

= Rùm =

Rùm ( Scottish Gaelic pronunciation : [ r?u?m ] ) , a Scottish Gaelic name often anglicised to Rum , is one of the Small Isles of the Inner Hebrides , in the district of Lochaber , Scotland . For much of the 20th century the name became Rhum , a spelling invented by the former owner , Sir George Bullough , because he did not relish the idea of having the title " Laird of Rum " .

It is the largest of the Small Isles , and the 15th largest Scottish island , but is inhabited by only about thirty or so people , all of whom live in the village of Kinloch on the east coast . The island has been inhabited since the 8th millennium BC and provides some of the earliest known evidence of human occupation in Scotland . The early Celtic and Norse settlers left only a few written accounts and artefacts . From the 12th to 13th centuries on , the island was held by various clans including the MacLeans of Coll . The population grew to over 400 by the late 18th century but was cleared of its indigenous population between 1826 and 1828 . The island then became a sporting estate , the exotic Kinloch Castle being constructed by the Bulloughs in 1900 . Rùm was purchased by the Nature Conservancy Council in 1957 .

Rùm is mainly igneous in origin , and its mountains have been eroded by Pleistocene glaciation . It is now an important study site for research in ecology , especially of red deer , and is the site of a successful reintroduction programme for the white @-@ tailed sea eagle . Its economy is entirely dependent on Scottish Natural Heritage , a public body that now manages the island , and there have been calls for a greater diversity of housing provision . A Caledonian MacBrayne ferry links the island with the mainland town of Mallaig .

= = Etymology and placenames = =

Haswell @-@ Smith ( 2004 ) suggests that Rum is " probably " pre @-@ Celtic , but may be Old Norse rōm @-@ øy for " wide island " or Gaelic ì @-@ dhruim ( pronounced [ i????im ] ) meaning " isle of the ridge " . Ross ( 2007 ) notes that there is a written record of Ruim from 677 and suggests " spacious island " from the Gaelic rùm . Mac an Tàilleir ( 2003 ) is unequivocal that Rùm is " a pre @-@ Gaelic name and unclear " . The origins are therefore speculative , but it is known for certain that George Bullough changed the spelling to Rhum to avoid the association with the alcoholic drink rum . However , the " Rhum " spelling is used on a Kilmory gravestone dated 1843 . In 1991 the Nature Conservancy Council of Scotland ( the forerunner to Scottish Natural Heritage ) reverted to the use of Rum without the h .

In the 13th century there may be references to the island as Raun @-@ eyja and Raun @-@ eyjum and Dean Munro writing in 1549 calls it Ronin . Seafaring Hebrideans had numerous taboos concerning spoken references to islands . In the case of Rùm , use of the usual name was forbidden , the island being referred to as Rìoghachd na Forraiste Fìadhaich ? " the kingdom of the wild forest " .

The island was cleared of its indigenous population prior to being mapped by the Ordnance Survey , so it is possible that many place names are speculative . Nonetheless , the significant number of Norse @-@ derived names that exist eight centuries after Viking political control ended indicate the importance of their presence on the island . Of the nine hamlets that were mapped in 1801 , seven of the names are of Norse origin .

= = Geography = =

Rùm is the largest of the Small Isles , with an area of 10 @, @ 463 hectares ( 40 @. @ 40 sq mi ) . It had a population of only 22 in the 2001 census , making it one of the most sparsely populated of all Scottish islands . There is no indigenous population ; the residents are a mixture of employees of Scottish Natural Heritage and their families , together with a number of researchers and a school teacher . There are a variety of small businesses on the island including accommodation providers , artists and crafters , three newly created crofts are being worked ( as of 2012 ) with the introduction of sheep back to the island , along with pigs and poultry . Most of the residents live in the village of

Kinloch , in the east of the island , which has no church or pub , but does have a village hall and a small primary school . It also has a shop and post office , which is run as a private business . There is a summer teashop open .

Kinloch is at the head of Loch Scresort , the main anchorage . Kilmory Bay lies to the north . It has a fine beach and the remains of a village , and has for some years served as the base for research into red deer ( see below ) . The area is occasionally closed to visitors during the period of the deer rut in the autumn . The western point is the A 'Bhrideanach peninsula , and to the southwest lie Wreck Bay , the cliffs of Sgorr Reidh and Harris Bay . The last is the site of the Bullough 's mausoleum . The family decided the first version was inadequate and dynamited it . The second is in the incongruous style of a Greek temple . Papadil ( Old Norse : " valley of the hermit " ) near the southern extremity has the ruins of a lodge built and then abandoned by the Bulloughs .

