Rum
National Nature Reserve

‘Nature’s Island’
Rum is the largest of the Small Isles on Scotland’s western seaboard. Shaped like a diamond, it lies about 25km from the mainland, between the Isle of Skye and the Ardnamurchan peninsula. The island has been in public ownership as a National Nature Reserve for over 40 years and is managed by Scottish Natural Heritage.

Many of Rum’s features are internationally important and it is without doubt one of the leading places in Britain for nature. SNH’s aim is to protect and extend the island’s unique range of wildlife and landscape, while encouraging a diverse human community.

Rum welcomes visitors all year round and this booklet provides the perfect introduction and guide to its many different features. Take some time out to explore this remarkable island of breathtaking scenery, poignant history and memorable wildlife.
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Rum, The Remarkable Island

A UNIQUE DIVERSITY

As you sail towards Rum, you see the island’s origins in its memorable profile. The ancient sandstone plateau to the north began life near the equator, while the majestic Cuillin (high rocks)\(^1\) peaks are the shattered remnants of a great volcano, weathered by time and changing climates. Glaciers carved out the broad glens where rivers now flow.
The warmer climate after the last Ice Age allowed vegetation to develop, including hardy trees such as birch, willow and hazel. When hunter-gatherers established what is one of the earliest recorded settlements in Scotland, the island held large areas of woodland. Early farmers began to clear the trees and work the land, supplementing their crops and livestock by fishing and gathering shellfish. Sea birds, seals and deer also featured in their diet.

Christian hermits lived on the island, leaving stone crosses as evidence, before it fell under the dominion of the Norse and then the Lords of the Isles during the Middle Ages. In later years, crofting and fishing communities occupied the fertile mouths of the glens until the Clearances brought wholesale eviction, misery and sheep. When the Marquess of Salisbury bought the island as a sporting estate, he reintroduced the deer herds; among subsequent owners, the Bullough family turned Rum into an extravagant Edwardian outpost.
The island became a National Nature Reserve in 1957 through purchase from the Bulloughs. However, it bore the scars of centuries. Successive generations had burnt the moorland, overgrazed the pasture and destroyed the woodland. A small but dedicated staff have now spent over 40 years gradually restoring Rum’s natural fertility and diversity of wildlife, while continuing to maintain, with their families, a small island community.

Some 60,000 pairs of Manx shearwaters breed noisily in burrows high on Rum’s Cuillin. This is one of the world’s largest colonies.

Environmental education on Rum
Askival, Hallival, Trollaval and the other peaks of Rum’s Cuillin were named by Norse sailors. The name Rum (Rùm in Gaelic) is older; it appears as ‘Ruiminn’ in the 7th century ‘Annals of Ulster’.
The Shape of Rum

A DIAMOND...

Like most of Scotland, Rum has been born and reborn through time. The rocks reveal a fascinating story of violent action and slow change over millions of years, change that continues almost unnoticed today.

When the Earth’s crust thinned some 60 million years ago, a series of volcanoes erupted all along Scotland’s western seaboard from Anran to Skye. Mull and Eigg were created before the Rum volcano burst violently on to the scene. A later volcanic eruption formed Canna.

The ice ages changed Rum’s shape again. During the last 2.5 million years, the island was covered on several occasions by sheets of ice from the mainland. In between, there were periods of warmer climate. Most of what we see today results from the most recent period of ice, from about 115,000 to 10,000 years ago, barely a snip of the fingers in geological time. The processes of erosion and alteration in the landscape continue in today’s frosts and winds.

Rum can be roughly divided into three broad areas based on the underlying rocks. Much of the north consists of terraced uplands with numerous exposures of orange and brown sandstones. The southwest has shapely rounded hills created by granite and layers of lavas and sediments. Finally, there is the southeast, which features the craggy volcanic rocks of the Rum Cullin mountains.

