

Open Land Anti-social behaviour related  
PSPOs 2022  
**Consultation Response Report**

Produced by Consultation and Engagement Team  
**for Dorset Council**

**February 2022**

# Open Land Anti-social behaviour related PSPOs 2022

## Consultation Response Report

<p><b>What was the consultation about?</b></p>	<p>The purpose of the consultation was to allow residents to tell us what they think about our Open Land Anti-social Behaviour related Public Spaces Protection Order 2022.</p> <p>The Dorset Open Land Anti-social Behaviour related Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) 2022 (Draft) is a new Order which is intended to tackle issues of Anti-social Behaviour arising from the starting of fires in grass, moorland and forest areas. Such fires can contribute to climate change and result in risk to life; damage to biodiversity, habitats and property; and loss of income from tourism and other land uses, and include provisions relating to placing, throwing or dropping items likely to cause a fire, lighting fires, barbeques (including disposable barbeques), Chinese lanterns or fireworks, or using items which either (i) cause a naked flame or (ii) pose a risk of fire.</p>
<p><b>What did we need to find out</b></p>	<p>The purpose of the consultation was to allow residents to tell us what they think about our Open Land Anti-social Behaviour related Public Spaces Protection Order 2022, and whether they support or have concerns about the individual proposals.</p>
<p><b>Over what period did the consultation run?</b></p>	<p>The consultation period ran from 18<sup>th</sup> November 2021 to midnight on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2022</p>
<p><b>What consultation methods were used?</b></p>	<p>The consultation involved an online and paper consultation survey. This included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online survey. This included free text sections for people to add any other comments.</li> <li>• Paper surveys available from Dorset Council libraries and upon request.</li> </ul>
<p><b>How many responses were received overall?</b></p>	<p>146 overall responses were received. 84.2% of respondents identified themselves as residents of Dorset, 10% as councillors/politicians, 7% as residents of elsewhere, 3.4% from a public sector organisation and 0.7% as a third sector organisation.</p>
<p><b>How representative is the response to the wider population?</b></p>	<p>The response size is good for a council consultation of this type. As this was an open survey it is not possible to define a statistically valid sample size. The response from residents was reasonably representative of the Dorset population. The majority of respondents were 65+ (47%) followed by the 45–54 (25%) and 55-64 (24%) age groups. 10.4% were in the 35-44 category with 1.4% of respondents being 34 or under. 47.7% describe themselves as Female, 45.5% Male, and 6.8% preferring not to say. 5.2% considered themselves to have a disability which equates to 6 people (slightly above the average of 5% for disabled Dorset residents). At 89.1% identifying as White British, this is comparable to the overall picture.</p>

<b>Where will the results be published?</b>	Results will be published on the council's website www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk
<b>How will the results be used?</b>	The feedback will be used to help shape the final Dorset Public Space Protection Orders decided by Dorset Council elected members.
<b>Who has produced this report?</b>	Consultation and Engagement team, Dorset Council, February 2022

## Executive Summary

An overview of the main report

### i) Background/Introduction

The Dorset Open Land Anti-social Behaviour related Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) 2022 (Draft) is a new Order which is intended to tackle issues of Anti-social Behaviour arising from the starting of fires in grass, moorland and forest areas. Such fires can contribute to climate change and result in risk to life; damage to biodiversity, habitats and property; and loss of income from tourism and other land uses, and include provisions relating to placing, throwing or dropping items likely to cause a fire, lighting fires, barbeques (including disposable barbeques), Chinese lanterns or fireworks, or using items which either (i) cause a naked flame or (ii) pose a risk of fire.

### ii) Respondents

146 responses were received. 84.2% of respondents identified themselves as residents of Dorset, 10% as councillors/politicians, 4.8% as residents of elsewhere, 3.4% from a public sector organisation and 0.7% as a third sector organisation.

- There were responses from a range of age groups.
- 45.5% respondents described themselves as Male, 47.7% as Female and 6.8% preferred not to say.
- 5.2% of respondents considered they had a disability; this equates to 6 people slightly above the average of 5.2% for disable Dorset residents.
- Most respondents described their sexual orientation as Heterosexual/straight (79.4%). 0.8% described themselves as Bi-sexual, 0.8% Gay/Lesbian and 19% preferred not to say.
- 43.8% of respondents described themselves as Christian, 43% stated they had no religion and 13.3% preferred not to say.
- The majority of respondents (89.1%) stated a White British background. 2.3% chose Any other white background, 6.3% respondents preferred not to say and 2.3% chose Any other ethnic group.

### iii) The lighting of fires

94.5% of respondents supported the proposals relating to the lighting of fires. They did so for three main reasons: they felt fires can have a devastating effect on flora and fauna (97.1%), fires can cause damage to life and property (94.2%) and extinguishing unintentional fires in the countryside can use significant emergency services manpower (94.2%). They also strongly felt

that the proposals would be beneficial if enforced (65.9%) and that lighting of fires can cause nuisance (61.6%). Just over half (53.6%) felt that the area within the maps covers at risk locations. 5.8% indicated other reasons for supporting the lighting of fires proposals.

8 respondents stated that they had concerns about the proposals or that they were not sure about them. 4 gave 'other' reasons for their concerns and 3 expressed concern that the areas shown on the maps should be altered. 2 responded by stating that the proposals would not be enforced while 1 respondent said the proposals were too draconian and 1 felt they spoil people's enjoyment of these outside areas.

#### **iv) Other comments**

- The issue of climate change making accidental fires more likely and carbon release occurring.
- The need for the PSPO to be extended to several other geographical areas and sites in the DC area.
- Concerns regarding omissions and accuracy, confusion with colours and accessing the maps accompanying the consultation.
- Requests for the law regarding the use of BBQs on open land, particularly disposable ones, to be reconsidered.
- Concern about how the PSPO will be enforced.
- No reference to smoking community.
- Need for public education.

## **Background**

The consultation explained:

The Dorset Open Land Anti-social Behaviour related Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) 2022 (Draft) is a new Order which is intended to tackle issues of Anti-social Behaviour arising from the starting of fires in grass, moorland and forest areas. Such fires can contribute to climate change and result in risk to life; damage to biodiversity, habitats and property; and loss of income from tourism and other land uses, and include provisions relating to placing, throwing or dropping items likely to cause a fire, lighting fires, barbeques (including disposable barbeques), Chinese lanterns or fireworks, or using items which either (i) cause a naked flame or (ii) pose a risk of fire.

## **The Consultation**

The consultation period ran from 18<sup>th</sup> November 2021 to midnight on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

Very few questions were compulsory. A copy of the survey is available in the appendix.

## **Analysis Method**

Questions were considered on an individual basis. Overall responses were examined, and specific responses of respondents were looked at, including those who said they had a disability. The organisational responses were looked at separately. The main

method of analysis was looking at the percentage of respondents who expressed a view on each question.

