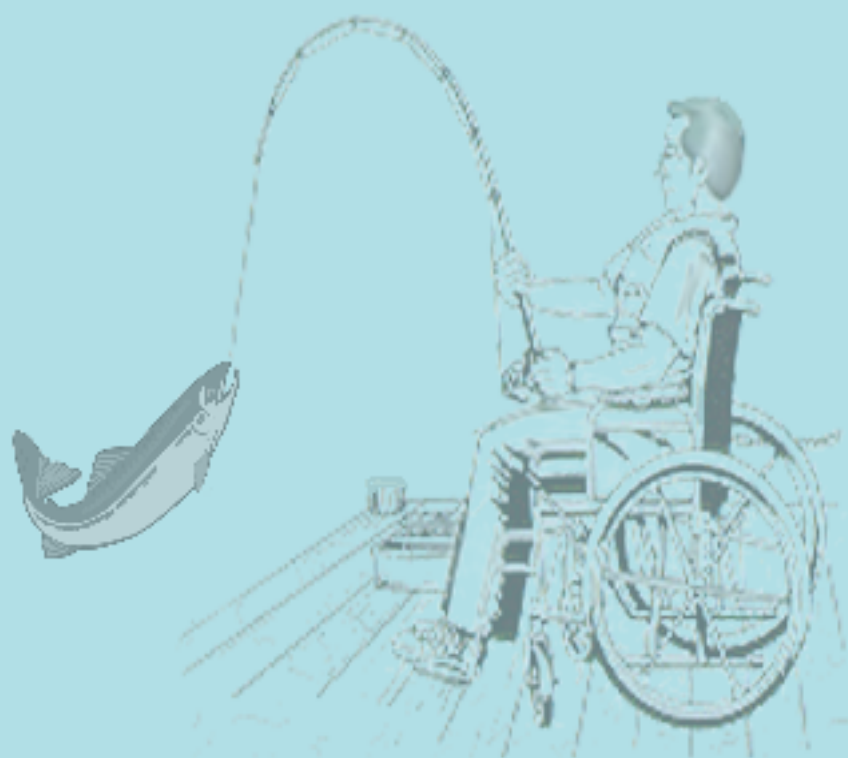


# Bankside Fishing and Viewing Points



## A Guide to Accessible Facilities



David Croft

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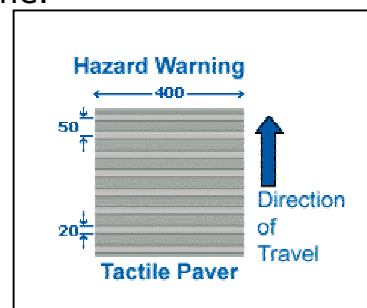
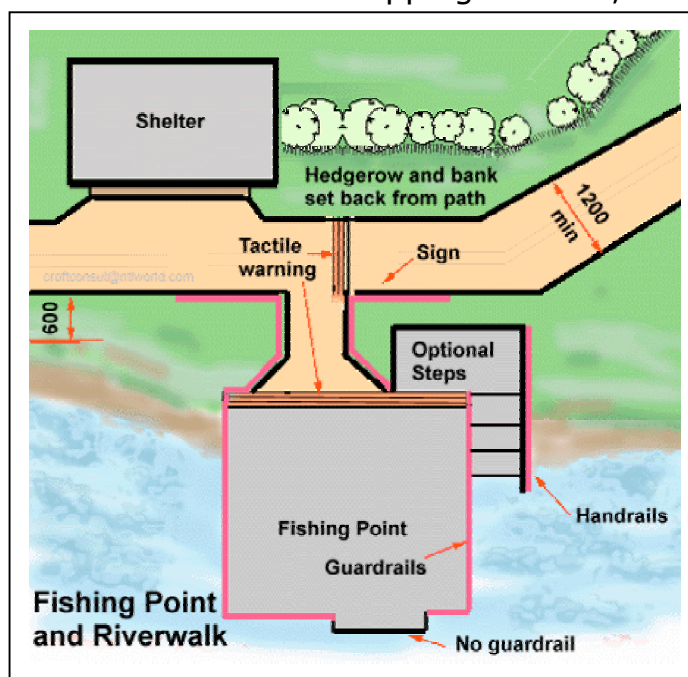
The Country Path and related Guides are a series of documents intended to provide Best Practice solutions for the development and operation of paths and related support features and infrastructure. The series does not constitute a directive or legal guidance. The series is intended to provide the information needed by developers and managers to ensure that their visitors and users enjoy the greatest level of inclusiveness while retaining the experience and challenges expected from a visit to the country.

## Bankside Fishing Points

Fishing is a common leisure activity amongst older and disabled people as it extracts little energy. This guide provides some Best Practice advice on facilities along canals, rivers, bays and lake sides. This guide should be read along with our guides to Inland Waterways and Country Paths.

