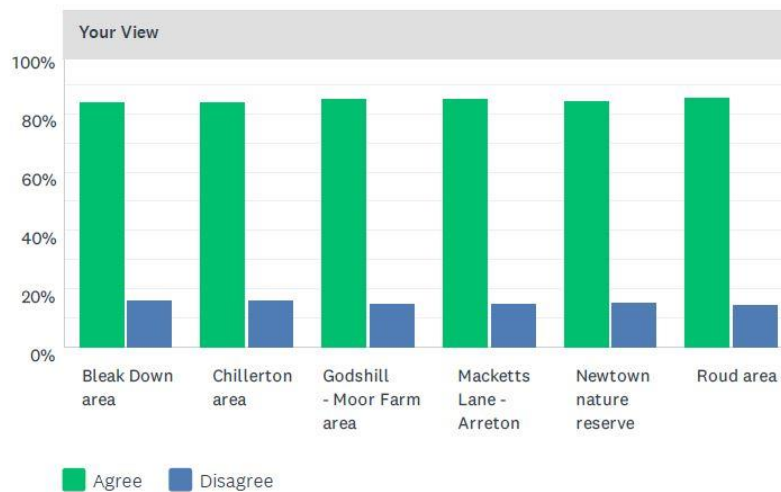


Responsible Dog Ownership – Dogs on Leads - Public Rights of Way

Q8 The Isle of Wight Council welcomes dogs and responsible dog owners onto the public rights of way network. NEW proposal - Land owners have asked us to consider control orders in a few locations to help protect livestock. For information on where these orders are proposed visit our website Please indicate if you agree or disagree with this proposal for each location.

Answered: 757 Skipped: 370



Your View			
	AGREE	DISAGREE	TOTAL
Bleak Down area	84.22% 614	15.78% 115	729
Chillerton area	84.16% 611	15.84% 115	726
Godshill - Moor Farm area	85.13% 624	14.87% 109	733
Macketts Lane - Arreton	85.14% 619	14.86% 108	727
Newtown nature reserve	84.52% 628	15.48% 115	743
Roud area	85.34% 617	14.66% 106	723

Comments received

Comments (142) [\[to view click on arrow\]](#)

1. As long as the dogs are under control and well trained they should be allowed off lead as long as not around the time of nesting or baby animals.
2. I disagree to them all, livestock is always rings an alarm bell when walking out with the dogs but if relevent sign posting is available for walkers to be alerted then of course owners would put dogs in leads knowing it is the right thing to do.

3. All farmers should be made to put signage up at the start of public footpaths to state there is livestock in their fields. Equally if there is no livestock in the field owners should be allowed to let their dogs off the lead. We need to use our sense here.
4. I have lived in the Chillerton area for many years and along with many others, have always walked the local footpaths and bridleways with my dog. This has provided a fantastic environment for my dog to be able to run and exercise freely which is of great importance for maintaining health and fitness (for both me and the dog!). The paths in this area attracts many visitors as well as local people who enjoy this space with their dogs. I have never encountered any problems with livestock caused by dogs and the dog owners that I have come across are sensitive when livestock are near and use leads when required. If this proposal is accepted it would potentially impact a great many people, both local and those who are tourists and reduce the enjoyment and use of this beautiful area. The use of signage where livestock are present should be sufficient to protect the interest of landowners and the well-being of the animals. If implemented, personally, I would then regularly have to drive with my dog, to an area where he is able to exercise properly, as I am sure other local dog owners would be compelled to do, resulting in increased traffic and unnecessary environmental impact. Obviously one of the great attractions of the Isle of Wight for tourists is the fantastic network of public rights of way and if these orders start to be imposed, It will have a detrimental impact on the Island as a choice for the many dog owners who come to enjoy the beauty and freedom of walking in the countryside.
5. These areas are incredibly rural. Dogs and people and livestock have been living in this manner for hundreds of years. The countryside is a delicate balance and if I am not allowed to be upset by a tractor working a field 2m from my house at 5am or 11pm then the farmers must also be tolerant of the public. I walk extensively in the areas mentioned with a variety of dogs and I have never seen an incident involving myself or anyone else that would have been avoided by dogs on leads. I disagree with these requests in the strongest possible way.
6. my dog should be able to go anywhere, she is always on a lead and doesn't cause any problems
7. Unnecessary. Focus on better support for responsible dog ownership
8. I'm a general no. State dogs must be under control, but not necessarily enforce 'on lead' if dog is well controlled on public footpath away from livestock, lead order not needed. If loose with livestock should be leashes, but that is circumstantial, not geographical
9. Dogs should be on leads on all public footpaths and bridleways, I've been attacked badly on a horse twice. I was walking both times. Owners can be irresponsible. My dog is always on a lead if not on my premises.
10. Around livestock your dog should be under control
11. Dogs should be under control which does not necessarily mean on a lead. I was attacked by a dog on a lead who was too strong for its owner and she let it go. On lead - not controlled
12. It's not needed. The number of cases of dogs troubling livestock is very low. This would deter ramblers from walking and reduce the number of areas open to walkers.
13. Dogs should be kept on a lead in any public space at all times. See comments from previous sections
14. Dogs should be kept on leads on any private lands, footpaths stuck to going through fields and they should be kept on a lead near livestock. I own a terrier. He will go after anything. He's on the lead always around livestock and if we can we avoid places where livestock are grazing. Farmers also have rights to shoot any dog on their land roaming around and terrorizing their herds.
15. There is existing legislation concerning the protection of livestock. This is unnecessary and discriminatory towards responsible dog owners.
16. It needs to be made clear at the locations that dogs should be on leads.
17. Control. You will know if your dog is a livestock chaser the lead. Some chi People need to be under control near live stock too!
18. This would be extremely difficult to police. If dogs are worrying livestock Farmers have power to shoot dogs on their land.

