

Proposed Diversion Order (Pickedstones), Parish of Exford

HIGHWAYS ACT 1980

EXMOOR NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

Public Bridleway DU5/3

Proposed Public Path Diversion Order 2026 [Ref: Pickedstones]

Summary

Background

Public bridleway DU5/3 runs from its junction with public bridleway DU5/2 at Winstitchen Farm to its junction with public bridleway DU11/30 at the parish boundary with Withypool Parish.

This proposal is to divert three short sections of public bridleway at Pickedstones.

The current definitive line runs through a field between points A and F, descends to cross Whitewater via an old ford between points G and L and passes over rough, sloping ground between points M and N.

For many decades, the public have used the established track throughout this section, staying on the track to the south east of the field following the line A-P-Q-F, using the track between points G-R-S-T-L to cross a bridge over Whitewater and then following the established track again between points M-U-N to round the top of the hill. A combination of factors over the years have meant that people using the public bridleway have preferred to use the track. The track is more convenient to use as it has a good surface for all weathers, it is a clear line to follow and takes a more convenient line that avoids climbing and descending a slope. It also takes a line over the privately owned bridge at point T which is significantly more convenient for walkers and riders to cross than the ford at point J.

The current owners have recently replaced the bridge following the deterioration of the previous structure. As the route had been used by the public for many years, ENPA liaised with the owners over the specific design of the bridge to ensure it was safe for the public to use – the intention being to divert the public bridleway so that it legally crosses the bridge at this point. At the same time, the opportunity has been taken to divert sections to the north and south of the bridge so that they coincide with the route used on the ground. The bridge was replaced by the landowner with a contribution from ENPA to reflect its use by the public in 2025.

Current Proposal

Exmoor National Park Authority proposes to make a diversion order at Pickedstones in the interests of the public. The order is being made to move the public bridleway to a position where it follows a safe and convenient line. The route that is being proposed

is 'substantially as convenient to the public' compared to the current definitive route (this being the legal test that has to be met in diverting a public path).

The proposed order is as follows:

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This order will divert part of public bridleway DU5/3 from A-B-C-D-E-F to A-P-Q-F and from G-H-J-K-L to G-R-S-T-L and from M-N to M-U-N.

Therefore, it appears to the Exmoor National Park Authority that in the interests of the public it is expedient that part of Public Bridleway DU5/3, Parish of Exmoor should be diverted, as described on the enclosed proposed schedule & plan.

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SCHEDULE

PART 1

DESCRIPTION OF SITE OF EXISTING PATH OR WAY

1. Part of public bridleway DU5/3 starting from a point approximately 227 metres north-west of Pickedstones Farm, point A on the proposal plan, and running in a generally northerly direction for approximately 52 metres to point B. From point B, the bridleway turns to run in a north-westerly direction for approximately 383 metres passing through points C, D and E to a point approximately 627 metres north-west of Pickedstones, point F on the proposal plan. A total distance of 435 metres.

Part of DU5/3 to be stopped up	Length (m)
A-B-C-D-E-F	435

2. Part of public bridleway DU5/3 starting from a point approximately 151 metres south-south-west of the bridge over the White Water stream, point G on the proposal plan, and running in a generally northerly direction for approximately 154 metres passing through point H, crossing the White Water stream at point J to point K. From point K, the bridleway turns to run in a north-easterly direction for approximately 30 metres to a point approximately 18 metres north-north-west of the bridge over the White Water stream, point L on the proposal plan. A total distance of 184 metres.

Part of DU5/3 to be stopped up	Length (m)
G-H-J-K-L	184

3. Part of public bridleway DU5/3 starting from a point approximately 185 metres north-west of the bridge over the White Water stream, point M on the proposal plan, and running in a generally north-westerly direction for approximately 113 metres to a point approximately 295 metres north-west of the bridge over the White Water stream, point N on the proposal plan. A total distance of 113 metres.

Part of DU5/3 to be stopped up	Length (m)
M-N	113

PART 2

DESCRIPTION OF SITE OF PROPOSED NEW PATH OR WAY

1. A public bridleway starting from a point approximately 227 metres north-west of Pickedstones Farm, point A on the proposal plan, and running in a generally northerly direction along a track for approximately 48 metres to point P. From point P, the bridleway turns to run in a generally north-westerly direction, continuing to follow the track, for approximately 380 metres passing through point Q to a point approximately 627 metres north-west of Pickedstones, point F on the proposal plan. A total distance of 428 metres.

Description of site of new path or way	Length (m)	Width (m)
A-P-Q-F	428	4.0

2. A public bridleway starting from starting from a point approximately 151 metres south-south-west of the bridge over the White Water stream, point G on the proposal plan, and running in a generally northerly direction along a track for approximately 155 metres passing through points R and S to a bridge crossing the White Water stream at point T. From point T, the bridleway runs in a north-north-westerly direction for approximately 19 metres to a point approximately 18 metres north-north-west of the bridge over the White Water stream, point L on the proposal plan. A total distance of 174 metres.

Description of site of new path or way	Length (m)	Width (m)
G-R-S-T-L	174	4.0

3. A public bridleway starting from a point approximately 185 metres north-west of the bridge over the White Water stream, point M on the proposal plan, and running in a generally north-north-westerly direction along a track for approximately 89 metres to point U. From point U, the bridleway turns to run in a westerly direction, continuing to follow the track, for approximately 50 metres to a point approximately 295 metres north-west of the bridge over the White Water stream, point N on the proposal plan. A total distance of 139 metres.

Description of site of new path or way	Length (m)	Width (m)
M-U-N	139	4.0

PART 3

LIMITATIONS AND CONDITIONS

Position	Limitations and conditions
Q	Field gate to BS5709 – 2018
R	Field gate to BS5709 – 2018
S	Bridle gate to BS5709 – 2018
T	Bridge width 2.5 metres