

## **Alternative versions of this information are available**

For large print versions of this information, audio or video recording please get in touch.

## **Physical access to the building**

There is parking available just outside the building.

BOARC occupies several floors of a Grade II listed building, therefore there are some significant barriers to accessing the whole building. There is currently no lift access to the first floor, roof or basements. Each floor is accessed via approximately 26 steps, 17cm in height. Some facilities are located on these floors, such as the library on the first floor, and workspace, wet room and broadcasting studio located in the basement.

The ground floor is fully wheelchair accessible, with widened doors, and space to manoeuvre a wheelchair. There is a moveable wheelchair access ramp into the building. There is one accessible bedroom and accessible bathroom. The main kitchen is accessible and the movement room, rehearsal room and Heritage Education Centre are located on the ground floor.

## **Shops**

There is a Tesco Extra nearby (20 minutes walking) open Monday-Saturday 6am-midnight and Sundays 10am-4pm.

## **Sleeping**

Many rooms are shared dorms. However, all sleeping areas have privacy curtains. We bear access and work needs in mind when

room plans are necessary, but we cannot always accommodate requests for private rooms.

## **Quiet Space**

When BOARC is busy there is still plenty of space available in the building and in the surrounding woodland for quiet time away from social interactions.

## **Events and public programme**

Some events and public programming take place in the basement spaces and on the roof. If you're planning on attending an event, please let us know if this is a barrier to your participating so we can make adjustments to the programme where possible.

## **Making your stay possible**

If you, or your dependants, have any access needs please contact us in advance of your arrival.

Service animals are very welcome. If you need a carer to accompany you, please get in touch and we will help make this possible.

We welcome neurodiversity and differing abilities. If you have any concerns about your stay, talk to us and we can help make your stay possible.

A member of the team is learning British Sign Language with the aim that BOARC can have BSL communication for stayers and eventually BSL interpretation for events.

We will now write in detail about ways to get to Bidston Observatory Artistic Research Centre if you have mobility issues.

## **Travelling to BOARC**

We recommend driving or getting a taxi from the nearby train station. The best train station to use is Birkenhead North.

Bidston Observatory is at the top of Bidston Hill. From the bottom of the hill to the top, there is a 9% gradient climb and it is a 10 minute walk.

## Travelling by Car

Bidston Observatory is at the top of Wilding Way. The postcode is: CH43 7RA. We are located on The Wirral.

The nearest motorway is the M53. The exit is junction 1. It is also possible to come through Liverpool on the M62, and then drive through a tunnel under the river Mersey. The tunnel toll is currently £2.

There is free on-site parking directly in front of the building, The car-park area directly surrounding our building is level.

## Travelling by Train

The closest wheelchair-accessible and lift access train station with a lift, is Birkenhead North. This station is 0.9 miles away. All Merseyrail trains are wheelchair accessible, however some stations are not easy to access. The main Liverpool Loop stations including Liverpool Central, Liverpool Lime Street, James Street and Moorfields all have step free access. Lift access is subject to disruptions and engineering works, so it's important to check on the day of travel.

Trains on the Northern and Wirral Lines have visual and audio announcements to tell you which station you are approaching and where to make connections.

Merseyrail services start around 06:30 and finish around 23:30.

## Travelling by Bus

Most busses within Merseyside are now Easy Access, specially designed for people with mobility needs. The closest bus stop to Bidston Observatory is Hoblyn Road / Hoyle Road (towards West Kirby) or Gautby Road / Hoyle Road (towards Liverpool). Both are 0.5 miles away.

Merseytravel have produced audio guides for their bus stations and travel centres in partnership with Guide Dogs for the Blind.

For information or advice on your travel arrangements, you can contact Merseytravel on 0151 330 1000 or visit the Merseytravel website, [merseytravel.gov.uk](http://merseytravel.gov.uk).

## Travelling by Taxi

Argyle Satellite is the local taxi service: +44 (0) 151 201 1111  
If you would like to book a taxi online, download their app or book via their website.

Argyle Satellite's wheelchair accessible taxi services are limited between 15:00 and 18:00 on weekdays due to school runs.

A taxi from Birkenhead North, will cost between £3 - £5. A taxi from Liverpool Lime Street or Queen Square will cost around £25 and will include tunnel tolls.