The island’s diamond shape is bounded mainly by sea cliffs. These are broken by Loch Snesol in the east, and by a number of smaller bays where glens run down to the sea. Kinloch and Shielader Glen, each with its river, separate the northern plateau from the Cullin to the south and the gentler hills to the west.
Although the four Small Isles all have volcanic pasts, they are physically very different and also exhibit contrasting land tenure. Rum is the most dramatic with its northern plateau forming a counterpoint to the Cuillin mountains. It belongs to the nation and currently supports around 25 people, with Scottish Natural Heritage the major employer. Eigg is the most fertile and is instantly recognisable by An Sgùrr, its great tower of rock at the south end. It is now run by a community-led trust and is home to half the population of the Small Isles Parish.

Privately-owned Muck is the gentlest in terms of climate and landscape, while Canna - with its high moorland plateau and good farming soil - is a National Trust for Scotland property. The four islands form a shallow, southwest-facing crescent, frequently buffeted by strong westerly gales from the Atlantic. Their mild moist climate guarantees regular downpours, with Rum’s mountains casting their own rainshadows.

The communities of the islands maintain strong links with each other and with Mallaig, from where the ferry sails. A visit to the Small Isles takes you across part of the Minch (An Cuan Sgith, the weary sea) where dolphins often entertain summer visitors with their agility. They share these waters with harbour porpoises and minke whales, as well as the occasional killer whale and basking shark.
The Small Isles are recognised as a National Scenic Area because of their outstanding natural beauty.

The Cuillin area of Rum is almost entirely volcanic in origin but the rock to the north is considerably older sandstone.
The Shores of Loch Scresort

Most visitors to Rum arrive by boat into Loch Scresort, on the island’s east coast. This sea loch has a fringe of saltmarsh at its head, which is studded with sea pinks and scurvygrass. At low tide, you can wander far out and see the extensive mussel beds on which eider ducks feed. Look out too for the upright stalks that are the casings of the marine worm known as the sand mason.
As you wait to land at Kinloch (Ceann Loch, *head of the loch*), the main settlement, the most obvious elements in the local landscape are the trees with whitewashed houses among them and the red sandstone battlements of Kinloch Castle standing proud at the head of the bay. It was completed in 1901 for George Bullough, the playboy son of a Lancashire cotton baron.

His father, John Bullough, had bought the island in 1886. The family built most of the houses and planted nearly all the mature trees you can see around the shore. The village woodlands - along with formal gardens, terraces, lawns and riverside walks - were designed to enhance the setting of the castle. Strolling through the grounds, you’ll find they still contain a mix of trees and shrubs from many lands, including species such as eucalyptus and bamboo.

When Rum became a nature reserve, the priority was to restore the native woodland that once covered parts of the island. The Bulloughs’ woodlands proved that trees could still survive the Rum climate, and the tree nursery you can see near the castle was set up to produce seedlings to regenerate the island’s habitats. Scots pine, birch, alder, ash, oak, bird cherry, hazel, juniper and hawthorn are grown from local seed, and have been planted out to the north and south of Loch Scresort since the 1960s.

Over a million trees are now established in these new native woodlands and are returning Rum to the ‘Rìoghachd na Forraiste Fiaidhach’ - *the kingdom of the wild forest* - that it once was. In turn, this has encouraged the return of woodland plants and birds, and insects such as the speckled wood butterfly, which you can spot in most of the woods.
If you follow the path from Kinloch, sign-posted to the Rum Cuillin, you can get an idea of the size and scale of Loch Scresort. On the way, you’ll pass the building that houses the island’s hydro-electric generator that has powered the village for about 100 years. Although it has to be supplemented by a diesel generator for short periods, the scheme shows how the island puts a renewable energy source to good use. The same source also supplies domestic water to the village.

As you make your way up towards Coire Dubh (black corrie), you see Kinloch and Loch Scresort laid out below you. The loch’s intertidal beach provides a variety of habitats from rock to fine sand to mud and silt. The rocky shoreline to the north and south of Loch Scresort is home to otters and seals, while the sandy shore supports birds like oystercatchers, curlews, herons and occasional redshanks.

When you climb farther into the corrie, you begin to appreciate the grandeur of Rum’s wild mountains as they loom up before you. At the same time, you can look back to the Cuillin mountains of Skye that become increasingly visible until their familiar profile dominates the horizon to the north.

