

LOCAL AUTHORITIES ROAD SAFETY OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION GUIDELINES

The Local Authorities' Road Safety Officers' Association guidelines are used to assess the safety of routes in the light of such factors as traffic and highway conditions, on the assumption that a pupil/student is accompanied by a responsible adult.

Footway	An adequate footway is defined as one "at least 1 metre wide, even in surface and without ruts and potholes – suitable for walking on".
Road Width	An adequate width of road has been determined as "a minimum of 5.5 metres of usable road surface".
Weight of Traffic	<p>The term "Weight of Traffic" applies to the maximum two-way traffic volume on a road of up to 5.5 metres is equal to or less than 240 vehicles per hour and where the maximum proportion of HGVs is no greater than 5% of the total.</p> <p>In cases where the two-way volume of traffic exceeds 240 vehicles per hour, or the proportion of HGVs exceeds 5% of the total number of vehicles, then the minimum width of the road shall be 6.5 metres.</p>
Step Off	<p>The term "Step Off" refers to the facility for pedestrians to be able to step clear of the roadway onto a reasonably even and firm surface level with (or nearly level with) the roadway and of a minimum width of 1 metre.</p> <p>Such a "Step Off" must be capable of being accessed quickly and easily by pedestrians who may be in charge of small children or prams/pushchairs.</p>
Visibility	<p>The term "Visibility" means the distance of unobstructed vision when measured from the eye point of a driver (usually taken as being 1.05 metres from the road surface).</p> <p>Further, this distance must be equal to, or greater than the appropriate minimum overall stopping distance as shown in the table in the Highway Code given the known 85 percentile speed of traffic on the road.</p>

A sequential assessment based on these definitions follows:-

1. Footway If an adequate footway exists the route is safe.
2. Safe Visibility Adequate sight lines must exist, bearing in mind the speed of traffic, i.e. is there time to see and be seen in order to take action.
3. Step-Offs On narrow roads (with no footway) a step-off facility is required except on lightly trafficked roads with good sight lines.

4. Road Width/
Traffic Volume With a minimum width of 5.5 metres and two-way traffic volumes below 240 vph (maximum % of HGV traffic no greater than 5) the route should be considered safe, assuming conditions 2 and 3 exist. Where the % of HGV traffic exceeds 5, or total traffic flows exceed 240 vph the minimum road width should be 6.5 metres.

N.B. In normal circumstances it is assumed that the pedestrian is walking to face oncoming traffic, although it may be safer to extend sight lines on some occasions by moving across to the outside of bends.