

FREE

ALDERNEY WALKS



Alderney
CHANNEL ISLANDS

Ten Self-Guided walks
Easy to follow instructions




visitalderney.com



Welcome...

The best way to discover Alderney is on foot. This series of 10 self-guided walks will lead you from the rugged South Coast cliff paths to the sweeping bays of Saye and Longis, uncovering the island's wildlife and historic past on the way. From floral paths and stunning beaches to impressive fortifications and wildlife, each walk is punctuated with interesting facts to help you make the most of your journey. Designed for walkers of all ages and abilities.



-  **Easy** – mainly flat walking on paths with good surfaces.
-  **Moderate** – generally good surfaces with some inclines.
-  **Difficult** – varied landscape, with more challenging slopes.

Our thanks to Alderney Wildlife Trust volunteers who help maintain and keep these paths open.

Please note access to historic buildings and defensive structures is dangerous and in some cases not permitted. The States of Alderney can accept no liability for any injury caused.



Don't forget to...

- Wear good boots
- Take binoculars, bird and flower guides
- Take care when walking near cliff edges
- Keep hydrated, use sunscreen and wear a hat



With over one hundred benches dotted around the island there are plenty of opportunities to take a rest and admire the view.













Coast Path Challenge

If you would like more of a walking challenge our coastal path offers ten miles of breathtaking views. The walk takes about five hours at a good pace, or you can spend a whole day leisurely winding along this stunning route. Every path marker has a letter on it. You can choose to enter the 'challenge', decipher what words they spell and claim your certificate!

Pick up the route at the Visitor Information Office, Victoria Street or download at visitalderney.com

CONTENTS

Walk 1 	4
SOUTHERN CLIFFS & WILDLIFE BUNKER	
<i>2 miles (3.5 km), 45 minutes</i>	
Walk 2 	7
THE GANNET TRAIL	
<i>4 miles (6.5 km), 2 hours</i>	
Walk 3 	10
THE ZIG-ZAG & BONNE TERRE	
<i>3.3 miles (5.3 km), 1 hour 50 minutes</i>	
Walk 4 	14
BURHOU & FORT TOURGIS	
<i>3.5 miles (5.7 km), 1 hour 30 minutes</i>	
Walk 5 	18
ST ANNE TOWN WALK	
<i>1.1 miles (1.8 km), 45 minutes</i>	
Walk 6 	22
MID-ISLAND	
<i>1.8 miles (3 km), 45 minutes</i>	
Walk 7 	25
COMMUNITY WOODLAND	
<i>3 miles (5 km), 1 hour 40 minutes</i>	
Walk 8 	28
FORT ALBERT & BIBETTE HEAD	
<i>3.3 miles (5.3 km), 1 hour 30 minutes</i>	
Walk 9 	31
LONGIS NATURE RESERVE	
<i>2.5 miles (4 km), 1 hour 30 minutes</i>	
Walk 10 	35
LA GRANDE BLAYE & ESSEX HILL	
<i>4 miles (6.5 km), 1 hour 40 minutes</i>	



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.

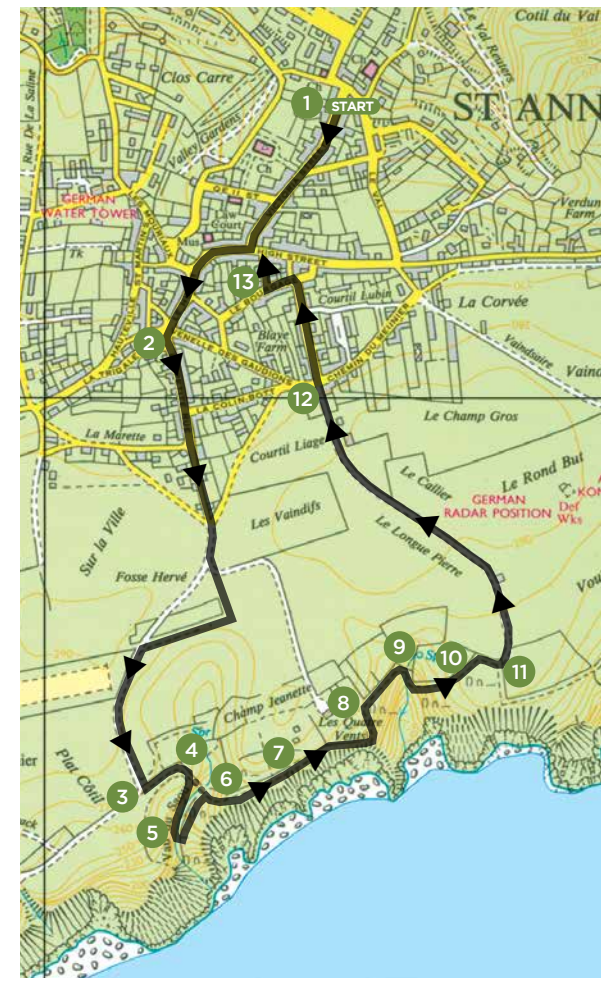
6 Here you can either turn right and follow the small trail around the valley (this is very steep and remote, but a worthwhile walk) or left to return to the main cliff path.

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.



This walk takes in the breathtaking scenery of the south cliffs and the gannets on Les Etacs. It will take about two hours. With a steep incline, it is not for those who have difficulty walking.

1 Starting at the Visitor Information Centre, head up Victoria Street, passing St Anne's church on your right. At the top of the road turn right on to High Street.

2 Follow High Street into Le Huret until you come to Marais Square. Go straight across and 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.

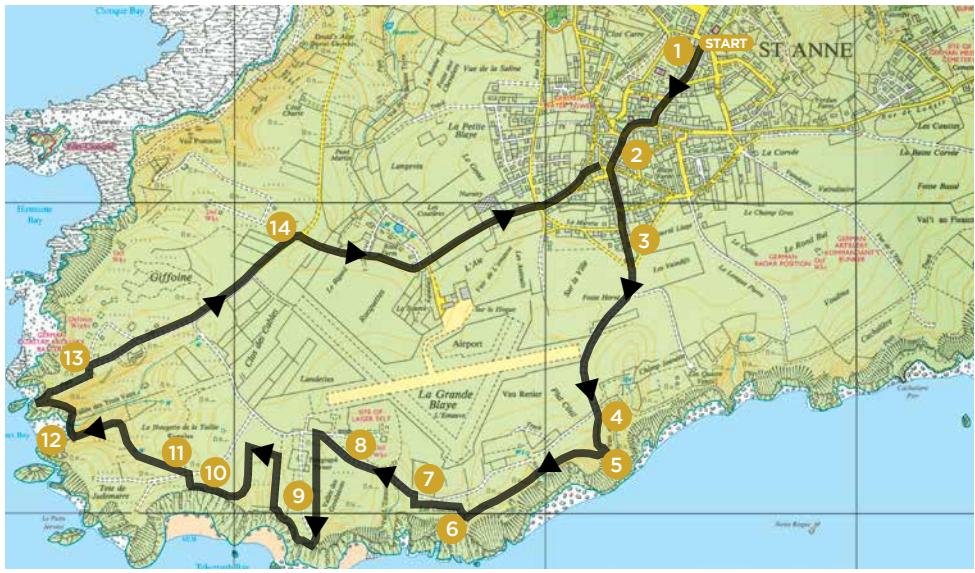
4 Leave the airport perimeter track here and follow the grassed path opposite straight towards the cliffs.

5 Continue straight down. This path leads down a steep slope and becomes a winding and spectacular path and heathland of 'Les Couriaux'. Please take care on all the cliff paths as they are often narrow, uneven and traverse close to the cliff edge. Many small coastal paths are marked using white marker stones to help identify them.

6 Follow the path along the southern cliffs in a westerly direction, over a small wooden bridge and towards a bench. Here turn right, away from the headland, then immediately left on the narrow cliff path.

Look out for a number of spectacular but small flowering plants, including sheep's bit scabious, English stonecrop and the nationally rare spotted rock rose. This small, five petalled yellow plant flowers as it feels the first rays of the sun and then sheds its minute yellow petals, each with a red spot near its base, as the light begins to fade after lunch.

7 When you reach the main airport track again, turn left.



8 Follow the track through Val L'Emauve. Continuing onwards, you will see on your left a circular Napoleonic signal station, 'Telegraph Tower' and on your right, down a track, the concrete gateposts of Lager Sylt.

