

FLAMBOROUGH HEAD STORYBOARD TRAIL

South Landing to Danes Dyke



Follow the orange numbered posts, around the cliffs starting at South Landing Car Park and heading south down the road to the beach; from here turn right and climb the steps in front of the lifeboat station to the cliff top. Stop at each post and learn more about one of the storyboard themes from the guide or podcasts. Don't forget to look out for the storyboard panels on route, marked **S** on the map; each trail includes one or more.

1 HISTORY

To your right is the Flamborough RNLi lifeboat station. For 67 years, Flamborough launched lifeboats from two separate sites; North and South Landing. The station at South Landing was built in 1871 and its various lifeboats had saved over 108 lives when it closed in 1938. After extensive refurbishment in 1993, an inshore Atlantic 85 lifeboat now operates out of the South Landing boat-house. The local volunteer crew have so far been presented with 16 awards of gallantry.

S STORYBOARD – discover the story of marine wildlife here.

2 LIGHTHOUSES AND SHIPPING

Looking over the beach here at South Landing most people would have little clue that it was once the site of an important port. Many coal-carrying ships unloaded at South Landing to avoid paying the port tax at Bridlington.

3 GEOLOGY AND GEOMORPHOLOGY

Looking out to sea away from South Landing you can see the cliffs at Sewerby and beyond. At Sewerby the white chalk cliff turns inland and is replaced on the present coast by a cliff of glacial deposits, at the base of which is a raised beach of chalk boulders overlain by windblown sand. This beach has produced bones and teeth of an extinct elephant related to the modern African elephant, an extinct rhinoceros, as well as hippopotamus and hyaena. These fossils date it to the last interglacial, a warm period about 125,000 years ago.

From here you can turn right to follow a path leading to Flamborough Village where you can see the History storyboard or continue along the storyboard trail to Danes Dyke.

4 ARCHAEOLOGY

This point clearly marks the site of a wartime pillbox; one of a number scattered around the cliffs of the headland. Whilst a full scale assault of the headland was not anticipated, the many inlets and bays provided potential landing posts for enemy operations. South Landing was one of the sites seaplanes were launched from during the First World War and the concrete base can still be seen.

5 FARMING AND WILDLIFE

The field on the landward side of the cliff here is currently part of a scheme called 'environmental stewardship'. This means that the farmer makes a special effort to manage it in a sensitive way for the benefit of wildlife. The woodland area you can see ahead runs in a linear line up Danes Dyke and provides an essential habitat corridor for wildlife to live and move around in. Look out for Woodpeckers, small mammals and even Barn Owls!

6 MARINE WILDLIFE

This area is commonly used by wading birds which wade and probe for food in the sandy area at Dykes End. Birds like Turnstone, Redshank, Oystercatcher and Curlew can all be seen here. In summer and autumn you might see Grey Wagtail and Warblers catching insects around the stream which runs down to the beach.

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The Oystercatcher – a colourful wader

Mark Hamblin

