



# ACCESS & DESIGN

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**Access and Design**  
Registered Access Consultants  
and Chartered Architects



## THE DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION ACT (DDA) 1995

Disabled people of all ages are now protected in law and have the right to be free from discrimination. The Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) 1995 aims to end the discrimination that many disabled people face.

All organisations that provide goods, facilities or services to the public, whether paid for or for free, are covered by the DDA, no matter how large or small they are. They are obliged to make reasonable changes to ensure that disabled people have access to goods, facilities and services on an equal basis with other customers. Access and Design are experts in the field and can advise on what would be considered to be reasonable improvements for your particular premises.

## SERVICES

- Access Audits and Assessments
- Access Statements
- Legal and expert witness services
- Access improvements design
- Access Plans
- Access Reports

Access and Design help businesses and public organisations improve the accessibility of their premises and their service provision. We provide comprehensive reports on the present accessibility of premises, and suggest ways in which improvements can be made.

Our reports are tailored to meet your requirements and can be presented in a variety of formats to clearly show significant issues in order of priority.



## ACCESS AUDITS AND ASSESSMENTS

Access and Design are experienced consultants whose past commissions include hundreds of Access Audit or Assessment Reports for a variety of buildings, both existing and proposed.

An Access Audit monitors the route that a disabled person would take in reaching, approaching and using a particular building. The Audit considers this journey from the point of view of a notional person having a wide range of disabilities including physical, sensory, and learning impairments. Physical or other barriers that may prevent, or make it unreasonably difficult for a disabled person to approach, enter and use the facilities available within the building, are identified by the audit and documented in an Access Audit Report.

## ACCESS REPORTS

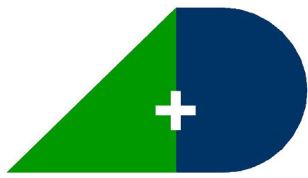
Our reports provide a detailed description of the results of the access audit and identify where improvements can be made.

Access Audit Reports can take one of three forms to best suit your budget: the Simple Checklist Report, the Basic Narrative Report, or the Full Narrative Report. Each provides a different level of detail, with the Simple Checklist Report being the most basic and the Full Narrative Report - which includes priorities and budget costings - being the most comprehensive.

## CONTACT US

Out initial consultation is free. Call us today to discuss how we can help to make your business more accessible.

**01752 601 007**



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## SPECIALISMS

Access and Design operates alongside our two sister companies – McCaren Design and Box interior design. McCaren Design is an architectural practice with over 16 years of experience on projects ranging from private residential extensions to commercial housing developments, and community facilities. Box offers interior design services to domestic, retail, education and commercial clients.

The resulting partnership of Architecture, Access, and Interior Design expertise under the same roof is a unique combination which enables us to take a holistic view of an entire design to ensure that all potential users' needs are met in full.

## ACCESS STATEMENTS

In 2006, the Government introduced legislation which required that Planning Applications\* include a Design and Access Statement, part of which explains how a development has been designed to ensure that all users will have equal and convenient access to buildings, surrounding spaces and public transport.

Using our knowledge of the Planning process, and an assessment of plans or a site visits, we prepare Access Statements to fully support Planning proposals.

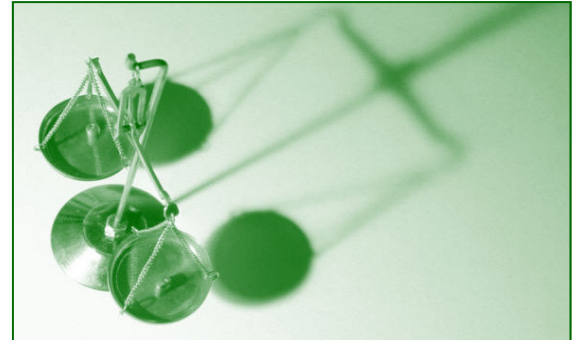
Recent Access Statements include a broad range of building types from a new Community College, to a small commercial premises.

\* Excluding private householder and mineral workings Planning Applications.



## ACCESS RECOMMENDATIONS

Our recommendations can range from simple low-cost improvements such as replacing inadequate signage with large-type notices, to large-scale structural changes such as the provision of a platform lift. The scope and nature of our recommendations will be determined by the design and layout of the building concerned, and the feasibility of making changes within it. In all cases we consider practicality and economy as key factors in the recommendations we make.



## LEGAL AND EXPERT WITNESS WORK

Access and Design have been involved in expert witness work for over ten years, dealing with cases ranging from personal injury claims against multi-national companies to medical negligence claims against Health Authorities.

We also offer advice in cases of personal injury where it is necessary to make changes to accommodation in existing or purpose-designed dwellings. This can include the preparation of specifically-tailored Accommodation Reports covering present and future requirements in terms of accommodation, including the preparation of budget costings for the cost of the building works, fixtures and fittings, maintenance and running costs.

In association with our sister company McCaren Design architects, we can also provide the full range of architectural services to ensure that building improvement works are carried out in accordance with an agreed set of drawings and specifications. This can include working with an Occupational Therapist and other Consultants in the specification and installation of specialist equipment.