

# The Access Guide

## Removing Barriers, Improving Access

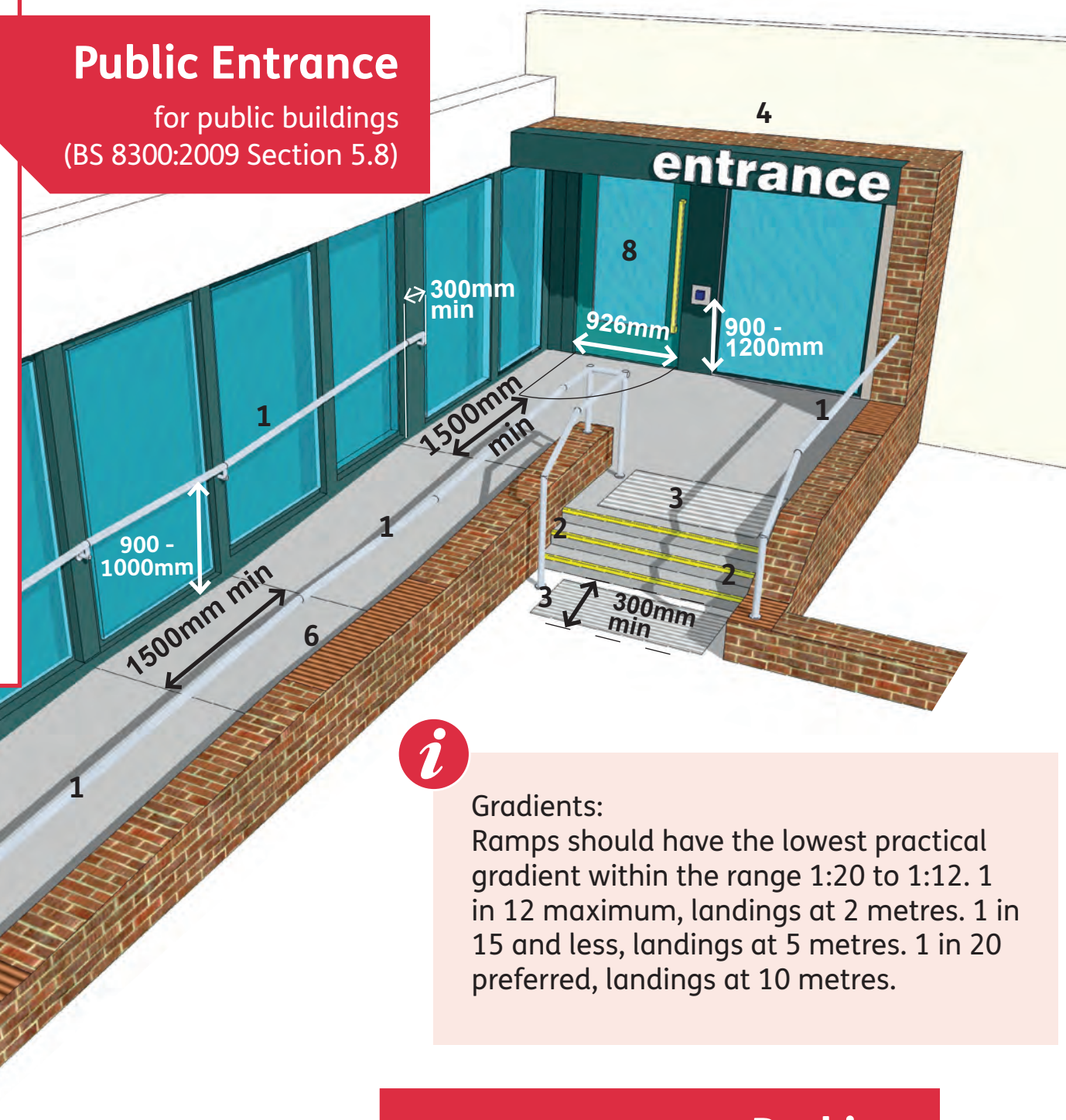
# Public Realm



- 1 Handrails should have a top surface of between 900mm and 1000mm from the surface of the ramp.
- 2 Non-slip nosings on steps. Colour contrast with steps. Similarly rails to both sides where there is more than one step.
- 3 Textured paving to bottom and top of stairs and ramps.
- 4 Strong contrast of colour on signage.
- 5 For ramps 300mm or more rise, alternative stepped access required.
- 6 Tactile Surface Detail.
- 7 Kerb edging to outer edge 100mm high.
- 8 The minimum clear width is 800mm excluding door thickness, but 926mm is good practice.

### Public Entrance

for public buildings  
(BS 8300:2009 Section 5.8)

