



<b>Name of Policy</b>	<b>Dog Walking Policy</b>
<b>Aim of Policy</b>	<b>All dogs to be on leads at all times of the year to ensure the safety of livestock, wildlife and visitors to our sites.</b>
<b>Related Organisational Aims &amp; Objectives</b>	
<b>Intended Audience</b>	<b>Council Members, Staff, Volunteers and Visitors</b>
<b>Approved By</b>	<b>NAT Council</b>
<b>Date Approved</b>	
<b>Review Cycle</b>	<b>3 years/when policy changes</b>
<b>Review Due Date</b>	<b>May 2025</b>
<b>Individual Responsible for Review</b>	<b>Director</b>
<b>Comments on Last Review</b>	<b>Site specific policies added</b>



## Dog Walking Policy

This policy applies to the following sites:

**Caistor Roman Town** - [www.norfarchtrust.org.uk/project/caistor-roman-town](http://www.norfarchtrust.org.uk/project/caistor-roman-town)

**Burgh Castle Fort** - [www.norfarchtrust.org.uk/project/burgh-castle-roman-fort](http://www.norfarchtrust.org.uk/project/burgh-castle-roman-fort)

**St Benet's Abbey** - [www.norfarchtrust.org.uk/project/st-benets-abbey](http://www.norfarchtrust.org.uk/project/st-benets-abbey)

**Tasburgh Enclosure** - [www.norfarchtrust.org.uk/project/tasburgh-earthworks](http://www.norfarchtrust.org.uk/project/tasburgh-earthworks)

**Middleton Mount** - [www.norfarchtrust.org.uk/project/middleton-mount](http://www.norfarchtrust.org.uk/project/middleton-mount)

**Burnham Norton Friary** - [www.norfarchtrust.org.uk/project/burnham-norton-friary/](http://www.norfarchtrust.org.uk/project/burnham-norton-friary/)

**Bloodgate Hill Fort** - [www.norfarchtrust.org.uk/project/bloodgate-hillfort](http://www.norfarchtrust.org.uk/project/bloodgate-hillfort)

**Fiddlers Hill** - [www.norfarchtrust.org.uk/project/fiddlers-hill](http://www.norfarchtrust.org.uk/project/fiddlers-hill)

**Binham Priory** - [www.norfarchtrust.org.uk/project/binham-priory](http://www.norfarchtrust.org.uk/project/binham-priory)

The Norfolk Archaeological Trust welcomes responsible dog owners to enjoy our beautiful sites. All dog owners whilst visiting our sites:

- MUST keep their dogs on leads through the whole year\*.
- Dog waste MUST be bagged and binned.
- Professional dog walkers MUST apply for a permit before running their business on our sites.

Access to our sites is only granted with agreement of this policy.

\* At Bloodgate Hill Fort, South Creake – Dogs are prohibited from 1<sup>st</sup> April to 1<sup>st</sup> November.

### Keeping Dogs on Leads

There are many reasons as to why we ask our visitors to keep their dogs on leads whilst visiting our sites:

Wildlife – Our sites are sanctuaries for a wide range of wildlife. As well as wildflowers NAT is very fortunate that at all of our sites we have skylarks, a ground nesting bird, which we must

protect, and a wide range of other wildlife whose habitat we must ensure we look after and safeguard. We also must ensure that we are complying with the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981.

Under Act it is an offence to damage or destroy an active nest, and NAT will report such occurrences to the police.

Livestock –To maintain our sites we are reliant on controlling the grass through grazing by sheep and cattle (and the income from farmers contributes to our charitable funds). Dogs not on leads could potentially worry livestock, and the Trust has had a number of incidents where this has occurred. Under the Dogs (Protection of Livestock) Act 1953 it is an offence to allow a dog to worry livestock, and in the case of sheep this offence is committed by letting a dog off a lead in a field where sheep are present – no matter how the dog is behaving. Sheep worrying can cause injury, suffering or abortion and this has a serious impact on the farmer's livelihood and threatens the grazing income which NAT relies on to help maintain sites.

Visitors – NAT wishes to ensure that visiting our sites is a safe and enjoyable experience for everyone. A significant proportion of our visitors find free running dogs worrying or even frightening. Keeping dogs on leads ensures that all our visitors experience a visit without the threat of free running dogs. We appreciate that the majority of dog owners visiting our sites are responsible dog owners, but we open our sites for everyone to enjoy.

Rights of way – Some of our sites are crossed by public footpaths which are rights of way, but this makes no difference to the need for dogs to be under control

## Dog Fouling

We have dog waste bins placed around our busiest sites. Please ensure that you bag and bin (or take home with you) any dog waste - this will help us to protect visitors, dogs, livestock and wildlife.

Our sites are covered by a PSPO (public space protection order) which makes it an offence for a person in control of a dog not to clear up the dog mess immediately, for more details on the PSPO, and how to report dog fouling, please follow the following links:

[www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/dog-issues-1/dog-fouling](http://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/dog-issues-1/dog-fouling)

[www.great-yarmouth.gov.uk/article/2068/How-do-I-report-dog-fouling](http://www.great-yarmouth.gov.uk/article/2068/How-do-I-report-dog-fouling)

[www.north-norfolk.gov.uk/media/6725/pspo-fouling-of-land-by-dogs-district-wide.pdf](http://www.north-norfolk.gov.uk/media/6725/pspo-fouling-of-land-by-dogs-district-wide.pdf)

[www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/info/20094/animals\\_and\\_pests/751/dog\\_and\\_other\\_animal\\_fouling](http://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/info/20094/animals_and_pests/751/dog_and_other_animal_fouling)

Norfolk Police: [www.norfolk.police.uk/sites/norfolk/files/dogfouling2.pdf](http://www.norfolk.police.uk/sites/norfolk/files/dogfouling2.pdf)

### Professional Dog walking

If you use a Norfolk Archaeological Trust site for professional dog walking (i.e. if you are paid to walk someone else's dog), please get in touch. We may be able to issue you with a licence and authorise your commercial use of Norfolk Archaeological Trust land. Please contact [info@norfarchtrust.org.uk](mailto:info@norfarchtrust.org.uk) for further information.

### Summary

Therefore, we ask you to keep your dog on a lead at all times, to protect your dog as well as visitors, livestock and wildlife. We also expect visitors to respect our staff, volunteers and farmers on our sites. Physical and verbal abuse will not be tolerated, it will be reported to the police and prosecution sought.

Access to our sites is only granted on the basis that visitors comply with this policy.