

# Countryside Access Design Standards

## Step Design

Where physically possible a ramp should be installed instead of steps when creating a new path. If possible, existing steps should be replaced by a ramp. There are however many locations where there are existing steps or there is not sufficient space to create a ramp with a suitable gradient. This guide is intended to provide a standard for steps on the Public Rights of Way network in Kent that should always be achieved subject to genuine constraints. .

- surface must be hard and bound. If stone is used it should be tampered to create a firm base with no stone > 10mm;
- a standard width of 1200mm should be achieved which can be reduced to 815mm for no longer than 300m of path length if necessary;
- a clear level area 1500mm long by 1200mm wide should be provided at the top and the bottom approaches;
- riser heights should ideally be 165mm or between a minimum of 150mm and a maximum of 225mm;
- tread depths should be a minimum of 300mm and no greater than 1000mm;
- all steps should have the same tread depth and riser height except for resting places;
- treads and risers should not protrude;
- treads should be level or have a gradient no greater than 1:35;
- a handrail at 1200mm from ground level should be provided on all flights. Handrail should be constructed using Kee Klamp/galvanised steel tubing other than areas subjected to planning constraints. If timber is used it should be finished with a smooth planed surface;
- in urban environments a tactile warning should be placed at the top and bottom approach;

