

FORMING AN ACCESS

To create an access onto a public highway, planning permission is required if the road is an A, B or C class highway. For lower order roads, you do not need planning permission to form the access, although you will need to contact Area Highways to determine the material specification required and to obtain a licence.

For more information see <http://www.dorsetforyou.com/roads/request/dropped/kerbs>

The new access should conform with accepted design criteria and be constructed to the specification of the Highway Authority.

An access serving a domestic property should measure a minimum width of 2.50m. In urban situations it will generally join the carriageway across a lowered section of footway. In more rural circumstances, it may be deemed appropriate that a more defined access be created.

For more information see the [“Single Access” information sheet](#)

The length of the access crossing will vary according to the individual site circumstances (gate position, adjacent footway or verge width, etc). The minimum distance needed will generally be the width of the adjacent footway or verge. The crossing should be surfaced in order to prevent loose material being dragged onto the highway when a vehicle uses the access.

The access may require visibility splays to be provided.

For more information see the [“Visibility Splays” information sheet](#)

Consideration should also be given to the location of public utilities (such as telegraph poles, lighting columns, underground telecommunication cables, etc). Any expenses for re-locating or protecting such utilities will be payable by the applicant, not the Highway Authority.

In many circumstances, it will be necessary for any gates to be set back a minimum distance of 5m from the nearside road edge. This will allow a car to be parked clear of the adjacent highway whilst the gate is opened or closed.