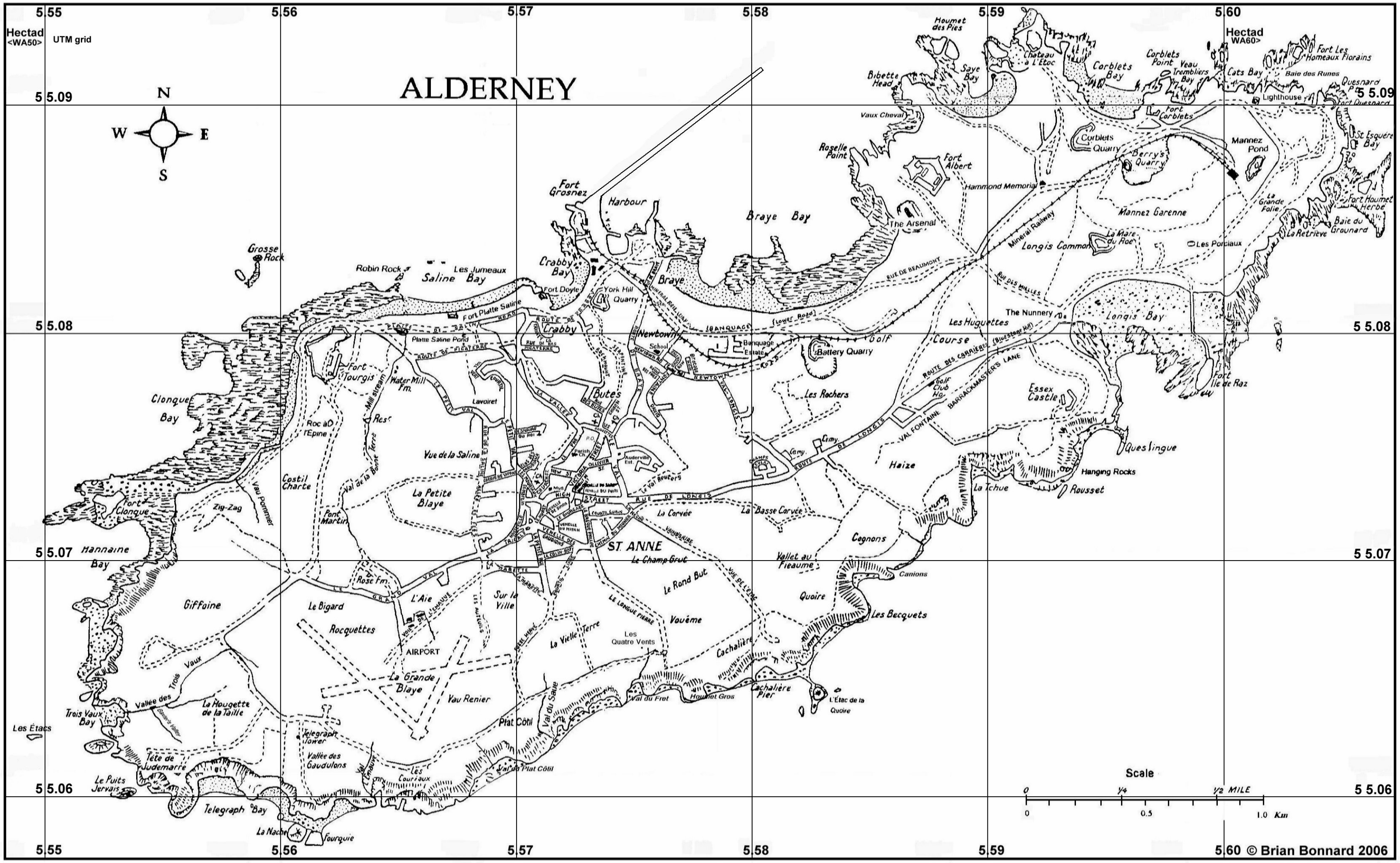
A Very Wild Island

An Outline of the Ecology of the Island of Alderney

by

Brian Bonnard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Crabby Bay
Fort Doyle
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Newtown
Crabby
Saline Bay
Les Jumeaux
Robin Rock
Grosse Rock
Fort Platte Saline
Platte Saline Pond
Clonque Bay
Fort Clonque
Hannaine Bay
Fort Tourgis
Water Mill Fm.
Butes
Lavoiret
Vue de la Saline
La Petite Blaye
Castil Charte
Roc à l'Epine
Zig-Zag
Vau Pommier
Pont Martin
St. ANNE
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Le Rond But
Vouême
Les Quatre Vents
La Vielle Terre
Sur la Ville
L'Aie
Rose Fm.
Le Bigard
Rocquettes
AIRPORT
La Grande Blaye
Vau Renier
Giffoine
Trois Vaux
Vallée des Trois Vaux
La Hougette de la Taille
Trois Vaux Bay
Les Étacs
Tête de Judemarre
Le Puits Jervais
Telegraph Bay
La Nache
Fourquie
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La Mare du Roe
Les Porciaux
Mineral Railway
Hammond Memorial
The Arsenal
Fort Albert
Roselle Point
Vaux Cheval
Bibette Head
Houmet des Pies
Saye Bay
Château à L'Etoc
Corblets Bay
Corblets Point
Veau Trembliers Bay
Fort Corblets
Corblets Quarry
Berry's Quarry
Mannez Garenne
Mannez Pond
La Grande Folie
Cats Bay
Lighthouse
Fort Les Homeaux Florains
Baie des Runes
Quesnard Pt.
Fort Quesnard
St Esquère Bay
Fort Houmet Herbe
Baie du Grounard
La Retrieve
Route des Carrières
Barrackmaster's Lane
Val Fontaine
Rue de Beaumont
Route de Longis
Newtown
Banquage
High Street
Route de Picaterre
Route de la Saline
La Vallée
P.O.
Parish Ch.
Auderville Est.
Le Val Reuters
Vallée des Gaudulons

A Very

Wild Island

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3. Various plant and animal species records
4. Appendices, Protective Legislation and Climate tables
5. Annual updates from 2006 on

by

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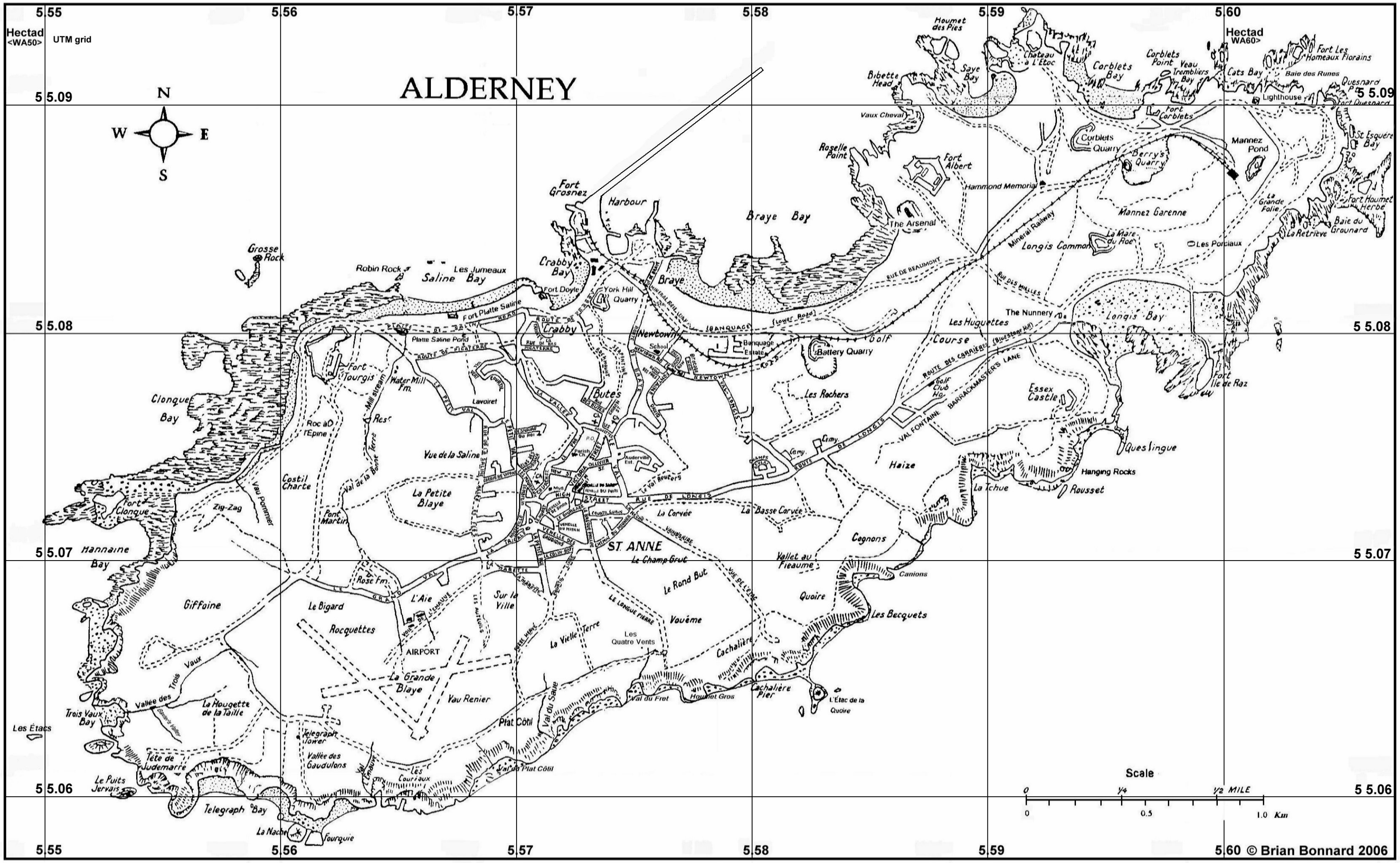
Part 1.

An Outline of the Ecology of the Island of Alderney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❖ Situation

Alderney, the third largest of the Channel Islands, has an area of just under 2,000 acres. It lies in the mouth of the English Channel, with its centre at about 2º11'45"W, 49º43'N and its main, 3½ mile, axis running NE-SW and is about 1½ miles across at its widest point. The southern and western sides form a plateau about 85m high, sloping steeply down towards the north and east to form a narrow coastal belt at about 3-10m above HWM.

❖ Geology

Geologically the western half of the island has underlying greenish-grey granodiorite, covered for the most part by a gritty, sandy, head of decomposing rocks and wind-blown loess. A central triangular band of diorite stretches across the island from Cachalière to Braye Bay and Corblets Bay, whilst the south-eastern half of the cliffs and the low eastern end of the island is overlain with a thick layer of the hard Alderney sandstone, which also covers the extreme edge of much of the northern coastline and forms all of the offshore reefs, stacks, islets and islands, stretching some 25 miles due west, from Le Cap de la Hague, on the Normandy coast to the Casquets. A large area of the northern and eastern sides is covered with windblown sand forming a permanent dune system stretching across the top of the lower part of the island from Braye Bay to Longis Bay and along the northern coast from Corblets and Saye Bays in the east to Tourgis Point at the NW end. At the western end, Platte Saline and the area immediately behind it, up to about the 60m. contour line, forms another ancient, permanent dune system. There is evidence of former raised beaches at the 8 and 18m levels in a number of spots along the N and NW sides and on the offshore islands; remnants of the time when these areas were underwater during the various ice-ages.

A number of small, spring-fed streams run down the narrow valleys spaced along the S & W coasts and down the fewer but wider north facing valleys. The largest of these streams, in Bonne Terre, nowhere exceeds 1m. in width and about 20-30 cms. in depth most of the time.

The soil is generally neutral to slightly acid, except in many of the sandy parts, where crushed mollusc shells impart a degree of alkalinity and support calcicolous (lime-loving) species of plants and animals.

Please Note;

(a); The A4 map of the island, drawn by the author, showing the UTM grid numbers and names of most of the features, appears opposite in this printed version, or, as a full A4 size file in the CD version (File Alderne.jpg), which the user can print if required.

(b); A geological sketch map, also drawn by the author, is also included immediately below.

(c); 1. Throughout this part of the work the scientific names of plant and animal species will be given, in italics, following their common names, (where they have one), on the first occasion of their use. Thereafter, in most cases, only the common names will be used. Thus, in general, scientific names will generally only occur once in the index.

2. In general, only common names will be used in the Diary section.

3. A note on Protective Legislation for the Alderney flora, fauna and environment will be found in Appendix 1, at the end of the work.

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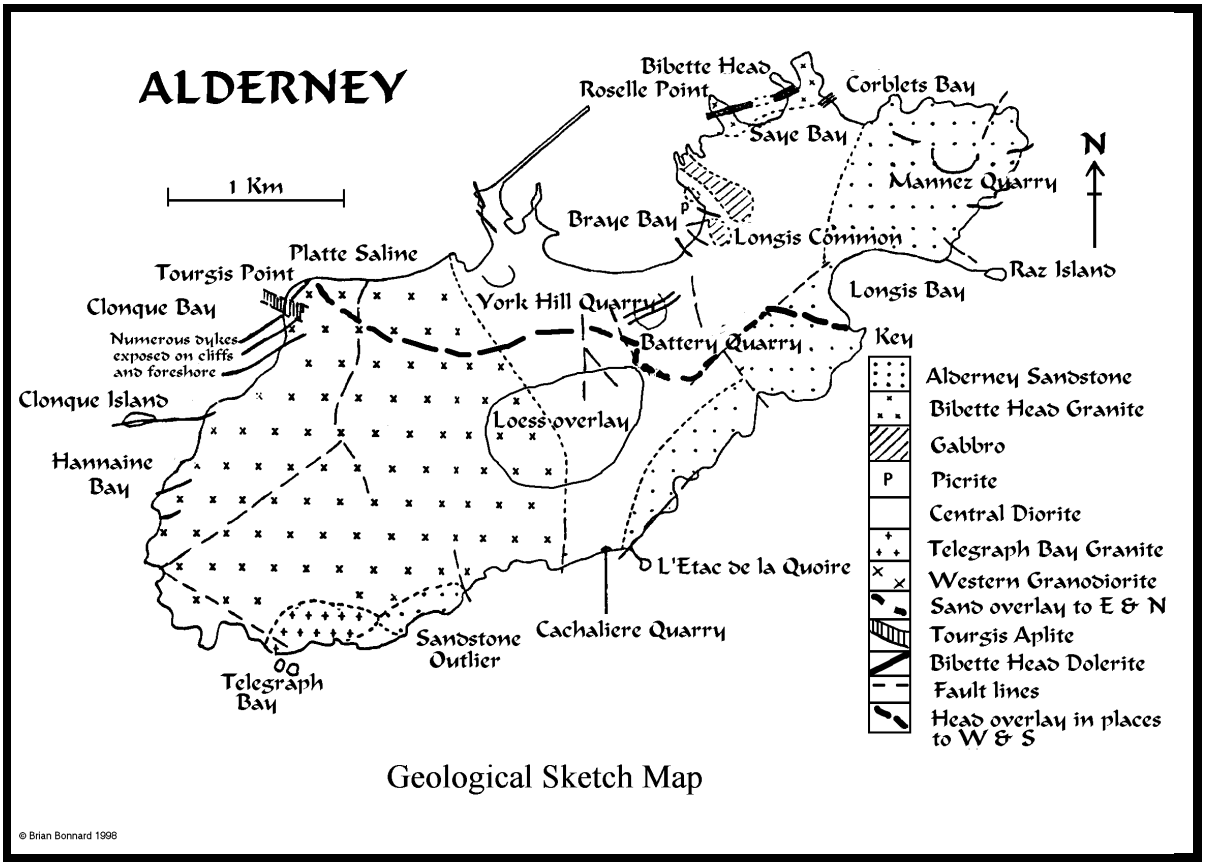

Figure 1.

❖ Regional assessment of the island

For the purposes of describing the ecology of Alderney, a division into ten more or less coherent “regions”, shown on the accompanying map (Fig. 2) will be made.

- 1. NW coast; comprising the narrow west facing low coastal area round Clonque Bay.
- 2. La Petite Blaye; comprising the area either side of La Bonne Terre Valley.
- 3. N. coast; a narrow, low-lying belt from Tourgis Point to Bibette Head, including York Hill quarry and the harbour.
- 4. Town; comprising the majority of the built environment.
- 5. Les Rochers; The high rising ground behind Braye Bay to the Longis Road, including Battery Quarry, now the island’s principal water reservoir.
- 6. Mannez/Longis; mostly sand dunes over sandstone, (over peat at Longis), but overlying the diorite on the higher land on the north-western part, including two major quarries.
- 7. E. coast; the low NE & E coasts, islets and the large sandstone quarry at Mannez.
- 8. Essex; comprising Essex Hill, the eastern part of the Grande Blaye, and the SE sandstone cliffs area, south of the Longis Road
- 9. S. cliffs; comprising the diorite and granodiorite part of the Grande Blaye, a considerable part of it now under the airport.
- 10. Giffoine; comprising the high SW part of the island, including the Trois Vaux valleys.

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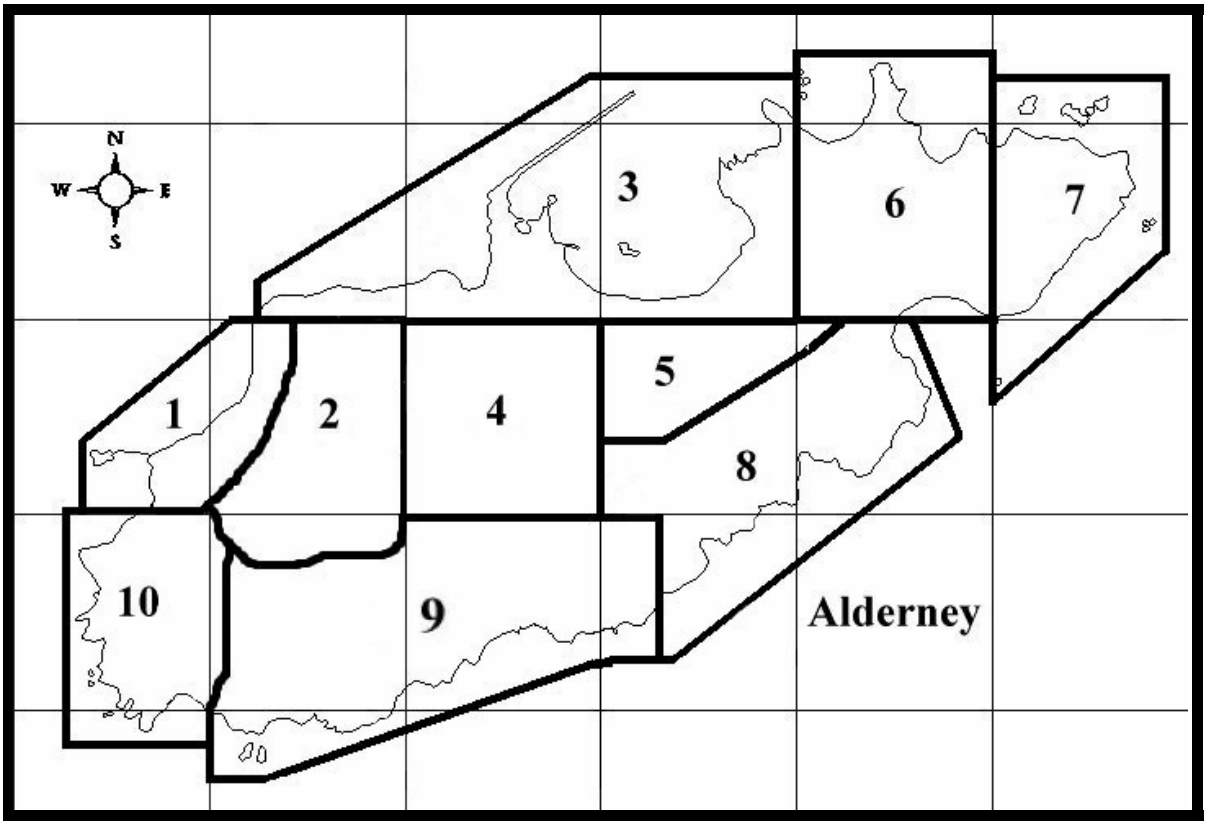

Figure 2. Map of Alderney showing 1Km grid and the regions referred to above

- Each of these ten regions will be dealt with in a separate chapter.
- The islands of Burhou, Little Burhou, Les Casquets and the offshore stacks will be treated as a separate unit, Region 11.

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Figure 3. Clonque Bay looking North

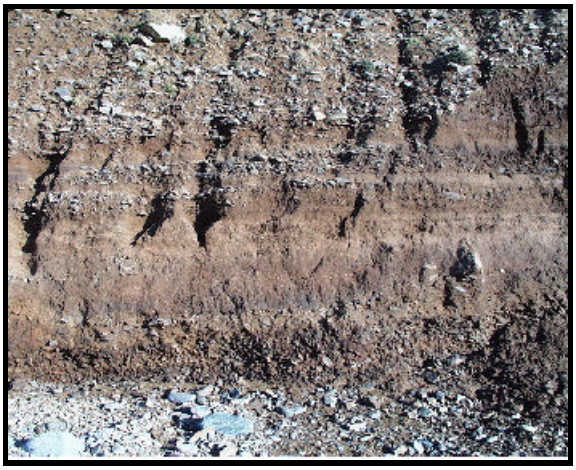

Figure 4. 8m raised beach of water worn pebbles at base of low cliff towards top of Fig 3. Stratified “head” (not water worn) in layers above.

Figure 5. Common Scurvy-grass at Clonque

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❖ Region 1; North-west coast.

This consists of the narrow, low, north-west coastal strip from Tourgis Point to Clonque Island and the steep upward sweep of the west facing hillside above. (Fig. 3 opposite). The shore line, below a vertical cliff about 5-8m high, comprises a pebble beach and, at low tide, a large area of tidal, mainly granodiorite, reefs, stretching far out into The Swinge, from Clonque island to the south and the Nannels rocks to the north, with the sandstone islands of Burhou and Little Burhou beyond.

This area is the haunt, at most states of the tide and for much of the year, of a colony of Oyster Catchers *Haematopus ostralegus* and several species of Gull *Larus spp.* Large numbers of Crows feed on the reef area when the tide is down and in the thick belts of seaweed washed up after a storm. Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*, are frequently seen, as well as occasional visits from one or more of the Little Egrets *Egretta garzetta*, which appear to have taken up residence in the island and a few Curlew *Numenias arquata*. In the autumn and winter up to 60 Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*, are regularly seen at the southern end of this area near Vau Pommier.

Evidence of a raised beach is clear in several places at the base of the low cliff. (Fig. 4 opposite). Some of the island's few clay patches are also found along the base of this cliff where fresh water seepage occurs. Water-cress *Rorippa nasturtium-aquatilis* is to be found along here and some of the few patches of Common Scurvy-grass *Cochlearia officinalis* in the island. (Fig. 5 opposite).

The lower caponnière of Fort Tourgis, by the car park, supports a range of ferns in the mortar crevices, Hart's-tongue *Phyllitis scolopendrium*, Sea, Lanceolate and Maidenhair Spleenworts *Asplenium marinum, A. obovatum & A. trichomanes* respectively. A few yards away, the top of the German gun emplacement is covered with Hottentot Fig *Carpobrotus edulis* and a number of other aliens, probably planted by former "tenants" of the gun site, including Russian Vine *Fallopia baldschuanica*, Globe Artichoke *Cynara scolymus*, Red-hot Poker *Kniphofia spp.*, Greater Periwinkle *Vinca major* and Century Plant *Agave americana*, may be found nearby. The slopes down from Fort Tourgis are covered with a dense carpet of Bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* with a few scattered Hawthorn *Cratægus monogyna* and Elder *Sambucus nigra* bushes. Masses of Common Dog Violets *Viola riviniana*, Celandine *Ranunculus ficaria* and the occasional Pyramidal Orchid *Anacamptis pyramidalis* are to be found in the small bracken-free grassy patches along here in season, with Autumn Squill *Scilla autumnalis* in bare patches at the top of the slope in late summer. Beyond the two cottages a small damp quarry supports a range of interesting plants, two of them; Least Duckweed *Lemna minuta* and Greater Spearwort *Ranunculus lingua*, quite rare. Also to be found here in the quarry, which generally has about 10-30cms water below the vegetation, are some well-established, aliens, Montbretia *Crocosmia x crocosmiflora* and Tutsan *Hypericum androsæmum* flourish in company with one of only three colonies of Galingale *Cyperus longus* in the island, known in the local patois as **Han** and common in the larger islands. Here too are Least Duckweed *Lemna minuta*, Ragged Robin *Lychnis flos-cuculi* and Lesser Spearwort *Ranunculus flammula* in some quantity and a few plants of the tall, elegant, Marsh Thistle *Cirsium palustre*, found scattered singly or in small groups in a number of damp places along this route. The short grassy area in front of this quarry is home to a number of minute plants requiring a hands-and-knees examination. Lesser Parsley-piert *Aphanes inexspectata* and a number of clover species; including Western Clover *Trifolium occidentale*, flowering up to a month earlier than the ordinary White Clover *T. repens*, from which it has only been separated

as a distinct species, in the last 10 years or so. Suffocated Clover *T. suffocatum*, Bird's-foot Clover *T. ornithopodioides* often wrongly called Fenugreek, and Subterranean or Burrowing Clover *T. subterraneum.*

The slopes along this part are thickly covered with Ivy *Hedera helix subsp. hibernica*, noisy with bees collecting wax from the leaves in the Spring and nectar from the yellow flowers in late September and October and a large patch of Rose-bay Willowherb *Chamærion angustifolium* well known to wartime Londoners as Fire-weed on bomb sites and surprisingly rare in Alderney.

