

Medieval Lighthouses

15A - Site Survey

by Dr Ken Trethewey

Extracted from *Medieval Lighthouses* (2026) ISBN 978-1-9993273-3-0 <https://www.medievallighthouses.info>



ABOVE: Sites of lights before 1700 are marked with red pins. The contents of Section A are rather different from the other sections because of my more intimate knowledge of the overall pattern. Almost all of the entries are beyond doubt. Notes and References are minimal because many of the entries are discussed in the earlier chapters.

England

Scilly (1680)

Alternative Names: St Agnes
Location: Cornwall
Lat/Lon: 49.8925 , -6.3455
Modern Lighthouse On Site: No
Ecclesiastical: No
Light Function: Waypoint/landfall
Light Form: White round stone tower, with white building
Medieval Structure Exists: Yes
Notes: As a dangerous group of islands off the west coast of Britain it was important for a light to mark the danger and lead the way into the English Channel. Remained a coal fire until 1790. Privately owned today and can be seen at close range. See text p42.
References: Stevenson p260.

St Michaels Mount (15c)

Location: Cornwall
Lat/Lon: 50.116 , -5.478
Modern Lighthouse On Site: No
Ecclesiastical: Yes
Light Function: Ecclesiastical
Light Form: Ecclesiastical - Built structure
Medieval Structure Exists: Yes
Notes: See text p102
References: Hague and Christie, p151-153

Lizard (1619, 1754)

Location: Cornwall
Lat/Lon: 49.96 , -5.202
Modern Lighthouse On Site: Yes (1754)
Ecclesiastical: No
Light Function: Waypoint
Light Form: Built structure
Medieval Structure Exists: No
Notes: The current twin towers built 1752. See text p141.
References: Hague and Christie, p32-3, 81; Stevenson p100-102, 187-8.

Rame Head (1488)

Alternative Names: St Nicholas Chapel
Location: Cornwall
Lat/Lon: 50.314 , -4.223
Modern Lighthouse On Site: No
Ecclesiastical: Yes
Light Function: Ecclesiastical
Light Form: Ecclesiastical - Built structure
Medieval Structure Exists: Yes
Notes: See text p103.
References: Hague and Christie, p18

Eddystone (1698, 1708, 1759, 1882)

Alternative Names: Winstanley's tower
Location: Cornwall
Lat/Lon: 50.184 , -4.268
Modern Lighthouse On Site: No
Ecclesiastical: No
Light Function: Rock
Light Form: Built structure showing candles
Medieval Structure Exists: No
Notes: The first structure was rebuilt in 1699, but lost in a storm in 1703. The builder, Winstanley, was killed.
References: Fred Majdalany, The Red Rocks of Eddystone, Longman, 1959.

St Catherine's (1323)

Alternative Names: St Catherine's Oratory, The Pepper Pot
Location: Hampshire
Lat/Lon: 50.5922 , -1.303
Modern Lighthouse On Site: No
Ecclesiastical: Yes
Light Function: Ecclesiastical
Light Form: Ecclesiastical - Built structure
Medieval Structure Exists: Yes
Notes: The current lighthouse on St. Catherine's Point was built in 1840. See p108.
References: Hague & Christie p16, Zemke, p26; Stevenson, 1959, p22, p88.

Winchelsea (1261)

Location: Sussex East
Lat/Lon: 50.9251 , 0.7088
Modern Lighthouse On Site: No
Ecclesiastical: No
Light Function: Harbour light
Light Form: Lamp or brazier
Medieval Structure Exists: No
Notes: A Roman signal station may have exhibited a light. There is no doubt that a light was shown at this port in 1261 and that, as one of the Cinque Ports of southern England, taxes were charged for its benefit. The location is approximate due to coastline changes. See text p155.
References: Woodman, R.; Jane Wilson: The Lighthouses of Trinity House, Thomas Reed Publications (2002). ISBN: 190405000X; Zemke p26; Hague and Christie (1974) p24.
Roman: Yes

Rye (1261)

Location: Sussex
Lat/Lon: 50.936 , 0.764
Modern Lighthouse On Site: No
Ecclesiastical: No
Light Function: Harbour light
Light Form: Lamp or brazier
Medieval Structure Exists: No

Notes: As one of the Cinque Ports it almost certainly had a fire light at the harbour. The location is approximate due to changes to coastline. See text p155.

