

neighbourhood residencies

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Bothy Project?

Bothy Project organises and runs two artist residency programmes at its purpose built bothies - Inshriach Bothy in the Cairngorms National Park and Sweeney's Bothy on the Isle of Eigg. Active since 2011, over 300 visual artists, musicians, writers and craftspeople have spent time at the bothies.

More Information about [Bothy Project](#)

More information about [past residents](#)

Which organisations are involved in Neighbourhood Residencies

The Neighbourhood Residencies are initiated by Bothy Project, in partnership with Small Isles Community Council, Isle of Eigg Residents' Association, Assynt Foundation and Cairngorms National Park Authority. The project has been supported by Creative Scotland and Cairngorms National Park Authority.

Who is eligible to apply?

People from from all walks of life who live in Badenoch and Strathspey near Aviemore, Assynt & Coigach and on the Small Isles. All of these areas are in the Scottish Highlands. These areas are close to our bothies which will keep travel to a minimum.

Why are these Neighbourhood Residencies for anyone, not just artists?

Many who live near Inshriach, on the Isle of Eigg or in Assynt, know about Bothy Project and its bothies and may have met, and even worked with some of the artists who have been on residency in the past. Neighbourhood Residencies build on these existing relationships but offer the bothies' neighbours a new way to get involved at a time when travel is limited but the need for communication is high. With everyone staying close to home this winter, Bothy Project believe this is a great opportunity to extend the invitation more widely.

Can visual artists, musicians, writers and craftspeople apply for Neighbourhood Residencies?

Yes, creative people can apply.

How does Bothy Project understand ideas of *Landscape, Creativity and Living Simply*?

Landscape, Creativity and Living Simply are key motivations for Bothy Project. These ideas could cover topics including: land ownership, rural economics and rewilding; memory, history and spirituality; technology, climate change and sustainable tourism, as well as many more. Applicants don't have to restrict their interests to these subjects.

Who will read the proposals and select the participants?

Proposals will be read by Bothy Project and the project's partners; Cairngorms National Park Authority, Small Isles Community Council, Isle of Eigg Residents' Association and Assynt Foundation. Together they will try and select participants who have shared interests. We think this will make for good conversations and discussions for residents, and eventually great podcasts.

What facilities do the bothies have?

Inshriach Bothy, Cairngorms National Park

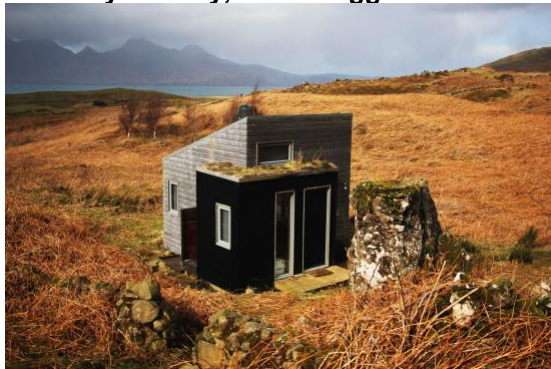


Inshriach Bothy is comfortable and warm, insulated with sheep's wool and heated by a wood-burning stove. Facilities include a library, desk, mezzanine double bed, kitchenette, wood-burning stove with oven, outdoor suspended bag shower, composting toilet and solar panel lighting system. The bothy is accessed on foot along a rough farm track (1km). Participants will have to draw their own water, chop their own wood and cook using the wood-burning stove.

Read more about Inshriach Bothy [here](#)

Photo – Ruth Clark

Sweeney's Bothy, Isle of Eigg



Sweeney's Bothy is comfortable and warm, insulated with sheep's wool and heated using a wood-burning stove. Facilities include a library, desk, mezzanine double bed, kitchenette with gas ring, wood-burning stove with oven, outdoor heated shower, composting toilet and solar panel lighting system. Sweeney's Bothy is accessed on foot up a grassy path (400m). Participants will have to chop their own wood. There is an intermittent wi-fi signal.

