supported by

Ramblers Holidays Charitable Trust

Brief added notes are in blue as this or sometimes yellow. Not part of a live presentation.

Herts & N Middx Ramblers & another

Chris Beney and Tom Bindoff
on access issues including
BS5709:2018 Gaps, gates and stiles

BS5709:2018

Least restrictive access

Developed by:

Natural England

NFU

CLA

BHS

HertsCC/IPROW

OSS

Disabled Ramblers

Gate designer

Comment. Nearly all structures are for landholders' benefit (except HA80 s66)

Access enablers, or inhibitors?

Gaps Gates Stiles – access inhibitors

<u>For new structures requested by land managers</u>

BS5709:2018 is an

- **ongoing,**
- **functional**
- **achievable standard**

which meets the land manager's actual needs but with least practicable restrictions on the path users.

For each type of structure the maximum allowable difficulty is defined. Eg Latch forces and visibility, available space, step heights, clear widths, ground slope and safety.

Gaps Gates Stiles – access inhibitors

<u>For structures installed by the authority for safety</u>

[HA80s66] BS5709:2018 is a useful standard helping fulfil the authority's duty to assert and protect the public rights [HA80 s130]

This one (to R of main gates) stretched that concept. BS5709 was promised but never quite established.

The two key documents. Access to both is important.

BS 5709:2018

BSI Standards Publication

Gaps, gates and stiles – Specification

bsi.

Understanding the British Standard for Gaps Gates and Stiles

BS5709:2018 explained

The Standard covers gaps, pedestrian gates, bridle gates, kissing gates, dog gates, horse stiles of 2 kinds, kent carriage gaps, and step over and flat top pedestrian stiles.

These explanatory pages cover **xxxx** 'rules' applicable to all compliant structures. Examples are then given of a gap, a bridle/pedestrian gate, three kissing gates and two stiles. [?some] Rules specific to each structure type are shown beside them.
The standard also includes horse stiles (motorbike inhibitors), other bridle gates, dog gates, horse step through gates and the kent carriage gap.

The full Standard
BS5709:2018
(ISBN 978 0 580 98210 1)
is available from some libraries & bookshops and BSi British Standards
at 389 Chiswick High Road
London W4 4AL
www.bsi-global.com

vers March 2018

Produced to assist anyone involved with gaps gates or stiles: highways officer, path order maker, land owner, contractor, gate and stile manufacturer, path user and user group.
by
The Pittecroft Trust (registered charity) and Tom Bindoff
(a PDF version of this paper, which may include later updates, is at www.pittecrofttrust.org.uk)

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Main differences between 2006 Bs and 2018 BS

Closing speeds (York)
D loops, not shoot bolts
All touch-points yellow
Mandatory inspections

Versions

Make sure the Authority always specify BS5709 for new path structures

And
make sure the following differences are understood:

A structure to be ‘to BS5709:2018’: means compliant with the 2018 version of the standard
A structure to be ‘to BS5709’: means ongoing compliance with the latest version of the standard

We should all aim for more precise wording in orders

Limitations and Conditions: A structure to BS5709 at point A.

That in principle is all that is needed but is certain to cause problems, who decides? Currently we often have this:

Limitations and Conditions: The right of the landholder to erect and maintain a gate to BS5709 at point A.

That is contradictory, the BS being ongoing, may demand a different structure. This is better:

Limitations and Conditions: The right of the landholder to erect and maintain a structure compliant with BS5709 at point A, initially a [e.g.non-latched RADAR kissing gate], changes required to maintain BS5709 compliance to be determined by [e.g. the highway authority].

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We recommend

1. Ensuring all orders specify BS5709 to ensure truly least restrictive

2. Making thorough compliance check at installation (see later slide)

3. Draw non compliance to Highway Authority's attention

Should there be any leeway?

When originally installed correctly if it deviates later it fails to be to BS and becomes an unlawful obstruction, could affect landholder's insurance. May impact on less mobile path users. So what leeway if any is there?

