

# 2016-2021 Flamborough Head European Marine Site Management Plan

## Executive Summary

On Yorkshire's east coast, the white cliffs of Flamborough Head surge out of the sea to heights of more than 130 metres. Hundreds of sea caves have been forged from this rock by the ever-pounding waves of the North Sea, leaving smugglers' caverns and coves scattered around the shoreline. Thousands of seabirds squabble for space on the cliffs around Flamborough and Filey, soaring above the waves before diving below to fish for food to satisfy demanding chicks. Below the waves, on the murky chalk reef, lurk the lobsters and edible crabs which serve the UK's biggest shellfish port, Bridlington.

The Flamborough Head European Marine Site (EMS) is made up of two internationally recognised designations; a Special Protection Area and a Special Area of Conservation. This area is also nationally recognised with two Sites of Special Scientific Interest. Eleven organisations, known as Relevant Authorities, have a legal duty to manage the site. The 2016-2021 Management Plan describes how these Authorities work together to ensure the site reaches, or remains in, a 'favourable' condition.

The Management Plan describes how various commercial and recreational activities are managed within the EMS (see Figure 1). In addition to describing the roles and responsibilities of each Relevant Authority and the structure of the management partnership (the Management Scheme), the Management Plan also provides full details of the site's designated features and supporting legislation (summarised in Figure 2). A quick-reference guide to the management of each activity on site is available in the appendix of the document, alongside an annually reviewed five-year Action Plan.

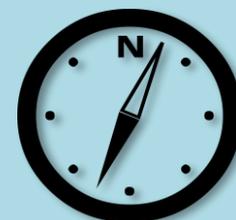
By developing and following a Management Plan, the Relevant Authorities are actively working to meet their legal obligations towards the site. Although not a statutory document, the Management Plan records and measures all management undertaken within the EMS. As such, the Plan both directs the actions of the Relevant Authorities and is influenced by current management.

Eleven organisations work in **partnership** to manage the site, together with other stakeholders



Two tidal systems meet just offshore creating an **upwelling of nutrients** as the colder waters of the north meet the warmer seas from the south

Flamborough Head is the **most northerly** outcrop of coastal chalk in Europe



The chalk reef extends up to **six kilometres** offshore and is periodically covered by sand

Over **3000 tonnes** of shellfish were landed at Bridlington Harbour in 2015\*



More than **200,000 seabirds** breed on the cliffs around Flamborough and Filey each year



The full 2016-2021 Management Plan can be viewed online at [www.flamboroughheadsac.org.uk](http://www.flamboroughheadsac.org.uk).