† Rum’s otters live on the shores of Loch Scresort and at many other places around the island. They enjoy good fishing in the rivers and seawaters.
A few years ago, an estate-worker's plough turned over a finely barbed stone arrowhead near Kinloch Castle. Archaeologists discovered traces of fires, hazelnut shells, thousands of stone tools and other evidence of the Middle Stone Age (Mesolithic) people. These finds identified Rum as one of Scotland's earliest known settlements, occupied for a thousand years from around 7000BC.

Other Mesolithic settlers may have lived at Bàgh na h-Uamha (bay of the cave) where shells and the bones of animals and birds were found. New Stone Age people farmed on Rum 5000 years ago and made a brew from oats and barley, flavoured with honey, meadowsweet and bog-myrtle. They drank it or used it to keep off the midges - or perhaps both!

It's thought the Norse who visited Rum also used Bàgh na h-Uamha where a burial cist and a whale-ivory gaming piece were found. No-one knows whether they settled or just visited, but their names for the Cuillin peaks have left an enduring legacy.

Today, Kinloch provides facilities for visitors such as three walking trails in and around the village. It also offers overnight accommodation at the camp site, in village bothies or at Kinloch Castle hostel. The Castle is a proud late Victorian relic, "a temple to private indulgence"², that dominates the village landscape.
Up by the River Sides

EXPLORING THE NORTH

The north of the island is formed of sandstone, created some 800 million years ago. At that time, Rum lay near the equator, part of an ancient continent called Laurentia. The red rocks were formed in a sub-tropical climate and are named Torridonian after the nearby area of the mainland where they were first described.

Twenty thousand years ago, the last ice sheet moved across Rum from east to west and northwest. The glaciers tore through softer rocks to deepen Kilmory and Kinloch Glen, scouring as they went to leave smooth bedrock and debris everywhere.

As you take the rough road from Kinloch up towards the ‘meeting of the Glens’, you begin to get a feel for this island.

To the north, the new woodlands of Mullach Mòr cover the lower sandstone slopes. Fences stop deer from browsing on the young native trees. Wildflowers flourish on the woodland floor, tempting insects that in turn attract birds such as willow warblers and blackcaps, as well as common woodland species including blue and coal tits, robins, wrens and song thrushes.

Among the most graceful of the native trees planted on Rum is the downy birch which, with alder, willow, hazel and other species, has attracted woodland birds back to the island.

The woodland belts are home to a small number of red-throated divers. Watchful eyes will spot winterized eggs if the adults are disturbed by anglers and walkers.
To the south of the road, the great breast of Màn Tuath rises to nearly 1000 feet (305m) and forms the weathered northern outpost of Rum's volcano. As you go, look for 'striations', the scratches scored across exposed Torridonian rock when glacierborne rocks scraped past. You might hear the short bark of a red grouse but lack of heather means there are only a few dozen pairs. Snipe, golden plover and meadow pipits are more common on the surrounding moorland.

The road splits in two near the top of Kinloch Glen, with one spur leading north to Kilmory and the other south to Harris. Both are sites of former settlements.

Head north down Kilmory Glen and you pass another area of woodland where a whole range of woodland birds have colonised the mixed plantation. Below the trees, stitchwort, primrose and wood-sorrel grow. In summer, you may see small heath butterflies, with small pearl-bordered fritillaries on the woodland margins.

At certain times, visitors are asked to avoid the Kilmory area to allow research on the deer to take place undisturbed, so please check at the Reserve Office before setting out.

As you go towards the old ruined township of Kilmory, you'll see the sweeping sandy beach - backed by sand dunes - that occupies the northern coastline. The beach is home to several species of gulls and wading birds such as ringed plover. Rocky outcrops at either end of the beach provide haul-out sites for common seals. Behind the dunes, the well-grazed machair grasslands support rich plantlife, including wild carrot, kidney vetch and field gentian, with grass-of-Parnassus in wetter areas.
The remains of the 19th century settlement at Kilmory are still clearly visible. 3000-year-old prehistoric mounds, a 2000-year-old Iron Age promontory fort and a 7th century carved Christian cross can also be seen around the former township.

