

Spitchwick Cattle Grids

Report of the Chief Officer for Highways, Infrastructure, Development and Waste

Please note that the following recommendations are subject to consideration and determination by the Committee before taking effect.

Recommendation: It is recommended that:

- (a) Subject to consultation with the Dartmoor National Park Authority, the proposal be advertised;**
- (b) Any significant objections be brought back to this committee but, if no significant objections are received, the decision be delegated to the Chief Officer in consultation with the local County Councillor and the chair of this committee.**

1. Background/Introduction

This report considers proposals by Spitchwick Commoners Higher Level Stewardship Association to install cattle grids at four locations on the eastern side of Corndon Down and Sherberton Common.

2. Main Text/Proposal

A request to install four cattle grids on the eastern side of Corndon Down and Sherberton Common was received from the Secretary of the Spitchwick Commoners Association (SCA) on the 15 October 2021.

The locations are:

- 1. Cator Gate, Widecombe in the Moor Parish. On Unclassified road number U5207, at the entrance to Corndon Down approximately 335m south of the junction with Middle Cator.
- 2. Lower Cator, Widecombe in the Moor Parish. On unclassified road number U5204, at the entrance to Corndon Down, approximately 360m south west of Longhouse Farm and Lower Cator.
- 3. Shallowford, Widecombe in the Moor Parish. On unclassified road number U5308, approximately 152m south west of West Shallowford.
- 4. Ponsworthy, Widecombe in the Moor Parish. On classified road number C14, approximately 110m south west of Ponsworthy Bridge and approximately 10m north east of Ponsworthy Ford (The Splash).

3. Options/Alternatives

The only alternative action is not to advertise or install the cattle grids.

4. Consultations/Representations/Technical Data

The proposal will be advertised.

5. Financial Considerations

The SCA have calculated the cost for each site as follows:

Funding requirements	per grid	
Architects' fees	£	1,243.00
Legal fees	£	2,500.00
Bond	£	1,300.00
Hopkins 120 tonne highway grid	£	4,000.00
Contractor fees	£	10,000.00
Road closures	£	400.00
land surveys	£	500.00
Committed sum	£	1,800.00
Bypass gates & fencing	£	1,200.00
contingency	£	2,500.00
TOTAL	£	25,443.00

The total cost would therefore be £101,772. The SCA intends to apply to the Dartmoor National Park Authority under the 3-year project named Farming in The Protected Landscape for the majority of the funding, but a proportion of the project will be privately funded.

The cost includes a commuted sum for future maintenance.

Landowners adjacent to the proposed grid sites have been approached by the SCA and have agreed in principle to permit the gifting of land for bypass gates.

All costs, including installation of the cattle grids, will be the responsibility of the SCA. If the installations proceed it will be at no cost to Devon County Council.

6. Environmental Impact Considerations

The Dartmoor National Park Authority will be consulted on the environmental impact of the proposal.

7. Equality Considerations

The proposals will inconvenience users of the highway, particularly horse riders, walkers and cyclists using the gated bypasses to avoid the cattle grids. This

inconvenience needs to be balanced against the Commoners wish to control the passage of animals along the highway.

8. Legal Considerations

The proposals would need to be advertised under section 82 and schedule 10 of the Highways Act 1980. Any significant objections would need to be brought to this committee, but it is proposed that, if there are no significant objections, the decision be delegated to the Chief Officer in consultation with the local County Councillor and the chair of this committee.

9. Risk Management Considerations

Currently livestock from Corndon Down are Sherberton Common are able to move along the highway network.

10. Public Health Impact

There is likely to be a reduced incidence of livestock on some parts of the highway network.

11. Reasons for Recommendations

Under the Highways Act the County Council has a discretion to authorise the installation of cattle grids and bypasses where it is considered expedient to control the passage of animals along the highway.

Meg Booth
Chief Officer for Highways, Infrastructure, Development and Waste

Electoral Division: Bovey Rural

Local Government Act 1972: List of Background Papers

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Background Paper	Date	File Ref.
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Nil

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sc/cr/Spitchwick Cattle Grids
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Location Plan

