Least Restrictive Access Guidelines





Improving access for disabled people on all countryside paths and trails



A Good Practice Guide to Disabled People's Access to the Countryside

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Contents of Good Practice Guide

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Introduction

The two most useful tools you can use when improving countryside access for disabled people on countryside paths are the BT Countryside for All Standards and the concept of least restrictive access. The standards help you see the levels of accessibility that are acceptable for most disabled people. You can use the least restrictive access approach in all your countryside access work so that where levels of access are not as good as the standard, they are as good as they can be for as many disabled people as possible.

Most disabled people accept that not all areas of the countryside can be made fully accessible. On the other hand they have a reasonable expectation that 'man-made' features in the countryside (such as gates, paths and seats) have taken into account their needs. The natural character and topography of the countryside exists without reference to the needs of visitors. Hills may be steep or shallow, ground conditions may be firm and easy to traverse or rugged and crossed only with difficulty. Paths, gates and other 'man-made' features have been put there by someone.

In carrying out access work countryside managers make decisions as to how what they provide can be used by different visitors. The standards and the least restrictive access process are tools to help them make choices that provide better accessibility for all. To develop and manage paths and other features which are <u>not</u> as accessible as they could be is to discriminate against disabled people. Figure 1 illustrates a viable process that will guide you in providing greater accessibility to countryside paths. Each stage in the process is discussed more fully later in these guidelines.

Achieving the least restrictive access results from the effective balancing of three factors:

- who will be restricted:- which people with and without disabilities are unable or restricted in using the path; (See Appendix 1 - The Access Needs of Disabled People in the countryside)
- how will they be restricted:- the degree to which people with and without disabilities may not be able to use the path at all or only with unreasonable effort, discomfort or inconvenience; (See Appendix 2 -Access Restrictions and Appendix 3 - Gaps, Gates and Stiles and their Use by Disabled People)
- remedial cost:- the costs both economic and environmental of getting rid of features of the path that restrict any users with or without disabilities.



Figure 1 - Achieving the Least Restrictive Access



The following sections take you through each step of the process shown in Figure 1 by which you can achieve the least restrictive access.

Access Audit

You need to know how accessible your paths are before you make any changes to them. You should carry out a simple survey or audit to measure the things that count with respect to disabled people's ability to use your paths. Through a survey or audit you will find out which paths meet the BT Countryside for All standard. It can also help you to plan a programme of work so that path improvements can achieve the least restrictive access. Surveys and audits differ in the level of detail in the information collected. (see Accessibility Surveys and Audit Audits Guidelines)

A whole section of this good practice guide has been devoted to guidelines on accessibility surveys and access audits because they are fundamental to a sound approach to access for disabled people. You need to have an understanding of the factors that are likely to influence how easily disabled people can use your countryside paths, <u>and</u> you need to know when there are problems on your paths how these factors will affect disabled people's ability to use them.

User Demand

It is important to consider who uses your paths. To be cost effective any expenditure of time, effort or money on a path must take into account who uses it, how many people use it and for what purpose.

Undertaking access improvement work on a countryside path specifically to improve accessibility for disabled people will often be a reasonable course of action to take. At other times you may wish to upgrade the service offered by a path to the general public, or you may need to control environmental damage on a particular route. In each case the demand from users should influence the planning, design and construction of path improvements. There is more than one aspect to user demand:

- Manifest demand is the actual use of the path now. You need to have some estimate of the number of people actually using the path at present and their reasons for choosing the route. Such factors are obviously going to be relevant to planning for use in the future. People using a path now are a good source of information about existing problems and difficulties and the sort of improvements that might be appropriate.
- Latent demand relates to those people who would like to use the path but do not currently do so. Latent demand may be quite high among disabled people if there are physical restrictions along a path that prevent them from using it now.
- Potential demand is the additional use that could materialise if improvements make it a more attractive option for a wider range of people.

You are not likely to find many disabled people using a path which at present has poor accessibility. If you just consider manifest demand you may find existing users do not feel there is too much wrong. However, there may be people in the catchment of the path who are not using it because they find it too difficult. You could consider whether there are any residential of day centres for elderly or disabled people in the area and find out if the path could have higher value to them if it were to be improved.

Who and how many people are restricted

At this point you need to refer to Appendices 1, 2 and 3 which will help you see how disabled people may be affected by the twelve criteria in the BT Countryside for All standards. The appendices will guide you in estimating how many people will be restricted by the factors you identified in your access audit. You will also gain an idea of the degree to which various limitations will apply to different people and their ability to use the path.

Be wary of making general assumptions about accessibility. If allowed to go at their own pace someone with limited mobility or impaired balance may cope with rough terrain though they may find a stile an absolute barrier. Even along quite difficult routes some improvements could make things a lot better for some people even if other minor problems remain.

Similarly you may not feel improvements are worth making because of the general condition of a route and the fact that you cannot afford to do it all or bring it all up to standard. Only after you have looked at who and how many disabled people will be restricted by the various problems along the path will you be able to evaluate the benefits that can be gained by a range of accessibility improvements. This evaluation allows you to balance costs and benefits. Remember that benefits are not only based on the numbers of users but on the quality of experiences that they can derive from using the route.



Environmental Constraints

The environmental quality or landscape value area should <u>not</u> be considered as a factor that will limit the scope for accessibility improvements to a path. The opposite should be the case on the basis that the better or more attractive a landscape is, the more disabled people should have the right to enjoy it along with everyone else.



If you work on the basis that accessible paths are intrusive in high quality landscapes you will tend to provide good access for disabled people only in poorer quality environments. That is discrimination. (see Guidelines on the Implications of the DDA for Countryside Managers)

You will also discriminate against disabled people if your access work is to a poor level of accessibility to deliberately restrict the numbers or type of users on a path. If poor access conditions are used to control visitor numbers the effect will be more marked on disabled people than other visitors and this is again discriminatory. If visitor numbers need to be controlled other access management methods that are equitable in their impact should be used.

The development or improvement of accessibility along countryside paths may conflict with environmental concerns in relation to conservation, land use or aesthetics. Most access managers will have to make judgements when such conflicts arise. Having a policy context is important so that such judgements take account of the different issues impacting on the situation.