There are two converging valleys, now unhappily so overgrown as to be impassable at their lower end, with streamlets running down from the top and joining to form Vau Pommier which passes under the trackway in a Victorian brick-lined tunnel, known locally as The Blue Bridge, from its lovely blue-grey diorite arches, to discharge on the beach at the bottom of an old, derelict, vraic road, the cobbles, of the remaining small sections on the beach, raked to give the horse hooves a good grip when pulling their laden carts of seaweed up the slope. Probably planted many years ago, a very large spread of pink Dorothy Perkins Rose grows on top of the bank above the stream, with a large bush of the Hedge Fuchsia *Fuchsia magellanica*, well naturalised all over the island and in flower for much of the year, below it. Just beyond the stream, in a cutting through the rock made for access to the Victorian Fort Clonque some of Alderney's infrequent Primroses *Primula vulgaris* are to be found in Spring.

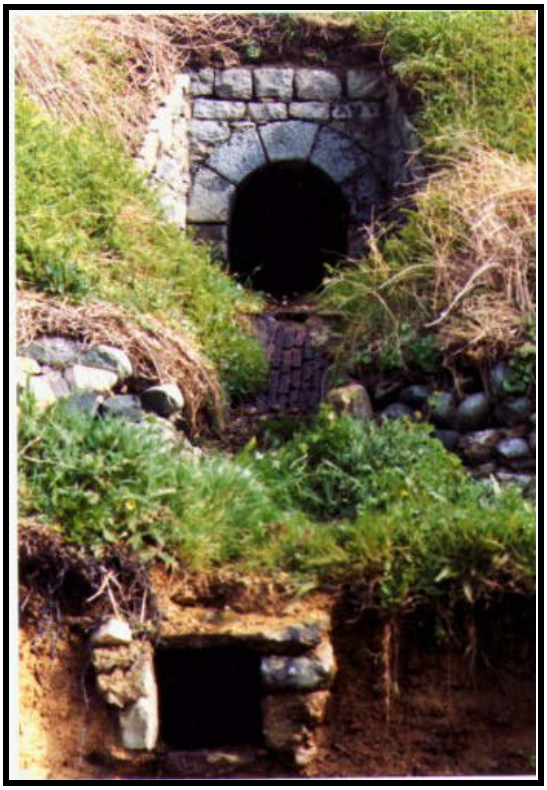

Figure 6. Blue Bridge, with much older stone drain below and remains of vraic road between.

Following the causeway, rebuilt and raised above HWM by the Germans during the Second World War, across to the Fort, on the right as it meets the former island, another part of the 8m. raised beach can be clearly seen beneath the overlying sandy head, (Fig. 7). A pair of Cormorant *Phalocrocorax carbo* nest in some years on the 10m high, rocky outcrop, close by. More clovers including the delightful Hare's-foot Clover *Trifolium arvense* are to be found on the grassy area in front of the fort and the much rarer Rock Sea-lavender *Limonium binervosum* and Golden Samphire *Inula crithmoides* may be found on the beach below and high up at the base of its walls, at various places around the outside of the fort. Clonque Island, was broken into two by a storm in the late 1960s eroding a narrow isthmus, thus separating the Victorian fort into two parts.

The whole length of this coastal strip is also a good place to find the Glanville Fritillary butterfly *Melitea cinxia*, (Fig. 8), virtually unknown in England except for a small area of the Isle of Wight and probably more frequent in Alderney than in the other islands.

This region has suffered little direct damage from the hands of man this century, but coastal erosion of the low cliff area is gradually moving this further inland. Old photographs, from the end of the last century, show grazing animals and a haystack on the former meadows between the track and the cliff top near the cottages, (Figs. 9 and 10).

Sprays, mainly of Garlon, have been used by States Agricultural teams in the last 3-4 years in an attempt to control the **Mauvaises Herbes**, (see Appendix 1), here principally

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Hogweed. This has resulted in some loss of Clovers, Celandine, Violets and Pyramidal Orchids. However, as in many other parts of the island, particularly the cliff areas, the virtual cessation of former agricultural practices on the Blayes and the cutting of Gorse *Ulex europeus* for winter fuel and heating ovens, as well as Bracken for bedding, including the old cottage *joncquières* (the Alderney patois name for Green or Day beds), has led to large areas of gorse, bracken and bramble scrub developing, unchecked by cultivation or mowing. This has had a profound effect on the herbaceous plant ground flora in many places, suppressing (or in some cases only hiding) it beneath the overgrowth. The scrub clearing occasionally carried out (on either States or private land) around the cliffs, often sees the return (or re-emergence) of Violets, Primroses, Celandines and other small plants in the following years.

Figure 7. Raised beach on Clonque Island

Figure 8. Glanville Fritillary Butterfly

Figure 9. Clonque Bay and cottage about 1890-1900

↓

Figure 10. The same view in 2000, with Fort Clonque on the tidal island top right. Note erosion of cliff on the seaward side of the haystack in figure 9.

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The intertidal area of rock and pools shown in Figure 10 is interesting from a number of points of view.

Geology:

Geologically the granodiorite base rock is crossed by a considerable number of narrow, parallel, veins of porphyritic felsite running roughly NE-SW. These are crossed, more or less at right angles, by several similarly narrow, parallel, veins of the younger rock lamprophyre. There is a much broader band of aplogranite approximately at the extreme right of the picture and another outcrop of this rock forming the pointed cone-shaped rock at the top right edge of the photo. At either end, just off the picture to the right (i.e. behind the camera position) and just beyond the causeway to the fort at the top of the picture are two veins of the intrusive black volcanic rock, dolerite.

Above the beach, straddling the roadway along virtually the whole length of the photo, is a narrow band of head mostly about 4-5m thick, a mixture of broken rock, sharp-edged and very variable in size and soil, overlying the granodiorite. As noted above, at the top of the beach and the foot of this low cliff for much of its length, a shallow band of well rounded, water worn pebbles, forming a raised beach from the last ice age, is exposed at several places. At a number of points along this stretch, at the foot of the cliff a 0.7-1m thick, band of clay is exposed, possibly formed by seepage and at several points kept damp by water from small springs in the hillside above. The Vau Pommier stream flows down the fold between the hills on the top left and emerges through Blue Bridge (Figure 7) to the beach, roughly vertically below the arrow printed just above Figure 10.

Seaweeds:

In the tidal pools created in this bay, a fine collection of (mostly common) seaweeds are to be found attached to the rocks. The following applies to all bays and beaches.

The development of the seaweeds usually found in a given area depends on six main factors;

(i) the average water temperature and its variation throughout the year, (which affects their geographical distribution). Over the period 1980-94, the mean warmest sea temperature (measured in Guernsey) was 16.5º, reached in week 36 (beginning of September), and the coldest 8.25º in weeks 8 & 9, (the last two weeks in February). Alderney seas are usually about 1º colder, due to its more exposed position;

(ii) whether the substrate is sandy or rocky and the presence or absence of tidal pools. In the summer, pools, particularly those on the upper shore, can heat up considerably and their salinity increase through evaporation;

(iii) the degree of desiccation and the temperatures they can withstand whilst exposed between tides, (the actual duration of exposure at any given point of course varies greatly between spring and neap tides);

(iv) their ability to withstand wave action, (i.e. whether the coast is exposed or sheltered);

(v) the light intensity and daily duration they need to grow and reproduce, (which largely affects the depth of water in which they can survive and the latitudes in which they grow; and;

(vi) the salinity of the water at their place of growth, (this can also vary considerably where fresh water runs across a cliff or beach).

In more recent years sea pollution has also become an important factor in the development and distribution of a number of species of marine organisms, including the algae. Swift tides of 8-9 knots run through ‘The Swinge’ here, between Alderney and Burhou.

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A brief list of the more common seaweed species to be found round the island is given here, in the sequence of their usual zonation from the upper shore downwards to shallow wading depth below the lowest water mark of spring tides. Many do not have 'common' names. The actual species found on any shore around the island will depend on the degree of exposure to wave action, the steepness of the shore and the relative proportions of rock/sand/shingle. Seaweeds are collectively called 'Vraic' throughout the Channel Islands.

Splash Zone; exposed for most of the time.

Channelled Wrack or *Pelvetia canaliculata* (photo p.10), found in a narrow zone at normal HWM or in the splash zone on exposed shores, often in a very much reduced moss-like form. Very frequent either side of the Clonque causeway. Do not confuse these patches with the similar appearing growth of the tufted lichen *Lichina pygmaea,* which is sometimes seen from just below the Pelvetia, down to mid-tide level. This lichen harbours a rich fauna of small, even minute, crustaceans, insects and molluscs. Look particularly for the red bivalve, *Lassea rubra,* 1.5-2mm long.

Upper shore; exposed for up to eight hours in each tide; this and the next zone, combined, are sometimes called the **Fucus zone**.

Next comes Spiral Wrack (*Fucus spiralis*), with Laver (*Porphyra umbilicalis*), forming a thin dark red/purplish coating over exposed rocks in some areas and frequently coating the Raz causeway in summer. A type of bread can be made with this. The bright green flat fronds of Sea Lettuce *Ulva lactuca* (photo p.10), also a species formerly frequently used for food; and thin bright green hollow tubes of *Enteromorpha intestinalis* are found on rocks and in shallow pools in this area, especially where there is fresh water seepage. They occur on most beaches;

Middle shore; exposed for four to six hours at each tide.

Bladder Wrack *F. vesiculosus* (photo p.10), with, a little further down, Toothed Wrack *F. serratus* (photo p.10), and Knotted Wrack *Ascophyllum nodosum*, both these frequently having bright red tufts of *Polysiphonia lanosa* attached to them.

The pools in this zone hold a wide variety of green, red and brown algae. Most easily recognised are the pinky-white calcareous clumps of Corallina (photo p.10), of which there are several species, encrusting the edges of the pools. These provide homes amongst their branches for more minute animal species. Pink or violet chalky, somewhat knobbly encrustations on the rock sides are *Lithothamnion* and *Lithophyllum* species. Irish Moss or Carrageen *Chondrus crispus*, and the similar looking *Gigartina stellata*, often gathered with it, are common in these pools particularly towards LWM. Their flat, reddish-purple, dichotomously branched cartilaginous fronds are edible, either cooked or raw, and make a nutritious pudding, frequently made in Guernsey during 1940-45 Occupation. Gelatin can be extracted from them. Pointed red, round, dichotomously branched stems of *Furcellaria lubricalis* and the fairly similar round-ended stems of *Polyides rotundus* will be also be found here.

Easily identified are the dull, dark-green fronds of *Codium tomentosum* (photo p.10), similar in shape but larger than the previous two species. Soft much-branched, fine-stemmed clumps of several green *Spongomorpha,* and *Cladophora* species and the olive-green *Enteromorpha* species are not always easy to distinguish from each other.

The reader should refer to one of the specialised guides to help sort out the many dozens of beautiful seaweeds found in these pools and those on the lower shore.

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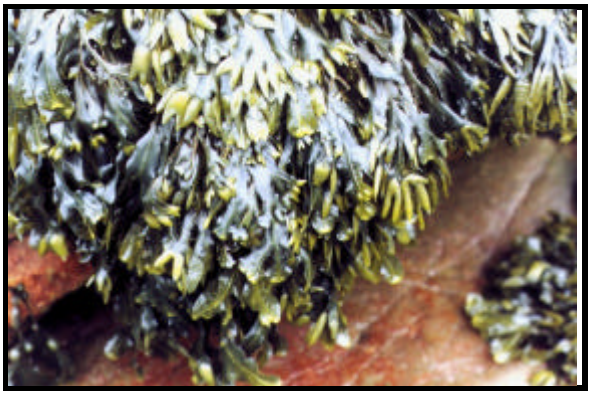
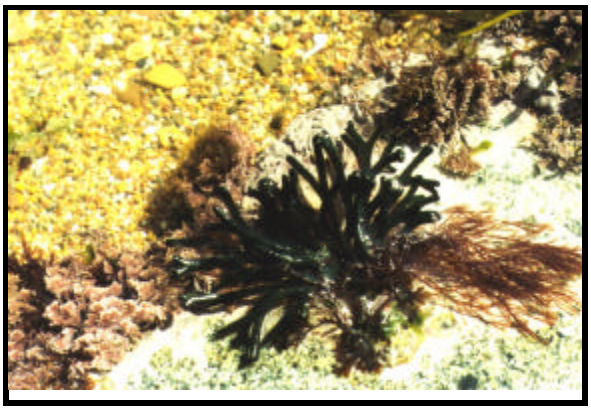
Channelled Wrack

Sea Lettuce

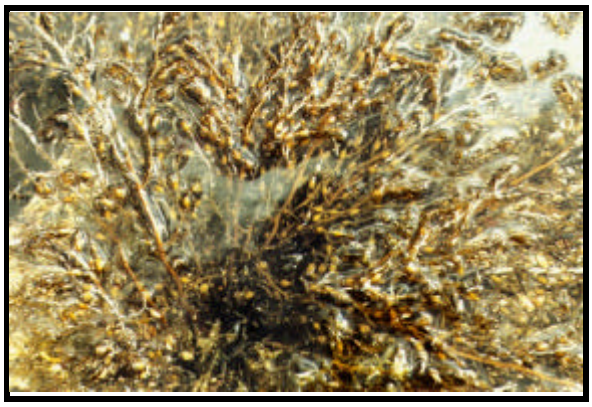


Bladder Wrack

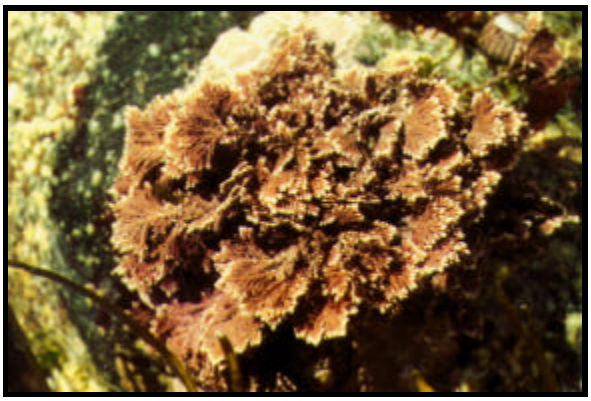
Serrated (or Toothed) Wrack



Codium tomentosum



Bladder Weed



Corallina

Thongweed, note perennial holdfasts

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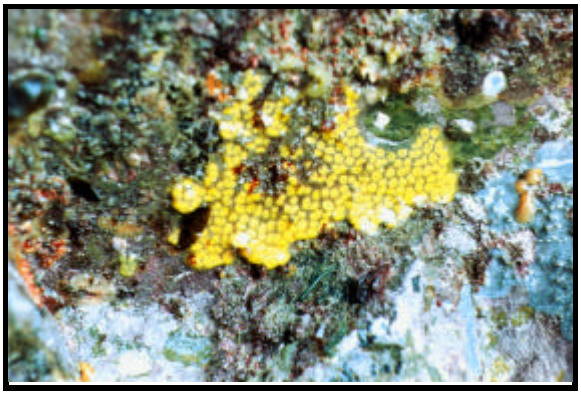
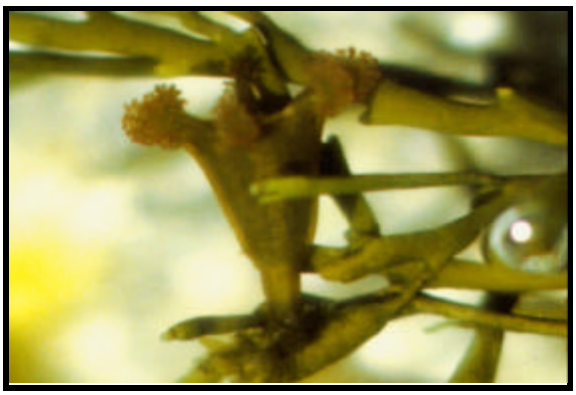
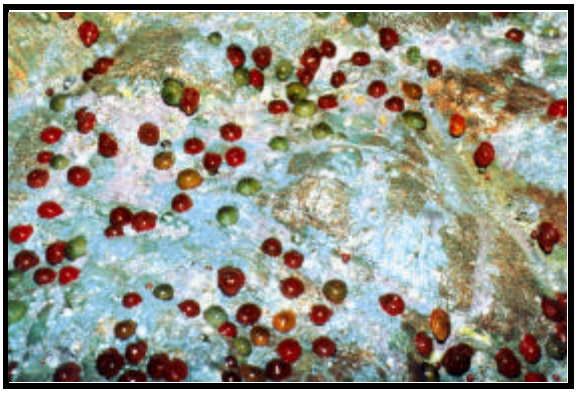


A yellow Star Ascidian

Octopus Jellyfish washed up at Longis

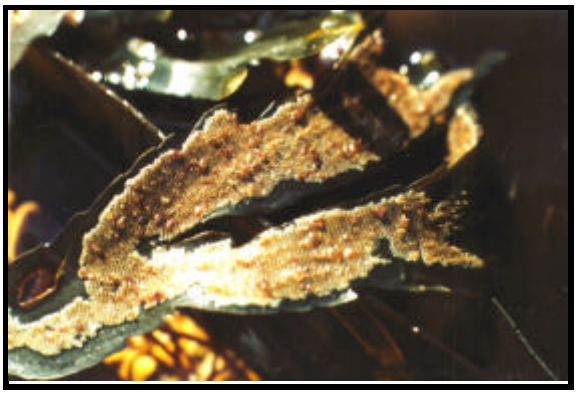


Haliclystus auricula, Stalked Jellyfish



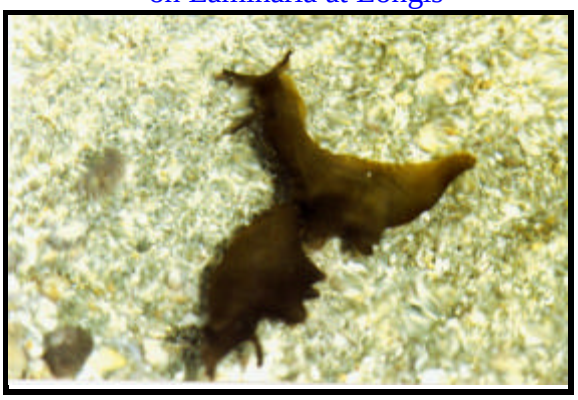
Beadlet Anemones

Deadman's Fingers, a Soft Coral



Membranipora membrancea a Sea Mat on Laminaria at Longis

Dog Whelk and Acorn Barnacles, Corblets



Sea Hares

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An Ormer grazing at Longis Bay

European Cowrie

Goose Barnacles on a log washed up at Platte Saline

A Lugworm at Longis

Armoured Bullhead in a pool at Clonque

A Topknot emerging from the sand at Longis

Young Conger Eel, from a pool at Longis

Sand-eel, washed up at Corblets

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Lower shore; exposed for one to four hours each tide.

Brown seaweeds here include; Sea Oak *Phycodrys rubens*, common in pools in this region with its pod-like float bladders; the continuously forked *Bifurcaria bifurcata*; brightly green/blue iridescent (when submerged), much branched, bushy plants of the Bladder Weed *Cystoceria tamariscifolia* (photo p.10), and flat, dark spotted, olive green, leaf-like fronds of *Punctaria plantaginea*, are all easy to spot

Sub-littoral zone; not generally exposed at all.

Oarweed (*Laminaria digitata*), this lies flat on the rock or water surfaces at extreme low tide; Sea Belt, or Poor Man's Weather Glass, which gets its Latin name *Laminaria saccharina*, from the white sugary powder, mannitol, which appears on its surface as it dries. Dabberlocks *(Alaria esculenta*), a thin ribbon-like Laminarian with a thickened midrib, is eaten as a salad in some coastal areas. It is more frequently found on exposed coasts. Sea Bootlace (*Chorda filum*), with a thin, tough, unbranched, hollow stem up to 4-5m long and Thongweed *Himanthalia elongata* (photo p.10),, its dichotomously branched flattened stems growing afresh each year up to 2-3m. long, from a small round perennial, button-like holdfast. These and the flat, soft, olive-green fronds of *Dictyota dichotoma* are the principal brown seaweeds found in this zone, often with epiphtic red seaweeds growing on them. Dulse (*Palmaria palmata*), another of the seaweeds used as food and the pink fronds, like chains of beads, of *Lomentaria articulata* being the most frequent on the Fucoids and Laminarians. Look particularly in this area for the beautiful fan-like fronds of the Peacock's Tail (*Padina pavonia*). Up to 10cm long these are curved and have a lime-green inner surface and are brown with green stripes on the outer side of the curve.

Another brown seaweed found entangled with the kelps, and often cast up on the shore is *Desmarestia aculeata*, with soft spines looking a bit like a Hawthorn twig, it frequently bears epiphytic, small balloon-like, soft spongy, brown masses of *Leathesia difformis*.

At greater depths, the huge palmate fronds, up to 3.5m. long of *Laminaria hyperborea* with several red epiphytes occur. These have a much branched holdfast and a rough round stipe and remain erect at extreme low spring tides, often standing up out of the water, whilst of a similar general appearance and even larger size, up to 4.5m., *Saccharina polyschides* has a large (up to 10cm.), thick, round, hollow, knobbly holdfast and a flattened wavy-edged stipe. They are often washed up after a storm.

The Laminarians define the limits of the sub-littoral zone.

Japanese Oarweed, (*Sargassum muticum*), an invasive newcomer, the long branched fronds of which, floating in patches, can cause considerable problems by wrapping themselves round the propeller shafts of ships and motor cruisers, is gradually appearing round our coasts especially near the harbours.

The lists above represent only a small part of the littoral zone algae to be found by the careful observer, who can spend many happy hours studying them in the rock pools which abound in some part of all of the islands' bays. See the page opposite for some illustrations.

The zonation on primarily sandy shores or on shingle is somewhat different and although there is usually a rich fauna, the intertidal area is often pretty barren of algae, apart from driftweed along the strand line. This will be dealt with in Region 6 and is equally relevant to the sandy beaches in Regions 3,7 and 8.

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Lichens:

Below HWM the wide spreading, black, tarry-looking, encrustation over many of the rocks is *Verrucaria maura*, found right across the world. Above this the bright orange patches are usually *Caloplaca marina*. Higher up the rock and cliff faces, the greenish white branched (foliose) lichens are probably *Ramalina siliquosa* and the grey patches are *Lecanora* species, with *Parmelia* and *Umbilicaria* species on rocks in the splash zone and above.

Invertebrates:

1. COLONIAL ANIMALS

Many of the animals in this group are so small as to form part of the free floating or swimming plankton and are only readily identified by using a microscope. However, a wide range of sponges, ascidians, sea squirts, hydroids, sea anemones and jellyfish etc. will be found on, or under, rocks; as epiphytes on various algae, especially the laminarians; or occasionally free-floating. The reader is again referred to the specialist guide books on this subject. Those most commonly seen are;

Sponges; White, orange, green, yellow, red or brown Breadcrumb Sponges, *Halichondria panicea*, (photo p. 23) in colonies usually less than 20cm across and up to 2cm thick. These encrust seaweeds, stones and rocks, especially on their underhanging surfaces from the middle shore down into deep water.

Ascidians;

a. Sea Squirts; several different types may be noted, solitary or in small groups. They are usually found near LWM or below, attached to rocks or large seaweeds. They have upright bodies with smooth swellings and two body openings, a ‘mouth’ at the top and an exhalant opening in the side about half way up. Pale, almost translucent and up to 10cm high is *Ascidia mentula*; brown; rougher looking and up to 6cm high is probably *Ascidiella aspersa*. Neither have common names. Look also for the almost transparent ‘vases’ up to 3cm of *Clavelina lepadiformis*, with the two siphons close together at the top and the spiral, orange, body contents showing through the tunic. More easily spotted and beautiful in a variety of colours are the;

b. Star Ascidians; (photo p. 11), although members of the same class, these are flat, colonial and the colonies are embedded in a transparent cellulose sheath. The colonies of 3-12 groups of individuals may all be yellow, brown, green or red star-shaped, each colony arranged in a circle or oval round a common exhalant cavity, *Botryllus schlosseri*, or with the groups either side of an elongated exhalation cavity and coloured orange, yellow or blue-grey, *Botrylloides leachi*. Look for them on smooth rock surfaces and some of the larger fucoids.

