La Mèrquéthie d’l’Hethitage

PROSPECTUS | OCTOBER 2021

ASPIRING
JERSEY ISLAND
GEOPARK
Shaped by time and tide

PROSPECTUS | OCTOBER 2021
'The Bailiwick of Jersey – consisting of 120 sqkm of land and 2,455 sqkm of marine waters - is an ecosystem of interconnected habitats, species and processes. Biodiversity is the variety and diversity of life and species that exist within this ecosystem and is present everywhere in the Bailiwick – from the centre of Town out to the Island’s territorial limits. Geodiversity is the variety of geological, geomorphological and soil features, which play a fundamental role in sustaining biodiversity.'

Draft Bridging Island Plan
‘Jersey’s topography is varied and is typified by the geology that underlies the inland soils, forms the rocky headlands of the South West, the dramatic cliffs of the North coast, deep sided valleys and streams, gentler wooded edge, valleys, creeks to the North East, broad sandy bays, and offshore reefs and islands. In many cases these features are of local and international significance. The climatic conditions affecting and influencing soils of the Park have contributed to the diversity of plants and associated wildlife giving the landscape its visual hallmarks. All of these factors have helped shape the cultural landscape.’

Jersey National Park Management Plan
‘As the systematic study of islands continues to shed light on human-environment adaptation, it is becoming increasingly relevant to society. The study of islands communities, past and present, holds great potential for the future, in terms of understanding current societal concerns, environmental challenges, demographic movements, and the issues faced by small communities in a context of globalization.’

Helen Dawson, Affiliate Research Fellow, Freie Universität Berlin
‘Jersey’s geology is outstandingly varied, and complex. This is why there are so many geological SSI sites. It is possible to see some of the oldest rocks visible in the British Isles - dating from the Neoproterozoic period, approx. 640 million years ago - through to deposits laid down since the end of the last ice age, approx. 10,000 years ago.’

Jersey Integrated Landscape and Seascape Character Assessment (ILSCA)
‘Our planet is such a special place, enlivened by an incredible ecological richness of flora and fauna. But the accelerating loss of natural habitats and species means that biodiversity is on everyone’s lips. Yet underpinning biodiversity is its silent, hidden partner, geodiversity. The basis of every ecosystem is the non-living elements of nature, rocks, minerals, soils and landforms and topography; mountains, rivers, gorges and lakes. This geodiversity has its own intrinsic value worthy of protection. And it has an essential role for the human planet. It provides the building stones for our towns and cities. And it provides the materials for our energy resources, including renewable energy. So as well as underpinning biodiversity, geodiversity underpins human diversity. It’s the bedrock of our national and cultural identity. The foundations of Mother Earth, our common home.’

Professor Ian Stewart, UNESCO Chair in Geoscience and Society
‘Island destinations have been able to leverage their geographical features to attract visitors for outdoor activities...better use of Jersey’s natural assets could raise attractiveness and arrivals in shoulder seasons.’

Oxford Economics
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BACKGROUND

- In 2009, the Government of Jersey Statistics Unit carried out a ‘Survey on Heritage in Jersey’ which identified the natural environment and landscape character as Islanders’ top priority for heritage, suggesting a strong public recognition of the integrated relationship of natural and cultural heritage.

- In 2015, the 195 Member States of UNESCO ratified the creation of a new label, UNESCO Global Geoparks, to express governmental recognition of the importance of managing exceptional geological sites and outstanding landscapes in a holistic manner. In Jersey, the Société Jersiaise raised the designation as a potential opportunity for the Island.

- A 2015 report for the Tourism Development Fund made a key recommendation for the development of a Geopark to make the most of the emerging story of the Island’s ancient landscapes being revealed through the Ice Age Island project. These ancient landscapes have achieved significant international media coverage, including the discoveries relating to the only late Neanderthal remains in North West Europe at La Cotte de St Brelade and the earliest art in Britain at Les Varines, St Saviour.

- In 2017, with the endorsement of the Economic Development Department and in accordance with a Service Level Agreement with the Environment Department, Jersey Heritage registered interest with the UK Committee for UNESCO Global Geoparks. The 2020 Government Historic Environment Review by Arup acknowledged that an international designation could trigger benefits for heritage.

- In 2021, the British Geological Survey completed a Geodiversity Audit of Jersey, prompting the inclusion of geoheritage protection policies for the first time in the Island Plan. The Geopark project was included as a programme of the Heritage Strategy developed by the Government of Jersey in 2021.

- With the fallout from the Covid pandemic placing even greater emphasis on the significance of natural and cultural heritage, not only in the wellbeing of Islanders but in future prospects for tourism development, this prospectus outlines the opportunities for projects and partnerships deliverable under the Geopark framework for conservation, community engagement, economic development and identity.

- The prospectus draws on the Geodiversity Audit and reflects consultation and alignment with key stakeholders involved so far, including: Société Jersiaise; Jersey National Park; Ramsar Management Authority; Jersey Biodiversity Centre; Blue Marine Foundation; Young Archaeologists’ Club; Visit Jersey; Government of Jersey; and Jersey Heritage.

- The development of the framework for the Aspiring Geopark looks forward to the creation of International Geodiversity Day in 2022.

GEO-STOREY OF JERSEY: AN ISLAND SHAPED BY TIME AND TIDE

‘The oldest rocks within the Bailiwick are found on the offshore reefs, formed of foliated granodiorite from the Neoproterozoic period. At Les Maisons on Les Minquiers, these can be seen alternating with pegmatite, in layers which have been bent and twisted by extreme pressure. Outcrops of other igneous rocks of similar age with different mineral compositions which can also be seen on the reefs include quartz diorites and orthoquartzite. The rocks of the offshore reefs form excellent building stone, and Les Minquiers was quarried to construct Fort Regent.’

Jersey Integrated Landscape and Seascape Character Assessment (ILSCA)
Our Island was ‘born’ 587 million years ago. But the Island’s origins were nowhere near where we are now. In fact, Jersey’s place of birth was near the South Pole.

Today, Jersey is geologically stable. But 587 million years ago the area where Jersey was about to be born was the scene of intense geological activity. At this time, two of the Earth’s tectonic plates were colliding, one sliding – or subducting – under the other. The subducting plate formed a deep trench just offshore from a large continent. Rivers flowing off this continent create a huge fan of mud and sand that poured down into the depths of the trench. It is these underwater sediments cascading into the deep ocean that formed the first and oldest rocks of which Jersey is made — Jersey Shale Formation. Today you can find Jersey shale at places like L’Étacq, Waterworks Valley and St Aubin.

