



# Advice Note

## Specifications for Furniture on Rights of Way

\*To be read in conjunction with

“Advice Note – Rights of Way and Landowners/Land Manager’s Responsibilities”  
and “Advice Note – Authorisation of gates and stiles on Rights of Way -  
a s.147 Highways Act 1980 agreement”

The North York Moors National Park Authority acknowledges that from time to time it is necessary for landowners/land managers of agricultural, livery or forestry landholdings to erect new structures across Public Footpaths, Public Bridleways or Restricted Byways (known collectively as “Rights of Way”) in order to manage and control livestock and other animals. Landowners/land managers cannot erect any gates or stiles across Rights of Way without first obtaining consent from the National Park Authority (known as “a s.147 Highways Act 1980 agreement”). Also, in 2006 a British Standard design specification for gaps, gates and stiles (BS5709) was produced and so the National Park Authority asks that any gate or stile installed adheres to these specifications which are set out below. Please contact your area Senior Ranger for further advice if necessary (contact details are listed on page 2).

Please note that any new structures installed without prior consent will be treated as being unlawful and action will be taken to ensure their removal. If any new structures don’t adhere to the BS5709 design specification, action will be taken to ensure their modification to meet this standard (at the landowners/land managers own cost).

Replacement gates do not require new consent but they must adhere to the specifications set out below. If they don’t, action will be taken to ensure either their removal or modification (at the landowners/land managers own cost). Please see below for details on when stiles need replacing.

### What’s needed – a gap, gate or stile ?

When considering granting consent for either a new or replacement gate or stile, the National Park Authority is legally required (s.69 Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000) to work on the principle of “least restrictive access”, i.e. to have due regard to the needs of persons with mobility problems. Therefore, when making an assessment the following questions are asked:

1. Is any form of barrier really necessary here, could a gap be left for walkers & riders?
2. If a barrier is required, could it be a gate?

After employing this principle, only gates will be authorised on Public Bridleways and Restricted Byways and only in extenuating circumstances will a stile be authorised on a Public Footpath. This principle will also be considered when a stile needs replacing – can a gap be left or can it be replaced with a gate instead?

### Specifications

#### Gates

Whether these be hand-gates, bridle-gate or field-gates, they must adhere to the following requirements:

- All gates on Public Footpaths should swing freely and be opened easily from either side. Gates can be hung to swing freely whilst being self-closing;
- All gates on Public Bridleways and Restricted Byways should swing freely but must also be openable with one hand from horse-back. Also, the handle to operate any latch should be fitted in such a way that the same hand can operate the catch and then move the gate in one easy movement. If the gate is hung to be self-closing, please ensure that it does so slowly to allow a horse-rider time to get through;
- Barbed wire should not be attached to either the hanging post or clashing post or at a distance of 2m either side of the gate in order to prevent a horse or person snagging themselves;
- The minimum width for a hand-gate or kissing-gate on a Public Footpath is 1.0m;
- The minimum width for a bridle-gate on a Public Bridleway is 1.52m;
- The minimum width for a field-gate on a Restricted Byway is 3.04m

Please see the specifications for a hand-gate and a bridle-gate overleaf.

## Stiles

Gates are always preferable to stiles on Public Footpaths as they allow easier access and can be hung to ensure stock security. However, if circumstances only allow for a stile, then it must adhere to the following requirements :

- All stiles should have two steps set apart and a hand-post, to allow for easier access;
- The minimum width for a stile is 1.2m;
- Where the fence height exceeds 950mm, the step heights can be adjusted to ensure the stile is still easy to use;

Please see the specification for a stile on page 4.