Hydroids; such as *Obelia* are generally almost transparent, have soft, sac-like bodies and live in flower-like colonies, attached at the base to rocks and seaweeds. They are amongst the commonest and most varied groups of marine animals but are usually overlooked. One of the generations in their life cycle is a minute free-swimming medusa, a jellyfish-like larva. The reader is again referred to specialist books for their identification.

Jellyfish; of the free-floating or swimming jellyfish, all of which can sting, The Portuguese Man-of-War has a body 30 x 10cm, silver, blue and red with, attached to it, large numbers of very long mauve/blue tentacles with a dangerous sting. It has been seen floating on occasions in several bays. The Octopus Jellyfish (photo p. 11), up to 60cm across and massive, whose sting does not usually trouble humans and the Compass Jellyfish which does, are sometimes found washed up, particularly after a violent storm at sea in the summer. The Common Jellyfish, almost transparent white, with four conspicuous purply, horse-shoe shaped

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reproductive organs (when seen from above), is sometimes seen swimming in groups close inshore in the summer and autumn. Although it can grow up to 25cm across, those most frequently seen are rarely more than about 10cm. Its sting is not usually troublesome to humans.

The 5-10cm high, pink/red, Stalked Jellyfish, (photo p. 11), is found attached to seaweeds in pools or on the lower shore. It is trumpet-shaped and has eight clusters of red tentacles arranged round the open end.

Sea Anemones; of the many types of Sea Anemone to be found, those most commonly seen are; the Beadlet Anemone *Actinia equina*, (photo p. 11), in red, strawberry and green forms, up to about 7cm, but usually nearer 3-4cm. It retracts into an almost closed ball as the tide recedes and is able to stand several hours exposure at each tide. It is very common on rocks in the middle shore, whilst the larger 10-12cm Snakelocks Anemone, in both green and grey forms cannot retract its tentacles and is only to be found in permanent pools or from just below LWM down to about 20m.

The Trumpet Anemone, *Aiptasia couchi*, at a maximum of about 6cm high, has up to 80 tapering golden-brown tentacles, whilst the slightly smaller but not too different-looking *Anthopleura thallia*, has about 60 translucent ones.

Corals; Several kinds of the beautiful little so-called Jewel Anemones, *Corynactis viridis*, can be found, but these are actually true Corals. Their tentacles are arranged in three circles and have coloured blobs on the ends. Soft Corals also occur, the one most likely to be encountered, under overhanging rocks in deeper water at very low tides, is Dead Man's Fingers, (photo p.11), the colonies often looking rather like a ghostly white or pale yellow glove. The many individual polyps give it a rough appearance with their retractable tentacles, up to 1cm long.

Sea Mats, of various species, most commonly *Membranipora membranacea*, (photo p. 11), are frequently found encrusting the larger algae from the middle shore zone down to just below LWM. These will be particularly noted on the larger algae in patches of driftweed washed up by the tide, looking like a covering of white snakeskin.

2. VARIOUS WORMS

A rare flatworm, *Convoluta roscoffensis* may be found in the fine gravel at Clonque in the area some way behind the camera in Figure 10. Small (0.5-1cm) like a lanceolate leaf, its green colour is due to a symbiotic single-celled green alga. Walking on the gravel nearby causes them to disappear below the surface.

The Sea Mouse is a large scaly worm 10-20cm, its oval body is covered in green/grey/brown hairs along it dorsal surface. It prefers to live in a soft substrate in shallow water.

A bristle worm, the Green Leaf Worm, 5-15cm. with up to 200 segments has a vivid green colour. It lives in rock crevices on the lower shore. Free swimming, it lives on barnacles. In the spring look for its eggs, small green spots in little bags of translucent jelly. The Rock Worm, *Eunice harassii* 15-20cm, brown with reddish gills on the lower 2/3rds and a greenish stripe along its back also lives in rock crevices on the lower shore. King Rag Worm, *Nereis virens* (30-60cm), pale green purple and yellow lives in mucus lined burrows on the lower shore. Lugworm *Arenicola marina* 20-30cm, (photo p. 12), much dug for bait, burrows in the sand on the middle shore.

Tubeworms found, which form a calcareous shell attached to rocks or on fronds of Laminaria and Fucus, are usually species of one of the following. *Spirorbis*, (the most common), the abundant small white shells of *S. spirorbis*, which are coiled almost into a circle on the seaweeds, or the ridged, only slightly curved shells of *S. tridentatus*, found on rocks.

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Pomatoceros triqueter, which is triangular in section, and variable in colour, is found under stones or on dead shells on the lower shore or in shallow water. *Hydroides norvegica*, the twisted and interlaced, 3cm., brownish-white shells of which may be seen also on stones and shells. These are all attached to the substrate all along their length. *Serpula vermicularis* is attached only at the base, it exhibits circular growth rings up its shell and is found on rocks and old shells at the bottom of the tide. The tube of this last is pinky or greenish-brown with red gills, trumpet shaped, tapering to a point at the base and about 5-8cm long.

3. STARFISH & SEA URCHINS

Large starfish are not commonly found alive in the littoral zone, but small specimens of the Common Starfish occur. The more usual and quite common species seen is the green Cushion Star. The Goose-foot Star, whitish, with the margin and five divisions on top of the shell marked out in red, is occasional and various Brittle-stars are quite frequent. The many colour varieties of *Opiothrix fragilis*, often red and white or yellow, will be found under stones and seaweeds on the lower shore. *Amphipholis squamata*, smaller and grey/blue/white uses the same habitats, but is especially found amongst Corallina. The red-brown Feather Star may be found under rock overhangs or in crevices in rock pools and on the lower shore.

The Green Sea Urchin, grows to about 3-4cm and is found on and under stones, on the lower shore. The dark purple Rock Urchin, is about the same size, but generally lives in groups in hollows it has ground out of the rocks. Small specimens of the pinky red with white spines, Edible or Common Sea Urchin, which grows to about 10-12cm. may be found in this zone, but larger specimens are usually only found offshore. It grazes on rocks and Laminarians. Sand coloured Sea Potatos *Echinocardium cordatum*, 6-9cm. across are quite common in the lower intertidal zone, burrowing into the sand and leaving a hole to mark their presence.

In this same class are the Sea Cucumbers; the Cotton Spinner, at about 20cm is the largest. Black/brown above and green/yellow below, it moves slowly on three rows of suckered tube-feet, usually amongst Zostera from the lowest shore level down to about 70m. Much smaller (4cm), and pinky coloured, the Sea Cucumber, is occasionally found.

4. CRUSTACEA

On the upper shore look out for;

Various Sand-hoppers amongst stones and rotting seaweed. Often present in large numbers, on a warm day the bites of these can be troublesome. The two most common species are *Talitrus saltator*, about 2.5cm,. on the upper shore amongst the weed, with *Orchestria gammarella*, slightly longer and slimmer, amongst rocks and weed lower down the beach.

The Sea Slater, at 2.5cm long, looking like a large woodlouse with two forked tails will frequently be found on larger rocks at the top of the tidal zone. Usually hiding in crevices during the day, it moves very rapidly over the rocks in the evening. Be careful to distinguish these from the smaller Bristle-tail, which has three single bristles at its tail end, the longer central one equal to the body length. This animal is actually an insect, not a crustacean.

On rocks, exposed at some state of the tide;

The Barnacle *Chthamalus stellatus*, is generally found in the splash zone, often forming a complete encrustation across some rocks, as does the Acorn Barnacle *Semibalanus balanoides*, (photo p. 11), a little further down the shore in the intertidal zone, differing from the other barnacle in the slightly different arrangement of its five shell plates. The first is almost at the northern limit of its range and is not found in the eastern English Channel or the North Sea, whilst the second species is nearly at the southern limit of its range and does not occur in the Bay of Biscay.

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Look particularly for the Darwin Barnacle, *Elminius modestus*, on rocks in the upper or middle shore. This Australian barnacle is similar in appearance to the above, but only has four plates to its shell. It was first noted near Southampton during the last war and has spread rapidly along the Channel into the Atlantic. It has been found in Guernsey on several occasions now, and was first reported from Alderney in 1977. All three of the above are about 1-1.5cm in diameter.

Further down the shore, two larger barnacles 2-3cm may be noticed, both with six plates The larger, *Balanus perforatus* occurs first. Its purplish cone has a serrated opening, slightly off centre, making it look like a volcano. Lower down the shore, the slightly smaller *B. crenatus*, is pale grey-brown and found at the bottom of rocks, just where they meet the sand. The plates on one side are longer than those on the other, making this one appear to be toppling over.

Occasionally large pieces of driftwood will be found encrusted with the Goose Barnacle *Lepas anatifera*, (photo p. 12), This large barnacle the shell of which grows to about 5cm, has a 10-20cm long grey or brown stalk, the skin of which is somewhat retractable, shortening it considerably. The 5 plates of the shell are translucent white with bluish/orange edges. The whole animal hangs down underneath the floating timber or from the bottom of boats. In Elizabethan times it was still thought to be a plant and that the shells were the eggs from which Barnacle Geese hatched. A long entry is included in Gerarde's **Herbal or History of Plants**, published in 1597. This idea was mentioned by Theophrastus as far as back as 350BC.

In tidal pools at varying levels of the beach, usually under stones, or on weed, look for;

Prawns; commonly the almost transparent *Palaemon serratus* and the smaller Chamaeleon Prawn, *Palaemonetes varians*, may be found. This may be brilliant green, brown, or a variety of mottled colours taken from the habitat of the moment. The Ghost Shrimp, is frequent in shallow pools and almost transparent, only its black eyes showing clearly.

Crabs; the Chancre or Edible Crab and the Spider Crab, both species are caught and eaten locally, small specimens will often be seen in the permanent pools. Fiddler or Velvet Swimming Crabs, also known locally as Lady Crabs are also eaten and all three species are sold in the Guernsey fish market. The Shore Crab, Porcelain Crabs, usually *Porcellana platycheles*, the Hairy Crab, and several Hermit Crabs, most commonly *Eupagurus bernhardus*, can also be found. These last take over the empty shells of a number of molluscs, changing to a larger one as they grow. They will often be seen running across the bottom of a pool or the wet sand, as the tide recedes.

Lobsters; the Squat Lobster, rarely more than 5cm across, will often be found under stones in the tidal zone in the spring when it migrates inshore and small specimens, up to 5cm of the smooth, brownish-blue coloured Edible Lobster, may also be seen on rarer occasions. Larger specimens might be found in deep pools in the summer. Less frequent are small specimens of the Crayfish, generally brown or purplish with pale spines on the shell, it is easily distinguished from the Lobster by the long, whip-like antennae and the lack of the large pincers on the first pair of walking legs.

5. MOLLUSCS

A wide range of molluscs will be encountered at various levels on the shore, the commoner of which, starting from the top of the beach, are;

(a.) In the splash zone, an area not widely found on the more accessible parts of Alderney, is the tiny (5mm), smooth, blue-black, Small Periwinkle, *Littorina neritoides*. (photo p. 18), able to withstand long periods of desiccation, it hides in the small crevices in the rocks.

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Small Periwinkle

Rough Periwinkle

Round Periwinkle
(Photo by Sue Daly)

Toothed Winkle

Large Topshell
(Photo by Sue Daly)

Grey Topshell

Purple Topshell

Painted Topshell

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(b.) Through most of the intertidal range; the Rough Periwinkles *L. saxatilis and L. rudis* may be found in a variety of dull colours, on and under rocks, as may be Chitons, very primitve creatures found as huge fossils in some parts of the world. Ours are generally about 1-1.5cm long, either the brown, *Lepidopleurus asellus* or the more common, green *Lepidochitona cinereus*. Able to cling closely to rock surfaces, they graze across the surface of rocks and seaweeds, whilst the smooth Round or Flat Periwinkle, *L. littoralis*, bright yellow, orange or red-brown grazes mainly on fucoids in the same range. The 2cm. Edible Winkle, *L. littorea* is quite rare in Alderney and apparently absent from Sark and Herm, its place being taken in local diets by the common Toothed Winkle or Thick Topshell, *Monodonta lineata*, also 2cm., found in considerable numbers, mostly in the mid-tide range, (photos of several spp. opposite).

Three species of Topshells, *Gibbula* spp, Grey, (*G. cineraria*), Purple, (*G. umbilicalis*) and Large, (*G. pennanti*), (which is not found on the English side of the Channel), are common in the middle-lower zone, and several species of Needle and Spire shells. The Purple or Flat Topshell, can easily be distinguished by the small hole or umbilicus on its lower surface. The beautiful Painted Topshell, (*Calliostoma zizyphum*), up to 2.5cm high and about as broad, will be found at the bottom of the tide, under seaweeds and overhanging rocks.

Large Common Limpets, *Patella vulgata*, (photo p. 23), greenish blue or grey with a rounded outline, up to 7cm across, abound throughout the range on rocks. The comparative height/width ratio of their shells varies markedly according to the direction of exposure to wave motion. The more sheltered specimens tend to be much taller than those on exposed surfaces. About the same size with a more orange top to the shell and short, darker rays around the irregular base is, *P. aspera.* This species, near the northern limit of its range here, tends to live in pools in the lower shore zone. The smaller Limpet, *P. intermedia (P. depressa)*, about 4cm and darker than the other two, may be found on exposed rocks in the middle tide range. In prehistoric times limpets must have formed a considerable part of the diet of people living in the islands, large quantities of their shells having been found in most of the Neolithic burial chambers. In the same area, the Keyhole Limpet, *Diodora apertura*, has a greyish-white, 4cm, ribbed shell with an aperture at the top. The Blue-rayed Limpet, *Patina pellucida*, (photo p. 23), smooth, oval and about 1.5cm long, will be found on Laminaria at extreme low-tide.

Two types of Cowries, of which the European Cowrie *Trivia monacha*, (photos pp. 12, 23), is much the more common will be seen crawling about on the rocks and seaweeds on the lower shore. They feed on the various colonial Ascidia which grow attached to the rocks and larger algae in this area. Look for the round, white, Chinaman's Cap, 3-5cm across, the occasional Sting Winkle or Oyster Drill, *Ocenebra erinacea*, and the closely related *O. aciculata* with brilliant red flesh. This species is at the northern limit of its range and does not occur in England.

More commonly Dog-whelks, (photo p. 11), and the rarer Netted Dog-whelks, will be found. Dog-whelks are good indicators of sea pollution and are particularly sensitive to the TBT anti-fouling paint used on boats. This caused a considerable decline in their population a few years ago, particularly in harbour areas, but they are now recovering since the use of the chemical was prohibited. Unlike in Guernsey, they are not now very common anywhere in Alderney, even on shores well away from any anchorage. In surveys carried out by the author and his wife in 1992 and 1993 for the Marine Conservation Society, few were found at any of eight sites, except in Clonque Bay. This seems to be a variation from the situation in 1970 when a Bailiwick survey was carried out and published in *Transactions*, (Brehaut, Vol XIX, Pt. 1, pp. 39-69), when numbers were similar. Large shells of the Whelk, *Buccinum undatum*, 9-10cm, are found washed up from time to time from deeper water, but they are rarely, if ever, seen alive.

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Several types of Sea-slug may be found, some are pinky-coloured animals whose shells are often covered by their mantles; the brown Sea Hare *Aphysia punctata*, (photo p.11), is a member of the same order, but with four 'horns' on its head, which grazes on seaweeds in shallow water and may discharge a purple dye if disturbed.

The yellow, warty, two-horned, Sea Lemon is about 7.5cm long. If you find it without disturbing it, (it too discharges a dye), you may well see the ring of nine retractable plumed gills around the anus. It feeds on the Breadcrumb Sponges, (photo p. 23). The Common Grey Sea-slug, up to 9cm, with four horns and many horn-like appendages in two rows down its back, feeds on the Snakelocks Anemone. Both are members of the order Nudibranchia.

Others, possibly small Squid, although these are seldom found close to the shore, and the shells of Elephant's Tusk, Razor Shells, (which bury themselves in the sand) and Cuttlefish 'bones' are frequently found, washed up on the beach, but their owners also are rarely seen alive.

(c.) Sub-littoral zone; the largest mollusc of our shores, the Ormer *Haliotis tuberculata*, (photo p. 12), which grows to about 10-15cm, once abundant, sadly has declined considerably in recent years and is most likely to be found below the lowest tide mark. It browses on red algae, principally Dulse, and rests under rocks and stones to which it attaches itself very firmly. It is now being farmed in Guernsey and shore gatherers in the islands also had better catches in 1993 and 1994. The gathering of Ormers is strictly controlled in the Channel Islands. They can only be gathered from the shore at certain of the lowest spring tides, the dates of which are advertised in the local papers and on radio and TV. Only those larger than a certain size can be collected and diving for them is prohibited. Gatherers usually use a special hook to enable them to detach them from their very firm hold on the rocks.

The Common Octopus, common around Alderney until about 1960 is now rarely found. Both of these animals are at the northern limit of their range and a slight drop in sea temperatures may be one of the reasons for their decline. Overfishing has also contributed.

Bivalves are not common on Alderney shores, but Oysters were farmed in Longis Bay in the 1960-70s and their shells are still occasionally found on the beach or in rock pools.

(d.) In deeper water; mature specimens of the European Oyster, Scallops and Mussels may be found in certain areas round the coasts and Guernsey fishermen bring in good catches some of which are sold in Alderney. Like the Ormer, Scallops are subject to a minimum size restriction in order to conserve stocks. Large Dog Cockles are sold locally in restaurants as 'Clams', whilst Herm Oysters are famous throughout the islands.

The above lists are by no mean exhaustive. The diligent searcher in pools and under or on the rocks in the intertidal zone will doubtless discover many other species of invertebrate animals not recorded here.

Vertebrates:

6. FISH

A range of the fish caught by small boats at sea within a few hundred yards from the shore, or by rod and line from the shore or breakwaters is listed here, with only their common English names. The frequency with which the different species are caught is not indicated. Alderney holds the British records for a number of species caught, usually in the annual fishing competitions, organised and sponsored by Aurigny Airlines. Fry of many of these species occur in the intertidal zone and are likely to be found in rockpools, frequently underneath

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rocks. These are included in the next section. Basking Sharks are occasionally seen all round the islands and rarely, even in Alderney Harbour.

From a list of the Guernsey dialect names of Insects, Birds and Fish published by E.D. Marquand in *Transactions* in 1908 (p. 512) one may safely assume that these are the species commonly caught in that island since much earlier times. The species mentioned in this list are underlined in the list which follows and varies little from those caught in Alderney today.

Huss, Dogfish, Tope, Thornback Ray, Blond Ray, Sting Ray, Skate, Spratt, Herring, Garfish, Conger Eel, (photo of fry p. 12), Cod (generally only up to 2kg), Pouting, Whiting, Pollack, Saithe, Ling, Rockling, Scad, Mackerel, Red Mullet, Bass, Sea Bream, Ballan Wrasse, Cuckoo Wrasse, Weever, Red Gurnard, Sandeels, Grey Mullet, Turbot, Brill, Plaice, Dover Sole, Cornish Sucker, Eel, Armed Bullhead, (photo p. 12), John Doree, Topknot, (photo p. 12), Salmon, Monk Fish, Sand Smelt.

LITTORAL ZONE FISH

Likely to be found in upper tidal pools;

Small specimens of Sole occur frequently, less frequently, Dab and occasionally Plaice fry may be seen in sandy pools;

Rock Gobies may be found in shallow pools, often under rocks and Sand Gobies live in pools with a sandy bottom. Gobies are collectively known in the local patois as *cabou*.

Usually in mid-tide pools;

Montague's Blenny, up to 8cm. brown with pale blue spots; Shanny, 10-15cm. yellow-brown to green with dark green spots, lives on the lower shore and in shallow water.

Tiny fry, up to 2-3cm, of the Thick-lipped Grey Mullet may be seen in large numbers in many pools. As they get bigger they swim in and out with the tide and larger specimens sometimes come inshore to feed, or adults in shoals to mate.

Small specimens of Sand-eels, both the Lesser and Greater, may be seen in rock pools, generally silvery coloured, the Greater is greenish along its dorsal side and has a black spot on the snout. They are sometimes found buried in the sand as the tide goes down and occasionally a thick line of dead ones can be found at the water's edge. Adults are about 20 and 30cm long respectively. they are much used for bait and are also the favourite food of the Puffin. In recent years a considerable decline in numbers may be due to over-fishing, a drop in water temperature, or both, and has probably contributed to the great reduction in Puffin numbers breeding on Burhou.

Three species of the interesting worm-like Pipefish may be found. They have ringed bodies, no ventral fins and usually only a small dorsal fin. The male carries the fertilised eggs in a pouch on his body after the female has placed them there. The Worm Pipefish, about 15cm. long, are dark and frequent in tidal pools with plenty of weed cover. Clonque and Longis Bays are good places to find this species. The Lesser Pipefish, browner, but about the same length is generally found in shallow water. Around the entrance to the Inner Harbour in Alderney is one good spot. The much larger (up to 50cm.) Greater Pipefish may be found in the same area.

Montague's Seasnail, smooth, brown, about 7cm., with a rounded head and tapering body has a long dorsal fin and its two pelvic fins are modified to form a sucker. Look for it under stones in the pools in this part of the shore.

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Usually at the bottom of the tidal range;

The Tompot Blenny may grow to as much as 25cm. and lives amongst stones and kelps. The Butterfly Blenny has a brown, spotted body about 15cm with large greenish fins. The first ray of the dorsal fin is about twice the height of the remainder and there is a large dark spot about half way along the fin. There are also two branched appendages above the eyes. Butterfish, a long thin fish up to 20cm, brown with a conspicuous row of 11 dark spots along the base of its dorsal fin; Garfish, 30-80cm long, green and silvery white with a long jaw, forked tail and green bones lives in shoals near the surface and sometimes comes inshore. It is sold and eaten locally, but has a somewhat earthy flavour.

2-spotted Gobies, growing up to 6cm., live amongst Laminaria and lay their eggs on the holdfasts. Light brown in colour, their two conspicuous dark spots are just below the first dorsal fin and at the base of the tail. The Sand Goby grows to about 8-9cm, brownish, it has four darker vertical bands down its sides.

Sand Smelt, about 15cm. long, green above, silver below with a forked tail, sometimes swim in, in small shoals on the incoming tide. The Fifteen-spined Stickleback, the only marine Stickleback may be seen down to about 10m.

Lump Suckers or Sea Hens, a large rounded grey-blue fish up to 50cm, with four rows of conspicuous white bony knobs along the body are sometimes washed up. In the breeding season the lower half of the adult male turns bright pink. At the same time the upper half becomes much brighter blue, making it a very handsome fish. The Cornish Sucker, about 7cm. long, has a reddish flattened body with the dorsal and ventral fins joined to the tail. On top of its head behind the eyes are two large dark blue spots with a whitish ring round them. It clings to rocks in the lower tidal pools. Both have the pelvic fins modified to form a sucker. Other small sucker fish have been recorded from time to time.

Young Wrasse and Conger Eel fry (photo p. 12), are also common in rock pools. Bright green young of the Ballan Wrasse are also found in the harbours. Several other brightly coloured species of Wrasse have been recorded.

Young Pollack are frequent in the pools alongside the causeway to Fort Clonque.

Shoals of small specimens of Shore Rockling, dark purply-brown with three barbels on the head, 15-20cm when grown and the Five-bearded Rockling, brownish above greeny-silver below with five barbels and reaching 20cm when adult, occasionally swim in.

7. MAMMALS

On rare occasions Common Dolphin, apparently struck and injured by the propellers of passing vessels, (photo opposite), have been washed up on this part of the shore. Even rarer, small groups of Bottlenosed Dolphin, Porpoises, one or two Seals and, usually single, Basking Sharks have been seen in the Swinge channel between here and Burhou.

Since about 1999 small numbers of Grey Atlantic Seals, (photos opposite), have been seen regularly on the reefs behind Burhou and in 1994/5 young seals were seen which might possibly have been born on the emergent parts of the reef.

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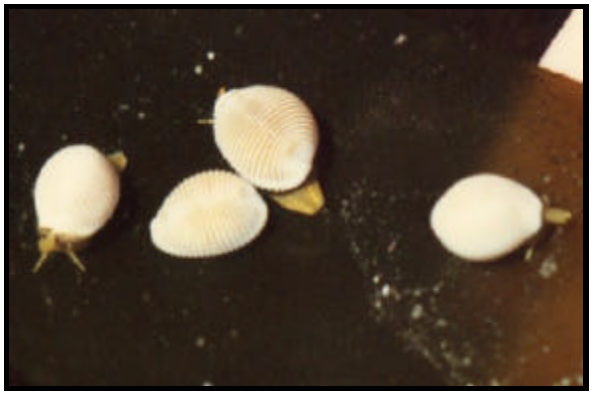
Common Limpet

Blue-rayed Limpet



European Cowries on Laminaria

Coloured Breadcrumb Sponges

Atlantic Grey Seals on Renonquet Reef

Young Atlantic Grey Seal

Common Dolphin washed up in Clonque Bay.
Note the injuries

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❖ Region 2; La Petite Blaye.

