

# ACCESS IMPROVEMENT TOOL KIT



British  
Waterways  
Dyfrffyrdd  
Prydain



YR LINDR  
EWRWPEAIDD  
EQUA  
EUROPEAN  
UNION  
EQUA



**EXISTING  
CONDITION**

**PROFIT**

**confidence**

**DDA  
LAW**

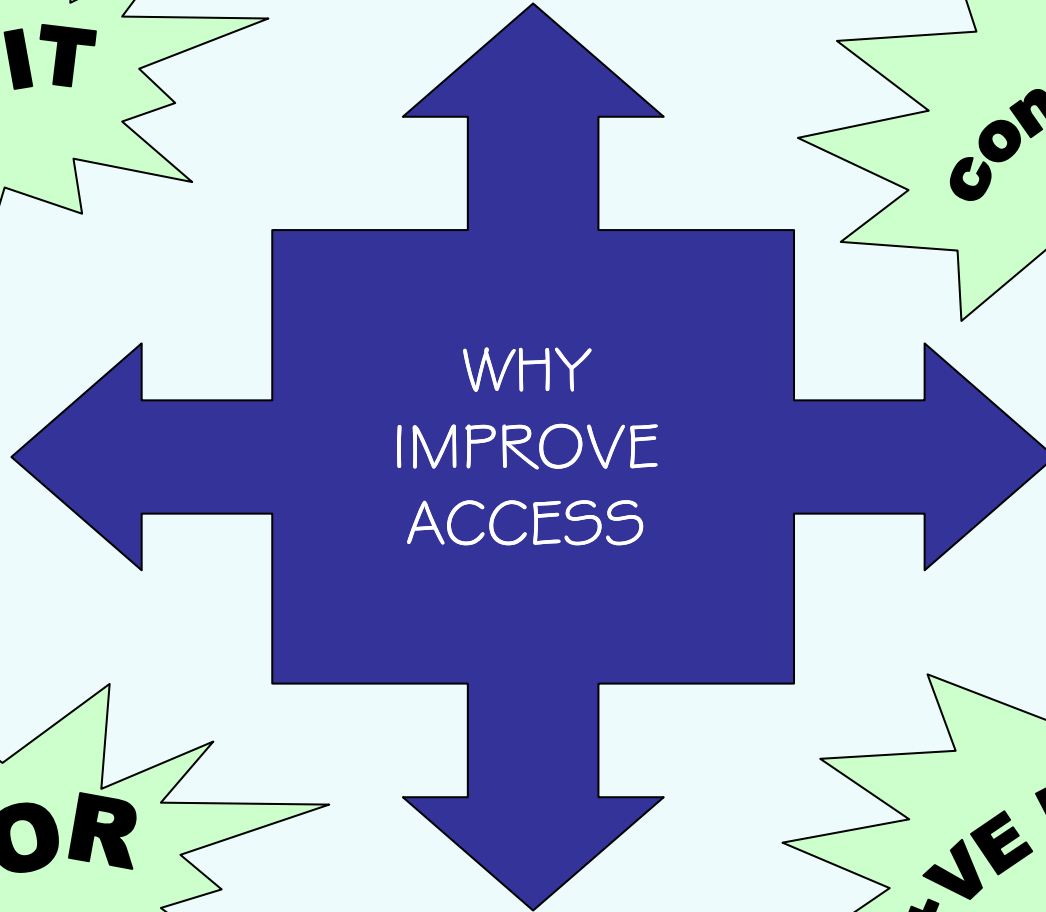
WHY  
IMPROVE  
ACCESS

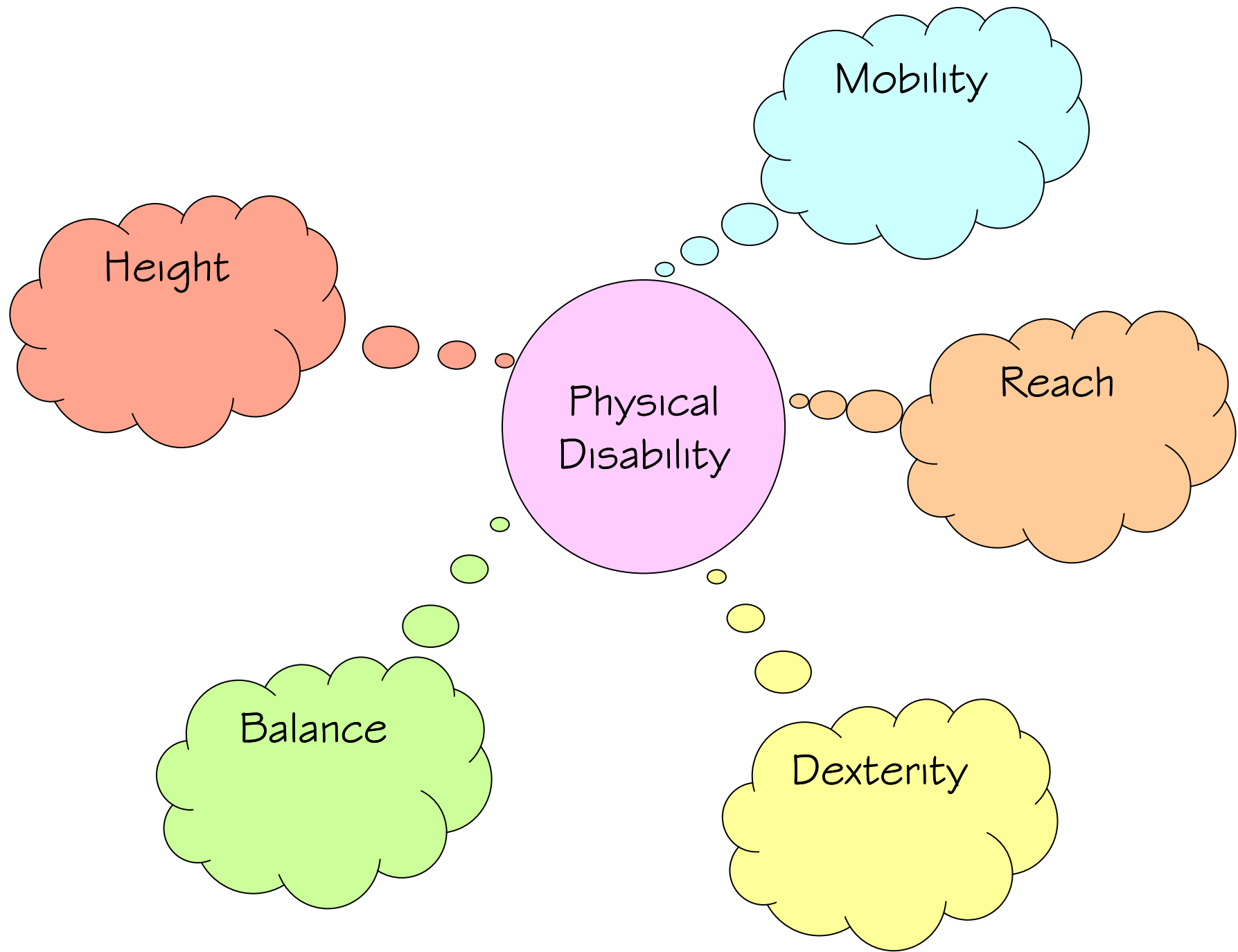
**CSR**

**VISITOR**

**+VE IMAGE**

**Prioritises our  
Resources**





Height

Mobility

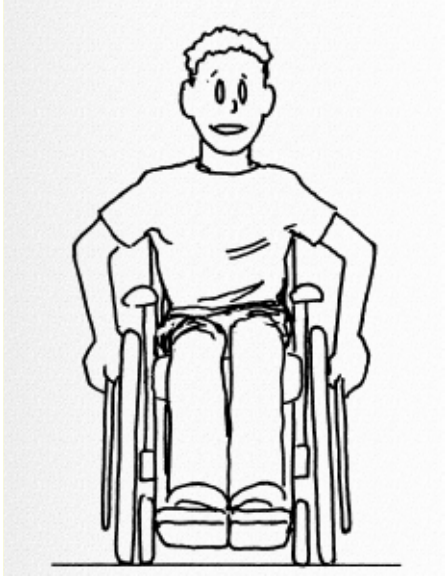
Physical Disability

Reach

Balance

Dexterity

# Mobility- Difficulty in walking

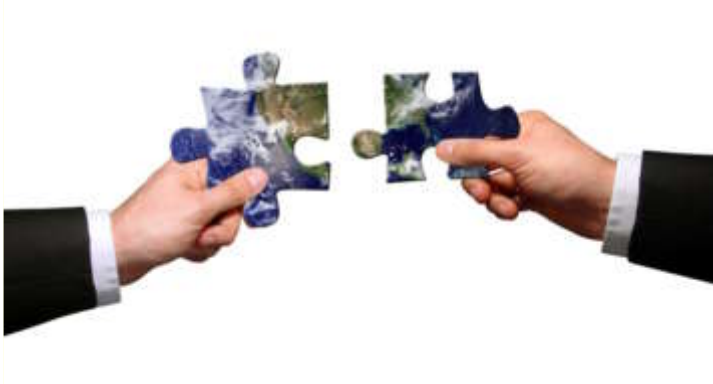


## Need

1. Access/ Path Wide enough.
2. level surface
3. Smooth surface
4. Barrier free movement
5. Regular resting areas



**Dexterity-** difficult to do complicated or intricate tasks with their hands.



## Need

1. Gates and Latches easy to operate
2. Information signage simple and easy to understand
3. Barrier free movement

### **Height**

Person with dwarfism will be short with reduced reach, with some degree of mobility problems

### **Needs**

Remove physical barriers that cannot be negotiated,  
Smooth path with no steep gradients.  
Locks and latches at suitable height and adjacent to towpath

### **Reach–**

Person with reduced reach would find it difficult to be positioned immediately adjacent to the task.

### **Needs**

Gates latches handles are located at a suitable height directly adjacent to the path.

### **Balance –**

Generally seen in people as a side effect of cognitive or sensory disability. People find it difficult to balance and walk on uneven surfaces, use sticks.

### **Needs**

Smooth surface and handrails to be provided at suitable points on the path.  
Suitable and regular resting places  
Hand rails on steps.