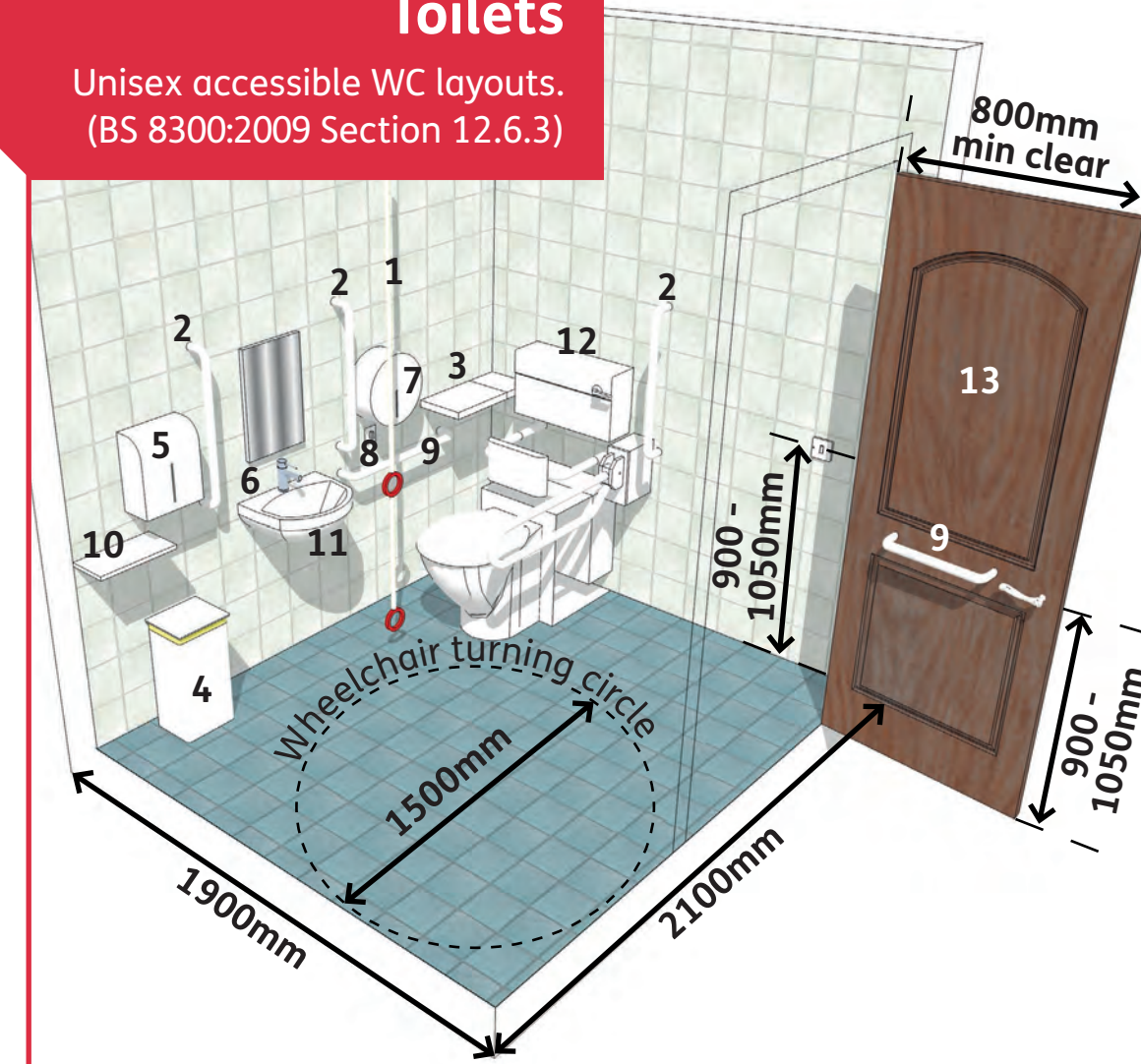


**Gradients:**  
Ramps should have the lowest practical gradient within the range 1:20 to 1:12. 1 in 12 maximum, landings at 2 metres. 1 in 15 and less, landings at 5 metres. 1 in 20 preferred, landings at 10 metres.

- 1 Alarm pull cord with 2 handles 800mm and 100mm from floor.
- 2 Grab rails need to be 32 - 35mm diameter and 50 - 60mm clearance between bar and wall. Vertical grab rails (those above basin should be 500mm to 700mm apart) and 800 - 1400mm above floor level.
- 3 Colostomy changing shelf at 950mm above floor level.
- 4 Sanitary disposal.
- 5 Automatic hand dryer and /or Paper towel dispenser.
- 6 Soap dispenser.
- 7 Toilet paper dispenser.
- 8 Alarm reset button.
- 9 Horizontal grab rail 600mm wide and 680mm above floor level.
- 10 Shelf 800 - 1100mm.
- 11 Basin with lever tap on side of basin close to the WC.
- 12 Flat-topped close-coupled cistern providing a padded back rest and colostomy changing surface for standing users.
- 13 926mm door width is good practice. Door to be of contrasting colour to wall colour for visually impaired users.