19. All areas
20. If a dog physically harms animals then destruction
21. I do not believe there to be much of an issue with regards livestock being caused distress on IoW
22. Stop penalising dog owners. I'd rather see bicycles stopped from using footpaths.
23. AS GENERAL PRINCIPLE, ANY ORDERS MUST NOT BAN DOGS FROM HIGHWAYS/FOOTPATHS, LAND OWNERS HAVE RIGHT TO SHOOT DOGS WHERE LEGALLY NEEDED, DOG OWNERS SHOULD NOT BE REQUIRED TO KEEP DOGS ON LEADS BECAUSE DANGEROUS STOCK HAVE BEEN ALLOWED TO GRAZE ON OPEN LAND WITH RIGHTS OF WAY AND NO FENCES.
24. Dogs on leads should be allowed in these areas
25. All areas apart from Newtown - it's the livestock (especially cows which cause a nuisance)
26. Farmers have right to shoot dogs chasing and injuring live stock if they don't do it I have no sympathy for them. I would have a sign if a public foot path closed my land or better the Council should put one stating DOGS must be on a lead and keep on the footpath, Dogs roaming free will be shot. You read of farmers losing tens of sheep, shoot the offenders dog owners will sit up and take note when puchie poo is one the receiving end.
27. Feel unnecessary, & too restrictive & wide ranging. Could be used for only certain times of year & when livestock in field
28. Again, owners need to be responsible rather than punishing all - that said, so long as some places are available for dogs to play free perhaps more controlled locations may be OK for livestock protection
29. Control orders should in place on all public footpaths.
30. Unable to comment as unsure about all areas, in principle all livestock should be protected.
31. Not all of the reserve has livestock. This is a wild area, do not think dogs need to be on a lead at all times
32. The Newtown restrictions appear to be excessive... I have encountered many dogs off leads around here with no concerns for their safety or the safety of those they come in contact with. I am unable to answer regarding the Roud area as I do not know it at all, and there is no "neither agree nor disagree" function!
33. Responsible owners will keep their dogs under control. Irresponsible ones will still do what they like despite any 'rules'.
34. There does need to be clear signage in relation to this - and also a note on the consequences. i.e. your dog could be shot on sight.
35. All dog owners should have control of their dog around livestock.
36. Doesn't seem to be any reasoning as to why the change is requested
37. Only poorly controlled dogs and owners are a problem in this area. I believe that the enjoyment of this area will be ruined for the majority whilst trying to control a minority who will not behave well anyway.
38. Important thing is that dogs are under the control of the person in charge, not necessarily on a lead.
39. Good signage is needed along these footpaths so that dog owners are aware of the new exceptional rules that would apply if these changes are agreed.
40. Never had a problem leave it as it is no
41. If protecting livestock there are laws that can be used nature reserve is an exception the council doesn't enforce what laws are there
42. Dog owners are required by law to have their dogs under close control around livestock anyway, so it is difficult to see what control orders would add. As livestock are often not present in these areas, it seems to me that compelling dog owners to have their dogs on leads at all times when they are in them is overkill and again will impact on their obligations under the Animal Welfare Act 2006.
43. Dogs need some areas to roam on a lead with the owners
44. I have no view on this as there is no information as to what the order will entail. My initial feeling is that better path protection and/or notices on periods when the livestock is in the field would be more appropriate than a blanket restriction.

