

APPENDIX E

OVERVIEW – Core Considerations for Consultation

Rationale	Current Conditions	Proposed Conditions	Reasons
Aims and intentions	Prohibitions and Requirements	Continuance or Variation	Justification and Context
<p>Fouling The aim is to reduce the impact of dog fouling across the district</p> <p>The vast majority of dog owners act responsibly, keeping their dogs under control and clear up their dog's faeces. This order reinforces the expected norm and in general breeds compliance.</p> <p>However, we continue to receive complaints from the public about 'dog-fouling'; the concern generated is very high especially in the vicinity of schools.</p> <p>Our response is high profile patrols and targeted activity to raise awareness and where evidence of offending is secured the offender is traced where possible and held to account.</p>	<p>If a dog defecates at any time in any area of land to which the public have access, the person in charge of the dog shall remove the faeces immediately.</p>	<p>Retain as is</p>	<p>Dog faeces is a risk to public health and whilst rare, contact with dog excrement can cause toxocariasis, an infection that can lead to dizziness, nausea asthma and even blindness or seizures specifically in children.</p> <p>The presence of dog faeces, in particular where large amounts of deposits are evident, can adversely affect the mood, attitude and behaviour of those who live in or frequent the locality.</p> <p>Unchallenged and unchanged it can have significant negative impact on the social and economic standing.</p> <p>There are specific concerns about the maintenance of open spaces which are blighted –e.g. routine grass cutting.</p> <p>The deterrent effect for some, tendency for compliance by others, and our ability to prosecute the small minority for</p>

			breach of the order means this element is paramount.
<p>Exclusions The aim is to provide comprehensive protection in specific locations where public health and safety are primary concerns.</p> <p>General Practice – The opportunity to restrict access to designated sports pitches. Also applies to all walled, fenced or otherwise enclosed Children’s Play areas,</p> <p>Specific Locations – Bespoke solutions for detailed geographic locations; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Croyde Bay - Combe Martin Beach - High Tide Roosting Site </p>	<p>No person shall permit their dog to be present on any designated sports pitch or enclosed Children’s play area.</p> <p>Between 1st October and 31st of March, no person shall permit their dog to be present on or near land used as ‘High Tide Roosting Site, as identified in Figure 1.</p> <p>Between 1st May and 30th of September, no person shall permit their dog to be present on Croyde Bay. The restricted area being as shown in Figure 2.</p> <p>Between 1st May and 30th of September, no person shall permit their dog to be present on Combe Martin Beach. (The restricted area being as shown in Figure 4.</p>	<p>Retain as is.</p> <p>Check with Gaia Trust who have expressed wish to extend for the whole year – check evidence/justification/proportionality</p> <p>Retain as is</p> <p>Retain as is</p>	<p>Information gathered by the Council and Devon and Cornwall Police shows that there are still incidents relating to anti-social behaviour relating to out of control dogs.</p> <p>It is felt that if this prohibition is not included in the order it is likely to lead to an increase in the number of incidents involving dogs being present in designated areas such as children’s play areas.</p> <p>It is felt that by including this prohibition in the order it will support the reduction of incidents going forward and encourage responsible dog ownership.</p> <p>The seasonal prohibitions are endorsed because of the representations of the locality and landowners.</p>
<p>Dogs on Leads The aim is to provide clarity about additional levels of control that respect the sensitivities of others and enhance personal safety and protection of the environment.</p> <p>General restriction - Only applies to cemeteries</p>	<p>No person shall walk or exercise their dog (s) off-lead in any cemetery open to the public</p>	<p>Consider extension of area to include all cemeteries, churchyards and green burial areas.</p> <p>Propose empowerment of land owners and managers to ‘protect’ areas under their control.</p>	<p>The restriction limits the extent to which graves are trampled or fouled upon. It conveys the level of respect and sensitivity becoming of such locations without imposing an exclusion. Thus beloved family pets can help the process of grieving and remembrance.</p>

