



## Horseytalk.net BRIDLEWAYS WATCH



### How fast do they close? THE FACTS

#### Not a single gate meets the Surrey County Council standard

The following timings were taken on Saturday 20th February 2010 by Brenda Spencer, husband, John and Naomi Smith

They used exactly the same method of timing as used by Claire Saunders, Senior Countryside Access Officer-East Surrey.

They show without any doubt whatever that not a single gate complies with the Surrey County Council 'licence'

#### Gate 28 Lodge Bottom Road

Towards to the road: 3.77; 3.62 seconds  
Towards the hill: 3.74; 3.84 Notes: the handle does not spring closed and is stiff to use. The latch is bent and sometimes the gate does not self close

#### Gate 1 Above Slough Lane

Towards the road: 2.92; 2.96 seconds  
Towards the heath: 3.4; 2.2 seconds  
Notes: the gate was jamming and is stiff to open



#### Gate 3 By the road gate with another adjacent bridlegate

Towards Michelham: 4.11; 4.03 seconds  
Towards the carpark: 3.78; 3.72 seconds  
Notes: the handle is bent. The mechanism sometimes does not self close

#### Gate 2 Adjacent to Gate 3 on statutory bridlepath

Towards Michelham: 2.64; 2.63 seconds  
Towards the carpark: 3.65; 3.71 seconds

#### Gate 4 Opposite lane which leads to house with Geese

Towards Geese: 3.08; 2.9; 2.99 seconds  
Towards heath: 3.52; 3.24 seconds  
Notes: the gate jams

## Gate 10 Main entrance to heath from large carpark

Towards heath: 3.98; 4.06 seconds

Towards carpark: 4.06; 4.00 seconds

Notes: The gate has dropped so that the bolt catches on the closing mechanism on the upright. It is difficult to open with limited strength

Surrey County Council (Claire Saunders) 'licensed' the statutory bridle gates to close between 4 and 6 seconds from an open stationary position of 90 degrees (no bouncing of the gate open) allowing the gate to close under its own gravity. The figure of 4 to 6 seconds, according to Claire Saunders, has come from the manufacturer of the metalwork supplied to fit the bridle gates.

- Have you had problems with bridlegates?

[- Please e-mail us and tell us your story](#)

- The more we can prove how dangerous these gates are, the more chance we will have of getting them modified or, better still, re-moved

## BRIDLEWAY GATES. A GUIDE TO THE BRITISH STANDARD

Here it is.

What we've all been waiting for

### **RULE 1: LEAST RESTRICTIVE OPTION**

Least restrictive option must be chosen.

### **RULE 2: REASONABLENESS.**

Except where a gap is chosen, an assessment of reasonableness of putting a structure across a path must be made.

### **RULE 3: MANOEUVRING SPACE.**

This is the space needed to be kept clear so as to allow users to get into position to open, pass through, and close a gate or to negotiate a fixed structure.

### **RULE 4: LOCATION OF STRUCTURES.**

At vehicular roads, structures must be set back at least four metres from the (usually metalled) carriageway.

### **RULE 5: ONGOING.**

The standard requires continuous and ongoing satisfaction. That is even if at installation the structure is fully compliant, as soon as any of the functional requirements are no longer satisfied (for example by the placing of barbed wire on it) it is no longer compliant to the BS and must be repaired or replaced to comply [4.1.8].

### **RULE 6: GROUND.**

Ground within two metres of the structure to be free of surface water and provide a firm surface. Except immediately after rain.

### **RULE 7: BARBED WIRE ETC.**

No barbed wire, electric fence etc within one metre of the structure or the manoeuvring space.

### **RULE 8: PROTRUSIONS.**

No protrusions likely to catch clothes or cause injury, edges radiused to 2mm or chamfered to 3mm minimum.

To read the Guide in detail [click here](#)

