



PICKERING
Beck Isle Museum

Access Policy

2024 -2028

Signed: *Julie King*

Date: *29 November 2023*

Chair of Trustees:

Review date: November 2028

Reviewed:

Bridge Street, Pickering, YO18 8DU

29/11
Date: November 2023

BECK ISLE MUSEUM

ACCESS POLICY



1. Introduction

Beck Isle Museum is committed to creating an environment where everyone is welcome, regardless of ability, age, gender, cultural or social background, sexual orientation, faith, language, location or wealth.

We are committed to removing or reducing barriers that prevent people from engaging with our site, collections, events, website, social media and volunteering opportunities, so that we can share our collections and histories of Pickering and the local area as widely as possible. The Museum strives, within the limitations of the site and other resources, to offer the widest, most engaging access to all users.

2. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to set out Beck Isle's commitment to increasing access to our museum and resources and to identify the ways which this can be achieved.

3. Scope

This Access Policy relates to all collections held by Beck Isle Museum as well as all our services, activities, facilities, outreach work, website and social media.

4. Responsibilities

The Trustees and Managers are responsible for ensuring that the museum meets its obligations under the Public Sector Equality Duty and the Equality Act (2010) and the Museums Association's Code of Ethics by doing everything reasonably possible to make the Museum accessible to the widest range of people.

The collections manager will lead on ensuring that any competing demands between access and care of collections are fully addressed via a collections care risk assessment.

Managers are responsible for ensuring that the work of volunteers and freelancers considers the need to maximise access by addressing the barriers outlined in this policy.

5. Identifying Potential Barriers to Access

We define access as something that is made possible when physical/sensory, attitudinal, intellectual, cultural, economic, geographic and technological barriers are removed or reduced.

Below are the key barriers to access which we have identified and which we will work to remove or reduce with respect to access to our collections and services.

Physical/sensory – People with physical disabilities, limited mobility, or hearing or visual impairments may not be able to access the museum, website, social media channels or services.

Attitudinal - People may feel museums are not relevant to them and our service does not reflect their lived experiences.

Intellectual - People may find our stories and the way that we tell them, difficult to understand.

Cultural - Some people may feel that our collections and activities do not reflect their communities, social and cultural heritage, or interests.

Economic - Some people may not be able to afford to visit the museum

Geographic - Some people may be unable to afford or access transport to the museum

Technological - Some people may not have access to the internet and our digital content.

How Beck Isle Museum will deliver the policy

We will

- Consult with our audiences and non-users to ensure the broadest possible access to our facilities, services and collections.
- Make all aspects of our exhibitions, events and activities as fully accessible as our resources allow
- Be proactive in applying for funding to increase access for all users
- Communicate access facilities via our website
- Train and support staff and volunteers to make the museum welcoming to all.

Physical/Sensory Access

The museum will

- Aim to provide physical access to the collection, museum buildings and grounds wherever possible within the constraints of our resources
- Strive to provide alternative forms of engagement where access is limited
- Provide accessible seating throughout the museum
- Maintain ramps, signage and stair lifts to assist with access
- Ensure that all new films have subtitles and all new interpretation follows access guidelines
- Provide an accessible toilet
- Alert visitors via the website to quieter times to visit the museum
- Train staff and volunteers to welcome and assist visitors who require access support
- Offer opportunities to handle objects
- Create outreach opportunities
- Develop behind the scenes tours to create better access to collections

Attitudinal

The museum will

- Engage with a range of communities and groups to understand potential barriers, including those where there are low levels of engagement
- Ensure activities and platforms do not use negative stereotypes or reinforce misconceptions

- Survey nonusers to gain a better understanding of how to reach those groups
- We will ensure that people feel welcome and comfortable in the museum environment through visitor care training, good communication and inclusivity.

Intellectual

The museum will

- Provide signage and information that is accessible to a broad range of visitors
- Use best practice guidelines to ensure the text we use in our exhibitions, learning resources, website and social media channels meets the needs of our intended audiences
- Work towards using a variety of interpretative methods to exhibit the collections
- Provide a varied programme of activities and events

Cultural

The museum will

- Strive to improve the relevance of our museums, collections and the stories we tell, to communities who are not currently well represented

Economic

The museum will

- Review the admission charge on an annual basis to keep it at the minimal amount required to run the museum
- Give free entry for a year with any ticket purchased
- Offer free admission to under 5s and carers accompanying disabled visitors
- Seek funding opportunities that will assist the museum to offer free entry for under represented audiences

Geographic

The museum will

- Offer loan boxes to community groups and schools who can not travel to the museum
- Develop and offer museum talks in the community
- Seek funding to extend outreach work in community settings

Technological

The museum will

- Promote the Museum to a broad range of users through a variety of media, printed and on-line, for local and target audiences, within the restrictions of budget and staff resources.
- Work to follow current best practice guidelines for accessibility on our website.

Date for review November 2028

