

It should also be kept in mind that, a protective barrier for pedestrians should be provided at the edge of:

- (a) every floor, stair, ramp, landing or other raised area to which people have access, where there is a difference in level of 600mm or more; and
- (b) any change in direction on an access or circulation route which is raised above the level of the surrounding surfaces.

The height of the pedestrian protective barrier should be at least 1100mm where there is a significant risk of serious injury from a fall, otherwise 900mm may be acceptable. Any openings in a protective barrier should prevent the passage of a 100 mm diameter sphere.

External Access Steps

Each rise should be consistent and be between 100mm and 170mm. The goings should be not less than 250mm. In order to maintain a safe and convenient pitch to a flight of access steps, the aggregate of the going and twice the rise should be at least 550mm and not more than 700mm.

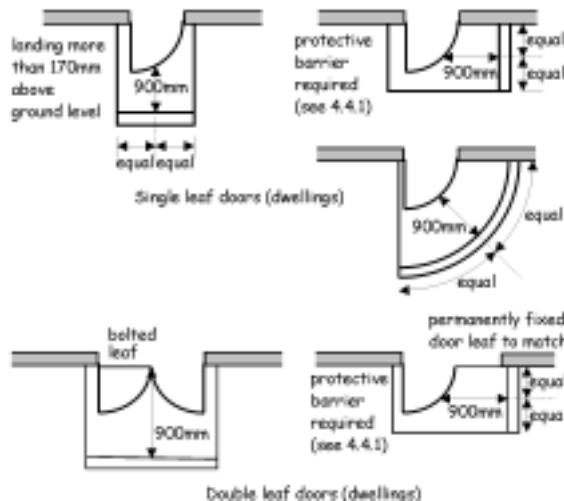
Please note that this leaflet is merely intended to provide supplementary guidance. Should you have any doubts about whether any work requires a building warrant or whether it complies with current regulations please consult the Building Standards Section at the number shown below.

Please also note that works of the nature included in this leaflet may still require a Building Warrant.

Information current at time of printing: 31/01/2011.

External Landings

If an entrance is not the accessible entrance and has an outward opening door, there should be a landing projecting at least 900 mm out from the opening face of the doors and at least for the width of the doors. Please see the diagram below



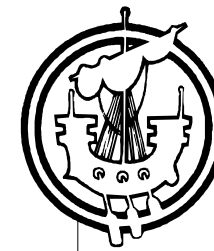
Comhairle nan Eilean Siar

Development Department
Sandwick Road
Stornoway
Isle of Lewis

Stornoway
Phone: 01851 822692

Balivanich
Phone: 01870 604990

Web: www.cne-siar.gov.uk



Building Standards

Accessible Ramps & Entrances, External Steps & Landings



The purpose of this leaflet is to provide additional guidance on the construction of level access ramps, accessible entrances, external steps and landings in accordance with the current building regulations.

Please take one.

Should you need further assistance then please do not hesitate to contact one of our Building Standards officers.

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar

Stornoway
Phone: 01851 822692

Balivanich
Phone: 01870 604990

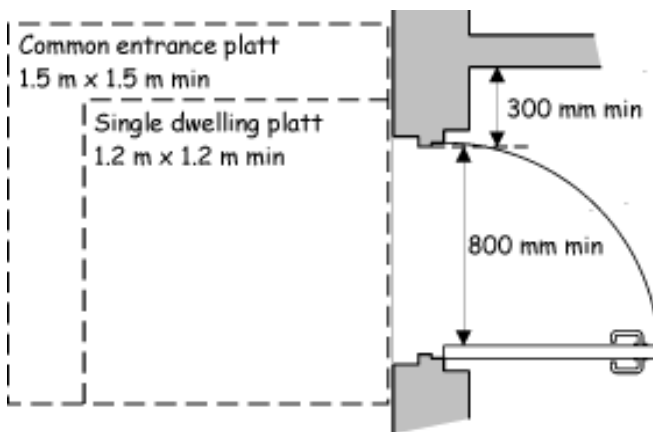
Web: www.cne-siar.gov.uk

Accessible Entrances

The approach to a house should allow unassisted access for everyone. Level or ramped access suitable for wheelchair users should be provided to at least one entrance to a house, from a road and from any car parking within the curtilage of the building. Whilst an accessible entrance to a house is commonly the front or main entrance, an alternate entrance may be designated as the accessible entrance where this provides a more convenient or practical route into the dwelling .