Later, Kilmory was one of the larger crofting communities until 1826 when, as part of the Clearances, all the tenants were evicted and transported to Nova Scotia. When the Bullough family owned the island, they built their laundry here - a long journey from Kinloch Castle for their servants!
RED DEER AND RUM PONIES

The “abundance of little desire”¹ on Rum were hunted to extinction by the 1780s. New landowners imported deer for stalking and today there are over 1000 beasts. The Deer Commission for Scotland counts the herd every spring and stallions cull selected animals later in the year to keep numbers at levels agreed with SNH.

Scientists knew surprisingly little about red deer before they began research on Rum in the 1950s. Early results showed – contrary to common belief – that few stag lived beyond 13 years or hinds beyond 15. Later studies demonstrated that deer depend heavily on scattered patches of flower-rich grassland and much less on heather and deer wedge. Long-term researchers have tracked every animal that regularly uses the Kilnave area. Their results show that deer performance is strongly dependent on their density, and that controlling hind numbers is the key to maintaining a healthy population. This is one of the longest running studies of a large mammal anywhere in the world. Its findings are now being applied to deer management throughout Scotland and farther afield.

Rum’s ponies are small but vigorous, with an ancestry that may date back over a thousand years. Their colours vary from black to bay to white, and some have a dark red-stripe down their backs and ‘zebra’ markings on their legs. They are toughly built, strong and willing, although they can demonstrate an independent streak! The ponies are used mainly during the deer cull and are accustomed to bearing the weight of a ‘gallowgah’ (ridembowelled) stag.

Stallions with a good proportion of Rum blood are brought to the island to retain the herd’s characteristics. The stallion is kept in Kinloch, and mares with young foals also graze close to the village. The rest of the herd roams through Kilnave Glen and the neighbouring hills – when they are not working on the deer cull – where you may be lucky enough to see them.

¹ Some suggest the phrase was introduced by the Norsemen; they have certainly been used to pull and carry loads on the island for many hundreds of years.
Tracks Through the Glens

EXPLORING THE WEST

Rum’s earliest rock - called Lewisian gneiss - is around three billion years old. Hard and coarse-grained, some of it lies over younger granite - on Ard Nev, for example - which shows that molten rock or ‘magma’ forced up the surface but cooled before it could break through. Lava created Canna, and later flowed over Rum to form Orval, Fionchra and Bloodstone Hill, covering ancient granitic rock with a cap of basalt. More eruptions followed over a period of two million years.
More recently, Ice Age glaciers cut great hollows at the head of Glens Harris and Dibidil. The last glaciers deposited a series of moraines - easily recognised ridges and mounds of debris - in these glens and in the corries of Sròn an t-Saighdeir and Orval. Periods of frost and thaw left spectacular fragments of rocks of various sizes sorted into regular shapes on the summits of the western hills.

The pony path down Glen Shellesder leaves Kilmory Glen at its southern end.

After climbing a small ridge, it descends for about three miles to the site of an Iron Age fort on a promontory overlooking Canna. The glen is dominated to the south by the flanks of Fionchra where many ravines hold remnants of Rum's original woodland.

Brown rats often breed on the hillsides here and tracks have even been seen on winter snow. Pygmy shrews and field mice live all over the island but not in sufficient numbers to sustain more than a few pairs of kestrels. Other raptors include merlins that hunt small moorland birds such as meadow pipit, and peregrines that prey on sea birds around the cliffs.

