

# SHAPING NEIGHBOURHOODS

FOR LOCAL HEALTH AND GLOBAL SUSTAINABILITY

2ND EDITION



HUGH BARTON, MARCUS GRANT AND RICHARD GUISE

ROUTLEDGE

# 3.9

## 3.9 ACCESSIBILITY CRITERIA

Accessibility standards are used to ensure facilities are as walkable as possible. The actual standard chosen, however, cannot just reflect the distance people are willing to walk. It also needs to recognise the scale of the facility, the number of people required to support it, the density of the area and the vagaries of geography. Standards for common facilities are given in the table below.

5.4 Graded density

Local facility	Illustrative catchment populations (to be adapted to local conditions and policies)	Minimum reasonable accessibility standards at different gross densities (assuming bendy routes)			
		40 ppha	60 ppha	80 ppha	100 ppha
Nursery/first school	2,000	600 m	500 m	400 m	400 m
Primary/middle school	4,000	800 m	700 m	600 m	500 m
Secondary school	8,000	1,200 m	1,000 m	700 m	700 m
Secondary school (large)	16,000	1,500 m	1,200 m	1,000 m	1,000 m
Health centre (4 doctors)	10,000	1,200 m	1,000 m	900 m	800 m
Local shop	1,500	500 m	400 m	400 m	300 m
Pub	6,000	1,000 m	800 m	700 m	600 m
Post office	5,000	800 m	700 m	600 m	600 m
Community centre	4,000	800 m	600 m	600 m	500 m
Local centre	6,000	1,000 m	800 m	700 m	600 m
District centre/superstore	24,000	1,900 m	1,500 m	1,300 m	1,200 m
Leisure centre	24,000	1,900 m	1,500 m	1,300 m	1,200 m

Figure 3.15  
Minimum accessibility standards for compact settlements by density

Note: these thresholds are based purely on catchment populations needed to support the facility. Overleaf are more practical suggestions!

### How to use accessibility criteria

In major urban extensions it is reasonable for the community to expect developers and service providers to achieve good standards of local facility accessibility. Appropriate standards can be agreed and incorporated into the spatial strategy and subsequent development briefs.

In fully built-up areas the ability to achieve any standards is highly constrained by existing morphology and ownership. This is particularly the case in hilly or poorly planned settlements. Standards cannot be mandatory, but may be a starting point for negotiation. Infill or redevelopment projects may be guided by accessibility standards. Service providers should identify gaps and seek to fill them.