An 1801 map produced by George Langlands identified nine villages : Kilmory to the north at the head of Glen Kilmory , Samhnan Insir just to the north between Kilmory and Rubha Samhnan Insir , Camas Pliasgiag in the northeast , " Kinlochscresort " , ( the modern Kinloch ) , Cove ( Laimhrige at Bagh na h @-@ Uamha in the east ) , Dibidil in the southeast , Papadil in the south , Harris in the southwest and Guirdil at the head of Glen Shellesder in the northwest .

The island 's relief is spectacular , a 19th @-@ century commentator remarking that " the interior is one heap of rude mountains , scarcely possessing an acre of level land " . This combination of geology and topography make for less than ideal agricultural conditions , and it is doubtful that more than one tenth of the island has ever been cultivated . In the 18th century average land rental values on Rùm were a third those of neighbouring Eigg , and only a fifth of Canna 's .

Mean rainfall is high at 1 @,@ 800 millimetres ( 71 in ) at the coast and 3 @,@ 000 millimetres ( 120 in ) in the hills . Spring months are usually the driest and winter the wettest , but any month may receive the highest level of precipitation during the year .

#### = = Climate = =

As with the rest of the British Isles and Scotland , Rùm features a strongly maritime climate with cool summers and mild winters .

There is a MetOffice weather station at Kinloch providing long term climate observations .

#### = = Geology = =

The main range of hills on Rùm are the Cuillin , usually referred to as the " Rùm Cuillin " , in order to distinguish them from the Cuillin of Skye . They are rocky peaks of basalt and gabbro , similar in many ways to their better @-@ known namesakes . Geologically , Rùm is the core of a deeply eroded volcano that was active in the Paleogene era some 66 - 23 million years ago , and which developed on a pre @-@ existing structure of Torridonian sandstone and shales resting on Lewisian gneiss . Two of the Cuillin are classified as Corbetts : Askival and Ainshval , ( Old Norse for " mountain of the ash trees " and " hill of the strongholds " respectively ) and Rùm is the smallest Scottish island to have a summit above 762 metres ( 2 @,@ 500 ft ) . Other hills include Hallival , Trollaval ( ' mountain of the trolls ' ) , Barkeval , and Sgurr nan Gilleann ( Gaelic : " peak of the young men " ) in the Cuillin and Ard Nev , Orval , Sròn an t @-@ Saighdeir and Bloodstone Hill in the west . It is likely that only the higher peaks remained above the Pleistocene ice sheets as nunataks .

Hallival and Askival are formed from an extraordinary series of layered igneous rocks created as olivine and feldspar crystals accumulated at the base of a magma chamber . The chamber eventually collapsed , forming a caldera . There are swarms of near @-@ vertical dykes of basalt on the northwest coast between Kilmory and Guirdil , created by basaltic magma forcing its way into fissures in the pre @-@ existing rock . The western hills , although less elevated than the Cuillin , exhibit a superb collection of periglacial landforms including boulder sheets and lobes , turf @-@ banked terraces , ploughing boulders and patterned ground . On Orval and Ard Nev the weathered basalt and granophyre has been sorted by frost heaving into circles 50 centimetres in diameter and weathering on Barkeval has produced unusual rock sculptures . On Sròn an t @-@ Saighdeir there

are large sorted granite boulder circles 2 ? 3 metres across on the flat summit and sorted stripes on the slopes . Lava flowing away from the volcanic centre formed Bloodstone Hill , gas bubbles leaving holes in the structure that were then filled with green agate flecked with red . There are some outcrops of the pre @-@ volcanic Lewisian gneiss near Dibidil in the southeast corner of the island , and more extensive deposits of sandstone in the north and east .

= = Prehistory = =

Farm Fields , a site near Kinloch , provides some of the earliest known evidence of human occupation in Scotland . Carbonized hazelnut shells found there have been dated to the Mesolithic period at 7700 @-@ 7500 BC . At this time the landscape was dominated by alder , hazel and willow scrub . A beach site above Loch Scresort has been dated to between 6500 and 5500 BC . The presence of this hunter @-@ gatherer community may have been to take advantage of the local supplies of bloodstone , a workable material for the making of tools and weapons . There is a shell @-@ midden at Papadil in the south and evidence of tidal fish traps at both Kinloch and Kilmory .

