

Accessibility Policy

The National Archives of Scotland (NAS) wants people with disabilities to have full access to our services. We have put facilities in place to give people with disabilities access to our search rooms (see <http://www.nas.gov.uk/searchRooms/disabled.asp> for more details) and in offering as many of our services as possible online (<http://www.nas.gov.uk>), we attempt to make our records accessible to the widest possible audience.

We work towards adhering to relevant World Wide Web and UK Government standards and guidelines. Where possible, this website endeavours to conform to level Triple-A of the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0 (<http://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG20/>). These guidelines explain how to make web content more accessible for people with disabilities.

The NAS constantly reviews its provision of online services and carries out a periodic review of feedback and website performance, to inform future planning and improve design. Attaining a very high level of accessibility for the NAS website has been a key consideration in this review since it began in 2003.

The current version of the NAS website was commissioned in 2004 and designed in 2005, with accessibility being a key factor in the design from the outset. The re-design of the Online Catalogue in 2007-8 incorporated improved accessibility.

Our site is designed to allow all content to be accessible to all users, regardless of technology or ability.

For guidance in using the site (including navigation, altering text size and printing pages) see our website help page: <http://www.nas.gov.uk/help/default.asp>.

We ensure that

- links are named consistently and adequately for screen readers to read correctly
- images and icons are kept to a minimum and contain alternative text tags to maximise accessibility to visually impaired users

We endeavour to

- update all external links, as required
- identify and rectify any internal broken links

We are committed to reviewing our measures to maintain and improve accessibility through regular user testing and we include visually impaired users in this.

Currently the aspect of the website which gives us the most concern, in terms of accessibility, is the large amount of downloadable documents which are not consistently branded. Work is underway to rectify this.