Dear Sir/ Madam,

Re: Dog control order consultation

I understand that dogs have an important place in many people's lives and provide significant benefits to both physical and mental health but I believe that this should not be to the detriment of other people's quality of life.

I enjoy the local countryside, parks and beaches for walking, running and observing nature. This includes, occasionally, Lound Lakes and Herringfleet Hills. However my enjoyment is lessened when having to worry about and suffer the unwanted attention of dogs.

Often dogs will run towards me and this causes anxiety as to their intentions. Sometimes they sniff around and drool on hands and clothing. Sometimes they jump up and scratch at clothing and may dirty it with their muddy paws. There is always the fear that they might actually attack. Occasionally I have observed dogs chasing wildlife.

I therefore wholeheartedly support these dog control orders (and wish there were more of these) as I feel strongly that we should all be entitled to enjoy our open spaces without fear of interference from dogs. Equally importantly wildlife should not have to suffer disturbance by dogs.

Yours faithfully, A Lowestoft resident

Dear sirs,

We have been residents of Somerleyton since 2001 and have owned a dog for 13 of the 19 years we have lived in the village.

We regularly walk our dog on Herringfleet Hills and have very happy memories of this wonderful landscape that has superb views across the Waveney Valley. We always thought this area to be a natural open space open to the general public without restriction.

We wondered at the time, why the Somerleyton Estate would want to introduce animals horses, cattle and pigs onto Herringfleet Hills which is not a huge area and therefore of minor commercial importance.

However, since the introduction of animals and fencing to contain them we have found walking on Herringfleet Hills dangerous and much less enjoyable.

Recently, the parking area has often been locked.

It is almost as if the public are actively being discouraged from using Herringfleet Hills.

These days there are fewer and fewer areas where dog owners can safely let their dogs run free. In the light of our comments above we urge East Suffolk Council to investigate the need

for the Somerleyton Estate to put animals on this site and to reject this proposed dog protection order for Herringfleet Hills.

I am writing in support of the plan to introduce a control order on dogs on Herringfleet Hills. I and my family live at Pond Farmhouse, directly opposite the hills. We are lifelong residents of the Somerleyton Estate and regularly visit the hills.

The area has been spoiled in the past by dangerously parked cars and excessive fouling by dogs. This has much improved recently but it is still dangerous for dogs to roam through the hills. Many people we have encountered do not have full control of their dogs off the leads and this has caused risk to children, other animals and our dog who was on her lead.

The road adjacent to the hills is very fast and hazardous and does not need to be made more so by loose dogs, which we have witnessed on the road on a number of occasions.

At present Lord Somerleyton is piloting a beneficial re wilding scheme on the hills whilst endeavouring to keep the area accessible for people. This cannot be achieved without restrictions on dogs and would be a huge loss to everyone in the local area.

I hope that the views of all residents are heard and considered but as a neighbour of the hills and a committed environmentalist and animal lover, I hope that the order is put in place.

The control order is a very good idea and as a Herringfleet Rssident I am in full support of the proposal.

My daughters have met loose, barking dogs on the hills and they are not scared of animals and knew how to respond. However other children may have screamed or ran.

Also the wild animals on the hills do not need extra hazards and harassment from dogs.

If the whole thing is going to work, dogs need to be on leads.

The road is awfully dangerous too and people park very dangerously when accessing the area.

I have seen two dogs run out of the car park and across the road chasing muncjack

Dear East Suffolk Environmental Protection

I write regarding the proposed PSPO on Herringfleet Hills in Herringfleet, near Somerleyton.

Herringfleet Hills is an area of exceptional environmental importance. It contains an ecotone where several distinct habitat types meet (acid grass, deciduous woods and clay marshes). This continuous gradient of habitats provides a home to many rare species which are regularly monitored by Suffolk Wildlife Trust and the RSPB. Furthermore, the clay

marshes are managed by us specifically to provide nesting sites for ground nesting and wading birds receiving recognition from the RSPB and in the press for the success in bringing lapwing and red shrike back to the area to breed for the first time in living memory. The area has become extremely popular with birdwatchers who now contribute to the local economy.

These birds are easily disturbed and will abandon their nests if they are disturbed too often. One of the main causes of nest abandonment is loose dogs sniffing out the nests. Therefore I consider it of great importance that any dogs being walked in the area MUST be kept on a lead.

