
A representative of an organisation (e.g. police)	0.2%	17
A Dorset parish Council	0.3%	24



83% of responses came from Dorset residents and a further 15% from visitors to the county. The next biggest category of respondents was businesses with 1% of responses. Further responses came from councillors, organisations and parish councils. Over 500 disabled people responded and these will be considered separately.

Map of responses to the consultation

The map shows the distribution of overall responses to the consultation demonstrating a good spread across the geographical area. Promotion of the consultation appears to have been successful across all areas.



Analysis of the postcodes of people responding from within the wider Dorset area shows 80% of responses come from the Dorset Council area and 20% from the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP) area. Analysis of questions have looked at residents of the Dorset Council area separately and also in some circumstances more local responses based on postcodes. In these circumstances postcodes are built into ward data.

Parish/Town Councils

25 parish/town councils responded who are included in the table below:

Council name
Blandford Forum
Broadmayne Parish Council
Chideock
Corfe Mullen Town Council
Cranborne and Edmondsham
Crossways Parish Council
Gillingham Town Council
Holt
Knightsford PC
Knowlton
Litton Cheney Parish Council
Lyme Regis Town Council
Maiden Newton
Moreton
Pimperne Parish Council
Silton
St Leonards and St Ives Parish Council
Sturminster Marshall
Sutton Waldron
Swanage Town Council
Thornhackett Parish Council
West Moors Parish Council
Weymouth Town Council
Wimborne Minster Town Council
Yetminster & Ryme Intrinseca Parish Council

Official Organisational Responses

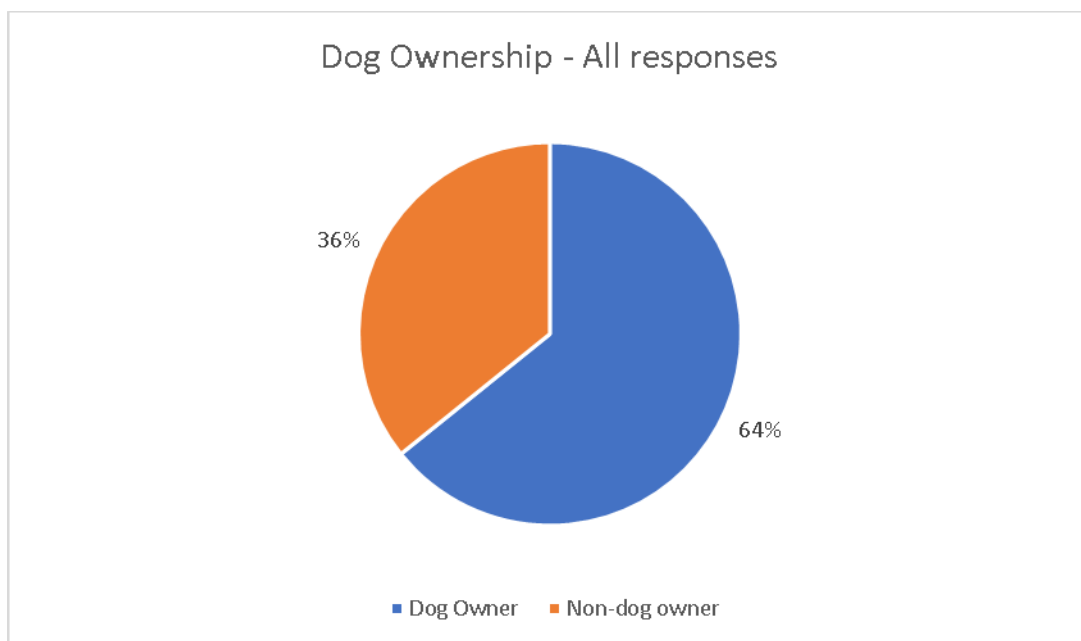
14 organisations provided an official response

Organisational Responses
Cycling UK, the national cycling charity, Dorset members
Dog Friendly Weymouth and Portland
Dog Friendly Weymouth and Portland Group
Dorset Cyclists' Network, Weymouth and Portland
Dorset Dogs
Dorset Highways Dorset Council
Dorset Police
Durlston Country Park
Dorset Waste Partnership

Friends of Nothe Gardens (not official response)
Friends of Rodwell Trail and Sandsfoot Castle Gardens
Natural England
Pet Industry Federation
West Dorset Cycling

Dog ownership

Overall 64% (5,403) of responses came from dog owners and 36% (3,036) from non-dog owners. Of the residents responding 60% owned a dog and 40% didn't. However, 86% of the visitors responding were dog owners.



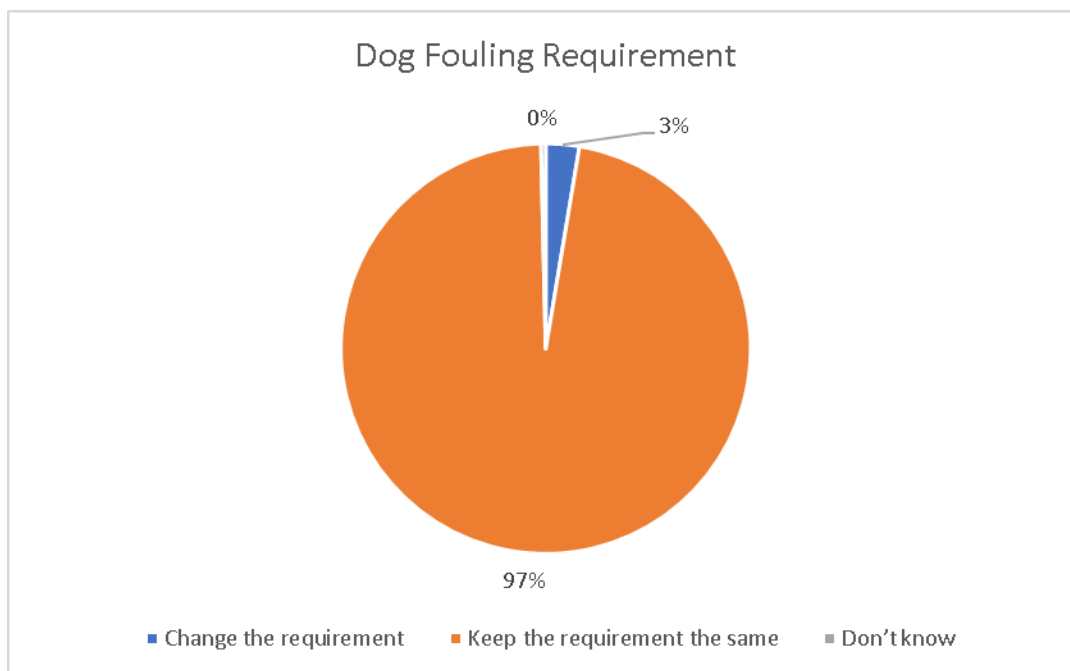
Dog Fouling

All the current PSPOs across the Dorset Council area require the person in control of a dog to clear up and appropriately dispose of dog fouling, in public spaces. You may wish to note that appropriate disposal includes deposit into a suitable receptacle (litter bin or dog waste bin) or taken home for disposal.

Q. Do you think this should be changed?

Overall responses	Yes, I think it should change	No, I think it should stay the same	Don't know
Number	225	8,327	32
% of all who responded	2.6%	97.0%	0.4%

The response to the question of including a requirement to clear up after your dog in a public place was overwhelming and emphatic. 97% thought the requirement should stay the same, whilst only 3% saw the need for any change. All parish councils responding thought this requirement should stay the same.



Official Organisational Responses - Dorset waste Partnership, Dorset Dogs, Dorset Highways, Pet industry Federation, The Friends of Rodwell Trail and Sandsfoot Castle, Durlston Country Park, Dorset Police, West Dorset Cycling, Cycling UK and Dorset Cycling Network all supported keeping the requirement the same.

Dog Friendly Weymouth and Portland Group, said they thought it should change and commented “We recognise many people are unaware of the changes in the use of red bins for dog waste, and the need to dispose of dog waste in any litter bins, picked up and bagged. We would like to see the introduction of bag dispensers like those used in the parks and gardens in Dorchester Town, litter bins with lids in areas where dogs can be exercised to reduce smells and for hygiene. Fines for those who fail to clear up after their dogs, where people can report directly too. At the moment sadly the system in place has not been sufficient to deter those offenders leading to all dog walkers being referred to as irresponsible. We have evidence to prove more dog owners are joining in as litter pickers, who clear not only other people litter but also clear after dog owners. We will continue to share our message of bin and bag it don't sling it”

Dorset Dogs said they thought it should remain the same, requiring the person in control of a dog to clear up and appropriately dispose of dog fouling, in public spaces.

Q. If yes, what would you prefer this to be changed to?

196 suggested how they thought the requirement to clear up after your dog should be changed.

Issue	Mentions
Better enforcement/fines/more wardens	51
Other	25
More dog waste bins/empty more	24
Consider stick and flick policy like elsewhere	23
Take all waste home	20
More environmental disposal/ban plastic bags	18
Discarded plastic bags an issue	13
Don't use litter bins	6
Dog only waste bins	5
Ban dogs	4
Additional sanitising	4
Free bags	2
Bins paid for by dog owners	2
Dogs on lead and in sight	2
Include woodlands	2

Sample comments

The full comments are available in the appendix.

“Appropriate disposal should be expanded to include moving dog fouling (e.g. flicking with a stick) into hedgerows, verges, crop fields, etc. where it can naturally decompose.”

“As before but additionally all dog walkers required to always carry poo bags”

“Disposal in dog waste bins only or, preferably, take home. (No disposal in public litter bins)”

“I agree that it is important to clear up after your dog in public places but there needs to be the means to dispose of dog waste effectively....more bins provided in more places because at the end of the day many dog owners will simply not carry around a smelly bag of dog mess with them.”

“Let nature take its course but request people remove dog fouling from paths - a dog foul, in the bushes will degenerate far quicker than one in a plastic bag in a landfill site”

“Make penalties for not clearing up or not disposing properly greater and enforced.”

“The change should come from Dorset Waste Partnership or private/council sponsors. There should be a sensible number of bins in walking areas - even 1 bin would be good. There are NO bins along the South West Coastal Walk, none outside the Riviera Hotel, none along the River Wey. It is hard to reprimand people for not cleaning up after their dogs when there are no bins to appropriately dispose of dog fouling bags.”

“This should be relaxed. the policy is obsessive and should only apply to public paths. The use of single purpose plastic should be limited.”

Maximum lead length

In a number of current Orders and in the proposed PSPO there are a number of occasions when a dog is required to be on a lead, either by direction or when in a specific area. A maximum lead length of two metres (six feet, six inches) is suggested to ensure control of a dog and to protect pedestrians, other dogs and cyclists.

(Clarification: Early in the survey the text suggested the 2m lead length was supported by The Kennel Club. However, the Kennel Club support is only for dogs on leads under direction) This was corrected, and the results will be presented in three ways: Firstly, all responses, secondly before the correction and thirdly after the correction.

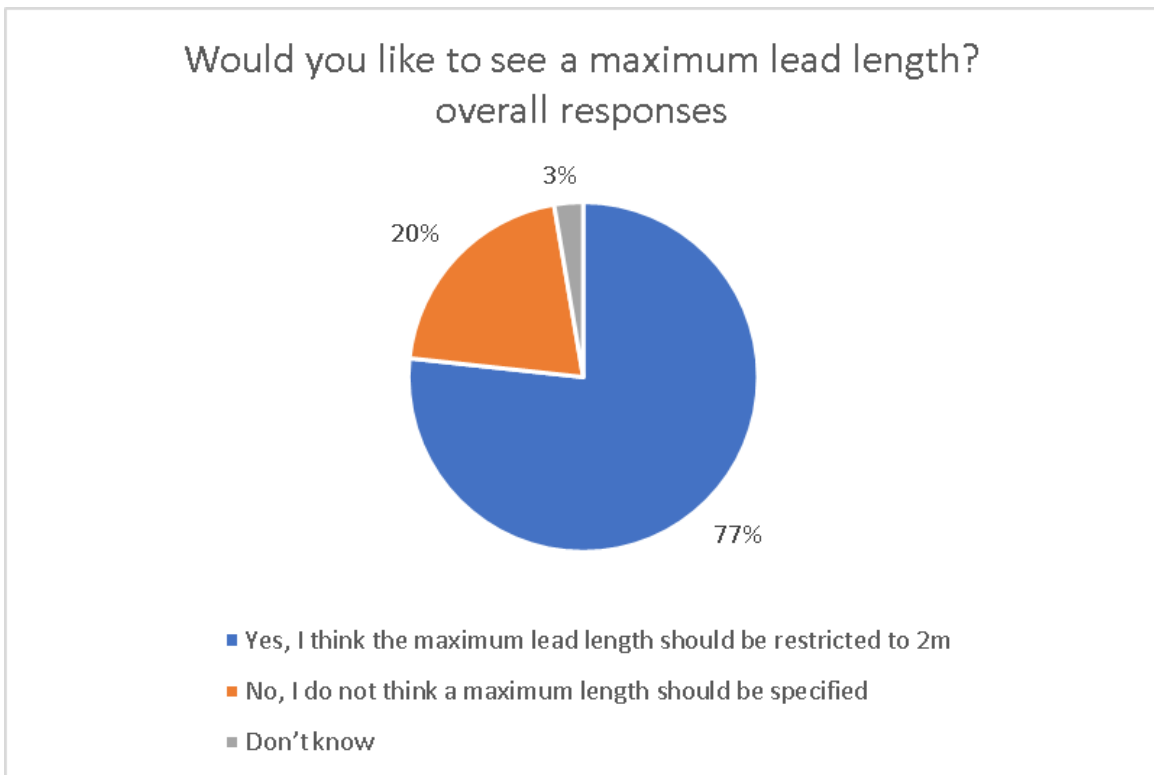
Q. Would you like to see a maximum lead length as part of the 'on lead' requirement?

Overall responses	Yes, I think the maximum lead length should be restricted to 2m	No, I do not think a maximum length should be specified	Don't know
Number	6,582	1,768	230
% of all who responded	76.7%	20.6%	2.7%

Before the correction on 7 Feb 2020	Yes, I think the maximum lead length should be restricted to 2m	No, I do not think a maximum length should be specified	Don't know
Number	3,317	813	111
% of all who responded	78.2%	19.2%	2.6%

After the correction on 7 Feb 2020	Yes, I think the maximum lead length should be restricted to 2m	No, I do not think a maximum length should be specified	Don't know
Number	3,265	955	119
% of all who responded	75.2%	22.0%	2.7%

As the tables show there is considerable support for a lead length limited to 2m varying from 77% overall down to 75% for responses made after the correction. Hence, responses were virtually the same before and after the correction. However, 955 individuals were against the introduction of a lead length limitation.



Using the overall figures

Looking specifically at the overall responses from dog owners and non - dog owners. 69% of dog owners support the 2m lead whilst 91% of non-dog owners support the restricted lead length proposed. However in summary, over two out of every three dog owners support the lead restriction.

75% of disabled people supported the 2m lead length restriction.

Looking specifically at the responses from town and parish councils, 19 supported the idea of a proposed maximum lead length, 5 opposed the suggestion and one wasn't sure.

Weymouth Town Council opposed the proposed 2m lead length.

Weymouth Town Council said "in line with the Kennel Club's position, we feel that an appropriate lead length will depend upon a range of factors such as the nature of the dog and the environment in which it is being walked. For example, on the Rodwell Trail in Weymouth, even a 2m long lead would significantly cause an obstruction to other users such as cyclists and pedestrians."

Official Organisational Responses - Dorset waste Partnership, Dorset Dogs, Dorset Highways, English Nature, Pet industry Federation, The Friends of Rodwell Trail and Sandsfoot Castle, Natural England, Dorset Police, West Dorset Cycling, Cycling UK and Dorset Cycling Network all agreed with a maximum lead length of 2m.

Durlston Country Park and Dog Friendly Weymouth and Portland disagreed with the proposal.

Dog Friendly Weymouth and Portland said "As recognised by the Kennel Club having a dog on a two metre lead can present many problems, dog owners are aware they may have to adjust the lead length on shared paths or close to roads to allow safe passage by other users such as joggers, mobility scooters, cyclists, disabled users with hearing or sight loss, or those displaying a fear of dogs. Dogs may need space and to remain on a lead for many reasons in parks or open spaces to meet with their health needs. A longer lead may need to be used for exercise and controlled socialisation helping to reduce aggression, fear phases for dogs and puppies. Training assistant dogs, and those who may have been rescued and have no knowledge or experience of being in a public space."

Durlston County Park said "The dog or its lead should not cause any issue to the people, other dogs, or wildlife in the vicinity."

Dorset Dogs said "a 2m length may be useful as a broad guideline but the most appropriate lead length is likely to be highly variable depending on the circumstances, so that eg on a path at a busy time or on a blind corner a lead length of less than 2m may be more appropriate, whilst if there is a clear view and no-one in sight a far longer lead may be appropriate. Similarly, if a dog is required to be on lead on a beach then at a busy time the dog may need to be at heel, whilst when the beach is empty a longer lead length will be appropriate. A 2m lead length across the board may be unnecessarily restrictive in various circumstances and limit the potential for dog and owner to take sufficient exercise and enjoy their walk. For example, for elderly dogs, dogs with restricted mobility or visual impairment, being able to wander and sniff around on a verge can be more important than the distance travelled on a linear walk. This is particularly important for people who may only be able to access local areas, or for people with mobility impairment or other issues that restrict their capacity to exercise their dog properly, unless there is good provision of safe, suitable and unrestricted areas for exercise in that same local area. A blanket lead length restriction of 2m limits the potential for dog and owner to enjoy their walk and may lull them into being less aware than they should be when a shorter lead length is appropriate. Although a maximum lead length of 2m may be appropriate for some areas the proposed PSPO covers a wide range of areas. In most cases the visual information onsite or on the route is likely to

be ‘dogs on lead’ and that is likely to be understood by most people. Where this is abused, it may be more likely that it is those people who would be subject to ‘leads on direction’ who are causing nuisance.”

Q. If no, what would you prefer this to be changed to? 1,414 responses

Issue	Mentions
Owners are the best people to decide on lead length bearing in mind dog size, behaviour and characteristics etc. It is control not lead length that matters	562
No lead length should be specified	240
Extending/ retractable leads are useful and should be included	160
Required lead length is totally dependent on where you are e.g. busy town or open fields	112
5m lead length	88
3m lead length	68
4m lead length	58
Long leads are appropriate for training	47
Enforcement is difficult	19
Against extending leads	14
2m lead length	14
10m lead length	11
1m lead length	9
6m lead length	8
8m lead length	8
2m lead length	6
7m lead length	4
2.5m lead length	3
Longer than 10m	2

The message from the respondents who didn’t want a lead length specified was quite clear. There was strong feeling that lead length was best determined by the owners themselves as it was so dependent on what their dog was like rather than have some arbitrary lead length forced upon them. Many others felt the lead length should not be specified at all. Retractable leads had supporters and detractors. Many more supported these types of leads than opposed them as they felt they gave dogs much more exercise at the same time as keeping them under control. Many also felt that the introduction of a fixed lead length was inappropriate as it was so dependent on location. Near a busy road a lead length shorter than 2m was appropriate but in open areas a much longer lead length would be suitable. Of those suggesting alternative lead lengths 5m was the most popular closely followed by 3m then 4m.

Organisational responses

Dorset Dogs said “It is important that people are well-informed and aware of principles of responsible dog walking. This includes respecting other visitors safe and enjoyable access, including multi-user/shared use of sites and routes so that everyone can enjoy access safely and responsibly. This may include a suggested maximum lead length at various specific locations, where the reason for that suggestion is specified and can be clearly explained (eg

where a narrow path is shared by cyclists and walkers, or simply where busy paths are adjacent to traffic). This is then likely to be better understood and received and consequently more effective and more enforceable where it is necessary. If people understand why their dog is requested to be on-lead at a specific location, then it is more likely the lead length they will use will take this reason into account and be appropriate.”

Sample comments

The full comments are available in the appendix.

“4m dogs needs to be able to have some freedom to run, play and sniff. If they have to be on lead then a least give them some freedom to play when they see other dogs”

“A 2 metre length is appropriate in crowded areas e.g. The sea front promenade and shopping streets, but my suggestion is a 6 metre length would be for open spaces, e.g. the beaches and woodland/heathland walks where a lead is required.”

“A lead that is appropriate to the needs of the dog, owner and situation. One dog on a 2m lead could be under control of a knowledgeable owner while another on a 2m lead could be out of control with an owner who doesn't care. The lead length makes little if any difference to the behaviour of a dog.”

“A responsible dog owner will adjust the length of lead according to the prevailing conditions. As a dog owner and a cyclist, I experience both sides of the argument but would not wish see a blanket ban on long leads when there is no hazard to others.”

“Any lead length. An owner will be responsible and aware of there surrounding and all others regardless of lead length.”

“Common sense should be used. No need to create specific orders”

“Dogs out walking can be safely controlled on an extending lead when in parks or on the beach but kept to the suggested 2 meters length on pavement and pathway walks.”

Extendable leads should be permitted and the dog owners should be trusted to use common sense and good manners to shorten the lead in busy areas around other dogs, pedestrians, runners and especially cyclists.

“I don't see the need to specify a lead length perhaps just that the owner must be in control of the dog on the lead at all times”

“I often use a training line 10m for exercising one of my dogs in open spaces & a 2m lead if walking on paths”

“I would say this is going to be really difficult to enforce! The extending leads are great when you can't let your dog off as long as owner is responsible with them”

“Lead length should be at owner's discretion. Different dogs have different needs. The important issue is that no-one should fail to have a lead with them when exercising dogs, and no dog should be running loose without a collar or harness on with an up to date ID disc attached to the collar or harness.”

“Many dog owners use a retractable leads to give the dog and the owner a better walking experience, also training leads are used all of which are over two metres. Could the order reflect this fact in some way?”

“People in charge of a dog should be aware of their surroundings so a restriction on lead length is not required.”

Dogs on lead ‘by direction’

The dogs on lead ‘by direction’ requirement enables authorised officers (e.g. Dog Wardens) to require dogs to be put on a lead if considered necessary. Such a direction could be made to protect another animal or people nearby, for example.

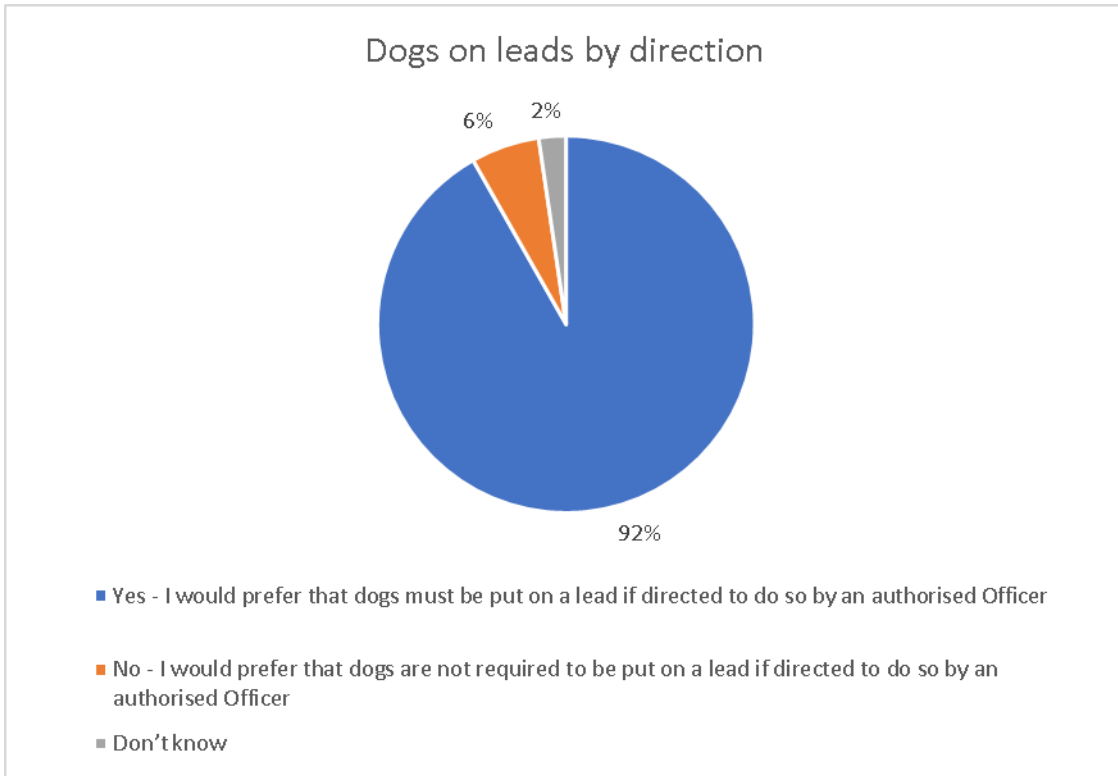
Q. Would you like to see this requirement?

Overall responses	Yes - I would prefer that dogs must be put on a lead if directed to do so by an authorised Officer	No - I would prefer that dogs are not required to be put on a lead if directed to do so by an authorised Officer	Don't know
Number	7,866	507	199
% of all who responded	91.8%	5.9%	2.3%

With over 90% supporting the proposal to allow authorised officers to require a dog to be put on a lead, the public view is clear and emphatic. Less than 6% opposed this proposal.

Most groups supported this proposal with 88% from dog owners, 97% from non-dog owners, 89% from visitors and 90% from businesses.

Looking specifically at the responses from town/ parish councils 24 of the 25 agreed that dogs should be put on a lead if directed to do so by an authorised officer. Weymouth Town Council would like to see an inclusion for dogs to be made to wear a muzzle by direction in line with the "on lead" by direction section.



Official Organisational Responses – Dorset Dogs, Dorset Waste Partnership, Dorset Highways, Durlston Country Park, English Nature, Pet industry Federation, The Friends of Rodwell Trail and Sandsfoot Castle, Natural England, Dorset Police, West Dorset Cycling, Cycling UK and Dorset Cycling Network all agreed with the dogs on leads by direction proposal.

Dog Friendly Weymouth and Portland disagreed with the proposal.

Dorset Dogs said” it is reasonable that dogs must be put on a lead if directed to do so by an authorised Officer, and they should have discretion to be able to specify maximum lead length. It would be particularly effective if there were sufficient staff to enforce this and also address those who need to be given a Community Protection Notice. There should also be staff using public engagement methods to raise awareness of responsible dog walking and thereby increasing the role of peer pressure as well as ensuring people have a good understanding of the positive or negative impacts their behaviours have and enabling them to do the right thing.”

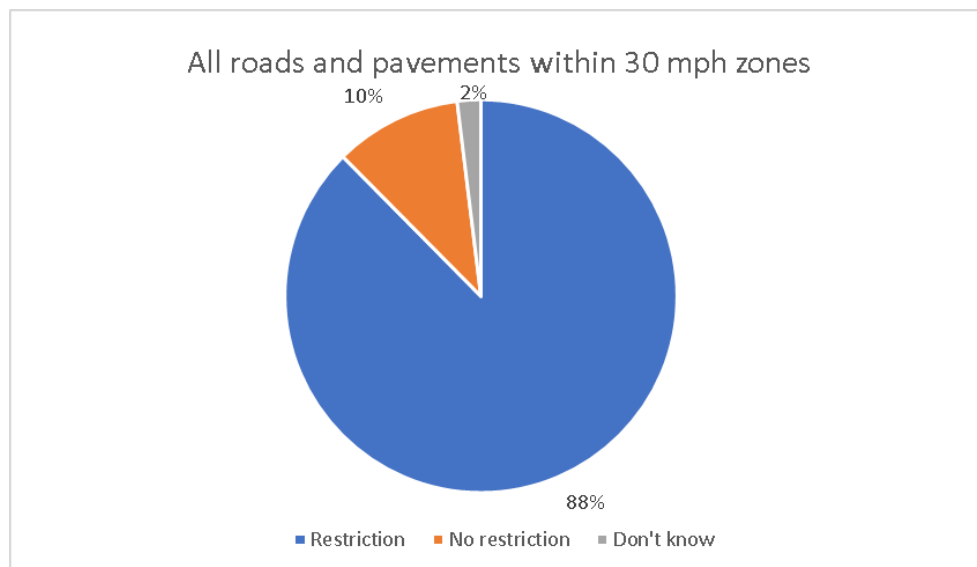
Dogs on leads – types of locations

The existing PSPOs which will be replaced by the new Order contain numerous identified areas where dogs are required to be kept on a lead at all times; these include named roads, parks, gardens and other open spaces.

Should a ‘dogs on lead’ restriction be considered in any of the following locations across the Dorset Council area?

Q. All roads and pavements within 30 mph zones

Overall responses	Restriction to be applied	No restriction	Don't know
Number	7,479	896	166
% of all who responded	87.6%	10.5%	1.9%



At 88% from overall responses there is clear support for including a dogs on leads requirement on all roads and pavements within 30mph zones. Comparing dog owners and non-dog owners responses there is still 85% support from dog owners and a higher 93% support from non-dog owners. Responses from visitors was similar to the overall figure. 75% of the parish councils responding supported this proposal and 84% of councillors responding supported this proposal.

90% of disabled respondents would like a dogs on leads restriction within a 30mph zone.

Town and parish councils responding were mixed in their response to this proposal with 19 thinking a restriction should apply (including Weymouth , West Moors, Gillingham, Wimborne

and Lyme Regis from the larger councils) and 5 proposing no restriction (including Swanage and Corfe Mullen).

Weymouth Town Council would like to see the additional requirement for dogs to be on a lead by all roads and pavements within 20mph zones as well as 30mph zones.

Official Organisational Responses - Dorset Waste Partnership, Dorset Highways, Durlston Country Park, The Friends of Rodwell Trail and Sandsfoot Castle, Natural England, Dorset Police, West Dorset Cycling, Cycling UK, Dog Friendly Weymouth and Portland and Dorset Cycling Network all agreed with the dogs on leads in 30mph zones.

Durlston Country Park, Dorset Dogs and Natural England disagreed with the proposal. The Pet Industry Federation had no view.

Organisational Responses

Dorset Dogs said “no, it is not appropriate to say restriction should be applied to all such areas (nor that it should not be applied to any). This represents a very broad range of areas and would be unnecessarily restrictive and may have a particularly negative impact on elderly or less mobile people. Although this would be the easiest way to define on-lead areas it is not appropriate and could have a profound negative effect on many people, meanwhile devaluing the restriction in those areas where it is needed (eg busy narrow pavements next to roads)”

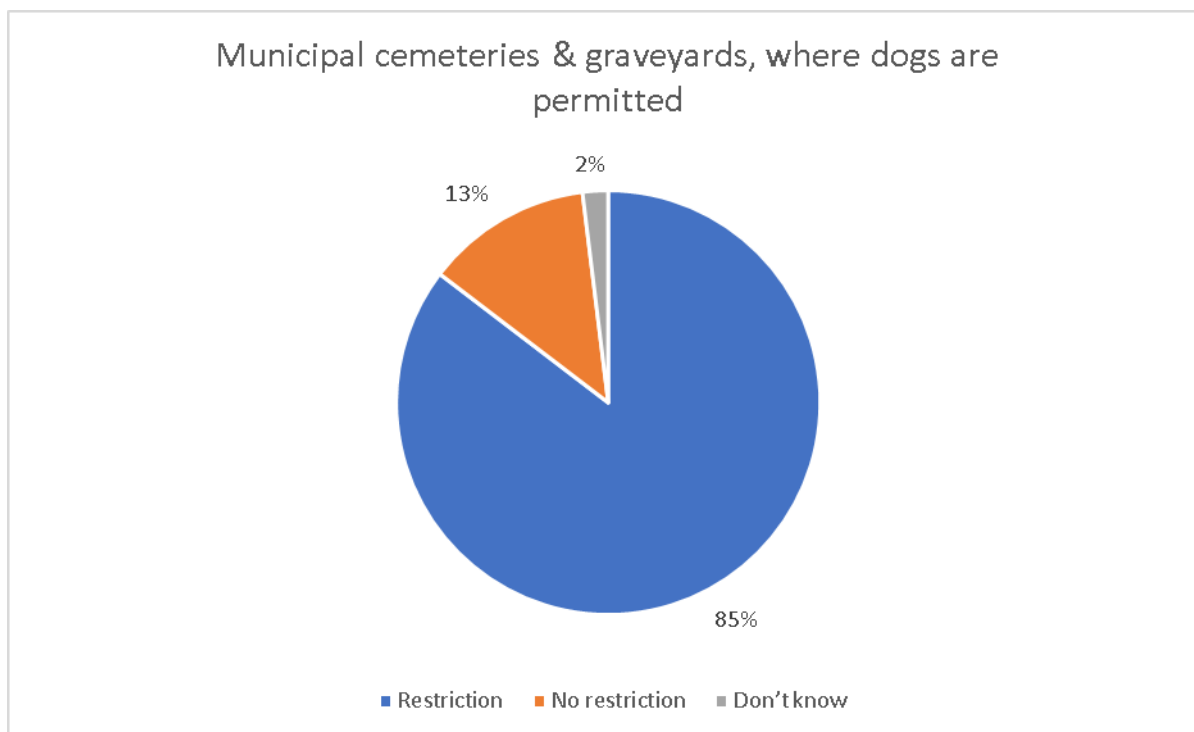
Sample comments

The full comments are available in the appendix.

“The question about leads on roads and pavements in 30mph zones is an question with a wide remit. Not all 30mph have pavements. Some areas are very rural with little through traffic. Therefore one rule should not apply to all 30pmh areas”

Q. Municipal cemeteries & graveyards, where dogs are permitted

Overall responses	Restriction to be applied	No restriction	Don't know
Number	7,303	1,080	166
% of all who responded	85.4%	12.6%	1.9%



At 85% from overall responses there is clear support for including a dogs on leads requirement in all municipal cemeteries & graveyards, where dogs are permitted. Comparing dog owners and non-dog owners responses there is still 82% support from dog owners and a higher 92% support from non-dog owners. Responses from visitors was similar to the overall figure. 92% of parish/town councils responding supported this proposal, unsurprising as some councils own municipal cemeteries. 78% of councillors responding supported this proposal.

87% of disabled respondents would like a dogs on leads restriction.

Official Organisational Responses – Dorset Waste Partnership, Dorset Dogs, Durlston Country Park, The Friends of Rodwell Trail and Sandsfoot Castle, Natural England, Dorset Police, West Dorset Cycling and Dog Friendly Weymouth and Portland all agreed with the dogs on leads in municipal cemeteries.

Dorset Dogs said “This is a very specific area and in these areas, dogs may be a great comfort to some, so it would be helpful to permit dogs into such areas, on-lead. There should be some discretion applied however in circumstances such as where a person with mobility constraints has their dog under effective control (and that dog is not causing nuisance to any other person) but is not easily able to have them on a lead.”

Sample comments

The full comments are available in the appendix.

“I feel dogs should be allowed in many areas but kept on a lead if it is somewhere like parks, cemeteries etc. It is part of family life to take your dogs out with you.”

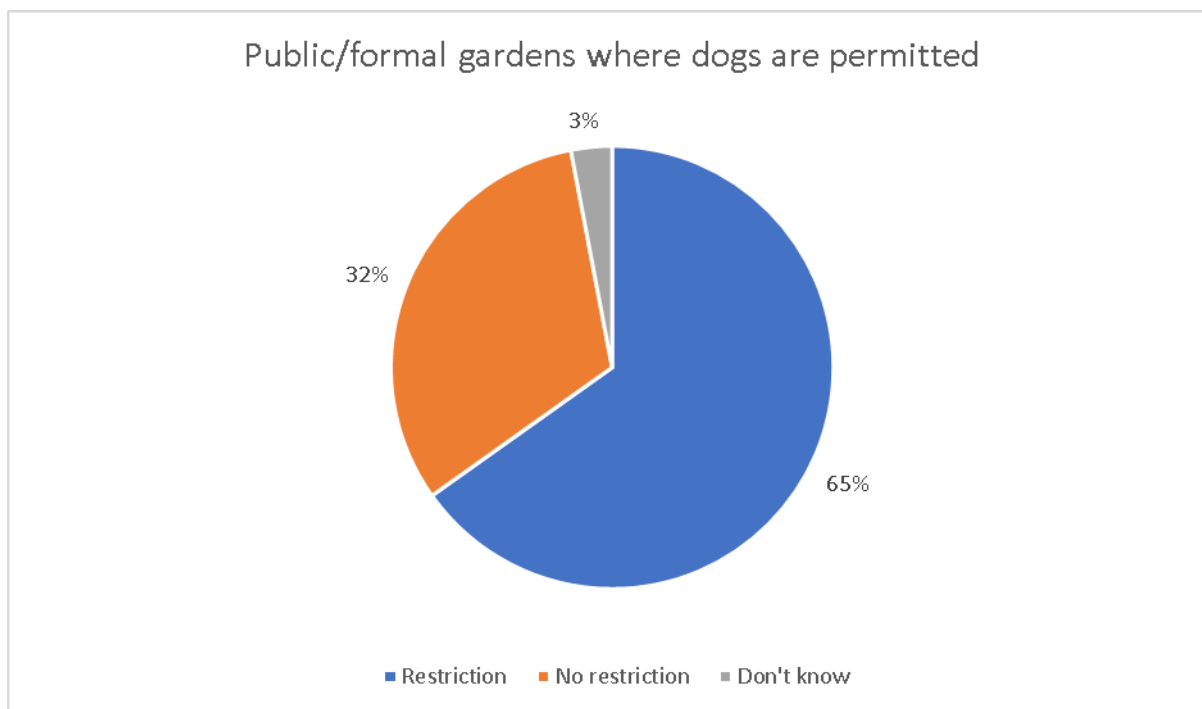
“I think areas such as allotments and cemeteries should be close control, not all dogs need a lead, but unfortunately many do and many owners are not intelligent enough to distinguish between where they should and shouldn't respect.”

“THAT DOGS SHOULD BE ON A LEAD THEY JUST IGNORE YOU. THE CEMETERY IN NEWSTEAD ROAD AND ABBOTSBURY ROAD HAVE SIGNS AND PEOPLE JUST IGNORE THEM AND LET THEIR DOGS RUN AND JUMP ALL OVER THE GRAVES , THEY HAVE NO RESPECT WHAT SO EVER.”

“Ban dogs from cemeteries as they are being increasing used as exercise areas (despite the lead order).”

Q. Public/formal gardens where dogs are permitted

Overall responses	Restriction to be applied	No restriction	Don't know
Number	5,566	2,705	259
% of all who responded	65.3%	31.7%	3.0%



At 65% from overall responses there is support for including a dogs on leads requirement in public/formal gardens, where dogs are permitted.

Comparing dog owners and non-dog owners responses there is still 53% support from dog owners and a higher 87% support from non-dog owners. Responses from visitors was slightly lower than the overall figure, with only 56% supporting this proposal. 83% of parish/town councils responding supported this proposal, as some councils may own public gardens. 76% of councillors responding supported this proposal.

62% of disabled respondents would like a dogs on leads restriction.

In relation to "public/formal gardens", Weymouth Town Councils feels that clear definition regarding which areas of the Nothe Gardens and Lodmoor Country Park will be designated as "public/formal" is essential within the ultimate Order.

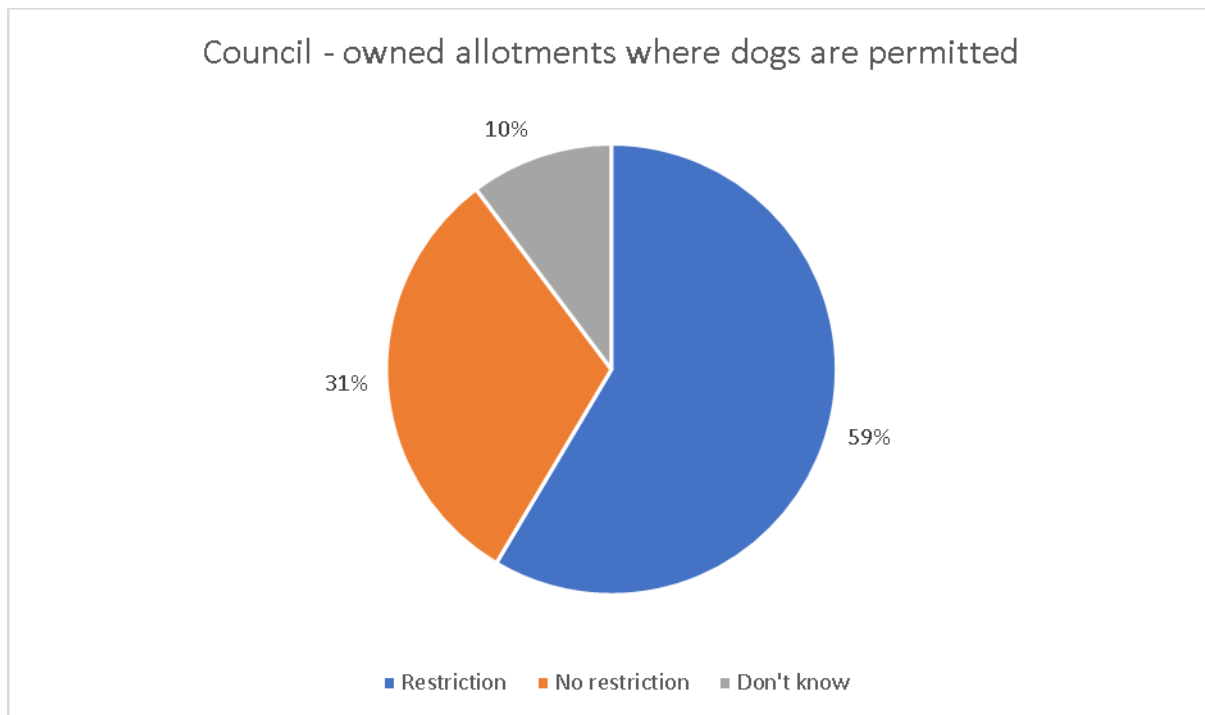
Official Organisational Responses - Dorset Waste Partnership, Pet Industry Federation, The Friends of Rodwell Trail and Sandsfoot Castle, Natural England, West Dorset Cycling and Dog Friendly Weymouth and Portland all agreed with the dogs on leads in public/formal gardens.

Durlston Country Park, Dorset Dogs and Dorset Police disagreed with the proposal.

Dorset Dogs said “This is potentially a very broad range of public spaces and would amount to blanket restriction if placed across the board and is therefore not supported in a form where it is applied to all public/formal gardens. If there are particular reasons to put in place a dogs on lead restriction at a specific public or formal gardens then this should be assessed on an individual basis and with heed to whether this will cause undue restriction on local people particularly if there is little alternative off-lead provision or where the local population has been used to accessing the gardens and exercising dogs responsibly off-lead has been the norm. As boundaries of public or formal gardens are normally delineated in some reasonably clear way or accessed via clear access points it is relatively straightforward to inform people that one such area may be restricted whilst another not, given the wide variety of such spaces. Ideally, and depending on size, if a public or formal garden does have an on-lead restriction, zoning should be used to provide an off-lead area (where dogs must be under effective control instead) and failing this there should be good alternative off-lead space nearby and people in the locality should be informed about this, whether that is through local promotion onsite, online, through events to highlight that provision or similar means.”

Q. Council - owned allotments where dogs are permitted

Overall responses	Restriction to be applied	No restriction	Don't know
Number	4,983	2,651	872
% of all who responded	58.6%	31.2%	10.3%



At 59% from overall responses there is some support for including a dogs on leads requirement in council owned allotments, where dogs are permitted. Comparing dog owners and non-dog owners' responses there is still 52% support from dog owners and a higher 71% support from non-dog owners. This was the least supported of these dogs on leads proposals. 51% of visitors supported this proposal. 79% of parish councils responding supported this proposal, as some councils may own allotments. 54% of councillors responding supported this proposal.

68% of disabled respondents would like a dogs on leads restriction.