For each open question the text comments have been studied and “coded” depending on what issues were raised. The coded comments are then reported on based on the amount of times those individual issues have been raised. Total redacted comments are provided in an appendix. Note: some figures may not sum due to rounding.

## Response Method

Overall, 146 responses were received.

## About respondents

146 overall responses were received.

### Q: Are you completing this survey as:

146 overall responses were received. 84.2% of respondents identified themselves as residents of Dorset, 10% as councillors/politicians, 4.8% as residents of elsewhere, 3.4% from a public sector organisation and 0.7% as a third sector organisation.

	% of all respondents	Number
Resident of Dorset (Dorset Council area)	84.2	123
Resident of elsewhere	4.8	7
Private business	0.0	0
Public sector organisation (local council, health organisation etc)	3.4	5
Third sector organisation (voluntary groups, community groups, charities)	0.7	1
Councillor/politician	6.8	10
Other	0	0

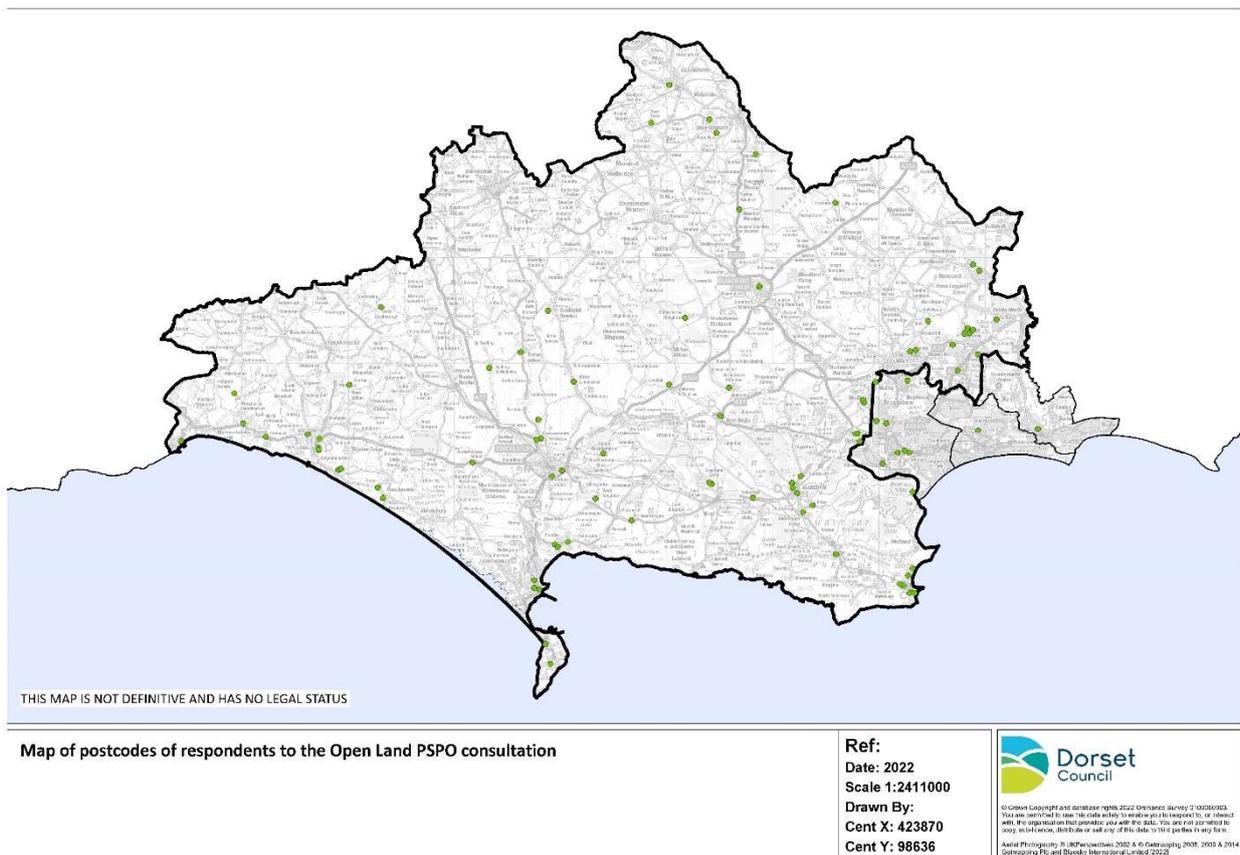
### Q: Any organisations/businesses.

4 individual organisation/business responded. These are shown in the table below. Where one of the responses was an ‘official’ response, this is indicated

	No.	Official Response
Lytchett Minster and Upton Town Council	1	Y
National Trust – North and West Portfolio	1	Y
Wareham St Martin Parish Council	1	Y
West Moors Town Council	1	Y

## Maps of responses to the consultation

Postcodes were supplied by 146 respondents with the majority of those living in the Dorset Council area. The map shows the distribution of overall responses to the consultation.



## Out of Format Response – with wider impact

**Liberty, The National Council for Civil Liberties** have provided a comprehensive response. In summary they say “The proposed PSPOs in Dorset are not only potentially unlawful and unreasonable; they also constitute a disproportionate interference with

basic rights, including people's right to inherent human dignity. We urge you to think again."

They go on to say

"We note that in seven of the eight PSPOs the Council proposes to include prohibitions categorised as what it alleges to be 'anti-social behaviour'. These prohibitions are unreasonable; they target vulnerable individuals and unduly restrict civil liberties. They raise concerns about:

- Evidence (including Equality Impact Assessments)
- General Concerns (particularly affect on people in poverty)
- Anti-social behaviour (concerns over wording and meaning)
- Camping (effect on various groups/individuals particularly homeless people/Gypsies and Travelers and Right to Protest)

They are also concerned with the prohibition against tents and other temporary structures contained in the draft Dorset Beaches Anti-social Behaviour Related PSPO 202

The full details will be reviewed separately by the Community Safety Team.

# Section 1 – Lighting of fires

It is proposed in the order that “No person shall place, throw or drop in the restricted areas anything likely to cause a fire.” Further “No person shall light a fire, barbecue (including a disposable barbecue), Chinese lantern or firework in the restricted areas” Also “No person shall use any item in the restricted areas which either (i) causes a naked flame or (ii) or poses a risk of fire.”