### **Strength and stamina**

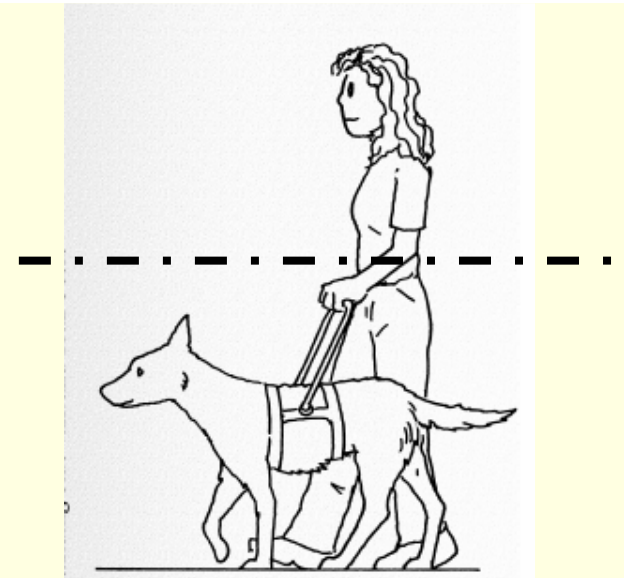
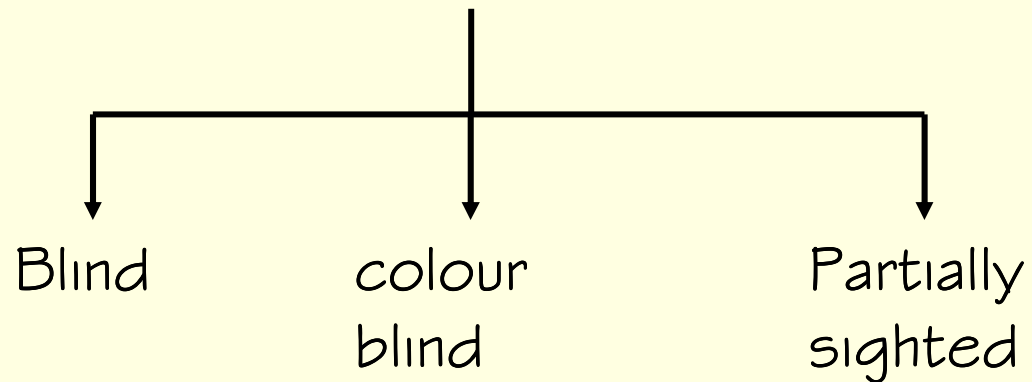
Have problem in carrying out daily tasks that require power, including climbing steep slope or manipulating a difficult lock. Also have problem in carrying out long continuous tasks. May use wheelchair/stick

### **Needs**

Width enough to let a wheelchair through  
Smooth even surface  
Gradient and cross slopes not too steep  
Gates and latches easy to operate  
Resting places at regular distance  
Hand rails on steps.

# Sensory Disability

## Vision Impairment



## Needs -

Colour contrast especially on steps nosing

Clear walking surfaces

Easy to operate gates and latches

Information in audible and tactile formats

Hand rail on steps

Avoid using Green and red colour in signage's

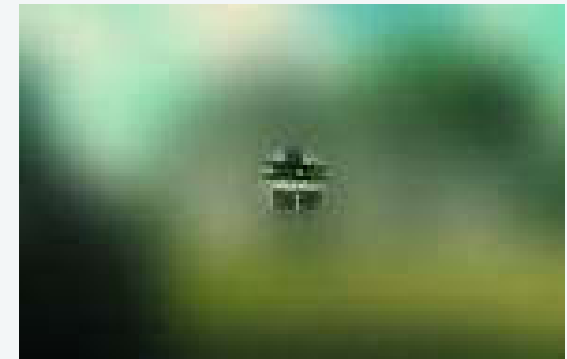


# Sensory Disability Vision

Tunnel /central loss



Peripheral loss



Sporadic loss



# Hearing

## Needs

Easy to understand Signage

Well trained staff to communicate



## Vision and hearing

Person may have a hearing aid and a long cane with a red band.

## Needs

Needs similar to the ones with hearing and vision impairments.



