

## Appendix 1 - Solent dog walkers survey face to face interview

Final 8/02/16

### Intro

Hello, do you have time to talk to us for a few minutes? We've been asked by the local councils to find out what people like about the places they walk their dogs.

We are interviewing dog walkers at a number of locations along the coast, if we have already spoken to you we don't need to talk to you again.

*(If they say they have answered questions before you may need to ask them some questions to confirm that it is us they have spoken to, not other people who may have been interviewing locally. Make sure you are aware of previous survey locations and dates. If in doubt start the survey, if they recognize the questions they can stop.)*

You may have heard on the news about the need for new housing across the country? The councils realise that many of the people who come to live in new houses built in this area will have dogs, and they want to make sure that their needs are considered as part of any development.

The survey will take no more than 10 minutes. It's really important to us that we get to understand what local dog walkers want, so please be completely honest with us, there are no right or wrong answers, we genuinely want to know what you think.

... so is it ok if we ask you a few questions?

yes/no

*If they say no :*

There is an online survey too, if you are too busy to talk to us now would you consider giving us your thoughts when you're in the comfort of your warm home. Here's a card with the survey link. You can have as many of these as you want to pass to other dog owners. The more responses we get the better.

*(If it feels comfortable to do so have a short conversation with them about their dog, what it is called? Ask if the dog can have a treat.*

*Make sure you are carrying dog treats, poo bags and a spare lead (we will supply these)*

*It is ok to offer to walk along with them and ask questions as you go.*

*If at any point during the survey people want to know more, or start to question our motives or the project behind the survey offer them the printed handout (in an envelope) and tell them that "I'm sorry, I can't give you more details, my role is just to carry out the survey, I'm not involved in the wider project. We have an information sheet that should answer your questions. The contact details for the person running the project are included, you can contact them if you still have questions or concerns." Don't waste time talking to people if they are not answering your questions or are being difficult. Offer them the information sheet and the card so they can express their views on-line.*

**Observational points pre-survey :**

**Day of week** midweek / weekend / school holiday (can pick more than one of these)

**Location**

**Lead observed** yes/no

**Number of dogs with interviewee** 1/2/3/4/more than 4

*(we may need to ask this if there are several people and dogs around off the lead)*

**Do dog/s and walker stay within approx. 5m of each other** yes/no/not known

*(As far as you can tell. If there is a lot of activity, or if the site is busy it may not be possible to capture this observational info in full. Priority is interviewing, not observing. If you can't answer these mark 'not known')*

**Intertidal access** (tick box)

No access to intertidal area

Dog and walker both remain above high water mark

Dog and walker both below high water mark

Dog only below high water mark

Walker only below high water mark

Not known

*(tick not known if you cannot observe this)*

**Type of 'below high water' areas accessed** (tick all that apply)

*There may be more than one type available at a site*

Beach - sand

Beach - shingle

Beach - rocky

Mudflat

Saltmarsh

In the sea

In a lagoon/pond

Not known

*(or not known if you cannot observe this)*

*(If there are people walking together then the first person to respond to you should answer the questions, if the second or another person wishes to contribute they can either take a card and do the on-line version or be interviewed afterwards, or on the way back from their walk. Be aware that just because people walk together doesn't mean they will give the same answers, they may have just met on site.)*

**Q1 – Is [dog's name – if known] this your dog/s or are you walking him/her [if known] it for someone else?**

My dog/s

Family or friend's dog/s

I'm a professional dog walker

*You can tick more than one of these categories, so can count people with their own dogs and other people's dogs. You may already know the answer to this from your conversation earlier, in which case don't ask them this question, just tick the relevant box/es.*

*If not their dog - Throughout the survey we'll refer to 'your' dog, I know this isn't actually your dog, but that's just an easy way for us to refer to the dog that's with you today, I hope that's ok with you.*

**Q2 Can you tell me how long it took you to get to ..... (name site)..... today ?**

*(If needed explain that this is their total journey time from home/work/or wherever they are staying)*

Time categories :

<5 minutes

5 – 15 minutes

between 16 and 30 minutes

over 30 minutes to an hour

over an hour

**Q3 and how did you get to the start of your dog walk today?**

*(please provide your main mode of travel.)*

*If they drove then walked record the driving element*

Walked (from home/work /from where I am staying)  
Came by car or van  
Took public transport  
Biked  
Other

**Q4 How long do you expect your dog walk here to be today?**

Less than 10 minutes  
Approx 15 mins  
Approx 20 mins  
Approx. 30 mins  
Approx. 45 mins  
Approx. 1 hour  
About 1.5 hours  
Over 1.5 hours