For instance, in an area where stone walls form the majority of field boundaries, traditional stiles may be historically important in the landscape. Gates are typically reasonable replacements or adjuncts to stiles as a way of improving access for disabled people. Over a whole network of paths there might be several dozen stiles. Because of their historical importance it may not be reasonable for all the stiles to be replaced by gates with the consequent loss to the local heritage. At the same time it is unlikely to be acceptable to refuse to replace any stiles as this may be the only way of providing reasonable access for disabled people. Policies that take account of both the historic value of the stiles and the legitimate needs and rights of disabled visitors will help you to deal with each situation as it arises. You could consider prioritising stiles that can be replaced or those that must be retained according to their historical significance and the extent to which they block the development of an accessible network. Such a policy will allow you to tell visitors who cannot gain access why the position is as it is.

Conservation

If you have any concerns that access for disabled people will conflict with conservation interests you might be better considering if access for the public in general conflicts with conservation. The aim is to manage all access equitably including access to conservation areas. Disabled people do not want access at the expense of conservation any more than does any one else. After all disabled people enjoy and benefit from our high value environments as much as everyone else. Such issues as disturbance to wildlife or physical change to the environment are not specifically related to access for disabled people. That is not to say occasional conflicts will not need to be addressed. For instance, where path widening will encroach onto a special habitat or where the materials necessary to achieve an accessible path would adversely effect the local ecology. As mentioned above you should have a policies which anticipate conflicts and provide the means of resolving them as each case arises.

Good countryside access management benefits both accessibility and conservation in many situations:

- All visitors tend to follow the better paths. They are easy to follow and people use them more often, so that where you have made access improvements public pressure can be channelled along the managed, maintained routes.
- The easiest route is often the one most people will follow. Where you want to direct visitors away from sensitive areas a path with good accessibility restrictive access can have a useful management role.
- Accessibility improvements often have a positive environmental impact. Constructing paths over difficult ground to reduce erosion or disturbance may often and coincidentally improve accessibility for some disabled people.

For example, the proliferation of braided paths where people have worn through the thin turf can be a problem in sand dune areas. Board walks are a means of protecting the environment and, if



appropriately designed, can provide better access for disabled people who would never otherwise have reached that environment.

Poor paths may be uncomfortable for all users not just disabled people. For example, a poorly drained section of a track around an upland lake was filled with large 'ankle-cracking' stones . Many visitors walked around this repair in the same way as they had walked around the wet area. A better solution for everyone would have been to repair the area to a more accessible surface. This would have prevented the additional erosion created by visitors and been more accessible for disabled people.

Aesthetics

The appearance of an area matters to countryside visitors. The attractiveness of an area is often the most important reason people seek access to it. However, because an area is of high landscape value that does not mean levels of accessibility within it should be lowered. Disabled people want and have the right to enjoy the best landscapes alongside



everyone else. Subjective judgements about the attractiveness of an area and the level of intrusion that good accessibility will create should be avoided. At the same time everyone, including disabled people would want to avoid disturbing the fundamental nature of an area through inappropriate interventions. If access is to be provided in an area then that access should be equitable.

These guidelines only apply the accessibility standards and the least restrictive access approach where interventions such as construction, repair or maintenance work are to made. Here you must deal with the way the works will fit into the landscape. There will rarely be much difference between an accessible path and an inaccessible one in terms of their landscape impact. In assessing the impact of path improvement proposals consider the following:

- The use of intrusive materials (e.g. tarmac or concrete) may be inappropriate but more sympathetic materials may well be available to help you achieve desirable accessibility performance specifications.
- Creative design should always be used to minimise the impact of construction in 'natural' landscapes. Find out about good practice in other areas. Make demands of and challenge landscape architects, engineers and designers to find solutions which fit into the landscape without sacrificing accessibility.
- In assessing if an accessible path is appropriate because of how it looks in the landscape, decisions should not be made by comparison to the raw, 'natural' appearance of the area. This is because you are usually going to be considering an accessible path where there is already an existing route or where you have already accepted the development of a route for general visitors. The comparison in terms of intrusion should be between an accessible route and an inaccessible route. This difference is likely to be small if good design practices are followed.

Land Use

You should again take care not to confuse the general conflicts between land use (e.g. farming or forestry) and access with issues concerning access for disabled people. For instance, many land owners are rightly concerned about the liabilities they may face as a result of public access to their land. There should be no additional liabilities arising because disabled people have access. Similarly there should be no additional loss of utility or limitation to land use activities arising from disabled people sharing access with other members of the public. Disabled people are as responsible for themselves as any other visitors to the countryside and must accept the same terms of access.



Nuisance factors can arise for land owners as a result of public access. Disabled people are certainly no more likely to cause problems than anyone else. However, there are occasionally times where improved accessibility can allow other people to create a nuisance, for instance, where gates are left open and stock wander or where illicit use of motor bikes is possible through accessible areas. You should not blame disabled people for this situation and these sorts of problem should not be an excuse to limit accessibility. Where a restricted gate is the only solution to ensure stock proofing or to keep out motor bikes you should be able to justify the restriction that will result for disabled people.

Where land use activities cause temporary disruption to access routes you may have the opportunity to make improvements to accessibility on reinstatement. For instance, where a forest track is to be renovated following logging operations, it may be possible to achieve a higher level of accessibility by focussing on surface condition and gradients without any additional expenditure or effort.

Available Resources

Although anything is possible, if sufficient money is available, realistically you have to relate the level of accessibility you can provide to the availability of your resources.

In the past provision for disabled people was often seen as a resources issue. "Of course we would provide good access we just can't afford it." You should not see the provision of access for disabled people as an additional cost that can be accepted or rejected at will. The Disability Discrimination Act makes this approach inappropriate and potentially illegal. Certainly resources are an issue in so far as countryside access generally needs resources for maintenance as well as improvements. However, it is no longer appropriate to say that you can only provide accessibility if additional resources are available. The DDA requirement is to apply whatever resources are available without discrimination against disabled people. Typically this will mean that across a path network there will be some fully accessible routes, even though you cannot afford to provide accessibility everywhere (See Countryside Path Networks).

To identify the least restrictive access for a path you will need to know the resources you have available (money, materials, staff time, volunteers, etc). This information should be used alongside your assessments of user demand and current access restrictions to enable you to decide what can be achieved.

The following points will help you evaluate how your available resources can be applied to improving accessibility.