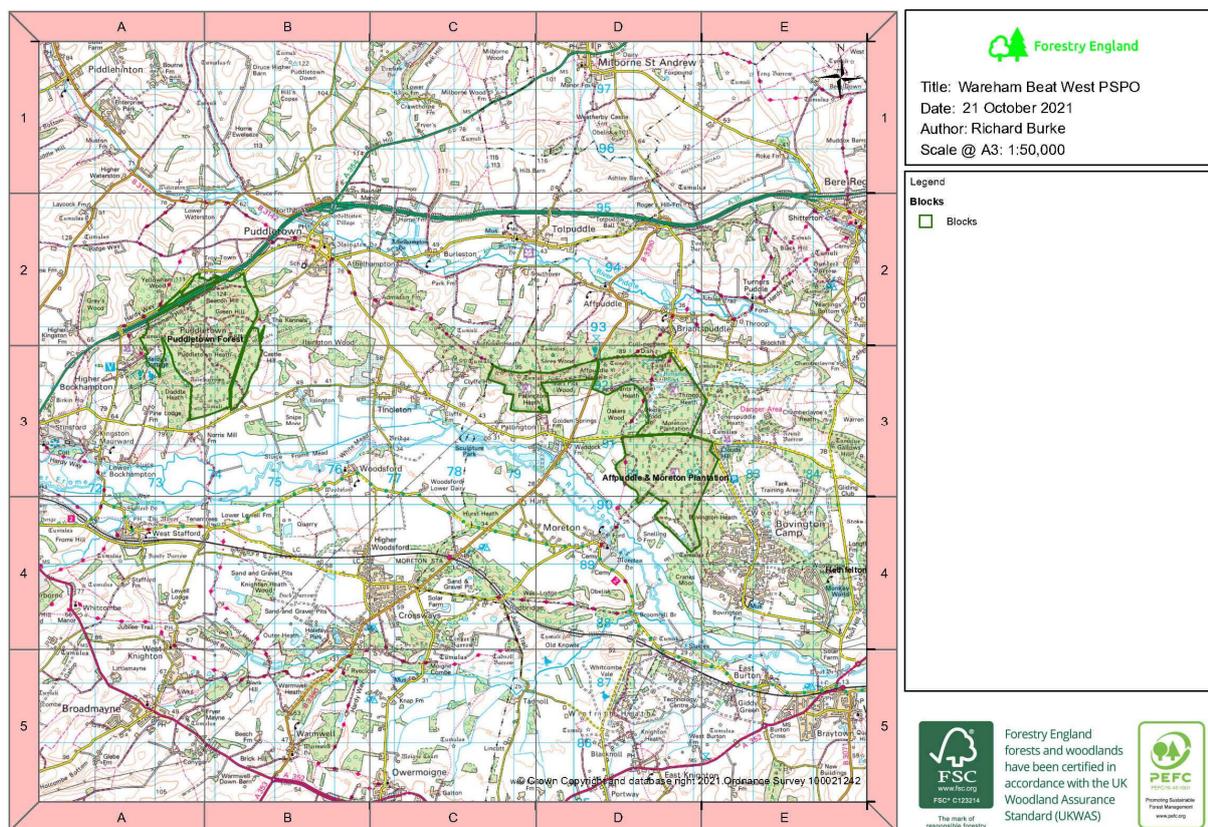
Three areas are proposed:

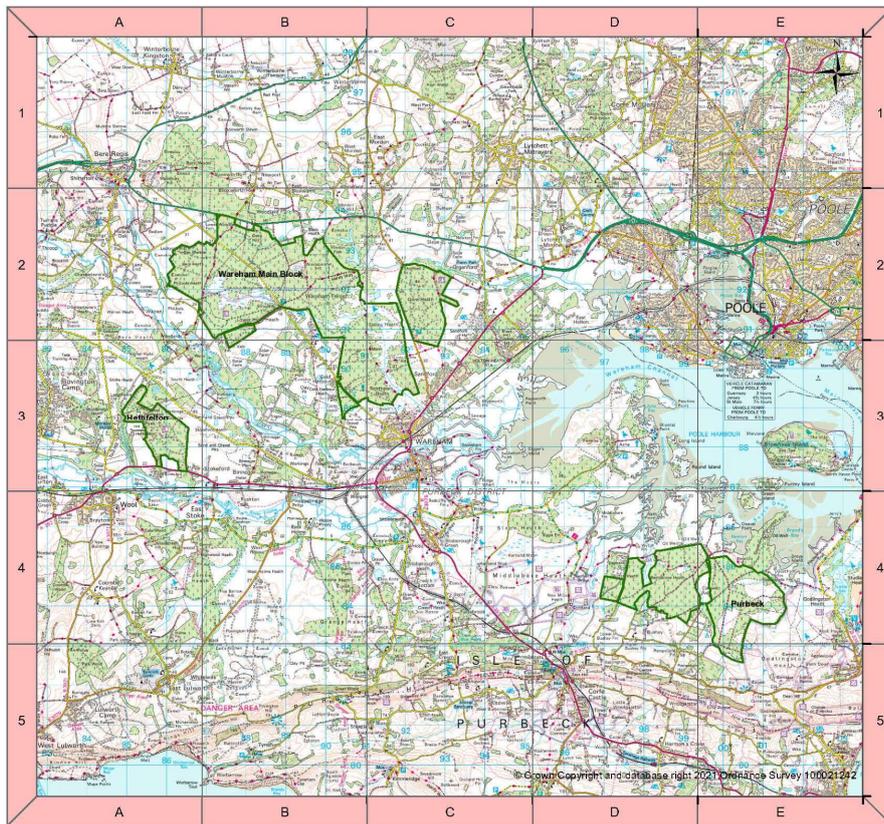
See the map showing the controlled Zone - Ringwood

See the map showing the controlled Zone - Wareham Blocks East

See the map showing the controlled Zone - Wareham Blocks West

## Maps of controlled zone





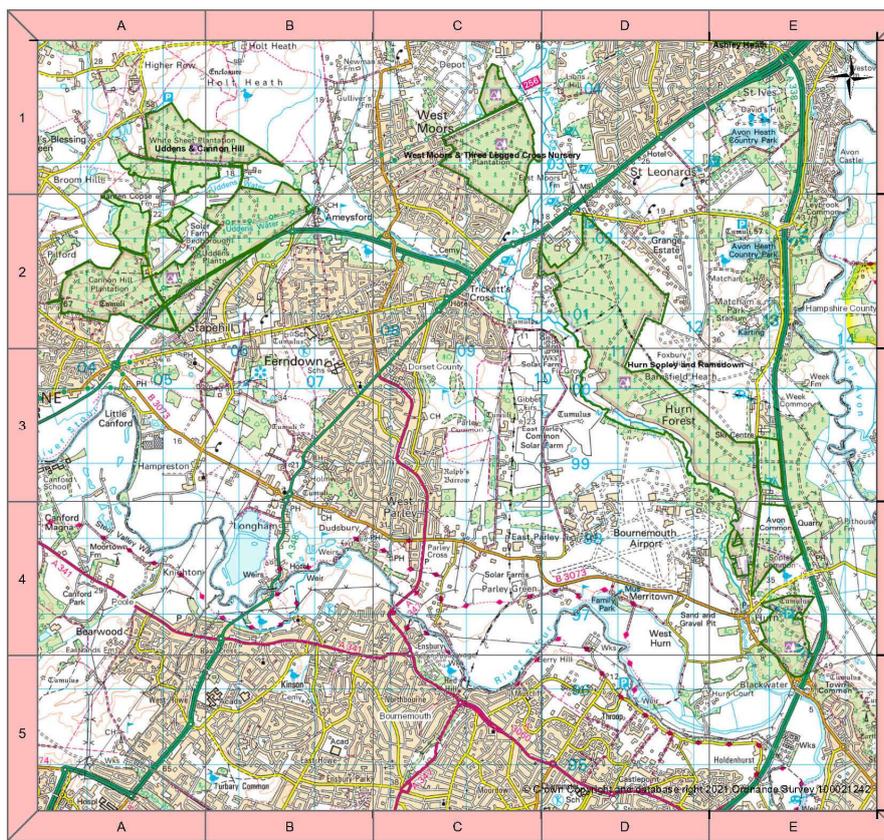
**Forestry England**

Title: Wareham Beat East PSPO  
 Date: 21 October 2021  
 Author: Richard Burke  
 Scale @ A3: 1:75,000