# Other disability

Learning

Illiteracy

Speech

Multiple Disability

## Needs

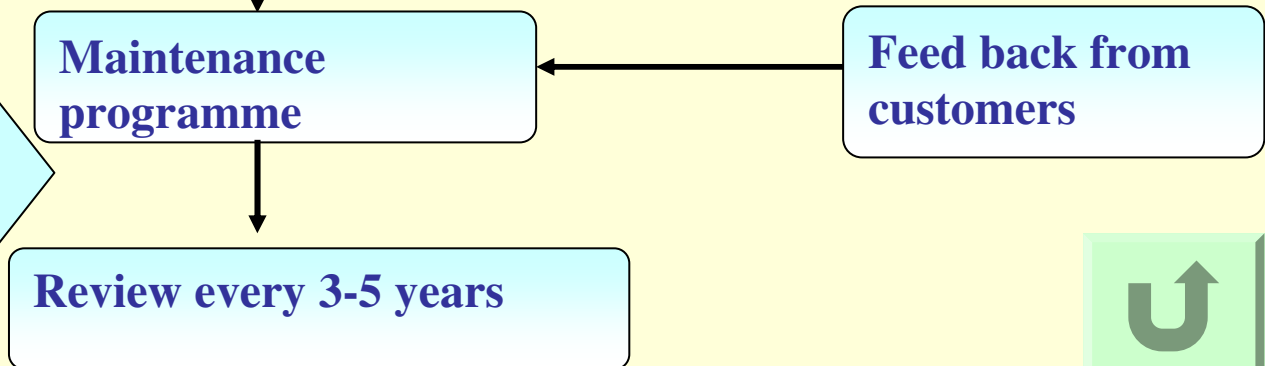
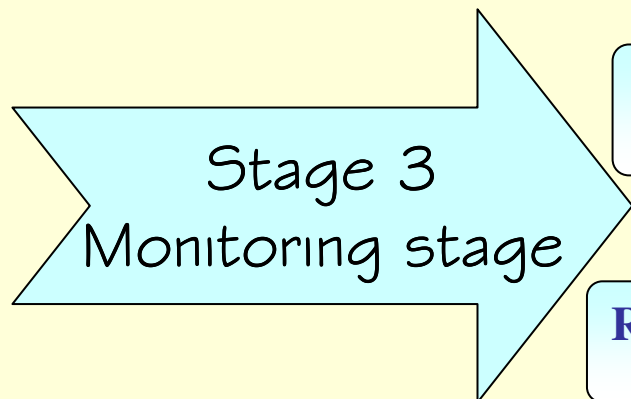
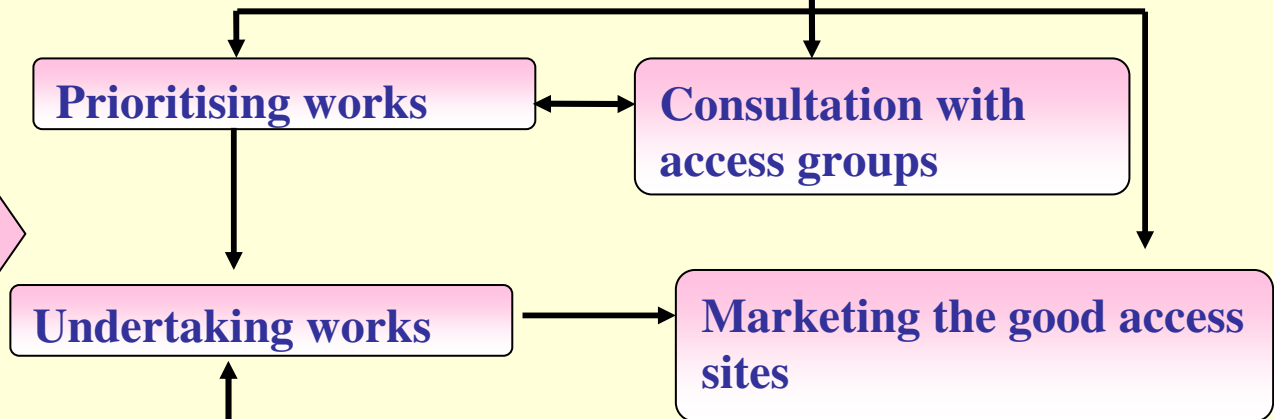
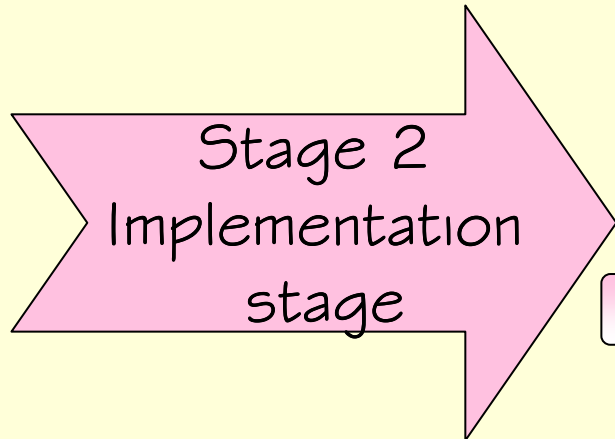
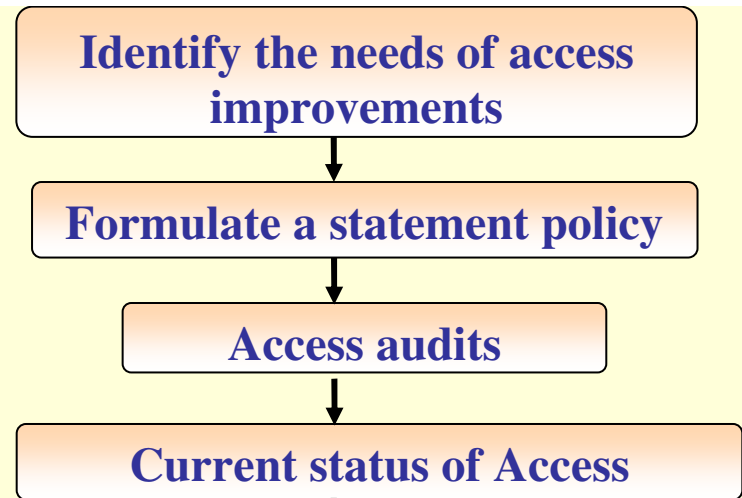
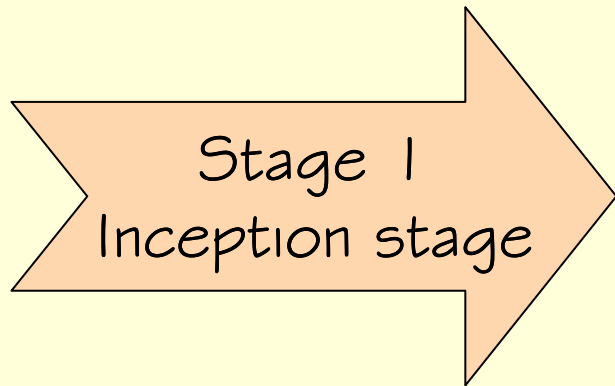
Easy displayed information

