

Outdoor property Access Statement – Farne Islands

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Introduction

The islands are only accessible by private boat companies that operate independently of the National Trust. The islands open to visitors are Inner Farne, Staple Island and Longstone Island. Only one boat company is currently licensed to land passengers on Longstone Island and this is in association with Trinity House – please contact Trinity House for access information regarding Longstone. Due to the very sensitive nature of the colony, no dogs (including assistance dogs) are allowed on any of the islands. The islands can prove inaccessible at any time and access is at the sole discretion of the rangers, who are best able to assess the conditions on the islands.

Boats

Boats travel regularly to the islands between 1 April and 30 September, weather permitting. Please contact each boat company before your trip regarding your access requirements, as each have different kinds of boats and will be able to inform you of trip length. The North Sea can be far colder than the mainland even in the summer months and weather can be unpredictable, therefore it is prudent to be prepared for all weathers.

Inner Farne (May – July afternoon, April, August – September only)

The routes around the island are along a boardwalk 2m wide with no handrail. The boardwalks can have gaps of up to an inch between slats. Due to the nature of the terrain, the boardwalks and rocks can be slippery and uneven. The paths between the jetty and the chapel, and part of the path between the chapel and lighthouse are relatively steep (50m in total). The chapel is also possible to visit. The circular walk around the island is around 600m in length. Toilets are available adjacent to the courtyard and Visitor Centre on Inner Farne. In wet or windy weather from May to July there may be no access to shelter in the toilets or Chapel to protect the sensitive Arctic tern chicks.

Staple Island (May – July, morning only)

The island terrain is more rugged than Inner Farne and is only accessible to people able to walk up steep steps and across 70m of very unstable, slippery, uneven and rocky ground with deep gullies of up to 1.5m between rocks and no handrail, and becomes inaccessible in wet weather. There are no toilets and there is no shelter from the elements.

Longstone Island

The island is only accessible to people able to walk across very unstable and rocky ground, and becomes inaccessible in wet weather. Only the lighthouse, and not the wider island, are accessible and Trinity House are responsible for this access.

Dogs (including assistance dogs)

Dogs, including assistance dogs, are not allowed on any of the islands to minimise disturbance to breeding birds and breeding seals, though they are allowed to wait on boats – check with the boat companies prior to travel to ensure your dog can stay on the boat.

Arrival & Parking Facilities

Further information about the Farne Islands including opening times is available on our main website. <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/farne-islands>

Date: 30 March 2022

Map

Staple



Inner Farne

