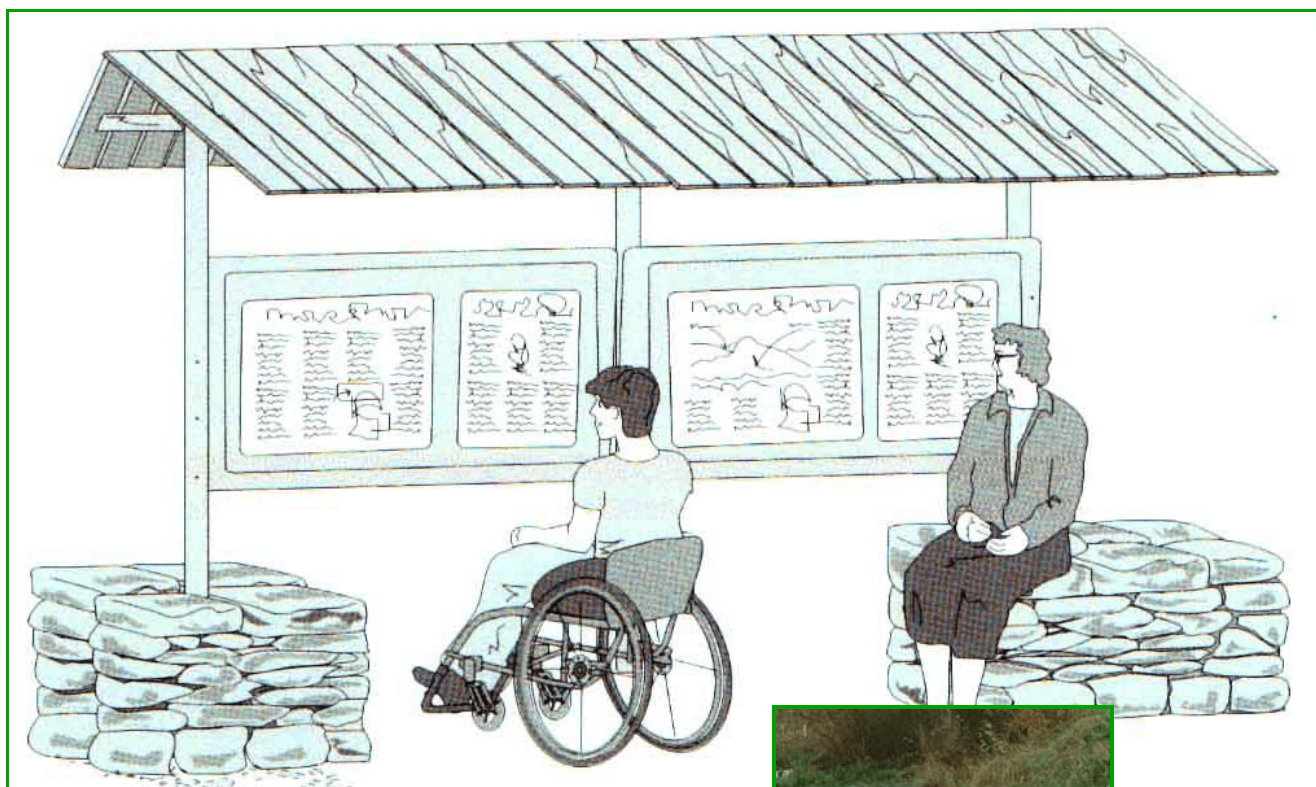


# Information Sheets



Information on the countryside access  
needs of disabled people



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

# Information Sheets



The Information Sheets in this electronic version of the Good Practice Guide are optical scans of the original sheets. As such they have not been edited for content in anyway. Not all the original Information Sheets have been reproduced here. Since the publication of the first edition of the Good Practice Guide other design guides with a high level of technical detail have been produced. The aim of these Information Sheets is to provide dimensions and measurements relevant to access for disabled people that can be used to refine the design of countryside furniture so as to make it accessible. The Fieldfare Trust will be revising and extending these Information Sheets in the future. The aim will be to focus information on the specific issues that influence disabled people's access. The revisions will also take account of information that has become available since the original publication of the Good Practice Guide, with particular reference to 'Disability Access - BS8300:2001'.

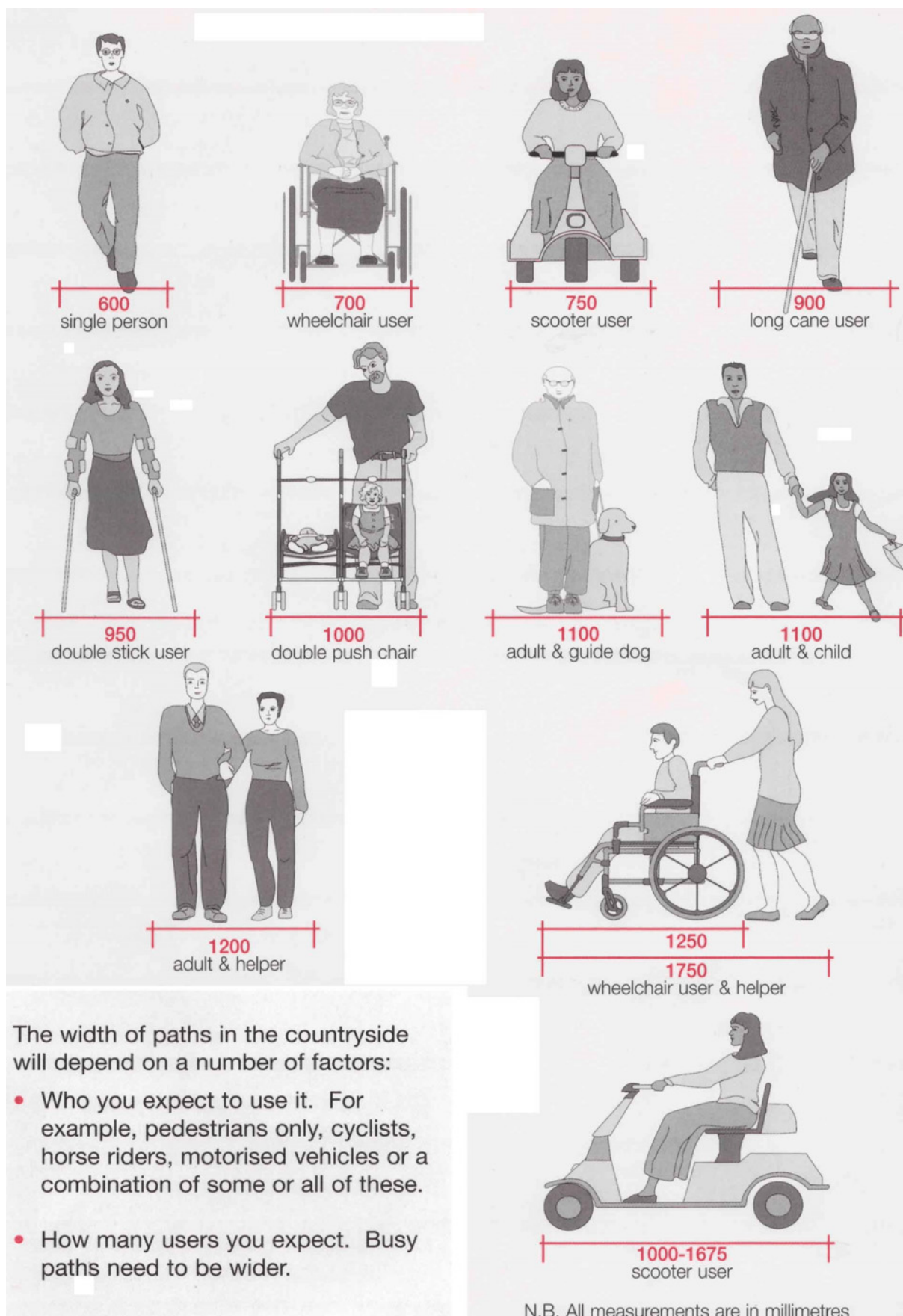
Please note many of the Information Sheets run to more than one page.

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# Path Users/Path Widths



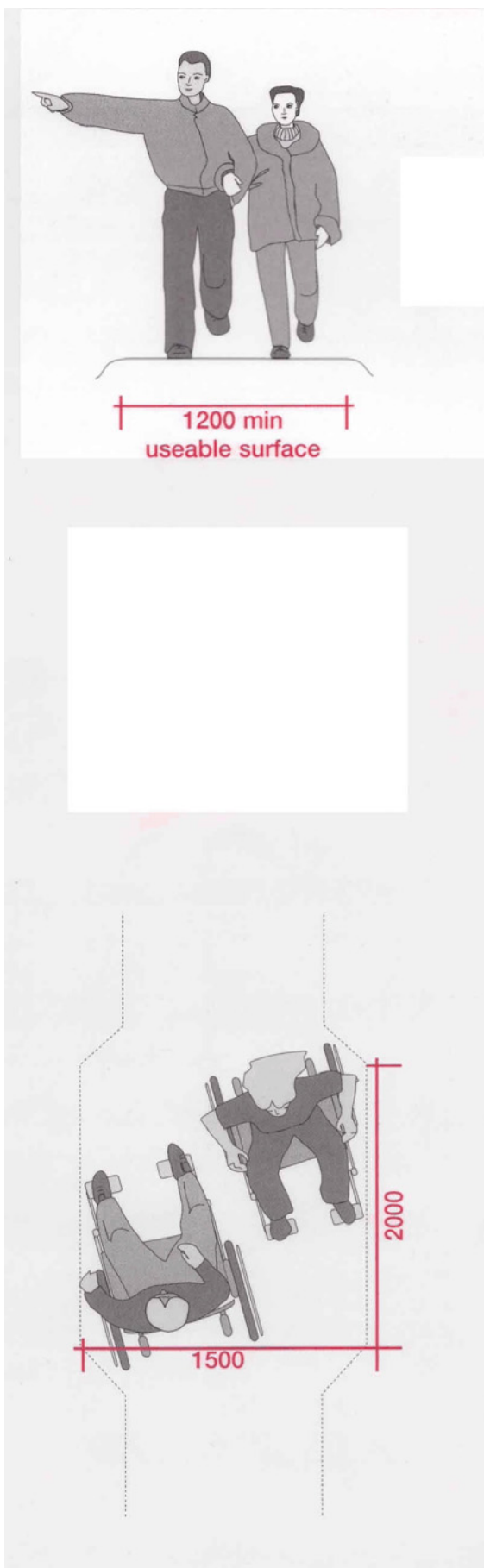
1.1



The width of paths in the countryside will depend on a number of factors:

- Who you expect to use it. For example, pedestrians only, cyclists, horse riders, motorised vehicles or a combination of some or all of these.
- How many users you expect. Busy paths need to be wider.





