



Statement from the Lulworth Estate Dated 1st June 2020

It is clear that the restriction on travelling should have been limited to local journeys only which would not have resulted in the huge pressures being suddenly foisted on local road networks and on sites such as Lulworth Cove and Durdle Door. Unrestricted travel has undoubtedly led to the unacceptable influx of visitors, despite the enormously damaging effects of restrictions on the economy and on jobs.

Natural England and the Dorset Council are responsible for the public right of access to the beaches and cliffs. The Lulworth Estate has no power or authority to close the beaches at Lulworth, including Durdle Door beach; everyone has a legal right of access to our coastline and beaches following the Maritime and Coastal Access Act 2009.

The Lulworth Estate has no means of preventing people from travelling to Lulworth & Durdle Door, which everyone has been permitted to do since Wednesday 13th May.

The Lulworth Estate maintains signage on all sites advising visitors of the dangers of the sea, cliffs and the use of disposable BBQs, particularly in the current dry conditions.

The Lulworth Estate staffs all sites and where possible attempts to manage access, although we are physically and legally unable to prevent visitors accessing the beaches or climbing cliffs; we advise of the dangers of both including the dangers of Covid-19 and that social distancing is not always possible.

The opening of the car parks at Lulworth did not attract visitors, these were opened to relieve the pressure on the local road network and local community, although the publicity surrounding the opening of the car parks undoubtedly added to the number of visitors.

The Lulworth Estate is not responsible for government policies regarding Covid-19 or the legal access to public highway and public areas; we can only respond to the numbers that arrive and our staff have worked hard to manage this influx and clear up after them with little positive assistance or input from local authorities.

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The Lulworth Estate
1st June 2020
www.lulworth.com

NOTES

Prior to 13th May people continued to visit Lulworth, despite not being permitted to do so and the car parks being closed, culminating on the weekend of 9th/10th May when over 200 cars arrived in Lulworth each day and assistance was requested from Dorset Police to attempt to prevent uncontrolled parking and access.

The Durdle Door car park was opened on Wednesday 13th May, including limited public facilities, when people were permitted to travel an unrestricted distance for outdoor exercise, to relieve the



inevitable pressure on the local road network and in the village. The car park at Lulworth Cove remained closed.

It soon became apparent that those arriving were not all prepared to make use of the car park and continued to park wherever they could throughout the village and at Lulworth Cove; in consultation with village residents and with the knowledge that Dorset Council were to open their car parks for the same reasons, the car park at Lulworth Cove was also opened to relieve pressure in the village and on surrounding roads.

One-way walking routes were established at both Durdle Door and Lulworth Cove and with the assistance of local residents these routes were marshalled to ensure that visitors continued to follow them and maintain social distancing.