

Countryside Access Design Standards

Signposts and Waymarks

Signposts and waymarks indicate the existence of public rights of way (PRoW) and other public paths. With clear waymarking path users are reassured that they are going in the correct direction. This is particularly important for encouraging inexperienced walkers, cyclists or riders into the countryside. Many people will also set out on a walk without a map, reliant on waymarking alone. A variety of methods and types of waymarking can be confusing to the public and a clear and consistent approach is necessary.

There are two main types of signs; signposts and waymarks.

Signposts

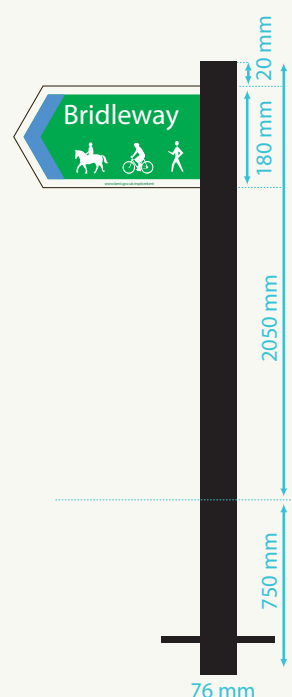
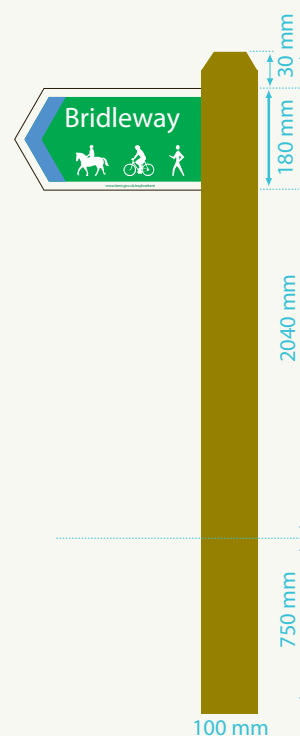
Responsibilities

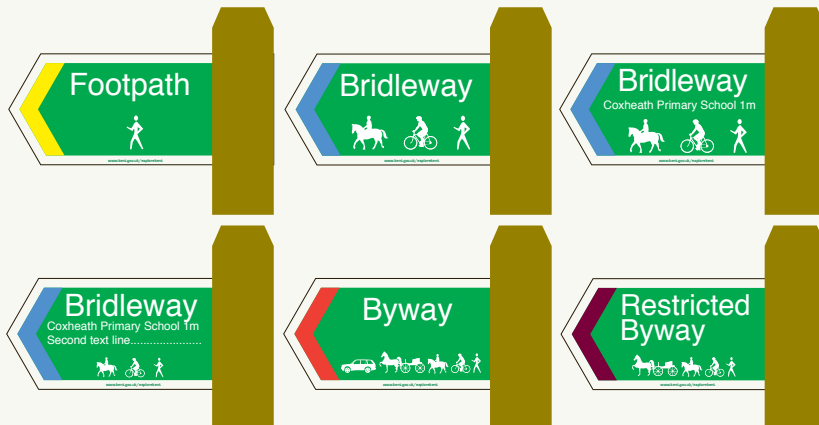
The County Council has a duty under Section 27 of the Countryside Act 1968, to signpost all footpaths, bridleways, restricted byways and byways where they leave a metalled road.

Signpost Design and Installation

- In October 2008 a new design of signpost was adopted that includes pictorial representation of the rights attached to routes, and the corresponding coloured arrow. (as shown below);
- Signposts should normally only be used at the point where a path meets a metalled road;
- The finger can be attached to a wooden or metal post, whichever is most appropriate to the location;
- Multiple signpost fingers should be fixed to a metal post only;
- Fingers should point accurately in the direction of the path;
- Fingers should be visible from the metalled road and clear of vegetation;
- Signposts should be sited so as not to obstruct the metalled road or PRoW, access to services or interfere with maintenance of hedges or the highway verge.

Wooden posts should be FSC timber	Metal posts should be steel with black PVC coating
Post dimensions should be 3000mm x 100mm x 100mm	Posts dimensions should be 3000mm x 76mm
Posts should have a 4 way weathered top	Posts should have a cap
Posts should be anchored in using 6" nails or dowel	Posts should be secured with a base plate which is concreted into the ground
Fingers should be positioned 120mm from the top and morticed into the post	Fingers should be positioned 60mm from the top

