



Moirlanich Longhouse

Teacher's information



Moirlanich Longhouse is a rare and outstanding survivor of the Scottish longhouse, in which a family and their livestock lived under one roof. It dates from the early to mid-19th century and was built from locally available materials – oak and beech, stone, clay, sand, turf and bracken. Many original features survive virtually unaltered as they were built in to the structure, such as box beds, a scotch dresser and the ‘hingin’ lum’ and offer a glimpse of rural highland life in the past.

The building was bought by the National Trust for Scotland in 1992, when it was only a few years from collapse. The conservation project aimed to halt the decay whilst maintaining the character and integrity of the property, using authentic tools and materials. The building is therefore little altered. It is furnished according to archaeological evidence and the memories of local people, who knew the Robertson family who lived and farmed there until 1968, without any electricity or plumbing ever being installed.

Adjacent to the Longhouse there is a Display Hut which houses a small display of artefacts discovered by archaeologists including a rare collection of working clothes found in the house and information about the history and restoration of the building.

The school programme offers many opportunities for cross-curricular work and engaging with the Curriculum for Excellence:

- The programme complements People, Past Events and Societies. It can also be used as a basis for classroom work across the whole curriculum. The school programme is suitable for First and Second Level pupils.
- The Longhouse illustrates part of Scotland's rural highland heritage and history and the exhibition explains how different sources of evidence were used to reconstruct the interior and understand the daily lives of the inhabitants. Pupils will gather evidence, view an exhibition of the finds from the archaeological investigations and visit the reconstructed house.

Resources for schools:

- A teaching pack, with information about the interior of the house and the life of its residents, and activities for pupils is available from http://www.nts.org.uk/Learn/schools_resource.php and the Moirlanich office.
- A model of the house, displaying the cruck frames is available for loan. Please contact the Moirlanich office.

Planning your class visit:

- Visits are available from Easter to September. To book: please contact the Moirlanich office to discuss your visit. We can tailor activities to suit your requirements. The house is open to the public on Wednesdays and Sundays from 2.00 – 5.00 p.m.: please avoid these times.



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Planning your class visit (continued):

- Book well in advance to avoid disappointment.
- Maximum class size: 30, with a ratio of 1 teacher/adult to 10 pupils. Classes will be split into three groups.
- Access: There is a short walk along a minor road between the car park and the Longhouse and Display Hut. Both buildings are small and the house has limited light and uneven flooring, so care needs to be taken.
- Moirlanich Longhouse educational visits are designed to fit each school's needs but usually last around 2 to 2.5 hours.
- Toilets: There is only a single disabled toilet on the site so we recommend stopping on route.
- Refreshments: none available at this site but pupils are welcome to bring their own and eat outside or it may be possible to use the meetings room at our office in Killin.
- The site has been risk assessed. Teachers are expected to prepare their own RA for the visit.
- There is more information about planning visits on the NTS learning website:
http://www.nts.org.uk/Learn/schools_plan.php

Charges:

- There is no charge for schools with NTS educational membership. To apply contact the Moirlanich office or go the NTS Learn website: http://www.nts.org.uk/Learn/schools_membership.php
- Non-members are welcome but there is a charge of £2 per pupil – accompanying adults are admitted free.
- Class teachers are encouraged to make a free preparatory visit to the site. Please contact us to arrange this.

During your class visit:

- NTS staff will lead the school programme
- Teachers are responsible for their pupils, and for their behaviour.
- Pupils do not need to bring any materials for the school programme.
- Coats and bags can be left in the Display Hut, during the visit.
- On arrival: please come to the car park at the property

Getting to Moirlanich Longhouse:

Moirlanich Longhouse is 1 mile north-west of Killin and 12 miles west of Kenmore up the Glen Lochay Road. There is a large brown sign indicating the turn from the A827 near the Bridge of Lochay Hotel.

For more information and a booking form contact:

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Moirlanich Longhouse,
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E-mail: moirlanich@nts.org.uk