

PROFILER'S FIELD GUIDE

**Explore further
with Accessibel.**



ACCESSIBEL

The best adventures take a little planning.

Before you go Checklist

1. Check weather conditions
2. Pack extra clothes, water & snacks
3. Tape measure or measuring stick (800mm)
4. Print & pack location / track maps
5. Check phone 100% charged
(bring a power bank if needed)
6. Open & test App
7. Message supervisor that you're going
8. Keep this field guide handy!

On arrival



Review your Map

Double check the proposed track or tracks. Are there any specific areas that you need to cover? Are there any alternative entry / exits you should allow time



Test GPS & connectivity

Start a test track on the App, stop and save. Review the GPS accuracy. If you're outside mobile data coverage, switch wifi and mobile data off in your phone settings.



Focus your attention

The start of a track is often the most complex. Take your time to record the carpark, entry and exit, signage and other facilities.



Parking

Often the first area you will encounter is the car park. Safety is your primary consideration, both for the end-user and yourself. Parking areas can be busy places, observe people and their comings and goings – is it safe?

Room to move

Whether you have a wheelchair or pram, you need space to manoeuvre. Is there space or a designated carpark to do this? Does the designated park allow enough space?

Proximity to entrance

How close can you get to the track, or other facilities without needing to cross the carpark and navigate other cars.

Road-side or off-road

Take note of the location of the car park. On-road parking presents a number of safety concerns. Is the off-road parking purpose designed?

Keywords:

Designated carparks; alternative spaces; adequate room; road-side; off-road; surface: gravel, paved, tar-seal; busy or quiet; sheltered or exposed; easy access to entry.



Facilities

Often there will be a range of facilities at the start and throughout the track to improve the amenity, including public toilets, shelters, seating and water.

Public Toilets

For many people the presence of an accessible public toilet is a must. Take multiple images. Look at it from the perspective of wheelchair access (1500mm

turn space), an elderly person or parent with child or baby. Is there fresh, drinkable water available? Or a place to hose down a dog or dirty shoes?

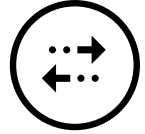
Other Amenities

Anything that brings a sense of respite or relief should be documented as a facility:

- Hut
- Shelter
- Seat
- Water

Keywords:

Accessible toilet; non-accessible toilet; ramp; handrail; turnspace (1500mm); doorway (800mm); shelter, hut; seat; water.



Entry & Exit

Unfortunately, the ability to access many tracks stops at the gate. It is common to find that a gate designed to keep motorcyclists out, also prevents a wide range of people getting in to enjoy the experience.

Type of Barrier

Document the type of barrier, the width of access, height of steps or latches, a chain, a light or heavy gate, Some may be show stoppers for many people.

800mm minimum

Use your tape measure or stick to double-check clearance. If narrow, consider how a caregiver might navigate the space.

Surface & gradient

The beginning of tracks often means a change in surface, or mix of gradient and camber. These transitions can be rough and worn.

Keywords:

Turnstiles; stiles; kissing gate; gates; surface changes: sealed, gravel, grass etc; clearance (800mm); steps; latches; chains; gradients and cambers.



Signage

Many outdoors experiences are enhanced by signage and interpretations. These help add context to the experience, and can also hold useful information, like track distance, walking time or a map.

Track timings

Photograph and take note of the estimated time on the signage, compare with the time it takes you to profile. That will reflect the true range. If there's limited info, mark as orange.

Read sign

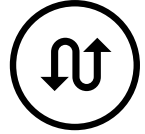
There may be a range of environmental or historical features about the location to be aware of. Take note as images of these can be captured while profiling.

Map, rules & directions

Photograph other interpretations, directions and maps during your profiling. Capture and document any track rules, like no dogs or cycling.

Keywords:

Estimated time and distance; map; cultural, environmental or historic references; warnings; rules: e.g. no dogs



Pathway

When there's a change in surface type, gradient, camber or other factors, you will be dropping a pathway point-of-interest. Pathways quality will make up 60% of your documentation.

Surface change

As you profile, keep an eye out for changes. Grass, light or heavy gravel, pavers, dirt/mud, tree roots, sand. Mark any extremes as orange.

