



**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:

- Access to Staple Island involves a boat ride
- Please be aware that the ground on Staple is uneven, steep in places and slippery. There are no walkways on the bulk of Staple; access is across very uneven and sometimes slippery rocks, with numerous crevices and small gullies, around 70m distance with no handrail. Appropriate footwear should be worn and care should be taken - the island is only accessible to fit and able people.
- There are unguarded cliff edges and other sudden drops.
- From May to July there are birds that nest close to the paths and eiders can be hidden amongst the rocks. Some, such as the shags, have razor-sharp beaks and can inflict injury should someone be bitten. A good distance should be maintained to all nesting birds.
- The sea, with strong currents, surrounds the site.
- There are no toilet facilities on Staple Island.
- Upon landing, access is through jetties which are uneven, slippery and sea swell can sometimes make embarking and disembarking difficult.
- 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.

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.

Staple



1. Jetties – alighting from boat, concrete steps may be slippery when wet, uneven surfaces under foot and swell can mean there is movement in the boat.
2. Boardwalk from Jetty – uneven surfaces, slippery when wet, boardwalk trip hazard
3. Main area – bare rock is uneven with numerous crevices and small gullies and is very slippery when wet.
4. Edge of cliff – blue rope marks area for visitors but is not a protective barrier and can easily be crossed. Sheer cliffs on other side; sudden drop and fall from height
5. Guillemot viewing area – short boardwalk bridge to access area presents trip hazard. No birds particularly close and blue rope should not be crossed.

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