An engineer's viewpoint "Can be better than, mustn't be worse than."
Pragmatic Slippery slope, might ask 'can it do harm?'

Is the BS realistic?

Yes, we should expect 100% compliance at installation, **remembering exceptions are allowed** if included in the authorisation.

TEST SHEET EXAMPLE

item ref	BS ref	BS5709:2018 compliance check sheet not all are mandatory KISSING GATES	tick, cross or comment Coloured boxes are mandatory to fill in, the other requirements must be met.	Date etc
TEST				
1	4.3.c	Could structure reasonably have been avoided		
2	4.4	What is the least restrictive basic structure?		
3	4.5.2	Details eg latched/one-way two-way/		
4	5.1	If side structure required, what type?		
5	5.1	Details of side structure		
6	5.1	Suffient strength and rigidity		
7	5.2	No sharp object within 1m		
8	5.2	No injurious plant within 500mm		
9	5.3	No projections, edges rounded or chamfered within public accessible area		
10	5.4	Direction post not part of the structure		
11	5.5	Surface water		
12	5.6	Set back from metalled surface if path joins one		
13	5.7	Slope of route within 2m less than 1 in 6		
14	5.8	Takes account of visual impairment		
15	6.4.a	1m dia cylinder with flat on ground can pass		
16				
17	ref 6.3.5	Latch shown to be needed		
18	ref 6.3.5	Latches yellow		
19	ref 6.3.5	Latches smoothly & easily operable from both sides		
20	ref 6.3.5	Latches operable by a stick from mob. scooter		
21	ref 6.3.5	A notice present if latch not obvious		
22	ref 6.3.5	Latch force hand 3kg, finger 1kg max		
23	ref 6.3.5	Only one action, eg one latch, needed to open		
24	6.4.c	Gate opening force 1.8kg max		
25	6.4.d&f	Any overlap of gate 30mm+ to prevent trapping		
26	6.4.e	Manoeuvring space for all lawful users passing and latch access		
28	6.4.g	For mobility vehicle ground level or one plane		
29	6.4.h	Any above 1200mm high of open construction		
30	6.4.i	If over 50Kg, fail-safe provision		
31	6.4.j	If RADAR, notice saying that gate is not locked		
Date checked		By	Comment	

White boxes mostly dealt with before authorisation is given. Coloured boxes are MINIMUM installation checks.

TEST SHEET EXAMPLE

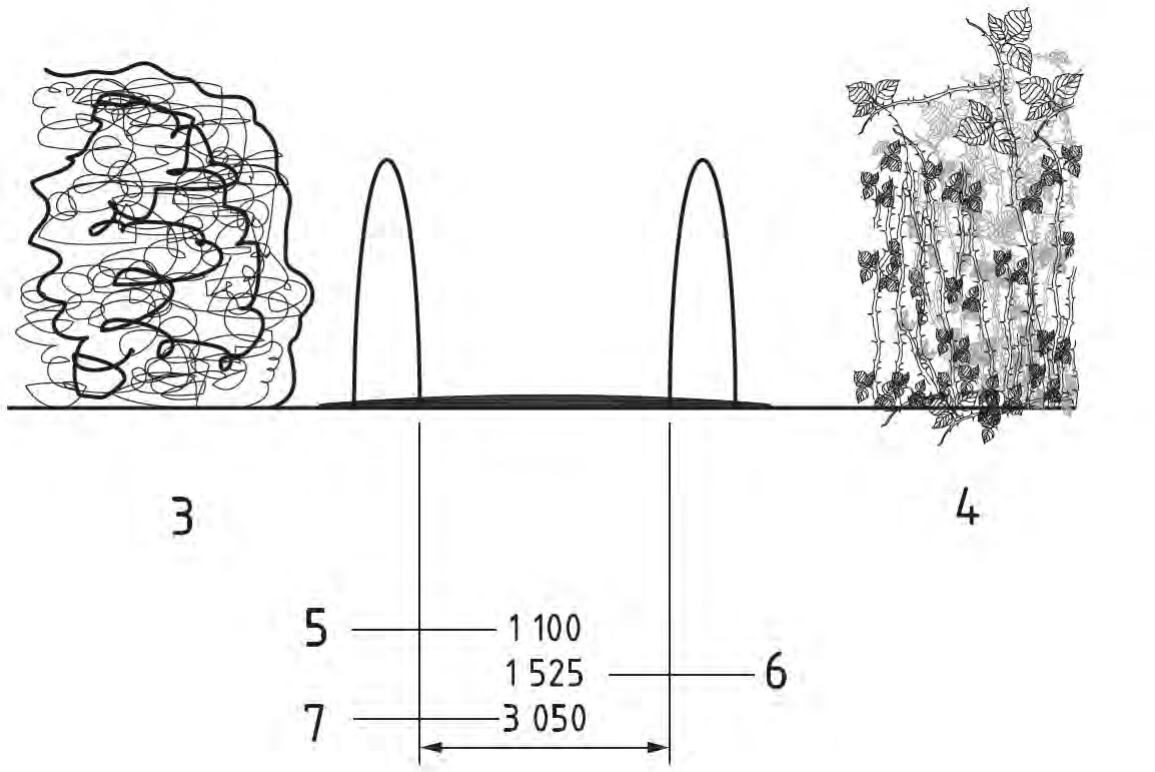
Location and description of structure:

