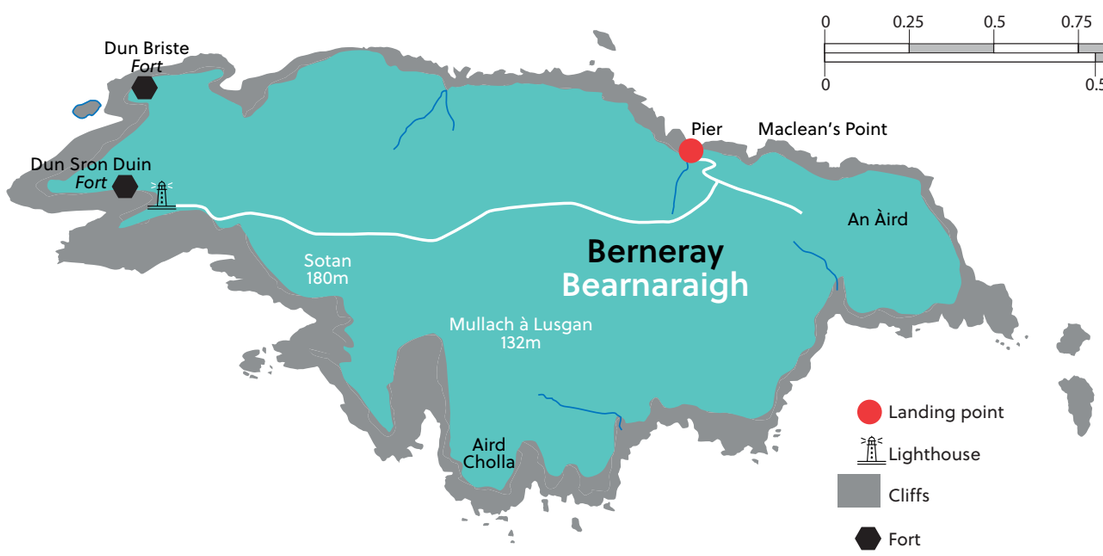
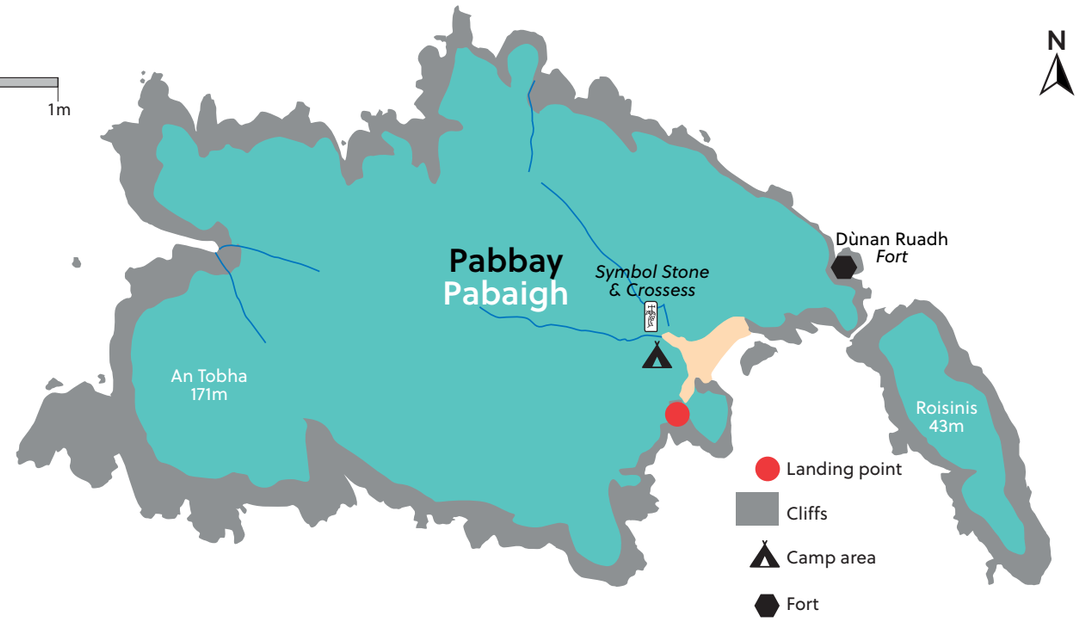
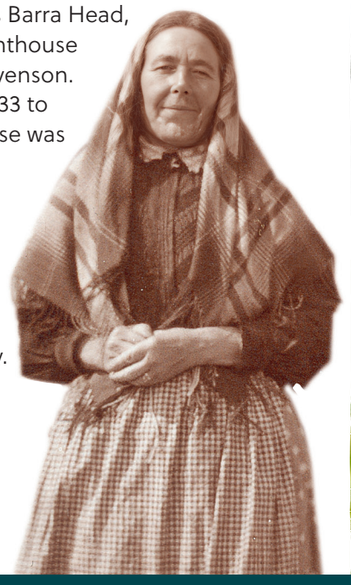




