

# **Proposed Dog–Related Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO)**

Consultation response analysis report produced by the  
Consultation and Engagement Team – Dorset Council

**September 2026**

# Consultation Response Report

|                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>What was the consultation about?</b>                            | <p>This consultation sought views on the proposed renewal of Dorset Council's Dog Related Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) for the period 2027 to 2029. The PSPO sets out measures to promote responsible dog ownership and help keep public spaces clean, safe and enjoyable for everyone.</p> <p>The consultation focused particularly on current beach restrictions and whether existing controls continue to provide an appropriate balance between the needs of dog owners, other users and the wider community.</p>                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Over what period did the consultation run?</b>                  | The consultation ran from 26/05/26 to 07/08/26 and was a 12-week consultation process.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>What consultation methods were used?</b>                        | This consultation was on Dorset Council's 'Have your say' website and was available via Dorset Council libraries.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>How many responses were received overall?</b>                   | 5,013 total responses were received.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>How representative is the response to the wider population?</b> | <p>83.8% (4,203) of responses were from local residents, with 14.6% (730) from visitors to Dorset. A small portion of business operators were at 0.6% (31), Councillors within Dorset at 0.6% (29) and representatives of organisations at 0.4% (20).</p> <p>There were more female respondents at 68.6% (3370) compared to male respondents at 26.1% (1281).</p> <p>Age of respondents varied from 49 and under at 28.0% (1381), 50 to 64 at 38.0% (1875) and 65 plus at 28.0% (1422). 89.1% (4321) of respondents identified with the ethnic group, White British, which is a typical reflection of Dorset's wider population. Responses from disabled residents was quite high at 14.9% (727).</p> |
| <b>Where will the results be published?</b>                        | Results will be published on the council's website <a href="http://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk">www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>How will the results be used?</b>                               | Any changes that we make to the previous order will depend upon the views expressed. Councillors will make the final decision on the controls included in the new Order, having reviewed the feedback received during the consultation.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Who has produced this report?</b>                               | Consultation and Engagement Team, Dorset Council, September 2026                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

## Background

The intention of the PSPO is to tackle irresponsible dog ownership, which is detrimental to the local community's quality of life, so that everyone can use and enjoy public spaces safely. The broad aim is to reduce the risk of fouling, dog bites or other aggressive behaviours, whilst recognising the welfare needs of dogs and the positive contribution they bring to society.

The PSPO incorporates restrictions at specific beaches and land used for certain activities such as enclosed children's play areas and parks. The current PSPO will expire on the 31st of December 2026. Dorset Council has sought the views of the public on the contents of the next PSPO, which will run from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2027 until the 31 December 2029.

Whilst the consultation is an opportunity for people – residents, business owners, organisations and visitors - to have their say on the current restrictions and whether they would like to retain them or make any changes, the Council will continue to prioritise proportionality and consistency in any restriction when drafting the new Order. Rules must be unambiguous and easy to follow, helping residents and visitors understand and comply with the requirements.

## 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 lead length, and 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. As the consultation was about creating legal orders, the questions were quite specific, quite numerous and comprehensive. Very few questions were compulsory. A copy of all comments will be available in spreadsheet form if required.

## Analysis Method

Responses to closed questions were collated and summarised, with the number of respondents for each question shown in the report. All consultation questions and their results are included.

Open-ended responses were reviewed and analysed. Where a large number of comments were received, responses were coded and grouped into common themes to identify key issues raised by respondents. Where only a small number of comments were received, responses have been presented verbatim to accurately reflect respondents' views.

Demographic analysis was undertaken to identify whether views differed between respondent groups. Findings have been reported where notable differences were identified and were considered to add meaningful context to the interpretation of the results.

Note: Figures may not always total precisely due to rounding.

## Executive Summary

- A total of 5,013 responses were received for this consultation. The majority of responses were from Dorset residents (83.8%, 4,203) and dog owners (61.5%, 3,085).
- There was strong support for retaining the existing dog control measures:
  - 96.0% (4,786) supported retaining the current dogs on lead by direction requirement.
  - 82.7% (4,116) supported retaining the requirement for dogs to be on a lead when directed or in designated areas.
  - 60.5% (3,022) supported continuing the exclusion of dogs from designated exclusion areas.
  - 61.4% (3,067) supported continuing the exclusion of dogs from marked sports pitches.
- Views on beach exclusion periods were more mixed. While 44.4% (2,224) supported retaining the current exclusion period (1 May to 30 September), 35.1% (1,755) supported a different seasonal restriction period and 20.1% (1,004) supported removing seasonal restrictions altogether. However, almost 80% of respondents supported some form of seasonal restriction.

### Dogs on Leads at Specific Locations

- Support for retaining existing dogs-on-lead requirements was high at:
  - **Esplanade, Weymouth:** 69.6% (3,263)
  - **West Bay Harbour Walk and Promenade:** 66.3% (3,086)
  - **The Parade, Swanage:** 65.0% (3,028)
  - **Marine Parade and Cart Road, Lyme Regis:** 64.9% (3,051).
  - **Lower Sea Lane, Charmouth:** 60.9% (2832)
- Opinion was more divided at locations associated with **Studland and the Rodwell Trail**, which attracted the lowest levels of support for retaining existing restrictions:

- **Studland Beaches:** 52.0% (2,439) supported retaining the requirement, while 19.9% (932) supported removing it.
- **The Rodwell Trail, Weymouth:** 56.7% (2,650) supported retaining the requirement, while 12.9% (601) supported removing it.
- **Access to Studland Beach:** 61.7% (2,902) supported retaining the requirement, while 14.2% (670) supported removing it.
- **Ferry Road, Studland:** 62.5% (2,931) supported retaining the requirement, while 13.0% (609) supported removing it.

### Beach-Specific Restrictions

- **Front Town Beach, Lyme Regis** recorded the strongest support for retaining existing summer exclusion restrictions, with 56.7% (935) supporting retention. Outside the summer exclusion period, 61.6% (1,009) supported retaining the current off-lead arrangement.
- **Central Beach, Swanage; West Beach, Charmouth; East Bay Beach; and West Bay Beach** all produced closely balanced results, with support for retaining restrictions ranging from 51.9% to 53.2%, indicating no strong consensus.
- **Seatown Beach, Chideock** produced the most evenly divided result in the consultation, with 49.7% (282) supporting removal of the restriction and 49.3% (280) supporting retention.
- The **Weymouth dog exercise area** also generated mixed views. 52.8% (1,128) supported retaining the current arrangement, while 46.4% (991) supported a change. Among those supporting change, 54.3% (734) favoured enlarging the exercise area.
- Open-ended comments regarding the **Weymouth dog exercise area** highlighted competing views on future provision. The most common themes were requests to enlarge the exercise area, provide greater access for dogs, relocate the exercise area, introduce time-based access arrangements, and improve enforcement and management. Concerns were frequently raised about overcrowding, dog fouling, environmental impacts and potential conflicts with other beach users.
- For the area between the dog exercise area and **Greenhill Groyne**, 55.2% (1,173) supported retaining the current restriction, compared with 41.4% (879) supporting its removal.

### Demographic Findings

- Dog ownership was the strongest factor influencing responses throughout the consultation. Non-dog owners were consistently more likely to support

retaining restrictions, while dog owners were more likely to support reducing or removing them. The largest difference was recorded for **Studland Beaches**, where 83.9% (1,494) of non-dog owners supported retaining restrictions compared with 32.5% (945) of dog owners.

- Age was the second strongest factor influencing responses. Respondents aged 65 and over were consistently more likely to support retaining existing restrictions, while younger respondents were generally more supportive of increased access and flexibility.

## Open-Ended Responses

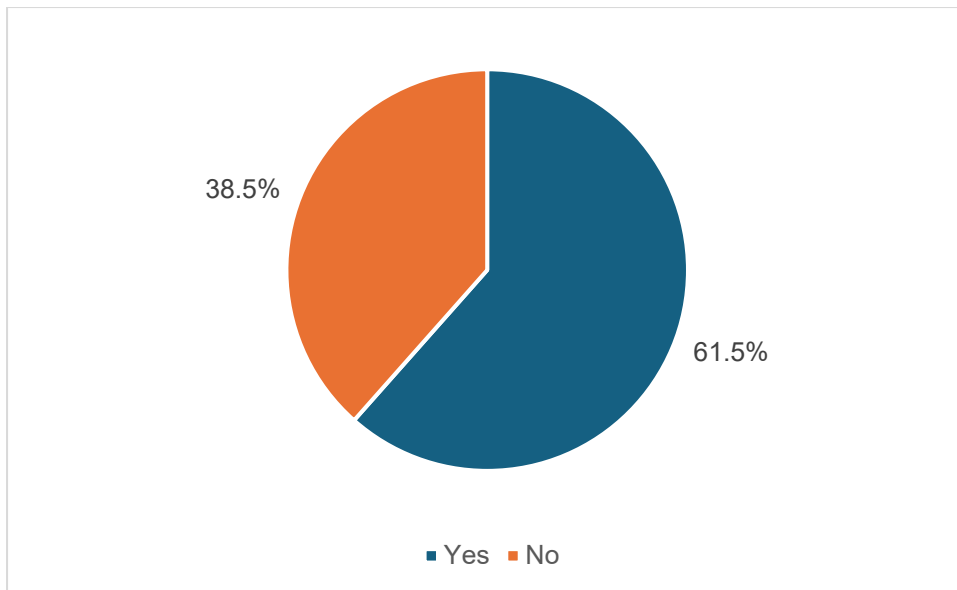
- Common themes included:
  - Responsible dog ownership and enforcement.
  - Public safety and dog behaviour.
  - Dog fouling and waste disposal.
  - Seasonal beach restrictions and access arrangements, particularly requests for greater use of time-based restrictions.
  - Accessibility considerations for older and disabled residents.
  - Requests for restrictions that are clear, proportionate and enforceable.
  - The need to balance the needs of dog owners with those of other beach users.
  - Requests for designated dog-friendly and off-lead areas.
- Views on beach access were particularly divided. Similar numbers of respondents supported increased access for dogs on beaches and the provision of dog-free areas, reflecting the closely balanced results seen across many of the beach-specific consultation questions.
- Across both closed and open-ended responses, the findings demonstrate broad support for retaining core PSPO controls, while highlighting more divided views regarding beach access, seasonal restrictions and dog-friendly provision at key coastal locations

## Data Analysis

### Respondent Type

#### Q1. Do you own a dog?

Base: n-5013



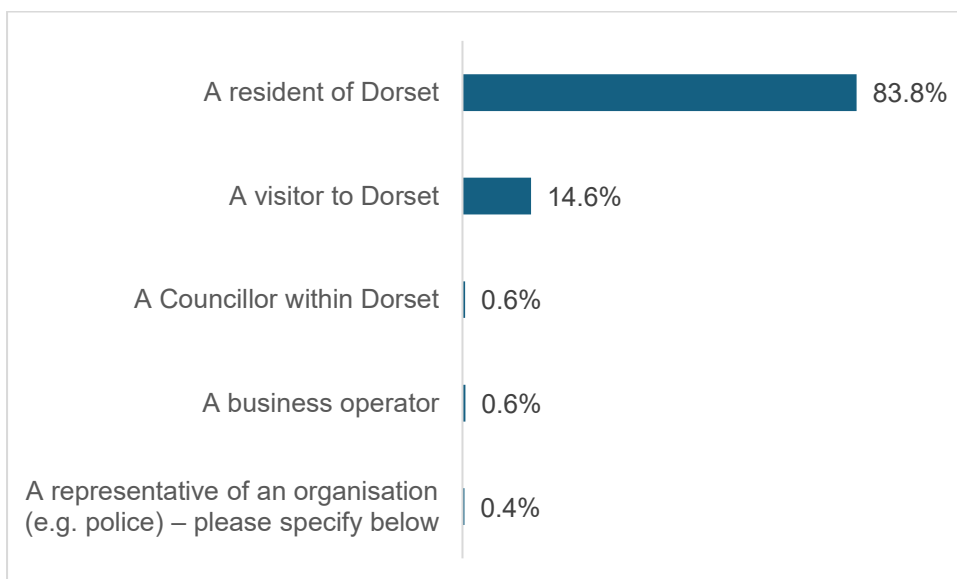
| Option | Total | Percent |
|--------|-------|---------|
| Yes    | 3085  | 61.5%   |
| No     | 1928  | 38.5%   |

The majority of respondents were dog owners, with 61.5% (3,085) stating that they own a dog. A further 38.5% (1,928) reported that they do not own a dog.

This indicates that dog owners were more heavily represented in the consultation responses than non-dog owners.

## Q2. Are you answering this survey as...?

Base: n- 5013



| <b>Option</b>                                                                   | <b>Total</b> | <b>Percent</b> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|----------------|
| <b>A resident of Dorset</b>                                                     | 4203         | 83.8%          |
| <b>A visitor to Dorset</b>                                                      | 730          | 14.6%          |
| <b>A Councillor within Dorset</b>                                               | 29           | 0.6%           |
| <b>A business operator</b>                                                      | 31           | 0.6%           |
| <b>A representative of an organisation (e.g. police) – please specify below</b> | 20           | 0.4%           |

The majority of respondents were Dorset residents, with 83.8% (4,203) answering the survey in this capacity. Visitors to Dorset accounted for 14.6% (730) of responses. A small proportion of responses were received from business operators 0.6% (31), Councillors within Dorset 0.6% (29), and representatives of organisations 0.4% (20). This indicates that the consultation responses primarily reflect the views of Dorset residents.

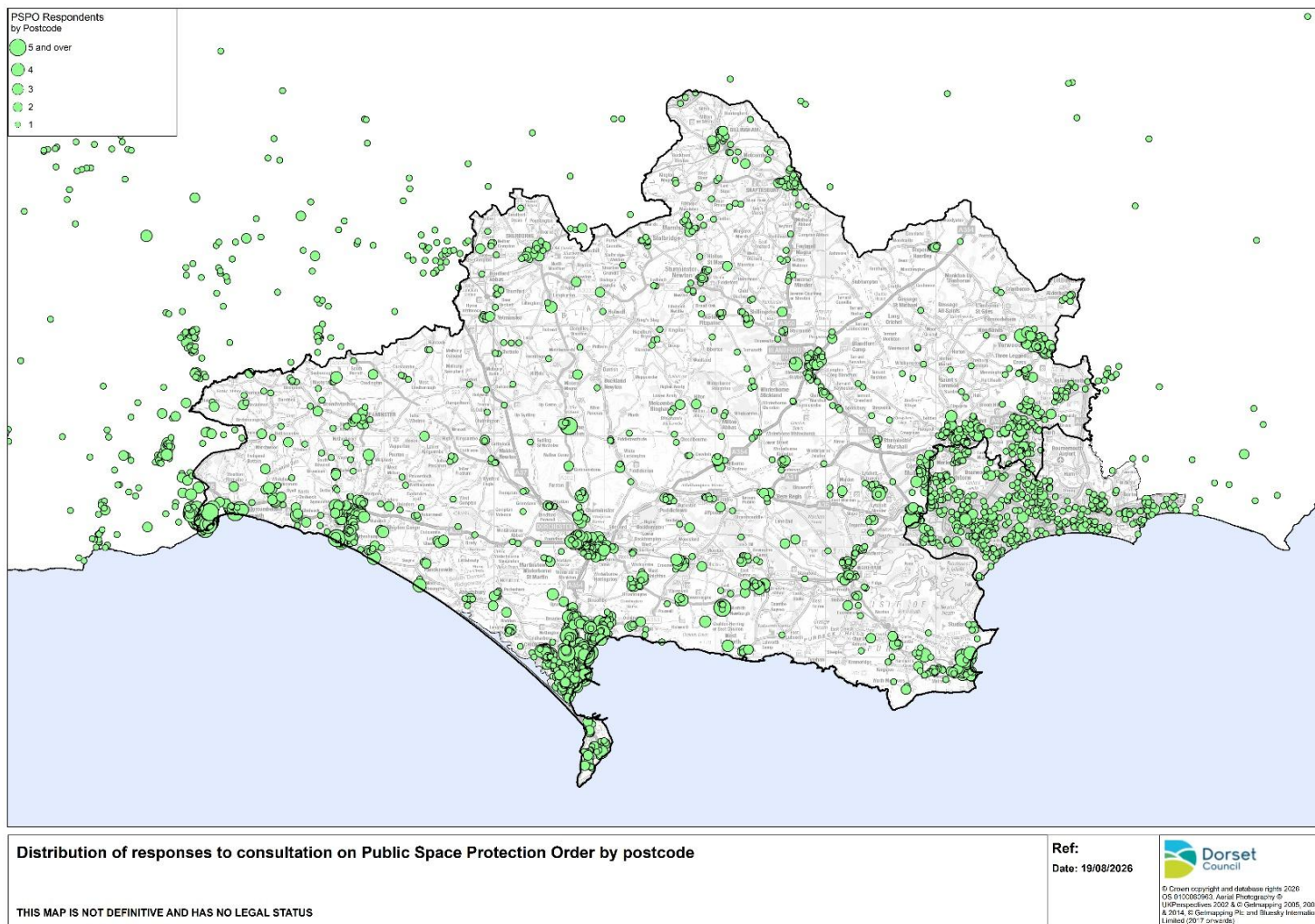
Those who responded as a representative of an organisation are listed verbatim in the table below.

|                                                                     |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Name of organisation:</b>                                        |
| Lyme Regis Town Council (x 3 respondents)                           |
| Trillberry Guest house                                              |
| Lyme regis deckchair hire                                           |
| Holiday let- Sykes                                                  |
| Finishing touch                                                     |
| A resident of Uplyme who frequently visits Lyme Regis.              |
| Dorset Council (x 2 respondents)                                    |
| S&KW ltd                                                            |
| I'm a resident if Axminster & regularly visit Dorset beaches        |
| St Catherine's Preschool                                            |
| Queen Thorne News and Views                                         |
| The Wild Bear Club (dog walking and pet sitting services)           |
| Broadstone Cricket Club                                             |
| I am both a resident and a business operator. I am also a landlord. |
| Retired Trainer/Educator and Management Consultant                  |
| DC & DTC                                                            |
| Seasides                                                            |
| DC WTC                                                              |
| National Trust                                                      |
| Poole Bay Pet Services                                              |
| Port House Lyme Regis                                               |
| Swanage town council                                                |
| Shaftesbury Town Council                                            |
| Current visitor in the process of moving to Dorset                  |
| Adult social care                                                   |
| Broadmayne Parish Council                                           |

|                                                                                          |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Bryanston Parish Council                                                                 |
| Bradford Abbas Parish Council                                                            |
| Wimborne Minster Town Council                                                            |
| Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner - David Sidwick                                     |
| swanage council                                                                          |
| Broadmayne Parish Council                                                                |
| Guide Dogs UK (puppy raiser)                                                             |
| Friends of the Rodwell Trail and Sandsfoot Castle Gardens                                |
| Sturminster Marshall Parish Council                                                      |
| Sixpenny Handley & Pentridge PC                                                          |
| Love Dogs West Dorset and the Environment                                                |
| The Tides Inn                                                                            |
| Swanage Town Council                                                                     |
| Puppy Perfect Training                                                                   |
| Yetminster & Ryme Intrinseca Parish Council                                              |
| Weymouth and Dorset COuncils                                                             |
| Yetminster & Ryme Intrinseca Parish Council                                              |
| Live in East Devon, so boarder Dorset.                                                   |
| Compton Abbas Parish Council                                                             |
| The Cactus Tea Rooms                                                                     |
| And a business owner                                                                     |
| DoggoneShame Lyme Regis                                                                  |
| Groovy                                                                                   |
| Weymouth Bike Hire                                                                       |
| Dorset Police (x 2 respondents)                                                          |
| Stefan                                                                                   |
| The Lawrence of Arabia Hotel                                                             |
| Dorset Dogs, founded in 2009, comes under the umbrella of the Dorset Heaths Partnership. |

### Q3. What is the postcode for where you live?

Base: n-4970



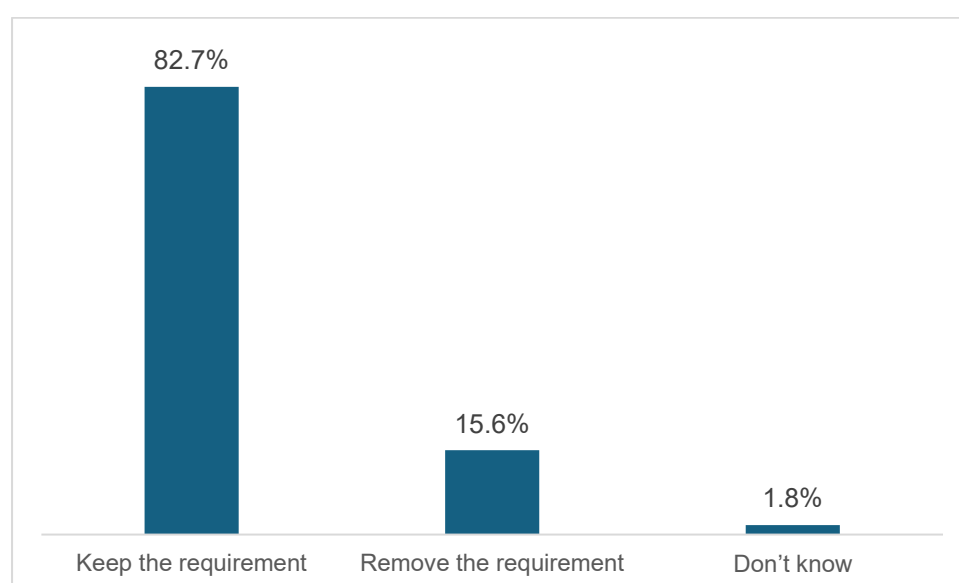
Responses were received from across the Dorset Council area, demonstrating broad geographic engagement with the consultation. Three-quarters of respondents (75.0%) provided a postcode within the Dorset Council area. The highest concentrations of responses were from the more populated coastal and urban areas, particularly around Weymouth and Portland, as well as from neighbouring Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP) Council areas that border Dorset Council.