TELEGRAPH TOWER

Built in 1809, this signalling tower was used to communicate vital information on the movement of French shipping with other Channel Islands during the Napoleonic Wars.

LAGER SYLT

During WWII, the local population had been evacuated and Alderney was occupied by German troops. They built four forced labour camps run by the Organization Todt including Lager Sylt which was later run by the SS for 15 months. Lager Sylt was the only German concentration camp on British soil. There is a plaque commemorating the labourers who died in Alderney on the gateposts.

9 Just before you reach Telegraph Tower turn left on to a grass track leading towards the cliff edge. This bends to the

right after a few hundred metres to follow the coastline again, running westwards.

The southern cliffs are home to a number of spectacular resident birds including peregrines, common buzzards and ravens. The cliff-tops are perhaps at their best during the spring flowering season, when migrant and resident birds compete over the swathes of yellow and pink flowers. In spring listen out for skylarks.

10 Follow this path around the next cliff-top valley, away from Telegraph Tower, and you will reach a bench at the top of the Telegraph Bay steps. **Do not attempt to go down to Telegraph Bay as the steps are now unsafe.**

TELEGRAPH BAY

This bay was once a popular retreat for locals and visitors alike. However, since the steps fell out of repair the beach, with its red tinged sands and spectacular cliffs, has been out of reach, except from the sea. The cliffs in the area are covered in yellow prostrate broom, which is nationally scarce, and the rare parasitical greater broom rape, which grows up to 30cm high.

11 Warning: This section of the path is very steep. As you approach the bench at the top of Telegraph Bay follow the path, bending to the right and take the second path on the left, marked with a white stone. This leads down into the peaceful Val des Trois Vaux. Continue towards the sea.

12 Make sure you enjoy the breathtaking views of the gannet colony on Les Etacs, before turning right up the extremely steep cliff, which will take you to the Giffoine headland. **The path here passes close to the cliff edge so please take care.**

LES ETACS

Les Etacs is home to 6,000 pairs of gannets between March and September.

GIFFOINE HEADLAND

From here you may be able to see our neighbouring islands. Far left is Jersey, then Sark with Brecqhou immediately to the right, then a very small Herm before the bigger outline

of Guernsey. To the right of Les Etacs, 7 miles distant, is Casquets Lighthouse, the furthest part of Alderney. Nearer and to the right is the second smaller gannetry of Ortac which has a further 2,500 pairs of birds. To the right is Burhou with its puffin, storm petrel and grey seal colonies.

13 To return to St Anne take the path that goes around the side of a large WWII gun emplacement. Keep the airport in front, and to your right, follow the track until it changes to a tarmac road and go straight on passing, on your left, the pig enclosures.

ALDERNEY PIGS

The Oxford Sandy and Black pigs are a rare traditional breed, noted for their excellent temperament and high quality meat.

14 Follow this road, turning right at the fork, passing the airport entrance and back into St Anne.





This walk takes in some spectacular coastal views of the islet of Burhou, and if you choose the longer walk, a Watermill. With some very steep inclines, it is not for those who have difficulty walking.

- 1 This 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 past the Coronation Inn on your left and the Museum on your right, along Le Huret and into Marais Square.
- 3 Turn right just before the Marais Hall Pub and walk up the hill, part of La Trigale's one way system.
- 4 Carry on up the hill walking past a cross roads with the turning to Allée des Fées on your right.
- 5 Continue along the road towards the airport.

6 Go past the airport entrance and Judge Barbenson's cattle trough, following the road as it curves around the blind bend, which rises then falls.

7 You will reach a junction and in front of you is a sign marked the Zig-Zag. Follow this track towards the sea.

8 Walk down the track and after about 50 metres, turn right. This takes you past an old brick well, which supplied Fort Tourgis.

9 Follow this winding track, heading down towards the sea.

THE GIFFOINE

The area of heathland around you, known as the Giffoine, is one of the best sites on the island to see the elusive Dartford warbler. The island of Burhou will come into view; home to puffins, storm petrels and many other species of seabird.

Fort Tourgis can be seen on your right with a white cone-shaped marine navigation day mark in front of it. The track will start

to zig-zag down the hill.

10 There is a walker's shelter halfway down on the left containing information on the area. From outside there are excellent views across Hannaine Bay to the south and Clonque Bay to the north.

11 At the bottom of the Zig-Zag turn right and carry on along the path, keeping Fort Clonque behind you and the sea to your left.

FORT CLONQUE (No Access)

Fort Clonque, built in 1855, is now owned by the Landmark Trust and can be rented as self-catering accommodation.

CLONQUE BAY

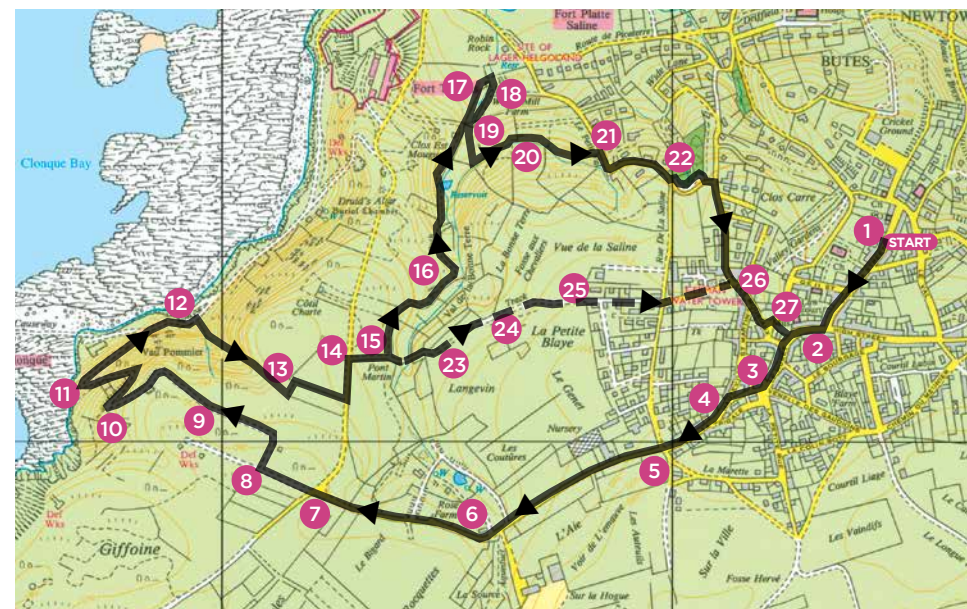
Clonque Bay is the heart of Alderney's Internationally Important Wetland (RAMSAR) site. It contains the largest area

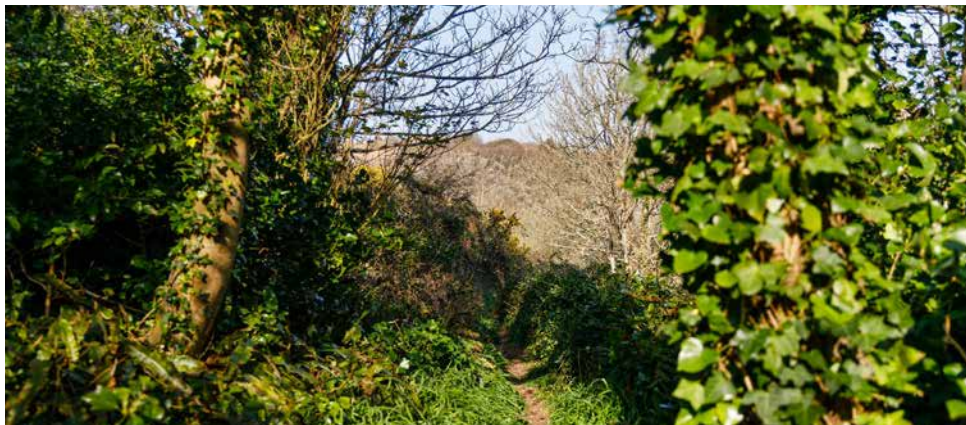
of inter-tidal rock on Alderney. The rockpools hold a vast array of fauna including starfish, brown velvet and spider crabs and, at the lowest tides, ormers. Wading birds include large numbers of little egrets, curlews, whimbrels and oystercatchers.

12 Walk along the track until you reach a white stone path marker below a rock formation. Turn right onto the steep 'Blue Bridge' path which leads up the valley and away from the sea.

Please be warned that this path can get very wet, but is a great place to spot the occasional visiting bird including short eared owls in the autumn.

