

Environment & Heritage Series

LONG-DISTANCE WALKING ROUTES APPROVED SIGNAGE

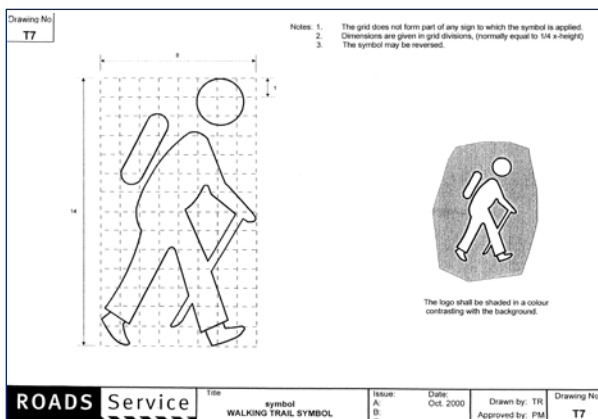
September 2005



3.7 DRD Approved Walking Trail Symbol

The following symbols of the walker are approved for use on signs by DRD Roads Service. The 'yellow' figure is the approved colour.

The walking man symbol is used primarily to signify all recreational walking routes (regardless of length). This symbol will continue to appear (in yellow) on the metal finger posts for the Ulster Way and Waymarked Ways. This symbol will be used (in white) to indicate all other recreational walking routes on the white on brown metal finger posts to comply with the DRD Roads Service policy.



3.8 Urban Pedestrian Signs

The logo and formats to be used on urban Rights of Way and utility routes using the urban walking figure and as illustrated in 'The Guide to Tourist Signing in Northern Ireland' produced by NITB and the Roads Service, DRD



3.4 Waymarked Way Only

The design below is for use on sections of Waymarked Ways that do not coincide with the Ulster Way. A different version will be produced for each route with the 'fern' logo constant.



3.5 Directional Sign

The directional sign enables walkers to follow the path accurately and confidently at points where they might otherwise have difficulty.



3.6 Finger Post Signs

The following are the approved finger post signs for all the long distance routes using the yellow man logo (indicating a recreational trail) and the fern symbol (indicating an approved long distance route).



1. INTRODUCTION

In 2004, the Countryside Access and Activities Network for Northern Ireland was commissioned by Environment and Heritage Service to undertake a study which aimed to provide *'a comprehensive and sustainable signage strategy for Northern Ireland encompassing all strategic walking routes that are long-distance, and including the Ulster way and Waymarked Ways'*.

The study was undertaken for the Network by TTC International and was completed in early 2005.

This document sets out the recommendations of the study and outlines the signage recommended for all future long-distance walking routes across Northern Ireland. With a consistent approach to the installation and maintenance of signing long-distance walking routes across the Province, this will give people confidence that all such routes will be adequately signed, thereby encouraging them to explore and make greater use of Northern Ireland's countryside.

2. SIGNAGE STANDARDS FOR LONG-DISTANCE WALKING ROUTES.

Based on the National Trails in England but specifically tailored to the needs of Northern Ireland, the following signage standards for long-distance walking routes are recommended.

1. Route logos should be of a clear and simple design that is suitable for routing into timber or for screen printing onto plastic, metal or similar materials. Where possible, routed logos or text should be in-filled with resin.
2. Individual routes should be signed and waymarked using clear and consistent styles of signs and waymarkers. In general, these should conform to the following guidelines:
 - metal finger posts (i.e. post and sign arm) or waymarkers in urban locations
 - metal, timber or recycled plastic finger posts (i.e. post and sign arm) along rural roads according to character of location and suitability of different materials in compliance with DRD Roads Service policy
 - timber or recycled plastic finger posts (i.e. post and sign arm) or waymarker posts in off-road situations in rural locations
 - blue and yellow road signs carrying two logos: 'yellow walking man' and a new 'fern logo'
 - waymarking on timber or plastic posts with discs carrying the fern logo and name/s of trail/s.
3. The yellow 'walking man' is a generic symbol to denote a 'recreational walking route'. This symbol should be included on signs and waymarkers on long-distance walking routes only where this is necessary to indicate or confirm the status of the route.
4. Directional finger post signs should be installed at key locations along the route and should include the following information:
 - the name of the route and/or the route logo
 - the next route destination
 - the distance to that destination (in miles or kilometres).

