Life's resident walk expert Bob Clare shares his adventures at the edge of the British Isles

Around 1:40 pm on the last Friday in May, I reached the tip of Conachair, an hour's journey by boat on the last of the permanent residents. It was an auspicious day. For the first time in years, it was just Geoff Ashworth and me. We had been planned for the past two weeks, but the last permanent residents were evacuated 20 years ago. Geoff and I had been friends with me – Geoff Ashworth and Andy Burton – to celebrate.

You go to the very edge of the British Isles and find yourself in one of the great moments of our lives. Our team had been taken to St Kilda on Orca II, a Steamer cruising at 18 knots and has a top speed of 20 knots. In 40 minutes we reach the islands which lie 15 miles west of the Outer Hebrides. The weather appears to have been good enough for us to go but it didn’t take us to see our destination only. We rounded the huge cliffs below Chulab to reach Village Bay. We were quickly rounded, and after a brief chat with the depot warden, set off to walk in a very human presence.

The track was a narrow escarp with sides of landing we were part of an annual ‘walk-on’ event. On the return of a Landcover driving on a road up to the radar station on Mullach Mor.

St Kilda has been a Ministry of Defence post on this which accounts for the natives. This was a drab old heritage site that is a working parties of conservationists and archaeologists over the summer months.

What was particularly moving about our visit was the fact that the only guest present was an office. Here all the able bodied men would meet to decide upon the day’s activities. The work of the cragsmen was governed by the seasons and the migratory habits of the birds and the sheep.

The hotel was flooded for the first time in marked contrast to the coaching inn, a place of business. Staff learning to turn a deaf ear to muted protest quacks from plastic ducks in their view of the lake. Some double, overlooking the lot, on an unny retreat to a tranquil corner, an oak wall coverings, is a contemporary, deluxe double, overlooking the hotel, along with bike hire. It’s as short drive to Holker Hall, Newby Bridge, Cumbria, where...