

Principle or main entrances in new buildings should be fully accessible. In existing buildings, where it really is not possible for the main entrance/s to be fully accessible, an alternative entrance should be provided and accessible to **all potential** users. This means that 'alternative' accessible entrances are not stigmatised for people with disabilities.

- Entrances to buildings should be placed in a logical relationship within the routes that serve them; they should also be easily distinguishable from the building façade.
- Alternative accessible entrances should be signposted from the edge of the site and from the main entrance door/s. These signs should include the international 'access' symbol (see Wayfinding, Information & Signs).
- Clear signs showing the main entrance should be provided and visible from all approaches to the building. Perpendicular signs on the building façade can also be useful.
- The area immediately in front of the accessible entrance (minimum 1500 x 1500mm) should be level and have a firm surface (e.g. not gravel). Structural supports should be clearly visible (see Street Furniture).
- Main or 'alternative' main entrances should have a canopy as protection from bad weather, particularly on doors which open manually or have door entry systems.
- Outward opening doors should be protected or recessed (Figure 20).
- The approach to door entry controls should not be obstructed and there should be no projecting columns or return walls.
- Door entry systems should be audible and visual (for people with hearing or speaking impairments); for example, an entry phone with a visual display or a small viewing window.

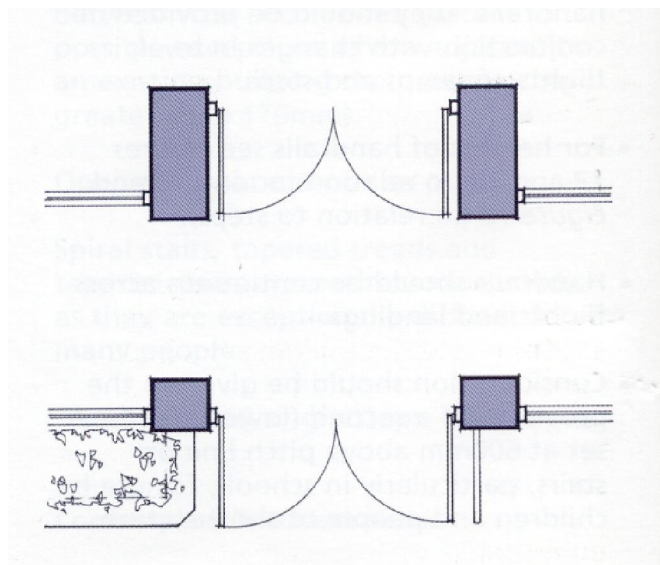


Figure 20
Outward- opening doors

- Security systems, like swipe cards, should be detailed to allow use by people with sensory or mobility impairments.
- Turnstiles, if used, should include at least one alternative access gate with a minimum width of 1500mm.
- There should be an unobstructed space on the pull side of the door between the leading edge of the door and any return wall (Figure 23).
- Thresholds should be flush wherever possible. A maximum change in level of 15mm is permissible if clearly visible and where floor finishes are graded to provide a flush junction.
- Any upstands greater than 5mm should be chamfered or pencil-rounded.
- Internal floor surfaces adjacent to the threshold should be flush and any changes in floor materials should not create a trip hazard.

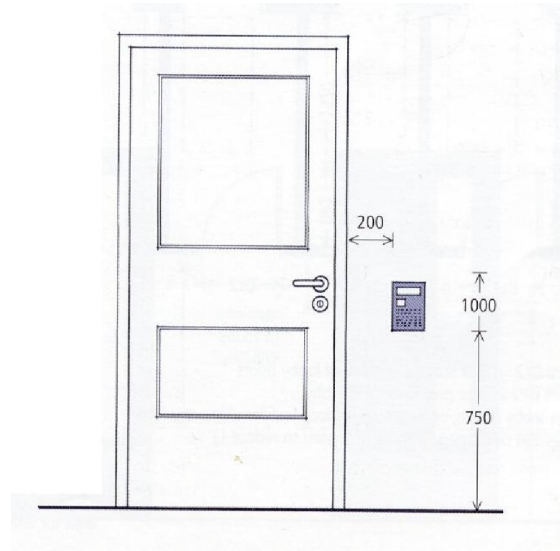


Figure 21
Position of door entry system

- Entrance mats should be firm and flush (i.e. sunken) and they should extend 1500mm into the building. Coir matting should be avoided. See 'Surfaces'.
- Door widths and guidance on entrance door designs can be seen in 'Entrance Doors'.

Lobbies:

- Lobbies should be sized to allow wheelchair users and a carer to move clear of the first door before negotiating a second door (Figure 22).
- Where lobbies have automatic sliding doors or reduced swing doors, the length of the lobby may be reduced as less space is needed for manoeuvring wheelchairs.
- Immediately after entering the building there should be a transition zone where lighting is used to help people with visual impairments to adjust to the changes in lighting levels from the outside to the inside of the building.
- Signs should be obvious and clear, showing visitors where to go for essential service – e.g. reception, information point, lift, stairs, toilets, kitchen/café.

- Any glazing used in the lobby area should not create a distracting reflection.

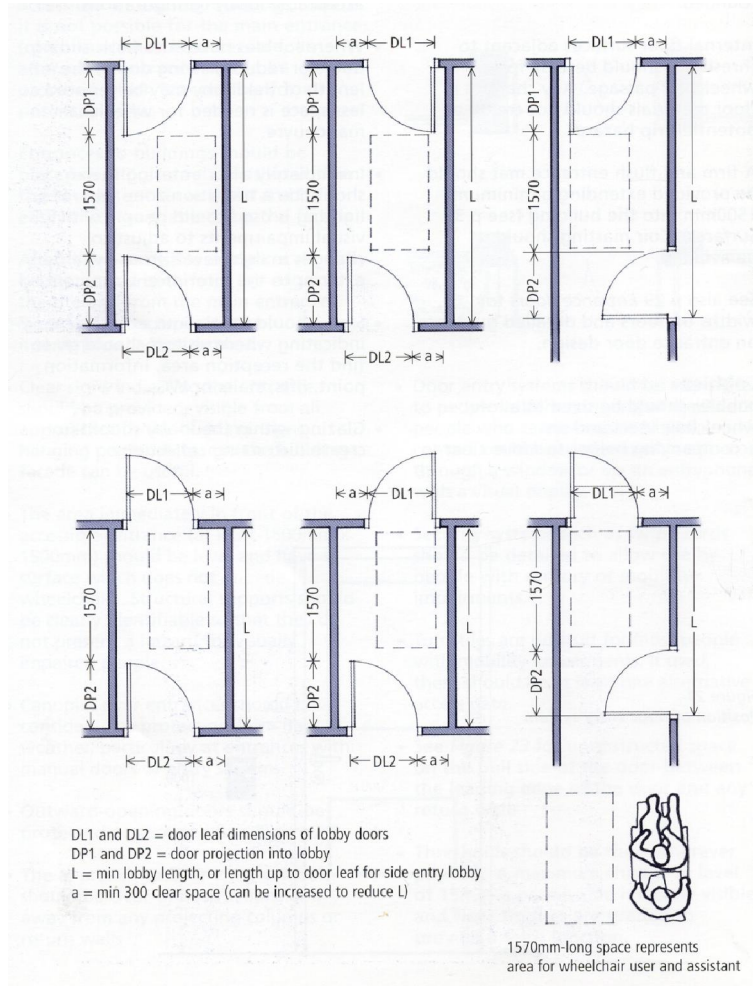


Figure 22
Entrance lobbies