



**FLAMBOROUGH
HEAD**

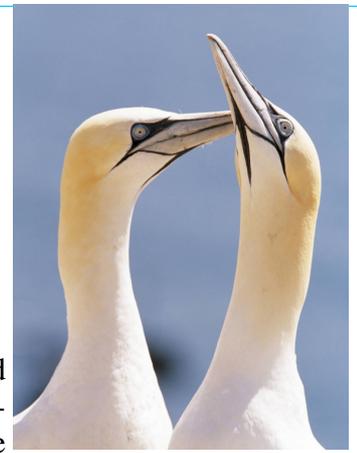
MANAGEMENT PLAN

Winter 2010

Newsletter

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

On behalf of the Management Group, I would like to wish you a **Happy New Year!**



Seabird Monitoring at Flamborough Head & Bempton Cliffs SPA

In 2009 a Seabird Research Officer was appointed by the RSPB and Natural England to run a programme of seabird monitoring and research to assess the health of England's largest seabird colony. The project has now successfully completed a second year. The Seabird Research Officer managed a team of around 25 volunteers, who monitored plots throughout the colony, from the northern end of the RSPB Bempton reserve to South Landing, on Flamborough Head.

The majority of the monitoring focused on breeding success i.e. the average number of fledged chicks per nest or site. This gives an indication of how successful the birds have been at rearing their chicks, indicating how healthy the food supply is. This year's results have been brilliant; the guillemots who lay one egg, successfully fledged 0.75 chicks/site and razorbills who also lay one egg fledged 0.64 chicks/site. However, the stars this season have been the kittiwakes, who can lay up to three eggs, fledging 1.16 chicks/nest, the best rate since 2000. Puffin counts are very difficult to complete at this colony as they live in gullies, cracks and crevices. However, puffins appeared numerous and observations indicated that there were more around than in previous years.

This year 31 GPS loggers were attached to kittiwakes, to establish where the birds are going to forage. Tracks were collected during both incubation and chick-rearing and will be mapped and used to target areas for establishing Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs). Seabird tracking data also has wider applications; in combination with the RSPB led 'The Future of the Atlantic Marine Environment' (FAME) project, they will be used to refine our understanding of the foraging locations and requirements of European seabirds.

20 geolocator loggers were also attached on leg rings to track the movements of kittiwakes away from Flamborough Head over the winter. These loggers were supplied by the British Antarctic Survey and determine the longitude and latitude of where the birds are each day. All 20 birds are established breeders, raising chicks, and should return to their nest sites within the colony next year, when we can retrieve the loggers and see the results.

14 breeding gannets were fitted with satellite tags as part of a separate project funded by the UK Government Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC). The tags collect data continuously for one month during the chick-rearing stage and will establish foraging ranges and destinations of gannets raising chicks at Bempton. The results will be used to identify where the birds forage in relation to proposed offshore wind farms.

Ruth Porter
Seabird Research Officer, RSPB Bempton

Flamborough Living Seas Centre, South Landing

Yorkshire Wildlife Trust is in negotiation with East Riding Council to take over the lease of the former Boathouse Cafe at South Landing. We are planning a building that will be a hub from which we will involve and engage visitors (including school groups and families) with their local marine environment, by maintaining a permanent presence in Flamborough for the first time, and running regular events and activities.

The Trust's aim in the new Living Seas Centre is to explain how the North Sea's ecosystems function and to show the biodiversity and richness of marine species around the Headland. The Centre will act as a focal point for the guided trails launched in the Storyboard project. The Trust will also encourage support and participation in our actions for clean, productive and biologically diverse "Living Seas".

If plans are approved, the centre will be officially opened in mid 2011, and then open (the times and days are still to be fixed) to September, when it will revert to weekends, with ad-hoc opening for groups. It is hoped that the public area will be available for use by local groups in the evenings at any time of year. YWT's marine team will use the office on a regular basis and will carry out research and monitoring activities in the local area.

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Living Seas Centre (Continued from Page 1)

The building will feature:

- Classroom/meeting area with a reception counter and a large (55 inch) LED screen for presentations and continuous AV shows etc
- An office in the former kitchen at the rear of the building
- Low energy LED lighting throughout
- Wall mounted displays and interpretation
- Wall space for updatable interpretation and recent sightings
- Storage space for kit and equipment
- Refreshments counter and high quality coffee machine, washing up area, display cabinet for biscuits, cakes, crisps etc. Fridge for cold drinks and ice creams.



Martin Batt

Nature Tourism Manager, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust

We need your ideas!

To ensure that Flamborough Head and its wildlife and habitats are protected there is a Management Plan in place which controls the human impacts on the site. The Management Plan has two main sections; the Action Plan, which sets out all the statutory requirements of the Relevant Authorities, and the Projects section, which consists of non-statutory items and projects which have been asked for through public consultation with stakeholders. Past projects include the Voluntary Codes of Conduct leaflet and the Storyboards.

The Management Plan is currently undergoing its annual review and part of this review includes updating the Projects section. We would really appreciate your help with this - do you have any suggestions of things you would like to see done around Flamborough Head? These could be anything from interpretation materials, such as information leaflets or signs, to educational packages, improving access, or research projects around the headland. Please send any suggestions to Katherine Gray, Flamborough Head Project Officer, using the contact details below.

The current Action Plan and Projects can be found in the Management Plan, which you can download from www.flamboroughheadsac.org.uk

Highlights

Media Coverage

At the end of September the local press were invited to a publicity event to promote the Flamborough Head No Take Zone. David McCandless (North Eastern Sea Fisheries Committee), Leanne Stockdale (Natural England), David Renwick (East Riding of Yorkshire Council), and Katherine Gray (Flamborough Head Project Officer) were all present to give information on the NTZ. The story was featured on Look North and in the Bridlington Free Press, Fishing News, and other local newspapers.

ERYC Apple Festival

On Sunday 3rd October, East Riding of Yorkshire Council held their annual Apple Festival, in partnership with the East Yorkshire WI, at Beverley Parks. Throughout the day there were lots of events such as falconry displays and chainsaw carving, as well as stalls with information on countryside access and activities. The Flamborough Head Environmental Assets Group had a stall to promote the Storyboards project, as well as provide information on other Flamborough news and events. Despite the bad weather, there was still a good turnout and a lot of interest in the Storyboards.

No Take Zone update

Since the approval of the byelaw in July, the monitoring of the No Take Zone (NTZ) has been getting well under way, with monthly potting surveys taking place throughout the summer until October. We are very grateful for the assistance of the local fishing industry with these surveys. Habitat mapping of the area has been completed, and surveys of the mussel beds will be starting soon.

New signs have been designed to mark the NTZ at the major access points, these are currently being printed and should be installed within the next few weeks. The signs will give an outline of the byelaw, explaining what is and isn't permitted in the area, as well as explaining why the area is important and needs conserving.

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Dates for your diary

January 2011 - Flamborough Maritime Forum Meeting (postponed from December due to snow) Date to be confirmed.

April 2011 - Flamborough Head Management Plan Annual Review to be published.