Responses were also received from rural communities throughout Dorset, indicating that views were captured from a diverse range of locations. Postcodes located outside the Dorset Council area have been classified as "Visitors", reflecting responses from people who use Dorset's public spaces but do not reside within the council area.

## Lead Requirements

**Q4. What is your view on the current requirement for dogs to be on a lead (when directed or in designated areas), with a maximum lead length of two metres?**

Base: n-4979



| Option                 | Total | Percent |
|------------------------|-------|---------|
| Keep the requirement   | 4116  | 82.7%   |
| Remove the requirement | 775   | 15.6%   |
| Don't know             | 88    | 1.8%    |

A large majority of respondents supported retaining the current requirement for dogs to be on a lead when directed or in designated areas, with a maximum lead length of two metres. Overall, 82.7% (4,116) supported keeping the requirement, compared

with 15.6% (775) who supported its removal. A small proportion of respondents 1.8% (88), selected 'Don't know'. These findings indicate strong support for retaining the current requirement.

### **Dog owners and Non-dog owners**

Support for retaining the requirement was higher among respondents who do not own a dog, with 97.0% (1,856) supporting the requirement compared with 73.7% (2,260) of dog owners. Dog owners were more likely to support removing the requirement, with 23.6% (722) favouring its removal compared with 2.8% (53) of non-dog owners.

| Option                        | Dog owners |         | Non-dog owners |         |
|-------------------------------|------------|---------|----------------|---------|
|                               | Total      | Percent | Total          | Percent |
| <b>Keep the requirement</b>   | 2260       | 73.7%   | 1856           | 97.0%   |
| <b>Remove the requirement</b> | 722        | 23.6%   | 53             | 2.8%    |
| <b>Don't know</b>             | 83         | 2.7%    | 5              | 0.3%    |

*Base: Dog owners (n=3,065), Non-dog owners (n=1,914)*

### **Resident and visitor status**

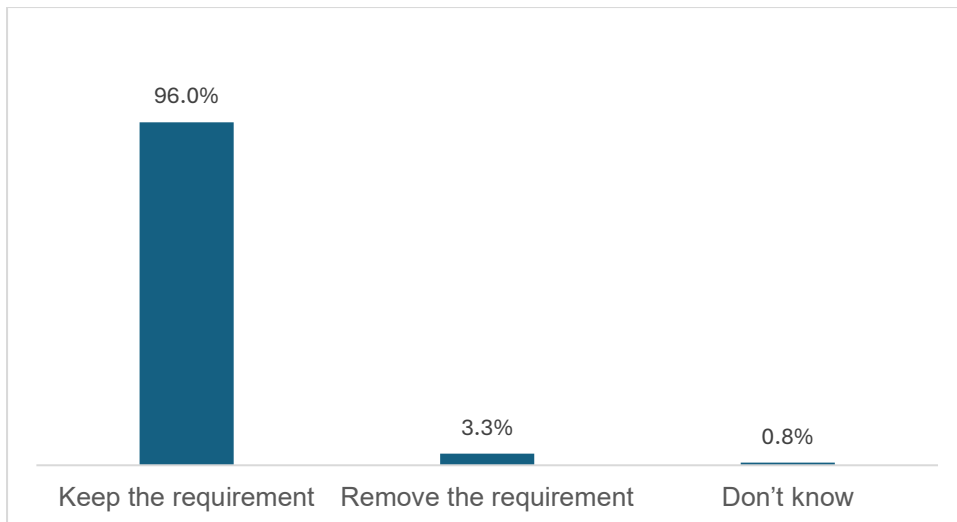
Dorset residents were more likely to support retaining the requirement, with 84.5% (3,530) supporting the requirement compared with 72.6% (525) of visitors to Dorset. Visitors were more likely to support removing the requirement, 25.4% (184), than residents, 13.8% (576).

### **Age**

In addition, support for retaining the requirement increased with age, from 75.5% (1,035) among respondents aged 49 and under to 81.3% (1,517) among those aged 50 to 64 and 90.7% (1,281) among respondents aged 65 and over. This suggests that older respondents were more likely to support the current requirement than younger respondents

### **Q5. What is your view on the current 'dogs on lead by direction' requirement, where authorised officers can ask for a dog to be put on a lead if there is a safety risk?**

Base: n=4986



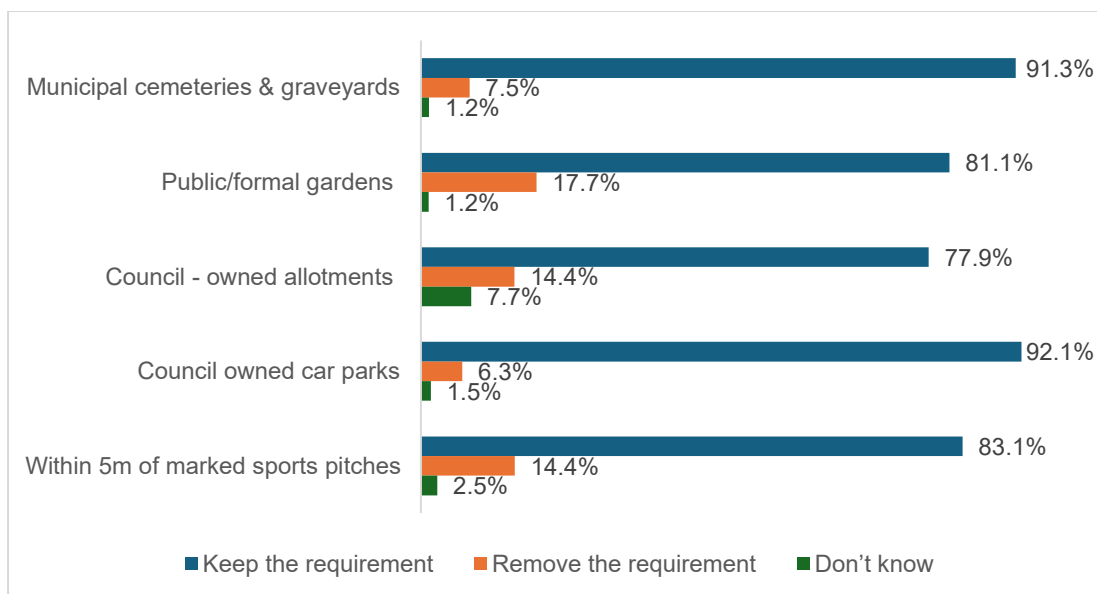
| Option                 | Total | Percent |
|------------------------|-------|---------|
| Keep the requirement   | 4786  | 96.0%   |
| Remove the requirement | 162   | 3.3%    |
| Don't know             | 38    | 0.8%    |

There was very strong support for retaining the current 'dogs on lead by direction' requirement, which allows authorised officers to require a dog to be placed on a lead where there is a safety risk. Overall, 96.0% (4,786) supported keeping the requirement, compared with 3.3% (162) who supported its removal. A small proportion of respondents, 0.8% (38), selected 'Don't know'. These findings indicate overwhelming support for retaining the current requirement.

#### **Q6. What is your view on keeping the 'dogs on lead at all times' requirement in the following areas?**

##### **General areas**

Base: Municipal cemeteries & graveyards (n-4995), Public/formal gardens (n-4978), Council – owned allotments (where dogs are permitted) (n-4981), Council owned car parks (n-4968) & Within 5m of marked sports pitches (n-4986)



|                                                                          | Option                 | Total | Percent |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|-------|---------|
| <b>Municipal cemeteries &amp; graveyards, (where dogs are permitted)</b> | Keep the requirement   | 4560  | 91.3%   |
|                                                                          | Remove the requirement | 373   | 7.5%    |
|                                                                          | Don't know             | 62    | 1.2%    |
| <b>Public/formal gardens (where dogs are permitted)</b>                  | Keep the requirement   | 4037  | 81.1%   |
|                                                                          | Remove the requirement | 883   | 17.7%   |
|                                                                          | Don't know             | 58    | 1.2%    |
| <b>Council - owned allotments (where dogs are permitted)</b>             | Keep the requirement   | 3881  | 77.9%   |
|                                                                          | Remove the requirement | 715   | 14.4%   |
|                                                                          | Don't know             | 385   | 7.7%    |
| <b>Council owned car parks</b>                                           | Keep the requirement   | 4577  | 92.1%   |
|                                                                          | Remove the requirement | 315   | 6.3%    |
|                                                                          | Don't know             | 76    | 1.5%    |
| <b>Within 5m of marked sports pitches</b>                                | Keep the requirement   | 4143  | 83.1%   |
|                                                                          | Remove the requirement | 718   | 14.4%   |
|                                                                          | Don't know             | 125   | 2.5%    |

Across all locations, most respondents supported retaining the requirement for dogs to be kept on a lead at all times. Support was highest for Council-owned car parks 92.1% (4,577) and municipal cemeteries and graveyards 91.3% (4,560), with strong majorities also supporting the requirement within 5 metres of marked sports pitches 83.1% (4,143), in public/formal gardens 81.1% (4,037), and on Council-owned allotments 77.9% (3,881).

Support for removing the requirement was highest for public/formal gardens 17.7% (883), followed by Council-owned allotments 14.4% (715) and within 5 metres of marked sports pitches 14.4% (718).

These findings indicate broad support for retaining the current requirement across all locations, although support was comparatively lower for public/formal gardens, Council-owned allotments and within 5 metres of marked sports pitches. Further analysis has therefore focused on these locations, where responses were more varied and demographic differences were more evident.

### **Public/formal gardens**

Support for retaining the requirement for dogs to be kept on a lead at all times in public/formal gardens was higher among respondents who do not own a dog, with 94.8% (1,817) supporting the requirement compared with 72.5% (2,220) of dog owners. Dog owners were more likely to support removing the requirement 26.0% (796) than non-dog owners 4.5% (87).

Views also differed by age. Support for retaining the requirement was 73.2% (1,007) among respondents aged 49 and under, compared with 80.3% (1,492) among those aged 50 to 64 and 89.5% (1,266) among respondents aged 65 and over.

### **Council-owned allotments**

Support for retaining the requirement on Council-owned allotments was higher among respondents who do not own a dog, with 88.6% (1,699) supporting the requirement compared with 71.2% (2,182) of dog owners. Dog owners were more likely to support removing the requirement, 20.0% (614), than non-dog owners, 5.3% (101).

Support for retaining the requirement also increased with age, from 72.6% (994) among respondents aged 49 and under to 77.5% (1,447) among those aged 50 to 64 and 83.0% (1,176) among respondents aged 65 and over.

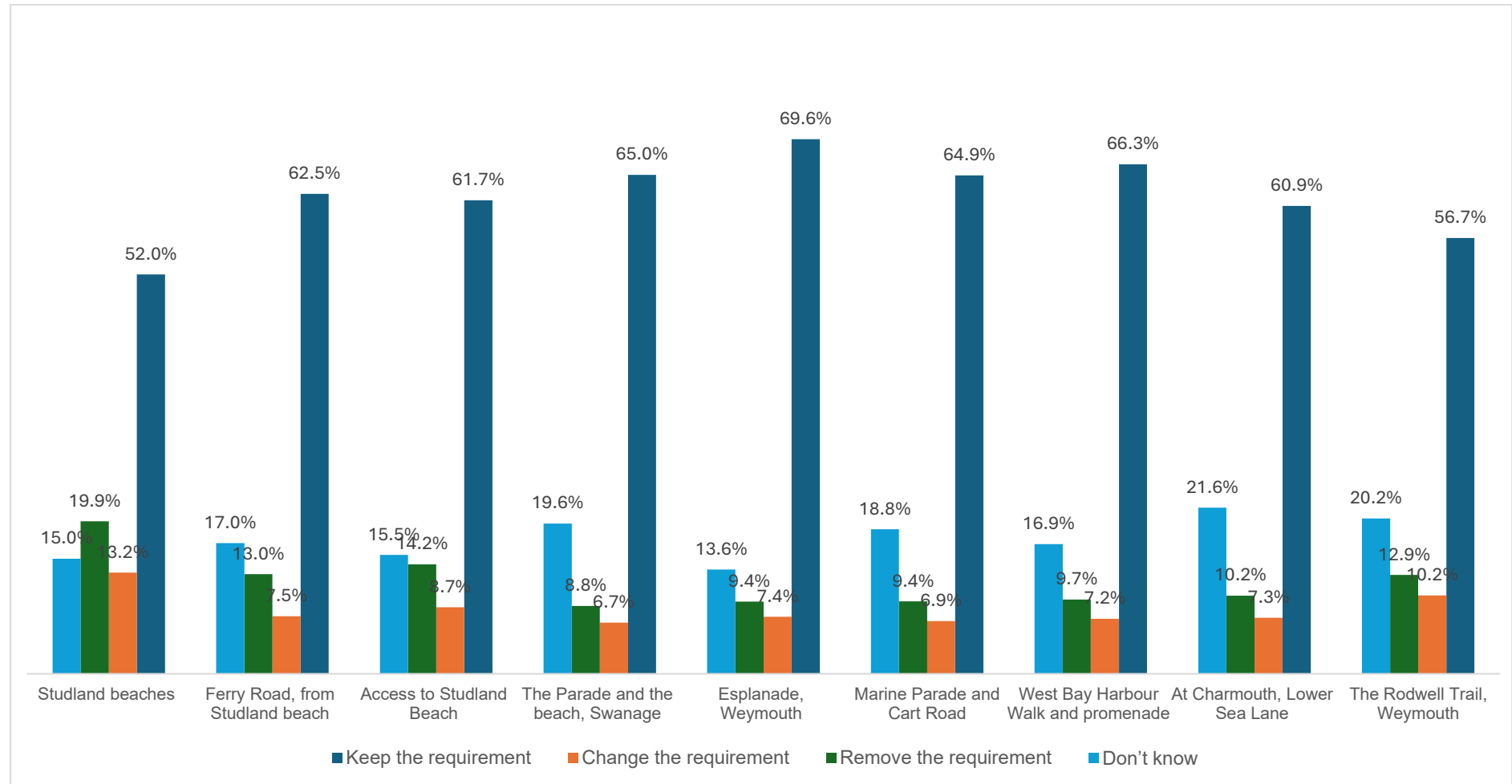
### **Within 5 metres of marked sports pitches**

Support for retaining the requirement was higher among respondents who do not own a dog, with 96.4% (1,848) supporting the requirement compared with 74.8% (2,295) of dog owners. Dog owners were more likely to support removing the requirement 21.8% (670) than non-dog owners.

Support for retaining the requirement also increased with age, from 75.4% (1,037) among respondents aged 49 and under to 83.5% (1,557) among those aged 50 to 64 and 89.3% (1,264) among respondents aged 65 and over.

## Specific Beaches and Trails

Base: The Rodwell Trail, Weymouth (n-4672), At Charmouth, Lower Sea Lane (n-4651), West Bay Harbour Walk and promenade (n-4654), Marine Parade and Cart Road (n-4702), Esplanade, Weymouth (n-4688), The Parade and the beach, Swanage (n-4662), Access to Studland Beach (n-4707), Ferry Road, from Studland Beach (n-4691), Studland Beaches (n-4692)



|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Option                 | Total | Percent |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|-------|---------|
| <b>The Rodwell Trail, Weymouth</b>                                                                                                                                                                                              | Keep the requirement   | 2650  | 56.7%   |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Change the requirement | 477   | 10.2%   |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Remove the requirement | 601   | 12.9%   |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Don't know             | 944   | 20.2%   |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                        |       |         |
| <b>At Charmouth, 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</b> | Keep the requirement   | 2832  | 60.9%   |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Change the requirement | 340   | 7.3%    |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Remove the requirement | 473   | 10.2%   |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Don't know             | 1006  | 21.6%   |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                        |       |         |
| <b>West Bay Harbour Walk and promenade</b>                                                                                                                                                                                      | Keep the requirement   | 3086  | 66.3%   |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Change the requirement | 333   | 7.2%    |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Remove the requirement | 450   | 9.7%    |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Don't know             | 785   | 16.9%   |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                        |       |         |
| <b>Marine Parade and Cart Road, and stair/footpath leading from Charmouth Road Car Park to Church Beach and the associated Sea Wall, Lyme Regis</b>                                                                             | Keep the requirement   | 3051  | 64.9%   |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Change the requirement | 323   | 6.9%    |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Remove the requirement | 443   | 9.4%    |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Don't know             | 885   | 18.8%   |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                        |       |         |
| <b>Esplanade, Weymouth</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Keep the requirement   | 3263  | 69.6%   |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Change the requirement | 348   | 7.4%    |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Remove the requirement | 441   | 9.4%    |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Don't know             | 636   | 13.6%   |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                        |       |         |
| <b>The Parade, and associated roads leading to The Parade and the beach, Swanage</b>                                                                                                                                            | Keep the requirement   | 3028  | 65.0%   |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Change the requirement | 311   | 6.7%    |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Remove the requirement | 411   | 8.8%    |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Don't know             | 912   | 19.6%   |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                        |       |         |
| <b>Access to Studland Beach from the car park, including the car park and staircases leading on to the beach, Studland</b>                                                                                                      | Keep the requirement   | 2902  | 61.7%   |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Change the requirement | 407   | 8.7%    |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Remove the requirement | 670   | 14.2%   |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Don't know             | 728   | 15.5%   |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                        |       |         |
| <b>Ferry Road, from Studland beach car park to the South Coast Path End Marker,</b>                                                                                                                                             | Keep the requirement   | 2931  | 62.5%   |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Change the requirement | 352   | 7.5%    |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Remove the requirement | 609   | 13.0%   |

|                                                                                                                    |                               |      |       |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|------|-------|
| <b>Shell Beach National Trust Car Park and all access routes</b>                                                   | <b>Don't know</b>             | 799  | 17.0% |
|                                                                                                                    |                               |      |       |
| <b>Studland beaches also known as Knoll Beach, Middle Beach and Shell Beach from the 1st May to 30th September</b> | <b>Keep the requirement</b>   | 2439 | 52.0% |
|                                                                                                                    | <b>Change the requirement</b> | 618  | 13.2% |
|                                                                                                                    | <b>Remove the requirement</b> | 932  | 19.9% |
|                                                                                                                    | <b>Don't know</b>             | 703  | 15.0% |

Support for retaining the requirement for dogs to be kept on a lead at all times was highest for the Esplanade, Weymouth 69.6% (3,263), followed by West Bay Harbour Walk and promenade 66.3% (3,086), The Parade, Swanage 65.0% (3,028), and Marine Parade and Cart Road, Lyme Regis 64.9% (3,051).

