

EXE ESTUARY PARTNERSHIP – DRAFT DOG WALKING CODE
Feedback from the Exe Estuary Officer 05.04.18

Dear Hilary,

Thank you so much for providing feedback and guidance for the Dog Walking Code. Your comments were most useful.

I thought I would respond to your individual comments, to let you know about the amendments we have made. The numbers correspond to your comments in the response letter you sent.

1. 'Walkies' section

- a) This section was kept in this prominent position and extended slightly. Unfortunately it could not be extended further due to the available space and other information which was deemed necessary to include. I have tried to reinforce messages in national guidance within this section.
- b) Text amended to "Always keep your dog under effective control, on a short lead or close enough for you to call your dog back on command."
- c) A number of additional statements were suggested for more general upkeep of dogs, however, the group decided that the advice should focus on more estuary-related guidance, rather than health and wellbeing. The limitation in space and request to reduce the amount of words also led to this decision (text size was increased).
- d) Text for the Exe Estuary Trail on the map was amended to:
"**The Exe Estuary Trail** provides a fantastic scenic route around the entire Exe Estuary for mixed users. Always keep dogs under effective control on a short lead and consider those who are wary or nervous around dogs. Remember to 'Share This Space' by being considerate of other users of the trail, more information can be found at www.traveldevon.info/cycle/safe-cycling/share-this-space"
- e) In the **Watch out for wildlife** section, text was amended to read:
• **Do not allow your dogs to chase birds, wildlife or livestock.**
- f) In the **Watch out for wildlife** section, sentence was added to read:
"Refer to the map overleaf for areas you can walk your dog and areas to avoid for nature conservation reasons."
- g) There is a Devon dog code also, so it may get confusing to provide a link to two other dog codes within a local code. We have provided a link to the Devon Loves Dogs website, could we look at whether the national dog walking code could be added to this website?
- h) Great advice, but very specific to children and dogs, so would like to avoid overloading the Exe code with too much information.

2. Text and visual comments

- a. Agreed – will work with designer to produce online-friendly version.
- b. The leaflet has been designed to allow easy reading when folded. Wildlife sections have now been moved to make more sense in the structure.

- c. I agree that avoiding repetition and reducing the word count would be beneficial. I have reduced the wording somewhat, however, the partnership have requested that certain information be kept in the code. For example, the description of what disturbance is and why it matters.
- d. Agreed on the colour and text of the leaflet, this will be amended and checked.
- e. Use of capitals has been amended.
- f. I have been asked to reduce the amount of contacts within this section, and therefore advised by the partnership to just include the Coastguard for safely/pollution.

Again, thank you for your guidance. I hope that you are happy with the amendments that are being made, and understand the reasoning behind the few points that the partnership had advised to not take on, there are a number of comments that have factored into the decisions made. If there are any outstanding concerns, please do get in touch with me to discuss.

The final codes should be completed ready to print at the beginning of next week.

Best wishes,

Steph

Stephanie Clark

Exe Estuary Officer

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From: Hilary Winter

Sent: 22 February 2018 13:27

To: Stephanie Clark <stephanie.clark@devon.gov.uk>

Subject: Exe Estuary Dog Walking Code

Dear Stephanie

I am attaching the response from the Devon Countryside Access Forum to the draft dog walking code.

I should be grateful if you could acknowledge receipt.

Regards
Hilary

Hilary Winter
Forum Officer
Devon Countryside Access Forum