



Universal Access Statement

Residential Development at Coolagad, Greystones, Co. Wicklow.

UNIVERSAL ACCESS STATEMENT

Prepared for:
Cairn Homes Properties Ltd.

24 March 2022

Universal Access Statement for the Residential Development at, Coolagad, Greystones, Co. Wicklow.

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1 Project Description

The proposed development consists of 586 residential units (351 houses; 203 apartments and 32 duplex units) at a site c. 26.03 ha at Coolagad, Greystones.

The development will also include the provision of a community building, a creche, a sport field and a MUGA. A proposed new vehicular entrance with signalised junction from the R761 Rathdown Road to the north of Gate Lodge, Rathdown Road opposite Sea View and Redford Cemetery, providing a distributor road as part of the long-term objective to provide a northern access route from Greystones to the N11 is also proposed.

The development also includes site development infrastructure, a hierarchy of internal streets including bridges, cycle paths & footpaths; new watermain connection and foul and surface water drainage; the development also provides for the upgrading of the public sewer within the wayleave of the R761/R762 (Rathdown Road) from the site entrance as far as the R762 in front of St. Kevin's National School, Rathdown Road, Greystones.

2 Application of Part M of the Second Schedule of the Building Regulations for the Proposed Works

The proposed development scheme must meet the requirements of Part M of the Building Regulations. Part M 2010 came into operation on the 1st January 2012 and the requirements of Part M 2010 must be followed subject to certain transitional arrangements. The requirements of Part M 2010 are as follows:

Access and Use	M1 Adequate provision shall be made for people to access and use a building, its facilities and its environs.
Application of the Part	M2 Adequate provision shall be made for people to approach and access an extension to a building.
	M3 If sanitary facilities are provided in a building that is to be extended, adequate sanitary facilities shall be provided for people within the extension.
	M4 Part M does not apply to works in connection with extensions to and material alterations of existing dwellings, provided that such works do not create a new dwelling.

Figure 1 – The requirements of Part M (2010) of the Building Regulations

The Design Team recognises that since the introduction of the Disability Act in 2005, Irish Building Regulations (See Figure 1 above) have been revised with Universal Design in mind and a more comprehensive technical guidance document is now in place. This document is known as the Building Regulations 2010 Technical Guidance Document M – Access and Use, or alternatively TGD M 2010.

TGD M 2010 provides guidance in relation to meeting the requirements of Part M of the Second Schedule to the Building Regulations and focuses on Access and Use. It is important to note that the introduction of TGD M 2010 states:

“The materials, methods of construction, standards and other specifications (including technical specifications) which are referred to in this document are those which are likely to be suitable for the purposes of the Regulations. Where works are carried out in accordance with the guidance in this document, this will, prima facie, indicate compliance with Part M of the Second Schedule to the Building Regulations (as amended). However, the adoption of an approach other than that outlined in the guidance is not precluded provided that the relevant requirements of the Regulations are complied with. Those involved in the design and construction of a building may be required by the relevant building control authority to provide such evidence as is necessary to establish that the requirements of the Building Regulations are being complied with”.

O'Herlihy Access Consultancy have been liaising with the design team during the planning stages of this project and are satisfied that the proposed works will meet the requirements of Part M of the Second Schedule of the Building Regulations. For example:

- A minimum 5% of the total amount of car parking spaces provided, accessible car parking spaces are provided in line with Appendix 1, Section 7 of Wicklow County Development Plan 2016-2022 requirements. These bays are designed to meet the guidance in Section 1.1.5 of TGD M 2010;
- Various accessible landscaped areas are provided throughout the site and are designed to meet the guidance in Section 1.1 of TGD M 2010;
- Footpaths are provided on all new local roads to allow for full permeability of residential districts by pedestrians. All footpaths are designed according to Section 1.1.3 of TGD M 2010;
- Adequate access routes are provided from all designated car parking facilities to the main entrance of the apartment building, creche and community building, designed in accordance with Section 1.1.3 of TGD M 2010, with 1,800mm by 1,800mm level landings provided at all accessible entrances;
- All entrances to the apartment blocks, the creche and community building are designed in accordance with the guidance in Section 1.2 and Table 2 of TGD M 2010;
- Internal corridors, floor finishes and doors within communal areas are designed in accordance with Section 1.3 of TGD M 2010 with 1,800mm turning areas provided throughout each building's common area;
- At least 1 No. passenger lift and 1 No stairs suitable for ambulant disabled people is provided in the creche and the various circulation cores in the apartment blocks, serving all floors within the building. The lifts are designed in accordance with the guidance in Section 1.3.4.2 of TGD M 2010 and stairs in accordance with Section 1.3.4.3 of TGD M 2010;
- A minimum of 1 No. Wheelchair accessible unisex WC is provided on the ground floor of the creche, community building, and in the amenity area of the apartment building, which will be fitted out in accordance with Section 1.4.5 of TGD M 2010;
- Other sanitary facilities (e.g. cubicles for ambulant disabled people, enlarged cubicles, etc.) are also adequately provisioned within the creche, community building, and the amenity area of the apartment building in accordance with Section 1.4 of TD M 2010;

