

**Any structure on a path will impede use and a stile is the worst option—they cannot be used by people with push-chairs, wheelchairs or those who have mobility difficulties. For this reason no new stiles will be authorised by the County Council and whenever possible existing stiles should be replaced with a gap or a gate.**

**No stiles are permitted across the width of rights of way classed as Bridleways, Restricted Byways or Byways Open to All Traffic (BOATs).**

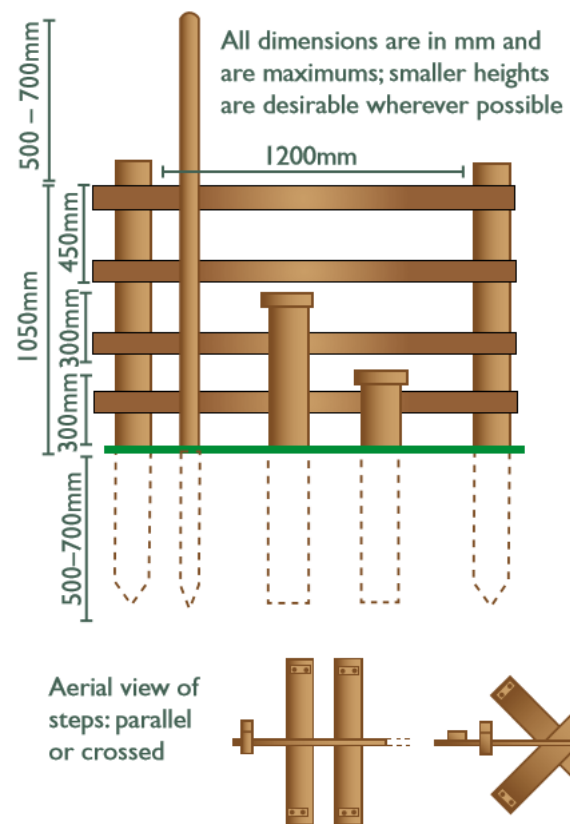
### Responsibilities

Landowners are legally responsible for the maintenance of, and are liable for, any stiles on public rights of way over their land. No additional stiles may be installed without the County Council's permission and for the reasons given above, permission will not be given. The County Council is willing to supply a gate where it replaces an existing stile.

### Stile Design

- The height between the ground and first step, and between the first and second steps, must be the same and no more than 300mm.
- The height between the top step and the top of the top rail must be no more than 450mm.
- The overall height, between the top of the top rail and the ground, must be no more than 1050mm.
- Steps must be level and at least 200mm wide; they should be at least 50mm thick and 900mm long. Steps can be either crossed or parallel (see diagram).
- All uprights should be sunk at least 500mm into the ground.
- Handposts (projecting to a height of 500-700mm above the top rail) should be provided where possible, as they assist everyone, including people with mobility or balance difficulties who may otherwise be unable to use the stile.
- Likewise, dog gates (see overleaf) should be provided where possible. Dogs may legally accompany people on all rights of way and stiles are a major barrier, requiring the owner to lift them over or the dog to find a way under.

- There must not be any sharp edges on the structure.
- It is particularly important that the ground immediately around the stile should be level, firm and dry; use scalping if necessary.
- Barbed wire and electric fencing must not be attached to the stile itself; any such fencing should be strained to a separate post which is not part of the stile construction, ideally 1 metre away.
- Where possible, stiles should be set back from roads by at least 2 metres.



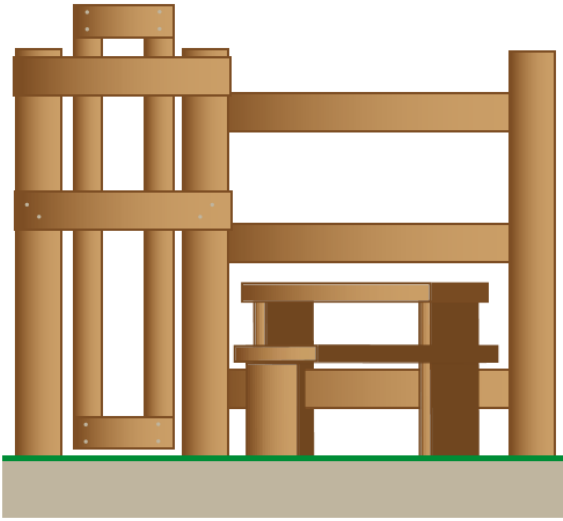
### Stile Components:

- 1x upright & handpost combined  
100mm x 100mm x 2200mm
- 2x steps 200mm x 50mm x 900mm
- 2x step supports 100mm x 100mm x 800mm
- 2x step supports 100mm x 100mm x 1100mm
- Corrosion resistant screws (timberlock are good)
- Additional timber railing and fence posts required

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

### Dog Gate

The owner lifts a paddle to allow their dog through and the gate then drops shut. This design is simple and robust, although any similar design giving a 300mm wide and 370mm high gap is acceptable.



### Alternative Stile Design

Although not suitable for fields with livestock capable of jumping this (e.g. horses), this stile is preferred as it has lower step heights, enabling more people to use it.

