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Bempton Circular

Starting point and OS Grid reference	Newsham Hill Lane, Bempton (TA 191720)
Ordnance Survey map	OS Explorer 301 - Scarborough, Bridlington & Flamborough Head
Distance	4.3 miles
Date of Walk	14 October 2023
Traffic light rating	

Introduction: This very easy circular walk from the village of Bempton in East Yorkshire barely needs any directions as it is virtually self explanatory. It is also almost as level as you could get.

Bempton is a quiet little village best known because of its association with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) centre above the chalk white 400ft cliffs. The cliffs are a magnet for bird watchers, particularly between March and August when something in the order of half a million seabirds nest. There is a café and toilets at the centre.

At the crossroads in the village centre is the White Horse pub which is unusual in having a blue tiled roof.

The walk passes St. Michael's Church, the oldest parts of which date to around 1200.

There was a medieval village of Newsham on the edge of the current village and remains of Bronze Age dwellings have been found in the area.

On the cliff section, you will pass the remains of an old RAF station, set up to provide radar warning in World War II. It continues in one way or another until it closed in 1972. There is not much to see and entrances to the bunker have been sealed.

Buckton Village, through which you pass on the return journey merges with Bempton. It has an attractive pond.

There are several benches on the cliff tops for a pleasant picnic break.

The walk starts from Newsham Hill Lane where there is some on-street parking between the level crossing and the village centre. There is also a railway station. To get Bempton by car, it lies on the B1229, between Flamborough and Filey (closer to Flamborough).

Start: From Newsham Hill Lane (TA 191720), head towards the centre of Bempton, along Church Lane. At the junction with High Street, head more or less straight across, to the right of the White Horse pub, along Cliff Lane. There is a signpost for Bempton Cliffs.

Continue along the road for just over a mile, to the edge of the RSPB nature reserve and follow as it curves left, in the direction of a public footpath fingerpost.

Go through some double gates into the overflow car park, then turn immediately right to follow another public footpath fingerpost and follow the path to the cliff edge. Turn left following the fingerpost for "Speeton 3½ miles". It is also marked as the Headland Way.

There are a number of good viewpoints along here, where the RSPB have installed platforms at the cliff edge for 'twitchers', though they are also good for seeing the dramatic cliffs themselves.. A particularly good one is at TA 195743.

Follow the cliff path until you reach a two way fingerpost (TA 185746) turn left here along what is named as Hoddy Cows Lane on the OS map. However before turning left, it is worth wandering a few yards further on for a dramatic view of Buckton Cliffs.

Follow Hoddy Cows Lane to a 'T' junction with the B1229, by the village pond at Buckton. Turn left along the road (there is a pavement). Buckton and Bempton run into each other.

You can either follow it as far as the agricultural garage (ST Gowan) and turn right immediately after it or continue to the White Horse pub (recommended by the way) and turn right to return to Newsham Hill Lane.