Berneray

Berneray has significant seabird colonies on its towering cliffs, including one of the world's densest colonies of razorbills. Also known as Barra Head, the island features a lighthouse designed by Robert Stevenson. It was inhabited from 1833 to 1980, when the lighthouse was automated.

Take a walk through the remains of the village to the lighthouse where you can enjoy spectacular views north to Mingulay and Pabbay. Don't miss the Iron Age fort, perched nearly 200 metres above sea level.

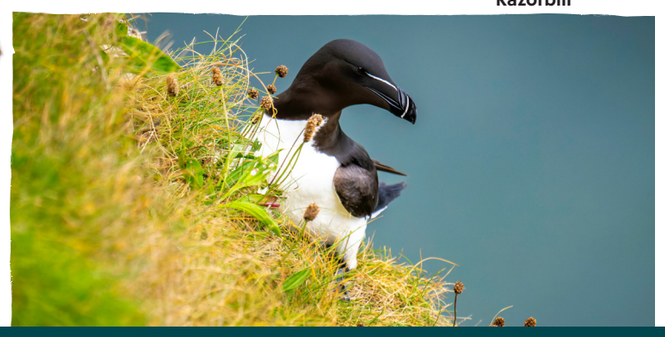


Ann Sinclair, who left Berneray in 1910



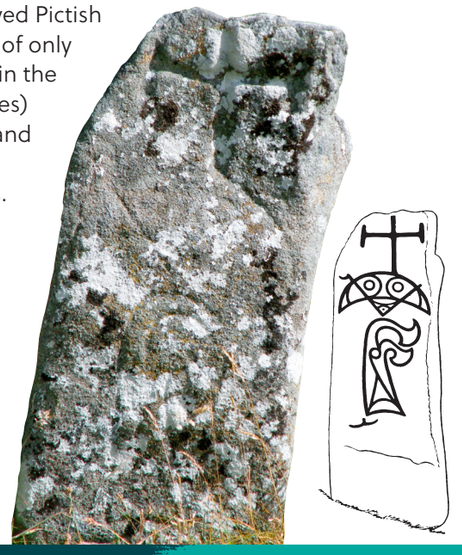
Berneray Lighthouse

Razorbill



Pabbay

Pabbay, meaning priest's (or hermit's) island, was named for an early Christian settlement. The island is well worth a visit for its dazzling white sand beach, carved Pictish stone (one of only two found in the Western Isles) and grassland rich with wildflowers.



Carved Pictish Stone



Heath-spotted orchid



The beach at Pabbay



Getting to Mingulay

The only way to get to Mingulay is by boat. Day-trips run in the summer from Castlebay in Barra.

If you wish to camp on any of the islands, please contact the Ranger, Ben Morton-Clark, in advance. Be aware that there are no toilet or shower facilities and check before pitching your tent to avoid sensitive areas:

Tel: 07572 460618

Email: bmorton-clark@nts.org.uk

nts.org.uk

The National Trust for Scotland is a Scottish charity, SC007410

Access and advice

Plan ahead:

- There are no landing facilities. You need to scramble up rocks which can be slippery
- Make sure you wear sturdy shoes or walking boots
- Weather conditions can change suddenly, even in summer, so wear layers and bring waterproofs
- Bring enough food and drink
- Take care, especially on the high cliffs and loose rocks
- There are no toilets on the island
- There is limited mobile phone reception