Simple and clear information with pictograms

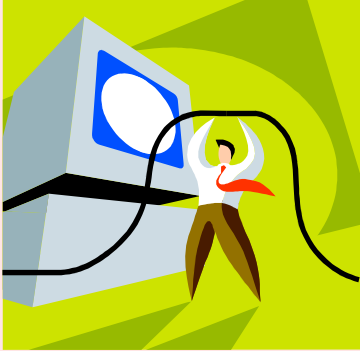
Staff trained in good customer service skills.



# Stages of Access improvement



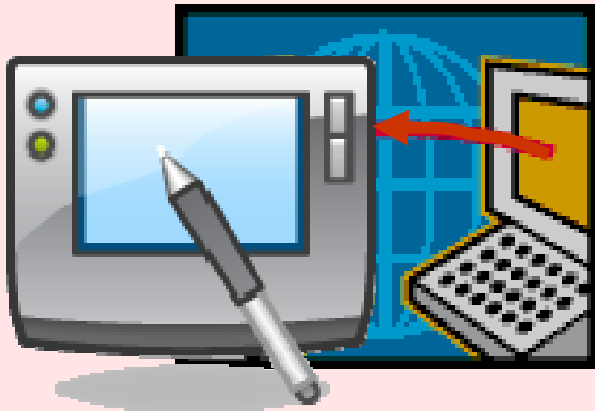
# Stage 1 Access Audits



Data management system - GIS



Creating the base layers at the desktop



Data Transfer to a GPS and GIS enabled hand held system

# Equipment required for Field Survey



# BT Countryside for All Accessibility Standards

Urban and formal  
Landscapes  
Towns & managed  
Landscape with lots of  
Man made features

Urban fringe and  
Managed Landscapes  
countryside areas near  
Towns or recreational  
area

Rural and working  
Landscape/  
Open countryside



# Data collection

## Access points

Width

Slopes

Surface condition

Type of access

General observations

## Towpaths condition

Edge

Width

Slopes

Surface condition

Clear walking areas

Surface breaks

Barriers

Distance between resting areas

Distance between passing areas

Landing and ramps

## Facility points

Signage

Car park

Toilets

Café

Benches

Picnic tables

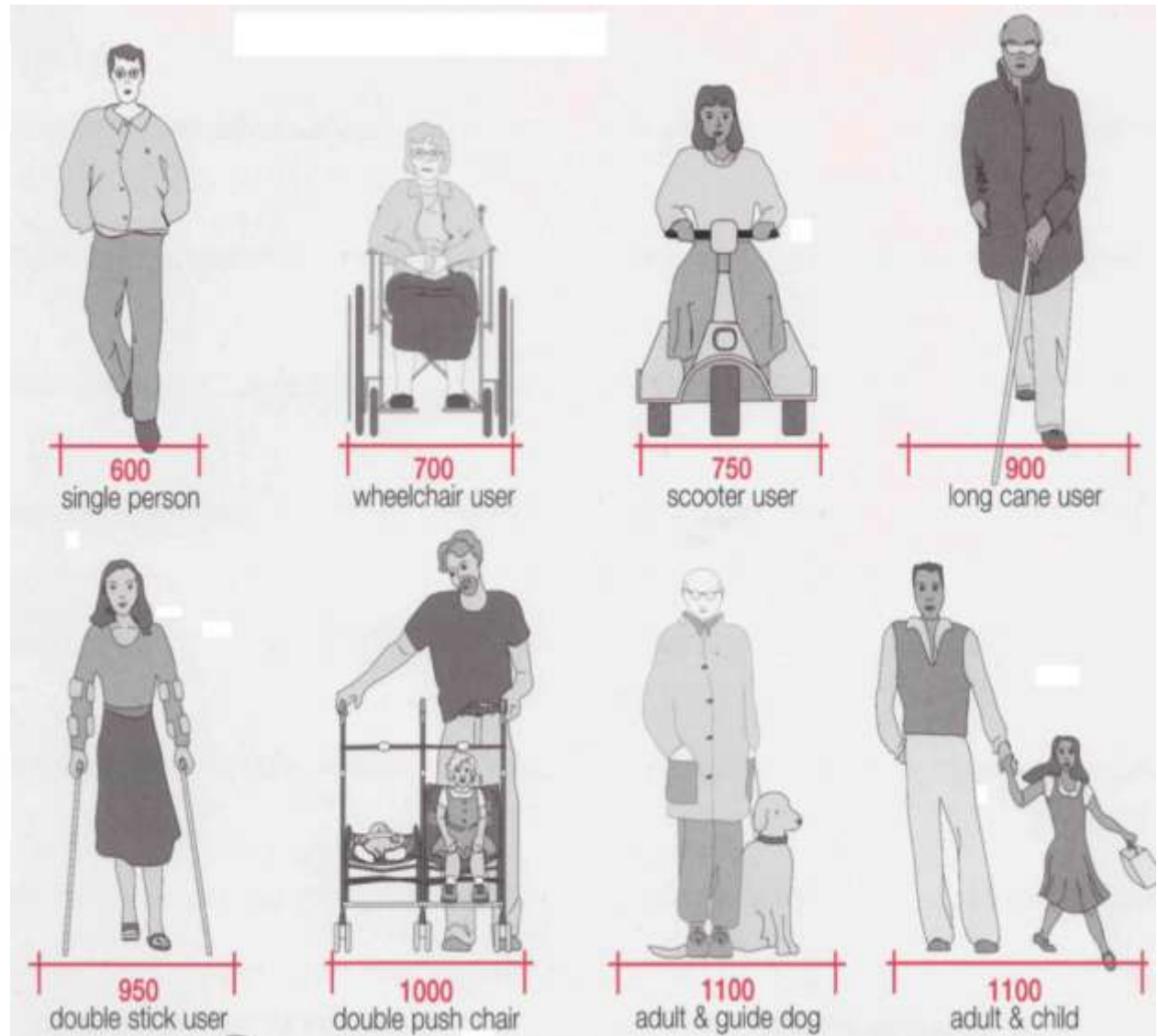
# Width Requirements for different people

