

# ICE AGE ISLAND WALKING GUIDE

## DISCOVER JERSEY'S ICE AGE COAST WITH THREE DEDICATED ICE AGE TRAILS.

- TRAIL 1 - THE HUNTING GROUNDS OF LA COTTE (OUAISNE TO ST AUBIN)
- TRAIL 2 - HUNTERS OF THE NORTHERN COAST (L'ETACQUEREL TO GROSNEZ)
- TRAIL 3 - THE FRENCH CONNECTION (GOREY TO FLIQUET)

Jersey has a long history of prehistoric human occupation stretching back at least 250,000 years into a period of earth's history called the Pleistocene. During the Pleistocene, Europe was subject to long periods of cold lasting tens of thousands of years punctuated by short warm periods with climates very similar to those today. When in the grip of the cold Ice Age, Jersey and its surrounding landscape looked very different from today. Sea levels dropped as the water was drawn into the growing polar ice caps and, what is now an independent island of approximately 45 square miles, would have been a rocky plateau in the middle of a vast coastal plain connected to neighbouring France.

This was a landscape dominated by grasslands that were ideal environments for large mammals such as Mammoths and Woolly Rhinos. Stone Age people could walk freely between Jersey and France following these mammals which provided an important food resource in the open landscapes of the Ice Age. The landmass of Jersey provided shelter, water and important raw materials for these hunters and their traces, discovered through archaeological research, are abundant on the Island.

Over the next three years, the Ice Age Island archaeological team will undertake extensive research into Jersey's Ice Age prehistory. This research will give insight into the life of Jersey's Stone Age hunter-gatherers and also the dramatic natural processes that formed the Island's stunning coastal landscapes during the past million years of climate and sea level change.

This walking guide is designed to introduce you to three distinctive parts of Jersey's Ice Age coast. It will reveal how the spectacular scenery of the modern coast was shaped by the forces of ice and sea during the Island's Ice Age past.

### ! Before you set off:

Visit the Ice Age Island website to view a video introduction to each Ice Age trail, including key facts, things to look out for on your travels and an explanation into why the Ice Age Island project is so important:

[WWW.JERSEYHERITAGE.ORG/ICEAGEISLAND](http://WWW.JERSEYHERITAGE.ORG/ICEAGEISLAND)

### ! Also be aware

Jersey's coastline can be dangerous. Take care to keep to footpaths and away from cliff edges. Please remember that Jersey's archaeological and scientific sites are protected by law and to interfere or damage them is an offence.

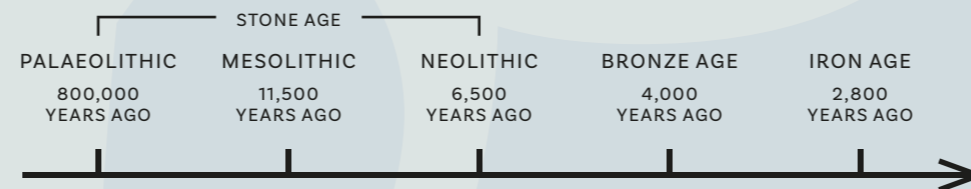


To find out more please visit

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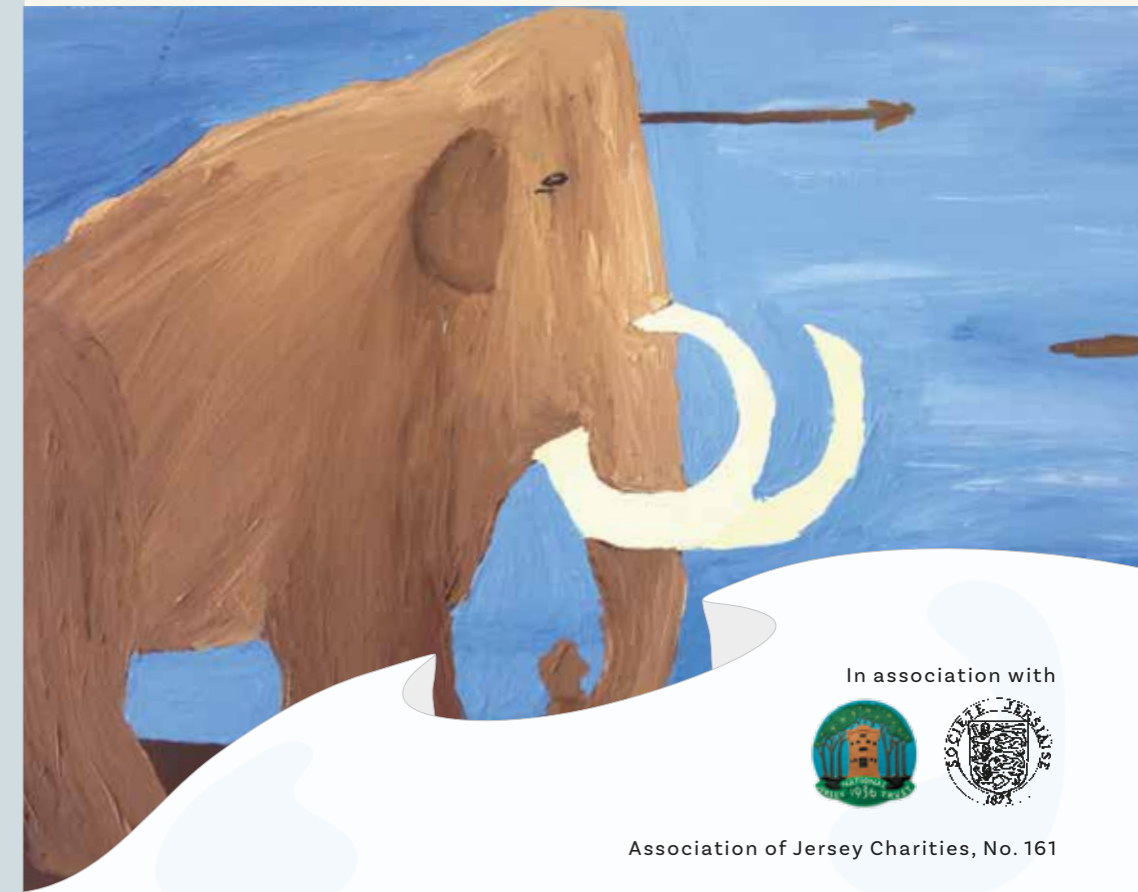
for a detailed video introduction to each Ice Age Trail and for more information on the Ice Age Island Project.