### Owner/Managers should

- ◆ Pathways along banks and shores should be accessible and follow the Country Pathway and Surface' guide.
- ◆ Pathways are well maintained and do not form tripping hazards, ruts and erosion are common problems,
- ◆ ensure that all low level obstacles are colour contrasted to the background e.g. bollards, tapping and divider rails.
- ◆ that adequate guard-rails and tactile warnings are in place. Place warnings of hazards or places where wildlife may be particularly sensitive.
- ◆ Use plantings and formal paths to guide visitors around and away from sensitive areas.
- ◆ Provide Viewing and Fishing Points which have accessible features and do not encourage people to block pathways.
- ◆ Fishing points should be far enough from the path that people passing are not hazarded by hooks when casting. People with low vision are unlikely to see the cast and people with low mobility may not be able to get out of the way in time.
- ◆ Always use the correct type of paver, in this case 'hazard warning'. These can be any colour, a contrasting colour should be used immediately before the hazard. A depth of two pavers is needed to ensure people become aware of them.
- ◆ These should be inspected and maintained before the visitor/fishing season and after heavy rain with a minimum of two inspections per year.



Note: fishing points may also be sited on fixed and floating piers and boardwalks see other guides in this series.

## Visitors

- ◆ Should avoid disturbance of birds and other wildlife.
- ◆ Should respect the interests of other people, particularly those who are fishing,

Small water bodies can have limited capacity for recreation alongside other uses of the water and wildlife has less space to feed or take refuge.

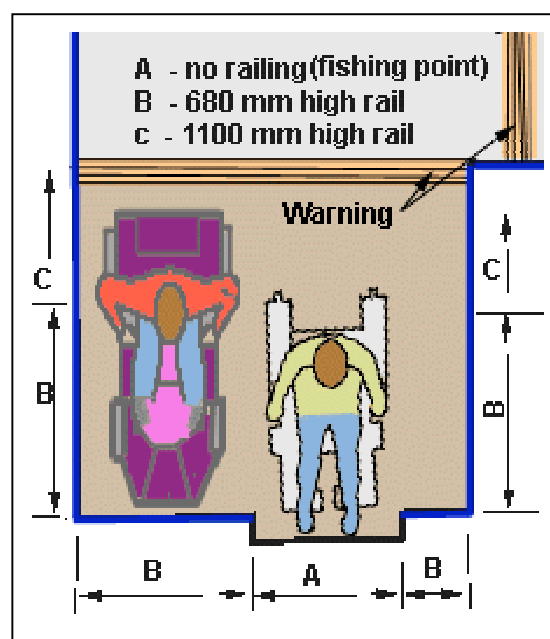
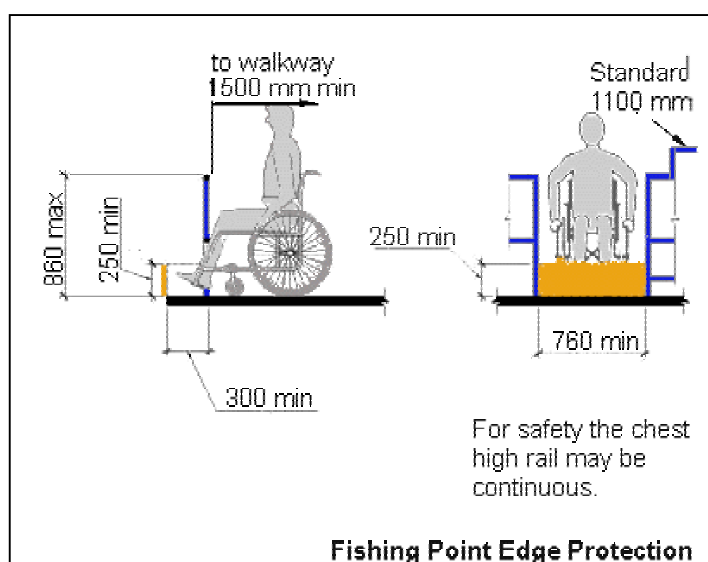
Be especially careful and follow any local guidance.

Management should provide a notice where there is need for care during protected species breeding periods.

## Bank-side Fishing Points

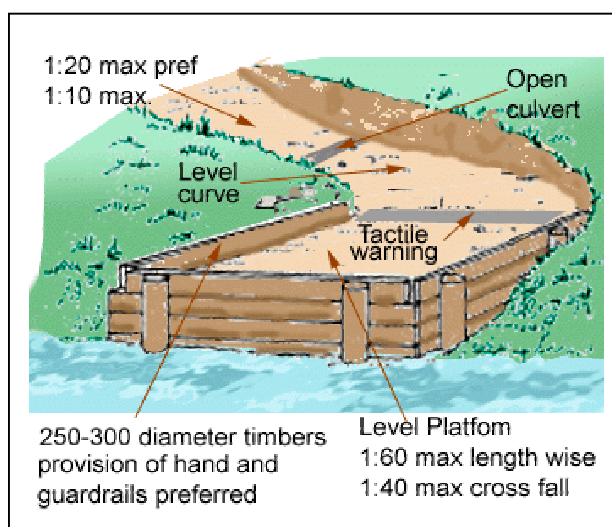
Fishing points need to be designed to promote the safety and accessibility required by people with a variety of impairments.