The area is recognised by Natural England for its environmental importance, and is in a Higher Tier environmental management scheme to protect this important site. Part of this management scheme requires use of "conservation grade" grazing to control the vegetation, using rare breed cattle, sheep, Exmoor ponies and Large Black pigs. These animals keep the grass at the correct height to suit the rare species that live here. Livestock are regularly harassed by free-running dogs, which has led to ewes aborting their lambs, ponies becoming distressed, and cattle and pigs rushing the fence and escaping the area.

Attempt to engage with dog walkers on these issues (through signage and personal communication) have sometimes been met with a positive response, but unfortunately a significant minority of dog walkers have been either indifferent or hostile, and so the damage to wildlife and livestock continues today.

In addition, several local families who often visit the area to enjoy the landscape, wildlife and livestock have complained to me about loose dogs frightening their children.

Your decision to grant a PSPO at Carlton Marshes (our conservation partner providing wading bird habitat just across the Waveney) has allowed their nature conservation efforts to thrive in the absence of loose dogs, and the site manager tells me that a "culture change" has ensued, with responsible dog walkers now helping to police irresponsible dog walkers and encourage them to keep dogs on a lead for the sake of the wildlife and livestock.

I sincerely hope you will see fit to support our conservation efforts and help protect wildlife, livestock and visitors, by granting a PSPO on Herringfleet Hills.

Please find below a link to an EDP article about environmental success so far at Herringfleet:

https://www.edp24.co.uk/business/farming/wading-birds-return-to-herringfleet-marshes-on-somerleyton-estate-1-6231275

Good afternoon,

Please find attached The Kennel Club's response to the East Suffolk's PSPO consultation.

Dog access

The Kennel Club can support reasonable "dogs on lead" orders, which can - when used in a proportionate and evidenced-based way – include areas such as cemeteries, picnic areas, or on pavements in proximity to cars and other road traffic.

However, we will oppose PSPOs which introduce blanket restrictions on dog walkers accessing public open spaces without specific and reasonable justification. Dog owners are required to provide their dogs with appropriate daily exercise, including "regular opportunities to walk and run", which in most cases will be off lead while still under control.

Their ability to meet this requirement is greatly affected by the amount of publicly accessible parks and other public places in their area where dogs can exercise without restrictions. This section of the Animal Welfare Act was included in the statutory guidance produced for local authorities by the Home Office on the use of PSPOs.

Accordingly, the underlying principle we seek to see applied is that dog controls should be the least restrictive to achieve a given defined and measurable outcome; this is the approach used by Natural England. In many cases, a seasonal or time of day restriction will be effective and the least restrictive approach, rather than a blanket year-round restriction. For instance, a "dogs on lead" order for a picnic area is unlikely to be necessary in mid-winter. We suggest the council considers whether a time limited restriction could be introduced at the Herringfleet Hills and Lound Lakes sites. Such that dog walkers still have the ability to let their dogs off lead for some period of the day and there is also an opportunity for people to avoid off lead dogs at other times during the day, when the restriction is in force.

The Government provided clear instructions to local authorities that they must provide restriction free sites for dog walkers to exercise their dogs. This message was contained in the guidance document for DCOs, and has been retained in both the Defra/Welsh Government and Home Office PSPO guidance documents, with the Defra guidance for PSPOs stating 'local authorities should ensure there are suitable alternatives for dogs to be exercised without restrictions'.

Dogs on lead by direction

The Kennel Club welcomes 'dogs on lead by direction' orders, as these allow responsible dog owners to exercise their dogs off lead without restriction providing their dogs are under control, whilst allowing the local authority powers to restrict dogs not under control. We would also recommend local authorities make use of the other more flexible and targeted measures at their disposal such as Acceptable Behavioural Contracts and Community Protection Notices. Kennel Club Good Citizen Training Clubs and our accredited trainers can also help those people whose dogs run out of control due to them not having the ability to train a good recall.

Assistance dogs

We welcome the intent to include exemptions for those who rely on assistance dogs, however we would suggest further consideration of the wording contained within the draft Order, specifically with reference to how "Assistance Dog" is defined.

A number of well-known assistance dog providers are members of Assistance Dogs UK. This umbrella group, currently has eight member organisations which can be viewed here - http://www.assistancedogs.org.uk/. However, it is important to note that the membership of Assistance Dogs UK is not a definitive list of all UK assistance dog organisations, and may change during the currency of the PSPO, it also does not provide for owner trained assistance dogs. We would therefore encourage the Council to allow some flexibility when considering whether a disabled person's dog is acting as an assistance dog.

