



A circular trail around the Longis Nature Reserve, starting and finishing at the Roman Fort car park. It's an amazing trail all year round with spring flowering plants, summer resident breeding birds, autumn migrant birds and stunning winter views.

1 Exit the Roman Fort car park and turn right on to Route des Carrières where you can see the German Naval tower, known locally as 'The Odeon', ahead of you in the distance. Throughout this trail, follow the white stones.

ROMAN FORT

This well preserved small Roman fort is the first evidence of military construction on Alderney. It was originally built in the 4th century to defend the anchorage in Longis Bay harbour and the nearby Roman settlement. The site epitomises the way fortifications have been adapted and reused over the years. Romans, Tudors, British soldiers and German soldiers have made this fort their base. Much of the outer wall, and other key parts of the structure are



the original Roman stone work. Alterations were made during the 15th or 16th century and in the 1790s a barracks and outbuildings were added. During WWII, German fortifications were integrated into this unique structure, including a large central bunker and machine gun positions placed directly into the original Roman walls. A door was added to the western wall into what is now the car park, to allow an anti-machine gun to be rolled out on rails (still visible today). Open daily 10-4.30

2 Just outside the Roman fort's main gate and resting on top of the WWII anti-

tank wall you can see one of the 2011 Andy Goldsworthy Stones. This stone contains intermeshed sections of reinforcing bar which would have been used in the construction of bunkers and this has been one of the slowest of the stones to erode.

3 Walk along Route des Carrières with the WWII anti-tank wall on your right for approximately 150m and turn left onto a grass track leading across Longis Common.

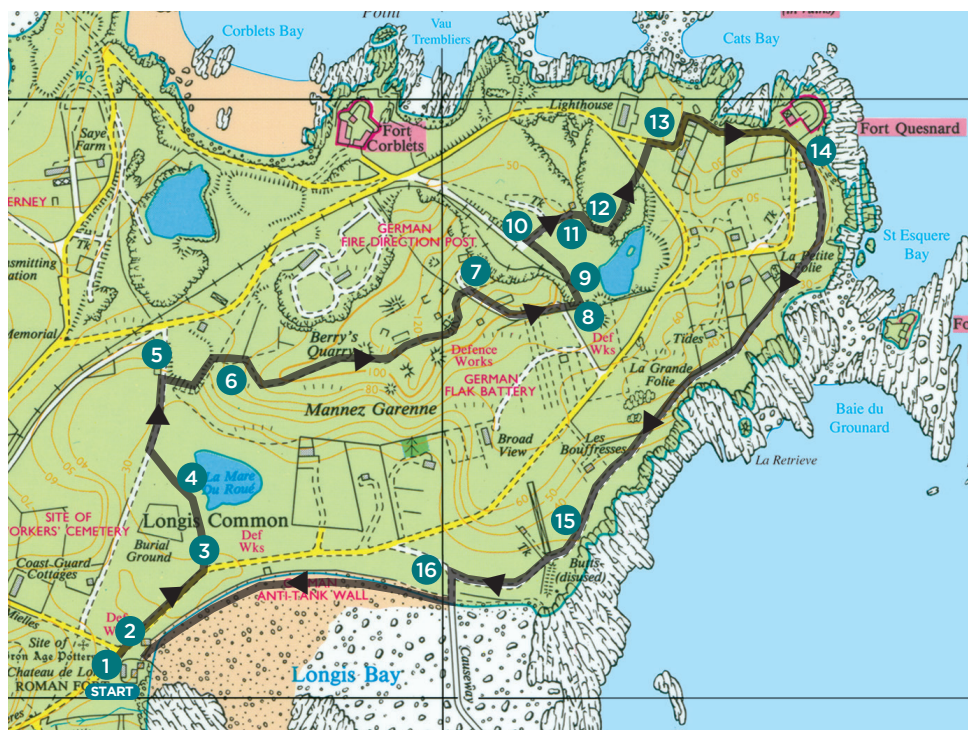
4 Follow the track across the Common walking away from the anti-tank wall. As you approach a stand of trees to your right you will find a bird hide, which is open to the public.

