

EC Directive 2009/147/EC on the Conservation of Wild Birds Special Protection Area (SPA)

Name: Flamborough and Filey Coast

Counties/Unitary Authorities: The coastal section of the SPA covers a slender strip of cliffs and hinterland along the coastline of the counties of North Yorkshire and the East Riding of Yorkshire between Bridlington and Scarborough. The marine portion of the site lies entirely in UK territorial waters adjacent to the aforementioned coastal strip.

Boundary of the SPA: The SPA is in two sections: the southern section extends north from South Landing around Flamborough Head to Speeton; the northern section covers the peninsula of Filey Brigg before extending north west to Cunstone Nab. The seaward boundary extends 2km throughout the two sections of the site into the marine environment, running parallel to the landward boundaries to include the adjacent coastal waters.

Size of SPA: The SPA covers an area of 7857.99 hectares.

Site description:

Flamborough and Filey Coast SPA is located on the Yorkshire coast between Bridlington and Scarborough. It includes the RSPB reserve at Bempton Cliffs, the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust Flamborough Cliffs nature reserve and the East Riding of Yorkshire Council Flamborough Head Local Nature Reserve. The cliffs of Flamborough Head rise to 135 metres and are composed of chalk and other sedimentary rocks. These soft cliffs have been eroded into a series of bays, arches, pinnacles and gullies with an extensive system of caves at sea-level. The cliffs from Filey Brigg to Cunstone Nab comprise a range of sedimentary rocks including shales and sandstones. The cliff top vegetation comprises maritime grassland vegetation growing alongside species more typical of chalk grassland. The intertidal area below the cliffs is predominantly rocky and part of a series of reefs that extend into the subtidal area. The adjacent sea out to 2 km off Flamborough Head as well as Filey Brigg to Cunstone Nab is characterised by reefs supporting kelp forest communities in the shallow subtidal and faunal turf communities below 2 metre water depths. The southern side of Filey Brigg shelves off gently from the rocks to the sandy bottom of Filey Bay.

Qualifying species: The site qualifies under article 4.2 of the Directive (2009/147/EC) by supporting over 1% of the biogeographical populations of four regularly occurring migratory species and a breeding seabird assemblage of European importance.

Species	Count (period)	% of subspecies or population (pairs)
Black-legged kittiwake <i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	44,520 pairs ¹ 89,040 breeding adults ² (2008-2011)	2% North Atlantic ³

¹ Data from: Seabird Monitoring Programme (SMP) for original SPA (2008); RSPB counts for terrestrial extension (2009-2011), unpublished; black-legged kittiwakes are counted as “apparently occupied nests” (AONs); 1 AON equates to 1 breeding pair.

² Pairs multiplied by 2 to arrive at breeding adults; this rule applies to all species listed within the table.

³ Data from: AEW (2012); 6,600,000 Ind. translated to pairs by dividing by 3 and compared to pairs reported for the revised SPA to derive % population.



Northern gannet <i>Morus bassanus</i>	8,469 pairs ⁴ 16,938 breeding adults (2008-2012)	2.6% North Atlantic ⁵
Common guillemot <i>Uria aalge</i>	41,607 pairs ⁶ 83,214 breeding adults (2008-2011)	15.6% (<i>Uria aalge albionis</i>) ⁷
Razorbill <i>Alca torda</i>	10,570 pairs ⁸ 21,140 breeding adults (2008-2011)	2.3% (<i>Alca torda islandica</i>) ⁹

	Count period	Average number of individuals
Seabird Assemblage	2008-2012	216,730

References:

AEWA – African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (2012): Report on the Conservation Status of Migratory Waterbirds in the Agreement Area. Fifth Edition. AEWA, Bonn.

Available here: <http://www.unep->

[aewa.org/meetings/en/stc_meetings/stc7docs/info_docs_pdf/stc_inf_7_4_csr5.pdf](http://www.unep-aewa.org/meetings/en/stc_meetings/stc7docs/info_docs_pdf/stc_inf_7_4_csr5.pdf)

Aitken, D., Clarkson, K., Kendall, I., Wightman, S. (2012): Flamborough Head and Bempton Cliffs SPA Seabird Monitoring Programme. 2012 Report, Bempton.

Harris, M.P. (1989): Variation in the correction factor used for converting counts of individual Guillemots *Uria aalge* into breeding pairs. IBIS 131, pp. 85-93.

Available at: <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1474-919X.1989.tb02747.x/abstract>

Status of the SPA:

1. Flamborough Head and Bempton Cliffs was classified as an SPA on 5 March 1993.
2. The site was extended and renamed Flamborough and Filey Coast SPA on 23rd August 2018

⁴ Data from: SMP for original SPA (2008, 2009); RSPB counts for original SPA (2012), (Aitken et al. 2012); northern gannets are counted as AONs; 1 AON equates to 1 breeding pair.

⁵ Data from: AEWA (2012); 967,000 Ind. translated to pairs by dividing by 3 and compared to pairs reported for the revised SPA to derive % population.

⁶ Data from: SMP for original SPA (2008); RSPB counts for terrestrial extension (2009-2011), unpublished; common guillemots are counted as “individuals on land” (62,100 individuals on land (mean of counts 2008-2011)); individuals on land are multiplied by a correction factor of 0.67 (Harris 1989) to translate to breeding pairs.

⁷ Data from: AEWA (2012); 800,000 Ind. translated to pairs by dividing by 3 and compared to pairs reported for the revised SPA to derive % population.

⁸ Data from: SMP for original SPA (2008); RSPB counts for terrestrial extension (2009-2011), unpublished; razorbills are counted as “individuals on land” (15,776 individuals on land (mean of counts 2008-2011)); individuals on land are multiplied by a correction factor of 0.67 (Harris 1989) to translate to breeding pairs.

⁹ Data from: AEWA (2012); 1,380,000 Ind. translated to pairs by dividing by 3 and compared to pairs reported for the revised SPA to derive % population.

This citation relates to a site entered in the Register of European Sites for Great Britain.
Register reference number: UK000610
Date of registration: 25 August 1998
Date amended: 23 August 2018

Signed:

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Nick...'. The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned to the right of the word 'Signed:'.

On behalf of the Secretary of State for Environment,
Food and Rural Affairs