The Council could consider adopting the definitions of assistance dogs as used by We would encourage the Council to adopt the definitions of assistance dogs as used by Northumberland Country Council which can be found on page 2 of the attached document;

- "(4) The term "Assistance Dog" shall mean a dog which has been trained to assist a person with a disability.
- (5) The expression "disability" shall have the meaning prescribed in section 6 of the Equality Act 2010 or as may be defined in any subsequent amendment or reenactment of that legislation"

>>>>>>>>>>>> Pear Environmental Protection Team,

I am writing on behalf of Ashby, Herringfleet and Somerleyton Parish Council, following their Meeting last evening, where this proposed Protection Order was discussed. Parish Councillors had consulted informally with local people prior to the meeting.

The Meeting resolved that the Parish Council strongly OPPOSES the making of this Order at Herringfleet Hills, on the following grounds:

- 1) Herringfleet Hills is a rare amenity; a large area of Open Access land close to our villages, which are otherwise dominated by enclosed fields. It is, the Parish Council understands, the last of the historic Suffolk Sandlings sites to remain open access.
- 2) For many years, local people have been accustomed to taking their dogs to Herringfleet Hills for some joyful off lead time. Their dogs are overwhelmingly well-behaved and obedient.
- 3) Local people appreciate that, under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CRoW Act), there are already some restrictions on dog walking, and understand the reasons why between, the dates of 1st March and 30th June their dogs should be on leads of no more than 2 metres to protect ground nesting birds, and further that dogs must be under control near grazing animals.
- 4) The Parish Council is of the view that this a punitive measure which is not in the interests and freedoms of the local population, who wish to continue to enjoy this amenity with their dogs, in their customary and responsible way.

The Parish Council trusts that you will take these views into full account when you make your decision

To whom it may concern,

It is a great concern of mine, and has been for some time, that dogs are currently allowed free access with their owners to the area of Herringfleet Hills. Herringfleet Hills is part of a Rewilding Scheme, whereby pigs, ponies and cattle have free reign to roam over this site and the adjoining hills. The pigs have recently had offspring, as will the cattle in time, therefore it is of great concern that these animals could become greatly disturbed by the walking of dogs off leads. It has been seen time and time again, at other locations, the devastation that dogs can cause chasing and sometimes maiming newborn animals. This can also result in the mothers abandoning their offspring and in turn the offspring dying.

On a slightly different note, this area is being left habitually to be less man managed and managed more by the animals living there to create natural nesting sites for ground nesting birds such as Nightjar and Nightingales. With these birds nesting on the ground there is obviously a considerable threat to them from dogs being able to walk off the lead, both to the birds themselves and their nesting sites destroyed.

As a dog owner myself, I am fully aware of how important and pleasurable it is for dogs to be able to have the freedom of walking wihout a lead, but I sincerely ask you to take into consideration the points I have raised above with this particular area of Herringfleet Hills and ask you to please consider the proposed concept of enforcing dogs be kept on a lead at all times for the safety and wellbeing of animals.

Clearly we on the Estate and myself as a resident of the estate would like to see the order on the Herringfleet Hills. We have a thriving and diverse amount of wildlife on the hills and I believe it would be an big advantage to have this order in place.

As an employee of the Estate we have to deal with the fallout from dogs that are allowed to scare the wildlife and the associated problems that those situations cause.

I hope this is received and put on file thankyou.

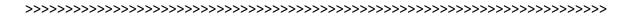
Hi I live in Herringfleet and definitely think that dogs should be kept on leads in a public place. I often like to walk around Herringfleet hills and really don't like dogs just running up to me.

Good afternoon,

I have nothing to say on the tree new proposals coming in, however, I do feel that these so called dog walkers, infact this morning I saw a lady in Allenby Park with six dogs.

Surely there should be a law that all dog walkers are registered and the maximum dogs you are allowed to walk at any one time should be three.

This law is up held in other counties.



Dear Madam/Sir, further to my initial objections to this proposal please could you include the following:

the act that is being quoted is neither relevant nor appropriate in this case as it refers to causing a nuisance to quality of life for local residents.

Any dog walkers who are older or partially disabled would find it difficult to walk their dogs on the lead at all times and your proposal would compromise their quality of life to a considerable extent.

I hope you are an authority that will be remembered for considering the vast majority of dog walkers in the area who are responsible, clear up after their dog and respect the parameters that are already in place for on lead walking. Thank you for listening to my viewpoint.

