

**For the construction of a Vehicle Crossing over Footways or Verges**  
SECTION 171 & 184, HIGHWAYS ACT 1980

The following explains what you need to do if you would like to have a new vehicle access constructed across the verge or footway so that you can drive from the road on to your property.

Please contact the planning authority at your District or Borough Council as you may require planning permission. In some circumstances on the higher classes of road on-site turning facilities may be required.

You have two options, **Option A** if you would like Devon County Council to carry out the work for you, or **Option B** if you would like to use your own contractor. Please read each Option carefully before deciding.

### **Option A**

If you request Devon County Council to carry out the work, we will book the contractor, including all necessary adjustments to utilities apparatus, and will maintain the access thereafter. The only involvement you will need is to agree the position and size of the crossing. If you wish to proceed with this option, please Complete Parts 1 & 2 of the application form.

### **Option B**

If you wish to select a contractor of your own choice, the contractor must satisfy the conditions as laid down and must be approved by Devon County Council. Self build is only an option if you are a contractor and approved by Devon County Council. You will be responsible for obtaining details relating to all utilities apparatus affected by the vehicle crossing which includes gas, water, electric, telegraph poles, street lights etc. You will be responsible for employing the contractor. You will be responsible for the vehicle crossing for 2 years and any deterioration in the workmanship will be made good at your cost. If you wish to proceed with this option, please complete Parts 1, 2 and 3 of the application form.

Note: The applicant will be held liable for the performance of the contractor and quality of workmanship if you employ a contractor of your choice.

### **Costs:**

**Option A** - £35 administration fee + £55 survey + cost of work on the highway.

**Option B** - £35 administration fee + £55 survey + £110 for two inspections + the cost of the work carried out by your own contractor.

### **Decide what you need**

In some places, space or safety considerations or steep slopes will make it impossible to construct a driveway or parking space within a garden.

Information obtained at this stage should enable you to see whether it is viable to provide an access in your case. If it is not viable then there is little point in paying for the Council to do the survey as explained later.

## PUBLIC GUIDANCE NOTES

### For the construction of a Vehicle Crossing over Footways or Verges SECTION 171 & 184, HIGHWAYS ACT 1980

You will need to carry out the following checks to determine whether you will be able to apply for a vehicle crossing:

#### Is there enough room between the back of the footway/verge and the house or garage in your garden?

The minimum space required on level ground is 6 metres to make sure your vehicle does not obstruct the footpath.



fig.1

#### Is the position of the access at least 15 metres from a road junction?(as shown in figure 1)

This is usually necessary unless your access will be in a cul de sac.

#### Is there a minimum width of 3.0m that is required for a single vehicle width access?

Double width accesses are usually discouraged.

#### Will you be able to see pedestrians and vehicles well enough to drive out of the driveway without causing danger either to yourself or other people using the road?

The required visibility areas must be generally clear of obstructions with any plants or structures kept below 600mm so that you can see over them. The 15m dimension shown in fig 1 is indicative (greater visibility may be required on faster or classified roads).

If you can answer 'yes' to these checks then you may decide to apply for a vehicle crossing. If the answer to any of them is 'no' then it means that your site is either too small or that safe access to your property may not be possible. For further advice, please contact your local Area Office (contact details are shown below)

- Ensure the driveway/parking area is properly consolidated and surfaced (not loose stone or gravel).
- Ensure measures are in place so that surface water does not discharge out on to the public highway.
- Ensure the gradient of the drive/parking area is no steeper than 1:10.
- Ensure all obstructions, such as lighting columns and telegraph poles in the way of the access, are relocated if necessary.

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#### Apply for permission for a vehicle crossing

(This is not permission to construct)

Contact us for an application form and send it to the relevant Area Office who will arrange for an Engineer to carry out a survey and send you an estimate for the cost of constructing the access. A fee of £90 is charged for the application and survey and you must include the payment (cheques payable to Devon County Council) with the application.

The Engineer will determine what is required when visiting the address. If this reveals that any of the criteria above cannot be met, you will be advised that an access cannot be constructed and you cannot proceed any further. The application and survey fee is not refundable in these circumstances.

An estimate will be valid for 3 months after which a new estimate will be required.

The crossing must be constructed within 3 months of approval.

We will write to inform you of the cost of constructing the access. It is important to note that the quote only relates to the construction of works in the highway. It does not include the cost of any works within your property boundary.

Note: DCC does not undertake work on private property.

A typical cost of constructing a vehicular crossing 5m wide x 2m deep is £1000. This does not include any adjustments necessary to utilities apparatus or street furniture (street lights, covers or boxes). Prices will reflect any additional works on an individual site basis.

#### OPTION A

##### If you request Devon County Council to undertake the work on your behalf:

Complete Parts 1 & 2 of the application form and return it together with a cheque (payable to Devon County Council) for the application (£90). We will send you a quotation which you will need to sign and return with a cheque for the full amount. Works will not commence without payment in full.

Devon County Council's contractor will make arrangements with you to agree a suitable date to construct the vehicle crossing, normally within six weeks. Devon County Council will be responsible for the future maintenance of the access within the highway.

#### OPTION B

##### If you request to employ a contractor of your choice:

You will need to get your contractor to complete part 3 of the application form and submit it to the Area Office, with a cheque for the additional inspection fee of £110 (payable to Devon County Council).

The contractor must demonstrate that they have the necessary qualifications before they can be permitted to work in the public highway. If the contractor of your choice is

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not approved, you will need to locate a different contractor who will need to submit a new application to carry out the work.

Your contractor will need to contact Devon County Council to agree a start date.

Note: 10 days notice to start is required.

An Engineer will carry out an inspection of the work in progress to ensure the work is being carried out in accordance with the specification. A further inspection will be carried out at around 20 months to ensure the construction has not deteriorated. Any defects found will be rectified at your cost.

If you would like any further information and/or an application form please contact us.

If you are unsure which Area Office to send your form to please contact our Customer Service Centre on 0845 155 1004 who will be happy to direct you, alternatively you can look it up on our website. [Area Highway Management Offices](#)

Area North Highway Management Civic Centre, Barnstaple, Devon, EX31 1ED  Tel: 01271 388898	Area East Highway Management Little Moor House Falcon Road Sowton Industrial Estate Exeter, EX2 7PL  Tel: 01392 385080	Area South Highway Management Devon House, Brunel Road, Newton Abbot, Devon, TQ12 4PB  Tel: 01392 380160
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