If you have any queries, please contact your area Senior Ranger:

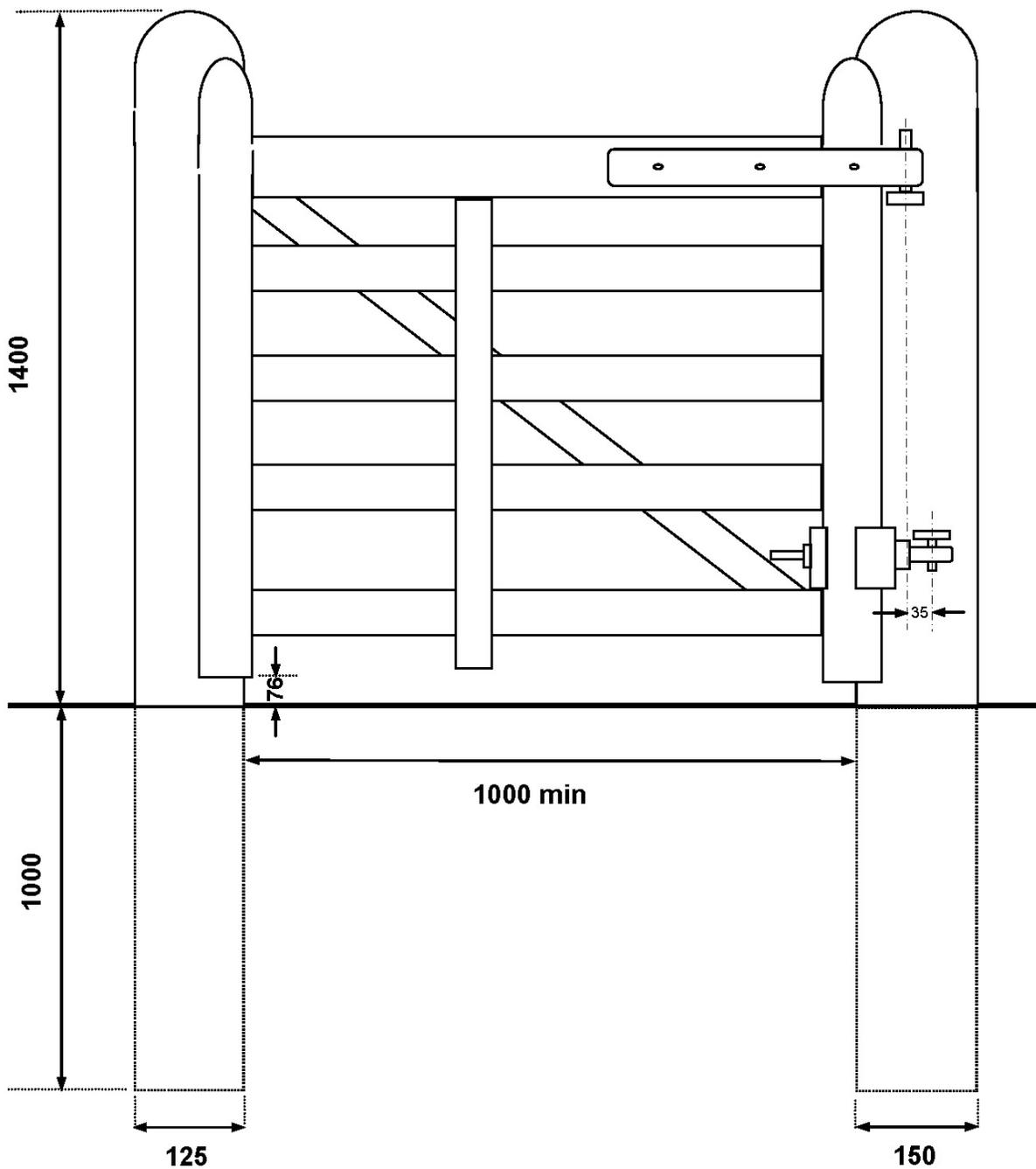
- Simon Bassindale (West area) – (01439) 772700 ext 2702 or 07967 058009
- David Smith (South area) – (01439) 772700 ext 2706 or 07976 292888
- Naomi Green (North area) – (01439) 772700 ext 1013 or 07854 313992
- Bernie McLinden (Coast area) – (01439) 772700 ext 1014 or 07976 292889

## Pedestrian Gate

All dimensions in mm

Hanging Post 150mm x 150mm x 2400mm  
Clapping Post 125mm x 125mm x 2400mm  
Gate 1220mm

(For self closing gates : off-set the bottom hinge 35mm from top hinge as shown)



Gate fitting not illustrated.