N.B. All measurements are in millimetres

- To be accessible countryside paths should have a minimum of 1200mm useable surface width. This allows two people to walk along side by side and support each other if necessary.
- The path width may be reduced to 815mm for a maximum of 300mm, for example at a gateway.
- To allow for free movement of two-way traffic by all pedestrians (including wheelchair users and double pushchairs) the minimum path width should be 2000mm.
- Path edging is not essential but a clear visual distinction between the path and adjoining ground will be helpful.
- People with visual impairment need to be able to feel the difference underfoot between the path surface and the ground next to it.
- Wide paths will not be accessible unless they are well maintained to ensure no vegetation encroaches and the surface remains firm and stable.

#### Passing Places:

- Where the path width is less than 1500mm passing places every 50m will allow two wheelchair users to pass each other.
- Passing places should be 1500mm wide and 2000mm long. This will allow enough space for two wheelchair users plus helpers to pass each other.

**This sheet should be read in conjunction with the BT Countryside for All Standards and Guidelines**



# Reach Ranges

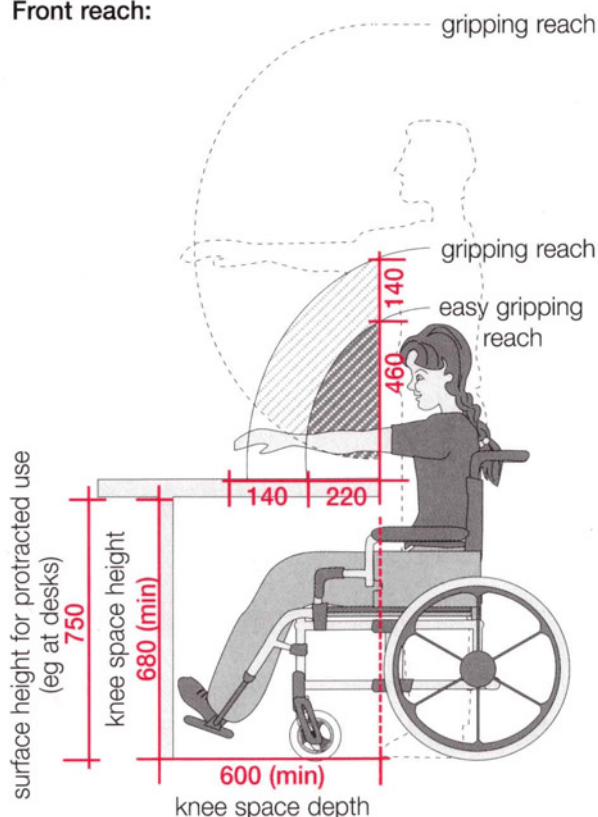


1.2

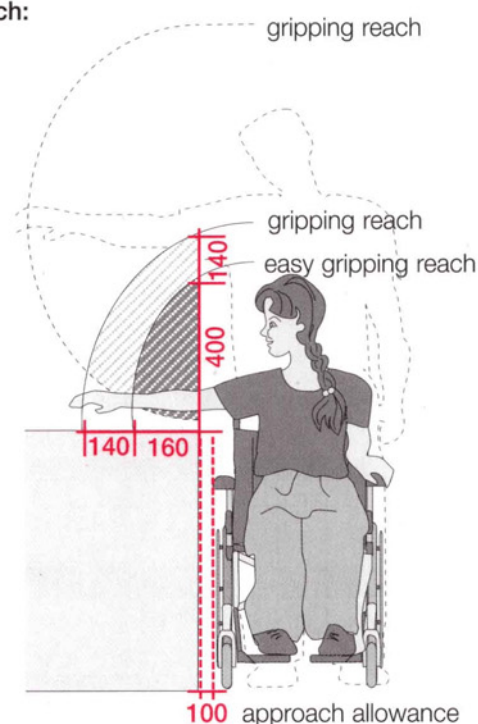
People have different reach ranges. Placing display material within easy reach of a 6 year old wheelchair user and in reach of an adult will make it accessible to most people.

- The 'easy gripping reach' for a 6 year old wheelchair user is
  - 220mm to reach straight ahead extending in an arc to 460mm above the table.
  - 160mm to reach sideways extending in an arc to 400mm above the table.
- The 'gripping reach' for a 6 year old wheelchair user is
  - 140mm beyond easy gripping reach to reach both sideways and straight ahead.
- Displays, dispensers and controls should be placed within the 'easy gripping reach area'. Some facilities which are expected to be used less frequently may be placed within the 'gripping reach area'.
- Wheelchair users using table top displays need
  - clear knee space depth of 600mm
  - under table height clearance of not less than 680mm
  - for protracted use and to allow wheelchair armrests to slide underneath, an under table height clearance of 750mm

Front reach:



Side reach:



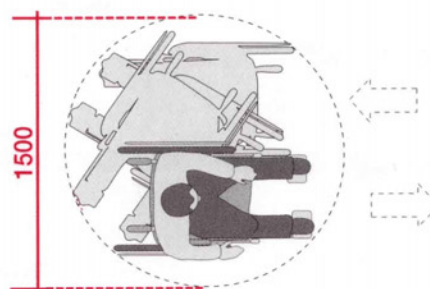
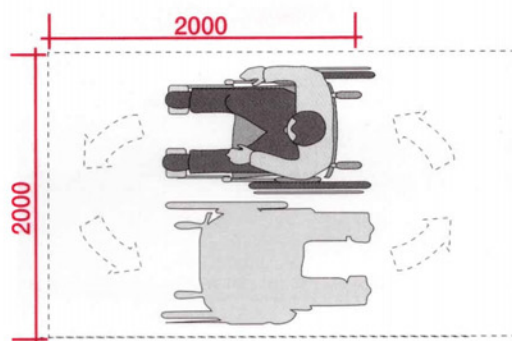
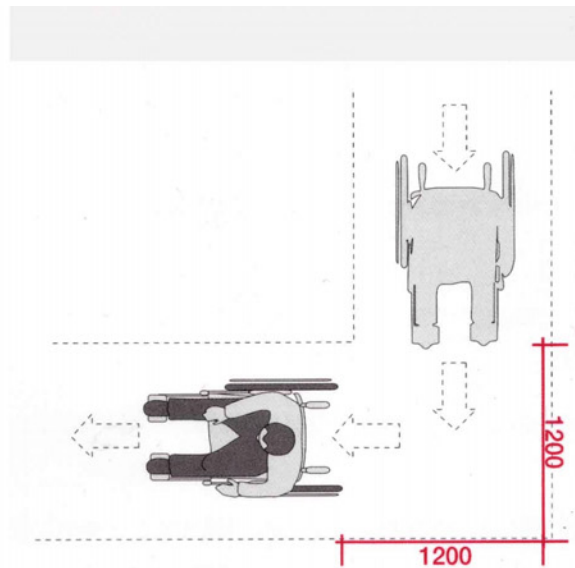
This sheet should be read in conjunction with the BT Countryside for All Standards and Guidelines

N.B. All measurements are in millimetres

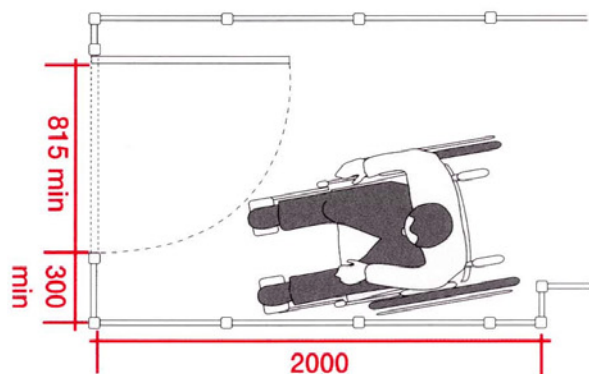
Wheelchairs and outdoor scooters are the least manoeuvrable of the mobility aids used by visitors to the countryside. In general terms, if the design of routes and path furniture is based around their space requirements you will create access for all users.

### Turning Spaces:

- In order to turn 90 degrees, a manual wheelchair user requires a minimum space of 1200mm x 1200mm.
- In order to turn 180 or 360 degrees, the wheelchair user requires a minimum space of 2000mm x 2000mm.
- By manoeuvring backwards and forwards around a central point a 180 degree turn can be done in a 1500mm diameter circle.
- These dimensions need to be taken into account where paths turn, or where there are barriers, for example gates and kissing gates.



N.B. All measurements are in millimetres



- Additional space must be left for gates which open towards you so that the gate can be opened and closed without you having to leave the path. A clear space of 300mm adjacent to the latch side and a length of 2000mm will allow wheelchair users and people with limited mobility to approach and open the gate.
- Outdoor scooters need more room to turn. Some scooters, for example, have a turning space of 2100mm and the largest most robust machines (which may also have a fixed hood) need further space.

N.B. All measurements are in millimetres

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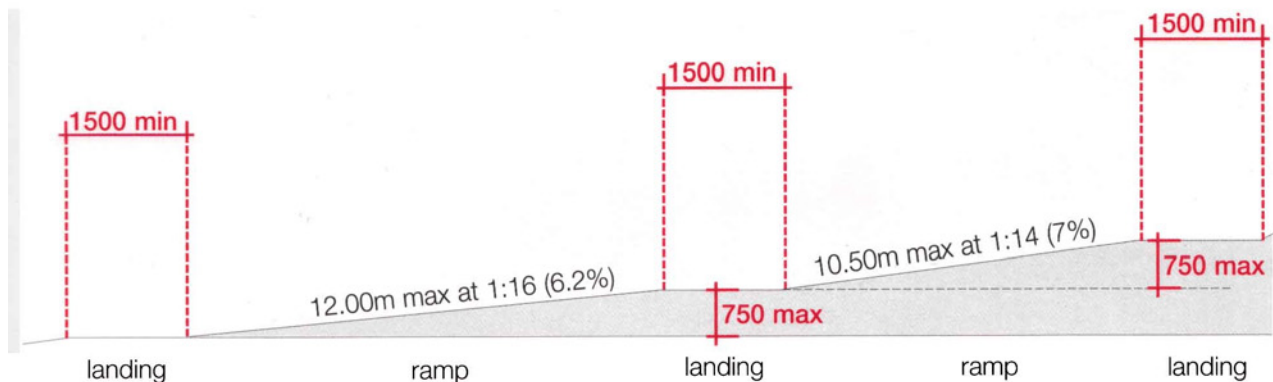
For wheelchair users all paths must be level or ramped. Some ambulant disabled people can more comfortably and safely use steps. Where possible provide both steps and ramps but if a choice has to be made provide ramps.

- Gradients less steep than 1:20 (5%) are not ramps.
- Gradients steeper than 1:20 (5%) are ramps and should comply with the following specifications:
- Ramps need flat landings at least 1200mm wide by 1500mm long for wheelchair users, ambulant disabled people and people with limited stamina.
- Landings should be provided for every 750mm of vertical climb on slopes with a gradient steeper than 1:20 (5%) (see table below).