References: Stevenson p24; Hague & Christie p21,

Dungeness (1616, 1635, 1792, 1961)

Location: Kent

Lat/Lon: 50.914 , 0.97

Modern Lighthouse On Site: No

Ecclesiastical: No

Light Function: Waypoint

Light Form: Built structure with brazier

Medieval Structure Exists: No

Notes: James I (1603-25) issued two patents to individuals at Dungeness and Winterton/Wintertonness. The date appears to have been 1616. The building of Dungeness lighthouse was the second British light to be established solely to aid navigation and was encouraged by the ready availability of coal. The later tower stands adjacent to this site. The most recent lighthouse (1961) is 435 m to the east. See text p141.

References: Stevenson p257, 259, 272; Zemke p48-9

Dover Castle Pharos (-30 to 44)

Alternative Names: Portus Dubris

Location: Kent

Lat/Lon: 51.12838 , 1.323347

Modern Lighthouse On Site: No

Ecclesiastical: No

Light Function: Fortified structure

Light Form: Grey stone tower with beacon fire

Medieval Structure Exists: Yes

Notes: Two Roman lighthouses were built at Dover. The Dover Castle Pharos remains on the eastern side, but one on the western heights is now gone except for a small remnant known locally as the Bredon stone. One of the best preserved Roman lighthouses, it was originally built as one of a pair occupying east and west sites on either side of the river Dubris, now non-existent. Communication with Boulogne across the Channel is very likely. The Straits of Dover is the narrowest point of crossing the English Channel (French: La Manche) between England and France. Stevenson suggests that both Roman lighthouses were long disused. Certainly it was not lit in 1540. Hague reports the presence of a light keeper in 1201.

References: Stevenson p2, 11, 21; Zemke p21, 22, 23; Hague & Christie p2, 7; Philp, Brian: The Excavation of the Roman Forts of the Classis Britannica at Dover 1970-1977. Kent Archaeological Rescue Unit, CIB Headquarters, Dover Castle, Kent (1981); Giardina (2010), p119-120.

AL References: 267

Roman: Yes

Dover harbour (Antiquity continuing)

Alternative Names: Prince of Wales Pier Head

Location: Kent

Lat/Lon: 51.119 , 1.313

Modern Lighthouse On Site: Yes (19c)

Ecclesiastical: No

Light Function: Harbour light

Light Form: White tower

Medieval Structure Exists: No

Notes: Stevenson hints that in the time of Richard II, 1397, lighthouses were in use in the ports of Dover and Calais. See p79.

References: Stevenson p20.

AL References: 113, 249-67, 297

South Foreland (1584)

Location: Kent

Lat/Lon: 51.14 , 1.371

Modern Lighthouse On Site: No

Ecclesiastical: Yes

Light Function: Ecclesiastical

Light Form: Anchorite - site uncertain

Medieval Structure Exists: No

Notes: A light from a hermitage. Stevenson's decision to reject this site because of a misspelt label is incorrect. It is correctly marked on a chart of 1584 by Richard Poulter. See text p304.

References: Trethewey, K: Light on the Forelands (2023).

South Foreland High (1634, 1843)

Location: Kent

Lat/Lon: 51.14 , 1.371

Modern Lighthouse On Site: Yes (1843)

Ecclesiastical: No

Light Function: Leading light

Light Form: Built structure

Medieval Structure Exists: No

Notes: See text p304.