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By about 500 million years ago, all of the main rocks of our Island apart from the late forming northwest granite, were in place. But there was still no recognisable Jersey — just a jumble of rocks mixed up with many other rocks. At this point, Jersey disappeared from view, both literally and figuratively. Sea flooded the vast peneplain, left from the eroded down mountains, and sediments started to build up, eventually turning to rock. Over the next couple of hundred million years, those rock layers built up until Jersey was buried under five vertical kilometres of rock.

At this point, about 300 million years ago, a new active plate collision created major Earth movements known as the Variscan Orogeny which led to the formation of a new range of mountains extending from the west of Ireland to Germany and beyond. The processes of folding, metamorphism and plutonic intrusion all occurred, though the results are not known in Jersey. However, tectonic uplift of the mountains and their associated erosion over the 200 million years until around 200 years ago led to the creation of the Variscan or Armorican Peneplain. This vast plain of the eroded down remnants of the Variscan mountains henceforth played a vital role in the geological behaviour of the newly established continental platform seas and associated land areas. At long last one can turn to Jersey and the other Channel Islands and recognise in their distinctive plateau-like structure, remnants of the Armorican Peneplain.

Although Jersey was never covered by ice, the impact of the Ice Age has been profound. Over the last two million years, sea level has risen and fallen around 20 times as the great ice sheets waxed and waned. Every time the sea rose to reach the Island’s current shores, it eroded and reshaped the cliffs and bays.

It was into this world that the first humans — technically ‘hominids’ — appeared in northwest Europe. The Neanderthals then appeared some time after about 500,000 years ago and Jersey is incredibly fortunate in recording on and off around 200,000 years of their story notably in La Cotte de St Brelade. These hunter-gatherers could only be in Jersey at those times when sea level was low enough to allow land access. The first signs of modern humans in Jersey date to around 15,000 years ago. At this point, Jersey was still connected to Europe. The many sand dunes around the coasts of the Island are shown to have begun to form once sea level was high enough to have beaches that could provide a sand source. Over the past 7,000 years, archaeological investigations have shown that sand blow occurred through the whole time.

The Eemian (continental) or Ipswichian (British Isles) was the interglacial period, which began about 130,000 years ago at the end of the Penultimate Cold Stage and ended about 115,000 years ago at the beginning of the Last Cold Stage. From Belle Hougue Caves I and II on the Island’s North Coast, the Jersey Dwarf Deer of this interglacial is an important example of the ‘island dwarfing’ phenomenon. In the Pleistocene, the dwarfing of large mammals trapped on islands is not uncommon; it is more sustainable genetically to have a larger group of smaller animals than fewer larger ones. What is unusual in Jersey is the Dwarf is well dated and the full-sized ancestor is found in demonstrably older deposits on the Island, so a good estimate can be made for the duration of the isolation leading to dwarfing. The deer species on Jersey were reduced to one sixth of their body weight in less than 6,000 years.
Quaternary Period changes in sea level are demonstrated by a whole series of raised beaches, sea caves and wave-cut platforms occurring as high as 40 metres above present mean sea level. The different heights relate to the ups and downs of sea level caused by the alternation of cold and warm climatic stages in combination with a varying rate of land uplift caused by epeirogenic earth movements.

Loess is an important component of Jersey’s surface deposits and soils. It is a formation related to the cold stages of the Quaternary. During the Last Cold Stage, 115,000 years ago to 11,700 years ago, much loess was intermittently deposited during cold and dry periods. Loess is a silt-sized sediment that was created by the movement of the ice sheet to the north grinding down rock beneath to generate vast amounts of ‘rock flour’. This was dispersed by streams moving out from beneath the ice sheets. When the loess dried out, strong southerly directed winds – katabatic winds – picked it up and moved it across southern England and over the dry Channel to be deposited as the winds waned over the Normano-Breton Gulf and a wide band of northern France. Variable in thickness, in Jersey it is between 50 and 150 centimetres thick. From this raw silt the excellent Jersey soils are developed.

The loess provided the top soil for peoples inhabiting the Island at different times during the Last Cold Stage and particular mention can be made of the Magdalenian site of Les Varines where structured hearths and perhaps the earliest art in Britain has been excavated. In other places, loess and blown sand have provided the basis for habitation for Mesolithic, Neolithic and younger cultures. Peat outcrops in low lying areas within sand sequences or resting on bare rock have yielded rare human and animal footprints.

Magdalenian people lived at Les Varines approximately 14,000 to 15,000 years ago. By then, the sea level was rising as the great ice sheets had begun to melt returning their locked up water to the oceans. The climate shifted back and forth between different states for thousands of years and it is not until about 10,000 years ago that we have renewed evidence of humans in the Channel Islands. Jersey was still an island when people arrived because they had the use of boats. These people were the Mesolithic hunter-gatherers. The commonest remains relating to their presence are small flint tools which are locally abundant on the higher ground around the Island’s edges.

Next to arrive were the Neolithic peoples and they first came when the land that is Jersey today was just in the process of being cut off from the neighbouring Cotentin peninsula of Normandy at around 7,000 CE. The evidence proving the presence of these people shows a remarkable change from all earlier human cultures. For the first time, considerable stone structures were built – passage graves – with their distribution clearly indicative of a settled population cultivating the land, the very first Jersey farmers. And from then on, change accelerated with steadily gathering pace and brought about all the landscape changes we are so familiar with and, as we learn to our cost, not all of which are beneficial either locally or in a wider sense.

Humans have taken over from natural processes as the main geological agent of change. We have changed the Island’s shape by adding land through reclamation. We have built sea walls to halt the work of wind and wave in reshaping our coastline. We have dug out vast quantities of rock to fortify, farm and create homes. And that is without even considering what we have done to impact the unique and diverse habitats supporting the plant and animal life within our landscapes and seascapes.
It is the very geology of the Island that has shaped its distinctive character. The Island’s rich loess-laden soil has fed Islanders through abundant production of potatoes and apples. The granite has helped build the Island’s fortresses and castles to defend the Island’s strategic position, created farmsteads and homes for Islanders. The Island’s geology and climate have created the natural habitats for flora and fauna, including some species which are unique to the Island. Growing from this bedrock has come the Island’s distinct cultural identity, Jērīais language and Island life.