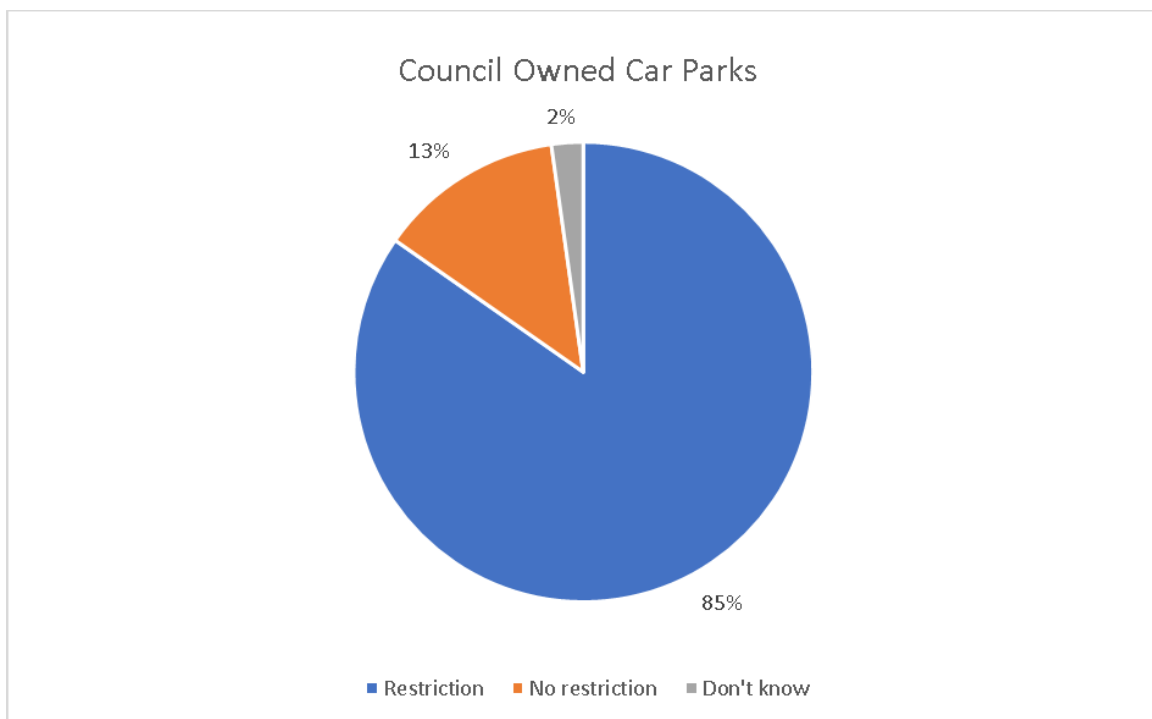
Official Organisational Responses -, The Friends of Rodwell Trail and Sandsfoot Castle, Natural England, West Dorset Cycling and Dog Friendly Weymouth and Portland all agreed with the dogs on leads in council owned allotments.

Dorset Waste Partnership, Dorset Dogs, Pet Industry Federation and Dorset Police disagreed with the proposal.

Dorset Dogs said “Dogs should be able to be off-lead within the boundaries of the individual allotment of the owner under effective control, and be required to stay on the path under the effective control of the owner on lead whilst elsewhere on the allotment site.”

Q. Council owned car parks

Overall responses	Restriction to be applied	No restriction	Don't know
Number	7,200	1,105	192
% of all who responded	84.7%	13.0%	2.3%



At 85% from overall responses there is clear support for including a dogs on leads requirement in council owned car parks.

Comparing dog owners and non-dog owners responses there is still 81% support from dog owners and a higher 91% support from non-dog owners. 83% of visitors supported this proposal. 86% of parish/town councils responding supported this proposal. 81% of councillors responding supported this proposal.

83% of disabled respondents would like a dogs on leads restriction.

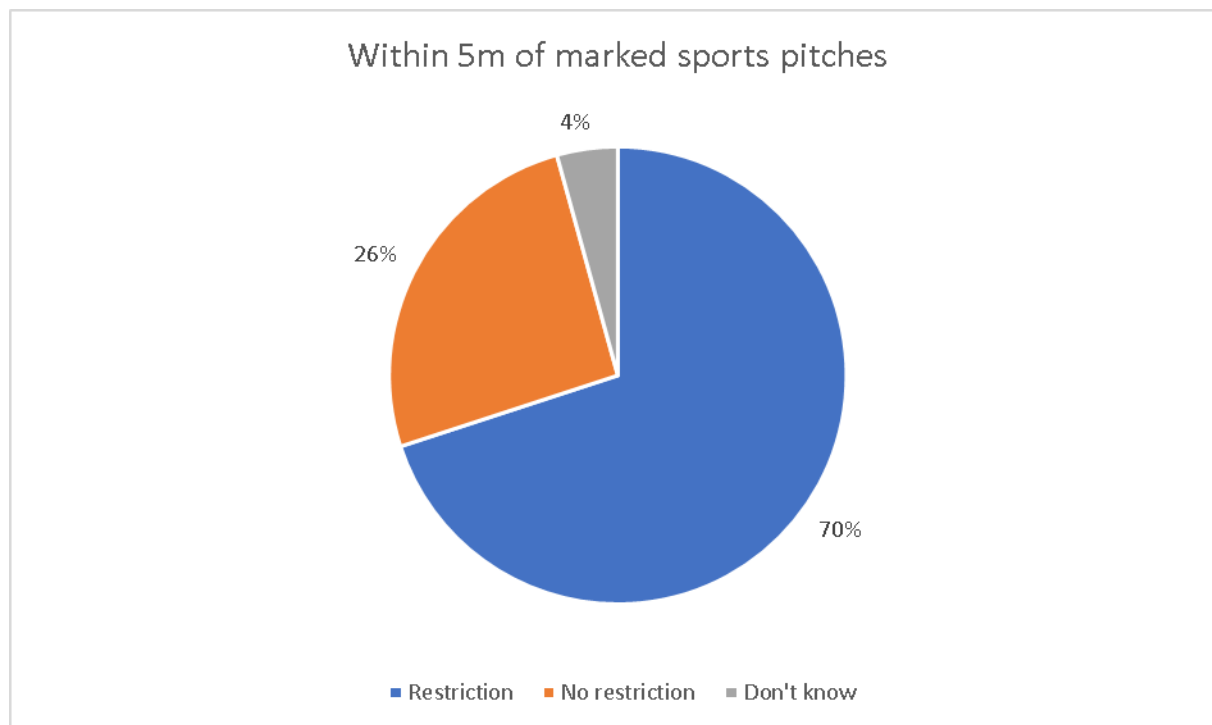
Official Organisational Responses – Dorset Dogs, Dorset Waste Partnership, Dorset Highways , The Pet Industry Federation, The Friends of Rodwell Trail and Sandsfoot Castle, Dorset Police, West Dorset Cycling and Dog Friendly Weymouth and Portland all agreed with the dogs on leads in council car parks.

Durlston Country Park and Natural England disagreed with the proposal.

Dorset Dogs said “Yes there is a strong safety reason for dogs to be onlead in car parks although assistance dogs should be treated as a different case as appropriate.”

Q. Within 5m of marked sports pitches

Overall responses	Restriction to be applied	No restriction	Don't know
Number	5,959	2,179	368
% of all who responded	70.1%	25.6%	4.3%



At 70% from overall responses there is clear support for including a dogs on leads requirement in within 5m of marked sports pitches.

Comparing dog owners and non-dog owners responses there is still 59% support from dog owners and a higher 90% support from non-dog owners. 63% of visitors supported this idea. 88% of parish/town councils responding supported this proposal, as some councils may own and manage sports pitches. 81% of councillors responding supported this proposal. 68% of disabled respondents would like a dogs on leads restriction.

Official Organisational Responses -, Dorset Highways, The Friends of Rodwell Trail and Sandsfoot Castle, Natural England, Dorset Police, West Dorset Cycling and Dog Friendly Weymouth and Portland all agreed with the dogs on leads within 5m of sports pitches.

Dorset Waste Partnership, Dorset Dogs and the Pet Industry Federation disagreed with the proposal.

Dorset Dogs said “There are many sites across Dorset where people walk around the boundary of sports pitches and where there are no good alternative greenspaces, a 5m boundary is a wide area that is useful exercise space for people who may otherwise be limited to pavements, so it would be more practical and reasonable to consider sport pitches on an individual basis. The actual use of those sites and the times, days or seasons in which the pitches are in use should be considered to achieve a practical restriction that ensures that it is a safe space for sports at those whilst offering the local community continued fair access at other times. The restriction relating to fouling is of primary importance. This individual assessment is more time-consuming but may be more supported by the local community, and more effective and enforceable in the longer-term.”

Dogs on Leads – specific locations

Should a ‘dogs on lead’ restriction be considered in any of the following named areas?

As all these following areas are quite specific respondents are unlikely to be aware of them all and therefore not have a view on some of the proposals. In some suggested locations up to a third of people had no view either way. The main message throughout is generally the conflicting views of dog owners and non-dog owners. However, in several locations even the dog owners supported a dogs on lead restrictions. Non-dog owners preferred a dogs on lead restriction in all areas.

Presentation of the data: To make the results more accessible, as the locations are very specific with high percentages of respondents not being fully aware of where they were, percentages have been calculated based on those who had a view i.e. removing those who said “don’t know”.

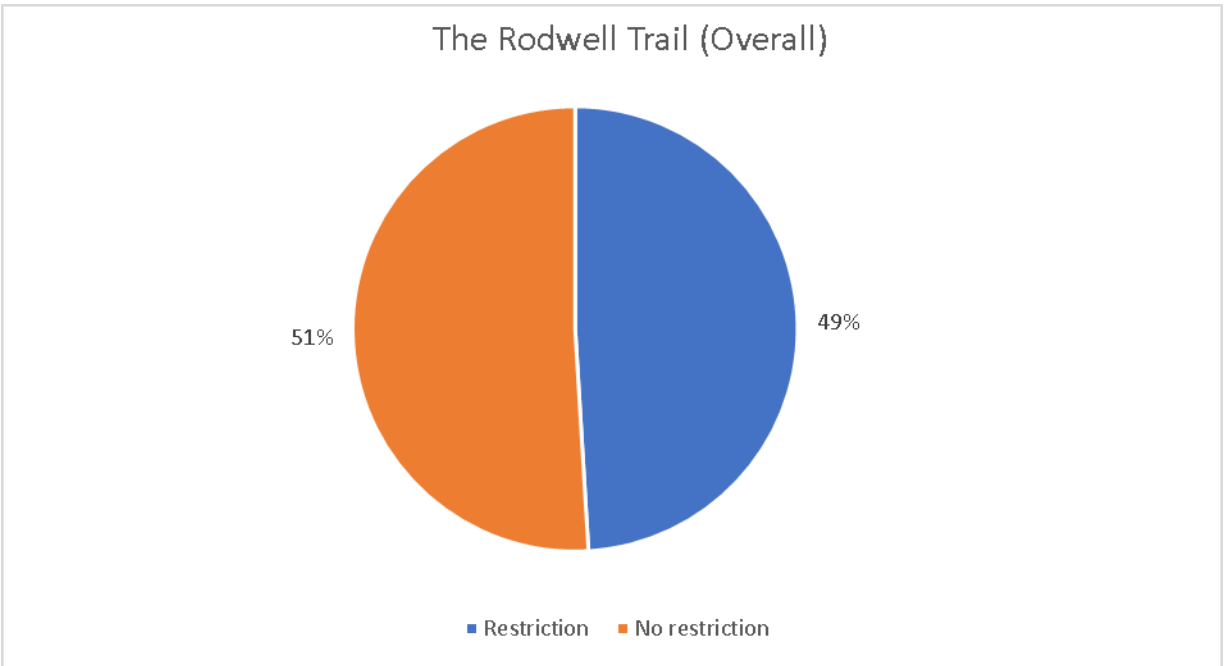
Q. The Rodwell Trail, Weymouth – dogs on lead restriction?

Overall responses	Restriction to be applied	No restriction
Number	2,799	2,890
% of all who responded	49%	51%

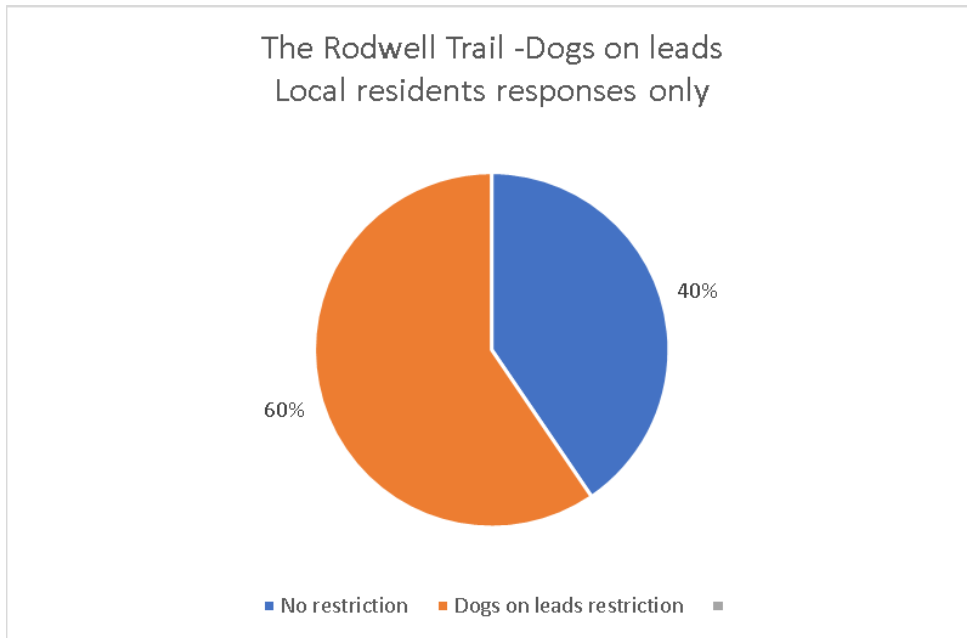
In this location the overall responses show a small majority in favour of not having a “dogs on lead” restriction in this area but only by a very small margin. Only 27% of dog owners felt a restriction was necessary whilst 83% of non-dog owners felt there should be one. Visitors who responded (generally dog owners) were against a restriction As it is a very specific location in Weymouth nearly 31% of overall respondents didn’t have a view either way.

Disabled responses were split down the middle with no clear preference.

Weymouth Town Council support a “dogs on leads” restriction in this area.



However, the Rodwell Trail is unlike many other areas considered in the survey in that it is a route predominately used by local people year round. In this case the data has also been analysed looking at the responses of those who had a preference who actually lived in just Weymouth and Portland (including Chickerell). This gives a different picture. 1,314 responses came into this category, with 59.5% supporting a “dogs on lead” restriction for the Rodwell Trail and 40.5% wanting no restriction. This is illustrated on the graph below.



Official Organisational Responses - Dorset Highways, The Friends of Rodwell Trail and Sandsfoot Castle Gardens, Natural England, West Dorset Cycling, Cycling UK and Dorset Cycling Network all agreed with the dogs on leads on the Rodwell Trail.

Dorset Waste Partnership, Dorset Dogs, Dorset Police, Dog Friendly Weymouth and Portland and the Pet Industry Federation disagreed with the proposal.

West Dorset Cycling

“This response is from the local cycling club, West Dorset Cycling, addressing the issue of dogs on leads on the Rodwell Trail. The trail has become safer and cleaner since the introduction of the dogs on leads byelaw in 2016. The trail is a highway/major transport link for pedestrians and cyclists. It is used by commuters, schoolchildren, shoppers, residents and tourists, including families with small children, for many different reasons. It is part of the National Cycle Network, route 26 which runs from Portishead on the Somerset coast to Portland via Wells, Castle Cary, Yeovil and Dorchester. Dogs off leads often cause a danger to pedestrians and cyclists by running all over the trail and some are completely out of control. In the past some owners even threw balls along the trail for the dogs to chase. It has been proven that the owners whose dogs are on leads are more likely to pick up after them than if they are running free. The trail, although not perfect, is noticeably cleaner than it used to be. Please will you take this into account and confirm the byelaw and PSPO to keep dogs on leads on the Rodwell Trail.”

Cycling UK , Dorset members

“This response is from the representative of Dorset members of Cycling UK (CUK), the national cycling charity, addressing the issue of dogs on leads on the Rodwell Trail. The trail has become safer and cleaner since the introduction of the dogs on leads byelaw in 2016. The trail is a highway/major transport link for pedestrians and cyclists. It is used by commuters, schoolchildren, shoppers, residents and tourists, including families with small children, for many different reasons. It is part of the National Cycle Network, route 26 which runs from Portishead on the Somerset coast to Portland via Wells, Castle Cary, Yeovil and Dorchester. Dogs off leads often cause a danger to pedestrians and cyclists by running all over the trail and some are completely out of control. In the past some owners even threw balls along the trail for the dogs to chase. It has been proven that the owners whose dogs are on leads are more likely to pick up after them than if they are running free. The trail, although not perfect, is noticeably cleaner than it used to be. Please will you take this into account and confirm the byelaw and PSPO to keep dogs on leads on the Rodwell Trail”

Dorset Cyclists Network

“This response is from the Dorset Cyclists' Network (DCN) Weymouth and Portland coordinator, addressing the issue of dogs on leads on the Rodwell Trail. The trail has become safer and cleaner since the introduction of the dogs on leads byelaw in 2016. The trail is a highway/major transport link for pedestrians and cyclists. It is used by commuters, schoolchildren, shoppers, residents and tourists, including families with small children, for many different reasons. It is part of the National Cycle Network, route 26 which runs from Portishead on the Somerset coast to Portland via Wells, Castle Cary, Yeovil and Dorchester. Dogs off leads often cause a danger to pedestrians and cyclists by running all over the trail and some are completely out of control. In the past some owners even threw balls along the trail for the dogs to chase. It has been proven that the owners whose dogs are on leads are more likely to pick up after them than if they are running free. The trail, although not perfect, is noticeably cleaner than it used to be. Please will you take this into account and confirm the byelaw and PSPO to keep dogs on leads on the Rodwell Trail”

Dorset Dogs

“It is important that if dogs on lead restriction is applied at any of those areas cited below then the time/season when that is applied is appropriate, in some cases this may only be in the busy summer months

The Rodwell Trail Where there are pinch points, narrow sections, areas with limited visibility of what’s ahead and junctions a restriction for dogs on lead may be necessary if a request is not sufficient for safety purposes, but provided people have their dog under effective control a dogs on lead restriction should not be applied to the entire length of multi-use trails such as the Rodwell Trail without consideration for areas where off lead and under effective control is a reasonable alternative. It is important that people are made aware of multi-user/shared use responsible access so that everyone can enjoy access safely, this may include a suggested maximum lead length at various specific locations, where the reason for that suggestion is specified and can be clearly explained if queried (eg where a narrow path is shared by cyclists and walkers). This is then likely to be better understood and received and consequently more effective and more enforceable where it is necessary. Some areas of the Rodwell Trail are wide with broad verges and good visibility. Simple roundels, flags or signs that can denote on and off lead areas on such routes are available, to back up more detailed signage that may be available at key points.”

Sample comments

The full comments are available in the appendix.

“As for the Rodwell trail it is a no-go area because of dog fouling”

“Ferry bridge wyke end of Rodwell trail and along Chesil bank ferry bridge end as the nesting birds are being destroyed”

“I live near the Rodwell trail, which over the summer was ok but is absolutely disgusting now with the amount of dog mess, especially just to the side. I have two young daughters who skip along and off the path looking at things of interest and we’ve had a few issues. It is a serious public health risk and should be treated as such. Something needs to be done about it before a child becomes ill or loses their sight.”

“On the Rodwell Trail dogs should be allowed off the lead. I feel the the cycling fraternity need restrictions here not dogs. It has become very dangerous to walk along this trail due to the inconsiderate behaviours of cyclists who have taken over this route for themselves and use it as a race-track.”

“I’m also a cyclist and the Rodwell trail is a nightmare trying to cycle along there with dogs, people, children and other cyclists is quite frankly dangerous at times, I feel something needs to be done so everyone can enjoy the trail”

“The Rodwell Trail I would like to emphasise the importance of dogs being on leads on the Rodwell Trail. Sadly some dog owners do not obey the current order which causes danger to other users. The Rodwell Trail is a transport link used by schoolchildren, commuters and shoppers. Many, including families with small children, use the trail for recreation. It is part of the National Cycle Network and is a highway belonging to the council. The trail is noticeably cleaner since the PSPO was enforced as owners are more likely to pick up after their dogs when the dogs are on leads.”

“Rodwell Trail, I believe this should be for dog walkers and cyclists and dogs shouldn't be required to be on a lead. Cyclists should slow down”

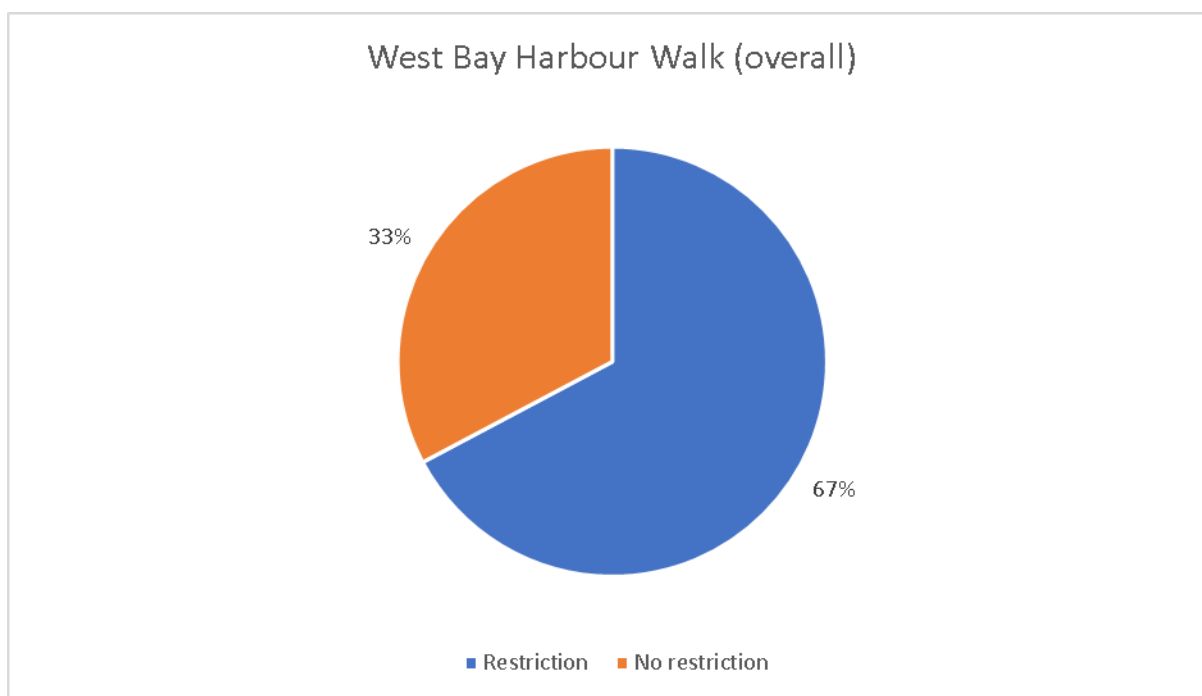
“The Rodwell Trail is a perfect dog walking location, restricting dogs to being on leads is very unfair on them.”

Q. West Bay Harbour walk and promenade (as shown on Map in yellow for West Bay) – dogs on lead restriction?

Overall responses	Restriction to be applied	No restriction
Number	4384	2,128
% of all who responded	67%	33%

In this location the overall responses show a majority in favour of having a “dogs on lead” restriction in this area by a significant margin with 67% supporting the suggestion. 54% of dog owners themselves felt a restriction was acceptable whilst 89% of non-dog owners felt there should be one. Visitors who responded (generally dog owners) were in support of a restriction with 56% in favour, but only by a small margin.

69% of disabled responds thought a dogs on lead restriction should apply.

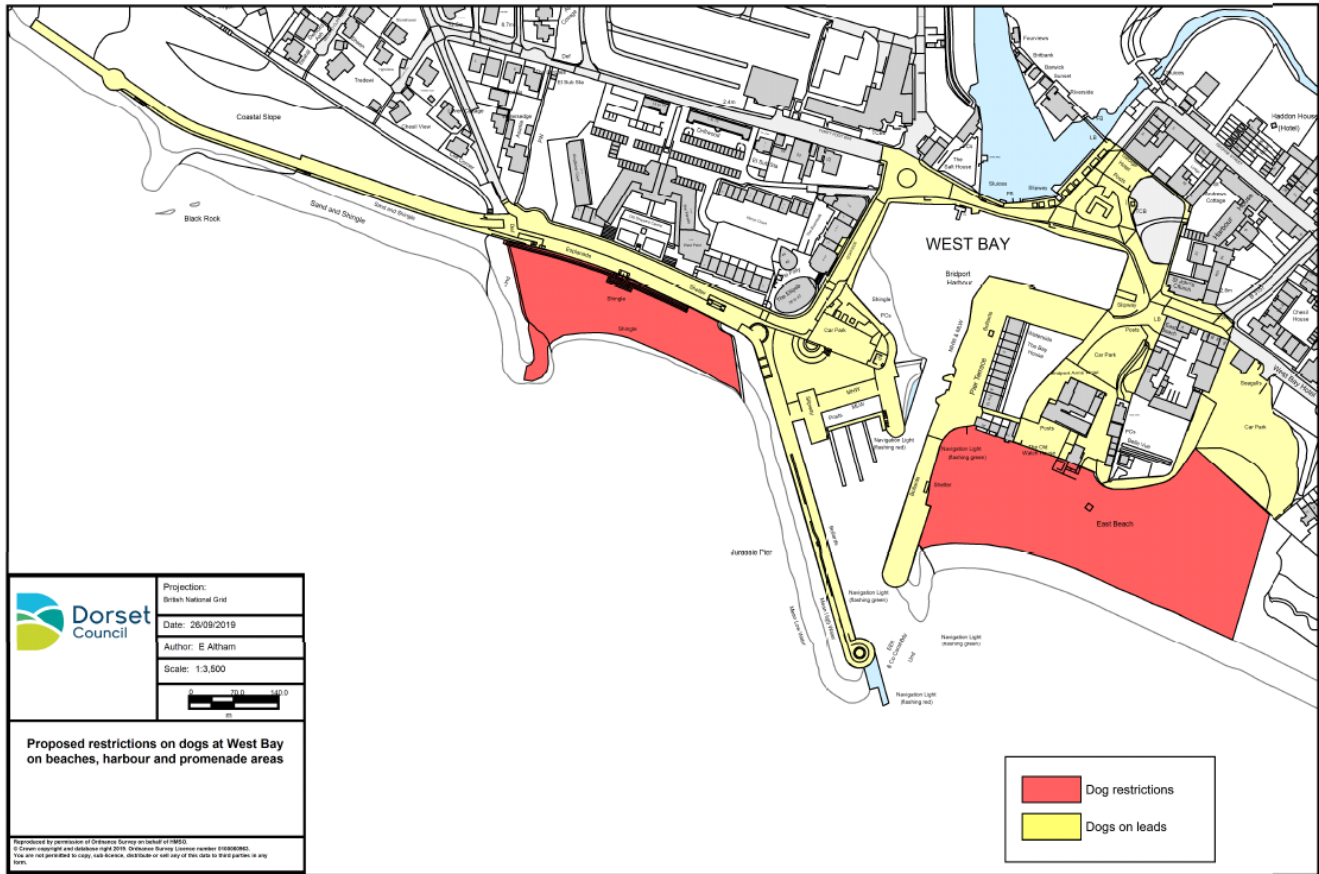


Official Organisational Responses - Dorset Highways, Dorset Waste Partnership, The Friends of Rodwell Trail and Sandsfoot Castle Gardens and Dorset Police, all agreed with the dogs on leads on West Bay Harbour Walk and promenade.

Dog Friendly Weymouth and Portland, Natural England, and the Pet Industry Federation disagreed with the proposal.

Dorset Dogs said “Much of the area in yellow appears to be parking areas, where dogs should be on lead, so the restriction is supported for those areas. For the promenade backing

the area of shore/beach where dogs are permitted a formal dogs on lead restriction should only be applied if there is a specific reason to do so, not knowing this area I do not feel able to comment? At many beaches where there is an area open to dogs all year round it is the area with no prom backing it that is available to all. This excludes some people from being able to make use of dog friendly beaches, including those who are less mobile and those using wheelchairs.”



Sample comments

The full comments are available in the appendix.

“Please note that most owners will put their dog on a lead in areas where they could be injured or cause an accident. West Bay which I know well being a point. I would only let my dog off it’s lead on the west prom but not walking around the harbour.”

“The promenade west of the Esplanade at west bay does not need to have lead restrictions.”

“West Bay and Bridport is a dog friendly area so putting further restrictions in this area goes against the friendliness of our community”

“Dog fouling around West Bay is a real problem. The harbour pavement area is a magnet for lazy dog walkers who seem to think that they can use it as a dog toilet.”

“Dogs should be kept on a lead around the harbour and the promenade and both piers at west bay at all times because most owners do not control them and they have nearly made me trip and other elderly people as they run wild in all directions.”

“Does the restriction to dogs on leads need to be all along the Esplanade - could it just go as far as the end of the road at West Cliff near the turning circle. It is the responsible dog owners that always end up penalised when these surveys are done and the restrictions are increased”

“At West Bay I know that a relaxed restriction tempts folk to linger and spend at the kiosks and pubs.”

“I think the West Bay promenade West, the area which is pedestrian only should be removed from the dogs on leads restrictions.”

“The promenade west of the Esplanade at west bay does not need to have lead restrictions.”

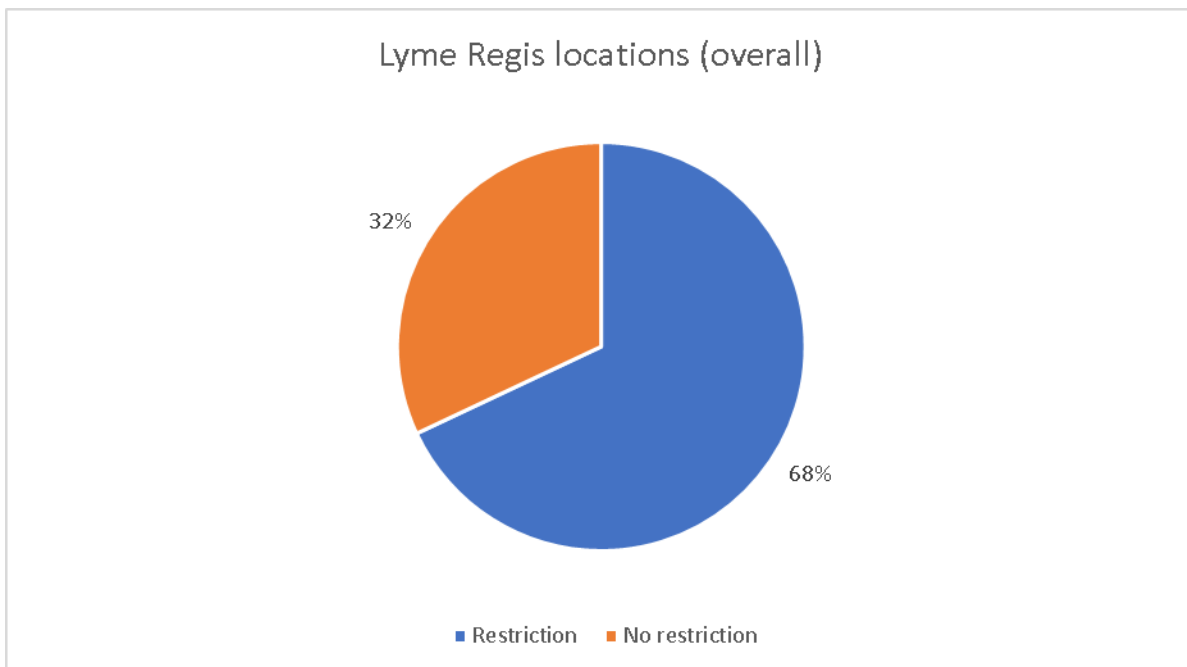
Q. Marine Parade and Cart Road, and stair/footpath leading from Charmouth Road Car Park to Church Beach and the associated Sea Wall, Lyme Regis (as shown on Map in yellow for Lyme Regis) – dogs on lead restriction?

Overall responses	Restriction to be applied	No restriction
Number	4,261	1,997
% of all who responded	68%	32%

In this location the overall responses show a majority in favour of having a “dogs on lead” restriction in this area by a fair margin with 68% supporting the suggestion. 54% of dog owners themselves felt a restriction was acceptable whilst 90% of non-dog owners felt there should be one. Visitors who responded (generally dog owners) were in support of a restriction by a small margin with 55% in favour.

69% of disabled respondents supported a restriction.

Lyme Regis Town Council support a “dogs on leads” restriction in this area.

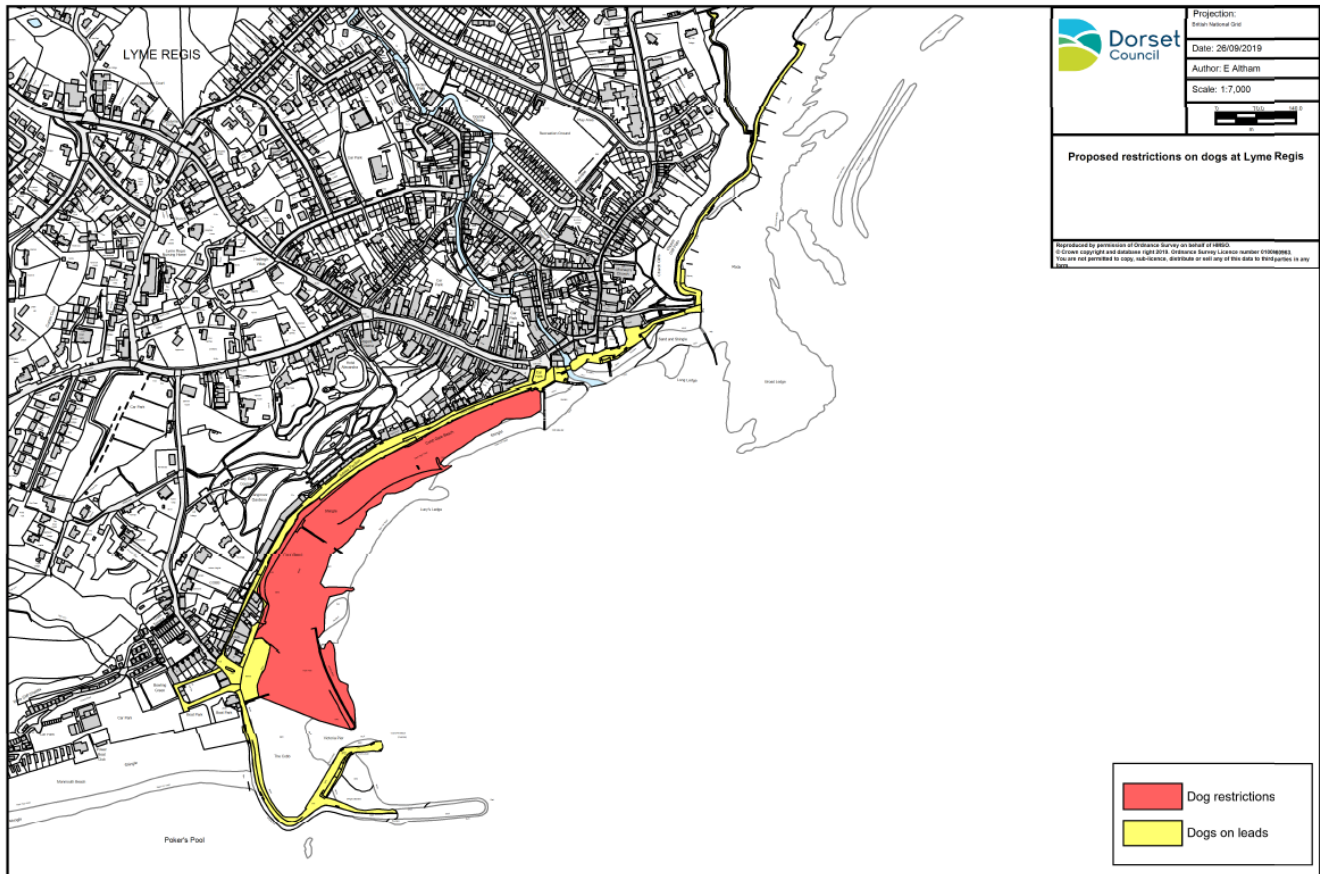


Official Organisational Responses -, Dorset Highways, Dorset Waste Partnership, The Pet Industry Federation, The Friends of Rodwell Trail and Sandsfoot Castle Gardens and Dorset Police, all agreed with the dogs on leads proposal for Marine Parade and Cart Road, and

stair/footpath leading from Charmouth Road Car Park to Church Beach and the associated Sea Wall, Lyme Regis.

Dog Friendly Weymouth and Portland, Natural England, and the disagreed with the proposal.

Dorset Dogs said” at parking areas dogs should be on lead, elsewhere there should be a sound reason to apply a dogs on lead restriction across the entire extent of all these areas; regardless of this dogs should be under effective control at all times. Where a dog-free zone on a beach applies it seems reasonable to apply a dogs on lead restriction on the prom backing it but at others areas of beach with no restriction dogs under effective control should be sufficient.”



Sample comments

The full comments are available in the appendix.

“As I slipped and fell after walking in dog mess on Lyme Regis Parade this week, I feel dogs should be kept on a lead at all times except in designated areas”

“Bearing in mind there are not enough people employed to prevent or prosecute the many dog owners who feel entitled to foul public areas - just look at the steps down to Lyme Regis promenade from the Charmouth Road car park - all restrictions should continue and be made more stringent until the fouling is eradicated.”

“The dog wardens are rarely visible and the instance of dog fouling in Lyme has co sidereal you’re increased over the last few years.”

"Dogs should be kept on a lead around the harbour and the promenade and both piers at west bay at all times because most owners do not control them and they have nearly made me trip and other elderly people as they run wild in all directions"

"I am astonished at the number of dogs in Lyme Regis nowadays. people seem to have two or three dogs. I am of the opinion that Lyme is so "dog friendly" that people drive to Lyme to exercise their dogs"

"It is a daily occurrence in Lyme Regis to see numerous piles of dog mess all over town. It is also a daily occurrence to see dogs off of leads in areas where it is clearly signed that dogs should be on leads. I am yet to see any dog owner challenged by the authorities on this."

"Other areas of Lyme Regis town should be covered by the restrictions including Coombe Street, Mill Green, Jericho, and the river walk to Uplyme. Dogs to be kept on leads up to Max 2m. These areas have high footfall of residents and tourists all year. Better signage relating to the restrictions needed. Stickers on lampposts inadequate"

"Re Monmouth Beach Lyme Regis I would like to see a 'Dogs On Leads until past chalets and Beach Huts' restriction and the replacing of a sign which used to exist. As a chalet owner I am constantly having to clear up after some dog owners, in front and to the rear of chalets. Dogs on lead in this area would enable owners (especially if more than 1 dog being walked which is very often the case) to see where the dog has been."

"In Lyme Regis dog owners regularly flout fouling and dogs on leads regulations. I've never yet seen a dog warden here."

"The new esplanade east of Lyme, seems to be an attractive place for dogs to defecate, and their owners not to bother to pick up the mess. Could there not be some specific bins along the length?"

"Dog walkers bring a lot of business and community to the Marine Parade in Lyme Regis. Stricter rules and consequences for those who do not adequately look after their dogs and their dogs fouling would be more appropriate."

"I believe that any further restrictions on dogs in Lyme Regis would have a significant effect on the welcoming atmosphere there and would make it far less attractive to visitors particularly out of season."

"More than happy to have my dogs on leads on roads and pedestrianised areas as this makes perfect sense and that leads are restricted in length - as a cyclist I've almost been garrotted by long leads"

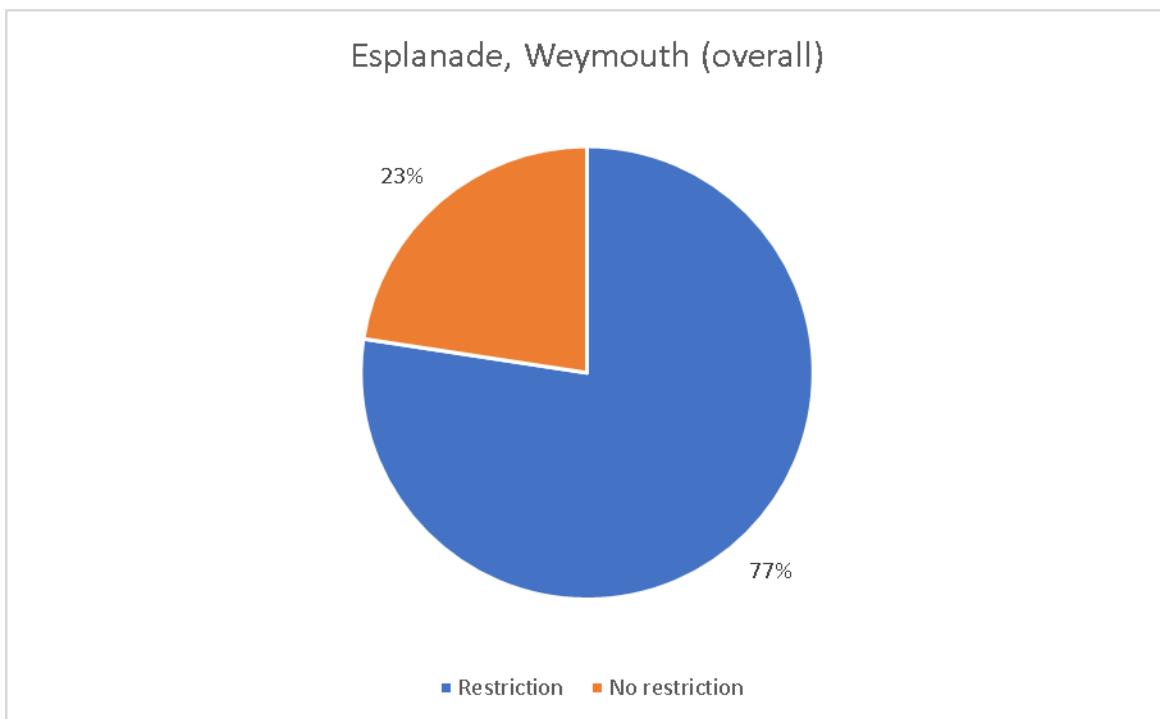
Q. Esplanade, Weymouth, when the road is pedestrianised the restricted area will extend across the street (as shown on map in yellow for Weymouth) – dogs on lead restriction?

Overall responses	Restriction to be applied	No restriction
Number	5,320	1,553
% of all who responded	77%	23%

In this location the overall responses show a majority in favour of having a “dogs on lead” restriction in this area by a significant margin with 77% supporting the suggestion. 68% of dog owners themselves felt a restriction was acceptable whilst 92% of non-dog owners felt there should be one. Visitors who responded (generally dog owners) were also in support of a restriction with 68% in favour.

76% of disabled respondents supported a restriction.

Weymouth Town Council support a “dogs on leads” restriction in this area.



Official Organisational Responses -, Dorset Highways, Dorset Dogs, Dorset Waste Partnership, The Pet Industry Federation, The Friends of Rodwell Trail and Sandsfoot Castle Gardens and Dorset Police, all agreed with the dogs on leads proposal for the Esplanade, Weymouth

Dog Friendly Weymouth and Portland and Natural England disagreed with the proposal.

Dorset Dogs said “This is an extensive area, dogs on lead restriction would be appropriate by busy traffic and parking areas or where and when there is heavy use, which may be the case here?”

