

Bag it, bin it

Dog poo is a big pollutant in coastal habitats. Habitats like sand dunes are very low in nutrients so when you add nutrient-rich dog poo this changes the types of plants that grow and can also attract predators that will prey on our native coastal wildlife.

Poo bags are an environmental minefield. The plant based “compostable” or “biodegradable” poo bags are often only compostable or biodegradable under certain conditions and they are made from raw plant material, grown and harvested for that purpose. This means they have a HUGE carbon footprint. New products are being developed all the time so do your research and use poo bags that are as environmentally friendly as possible.





Be bird aware

Being bird aware will help you, your dog and the birds. Being bird aware is being observant and going at a slower pace, for both you and your dog. Watching the birds for signs of stress and if you see these, moving away. By stopping and observing the birds you will get the wellbeing benefits of being in nature and learn the signs of wildlife disturbance so you can educate others. Use these walks to bond with your dog and train them to walk on a lead, come when called and stay close by.

Guided by the tide

If you prefer to walk your dog off the path the safest time to walk is at low tide. This means your dog can explore the beach without disturbing the birds, which feed on the beaches and mudflats when the tide is moving in and out.

Signs that birds have been disturbed:

- They become alert
- They stop feeding
- They stare at you

You can buy year-long tide timetables from RSPB Burton Mere for a few pounds or you can download free apps that show you nearby tide times up to a week in advance.