This area, from the top of the west coastal slope to the edges of the Town area of St. Anne, includes most of La Petite Blaye the, still largely unfenced since mediæval times, lesser agricultural land. In the 1950s and 60s this was used as a co-operative vegetable and flower-growing area, early potatoes, some more exotic vegetables and up to 2 million daffodil and iris blooms were sent annually to Covent Garden Market and pickers were flown in from Lincolnshire to help gather the flower crop. Rising transport costs and the demise of the frequent boat services between the island and both Guernsey and England made the industry uncompetitive and today much of the land is reverting to gorse, bramble and bracken scrub.

Through the middle of this runs the island's principal stream. Rising from springs beneath two fields, called *L'Essources* "the sources" and *L'Aie* meaning "water or wetlands", situated either side of the entrance road to the Airport. The upper reaches flow across part of the land of Rose Farm, the first farm to be "enclosed" on Alderney, about 1830, which has two large ponds created by damming. This stretches down to Pont Martin where a small plot of land surrounding the old *abreuvoir publique* or public cattle-watering trough has been given to the Church and forms a quiet restful picnic spot, dedicated to St. Vignalis, the monk who reputedly brought Christianity to Alderney about AD 875. Just above this is a small swamp at the side of the stream where some of the island's few wetland orchids may sometimes be found. Below the garden the Bonne Terre valley sides are thickly tree-lined in the upper part and form steep bracken and scrub covered slopes further down. The patois name for "good land", given by the islanders for centuries to this area is something of a joke, it is corrupted from *bonne pour rien* "good for nothing". A somewhat overgrown path leads down stream to the former mill-leat; an area now much overgrown since the Watermill, sited lower down since at least the early 12th Century and last rebuilt about 1560, ceased to be used in the 1920s. This too is a site for a few wetland orchids and many of the commoner marsh plants already mentioned. Found only here in the island are a number of the tall pouffe-like stands of the Greater Tussock-sedge *Carex paniculata*.

Figure 11. Great Tussock-sedge in the former mill leat after scrub clearance in January 2000

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Figure 12. The Watermill about 1910

Not far below this, the path crosses to the other side of the stream at the long derelict site of one of the island's early *lavoirets* or public washing places and further below still is the modern pumping station of the waterworks, sited within the shell of a Napoleonic period ammunition store. Water is filtered and pumped into the system from here. Extended mains piping, constructed in 1994/5, now makes it possible to pump much of the surplus all the way back to the main reservoir in Battery Quarry in times of high rainfall and/or low consumption. Another pond held back by a small dam with a spillway was made below here many years ago. Close by, hedges of Tamarisk *Tamarix gallica*, were well grown when they were recorded in E.D. Marquand's *Flora of Guernsey and the Lesser Channel Islands*, published in 1901. Either side of the stream, before it goes under the road, self-seeded plants of the spectacular Globe Artichoke *Cynara cardunculus var. scolymus* with their huge mauve thistle heads in late summer, which have spread considerably in the last 10 years, are remnants of a crop planted in a small field nearby in the 1950s.

For centuries the bottom of this stream discharged into the sand dunes on Platte Saline, forming a large pond, (Figure 13), just above the beach. Increased consumption of the water for domestic needs reduced this to a damp boggy area in the 1970s and 80s, home to several species of Sweet-grass *Glyceria spp.* the land form of Amphibious Bistort *Persicaria amphibia*, and large patches of Great Willowherb *Epilobium hirsutum*. In several drought years or those with low total rainfall, this dried up completely but the pond reformed after a particularly wet winter in 1993, after which several clumps of Galingale, not seen here for about 10 years reappeared, as well as a heavy growth of Least Duckweed, a quantity of the subtropical, floating, Water Fern *Azolla filiculoides*, recorded at several places in the island since 1972 and a few plants of Greater Spearwort. This has given nesting sites to several pairs of Mallard since then and, in 1996 a pair of Teal *Anas crecca*, raised 3 young here.

Figure 13. Platte Saline pond in 1995

Figure 14. Lavoiret at Ladysmith

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To the east of the Watermill site, in a smaller parallel watered valley, Le Petit Val, part of the flow from which was diverted in former times to boost the flow to the mill, is an area known as Ladysmith. There is some doubt whether this area was so named by the garrison troops to celebrate the relief of that town in the Boer War, or whether it is a corruption of *Les Doüits* from the stone lined channels of the only surviving Lavoiret, where the women from this side of the old town came to do their washing. Although closely surrounded by vegetation, the stone lavoiret is still in good condition, (Fig. 14). Wellington boots are advised for those making a visit. There is one of the largest abreuvoirs or cattle troughs in the island nearby with somewhat grass covered, cobbled roadways leading down to it from either side. The cobbles are still clearly to be seen near the trough.

Figure 15. Ladysmith Trough c. 1912

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The stream in this valley also runs down to Platte Saline, in an underground pipe for part of its lower length. Below the road it discharges onto the land as a small stream with a few stunted Willows *Salix spp.* alongside, where, until about 10 years ago, it formed a bog where it finally sank into the sand. The author was responsible at that time for suggesting and overseeing the construction of a 20m. artificial pond to provide a permanent open water habitat for waterfowl and aquatic plants, the overflow from which is piped to the beach, rendering the surrounding land more suitable for recreational purposes. A pair of Mallard hatched 13 ducklings in the longer vegetation at the side of the pond in 1997, unfortunately these were largely taken by Crows in the first week, but three survived. Moorhen *Galinula chloropus*, Coot *Fulica atra* and other waterfowl have visited for short periods. A large White Water-lily plant *Nymphæa spp.* was introduced and a few marginals were planted. The pond rapidly became colonised with a dense growth of Curly Waterweed *Lagarosiphon major* and huge numbers of Pond Snails *Lymnæa spp.* and Freshwater Shrimps *Gammarus spp.* were present within weeks, the snails growing to about 3-4cm over the next few months, all presumably originating from further upstream.

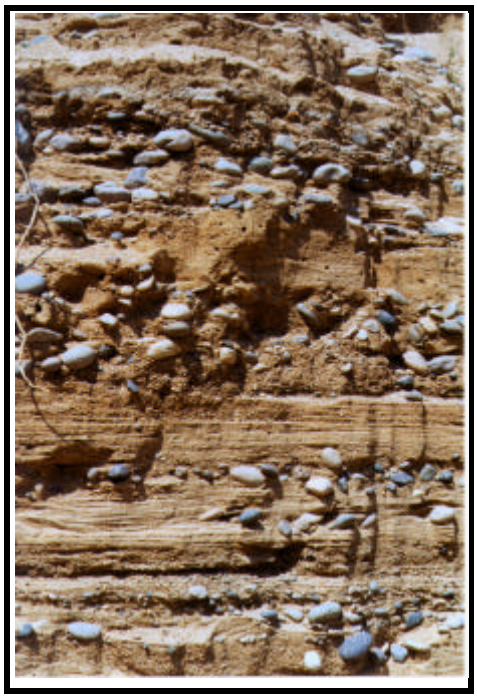

Fig. 16. Stratification in the Sand Pit

Platte Saline was an area of salt pans and was used as an *éperquérie* or fish drying and salting area in Elizabethan times. Dried, salted, Mackerel and Conger were exported to England, the island paying the Sovereign £10 p.a. in rental for the use of the Crown land. In Victorian times it was used as an exercise ground for the garrison and from 1936 until 1993/4 sand was excavated for building and road construction purposes. The sandpit gradually extended over about half of the surface area to a depth of about 10-15m. at which level it became unsuitable for building purposes. The sides of the pit showed many bands of stratification, with varying thicknesses of different sized grit where the dunes had built up over the millennia and in a number of places layers of larger

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pebbles suggested the level of the beach at various times, perhaps even as long ago as the several ice ages, (Fig. 16). The extension of the pit, on the seaward side, stopped well short of the area occupied by the pond with its patches of Galingale, Yellow Iris *Iris pseudacorus* and other marginal plants, inhabited before the Second World War by Sticklebacks *Gasterosteus aculeatus*, and other aquatic animal life. Beyond the pond again, a grassy area is a well established site for Giant Puffballs, *Langermannia gigantea*, a specimen of which, gathered in 1992, measured just over 1m. across and weighed 27lbs.

With the exhausting of suitable building sand, since then the pit has gradually been refilled with builder's rubble, old iron, garden refuse and spoil from the Victorian Battery Quarry, being cleared by the States for the Banquage housing scheme. At the time of first writing this, in January 2000, the infill was completed but had yet to be fully levelled and landscaped. In 2005 this has still to be come, but the grassy area is mown regularly. Perhaps it may be used to extend the sports facilities, originating with the Alderney Tennis Club, built about 1994-5 at the eastern end of the area, after that was back-filled.

As the filling-in was extended, the gritty, quarry spoil, surface became colonised by many plant species. Early colonisers were Dove's-foot Cranesbill *Geranium molle*, Buck's-horn Plantain *Plantago coronopus*, several common grasses, Charlock *Sinapis arvensis*, Orache, Goosefoot, Mayweed and Dock species, large numbers of poppies, including Opium Poppies *Papaver somniferum* in a variety of colours and some more unusual plants, the seeds of all of which may well have survived for many years in the Victorian quarry spoil. These included Thornapple *Datura stramonium*, Apple-of-Peru *Nicandra physalodes*, Hare's-tail Grass *Lagurus ovatus* and Johnson-grass *Sorghum halapense*.

A number of species of fungi emerge from the coarse grit after rainstorms, including very large numbers of Ink-caps *Coprinus comatus.* Later colonists included large numbers of Perennial Wall-rocket *Diplotaxis tenuifolia*, Hoary Mustard *Hirschfeldia incana*, Sea Radish *Raphanus raphanistrum subsp. maritima*, Common Mallow *Malva sylvestris* Oxtongues *Picris hieracoides* and *P. echioides*, **Yarrow** *Achillea millefolium*, (frequently with pink flowers as well as white) and small quantities of Tansy, *Tanacetum parthenium*, Mugwort *Artemesia vulgaris* and Wormwood *A. absinthum*, Cudweeds *Gnapthalium & Filago spp.* and Canadian Fleabane *Conyza canadensis*. The Hare's-tail Grass has now spread to form small scattered clumps over most of the grassy area. A large area of recently spread bare soil yet remains to be colonised.

The lower grassy part of this area, a few metres behind the dunes immediately above the beach, is frequently subjected to inundation with salt water and fine grit in N & NE gales. Several uncommon species may be found along here. A long established colony of Bastard Toadflax *Thesium humifusum* over an area only a few metres square, is periodically covered and vanishes for a year or two, but then reappears. Wild Clary *Salvia verbenaca*, Pyramidal Orchids and Celandine are still common on this part, which has not yet been sprayed.

Figure 17. Bastard Toadflax

Large numbers of Buck's-horn Plantain, Fern grasses, *Catapodium marinum* and *C. rigidum* and Four-leaved Allseed *Polycarpon tetraphyllum* also occur. Rough Clover *Trifolium scabrum* and several of the other small clovers are frequent here.

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Broomrapes, principally Common Broomrape, *Orobanche minor*, and Purple Broomrape, *O. purpurea*, are found in considerable quantity in the short turf, Variegated Catchfly *Silene gallica var. quinquevulnera* appears occasionally in a few dense patches along the track side, whilst along the line of the old fixed rim of the sandpit Hemlock *Conium maculatum* flourished until was regulaly mowed off after the pit filling was completed. Considerable quantities of Four-leaved Allseed, here usually coloured red through exposure to very dry, salty conditions, formerly were found on the south-facing wall of the now-filled excavation. Sea Sandwort (*Honkenya peploides*) is frequent behind the German sea-wall.

The eastern end of this region, beyond the tennis courts was the home of the rare Sand Catchfly *Silene conica* for many years and a few plants are still found at long intervals. Viper's Buglos *Echium vulgare* has appeared here in some quantity in the last 2-3 years, possibly spread from the disturbed soil, below beach gravel laid to form a car park for the Tennis Club.

Figures 18/18a. Common Broomrape

Figure 19. Purple Broomrape

Figure 20. Hemlock

Figure 21. Four-leaved Allseed

Figure 22. Viper's Buglos

Figure 23. Sand Catchfly

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❖ Region 3. The North coastal strip; Tourgis Point to Bibette Head.

At the western end nearer Tourgis Point, the beach area, above and just around HWM has an interesting flora and also provides, near Fort Platte Saline, a nesting spot for one or two pairs of Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula,* each year. Until this area was much altered in a huge storm in the mid 1970s it was one of two spots in the island, where the very rare (in both Alderney and the British Isles) Purple Spurge, *Euphorbia peplis*, (Fig. 26) was to be found. After careful searching of both spots, by a number of people each year since, has failed to find it, this is now considered to be extinct.

The narrow moving dune area along Platte Saline is bound together with a heavy growth of Sand Couch *Elytrigia juncea.* Marram, *Ammophila arenaria*, common in the dunes at the other end of the island does not occur here. This part, little more than 5-10m wide and about 200m long, also holds a mixed population of occasional plants of mauve Hoary Stock *Matthiola incana* and frequent plants of Yellow Horned-poppy *Glaucium flavum*, the blue flowered, silver-leafed, Sea Holly *Eryngium maritimum*, yellowy-green Sea Spurge *Euphorbia paralias*, the pink/white striped flowers and fleshy heart-shaped green leaves of Sea Bindweed *Calystegia soldanella*, Sea Beet *Beta vulgaris subsp. maritima* with red-tinged inflorescences and the large purple and dull dark green leaves and huge white inflorescences of Sea Kale *Crambe maritima*. These last two plants and the Docks, frequent along the edge of the sandy track separating the moving dunes from the flat grassy area, play host to considerable numbers of the Sandhill Snail *Theba pissana*, a Mediterranean species first seen in the larger Channel Islands in the 1860s, which was first noted in Alderney about 1930.

After the loss of the Purple Spurge, last recorded in 1973/4 and a considerable amount of erosion after a storm in February 1990 when the beach was dragged back, leaving a 3m. high “cliff” along most of this stretch, just above HWM (Fig. 23), over the next 3-4 years this whole shingle area was gradually replaced by the sea and the plants returned. Surviving plants on the beach area include a considerable seaward spreading of the Sand Couch into the replaced dunes, many more plants of the Sea Kale which, with its long tap root, regularly survives being buried under a depth of 0.25-1m. of beach grit and emerges again the next year. Sea Rocket *Cakile maritima*, plants with white flowers as well as the more usual blue/lavender colour occurring along the HWM and an occasional plant of Prickly Saltwort *Salsola kali*.

Figure 24. Erosion at Platte Saline, west end.

Figure 25. Effect of prolonged north-east gales moving shingle, Platte Saline, east end

In 1997/9 the States of Alderney placed a considerable amount of large stones as foreshoreing along the area by the junction at the bottom of Tourgis Hill (at Fig. 24, previous page). The stone was brought from the old stock pile at Mannez quarry and interlain with a strong plastic reinforcing matting. The area behind this was backfilled with stone/soil hoggin and, despite a number of storms on this part of the coast, early in 2000, has still held successfully. The seat which was washed away in the earlier erosion was replaced somewhat further back from the top of this new barrier to provide a resting and viewing point for walkers.

Erosion and reformation of this part of the coast is a regular feature. Platte Saline Battery was built as a defence work about 1793 and turned into a small fort in the 1850s. At this time it was some way inland from the top of the beach and a narrow gauge railway ran on the seaward side of the fort to take stone right round the point, for the building of Fort Clonque. The Germans built a defensive sea wall some 5-7m. high along the eastern end of the bay during the last war, construction of which stopped just beside Fort Platte Saline. The top of the eastern end of this wall, level with the roadway, was roughly on the former line of the railway, then long gone. (Figure 25, previous page).

When the houses along that part were rebuilt after the war, the inhabitants used ladders to get down to the beach from the top of the German wall. A fixed dune system has now built up to the top of the wall along towards Fort Doyle on the next headland and Northerly gales occasionally bring more shingle and grit over the top of this to blanket the roadway and invade the gardens of the houses. The flora of this area is similar to that at the western end, with the addition of a number of aliens, probably escaped from local gardens. These include (photos opposite) Greater Quaking Grass *Briza major*, Weasel's-snout *Misopates orontium*, Alpine Toadflax *Linaria alpina*, Silver Ragwort *Senecio cineraria*, and large patches of both the puce and yellow forms of Hottentot Fig. The outer wall of the Fort Platte Saline collapsed onto the beach, where it still lies, when it was undermined by storms about 1960, the land on which the narrow gauge railway ran, having been eroded away long before that.

This part of Platte Saline is watered by a third stream. Originating in springs above Little Street on the south side of the Town, this now runs underground to the top of La Vallée and then down the steep slope (see next Region 4) to Platte Saline, where it turns along behind the houses and then runs North, to discharge onto the beach via a pipe through the base of the German sea wall. The sides of this part of the little stream are lined with more Great Willowherb, a few willows and a large patch of Blackthorn *Prunus spinosa* or one of its hybrids. The dryer areas just beyond the banks are home to a few Fuller's Teasels, *Dipsacus sativus*, more Silver Ragwort, self-seeded from a nearby garden, Tree Mallow *Lavatera arborea*, Tree Lupin *Lupinus arboreus*, Bird's-foot Trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*, and Pyramidal Orchids. Behind the sea wall, here well above the land surface and with its seaward side kept comparatively clear of shingle build up by the continuous flow of fresh water from the streams, large patches of Hottentot Fig and Sea Sandwort *Honckenya peploides*, are to be found.

Figure 26. Purple Spurge at Crabby

Moving further east, we pass through the cutting in the headland, made for the passage of the narrow-gauge railway, to carry stone from the harbour junction towards Fort Clonque, for the construction of that fort, the conversion of the 1790's Platte Saline Battery to a fort and building Fort Doyle, on the headland to our left. The part immediately above us here contains an almost buried German Bunker. Emerging from the cutting,

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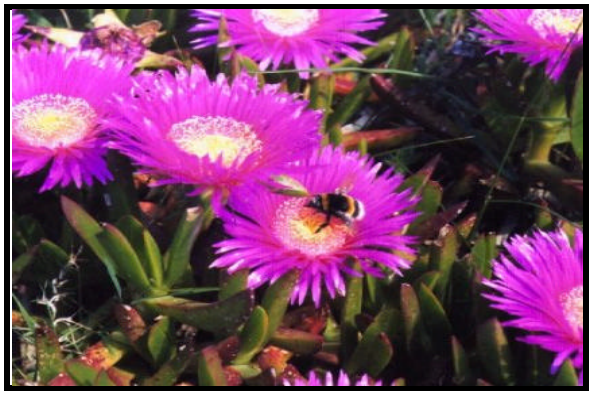
Great Quaking Grass

Silver Ragwort



Hottentot Fig, puce form

Hottentot Fig, yellow form

Teasels on Platte Saline

Tree Lupin on Platte Saline

Sea Sandwort

Fort Doyle (on right) and the cutting (centre)

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Crabby Beach, Ambulance Station beyond

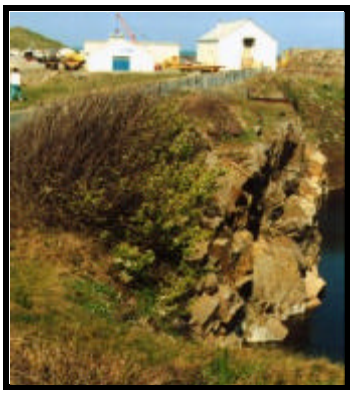
Tamarisk

Duke of Argyl's Tea-plant

Eastern Gladiolus

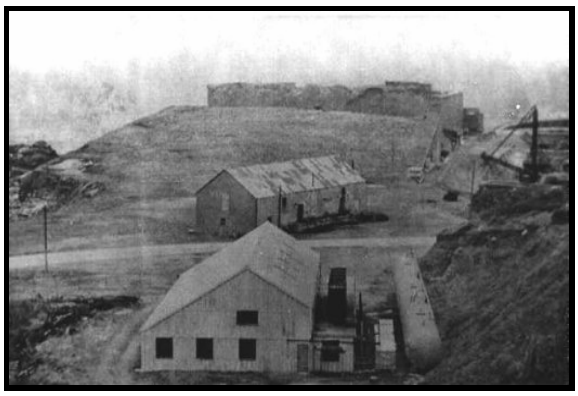
Hedge Fuchsia

Bithynian Vetch at Crabby



Wild Pear at York Hill Quarry

Sea Kale on Crabby Beach



Electricity Station and Fort Grosnez, 1952

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Crabby Beach lies about 4-5m below us. At present the island's main sewer outlet discharges untreated sewage into the sea off Doyle Point. The swift tidal currents, just offshore in the Swinge, rapidly disperse this for most of the time, but in the not too far distant future EU regulations may force Alderney to make alternative arrangements and install treatment facilities.

The old vraic road at this end of the beach, formerly passed down a slope on the far side of the roadway and accessed the beach through a tunnel under the road. This is now blocked up but the tunnel entrance remains visible on the beach side. The shingle here was the second site of the last remaining colonies in the British Isles of the Purple Spurge, referred to above. Its very specialised habitat requirements and seawater borne seeds gave hopes that it would re-establish itself from dormant seeds. Despite careful searching at the appropriate times for most of the years since, it has not returned and must now be considered extinct.

Above HWM most of the plant species already mentioned may be found in the shingle, with long established plants of Tamarisk and Duke of Argyl's Teaplant *Lycium barbarum* (or perhaps *L. chinense)*, on the cliff edge (photos opposite). In the field across the road is another well established alien shrub, Hedge Fuchsia and in the grass along the top of the low cliff, plants of Eastern Gladiolus *Gladiolus communis* and the only colony of Bithynian Vetch *Vicia bithynica* in the island, thrive. The beach and York Hill Quarry, across the road, provide feeding and resting areas for a number of sea birds. Most commonly seen are the smaller Black-headed *Larus ridibundus*, and Mediterranean Gulls *L. melanocephalus*, and Common Tern *Sternus hirundo*. In autumn considerable numbers of Herring *L. argentatus* and Black-backed Gulls, both Great *L. marinus* and Lesser *L. fuscus*, join the group. The quarry, one of the first to be excavated for stone to build the Breakwater and Fort Grosnez, is half filled with fresh water and is used now as cooling water for the Power Station alongside. The rim and walls of the quarry bear many plants of mauve Hoary Stock, (white specimens of which clothe the wall of The Cut a few yards beyond), and a single plant of the Wild Pear *Pyrus pyraster*, the only specimen in the island. Shaped by the wind, this flowers freely, but rarely fruits.

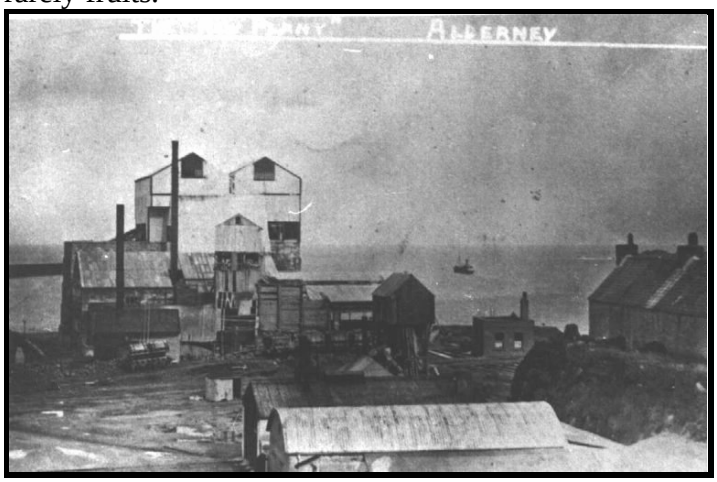

Figure 27. The Stone Crusher built at the Harbour in 1905

We now come to the harbour area and the bare, former site of the huge stone-crusher, built around the turn of the century and demolished in the 1960s. This and the associated quarries gave work to a large part of the male population from the end of the Victorian harbour and Fort building works until the island was evacuated in 1940. Dust and small stone from the crusher and erosion of the mound on which the Breakwater was built, was gradually washed round by the tides, sometimes piled in banks high above HWM. These have formed the greeny-grey shingle and sand now found in Crabby Bay, formerly with golden sands and used as the "Ladies Beach" for swimming in Victorian times, when it was closed to men during the day and was accessed by steps down from the edge of the Fort Grosnez glacis at the harbour end, before the Stone Crusher was built. From 2003 the crusher site was turned into a light industrial area with three large hangar type buildings, a 'garage' for the inshore lifeboat and a winter standing for yachts, RIBs and pleasure boats.

