

## Accessibility statement for History of Science Museum

The University of Oxford is committed to providing an accessible web presence that gives members of the public and members of the University community full access to University information, courses and activities offered publicly through the web. Our [Equality Policy](#) outlines our commitment to a culture which ‘maintains a working, learning and social environment in which the rights and dignity of all its staff and students are respected’.

This accessibility statement applies to the History of Science Museum website:  
<https://www.hsm.ox.ac.uk/>

This website is run by the History of Science Museum Public Engagement Team, University of Oxford. We want as many people as possible to be able to use this website. For example, that means you should be able to:

- change colours, contrast levels and fonts
- zoom in up to 300% without the text spilling off the screen
- navigate most of the website using just a keyboard
- navigate most of the website using speech recognition software
- listen to most of the website using a screen reader

We’ve also made the website text as simple as possible to understand.

[AbilityNet](#) has advice on making your device easier to use if you have a disability.

### How accessible this website is

We know some parts of this website are not fully accessible, including:

- Not all images have appropriate alt text
- Some link text isn’t meaningful out of context
- Not all audio and video content includes transcripts
- Older pdf documents may not be fully accessible to screen readers
- Some Adobe flash files are blocked and need to be replaced with new content
- There are some archived pages which are not fully accessible

### Feedback and contact information

If you need information on this website in a different format, please contact the History of Science Museum Public Engagement Team:

Email: [info@hsm.ox.ac.uk](mailto:info@hsm.ox.ac.uk)

Post:  
Public Engagement Team  
History of Science Museum  
Broad Street

Oxford  
OX1 3AZ

We will consider your request and get back to you in 10 working days.

If you cannot view our map in the 'contact us' page please call +44 1865 277 293 or email us at [info@hsm.ox.ac.uk](mailto:info@hsm.ox.ac.uk) for directions.

## Reporting accessibility problems with this website

We're always looking to improve the accessibility of this website. If you find any problems not listed on this page or think we're not meeting accessibility requirements, contact:

Public Engagement Team  
History of Science Museum  
Broad Street  
Oxford  
OX1 3AZ

Email: [info@hsm.ox.ac.uk](mailto:info@hsm.ox.ac.uk)

## Enforcement procedure

The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) is responsible for enforcing the Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) (No. 2) Accessibility Regulations 2018 (the 'accessibility regulations'). If you're not happy with how we respond to your complaint, [contact the Equality Advisory and Support Service \(EASS\)](#).

## Other accessibility resources

If you'd like more information about accessibility and resources for students, staff and visitors in Oxford more generally, please visit our [Equality and Diversity pages](#).

If you're looking for information on building accessibility, please try the [Access Guide](#) or the [University's interactive map](#).

## Technical information about this website's accessibility

The University of Oxford is committed to making its website accessible, in accordance with the Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) (No. 2) Accessibility Regulations 2018.

## Compliance status

This website is partially compliant with the [Web Content Accessibility Guidelines version 2.1](#) AA standard, due to the non-compliance and exemptions listed below.

## Non-accessible content

## Non-compliance with the accessibility regulations

The content listed below is non-accessible for the following reasons.

### [Notes:

1. The *Non-accessible content* heading, the sentence *The content listed below is non-accessible for the following reasons* and the subheadings *Non-compliance with the accessibility regulations*, *Disproportionate burden* and *Content that's not within the scope of the accessibility regulations* subheadings are required in the statement and shouldn't be changed.
2. These are some suggestions of the types of items you might need to include.]

## Images, Carousels, Audio & Visual Content

### *Alt text*

Some images do not have a meaningful text alternative, so people using a screen reader cannot access the information. This fails WCAG 2.1 success criterion 1.1.1.

By March 2021 all images will:

- Have meaningful text alternative.
- Purely decorative images will have blank alt text.
- Infographics and charts will have a link to a full description of the content.

All new images that are being added to the site now are compliant.

### *Images*

Some images are not accompanied with a clear description of what the image is, making the content inaccessible to users who cannot see. This fails WCAG 2.1 success criterion 1.1.1.

By December 2021 all image descriptions across the site will be reviewed in CMS. A consistent format for images will be established and all images will be updated in CMS to meet this standard.