item ref	BS ref	**BS5709:2018 compliance check sheet not all are mandatory** **KISSING GATES**	tick, cross or comment	Date etc
TEST				
6	5.1	Suffient strength and rigidity		
7	5.2	No sharp object within 1m		
8	5.2	No injurious plant within 500mm		
9	5.3	Projections, bolts		
11	5.5	Surface water		
13	5.7	Slope of route within 2m less than 1 in 6		
15	6.4.a	1m dia cylinder with flat on ground can pass		
22	ref 6.3.5	Latch force hand 3kg, finger 1kg max		
24	6.4.c	Gate opening force 1.8kg max		
25	6.4.d	Any overlap of gate wide to prevent trapping		
26	6.4.e	Manoeuvring space for passing and latch access		
Date checked		By	Comment	

Not very rigourous but it establishes a process. And 2 years. These are MINIMUM installation checks

Gaps Gates Stiles – access inhibitors

Gaps – the simplest structures



Gap from BS5709

3 is smooth plants, 4 is scratchy plants for which 500mm spacing is needed.
5 is min clear gap for FP (1.1m), 6 is min for bridleways.

? First ever BS Gap in an HCC order

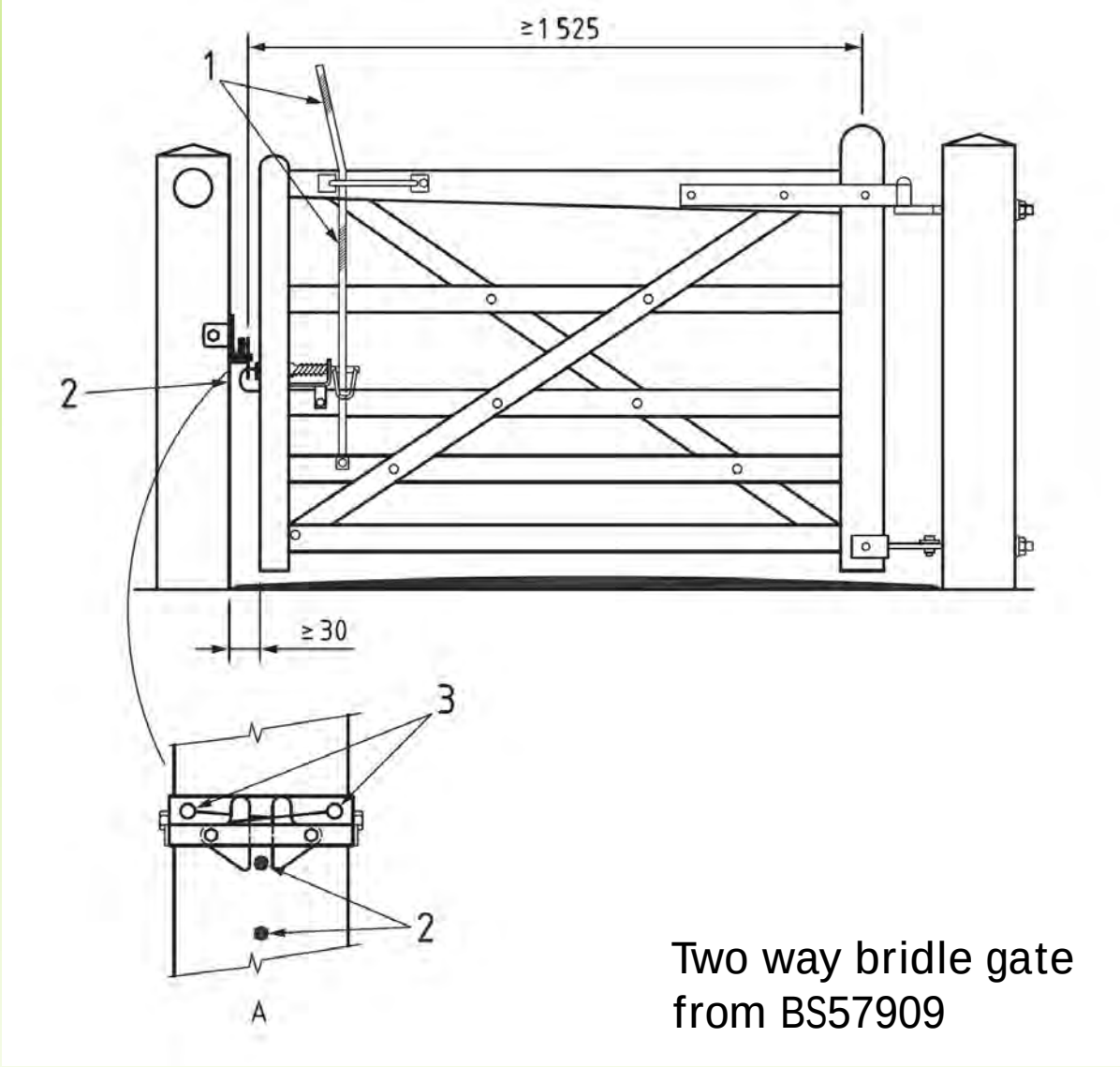
Two metres and has never complied. It fails as a two metre gap but would have passed as a 1.1 metre one except for slope (BS 5.7) max 1 in 6.

How a new gap on a recently diverted path might look.

Bollards or posts are not a requirement but they help define the width.

A 1.1 m gap would need a total of 3.1m barbed wire free or 2.1 m injurious plant free but only 1.1 m plant free if hedge is say laurel and there is no barbed wire. One landowner near Radlett has already replaced scratchy plants with non-scratchy to comply.

Wide gaps are not needed on footpaths, 1.5 metres is plenty, 1.2 metres is enough. Wider causes confusion. EG at Shenley/Ridge