References: Stevenson p24, 259; Trethewey, K: Light on the Forelands (2023).

South Foreland Low (1634, 1846)

Location: Kent

Lat/Lon: 51.141 , 1.376

Modern Lighthouse On Site: Yes (ruin)

Ecclesiastical: No

Light Function: Leading light

Light Form: Built structure

Medieval Structure Exists: No

Notes: Stevenson's decision to reject this site because of a misspelt label is incorrect. It is correctly marked on a chart of 1584 by Richard Poulter. See text p304.

References: Stevenson p24, 259; Trethewey, K: Light on the Forelands (2023).



North Foreland (1634)

Location: Kent
 Lat/Lon: 51.375 , 1.445
 Modern Lighthouse On Site: No
 Ecclesiastical: No
 Light Function: Waypoint
 Light Form: Built structure
 Medieval Structure Exists: Yes
 References: Stevenson p259; Trethewey, K: Light on the Forelands (2023).



Harwich Rear (1665, 1818)

Location: Essex
 Lat/Lon: 51.944 , 1.288
 Modern Lighthouse On Site: Yes (1818)
 Ecclesiastical: No
 Light Function: Harbour light
 Light Form: Wooden tower
 Medieval Structure Exists: No
 Notes: See text p306.
 References: Long, p137-158, Stevenson, 1959, p104, 259.



Harwich Front (1665, 1818)

Location: Essex
 Lat/Lon: 51.943 , 1.291
 Modern Lighthouse On Site: No
 Ecclesiastical: No
 Light Function: Harbour light
 Light Form: White 8-sided pagoda-type tower on white building
 Medieval Structure Exists: No
 Notes: See text p306.
 References: Stevenson p259; Long, p137-158.



Orfordness High (1637)

Location: Suffolk
 Lat/Lon: 52.084 , 1.574
 Modern Lighthouse On Site:
 Ecclesiastical: No
 Light Function: Leading light
 Light Form: Wooden structure
 Medieval Structure Exists: No
 Notes: See text p304.
 References: Stevenson p259; Long, p63.



Orfordness Low (1637)

Location: Suffolk
 Lat/Lon: 52.091 , 1.588
 Modern Lighthouse On Site:
 Ecclesiastical: No
 Light Function: Leading light
 Light Form: Wooden structure
 Medieval Structure Exists: No
 Notes: Paired with High Light. See text p304.

References: Stevenson p259; Long, p63.



Lowestoft High (1609, 1629, 1676)

Alternative Names: Leystaffe
 Location: Suffolk
 Lat/Lon: 52.481 , 1.763
 Modern Lighthouse On Site:
 Ecclesiastical: No
 Light Function: Harbour light
 Light Form: Wooden structure on the shore
 Medieval Structure Exists: No
 Notes: Lowestoft was the site of numerous attempts to light the fishing harbour because of shifting sands. First built as an open fire, but glazed soon after to reduce risk of fire in the town. The lighthouse was fitted with the spangle light in 1778. The tower was raised in height by 10 ft in 1688 because the visibility had been reduced by nearby buildings. See text p301.
 References: Long, p95-7, 100-101.



Lowestoft Low (1609, 1628, 1676)

Alternative Names: Leystaffe
 Location: Suffolk
 Lat/Lon: 52.481 , 1.763
 Modern Lighthouse On Site: No
 Ecclesiastical: No
 Light Function: Harbour light
 Light Form: Wooden structure on the shore
 Medieval Structure Exists: No
 Notes: The 1676 structure was washed away in a storm and not replaced until 1730. See text 301.
 References: Long, p97



Corton (1675)

Location: Suffolk
 Lat/Lon: 52.516 , 1.749
 Modern Lighthouse On Site:
 Ecclesiastical: No
 Light Function: Leading light
 Light Form: Wooden structure
 Medieval Structure Exists: No
 Notes: The Corton lighthouse was the subject of a bitter feud between Clayton and Trinity House. Clayton lost the battle and his light shone for only a short period around 1678-9. See text p294.
 References: Stevenson, 1959, p106-7.