WHAT IS A GEOPARK?

UNESCO defines a Geopark as:

‘Global Geoparks are single, unified geographical areas where sites and landscapes of international geological significance are managed with a holistic concept of protection, education and sustainable development. A UNESCO Global Geopark uses its geological heritage, in connection with all other aspects of the area’s natural and cultural heritage, to enhance awareness and understanding of key issues facing society, such as using our Earth’s resources sustainably, mitigating the effects of climate change and reducing natural disasters-related risks. By raising awareness of the importance of the area’s geological heritage in history and society today, UNESCO Global Geoparks give local people a sense of pride in their region and strengthen their identification with the area. UNESCO Global Geoparks empower local communities and give them the opportunity to develop cohesive partnerships with the common goal of promoting the area’s significant geological processes, features, periods of time, historical themes linked to geology, or outstanding geological beauty. While a UNESCO Global Geopark must demonstrate geological heritage of international significance, the purpose of a UNESCO Global Geopark is to explore, develop and celebrate the links between that geological heritage and all other aspects of the area’s natural, cultural and intangible heritage. It is about reconnecting human society at all levels to the planet we all call home and to celebrate how our planet and its 4,600 million year long history has shaped every aspect of our lives and our societies’.

For Jersey, the intention is for the Geopark to extend across the Island and its territorial waters, including the offshore reefs.
The Earth has experienced a rich history of change over geological time, undergoing a wide range of climatic conditions and geological processes, which have given rise to the varied materials and landscapes that underpin our environment. The term ‘geodiversity’ is being increasingly used to identify and highlight the ‘natural range (diversity) of geological (rocks, minerals, fossils), geomorphological (land form, processes) and soil features. It includes their assemblages, relationships, properties, interpretations and systems’ (Gray, 2013).

Geodiversity plays a fundamental role in sustaining biodiversity (e.g. Crofts, 2019; Hjort et al., 2013), and in supporting society (e.g. Gray, 2019; Prosser et al., 2011). Whilst the term geodiversity typically refers to the diverse qualities of the Earth environment, the term Geoheritage is commonly used to reflect locations, or sites, of particular geological significance (Gray, 2013). Geoheritage sites may reflect important geoscience contexts for understanding Earth history (such as type examples of geological periods, processes, or materials), they may illustrate fundamental biotic and abiotic relationships, or they may exemplify economic, historical or archaeological associations between people and their environment.

Geoconservation refers to efforts to conserve geodiversity and geoheritage, and is typically framed in the context of ecological, educational, research, tourism and societal benefits.
WHY CONSERVE GEOLOGICAL FEATURES?

The importance of conserving geodiversity and geoheritage is being increasingly recognised, leading to local, national and international geoconservation efforts to identify, document and protect geoheritage sites, and to promote holistic approaches to environmental management that incorporate and embed the conservation of geodiversity.

The protection of geoheritage and geodiversity provides cultural and economic benefits to society, and is increasingly being recognised for its importance in conserving biodiversity (e.g. Crofts, 2019), enabling sustainable development (Schrodt et al. 2019) and ensuring resilience to climatic change. This protection is required due to ongoing threats to geodiversity, including the degradation and destruction of important geoheritage sites, over-exploitation of Earth resources, degradation and human modification of landforms and landscapes, and the impacts of climatic change (Gray, 2013).

The importance of conserving geological features for education and tourism is highlighted within the published guidelines for UNESCO Global Geoparks. The aspiration for Geoparks is to be bottom up and ‘community led to ensure that an area’s geological significance could be conserved and promoted for science, education and culture, in addition to being used as a sustainable economic asset such as through the development of responsible tourism’ (UNESCO).

On-the-ground geoconservation efforts typically reflect a diverse combination of actions undertaken by community and interest groups, management priorities and practices of land owners, and the planning and regulatory policies of local and national governments. Because the motivations of particular groups for investing in geoconservation may vary, the latter is particularly important for ensuring sustained and systematic efforts to conserve geoheritage and geodiversity.

Investment in the preservation of geoheritage is necessarily linked to the value of important geological sites for advancing geoscience, ecological and anthropological research, facilitating education and informing the general public, for example through geotourism. The value of geoheritage is both local, involving particular landscapes, ecosystems and communities, and global, in collectively representing the diversity of environments and processes that allow us to understand Earth functioning at the planetary scale.

This local to global perspective is reflected in the network of UNESCO Global Geoparks. The Geoparks represent designated areas where sites and landscapes of international geological significance are managed with a holistic concept of protection, education and sustainable development.
WHAT WOULD A GEOPARK DO FOR JERSEY?

Supporting Island identity in a global context

The distinction of a UNESCO Global Geopark label would bring international recognition to Jersey for the quality of its sites and landscapes of international geological significance. Through the programme, this dynamic would go beyond our territory through co-operation with international partners.

In 2020 UNESCO published The National Value of UNESCO Designations to the United Kingdom, introducing the report with the following:

‘At a time when multilateralism is frequently questioned and when national self-interest appears to be gaining ground at the expense of international cooperation, the work of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation assumes a particular relevance and importance.

Our statistical analysis of quantitative data, structured analysis of qualitative data from 76 designations, plus extensive secondary source research and in-depth interviews, reveals that UNESCO is of significant economic and broader value to the UK. The UK boasts a remarkable range of cultural and natural heritage and UNESCO designations play a crucial role in conserving and enhancing this rich diversity and, ultimately, creating a more humane world.

Our research also found the value of UNESCO designations to the UK goes far beyond their economic potential and that, given current political tendencies and social and environmental challenges, this intangible value is equally, if not more, important. No matter their type or focus, all UNESCO designations are united in their pursuit of promoting a better world. By joining the UNESCO family, they all agree to advance UNESCO's key mission of peace and sustainable development. It is the UNESCO status which provides the critical framework for their work. This research shows that their UNESCO status also encourages them to engage in these five main activities: conservation, research, education, capacity building, management and planning.