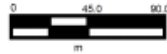


Projection:
British National Grid

Date: 30/9/2019

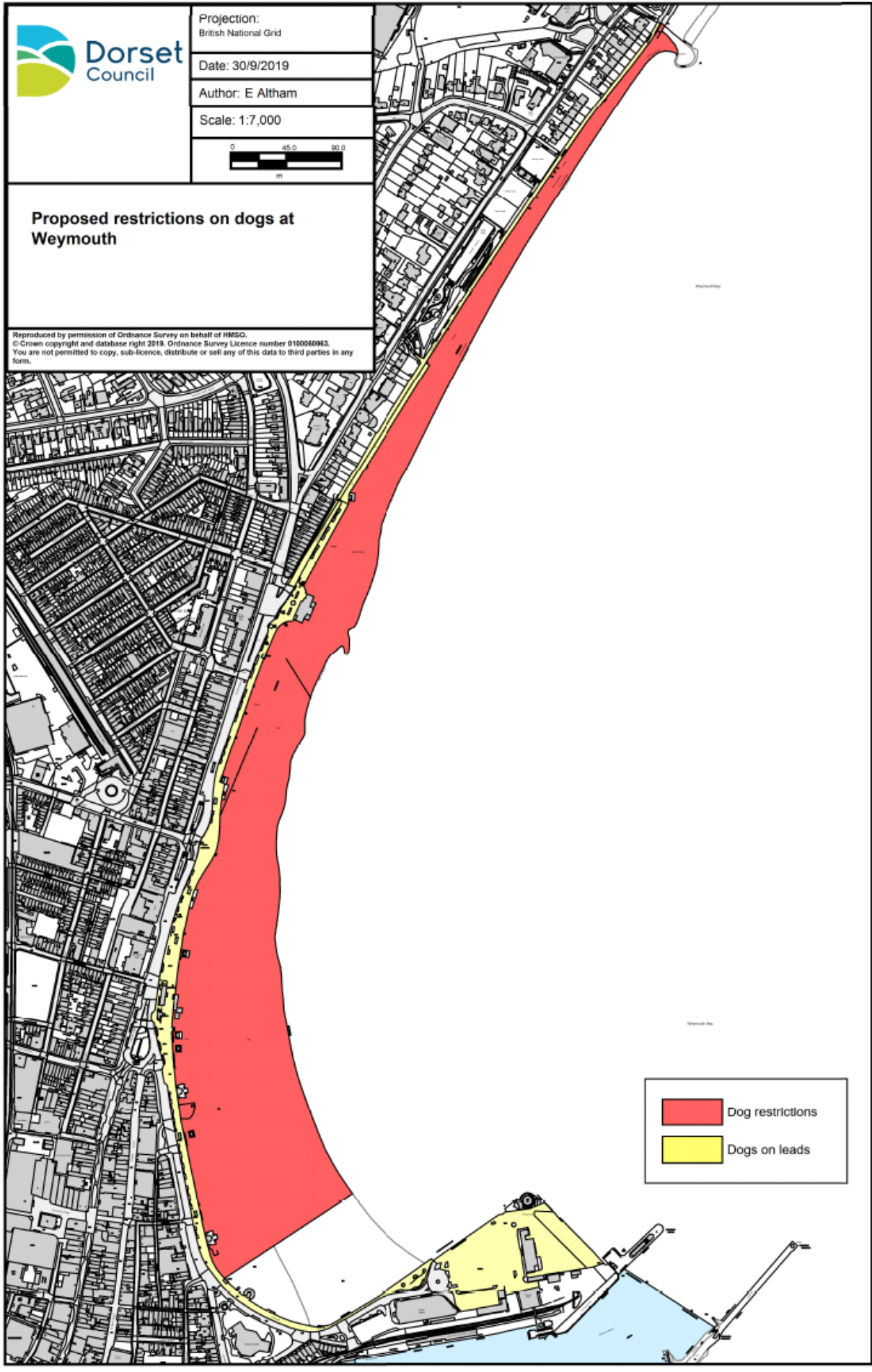
Author: E Altham

Scale: 1:7,000



Proposed restrictions on dogs at Weymouth

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Sample comments

The full comments are available in the appendix.

“Every morning I walk along the esplanade on Weymouth beach to work. Every day dog owners walk ahead while their dogs defecate behind them”

“On the promenade I often have to wait while dog owners pull dogs back who are covering the whole esplanade with very long leads that I can hardly see because of my age. I am scared by this and don't go out at busy times because of it.”

“I have nearly been tripped up several times on Weymouth Esplanade by dogs on long leads. These should be banned completely, and the users seem totally oblivious to the nuisance they cause.”

“I think that where children are around then dogs should be on leads, this means that the esplanade from Weymouth to Overcombe should be included in the yearly PSPO.”

“I am fed up trying to cycle along the esplanade, most dogs are off the lead and wander freely across the path of cyclists and walkers alike.”

“Walking a dog on Weymouth esplanade when there are drug users/ homeless with their aggressive dogs in the shelters is very difficult”

“The restrictions currently applied to the Esplanade, Weymouth, when the road is pedestrianised the restricted area will extend across the street (as shown on map in yellow for Weymouth) need to be reviewed - the area from Greenhill Groyne to the Pier (Al Molos) does not need the lead restriction applied to it. I totally agree that a lead restriction should apply from the pier to the Pavillion especially when dogs are not on the beach in the winter months”

“I did have a dog for 6years, I do have trouble with dogs on leads along the esplanade all year as owners seem to think their dogs can just go anywhere I have nearly been tripped up a few times. Think I'll take a pair of scissors with me this summer! Trouble is it's not to dogs it's the OWNERS who need training” .

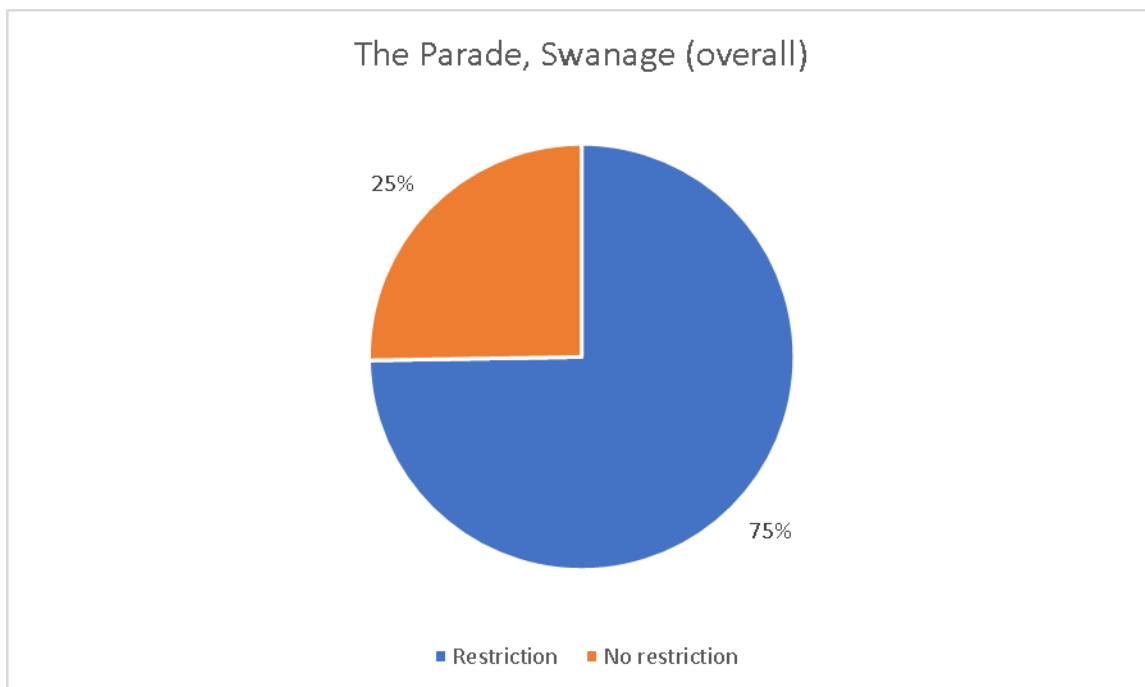
Q. The Parade, and associated roads leading to The Parade and the beach, Swanage (as shown on Map in yellow for Swanage) – dogs on lead restriction?

Overall responses	Restriction to be applied	No restriction
Number	4,801	1,622
% of all who responded	75%	25%

In this location the overall responses show a majority in favour of having a “dogs on lead” restriction in this area by a significant margin, with 75% supporting the suggestion. 64% of dog owners themselves felt a restriction was acceptable whilst 92% of non-dog owners felt there should be one. Visitors who responded (generally dog owners) were also in support of a restriction with 65% in favour.

76% of disabled respondents supported a restriction.

Swanage Town Council support a “dogs on leads” restriction in this area.

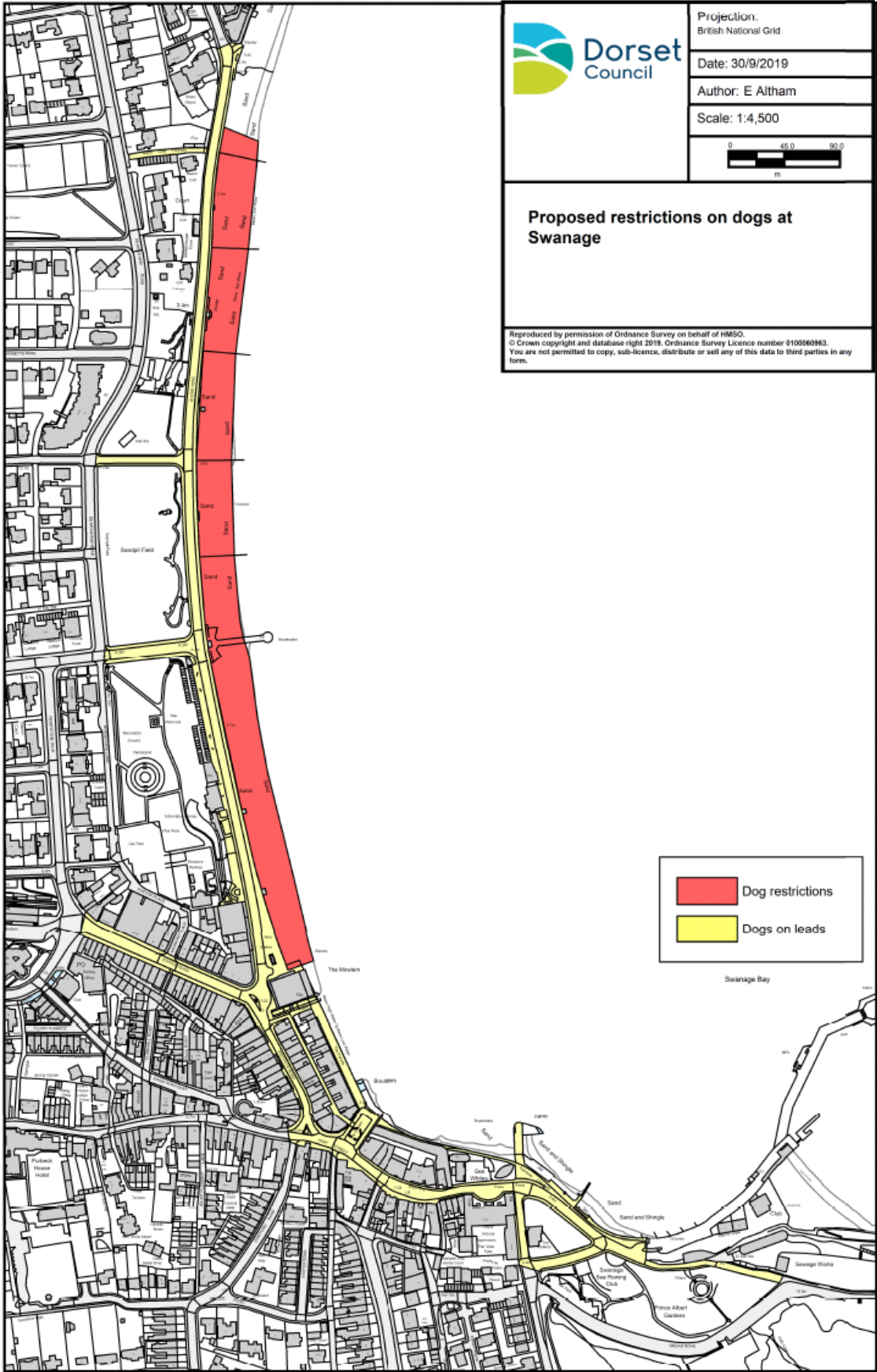


Official Organisational Responses -, Dorset Highways, Dorset Waste Partnership, The Pet Industry Federation, The Friends of Rodwell Trail and Sandsfoot Castle Gardens, Natural

England and Dorset Police, all agreed with the dogs on leads proposal for The Parade, and associated roads leading to The Parade and the beach, Swanage

Dog Friendly Weymouth and Portland and Durlston Country Park disagreed with the proposal.

Dorset Dogs said “This is an extensive area, dogs on lead restriction would be appropriate by busy traffic and parking areas but may be unnecessarily restrictive away from such areas apart from at the busiest times of year.”



Sample comments

The full comments are available in the appendix.

“As a responsible dog owner & lifelong visitor to Swanage, I visit every year during the September half term, not just because we love Swanage, but because it is the most welcoming seaside destination to dogs and owners.”

“In some area shown on the maps e.g. Swanage I feel the restricted areas are too wide. I believe dogs should be on lead on all roads and in all car parks but not necessarily to extend to the sea front. Unfortunately not all dog owners are responsible.”

“Dog fouling has become a real problem in Swanage. It needs closer monitoring and harsher consequences of not cleaning up after your animal”

“I love dogs, but the level of dog poo on Swanage streets has increased, its disgusting, especially if you are walking at night”

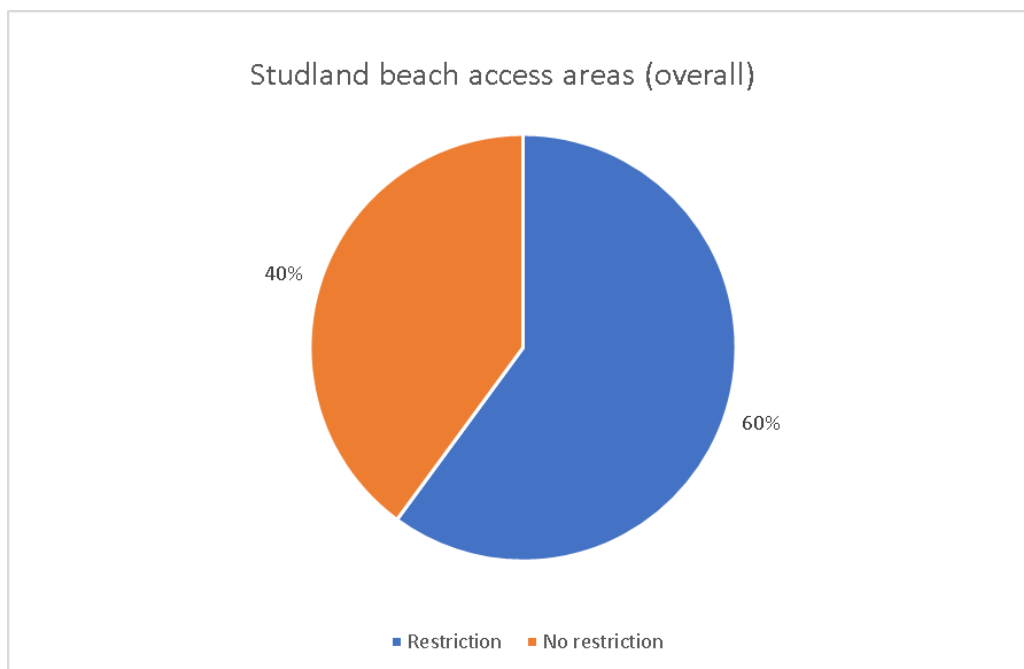
“Where there is a public footpath or a public right of way or means of access to a beach a dog should at the very minimum be on a lead. My wife and I have on several occasions been knocked and unsettled by dogs that have been released by their owners at the top of Sheps Hollow Swanage to excitedly race down the footway to the beach..

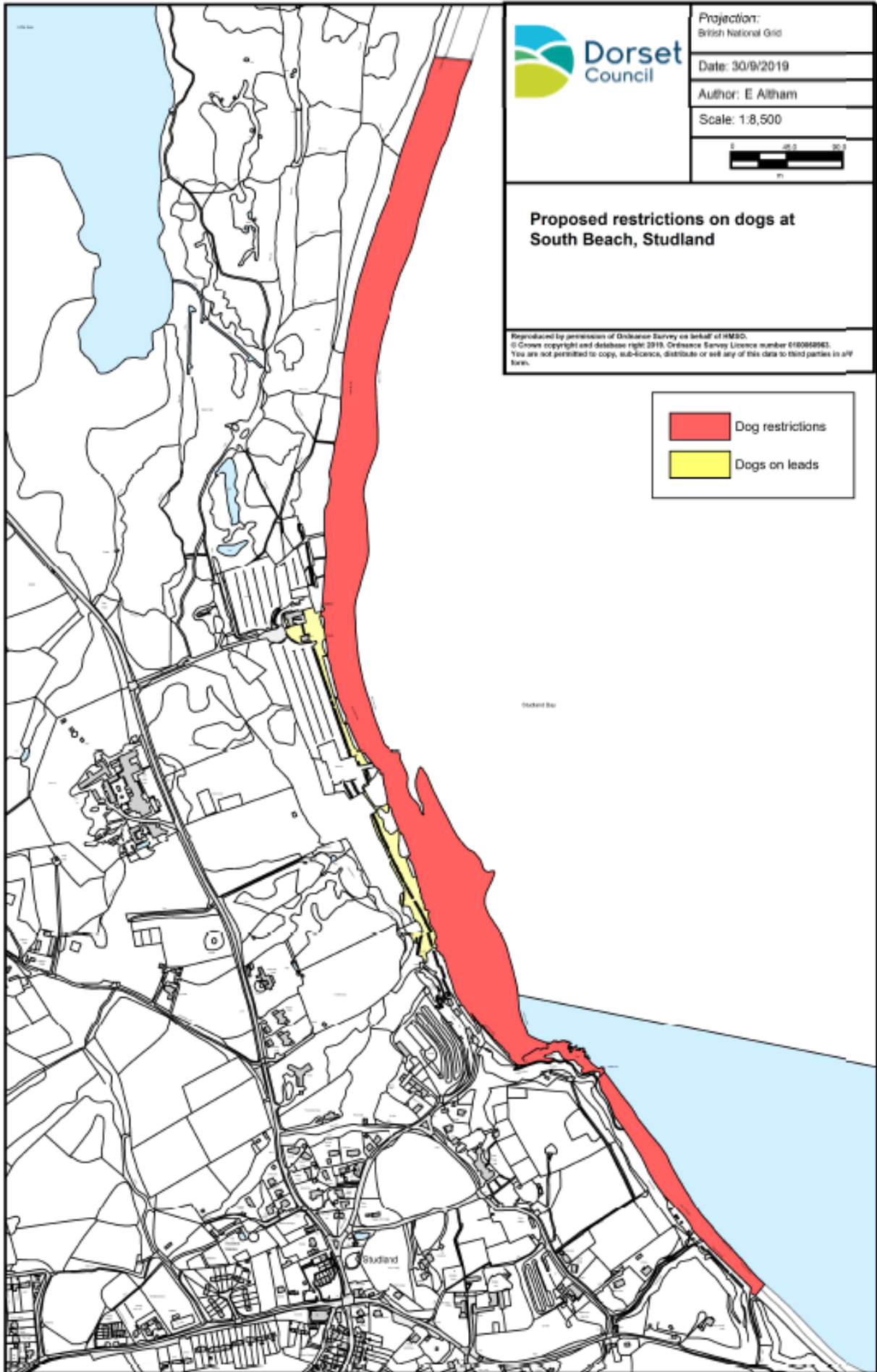
Q. Access to Studland Beach from the car park, including the car park and staircases leading on to the beach, Studland (as shown on Map in yellow for Studland) – dogs on lead restriction?

Overall responses	Restriction to be applied	No restriction
Number	4,262	2,831
% of all who responded	60%	40%

In this location the overall responses show a majority in favour of having a “dogs on lead” restriction on the access to Studland beach from the car park, including the car park and staircases leading on to the beach by a significant margin, with 60% supporting the suggestion. Only 45% of dog owners themselves felt a restriction was acceptable whilst 87% of non-dog owners felt there should be one. Visitors who responded (generally dog owners) were neutral about restriction with no majority either way.

63% of disabled respondents supported a restriction.





Official Organisational Responses -, Dorset Dogs, Dorset Highways, Dorset Waste Partnership, The Pet Industry Federation, The Friends of Rodwell Trail and Sandsfoot Castle Gardens, Natural England and Dorset Police, all agreed with the dogs on leads proposal for Access to Studland Beach from the car park, including the car park and staircases leading on to the beach, Studland

Dog Friendly Weymouth and Portland and The Pet Industry Federation disagreed with the proposal.

Dorset Dogs said "The map describes the area as South Beach, looking at the areas in yellow it looks like the Knoll Beach & Middle Beach area, dogs on leads in the car park area is supported."

Sample comments

The full comments are available in the appendix.

"Dogs should be allowed off lead on Studland Beach all year round apart from Knoll beach, National Trust cafe & car parks in summer when 2 metre leads are appropriate."

"I would agree that dogs should be on a lead from the car parks to beach area and I agree that dogs off lead should be restricted by calendar on small busy beaches such as at Swanage. However, dogs must have the space to exercise and therefore keeping Studland beach and Shell Bay beach for example, unrestricted but monitored by wardens is very important."

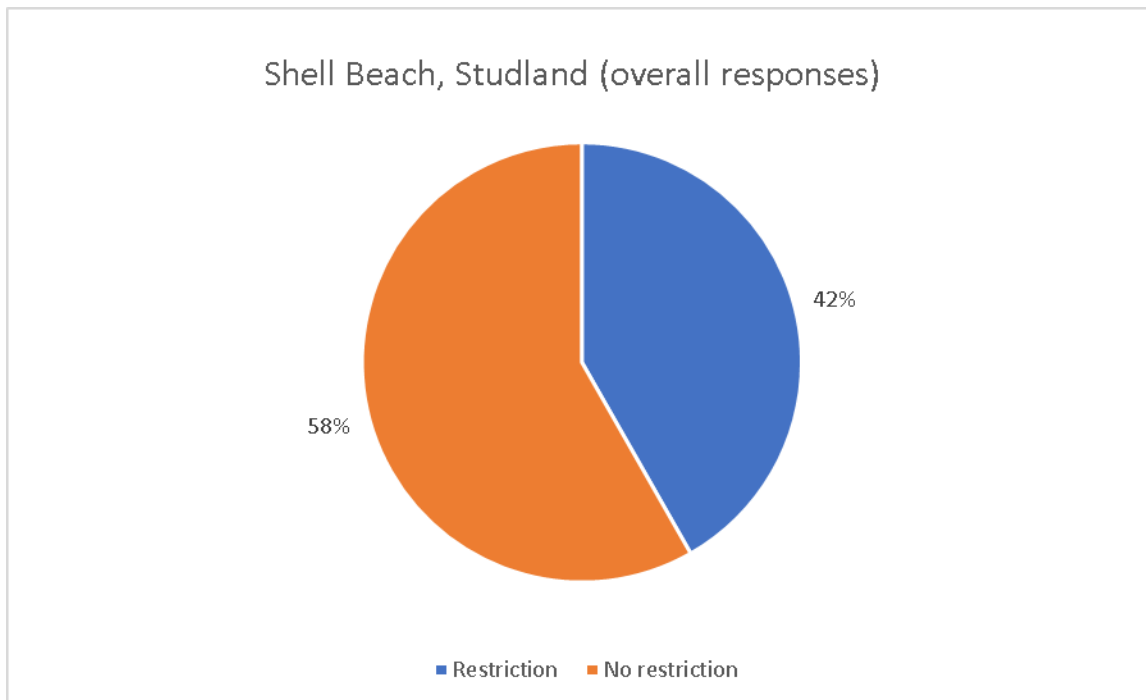
"I do believe that dogs should be on a lead on roads, pavements and car parks but in the case of studland I believe once out of the car park area it is safe to let dogs off. Of course common sense should always be applied. I think it should be acknowledged that dog walkers are by far the largest group of people who use and enjoy the beaches during the colder months of the year, rain or shine."

**Q. Shell Bay Beach, Studland (as shown on map in yellow for Shell Bay Beach)
– dogs on lead restriction?**

Overall responses	Restriction to be applied	No restriction
Number	2,883	4,021
% of all who responded	42%	58%

In this location the overall responses show a majority in favour of not having “dogs on lead” restriction in the Shell beach area at Studland, with 42% supporting the suggestion and 58% opposing it. Only 19% of dog owners themselves felt a restriction was necessary but 80% of non-dog owners still felt there should be one. Visitors who responded (generally dog owners) were against a restriction with only 23% in favour.

42% of disabled respondents supported a restriction.





Projection:
British National Grid

Date: 30/9/2019

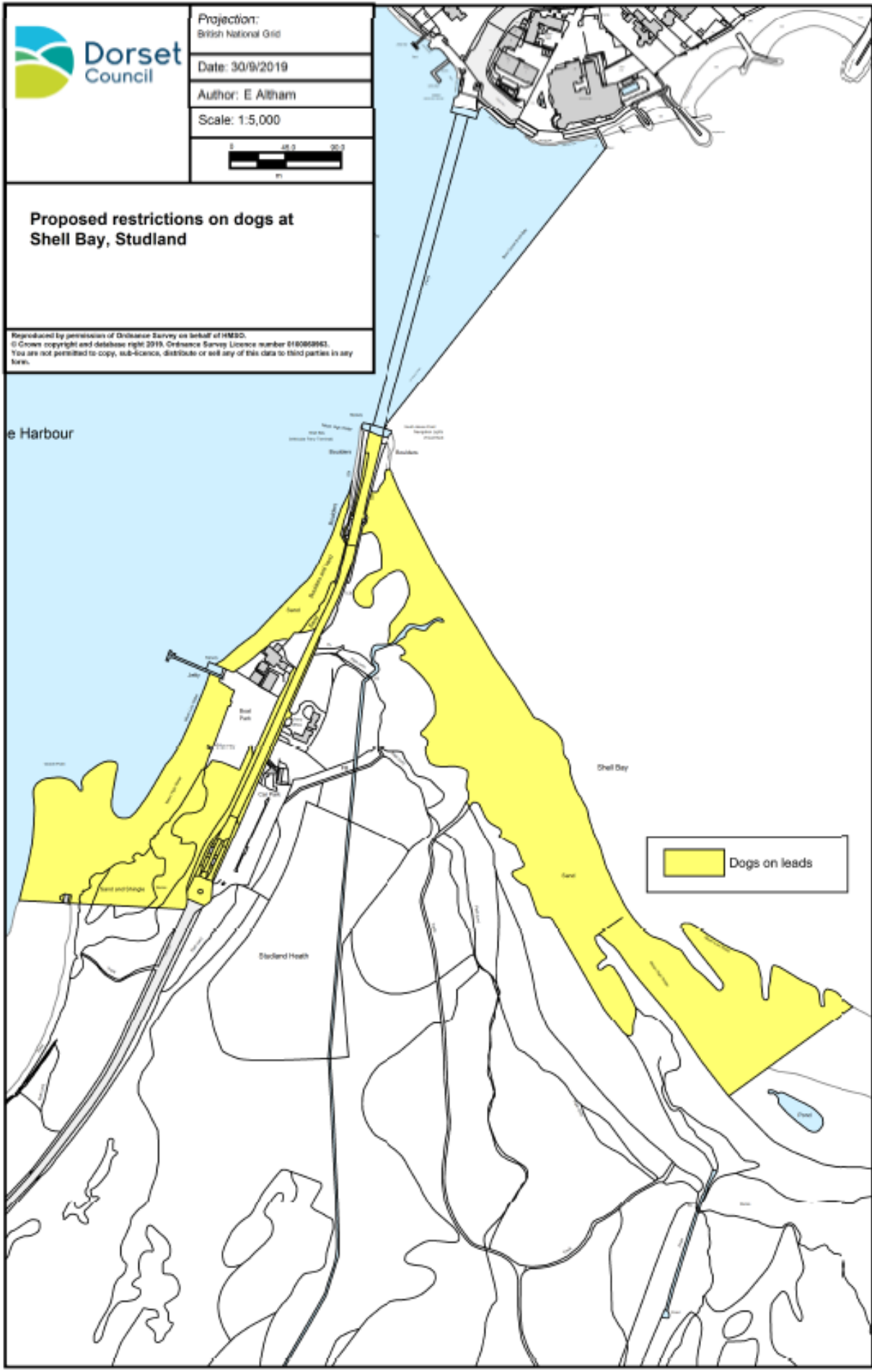
Author: E Altham

Scale: 1:5,000



Proposed restrictions on dogs at Shell Bay, Studland

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Official Organisational Responses -, The Friends of Rodwell Trail and Sandsfoot Castle Gardens, Natural England and Dorset Police, all agreed with the dogs on leads proposal for Shell Bay Beach, Studland

Dorset Waste Partnership, Dog Friendly Weymouth and Portland and The Pet Industry Federation disagreed with the proposal.

Dorset Dogs said “Need to see this in the wider context –ideally a dog-friendly all year round off-lead beach should be available at Studland somewhere to take pressure off nearby heathland and downland with vulnerable rare wildlife and grazing animals and allow both local people and holidaymakers the opportunity to enjoy the beach with their dogs and make enforcement easier in other zones. This would not necessarily need to be at Shell Bay, it’s worth mentioning that the area shown does have vulnerable bird populations at migration and overwintering times.

Sample comments

The full comments are available in the appendix.

“This survey does not appear to consider the impact of dogs off the lead on wildlife at all. A lot of birds migrate to Dorset to over Winter and are currently under constant disturbance, preventing them from feeding and therefore threatening their survival. Some sensitive beach areas such as Shell Bay, Brands Bay, etc should have dogs off the lead excluded at all times of the year. Happy for dogs to use them (as long as waste is cleared up) but they should be on a lead at all times. This is now needed due to the massive increase in the number of pet dogs that are now owned.”

“In relation to Studland Beach including Shell Bay there is an issue over wading birds and dogs off of leads during the winter months. Wading birds need places to rest up during the high tide .Pilot's Point is one of these places but the birds are constantly disturbed by dogs all along this beach. This causes birds to use up energy flying off when they can ill afford to do so particularly mid winter. I would like to see the area around Pilot's Point have a restriction of dogs on leads owing to the large numbers of dogs that are exercised on these beaches.”

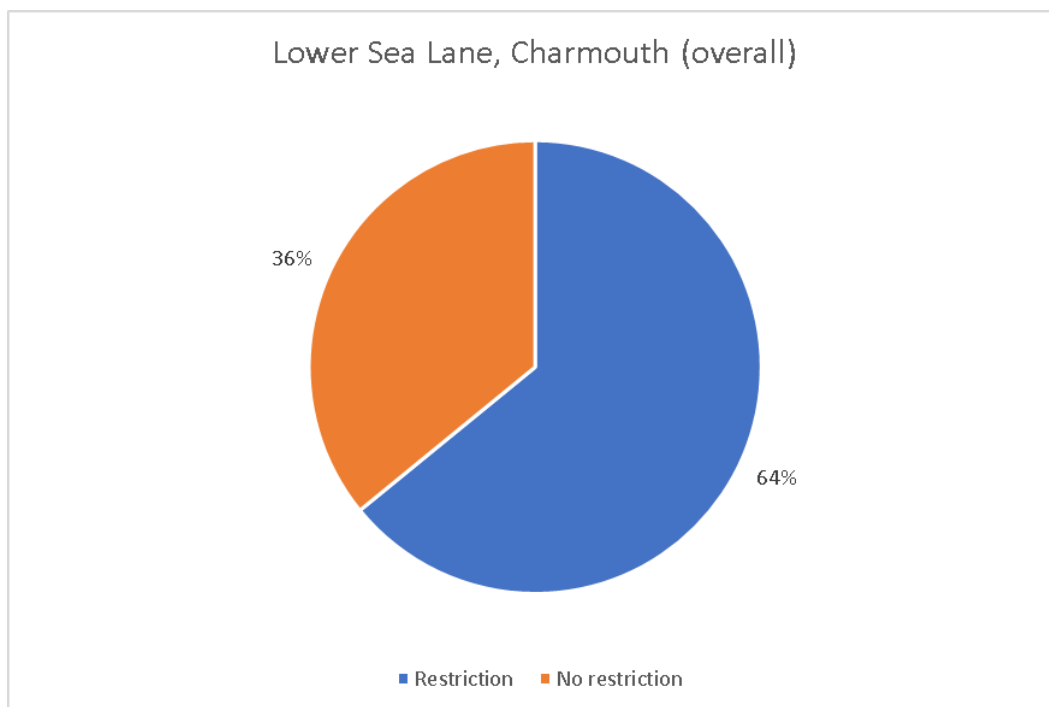
“why not make some beaches restricted and some not? Shell beach and the rest of Studland is an undeveloped beach (compared to bournemouth/sandbanks). Why does it need restrictions?”

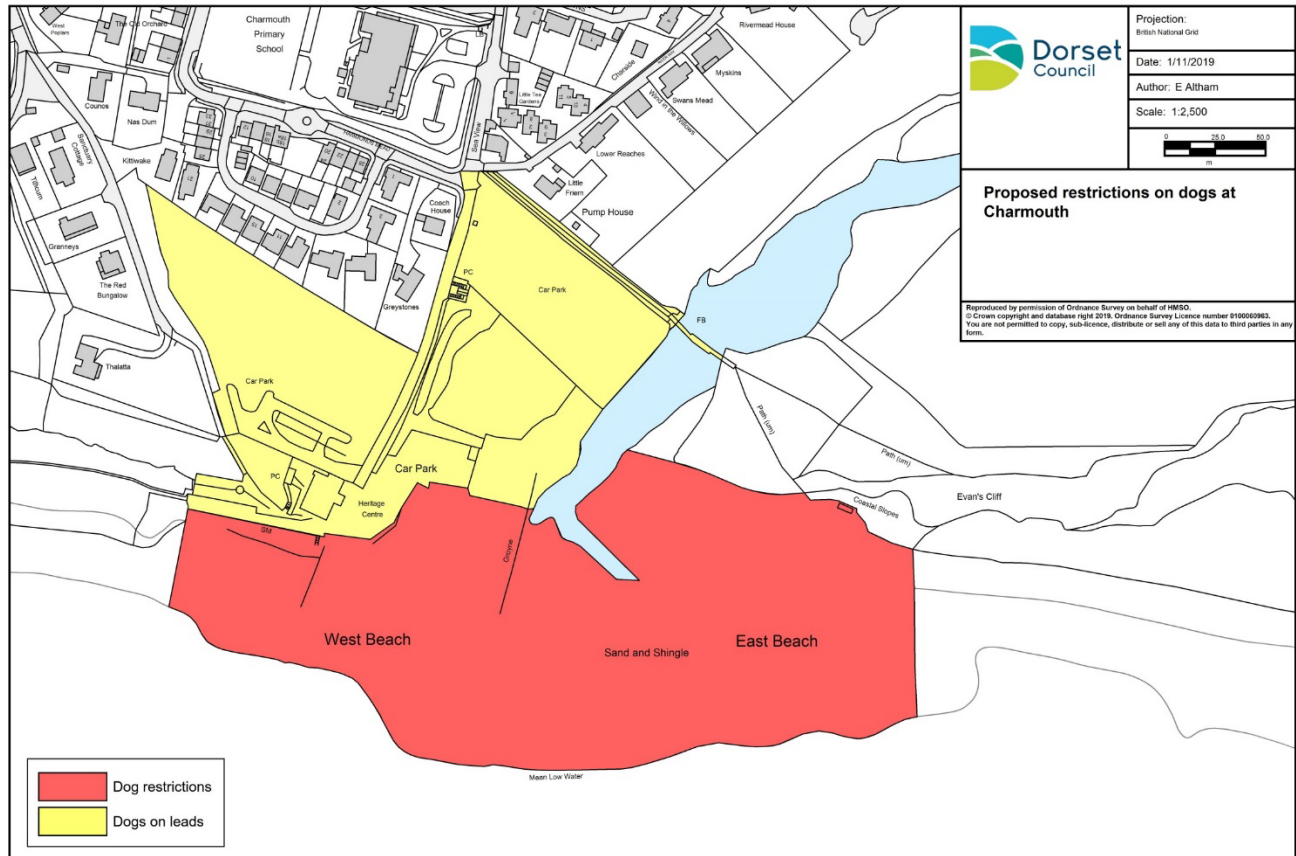
Q. Lower Sea Lane from the car park access, including the 3 car parks off Lower Sea Lane close to the beach, the footpath leading to the beach including the bridge and paths adjacent to the heritage centre (as shown on map in yellow for Charmouth beach) – dogs on lead restriction?

Overall responses	Restriction to be applied	No restriction
Number	3,926	2,185
% of all who responded	64%	36%

In this location the overall responses show a majority in favour of having a “dogs on lead” restriction in this area with 64% supporting the suggestion. Only 49% of dog owners themselves felt a restriction was acceptable whilst 88% of non-dog owners felt there should be one. Visitors who responded (generally dog owners) were also in support of a restriction with 52% in favour, but with a minimal majority.

63% of disabled respondents supported a restriction.





Official Organisational Responses -, Dorset Highways, The Friends of Rodwell Trail and Sandsfoot Castle Gardens, Natural England and Dorset Police, all agreed with the dogs on leads proposal for Lower Sea Lane from the car park access, including the 3 car parks off Lower Sea Lane close to the beach, the footpath leading to the beach including the bridge and paths adjacent to the heritage centre.

Dorset Waste Partnership, Dog Friendly Weymouth and Portland and The Pet Industry Federation disagreed with the proposal.

Dorset Dogs said “Dogs on lead supported in the car park areas”

Sample comments

The full comments are available in the appendix.

“I feel it is vital that all dogs are kept on leads whilst on public highways. As a driver I find it terrifying to be confronted by an unleashed dog which could cause an accident. I feel that the current restrictions in Charmouth are fair. I would prefer to see dogs on leads, especially in car parks and roads and bridges on the way to the beaches. Too many dog owners feel that they can let their dog out of their car and the dog is then allowed to run wild. Dogs do not have manners!”

“The Charmouth map shows both beaches in red could be restricted to dogs, suggesting anyone with a dog would only have access to the Heritage Centre, cafe and car parks, for me that would mean never visiting Charmouth. For welfare and security reasons it would be irresponsible for me to leave my dog in the car and there isn't enough at the Heritage Centre to make a trip worthwhile if going to the beach isn't an option.”

“The reason I, and many others specifically visit Lyme Regis and Charmouth is because they are so dog friendly, I spend money in both towns , I feel that the shops etc. would loose out if it changes in anyway with regards to dogs on beaches .”

“Having visited Charmouth beach, completely agree with dogs on lead in car park and over the bridge. It is owners and uncontrolled/ untrained dogs who are the problem. Maybe signs about responsible dog etiquette e.g. don't allow your dog to run up to other people or dogs on leads. If can't control it, then put on lead. The promenade areas at the top of town beaches are far too hot to walk dogs on a sunny day. Please find a better balance. We would love to come back to visit the area and visit our friends!”

“ Why should dogs have to be on leads on the path from Lower Sea lane to the Green, or when let out of a car in the car park? I happen to keep mine on a lead if there are people about. It is for owners to be responsible”

Q. The portion of the beaches beyond the suggested restricted beach areas to Charmouth Parish boundary (as shown on map for Charmouth beach) – dogs on lead restriction?

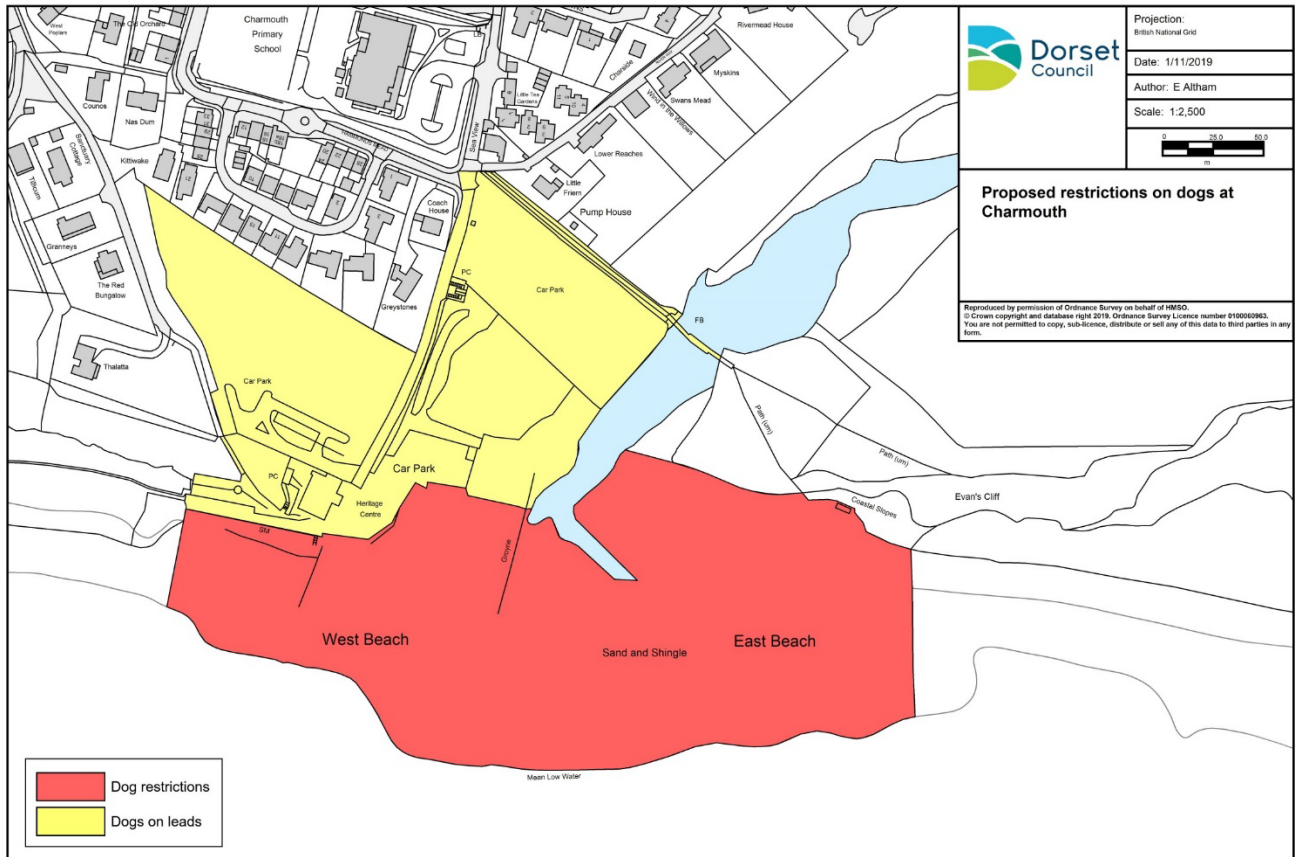
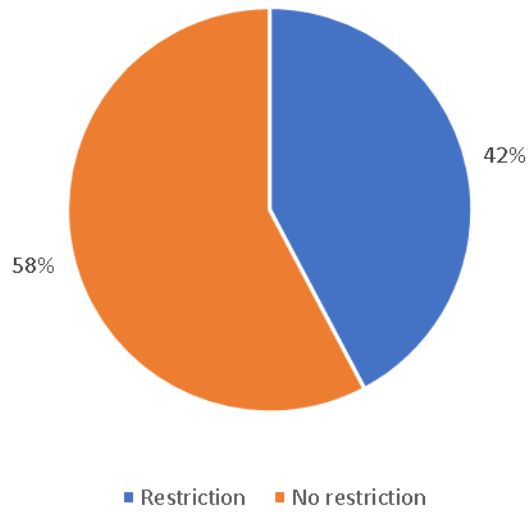
Overall responses	Restriction to be applied	No restriction
Number	2,552	3,468
% of all who responded	42%	58%

In this location the overall responses show a majority against having a “dogs on lead” restriction in this area with 42% supporting the suggestion and 58% opposing it. Only 20% of dog owners themselves felt a restriction was acceptable whilst 80% of non-dog owners felt there should still be a restriction. Visitors who responded (generally dog owners) were also against a restriction with only 20% in favour.

39% of disabled respondents supported a restriction.

Dorset Dogs said “that boundary isn’t shown on the layout map but cross-referencing it to a map that shows the parish boundary this looks like an extensive area which may prevent any off-lead zones being available. It will normally always be preferable to have areas that are available for the many dog owners to use off-lead areas alongside those areas where dogs cannot run free, and this will be more effective as people will be more likely to feel this is a fair and balanced management, making enforcement easier and reducing the likelihood of concentrating pressure onto a small number of dog-friendly beaches or of people ignoring the restrictions.”

Portion of Charmouth beaches (overall)



Official Organisational Responses -, Dorset Waste Partnership and The Friends of Rodwell Trail and Sandsfoot Castle Gardens agreed with the dogs on leads proposal for the portion of the beaches beyond the suggested restricted beach areas to Charmouth Parish boundary

Dorset Dogs, Dog Friendly Weymouth and Portland, Natural England, Dorset Police and The Pet Industry Federation disagreed with the proposal.

Dorset Dogs said “that boundary isn’t shown on the layout map but cross-referencing it to a map that shows the parish boundary this looks like an extensive area which may prevent any off-lead zones being available. It will normally always be preferable to have areas that are available for the many dog owners to use off-lead areas alongside those areas where dogs cannot run free, and this will be more effective as people will be more likely to feel this is a fair and balanced management, making enforcement easier and reducing the likelihood of concentrating pressure onto a small number of dog-friendly beaches or of people ignoring the restrictions.”