13 Follow the narrow path up the valley until you reach a tarmac road where you need to turn left. Remember to look back at the view.





14 Walk down the road for only 20 metres until you see a stone on your right marked 'St Vignalis'. Turn onto the path which goes down into the Bonne Terre valley.

15 Where the path forks, choose to either bear left to the Watermill, and on to number **16** or take a shorter route back to St Anne and skip to number **23**

THE BONNE TERRE VALLEY

The Bonne Terre valley contains the largest number of greater tussock sedge found in the Channel Islands. These plants, up to 2 metres tall, are Britain's largest native grass. The secluded valley also has flowering hawthorn, native bluebells and is home to a diverse range of bees, damsel and dragonflies, as well as being a good place to spot butterflies.

16 Follow the path downhill and 'Watermill' signs. **Please be careful there are steep sections.** Approaching the end of this path you will need to cross the stream by either taking the

wooden bridge or by hopping from stone to stone.

17 At the end of the path follow the sign indicating 'Watermill'. With the hedge on your left, pass on your right a grassed over Mill pond that once supplied and controlled the flow of water to the Watermill.

WATERMILL

The earliest record of the Mill is from the 1200s. The present building is an authentic rebuild of the 1792 mill which has been lovingly restored by volunteers for everyone to enjoy.

18 Loop around the Watermill and go back to where you were at point 17 following the stream.

19 At the water treatment building, turn left, walking across the meadow towards the hill and follow the fence up the hill to a path.

20 Turn left and keep left, following the path to a wooded area.

21 When you reach the road, turn right up the steep hill for 150m and at the next left bend in the road, opposite a junction, you will see a gap in the wall to your left with a white stone. Take this path going down through 'Ladysmith' and then join the road again at the other end.

LADYSMITH

Ladysmith is one of Alderney's finest remaining Abrevoir Publiques (public watering place for livestock) and has the island's last remaining flagstone Lavoir (public washing place), which can become slightly lost in the overgrowth 20m down the valley from the main track.

22 Following the path through Ladysmith will return you to the road and shortly thereafter you will reach the German Water Tower. **Now go to number 26**

23 Continue up the hill with 'Pont Martin' on your right until you reach St Vignalis' Garden on your right, accessed through a wooden gate.

PONT MARTIN & ST VIGNALIS GARDEN

Pont Martin, which now just looks like a stone walled embankment, was originally the largest of three dams supplying the Watermill downstream.

St Vignalis Garden was originally a cattle trough but has been converted into a peaceful public garden in remembrance of St Vignalis.

24 Follow the wooded path up to a stile and leave the wooded area to go across the field towards the houses.

25 Exit the field through the gate and walk down Fosse aux Chevaliers and across the crossroads towards the German Water Tower.

WATER TOWER

Built in WWII as the headquarters for the Luftwaffe (German Air Force), the building, known locally as the 'Water Tower', has at its top a header tank to pressurise the post-war town water system. The tower dominates the skyline of St Anne and formed a vital link in the German coast-watching surveillance of occupied Europe.

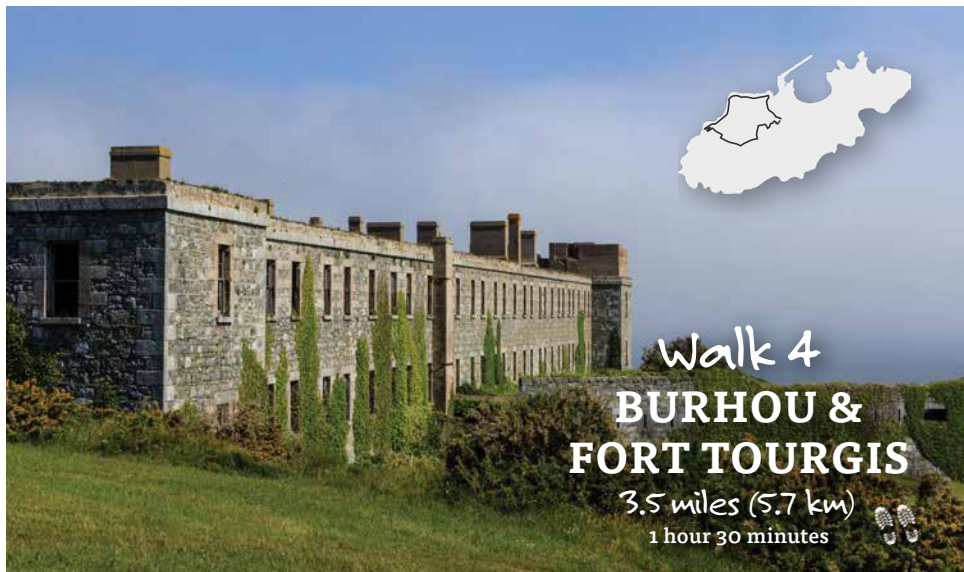
26 From the Water Tower follow the road around, passing the railings into Connaught Square, to the front of the Island Hall.

ISLAND HALL

The Island Hall was built in the 1760s by the Le Mesurier family as both their private residence and Government House. It was subsequently used for various purposes including a recreation centre for the German military during WWII and a community hall afterwards. It is now the island's government headquarters.

27 To the right of the Island Hall is a wooden gate into the old church yard. Here you can see the remains of the original town church and its Clock Tower. The path will lead you back onto High Street. Turn left on High Street and then left again back on to Victoria Street.





Walk 4 BURHOU & FORT TOURGIS

3.5 miles (5.7 km)
1 hour 30 minutes

This walk takes in some of the islands fascinating fortifications, migrant birds and spectacular views and will take around one-and-a-half hours. The terrain is quite gentle but can be challenging with some slopes and steep sections.

1 The walk starts at the Visitor Information Centre. Turn right up Victoria Street and take the first right through the grand, granite archway of the Prince Albert Memorial Gate into St Anne's Churchyard.

ST ANNE'S CHURCH

St Anne's Church, the largest and the only one with a 12 bell peal in the Channel Islands, was built in 1850 and was designed by the eminent Victorian architect Sir George Gilbert Scott.

2 Bear left around the church, past the main door and then out of the churchyard through a small wooden gate onto Church Street.

3 Turn left and follow the road up on to the cobbles of Royal Connaught Square.

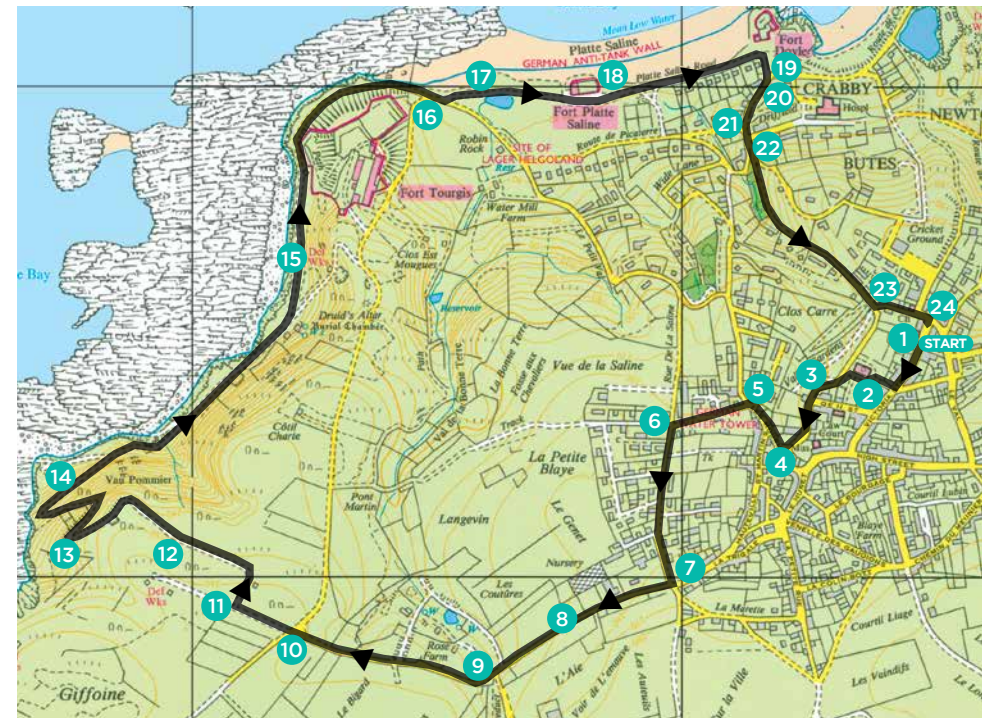
4 Walking around the Island Hall you leave the cobbles, passing the large 'Les Mouriaux House' (the former home of the island's Governors) on your left. Walk on towards the concrete tower of the WWII Luftwaffe HQ, which is known locally as the Water Tower.

