

GUIDELINES FOR

PROVIDING FOR JOURNEYS ON FOOT

PUBLISHED BY
THE INSTITUTION OF
HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORTATION

2000



Table 3.2: Suggested Acceptable Walking Distance.

	Town centres (m)	Commuting/School Sight-seeing (m)	Elsewhere (m)
Desirable	200	500	400
Acceptable	400	1000	800
Preferred maximum	800	2000	1200

3.33. Planning Policy Guidance Note 6 states that the acceptable distance from a supermarket car park to the town centre is about 200–300m (DOE, 1996). Further sources of information on acceptable walking distances are provide by IHT (1997 and 1999) and DETR (1998).

3.34. For shopping, Carley and Donaldsons (1996) advise that that “acceptable” walking distances depend on the quality of the shops, the size of the shopping centre and the length of stay of the shopper. Specifically, they state that parking time governs the distance walked from parking. See Table 3.3) Higher quality and larger centres generate longer acceptable walking distances with up to 1250m of walking journey to 100,000m² of floor space.

Table 3.3: Acceptable walking distances for car–borne shoppers.

Parking time (hours)	Acceptable walking distance (metres)
30 mins	100
1	200
2	400
4	800
8	1000

Source: Carley and Donaldsons (1997)

Individual Sites/Redevelopment

3.35. For smaller areas and individual new developments or redevelopment, usually within an existing urban area, origin /destination surveys and network planning may not be appropriate. It will be important to identify the anticipated desire lines, crossing locations, volume and type of pedestrian activity. The practicality and attractiveness of walking depend not only on the general location but also on the access details. The most important considerations are likely to be:

- the ease of pedestrian access to the site
- the orientation and location of buildings within the site
- the access arrangements within the site
- the architectural style of the development (car or pedestrian oriented).

3.36. Additional walking distances or gradients, can be crucial in determining whether a development is pedestrian friendly. Layouts that require pedestrians to walk through car parks or to follow indirect footpaths should be avoided as far as possible. These are issues that should be addressed jointly by planners and engineers involved in development control.

3.37. If the development is sufficiently large to warrant a Transport Impact Assessment, the local authority should ensure that this thoroughly addresses the issues of pedestrian access, both to the site and within it. Some guidance is provided in IHT *Guidelines for Providing for Public Transport in Developments* (IHT, 1999). Further Guidelines on Transport Assessments are expected from DETR.