**Legend**

**Blocks**

- Blocks



**Forestry England**

Title: Ringwood Beat PSPO  
 Date: 21 October 2021  
 Author: Richard Burke  
 Scale @ A3: 1:140,000

**Legend**

**Counties (GB)**

- Counties (GB)

**Blocks**

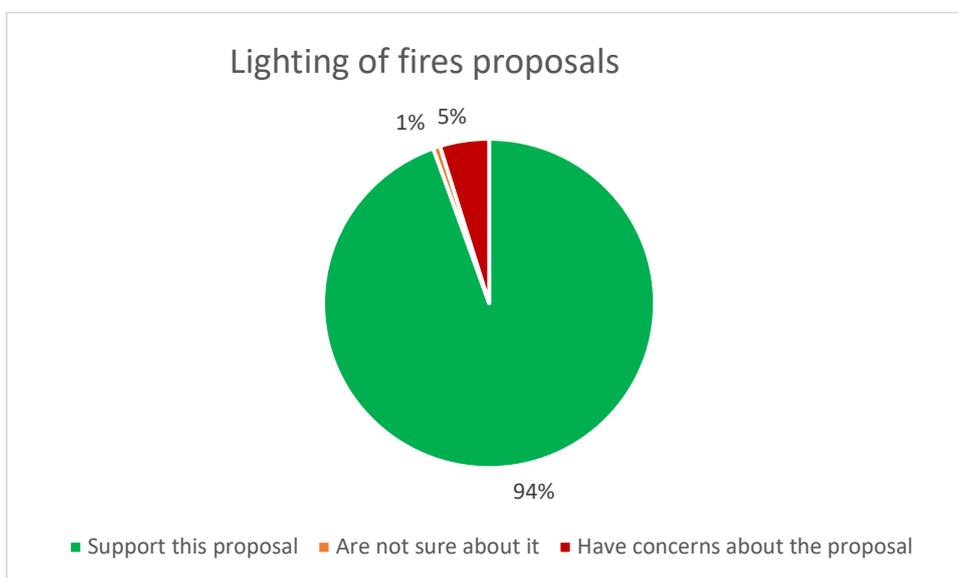
- Blocks



## Do you:

As the table and graph show below, 94.5% of respondents stated that they support the proposals relating to the lighting of fires. 4.8% have concerns about the proposal and 0.7% are not sure about it.

	% of all respondents	Number
Support this proposal	94.5	138
Are not sure about it	0.7	1
Have concerns about the proposal	4.8	7

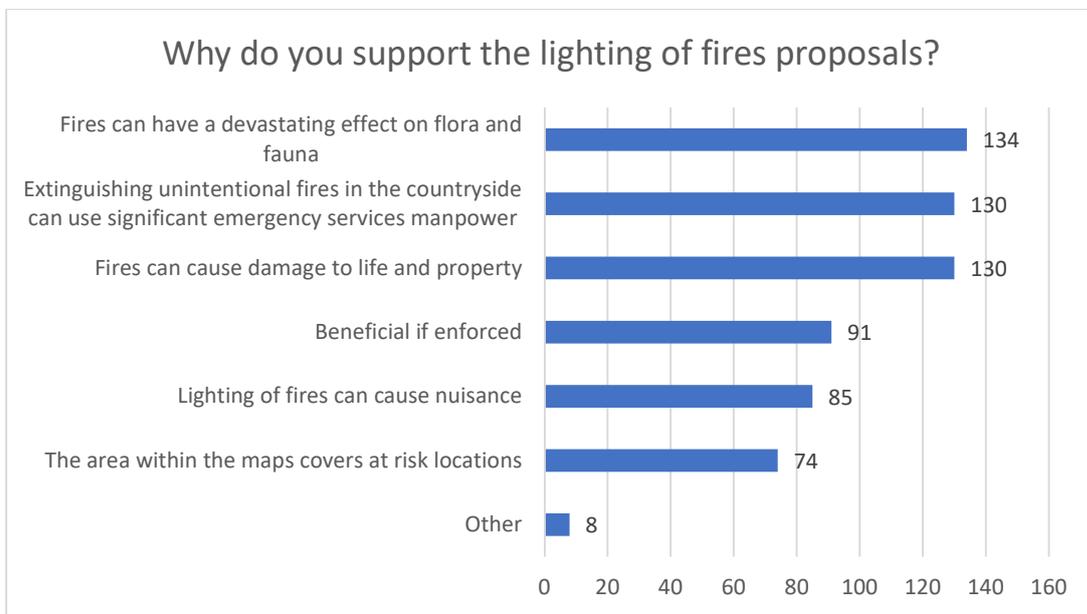


## Why do you support the lighting of fires proposals?

Those who support the proposals did so largely for three main reasons: they felt fires can have a devastating effect on flora and fauna (97.1%), fires can cause damage to life and property (94.2%) and extinguishing unintentional fires in the countryside can use significant emergency services manpower (94.2%). They also strongly felt that the proposals would be beneficial if enforced (65.9%) and that lighting of fires can cause nuisance (61.6%). Just over half (53.6%) felt that the area within the maps covers at risk locations. 5.8% indicated other reasons for supporting the lighting of fires proposals.

	% of all respondents	Number
Fires can have a devastating effect on flora and fauna	97.1	134

	% of all respondents	Number
Fires can cause damage to life and property	94.2	130
Extinguishing unintentional fires in the countryside can use significant emergency services manpower	94.2	130
Beneficial if enforced	65.9	91
Lighting of fires can cause nuisance	61.6	85
The area within the maps covers at risk locations	53.6	74
Other	5.8	8



## Organisational Responses

**Lytchett Minster and Upton Town Council** said “We are concerned about one of our own areas, Lytchett Bay View, which is an SNCI and soon to be local nature reserve. We have had nuisance fires and bbq's over the past few years, with incidence increasing. We feel it would be beneficial to see if a PSPO could be established here.”

The town council support the proposals as they believe: Fires can cause danger to life and property, Lighting of fires can cause nuisance, Extinguishing un-intentional fires in the countryside can use significant emergency services manpower, Fires can can have a devastating effect on fauna and flora, The area within the maps covers at risk locations and it will be beneficial if enforced.

