



This short walk takes you along the stunning south cliffs and takes about three-quarters-of-an-hour. The terrain is mostly gentle but can be more difficult in parts as the path can be quite steep and slippery.

- 1 The walk starts at the Visitor Information Centre. Turn up Victoria Street, passing St Anne's church on your right, to the T-junction at the top. Turn right on to High Street.
- 2 Follow High Street into Le Huret until you come to Marais Square, carry on up Little Street and walk to the far end.
- 3 Crossing the road, pick up the airport perimeter track; follow this around the eastern end of the runway until you reach the 'Madonna Stone' which sits on the corner of a sharp right-hand bend.

#### MADONNA STONE

The 'Madonna Stone' was originally a cattle scratching post in a neighbouring field. Known locally as the 'Standing Stone', it was erected in its current position in the 1960s.

- 4 Turn left, then after a few metres right, across the grass to some steps that lead down a path through the wooded valley, 'Val du Saou'.

#### VAL DU SAOU

The small area of grassland through which you approach the Val du Saou is an ideal habitat for Alderney's only reptile, the slow worm. Grass cuttings from the adjacent field are stacked to create refuges for insects and slow worm.

The Val du Saou was, like most of the island's cliff-top valleys, once used for horticulture as it provided a ready source of fresh water and shelter. You can still see the remnants of the walled plots, used for grazing.



**5** Go down the steps, turning sharp left, following the winding path down the hillside, through the woods and across the bridge. In April and May this area of the valley is covered in bluebells and alive with birds.

**6** Here you can either turn right and follow the small trail around the valley (this is very steep and remote, but a worthwhile walk) or left to return to the main cliff path.

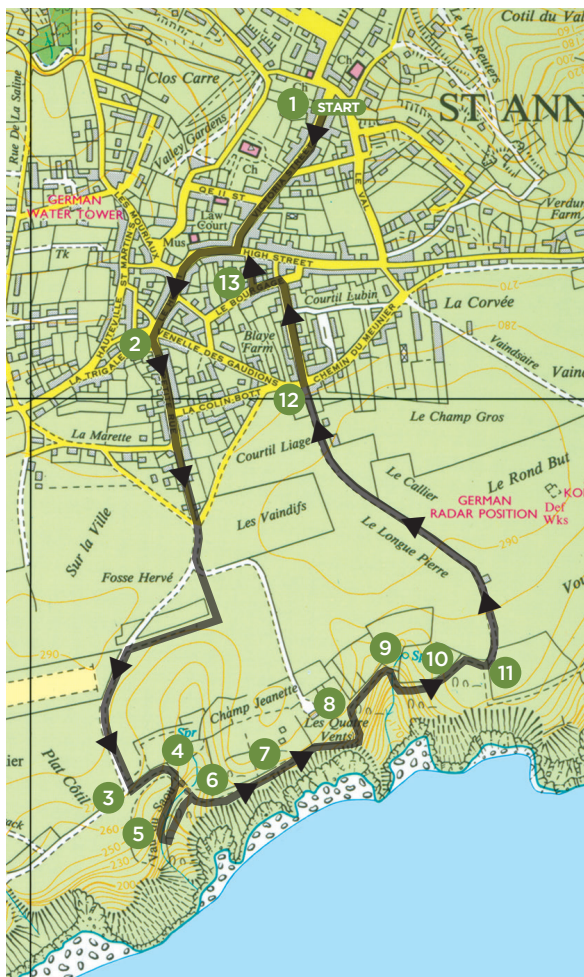
**7** Once you rejoin the main path, turn right. Keeping the sea on your right, in approximately 150m you will come to a fork which diverts off to the Wildlife Bunker (white marker stone).

**WILDLIFE BUNKER**

*This German Bunker was a Luftwaffe ‘Dezimetergerat’ station, used for very high frequency radio communication with Guernsey, Jersey and France during WWII. The bunker is now known as the ‘Wildlife Bunker’ and contains information on the island’s natural and military history. The bunker also provides a walker’s shelter.*

**8** Rejoin the path that leads in front of the big cliff-top house.

**9** Continue along the cliff, following the path down a steep hill through ‘Le Vau de Fret’. At the bottom of the hill on your left, is an old cattle trough and one of the last exposures of the old Blaye Wall.



## BLAYE WALL

*The Blaye Wall surrounded the island's main farming belt from approximately 800AD up until WWII. Most of the farming was carried out co-operatively within the community. Individuals and families owned small strips of land with walls or hedges to separate them. Many hundreds of these strips were enclosed by a banked wall, the 'Costiere' or 'Blaye Wall' to protect crops from livestock.*

**10** Continue up the other side of the valley until you come to a T-junction.

*The remnants of the Blaye Wall (now overgrown with bracken and brambles) continues along the left side of the path until you reach the T-junction. The headland to your right of the T-junction was one of the last areas to be used for tethered grazing, with bulls pegged out on the cliff away from the dairy herd.*

**11** At the T-junction turn left and start out across the open fields of the Blaye. As you continue along the path, past the enclosure containing an antenna, you are on the highest point on the island, a little over 88 metres (290 feet) above sea level.

*The open fields of the Blaye are an ideal spot for seeing large flocks of migrant birds including wheatear, linnets and swifts, as well as resident flocks of swallow and meadow pipit.*

**12** This path brings you back to the edge of the town. Cross straight onto La Brecque, part of the old farming centre of St Anne. Walk down this road until you reach the Bourgage at the next T-junction. Turn left and then take the second right down Sauchet Lane. At the bottom you reach High Street.

*The communal farming practices of Alderney created a town which largely consisted of farm houses with adjacent barns. The larger Victorian buildings came from the period of fortification with its influx of wealth.*

*After WWII many of the barns were converted and the farmyards developed to create the town that we know today.*

**13** Turn left onto High Street and then right, back onto Victoria Street.

