



Wicklow County Council
 COIR-HAILE CHONTAE CHILL KHANTAIN

Access Audit Summary Sheet

CAPITA SYMONDS

Subject: **Aughrim**

Audited: **21 March 2008**

Details: **Co. Wicklow**

Accessibility Grade

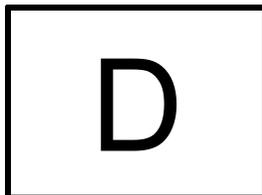
A - Wholly Compliant

B- Satisfactory, minor works needed

C - Poor. Major alterations required

D - Significant issues which severely restrict access and service operations. Major capital works required

Allocated Grading



Estimate of Totals	No of Alterations	Estimated Costs
Priority 1	6	€22,500
Priority 2	5	€11,140
Priority 3	6	€11,640
Priority 4		€0
All Costs	17	€45,280

Auditor:	J Lowe
Signed:	
Date:	

Summary Statement

Aughrim Town Centre, Co. Wicklow

The area audited was found to be generally of poor accessibility particularly in the town road intersection area. Throughout the audit area there was a distinct lack of uncontrolled crossings and no provision of controlled crossings. This town had serious off road parking problems as detailed below. There is a bridge crossing which is heavy with traffic and is without any pedestrian routes. Crossing this would be difficult enough for persons without disabilities but places vulnerable groups in danger. A survey of access is recommended and could include separate crossing point, controlled crossing or part controlled with dedicated pedestrian route and singular traffic direction flows. Along Main Street, two staircases exist without immediate option of ramped access. This occurs at an area where it would be difficult for persons in a wheelchair to access the public facilities which include a library. Likewise only singular handrails exist for persons of an ambulant nature. Crossing at the main intersection is difficult due to the heavy parking loads, no particular crossing point, ongoing movement of traffic and encroachment of a building stopping the continuation of pedestrian walkways. It appears that the Aughrim town centre is poorly served by bus stop areas and a review of positioning and access to bus stops should be given. Any review should aim to allow path widening, path access and safe controlled/ uncontrolled crossing points at strategic places or intervals. A series of disabled bays placed outside of Lawless hotel exist but have no high level signage. No further bays could be found. Any disabled bay should follow the recommendations of sections 5.4.1 and 5.4.2 of NDA "Building for Everyone".

As with most of the towns audited, considerable parking problems exist with an inherent attitude to off road parking at the expense of pedestrians. This is particularly problematic and of safety concern for vulnerable groups including disabled persons or children. A consultation with road safety engineers should be implemented considering measures such as alternative parking, out of town parking, bollards and restricted parking road markings, public education.

Regarding public transport, it is recommended that discussions with representatives of Bus Eirann should take place to provide supportive facilities such as wheelchair access. Most existing bus stops do not provide any shelter from the elements. It would be of good practice including general benefit for all the public to consider strategic placement of shelters. The access paths to the bus stop is restrictive in its width.

Along the main streets, there is generally a lack of suitable seating areas. The one seat noticed during the audit is not accessible by everyone. A review of providing seats at regular intervals along main thoroughfares should take place. Following guidelines from section 5.3.7 of NDA "Building for Everyone".

The main access audit was carried out by John Lowe and is based on the conditions encountered during an inspection on March 2008.