

Access and Provision for Disabled Spectators

Introduction

The Disability Discrimination Act 1995 brought in measures to prevent discrimination against disabled people. Part III of the Act is based upon the principle that disabled people should not be discriminated against by service providers or those involved in the management of premises. Football clubs have had duties under the act since 1996. Since 1st October 1999 service providers have to make reasonable adjustments for disabled people, such as providing extra help or making changes to the way they provide services. From October 2004 football clubs may have to make other reasonable adjustments to physical features at their sports grounds to overcome physical barriers to access. All of the football authorities have confirmed their commitment to meeting this requirement and the FSIF has identified the provision of comparable facilities for disabled spectators as those enjoyed by non disabled spectators as an important aim and objective of their grant aid programme. No two football grounds or stadium is the same. It is recognised that solutions and provision will reflect and take account of the scale of provision and attendance at their stadium.

This data sheet concentrates upon issues and standards related to physical features at small clubs and up to conference level. It is recommended that applicants also refer to **ACCESSIBLE STADIA** produced in October 2003 by the FSIF and FLA and the key references that are listed at the end of this data sheet, which include:

- The DDA Act 1995
- The Disability Rights Commission Code of Practice (The Code)

- The Guide to Safety at Sports Grounds (The Green Guide)
- Building Regulations Approved Document Part M 2004 Access to and Use of Buildings (Part M)
- BS8300 2001 Design of Buildings and Their Approaches to meet the needs of disabled people Code of Practice (BS 8300)
- Addressing the Requirement of Part 3 of the DDA Act 1995

- A management guide for football clubs published by the FA

The contents of this data sheet should not be seen as a substitute or the need to comply with these statutory requirements, codes and standards. Independent professional advice should be obtained before taking any action or from refraining from taking action on the basis of this information.

Access audits and Accessibility Appraisals

An essential first step will be the need to carry out an Access Audit of your existing ground and facilities. Data Sheet 4 lays out a recommended methodology and approach. The checklist is based upon the National Association of Disabled Supporters (NADS) audit document. It is recommended that the Access Audit is carried out by a competent person and can advise and make recommendations on both management issues and identified physical barriers to access. The Access Audit will form the basis of an agreed access strategy or plan.

Your scheme proposals should also undergo an Accessibility Appraisal as they are designed and constructed to ensure that your brief and access plan is correctly being taken account of. This will be of particular importance if your club is proposing new facilities or spectator accommodation.



Statutory approvals

The benefit and value of an access plan and accessibility appraisals will be of great use when Town Planning and Building Regulations submissions are made.

Local Planning Authorities have clear guidance and policies when considering applications and PART M of the Building Regulations has introduced the concept of an ACCESS STATEMENT as part of the applications details.

Disability

The DDA and DRC Code provide helpful guidance regarding disability. Categories of disability include:

- People with impaired vision – blind and partially sighted people
- People with learning difficulties
- People with impaired hearing
- People with mobility impairment – wheelchair users and ambulant disabled people.

The DRC Code and the DDA definitions of disability are much wider than the four groups identified above. The number of disabled people who attend football matches has been increasing steadily for several years and where provision has been made for disabled people they will attend matches. The number of older people in the population is increasing and many will have a disability of some kind.

Access and Provision

A total inclusive design approach must be followed from the outset that takes account of non disabled and disabled spectators, whether projects submitted for grant aid are for alterations or new facilities. These include site factors, approaches, car parking, circulation and movement, support facilities, safety and most importantly, location and viewing for all spectators.

Approaching the ground and access to the stadium

Trains and stations on the rail network are increasingly being made accessible for disabled people. Accessible routes from stations and bus stops to and from the stadium should also be part of this consideration. Although cars are the most favoured means of transport for wheelchair users, many disabled spectators will also arrive in mini-buses, coaches and buses.

For those disabled spectators travelling in modified coaches, it is recommended that drop-off points should be provided not more than 50m from any stand entrance designated for disabled people. They should also be sited so that disabled passengers have sufficient time to disembark in safety and without causing congestion to other traffic and incoming spectators. Wherever possible these locations should be under cover. Arrival at the stadium will be at different times, whereas departure will be at the same time as non disabled spectators. Site factors and constraints may require consultation and agreement with the local authority and police regarding match day provision and arrangements.

Car parking

As mentioned previously, cars are the most common means of transport to matches for disabled people. Clubs who provide match day parking (free or paid for) have a duty to provide the same facility to disabled supporters, including disabled away supporters. Management should ensure that designated and allocated parking bays are supervised and controlled by match day stewards.

Part M requires that parking bays designated for disabled people should be provided 'as close as feasible to the principal entrance of a building'. Because of the size and elongated layout of stadia it is recommended that designated parking bays should be as close as feasible to any entrance for disabled people. The design of kerbside and off-street parking bays is shown in BS 8300 Figs 1, 2 and 3.

BS 8300 states that at recreation and leisure facilities 6% of total car parking capacity should be allocated, it goes on to add that this requirement will need to be greater for stadia. Consultation with disabled supporters should allow a fair and reasonable provision at the stadium.

Land ownership and site constraints may preclude achieving satisfactory on-site parking and if off-site satellite parking is provided, an accessible shuttle service for arrival and departure should be considered. Consultation and agreement with the Local Authority and Police may also achieve match day disabled parking bays in roads that are close to the stadium.

Access routes

BS 8300 and Part M provide detailed guidance and standards regarding access routes to and around buildings which can be applied to stadia.

Access routes should be either level or have the shallowest possible gradient. Any route or part of a route steeper than 1:20 should conform to the recommendations for ramped access.

Steps should also be provided where the rise of the ramp is greater than 300mm. A ribbed corduroy paving strip should indicate the approach to the head and foot of steps or stairway. Step design should also include highlighted step nosings, handrail design and lighting.

