

Appendix 2 - Solent on-line survey

Final v2 - 12th February

Introduction

Hello, thank you for helping us by completing this survey.

The purpose of the survey is to understand what dog walkers want from the places they walk their dogs.

It is specifically for people who walk dogs on the Solent coast. The area we are interested in extends from Hurst Castle near Lymington to East Wittering near Chichester. It also includes the northern coast of the Isle of Wight.

Like many areas in the UK the area around the Solent is currently being considered for new housing. The local authorities want to ensure that any new developments consider the needs of the local environment and its wildlife as well as the needs of existing and new residents.

Approximately 1 in 4 homes have a dog. Dog owners are an important group and the councils want to make sure that their needs are understood and considered.

If you don't walk a dog in this area please don't continue with the survey.

The survey has a maximum of 21 questions and will take you less than 10 minutes to complete.

Q1 Do you walk a dog on the Solent coast?

(To continue with the survey you are required to provide an answer to this question, and to any other question with an asterisk)

Yes - I walk my dog on the Solent Coast

Yes – I walk a dog for someone else on the Solent Coast

Yes – I am a professional dog walker using the Solent Coast

No – I don't walk a dog on the Solent Coast

If no – then exit survey

If yes :

Q2 Have you already been interviewed by us about dog walking on the Solent?

We have been interviewing people at various locations along the Solent. If you have been interviewed by us you will have been told about this survey or offered a small card with this survey link on.

If you were interviewed but weren't offered a card or told about this survey then it was probably a different survey.

Yes – if yes go to subset of questions (page 7)

No

Not sure

Q3 How many dogs do you usually walk at the same time?

1 dog

2 dogs

3 dogs

4 dogs

more than 4 dogs

None

Q4 Over the past year, how often have you walked a dog on the Solent Coast?

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)

Never – exit survey

If once a month or more frequently then:

Q5 What time of year do you normally visit the Solent Coast?

In the Summer months of April to September

In the Winter months of October to March

All year round

Q6 How important is walking on the coast to you?

The coast is the main attraction for me, I mostly walk on the coast

I walk on the coast but also walk my dog at inland locations

I usually walk inland but sometimes come to the coast

Tick one

Q7 How long does it take you to get to where you usually walk your dog on the Solent Coast?

(from your home, workplace or where you stay)

less than 5 minutes

5 – 15 minutes

between 16 and 30 minutes

over 30 minutes to an hour

over an hour

Q8 How do you usually get to the start of your dog walk on the Solent Coast? What is your main mode of transport?

I walk (from home/work /from where I am staying)

By car or van

By public transport

By bike

Other

Q9 Approximately how long is your normal dog walk

	In the week	At a weekend
under 10 minutes		
Approx 15 mins		
Approx 20 mins		
Approx. 30 mins		
Approx. 45 mins		
Approx. 1 hour		
Over 1 hours		

Q10 What are your top 3 reasons for choosing the Solent coast as a place to walk your dog?

You can provide up to 3 reasons

Open response

We are interested to know what influences where you choose to walk you dog. Please tick as many of these as apply to you.

Q11 - 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 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

Other – please specify

Q12 - The experience – I look for somewhere ...

I can walk my dog off the lead
I can meet other dog owners
My dog can go into the water
Where I can do a circular walk
My dog can run around without causing trouble
With options for different length walks
Other – please specify

Q13 - The facilities I look for are :

Dog poo bins
Plenty of parking space
Free parking
Paths with firm, level surfaces
Places my dog will stay clean and dry
Toilets
Dog-friendly café or place to buy refreshments
Other – please specify

Q14 If you had to put your dog on the lead for part of your walk on the coast, say for 10 minutes, how would that affect you?

I'd still visit
I'd go somewhere else
I'd still visit, but not put my dog on the lead
I don't know

If you want to you can tell us more here: (open text box)

Q15 Would any of these attract you to a different place to walk your dog?

Tick all that apply

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
A dog washing area near the car park
Being able to walk my dog off the lead
Knowing that all dogs have to be on the lead
An area specifically promoted for exercising dogs
Toilets
Free car parking
A dog friendly cafe
None of the above

Other – please specify

Q16 If you drive to walk your dog, how long are you be prepared to drive to a good place to walk your dog?

	In the week	At a weekend
under 15 minutes		
15 to 30 minutes		
Over 30 minutes		

If you don't drive to walk you dog you can skip this question

Q17 How do you find new places to walk your dog?

Tick all that apply

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 had dogs a long time, I just know

I just go places

Other – please specify

Q18 Would you like better access to information about where you can walk your dog off or on the lead?

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 not sure then :

Q19 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

Other - please specify

Then Q (below followed by Q

Subset for people who have already been interviewed:

We have already interviewed you about your walk on the Solent Coast. If there is anything more you want to say in relation to the questions we asked you or the project it relates to you can do so here.

The survey you completed is designed to find out what people who walk dogs need and value from the places they walk their dogs.

S1 - If you have a comment or question about the purpose of the survey you can make it here:

Open text box

S2 - If you want to add to what you told us about what you value or enjoy about walking your dog on the Solent Coast you can do so here:

Open text box

S3- If you have a comment or question about finding out information about where you can walk your dog you can make it here:

Open text box

S4 - If you have anything else to tell us do so here:

Open text box

S5 - To help us understand where you live please tell us your postcode. You can leave the last 2 letters off the end if you wish, for example PO20 1

Open text box

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. They won't be passed to anyone else.

Email :

Or

Phone number :

Q21 – Finally, just to help us understand where you live please tell us your postcode. You can leave the last 2 letters off if you wish for example PO20 1

Open text box

Thank you page

Thank you for taking time to respond to this survey.

The survey you have just completed is designed to find out what people who walk dogs need and value from the places they walk their dogs. Your information will be used by the Solent Recreation Mitigation Partnership to provide better facilities for dog walkers.

If you wish to speak to anyone about this survey you can contact the Partnership Officer Stuart Roberts by sending an email to Stuart.Roberts@portsmouthcc.gov.uk or visit the Partnership website at: <https://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/ext/community-and-environment/environment/solent-recreation-mitigation-strategy.aspx>