



FLAMBOROUGH HEAD

MANAGEMENT PLAN

Autumn 2010

Newsletter

Welcome to the latest Newsletter from the Flamborough Head Management Group.

A number of Relevant Authorities form the Flamborough Head Management Group who are all equal members of the Group. This group is a representative body to involve all Relevant Authorities in the ongoing management of the European Marine Site and implementation of the Flamborough Head Management Plan. Flamborough Head is designated a European Marine Site due the presence of sea caves and their associated internationally important algal communities, vegetated sea cliffs, chalk reefs which extend 6km offshore, and the internationally important colony of over 200,000 migratory seabirds, including kittiwakes, puffins and the only mainland gannetry in the UK.



Flamborough Head No Take Zone

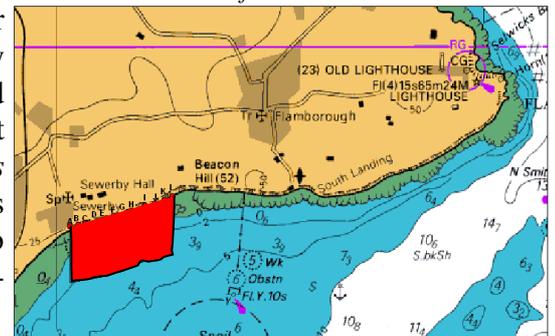
On the 23rd February 2008, the Flamborough Head Fisheries Liaison Group, composed of representatives from Natural England, North Eastern Sea Fisheries Committee, recreational sea anglers and commercial fishermen, discussed in detail the possibility of an experimental No Take Zone (NTZ) within the Flamborough Head Special Area of Conservation. An area extending from the Bridlington edge of Danes Dyke to a point at Sewerby steps, to a distance of 700 metres seaward from the cliff base was agreed upon.

A No Take Zone means exactly that – you can't remove anything from within the zone. This is enforced by a North Eastern Sea Fisheries Committee byelaw, which was accepted on July 21st 2010. However, you are still welcome to examine fossils and look through rockpools, but please take nothing but memories and leave nothing but footprints.

Flamborough Head NTZ is only the second NTZ in England, and the first in the North Sea. The purpose of this project is to take an experimental approach to assessing changes to marine species which result from restricting all human activities in an area of sea. It is intended that this will improve our understanding of the marine ecosystem at Flamborough Head and help inform the delivery of the Marine Act.

There will be a five year monitoring programme for the NTZ, carried out by the local fishing industry and North Eastern Sea Fisheries Committee, and supported by the Flamborough Head Management Group. Monitoring will cover lobster (*Homarus gammarus*), edible crab (*Cancer pagurus*), mussels (*Mytilus edulis*) and animal assemblages on sub tidal rocky reefs. A control site will also be monitored to test the effectiveness of the NTZ.

Location of the No Take Zone



Student Projects

Throughout the summer two students from York University conducted research projects focussing on the No Take Zone (NTZ). These projects were carried out in conjunction with Natural England and the North Eastern Sea Fisheries Committee.

- Thomas Hill conducted habitat mapping of the NTZ, as well as mapping the extent of mussel beds within the NTZ. Five habitats were found, as well as two distinct areas of mussel bed; one predominantly adult, one juvenile. It is hoped this project will be repeated over the next 5 years as part of the NTZ monitoring.
- Helen Craven explored the issues surrounding compliance with the NTZ, as well as conducting an audit on levels of awareness of the area. This was done through anonymous surveys. It was found that few people who were not involved in the development of the NTZ were aware of its existence yet, and there is still some confusion surrounding what is permitted in the area. NESFC are looking to address these issues by increasing the publicity of the NTZ and providing stakeholders with more comprehensive information.