Caistor (1600)

Alternative Names: Caister
 Location: Norfolk
 Lat/Lon: 52.665 , 1.727
 Modern Lighthouse On Site: No
 Ecclesiastical: No
 Light Function: Leading light
 Light Form: Two towers of wood or stone and unknown height.

Medieval Structure Exists: No

Notes: Originally two lights were shown from wooden structures with candles. Stevenson reports them as wooden but to last 200 years they must have been stone at some point. Oil replaced candles in 1746. Discontinued in 1790. See text p293.

References: Stevenson, p97; Zemke, p27.

Winterton (1617)

Location: Norfolk

Lat/Lon: 52.713 , 1.695

Modern Lighthouse On Site: No

Ecclesiastical: No

Light Function: Leading light

Light Form: Built structure

Medieval Structure Exists: Yes

Notes: A second light built here in 1677. In 1746 the first light was an open coal fire. Owned by Sir William Erskine and Sir John Meldrum. See text p293.

References: Stevenson p99-100, 259. Long

Wintertonness (1617)

Alternative Names: Thwart lights

Location: Norfolk

Lat/Lon: 52.721 , 1.694

Modern Lighthouse On Site: No

Ecclesiastical: No

Light Function: Leading light

Light Form: Built structure with brazier

Medieval Structure Exists: Yes

Notes: Owned by Sir William Erskine and Sir John Meldrum, the lighthouse was described by Findlay as an octangular red tower 61 feet high. See text p293.

References: Stevenson p259, p99-100; Findlay, 1862.

Hunstanton High (1272, 1665, 1778)

Alternative Names: The Chapel Lights, St Edmund's Chapel

Location: Norfolk

Lat/Lon: 52.949 , 0.493

Modern Lighthouse On Site: Yes

Ecclesiastical: Yes

Light Function: Ecclesiastical

Light Form: Ecclesiastical - Built structure

Medieval Structure Exists: No

Notes: One of the last private lights until compulsory purchase by Trinity House in 1837. Deactivated 1922. See text p296.

References: Stevenson p259; Long p114-122; Zemke p26.

Hunstanton Low (1665)

Alternative Names: The Chapel Lights

Location: Norfolk

Lat/Lon: 52.949 , 0.493

Modern Lighthouse On Site: No

Ecclesiastical: Yes

Light Function: Ecclesiastical

Light Form: Wooden structure

Medieval Structure Exists: Yes

Notes: The first tower is reputed to have been built by John Puttock, a hermit. The wooden beacon was supposedly 100 feet high and known as Lenne Crutch, or Lynn Cross. It was to assist ships entering the Wash and heading for Kings Lynn. Early use of reflectors occurred in 1778 in a tower built to replace one destroyed by fire in that year. It was topped by a glazed lantern containing one reflector and an oil lamp instead of the coal fire used prior to that. Findlay gives the light as dated 1665. Letters Patent of Charles II were signed at Westminster on 3rd June 1665 by which time a pair of lighthouse towers had taken their stand beside the old chapel on Hunstanton cliff. The licence was awarded to John Knight for a term of 61 years. The high light at the rear was coal fired and the low light in front was from candles. It is thought that the high light was enclosed in a glazed lantern. This continued for many years until the front light was discontinued due to the shifting channels. The main coal-burning lighthouse was destroyed by fire in 1777.

References: Stevenson p23, 54, 259; Findlay, 1862; Long, p114-122.

Lynn Cross (1550)

Alternative Names: Lenne Crouch, Lenne Crutch

Location: Norfolk

Lat/Lon: 52.757 , 0.397

Modern Lighthouse On Site: No

Ecclesiastical: No

Light Function: Harbour light

Light Form: Wooden structure

Medieval Structure Exists: No

Notes: This site of uncertain location was probably at a bend in the river leading to the Kings Lynn harbour. Although referred to as a beacon, it may not have been lit since there are descriptions of it as a 30 m tall cross. See text p295.