- All communal facilities within or surrounding the apartment building are provisioned as accessible to meet the needs of all users in accordance with the guidance in TGD M 2010;
- Apartments and Duplexes are designed to meet the guidance in Section 3 of TGD M 2010 (e.g. 1200mm by 1200mm level landing at apartment entrances and 800mm wide doors at entrances to the apartments);
- An accessible WC, suitable for visitors, is provided at entry level within each apartment and duplex unit. Each has been designed in accordance with Section 3.4 of TGD M 2010, providing adequate space for sideways transfer from a wheelchair.

The Design Team notes that TGD M 2010 is the minimum guidance to show compliance with the requirements of the Part M of the Building Regulations. The Design Team is also firmly committed to achieving universal access in the building and are committed to ensuring that:

Independently accessible means of approach to the accessible entrances and circulation around the proposed development will be provided in accordance with Section 1.1 of TGD M 2010. (e.g. level access routes, gently sloped access routes, ramped access routes, stepped access routes, pedestrian crossings, etc.)

Entrances to the proposed buildings will be independently accessible and avoid segregation based on a person's level of ability in accordance with Section 1.2 of TGD M 2010. (e.g. accessible entrance doors - glazed, manual, power-operated - entrance lobbies, etc.)

People will be able to travel horizontally and vertically within apartment building and creche conveniently, and without discomfort in order to make use of all relevant facilities in accordance with Section 1.3 of TGD M 2010. (e.g. Reception areas, internal doors, corridors, internal lobbies, passenger lifts, stairs, etc.)

Independently accessible sanitary facilities, where provisioned, that meet the needs of people with a wide range of abilities, will be provided within the proposed works in accordance with Section 1.4 of TGD M 2010. (e.g. wheelchair accessible unisex WCs, cubicles for ambulant disabled people, etc.)

Other facilities within the proposed communal areas of the apartment building, creche, and community building will be accessible and useable, designed and constructed to facilitate active participation where appropriate in accordance with Section 1.5 of TGD M 2010. (e.g. refreshment facilities, switches, outlets and controls, etc.)

Adequate aids to communication will be provided within the common areas of apartment building, creche, and community building to ensure people can independently access and use the buildings and their facilities in accordance with Section 1.6 of TGD M 2010. (e.g. signage, visual contrast, lighting, audible aids, etc.)

Apartments and Duplexes within the development will be designed in accordance with Section 3 of TGD M 2010, ensuring that they provide adequate access for visitors, including; accessible entrances with clear level landings, adequate circulation within the entrance storey, accessible WCs suitable for visitors, etc.

Figure 2 – Universal Access Strategy

3 References

1. DEHLG (2000) Building Regulation, 2000 Technical Guidance Document M. Access for people with disabilities. Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Dublin.
2. DEHLG (2010) Building Regulation, 2010 Technical Guidance Document M. Access and Use. Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Dublin.
3. Access – improving the accessibility of Historic Buildings and Places published by the Department of Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht.
4. Architectural Heritage Protection - Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2004) – Chapter 18 – Improving Access;
5. BSI (2018), BS8300-1: Design of an accessible and inclusive built environment, Part 1: External environment – Code of practice.
6. BSI (2018), BS8300-2: Design of an accessible and inclusive built environment, Part 2: Buildings – Code of practice.
7. NDA (2002), Building for Everyone. The National Disability Authority, Dublin.