



# Isle of Rum Croft Policy

Amended September 2011

## **Background**

In July 2008 the Isle of Rum Community Trust in conjunction with Scottish Natural Heritage created three crofts on the Isle of Rum with scope for further crofts to be created in the future. In 2011 Croft Number One was successfully let in May and common grazing land has been identified. Crofts 2 & 3 - the most westerly crofts - are on semi-improved sloping ground which is currently over grown with rushes. The higher parts are reasonably dry but lower down by the burn they are very wet. They will both require a significant amount of work to improve them to anything beyond rough grazing. Access to Crofts 2 & 3 is down a rough 4WD track that crosses a ford but grant funding may be available from the Crofting Communities Agricultural Grants Scheme to upgrade the track.

This paper provides background to the Isle of Rum Community Trust and sets out the lease conditions, objectives and the criteria for selection of tenants for the new crofts at Kinloch Glen on the Isle of Rum. These have been drawn up by Isle of Rum Community Trust in consultation with Rum Community Association, Scottish Natural Heritage and the Crofters Commission. It was agreed that the fairest way of establishing suitable candidates & their potential would be through a points system to shortlist candidates followed by an interview process for final selection.

## **Isle of Rum Community Trust Objectives**

To manage community land and associated assets for the benefit of the Community and the public in general as an important part of the protection and sustainable development of Scotland's natural environment, where 'sustainable development' means development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

To advance the education of the Community about its environment, culture and/or history.

To promote for the public benefit rural regeneration, following principles of sustainable development, in areas of social and economic deprivation within the Community by the provision of housing for those who are in conditions of need and the improvement of housing in the public sector or in charitable ownership provided that such power shall not extend to relieving any local authorities or other bodies of a statutory duty to provide or improve housing.

## **Isle of Rum Community Trust Vision**

IRCTs vision for Rum is for a vibrant and viable community for people of all ages, building on aspects of cultural and natural heritage to achieve a sustainable and diverse economy with access to affordable, reliable and sustainable transport links to other islands and the mainland.

### **Croft lease conditions**

Crofts will be offered for lease under the Standard conditions of tenure as set out in the Crofters (Scotland) Act 1993 as amended by the Crofting Reform etc Act 2007 and with the following additional conditions:

1. The Tenant agrees not to exercise the right to acquire from the Landlord ownership of the Croft (excluding the statutory house site and garden ground) in terms of sections 12 to 19 of the said Act for a period of 20 years from the date on which the croft tenancy commences
2. The Tenant hereby obliges himself/herself to comply fully with the terms of the Conservation Burden set out in the Schedule annexed and signed as relative to this agreement, and to hold any sub-tenants, assignees, disponees or others as so bound:

### **Objectives for Crofting on Rum**

1. To provide security of tenure on the Isle of Rum
2. To enable crofting on the Isle of Rum
3. To encourage local people to take up crofting activities
4. To encourage people to move to Rum to take up crofting activities
5. To encourage a sustainable economic base for the Isle of Rum community
6. To help meet the objectives of the Isle of Rum Community Trust

### **Criteria and points allocation**

Points will be awarded to the following criteria based on the croft application and the strength and sustainability of the submitted business plan.

Relevant experience	1 to 5
Knowledge of crofting grants and SRDP opportunities	1 to 5
Land management experience	1 to 5
Stock management experience	1 to 5
Willingness to allow the Rum pony herd to graze the croft land	1 to 5
Plans are sensitive to Rum's conservation designations	1 to 5
People with young families	1 to 5
People resident on the Isle of Rum (subject to RCA membership criteria)	1 to 5
Environmental protection and/or enhancement proposals.	1 to 5
Appropriate improvement of pasture and meadows	1 to 5
Horticultural development or other local food production	1 to 5
Other sustainable diversification	1 to 5

### **Application process**

Applicants will submit their application to the Isle of Rum Community Trust and may be invited to an interview.

## **Annex 1 Conservation Burden**

### **Animals and Plants that may be brought to Rum without prior permission:**

<b>Agricultural</b>	<b>Special circumstances</b>
Crop species	
Horticultural species	
Garden plants	
Cattle	
Sheep	
Horses	
Goats	
Pigs	
Ducks	Domestic breeds
Hens & other poultry	Domestic breeds
<b>Pets</b>	
Dogs	
Cats	Neutered
Aquarium Fish	
Guinea pigs	
Gerbils	
Tortoises	

### **Animals and plants that cannot be brought to Rum without prior permission**

#### **Animals**

Rabbits  
Mink  
Ferrets  
Weasels  
Polecats  
Stoats  
Foxes  
Hedgehogs  
Rats  
Birds of Prey, inc. owls  
Crayfish

#### **Plants**

Japanese Knotweed  
Himalayan Balsam  
Cotoneaster  
Rhododendron

#### **Animals and plants not listed**

Animals and plants not referred to in the above lists may only be brought to Rum with the prior written permission of Scottish Natural Heritage. If you would like to keep bees, please consult with IRCT first as we are hoping to make Rum a disease-free haven for black bees. Please do not bring old kit to the island, as this can carry disease and have a negative impact on the resident bee population.