### *Images containing text*

Some image include text as part of the image, so people using a screen reader cannot access the information. This fails the WCAG 2.1 success criterion 1.4.5.

By March 2021 all images containing text will have a suitable text alternative to include the image text. New images won't include text that forms part of the message.

### *Carousels*

The website carousel video in top banner cannot be auto stopped. Carousels do not have obvious controls for users to stop the auto-rotate, which can cause people with cognitive disability that affect focus and concentration to be distracted making the site less accessible. This fails the WCAG 2.1 success criterion 2.2.2. The video will be replaced with a static banner heading by December 2021.

### *Audio only content*

Not all audio only files have a transcript, making the content inaccessible to website users who cannot hear. This fails the WCAG 2.1 success criterion 1.2.1.

All audio-only files within scope will have transcripts by December 2020. All new audio content will be accompanied by transcripts.

Some of our audio only content, for example our podcasts, are difficult to navigate using a keyboard due to missing control 'labels'. The content is therefore inaccessible to users who cannot see.

All audio only content will have appropriate aria labels by December 2021.

### *Video only content*

Not all video-only files have a transcript, making the content inaccessible to users who cannot see. This fails the WCAG 2.1 success criterion 1.2.1.

All video-only files in scope will have a transcript by December 2021. All new video-only files will be accompanied by transcripts.

### *Video with audio content*

Embedded YouTube videos do not have a transcript, making them inaccessible to people who cannot hear.

All videos will be reviewed by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021. Video transcripts will be uploaded alongside videos and, where possible, subtitles will be included. All future videos will include a transcript.

Not all videos have captions that are synchronised to the audio content of the video, making them inaccessible to people who cannot hear. This fails the WCAG 2.1 success criterion 1.2.2.

All video and audio content in scope will have captions by December 2021. All new video and audio content will have captions.

Not all videos have audio descriptions of important visual information that doesn't have audio, making this inaccessible to people who can't see. This fails the WCAG 2.1 success criterion 1.2.5.

All videos in scope will have audio descriptions by December 2021. All new videos will have audio descriptions before they are published.

### **Contrast issues**

Some elements have low contrast levels (e.g. the breadcrumb trail, copyright information on some images), which can result in text being difficult to read, especially for people with low vision, poor eyesight or colour blindness. This fails the WCAG 2.1 success criterion 1.4.3.

This issue will be fixed by autumn/winter 2020-21 as part of an accessibility upgrade of the website's Content Management System.

## Links

### *Link text*

Some links do not use text that is meaningful out of context, which can result in users of screen readers not being able to understand the link without reading the surrounding text and users of speech recognition software being less able to target links accurately using voice commands. This fails the WCAG 2.1 success criterion 2.4.4.

All links will be reviewed and fixed by December 2021

### *Inconsistent link behaviour*

Some links to external sites open in a new browser window and some open in the same browser window making the site behaviour unpredictable, which can result in the site being less accessible for people with some cognitive disabilities and people who use screen readers. This fails the WCAG 2.1 success criterion 3.2.2.

All links to external websites will be reviewed and will open in the same window by December 2021

## Structure

### *Headings*

Not all headings are hierarchical, making the site more difficult for users of assistive technology such as screen readers to access. This fails the WCAG 2.1 success criterion 1.3.1.

Headings have on occasion been used to highlight information rather than for headings, making the site more difficult for users of assistive technology to use. This fails the WCAG 2.1 success criteria 1.3.1 and 2.4.6.

These issues will be fixed as part of an accessibility upgrade of the Haiku Content Management System (autumn 2020) and as part of a review of how headings are used in the content (March 2021).

### *Page titles*

Not all page titles are unique and indicate the page's topic or purpose, which can result in people with cognitive disabilities being unable to quickly orientate themselves within the site and identify the purpose of the page without interpreting its entire contents. This fails the WCAG 2.1 success criterion 2.4.2.

All page titles will be reviewed and fixed by December 2021.

### *Tables*

Tables don't have a table header row, making them less accessible to people using assistive technology. This fails the WCAG 2.1 success criterion 1.3.1.

This will be fixed as part of an accessibility upgrade of the website's Content Management System to be completed in Autumn 2020.

### *Page layout*

The layout of some pages don't work as well on small devices and with style sheets turned off, which can cause issue for people using screen readers, keyboards and their own style sheets.

