

ICOMOS

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON MONUMENTS AND SITES
CONSEIL INTERNATIONAL DES MONUMENTS ET DES SITES
CONSEJO INTERNACIONAL DE MONUMENTOS Y SITIOS
МЕЖДУНАРОДНЫЙ СОВЕТ ПО ВОПРОСАМ ПАМЯТНИКОВ И ДОСТОПРИМЕЧАТЕЛЬНЫХ МЕСТ

WORLD HERITAGE LIST

N° 387

A) IDENTIFICATION

Nomination : St. Kilda

Location : Hebrides Islands

State Party : United Kingdom

Date : December 31, 1986

B) ICOMOS RECOMMENDATION

That the proposed cultural property be included on the World Heritage List on the basis of criterion V.

C) JUSTIFICATION

The tiny St. Kilda archipelago in the Hebrides Islands is not only one of the biggest sanctuaries of wildlife and marine life in the North Atlantic, but also bears testimony to a coherent ecosystem which has remained virtually unchanged over 2000 years of human occupation.

From the Bronze Age to the evacuation of the archipelago's last inhabitants in 1930, the islands of Soay, Hirta, and Boreray, and the islets bordering their coasts have undergone several periods of human occupation. At several sites there is evidence of a Christian influence prior to the Viking invasion, as illustrated by numerous artefacts from the 10th century. Difficult to date, the conserved structures -cairns, circular stone formations, groups of monastic cells and even post-medieval villages- illustrate a remarkable persistence of forms of primitive architecture in a country whose traditional modes of construction have survived to the contemporary period.

In the opinion of ICOMOS, the St. Kilda archipelago corresponds perfectly to the definition of a cultural and natural property whose value should be taken into consideration in an evaluation complementary to that of IUCN.

The nominated property could be listed on the basis of criterion V of the "Guidelines" relative to the inclusion of cultural property.

ICOMOS, April 1986.