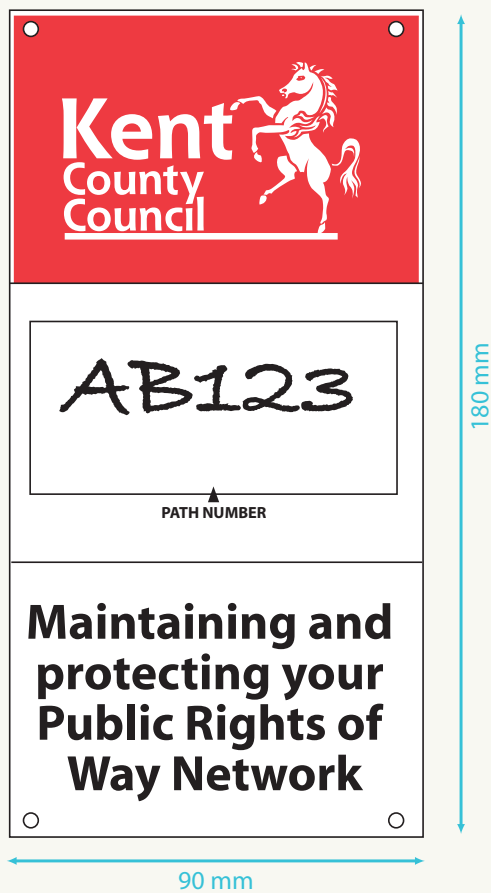




A finger showing the correct status of the path should be used. The finger can also detail any destination information and/or the name of the promoted route.

Path End Plates Design

Path end plates are to be positioned on the signpost where a path leaves a metalled road. The plates specify the unique path number to assist with their identification. Each path should have a corresponding plate which should be situated on the post at eye level so it can easily be read with the path in view.



Waymarks

Responsibilities

The County Council has a power to erect and maintain signs along any Footpath, Bridleway, Restricted Byway or Byway where it is considered necessary to have a signpost or waymark to assist persons unfamiliar with the locality.

Waymark Design and Installation

- Landowners or occupiers should be consulted about any new waymarking;
- Waymarks must not be attached to private property such as fences and walls without consent;
- Old waymarks should be fully removed before new discs are attached;
- Waymarks are 75mm diameter circular discs, with either one-way or two-way directional arrows as below;
- Waymarks can be positioned as follows:-



Straight ahead



Two-way

The single arrow disc can be rotated to show the exact direction of the path.

This disc can be used to indicate cross over of two paths.

- Waymarks should be located away from any encroaching vegetation;
- Waymarks must not be attached to trees;
- Waymarking posts should be 2100mm high with 1400mm above ground and waymarks placed centrally at around 50mm from the top of the post;
- Waymarks should be routed on all new posts and on furniture where appropriate;
- The number of waymarks should be kept to the minimum necessary to make the route clear.

Wooden posts should be FSC timber
 Post dimensions are 2100mm x 100mm x 100mm
 Posts should have a 4 way weathered top
 Waymark posts should be anchored using 6 inch nails
 Waymark discs should be routed on new posts

The correct signposting and waymarking colours are



FOOTPATH
 Yellow BS 08 E 51



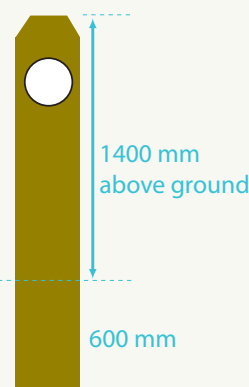
BRIDLEWAY
 Blue BS 20 E 51



BYWAYS OPEN TO ALL TRAFFIC
 Red BS 06 E 55 (approx)



RESTRICTED BYWAYS
 Plum BS 02 C 39



Promoted Routes

Promoted routes should be signposted and waymarked in line with these design standards. These additional points must also be followed:-

Signposts

- All fingers on promoted routes should be of the latest design specifications when installed from new or replaced;
- Existing posts shall be replaced according to their condition;
- If the post is of good condition then just the finger should be replaced.

Waymarks

- Statutory waymarks must be used on all promoted routes;
- All waymarks that do not adhere to these standards should be removed and replaced;
- Relevant stickers must be placed in the centre of the arrow on the waymark disc to indicate what named path is being followed;



Sticker for a promoted route



Sticker for a double route



Sticker for Explore Kent promoted routes

Permissive Paths

A Permissive Path is a path which the landowner allows the public to use, with the intention it should not become a public right of way. Permissive routes should be signposted and waymarked as prescribed by the Permissive Path Agreement. Waymarks must use the same colours as that for public rights of way. They must include the words "Permissive Path" and a statement saying "permission may be withdrawn at any time".

All other signpost and waymark standards are applicable. Signposts and waymarks on Permissive Paths will only be erected by Kent County Council where a clear Permissive Path Agreement is in place.

Open Access Signage

Responsibilities

Under Section 19 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 the County Council as an Access Authority has powers to erect and maintain:

- a. notices indicating the boundaries of access land and excepted land, and
- b. notices informing the public of the effects of any restrictions or indeed anything which the Access Authority consider appropriate.

Before erecting a notice or sign on any open access land the County Council shall, if reasonably practicable, consult the owner or occupier of the land.

Open Access signs design

- There are two specified signs for open access land which should be located at entry/exit points;



Access Land



Access Land Ends

- The Access Land symbols should be located at entry points where area wide access is provided. Discs should be attached to existing furniture or new waymark posts;
- The Access Land Ends symbol should only be used where there is a real need to clarify that access land ends, such as an unsecured boundary.

Further technical advice is available from the Countryside Access Service. Email: pro@kent.gov.uk Call: 08458 247 247 Write to: Kent County Council, Countryside Access Service, 2nd Floor Invicta House, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX