

Bournemouth Natural Science Society (BNSS) - Access Policy Statement

1. This policy will be used to ensure that access is available to all potential users to the museum, its facilities and its collections as recorded in our statement of purpose. The policy has been established by an access audit in 2016, discussions and surveys (latest October 2024) with visitors. As part of the Forward Plan, we will carry out a new Access Audit and the policy will continue to be amended as appropriate. This policy will form part of the volunteer induction pack and will be available on our website (www.bnss.org.uk).

2. The Society is responsible for meeting its obligations under the Equality Act 2010 and to take into account the Disability Discrimination Act 2005 and is committed to ensuring the widest access of the public to our museum. We aim to address all barriers to access:

Physical - We aim to provide access to as much of the museum as possible within the limitations of the Victorian grade II listed building. Where physical access is impossible, we will endeavour to make access available in different ways eg. use of photos.

Sensory - We provide a range of exhibits with the possibility of handling or touching some of the exhibits.

Intellectual - We cater for a variety of learning styles providing information in different formats and detail and especially by engagement with our knowledgeable volunteer stewards.

Cultural - We aim to ensure that exhibits are relevant to our multicultural society.

Emotional/Attitudinal – We aim to ensure all visitors are welcome and feel comfortable in the museum.

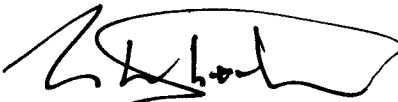
Geographic – We are working to provide more access to the information about our collections via our website and a link to our online lectures can be requested.

Financial – Entry is free to the museum and donations are completely at the discretion of visitors.

3. We shall endeavour to ensure that all the different requirements of the users are met as far as possible. This includes but is not necessarily restricted to:

- Education at all levels from young children to the older visitor.
- Leisure by providing a welcoming environment and the ability to join in activities at all levels of physical effort.
- Research for all levels from children studying for school or interest topics to university and other researchers.
- Lectures on a variety of natural science topics and general interest.
- Field trips to various locations to study nature.

- Group visits to the museum by educational groups and other groups with interests in the collections and the Victorian building.
 - Visitors from any geographical area will be welcomed and items of interest to them may be displayed.
 - Although the majority of the collections are of a scientific nature there is a small collection of ethnographic items which can also be viewed.
4. Currently our signage and information boards are in English as the Bournemouth area is not ethnically diverse but this policy will continue to be reviewed. It is intended to have information in large print as required in our room descriptions but our volunteers are available to speak about the exhibits. QR codes with further information are in place for a number of the more important objects.
5. Generally the majority of the collections will be accessible although those in locked cabinets will have to be viewed with a museum volunteer and a few can only be made available by special request. Currently the documentation to the collections is still being updated and some information may be limited (see Documentation Plan).

Approved by the Board of Trustees	
Chairs signature:	
Name:	Grenham Ireland
Date:	10 th March 2025
Date of next review:	Dec. 2027