

Glendale Bothy, Skye - Proposal 2026-27

site

Landscape,
Creativity and
Living Simply

bothy
project



Introduction



In 2011, Bobby Niven and Iain MacLeod had recently graduated from art and architecture degrees. During mountain hikes around Scotland, they became aware of Scotland's network of remote bothies - originally huts that allowed foresters and shepherds to work in the landscape. This inspired them to build something that artists could use in the same way. These off-grid shelters would enable artists to connect with nature and focus solely on their work, away from the distractions of modern life.

15 years on, and Bothy Project is a thriving charity. It offers opportunities to all kinds of creatives, thinkers, researchers and locals to spend time in bespoke bothies, in unique and inspirational landscapes. These residencies result in new ideas & new solutions to the challenges society faces, as well as the production of new artworks and projects.

Bothy Project's vision is in strong alignment with local and national strategic policies across creative industries, environmental sustainability, economic development, community empowerment, tourism, place-making and entrepreneurship.

Since its inception, Bothy Project has been part of a growing interest in Scotland's natural heritage and environmental sustainability. Increased interest in spending time outdoors for health and well-being and interest in land reform, community ownership and movements such as hutting have all informed Bothy Project's work.

In 2026 we joined Creative Scotland's Multi-Year Funding cohort. This stable funding (2026-27, 2027-28) allows us to work confidently towards establishing one new bothy at Glendale, Skye and plan another at Bragar on Lewis. These will complement our current bothy, Sweeney's, on the Isle of Eigg.



Pig Rock Bothy, National Galleries, Edinburgh, 2014-2020



Lesley Young
Director,
Bothy Project

Vision, Mission, Values



Our Vision

Our vision is of a world where creativity is valued and our natural environment is understood and respected.

Our Mission

To provide a network of off-grid bothies in diverse landscapes and communities across Scotland where creative people, thinkers, researchers and people local to our bothies can grapple with creativity, landscape and living simply and then act to make positive change.

Our Values

Creativity

Bothy Project was formed through resourcefulness and by recognising that innovative creativity is well served by simplicity. Our work provides opportunities to encounter beauty, think clearly and understand that the climate emergency requires individual as well as collective ingenuity.

Transformative Experience

The experience of time and space to make a journey, meet new people and encounter new landscapes produces transformation and empowerment.

Community

Our work encourages learning and sharing between creative, geographic and expert communities, providing new perspectives, and building mutual respect and understanding, which leads to action.

Sustainability

Bothy Project will focus its power to provoke all those it connects to put the planet first and find big and small ways to affect the climate emergency positively. This approach will lead to energy equality and a just transition, net zero and ultimately reaching carbon negative.

Diversity and Inclusivity

We are fully committed to diversity, respecting human rights and creating opportunities to give those we work with access to creativity, landscape and living simply. We do this by championing mobility, creating encounters based on equality, and applying fair pay and pricing.

Openness and Respect

It is important to us that we are known to respect the landscapes and communities we work within and the people we work with. We are continually working to ensure that all our staff, trustees, local partners, residents, donors and supporters treat each other and are treated with respect.

Bothy Project endeavours to demonstrate these values at all times.

Bothy Project Locations



To date Bothy Project has had three bothies across Scotland. All have encapsulated our founding principles of creativity, landscape and living simply.

We began in 2011 with Inshriach Bothy in the Cairngorms National Park. It was retired in 2023 after hosting more than 200 week-long residencies.

Sweeney's Bothy was built on the Isle of Eigg in 2013 as part of Creative Scotland's Year of Natural Scotland and is still active.

Pig Rock Bothy was commissioned by the National Galleries of Scotland in 2014 as part of Generation: 25 years of Contemporary Art in Scotland. It ran as a non-residential bothy for 6 years.

We are now working to establish one new bothy at Glendale, Skye which will be operational early in 2027.

We are also in discussion with a partner on Lewis to site a further bothy there.