Providing information

Disabled people rely on clear and early notification of facilities and access routes more than non disabled people. A well coordinated, consistent approach to signage should be adopted and followed throughout the stadium and support facilities. BS 8501:2002 'Graphical Symbols and Signs' and the 'Sign Design Guide' published by JMU Access Partnership and the Sign Design Society should be referred to. The Green Guide (paragraph 16) also provides advice and guidance.

Important facilities, such as car parking, information centres, designated entrances, first aid, circulation routes, lifts, unisex toilets and escape routes should be well signposted, with consideration for the critical heights of each sign.

Entering the Stadium

Ticketing outlets

BS 8300 includes specific guidance to assist those with impaired hearing at booking or ticket offices where customers are separated from the vendor by a screen. It recommends that an audio induction loop may be employed, subject to suitability of application. Good quality lighting and non-reflective glass will make the vendor more visible and will help the hearing impaired customer to lip-read. In a ticket office with a series of windows, a single window fitted with an aid to communication may be acceptable, provided it is clearly identified with a symbol and the management system allows for a separate queue at that window. The incorporation of a lowered counter for wheelchair users is also recommended.

Access into the stadium

In other non-domestic buildings, the appropriate location for access is deemed to be the principal entrance. In the case of stadia, where crowd control and safety factors intervene (turnstile control, etc.), access via separately designated points is more appropriate for spectators with disabilities and is favoured by disabled fans themselves. Wheelchair users must be counted in to ensure that maximum spectator numbers are not exceeded for safety purposes. Entrances with turnstiles are not suitable for use by wheelchair, blind or partially sighted spectators and people with assistance dogs.

Designated Entrances

Part M states that doorways for wheelchair users should have a minimum effective clear width range of 800mm up to 825mm depending on the angle of

approach to the doorway. The new Part M now gives 1000mm as the effective clear width for external doors to buildings used by the general public. The most practical design solution is a gate manned by a steward with an appropriate vision panel which provides level access.

Entrance doors and lobbies

Entrance lobbies, for example to club offices or club shops, should allow wheelchair users to move clear of one door before using the next one (see BS 8300 and Part M). They should be clearly identifiable from the surroundings and will assist people with visual impairments. There should also be sufficient space for someone assisting the wheelchair user, visually impaired people/assistance dogs and someone passing in the opposite direction. Entrance doors should incorporate visibility glazing from a height of 500-1500mm above floor level (see BS 8300 and Part M).

Circulation areas

Compliance with the recommendations of BS 8300 and Part M, particularly those requiring access for disabled spectators to all levels of a new, reconstructed or extended grandstand has considerable implications for the design of circulation routes within a stadium. For example, not only must stadia designers and managers consider horizontal and vertical circulation routes for disabled spectators within a single stand, but also routes in upper levels of a stand must be carefully planned and managed to enable the safe access and egress of both non disabled and disabled spectators.

Vertical circulation - Passenger lifts

A conventional passenger lift should be provided as means of access for all users to all levels in a new building. However, Part M also recognises that in some existing buildings it may not always be possible to install a size of lift that would be suitable for use by all wheelchair users. If this is the case, passenger lifts or platform lifts conforming to BSEN 81-70: 2003 Part 70 should be provided for access to wheelchair viewing areas or ancillary accommodation including WCs, refreshment areas and executive/directors boxes. Detailed dimensions as to cabin size, location and height of controls, door clearance width and clear waiting area outside lifts are given in BS 8300 and Part M.

It is important to note that the design of a passenger lift may determine whether it may be used in the event of an emergency evacuation.

BS 8300 states that platform lifts are only acceptable for a vertical distance of up to 2m unless within a proprietary lift enclosure. The provision of a fold down seat for ambulant disabled use is recommended (see BS 8300).

The new Part M states that wheelchair stair lifts should only be provided in existing buildings where it is not possible to accommodate a passenger or platform lift under the criteria listed above and provided its installation does not conflict with the requirements for means of escape on staircases. BS 8300 gives the detailed requirements for stairlifts.

Stairs and ramps

Where internal stairs are provided for ambulant disabled use they should comply with the criteria in BS 8300 illustrated in figures 9 and 10 and the requirements for vertical escape. In new build stands, or in major redevelopments of existing stands, it is recommended that small changes of level should be avoided as far as possible. Where this is unavoidable, limited use of ramps may be made. Where substantial changes of level are involved, ramps generally occupy considerable amounts of space because of the low pitch and frequent landings required to make them suitable for wheelchair users. All ramps for both existing and proposed facilities should comply with the requirements of BS 8300 (para 8.2). The physical effort required of wheelchair users and helpers to negotiate long ramps, means that a passenger lift or platform lift is generally the appropriate form of vertical circulation for transferring between storeys. It should be noted that BS 8300 recommends that ramps should not be used for any rise greater than 2m (para 8.2.2).

Horizontal circulation within the stadium

Corridors and passageways need to be wide enough to allow wheelchair users to manoeuvre, for other wheelchair users to pass and, where necessary, to turn through 180°. Within each storey to which wheelchair users should have access, under the criteria listed above, a minimum corridor width of 1.8m should be provided for two wheelchairs to pass, with an unobstructed minimum width of 1.0m at short localised restrictions i.e. ducts or columns. (see BS 8300 for the minimum dimensions). The requirements for internal doors are generally similar to those for entrance doors and lobbies with glazing

panels and a preferred door leaf clearance ranging from 800mm to 825mm depending on the angle of approach to the doorway (see Part M, table 2). Space requirements for internal lobbies should follow Part M, paras 3.15 and 3.16. It is recommended that for circulation areas in stadia, especially where there is a possibility of wetting, care should be taken to specify floor finishes in slip-resistant materials. As is the case for all spectators, stadia circulation routes should be planned to minimise travel distances from entrances to seats, and from seats to refuges, evacuation lifts, toilets and refreshments.

