

Executive Summary

This document explains Cadw's strategy for fulfilling its duties under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 in the presentation of historic properties — ancient monuments, archaeological sites and historic buildings — in the care of the National Assembly for Wales. However, it also takes into account the duties placed on public bodies to promote equality of opportunity in carrying out their functions, which are to be introduced by the Disability Discrimination Act 2005. This strategy is, in part, a Disability Equality Scheme, as described by the Disability Discrimination Act 2005.

Almost all the ancient structures Cadw presents to the public are ruins. They are not buildings from which people access other services, such as a bank in a historic building. The service being provided is public access to the monument and its presentation and interpretation.

The strategy is in two parts: Part One describes Cadw and the service it provides. It introduces the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 and other legislation under which Cadw operates. It continues by describing some of the physical features or management practices which frequently prevent people with impairments from enjoying equal access to historic sites, and notes a few types of impairments. Part Two explains Cadw's response to enabling access to its sites: prioritization criteria, timetables, access assessments and audits. These latter sections will be expanded as new audits are undertaken.

The strategy is intended to be a dynamic document and the assumptions and decisions upon which it is based will be continuously reconsidered in the light of developing knowledge and expertise in the field. Innovations in design and new technologies will be constantly assessed for their suitability in contributing to access solutions.

A full review of the strategy will be undertaken every two years, though improvements and additions will be made as and when they become available. The strategy has been written after consultation with equality and disability groups, including Disability Wales, and their comments incorporated. As it is a 'live' document, further amendments are possible and contributions for consideration are welcomed.

The action that will result as a consequence of this strategy has been assessed for its impact on the Welsh language, as required by National Assembly guidance, and is regarded as having a positive effect in that some additional disabled visitors that will visit the monuments as a result of the access improvements made are likely to be Welsh speaking.