RE: Dogs on Lead at Herringfleet Hills PSPO

Please could we request that the following information below be considered within the proposal application:

Supporting evidence

Herringfleet Hills is an important County Wildlife Site, managed for the benefit of nature by the estate, with the support and guidance of the RSPB and Suffolk Wildlife Trust. The Hills are part of the estate's naturalistic grazing habitat, buffering the marshes below and providing valuable habitat for a range of uncommon species including reptiles, moth's butterflies, scrub and ground nesting birds and many wild flowers.

This ecologically important site is managed by free roaming pigs, ponies, cattle and at times sheep who protect and restore a dynamic environment for the broadest range of native flora and fauna. It is therefore important that dogs are kept on a lead at all times. We thank you for your understanding in this matter.

RE: Application of dog controls to CROW land

Thanks for your email 3 January 2020

The Open Access Contact Centre provides information on part 1 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 which established 'open access' land and granted a

general right of public access to that land for the purposes of open air recreation on foot.

https://www.gov.uk/right-of-way-open-access-land/use-your-right-to-roam

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/open-access-land-management-rights-and-responsibilities

Dogs on CROW access land

The dog owner must ensure that their animal is under effective control. I've attached the relevant excerpt below which is specific to CROW access.

You'll see that there is not a requirement to keep a dog on a lead all year round on CROW access land.

Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 C.37 (pg76)

- 4. During the period beginning with 1st March and ending with 31st July in each year, section 2(1) does not entitle a person to be on any land if he takes, or allows to enter or remain, any dog which is not on a short lead.
- 5. Whatever the time of year, section 2(1) does not entitle a person to be on any land if he takes, or allows to enter or remain, any dog which is not on a short lead and which is in the vicinity of livestock.
- 6. In paragraphs 4 and 5, "short lead" means a lead of fixed length and of not more than two metres.

The countryside code makes the following observation:

 $\underline{https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/558112/countr_yside-code.pdf}$

Keep dogs under effective control

When you take your dog into the <u>outdoors</u>, always ensure it does not disturb wildlife, farm animals, horses or other people by keeping it under effective control. This means that you:

- · keep your dog on a lead, or
- · keep it in sight at all times, be aware of what it's doing and be confident it will return to you promptly on command

Public Space Protection Orders

If an authority is considering making a Dog Control Order which would affect open access land (land subject to Part 1 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000) it must consult the appropriate access authority (the local highway authority or, the National Park Authority for land within a National Park); the relevant authority (the National Park Authority for land within a National Park; the Forestry Commission for land that has been dedicated as access land

under section 16 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 and which consists wholly or predominantly of woodland and also the local access forum.

I hope that this is useful to you.

Dear Sirs

Please find attached my comments to the consultation about the introduction of PSPOs at the above sites.

Kindly acknowledge receipt.

Dear Sirs,

PROPOSED PSPOS AT LOUND LAKES AND HERRINGFLEET HILLS

I would like to strongly disagree with the proposed imposition of blanket PSPOs regarding "Dogs on Leads" at Lound Lakes Nature Reserve and Herringfleet Hills Walks.

It would be helpful to know the origin of the request for these constraints, ie do they come solely from the land owners/managers, or from members of the public using these facilities? In the absence of this information I would make the following general points:

In the case of Lound Lakes, there is in existence a "rule" that states that dogs must be on leads, except for one marked field that is exempt. This is not unreasonable as the area is primarily a nature reserve and wildlife, particularly birds, could be affected by dogs running free. However a blanket ban to the entire area would be unreasonable. I use this area fairly regularly and rarely see abuse of the "rule". In a most of the people that I see there have dogs and behave perfectly reasonably.

The land to the north of Hall Road is basically open fields and footpaths through to Hobland Road, with an area to the west around the lake and water company facilities, that I have always thought was not open to the public. These fields and footpaths are regularly used for exercising dogs off leads and I can see no valid reason why this shouldn't be permitted. I therefore suggest that the reserve in general should be dogs on leads, with the existing exempted field to the south and the fields to the north of Hall Road designated permitted areas for off lead. This would seem to be a reasonable compromise.

In the case of Herringfleet Hills, again I quite often walk here with my dog, accessing by local footpaths. Most of the people that I see here are dog walkers, usually with dogs off leads and there do not appear to be any problems. Whilst there will undoubtedly be a variety of fauna and flora here, I cannot imagine that there is anything unique or specific to this area to protect, if indeed this is the reason for the proposed constraint.

Suffolk is a dog friendly county, but it is quite right that some areas are designated off limits, such as beaches in the summer months, or wildlife reserves in the breeding season. Most people with dogs are well behaved and courteous to other dog owners (if you meet a dog on a lead, put yours on) and to other users of open spaces and paths without dogs. If there have been complaints from non dog owners about the activities of dog owners, at the sites in question, then this must be a consideration and it is a shame that more information about the reason and emanation of the PSPO request is not available.