Viewing areas

The Green Guide table 4 gives the appropriate guidance on the minimum acceptable scale of provision of wheelchair spaces in newly constructed stands. Where permanent or removable seating is provided, allowance should be made for disabled spectators to have a choice of seating at spectator events. They should also be able to have access to, and the use of, all of the facilities provided within the stadium.

Location of viewing areas

It is recommended that areas for disabled spectators should, where possible, be dispersed throughout the stadium to provide a variety of locations at different levels and for various prices. 'Accessible Stadia' para 2.19 provides more detailed guidance on this issue and recommended standards.

Quality of viewing spaces

- Wheelchair users should be able to manoeuvre easily to a space that allows them a clear view of the event.
- Wheelchair users should be provided with a choice of sitting next to a disabled or non disabled companion.
- Some seats should be located so that an assistance/guide dog can accompany its owner and rest in front of, or under, the seat.

Prefabricated, temporary or demountable stands all come under the same criteria as conventional construction and need to satisfy the same criteria for numbers, dispersal and viewing quality for disabled spectators. If these criteria cannot be achieved within the stand, alternative and satisfactory provisions may be acceptable. Although an individual wheelchair place can be provided by a clear space with a width of at least 900mm and a depth of at least 1400mm, it is recommended in the Green Guide that each designated place should ideally measure 1400mm x 1400mm to allow space for one helper per wheelchair space to sit alongside in a fixed or removable seat. Designated wheelchair spaces may be those which are kept clear or which can be easily provided by removing seats. Some spaces should be provided in pairs, with standard seating on at least one side (Part M). Designers are advised to pursue an enlightened and flexible approach. This is particularly important in view of the potential numbers of disabled people who may wish to attend football matches.

Green Guide Table 4:

Seated capacity of newly constructed ground	Number of wheelchair spaces
Under 10,000	Minimum of 6 or 1 in 100 of seated capacity (whichever is greater)
10,000 to 20,000	100 plus 5 per 1,000 above 10,000
20,000 to 40,000	150 plus 3 per 1,000 above 20,000
40,000 or more	210 plus 2 per 1,000 above 40,000

Viewing areas for ambulant disabled spectators

Ambulant disabled spectators represent the larger proportion of spectators with disabilities. Ideally, The Green Guide Table 4 should be used to determine the minimum proportion of seated accommodation for ambulant disabled in the whole stadium. A reasonable approach should be taken in existing stands, i.e. it may be appropriate to set aside seats at the end of rows or the front tier or to design entire rows to a higher standard. Accessible Stadia provides more detailed guidance and standards (para 2.16).

Sightlines

Sightlines should be such that all spectators have a clear view of the game to the edge of the pitch, unobstructed by persons in front, by roof stanchions or by other obstructions. The provision of areas located around the stadium designated for spectators in wheelchairs has implications for the sightlines of both disabled spectators and other spectators seated or standing nearby. The following paragraphs and Diagrams 1 – 6 explain the advantages and disadvantages of various viewing locations, and how sightlines are affected.

Sightlines require careful and particular attention, as some wheelchair users cannot lean forwards or sideways in their seats or turn their heads like non disabled spectators. Nor should it be forgotten that wheelchair users cannot stand up to avoid having their view blocked.

The quality of sightlines is defined in 'C' values. This is the vertical measurement from the eye level of the person in front to the sightline from the eye level of the person behind. Calculating 'C' values can be complex and must be undertaken by a competent person. (In this instance, a competent person must understand 'C' values and the wider issues of viewing quality). Care should be taken in considering the average eye level height of a person using a wheelchair, which is 1.155m. The average height of a person standing in front is 1.74m. (Source; New Metric Handbook, see Section 4 Appendix 2). Although sitting positions in wheelchairs vary considerably, NADS recommend that the average position could be measured in line above the centre point of the wheels.

The accepted formula for sightline calculation is as follows:

$$C = \frac{D(N + R) - R}{D + T}$$

Where:

C = The 'C' value

D = The horizontal distance from the eye to the point of focus

N = The riser height

R = The vertical height to the point of focus

T = The seating row depth

It is generally acknowledged that an acceptable viewing standard is obtained with a 'C' value of 90mm or above for all new stands. Only under exceptional circumstances can a 'C' value of less than 90mm be considered acceptable e.g. where the recommended maximum viewing distance to any part of the pitch may be exceeded. For further information on how to calculate sightlines and 'C' values see the Green Guide and Accessible Stadia.

It is also acknowledged that at exciting moments during an event some seated spectators will stand. This can affect the quality of view of those in wheelchair spaces behind.

In order to create an acceptable viewing standard for those in wheelchairs, an increased height riser, or 'Super riser', will be necessary, which may be in the order of several times the height of a normal stepping riser. The National Association of Disabled Supporters (NADS) recommends a minimum elevated position as illustrated in Diagram 1, 'Sightlines for Wheelchair Users Diagram' which allows a person in a wheelchair to see the playing surface over any people standing in the row directly or diagonally in front. NADS' preferred minimum increased riser height is 1200mm. However, the calculation of

sightlines is a very complex issue and not a case where 'one size fits all'. If a lower riser is proposed, designers must demonstrate that an acceptable viewing standard, as defined in the above paragraphs, can be achieved. The key issue is that spectators in wheelchairs must have a clear view of the whole pitch at all times, especially when seated spectators directly or diagonally in front stand up.

It is also important to note that the helper seated adjacent to the wheelchair user should enjoy at least the minimum 'C' value with spectators standing in front.

Conversely, sightlines of non disabled spectators behind and to the side of disabled persons' areas need to be considered to ensure that their sightlines are not unduly affected by wheelchair users and their helpers. See Diagram 2.

Pitch level viewing areas

Although it may be appropriate to provide pitch level viewing as well as accommodation within the stands, stadia managers will need to ensure that these areas have adequate access to other facilities including WCs and refreshments. It is recommended that no more than 25% of wheelchair spaces in totality should be at pitchside. In addition, visually impaired spectators may wish to be located at pitch level to experience the sounds of play and activity on the pitch. Proximity to the pitch will also benefit spectators with limited vision. Locations behind dugouts and the areas behind goals up to the 18-yard line should be avoided. Although the Football Task Force recommends the provision of covered pitch-side areas it should be noted that this may interfere with sightlines for spectators behind and a preferred

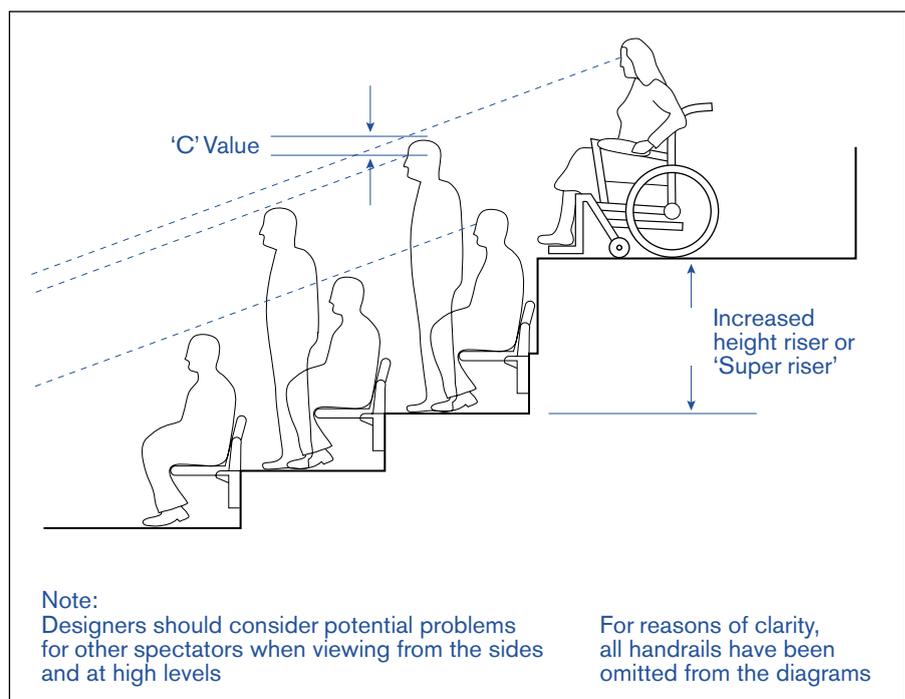


Diagram 1: 'Sightlines for Wheelchair Users' (Illustrative purposes only)

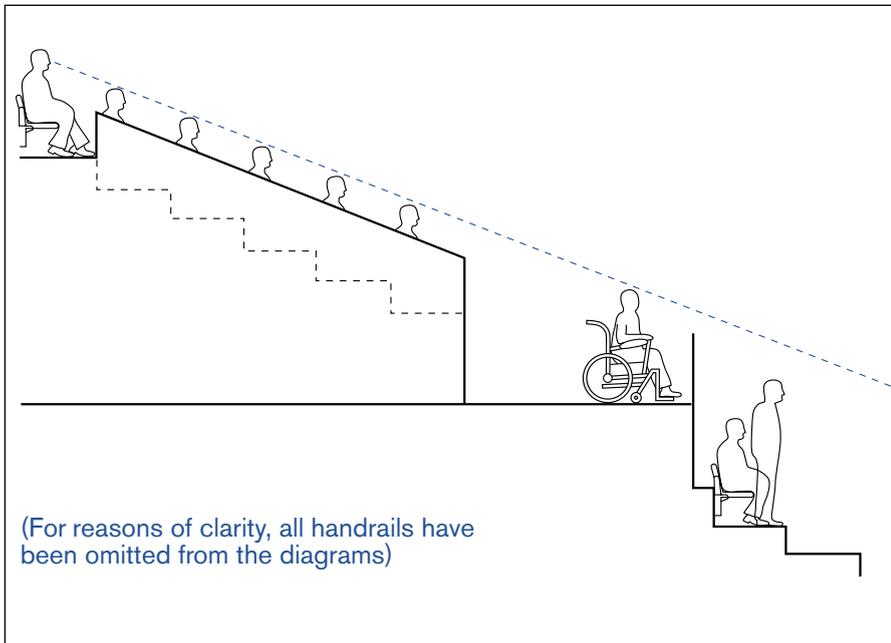


Diagram 2: 'Wheelchair and helper spaces in mid-tier, front of vomitory' (Illustrative purposes only)

