

Ve Skerries Lighthouse

Light Established

1979

Engineer

R J MacKay

Position

Latitude 60° 22.4'N

Longitude 01° 48.7'W

Character

Flashing (2) White every 20 secs

Elevation

17 metres

Nominal Range

11 miles

Structure

White concrete tower 16 metres high

History

The low lying reef is located some 3 miles North West of Papa Stour off the west coast of Shetland. The Ve Skerries Lighthouse was built during the summer of 1979. Work started on 28 May 1979 and the light was first lit on 27 September 1979 replacing the lighted buoy which had marked this position previously.

The structure of the tower is founded on the rock surface but is anchored to the rock mass by 18 post-tensioned bars 40mm diameter into two rings. The outer ring contains 12 bars which are anchored 5 metres into the rock and the inner ring has 6 bars anchored 3 metres into the rock. Each bar is stressed to a load of 92 tonnes.

The light is powered by batteries which are replaced annually and the lantern is glazed with a polycarbonate sheet called Lexan.

There is a helicopter pad situated on the rock near the tower.

The lighthouse vessel MV PHAROS visits the Ve Skerries once a year, usually in June.

Although in a very exposed situation no damage to the structure has been reported to date.