- Not all accessibility improvements have a net cost. For instance the removal of unnecessary gates or stiles can save money.
- The cost of path construction and maintenance can not all be attributed to accessibility for disabled people. Where you are building new paths, attention to the details of surface finish, linear and cross gradients to meet the needs of disabled people may make little if any difference to the overall cost.
- Well constructed paths that provide good accessibility may incur lower maintenance costs over the long term and be a good investment for limited budgets.
- There may be additional benefits from improving accessibility that you can offset against costs, for instance where access for children or other users is improved.
- Poor accessibility has a cost where disabled visitors <u>and</u> those accompanying them cannot utilise facilities. Loss of income at car parks or other facilities may need to be taken into account.
- Maintenance programmes can provide the opportunity to make accessibility improvements, for instance, where minor regrading is necessary and the surface of a path can be improved.

You should consider the practicality of using your resources. It is important to ensure that your expenditure produces the desired results with respect to accessibility. If your planning shows that you will not achieve satisfactory accessibility you should review your priorities for this spending. Would it be better to wait for more resources to become available or could the resources be used more effectively elsewhere?







Planning & Design

On entering the detailed planning and design process you should have collected information and made evaluations of the following:

- the current condition of the access
- the scope and extent of current restrictions
- user demand
- environmental considerations
- available resources



This information will enable you to include accessibility as one of the factors you consider in planning and designing countryside access. In the past the needs of disabled people were often left as an after thought. You may wish to think about accessibility being at the forefront of your planning until a higher level of service provision for disabled people has been achieved. In any event accessibility should be part of the planning process from the outset and you should give it as much weight as any of the other factors you have to consider. That does not mean accessibility takes priority over everything else, but you should ensure that where other factors are given a greater priority it has been a conscious decision that you can justify and not an oversight.

On all paths the twelve parameters that affect disabled people's access to the countryside remain the key to setting design objectives and formulating improvement proposals. Table 1 illustrates how you should react if any of these parameters do not currently meet the desired standard but have the potential to be improved.

The impact of making path improvements that do not meet all the required specification for all the parameters will vary according to which ones have been changed. Clearly if surface and gradients have been improved along a path but a stile or a set of steps remain, there will be many people for whom the path remains an impossibility. If the width of a path has been increased but the surface remains unstable and uneven, there may be little accessibility improvement for people who are unsteady on their feet but do not require the support of a companion.

In some cases the parameters interact to influence accessibility. For instance, it is often the combination of surface conditions and gradients that determine the overall level of accessibility of a path. In general terms the steeper the gradients (both linear gradients and cross gradients) the better the surface needs to be to afford the same level of accessibility.

For example you may be able to bring the steepness of a gradient down from 1:6 to 1:8 without significantly increasing the cost but to create a 1:10 might treble the cost. It might therefore be reasonable to settle for a 1:8 but to provide the best surface possible at this point with good resting points to enable the maximum level of accessibility.

Table 1 - Actions to be taken to achieve the least restrictive access

Parameter	Action	Comments
Width	keep the path as wide as possible	people who need the support of a companion don't have to walk in single file wheelchair users can manoeuvre comfortably
Surface	reduce amount and depth of loose material ensure good compaction	less trip risk for people who are unsteady on their feet less effort needed by wheelchair users more comfort for most users
Barriers	remove or redesign stiles, restrictive gate and vehicle barriers	stiles are an absolute barrier to many disabled people and inconvenient for most people
Passing places	provide more space	wheelchair users and people with visual or mobility impairments need space to manoeuvre
Resting places	provide seats or perches	people with stamina, strength or balance impairments need to rest
Linear gradient	reduce gradient as much as possible	wheelchair users and people with stamina difficulties cannot climb steep gradients
Landings	provide frequent landings along slopes and ramps	wheelchair users and people with stamina difficulties need to rest when climbing gradients
Cross gradient	reduce cross gradients as much as possible	wheelchair users and people with balance impairments may struggle on sloping paths
Surface breaks	reduce all gaps in board walks, grills as much as possible	people using sticks or canes may trip or snag in wide gaps the front wheels of wheelchairs can get caught in wide gaps
Level changes	remove all steps wherever possible	even small 'steps' can be a barrier or discomfort to wheelchair users and people with mobility impairments trip risks are reduced for all
Clearance	remove all obstacles intruding from above and beside the path	people with visual impairments will face difficulties

Once proposals for access improvements have been prepared it is worth checking the expected extent of restrictions that will still apply. By re-examining your reasoning for not being able to remove these restrictions you should be able to prepare a justification to disabled people and others who might question the eventual level of accessibility.

Conclusions

The issue of access to the wider countryside for disabled people is not just a question of improving a few paths and removing a few barriers. The countryside is a dynamic and complicated environment that is not always receptive to standardised solutions. However, there are processes which can be followed to assist the effective integration of accessibility and access:

- the establishment of policies which address equality, the application of resources, consultation, staff training and evaluation;
- the development of strategies and SMART objectives which are based on the establishment of priorities on which stakeholders have been fully consulted;
- the planned accessibility across countryside networks using surveys, consultation, prioritisation, programming and the setting of targets;
- the pursuit of the least restrictive access achievable in all situations by balancing the scope and extent of the restrictions that are or will be imposed on disabled people, against economic and environmental costs.

The following appendices will give you a great deal of information on the countryside access restrictions that disabled people face. You may find it difficult at first to grasp the diversity that exists among disabled people. Equally you may find it very difficult to make the judgement as to how much is an acceptable cost for overcoming one or a few of these restrictions.

The best advice we can give you is don't try to do this on your own, at least to begin with and until you have some experience of the issues. Talk to disabled people. Talk to colleagues. Talk to other countryside users. Contact us at the Fieldfare Trust. The DDA asks for reasonable action to provide reasonable access. If you involve other stakeholders you will generally find that you can usually reach a consensus on an appropriate course of action.

