

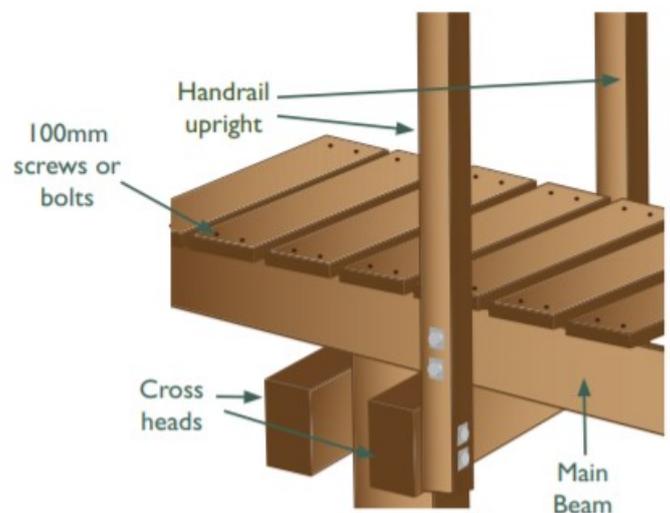
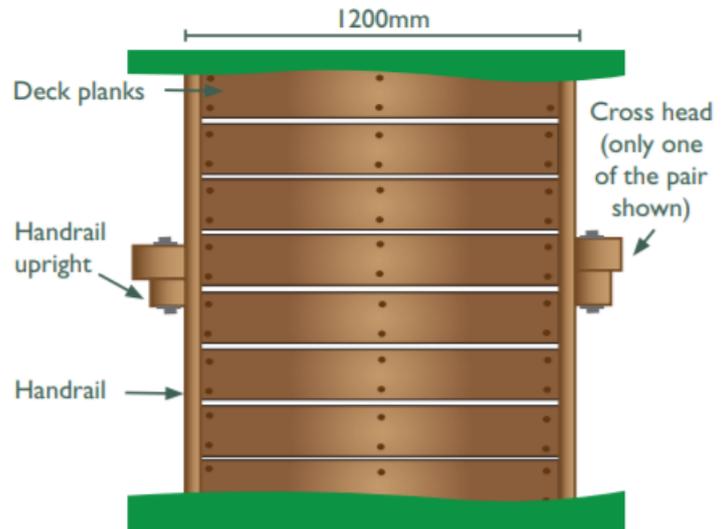
Boardwalks may be the only solution to bridge wet areas, particularly where there are sensitive habitats, as they leave most of the surface undisturbed. However, they are likely to require significantly more maintenance than a surfaced path; see also the 'Surfacing' guide. There are no legal requirements for boardwalks, so this design draws on best practice.

Responsibilities

Boardwalks on rights of way are usually the responsibility of the County Council.

Boardwalk Design

- This design is only suitable for paths which are only used by walkers (and dogs/pushchairs/wheelchairs) e.g. footpaths.
- The boardwalk should be at least 1.2m wide; if it is over 25m long, or it is not possible to see one end from the other, passing places should be provided, expanding the width to 2.4m for a 4m length.
- A handrail may be provided on one or both sides as shown, using two horizontal rails; the top of the lower rail should be set at 600mm above the deck and the upper rail at 1100mm.
- If the surface is likely to become slippery (e.g. it is under trees) then grooved deck boards or an anti-slip treatment may be used (see 'For all Projects' guide).
- Toe boards may be used along each edge of the boardwalk if desired. A 30mm gap should be left between the boards and the deck to avoid debris collecting.
- Use corrosion-resistant screws or bolts throughout (see 6m bridge guide)
- Leave a small (max 12mm) gap between deck boards, to allow for air to circulate around the timber, expansion in warm weather and shedding of water and falling leaves.



Components for Boardwalk:

Main beams 150mm x 50mm x 3m length

Handrail uprights 100mm x 100mm x 1.5m (centres every 1.5m)

Handrails 100mm x 50mm x 6m

Cross heads 100mm x 50mm x boardwalk width

Deck boards 200mm x 50mm x boardwalk width

Piles 100mm x 100mm x 1.5m? (length depends on ground conditions)

Corrosion-resistant screws and bolts (see 6m bridge for guidance)

This guidance is suitable for most situations in Hampshire; for further advice email countryside@hants.gov.uk or call 0300 555 1391