

ESHANESS – inside Shetland’s volcano

Explore Eshaness!

The Eshaness coast is one of the walks on the Geopark Shetland Volcano Trail. We went up to Eshaness lighthouse and then took a walk around the coastline. We explored the Grind o da Navir and we had to find out how it was formed. There are magnificent cliffs and most of the land from the lighthouse to the Grind is easy to walk on.

Discover Shetland’s volcano

We discovered that parts of Eshaness used to be a volcano. The rock in this area is igneous rock.

The blowhole next to the lighthouse, Kirn o Slettans, was a side cone on the volcano. On windy days when the sea is rough water can shoot up out of the blowhole. The rock around the blowhole is made of volcanic blocks and bombs all stuck together.

The cliffs are made of cooled lava called basalt. This is extrusive igneous rock, which means it spewed out onto the earth and cooled quickly. It is rough with air holes in it. Some is black with lichen.

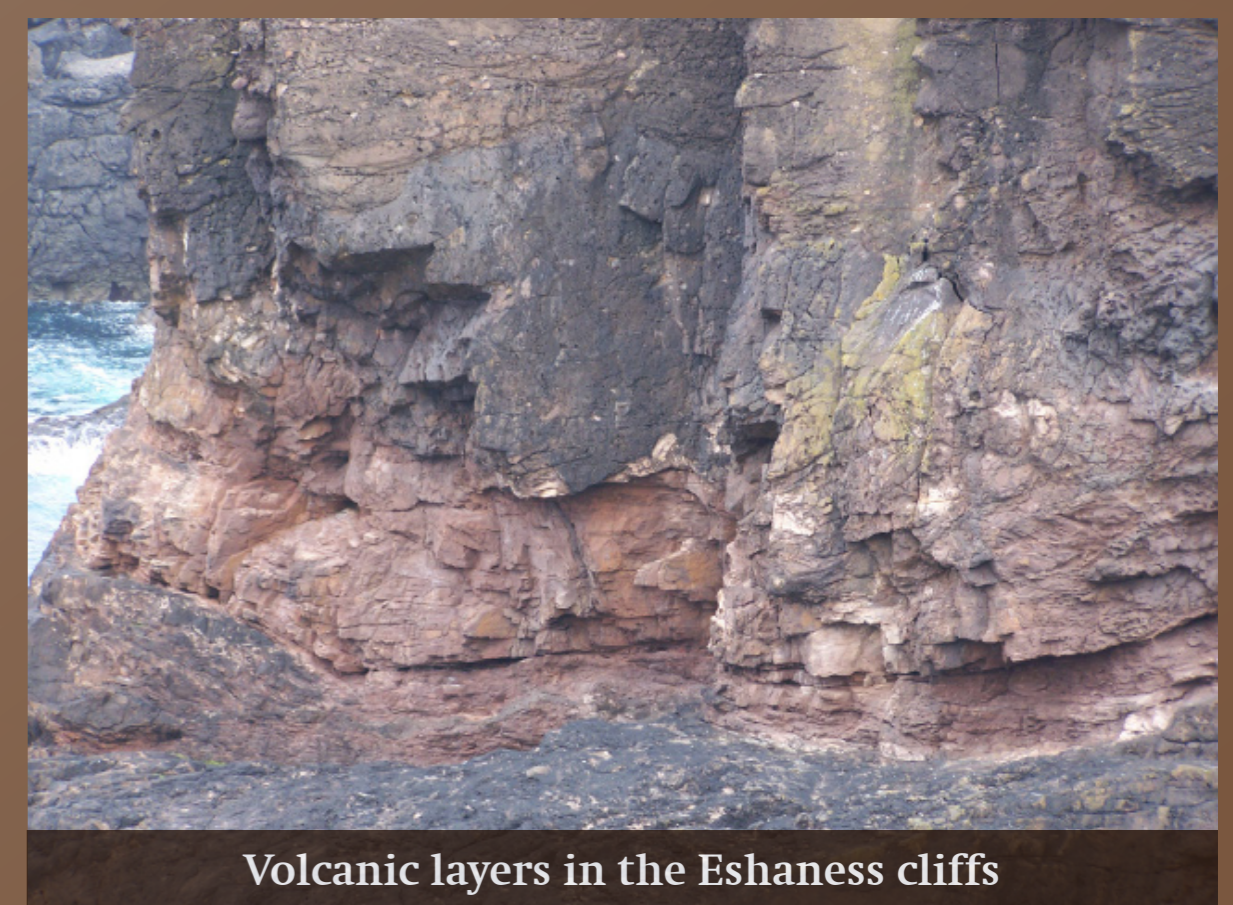
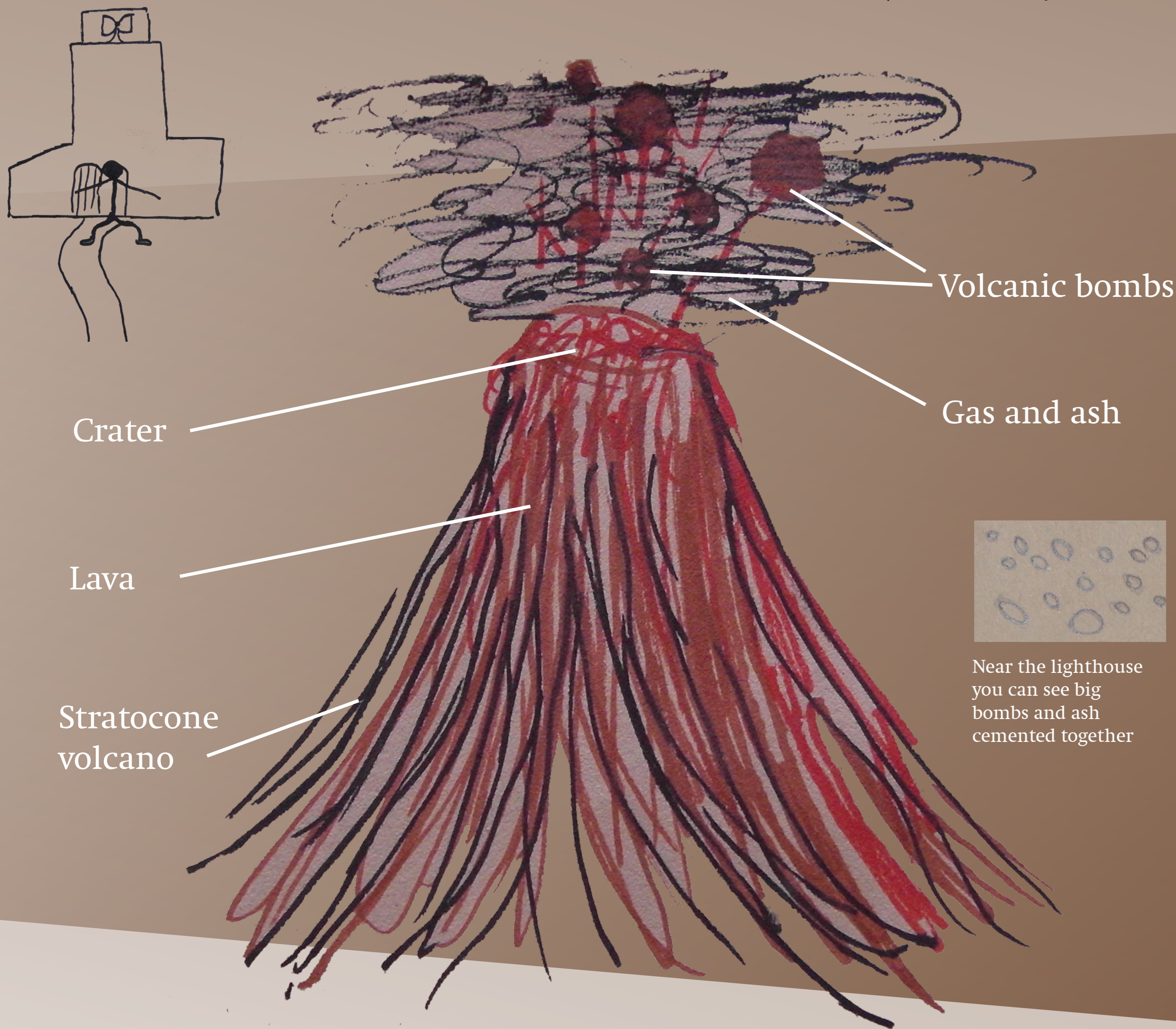
Discover coastal erosion

