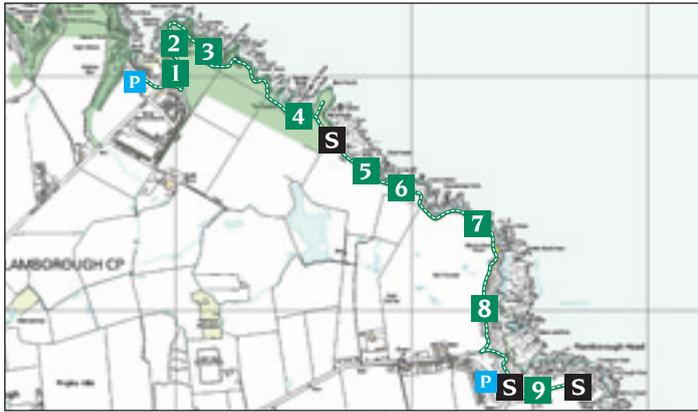


FLAMBOROUGH HEAD STORYBOARD TRAIL

North Landing to the Fog Signal Station



Follow the green numbered posts, around the cliffs starting at North Landing Car Park and heading east past the café, finishing at the Flamborough Head Car Park. 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 FISHING

The boats you see below you are traditional Yorkshire cobbles designed to launch from beaches and reputedly based on the Viking longboat. These are still in use today as part of the local lobster and crab fishery. They were originally powered by oars and sail but have now been modernised to include an engine and motorised pot hauler.

2 FARMING AND WILDLIFE

This area forms part of the nature reserve managed by Yorkshire Wildlife Trust. In spring the unfenced cliff tops are awash with thrift, while northern marsh orchids can be seen in late June. The fields are kept in good condition with an annual hay cut. Behind you, rough grassland is being managed by light sheep grazing for breeding birds.

3 SEABIRDS

During the summer these cliffs are teeming with nesting seabirds. Guillemots, Puffins and Fulmars are just some of the species that arrive on the headland to raise their young. The sight, sound and even smell of so many birds is truly spectacular!

4 GEOLOGY

The column of rock just offshore was formed by the erosive power of the sea and is known as 'Queen Rock'. Vertical cracks in the cliff have been weakened by wave action causing a section of cliff to collapse. The remaining column is known as a stack.

S STORYBOARD – discover the story of farming and wildlife here.

5 FISHING

Scanning the sea here will reveal many brightly coloured buoys. These mark lines of lobster pots, the foundation of the local fishery.

Pots work by enticing lobsters and crabs with bait to enter through a one-way opening. The pots are then hauled; the desired crustaceans kept and any undersized ones returned to the sea.

6 LIGHTHOUSES AND SHIPPING

On the very tip of the headland is a Fog Signal Station, which gives two blasts every 90 seconds, a call unique to Flamborough. The main lighthouse nearby was built in 1806 and gives four white flashes every 15 seconds. The older lighthouse is a chalk beacon tower, built in 1674, which is thought to be the oldest building of its type in England.

7 ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY

The three concrete blocks with metal hoops you can see on the edge of the path here are believed to have been used as mooring points for barrage balloons during WWII, set to protect the lighthouse. Further down the path are two concrete pillboxes; built in 1940 to defend against the threat of a German invasion. Many are now designated Scheduled Ancient Monuments by English Heritage.

8 MARINE WILDLIFE

Peer over the cliff edge at the sea below; this is an excellent place to view Flamborough Headland's chalk reef, the largest in Europe. This unique habitat is rich in species, from anemones to Grey Seals. The darker areas are kelp; large brown seaweeds.

S STORYBOARD – discover the story of lighthouse and shipping here.

9 GEOLOGY

The view back across Selwick Bay gives a great insight into the headland's geology. The chalk, which lies in distinct horizontal layers, is made of the skeletons of tiny algae which lived in shallow warm seas of the Cretaceous period.

S STORYBOARD – discover the story of migration here.



The Fog Signal Station on the tip of the headland

David Nichols



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