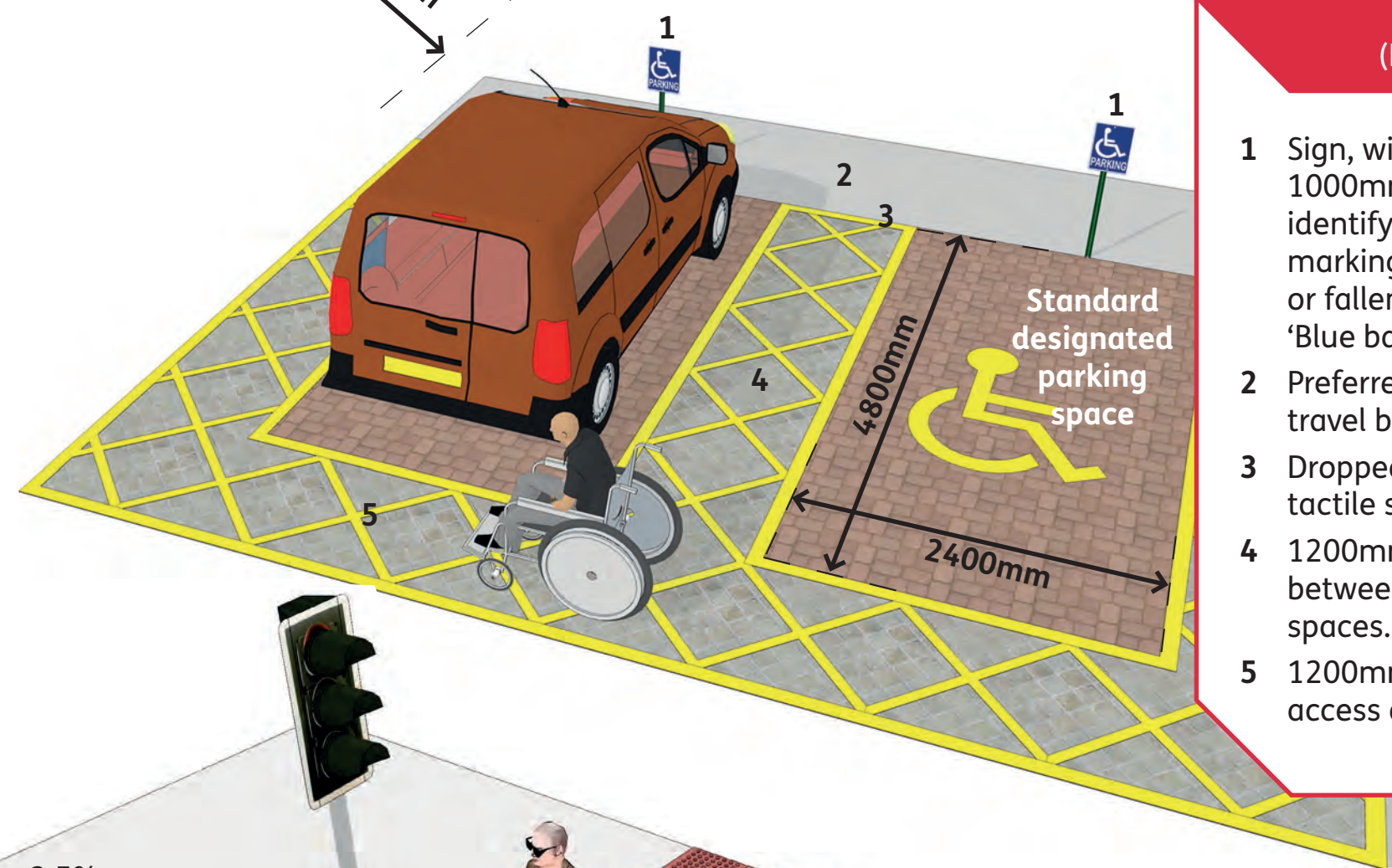
### Toilets

Unisex accessible WC layouts.  
(BS 8300:2009 Section 12.6.3)



### Parking

Access around designated off-street parking spaces  
(BS 8300:2009 Section 4.2.3)

