



## **Pedestrian Links – Checklist of Things to Consider**

So what does a 'Site Audit' involve? What should you be thinking about? Imagine you're walking to and from your site for the first time and use the following to prompt your thoughts:

### ***Areas outside your site boundaries***

- Where do people currently want to walk to from your site including bus stops, shops and homes? Where are they likely to walk if only they knew where the links (footpaths) were?
- What footpaths are available? Are these tarmaced and suitable for wheelchairs, prams and buggies or do they have rough surfaces?
- Are footpaths in the right places? Are they lit and do they feel safe enough at night?
- Are there safe places to cross the road? Is there a lot of traffic to negotiate and if so what kind of crossing facilities are there, for example, are there pedestrian refuges in the middle of the road, or are there traffic light controlled crossings (eg. pelican crossings, or toucan crossings that a cyclist can also legally use)? Are they in convenient places or are they off the route of where people actually want to walk? (This is known as the pedestrian 'desire line'). If you think that pedestrian crossing facilities are inadequate, you could count how many vehicles use the road and how many people try to cross the road around the time that most people are likely to be travelling to and from your site. For example you could count between 4.45pm and 5.45pm if most people finish between 5 and 5.30. Include your findings in your dossier for the local authority.
- Do people use the crossing facilities? If not why not?
- Can pedestrians get to Public Transport facilities easily, conveniently and safely?

### ***Signs***

- Are pedestrian routes (footpaths etc) well signed within your site boundaries and do they need to be signed beyond? Would signing help visitors and others that are not familiar with pedestrian routes?
- Would it help if pedestrian routes to and from public transport facilities (bus stops, bus stations and railway stations) were signed?

### ***Paths within your site boundary***

- Are they direct, that is, do they follow the 'desire line' of where pedestrians really want to go?
- Are paths in good condition?
- Are they separate (segregated) from moving vehicles?
- Do kerbs drop down to vehicle level to allow smooth transition for wheelchairs etc. between pavements and crossing the road?
- Do signs obstruct the footpath?
- In winter, are footpaths cleared and gritted?

### ***Landscaping***

- Are routes well maintained?
- Does overgrown foliage impede on paths?
- Does street furniture (bins etc) impede pathways?

### ***Safety***

- Are pedestrian routes well lit?
- Do signs warn drivers that pedestrians are crossing in the area?
- Are traffic speeds too great to make crossing the road or just walking alongside the road feel unsafe?
- Is there any CCTV in the area?
- Are footpaths wide and open?
- Are there any conflict points between vehicles and pedestrians?

Conducting an audit of the site is important as you need to be aware of the barriers faced by those who want to walk. What might seem trivial to you could be a barrier for someone else who might end up avoiding walking altogether because of it.

Talk to people and find out why they don't walk or if they do what issues they encounter. Take a photographic record. With their consent, you could even tape conversations with people who would like to see improvements as evidence to give to others.

If a road crossing seems particularly dangerous to you ask your local authority road safety staff about accident statistics for the road. Where there have been accidents in the past, it could be easier for you to get an improvement now.