Examination of peat cores and pollen records indicates that soil erosion ( suggesting clearance of woodland for agricultural purposes ) was taking place in 3470 BC and that evidence of arable cultivation by Neolithic communities exists from 2460 BC . As the climate became damper , peat expanded at the expense of woodland , and post @-@ glacial sea level changes left raised beaches around the coastline 18 ? 45 metres above the present coastline , especially between Harris and A 'Bhrìdeanach . There are prehistoric fort sites at Kilmory , Papadil and Shellesder of uncertain date .

= = History = =

= = = Early Christian period = = =

St Beccan of Rùm may have lived on the island for four decades from 632 AD , his death being recorded in the Annals of Ulster in 677 . He is known to have been conservative on doctrinal matters and surviving examples of his poetry suggest a passionate personality . He wrote of Columba :

In scores of currachs with an army of wretches he crossed the long @-@ haired sea .

He crossed the wave @-@ strewn wild region ,

Foam flecked , seal @-@ filled , savage , bounding , seething , white @-@ tipped , pleasing , doleful .

Simple stone pillars has been found at Kilmory and Bagh na h @-@ Uamha ( ' bay of the cave ' ) that may date from this period .

= = = Norse rule = = =

The Norse held sway in the Small Isles from 833 until the Treaty of Perth in 1266 . The Macsorley clan held tutelage in the later period of Norse rule from at least 1240 , and possibly a century earlier . The only direct evidence of a Norse presence on Rùm to date is a piece of carved narwhal ivory unearthed at Bagh na h @-@ Uamh in 1940 .

= = = Medieval Scots rule = = =

By 1346 the island was chartered to John of Islay , the Scots Lord of the Isles . It is possible that during the early medieval period the island was used as a hunting reserve by the nobility ( hence the ' taboo name ' referred to above ) . John of Fordun indicates that Rùm was " with excellent sport , but few inhabitants " and " a wooded and hilly island " in 1380 . Two hundred years later Skene noted that

Romb is ane Ile of small profit , except that it contains mony deir , and for sustentation thair of the same is permittit unlabourit , except twa townis . It is ... all hillis and waist glennis , and commodious

only for hunting of deer ... and will raise 6 or 7 men .

At the same time the much smaller nearby island of Muck was able to " raise " 16 able men and in 1625 there were only three villages on Rùm , suggesting the population was being deliberately constrained . Substantial stone walls built to funnel deer into pens that may date from this period still exist in the western glens . During the 13th century Rùm became part of the estates of the powerful Clann Ruaidhrí for a brief period and then passed into the hands of Clanranald .

== 16th century ==

By the mid @-@ 16th century , and probably a century earlier , the island was in the possession of the MacLeans of Coll . This transfer may have occurred by extortion , Allan MacRuairie of Clanranald having been held prisoner on Coll for 9 months . In 1549 Munro noted that although the island " pertained " to Coll it " obeys instantlie " to the Macleans of Duart , a situation that continued for some time . In 1588 the Small Isles suffered an armed invasion by Lachlan Maclean of Duart and his band of cutthroats , including up to one hundred Spaniards shipwrecked in the aftermath of the English defeat of the Armada . He burnt and put the isles to the sword , sparing neither women nor children . At a later date a report received by King James VI indicated that Clanranald had re @-@ occupied the island , but despite these temporary setbacks the island remained in Maclean of Coll 's hands for three centuries or more .

== 17th and 18th centuries ==

By the late 17th century Rùm 's status as a hunting reserve went into decline and population numbers started to rise . Black cattle were raised for export to the mainland , fish caught and barley and potatoes grown . More unusually , goats were kept by the inhabitants , the hair being sent to Glasgow and made into wigs for export to America . The economy was in no small part dependent on the bounty of the sea . Edward Clarke visiting in 1797 dined on :

.... milk , oatcakes and Lisbon wine . I was surprised to find wine of that species , and of a superior quality in such a hut , but they told us it was part of the freight of some unfortunate vessel wrecked near the island .

This largesse notwithstanding , conditions were primitive . There was no permanent minister and when one visited he was obliged to conduct sermons in the open air , there being no church . Nor was there a mill , and leather was tanned with willow bark and dressed with sea shells due to the lack of lime . The nearby smaller island of Muck was valued for land rental the same as the whole of Rùm at this time , again indicating the poverty of agriculture on Rùm . The growing population of Rùm 's demands on the land led to the extermination of the native red deer ( *Cervus elaphus* ) during the latter half of the 18th century .