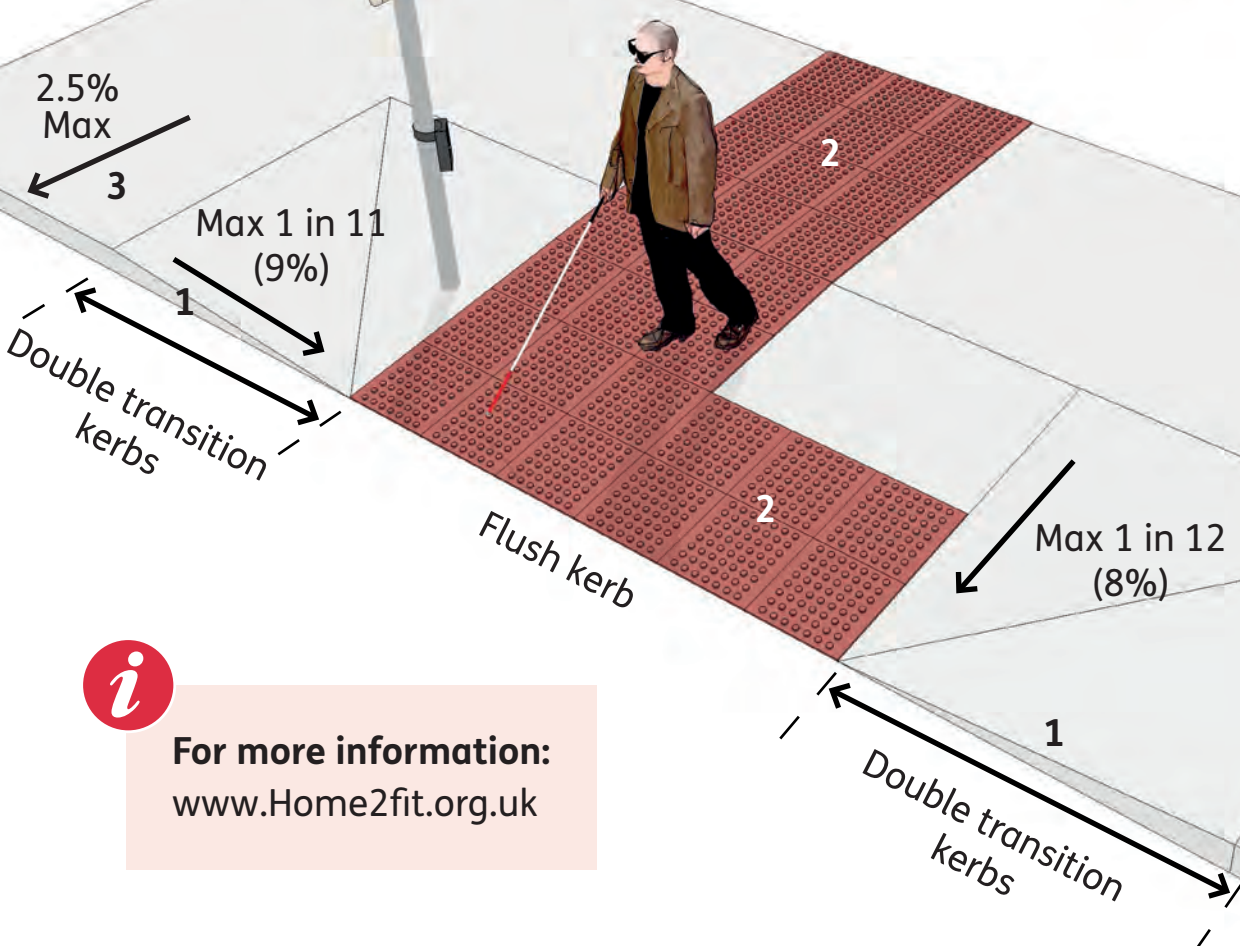


- 1 Sign, with its lower edge 1000mm above the ground, to identify parking space when road markings obscured e.g. by snow or fallen leaves, with the words 'Blue badge holders only'.
- 2 Preferred access route avoiding travel behind parked cars.
- 3 Dropped kerb or level access and tactile surface.
- 4 1200mm marked access zone between designated parking spaces.
- 5 1200mm safety zone for boot access and cars with rear hoists.

### Crossings

Examples of blister at controlled crossing point (DDA Good Practice Guide, Roads 4.1.9)