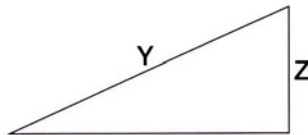
Table to show maximum ramp lengths between landings in different countryside settings (see BT Countryside for All accessibility standards):

	Urban/formal landscapes	Urban fringe/ managed landscapes	Rural/working landscapes
Gradient	Maximum distance between landings for 750mm vertical climb	Maximum distance between landings for 830mm vertical climb	Maximum distance between landings for 950mm vertical climb
1:20 (5%)	15.00 metres	16.60 metres	19.00 metres
1:18 (5.5%)	13.50 metres	14.94 metres	17.10 metres
1:16 (6.2%)	12.00 metres	13.28 metres	15.20 metres
1:14 (7%)	10.50 metres	11.62 metres	13.30 metres
1:12 (8.3%)	9.00 metres	9.96 metres	11.40 metres
1:10 (10%)			9.50 metres

## Ramped paths with rest areas:



Gradient formula:



To work out the gradient as 1:G

$$G = \frac{\text{length of ramp (Y)}}{\text{height rise (Z)}}$$

To work out the gradient as a percentage (P)

$$P \% = \frac{\text{height rise (Z)} \times 100}{\text{length of ramp (Y)}}$$

To convert 1:G to a percentage (P)

$$P \% = \frac{100}{G}$$

To convert a percentage to 1:G

$$G = \frac{100}{P \%}$$

N.B. All measurements are in millimetres

- To enable more people to use ramps easily it is recommended that no ramp should be longer than 15 metres before a rest area is provided.
- All ramps should have a non-slip surface (see information sheet 2.2).
- Abrupt changes of gradient should be avoided. Smooth gradual changes are preferred.
- The maximum cross slope of any path should be no steeper than 1:50 (2%). Cross slopes in excess of this, especially when combined with a linear path slope, can present difficulties of balance for wheelchair users and some ambulant disabled people.

**This sheet should be read in conjunction with the BT Countryside For All Standards and Guidelines**

To be accessible path surfaces **must be all of the following:**

- **compact/firm** → The surface should remain firm during use, and must be compact enough to withstand the effect of concentrated loads such as wheelchair tyres, sticks and canes.
- **stable** → The surface should not move unpredictably when the path is in use.
- **nonslip** → The surface should not be slippery in either dry or wet conditions.
- **obstacle free** → There should be very little or no loose material on the surface. Even very small loose particles can make a path very slippery for people with poor balance and mobility. Loose particles should not exceed 5mm in size. Standing water can be a hazard for some users.

Any path surface which meets all these specifications will be accessible.

Also bear in mind:

- Paths need regular maintenance. Make sure the path surface does not deteriorate over time, and remains free of potholes, cracks, and other obstructions.
- Making changes to the texture or colour of the path surface can be used to give cues to people who are blind or partially sighted that there is something ahead which they need to be aware of. This could be a feature of interest, a resting point, or a hazard. The change must be smooth and level, with a surface difference no greater than 5mm (see information sheet 5.6).
- Grates and manhole covers should not normally be used on paths and trails. However, if you can not avoid it, ensure that the gaps between the grills of the grate are no more than 12mm wide. The grate must also be placed so that it does not protrude above ground level, and the grills are at right angles to the direction of travel.

#### Suitable materials include

concrete  
bitumen macadam  
stone  
timber  
brick/paving  
mown grass



#### Unsuitable surfacing materials include

sand  
loose gravel  
woodchips  
cobble





**General observations on commonly used countryside path surfaces:**

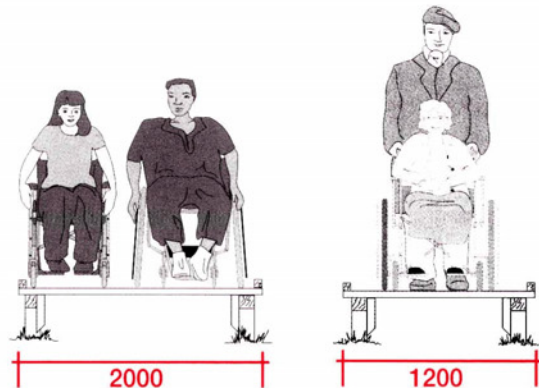
Type of surface	Performance	Construction and maintenance	Other conditions
<b>Concrete</b>	Provides a firm and stable surface. A lightly textured finish can help to prevent it becoming slippery when wet or with a build up of algae.	Needs a well prepared base with sufficient depth. This will improve its weight bearing capacity and prevent cracking.  High initial cost, with low maintenance cost.	Will not always be appropriate in a countryside setting, but the visual impact may soften with time.
<b>Bitumen Macadam</b>	Provides a firm and stable surface.  Surface can become soft or sticky in very hot weather. Pot holes can develop and become obstacles.	A well prepared base and proper rolling provides an accessible surface.  High initial cost, with low maintenance cost.  Vegetation can encroach and break the surface.	Weathers well, and the visual impact can soften quickly. It is available in a range of colours.
<b>Stone</b>	Provides a firm and stable surface if properly constructed.  Loose materials on the surface can occur through weathering and visitor use, and can lead to an unstable slippery surface.  Potholes can become common obstacles.	Needs a well prepared base layer, and a well compacted surface with ample fine material.  Will need good drainage to prevent surface materials being dislodged. Regular rolling and infilling is required to prevent loose materials of more than 5mm in size.  Materials most commonly used are limestone, granite and gritstone.  Vegetation can encroach and break up the surface.	Generally acceptable in many countryside settings where appropriate stone is used.
<b>Timber</b>	Provides a firm and stable surface.  Surface can become slippery in the wet or when algae builds up.  Wood can warp and move in time creating obstacles and trip hazards.	High initial costs, and ongoing maintenance required-especially to control any warping and movement of boards, and to check weight bearing capacity.	May be the only realistic option in wet areas.  Can be visually intrusive and can give the appearance of formalising a route.
<b>Brick and paving</b>	Can provide a firm surface.  Pavers can move over time creating irregularities in the surface, obstacles and trip hazards.	Needs a well constructed base layer to make sure the pavers do not move. All pavers must be closely bonded to avoid gaps and uneven areas.  High initial costs, with medium ongoing maintenance.	Can be visually intrusive and can give the appearance of formalising a route.

Type of surface	Performance	Construction and maintenance	Other conditions
<b>Mown grass</b>	<p>Difficult to achieve compact/firm, stable, nonslip and obstacle free surface. Only the very best grass surfaces are fully accessible.</p> <p>The surface can crack in dry conditions, and be muddy and waterlogged in wet weather. Even a little surface water can give a very slippery surface.</p> <p>Small irregularities and obstacles can remain hidden.</p>	<p>The surface can be reinforced with subsurface matting. This must remain below the surface to stop it tripping people up.</p> <p>Regular mowing and rolling is essential.</p> <p>Erosion is likely on well used paths.</p>	<p>Has a more natural appearance than constructed paths.</p> <p>Accessibility can be greatly affected by weather conditions.</p>

**This sheet should be read in conjunction with the BT Countryside For All Standards and Guidelines**

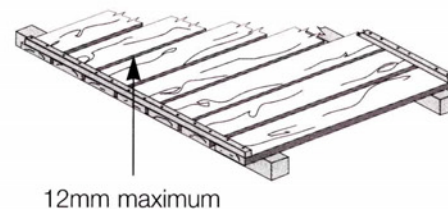
### Width:

- On bridges and boardwalks the minimum clear width between handrails or edging boards should be 1200mm for one way traffic and 2000mm for two-way traffic.



### Access:

- At the start of a boardwalk avoid creating a lip greater than 5mm high.



- To make drainage easier, it is good practice to lay the deck with gaps between the individual boards. This will also give some extra grip where boards are wet and slippery. The gap between boards should not be greater than 12mm.
- Boards must be laid at right angles to the direction of pedestrian flow otherwise wheelchair wheels or canes may become caught between them.

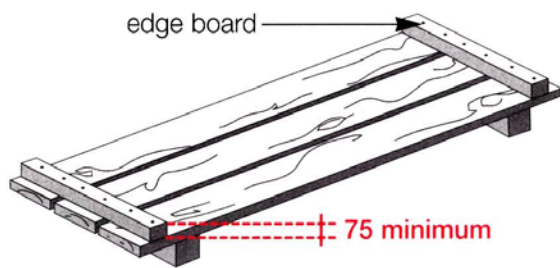


### Safety Considerations:

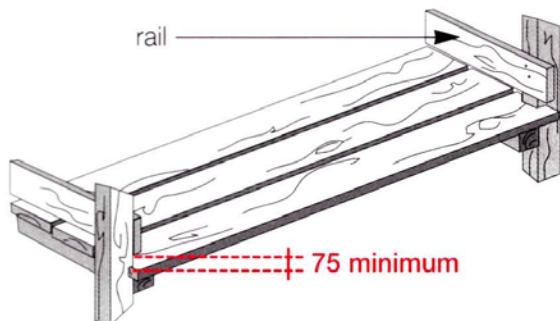
- You should assess the risk to users of boardwalks and bridges. Where there are gradients, sharp turns and other hazards edge boards and/or handrails should be considered.

N.B. All measurements are in millimetres





- All boardwalks and bridges should have some edge protection. The minimum is a deck level edging at least 75mm high.



- If a rail is used for edge protection it should have a bottom edge not more than 75mm from the boardwalk.

- The weight bearing capability should be sufficient so that boards are not deflected or broken by use. Boards that move can be hazardous. The whole structure should be stable and not springy.

#### Additional features:

- Boardwalks, like other routes, should have passing places, rest points and seating which will require extra width and space.

This sheet should be read in conjunction with the BT Countryside for All Standards and Guidelines

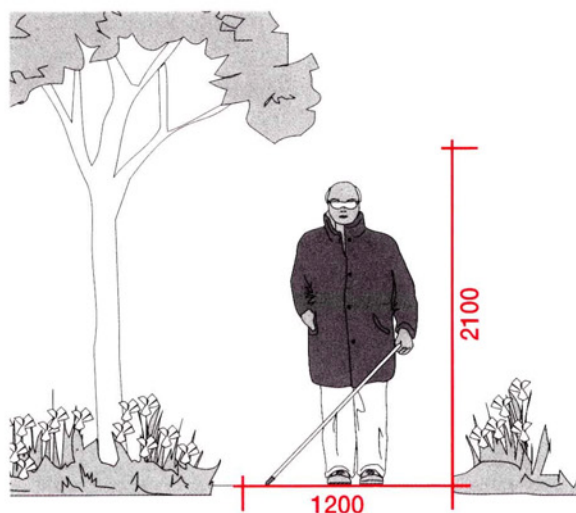
N.B. All measurements are in millimetres

# Clear Walking Tunnel

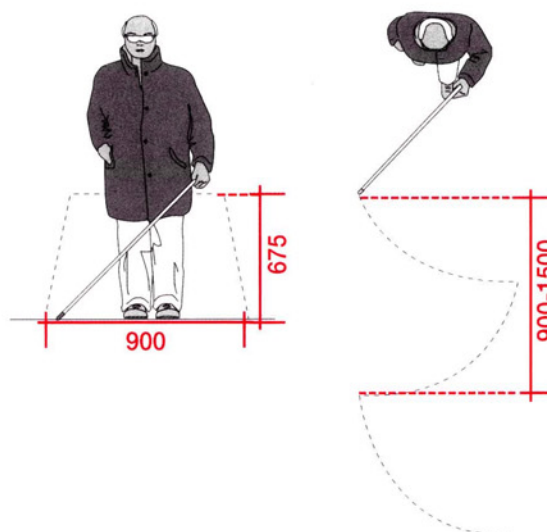


## 2.4

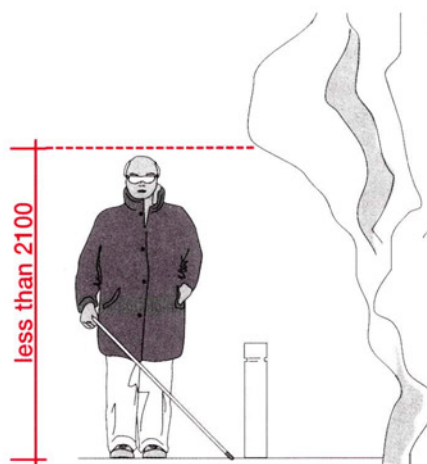
- To be accessible to visually impaired people the space directly above a path needs to extend to at least 2100mm and have a clear width of 1200mm.
- No object should be mounted so that it reduces the required clear width of an accessible route, below 1200mm x 2100mm (see table in BT Countryside For All accessibility standards).



