

Global Change Data Encyclopedia

St. Kilda Island

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Dataset Availability Statement:

The dataset supporting this paper was published and is accessible through the *Digital Journal of Global Change Data Repository* at: <https://doi.org/10.3974/geodb.2020.05.13.V1>.

St. Kilda (Hirta) Island is a volcanic island, located off the coast of the Hebrides in the northwest of Scotland and in the north of the Atlantic Ocean. It is 162.59 km from the mainland and 63.40 km from North Uist Island to the southeast. It is part of the St. Kilda archipelago, which includes islands of Hirta, Dun, Soay and Boreray in the Atlantic Ocean. The geo-location of the St. Kilda Island is: 57°49'43"N–57°47'37"N, 8°37'04"W–8°32'58"W^[1]. The National Trust for Scotland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland owns the archipelago of St. Kilda^[2]. The total area of the island is 7.00 km² and the coastline is 20.48 km long. It is the island with the largest area and the highest sea cliff in the St. Kilda Islands^[2].

The island, uninhabited since 1930, keeps a series of the evidence of more than 2,000 years of human activities in the extreme conditions prevalent in the Hebrides^[3]. Its built structures and field systems, the cleits and traditional highland stone houses, even some signs of the Bronze Age were still remained, which recorded a special subsistence economy based on the products of birds, agriculture and sheep farming, the International Council on Mountains and Sites (ICOMS) indicated^[4].

St. Kilda Island is a relic of volcanic eruption. The cliffs become a wonder of the island, and a good habitat and protection for the precious and endangered birds living here. Because of the Atlantic Ocean climate, with high humidity, strong wind and harsh natural environment, the terrain of the island is rugged, and access depends on the weather and tides. "It has some of the highest cliffs in Europe, which have large colonies of rare and endangered spe-

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cies of birds, especially puffins and gannets”, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) indicated^[4].

Due to its natural and cultural characteristics, the St. Kilda archipelago, including the Saint Kilda Island has already been inscribed by the UNESCO on the World Heritage List as a natural and cultural heritage site or comprehensive heritage site, as No. 387 in 1986^[5]. The site is expanded in 2004 and 2005 through evaluating by ICOMS^[6–7] and IUCN^[8].

This dataset was developed based on the “Global multiple scale shorelines dataset based on Google Earth images (2015)”^[9]. The dataset consists of 16 data files, was archived in .kmz and .shp data formats, with a data size of 152 KB (compressed into 2 files, 72.1 KB)



Figure 1 Map of St. Kilda Island (.shp format)



Figure 2 Map of St. Kilda Island (.kmz format)

References

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