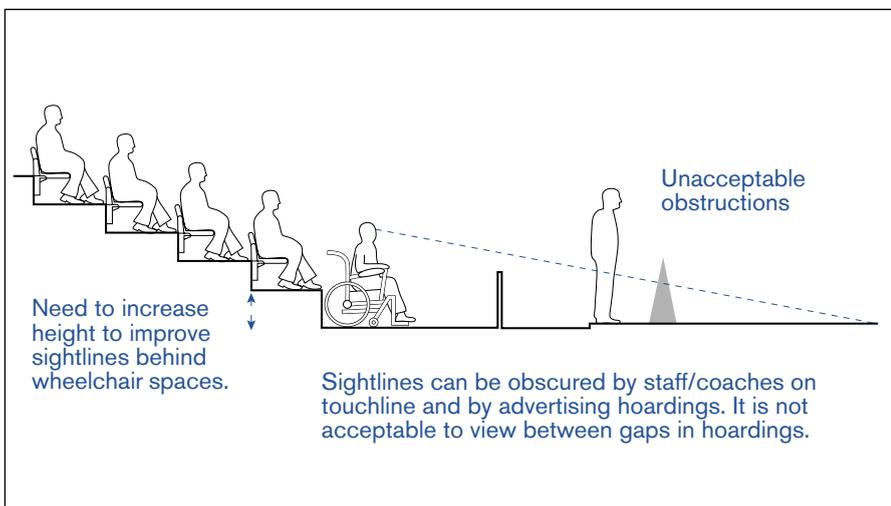


Diagram 3: 'Sightlines from pitch level viewing areas' (Illustrative purposes only)

arrangement may be to raise the seating rows behind. This could have the effect of raising the height of the whole stand and may be costly.

Staff, players' and coaches' dugouts and advertising hoardings can obscure sightlines at pitch level. Wheelchair spaces and those likely to be used by blind and partially sighted spectators should not be in locations where obstructions are likely to occur during an event. To avoid this, pitchside viewing should not be located close to the UEFA defined 'technical area' with seats for staff/coaches. Alternatively, these can be located in the front seating rows. See Diagram 3.

It should always be remembered that spectators in wheelchairs are less able to adjust their viewing position to see around or over viewing obstructions.

Elevated viewing areas

Upper tier positions for disabled spectators were often deemed inappropriate because it was considered that safety was compromised by the elongated access routes. Compliance with BS 8300 in the provision of access for disabled people to any level of a new non-domestic building means that this attitude is no longer acceptable. In locating wheelchair spaces at upper tier levels around the stadium designers should note that the Green Guide recommends that the maximum acceptable viewing distance to any part of the pitch for any spectator is 190m.

Flexible viewing areas

Additional wheelchair spaces may be provided by removing seats as long as they are always in pairs and adjacent to fixed seating for helpers. Space standards and access to all facilities must be the same as for permanent wheelchair spaces.

This flexibility may be a crucial consideration for clubs in their efforts to achieve the recommended scale of provision. Diagram 5.

Because access and circulation would still have to be provided for the maximum number of wheelchairs that the area might accommodate, it may be more appropriate

to site such flexible viewing areas at the front or the rear of a seating tier. In these positions, generous circulation widths are more easily accommodated. However, designers should take into account the NADS recommendation for elevated viewing and the use of 'Super risers', as illustrated in Diagram 1 'Sightlines for Wheelchair Users' and safety issues related to forward crowd spillage.

Mid-tier viewing areas

Viewing areas for wheelchair users in the middle of seating tiers raise a number of issues for designers and stadium management teams. Diagrams 2 and 4 illustrate some of the design and sightline

issues including an illustration of unsatisfactory sightlines in Diagram 6.

Fully enclosed viewing areas

It is recommended that the choice of accommodation for disabled spectators should include fully enclosed and heated areas, which are likely to be popular with older spectators and wheelchair users who may be particularly vulnerable to the cold. 'Accessible Stadia' para 2.22 provides more detailed guidance and advice regarding this type of provision.