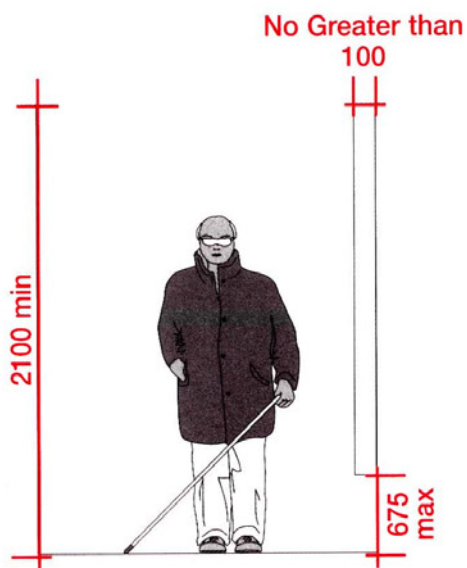
- People with visual impairments often use long canes as mobility aids. The cane is swung from side to side, touching points outside both shoulders.
- Long canes can detect objects lower than 675mm and within the swing of the cane.



- Objects which overhang a path or project from walls, such as signs, can create hazards for people with visual impairment. These hazards are noticed only if they fall within the detection range of canes. Providing a post on the ground, that can be located by a cane, but does not reduce the clear width of an accessible route, will enable visually impaired people to use the path.



N.B. All measurements are in millimetres



- Any object mounted between 675mm and 2100mm must not protrude more than 100mm into paths or trails.

- An object mounted with the bottom of its leading edge at or below 675mm above the ground may protrude any amount as long as it does not reduce the required clear width of an accessible route.
- If paths are used in winter, the clear headroom should not be reduced by snow accumulation.

N.B. All measurements are in millimetres

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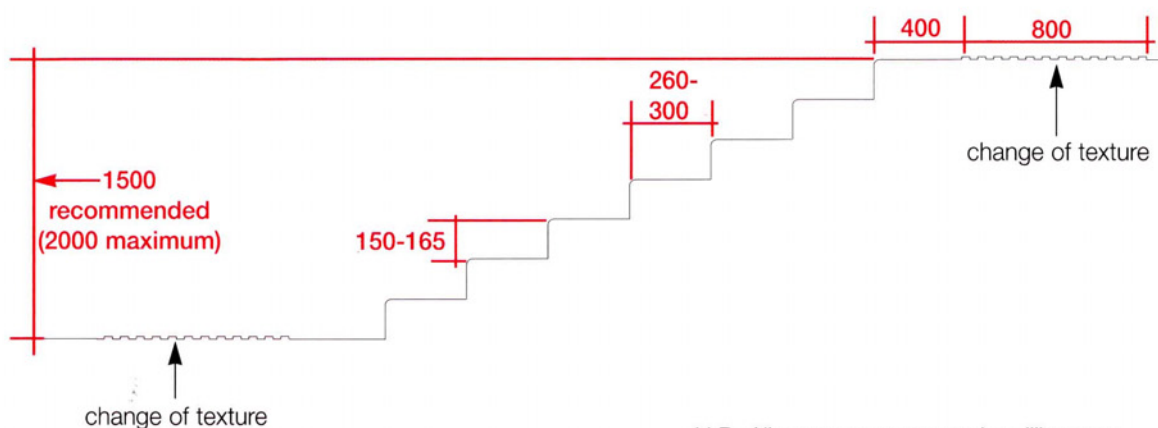
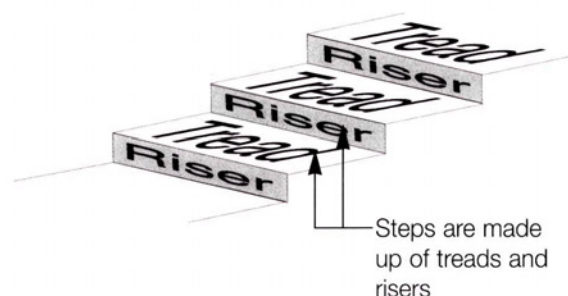
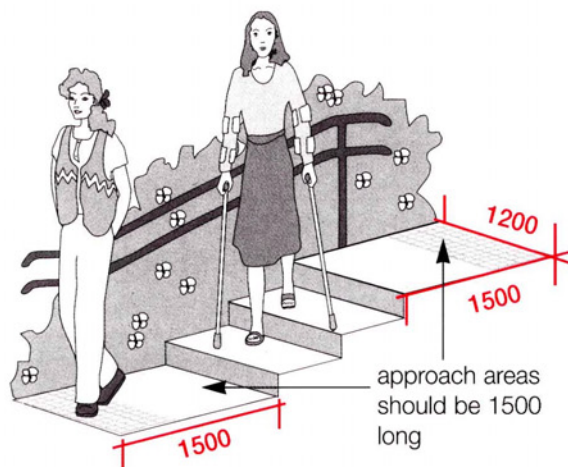


# Steps

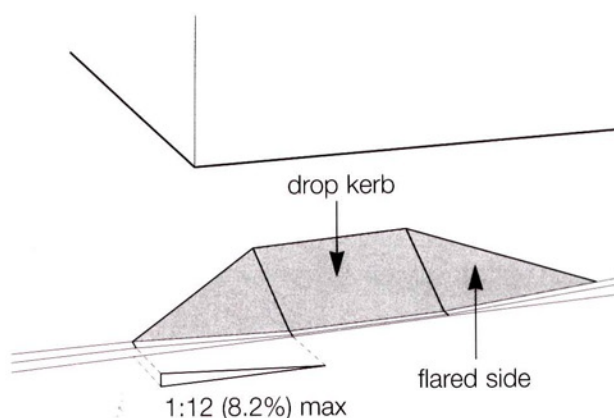
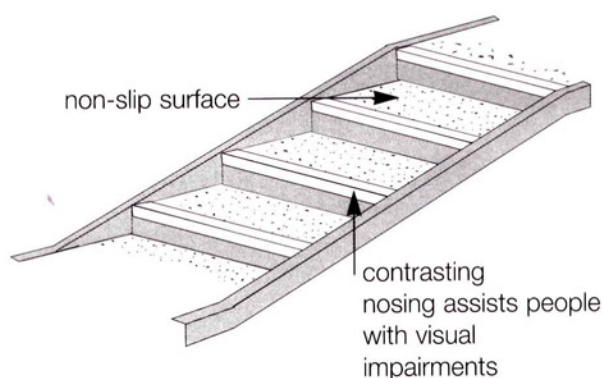
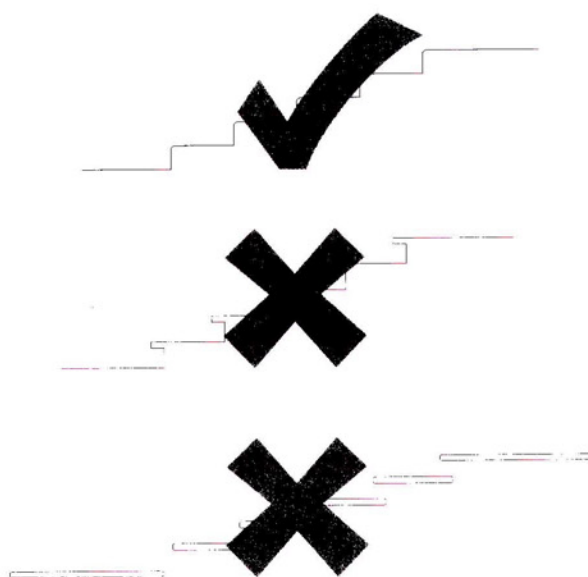


2.5

- Some ambulant people will find steps more convenient than ramps, so provide both where possible. If there is not room for both put in a ramp.
- A textural change on the path at the top and bottom of steps or ramps can provide a warning to people who are partially sighted. Make sure any texture change does not become a trip hazard (see information sheet 5.6).
- Steps should be a minimum of 1200mm wide.
- A clear, level area 1500mm long by 1200 wide should be provided at the top and the bottom approaches to steps so people can pass easily.
- The total rise of any flight of steps should not exceed 2000mm (see diagram below). Where the total rise needed exceeds 2000mm, a level rest area should be provided for at least every 2000mm rise.
- The riser height should not exceed 165mm and the tread width should not exceed 300mm (see diagram below).



N.B. All measurements are in millimetres



- All steps in a flight should have the same tread depth and riser height.
- Treads with a smooth, round nosing, slightly angled towards the riser are preferred.
- Treads with protruding nosing and open treads should be avoided as shoe toes and leg braces can be caught on them.
- Stair treads should be constructed with a non-slip, slightly textured surface, which remains slip resistant when wet or muddy.
- People who are partially sighted will prefer step nosings which contrast in colour with treads and risers.
- Avoid single steps and level changes less than 150mm with the exception of kerbs. Small changes are often not seen or expected. They can be dangerous and are usually not necessary.
- Small level changes of no more than 5mm are acceptable.
- Drop kerbs with a maximum gradient of 1:12 should be provided wherever paths and trails cross kerbs.
- A tactile warning, before a dropped kerb, is essential for visually impaired people (see information sheet 5.6.)

