Cabinet approval 10.11.26 x1 RLB
901/26

Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014

# The Dorset Council Dog Related Public Spaces Protection Order 2027

Dorset Council ("the Council") hereby makes the following Order:

This Order shall be known as The Dorset Council Dog Related Public Spaces Protection Order 2027 and shall come into force on 1st January 2027 for a period of three years.

When in force this Order supersedes the following:

The Dorset Council Dog Related Public Spaces Protection Order 2024

This Order has 6 sections and should be read in conjunction with the related Schedules.

Contents


1. General provisions
2. Removal and disposal of dog faeces
3. Dogs to be excluded from identified areas
4. Dogs to be kept on a lead when directed to do so by an authorised officer
5. Dogs to be kept on lead in identified areas
6. Penalty

Schedule 1 – General land provision
Schedule 2 – Exclusion of dogs
Schedule 3 – Dogs to be kept on leads

## Section 1 - General provisions

1.1 Where specified in this Order 'the Council' means the Dorset Council

1.2 A person who habitually has a dog in their possession shall be taken to be in charge of the dog at any time unless at that time some other person is in charge of the dog.

1.3 This Order shall NOT apply with regard to **disposal of faeces** where a person in charge of a dog;

a) has a physical or mental disability for which an assistance dog is needed to carry out normal day-to-day activities and the dog is working; or

b) who has a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial effect on their ability to collect faeces from where it is deposited and on the judgement of the authorised officer, in following the Dorset Council protocol on enforcement of the PSPO, agrees that the circumstances for exemption exist.

[ i.e. a FPN may be served but written mitigation may be supplied for consideration to seek its withdrawal]

1.4 This Order shall NOT apply with regard to complying with a **direction by an authorised officer to put their dog on a lead**, where a person in charge of a dog

is deaf, in respect of a dog trained by Hearing Dogs for Deaf People (registered charity number 23358) and upon which they rely for assistance.

1.5 This Order shall NOT apply with regard to complying **with exclusion of dogs from identified land,** where a person in charge of a dog

has a physical or mental disability for which an assistance dog is needed to carry out normal day-to-day activities and the dog is working.

1.6 In this Order the following definitions apply:

'an authorised person' means a person authorised for the purpose of this Order by the Council, including the purpose of giving directions under section 4 of this Order.

'road' is all public highways having a right of passage for motor vehicles (which includes areas of pavement, footway and verge set aside for pedestrians within such a highway), with 'motor vehicle' being as defined in section 185(1) of the Road Traffic Act 1988 and section 136 (1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as 'a mechanically propelled vehicle, intended or adapted for use on roads'.

'working,' in the context of this Order, means the dog is operating in a manner expected of an assistance dog and in line with the guidance from the Equality and Human Rights Commission.

Assistance dogs are highly trained which means they:

- will not wander freely around the premises,
- will sit or lie quietly on the floor next to their owner,
- are unlikely to foul in a public place.

**Section 2 - Removal and disposal of dog faeces**

2.1 This Section applies to the land specified in Schedule 1.

2.2 If a dog defecates at any time on land to which this Order applies and a person who is in charge of the dog at that time fails to remove the faeces from the land forthwith, that person shall be guilty of an offence unless

2.2.1 They have reasonable excuse for failing to do so; or
2.2.2 The owner, occupier or other person or authority having control of the land has consented (generally or specifically) to this failing to do so.

2.3 For the purposes of this Section –

2.3.1 Placing the faeces in a receptacle on the land which is provided for the purpose, or for the disposal of waste, shall be sufficient removal from the land
2.3.1.1 Being unaware of the defecation (whether by reason of not being in the vicinity or otherwise), or not having a device for, or suitable means of removing it, shall not be a reasonable excuse for failing to remove the faeces.

**Section 3 - Dogs to be excluded from identified areas**

3.1 This Section applies to the land specified and at the times specified in Schedule 2.

3.2 A person in charge of a dog shall be guilty of an offence if, during the periods specified in Schedule 2, they take the dog onto, or permit the dog to enter or to remain on, any land to which this section applies unless –

3.2.1 They have a reasonable excuse to do so; or
3.2.2 The owner, occupier or other person or authority having control of the land has consented (generally or specifically) to the dog entering or remaining on such land.
3.2.3

**Section 4 - Dogs to be kept on a lead when directed to do so by an authorised person**

4.1 This section applies to land specified in Schedule 1.

4.2 A person in charge of a dog shall be guilty of an offence if, at any time, on any land to which this Order applies, they do not comply with a direction given by an authorised

person to put and keep the dog on a lead of not more than 2 metres (6 foot, 6 inches) in length unless –

4.2.1 They have reasonable excuse for failing to do so; or
4.2.2 the owner, occupier or other person or authority having control of the land has consented (generally or specifically) to this failing to do so.

4.3 An authorised person may give a direction to put and keep a dog on a lead if such restraint is reasonably necessary to prevent a nuisance or disturbance to any other person (on land to which this section applies) or the worrying or disturbance of any animal or bird.

