

# England's Coastline

## Listed buildings and structures

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**An increasing number of coastline photographs are now available on the website.**

England's rich heritage of listed coastal buildings and structures is being recorded for the *Images of England* project by an extensive network of volunteer photographers along the English coastline.

When completed, their photographs, along with photographs of every listed building in England, will be available on [www.imagesofengland.org.uk](http://www.imagesofengland.org.uk). A search under the building heading 'maritime' returns almost 1,500 list descriptions with more than 750 accompanying photographs. Anyone wishing to carry out this search will need to register as an advanced user and then follow the instructions and options.

### Lighthouses

There are records for over 100 lighthouses on the *Images of England* website, with over half currently illustrated by photographs. One of the oldest, the early 14th-century Tower of St Catherine's Oratory at Chale on the Isle of Wight, is associated with a local legend. The Tower was supposedly built as a penance by the local landowner, Walter De Godeton, for stealing the cargo of church wine belonging to a monastery when the *Saint Marie* of Bayonne was wrecked on Atherfield Ledge in the Parish of Shorwell in 1314.

Built as a lighthouse to prevent further wrecks, St Catherine's Tower was also originally home to an oratory chapel inhabited by a monk who was responsible for trimming the light and saying mass for those lost at sea. The 35.5-foot Tower, with its pyramidal stone roof, stands 750 feet above sea level; its buttress fins were added later to keep it standing as a seamark. It is a rare example of a surviving medieval lighthouse and is known locally as the 'pepper pot' in recognition of its shape and its conjunction with the remains of the lighthouse in the adjoining parish, known as the 'salt cellar' or 'salt shaker'.

Souter Point Lighthouse on Lizard Point

in Bolden, South Tyneside, is built in a more traditional style. To avoid confusion with the Cornish Lizard Lighthouse, it was given the name 'Souter Point', which means 'next point south'. Built in 1871 by Sir James N Douglas for Trinity House, London, it was the most technologically advanced lighthouse of its day, constructed specifically for electric illumination using carbon arc lamps, which flashed for 5 seconds every 30 seconds. The lighthouse also features its original bi-focal lens. In addition to the electric light, Souter Point also had foghorns that were used when visibility was below two miles. The tapered red and white painted tower is 75 feet tall; it stands three

Tower of St Catherine's Oratory, Chale, Isle of Wight (Grade II).



IoE number: 392680, © Rev. Robert Rudd



Souter Point Lighthouse (above), Boldon, South Tyneside (Grade II\*).

kilometres south of South Shields overlooking the cliffs of Marsden Bay, above the rocks and notorious currents of Whitburn Steel. The light was built to prevent lives being lost when ships ran aground either through natural causes or when locals lit lights to deliberately attract ships on to the rocks for their cargos. In addition to the tower, the complex includes an engine and boiler house, workshops and houses.

### Coastal structures

In addition to lighthouses, the *Images of England* website includes a wide range of coastal listed structures such as pavilions, beach huts, piers and quay walls. Examples include a set of six early 19th-century mooring bollards at Feock in Cornwall. They consist of granite monoliths that were used to moor boats waiting to load copper ore from the ore hutches, to be taken to Wales for smelting. The hutches were linked to the mines by the Redruth and Chasewater railway, making Devon a major industrial port in the heyday of mining. Today, the mooring bollards are a reminder of Cornwall's historic past and of an industry that has now vanished.

The *Images of England* website features many quays and ports, the most historically important of which is the West Pier at Sutton Harbour, Plymouth. This Grade II listed pier dates back to the 17th century, although it was much rebuilt between 1791 and 1799. The pier has been the scene of many important departures and arrivals, several of which are documented in plaques erected on the site.

Sutton Harbour was the place from which the Pilgrim Fathers sailed on the *Mayflower* on 6 September 1620 with 102 passengers and 48 seamen for the crossing to Cape Cod. In 1838, four of the Tolpuddle Martyrs returned to the West Pier, following their exile to Australia for daring to form a trade union. (They received

pardons from their seven-year sentences after a lengthy legal battle and a great deal of public protest.) *The Tory* also sailed from here on her voyage as the pioneer ship to colonise New Zealand in 1839. In addition, the harbour was the location for the arrival of the first transatlantic flight in 1919 by the American seaplane NC4, which left Long Island on 8 May and reached Plymouth Sound 23 days later, on 31 May 1919.

*Images of England* is an on-going project that aims to create a 'point in time' record of England's listed buildings. When completed in 2008, it will offer a unique and comprehensive photographic record of England's architectural heritage for anyone interested in the historic environment. There are currently over 140,000 images online, and more are being added. For more information please email [ioeenquiry@english-heritage.org.uk](mailto:ioeenquiry@english-heritage.org.uk).

IoE number: 303715, photograph © Mr David E Sanderfield



Bollards (above) by Narabo Ore Hutches, Feock, Cornwall (Grade II).

IoE number: 063348, photograph © Mr John E Crowe

Sutton Harbour, Plymouth, Devon (Grade II, below).



IoE number: 473809, photograph © Mr Derek Hiscock