

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 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 31 October, weather and tides 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 (Until 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. There is a one-way system around the islands around 600m in length while social distancing is in place, and there are no toilets. There is no access to the chapel courtyard or visitor centre while covid restrictions are in place so there is no shelter during your hour-long visit. The paths between the jetty and the one-way system are only accessible upon landing and leaving the islands – this path is relatively steep (50m in total) and as the island entryway is relatively steep it is not DDA compliant. The cliff is accessible at limited times for each visitor while restrictions are in place. To ensure social distancing, not tripods are allowed on the islands.

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>

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Map of Inner Farne

