

DESCRIPTIVE LIST: THE UISTS

AREA 4

(note: on-line images to be found on Canmore in 2005 are listed but as sites are constantly being added readers may wish to check whether new items have been added to the on-line record available through the RCAHMS web page (www.rcahms.gov.uk) follow directions to Canmore.

1. Askernish

South Uist parish

NF 7450 2450

NF72SW 18

Summary description:

1920s croft group, house in centre, one and a half storeys and porched; harled stone with asbestos tile roof; linear building, built 1926-7, to one side with hipped reed-thatched roof containing stable, byre and barn. Rubble walls with dressed quoins. 1950s building on other side of house not recorded. (1998)

NMRS survey material:

Plan and elevation of byre 1:50; RCAHMS photographic survey, 1998, D41413-D41416, (house), D41417-D41428, (linear range).

Other documentary evidence:

1813 because of a lack of drainage Major Macdonald of Askernish is refusing to pay his rent. An abatement of £50 would be suitable. (NAS, GD201/1/350; report by Mr Shaw, factor to the Uist estate); 1822 rented to John Macdonald £450 (NAS, GD201/1/351/20); 1829 Askernish farm consisted of 558 acres of arable, 76 of pasture and 2437 of hill pasture (NAS, GD201/1/355); 1852 claims for meliorations: £840 for farm house and offices, also drainage and enclosure (NAS, GD201/1/357); 1886 'Walked to Askernish - house and steading in excellent repair' (NAS, D86/102/A5/9); 1919-20 farm taken for crofts, 11 new holdings being laid out (NAS, AF67).

2. Balivanich, Moor Cottage

Benbecula, South Uist parish

NF 8009 5395

NF85SW 21

Summary description:

Small thatched, hip-roofed hen/duck house. (1998)

NMRS survey material:

1:50 plan and section;

6 photographs, 4 transparencies. **Refs needed**

Other documentary evidence:

1910 Valuation (IRS68/205ref.983)

Rent £5; stone and slate house of 6 rooms and porch and room outside. Stone and corrugated iron annex, lobby, bedroom and workshops. Good repair

3. Balranald

North Uist parish

NF 7188 6982

NF76NW 8

Summary description:

Courtyard group consisting of a partly ruinous threshing barn with horse engine platform to north and part of drive shaft still lying in field, a stable and barn with granary above to the east, cattle byre and barn to south and stables and cattle shed to west; detached house to north of west range. Slated roofs, except for eastern range which is corrugated iron, harled and bare rough stone with dressed quoins. Stable/barn recently re-roofed, threshing barn ruinous, rest in reasonable condition. (1998)

NMRS survey material:

1:200 site plan, 1:50 section of cattle shed and 1:20 detail of cattle stocks; details of threshing machine MS500/31./36 &/42, MS500/10/1, A70524-31, B8966-7
RCAHMS photographic survey, 1998, D34881-34941 (interior and exterior views).

Other documentary evidence:

c.1790 Mr Macdonald draining ground and converting the ground into rich arable fields (Buchanan, 1997 p.12);

1811 Mr Macdonald improving marshes and bogs (Macdonald, 1811, p.374); 1813 'This valuable farm lies in a most desirable situation with regards to all the means of improvement as to shelly sand and cast ware. Mostly a rich sand loam and well adapted to turnips and clover. The May wheat at Balranald which has been equally well filled and as weighty a grain as to be found elsewhere - but barley or oats would be much more profitable and ought at all times to have preference' (NAS, GD403/2); 1840 19 year lease £426 (NAS, GD403/4/2); 1854 lease for 14 years £715 (£435 pencilled in margin) for 'Banranald, Pwinmore, Clachan, Gaulbay, Raimisgarry and Island of Raasay'(NAS, GD403/4/3);

1893 Alex. MacDonald, tenant, rent £650 (NAS, GD298/16); 1894 sold to tenant for £8000 (NAS, GD298/56);

1906 Valuation; rent £250; 1908 sheep being cleared for deer (NAS, GD298/75);

1921 compensation paid to farmer and farm taken for crofts (NAS, AF67).

