

Design and Access Statement

14256 – Darton Health Centre, Darton, Barnsley



Proposed Access Work
Darton Health Centre
Darton, Barnsley
S75 5HQ

for

NHS Property Services
Design and Access Statement

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1.0 Introduction

This report supports a full planning application, submitted on behalf of NHS Property Services, for the proposed modifications to the existing entrance of Darton Health Centre to improve access for disabled or partially disabled visitors to the Health Centre.

This statement should be read together with all additional documents submitted for this application.

2.0 Site Description and Setting

The site is located on the corner of Church Road and Church Close, Darton, Barnsley S75 7HQ in South Yorkshire.

Access into and out of the building is currently via a sloping path that has a gradient of approximately 1:14. There is no intermediate landing and only one handrail which is at approximately 1100mm from the gradient pitch line which is outside the limits of the required 900mm height. There is also no upstand to either side of the gradient.

This is the only access to and from the building for visitors as there is no stepped access.

The main visitors' car park is across the road on Church Close. Dropped kerbs are already in place. There is also another car park to the rear of the building. Visitor access from this car park is via the existing footpath and up to the area where the entrance gradient begins at the corner of Church Road and Church Close.

From this location of the property, the site slopes up to the floor level. From the same location it also slopes down and away towards the rear of the property and the rear car park.



Photo of the existing entrance access slope and grassed areas



Photo looking back towards entrance access slope from down Church Close



Photo of sloping grassed area to left of entrance



Photo showing closer view of sloping entrance



Photo showing main visitors car park across Church Close

4.0 Proposal

It is proposed to modify the existing entrance access to and from the building as follows.

Form a compliant accessible ramp for wheelchair or partially mobile persons. This would involve the start of the ramp being in the same location as the existing start of the access slope. The ramp would have appropriate upstands and handrails to both sides. A landing would be introduced at the mid-point.

Steps will also be introduced at the corner of the building closest to the rear car park so that anyone who does not need or wish to use the ramp can enter or exit without an unnecessarily long journey.

Steps off the mid-landing will also be part of the new access so people can more easily enter or exit the building from the opposite end of the building without having to walk to the bottom of the ramp before starting to enter the building.

The existing sloping grassed areas will be retained and re-shaped slightly as required to facilitate the new access ramp and steps.

5.0 Impact

The proposal is to essentially work with the existing slope of the land and gradients and use materials to match or that are similar and that have been used elsewhere around the building. As such the impact would be minimal.

6.0 Conclusion

In conclusion it is considered that the proposal will greatly improve access for visitors to the Health Centre by not only complying with access regulations but also allow two additional stepped access locations for general foot traffic. It will be in keeping with the general surroundings of the building and site. The design and palette of materials for the proposal also will reflect the area and setting it is located in and have a positive impact by improving the general appearance of the site.
