

*NM49NW*

*Site O: NM49NW1, Bagh na-Uamha, cave and midden (NM42289741)*

Visited 8/5/1995 by SB, SD and RH. As described in NMRS. The shell midden is still visible and there are no active signs of erosion. The cave is positioned well above the current sea level and there is a good possibility of Mesolithic occupation. The cave has a very good prospect across the Sound of Rum.

This cave presumably has a high potential to tell us about the past environment on Rum and is of schedulable quality.

*Site P: NM49NW2, Bagh na-Uamha, cross marked stone (NM42129731)*

Visited 8/5/1995 by SB, SD and RH. The cross-slab has now been moved and re-erected just above the high-tide mark and is situated at the above grid reference, just to the NW of the burn. It is as described in the NMRS record.

This is of national importance but may not be schedulable as it is not in its original location.

*Site Q: NM49NW3, Kinloch, Mesolithic site (NM403998)*

Visited 11/5/1995 by SB, SD and RH. The site has now been put down to pasture but some rank vegetation is growing on the surface and may be disturbing archaeological deposits with its roots.

Excavation has indicated the national importance of this site and it requires scheduling. Some improvement to the management of the site is also required, but it should remain as a pasture field.

*NM49NW5, Bagh na-Uamha, deserted settlement (NM420973)*

Visited 8/5/1995 by SB, SD and RH. We noted only 4 buildings and one enclosure during a swift examination of this site. The largest building is 18m by 4.5m externally. It has 2 compartments and the walls are preserved to about 1.5m. There is a fair amount of rigging, but most of it has been planted with trees. Some of the tree-planting comes to within 5m of one of the buildings.

This site probably does not qualify as of national importance since the remains are not so well preserved and are partly planted. The longest building is, however, fairly substantial and indicates the local significance of the remains.

*Site R: NM49NW8, Port na Caranean, deserted settlement (4236 9880)*

Visited 8/5/1995 by SB, SD and RH. NMRS description very brief. This is a fine and well preserved site, which may show signs of more than one phase of occupation. The buildings survive to the eaves in some cases and some of the houses have the remains of fire places. Some stone and earth dykes define yards in association with some of the

buildings. During a swift examination we recognised 14 possible buildings, including 6 possible houses, 6 possible barns/byres and 2 possibly earlier structures. The 'earlier' structures were overgrown foundations and lay toward the E of the site. There is a complex system of enclosures situated off the stone dyke to the S of the buildings. These may be associated with animal husbandry. The areas of rig and furrow cultivation appear to be very restricted.

The SNH document *Isle of Rum: National Nature Reserve, Kinloch Glen and South Side Nature Trail* (1993) records that the name of this settlement means 'Harbour of the Windings'. 5 families of crofters from Bracadale on Skye set up house here in 1827, subsequent to the almost complete emigration of the population of Rum in 1826. From the name and the situation fishing was probably the main activity, although some cultivation was attempted and some stock kept. The maximum population was 27 in 1841. By 1861 the site was once again abandoned. HM Brown notes (*in The Island of Rhum: A Guide for walkers, climbers and visitors*, 1972) that a few years after 1825 Dr McLean permitted a dozen or so Skye and Mull crofting families to settle along Loch Scresort and out at Port na Caranean, where they eked out an existence.

The site is of national importance because of its relatively complete nature, its specialised economic status and the relative simplicity of its history, plan and remains, which helps with the understanding of its organisation.

**NM49SW**

No sites examined.

**Dr Richard Hingley**  
**Inspector of Ancient Monuments**  
15/8/1995

**RUM****NOTES FROM SITE VISITS BY R HINGLEY, S BARDWELL AND S DICKINSON, 8th to 13th MAY 1995**

This is a record of sites visited on Rum during an expedition which was intended to examine a number of sites on the island for scheduling under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. A number of factors should be borne in mind:

1. There was only enough time to visit around 20-30 sites and some site of possible national importance (as defined from a reading of the National Monuments Record) could not be visited.
2. Other monuments of national importance will not have been recognised during survey work on the island.
3. The archaeology of Rum is remarkable for the following reasons:
  - a) the possibility of a settlement system of Mesolithic sites, including the partly excavated site at Kinloch, the source of bloodstone on the beach close to Bloodstone Hill, the cave site at Bagh na-Uamha and other sites where bloodstone flakes have been discovered.
  - b) the so-called deer traps are, from my experience, unparalleled and are very well preserved.
  - c) on the whole the pre-Clearance archaeological evidence is brilliantly preserved as the populations who would have disturbed this information were removed from the island in the early 1800s.
  - d) the shieling system on Skye is very extensive and several sites are exceptionally well preserved. The conditions of preservation and nature of the island environment probably mean that Rum would be an excellent place for a detailed study of the working of the shieling system.
  - e) the remains of the post-Clearance management of the island are also excellently preserved. Sheep pens survive in several locations without a single stone having been dislodged.
  - f) the sites listed as of possible national importance (below) will be recommended for scheduling under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. They are listed as Sites A to R.