Sample comments

The full comments are available in the appendix.

“As a resident of Charmouth, a business owner and a dog owner I feel the proposed restrictions to Charmouth beach is too excessive and could have a detrimental effect on visitor numbers to the area. My business relies on holiday footfall and as the local caravan and camping sites allow dogs it way well put people off from visiting. I also enjoy walking our dogs on the beach in the morning and or evening and although I keep away during busy summer months it is a very practical and healthy space for dogs and walkers alike. Please consider keeping the existing restrictions and not the longer proposed ban.”

“Dog owners from across the uk visit Charmouth with their dogs and enjoy the freedom of exercising their dogs on the beach! If this freedom is taken away from them then they will stop coming! Be very careful as these tourists keep our village and the businesses within in the village viable!”

“I regularly walk on Charmouth's east beach and it is not unusual to be assaulted by an unrestrained dog which jumps up, licks or tugs at my clothes. On some occasions I have been scratched by claws and had holes made in garments. If a child did this it would make the news.”

“As a very frequent visitor to Lyme Regis, Charmouth, Seatown, and West Bay always with my pet dog. We spend an enormous amount of time on the beaches for play, walks and exercise. Any restrictions would mean that sadly we would look for alternative places to visit”

Dog Exclusion Areas

Marked sports pitches and recreation areas:

Some of the existing PSPOs currently exclude dogs from public areas clearly marked 'No dogs' (or words/symbols to that effect). Public areas suggested are skateboard parks, tennis and basketball courts, bowling and putting greens, other fenced (or otherwise enclosed) play parks, sporting or recreational facilities, athletics tracks, and MARKED sports pitch playing surfaces.

Q. Would you like to see this continued?

Overall responses	Yes - I think dogs should be excluded from all of these areas	No - I think dogs should be kept on a lead but not excluded	No - I think there should be no restrictions	Don't know
Number	4,737	3,450	358	32
% of all who responded	55.2%	40.2%	4.2%	0.4%

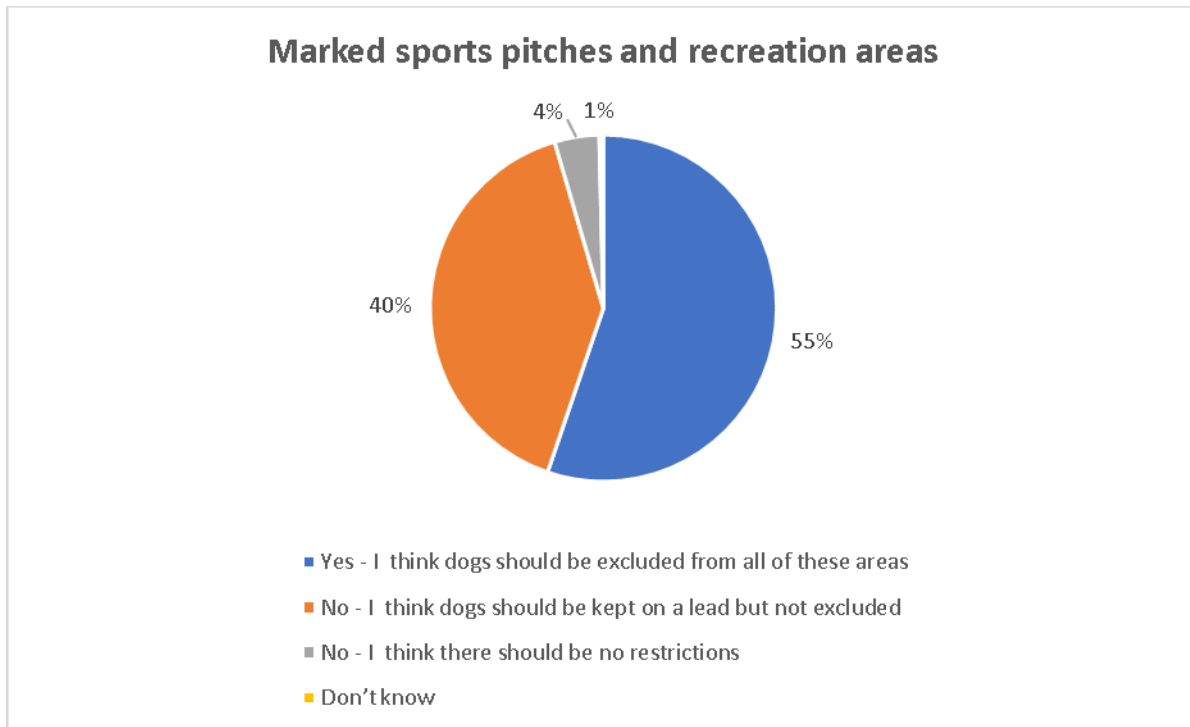
55% of overall responses support excluding dogs from all these areas.

However, there is also considerable support (40%) for not excluding dogs but having a requirement of the dogs being kept on a lead. There is very little support for no restrictions. Dog owners support for the use of leads (53%) rather than excluding dogs completely (40%). Non-dog owners (81%) are much keener on dogs being excluded, but 17% of them feel dogs being kept on leads would be appropriate.

40% of visitors supported this proposal to exclude dogs whilst 53% thought having dogs on leads sufficient. Parish councils often own and manage these facilities, so this is a big issue for them. 79% of parish councils responding supported this proposal to exclude dogs. Councillors were quite split on this question with 51% agreeing with excluding dogs whilst 49% thought a lead was sufficient. Disabled were quite split on the issue with 47% in favour of a ban and 46% though dogs on lead was acceptable.

20 of the parish/town councils responding thought dogs should be excluded from these areas. Of the town councils responding all supporting excluding dogs from these areas except Corfe Mullen (no restrictions) and Wimborne Minster (dogs on leads but not restricted).

“In respect of the requirement for dogs to be on leads within 5m of sports pitches, this will clearly require any specified lead length to be less than 5m. Weymouth Town Council feel that the perceived current enforcement practice of written and verbal warnings is not felt to be appropriate. Enforcement practices should be more robust with a zero-tolerance approach being taken, particularly when relating to areas such as children’s play areas and sports pitches. An instant fine should be issued.”



Official Organisational Responses - Dorset Highways, The Friends of Rodwell Trail and Sandsfoot Castle Gardens, The Pet Industry Federation, Natural England and West Dorset Cycling all agreed with the prohibition of dogs in the following suggested area including skateboard parks, tennis and basketball courts, bowling and putting greens, other fenced (or otherwise enclosed) play parks, sporting or recreational facilities, athletics tracks, and MARKED sports pitch playing surfaces.

Dorset Dogs, Dorset Waste Partnership, Dorset Police, Durlston Country Park, Dog Friendly Weymouth and Portland and The Pet Industry Federation thought dogs should not be excluded but kept on a lead.

Dorset Dogs said “Kept on a lead but not excluded in most of these cases would be preferable, but being such a wide range of facilities it wouldn’t be effective to apply one rule in all these cases, there should always be a clear reason for restriction that can be explained. With regard to ‘sporting or recreational facilities...and marked sports pitch playing surfaces’ – exclusion from some facilities described by this inclusion may be appropriate but is open to very wide interpretation, more detail is necessary to be able to comment, it may be exclusion is appropriate at some areas of this type but not others, or at some times but not at others. It’s important that if exclusion is applied there is suitable alternative provision in the locality, either existing or newly provided by the time any exclusion is brought in, especially if new exclusion

is being brought in at places where local people have been able to have access previously and this is now being denied. Enclosed play parks where dogs are not permitted should be available to ensure children can run around loudly safely, (although additional alternative options of unfenced play equipment where families can also go, with their dogs on lead, would be good, as many families do have dogs and limited time).”

Sample comments

The full comments are available in the appendix.

“I believe enclosed or fenced sports areas should not permit dogs, however MARKED sports areas not enclosed should be open for dogs, these pitches are used at short limited times only.”

dog fouling in areas where children play or on or near sports pitches is dangerous as it cannot be guaranteed that everything will be cleared up by the owner (some of whom do not bother anyway).

Dogs should be kept off marked sports pitches when training or a game is in progress and an hour before by notice.

In regards to restrictions around sports pitches. Many of these pitches are not used for a large period of time and so dogs on leads restriction should be better served only when they are in use. This could also apply to enclosed courts which when not in use make ideal places to train dogs (in the absence of other enclosures specifically designed for dogs).

“When you say marked sports pitches I don’t think that should include football and cricket pitches unless they are in use.”

“Recreation grounds are becoming ‘taken over ‘ by ‘marked sports pitches’ preventing people from being able to adequately train, exercise and socialise their dogs. We run the risk of having the recognised problems spiral out of control.”

“I agree that dogs should not be allowed on marked sports pitches. As a dog owner but also a parent of children who play rugby I am appalled at the amount of fouling left on pitches. However the proposed ban on dogs within 5m of marked pitches is too big a boundary: many of the sports fields local to me (Wimborne, Ferndown) do not have a 5m perimeter to them. This would also mean that I could not take my dog with me when watching my kids play - which might mean they are unable to take part in this important exercise activity as sometimes their tournaments last all day and I cannot leave the dog alone all day. Also some pitches are marked up all season but not actually used all year! Ban dogs from the actual sports pitches yes, but not from the perimeters”.

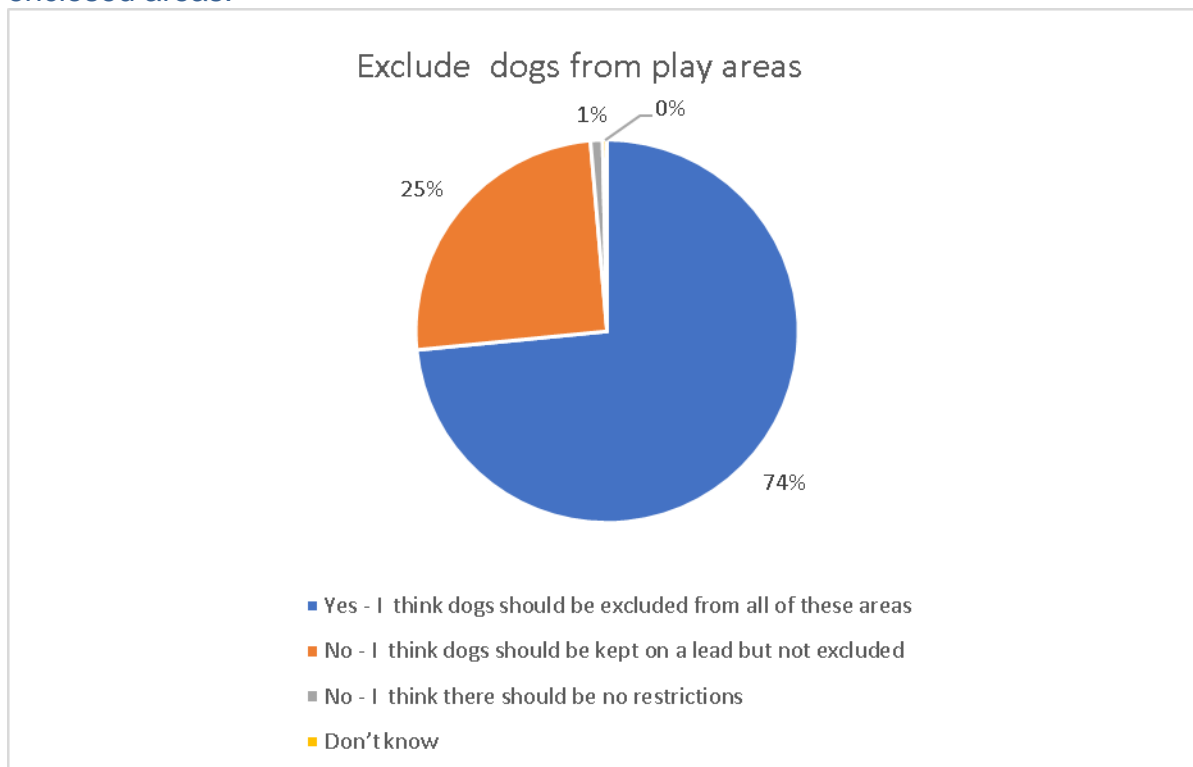
I think rules about dogs on leads near sports pitches should only apply when the pitches are in use. It is most unfair to have a public facility that may be used for a couple of hours a week by a small interest group that excludes dog-owners and their dogs at all other times.

Some of the existing PSPOs currently exclude dogs from enclosed children's play areas marked as 'No dogs' (or words/symbols to that effect).

Q. Would you like to see this continued?

Overall responses	Yes - I think dogs should be excluded from all of these areas	No - I think dogs should be kept on a lead but not excluded	No - I think there should be no restrictions	Don't know
Number	6,356	2,103	87	30
% of all who responded	74.1%	24.5%	1.0%	0.3%

At 74% from overall responses there is strong support for excluding dogs from all these enclosed areas.



However, there is also support (25%) for not excluding dogs but having a requirement of the dogs being kept on a lead. There is very little support for no restrictions.

Dog owners responses show there is still overall support (66%) for excluding dogs rather than the use of leads (32%). Non-dog owners (81%) are much keener on dogs being excluded, with only 17% of them feeling dogs being kept on leads would be appropriate.

65% of visitors (mostly dog owners themselves) supported this proposal to exclude dogs from play areas. Parish councils often own and manage these facilities, so this is a big issue for them. 92% of parish councils responding supported this proposal to exclude dogs. Councillors were more split on this question with 73% agreeing with excluding dogs whilst 27% thought using a lead was enough. Disabled respondents (70%) supported excluding dogs from play areas.

A theme established in the general comments was that for families with children who owned a dog a family trip to the play area became a difficult and often unachievable because the dog couldn't go along too. For these people to go along with the dog on a lead would make a big difference.

Official Organisational Responses -, Dorset Highways, Dorset waste Partnership, Dorset Police, Durlston Country Park, The Friends of Rodwell Trail and Sandsfoot Castle Gardens, The Pet Industry Federation, Natural England , West Dorset Cycling, Dog Friendly Weymouth and Portland and The Pet Industry Federation all agreed to exclude dogs from enclosed children's play areas marked as 'No dogs' (or words/symbols to that effect

Dorset Dogs said "Enclosed play parks where dogs are not permitted should be available to ensure children can run around loudly safely and clear signage should be in place to show this, although alternative options of play parks or pieces of play equipment where families can also go, with their dogs on lead, would be good, as many families do have dogs and limited time. Dog-proof fencing is the obvious way to show the distinction combined with signs that show clearly 'no dogs' or 'dogs allowed on lead' for unfenced equipment; the latter is important as well as the former. Making clear where dogs can go is as important as making clear where they cannot and should be provided alongside information about restrictions wherever practicable, and will aid enforcement."

Sample comments

The full comments are available in the appendix.

"Banning dogs from eg children's play areas results in distressed dogs being tied up outside, much better for them to be on lead with their owners."

"With children's enclosed play areas it's really difficult for parents with small children and a dog because you can't safely tie your dog up outside the park (dog theft is on the rise) so it would be great to be able to take your dog in with you, but always on a lead, for the benefit of children less comfortable with dogs, and perhaps there should be rules such as: only if you have both a dog & child with you, and you can be fined if you don't keep your dog under control. As someone with a physical limitation it is difficult to go out for 2 walks a day, one with dog and one just to the park with child, but I can't combine due to current play park restrictions of dog presence."

"As a dog owner and also caring for my two year old grandson, it would be nice to go into the play areas rather than avoid them due to dog restrictions. Keeping the dog on a lead within the play areas would be really helpful."

"I would like to see more areas that currently exclude dogs to be changed to allow them on leads or close control. A good example is children's play areas where parents have to tie their dogs outside the fenced area

unattended. Dogs in this situation are often distressed and noisy whereas they would be calmer if tied inside the enclosure.”

“Grouping recreational areas with other public spaces such as children's play areas is not appropriate. This catch all question buries one of the most important dog walking areas we have available.”

“I would not want marked pitches to be no dog or only on lead as often these areas are unfenced parts of a larger recreational area and therefore very difficult to enforce, plus pitches are not always marked out for the whole year, but there might be faded markings leading to confusion. Where I work at Corfe Mullen Town Council we have a very large recreation ground and would not want to restrict dogs on pitches as this would cut back the area for dog walking very considerably (we have very many pitches). Same might be the case for athletic tracks, skate parks etc. which are often open to a wider recreational area. Play areas and fenced ball courts would be fine to be no dogs just like children's play areas.”

“I agree that dogs should be excluded from children's play areas but would request that a seating area outside the area could be set aside so that dog owners would be able to both have a dog and watch children in the area.”

“I feel that dogs should be allowed on leads in to children's play areas. I've had a number of occasions where I've not been able to allow my children to play because we had the dog with us and he wasn't allowed in and I wasn't prepared to allow my young children in the playground unattended.”

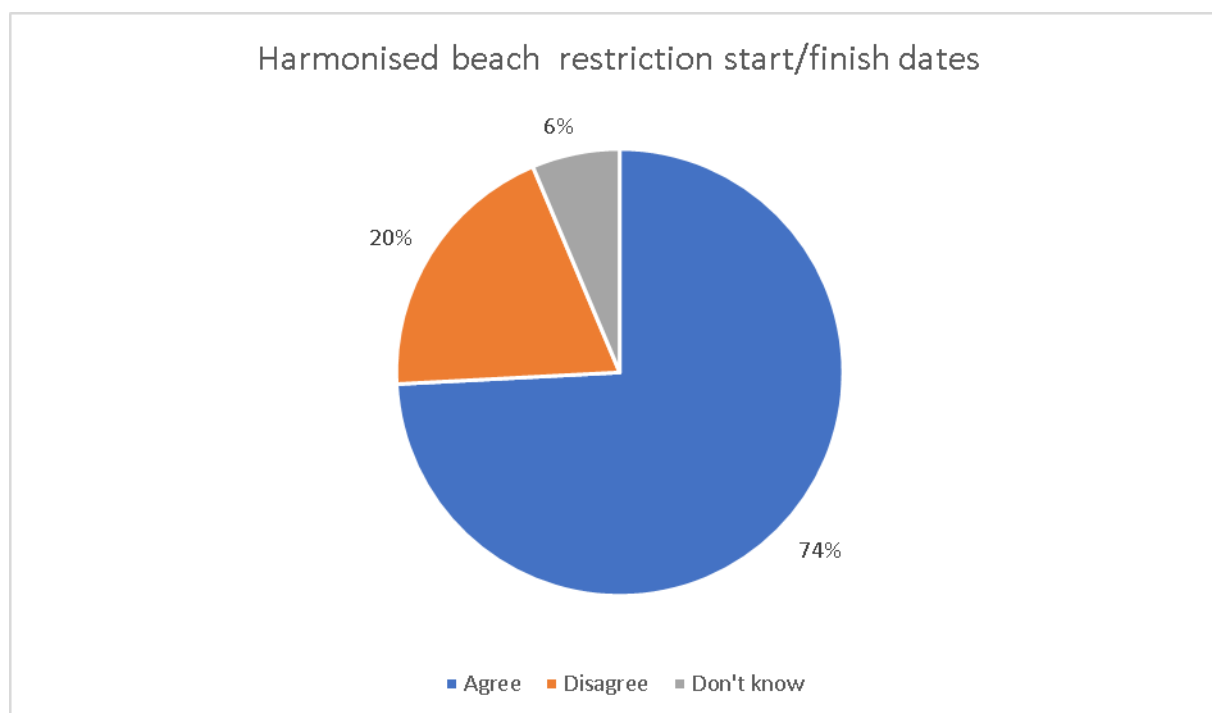
“I'd just like to remind the council of the risk to children's health from dog faeces/worm eggs, allowing them into play areas would be extremely irresponsible.”

Beaches in the area of Dorset Council

The various orders currently stipulate different periods of the calendar when restrictions are applied to named beaches along the Dorset coastline, including 'onlead' requirements and prohibition of dogs from defined areas of beach. It is proposed to harmonise the start and end dates when these restrictions will be applied. This is proposed to make it easier for residents to understand any restrictions and make it simpler to enforce.

Q. Do you agree with this proposal...?

Overall responses	I agree	I disagree	Don't know
Number	6,351	1,671	546
% of all who responded	74.1%	19.5%	6.4%



Overall 74.1% agreed with the proposal to harmonise beach restriction dates and 19.5% disagreed with the suggestion. 6.4% were not sure either way. Hence the proposal was well supported. Looking at the different groups that responded there were some variations, but

they all supported the proposal. Looking at it from a net agreement point of view (higher the positive = higher agreement) the support was as follows:

- Overall +55%
- Dog owners +41%
- Non-dog owners +80%
- Visitors +31%
- Councillors +76%
- Parish Councils +67%

This shows the highest net agreement figure was non-dog owners (+80%) and the lowest Visitors (+31%)

Looking specifically at the responses from residents living in the Dorset Council area there is little deviation from the overall figure. Whilst overall there was 74% support for harmonised beach restrictions the figure from residents was slightly higher at 77%.

Whilst most parish/town councils agreed with the proposals for a harmonised start and end date to any restriction, but the largest town council opposed the idea.

Weymouth Town Council does not support a harmonised approach to any seasonal restriction dates on beaches as this should be a decision for each local community within their relevant areas. Weymouth Town Council strongly feel that the restriction dates for Weymouth Beach revert to the previous arrangements of 1st May to 30th September.

Official Organisational Responses -, Dorset Waste Partnership, Dorset Police, The Friends of Rodwell Trail and Sandsfoot Castle Gardens, The Pet Industry Federation, Dog Friendly Weymouth and Portland and The Pet Industry Federation all agreed to harmonise the start and end dates when these restrictions will be applied.

Natural England disagrees.

Dorset Dogs said "The harmonisation applied should be that the restrictions are reasonable, in that there is a clear reason for restriction being in place at that time at that location, and that the reason can be explained, with clear information given onsite so that people can respect, understand and follow it. If harmonisation is used to mean that a broad range of locations, types of area and times are put together this can result in inappropriate and unnecessary restrictions being in place. This then means that there are negative impacts on the local community, less respect for restrictions in places and at times when they are justified and also displacement of issues to other sites, which may include sites for example where there are vulnerable wildlife or grazing animals. The easiest way for residents to understand restrictions and make it simpler to enforce is if there are clear reasons that can be explained for the restrictions at that locality at that time. If the proposal were to mean that a longer time period for restrictions were to be applied across the board because there is a reason for it at one location that would be counterproductive. As other beaches such as those in the BCP area and private ownership will have different restrictions there isn't necessarily a strong argument for making all of the beaches adhere to the same restrictions regardless of the circumstances or reasons. Local people will soon get to know the dates if these are made

clearly available and visitors on holiday or day tripping are likely to check online before their visits, or using site signs on the day, and these beaches are on quite distinct parts of the coastline and do not run from one to the next geographically. Restriction should again link clearly to a reason. However, if all of these beaches are busy in the summer holidays that would provide a clear reason to provide some dog-free zones and on-lead areas as well as dog-friendly areas during that period at all of these beaches, ensuring people who wish to can enjoy the beach without dogs whilst others can enjoy dog-friendly beach areas. Ensuring a sufficient quantity and quality of dog-friendly beach is available will make it easier to enforce; importantly this should include accessible beach with prom and facilities not just the 'wilder' areas of beach which are difficult for families using pushchairs or people with wheelchairs or mobility limitations. It's currently very noticeable that the areas of dog-friendly beach that are available all year round for dog owners are often those with the least facilities and no prom or similar access backing them, whilst many families with young children or elders have dogs and would benefit from dog-friendly beaches with hard surfacing and facilities in the vicinity."

The proposed beaches are:

Central Beach, Swanage
Charmouth Beaches
Front Town Beach, Lyme Regis
Seatown Beach,
Chideock
Studland Beach, Studland
West Bay – East and West Beaches
Weymouth (Central) Beach

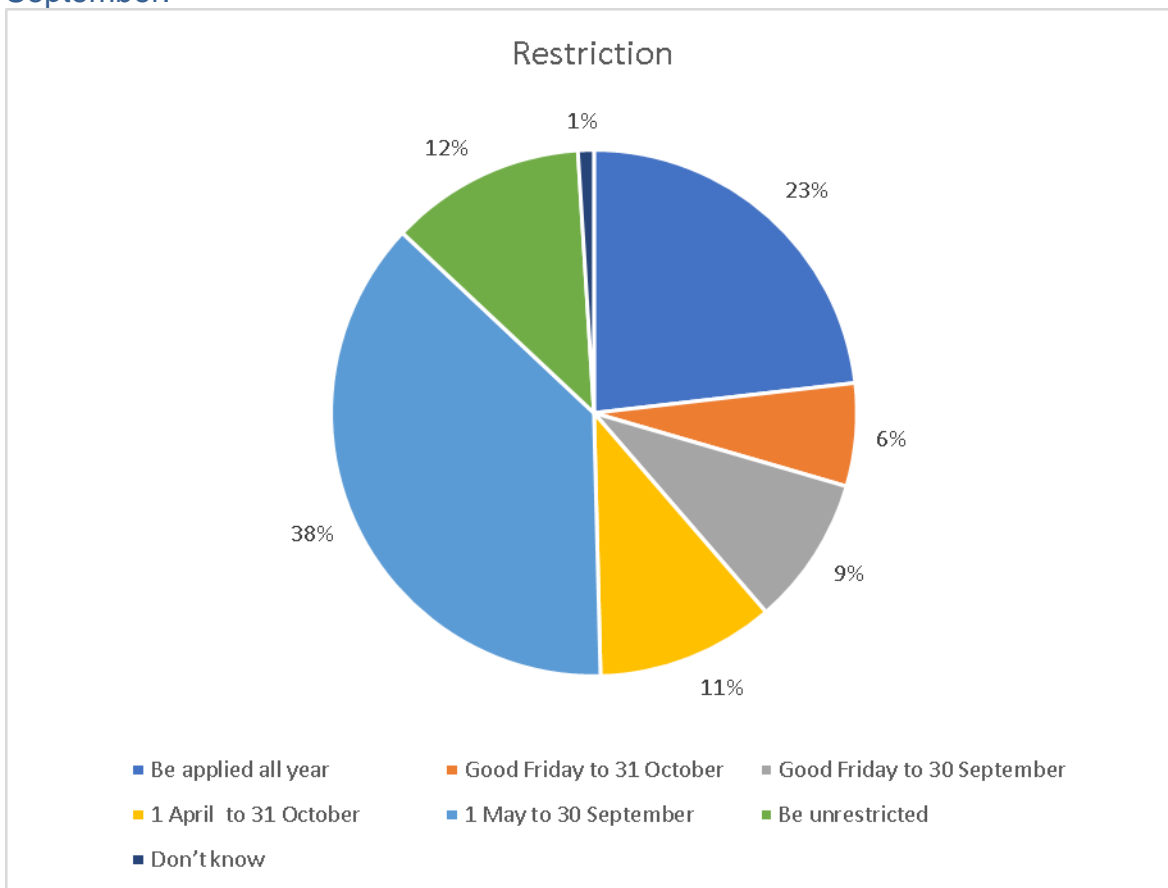
No other beaches will have exclusions or restrictions placed on them by Dorset Council; however private land-owners may wish to apply their own restrictions. Any dog owner using those beaches should abide by any restrictions advertised.

Q. The proposal that dogs be excluded from defined areas of beaches should: Please choose one of the following:

Be applied all year
apply from Good Friday to 31 October
apply from Good Friday to 30 September
apply from 1 April to 31 October
apply from 1 May to 30 September
be unrestricted
Don't know

Overall responses	Be applied all year	Good Friday to 31 October	Good Friday to 30 September	1 April to 31 October	1 May to 30 September	be unrestricted	Don't know
Number	1,466	400	579	693	2,366	760	62
% of all who responded	23.2%	6.3%	9.2%	11.0%	37.4%	12.0%	1.0%

These responses were from respondents who felt there should be a harmonised start and finish date to any restriction period on the beaches. 23% thought the restriction should be applied all year and a further 12% thought they should be unrestricted all year. 64% felt there should be a time limited period of restriction. The most popular restriction was quite strong support, at 37.5% for the restriction based on the shortest period of time – 1 May to 30 September.



Looking at the responses from specific groups, the table below, shows despite considerable support for the restriction to be based around 1 May – 30 September it was quite varied across different groups. Dog owners strongly supported 1 May -30 September whilst non-dog owners felt an all year ban was best. Visitors felt positive about the restriction being in place 1 May – 30 September, over it being unrestricted. Both dog owners and visitors appear to be quite accepting of a restriction on the beaches and if it is to be harmonised the period 1 May – 30 September was the best bet. This time period was also the most popular with councillors, parish/town councils and businesses.

	All year (%)	Good Friday - 31 October (%)	Good Friday - 30 September (%)	1 April - 31 October (%)	1 May - 30 September (%)	Be unrestricted (%)	Don't know (%)
Dog owners	4	3	11	7	56	19	1
Non-dog owners	50	11	7	17	13	3	1
Visitors	11	3	7	6	47	26	1
Councillors	9	13	9	22	38	6	3
Parish Councils	26	0	5	32	32	0	5
Businesses	15	9	8	8	42	19	0
Disabled	21	6	8	12	37	14	2

Official Organisational Responses -, Each organisation chose the following dates:

Dorset Waste Partnership - apply from 1 April to 31 October

Dorset Police- - apply from 1 May to 30 September

The Friends of Rodwell Trail and Sandsfoot Castle Gardens- apply from 1 April to 31 October

The Pet Industry Federation - apply from 1 May to 30 September

Dog Friendly Weymouth and Portland – be unrestricted

Central Beach Swanage (see relevant map)

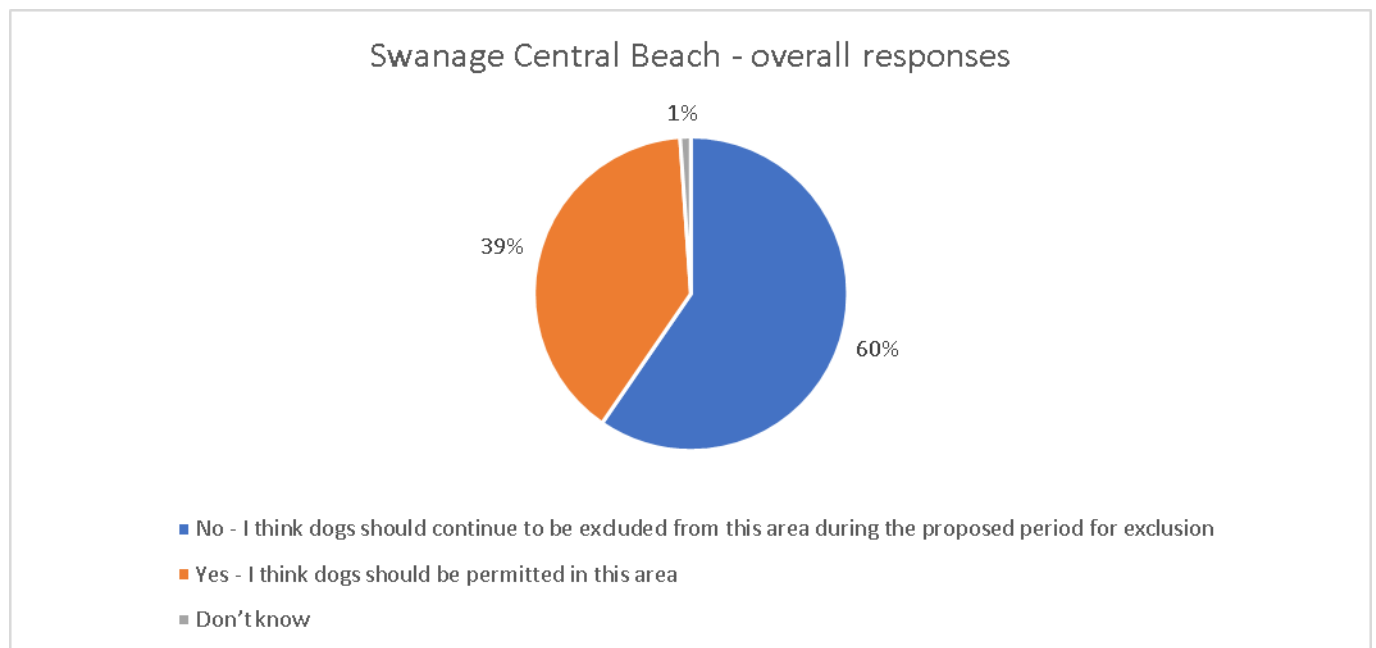
931 people chose to respond to the questions on Central Beach, Swanage

The existing Order prohibits dogs from Central Beach during specified summer months.

Q. Would you like to see this change?

Overall responses	No - I think dogs should continue to be excluded from this area during the proposed period for exclusion	Yes - I think dogs should be permitted in this area	Don't know
Number	557	364	10
% of all who responded	59.8%	39.1%	1.1%

The overall responses show a clear majority in favour of continuing to exclude dogs from the specified area on Swanage Central Beach. This was by 60% in favour compared to 39% against.



	No - I think dogs should continue to be excluded from this area during the proposed period for exclusion (%)	Yes - I think dogs should be permitted in this area (%)
Dog owners	39	60
Non-dog owners	90	9
Visitors	29	71
Businesses	63	38
Disabled	49	51

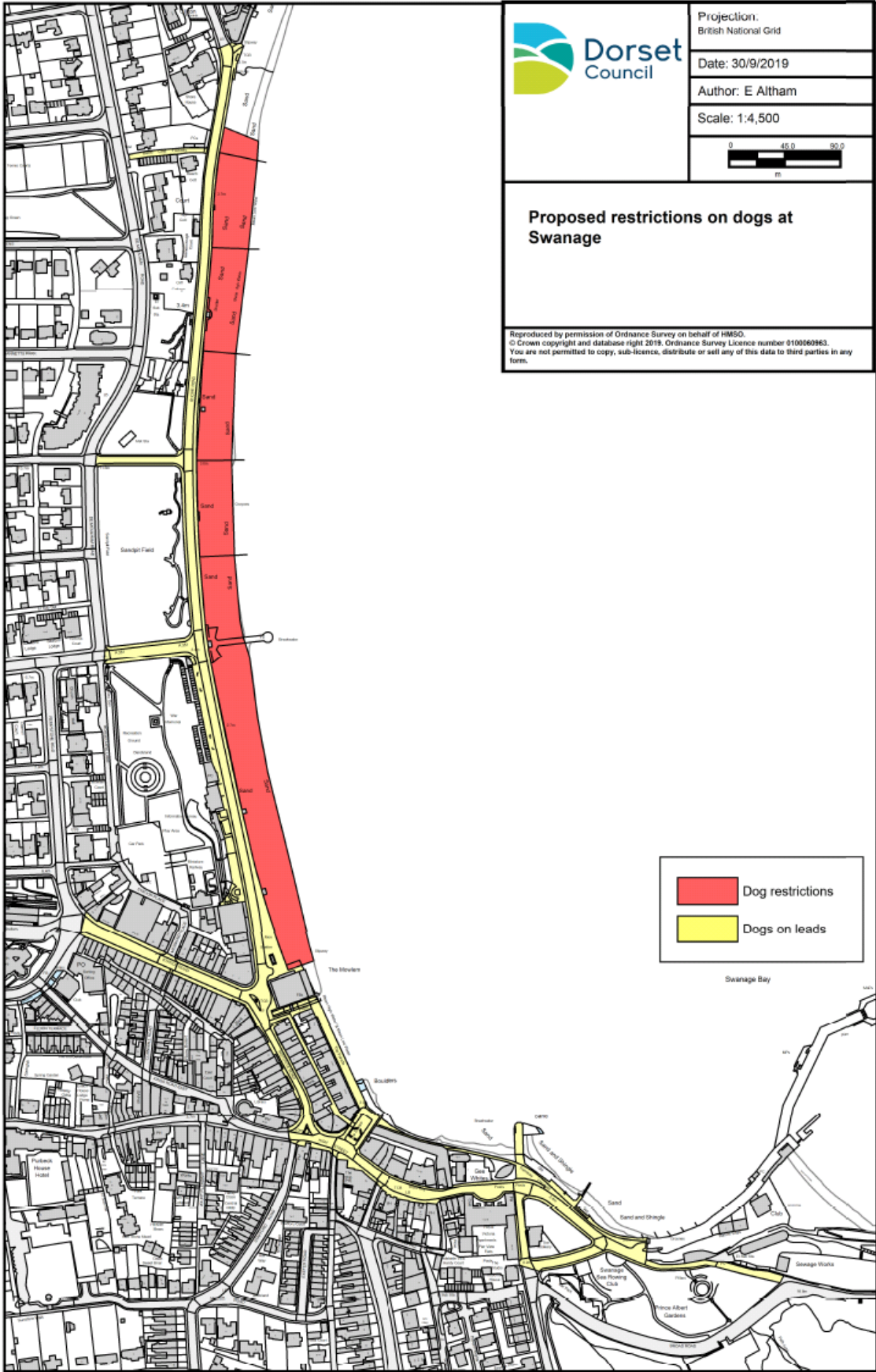
Looking at the more detailed breakdown of responses, the table above shows dog owners generally felt dogs should be allowed on the beach whilst non-dog owners had the opposite view. As Swanage is a tourist town unsurprisingly visitors, who were mainly dog owners in the survey, felt strongly that dogs should be allowed on Central beach. Businesses felt dogs should not be allowed on the beach but disabled people were split on the issue.

Looking at responses of local residents in Swanage 70% thought the restriction on the beach should stay whilst 30% thought dogs should be permitted in that area. Residents living in the Dorset Council area didn't feel quite so strongly with 65% thinking the restriction should stay.

Swanage Town Council think that dogs should continue to be excluded from this area during the proposed period for exclusion.

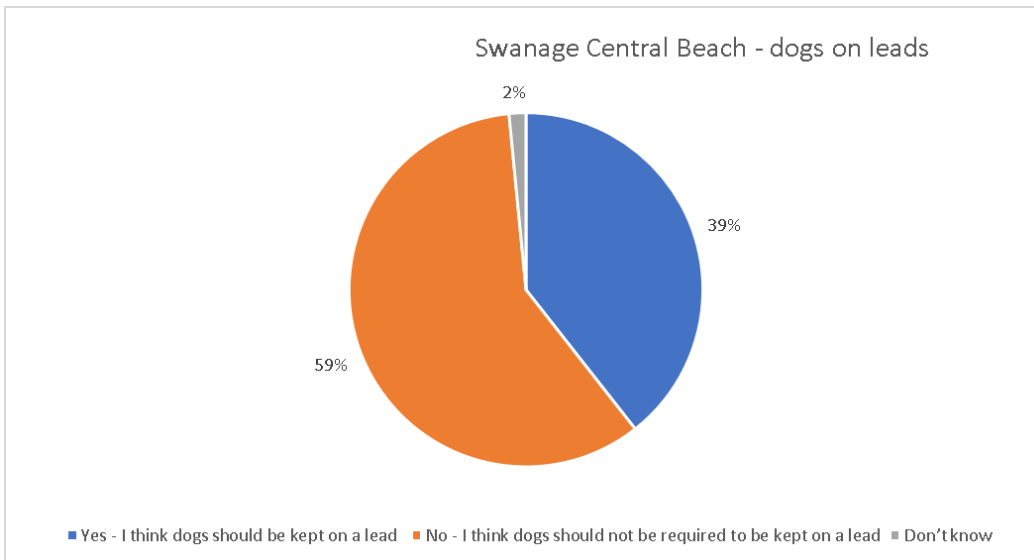
Official Organisational Responses -, Dog Friendly Weymouth and Portland think dogs should be permitted in that area.

Dorset Dogs said "Yes, whilst it is good to provide dog-free areas too this is a long stretch of beach and beyond it there is quite a mish-mash of private ownership and consequently very variable dog restrictions, until you reach the 'wild' end of the beach where there is no prom or facilities and where it is subject to landslips and the risk of being cut off by the tides so is not a good alternative. An area of perhaps one or preferably 2 groynes width where dogs are allowed would be really useful to enhance Dorset's dog-friendly reputation whilst still allowing a significant area of dog-free beach."



Q Would you like to see dogs to be kept on a lead during the remainder of the year (when permitted) in this area of the beach?

Overall responses	Yes - I think dogs should be kept on a lead	No - I think dogs should not be required to be kept on a lead	Don't know
Number	366	553	15
% of all who responded	39.2%	59.2%	1.6%



Outside the prohibited period dogs would normally be allowed free rein on the beach. This particular question was trying to establish if respondents felt that dogs should be kept on lead when allowed on the beach. Here the message was quite clear overall with people feeling dogs did not need to be kept on a lead by 59% against leads compared to 39% in favour of them. As in most other responses to questions of this type the dog owners felt strongly one way and the non-dog owners the other way.

Swanage Residents were not in support of dogs on leads with 75% opposing the idea.

Swanage Town Council think dogs should not be required to be kept on a lead.

Official Organisational Responses -, Dog Friendly Weymouth and Portland think dogs should not be required to be on a lead for the remainder of the year.

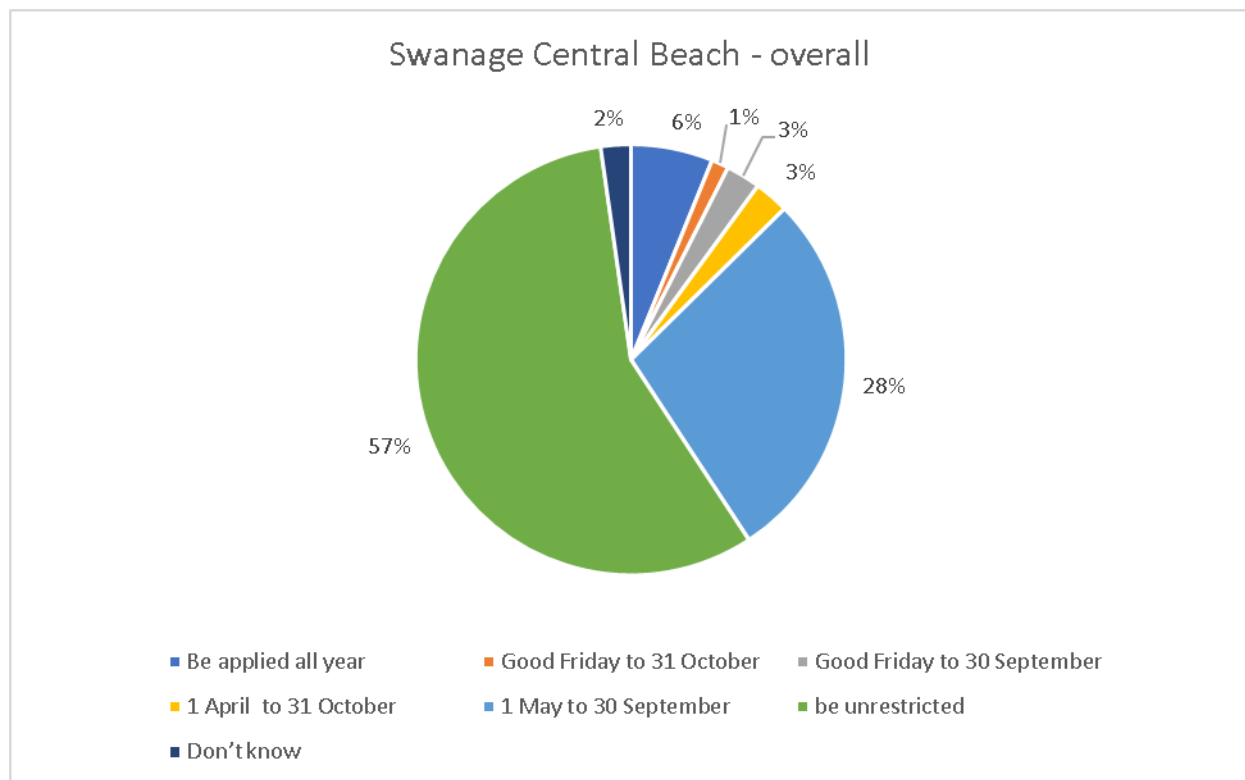
Dorset Dogs said “No it is widely used by local people during the rest of the year and it would be a shame for dogs and people who have responsibly enjoyed this access for it to be taken away. Community Protection Notices should be used to address irresponsible use rather than

penalising all, alongside other methods to promote responsible access (such as those suggested in the general comments section at the end of this document).”

The next question was only directed at people who did not support a harmonised start/finish date for all beaches with a restriction.

