

ACCESSIBILITY FOR HISTORIC PLACES

Historic places are often seen as inherently inaccessible. While this is untrue in many ways, this attitude has led to a lack of access measures being implemented at historic places.

When undertaking accessibility improvement projects, the first step should always be planning. This is particularly important for historic places. Conservation planning and accessibility planning should be done in combination to ensure interventions are completed efficiently while not altering character-defining elements. For example, when performing maintenance on a verandah, a ramp can be added in compatible materials, such as the same wood painted to the same colour scheme as the verandah.

It is always possible to improve access for persons with disabilities to historic places through careful evaluation, planning and consultation. Even something as simple and non-invasive as updating the website can make a difference. Physical interventions that are well designed, when undertaken with a clear understanding of the heritage values, character-defining elements, and access needs of the historic place, will also make a significant impact on accessibility, but not on the place itself.

Access benefits everyone, and when done with understanding and consultation, it will also benefit historic places.

For more detailed information about accessibility for historic places, please visit our website to access [three downloadable resource guides](#).

ACCESSIBILITY PLANNING FLOWCHART