James Boswell and Samuel Johnson met with MacLean of Coll at Talisker on Skye during their 1773 excursion to the Hebrides . Boswell reported that :

After dinner he and I walked to the top of Prieswell , a very high rocky hill , from whence there is a view of Barra , the Long Island , Bernera , the Loch of Dunvegan , part of Rùm , part of Rasay , and a vast deal of the Isle of Skye . Col , though he had come into Skye with an intention to be at Dunvegan , and pass a considerable time in the island , most politely resolved first to conduct us to Mull , and then to return to Skye . This was a very fortunate circumstance ; for he planned an expedition for us of more variety than merely going to Mull . He proposed we should see the islands of Egg , Muck , Col , and Tyr @-@ yi . In all these islands he could shew us every thing worth seeing .

In the event , poor weather prevented the travellers visiting the Small Isles en route to Mull .

== 19th century ==

By 1801 there were nine hamlets on the island , and its economy received a temporary boost from the kelp industry . The wooded island of five hundred years before was now essentially treeless

outside of Kinloch village .

In 1825 the entire island was leased to Dr Lachlan Maclean , a relative of Hugh Maclean of Coll , and its inhabitants ( then numbering some 450 people ) were given a year 's notice to quit their homes , which essentially meant an enforced leaving of the island . ( Most of the population of Rùm were tenant farmers , paying rent to the island 's owner ; in law they neither owned the land they worked nor the houses in which they lived . ) On 11 July 1826 , about 300 of the inhabitants boarded two overcrowded ships ? the Highland Lad and the Dove of Harmony ? bound for Cape Breton in Nova Scotia , Canada . Their passage was paid by Dr Lachlan and by Maclean of Coll . The remaining population followed them in 1827 on the St. Lawrence , along with some 150 inhabitants from the island of Muck , another of Maclean of Coll 's properties . These evictions were part of a wider event that came to be known as the Highland Clearances , during which people whose culture had existed there for millennia were forced to emigrate .

In 1827 , when giving evidence to a government select committee on emigration , an agent of Maclean of Coll was asked " And were the people willing to go ? " " Some of them " , came the reply , " Others were not very willing , they did not like to leave the land of their ancestors " . Years later an eyewitness , a local shepherd , was more forthcoming in his description of the events : " The people of the island were carried off in one mass , for ever , from the sea @-@ girt spot where they were born and bred ... The wild outcries of the men and heart @-@ breaking wails of the women and children filled all the air between the mountainous shore of the bay " .

Dr Lachlan turned Rùm into a sheep farm , with its population replaced by some 8 @,@ 000 blackface sheep , but the price of mutton and wool was in decline . In 1839 Lachlan was forced to relinquish his tenancy of Rùm , bankrupt , penniless and , in the words of a Cape Breton letter from 1897 , " much worse off than the comfortable people he turned out of Rùm 13 years previously " . The same letter described Lachlan as " the Curse and Scourge of the Highland Crofters " .

In 1844 the visiting geologist , Hugh Miller , wrote :

The single sheep farmer who had occupied the holdings of so many had been unfortunate in his speculations , and had left the island : the proprietor , his landlord seemed to have been as little fortunate as his tenant , for the island itself was in the market ; and a report went current at the time that it was on the eve of being purchased by some wealthy Englishman , who purposed converting it into a deer forest . How strange a cycle !

MacLean of Coll sold the island to the Marquess of Salisbury in 1845 , who converted it into a sporting estate . The island was then owned by the Campbell family from 1870 to 1888 , when John Bullough , a cotton machinery manufacturer and self @-@ made millionaire from Accrington in Lancashire , acquired the island , and continued to use it for recreational purposes . The estate 's prospectus for the 1888 sale described Rùm as " the most picturesque of the islands which lie off the west coast of Scotland " and " as a sporting estate it has at present few equals " . It gave its population as between 60 and 70 , all either shepherds or estate workers and their families . There were no crofts on the island . When Bullough died in 1891 he was buried on Rùm , in a rock @-@ cut mausoleum under an octagonal stone tower . This was later demolished and his sarcophagus moved into an elaborate mausoleum modelled as a Greek temple . He was succeeded in the ownership of Rùm by his son , George Bullough .