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The grey stone from here has been used for many years since the last war as a source of stone for repairing Alderney's roads, but in 1999 the diminishing quantities available finally stopped this.

The construction of the Breakwater and Forts, from 1847 to 1870 caused an enormous change in the ecology of the area and of Braye Bay to the east of the New or Little Crabby Harbour. The “Old Harbour” formed by the Le Mesurier Pier, built in 1736, with the lower level Douglas Quay added in 1840, rapidly silted up and thus dried out at low tide, rendering it practically useless.

Figure 28. Old Harbour and warehouses, Fort Tourgis and the navigation cone beyond

The warehouses, built along Braye Street around 1736-50 to house smuggled and captured goods, (many now converted to Hotels), which had their cellars opening directly onto the beach to facilitate landing the goods, then became less easily accessible. The beach area, so popular today for bathing and as a tourist beach, gradually extended much further out to sea than formerly and the dune area thus formed had, towards the harbour end, (until this was filled in with spoil from the Banquage scheme in the early 1990s), a small dune slack area behind the first line of dunes, with an interesting salt-marsh flora and fauna. The construction of the Commercial Quay in 1899-1902, then made the landing of goods and passengers a much simpler, quicker and safer operation than it had been since the old harbour silted up.

Figure 29. General view of Braye Harbour from Fort Albert. The island of Burhou can be seen in the background

The Breakwater, although now only half the length that it had reached when construction was abandoned in 1870 (and the second arm stretching out from Château à L’Étoc headland, intended to enclose the bay was never built), nevertheless still provides a sheltered anchorage for many cargo, fishing and pleasure boats and the occasional naval and cruise ships. The 8-900m. long, sunken part of the dismantled portion, the top of which is only about 8-10m. below the surface, still helps to keep the worst of the N & NW weather from the eastern end of the bay, at the same time presenting a navigational hazard to larger ships. In these conditions waves hitting the outside of the Breakwater frequently send a wall of spray into the air, as much as 50-60m. high in severe conditions. In certain NE weather conditions the bay experiences some very rough water flowing in through the open end and, from time to time vast quantities of sand are moved along the beach towards the west,

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exposing underlying rocks and shingle and flooding water, seaweed and rocks over the road along the eastern end; on some occasions badly eroding the low cliff here. A few weeks later the sand has usually moved back again leaving a large expanse of clean sandy beach once more.

Fort Grosnez at the landward end of the Breakwater, the first of the forts to be constructed, has an interesting flora of salt-spray resistant plants on and around its outer walls, including Golden Samphire, quite rare in Alderney and not that common around the coasts of the other Channel Islands or England.

Figure 30. Golden Samphire

Until a few years ago, the only dune slack still existing in the island was to be found along about 2-300m of the curve of Braye Bay, starting near the left hand edge of Figure 28 and extending further to the East (left of picture). This left an area almost level with the beach and about 5-6m wide behind the first dune, occasionally flooded for short periods after storms. The flora of the area consisted of Sand Couch, Bramble, Sea Bindweed, Sea Spurge; Sea Beet and various Docks (both supporting a number of the Sandhill Snails *Theba pissana*); and several other of the common coastal sand dune plants. It also contained the only plant of Norway Maple, (*Acer platanoides*), which I have seen in the island outside gardens, presumably self-sown, and a small area of Wild Clematis, (*Clematis vitalba*). Due to a misguided attempt by the States to prevent possible erosion here, after a storm had badly damaged the sea wall along the eastern end of the bay and, at the same time, to dispose of a large amount of Victorian quarry spoil from the Banquage housing scheme on the other side of the road which forms the southern boundary of this region on the map the slack was completely filled in and a potentially important habitat was lost for ever.

Figure 31. Sandhill snails

The beach at the foot of the dune in front of this area is still home to several of the plants listed in the previous paragraph and, in addition seems to be the principal site in the island where Prickly Saltwort (*Salsola kali*) is to be found. Soapwort (*Saponaria officialis*) was also reported from about here in 1956, but has not been recorded since. Sea Rocket (*Cakile maritima*) is frequent here and also extending along the beach to the East, above the HWM.

In the splash zone just in front of dune areas, a number of flowering plants may be found growing in the sand or small shingle. Marram, Sand and Sea Couch-grasses, Sea Kale, Sea Beet, Sea Spurge, Spear-leaved and Babington's Orache, Sea Sandwort, Yellow Horned-poppy, Sea Bindweed, Sand Sedge and Buck's-horn Plantain being the commonest.

In summer Sea Lettuce and Enteromorpha will be noticed in the flat, shallow wet areas towards the bottom of the tide, especially where there is freshwater seepage in this area. Zostera, another flowering plant, is found in the sublittoral zone off several parts of the South

coast, (see under Region 8), usually above the Laminarians, particularly where there is a muddy substrate.

Figure 32. Prickly Saltwort below the dunes

The area of Braye Common behind the dunes here extending out to the road, was formerly the site of one of the steam driven 19th century stone crushers. Small diorite stones emerge here whenever the surface grass is removed and in many years a large patch of the delicate, blue Pale Flax (*Linum bienne*) flowers here. A cutting through the dunes is to be found just beyond the former end of the dune slack and a small colony of Japanese Knotweed, (*Fallopia japonica*), flourishes just above it to the East.

The common, from here to the turn off to the Arsenal, is lined along the roadside by a number of New Zealand Cabbage Palms, (*Cordyline australis*), first planted here in the 1930s and giving a subtropical appearance to the Bay area. They were badly cut back by the hurricane in October 1987, but most have survived and sprouted from the base, now reaching 2-4m in height. The common used to be grazed by the tethered Alderney cattle and mown once or twice a year for hay. This helped to keep the grass short and allowed many small plants to flourish including Pyramidal Orchids by the hundred. Alien plants appeared from time to time probably from seed dropped by birds or windblown. Two of the most unusual being Great Millet, (*Sorghum bicolor*), just beyond the seats above the sea wall and, over several years from 1992-6, a number of plants of Cotton Thistle, (*Onopordum acanthium*), with the huge silver-grey leaves and stems which can grow to over 2m high, appeared. Despite their striking appearance, which would have made avoiding them simple, marking them with stakes and the pleas of the author, these were totally eliminated by three years' mowing and have not reappeared since 1996.

Across the road, between the road and the railway, lies a rough area of common partly occupied by a flat topped spoil hillock, probably the site of an earlier gun battery from the 1790 period. This part of the common was dedicated about 10 years ago to the use of the local youngsters as a motor cycle scramble course. Right in the middle lies an area about 25m square, the only site in the island of the Rough Star-thistle *Centaurea aspera*, (photo opposite). First recorded by E.D. Marquand about 1890, here as a small patch a few yards square and also on the other side of the road nearer the sea, (now gone), this has survived for more than a century and, although one of the motorcycle tracks down from the top of the mound runs through the middle of one of the larger clumps, has retained its hold, whilst failing to spread to any other sites, either naturally or despite the attempts of several people over the years to spread the seed. By contrast, the same plant on St. Ouen's Common in Jersey, described early last century as existing only in a small patch, has spread to cover much of the common today and makes it an uncomfortable place to sit, as you can imagine from the spines shown in the photo.

About 1996 Alderney Electricity were putting their cables underground and the trench went right through the middle of the other large patch a few metres away. By their co-operation and careful marking of the spot to avoid unnecessary disturbance of the remainder of the colony, the narrow trench needed for the cable only destroyed a handful of plants and within a year or so was undetectable.

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Erosion of the low cliff in front of the seats nearby has resulted in a recent strengthening of the sea wall and the rocky beach in front of these is a favourite place for several species of waders, including small flocks of Curlew, Oyster Catchers, Ringed Plover and Dunlin, from time to time and on migration and the very occasional Grey Heron.

Figure 33. Alderney (Guernsey) cow tethered on Braye Common

The whole common area in late summer bears frequent plants of Fennel, (*Foeniculum vulgare*), its handsome deeply divided leaves and heads of yellow flowers making a brave show, whilst the smell of aniseed fills the air as you brush past it. Various Buttercup, (*Ranunculus*), species, a variety of pink or white Campions, (*Silene*), species, various grasses, Sea Mayweed, (*Tripleurospermum maritimum*), with its prominent White, yellow centred daisy-like flowers, dark green deeply divided leaves and often reddish stems and Pineapple Weed (*Matricaria discoidea*), similar in general appearance, but lacking the white petals surrounding the yellow-green head, are frequent on the barer patches; many plants of Gorse, bearing flowers for much of the year grow along the top of the low cliff formed by the dunes. A number of smaller and usually less conspicuous plants flourished in the short cropped turf.

With the considerable decline in agriculture in the island over the last 10 years, grazing gradually ceased and in order to keep the area tidy for both islanders and visitors to walk and play on, the States commenced a frequent mowing policy, leaving the cuttings on the ground and, over 2-3 years, effectively suppressing the growth of most of the smaller plants and the orchids.

Figure 34. Cotton Thistle

Figure 34a. Rough Star-thistle

Figure 35. Pyramidal Orchid

All on Braye Common

The remainder of the north coast of the island will be dealt with in Regions 6 and 7.

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Figure 36. Town plan of St. Anne & Newtown, 1961

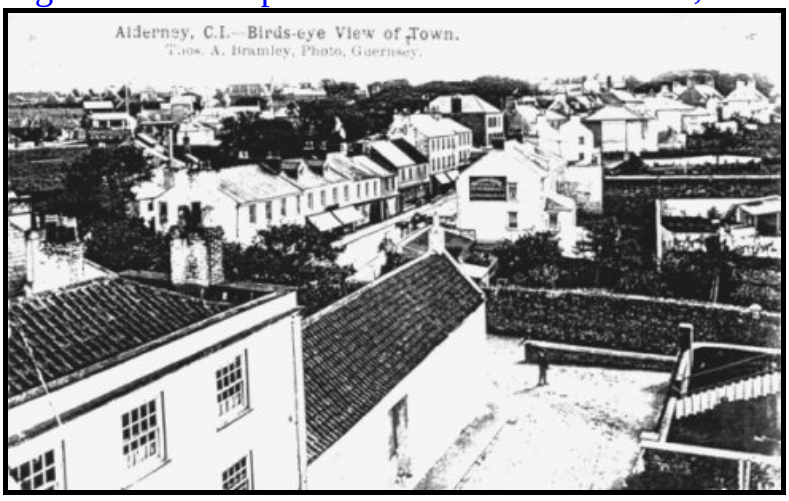

Figure 37. St. Anne from Belle Vue Hotel c. 1910

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❖ Region 4. The Town area of St. Anne.

The town gradually grew up round the “nucleated village” based on Le Bourgage and Les Venelles. The ancient church was almost certainly built on the site of a pagan holy place, the site today of the clock tower, (all that remains of the former Parish Church of Ste. Marie or Notre Dame (Our Lady), which became known as St. Ann in the late 18th century when a side chapel was added to the church) and the old cemetery. This was an elevated mound above a stream, which formerly ran through the area later formed by Marais Square and Royal Connaught Square, down through the Island Hall to La Vallée and the sea. It was also used as the open air meeting place of the island courts until the first courthouse was built in the 18th century and the various public gatherings to settle the dates of planting, harvest and vraic gathering were held in Le Huret just beside and important announcements (e.g. the proclamation of the end of the Great War in 1918) were made here, right into the 1920s.

The site was well watered and the stream still supplied public washing facilities in a Lavoiret at the bottom of Little Street, with public pumps in both Marais and Connaught Squares and the huge cattle trough in Marais Square, still in use long after the area had been drained and paved, the stream put into a culvert and houses built around (and apparently over) it. After very heavy rain the basement of the Island Hall still floods as a result. The pumps were still in regular use until the early 1950s and their positions can still be detected from the layout of the cobbles in each square. The cattle trough was kept filled and their manure removed from the cobbles daily, by a man paid to look after it, at least until the island was evacuated in 1940. At one time in the early 19th century, La Petite Rue (Little Street) became known as “Cowpat Lane” from the custom of the inhabitants to use the cowpats, plastered to the walls of their houses in the summer to dry, as a winter fuel known as ‘buzzets’.

The town area, shown on the map opposite, still contains a number of open sites, some of which have unusual native or naturalised plants in them, or at least plants, perhaps common in the UK, which are rare in Alderney.

Most obvious are the two churchyards. The old site, referred to above ceased to be used, except for later burials of a few of the older families in their family tombs, when the present parish church was opened in 1850 and the old one later demolished except for the clock tower. There are a few botanically interesting items in this site.

Just inside the gates at the bottom of High Street is a rare tree, from its appearance possibly planted just after the last war. With the very long-winded name of Pear-fruited Cockspur-thorn *Crataegus pedicillata*, it appears to have been grafted just above ground level onto the stock of an ordinary Hawthorn, *C. monogyna*. The main tree has ovate toothed, plum-like leaves and much larger flowers and fruits than the common Hawthorn (photo p. 41). Careful examination when the tree is in full leaf, reveals a ring of small branches, an inch or two above the soil, just below the graft bearing the ordinary, very familiar, deeply lobed leaves of the common variety. The graft appears to have been made and the main stock then removed, leaving the present trunk that of the grafted plant. Further into the churchyard, the larger tree in the middle again seems to be a grafted one. The present tree is almost entirely that of the Wild Cherry or Gean, *Prunus avium*, probably the only one in the island, and apparently the result of planting an ornamental flowering cherry grafted onto the wild stock, the grafted part having later died and the stock sprouted several new stems. I found two young, probably self sown, Cabbage Palms at the base of one of the tombs about ten years ago. These are now some 4m high, trunks 25cm across and branched. As the grass is frequently mown or strimmed there seems little else of particular interest.

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In the Vicarage front garden on the other side of the wall an enormous Bay tree *Laurus nobilis* thrives. A large patch of Italian Arum *Arum italicum subsp. italicum*, with large white-veined leaves, (photo p. 41), also gives a grand show of its spikes of orange berries in the autumn. Parasitic on the Ivy in the front garden is a considerable colony of Ivy Broomrape *Orobanche hederae*, (photo p. 41), extremely common in Guernsey on most Ivy-covered banks, but in Alderney apparently confined to areas in close proximity to the line of the former stream which crossed Connaught square and went down La Vallée to the sea.

Just across the road in the front garden of the Island Hall is a very large Copper Beech and in the rear garden a large Walnut tree and another small colony of the Ivy Broomrape is to be found. This last reappears on the banks either side of the road shortly after the stream emerges in La Vallée below the Valley Gardens and at the bottom of this road just by the junction with Butes Lane. It has not been recorded elsewhere in the island, despite the vast amounts of Ivy to be found.

The Terrace gardens, at one time part of the le Mesurier estate round "Government House", now the Island Hall, was given to the island more than a century ago as a public park. The gate was, until 1940 locked each evening and, in a photo taken before the Great War had a lovely flight of stone steps at the top end, leading from the lower to the upper walk, (photo p. 41). This area has long been a haven for the Italian Arum, with both white-veined and plain green (*subsp. neglectum*) forms in abundance. It is also graced in the early spring and summer with large quantities of the graceful Cow Parsley *Anthriscus sylvestris* flowering, known in some parts as either 'Queen Anne's Lace's or 'Hedge Parsley', (photo p. 41). Surprisingly, this plant, abundant both here and in Britain generally, is rare in both Guernsey and Jersey. The true Hedge Parsley *Torilis japonica* however, is not frequent here.

Also present in these gardens was, until the Dutch Elm disease killed them about 15-20 years ago, was a fine line of Elm trees, *Ulmus minor subsp. sarniensis*. When these were eventually felled about 1983, the author obtained a cross section of the trunk of the largest. Planed, polished and placed on view in the Museum, the rings show that the tree was probably planted in 1805, the date of the Battle of Trafalgar. Suckers from these trees still regenerate, but usually succumb to the disease after 5-10 years. A small, but spreading patch of Summer Snowflake *Leucojum aestivum*, (photo p. 41), despite its name flowering as early as February is also present, the only place in the island where it grows truly 'in the wild'.

Further down La Vallée, planted many years ago, one in a garden and the other in a wood are the earliest spring-flowering trees in the island, two Cherry Plums *Prunus cerasifera*. Their blossoms often appear in the first week of February or even late January each year and are usually in full flower by the end of the month. Ripe fruit is less commonly seen, (photo p. 41). The stream flows in a channel at the side of the road or just inside the gardens, under a complete archway of overhanging well grown Sycamores *Acer pseudoplatanus* and Hawthorns, with the elegant Pendulous Sedge *Carex pendula* (photo p. 41), in clumps along its sides and in a few places seeded well away from the stream on banks and in lawns. About half way down the hill the stream drops away to the bottom of Le Val Vert Courtil amongst a considerable number of Sycamores and alongside the stream Alders *Alnus glutinosa* all probably planted since the last war. Just below this again, the grass verges on the western side of the stream just outside Picaterre Farm are the home of another sedge, this time the inconspicuous Grey Sedge *Carex divulsa subsp. divulsa*. The stream here goes under the road into Section 2, already discussed.

Returning now to the Parish churchyard, we find in the spring by far the largest concentration of Primroses *Primula vulgaris* (rare elsewhere in Alderney), Common Dog-violets *Viola riviniana* and Celandines *Ranunculus ficaria* anywhere in the island. The sexton has been careful over many years to allow these to flower and seed before mowing them off. Most of the trees have been planted and include a couple of Hornbeam *Carpinus betulus* and a number of Sweet Chestnut, *Castanea sativa*. Naturalised from flowers and

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Cockspur-thorn in flower

Cockspur-thorn in fruit

Hawthorn, note leaf difference

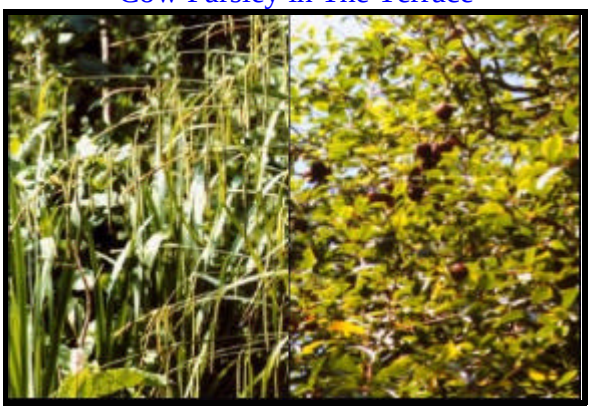
Italian Arum, leaves and fruit

Ivy Broomrape

Former Terrace steps

Cow Parsley in The Terrace

Summer Snowflake



Pendulous Sedge; and Cherry Plum in fruit

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Selaginella in the Churchyard

Alexanders and Tassel Hyacinth on Butes

Rusty-back Fern

Maidenhair Spleenwort

Trailing Bellflower

Lady’s Bedstraw on the Pottery wall

Herb Bennett; and Enchanter’s Nightshade

Poplar; and Hairy Garlic, in Fontaine David

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placed on graves at various times, two persistent plants are *Geranium endressii x G. oxonianum*, a medium sized perennial Geranium running riot over several graves, and Kraus's Clubmoss *Selaginella kraussiana* (photo p. 42), one of our most primitive plants, along the verge against the North wall of the church. First found by the author in 1997 growing in a fissure well up on one of the old stone boundary walls, two plants of Wild Strawberry, *Fragaria vesca* were in both flower and ripe fruit. Not previously recorded in the island, their origin remains a mystery. A fine collection of Bryophytes may be found on the tombstones and old walls in both cemeteries. These have been catalogued by two experts in recent years, one of their publications and a series of dried specimens will be found in the Museum. The lists are available in my own "Wild Flowers of Alderney", at present only available on CD-Rom.

The largest public open space directly connected with the town is the Butes. The name originating from its use as the archery practice area for the Alderney Militia. The building at the SW corner of this area was built in the 18th century, possibly on the site of a much older Watchhouse, as a barracks and arsenal, later became a military hospital before Fort Essex was built in the 1850s and now houses the States Works Department. The Cricket Club building on the N side is a recent addition. The rough area shown on the map on p.40 slopes steeply down towards the harbour. Various gun batteries and quarries have been formed here over the past two centuries and botanically it supports, amongst many common plants, the island's only colony of Alexanders *Smyrnium olusatrum* (photo p. 42), abundant in the other Channel Islands and a small patch of Tassel Hyacinth *Muscari comosum* (photo p. 42), first recorded in 1971 and most likely a garden escape.

The old walls in town support a variety of interesting plants. In several places very small colonies of Rusty-back Fern *Ceterach officinarum* (photo p. 42), survive. These little ferns need lime and will only survive on old mortared walls. If the walls are repointed with cement, they die. In very dry weather their fronds roll inwards, leaving an outer covering of brown scales exposed, to prevent water loss. Within an hour or so of rain falling they open out again. Maidenhair Spleenwort *Asplenium trichomanes* (photo p. 42), Black Spleenwort *A. adiantum nigrum*, Wall-rue *A. ruta-muraria*, Western Polypody *Polypodium interjectum*, and (usually small specimens of) Hart's-tongue Fern *Phyllitis scolopendrium*, are all frequent. Of the flowering plants, two species of wall campanula, the Adria and Trailing Bellflowers *Campanula portenschlagiana* and *C. poscharskyana* (photo p. 42), respectively, can be seen in several places and the wall of the Alderney Pottery has an unusual colony of the common, sandy grassland plant, Lady's Bedstraw *Galium verum* (photo p. 42), well established in crevices in its walls.

To the east of Le Val and La Route de Braye lies a large area of comparatively undeveloped land, scheduled as part of the building area. The Val Reuters, running from just above the former Inchalla Hotel at the top of Le Val, in a northerly direction behind the houses at Auderville, slopes steeply down towards the harbour. It is well watered from springs forming a stream for part of its length, with one of the old abreuvoirs publiques (cattle troughs) about two-thirds way down. A number of moisture loving plants such as; Field Horsetail *Equisetum arvense*, Brookweed *Samolus valerandi*, Herb Bennett *Geum urbanum*, Enchanter's-nightshade *Circea lutetiana* (photos p. 42), and various ferns, are to be found along the length of the narrow, shady path, in addition to the more common hedgerow species and grasses.

At the lower end of this valley the stream flows in a channel and some steps take us down into Fontaine David, an unmade road coming from part way down Braye Hill to this point and then looping back on a parallel track almost to Braye Road again, but well below it, before turning sharply north to emerge by the Harbour Lights Hotel, built on the site of the

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former island Gasworks, into Newtown Road. The hillsides either side of the steps contain entrances to two very substantial German tunnel complexes cut through the rock. An interesting fungal flora has developed on the fallen timber roof supports within these, in almost total darkness in some places. BEWARE, sections of the roof have fallen, partially blocking the tunnels, some of the lower sections are partly filled with water and no-one should enter alone, nor without proper headgear and good torches.

The steep hillside above the tunnel on the North side of the roadway supports a fair sized (for Alderney) Ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, wood and there are a couple of large specimens lower down at the roadside as well as what are probably the biggest Poplars, probably the hybrid *Populus canadensis* (photo p. 42), in the island. After wandering under the hill for several hundred metres, with several short side branches, the tunnel emerges again along this stretch. The hedges and scrub there also contain a number of different Willow *Salix spp.* varieties and a few straggly Wild Plum *Prunus domestica* trees. Among the vegetation at the foot of the hedges, occasional groups of Hairy Garlic *Allium subhirsutum* (photo p. 42), may be noticed, with delicate heads of about a dozen white star-like flowers between March and June depending on the season. The stream continues alongside the lower part of the track and near the bottom is one of the old stone arched well-heads. The water from this valley supplies part of the island domestic supply and the main pumping station is situated opposite its junction with Newtown Road. Some interesting small ferns of the species already mentioned on town walls are to be found on the wall of the Harbour Lights. Fresh water from this stream eventually seeps onto Braye beach, several hundred yards away, but more or less opposite this point and in very wet weather the road often floods here.

The remaining open space in this section is the mainly agricultural land at the bottom right hand corner of the map on page 38, known as La Corvée. The name derives from the ancient custom of the same name which implied that the tenants of the land had an obligation of service to the freeholder (Crown, Church or Governor) in so many day's labour each year spent in upkeep of the roads. This tithe continued in Sark until about 1950.

A few of the less common grasses and other plants have been recorded in this part of the island. These include Narrow-leaved Meadow-grass *Poa angustifolia* first recorded in 1990; good stands of Musk Thistle *Carduus nutans*; Greater Knapweed *Centaurea scabiosa*; and Dark Mullein *Verbascum nigrum*, are also found here. [This last is also found, together with Great Mullein *V. thapsus*, in some quantity on Verdun Farm on the other side of the Longis Road].

