Countryside Access Design Standards
Stiles

No new stiles will be authorised by the County Council. Wherever possible, existing stiles should be replaced with a gap or gate.

Responsibilities

Landowners are legally responsible for the maintenance of, and are liable for, any stiles 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 stiles on public rights of way. The County Council does this by providing stile kits at a subsidised rate.

The County Council will increase its contribution towards the installation of a gate where it replaces an existing stile. The County Council is responsible for waymarking stiles.

Stile design

- the maximum height rise between the ground and the first step, and between steps, is 300mm;

- the maximum height rise between the top step and the top of the top rail is 450mm;

- height of the top rail from the ground must be a minimum of 900mm to a maximum of 1050mm;

- steps must be level, and at least 200mm wide, 900mm long and 50mm thick;

- hand posts must be 500mm to 700mm above the top rail;

- many people find crossed steps easier and more comfortable to negotiate than parallel steps;

- there must be no sharp edges on steps, fence rails and uprights;

- on stiles that cross wire fences, the top wire must be enclosed in cross rails to ensure that it does not pose a hazard to users;

- posts must be between 500mm and 700mm in the ground dependent on soil type;

- stiles should be set back from vehicular roads at a distance of at least 2000mm;

- barbed wire and electric fencing must not be attached to the stile;

- the size of gap in a dog gate should be a minimum of 375mm high and 300mm wide.

Components

1	100mm x 100mm x 2000mm	Upright
1	100mm x 100mm x 1500mm	Upright
3	75mm x 50mm x 1000mm	Rails *(Can vary from 800mm-1200mm)*
2	200mm x 50mm x 900mm	Cross steps
2	150mm x 150mm x 800mm	Step supports
2	150mm x 150mm x 1100mm	Step supports

Dog gate