



These amendments cover the more significant changes made since the first printing of the 6th edition in 2021. See the title page of your copy for the date of your edition. If you have an earlier issue, see the previous amendments documents available from the website:

<https://rnyc.org.uk/information/north-east-coast-sailing-directions/>

These notes cannot, however be fully comprehensive, and skippers are reminded that they are not a substitute for adequate scale charts which have been corrected up to date and for information published annually in almanacs. **No responsibility can be accepted by the publishers or editors for any errors or omissions or for any mishaps arising from their use.**

Staithes

13½ miles south of the Tees, at Cowbar Nab the Roxby Beck enters the sea in a steep-sided gorge. Shelter has been improved by substantial breakwaters which enclose part of the Bay. The harbour dries out, and is unsuitable for vessels that cannot safely take the ground. It is dangerous in strong onshore conditions. The fishing village is very picturesque.

Approach

The coast is clean in both directions and an offing of ½ mile is sufficient. Cowbar Nab stands out from either approach. The outfall from the Boulby potash mine to the north is marked by a buoy Fl(4)Y. The village is hidden until almost directly offshore of it. Significant fishing activities take place around the harbour approaches, beware of floating 'pot markers'. The harbour should not be countenanced if any onshore conditions are expected.

Entrance

Enter on a bearing of 200°. The entry channel is narrow, waypoints entered on a chart plotter would help maintain position. At night, the harbour entrance is marked with Port and Starboard lights. West Arm: Fl.G 4s. East Arm: Fl.R 4s. Adequate depth HW +/- 2. Turn to starboard to enter between the breakwaters, then sharp to port once clear of south breakwater and follow the wall till finding place at second or third ladders. The harbour entrance is vulnerable to swells with winds from NW to E.

Mooring

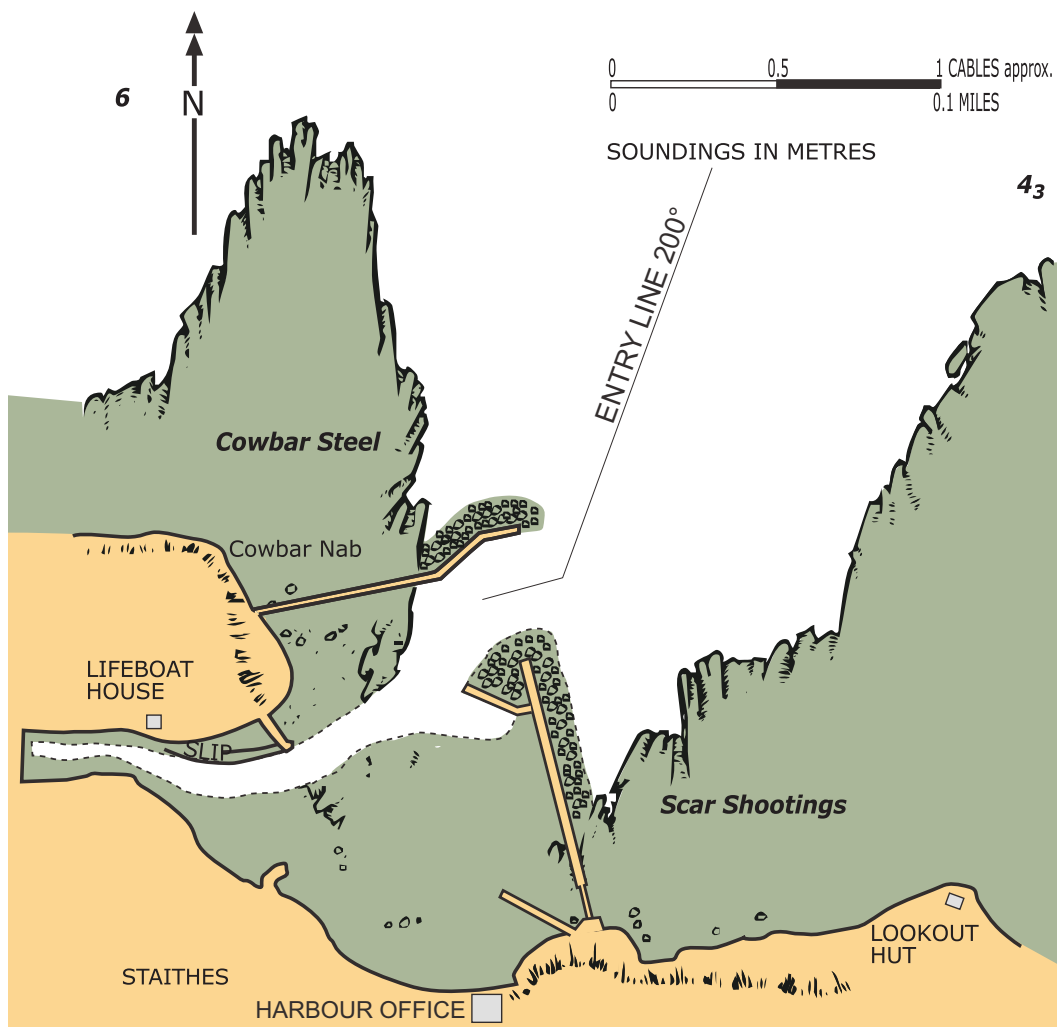
Local fishing boats can take up all available space, particularly when conditions are poor. There are a limited number of visitor berths on the South Breakwater with additional mooring rings and ladders added in 2018. The ladders are proud of the wall and slope progressively into the harbour as they descend. This makes mooring against a ladder awkward. Lying on the wall is more comfortable with stern or bow adjacent to the ladder for access. The visitor's area is onto soft mud and vessels will settle. Check for availability with Sean Baxter 01947 840278 or 07891 745353, admin@staithesharbour.org.

