# Concerns grow for seabird populations after oil tanker collision



Concerns are mounting for the welfare of hundreds of thousands of seabirds along the East Yorkshire coast, following a severe maritime incident that occurred on Monday, 10 March. An oil tanker collided with a cargo ship in the North Sea, raising anxieties about potential environmental impacts on the area's wildlife.

Bempton Cliffs, situated near Bridlington in East Yorkshire, is known to be a crucial breeding ground for seabirds. Between March and August, the cliffs host around 500,000 birds, including species such as puffins, gannets, kittiwakes, and guillemots. The site has garnered attention for its vibrant avian population and scenic landscape, which attracts numerous visitors each year.

The Independent's visit to the wildlife site a day after the collision highlighted the immediate concerns raised by local wildlife officials. Danielle Jackson, the visitor experience manager for the area, expressed deep apprehension regarding the event's repercussions for local bird populations. "We are highly concerned about the impact the collision will have on our seabird population here and what this could mean for their futures," she stated.

Jackson further emphasised the uncertainty surrounding the incident’s long-term effects, noting, "We don't know exactly how long it's going to take for the birds and the wildlife and the nature to recover from this kind of incident." This uncertainty poses additional challenges for conservation efforts in an area critical for both biodiversity and local tourism.

Authorities and conservationists are now faced with the task of assessing the damage and implementing measures to protect the seabird population at Bempton Cliffs amid these troubling developments. The coming weeks will be crucial in determining both the immediate and long-term impacts of the collision on this vital environmental habitat.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.rarebirdalert.co.uk/v2/Content/RSPB-UKs-largest-mainland-seabird-colony-revealed.aspx?s_id=82729243> - This URL supports the claim that Bempton Cliffs is a crucial breeding ground for seabirds, hosting hundreds of thousands of birds including puffins, gannets, kittiwakes, and guillemots. It highlights the area's importance as the largest mainland seabird colony in the UK.
* <https://yorkshiremarinenaturepartnership.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Flamborough-and-Filey-Coast-SPA-seabird-colony-count-2022.pdf> - This PDF provides detailed information on the seabird populations at Flamborough and Filey Coast, including species counts and trends, which supports the article's description of the area's biodiversity.
* <https://yorkshiremarinenaturepartnership.org.uk/manage/marine-protected-areas/flamborough-and-filey-coast-spa/seabird-monitoring-programme/> - This webpage explains the seabird monitoring program at Flamborough and Filey Coast, which is crucial for understanding population trends and conservation efforts in the area.
* <https://www.rspb.org.uk/reserves-and-events/reserves-a-z/bempton-cliffs/> - This URL provides information about RSPB Bempton Cliffs, highlighting its significance as a seabird breeding site and tourist attraction, aligning with the article's description of the area.
* <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/natural-england> - Natural England's website offers insights into conservation efforts and protected areas in the UK, which is relevant to the article's discussion of environmental concerns and conservation at Bempton Cliffs.