

Countryside Access Design Standards

Pedestrian Gates

Pedestrian gates provide good access, are less expensive than kissing gates, and can be designed to be self-closing. Pedestrian gates should only be installed on public footpaths.

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.

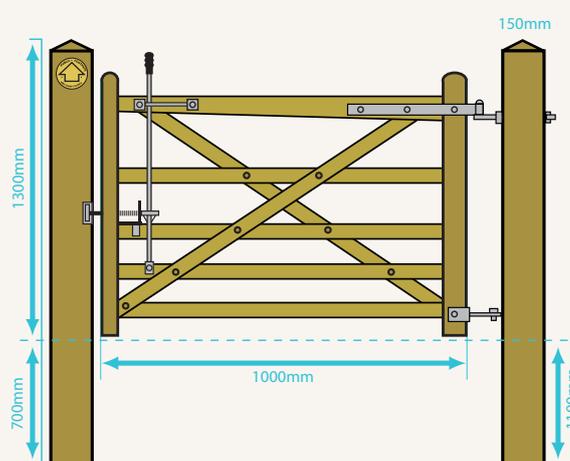
Landowners must seek authorisation from the County Council before installing any new gates on public rights of way. The County Council is responsible for waymarking gates.

Gate design

- the minimum clear width of a pedestrian gate is 1000mm;
- latches, if fitted, should be visible, accessible and simple to operate from both sides of the gate;
- self-closing pedestrian gates should be two-way opening, except where adjoining a road where a one-way gate may be more appropriate;
- gates should swing freely;
- a manoeuvring space should be provided on either side of the gate;
- to avoid risk of finger injury on a two-way gate, the space between the gate and the closing post should be at least 30mm;
- the gate overlap onto the closing post on a one-way gate should be at least 30mm;
- posts should be compliant with the manufacturer's instructions. The hanging post should be a minimum 1100mm in the ground;
- counterweights can only be used if supplied by the gate manufacturer;
- 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.

Components for timber gates. (Metal gates come as a complete unit)

1	150mm x 150mm x 2400mm	Hanging post
1	150mm x 150mm x 2000mm	Closing post
1	1000mm	Gate
2		Hinge sets
1		Easy Latch kit



Latches

Latches must have an extended handle and be operable with one hand. The Easy Latch (produced by Centrewire) or an equivalent handle, is the County Council's preferred design as they are much easier for walkers and wheel chair users to operate than standard gate fastenings.



Easy Latch