Fig. 38, Musk Thistle and Greater Knapweed

Fig. 39, Great Mullein and Dark Mullein

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❖ Region 5. Les Rochers; The high rising ground behind Braye Bay to the Longis Road

This small triangular region is bounded to the North by Braye Common and the Rue de Beaumont, renamed some years ago in honour of our twin town across The Race, but still better known to the islanders as the Lower Road or Le Banquage. This area contains a substantial part of the Banquage housing estate; a small industrial area; the Pine plantation; Battery Quarry, the island's principal reservoir; a length of the Victorian mineral railway; still in use today as a tourist attraction; the steep slope up to Les Rochers with various Neolithic remains; the Valongis, a damp valley with springs a Sycamore wood and a rich fern flora; one of the old abreuvoirs publiques and a small quarry; Champs Beaulais, a small 1960-70s housing estate; the Cimitière St. Michel (Stranger's Cemetery; the Catholic Cemetery; the new extension to the island cemetery opened in 2000; and a considerable part of the Golf Course.

The eastern half of the region is largely composed of an enormous blown sand dune, running over the top of the island between Braye and Longis Bays, of an age which has never been positively determined, but which covers some archaeological sites up to 5,000 years old.

It is bounded to the South by the Longis Road, here running downhill from the top of the Town.

Within its boundaries, the hand of man has, over the centuries, greatly modified the landscape. Just in and beyond its eastern end, a large early Iron Age pottery has been excavated at Les Huguettes, in an area called, for considerably more than a century, 'the potter's field' by the islanders, because of all the bits of broken pottery and other ancient bronze and stone tools found there. Many Bronze Age and Roman artefacts have been found and the island's earliest permanent settlements probably existed in this area, (of which more in Region 6).

On top of Les Rochers, Neolithic stone circles were found in the 1830s, partly already destroyed by fortification works in the previous century. There still exists the old Magazine, from about 1760-90, incorporated into a house in the 1990s. The distribution of the Crown Lands to the inhabitants in 1830 meant that a lot of ancient burial sites were destroyed, through the new owners cultivating or building on the land and breaking up the graves and standing stones they found, for their own constructions, whilst remaining largely ignorant of the significance of what lay beneath their feet.

The Victorians built the railway track around 1846-7 and subsequently, in constructing the breakwater and forts, excavated vast quantities of granodiorite from the quarry formed where the old Kings Battery stood, built at least half a century before, some way below the Magazine and the site next to it, (marked on old War Department plans, of a projected fort which was never built).

The Germans built many bunkers on it and tunnelled underneath parts of it during World War Two and the settlers had houses built on it after the war. In at least one of the plots, huge stones, probably put in position by ancient inhabitants, were found when excavating the foundations for a new house. Some were rolled into line to form a feature in the north sloping garden. Finally, in laying out the present golf course, other remains were disturbed, but the extremely important discovery and subsequent excavation of the pottery site mentioned above, resulted from this same activity and the site was preserved for posterity, with many of the artefacts now on display in the Museum.

To start the survey of this region, we can perhaps best follow the track of the Victorian mineral railway, built to carry stone from the quarries for the construction of the

Breakwater and Forts. This enters Region 5 on our map just behind the Banquage housing estate. Although this ceased to be used for the transport of stone in the 1960s, in recent years since it was leased to the Alderney Railway Society for their passenger trains it has become a tourist attraction. From time to time the length of the track from Mannez quarry to the harbour is sprayed with weed killer, but is otherwise little disturbed. A number of interesting plants are found in the banks either side and, between the infrequent sprayings along the bed of the track.

Figure 40. Dove's-foot Crane's-bill

Of greatest interest perhaps is the Alderney Crane's-bill or Alderney Geranium *Geranium submolle*. This plant was first noted along from here, to the level crossing by Battery Quarry in 1938 and was considered to be a variety or colour-form of the common Dove's-foot Crane's-bill *G. molle*. (Later research showed the same plant to have been collected in Guernsey in 1926, when it was named *G. Core-Core* and was not seen again until found in a totally different spot in 1968). Refound in 1957 and now found in other sites in Alderney, it has been given species status in the last 5-10 years. It seems to be identical to a species of South American origin but is not found elsewhere in the British Isles.

Figure 41. Alderney Crane's-bill

The newcomer grows to about 80cm, scrambling and with larger, less deeply notched flowers on longer stalks than the common generally small, low-growing and almost ubiquitous Dove's-foot. It is now found all along the track sides and the verge in Newtown Road within about 100m of the crossing and in other lengths of the track nearer Mannez quarry, in Barrackmaster's Lane and several other scattered localities.
A few metres the other side of the Battery crossing, the track sides are home to a small colony of Blue Fleabane *Erigeron acer*, small, with not very conspicuous mauve florets. Although this has been recorded regularly since 1838 it does not seem to be very common elsewhere in the island.

In the verge on the opposite side of the road, an unusual looking fungus the Earth-star *Geastrum triplex*, has appeared on a number of occasions and I have also found it across the road from the southern boundary of this region on top of the bank opposite the new cemetery in Longis Road. It has also been reported near Mannez quarry.

<Fig 43. Earth-star

Fig 42. Blue Fleabane >

Moving into the nearby Battery Quarry from which many thousands of tons of the hard Granodiorite stone was excavated from about 1846-1940, creating a large hole reputedly about 200 feet deep, we are at, what has been since the last

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war, the island's principal reservoir, currently in March 2000, almost full to capacity and holding around 45 million gallons of water. The freshwater flora of this quarry has not yet been investigated to the best of my knowledge. The relatively undisturbed, narrow area of ground level quarry floor on two sides of the quarry hole does not seem to hold anything special of botanical interest, whilst the high walls surrounding it to a maximum height of about another 100 feet, bear many common ferns, lichens, mosses and flowering plants. Above the quarry rim to the east, a small colony of Agrimony *Agrimonia eupatoria*, may be found. This is rare in Alderney.

Figure 44. Battery quarry from the south-east rim

Figure 45. Agrimony

On the steep, upward, slopes of Les Rochers, to the south of Newtown Road, in addition to post-war and more recent housing developments in Valongis and along the north facing slope, a mixed Pine plantation was made in the 1960s. This small area is now densely populated and the under storey is more or less sterile from the litter of pine needles. Specimens of Scots *Pinus sylvestris*, Austrian *P. nigra subsp. nigra*, Corsican *P. nigra subsp. corsica*, and Maritime *P. maritima*, pines are mixed and at least one specimen of Knobcone Pine *P. attenuata*, can be found with them.

The undeveloped parts of the slope are densely colonised by Gorse, Bramble and Bracken with many self sown Sycamores, Hawthorns and, at the top, a considerable area in which Traveller's-joy or 'Old Man's-beard' *Clematis vitalba*, surprisingly rare in Alderney, may be found amongst the German bunkers. A small mystery exists along here in the form of a large, dense, almost circular patch 15-20m across, of what seems to be Lilac *Syringa vulgaris*, despite its size and regular visits at the appropriate flowering time, I have never seen this in flower. On the south side of the rough track along the ridge here, towards the western end and the junction with Valongis, lies an area of Church glebe land. Untended for many years, amongst other (all presumably planted, shrubs), this has some large bushes, 3-4m tall, of Spanish Broom, *Spartium junceum*, its large, brilliant yellow flowers making a welcome patch of colour for many months in the year. Along the sides of this track one may also find scattered plants of another, here in Alderney surprisingly rare, perennial plant, Meadow Crane's-bill *Geranium pratense*, its large, usually blue to violet-blue flowers, sometimes pale pink instead. This phenomenon has been noted elsewhere in the island and seems to affect individual plants only in some years.

Turning south at the junction, on the left, the lower end of the glebe land, just above the Cimitière St. Michel, was used by the Germans during the last war as a cemetery for their own troops. The bodies were all repatriated in the 1960s. The Stranger's Cemetery (St. Michel) was established during Victorian times for burying the immigrant workers and troops

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on what was thought to be the site of an ancient chapel of one of the 'frairies', established by a monk or hermit who gained his living by saying masses for the souls of the dead. There were several in the island, dedicated to various saints and disbanded by Henry VIII in his sequestration of the monasteries. The small revenues from each were annexed to the crown and the sums appear in an "Extente" in the reign of Elizabeth I. This cemetery is the site of the island's only known colony of Cowslips *Primula veris*, never in any great numbers and, in some years, greatly endangered by States mowing the grass at inappropriate times. In 1998/9, the boundary wall to the east of the plot was removed, a new roadside wall incorporating the stones built along the adjacent field, as an extension to the Parish cemetery.

Partly adjoining this field, to the east again, with a house built between it and the road, is the Catholic Cemetery, established in the early 1860s. After the Reformation, the Parish church continued as the only place of worship, with compulsory attendance for all, under threat of fines for non-attendance and all were buried in the adjoining cemetery or in their family vaults in the old cemetery. With the huge influx of stonemasons, labourers and troops from 1846 onwards several other denominations built places of worship and a Catholic church was established at Crabby Bay from 1852. Registers of their births, marriages and deaths exist from about 1857 and the first record of a burial in their cemetery is in 1868. There seem to be no specially important plants here, although a patch of Chicory *Cichorium intybus*, thrived for a number of years in the 1980s - mid 1990s, just outside the gate. The tombs and walls have an interesting lichen flora which was catalogued in 1997/8.

Continuing to the east down the Longis Road, the bank along the northern side holds a mass of white flowers of the Sweet Alison *Lobularia maritima*, along most of its length, a southern European plant well naturalised throughout the island and in flower in every month of the year. This bank also has a heavy growth of the ubiquitous Three-cornered Garlic ('Stinking onions'), also a naturalised Mediterranean immigrant, in the Spring, giving a dense bank of white flowers with a pale green stripe down the back of each petal. Some old, planted, Lawson's Cypress and Monterey Pines, over a large area of German bunkers, along this side of the road, lead to a belt of Gorse, Hawthorn and Bramble separating part of the golf Course from the road and then recently planted trees and older belts of the same species down to the former WD Officer's houses at Simon's Place and the end of Region 5 at the junction with the railway line and the Rue de Beaumont.

The Arsenal/MountHale/Fort Albert complex at the eastern end of Braye Bay completes this Region. Approaching the lower gateway from the Bay, Winter Heliotrope, Galingale, Pyramidal Orchids, Common and Greater Knapweeds *Centaurea nigra & C. scabiosa*, may be found amongst the bracken, bramble and coarse grasses. Inside the Arsenal many small plants such as Dove's-foot Crane's-bill and several Mouse-ears survive in the mown areas, whilst in the untended parts several wild Roses, Hottentot Fig, Daffodils, Pyramidal Orchids, Common and Purple Broomrapes, Weld, Tower Mustard, Pink and Sea Campion, Stonecrops, Eastern Gladiolus, Viper's Buglos, many of the common, yellow, Daisy family plants can be found anongst the bracken and bramble.

The slopes at the top of the track leading to Fort Albert gateway are home to one of the largest concentrations of Viper's Buglos in the island and a number of ferns can be found in crevices in the fort walls. The interior is in derelict condition and does not seem to house anything unusual in the way of "weeds". The slopes of Mount Hale bear more wild roses amongst the bracken and, by the roadside, a small plantation of Monterey and Scots Pines *Pinus radiata & P. sylvestris*, with a small colony of Wild Onion *Allium vineale* beneath them.

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❖ **Region 6. Mannez/Longis; mostly sand dunes over sandstone, but overlying the diorite on the higher land on the north-western part.**

This region includes Saye, Arch, Corblets and most of Longis, bays.

Let us first deal with the beach areas in the northern part and the plants and animals found on the beaches generally, leaving Longis Bay in the south to the end;

Saye Bay;

Almost circular with a sandy bottom and a relatively narrow, rock guarded entrance, this is Alderney's favourite swimming beach. Backed by dunes which shelter the campsite behind them, it is surrounded by German fortifications, especially on the western headland, Bibette Head, which guards the entrance to the harbour on its other side. On the opposite side of the entrance to the bay, Château à L'Etoc was built near what had been the intended start of the eastern arm of the Breakwater and the archway carrying the road to the fort here and giving access from the campsite to the beaches of Arch and Corblets bays, was built to carry a branch of the mineral railway for the stone to build this arm and the fort. Saye farmhouse was built about 1850, as the Engineer's HQ for this part of the harbour works, but those never got much beyond the planning stage and were abandoned before the main arm was finished.

Disturbance by man has thus been considerable over the centuries. When the foundations for the battery, which preceded Château à L'Etoc by half a century or more, were being excavated small stone burial 'cists' (probably Bronze or Iron Age), were found and destroyed, together with their burial urns containing burnt bones and ashes. More were discovered and destroyed, but their positions recorded (too late) by Henry Le Mesurier and the Lukis family about 1853, when the Victorian fort construction was in progress. The Germans altered and extended the defences on both headlands again during the 1940s.

Figure 46. Saye Bay and Château à L'Etoc

Before covering any further land areas, we will look at some of the seashore and sub-littoral zone fauna.

Various invertebrates;

The commonly found segmented worms, several of them dug for on some of these sandy beaches and used as bait, are Lugworm, (photo p. 12), up to 20cm., browny-green with reddish gills on the hind 2/3rds, Ragworm *Nereis diversicolor*, up to 12cm., green, pink and yellow and Paddleworm *Phyllodoce paretti*, 15-30cm, mauve and yellow-green. Catworms *Nephthys hombergii*, grey to brown up to about 25cm. long are also found in the same areas

The Sand Mason *Lanice conchilega* is up to 30cm long and covers itself with a single layer of sand grains. Much of it remains buried with only the several tentacles above the sand level. These often remain above the sand on the middle shore at low water and show as clusters of sandy threads. The Fan or Peacock Worm *Sabella penicillus*, grows up to 25cm

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and is also found on the middle shore. It has a membraneous, free-standing tube, the ring of gills around the top forming a retractable crown. Both are common and will be found in most sandy bays.

The Common or Sand Shrimp *Gammarus locusta*, buries itself in the sand and can assume a similar colour to the particular substrate, making it difficult to find. If exposed in daylight it quickly covers itself by sweeping out a depression with its legs and then fanning the sand back over its body. It can be collected by pushing a shrimp net along the surface of the sand in shallow water. Sand-hoppers are common. *Talitrus saltator*, about 1.5cm long with a black line down its back, is a familiar sight on the upper shore among seaweed litter on the strand line. It can jump about 20cm. The larger 2cm. *Orchestia gammarella* with a distinctive lobster like claw on its 3rd pair of legs, is common amongst rocks and stones and seaweed somewhat lower down to the middle shore.

Several greeny-grey Sea Slaters are found at different levels on the middle to upper shore. Of these, *Ligia oceanica*, is very common amongst rocks on the upper shore above HWM, but, unlike the others, is only capable of surviving short periods of immersion. Hiding in crevices and cracks and under stones during the day and fast running if disturbed, it emerges in large numbers at night to feed on brown seaweeds. Resembling a large Woodlouse about 1cm. long it has two 'tails' each with two bristles.

Figure 47. Goose Barnacles on a log

Bivalves are not common on Alderney shores. Very small Scallops, Portuguese Oysters *Crassostrea angulata*, and Dog Cockles are found but rarely. Common Mussels are also not frequent. They are occasionally found on rocks in Clonque, Longis, Platte Saline and Corblets Bays, and also on the large driftwood timbers which sometimes come ashore, supporting huge colonies of Goose Barnacles. A 6-7m floating pine tree trunk was towed into Braye harbour from The Race in March 2000 by a local boat, and pulled from the water as it was a hazard to shipping. As can be seen from the photo it bore literally thousands of this mollusc, from smaller than a pea in size, to fully adult up to 30 cm. including the foot. I am told that these fetch a good price in Spain where the foot is considered a culinary delicacy. (See also photo on p. 12 from a sleeper washed up at Platte Saline in 1997). A few Edible Oysters, *Ostrea edulis* or, (more frequently), the Portuguese Oyster, may be found in Longis Bay, survivors of an Oyster-farming enterprise there in the 1960-70's, but usually only as empty shells.

Fish;

The Lesser Weever, (beware !, it buries itself in the sand and, if trodden on can inflict painful, poisonous wounds from the spines on its gill covers and first dorsal fin). Small (12cm.), golden brown with many darker spots in rows along their length, these are sometimes reported from the sandy bays, especially Corblets.

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Young Pollack are frequent in pools and many large specimens are caught in nets across Longis Bay just above low water, or with rod and line, all round the coasts. Up to 1.2m long these can weigh up to 3 kg.

A list of the fish usually caught by both Shore fishers and local inshore boats will be found in Part 3 of this work. Alderney holds an annual fishing competition and also number of British records for the heaviest fish caught of several species.

Birds;

Waders in small numbers can be seen from time to time, swimming or feeding along the strand line, water's edge, or on exposed rocks, in all the bays. The variety of passage immigrants is quite wide over a year, but individual species numbers are rarely more than a dozen or two. The complete bird list will be found in Part 3 of this book. The principal resident species are a variety of Gulls, Terns, Oyster Catchers and, over the last five or six years, Little Egrets, up to six at one time, with two or three present all the year round and the occasional Cattle Egret.

Arch Bay;

Facing East, the beach here can be approached through the tunnel from the campsite, or down a rough path from the road, about 4-5m. above.

Figure 48. Arch Bay

At low tide it is joined directly to Corblets beach which faces north. Backed at the top of the beach by blue-grey diorite shingle.

The small grassy triangle across the road, just below the German bunker, held a colony of Bee Orchids *Orchis apifera*, until a few years ago, when they finally disappeared, leaving our only remaining colony in the much larger triangle of grass across the road just above the campsite. These were not seen for several years, from 1983 to 1991, but a group of 7 plants was found there in 1992 and, with variable numbers between 1 and 5 or 6 have reappeared each year since.

Corblets Bay;

A broad expanse of sand which, when the wind is right, provides good, if not very high, surf. Bounded either side by rock outcrops and pools and backed by more of the blue-grey shingle, with some more diorite outcrops exposed in the middle of the beach as the tide falls. This area is suffused at low tide by a trickle of fresh water, (seen in the centre of the photograph), from a spring or possibly from Corblets Quarry, now the island's back-up reservoir, about 50m. away across the road, the bottom of which is below sea level.

Figure 49. Corblets Bay and Fort

Access to this part of the beach can be made either by steps at the western end, or the remains of an old vraic road at the eastern end. The headland and the outcrop of rocks in front of the fort on the photograph are composed of the hard red Alderney sandstone, inclined at about 45º towards the NW and here with an obvious fault line running SW-NE across the outcrop at right angles to the stratification. This overlies the harder rocks beneath, from here, all the way along the E and SE coasts as far as Bluestone Bay.

Buck's-horn Plantain

Kidney Vetch

Least Soft-brome, (*subsp. thominei)*

Another Sof-brome (*subsp. feronii*)

Early Forget-me-not

Changing Forget-me-not

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The low cliff in this bay has been the subject in the previous 10-15 years of considerable erosion which badly threatened the road, but in the 1990s a scheme to armour the remaining cliff face was carried out by the States using layers of special plastic 'netting', each covered in turn with about a metre of soil and the seaward face lined with sandbags originally filled with a fairly dry concrete mix, now forming a block wall. Large stones and shingle were piled at the bottom of the wall thus formed, to protect the foundations and the land above was finally made up to the road level, to form a grassy area with seats and a car parking area, with spoil from the large bank of it left by the Victorians at the edge of the quarry and the road diverted several yards inland and resurfaced. This seems to have been successful and has survived a number of storms from the dangerous N-NE direction.

The bare areas where the quarry spoil was removed and relocated soon became colonised with a variety of plants in succession. First to appear was Charlock, followed by rosettes of Buck's-horn Plantain *Plantago coronopus*, and quantities of Scarlet Pimpernel *Anagallis arvensis*, Sea Mayweed *Tripleurospermum maritimum*, Kidney Vetch (or Lady's-fingers) *Anthyllis vulneraria*, a few Docks, mainly Broad-leaved *Rumex obtusifolius*, Campions, mainly Pink *Silene x hampeana*, with small numbers of Sea Campion *S. uniflora* and Sea Radish *Raphanus raphanistrum subsp. maritimus*. A variety of Clovers appeared in the grassy area, some no doubt come with the grass seed used. The nearby edge of the quarry rim is home to two tiny subspecies of Soft Brome grasses, *Bromus hordeaceus subsp. feronii* and *subsp. thominei*, two tiny Forget-me-nots, Early, *Myosotis ramosissima*, and Changing, *M. discolor*, and a few plants of these spread into the bare soil. Even 10 years later there are still bare patches of compacted spoil on the quarry side of the road and traffic using the stony parking area has kept colonisation confined mainly to the edges. (See photos p. 52 opposite)

In these two bays a number of small, mainly shallow, pools form as the tide falls, these and the emergent rocks, each have their colonies of various common seaweeds as well as crustaceans, molluscs and other invertebrates. As noted on pp. 16/17, 19, Dog Whelks are rarely found in Alderney and, in this bay in our 1992/3 survey only five were found. The various barnacles clothing the emergent rocks as the tide falls are mainly the Common and Acorn Barnacles, but include the Darwin Barnacle on the lowest part of some of the middle shore rocks. Rough Periwinkles seem to be pretty scarce on the rocks in the splash zone in this area.

Moving further East, the sandstone headland on which Fort Corblets stands has an interesting flora, at least part of it due to plants introduced by man but now well naturalised. Patches of Hottentot or Kaffir Fig clothe the tops on the low cliffs, Sea Spleenwort *Asplenium marinum*, native but not particularly common on the island, can be found in crevices on the rocky outcrops on which the fort was built, one of our rare colonies of Common Scurvy-grass (photo fig. 5, p.4), can be found here, several colour varieties of the alien Rosy Dew-plant *Lampranthus roseus* cover large areas of the rock round the higher walls of the fort and, in the small field behind Vau Trembliers, Daffodils, not native to Alderney and here a remnant of flower crops introduced in the 1950s, when this and the adjacent field were part of the horticultural enterprise, include amongst the encroaching bracken and bramble, good colonies of two imported species, the British native Wild Daffodil *Narcissus pseudonarcissus subsp. pseudonarcissus* in which the outer ring of tepals (outer perianth) are paler than the corona (trumpet) and what is probably the Spanish Daffodil *N. pseudonarcissus subsp. major*, in which the outer tepals are twisted at the base and the same colour as the corona. Although brambles and bracken have encroached on part of this area the Daffodils are still surviving beneath them, flowering before they open their leaves.

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Sea Spleenwort

Stinking Iris

Ivy-leaved Duckweed

Giant Echium

Druce's Oxtongue

White Water-lily

Brookweed

Green-winged Orchids

Autumn Lady's-tresses

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Returning from this field along the road back to the car park area above the bay, several patches of Stinking Iris *Iris foetidissima* (photo opposite), will be noticed. The verge at the base of the wall is the principal site of Druce's Oxtongue *Picris hieracoides var. incana* (photo opposite), and if you look carefully you should find a single plant of Burnet Rose *Rosa pimpinellifolia* emerging from a crevice in the dry stone wall. This too is very rare in Alderney. Self-sown Giant Echium *Echium pininana* (photo opposite), appear most years in a small planted area nearer the car park, whilst a well grown bush of Darwin's Barberry *Berberis darwinii*, flowers from early February on, with several small self-seeded bushes around it and another large bush, also probably self-seeded from this, in the quarry spoil across the road. A few yards from this last shrub, note a small clump of one of the Bamboos, (species not yet identified), which has established itself amongst the brambles here in the last 5-6 years and is spreading slowly.

Corblets Quarry, the Campsite and Fort Albert hill;

Moving a little inland, Corblets Quarry holds more uncommon plants. In the water itself a large colony of Curly Waterweed *Lagarosiphon major*, grows. Rooted well down in the quarry some of its stems must be 15-20m in length. Around the edges of the water area large quantities of Water Fern *Azolla filiculoides* (photo opposite), may be found occasionally.

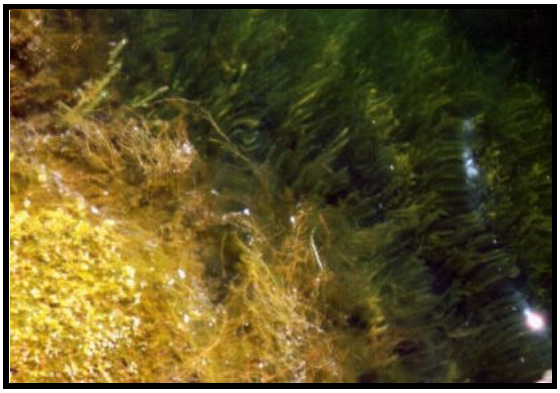

Figure 50. Curly Waterweed here

Also with very long petioles, floating leaves of Broad-leaved Pondweed *Potamogeton natans* are frequently seen in clumps whilst, in the shallower water on the flooded shelf near the hut, the Small Pondweed *P. berchtoldii* is frequent. Ivy-leaved Duckweed *Lemna trisulca* (photo opposite), is also found floating near the surface occasionally. Toad Rush *Juncus bufonius* and other rushes are found at the base of the walls round the margins, whilst the white-flowered form of Hoary Stock is frequent on the cliff faces, with an occasional plant of Ploughman's-spikenard *Inula conyza* in other crevices on and near the base of the cliffs. This shallow area is one of the best Dragonfly breeding habitats in the island.

