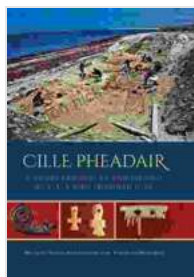


# Exploring the Enigmatic Norse Farmstead and Pictish Burial Cairn in South Uist



## Cille Pheadair: a Norse Farmstead and Pictish Burial Cairn in South Uist (Sheffield Environmental and Archaeological Research Campaign in the Hebrides

Book 7) by Sandra Bärnreuther

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

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Nestled amidst the rugged landscapes of South Uist, one of the Outer Hebridean islands of Scotland, lie two enigmatic archaeological treasures: a Norse Farmstead and a Pictish Burial Cairn. These ancient sites, separated by centuries of history, offer a glimpse into the diverse and rich cultural heritage of this remote region.

## The Norse Farmstead

The Norse Farmstead, located near the village of Bornish, is a testament to the Viking presence in Scotland during the 8th to 12th centuries. This well-preserved site consists of a cluster of stone buildings, including a longhouse, outbuildings, and animal enclosures. The longhouse, the

largest and most impressive structure, is over 50 feet long and features a central hearth and sleeping platforms.

Excavations at the Farmstead have uncovered numerous artifacts that provide insights into the daily lives of its inhabitants. These artifacts include pottery, tools, weapons, and jewelry, indicating a community that engaged in farming, fishing, and trade. The discovery of a silver hoard, including coins and jewelry, suggests that the occupants of the Farmstead were relatively wealthy.



### **The Pictish Burial Cairn**

A short distance from the Norse Farmstead lies a Pictish Burial Cairn, dating back to the 6th or 7th century. This type of cairn was constructed by the Picts, a pre-Celtic people who inhabited Scotland before the arrival of

the Vikings. The cairn consists of a large pile of stones, with a central chamber that once contained the remains of the deceased.

The cairn has been partially excavated, revealing the skeletal remains of several individuals, as well as grave goods such as pottery, jewelry, and weapons. These artifacts suggest that the individuals buried in the cairn were members of the local Pictish elite.



# CILLE PHEADAIR

A NORSE FARMSTEAD AND PICTISH  
BURIAL CAIRN IN SOUTH UIST



Mike Parker Pearson, Mark Brennan, Jacqui Mulville and Helen Smith

The Pictish Burial Cairn, a reminder of the rich pre-Celtic heritage of South Uist.

## **Cultural Significance**

The Norse Farmstead and Pictish Burial Cairn in South Uist are important historical and cultural landmarks. They provide tangible evidence of the diverse cultural influences that have shaped the Outer Hebrides over the centuries.

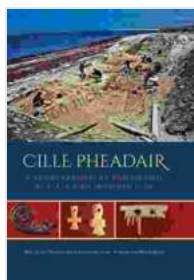
- The Norse Farmstead is a reminder of the Viking Age, when Norse settlers established communities throughout Scotland and beyond. The well-preserved structures and artifacts provide insights into the daily lives and cultural practices of these early settlers.
- The Pictish Burial Cairn is a testament to the pre-Celtic heritage of South Uist. The cairn and the grave goods it contains offer clues about the beliefs and practices of the Picts, a people whose history is often overshadowed by that of the later Vikings and Celts.

## **Preservation and Tourism**

The Norse Farmstead and Pictish Burial Cairn are protected by Historic Environment Scotland, a government agency responsible for the preservation of Scotland's historical and cultural heritage. Both sites are open to the public, offering guided tours and information panels that provide insights into their history and significance.

Visiting these ancient sites is a fascinating and educational experience. They offer a unique opportunity to connect with the rich cultural tapestry of South Uist and to gain a deeper understanding of the diverse peoples who have shaped its history.

The Norse Farmstead and Pictish Burial Cairn in South Uist are captivating archaeological treasures that provide a glimpse into the diverse cultural heritage of Scotland. These ancient sites stand as a testament to the Vikings and Picts, two influential peoples who left an enduring mark on the Outer Hebrides. By preserving and showcasing these sites, we ensure that future generations can continue to appreciate their historical and cultural significance.



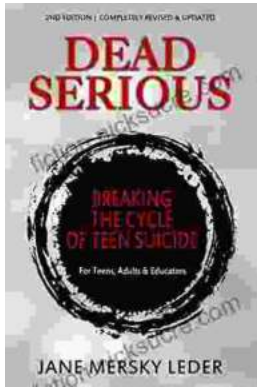
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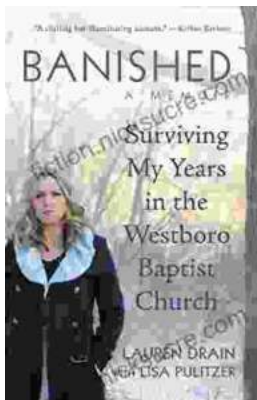
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