

## CHAPTER 5

### LANDMARKS

#### 5.1 GENERAL

A distinction should be made between intentional and occasional landmarks (or natural features).

**Intentional landmarks** are sites to enable the mariner to identify a particular part of the coast or to act as a warning to him. These landmarks usually appear as lighthouses (Figures 5.1 and 5.2), towers, beacons, etc.

The main purpose of a lighthouse is to give mariners a recognition mark which is visible from a considerable distance and to support a light high above the water.

**Occasional landmarks** are structures which can, owing to their conspicuous aspect along the coast, be used in the same manner as intentional landmarks. For example : towers, forts, tower blocks and other large structures (Figure 5.3), houses, walls, dolphins, chimneys, posts, flagstuffs, semaphores (Figure 5.4), etc.



Figure 5.1  
Dungeness Lighthouse



Figure 5.2  
Tater-Du Lighthouse

By courtesy: *Trinity House London*



Figure 5.6 - Europ Building

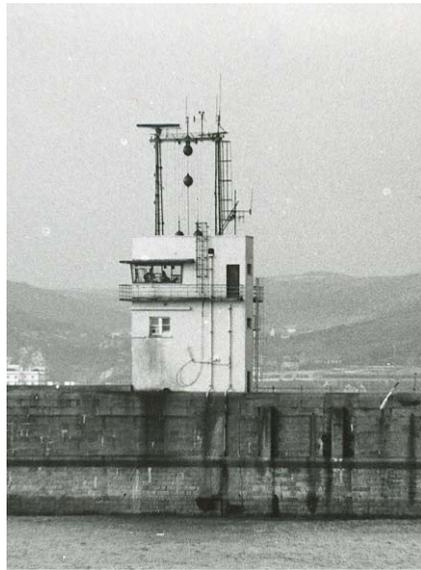


Figure 5.4 - Dover signalling mast

There are, of course, more occasional than intentional landmarks.

Landmarks fitted with a light are identified in lists of lights. All landmarks, whether fitted with a light or not, are shown on charts by symbols or abbreviations. The most important symbols and abbreviations referring to landmarks are given in the Nautical Chart Symbols, Abbreviations and terms. (See also on Internet.)

## 5.2 CATEGORIES OF LANDMARKS

The following landmarks are chiefly employed:

- Lighthouses (Figures 5.1, 5.2, and 5.6).
- Towers (Figure 5.7).
- Water towers (Figure 5.8).
- Forts.
- Columns (Figure 5.9).
- Posts (Figure 5.10).
- Flagstuffs (Figure 5.11).
- Tower blocks and other large structures (Figure 5.3).
- Houses.
- Huts.
- Beacons (Figures 5.12, 5.1375 and 5.14).
- Walls.
- Dolphins (Figure 5.15).

- Warehouses.
- Masts (Figure 5.16).
- Signal masts (Figures 5.4 and 5.17).
- Chimneys.
- Etc.



