

*NG30SW**Site A: NG30SW1, Shellasder, Rum (NG32070205) X*

Visited 10/5/1995 by SB, SD and RH. This site is as described by the RCAHMS. There are traces of the outer wall face of the fort and faint traces also of an inner wall face at a greater height than the external wall face. The 2 internal buildings are as described. Rig comes right up to the outer face of the rampart.

This monument is of national importance as a prehistoric promontory fort with visible internal structures. It is one of only two convincing prehistoric forts on Rum.

Site B: NG30SW4, Guirdil, cairn (NG32260142)

Visited 10/5/1995 by SB, SD and RH. This site is as described by the RCAHMS. It is almost certainly a prehistoric cairn. 2 small structures have been built out of the cairn material. One is on the side of the cairn and the other a few metres to the NE.

This monument is of national importance as a prehistoric cairn which is likely to preserve burial deposits. Prehistoric monuments are not common on Rum.

NG30SW7, Guirdil, deserted settlement (NG31870117)

Visited 10/5/1995 by SB, SD and RH. As described by RCAHMS. This site has been partly planted and a fenced enclosure built through the remains at some stage in the past. One of the fence posts has been inserted into a building. The settlement has also been robbed to build a sheep pen at some stage in the past.

Although the buildings are interesting and, in parts, well preserved, their surviving condition does not warrant scheduling.

Site C: NG30SW15, Glen Shellesder, shieling cluster (NG339017)

Visited 10/5/1995 by SB, SD and RH. Around 15 shielings, as described by the RCAHMS. These are very well preserved, having been entirely built of local stone. Some of the shielings appear to be multi-phased and there are undisturbed since their abandonment. Two were examined in detail. The northern most shieling is complex. It has been built out of the rock face of the hill and utilises natural rocks. It is 7.3m WNW-ESE and 3.5m transversely. The entrance, which is well defined, is to the WNW. There is a small chamber to the ESE which is 3.1m, WNW-ESE by 2.8m transversely. The wall of the chamber survives to 1.1m in height. There are traces of another insubstantial structure just to the WNW of this shieling and traces of one or two alcoves built in the natural rubble to the N.

A second shieling further to the S is oval in form. It is 5m SE-NW, including a small chamber to the NW, by 3.9m transversely. The entrance is probably to the SE, but is disturbed. The small chamber is 1.9m NE-SE by 1.3m transversely. A very small passage leads into the chamber from the main part of the shieling. There are a range of other shielings, ranging from oval to rectangular examples.

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 location 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.