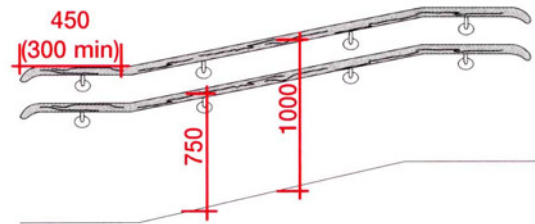
**This sheet should be read in conjunction with the BT Countryside for All Standards and Guidelines**

# Handrails

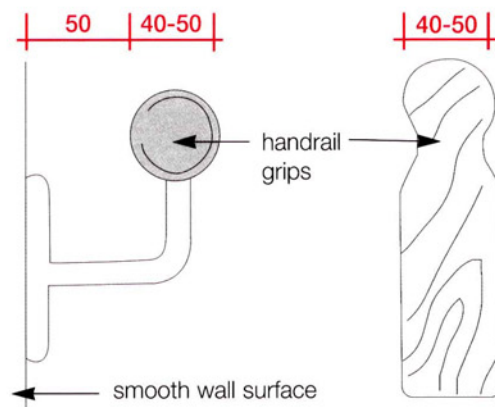


## 2.6

- Handrails can act as a safety barrier, an aid to balance, and as a means of propulsion for wheelchair users.
- Handrails should be provided at any platform or pathway which would otherwise be dangerous.
- Where handrails are provided on ramps and steps the rail should be 1000mm high. A secondary rail at 750mm can also be provided for children.

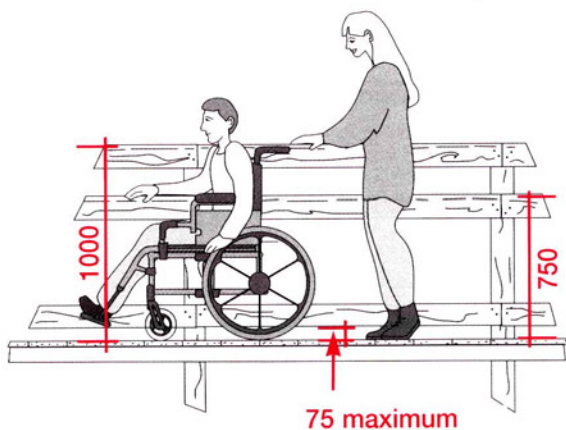


- The grip of a handrail should be between 40mm and 50mm in diameter, with 50mm clearance from an adjacent wall. Larger clearance can mean that hands or arms can get wedged between the wall and handrail. When designing specifically for children the grip should be 25-32mm in diameter.
- Wall mounted handrails should be fixed securely with no protruding screws. The wall surface behind the rail should be smooth and non-abrasive, and should not splinter or scratch.
- Handrails should be constructed of non-abrasive, non-splintering materials which do not retain heat or cold.
- The ends of handrails should be curved down or rounded off so that they do not present a hazard.
- Handrails should continue at least 300mm past the end of steps, ramps, bridges and boardwalks. This will act



N.B. All measurements are in millimetres





as a guide for visually impaired people and will provide added security for people with limited balance.

- Continue handrails through any landings provided on long flights of steps.
- On bridges and raised boardwalks handrails should be provided. Top, middle and bottom rails, at least, are required. One rail should be set at a height of 1000mm. A second rail set at a height of 750mm will be useable by wheelchair users and children. A bottom rail with a gap below no greater than 75mm will give added security to wheelchair users and may be used as a tapping rail by visually impaired people.

N.B. All measurements are in millimetres

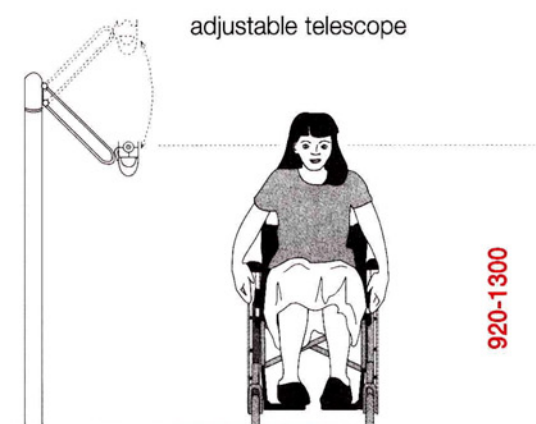
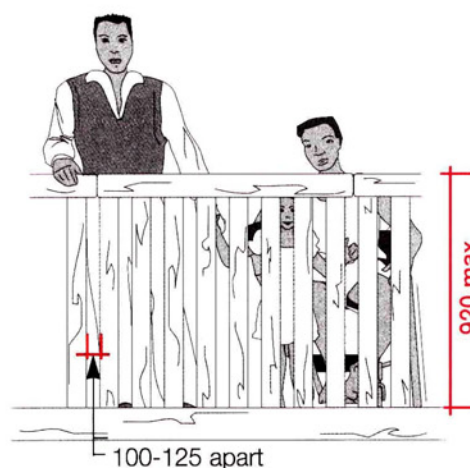
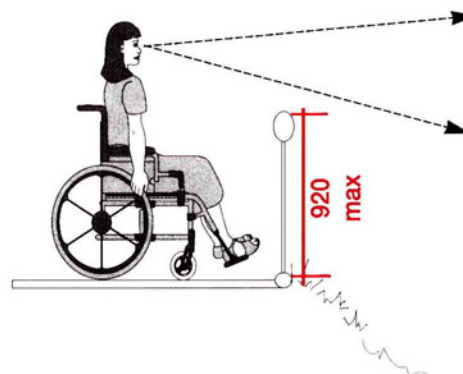
**This sheet should be read in conjunction with the BT Countryside for All Standards and Guidelines**

# Viewing Points



2.7

- Viewing points should, wherever possible, be accessible to everyone (see information sheet 5.5).
- Ensure the trail from a parking area to a viewing point is accessible and well marked.
- The surface of the viewing point itself should be firm, level and stable.
- Provide seating or resting places at viewing points (see information sheet 4.1).
- Provide a shelf for people to lean against when using cameras or binoculars (see information sheet 6.5).
- Ensure that any information or interpretation points do not obscure the view for wheelchair users (see information sheet 5.5).
- You should assess risks and provide safety barriers where necessary. These should take account of the viewing height of wheelchair users. But safety considerations are the most important.
- Ensure that where telescopes are provided at viewing points they have a variable height control. There should be knee space between the telescope and the ground to give wheelchair users access (see information sheet 1.2).



**This sheet should be read in conjunction with the BT Countryside for All Standards and Guidelines**

ensure there is enough knee space under the telescope for wheelchair users

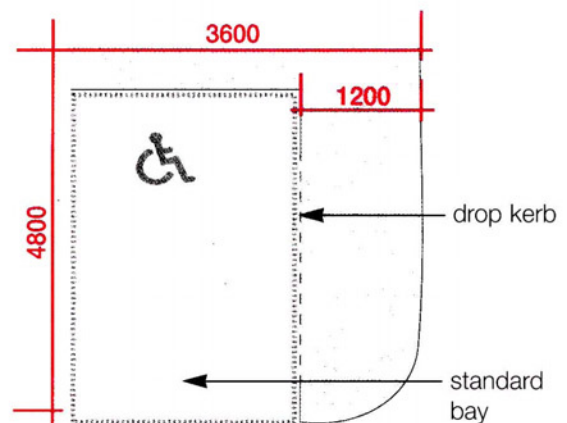
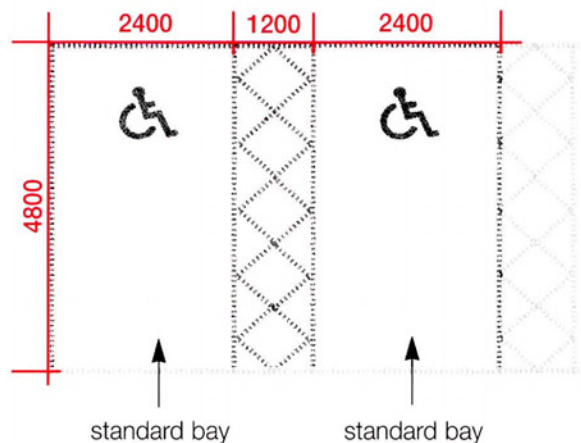
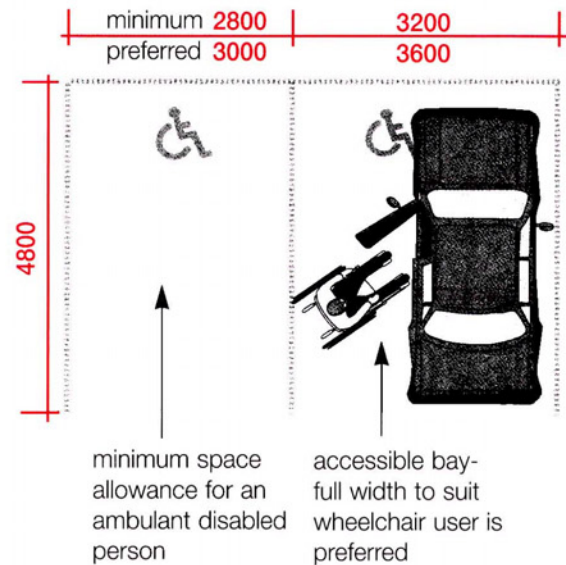
N.B. All measurements are in millimetres

# Car Parking



2.8

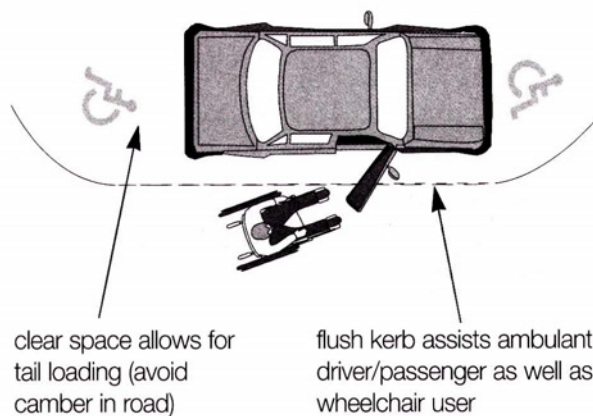
- Larger parking bays are needed by people with limited mobility to get in and out of their cars with the minimum of difficulty.
- The location of accessible bays should be clearly signposted from the car park entrance.
- Bays should be identified as provision for disabled drivers or passengers only.
- Bays should be as close as possible to the facilities the car park serves.
- Bays need to be wide enough for car doors to be opened fully. 3600mm wide is recommended.
- If space is limited provide shared space 1200mm wide between two standard bays.
- Kerbs between the parking area and main routes should be dropped to give access to wheelchair users. The maximum gradient should be 1:12. (see information sheet 2.5.).
- The car park surface should be level, smooth, even and free from loose stones.
- Safe pedestrian access routes should be built into the car park design.
- End bays can have a minimum of 1200mm free space next to them for safe access.



N.B. All measurements are in millimetres



**'Drop off/pick up' areas:**



- Where it is not possible to provide a parking area close to a facility, 'drop off/pick up' areas should be provided as close as possible.

Total spaces	Suggested accessible spaces
1-25	1
26-50	2
51-75	3
76 - 100	4
101 - 150	5
151 - 200	6
201 - 300	7
301 - 400	8
401 - 500	9
501 - 1000	2% of total
1001 and over	20 +1 for each 100 spaces over 1000

- The number of accessible parking spaces that should be provided is based on the total number of parking spaces available (see table opposite).