References: Stevenson p23.

Ravenser (300)

Alternative Names: Ravenspur, Ravensersporne, Spurn Point

Location: Yorkshire

Lat/Lon: 54.41702 , -0.49221

Modern Lighthouse On Site: No

Ecclesiastical: No

Light Function: Beacon light

Light Form: Wooden structure

Medieval Structure Exists: No

Notes: A Roman signal station may have exhibited a light. A hermit, Richard Reedbarowe, exhibited a light

atop a tower. Later replaced by a coal fire known as a swape light. In 1776, Smeaton rebuilt the light as two coal fired swape lights in brick towers, 50 feet and 90 feet high respectively. See text p288.

References:

Roman: Yes

Spurn Head (1427)

Alternative Names: Ravenspur, Ravensersporne, Spurn Point

Location: Yorkshire

Lat/Lon: 53.57595 , 0.111454

Modern Lighthouse On Site: Yes

Ecclesiastical: No

Light Function: Beacon light

Light Form: Wooden structure

Medieval Structure Exists: No

Notes: A Roman signal station may have exhibited a light. See text p288ff.

References: Stevenson, 1959, p22, p53-4; Zemke p27; Woodman, R.; Jane Wilson: The Lighthouses of Trinity House, Thomas Reed Publications (2002). ISBN: 190405000X.

Spurn Head High (1672, 1895)

Alternative Names: Ravenspur, Ravensersporne, Spurn Point

Location: Yorkshire

Lat/Lon: 53.57595 , 0.111454

Modern Lighthouse On Site: Yes (1895)

Ecclesiastical: No

Light Function: Leading light

Light Form: Wooden structure

Medieval Structure Exists: Yes

Notes: A Roman signal station may have exhibited a light. See text p288ff.

References: Stevenson p259; Zemke p27; Woodman (2002).

Spurn Head Low (1672)

Alternative Names: Ravenspur, Ravensersporne, Spurn Point

Location: Yorkshire

Lat/Lon: 53.57595 , 0.111454

Modern Lighthouse On Site:

Ecclesiastical: No

Light Function: Leading light

Light Form: Wooden structure

Medieval Structure Exists: Yes

Notes: A Roman signal station may have exhibited a light. See text p288ff.

References: Stevenson p259; Zemke p27; Woodman (2002).

Flamborough Head (1674)

Location: Yorkshire

Lat/Lon: 54.11599 , -0.08305

Modern Lighthouse On Site: No

Ecclesiastical: No

Light Function: Beacon light

Light Form: Hexagonal stone tower

Medieval Structure Exists: Yes

Notes: A Roman signal station may have exhibited a light. Medieval light denied by Stevenson. After having established a lighthouse at this site, the tower was supposedly never used. See text p295.

References: Stevenson p24; Long, Neville: Lights of East Anglia, Lavenham Press (1983) p2.

Roman: Yes

Tynemouth Priory (13c)

Location: Northumberland

Lat/Lon: 55.01807 , -1.416

Modern Lighthouse On Site: No

Ecclesiastical: Yes

Light Function: Ecclesiastical

Light Form: Ecclesiastical - Built structure

Medieval Structure Exists: Yes

Notes: Historic England: A monastery is thought to have been established at Tynemouth by the mid- seventh century AD when it is believed that the body of St Oswin was interred here. It was certainly in existence by the eighth century as it is mentioned in Bede and during the ninth century it was sacked by the Danes. Tynemouth had one of the earliest recorded monastic lighthouses. Documentary evidence indicates that it comprised a coal fire in an open brazier and that it was situated at the east end of the church upon one of two turrets which flanked the east end of the presbytery. The monastic lighthouse which had collapsed in 1659, was also replaced at this time and was situated in the north east corner of the promontory. It was subsequently rebuilt during the later 18th century when the coal brazier was replaced by an oil lamp. It was demolished in 1859. The foundations of the lighthouse are thought to survive beneath the ground level. See text p96.