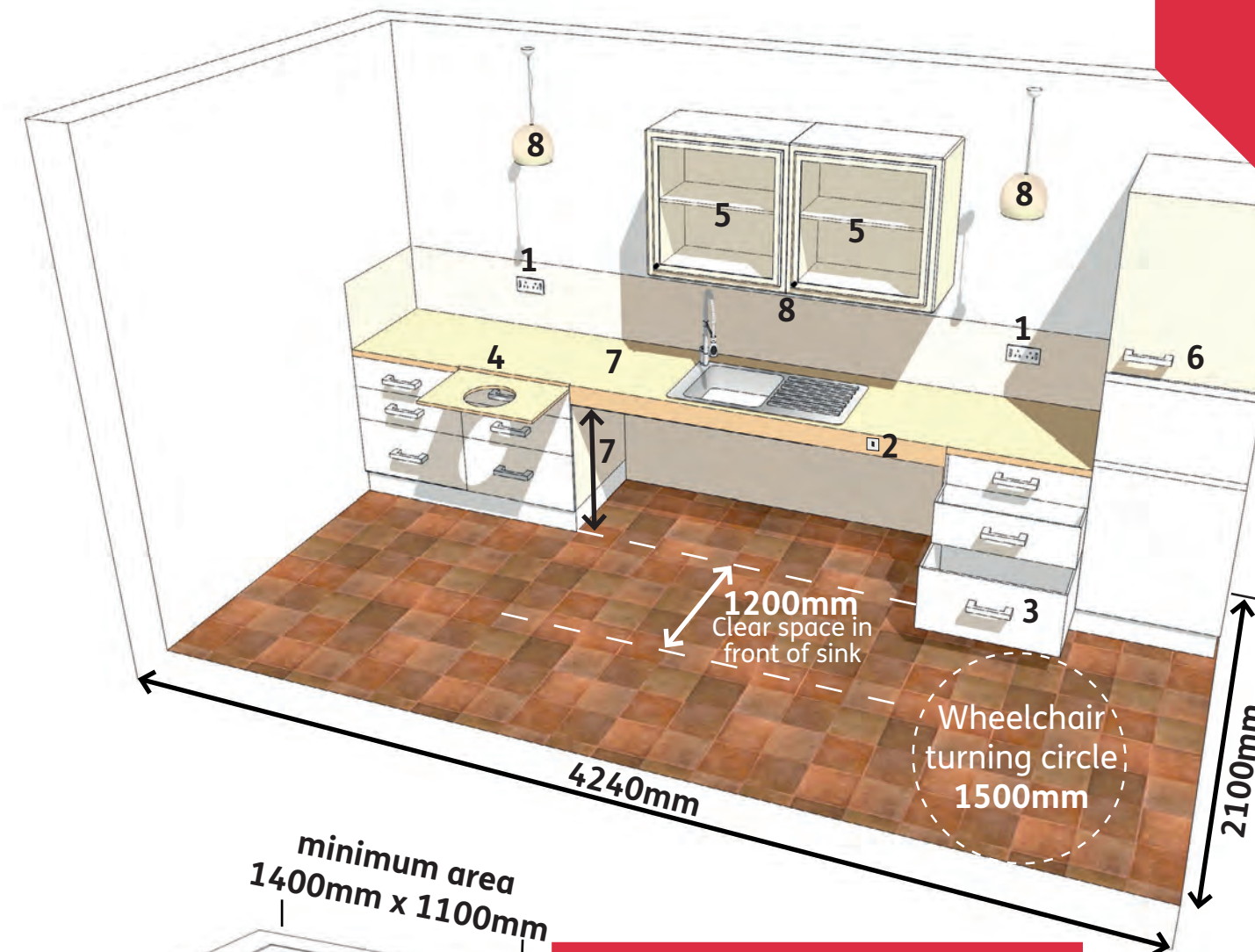
- 1 Double transition kerbs: Sloped in 2 directions for easier access.
- 2 Tactile Blister Surface (red).
- 3 Maximum crossfall on a footway is to be 2.5% (1:40).



For more information:  
[www.Home2fit.org.uk](http://www.Home2fit.org.uk)

### Kitchens

Work surface height guide.  
(BS 8300:2009 Section 12.1)