South of Shellesder lies Guirdil Bay, the site of a former crofting settlement and prehistoric burial cairns. But this spot was known long before by the wandering hunter-gatherers who sailed Scotland's western seaboard and used Kinloch as a safe port. They found on Creag nan Steàrman a valuable rock called bloodstone, which gave the mountain its English name. The green volcanic flint-like stone, spotted with red, was used to fashion tools such as arrow heads and knives.
You can reach Bloodstone Hill by walking up Glen Guirdil to join the old pony path to the summit. You’ll have superb views of Canna and the Western Isles on a clear day, with Skye lying to the north. From Bloodstone Hill, you can return to Kinloch over the Bealach a’ Bhràigh Bhig (pass of the small upland) between Fionchra and Orval. This route passes under the steep crags of Sròn an t-Saighdeir and Orval, which form the northern face of a large rolling plateau.
The journey by road towards Harris Bay is full of reminders of former times. Just beyond the head of Kilmory Glen, you’ll pass the remains of an ill-fated dam built by Lord Salisbury to improve the Kinloch River for fishing. Two days after it was completed, it collapsed, sending a huge surge of water down Kilmory Glen. It is one of the many scheduled ancient monuments and listed buildings on the island, which date from prehistoric times to the early 20th century.

On the southern flanks of Orval and of Ard Nev are several mediaeval deer-traps or ‘settis’. During a ‘tinchel’ or deer-drive, the animals were driven into a corridor formed by two dykes that led to a high-walled stone enclosure. The deer were then slaughtered for their venison.

From their blackhouses, barns and kailyards, the people of Harris were driven in 1826 to a life across the Atlantic. Their summer shielings or pastures, the ‘áirighean’, scattered over the hills, are empty of black cattle and the small native sheep. The land they cultivated in raised ridges - inappropriately called lazybeds - remains as a stark reminder of how small communities were evicted to make way for ‘an caora mòr’, the big sheep.

▲ Crofting communities used a runrig system of raised cultivation strips called ‘feannagan’; where soil was poor, the ridges were built up with seaweed and discarded, sotoy thatch. Oats, here (a form of barley) and potatoes were grown.
Another echo of past husbandry are the feral goats, often seen grazing on the most perilous of rocky outcrops. In the 18th century, their densely growing hair was collected and sent to wigmakers. A hundred years later, the animals were hunted for sport with new stock imported to strengthen the breed. This has resulted in two distinct horn shapes - the spreading ‘dorcas’ type and the backward-sweeping ‘ibis’ variety.

You might catch sight here of a white-tailed sea eagle, Britain’s largest bird of prey, which was hunted to extinction. Rum was the base for a successful programme of reintroduction in the 1970s and 80s, and there are now more than a dozen breeding pairs in Scotland with many young birds reaching maturity.

The Bullough mausoleum that overlooks Harris Bay is a reminder of the mortality of the island’s former landlords. Around it, many of the island’s Highland cattle graze undaunted. They browse down the tussocks of coarse grasses and this allows wild thyme, kidney vetch and red fescue to flourish. The herd is now hefted on Harris but is moved in summer to Guirdil when the stock bull is allowed to range with the herd. Selective breeding is bringing back the traditional black coated animals to join the more familiar red, brown, orange and yellow beasts.
Carefully managed grazing by the island's herd of cattle is helping to increase the variety of plants and flowers.

Most of Rum's goats live on the west-facing cliffs between Papadil and Glen Guirdil.

The rare azure hawker dragonfly breeds in peaty pools, like the one behind the raised beach at Harris.
The Call of the Cuillin

EXPLORING THE SOUTH

Sixty million years ago, the insides of Rum’s volcano rose and fell repeatedly against what is called the ‘main ring fault’ that separates the volcanic core from the much older sandstone around it. As each surge of molten material cooled, heavy minerals sank to make dense, dark brown ‘peridotite’. Above it, lighter minerals solidified as grey ‘allivellite’ (named after Hallival). Layer upon layer formed in succession.