Q. If you do not support harmonised start and end dates when beach restrictions apply what restriction do you think should apply to this beach? Please choose one of the following

Overall responses	Be applied all year	Good Friday to 31 October	Good Friday to 30 September	1 April to 31 October	1 May to 30 September	be unrestricted	Don't know
Number	19	4	8	8	87	176	7
% of all who responded	6.1%	1.3%	2.6%	2.6%	28.2%	57.0%	2.3%



As the table and chart above show the most common choice was that the beach should be unrestricted (57%). The second most popular choice was 1 May to 30 September supported by 28% of those responding (who did not favour a harmonised start/finish date for all beaches). There was limited and mixed support for the other options

Looking into the detail clearly dog owners felt unrestricted was their preferred option, but nearly one in three supported the restriction to be 1 May to 30 September. Both visitors and businesses supported dog owners view but non-dog owners were more split between an all year restriction, no restriction and 1 May – 30 September dates. Disabled respondents supported no restriction. The table below shows this in more detail.

	All year (%)	Good Friday - 31 October (%)	Good Friday - 30 September (%)	1 April - 31 October (%)	1 May - 30 September (%)	Be unrestricted (%)	Don't know (%)
Dog owners	1	0	3	1	30	63	2
Non-dog owners	32	8	0	9	19	30	2
Visitors	3	0	5	0	13	76	3
Businesses	0	0	0	0	25	75	0
Disabled	18	0	5	0	14	64	0

Swanage Town Council think the restrictions should apply from 1 May to 30 September.

Dorset Dogs said “Beach zoning restrictions should apply during the time when pressures are most likely to cause conflict, if this is in fact the same period for all the beaches then there is no reason for them not to be the same. This may be during the summer holiday period, with an influx of holiday makers; recognising this is variable in different parts of the country, it should cover a period from mid-July to the first week of September (there does not seem to be a good reason to take it through to the end of September or beyond). Alternatively, beach restrictions elsewhere in Dorset often started historically from 1 May, if this is in fact the period during which these beaches get busy then this may be more appropriate. The key principle is that timing should be linked to reason, to ensure restriction is understood, respected and easier to enforce.”

Sample comments

Note: there were numerous comments mentioning individual beaches and here are presented a few to show the range from across the varying viewpoints regarding Swanage. The full comments are available in the appendix.

“As a resident of Swanage I've seen first hand the amount of dog excrement and plastic bags full of it that selfish dog owners leave. Not all of these people are visitors. I would welcome a total ban of dogs on our beach. Unfortunately I fear this would result in more dog excrement on our pavements!!!! It really needs policing to address this highly divisive topic....”

“If the decision is to restrict dog access to beaches during summer months, please consider the USA model of allowing access before 9am and after 5pm. As a non-dog owning resident whose home looks out over Swanage beach, I see most dog owners being very responsible with clearing up after their dogs, and enjoy watching the dogs bouncing around on the beach. Out of season access should NOT be changed. You need to keep as many locals in the town as possible to maintain your tax base. The Swanage demographic is above average in terms of dog owners - do not drive them away. Should Swanage attract the reputation of being dog unfriendly, it will suffer for it.”

“I have not seen an irresponsible dog owner on Swanage beach in the winter and I walk there most days. I enjoy seeing people with their dogs having fun on the beach, It brightens up my day. It's easier to pass the time of day or a smile with people with dogs as the dog has no social awkwardness. I find a smile from a dog owner or a

stroke with a friendly dog brightens my day . Im often alone on my walks and although not unhappy myself so I'm sure lonely, or people who live alone benefit from this social interaction"

"I think the central beach area of Swanage that excludes dogs should be extended to the edge of the North slipway by the Waterfront café/restaurant - this would help prevent fouling of the water that flows down the beach to the sea where children often play."

"I would like to ban dogs from Swanage beach all year as I am a swimmer and walker who uses this beach all year and am totally fed up with the dog farces and plastic bags left by dog owners."

"In regards to Swanage beach I feel that there should be restricted timings during the summer months so that dog walkers can still use the beach early in the morning and in the evening when it is not being used by beach goers."

"I have visited Swanage over many years and enjoy that dog owners can enjoy the beach with their dogs outside of the main summer months. I believe that they should be able to continue to do so."

"Please be mindful of the boost during the winter the beach dog walkers bring to the local economy- in Swanage they go for many hot drinks after the dogs have enjoyed their time on the beach. General health of owners and dogs is improved by beach time off the lead in winter. Social interaction for lonely people, not to be underestimated"

"PSPOs are not currently applied to North beach Swanage. I believe the rules stipulated for central Swanage beaches should be extended to North beach."

"We think that all dogs should be excluded from the Southwest coast path between the Swanage Museum and the Old Stone Quay for the six weeks of the summer school holidays. During this period hundreds of children (and adults) sit every day by the sea wall crabbing. This is an age old Swanage tradition. The children are usually barefoot and scantily clothed. On a daily basis some owners allow their dogs to foul without clearing up the mess."

"As a responsible dog owner & lifelong visitor to Swanage, I visit every year during the September half term, not just because we love swanage, but because it is the most welcoming seaside destination to dogs and owners. It would be a huge shame if dogs were not permitted off lead out of peak season. I fully support the need for restrictions during the summer months."

"As a responsible dog owner and now a resident, I would like things to stay as they are now - main beach is Swanage very crowded in summer - but dogs can enjoy walks on beach for rest of year."

"As a visitor, I feel that the lack of dog friendly beach area in Swanage is too restrictive, if I was a dog owning local council tax payer I would feel quite irritated. There seems to be no area where dogs are allowed on or off lead, even after 7pm. This puts many off visiting Swanage"

"Cornwall is dog friendly with various restrictions and it works. Having them different times will attract different types of visitor/ families during different periods. We visit swanage out of summer restrictions because our dog can run on the beach and swim. Spending hundreds of pounds on accommodation and restaurants each time we come."

"The beach is a great space to exercise your dog(s) and socialize with other dogs- they need to be able to run freely. Some dogs are hunters by breed and cant walk freely in the countryside as they may follow a sent. The beach provides no distractions for dogs like that and can exercise without a worry for the owner. The beach is a great place for many dog owners to enjoy a lovely walk so it is equally important to dog owners to be able to exercise well as the dog. Taking that away many dog owners would struggle especially the elderly dog owners living in Swanage"

"Dogs should be kept on a lead on central beach during the busy periods but to ban them during this period is not necessary. As a responsible dog owner and a resident of Swanage I should not be penalised for wanting to stroll along the beach with my dogs (on a lead) during the summer."

I absolutely beg that dogs should be allowed on the beach at Swanage all year round. It is the dog owners responsibility to keep their animal under control and to clean up after it. During the summer months the beach can be deserted in 'bad' weather and also, in many an evening when holiday goers have finished for the evening and gone out for food, drink and evening entertainment. The beach could then be utilised by dogs and their owners. My family have been holidaying in Swanage for almost 90 years, myself 30.

"I am a (responsible) dog owner & love to take my dog on the beach all year but due to unscrupulous dog owners I reluctantly accept the summer ban on Swanage (my local) beach, it would be good though if they were allowed on the beach in the evening during the summer months. I constantly put posts on the Swanage Facebook page highlighting the need to clean up after your dog"

"I live in Swanage and the beaches are used a majority of the time only by dog walkers, it is ridiculous to exclude dogs from the beaches during the non holidays months September to May as dogs walkers also like to enjoy the beach and also keep the beaches clear of rubbish."

Charmouth Beaches (see relevant map)

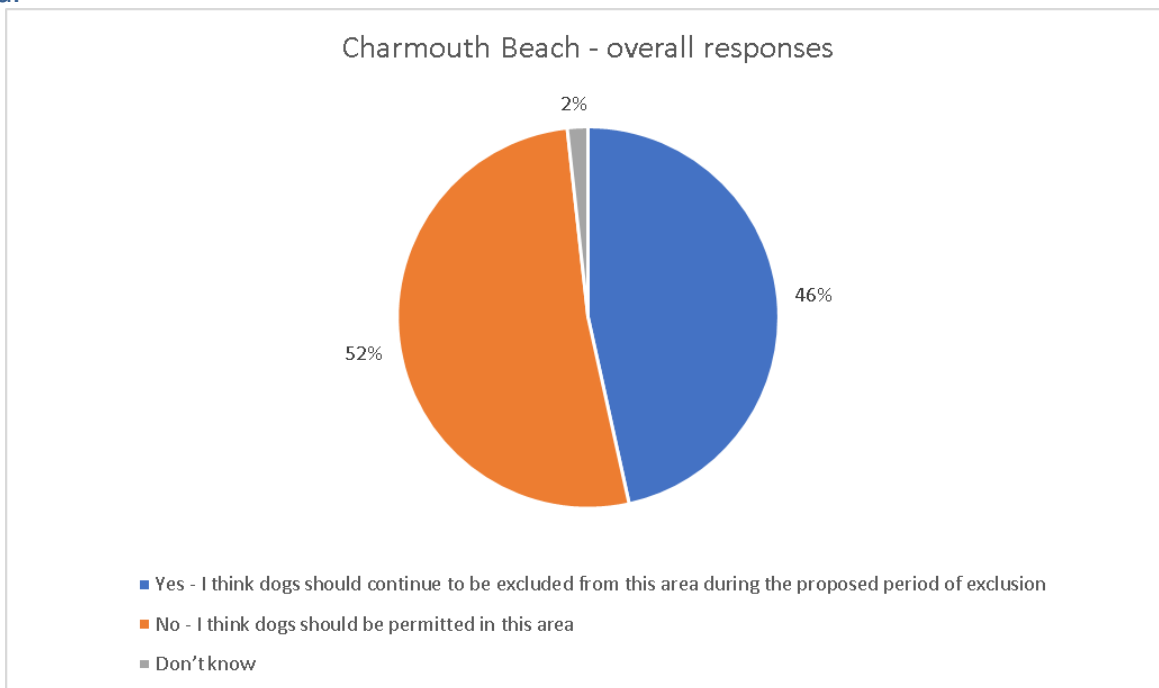
855 people chose to respond to the questions on Charmouth Beaches

Charmouth Parish Council have requested that the Public Spaces Protection Order includes Charmouth beaches and the fore shore area. Formerly there were restrictions enforced by the Parish Council on land owned by them.

Q. Would you like to see dogs excluded from the 2 marked beaches of the designated map?

Overall responses	Yes - I think dogs should continue to be excluded from this area during the proposed period of exclusion	No - I think dogs should be permitted in this area	Don't know
Number	398	442	15
% of all who responded	46.5%	51.7%	1.8%

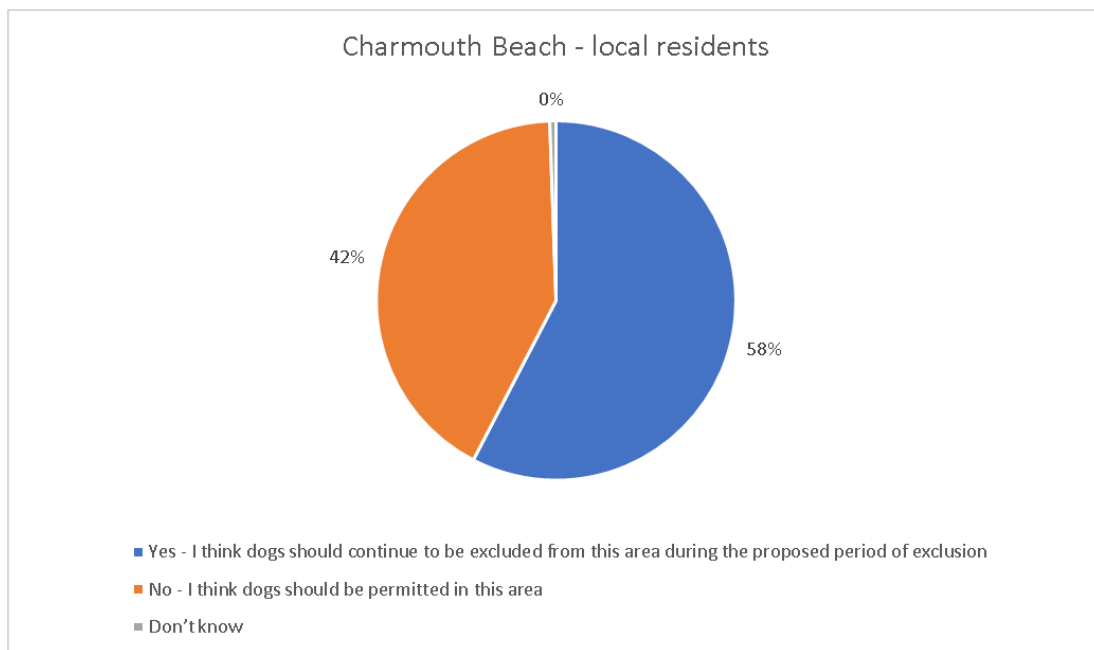
The overall responses show a very small majority in favour of permitting dogs on the two marked beaches in Charmouth. This was by 52% in favour of allowing them on the beaches compared to 47% in favour of continuing to exclude dogs from the area during the exclusion period.



	Yes - I think dogs should continue to be excluded from this area during the proposed period of exclusion (%)	Yes - I think dogs should be permitted in this area (%)
Dog owners	22	76
Non-dog owners	88	11
Visitors	22	78
Businesses	31	70
Disabled	41	59

Looking at the more detailed breakdown of responses, the table above shows dog owners felt dogs should be allowed on the beach whilst non-dog owners had the opposite view. As Charmouth is a tourist and holiday hotspot unsurprisingly visitors, who were mainly dog owners in the survey, felt strongly that dogs should be allowed on Central beach and were also supported by businesses and disabled respondents

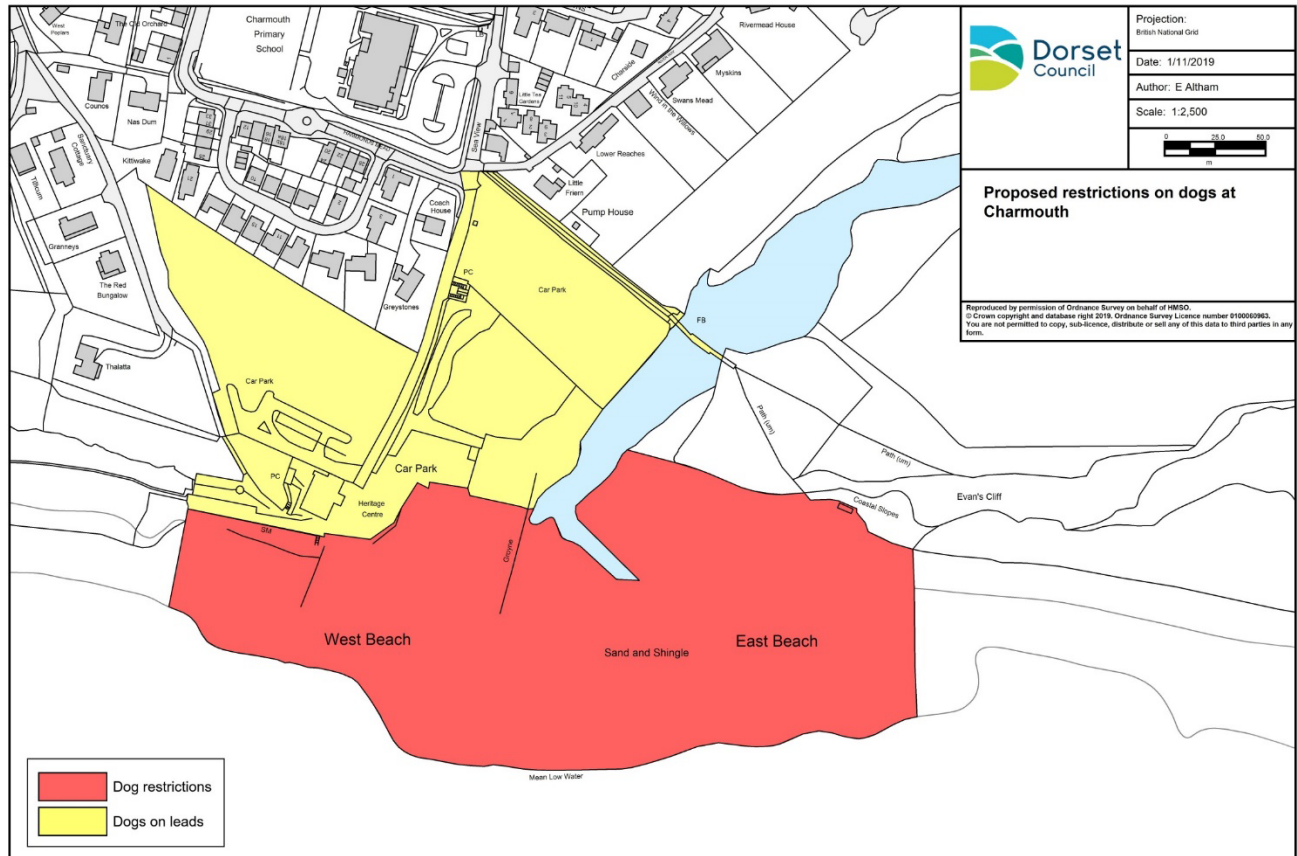
Examining responses specifically from local residents (Lyme Regis and Charmouth Ward) there is some support for continuing to exclude dogs from the two beaches. 58% wanted to continue to exclude dogs and 42% felt they should be permitted on the beaches



Residents of Dorset Council area were also in support of continuing to exclude dogs with 55% supporting the proposal and 43% opposing it.

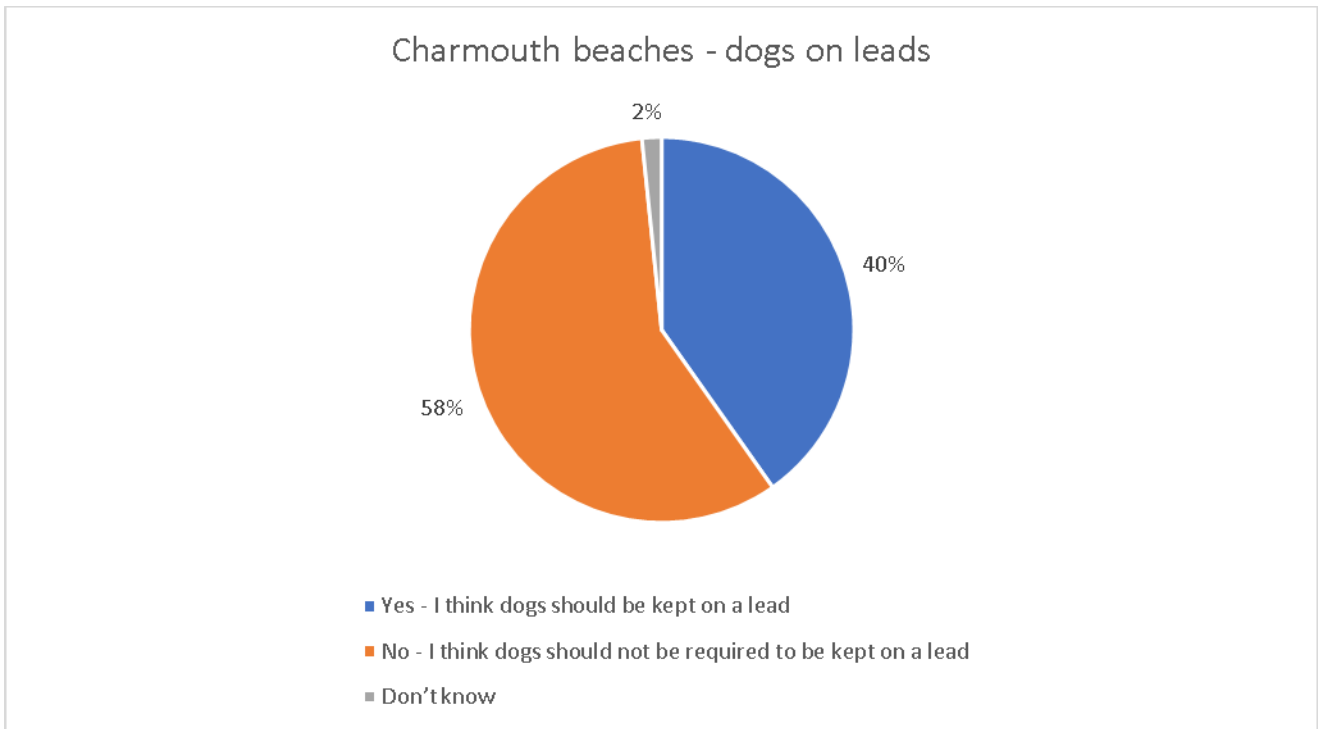
Official Organisational Responses - Dog Friendly Weymouth and Portland think dogs should be permitted in this area.

Dorset Dogs said “Community Protection Notices should be used to address irresponsible use rather than penalising all, alongside other methods to promote responsible access”



Q. Would you like to see dogs to be kept on a lead during the remainder of the year (when permitted) in this area of the beach?

Overall responses	Yes - I think dogs should be kept on a lead	No - I think dogs should not be required to be kept on a lead	Don't know
Number	343	496	14
% of all who responded	40.2%	58.1%	1.6%



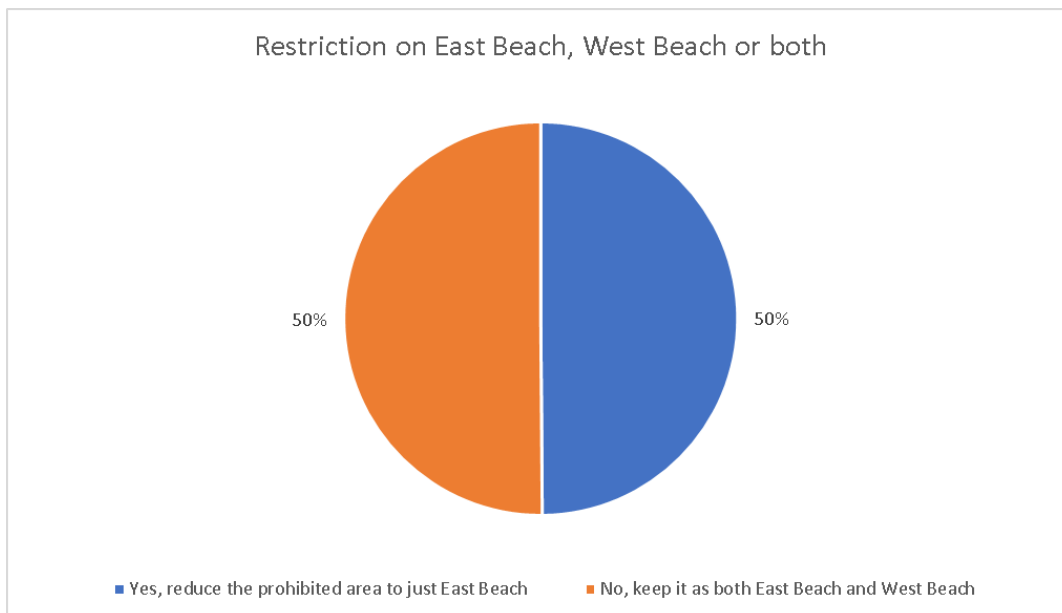
Outside the prohibited period dogs would normally be allowed free rein on the beach. This particular question was trying to establish if respondents felt that dogs should be kept on lead when allowed on the beach. Here the overall message was clear with people feeling dogs do not need to be kept on a lead by 58% against leads compared to 40% in favour of them. As in most other responses to questions of this type the dog owners felt strongly one way and the non- dog owners equally strongly the other way.

Local residents (Lyme Regis and Charmouth Ward) and residents of the Dorset Council area were both fairly split on this issue. In both cases 47% supported a dogs on leads restriction.

Official Organisational Responses - Dog Friendly Weymouth and Portland think dogs should not be required to be on a lead the rest of the year.

Q. Should the area where dogs are prohibited be reduced to just East Beach only (under Evan’s Cliff)? NB the cliffs that are west of West Beach are hazardous and are subject to frequent rock falls. This would open up West Beach for unrestricted dog exercise.

Overall responses	Yes, reduce the prohibited area to just East Beach	No, keep it as both East Beach and West Beach
Number	415	417
% of all who responded	49.9%	50.1%



There was minimal differences between the support of keeping the restriction as both East Beach and West Beach or reducing the restricted area down to just East Beach. Dog owners (64%), Visitors (62%), Businesses (62%) and the disabled (56%) were all in favour of reducing the restricted area down to just East Beach but non dog owners were 73% in favour of keeping a restriction on both areas.

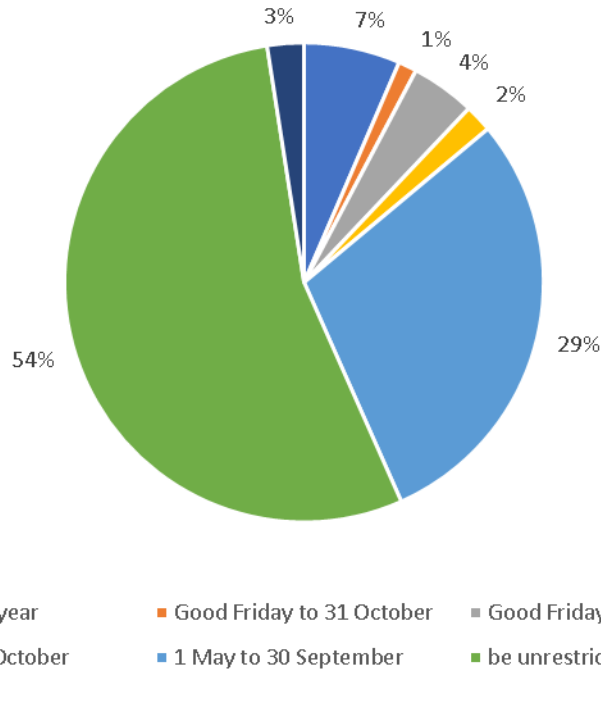
Local residents (Lyme Regis and Charmouth Ward) had a clearer view with 60% in favour of keeping it as both East and West Beach. Dorset Council residents were also slightly in favour of keeping both beaches with 54% support.

Dorset Dogs said "Yes (reduce the prohibited area just to East Beach) this seems to be a better, fairer balance and will help improve enforceability at East Beach."

Q. If you do not support harmonised start and end dates when beach restrictions apply what restriction do you think should apply to this beach? Please choose one of the following

Overall responses	Be applied all year	Good Friday to 31 October	Good Friday to 30 September	1 April to 31 October	1 May to 30 September	be unrestricted	Don't know
Number	21	4	14	6	95	175	8
% of all who responded	6.5%	1.2%	4.3%	1.9%	29.4%	54.2%	2.5%

Charmouth Beaches



As the table and chart above show the most common choice was that the beach should be unrestricted (54%). The second most popular choice was 1 May to 30 September supported by 29% of those responding (**who did not favour a harmonised start/finish date for all beaches**). There was limited and mixed support for the other options

Looking into the detail clearly dog owners felt unrestricted was their preferred option, but one in three supported the restriction to be 1 May to 30 September. Both visitors and businesses supported dog owner’s view but non-dog owners were more split between an all year restriction, no restriction with some support for 1 May – 30 September dates. The table below shows this in more detail.

	All year (%)	Good Friday - 31 October (%)	Good Friday - 30 September (%)	1 April - 31 October (%)	1 May - 30 September (%)	Be unrestricted (%)	Don't know (%)
Dog owners	1	1	5	2	32	58	2
Non-dog owners	41	5	2	2	15	32	2
Visitors	5	2	7	1	26	58	2
Businesses	0	0	0	0	33	67	0
Disabled	14	0	0	4	7	71	4

Organisational Comments

Dorset Dogs said: “Beach zoning restrictions should apply during the time when pressures are most likely to cause conflict, if this is in fact the same period for all the beaches then there is no reason for them not to be the same. This may be during the summer holiday period, with an influx of holiday makers; recognising this is variable in different parts of the country, it should cover a period from mid-July to the first week of September (there does not seem to be a good reason to take it through to the end of September or beyond). Alternatively, beach restrictions elsewhere in Dorset often started historically from 1 May, if this is in fact the period during which these beaches get busy then this may be more appropriate. The key principle is that timing should be linked to reason, to ensure restriction is understood, respected and easier to enforce.”

Sample comments

Note: there were numerous comments mentioning individual beaches and here are presented a few to show the range from across the varying viewpoints regarding Charmouth. The full comments are available in the appendix.

“I regularly walk on Charmouth's east beach and it is not unusual to be assaulted by an unrestrained dog which jumps up, licks or tugs at my clothes. On some occasions I have been scratched by claws and had holes made in garments. If a child did this it would make the news.”

“I think that there should be the opportunity for people to enjoy a beach throughout the year without the nuisance of dogs and their excrement. Not everyone feels comfortable around dogs and it sometimes puts people off from going to places where they think dogs will be present. One beach in Charmouth should definitely be dog free all year round!”

“Charmouth West Beach is used by the Heritage Centre for fossil walks, including many school trips. When fossiling you have to be crouched down. Dogs come up to you, sniff, try to lick your face, etc. This can be disturbing and scary. It is important the West Beach restrictions are maintained or improved. Dogs on the bridge at Charmouth are a particular nuisance. Young children stand on the bridge watching the ducks. The bridge is narrow and uncontrolled dogs rush across excited having just been let off lead.”

“The current requirement for dogs allowed on the beach during summer months, before 10 am and after 6pm seems to work well both for humans and dogs. It gets too hot for dogs during the day in these months and frees families with young children to know the beach is dog free for most of the day. Many people come to Charmouth to walk their dogs and in turn help the local economy with local spending”

“As a dog owner who has been around dogs all my life and know how much dogs enjoy the beach, I would like to see any restrictions in Charmouth staying the same as they are at present i.e. being able to walk on the beach before 10am and after 6pm for the months of July and August (school holiday period). The rest of the time being able to walk any time of day. When you see dogs playing together and swimming it is delightful.”

“As recent visitors to Charmouth we were impressed with the dog friendly attitude of shops pubs etc. It would be a great shame if the councils restrictions contradicted this. Like very many other people we go to areas and towns where our well behaved dog is made welcome.”

“At present there are restriction in place as I understand from August to September which is the main holiday season, and dogs permitted after 6pm. I would also point out that local trade would suffer as most of trade in Charmouth is local and holiday makers coming with their dogs, that's what Charmouth offers its visitors, there is no commercialisation, that's the charm of the place, after 6pm its dead to the world. By imposing such unnecessary harsh restriction under the guise of health issues etc”

“For Charmouth, banning dogs from West Beach, during the day, in the summer months is sufficient. This means that families with dogs, both visitors and local residents, could use the East beach, keeping their dogs on leads during the day in the summer. In the summer months, dogs could be let off the lead outside of daytime

restrictions eg 10am to 5pm, and be allowed off the lead at anytime outside of the summer months. Several people that I know are now booking to go to Cornwall for their holidays rather than Dorset this year, specifically because they have dogs and Cornwall has de-restricted their beaches, making it a more desirable destination for them. Although I love the idea of this, I know some people are afraid of dogs and therefore having one area of beach available to them in the holiday months means that everyone is catered for, nobody is discriminated against and nobody is deterred from visiting our beautiful coastline. The beaches are to be enjoyed by everyone. Many local residents moved here so that they can walk their dogs freely, and they should be allowed to do so. Banning dogs is detrimental to the local economy.”

“Charmouth beach should continue with it's dog ban from 1st July to 31st August between 10 and 6 and dogs be able to use it before and after those hours (East Beach)”

“Charmouth Parish Council stand out as being alone, with them being the only Parish Council along the Dorset Council coastline in wanting to bring in changes? I suggest they publicly consult the villagers rather than try to slip changes in without an organised public meeting taking place”.

“East Beach at Charmouth is not a 'holiday beach' before July or after August, so there is no need for restrictions outside these months, compared to real holiday beaches at Lyme or further east. It was pleasant that we could walk on East Beach early morning or late evening during July & August, and of no detriment to the family holiday makers who were not using the beach at those end of the day times”

“For most of the year, the majority of people using Charmouth beach are there because of their dogs. Even in summer, when the beach is crowded, people adjust their walking times and continue to use the beach. Whilst it is an invaluable area for dogs to exercise, it is just as important as a social hub.”

“Further restricting the times and areas where dogs are allowed will impact negatively on Lyme and Charmouth which rely on tourists for business. Many of these tourists come here because they want to walk their dogs on beaches and not leave them home. These changes will make people think twice about holidaying here and drive them to go elsewhere (like North Devon or Cornwall where there are fewer restrictions). As a resident, one of the joys of living by the beach is being able to walk my dog there, a pleasure which is being undermined. BBQs, alcohol, littering, take aways seem to me to cause more annoyance, pollution, and hazard than dogs and yet no one has suggested not to consume alcohol on the beach...”

“I believe that the existing restrictions pertaining to dogs on the beaches at Charmouth are completely adequate and do not need extending.”

“I grew up in Charmouth and frequently walked my dog along the beaches. It is so sad to think that this very important activity which helped my mental as well as my physical health would be curtailed now.”

“I have lived in Charmouth and Lyme Regis all my Life and had dogs all my life, I can count on one hand the amount of times that i have taken my dogs to the beach there are plenty of other better places to take them. One really good reason not to is the dangerous rubbish left by these very clean and tidy beach users.”

“I have only ticked 1 May to 30 September as there is no alternative, would prefer dog restrictions come into effect from 1 July to 31 August. Also no mention about times, currently dogs are banned on Charmouth East Beach between 10am and 6pm in the summer months, more than happy about this”

“I live in Charmouth and walk my dog on Charmouth beach for 10 months of the year. The current restrictions are completely adequate ie July and August restriction. Most people have a dog including families. Their dog is part of their family. It is good exercise and good mental health to walk your dog on the beach as long as it is being sensibly controlled and people pick up. Do not make all beaches the same restrictions. It would be dire if dogs were restricted from the beach. Where would they go? Much safer than the pavement”

“I think Charmouth beach should be unrestricted for dogs all year round - it's not surrounded by shops etc (like Lyme) and is surrounded by countryside and walks; it's a beach that seems like you would be able to walk a dog on all year round so it should be.”

“I think it is important that where appropriate some beaches are open to dogs at all times. This is workable where there is more than one beach in an area - for example West Bay East and West Beaches or Charmouth

beaches. This enables those who do not wish to have access to a dog-free beach while allowing the many local people and holidaymakers with dogs to have access to beaches.”

Front Town Beach, Lyme Regis (see relevant map)

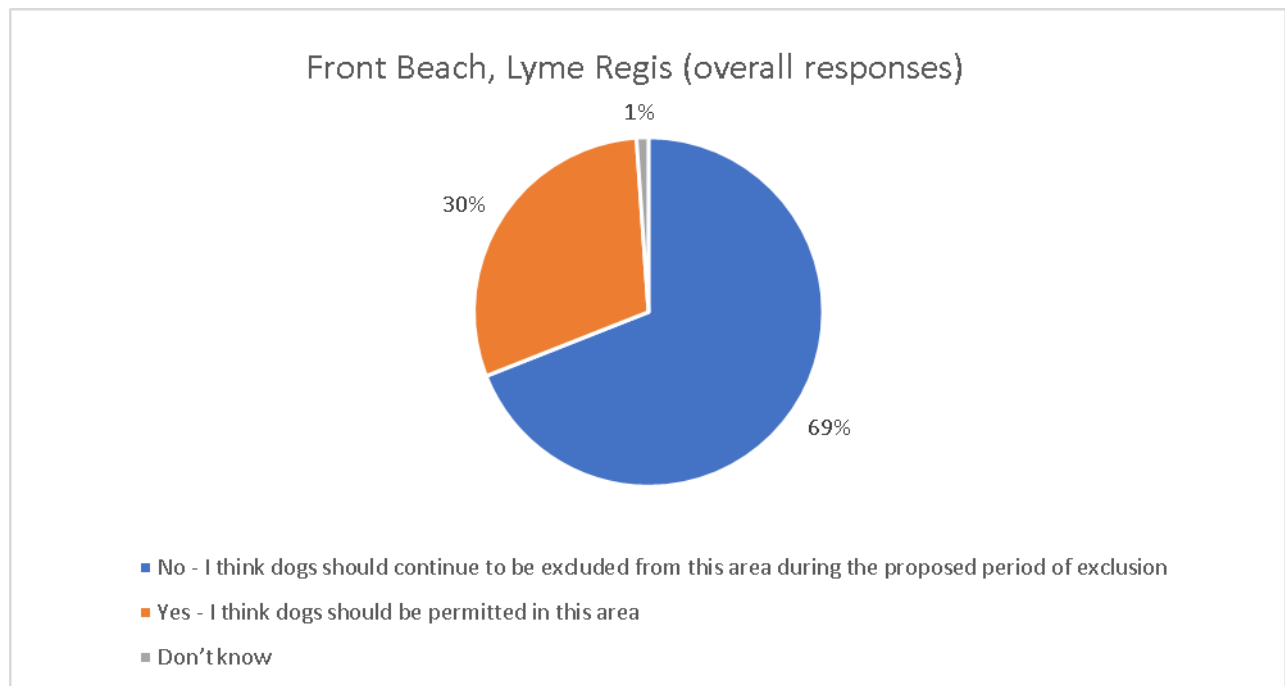
1,175 people chose to respond to the questions on Front Beach Lyme Regis

The existing Order stipulates that dogs are prohibited from Front Town Beach during specified summer months

Q Would you like to see this change?

Overall responses	No - I think dogs should continue to be excluded from this area during the proposed period of exclusion	Yes - I think dogs should be permitted in this area	Don't know
Number	811	351	13
% of all who responded	69.0%	29.9%	1.1%

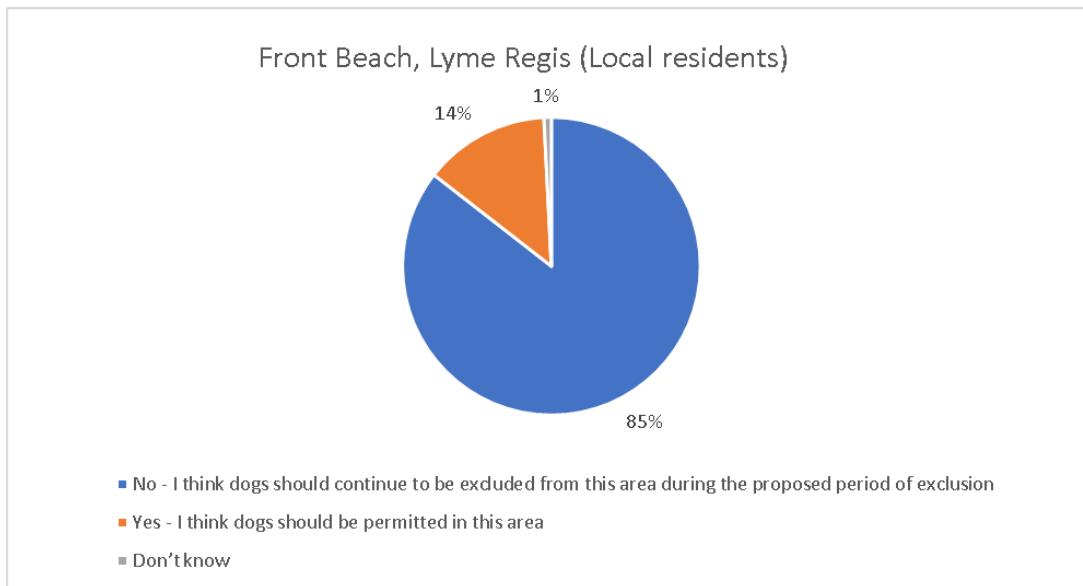
The overall responses show a significant majority in favour of continuing to exclude dogs from Front Town Beach during the specified period. This was by 69% in favour of continuing to exclude dogs on beaches compared to 30% in favour of allowing dogs in the area.



	No - I think dogs should continue to be excluded from this area during the proposed period of exclusion (%)	Yes - I think dogs should be permitted in this area (%)
Dog owners	51	48
Non-dog owners	92	7
Visitors	52	48
Businesses	71	29
Disabled	69	31

Looking at the more detailed breakdown of responses, the table above shows all groups of responders supported keeping the exclusion on Front beach including dog owners and visitors, but these two groups only supported it by a small margin. This wider support is unusual.

Examining responses specifically from local residents (Lyme Regis and Charmouth Ward) there is an even stronger feeling in favour of continuing to exclude dogs from the Town Beach. 86% wanted to continue to exclude dogs and only 14% felt they should be permitted.

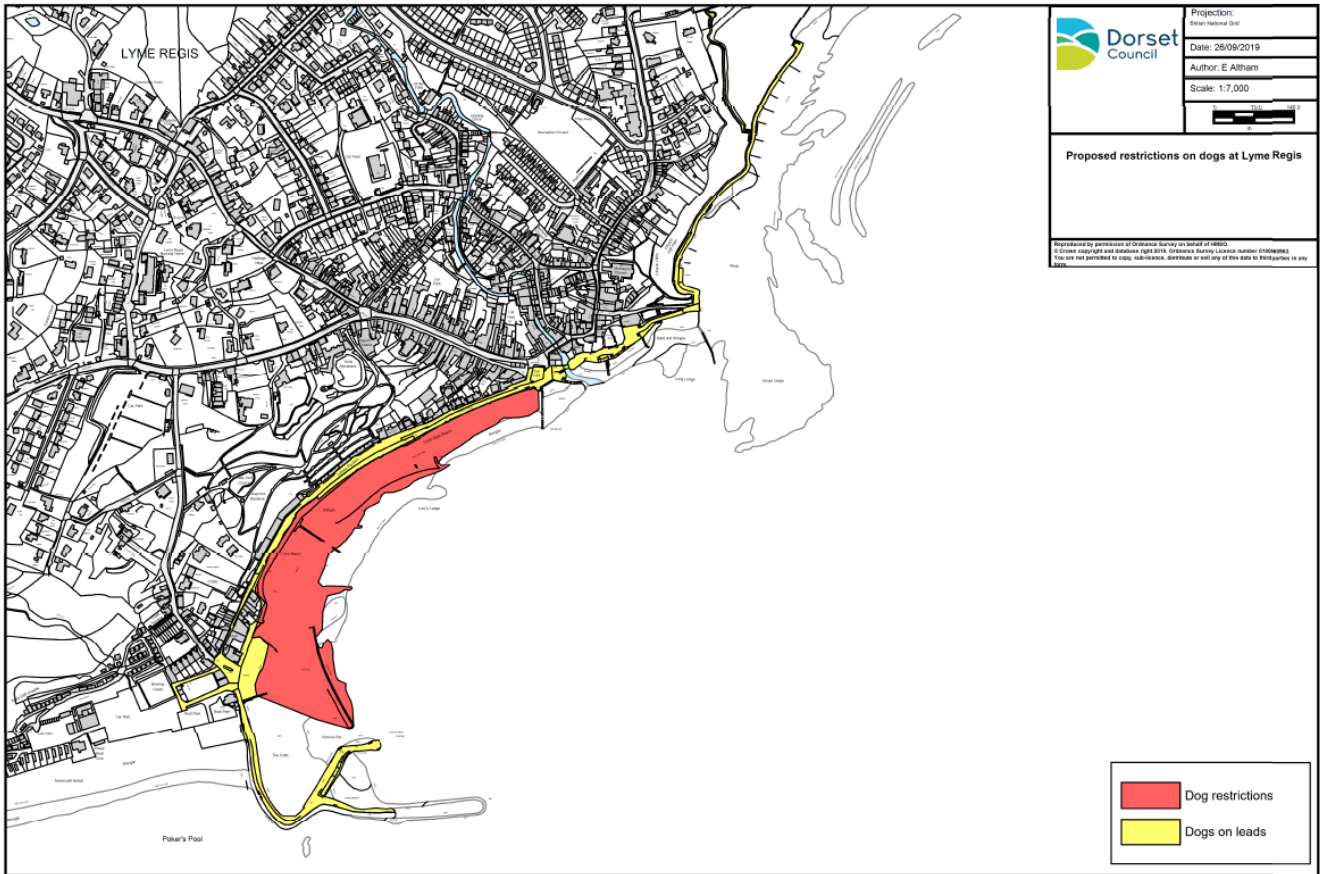


Residents of Dorset Council area also were in strong support of continuing to exclude dogs with 76% supporting the proposal.

Lyme Regis Town Council agree on a harmonised start and finish date for all beach restrictions but believe it should be all year. They think dogs should continue to be excluded from this area during the proposed period of exclusion.

Official Organisational Responses -, Dog Friendly Weymouth and Portland think dogs should continue to be excluded from this area during the proposed period of exclusion.

