



# Project: Longstone Lighthouse



**Task:** Internal and external decoration works

## Products used:

- 1060 undercoat matt black
- 1060 undercoat red RAL3002
- 1060 undercoat white
- Alky 7500 black
- Alky 7500 red RAL3002
- Alky 7500 white
- Bitumen black
- Dacfil HZ
- Dubocreem white
- Fleece
- Helo Aquia
- Noxyde grey
- Noxyde Old English red
- Metal Clas Top Ct. RAL 3002
- Murfill waterproof white
- Rust 7578 matt black
- Rust 7590
- Rust 769
- Rust ND14
- Zinser Perma buttermilk
- Zinser Perma white satin

**Client:** Longstone Lighthouse

## Background

Isolated at the heart of the Farne Islands, stands Longstone Lighthouse. Built in 1826, the lighthouse has been essential in the safe guidance of vessels around the Northumberland coast, vastly contributing to the shipping welfare of the region.

## Project Details:

Ian Williams undertook internal and external redecoration works and associated preparation.

## Key elements of the project included:

- A hot water jet wash to the outside of the lighthouse, ensuring all salt was removed from the surface prior to any paint application.
- Preparation works which included patch repairs and renders, where required, both internally and externally.
- External painting of the lighthouse, with specialist materials utilised to withstand weather conditions and provide protection against corrosion.
- Internal painting of the lighthouse tower, bedrooms, visitor area and accommodation blocks.



## The Challenges...

Key challenges in this project included:

- **Working at height:** The 26 meter tall tower posed a challenge when considering access for our operatives. Due to the lighthouse being surrounded by rocky terrain with no suitable platform for exterior scaffolds, alternative measures had to be considered. Trinity House recommended experienced abseilers which were subcontracted onto the project, and with their cooperation and specialist equipment, operatives were able to effectively manoeuvre the tower. Although an incredibly demanding project, our three operatives, with collectively 81 years of experience, had the skills and prior lighthouse knowledge to make this project a success.
- **Isolation:** The physical challenges of the project were equally met with mental demands. Throughout the three weeks, our operatives remained at the lighthouse – their workplace doubling as their temporary residence. Isolation presented a mentally exhausting and challenging environment, with operatives not returning home for the duration. Crucial planning was also required to ensure all materials and supplies were ready for boat transport, ahead of project commencement. All those involved showcased incredible preparation and commitment to ensure delivery of the specification within timescales and to a high quality.
- **Weather:** Working conditions were often unpredictable given the location and external nature of the works. These factors were all reviewed during planning stages and contingencies allocated to minimise potential delays to completion. Variables such as incoming tides and rain could impact the trajectory of the project; to combat this, operatives alternated between the internal and external decorations during periods of adverse weather or high tide. Unexpected delays were considered and contingencies for substitute operatives put in place.
- **Operational building:** The lighthouse remained operational throughout the project. Special care had to be taken to avoid impeding the light, particularly with the localised internal decoration. This involved assessing scaffold placement where required, taking significant precaution to ensure all guidance functionality remained fully operational for local transport.





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