

New signs explain historic sites

This summer, a new scheme begins, supported by the Tourism Development Fund, which will eventually provide improved information signs at 93 different heritage sites around the Island. The aim, as Doug Ford explains, is to improve visitors' understanding and enjoyment of Jersey's historic landscape.

THERE ARE FEW AREAS OF similar size anywhere in Europe that can rival Jersey for the quality and range of historic sites. The rich variety of places, areas and monuments are one of the Island's most precious cultural resources and lie at the core of its unique character and feel.

Over the past few centuries many of our historic sites have acquired an important role in helping to define the



La Hougue des Geonnais Dolmen in St Ouen.

image of Jersey. Pictures of our castles, harbours and dolmens have all been used to market the Island from as far back as the mid 19th century and continue to do so today. These familiar and often striking places are important to the people of Jersey because they contain a record of our spiritual,

Les Monts Grantez

This Neolithic passage grave was built around 6,000 years ago (c. 4000-3250 BC) and consists of a passage leading into an asymmetrical chamber with a single side chamber.

A mound covered the structure prior to excavations in 1912. Seven skeletons (six adults and a child) were found in the chamber, all were in a crouched position, lying on their sides and accompanied by limpet shells, bones of cattle, deer, horse, pig and goat and small piles of brightly coloured pebbles. An eighth skeleton was buried in a seated position in the passage. Other finds include a variety of pottery vessels, including a miniature cup and perforated shallow saucer, stone implements and a spindle whorl.

Ce dolmen à couloir néolithique date d'environ 6000 ans (vers 4000-3250 AJC). Il est constitué d'un couloir menant à une salle funéraire asymétrique (comportant une seule chambre latérale). Jusqu'aux fouilles de 1912 il était recouvert d'un tertre. On a retrouvé sept squelettes (six adultes et un enfant) dans la chambre funéraire, tous en position fœtale, et entourés de coquillages (chapeaux chinois), d'ossements d'animaux (chèbres, cochons, chevaux, bétail, daim) et de galets de couleur vive disposés en petites piles.

Un huitième squelette a été enterré en position assise dans le couloir. Les fouilles ont également révélé des fragments de poterie décorée, parmi lesquels une coupe miniature et une soucoupe, des outils en pierre et la noix d'une broche (focosa).

Supported by
Tourism Development Fund

One of the many information signs being designed for a variety of Jersey's heritage sites.



Les Monts Grantez Dolmen in St Ouen.



Dolmen de Mont Ubé in St Clement, one of a number of Neolithic passage graves in the Island.

maritime or military past. But sites such as La Cotte de St Brelade and La Hougue Bie are also of major international importance and they provide the keys to understanding vital chapters in human history.

Feedback we have received at Hougue Bie, the centre where we receive the greatest number of enquiries about the Island's archaeological and historic sites, has shown that many people who visit sites and monuments are dissatisfied. Their frustration is predominantly due to the lack of on-site interpretation, making it difficult for them to understand the history and significance of these places.

In response, the Jersey Heritage Trust decided to produce an island-wide scheme of signs which would help people learn more about the many sites and monuments that make up the historic landscape. It is hoped that this



From the slipway of South Pier.

will provide better value and an enhanced experience for visitors and help to create a stronger relationship between the local people and their cultural heritage. It also shows the JHT's commitment to caring for Jersey's heritage.

The new signs will be written, designed and produced by the JHT and while each one will be unique, it will be part of a recognisable, uniform approach across the Island to providing interesting, relevant information. A key objective will be to encourage visitors

to explore the site themselves.

The signs will be bi-lingual, in English and French, with a limited use of Jerriais where appropriate and some will include reconstruction drawings illustrating the historic appearance of the site. In general, visitors can expect to find information about when the site was in use, what it was used for, any special features and links with historical events. The excavation history will also be explained and information will be drawn from a range of sources including archaeological evidence,



Havre des Pas Bathing Pool.



The walkway from the bathing pool to the houses at Havre des Pas.



The single side chamber forming part of the Neolithic passage grave Les Monts Grantez.

historic archives and architectural detailing.

The new signs will be made in enamelled steel, which is an old fashioned but hardwearing material, and the installation will take place in two parts. The first phase, covering the Island's spiritual and maritime landscape, will be in place during 2005, with the second phase, for Jersey's military and defensive sites, will follow by Easter 2006.

The 93 sites included in the interpretative sign scheme are as follows:

PHASE ONE

The Maritime Landscape: La Rocque Harbour, Gorey Harbour, St Catherine's Breakwater, Rozel Harbour, Bonne Nuit Harbour, Bouley Bay Harbour, Grève de Lecq Harbour, St Brelade's Harbour, St Aubin's Harbour, Elizabeth Castle Breakwater and Harbour, South Pier, The Folie, Albert Quay, Victoria Pier, La Corbiere, Les Minquiers.

Shipbuilding sites: St Catherine's, Havre des Pas, First Tower, West Park, Les Runs à Cailfaitage.

The Spiritual Landscape: Ville es Nouaux, La Sergenté, Mont Grantez, Geonnais, Le Couperon, Faldouet, La Motte (Green Island), Mont Ubé, La Hougue Boëte, La Hougue Bie, The Blanche Banques grouping (the



Elizabeth Castle at full tide with the causeway covered. (Shelagh Quemard)

Ossuary, Tête de Quennevais, the Great Menhir, the Broken Menhir and the Little Menhir), Le Pinnacle, Centre Stone, Table des Marthes, Ile Agois St Mary, St Mary's Priory chapel, Maître Ile Les Ecrehous.

PHASE TWO

The Military Landscape: Grosnez Castle, St Aubin's Fort, L'Etacquerel Fort, Fort Leicester, Fort D'Auvergne, Prince William Redoubt, Fort Henry, La Tour Carrée, La Caumin à Mary Best, Fort Regent, Elizabeth Castle, Mont Orgueil, Le Câtel Fort, La Crete Fort/Guardhouse, La Couperon Guardhouse, La Coupe Guardhouse and Battery, La Couperon Barracks (Rozel), Plemont Guardhouse, Les Hurets Guardhouse (Petit Port), Guardhouse (Egypt), La Collette Barracks, South Hill Battery, La Voute Guardhouse, Grève de Lecq Barracks, Câtel de Lecq, Les Câtieux, Fremont Promontory Fort. Round/Martello Towers: Grève de Lecq Tower, Flicquet Tower, St Catherine's Tower, Archirondel Tower, Victoria Tower, Grouville 1-5 Towers, Platte Rocque Tower, Seymour Tower, Icho Tower,

Le Hocq Tower, La Collette Tower, First Tower, Third Tower (Beaumont), Noirmont Tower (Tour de Vinde), Portelet Tower, Ouaisné Tower, St Brelade's Tower, Le Rocco Tower, Kemp Tower, Lewis Tower.

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La Rocque Harbour at low tide.



Detail of the Victoria Pier at St Helier Harbour.