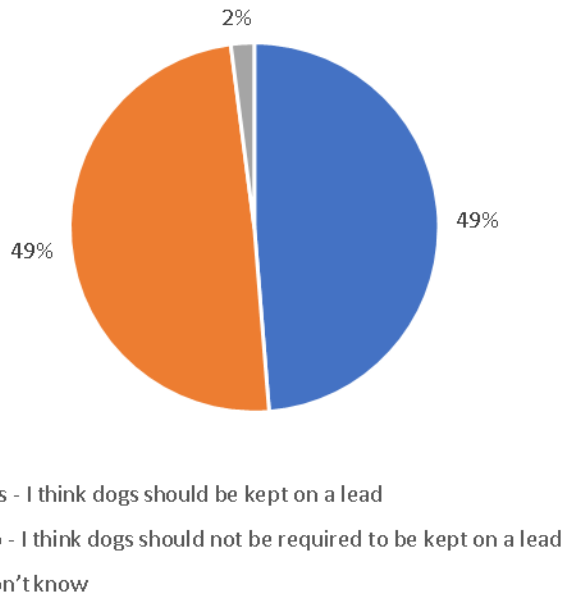
Dorset Dogs said “Providing that there is alternative beach in that area (I believe the beach to the West is dog-friendly?) it is reasonable to have a dog-free zone”



Q Would you like to see dogs to be kept on a lead during the remainder of the year (when permitted) in this area of the beach?

Overall responses	Yes - I think dogs should be kept on a lead	No - I think dogs should not be required to be kept on a lead	Don't know
Number	572	578	24
% of all who responded	48.7%	49.2%	2.0%

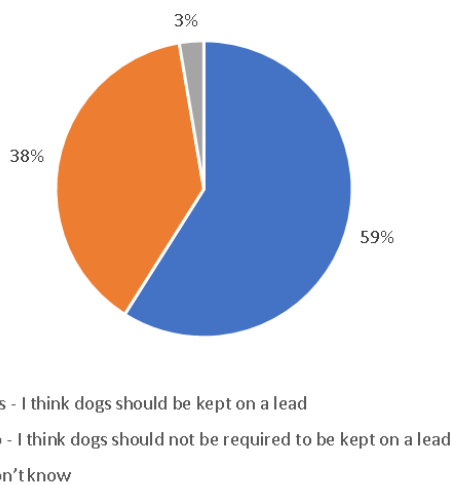
Front Beach Lyme, Dogs on Leads



Outside the prohibited period dogs would normally be allowed free rein on the beach. This particular question was trying to establish if respondents felt that dogs should be kept on leads when allowed on the beach. Here the overall message was split right down the middle with 48.7% of people feeling dogs need to be kept on a lead compared to 49.2% in favour of them not requiring a lead. As in most other responses to questions of this type the dog owners and visitors felt strongly against using leads and the non- dog owners equally strongly the other way. Businesses were against leads, but disabled people were divided on the issue.

Examining responses specifically from local residents (Lyme Regis and Charmouth Ward) a clearer view emerges with 59% supporting dogs being kept on leads and 38% feeling they should be allowed off the lead

Front Beach Lyme, Dogs on Leads - local residents



Residents of Dorset Council area also were in support dogs being kept on leads when permitted on Front Beach with 57% supporting the proposal and 40% opposing it..

Lyme Regis Town Council were unsure on this specific question.

Official Organisational Responses -, Dog Friendly Weymouth and Portland think dogs should not be required to be on a lead for the rest of the year.

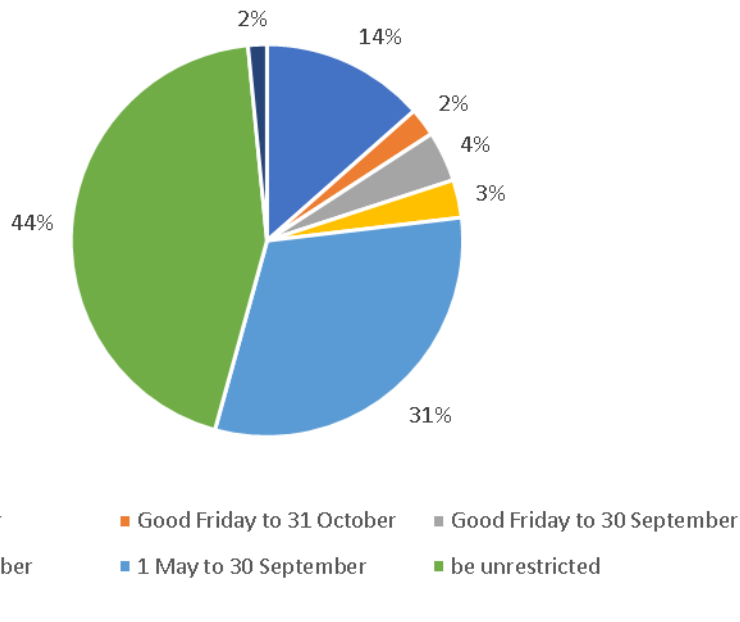
Dorset Dogs said “Not unless there is a valid reason to do so, Community Protection Notices should be used to address irresponsible use rather than penalising all, alongside other methods to promote responsible access (such as those suggested in the general comments section at the end of this document).”

The next question was only directed at people who did not support a harmonised start/finish date for all beaches with a restriction.

Q If you do not support harmonised start and end dates when beach restrictions apply what restriction do you think should apply to this beach? Please choose one of the following

Overall responses	Be applied all year	Good Friday to 31 October	Good Friday to 30 September	1 April to 31 October	1 May to 30 September	be unrestricted	Don't know
Number	52	9	16	12	120	170	6
% of all who responded	13.5%	2.3%	4.2%	3.1%	31.2%	44.2%	1.6%

Front Beach Lyme Regis, Restriction Period



As the table and chart above show the most common choice was that the beach should be unrestricted (44%). The second most popular choice was 1 May to 30 September supported by 31% of those responding (**who did not favour a harmonised start/finish date for all beaches**). There was limited and mixed support for the other options.

Looking into the detail clearly dog owners felt unrestricted was their preferred option, but with one in three supporting the restriction to be 1 May to 30 September. Both visitors and businesses supported dog owner’s view, but non-dog owners were more split between an all year restriction, no restriction with some support for 1 May – 30 September dates. The table below shows this in more detail.

	All year (%)	Good Friday - 31 October (%)	Good Friday - 30 September (%)	1 April - 31 October (%)	1 May - 30 September (%)	Be unrestricted (%)	Don't know (%)
Dog owners	3	2	5	3	36	50	1
Non-dog owners	57	4	1	4	11	21	3
Visitors	7	2	4	3	33	49	1
Businesses	0	0	0	0	43	57	0
Disabled	26	0	0	4	9	57	4

Organisational Responses: “

Dorset Dogs said “Beach zoning restrictions should apply during the time when pressures are most likely to cause conflict, if this is in fact the same period for all the beaches then there is no reason for them not to be the same. This may be during the summer holiday period, with an influx of holiday makers; recognising this is variable in different parts of the country, it should cover a period from mid-July to the first week of September (there does not seem to be a good reason to take it through to the end of September or beyond). Alternatively, beach restrictions elsewhere in Dorset often started historically from 1 May, if this is in fact the period during which these beaches get busy then this may be more appropriate. The key principle is that timing should be linked to reason, to ensure restriction is understood, respected and easier to enforce.”

Sample comments

Note: there were numerous comments mentioning individual beaches and here are presented a few to show the range from across the varying viewpoints regarding Lyme Regis. The full comments are available in the appendix.

“After seating down on the stoney beach in lyme regis with my family and putting my hand in dog mess plus with seeing poo along the parade and seeing a child pick up a stone today near the beach huts in lyme with her mother saying put that down there is dog mess on that stone with it over her hands was enough for me to be against dogs on the sandy/stoney beach in lyme regis”

“Also exclude dogs from Monmouth Beach in Lyme Regis”

“As a mother of an autistic child (a hidden disability to some), I used to regularly bring him to the sandy beach in Lyme Regis so that he could happily play in a quiet space free from interfering loose dogs. Unfortunately I now find that during the autumn, winter and early Spring I can no longer do this as I cannot trust other people's dogs. He is now too frightened to come down to the beach.”

“As a resident in Lyme, I love to enjoy the sandy beach because I am a swimmer all year round including during the winter months where I rent a beach hut from the town council so that I can change. I spend several hours down on the seafront where I usually can enjoy some peace and quiet. I have suffered from mental health issues in the past and cold water or 'Wild Swimming' as it is now called has been so helpful to me in making me feel so good afterwards. Now unfortunately when I go down to the beach to swim, the sandy beach is so overrun with loose dogs racing around out of control, I have been too frightened to venture out into the sea and have had to sit in my beach hut and watch. I've seen so many dogs fouling the beach, it is too numerous to mention. Most owners are chatting or on their mobile phones to even notice”

“As a swimmer who uses Front Beach Lyme Regis, I am fed up of being confronted with dog mess on the beach during winter. My kids have also been knocked over by dogs whose owners think that it is acceptable behaviour to let the dog run free with no supervision. It would be great to have one area of beach that is dog free (dogs are allowed on numerous other Lyme Regis beaches throughout the year.”

“Ban dogs from all of Lyme Regis beaches including Monmouth Beach.”

“Banning dogs 365 days a year will be severely detrimental to the tourist industry in Lyme Regis . It is known as a dog friendly town and many many people visit because of this . A total dog ban will affect many businesses. Also the beaches concerned are accessible to the less mobile residents and their dogs. The suggested alternatives are not.”

"Children and dogs do not mix. There are far too many dogs in Lyme Regis particularly during the holiday seasons."

"Dogs are causing a nuisance on this small beach in Lyme Regis where there is no room for them to be all bounding around out of control. Children cannot play safely in the sand or paddle in the water and owners are oblivious to what their pets are doing. Urinating on sand castles and swimwear to name just a few."

"Dogs either local or visiting, in Lyme Regis currently have a choice of beaches to use. I believe a year round restriction of no dogs at all should apply to both the pebble and sandy beaches along the Lyme Regis sea front. As a local resident (with young children), I am fed up with irresponsible dog owners who fail to notice their dog is having a poo or fail to pick it up"

"Dogs should be banned from the main beach, sandy in Lyme Regis. This beach which has sand imported is designed for families and children to play".

"For Lyme Regis (and maybe others) - More could be done to encourage dog owners to use the very extensive areas of beach to the west and east of the central restricted area."

"FRONT BEACH LYME REGIS I strongly believe dogs should be BANNED FROM THIS BEACH ALL YEAR and THE SANDY BEACH. My property overlooks these beaches. Every day I see dog owners letting their dogs foul the beach when they think no one can see them. Dogs are constantly running around barking all day . In the summer months many people don't see or ignore the dogs banned signs"

"I am astonished at the number of dogs in Lyme Regis nowadays. people seem to have two or three dogs. I am of the opinion that Lyme is so "dog friendly" that people drive to Lyme to exercise their dogs."

"I support the Lyme Regis Town Council proposals to ban dogs all year round on the town beach"

"I think dogs should be only allowed on front town beach Lyme Regis on a lead over the winter months so the space is safe to use for families as well as dog walkers. Lyme has two other beaches that dogs can run free."

"I walk Lyme Regis beach most days and dog owners regularly outnumber non-dog owners at certain times of the day (especially mornings). It seems crazy to ban these dogs (and therefore their owners) from such a fabulous amenity and they are clearly a majority user. Restrict them in the summer - fine - that makes sense as the town has large number of summer tourists and families that use the beach, but NOT all year. They are often the ONLY beach users in the winter, so why ban them???"

"In Lyme Regis we already have Monmouth and Church beach which are both dog friendly. The church beach is washed by the tide . The main front sandy beach is the only sandy area for families to enjoy. This area should be kept a safe area for children it is not washed by the tide . There is no reason why dogs need to access this beach at all."

"In my view dogs should be restricted around beaches and other areas where there are children. It would be good to have a full time dog warden in Lyme Regis as I understand the previous incumbent did an impressive job and helped keep the streets clean and the public safe."

"Lyme Regis front beach is used by young children who are often frightened by packs of dogs running wild and defecating on the beach. Dogs should be banned all year around."

"There does seem to be an arrogance amongst dog owners that they have more rights to use the beach for exercising their dogs than for families to enjoy the space safely. Particularly at Lyme Regis the sandy beach is very small and I think this area should be dog free all year round. Families with preschool age children use the beach outside of school holidays."

Dog owners are an important part of Lyme life. Not only residents but visitors. I think the restrictions are about right as they stand. Restricting dogs from the main beach through the winter will secretly affect the livelihood of many Lyme business's. Education and enforcement is the answer!!!

"If you would consider a time when dogs can be let off leads on the sandy beach in Lyme Regis, especially now when I can take my dog up muddy fields, ie from early morning till 8 then from 6 to midnight during the summer months then In the winter from sep till early summer have a dog free ban"

"In is an absolutely stupid decision to stop dogs going on the beach in the months outside summer as a business owner who has just opened in Lyme Regis it is what provides local small independent business with money all year round. There would be no point in me opening in the winter months if we don't allow dogs on beaches. I would have a lot less customers to serve. We are all putting the effort in to be dog friendly shops and cafes, why can't you do us the honour of protecting your small business that give life to the small town by encouraging dog walking, fitness and health all the thing you should be promoting rather than wasting resources on this."

"In so far as the Front Town Beach at Lyme Regis is concerned, and possibly others in Dorset, a compromise could be achieved by excluding dogs during peak hours (1100-1800). I believe Cornwall Council has recently adopted such a proposal"

"Loving Dog Owners with their dogs bring out of season trade to otherwise quiet towns when "holiday makers" are not using the counties beaches and holiday destinations. Given the current crisis due to the CORONA-19 virus small businesses will need all the footfall they can get over the coming years to help rebuild their businesses that are currently not able to trade due to lockdown restrictions (cafes / restaurants / shops / holiday lets). Prior to his pandemic businesses were very much behind allowing dogs on the beaches in the winter months as they appreciate the custom they bring. Over 33 businesses in Lyme Regis alone have signed up to the The Dog Friendly "Welcome Stickers" Scheme which has been welcomed by many Dorset Beach Towns highlighting that both residents and visitors are welcome to enter their premises with their dog, showing that businesses recognise the positive impact dog owners out of season have on their trades"

"Lyme Regis Beach should be unrestricted all year round"

"Lyme Regis front beach is too small for dogs to be allowed at any time of year. There are beaches either side that allow dogs. The sandy main beach should be dog free and I am both a parent and dog owner"

"Lyme Regis is on the map as one of the TOP DOG FRIENDLY places to visit in the UK. Why would you want to change what makes Lyme Regis so popular?"

"Many times I have to have left the sandy beach in Lyme due to dogs. Only an all year ban would work as most dog owners don't obey the date and lead rules anyway and are abusive when you point them out. A nice day when people especially children want to enjoy the beach can happen any time of year. I am fed up with dogs rooting through my stuff on the beach whilst I am swimming. There a plenty of places for dog owners and so few for kids to play in Lyme."

"More needs to be done to ensure all owners act responsibly with regards to both the control of their dogs and clearing up after them. Lyme Regis is full of dog mess!"

"One of the best things about Lyme is that dogs, as members of the family, can be part of all the activities that all members of the family enjoy. Dogs should be controlled, but also able to exercise ..."

"Speaking as a parent of 2 and dog owner from Lyme Regis I have lived here for nearly 40 years, Dogs and their owners have two massive beaches to run dogs on off leads all year round there is no reason why the middle town beaches can't be left for people to enjoy without the fear of dog mess or out of control dogs off leads. As I have said I'm a dog owner and love dogs but would always put the right for family's and especially children's safety to take priority. Whilst there are many responsible dog owners there are always the opposite and unfortunately the few will always ruin it for the many the amount of dogs mess is getting worse and long leads and walking off the lead means that people are not in full control. The argument about the loss of trade can be used both ways as I know of many family's that wouldn't consider going to a beach that allow dogs. Like I have said we have two huge beaches for dogs all year round and that should be more than enough."

Seatown Beach, Chideock (see relevant map)

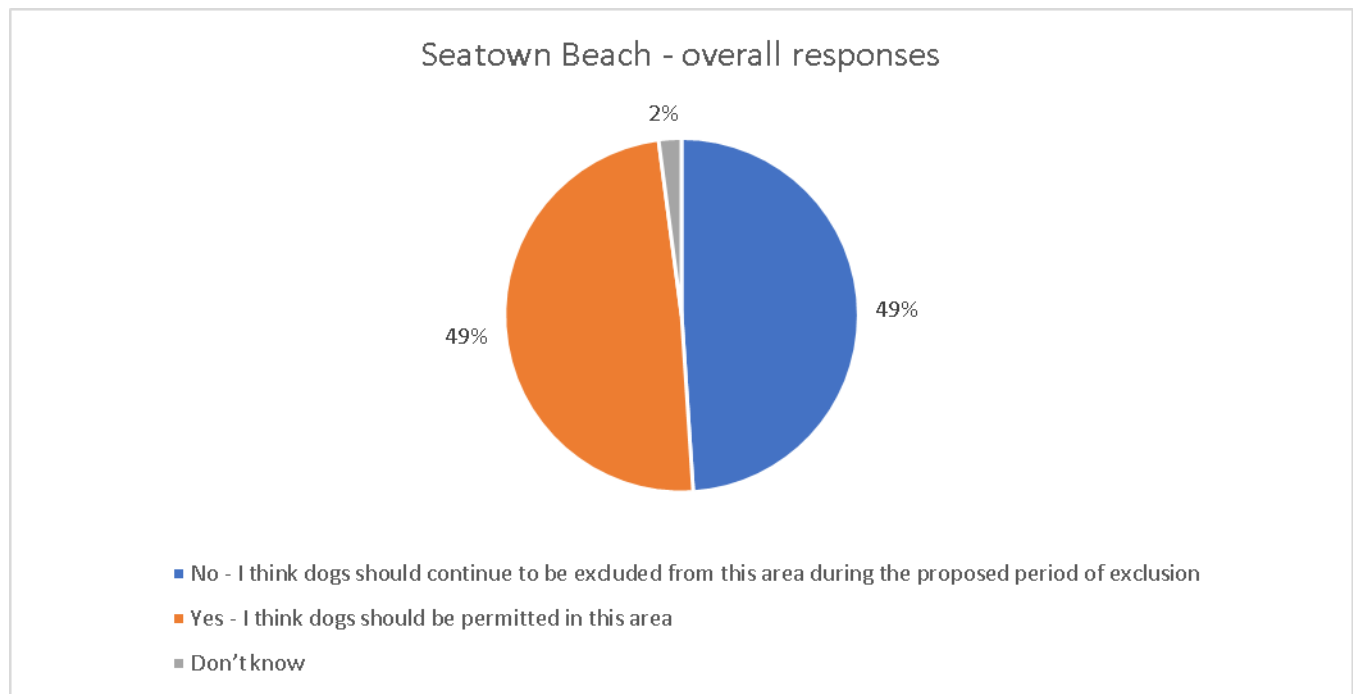
623 people chose to respond to the questions on Seatown Beach

The existing Order stipulates that dogs are prohibited from Seatown Beach during specified summer months

Q Would you like to see this change?

Overall responses	No - I think dogs should continue to be excluded from this area during the proposed period of exclusion	Yes - I think dogs should be permitted in this area	Don't know
Number	305	305	13
% of all who responded	49.0%	49.0%	2.1%

The overall responses show no majority either in favour of continuing to exclude dogs from Seatown Beach during the specified period or allowing dogs to use the area. This was by 49% in favour of continuing to exclude dogs on beaches compared to 49% in favour of allowing dogs in the area.



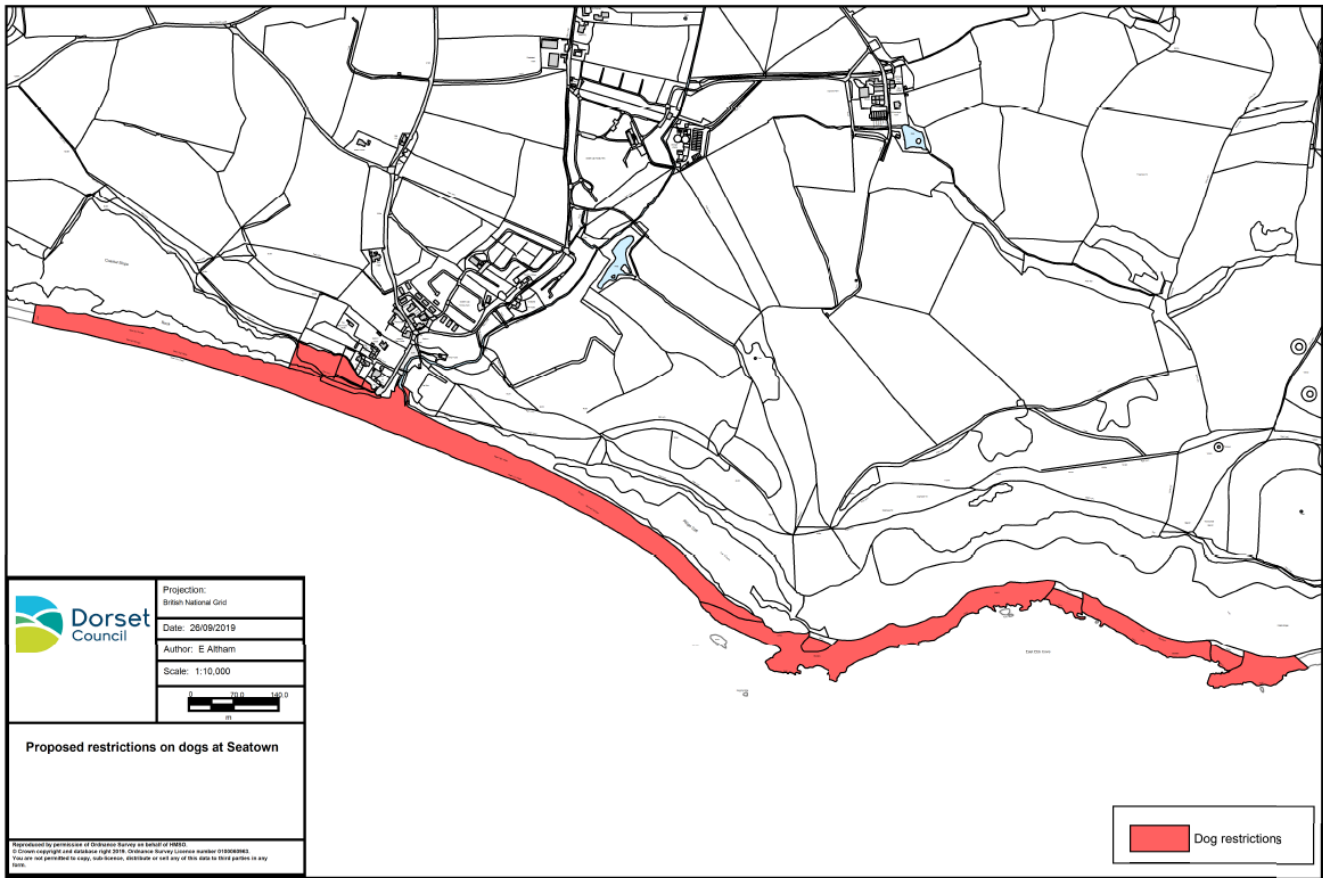
	No - I think dogs should continue to be excluded from this area during the proposed period of exclusion (%)	Yes - I think dogs should be permitted in this area (%)
Dog owners	22	75
Non-dog owners	86	12
Visitors	23	77
Businesses	22	78
Disabled	36	64

Looking at the more detailed breakdown of responses, the table above shows some responders supported keeping the exclusion on Seatown beach but many including dog owners, visitors, businesses and the disabled were against the continuation of the exclusion of dogs.

Analysing the responses just of residents living in the Dorset Council area this shows a small percentage in favour of the continuing to exclude dogs from Seatown beach by 59% in favour and 41% against.

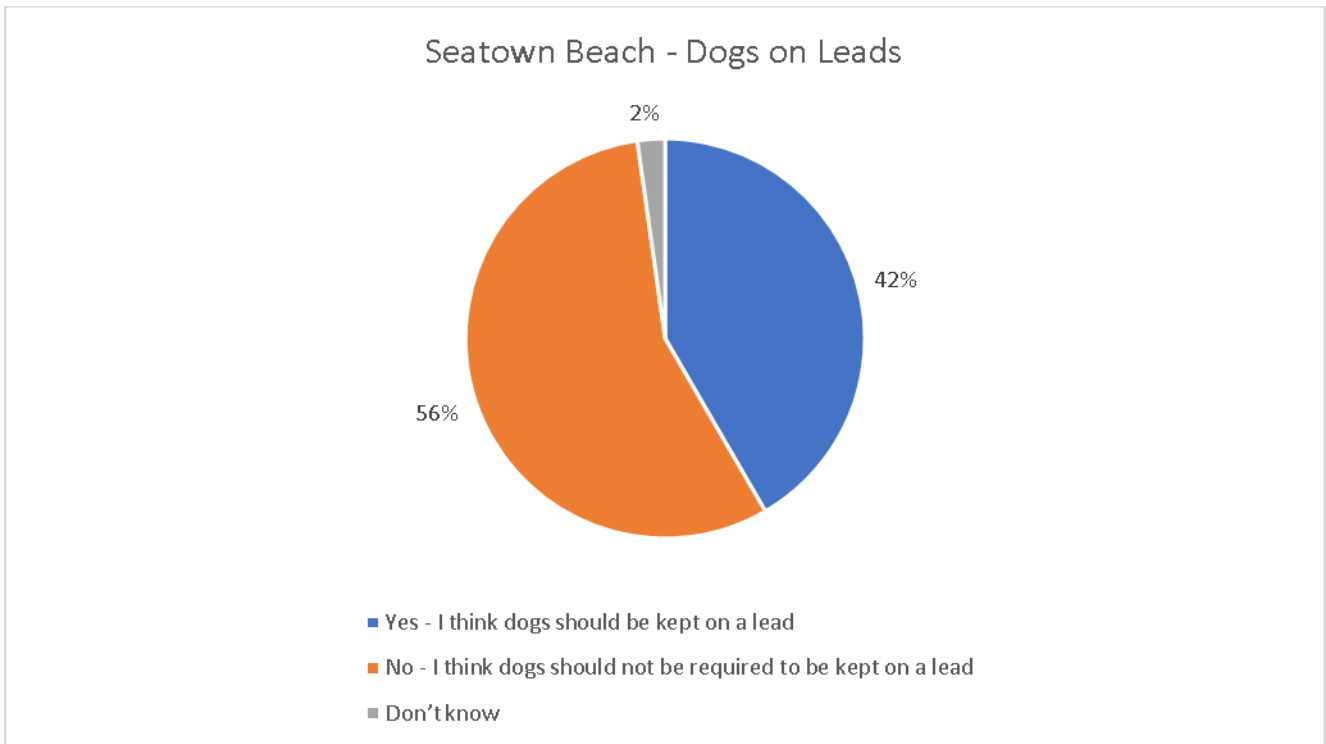
Official Organisational Responses -, Dog Friendly Weymouth and Portland think dogs should be permitted in this area.

Dorset Dogs said “This is a long length of beach and there should be a dog-friendly zone.”



Q Would you like to see dogs to be kept on a lead during the remainder of the year (when permitted) in this area of the beach?

Overall responses	Yes - I think dogs should be kept on a lead	No - I think dogs should not be required to be kept on a lead	Don't know
Number	261	352	14
% of all who responded	41.6%	56.1%	2.2%



Outside the prohibited period dogs would normally be allowed free rein on the beach. This particular question was trying to establish if respondents felt that dogs should be kept on leads when allowed on the beach. Here the overall message was split but with a majority (56%) of people feeling dogs don't need to be kept on a lead compared to 42% in favour of them requiring a lead. As in most other responses to questions of this type the dog owners and visitors felt strongly against using leads and the non- dog owners equally strongly the other way. Businesses and disabled people against leads being required.

Looking at responses just from residents living in the Dorset Council area it is fairly inconclusive. 48% thought dogs should be on leads and 52% a lead was not required.

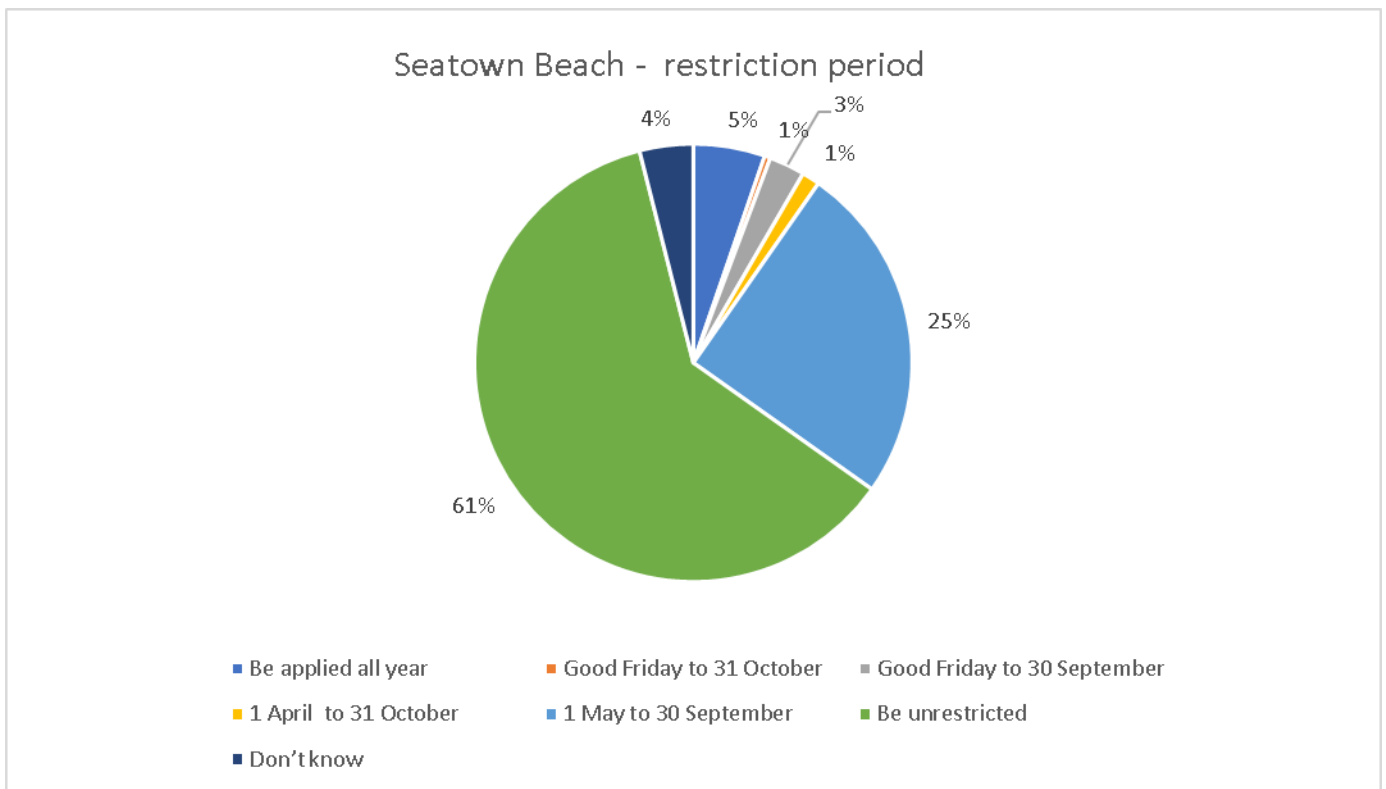
Official Organisational Responses - Dog Friendly Weymouth and Portland think dogs should not be required to be kept on a lead

Dorset Dogs said "Community Protection Notices should be used to address irresponsible use rather than penalising all, alongside other methods to promote responsible access (such as those suggested in the general comments section at the end of this document)"

The next question was only directed at people who did not support a harmonised start/finish date for all beaches with a restriction.

Q If you do not support harmonised start and end dates when beach restrictions apply what restriction do you think should apply to this beach? Please choose one of the following

Overall responses	Be applied all year	Good Friday to 31 October	Good Friday to 30 September	1 April to 31 October	1 May to 30 September	Be unrestricted	Don't know
Number	12	1	6	3	57	139	9
% of all who responded	5.3%	0.4%	2.6%	1.3%	25.1%	61.2%	4.0%



As the table and chart above show the most common choice was that the beach should be unrestricted (61%). The second most popular choice was 1 May to 30 September supported by 25% of those responding (**who did not favour a harmonised start/finish date for all beaches**). There was very limited and mixed support for the other options.

Looking into the detail clearly all groups other than non-dog owners felt unrestricted was their preferred choice. Most groups supported 1 May – 30 September over other specified times. The table below shows this in more detail.

	All year (%)	Good Friday - 31 October (%)	Good Friday - 30 September (%)	1 April - 31 October (%)	1 May - 30 September (%)	Be unrestricted (%)	Don't know (%)
Dog owners	1	0	3	1	26	65	4
Non-dog owners	35	3	3	3	17	35	3
Visitors	4	0	8	1	19	67	1
Businesses	0	0	0	0	33	67	0
Disabled	22	0	0	6	6	67	0

Organisational responses

Dorset Dogs said "Beach zoning restrictions should apply during the time when pressures are most likely to cause conflict, if this is in fact the same period for all the beaches then there is no reason for them not to be the same. This may be during the summer holiday period, with an influx of holiday makers; recognising this is variable in different parts of the country, it should cover a period from mid-July to the first week of September (there does not seem to be a good reason to take it through to the end of September or beyond). Alternatively, beach restrictions elsewhere in Dorset often started historically from 1 May, if this is in fact the period during which these beaches get busy then this may be more appropriate. The key principle is that timing should be linked to reason, to ensure restriction is understood, respected and easier to enforce."

Sample comments

Note: there were numerous comments mentioning individual beaches and here are presented a few to show the range from across the varying viewpoints regarding Seatown. The full comments are available in the appendix.

Dog owners in general, completely ignore the No Dogs sign on Seatown Beach. Probably because a Dog Warden is rarely seen. We've had a couple of instances where out of control dogs have harassed us, the owners seem to think it's funny.

I think there should be more monitoring of beaches where dogs are banned in the summer months. In particular throughout the summer there are always dogs on Seatown beach and many owners are not cleaning up after their dogs either. It seems that because this is a quieter beach many people just ignore the restriction signs, but the dogs and mess make it very unpleasant for families with children to visit.

As a very frequent visitor to Lyme Regis, Charmouth, Seatown, and West Bay always with my pet dog. We spend an enormous amount of time on the beaches for play, walks and exercise. Any restrictions would mean that sadly we would look for alternative places to visit

Generally where restrictions on Beaches are imposed I think these should be unrestricted at certain times of the day when dogs can have unrestricted access ie. on Seatown Beach it generally unoccupied before 10am and after 6pm - However it should be requirement that any mess is cleared up and binned

I have always been led to believe that Seatown Beach was /is privately owned by the Wrahall family ! If this is still the case maybe it shouldn't be included if not a council beach?

The area of the beach between the high and low tide marks, belongs to the Crown, and I would have thought was outside the jurisdiction of the Dorset Council. This would cover the entire beach in the case of Seatown. The current system at Seatown has worked very well for the last 30 years that I have used it. Of course, responsible

owner should pick up any poos. I can understand restrictions at Lyme Regis for instance, where there are a lot of people, but all beaches are different and must be treated as such.

In West Dorset the only beach where dogs are prohibited completely is Seatown. In all other local beaches, from Burton Bradstock to Lyme Regis, there are identified areas of beaches that can be used by dogs. In the neighbouring village beach, Eype, there are no dog restrictions in place for any part of the year. If Eype can have dogs and Seatown cannot, this is not consistent with the comments of Cllr. Alford, portfolio holder for this consultation who states that " These orders are to make sure that everyone, with or without dogs, can safely enjoy the public spaces. Residents and visitors to Seatown are completely banned from enjoyment of the beach with a dog. One side of the beach either East or West could be designated as for use by those with dogs. Everyone would then be treated equally

Studland Beach, Studland(see relevant map)

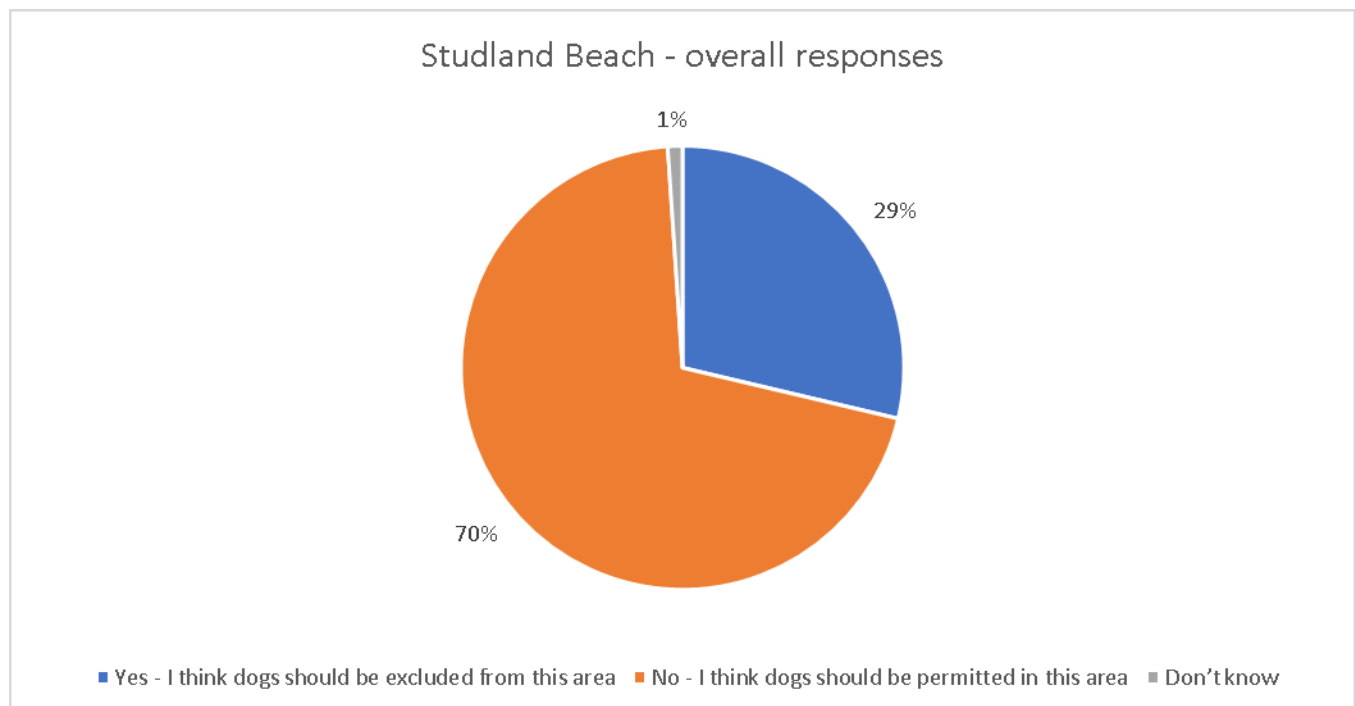
1,398 people chose to respond to the questions on Studland Beach

The existing Order stipulates dogs are to be on a lead on the beach and access points during the summer months. There is currently no prohibition of dogs on the beach.

Q Would you like to see this change?

Overall responses	Yes - I think dogs should be excluded from this area	No - I think dogs should be permitted in this area	Don't know
Number	401	982	15
% of all who responded	28.7%	70.2%	1.1%

The overall responses show a strong majority in favour of continuing to allow dogs on Studland Beach during the specified period .This was by 70.2% in favour of continuing to allow dogs on the beach compared to 28.7% in favour of excluding dogs from the area.



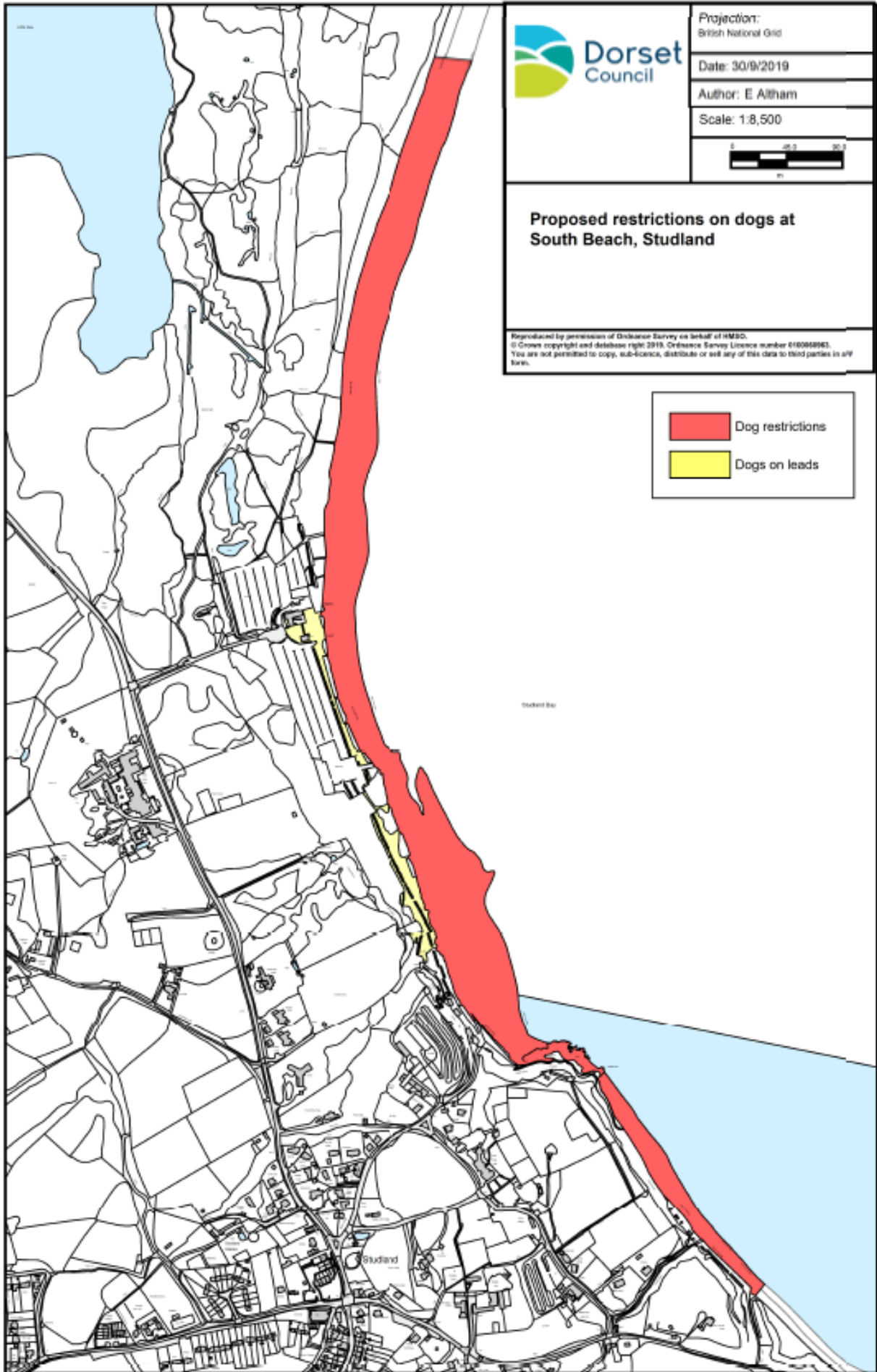
	Yes - I think dogs should be excluded from this area (%)	No - I think dogs should be permitted in this area (%)
Dog owners	7	93
Non-dog owners	73	26
Visitors	10	90
Businesses	29	71
Disabled	25	74

Looking at the more detailed breakdown of responses, the table above shows all but non-dog owners were keen on permitting dogs on the beach (as they are currently). Dog owners and visitors were particularly keen but also businesses and the disabled supported that view. Non-dog owners also felt strongly about the issue with three out of four supporting a new restriction.

Analysing the responses just of residents living in the Dorset Council area shows a small percentage in favour of continuing to allow dogs beach by 55% in favour and 44% against.