An accessible entrance to a building should:

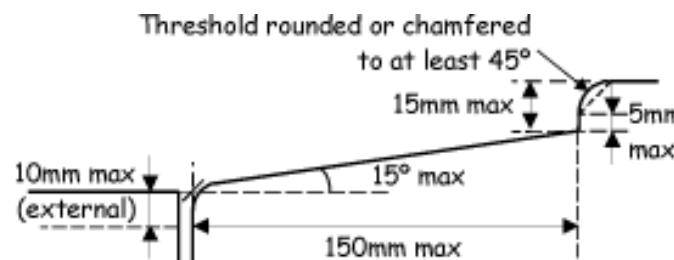
- have an unobstructed entrance platt of at least 1.2 m by 1.2 m, with a crossfall of not more than 1 in 50, if required to prevent standing water;
- have a means of automatic illumination above or adjacent to the door;
- have an accessible threshold;
- have a door leaf giving a clear opening width of at least 800 mm;
- if fitted with a door closing device, be operable with an opening force of not more than 30 N (for first 30° of opening) and 22.5 N (for remainder of swing) when measured at the leading edge of any door leaf;
- if not a powered door, have an unobstructed space to the opening face of the door, next to the leading edge, of at least 300 mm.



In order to meet the requirements of an accessible threshold, then the threshold should meet the following criteria:

- thresholds should be designed to prevent the ingress of rain. Details in the DETR publication '[Accessible Thresholds in New Housing](#)' gives guidance on how this might be achieved;
- externally, the surface of the platt should be not more than 10 mm below the leading edge of any sill, with any exposed edge chamfered or rounded;
- an external sill or internal transition unit should be at an angle of not more than 15° from the horizontal and, if sloping, be not more than 150 mm in length;
- the threshold should either be level or of a height and form that will neither impede unassisted access by a wheelchair user nor create a trip hazard. A threshold piece should have a height of not more than 15 mm, with any vertical element of more than 5mm height being pencil-rounded or chamfered to an angle of not more than 45° from the horizontal;
- if the finished internal floor level is more than 15 mm below the top of the threshold, an internal transition unit, of not more than 15° to the horizontal, finishing not more than 5 mm above the internal floor surface may be used, in accordance with the guidance above. In new *buildings*, this should normally only be needed to allow flexibility in subsequent fitting of differing thickness of floor coverings.

Please see the detail below for a typical accessible threshold.



Access Ramps

As a general principle, the steeper the gradient of a ramp, the shorter the flight should be. A pedestrian ramp should be constructed in accordance with the following table:

Maximum Gradient of Flight	Maximum Length of Flight
1 in 20	10m
1 in 15	5m
1 in 12	2m

An access with a gradient of less than 1 in 20 is not classed as a ramp, and so the regulations relating to ramps do not apply.

The effective width of a ramp flight should be at least 1m and a ramp landing should be provided at the top and bottom of every flight.

If it is necessary to have more than one flight in a ramp then intermediate landings will be required. Intermediate landings have the same requirement of those at the top and bottom of a flight, which is that the unobstructed length of a landing should be not less than 1.5m.

A handrail should be provided to any flight where there is a change of level of more than 600 mm, or where the flight on a ramp is longer than 2 m. The height of such a handrail should be fixed at a height of at least 840 mm and not more than 1.0 m, measured vertically above the pitch line of the ramp and on a landing where a handrail is provided. However if the height of the ramp to ground level is less than 600mm and no handrail is to be used, then the area of ground which is less than 600mm to the level of the ramp must extend at least 300mm from the edge of the ramp before tapering off.