

Cromarty Lighthouse

Light Established

1846

Engineer

Alan Stevenson

Position

Latitude 57° 41.0'N

Longitude 04° 02.1'W

Character

Occulting White and Red every 10 Secs

Elevation

18 metres

Nominal Range

White 15 miles

Red 11 miles

Structure

White tower 13 metres high. There are 38 steps to the top of the tower

History

The Gaelic name is Crombagh, the bent bay, but some stymologists maintain it means the little place at bend. Board of Trade sanction was granted in 1842 to build Cromarty Lighthouse, on the North East tip of the Black Isle to guide ships in from the Moray Firth to the Cromarty Firth. Thomas Watson was appointed as Superintendent and David Mitchell from Montrose was the contractor responsible for the buildings. The estimated cost was £3,030.

The engineers report of 1844 stated - "a catadioptric apparatus of the 4th order is to be used; while owing to the necessity of adopting a red light as a distinction it seems probable as noticed in last years report, that in order to obtain sufficient power in the direction of the entrance to the Firth, as well as an illumination of the interior of the anchorage, a combination of a single reflector with the shaded catadioptric apparatus may be found necessary".

The station was automated in 1985 and is now remotely monitored from the Northern Lighthouse Board's offices in Edinburgh.

It should be noted that at some sites the Northern Lighthouse Board have sold some redundant buildings within the lighthouse complex and are not responsible for the maintenance of these building.