By 2029 we hope to have three residential bothies in operation, in three distinct landscapes.



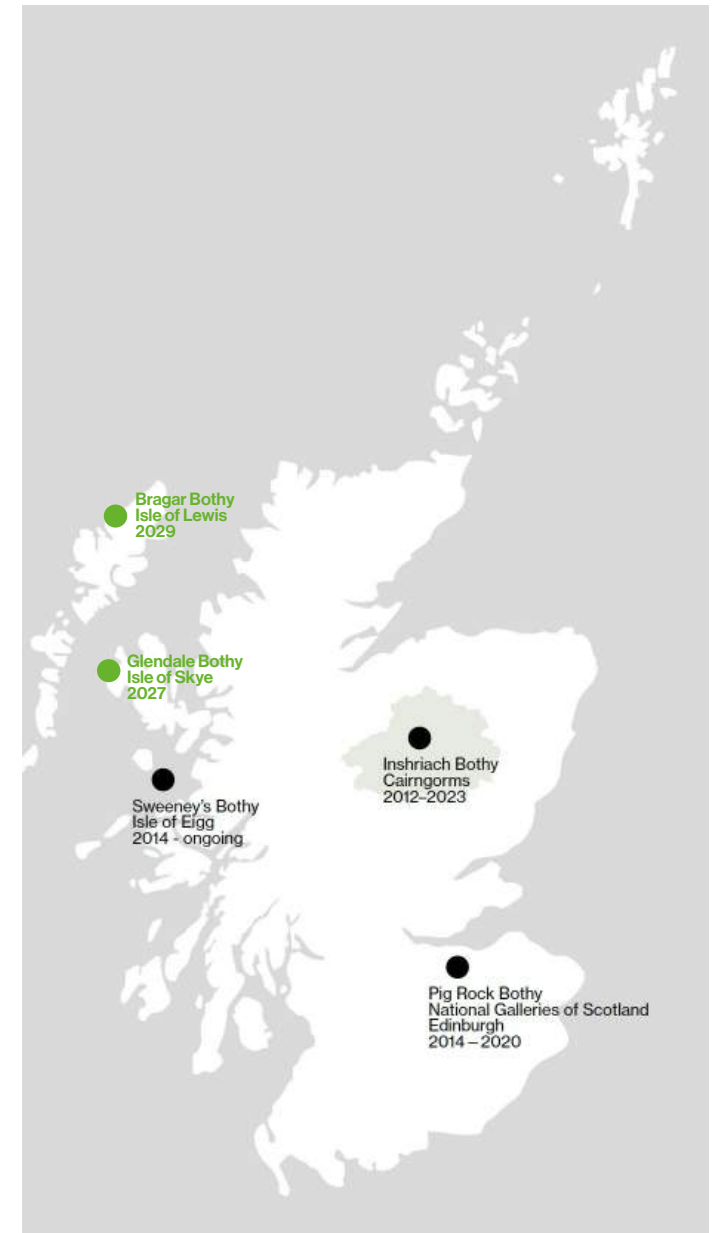
Cairngorms | Inshriach Bothy, 2012-2023



Isle of Eigg | Sweeney's Bothy, 2014-ongoing



Edinburgh | Pig Rock Bothy, National Galleries 2014-2020



“What is important for me is the freedom, solidarity and open-endedness of the time I spend on Bothy Project residencies. It has definitely fed into my work, it continues to do so—and that is why I keep returning.”