**National Trust - North & West Dorset Portfolio** have concerns over the proposals and said “Disappointed that other areas of Dorset, with significant fire risk have not been included in this PSPO. Please could you add Langdon Wood, & Stonebarrow, both on the Golden Cap Estate to this order. Please contact me on hannah.jefferson@nationaltrust.org.uk if you need a map to show the specific areas proposed above. For Wareham Beat West PSPO - please can the area be extended to include the area Thorncombe Wood area which links Hardy's cottage and the Hardy's Birthplace Visitor Centre and associated car park (or explain why this area has been excluded)”

**Wareham St Martin Parish Council** said “Camp fires and BBQs also encourage night time camping and resultant rubbish and human waste left behind. Fully support this order and hope it may be extended to other heathland and forest areas in time. Only other option is to ban portable BBQs, Chinese Lanterns and camp fires in Dorset, a bit extreme but something has to happen.”

The parish council support the proposals as they believe: Fires can cause danger to life and property, Lighting of fires can cause nuisance, Extinguishing un-intentional fires in the countryside can use significant emergency services manpower, Fires can have a devastating effect on fauna and flora, The area within the maps covers at risk locations and it will be beneficial if enforced.

**West Moors Town Council** support the proposal as they believe: Fires can cause danger to life and property, Lighting of fires can cause nuisance, Extinguishing un-intentional fires in the countryside can use significant emergency services manpower, Fires can have a devastating effect on fauna and flora, The area within the maps covers at risk locations and it will be beneficial if enforced.

## “Out of Format” responses

**Urban Heaths Partnership** (a partnership organisation including Bournemouth Christchurch and Poole Council, Dorset Council, Dorset Police, Dorset & Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service, Amphibian & Reptile Conservation Trust, Dorset Wildlife Trust, Forestry England, Natural England, National Trust, RSPB and others) sent a comprehensive response saying:

- The order should mention and include heathland as this habitat contains some of the most flammable vegetation making them very vulnerable to fire while having a very high biological value.
- There is considerable concern from a number of partners that a publicised order which only covers Forestry England Land will displace activity to other areas. The partnership works to maintain consistent messages and expected visitor behaviours across all heathland sites in Dorset.
- It would be helpful if all land within the Purbecks Heath NNR were included.
- The partnership organisations requesting areas of land to be added to the order employ wardens who with training and empowerment from DC could enforce the order.

Urban Heaths Partnership requested a number of parcels of land should be added to the order including:

- Sopley Common -DWT
- Lytchett Bay -DWT
- Upton Heath - DWT
- Higher Hyde Heath - DWT
- Tadnoll & Winfrith - DWT
- Lower Common -DWT
- Holt Heath -NT
- Arne -RSPB
- Stoborough and Creech Heath– RSPB
- Povington and Grange Heath– RSPB
- Creech Heath– RSPB
- Studland & Godlingston Heaths– NT
- Hartland Moor -NT
- Hartland Moor -NE
- Stoborough Heath -NE
- Morden Bog– NE
- Sandford Heath -NE
- Creech Heath– ARC
- Blue Pool and Norden Heaths ARC
- Ferndown Common– ARC
- Parley Common– ARC
- Great Ovens - ARC

They provided maps of all the additional proposed areas.

## Other responses

7 people provided ‘other’ comments on their responses. Due to the low number these are reported verbatim in the table below:

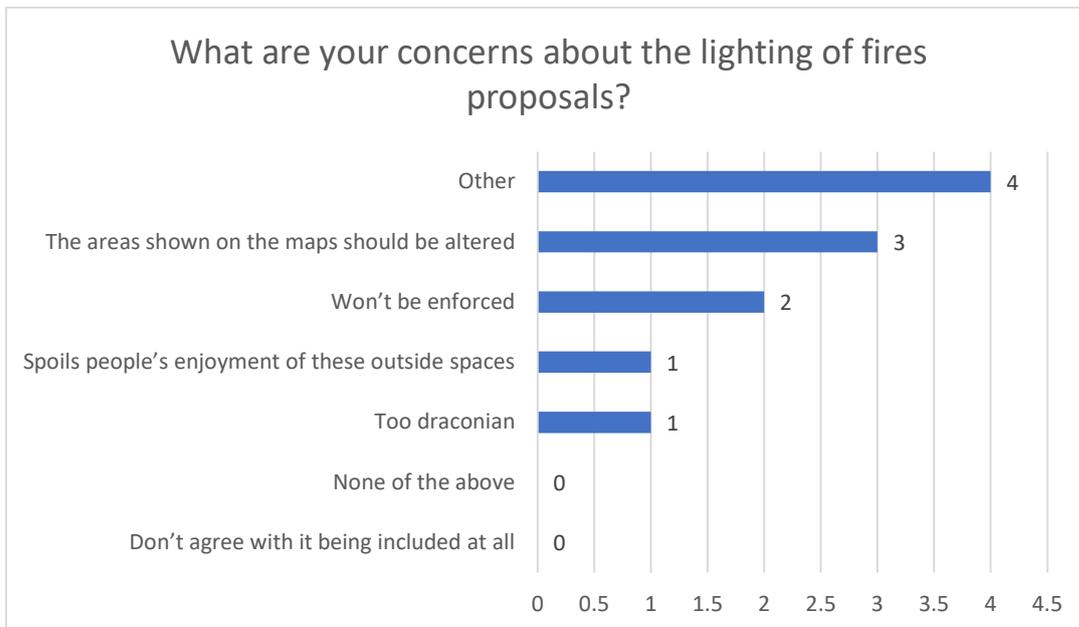
Level of support	Comment
Support proposals	Campfires and BBQs also encourage night time camping and resultant rubbish and human waste left behind (2 respondents).
	Carbon release (2 respondents).
	Climate change makes accidental fires more likely, therefore we must increase our efforts at prevention.
	Ringwood map incomplete.
	The law on barbecues needs to change and shops need to be banned from selling them. During the summer they are most found at the front of the big stores for a very low price. Encouraging people to buy them and cause untold havoc. The whole idea that someone who’s had a barbecue in a woodland, beach or open space will then wait for it to go cold over a number of hours and then put in their car and take home is expecting far too much of the public. I visit Australia and they have a good system when gas barbecues can be used in parks that do not have too much combustible growth around them. They are permanent robust structures

	that are gas, so not hot coals, and people pay to use them. People there also clean them afterwards, although I'm not sure people here will. It means they can have a nice afternoon or evening and not burn the forests down. There also plenty of bins around for them to use. The sale of disposable barbecues should be banned completely. I have written to all the supermarkets asking them to stop selling them, and of course I get the standard reply that's it's peoples human rights to do what they want. Until the sale us banned and people have big fines for using them, then no one will take any notice.
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## What are your concerns about the lighting of fires proposals?