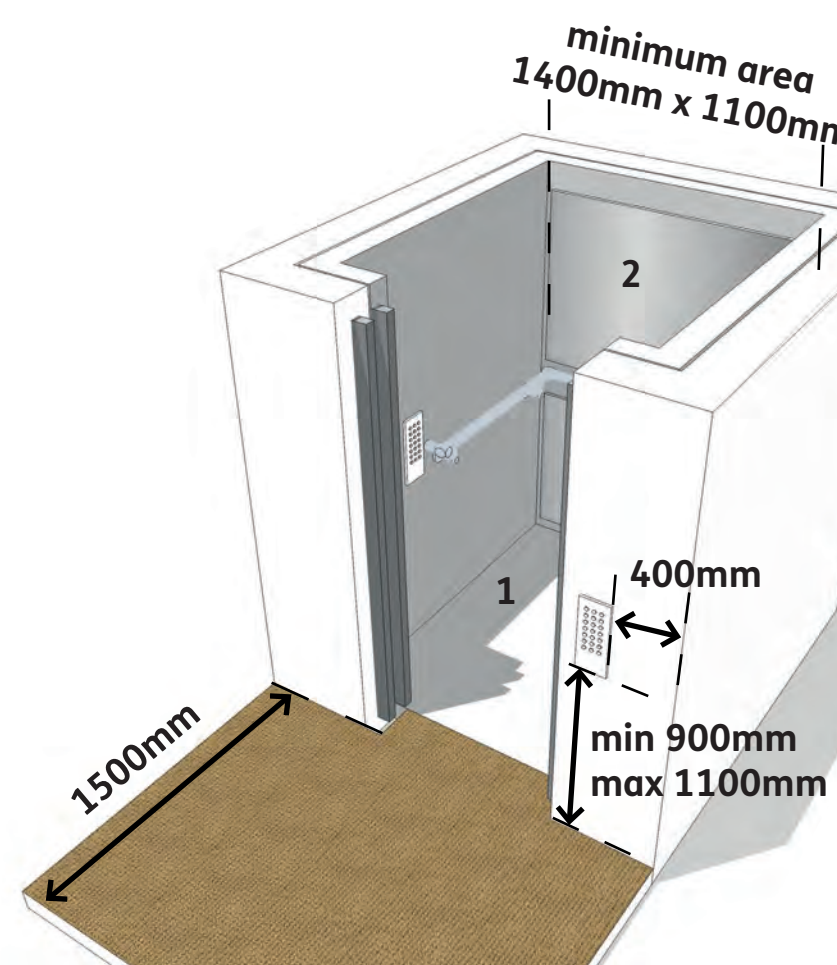


- 1 Socket 150mm above work surface.
- 2 Isolating switches controlling sockets on back wall.
- 3 Cabinet with deep pan drawers.
- 4 Pull-out board above floor mounted cupboard unit. Circular cut-out optional.
- 5 Clear fronted cabinet. 1625mm max. height reachable by ambulant disabled people.
- 6 1150mm max. shelf height to allow reach from wheelchair.
- 7 700mm minimum clear height for knee recess, 760mm preferred for wheelchair users. Depth of worktops 600mm maximum.
- 8 Task lighting and also under cabinet.

### Lifts

For single and multi users.  
(BS 8300:2009 Section 8.3)

- 1 Minimum dimensions of a lift car with a single entrance or two opposite entrances is 1100mm x 1400mm.
- 2 A mirror should be provided where a lift has only one door and has dimensions of 1100mm x 1400mm.



### Symbols and Signs



International symbol for Access, indicating routes and facilities with full accessibility.



Facilities for blind and partially sighted people.



World Federation of the Deaf sign to indicate facilities for deaf people.



Microphone sound enhancement for hearing aids fitted with a 'T' switch.



Equipment to enhance microphone sound through an infrared sensor.



Sports Centre



Swimming Pool

Pictograms



Braille locator e.g. notch



Braille message

### Hearing

Induction loops or infra red systems should be installed. Red flashing warning lights should be fitted. Portable Viba-alarms should be available in hotel rooms.

### Visual

Use colour contrast, textured and tactile surface, audible indicators. Avoid obstacles.

### Hearing and Visual

Well-lit areas are essential for lip-reading and partial vision.

### Floors and Wall Surfaces

Avoid glare from ceilings, walls and floors. Avoid deep pile carpets. Avoid confusing patterns. All floor finishes should be non-slip. Avoid unexpected changes of level. Use lighting, colours and texture to warn of low ceilings and changes in level. Avoid wall projections. Where possible, site radiators in recesses and/or provide covers as protection.

