

6 Continuing eastwards, the path drops down to Bibette Head – the location of German Strongpoint *Biberkopf*, the best preserved example of its kind on the island. Over the last few years, volunteers have been clearing all the bunkers – often with 70 years of debris in them; there are 15 Interpretation Boards throughout. 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.



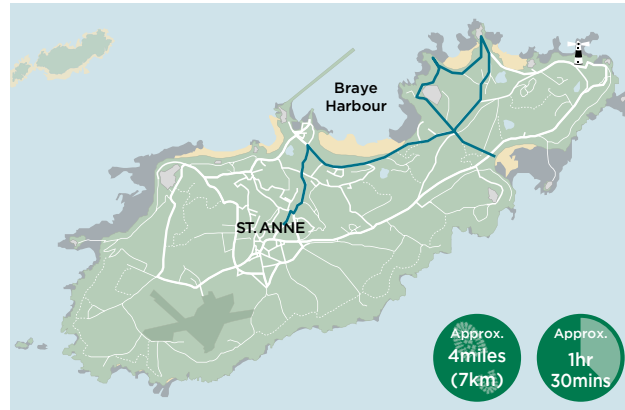
7 From Bibette Head follow the gravel road towards Saye Campsite, behind Saye Bay, for a hundred metres and go through the gate on the left.

8 Continue through Saye Campsite to the next headland which is occupied by Victorian Fort Château à L'Étoc – the most northerly fort. During WWII it was used by the Germans as a 20mm Flak battery and re-named *Flakbatterie Einsiedlerschloss* (Hermit's Castle).

9 To return, follow the tarmac road that takes you back past the campsite and uphill to the Hammond Memorial. Alderney was one of the Channel Islands 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 considerable 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. Continue until you reach the track on your right that leads to Fort Albert. Follow the main road to return to St Anne or turn left towards the Nunnery and join the Longis Nature Reserve Trail (Walk 6).



## Walk summary



A military history walk along Braze Bay, up to Fort Albert, the largest Victorian fort on the island, and round the headland to the German strongpoint at Bibette Head and on to Fort Château à L'Étoc. The walk joins the Longis Trail (Walk 6) at the Nunnery 9.

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



Alderney Visitor  
Information Centre  
Victoria Street

Tel +44 (0)1481 822333  
www.visitalderney.com  
www.alderneywildlife.org



#Alderney

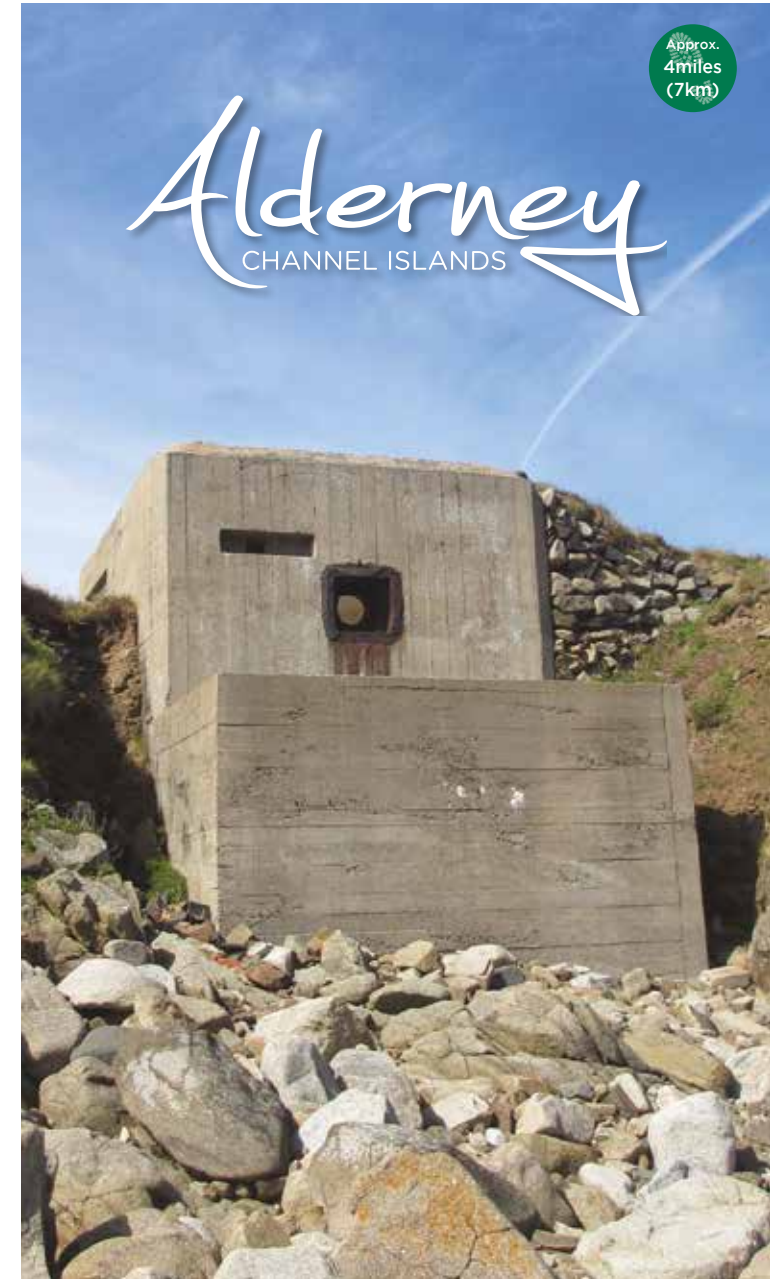
Share your walking memories and  
images with us on social media