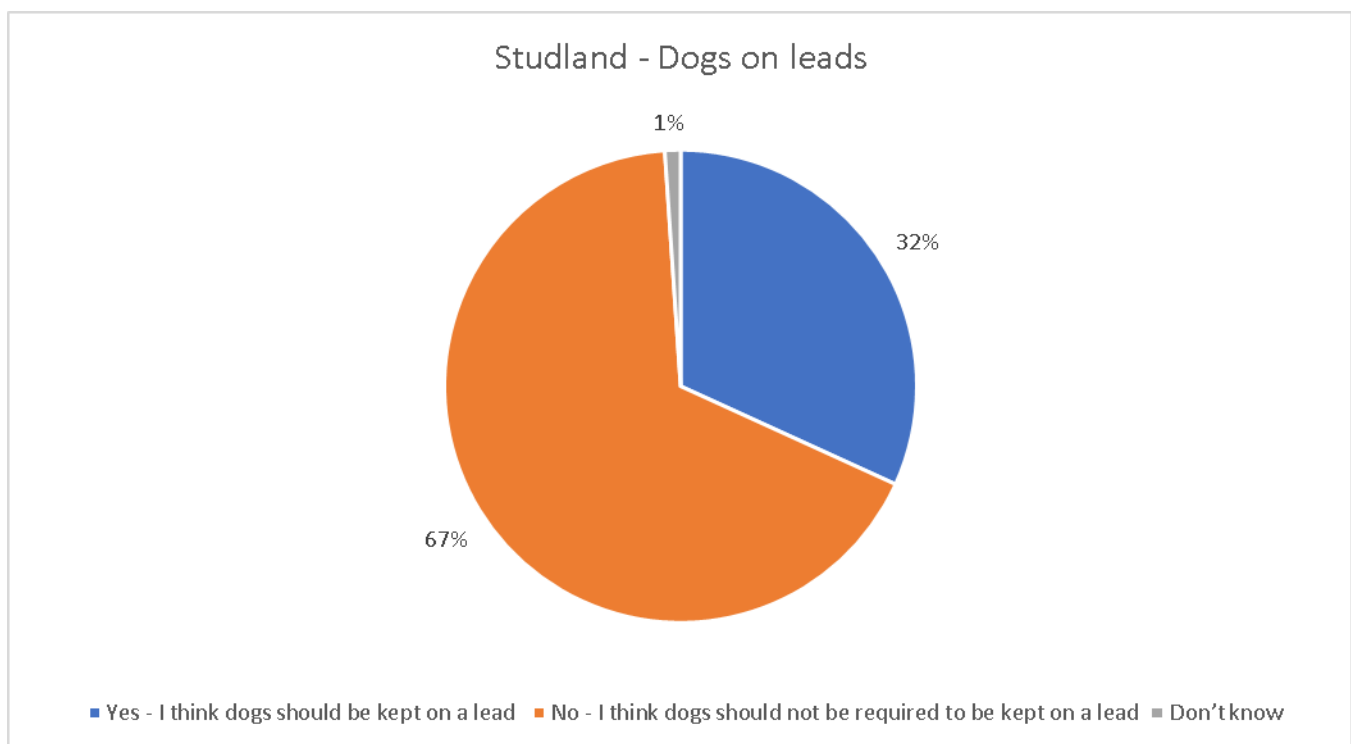
Official Organisational Responses -, Dog Friendly Weymouth and Portland think dogs should be permitted in this area whilst Natural England think they should be excluded.

Dorset Dogs said “No, I think dogs should be permitted on the beach. However I believe a dog-friendly off-lead beach, for example at South Beach, which is a distinct area, would give a fairer balance and make enforcement on the rest of the beach easier and give better protection to the adjacent designated conservation areas such as the local heaths.”



Q Would you like to see dogs to be kept on a lead during the remainder of the year (when permitted) in this area of the beach?

Overall responses	Yes - I think dogs should be kept on a lead	No - I think dogs should not be required to be kept on a lead	Don't know
Number	443	935	15
% of all who responded	31.8%	67.1%	1.1%



The existing Order stipulates dogs are to be on a lead on the beach and access points during the summer months. This particular question was trying to establish if respondents felt that dogs should be kept on leads when allowed on the beach. Here the overall message was clear but with a majority (67%) of people feeling dogs don't need to be kept on a lead compared to 32% in favour of them requiring a lead. As in most other responses to questions of this type the dog owners and visitors felt strongly against using leads and the non-dog owners equally strongly the other way. Businesses and disabled people against leads being required.

Analysing the responses just of residents living in the Dorset Council area shows 63% against dogs being required to be on a lead in unrestricted times.

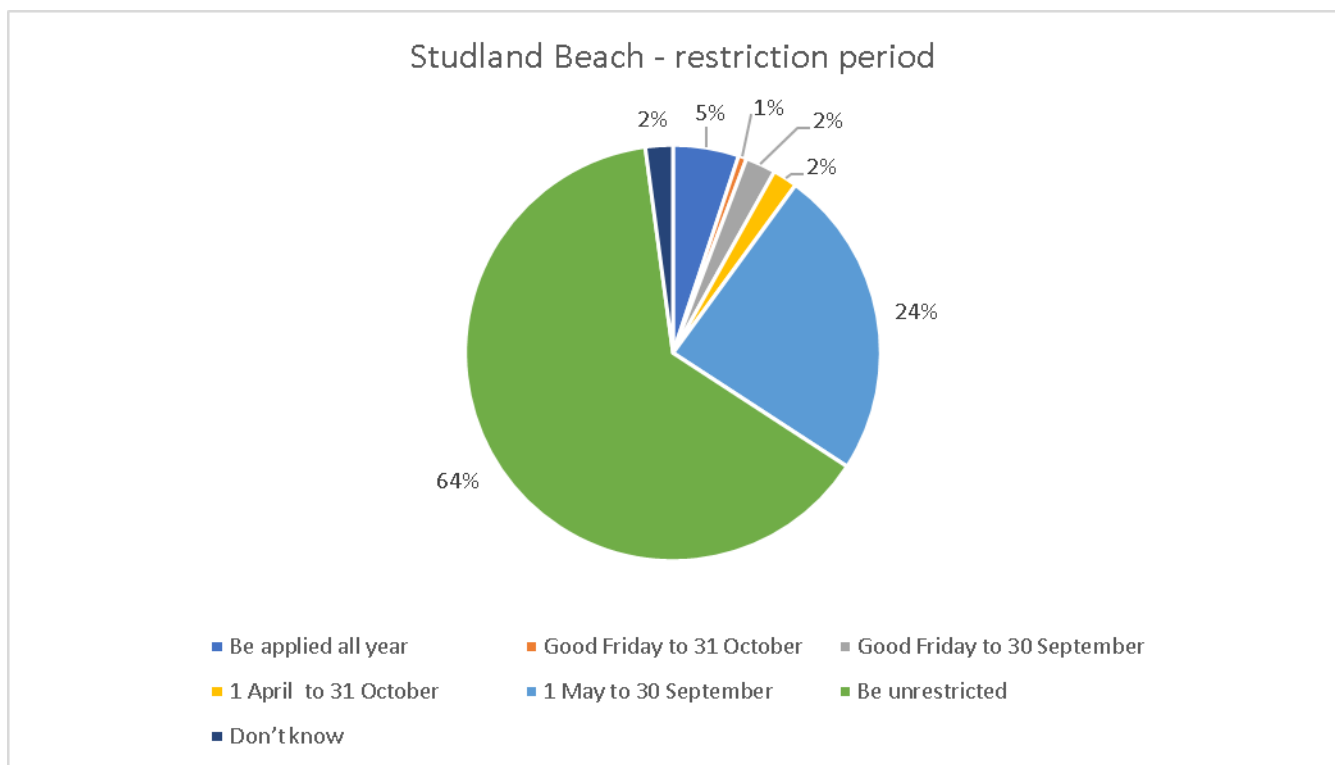
Official Organisational Responses -, Dog Friendly Weymouth and Portland think dogs should be allowed off the lead in this area whilst Natural England think they should be on the lead.

Dorset Dogs said “Community Protection Notices should be used to address irresponsible use rather than penalising all, alongside other methods to promote responsible access (such as those suggested in the general comments section at the end of this document).”

The next question was only directed at people who did not support a harmonised start/finish date for all beaches with a restriction.

Q As you do not support harmonised start and end dates when beach restrictions apply what restriction do you think should apply to this beach? Please choose one of the following

Overall responses	Be applied all year	Good Friday to 31 October	Good Friday to 30 September	1 April to 31 October	1 May to 30 September	Be unrestricted	Don't know
Number	24	3	11	9	113	298	10
% of all who responded	5.1%	0.6%	2.4%	1.9%	24.1%	63.7%	2.1%



As the table and chart above show the most common choice was that the beach should be unrestricted (64%). The second most popular choice was 1 May to 30 September supported by 24% of those responding (**who did not favour a harmonised start/finish date for all beaches**). There was very limited and mixed support for the other options.

Looking into the detail all groups including non-dog owners strongest choice was that the beach should be unrestricted. Most groups supported 1 May – 30 September over other specified times apart from non dog owners who favoured restrictions should apply all year.. The table below shows this in more detail.

	All year (%)	Good Friday - 31 October (%)	Good Friday - 30 September (%)	1 April - 31 October (%)	1 May - 30 September (%)	Be unrestricted (%)	Don't know (%)
Dog owners	1	0	2	1	27	68	2
Non-dog owners	32	5	3	7	11	39	3
Visitors	3	0	1	0	14	81	1
Businesses	0	0	0	0	0	100	0
Disabled	17	0	0	0	21	58	4

Official Organisational Responses -, Natural England think the exclusion period should be from 1 April to 31 October.

Dorset Dogs said “Beach zoning restrictions should apply during the time when pressures are most likely to cause conflict, if this is in fact the same period for all the beaches then there is no reason for them not to be the same. This may be during the summer holiday period, with an influx of holiday makers; recognising this is variable in different parts of the country, it should cover a period from mid-July to the first week of September (there does not seem to be a good reason to take it through to the end of September or beyond). Alternatively, beach restrictions elsewhere in Dorset often started historically from 1 May, if this is in fact the period during which these beaches get busy then this may be more appropriate. The key principle is that timing should be linked to reason, to ensure restriction is understood, respected and easier to enforce.”

Sample comments

Note: there were numerous comments mentioning individual beaches and here are presented a few to show the range from across the varying viewpoints regarding Studland. The full comments are available in the appendix.

“It is good that we restrict dog access to beaches in the summer when they (and their mess) are a substantial inconvenience to people. In the winter though dogs (and their owners) can cause very substantial disturbance to vulnerable wildlife on areas like Studland Beach.”

“As I understand dogs at Studland should be on a lead in the summer. However, the winter months are when there are a lot of wintering waders & other coastal birds trying to feed. These are heavily & constantly disturbed as soon as the ferry starts running from dawn to dusk. This causes them to be constantly disturbed by unleashed dogs & they waste a lot of energy constantly having to fly elsewhere on the beach to feed. Often to the less

optimum areas. When I moved to Dorset in the mid 90s, there was a large wader roost, sometimes up to 1500 or more birds at Pilots Point, Shell Bay, Studland. They eventually abandoned that roost site, thanks to the increase in Poole dog walkers coming over to disturb the area. The dogs that walk closer to the dunes also hassle the rabbits in the dunes. The situation is now made even worse by professional dog walkers or people with several dogs who can't control one, let alone a group of unleashed dogs. The Waders don't try feeding on the Poole/Sandbanks coastal side of the beach, so I would propose allowing dogs to run amok there & control them properly on the Studland side. After all the heath is a National Nature Reserve, so why not a bit of consideration for the Birds on the beaches"

"Dogs are a real nuisance on the beach at Studland: even in the summer, when dogs should be on the lead, owners let them run about unrestricted: there seems to be no enforcement of regulations. Where are the dog wardens? they seem to be totally absent. we need not only the regulations - but also enforcement."

"I do not have a dog, but it brings me joy to see them enjoying the beach with their families. It is important for them to be able to run free in areas away from traffic. The dog owners I see when I walk at Studland are very responsible and you see some on leads, some on long leads and some running free. The owners seem to know what is best for their individual dog."

"I regularly use Studland Beach throughout the year. I regularly see dog owners not keeping a close eye on their pets, allowing them to urinate and foul on the beach, and dig in the sand dunes. For this reason I feel there should be more restrictions in place. Further, during the summer months I have seen a number of dogs on the beach clearly suffering from the heat and busyness of beach, and therefore feel that restrictions would also aim to protect dogs' wellbeing."

"I think most dog owners are responsible people and are let down by the few that do not control and or don't pick up after their dogs also I think that worst things can be found i.e. soiled nappies, plastic bottles and general waste. Also in places like Studland the wild life defecate on the beach."

"I think that a portion of Studland Beach should allow access for dog walkers to allow their dogs to run off the leads all year round. The beach is large enough to accommodate dog walkers and other beach users. It would make sense for an area away from the main beach access points and cafes to allow for dog walkers to exercise their dogs. For example an area beyond the naturist section and before Shell Bay."

"I used to be tolerant of dogs but there are now so many and their owners so often inconsiderate that tighter regulation and enforcement is required. Orders should protect the wildlife interest in different locations and take account of the importance of some sites for roosts of wading birds which are prone to disturbance - this is a particular concern on Studland."

"In respect of Studland beach at least, I have noticed that rules regarding dogs are frequently ignored, but there seems to be no enforcement, in spite of there being beach patrols on quad bikes etc. I think that more active enforcement should be exercised."

"No dogs on studland beach at all. Far too many last year. Not all under control. Allowed to defecate and urinate in the sea so not able to remove waste."

"Regarding studland. I think that the signs need to be larger and more obvious especially further along the beach. Dog walkers can join the beach over the sand dunes where there are no signs to inform them that dogs must be kept on leads during the summer. We had a horrible incident in the summer involving a very rude man and his dog who was off the lead. I also think dogs should not be permitted here during the summer months at all on or off the lead"

"Studland Beach - excluding dogs totally during the summer months is maybe too restrictive. Why not have a time restriction - e.g. allow dogs before 9.00am and after 6.00pm, thus allowing a dog-free beach for most of the day. With no time restriction in the winter, then dogs should be on leads between the hours of 9.00am and 6.00pm, restricted to 2m. Many people like to enjoy the beach in the winter when the summer crowds have gone - it is not just dog-owners. We have frequently been bothered by dogs running free on the beach or up in the dunes with the owners nowhere to be seen. This is a fair compromise for dog-owners and those who choose not to have a dog or who just don't enjoy their company"

“Studland beach has become overrun with dogs. This is even more noticeable in the winter when there seems to be organised groups getting together to walk their dogs. At these times it can become very noisy and anti social.”

“Studland has been ruined by letting dogs have free access over the summer months. The national trust have not policed it and now owners see it as a go to beach to exclusion and detriment of other users. Indeed the trust have actively encouraged it without consultation introducing dog goods in their shop and cafe including ice-cream for dogs! It's also not fair on the dogs.”

“We own a static caravan in Dorset so frequently walk on Studland Beach. We would really appreciate it if dogs were kept on leads from Good Friday to 30 September. Some dog owners exercise many dogs at a time and this can be problematic - not sure if it's feasible to regulate this”.

“All beaches should have an area in the winter and summer where dogs can be exercised off lead and on the lead. Studland has five miles of beach and the nudist's have more beach than dog owners in the summer! I don't visit any of the Dorest beaches in the summer because of the on/off lead restrictions, rather go to Devon or Cornwall where there aren't so many restrictions. Dorset isn't very dog friendly!”

“At Studland during the summer months, there could be a time restriction, e.g. dogs allowed off the lead before 8am as a lot of dog walkers are early risers. Also at Studland all the dog waste bins have been removed. This makes it more difficult for dog owners to behave responsibly. There are also mixed messages about whether or not dog waste may be placed in general waste bins (mind you, there aren't many of them either). The National Trust say you can and Suez say you can't!”

“Dogs should be allowed off the lead during 1May and 30 September on weekdays as Studland beaches are empty!”

“During the colder months, Studland is a fantastic place for walkers, dogs and horses and their owners. I regularly visit during the week and it seems a friendly and well organised place where owners clean up after their dogs and the café does a good business. It would be very sad to change this.”

“I don't know why Studland Beach should have any exclusions at all.”

“As a somewhat regular visitor to Studland beach I know that dogs have to currently be on a lead for many months of the year, but I think that time frame is too long. If you visit during the weekday in summer when it is not school holidays and the beach is quiet, or later in the evening, dogs should be allowed off lead.”

“I have two large well behaved dogs. We enjoy walking at Studland between 1/10 and 31/3 every year. During the summer season, I respect that the beach is much busier and I do not take my dogs to the beach despite being allowed to if they are on a lead. During the winter period where dogs are permitted, I ALWAYS clean up after my dogs and I ALWAYS put my dogs on a lead if there are small children or people clearly stating they are anxious, or if the dogs are over-excited with other dogs. Potentially banning off-lead dog walking on Studland throughout the year will have a significant effect on many dog walkers who are responsible owners and very much enjoy the open safe spaces of the beach. I see no benefit in enforcing an all year dog lead rule on this beach. It will only antagonise locals who moved to the area in order to enjoy dog walks and who already respect the rules in place for significant dog walking restrictions during the summer season.”

“I think you'll find that the current arrangements at Studland main beach work well - dates of restrictions and dates for all of us to enjoy the beach with our dogs off lead. It's very civilised. It works well for such a honey pot beach”.

“One of the joys of living in Dorset is the fact that we can walk on Studland Beach with our families and dog(s). We are members of the National Trust and a number of other organisations, including the RSPB & DWT. Therefore, we respect the need to keep our dogs on leads during the periods when there are ground nesting birds or during the summer months. It is not necessary to place greater restrictions on us.”

“Most of the people who use studland beach outside of school holidays are exercising themselves and their dog. This is a healthy activity that should be PROMOTED.”

“Studland beach is large enough to accommodate dogs and families and is particularly used for this reason by locals. It also forms part of a longer walk and dogs, like people, should be able to run into the sea to cool off and to have fun with their families.”

“The regulations concerning, for example, Studland Beach, have worked well so far with an 'on lead' restriction during the summer months and no lead restrictions for the winter months and such a system is fair and should be retained.”

West Bay Beaches, West Bay (see relevant map)

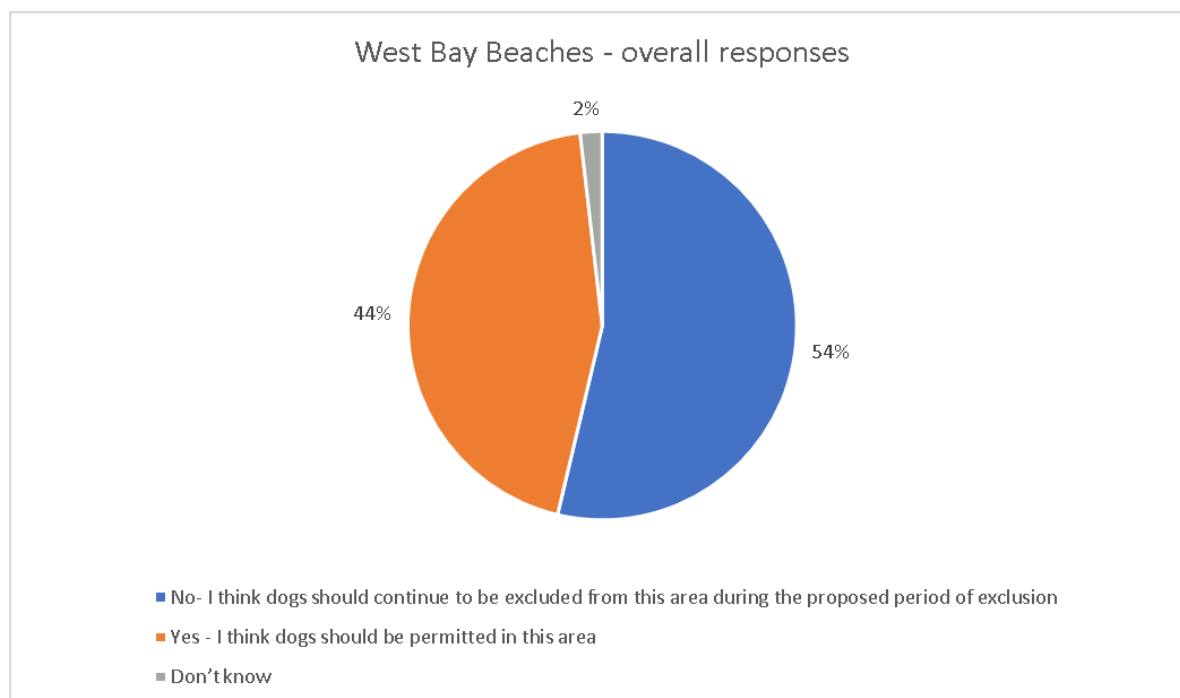
1,093 people chose to respond to the questions on West Bay beaches.

The existing Order stipulates dogs are prohibited from East and West Beaches during specified summer months.

Q Would you like to see this change?

Overall responses	No- I think dogs should continue to be excluded from this area during the proposed period of exclusion	Yes - I think dogs should be permitted in this area	Don't know
Number	587	486	20
% of all who responded	53.7%	44.5%	1.8%

The overall responses show a small majority in favour of continuing to exclude dogs from East and West beaches during the specified period. This was by 53.7% in favour of continuing to exclude dogs on the beach compared to 44.5% in favour of permitting dogs in the area.

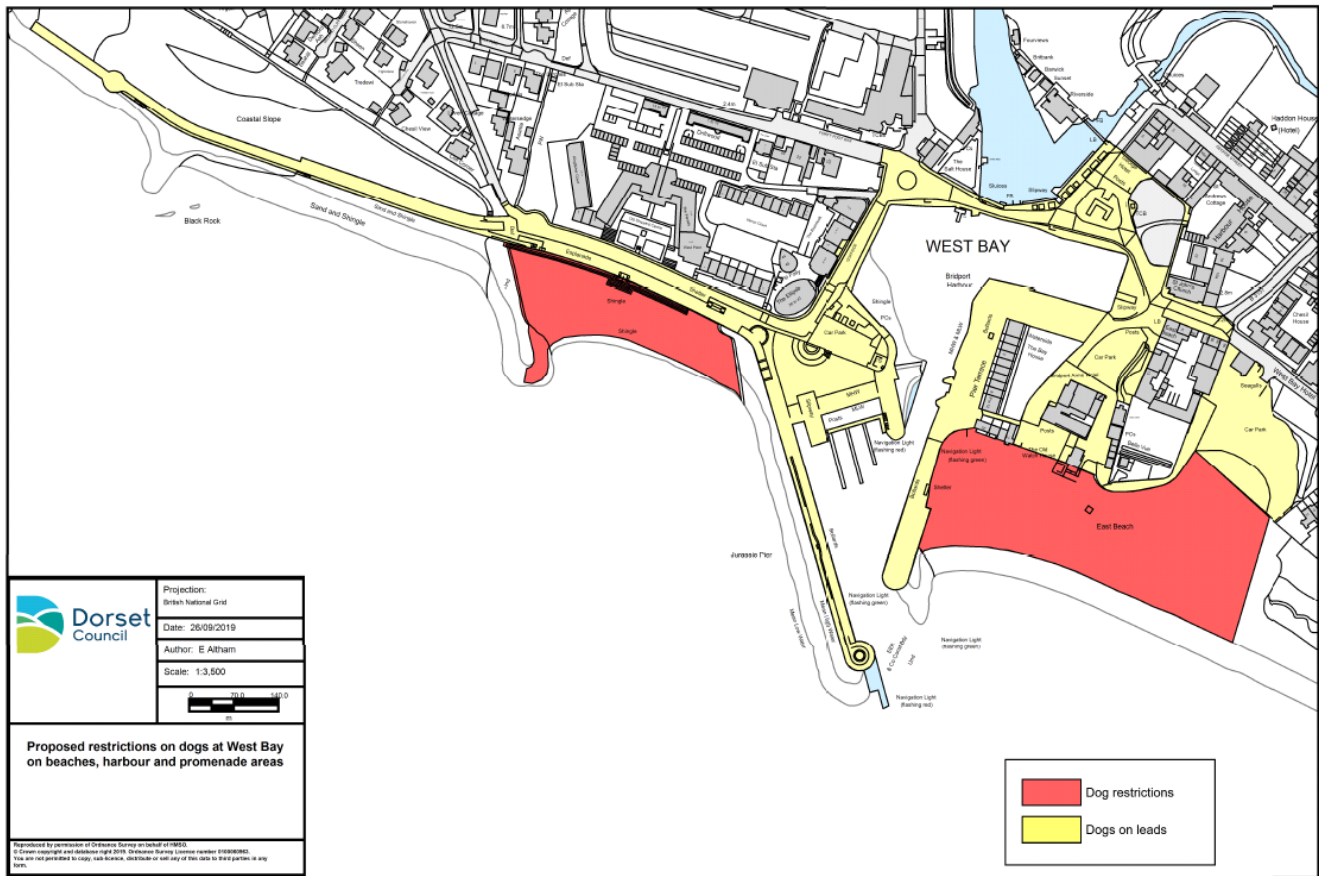


	No- I think dogs should continue to be excluded from this area during the proposed period of exclusion (%)	Yes - I think dogs should be permitted in this area (%)
Dog owners	32	67
Non-dog owners	89	9
Visitors	29	70
Businesses	20	80
Disabled	43	57

Looking at the more detailed breakdown of responses, the table above shows all but non dog owners were keen on permitting dogs on the beach. Dog owners and visitors were keen and businesses and the disabled also supported that view. Non dog owners also felt strongly about the issue but the opposite way with nine out of ten supporting a new restriction

Examining responses specifically from local residents (Bridport Ward) there is a strong feeling in favour of continuing to exclude dogs from the area. 66% wanted to continue to exclude dogs and 34% felt dogs should be permitted.

Responses from residents living in the Dorset Council area also supported continuation of restrictions with 61% in favour and 37% against

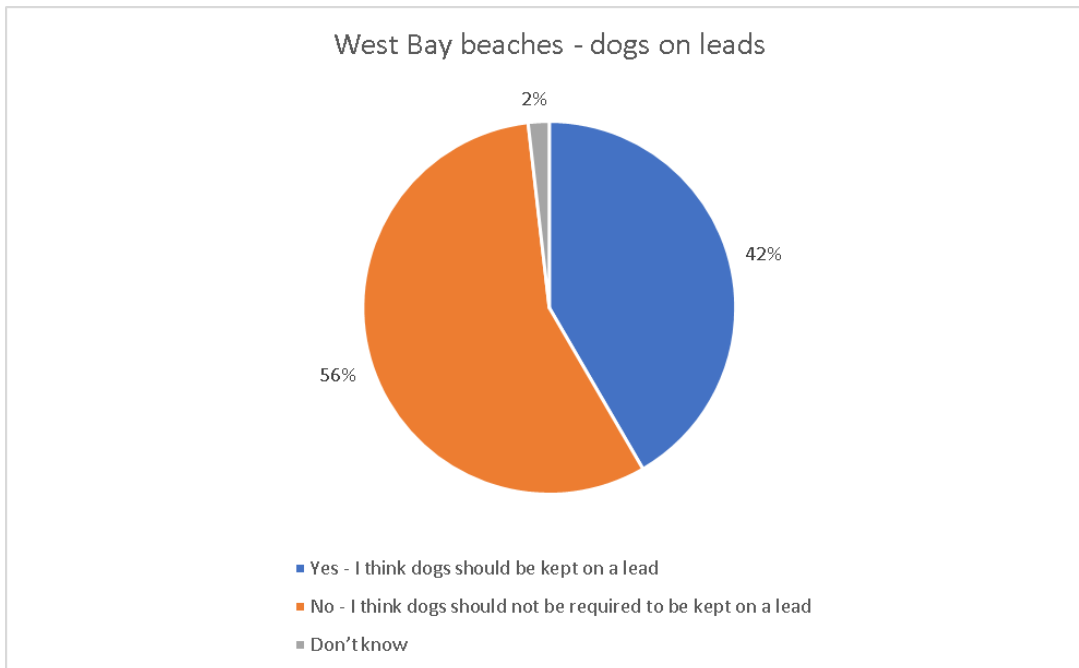


Official Organisational Responses - Dog Friendly Weymouth and Portland think dogs should be permitted in this area.

Dorset Dogs said “I’m not sufficiently familiar with this area of beach to comment on whether the balance of dog-free and dog-friendly zone is balanced, if there is still a reasonable area of beach that is dog-friendly available it may be reasonable to have both these areas as dog-free, but otherwise consideration should be given to making one of them available for dog owners.”

Q Would you like to see dogs to be kept on a lead during the remainder of the year (when permitted) in this area of the beach?

Overall responses	Yes - I think dogs should be kept on a lead	No - I think dogs should not be required to be kept on a lead	Don't know
Number	457	621	20
% of all who responded	41.6%	56.6%	1.8%



This particular question was trying to establish if respondents felt that dogs should be kept on leads when allowed on the beach. Here the overall message was clear but with a majority (56%) of people feeling dogs don't need to be kept on a lead compared to 42% in favour of them requiring a lead. As in most other responses to questions of this type the dog owners and visitors felt strongly against using leads and the non- dog owners equally strongly the other way. Businesses and disabled people were against leads being required.

Examining responses specifically from local residents (Bridport Ward which covers West Bay too) there is a feeling against keeping dogs on a lead in this area. 53% thought no leads were appropriate and 45% felt leads were necessary

Responses from residents living in the Dorset Council area also supported no leads by a small margin with 47% in favour and 51% against leads.

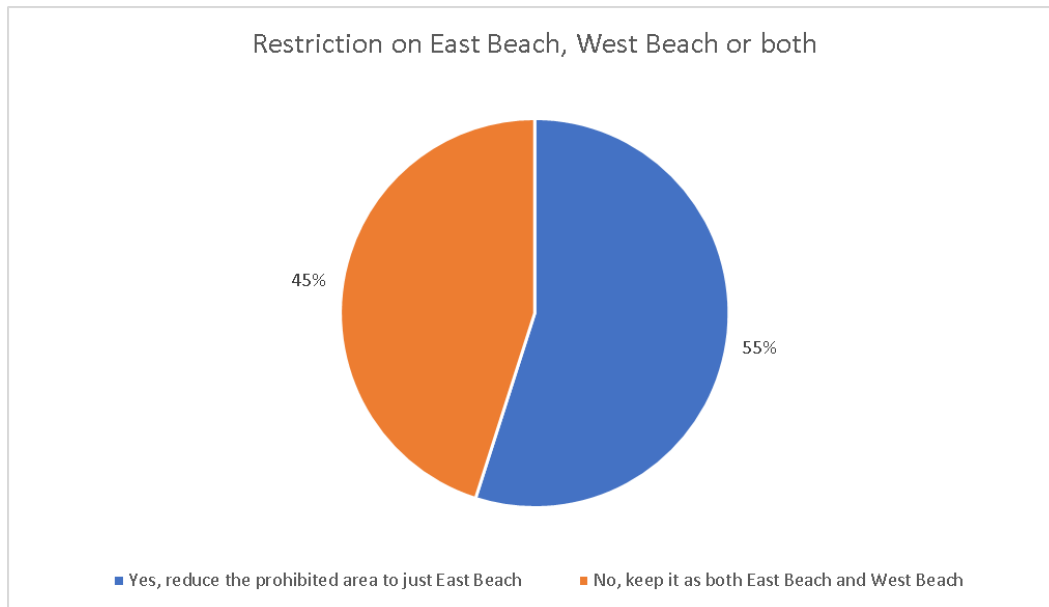
The next question was only directed at people who did not support a harmonised start/finish date for all beaches with a restriction.

Official Organisational Responses -, Dog Friendly Weymouth and Portland think dogs should not be required to be on a lead for the rest of the year.

Dorset Dogs said “Community Protection Notices should be used to address irresponsible use rather than penalising all, alongside other methods to promote responsible access (such as those suggested in the general comments section at the end of this document).”

Q. Should the area where dogs are prohibited be reduced to just East Beach only? NB the cliffs that are west of West Beach are hazardous and are subject to frequent rock falls. This would open up West Beach for unrestricted dog exercise.

Overall responses	Yes, reduce the prohibited area to just East Beach	No, keep it as both East Beach and West Beach
Number	579	475
% of all who responded	54.9%	45.1%



There was little difference between the support of keeping the restriction as both East Beach and West Beach or reducing the restricted area down to just East Beach at West Bay. 55% thought it should be reduced down and 45% thought it should be kept as both beaches. Dog owners (77%), Visitors (74%), Businesses (78%) and the disabled (63%) were all in favour of reducing the restricted area down to just East Beach but non dog owners were 80% in favour of keeping a restriction on both areas.

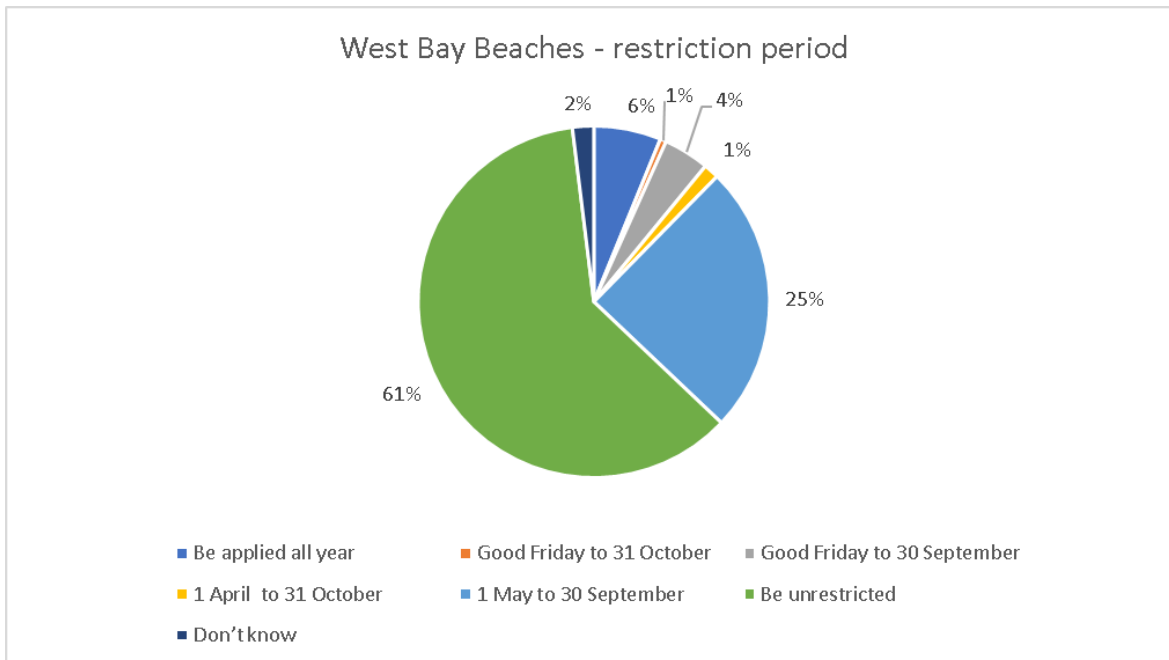
Examining responses specifically from local residents (Bridport Ward which covers West Bay too) there is a feeling in favour of keeping the prohibited area to both East and West Beaches.. 58% wanted to include both beaches and 42% felt it could be reduced to East Beach only

Responses from residents living in the Dorset Council area were completely split on the issue with 50% in favour of a reduction and 50% against.

The next question was only directed at people who did not support a harmonised start/finish date for all beaches with a restriction.

Q As you do not support harmonised start and end dates when beach restrictions apply what restriction do you think should apply to this beach? Please choose one of the following

Overall responses	Be applied all year	Good Friday to 31 October	Good Friday to 30 September	1 April to 31 October	1 May to 30 September	Be unrestricted	Don't know
Number	22	2	15	5	88	217	7
% of all who responded	6.2%	0.6%	4.2%	1.4%	24.7%	61.0%	2.0%



As the table and chart above show the most common choice was that the beach should be unrestricted (61%). The second most popular choice was 1 May to 30 September supported by 25% of those responding (**who did not favour a harmonised start/finish date for all beaches**). There was very limited and mixed support for the other options.

Looking into the detail all groups excluding non-dog owner’s strongest choice was that the beach should be unrestricted. Most groups supported 1 May – 30 September over other specified times apart from non-dog owners who favoured no restrictions should apply all year. as their second most popular choice after all year restriction. The table below shows this in more detail.

	All year (%)	Good Friday - 31 October (%)	Good Friday - 30 September (%)	1 April - 31 October (%)	1 May - 30 September (%)	Be unrestricted (%)	Don't know (%)
Dog owners	1	1	5	1	26	65	2
Non-dog owners	39	2	2	2	16	37	2
Visitors	4	0	7	1	17	69	2
Businesses	0	0	0	0	29	71	0
Disabled	13	0	0	3	19	66	0

Organisational responses

Dorset Dogs said “Beach zoning restrictions should apply during the time when pressures are most likely to cause conflict, if this is in fact the same period for all the beaches then there is no reason for them not to be the same. This may be during the summer holiday period, with an influx of holiday makers; recognising this is variable in different parts of the country, it should cover a period from mid-July to the first week of September (there does not seem to be a good reason to take it through to the end of September or beyond). Alternatively, beach restrictions elsewhere in Dorset often started historically from 1 May, if this is in fact the period during which these beaches get busy then this may be more appropriate. The key principle is that timing should be linked to reason, to ensure restriction is understood, respected and easier to enforce.”

Sample comments

Note: there were numerous comments mentioning individual beaches and here are presented a few to show the range from across the varying viewpoints regarding West Bay. The full comments are available in the appendix.

“As a user of East beach in West Bay I and my family have been urinated on by dogs on several occasions in the summer months. We have had our towels urinated on when swimming. I have witnessed families having their beach tents sheltering small children urinated on. I understand that the area of East beach which has a dog ban during the summer months is the area between the pier and the start of cliffs. This area often has dogs perhaps because visitors have not understood the demarcation. Presently dogs are allowed on East beach during the summer months. It’s my opinion that the restriction placed on other beaches has forced dog owners to seek out a beach where their pet will be allowed this has greatly increased the amount of dogs on East beach .I would prefer that they were restricted but if that cannot be considered then a dogs on lead during the summer months especially between the hours of 10am - 7pm would greatly improve the environment for families.”

“At West Bay in the summer there are nearly always dogs loose on restricted beaches. This is partly because signage is not clear enough and there are several ways on to the beach. This is very distressing for small children and could be dangerous. Signage needs to be much clearer and penalties enforced.”

"Dogs should be kept on a lead around the harbour and the promenade and both piers at west bay at all times because most owners do not control them and they have nearly made me trip and other elderly people as they run wild in all directions. For the safety of children's health dogs should continue to be banned from east and west beach from May 1 to September 30 because dogs poo and urine contains bacteria that will get on children's hands when they play in the sand and make them ill if they put their hands in their mouths. It can give them stomach cramps or even kidney problems. Dogs must not be allowed on east beach because of the falling cliffs I suggest that dog walkers are made aware that they can use the beach beyond the groin at west beach towards eype to walk their dogs in safety during the prohibited times."

"I am a local resident to West Bay. During the summer months when restrictions currently apply I have seen dog owners frequently ignore the signs. The signs are inadequate they are far too small and not easily seen on entering the beaches, they need to be much bigger and clearer."

"I believe dogs should not be allowed on any beaches at any time of year. There is, in my view, a particular problem in West Bay and nearby areas (Eype, Cogden etc.), possibly due to the relatively high proportion of dog owners and dog walkers. These people have consistently demonstrated their unwillingness to comply with any restrictions or obligations, particularly with regard to clearing up after their dogs regardless of the quantity and clarity of signs on display."

"The beaches at West Bay in particular are always dotted with dog mess and there is never a warden to enforce cleaning up or fines. Dogs are usually off lead but rarely controlled by owners, leading them to jump up other beach users."

"I visit and spend time often daily at west bay beaches with family and friends and children and find it really upsetting to come across dog poo left on the beach for our children to uncover whilst playing on the beach even on the shore line especially as we are often barefoot entering the sea and whilst on the beach."

"I would propose that West Beach at West Bay has an all year round dog restriction in view of the fact that this beach is the safest and is used throughout the year for bathing."

"My family and I are regular users of both beaches at West Bay throughout the year (my young sons love to dig all year round!). People with dogs regularly ignore the signs and dogs are allowed to roam the beach during summer months and there have been three occasions when I have had to politely remind owners of the rules."

"There are three beaches at West Bay - please, please, please keep at least one of these beaches completely dog-free all year round. I have nothing against dogs but as a frequent all year round beach at West Bay user I am sick and tired of being permanently surrounded by dogs whenever I go to any of the beaches at West Bay"

"I use the beach at west bay East beach to sunbathe, read and swim and the number of times a dog off the lead comes bounding over across my rug nose in my bag- is very frequent. We should be able to enjoy lovely days in March, Sept and Oct without uncontrolled dogs causing a nuisance. Dog rules need to be written LARGE and enforced"

"West Bay- East Beach is a very large area, and is not contained. It has many access points, and there is very little opportunity for signage to be erected that can be easily see by the public. Please consider allowing dogs in this area all year round, and keep West Beach dog free, maintaining the current "dog beach", which is tidal, and inaccessible during high tide."

"As a visitor to Dorset I value being able to walk my dogs on the beaches at West Bay when restrictions don't apply. I would be much less likely to visit if there were more restrictions on dogs. I would prefer not to see blanket restrictions on dogs on leads. Most dog owners are sensible and want to keep their dogs safe so will put them on leads in areas where they are likely to be in danger or cause a nuisance to others."

"I live in West bay, right near the 'dog friendly' beach and have been taking my dog down to the beach for many years now. I physically wouldn't be able to stop taking him down there as he pulls me there the minute his lead goes on! Instead of punishing people and dogs like myself with putting this ban into place, why don't we have allocated areas for dogs to go on beaches and in certain places? That way people who have dogs can be kept away from the people who feel the need to complain? I understand some people tend to leave there dog mess but that's not everybody! It's ruining things for the people obeying the rules. I'd be truly gutted if I couldn't take my dog to the beach this summer."

“East beach West Bay restrictions are unnecessary outside of the main school summer holiday period and even then dogs on leads could be permitted during this period. Many holidaymakers have their dogs with them and it is dangerous to push dog owners toward West beach at anytime of year. Local people are aware of the danger, but visitors may not be. It is immensely frustrating that local rate payers cannot walk their dogs on currently restricted West Bay beaches eg. during June and early July when there are little in the way of family holidaymakers around. Locals can also walk their dogs early or later in the day when the longer daylight hours are with us. It is more important to ensure dog owners are responsible in picking up their dogs mess. If they do so, there should be no problem relaxing the current restrictions.”

“East Beach West Bay should now not even be part of the equation due to the danger of rockfalls.”

“I know (because I am one/two!) that a lot of holiday makers stay in the UK because they can take their dogs on holiday with them. To the beach, to the pub, spending their holiday money! Very good for local business. I live in Bridport and haven't visited most of the places you list. At West Bay I know that a relaxed restriction tempts folk to linger and spend at the kiosks and pubs.”

“I think the restrictions should apply between certain times of the day, for example no dogs between 10:00-19:00. This would allow for most of the summer beach visitors to disperse and therefore reduce any risk or conflict between beach users. Also the duration of restrictions should be from 1st May - 31st August. With regard to my nearest area, West Bay. (Not wanting to be a snitch!) At present there are far greater dog users on East Beach than West Beach, with as far I'm aware no issues. In my opinion it would make sense to fully restrict dogs from West Beach and have East Beach open to dogs all year round.”

Weymouth (Central) beach (see relevant map)

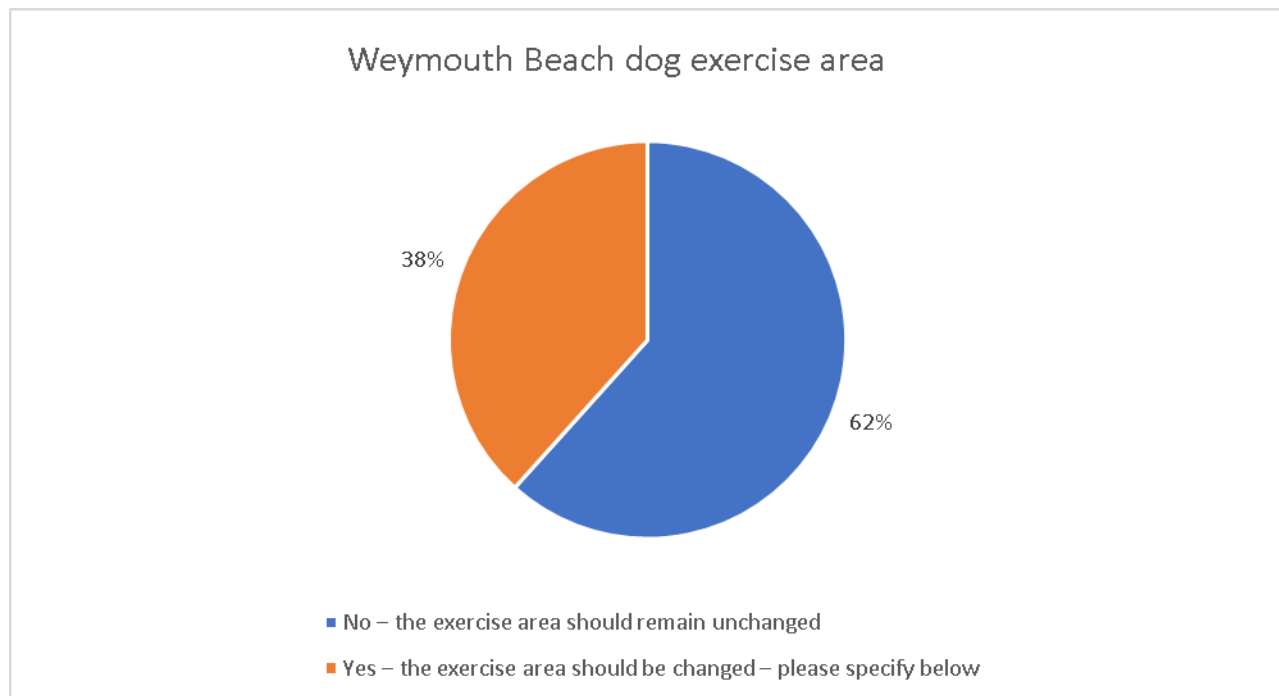
1,818 people chose to respond to the questions on Weymouth beach, the most of any of the beaches included in the consultation.

