Flamborough Lighthouse
(Near Flamborough Head, Yorkshire)
History

A lighthouse was first established at Flamborough by Sir John Clayton in 1669, but was never kindled. The name Flamborough was first thought to be derived from it being the place of the flame, but in the doomsday book the word is spelt “Flaneberg”, possibly from the Saxon “Flaen” meaning a dart, which the shape of the headland resembles.

The present lighthouse, designed by architect Samuel Wyatt, was built by John Matson of Bridlington in 1806 at a cost of £8,000. It was first lit on 1st December of that year. The original lighting apparatus was designed by George Robinson and consisted of a rotating vertical shaft to which was fixed twenty one parabolic reflectors, seven on each of the three sides of the frame. Red glass covered reflectors on each side, giving for the first time in lighthouse characteristics two white flashes followed by one red flash. This was an innovation quickly adopted elsewhere. The lighthouse was oil-burning, with an equivalent candle power of 13,860.

The following description of Flamborough Lighthouse is taken from Joseph Cotton’s "Memoir on the Origin and Incorporation of the Trinity House of Deptford Strond" written in 1818.

The site of Flamborough Head was of all others the most calculated for a lighthouse, either for coasters or for vessels from the Baltic and North Sea, but it was not concurred in by the trade until lately, when its utility having been admitted, the present lighthouse was erected, and the light exhibited upon the principle of the Scilly light, but with colored red glass in front of the burners, by which it is distinguished from Cromer.

The lighthouse has continued its role as a waypoint for deep sea vessels and coastal traffic as well as marking the headland for vessels heading for the ports of Scarborough and Bridlington.

In 1940 the Flamborough Lighthouse was electrified and further modifications took place in 1974. An electric fog signal was installed in 1975 replacing diaphone apparatus. In former times a rocket was discharged every 5 minutes in foggy weather reaching an altitude of 600 feet.

Flamborough Lighthouse was automated in early 1996, the keepers leaving on 8 May. The existing aids to navigation were retained with standard Trinity House equipment replacing the lamp changer and optic drive. The fog signal was refurbished and a standard fog detector fitted. The lighthouse is now controlled and monitored from the Trinity House Operations and Planning Centre at Harwich.
## Specifications

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Established</td>
<td>1669</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Height Of Tower</td>
<td>26.5 Metres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Height Of Light Above Mean High Water</td>
<td>65 Metres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Automation</td>
<td>May 1996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lamp</td>
<td>1 KW MBI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Optic</td>
<td>1st Order Catadioptric Rotating</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Character</td>
<td>4 White Flashes Every 15 Seconds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intensity (Peak)</td>
<td>650,000 Candela</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Effective Intensity</td>
<td>433,333 Candela</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Range Of Light</td>
<td>24 nautical miles</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fog Signal Character</td>
<td>2 Blasts Every 90 Seconds</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Visitor Centre

A lighthouse was first built on the Flamborough Headland in 1669 but was never lit. The current lighthouse was built in 1806 and acts as a waypoint for deep sea vessels and coastal traffic as well as marking the Flamborough Headland for vessels heading for the ports of Scarborough and Bridlington.

Tours of Flamborough Lighthouse are organized by East Riding of Yorkshire Council under license from the Corporation of Trinity House.

Contact Details

📞 +44(0)1262 673769
✉️ enquiries@thls.org

Location

Flamborough Head Lighthouse is located 1.2 miles from the village of Flamborough on the B1259.

Parking

A car park is situated next to the Lighthouse.
FLAMBOROUGH HEAD
Yorkshire

Flamborough Head Lighthouse is located at Flamborough Head. Guided tours are available, providing useful and interesting information on how the Lighthouse operates. Climb the 119 steps to the top of the Lighthouse to see the wonderful views over Bridlington Bay and the Heritage Coast.

**Tour duration:** approx 20 minutes
Visits to the Lighthouse are organised by East Riding of Yorkshire Council under licence from Trinity House.
**Tel:** 01262 673769
**Email:** sewerby.hall@eastriding.gov.uk

**Location:** The Lighthouse is located 1.2 miles from the village of Flamborough on the B1259.
**Position:** 54° 06.98 N, 00° 04.96 W (WGS 84 datum)
Old Flamborough Lighthouse

History

The chalk tower near Flamborough Head. Built in 1674, is described as England's oldest surviving lighthouse since it was built as a light tower in 1674 by Sir John Clayton but he went bankrupt soon after it was completed. It was designed for a coal or wood fire to be burned on its top, however it is not clear whether it was ever actually used.

It was restored in 1996. A modern (1806) lighthouse lies 300 metres southeast of this tower.