Charlie Prodger
Artist and Turner Prize winner



Sweeney's Bothy, Isle of Eigg

Bothy Project Highlights



4000+ **£325,000**
residencies of funding raised

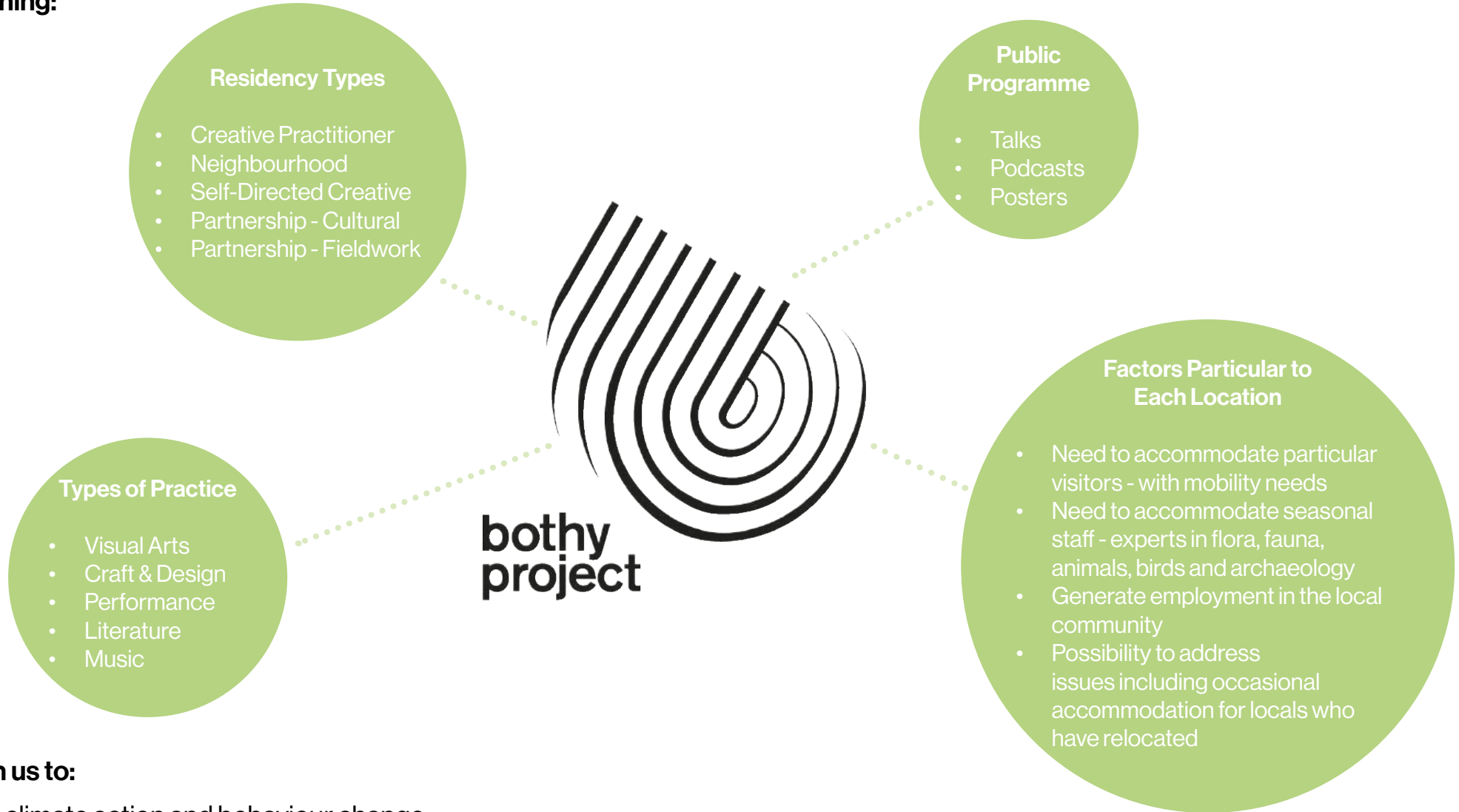
4600 **26,800** **3**
newsletter subscribers instagram followers bothies

10000s **125m³** **150**
of ideas, projects & exhibitions wood chopped blog posts and discussions

Creative Strategy



By combining:



Work with us to:

1. Inspire climate action and behaviour change
2. Strengthen Community Networks
3. Attract artists & support their careers

Case Study: Neighbourhood Residencies



In 2021, nine people from Badenoch & Strathspey, the Small Isles and Assynt & Coigach were networked through Bothy Project to share, discuss and reflect upon themes of specific importance to them and their communities.