8 respondents stated that they had concerns about the proposals or that they were not sure about them. 4 gave 'other' reasons for their concerns and 3 expressed concern that the areas shown on the maps should be altered. 2 responded by stating that that the proposals would not be enforced while 1 respondent said the proposals were too draconian and 1 felt they spoil people's enjoyment of these outside areas.

	% of all respondents	Number
Don't agree with it being included at all	0	0
The areas shown on the maps should be altered	37.5	3
Won't be enforced	25.0	2
Too draconian	12.5	1
Spoils people's enjoyment of these outside spaces	12.5	1
None of the above	0	0
Other	50.0	4



### Other responses

4 respondents provided 'other' comments. Due to the low number these are reported verbatim in the table below.

Level of support	Comment
Have concerns	Don't think it covers all the areas that need to be protected in Purbeck. If you prevent fires in certain areas won't it just move the problem to other vulnerable areas?
	Hard to define Lighting Of Fires, I simple thing such as using a camping stove on a Gravel hard standing is likely to cause issues. You also have the smoking community to speak to.
	First thing - i can't tell exactly where the "dark green block" is on the map, as the major roads are also in dark green. Second, why is it called Ringwood when that is in Hampshire and Dorset Council has no authority there and also, of course, none of the land in question is in Hampshire but is all in Dorset. Thirdly, why does the survey not mention cigarettes and cigars or vapes which also contain heat. (2 respondents).

### If you feel the need, please expand on your answer for all support or concerns

27 people further commented on their responses, due to the low number these are reported verbatim in the table below. Where more than one person made the same comment, this is indicated.

Level of support	Comment
Support proposals	Lighting fires in countryside can cause unnecessary carbon release and air pollution
Support proposals	I was not able to open the link to the maps so I have to trust that the vulnerable areas of heathland are all included.
Support proposals	We are concerned about one of our own areas, Lytchett Bay View, which is an SNCI and soon to be local nature reserve. We have had nuisance fires and bbq's over the past few years, with incidence

	increasing. We feel it would be beneficial to see if a PPPO could be established here.
Support proposals	This needs a huge public education effort. I suggest media is the best way & roadside messaging. People are thoughtless, entitled & ignorant of the harm they do in this regard, also possible have been drinking during a picnic etc. The messaging needs to be short, simple & to the point like the slogan use by Keep Britain Tidy - " Don't be a Tosser!"
Support proposals	Please please extend the provision to include Upton Heath, Upton Heath suffers greatly from fire. 2 respondents.
	I fear the nature of the Purbecks and Wareham forest are just 'a matter of time' before these needless fires create huge swathes of devastation. It takes years for the previous fires to recover! I fear it every time I go (around 1/2 times a week) and wish there was more to protect these incredible places and spaces. 2 respondents.
Support proposals	Any burning however minimal adds to the problem of global warming. 2 respondents.
Support proposals	No-one should have a need to light any sort of fire in these areas, so banning them is an obvious step. It may inconvenience some, but not as much as an uncontrolled fire will "inconvenience" Dorset's wild things. 2 respondents.
Support proposals	I support this order because fires offer such a threat to human life and can cause devastating environmental damage. However, I can't see how the order will be fully effective without a widespread campaign of public education and a ban on the selling of items detailed in the order. I look forward to DC carrying out these two proposals. 2 respondents.
Support proposals	Found family lighting fire in high risk part of Wareham Forest despite warnings and following the immense and highly publicised fire close by. Also found disposable barbecues elsewhere in Purbecks.
Support proposals	There is an urgent need for this both in the areas mentioned but also on the heathland in East Dorset, for example Upton Heath desperately needs protection.
Support proposals	Please urgently look at a serious omission to the mapping. Stephens Castle Nature Reserve and the adjacent part of Ringwood forest to the Hampshire border are not shown as far as I can see. Please look at the evidence of fire incidents in the last year and the previous 30 years. There has been serious damage to protected habitat and close calls on homes and property. Our luck will not last forever. It is only thanks to the fire service that we have escaped some close shaves.
Support proposals	Considering there is ongoing work within the West Wareham area, specifically Turnerspuddle heath, where clearance and burning of gorse is carried out. How will the regulations affect this essential work.
Support proposals	There is absolutely no need for anyone to light a fire. Bring a picnic ! The damage that was done to in the past two years was terrible. No doubt killing some wildlife as well as potentially endangering life and wasting the resources of Dorset council tax payers.
Support proposals	As a frequent Walker in Wareham Forest I found the fire damage in 2020 heartbreaking. I don't understand why anyone needs to use disposable barbecues in a forest!! Make or buy sandwiches!!!
Support proposals	Fires in areas such as Wareham Forest also spoil the enjoyment of regular users, who instead of enjoying the unspoilt woodland find themselves tramping through ash and charred forestry. I think this is an aspect that should also be mentioned. It illustrates the sheer selfishness and thoughtlessness of those who offend.
Support proposals	Are the areas of mapped woodland outside of the delineated blocks in private ownership with restricted access? Is this the reason they are not included? I note that there are PROWs across some of the areas not included.

Not sure	Should include parks and open spaces in Weymouth. Lodmoor Country Park & Nothe Gardens (other than in an approved BBQ area)
Have concerns	Banning of disposable BBQs and fires is a good idea, but not all BBQs. Instead provide small paved areas to set up a non disposable BBQ and a safe bin to dispose of the ashes in, like has been installed in Lodmoor Country Park. Responsible groups should not be made to feel like criminals for the actions of a few irresponsible groups, who won't abide by the rules anyway.
Have concerns	Please include SWANAGE North Beach. There is evidence of occasional fires on this beach. Any fire or barbecue produces litter that pollutes the seas on the next tide, if not on the next beach.
Have concerns	Wareham forest is a large area, the tax bill has already increased and little being spent in rural areas, so are we to believe that this is going to be monitored effectively, we do not see simple things like police yet pay more for the service, we do not see streets cleaned unless we do it ourselves not that I mind keeping things tidy but not so you can waste money on what will become a paper exercise. It also appears from the map that there is housing within the area which I know use bonfires as a means to get rid of garden waste, so I presume you have contacted all of them in ref to not burning in future, also the log cutting firms need to be contacted, they may stay close to watch the fire but where is all the cinder sparks travelling ? If your going to police this then makes sure everyone follows the policy/
Have concerns	Disappointed that other areas of Dorset, with significant fire risk have not been included in this PSPO. Please could you Langdon Wood, & Stonebarrow, both on the Golden Cap Estate to this order. Please contact me on hannah.jefferson@nationaltrust.org.uk if you need a map to show the specific areas proposed above. For Wareham Beat West PSPO - please can the area be extended to include the area Thorncombe Wood area which links Hardy's cottage and the Hardy's Birthplace Visitor Centre and associated car park (or explain why this area has been excluded)

## Any Other Comments

32 stated they had further comments on the proposals though 31 provided them; these have been reported verbatim below. Where more than one person made the same point, this is indicated.

