

# 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](https://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](mailto: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 in 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](mailto: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

The WCAG numbers means the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines Success Criterion reference number.

The logo link within the header does not possess an 'alt' attribute within the image contained, meaning the component is unlabelled (audit reference DAC\_Logo\_Link\_01). This fails WCAG 1.1.1 Non-text Content (Level A), WCAG 4.1.2 Name, Role, Value (Level A) and 2.4.4 Link Purpose (In Context) (Level A).

The search form button is not labelled (audit reference DAC\_Unlabelled\_Form\_01). This fails WCAG 4.1.2 Name, Role, Value (Level A) and WCAG 1.3.1 Info and Relationships (Level A).

Text which visually acts as headings does not provide the same programmatic structure for screen reader users (audit reference DAC\_Visual\_Headings\_Not\_Marked\_Up\_01). This fails WCAG 1.3.1 Info and Relationships (Level A).

A table has an empty column header (audit reference DAC\_Missing\_Table\_Heading\_01). This fails WCAG 1.3.1 Info and Relationships (Level A).

Focus does not follow a logical order through a page, to enable users who rely on a keyboard alone to understand and predict the tab order (audit reference DAC\_Focus\_Order\_01 and DAC\_Focus\_Order\_02). This fails WCAG 2.4.3 Focus Order (Level A).

Some links are not descriptive enough for users to discern their purpose and destination (audit reference DAC\_Non-descriptive\_Links\_01 and DAC\_Non-descriptive\_Links\_03). This fails WCAG 2.4.4 Link Purpose (In Context) (Level A).

Some lists are not marked up correctly, providing users of screen reading assistive technologies with an unclear structure and relation of content (audit reference DAC\_Incorrect\_List\_Structure\_01 and DAC\_Incorrect\_List\_Structure\_02). This fails WCAG 1.3.1 Info and Relationships (Level A).

Some page titles are duplicates, meaning users of screen reading assistive technologies were unable to discern a new page and its purpose from the page title (audit reference DAC\_Duplicate\_Page\_Title\_01). This fails WCAG 2.4.2 Page Titled (Level A).

A few links are shown as plain unlinked URLs and are not interactive (audit reference DAC\_Non-interactive\_Link\_01). This fails 4.1.2 Name, Role, Value (Level A).

Sensory characteristics are used to give information - for example we say "top right hand corner" (audit reference DAC\_Sensory\_Characteristics\_01). This fails WCAG 1.3.3 Sensory Characteristics (Level A).

Users are presented with a map which provides the location of the related record and this is not available to blind or partially sighted users who cannot see the map. (audit reference DAC\_Sensory\_Characteristics\_03). This fails WCAG 1.3.3 Sensory Characteristics (Level A).

The search field has a yellow border when receiving focus. The border does pass the required 3:1 contrast ratio against the search box white (audit reference DAC\_Non-text\_Contrast\_01). The search box shown above the results has a border that has insufficient contrast. These fail WCAG 1.4.11 Non-text Contrast (Level AA).

Link text and the grey category tags do not achieve the required contrast ratio against background colours (audit reference DAC\_Contrast\_Minimum\_01 and DAC\_Contrast\_Minimum\_02). These fail WCAG 1.4.3 Contrast (Minimum) (Level AA).

No focus indicator is present for thumbnail images of reports and category tags, so keyboard users cannot distinguish their location (audit reference DAC\_Focus\_Visible\_01 and DAC\_Focus\_Visible\_02). This fails WCAG 2.4.7 Focus Visible (Level AA).

## **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).

## **Disproportionate burden**

### **PDFs and other documents**

We've assessed the cost of fixing the issues with all documents published since 23 September 2018 that are not fully accessible. We believe that doing so now would be a [disproportionate burden](#) within the meaning of the accessibility regulations.

We will check this assessment in a year.

### **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. This site uses Google Search Console to display search results and this part of the page has a few accessibility problems:

- Visual headings not marked up (audit reference DAC\_Visual\_Headings\_Not\_Marked\_Up\_03)
- Focus order (audit reference DAC\_Focus\_Order\_03)
- Non-descriptive links (audit reference DAC\_Non-descriptive\_Links\_02)
- Sensory characteristics (audit reference DAC\_Sensory\_Characteristics\_02)
- Non-text contrast (audit reference DAC\_Non-text\_Contrast\_02)

## **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 fixing accessibility problems with our most popular reports by the end of March 2023.

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

We're working on fixing some of the accessibility issues with the site where we can using the editor that we have by the end of December 2022.

We're in the process of hiring a developer to fix the issues listed under the 'Non-compliance with the accessibility regulations' section by March 2023.

We're intending to find a more accessible system to replace this site with by 2025.

## **Preparation of this accessibility statement**

This statement was prepared on 26 July 2022.

It was last reviewed on 03 November 2022.

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.