= = = 20th century = = =

George Bullough ( later Sir George ) , built Kinloch Castle in 1900 using sandstone quarried at Annan in Dumfries and Galloway ( some sources say the stone was from Arran ) .

At this time there were about 100 people employed on the estate . Fourteen under @-@ gardeners , who were paid extra to wear kilts , worked on the extensive grounds that included a nine @-@ hole golf course , tennis and squash courts , heated turtle and alligator ponds and an aviary including birds of paradise and humming birds . Soil for the grounds was imported from Ayrshire and figs , peaches , grapes and nectarines were grown in greenhouses . The interior boasted an orchestion that could simulate the sounds of brass , drum and woodwind , an air @-@ conditioned billiards room , and a jacuzzi . This opulence could not be sustained indefinitely . The Bullough finances

gradually declined in the 1920s , and their interest in , and visits to Rùm decreased . Sir George died in France in July 1939 ? he was interred in the family mausoleum on Rùm . His widow continued to visit Rùm as late as 1954 . She died in London in 1967 , aged 98 , and was buried next to her husband in the Rùm mausoleum . In 1957 Lady Bullough had sold the whole island , save for the mausoleum , but including the castle and its contents , to the Nature Conservancy Council ( now Scottish Natural Heritage ) for the " knock @-@ down price of £ 23 @,@ 000 " on the understanding that it would be used as a national nature reserve .

= = = Overview of population trends = = =

Source : Rixson ( 2001 ) unless otherwise stated

= = Ecology = =

Rùm is an important study site for research in ecology and numerous academic papers have been produced based on work undertaken on the island . In addition to its status as nature reserve , Rùm was designated a Biosphere Reserve from 1976 to 2002 , a Site of Special Scientific Interest in 1987 , and has seventeen sites scheduled as nationally important ancient monuments .

= = = Red deer = = =

The red deer population has been the subject of research for many years , recently under the leadership of Tim Clutton @-@ Brock of the University of Cambridge . These efforts are based at the remote bay of Kilmory in the north of the island . It has been important in the development of sociobiology and behavioural ecology , particularly in relation to the understanding of aggression through game theory .

= = = Ponies , goats and cattle = = =

The island has small herds of ponies , feral goats ( *Capra hircus* ) and Highland cattle . The pony herd , which now numbers about a dozen animals , was first recorded on the island in 1772 , and in 1775 they were described as being " very small , but a breed of eminent beauty " . They are small in stature , averaging only 13 hands in height and all have a dark stripe down their backs and zebra stripes on their forelegs . These features have led to speculation that they may be related to primitive northern European breeds , although it is more likely that they originate from the western Mediterranean . It is sometimes claimed that they are descended from animals that travelled with the Spanish Armada , although it is probable that they arrived by more conventional means . The goat stocks were improved for stalking in the early 20th century and acquired a reputation for the size of their horns and the thickness of their fleeces . The flock of about 200 spends most of its time on the western sea cliffs . The native cattle were re @-@ introduced in 1970 , having been absent since the 19th century clearances . The herd of 30 grazes in the Harris area from September to June , and further north in Glen Shellesder in the summer months .

= = = Other fauna = = =

Rùm is also noted for its bird life . The population of 70 @,@ 000 Manx shearwaters is one of the largest breeding colonies in the world . These migrating birds that spend their winters in the South Atlantic off Brazil , and return to Rùm every summer to breed in underground burrows high in the Cuillin Hills . White @-@ tailed sea eagles were exterminated on the island by 1912 and later became extinct in Scotland . A programme of reintroduction began in 1975 , and within ten years 82 young sea eagles from Norway had been released . There is now a successful breeding population in the wild .

There are brown trout , European eel and three @-@ spined stickleback in the streams , and

salmon occasionally run in the Kinloch River . The only amphibian found on Rùm is the palmate newt and the only reptile native to Rùm is the common lizard . Invertebrates are diverse and have been studied there since 1884 , numerous species of damselfly , dragonfly , beetle , butterflies , moths etc. having been recorded . Several rare upland species are found on the ultrabasic slopes of Barkeval , Hallival and Askival including the ground beetles *Leistus montanus* and *Amara quenseli* . The midge ( *Culicoides impunctatus* ) , a biting gnat , occurs in " unbelievable numbers " .

In October 2006 the popular Autumnwatch series on BBC television showed coverage of the deer rut at Kilmory Bay .