For many years a plant of White Water-lily *Nymphaea alba* (photo opposite), thrived in the shallow area. This still survived a number of years after much of the water was pumped out for domestic used following the 1986 drought, temporarily drying out the shallower area, but eventually succumbed to prolonged dehydration when the level was again lowered. The small dry area of quarry floor on the S side has a number of rushes and Brookweed *Samolus valerandi* (photo opposite), in its moister parts and several of the very small Clovers, Herb Robert, Crane's-bills and Stork's-bills amongst the rabbit cropped turf

The 'pond' which, from about 1950-90 was stocked with fish for the local angling club, and to which, when Mannez pond dried out completely in August 1989, for the first time in many years, several thousand goldfish and small black carp of some sort, presumably breeding from throwouts from garden ponds, which had been gradually confined in a rapidly reducing area of water there, were rescued and transferred, also provides a resting place for the many seagulls, (here the majority are usually Greater Blackbacks) and a few Terns, which are frequently to be found on the beach and around the adjacent shores, also with a number of small migrant waders in Spring and Autumn. The pond also provides regular breeding grounds for a pair of Moorhen and some Coots. A male Mute Swan spent a couple of years here in 1989-90 eventually dying here, whilst a pair of Swans overwintered here in 1995. Other

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migrant freshwater and seabirds are noted from time to time. These have included Great Crested Grebe, a Black Swan and a pair of Whooper Swans.

The high ground behind Corblets Quarry on the Campsite side is actually part of a large sand dune and a large area of Marram Grass is to be found here, running almost up to the quarry rim. Two smaller quarries have been cut into the rock base from this side. In one, almost opposite Saye Farm, Little Robin *Geranium purpureum*, has been recorded. The other is just behind the Hammond Memorial and is currently being filled in with spoil from the Banquage housing scheme. In various places between the roads whose junction is here and the main quarry, small numbers of Cyclamen *Cyclamen hederifolium*, Weld *Reseda luteola*, Apple *Malus domestica*, scattered Rose bushes, mostly *Rosa canina* and *R. stylosa*, can be found. A single large plant of Henbane *Hyocyamus niger* emerged beside the railway line, eventually flowering in 1990, from the disturbed ground when a trench was put through for a water pipe from the quarry to the pumping station and backfilled, shortly after the 1986 drought badly depleted supplies in the main reservoir. The seeds of this had probably been in the ground since Victorian times and, in typical Solanaceae family style, germinated long after, when the ground was disturbed again. It has only been recorded three times in the island since 1970 and has not reappeared here since this plant flowered 10 years ago.

Figure 51. Henbane

By the Hammond Memorial itself a single plant of Meadow Crane's-bill *Geranium pratense*, has flourished at the base of its wall for many years, its perennial rootstock surviving almost annual mowing or strimming by the States, usually when it is flowering. Just across the road from here towards the railway line, a sizeable stand of Hoary Cress *Lepidium draba subsp. draba*, has survived for more than a century, but has not spread elsewhere in the island.

On the opposite side of the road the slope running up to Fort Albert has been well grazed in recent years, but still, in contravention of the *Mauvaises Herbes* Law, houses large amounts of Ragwort. Archaeological evidence of Alderney's earliest settlement have been uncovered on its slopes at the further end by Whitegates. In the shallow turf over the military road running up to the back of the fort, several of our less common small plants may be found, including a few Green-winged Orchids *Orchis morio*, (photo p.54), and good numbers of Ladies-tresses Orchids *Spiranthes spiralis*, (photo p.54), may be found in due season.

Longis Common;


Figure 52. Spring Starflower

Following the road round Longis Common from the Whitegates level crossing, a number of garden escapes are long naturalised. Snow-in-Summer *Cerastium tomentosum*, Aubretia *Aubrieta deltoides*, Oxalis, most frequently *Oxalis articulata*, appear on several banks and, most curious, a spectacular show of the delicate lavender striped white flowers of Spring Starflower *Tristagma uniflorum*, a bulbous Lily family plant, emerge THROUGH the asphalte along the base of the wall of Red Tiles each February/March, despite several resurfacings of the road over the years.

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The area of the Coastguards cottages down to the Nunnery and across the road at Les Huguettes is of great archaeological interest and several major excavations have taken place in the last 170 years, the results of some of which are on display in the Museum.

Longis Common itself has also been disturbed several times by military activity during this same period, most recently by the construction of a number of German bunkers in the 1940s and a Victorian military road runs across it from below Les Huguettes to Sharpe's Farm, the former Corblets Barracks. Along this track a large patch of Horse-radish *Armoracia rusticana*, will be found on the hillside just beyond "The Kennels".

A wide variety of grass species compose the turf on the common, but through lack of regular grazing or cultivation since the 1950s coarse Cock's-foot *Dactylis glomerata*, is dominant over much of the area with Gorse, Bramble, Wild and Sea Radish and, in the damper patches Common Fleabane *Pulicaria dysenterica* and Willow scrub, mainly Rusty Sallow *Salix cinerea subsp. oleifolia*, encroaching. The well trodden pathways where the grass remains short are a botanist's haven. Rue-leaved Saxifrage *Saxifraga tridactylites*, Common Whitlow-grass *Erophila verna*, Small Hare's-ear *Bupleurum baldense*, Pale Flax *Linum bienne* and Fairy Flax *L. catharticum*, Portland Spurge *Euphorbia portlandica*, Thyme *Thymus polytrichum*, Common and less frequently Purple Broomrapes, Yarrow, Bastard Toadflax, English, Biting and White Stonecrops *Sedum anglicum, S. acre & S. album*, Perennial Wall-rocket *Diplotaxis muralis*, Hoary Mustard *Hirschfeldia incana*, Crested Dog's-tail *Cynosurus cristata*, occasionally Rough Dog's-tail *C. echinatus*, Silver Hairgrass *Aira caryophyllea*, Sand Cat's-tail *Phleum arenaria*, Hare's-tail *Lagurus ovatus*, Fern and Sea Fern-grass *Catapodium rigidum & C. marinum*, Sweet Vernal-grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, etc. several of them rare or absent from Britain.

Figure 53. Longis Common and pond

Many of the yellow Asteraceae (Formerly Compositae or Daisy family) are to be found, Hawkweeds, Hawkbits, Hawk's-beards, Dandelions, Cat's-ears, including the tiny Smooth Cat's-ear *Hypochoeris glabra* (photo opposite), quite common in parts of Alderney, but on the Red Data Book Scarce Species list. Pyramidal Orchids are scattered across the area especially along the roadside verges. Dodder *Cuscuta epithymum*, forms occasional large patches, rarely found in Alderney on its usual host, Gorse, despite the vast quantities everywhere, here as seems more common in the island, prostrate on the ground, parasitising Thyme.

Round the pond an unwise planting of White Poplar *Populus alba*, at the northern end has suckered considerably, whilst the native Common Reed *Phragmites australis* has spread mightily in the last ten years or so. These provide excellent cover for breeding Warblers and Tits. A few willows will be found this side. On the eastern side, a good stand of Yellow Flag *Iris pseudacorus*, will be found among the brambles. Part of the pond itself was dug out by the Alderney Society in the late 1980s, to leave open water after years of neglect had almost filled it with vegetation.

Figure 54. Yellow Flag

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This was to be a scheme to restore the pond to provide a considerable area of open water, to be carried out in 4-5 stages, whenever the pond dried out sufficiently to allow machinery to work there. Old maps showed that 250 years ago the pond, (called in old documents, La Mare du Roe, {the King's pond}) was fed by a short stream entering on the northern side and leaving on the south to discharge onto the beach more or less in the middle of the bay. Fresh water still seeps under the German sea wall at this point and runs across the beach, becoming a considerable flow after heavy rain. Over the next 2-3 years several locally uncommon plants recovered their habitats. Branched Bur-reed *Sparganium erectum* re-appeared and has formed two large clumps. In 1992 I discovered a good patch of Cyperus Sedge *Carex pseudocyperus* there, the first Channel Island record. Ivy-leaved Duckweed is seen most years in very variable quantities and large quantities of frog spawn have appeared. Frogs are not native to Alderney but have been introduced since the war to domestic ponds and have spread. This now forms part of the Wildlife Trust Longis Reserve and a bird-hide has been built overlooking the pond.

Geologically the Common, right up to the walls of Fort Albert and much of the area between here and Braye and Corblets Bays is overlain with blown sand. Under the common itself and parts of the beach, there are several layers of peat interleaved with layers of sand over the bedrock, from the times during the several ice ages when the waters receded and this area became a freshwater pond.

The pollen of many trees; Alder, Ash, Birch, Beech, Dogwood, Elm, Holly, Hornbeam, Lime, Oak and Evergreen Oak and Willow; and shrubby species; Alder Buckthorn, Elder, Hazel, Heath and Heather, Ivy and Viburnum, etc.; has been found in the peat below Longis Common. Samples taken from the lowest levels by James & Dillon in 1992 were dated to about 3,780 ± 45 years BP, and indicated an area of mainly damp, open grass (with Nettles *Urtica spp.* and *Hydrocotyle*), fern and sedge vegetation, with some salt marsh plants and open water containing *Myriophyllum* and *Potamogeton*, a base of organic silt overlying the Alderney Sandstone, about 7m below today's dune surface and roughly at today's LWM. The few tree pollens present at this level were mainly of deciduous species, principally Oak and Alder with smaller amounts of the other species. In historical times Alderney has frequently been described as "treeless". This is not of course true, although to the casual observer, passing by sea on the mail boat, as most of those earlier writers did, there were few to be seen. The tree species list mirrors closely that found in peat samples taken in 1966, from Vazon Bay in Guernsey at about the same height above HWM (c. 4m) and of similar date. These lists and the more detailed list of herbaceous species found in 1992, suggest that a number of species not considered native by Babington, on his visits from 1825-35 and by Marquand, in his detailed recording in the Bailiwick, from around 1885 to 1920, were present in prehistoric times, but may have died out or been cut down in prehistoric times and reintroduced more recently. Most of Alderney's present trees have been planted since the Second World War and only Hawthorn, Sycamore (neither of which are present in the peat samples), White Poplar and Rusty Sallow, reproduce freely. From the peat samples, Alder, Beech, Birch, Oak and Pine pollen is abundant, (with fluctuations at different depths) from the earliest layers upwards.

In the next band, over about 1,100 years, Evergreen Oak and Hornbeam appear, and the many aquatic taxa, *Myriophyllum, Potamogeton, Lemna, Nuphar, Nymphæa, Elodea/Lagarosiphon, Iris, Typha latifolia, Sparganium, Hydrocotyle*, etc. indicate areas of open fresh water in the area including the present Longis Pond. Grasses, Sedges, Bracken and other Filicales (including Royal Fern *Osmunda regalis*) are abundant, Buck's-horn Plantain *Plantago coronopus* and Sand Quillwort *Isoetes histrix*. Tree pollen increased markedly as did shrubby species such as Frangula, Ilex, Viburnum, Calluna and Erica species. The herb flora in this zone includes species already mentioned; with Ribwort Plantain *Plantago lanceolata* now

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common and a number of cereal seeds found, both suggestive of agricultural cultivation, and the addition of *Potentilla, Thalictrum*, various Rubiacæ, Brassicaceæ and Asteraceæ. The next zone, dated to about 2665 ± 50 BP, whilst grass, fern and sedge species still dominate, shows a rise in Rumex spp., various Chenopodiaceæ, Asteraceæ, Apiaceæ, Brassicaceæ and Ranunculaceæ, whilst the Pteridophytes decline somewhat. Above this zone the vegetation is suggestive of heath land with a rise in Heather *Calluna* and other Ericaceous species. The formation of the peat ceased at around 1385 ± 85 BP when the area appears to have been inundated with blown sand, containing few organic remains, to a depth today of about 4m. All of the many archæological finds on and around Longis Common, up to the early Iron Age, are below this sand. Of the approximately 80 herbaceous groups, families, genera and individually identified species, whose pollen was found, Campanulaceæ, *Osmunda regalis, Filipendula, Thalictrum, Typha latifolia, Rumex hydrolapathum, Succisa* and *Lythrum*, and many of the 20 or so tree and shrub species, are not found in Alderney today, except as garden escapes or deliberate plantings.

The island's water supplies were enhanced in the early 90s by several boreholes drilled through the peat under the sand of the common, which in some years, when the need arises, can cause the free water in the pond to vanish within a couple of weeks of pumping starting, usually in April or May just as the tadpoles are maturing and can survive out of the water. As this seemed to be likely to become a regular occurrence, the scheme to restore the full size of the pond was abandoned. A number of freshwater birds, Coot, Moorhen, Mallard and Water Rail have bred regularly in the area since the water was opened up. Along the path on eastern side of the pond a single plant of Peruvian Squill *Scilla peruviana*, has survived for at least 15 years, apparently remnant of a large clump which existed here 20 or more years ago, until someone dug them up. It flowers in some years producing its large, almost spherical brilliant blue head.

Across the road, behind the German sea wall, which has converted the area from a moving dune area to a fixed dune system, Sand Couch *Elytrigia juncea*, is dominant over part of the area, whilst Marram *Ammophila arenaria*, becomes the dominant grass to the east of this. Whilst Marram also occurs behind Corblets and to a lesser extent Braye Bays it is absent from the dunes at Platte Saline, where both Sea *E. atherica* and Sand Couch are the principal grasses. In some seasonally dampish hollows behind the wall various fungi appear from time to time including the black Deadman's Fingers *Xylaria polymorpha* and the pore fungus *Tulostoma brumale*.

Either side of the grass verge at the extreme edge of this Region, by the boundary with Region 7, the island's only surviving colony of Red Bartsia *Odontites vernus*, a semi-parasite first recorded in Alderney in 1838, was apparently eliminated by 1993 through 3-4 years of frequent mowing of the verge but, after a cable trench was put through on the S. side of the road about 1996 and the trench backfilled, reappeared in the recently disturbed soil as a very healthy stand at almost the same spot in 1998. The colony the other side of the road seems to have disappeared under spreading Hottentot Fig.

Mannez Garenne and Hill;

Most of the rising ground to the north of this point forms part of the Mannez Garenne. In olden times the Seigneur's or Governor's private rabbit warren. Now bearing a mass of German fortifications, culminating on its highest point in the massive Fire Control Tower, visible from much of the island, standing on the edge of the quarry rim above Mannez Quarry (which is in Region 7) and known to locals as "The Odeon", this rough and untended area, despite encroaching bracken, bramble, Hawthorn, Blackthorn and Gorse scrub and coarser

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grasses, holds a wealth of interesting and, often rare elsewhere in Alderney, or in some case nationally rare or endangered, plants.

Amongst these may be cited, Bastard Toadflax in a large quantity over a 50 x 25m area, Green-winged Orchids scattered in the short turf over the higher parts, variable in numbers from year to year, but often as many as 2-300 plants seen in total. Pyramidal and Autumn Lady's-tresses Orchids; a number of the small prostrate clover family plants, Bird's-foot *Ornithopus perpusillus*; Western, Rough, Subterranean, Suffocated and Bird's-foot Clovers *Trifolium occidentale, T. scabrum, T. subterraneum, T. suffocatum & T. ornithopodiodes* respectively; with considerable quantities of Common and Narrow-leaved Vetch *Vicia sativa & V. sativa subsp. nigra* and the delicate Hairy Tare *V. hirsuta* scrambling through the scrub.

Figure 55. Sand Crocus (above)

Figure 56. Small Restharrow

Small Hare's-ear; Carline Thistle *Carlina vulgaris*; about 60-70% of the island's population of Wild Privet *Ligustrum vulgare*; scattered wild Roses of several species; large clumps of self sown naturalised Daffodils, most frequently the sweet-scented, 8-10 headed, *Narcissus 'Grande Primo Citronière'*, which flowers from as early as late December/January and makes a tremendous show by March; Bluebells, both the (increasingly rare in Britain) English native *Hyacinthoides non-scripta* and naturalised Spanish Bluebell *H. hispanica* and inevitably a range of hybrids between the two; and including the Endangered Species, Restharrow *Ononis reclinata*, on the SE side and a small area of the southern rim of Berry's Quarry holds another colony of Sand Crocus.

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Quantities of Stinking Iris grow amongst the scrub, with more Roses, Hawthorn and Elder bushes standing above the Gorse and Bracken.

Behind the Odeon to its west lies Berry's Quarry. Not particularly deep with the quarry floor level with the surrounding land, this was used until recent years as a market garden with a well built greenhouse and plastic tunnels producing tomatoes, cucumbers and a variety of vegetables for local consumption. For a short time the greenhouse then became a parrot sanctuary, but that enterprise failed. Other buildings in the quarry now provide accommodation for the island laundry, plumber's store, a car repair garage, etc. Much rubbish has been dumped in the quarry and the pond area on the NE side dries out in most years. The middle of the quarry becomes a bog in most winters as the pond fills up. Several species of rush and sedge survive here, the edges of the pond are colonised by Brookweed and various ferns and there are surviving remnants of fruit production with several Apple trees, two large Fig trees and some Blackcurrant bushes. Small colonies of Great Mullein, Musk Thistle *Carduus nutans* and Viper's Buglos are noted. Many small songbirds nest in the quarry area.

On a barish patch by the road entrance to the quarry, on the N. quarry rim above the pond area, several of the minute early flowering plants may be found; Whitlow-grass, Rue-leaved Saxifrage, Blinks *Montia fontana*, Early and Changing Forget-me-nots and several Mouse-ears, including *Cerastium diffusum & C. semidecandrum.*

We are now back to Sharpe's Farm buildings and can complete the study of Region 6 by a visit to Longis Bay.

Longis Bay;

As will be seen from the maps (frontispiece and page 3), most of the bay from the Raz Causeway to The Nunnery falls within this Region. Before the last war the bay was backed by a moving sand dune system. The building of the German sea wall as a defence against possible Allied landings was only partially completed with a considerable gap still left between the two sections when the war in Europe ended. This has greatly modified both the beach and dune habitats. Storms from time to time scour the sand back off the beach revealing large areas of small rocks, an area of peat, formed centuries ago and occasionally revealing artefacts such as military buttons from the Victorian period, bits of Roman bricks and tiles and sometimes, after prolonged gales from E-SE, exposing the foundations of the wall. A few weeks later, with winds from a southerly or SW direction the rocks are covered again leaving a much larger expanse of smooth sand exposed at low tides and as much as 1-1.5m of sand has built up against the base of the wall. Behind the wall the dunes have become permanent, completely stable and colonised over the last 50 years with the plants already mentioned.

At low tide on any day, a considerable area of rocks and rock pools is exposed and most of the species of plant and animal mentioned at the beginning of this chapter can be found.

Figure 57. Longis Bay about 1935

The vegetation along the edge of the remaining exposed dune section and the base of the wall above normal HWM holds a number of plants, none in any great quantity. At the western end below the German gun emplacement nearest the Nunnery a somewhat wider area of shingle and sand usually above HWM is colonised by brambles, Sea Beet, Sea Sandwort a few grasses and Campions. Beyond this, the fallen walls of part of the old Roman fort have lain on the beach since the 15th century.

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The walls above were rebuilt about 1790 and the area between the two now holds dense spreading colonies of Ivy and The Duke of Argyll's Tea-plant. The frequently shifting sands mean that no permanent vegetation survives along most of the length of the first section of the sea wall. in the few metres before it finishes, more Sea Sandwort and one or two plants of Sea Kale may be found, whilst in the dune section up to the causeway, Sea Bindweed, Sea Spurge and Sea Beet may be found amongst the stabilising grasses, with occasional plants of Hoary Mustard, Wall Rocket and other Brassicaceae occurring as well as several of the yellow-flowered Asteraceae (Daisy family).

Figure 58. Longis Bay today

In the dunes behind the Targets, just to the right of the white dot on the skyline on the photograph above, several of the Dragonfly species which breed in Corblets, Mannez and Longis ponds may often be seen in due season. Of the eleven species recorded in the island, the Emperor Dragonfly *Anax imperator* and the Blue-tailed Damselfly *Aeschna elegans*, are the most common and are also frequently seen round garden ponds.
The other species recorded are; Migrant Hawker *Aeshna mixta*, Southern-emerald Damselfly *Lestes barbarus*, Four-spotted Chaser *Libellula quadrimaculata*, Yellow-winged Darter *Sympetrum flaveolus*, Red-veined Darter *Sympetrum fonscolombei*, Common Darter *Sympetrum striolatum*, Black-lined Orthetrum, *Orthetrum cancellatum*, Blue-tailed Skimmer *Orthretrum cancellatum*, and Banded Demoiselle, *Calopteryx splendens*.

Great Green Bush-Crickets *Tettigonia viridissima*, are also sometimes found in the bramble scrub in these areas. Picture, female on Scarborough Lily in my conservatory.

Figure 59. Emperor Dragonfly

Figure 60. Great Green Bush-cricket

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❖ Region 7. East Coast; the low north-east and east coasts, islets and the large sandstone quarry at Mannez.

Figure 61. North-east coast with Alderney Lighthouse, Mannez Quarry and Forts Les Hommeaux Florains (L. Centre) and Quesnard (R.), looking north from Mannez Hill

This part of Alderney is a naturalists paradise. It contains so many endangered, rare, scarce, or uncommon, plants and such a wide variety of fauna, that it would be declared a Site of Special Interest and protected, if only we had a Wildlife Conservation Law. Some of these species are important in an international context, the others only as far as the island is concerned, often being their only recorded sites. But it is now included in the Alderney Wildlife Trust Reserve. As it happens, most of the species concerned are not particularly prominent, would pass unnoticed by the majority of people and many need a hand lens to appreciate their true beauty. The former public road along the whole length of the East coast is no longer used by vehicles, except by the few idiots who ignore the prohibition notices at either end, (put up to prevent further erosion), having been superseded by the road put in by the Germans, about two hundred metres inland, during the last war.

The area between this road and the sea is between five and 30 metres above HWM, backed by Mannez Hill, rising to about 75m, a huge part of which was removed by both the Victorian and German quarrying activities, leaving the floor of Mannez quarry at about 10m above sea level. Exposed on parts of the two remaining outcrops of soil, 'head' and rock (one on R hand edge of the photo above), are remnants of the 8 and 18 metre raised beaches, left from the last two ice ages.

The old quarry Powder magazine at the west side of Cat's Bay, (the indent in the coastline at the left side of the picture), has one of the few island colonies of Common Scurvy-grass *Cochlearia officinalis*, alongside (picture p.4). Just to the right of the Lighthouse on the narrow coastal path is one of the two colonies of Lesser Meadow-rue *Thalictrum minus* and, a few yards further on at the roadside a clump of Red-hot Poker *Kniphofia praecox*, probably escaped from the cottage opposite, has flourished for many years and has at least one flower head open in most months of the year.

Fort Quesnard on the north-east corner of the island on “Duck Point” has had the Victorian gun emplacement on its seaward side augmented by the Germans. In one of these additions a pair of Barn Owls have nested regularly for some years.

Along the east coast, whilst predominantly shallow and sandy over the underlying sandstone rock, the soil p_H changes in a number of places from alkaline to acid and back, often within a few yards. These can be clearly seen by changes in the vegetation, with an area of Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*) and Bell Heather (*Erica cinerea*) on the headland by St. Esquère Bay where the soil is acid and peaty and several changes in the Stonecrops, abundant in the short turf all along this coast, where the bright yellow-flowered Biting Stonecrop *Sedum acre* (picture p. 66), which prefers alkaline conditions and the pink and white-flowered English Stonecrop *S. anglicum* (picture p. 66), which prefers acid, can be seen to alternate. The alkaline areas are frequently obvious from the large number of tiny mollusc shells on the surface, which have given them their basic nature.

In the track formed by soil building up over the old gravelled road bed, you will note frequent evidence of a number of burrowing, mainly insect species. Holes about as wide as your finger, usually with a neat ‘volcano’ of soil about 5-10cm wide around them (Fig. 62 on right) are made by an animal species, possibly a beetle, which I have not yet been able to identify. Smaller holes often drilled in the vertical sandy edges of the grass above the rocky foreshore, are made by burrowing wasps, of which there seem to be a number of species. The length of the trackway was the first recorded place in Alderney where Gatekeeper Butterflies were noted, by my wife and I, in August 1996 and annually since, in gradually increasing numbers. A migrant species which may now be breeding here, the males arrive up to two weeks before the females.

Rabbit droppings, burrows and scrapes are common along here and, in the large field behind St. Esquère Bay a large warren can be seen at the edge of the bracken, with black rabbits frequently seen amongst the normal brown.

