

## Carnarvon Bay – Light Vessel 44

If you take a trip down to the marina at Wat Tyler Park and look to the left/easterly direction is a WW2 Pillbox which was part of the General Headquarters (GHL) Line. It is now used as a Viewing platform. From here again in easterly direction towards Vange bay in a spot known as Oyster Creek you will clearly see in the distance the above vessel slowly deteriorating.



The vessel was built in 1869 by C. Hill and Sons for Trinity House. These Light Vessels were not designed for travel and often had no engines for propulsion. They were designed to be moored in the open sea,

whatever the weather conditions. They would be towed to their selected moorings. LV 44 was such a vessel. It is believed that she was one of the 'Nore' lightships. She had an iron deckhouse and carried the first ever revolving lantern on her mast.

The Nore is a sandbank at the mouth of the Thames Estuary. It marks the point where the River Thames meets the North Sea, roughly between Havengore Creek in Essex and Warden Point on the Isle of Sheppey in Kent. As the sand bank was a major hazard for shipping in and out of London, in 1732 it received the world's first lightship. This became a major landmark and was used as an assembly point for shipping. Today it is marked by Sea Reach No. 1 Buoy.



LV 44 was taken out of service in 1945 and eventually sold to Erith Yacht Club for £140, to become their new club house, it was renamed Garson 11, taking its name from their first club house T.S.Garson. Over time the interior of the vessel was transformed into comfortable Headquarters,

complete with Steward Accommodation including a Grand Piano. By 1981 the vessel was no longer suitable for the increasing membership of the Yacht club and a new ship the Folgefonn took its place. Garson 11 was moved to a temporary berth in bottom creek being eventually sold to Pitsea Sailing Club for £1800 in the spring of 1982.



Arriving at Pitsea

The Pitsea Sailing Club in September 1982 held a riotous ship-warming party attended by visitors from various Yacht Clubs. Although she remained in service afloat for a number of years, she was eventually abandoned. Another piece of the Boroughs Heritage disappearing.



**NB:** Trinity House is a charity dedicated to safeguarding shipping and seafarers, providing education, support and welfare to the seafaring community with a statutory duty as a General Lighthouse Authority to deliver a reliable, efficient and cost-effective aid to navigation service for the benefit and safety of all mariners. It has been based since 1796 at its busy and much-admired headquarters at Tower hill, close to the river Thames. It was rebuilt after the Second World war, its beautiful-appointed rooms have hosted, Royalty, Mariners, Prime Ministers, Scientists and Visitors from all over the world and houses many fine paintings, models and treasures.

More View' – The agricultural depression of the late 1870s resulted in a plotland era that was to last for 70 years,

but it was not just humble dwellings that were built. There were one or two very elaborate homes built. One such house was 'Nore View' in Langdon Hills. It is believed it got its name from the fact that you could see the Nore's lighthouse from its location. Certainly not possible today as its location was in the middle of today's nature reserve 'Marks Hill' but a century ago the tree line was nowhere near like today, so it is more than likely the Nore's lighthouse could have been seen. The name Nore View is still in use today as a Cul De Sac in the Great Berry area of Langdon Hills.



*Nore View*



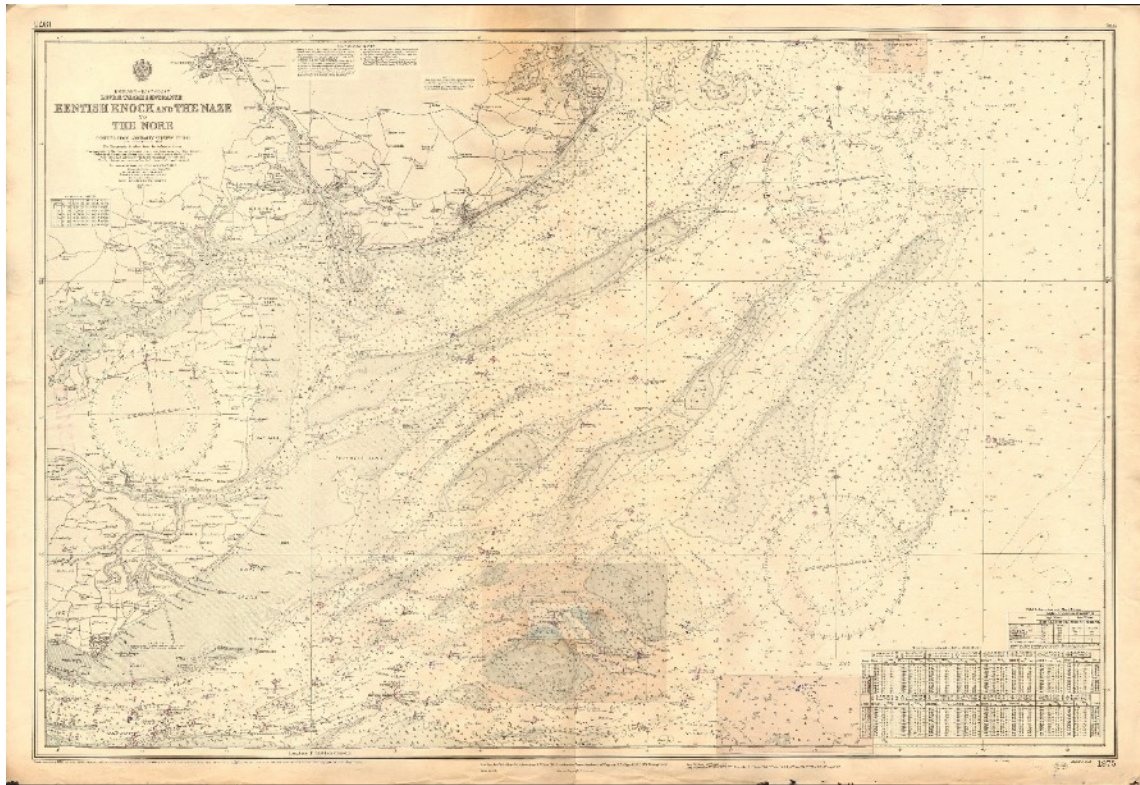
*Maunsell Fort*

During the Second World War a series of defensive towers, known as Maunsell Forts were built in the Thames estuary to protect the approach to London from air and sea attack. The Nore was the site of one of these, the Great Nore Tower. It was equipped with a battery of anti-aircraft guns and manned by a unit of the British Army. It was completed in 1943 but was abandoned at the end of hostilities. It was badly damaged in a collision in 1953 and dismantled in 1959-60.



*Abandoned*





Admiralty Chart – The Nore