Bringing those aspirations back to a local context, the 2021 Summary of the interim findings of the Island Identity Policy Development Board reported:

‘There is a profound and almost universally-shared sense that what we have in Jersey is special and worth protecting, yet also a widespread feeling that something is being lost. How can Jersey change with the times, embrace diversity, remain a welcoming place for immigrants, and play its part in an increasingly interconnected (and homogenous) world, yet preserve and nurture its uniqueness? Big global issues such as the changing relationship between the UK and Europe post-Brexit, rapid technological advances, the global Covid pandemic, and the increasingly urgent need to avert or mitigate the impact of climate change will all likely result in changes to the way we associate, work and prioritise things. The way Jersey positions itself now will affect the way we respond to these challenges and opportunities.

Programmes with international partners and association with an internationally recognised brand of quality may play a positive part as we address some of those challenges.'
Supporting Island Outcomes

The Aspiring Geopark Project aims to support the Island Outcomes in the Jersey Performance Framework following the Future Jersey public consultation. There are ten high level Island Outcomes in the Jersey Performance Framework, three of which are core to the Aspiring Geopark:

- Jersey's unique natural environment is protected and conserved for future generations - Jersey's natural environment, countryside and coast, is a defining feature of the Island's attractiveness as a place to live, work and visit. Good stewardship means taking action to ensure the natural environment, so treasured by Islanders, is available for future generations to enjoy.

- Jersey's built and historic environment is valued and enjoyed - our historic environment helps define our Island. Its conservation and development play an important role in economic growth, tourism, sustainable development and regeneration.

- Islanders enjoy living in a vibrant and inclusive community - Jersey's future relies on people wanting to live in, or return to, the Island. An important factor influencing that choice is Jersey's attraction as a place where people and community matter, making it a great place to live, socialise, grow up and belong.

By making a significant contribution to these three Outcomes, the role played by the Aspiring Geopark then has an important economic dimension for the Island:

- Islanders benefit from a strong, sustainable economy and rewarding job opportunities - the prosperity of our Island, and the funding of the services on which we rely, depends on a sustainable, vibrant and inclusive economy, underpinned by a skilled local workforce to serve it. Heritage plays a significant part in tourism and associated employment.
Supporting Jersey’s Heritage Strategy

The Aspiring Geopark Project is an integral part of the Heritage Strategy in development in 2021. The Strategy is based around the Heritage Cycle, a virtuous circle in which heritage is continuously strengthened over time.

Within that strategic framework, the project seeks to foster the following themes:

Understanding the geodiversity of Jersey:
- Continuous discovery to improve understanding and protection of Jersey’s geological, natural and cultural heritage.
  - Mapping Jersey’s geodiversity and its relationship with natural and cultural heritage
  - Promoting research into geological heritage to grow knowledge
  - Co-operation with international partners to share and showcase knowledge of Jersey geoheritage

Valuing the geodiversity of Jersey:
- Protecting geoheritage assets to pass them on to future generations in better condition.
  - Policies for geoheritage as part of the heritage protection regime
  - Supporting Earth science education through schools and universities
  - Achieving UNESCO designation in recognition of Jersey’s significant geological, natural and cultural heritage

Caring for the geodiversity of Jersey:
- Every Islander has the opportunity to do their bit to pass on their cherished geological, natural and cultural inheritance.
  - Conservation management plans for key geoheritage assets
  - Training for local businesses to build capacity in heritage management and interpretation
  - Engaging local and regional Channel Island and French partners to co-ordinate management
  - Enjoying the geodiversity of Jersey: A wide and diverse audience can experience and understand the relevance of Jersey’s geoheritage
  - Safe access to and interpretation of key geoheritage assets
  - Promotion of geodiversity experiences to wide and inclusive audiences
  - Creation of digital assets for enjoyment of Jersey geodiversity locally and beyond our shores

Supporting the Island’s contribution to United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

A vital measure of the wider value of UNESCO designations is their contribution to the 2030 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The internationally agreed SDGs are a core priority for UNESCO and are integral to the organisation’s strategic delivery and reporting.

Through their ethos, strategy and programmes, Global Geoparks contribute towards achieving the SDGs.
The following table sets out how Geopark Actions support Island Outcomes, the Government of Jersey’s Heritage Strategy and make a contribution to United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

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<th>ISLAND OUTCOME</th>
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<td>Understanding</td>
<td>Grow and share knowledge</td>
<td>Improve our knowledge of the relationship between the Island’s geological, biological and cultural heritage through audit and documentation of our geodiversity including sites, archives and collections.</td>
<td>Action 1 - Continue to map Jersey’s landscape and geodiversity [SDG 4, 13]</td>
<td>Management decisions result from a full appreciation of the value of geoheritage</td>
<td>Jersey’s heritage environment is valued and enjoyed</td>
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<td>Extend international partnerships</td>
<td>Network with international partners to promote the Geopark and to improve understanding of shared and unique heritage stories to work towards better mutual understanding.</td>
<td>Action 2 - Cooperate with universities to research and understand the geological heritage of the Island [SDG 4, 13]</td>
<td>International expertise, funding and partnerships enhance our capacity and capability to manage our internationally significant geoheritage</td>
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<td>Improve protection</td>
<td>Establish best practice conservation policies, under Island’s heritage protection regime.</td>
<td>Action 3 - Create and animate a scientific committee [SDG 4, 13]</td>
<td>Island geoheritage is made more resilient and sustainable, risk is better managed</td>
<td>Jersey’s unique natural environment is protected and conserved for future generations</td>
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<td>Grow educational impact</td>
<td>Provide opportunities and resources for people to learn about the Island’s geological, biological and cultural heritage.</td>
<td>Action 4 - Participate in the UNESCO Global Geopark networks [SDG 17]</td>
<td>Geoheritage is of significant educational value to all in Jersey</td>
<td>All children in Jersey learn and achieve</td>
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<td>Develop UNESCO Global Geopark programme</td>
<td>UNESCO designation</td>
<td>Action 5 - Ensure protection of geosites [SDG 13, 14, 15]</td>
<td>Island geoheritage is made more resilient and sustainable, risk is better managed</td>
<td>Jersey’s unique natural environment is protected and conserved for future generations</td>
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<td>Action 6 - Design ‘formal’ geoheritage educational tools and content [SDG 4]</td>
<td>Geoheritage is of significant educational value to all in Jersey</td>
<td>All children in Jersey learn and achieve</td>
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<td>Action 7 - Design ‘informal’ geoheritage educational tools and content [SDG 4, 13, 17]</td>
<td>Geoheritage is of significant educational value to all in Jersey</td>
<td>All children in Jersey learn and achieve</td>
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<td>Action 8 - Encourage increased participation in geodiversity-related degrees [SDG 4, 13]</td>
<td>Geoheritage is of significant educational value to all in Jersey</td>
<td>All children in Jersey learn and achieve</td>
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<td>Action 9 - Work with UK Committee for UNESCO Global Geoparks towards application [SDG 17]</td>
<td>The significance and status of Jersey’s world class geoheritage is recognised by the residents, visitors and the international geoheritage community enhancing destination attraction and brand</td>
<td>Jersey’s heritage environment is valued and enjoyed</td>
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### HERITAGE CYCLE | HERITAGE STRATEGY | GEOPARK OBJECTIVES | GEOPARK ACTIONS | GEOPARK OUTCOME | ISLAND OUTCOME
--- | --- | --- | --- | --- | ---
Caring | Conservation of key heritage assets | Implement best practice approaches to geosite management strategies. | Action 10 - Support management of geosites [SDG 13, 14, 15, 17] | Jersey’s geoheritage supports a sense of place and distinctive local identity | Jersey’s unique natural environment is protected and conserved for future generations