4.4 The dog's lead shall not exceed 2 metres (6 foot, 6 inches) in length from handle to dog collar.

**Section 5 - Dogs to be kept on lead in identified areas**

5.1 This Section applies to the land specified and at the times specified in Schedule 3

5.2. A person in charge of a dog shall be guilty of an offence if, during the periods specified in Schedule 3, on any land to which this Section applies he does not keep the dog on a lead unless –

5.2.1. He has reasonable excuse for failing to do so; or
5.2.2. the owner, occupier or other person or authority having control of the land has consented (generally or specifically) to this failing to do so.

5.3. The dog's lead shall not exceed 2 metres (6 foot, 6 inches) in length from handle to dog collar.

**Section 6 – Penalty**

6.1 A person who, without reasonable excuse, fails to comply with a prohibition or requirement imposed by this Order commits an offence under section 67 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 and is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding Level 3 on the standard scale.

6.2 In accordance with section 68 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, an authorised person may issue a Fixed Penalty Notice to any person they have reason to believe has committed an offence under this Order. Payment of the fixed penalty discharges liability to conviction for the offence. Dorset Council has set the fixed penalty at **£100**, reduced to **£75** if paid within 14 days of issue.

Date: 13th November 2026

THE COMMON SEAL OF DORSET COUNCIL
Was hereto affixed in the presence of:- }



Authorised Officer

**SCHEDULE 1** – General land provision

Land to which removal and disposal of dog faeces applies (Section 2), and dogs on lead by direction by an authorised officer (Section 4):

1. Subject to the exception in Paragraph 2 below, all land which is in the administrative area of the Council and
   (i) which is open to the air (which includes land that is covered but open to the air on at least one side) and
   (ii) to which the public are entitled or permitted to have access (with or without payment).

2. Excepted from the description in Paragraph 1 above is land that is placed at the disposal of the Forestry Commissioners under Section 39(1) of the Forestry Act 1967.

**SCHEDULE 2** - Exclusion of dogs

Land to which dogs are excluded at all times unless otherwise specified;

1. All land within the administrative area of the Council which comprises any fenced (and/or hedged and /or walled) children's play area, children's pool and/or sandpit, skateboard park, tennis court, basketball court, bowling green or putting green or any other fenced (and/or hedged and /or walled) park, with a marked sporting or recreational facility signed at its entrance(s) as 'No Dogs' (where the sign uses those particular words or uses words and/or symbols having a like effect); and

2. All marked sports pitch playing surfaces or athletics tracks within the administrative area of the Council. – see also Schedule 3 for perimeter control; and

3. Between 1st May and 30th September the following beaches (maps for each are attached and these restrictions are marked in red):

   a. Front Beach, Swanage (map 1); and
   b. West Beach, Charmouth (map 2); and
   c. Front (Town) Beach, Lyme Regis (map 3); and
   d. East & West Beach, West Bay (map 4); and
   e. Seatown Beach, Chideock (map 5); and

f. Weymouth Central Beach extending from the northern boundary of the designated Dog Exercise Area at the Pavilion end to the groyne at Greenhill and including Greenhill Beaches, Weymouth, (map 6).

**SCHEDULE 3** – Dogs to be kept on lead – land and times

Land on which dogs shall be kept on a lead at all times unless otherwise specified;

