

vol. 05

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Accessible House Checklist Guide

Understanding needs. Finding solutions. Designing for life.

ARKHI CARE

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Introduction

A home should do more than provide shelter

At Arkhi Care, we believe that a home should do more than provide shelter, it should support independence, dignity and the best possible quality of life.

For people living with life-altering injuries or complex care needs, choosing the right property is one of the most important decisions they will make. The layout of a home can have a profound impact on everyday living, influencing mobility, care routines, well-being and long-term independence. The right property will adapt as needs evolve; the wrong one can create unnecessary barriers for years to come.

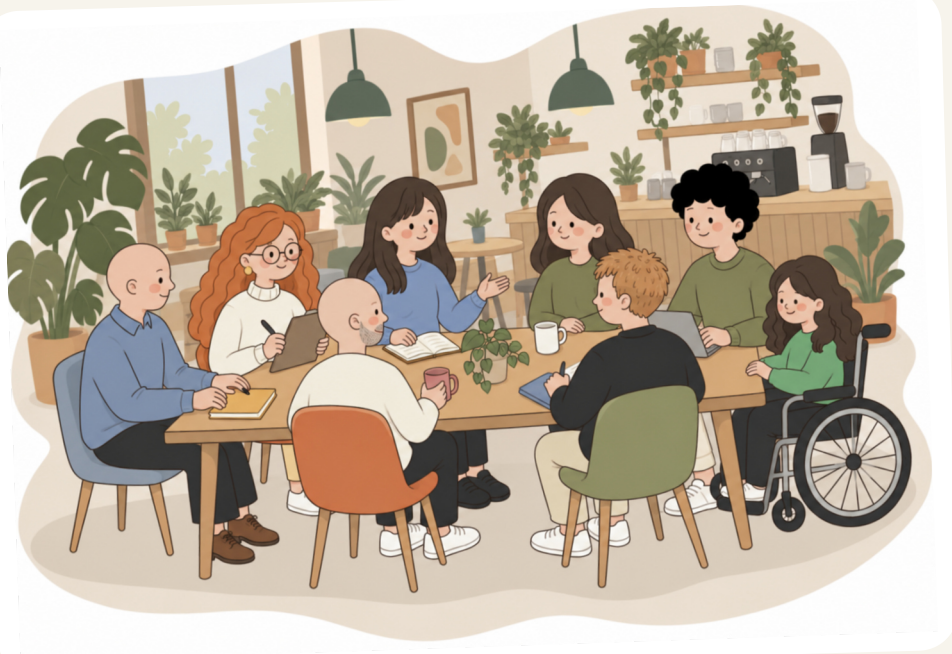
This checklist has been developed by our specialist architects to help individuals, families, solicitors, case managers and occupational therapists assess whether a property has the potential to become a safe, practical and future-ready home. It highlights the key considerations to look for when viewing a property, whether you're purchasing a new home, assessing an existing property or considering adaptations.

At Arkhi Care, we work alongside solicitors, deputies, case managers, occupational therapists and families to provide specialist property searches, Part 35 accommodation reports and bespoke architectural design for accessible homes across the UK. Our aim is always the same: to **create environments that support care, promote independence and improve quality of life**, both today and for the future.

We hope this checklist gives you confidence when assessing a property and helps you ask the right questions before taking the next step.

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Use this checklist when viewing a property or planning home adaptations. Tick each item as you go and make notes where appropriate. Remember, not every property needs to meet every criterion, many homes can be successfully adapted with the right design approach.



01 Question 01

Location & Surroundings

- [ ] Is the property close to family, healthcare facilities and essential services?
- [ ] Are local shops, schools and public transport easily accessible?
- [ ] Are the sorrounding pavements relatively level and suitable for wheelchair users?
- [ ] Is the neighnourhood safe and practical for independent living?



Notes

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02 Question 02

Parking & Arrival



- [ ] Is there off-road parking?
- [ ] Is there enough space for an accessible vehicle or wheelchair-accessible vehicle (WAV)?
- [ ] Can you park close to the entrance?
- [ ] Is there a step-free route from parking to the front door?

Notes

03 Question 03

Entrance

- [ ] Is the entrance level or can a ramp be introduced?
- [ ] Is the doorway wide enough for a wheelchair or mobility aid?
- [ ] Is there weather protection at the entrance?
- [ ] Is there enough space to manoeuvre before entering?
- [ ] Could an automatic or powered entrancce door be installed if required?



Notes

04 Question 04

Internal Circulation



- [ ] Are floor finishes even and slip-resistant?
- [ ] Are doorways suitable for wheelchair access?
- [ ] Is there enough turning space throughout the home?
- [ ] Can furniture be arranged without restricting circulation?
- [ ] Are corridors wide enough for comfortable movement?