Levels of support were lower for locations associated with Studland, including Ferry Road and associated access routes 62.5% (2,931), access to Studland Beach from the car park 61.7% (2,902), and Studland beaches 52.0% (2,439). The Rodwell Trail, Weymouth also recorded comparatively lower levels of support, with 56.7% (2,650) favouring retention of the requirement.

The highest levels of opposition were recorded for Studland beaches 19.9% (932), followed by access to Studland Beach from the car park 14.2% (670), Ferry Road and associated access routes 13.0% (609), and The Rodwell Trail, Weymouth 12.9% (601).

A notable proportion of respondents selected 'Don't know' across all locations, ranging from 13.6% (636) for the Esplanade, Weymouth, to 21.6% (1,006) for the Charmouth (Lower Sea Lane) location. This suggests that some respondents may not have felt sufficiently familiar with certain locations to express a view.

These findings indicate majority support for retaining the requirement across all locations. However, views were more divided for Studland beaches, the Studland access routes, and the Rodwell Trail, Weymouth. Subsequent demographic analysis has therefore focused on these and other locations where differences in opinion were more apparent.

Demographic analysis was undertaken to identify whether views differed between respondent groups. The most notable differences were observed by dog ownership and age, with these characteristics showing clear and consistent variations in support across multiple locations. Other demographic groups showed less variation in their responses.

### **Dog ownership**

Views differed significantly by dog ownership across all beach locations. Respondents who did not own a dog were consistently more likely to support retaining the requirement than dog owners. The largest difference was recorded for

Studland beaches, where 83.9% (1,494) of non-dog owners supported retaining the requirement compared with 32.5% (945) of dog owners. Similar differences were evident across the Rodwell Trail, the Studland access routes, and the other beach locations included in the consultation.

| Option                                                              | Dog Owners Keeping Requirement |         | Non-Dog Owners Keeping Requirement |         |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------|------------------------------------|---------|
|                                                                     | Total                          | Percent | Total                              | Percent |
| <b>The Rodwell Trail, Weymouth</b>                                  | 1181                           | 40.9%   | 1469                               | 82.3%   |
| <b>Charmouth, Lower Sea Lane and access routes</b>                  | 1353                           | 47.0%   | 1479                               | 83.5%   |
| <b>West Bay Harbour Walk and promenade</b>                          | 1550                           | 53.9%   | 1536                               | 86.3%   |
| <b>Marine Parade and Cart Road, Lyme Regis</b>                      | 1492                           | 51.7%   | 1559                               | 85.8%   |
| <b>Esplanade, Weymouth</b>                                          | 1692                           | 58.4%   | 1571                               | 87.7%   |
| <b>The Parade, Swanage</b>                                          | 1521                           | 52.8%   | 1507                               | 84.6%   |
| <b>Access to Studland Beach from the car park</b>                   | 1383                           | 47.4%   | 1519                               | 84.9%   |
| <b>Ferry Road, Studland and access routes</b>                       | 1414                           | 48.7%   | 1517                               | 84.9%   |
| <b>Studland beaches (Knoll Beach, Middle Beach and Shell Beach)</b> | 945                            | 32.5%   | 1494                               | 83.9%   |

*Base: Respondents who selected 'Keep the requirement'. Dog owners (n=3,085); Non-dog owners (n=1,928)*

## Age

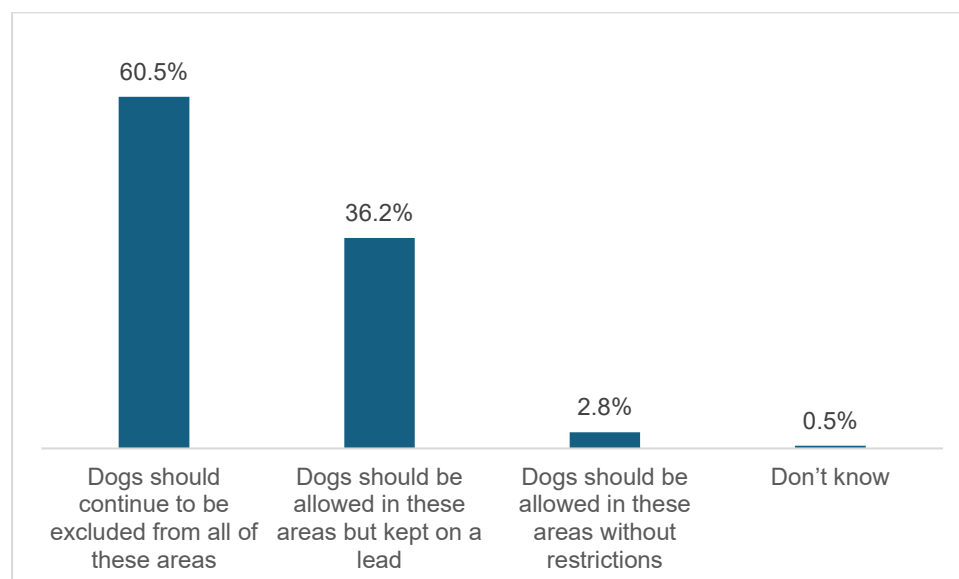
Views also differed by age across the beach locations. Respondents aged 65 and over were generally more likely to support retaining the requirement, whilst those aged 49 and under were more likely to support changing or removing it. The largest difference was recorded for Studland beaches, where support for retaining the requirement increased from 42.9% (578) among respondents aged 49 and under to 48.7% (861) among those aged 50 to 64 and 63.4% (808) among respondents aged 65 and over. Similar patterns were observed at the Rodwell Trail, the Studland access routes, West Bay Harbour Walk, the Esplanade in Weymouth, Marine Parade in Lyme Regis and The Parade in Swanage.

## Exclusion Areas

**Q7. What is your view on the current requirement that dogs are excluded from certain public areas marked as 'No dogs except assistance dogs'?**

This includes skateboard parks, tennis and basketball courts, bowling and putting greens, enclosed play parks, sporting or recreational facilities, and athletics tracks.

Base: n-4994



| Option                                                             | Total | Percent |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|---------|
| <b>Dogs should continue to be excluded from all of these areas</b> | 3022  | 60.5%   |
| <b>Dogs should be allowed in these areas but kept on a lead</b>    | 1808  | 36.2%   |
| <b>Dogs should be allowed in these areas without restrictions</b>  | 140   | 2.8%    |
| <b>Don't know</b>                                                  | 24    | 0.5%    |

Most respondents supported retaining the current requirement that dogs are excluded from public areas marked as 'No dogs except assistance dogs'. Overall, 60.5% (3,022) supported continuing the exclusion, compared with 36.2% (1,808) who felt dogs should be allowed in these areas if kept on a lead.

Only 2.8% (140) felt dogs should be allowed in these areas without restrictions, while 0.5% (24) selected 'Don't know'.

These findings indicate majority support for retaining the current requirement, although over a third of respondents supported a more flexible approach that would permit dogs on leads.

## Dog ownership

Views differed significantly by dog ownership. Respondents who did not own a dog were much more likely to support continuing the exclusion of dogs from these areas, with 90.2% (1,732) supporting the current requirement compared with 42.0% (1,290)

of dog owners. Dog owners were considerably more likely to support allowing dogs access if they were kept on a lead 53.4% (1,642) than non-dog owners 8.7% (166).

| Option                                                             | Dog owners |         | Non- dog owners |         |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|---------|-----------------|---------|
|                                                                    | Total      | Percent | Total           | Percent |
| <b>Dogs should continue to be excluded from all of these areas</b> | 1290       | 42.0%   | 1732            | 90.2%   |
| <b>Dogs should be allowed in these areas but kept on a lead</b>    | 1642       | 53.4%   | 166             | 8.7%    |
| <b>Dogs should be allowed in these areas without restrictions</b>  | 123        | 4.0%    | 17              | 0.9%    |

Base: Dog owners (n=3,085); Non-dog owners (n=1,928).

### **Resident and visitor status**

Views also differed between Dorset residents and visitors. Dorset residents were more likely to support continuing the exclusion of dogs from these areas 62.7% (2,626) than visitors to Dorset 47.5% (345). Visitors were more likely to support allowing dogs access if they were kept on a lead 47.4% (344) than residents 34.5% (1,443).

### **Age**

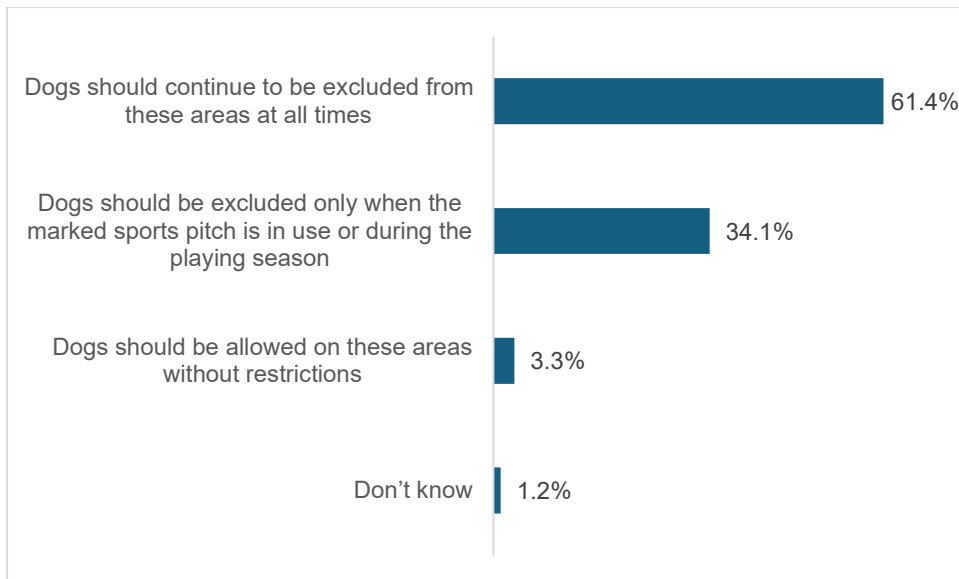
Views also differed by age. Support for continuing the exclusion of dogs from these areas increased with age, from 50.8% (700) among respondents aged 49 and under to 57.4% (1,074) among those aged 50 to 64 and 71.1% (1,004) among respondents aged 65 and over. In contrast, younger respondents were more likely to support allowing dogs access if kept on a lead, with 43.9% (605) of respondents aged 49 and under selecting this option compared with 27.8% (393) of respondents aged 65 and over.

### **Disability**

Respondents who did not consider themselves disabled were more likely to support continuing the exclusion of dogs from these areas 62.6% (2,332) than respondents who considered themselves disabled 49.8% (362). In contrast, disabled respondents were more likely to support allowing dogs access if kept on a lead, 45.3% (329) than non-disabled respondents 34.7% (1,292).

### **Q8. What is your view on the current requirement that dogs are excluded from marked sports pitches which display 'No dogs except assistance dogs' signage?**

Base: n-4992



| Option                                                                                                  | Total | Percent |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|---------|
| <b>Dogs should continue to be excluded from these areas at all times</b>                                | 3067  | 61.4%   |
| <b>Dogs should be excluded only when the marked sports pitch is in use or during the playing season</b> | 1701  | 34.1%   |
| <b>Dogs should be allowed on these areas without restrictions</b>                                       | 166   | 3.3%    |
| <b>Don't know</b>                                                                                       | 58    | 1.2%    |

Most respondents supported retaining the current requirement that dogs are excluded from marked sports pitches displaying ‘No dogs except assistance dogs’ signage. Overall, 61.4% (3,067) supported continuing the exclusion at all times, compared with 34.1% (1,701) who felt dogs should only be excluded when the pitch is in use or during the playing season.

Only 3.3% (166) felt dogs should be allowed on these areas without restrictions, while 1.2% (58) selected ‘Don’t know’.

These findings indicate majority support for retaining the current requirement, although around one-third of respondents supported a more flexible approach linked to pitch use or the playing season.

### **Dog Ownership**

Views differed significantly by dog ownership. Respondents who did not own a dog were much more likely to support continuing the exclusion of dogs from marked sports pitches at all times, with 90.9% (1,743) supporting the current requirement compared with 43.1% (1,324) of dog owners. Dog owners were more likely to support excluding dogs only when pitches are in use or during the playing season 50.3% (1,547) than non-dog owners 8.0% (154).

| Option                                                                                                  | Dog owners |         | Non- dog owners |         |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|---------|-----------------|---------|
|                                                                                                         | Total      | Percent | Total           | Percent |
| <b>Dogs should continue to be excluded from these areas at all times</b>                                | 1324       | 43.1%   | 1,743           | 90.9%   |
| <b>Dogs should be excluded only when the marked sports pitch is in use or during the playing season</b> | 1547       | 50.3%   | 154             | 8.0%    |
| <b>Dogs should be allowed on these areas without restrictions</b>                                       | 152        | 4.9%    | 14              | 0.7%    |

Base: Dog owners (n=3,074); Non-dog owners (n=1,918).

## Age

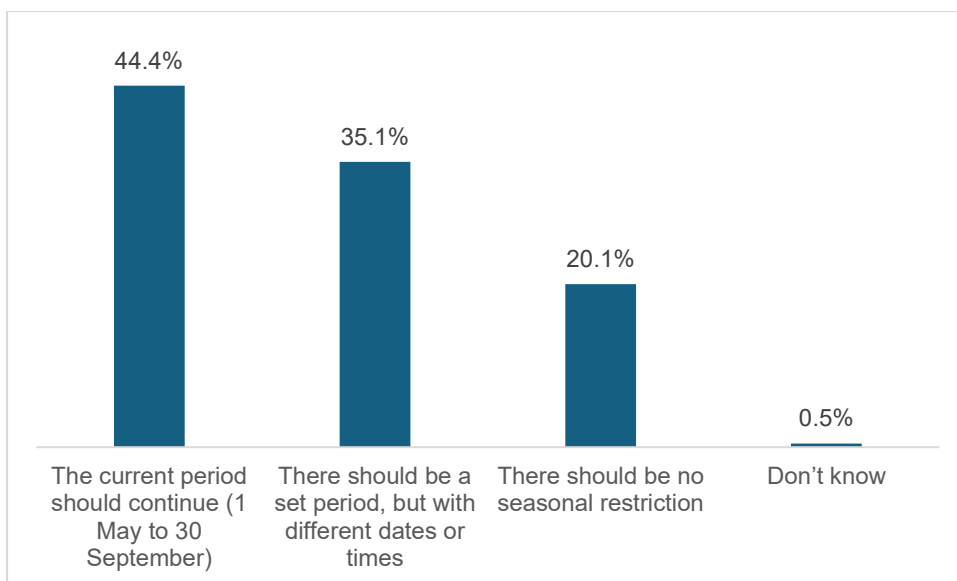
Views also differed by age. Support for continuing the exclusion of dogs from marked sports pitches at all times increased with age, from 48.9% (674) among respondents aged 49 and under to 58.9% (1,099) among those aged 50 to 64 and 74.4% (1,055) among respondents aged 65 and over. Younger respondents were more likely to support excluding dogs only when pitches are in use or during the playing season.

## Disability

Views also differed between respondents who considered themselves disabled and those who did not. Respondents who did not consider themselves disabled were more likely to support continuing the exclusion of dogs from marked sports pitches at all times (63.4% (2,365)) than respondents who considered themselves disabled (50.5% (366)). Disabled respondents were more likely to support excluding dogs only when pitches are in use or during the playing season (41.9% (304)) than non-disabled respondents (32.8% (1,222)).

**Q9. What is your view on the current requirement that dogs are excluded from the specified Dorset Council beaches during a consistent period each year (1 May to 30 September)?**

Base: n-5006



| Option                                                          | Total | Percent |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-------|---------|
| The current period should continue (1 May to 30 September)      | 2224  | 44.4%   |
| There should be a set period, but with different dates or times | 1755  | 35.1%   |
| There should be no seasonal restriction                         | 1004  | 20.1%   |
| Don't know                                                      | 23    | 0.5%    |

Views on the current requirement that dogs are excluded from specified Dorset Council beaches between 1 May and 30 September were mixed. Overall, 44.4% (2,224) supported retaining the current period, while 35.1% (1,755) felt there should continue to be a seasonal restriction but with different dates or times.

A further 20.1% (1,004) felt there should be no seasonal restriction, while 0.5% (23) selected 'Don't know'.

These findings indicate that most respondents supported retaining some form of seasonal beach restriction, although there were differing views on whether the current dates should remain unchanged or be amended.

### Dog ownership

Views differed significantly by dog ownership. Respondents who did not own a dog were much more likely to support retaining the current exclusion period of 1 May to 30 September, with 78.9% (1,518) supporting the current dates compared with 22.9% (706) of dog owners. In contrast, dog owners were more likely to support a different set period 47.1% (1,451) or no seasonal restriction 29.5% (909) than non-dog owners 15.8% (304) and 4.9% (95), respectively.

| Option | Dog owners |         | Non- dog owners |         |
|--------|------------|---------|-----------------|---------|
|        | Total      | Percent | Total           | Percent |

|                                                                        |      |       |      |       |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|-------|------|-------|
| <b>The current period should continue (1 May to 30 September)</b>      | 706  | 22.9% | 1518 | 78.9% |
| <b>There should be a set period, but with different dates or times</b> | 1451 | 47.1% | 304  | 15.8% |
| <b>There should be no seasonal restriction</b>                         | 909  | 29.5% | 95   | 4.9%  |

*Base: Dog owners (n=3,085); Non-dog owners (n=1,928).*

### **Resident and Visitor Status**

Views also differed between Dorset residents and visitors. Dorset residents were more likely to support retaining the current exclusion period 46.4% (1,949) than visitors to Dorset 32.4% (236). Visitors were more likely to support a different set period, 37.4% (273), or no seasonal restriction, 29.9% (218), than residents, 34.8% (1,461) and 18.4% (771), respectively.

### **Age**

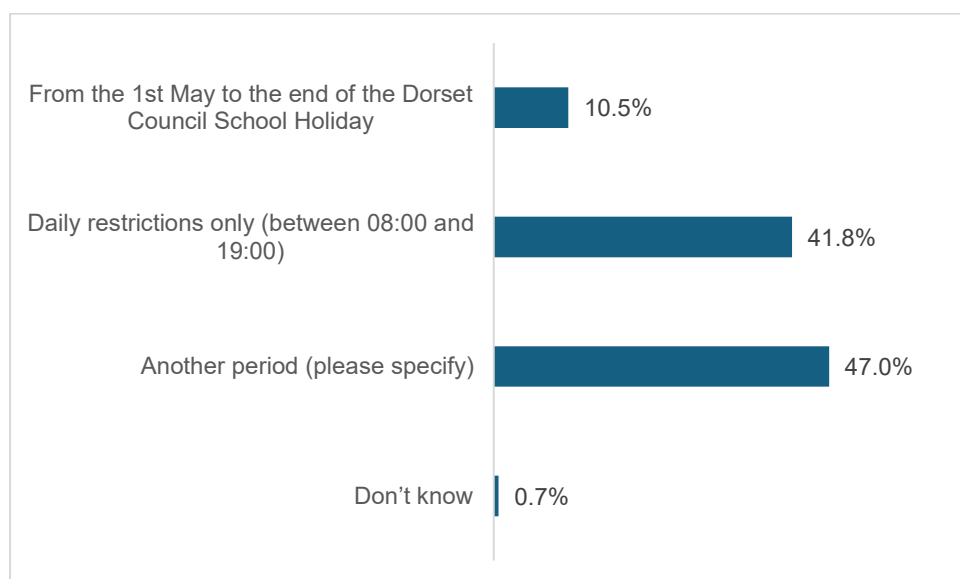
Views differed by age. Support for retaining the current exclusion period increased with age, from 35.1% (485) among respondents aged 49 and under to 39.5% (739) among those aged 50 to 64 and 57.9% (822) among respondents aged 65 and over. Younger respondents were more likely to support either a different exclusion period or no seasonal restriction.

### **Disability**

Views also differed between respondents who considered themselves disabled and those who did not. Respondents who did not consider themselves disabled were more likely to support retaining the current exclusion period 45.3% (1,694) than respondents who considered themselves disabled 36.7% (267). Disabled respondents were also more likely to support either a different exclusion period or no seasonal restriction.