4. Bornish House

South Uist parish

NF 7360 3003

NF73SW 12.01

Summary description:

U-plan steading consisting of byre with stable/cart shed to one side and barn with raised horse walk to the other with loft over. Stackyard behind byre. Buildings gabled, slated roofs. Coursed stone with dressed quoins. Some roofless. Derelict. (1998)

NMRS material:

RCAHMS photographic survey, 1998 D41559-41578 (interior and exterior views); scanned image SC533431, (distant view from road).

5. Carnach

North Uist parish

NF 8045 6329 and NF 8044 6331

NF86SW 61

Summary description:

Scattered croft group consisting of partly heather-thatched, partly roofless cottage with roofless byre at right-angles to the north. Sub-rectangular building housing grain kiln to south, with a rectangular stack yard adjoining to north-east. A further small kiln building to west; further walled enclosures to south. Roofless byre contains stone stall divisions and there are the remains of box-beds in the cottage. Mostly roofless, presumably originally heather-thatched, hipped roofs. Abandoned. (1998)

NMRS survey material:

1:200 site plan, 1:50 plan and section; RCAHMS photographic survey, 1998, D34946-35123 (general views of croft, yard, kiln and interior of byres); scanned image SC533359, (view from west).

Other documentary evidence:

1813 15 crofts of 11-15 acres 'most improvable' (NAS, GD403/2); 1906 20 crofters with rents of £3 to £6 (NAS, GD298 /75).

6. Drimore

South Uist parish

NF 7680 4025

NF74SE 20

Summary description:

19th-century U-plan steading consisting of byre to north, stable to west and barn with horse-gang to east. (1998)

NMRS survey material:

RCAHMS photographic survey 1998, D41264-D41490, (exterior views of house and steading).

Other documentary sources:

1805 W Bald's map shows a scatter of houses (NAS, RHP1040); 1829 Drimore farm consisted of 239 acres of arable and 760 of hill pasture (NAS, GD201/1/355); 1852

claims for meliorations: £400 for building farmhouse, etc, house and a few enclosures for Mr Mclellan (NAS, GD201/1/357); 1888 Robert Ferguson, tenant, rent £110 (NAS, TD 86/102 A5); 1930 farm (with Grogary) in hand; c.45 cattle and c.400 sheep on farms, but farms making a loss (NAS, TD85/63/A6/10).

7. 1, East Kilbride

South Uist parish
NF 7635 1418
NF71SE 25

Summary description:

Single thatched outbuilding containing horse stall and cow standings with small lean-to which was a lambing shelter, now hen-house; drainage channel out of lower end of byre. Derelict. (1998)

NMRS survey material:

1:50 plan and section; RCAHMS photographic survey, 1998, D41528-43, (exterior views), INS5631 & 5632, 1975-6, (exterior views).

Other documentary sources:

1805 W Bald's map shows a U-plan steading within a small area of enclosed fields (NAS, RHP1040)
1910 Valuation (IRS68/199, ref.317)
House erected since 1909

8. 393, Garrynamonie

South Uist parish
NF 7516 1648
NF71NE 8

Summary description:

Single sub-rectangular, hip-roofed thatched building with central doorway, roof netted and held down by stones. (1998)

NMRS survey material:

RCAHMS photographic survey, 1998, B32947-40, (general exterior views).

Other documentary evidence:

1910 Valuation (IRS68/205, ref.731)
Rent £3 5s.
Stone and thatched house of three rooms, no flooring or lining. Byre, barn and stable; condition fairly good.

9. Garryamonie

South Uist parish
NF 7435 1641

NF71NW 16.01

Summary description:

Thatched house and two outbuildings, one thatched and the other with a corrugated roof. House single-storeyed with hipped roof, thatch netted and held down by stones, later chimneys at each end, later porch on front, central door and windows on either side, single central window in back. Shed nearest house originally hipped, now gabled; corrugated iron roof, off-centre door and two small windows, probably a byre with small shed (hen-house) on the end. Further small shed with hipped thatched roof and central door. Most of thatch gone. (1998)

NMRS survey material:

RCAHMS photographic survey, 1998, D41452-57, D41463-86 (general exterior views).

