



Strumble Head Lighthouse

In 1908, Strumble Lighthouse was built by the Corporation of Trinity House and brought into service to protect the waters on this notorious length of coastline.

With the development of Fishguard Harbour, just 3 miles to the east it was a priority of Trinity House to establish a lighthouse to give greater protection to the increased sea traffic between Wales and Ireland. Although not as challenging as some lighthouse locations, its site on Ynys Michael still provided many difficulties for the contractors. A deep gorge separates the island from the mainland and one of the first tasks was to erect an iron bridge to give access. Jackstay cables and winches were also used to transfer building materials. Although sited very close to the mainland and linked by its bridge, the lighthouse nevertheless is classed as a rock lighthouse.



Transferring materials onto the island in 1965



The original light was of paraffin and supplies of the oil were transferred to the island via a pipeline which doubled as the handrail of the bridge! This was stored in great tanks at the base of the tower and then taken by the men on duty to the lamp burners in huge copper spouted cans. 3 paraffin burners provided the illumination for the lens, equivalent to 400,000 candle power. The lens itself, weighing almost 5 tons, was suspended in a tank of mercury to reduce friction and provide even movement to the mechanism which revolved at a rate of one revolution each 15 seconds during which time 4 flashes of light could be seen. When it first came on line in 1908 all mod cons. were provided for those on duty with sleeping apartments connected to the lantern room via a speaking tube to ensure that the lantern was manned at all times. The kitchen had a "modern" kitchen range and slate shelved larder. Even a telephone was provided which was linked to Goodwick Post Office. The lighthouse was manned by three men.

Height of Tower: **17mts**
Height above water : **45mts**
Light : **1000 Mbi**
Optic : **1st Order Catadioptric**
Range of Light : **26 nautical miles**
Intensiv : **1.000.000 Candela**

Much of the original optical system continued in its daily use until 1965 when the light was fully electrified and it was then replaced with more compact equipment. At this time storage heaters were also installed for the comfort of those on duty.



The lighthouse was converted to unmanned automatic operation in 1980 and is now monitored from the Operations and Planning Centre at Harwich