



museum of **maa**  
and archaeology  
anthropology

**University of Cambridge**

**Museum of Archaeology and  
Anthropology**

**Access Policy  
Statement**

**2019  
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## **1. Statement of Purpose:**

The primary purpose of the Museum is to care for, and enhance access to, knowledge and the relevance of, our outstanding University collections of Archaeological and Anthropological objects, photographs and documents.

We aim to:

- Make the collections accessible to audiences locally, regionally, nationally and internationally, including to members of originating communities
- Exhibit the collections, in the Museum itself, via the web, and through collaborations with other museums, within the UK and internationally
- Research, interpret and publish the collections; lead innovative and ambitious research programmes related to the intellectual challenges that they raise and contemporary social and environmental issues
- Present engaging public programmes and increase participation in our diverse cultural offer, in particular by individuals who do not currently engage with museums or have limited opportunities to do so
- Provide and support teaching and research using the collections
- Maintain a respectful and engaging environment for our staff, volunteers and audiences

## **2. Introduction**

This policy guides MAA's approach to providing access to its collections and associated information. It is part of the induction process for all new MAA team members and is integral to everything we do as an institution. This document sits alongside the wider UCM Equality, Diversity and the Creative Case: Policy and Action Plan 2018-22

(<https://museums.cam.ac.uk/file/1179/download?token=AGfADz2k>) and the UCM Access Policy and Action Plan 2019-2022 (<https://museums.cam.ac.uk/staff-pages/access>) both of which we fully ascribe to. We define access as something that is enabled when physical, sensory, intellectual, cultural, emotional and financial barriers are removed, reduced, or overcome.

## **3. Our commitment to accessibility**

**3.1** MAA is committed to providing access for education, research and enjoyment to the widest possible audiences, within constraints imposed by available resources, listed building status, and considerations for the conservation and security of the collection.

**3.2** Our approach to this area is guided by the Public Sector Equality Duty Act 2010 and the Museum Association Code of Ethics 2015 (<https://www.museumassociation.org/ethics/code-of-ethics>).

**3.3** Through a process of regular audit and review, MAA will assess, identify and address existing access issues, as resources permit. We also aim to build accessibility into all areas of our work. This commitment extends to our workforce as well as visitors. We are committed to ongoing training in access issues for staff and volunteers.

**3.4** In order to eliminate barriers to access we will consider the following forms of accessibility:

**3.4.1 Physical:** to enable people with physical disabilities to reach and appreciate every part of the museum. This includes the needs of the elderly and of people caring for young children. Where physical access poses severe problems, alternative arrangements will be made to provide some experience of that part of the collection or service for visitors.

**3.4.2 Sensory:** to enable those with impaired vision or hearing to enjoy and appreciate the museum's building, exhibitions and collections.

**3.4.3 Intellectual:** to enable people with learning disabilities to engage with and enjoy the museum and its collections. We also recognise that people have different preferred modes of learning and will provide interpretation to suit a range of learning styles.

**3.4.4 Cultural:** to enable those for whom English is not a first language, or whose knowledge of English history and culture may be limited.

**3.4.5 Emotional and attitudinal:** to ensure that the museum environment and workforce are welcoming and inclusive.

**3.4.6 Financial:** admission to MAA, and the majority of our events, are free.

**3.4.7 Geographic:** to enable access to collections for people who live too far away to visit the museum or face logistical challenges relating to rural isolation or poor transport infrastructure.

**3.5** Access will be balanced with the need to care for the collections and by the current state of collections information. MAA's policies in these areas are set out in the Collections Care and Conservation Policy, and the Documentation Policy.

**3.6** Access may be restricted in cases where the cultural sensitivity of the material in question means that providing access would contravene the expressed opinions of stakeholder communities.

**3.7** MAA is committed to creating a website that is fully accessible to disabled people including those who may be using it with the help of special equipment. This policy is also available through the Museum's website (<http://maa.cam.ac.uk/maa/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/MAA-Access-Policy-Statement.pdf>)

**3.8** The museum is open to the public six days per week.

**3.9** Our collections will be made accessible via different methods of interpretation including audio description, multi-sensory techniques, languages other than English and through other methods as appropriate for different audiences.