

What to look out for...

KITTIWAKES



These small gulls are most vulnerable to disturbance when on the nest. Causing the adults to fly from the cliff can leave chicks and eggs vulnerable to adverse weather and predation.

On an international scale, kittiwakes are experiencing a population decline, possibly due to climate change.

Therefore, it is very important that all the chicks are given every chance at survival and are not disturbed.

GANNETS



Gannets, our largest seabird, rear just one chick a year and are the last to leave the colony at the end of the breeding season. Disturbance can cause the chicks to leave the cliff face before they're ready, reducing their chances of survival.

Once they have left the nest, the flightless gannet chicks will sit on the sea for a number of weeks, where they are particularly vulnerable to fast moving craft.

PUFFINS, GUILLEMOTS AND RAZORBILLS



Guillemots and razorbills do not make a nest - they hold their eggs and chicks on their feet, much like penguins. This means that if the adults are panicked and fly from the cliff, the young chicks and eggs can be knocked off the ledge.



Like kittiwakes, you will often see that puffins, guillemots and razorbills are gathered on the sea. These birds are more suited to swimming than flying and can be particularly vulnerable later in the season, when the flightless chicks and their parents are gathered on the sea. A fast moving craft doesn't allow the birds enough time to gain speed in order to take-off or dive out of the way.



Remember...

ONLY USE DESIGNATED LAUNCH SITES

- Bridlington Bay (Wilsthorpe)
- Hornsea Boat Launch
- Scarborough North Bay (self-launch)
- Whitby Upgang Ravine (self-launch)

REPORT DISTURBANCES

Report any incidents of disturbance you see to:

@ sacofficer@flamboroughheadsac.org.uk

The Personal Watercraft Partnership recommends...

- Always make sure you can call for help if you need to - carry a VHF radio or mobile phone
- Wear a buoyancy aid and wet/drysuit along with adequate foot protection
- Ensure your Datatag registration is up to date and clearly displayed
- Consider taking a Royal Yachting Association PWC competency training course
- Know the local rules and byelaws

Find the Personal Watercraft Partnership on Facebook for more information.

This code will be regularly reviewed and was last updated in **January 2017**. If you have any suggestions, please email:

@ sacofficer@flamboroughheadsac.org.uk

This voluntary code of conduct was developed by the Flamborough Head European Marine Site Management Scheme with the Personal Watercraft Partnership and members of the personal watercraft (jet ski) community. The guidance in this leaflet is supported by the following partners:



Welcome to...

FLAMBOROUGH HEAD EUROPEAN MARINE SITE

Personal Watercraft Code of Conduct

1 MARCH – 30 SEPTEMBER

Flamborough Head and Filey Brigg are internationally recognised as special places for wildlife. You're welcome to use your personal watercraft (jet ski) within the protected area, but we ask that you follow this guidance to ensure that the seabirds are given every chance of a successful breeding season and you get the most out of your visit.

Thank you for helping us to look after this internationally protected area.



Through the summer, you'll see the only colony of gannets in England and one of the largest colonies of kittiwakes in the UK. The famous puffins, along with guillemots and razorbills, nest on the sheer cliff-face too. All of the seabirds nesting around here are protected by law. By following this guidance, you are helping us to reduce disturbance to this important colony.

You're very likely to see seals around Flamborough and Filey and, if you're lucky, harbour porpoise, dolphins and maybe even whales. Remember to keep your distance and make sure your movements are steady and predictable; let the animals decide how close they want you to be. All marine mammals are protected by law and should not be disturbed.

www.flamboroughheadsac.org.uk

Code of Conduct Zones

The inshore area around Flamborough Head and Filey Brigg is protected out to 2km.
Within 300m of the cliff-face, please take note of Zone One. The rest of the protected area is known as Zone Two.

Scarborough

Filey Brigg

Filey

Protected Area
(2km)

Bempton Cliffs

North Landing

Flamborough Lighthouse

South Landing

Danes Dyke

Bridlington

Protected Area
(2km)

Zone One: The No-Wake Zone

When you are within **300m of the cliff-face**, maintain a **no-wake speed**. A fast-moving craft travelling too close to the cliffs can create panic in the birds and cause them to leave their nests. Be aware that birds can also be disturbed by vessels travelling through archways and caves.

If you see any birds flying away from the cliffs in response to your presence, move further off-shore.



Zone Two: The Awareness Zone

When you come across **groups of birds on the sea**, **slow down to a no-wake speed and go around the group**. Remember that a fast-moving craft doesn't allow time for birds to get out of the way.

There are no speed restrictions outside of the protected area, however, please be aware that birds gather in groups for many miles into the North Sea, particularly around the colony.



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0 6000m

Please note: This map is for indicative purposes only