References: Stevenson p21, 22-3; Zemke p27; Hague & Christie p17, Zemke, p27; Tynemouth - History: North Shields at Tynemouth by John Naish, 1985

Tynemouth Priory (1659)

Location: Northumberland

Lat/Lon: 55.01807 , -1.416

Modern Lighthouse On Site: No

Ecclesiastical: Yes

Light Function: Ecclesiastical

Light Form: Ecclesiastical - Built structure

Medieval Structure Exists: Yes

Notes: Historic England: A monastery is thought to have

been established at Tynemouth by the mid- seventh century AD when it is believed that the body of St Oswin was interred here. It was certainly in existence by the eighth century as it is mentioned in Bede and during the ninth century it was sacked by the Danes. Tynemouth had one of the earliest recorded monastic lighthouses. Documentary evidence indicates that it comprised a coal fire in an open brazier and that it was situated at the east end of the church upon one of two turrets which flanked the east end of the presbytery. The monastic lighthouse which had collapsed in 1659, was also replaced at this time and was situated in the north east corner of the promontory. It was subsequently rebuilt during the later 18th century when the coal brazier was replaced by an oil lamp. It was demolished in 1859. The foundations of the lighthouse are thought to survive beneath the ground level.

References: Stevenson p21, 22-3; Zemke p27; Hague & Christie p17; Tynemouth - History: North Shields at Tynemouth by John Naish, 1985

North Shields High (1540)

Location: Northumberland

Lat/Lon: 55.009 , -1.438

Modern Lighthouse On Site: Yes

Ecclesiastical: No

Light Function: Harbour light

Light Form: White square stone tower

Medieval Structure Exists: Yes

Notes: Lights were important here because of the developing industries. See text p143ff.

References: Stevenson p22-3.

North Shields Low (1540)

Alternative Names: Fish Quay

Location: Northumberland

Lat/Lon: 55.009 , -1.434

Modern Lighthouse On Site: No

Ecclesiastical: No

Light Function: Harbour light

Light Form: White square stone tower

Medieval Structure Exists: Yes

Notes: See text p143ff.

References: Stevenson p22-3.

Inner Farne (1500) (1500)

Alternative Names: Farne Island, Inner Farn, Fern Island

Location: Northumberland

Lat/Lon: 55.617 , -1.656

Modern Lighthouse On Site: Yes

Ecclesiastical: Yes

Light Function: Ecclesiastical

Light Form: Ecclesiastical - Built structure

Medieval Structure Exists: Yes

Notes: The Farne Islands, two miles off the Northumbrian

coast, have a long tradition as a centre of Christianity. It is probable that the Farnes were inhabited before St. Aidan went there about 640 to meditate in solitude. However, Aidan, among the first Christians in Britain, was the first visitor of whom there is a written record. The islands were made famous by St. Cuthbert who became prior of Lindisfarne in 664, and retired to Inner Farne in 676. He lived alone on the island until he died in 687 and was buried at Lindisfarne. His body was removed to Durham during the Viking invasions. It is believed that monks kept lights burning on the islands from the ninth century, but the first certain date is 1500 with the erection of Prior Castell's Tower on the Inner Farne. This beacon fire of coals and timber was lit each evening at the top of the tower. See text p287ff.

References:

Scotland

Leith (1552)

Location: Edinburgh

Lat/Lon: 55.98 , -3.177

Modern Lighthouse On Site: No

Ecclesiastical: No

Light Function: Harbour light

Light Form: Beacon

Medieval Structure Exists: No

Notes: See text p154.

References: Stevenson p25.