Gradient & camber

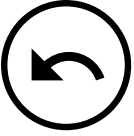
A light gradient is doable for most, While a steady and steep gradient isn't. If you notice a camber (curved surface), it will cause issues for many people.

Steps & narrowing

Steps will always be marked as an orange pin whether natural or man-made. Where a track narrows to single file should also be marked as orange.

Keywords:

Grass; light or heavy gravel; pavers; dirt/mud; tree roots; sand; gradient (light, steady, steep); camber; steps; narrowing.



Bridge / Crossing

Similar to entry and exits, the design and style of bridges are all different. They pose a number of issues including the lead up, width and surface. Use this category if there's a board walk or road crossing.

Lead up and lip

Document the lead up from both sides paying extra attention to the surface change and lip. A lip greater than a centimetre will cause problems. Is it steep or worn?

Railing and style

There's no standard when it comes to pedestrian bridges. Check widths, railing and other features. Are there any safety concerns?

Crossing roads etc

You may also use this category to document a road crossing from a bus stop to the entry of a track. Mountain bike tracks might also need crossing.

Keywords:

Lead up; surface change: e.g. gravel to boards; uneven boards; handrails; width (800mm+); lip; safety; centre isle; barriers; passing bays (boardwalks).



Crossroads

Unlike an entry or exit, a crossroad is a decision point where a track branches. They are often alternative routes to the same destination, and one will be more accessible than the other.

Check alternatives

This is time intensive, and will require doubling back, but if there's two track options, both need to be considered. Or perhaps there's an alternative entry/exit?

Other tracks

Many crossroads signal the start of alternative tracks. If it's a completely separate track, capture the signage and profile only if on your track list.

Potential wrong ways

Often tracks can become vague and unclear. Capture this point of indecision as a crossroads.

Keywords:

Directional signage; high or low track; alternative route;



Feature

As well as all the areas of concern, we want to document the highlights of the experience. Features will often become the hero image for the track helping to sell the experience to the public.

Sell the experience

There are often a host of environmental or historical features that make a track unique. We want to promote these as much as possible.

Hero Shot

Keep an eye out for an image that will become the hero (feature) shot for the track. What is this track known for? Take time to capture a well lit and composed image.

Intangible benefits

Sometimes a feature cannot be captured by imagery. It might be the sound of bird call, water access or a particular scent. Capture these features in the description.

Keywords:

View; birdsong; water access; canopy; historical or natural feature; picnic area.

Profiling Tips

When out in the field, your time and energy is finite. If in doubt, always capture a concern, it can always be removed later.

Image first - short hand

Don't spend time writing commentary on a concern – this is easier to do at the desk. Aim to capture the images first and some short-hand notes.

Saved and merge later

If you're on a long track it is possible to save part of a track and merge it with the other parts during moderation. This is handy if your battery is getting low or if you experience technical problems.

When to plot a point

All pins can be moved during moderation. A consistent surface for 500m only needs one pin, but as soon as there's a variation add another.

Troubleshooting

The Accessibel App is calling on a number of phone features, including GPS, mobile data and the camera. You may capture over 50 images on one track. Your phone will be processing a lot of data. Things can go wrong.

GPS is jumpy

A strong GPS signal is dependent on a number of environmental factors. Jumpy GPS readings are expected. Always check you have a good reading before dropping a pin.

Map not redrawing

If, or when you switch off Wifi and mobile data, the App will no longer be able to pull in images to draw the map. Before starting you can zoom in and scan the area you're profiling with mobile data on, so the map images have been cached.

No categories

If you have recently installed, or reinstalled the App, it will need to pull in the categories from the server. Make sure you test the App before leaving and check everything is working and all permissions are set-up correctly.

Always test before leaving!

The golden rule is to always test the App at home before leaving. Arriving at a track and discovering you can't login, or your phone is out of memory could mean a trip home.

App is lagging

If you're partway through a track and experience intermittent freezing of the App, save your track and restart it with Wifi and Mobile Data off.

Close other Apps

To free up your phones processor, it is advised to close other Apps. Some may also be working in the background and cause Accessibel to lag.

No tracking background

If you are experiencing this it's because the location permission wasn't set-up correctly when installing the App. Check the Accessibel knowledge base and either update the permissions or reinstall the App.

VISIT OUR KNOWLEDGE BASE
docs.accessibel.co.nz



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