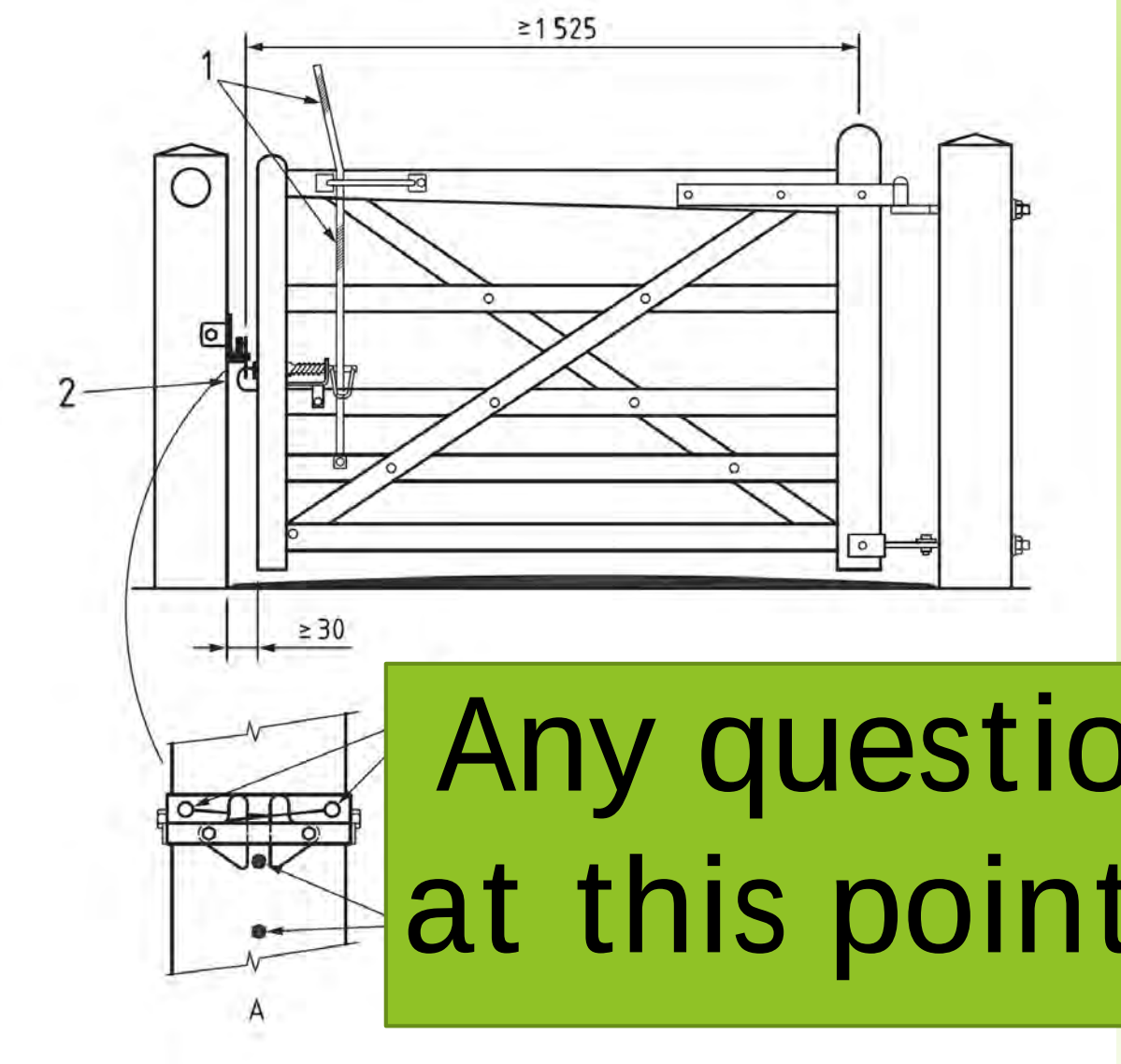
Two way bridle gate from BS57909

Another diagram from BS5709:2018 Two-way bridlegate.

1 and 3 refer to yellow areas.

1.525 (at top) is clear opening width correcting an anomaly in legislation.

Note kinky handle



Another diagram from BS5709:2018
Two-way bridlegate.

1 and 3 refer to yellow areas.

1.525 (at top) is clear opening width correcting an anomaly in legislation.

Note kinky handle

Any questions on the BS at this point ?