**This sheet should be read in conjunction with the BT Countryside For All Standards and Guidelines**

# Seats & Perches

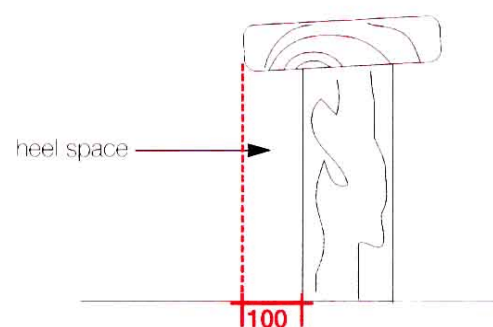
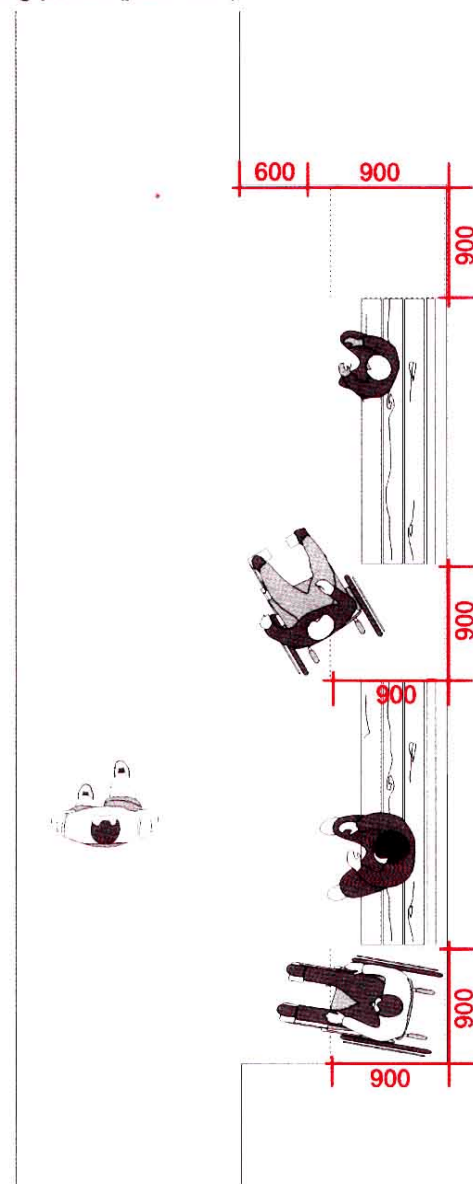


## 3.1

Seats and perches should be placed at regular intervals along paths in the countryside. This will enable ambulant disabled and elderly people to rest during a walk.

- The distance between resting points should be no more than 100 metres.
- Wherever possible, put seats and perches where there is something to look at, and where there is shelter.
- Place resting points at the top, bottom and at some level points along steps and ramps. Wherever possible place them in sight of each other, so people have something to aim at.
- Provide a tactile cue on the path surface before a seat, to alert visually impaired people (see information sheet 5.6.).
- Seats and perches should be set back from the main route by at least 600mm to allow the free passage of through traffic.
- Surfaced resting places at least 900mm square should be provided next to seats so that wheelchair users can sit next to their family and friends.
- Seats should be 450-520mm high, and perches should be 500-750mm high. It is best to provide both, as some people may find getting up from a seated position too difficult. The seat should be sloped slightly to allow water to run off. Children may prefer seats as low as 350mm high.
- Heel space of at least 100mm should be provided under seats. This will help people to stand up more easily because it places the feet below the body's centre of gravity.

Resting points (plan view):



N.B. All measurements are in millimetres

- The surface under seats should be firm, stable and flush with the pathway.
- Some seats should have backs and arms for additional support. The arms can be used as leverage when standing up, and some people may use the seat back as a perch point.
- Large logs and low walls can double up as resting points, and some seat designs might also incorporate carvings, sculpture, location and distance information, or other site interpretation.
- Arm rests on seats are helpful to lean against and will help people to lever themselves in and out of the seat.

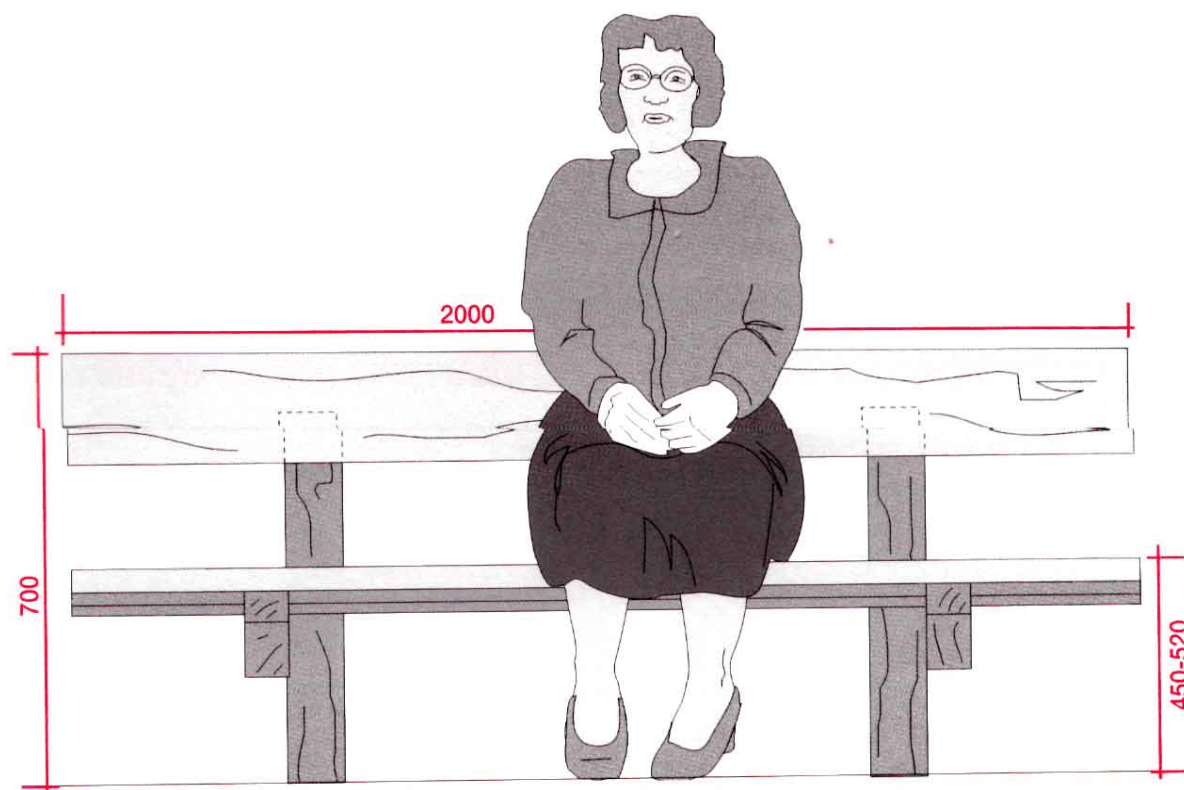
**This sheet should be read in conjunction with the BT Countryside For All Standards and Guidelines**



# Seat with backrest

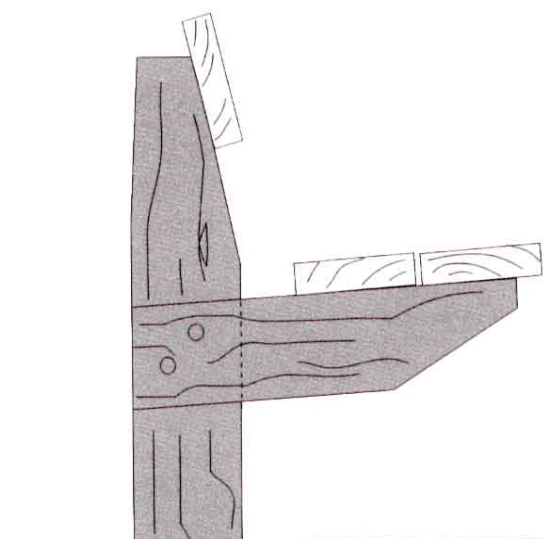


## 3.2



- Seats with backrests provide additional comfort and assistance to disabled and elderly people who may have difficulties standing or sitting.

Seat profile:



**This sheet should be read in conjunction with the BT Countryside For All Standards and Guidelines**

N.B. All measurements are in millimetres

These symbols should only be used on facilities that conform to acceptable accessibility standards.

### International Symbol of Accessibility:

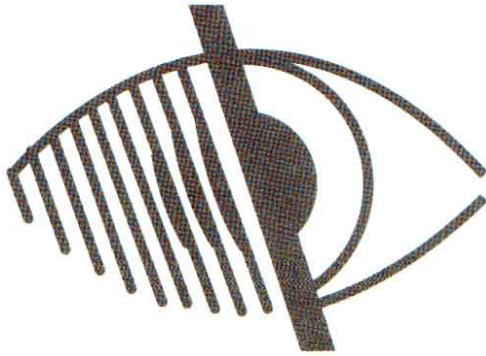
- This symbol should be used to indicate and direct people to
  - accessible parking spaces.
  - accessible pick-up/set-down points.
  - accessible sites and facilities.
  - entrances that are not the primary entrance.
  - accessible toilets and restrooms.The symbol should be used to highlight specific facilities aimed at, or adapted for, people with disabilities.
- The International Symbol of Accessibility should not be used
  - where a facility can be used equally by everyone. For example, a flat level path walked by all visitors should not be labelled with the International Symbol of Access.
  - where accessibility can not be confirmed as complying with acceptable standards.



### International Symbol of Access for Hearing Loss:

- This symbol should be displayed where permanent facilities or services are available for people with hearing loss. If one or more of the following facilities and services are available **at all times** the International Symbol of Access for Hearing Loss should be displayed:
  - Sympathetic Hearing Scheme in operation.
  - induction loop installed.
  - sign language interpreters available.
  - lipspeak services provided.





### International Symbol of Access for Visual Impairment:

This symbol should be displayed where permanent facilities or services are available for people with visual impairments. If one or more of the following facilities and services are available **at all times** the International Symbol of Access for Visual Impairment should be displayed:

- braille information.
- taped information.
- guide dogs allowed.
- sighted guides available to help.

This sheet should be read in conjunction with the BT Countryside For All Standards and Guidelines



# Print Sizes on Leaflets

## 4.2

The use of large print improves access for people with visual impairments and an increasing number of older people.

### Written material:

- 14-20 point minimum should be used for all text. Make sure that the letters are at least 2.5mm in height. Larger point size will be necessary for titles and headings.
- Choose standard fonts. Examples include Helvetica Regular, Times New Roman, Univers 55. Indistinctive or unusual fonts should be avoided.
- Use a normal mixture of both upper and lower case lettering. Avoid use of capitals in continuous text.
- Average lines of text should be a maximum of 40-65 characters.
- Layout on the paper should be clear and simple:
  - ensure that both words and lines are evenly spaced.
  - do not cram words.
  - do not stretch words, keep them all the same.
  - use justified left hand margins.
  - do not hyphenate words at the end of lines.
  - leave a clear space between paragraphs.