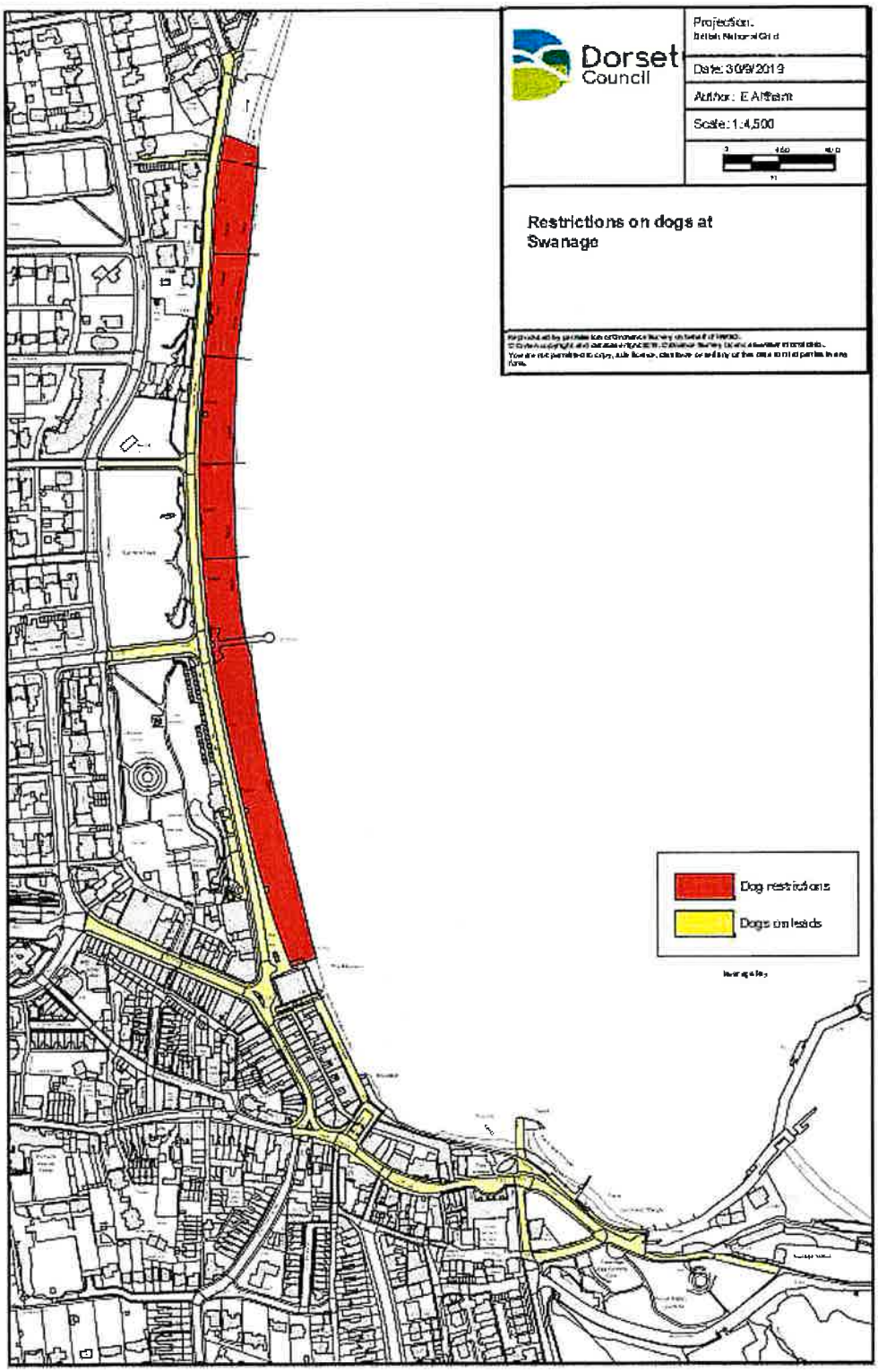
1. Municipal Cemeteries, churchyards and graveyards.
2. Council owned Allotments where dogs are permitted.
3. Formal Public Gardens, as determined by the landowner and where dogs are permitted.
4. Within 5 metres of the marked perimeter of sports pitch playing surfaces and athletics tracks.
5. Council owned car parks.
6. On the Rodwell Trail, Weymouth.
7. On the roads and walkways close to the beaches namely (and shown as yellow on the enclosed maps):
    a. At Charmouth, Lower Sea Lane from the car park access, including the 3 car parks off Lower Sea Lane close to the beach, the footpath leading to the beach including the bridge and paths adjacent to the heritage centre (Map 2); and
    b. At West Bay on the Esplanade, Quay, Quayside, road, pavements, grassed area and paved island in front of the George Hotel, slipway piers, the car parks and main Pier (Map 4); and
    c. At Lyme Regis on the Marine Parade, Cart Road, Bell Cliff, the harbour, slipway and sea walls, the entrance to Cobb Road, Ozone Terrace, the entrance to the public car park and boat park, and the harbour wall, Cobb Gate car park and the esplanade extending from it eastwards up to its junction with Long Entry and known as Gunn Cliff Walk, to extend along the sea wall above Church Beach, and up to the Charmouth Road car park via the provided steps (Map 3); and
    d. At Swanage, The Parade, and associated roads leading to The Parade and the beach, (Map 1); and
    e. At Studland, access to South Beach (also known as Knoll beach and Middle beach) from the car park, including the car park and staircases leading on to the beach, (Map 7) and
    f. At Weymouth, The Promenade from the Pleasure Pier to Bowleaze, Weymouth (Map 6, highlighted in yellow), extending when the road

is pedestrianised and including the path on the opposite side of the road for the duration of road closure; and

