

24th July 2025

THE ISLE OF CANNA OPENS THE DOORS TO ITS BRAND-NEW VISITOR HUB

- **A major project to create a visitor hub on the Isle of Canna is now complete and open to visitors.**
- **The £771,000 project, operated and managed by the Isle of Canna Community Development Trust and led by the National Trust for Scotland, was funded by the Scottish Government, VisitScotland, The Highland Council, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, and the Trust.**
- **Facilities include toilets and showers, public laundry facilities, a room for NHS health workers and other professionals, and a base for the Trust Ranger.**

The Isle of Canna Community Development Trust (IoCCDT) has celebrated the opening of the new Canna Visitor Hub, where a range of facilities are now available for visitors.

The need for accessible visitor facilities was recognised as the island continues to welcome an increasing number of visitors each year. The Canna Visitor Hub now boasts a range of amenities, including toilets and showers, public laundry facilities, a base for the National Trust for Scotland Ranger, as well as a dedicated room for NHS health workers and other professionals for community use.

The building was designed with its surrounding landscape in mind and was constructed using environmentally conscious materials. It runs on the island's renewable energy infrastructure, utilising solar panels, to align with the island's vision for environmental sustainability. Through archaeological surveys, the project was approached sensitively, and the Canna Visitor Hub now sits naturally within its surroundings and serves as a focal point for visitors as they arrive at the harbour.

Spey Building & Joinery Ltd, which was responsible for building the Canna Visitor Hub, was also awarded the Scotland Commercial or Public Sector Project award by the Federation of Master Builders this year for its team's exceptional work on the Canna Visitor Hub. The project was delivered by the Canna Partnership, through which the IoCCDT and the National Trust for Scotland work together to preserve the landscape and culture for future generations.

Isebail MacKinnon, Director of the Isle of Canna Community Development Trust, said: "The new Canna Visitor Hub supports our vision for the sustainability of the island and community-owned tourism, and to provide a good experience for visitors. By providing

facilities at the visitor hub, we hope to encourage people to stay on the island for longer, moving away from short visits and towards longer stays, and more engaged visitors.

“We are very grateful for the support and funding received from those who made this project happen and are very excited for the Canna Visitor Hub to be part of the island infrastructure for many years to come. Thank you to Scottish Government, VisitScotland, The Highland Council, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, and the National Trust for Scotland for their support.”

Managed by VisitScotland on behalf of the Scottish Government, the Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund (RTIF) was created to improve the quality of the visitor experience in rural parts of Scotland that have faced pressure on their infrastructure due to an increase in visitor numbers. In Highland mainland and islands (excluding Shetland and Orkney) there have been a total of 36 RTIF-supported approved projects with a total RTIF investment of £7,937,883.

Chris Taylor, Destination Development Manager at Visit Scotland, said: “The fantastic new visitor facilities on Canna are a core part of the tourism offer on the island.

“Along with investment by the National Trust for Scotland in Canna House, proposals for a new high-quality bunkhouse by the community and ongoing hard work of small island businesses, this makes for a unique visitor experience and promises a very exciting future.

“A healthy visitor economy is crucial and is at the heart of the community’s plan in Canna for a thriving, sustainable island – it attracts and retains people and generates jobs and incomes.”

Chair of The Highland Council’s Economy and Infrastructure Committee, Cllr Ken Gowans, said: “The Highland Council is proud to have supported the Isle of Canna Visitor Facilities through VisitScotland’s Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund, the Place Based Investment Programme, and the Islands Infrastructure Fund. This project represents a vital investment in sustainable tourism and community resilience on one of Highland’s unique and remote islands.

“By delivering modern, accessible welfare facilities and a dedicated visitor hub, the project is not only enhancing the visitor experience but also helping to protect Canna’s fragile environment and support its long-term regeneration. This development will enable the local community to manage tourism more effectively, create new opportunities, and ensure that Canna remains a welcoming and sustainable destination for generations to come.”

The £771,000 project is operated and managed by the Isle of Canna Community Development Trust and led by the National Trust for Scotland, and was funded by the Scottish Government, VisitScotland, The Highland Council, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, and the Trust. An official opening event for the Canna Visitor Hub was hosted by the IoCCDT this month to celebrate this new milestone for the community and its visitors.

The Canna Visitor Hub runs on an honesty basis, and donations from visitors are welcome for the use of the facilities. For more information about the Canna Visitor Hub and all that the Isle of Canna has to offer, visit [the Isle of Canna Community Development Trust website](#).

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Notes to Editors:

Images: <https://www.flickr.com/gp/133918740@N04/M159N8HLXX>

About the Isle of Canna Community Development Trust

The Isle of Canna Community Development Trust (IoCCDT) was set up to stimulate sustainable demographic growth supported by good employment opportunities, good services, facilities and affordable housing. It provides a focus for the administration of community projects and a vehicle to manage assets on behalf of the community.