**Q10. As you think it should be a different period, please select from the options below.**

Base: n-1597



| Option                                                           | Total | Percent |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|---------|
| From the 1st May to the end of the Dorset Council School Holiday | 167   | 10.5%   |
| Daily restrictions only (between 08:00 and 19:00)                | 668   | 41.8%   |
| Another period (please specify)                                  | 751   | 47.0%   |
| Don't know                                                       | 11    | 0.7%    |

The most commonly selected option was 'Another period', supported by 47.0% (751) of respondents. A further 41.8% (668) supported replacing the seasonal restriction with daily restrictions only between 08:00 and 19:00.

A smaller proportion, 10.5% (167), supported extending the restriction from 1 May to the end of the Dorset Council school holiday, while 0.7% (11) selected 'Don't know'.

These findings indicate that respondents who favoured changing the current exclusion period were more likely to support either a different period or daily time-based restrictions than extending the existing restriction period.

Respondents suggested a range of alternative approaches, most commonly relating to time-based restrictions and changes to the timing of the seasonal restriction period.

| Comments on another period                          | Total |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-------|
| Requests for restrictions during certain hours only | 447   |
| Restriction period around current dates             | 225   |

|                                                         |     |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Restrictions linked to school holidays                  | 175 |
| Extended restriction period including Easter and autumn | 135 |
| Explicit support for dogs before 9/10am and after 6/7pm | 130 |
| Combination of seasonal and daily restrictions          | 86  |
| July-August or six-week summer holiday period           | 65  |
| Dogs excluded all year                                  | 47  |
| Wardens, fouling, leads, litter concerns                | 38  |
| Mentions disability, elderly users, accessible beaches  | 20  |
| Fewer restrictions or unrestricted access               | 15  |
| Designated dog-free beaches/sections                    | 5   |
| Other                                                   | 179 |

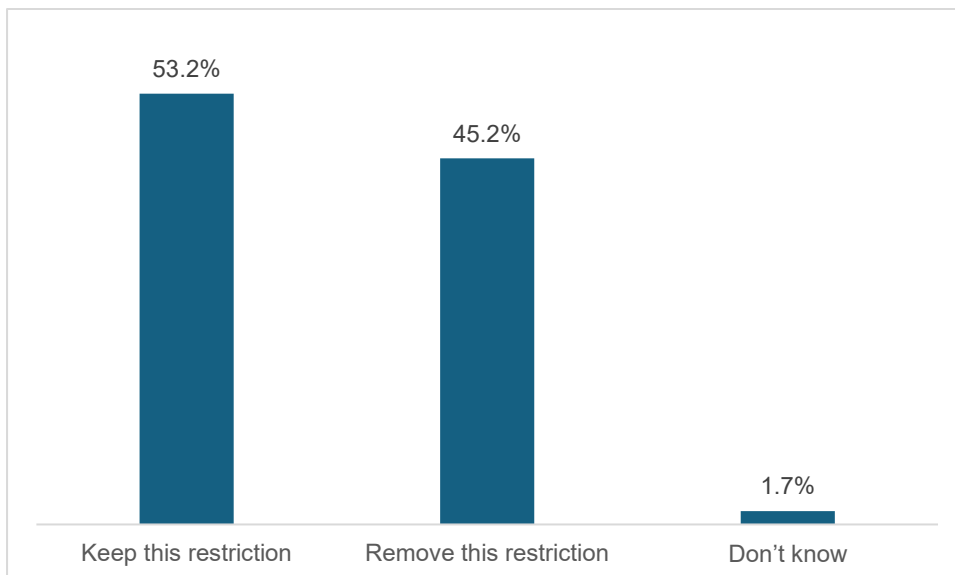
*Note: To support the analysis of a large volume of comments, AI was used to assist in coding responses to the open-text question above. The AI-generated coding was reviewed by officers, and professional judgement was applied throughout the analysis and reporting process.*

## Beaches

### Central Beach, Swanage

**Q11. What is your view on the current requirement that dogs are excluded from Central Beach during the summer period?**

Base: n-1211



| Option                  | Total | Percent |
|-------------------------|-------|---------|
| Keep this restriction   | 644   | 53.2%   |
| Remove this restriction | 547   | 45.2%   |
| Don't know              | 20    | 1.7%    |

Views on the current requirement that dogs are excluded from Central Beach during the summer period were closely balanced. Overall, 53.2% (644) supported retaining the restriction, compared with 45.2% (547) who supported its removal.

A small proportion of respondents, 1.7% (20), selected 'Don't know'.

While opinion was relatively evenly split, support for retaining the restriction was slightly higher than support for its removal.

### **Dog ownership**

The most notable differences were observed by dog ownership. Respondents who did not own a dog were much more likely to support retaining the restriction 93.1% (434) than dog owners 28.2% (210). In contrast, dog owners were far more likely to support removing the restriction 69.7% (519) than non-dog owners 6.0% (28).

| Option                         | Dog owners |         | Non- dog owners |         |
|--------------------------------|------------|---------|-----------------|---------|
|                                | Total      | Percent | Total           | Percent |
| <b>Keep this restriction</b>   | 210        | 28.2%   | 434             | 93.1%   |
| <b>Remove this restriction</b> | 519        | 69.7%   | 28              | 6.0%    |

*Base: Dog owners (n=745); Non-dog owners (n=466).*

### **Resident and visitor status**

Opinion also varied between Dorset residents and visitors. Residents were more likely to support retaining the restriction 55.6% (590) than visitors 34.1% (47), while visitors were more likely to support removing it 62.3% (86) than residents 43.1% (458).

### **Age**

Support for retaining the restriction increased with age, from 39.8% (134) among respondents aged 49 and under to 48.2% (224) among those aged 50 to 64 and 70.6% (218) among respondents aged 65 and over.

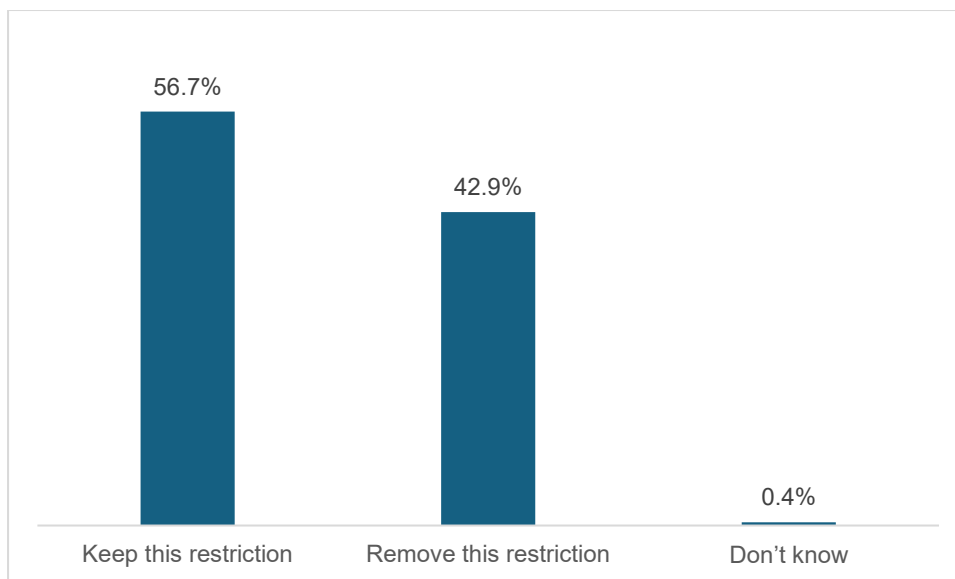
### **Disability**

Respondents who did not consider themselves disabled were more likely to support retaining the restriction 54.6% (478) than respondents who considered themselves disabled 43.9% (82).

## **Front Town Beach, Lyme Regis**

**Q12. What is your view on the current requirement that dogs are excluded from Front Town Beach during the specified summer period?**

Base: n-1650



| Option                  | Total | Percent |
|-------------------------|-------|---------|
| Keep this restriction   | 935   | 56.7%   |
| Remove this restriction | 708   | 42.9%   |
| Don't know              | 7     | 0.4%    |

A majority of respondents supported retaining the current requirement that dogs are excluded from Front Town Beach during the specified summer period. Overall, 56.7% (935) supported keeping the restriction, compared with 42.9% (708) who supported its removal.

A small proportion of respondents, 0.4% (7), selected 'Don't know'.

These findings indicate that, while views were divided, there was a moderate overall preference for retaining the current restriction.

### Dog ownership

Views differed significantly by dog ownership. Respondents who did not own a dog were much more likely to support retaining the restriction 94.4% (689) than dog owners 26.7% (246). In contrast, dog owners were far more likely to support removing the restriction, 72.7% (669), than non-dog owners, 5.3% (39).

| Option                  | Dog owners |         | Non- dog owners |         |
|-------------------------|------------|---------|-----------------|---------|
|                         | Total      | Percent | Total           | Percent |
| Keep this restriction   | 246        | 26.7%   | 689             | 94.4%   |
| Remove this restriction | 669        | 72.7%   | 39              | 5.3%    |

Base: Dog owners (n=920); Non-dog owners (n=730)

### Resident and Visitor Status

Opinion also varied between Dorset residents and visitors. Residents were more likely to support retaining the restriction 65.0% (727) than visitors 38.1% (193), while visitors were more likely to support removing it 61.5% (311) than residents 34.5% (386).

## Age

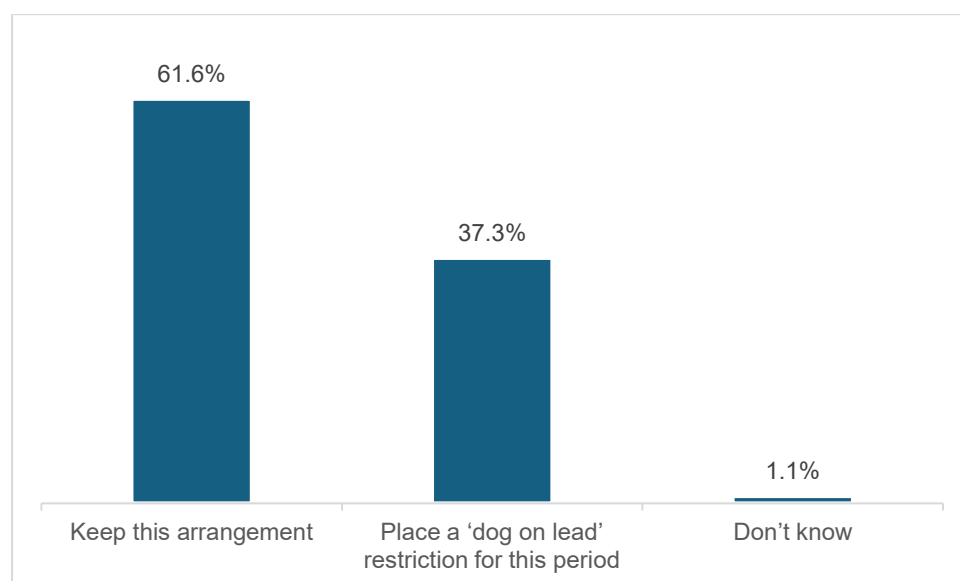
Views also differed by age. Respondents aged 65 and over were more likely to support retaining the restriction 71.2% (297) than respondents aged 49 and under (49.0% (234)) and those aged 50 to 64 49.2% (315). This suggests that the main difference in opinion was between respondents aged 65 and over and younger age groups.

## Disability

Respondents who did not consider themselves disabled were more likely to support retaining the restriction 59.2% (715) than respondents who considered themselves disabled 41.0% (107).

## Q13. What is your view on the current arrangement that dogs may be off-lead on this part of the beach outside the summer exclusion period?

Base: n-1639



| Option                                            | Total | Percent |
|---------------------------------------------------|-------|---------|
| Keep this arrangement                             | 1009  | 61.6%   |
| Place a 'dog on lead' restriction for this period | 612   | 37.3%   |
| Don't know                                        | 18    | 1.1%    |

Most respondents supported the current arrangement that allows dogs to be off-lead on Front Town Beach outside the summer exclusion period. Overall, 61.6% (1,009)

supported keeping the current arrangement, compared with 37.3% (612) who supported introducing a 'dog on lead' restriction during this period.

A small proportion of respondents, 1.1% (18) selected 'Don't know'.

These findings show a clear preference for retaining the current arrangement, although over a third of respondents supported introducing a dog-on-lead requirement outside the summer exclusion period.

## Dog Ownership

Views differed significantly by dog ownership. Respondents who did not own a dog were much more likely to support introducing a dog-on-lead restriction during this period, 62.7% (456), than dog owners, 17.1% (156). In contrast, dog owners were more likely to support retaining the current arrangement 81.7% (745) than non-dog owners 36.3% (264).

| Option                                            | Dog owners |         | Non- dog owners |         |
|---------------------------------------------------|------------|---------|-----------------|---------|
|                                                   | Total      | Percent | Total           | Percent |
| Keep this arrangement                             | 745        | 81.7%   | 264             | 36.3%   |
| Place a 'dog on lead' restriction for this period | 156        | 17.1%   | 456             | 62.7%   |

Base: Dog owners (n=912); Non-dog owners (n=727)

## Resident and Visitor Status

Views also differed between Dorset residents and visitors. Visitors were more likely to support retaining the current arrangement, 71.8% (362), than residents, 56.6% (628), while residents were more likely to support introducing a dog-on-lead restriction, 42.5% (471), than visitors, 26.6% (134).

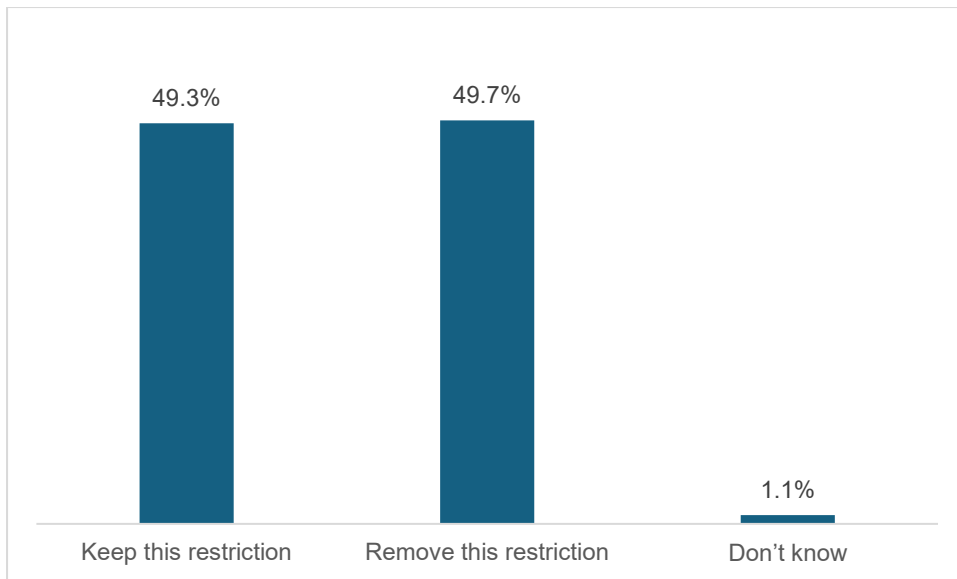
## Age

Support for retaining the current arrangement was lower among respondents aged 65 and over (51.7% (214)) than among respondents aged 49 and under (63.5% (302)) and those aged 50 to 64 (69.5% (442)).

## Seatown Beach, Chideock

**Q14. What is your view on the current requirement that dogs are excluded from Seatown Beach during the specified summer period?**

Base: n-568



| Option                  | Total | Percent |
|-------------------------|-------|---------|
| Keep this restriction   | 280   | 49.3%   |
| Remove this restriction | 282   | 49.7%   |
| Don't know              | 6     | 1.1%    |

Views on the current requirement that dogs are excluded from Seatown Beach during the specified summer period were evenly divided. Overall, 49.7% (282) supported removing the restriction, compared with 49.3% (280) who supported retaining it.

A small proportion of respondents, 1.1% (6) selected 'Don't know'.

These findings show that there was no clear preference either for retaining or removing the current restriction, with support for both options at a similar level.

### Dog ownership

The most notable differences were observed by dog ownership. Respondents who did not own a dog were much more likely to support retaining the restriction (90.5% (237)) than dog owners 14.1% (43). In contrast, dog owners were far more likely to support removing the restriction 85.0% (260) than non-dog owners 8.4% (22).

| Option                  | Dog owners |         | Non- dog owners |         |
|-------------------------|------------|---------|-----------------|---------|
|                         | Total      | Percent | Total           | Percent |
| Keep this restriction   | 43         | 14.1%   | 237             | 90.5%   |
| Remove this restriction | 260        | 85.0%   | 22              | 8.4%    |

**Base:** Dog owners (n=306); Non-dog owners (n=262)

### Resident and visitor status

Opinion also varied between Dorset residents and visitors. Residents were more likely to support retaining the restriction 54.6% (238) than visitors 31.8% (41), while visitors were more likely to support removing it 66.7% (86) than residents 44.7% (195).

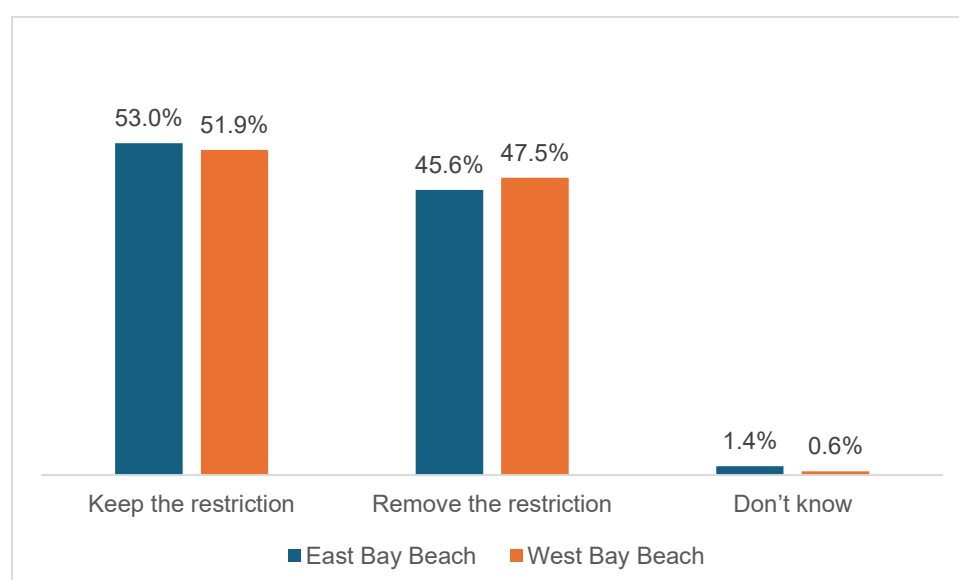
## Age

Respondents aged 65 and over were more likely to support retaining the restriction 67.6% (96), than respondents aged 49 and under 43.7% (59) and those aged 50 to 64 37.6% (89).

## West Bay Beaches

### Q15. What is your view on dog exclusion restrictions during the specified summer period for the following beaches?

Base: East Bay Beach (n-1049), West Bay Beach (n-1038)



|                | Option                 | Total | Percent |
|----------------|------------------------|-------|---------|
| East Bay Beach | Keep the restriction   | 556   | 53.0%   |
|                | Remove the restriction | 478   | 45.6%   |
|                | Don't know             | 15    | 1.4%    |
|                |                        |       |         |
| West Bay Beach | Keep the restriction   | 539   | 51.9%   |
|                | Remove the restriction | 493   | 47.5%   |
|                | Don't know             | 6     | 0.6%    |

## East Bay Beach

A small majority of respondents supported retaining the current summer dog exclusion restriction at East Bay Beach. Overall, 53.0% (556) supported keeping the restriction, compared with 45.6% (478) who supported its removal.

A small proportion of respondents, 1.4% (15) selected 'Don't know'.

These findings indicate that opinion was closely balanced, although there was a slight overall preference for retaining the current restriction.

