

Factsheet

Inclusive Design for Outdoor Recreation

Beaches



Symbols



Multi Access Symbol

Has a wide and firm surface, must meet criteria as Class 1 Trail



Challenging Access Symbol

May be narrower, slightly different surfaces with slight steep inclination, is a mixture of criteria set out for Grade 1 and Grade 2 Trail

Design Criteria

What To Keep in Mind

- Parking bays to be close to access point
- Public Accessible WCs close proximity to access point
- Level access and the avoidance of creating a lip at the start of any boardwalk is advised

Gradients

Multi Access Routes

- Gentle slope gradient
- Unavoidable gradients should be no longer than 10m in one section
- Provision of adjacent steps may suit

Challenging Access Routes

- Routes can be undulating for short distances, advisable that they are no longer than 5m
- A gradient of 7 % is considered a ramp so should be complemented with a handrail
- Steeper gradients are not recommended, if there is no alternative this should not be longer than 2m

Surfacing

Natural

- Firm, compact, stable, and non-slip. Materials would include tarmac, concrete timber, and natural wood
- Loose material is not advised, if this is the only access point it should last no longer than 5m
- Creating a guiding strip with an alternative colour would be greatly beneficial

Boardwalk

- Timber boardwalk would give the chance for a person using a wheelchair to access the beach
- Slight gaps in decking will increase grip in case route is wet

Types

- Pressure-treated Wood
- Composite Decking
- Non-toxic wood
- Pre-cast Concrete
- Modified Wood



Colour

- Use of light colours will assist those with a visual impairment in way finding

Width

- 1m minimum gap is required for a person with a wheelchair to use the boardwalk, up 1.2m to allow a person walking alongside a wheelchair user
- 2m width required for two wheelchair users to pass easily

Upstand

Edge protection/Upstand to assist a person with a visual impairment

Viewing Areas

If a barrier is required, a perspex barrier would be most suitable

Seating Areas

- Mixture of seating provided, backrests, armrests for example
- Should be slightly back from main boardwalk as not to interfere with pedestrian traffic
- Space alongside seats to allow for positioning of a wheelchair

Surfacing

Equipment and Supports

On site dual equipment made available and promoted

Portable/Removable Mats

Can be used as an extension of board walk to gain further access to the beach including access to the water

Access Mats and Mobi Mats

Used as permanent or temporary solutions to create greater access

Obstacles and Barriers

Regular Checks

- It must be considered, when working with nature, unforeseen obstacles can unexpectedly appear. Regular checks on trails should be carried out.
- Check for Erosion and Protruding vegetation along access to boardwalk

Boardwalks

Keep clear of sand, pebbles, and debris

Inclines

Due to the natural formation of a steep incline which can include rocks or gravel, this can make accessibility to the beach problematic for persons with limited mobility

Picnic Areas

One of the main treats in visiting the beach is to sit and enjoy a picnic with family and friends. Creating accessible seating will increase the opportunities of many different families having the choice to visit a beach with a member of that family who may not have been in a position to previously.

Information	Location displayed on maps or display boards
Surface	Surface around and leading to accessible picnic tables should be firm and non-slip, avoid materials such as cobbles, grass, or loose gravel
Height	Should be between 75cm-80cm with a clear space underneath
Seating Areas	Mixture of seating provided, backrests, armrests for example
Placement	Consider location of tables allowing for a choice with shade if necessary