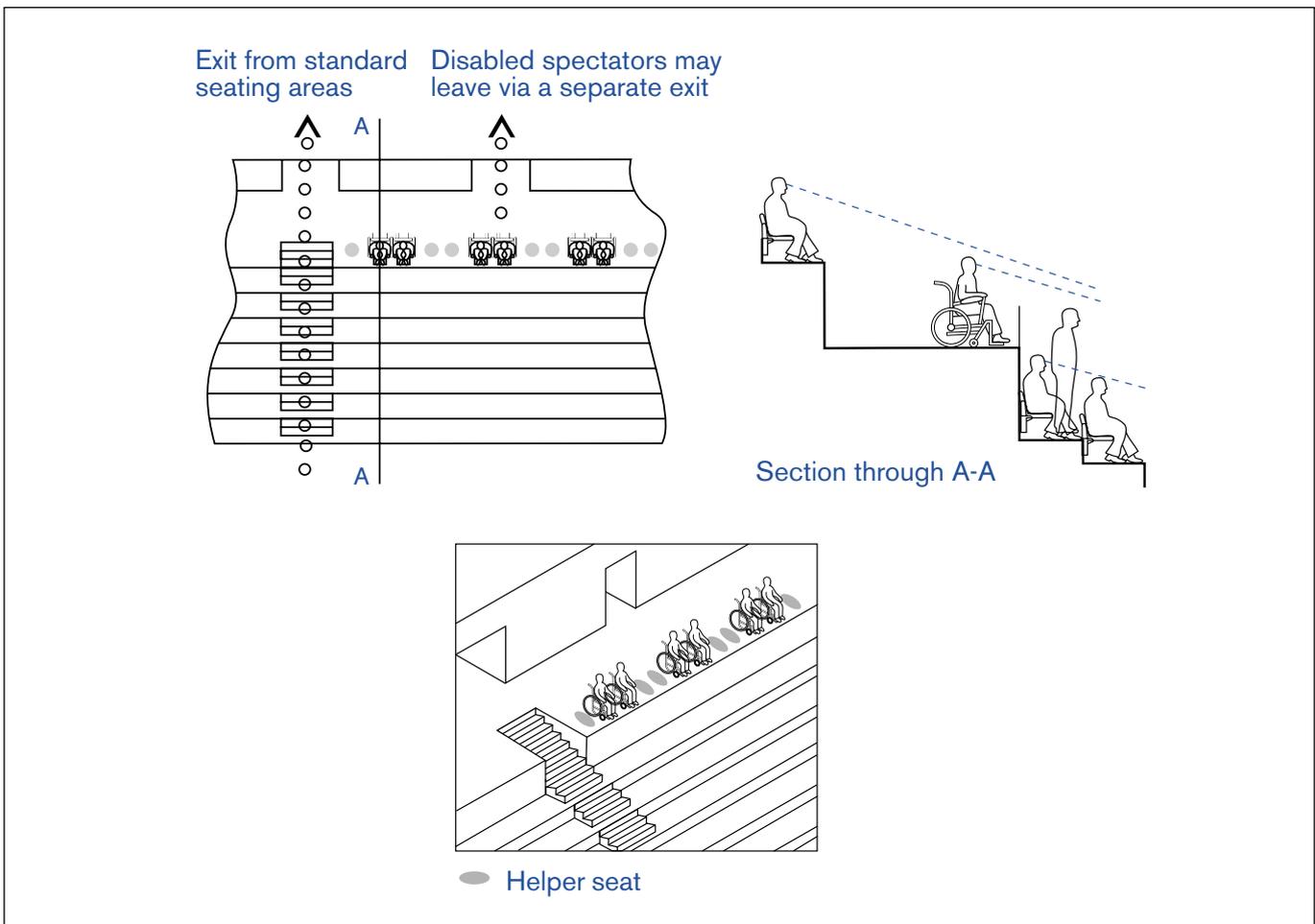


Diagram 4: 'Sightlines from elevated viewing positions' (Illustrative purposes only)

Standing accommodation

Disabled spectators are entitled to gain access to standing areas in existing or new stadia.

Designers will need to demonstrate that the feasibility of providing access to existing standing accommodation has been adequately explored. In doing this it will be necessary to consider how to adapt existing stands to meet the required standards without compromising sightlines for standing spectators.

Supplying match commentaries to viewing areas

It is recommended that a match commentary be provided for spectators with visual impairments with provision for a headphone socket connection to designated seats and/or wheelchair spaces. Consideration should also be given to the provision of radio or audio induction equipment to relay commentary to any person equipped with a necessary earpiece or receiver.

For more information on providing match commentaries for people with visual impairments, contact the Royal National Institute of the Blind (See list of Organisations and Agencies).

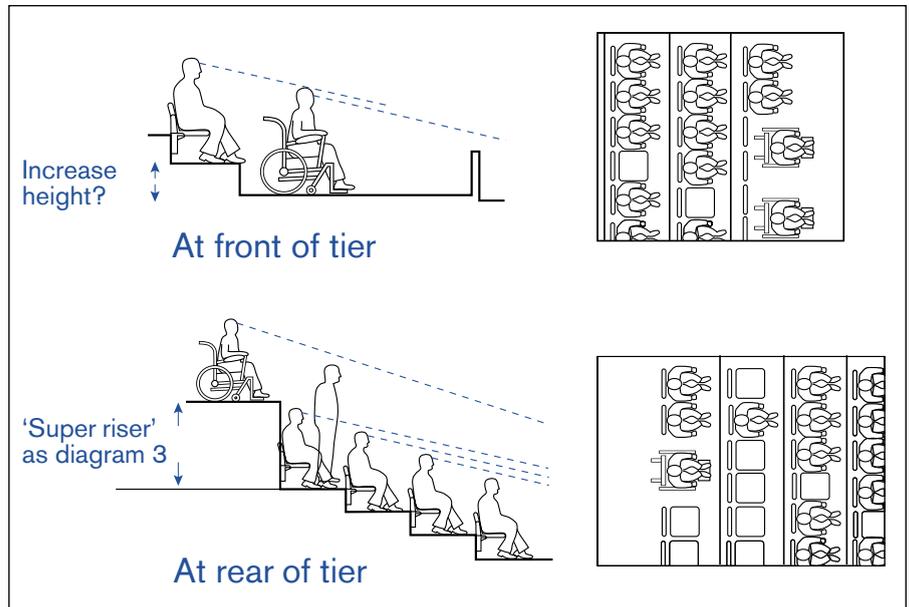


Diagram 5: 'Flexible viewing areas' (Illustrative purposes only)

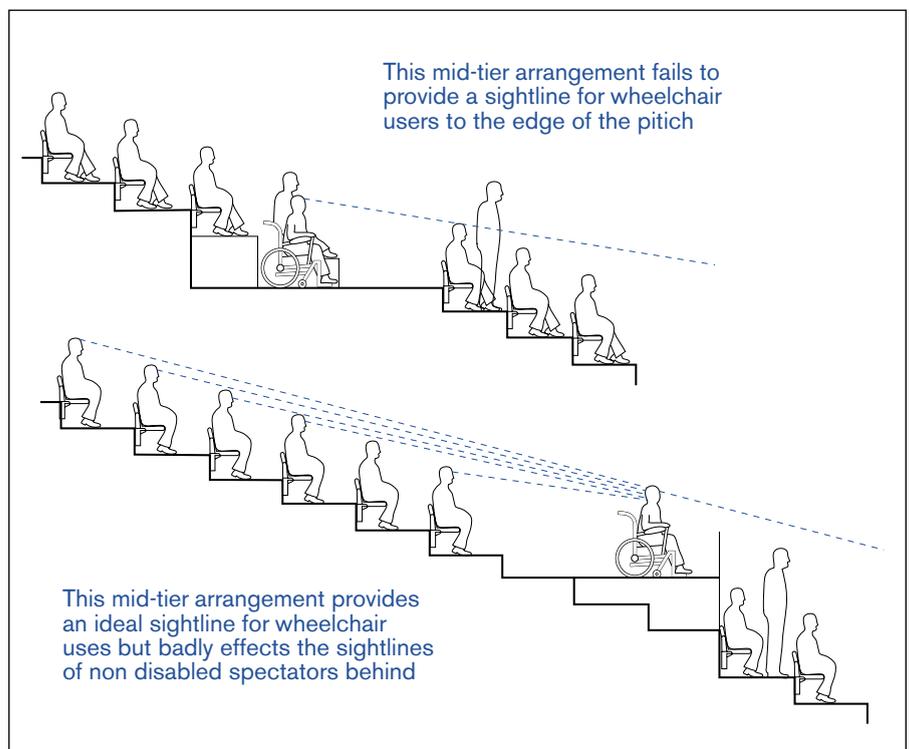


Diagram 6: 'Unsatisfactory sightlines from mid-tier viewing locations' (Illustrative purposes only)

