

## Appendix B - Public Space Protection Order: Touting Consultation

# Punt Touting Public Spaces Protection Order

**Open for comments from 10 May 2023 to 4 June 2023.**

A punt tour along the world-famous Cambridge College 'Backs' is one of the pleasures of a visit to Cambridge. Punt companies operate out of six authorised punt stations in Cambridge. Most authorised traders have signed up to our [voluntary code of practice](#) for the visitor industry which limits touting for customers to areas adjacent to their business.

In 2016, after hundreds of complaints were received about the behaviour of punt touts negatively impacting people's experience when in the city centre, we created a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) to restrict where punt tours can be touted from.

We can make PSPOs under the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

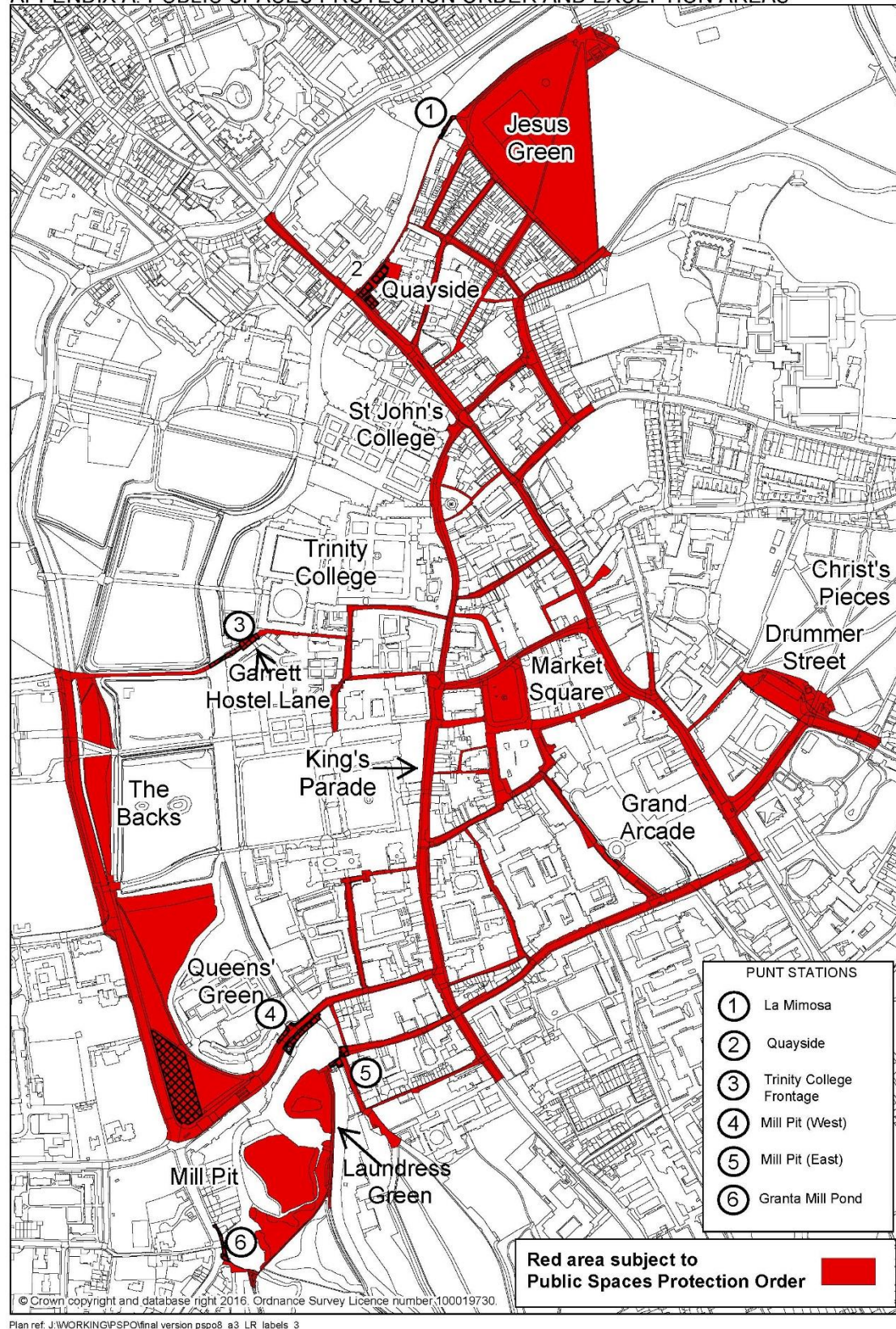
PSPOs were created to deal with problems in public spaces which have a negative impact on the local community's quality of life. A PSPO does this by stopping certain activities in the area it covers. If someone refuses to stop doing the activity covered by the PSPO it is a criminal offence and they will be fined £75.

