

## **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 accessible islands are Inner Farne, Staple Island and Longstone Island. Only one boat company is currently licensed to land passengers on Longstone Island. 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.

### **Inner Farne**

The routes around the island are along a boardwalk 2m wide with no handrail. 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 and visitor centre are 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. There are no disabled toilets on Inner Farne, and in wet or windy weather from May to July there may be no access to shelter in the toilets, chapel or shop to protect the sensitive Arctic tern chicks.

### **Staple Island**

The island terrain is more rugged than Inner Farne and is only accessible to people able to walk up steep steps and across very unstable, slippery, uneven and rocky ground with 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.

### **Dogs**

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

Parking at Seahouses Harbour. Boats travel regularly to the islands between 1 April and 31 October, weather permitting.

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

**Date: September 2016**

## Map

Staple



Inner Farne