- ◆ Good firm surface on the approach.
- ◆ The surface of the platform can be natural, or constructed of timber, stone or concrete
- ◆ Level, railed platforms (see sketch) at least 1750 mm deep to provide space for a mobility vehicle plus carer.
- ◆ Space for at least two mobility vehicles or a mobility vehicle and a seat for a companion. Consider providing a seat along part of the fishing point, while leaving space for a mobility vehicle. See our guide 'Street Seating' for further details.





- ◆ A texture and colour change tile/paver strip should indicate the location of the fishing point.
- ◆ Signage should be sited in the 950 to 1200 mm height band at the entry to the fishing point/bay.
- ◆ Signs should indicate that these fishing points have a priority for use by people with disabilities.
- ◆ Shelter should be provided either at the fishing point or within 50 metres along a firm level surface.
- ◆ The bank behind a fishing point should not have an angle steeper than 30° to allow for casting.
- ◆ Trees and shrubs should be at least 5 metres clear of the fishing point to allow for casting.
- ◆ Any ramp should end in a level section to assist people controlling speed.
- ◆ Where a ramp is used to provide access to the fishing points, consider providing stepped access in parallel. Not everyone is safe moving on ramps.
- ◆ These should be inspected and maintained before the visitor/fishing season and after heavy rain with a minimum of two inspections per year.
- ◆ Damage to the path surface or bank from erosion should be repaired promptly.



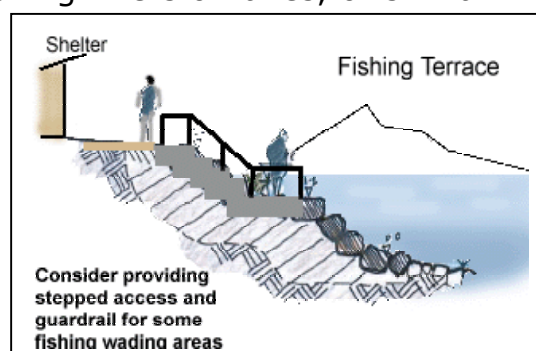
### Fishing Terraces

Where people may wish to fish while wading, consider providing a section with stepped access and guardrails for use by people with low mobility or vision to help them enter and stand safely in the water.

Consider providing a perch type seating along with this fence.

These could be on deep slow moving rivers or lakes, or similar guardrails and surfaced bottoms could be provided in shallower fast waters.

The structure should be built of timber pressure-treated with a preservative, such as Tanalith. Although more expensive than untreated timber, it will be much more





durable.

Provide low edgings or toe-rails, which delineate the edge, and provide some protection against vandals removing the decking. In most open locations, treated timber will not become slippery, provided water can drain off quickly. In shady locations, chicken wire or a tar and grit mixture may need to be applied to provide a non-slip surface.

Care must be taken not to affect the vegetation beneath water level.

These should be inspected and maintained before the visitor/fishing season and after heavy rain with a minimum of two inspections per year.

### Dipping Points

Children and many adults are fascinated by life underwater to cater for this it is suggested that dipping points are provided. These need to be accessible designs to suit adults and children. At least one accessible dipping point should be available on any pond or lake and should be considered along other water courses. In educational sites accessible dipping points should be provided at each type of habitat.

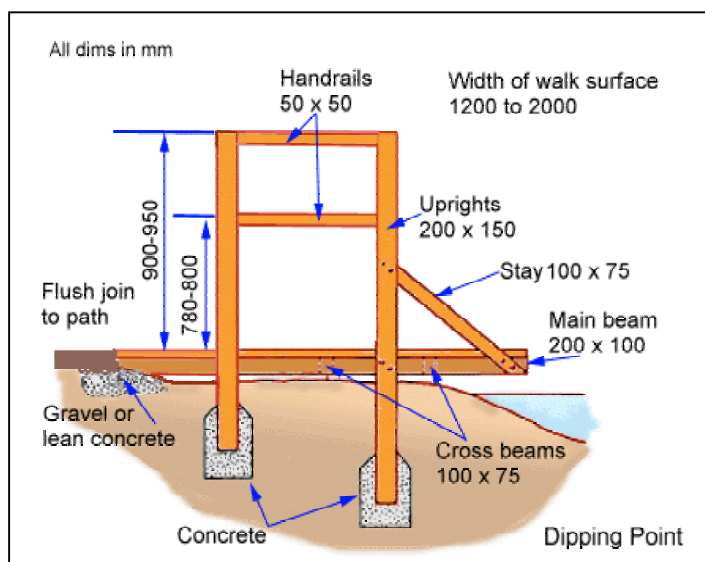
Routes should be designed as for fishing points. Including hazard warning tactile surfaces. Dipping points should not be placed in line with routes.

Seating should be provided close to the dipping point for parents/carers to wait and supervise activity.

Dipping points should be at least 1200 mm wide with handrails on both sides to provide support for standing and kneeling.

Any surface tilt (max. 1:40) should be towards the land end of the platform.

Dipping points should be inspected and maintained at least twice each year and always before the visitor season opens.





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