Help us care for these special places:

- Leave no trace – take all food scraps and litter home with you
- Please leave dogs at home. If you do bring your dog, keep it on a short lead at all times and away from the puffin colony
- Enjoy wildlife from a safe distance, in particular seabirds and seals. Close contact can disturb natural behaviour and put them at risk
- Please keep to the tracks as much as possible to avoid disturbing ground-nesting birds
- The buildings and archaeology are all that remains of the people who once lived here. Please don't move stones or climb walls
- Wildlife is vulnerable to disturbance, please do not fly drones

Our Rangers are often based at the School House or are out and about on the island. They're always happy to say hello and answer any questions you might have.

NATIONAL TRUST for SCOTLAND

The National Trust for Scotland

Mingulay, Pabbay and Berneray are of exceptional natural and cultural heritage significance and present some of the finest coastal landscapes in Scotland. They have been in the care of the National Trust for Scotland since 2000. The Trust carefully manages the islands to support their internationally important seabird colonies and preserve their cultural landscapes.



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Please help us care for these special places. Scan here to donate today.

To donate £1, text MINGULAY to 70201
To donate £3, text MINGULAY to 70331
To donate £5, text MINGULAY to 70970
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NATIONAL TRUST for SCOTLAND

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Mingulay

Near the southern end of the Western Isles sits the island of Mingulay. Once home to a small community, it was abandoned over a hundred years ago and is no longer permanently inhabited. With some of the highest sea cliffs in Europe, an abundance of seabirds in the summer months and the remains of thousands of years of human settlement, a trip to Mingulay offers an exciting adventure. Together with the islands of Berneray and Pabbay, Mingulay is owned by the National Trust for Scotland.



Wildlife

Mingulay's towering sea cliffs are among the most important breeding grounds for seabirds in the west of Scotland. With Berneray, they support the second largest colony of razorbill in Britain, alongside nationally significant colonies of puffin, great skua, fulmar, guillemot, shag and kittiwake. You can also encounter corncrakes, golden eagles and white-tailed eagles and wildflowers such as ragged robin, scabious and orchids, which attract butterflies, rare bumblebees and other insects.



Scabious



Corncrake



Great skua

The seas around Mingulay are bursting with life, and include an inshore cold water coral reef, thought to be around 4,000 years old. Dolphins, basking sharks and minke whales are occasionally spotted while large number of grey seals sometimes amass on the island's white sand beach.



Grey seals on Mingulay beach.

History

Traces of the people who lived on Mingulay are seen in roundhouses, terraces and field systems, dating back at least 3,000 years. These early islanders farmed, fished and hunted seabirds, cutting peat for fuel and travelling by sea.

The buildings you can see today date from the 1800s and were lived in until the early 1900s. Most are *taigh-dubh*, a traditional house with thick drystone walls and turf and thatch roofs. Many houses had a barn or byre and most families owned two or three cows. They lived off the land and sea, spoke Gaelic and most attended the Roman Catholic chapel, dedicated to St Columba. The remains of this chapel and priest's house can be seen overlooking the village. Families were large and children were given jobs to do from an early age – there was no school on the island until the 1850s.

By 1912 Mingulay had become an increasingly difficult place to live and the remaining inhabitants left. The Trust has restored the old school house which today serves as the only inhabited dwelling. It is a vital shelter for our important research and monitoring activities and overall management of the island.

Mingulay men on Vatersay in 1909.