\* UK Sea Fisheries Statistics 2015, Marine Management Organisation

# How are activities managed within the European Marine Site?

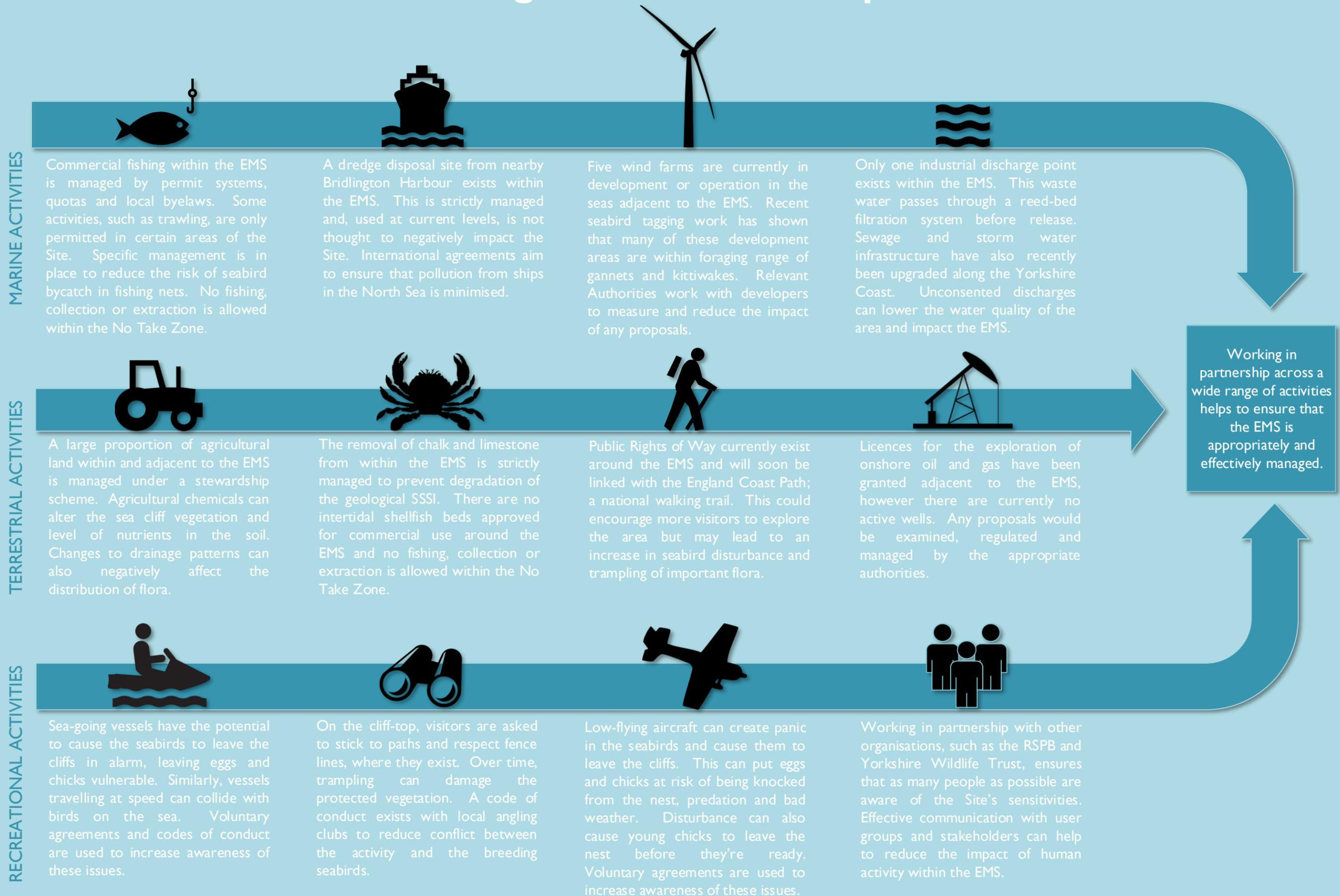


Figure 1: Management of Marine, Terrestrial and Recreational Activities within the European Marine Site

