Southwold Lighthouse

(Southwold, Suffolk)

History

Southwold Lighthouse is a coastal mark for passing shipping and guides vessels into Southwold Harbour. The lighthouse is situated near the centre of the seaside resort of Southwold, midway between Lowestoft and Orford, the round white tower stands amongst rows of small houses.

Construction of Southwold Lighthouse began in 1887 under the supervision of Sir James Douglass, Engineer in Chief to Trinity House. The lighthouse replaced three local lighthouses which were...
under threat from severe coastal erosion at Orfordness to the South. While the masonry tower was built a temporary light was shown from a wooden structure which was first lit on 19th February 1889.

The present lighthouse came into operation on 3rd September 1890. The light was originally provided by an Argand burner, this was replaced by a Matthews incandescent oil burner in 1906. A Hood 100mm petroleum vapor burner was installed in 1923 and remained until the station was electrified and demanned in 1938. Two red sectors mark shoals to the north and the Sizewell Bank to the south, the main navigation light is white.

A local Attendant visits the lighthouse regularly to conduct routine maintenance.

Specifications

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<table>
<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Established</td>
<td>1889</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Height Of Tower</td>
<td>31 Metres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Height Of Light Above Mean High Water</td>
<td>37 Metres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Automated</td>
<td>1938</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electrified</td>
<td>1938</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lamp</td>
<td>3 x 12v 90 Watt Osram Halostar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Optic</td>
<td>1st Order 920Mm Focal Length, Catadioptric Fixed Lens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Character</td>
<td>White And Red Group Flashing 4 Times Every 20 Seconds</td>
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<tr>
<td>Range Of Light</td>
<td>White Main Light (220°-001°) 17 nautical miles Red Light (204°-220° &amp; 001°-032.3°) 15 nautical miles</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Location

Southwold is situated at the end of the A1095, 4 miles from the A12 at Blythburgh or 4.5 miles from Wrentham via the B1127.

Parking

Parking is available on public roads close to the Lighthouse. Car parks are also located at the pier and harbour.

Visitor Centre

Southwold Lighthouse stands in the middle of the historic resort of Southwold, in the heart of the beautiful Suffolk Heritage Coast. The Lighthouse provides a waymark for vessels navigating the East Coast and guides vessels making for Southwold Harbour.

Tours of Southwold Lighthouse are organised by Southwold Millennium Foundation under licence from the Corporation of Trinity House.

Download brochure >>

Contact Details

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✉️ enquiries@thls.org
SOUTHWOLD
Suffolk

This Lighthouse is uniquely located within the heart of the town of Southwold. Visit the Lighthouse and climb the 113 steps to the top of the tower for panoramic views of this historic coastal town.

Tour duration: approx 20 minutes
Visits to the Lighthouse are organised by the Southwold Millenium Foundation, under licence from Trinity House. Southwold Tourist Information Tel: 01502 724729

Location: Southwold is situated at the end of the A1095, 4 miles from the A12 at Blythburgh or 4.5 miles from Wrentham via the B1127.

Position: 52° 19.60 N, 01° 41.00 E (WGS 84 datum)