

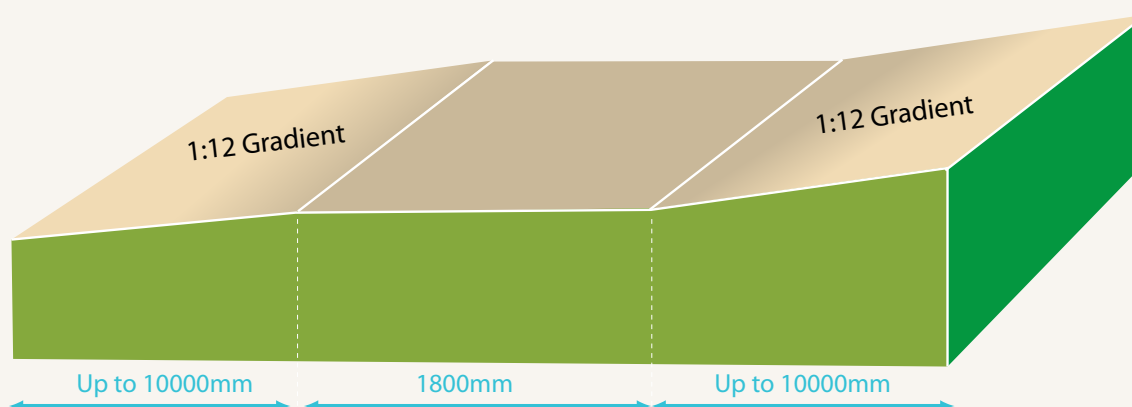
Countryside Access Design Standards

Ramp Design

Where physically possible a ramp should be installed instead of steps when creating a new path. If possible, existing steps should be replaced with a ramp. There may be situations where it is not physically possible to achieve the required gradient. However, ramps should always be considered before installing steps.

Ramp design

- the recommended maximum ramp gradient is 1:20, although steeper gradients of up to 1:10 may be acceptable over short distances;
- the recommended minimum width of a ramp to accommodate all types and abilities of user is 1200mm. If heavy use by wheelchairs is envisaged, passing places should be constructed or the ramp width increased to 1700mm;
- flat landings provide convenient resting places for users, in particular, disabled, elderly, and people with pushchairs. For a 1:12 gradient or greater there should be a landing point every 10000mm. For gradients of 1:20 – 1:13, there should be a landing point every 15000mm;
- the provision of a handrail of between 900mm – 1000mm high on the down slope edge of a path will improve ease of use, especially for disabled people. Where this is not possible, a 100mm kerb can be installed, allowing a 1000mm strip of land between the kerb and the top of the slope;
- bends should be of a sufficient radius to provide an adequate turning space for wheelchair users, this varies from 1500mm for manual wheelchairs to 5000mm for larger motorised versions;
- the ramp surface should be firm and even, stable, non-slip and should have no loose particles in excess of 5mm in size. In the countryside, well compacted crushed rock or stone sub-base with a high proportion of fines is the most suitable material.



Further technical advice is available from the Countryside Access Service. **Email:** prow@kent.gov.uk **Call:** 08458 247 247
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