

BRADENHAM'S FOOTPATH SCHEME

You will be pleased to hear that Bradenham Hall Farms and Bradenham Parish Council have agreed to extend their footpath agreement for another five years from the 1st November 2023 to the 31st October 2028.

This scheme is a network of permissive footpaths only; there is no access for bicycles, horse riding, motor bikes or vehicles of any type. **Horses, motor bikes and vehicles have not been a problem, so far, but bicycles have. Walkers have commented on being almost forced off tracks by them, so cyclists please remember that you are NOT permitted on these routes.**

Details of the scheme can be found on the map boards that are at most entrances to the scheme and will be occasionally published in the Mardle. Additional maps and details of the scheme can be obtained from Bradenham Hall Farms or found on the Bradenham Parish Council website, www.bradenhamparish.co.uk. Much of the information below is on the map boards (copy over the page), but I thought it might be useful to elaborate on it further –

- All of the access is on private land, please respect it as such.
- If walking past houses in the Village, please respect the occupiers, and keep your dogs on a lead whilst passing them and keep your dogs out of their gardens.
- Please respect the Countryside Code, and especially do not let your dog chase wildlife.
- Please pick up all your litter, and if you are able to, that of others too lazy to do so for themselves and take it home with you.
- We ask that you keep your dogs on a lead, and ensure that they do not chase wildlife, or cause a nuisance to other people.
- Please either flip any dog mess into the base of the adjacent hedge or ditch or take it home with you. Please do not leave it on the paths for walkers to step in.
- Please keep to the farm roads and mown field margins, as shown on the map boards. There are other field margins that are mown, not only here but also around the farm, that are not open for footpath access. Please stay off these, and only use those shown on the maps.
- Field margins that are not mown, or the unmown parts of margins that have permissive access, have been included in our new Mid-Tier Stewardship Scheme, and access on these is strictly forbidden.
- There is no parking in the area covered by these paths. Local residents may park on the right off Hale Road, by the entrance to the Football Pitch, under the trees overhang, but do not park in the Football Club car park or obstruct the access to the Bowls Club and Football Pitch.
- Please be aware that Bradenham Hall Farms is a working farm, and pesticides are used in all our fields. It is highly advisable that you remain on the access routes at all times, and keep your dog, and yourself, out of fields that may have been sprayed. You will not be informed if fields are about to be sprayed or have been sprayed.
- Please be aware of farm machinery, tractors and vehicles that may be moving about on any of the access routes.

These footpaths are all permissive footpaths and will not create any new public rights of way. The new agreement with the Parish Council lasts for five years from the 1st November 2023 until the 31st October 2028, at which point it may hopefully be renewed for a further five years.

The Wanderers Woodland, which surrounds the football pitch to south and west, was planted in 1994, by Bradenham Hall Farms, grant aided by the Forestry Commission, and is a "Community Woodland". Access through it is as a footpath only, but please wander amongst the trees.

The land owned by The Bradenham Charity, halfway down Half-Mile Drift on the west side of the Village, is open access, rather than defined footpaths. The agreement with Natural England and DEFRA under which this is provided runs to the 30th September 2024. There is a map board at the entrance to this area. If you are using this area, please be aware of cattle that may be in the fields. The area is open access for the cattle as well, as there are no internal fences or gates. Please make sure that all external gates are closed behind you.

If you have any queries, please contact Chris Allhusen at Bradenham Hall Farms, Tel: 01362 687243, E-mail: chris@bradenhamhall.co.uk, or the Clerk to Bradenham Parish Council, whose contact details are in The Mardle. August 2023.