Notes

05 Question 05

Living Areas

- [ ] Is the main living space easy to access?
- [ ] Is there enough room for mobility equipment?
- [ ] Is there space for carers if assistance is required?
- [ ] Does the layout encourage family interaction?
- [ ] Are electrical sockets and controls positioned conveniently?



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06 Question 06

Kitchen



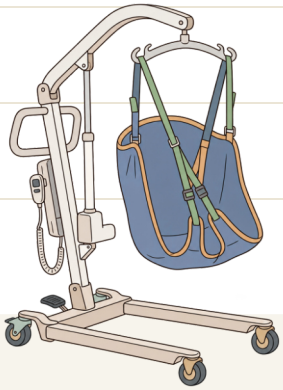
- [ ] Could the kitchen be adapted for seated or wheelchair use?
- [ ] Is there enough circulation space?
- [ ] Can worktops be adjusted if required?
- [ ] Is there space for accessible appliances?
- [ ] Are windows and controls easy to reach?

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07 Question 07

Bathrooms

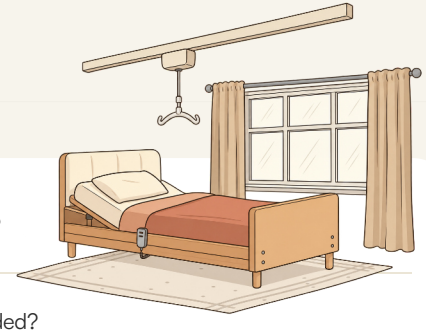
- [ ] Is there enough space for a level-access shower?
- [ ] Could the bathroom accommodate a wheelchair?
- [ ] Is there sufficient space for carers to assist safely?
- [ ] Could a ceiling track hoist be installed if required?
- [ ] Is drainage suitable for future adaptations?



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08 Question 08

Bedrooms



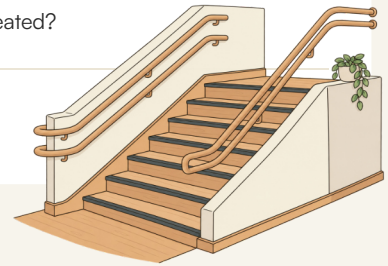
- [ ] Is there potential for an accessible en-suite?
- [ ] Is there room for carers to assist where needed?
- [ ] Could specialist equipment be accommodated?
- [ ] Is there adequate storage for medical equipment?
- [ ] Is there enough space around the bed for wheelchair access?

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09 Question 09

Stairs & Future Adaptations

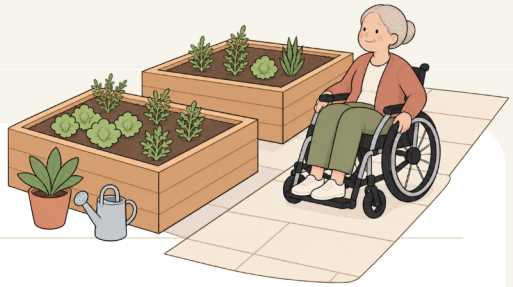
- [ ] Is there space for a through-floor lift or home lift?
- [ ] Could a stair-lift be installed if appropriate?
- [ ] Is there flexibility to extend the property?
- [ ] Could additional bedrooms or therapy spaces be created?
- [ ] Can the home adapt to changing needs over time?



Notes

10 Question 10

Outdoor Space



- [ ] Is the garden accessible?
- [ ] Are paths wide and level?
- [ ] Is there step-free access to outdoor seating areas?
- [ ] Is external storage available for mobility equipment?
- [ ] Is there sufficient space for future landscaping or ramps?

Notes

11 Question 11

Future-Proofing

- [ ] Will this property continue to meet your needs over the next 5—10 years?
- [ ] Could care requirements increase without major structural changes?
- [ ] Does the property allow for future technology or specialist equipment?
- [ ] Is there flexibility for changing family circumstances?
- [ ] Does the home support independence as needs evolve?



Notes

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Conclusion

Good design goes beyond meeting standards

The suitability of a home cannot be determined by a checklist alone. Every individual has unique aspirations, abilities and care requirements, and every property presents its own opportunities and constraints. The purpose of this guide is to provide a practical framework for identifying the key considerations that contribute to creating an accessible, adaptable and supporting living environment.

By approaching the assessment if a property with these principles in mind, individuals, families and professionals can make more informed decisions and better understand the potential of a home before committing to a purchase or adaptation.

At Arkhi Care, we believe that good design goes beyond meeting standards or accommodating equipment. It is about creating environments that respond to the way people live, support changing needs over time and enable greater independence, comfort and well-being.

We hope this booklet has provided a useful reference throughout your property search and serves as a reminder that, with the right expertise and thoughtful design, a home can become a place that truly supports the people who live in it.



Discuss a case with us

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