At the Grind o Da Navir there is a big piece of land being eroded away by the sea. The sea is so powerful that it flings huge rocks as big as small cars over 50 metres inland.

There is a lot of erosion along the Eshaness coast as the sea works its way into cracks in the rocks. The Hols o Scraada is a partially collapsed sea cave.

Erosion can make the coastline loose and crumbly but you should not take rocks from this area as it is part of our geological heritage. Conserving this heritage is an important part of being a Geopark.

More about the rocks of Northmavine can be found at the Mavis Grind Geowall created for Geopark Shetland by Shetland Amenity Trust.



Eshaness: part of Geopark Shetland - Conserving our environment

Eshaness is a beautiful part of Geopark Shetland. It is important to show respect for our environment and to think about making our area attractive for tourists. We should keep Eshaness tidy.

Think about how you move around the Geopark. Use stiles and gates. Don't climb over walls in case they get ruined. If you do go through a gate, close it so animals that aren't supposed to be in that area don't get in.

We discussed making additions to tourist trails like safety barriers on dangerous cliffs. Would this make things better? What do you think?

This poster was developed by pupils from Baltasound Junior High School. It is one of a series of three posters that tell the story of the Baltasound Junior High School and Anderson High School visit to the Eshaness peninsula. This was a joint project with the team from Geopark Shetland. By discovering, exploring and contributing to the conservation of this wild place, pupils are working towards a John Muir Award. Thanks go to the Royal Society for part funding the visit and to the Braewick cafe for hosting it.



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