5 At the Water Tower, turn left, following the old garden wall of 'Les Mouriaux House'.

6 Reaching the end of the road turn left onto Allée ès Fées. The houses in this area occupy the old field boundaries where many of the island's farms kept their livestock and grew their produce. You can still see one of the old stone-walled fields on your left as you pass the turning to Archies Row.

7 Continue up this road to the crossroads and turn right.

8 You are now on the airport road, Le Grand Val, and passing the old Brickfields site on your right, now a modern housing estate.



The poor quality clay found in this area produced coarse bricks used locally in pre-war building. Further down this road you can see an old brick chimney on the right which was part of a later brick kiln. In the field in front of the chimney, you may see a depression which marks the spot from which the clay used to construct the majority of artist Andy Goldworthy's 'Stones'; in 2011 was taken.

9 Around 300m down this road, you will pass the entrance to the airport and Judge Barbenson's cattle trough and fountain. The road bends hard right (be careful of the blind corner) before rising and falling as it passes Rose Farm to your right.

10 You will reach a junction and across the road in front of you is a sign marked the Zig-Zag. Follow this track.

11 Walk down the track and after about 50m at the signpost turn right towards Fort Clonque. You will see an old brick pump house in front of you.

12 Follow this winding track, heading down towards the sea. The path rises and falls and is somewhat rough, but should not prove difficult unless very wet. The island of Burhou will come into view. Fort Tourgis can then be seen on your right with a white cone-shaped marine navigation day mark in front of it.



13 The track will then start to zig-zag down the hillside. On the second turn of the path you will find a bench and nearby a small walker's shelter, which acts as a refuge in case of rain. Please note the entrance is very steep.

From the path over the top of the shelter you can see the offshore coastal stack of Les Etacs, which is home to 6,000 pairs of northern gannets. These amazing birds have a wingspan of nearly two metres and dive to catch food at speeds of over 60mph!

14 At the bottom of the zig-zag track head along the coastline with the Victorian fortress, Fort Clonque (a Landmark Trust owned property which can be rented as self-catering accommodation) behind you and continue along Clonque Bay. This is a wonderful place for rock-pooling at low tide.

BURHOU

To your left you look out across Alderney's Internationally Important Wetland (RAMSAR) site, to Burhou island. With the

largest population of puffins to be found in the English Channel and the only colony of storm petrels, the islet of Burhou is the heart of this unique wetland.

At low tide, Clonque Bay is the largest intertidal area on Alderney with over 180 different species of seaweed and many other interesting species of invertebrate including green ormer and numerous types of crab.

15 Continue along the coastal track passing the lower wall of Fort Tourgis on your right.

FORT TOURGIS

Completed in 1855, Fort Tourgis is the second largest of the Victorian forts. It was designed to mount 33 guns and accommodate 350 men. During WWII it became a powerful German defensive position.

ANDY GOLDSWORTHY 'STONES'

Inside the German artillery position along Clonque Road, just before you reach Fort Tourgis, you can see one of Andy



Goldsworthy's 'Stones': The British sculptor created a set of 11 giant 3 tonne 'stones' in 2011 around the island's coastline. Each one is filled with different material and objects. This 'stone' was the only one to be built on location as it was much too large to be taken into the bunker after it was created.

16 The coastal track turns into a tarmac road before meeting the main road. If you turn right at the road junction and go up the hill you will be able to enter the Fort's outer wall through a caponier, or further up, through a German passage leading under the wall and up into the original 19th century 'Cambridge Battery' above. You will find information boards throughout the site.

17 Here you bear left along the dirt track which parallels the shingle beach, Platte Saline.

18 A third of the way along this track you pass a ruined Victorian coastal battery, now the local gravel works, then the island's tennis courts on your right, before reaching a row of houses.

19 Continue to the end of these houses and with Fort Doyle in front of you, turn right up a cobbled lane to join the main road.

FORT DOYLE

Fort Doyle is the smallest Victorian fort. It was completed in 1854 to house four guns and 22 men. It defended Crabby Bay to the east and Platte Saline to the west. In WWII it had two anti-tank guns firing east and west. Open daily 10-4.

20 Turn right when you reach the main road. Take care as there is no footpath.

21 Just after the first corner bear left, heading uphill, back towards St Anne.

22 Follow the main road, heading uphill on the wooded La Vallée road, passing the log cabins on your right.

23 Towards the top of the hill you will find a water trough on your right. Just after this, turn left up the steeply cobbled road called Stoney Lane. This leads up past the attractive Methodist church which was opened in 1852.

24 At the top of the lane turn right on to Victoria Street.





A gentle walk around the historic centre of St Anne, enjoyed any time of the year. This walk takes in prominent public buildings and private residences, as well as the quaint old quarter.

1 Starting from the Visitor Information Centre, walk part-way up Victoria Street, as far as the Prince Albert Memorial Gate on your right; a striking entrance to St Anne's Church.

VICTORIA STREET

Victoria Street was originally a sandy lane called *Rue de Sablon* that ran from the oldest settlement of the town, *Le Bourgage*, down to *Braye Harbour*. A number of fine Georgian houses remain, such as *St Catherine's* (with a *Blue Plaque*, next to the *Alderney Wildlife Trust*). The street was renamed *Victoria Street* in 1854, after *Queen Victoria* who visited Alderney with *Prince Albert*. They took great interest in the construction of the harbour breakwater and the 18 forts and batteries.

2 Turn right, through the Prince Albert Memorial Gate into St Anne's churchyard.

ST ANNE'S CHURCH

The parish church of St Anne – the largest in the Channel Islands – was a gift from the Rev. John Le Mesurier, to the parishioners of Alderney. Consecrated in 1850, it was designed by the eminent Victorian architect Sir George Gilbert Scott and is built from local and imported Caen stone. The church houses a fine organ, beautiful windows and a peal of twelve bells in the tower.

3 Follow the path, opposite the main door of the church, up towards Queen Elizabeth II Street.

Just before the gate on your right there is the only British war grave on the island. Sapper G E Onions of the Royal Engineers was only 22 years old when he was killed during German mine clearance at the end of WWII. Over 30,000 mines were cleared before the evacuated population could return to the island in December 1945.

4 Once on Queen Elizabeth II Street you will see The Court House on the opposite side of the road.

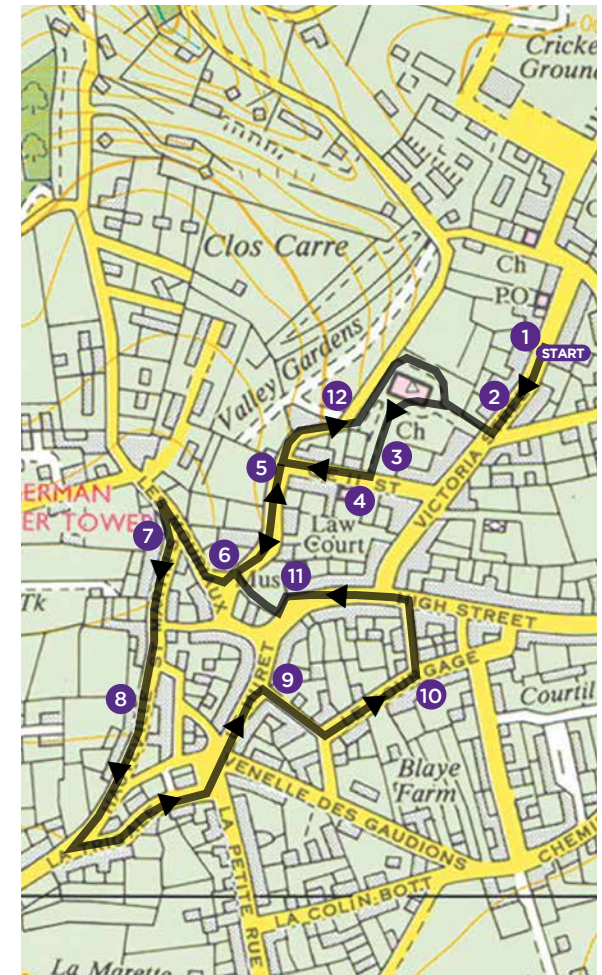
COURT HOUSE

The Court House was built in 1851 to house Alderney's Court and Gaol. The population at this time had increased with the influx of workmen needed for the construction of the Victorian fortifications. The 1861 census recorded a population of 4,932. Alderney's civil and criminal court still functions within the building. On the left of the main Court door, you can see a plaque commemorating the evacuation of the people of Alderney on the 23rd June 1940, only a few days before the arrival of the occupying German forces.

