

Technical guidance on footpath and footway design is set out in *Design Bulletin 32 Residential Roads and Footpaths: Layout considerations*, 2nd edition (DoE/DTP, 1992) and in *Residential Highway Design Guide*, 2nd edition (NYCC, 1994). Recent guidance in *Places, Streets and Movements* (DETR) recommends that design standards should be interpreted carefully to conserve local distinctiveness rather than rigidly applied.

**Footpath:** a path for pedestrian use;

**Footway:** the pedestrian path alongside a road (also known as "pavement").



Bound gravel path with edging

## Conservation Areas

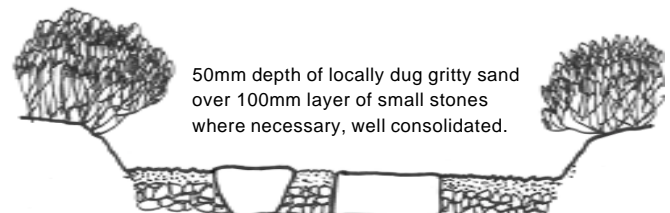
Footways in historic areas may act as a visual plinth for buildings along the street. Resurfacing or extending such footways should respect the proportions and the established pattern of the built context, using locally appropriate materials. In Knaresborough and Harrogate, traditional footways are of riven York stone flags with long kerbs of millstone grit.

## Parks and Open Spaces

Design of footpaths through parks and open spaces should respect the character of the local context: for example, high quality stone paving may be appropriate in a formal garden or town square, whereas a bound gravel surface with metal edging may be appropriate in a parkland setting or informal gardens.

## Rural Areas

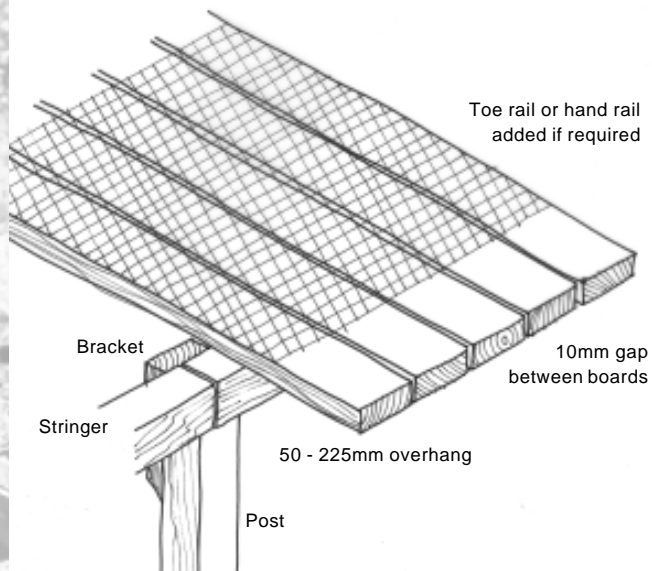
Footpaths in rural areas should respond to the local countryside character. On the moors and uplands, removal of the thin topsoil and turf may reveal a free draining grit or stone surface, which will provide an appropriate footpath for light use. Popular moorland footpaths may need flat stones used as rustic flags or steps in specific areas where erosion is becoming a problem.



large wedge or block shaped local stones, well tamped down.

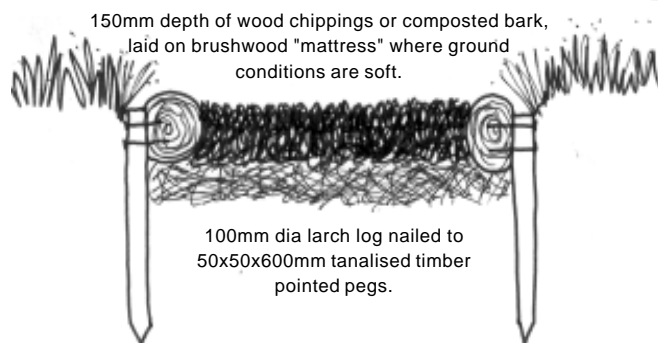
Section: typical grit/sand path construction

In the valleys and lowlands, pedestrian use can create a compacted earth path which can withstand light-to-moderate use in dry conditions and is low-key, rural and informal in character. Where the ground is likely to be boggy, self binding gravel on top of a layer of stone chippings can provide a dry path throughout the year. Timber boardwalks can provide attractive and dry pathways around ponds and across marshy ground.



spacing of posts dependant upon strength of stringer  
- (usually between 1 & 2m)

In woodland situations bark mulch may provide a path in keeping with the context and makes use of local woodland waste product, but are difficult for wheelchairs and pushchairs to negotiate and require topping up regularly as the bark decomposes.



**Section: bark mulch path construction**

For information on cycleways see the *North Yorkshire Cycleways Design Guide; Cycle-friendly infrastructure* (DETR et al, 1996); *Harrogate and Knaresborough Cycling Implementation Plan* (HBC July 2000) free.

