



The Boleskine House Foundation SCIO Boleskine House
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ACCESS STATEMENT

Boleskine House
B852, Foyers, Inverness, IV2 6XT

1. Introduction

Boleskine House is a restored historic property situated on the south side of Loch Ness. The building is a Category B listed structure and sits within extensive grounds forming part of a wider biodiversity and heritage project.

Due to the historic nature of the building and landscape, some areas present physical access limitations. This statement aims to provide clear, accurate information so visitors can plan their visit safely and comfortably.

2. Pre-Arrival Information

- The site is located approximately 20 minutes from Inverness by car.
- Public transport options are limited; visitors are encouraged to plan travel in advance. The Highland Council does offer a bus service and details are available on their website.
- Detailed visitor information, including accessibility guidance, is available via the Boleskine House website or by contacting the team directly.
- Advance booking is required for most visits.

3. Arrival and Parking

- On-site parking is available, including designated accessible parking spaces close to the main entrance.
- Further parking is available in a car park to the South of the Estate and as signposted off the main road.

4. External Areas and Grounds

- The grounds are part of a natural heritage landscape, including lawns, pathways, and sloped areas.
- Surfaces may include:
 - Gravel paths
 - Grass
 - Uneven historic stonework
- Visitors should note:
 - Some areas have steep gradients and banks
 - Ground conditions may be uneven or slippery, particularly in wet weather
 - Lighting is limited in some external areas after dark
- Visitors are advised to wear appropriate footwear and exercise caution.

5. Building Access

- The main entrance is accessible via a level or gently sloping approach, depending on route.
- Assistance can be provided on arrival where required.

- Due to the building's listed status some doorways are narrower than modern standards.

6. Internal Circulation

- The building retains original historic features, including narrow doorways.
- Seating is available in selected areas for rest.
- Backpacks and large bags are not permitted inside the building.
- Food and drink are not permitted inside the building.
- For wheelchair access you can pull straight up to the front door and we have step free access into the front entrance. Please contact a member of staff who can assist you to be able to do this and to unload any wheelchair from a vehicle.

7. Courtyard and Garden Access

- The internal courtyard is accessed via a historic stone staircase, which is:
 - Uneven
 - Narrow in places
 - Not suitable for those with limited mobility
- Visitors are advised to use the alternative staircase near the entrance to access the rear garden.

8. Accessible Facilities

- Accessible toilet facilities are available on site.
- Staff and volunteers are available to assist visitors where required.
- We aim to accommodate individual needs wherever possible—please contact us in advance to discuss requirements.

9. Assistance and Support

- Assistance dogs are welcome throughout the site.
- Dogs are allowed around the site in general, but not inside the building unless they are an assistance dog.
- Staff and trained volunteers are available to:
 - Provide guidance
 - Adjust visitor routes if required

10. Interpretation and Visitor Experience

- Visitors can access an award-winning multimedia guide system, which includes:
 - Audio content
 - Visual media
 - Optional deeper interpretation layers
- Alternative formats can be made available upon request.

11. Health and Safety Considerations

Due to the historic and natural environment:

- Grounds and surfaces may be uneven
- Steps and staircases may be irregular
- External areas may be slippery or unstable

Visitors enter the site on the understanding that care must be taken at all times, particularly in areas identified as uneven or hazardous.

12. Future Improvements

Boleskine House is committed to continuous improvement in accessibility, balanced with the conservation of the historic fabric of the building.

We actively review:

- Access routes
- Visitor feedback
- Opportunities for improved inclusivity

We are also in the process of applying for funding to upgrade our pathway network to expand accessible routes through the gardens and grounds.

13. House Overview

Tour of the House – Access Information

Once parked, there is a 70 metre walk to the main entrance. The route is hard-packed underfoot until you reach the courtyard, which has a gravel surface. Disabled parking is available adjacent to the main courtyard.

The main entrance door has a clear width of 1040mm. Door knobs project 35mm at a height of 90mm.

On entering the house, turning right along the Gallery leads through a doorway of 1270mm into the bar area. The Cinema is accessed from the bar area through a doorway of 750mm.

Retracing your steps, the Kitchen can be entered through a doorway with a width of 700mm. Off to the left of the Kitchen is the Dining Room, which can be entered through a doorway of 970mm. The Dining Room can also be accessed directly from the Gallery through an opening of 800mm. You can also access the Kitchen through the Dining Room which would be the proposed route for wheelchair users.

From the Dining Room, there are two doorways into the Great Hall, measuring 850mm and 770mm respectively. The Great Hall can also be accessed in a number of other ways. The doorway adjacent to the main entrance, off the hallway, measures 1410mm. The doors leading from the Great Hall into the Oratory measure 730mm and 760mm.

Within the Oratory, there is an external door measuring 1180mm, leading onto a paved area. From there, a gentle grassy slope leads down to the front lawn. There are steps outside of this door due to the slope.

From the Oratory, the tour continues through the Library and into the Study, and Snug. The relevant openings on this route measure 810mm, 820mm, 760mm, and 730mm respectively.

The tour then returns to the Gallery through an opening of 1400mm.

Please note that all internal doorways have door knobs positioned at a height of 90mm, projecting 20mm on each side.

The w/c has a sloped ramp accessed off a hard-packed graveled surface the door opens outwards and measures 960mm.

14. Contact Information

For further information or to discuss specific access requirements:

Email: info@boleskinehouse.org

Website: www.boleskinehouse.org

The Boleskine House Foundation SCIO is a charitable incorporated organisation in Scotland and registered with the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator.

Charity Registration Number: SC049568 VAT Registration

Number: 408 7713 84