Isle of May (1636, 1816)

Alternative Names: May Island

Location: Firth of Forth

Lat/Lon: 56.187 , -2.557

Modern Lighthouse On Site: Yes (1816)

Ecclesiastical: No

Light Function: Island - Waypoint

Light Form: Tower with beacon fire

Medieval Structure Exists: Yes

Notes: Coal fire from 1636 to 1816. See text p154.

References: Stevenson p37, 38; Munro, 1979 p31.

Bell Rock (1394, 1815)

Location: Arbroath

Lat/Lon: 56.453 , -2.463

Modern Lighthouse On Site: Yes (1815)

Ecclesiastical: Yes

Light Function: No - Sound only.

Light Form: Wooden structure

Medieval Structure Exists: No

Notes: This rock was made into a beacon with a bell, but not a light. The lighthouse is so famous it was essential to include, even as a negative.

References: Stevenson p25.

Buddon Ness High (1687, 1866)

Location: River Tay, Dundee

Lat/Lon: 56.469 , -2.75

Modern Lighthouse On Site: Yes

Ecclesiastical: No

Light Function: Leading light

Light Form: Round stone tower

Medieval Structure Exists: No

Notes: In about 1690, two lights were shown on charts for the mouth of the River Tay. Their purpose was to mark the deep channel over the bar at the river's entrance. One tower was designed to be moved as the channel shifted in the fashion of leading lights. The group of mariners who had erected and maintained these lights was formally constituted as the Trinity House of Dundee by a Charter from George III in 1774. The coal fires in the two lanterns may have given way to candles by the mid 1750s. By the mid 1800s, the sandbanks at the mouth of the river continued to cause losses and the Dundee harbour authorities wanted to moor a lightship there, but the rights were still held by the Fraternity of Masters and Seamen (Dundee Trinity House). With the help of a Public Works loan, they employed the Stevensons to design new leading lights which were duly built. The towers were higher and much improved by better lighting equipment. Because the entrance channel was moving, it was necessary to move the lower light by some 50 m to the north-east in 1884. This may have been the first time a lighthouse was bodily moved in this way. 1600 is an early date suggested, but 1660 is quoted. References: Stevenson p38, 39.

Buddon Ness Low (1687, 1866)

Location: River Tay, Dundee

Lat/Lon: 56.467 , -2.745

Modern Lighthouse On Site: Yes (1866)

Ecclesiastical: No

Light Function: Leading light

Light Form: Round stone tower

Medieval Structure Exists: No

Notes: 1600 is an early date suggested, but 1660 is quoted.

References: Stevenson p38, 39.

Aberdeen (1566)

Alternative Names: St Ninians Chapel

Location: On St Ninian's Chapel, Aberdeen

Lat/Lon: 57.148 , -2.09

Modern Lighthouse On Site: No

Ecclesiastical: Yes

Light Function: Ecclesiastical

Light Form: Ecclesiastical - Built structure

Medieval Structure Exists: Yes

Notes: Set up on a Chapel by the Town Council with dues to be paid. The building was demolished in 1794. Robert

Stevenson makes no mention of it in his review of 1823. References: Stevenson p24.

Portpatrick (1790)

Location:

Lat/Lon: 54.8427 , -5.1166

Modern Lighthouse On Site:

Ecclesiastical: No

Light Function: Ecclesiastical

Light Form:

Medieval Structure Exists: Yes

Notes: See p90.

England

Hillbre Island (1236, 1927)

Location: Cheshire

Lat/Lon: 53.383 , -3.228

Modern Lighthouse On Site: No (minor structure only)

Ecclesiastical: No

Light Function: Island - Waypoint

Light Form: White metal framework tower

Medieval Structure Exists: No

Notes: Sponsored by the Earl of Chester who paid 10 shillings per year for its upkeep.

References: Hague, p37.