Toilets for disabled spectators

Disabled people should be able to find and use appropriate sanitary accommodation as easily as non disabled people. BS 8300 and Part M, provide recommended standards. 'Accessible Stadia' para 2.26 also provides guidance on this topic and includes:

- Dispersal
- Locations
- Quantity
- Design and Layout
- Accessibility
- Toilets for ambulant disabled

The National Association of Disabled Supporters (NADS) recommends the provision of one accessible WC per 15 wheelchair spectator spaces. WC's should be located as close as possible to the disabled seating area.

Toilets in first aid posts

Toilets which are incorporated in the design of new first aid posts should be accessible to disabled people independently and should not conflict with the function of the unit.

Where existing first aid posts are being modernised and upgraded, a suitable toilet should be provided either within or close to the first aid room.

Refreshment facilities for disabled spectators

These facilities would not necessarily attract grant aid from the FSIF

Refreshment outlets

The design of all refreshment facilities, including self service outlets, should take account of the fact that disabled people should be able to visit them independently or with companions.

Refreshment outlets should be located as close to viewing areas as possible, with counter areas positioned such that general circulation routes are not impeded by any resultant queues. It should be noted that disabled spectators may experience difficulties in using both toilet and refreshment facilities during the limited time available at half time, when circulation areas are at their most congested. It is recommended, therefore, that clubs provide a refreshment order service for disabled spectators (see Football Task Force report and Leaving the Trackside). This service should be performed by trained stewards or volunteers, and caterers should be prepared to deal promptly with collective orders.

Where appropriate, counters should be designed with a lower section for wheelchair users at a level not more than 850mm above the floor, with a clear space beneath at least 700mm above the floor.

Restaurants and bar areas

Standards and requirements for accessibility to restaurants and bar areas are given in BS 8300 Chapter 11 'Assembly Areas' and Part M Section 4.

Public telephones, where installed, should be accessible to disabled people in accordance with BS 8300 and Part M.

Directors' boxes, executive boxes, and hospitality suites

Existing stadia with facilities for Directors, Hospitality Suites and Executive Boxes should through the access audit process seek to ensure these facilities are made accessible. Accessibility and location of toilets, arrangements for spectating, catering, car parking and access routes should also form part of this overall approach. New stadia projects that include these types of facilities can take account of these requirements and ensure that fully accessible facilities are included in the client brief, design, statutory approvals and construction stages.

Retail outlets and other commercial activities

Many football clubs have retail shops that sell club marked kit and memorabilia and sales have become an important and valuable source of income. Commercial activities may include Health & Fitness gym's and conference facilities open on non-match days. Parking, access routes to and from these facilities should be considered and included in any access audit. New build projects will be able to take account of these requirements and fully accessible facilities achieved through the client brief, design, statutory approvals and construction stages.

Press and media

Accessibility for press and accredited media staff with disabilities should be provided, including viewing and post match interviews: Media Centres may also need to provide access facilities for disabled sports men, women and young people, should a disabled sports event be held at the stadium.

Leaving the stadium

One of the major issues raised by the dispersal of viewing areas for disabled spectators around a stadium concerns the design and safe management of exit routes. Designers should take account of the fact that although spectators may not arrive together, they will leave the ground simultaneously and this will represent the peak usage. 'Accessible Stadia' paras 2.35 - 2.44 identifies key issues and sources of reference. The Green Guide also provides information and guidance on this topic

Exit routes

Dependant upon scale of provision, design solutions and safety plan.

Emergency evacuation

This subject is covered in the Approved Document Part B (Fire Safety) of the Building Regulations. This Approved Document makes reference to BS 5588 Part 8 and also to the Green Guide. In BS 5588 Part 8 designers are recommended to provide refuges of suitable area to accommodate known numbers of wheelchair users and to subsequently plan

for their evacuation from upper or lower levels by means of suitable lifts or management procedures agreed with the local authority and fire service.

Horizontal escape

Traditional fire safety arrangements rely on the protection of escape routes, the provision of fire warning tones or signals, and the independent capability of people to use steps and stairs for egress.

This is clearly inadequate for some disabled people, but satisfactory assisted escape can be achieved in stadia by the use of appropriate fire resisting construction and a comprehensive system of escape management agreed with the local authority and fire service.

Refuges

A refuge is an area separated from fire by fire-resisting construction of at least half an hour standard, and provided with a safe route from the relevant storey, via a protected stairway or external escape route, to the final exit. It is a temporarily safe space for a disabled person to wait for an evacuation lift or assistance up or down stairs, and it must be large enough to accommodate the maximum number of disabled people anticipated at a given level. It is recommended that communication from each refuge to fire control is possible to prevent wheelchair users being left during an emergency.

Vertical escape

If escape stairs, which serve an area without a lift, also provide access to that area, then the stairs should comply with the requirements for internal stairs in BS 5588 Part 8 for escape stairs. In particular, they should have a maximum riser of 170mm, instead of the 180mm maximum allowed for escape stairs elsewhere.

