

Fetlar2013

Brough Lodge

Brough Lodge is a grand 19th Century house on Fetlar that has been in disuse since the late 20th Century. It is a Category A listed building, and the grounds have been included in Historic Scotland's Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes in Scotland since 2003.

In 1805, the Nicolson family came into possession of property on the island, taking them as payment for a debt owed by Andrew Bruce of Urie. Sir Arthur Nicolson, the landowner, designed and commissioned the building of the Lodge after returning from a grand tour of Europe, where he drew inspiration for Brough Lodge's mix of architecture.

Completed in c.1825, the building itself is a mixture of styles, built in a Gothic Revival style with crenellated walls and bartizans (overhanging wall turrets) at the corners. Details in Classical and Moorish styles were incorporated into the walls and screen walls, and a red-brick chapel also built.

In around 1840, a folly – known as The Tower – was constructed over the remains of an Iron Age broch in the grounds of Brough Lodge. An oval-shaped tower, it has three storeys that were originally joined to the ground by a footbridge, now disintegrated. The Tower was at one stage used as an observatory, and the lens of the large telescope it once housed has been recovered and preserved at Fetlar Interpretive Centre.

The [Buildings at Risk Register](#) has described Brough Lodge and its ancillary buildings as “arguably Shetland’s most unusual group of 19th Century buildings”.

Brough Lodge Trust

Established in 1998 as a building preservation trust, the Trust’s aim was to acquire, save, restore and secure the future of Brough Lodge. The Trust is a member of the UK Association of Preservation Trusts.

Its historic atmosphere will be a focus for short courses and activities involving the arts (hand knitting, fiddle music, photography) and environmental themes (geology, archaeology, wildlife/bird watching).

- The Vision, Brough Lodge Trust website

Brough Lodge Trust is a registered Scottish Charity (SC 028725), and is run on a voluntary basis.

More Information

[Brough Lodge Trust](#)



Above:

The folly, known as The Tower, which once served as an observatory.

Below:

The red-brick chapel and its tower.

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