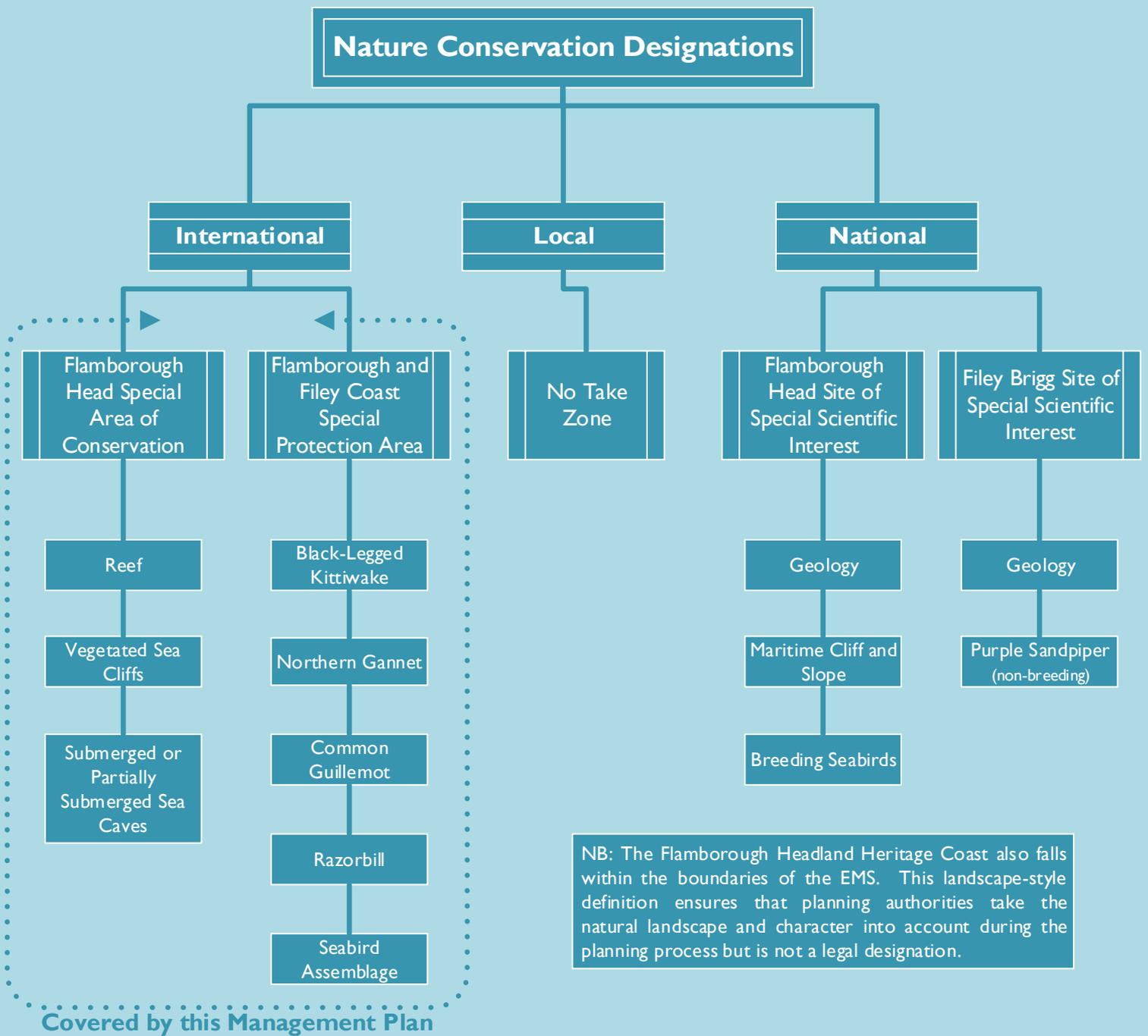


Figure 2: Nature Conservation Designations around the Flamborough Head EMS and Associated Conservation Features

European legislative drivers, national UK laws and regional policies affect and inform management of the EMS and its components. The European Birds Directive (1979) and the Habitats Directive (1992) provide the framework for the designation of SPAs and SACs across a Europe-wide network of protected areas known as Natura 2000. In the UK, these Directives have been transposed into national law as the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (as amended, 2010). The Habitats Regulations provides the mechanisms for creating and managing these protected areas, placing an obligation on Relevant Authorities to ensure that the objectives of the European Directives are met. Although not a legal requirement, a management scheme partnership is generally accepted to be the most cost-effective and efficient method of delivering these obligations.

Conservation Advice (also known as Regulation 33/35 Advice) is produced by Natural England for each marine protected area in England. This advice sets standards against which the conservation features are assessed and is designed to guide management of the site. The Conservation Advice package should be used in conjunction with the 2016-2021 Management Plan when developing projects which may affect the EMS. A revised Conservation Advice package is currently in preparation.

Scarborough



Management Scheme volunteers have dedicated over **300 hours** to collecting data on recreational activities across the site since 2013

Filey ●



In Filey Bay, seabird bycatch in fishing nets reduced by **85%** after new management measures were introduced



The 2016-2021 Management Plan details **23** separate activities managed or regulated by Management Scheme partners



By working directly with user groups, the Management Scheme supports **sustainable tourism** whilst increasing awareness of the site



To help inform management, over **2000 seabird nests** are monitored by RSPB staff and volunteers each year

Flamborough ●

Bridlington ●



In 2010, the **North Sea's only No Take Zone** was established through the Management Scheme and consultation with stakeholders



Protected Area