5 Continue walking to the right, passing the police station entrance on your left, to the end of the street and turn left. On your left you will pass the former Methodist Chapel, which is nowadays the Masonic Lodge. A little further along, on the right, you will see the Alderney Library, home to the Alderney Bayeux Tapestry 'Finale'.

ALDERNEY BAYEUX TAPESTRY

Alderney resident, Kate Russell had the idea of 'completing' the famous Bayeux Tapestry with a 3 metre long 'Alderney Finale'. Over 400 people contributed stitches, including King Charles and Queen Camilla.



6 Continue until you reach a cobbled area, known as The Royal Connaught Square, with Island Hall behind you.

ROYAL CONNAUGHT SQUARE

Originally known as *St Anne's Square*, the *Royal Connaught Square* is flanked by attractive buildings including the former *Vicarage* (left of the Square), and the former residence of *TH White*, a 20th century author (opposite the *Island Hall* entrance). The *Island Hall* was erected in 1765 by the *Le Mesurier* family who had held the *Governorship* of the Island from 1729. In 1887 the building was purchased by the *Sisters of Mercy* and it remained a convent until the 1950s. It now houses the administrative offices of the *States of Alderney*.

7 Follow the road that leads up the left side of the *Island Hall* for a short distance, after the first bend you will see *Les Mouriaux House* on your left.

LES MOURIAUX HOUSE

Built in 1779, it was the residence for the *Le Mesurier* family. At the time of its construction, the house stood within an estate which took in all the land to the north east.



8 Switch back to follow the cobbled lane along *St Martins*. Walk to the end of the cobbles and continue straight on through *Hauteville*, until you reach a junction.

Keep right and walk up to *La Trigale*. Turn sharply left to walk down towards *Marais Square*.

A cottage in *Hauteville* contains sandstone lintel brackets dating from the mid 1300s. Walking downhill towards *Marais Square* from *La Trigale*, you will pass a cottage on your right which retains a Norman arched stone doorway dating from around 1460. In *Marais Square* there is an 'abreuvoir public'



livestock drinking trough. Settlement occurred in this area due to the close proximity of good agricultural land at the *Blaye* (the flat land at the top of the island).

9 Turn left and follow the cobbled road, *Le Huret*, until you reach a turning on your right, opposite *St Anne's Guest House*. Walk up the short, cobbled lane.

You are walking through the original town settlement dating from the 12th to 13th century. Note the attractive cobbles with larger stone slabs on the right hand side, probably the original pavement.

10 Turn left at the top into *Le Bourgage*. Continue along until you reach a left turn. Follow the lane down to the junction. Turn left onto *High Street* and continue across the top of *Victoria Street*, towards the *Museum*.

ALDERNEY MUSEUM

John Le Mesurier, the island's then hereditary *Governor*, erected the building in 1790. It was the island's first school for boys; it is believed the girls were educated at *Les Mouriaux House*. It remained until the new school was built in the late 1960s

on *Braye Hill*. Today the building houses the award-winning *Alderney Society Museum*, packed with exhibits and artefacts from *Alderney's* fascinating past. Well worth a visit. Open April - October (by request at other times).

11 With the *Museum* on your right, go through the gate to the left of the old phone box and up the steps. With the *Clock Tower* on your right, follow the mosaic path (created by local organisations to mark the Millennium) through the old churchyard and to the steps at the other end.

CLOCK TOWER

Built in 1767, this is all that remains of the original church of *St Anne*. It still has the two original bells, which are heard daily, striking every quarter hour.

12 Walk down the steps and turn right. Retrace your steps, passing the entrance to *Queen Elizabeth II Street* and follow the road as it bends to the right. Enter the churchyard through a small gate and follow the tarmac path around the *Church* and up towards the *Prince Albert Memorial Gate*. Turn left and walk down *Victoria Street* to the *Visitor Information Centre*.



This short circular walk explores the heart of the island, with a wooded valley, and takes about one hour. Suitable for pushchairs but with some steep slopes.

- 1 Starting at the Visitor Information Centre, turn left and head down the street, then turn right at the T-junction.
- 2 Bear left to join Braye Road down to the harbour.
- 3 Approximately 80m down the road you approach a left hand bend, next to a seating area. Turn right off the tarmac and onto a dirt track which leads you down into the woodlands that fringe Le Val.
- 4 After 150m you reach a switch back in the track which leads you off to your left and down Water Lane.

WATER LANE

This wooded valley track used to be a main road up into St Anne but has fallen out of use over time. The mature sycamore and ash woodland surrounding you is some of

the densest on the island and is home to numerous resident birds including great tit, thrush and blackbird.

- 5 As you reach the bottom of Water Lane, you will see several large grey poplars to the right of the track, some of the largest trees left on Alderney. At the bottom of the track you come out onto Newtown Road.
- 6 Turn right and make your way through Newtown.
- 7 Having passed the Harbour Lights on your right, you come to a small one way road heading steeply up the valley known as Valongis. This is a steep climb on a narrow road and though traffic is infrequent care should be taken.
- 8 As you climb the road you will see an old Abreuvoir Public to your left-hand side.

ABREUVOIR PUBLICS

These historic watering places were vital for an island with large numbers of agricultural livestock and few surface

streams. This Abreuvoir Public has been incorporated onto the end of a large water storage tank. This was probably built to supply drinking water to the workers brought to Alderney to build the Victorian forts, many of whom camped in what is now Newtown.

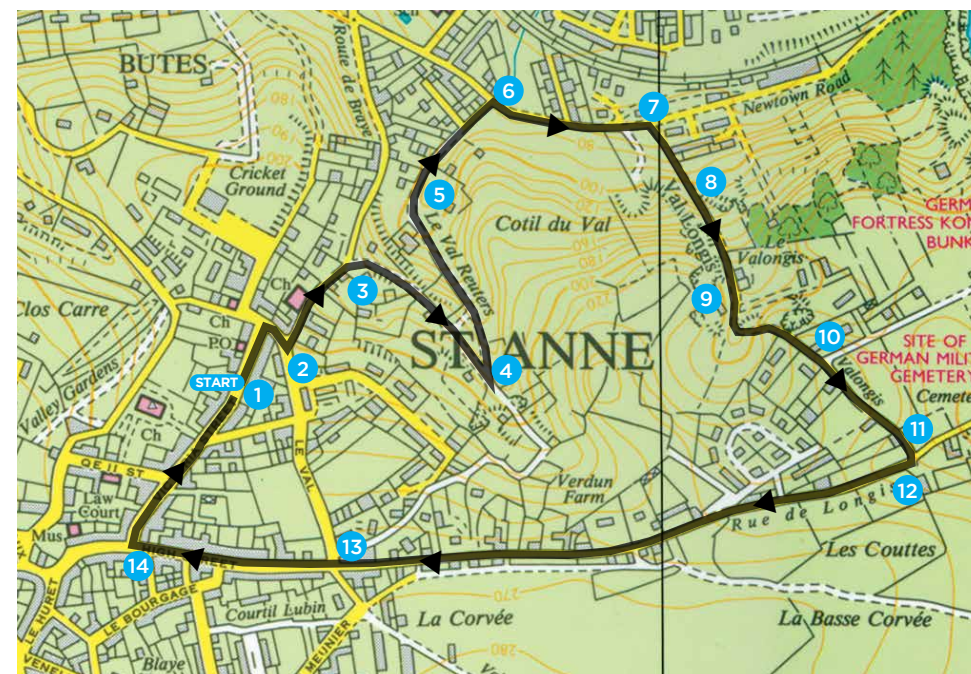
- 9 Continuing up the lane, on your right, is one of the medium-sized stone quarries that are dotted around the island. This quarry is now well wooded and provides excellent habitat for insects and other wildlife.
- 10 As you reach the brow of the hill you find Les Rochers track and the Alderney Community Woodland (Walk 7) to your left, with houses to your right.