Introducing…

National land access centre

promoting

Least restrictive access

Via the BS

Supported by the Pittecroft Trust
(registered charity)

www.gov.uk/natural-england

NATURAL ENGLAND

National land access centre

(the opening)

Two way bridle gate – timing issue

Loop and latch on
Two way bridle gate
– too much yellow

New to BS5709 Horse step-through gate

Requires a side gate (after much discussion by the BS working party). Note 3 hinges.

Large timber self-closing kissing gate.
Rot! And test being planned.

Large metal RADAR kissing gate

Becoming a norm (except in Chilterns!)

Pedestrian gap
Easy!

Other access issues

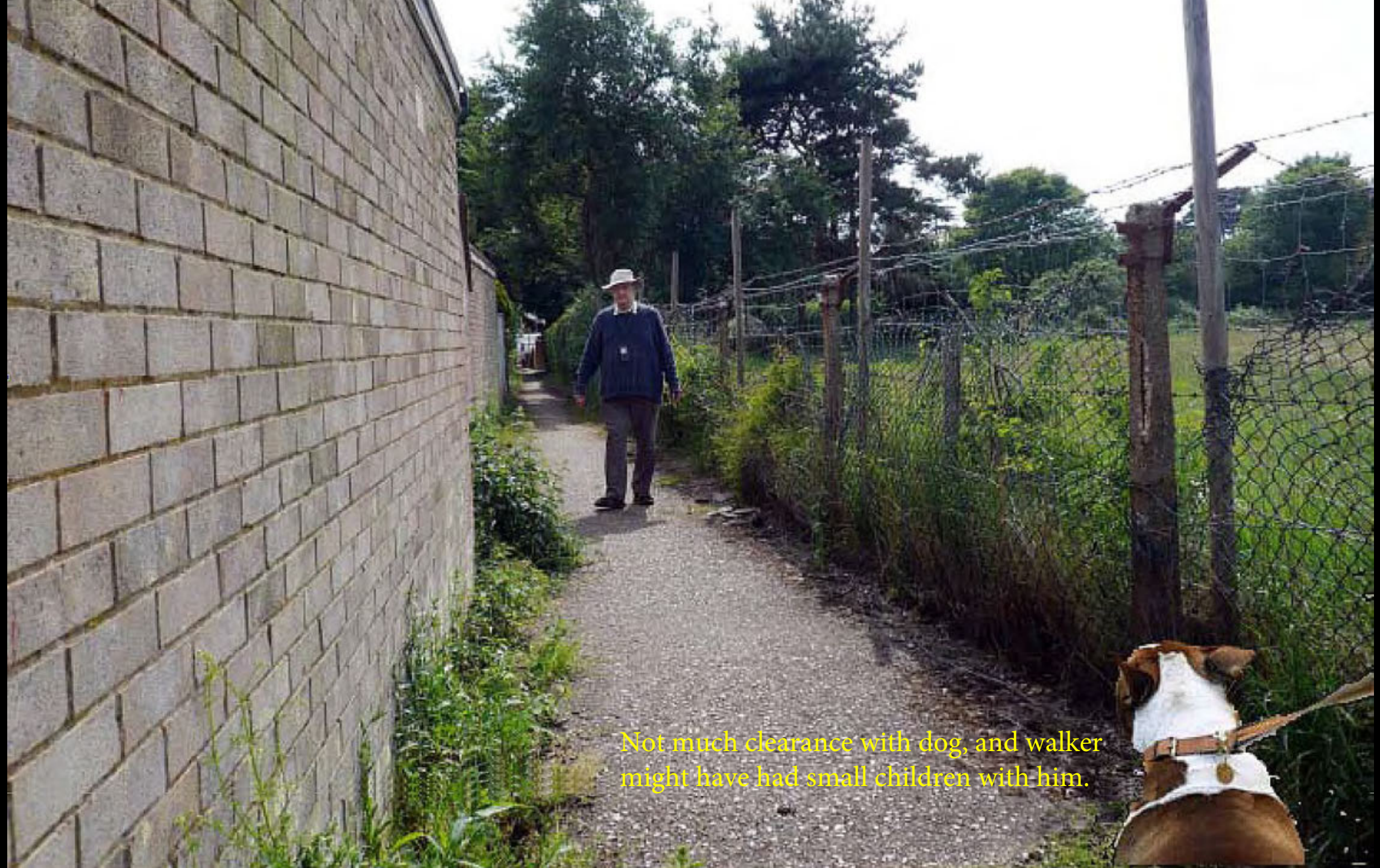
Least restrictive access

Widths
Signposting
Waymarking
Authorising: s66, s147
Redundant & old-unlawful structures
Barbed wire