Enjoying | Grow local collaboration | Community engagement in geoheritage through organisational partnerships and cooperation. | Action 11 - Connect and involve communities in their surrounding geodiversity [SDG 11, 17] | Organisations are better equipped to look after and make the most of geoheritage and maximise its benefit to society | Jersey’s unique natural environment is protected and conserved for future generations

Geopark theme: Geosite | Develop facilities at visitor sites | Interpret geodiversity for a range of audiences and communities, making geodiversity relevant to where we live and the places we visit. | Action 12 - Create a network of partners and ambassadors. [SDG 17] | People care more about what happens to heritage both locally and internationally | Islanders benefit from a strong, sustainable economy and rewarding job opportunities.

Geopark theme: Geosite | Ensure heritage is for everyone | Provide opportunities and resources for people to learn about the Island’s geological, biological and cultural heritage. | Action 13 - Develop geotourism products and offers. [SDG 8, 11, 12] Action 14 - Develop events focused on the Geopark [SDG 8, 11, 12] Action 15 - Evaluate and development Geopark [SDG 8, 11, 12] Action 16 - Develop site interpretation, including signage [SDG 4] Action 17 - Develop consistent and simple messages [SDG 4] | Geoheritage services are available to and equally used by all sections of Jersey’s population | Islanders benefit from healthy lifestyles

Geopark theme: Geosite | Improve digital access | Improve communication and marketing of geoheritage and the Geopark to showcase the brand. | Action 18 - Increase physical access to sites [SDG 1, 4, 5] | Jersey’s geoheritage stories are discoverable digitally by international audiences supporting Jersey’s reputation, identity and profile | Jersey’s heritage environment is valued and enjoyed

Geopark theme: Geosite | Improve digital access | Jersey’s geoheritage stories are discoverable digitally by international audiences supporting Jersey’s reputation, identity and profile | Action 19 - Increase digital access to sites [SDG 1, 4, 5] | Jersey’s heritage environment is valued and enjoyed |
**ACTION 1**
Continue to map Jersey’s landscape and geodiversity

Where we are now:
- British Geological Survey Jersey Geodiversity Audit completed.
- Island Landscape and Seascape Character Appraisal published.
- First aerial terrestrial LiDAR survey of Jersey collected 2020.

The results of this programme will be:
- Further survey work on underwater landscapes including sub-bottom profiling.
- Further survey work on inter-tidal drowned landscapes on the Violet Bank.
- Incorporation of geodiversity data into Historic Environment Record.

**ACTION 2**
Cooperate with universities to research and understand the geological heritage of the Island

Where we are now:
- Establishment of Ice Age Island programme with La Manche Prehistoric; a consortium of universities to research Quaternary geo-archaeology.

The results of this programme will be:
- Development of Geoheritage Research Framework with Geopark Scientific Committee (see Action 3).
- Funding for postgraduate research in Island geodiversity.
- Establishment, with Société Jersiaise, of annual geoheritage conference programme.
**ACTION 3**
Create and animate a scientific committee

Where we are now:

- Jersey Heritage has established academic advisory panels for an Archaeological Research Framework and for a History Research Framework and a Listing Advisory Panel for designation of cultural assets under the planning regime. There is no formal advisory body incorporating geological expertise.

The results of this programme will be:

- Establishment of an Aspiring Geopark Scientific Committee. The scientific committee will comprise experts from different disciplines serving as a link between the Geopark and academia as an advisory body to guide the Aspiring Geopark in its lines of research, providing knowledge and validating interpretive content.

Potential discipline areas include:

- Geography;
- Geology;
- Micropaleontology;
- Geoarchaeology;
- Archaeology;
- Biology, Zoology, Biological Anthropology; and
- Marine Biology.

**ACTION 4**
Participate in the UNESCO Global Geopark networks to share our experience internationally of geodiversity conservation and involve regional players in the management of the project

Where we are now:

- Participation in Open Meeting of UK Committee for UNESCO Global Geoparks (UKCUGG) since 2016.
- Presentation of project at European Geopark Network Conference 2019.
- Associate of USAC (UNESCO Sites Across the Channel) since 2020.

The results of this programme will be:

- Continued participation in UKCUGG.
- Continue USAC cooperation.
- Connect with the Islands Working Group in the Global Geopark Network (GGN).

**ACTION 5**
Ensure protection of geosites

Where we are now:

- The Island Plan provides a policy framework for the protection of abiotic, natural and cultural heritage assets.
- A designation programme completed in 2018 provides statutory protection for cultural heritage assets within the policy framework. The Heritage Strategy develops relevant approaches.
- The Biodiversity Strategy creates a framework for conservation of natural heritage assets.
- The Jersey Geodiversity Audit provides a comprehensive assessment of the geoheritage and geodiversity sites in Jersey.

The results of this programme will be:

- Through the audit, a further 11 sites have been proposed for consideration as geological SSIs.
- Nine second tier sites are identified for regional and local importance, and could be recognised as RIGs (Regionally Important Geological sites).
- The recognition of three Special Landscape Areas (SLAs), non-statutory designations that define local areas of high landscape importance, may also contribute to geconservation efforts.
- Ensuring the series of high-level Prehistoric Landscape Zones (PLZ) are properly defined and will be added to the Historic Environment Record.
- Mapping vulnerability of geosites to climate change.
Valuing | nou chiéthit

ACTION 6
Design ‘formal’ geoheritage educational tools and content

Where we are now:

- Earth Science education poorly developed beyond schools and as part of informal learning through heritage organisations.
- Landscape Learning Days were held for over 150 primary school students in partnership with the Jersey National Park at the Frances Le Sueur Centre during June 2021.