Other documentary evidence:

1805 W Bald's map shows a group of houses in a rough semi-circle (NAS, RHP1040).

10. Gramsdale

Benbecula, South Uist parish

NF 8281 5631

NF85NW 24

Summary description:

Croft group. The newest building on the site is a shuttered concrete byre with corrugated iron roof built in 1948. The house was rebuilt in 1934 using some material from a demolished byre, but mainly of corrugated iron on a timber frame with asbestos cement tile roof. This house replaced a thatched house at the east end of the stack yard built in 1897 and converted to a byre in 1934. To the west of the yard is a small kiln barn. (The kiln was removed when the local mill closed.) (1998)

NMRS survey material:

1:50 plan and elevation of house, 1:200 plan, 1:50 plan, elevation and section of the byre **Not on Canmore or green box**

Other documentary evidence

1883 New dwelling houses and byres on the crofts, draining land and building dykes, wood and slates provided by the estate (*PP*, 1883, p.762).

11. 17, Griminish

Benbecula, South Uist parish

NF 7865 5180

NF75SE 33

Summary description:

Ruined croft group consisting of sub-rectangular croft house to south with central dividing wall, west end of building later. To west a small byre with cobbled floor and central drain; small kiln barn to north with kiln at east end, and stable with lean-to cart shed to north. Dry stone rubble construction. All roofless and abandoned. (1998)

NMRS survey material:

1:200 site plan;

19 photographs, 4 transparencies. **Not on Canmore or green box ref needs finding**

Other documentary sources:

1829 Griminish farm consisted of 238 acres of arable (NAS, GD201/1/355);

1832 lease for Griminish and Vallay; rent £190, 14 years from 1829, buildings to be insured for £820 (NAS, GD403/4/1); 1883 crofts too small, rents too high, same level as they were when there was kelp and before common was taken. 32 heads of families £3 rent, 2 cows and a horse, 5 acres of arable, barley and oats grown, but yields low (PP, 1883, p.756).

12. Kilaulay

South Uist parish

NF 7526 4583

NF74NE 32

Summary description

A post-1918 croft group with concrete outbuildings, one dated 1948. (1998)

NMRS survey material

NMRS photographic survey, 1998 D41254-41263 (exterior views of house and steading).

Other documentary sources

1829 Kilaulay farm consisted of 183 acres of arable (NAS, GD201/1/355).

13. Kildonan

South Uist parish

NF 7288 2773

NF72NW 32

Summary description:

Scattered croft group around sub-rectangular stack yard, roofless house to west, byre to east, and kiln barn at a short distance to south, all originally with hipped roofs and heather thatch; house now roofless; later house to east. (1998)

NMRS survey material:

Plan 1:200; RCAHMS photographic survey, 1998 D41364-D41384, D41386-D41405, (exterior views and interior of stalls).

Other documentary evidence:

1805 W Bald's map shows a large scatter of houses, with a second larger one to the north of the present crofts, on the loch side (NAS, RHP1040); 1822 rental, 26 sub-tenants £200 (NAS, GD201/1/351/20); 1829 Kildonan farm consisted of 479 acres of arable and 768 of hill pasture (NAS, GD201/1/355).

14. Newton

North Uist parish
NF 8908 7725
NF87NE 36.01

Summary description:

Medium-to-large 19th-century steading; U-plan group of byre, barn and stable. (1998)

NMRS survey material:

RCAHMS photographic survey, 1998, D41087-41146CS, D41128-41146CS, D41128-41146CT, D41127CN, D41087-41126, (general exterior views); scanned images SC533354-533355, (exterior views).

Other documentary evidence:

1898 tenant John Fulton, rent £201 (NAS, GD298/50); 1905 described as a large and good farm which wants a 'sufficient house'. The present manager's house would need enlarging for a tenant. 'It has an especially good, large and well arranged farm steading, buildings in good repair. Rent £260, regularly and well paid' (NAS, GD298/48, report on North Uist estates of Sir A.J.Campbell Orde); 1908 rent £169 (NAS, GD298/16); farm extended to c.3,000 acres capable of carrying a stock of about 50 milk cows with followers and 500 sheep. Rent now £130 (NAS, GD298/75); 1910 Valuation (IRS68/167, ref.74)

Rent £160

Farmer's house, stone and slate, five rooms all wood-lined and floored, milk house, store house, potato house, and joiner's shop, bothy. Range of corrugated iron buildings with wooden fronts. Tool house, cow shed, motor house and cart shed. Stone and slate stable, three stables and harness room with loft over both, a second stable eight stalls, loft over and barn, stone and slate, mill room and engine room, boiler and straw barns, range of wood and corrugated iron lean-tos. Byre for four cattle and calf house. Stone and corrugated iron feeding byre, stone and corrugated iron lean-to. Value £7,600.

