

Accessibility statement for the Natural England Access to Evidence Catalogue website

This accessibility statement applies to the Access to Evidence website on the domain publications.naturalengland.org.uk.

This website is run by Natural England.

We want as many people as possible to be able to use this website. For example, that means you should be able to:

- use browser settings or plugins to change colours, contrast levels and fonts
- navigate most of the website, apart from the maps, using just a keyboard
- navigate most of the website using speech recognition software
- listen to most of the website using a screen reader (including the most recent versions of JAWS, NVDA and VoiceOver)
- Zoom in up to 300%

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.

Known accessibility issues

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

- most of the PDF documents are not fully accessible
- the maps are not fully accessible, particularly with a keyboard
- the tabbing focus order is different to the visual order on the page
- some links have unclear link text
- some pages have duplicate titles
- colour contrast is too low on some text
- the focus highlight is sometimes hard to see

Feedback and contact information

If you need information on this website in a different format like large print, easy read, audio recording or braille:

- email publications@naturalengland.org.uk

- call the Natural England Customer Engagement team on 0300 060 3900

We'll consider your request and get back to you within 10 days.

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:

- email publications@naturalengland.org.uk
- call the Natural England Customer Engagement team on 0300 060 3900

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 \(EASS\)](#).

Technical information about this website's accessibility

Natural England 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-compliances and exemptions listed below.

Non-accessible content

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

Non-compliance with the accessibility regulations

PDF documents

Most PDF documents have multiple problems - for example:

- Information, structure, and relationships conveyed through presentation were not programmatically determined or available in text. This fails WCAG 1.3.1 Info and Relationships (Level A), 1.4.3 Contrast (Minimum) (Level AA) and 1.4.5 Images of

Text (Level AA).

- PDFs are not tagged correctly.
- Other WCAG fails in PDF documents include 2.4.2 Page Titled (Level A), 1.3.1 Info and Relationships (Level A), 1.4.3 Contrast (Minimum) (Level AA), 1.1.1 Non-text Content (Level A), 1.4.1 Use of Color (Level A), 2.4.4 Link Purpose (In Context) (Level A) and 1.4.5 Images of Text (Level AA).

Fixing the accessibility issues

PDFs and other documents

We are working to prioritize improving the accessibility of our most popular PDF documents.

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

PDFs and other documents

The accessibility regulations [do not require us to fix PDFs or other documents published before 23 September 2018](#) if they're not essential to providing our services.

We do not plan to fix any PDFs published before 23 September 2018. Any new PDFs we publish will meet accessibility standards.

Third party content

The accessibility regulations do not require us to fix third party content that's under someone else's control if we did not pay for it or develop it.

Maps

The accessibility regulations do not require us to fix accessibility problems with maps provided that we give essential information in another way. This site uses Google Maps and they have a few accessibility problems:

- Sensory characteristics (audit reference DAC_Usability_Sensory_Characteristics_03)
- Inaccessible content (audit reference DAC_Inaccessible_Content_01)
- Contrast minimum (audit reference DAC_Contrast_Minimum_03)

Where the location of the report is essential, it will be made clear in the report itself and we feel that this qualifies as "in another way" so we won't need to fix this issue.

Content found by the audit that we don't think needs to be fixed

There is no skip link but screen reader users can use the site landmarks to move between sections of the page.

Search results move the focus to the top of the page and we believe that this is a standard function in most websites and is not an accessibility issue.

Reflow causes one column of the recent publications table, holding a reference number, to disappear so that more text fits on the page. We judge this to be helpful. The reference number can be easily found on the record page.

The audit identified a status message that is not read out, but the text was not a status message and does not need to be read out to screen reader users.

What we're doing to improve accessibility

We're working through our in-scope reports with accessibility issues to prioritize the most popular ones by January 2025.

We will begin to work through the reports to fix accessibility issues from January 2025.

We won't publish any new reports unless they are accessible.

We're intending to find a more accessible system to replace this site with by 2026.

Preparation of this accessibility statement

This statement was prepared on 26 July 2022.

It was last reviewed on 4 July 2024.

This website was last tested on 4 February 2022.

The test was carried out by the Digital Accessibility Centre (DAC). They tested all the main pages on the site and a small sample of the typical report pages.