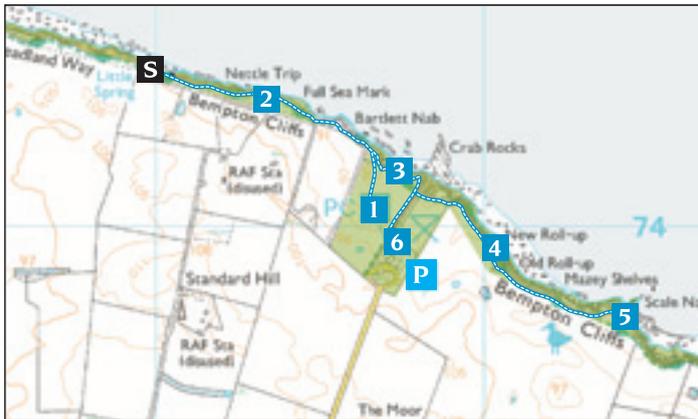


FLAMBOROUGH HEAD STORYBOARD TRAIL

Jubilee Point to Staple Newk (Bempton)



Follow the blue numbered posts around the RSPB Bempton Cliffs reserve, starting and finishing at the visitor centre. 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 FARMING AND WILDLIFE

The grassland area around you is carefully managed for several farmland bird species. Scrub is controlled and the well-managed grassland provides an important habitat for insects alongside nesting sites for skylark and meadow pipit. The thriving insect population provides a vital food source for growing chicks.

2 HISTORY

The concrete remains you can see in the field are that of RAF Bempton, originally built as a Ground-Controlled Interception (GCI) site in February 1940. Its role was to intercept inbound enemy aircraft. During the Cold War, RAF Bempton was refurbished as a Centimetric Early Warning (CEW) ROTOR station, one of eight across the country, to provide radar cover against possible Soviet attack. Out of sight are the remains of an underground bunker, whose access point was hidden in a bungalow, sadly no longer present.

S STORYBOARD – discover the story of seabirds here.

Here at Jubilee Point, the cliffs rise to 400ft and during the summer give exceptional views of Bempton's 'seabird city'. Over 250,000 seabirds nest along the headland, including 10% of the UK's Kittiwakes. Outside the breeding season, you can still see old Kittiwake nests and their link to the people of the headland is no more apparent than through the story of the daring egg collectors or 'climbers'.

3 MARINE WILDLIFE

From the viewing platform scan the sea for Cetaceans (Whales, Dolphins and Porpoise) and other marine mammals. Between May and October Minke Whale and White-beaked Dolphin move inshore, whilst Harbour Porpoise and Grey Seal can be seen all year round.

Weather can be an influencing factor, with calm, flat seas providing optimal sighting conditions. A bit of luck is also helpful!

4 GEOLOGY

Walk onto right hand side of the viewing platform, facing out to sea, look at the cliffs in front of you. This is the site of Bempton's most recent 'slump', a mass movement of material down a slope. If you compare this area with the surrounding cliff, it is no longer vertical, and due to the new aspect of the cliff, vegetation has been able to establish itself. This area is named 'New Roll-up' and sits alongside 'Old Roll-up', a much older slump.

5 SEABIRDS

Here at Staple Newk, you get a grandstand view of a huge colony of nesting Gannets. Their numbers have increased from just 30 breeding pairs in the late 1960s to over 7,500 pairs in 2009. The Gannets can be seen on the cliff from February to October. During the winter months you can still marvel at their large nests, which will be lavishly renovated the following spring.

6 MIGRATION

During summer this grassy area is home to breeding farmland birds, but during spring and autumn acts as a stop-over and refuelling point for migrating birds. Under the right weather conditions (easterly winds with cloud and rain) a 'fall' can occur, when sometimes hundreds of birds descend on the headland. Amongst common migrants can be some rare birds, which in the last few years have included Red-flanked Bluetail and Short-toed Lark.



The story of seabirds; Bob Artley and his gang of climbers, Flamborough Headland 1937

A Norman Handley

