

Flamborough's Lighthouses

Flamborough's Lighthouses are located at the most easterly point of Flamborough Head. Pictured below is Flamborough Lighthouse at sunset. The old Beacon Tower is pictured on the far right.



Flamborough's Lighthouse

Flamborough's present working lighthouse was built in 1806 by John Matson from Bridlington. He built it within a year and without the aid of scaffolding. It cost £8000 to build. It is 27 metres (85 ft) high and has 119 steps to the lantern room at the top. It was originally oil burning.

The lighthouse flashes four white flashes every 15 seconds and the beam ranges 24 sea miles, acting as a beacon to warn those at sea of unseen hazards and to aid with navigation. The lighthouse has its own pattern of flashing that is unique to it which enables seafarers to locate their position. Each lighthouse in the country has its own unique flashing pattern.

The lens has 500 prisms, weighs 3.5 tons and is powered by electricity (it was electrified in 1940). It was automated in 1996 and has satellite navigation. Originally there were three lighthouse keepers but due to automation the last keeper left in 1996. There is a caretaker who visits once a week to clean the lens and check the lighthouse.



A view looking up at the Lighthouse.

Trinity House is the Lighthouse Authority for England, Wales, the Channel Islands and one Lighthouse in Gibraltar.

The Seamark Act, passed in 1565, enabled Trinity House to erect seamarks for the safety of navigation. This was the beginning of the Trinity House Lighthouse Service as known today which provides a service to the country's lighthouses. For further information visit www.trinityhouse.co.uk.

Tours of the lighthouse are available during the summer months. Please be aware of safety advice.

The Beacon Tower

This is known as the old lighthouse and it was built in 1674. It is set inland from the cliffs on land which is now Flamborough Golf Club.

The history of the Tower appears to be vague. Fires were lit at the top to start with but it soon became redundant.

It became a navigational aid to local fishermen, however, and is still used in this way today.



Flamborough's Fog Signal Station



Located on the cliff edge a short distance from the lighthouse, the fog signal is the white square building. The fog signal is a nautaphone which is an electronic device directional to the sea which gives two blasts every ninety seconds. This pattern is again unique to Flamborough and aids navigation and to locate position.

Originally the old fog horn was built in 1859. It was a cannon and the bungalow housed the two gunners. The next fog signal was a rocket which fired every five minutes into the air. The Bull Horn fog horn which was a diaphone system came after that until the most recent change in 1975 to the current system.

The buildings are still used by Trinity House.