

Humber Discovery Programme: Chris Kolonko & Hannah Thompson

The Holderness Coast of East Yorkshire is one of the fastest eroding coastlines in Europe. This erosion of the area's soft boulder clay cliffs has seen the loss of over 5 km (3.1 Miles) of coastline since the Roman period. Today, this rapid erosion is being exacerbated by climate change, which in turn is leading to further loss of vulnerable coastal archaeology on the coast of the East Riding of Yorkshire.

The village of Flamborough, which sits on a chalky outcrop at the North end of the Holderness Coast, is a haven of rare archaeological sites. The chalk headland offers some resistance to coastal erosion caused by rising sea levels and as a result, Flamborough is home to some rare archaeological sites that would have otherwise been lost to coastal erosion if they were further south. You can find three examples below.



The Chalk Tower: Flamborough's Old Lighthouse is a rare architectural survival of a complete 17th century lighthouse. Built between 1669 and 1674 as a business venture, the private lighthouse proved uneconomical to run as donations from passing shipping were not forthcoming! It is Grade II* listed.



Dane's Dyke: This Middle Bronze Age linear boundary ditch impressively cuts across the promontory of Flamborough Head. This monument survives as a rare, tangible reminder of prehistoric coastal land use in East Yorkshire. A section of Dane's Dyke was excavated by Pitt-Rivers in 1879.

The entire earthwork is a Scheduled Monument.



Diver Fringe Batteries: Flamborough is home to the last surviving complete Diver Fringe batteries on the East Yorkshire Coast. Batteries BJ and BJ1 were 2 of 27 batteries constructed in late 1944 to counter the threat of air launched V1 flying bombs.

The site is a Scheduled Monument.



