



Wicklow County Council
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Access Audit Summary Sheet

CAPITA SYMONDS

Subject: **Baltinglass**

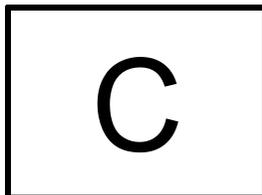
Audited: **19 March 2008**

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	2	€10,100
Priority 2	8	€17,820
Priority 3	7	€16,700
Priority 4	1	€0
All Costs	19	€45,020

Auditor:	J Lowe
Signed:	
Date:	

Summary Statement

Baltinglass Town Centre, Co. Wicklow

The area audited was found to be generally of poor accessibility. The main road intersection is at the heart of the town centre and all traffic flows to this point making it difficult to cross even for able bodied adults. Paths are broken and uneven in a variety of places especially at the town centre. There is a lack of controlled and uncontrolled crossings especially at strategic points of interest.

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.

A common, historical building practice is for rain downpipes to filter water across paving areas. This creates a potential slip hazard particularly in combination with foliage or icing at times of extreme cold. A design element of including a "below surface channel" should be employed with any future pavement works. This has been employed in some instances and is a cheap design incorporation but should become common practice.

A common, historical building practice especially in smaller towns with cottage dwellings is for access in and out of the house via steps. These steps protrude out onto the public footpath and are a trip hazard especially as they are of very low visual contrast. Secondly the steps conflicts with the access provided along the footpath by taking away the available width making it extremely difficult for persons to traverse pass.

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. Those seats that are currently in place are without arm rests. 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