



**National
Trust**

SITE HAZARD IDENTIFICATION GUIDANCE FOR VISITORS

This explanatory note is to assist you in this by highlighting some of the hazards that are characteristic of a seabird colony on a rocky island in the middle of the North Sea. The following are some of the points to note:

- Please be aware that the boardwalk on Inner Farne is uneven and slippery, appropriate footwear should be worn and care taken. There are no walkways on Staple; access is across very uneven and sometimes slippery rocks. As with Inner Farne, appropriate footwear should be worn and it is only accessible to fit and able people.
- There are unguarded cliff edges and other sudden drops.
- On occasions, severe weather conditions can be a hazard with high winds causing instability. Seahouses is always warmer than the islands, so visitors should be well equipped with adequate warm and dry clothing.
- There are loose rocks which may fall, causing injury.
- The sea, with strong currents, surrounds the site.
- Access to all islands involves a boat ride.
- Upon landing, access is through jetties which are uneven, slippery and sea swell can sometimes make embarking and disembarking difficult.
- Between May and July Arctic Terns dive-bomb visitors on Inner Farne. A wide-brimmed hat with padding is recommended but NOT a hard hat as these can damage the bird's beaks.
- Between May and July there are birds that nest very close to the paths. Some, like our shags, have razor-sharp beaks and can inflict injury should someone be bitten. Our Arctic terns will nest on the path and therefore care must be taken when walking on the boardwalks to avoid crushing eggs and highly mobile chicks. A good distance should be maintained to all nesting birds.

The intention of this note and map is for guidance only.

We look forward to meeting you soon and hope that you will enjoy a safe and memorable visit.

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Inner Farne



1. Jetty – alighting from boat, concrete surface may be slippery when wet, uneven surfaces under foot
2. Path from Jetty – uneven surfaces, slippery when wet, boardwalk trip hazard
3. Visitors Centre, Chapel area – uneven cobbled surface, low visibility inside Chapel, Terns breeding May - July, risk of pecking from jetty and in/around courtyard
4. Boardwalk to Lighthouse – trip hazard, ponds either side of path
5. Lighthouse compound – not accessible to public, Terns present in breeding season, risk of pecking.
6. Cliffs area – fenced off but fall hazard into sea remains, sudden drop, fall from height.
7. Picnic area – cliffs not fenced off, sudden drop, fall from height, Terns present in breeding season, risk of pecking.
8. Boardwalk back to 3 – boardwalk trip hazard.

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