

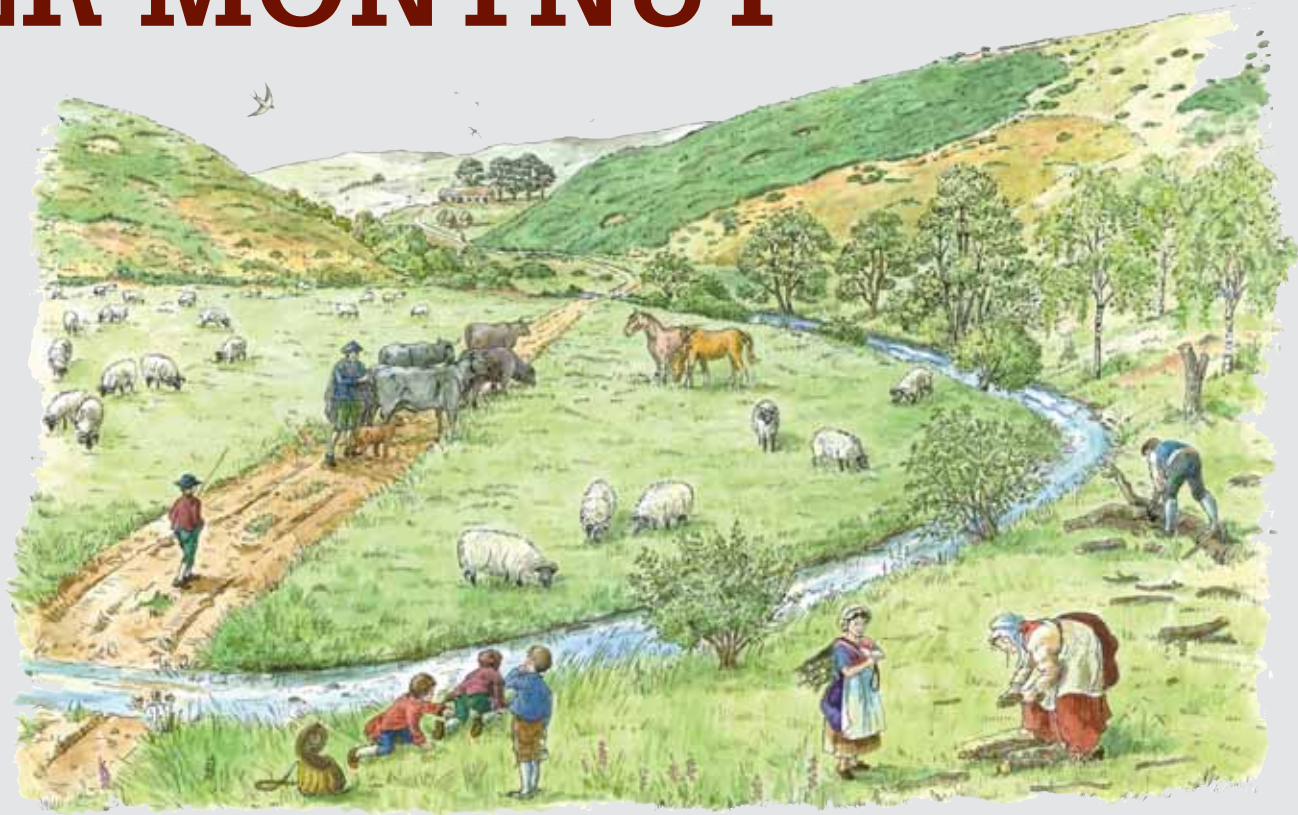
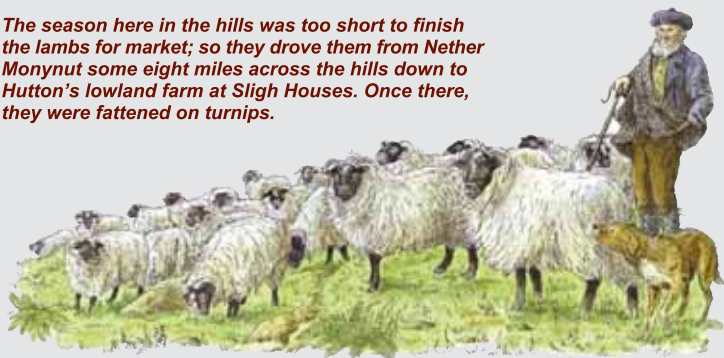


# NETHER MONYNUT

The man known as the “founding father of geology” – James Hutton (1726-1797), spent part of his life running the family farm at Sligh Houses near Reston. He also owned this hill or upland farm called Nether Monynut, here in the Lammermuir Hills. The farmhouse and buildings you can see in front of you are built on the site of the original farm. Then as now, these hills are best suited to livestock farming and in particular sheep.

When Hutton farmed this land in the mid 1700's, sheep provided meat, milk for cheese and wool for clothing. At this time many farmers, including Hutton, were working to improve the performance of the local sheep. The Black faced sheep we find on such upland farms today are bigger, but still similar to the *Lammermuir* type of Hutton's time.

*The season here in the hills was too short to finish the lambs for market; so they drove them from Nether Monynut some eight miles across the hills down to Hutton's lowland farm at Sligh Houses. Once there, they were fattened on turnips.*



*Nether Monynut and farm as it may have looked in Hutton's time*

To find out more about Hutton take a trip to Sligh Houses and the near-by James Hutton Exhibition located at the Reiver Country Farm shop in Auchencrow. Also visit Siccar Point and Jedburgh, (just in front of the Abbey).

At Nether Monynut during the summer some of the sheep were milked; for making cheese. Hutton was very fond of cheese and knew a lot about the ways in which it was made both in Britain and on the Continent. He very much enjoyed the ‘grateful and savoury taste of parmesan’, which he is recorded as sprinkling on soup and macaroni, but he grumbled at its cost!