14 point - 20 point for body text

Helvetica Regular ✓  
Times New Roman ✓  
Indistinctive fonts ✗  
Unusual fonts ✗

AVOID USE OF CAPITALS IN CONTINUOUS TEXT

Do not cram words as it makes it extremely difficult to read

Do not s t r e t c h words



justified left



centred text



justified text



weak contrast



**Strong Contrast**

- Use text colour which will provide a strong contrast with the background colour.
- Do not print text over illustrations, photographs or patterns.
- Ensure the paper chosen for leaflets is:
  - opaque to prevent the print from showing through
  - not glossy or reflective to avoid glare and handling difficulties
  - of medium weight, to make pages easier to turn for people with limited dexterity

**This sheet should be read in conjunction with the BT Countryside For All Standards and Guidelines**

# Print Sizes on Signs



## 4.3

- The print sizes used on information boards need to be big enough for people to be able to read the text easily. The following minimum print sizes are recommended:

-titles	60-72 point
-subtitles	40-48 point
-body text	24 point
-captions	18 point
- Use a normal mixture of upper and lower case print and if possible include some information in tactile format so that people who are blind and partially sighted can read it.
- The bigger the size of print the further away people can read it (see table opposite).
- Remember that people who are blind or partially sighted will need to get close to the board to read it, so ensure it is placed in an accessible location.

20 point print can be read from <b>1.2</b> metres away
48 point print can be read from <b>1.5</b> metres away
60 point print can be read from <b>1.8</b> metres away
200 point print can be read from <b>9</b> metres away
320 point print can be read from <b>18</b> metres away

This sheet should be read in conjunction with the BT Countryside For All Standards and Guidelines



- The colour, and colour contrast, of printed material is a significant factor in making signs and leaflets legible and visible:
  - consider colour contrast when choosing paper or board colour, type, text, graphics and background
  - the effectiveness of the colours chosen will be affected by paper, inks and type size
- When using colours it is better to have a dark text on a light background.

### External Signs:

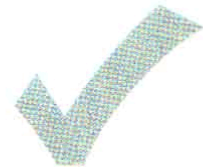
- The colour of a sign should contrast with the landscape behind. The text should contrast with the board.
- White as a background colour of outdoor signs may cause dazzle in bright light. A matt finish to a board can help to eliminate this problem.

## Good Contrast

## Poor Contrast

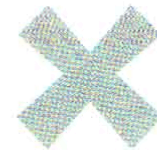
### Good colour combinations:



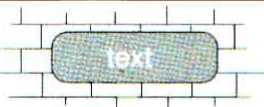

black on white  
dark blue on white  
black on yellow  
dark green on white



### Poor colour combinations:

pastel on pastel  
yellow on orange  
yellow on grey  
yellow on white  
blue on green  
red on green  
black on violet



Background	Sign board	Text	Example
green vegetation	white	black/dark green/blue	
red brick/dark stone	white	black/dark green/blue	
light brick or stone	black/dark green	white	
white walls	black	white	

**Word size, spacing and colour determines the legibility of signs.**

- The size of the sign and the lettering will affect legibility. Where colours are not highly contrasting, the larger the letters and spacing of the words the better.
- Text which runs over a background containing several different colours/tones will be difficult to read. In the same way, printing illustrations or photographs over a variety of coloured backgrounds will make it difficult for many visually impaired people to read.
- If colour coding is used on trails to guide visitors all colours should contrast strongly with each other to help those who are colour blind.
- Combinations of primary and secondary, or full-intensity colours, generally fail to reach a good contrast and will be difficult to read.
- The most common colours that people with colour blindness can confuse are red/yellow/green, red/black and blue/green/purple.

**This sheet should be read in conjunction with the BT Countryside For All Standards and Guidelines**

# Location of Signs

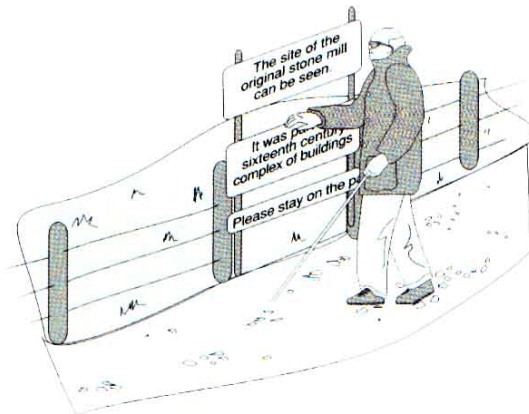


4.5

Signs are essential to orientate visitors, direct them along trails and paths, interpret features of interest or give warnings about hazards ahead. All signs should be fully accessible. Consider the following:

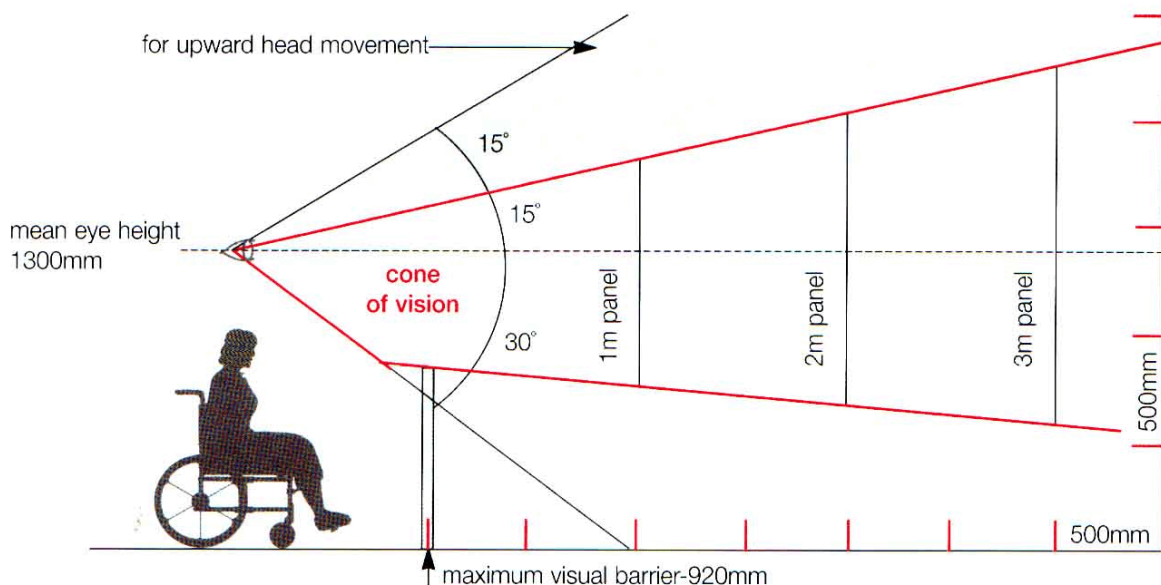
## Position:

- Where possible ensure all people can reach the sign:
  - physical accessibility is essential, especially for people with visual impairments who may need to get very close in order to read or touch the sign
  - the surface around the sign should be level and well maintained for wheelchair access
  - if possible incorporate signs with resting points at the side of main tracks
  - put signs and display panels where they can be seen and read by people standing and wheelchair users
  - place signs and display panels within the accessible cone of vision

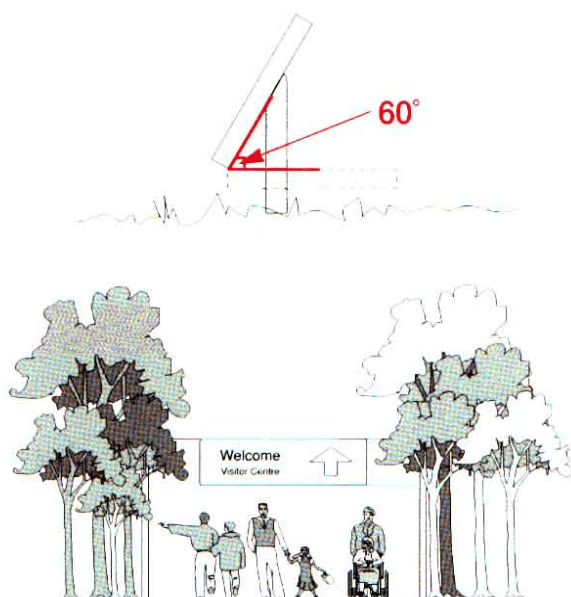


Position of panels/signs within the cone of vision:

Viewing Distance	Lowest point not below	Highest point not above
1m	800mm	1850mm
2m	700mm	2150mm
3m	650mm	2400mm







- signs placed on the ground should be tilted to 60 degrees to enable people standing and wheelchair users to read them with ease

- Badly positioned signs can be a hazard to visitors:
  - signs that people have to walk under should be a minimum of 2100mm above ground level to allow a clear walking area for visually impaired people
  - ensure there is no overhanging vegetation obstructing the signs

#### Lighting:

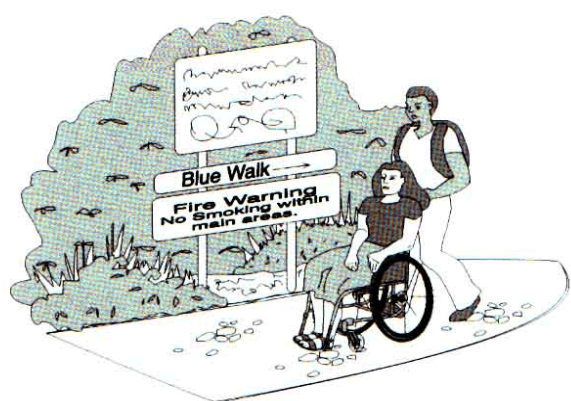
- Signs should be well lit, and board surface materials should be non-reflective.

#### Colour:

- Signs should contrast with their background so that they are highly visible:
  - consider seasonal changes to the background vegetation

#### Other Considerations:

- Avoid placing signs where they will obscure features of interest.
- Keep the number of signs used to a minimum. Only use signs where necessary, to give information. For example in car parks, at the beginning and at junctions of trails, and where there may be hazards.
- Signs must be clear and concise to avoid confusion on the part of visitors.
- Signs along trails should be consistent in placement, contrast and colour so that visitors recognise them in different situations.