- 9 residencies
- 3 locations
- Connections within 3 communities strengthened and deepened
- 3 diverse communities across the Highlands connected
- 81 new friendships made across the Highlands
- 3 podcasts produced and shared
- 3 posters designed and distributed
- 1 public talk



The project involved:

- 1 writer/academic
- 1 outdoor educator/mindfulness practitioner
- 1 marketer/interfaith minister
- 1 instructional designer
- 1 storyteller/housing expert
- 1 artist/choreographer
- 1 seasonal wildlife ranger
- 1 guest house owner
- 1 campsite owner/farmer

“...giving a bothy ‘residency’ to a group of nine locals living in the Highlands and West coast islands has had unexpected results and ignited new approaches to dealing with shared problems: from how to tackle housing issues to the problems caused by over-tourism.”

Sandra Dick
The Herald
5th December 2022

neighbour
hood
residencies

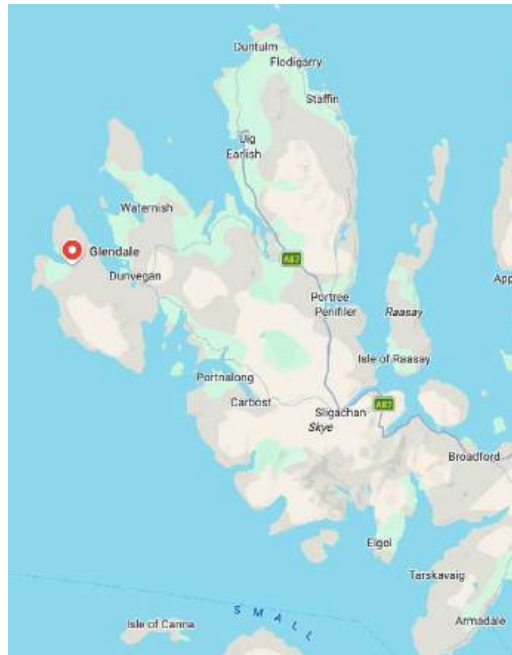
Glendale, Skye



James Oliver was born in Glendale of the Isle of Skye. Now an academic working in creative policy and practice worldwide, he's made part of his family's croft in Glendale available to Bothy Project to realise a new bothy. Around 400 people live scattered across the 19,000-acre community-owned Glendale Estate. Despite being slightly off Skye's tourist routes, many of the houses in Glendale are holiday or second homes. Together with a lack of local housing and an ageing population, James and those living in Glendale are looking for ways to reconnect, with one another and with the cultural heritage and traditions of the indigenous community.

Working with James, with local crofters, the Glendale Community Trust and Atlas Arts, we've been exploring how a new bothy might support creative residents and researchers engage with the history and unique crofting heritage of Glendale, north-west Skye.

Site:
11 Fàsach, Glendale, Isle of Skye, IV55 8WP
what3words: [umbrellas.rabble.spades](https://www.what3words.com/umbrellas.rabble.spades)



The impact we can make together



Bothy Project's residencies, public programme and work impacts on the following groups in the following ways:

- **Creatives** are better able to focus on their creative practice without distraction, leading to creative breakthroughs and project development.
- **Local communities** around the bothies develop stronger relationships by working with Bothy Project, and having a bothy in their locality.
- **Partner Agencies** see working with Bothy Project as an innovative way to support the communities they represent and an innovative way for landowners to satisfy their 'landowners responsibility'.
- **Educational Organisations** engage with Bothy Project to devise for example Fieldwork Residencies where their researchers test their work in the civic context of bothies.
- **Audiences** achieve behavioural change in relation to the climate emergency through increased cultural and environmental understanding.





