

Countryside Access Design Standards

Gaps

Where public paths cross any form of boundary, the provision of a natural gap should always be considered before installing a gate or replacing a stile. Gaps are accessible for all people and offer landowners the lowest maintenance burden. The installation of a structured gap may be beneficial with assisting the public in following the line of a path.

Where a formally constructed gap is considered necessary, a staggered gap may be beneficial to prevent unlawful or antisocial behaviour such as flytipping.

Responsibilities

Landowners are legally responsible for cutting back overhanging vegetation on public rights of way to the minimum widths shown below.

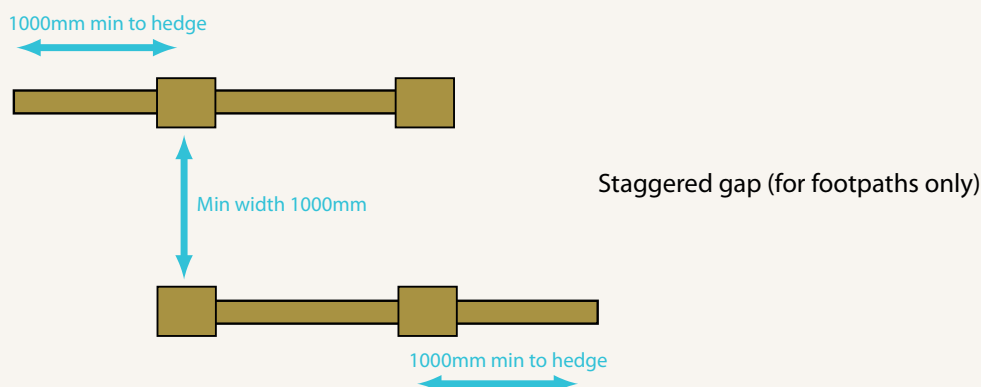
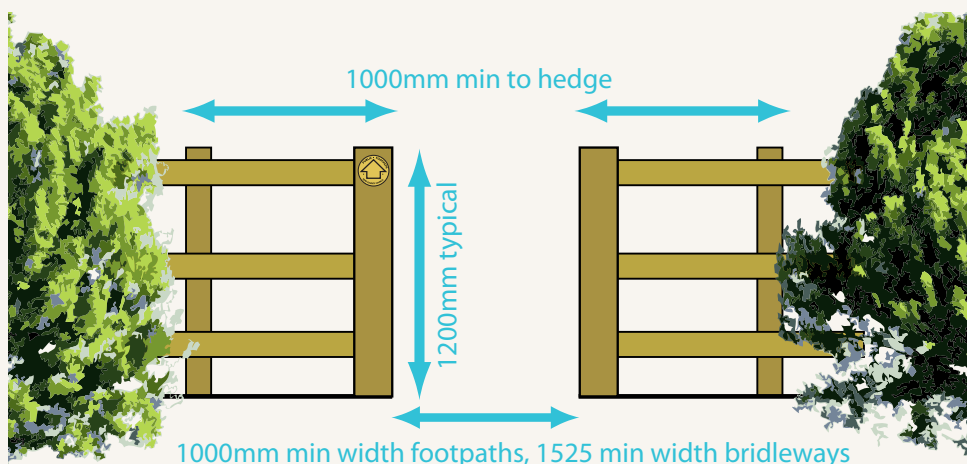
The County Council is responsible for the construction of staggered gaps to prevent unlawful or antisocial behaviour such as flytipping.

Gap design

- on footpaths, the minimum width of the gap is 1000mm;
- on bridleways, the minimum width of the gap is 1525mm;
- in some areas a staggered gap can be used, the minimum widths still apply;
- on a formally constructed gap there should be a minimum width of 1000mm between the gap and any adjacent hedge, this is to reduce the landowners maintenance responsibility of cutting back vegetation;
- structures 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 structure.

Components

Min 2	150mm x 150mm x 1700mm	Posts
	75mm x 50mm	Rails



Kent Carriage Gap (For Restricted Byways)

The Kent Carriage Gap is a series of bollards designed to prevent illegal vehicular use of a public right of way, whilst retaining access for horse drawn carriages.

The County Council is responsible for the construction of Kent Carriage gaps to prevent unlawful or antisocial behaviour such as flytipping.

Kent Carriage Gap design

