

Gradient

Slope

<i>flat</i>	path must actually be flat with no inclines greater than 2%
<i>gentle</i>	slopes between 2% and 5%
<i>moderate</i>	slopes between 5% and 12%
<i>fairly steep</i>	slopes between 12% and 20%
<i>steep</i>	slopes greater than 20%

Slope duration

<i>short</i>	gradient of up to 50 m duration
<i>long</i>	gradient of more than 100 m but less than 200 m duration
<i>long ... m</i>	slope for [...m] where the slope is for longer than 200 m, the distance must be stated

Obstacles

for example

- Steps (*long flight / short flight*)
- Gates (*wide, narrow kissing...*)
- Stiles
- Bridges
- Boardwalk
- Cattle Grids
- Public road crossings

Surface

Surface material

<i>Grassy, Earthy Sandy</i>	more "natural" path surfaces
<i>Gravel</i>	most aggregates even if the particle size is technically out of the range of gravel
<i>Tarmac</i>	
<i>Rocky</i>	this could include rock steps or pitching

Surface condition





<i>Smooth</i>	compacted aggregate or bound surfaces with no protrusions or loose stones greater than 10mm
<i>Loose</i>	material not compacted or has no fines
<i>Firm</i>	compacted surfaces
<i>Uneven</i>	minor variability in the level of the surface, including cross-slopes (< 50 mm of height roughness or rockiness)
<i>Rough</i>	>50 mm roughness. May have loose stones or tree roots
<i>Often or usually: wet / muddy / boggy / dry</i>	If helpful to route choice

Width

<i>Narrow:</i>	the managed width is less than 800 mm wide
<i>Wide:</i>	the managed width is greater than 1500 mm
<i>Over-grown:</i>	hanging or encroaching vegetation

3. Grade Symbol

There are basically three main grades: **Easy / Moderate / Strenuous**. The Easy paths that also meet the Countryside For All access standards are just a variant of Easy. Grade specifications are set out in the table below:

	Gradient & duration	Surface materials / Surface condition	Obstacles	Usable Width	Distance limits
	[Easy + meets Countryside For All Access Standards]	See Countryside For All Access Standards - http://www.fieldfare.org.uk/?page_id=48			
	Maximum 12%.	Generally a smooth, firm surface. Well drained and maintained with minimal loose material.	Minimal use of steps. Free of narrow gates or gaps and always itemised in Terrain Description.	Generally 1200 mm. Short sections (<20 m) down to 800 mm.	Total distance of whole route must not exceed 6 miles / 8 km (return route to start point).
	May exceed 12% for infrequent short sections (<200 m) but generally no steeper than 12%.	Earth or stone surface. Sections may be firm under foot. Generally well maintained but sections could be loose or uneven (<50 mm height of roughness) or soft after rain.	Few obstacles. Sections of regular steps, gates and other minor obstacles mentioned in the Terrain Description.	Variable, largely 800 mm but with short (<20 m) narrower sections	Total distance of whole route must not exceed 7 miles / 11 km (return route to start point).
	May have arduous climbs and steep sections. May include long steep sections exceeding 12%.	A distinct surface but could be without major change to the existing ground. Could be rough and rocky. May have muddy sections.	Natural and other obstacles are likely including large or irregular steps, stiles or gates.	Frequently less than 800 mm.	Total distance may be greater than 7 miles / 11 km.

The grade symbols are the graphic shape and the grade word combined, e.g. the circle graphic and “easy” should always be used as one. For graphic design guidance – see Appendix I (page 14).