Pages where the layout isn't optimal will be amended by spring 2021.

### *Labels*

Not all forms have labels indicating the purpose of the field that they relate to, which can result in people with reading difficulties having problems understanding the purpose of the content and users of screen readers being unable to easily navigate the form.

All forms will be reviewed to ensure that they have appropriate field labels by December 2020.

### **Keyboard operability**

It isn't possible to carry out all tasks using a keyboard (for example the dropdown navigation on the main horizontal navigation bar isn't accessible), which can make the site less accessible to people with mobility impairments. This fails the WCAG 2.1 success criterion 2.1.1.

This will be fixed as part of an accessibility upgrade of the Haiku Content Management System to be completed in Autumn 2020.

### **Language of content**

Where the language of all or part of a page isn't English this isn't defined in the html, which can result in screen readers being unable to correct read the text. This fails WCAG 2.1 success criteria 3.1.1 & 3.1.2

We are working with our supplier for a solution to this issue.

### **CMS code**

The CMS code is being checked to ensure that it meets the robust accessibility criteria 4.1.1, 4.1.2 & 4.1.3.

This will be done as part of an accessibility upgrade of the Haiku Content Management System to be completed in autumn 2020.

## Documents (Word & PDF)

Many of the documents (Word and PDF) on this site do not meet accessibility standards, which could result in them not being fully accessible to users of screen readers.

Documents that are essential to the service we provide will be either converted to HTML pages or replaced with accessible versions by December 2021. Any new documents published will meet accessibility standards.

## Disproportionate burden

We do not consider any of the accessibility issues to be a disproportionate burden and aim to make the site fully compliant by December 2021.

## Content that's not within the scope of the accessibility regulations

### Third-party content

Our site includes third party content and functionality. This may direct you to a related service, link to another site or supporting documentation. We are not responsible for the accessibility of third-party content or to other sites we link to.

This includes:

- YouTube videos
- Sound Cloud audio files
- Google maps
- Vimeo videos

We will provide an accessible alternative to any third-party content that isn't compliant.

## Documents (Word & PDF)

This site has a small number of Word and PDF documents which were published before September 2018. These aren't essential to the service we provide and won't be replaced. If you experience any difficulties accessing these documents, please email [info@hsm.ox.ac.uk](mailto:info@hsm.ox.ac.uk). Any new documents published will meet accessibility standards.

Items which are out of scope and will not be fixed as part of this review include:

- pre-recorded audio and video published before 23 September 2020
- live audio and video
- heritage collections like scanned manuscripts
- PDFs or other documents published before 23 September 2018 - unless users need them to use a service, for example a form that lets you request school meal preferences
- maps - but you'll need to provide essential information in an accessible format like an address
- third party content that's under someone else's control if you did not pay for it or develop it yourself - for example, social media 'like' buttons

- content on intranets or extranets published before 23 September 2019 (unless you make a major revision after that date)
- archived websites if they're not needed for services your organisation provides and they are not updated

## What we're doing to improve accessibility

We want to provide the best possible experience for all our website visitors. To achieve this, we will:

- Fix known issues.
- Check all new features in the Haiku Content Management System (CMS), which is used to create this website, for accessibility before they are made available.
- Check all new content on the Diversity Projects site for accessibility before it is published.
- Train all content editors on accessibility.
- Carry out periodic accessibility checks.

## Preparation of this accessibility statement

This statement was prepared on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2020. It was last reviewed on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2020.

This website was last tested in July 2020. The test was carried out by the History of Science Museum Public Engagement Team.

The following pages were checked to ensure that we covered the full range of content across the site:

- Home page
- Plan your visit
- Visiting as a group
- Accessibility
- What's On home page
- Current Displays and Exhibitions
- Past Exhibitions and Displays
- Collections home page
- Collections Areas
- Object Collections Database
- Learn home page
- Primary Schools
- Families
- Get Involved home page

The pages were checked manually using a combination of the following methods:

- Checked against WCAG 2.1 guidelines, with a focus on the items in the Gov.uk's [WCAG 2.1 Primer Checklist](#).
- Viewed without style sheets
- Viewed on a small screen
- Checked using the WebAim's Web Accessibility Evaluation Tool