

Disabled access to principal entrances (England & Wales)

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Question

Where the principal entrance to a dwelling is close to a public footpath and there is no space to provide a ramped access and landing is it permissible to have a stepped approach?

Considerations

- Approved Document M (England & Wales) refers to the provision of disabled access to the principal entrance to dwelling in the form of ramps or steps.
- Approved Document M says that a ramped approach to the principal entrance should normally be provided but steps are acceptable where they are 'unavoidable'.

Answer

In England & Wales where a property is constructed with the principal entrance close to a public footpath and room for a ramped approach is not available a stepped approach at the entrance door is acceptable. A single step no more than 150mm in height with an accessible threshold should be provided. There is no requirement for a minimum width of footpath in front of the step.