

## Noss Sound.

Overlooking Noss Sound, at the top of Ander Hill, there is an Admiralty lookout station, built in 1912 in anticipation of the Great War. It was used by the military until 1926. Between 1932 and 1969, coastguard watches were maintained from the lookout station for ships in distress along the east coast of Bressay and out beyond Noss. A coastguard watch was required at Ander Hill is above a Force 7 wind or if visibility was less than one mile.

Down at the banks at Noss Sound, close to the pier for the Noss ferry, there is what remains of an enormous Iron Age broch, over 2000 years old. The word broch comes from the Old Norse word 'borg' meaning fortification and the surviving ditch and rampart defences surrounding the circular broch tower is very clear. There are over one hundred brochs on Shetland, stretching from Sumburgh to Unst. They were often built so you could see one from another- although we don't know if there was a broch beneath the house at Gungstie in Noss!

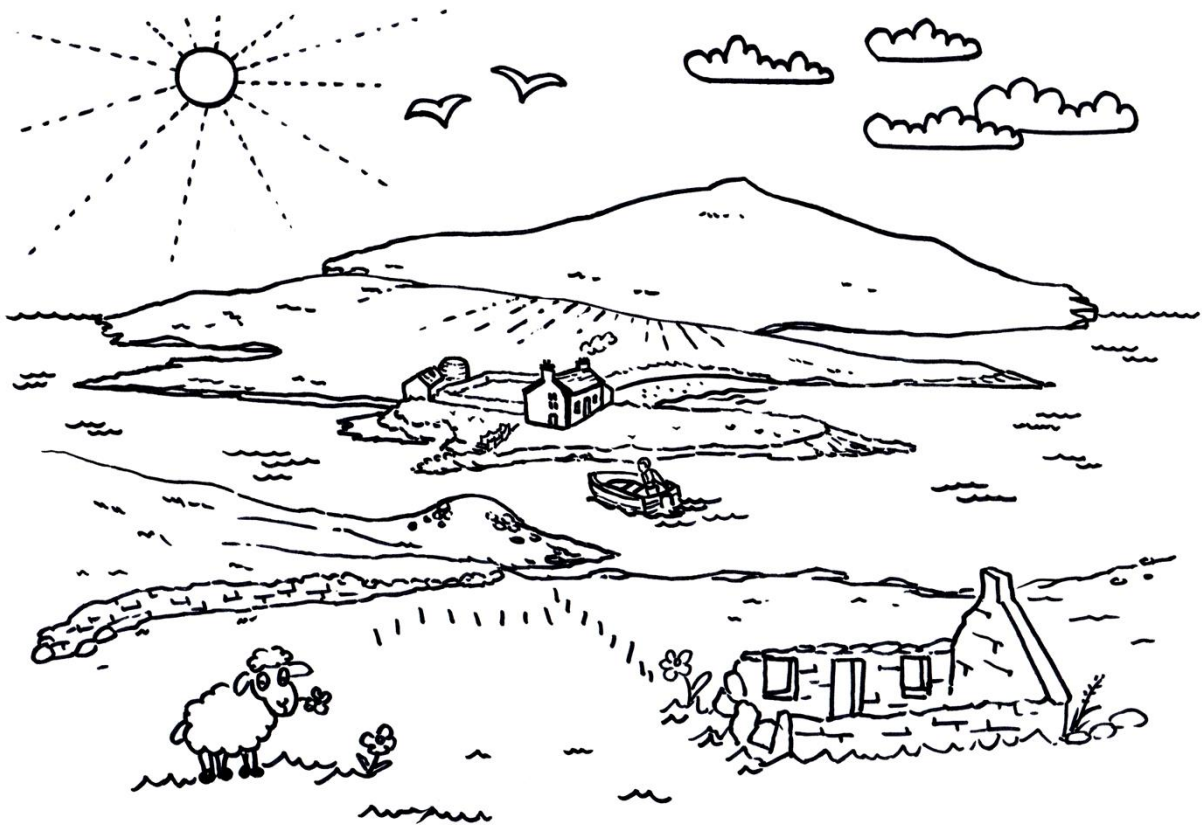
The island of Noss is part of a working farm and National Nature Reserve. In the late nineteenth century, the Marquis of Londonderry rented Noss for the breeding of Shetland ponies for his mines in the north of England to help with heavy lifting and pulling. The Noup of Noss is 181m tall and the spectacular sandstone cliffs, alive with bird life in the summer months, drop dramatically into the North Sea.

There are two ruined houses on the Bressay side of Noss Sound; Northerhouse and Southerhouse. Ogilvy Gifford and his wife Mary lived at Northerhouse in the early nineteenth century and had at least nine children!



**Questions.**

1. What is at the top of Anderhill?
2. What year did the Coastguard stop keeping watch at Anderhill?
3. How old is the broch at Noss Sound?
4. How many brochs are there on Shetland?
5. How tall is the Noup of Noss?
6. How many children lived at Northerhouse?



Colour me in - Noss Sound, Bressay.