**Q5 Over the past year how often have you walked your dog here?**

Every day  
Several times a week/most days  
Approximately once a week  
Approximately once a month  
Occasionally (less than once a month)  
Very occasionally (once or twice a year)  
This is the first time  
I'm doing a favour for a friend, I don't normally walk a dog  
I'm on holiday or visiting the area

*We offer the 'doing a favour' people a get-out here. If they don't normally walk a dog they may not have any relevant info*

*If they walk here regularly, ie once a month or more often ask a seasonal question -*

**Q6 What time of year do you walk here?**

(tick all that apply)  
In the Summer months of April to September  
In the Winter months of October to March

**Q7 Do you regularly walk your dog anywhere else other than here?**

Yes  
no

**Q8 Can tell us your top (up to ) 3 reasons for choosing to walk your dog here today?**

*Open text*

**Q9 Please have a look at these lists and tell us which of these influence your choice of where you walk your dog.**

**The location**

It needs to be close to home / work

I enjoy places with good views

I need to be able to see my dog at all times

I enjoy peace and quiet

I want to walk on the coast

I like to walk on the beach

I choose places where I know that I am allowed to walk my dog

I go places I feel safe

I go to places that I know

**The experience**

I can walk my dog off the lead

I can meet other dog owners

My dog can go into the water

I can do a circular walk

My dog can run around without causing trouble

Options for different length walks

I like to walk close to the water

Other – please say what

**The facilities**

There are bins for dog poo

It's easy to park

Parking is free

There are good paths so I don't get muddy

Places where my dog stays clean and dry

There is a toilet nearby

There's a dog friendly place to buy refreshments nearby

**Q10 If there was an inland site that offered you all or most of those things that you have mentioned would you consider walking there? Or is the coast the main attraction?**

Yes – I would visit an inland site if it offered me what I want

No – the coast is the main attraction for me

The coast is an attraction to me, I would still walk here sometimes but I would also visit an inland site

I'm not sure

Other

**Q11 If new dog walking areas were created, what are the kind of things you would like them to provide?**

Dog agility trail (with jumps, weaves, tunnels etc that you and you dog can play on)

A place where dogs can swim or paddle in fresh water

Free car parking

A dog washing area near the car park

An area specifically promoted for exercising dogs

Toilets

A dog friendly cafe

Nothing

Tick all that apply

**Q12 How long would you be prepared to drive to a good place to walk your dog?**

I don't drive / don't have a car		
I wouldn't drive to walk my dog		
	In the week	At a weekend
Up to 15 minutes		
16 to 30 minutes		
Over 30 minutes		

**Q13 How do you find new places to walk your dog?**

Recommendations from other dog owners

I look on a map

I look for signs

I look online

I see where other people are walking dogs  
I asked the council/visitor centre/countryside service  
I don't want/need to know where else I can go  
I've lived here/had dogs a long time, I just know  
I just go places  
Other

**Q14 Did you know that this area is important for migratory birds at this time of year?**

Yes  
No  
Not sure

*If the site has signage requesting specific behaviour in relation to dogs and we have supplied you with information about it then ask :*

**Q15 Have you seen any signs on this site that ask dog owners to behave in specific ways?**

Yes  
No  
Not sure

If yes

**Q16 Can you tell me what the signs request that dog owners do or don't do?**

No idea  
Keep to the path  
Keep dogs on the lead  
Stay off the beach in the summer  
Pick up dog poo  
Other

**Q 17 Would you like better access to information about where you can walk your dog either off or on the lead?**

Tick all that apply

Yes – information about off lead areas or walks  
Yes – information about on-lead areas or walks

No, I don't need more information  
I'm not sure

If yes or I'm not sure

**Q18 What would be the best way for you to get that information?**

Printed leaflets  
Signs saying where dogs can be exercised off the lead  
The internet – dog information website  
Facebook  
Twitter  
Other social media  
An app  
At dog shows / events

**Q19 Would you still choose to walk here if your dog had to be on the lead for some of the walk, say for 10 minutes?** *Please be completely honest in your response to this question, we really want to understand how important this is to you.*

Yes  
No  
I'd still come here but I wouldn't put my dog on the lead  
Don't know  
Other

**Q20 The local councils and people who manage this area want to build up relationships with local dog walkers so they can better meet their needs. Would you be happy to provide contact details so they can keep in touch with you?**

Your details will only be used for follow up research relating to this project. No-one will pass your details to anyone else.

Email :  
Or

Phone number :

We are aware that we haven't given you an opportunity to tell us anything else, as you can imagine we are trying to keep this survey as short as possible, so have been avoiding too



much typing. But there is a related on-line survey. If you have more you'd like to say please follow this link. You won't be asked the same questions again but you will have the option to tell us any other thoughts you have.

You can also pass these cards out to other local dog walkers so they can complete the on-line survey, we want as many responses as possible from people who walk dogs along the Solent Coast.