Facilities

The village spreads up the ravine for ½ mile. Shops, pubs, etc. Buses to Whitby, Redcar, Middlesbrough. Fuel available at the village of Hinderwell, 2 miles by road from Staithes.

General

A tourist haunt with links to Captain Cook that is much visited - but not by yachts. This is a shame for there are many times when conditions will serve, if only for a lunchtime stop. Leisure activities taking place (particularly in the summer season) include swimming, kayaking, surfing, tombstoning and angling from the breakwaters.



Seaham H W Dover + 0435

Lying 5 miles south of Sunderland, 11 miles north of Hartlepool, the two piers of Seaham enclose a totally artificial harbour built as an outlet for the Marquess of Londonderry's pits. The entrance should not be attempted in strong onshore weather.

The coal trade has now finished and the South Dock, which does not cater for yachts, handles a general cargo. The marina, which opened in 2012, is in the North Dock with a gate to maintain a depth of 1.8 metres on the visitor berths and 1 to 1.5m on the pontoons. It accepts visiting boats all year round. Length limit is 11 metres and draft is restricted to a maximum of 1.8 metres. The dock gate is open for a minimum of 3 hours each side of HW.

Approach

There are no dangers in either direction; an offing of 1/2 mile is sufficient.

Entrance

The marina entrance is 276°T, 350m from the centre of the harbour entrance between the pier heads. The outer harbour is

shallow, depths can be as little as 1.0 metre at LWS. Keep a keen lookout for shipping movements which take place around high water. There is a 5 knot speed limit throughout inner harbour and marina.

Mooring

There are 3 visitors berths of 10 metres on the right, just inside the marina entrance. The automatic gate opens (and closes) when the tidal height is at 2.5 metres above datum, about 3½ hours before or after high water. 3 vertical lights, red or green, indicate the open or closed status of the gate, and there is a warning sound signal 5 minutes before it operates.

Facilities

Marina office: 0191 581 8998 (office hours - 7 days). Outside office hours an answering service is in operation.

VHF Channel 16 then you will be requested to switch to Channel 08. Call sign "Seaham Marina"

Seaham Harbour Office (South Dock): 0191 516 1700 (24hr)

The town, up the hill, has supermarket and banking facilities, and bus and rail services to Sunderland, Newcastle and Teesside.



The Marina is in the North Dock, to the right of the picture.