



# Lighthouse News

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## Lighthouses are 'in decay'

*Lighthouses around the United Kingdom are falling into disrepair, according to a new report by the influential **Lighthouses and Lightships Trust**.*

The Trust recently carried out a survey which established that over 70% of our coastal lighthouses are in danger of **disappearing** within the next 20 years.

- 28% are located in areas of coastal erosion
- 40% have serious **structural** damage or weakened foundations
- 2% are located in redevelopment areas.

*Source: 'The UK Lighthouse Estate 2013', published by the **Lighthouses and Lightships Trust***

**The** Trust is calling on the English, Welsh and Scottish governments to come up with funds to urgently tackle this problem by investing in a long-term programme of repairs. It says that many of the lighthouses can be saved if urgent action is taken, but that some will inevitably be lost to coastal erosion and will need to be replaced by new buildings.

Initial estimates suggest that £950m will be needed to carry out the work, assuming that **is** completed by no later than 2019.

In a novel approach, the Trust has suggested that some of the expenditure could be recouped by

incorporating large observation decks into the new lighthouses and charging for the **public** to use them during daylight hours.

'Our initial research shows that there is a high demand from the public to access such facilities, particularly from the growing numbers of birdwatchers and wildlife photographers,' said chairman David Beacon.

'Many lighthouses are located in areas of outstanding natural beauty, where there is an abundance of wildlife, and this tends to act as a magnet for **naturalists**,' he told Lighthouse News.

*Gordon R Hooper*

### *In this issue:*

Lighthouses in decay	1
Energy-saving bulbs	2
Letters	3
Inside Story	5
<b>Parliamentary</b> Report	6
Obituaries/Crossword	8
Tales from the top	8