45. Responsible owners will know if their dog needs to be kept on a lead in these areas and this should not be enforced. If a dog owner makes the decision to let their dog roam free and it harms an animal then they should be fined accordingly. It should not impact on all dog owners most of whom are responsible. This would be too restrictive and is effectively banning dog owners from these areas as what is the point of walking in these areas if you dog cannot run free.
46. On principal public rights of way should not be on-lead areas.
47. I think all dogs should be on leads when livestock is present.
48. I don't think dogs need to be leaved in these areas
49. I disagree with these extra regulations. I would favour instead greatly increasing fines for owners of dogs that cause damage to any animals including cows, sheep, etc but also other dogs or dog walkers.
50. All on footpaths/bridleways (except Newtown). This is just the landowners being petty. No evidence that dogs are a problem to wildlife. It is the owners responsibility to keep dogs under control. If an owner is irresponsible he/she will ignore any order. On some of the indicated areas at Newtown there is never livestock. Walk this area a lot and have never seen a dog worry 4 legged animals or birds. NT being petty again? Looks like it.
51. Warning signs should be posted and should only apply if livestock present
52. Over restrictive. Animals need exercise in the open air all year round.
53. For all areas owners should be required to keep their dogs under control but not required to keep them on a lead
54. Definitely agree. They also have a severe detrimental impact upon wildlife. Ground nesting birds in particular
55. It would limit where people can freely walk their dogs and would be detrimental to a dogs welfare in not being able to exercise properly and freely
56. Couldn't find info on any of the sites mentioned so if it's a public right of way then it's about responsible dog ownership not exclusion
57. Moor Farm. There is no livestock in fields adjacent to the farm. A smaller area directly around the farm would be more reasonable. The request is possibly linked to the business run from the farm and unlikely to be livestock issues as all land around is agricultural and has been for many years.
58. Newtown nature reserve already has adequate dog control
59. No to all locations.
60. Dogs should all be on leads unless they have a training certification and muzzle
61. Collingwood Road Shanklin due to large amounts of dog faeces.
62. I disagree with an order for All areas except Newtown Nature Reserve. I do not believe dogs should be loose in designated nature reserves. I disagree with these new proposals unless specific and persistent issues of dogs worrying or causing damage , injury or illness to livestock have been identified in the other proposed areas. Any new order places additional restrictions on responsible dog walkers.
63. I disagree on all these areas unless farm animals are on these grounds then dogs should be leashed.
64. No to all, not all dogs are unruly, discretion should be on the owner, but with penalties for wrongdoing as a result of bad supervision.
65. Let common sense prevail
66. Ok if only listed areas above are restricted but in all other areas well behaved dogs are allowed to run free.
67. Refer to previous answer
68. Newtown Nature reserve, leave one area of National trust land free to walk dogs off lead. I would suggest Walters Copse with Right of Way CB9 running through it. This is currently a popular route away from traffic and is not abused. The majority of ground nesting birds are out on the salt pans, and conservation of the hay meadow with it's flora and fauna in understandable. Please allow one are for dogs off lead.