15. 336, North Boisdale

South Uist parish
NF 7420 1805
NF71NW 12.03

Summary description:

Two buildings, one sub-rectangular structure with central door and hipped thatched roof, the other gable-ended stone building, possibly originally a house, with corrugated iron roof, central door and window each side.(1998)

NMRS survey material:

MS500/36/40, B8983-8986 (details of threshing machine) 1984; RCAHMS photographic survey, 1998, D41444-D414451, (general views).

Other documentary evidence:

1840s 24 crofters, 1883 48 crofters. Machair being blown away and cannot be made up without the help of the landlord. Rent £12 12s. Each croft with two cows and a horse, six sheep, one calf (*PP*, 1883, 1, p.709); 1888 35 crofts, rent £218 (NAS, TD86/102 A5); 1910

1910 Valuation (IRS68/202, refs686 & 687)

Rent for no 366 /1, £5 8s, house erected since 1909; byre, barn and stable, and for 366/2 rent £5 8s, stone and slate house of 4 rooms and closet. No flooring downstairs, upstairs rooms partly built, barn, store, byre and stable, all in good repair

16. North Frobost

South Uist parish

NF 7448 2533

NF72NW 32

Summary description:

Sheep fank, formerly the fank for Milton Farm. Rectilinear walled yard with fenced pens in north-east corner and walled enclosures with cobbled floors to south. (1998)

NMRS survey material

1:200 plan; RCAHMS photographic survey 1998, D41434-D41437 (sheep fold and sheep dip), D41451, (general view).

Other documentary evidence:

1805 W Bald's map shows a scatter of houses at North Frobost, but both North and South Frobost were one farm of 562 acres of arable and 2,064 of hill pasture (NAS, RHP1040).

17. North Locheynort

South Uist parish

NF 7747 2906

NF72NE 9.01

Summary description:

Stone shed with concrete block margins, gable ended, corrugated roof, central door and window to one side and another to rear. (1998)

NMRS survey material:

7 photographs, 2 transparencies. **Not on Canmore or green box- need to find refs**

18. Ormiclate

South Uist parish

NF 7403 3185

NF73SW 13

Summary description:

Courtyard-plan farmstead dated 1877 with a pair of two-storeyed gabled cottages to north and south linked by ranges of cow byres to west and east with grain storage above; slated roofs, harled coursed stone with dressed quoins. Gabled arched entry in centre of eastern cow byre with 1877 datestone over gives the buildings an architectural air. Mostly derelict. (1998)

NMRS survey material:

Plan 1:200 with detail of cast-iron column; RCAHMS photographic survey 1998 D41322-57, D41358-63 (general exterior views); scanned images SC533348 & SC533430, (interior of byre and exterior view).

Other documentary evidence:

1805 W Bald's map shows a large settlement by Loch Hollar (NAS, RHP 1040); 1829 Ormiclate Farm consisted of 436 acres of arable and 1,588 of hill pasture (NAS, GD201/1/355); 1886 letter from agent: 'Walked through Ormiclate - called at farm - inspected house and steading - in good order' (NAS, TD86/102/A5/9); 1888 Ranald Macdonald, tenant, rent £408 (NAS TD86/102 A5)

1910 Valuation (IRS68/199, ref.306)

c.8,810 acres, rent £200, stone and slate buildings and bothy of two-storeys. Dairy lean-to on house, hen house, potato house, stone and thatch. Steading stone and slate comprising cattle courts, three spaces supported by iron pillars, straw barn, mill house and granary, dipping tank and apparatus and boiler, cart shed, loose box, five-stall stables, loft over last four items, value £3,000. In fair condition.

19. Sidinish

North Uist parish

NF 8776 6315

NF86SE 17

Summary description:

Croft group with two-cell, sub-rectangular, hip-roofed house. End and central chimney stacks later insertions; only part of the heather thatch with roping survives; clay daub on interior walls. Gabled roofless byre building to north-west and hipped roof hen house with part of heather roof surviving to north-west. All of drystone rubble, partly harled. (1998)

NMRS survey material:

RCAHMS photographic survey, 1998 D41049-41078, D41079-41087CT/CS (general views and interior of house); scanned image SC533360, detail of rope under thatch).