- 11 Continue straight along until you reach a T-junction with the main road. To your left is the Strangers Cemetery.

STRANGERS CEMETERY

Up until the turn of the 19th century the Strangers Cemetery was the resting place for unidentified bodies washed ashore. A large granite headstone, which stood in the German war cemetery beyond, was placed here after the graves were removed.

- 12 Turn right onto the main road which has a reasonably good pavement on one side or the other for most of the way, and continue back towards St Anne.





WHITE HOUSE

Around 300m up the road you will see a large privately owned house set back and known locally as the 'White House'. This was originally a convalescent home and later the residence of the late John Arlott, who was many things - poet, author, wine connoisseur, but above all a cricket commentator and a much loved resident of Alderney.

13 Continuing along the road you will reach a crossroads which marks the end of Longis Road and the beginning of the old High Street of St Anne.

14 Cross onto the cobbled High Street and continue until you reach the first right hand turning which will take you onto Victoria Street.

HIGH STREET

As you walk down the High Street you may well notice the difference in appearance between the buildings that line the street. St Anne was, up until 1939, largely an agricultural settlement. Many of the original houses were farmhouses with a barn and yard, and most of these have now been redeveloped into residential dwellings.



Explore the heart of the island and the Alderney Community Woodland. With some steeper paths, that can sometimes be slightly muddy after rain, this walk should take around one hour and 40 minutes.

1 The trail starts in front of the Visitor Information Centre. Walk up Victoria Street and turn left at the top onto St Anne's original 'High Street'.

2 Continue until you come to the crossroads at the end of the cobbles and turn left.

3 Immediately on the right, less than 10m down the road, take the concealed grass track which leads between two houses. You are now on the upper reaches of Water Lane, a

narrow winding path - so please take care. This can often be wet in the winter months.

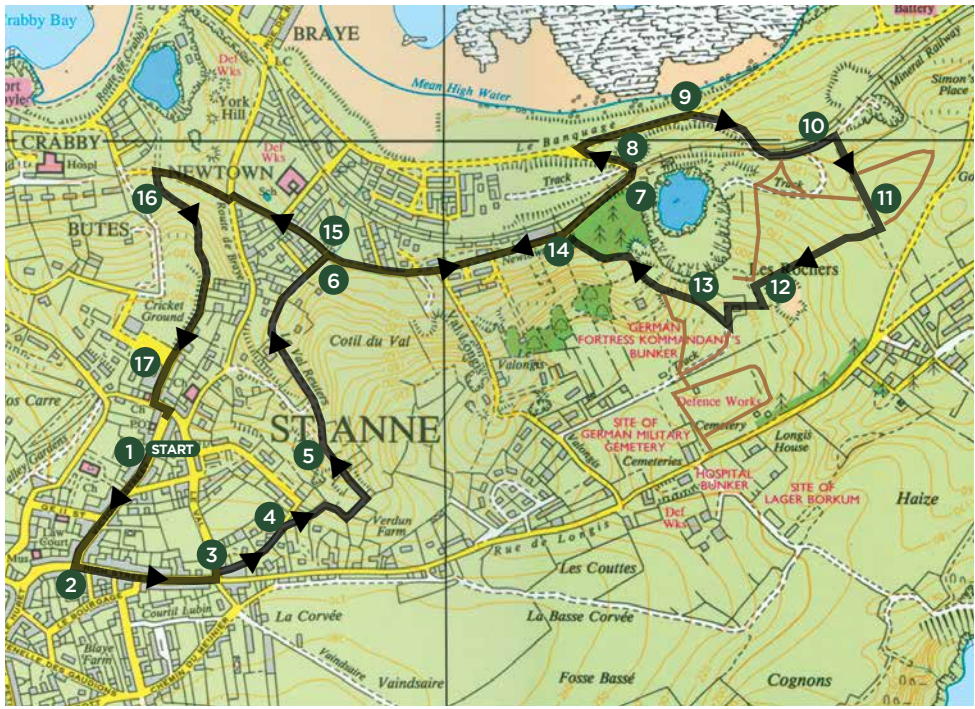
4 About 250m down on your left, you will see the remnants of an Abreuvoir Public. These public cattle troughs are found all around the island, as there were few streams accessible to livestock.

5 Halfway down the valley, the path widens as it connects with what used to be the main road into St Anne (Water Lane).

WATER LANE

The woods here are some of the most extensive left on Alderney and are predominantly sycamore and ash. They hide entrances to the two largest WWII German tunnel systems on the island. Now very unsafe





with no access, these systems run hundreds of metres into the eastern and western hillside and were used for storage and redoubts in case of heavy bombardment. Towards the bottom of the track you will also see several grey poplars. At well over 20 metres, they are some of the tallest trees on the island.



6 At the bottom of the track turn right on to Newtown Road and continue past Blanchard Building Merchants on your left.

7 Just after this, you will see the entrance to the Water Board's Battery Quarry ahead of you



BATTERY QUARRY
The quarry is Alderney's main

reservoir holding about 40 million gallons of water. It was dug from the hillside of Les Rochers between the 1840s and 1939. The material was removed from the quarry using an overhead hoist system.

8 Cross over the railway and when you reach the main road turn right. Use the main road, adjacent to Braye Common, rather than walking on the railway lines.

Please be aware that the railway is in use at weekends during the summer and other days during the year.

9 Follow the tarmac road for 200 metres until you see a dirt road on your right. Follow this and cross the railway line again.

10 Keep on the track for another 80m, and you will pass a drystone wall. Shortly after, on your right, is the entrance to the Alderney Community Woodland (ACW).

ALDERNEY COMMUNITY WOODLAND
ACW is the largest community woodland in the Channel Islands. Hundreds of volunteers have planted over 11,000 trees here. There are 12 covered boards which mark the route of a 'Community Woodland Trail' which you can choose to follow around this 19 hectare woodland (footpaths marked on the map opposite in brown).

11 Take the path uphill until you reach the golf course and turn right.

12 Follow this path, up though the trees passing a fenced transmitter mast, until you reach a large stone engraved with 'Milly's Wood'.

13 Turn right and follow the path down until you reach the main road.

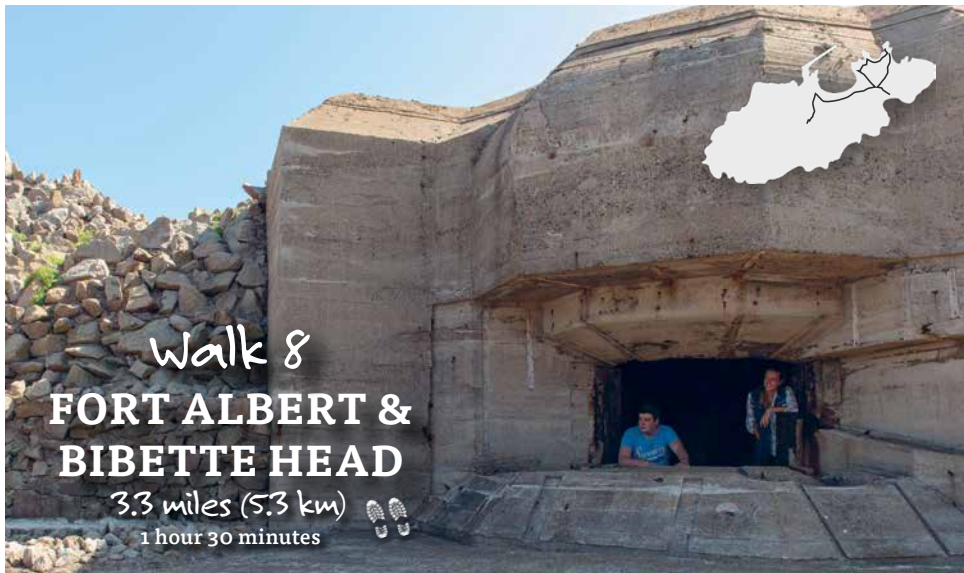
14 At the main road turn left and retrace your steps back along Newtown Road, passing the foot of Water Lane on your left and the island's school on your right, before emerging on Braye Road.

15 Cross straight over to pick up the unmade track in front of you. After a short distance, you will come to a junction with an uphill track. Take a sharp left turn opposite the Peace Garden.

16 Follow this track up the hill, passing the children's play area and skate park on your left, and you will see The Butes cricket field; one of the most spectacular settings for the game.

17 Walk straight on, past the Methodist Church on your right, turn left at the foot of the short hill, and then turn right to walk up Victoria Street to return to the Visitor Information Centre.





