

## Inner Sound

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### Coastal survey

The following sites were recorded between May and September 2002 as part of the Scotland's First Settlers project. A full report has been lodged with the National Monuments Record for Scotland.

GRID REF.	SFS NO.	SITE NAME	SITE TYPE
<b>Portree Parish</b>			
<b>NG 65 NW</b>			
NG 6089 5672	SFS 160	Acairseid Mhor 7	Rockshelter
NG 6089 5680	SFS 161	Acairseid Mhor 8	Rockshelter 2,3
NG 6161 5723	SFS 158	Acairseid Mhor 5	Rockshelter 3
NG 6179 5723	SFS 159	Acairseid Mhor 6	Rockshelter
NG 6182 5725	SFS 157	Acairseid Mhor 4	Rockshelter 3
NG 6185 5727	SFS 155	Acairseid Mhor 2	Rockshelter 3
NG 6189 5721	SFS 156	Acairseid Mhor 3	Rockshelter 3
NG 6190 5734	SFS 154	Acairseid Mhor 1	Rockshelter 3
NG 6193 5544	SFS 153	Rona 3	Rockshelter
NG 6391 5853	SFS 151	Rona 1	Rockshelter
<b>NG 65 SW</b>			
NG 6211 5487	SFS 152	Doire na Guaile	Rockshelter 1,2,3
<b>Lochalsh Parish</b>			
<b>NG 73 SE</b>			
NG 7858 3383	SFS 148	An Dubh-aird	Rockshelter
NG 7865 3296	SFS 147	Cnoc na Celpeirein	Lithic scatter 2
NG 7890 3310	SFS 183	Nead an Eoin	Raised beach 2,4
<b>NG 83 SE</b>			
NG 8761 3294	SFS 150	Alt Cadh an Eas	Lithic scatter 2
<b>NG 83 SW</b>			
NG 8440 3390	SFS 184	Fernaig	Raised beach 2, 4
<b>Applecross Parish</b>			
<b>NG 75 NE</b>			
NG 7946 5864	SFS 182	Loch Diabeg 2	Rockshelter 3
NG 7950 5890	SFS 187	Araid	Raised beach 4
NG 7974 5887	SFS 181	Loch Diabeg	Boulder shelter 3
NG 7998 5968	SFS 190	Diabeg	Findspot 2
<b>NG 84 SW</b>			
NG 8430 4340	SFS 189	Rassal Wood	Raised beach 4

<b>NG 85 NE</b>			
NG 8953 5630	SFS 179	Am Ploc	Rockshelter 3
<b>NG 85 NW</b>			
NG 8189 5540	SFS 188	Camas-an-leim	Raised beach 2,4
NG 8186 5531	SFS 168	Camas an Leim	Rockshelter 2
<b>NG 85 SE</b>			
NG 8594 5467	SFS 180	Ob Gorm Beag	Sea cave
<b>NG 95 NW</b>			
NG 9099 5563	SFS 178	Uamh an Oir 2	Group of boulder shelters 3
NG 9020 5570	SFS 186	The Mains	Raised beach 2,4
NG9114 5572	SFS 177	Uamh an Oir	Rockshelter 3
<b>Gairloch Parish</b>			
<b>NG 76 NW</b>			
NG 7222 6791	SFS 176	Red Point headland 2	Cave 1
<b>Lochcarron Parish</b>			
<b>NG 83 NE</b>			
NG 8540 3539	SFS 165	Port A Mheirlich	Rockshelter 3
NG 8708 3609	SFS 164	Mid Strome	Rockshelter 3
NG 8853 3764	SFS 163	Rhunamore	Rockshelter 3
<b>NG 83 NW</b>			
NG 8148 3679	SFS 174	Reidhleacach	Fissure cave
NG 8150 3697	SFS 175	Reidhleacach 2	Rockshelter
NG 8220 3635	SFS 173	Meall-na-h-Airde 4	Fissure cave
NG 8261 3631	SFS 172	Meall-na-h-Airde 3	Old sea cave
NG 8269 3629	SFS 171	Meall-na-h-Airde 2	Old sea cave 1,2
NG 8297 3627	SFS 170	Meall-na-h-Airde 1	Cave
NG 8316 3596	SFS 167	Rubha Alasdair Ruaidh	Old sea cave
NG 8327 3625	SFS 169	Reraig cottage	Rockshelter
NG 8491 3551	SFS 166		Old sea cave
<b>NG 93 NW</b>			
NG 9246 3933	SFS 149	An Maman	Old sea cave
<b>NG 94 SW</b>			
NG 9351 4094	SFS 162	Teanga Fhiadhaich	Lithic scatter 2
NG 9430 4180	SFS 185	Achintee	Raised beach 2,4

Note 1\* Rockshelters containing visible midden

Note 2\* Sites with lithics

Note3\* Small shovel pits were used to test caves during survey, for archaeological potential.

Note 4\* Shovel pitting on raised beaches.

Surveyed areas include the island of Rona (SFS) and around the sea lochs Carron and Torridan (Sea Loch Survey: SLS). As part of SLS a programme of shovel pitting along 7 selected areas of raised beach was also carried out (See 4 in table). Five of these areas produced lithic scatters.

### **Test pitting**

Four rockshelter sites were test pitted. Test pits measured 1 x 0.5m. Where possible, two test pits were dug at each site. All four test pitted sites contained shell middens and three also contained lithics though more detailed information will be available once analysis of finds has taken place.

NG 6270 5696 SFS 17. Church Cave, Rona is a large cave containing an altar and stone benches. Two test pits were dug, one in a midden area and one in an area of cave earth. Both were located towards the rear of the cave.

NG 6211 5487 SFS 152. Doire na Guaile One test pit was dug at the entrance to the cave in a shell midden. Finds included a number of lithics.

NG 8269 3629. SFS 171. Meall-na-h-Airde 2. One test pit was dug at the rear of the cave in an area of shell midden. Finds included a number of lithics.

NG 7679 6490 SFS 10 Allt na Uamha (Gourlay 1984). One test pit was dug in the middle of the cave in an area of shell midden. Finds included a number of lithics.

### **Post-excavation**

Material from the excavations at Sand and SFS sites test pitted to date has been distributed to specialists for initial analysis.

Radiocarbon dates from 11 test pitted sites (see below **page xx** Hardy & Wickham-Jones 2000) show a clear spread of human use of caves and rockshelters up to recent times. Interestingly, all of these sites yielded small amounts of lithics suggesting ephemeral but widespread activity in prehistory. Analysis of these lithics and other finds should throw more light on this and may demand a reevaluation of our definition of a prehistoric site or indeed the later use of lithic materials.

A further radiocarbon date comes from an adult incisor found towards the top of the shell midden at Sand: 3615±65bp. This is very similar to dates from human bone on a number of other Mesolithic shell midden sites and adds weight to suggestions of a pattern of later activity in the vicinity of the middens.

Further information on both SFS and SLS work is available in the Data Structure Report for 2002, available from the directors.

### **References.**

Gamble R.L. 2002. *Land, Sea and Sand: Mesolithic faunal exploitation on the western seaboard of Scotland*. MSc, unpublished. Dept. of Archaeology, University of York.

Gourlay R. 1984 The Ancient Past. In Omand D. (Ed.) *The Ross and Cromarty Book*. Golspie.

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