



APPLICATION FOR AUTHORISATION TO INSTALL A STRUCTURE ON A FOOTPATH OR BRIDLEWAY

Highways Act 1980 – Section 147

BS 5709 2006

Design of Structures

1. Preference Hierarchy

In considering whether or not a structure may be authorised, the Council gives preference to structures which minimise the 'obstruction' of the path, as follows

i. Simple gates

- These are the only authorisable structure on a bridleway, where a minimum 1.53 metres must be provided between the 2 gate posts.
- On a footpath a width of as little as 1.0 metre may suffice depending on location
- Gates may be timber or steel. Steel gates are generally more robust and require little maintenance, but may not be aesthetically appropriate in some locations.
- Gates may be fitted with self-closing mechanisms to ensure that they are not left open, and modern mechanisms give better performance than those that have been available in the past.
- Attention needs to be given to the design of any catches to ensure that they are easily usable from both sides of the gate, and by all users.
- Particular care needs to be taken to the design of catches on bridlegates, and any self-closing action must be 'gentle' so as not to result in the flanks of horses becoming pinched by a fast-closing gate.

ii. Kissing Gates

- These may be allowable on a footpath where it can be shown that a swing gate would not be appropriate.
- Gates must generally allow for use by all wheelchair users, although smaller gates may incorporate a 'RADAR' key bypass for those with larger wheelchairs.
- Gates may be fitted with self-closing mechanisms to ensure that they always shut to one side, as well as a latch to improve stock-proofing.
- Attention needs to be given to the design of any catches to ensure that they are easily usable from both sides of the gate, and by all users.
- Gates may be timber or steel. Steel gates are generally more robust and require little maintenance, but may not be aesthetically appropriate in some locations.

iii. Stiles

- These are no longer authorised by the Council due to the need to improve the accessibility of the public rights of way network. Any new stile structure installed will be considered an obstruction to the highway and appropriate legal action will be taken.

2. **Other design considerations**

- The surface of any gateway (and its immediate approaches) will generally require improvement to prevent it becoming muddy through 'concentrated' use. These improvements should be specified in the application, or otherwise will be attached as Conditions to any authorisation of the gate.
- On a bridleway, there should be no fencing at right angles to the gate, that will prevent horses manoeuvring alongside the catch.
- No barbed wire should be attached to or within 1.0 metre of the structure. Adjoining fencing must be independent of the structure of the gate.

3. **Suppliers**

Off the shelf gates are available from many suppliers, and there are many different designs available. The County Council is aware of the following suppliers:

Centrewire Ltd Brookhouse Industrial Estate, Cheadle, Stone-on-Trent
Staffordshire ST10 1SR
Telephone: 01538 756554
Web site: www.centrewire.com

Mc Veigh Parker Little Hadham Road, Much Hadham, Ware SG10 6HL
Telephone: 01279 842842
Web site: www.mcveighparker.co.uk

Please state to suppliers when ordering, that structures must conform to **BS 5709 2006** (Gaps, Gates and Stiles).