Accessibility Statement

The Griffith Institute website

www.griffith.ox.ac.uk • Last reviewed: 20 October 2026

Compliance Status

FAILS WCAG 2.1 Level AA

This website is **not compliant** with the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) version 2.1 at Level AA. The non-compliances and known issues are listed below.

This statement was prepared following an accessibility audit consisting of a read-only analysis of the site's source files (page templates, stylesheets and scripts) on the web server; an analysis of the HTML of 21 representative pages; an inventory of the documents linked from all 29,639 HTML pages; an automated axe-core 4.14.0 scan (headless Chrome 155) of a sample of 206 pages covering every page template, including keyboard focus and 320-pixel reflow checks; automated checks (pdfinfo) of the 255 linked PDF documents; and a manual keyboard test of the journals and diaries timeline. It was completed on 20 October 2026 by Richard Carpenter, Technical Lead, Humanities IT

About this Website

The Griffith Institute website is maintained by The Griffith Institute, University of Oxford. It provides information about the Griffith Institute, the centre for Egyptology and Ancient Near Eastern Studies at the University of Oxford, and public access to material from its Archive, including the records of the excavation of the tomb of Tutankhamun, watercolours, photographs, journals and diaries.

Technical Information

The Griffith Institute website is a static HTML and XHTML website, without a content management system, served by Apache on Windows. Pages use jQuery-based scripts (a fancyBox image lightbox, jQuery UI and an image slideshow), Zoomify image viewers and a SIMILE timeline. More than 20,000 collection record pages were generated from catalogue data. The Carter archive and Burton photograph searches are provided by server-side Perl and PHP scripts.

Non-Accessible Content

The following content is not accessible. We intend to address all Level A failures as a priority.

Level A Failures (barriers to independent access)

Ref	Issue	WCAG Criterion	Level
C1	Many images on archive, collection and staff pages have no text alternative, including images that are the only content of a link (for example the Recent accessions page, with 69 such images, and the Carter birds album). Some images have alt text that describes a different image. Screen	1.1.1 Non-text Content; 2.4.4 Link Purpose (In Context); 4.1.2 Name, Role, Value	A

	reader users cannot tell what these images show or where the links go.		
C2	The previous and next buttons in the Bracci and Edwards image galleries are images with no text alternative, the Edwards gallery contains 28 links with no name, and the images in the home page slideshow have no text alternative.	1.1.1 Non-text Content; 4.1.2 Name, Role, Value	A
C3	The home page slideshow moves automatically and never stops. It pauses only while a mouse pointer is over it; there is no pause button for keyboard or touch users.	2.2.2 Pause, Stop, Hide	A
C4	Links within text are shown only by a difference in colour, with no underline, and the link colour is too close to the text colour (2.2:1) for many people to tell them apart.	1.4.1 Use of Color	A
C5	Many pages, including the Carter, Mirage and Simpson collection record pages, do not declare their language, so screen readers may read them with the wrong pronunciation.	3.1.1 Language of Page	A
C6	The generated collection record pages (Carter, Mirage and Simpson; more than 20,000 pages) have no headings, present record data in tables without header cells, have no way to skip repeated content, and have page titles that are repeated or do not describe the record.	1.3.1 Info and Relationships; 2.4.1 Bypass Blocks; 2.4.2 Page Titled	A
C7	On the Carter archive pages the page header is embedded as a separate object with no accessible name, and its links open in other windows.	1.1.1 Non-text Content	A
C8	The zoomable watercolour viewers (Deir el-Bersha) have no page title and no text description, the frames that contain them have no title, and they cannot be used with a keyboard at all.	1.1.1 Non-text Content; 2.1.1 Keyboard; 2.4.2 Page Titled; 4.1.2 Name, Role, Value	A
C9	The pop-up image viewer used on about 75 pages shows enlarged images without a text alternative, its close, next and previous buttons have no accessible name, and keyboard focus is not moved into the viewer or returned when it closes.	1.1.1 Non-text Content; 2.4.3 Focus Order; 4.1.2 Name, Role, Value	A
C10	The clickable plan of the tomb of Tutankhamun (KV62) on the Topographical Bibliography page of Discovering Tutankhamun has no text alternative for the plan or for any of its five clickable areas, and the document viewer it opens has no title.	1.1.1 Non-text Content; 2.4.4 Link Purpose (In Context); 4.1.2 Name, Role, Value	A

