

NORTH YORKSHIRE
LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

20 NOVEMBER 2008

SIGNPOSTING & WAYMARKING

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To set out current practice for design and materials used in signposting and waymarking of the rights of way network and to seek the view of the LAF on options for updating and standardising these.
- 1.2 This report focuses on the materials used for signposting and not wider signposting policy. It is the intention that once a standard approach to materials has been agreed upon, a signposting policy incorporating this will be drafted.

2.0 CURRENT POSITION

- 2.1 The Countryside Act 1968 s27 sets out the duty of Highway Authorities to sign public rights of way where they leave a metalled road.

Signposts must indicate the nature of the legal right (i.e Route Status) and may include the destination and distance of the route.

This duty extends to placing of signs at points along a route where the Authority considers it necessary to assist persons unfamiliar with the locality.

- 2.2 There is currently no designated standard signpost design in use within the County although there is a standard waymark arrow design.
- 2.3 In order to ensure consistency and efficiency in the signposting of rights of way across the county it is necessary to develop a standard signpost design.
- 2.4 Whilst a vast array of historic signage can be found across the county the most common designs currently in use are as follows:

Standard Routed Fingerpost

Materials:	Oak blade on a Larch Post
Lettering:	Standard Routed Status only Capitalised Letter Height 40 – 45mm Optional Waymark Disc
Average Cost:	£36.00
Estimated Lifespan:	14 – 20 years

Nidderdale AONB Type Fingerpost

Materials:	Oak blade on a Larch Post
Lettering:	Paint infill Routed Capitalised Status, Destination & Distance Letter Height 40 – 45mm
Average Cost:	£61.00
Estimated Lifespan:	14 – 20 years

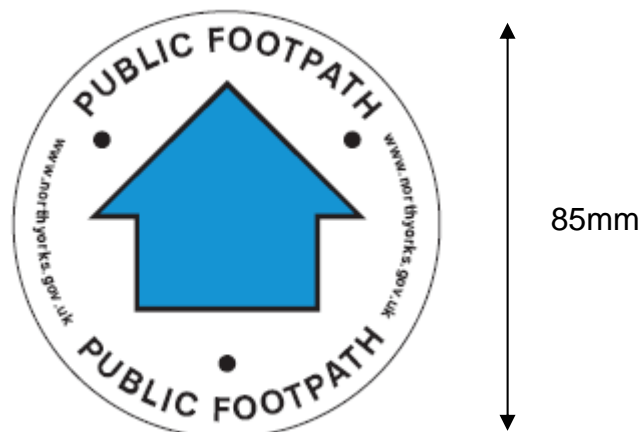


Howardian Hills AONB Type Fingerpost

Materials: Oak blade on a Larch Post
 Lettering: Standard Rounded
 Capitalised
 Destination & Distance
 Letter Height 40 – 45mm
 Waymark Disc for Status
 Average Cost: £55.00
 Estimated Lifespan: 14 – 20 years



2.4 In addition the current standard waymark design for footpaths and bridleways is as follows (colour and status demonstration only)



3.0 THE BRIEF

3.1 A priority is the standard specification of a new fingerpost and within this there are three main considerations:

- Materials
- Information
- Format of Information
- Location specific requirements

3.2 When deciding upon the best approach with regard to these individual elements it is necessary to bear in mind statutory requirements set out in the Traffic Sign Regulations and General Directions 2002 schedule 7(VII) (2610, 2601.1). This specifies:

- Letters must be between 35mm & 70mm capital letter height
- Lettering must be from the Transport Medium alphabet (similar to arial)
- Distances should be expressed in miles down to a quarter and below that in yards

Disability Discrimination Acts 1995 and 2005 are also highly relevant, requiring all public bodies to help remove barriers for all disabled people, including the blind and partially sighted. It is unlawful to discriminate against anyone on the grounds of their disability with regard to the provision of services, which must include provision of signage. We must make reasonable provision.

3.3 The relevant action points within our RoWIP apply:

- **Action AC6** Progressively roll out signage to indicate routes with barrier reduction, access for all, local circular routes, destination and distance between places and authority logo and contact details.
- **Action AC7** Increase signage in areas of high actual or potential demand to meet the needs of people with a range of expectations, interests and levels of ability that need additional waymarking to increase their confidence

3.4 The guidance of the LAF is requested with regard to each of the main considerations, the options for which will now be detailed:

4.0 OPTIONS

4.1 Materials

There are a number of options available on the market, summarised in the following table

Option No.	Material Type	Indicative Cost*	Life Expectancy**
1	Oak Post & Finger	£86	14 – 20 yrs
2	Larch Post & Oak Finger	£3	14 – 20 yrs
3	Steel Post & Polycarbonate Finger	£50	20 – 40 yrs
4	Steel Post & Aluminium Finger	£145	10 – 40 yrs
5	Larch Post & Polycarbonate Finger	£30	14 – 20 yrs
6	Recycled plastic Post & Finger	£98	20 – 40 yrs

*Based on single finger, status only in a quantity of 200

**From 'Thames Path Signposting review 2006, Bentley. A'

Data regarding life expectancy does not carry a high degree of accuracy, for example posts constructed of Oak and Larch fall within the same category, although Oak would be at the high end of the category and larch at the lower end. This must be considered when debating the various options.

4.2 Information

There is scope within the relevant guidelines to allow flexibility in what information is provided.

The core pieces of information and options are summarised in the following table, in addition to information about the route there is an opportunity to incorporate The County Council's details within the signage for the purposes of publicity and improving customer service.

Option No.	Information
1	Status
2	Status, Destination & Distance
3	Status, Destination, Distance, NYCC on Finger
4	Status, Destination, Distance, NYCC on Post
5	Status, Destination, Distance, NYCC on Finial

It is intended that the signposting policy will deal with any other information which could potentially appear on the signage, for example details of promoted routes and other routes where promotion is an important factor e.g. Access for all routes.

4.3 Format of information

There are several options for how the information can be displayed:

Option No.	Display
1	Text only
2	Graphical representation only
3	Text & Graphical representation
4	Text & Waymark Arrow
5	Graphical representation & Waymark Arrow
6	Text, Graphical representation & Waymark Arrow

4.4 Location specific requirements

Within the principal of a standard sign type for the County it is acknowledged that there may be geographical areas which require variance from a standard. This is exemplified by the two AONBs where distinctive signage has already been developed and is in use. There are, therefore geographical related options:

Option No.	Action
1	Retain existing sign type in AONBs
2	Apply new standard to future AONB signposting
3	Suggest modifications to AONB design
4	Suggest other geographical distinctions

5.0 Conclusion

- 5.1 There are many variables to consider in adopting a standard design for signposting in the county. In addition there is potential to modify the standard waymark design. The advice of the LAF would be gratefully received.