

WHAT CAN BE DONE ?

A NEW CROSSING ENTRANCE IN A SAFER PLACE ON A BUSY ROAD



The original gate to the bridleway through the woods was alongside a fast road, and just round a sweeping corner. The Woodland Trust provided the materials to move the gate back to allow room for 2 or 3 horses to stand off of the road while opening it, or to enable them to get through the gate and then have room to stand while waiting to cross.

The Cotswold Wardens did the work on putting in the gate and erecting safety fencing on the edge of the road to protect the horses from stepping back into the road when closing the gate.

We consulted the Highways Department to ensure that the fence was not contravening any of their rules, and that they were happy with its position. We also consulted the Highways and the Woodland Trust on cutting the verge side hedging down to allow the riders better sight-lines as they emerged, and to allow the traffic to see the riders more clearly.

There was also a problem of rain run-off from the road, which had made a gully down the track, and made it difficult for the horses to stand where they needed to, to open the gate. The Highways Department laid a small tarmac barrier across the entrance to redirect the water, and also provided some stone to infill the gully. They did not have a lorry available at the time

for such a small amount of stone, so the Rights of Way department dropped the stone off for them, and the Cotswold Wardens put the stone down.

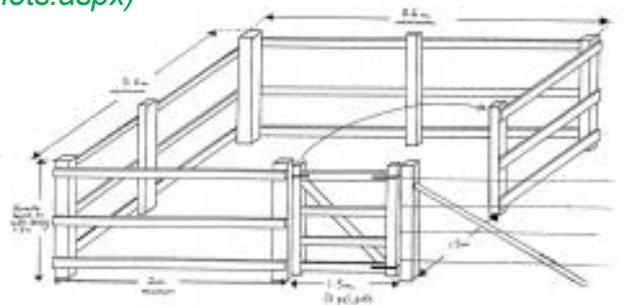
There is a British Standard called: **BS 5709:2006 Gaps, Gates and Stiles**

The full standard costs around £80 to buy, and copyright means it cannot be reproduced in detail.

Adrian Bigg (British Horse Society Access Officer in Cornwall) has produced a PDF of gate information. Page 13 shows a Box Gate used by the Forestry Commission.

(www.bhs.org.uk/About_Us/Free.../Rights_of_Way_Leaflets.aspx)

This is the ideal safety area for approaching a fast road, but this size is not always available. In smaller areas, careful consideration of the safety fencing etc. should be given to get the best possible results in each situation.



IMPORTANT THINGS TO NOTE:

The Highways department must be consulted on all work done to or alongside a highway.

No signs should ever be erected on a highway (even event-ride markers should be off the highway).

Any work done must be done by people with the appropriate licences and insurance, and with all the appropriate safety precautions.

No works should be undertaken without the landowners agreement, with the exception of some undergrowth or branch clearance where tracks are obstructed (see page Obstructions).