Various gate fittings are available but all should be visible and easy to open from both sides

## Bridle Gate

All dimensions in mm

Hanging Post 175mm x 175mm x 2400mm  
Clapping Post 150mm x 150mm x 2400mm  
Gate 1670mm

(For self closing gates : off-set the bottom hinge 35mm from top hinge as shown)

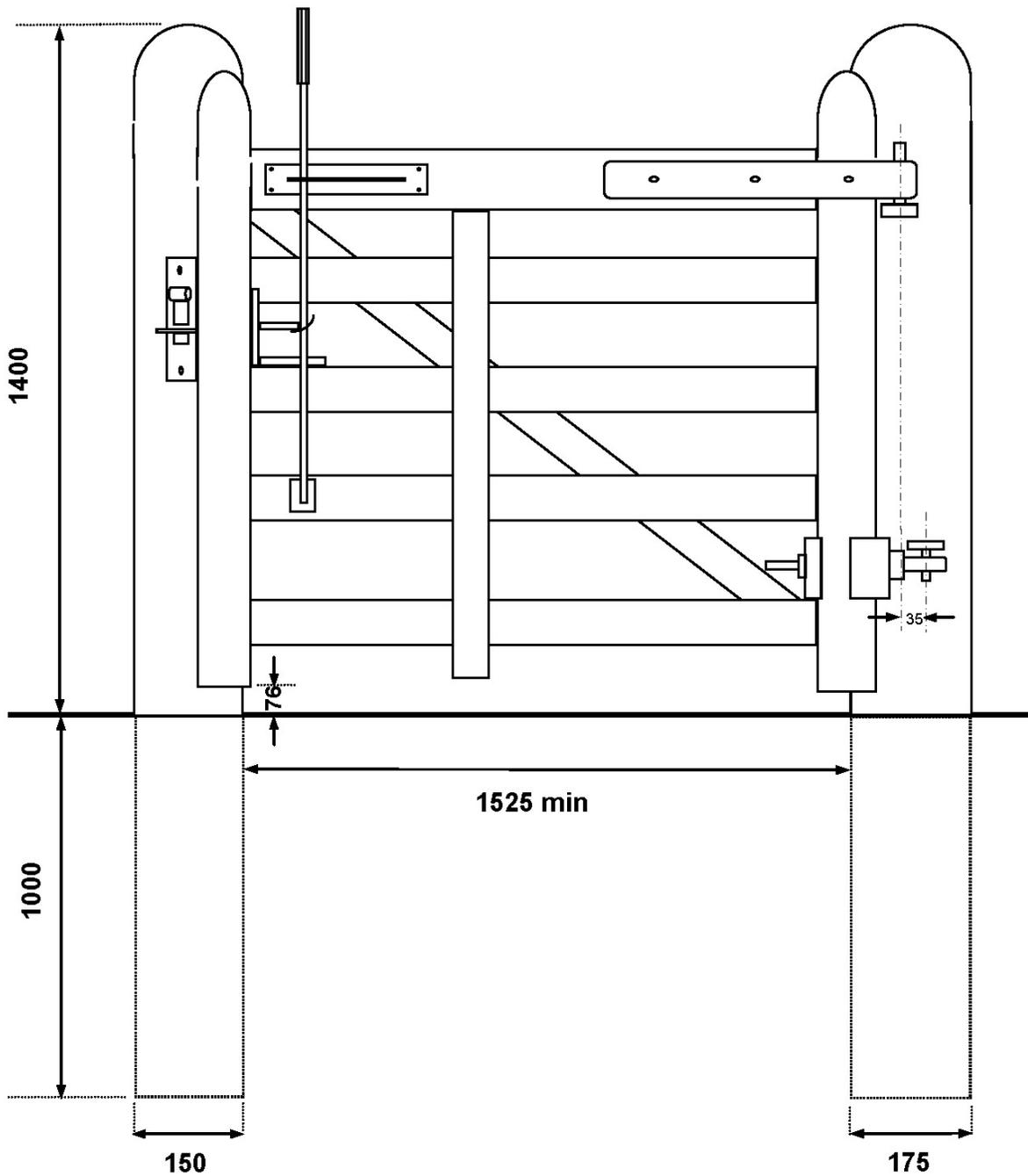


Illustration shows Easy Latch fitting. Various handles are available—straight, trombone and stock proof.