69. Dogs have the right to express natural behaviours under the five freedoms act and as a result exercise and running is one of these. Due to the beaches being off limits it is necessary to have open spaces available for dogs to do this. If they are trained correctly and not a public nuisance then there should be no issues.
70. Too restrictive.
71. Responsible dog owners will maintain control of their dogs as required and will be aware of livestock in the area and act accordingly.
72. Newtown, regularly walk here and never been a problem.
73. Keep the dogs out or at least on a leash. The owners should not be free to let them foul these areas
74. Disagreeing to all areas. The dogs have as much right to be there! I would hope dogs that have tendencies to interrupt other animals have owners sensible enough to put them on a lead.
75. All
76. These seem to be very arbitrary areas? What evidence is there of problems in these areas and how has this been quantified other than anecdotal reports? If these are to be introduced they should be fully evidenced. There is no such detail within the reports / on the website.
77. Newtown creek because it is open land
78. Owners should be responsible for their animals and anyone allowing an animal to worry livestock should be fined heavily but access to countryside should be available for dogs not on leads
79. Whilst i agree with the protection of livestock it is normal and traditional country life to walk your dog freely in public right of ways. The ruling should take into account that a dog should be fully under control and powers for dogs attacking livestock reinforced and made more public
80. Don't know enough to answer
81. What livestock??
82. Mood farm has negligible livestock and is a popular area for dog walkers, the vast majority of whom have their dogs under control off the lead and also provide a free on-site neighbourhood watch for the farm. A far greater risk to safety are mountain bikers hurtling along footpaths.
83. Wherever livestock is present, dogs should be on lead. Even the most placid dog can revert to their natural instinct to chase and potentially kill livestock.
84. Dogs should be kept under control near livestock. Land owners should also give dog walkers warning there's livestock in field by way of a notice on entrance to said fields
85. During calling planning yes
86. I am a dog owner, and where there are livestock my dogs are on leads regardless. the land owners should be allowed to ban or in worse case scenario shoot the owners of the dogs that ignore this rule and let their dogs annoy livestock.
87. All areas. Responsible dog owners will place dogs on leads in or around livestock.
88. Most dog owners are responsible. My dogs are non reactive to other animals and shouldn't be penalised because of the odd bad owner. Stiffer penalties for bad owners.
89. Responsible dog ownership should be promoted and any cases of harm to livestock prosecuted. If you can't prosecute these cases you will be unable to police a dogs on leads order either
90. Bleak down and Chilerton Area and Newtown are open country and dogs should be managed properly in these areas by the owner not the Council.
91. Livestock isn't always on the land so would need to be flexible.
92. Providing signage is clearly visible to put your dog on a lead in this area and signage again for the end of the PSPO area I don't have a problem with it.
93. These areas need to be very clearly marked
94. I have disagreed on basis that IOW Council has already got extremely strong dog control powers covering whole island. Normally these powers stop at 30 mph signs in other counties. If these areas have byeways covered by existing orders no other powers are required. If farmers have animals on or adjacent to these areas, they are responsible for ensuring their animals do not cause dangers to public

with dogs or are at risk, either by fencing byeways or moving animals at risk or as possible cause of danger. Information is incomplete and therefore an informed opinion is impossible. Current DEFRA and NFU position is that dogs should be loose where danger from cattle or bulls etc exists. Dogs on leads can become a dangerous combination.

95. These should remain open access areas they are not private farms
96. Not needed at Newtown. No evidence to justify these is provided.
97. Newtown creek does not need to be a dogs on lead area as the main wildlife are birds which will move away from dogs
98. Any responsible dog owner will put their dog on their lead, if there is any danger to their dog or to wildlife, do not punish the many because of the few. Dogs need to be let off the lead to let off steam. The way some Adults and children behave perhaps they should have restrictions as well
99. It would be much too difficult to police these orders effectively. Most dog owners are responsible. I would suggest that a more effective solution is warning notices that make it clear that dogs caught worrying livestock can be shot. Also needs to be clear that worrying includes chasing not just biting. Non-country dwellers are not always aware of this.
100. If live stock is in a field then dogs should be on a lead. Or in the case of a nature reserve yes at certain times of the year.
101. This measure could have a negative impact on the right against obesity which could increase health costs.
102. If and when livestock are in unfenced areas obviously dogs should be kept on lead, but otherwise it should not be necessary.
103. only if the livestock is natural prey of the dog.
104. Farm animals are not found on the majority of Newtown N.Reserve so why shouldn't dogs have a run especially as it is a wonderful area for children to run and engage with nature
105. Many dogs are well trained and with responsible owners are not an issues. Looking at the other proposals which I have agreed with 100%. We need to think of somewhere these animals can exercise and have fun and a little run. There needs to be consequences for those owners who do not take care rather than punishing all.
106. More dog bins should be provided in this area instead of closing it down.
107. Current laws are sufficient to ensure that any irresponsible dog owner who allows their animal to worry livestock can be appropriately dealt with. If the above policy was to be implemented it is likely to lead to many other landowners requesting the same, greatly limiting public accessibility to these areas.
108. I agree but again all dogs should be on lead around livestock, it will make no difference as those who don't care now will pay no attention anyway.
109. Much of the nature reserve seems to be the type of terrain where dogs can safely be let off the leash, although I would exclude the very waterfront from that comment.
110. Newtown should allow dogs. It's a popular spot to walk a dog and they are already restricted in the meadow
111. Dogs under control should be allowed off lead in all areas
112. As these areas may or may not have livestock present at any given time, I think it is wrong to place these restrictions. I would agree to any restrictions that apply only if livestock are actually present at that time.
113. Newton reserve is a large area, with plenty walks were dogs cause no nuisance, you need to be more specific.
114. This should not be a standard measure - the landowners should put signage up to advise dog owners of livestock so that the owner acts accordingly but why should a dog be on lead if the fields are empty?
115. On lead ok - can't access website