A walk that takes you past Alderney's largest Victorian fort and round a headland that has one of the best views on the island, to the well-preserved German Strongpoint and then on to the northernmost Victorian fort.

1 The walk starts at the Visitor Information Centre. Turn left down Victoria Street, right at the bottom and left down Braye Road towards the harbour.

2 At the train station turn right, cross the road and walk along Braye Common.

If the tide is low, you can see in Braye Bay the wreck of the German patrol vessel VP 703, a converted trawler originally named Henny Fricke. The vessel was driven ashore on 12 January 1943 during a storm and several attempts by the Germans to re-float her were unsuccessful.

3 At the end of the common, after a row of four benches, join the road and follow it up the hill, past the football pitch until you reach the shelter with a bench and map.

4 Turn left and walk up the hill towards Fort Albert. On your left you overlook the Victorian Mount Hale Battery and the Arsenal and Store Establishment. These were part of the Fort Albert complex.

Towards the top note the unusual enclosed rifle gallery which runs down the embankment on your left. This was intended to fire on attackers should the whole complex of the Arsenal and Store Establishment be overrun.

5 On reaching the bend at the top of the track enjoy the beautiful view over Braye Bay and Harbour. Take the path to the left. Below you is Roselle Battery.

ROSELLE BATTERY

The seven-gun Victorian Roselle Battery, was later converted to Batterie Marcks during WWII. It was then armed with four 10.5cm guns in concrete bunkers which guarded the entrance to the harbour. At the front, two British searchlight shelters and an octagonal machine gun pillbox were installed in the early 20th century.

6 Walk on round the track, passing steps down to the German fire-control bunker for the three-gun 17cm Batterie Elsass which was located inside the fort during WWII. After the bunker go up to have a look over the wall to see the ditch of Fort Albert.

7 Follow the path, dropping down to Bibette Head - the location of German Strongpoint *Biberkopf*, the best preserved example of its kind on the island.

BIBETTE HEAD

The strongpoint was heavily armed having a 10.5cm beach defence gun, a 7.5cm field gun, four anti-tank guns, an armoured machine gun

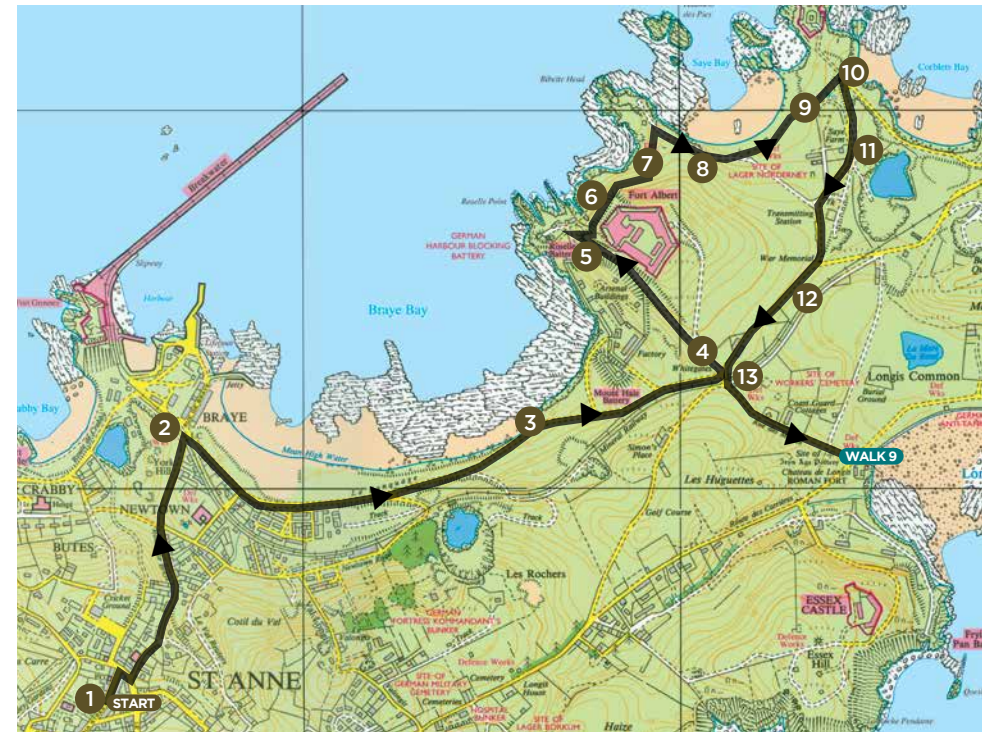
cupola, two mortars, a unique 60cm searchlight shelter plus numerous machine gun positions in Tobruk pits. You will find information boards throughout the site.

8 From Bibette Head follow the gravel road towards Saye Campsite, behind Saye Bay and go through the gate on the left.

9 Continue through Saye Campsite towards the arch tunnel.

LAGER NORDERNEY

This area was Lager Norderney, one of the four WWII German forced labour camps set up under the Organisation Todt (OT) in 1942, holding up to 1,500 workers.





10 Go through the tunnel, turn right up the path and then right onto the road.

FORT CHÂTEAU À L'ÉTOC

The Victorian period brought huge change to Alderney and its landscape. The British heavily fortified the island in response to the French extending their fortifications and harbour at Cherbourg. Fort Château à L'Étoc was completed in 1855. It was designed to mount 23 guns and accommodate 128 men. During WWII it was used by the Germans and re-named 'Flakbatterie Einsiedlerschloss' (Hermit's Castle).



11 Follow the road with the campsite on your right which will take you to the Hammond Memorial.

HAMMOND MEMORIAL

Alderney was occupied by the Germans during WWII. However, unlike the other islands the whole population was evacuated to the UK. Subsequently slave labour was used to construct the fortifications which you've seen during this walk and across the island. This memorial was built by local residents on their return to commemorate the many slave labourers who lost their lives on Alderney.



12 At the Memorial continue straight on the road until you reach the track on your right that leads to Fort Albert.

13 Follow the main road to return to St Anne or turn left towards the Roman Fort and join **Walk 9**, Longis Nature Reserve Trail.



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.

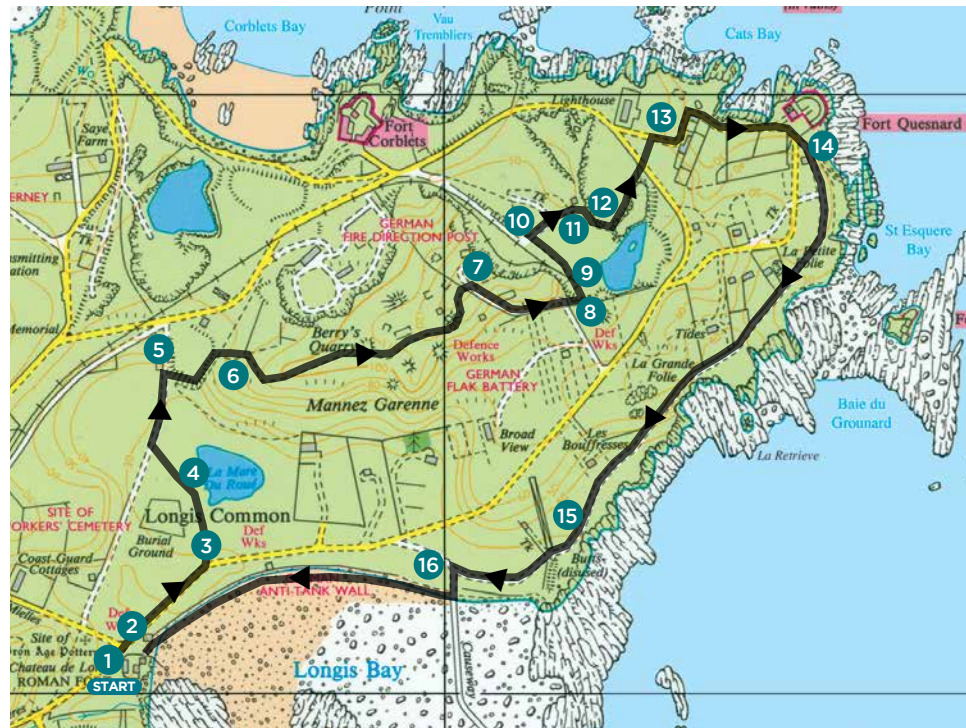
4 Follow the track across the Common walking away from the anti-tank wall. As you approach a stand of trees to your right you will find a bird hide, which is open to the public.

