

## 12.10 Traditional pillars and gateposts

### Traditional pillars and gateposts

Grant aid is available for the provision, replacement or improvement of pillars and gateposts associated with agricultural use. The pillars and gateposts must be traditional to the area, usually stone built pillars or wooden gateposts.

Grant aid is not available for concrete gateposts. Entrances to the farmhouse are not eligible.

### Conditions and standards

#### Pillar caps

1. The cap of the pillar serves a protective function as well as a decorative one. It should be kept waterproof to prevent the penetration of water into the stone and mortar structure. Where the cap has deteriorated it should be removed and re-built using a sand/cement mixture to make the structure waterproof.
2. Where the cap and/or pillar is plastered and cracks appear, penetration of water can cause further damage. Replace the original plaster using a scratch coat and one or two plaster coats.
3. Where the exposed stone and mortar of the pillar have deteriorated, the pillar needs to be re-pointed either using traditional lime mortar or sand/cement mixture.

#### Rebuilding pillars

4. When re-building pillars, traditional construction methods and design must be used. Foundations must be of adequate depth and strength for the size of the pillar
5. Naturally occurring local stone or plaster should be used for the visible parts of the pillars. Pillars built from ornamental stone will not qualify for grant aid. The use of cement-based mortar is recommended instead of the original lime and sand mortar.

6. The pillar may be left either with the stonework exposed or finished with a rough plaster finish, while the cap is more commonly plastered smooth.
7. Avoid planting trees adjacent to pillars, as through time their roots may lift foundations causing the pillar to tilt.
8. Pillars to be fitted with adjustable hanging mounts/shutting pieces as appropriate.

## **Gate posts**

9. Minimum lengths of timber posts are 2.3 metres when set directly in soil and 2.1 metres when set in concrete not less than 450mm x 450mm x 600mm deep.
10. Minimum cross-section dimensions of timber hanging posts are 200mm x 200mm and of shutting posts are 175 mm x 175 mm. Gate posts shall be set not less than 900 mm into the ground and surrounded with concrete not less than 450 mm x 450 mm x 600 mm deep.

## **Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSIs)**

***Note: Consent must be obtained from the Environment & Heritage Service (EHS), Department of the Environment before any works are carried out within or along an ASSI boundary. The EHS contact telephone number for further information is 028 9054 6595.***

Management plans are provided for participants in the Environmentally Sensitive Areas and Countryside Management Schemes