## Width for access

Above 1000mm ✓✓

815-1000mm ✓

Below 815mm ✗



## Width for countryside paths

Above 1200mm ✓✓

1000-1200 mm ✓

Below 1000mm ✗

# Surface



FIRM

STABLE

SLIP RESISTANT

BARRIER FREE



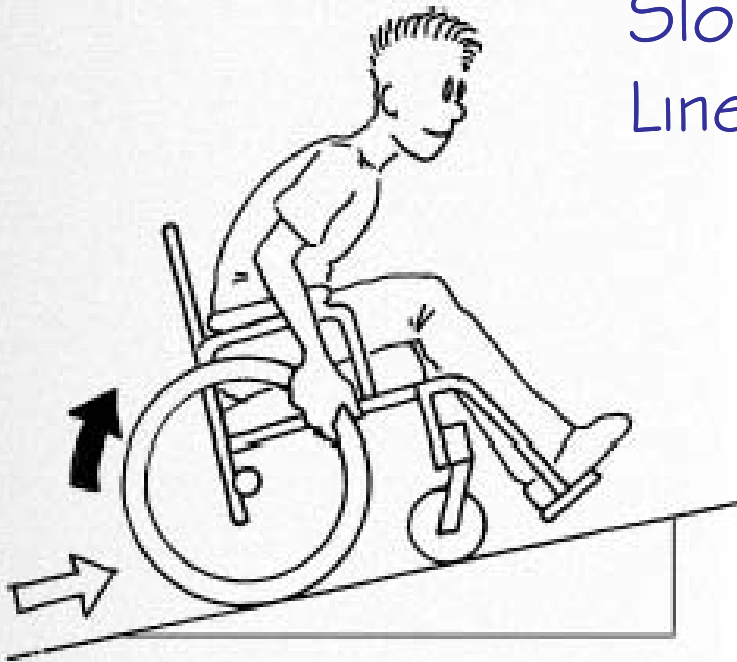
## SUITABLE MATERIAL

Stone, concrete, tarmac, bitumen macadam, brick paving, timber, mown grass.



## UNSUITABLE MATERIAL

Sand, loose gravel, wood chips, cobbles, unbound dirt.