Other access issues

Least restrictive access

Widths


Not much clearance with dog, and walker
might have had small children with him.

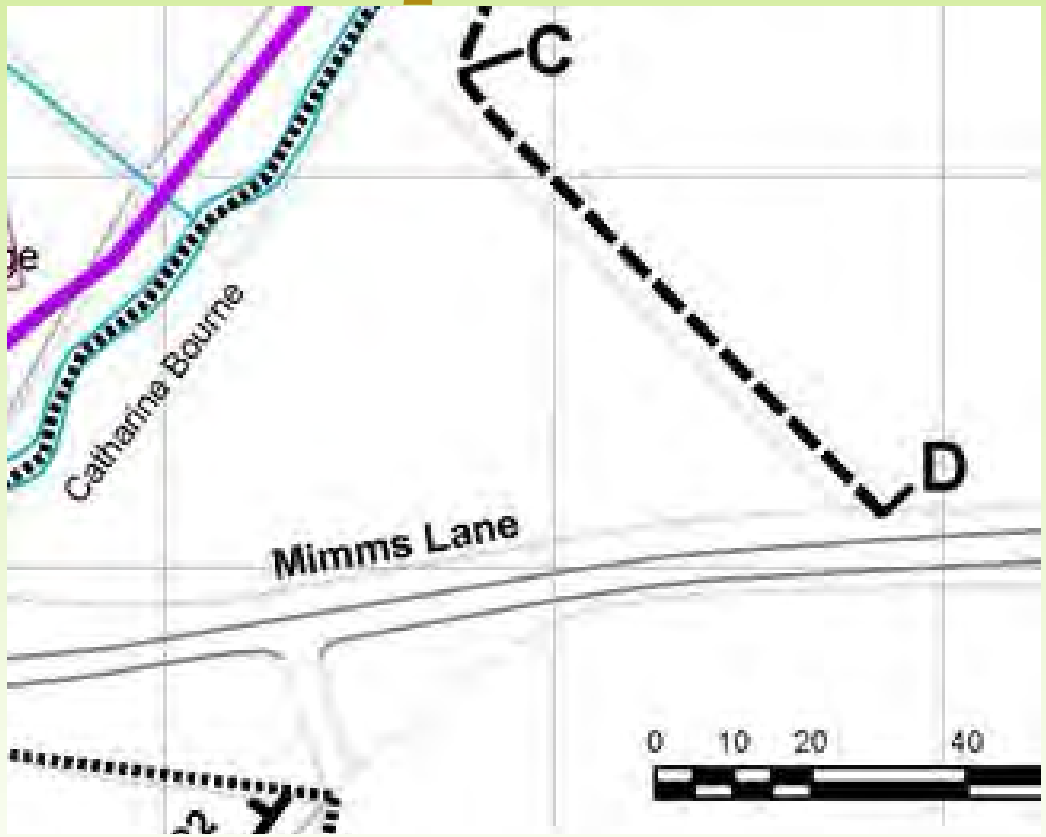
23 metre wide footpath

How wide is this path?

Homefield Path
A bridleway 35 metres wide at one point

Other access issues

New path near hedge



If path C-D is four metres wide how far is its centre line from the hedge centreline?