Comment
We need to think more broadly about the protection of open spaces, and cherish them. We all, tourist, traveller resident alike, have a duty of care in this.
My concern is the policing of such bans. Will there be adequate resourcing of notices and public information at places where it matters. Notices to all Air B&Bs, guest houses, camp sites, caravan parks and areas of unofficial off road parking.
We are concerned about one of our own areas, Lytchett Bay View, which is an SNCI and soon to be local nature reserve. We have had nuisance fires and bbq's over the past few years, with incidence increasing. We feel it would be beneficial to see if a PPPO could be established here.
Fully support this order and hope it may be extended to other heathland and forest areas in time. Only other option is to ban portable BBQs, Chinese Lanterns and camp fires in Dorset, a bit extreme but something has to happen. 2 respondents
There is a lot of motorized track bikes within Wareham, these can also be a source of ignition, what is the plan to police this activity?
As a Dorset resident, I welcome the opportunity to walk and relax in the County's extensive woodlands and appreciate the beauty, flora and fauna of the heathlands and wider countryside. I

also welcome visitors and tourists who wish to do the same - it's important for mental health and of course, the Dorset economy. I see little or no need for anyone to light barbeques (except in designated safe areas), or be careless with combustible materials or put lives and tracts of woodland or heathland at any danger. I therefore welcome any proposals that safeguard our county's wood and heathland heritage.
I fully & wholeheartedly support these proposals, the soon the better for all recreational users, flora & fauna. The massive environmental & devastating impact the lighting of open fire has is unmeasurable. 2 respondents
How will it be enforced 2 respondents
I consider there is adequate evidence of inconsiderate behaviour on the land of Studland peninsular and the surrounding heath to warrant its inclusion in PSPO2022. The National Trust and Swanage fire service have photographic evidence of rubbish and discarded barbecues to support this. 2 respondents
Can this also be expanded to include dropping litter that may cause fires - for example glass. 2 respondents
Dorset heathland contains some of the rarest wildlife in the country. Nature is declining at a devastating rate. We must protect what's left and do our best to restore what's been lost. All open space protection is vital for the future. 2 respondents
Ban disposable BBQ in Dorset in all supermarkets in the Dorset area people want set fire to forest trees to get up to 6 years inside for people who are careless who don't put the disposable barbecues out to get fined £1,000 and prosecuted for it like they do for drink driving and no licence with cars. 2 respondents
Poorly designed survey, wholly inadequate if these are the only questions being asked. 2 respondents
Ban all barbecues and fine heavily people who ignore signs saying no fires or barbecues.
Accessible countryside demands far more protection than it is currently receiving.
The Wareham 2020 fire was devastating for wildlife- including some nationally important species. Measures such as this are overdue.
Who will enforce the provision?
Thank you for trying to do something about this. Please make it generally known the best way the public can report incidents or generally support.
Those caught ignoring these rules should be made to spend significant time working to improve the environment that they put at risk.
Yes. Implement a banning law and enforce it rigorously with big fines in all woodland areas and across the new forest.
This proposal is vital to protect our wonderful forests.
Fly-tipping is also a problem for open land throughout Dorset now as well as in woods - it is clearly visible when out walking and it is destroying the beautiful Dorset countryside environment.
Someone has to look after what is left of our wild spaces and their biodiversity. If not us, then who?

## Demographic Information

The tables below show the profile of people who took part in the consultation.

### Age

As shown in the table below, there were responses from a range of age groups. (29% Dorset over 65+).

	Under 18	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-and over	Prefer not to say
% of responses in age group	0.0	0.7	0.7	10.4	18.7	17.9	47.0	4.5

### Gender

The profile of respondents show 45.5% male and 47.7% female, compared to 45.5% Male, 47.7% as Female for the county as a whole. 6.8% preferred not to say.

	Male	Female	Prefer to self describe	Prefer not to say
What best describes your gender?(%)	45.5	47.7	0.0	6.8

	Yes	No	Prefer not to say
Is your gender identity the same as the sex you were assigned with at birth?	95.4	0.0	4.6

### Disability

5.2% of respondents considered they had a disability; this equates to 6 people. Responses from disabled people were above average at 5.2% of responses compared to a Dorset figure of 5% based on those claiming either Disability Living Allowance, Personal Independence Payments or Attendance Allowance. The data has been used when analysing the responses to all the questions to see if people who have a disability had a different view to the majority on the key questions in the consultation.

	Yes	No	Prefer not to say
Do you consider yourself to be disabled as set out in the Equality Act, 2010? (%)	5.2	87.0	7.8

When looking at the specific disabilities of the 6 people responding: 2 have a physical disability, 1 has a learning disability/difficulty, 4 a long-standing health issue or health condition and 1 a mental health condition.

## Sexual Orientation

Most respondents described their sexual orientation as Heterosexual/straight (79.4%). 0.8% described themselves as Bi-sexual, 0.8% Gay/Lesbian and 19% preferred not to say.

	What best describes your sexual orientation? (%)
Bi	0.8
Gay/lesbian	0.8
Heterosexual/straight	79.4
I use another term (please describe)	0
Prefer not to say	19.0

## Religion/Belief

43.8% of respondents described themselves as Christian, 43% stated they had no religion and 13.3% preferred not to say.

	What best describes your religion/belief?
Buddhist	0
Christian	43.8
Hindu	0
Jewish	0
Muslim	0
Sikh	0
No religion	43.0

Other	0
Prefer not to say	13.3

## Ethnic Group

The majority of respondents (89.1%) stated a White British background. 2.3% chose Any other white background, 6.3% respondents preferred not to say and 2.3% chose Any other ethnic group.

	What is your ethnic group? (%)
White British	89.1
White Irish	0
Gypsy/Irish traveller	0
Any other white background	2.3
Asian/Asian British - Bangladeshi	0
Asian/Asian British - Chinese	0
Asian/Asian British - Indian	0
Asian/Asian British - Pakistani	0
Any other Asian background	0
Black/Black British - African	0
Black/Black British - Caribbean	0
Any other black background	0
Mixed ethnic background – White and Asian	0
Mixed ethnic background – White and Black African	0
Mixed ethnic background – White and Black Caribbean	0
Any other mixed background	0
Prefer not to say	6.3
Any other ethnic group	2.3

# Survey questions

## Dorset Open Land Anti-social Behaviour Related PSPO

2022



### What we are consulting on

The Dorset Open Land Anti-social Behaviour related Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) 2022 (Draft) is a new Order which is intended to tackle issues of Anti-social Behaviour arising from the **starting of fires in grass, moorland and forest areas**. Such fires can contribute to climate change and result in risk to life; damage to biodiversity, habitats and property; and loss of income from tourism and other land uses, and include provisions relating to placing, throwing or dropping items likely to cause a fire, lighting fires, barbeques (including disposable barbeques), Chinese lanterns or fireworks, or using items which either (i) cause a naked flame or (ii) pose a risk of fire.