### Dog Ownership

The most notable differences were observed by dog ownership. Respondents who did not own a dog were much more likely to support retaining the restriction 92.2% (404) than dog owners 24.9% (152). In contrast, dog owners were far more likely to support removing the restriction 73.2% (447) than non-dog owners (7.1% (31)).

| Option                  | Dog owners |         | Non- dog owners |         |
|-------------------------|------------|---------|-----------------|---------|
|                         | Total      | Percent | Total           | Percent |
| Keep this restriction   | 152        | 24.9%   | 404             | 92.2%   |
| Remove this restriction | 447        | 73.2%   | 31              | 7.1%    |

Base: Dog owners (n=611); Non-dog owners (n=438)

### Resident and Visitor Status

Opinion also varied between Dorset residents and visitors. Residents were more likely to support retaining the restriction 56.6% (482) than visitors 37.6% (71), while visitors were more likely to support removing it 61.9% (117) than residents 41.8% (356).

### Age

Respondents aged 65 and over were more likely to support retaining the restriction, 69.9% (195), than respondents aged 49 and under, 44.2% (118) and those aged 50 to 64, 44.1% (188), indicating a notable difference between older and younger respondents.

## West Bay Beach

A small majority of respondents supported retaining the current summer dog exclusion restriction at West Bay Beach. Overall, 51.9% (539) supported keeping the restriction, compared with 47.5% (493) who supported its removal.

A small proportion of respondents, 0.6% (6) selected 'Don't know'.

These findings indicate that opinion was closely balanced, although there was a slight overall preference for retaining the current restriction.

## Dog Ownership

As with East Bay Beach, dog ownership had a strong influence on respondents' views.

Respondents who did not own a dog were much more likely to support retaining the restriction at 91.9% (398) than dog owners at 23.3% (141). In contrast, dog owners were far more likely to support removing the restriction, at 75.9% (459), than non-dog owners, at 7.9% (34).

| Option                  | Dog owners |         | Non- dog owners |         |
|-------------------------|------------|---------|-----------------|---------|
|                         | Total      | Percent | Total           | Percent |
| Keep this restriction   | 141        | 23.3%   | 398             | 91.9%   |
| Remove this restriction | 459        | 75.9%   | 34              | 7.9%    |

Base: Dog owners (n=605); Non-dog owners (n=433).

## Resident and Visitor Status

Opinion also varied between Dorset residents and visitors. Residents were more likely to support retaining the restriction, 56.0% (471) than visitors 34.6% (65), while visitors were more likely to support removing it 65.4% (123) than residents 43.4% (365).

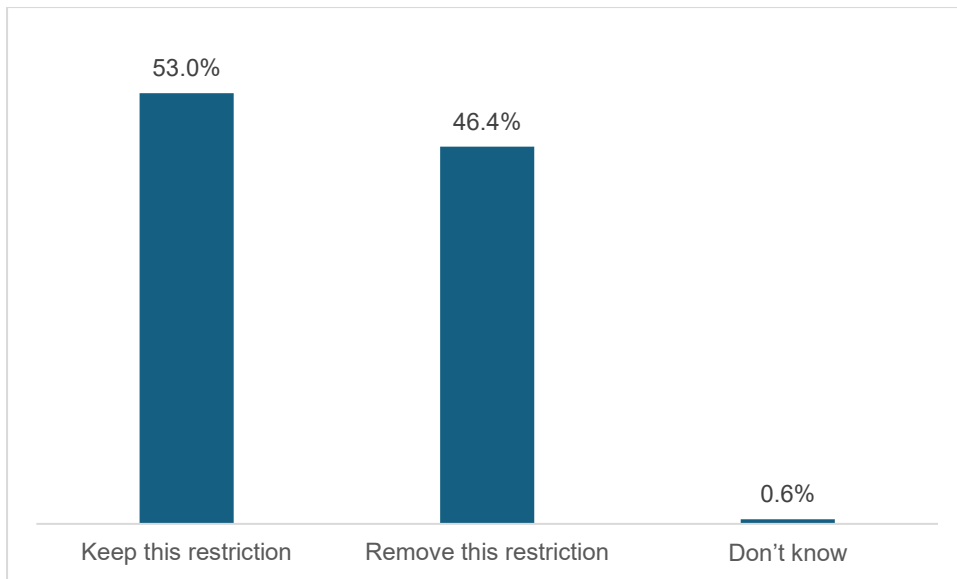
## Age

Respondents aged 65 and over were more likely to support retaining the restriction, 68.2% (189), than respondents aged 49 and under, 44.3% (116) and those aged 50 to 64, at 42.2% (179), indicating a notable difference between older and younger respondents.

## Charmouth Beach

**Q16. What is your view on the current requirement that dogs are excluded from West Beach during the specified summer period?**

Base: n-726



| Option                  | Total | Percent |
|-------------------------|-------|---------|
| Keep this restriction   | 385   | 53.0%   |
| Remove this restriction | 337   | 46.4%   |
| Don't know              | 4     | 0.6%    |

A small majority of respondents supported retaining the current requirement that dogs are excluded from West Beach during the specified summer period. Overall, 53.0% (385) supported keeping the restriction, compared with 46.4% (337) who supported its removal.

A small proportion of respondents, 0.6% (4), selected 'Don't know'.

These findings indicate that opinion was closely balanced, although there was a slight overall preference for retaining the current restriction.

### Dog Ownership

Views on the restriction varied considerably according to dog ownership.

Respondents who did not own a dog were much more likely to support retaining the restriction (93.0% (293)) than dog owners (22.4% (92)). In contrast, dog owners were far more likely to support removing the restriction (76.6% (315)) than non-dog owners (7.0% (22)).

| Option                  | Dog owners |         | Non- dog owners |         |
|-------------------------|------------|---------|-----------------|---------|
|                         | Total      | Percent | Total           | Percent |
| Keep this restriction   | 92         | 22.4%   | 293             | 93.0%   |
| Remove this restriction | 315        | 76.6%   | 22              | 7.0%    |

Base: Dog owners (n=411); Non-dog owners (n=315)

### Resident and visitor status

Opinion also varied between Dorset residents and visitors. Residents were more likely to support retaining the restriction, 60.2% (321), than visitors, 33.0% (61), while visitors were more likely to support removing it, 67.0% (124), than residents, 39.2% (209).

### Age

Respondents aged 65 and over (66.0% (126)) were more likely to support retaining the restriction than respondents aged 49 and under (44.2% (118)) and those aged 50 to 64 (45.9% (128)), indicating a notable difference between older and younger respondents.

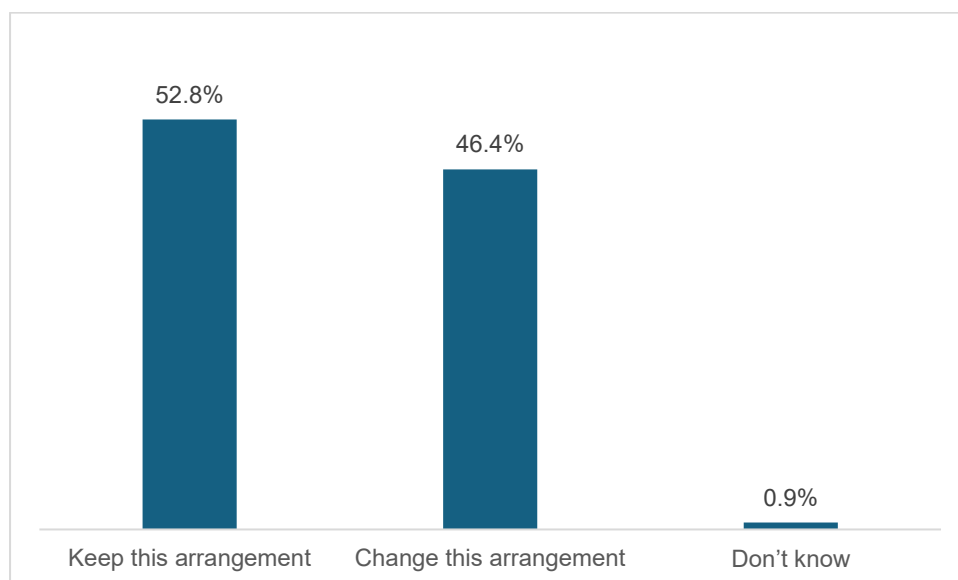
### Disability

Support for retaining the restriction was lower among respondents who considered themselves disabled (43.8% (56)) than among respondents who did not (54.9% (290)). In contrast, disabled respondents were more likely to support removing the restriction (56.3% (72)) than non-disabled respondents (44.7% (236)).

## Weymouth (Central) Beach

**Q17. What is your view on the current arrangement that dogs are permitted all year round in the designated dog exercise area at the pavilion end of Weymouth Beach?**

Base: n-2138



| Option                  | Total | Percent |
|-------------------------|-------|---------|
| Keep this arrangement   | 1128  | 52.8%   |
| Change this arrangement | 991   | 46.4%   |
| Don't know              | 19    | 0.9%    |

Views on the current arrangement that allows dogs to be permitted all year round in the designated dog exercise area at the pavilion end of Weymouth Beach were divided. Overall, 52.8% (1,128) supported keeping the current arrangement, compared with 46.4% (991) who felt it should be changed.

A small proportion of respondents, 0.9% (19), selected 'Don't know'.

These findings show that opinion was closely balanced, although there was a slight overall preference for retaining the current arrangement.

## Dog Ownership

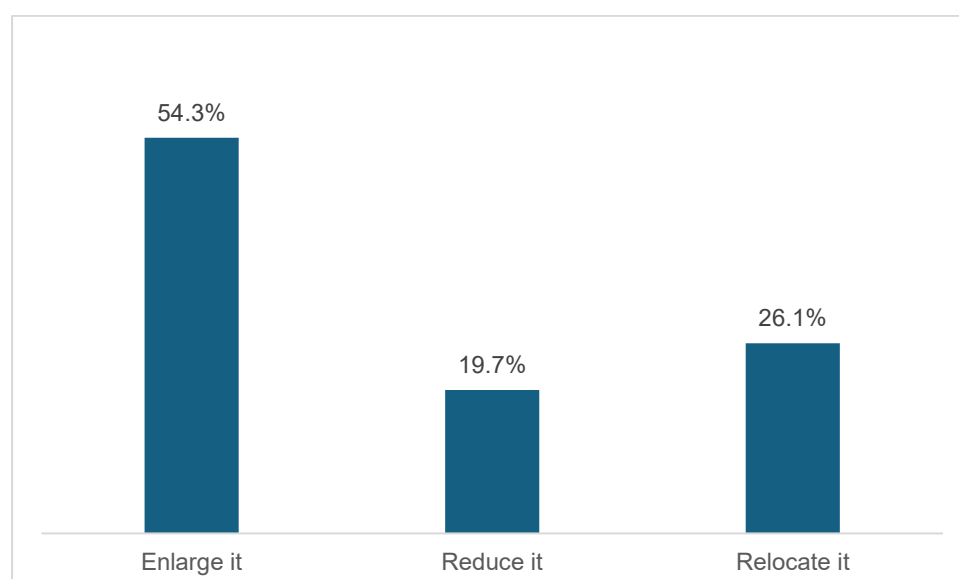
Respondents who did not own a dog were slightly more likely to support retaining the current arrangement 55.7% (482) than dog owners 50.8% (646). Dog owners were correspondingly more likely to support changing the arrangement 48.5% (617) than non-dog owners 43.2% (374).

| Option                  | Dog owners |         | Non- dog owners |         |
|-------------------------|------------|---------|-----------------|---------|
|                         | Total      | Percent | Total           | Percent |
| Keep this arrangement   | 646        | 50.8%   | 482             | 55.7%   |
| Change this arrangement | 617        | 48.5%   | 374             | 43.2%   |

Base: Dog owners (n=1,273); Non-dog owners (n=865)

**Q18. If at the previous question you selected you think the exercise area should be changed, how would you like it to be changed?**

Base: n-1353



| Option     | Total | Percent |
|------------|-------|---------|
| Enlarge it | 734   | 54.3%   |
| Reduce it  | 266   | 19.7%   |

|                    |     |       |
|--------------------|-----|-------|
| <b>Relocate it</b> | 353 | 26.1% |
|--------------------|-----|-------|

The most commonly selected option was to enlarge the dog exercise area, supported by 54.3% (734) of respondents. A further 26.1% (353) supported relocating the area, while 19.7% (266) supported reducing its size.

These findings indicate that respondents who wished to see a change were more likely to favour expanding the designated dog exercise area than reducing or relocating it.

### Dog Ownership

Views differed significantly by dog ownership. Dog owners were much more likely to support enlarging the designated dog exercise area 74.2% (654) than non-dog owners 17.0% (80). In contrast, non-dog owners were more likely to support reducing the area 48.0% (226) or relocating it 35.0% (165) than dog owners (4.5% (40) and 21.3% (188) respectively).

| Option             | Dog owners |         | Non- dog owners |         |
|--------------------|------------|---------|-----------------|---------|
|                    | Total      | Percent | Total           | Percent |
| <b>Enlarge it</b>  | 654        | 74.2%   | 80              | 17.0%   |
| <b>Reduce it</b>   | 40         | 4.5%    | 226             | 48.0%   |
| <b>Relocate it</b> | 188        | 21.3%   | 165             | 35.0%   |

Base: Dog owners (n=882); Non-dog owners (n=471)

**Q19. If you think the exercise area should be enlarged, reduced or relocated, please provide further comments here.**

Base n-1001

Responses primarily focused on requests to relocate the exercise area, increase available space and access for dogs, introduce time-based restrictions, and improve management and enforcement arrangements. Respondents frequently cited overcrowding, fouling, environmental concerns and impacts on other beach users as reasons for their preferred changes.

Categories labelled 'other' contain a wide range of individual suggestions that did not recur frequently enough to form standalone themes.

### Requested Changes

| Theme                      | Description             | Total |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|-------|
| <b>Increase Dog Access</b> | Access to whole beach   | 86    |
|                            | Year-round access       | 34    |
|                            | Remove designated zones | 2     |

|                                    |                                                |     |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|-----|
|                                    | Dogs allowed with no restrictions              | 4   |
|                                    | Reference to designated area                   | 20  |
|                                    | Enlarge it/increase                            | 132 |
| <b>Reduce Dog Access</b>           | Remove entirely                                | 18  |
|                                    | Reduce size                                    | 15  |
|                                    | Remove specific zone                           | 2   |
|                                    | No dogs on beaches                             | 92  |
|                                    | Remove designated zones                        | 2   |
|                                    | No dogs on beach from pavilion to beach office | 2   |
| <b>Time/Condition-Based Access</b> | Early morning/evening access                   | 45  |
|                                    | Seasonal restrictions                          | 45  |
|                                    | Peak time restrictions                         | 63  |
|                                    | Certain times                                  | 25  |
|                                    | No dogs during hot weather                     | 13  |
| <b>Relocate Exercise Area</b>      | Move away from main beach                      | 130 |
|                                    | Move to clock area                             | 88  |
|                                    | Move to less popular area                      | 86  |
|                                    | Specific alternative locations mentioned       | 221 |
| <b>Management and Enforcement</b>  | More enforcement                               | 21  |
|                                    | Lack of enforcement                            | 2   |
|                                    | Dogs on lead                                   | 57  |
|                                    | More signage                                   | 10  |

### Explanatory Themes

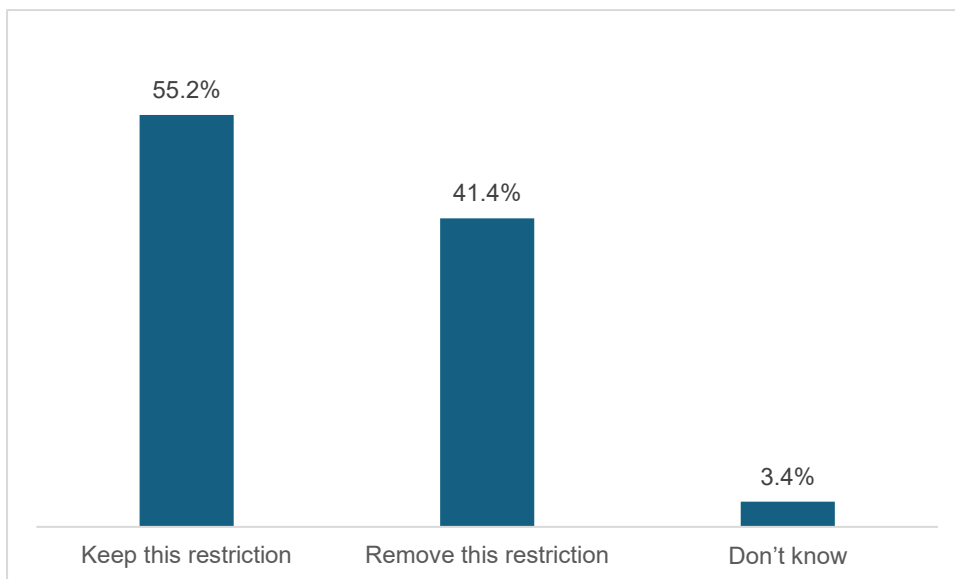
| Theme                                | Description                                       | Total |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|-------|
| <b>Reasons Given / Issues Raised</b> | Area too small/overcrowded                        | 93    |
|                                      | No space for dogs on exercise area                | 47    |
|                                      | Dog poo/urine/fouling                             | 81    |
|                                      | Responsible owner/no control                      | 18    |
|                                      | Owners should pick up after dogs                  | 25    |
|                                      | Pet pollution/environmental hazards               | 28    |
|                                      | Animal safety                                     | 18    |
|                                      | People create mess/people are problem             | 17    |
| <b>Community/User Considerations</b> | People/public/families/visitors/tourists/children | 102   |
|                                      | Family walk their dog                             | 16    |
|                                      | Accessibility/disabled residents                  | 3     |
|                                      | People without dogs not allowed on dog area       | 2     |

### Other Responses

| Theme                          | Description      | Total |
|--------------------------------|------------------|-------|
| <b>No Change/Miscellaneous</b> | Keep it the same | 11    |
|                                | Other            | 179   |

**Q20. What is your view on the current requirement that dogs are excluded from the area between the marked dog exercise area (pavilion end of the beach) and Greenhill Groyne during the specified summer period?**

Base: n-2124



| Option                         | Total | Percent |
|--------------------------------|-------|---------|
| <b>Keep this restriction</b>   | 1173  | 55.2%   |
| <b>Remove this restriction</b> | 879   | 41.4%   |
| <b>Don't know</b>              | 72    | 3.4%    |

Views on the current requirement that dogs are excluded from the area between the marked dog exercise area (pavilion end of the beach) and Greenhill Groyne during the specified summer period were mixed. Overall, 55.2% (1,173) supported keeping the restriction, compared with 41.4% (879) who supported its removal.

A small proportion of respondents, 3.4% (72) selected 'Don't know'.

These findings indicate that, while opinion was divided, there was a moderate overall preference for retaining the current restriction.

### **Dog Ownership**

The most notable differences were observed by dog ownership. Respondents who did not own a dog were much more likely to support retaining the restriction 89.9% (773) than dog owners 31.7% (400). In contrast, dog owners were more likely to support removing the restriction 63.7% (805) than non-dog owners 8.6% (74).

| Option                  | Dog owners |         | Non- dog owners |         |
|-------------------------|------------|---------|-----------------|---------|
|                         | Total      | Percent | Total           | Percent |
| Keep this restriction   | 400        | 31.7%   | 773             | 89.9%   |
| Remove this restriction | 805        | 63.7%   | 74              | 8.6%    |

Base: Dog owners (n=1,264); Non-dog owners (n=860)

## Resident and Visitor Status

Opinion also varied between Dorset residents and visitors. Residents were more likely to support retaining the restriction 57.4% (1,096) than visitors 35.1% (67), while visitors were more likely to support removing it 59.7% (114) than residents 39.4% (751).

## Age

Support for retaining the restriction increased with age, from 45.2% (273) among respondents aged 49 and under to 50.3% (394) among those aged 50 to 64 and 69.2% (391) among respondents aged 65 and over. This indicates a notable difference between older and younger respondents.

## Disability

Respondents who considered themselves disabled were less likely to support retaining the restriction 44.2% (151) than respondents who did not consider themselves disabled 57.4% (872). In contrast, disabled respondents were more likely to support removing the restriction 50.3% (172) than non-disabled respondents 39.4% (598).

## General Comments

**Q21. If you have any additional comments about the proposed PSPO that are not addressed in this survey, please comment in the box below.**

Base n: 2716

Respondents most frequently commented on time-based restrictions, lead requirements, and enforcement. Views on beach access were mixed, with similar numbers supporting dogs on beaches and calling for dog-free areas, alongside requests for designated off-lead spaces.