Read more about Sweeney's Bothy [here](#)

Photo – Ellis O'Connor

Assynt Art Studio, near Lochinver



The Assynt Art Studio is equipped for short term residential stays, it is fully accessible with parking nearby. It has mains electricity, hot water, WC and shower. Heating is provided by electric convector radiators and there is an electric hob and fridge. The bed is on ground level in an alcove area. Internet access is stable and via a satellite connection.

Photo – Chris Puddephatt

Must I sleep in the Bothy?

Even if you're close to home, we recommend you sleep at your respective bothy, so that you can fully benefit from the change of scene and pace the residency offers. Fold-away beds can be provided at Inshriach and Sweeney's if preferred.

Are the bothies accessible?

The Assynt Art Studio is fully accessible. Inshriach and Sweeney's Bothies are both accessed on foot, Inshriach by rough farm track (1km), Sweeney's by grassy path 400m), both bothies have one step to access, their mezzanine beds are accessed by ladder, but fold-away beds can be provided if preferred.

Can children be accommodated at the bothies?

Due to the size of and facilities at the bothies, children can't be accommodated. We can help to organise childcare if required.

Can my dog come along?

The three venues can accommodate well behaved dogs. You will have to put your dog on a lead when there is livestock around.

Is there a fee, what does it cover?

A fee of £500 will be paid to each selected participant, this covers time spent on residency at their respective bothy, time spent in conversation with other participants and contributions to pod-casts.

Are there travel expenses?

A small additional amount is available for local travel costs. For residents travelling between the Small Isles, accommodation can be booked in Mallaig if the ferry timetable requires this.

Do I need to pay for accommodation at the bothies or art studio?

No, this cost is covered.

When will I be paid?

The fee will be made in two payments, £300 at the start of your residency, £200 when your podcast contributions are finished. Travel expenses will be paid with the first instalment of the fee.

Why are the residencies not all seven nights long?

Residences at Inshriach are only four nights in length as this fits with Covid-19 cleaning routines. Please note that dates on Eigg and in Assynt will be for seven days, including the stated periods – exact dates can be discussed with the resident.

7 - 11 Jan 2021

4 - 8 Feb 2021

11 - 15 Mar 2021

Can couples or duos apply?

The bothies are very well suited for solo occupancy, but two people can fit. Only one fee of £500 can be paid per residency.

In relation to Covid-19, any couples or duos who apply must be from one household or an extended household.

When will the whole project be completed?

We hope by the end of March 2021

Who will facilitate making the podcasts?

An experienced audio company will make the podcasts. We will work with participants to enable them to record and share audio diaries (using your smart phone if you have one, or by other means if necessary). We will make use of the technology participants have at home to record other material, providing additional equipment if required.

Why are you using the Assynt Art Studio?

Use of the Art Studio for the Neighbourhood Residencies develops a partnership between Assynt Foundation and Bothy Project which started with Bothy Project's third building, Pig Rock Bothy, being designed to reflect the landscape of Assynt.

Will there be other chances to undertake a Neighbourhood Residency?

Bothy Project hopes that there will be more Neighbourhood Residencies in the future. Even before the pandemic we were working on ways to connect more and learn from the communities around the bothies.

What is an artist residency?

Artist Residencies are part of what Bothy Project normally organises. Artist residencies support artistic development, and provide time and space for art, research and reflection. Bothy Project residencies allow artists time alone without distractions to be creative, connect with the landscape and live simply. Artists have used time at the bothies to do many different things: finish writing books; consider new ideas; research, draw, write, explore.

One past resident said: "The residency has completely changed the way I think about nature and my relationship with the natural habitat around me. I see nature as much more of an active character in both my everyday life and my writing."

Covid-19

Neighbourhood Residencies partners and participants will follow all Scottish Government Covid-19 guidelines. The bothies and art studio all have cleaning protocols in place.

Lesley Young
Programme Co-ordinator
Bothy Project
info@bothyproject.com

Project partners and funders



Small Isles
Community
Council

Isle of Eigg
Residents
Association



CAIRNGORMS
NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY
ÙGHIDARRAS PAIRC NAISEANTA A
MHONAIDH RU Aidh

