



University of Cambridge

**Museum of Archaeology and
Anthropology**

**Access Policy
Statement**

(2014)

Approval Date: 5 February 2014
Review Date: May 2017

1. Statement of Purpose:

The primary purposes of the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology are to:

Care for and enhance our outstanding collections of art, material culture, photographs and documents

Make the collections accessible to audiences locally, regionally, nationally and internationally, including especially 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

Offer 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 training using the collections

2. Introduction

This policy guides MAA's approach to providing access to its collections and associated information. 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 necessarily imposed by available resources, as well as considerations for the conservation and security of the collection.

3.2 Our approach to this area is guided by the Equality Act 2010.

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.

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

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.

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

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.

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

Emotional and attitudinal: to ensure that the museum environment and workforce are welcoming to all types of visitors.

Financial: admission to MAA is free.

3.3 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.

3.4 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.

3.5 The museum's website is fully accessible to disabled people including those who may be using it with the help of special equipment.

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