

Countryside Access Design Standards

Bridle Gates

The ease of negotiating bridle gates is extremely important for horse riders and cyclists. As on all paths, the priority should be adopting the least restrictive option, with bridle gates installed only where a gap in a boundary is inappropriate.

Responsibilities

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

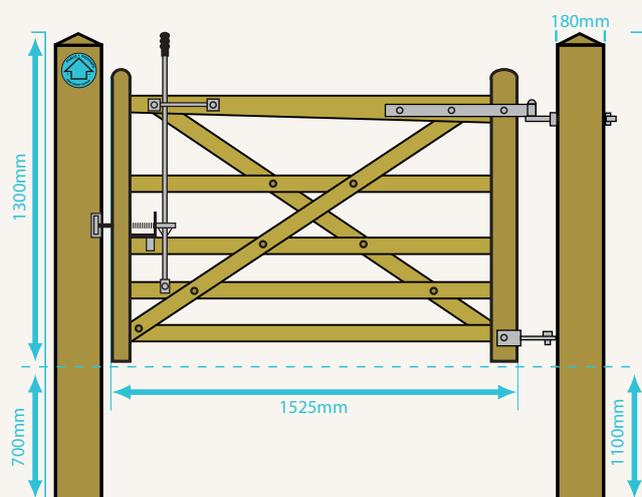
To assist the landowner, the law states that the County Council is obliged to provide a grant of a minimum of 25% of the costs of replacing or repairing gates on public rights of way. The County Council does this by providing metal gates at a subsidised rate.

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 bridle gate is 1525mm;
- latches, if fitted, should be visible, accessible and simple to operate from both sides of the gate and free from exposed edges/projections;
- an extended handle must be provided for opening on horseback;

- self-closing bridle 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 providing easy access to the gate latch. Where manoeuvring room is only available at one end of the gate, the gate should be hung so that the latch is at that end that is freely accessible;
- 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 is at least 30mm;
- where physically possible gates should be installed a minimum of 1000mm (ideally 2000mm) from any adjoining hedge or fence;
- posts must be compliant with manufacturer's instructions, the hanging post must 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 4000mm;
- barbed wire and electric fencing must not be attached to the gate.



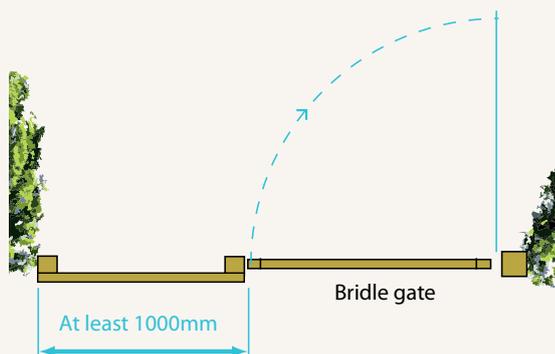
Latches

Latches must have an extended handle and be operable with one hand. Riders must be able to reach gate fastenings from the saddle without dismounting. The Easy Latch (produced by Centrewire) or an equivalent, is the County Council's preferred design as it is much easier for walkers, cyclists, horse riders and wheel chair users to operate than standard gate fastenings.



Location guidance

Good manoeuvring space is essential for horse riders and cyclists. There should be a minimum space of 1000mm (ideally 2000mm) between the gate and any adjacent boundary. For safety reasons, if the structure is at the edge of a road there should be a minimum of 4000mm from the structure to the road.



Components

1	180mm x 180mm x 2400mm	Hanging post
1	150mm x 150mm x 2000mm	Closing post
1	1525mm	Gate
2		Hinge sets
1		Easy Latch kit