I would imagine that dog owners are the largest user category of all visitors to the sites in question and decent exercise can only be achieved for most dogs when they are off lead. It seems that more PSPOs of this nature are being forced upon us in recent years and I am concerned about this trend.

Dear Sir or Madam,

We have been made aware of the plans to implement a new Public Space Protection Order in East Suffolk that includes restrictions on dogs. Therefore, Dogs Trust would like to put forward our thoughts and comments for consideration. Please find our letter attached to this email. We would be very grateful if you could inform us of the consultation outcome and subsequent decisions made in relation to the Public Space Protection Order.

Environmental Protection

Riverside 4 Canning Rd Lowestoft NR33 0EQ

Dear Sir or Madam,

Dogs Trust has been made aware that East Suffolk Council is planning to introduce a series of Public Space Protection Orders. As the UK's largest dog welfare charity, we would like to make some comments for consideration.

Dogs Trust's Comments

1. Re; Dogs on Leads Order:

- Dogs Trust accept that there are some areas where it is desirable that dogs should be kept on a lead
- Dogs Trust would urge the Council to consider the Animal Welfare Act 2006 section 9
 requirements (the 'duty of care') that include the dog's need to exhibit normal behaviour
 patterns this includes the need for sufficient exercise including the need to run off lead in
 appropriate areas. Dog Control Orders should not restrict the ability of dog keepers to
 comply with the requirements of this Act.
- The Council should ensure that there is an adequate number, and a variety of, well sign-posted areas locally for owners to exercise their dog off-lead.

The PDSA's <u>'Paw Report 2018'</u> found that 89% of veterinary professionals believe that the welfare of dogs will suffer if owners are banned from walking their dogs in public spaces such as parks and beaches, or if dogs are required to be kept on leads in these spaces. Their report also states that 78% of owners rely on these types of spaces to walk their dog.

I would also like to bring your attention to the similar recommendations stated in the Government's 'Anti-social behaviour powers -Statutory guidance for frontline professionals' document, pages 52/53.

We believe that the vast majority of dog owners are responsible, and that the majority of dogs are well behaved. In recognition of this, we would encourage local authorities to exercise its power to issue Community Protection Notices, targeting irresponsible owners and proactively addressing anti-social behaviours.

Dogs Trust works with local authorities across the UK to help promote responsible dog ownership. If you are interested, I can send you a copy of our Services Guide, a document listing the ways in which we may be able to help with promoting responsible dog ownership in your community. Please do not hesitate to contact should you wish to discuss this matter.

We would be very grateful if you could inform us of the consultation outcome and subsequent decisions made in relation to the Public Space Protection Order.

Afternoon

I would like to place a complaint reference the dog control order on herringfleet Hills.

Currently this is one of the very few areas the dogs can be exercised off the lead due to the low amounts of public areas.

There are no people in residence in the area so can I ask how the council has come to the opinion 'The Council is satisfied that the conditions set out in Section 59 of the Act have been satisfied and that

allowing dogs in the Restricted Area whilst not on a lead ("the Activity") has a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality'

Re. Dog control order effecting users of Herringfleet Hills I am a parish councilor for Ashby, Somerleyton and Herringfleet Parish Council and have over past years taken a great interest in the protection of the hills including action with Natural England and the Broads Authority. You should know that Herringfleet Hills is an open access area designated by CRoW legislation and members of the public have a right to roam without hinderence. It is subject the regulations which affect all CRoW land and dog owners are already restricted to times of the year and when and where there a grazing animals present, therefore I can see no need for further diminishing of their rights. I have met and spoken to many people using the hills and have never had any problem with loose dogs. Perhaps you should consider the following before you seek to criminalise innocent dog owners: 1. the gates to the area have been padlocked closed for over a month barring entrance to the land 2. there are two loose pigs on the land which constitute a potential danger to the public 3. there is a misleading notice which the intention of which is to restrict the right to roam 4. there has been logging activity which has done considerable damage to habitat and resulted in large stacks of timber by the entrance which are another danger to the public The land owner is not in compliance with regulations which apply to CRoW land and the HSE regulations generally, surely environmental protection should apply to the points I mention rather than pathetic, unnecessary dog control orders.

As I don't expect too much of you I am in contact with Natural England, The Broads Authority and The Ramblers Association.