## Slopes Linear and cross

Problem faced by  
people  
on wheel chair with  
Linear Slope

Above 1:12 ✓✓

1:10-1:12 ✓

Below 1:10 ✗

Steering can become  
very difficult with  
Cross slope

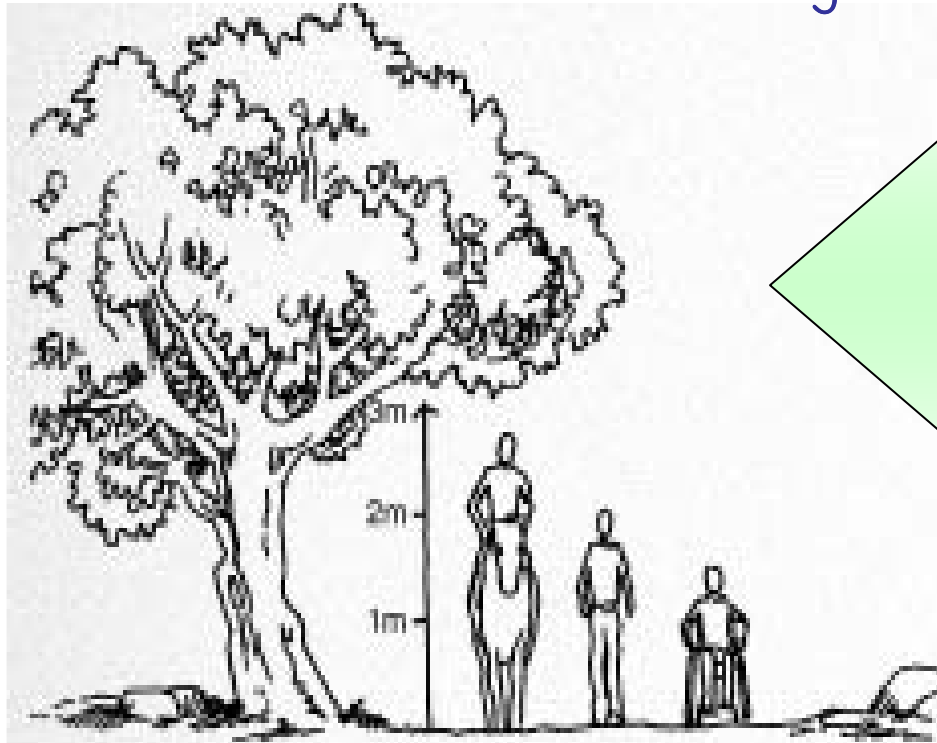
Above 1:50 ✓✓

1:35-1:45 ✓

Below 1:35 ✗



# Clear Walking Area



## Requirement

1,200mm wide x  
2,100mm high



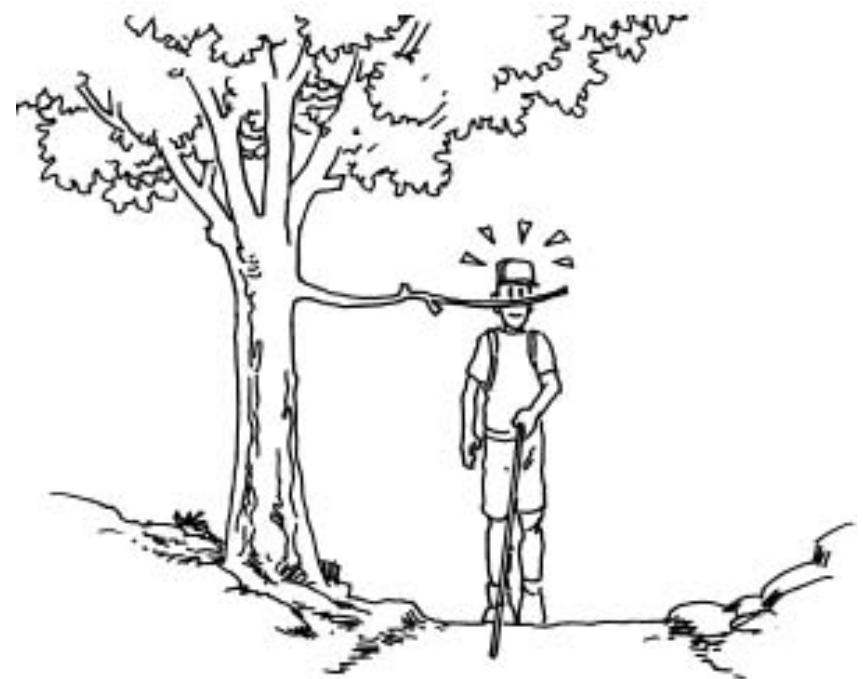
1,000mm wide x  
2,100mm high

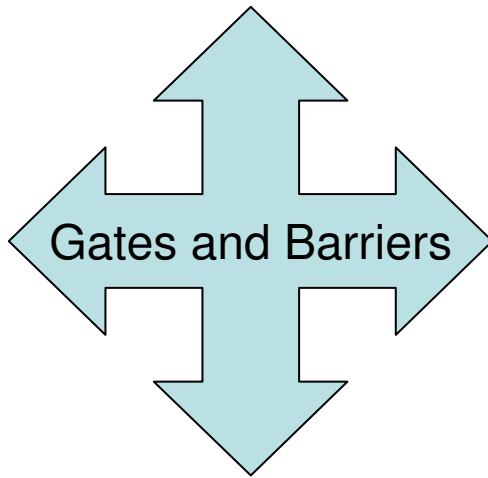


below 1,000mm wide x  
2,100mm high

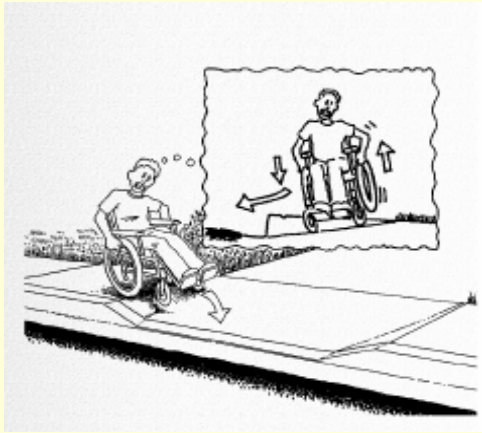


Problem faced by  
People with visual  
Impairment because  
of overhanging  
branches





# Other Problems faced by people with disabilities in accessing the outdoors



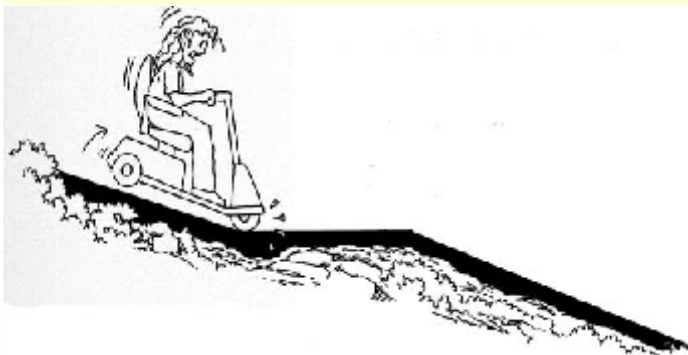
Surface breaks above 12mm may lead to difficulty in maintaining balance for a person using wheelchair

Long distances without a resting area can discourage people in venturing out.

