

Lighthouses

Lighthouses are used to help ships navigate safely

They are used to warn ships away from dangerous areas such as rocks, reefs or sandbanks and to help them find their way into and out of harbour safely



Lighthouses

Most lighthouses are tall towers so they can be seen from far away

They use a light to show ships where they are. The light usually flashes



Lighthouses

The **flash pattern** of each lighthouse in an area is different

This way a ship can tell which lighthouse they can see

In dense fog they also use a **foghorn** to warn ships



Lighthouses

The lights are very powerful and can be seen up to 50 km away

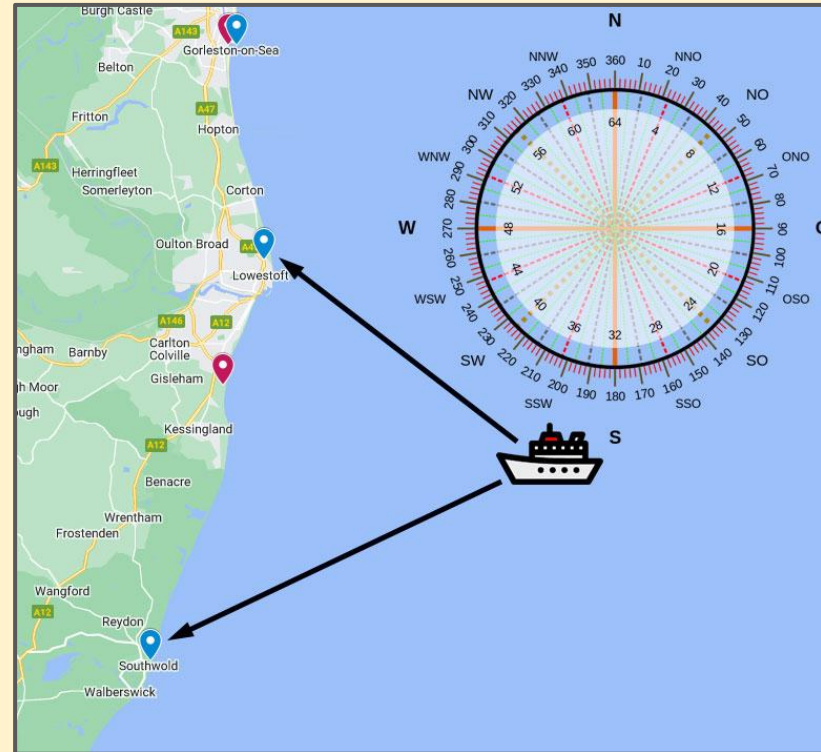
At night ships can see the glow of the light even if they are further away

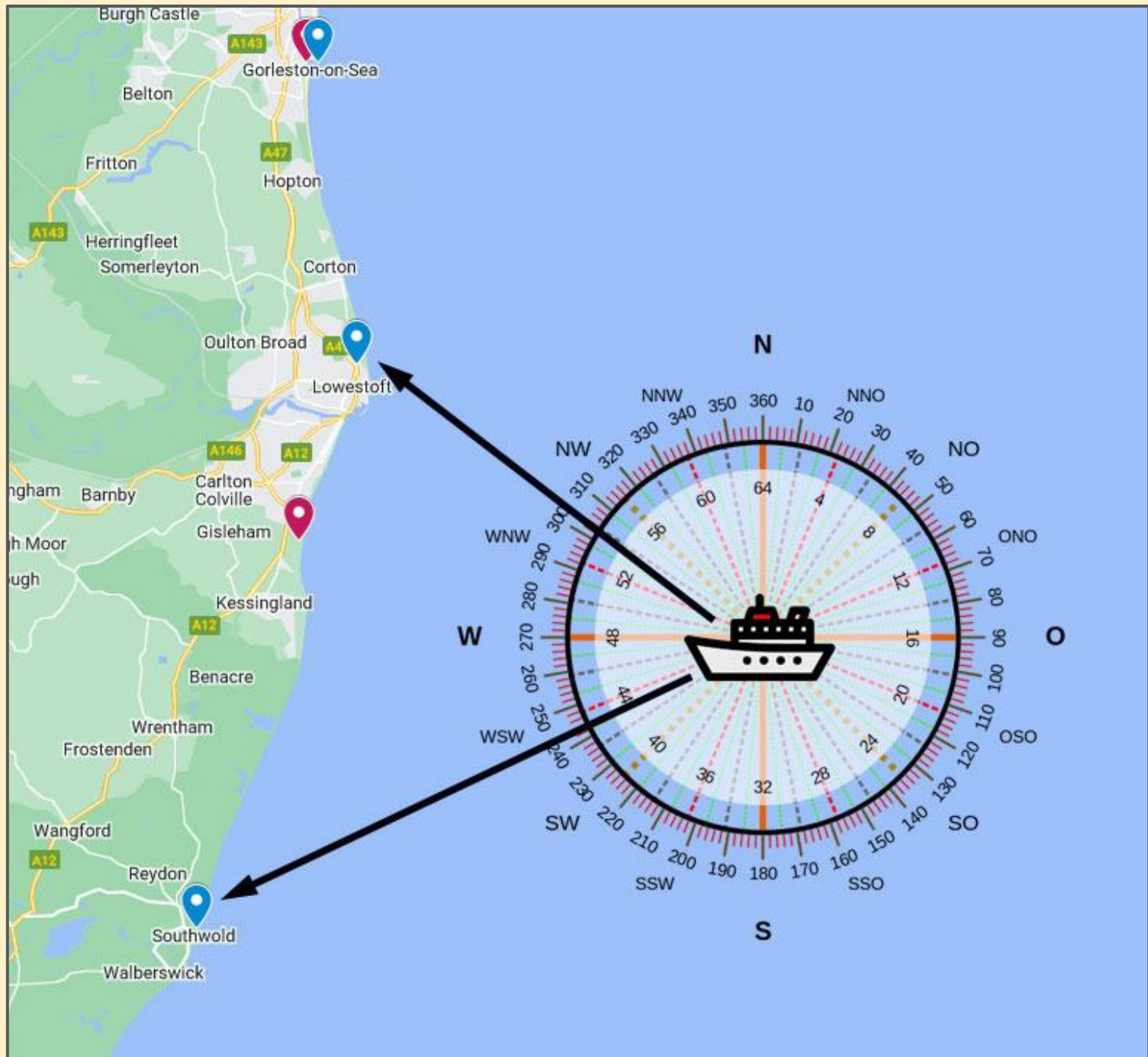


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By taking a **compass bearing** to the light, ships can tell where they are at night

If they can see two lights a ship can tell for certain where it is





Lighthouses

Some facts about lighthouses:

1. lighthouses were used by the Greeks and Egyptians
2. the earliest lighthouse we know about dates from about 500 BCE
3. there are two lighthouses in Gorleston, but only one is still operating
4. most of the lighthouses in England and Wales are operated by Trinity House
5. lighthouses are being closed because modern ships can use GPS devices (Satnav) to tell precisely where they are