The results of this programme will be:

- Creating an advisory network of educationalists.
- Collaboration with Education Department on Earth Science education programme.
- Creating educational tools and resources for teachers.
- Incorporation of Earth Science topics in heritage organisations’ schools programmes.
- Interactive and hands-on Science Weeks for schoolchildren.
ACTION 7
Design ‘informal’ geoheritage educational tools and content

Where we are now:

• Jèrriais language plan developed, Jèrriais service in progress including informal weekly chat sessions.

Guide training -

• Visit Jersey fund local training for the Blue Badge qualification. Guides with a Blue Badge qualification have undergone an intensive training programme in both core Island knowledge and practical guiding skills.

• Visit Jersey operate a training programme for people meeting visitors face-to-face, from taxi and coach drivers to site and general guides, known as the Bronze Award. Holders have attended a six-week programme of evening classes and days in the field and passed a knowledge test.

• Jersey Uncovered Blue Badge tourist guides offer tailor-made and scheduled tours on every aspect of Jersey from the Palaeolithic to the present day including Jersey’s geological heritage.

The results of this programme will be:

• Developing learning about Jersey’s intangible heritage, including Jèrriais.

• Collaboration with existing guide training programmes and organisations to include geoheritage content.

ACTION 8
Encourage increased participation in geodiversity-related degrees and support dissertations aligned with the Geoheritage Research Framework

Where we are now:

• Collating data on current local student participation in relevant further education.

The results of this programme will be:

• Partnership with Jersey International Centre for Advanced Studies to establish University of Exeter accredited Masters courses in Island Studies including ‘Island Biodiversity and Conservation’, ‘Islands and Climate Change’ and ‘Island History and Archaeology’.

• Promote the Island as a centre for fieldwork study opportunities.

ACTION 9
Work with UK Committee for UNESCO Global Geoparks towards application

• See ‘Next Steps’ below.

ACTION 10
Support management of geosites through guidance and support to owners

Where we are now:

• Conservation Management Plans (including conservation plans and conservation statements) are in place for many cultural and natural heritage sites, see APPENDIX 1.

The results of this programme will be:

• A comprehensive review and update of Conservation Management Plans for all geosites, see the list of some potential geosites in APPENDIX 2.
ASPIRING JERSEY ISLAND GEOPARK

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**ACTION 11**
Connect and involve communities in their surrounding geodiversity (including museum collections) in simple, accessible and innovative ways

*Where we are now:*
- Jersey’s Parish system provides a strong framework for community participation in heritage activities.

*The results of this programme will be:*
- Collaboration with Parish officials to explore and identify local community aspirations for geosites.
- Work with Jersey Community Funders to resource community scientific and cultural projects around Geopark themes, providing local communities with technical assistance to develop projects and promotion of their geosites.

**ACTION 12**
Create a network of partners and ambassadors

*Where we are now:*
- First set of Ambassadors ‘Geopark Gardiens’ and Activity Partners were created to showcase in the Aspiring Geopark Visitor Centre.

*The results of this programme will be:*
- Development of charter for partners and ambassador schemes.
- Extension of partner and ambassador network.
ACTION 13

Develop geotourism products and offers, especially experience products

Where we are now:
- Scheduling a gap analysis of existing geotourism experience products.

The results of this programme will be:
- Development programme for geotourism experience products.

ACTION 14

Develop events focused on the Geopark

Where we are now:
- Scheduling a gap analysis of existing events in Jersey and other Channel Islands.
- Establishment of Jersey Deep Time Walk.

The results of this programme will be:
- Development programme for events.

ACTION 15

Evaluation and development

Where we are now:
- Scheduling a gap analysis of existing visitor sites in Jersey and other Channel Islands.

The results of this programme will be:
- Regular visitor surveys of geosites.
- Develop a better understanding of demographics engaging with geoheritage.
Where we are now:
- Aspiring Geopark Visitor Centre opened at Jersey Museum & Art Gallery in 2021
- Analysis of existing Island signage completed, see APPENDIX 3.
- Producing a schedule and analysis of relevant publications.

The results of this programme will be:
- Continue to develop the Visitor Centre.
- Introduce harmonised and coherent signage scheme.
- Development of publication programme.
- Develop an Interpretation Framework.

ACTION 16
Develop site interpretation, including signage

ACTION 17
Develop consistent and simple messages that support the wider recognition of geodiversity and develop initiatives that promote geodiversity by implementing a communication plan

Where we are now:
- Logo with animation and introductory brand guidelines established.

The results of this programme will be:
- Commission Aspiring Geopark Marketing Strategy in partnership with Visit Jersey.
- Develop brand guidelines.

ACTION 18
Increase physical access to sites so more people can experience and understand geodiversity

Where we are now:
- Analysing geosite access issues using Access to the Countryside Map.

The results of this programme will be:

ACTION 19
Increase digital access to sites so more people can experience and understand geodiversity

Where we are now:
- Pilot ground-based LiDAR model of La Cotte de St Brelade.
- Experimenting with moving visitor traffic online using QR codes in the Visitor Centre.

The results of this programme will be:
- Development of digital signage as part of Action 15.
- Producing access to sites through digital platforms promoting geodiversity through multiple languages, including Jèrriais.
- Develop digital media to provide access to inaccessible sites and views e.g. La Cotte de St Brelade or Belle Hougue Caves I and II.
- Develop and migrate the Geopark’s website onto an independent Uniform Resource Locator (URL).
- Establish a social media following: Twitter: @jerseygeopark Instagram: @jerseyislandgeopark
ASPIRING JERSEY ISLAND GEOPARK

#LandscapeLanguage
Social Media Campaign launched in autumn 2020.
pier or căuchie in Jèrriais
CURRENT STATUS OF JERSEY ISLAND GEOPARK’S APPLICATION AND ACTIVITY