Ideally need resting areas ever 300 m in open countryside.



Steps are a barrier to people on wheelchairs whereas people using a stick may find them more friendly



Sudden change in slope can lead to difficulty in controlling the wheelchair

# Signage

Signage needs to be simple and easy to understand.

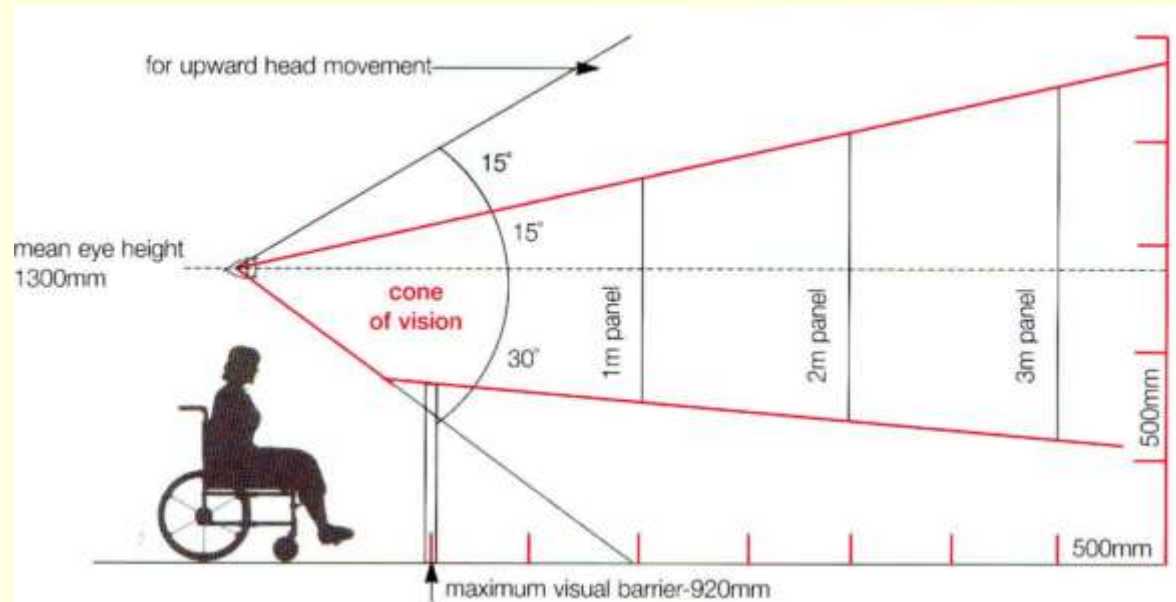
The information for notice boards should be in large fonts.

Avoid using cursive fonts and stick to Arial or Times new Roman.

Avoid having sign in all capital letters.

Avoid cramming up signs.

Good colour contrast on signage.



# Analysis

## Step 1.

Assigning individual category based on points for the most important attribute.

Category	Criteria	Points	Ranking
<b>Good</b>	<b>Condition meets or is above the criteria set by Countryside for All Good Practice Guide. Minimum or no work required to improve</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Fair</b>	<b>Condition meets the minimum criteria set by Countryside for All Good Practice Guide. Some work is required to improve the condition</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Poor</b>	<b>Condition is way below the minimum criteria set by Countryside for all good practice Guide. A considerable amount of work is required to improve the condition.</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Not applicable</b>	<b>Rating factor absent</b>	<b>Nil</b>	<b>Nil</b>

## Step 2

Cumulating the points for the most important attributes to give an overall rating.

## Step 3

Expressing the overall score as a % since some of the attributes may be missing.

<b>GOOD</b>	above 60%
<b>FAIR</b>	40% to 60%
<b>POOR</b>	if overall score is 40% and below

The value of the % is directly proportional to the access potential i.e. lower the % poorer is the access potential.

# Typical access problems on canals

Overgrown hedges

Low historic bridges

Cross slope along the towpath

Lack of resting areas

Pinch points

Lack of signage



## Stage 2 Implementation stage

### Prioritising Works-

*Priority areas 1* - current key visitor destination sites.

*Priority area 2* - potential areas for improvements which have the potential of becoming future destination sites.

*Priority areas 3* - areas which require minimal resources to improve open countryside with limited potential for becoming a destination area.

### Consultation with access groups

Undertaken when priority areas identified.  
Get a feedback on the improvements identified.

Good practice to include the user groups at early stage.

### Undertaking Physical works



# Marketing the good access sites

Website



Open day events



Leaflets



Stage 3

Monitoring stage

Maintenance programme

Review every 3-5 years

Thank you



British  
Waterways  
Dyfrifyrdd  
Prydain

