**CROWS Handy Hints for installing Marker-posts**

 Final proof (FH) Aug 2019

 

This is a standard **1.5 m x 100 mm x 100 mm** marker-post.

It has a ‘shaped’ top which may be painted yellow.

It is vertical and aligned in the correct direction.

It has between **600 mm and 700 mm** buried in the ground.

It doesn’t move when the top is waggled!

**Fingerposts** are double this height so you should aim for between **900 mm and 1.0 m** in the ground (arm length may be a limitation of depth).

**Equipment**

**Items you will need:** Spade; bar; trowel; spirit level; club hammer; waymarks (+ hammer & nails);

 first-aid kit.

**Items you might need**: Drill kit; panel saw; ‘deadmen’ (to prevent pull-out) e.g. 3 or 4 of 100 mm screw nails **or** 1 of wooden batten ~ 200 mm x ~ 75 mm x ~15 mm (+ suitable nails); stout wooden batten to act as a short ram; sack or plastic sheet; small bailer (if hole in wet ground).

**What to do**

* Cut a square of turf to mark the hole position. The width needs to be sufficient to accept the post **and** to have enough room to ram down the in-fill. Put the turf to one side where you won’t tread on it.
* Excavate the hole to a depth between **600 & 700 mm** putting any stones and finer spoil in **separate heaps** (on the sack or plastic sheet if necessary). If you can only dig (say) a 500 mm hole then shorten the post proportionately.

*\*{****If*** *you are fitting ‘deadmen’, alternatives are:*

 *i) a batten ( ~200 mm x ~ 75 mm x ~15 mm) nailed to one face* ***at the very bottom*** *of the post* ***or***

 *ii) screw nails (100 mm) fixed at an angle on 3 or 4 sides but these must be towards the* ***very bottom*** *of the post otherwise they will inhibit successful packing of the first layer of in-fill*}.

* Position the post vertically and align it in the correct direction.
* Add in-fill consisting of **small stones** (up to ~40 mm diameter) **mixed with soil** for the first **~200 mm** of the hole. This should be **rammed-in** very firmly using a bar (or wooden batten and lump hammer) **and then rammed in some more**! This is **absolutely essential** otherwise the rest your work will be wasted effort!
* Check alignment/verticality and adjust if necessary
* Gradually fill the rest of the hole using larger stones in conjunction with soil, each layer being rammed-in **very tightly**. Alignment and verticality should be checked as needed

\***OPTIONAL**: *{To make the post more resistant to livestock and vandals, the following is an option: when the hole is about ¾ full, a pointed batten ~400 mm x 100 mm x 25 mm, can be driven diagonally (flush with a face of the post) into the side of the post-hole so the top end of the batten is just below ground level. The batten is then nailed to the post and any waste cut off before further in-fill is rammed in}.*

* Fill the top ~75 mm of the hole with soil (trodden in firmly) and a layer of turf.
* Scatter any remaining debris and fix waymarks, as appropriate, to indicate the line of the RoW.
* The post should now be vertical, aligned in the correct direction and ‘rock-solid’.

 **IF THE POST MOVES WHEN YOU TRY TO WAGGLE THE TOP, THEN**

 **YOU MIGHT HAVE TO DIG IT OUT AND START AGAIN!!**