Once Rum’s volcano stopped erupting, its appearance changed dramatically in the warm, humid climate of the time. Erosion, mainly by weathering and rivers, stripped off about a kilometre-depth of rock. This exposed the 16 alternate hard and soft layers of cold intrusive rock. The glaciers then deepened the glens of Harris and Dibidil, and formed the corries of Hallival, Barfaval, Trollaval and Airdaval. The intense glacial erosion of the volcanic rocks fashioned the peaks and narrow creistles of the Cuillin ridge that makes Rum so recognisable today. The glaciers also left a striking legacy of ice-scoured rock and moraines in many of the corries and glens.
To know the Cuillin is to know the heart of Rum. Only by walking and climbing among the peaked remnants of the great volcano can you appreciate the tremendous forces of fire that built the mountains, and of ice and water that tore much of them away. Only by close examination, can you understand the stepped and eroded outlines of Hallival and Askival. This is one of the world’s great places for Earth scientists to study volcanic action and rock formation (including why deposits of rare metals such as platinum and gold can be found here). It is also one of the finest ridge walks in Scotland.

\[\text{It's hard to imagine that the original volcano was twice the height of the Cuillin ridge today.}\]
CA R N I V O R O U S D E E R A N D T H E R U M F L E A

If you head south from Kinloch on the pony path, you’ll see recent plantings of native alder, birch and willow, with the former shielings at Fearann Làimhrig down by the coast. This is where summer grazing of cattle took place before the Clearance of 1826. You’ll pass, near An t-Sròn (the point), one of the sea cliffs that provide homes for some 10,000 sea birds of a dozen species. Gregarious, squawking guillemots jostle for nesting space with razorbills and kittiwakes; fulmars show off their aerial skills and you may spot the odd puffin. There are also a few terns around the island, occasional gannets offshore and an abundance of gulls.

Continuing south you’ll come to Glen Dibidil, with its rugged gullies and lower slopes littered with glacial debris. In years past, sheep “would be driven off ... to the wildest and most remote hirsel, Dibidale, to which there was no road, by Johnny Come Over” (the nickname for the shepherd who lived there)⁵.
At the head of Glen Dibidil are the slopes of Trollaval which, along with the upper reaches of Hallival and Askival, form the main nesting grounds for the Manx shearwaters. These roving birds winter off the coasts of Argentina and Brazil, returning to Rum to breed. They normally pair for life, using the same nest-burrows every year for incubating the single white egg. Their accumulated droppings have resulted in vivid green grass, much loved by deer and home to heath bedstraw, dog-violet and heath speedwell usually found at lower levels. Alpine plants like the rare, white-petalled northern rock-cress can also be seen.

Only when they've slimmed down enough to leave the nest-burrow can they exercise their wings and, finally, launch themselves into the wind and glide down to the sea. If this first flight in September succeeds, they're likely to live for many years, flying agilely for many miles each day to feed.

Rum's golden eagles - often seen above the Cuillin - will take Manxies for food, as will greater black-backed gulls and peregrine falcons. Even deer have been known to eat the heads and legs of the chicks for calcium, leaving hooded crows and ravens to scavenge the rest.

During the day, the shearwaters gather at sea, safe from predators, floating silently in great rafts between Rum and Eigg. When they return to the burrows at night to feed the chicks, you'll hear a great cacophony of excited cackling. The young birds grow fat on part-digested fish and squid and are soon abandoned by their parents.
The pony path continues on to Papadil (priest’s valley) - one of the most remote locations on the island - where the former shooting lodge (now in ruins) was built on the site of one of the many tiny crofting settlements on the island. From here, you’ll have to retrace your steps or find your own way to Harris and back to Kinloch - it’s a very long and arduous hike. The route skirts the slopes of Ruinsival, where one of Britain’s rarest plants grows - the arctic sandwort with its shining white flowers. It’s one of many upland species that thrive on Sgùr nan Gillean, Ainshval and Ruinsival, where tundra-like vegetation is kept short by wind and grazing deer. In summer, you might see merlins hereabouts, as they nest among the blaeberry and heather on the lower slopes.

The route north out of Dibidil leads over the Bealach an Òir (pass of the gold), round the top of Glen Harris to the Bealach Barcabhal (pass of Barkeval) and down Coire Dubh to Kinloch. As you pass Hallival, give a thought to the Ceratophyllum fionnus - Rum’s very own pale flea, first collected from shearwater nests, but not a patch on the bloodsucking ferocity of the Rum midge!
Some years before Lady Bullough sold Rum to the nation in 1957, a report to Parliament stated that Rum “...would make an outstanding station for research and experiment and, indeed, is the most suitable island for this purpose in Scotland.”

