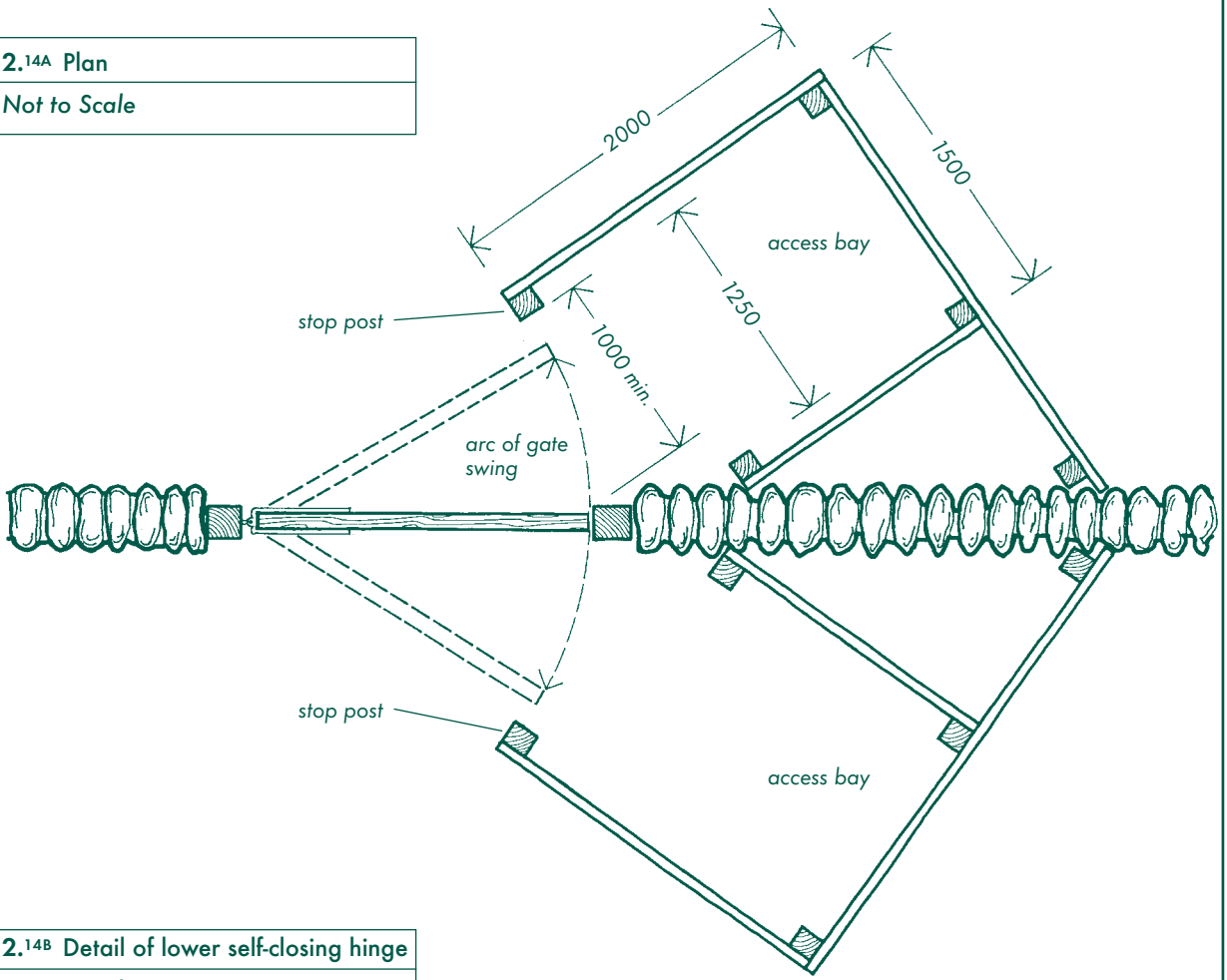
SCOTTISH NATURAL HERITAGE

Information Sheet **No.2.14**

The Countryside for All Gate

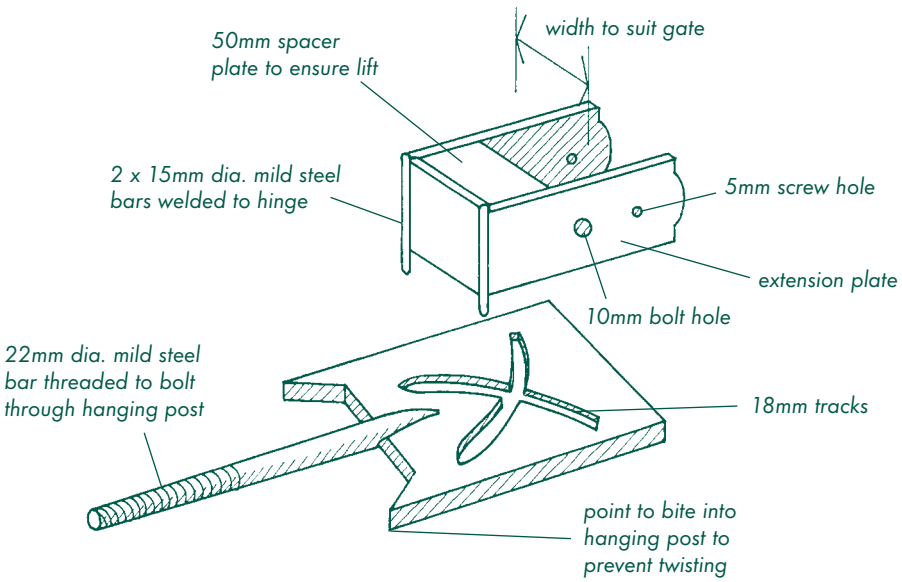
2.14A Plan

Not to Scale



2.14B Detail of lower self-closing hinge

Not to Scale



Conforms to BS 5709	Stockproof	Ease of use for Pedestrians	Accessible to Motorised Wheelchair Users	Accessible to Manual Wheelchair and Pushchair Users	Accessible to Horseriders	Accessible to Pedal Cyclists	Accessible to Motorcyclists
✓	✓	☺	✓	✓	✘	✓	✓

SCOTTISH NATURAL HERITAGE

Information Sheet **No.2.14**
The Countryside for All Gate

• Notes

A gate design based on one that won a competition run by the Fieldfare Trust. It provides access for pedestrians, single and double pushchairs and disabled people using manual or motorised wheelchairs. It is also accessible to pedal cycles and to some smaller motor cycles.

The gate works by allowing users to push the gate away from them until it strikes the stop post, pass through the gap in the boundary (e.g. fence or wall) and enter the bay on the far side. Releasing the gate allows it to swing back to its central position. The user can then exit the bay. The fact that the gate can swing both ways and there are bays on either side of the boundary means that it can be used from either direction.

The gate can be constructed using either a conventional farm gate (see Information Sheet 2.1) or a bridle gate (see information Sheet 2.2). The key design feature is a self-closing hinge which always brings the gate to rest in a central position (Dwg 2.14B). This hinge is not available commercially and will have to be made to order by a local blacksmith: for this reason, it can be relatively expensive. It has two components (see 2.14B). The base plate, which is bolted through to the hanging post, is fabricated from mild steel and has two curved slots. The hinge, which is bolted to the hanging stile of the gate, is a standard gate hinge with an extension plate added and pieces of 15mm mild steel bar welded to the corners. These bars are set so that they slide in the curved slots on the base plate: this pushes the gate off centre, lifting the shutting stile end of the gate as it is opened. This ensures that when the gate is released it returns to its closed position.

