

# **Bressay Lighthouse**

## **Light Established**

1858

## **Engineer**

David & Thomas Stevenson

## **Position**

Latitude 60° 07.2' N

Longitude 01° 07.2' W

An island station situated 2 miles SE of Lerwick, Shetland

## **Character**

Flashing (2) White every 20 Secs

## **Elevation**

32 metres

## **Nominal Range**

23 miles

## **Structure**

White tower 16 metres high

## **History**

Bressay Lighthouse is situated on the Island of Bressay off the East Mainland of Shetland. The Commissioners of the Northern Lighthouses wrote to the Board of Trade on 10 November 1854 requesting sanction to build a Lighthouse on Kirkabisterness (Bressa Sound) - a site at the South entrance to Lerwick Harbour. The Board of Trade conveyed sanction in a letter to the Commissioners dated 14 November 1854.

Following lengthy correspondence with the Board of Trade and the Elder Brethren of Trinity House, regarding the cost of building the lighthouse and obtaining approval to plans and specifications, work was eventually commenced on the stonework etc in February 1856. The light was first lit on the night of 31 August 1858.

Bressay was electrified on 17 July 1967 and the fog siren was discontinued in 1987. The light automated in 1989 and is now remotely monitored from the Board's headquarters in Edinburgh.

In November 1995 the outbuildings and former Keepers cottages buildings were purchased by the Shetland Amenity Trust, a charitable organisation set up to conserve and enhance Shetland's heritage. The two Assistant Keepers cottages

have been refurbished and are available on short-term lease. The Principal keeper's cottage will be a self-catering complex and the Engine Room adjacent will be a camping bod or bothy with bunks. The Engine and Radio room are due to be turned into a Heritage Centre.