6
Today, Rum is Scottish Natural Heritage’s flagship National Nature Reserve. The island has been recognised by several international and national designations for its unmatched geological, natural and cultural heritage. And it has been justifiably acclaimed as one of this country’s premier locations for the study and enjoyment of nature. So what does the future hold?

Our vision for Rum is that a century from now, the island will be even more biologically diverse than it is today. Moreover, it will have the potential to sustain a larger and more mixed human community without compromising the island’s natural environment.

The key to achieving this goal will be to re-establish Rum’s former mosaic of native woodland and scrub while ensuring that the numbers of grazing animals are kept in balance with the land. This builds on the island’s first 40 years as a National Nature Reserve.
We will protect the many important features of natural and earth science interest while restoring some of the habitats damaged by previous human use of the island. At the same time, we will continue to encourage research as well as educational and general public use of the reserve.

In pursuing this vision, SNH has no doubt that Rum can offer powerful lessons for the wider West Highlands of Scotland where many centuries of over-exploiting natural resources have seriously reduced the capacity of the land to support its natural communities.

Scottish Natural Heritage believes that Rum presents a unique opportunity to learn from the past, share the present and work towards an exciting future for this remarkable island.
FOOTNOTES

1 For more information about Rum's place-names, see Island Place-Names/ Aineume Aite an Eilein, SNH 1999

2 For a fuller description of Rum's natural and cultural history, see Rum: Nature's Island by Magnus Magnusson, Luath Press 1998

3 From Account of the Western Isles of Scotland by Dean Monro [1549] in A Description of the Western Isles of Scotland by Martin Martin, 1703

4 For more information about mountaineering on Rum, see The Island of Rum: A Guide for Walkers, Climbers and Visitors, Cicerone Press 1995

5 For more tales of life on Rum, see Bare Feet and Tackety Boots by Archie Cameron, Luath Press 1988

6 From Nature Reserves in Scotland (Command 7814) by Scottish National Parks Committee and Scottish Wild Life Conservation Committee, 1949

7 Rum's official designations include:
   - National Nature Reserve (1957)
   - UNESCO Biosphere Reserve (1976)
   - National Scenic Area, as part of the Small Isles (1978)
   - Special Protection Area under the EC Wild Birds Directive (1982)
   - Site of Special Scientific Interest (1987)
   - Proposed as Special Area of Conservation under the EC Habitats Directive (1995)

8 For a complete account of Rum's ecology, see Rum: the Natural History of an Island edited by T H Clutton-Brock and M E Ball, Edinburgh University Press 1987
The island of Rum holds a special place among our National Nature Reserves – it is one of the largest at over 100 square kilometres; many of its wildlife and landscape features are rare or unique; and it is owned and managed by a government conservation agency, Scottish Natural Heritage. Over the years Rum has become well-known internationally and now ranks as one of the top nature reserves in this country. This booklet provides the essential introduction and guide to this fascinating island and its many special interests.

SNH is a government agency that works to conserve and enhance Scotland’s rich inheritance of wildlife, habitats and landscapes. It aims to help people enjoy the natural heritage responsibly, understand it more fully and use it wisely so that it can be sustained for future generations.

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**Design** by Lighthouse, Aberdeen

**Photography** by Steve Austin, Niall Benvie, Laurie Campbell, Sidney Clarke, John Cleare, Bruce Coleman Ltd, Jenny Cooper, Chris Eatough, Derek Fabian, Lorne Gill (SNH), Chris Comersall, Laughton Johnston, Pat MacDonald, John MacPherson, Oxford Scientific Films, Sue Scott, Caroline Wickham-Jones and Porteous Wood

**Satellite image** by M-SAT

**Text** by Michael Glen

**Map** by Wendy Price

**Printed** by Pilians and Wilson Greenaway on environmentally friendly paper PW10K0599

ISBN 1-85397-031-X

Price £3.00