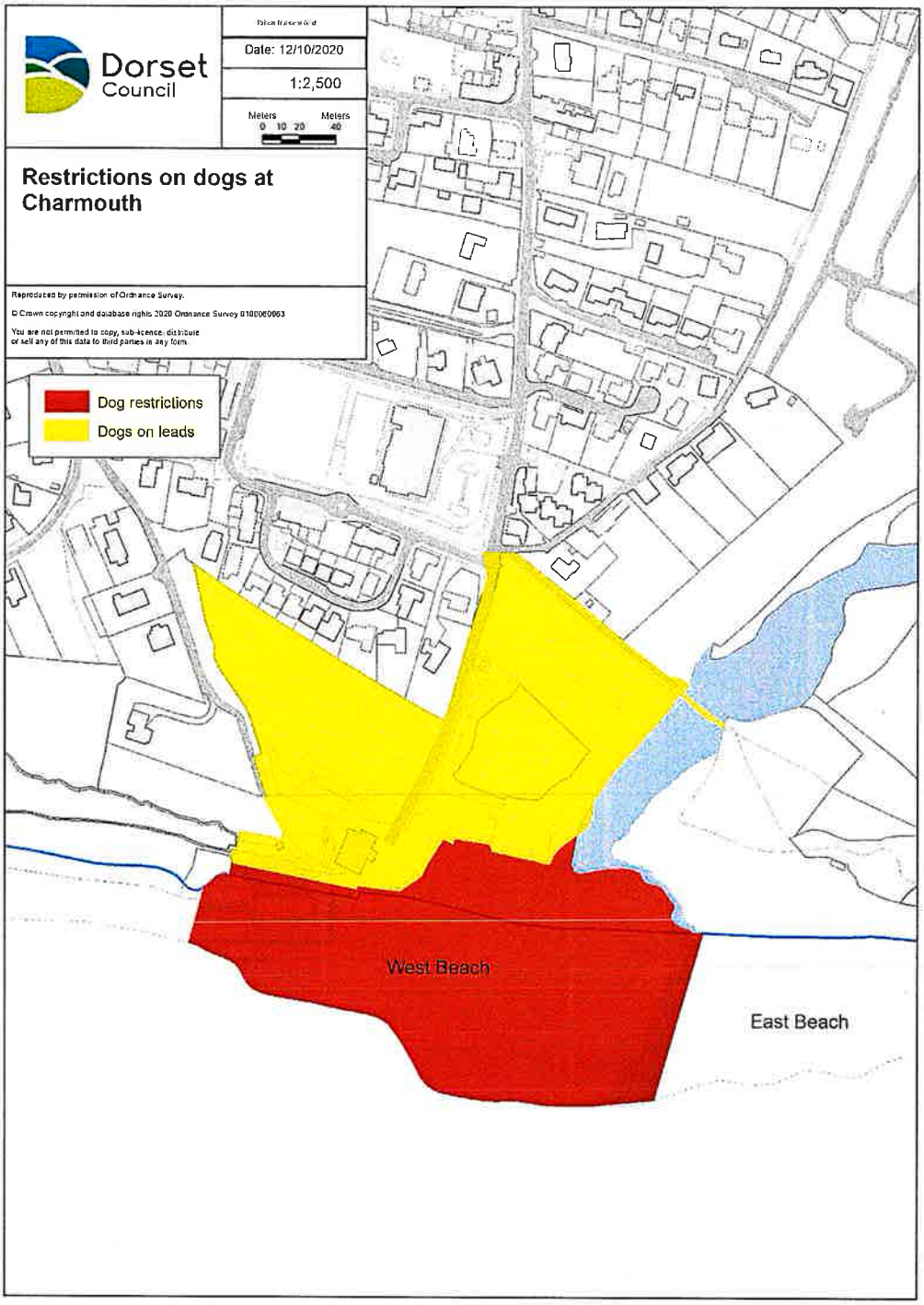
g. Ferry Road, from Studland beach car park to the South Coast Path End Marker, Shell Beach National Trust Car Park and all access routes Shell beach (Map 8).