## TIMELINE OF PREHISTORIC ARCHAEOLOGY



# Walking Guide

DISCOVER JERSEY'S ICE AGE COAST



In association with



Association of Jersey Charities, No. 161

# 1

## THE HUNTING GROUNDS OF LA COTTE

Ouaisne to St Aubin

ESTIMATED 2 HOURS LONG



### LA COTTE DE ST BRELADE

Starting on Ouaisne Beach, the walk begins with a view of the towering ravine system of La Cotte de St Brelade, one of Europe's most significant early Stone Age sites. An ancient coastal ravine system, the deep deposits found within the cave have preserved a long unbroken record of human occupation from at least 238,000 until 40,000 years ago. From the beach, follow the cliff path up to the headland and around the coast towards Portelet Bay.



### PORTELET BAY RAISED BEACHES

Portelet's cliffs offer some of the best evidence for changing climatic conditions. At the bottom of the steps turn right to see the cliff face that shows many different deposits that document the dramatic changes in climate over more than 150,000 years. Look for the large rounded pebbles that show the position of the beach 120,000 years ago buried by sands of an ancient sand dune system.



### BELCROUTE RAISED BEACHES AND ST AUBIN'S BAY ARCTIC PEAT

The raised beaches of Belcroute and submerged arctic marshes of St Aubin's Bay reflect the richest examples of Stone Age landscapes which were occupied by Neanderthals.

# 2

## HUNTERS OF THE NORTHERN COAST

L'Etacquerel to Grosnez

ESTIMATED 1 HOUR LONG



### L'ETACQUEREL

Starting at L'Etacquerel and ascending to the high heathlands of Les Landes, enjoy the views across St Ouen's Bay that is backed by the ancient cliff line formed 120,000 years ago. Underneath the coastal plain and beach is preserved peat from the Neolithic period (6,000 years ago), a time when the forest extended out to what is now the ocean bed.



### CANAL DU SQUEZ

Passing the imposing granite stack of Le Pinnacle, you will find the Canal Du Squez. What is now a marshy land which you can cross by a bridge, is in fact the remains of an ancient stream that was in existence around 8-9,000 years ago and provided hunter gatherers with fresh water in their ever changing environment. Flint tools have been uncovered around the edges of the stream. The largest Mesolithic assemblage in the Channel Islands was discovered here in the early 1990s.



### THE GROSNEZ PLEMONT COAST

Walk further around the coast for views from Grosnez to Plemont - a coast rich in caves and ancient raised beaches.

# 3

## THE FRENCH CONNECTION

Gorey to Fliquet

ESTIMATED 1.5 TO 2 HOURS LONG



### PETIT PORTELET BEACH

The east coast provides a rich record of the submerged Ice Age landscapes around Jersey. Start your journey at Petit Portelet, which over 120,000 years ago was sheltered by the mass of Mont St Nicholas and the site of Gorey Castle, which looked out over an open landscape. It is this site which protects a deep sequence of cold stage geology preserving Neanderthal artefacts. Flint tools like those used by the Neanderthal hunters were found here in the early twentieth century and the shape of the landscape suggests the presence of an ancient, buried cliff line.



### ARCHIRONDEL TOWER VIEWS OF LA CRÊTE

Continue to Anne Port and on to Archirondele Tower. From here you have views of the ancient stack of La Crête.



### ST CATHERINE AND FLIQUET BAY

Stand at the head of St Catherine's pier and look north towards Fliquet Bay. Just in front of the tower lay ancient gulleys which preserve arctic peats containing remains of ancient pollen and insects.

These findings document how over 100,000 years this landscape changed dramatically from a cool, open land dominated by trees, to grasslands likely roamed by Mammoths; what's more, it documents the final moments of Jersey's connection with France.

KEY TO  
ICONS



BUS ROUTE



PARKING



TOILETS



RESTAURANT  
OR CAFÉ