



#### La Pouquelaye de Faldouët P 04

Built around 6,000 years ago, the dolmen at La Pouquelaye de Faldouët consists of a 5 metre long passage leading into an unusual double chamber. At the entrance you will notice the remains of two dry stone walls and a ring of upright stones that were constructed around the dolmen.

Walk along the entrance passage and enter the spacious circular main chamber. It is unlikely that this was ever roofed because of its size and it is easy to imagine prehistoric people gathering here to worship and perform rituals.



#### La Hougue Bie N 04

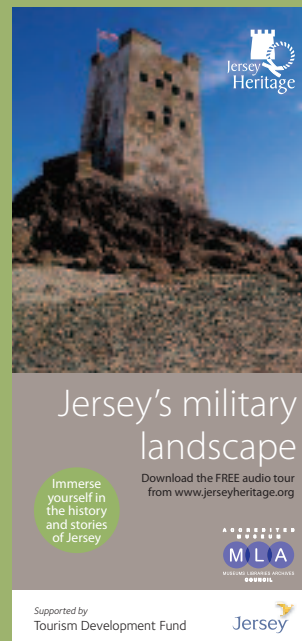
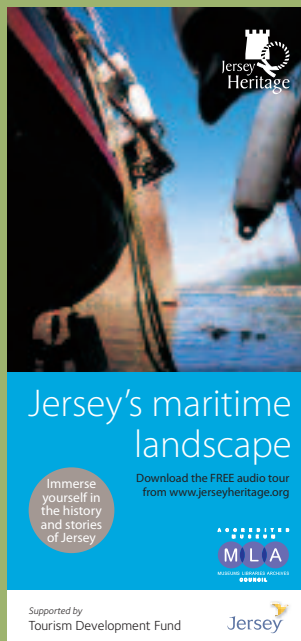
The 6,000-year-old burial site at La Hougue Bie is considered one of the largest and best preserved Neolithic passage graves in Europe. It stands under an impressive mound that is 12 metres high and 54 metres in diameter.



The chapel of Notre Dame de la Clarté on the summit of the mound was built in the 12th century, possibly replacing an older wooden structure.

In the 1990s, the original entrance to the passage was exposed during new excavations of the mound. This allowed confirmation of theories that the entrance of the tomb was aligned with sunrise on the equinox. Now twice a year, at the spring and autumn equinoxes, the first rays of sun penetrate to the very back of the tomb. So, as well as being a site of great spiritual significance, La Hougue Bie acted as a giant sundial that guided Neolithic people as to when to plant and harvest their crops. For early farmers, fertility and the annual regeneration of living things were crucial to their survival.

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For the earliest inhabitants of the Island, certain places had a special significance and these were often marked by erecting dolmens or standing stones to highlight the spiritual nature of the place. This guide and accompanying audio tour looks at the Island's spiritual heritage. Many of the places on this tour are owned by La Société Jersiaise and most are free to access.

#### Le Mont Ubé **M 05**

This impressive monument consists of a passage, 5 metres in length, leading into an oval chamber. Walk through the entrance passage and notice the sheer scale of the stone blocks from which the dolmen is constructed. Considerable skill, determination and teamwork would have been required to haul the blocks of stone up the hill and erect them in position.

To one side of the main chamber you will notice two large granite uprights. These are all that remain of the five original uprights that formed four small compartments at the western end of the chamber. Each of the compartments was closed at the front by a low slab.

#### Ville-ès-Nouaux **K 04**

In 1923, St Andrew's Church was built on a site adjacent to a Neolithic dolmen and an Iron Age cremation urnfield.

The earliest structure on this site is the long rectangular chamber in the

southern part of the enclosed area. This is a late Neolithic gallery grave and was built around 5,000 years ago. Two parallel walls of stone slabs were erected to create a rectangular chamber and these were covered with capstones, seven of which are still in place. The line of smaller stones to the north is all that remains of a wall that may have formed the edge of a mound that once covered the monument.

#### La Sergenté **F 05**

This passage grave was built around 6,500 years ago during the Neolithic period and is possibly the earliest dolmen in the Island. The word 'dolmen' is Breton in origin and means 'stone table'.

The Neolithic people that built this dolmen were the first to make a significant mark on the landscape. They cleared woodland to grow crops and graze their animals, and they also built these impressive stone monuments. The dolmens that have survived to the present day are only a fraction of the original number found



in the Island. Many were destroyed by later generations who used the stones for building. Place names like 'Hougue' (which means 'mound') and 'Pouquelaye' (or 'pouclée'), a Jersey word meaning 'stone(s) of the fairies', sometimes indicate the site of monuments that have been lost.

#### Les Blanches Banques **G 04**

Menhirs are single upright stones that are found over much of western Europe and are particularly common in Brittany. They are usually assumed to be ritual in purpose but we can only guess at what they symbolised.

#### The Great Menhir **G 04**

The most southerly of the three menhirs to be found on the dunes at Les Blanches Banques is The Great Menhir, which was re-erected in 1922 and stands just over 2 metres in height.

#### The Little Menhir **G 04**

This is the central of the three stones, standing 2.3 metres high (it's bigger than The Great Menhir), and was completely buried by sand before its excavation in 1921.

#### The Broken Menhir **G 04**

The most northerly stone is known as The Broken Menhir. As the name suggests, the stone was broken when first discovered, the top half lying flat on the sand while the bottom half stood in its original position.

#### The Ossuary **G 04**

A rectangular grave excavated in 1923 found to contain the disarticulated remains of about 20 people.

#### Les Monts Grantez **G 02**

The passage grave at Les Monts Grantez dates back to Neolithic times (between 4000 and 3250 BC). First discovered in 1839, it was excavated in 1912 by La Société Jersiaise.

The main chamber is oval in shape and is now open to the air. The capstones were lost from this area before the site was excavated. The skeletons of six adults and a child were discovered here. They were all in a crouched position, lying on their sides and accompanied by quantities of limpet shells, the teeth and bones of cattle, deer, horse, pig and goat and small piles of brightly coloured pebbles.

Another further skeleton of an adult was found in a seated position in a niche at the end of the entrance passage, propped up against the wall and kept in place by a heap of stones.

#### Le Pinnacle **F 01**

The site of Le Pinnacle is visually spectacular and takes its name from a massive stack of granite which rises out of the sea to dominate the surrounding landscape. This is a remarkable place that shows evidence

of occupation and ritual activity by Jersey's first farmers in the early Neolithic period (around 4,800 BC) through to the Bronze Age and continuing to the Roman period.

Large quantities of pottery, animal bone and stone tools have been discovered during excavations here. Among the tools found were a number of unfinished stone axes which suggests that this may have been an axe production centre. Examples of axes made from rock from this site have been found in Guernsey, Alderney and Sark.

#### Le Dolmen du Couperon **P 02**

The 8 metre long gallery grave at Le Couperon was built around 5,000 years ago. Originally, the tomb was covered by a long mound. This has been removed but much of the peristalith, or surrounding wall of stones, has survived to form a rectangular enclosure for the tomb.

When the site was first excavated in 1868 the capstones were found to have fallen into the chamber. These were lifted up and replaced as capstones, the dividing porthole stone along with them. In 1919 it was removed as a capstone and placed in its current position, but originally it would have stood half way along the gallery to divide the space in two.