- Aspiring UNESCO Global Geopark (aUGGp) with interest registered with UK Committee for UNESCO Global Geoparks.
- Visit by Chair of UK Committee and presentation to local stakeholders on Geopark.
- Since 2016, attendance and presentation of project to the annual meeting of UK Committee.
- Jersey Heritage representative attending quarterly meetings of the Jersey Access Services Panel (JASP) chaired by Environment Department since October 2017.
- Appointed Landscape Engagement & Geopark Development Curator in July 2020.
- Appointed Charlotte Besombes as consultant for development of application documentation.
- Workshops held with local stakeholders towards development of management plan.
- Networking with local business owners towards development of partnership agreements.
- Completion of Geodiversity Audit for Jersey Island Geopark by Jersey Biodiversity Department since October 2017.
- Spring 2021: Stage 1 of the Island-wide Pollinator Project led by the Jersey Biodiversity Centre and Environment Department since October 2020.
- Appointed local agency, TPA, as consultant for development of the branding for Jersey Island Geopark.
- Local creatives (illustrator, photographers, filmmakers and designers) commissioned to develop content for the Aspiring Jersey Island Geopark Visitor Centre.
- 29 May 2021: Launch of the Aspiring Jersey Island Geopark and Visitor Centre – the opening of the Geopark Visitor Centre at Jersey Museum & Art Gallery is a step towards implementing infrastructure about geoheritage within the Geopark. This free centre acts as an information hub for visitors to access interpretation about the Island’s heritage including an introduction to Jersey’s bedrock, different sites available to visit, wildlife visible in the Geopark and the project’s partners.
- June 2021: Trial Education Sessions completed with three primary schools from urban areas in Jersey, attended by 165 students.
- June, July, August, September 2021: Summer Events Programme promoting geoheritage, including Wellness Wednesdays Yoga and Jersey Deep Time Walk.

Activity in 2021

- Spring 2021: Stage 1 of the Island-wide signage.
- Autumn 2021: continuation of #LandscapeLanguage series on social media to promote geoheritage and the Jèrriais language.

STORIES FROM THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ASPIRING GEOPARK

Renewing understanding of our geoheritage

Geological sites were first given statutory protection in the early 1990s and research since, especially in the Quaternary, has updated our knowledge. The British Geological Survey were commissioned in 2019 to produce a new Geodiversity Audit. Around 40 sites from an initial list compiled through desk-based work were visited and audited. During site visits, geological scientific merit, education value, community site value, cultural/heritage/economic importance, access, site fragility, potential were assessed.

The Balliwick of Jersey has a rich geological history, which together with bedrock sites in Normandy, Brittany and the other Channel Islands, tells the story of the Cadomian Orogeny, which took place in the Ediacaran (late Precambrian) and the tectonic events that followed during the lower Palaeozoic. Its more recent Quaternary deposits reflect climate change which provides extraordinary insight into early human history in this part of the world.

The rich variety of geology provides for a varied landscape; from the low ground, underlain by the comparatively soft sedimentary rocks to the rocky, dramatic coastlines composed of igneous rocks. Deeply incised valleys cross the Island from north to south, and coastal cliffs line the complex series of climactic and tectonic events. Extractive industries have left their mark in terms of quarries, many now only known by the building stones used across the Island.

The study has highlighted the richness and international importance of the archaeological record preserved within recent, Quaternary, geological deposits. The widespread distribution, relatively accessibility and vivid story of prehistoric life and climate change in the past environments of the region mark Jersey’s recent geological record as being of exceptional scientific and public interest.

The sites, chosen primarily for their geology, have revealed numerous links to the character of the landscape, historical structures, ecology, and the economic and cultural history of the area. Many of these sites could be enhanced to encourage visitors and students to learn more about the geology beneath their feet and how the geology, as the foundation of our landscape, has influenced the form and nature of what lies at the surface.

The Geodiversity Audit also highlighted several areas for further research to enable us to better understand our Island’s geology and biodiversity. These areas of research will be explored by events such as a Société Jersiaise conference and the potential Quaternary Research Association field meeting in 2022.

Protecting Geoheritage

The Geodiversity Audit completed by BGS has provided a recommended set of sites for consideration for designation as Sites of Special Interest (SSI), Special Landscape Areas (SLA) and Prehistoric Landscape Zones (PLZ), in which the Island’s rich diversity can be explored, appreciated, learned from and conserved for future generations.

These recommendations will be developed and considered through conversation with the Government of Jersey’s Natural Environment Team from Infrastructure, Housing and Environment.
PARTNERSHIPS

As a bottom-up approach, the Geopark is working and looking to develop partnerships through individual formal partnership agreements with a variety of organisations who are also stakeholders in Jersey's heritage.

Current Partners in development include:

Société Jersiaise
Jersey Biodiversity Centre
Jersey National Park
Jersey Heritage
Jersey International Centre of Advanced Studies
Blue Marine Foundation
Young Archaeologists' Club
British Geological Survey
Le Manche Prehistoric Research Group
Réseau des Musées de Normandie
UNESCO Sites Across the Channel

Current Activity Partners include:

There are many ways people can explore and enjoy Jersey. To develop the Island's geotourism offer we have begun to build partnerships with well-established activity providers. The below listed partners are promoted within the Aspiring Geopark Visitor Centre to spark ideas on the different ways people can get out and about to discover and connect with the Island's geoheritage.

The Surfyard
Bunker Yoga
Bouley Bay Dive Centre
Jersey Surf School
Jersey Walk Adventures
Jersey Kayak Adventures
Jersey Adventures
Jersey Seafaris
Evie

NEXT STEPS

Implementing the programmes listed and developing the management plan for the Geopark in collaboration with the project's stakeholders, partners and the public:

In order to become a UNESCO Global Geopark, a territory must meet the criteria set by UNESCO and be functioning as an ‘Aspiring UNESCO Global Geopark’ (aUGGp) for one year. Constant consultation with the UK Council for UNESCO is necessary to determine when your project would be eligible to submit an application - in the form of a 50-page dossier. The UK Council are limited to the number of applications that can be active at any given time. As the application process is lengthy, this means careful consideration is required.