A 1 @. @ 5 hectare patch of brown earth soil at the abandoned settlement of Papadil is home to a thriving population of earthworms , which are rare in the elsewhere poor soil of the island . Some individuals of *Lumbricus terrestris* have reached tremendous sizes , with the largest weighing 12 @. @ 7 grams . This is speculated to be due to the good quality soil , and absence of predators .

= = = Flora = = =

A tree nursery was established at Kinloch in 1960 in order to support a substantial programme of re @-@ introducing twenty native species including silver birch , hawthorn , rowan and holly . The forested area , which consists of over a million re @-@ introduced native trees and shrubs , is essentially confined to the vicinity of Kinloch and the slopes near this site surrounding Loch Scresort and on nearby Meall á Ghoirtein . The island 's flora came to widespread attention with the 1999 publication of the book *A Rum Affair* by Karl Sabbagh , a British writer and television producer . The book told of a long @-@ running scientific controversy over the alleged discovery of certain plants on Rùm by botanist John William Heslop @-@ Harrison ? discoveries that are now considered to be fraudulent . Heslop Harrison is widely believed to have placed many of these plants on the island himself to provide evidence for his theory about the geological development of the Hebridean islands . Nonetheless , the native flora offers much of interest . There are rare arctic sandwort and alpine pennycress , endemic varieties of the heath spotted @-@ orchid and eyebright , as well as more common species such as sundew , butterwort , blue heath milkwort and roseroot . A total of 590 higher plant and fern taxa have been recorded .

= = Economy , transport and culture = =

The entire island is owned and managed as a single estate by Scottish Natural Heritage ( SNH ) . As noted above , the island has a transient population comprising employees of SNH and their families , researchers , and a teacher . Until recently SNH have been opposed to the development of the island as a genuine community , but there has been a change in approach since the beginning of 2007 . Di Alexander , development manager for the Highlands Small Communities Housing Trust has said : " It has been clear for many years that the small community on Rùm needs to increase and diversify its housing supply away from exclusively SNH @-@ tied housing . Even a couple of new rented houses could make such a difference to the community 's wellbeing . "

Surprisingly perhaps , on an 10 @, @ 500 hectares ( 26 @, @ 000 acres ) estate with a population less than thirty , an issue has been lack of land for building . However , an SNH spokesman has stated " Once we are clear what the trust 's priorities are , we will release the land " . The Prince 's Regeneration Trust , which is drawing up a conservation plan for Kinloch Castle , may also make proposals for renewable energy generation on the island .

In 2008 a " Rùm Task Group " , chaired by Lesley Riddoch , was created to generate proposals for advancing community development opportunities . It reported to Mike Russell MSP the Minister for Environment in the Scottish Government , and in June a plan was announced to establish a locally @-@ run trust with the aim of reintroducing crofting settlements to the area around Kinloch village . In December it was announced that £ 250 @, @ 000 of land and buildings are likely to be placed into community ownership , subject to a ballot of the electorate in January 2009 .

A Caledonian MacBrayne ferry , MV Lochnevis , links Rùm and the neighbouring Small Isles of Canna , Eigg and Muck , to the mainland port of Mallaig some 17 miles ( 27 km ) and 1 ½ hours

sailing time away . The Lochnevis has a landing craft @-@ style stern ramp allowing vehicles to be driven onto and off the vessel at a new slipway constructed in 2001 . However , visitors are not normally permitted to bring vehicles to the Small Isles . During the summer months the islands are also served by Arisaig Marine 's ferry MV Sheerwater from Arisaig , 10 miles ( 16 km ) south of Mallaig .

The best anchorage is Loch Scresort , with other bays offering only temporary respites from poor weather . Robert Buchanan writing in the 19th century described it as :

As sweet a little nook as ever Ulysses mooned away a day in , during his memorable voyage homeward . Though merely a small bay , about a mile in breadth , and curving inland for a mile and a half , it is quite sheltered from all winds save the east , being flanked to the south and west by Haskeval and Hondeval , and guarded on the northern side by a low range of heathery slopes . In this sunny time , the sheep are bleating from the shores , the yacht lies double , yacht and shadow , and the bay is painted richly with the clear reflection of the mountains .

In the summer of 2002 a reality TV programme titled Escape from Experiment Island was filmed on the island . This short @-@ lived show ( 6 episodes ) was produced by the BBC in conjunction with the Discovery Channel . The show was to piggyback on the success of Junkyard Wars by having the teams build vehicles to escape from the island .