20. 366, South Boisdale

South Uist parish
NF 7430 1722
NF71NW 15.01

Summary description:

Two post-1945 buildings, one byre/tractor shed, concrete, rendered, gabled with corrugated roof, and a similarly built dairy building. (1998)

NMRS survey material:

RCAHMS photographic survey, 1998 D41458-D41462, (exteriors of concrete byre); B32948 n.d. (exterior of kiln).

Other documentary material:

1805 W Bald's map shows a scatter of houses, some with small enclosures behind; 1883 19 crofts and 29 families in South Boisdale, rent £7 9s, witness had two cows and a horse, a two-year old heifer and four sheep. His son had a cow and a horse on the croft (*PP*, 1883, 712); 1888 35 crofts, rent £116 (NAS, TD86/102/A5); 1910 Valuation (IRS68/203, ref.711) no.366, rent £4 6s, stone and thatch house of three rooms, no flooring, byre and barn; fair condition.

21. South Glendale

South Uist parish
NF 7912 151526 & 7918 1525
NF71NE 28

Summary description:

A group of thatched or roofless buildings. Byre with hipped roof held down by netting. Door in end wall. A second building, originally hipped and thatched, but now felt-covered; off-centre door, no windows. (1998)

NMRS material:

RCAHMS photographic survey 1998 D41581-D41584, (exterior views).

22. South Lochboisdale

South Uist parish
NF7777 1770
NF71NE 7.01

Summary description:

Thatched former house, hipped roof, later chimney at one end, central door, window either side, and central window at rear. Derelict. (1998)

NMRS survey material:

6 photographs?. **Not on Canmore only one IN/5371 (1975-6) in green box needs checking**

23. Stoneybridge

South Uist parish
NF 74103340
NF73SW 9

Summary description:

A group of three heather-thatched buildings; a house/byre (possibly a longhouse) to east, with later extension, a small hen house to west, and further west a sub-rectangular building with opposing doors, possibly a kiln barn or byre. Rubble dry-stone walls with only part of the thatch surviving. All derelict and abandoned. (1998)

NMRS survey material:

Plan 1:200, Plan, elevation and section of house/byre 1:50; RCAHMS photographic survey, 1998, D41299-D41321, (exterior views and details of door and stalls).

Other documentary material:

1805 W Bald's map shows a large scattered settlement; farm consisted of 370 acres of arable and 1,844 acres of hill pasture (NAS, RHP1040); 1822 Rental 28 subtenants £160 (NAS, GD201/1/351/20); 1829 Stoneybridge Farm consisted of 370 acres of arable and 1844 of hill pasture (NAS, GD201/1/355); 1905 the township of Stoneybridge one of the most congested spots on the Uists (NAS, AF42/2447). 1910 Valuation IRS68/20, ref.535

A group of black houses, stone and thatched with some byres, barns and stables of stone and corrugated iron.

24. 4, West Kilbride

South Uist parish
NF 7547 1439
NF71SE 24

Summary description:

Two-storeyed L-plan house to east, linear byre across yard to west; gabled, rubble walled with dressed quoins and corrugated iron roof. Rendered shed with higher roof line on north end. Small corrugated-iron roofed building to south-west of house with chimney. Derelict. (1998)

NMRS survey material:

RCAHMS photographic survey, 1998, D41495-41527, (exterior views).

Other documentary sources

1906 Kilbride put forward for small holdings (NAS, AF47/2447); 1907 negotiations over taking over the buildings at Kilbride; the main buildings to be pulled down, but the winnowing machine to be kept and the kiln rebuilt. 'In the barn is a corn mill worked by horse power which would be of great use to the crofters' (NAS, AF47/3761); the outrun at Kilbride not large and the tenants can keep few if any sheep besides their cattle and horses (NAS, AF47/3570); 10 large and 14 small holdings; loans for building houses: 'We have surely learned by this time that the spending of

much money on house building is a great mistake ... the less money these people borrow for any such purpose, the better.' £40 to be the maximum (NAS, AF47/3807); 1910 Valuation (IRS68/199, ref.334)

4, West Kilbride, house erected since 1909, byre, house and stable; good repair

Additional:

Nunton Farmstead, Benbecula

MS500/36/29 threshing mill details, B8957-58CN view of threshing machine

24.07.1984; RCAHMS photographic survey 1998 DA41229-40, 41247-41253CT,

41247-53CS