8. Studland beaches also known as Knoll Beach and Middle Beach from the 1st May to 30th September (Map 9)

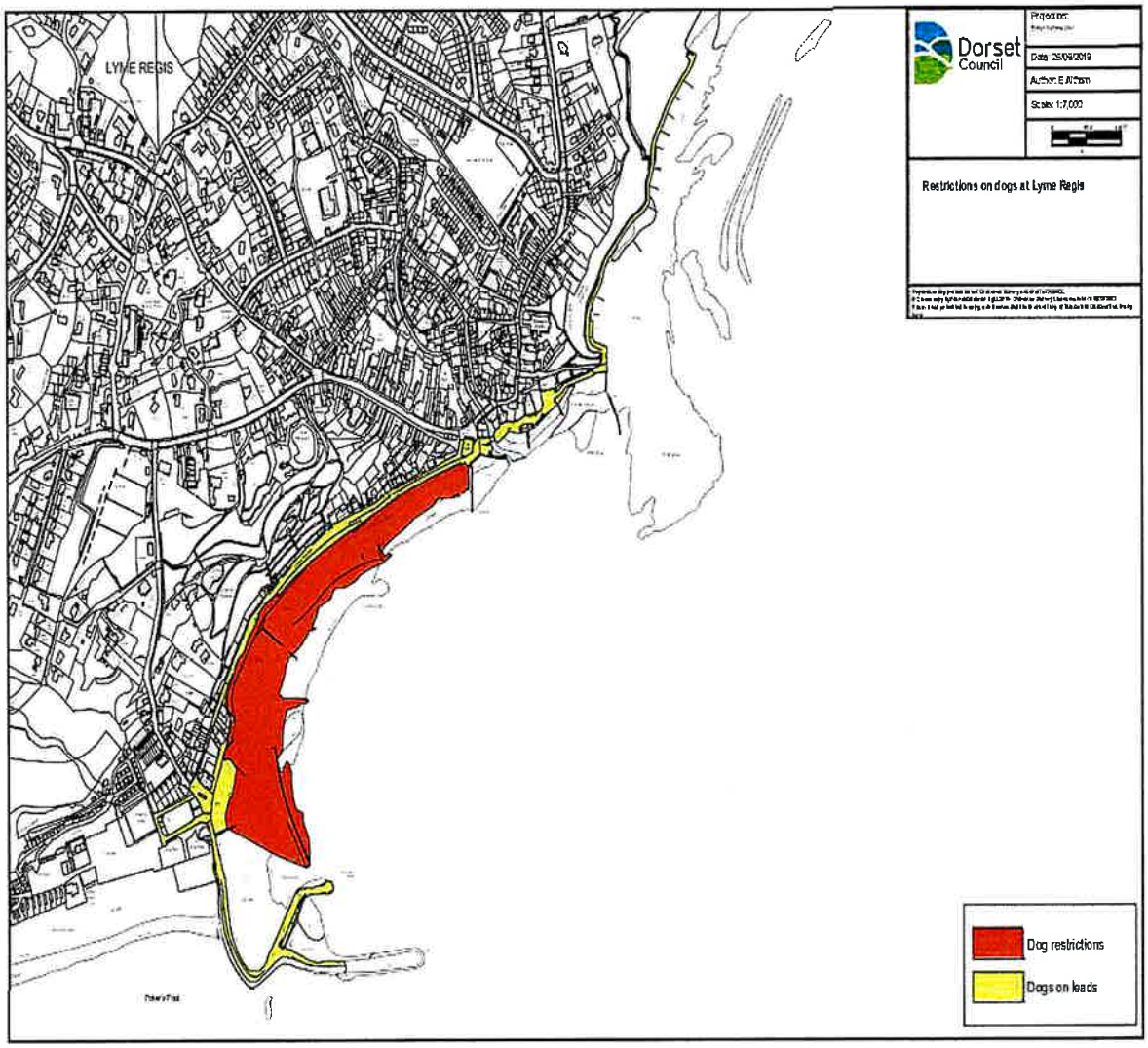
## Map 1 - The Front Beach