Architectural montage of Bothy design

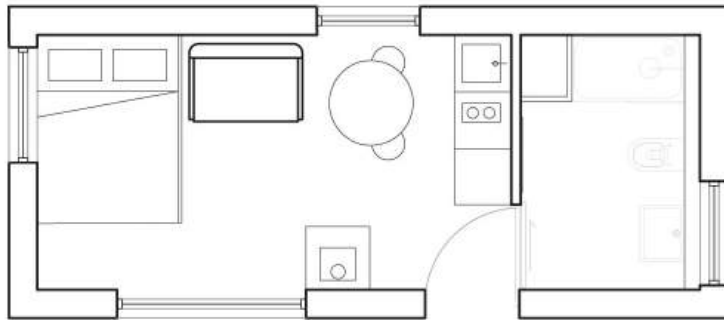
Project cost & funding



The project costs are estimated at £180,000. This figure is based on our experience of building and siting private bothies via our trading arm Bothy Stores (2017-2025). This document preferences the use of an existing Bothy Stores design.

The funding sources and targets are based on research and discussions with funders in relation to the Highlands and Islands in general. Recently a number of funds particular to Skye have opened.

Costs and funding are indicative so would have to be revisited at point of delivery.



Internal dimensions: 7m x 2.7m

External dimensions: 7.6m x 3.3m x 3.7m

Project Cost

Development Costs (Planning, Surveys etc)	£	30,000
Construction Costs	£	90,000
Other (fees, statutory, legal)	£	20,000
Opening Programme	£	20,000
Landowner - land value in kind (20 year lease)	£	-
Contingency	£	20,000
Total	£	180,000

Project Funding

Development and Construction

Public sector funding - Grants	£	80,000
- Community Enterprise		
- HIE		
- Social Investment Scotland		
- Foundation Scotland		
Public sector funding - Loans	£	40,000
- Social Investment Scotland		
- Foundation Scotland		
Charitable trusts and foundations	£	50,000
Donations	£	10,000
Landowner - land value in kind	£	-
Total	£	180,000

Delivery team



Our staff



Lesley Young
Director,
Bothy Project



Evie Edwards
Residency & Programme
Co-ordinator,
Bothy Project



Lucy Conway
Development & Finance
Manager and Sweeney's
Bothy Host,
Bothy Project

Recruiting in Spring 2026:

- Finance & Admin Manager
- Bothy Host based on Skye

Our board

Bothy Project is a limited company and charity governed by a Board of Directors meeting four times a year. We are regulated by OSCR.



Iain MacLeod
Architect, Studio IMA
and Co-Founder of
Bothy Project



Jon Macleod
Artist, Curator and Producer,
An Lanntair and
Grinneabhat



Laura McSorley
Curator and Producer



Dr Dominic Paterson
Lecturer at the University of
Glasgow and curator at
The Hunterian Art Gallery



Calum Shields
Economist
The Department for
Business and Trade



Matthew Arthur Williams
Visual, sound artist,
photographer and DJ

Board recruitment live in
spring 2026.

Supporters and Partners



We have a wide network of supporters and partners who we work with to deliver our work.

In 2026 we joined Creative Scotland's Multi-Year Funding cohort for 2026-27 and 2027-28.

Supporters

Creative Scotland
British Council
National Galleries of Scotland
William Grant Foundation
Hope Scott Trust
Highland Council



Partners

BALTIC
Cairngorms National Park Authority
(Heritage Horizons)
CYLAG with The Cairngorms Trust
Edinburgh Sculpture Workshop
Fogo Island Arts, Newfoundland
Royal Scottish Academy
University of Glasgow
Visual Arts Scotland



Get in touch



Thank you for reading.
If you like our project and want to
get involved, please contact:

Lesley Young
lesley@bothyproject.com



Photography courtesy of Bothy
Project

Bothy Project
company no. sc563706
scottish charity no. sc048109

www.bothyproject.com
[@bothyproject](https://www.instagram.com/bothyproject)

