

For years **Snowdrop Valley** was a local secret. As visitors numbers increased so did congestion on the single track road. Damage to verges and obstruction to farms led Exmoor National Park Authority to start a park and ride scheme, which is now run by Cutcombe Parish Council.

Snowdrops may have arrived in Britain with Benedictine Monks in the 11th century. They were introduced into the valley in the 13th century by monks from Dunster as a symbol of Candlemas (2nd February), the feast of the purification of the Virgin Mary.

Access to this privately owned valley is kindly granted by **Badworthy Land Company**, one of the largest landowners on Exmoor and owners of the Doone Valley and Brendon Common. They protect land with ecological and scientific importance, historic buildings, and provide open space for recreation. Much of its land is of national importance designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest or Special Areas of Conservation.

The path passes the site of a sawmill powered by the river Avill (or a steam engine in dry summers), which processed larch and oak for gates and railway wagons. The course of the water channels (or 'leats') can still be seen - the path from the bridge runs along the bank of one. Local families once picked and sold snowdrops however this is now illegal.

As one of the United Kingdom's 15 National Parks **Exmoor National Park Authority** enhances the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of Exmoor and promotes understanding of its special qualities. Dulverton National Park Centre **01398 323841** www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk

Supported by Exmoor National Park Authority's Sustainable Development fund, provided by Defra



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Snowdrop Valley Park and Ride 2012
Wheddon Cross
Saturday 4th - Sunday 26th Feb

Buses
Depart Rest and Be Thankful car park regularly 10:30am - 4pm
Last bus back from valley 4:35pm

Fares (part or whole trip)
Adult £4 Senior Citizen £3
Children 5 – 15 £2 Under 5s free Dogs carried at drivers discretion

Parking
Short stay at Rest and Be Thankful Inn car park
Long stay at cattle market except on market days

Walking
See map and follow the marked route from the long stay car park.
Allow at least 1 ½ hours for return trip.
Wear appropriate winter walking clothing & footwear.
The walking route is open from 4th February through to the 4th March.

Groups, Disabled Organisations & Further Information
07531 680445 www.wheddoncross.org.uk snowdropvalley@googlemail.com

Bus route closed to all motor traffic except residents and disabled drivers who must obtain a permit before entering the valley. Vehicles breaking legal road closure may be reported to police. The road closure will remain in place until 4th March to allow walkers a further week to enjoy the snowdrops. Full information is provided in the Snowdrop Trailer at the Rest and Be Thankful Inn Car Park

Wheddon Cross, the highest village on Exmoor, grew when the Minehead to Bampton turnpike was built in the 1820s. Together with Cutcombe, it is home to a church; primary school; village hall; public house; petrol station; shop and accommodation. See website for Snowdrop Cafe opening in the Moorland Hall.

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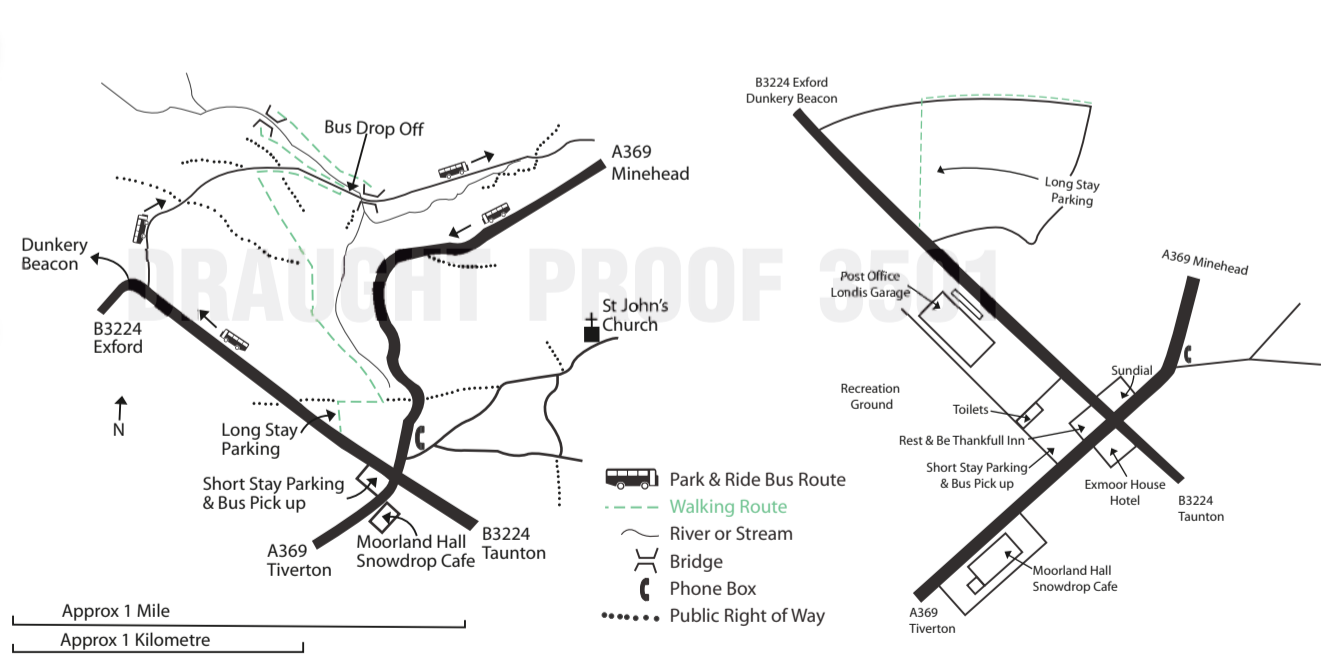
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