Swanage



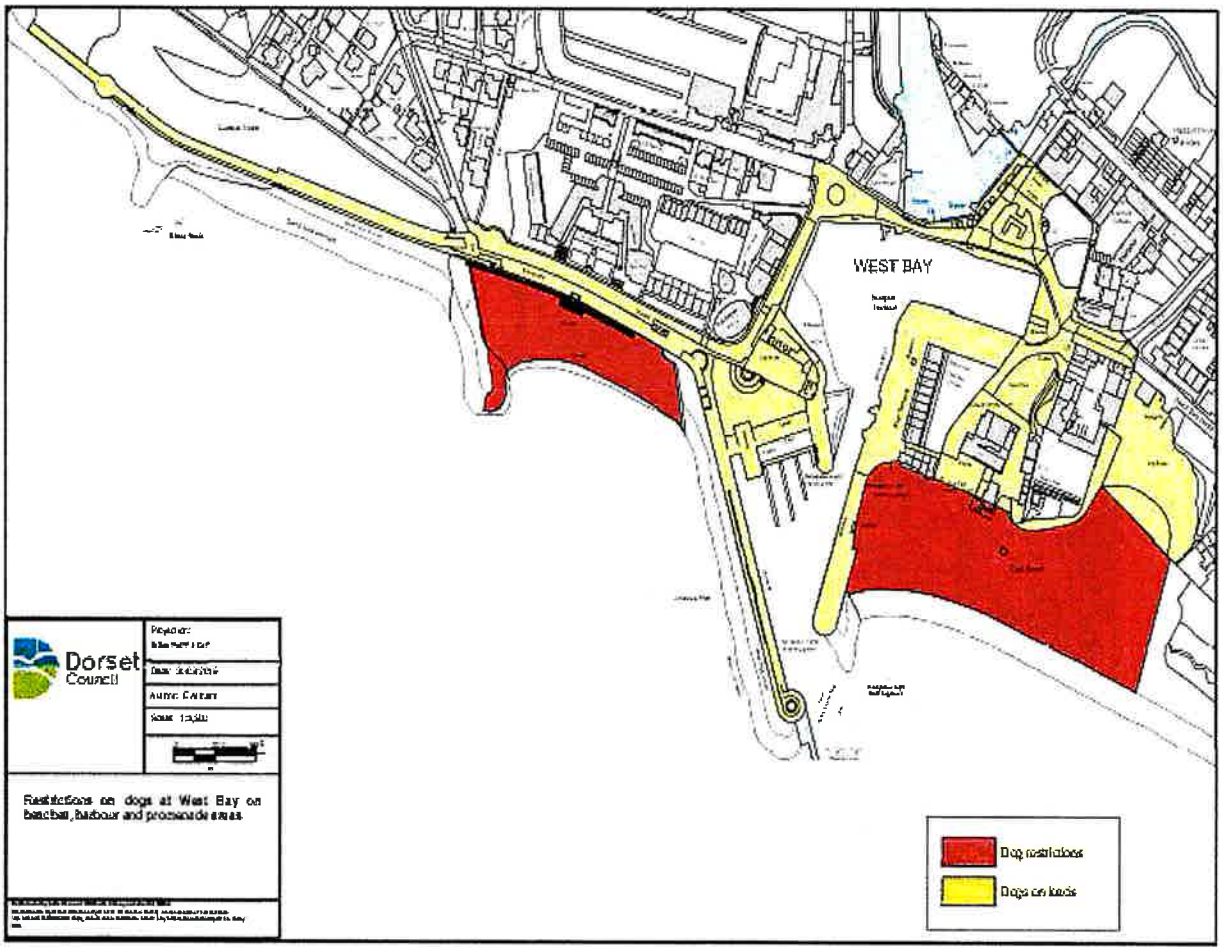
## Map 2 - Charmouth Beaches



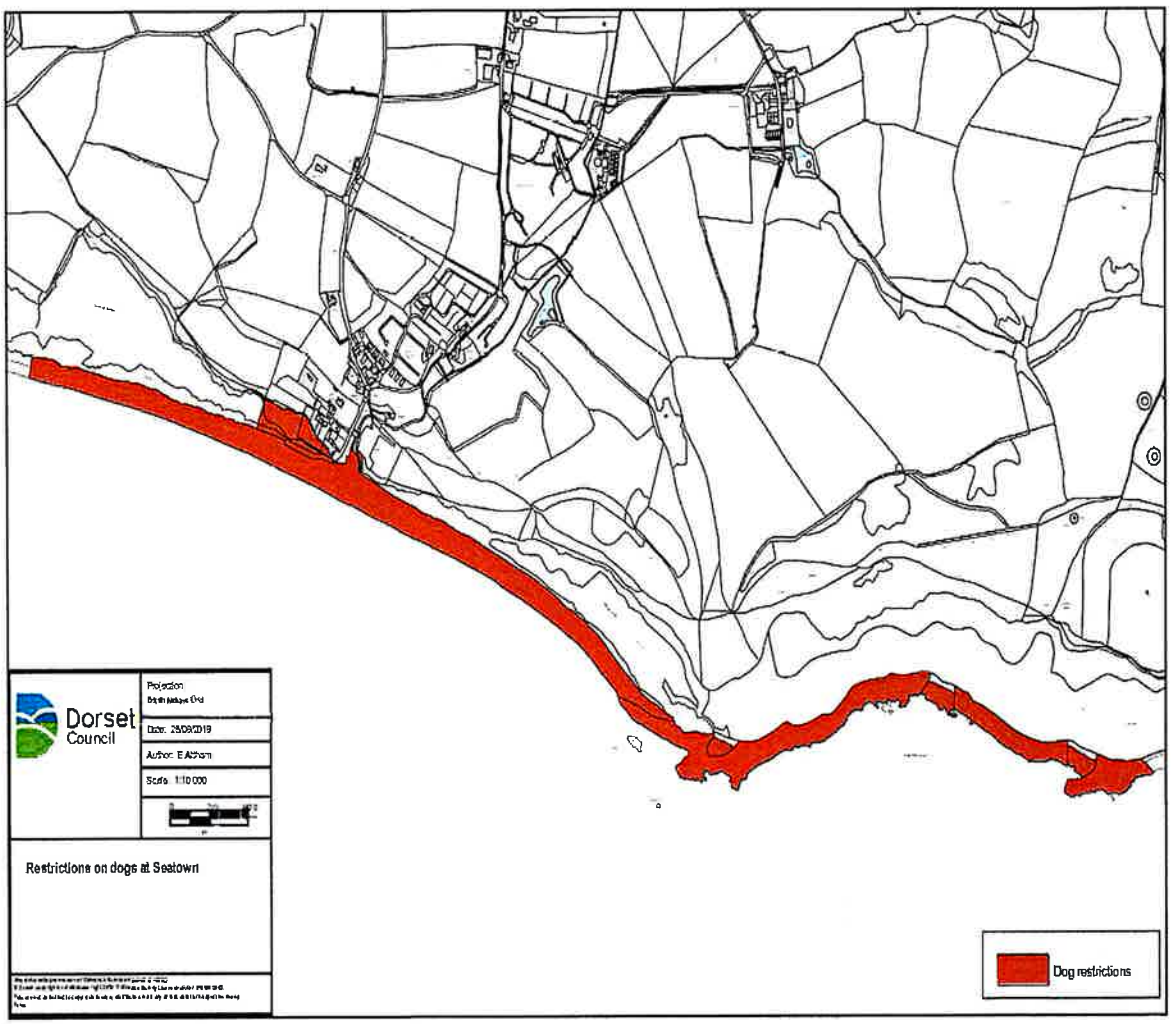
## Map 3 Front Town Beach Lyme Regis



