



Wicklow County Council
 COIR-HAILE CHONTAE CHILL KHANTAIN

Access Audit Summary Sheet

CAPITA SYMONDS

Subject: **Carnew**

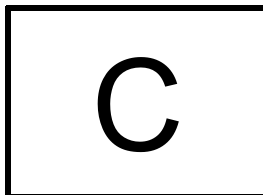
Audited: **25 March 2008**

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	4	€17,580
Priority 2	3	€10,000
Priority 3	4	€10,800
Priority 4	5	€7,240
All Costs	18	€50,920

Auditor:	J Lowe
Signed:	
Date:	

Summary Statement

Carnew Town Centre, Co. Wicklow

The area audited was found to be generally of good accessibility. When entering the town area along Main street, there is a controlled zebra crossing which is situated close to public amenities (school / college) however no red tactile paving has been used as per the recommendations for controlled crossing. Section 5.1.2 and 5.1.3 of NDA "Building for everyone". Along Coolattin Row, Some of the path areas are in need of repair and consideration should be given to crossing points and dropped kerbs. A specific disabled bay has been provided only in respect to signage, No bay markings or dropped kerbing exists. There is also a raised area of concrete at this point and is a trip hazard. Along Main street there a few disabled bays provided and although marked out, there is no signage to alert persons to their presence. Along the length of the main street, there is no crossing point provided, controlled or uncontrolled and a review of this should be given some priority. One good feature of the area is that there is a number of seats provided at regular intervals along the main street. Although not all of them have arm rests, there is number that do and access up and onto the seating areas is by way of good level hardstanding areas.

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.

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