Wales

St Ann's Head (1662, 1714, 1844)

Location: Milford Haven

Lat/Lon: 51.681 , -5.174

Modern Lighthouse On Site: Yes (1844)

Ecclesiastical: No

Light Function: Waypoint

Light Form: Built structure with brazier

Medieval Structure Exists: No

Notes: Hague says that a new coal light was set by Trinity House here in 1662. but a light was extinguished at this location in 1668 according to Stevenson, apparently for illegal collections of light dues.

References: Stevenson p252; Hague, p76-77

St Ann's Chapel (15c)

Location: Milford Haven

Lat/Lon: 51.681 , -5.174

Modern Lighthouse On Site: Yes

Ecclesiastical: Yes

Light Function: Ecclesiastical

Light Form: Ecclesiastical - Built structure

Medieval Structure Exists: No

Notes: Whether a light was shown from the 15th c. St Ann's Chapel is uncertain. Clearly, it would have been an

ecclesiastical light.

References: Stevenson p252; Hague, p76-77;

England

Ilfracombe (1427)

Alternative Names: Lantern Hill, St Nicholas Chapel

Location: Devon

Lat/Lon: 51.211 , -4.113

Modern Lighthouse On Site: Yes

Ecclesiastical: No

Light Function: Ecclesiastical

Light Form: White lantern on chapel

Medieval Structure Exists: Yes

Notes: This medieval lighthouse still exists at the entrance to Ilfracombe harbour. See text p100.

References: Stevenson p22; Zemke, p27

Ireland

Kinsale, Old Head (1668, 1814, 1853)

Location:

Lat/Lon: 51.605 , -8.534

Modern Lighthouse On Site: (1853)

Ecclesiastical: No

Light Function: Waypoint

Light Form: Built structure

Medieval Structure Exists: No

References: Stevenson p39; Wilson, p8

Youghal (1190, 1852)

Location: Co. Cork

Lat/Lon: 51.943 , -7.842

Modern Lighthouse On Site: Yes (1852)

Ecclesiastical: Yes

Light Function: Ecclesiastical

Light Form: Torches

Medieval Structure Exists: No

Notes: Stevenson says the light was from torches.

Lighthouse now on medieval site. See text p105.

References: Stevenson p25, 39; Hague & Christie p16, Wilson, p9

Hook Head (9c, 1172, 1201-1240)

Location: Co. Waterford

Lat/Lon: 52.124 , -6.93

Modern Lighthouse On Site: Yes (1240)

Ecclesiastical: Yes

Light Function: Ecclesiastical

Light Form: Ecclesiastical - Built structure

Medieval Structure Exists: Yes

Notes: Tradition says it was built in 810 by Rosa Macrue, sister of a chieftain called Strongbow, to guide her sons back to port. Tradition says it was built in 810 by Rosa

Macrue, sister of a chieftain called Strongbow, to guide her sons back to port. Also that the oldest tower was built by Raymond Fitzgerald in 1172. Augustinian canons held rights to collect tolls from vessels entering Waterford in 1245 in return for maintaining the light there. See text p94.

References: Stevenson p25, 39; Hague & Christie p16, Zemke p26, Wilson, p5-6.

Howth Head (1668, 1814)

Alternative Names: Baily

Location: Dublin

Lat/Lon: 53.361 , -6.052

Modern Lighthouse On Site: Yes (1814)

Ecclesiastical: No

Light Function: Waypoint

Light Form: Built structure

Medieval Structure Exists: No

References: Stevenson p39; Wilson, p8

Loop Head (1670, 1802, 1854)

Location: Co. Clare

Lat/Lon: 52.561 , -9.932

Modern Lighthouse On Site: Yes (1854)

Ecclesiastical: No

Light Function: Waypoint

Light Form: Built structure

Medieval Structure Exists: Yes

References: Stevenson p39; Wilson, p8; Long, 1993, p31.



*ABOVE: The Low lighthouse at Buddonness with the high light in the distance on the left.
BELOW: The High lighthouse at Buddonness. Both lights are now disused.*