The Access Needs of Disabled People in the Countryside

Disability	Description	Assistive Devices Used	User Requirements in the Countryside
Physical Disabilit	ies		
Mobility	A person with mobility impairment will either be unable to walk or only be able to walk with some degree of difficulty.	Wheelchair (manual or electric), buggy, walking aid, walking stick or sticks or none	 A person with a mobility impairment can be enabled to use the countryside by ensuring that: there are no physical barriers across the path that the path surface is suitable and not uneven that the gradient and cross-fall of the path are acceptable that there are suitable seats or resting places and that the path is wide enough.
Dexterity	A person with dexterity impairment will find it difficult to do complicated or intricate tasks with their hands.	None suitable for use in the countryside	A person with dexterity impairment can be assisted to use the ensuing countryside by ensuring that they do not have to do any complicated or intricate tasks. Ensuring that any gate latches, ticket machines, leaflet dispensers or similar are easy and straightforward to achieve this.
Reach	A person with a reduced reach will find it difficult to do any tasks where they can not be positioned immediately adjacent to the task.	None suitable for use in the countryside	A person with a reduced reach can be assisted to use the countryside by ensuring that any objects that the person has to manipulate such as locks, gate latches or ticket machines are situated at a suitable height directly adjacent to the path.
Balance	A difficulty with balance may be experienced by a person as a side effect of a sensory disability or cognitive disability. A person with a problem with balance will find it difficult to walk on uneven surfaces and may require support as they walk	Support stick or sticks.	A person with a balance problem will be assisted if the path surface is not uneven and if handrails are provided at suitable points on the path. Suitable resting places or seats may also be of use.

Disability	Description	Assistive Devices Used	User Requirements in the Countryside
Physical Disabilit	ies		
Strength and Stamina	A person with reduced strength will have problems carrying out any task which requires power This could include climbing a steep slope or manipulating a difficult lock. A person with reduced stamina will have problems carrying out long and continuous tasks.	In some cases a wheelchair or stick may be used	A person with reduced strength or stamina will be assisted to use the countryside by ensuring that tasks such as opening gates or climbing slopes are as easy to do as possible. Suitable resting places or seats will enable the person to rest and make best use of their strength.
Height	A person with dwarfism will be short with a reduced reach. They may also have some degree of mobility problems	None	To enable a person with dwarfism to use and enjoy the countryside it is necessary to ensure that there are no physical barriers that they can not negotiate, that the path is not uneven or too steep. They will also require that any objects that they have to manipulate such as locks or ticket machines are situated at a suitable height directly adjacent to the path.
Sensory Disabilit	ies		
Vision	A person who is blind or partially sighted will have problems carrying out tasks which require vision. The vision loss may be total blindness (18% of blind and partially sighted people), have general vision loss, have central vision loss, peripheral vision loss or areas of vision loss. They may have increased sensitivity to glare. It may also take longer for their eyes to adapt to changing light levels.	A mobility aid (long cane, guide cane, symbol cane or guide dog) can be used to assist a person to find a clear path to travel through. A low vision aid (magnifying glass, or monocular) can be used to assist a person to see features of the countryside.	 A person with a visual impairment can be assisted by ensuring that they can make best use of their vision and by ensuring that where possible information is provided in tactile or audio forms. Methods of assisting a blind or partially sighted person would include ensuring; that the path has a different tactile surface to the surrounding area, the paths is wide enough for a visually impaired person to be accompanied by a sighted guide (1200mm) there are no features to negotiate just after a large change in light levels (for example just after leaving or entering a wood), that there are no unexpected obstacles, that any locks or gates are simple and straightforward to use, that where possible information is available audibly or tactually as well as visually.

Disability	Description	Assistive Devices Used	User Requirements in the Countryside
Hearing	A person with a hearing loss may have a general hearing loss or may have lost a certain band of frequencies. The type and amount of their hearing loss will effect whether they can hear speech, birdsong or other countryside sounds.	Hearing aid to assist the user to use their remaining hearing. When they are in a safe place this can be switched to the `T' position to enable them to use loop systems. A notepad may be used for short messages.	A person with a hearing impairment may have problems obtaining information from countryside staff and other users. Ensuring that information is available visually as well as audibly will assist them. A person who has sign language as their first language may have problems with over complex written information.
Vision and Hearing	The degree of vision and hearing loss experienced by a person can vary considerably, a person may have mild or extreme vision and hearing loss.	A person who is deaf blind may use a hearing aid or aids and/or a guide dog or a long cane with red bands on it.	The design features for hearing impaired and visual impaired people will help many deaf blind people
Other Disabilities			
Learning	A person with a learning disability will have difficulties understanding complicated tasks or instructions.	None	People with a learning disability can be assisted by ensuring that any information given out or displayed is easy to use.
Illiteracy	A person may have a problem with written information if they have a learning disability or if they had problems at school or if their first language is not English.	None	Any written information should be as clear and concise as possible. The use of pictograms may be helpful to some people but pictograms are often not recognisable by people with partial sight or with a learning disability or with a different cultural background. Pictograms should therefore always be accompanied by text.
Speech	A person with speech impairment will either be unable to, or find it difficult to speak.	An electronic communication aid or a notebook and pen may be used to communicate	Any staff or countryside rangers should be willing to communicate as required

Disability	Description	Assistive Devices Used	User Requirements in the Countryside
Multiple Disabilities	Any staff or countryside rangers should be willing to communicate as required Many disabled people will have complex needs.	Various	A user may have a number of different requirements to enable them to use the countryside. The meeting of one need should not preclude the meeting of other needs.

Appendix 2 - Access Restrictions

The tables below are designed to meet the need expressed by countryside access managers to be able to recognise the effects on disabled people where path criteria fall below the BT Countryside for All standards. These observations cannot be taken as definitive because of the enormous diversity of disabled people. They illustrate the trends that exist: as specifications diverge from the BT Countryside for All standards, the restrictions imposed on disabled people tend to increase.

People with Learning Disabilities

People with learning difficulties have not been included in these tables because generally there is not a direct relationship between physical access issues and their disabilities. However, the following points should be noted:

- Many people with learning disabilities also have other disabilities and the combination may increase the likelihood of them encountering difficulties and the impact of resulting restrictions.
- Some people with learning disabilities are likely to lack confidence and skills in countryside use and where problems exist for other disabled people they may also be restricted.
- For those unfamiliar with the countryside obstacles, difficult paths and stiles may prove a problem. Where stiles, gates and latches, for instance, are all the same design along a particular route this could help some people to feel comfortable and gain confidence.

