



Wicklow County Council  
 COIR-HAILE CHONTAE CHILL KHANTAIN

## Access Audit Summary Sheet

CAPITA SYMONDS

Subject: **Blessington**

Audited: **18 March 2008**

Details: **Co. Wicklow**

### Accessibility Grade

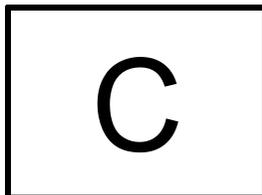
A - Wholly Compliant

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	€11,500
Priority 2	8	€19,750
Priority 3	9	€10,400
Priority 4	6	€4,600
All Costs	31	€51,250

Auditor:	J Lowe
Signed:	
Date:	

### Summary Statement

Blessington Town Centre, Co. Wicklow

The area audited was found to be generally of good accessibility. Some areas of uncontrolled crossings have the recommended drop kerbs and tactile paving. However in the instance of the new roundabout access into the residential areas, good crossings with islands and appropriate low level kerbing has been provided. Unfortunately red tactile paving has been used which is not consistent with recommendations for uncontrolled crossing. Section 5.1.2 and 5.1.3 of NDA "Building for everyone". The provided traffic lights (two crossings) each have a sounder which is of a low audibility especially against the noise of traffic. Some areas of road crossing should be considered especially where public amenities are nearby such as the Community Education Centre. There is also a lack of disabled parking availability.

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. This was noticeable along the entrance to a petrol station on Main Street.

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.