116. This would restrict dog owners from being able to exercise their dogs with a particular unfair impact on persons with limited mobility and low income who may not have the option of travelling elsewhere.
117. Although I understand about the possibility of danger to livestock from aggressive dogs, I don't consider this a reason to bar all dogs from roaming free in their neighbourhood. I live in Chillerton and to have to walk dogs here only on a lead would be incredibly frustrating for all dog owners.
118. All that have been "disagreed". Responsible dog owners already make sure their dogs do not disturb/chase farm animals (farmers already have the right to shoot dogs chasing livestock) irresponsible owners will take no notice of new ruling. It is not fair for responsible dog owners to be made to keep their dogs on leads if no farm animals present.
119. This is a large area which accessed other areas. No restriction is necessary
120. Too restrictive on all
121. I believe the Newtown area includes the cycle route - well used by all elements of the community (happily) - walkers, joggers & cycles.
122. All.
123. Only kept on a lead if livestock is around, otherwise permitted off the lead.
124. Newtown should be excluded a population area for dog walkers who are citizens too
125. I would hope that dog owners would use their common sense if in an area with livestock
126. Godshill - Moor Farm. We cannot see any need for this restriction (and no explanation has been given). We regularly walk our dog there and have never heard of or seen any incident. There are hardly ever farm animals in or around this area, and on the odd occasion when there are sheep an (illegally positioned and unmarked) electric fence put in place .
127. The public rights of way network is absolutely key for dog owners to exercise their dogs. It is a public right of way, if land owners choose to undertake / manage the land in way they believe could be negatively impacted by the presence of a dog, they need to review their use.
128. All areas - there are too many restrictions already in place. This proposal is not necessary.
129. Assuming control order relates to keeping dogs on lead in these areas/sections of path? I thought landowners and farmers could request this anyway if livestock involved
130. Newtown
131. Some of these areas don't hold livestock all the time. I agree that dogs should be on a lead in the vicinity of livestock but it should be flexible so that dogs can be exercised off lead when there isn't any livestock. Problems arise with 'paid dog walkers' having too many dogs in their care and an inability to maintain control
132. Disagree to all, dogs should be on leads if livestock are present but no need if not. Landowners should make clear when livestock will be present on site.
133. Newtown is a nature reserve, should rely on owners' common sense
134. As above, although accept need for control at nature reserves
135. As before my opinion is that this punishes proper dog owners. The ones that bother livestock should be banned but it is hard to find out who they are. Signs should be erected informing them that their dog can be shot if guilty
136. Again, you have not given reasons for the objections. The Nature Reserve I can understand but otherwise, I'm in the dark.
137. Dogs should not be excluded but should be kept on a lead in all these areas
138. Please see previous comments on justification. I appreciate that there instances of where livestock is harmed, but this is not something that is occurring continually throughout the year and we need to address the issue of dealing with those owners whose dogs cause harm, not react and prevent those responsible dog owners from being able to continue using the rights of way network responsibly
139. Why should good, responsible dog owners with well trained dogs be penalised because of everyone else's stupidity!

140. Re Newtown, Roud , chillerton and Bleak Down, I feel dogs need only be on leads if there is stock grazing.
141. All areas - there is a danger these will be added to "a few locations" at at time making walking and exercising dogs more and more restrictive. For the sake of transparency the "Land owners" requests should be published and attributed.
142. Disagree if it could result in innocent dog owners receiving a criminal record