

## **Proposed Diversion Order (Great Bradley Bridge), Parish of Withypool & Hawkridge**

### **HIGHWAYS ACT 1980**

### **EXMOOR NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY**

Public Bridleway DU10/38

Proposed Public Path Diversion Order 2023 [Ref: Great Bradley Bridge]

### **Summary**

### **Background**

Public bridleway DU10/38 runs from the Dulverton Parish boundary just north of Tarr Steps to the junction with DU11/5 and DU10/36 just north of the ford crossing of the River Barle near Great Bradley.

This proposal is to divert a short section of public bridleway where it crosses the River Barle near Great Bradley.

The current definitive line crosses the River Barle via a ford south-west of Great Bradley. There is currently no footbridge although it is understood that there has been a bridge in this location in the past; the most recent one was swept away in the flood of 1952 and since then, it has only been possible to cross the river here when the water is low by wading the ford. This is feasible on horseback but impassable most of the time to walkers and cyclists.

Exmoor National Park Authority is planning to build a bridge to cross the River Barle at this point. The precise site has been chosen as this is the best location for the bridge in terms of footings and span – the bridge is being designed to carry walkers, cyclists and pedestrians and will also be able to be used by the adjoining landowners. The bridge location is just to the west of the ford and current definitive line. The Authority have been liaising with the surrounding landowners, have secured planning permission and an Environment Agency permit and have been fund-raising for the structure. Much of the funding is in place already and a public appeal has recently been launched to try to raise the remainder. Please follow the link below for more details:

[CareMoor - Great Bradley Bridge CareMoor Appeal \(exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk\)](https://www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/caremoor-great-bradley-bridge-caremoor-appeal)

Somerset Council as Highway Authority have been involved in the project and have agreed in principle to accept the bridge as a public highway structure. They have stipulated that in order for them to do this, that the line of the bridleway must be diverted to run across the bridge itself hence this diversion proposal.

Once the bridge is complete, the plan is to move the popular promoted route, The Two Moors Way onto this bridleway to secure its future for the public. The route currently runs along a permitted route on the eastern bank of the River Barle. Most walkers use

this side but the path is in very poor condition and as a permitted path, it could be closed by the landowners at any time.

### **Current Proposal**

Exmoor National Park Authority proposes to make a diversion order at Great Bradley in the interests of the public. The order is being made to move the public bridleway onto a new bridge so that users can safely and conveniently cross the River Barle. 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:

### **Proposed Public Path Diversion Order 2023 [Ref: Great Bradley Bridge]**

This order will divert part of public bridleway DU10/38 from A-B-C-D to A-E-F-G-H-D.

Therefore, it appears to the Exmoor National Park Authority that in the interests of the public it is expedient that part of Public Bridleway DU10/38, Parish of Withypool & Hawkridge should be diverted, as described on the enclosed proposed schedule & plan.

## Proposed Public Path Diversion Order 2023 [Ref: Great Bradley Bridge]

### SCHEDULE

#### PART 1

##### DESCRIPTION OF SITE OF EXISTING PATH OR WAY

1. Part of public bridleway DU10/38 starting from a point approximately 246 metres south-south-west of Great Bradley farmhouse, point A on the proposal plan, and running in a generally north-north-westerly direction towards the River Barle for approximately 55 metres to point B. From point B, the bridleway continues in a north-north-easterly direction for approximately 24 metres, crossing the River Barle to point C. From point C, the bridleway continues in a north-westerly direction for approximately 64 metres, crossing a small stream to a point approximately 172 metres south-west of Great Bradley farmhouse, point D on the proposal plan. A total distance of 143 metres.

Part of DU10/38 to be stopped up	Length (m)
A-B-C-D	143

#### PART 2

##### DESCRIPTION OF SITE OF PROPOSED NEW PATH OR WAY

1. A public bridleway starting from a point approximately 246 metres south-south-west of Great Bradley farmhouse, point A on the proposal plan, and running in a north-westerly direction for approximately 57 metres to point E. From point E, the route turns to run in a north-north-easterly direction for approximately 37 metres, crossing the River Barle to point F. From point F, the route turns to run in a north-westerly direction for approximately 23 metres to cross a small stream at point G. At point G, the route turns to run in a generally westerly direction for approximately 15 metres to point H and then continues in a northerly direction for a further 15 metres to a point approximately 172 metres south-west of Great Bradley farmhouse, point D on the proposal plan. A total distance of 147 metres.

Description of site of new path or way	Length (m)	Width (m)
A-E	57	4.0
E-F	37 Across new footbridge	1.9
F-G	23	4.0
G	Footbridge Ford	0.6 4.0
G-D	30	4.0