There is evidence of fires being started by disposable BBQ's and campfires at Wareham and Puddletown forests and at similar other locations in the Dorset Council area, owned or leased by Forestry England.

Following the disastrous fire at Wareham Forest in May 2020 which was most likely to have been started inadvertently, councillors asked officers to investigate ways in which the Council could help prevent wildfires in such terrain. A report was brought to the Council's Cabinet on 6 April 2021, outlining a number of measures that could be taken and included investigating the use of a PSPO to restrict activities likely to lead to cause fires.

Research has identified a small number of other councils who have introduced similar provision following wildfires on open land and discussions with them have helped form opinion that this approach would benefit public safety and protection of our natural environment. Both Forestry England and Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service are supportive.

Forestry England has asked for a number of areas in their control to be covered by the provision. The evidence of issues at each location varies however, the similarity of terrain and level of public access are considered to be important factors when determining that the necessary criteria for a PSPO are met.

The draft Order covers areas of forest and heathland in various locations around Ferndown, St Leonards, West Moors, Wareham, Purbeck, Puddletown, Affpuddle and Moreton

[You can view the overall order document here](#)

## Consultation

The purpose of this survey is for you to tell us what you think about our Dorset Open Land Anti-social Behaviour related Public Spaces Protection Order 2022

This consultation will last for 8 weeks, between Thursday 18 November until midnight on 13 January, 2022.

Please contact us by email [customerservices@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:customerservices@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk) or phone 01305 221000 if you need the survey in another format or would like to respond in a different way e.g. a paper survey.

Your responses will help shape the final Dorset Public Space Protection Orders decided by Dorset Council elected members.

## The Survey

Q1 **Are you responding as a ...? (required)**

- Resident of Dorset (Dorset Council area)
- Resident of elsewhere
- Private business
- Public sector organisation (Local council, health organisation etc)
- Third sector organisation (Voluntary groups, Community groups, Charities)
- Councillor / Politician
- Other

Q1a **If other please specify**

Q2 **Are you providing your organisation's official response?**

- Yes
- No

Q3 **Name of your organisation**

Q4 **Your name**

Q5 **Your contact email/phone if responding on behalf of an organisation**  
(optional)

Your details will only be used for the purposes of this survey and will be held in accordance with our Data Protection Policy. This can be found on our website.

Q6 **What is your postcode?** (or local area if no postcode) (Required)

**The consultation will consider the following section:**

Section 1 – Lighting of fires

**The following documents will be available in the appropriate section:**

Schedule 1a - Map identifying Ringwood Controlled Zone – outlined in dark green block.

Schedule 1b - Map identifying Wareham East Controlled Zone – outlined in dark green block.

Schedule 1c - Map identifying Wareham West Controlled Zone – outlined in dark green block.

## **Lighting of Fires**

It is proposed in the order that “No person shall place, throw or drop in the restricted areas anything likely to cause a fire.”

Further "No person shall light a fire, barbeque (including a disposable barbecue), Chinese lantern or firework in the restricted areas"

Also "No person shall use any item in the restricted areas which either (i) causes a naked flame or (ii) or poses a risk of fire.”

Three areas are proposed:

[See the map showing the controlled Zone - Ringwood](#)

[See the map showing the controlled Zone - Wareham Blocks East](#)

[See the map showing the controlled Zone - Wareham Blocks West](#)

**Q7 Lighting of Fires proposals - Do you...** (required)

- Support this proposal
- Are not sure
- Have concerns about the proposals

The options below have been developed from the concerns/support for greater controls during recent years when the issue has become more prominent.

**Q8 What are your concerns about the lighting of fires proposals?**

Choose all that apply

- Don't agree with it being included at all
- The areas shown on the maps should be altered
- Won't be enforced
- Too draconian
- Spoils people's enjoyment of these outside spaces
- None of the above
- Other (please specify)

**Q8a Other** (please specify)

**Q9 Why do you support the lighting of fires proposals?**

Choose all that apply

- Fires can cause danger to life and property
- Lighting of fires can cause nuisance
- Extinguishing unintentional fires in the countryside can use significant emergency services manpower
- Fires can have a devastating effect on fauna and flora
- The area within the maps covers at risk locations
- Beneficial if enforced
- Other (please specify)

Q9a **Other** (please specify)

Q10 **If you feel the need, please expand on your answer for all support or concerns**

Q11 **Any other comments**

## About you

Although filling in this section is optional, we would appreciate it if you could complete the following details.

We collect diversity information, not only to ensure any changes do not unfairly impact on specific sectors of the community, but also to try to make sure our consultation response comes from a representative sample of local residents.

**Q12 Which age group do you belong to?**

- Under 18
- 18 - 24
- 25 - 34
- 35 - 44
- 45 - 54
- 55 - 64
- 65 or over
- Prefer not to say

**Q13 What best describes your gender?**

- Female
- Male
- Prefer to self-describe
- Prefer not to say

**Q14 Please tell us in the box below**

**Q15 Is your gender identity the same as the sex you were assigned with at birth?**

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

**Q16** The Equality Act 2010 describes a person as disabled if they have a longstanding physical or mental condition that has lasted, or is likely to last 12 months; and this condition has a substantial adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities. People with some conditions (cancer, multiple sclerosis and HIV/AIDS for example) are considered to be disabled from the point that they are diagnosed.

**Do you consider yourself to be disabled as set out in the Equality Act 2010?**

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

**Q17 If yes, please tell us which type of impairment applies to you.** You may have more than one type of impairment, so please select all the impairments that apply to you

- Physical disability
- Learning disability / difficulty
- Long-standing illness or health condition
- Mental health condition
- Sensory impairment (hearing, Sight or both)
- Prefer not to say
- Other (please specify)

**Other**

**Q18 What best describes your sexual orientation?**

- Bi
- Gay/lesbian
- Heterosexual/Straight
- I use another term (please describe)
- Prefer not to say

**Q19 I use another term - please describe**

**Q20 What best describes your religion/belief?**

- Buddhist
- Christian
- Hindu
- Jewish
- Muslim
- Sikh
- No Religion
- Other (please describe)
- Prefer not to say

**Q21 Other - please describe**

**Q22 Please specify your ethnic group?**

- White British
- White Irish
- Gypsy/Irish traveller
- Any other White background
- Asian/Asian British - Bangladeshi
- Asian/Asian British - Chinese
- Asian/Asian British - Indian
- Asian/Asian British - Pakistani
- Any other Asian background
- Black/Black British - African
- Black/Black British - Caribbean
- Any other Black background
- Mixed ethnic background - White and Asian
- Mixed ethnic background - White and Black African
- Mixed ethnic background - White and Black Caribbean
- Any other mixed background
- Prefer not to say
- Any other ethnic group (please specify)

**Q23 Any other ethnic group**

**Thank you for your response. Now please click submit (or tick on a smart phone)**