SAC Monitoring

Flamborough Head is designated as a Special Area of Conservation due to the presence of rocky reefs, submerged and partially submerged sea caves and vegetated sea cliffs. As such, it is the responsibility of Natural England to monitor and assess the condition of these features and to report on the conservation status of the habitats. The following monitoring has been conducted throughout the summer by external contractors:

- Sea caves: Sea-Scope, Marine Environmental Consultants, carried out an assessment of the sea caves between the 26th and 30th July. The aim of the study was to repeat, and add to, a baseline survey performed in 2000. 171 previously un-surveyed caves were studied, giving a total number of caves around the headland in excess of 326. The final report of this study is due in October.
- Intertidal survey: The Institute of Estuarine & Coastal Studies (IECS), at Hull University, undertook an assessment of the extent, distribution, diversity and species richness of the reef community. The survey was completed between the 10-13 July and the 7- 12 September. The final report is due in November.
- Vegetated sea cliffs: The North and East Yorkshire Ecological Data Centre (NEYEDC), are completing plant community descriptions and maps, which will allow ecological changes at Flamborough Head SSSI since 2002 - 2003, to be quantified and assessed. NEYEDC will be working with JBA Consulting, a well established environmental consultancy in the Yorkshire and Humber Region.



Storyboards

The Storyboard Project is a Flamborough Head Environmental Assets Partnership project, delivered by the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust. The aim is to improve interpretation around the headland in a consistent way, developing a linked “story-line” to reveal the full richness of the area. The information for the boards was gathered through extensive consultation with local residents and experts.

There are 9 storyboards situated around the headland, each depicting one of the themes relevant to the natural and cultural heritage of the area; seabirds, geology, fishing, farming and wildlife, migration, the lighthouse and shipping, history, marine wildlife and archaeology. These boards can be enjoyed individually or linked together in a walk around the headland.

Highlights of 2009/2010

Officer post

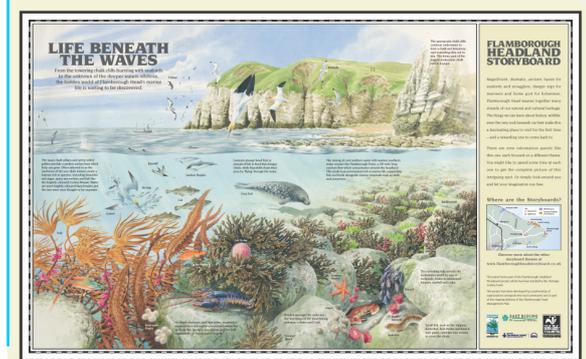
In July 2009 Leanne Stockdale left the position of Flamborough Head Project Officer to take on a new role with Natural England. She was replaced in April 2010 by Katherine Gray. Funding has been secured to keep the Project Officer post until October 2011.

SITA Trust funding

The “Restoration and enhancement of the Flamborough Head *Mytilus edulis* stock” project has secured £13,000 from the SITA Trust. The project aims to increase the local blue mussel (*Mytilus edulis*) spawning stock biomass through the protection and development of a permanent brood stock within the Flamborough Head NTZ. Blue mussel on sediment is identified as a UK BAP priority habitat.

Driffield Show 2010 & Bridlington Seafood Festival

On July 21st Katherine Gray attended the Driffield Show, to represent the Flamborough Head Management Group as part of the East Riding of Yorkshire Biodiversity Partnership. Information on Flamborough Head was also taken to the Bridlington Seafood Festival on August 21st & 22nd. Both events were highly successful, attracting many visitors from both the local area and further afield.



The marine wildlife storyboard, found at South Landing

Dates for your diary

- Throughout October: RSPB Sheawater & Skua Cruises
3/10/10 ERYC Apple Festival, Millennium Orchard, Beverley
23/10/10 ERYC Seed Gathering, Dane's Dyke
26/10/10 Wildlife Trust's Big Draw Event, Thornwick Bay
28/10/10 ERYC Kids Go Wild, Dane's Dyke
30/10/10 Wildlife Trust Shoresearch, Dane's Dyke

For further information, please contact:
katherine.gray@eastriding.gov.uk
Flamborough Head Project Officer
Town Hall
Bridlington
YO16 4LP
Tel: 01482 393694

In conjunction with the Storyboard Project a Flamborough Head European Marine Site website has been launched. Here you can find information on what makes Flamborough special, the management of the site, current projects and how to get involved. You can also download suggested walking trails linking the storyboards, and even podcasts to download to your MP3 player or mobile phone to listen to whilst enjoying a storyboard walk.

www.flamboroughheadsac.org.uk