

Countryside Access Design Standards

Kissing Gates

Kissing gates are less accessible than pedestrian gates but are ideal for replacing existing stiles. They last longer and are less of a maintenance burden. Wooden and galvanised steel versions are available. Wooden gates should not be used for horse paddocks.

Responsibilities

Landowners are legally responsible for the maintenance of, and are liable for, any gates on public rights of way over their land.

To assist the landowner, the law states that the County Council is obliged to provide a grant of a minimum of 25% of the costs of replacing or repairing gates on public rights of way. The County Council does this by providing metal gates at a subsidised rate.

The County Council is willing to increase its contribution towards the cost of a gate where it replaces an existing stile.

Landowners must seek authorisation from the County Council before installing any new gates on public rights of way. The County Council is responsible for waymarking gates.

Kissing gate design

- the minimum internal manoeuvring space should be one that allows a one metre diameter cylinder to pass through the gate;
- latches, if fitted, must be easily accessible from both sides of the gate;
- gates should swing freely;
- the gate overlap on the closing posts should be at least 30mm;
- for routes that can be made accessible to people with mobility vehicles a larger compound must be provided and suitable manoeuvring space should be available on either side of the gate;

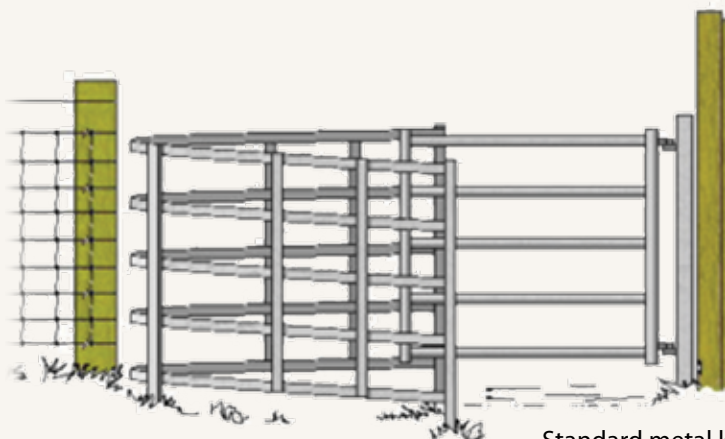
- the ground within the gate and any manoeuvring space should be level or have a gradient of less than 1:10;
- hard surfacing material should be placed on the ground within the gate compound to prevent erosion;
- in order to be stockproof, kissing gates should be fitted with self-closing hinges and should normally close away from the side used predominantly by livestock. Meshed gates and enclosures are also available;
- where manufacturers do not specify, closing posts should be between 500mm and 700mm in the ground, hanging posts should be 1100mm;
- new gates must be set back from vehicular roads at a distance of at least 2000mm;
- barbed wire and electric fencing must not be attached to the gate.

Metal gate components

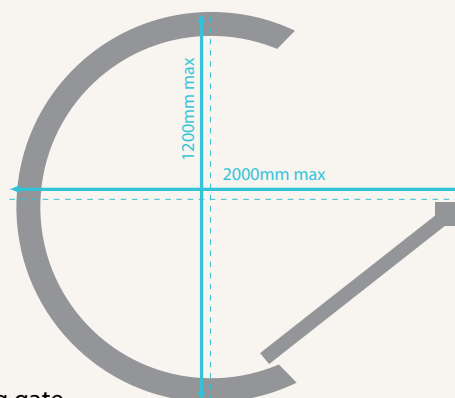
1	60mm (diameter) x 1900mm	Hanging post
1	1000mm x 1200mm	Gate
1	1100mm high (in one or two parts)	Circular compound
Maximum length in fence line 2000mm		

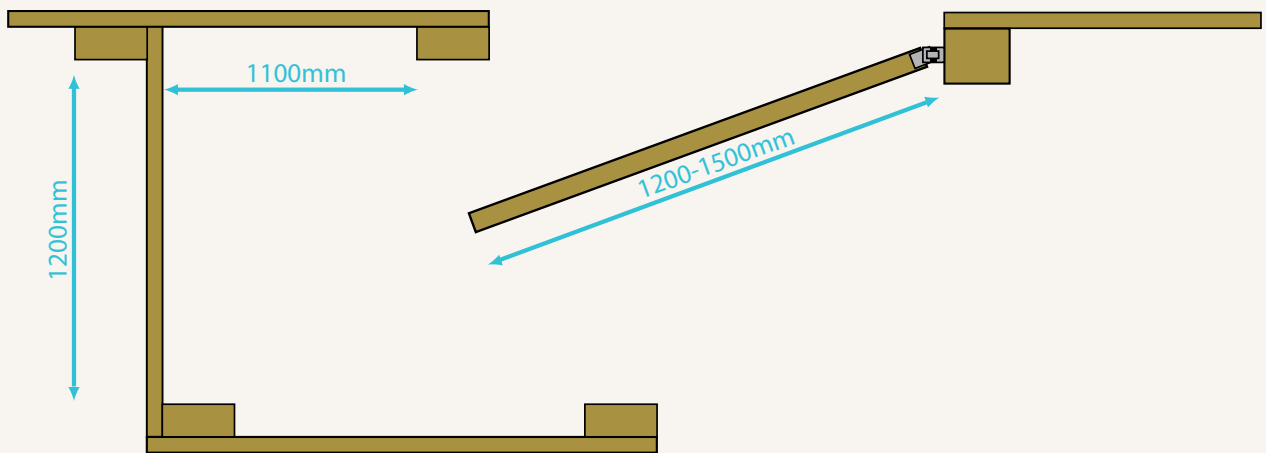
Larger compound metal gate components

1	60mm (diameter) x 1900mm	Hanging post
1	1200mm x 1200mm	Gate
2	1200mm high	Circular compound
Maximum length in fence line 2600mm		



Standard metal kissing gate





Wooden gate components

1	150mm x 150mm x 2400mm	Hanging post
2	125mm x 125mm x 2000mm	Closing posts
2	125mm x 125mm x 2000mm	Back posts } Dimensions can vary
3	65mm x 40mm x 1100mm	Rails
3	65mm x 40mm x 1200mm	Rails
3	65mm x 40mm x 1800mm	Rails
1	1200mm x 1200mm	Gate
2		Hinge sets
1		(latch if required)