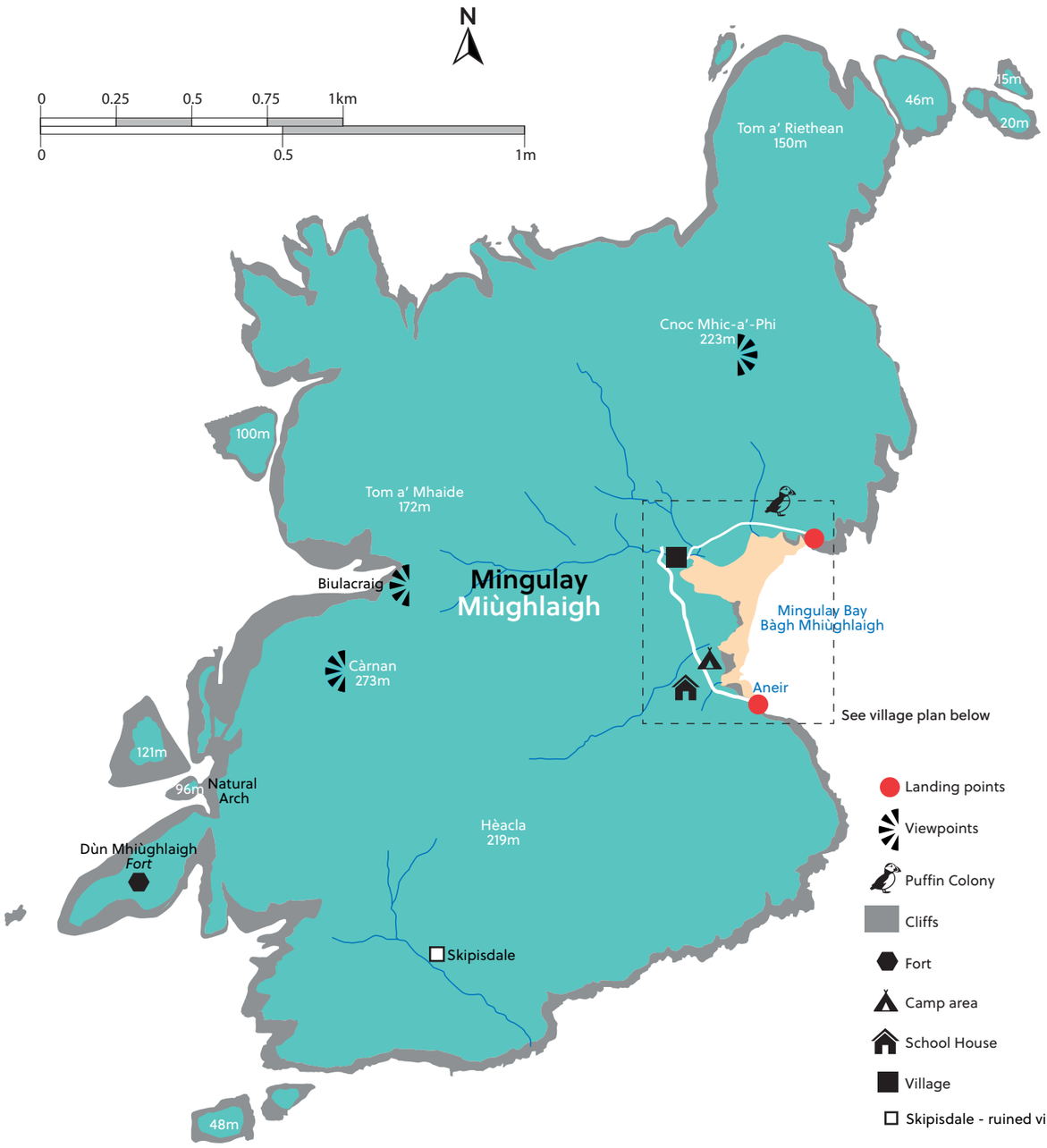




The village at Mingulay in August 1909.

Sarah MacShane with her pupils outside the schoolhouse in August 1909.





What to see and do

- View the puffin colony at Mingulay Bay. Please keep to the marked trail to avoid damaging the fragile puffin burrows



- Visit the village by the bay, where ruins are all that's left of a village once occupied by over 100 people
- Biulacraig, Mingulay's highest cliff, is an ideal spot for bird, whale and dolphin watching. 'Biulacraig' was the rallying cry of the MacNeils of Barra



- On a clear day the peaks of Càrnan and Cnoc Mhic-a-Phì (MacPhee's Hill) offer magnificent views
- Remains of roundhouses and field systems can be seen at the abandoned settlement of Skipisdale. The name comes from Old Norse words meaning 'ship' and 'valley'

Plan of the village