Finger posts will be particularly appropriate:

- where the route leaves a metalled road
- at principal access points onto the route
- in and around towns and villages, and especially where the route exits the settlement
- along roads, where waymarkers would be insufficiently visible
- at complex path junctions where the use of waymarkers would be inappropriate or insufficiently clear.

3. DESIGNS

The designs set out reflect an agreed position by all parties. The approach has been to have a simple, elegant, and widely accepted design that informs, brands and assists the customer. Additional approved designs are also included for reference purposes.

3.1 Long Distance Walking Routes Symbol

The 'fern' symbol is designed to be used to indicate an approved long distance walking route, namely, the Waymarked Ways and the Ulster Way. It may be attached to existing Waymarked Way posts, routed into timber or mounted independently. This logo conforms with the blue and yellow colours agreed with Roads Service and the fern symbol reflects the characteristics of much of the Ulster Countryside. It is consistent with the national trails logos in England, Wales and Scotland (*Acorn and Thistle*) and is a logo that can attract support from all sections of the community.

3.2 Ulster Way only

The long-distance walking route symbol in the format below is used to as confirmation that a route is part of the Ulster Way.



3.3 Waymarked Way and Ulster Way

The long-distance walking routes symbol can be mounted on existing posts or routed into timber or plastic. It is also used at points where the Ulster Way and Waymarked Way coincide. A different version will be produced for each Way with the 'fern' logo a constant. By using one disc only, costs are reduced for installation and maintenance and signage is clearer for the walker.



1. The 'walking man' symbol is adopted as a national symbol to signify recreational walking routes, whether 'long-distance' or not.
2. The primary use of this symbol is to sign recreational walking routes. Elsewhere on signed/waymarked long distance walking routes, such as the Waymarked Ways and Ulster Way, there will be little need to use the 'walking man symbol; i.e. the new fern logo with the trail names is sufficient to indicate the existence and alignment of the walking route without the need for the 'walking man' symbol as well.
3. The walking man symbol will continue to appear on metal finger posts for Ulster Way/Waymarked ways
4. A standard design for the 'walking man' logo as approved by the Roads Service. As yellow is synonymous with walking routes throughout the UK the design specification should require that it is only reproduced in yellow. However, when reproduced onto road signs the walking man logo will remain in white to comply with the Roads Service Tourism Signing policy.
5. The 'walking man' logo is suitable for routing into timber or recycled plastic or for screen printing onto plastic or metal. If the routed version is chosen it should preferably be in filled with resin to increase its visibility.
6. All other signage for recreational trails (regardless of length) will be on white on brown tourist signs.
7. It is recommended that other logos such as those of councils are NOT put on signs as the integrity of the signage system will be lost. Stickers could be placed on the reverse of the signs to indicate who is responsible for ownership and maintenance.
8. The similar (but quite different) walking man logo the 'pedestrian' logo (no rucksack or pole) used by Roads Service and local authorities to signify urban public rights of way and utility routes should also be retained, but used explicitly for this purpose only. It is felt that this symbol is sufficiently different not to cause confusion.

5. Link paths to and from the long-distance walking route should be signed 'to' and the named route in appropriate locations.
6. On remoter and more elevated sections of a route, where the principal use is long-distance walking and users are likely to be suitably equipped with a map and compass, signing and waymarking should be provided only to the extent necessary to ensure public safety, to avoid trespass in sensitive locations and to guide users at key points.
7. On more popular and low level sections of a route where the majority of use is more casual, signing and waymarking should be of a more comprehensive nature so that users can follow the route with reasonable ease without the use of map or compass. Such signing and waymarking should be sufficient to give users the confidence and reassurance that they are on the correct route, without being visually intrusive or out of keeping with the local terrain and surroundings.
8. Where appropriate, facilities and services in nearby settlements should be signed from off the main route; e.g. transport links, local accommodation providers, refreshment facilities etc.
9. No signs should be misleading or ambiguous and care should be taken to avoid the over-signing of routes.
10. All signing should be regularly checked for condition and correct installation and should be repaired or replaced as necessary.

2.1 Signing and Waymarking the Waymarked Ways

Alongside the Ulster Way, the Waymarked Ways, which are generally well signposted and actively promoted, will form the principal long-distance walking routes in Northern Ireland. Many of the Waymarked Ways however coincide with the route of the Ulster Way and therefore the following signage and waymarking standards are recommended.