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.



This walk explores the farmland of La Grande Blaye and spectacular coastal views over France. The terrain is mostly gentle but the coastal path in some parts is steep and uneven.

1 Starting at the Visitor Information Centre, head up Victoria Street then turn left at the T-junction along High Street.

HIGH STREET

Up until 1939 St Anne was largely an agricultural settlement using an old farming system; the 'Open Field System'. This ancient way of farming created a large, enclosed field (La Grand Blaye) surrounding a farming village (St Anne) with all the farmhouses in the town. As you walk along High Street you will notice the difference in appearance between the buildings that line the street. Many of the larger houses were the farmhouses with an adjacent barn and yard - most of which have now been redeveloped into smaller residential dwellings.

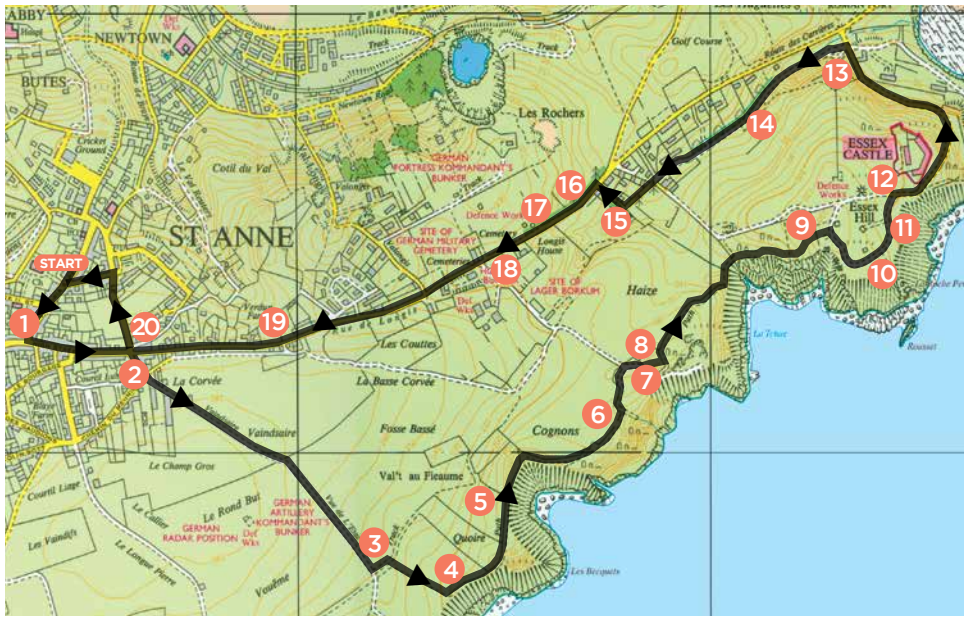
2 At the crossroads, turn right and follow the road straight into 'Tugby's Yard' an area known as La Corvée. Passing through the industrial buildings, you come to the fields of La Grande Blaye, the largest single field system in the Channel Islands. Continue, heading out to the cliffs

LA GRANDE BLAYE

From approximately 800AD up until WWII this open field area of the island was divided into numerous hand ploughed strips of land owned in family blocks. These many hundreds of strips were enclosed by a banked wall, the 'Costiere' or 'Blaye Wall' to keep livestock out on the cliffs during the summer crop growing season, and inside during the winter.

BATTERY BLÜCHER

On your left you can see a brick observation post, the only remains of the WWII German Army coastal artillery Battery Blücher. In August 1944 the battery was shelled by the guns of the British battleship HMS Rodney.



3 Follow this path to a T-junction. Turn left by a bench dedicated to Colin Ravilious, then soon after, right onto the path through fenced fields, towards the cliffs. You are walking along the old Coastal Road, originally a main road around the island which bounds the edge of La Grande Blaye's earth bank wall.

4 As you near the cliffs there is a sharp left turn.

5 Look in front of you and spot the square shaped rock sticking out of the cliff. This is locally known as 'the Hanging Rock'. One legend has it that Guernsye men tied a rope onto it and tried to pull Alderney back to Guernsey, but the rope broke! Its shape today is the result of the Germans blowing part of it up during WWII to enable a better view of the Race.

6 Continue on this path to the next steep valley where on your left-hand side you can see one of the best-preserved sections of the old Blaye Wall which surrounded the family owned strips of land.

7 Turn right when you reach the tarmac road which runs down to the island's waste management site known as the 'Impot', and then almost immediately left onto the path next to the gated entrance. The Impot is far from picturesque but highlights the issues any community, especially an island, faces in managing and reducing waste.

8 Ignoring a dead-end path to your right, continue left through to the next valley and at the next sharp bend take the narrow uneven path going right,

up through the gorse. You are now on the edge of 'Essex Hill', an area of heather and gorse and rich in wildlife. Occasional sightings of Dartford warblers are possible and peregrine, common buzzard and raven can be seen frequently in this area.

9 When you reach the white Coast Path Marker 14 continue straight on up the hill and then at marker 15 turn right.

10 As you follow this path you will see remains of the WWII German Flak Battery Wirbelberg.

FLAK BATTERY 'WIRBELBERG'
This WWII German Flak Battery, one of four on the island, was armed with six large 88mm anti-aircraft guns mounted on open emplacements. You can still see ammunition bunkers and hut bases, as well as machine gun and radar positions.

On a clear day, enjoy amazing views over France (Normandy, Cotentin). Landmarks that can be seen are: Goury Lighthouse (Cap de la Hague), the nuclear waste recycling centre (large building on top of the cliff, La Hague), Biville beach and Diélette Harbour.



11 As you round the top of the hill, the Victorian Forts Raz and Houmet Herbé further in the distance come into sight and then Essex Castle comes into view.

ESSEX CASTLE
Originally constructed during the Tudor period, but never fully completed, this fort was known as 'Les Murs de Haut' or 'Fort Hill'. The small iconic watch tower, locally known as 'The Pepper Pot' was added in the early 1800s. In the 1850s the site was reconstructed by the Victorians and known as 'Essex Barracks'. In 1869 the southern section of the barracks was converted to a military hospital. Today it is referred to as 'Essex Castle'.

12 At the Essex Castle information board turn right following the tarmac road around Essex Castle, admiring the views across Longis Bay and the Longis Nature Reserve.

13 At the bottom of the tarmac road, immediately after the stone pillars, turn left onto a grassy woodland path known as Barrack Masters Lane. Otherwise you can join **Walk 9** from the Roman Fort car park.

14 The wooded Barrack Masters Lane is a great place for birds such as chiffchaff. In the spring and autumn migration you may see flycatcher and hoopoe. During the winter you may see long-tail tits, goldcrest and thrushes. This is also one of the richest areas for the island's diverse bat population.



15 The lane turns into a tarmac road and bears right up to meet Longis Road. At the junction turn left, up back towards town.



16 After 120m on the right side of the road there is a memorial stone. This was erected in 1885 for Captain Edward Charles Lethbridge Walter who was stationed on Alderney with the Royal Irish Rifles. On the evening of 4 May 1885 he was driving his horse and trap with fellow Officer Lieutenant Orpen when the horse went out of control. Captain Walter was thrown from the trap and died at this spot.

17 Further up the road is a tall painted puffin sculpture, a popular spot for a photo!



18 A little further up, on the left, you will see a road and two concrete gateposts which were the entrance to the WWII German Labour Camp *Lager Borkum*, but which now form the entry to the island's Impot and Kiln Farm.

LAGER BORKUM

Lager Borkum was one of the four WWII German camps built on the island in January 1942 by the Organisation Todt (OT) for forced labourers. It housed mostly German personnel engaged by the OT, as well as specialist foreign workers and was the only camp to remain in use until the end of the occupation.

KILN FARM

Originally the site of a Victorian brick kiln and earlier windmill, the farm is the last remaining commercial farm on the island

and houses the island's slaughterhouse and dairy.

19 Continue up Longis Road, passing John Arlott's residence, with a Blue Plaque (see page 24, **Walk 6**)

20 At the crossroads turn right down 'Le Val' until you reach a left hand turning onto Ollivier Street which leads you back to Victoria Street and your starting point.





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Visit Alderney
States of Alderney
PO Box 1001
Alderney
Channel Islands
GY9 3AA

01481 822333
tourism@alderney.gov.gg

#LoveAlderney