Comments were often linked to concerns about dog fouling, safety, responsible dog ownership, and impacts on other beach users, including children, people with allergies or phobias, and disabled residents. Many respondents also referenced specific local beaches and locations when explaining their views.

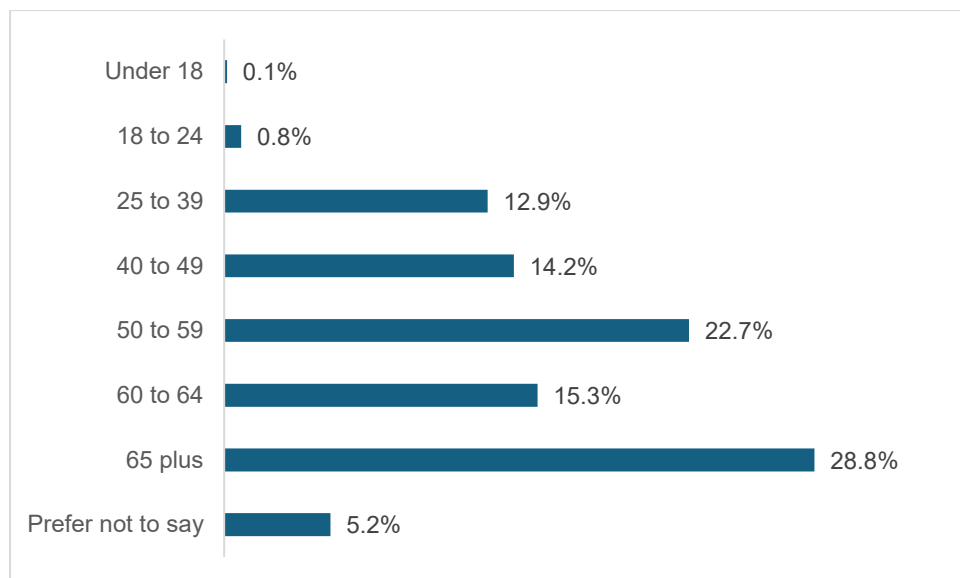
Categories labelled 'other' contain a wide range of individual suggestions that did not recur frequently enough to form standalone themes.

| Theme                         | Description                                                             | Total |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| Restrictions and Controls     | Dogs on leads requirements                                              | 335   |
|                               | Lead enforcement                                                        | 262   |
|                               | Time restrictions (off-peak hours 8pm-8am)                              | 461   |
|                               | Seasonal restrictions                                                   | 171   |
|                               | Summer vs winter restrictions                                           | 98    |
|                               | Flexible restrictions requested                                         | 113   |
|                               | Maintain current restrictions                                           | 95    |
|                               | Amend restrictions                                                      | 3     |
|                               | Dog-free areas requested                                                | 31    |
|                               | Hot weather restrictions and dog welfare                                | 5     |
|                               | Nature reserve/wildlife restrictions                                    | 6     |
|                               | Apply similar restrictions to horses                                    | 9     |
| Access and Area Provision     | Support for dogs on beaches                                             | 177   |
|                               | Opposition to dogs on beaches                                           | 180   |
|                               | Dog-friendly beaches                                                    | 35    |
|                               | Designated off-lead dog area requested                                  | 93    |
|                               | Relocate dog exercise area                                              | 4     |
| Management and Enforcement    | Enforcement, monitoring, wardens, fines and policing                    | 293   |
|                               | Signage and information                                                 | 71    |
|                               | Signage for assistance dogs                                             | 6     |
|                               | Additional dog waste bins requested                                     | 70    |
| Reasons Given / Issues Raised | Dog fouling                                                             | 526   |
|                               | Safety concerns                                                         | 335   |
|                               | Concerns about dogs and vulnerable users (children, allergies, phobias) | 199   |
|                               | Litter and general mess                                                 | 145   |
|                               | Accessibility and disability considerations                             | 109   |
|                               | Responsible dog ownership                                               | 79    |
|                               | Environmental and wildlife concerns                                     | 54    |
|                               | Economic and tourism impacts                                            | 33    |
|                               | Cyclists and cycleways                                                  | 13    |
| Location-Specific References  | Specific beaches or Dorset locations referenced                         | 202   |
|                               | Cornwall referenced as an example                                       | 61    |
|                               | Jubilee Clock Tower location mentioned                                  | 14    |
| Other Responses               | References to other councils, licences, policies or residency           | 464   |
|                               | Other location or beach-specific suggestions                            | 127   |
|                               | Consultation process feedback                                           | 18    |

## Demographics

### Q22. Please select your age group.

Base: n-4934



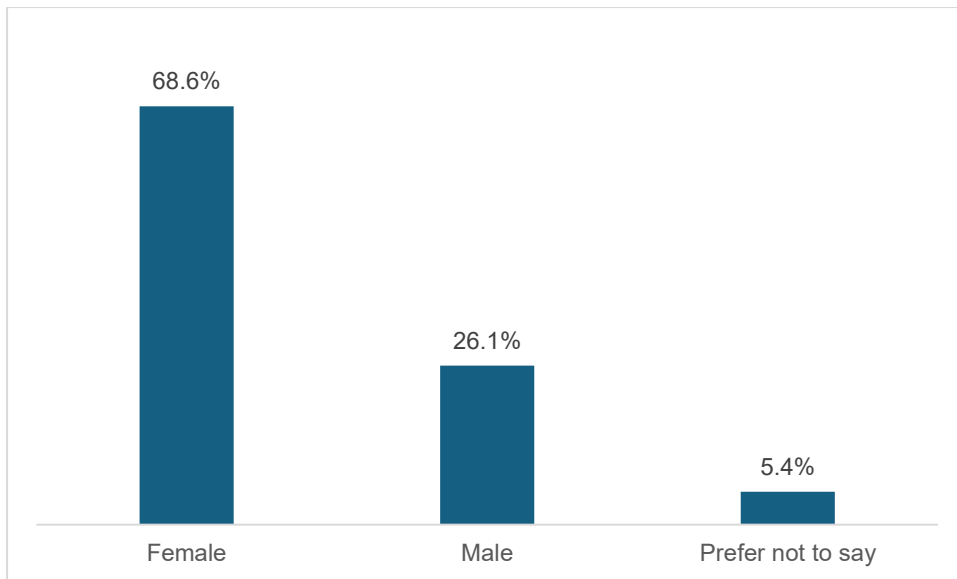
| Option            | Total | Percent |
|-------------------|-------|---------|
| Under 18          | 7     | 0.1%    |
| 18 to 24          | 41    | 0.8%    |
| 25 to 39          | 635   | 12.9%   |
| 40 to 49          | 698   | 14.2%   |
| 50 to 59          | 1120  | 22.7%   |
| 60 to 64          | 755   | 15.3%   |
| 65 plus           | 1422  | 28.0%   |
| Prefer not to say | 256   | 5.2%    |

Respondents were predominantly older adults. Respondents aged 49 and under accounted for 28.0% (1,381) of responses, those aged 50 to 64 accounted for 38.0% (1,875), and those aged 65 and over accounted for 28.8% (1,422).

This shows that responses were primarily received from respondents aged 50 and over, who represented around two-thirds of all respondents

### Q23. What is your sex?

Base: n-4916



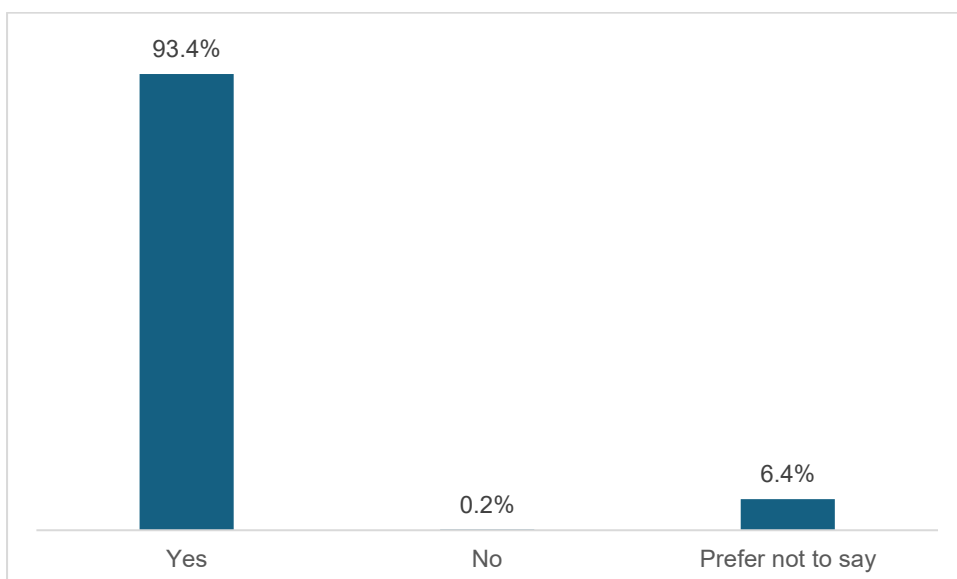
| Option            | Total | Percent |
|-------------------|-------|---------|
| Female            | 3370  | 68.6%   |
| Male              | 1281  | 26.1%   |
| Prefer not to say | 265   | 5.4%    |

The majority of respondents were female, accounting for 68.6% (3,370) of responses. 26.1% (1,281) of respondents were male.

These findings indicate that the survey received substantially higher participation from female respondents than male respondents.

#### Q24. Is the gender you identify with the same as your sex registered at birth?

Base: n-4878

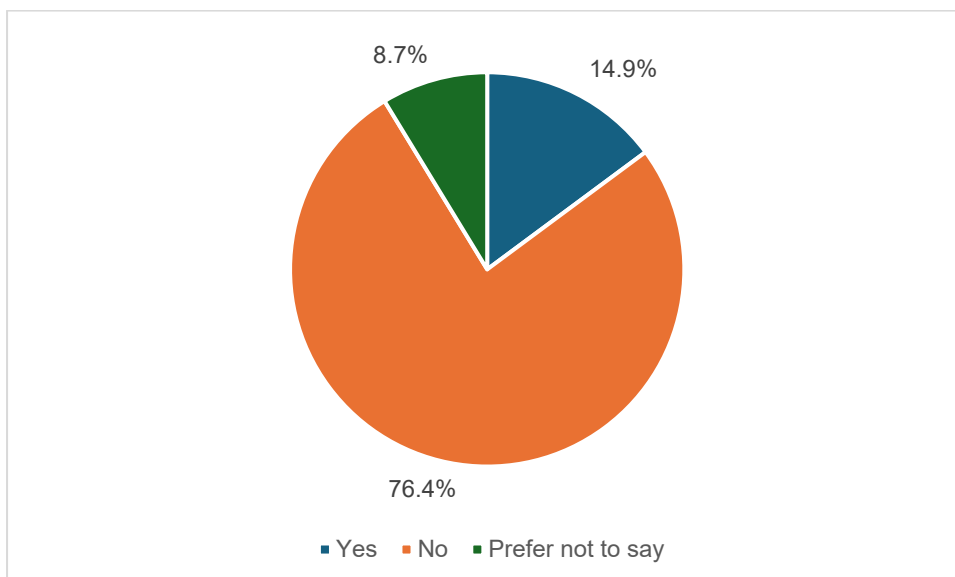


| Option            | Total | Percent |
|-------------------|-------|---------|
| Yes               | 4558  | 93.4%   |
| No                | 8     | 0.2%    |
| Prefer not to say | 312   | 6.4%    |

The vast majority of respondents 93.4% (4,558) indicated that the gender they identify with is the same as their sex registered at birth. A small proportion (0.2% (8)) indicated that it was not.

#### **Q25. Do you consider yourself to be disabled as set out in the Equality Act 2010?**

Base: n-4896

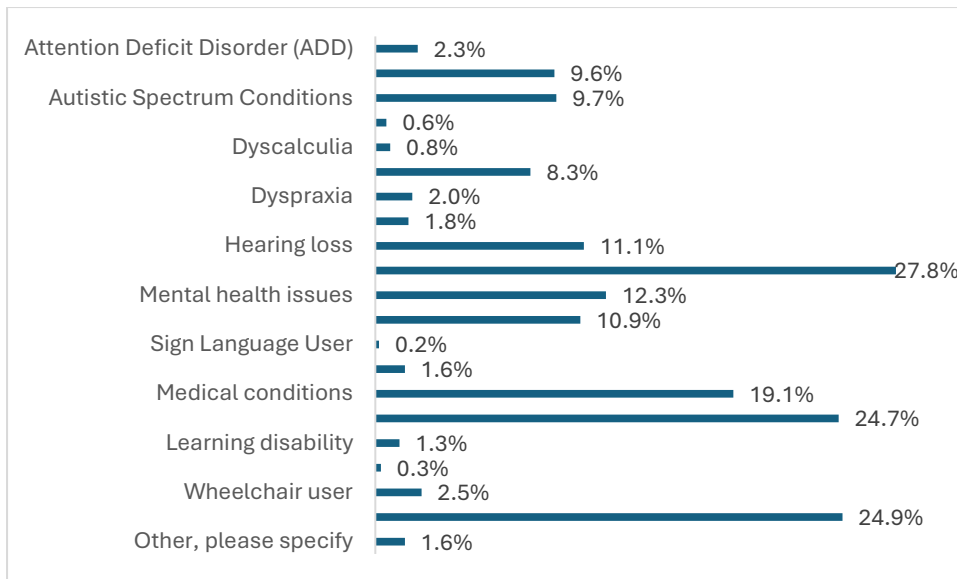


| Option            | Total | Percent |
|-------------------|-------|---------|
| Yes               | 727   | 14.9%   |
| No                | 3742  | 76.4%   |
| Prefer not to say | 427   | 8.7%    |

Overall, 14.9% (727) of respondents identified as disabled under the Equality Act 2010, while 76.4% (3,742) indicated that they were not disabled.

#### **Q26. If at the previous question you stated you consider yourself to have a disability, please state the type of disability which applies to you.**

Base: n-1016



| Option                                                           | Total | Percent |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|---------|
| Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD)                                 | 23    | 2.3%    |
| Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)                  | 97    | 9.6%    |
| Autistic Spectrum Conditions                                     | 98    | 9.7%    |
| Blind                                                            | 6     | 0.6%    |
| Dyscalculia                                                      | 8     | 0.8%    |
| Dyslexia                                                         | 84    | 8.3%    |
| Dyspraxia                                                        | 20    | 2.0%    |
| Deaf                                                             | 18    | 1.8%    |
| Hearing loss                                                     | 113   | 11.1%   |
| Long term health condition                                       | 282   | 27.8%   |
| Mental health issues                                             | 125   | 12.3%   |
| Physical impairment                                              | 111   | 10.9%   |
| Sign Language User                                               | 2     | 0.2%    |
| Visually impaired                                                | 16    | 1.6%    |
| Medical conditions                                               | 194   | 19.1%   |
| Mobility issues                                                  | 251   | 24.7%   |
| Learning disability                                              | 13    | 1.3%    |
| Specific learning differences                                    | 3     | 0.3%    |
| Wheelchair user                                                  | 25    | 2.5%    |
| Prefer not to say                                                | 253   | 24.9%   |
| If you prefer to use another term, please write in the box below | 16    | 1.6%    |

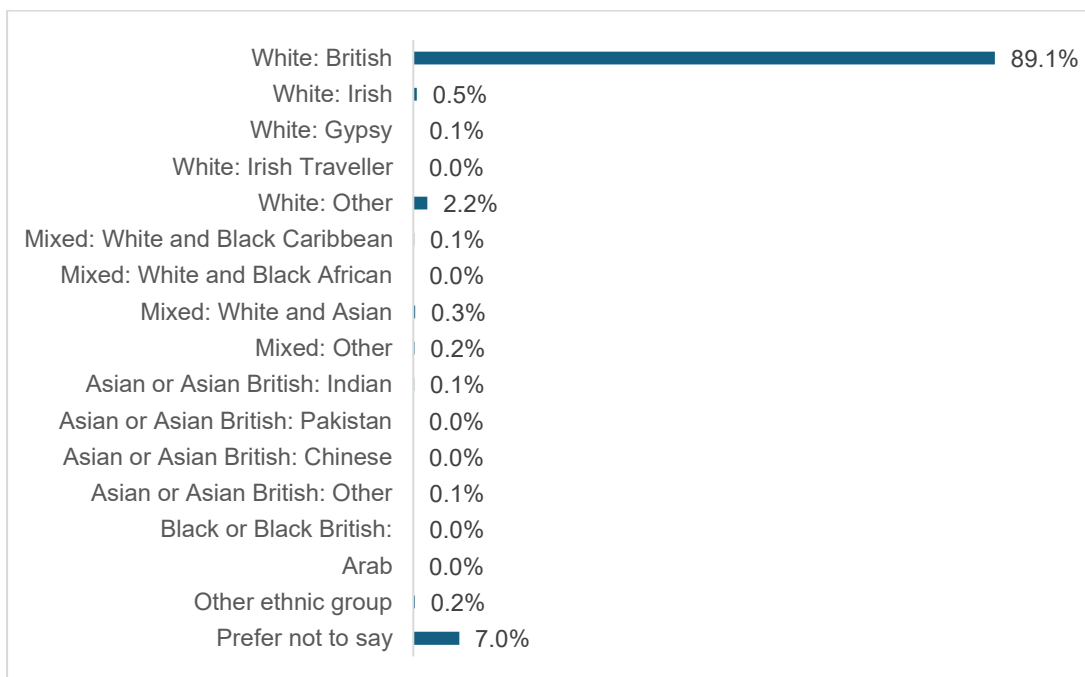
Among respondents who identified as disabled, the most commonly reported disability types were long-term health conditions (27.8%, 282), mobility issues (24.7%, 251) and medical conditions (19.1%, 194). Mental health issues, hearing loss, physical impairment, autistic spectrum conditions and ADHD were also frequently reported.

|                                                                                                               |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Other – Disability type:</b>                                                                               |
| Multiple sclerosis                                                                                            |
| too many "disabilities" listed that aren't important enough to qualify                                        |
| I suffer from anaphylaxis to pollens, including grass which can be extremely problematic                      |
| I suffer from anaphylaxis to pollens, including grass which can be extremely problematic                      |
| Pathological demand avoidance and sensory processing disorder                                                 |
| Epilepsy and also have severe mobility issues to due bilateral clubfoot.                                      |
| Cancer                                                                                                        |
| Fibromyalgia & Arthritis                                                                                      |
| Old enough to appreciate society is increasingly divided. It's not just dogs. Integration would be fantastic! |
| I have mobility problems                                                                                      |
| Inuries use rollator                                                                                          |
| FND                                                                                                           |
| Temporarily disabled pending hip replacement                                                                  |
| genetic hypermobility making me wobbly & anxious                                                              |
| Spinal arthritis                                                                                              |
| Myself and family members are registered disabled                                                             |
| Old [redacted]                                                                                                |
| My wife has Bi lateral hip displacea and have to walk slowly with sticks.                                     |
| I care for my adult disabled son                                                                              |
| Epilepsy                                                                                                      |
| Cancer                                                                                                        |
| I'm a carer for my husband who had a stroke and has mobility and cognitive issues                             |
| Cancer                                                                                                        |
| Diabetes                                                                                                      |
| I am partially sighted and use a guide dog but also have a family dog                                         |
| Cancer                                                                                                        |
| Carer for husband with mobility issues.                                                                       |
| Cancer                                                                                                        |
| I have scleroderma, which is similar to rheumatoid arthritis                                                  |
| Bipolar,ocd,complex ptsd                                                                                      |
| My wife has to use a walking aid.                                                                             |
| Ostomy patient                                                                                                |
| Pacemaker                                                                                                     |
| Autoimmune disease                                                                                            |
| Mobility issues                                                                                               |
| Cancer                                                                                                        |
| Cancer                                                                                                        |
| Muscular dystrophy                                                                                            |
| Not registered disabled BUT have significant osteoporosis.                                                    |
| Anxiety Partial Deafness                                                                                      |
| COPD                                                                                                          |

|                                                                                                                                         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| I am autistic but do not consider it a disability                                                                                       |
| Epilepsy                                                                                                                                |
| Neurodivergent                                                                                                                          |
| Impaired vision                                                                                                                         |
| Sensory Processing Issues                                                                                                               |
| cancer                                                                                                                                  |
| Stroke                                                                                                                                  |
| autoimmune/severe allergies                                                                                                             |
| Perimenopause                                                                                                                           |
| COPD                                                                                                                                    |
| Menierries                                                                                                                              |
| Chronic fatigue                                                                                                                         |
| PTSD                                                                                                                                    |
| Accessibility issues from various health conditions                                                                                     |
| PTSD                                                                                                                                    |
| Artificial arm                                                                                                                          |
| Parkinsons                                                                                                                              |
| I am a parent and full time carer to son with learning disability                                                                       |
| My daughter has cancer and her dog is her only loyal companion. Going to the beach to swim with her dog locally is a joy and privilege. |
| My wife is blind, which causes balance issues.                                                                                          |
| Walking aid user                                                                                                                        |

## Q27. What is your ethnic group?

Base: (n-4852)



| <b>Option</b>                           | <b>Total</b> | <b>Percent</b> |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------|----------------|
| <b>White: British</b>                   | 4321         | 89.1%          |
| <b>White: Irish</b>                     | 26           | 0.5%           |
| <b>White: Gypsy</b>                     | 3            | 0.1%           |
| <b>White: Irish Traveller</b>           | 0            | 0.0%           |
| <b>White: Other</b>                     | 105          | 2.2%           |
| <b>Mixed: White and Black Caribbean</b> | 6            | 0.1%           |
| <b>Mixed: White and Black African</b>   | 2            | 0.0%           |
| <b>Mixed: White and Asian</b>           | 15           | 0.3%           |
| <b>Mixed: Other</b>                     | 10           | 0.2%           |
| <b>Asian or Asian British: Indian</b>   | 6            | 0.1%           |
| <b>Asian or Asian British: Pakistan</b> | 1            | 0.0%           |
| <b>Asian or Asian British: Chinese</b>  | 0            | 0.0%           |
| <b>Asian or Asian British: Other</b>    | 3            | 0.1%           |
| <b>Black or Black British:</b>          | 2            | 0.0%           |
| <b>Arab</b>                             | 0            | 0.0%           |
| <b>Other ethnic group</b>               | 11           | 0.2%           |
| <b>Prefer not to say</b>                | 341          | 7.0%           |

The respondent population was predominantly White British, accounting for 89.1% (4,321) of responses. A further 2.2% (105) identified as White: Other, while all other ethnic groups individually accounted for less than 1% of respondents.

