

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

*The headland to your right was one of the last areas to be used for tethered grazing, with bulls pegged out on the cliff away from the dairy herd.*

*The remnants of the Blaye Wall continue alongside the path until you reach the T-junction.*

11 Turn left and start out across the open Blaye along La Longue Pierre. As you continue along the path you pass over the highest point on the island, where the enclosure with the antenna is, a little over 290ft.

*The open fields of the Blaye are an ideal spot for seeing large flocks of migrant birds including wheatear, linnet 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 Breque, 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 farm yards developed to create the town that we know today.*

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



Barn Swallow



Southern Cliffs & Cachalière

## WALK 1

### Walk summary



This short walk along the stunning south cliffs takes in the natural history of the island with a hint of its agricultural and military history too. Spring and autumn are the best times to experience wildlife within the open fields, bluebell woods and cliff-top valleys as well as the migrant birds.

- Wear good boots
- Take binoculars, bird and flower guides
- Please take care when walking near the cliff edges
- Includes steep sections



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[www.visitalderney.com](http://www.visitalderney.com)  
[www.alderneywildlife.org](http://www.alderneywildlife.org)

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Cover image: Southern Cliffs*

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

There are lots of other Alderney walks and cycle routes to try. Why not pick up the leaflets from the visitor centre and discover more of Alderney on foot?

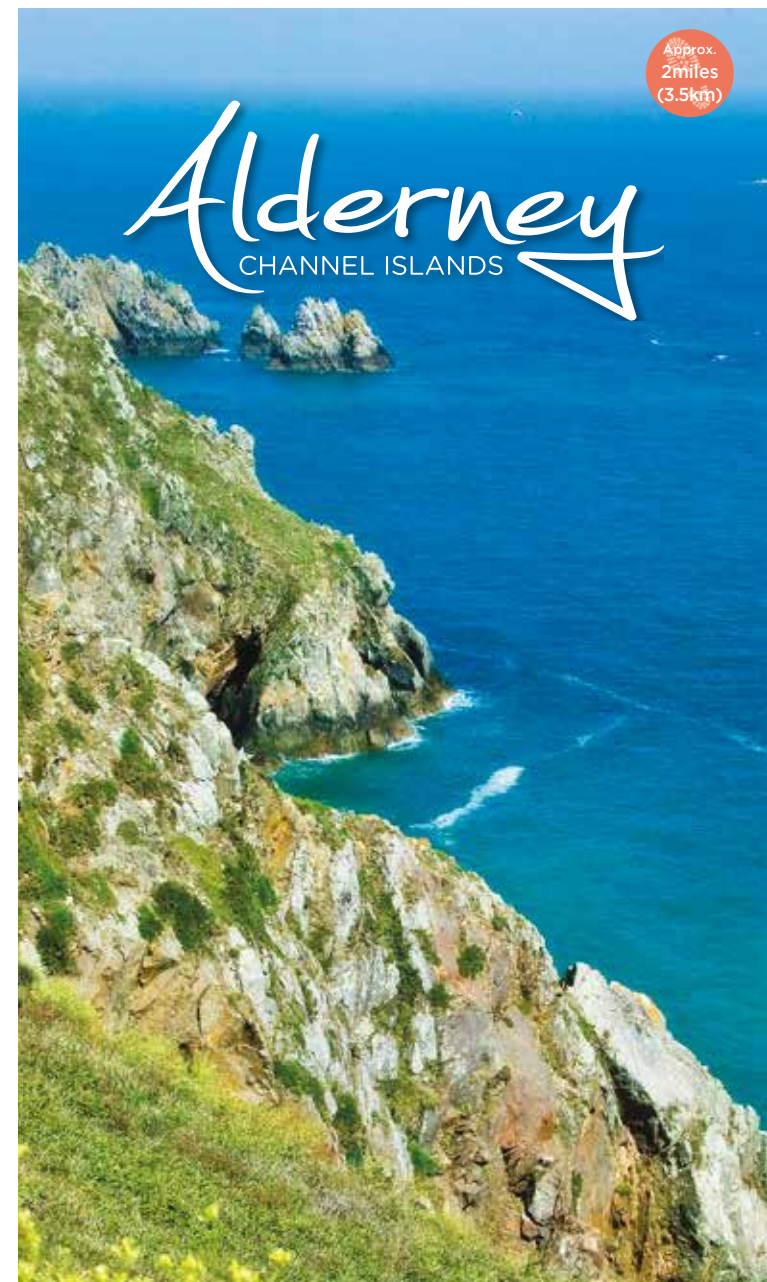


#Alderney

Share your walking memories and images with us on social media

## WALK 1

### Southern Cliffs & Wildlife Bunker



# Southern Cliffs and Wildlife Bunker

A short walk taking in Alderney's southern cliffs and farmland, ideal in spring and autumn.

- 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.

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

- 4 Turn left, then right, across the grass to some steps that lead down a path through the 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 worms.

- 5 Go down the steps and follow 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.



Val de Saou - Spring



Standing stone ©Neil Howard

- 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.

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.

- 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). This German Bunker was a Luftwaffe Dezimetergerat station, used for very high frequency radio communication with Guernsey, Jersey and France during the Second World War. The bunker is now known as the 'Wildlife Bunker' and contains information on the island's natural history. There is also a display on the island's military history provided by the Alderney Society. The bunker also provides a walker's shelter.

- 8 Rejoin the path that leads in front of the big cliff-top house 'Les Quatre Vents'.

- 9 Continue along the cliff, following the path down a steep hill through Le Vau de Fret. At the bottom of the hill is an old cattle trough and one of the last exposures of the old Blaye Wall. Be careful, it can be wet in the winter.

The Blaye Wall surrounded the island's main farming belt from approximately 800AD up until WWII. Most of this farming was carried out co-operatively within the community with individuals and families owning small strips of land with few 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.