Path Surface	Firm Stable non slip	Not Firm	Not Stable	Slippery
Examples	Compacted Stone Tarmac Concrete	Dry Mown Grass Stones and Loose Material	Bark Chippings Pea Gravel Loose Sand	Wet Grass Man - made grass bases
Wheelchair Users		Effort required to progress is greater, may churn up surface& impede movement	Wheels may dig in and make progress very difficult or impossible	Wheels cannot gain traction - progress limited or impossible
Mobility Impaired		Increased effort required, extra foot lift may be tiring	Difficulty increases according to depth - increased effort causes fatigue	Long stick and walking stick users fear fall and progress very difficult
Reduced Reach and Dexterity			Should have no difficulty	
Impaired Balance	Should have no difficulty	Becomes difficult as emphasis is on maintaining safe gait - limits progress	Very difficult risk and fear of falling likely	Extremely difficult without support.
Reduced Stamina and Strength		Generally acceptable, extra effort will reduce potential travel distance	Greater effort required, causes fatigue, scope of travel reduced	Fear of falling will reduce opportunities
Vision Impaired		Should have no difficulty, if using guide dog or if confident long cane user. New cane user may lose confidence. Also problems may be caused if stones and gaps are large enough to trap the cane end. The surface may not provide audio clues for users of traditional long canes.	Difficult if using mobility aid, may upset guide dog, long cane with roller ball may become difficult to move, traditional cane may get stuck. The surface will not provide audio clues for users of traditional long canes.	Should have no difficulty, if using guide dog or if confident long cane user. New cane user may lose confidence. The surface will not provide audio clues for users of traditional long canes.

Path Width	1200mm	1000mm	900mm	815mm	700mm	600mm
Examples	Urban/formal & Managed/Urban Fringe Standard	Rural Working Landscape Standard			Domestic door about 750mm	
Wheelchair User	Should have access	Should have access	Should have access but not able to pass push chair or another wheelchair without some manoeuvring off the path	May find width restricts arms and hands, difficult to manoeuvre around another wheelchair or pushchair	Narrow wheelchair users may have access scooters may find absolute barrier	Absolute barrier for some wheelchair users
Mobility Impaired	with companion at side	May find it necessary to walk slightly before or after escort	With companion it will be even more difficult, may need to walk in single file support cannot be provided - people using long sticks may need to use edge of path	Cannot pass in pairs, physical support possible but undignified.	Can only pass single file, very difficult over distance	May need to walk/turn sideways - difficult for most impossible for some
Reduced Reach and Dexterity	Acceptable					
Impaired Balance	Should have access with companion at side		Difficulty passing other users	Cannot pass in pairs, physical support may be undignified	May find it difficult path	to remain on
Reduced Strength/Stamina	Acceptable					
Visually Impaired	Acceptable as long as path surface is different in texture and colour (chroma, bue and tone) to surrounding area			becomes more		

Frequency of Passing Places	50m	100m	150m	200m +
Examples	Urban and formal Standard	Urban Fringe and Managed Standard	Rural and Working Standard	
Wheelchair User	Should be no problem if easy to see and know where next passing place is.		Should not cause a problem, but some concern may be evident if other people are approaching	Longer distance could create difficulty if other people can not move off the path or other chair users are encountered
Mobility Impaired				Increased distance may deter less confident and agile users
Reduced Reach and Dexterity		Accep	ptable	
Impaired Balance	Should be no problem if easy	y to see and know where	Should not cause a problem	, but some concern may be
Reduced Strength and Stamina	next passing place is		evident il other people are a	pproaching
Visual Impairment	Should be acceptable espec texture and colour (chroma,	ially where passing places are hue and tone).	e easy to locate by the use of	path surfaces with different

Frequency of Resting Places	100m	200m	300m	400m
Examples	Urban / Formal Standard	Urban fringe / Managed Standard	Rural / Working Landscapes Standard	
Wheelchair Users			Beyond optimum, but acceptable to majority, may deter some who cannot see next resting place	Many confident users will find distance acceptable, but may deter some on route where resting point cannot be seen.
Mobility Impaired			Acceptable	Generally acceptable, but some may find distance too far for comfort, beyond 400m may become barrier to some.
Reduced Dexterity and Reach			Accepta	ble
Impaired Balance	A	cceptable	May cause some difficulty and concern, but acceptable to many	Tiredness due to extra concentration and effort may cause barrier increasing at distances beyond 400m
Reduced Strength and Stamina			Beyond optimum distance, may cause some difficulty and concern but acceptable to many.	Will cause difficulty and tiredness to many and act as barrier, becoming absolute as distance between resting places increases
Vision Impaired			Accepta	ble

Linear Gradient	1:20 - 1:12 (5 - 8.3%)	1:12 - 1:0 (8.3% - 10%)	1:10 - 1.8 (10% - 12.5%)	1.8 + (12.5% ▶)	
Examples	Urban & Urban Fringe/ standard	Rural/Working landscapes standard			
Wheelchair Users	Acceptable	Acceptable to majority of wheelchair users	Acceptable to some wheelchair users, but may prove difficult to others. Powered wheelchairs and scooters acceptable	Possible by adventurous wheelchair users, but barrier to many. Generally Acceptable to powered wheelchairs. Increasing barrier as linear gradient goes beyond 1:8	
Mobility Impaired		Acceptable Acceptable	Acceptable to some mobility impaired people, but not all and may be a barrier to some.	Acceptable to some mobility impaired, but mainly confident and active users - the position is more difficult on a meandering track when extent of rise cannot be seen.	
Reduced Dexterity and Reach			Acceptable		
Impaired Balance			Acceptable to some and difficult for others; effort and concentration required may mean steepness is a barrier	Increased steepness will prove difficult to larger numbers of people and will be a barrier to many.	
Reduced Strength and Stamina			This gradient and steeper a problem for some people	With increasing steepness more people will be restricted	
Visual Impairment				Act	ceptable

Height Rise of Ramp	750mm Rise	820mm Rise	950mm	1020mm
Examples	Urban / Formal Standard 9m ramp at 1:12	Urban fringe / Managed Standard 9.84m ramp at 1:12	Rural/Working Standard 11.4m ramp at 1;12 9.5 Ramp at 1:10	12.24m ramp at 1:12 10.2m ramp at 1:10 8.16m ramp at 1:8
Wheelchair User		Acceptable, but border line to some	Becoming difficult without resting deck	Difficult - would need to know where resting point is, some may find it a barrier to progress.
Mobility Impaired		Acceptable	Generally acceptable	Acceptable over reasonable distance
Reduced Dexterity and Reach			Acceptable	
Impaired Balance	Acceptable	Acceptable, but border line to some	May affect balance and cause fear of progressing	Increased difficulty due to concentration and difficult gait - barrier to some
Reduced Strength and Stamina			May cause tiredness and steepness may deter some.	Steepness may cause fatigue and act as deterrent to many, would need to know extent of height rise of ramp
Vision Impaired			Acceptable	

