

# PUBLIC CONSULTATION RESPONSE FORM

## DOGS ON STANPIT MARSH NATURE RESERVE



[www.dorsetforyou.com/stanpitmarsh/naturereserve/dogs](http://www.dorsetforyou.com/stanpitmarsh/naturereserve/dogs)

**Please tell us your opinion...**



The Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 allows Councils to make dog control orders to replace existing byelaws relating to the control of dogs.

Following consultation on the Stanpit Marsh Management Plan and concern about levels of disturbance to wading, feeding, roosting and nesting birds on Stanpit Marsh, the Council is proposing to create an order to require dogs to be kept on a lead when on the nature reserve. This will update the existing rule with respect to dogs on the nature reserve. The current byelaw (Borough of Christchurch Stanpit Marsh Nature Reserve Byelaw (j) 1977) is open to interpretation and states that dogs should only be kept under 'proper control'.

The Dogs on Leads (Stanpit Marsh Nature Reserve) Order 2010 will only apply to Stanpit Marsh Nature Reserve. This means that dogs will continue to be welcome on the nature reserve but will be required to be kept on a lead no longer than 3 metres in length at all times. It is important to note that dogs will still be able to be exercised freely off a lead on the immediately adjoining Stanpit Recreation Ground.

Following the public consultation, the Council will make a decision based on all the relevant facts and the advice received. Each response will be carefully considered and given due weight when making a final decision.

Full details of the proposed Order together with a map identifying the specific area under consideration can be viewed free of charge at the Civic Offices, Bridge Street, Christchurch, during normal office hours and at the Stanpit Marsh and Steamer Point Nature Reserve Information Centres. Information and response forms are also available at Christchurch and Highcliffe Libraries (subject to opening times) and on-line at:

[www.dorsetforyou.com/stanpitmarsh/naturereserve/dogs](http://www.dorsetforyou.com/stanpitmarsh/naturereserve/dogs)



A large print version of this document is available on request.

## PUBLIC CONSULTATION: DOGS ON STANPIT MARSH NATURE RESERVE

Stanpit Marsh is a highly valued nature reserve. It is a nationally important Site of Special Scientific Interest, a designated Local Nature Reserve and a Public Open Space.

There is evidence to show that there is significant disturbance to wildlife on Stanpit Marsh Nature Reserve. In response to this the Council is proposing that dogs should be kept on leads while on the nature reserve but remain free to be exercised off the lead on the immediately adjacent Recreation Ground.

The proposed dog control order would be phased in alongside improvements to the Recreation Ground. This will ensure that dog walkers continue to have easy access to a pleasant open space where dogs can run freely.

The purpose of this form is to seek your views on the proposal for dogs to be on a lead on Stanpit Marsh Nature Reserve. You are invited to make representations regarding this proposal. If you have any comments you can either complete this questionnaire or write to the address on the back of this form. All comments must be received by 01 March 2010.

You are also invited to complete the separate (optional) equal opportunities information form and return it with your response.

Please read the enclosed help section which gives answers to some of the questions that you may have. The following questions are a guide that will assist the Council in responding to local needs but please feel free to make any other comments or suggestions that you may have.

- Do you agree with the need for the dogs to be on a lead within the Nature Reserve?
- Do you agree with the dog control order as proposed and, if not, what suggestions do you have for modifications?

The following questionnaire gives you the opportunity to say whether you agree with the proposal and, on the back of the form, there is space to add any additional comments.



## QUESTIONNAIRE

Name & address

If you are responding on behalf of an organisation please give details here:

Tel.

Email:

Signature:

Date:

Tel.

Email:

1. Do you live in Christchurch?

Yes  No

2. Do you work, or own a business in Christchurch?

Yes  No

3. Are you a dog owner / dog walker?  
If **Yes** go to Q4, if **No** go straight to Q6

Yes  No

4a. Do you walk your dog on Stanpit Marsh Nature Reserve?

Yes  No

4b. Do you currently keep your dog on a lead while on the Nature Reserve?

Yes  No

5. Do you walk your dog on Stanpit Recreation Ground?

Yes  No

The Dogs on Leads (Stanpit Marsh Nature Reserve) Order 2010 will only apply to the Nature Reserve. This means that dogs will continue to be welcome on the Nature Reserve but will be required to be kept on a lead no longer than 3 metres in length at all times. It is important to note that dogs will still be able to be exercised freely off a lead on the immediately adjoining Recreation Ground.

6. Do you support the proposal that dogs should be on leads when on Stanpit Marsh Nature Reserve?

Yes  No  No opinion / don't know

P.T.O.

## QUESTIONNAIRE

7. Do you have any comments on the proposal ?  
(For example: Do you have suggestions for modifying and improving the proposed order?)



**Representations must be made by 01 March 2010 and in writing either by using this response form, by letter or by e-mail to:**

**Christchurch Borough Council  
Countryside & Open Spaces  
FREEPOST  
Christchurch  
Dorset  
BH23 1BR**

**Or send comments in an e-mail to:  
[stanpitmarsh\\_naturereserve\\_dogs@christchurch.gov.uk](mailto:stanpitmarsh_naturereserve_dogs@christchurch.gov.uk)**

**If you have any queries please contact Christchurch Countryside Service  
(Tel: 01425 272479)**