

Countryside Access Design Standards

Bridges

The bridges mentioned below are for footpaths only. Where a bridge is needed on routes used by cycles, equestrians or vehicles, the County Council should be contacted for advice. Bridges need to come in all sorts of different sizes. Below are recommendations for the two most common designs.

Standard kit bridges are used to cross widths of between 3000mm to 12000mm with a drop of no more than 3000mm.

Sleeper bridges are for distance of 3000mm or shorter with a drop of no more than 1000mm.

Responsibilities

The responsibility for bridges varies from structure to structure dependent upon when and why they were originally provided. Information about the responsibility for a specific structure should be sought from the Countryside Access Service (Contact details below).

Sleeper bridge design

- the maximum length for a sleeper bridge is 3000mm;
- bridges must be a minimum width of three sleepers, laid side-by-side held together securely with metal clips;
- bridges must be level;
- bridges of 3000mm long should have a minimum of one handrail;
- sleeper bridges should have a drop of no more than 1000mm to the river bed. Where the drop is greater than 1000mm a standard bridge should be considered;
- weldmesh NOT chicken wire must be used to increase grip;
- where the watercourse is likely to flood, the bridge must be properly anchored.

Standard bridge design

- the minimum width of a bridge is 900mm;
- all bridges of 3000mm or over in length must have 2 handrails;
- bridges must be level;
- if stock prevention is needed a self closing pedestrian gate may be attached as required;
- access to a bridge should be 'at level' or ramped with a maximum gradient of 1 in 10. If steps are used, the maximum step height is 300mm;
- decking boards should be no more than 10mm apart;
- where the watercourse is likely to flood, the bridge must be properly anchored;
- full specifications, design options and supplier details are available upon request.

Components list (sleeper bridge)

3	125mm x 225mm x 2600mm	Sleepers (Measurements vary)
		Metal dog clips
		Weldmesh
		Anchoring - as required
		Handrail
2	100mm x 100mm x 1500mm	Posts
1	50mm x 100mm x length	Rail