Steps Levels	5mm	10mm	15mm	25mm	50mm	100mm	150mm	
Examples	Urban/ Standard	Urban Fringe Standard	Rural Standard			Kerb Height		
Wheelchair User	Acceptable		Acceptable to most users.		wheelchairMay prove difficult for some, power chairs with kerb climber ok and acceptable to people with assistance.Acceptable to skilled and confident wheelchair users, may be borderline for some.		Acceptable to skilled and confident wheelchair user - barrier to some.	
Mobility Impaired				Acceptable to majority	Acceptable to many people.	Generally acceptable to most people.	Acceptable to most people - extra foot lift may begin to cause difficulty	
Dexterity and Reach				Acceptable				
Impaired Balance			Acceptable	table Acceptable to majority	Acceptable, but extra foot lift may cause problem for some Becoming difficult as foot lift may balance.			
Reduced Strength and Stamina					Acceptable to majority.	Acceptable, but extra foot lift may cause tiredness for some and act a deterrent	Generally acceptable, if recurring could be absolute barrier because of fatigue	
Vision Impaired	Long cane users and guide dog users should be able to detect and climb any reasonable step. Partially sighted people who are not using an aid may trip, if the steps are not colour (hue, tone and chroma) contrasted, if they are in an area with low light levels or if they are unexpected.							

Cross Gradient	1:50 (2%)	1:45 (2.2%)	1:35 (2.9%)	1:25 (4%)	1:15 (6.7%)		
Examples	Urban and Formal Standard	Urban Fringe and Managed Standard	Rural/ Working Standard				
Wheelchair User			Generally acceptable	Acceptable over short distances, becomes more difficult to push and to maintain straight route	Less acceptable - difficult over longer tract, hard to push in a straight line, discomfort may arise. May deter less bold.		
Mobility Impaired				Long stick users may experience discomfort - acceptable over short distances	More difficult to maintain balance, unbalanced gait causes fatigue - increased fear of falling for some.		
Reach and Dexterity			Acceptable				
Impaired Balance	Acceptable			Risk and fear of falling - some will become tired due to increased effort and concentration - acceptable over short distances	More difficult to maintain balance, unbalanced gait causes fatigue - may induce fear of falling for some.		
Reduced Strength and Stamina			Generally Acceptable	Some will become tired due to increased effort and concentration, may deter some users, but generally acceptable over short distances.	May cause fatigue and act as deterrent to some due to increased effort of unbalance gait - acceptable over obviously short distances.		
Visual Impaired				Acceptable	1		

Clear Walking Tunnel

- All standards 2100mm high
- Any lowering of the height above a path may be a safety risk and nuisance for ambulant path users.
- The lower the intrusion of obstructions into the clear walking tunnel the more people will face greater difficulty.
- It will be particularly difficult for visually impaired people who can not see over hanging obstructions.
- People with impaired balance may find it difficult to duck and manoeuvre around over hanging obstacles.
- People with reduced reach or dexterity may not be able to brush aside over hanging vegetation.
- Lateral intrusion of obstacles can also create difficulty for visually impaired people especially for long cane users who will not pick up obstacles sticking into the side of the path if the bottom of the object is more than 560mm above the ground.

Surface Breaks

- This parameter relates to such things as the gaps between planks along board walks.
- All Standards 12mm in line of travel
- For wheelchairs users there is a danger of the small front wheels of the chair catching and even getting stuck in the gaps.
- People with mobility impairments who use sticks are at risk of their sticks slipping through the gaps.
- Unless well maintained, board walks can increase the risk of tripping for all walkers and this may be a particular issue for people with visual, mobility or balance impairments .
- The wider surface breaks are the greater will be these difficulties for more people.

Appendix 3 - Gaps, gates & stiles and their use by disabled people

The following tables provide a summary of the specifications required by various categories of disabled people using gaps, gates and stiles

Wheelchair Users

Gaps	Gate – self closing without latch	Gate – non self- closing without latch	Gate – self closing with latch	Gate – non self- closing with latch	Stile
A gap or gate has to h through. If the width is	Not useable				
The ground surface in undertaken to ensure t					
	The gate should be hu users to open the gate	ing so that it can open in by pushing with footpla	n either direction, this wi te of their chair.	Il enable wheelchair	
	The force required to c	pen and close the gate	must be 25 Newtons or	less.	
		A clear space of 600		A clear space of 600	
		mm wide is required		mm wide is required	
		beside the opening		beside the opening	
		side of the gate to		side of the gate to	
		wheelchair user to		wheelchair user to	
		get beside the gate		get beside the gate	
		to shut it. This clear		to shut it. This clear	
		space and the clear		space and the clear	
		space in front of the		space in front of the	
		gate needs to extend		gate needs to extend	
		back by 1600mm.		back by 1600 mm.	
			The gate latch must be must be situated betwe mm to 1200 mm from t	e easy to operate. It een a height of 600 the floor.	

People with a Mobility Impairment

Gaps	Gate – self closing without latch	Gate – non self- closing without latch	Gate – self closing with latch	Gate – non self- closing with latch	Stile
Regular maintenance of not become uneven ar	of the site may be requir id prevent people with a	latch ed to ensure that the gr mobility impairment pa	ound surface beneath th ssing through it.	e gap or gate does	The top step of the stile should act as a seat to enable the user to sit down and assist their legs across. Hand holds need to be provided on each side of the stile to enable the person to pull themselves up. The steps of the stile should have a maximum height of
					150 mm and a minimum tread depth of 280 mm.

People with Reduced Dexterity and Reach

Gaps	Gate – self closing without latch	Gate – non self-closing without latch	Gate – self closing with latch	Gate – non self- closing with latch	Stile
Useable			The latch must be ea	isy to operate.	Useable
			The latch handle sho	uld be at least 100 mm	
			long, between 20 to 3	35 mm thick and with a	
			minimum clearance of	of 30 mm between the	
			handle and the gate.		

People with Impaired Balance

Gaps	Gate – self closing without latch	Gate – non self- closing without latch	Gate – self closing with latch	Gate – non self- closing with latch	Stile
Useable					The top step of the stile should act as a seat to enable the user to sit down and swing their legs across.
					Hand holds need to be provided on each side of the stile to enable the person to balance themselves as they move over the stile.