## Appendix 1 – Out of format responses

Lyme Regis Town Council – email response

**Subject:** Re: Dog Related PSPO

Hi Janet,

The operations manager and deputy town clerk are both out of the office today but I'm conscious you need a response.

We have accessibility matting on Monmouth Beach, which is placed at the high water mark. We can't put it any closer to the sea as it would get washed away. There is level access from the car parks and chalets/caravans/beach huts directly onto the matting.

The ramp down to East Beach (Back Beach) is made of concrete and isn't any more slippery than any other surface when wet. The rocks on the beach will get slippery with algae, but wouldn't be accessible for wheelchairs or those with mobility issues anyway.

I'm sure you're aware of the town council's position on the matter - we completely oppose any relaxation of the current restrictions and would prefer to see them strengthened. To clarify, we completely oppose suggestions to allow dogs on the beaches in the morning or evenings during the current summer exclusion, as the beaches start to get busy very early and remain busy well into the evening. The argument about access for those with mobility issues isn't a factor as far as we're concerned, as there are plenty of other open spaces in Lyme Regis where dogs can be exercised on or off the lead.

My colleague is taking a photo of the matting so I can send this to you.

I hope that helps but please let me know if we can provide any further information.

Kind regards,

*[redacted]*

Hi Janet,

Some examples include Middle Mill Fields, Spittles (the section accessed from Timber Hill) and the River Lym Walk. Large sections of Slopes Farm are accessible and level, as are parts of Ware Cliff. Monmouth Beach is probably more accessible than the Front Beach as it is closer to the car parks and there is a level path along the top, with access directly from the car park.

Kind regards,

*[redacted]*

#### Wraxalls – email response

**Subject:** RE: Seatown Beach

Hi Janet – thank you for your email.

I do think the restriction should remain in place, but it is very difficult to enforce.

I think it's generally accepted that dogs are not allowed on most beaches during this period but without wardens enforcing the restriction there will always be plenty of dogs on the beach!

Kind Regards

*[redacted]*

Managing Director

#### Member of the public – email response

**Subject:** Compliment re Dogs PSPO Lyme Regis

Dear Councillors,

I am writing in response to Dorset Council's consultation on the proposed Dog-Related Public Spaces Protection Order and to ask that the Council considers a more balanced approach to seasonal dog restrictions on Lyme Regis Front Beach.

I fully appreciate the need to maintain a clean, safe and welcoming environment for everyone. My suggestion is not to remove the restrictions entirely, but instead to introduce a small designated dog-friendly section of Front Beach, located away from the busiest supervised sandy area, or alternatively permit access during the quieter early morning and evening hours.

I believe this would provide a fair compromise between families who prefer a dog-free central beach and responsible dog owners who also wish to enjoy Lyme Regis.

One issue I believe deserves greater consideration is accessibility. At present there is no easily accessible dog-friendly beach in Lyme Regis for disabled people, elderly visitors or those with limited mobility. The alternative beaches often involve steep slopes, uneven surfaces, steps or long walking distances. This means that many people who can access the promenade and Front Beach cannot realistically access the beaches where dogs are permitted.

This is not a new concern. Dorset Council's own Equality Impact Assessment recognised that dog owners had raised concerns about accessibility at Lyme Regis and specifically referred to mobility issues and the lack of suitable alternative

locations for exercising dogs. The assessment stated that these locations should be reviewed where issues become apparent.

Since many of the original restrictions were introduced, the legal framework has also changed significantly. Dorset Council now operates a Dog-Related Public Spaces Protection Order that already requires owners to clean up after their dogs, allows officers to require dogs to be placed on leads where necessary and enables Fixed Penalty Notices of £100 (£75 if paid early) to be issued for breaches. These powers provide effective enforcement against irresponsible owners rather than relying solely on blanket seasonal bans.

Another point worth considering is how the beach is actually used throughout the day. During much of the summer, Front Beach is relatively quiet before approximately 9:30am and again after around 6:00pm or 7:00pm. The town webcam frequently illustrates this. Allowing dogs during these quieter periods would have little impact on families using the beach during peak hours while significantly improving opportunities for local residents and visitors.

Tourism has also changed considerably over the last decade. More families now holiday with their dogs than ever before, and many accommodation providers welcome pets. Visitors staying in holiday accommodation cannot safely leave dogs in parked vehicles during warm weather and many holiday lets ask that dogs are not left unattended. This leaves families with limited options during the day if the main beach is unavailable.

I would also encourage the Council to consider the economic benefits that more flexible access could bring. Early morning dog walkers frequently purchase breakfasts, coffees and other refreshments after walking on the beach. While I appreciate that detailed economic data may not currently exist, consulting local cafés, restaurants and retailers could provide valuable evidence on whether the current restrictions have affected trade during the summer months.

Importantly, Public Space Protection Orders must be supported by evidence and reviewed regularly to ensure they remain necessary and proportionate. Dorset Council has stated that these Orders should only remain where there is evidence that they are required and has invited residents, visitors and businesses to comment on whether the current beach restrictions remain appropriate.

I would therefore ask the Council to consider whether there is current evidence that justifies excluding dogs from the entire length of Front Beach for five months each year. If dog fouling and enforcement data demonstrate that responsible dog ownership has improved, then a more proportionate solution may now be appropriate.

I respectfully ask the Council to consider one or more of the following options:

- Create a small designated dog-friendly area on Front Beach away from the busiest family beach.
- Allow dogs on Front Beach before 9:30am and after 6:00pm during the summer season.
- Improve accessible dog-friendly beach provision for disabled and less mobile residents and visitors.
- Review the latest evidence on dog fouling, complaints and enforcement before renewing the current restrictions unchanged.

I recognise that the Council must balance the interests of many different groups. However, I believe these modest changes would improve accessibility, better support tourism and local businesses, make Lyme Regis more welcoming to modern family holidays and continue to protect the main family beach that residents and visitors value so highly.

Thank you for considering my comments, and I hope they can contribute positively to the consultation.

Yours faithfully,

*[redacted]*

#### Yetminster Parishes – email response

**Subject:** Suggested Comments for the Dog Related Open Spaces Order.

Dear Sir/Madam

I have telephoned the switchboard this morning and been given your email address for forwarding our comments to in relation to the 'Dog Related Public Spaces Order (PSPO) and comments that YRIPC wish to make collectively. (I have personally already filled out an individual survey in relation to the above).

With kind regards

*[Redacted]*

Clerk – YRIPC

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#### **Background:-**

Dorset Council has launched a consultation on renewing the Dog-related Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO), which sets rules for dog control in public spaces to ensure safety, cleanliness, and enjoyment for everyone. The current PSPO, in effect since January 2024, will expire on 31 December 2026. The proposed new order would run from 1 January 2027 to 31 December 2029. The consultation aims to balance responsible dog ownership with protecting areas used by children, families, and people engaging in sports or other activities.

## **YRIPC Comments:-**

The PSPO provides clarity for both dog owners and non-owners about where dogs can go and when they must be controlled. For a PSPO to be made, the elements within it must meet the following two conditions which are prescribed in the legislation.

Condition 1 Activities carried out in a public place within the authority's area have had a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those living in the locality, or It is likely that the activities will be carried out in a public place within that area and they will have such an effect.

Condition 2 The effect or likely effect of the activities: Is or is likely to be of a persistent or continuing nature; Is or is likely to be, such as to make the activities unreasonable; and Justifies the restrictions imposed by the order.

Both conditions must be satisfied but Members are asked to be particularly mindful of condition 2 when including any proposed land that is to have a dog restriction placed on it. The inclusion of any restriction should be proportional to need.

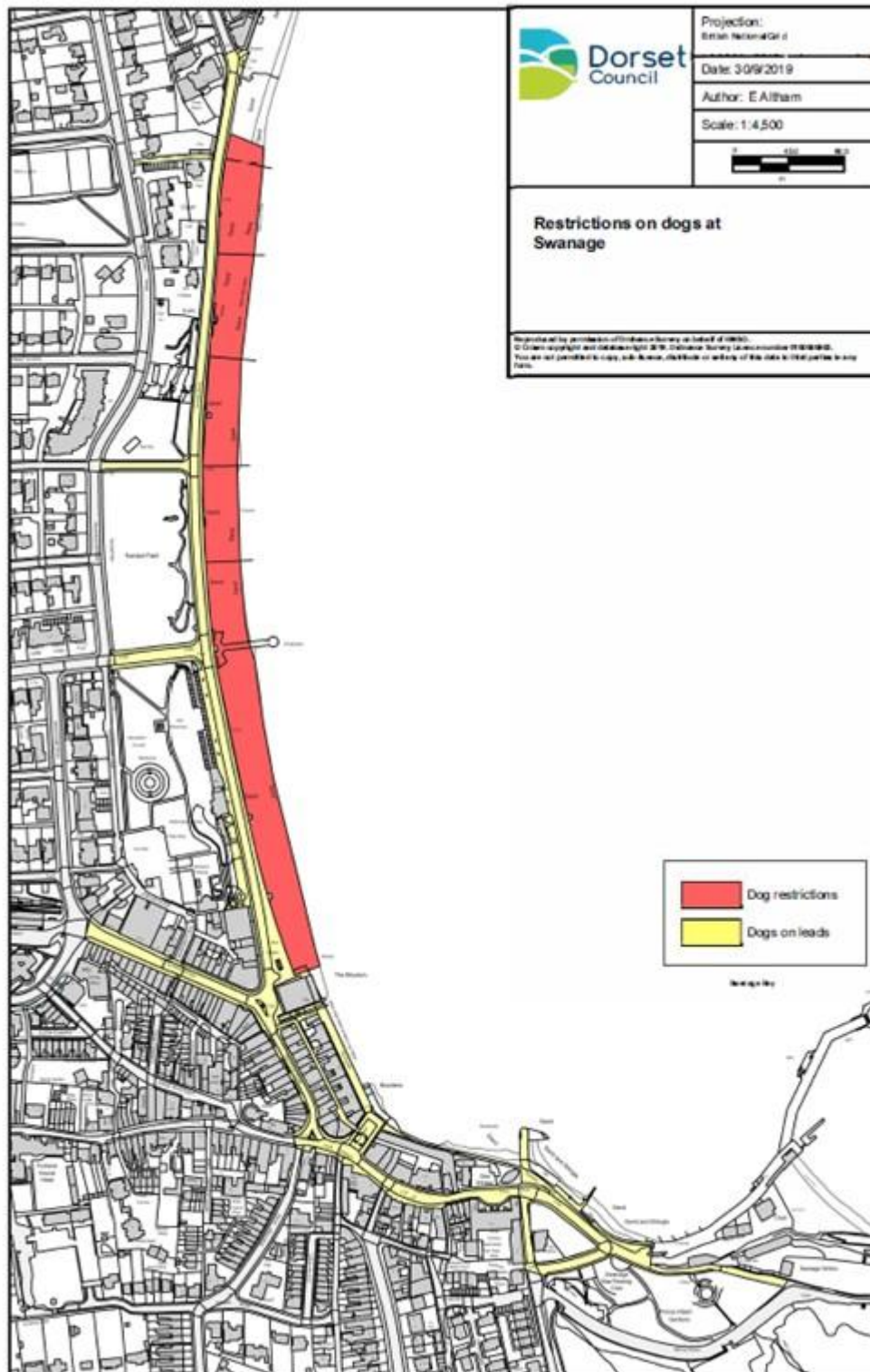
The PSPO takes precedent over any other legal provision (e.g. byelaws).

### **Suggested Provisions: -**

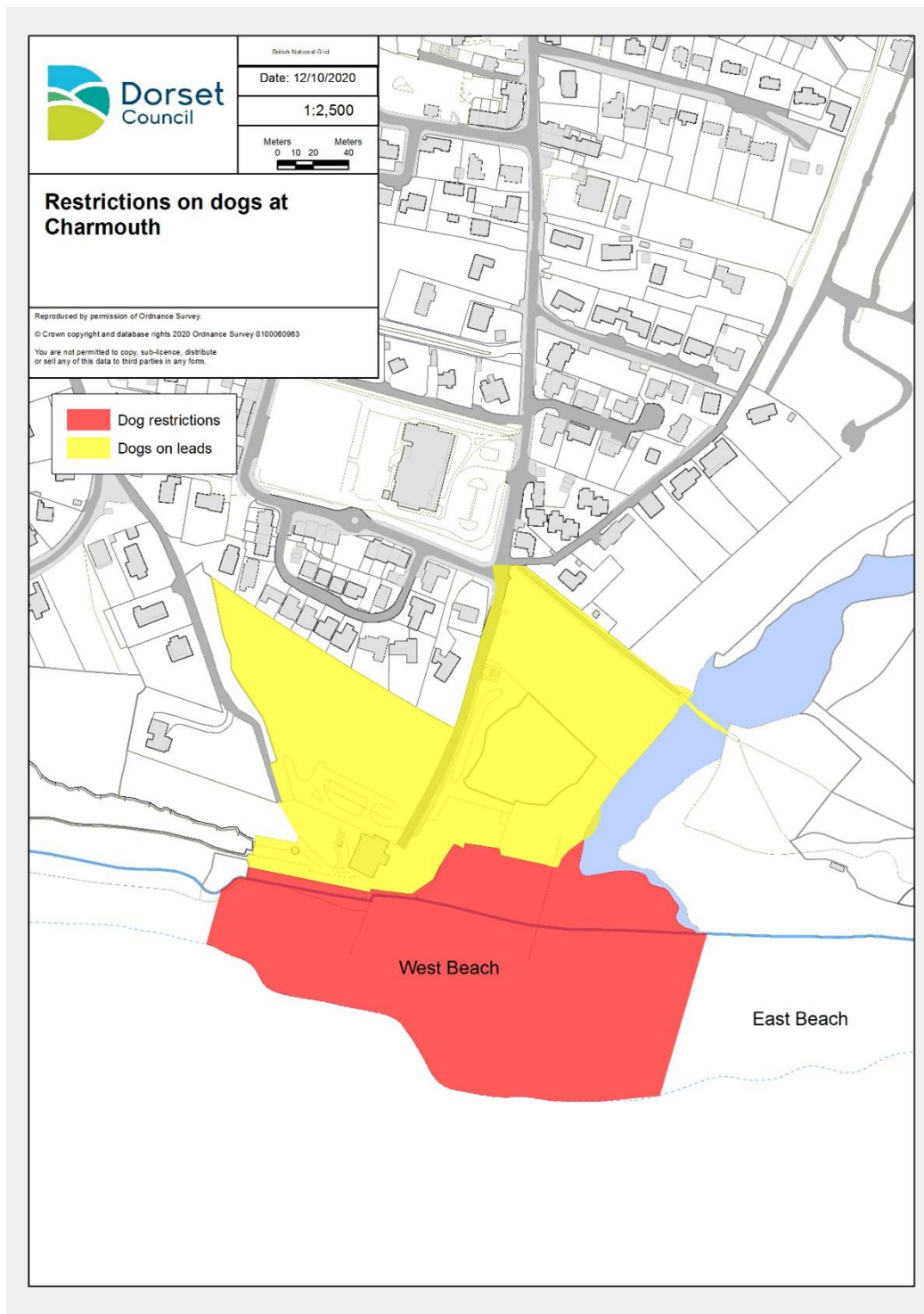
1. Clearance of dog fouling and appropriate disposal from public open spaces.
2. Maximum lead length of 2m where required (see 3).
3. Dogs must be on leads in the following locations a) municipal cemeteries, b) church and graveyards, where dogs are permitted and c) within 5m of marked sports pitches,
4. Dogs must be excluded from all land which comprises any fenced (and/or hedged and /or walled) children's play area and tennis court.

