



CANNA
The Survey of a Hebridean Landscape

This survey of Canna and Sanday was undertaken by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland in partnership with The National Trust for Scotland. All the archaeological remains are shown, the buildings and shieling-huts in red, the enclosures, field-banks and township boundaries in black, and the areas of lazy-bed cultivation and field-clearance cairns in green. In all, over a thousand structures were recorded in the course of the survey.

The locations of all the monuments illustrated on this broadsheet are annotated on the map, along with the best examples of various classes that have been recorded. The latter include the hut-circles and field-systems towards the west end of Canna, several groups of shieling-huts across the length of the island, the townships for which there are surviving remains, and a cluster of kelp kilns above the shore on Sanday.



The fort on Dun Channa, a low stack on the shore at the west end of Canna.



The dramatic cliffscapes along the south-west coast of Canna.



Stone-built structures amongst lazy-beds to the west of Tarbert.



Sanday and Rùm from Cnoc Mòr.



Compass Hill and the east end of Canna from Corroghon Castle.



Archaeological Conservation and Management
Following the comprehensive survey of the archaeology of Canna and Sanday, The National Trust for Scotland has been developing and implementing measures to conserve the most important sites and monuments on the islands. The greatest threat to these remains comes from the burrowing of rabbits, but controlling the rabbit population is proving difficult. While some nationally important sites are being protected, others continue to be disturbed and will need to be investigated before they are destroyed.

Safety on the Islands
Visitors should take considerable care when out walking in these islands, and should be equipped with both warm and waterproof clothing, and stout footwear. Not only is much of the coastline bounded by sheer cliffs, but the basalts that make up the majority of the rocks form low crags throughout the interior. Most of the archaeological remains are easily accessible by foot, but three sites featured in this broadsheet can be particularly dangerous. These are the fort at Dun Channa (NG 2058 0478), the monastic enclosure at Sgorr nam Bìan-naomha (NG 2299 0433), and the castle at Corroghon (NG 2796 0552).

Visitors are also reminded that the islands are farmed, and are requested to keep to tracks and footpaths, and to leave gates as they find them.



The footbridge across the tidal channel between Canna and Sanday.



The Presbyterian Church (1912-14) overlooking Canna Harbour.



The late-eighteenth century barn at Corroghon.



The imposing landmark of the Roman Catholic Church (1886-90) on Sanday (now deconsecrated).



Corroghon Bay and Canna Harbour from the castle.