1. All signing should conform to the generic 'signing standards for long-distance walking routes in Northern Ireland' set out previously
2. Consistent with the 'signing standards', the level of signing and waymarking on individual Waymarked Ways should be tailored to reflect the character and elevation of the terrain and the profile and capabilities of likely users.
3. Where a Waymarked Way coincides with the Ulster Way, both routes should be signed and waymarked. On such dual sections, the Waymarked Way signing will continue to be used and be accompanied

with the new 'dual' name discs. Existing discs should be changed on a gradual 'phased' basis.

4. On dual sections, where it is self evident that the Ulster Way coincides with a Waymarked Way or where a Waymarked Way is very well signed and waymarked (e.g. low level routes with predominately casual use, such as the Newry Canal Way and the Causeway Coast Way), it should not be necessary to sign/waymark the Ulster Way to the same degree as the Waymarked Way.
5. After careful consideration of timber routing for waymarking as is used extensively in England it is recommended that this method not be adopted. New material discs are considered more durable and can be inserted into existing posts as replacement or additions. Routing logos in new materials should be kept as an option.
6. Since the existing Waymarked Way logo is very detailed, a simplified version, based upon the fern used on the original design, has been developed. The benefits of using an adaptation of the original logo are that:
 - it will be a recognisable image which walkers will associate with the long distance routes – either the Ulster Way or Waymarked Ways;
 - the fern is a natural symbol, which reflects characteristics of much of Northern Ireland . It is in keeping with the acorn and thistle symbols used in England, Scotland and Wales for similar walking trails;
 - it can gradually replace the current logo as signs and interpretive material are renewed;
 - the current detailed Waymarked Ways logos can continue to be used on literature and websites as is the practise in Scotland.
7. The current practice, advocated by DRD Roads Service, of only signing the Waymarked Ways in a single (clockwise) direction appears to have little merit or purpose and does not meet the needs of many current and potential users who will wish to do an 'out and return' walk. It is desirable therefore that all long distance routes should therefore be signed in both directions, subject to Roads Service agreement.

2.2 Signing and Waymarking the Ulster Way

Environment and Heritage Service has agreed that future management and resources for the Ulster Way will focus on the 'quality sections' and that, at least for the foreseeable future, the 'linking sections' will no longer be signed or actively promoted.

1. All signing of the Ulster Way should conform to the generic 'signing standards for long-distance walking routes in Northern Ireland' set out previously in this document
2. In view of the revised status and profile of the Ulster Way, it is considered that the development and introduction of a new specific logo for the Ulster Way would be inappropriate. It is therefore proposed that future signing and waymarking should continue to make use of the words 'Ulster Way'.
3. Existing road signs (yellow & green) on the quality sections of the revised Ulster Way *should be replaced as soon as possible with the blue & yellow type.*
4. The signing and waymarking of all off-road sections of the Ulster Way should be reviewed. All such signing and waymarking should conform to the above 'signing standards'.
5. Redundant or superfluous signing and waymarking *must* be removed with
 - the progressive replacement (at time of renewal) of signs that do not conform to the above proposals and generic signage standards
 - replacement priority to be given to those signs not complying whereas current Waymarked Way signing should be gradually replaced
 - the installation of finger posts with destinations and distances at key points;
 - the signing off the route of facilities and services in nearby settlements.
6. Quality Sections of the Ulster Way that do not coincide with Waymarked Ways should be signed / waymarked with the words 'Ulster Way' and the fern logo.

2.2 The Walking Man Symbol

The 'walking man' as designed and approved by the Roads Service is an established and widely recognised symbol that is used throughout Northern Ireland to signify that people can walk along the signed route. Its extensive use on Ulster Way road signs has led to its close association with that route but the reality is that it is used in many other locations too.

Walking in Northern Ireland relies heavily upon permissive routes since there are few public rights of way. There is a need for these permissive routes to be signed so that people are made aware of their existence and feel comfortable and confident about going for a walk in the countryside. The walking man is an ideal logo to signify such routes and therefore the following is recommended.



Our aim is to protect and conserve the natural and built environment and to promote its appreciation for the benefit of present and future generations.

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