People with Reduced Strength and Stamina

Gaps	Gate – self closing without latch	Gate – non self- closing without latch	Gate – self closing with latch	Gate – non self- closing with latch	Stile
Useable	The force required to o	pen and close the gate	must be 25 Newtons or	less.	Hand holds need to be provided on each side of the stile to enable the person to pull themselves over the stile.

People who are Visually Impaired

Gaps	Gate – self closing without latch	Gate – non self- closing without latch	Gate – self closing with latch	Gate – non self- closing with latch	Stile
The sides of the gap o partially sighted users	Colour contrasted hand holds need to be provided on each side of the stile to enable the person to pull themselves up.				
			The latch handle shoul different material and o the rest of the gate for operation.	d be made of a colour contrasted to easy recognition and	

People who have a Learning Disability

Gaps	Gate – self closing without latch	Gate – non self- closing without latch	Gate – self closing with latch	Gate – non self- closing with latch	Stile
Useable	Useable	Useable	The method of use of t obvious. The latch handle shoul different material and o the rest of the gate for operation. Uniformity of latches of people with learning dis	he latch should be d be made of a colour contrasted to easy recognition and n a route will assist sabilities.	Useable

Conclusions for All Users

Gaps	Gate – self closing without latch	Gate – non self-closing without latch	Gate – self closing with latch	Gate – non self- closing with latch	Stile	
A gap or gate the gap will be	The top step of the stile should act as a seat to enable the user to sit down and assist their legs across.					
The ground so must be unde	urface in a gap or gate rtaken to ensure that th	may become worn away, if ne surface remains smooth.	this is likely to happen	regular maintenance	Hand holds need to be provided on each side of the	
The sides of t	on and environment.	stile to enable the person to pull themselves up.				
	The steps of the stile should have a maximum height of 150 mm and a minimum tread depth of 280 mm.					
	The force required to	The hand holds or sides of the stile need to be colour contrasted.				
	The latch handle should be at least 100 mm long, between 20 to 35 mm thick and with a minimum clearance of 30 mm between the handle and the gate.					
			The latch handle show different material and the rest of the gate for operation.	uld be made of a colour contrasted to reasy recognition and		

Appendix 4 - Observations on the Accessibility for Disabled People of a Selection of Gates, Stiles, Barriers, Bridges and Boardwalks

Gaps and Gates

- Attention should be paid to the quality of the surface at gates as these are the areas along a path to receive the greatest level of wear.
- If the gate is in a hedgerow, particular attention should be paid to the encroachment of vegetation; it may aid maintenance and how often it is necessary to extend a short run of fencing either side of the gate.
- For maximum accessibility gates should be hinged to open both ways.
- For one-way opening gates a surface of equal quality to that of the path should be maintained for 600mm wide and 2000mm long away from the gate on its opening side, to aid manoeuverability for many users.
- The force required to open and close any gate should not exceed 25 Newtons.
- Gate posts and latches should be colour contrasted against the surrounding environment to assist partially sighted people

Timber Wicket Gate

If the clearance width of this type of gate is at least 815mm (preferably 1000mm), it can open both ways and if it has an easily operated latch it should present very few restrictions to disabled people.



Two-way Gate

- These gates are not latched and open in different directions allowing users to push in the direction of travel. They are self-closing.
- This is a very accessible arangement.



Field Gate

- Larger gates will provide greater width for users but without regular maintenance they may prove heavy and difficult to operate.
- If the path width is equivalent to that of the gate those who walk with the support of a companion will find access easier.



Latches

- Latches should contrast well in colour with the surrounding materials on any gate to aid their location and operation by walkers with a visual impairment.
- Latches or other mechanisms should be visible and useable from both sides. Poor latches can be an absolute barrier to some people with reach or dexterity impairments.
- Latches should be between 600 1200mm high for pedestrian users
- Self-closing mechanisms should continue to operate when the gate is open to its greatest extent.
- The point(s) of use on a latch or mechanism should have colour and/or texture contrast
- If unusual mechanisms are employed then information on their operation should be clear.
- The latch handle should be at least 100mm long and between 20 30mm thick with a minimum clearance of 30mm.

Keys

- The use of keys, including the National Key System (NKS key) has been employed at a minority of access points to the countryside with the intention of specifically affording access to disabled people while excluding other users eg motor cyclists.
- This may provide a limited increase in access over the option of a stile but, it will continue to deny access to many disabled walkers; not all disabled people have or always carry NKS keys and, there are many people who would not consider themselves disabled yet are denied access where stiles are installed.
- The NKS keys were also not originally designed for such outdoor use and are therefore not particularly suited to this application; they are additionally not very secure in design and may be acquired by the users you seek to exclude.
- Difficulties in operating key systems also come from the barrier they can present to those with limited dexterity. Padlocks are usually difficult to use from both directions.

Small Refuge Kissing Gate

- This gate would be an absolute barrier to wheelchair users and people with pushchairs.
- Even though the gate width is 1000mm the refuge for this gate is small and will restrict some people with mobility disabilities. It will be inconvenient for many more including those with guide dogs.
- Unlatched and self closing this gate provides some stock proofing though some hill sheep and lambs may still pass through



Backpackers Kissing Gate

- The low level 'V' is to prevent sheep and lambs getting through while the large square refuge allows people with large rucksacks to pass easily.
- The low level 'V' could present difficulties to visually impaired people who will be expecting a clear entrance to the gate and could benefit from a strong colour contrast on the top bar of the 'V'.
- The design is not accessible to wheelchair users though without the 'V' it could accommodate manual wheelchair users if the refuge is large enough.



Medium Refuge Kissing Gate

- The size of the refuge on this gate (1050mm wide x 1400mm deep) should allow manual wheelchair users access but large Class II and Class III vehicles will be restricted
- Some wheelchair users will have difficult moving the gate from within the refuge (behind themselves if they enter forwards) if they have difficulties from their wheelchair. Even if they reverse into the refuge the same problem may apply.
- Where a wheelchair user is pushed by a companion the lack of space to manoeuvre may make this design an absolute barrier.



Large Kissing Gate

- The large refuge (1250mm wide x 1700mm deep) and wide gate should allow most disabled people, including Class II and Class III wheelchair users, to use this gate
- Unless latched this gate may not be stock proof, even against cattle, and is unlikely to stop motor-cyclists.
- The use of a straight forward latched, self-closing gate could be just as functional, cheaper and easier to use for all visitors



Countryside for All Gate

- The size of refuge illustrated (1000mm wide x 1600mm deep) should allow all but the very largest of wheelchairs and powered buggies to pass.
- The gate is self-centring and latched so as to provide stock proofing
- The advantage over other kissing gate arrangements is that wheelchair users can push the gate, do not have to close it behind them and it can be used equally well in both directions.
- This gate requires an easily operated latch that will catch the return of the selfcentring gate.
- The footprint of the gate is obviously larger than other designs and may be obtrusive in some settings.



