

I Archie Campbell. Here in Benbecula myself and my neighbor Donald Innes spent a day early summer on the heath the peat. We start with skinning with spades. This leaves mud peat is ready for harvesting. I cut off a piece with the first spade. Then I begin with the treisgeir.

It is the work of Donald being below the dumping of peats. They lie on the ground for a while to dry. As we move forward towards the marks left on the roof by the treisgeir. After a while we become accustomed to the work, and we will cut and build faster and faster. After working hard all the morning comes the time to relax, with food and drink. It is a good time is also news. Not just hard work only in the peat. You can also talk to.

The evening to try Donald cut, and I myself will throw the peats. When we come to the end of the mud we were skinning in the morning is not the end of the work at all. That is just the first stage ready. Now we need the second piece removed. The triopsa, rather than stretching them on the ground I will make them garden. The holes in the garden which allows the wind to blow through the turf drying.

At the end of the first day I Donald how small or rùghain stacks with the peats lays on the ground – again to dry. I come back after two weeks for more work like this. With the first day we finished the building back to the house.

After two weeks on the peats slightly dry, and I have come back for more rùghain made. The peats much water is lost now, and they are easier to handle. At this stage no need for the peats in the garden moved, but even with that much work to do in building rùghain with the peats were lying on the ground. The next step will be bringing them home. Need for tractor. Between all anything, it is a time of year for fuel to take home. But on a cold winter later in the year I think it was a good time to earn it.

My name is Archie Campbell. Here in Benbecula, my neighbor Donald Innes and I spend an early summer day on the moor cutting peats. We'll start by skinning with spades. This leaves a pile of peat ready to be cut. I cut away a bit with the spade first. Then I'll start with the pestle.

Donald's job is to throw the peats from below. They lie on the ground for a while to dry. As we move on you can see the marks left on the top by the peat. After a while we get used to the work, and we cut and build faster and faster. After a hard morning's work comes the time to relax, with food and drink. It's also a good time for news. Peat cutting is more than just hard work. There will also be an opportunity to speak.

In the evening Donald will try to reap, and I will be the one tossing the peats. When we get to the end of the puddle that we were peeling in the morning, that's not the end of the job. That's just the beginning. Right now we need to remove the second peat. Instead of laying them out on the ground, I try to make a garden out of them. There are holes in the garden that allow the wind to blow through to dry the peats.

At the end of the first day I show Donald how to make small piles or ridges with the peats lying on the ground - again to dry. I'll come back after a fortnight to do more work like this. With the first day's work done we headed back home.

After a fortnight the peats have dried a little, and I have come back to make more peats. The peats have lost a lot of water now, and are easier to handle. At this stage there is no need to move the peats in the garden, but even so, there is still a lot of work to be done in building rugs with the peats lying on the ground. The next step is to take them home. That will require a tractor. All in all, it takes a long time to bring home the fuel of the year. But on a cold winter's day later in the year, I think it was a well-earned time.