Always try to get this on the order eg ‘path commences X metres from hedge centreline’ or probably better a formal limitation eg ‘the right of the landholder to grow a hedge extending not more than 1 metre onto the path. Path width increased accordingly

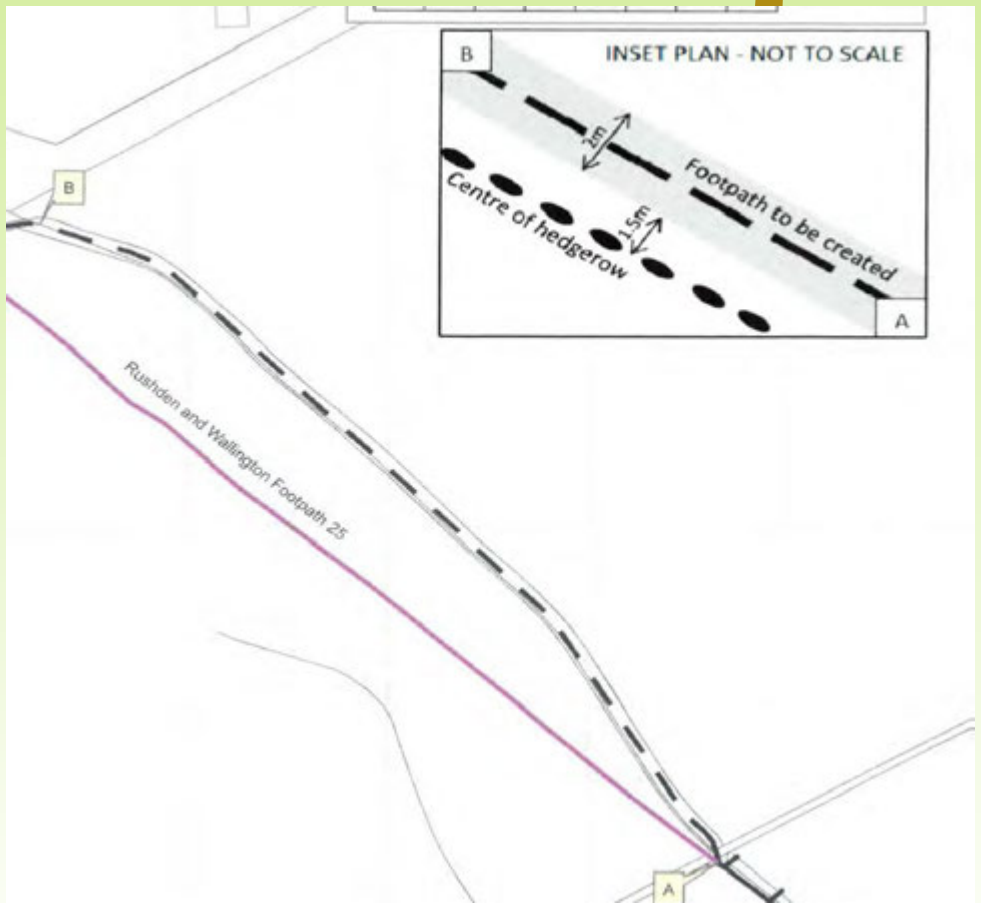
Other access issues

New path near hedge

Chorleywood

Other access issues

New path near hedge



At Bygrave Farm, path Wallington 25, it appears the landholder has accepted this and is offering a path starting 1.5 metres from the hedge centre-line instead of a 2 metre path along the line.

But this case seems to raise another issue of paths along farm tracks narrower than the track.

Other access issues

Least restrictive access

50 years of Statutary Signposting and Waymarking duty.

And where are we?

See leaflet or STILE newsletter.

Other access issues

Least restrictive access

Redundant/unlawful/out-of-order structures.

1. Redundant on eg fences between arable fields.
2. Unlawful on boundaries that weren't there when dedicated.
3. HA80 s146 landholder's duty to maintain HCC power to enforce.

Unrecorded

Research

ways

?

Delay

2026

Closing slide

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Ramblers Holidays Charitable Trust

Herts & N Middx Ramblers

Tom Bindoff

Chris Beney

END, more questions?