

Footway and footpath works – look after pedestrians

Where footways and pedestrian areas are affected by street works and road works, it is your responsibility to make sure that pedestrians passing the works are safe. This means protecting them from both the works and passing traffic.

You **must** take into account the needs of children, older people and disabled people, having particular regard for visually impaired people. In order to do this you must provide a suitable barrier system (see page 97) that safely separates pedestrians from hazards and provides a safe route suitable for people using wheelchairs, mobility scooters, prams or pushchairs. Always be on the lookout for pedestrians who seem confused or who are having difficulty negotiating a temporary route, and be prepared to offer assistance.

Safe routes for pedestrians

If your work is going to obstruct a footway or part of a footway, you must provide a safe route for pedestrians that should include access to adjacent buildings, properties and public areas where necessary. This route must consider the needs of those with small children, pushchairs and those with reduced mobility, including visually impaired people and people using wheelchairs or mobility scooters.

You should always try to enable pedestrians to remain safely on the footway if at all possible. Ideally, **the footway should be a minimum of 1.5 metres wide for temporary situations** but if this cannot be achieved, the existing footway can be reduced to an absolute minimum of 1 metre unobstructed* width. Where the existing footway is narrower than 1 metre, you are not required to provide an alternative footway wider than the existing footway, but you should consider whether this is possible.

If it is not possible to maintain safe pedestrian access on the footway, consider whether there are other safe alternatives. This could mean, for example, closing the footway and placing a 'Footway closed' sign at the works and an advance 'Footway closed ahead' sign at a location where it is safe for people to cross the road (possibly with the use of portable pedestrian crossing facilities). It may be necessary to provide footway ramps on either side of the road at this location. Another alternative, at

attended sites only, could be to preserve safe access for the majority of pedestrians and to offer assistance to those who might find a reduced width more difficult to navigate, including wheelchair or mobility scooter users, visually impaired people, or people with pushchairs.

If it is not possible to maintain safe pedestrian access on the footway and a safe off-carriageway alternative cannot be found, you should provide a walkway in the carriageway. In general **a minimum 1.2 metre width of walkway should be provided** (this allows for a visually impaired person being guided), with an absolute minimum of 1 metre unobstructed* width. It is recommended that a wider walkway be provided if it can be done without resulting in a road closure or a reduction to shuttle working.

*It is not permitted for barrier feet or other equipment to obstruct this space.

Warning: Where the minimum footway width of 1 metre on the footway cannot be maintained, you must consult your [supervisor, manager or other competent person](#). Where a road closure or pedestrian lights are required, the highway authority must be informed and appropriate orders or permissions obtained.

All pedestrian routes must be fit for purpose and able to be used safely by all pedestrians, including older people and disabled people. These routes should be properly drained and have adequate headroom. Surfaces should be reasonably smooth without steep gradients or crossfalls. A suitable barrier should be placed between a pedestrian route and any adjacent drops or steep slopes.

Footway boards may be used on footways to maintain a route for pedestrians and provide light vehicle access to premises during excavation works.