*Photographic contributions and text copyright; images from Visit Alderney photo library and Trevor Davenport  
Cover image: German 4.7cm anti-tank gun bunker at Bibette Head*

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?

## Fort Albert and Bibette Head Trail





# Fort Albert and Bibette Head Trail

A walk that takes you past the largest Victorian fort and round a headland that has one of the best views on the island, to the best-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. Turn right and walk along Braye Common.

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



Wreck of VP 703 after the war

**3** Continue walking eastwards on the road past the football pitch until you reach Whitegates and the track up to Fort Albert. Turn left and walk up past the Victorian Mount Hale Battery and the Arsenal & Store Establishment which are overlooked on your left. These were part of the Fort Albert complex.

Note the unusual enclosed rifle gallery which was intended to fire on attackers should the whole complex of the Arsenal and Store Establishment be overrun.



Rifle gallery no. 1



Batterie Marcks and Roselle Battery

**4** On reaching the bend at the top of the track, you are at a site which has one of the best views on the island overlooking Braye Bay. Below is the site of the seven-gun Victorian Roselle Battery, 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.

Two British searchlight shelters installed in 1901 can be seen and behind them an early 20th century octagonal machine gun pillbox.



British machine gun pillbox



British searchlight shelter 1901



German 10.5cm gun bunker

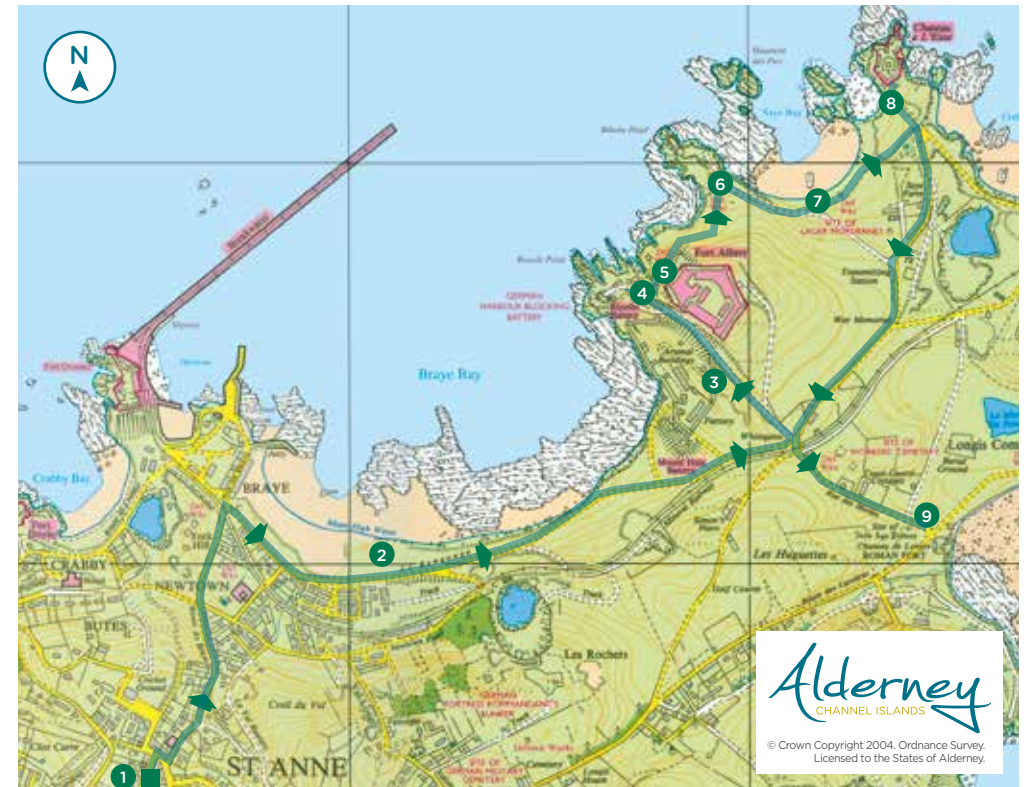
**5** Walking on round the track you pass the ditch of Fort Albert with caponiers on your right, and further on, to steps down to the German fire-control bunker for the three-gun 17cm *Batterie Elsass* which was located inside the fort during the war.



Caponier in Fort Albert ditch



German fire-control bunker



Alderney  
CHANNEL ISLANDS

© Crown Copyright 2004, Ordnance Survey, Licensed to the States of Alderney.