The current Public Spaces Protection Order (Touting) 2016 prohibits verbally touting, advertising, soliciting for customers or otherwise touting for a punt tour, the hire or use of punt boats (or similar craft) on the River Cam.

This includes touting for walking tours which include or involve a punt tour, the hire or use of punt boats (or similar craft) on the River Cam.

The PSPO prohibits touting in certain parts of the city centre, they are shown in red on this map and are referred to as the Restricted Areas:

## APPENDIX A: PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER AND EXCEPTION AREAS



- Read more about the [Public Spaces Protection Order](#). Punt operators are still allowed to sell punt tours from the 6 authorised locations which are also shown on the image above. These are:

- La Mimosa, on the corner of Jesus Green
- Quayside
- Trinity College, inside the college grounds
- The Mill Pond, on Silver Street
- Mill Lane
- The Granta mill pond, near Sheeps Green

This PSPO has been renewed twice since 2016 but is due to end on 14 September 2023. Before this date, we need to decide whether to renew the order, change it or allow it to end. A decision will be made at the Environment and Communities Scrutiny Committee on 29 June 2023.

To renew the PSPO the council needs to show that there is significant evidence that punt touting within the Restricted Areas will be problematic without the PSPO.

To change (or vary) the PSPO the council needs to show that there is evidence to change the spaces that are covered by the PSPO or that there is evidence to stop people behaving in other ways that have a negative impact on the local community.

To end (or discharge) the PSPO, we need to consult on the impact that discharging the order might have and look at whether this impact can be managed in other ways.

On 25 May 2018, we were granted an Injunction against named and unnamed parties from, essentially, engaging in unlicensed commercial punt operations, including touting, on council-owned land.

The table below shows the impact of both the PSPO and the Injunction on touting complaints since the start of available records (2006). The numbers suggests that the Injunction caused a greater reduction in the number of touting complaints than the PSPO.

<b><i>Year</i></b>	<b><i>No. of complaints</i></b>	<b><i>PSPO / Injunction</i></b>
<i>2006 – 2016</i>	<i>268</i>	<i>PSPO introduced – 15 September 2016</i>
<i>2016 – 2018</i>	<i>164</i>	<i>Injunction introduced – 25 May 2018</i>
<i>2019 – 2023</i>	<i>22</i>	

## Have your say

We want your opinions on the PSPO and any evidence you may have about punt touting in the Restricted Areas.

Please complete our survey. Your views will inform the Council's decision on the future of the PSPO.

**The link to the survey is located under the 'About' section.**

## **Next steps**

The results of this consultation will inform a committee report, which will go to the Environment and Community Scrutiny Committee on 29 June 2023.



# Survey

**1) Are you responding as an individual or on behalf of a group, organisation or business?**

- Individual
- Group/ Organisation/ Business

**2) Please let us know your connection to Cambridge**

- Resident
- Student
- Visitor
- Councillor
- Business owner
- Work in Cambridge
- Other

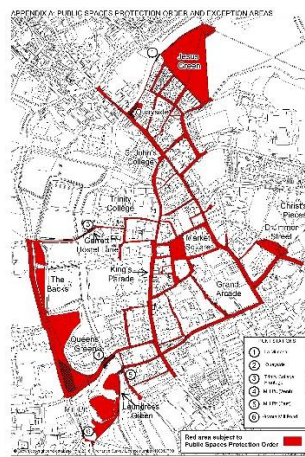
**3) Please share the name of your group, organisation or business**

**4) In the last 12 months, have you witnessed people touting for punt tours in Cambridge?**

- Yes
- No

**5) Did you witness people tout for punt tours red areas on the map?**

Please note licensed punt operators are allowed to tout at the 6 punt stations listed in the image and the cross hatched exception areas



- I witnessed punt touting in the red areas on the map
- I witnessed punt touting outside the red areas
- I witnessed punt touting at the punt stations or cross-hatched areas on the map
- I'm not sure

**6) Where have you witnessed the touting take place?**

You can add multiple locations where you have witnessed touting

**7) Please tell us if you witnessed problematic behaviours by those touting**

i.e. obstruction of pavements, nuisance or aggressive behaviour

**8) How often have you witnessed punt touting in the last year?**

- Once
- 2-3 times
- 4-6 times
- 7- 10 times
- 10- 15 times
- 15- 20 times
- Over 20 times

**9) Did you report this to the council?**

- Yes
- No

**10) If you did not report it, please say why not**

- I didn't know I could report this type of behaviour
- I didn't know who to report it to
- I didn't think anything would happen
- I reported it elsewhere
- I did not want to report it
- Other

**11) What do you think should happen to the PSPO?**

- It should continue
- It should be changed/varied
- It should end

**12) Please tell us why you think this**

**13) What do you think would happen if the PSPO was not in place?**

**14) Please share any other comments you have about the Touting Public Spaces Protection Order**