Weymouth beach has a permanent dog exercise area at the Pavilion end where dogs are permitted at any time

Q Should this arrangement be changed?

Overall responses	No – the exercise area should remain unchanged	Yes – the exercise area should be changed – please specify below
Number	1,121	697
% of all who responded	61.7%	38.3%

The overall responses show a majority in favour of keeping the exercise area unchanged. This was by 61.7% in favour of exercise area unchanged compared to 38.3% in favour of changing the area in some way.



	No – the exercise area should remain unchanged (%)	Yes – the exercise area should be changed (%)
Dog owners	65	35
Non-dog owners	57	43
Visitors	69	31
Businesses	61	39
Disabled	58	42

Looking at the more detailed breakdown of responses, the table above shows all groups including non-dog owners are keen on continuing with the dog exercise area unchanged.

Examining responses specifically from local residents (Weymouth, Portland and Chickerell) there is a feeling in favour of keeping the exercise area unchanged. 55% wanted to keep it the same and 45% wanted to change it.

Responses from residents living in the Dorset Council area were slightly more emphatic on the issue with 60% in favour of the area remaining unchanged and 40% in favour of changing it.

Official Organisational Responses -, Dog Friendly Weymouth and Portland think the exercise area should be changed. The Friends of Rodwell Trail and Sandsfoot Gardens think the exercise should remain unchanged.

Dorset Dogs thought the exercise area should change.

Q 683 people explained how they thought the dog area should change: whether it should enlarge, reduce or be removed altogether or even relocated.

Issue	dog owners	non-dog owners	combined
Ban dogs from the beach at all times	11	99	110
Relocate to unspecified area	31	33	64
Do away with the dog exercise area	23	38	61
Relocate to around Clock to Pier bandstand area	30	26	56
No restrictions	39	14	53
Enlarge dog exercise area	39	13	52
Let dog owners use the whole beach early morning and, in the evening,	48	4	52
Relocate to Greenhill area	19	6	25
Do away with exercise area in summer	5	14	19
Keep dogs on a lead	16	2	18
Relocate to Overcombe end	5	12	17
Stop events using the dog exercise area	15	2	17

Better enforcement	3	7	10
Better signage needed	7	2	9
Reduce exercise area	1	6	7
Best part of the beach is dog area	5	1	6
Relocate to Pavilion end	2	2	4
No dogs in the water	1	1	2
Change the period of restriction	0	2	2

The table above looks at how respondents felt the exercise area should change. The responses were often quite different depending if they were dog owners or not. Many non-dog owners felt dogs should not be allowed on the beach at all. Many people believed the exercise area was in the wrong place and too small, with many suggestions of moving the area further down the beach. The table above highlights which areas were given most support. The most popular specified area was between the Jubilee Clock and Pier Bandstand with someone saying how much easier it would be if located between two well-known and highly visible landmarks. There was also support for allowing dogs on the beach early in the morning and late in the evening instead of having an exercise area, as done elsewhere.

Weymouth Town Council were clear in their preference saying " Weymouth Town Council would want to relocate the dog exercise area on Weymouth Beach from its current position to the area between the Jubilee Clock and The Pier Bandstand. The dates for this should be between 1st May to 30th September as stated in this consultation and in previous correspondence."

Official Organisational Responses -

Dog Friendly Weymouth and Portland think the exercise area should be changed. They say "Move this area to Jubilee Clock to Pier Bandstand, this will allow easy access to the water edge for disabled dog walkers and families. Allow dog owners to walk their dogs to enable exercise for dogs well being as recognised by animal welfare groups. Maintain all year around access for all. Reduce confrontation with none dog owners who fail to see signage and prefer to use the sandy beach free from dogs. Free up the Events Area leaving this to help Weymouth Events Team hold more events. This area can be easily identified by using two historical landmarks. With signage place in a position for all to see, arrow signage on the railings showing where dogs are permitted. Signage to be flexible during unrestricted times, be spilt in two, showing dogs permitted/please keep our beach clean and restricted area/dogs on leads on Esplanade. We believe this will help locals and visitors with visual or mental disability who only see Dog Ban signs due to font used on the signage."

Dorset Dogs thought the exercise area should change saying "It may be worth trialling having a larger area available for dogs (adjacent to either the existing Preston or Pier dog-friendly beach areas) whilst maintaining a sizeable dog-free zone, as this is a long beach."

The full comments are available in the appendix.

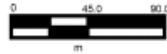


Projection:
British National Grid

Date: 30/9/2019

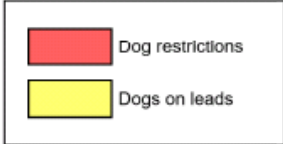
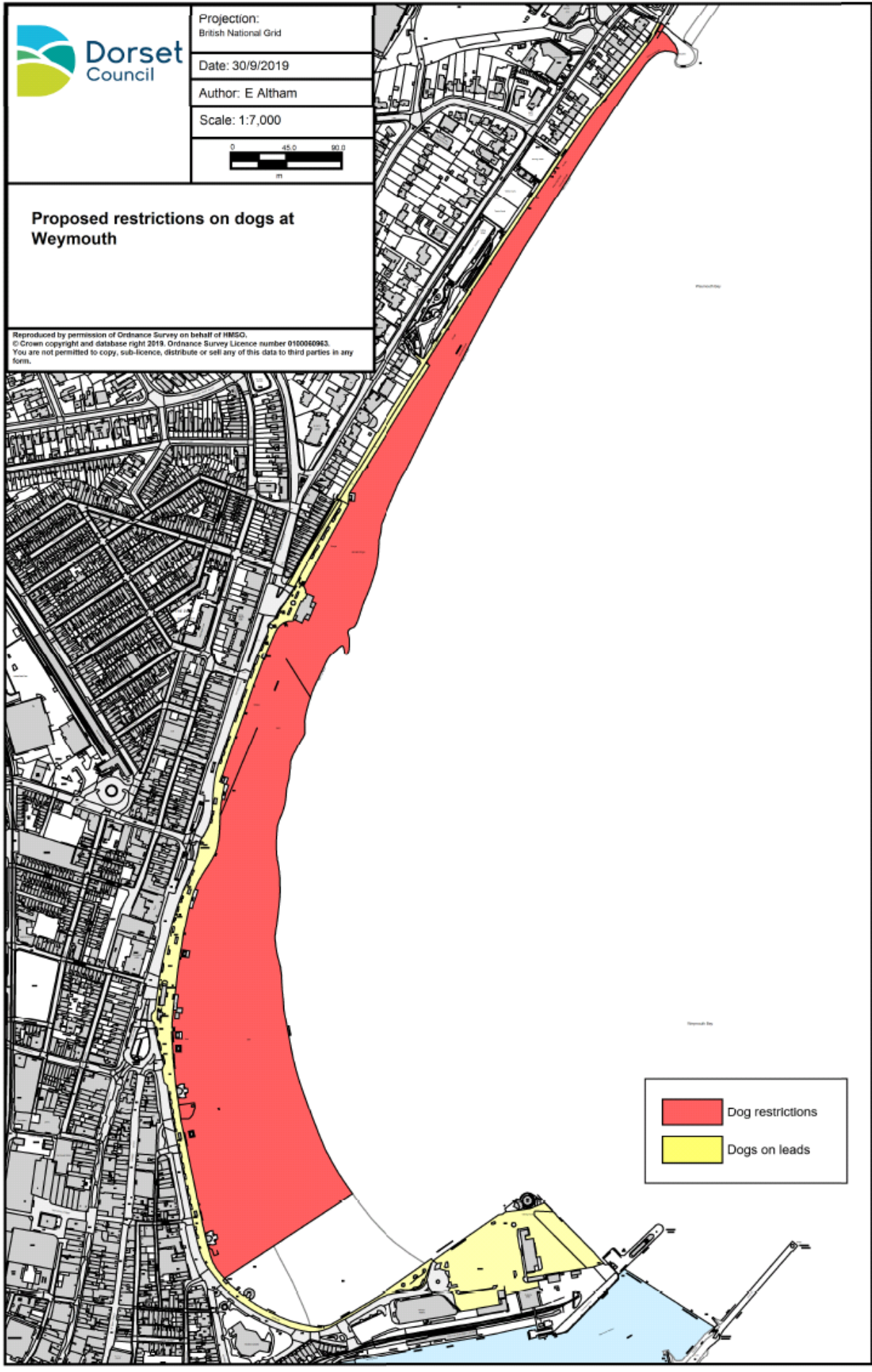
Author: E Altham

Scale: 1:7,000



Proposed restrictions on dogs at Weymouth

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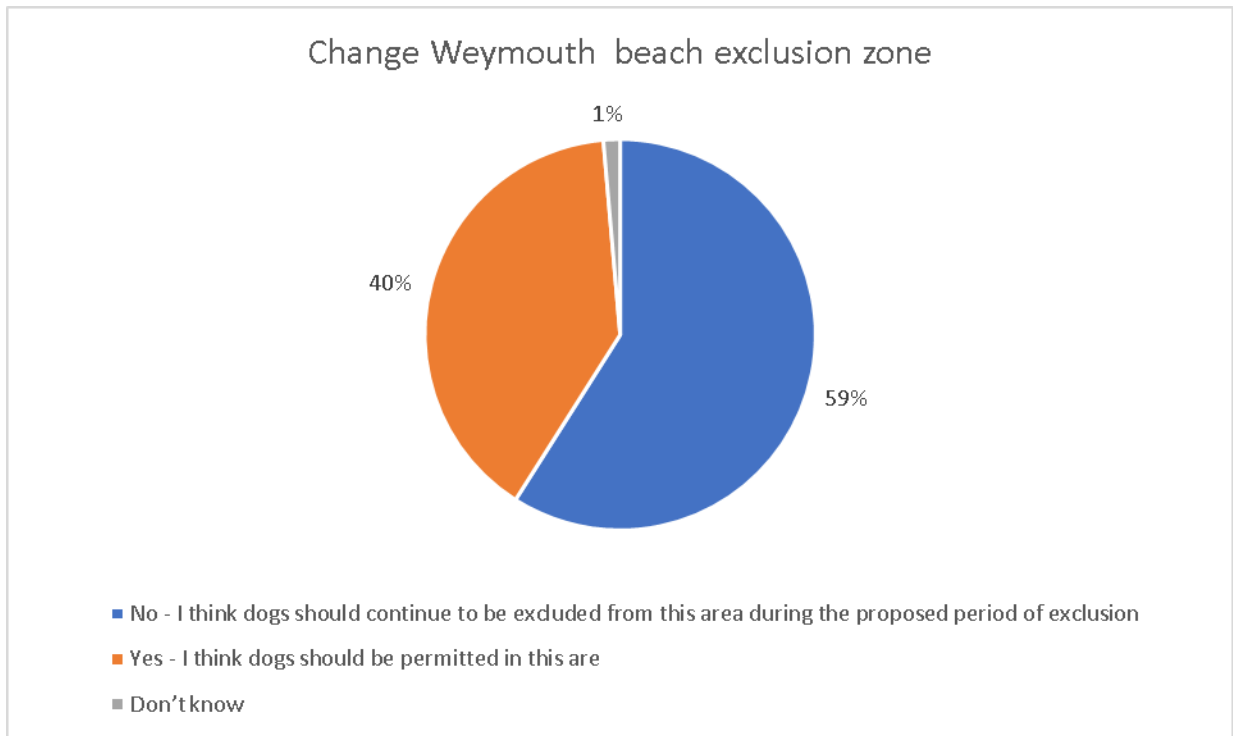


The existing Order stipulates the dogs are excluded from the area between the marked exercise area (Pavilion end of the beach) and Greenhill Groyne during summer months.

Q Would you like to see this change?

Overall responses	No - I think dogs should continue to be excluded from this area during the proposed period of exclusion	Yes - I think dogs should be permitted in this are	Don't know
Number	1,072	720	25
% of all who responded	59.0%	39.6%	1.4%

Overall nearly 60% of respondents felt the exclusion area should stay during the proposed exclusion period. The other 40% felt dogs should be allowed in the exclusion area.



	No - I think dogs should continue to be excluded from this area during the proposed period of exclusion (%)	Yes - I think dogs should be permitted in this area (%)
Dog owners	38	60
Non-dog owners	88	11
Visitors	29	69
Businesses	39	61
Disabled	48	52

Looking at the more detailed breakdown of responses, the table above shows all but non-dog owners were keen on permitting dogs on the beach. Dog owners and visitors were keen but also businesses supported that view. Non-dog owners also felt strongly about the issue but the opposite way with nine out of ten supporting continuation of the restriction. The disabled were unclear on the issue but with a small majority in favour of allowing dogs on this area of the beach.

Examining responses specifically from local residents (Weymouth, Portland and Chickerell) there is a feeling in favour of keeping dogs excluded from this area. 61% wanted to keep it the same and 38% wanted to change it to allow dogs in the area.

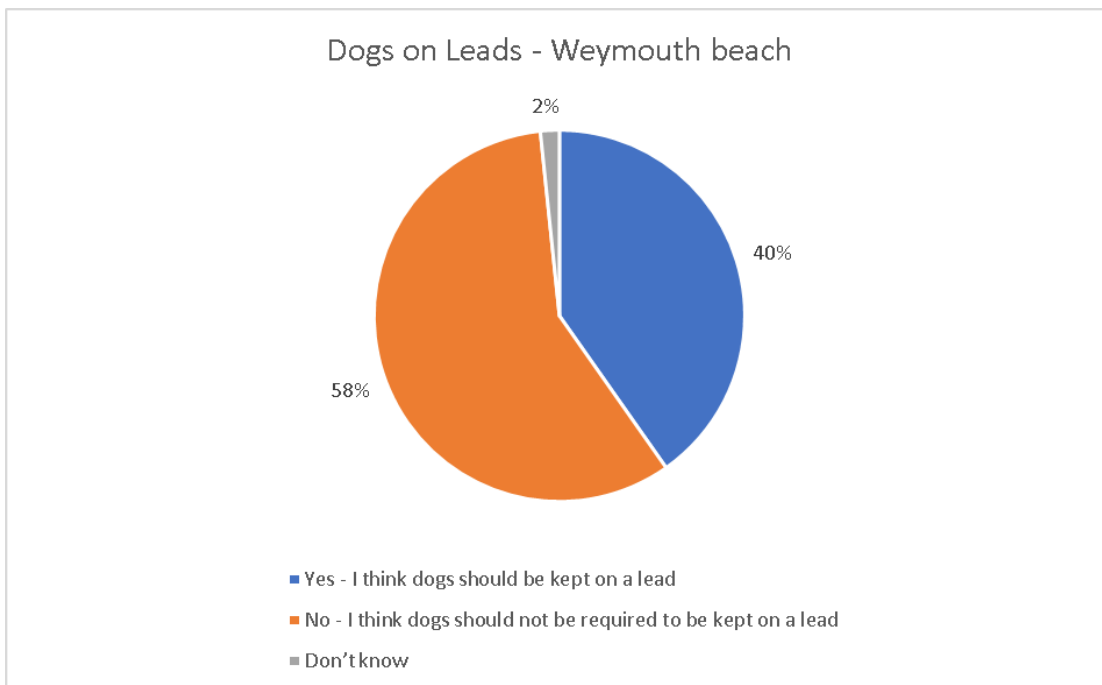
Responses from residents living in the Dorset Council area were very similar on the issue with 62% in favour of the area remaining unchanged and 36% in favour of changing it.

Official Organisational Responses -, Dog Friendly Weymouth and Portland think dogs should be allowed in this area. The Friends of Rodwell Trail and Sandsfoot Gardens think dogs should be excluded from the area.

Dorset Dogs thought the exercise area should change saying “It may be worth trialling having a larger area available for dogs (adjacent to either the existing Preston or Pier dog-friendly beach areas) whilst maintaining a sizeable dog-free zone, as this is a long beach.”

Q Would you like to see dogs to be kept on a lead during the remainder of the year (when permitted) in this area of the beach?

Overall responses	Yes - I think dogs should be kept on a lead	No - I think dogs should not be required to be kept on a lead	Don't know
Number	732	1,057	30
% of all who responded	40.2%	58.1%	1.6%



This particular question was trying to establish if respondents felt that dogs should be kept on leads when allowed on the beach. Here the overall message was reasonably clear with a majority of people (58%) feeling dogs don't need to be kept on a lead compared to 40% in favour of them requiring a lead. As in most other responses to questions of this type the dog owners and visitors felt strongly against using leads and the non- dog owners equally strongly the other way. Businesses and disabled people were against leads being required.

Weymouth Town Council said they did not think dogs should not be required to be kept on a lead.

Examining responses specifically from local residents (Weymouth, Portland and Chickerell) there is a feeling in favour of dogs not requiring leads with 59% against leads and 40% in favour of an on lead restriction.

Responses from residents living in the Dorset Council area were very similar on the issue with 57% against the need for leads and 42% in favour of requiring leads.

Official Organisational Responses -, Dog Friendly Weymouth and Portland and the Friends of Rodwell Trail and Sandsfoot Gardens think dogs should not be required to be on a lead when allowed on the beach.

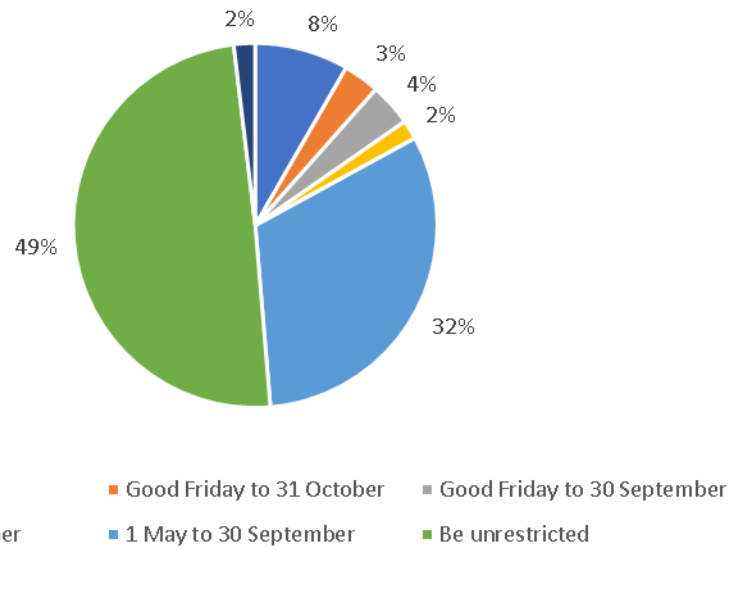
Dorset Dogs said “Community Protection Notices should be used to address irresponsible use rather than penalising all, alongside other methods to promote responsible access (such as those suggested in the general comments section at the end of this document).”

The next question was only directed at people who did not support a harmonised start/finish date for all beaches with a restriction.

As you do not support harmonised start and end dates when beach restrictions apply what restriction do you think should apply to this beach? Please choose one of the following

Overall responses	Be applied all year	Good Friday to 31 October	Good Friday to 30 September	1 April to 31 October	1 May to 30 September	Be unrestricted	Don't know
Number	44	17	20	9	167	261	10
% of all who responded	8.3%	3.2%	3.8%	1.7%	31.6%	49.4%	1.9%

Weymouth (Central) Beach - restriction period



As the table and chart above show the most common choice was that the beach should be unrestricted (49%). The second most popular choice was 1 May to 30 September supported by 32% of those responding (**who did not favour a harmonised start/finishdate for all beaches**). There was very limited and mixed support for the other options.

	All year (%)	Good Friday - 31 October (%)	Good Friday - 30 September (%)	1 April - 31 October (%)	1 May - 30 September (%)	Be unrestricted (%)	Don't know (%)
Dog owners	1	1	4	1	37	54	2
Non-dog owners	32	12	4	5	13	31	2
Visitors	3	3	3	2	16	72	2
Businesses	10	0	0	0	20	71	0
Disabled	13	2	2	4	27	54	0

Looking into the detail all groups excluding non-dog owners preferred choice was that the beach should be unrestricted. Most groups supported 1 May – 30 September over other specified times apart from non-dog owners who favoured no restrictions should apply all year. as their second most popular choice after all year restriction. The table above shows this is more detail.

Weymouth Town Council were clear in their preference saying "Weymouth Town Council would want to relocate the dog exercise area on Weymouth Beach from its current position to the area between the Jubilee Clock and The Pier Bandstand. The dates for this should be between 1st May to 30th September as stated in this consultation and in previous correspondence."

Organisational responses

Beach zoning restrictions should apply during the time when pressures are most likely to cause conflict, if this is in fact the same period for all the beaches then there is no reason for them not to be the same. This may be during the summer holiday period, with an influx of holiday makers; recognising this is variable in different parts of the country, it should cover a period from mid-July to the first week of September (there does not seem to be a good reason to take it through to the end of September or beyond). Alternatively, beach restrictions elsewhere in Dorset often started historically from 1 May, if this is in fact the period during which these beaches get busy then this may be more appropriate. The key principle is that timing should be linked to reason, to ensure restriction is understood, respected and easier to enforce”

Sample comments

Note: there were numerous comments mentioning individual beaches and here are presented a few to show the range from across the varying viewpoints regarding Weymouth beach. The full comments are available in the appendix.

There are plenty of other areas in Weymouth for owners to take their dogs for a walk apart from the beach. More consideration should be given to human beach users - particularly swimmers and children - than dogs. Even one bit of dog poo can lead to health problems and blindness.

As a long time resident of Weymouth I cannot understand the reasoning behind allowing dogs on the best section of Weymouth beach most popular with families with young children. Picking up dog poo may be practised by many but infection and blindness of our young children should be avoided at all cost. It only takes one thoughtless owner.

As detailed previously. Dog exercising is out of control on Weymouth beach with little signs of any law enforcement. Highly disappointing and a visitors turnoff for this great seaside retreat.

As the beach at Overcombe Corner in Weymouth has increased in popularity over recent years there should be similar restrictions placed on dogs and their owners as on Weymouth Main beach. I have seen incidences of dog fouling, including urinating on beach users towels etc., and dogs chasing children at play which appears not to concern the dog owners at all. The usual response when challenged is "Oh he's only playing and wont harm you" Which doesn't help//when a child is frightened or your beach equipment has been fouled! This problem has become worse in recent years with the increase in dog ownership and the seemingly lack of understanding that not everybody likes our canine friends.

Castle Cove and Sandsfoot beaches, Weymouth should also have restrictions as they are often blighted by dog fouling.

Dogs are allowed all year round on the best, widest part of Weymouth beach. So why should dog owners say they should have all of the beach. There is too much beach allocated to dogs.

Dogs in public areas should be kept on leads and under control and in some cases muzzled. Too many selfish dog owners ruin the beach in Weymouth for family's who don't appreciate stepping in dog poo, having dogs scaring, sometimes biting children and invading family space.

Dogs should be banned from Weymouth Beach between the pavilion and the start of the beach wall at Greenhill from 1 April until 31 October. It's horrendous when people allow their dogs to chase after small children and others who are terrified of dogs, and hugely unhygienic with them peeing and poeing on the sand. Imagine the uproar if we allowed our kids to do the same! Dogs should not be allowed on the best part of the beach (particularly at the pavilion end).

Have been intimidated by dogs jumping onto me with lack of consideration by their owners. My child has also been harassed and frightened by dogs on the Weymouth beach. We no longer walk in this area as dog owners do not have their dogs under control both on the beach and in the water.

I believe that dogs should not be allowed on Weymouth beach, and where permitted in other public areas, should be on a lead. My wife and I have been on the receiving end of loose dogs jumping up at us, causing us distress. Comments by the owners of "it's ok, they won't bite" are not acceptable, and more needs to be done to prevent this happening.

I believe that the main recreational area of Weymouth beach is from the Pavilion to the clock tower and that it is this part of the beach that should have a dog ban from Easter to October 31st. I am happy for dogs to be on the rest of the beach towards Preston but there may also need to be an exclusion zone for two months at Bowleaze. I am happy to share the beach for the rest of the year. I also believe that each town should be responsible for its own decisions on something like this. Cornwall have not taken a blanket decision as it has treated the blue flag beaches in a different way. Even this then limits other towns from deciding they would like to strive for Blue Flag basis so let local communities decide.

I do not feel that dogs should be allowed on Weymouth main beach at all. There should not be an exercise area for dogs at the Pavilion end of the beach because this is one of the best areas of the beach and should be left unsoiled for children to play safely in the sand. Despite what they say there are still many dog owners who seem to feel that the restrictions that are put in place do not apply to them or their dog

I feel if dogs were removed all together from Weymouth beach that a lot of holiday trade would be affected. Families on holiday with their dogs will choose another resort making a loss of revenue for Weymouth.

I would not let my Grandchildren on Weymouth beach as it is nothing but a great big dog toilet from October to Good Friday. Who in their right mind would let children play on sand where dogs have been urinating etc. I am not willing to put my Grandchildren's eyesight at risk.

I live near Weymouth beach and know that many people ignore the current restrictions. The worst time is September. Even now, many dog owners claim they don't know that dogs are banned until 31 October. Do I believe them? No. I hope the new facilities, currently being built on Weymouth Esplanade, mean that council officials will actually be around to take action to enforce restrictions

I think dogs should be allowed on all of the beach area on Weymouth central beach and greenhill after 6pm during the summer months instead of being banned as most sunbathers have gone by then. Responsible owners ensure their dogs leave less mess than lazy people who leave their rubbish rather than put it in a bin.

I think dogs walked on Weymouth beach, should be restricted to walking on the low water side, as this will be washed by the tide

I think the dates of the dog restrictions on Weymouth beach are ruining the seafront businesses, the beach is empty from Good Friday through to May half term for schools and again empty from end of school holidays. It is a waste of our natural coastline and a waste for the businesses along the seafront. And I think the dog area in summer should be from the clock tower to the bandstand as this is shingle and not many holiday makers use this end of the beach unlike the dog area that is nice and sandy.

I think the restrictions on Weymouth beach are fine. Even in the height of summer the dog area does not seem to be overcrowded. Most people are aware of the moving nature of Good Friday, especially the visitors so it is OK as it is.

I think Weymouth Beach is a huge asset to the town and anything that can be done to protect it must be considered a priority. Unfortunately, the minority of dog owners ruin it for the majority of responsible dog owners, but there is no knowing who these are so all must be banned. There are plenty of other places that dogs can be walked in the Weymouth area, including the beach towards Greenhill.

General Comments

Parish and Town Councils

“Weymouth Town Council would also wish to add the following general comments: An improved, robust and consistent enforcement approach is required. Improved signage and communication of the PSPO will be imperative. The definition and classification of “assistance” dogs and their exclusion (or otherwise) from all or parts of the ultimate Order needs to be made very clear and communicated clearly. This should be in line with National Guidance and best practice in consultation with disability/access groups. Can a requirement for offenders to attend a “responsible dog ownership” programme or similar be included within any penalties for breaching the Order? Within the final Order, for clarity, references to "The Esplanade" at Weymouth should be changed to "Promenade". Similarly, the proposal is to apply any restrictions to both "Weymouth Central" and "Greenhill Beaches" as indicated by the plan. As only "Weymouth Central" is mentioned in the text this should be clarified at the earliest stage to avoid confusion and certainly detailed within the final Order.”

Official Organisational Responses

Dorset waste Partnership:

“Should the amount of dogs controlled by one individual also be on the control orders this will curtail anyone (dog sitters/Walkers) being in complete control of a maximum number of animals at one time. I believe the current recommendation is 6 but i feel this may be too high.”

The Friends of Rodwell trail and Sandsfoot Gardens

“The Friends of Rodwell Trail and Sandsfoot Gardens have been looking at the waste stream from source to end destination from the Trail. FoRT would like the upstream AD to be upgraded so that the dog waste can be treated as organic waste and all plastic bags abolished. However Dorset Waste Partnership have responded: "Biodegradable bags are not helpful in this situation as a) they degrade (as you pointed out) so are not fit for purpose when containing unhygienic waste such as dog faeces, b) they are of no benefit to the environment in the context of the way they are disposed of (landfill or Mechanical Biological Treatment) and c) they are more expensive and more resource intensive to produce and purchase. Litter bin and dog bin waste cannot go through an Anaerobic Digestion (AD) process as its inclusion would forfeit the PAS110 accreditation of the digestate they produce and also risk breach of their environmental permit in regards to emission of odour. Even if the material could go through an AD plant, biodegradable bags are not compatible with that process and would be removed from the mix and disposed of as a contaminant. As it stands the material from litter bins and dog waste bins goes through either landfill or an MBT plant depending on where the litter bins are located in the county. If through MBT, the bag surrounding the waste would end up as part of a ‘brick’ that is then used to feed an energy from waste facility. The higher calorific content of the plastic bag makes it more desirable as a part of the fuel input than the biodegradable bag, which I believe is also more resource intensive to produce in the first place, so would have a negative environmental impact in this instance. If sent to landfill, the absence of air (or low levels of) within it would mean the biodegradable bag emits methane, again making it environmentally less advantageous than the plastic bag in this environment.” I can confirm that all litterbin waste goes through the MBT plant to glean any recyclables, the remaining waste goes to the energy from waste facility as described above.”

Dorset Council could act and we could eliminate plastic from this waste stream. especially if national pressure is put on dog food manufactures to supply sufficient quantity biodegradable bags with every dog food product.”

Natural England

“Natural England is concerned that on sensitive specially protected sites such as at Studland beach which is SAC and SPA the level of restriction on dog access should be very high because this is protected for biodiversity. The restriction should establish a suitable level of restriction such that it encourages appropriate behaviour beyond this area. In addition NE is concerned that the effect of restrictions such as at Rodwell Trail is not to displace people from a well used area of lower biodiversity to an area such as Chesil Bank and the shores of the Fleet, Radipole Lake etc. Where there is a risk of such displacement NE advise that the authority should carry out a Habitats Regulations Assessment.”

Dog Friendly Weymouth and Portland

We feel the impact the on dog walkers since the introduction of these restrictions has greatly impeded on our daily life. Dog owners have experienced abuse from non dog owners regarding walking on an empty beach. We use the beach to not only exercise our dogs but form the community who care for our open spaces. We share with dog owners who visit or live locally our advice regarding dog ownership, we regularly update information and share our aims, of dogs under close control, awareness regarding dog fouling, encouraging other dog walkers to approach those who fail to follow the PSPOs. It became clear from the start people have been confused by the signage, lack of in some areas, old signage left in public places, should be removed before any new dates are displayed, also all media sites to be notified of the changes, some still display dates prior to 2016. Holiday sector to be contacted to ensure guest are aware of any changes. In parks garden and open spaces information boards for the dog community and other visitors to relay updated information, guidance on dog fouling and where to dispose of dog faeces. Information regarding who to contact when there are problems with those who may not comply with the order or who may need help or advice. Disabled access be clearly displayed and adjustments made to comply with access for all, with all assistant dog recognised, especially those used by children to enjoy access to the outside world. In regard to dogs on lead by direction, we would like to see this appropriately implemented, wheelchair users who have assistant to maintain independence may need to be considered, their dogs are well trained to work alongside them, having a dog on a lead when travelling to another area may be impossible. The Esplanade since the introduction of the 2016 order has seen a changed in cyclist using this as a shared path, we've noticed an increase in near misses with bikes often travelling too fast too close to pedestrians with or without dogs. Also experienced on the Rodwell Trail being used for speed trials, unfortunately this is often from Overcome Corner to Portland. When we are under the restrictions this happens weekends and evenings. When signage is considered for these we feel it would be appropriate to advice cyclist to keep to a speed to protect all users. This trail was created as a walk not cycle track and the Esplanade was intended for people to enjoy sea views, we understand cyclist are using this for safely reasons but feel this often leaves pedestrians in danger. We agree dogs should remain on leads in all sport areas, and keep dogs outside of marked sports areas. However many families attend sporting events to watch family members, having the family dog with them will often encourage all the family to attend. Clear permanent signage will again remind all dog owners to practice responsible ownership.

Signage should be able to be seen and read by all members of the public, with 50/50 split for words and symbols. Signs on bins should read please bag and bin it. All signs should be

permanently placed securely to prevent removal by vandals. At eye level and positioned where they can be seen prior to entering. Where possible Bag dispenser at entrance into dog exercise area to encourage use. Parks Gardens Trails and Open Spaces to have sufficient bins.

Dorset Dogs

If any further restrictions are considered that are not contained within this consultation document they should be subject to a full consultation process.

To support effective canine access management alongside restrictions supported by PSPOs:

- a) It would be very useful to give more weight to dog-friendly beaches/zoning to accommodate people with dogs and make respect for and enforcement of restrictions on other beaches/zones easier. People are often given information about where they can not go with their dog or where there are other restrictions but it would be helpful to give just as much information about where they can go. This may for example include onsite information at both restricted and dog-friendly sites, online and printed information (including dog-friendly information that could be carried by dog wardens).
- b) If good alternatives are not available there is a risk of displacing issues to other areas, including sites with, for example, sensitive wildlife or grazing animals.
- c) If restrictions are in place provision of good alternative dog-friendly space that is as appealing as that which is restricted could make a big difference. Provision of alternatives, designed with the engagement of the visitor group you are addressing, is being used for example in south-east Dorset, where monitoring work by the Urban Heaths Partnership & Footprint Ecology has evidenced that pressure can be taken off vulnerable sites by provision of those alternatives.
- c) Make use of Friends/dog walkers groups – peer pressure. There are a lot of responsible dog walkers out there. If there isn't such a group helping to bring one together could be well worth the initial effort – recognising this means additional staff resource for facilitating the initial community engagement, set-up and development, then the capacity for longer-term liaison of some sort. The larger community of responsible people should not be penalised for the irresponsible behaviour of a minority, instead in those instances Community Protection Notices should be used.
- d) Whilst enforcement of restrictions relies on someone being present to enforce (or local witnesses being willing to come forward) what an owner feels is acceptable behaviour will influence their behaviour whether or not they think they are being observed, judged or likely to be confronted. So engagement, discussion and information about the potential negative or positive impacts of how, when and where you walk your dog are important.
- e) Dorset Dogs uses a range of methods to engage with dog owners and promote responsible access with dogs. These include (but are not limited to) online resources and social media, signage and engagement events out on sites with dog walkers, at the key times they are there, as well as at local community events such as fun dog shows and more general fairs and fetes, often working with local site staff such as rangers, also working with site managers, commercial dog walkers and a wide variety of dog charities, organisations and businesses. This approach could be extended more widely across Dorset if resources were available, and could be used to reach a wide range of people and address issues, working with dog wardens and helping to raise awareness of sound reasons for restrictions where they are in place. This could increase compliance whilst promoting the positive aspects of dog ownership and helping to facilitate the potential benefits that can result from responsible dog owners using sites and routes.

Other comments

There were 3,389 comments made under question 44 (general comments). The redacted full comments are available in the appendix. The comments have all been read and coded according to the main themes coming out. As the issues raised were most consistent if you were a dog owner or a non-dog owner they have been reported here in that way. One comment, for example, may raise several issues rather than just a single issue..

Dog Owners

The table below looks at the comments from dog owners. The top five issues raised were that:

- there are only a few bad owners,
- Banning dogs is bad for tourism
- Allow dogs on beaches early in morning and in evening even during summer
- Limit beach ban/school hols only
- Humans leave most waste on beaches

Despite being responses from dog owners there were strong feelings about the need to deal with those not adhering to the rules and not clearing up after their dogs. Enforcement, penalties and fines were all mentioned on numerous occasions. Another issue regularly raised was that restrictions severely affected family activities and holidays for those with dogs. Another regular issue was the lack of bins for dog waste to make picking up dog waste easier. The whole range of issues are included in the table.

Samples of the issues raised in this text question have been included in the report under the individual questions.

Dog owners comments	Total mentions
Only a few bad owners /Owners not dogs are the problem	343
Banning dogs is bad for tourism - be dog friendly Dorset	338
Allow dogs on beaches early in morning and in evening even during summer	330
Limit beach ban /school hols only	214
Humans leave most waste on beaches	185
Specific places - Weymouth/Portland	166
Let dogs enjoy running on beaches too/dogs friendly area on each beach	164
Dog restrictions on beaches /play areas severely affect family activities and holidays	145
Enforcement and penalties for not following rules or bad behaviour/more wardens	137
Good control of dogs important	133
Stiff fines for people not picking up dog waste etc	128
More dog waste bins & free poo bags	125
Specific places - Lyme	118
Stiff fines for poo bag leavers	109
Dog walking supports mental and physical health	109

Dog owners should self-manage - not more rules	89
Follow others examples e.g. Cornwall, North Devon etc	84
Dogs on leads in all public places	80
Better signing	80
Dogs should be on appropriate lead (long or short)	73
Dog beach area should be dogs only	64
Specific places - Charmouth	56
Specific places - Studland	55
Educate dog owners	54
No more rules/restrictions/minimal restrictions	50
Dog mess is increasing/persistent problem	45
Specific places - Bridport - West Bay	45
More pressing issues	40
Specific places - Swanage	40
Keep some beaches dog free	38
Dogs should have fenced areas to run in	36
Impact of dogs on nature and wildlife - on nature reserves etc	33
Approaching dogs on beach and elsewhere can affect children and disabled/elderly adults	31
Many owners ignore their dogs when off the lead	27
Allow dogs to use some sandy beaches	26
Swimmers, children and other beach users should be protected on the beach	26
Ban dogs from parks/play areas	25
Loose dogs are an issue and are dangerous	23
Dog waste on beaches is an issue	16
Specific places - Rodwell Trail	14
Bring back dog licences	8
Include hunting dogs	3

Non- Dog owners/ others

The table below looks at the comments from non-dog owners, and other respondents such as organisations. The top five issues raised were that:

- Dog mess is increasing/persistent problem/health hazard
- Enforcement and penalties for not following rules or bad behaviour
- Approaching dogs affect children, disabled, elderly, people with allergies, nervous/scared of dogs, autistic
- Dogs should be on an appropriate lead (long or short)
- Ban dogs on all beaches

The main issue raised significantly more than others was the issue of dog fouling increasing and being a persistent problem and health hazard. The next most raised issue was the need for enforcement and penalties. The next two revolved around the same issue. Dogs need to be under control (using a lead if appropriate) because not everyone is happy to be approached by a dog. Many non- dog owners also were keen to see dogs on leads in all public places and banned on all beaches.

The whole range of issues are included in the table.

Samples of the issues raised in this text question have been included in the report under the individual questions

Non Dog owners comments (including organisations etc)	Total mentions
Dog mess is increasing/persistent problem/health hazard	393
Enforcement and penalties for not following rules or bad behaviour	239
Approaching dogs affect children, disabled, elderly, people with allergies, nervous/scared of dogs, autistic	235
Dogs should be on an appropriate lead (long or short)	147
Specific places - Lyme	135
Ban dogs on all beaches	134
Dogs on leads in all public places	129
Loose dogs are an issue and are a nuisance/dangerous (includes people who have been knocked over or bitten by loose dog)	128
Owners need to be more responsible	114
Stiff fines for people not picking up dog waste	107
Specific places - Weymouth	99
Swimmers, children and other beach users should be protected on the beach	81
Only a few bad owners/minority of owners ruin it for all	78
Stiff fines for poo bag leavers /this is an increasing problem	77
Impact of dogs on nature and wildlife and livestock - on nature reserves, farms etc	70
Dogs on leads at all times on beaches	63
Many owners ignore their dogs when off the lead	59
Beach controls are important/more restrictions	59

Better signage needed	54
Ban dogs from parks/play areas/sports pitches	52
More dog waste bins /empty them more	48
No more rules/restrictions/ too many rules	45
Owners not dogs are the problem	45
Not all dogs are badly behaved/don't tar all with the same brush	41
Dogs disturb wildlife on beaches	38
Allow dogs on beaches early in morning and in evening even during summer	35
Specific places - West Bay	35
Dogs should have fenced areas to run in/ designated areas	33
Banning dogs is bad for tourism/trade	31
Bring back dog licences	30
Humans leave most waste on beaches	27
Let dogs enjoy running on beaches too	26
Ban dogs from cafes/restaurants	26
Specific places - Studland	25
Specific places - Swanage	22
Unsupervised dogs are a big issue	19
Specific places - Bridport	18
Close control difficult for some	17
Specific places - Rodwell Trail	16
Live and let live	15
More dog owning visitors = more problems	15
Dog warden service not effective/understaffed/undersourced	14
Effect of dogs/leads/poo on disabled	13
Dog restrictions on beaches/play areas severely affect family activities and holidays	12
Specific places - Overcombe	12
Specific places - Burton Bradstock	10
Dog walking supports mental and physical health	10
Specific places - Portland	10
Dogs should wee and poo at home	10
Specific places - Blandford	6
Farm dogs and guide dogs should be excluded from restrictions when working	6
Dorset should be more dog friendly	3
Specific places - Sherborne	3
Specific places - Chesil Beach	2
Specific places - Eype	2
Owning a dog has a high carbon footprint	2
Specific places - Stour Meadows	2
Organisation 'Dorset Dogs' are good	2
Microchip all dogs and have less restrictions	2
Include hunting dogs	2

About You

Age

The tables below show the profile of people taking part in the consultation. The consultation has attracted residents covering quite a wide age range but is not dominated by those aged in the older age groups with those aged 65+ making up 27% of respondents compared to 29% of the Dorset population. The 45 to 54 and 55 to 64 age groups were both over represented in survey responses. 3.5% of respondents preferred not to disclose their age group.

	Under 18	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-and over	Prefer not to say
% of responses in age group	0.1 %	1.6 %	7.7 %	12.3 %	21.2 %	26.6 %	27.1 %	3.5%

Gender

The current profile of the residents of Dorset show 49.8% male and 51.1% female. As the table below shows the responses from females, does vary considerably from the Dorset profile but this is not unusual in this type of survey.

	Male	Female	Prefer to self-describe	Prefer not to say
What is your gender?	31.4%	64.5%	0.3%	3.8%

Disability

6.6% of respondents considered they had a disability. This equates to 560 people. This is higher than many other surveys. There is no overall figure for Dorset. The data has been used when analysing the responses to all the questions to see if people who have a disability had a different view to the majority on the key questions in the consultation.

	Yes	No	Prefer not to say
Do you consider yourself to be disabled as set out in the Equality Act, 2010?	6.6%	88.0%	5.4%

When looking at the specific disabilities the 560 people responding 306 said they had a physical disability 244 had a longstanding illness, 103 had a mental health condition, and 59 a sensory impairment.

Ethnic Group

	What is your ethnic group?
White British	89.8%
White Irish	0.6%
Gypsy/Irish traveller	0.1%
Any other white background	1.5%
Asian/ Asian British - Bangladeshi	0.0%
Asian/ Asian British - Chinese	0.0%
Asian/ Asian British - Indian	0.1%
Asian/ Asian British - Pakistani	0.0%
Any other Asian background	0.1%
Black/Black British - African	0.0%
Black/Black British - Caribbean	0.0%
Any other black background	0.0%
Mixed ethnic background – White and Asian	0.2%
Mixed ethnic background – White and Black African	0.0%

Mixed ethnic background – White and Black Caribbean	0.0%
Any other mixed background	0.2%
Prefer not to say	6.8%
Any other ethnic group	0.5%

The profile of residents in Dorset overall show 95.6% are White British and 4.4% Black and Minority Ethnic (BME). From those who chose to answer this question 3.3% stated they were from a BME background and 89.8% White British.