<p>The inclusion of the “when instructed by an authorised officer” requirement can help ensure dynamic risk assessed intervention as deemed appropriate. An authorised officer may only give a direction under this order if such restraint is reasonably necessary to prevent or manage disturbance.</p> <p>Specific Location – There is one current specified requirement – Croyde Bay</p> <p>A further provision was incorporated for Braunton Burrows</p> <p>Proposed inclusion of all NDC Car Parks within the district</p>	<p>Where an authorised person is satisfied that a dog is out of control in a public area, being at large and not on a lead, and/or poses a nuisance or danger to other people or other animals, the person in charge of the dog shall place the dog on a lead of 2.0m or less when directed by the authorised person.</p> <p>Between 1st May and 30th of September, no person shall walk or exercise their dog, otherwise than on a lead in the dunes behind Croyde Bay. The restricted area being as shown in Figure 3.</p> <p>No person shall walk or exercise their dog(s) otherwise than on a lead in those areas of Braunton Burrows, and at the times of the year, as identified in figure 5.</p>	<p>Stronger profile and definition of ‘authorised officer’.</p> <p>We propose a reduction in the length of the lead to 1.5m.</p> <p>Retain as is</p> <p>Suggest withdrawal as this element was not pursued in the three year period.</p> <p>Extend the current general restriction to car parks</p>	<p>This is a useful tool to address incidents and restrict the likelihood of escalation.</p> <p>The ‘short lead’ control element is essential and this figure is in line with broader National guidance.</p> <p>This AONB is protected by this restriction, limiting damage and erosion, as well diminishing the potential conflicting interests and encounters at busy periods.</p> <p>The desire for additional controls can be managed through private landowner licensing and will be supported by voluntary codes of conduct.</p> <p>Information gathered by the Council and Devon and Cornwall Police shows that there are numerous incidents relating to anti-social behaviour and nuisance.</p> <p>A mitigation against potential accidents but also intended to impact on the levels of fouling experienced in many parking areas often used for routine exercise outside of busy periods of use.</p>
<p>Dog Walking The aim is to provide strong guidance and ground rules where multiple dogs are in possession of a single person.</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>Limitations on number of dogs walked by an individual at any time – Consult on options: 4, 6; Other; No restriction</p>	<p>Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty adversely effected by ‘heavy traffic’</p> <p>Proportionate measure to limit impact on environment</p>

<p>Commercial – The adoption of a code of conduct and best practice will be linked to licensing and voluntary schemes.</p> <p>The impact of dog walking businesses can bring intense pressures to areas of land they frequent. Frequently operatives have large numbers of dogs and the ability to monitor, scrutinise and respond can be inhibited.</p> <p>Domestic/Social - The premise of the proposed conditions is as appropriate to individuals who own or are in charge of multiple dogs as it is in a business context.</p>	<p>This will be a new area of managed behaviours for us but there is strong precedent for its inclusion.</p>	<p>Limitation on number walked off lead at any time – Consult on options: 2; 3; Other; No restriction</p> <p>Limitation on number on extendable leads at any time - Consult on options: 2; 3; Other; No restriction</p> <p>Officer recommendation would be for a limit of no more than six dogs under the control of a single person and that no more than 3 dogs be exercised off a lead or on anything other than a ‘short lead’.</p>	<p>Introduction alongside licensing and voluntary codes of contact for Professional Dog Walkers</p> <p>National guidance documents vary between limit of 4 and 6.</p>
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Additional Notes:

Authorised Officer:
Proposed that an “authorised officer of the Authority” means an employee, partnership agency or contractor of North Devon Council who is authorised in writing by North Devon Council for the purposes of giving directions under the Order

PAW RAG Scheme:
We are impressed by the Hampshire and Dorset adaptations and believe them ideally suited to our needs. They advocate a solution to signage based on traffic light system, with paw print symbols in the appropriate colour mark entry and exit changes.

Red = No dogs allowed
Amber = Dogs must be on a lead
Green = Dogs free to roam

It is proposed we adopt a simplistic, easily recognisable system of signs that advise every one of the status of an area where conditions apply or are likely to apply.

Paw Prints



Dogs are free to run and play whilst receptive to immediate control
Show additional care and consideration for livestock and nature
Respect the sensitivities of others



Dogs are permitted if kept on a lead and under control
A fixed lead of not more than 2m in length
Respect the sensitivities of others



Dogs are excluded from the area (This may be temporary, seasonal or permanent)
Assistance dogs may be exempt
Respect the sensitivities of others