The top hinge consists of a pin and eye bolt. Compared to a standard pin and double strap band, this arrangement provides the greater tolerance that is required to accommodate the change in alignment (between the hanging post and the hanging stile) caused by the displacement of the lower hinge as the gate is opened.

The side bays are constructed from post and rail fencing. Since this fencing does not contribute to the stockproofing of the gate, three or four rows of rails should be sufficient.

If there is significant pressure from livestock, it may be necessary to install a rise and fall bolt and keep ramps on the shutting stile of the gate (see the BT Countryside for All Good Practice Guide or contact the Fieldfare Trust for details).

For further information on the construction, design and operation of this gate, see the 'BT Countryside for All Good Practice Guide' or contact the Fieldfare Trust (details below).

• Construction and Installation Details

Hanging Post : 1 no. 2440 x 150 x 150

Gate : Standard 1625 wide timber bridle gate (see Information Sheet 2.2)

Shutting Post : 1 no. 2440 x 150 x 150

Enclosure Posts : 10 no. 1675 x 100 x 100; erected to a height of 1070 above ground level.

Enclosure Rails : 12 no. 88 x 38 rails (c. 2000 long) & 6 no. 88 x 38 rails (c. 3000 long). All erected to a top height of 1015 above ground level; spacing as per standard three rail fence (see Information Sheet 5.9).

Self-closing Hinges : manufactured to order as per Dwg 2.14B.

• Design Source and Contacts for Further Information

Gate Design : Fieldfare Trust, 67A The Wicker, Sheffield, South Yorkshire. S3 8HT.
Tel. 0114 270 1668.

Further Information : BT Countryside for All : A Good Practice Guide to Disabled People's Access in the Countryside published by BT Community Partnership and the Fieldfare Trust.

• User Notes : Design Modifications and Reference Information