

CABIN INFORMATION

- **Custodian:** Ali Borthwick, 2 Aytoun Grove, Dunfermline KY12 9YA, 01383 732 232 (enquiries before 9pm please).
- **Location:** Balgowan, Inverness-shire, 7 miles SW of Newtonmore and 1 mile E of Laggan, on a single track road just north of the A86 Newtonmore to Spean Bridge road.
- **Maps:** Landranger 35, Kingussie and Monadhliaths. See below for a small section.
- **Grid Ref:** NN 638 944. For GPS: Hut: NN 63898 94391. Car park: NN 63812 94355.
- **Postcode:** PH20 1BS (for satnav).
- **Access:** From Newtonmore follow the A86 for 7 miles to a turning on the right signposted Balgowan, just to the west of Cluny Castle. Take the single track road to the car park (photo below) on the right, about 300 yards from the A86, soon after the Tigh an Each B&B. There is space for 6 (carefully parked) cars. The access path is on the left of the car park. Follow the track up the hillside and round to the right behind the trees, to reach the hut in about 200 yards. The main door is the further away of the 2 doors (not the stable type door — the key for this is inside the hut). Coming from the south, it is possible to reach Balgowan by turning off the A9 at Dalwhinnie, then turning right just after the Monadhliath hotel, then through Laggan to Balgowan.
- **Price:** £6 per person, per night. **Also, an electricity meter taking £1 coins – bring some!**
- **Mobile phone reception:** Orange has good reception; O2 has no reception. We have not checked other networks, but do not rely on reception.
- **NB:** This is a residential area — **please keep late night noise to a minimum.** No camping.
- **Shops:** There is a surprisingly well-stocked (including firewood) shop in Laggan, about 1.5 miles west of the hut. The shop is open every day (including Sunday) approx 9am-6pm or later (full details on their web page). Of course, there are also many shops in Newtonmore.
- **Petrol stations:** There is a petrol station in Newtonmore, open 7am-10pm every day except Christmas and New Year's Day. There is also one at Fort William, but there is none going NW until a few hundred yards past Invergarry, on the Fort Augustus road.
- **Bars:** The Laggan hotel is about 3/4 mile to the west (the hotel is on the A86 but, if walking, the walk is mostly along the single track road through Balgowan - see the map below), and serves bar meals to non-residents (the hotel is not open every night in the low-season, so it is worth checking before relying on it). The Monadhliath hotel is also nearby, and there are many hotels and bars in Newtonmore.
- **When you arrive:**
 - Turn on the two right hand water valves [behind and right of the hot water tank in the cupboard by the toilet].
- **Water quality:** Highland Council is currently testing all non-mains water supplies to huts and other premises in the Highlands. The supply to this hut was recently tested and it failed. We are currently working on fitting a filtration system to fix this problem. However, until this is fitted the official advice is that:
the water should not be used for drinking (unless boiled), washing (including cleaning teeth), showering, doing dishes etc.
To put this advice into some context:
 - people have been drinking this water for years with no known ill effects
 - it seems likely that a large proportion of non-mains water supplies will end up failing – possibly this says more about the standards than the water suppliesYou have to make your own decision, but legally we are obliged to advise you to boil the water. If you have a compromised immune system you should certainly do so.

- **When you leave: please check the following.**
 - Switch off all electrical appliances, including the water heater, at the sockets (**except the trace heaters**).
 - The mains power switch on the fuse board **MUST BE LEFT ON** to enable the trace heaters to keep working - these are essential to prevent frozen and burst pipes.
 - Empty the refrigerators, turn them off and leave the doors open.
 - Wash all the dishes and leave the hut clean and tidy.
 - Remove all rubbish; do not leave any food (the local mice love this). Please do not dump any rubbish bags in our neighbours' bins.
 - Turn off the two right hand water valves in the cupboard by the toilet.
 - Close and lock/secure all doors and windows.
 - If any consumables (washing up liquid, toilet rolls etc.) are running low, please inform the Custodian.

A few more things that will make things more pleasant for you and the next occupants.

- **Ventilation:** the hut is prone to damp. Please use the extractor fan when cooking or when the kitchen gets humid (the fan is on the wall between the sink and the hob – the switch is below it, between two sockets). Also, the top-left small window in the set of windows to the left of the stove opens relatively easily. It is also worth slightly opening the left sash window in the big bunk room overnight, if it is not too cold and there are a lot of people staying.
It would also help to keep the small bunk room dry if the door was wedged open when you leave — don't wedge doors open when people are in the hut, they are fire doors.
- **Stove ashes and cigarette ends:** please take these away with the rubbish — don't just dump them around the hut (there is a metal bucket by the front door (usually) which you can use for emptying the ashes).
- **Sanitary items:** the septic tank and macerators can't cope with these so please don't throw them in the toilet — use the disposal bags provided.

Cabin location

OS map of the Cabin location (in the red circle in Balgowan) below. The A86 goes eastwards to Newtonmore and westwards to Roy Bridge; the A889 goes southwards to Dalwhinnie.

Also, a photo of the car park (approaching from the east) - the red car is in it. The access path is visible behind the car.