LONGIS BIRD HIDE

The hide was erected originally in 2001 and rebuilt in 2017 by the Alderney Wildlife Trust, and has a splendid view over the reed beds and pond. Coot, mallard and moorhen can be seen all year round on this natural fresh-water pond. In winter snipe, water rail, little grebe and the occasional kingfisher can be spotted.

5 Follow the path northwards and take the first right then bear left heading up onto the Mannez Garenne hillside.

6 Turn right when you reach the top of the hill and follow the main path that runs across the top of Mannez Garenne.





FLAK BATTERY HÖHE

This eastern hillside is dotted with numerous WWII German fortifications which made up one of four anti-aircraft batteries on the island.

THE ODEON

Dominating the skyline on the top edge of Mannez Quarry you can see 'The Odeon'. This massive concrete tower was built by forced labourers under the German occupying power in 1943. Originally it was intended as a Naval range-finding position to observe enemy ships and was to be part of a network with five other similar towers placed around the island. The rounded front section was for observation and the rear section for accommodation and target plotting. Open daily 10-4 (Weather dependent)

7 When you reach the hardcore track adjacent to the Odeon turn right and follow it back down towards the main road.

8 When the road is in sight, turn left onto a grass footpath. Passing a bunker on your right, follow the stone steps down through a wooded area into Mannez Quarry.

MANNEZ QUARRY

Mannez Quarry was one of the largest stone quarries on the island, originally started to supply stone for the building of the Victorian forts and breakwater. The quarry is now an excellent habitat for tiny plants such as orange birds-foot and hairy birds-foot trefoil.

9 At the bottom of the steps you will find a bird hide, built and maintained by the Alderney Wildlife Trust, overlooking Mannez Pond.

MANNEZ POND

Mannez Pond is home to all twelve resident species of dragonfly on the island, including the red veined darter, as well as a number of migrant birds.

10 Follow the path to the end and turn right, away from the main railway line, towards the Miniature Railway.

11 When you reach the Miniature Railway 'station' cross the rail track to follow the path towards Mannez Lighthouse and then cross the railway line again on the other side.

MANNEZ LIGHTHOUSE

Mannez Lighthouse was built in 1912 by a local man William Baron. With a resident lighthouse keeper until as recently as 1996, the lighthouse now has LED lights and is controlled from Trinity House, Harwich.

12 Following the white markers turn right and follow the path, which bears left towards the main road. Here you can see the remnants of the slopes of the Mannez hillside which was still being quarried well after WWII.

13 When you reach the road cross over to follow the grass path, then turn right onto the tarmac road and follow it past a bungalow with shells on the wall and later Fort Quesnard on your left. Look out for the little mouse in the front wall!

14 Just after Fort Quesnard take the left fork onto a track with a sign saying 'No Vehicular Access'. Depending on the weather, the coast of France is visible to your left across the fierce tidal stream of the Alderney Race.

Straight ahead is the Victorian Fort Houmet Herbé, completed in 1854. Just



off the main path to your left is a restored WWII German trench system, which contains information boards. The endemic Alderney sea lavender can also be seen flowering along the top of the shoreline nearby.

15 Continue on the path and Essex Castle will come into view in front of you, along with the Hanging Rock and Fort Raz to the left. Keep right and pass a high stone structure, known as 'Targets Wall',

TARGETS WALL

The 'Targets' wall or 'Rifle Butts' was constructed in the 1860s. This area was used for rifle practice from the Victorian times until WWII.

16 Follow the path until you reach a turning on your left for the Fort Raz causeway and Longis beach. Being aware of the state of the tide, drop down onto the beach and walk across the bay with the WWII anti-tank wall on your right. **Please note dogs are not permitted on beaches between 1 June and 15 September.** Continue along the sand until you reach the concrete slipway and the Roman Fort car park.