What do you need to become a UNESCO Global Geopark?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ImIE4KSFnrw

Proposed Timeline for Application:

Spring 2022 – submit draft application dossier to UK Council
November 2022 – Application Submission to UNESCO
Summer 2023 – Evaluation by UNESCO
Autumn 2023 – UNESCO Council Meeting(s)
Spring 2024 – Designation
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Schrodt et al, 2019. To advance sustainable stewardship, we must document not only biodiversity but geodiversity. PNAS. Vol. 116. No. 3. 16155-16158


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APPENDIX 1

List of existing Conservation documents relating to Jersey collated to date

Conservation Statements about Historic Features by Jersey Heritage:
www.jerseyheritage.org/historic-buildings

Archirondel Tower
Barge Aground
Civil Emergency Centre (Trinity)
Elizabeth Castle
Fort Leicester
Hamptonne
Icho Tower
Kempt Tower
La Cotte de St Brelade
La Crête Fort
La Hougue Bie
La Moye Quarry
La Rocco Tower
La Tour Cârée
Le Col de la Rocque (St Mary)
Le Hocq Tower
L’Etacquerel Fort
Lewis’s Tower
Methodist Chapels in Jersey
Mont Orgueil Castle
No.9 Pier Road
Portelet Tower
Radio Tower (MP2)
Seymour Tower
The Conservation of Masonry Ruins in Jersey

by Antony Gibb:
Fort Regent

Other Conservation documents
Conservation of Wildlife (Jersey) Law 2000
Conservation Status of Jersey’s Birds (2011)
Jersey Integrated Landscape and Seascape Character Assessment (2020)
Seabird Protection Zone: Plemont to Grève de Lecq
The Agile Frog Action Plan (2001)
The Wildlife (Jersey) Law 2021

APPENDIX 2

List of potential Geosites could include:

Petit Étacquerel
Grand Étacquerel
La Pulec
Giffard Bay
Les Rouaux
L’Islet, Bouley Bay
Les Hurets
La Tête des Houguess
Jersey’s Giant’s Causeway at Anne Port
Mont Huelin Quarry
St Ouen’s Bay Peat Beds
Le Pinacle
Sorel Point
La Motte, Le Nez and Le Croc
Green Island
La Solitude Farm
Belcroute
Portelet
South Hill
Belle Hougue Caves I & II
La Cotte à la Chévre
Crabbé and Ile Agois
La Cotte de St Brelade
St Peter’s Valley
Fliquet
Dolmen de Faldouet
Mont Sohier
Bonne Nuit
Noirmont
La Rocque
The Dicq to Havre des Pas
Petit Portelet & Mont Orgueil Castle & Headland
Beauport & Fiquet
Les Varines
Les Minquiers
Les Dirouilles

Les Pierre de Lecq
Les Écréhous
Southeast coast
Seymour Tower
Les Pipettes
Pontac
Crepus Gros
Plemont
Grève au Lançon
Archirondel, Le Malade, Le Hougilllon in St Catherine’s Bay
Saie Harbour
Côtil Point
Val de la Mare Reservoir
St Brelade’s Bay Beach
St Aubin’s Bay
Elizabeth Castle
French Harbour, La Folie
Le Hocq
Gorey Harbour
Geopark Visitor Centre at Jersey Museum & Art Gallery
Elizabeth Castle
Hamptonne Country Life Museum
La Hougue Bie Museum
Maritime Museum & Occupation Tapestry
Jersey Museum & Art Gallery
Dolmen du Couperon
Les Blanches Banques
Les Landes
The historic harbour and high street of St Aubin
The Railway Walk
Ouaisné Common
Portelet Common
Gorselands
St Catherine’s Woods
APPENDIX 3

List of existing signage collated to date

- La Folie & Les Runs à Califattage
- Albert Pier
- Elizabeth Castle
- First Tower
- Ville-ès-Nouaux
- Third Tower
- St Aubin’s Fort
- Noirmont Tower
- Portelet Tower
- Ouaisné Tower
- St Brelade’s Tower
- St Brelade’s Bay
- Table-des-Marthes
- La Sargenté
- La Rocco Tower
- La Caumine à Marie Best
- La Tour Carrée
- Kempt Tower
- Lewis’s Tower
- South Pier
- Victoria Pier
- La Collette Barracks
- Havre des Pas
- Fort d’Auvergne
- Victoria Tower
- La Pouquelaye de Faldouet
- Archirondel Tower
- St Catherine’s Tower
- St Catherine’s White Tower
- St Catherine’s Breakwater
- Fliquet Tower
- La Coupé
- Le Couperon Guardhouse
- La Hougue Bie
- Le Câtel de Rozel
- Rozel Bay & Harbour

- L’Etacquerel Fort
- Port Leicester
- Bouley Bay
- La Hougue des Platons
- Bonne Nuit Harbour
- La Crête Fort
- Le Câtel Fort
- Grève de Lecq Tower
- Grève de Lecq Barracks
- La Hougue des Geonnais
- Plémont Guardhouse
- Centre Stone
- La Couperon Barracks
- Gorey Castle
- Grève de Lecq
- Île Agois
- La Corbière Lighthouse
- La Motte
- La Rocque Harbour
- Le Hocq Tower
- Le Pinacle
- Mont Grantez Dolmen
- Mont Ubé
- Seymour Tower
- Le Couperon Dolmen
- Les Blanches Banques
- Gorey Harbour
- West Park
- Fort William
- Fort Henry
- Grouville Towers
- Platte Rocque Tower
- Icho Tower
- Fort Regent
- Wild Tracks’ Exploring Jersey’s
- West Coast

- La Mielle de Morville
- Saving Our Seabirds - Plemont
- Plemont Beach Hazards
- Seabird Protection Zone - Plemont
- Return of the Red-Billed Chough
- Sorel Point - No Littering
- Battery Lothringen No.2 Gun
- Armoured Range-Finder Turret
- Naval Battle Off Noirmont
- Beach Mobility - Third Tower
- L’Etacquerel
- Upper/Lower Path - Bonne Nuit
- Jersey Oyster Fishing Industry
- Ouaisne Car Park
- Ouaisne Common
- Ouaisne Common - Nature Reserve
- Portelet Common
- Portelet ESSI
- Portelet Beach
- Dolmen du Mont Ubé
- Le Câtel de Lecq
- La Lande du Ouest - Gorselands
- Trial Multi-User Path
- La Lande du Ouest SSI
- La Moye Quarry
- Jersey Water Plaque

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Aspiring Jersey Island Geopark
Jersey Museum & Art Gallery
The Weighbridge
St Helier
Jersey, Channel Islands
JE2 3NG

L’Espé du Géopar Însulaïthe dé Jèrri
Musée d’Jèrri
Lé Bridge
Saint Hélyi
Jèrri
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