Barred Kissing Gate

- This design has cross bars over the refuge to prevent motor cycles from being lifted onto their rear wheel to pass through.
- Without the bars this gate could provide reasonable accessibility for many people. The grass surface in the picture (right) would reduce manoeuvrability for wheelchair users and some other disabled people.



Rotagate

- This design allows easy access for pedestrians, wheelchair users and people with pushchairs.
- With an internal diameter of 1400mm it should exclude motor bikes, horses, deer, cattle and other stock. However it would exclude users of large powered mobility scooters who might also be legitimate users of the path.
- The method of operation should be clearly marked on the gate and grip dimensions be followed.
- A larger diameter refuge could accommodate other users while maintaining its stock control security.



- People with reach and dexterity impairments may have difficulty with this design.
- The height clearance of the structure should be 1,200mm.

Stiles

Stiles are generally the most restrictive of structures frequently used in the countryside creating absolute barriers for a lot of disabled people and proving difficult or inconvenient for many more.

Dog-Gate & Stile

- Stiles with a dog-flap maintain security for livestock but additionally provide access for people who walk with guide or support dogs.
- The gap when open should allow passage for even large dogs. Alsatians and Labradors are often used as guide dogs.
- It should be made clear how the mechanism operates, preferably with colour/texture contrast at its point of use.



Handles should provide for easy grip and require limited strength to operate.

Parallel two step stile

- Stiles which have two steps set in parallel are preferred by some walkers with a visual impairment as it provides greater certainty as to the location of the step when crossing the top rail.
- This arrangement is also likely to offer a greater useable foot area for the direction in which they place their feet.
- A higher hand-post to one side will aid balance and confidence for all as they cross the stile.
- The top of the hand-post should be easily gripped with a diameter of 40 -50mm for at least 200mm.
- Colour contrasting the upper rail and hand hold could improve accessibility for visually impaired people.



Crossed two step stile

- A crossed two step stile can be easier for some walkers as it maintains the natural walking gait as the stile is crossed.
- It may not provide the certainty of footing preferred by some visually impaired walkers.
- Including two hand-posts can benefit walkers with balance difficulties but may further restrict access for some with limited mobility who may need a wide gap to swing their legs through.



Ladder Stile

- Ladder stiles can offer some means of access over immoveable boundaries, though they are among the most restricting stile designs.
- They do not provide easy access for walkers with guide or support dogs.
- They may be an absolute barrier to walkers with balance difficulties.
- If provided they should have hand-post and rail support which can easily be gripped and used.
- There should be good visual contrast for the support especially at the top of the ladder.



Step through stiles

- These stiles may be preferred by some people with limited mobility who can not lift their legs over some of the higher top rails of other stiles.
- They should have at least one and preferably two hand-posts to support passage across the stile.
- They do not provide easy access for walkers with guide or support dogs.

Step over stile

- This design of stile presents the same type of access barrier (and possibly greater) as the ladder stile.
- It would benefit from hand-posts at both the low and high step ends of the stile and on both sides.
- Steps should be evenly spaced and level. Often this type of stile uses uneven stones from the wall itself which may prove difficult for many disabled people.





Barriers

Vehicle Barrier

- Where vehicle barriers are used solely to exclude cars or four wheel vehicles from the countryside an open gap to one side should provide access for everyone else.
- The gap should be minimum 1500mm wide on a bridleway and 815mm (though preferably up to 1200mm) on a pedestrian path.



- Materials used to provide the barrier and bound the gap should have good visual contrast with the surrounding environment so that they can be identified by walkers with visual impairments.
- The type of barrier shown could be a hazard to visually impaired people using a long cane.

Horse stile

- A horse stile on a bridleway may be designed to exclude motor bikes but will additionally be a barrier to some other legitimate users of the path.
- It will operate as a similar barrier to a stile for some walkers and therefore if employed should be supported by hand-posts etc



- Wheelchair users, powered scooter users and cyclists using hand cranked machines will find these stiles an absolute barrier.
- Motor cyclists can occasionally get through.

Three Valleys Barrier

- This design of barrier provides a restricted open gap intended to exclude motor bikes while maintaining easy passage for other users.
- It may however be an obstruction to some blind and visually impaired walkers and if used should have clear colour contrast illustrating its full gap profile.
- Its design may also be an absolute barrier to some tall wheelchair users and the largest of powered mobility scooters.
- Motor cyclists can occasionally get through.
- The 'Three Valleys Barrier' is manufactured by Fearn Truck Bodies of Rotherham and is a patented design (No. GB2322149). Any attempt to copy the design concept or functionality of this barrier is an infringement of the patent and is liable to prosecution.



Chicane Barrier

- This design of barrier is intended to allow for access for all legitimate users while being able to exclude motor bikes and other vehicles when needed.
- In its open gate mode it provides good access for all users, however, with the gate closed and locked it will not only exclude motor bikes but also the largest



of powered mobility scooters, hand-crank cyclists, tricyclists etc

Bridges & Board Walks

- Where bridges and boardwalks are constructed it is clear that access is being promoted and therefore should be to the highest standard of accessibility.
- The surface of bridges and boardwalks should meet the path performance specification for the BT Countryside for All Standard.
- Decking should be laid at 90 degrees to the direction of travel and, gaps between decking should not exceed 12mm.



- Care must be taken in maintenance programmes to ensure that the junction of the path with the constructed feature preserves a level threshold.
- Particularly on boardwalks without hand rails, there should be an edging strip (75mm high) to clearly identify the width of the path and aid the passage of some users along it (e.g. wheelchair users.)
- Where these structures require hand rails or fencing due to the surrounding environment and height above ground, the specification should firstly conform to appropriate safety requirements, and secondly provide a handrail and support, and thirdly allow views over or through for wheelchair users, children and people of various heights.
- Where there are long lengths of boardwalk at the minimum width for the path passing places should be provide as part of the board walk or have clear flat access to them from the boardwalk.



• Access and egress should be ramped, not stepped, and care should be taken that where the boardwalk meets an unsealed path a step does not develop.





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