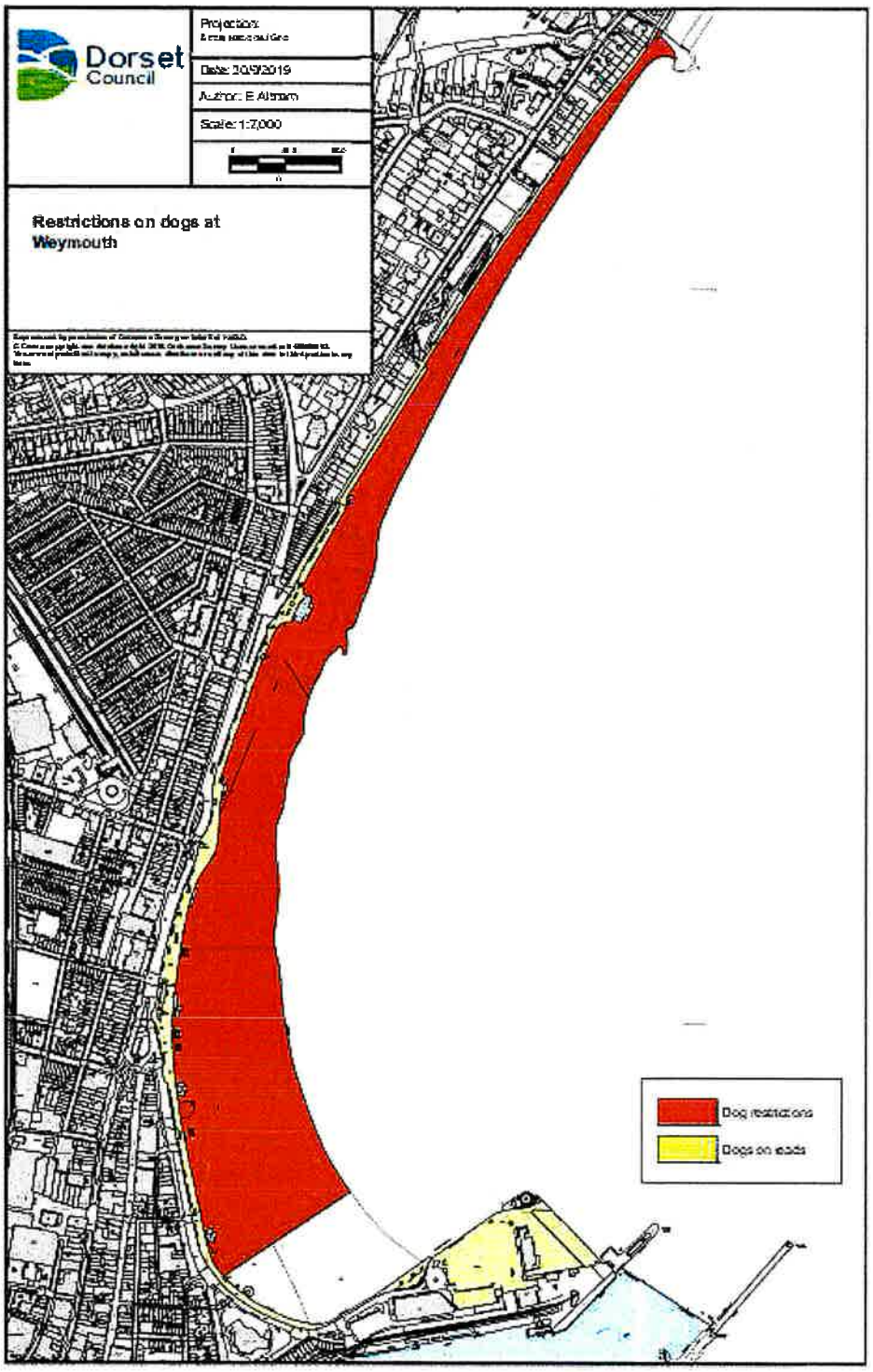
## Map 4 – East and West Beach West Bay



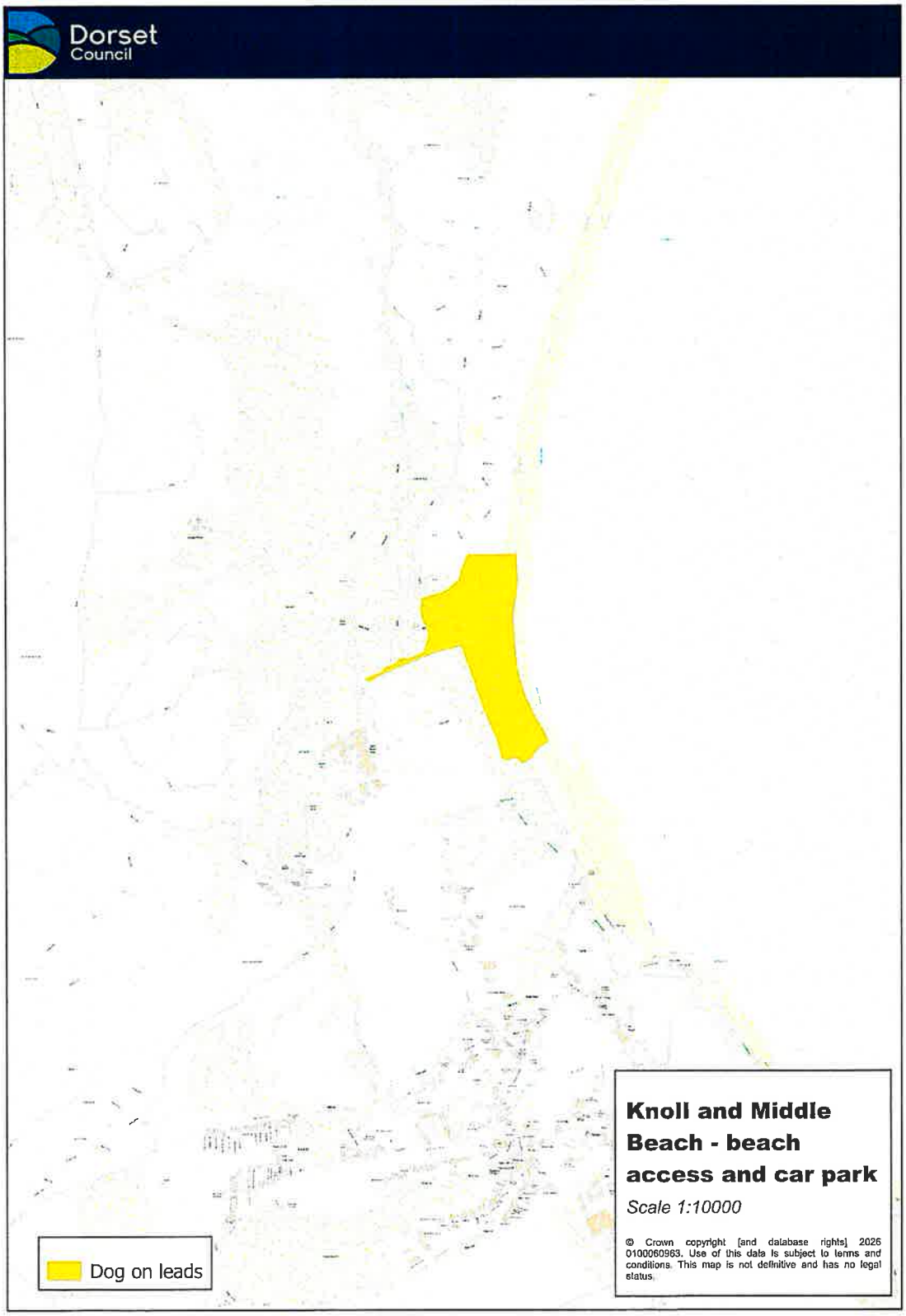
## Map 5 - Seatown Beach, Chideock



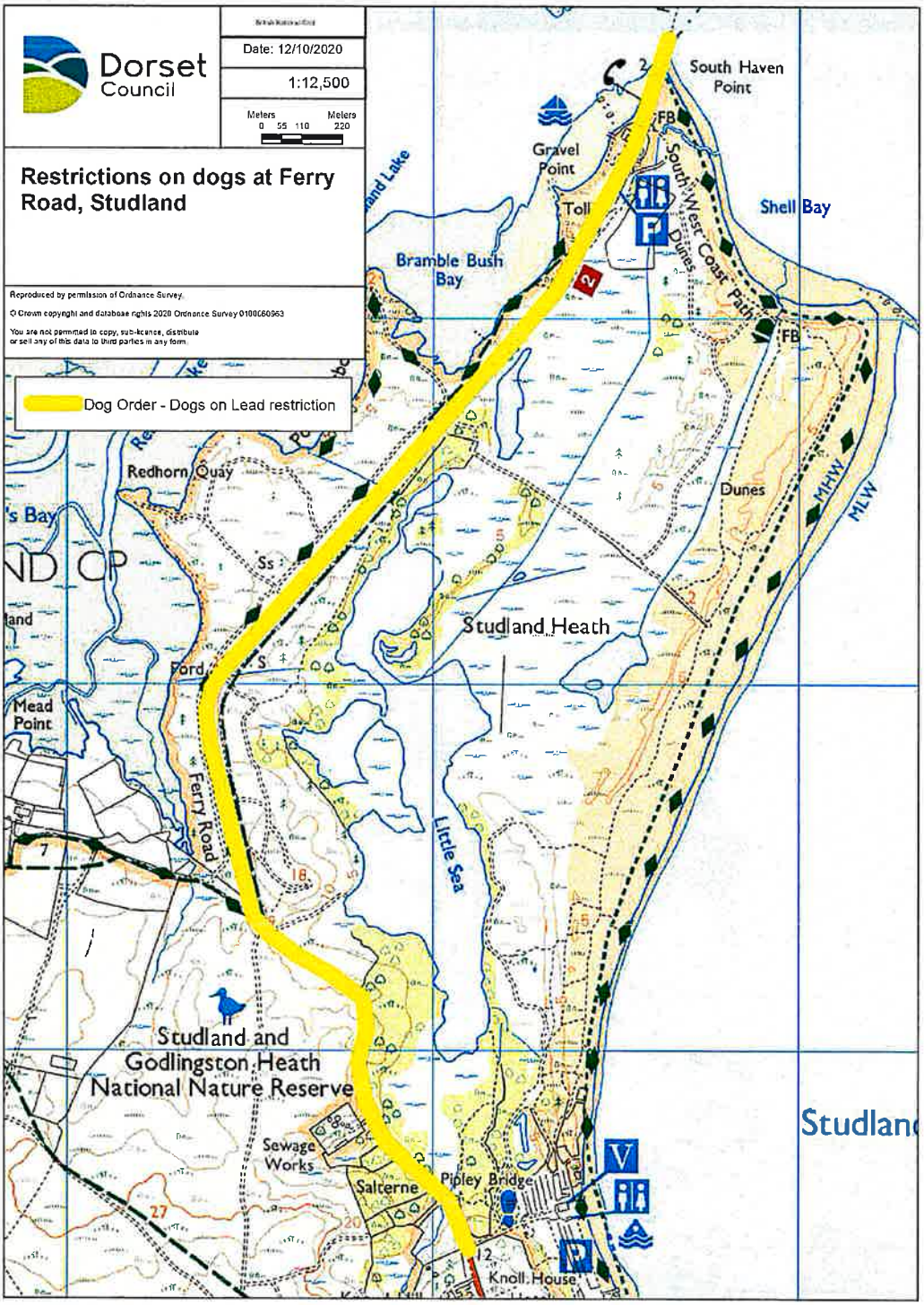
## Map 6 - Weymouth Central Beach



## Map 7 Access to South Beach, Studland



## Map 8 Ferry Road and access points to beach



## Map 9 Studland Beaches