C11	The Discovering Tutankhamun page contains two links with no text.	2.4.4 Link Purpose (In Context); 4.1.2 Name, Role, Value	A
C12	The embedded videos on the Media page have no title, so screen reader users cannot tell what each video is before playing it.	4.1.2 Name, Role, Value	A
C13	The expandable news section on the home page uses incorrect markup, so screen readers do not report its structure correctly.	1.3.1 Info and Relationships; 4.1.2 Name, Role, Value	A
C14	Lists on the About us pages, the Publications page and the Discovering Tutankhamun page contain items that are not marked up as list items, so screen readers report the lists incorrectly.	1.3.1 Info and Relationships	A
C15	Most PDF documents are not accessible: 246 of the 254 PDF documents checked have no structure for assistive technology (headings, reading order, text alternatives), and 7 are scanned images with no readable text.	1.1.1 Non-text Content; 1.3.1 Info and Relationships	A
C16	Older pages in the gri section have incorrect heading structure and images without text alternatives.	1.3.1 Info and Relationships; 1.1.1 Non-text Content	A
C17	The interactive timeline on the Journals and diaries page cannot be operated with a keyboard: timeline entries cannot be opened, and the timeline contains invisible, unlabelled fields that keyboard users can move into. All timeline entries are also available from the list of journals and diaries further down the same page.	2.1.1 Keyboard; 4.1.2 Name, Role, Value; 2.4.7 Focus Visible	A
C18	The instructions for the Journals and diaries timeline refer to 'the small purple button', relying on colour and shape only.	1.3.3 Sensory Characteristics	A
C19	The label of the third band of the Journals and diaries timeline reads 's Journals' instead of naming Arthur Mace, its link goes nowhere, and the band shows no entries.	2.4.4 Link Purpose (In Context); 1.3.1 Info and Relationships	A
C20	The text fields in the Carter archive search and the Burton photograph search have no labels that assistive technology can read. The Burton search has three such fields that screen reader users cannot tell apart.	1.3.1 Info and Relationships; 3.3.2 Labels or Instructions; 4.1.2 Name, Role, Value	A

Level AA Failures

Ref	Issue	WCAG Criterion	Level

S1	Text colour contrast is too low in several places used on most pages: the main menu (3.9:1), orange page headings (2.4:1), blue sub-headings (3.3:1), yellow headings and captions on white (1.5:1), and text in the Burton Photographs and donation boxes (2.1:1 and 2.4:1).	1.4.3 Contrast (Minimum)	AA
S2	Pages have a fixed width of 902 pixels and do not adapt to small screens or high zoom levels; on 184 of the 204 pages scanned, content has to be scrolled sideways at a width of 320 pixels.	1.4.10 Reflow	AA
S3	The 'Skip to content' link never becomes visible when it receives keyboard focus, and the drop-down menu links receive focus while hidden off-screen, so keyboard users cannot see where they are.	2.4.7 Focus Visible	AA
S4	Words and passages in other languages, such as French titles and captions in the collection pages, are not identified, so screen readers may mispronounce them.	3.1.2 Language of Parts	AA

Disproportionate Burden

We have not made any claim of disproportionate burden for any of the issues listed in this statement.

Content Not Within Scope of This Statement

The following were not fully tested and remain outstanding: testing with screen readers; a full manual keyboard test of every page; search results pages (the search forms were reviewed but not submitted); captions and transcripts for the videos on the Media page; zooming text to 200% and text spacing; the four Word, PowerPoint and RTF documents; and a detailed check of the eight PDF documents that are tagged. Of the 255 linked PDF documents, 248 have file dates before 23 September 2018; we are reviewing which of these are exempt under the regulations and which are still needed. About 29,400 of the site's 29,639 pages were not scanned individually; the findings were extended to them by page template. The Topographical Bibliography (topbib.griffith.ox.ac.uk), the Online Egyptological Bibliography (oeb.griffith.ox.ac.uk) and the Archive catalogue (archive.griffith.ox.ac.uk) are separate websites and are not covered by this statement. Content embedded from Facebook, YouTube and the BBC is provided by those third parties.

This site may link to third-party content and external websites. These are not within our control and are not covered by this statement.

What We Are Doing to Improve Accessibility

Following the audit conducted on 20 October 2026, remediation work is planned in three phases:

- Sprint 1 (immediate priority — barriers to independent access): Add text alternatives to the images and image links on the archive, collection and staff pages, and to the

gallery controls, home page slideshow and tomb plan; add page language, headings, table headers, unique page titles and a skip link to the generated collection record pages, and replace the embedded Carter header; add titles and text descriptions to the zoomable watercolour viewers; label the search fields; decide which older PDF documents are still needed, and provide accessible versions of those in use, including text versions of the scanned documents.

- Sprint 2 (short-term — WCAG AA compliance): Correct the text and link colours and underline links in text; make the skip link and drop-down menus visible when they receive keyboard focus; make the page layout adapt to small screens and zoom; add a pause control to the home page slideshow; make the pop-up image viewer and the home page news section accessible; correct list markup and add titles to embedded videos; correct the Journals and diaries timeline instructions, label and data, and take its hidden fields out of the keyboard order; identify passages in other languages; move the older gri pages onto the main page template.
- Sprint 3 (medium-term — best practice): Add page landmarks and correct heading order; warn when links open in a new window and use descriptive link text; correct malformed page markup and redundant scripts; support reduced-motion settings; remove outdated pages and files; carry out testing with screen readers and a full keyboard test, and check video captions, zoom and text spacing.

Feedback and Contact Information

If you experience any accessibility barriers on this site, or if you need content provided in a different format, please contact The Griffith Institute, University of Oxford: griffith.institute@ames.ox.ac.uk.

We aim to acknowledge accessibility feedback within 5 working days.

If you are not satisfied with our response, you can contact the Equality Advisory and Support Service (EASS).

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 in England, Scotland and Wales. If you are not happy with how we respond to your complaint, contact the Equality Advisory and Support Service (EASS).

This statement was prepared by Richard Carpenter (Technical Lead, Humanities IT). Audit conducted 20 October 2026. The University of Oxford is committed to making its websites accessible in accordance with the Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) (No. 2) Accessibility Regulations 2018.