The minimum width given in the Green Guide for any part of the escape system of a stadium is 1.1m for existing and 1.2m for new stands. If the handrails project more than 100mm then the minimum dimension should be measured between the handrails.

Fire and emergency warning systems

Warning systems at stadia should use a two-stage system. The first stage should take the form of a coded message making stewards aware of a situation and may alert them to an imminent evacuation. If separate escape routes for disabled spectators cannot, for practical reasons, be provided, the management evacuation plan agreed with the local authority and fire services may, at this stage, allow for stewards to begin moving disabled spectators to refuges on escape routes from which they can be moved, either by evacuation lifts or by assistance downstairs to ground level. The second stage should be a general alarm sounding which starts the evacuation of spectators. If separate escape routes for disabled spectators are provided, as is recommended, the evacuation plan will allow for both non disabled and disabled spectators to leave at the same time. In either case, identified routes should be

established from the viewing areas to refuges, and from there to ground level, and it is vital that the stadium management establish an evacuation plan for spectators with disabilities, to be agreed with the local Safety Team and emergency services. Warning systems may consist of an evacuation signal, announcements over the public address system, and also visual instructions on electronic scoreboards.

Staff Training

The DDA has brought with it wide ranging duties for stadium managers as employers (Part 2 DDA) and duties as a service provider (Part 3 DDA).

Whilst this publication has concentrated upon design standards and best practice, there is a strong link between design and management. Well designed facilities should reduce the need to rely upon high levels of stewarding.

Management must ensure that full time staff and match day stewards involved in providing a service to disabled spectators are well trained and sensitive to the needs of disabled people. Knowledge and familiarity with all of the stadium facilities, their location and access provision is an

essential part of this training. There are satisfactory courses available through NVOs and the Football League.

Easily understood stadium leaflets giving information about the facilities, location type and location is a valuable guide for staff and disabled spectators. Designated disability coordinators may be involved in the days preceding matches, based at the ground and will organise and manage seating arrangements for both home and away supporters. Seating plans of the stadium, showing the designated locations, numbers and type, will greatly assist these staff.

Management should ensure that stewards are fully trained and capable of handling disability access issues that include:

- car parking
- circulation and movement in and around the stadium
- support facilities
- spectator areas
- emergency and evacuation procedures.

Services of an Access Consultant

Earlier in this Data Sheet the importance and need of an access audit of your stadium and support facilities has been identified. The FSIF/FLA publication Accessible Stadia lays out in some detail the scope and extent of the services that can be provided by an access consultant. Data Sheet 4 in this series lays out a methodology and approach for an Access Audit.

Application Check List

- Access audit
- Access strategy or access plan
- Scheme proposals showing existing and new proposals with standards/locations
- Capital costs/contract details
- Programme.

References

The Stationery Office

Disability Discrimination Act 1995 Code of Practice. Rights of Access. Goods, Facilities Services and Premises. Disability Rights Commission 2002.

BSI

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Wetherby LS237NB

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BSI

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Organisations and Agencies

Access Association (AA)

Walsall M.B.C
Civic Centre
Darwall Street
WS1 1TP
Tel. 01922 652010
www.accessassociation.co.uk

British Standards Institution (BSI)

389 Chiswick High Rd
LONDON W4 4AL
Tel. (Information Centre) 020 8996 7111
www.bsi-global.com

Centre for Accessible Environments (CAE)

60 Gainsford St
LONDON SE1 2NY
Tel. 020 7357 8182
www.cae.org.uk

Disability Rights Commission (DRC)

222 Grays Inn Road
LONDON WC1 8HL
Tel. 020 7211 4110
Tel. 08457 622 633 (Help Line)
www.drc-gb.org

Disabled Living Foundation (Aids and Equipment)

380-384 Harrow Road
LONDON W9 2HU
Tel. Helpline 0870 6039177
www.dlf.org.uk

Football Association (FA)

25 Soho Square
LONDON W1D 4FA
Tel. 020 7745 4545
www.thefa.com

Football Foundation/Football Stadia Improvement Fund (FF/FSIF)

25 Soho Square
LONDON W1D 4FF
Tel. 020 7534 4210
www.footballfoundation.org.uk

Football League

11 Connaught Place
LONDON W2 2ET
Tel. 0870 4420 1888
www.football-league.co.uk

Football Licensing Authority (FLA)

27 Harcourt House
19 Cavendish Sq.
LONDON W1G 0PL
Tel. 020 7491 7191
www.flaweb.org.uk

MENCAP

123 Golden Lane
LONDON EC1Y 0RT
Tel. 020 7454 0454
www.mencap.org.uk

National Association for Disabled Supporters (NADS)

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South D.O.
Manchester M20 5BA
P.O. Box 141
www.nads.org.uk

National Register of Access Consultants (NRAC)

Nutmeg House
60 Gainsford St
LONDON SE1 2NY
Tel. 020 7234 0434
www.nrac.org.uk

Premier League (PLFA)

11 Connaught Place
LONDON W2 2ET
Tel. 020 7298 1600
www.premierleague.com

RADAR

12 City Forum
250 City Rd.
LONDON EC1 8AF
Tel. 020 7250 3222
Minicom 020 7250 4119
www.radar.org.uk

Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA)

66 Portland Place
LONDON W1B 1AD
Tel. 020 7580 5533
www.architecture.com

Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB)

105 Judd Street
LONDON WC1H 9NE
Tel. 020 7388 1266
www.rnib.org.uk

Royal National Institute for Deaf People (RNID)

19-23 Featherstone St.
LONDON EC1Y 8SL
Tel. 020 7296 8000
Textphone 020 7296 8001
www.rnid.org.uk

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Disclaimer

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Should you have any queries on this Data Sheet, or anything on the wider work of the FSIF, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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