Figure 5.6



Figure 5.7

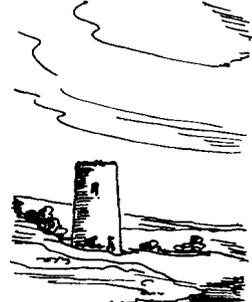


Figure 5.8

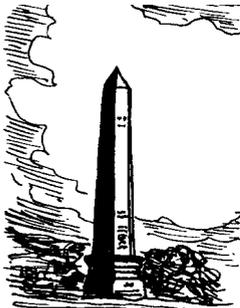


Figure 5.9

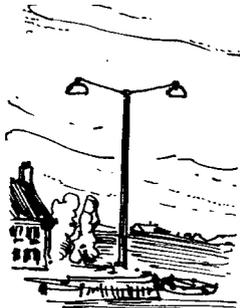


Figure 5.10

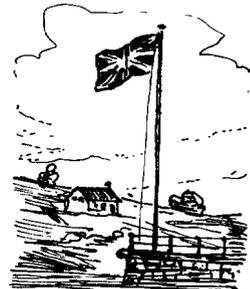


Figure 5.11

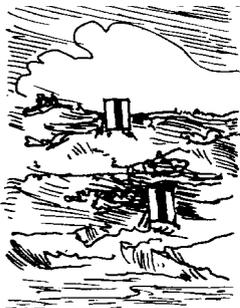


Figure 5.12

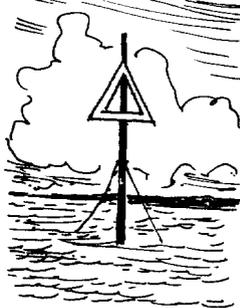


Figure 5.13

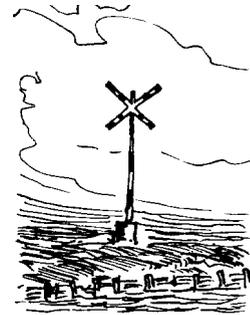


Figure 5.14

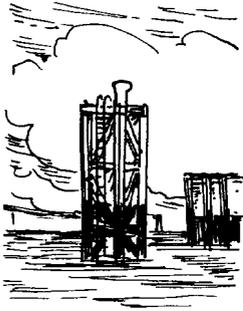


Figure 5.15

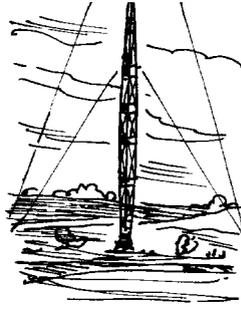


Figure 5.16

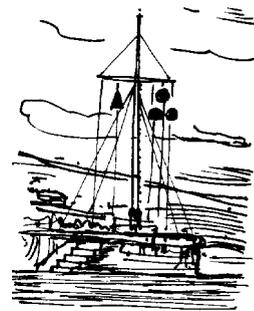


Figure 5.17

### 5.3 DESCRIPTION OF LANDMARKS

#### 5.3.1 From their shape:

- Square.
- Round.
- Circular.
- Octagonal.
- Conical.
- Triangular.
- Framework structure (Figures 5.16, 5.18, and 5.25).
- Tripod (Figures 5.19 and 5.24).
- Flat roof.
- Etc.

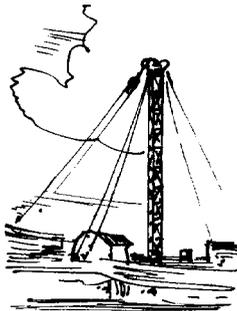


Figure 5.18

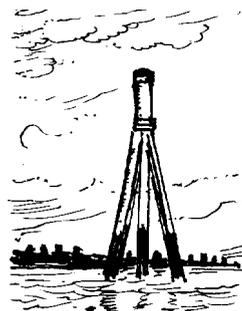


Figure 5.19

#### 5.3.2 From the material which is used

- Iron.
- Other metals.
- Concrete.

- Stone or masonry.
- Wood.
- Granite.
- Etc.

### **5.3.3 From their colour:**

- White.
- Grey.
- Red.
- Black.
- Yellow.
- Dark.
- Black and white chequered.
- Black bands.
- Red stripes.
- Etc.

### **5.3.4 From their topmark:**

- Square.
- Conical.
- Round.
- Diamond shaped.
- Cross.
- Or a combination of these.

Topmarks are principally used on beacons and buoys.

### **REMARKS**

1. Charts often show landmarks which, because they are not fitted with a light, are not mentioned in the lists of lights but they may nevertheless be of considerable aid to mariners. These include castles, forts, cathedrals, churches, water towers, hospitals, cemeteries, monuments, monasteries, schools, mountains, rocks, ruins, etc.
2. Charts do not give descriptions of these landmarks but show them only by symbols or abbreviations. Descriptions can, however, sometimes be found in other nautical publications such as Pilot Books.

## **5.4 THE HEIGHT**

The height of a landmark is the vertical distance between the top of the structure and the ground (Figure 5.26).

All lists of lights mention this height

English, French, Dutch and Belgian lists of lights give this height in metres.

The American *Lists of Lights* give the height in feet (roman type) and below in metres (bold type).

In the American *Light List*, the height is given in feet only.

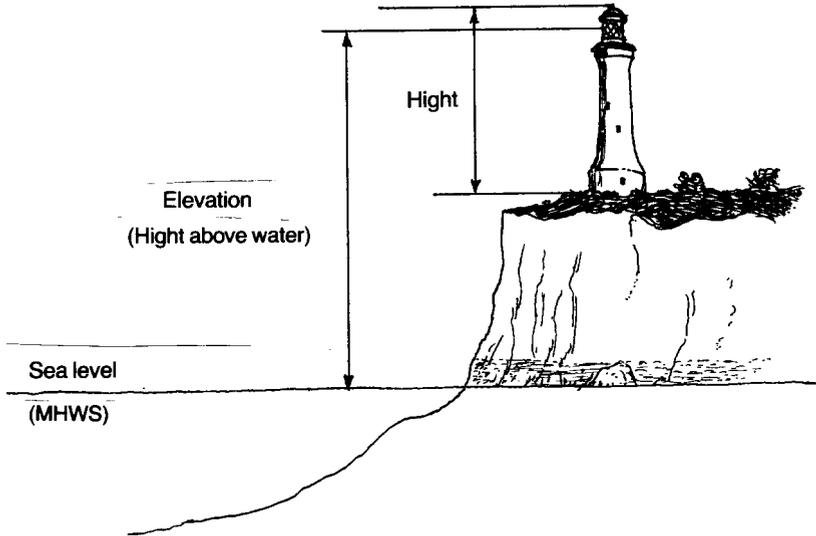


Figure 5.26 — The height

As far as neon-glow tubes are concerned, the heights are given from the centre of the tube.

**REMARK**

The height of a landmark should not be confused with its elevation. (See Chapter 2,