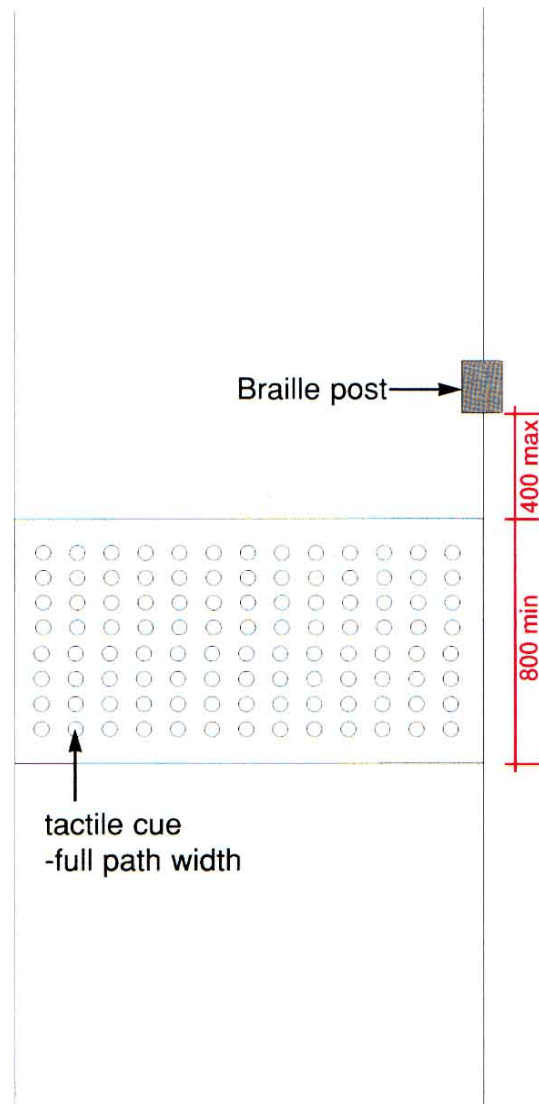
This sheet should be read in conjunction with the BT Countryside For All Standards and Guidelines

# Tactile Signs



4.6

- At road crossings a blister pattern tactile cue is often used to alert visually impaired pedestrians of a safe crossing. On paths and trails, other than roads, different cues can be used.
- Tactile cues are a good way of warning people who are blind or partially sighted that there is a feature ahead. This could be a path junction, a flight of steps, a seat or an information board.
- Tactile cues involve making changes to the path surface. A contrasting surface underfoot alerts visually impaired people to something ahead. People need to be told in advance what tactile cues mean and they should only be used where visitors can be informed about what to expect. Any material used must mean the path is still accessible to everyone, including wheelchair users. It must also be securely bonded into the existing surface so that it does not become a trip hazard (maximum lip 5mm).
- The cue must be full path width and 800mm long. It should end no more than 400mm before the feature it is warning people about.
- If strips are used they must be placed at right angles to the direction of travel and should be 19-50mm apart.
- Any gaps between planks of wood or brick setts must be no more than 12mm.



For further information contact:  
Royal National Institute for the Blind  
Phone: 0171 388 1266

This sheet should be read in conjunction with the BT Countryside For All Standards and Guidelines



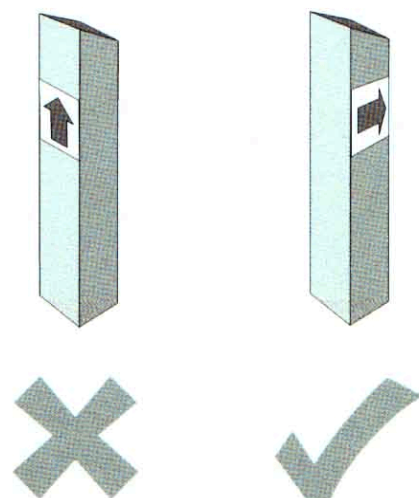
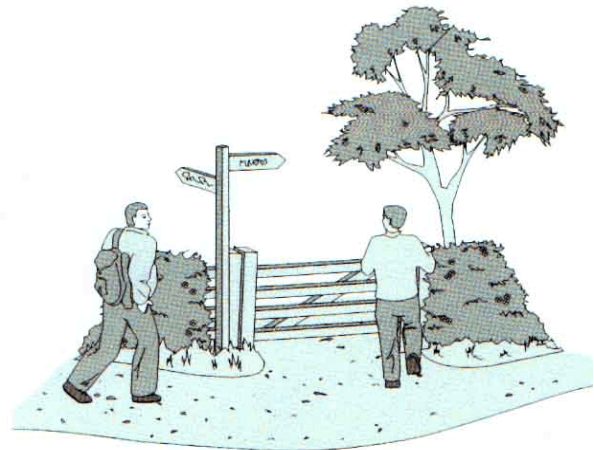
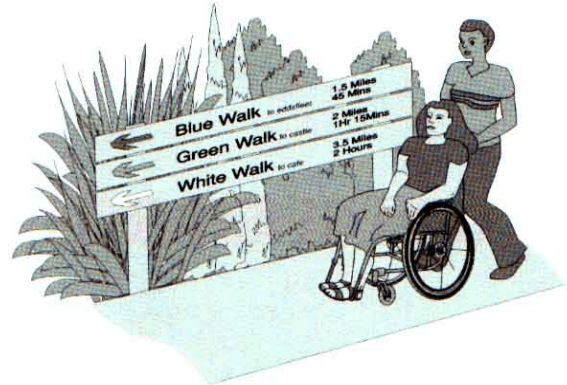
# Way Marking



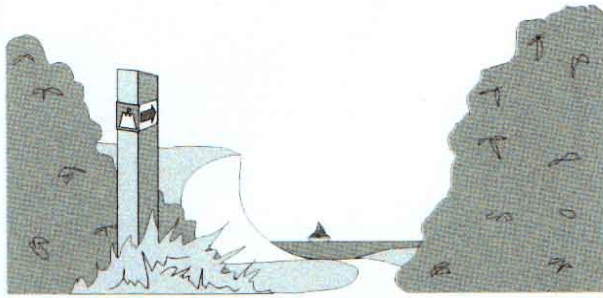
4.7

Waymarking encourages and gives confidence to people walking paths and trails. It can also help prevent inadvertent trespass.

- Keep waymarking as simple as possible.
- At the start of a route include the destination, distance and likely walk time on a post or sign.
- Include any information about the route, for example gradients, rest points and view points to help disabled people decide if the trail is right for them.
- Avoid using a lot of waymarking arrows on a single post. This can be confusing to the visitor.
- All junctions should be waymarked.
- Routes should be waymarked both ways so that people can retrace their steps if necessary.
- Make sure that waymarking arrows point in the direction you want people to go. Arrows directing people to go straight ahead should be placed horizontally on the side of the post, not pointing to the sky.

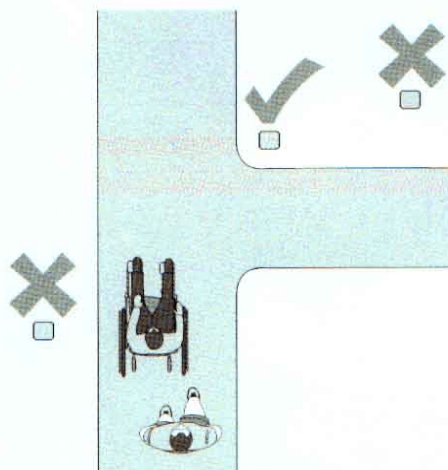






- Symbols as well as waymarker arrows help people to follow routes. (For example a picture of a sand castle for a walk that takes visitors to a beach).

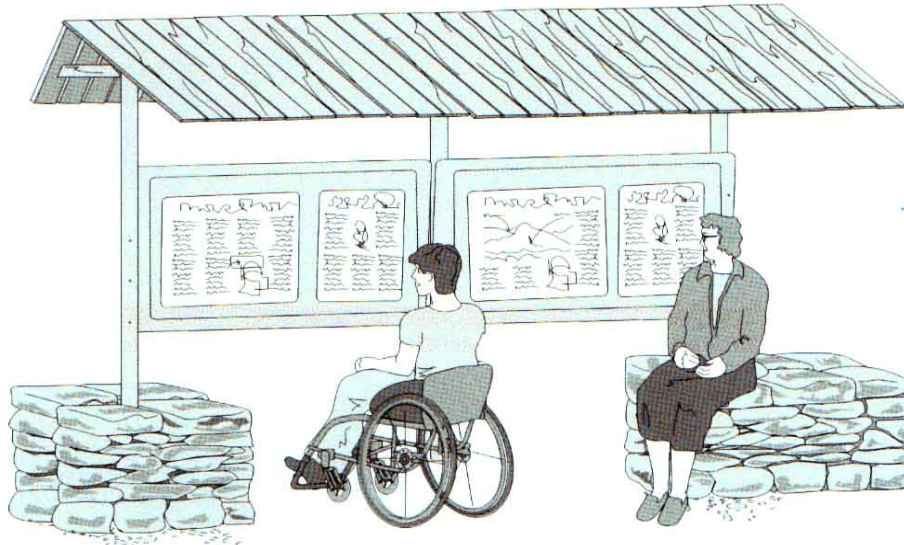
- It is recommended that waymarkers are at least 100mm in diameter.
- Make sure that the background colour used for the waymarking disc gives a clear colour contrast to the symbol in the foreground.
- Make sure that the post can be clearly seen against any background vegetation.
- Wording and numbering must be big enough to be able to be seen from a distance.



- Put waymarker posts next to junctions so people are clear which route to take.

- Good maintenance is essential so that information remains legible over time.

**This sheet should be read in conjunction with the BT Countryside For All Standards and Guidelines**

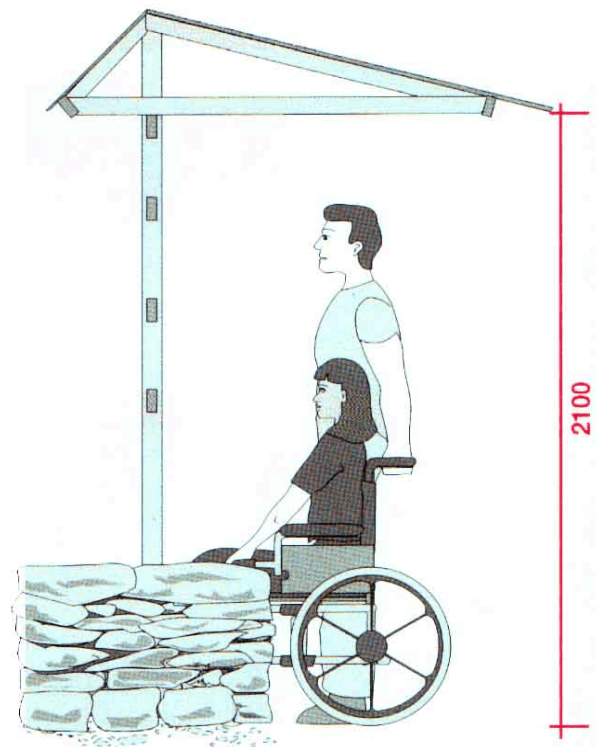


Sheltered information and interpretation boards are a point of interest for visitors, and can double up as shelter from the weather if the need arises.

Side elevation:

- Ensure path surfaces on the approach to, and surrounding, the shelter are accessible to all visitors.
- Where possible incorporate seating or perches under the shelter.
- Ensure that the roof of the shelter does not just cover the information board but will comfortably cover people reading it as well.
- The roof should be a minimum of 2100mm from the ground so that it is not a hazard for visually impaired people.
- Try to divert water draining from the roof away from the front of, or the entrance to, the shelter. It may also be prudent to ensure it does not drain directly onto the surrounding path surfaces (see information sheet 5.5).

This sheet should be read in conjunction with the BT Countryside For All Standards and Guidelines



N.B. All measurements are in millimetres