

NG40SW

No sites examined.

NM39NW

Site G: NM39NW3, Harris cairn (NM34199552)

Visited 9/5/1995 by SB, SD and RH. The cairn is as described by the NMRS.

This is of national importance as a substantial prehistoric cairn. Prehistoric monuments are not common on Rum.

Site H: NM39NW7, Harris, prehistoric settlement (NM34239511)

Visited 9/5/1995 by SB, SD and RH. The structure at NM43249509 would appear to represent the footings of a round house overlain by a later sheepfold. The hut circle is about 9.9m E-W by 9.8m N-S and the wall is about 1.9m wide where it is best preserved to the SW. There are traces of a possible entrance to the W. Where best preserved the wall stands to around 0.5m. The form of this structure is obscured by the sheep pen than has been built out material derived from the structure. This sheep pen has a funnel entrance. A modern flagstaff has been driven through the wall of the roundhouse but has been removed. There is a second possible round house to the NW. This is defined by some large stones at its west side and a bank formed of beach pebbles elsewhere. It appears to be about 6.6m in diameter and the position of the entrance is uncertain. To the SW are the traces of another possible round house around 9.1m in diameter. A number of stones that helped to define the wall survive in places around its perimeter and there is a later structure inside. There are traces of one or two dykes in the area and traces of an extensive field system to the SE of the site could be of prehistoric date.

This site should be scheduled. Although it has been disturbed by later activity it appears to have formed a prehistoric settlement and hut circles are rare on Rum.

Site I: NM39NW8, Harris, deserted settlement (NM338959)

Visited 9/5/1995 by SB, SD and RH. The RCAHMS description is very brief, although we did not have time to record the remains in detail. The largest building noted was 14.5m by 6.3m within walls that were built of rubble and earth and were up to 1.8m wide. The variable preservation of the buildings suggests that a number of phases of occupation are present. A few buildings are reduced to foundations while other survive up to 1.8m in elevation. In the most complex area at least 3 phases of structural history appear to be represented. There is an oval turf-walled building close to the burn just to the W of the roofed building.

The site is complex and well preserved. It should be scheduled, but the roofed buildings and modern structures around Harris should be excluded from the scheduled area.

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.