



Museum Development Midlands

Open to All: Accessibility Audit Programme Information

Museum Development Midlands (MDM) is delighted to be offering opportunities for museums to receive accessibility audits and training to improve access for visitors. MDM have commissioned **Direct Access** to deliver this programme.

About Us

From April 2024 Museum Development in England is being delivered by five area providers. Museum Development extends across the UK and forms the national Museum Development Network. Each provider tailors opportunities for participation in schemes, training, grants programmes and networks based on an informed understanding of the context and needs of museums in their area.

The Museum Development Midlands (MDM) programme invests in the development of individuals and organisations via a range of advice, information, initiatives, and small grants and directly supports the delivery of the UK Accreditation Scheme for museums and galleries in England. There are currently 241 Accredited museums across the Midlands region, plus 24 who are formally Working Towards Accreditation. The sector includes English Heritage, Independent, Local Authority, National Trust and University; with a diverse range of collections covering archaeology, archives, buildings, ceramics, costume, decorative and fine art, geology, industrial heritage and social history.

About the programme:

The Open to All: Accessibility Audit programme aims to support museums to develop effective Access Plans. As a result of participating in the programme museums will better understand potential barriers and make informed plans to improve physical, sensory and intellectual access to their buildings and spaces.

This programme consists of two elements:

1) Accessibility Audits

Pre-arranged Accessibility Audit visit to your site conducted by Direct Access between mid-August and October 2025

Accessibility Audit Report –

Each report will include photographs, observations and clear actionable recommendations prioritised by urgency and feasibility.

Assessments will be aligned with best practice and relevant statutory and sector-specific guidance, including but not limited to:

Part M of the Building Regulations – Access to and use of buildings

BS 8300-1:2018 – Design of an accessible and inclusive built environment: External environment

BS 8300-2:2018 – Design of an accessible and inclusive built environment: Buildings. Code of Practice

BS 7913:2013 – Guide to the Conservation of Historic Buildings

Easy Access to Historic Buildings – Historic England (2015)

Exhibitions for All – National Museums of Scotland (2002)

2) Training

Direct Access will deliver a short online training session on **Wednesday 3 December 2025**. The session will be delivered by consultants with professional and lived experience.

The objective of the training event is to empower museum delegates with the knowledge and skills required to effectively utilise and respond to the findings of their accessibility audits. The session will include practical tools, inclusive communication strategies and museum-specific examples.

Following the training event, Direct Access will offer:

- Downloadable resource pack
- Follow-up Q&A opportunities to address any emerging questions
- Availability for one-on-one consultations to assist with specific challenges

Participation in the Open to All programme directly supports Arts Council England's (ACE) Accreditation Standard 2018, ***Users and their experiences, 7. Be accessible to the public.***

The programme supports ACE's Let's Create Inclusivity and Relevance Investment Principle.

Who is eligible:

To be eligible for this programme you must be an Accredited museum or Working Towards Accreditation in the Midlands.

NPO and National Museums are not eligible.

Multi-site organisations must specify one venue only to receive an accessibility audit.

Museums that have previously received an accessibility audit through Museum Development will be considered.

How to apply:

If you would like to know more please contact Michelle Davies at michelle.davies@ironbridge.org.uk

To submit your application please complete the Expression of Interest form and return no later than 10am, Wednesday 30 July 2025 to MDM Enquiries enquiries@mdmidlands.org.uk We will confirm receipt of your application within two working days. If you do not hear from us, please contact us again.