# Appendix 2 - Maps

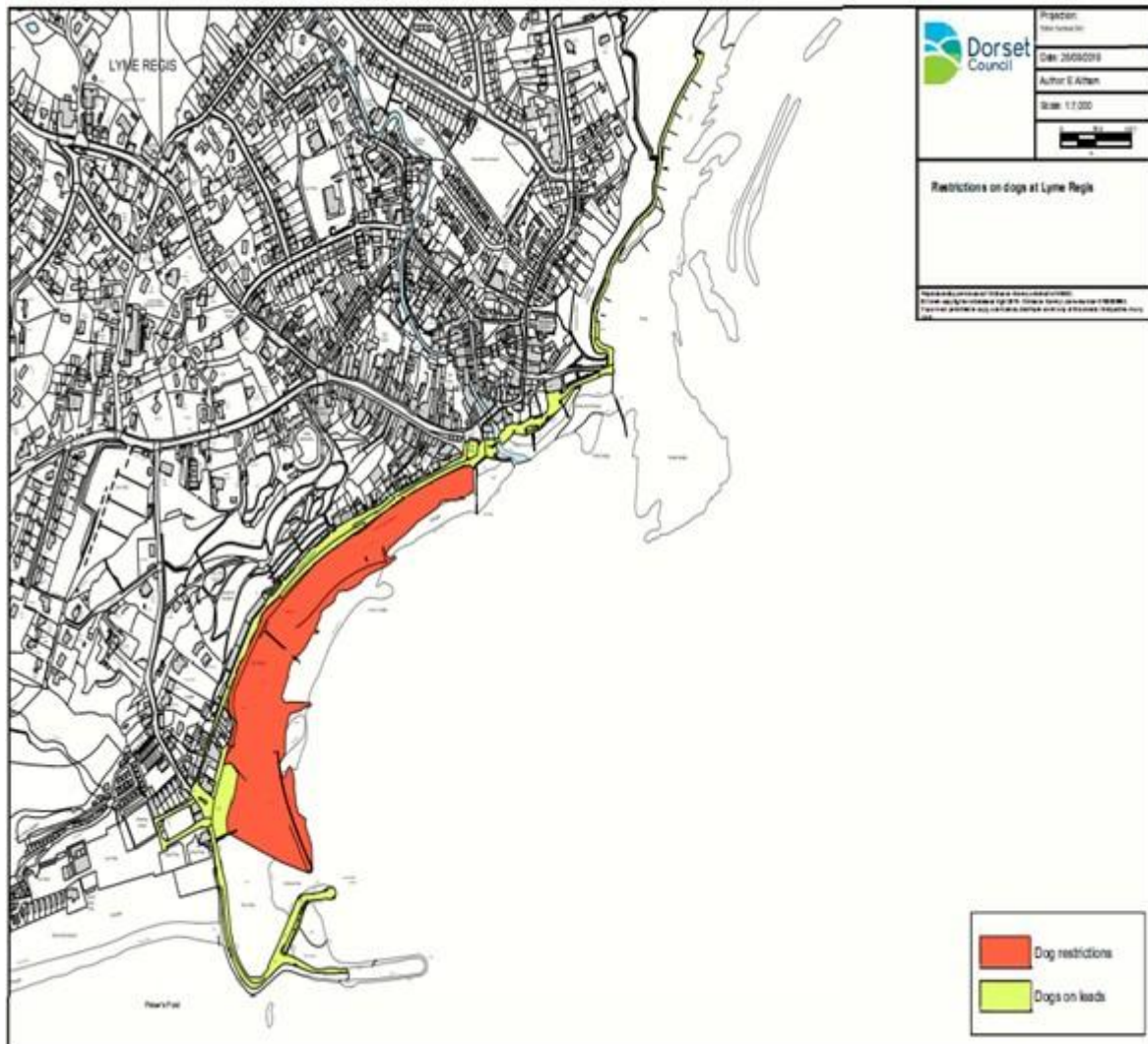
## Swanage



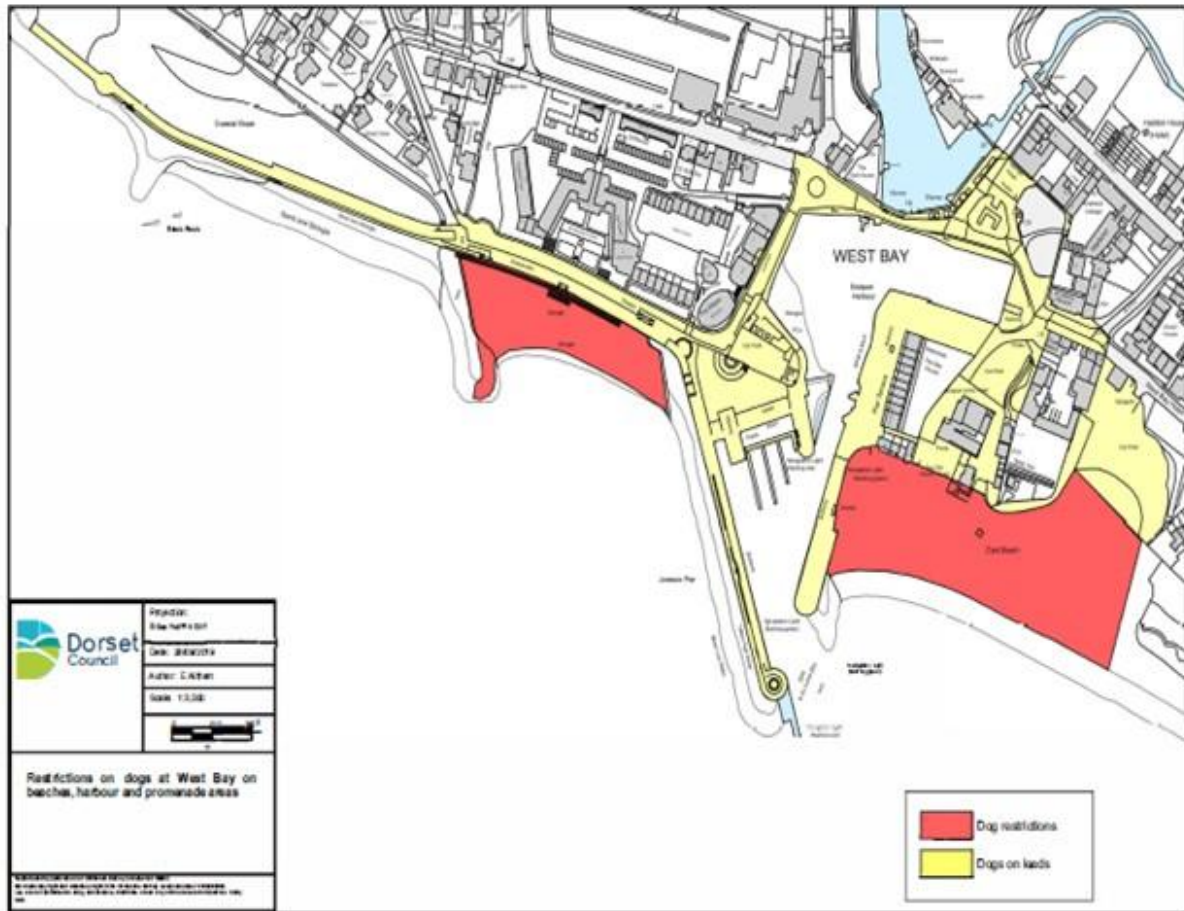
## Charmouth



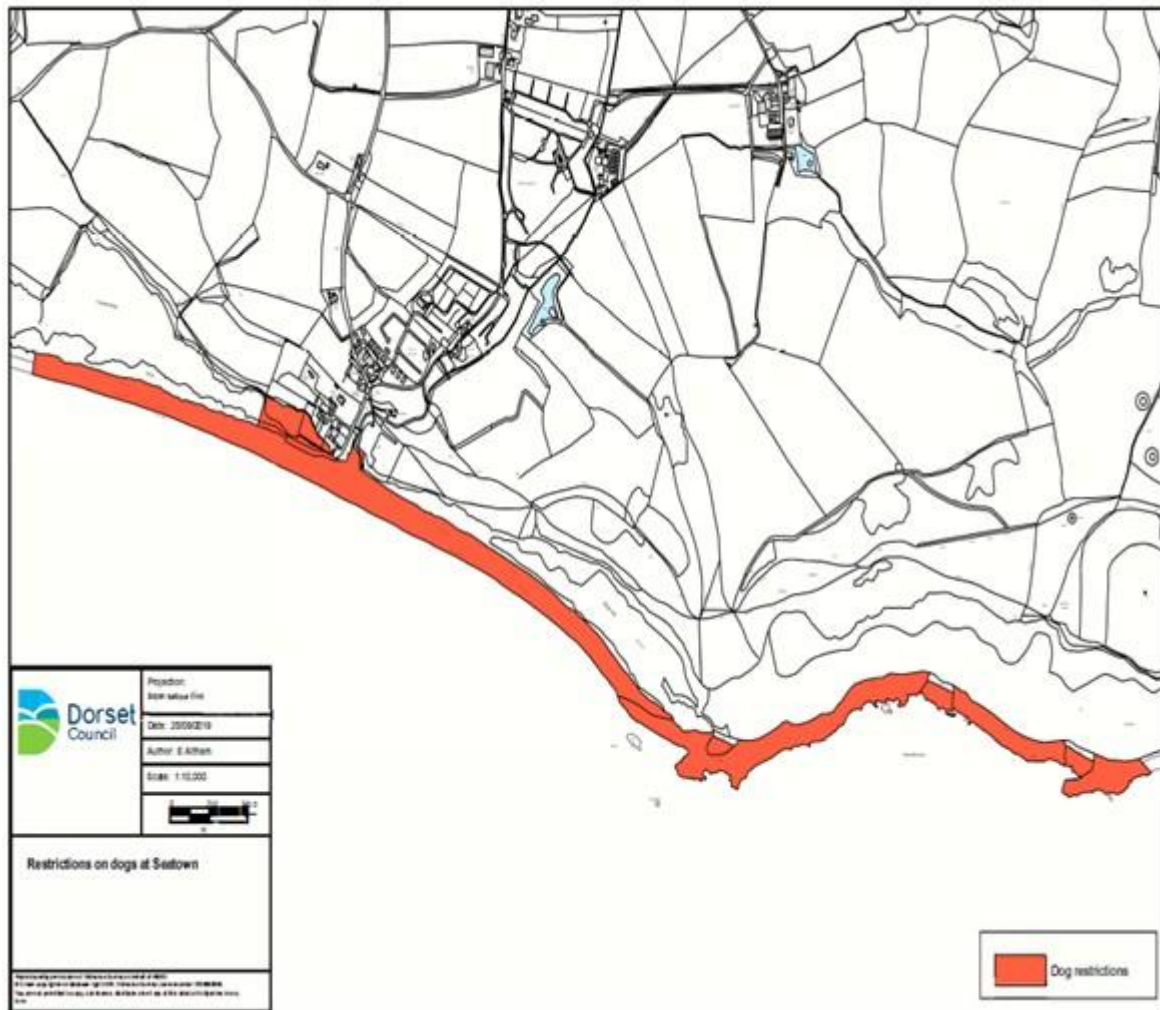
## Lyme Regis



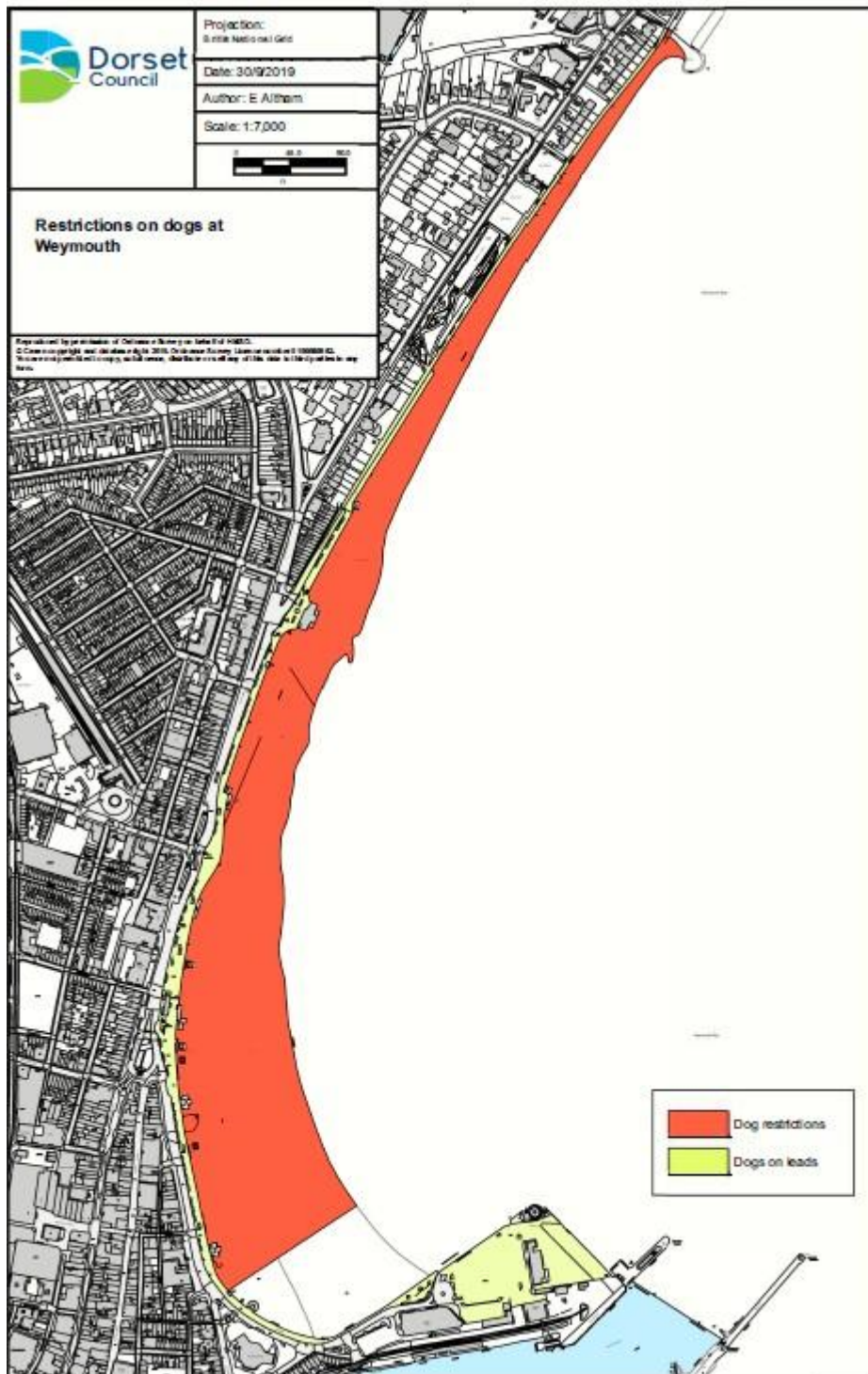
## West Bay Beaches



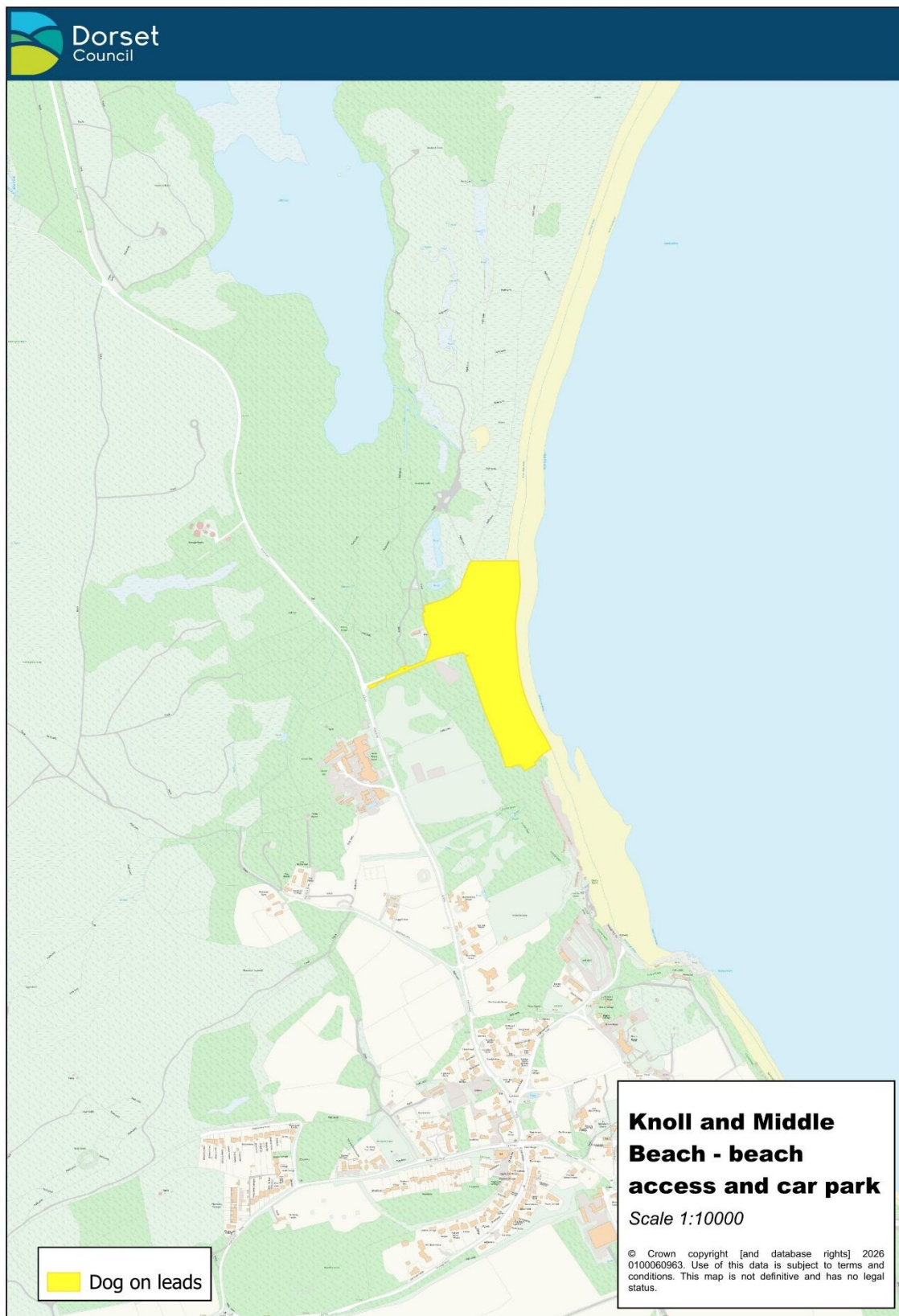
## Chideock



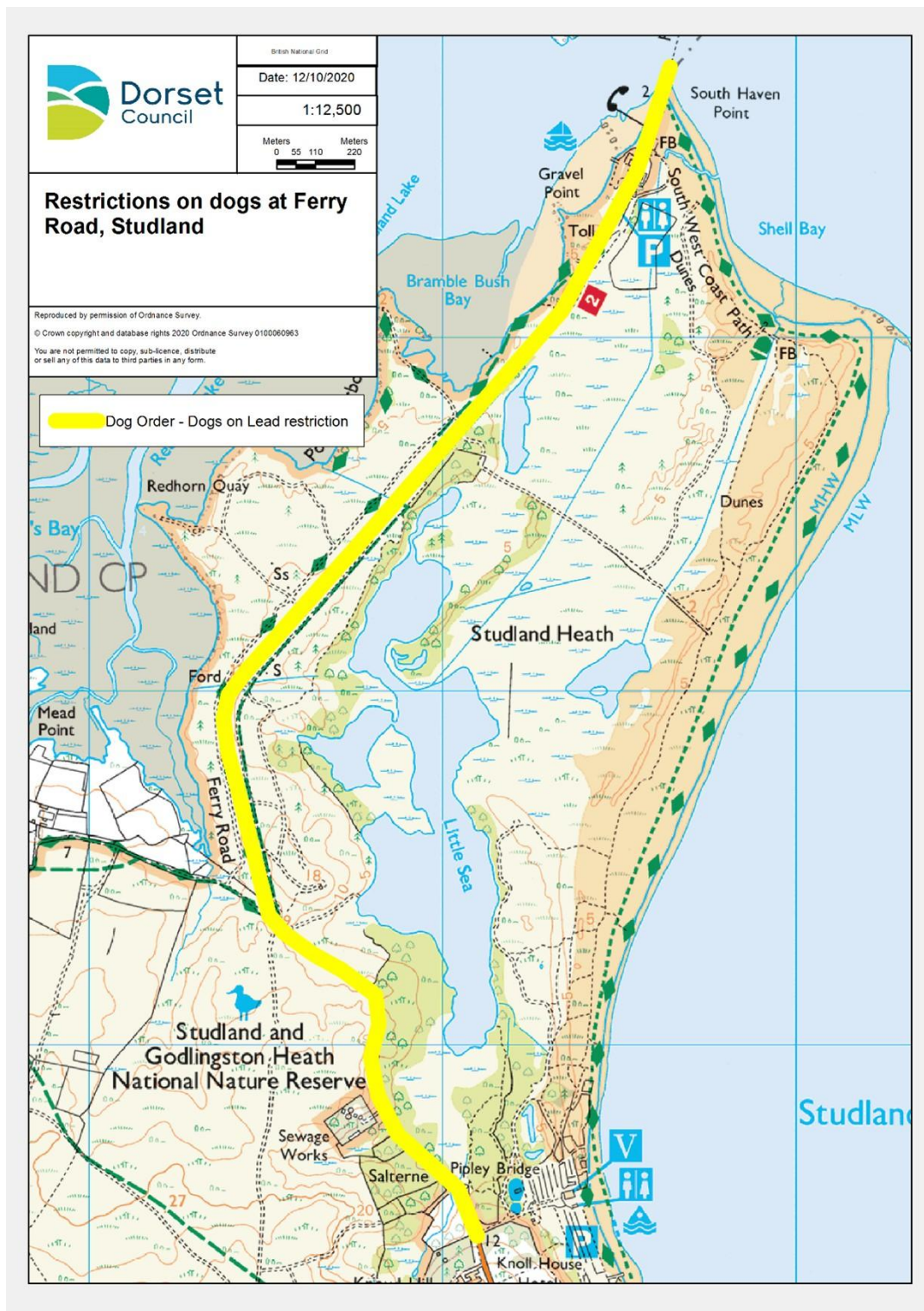
## Weymouth



## Studland beaches (Knoll Beach, Middle Beach and Shell Beach)



## Ferry Road, Studland



## Studland beaches (Knoll Beach, Middle Beach and Shell Beach)