Starting along the track from Fort Quesnard to Longis Bay; in just a few yards we come to a slight depression about 10m by 3m, with thin bare-patchy soil over the bedrock, about 20m from the beach edge, usually damp or occasionally flooded in the winter and bone dry in the summer. Here one finds from early February to the end of May or the beginning of June, a substantial number of the small rosettes of the rare Sand Quillwort *Isoetes histrix* (see pictures opposite), a fern-like plant which exists mainly underground, the emergent fronds looking, at first glance, much like the narrow leaves of the many plants of Buck’s-horn Plantain (picture above r. and p. 52) and Autumn Squill *Scilla autumnalis* (see pictures opposite), found in the same place. Bright green at first, by the end of May their spores are shed up the narrow funnel in the centre of the rosette and they turn olive green before drying up completely. They are most easily found at the olive green stage by the contrast with the other plants. In sloping turf close by, a good colony of Yellow Bartsia *Parentucellia viscosa* (see picture opposite), exists. Most of the plants are short not more than 25-30cm unless the wet season is prolonged. In a parallel line extending some 2-300m from this spot, four more small colonies of the Sand Quillwort (see picture opposite), can be found, the most southerly being the largest. Close to the edge of the narrow rocky beach between the middle two colonies, you might find, if conditions are right in May and June, our only recorded colony of Lesser Centaury *Centurium pulchellum* (picture opposite), a Red Data Book Endangered species. Common Centaury *C. erythrea* (picture opposite), is frequent in the shorter turf and trodden path all along this coast.

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Sand Quillwort, rosettes and half-section

Autumn Squill, flower and bulb

Yellow Bartsia

Allseed

Blinks

Lesser Centaury

White Stonecrop

Common Centaury

Cyclamen on the east coast

Rock Samphire

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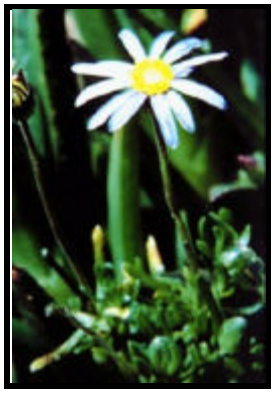
Rock Sea-lavender, flowers and leaves

Alderney Sea-lavender

Sea Aster plants and detail, (normal plant>>>



has the usual blue form)

English Stonecrop

Sea Milkwort

Smooth Cat’s-ear

Biting Stonecrop

Carline Thistle

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Within a few feet of the Lesser Centaury, you may also find a small area of Blinks *Montia fontana* (see picture p. 65), and another of Allseed *Radiola linoides* (see picture p. 65), two tiny annuals, difficult to find and identify with certainty, which are not commonly noted in the island, although they may well be much more common than would appear from the records.

Just beyond the last group of Quillworts a large patch of Pink Oxalis has been spreading over the years in front of a stone wall and beyond that again, fortunately usually hidden in the bracken, whilst they are flowering, several large clumps of Cyclamen have been similarly spreading. Probably originating from garden escapes or throwouts, over the last 15 years these have spread considerably. Their leaves appear in very early spring and the flowers from August on. Most seem to be the usual pink *Cyclamen hederifolium* (see picture p. 65) but there were a few smaller clumps of white flowered plants, which had survived a good few years until someone dug most of them up in Autumn 1998 as the bracken died down.

All along the rocky shore edge, considerable amounts of Rock Samphire *Crithmum maritimum* (see picture p. 65), can be found, flowering in most years from late June to October. A somewhat larger area of pebbly beach exists before Fort Houmet Herbé, perched on its tidal island (see picture p. 69). The grass at the edge of this holds a narrow line of White Stonecrop *Sedum album* (see picture p. 65), and amongst the worn sandstone outcrops, rising a little in height as you near the water's edge, more special plants can be found. Rock Sea-lavender *Limonium binervosum* (see picture opposite), is scattered, rooted in the crevices between the rock strata, with the occasional plant here of one of Alderney's two speciality, named plants, the Alderney Sea-lavender *L. normannicum* (see picture opposite), and a few plants of Sea Aster *Aster tripolium* (see picture opposite). In a small salt slack, basically almost a tidal pool at spring tides, two rushes; Sharp Rush *Juncus acutus* and Sea Rush *J. maritimus*, may be found, the latter also with a few scattered plants at the edge of the shingle beaches further along this coast towards Longis.

Among the edges of the rock strata on the higher level nearer the sea, a much larger colony of the Alderney Sea-lavender may be found with a few plants of the Rock Sea-lavender. Mixed with these, the delicate pink and white flowered Sea-milkwort *Glaux maritima* (see picture opposite), run along several of the strata lines in the sandstone, with the main colony of Sea Aster, rarely numbering more than 20-30 plants in the crevices above it. All the plants of this in Alderney have white flowers, whilst the usual form found elsewhere is blue (see picture opposite).

On the next headland with the unusual site of some very large plants of Agave planted along the outside base of a garden wall many years ago which have produced a few suckers, we are on a section of heathland. A considerable patch of Heather and Bell Heather is, for a week or so when in flower, covered in most summers with hundreds of day-flying Silver-Y Moths. This whole small headland has thousands of plants of Sand Crocus (see Figure 55 p. 60), each with its single mauve and white star-like flowers in early March to May, just emerging from the rosette of narrow curved leaves on bright sunny days and impossible to find on a dull day. There are also thousands of Autumn Squills, whose leaf rosette is very similar to the Sand Crocus. these however do not flower until August or September (although last year we recorded the first blooms on 29th July).

In early April a few Green-winged Orchids *Orchis morio* (see picture p. 54), appear on this headland and in the lawn of the garden just behind the wall. Wild Thyme, Common Milkwort, Common Centaury, English Stonecrop, Carline Thistle, Smooth Cat's-ear (see picture opposite), Thrift and several other small plants may be noted on this highly interesting headland, barely 50 x 30m in extent. In 1997 a sharp-eyed walker noted an unusual small bush just emerging from underneath one of the 45º inclined strata of rock, with a hollow beneath it,

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almost at the highest point of the area. I was called and thought, from its glossy, aromatic evergreen leaves and tiny pink buds that it might be a Myrtle, never before recorded in Alderney. It was obviously several years old and highly unlikely to have been planted there, with its roots about 70cm back where the inclined rock emerged from the soil. The gap between the soil and the front edge of the rock was well filled with a Fescue grass and the woody stems were struggling through this to reach the light. Several visits failed to find the flower buds open, but later in the year some dark red-black berries were noted. The following year I managed to catch it in flower (Figure 63 on right) and it confirmed the Myrtle identification, but it was not until the summer of 1999 that it was finally confirmed as the Chilean Guava (*Myrtus ugni*). At this time two seedlings were noted in the grass within about 30-40cm. The source of this Chilean plant's seeds however remained a mystery until the owner of the nearby house said she had planted several different Myrtles some years before and it was found in her garden.

At several points along this lady's east facing garden wall some very large tree sized (to 7m) shrubs of Ake-Ake *Olearia traversiii*, have survived the worst that winds and salt spray can throw at them and produce hanging pyramidal axillary clusters of tiny yellowish, Groundsel-like flowers, from June to August. Amongst a group of Monterey Pines on the N side of her large garden, there is also a large area of self-seeded Giant Echium, some of which reach 4-5m in height in their third year before flowering and dying. This Echium is common in the Channel Islands, a far cry from its native habitat in the cloud zone above 2,000 feet in the Canary Islands and a spectacular plant in summer, which often amazes visitors walking along the coastal track (see photo p. 54).

At low tide there is a nice sandy beach in a small bay to the south of this headland and, on its far side on an east facing bank a few metres square and barely 3m above the beach a wealth of rare plants in due season. Most important is the Red Data Book endangered species, Small Restharrow *Ononis reclinata*, a tiny annual, usually with pink and white pea-flowers (see Figure 56 page 60), but occasionally found with white flowers. This was not seen for several years between 1981 and 86, but refound at its usual spot by the author that year. In the same spot look for Small Hare's-ear *Bupleurum baldense*, another RDB scheduled plant (photo opposite), also found on Longis common and a few other places in the island. More Carline Thistles and a patch of Dwarf Thistle *Cirsium acaule* (photo opposite), usually with one or perhaps two stemless mauve flowers in each spiky rosette, but also occasionally with white flowers and a variant with 8-10 cm high flowering stems growing from the rosette. From here along a narrow ridge just above the beach for the next 2-300 metres, look for the olive green stems and leaves of Bastard Toadflax, from March onwards with their tiny white 5-pointed flowers seen from May to October or November.

This same bank holds more interest. More Smooth Cat's-ear Thyme-leaved Sandwort, Biting Stonecrop, Lesser Parsley-piert, *Aphanes inexspectata*, and other minute plants such as the two small Forget-me-nots mentioned on page 53. There are several large cushion shaped bushes of Wild Privet *Ligustrum vulgare*, more Green-winged Orchids by the rock known as La Grande Folie and both pink and yellow forms of the Hottentot Fig and the smaller, less common, puce-coloured Sally-my-Handsome *Carpobrotus acinaciformis*, both well established aliens in our flora. Bracken and bramble are found along the whole length of this track and Marram Grass starts in the dunes towards its southern end. Here look for two very large plants of Sea Rush *Juncus maritimus* in the stony beach at the edge of the grass and a large amount of Common *Centaurium erythrea* in the grass in the summer.

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Fort Houmet Herbé in a storm, from the road above

Small Hare's-ear

Dwarf Thistle

Bermuda-grass

Sea Rocket

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English Stonecrop, leaves often pinky red, flowers white with a red spot on each petal, alternating with the yellow Biting Stonecrop (Photo p. 66), here shows several changes in the soil p_H over only a short distance. Large numbers of Limpet and other, small marine mollusc shells will be found on the grass here, contributing as they gradually break down to the alkaline nature of the soil. You come now to the back of the Marram covered safety bank at The Targets, and the huge wall built to protect some long-gone houses from stray bullets from the firing range, an area known locally as "the hole-in-the-wall" from the damage done to the wall by a German shell and only filled in about. On the bank look for the straggling plants of Knotted Hedge-parsley *Torilis nodosa*, amongst the coarse grass and either side of the path on the beach side of the bank and both sides of the track nearest the wall, look in August to October for the brown fingers, 10-15cm high, of Bermuda-grass *Cynodon dactylon* (Photo p. 69), another RDB endangered species, but here spreading quite rapidly since it was first recorded in 1956.

In midsummer this seems to be a favourite place to see numbers of the Emperor Dragonfly, (photo p. 62), probably hatched in the Longis Pond, only a few hundred metres away.

You now arrive at the small area of beach between the Targets and the start of the smaller section of the German sea wall. The sandy area above HWM is home to a few plants of Sea Kale and larger numbers of Sea Rocket *Cakile maritima* (Photo p. 69), another member of the cabbage family, with white to pale mauve flowers and pale green foliage. This is also found in small numbers scattered along the beaches at Platte Saline and Braye bays. A small area of moving dunes still exists in front of this part of the sea wall and also beyond the causeway to Raz Island, in the unfinished area up to the major part of the German defence wall. Many of the plant and animal species common in such habitats will be found here. Amongst the plants, most already mentioned in this work, we may find Sea Bindweed, Sea Spurge, Sea Sandwort, Marram and several other grasses, Gorse, Bramble, Dune Stork's-bill, Round-leaved Geranium, Chickweed, several Mouse-ear and Campion species, etc., etc.

In the rock strewn littoral zone here (Photo p. 71), at low tide, areas of exposed peat will be seen. These were formed thousands of years ago when the sea levels were much lower than now and this part was probably the bed of a freshwater lake, reduced in historic times to the far smaller area of Longis Pond. In it many stone-age artefacts have been found, including two wooden spears about 4,000 years old and several bronze-age axe heads from between 2-3,000 years old. Some of these items will be found on display amongst the many archaeological finds in the Alderney Society Museum. A recent find in February 2000, after some stormy weather, was a 'dump' of broken, pre-Roman, rotary querns with several large pieces clearly showing their construction, exposed after the sand covering them for many centuries was washed away. The best of these are now on display in the Museum.

The causeway forms the boundary of this zone of our ecological review and also happens to fall almost exactly on the map grid line separating the 10Km squares numbered WA 50 and 60. For wild life recording purposes, these 10Km squares, known as 'hectads', are used to separate boundaries and lists and maps for the distribution of species of both plants and animals are based on them. Alderney's small size makes it more convenient to further divide these into the 1KM grid squares for local records. The soon to be published ***Atlas 2,000***, the Botanical Society of the British Isles contribution to the Millennium records, will contain a dot for Alderney in each of 3 hectads in which any given plant has been recorded, (the only land in the third hectad, WA 40, being the Casquets rocks). This Atlas will update and greatly expand the similar 40-year old volume, and all the BSBI Vice-county Recorders, including the author, have been busy over the last 4-5 years updating, researching all possible

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old records from herbarium species and scientific publications, some going back more than two centuries and computerising all their plant records, which have now been fed into a national database of many million records, from which the maps will be produced. Alderney's small land area amounting to barely 9 sq. km has one of the largest 'flowering plant' species counts in any one hectad in the British Isles (including Ireland) with some 1,039 recorded in total, of which at least 800 may still be found today.

It is a matter of some regret to the author that, apart from a fairly comprehensive set of bryophyte, bird, dragonfly, butterfly and moth records over the last 30-40 years, post 1920 records for other plants, fungi, seaweeds and more primitive freshwater plants, (Charophytes, etc.) and accurate, comprehensive and up-to-date lists of, mammals, fishes, or any of the many thousands of other insect, mollusc and other animal species, etc., do not exist at present.

For some of these groups, considerable study was done in Alderney, in the late 19th century, mainly by members of La Société Guernesiaise, with other records from a few visiting British and French naturalists, when there seem to have been far more expert naturalists, (even if mostly amateur), with time to carry out such studies in small, relatively remote (and perhaps considered unimportant), areas such as Alderney. The small population of Alderney, with few residents ever having the necessary expertise, plus the possible loss of any pre-war records there might have been in the island, during the German occupation from 1940-45, when virtually all the historical documents, Court, States and Land records also vanished, leaves an unfortunate and now permanent, gap in our knowledge of both the history and natural history of the island, compared with most other places in the Channel Islands and the British Isles generally.

Figure 64. The area of the peat bed and reef photographed from Raz causeway, Cap de La Hague nuclear reprocessing plant beyond, on the French Coast

Having followed the coast so far in this Section, let us now return to survey the wild life in Mannez Quarry and pond. This area forms a unique habitat in Alderney.

❖ The large sandstone quarry at Mannez and Mannez pond.

The photo at the head of this section shows a general view of the quarry from the top of Mannez Hill, the pond (Figure 65, on right below), is off to the right of that picture.

.Mannez, sometimes spoken of by older local residents as 'Whitestone' quarry, is composed of the very hard Alderney sandstone varying in colour from almost white to dark pink. Large quantities of this were used in the interior filling of the breakwater, for foreshoring the wall and to build the forts.

The pond is shallow, rarely more than about 1-1.5m deep and has simply been formed by precipitation collecting on the impermeable rock floor of the quarry, lower at this point than in most of the area. At some time in past millennia, at least part of the area has been below sea level, as ice melted at the end of the ice ages and there are remains of 8m and 18m raised beaches clearly visible in two remaining parts of the original ground level, either side of the area shown in the main photo, with the Lighthouse just to the right of the more westerly unquarried block of land, the most easterly of which slopes off just below the fort at the right hand edge of this picture and just below the horizon on the left hand side of the photo above.

As excavation proceeded in the 1840's, the mineral railway lines were extended into the quarry, clearly shown in front of the spoil heaps in the first picture. Above them can be seen the oval track of the miniature railway, built by Alec Tucker as a tourist attraction about 1996 to raise money for local charities. The erection of the shed shown above and the extension of the normal gauge lines into it was carried out in 1997/98 to house the engines of the Alderney Railway Society. This was also formed as a tourist attraction about 25 years ago to keep the old mineral railway line open and provide weekend and time holiday transport from the Braye Station, at the bottom of Braye Road out to the quarry and back.

The low stone cliff showing in the middle of the main photo limits a bank of unquarried rock, some 2-3m above the almost level quarry floor between it and the Lighthouse, left when the quarrying work ceased.

The turf of the quarry floor beyond it is usually kept fairly close cropped by rabbits. In its centre is a well, sunk to tap into a spring and the moister ground surrounding this supports a broad band of Brown Sedge, (*Carex disticha*) present for many years, but not properly identified until 1996. This mainly short turf area holds a wealth of clover family plants. These include; Bird's-foot and Orange Bird's-foot (*Ornithopus perpusillus & O. pinnatus*); Common, Greater and Hairy Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus, L. pedunculatus & L. subbiflorus*); Kidney, Spring, Narrow-leaved and Common Vetch (*Anthyllis vulneraria, Vicia lathyroides, V. sativa subsp. nigra, & subsp, sativa*); Tall, Small and Ribbed Melilot (*Melilotus altissimus, M. indicus & M. officinalis*); Black and Spotted Medick and Lucerne (*Medicago lupulina, M. arabica & M. sativa*); Common Restharrow (*Ononis repens*); Hairy Tare (*Vicia hirsuta*); Bird's-foot, White, Western, Clustered, Suffocated, Red, Knotted, Rough, Hare's-foot and Subterranean, Clovers (*Trifolium ornithopodiodes, T. repens, T. occidentale, T. glomeratum,T. suffocatum, T. pratense, T. striatum, T. scabrum, T. arvense,*

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Bird’s-foot & Orange Bird’s-foot

Greater Bird’s-foot-treefoil

Hairy Bird’s-foot-treefoil

Spring Vetch

Bird’s-foot Clover

Clustered Clover

Suffocated Clover

Subterranean Clover

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& T. subterraneum); Hop, Lesser and Slender Trefoil (*T. campestre, T. dubium & T. micranthum*); Several of the above are illustrated on the facing page, some are minute and scarcely noticed by most people.

Many of these are also present in the area of the miniature railway shown in Figure 61.

Elsewhere in the quarry, in the mainly shallow soil accumulated over the last century, scattered plants of Tree Lupin (*Lupinus arborea*), plenty of Gorse (*Ulex europeus*), Brambles (*Rubus spp.*), Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) and many of the common grasses, cover considerable areas whilst, in the damper spots and where drainage channels are connected to the pond, Stinking Iris (*Iris foetidissimus*), various Willows, mainly the Common Sallow (*Salix cinerea subsp. oleifolia*), with Crack Willow and Osier (*S. fragilis & S. vimialis*) occur frequently. On the barer spots where there is little soil, Mayweeds (*Tripleurospermum and Matricaria spp.*) and a number of other, mainly yellow-flowered, Daisy family plants such as Canadian Fleabane (*Conyza canadensis*)(Fig. 66 on right), etc., thrive in abundance.

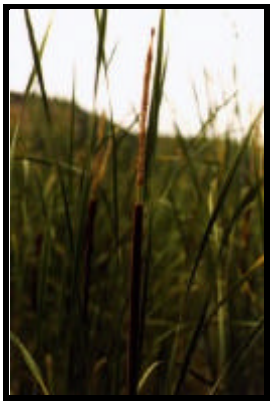
Mannez Pond

The pond is shallow with an accumulated bed of peaty soil and rotted vegetation. Having no direct flow into it, it's level varies considerably with autumn/winter rainfall and hot dry summer weather. The maximum depth is a little over 1m and occasionally, in very hot or dry years, it dries out completely.

The last time this happened was in August 1990 and, when this occurred, the author

Fig. 67. Small area of water remaining 18.8.90, seen at middle left of picture

Fig. 68. Clearing bed of pond almost done 24.9.1990



organised a rescue operation for the thousands of small carp and goldfish, seen as the waters gradually receded until they were only a few inches deep and about 30 x 10m in extent. These had presumably bred from fish put into the pond by residents when cleaning out domestic fishponds. Some had reached a considerable size 25cm or more, in the years since the last complete dry out occurred. Many were completely black or had areas of black on their red-gold colour. A few were white. Water was fetched in small barrels from the well mentioned above and the fish scooped into them and transferred to the deeper water in Corblets Quarry. and all were removed just before the (< Fig. 69. Lesser Bulrush) water dried up completely.

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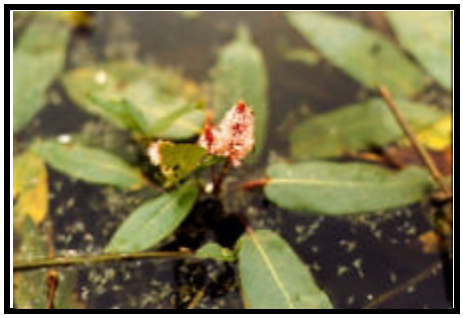
The operation took several people about 3 days to complete

Subsequent to this, an operation was put under way to deepen the pond by removing a considerable part of the century or more accumulation of silt and debris and a large part of the bed of Lesser Bulrush (*Typha angustifolia*) (photo previous page), which had spread greatly in the last ten years or so at its only location in the island. You can just see where the male and female flowers on this are separated by a length of bare stem, the distinguishing feature from *T. latifolia*. Large areas of Amphibious Bistort (*Persicaria amphibia*)(Fig 70 on right), and Broad-leaved Pondweed (*Potamogeton natans*)(Fig. 71 on left), were also removed to help increase the volume of water contained once the pond filled again. The bank at the NE end of the pond was raised with stone and earth and a small sluice gate installed to help increase and control the level. These measures seem to have been successful and the level has not reached a dangerous low since, whilst flooding over the top of the end bank has only occurred in one or two very wet winters.



The small area of grassland, flooded most winters and just showing in flood on 2nd February 1995, above the roof of the engine shed in Figure 65, at the head of this section, is the only known Alderney habitat of the Adder's-tongue Fern (*Ophioglossum vulgatum*), where it was first recorded in 1969. (Figure 72, on right). This very primitive plant is comparatively common in many similar, winter flooded, habitats in UK, but only local in Jersey and Guernsey, reported from Brechou, but not from Sark of Herm. [It seems likely that Marquand's 1905 record for Least Adder's-tongue (*O. lusitanicum*), found only in Guernsey and the Scilly Isles, was probably in error for this species].

The bright green grassy-looking area on the right of Figure 67 is a large expanse of New Zealand Pigmy-weed (*Crassula hlemsii*), first noted in the tank on Essex Hill in 1983, which had been present in small quantity at the margin of the pond until it almost dried, when it spread rapidly across the moist peaty ground left exposed. The lower edge of the pond in this photo, where a drainage gulley allows the water to flow to the willows on the left of the picture is one of our few sites for Three-leaved Water-crowfoot (*Ranunculus tricophyllus*), (Figure 73, below), seen in very variable amounts in different years.

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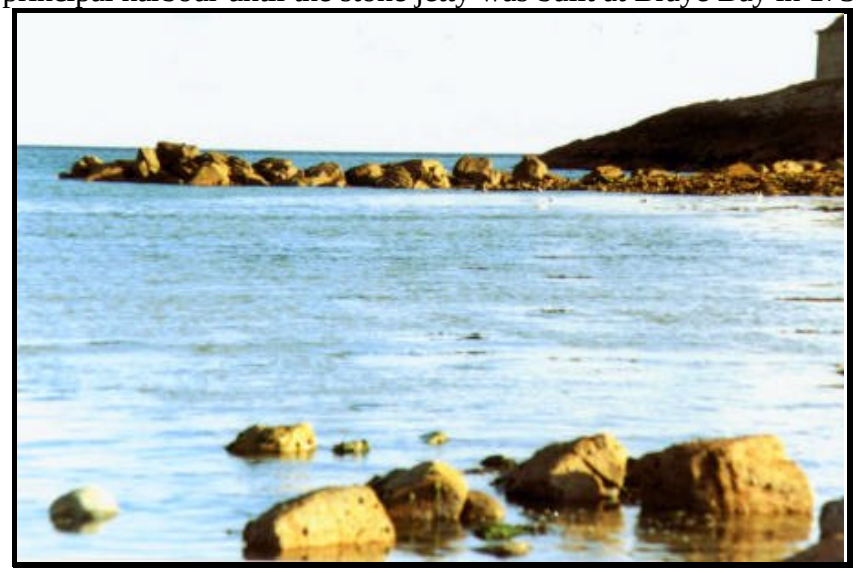
❖ Region 8. Longis Bay and Essex Hill to Bluestone Bay;

This region starts at the western end of Longis Bay and includes the Nunnery and the sandstone overlay all along the S. cliffs to Bluestone Bay and L'Etac de la Quoire and the area of mainly agricultural land of La Grande Blaye, between the coast and the Longis Road, from the Nunnery to its junction with Valongis.

Longis Bay, shallow and sandy, well sheltered and with a narrow entrance, was almost certainly the island's earliest harbour. In direct view from the French coast at Cap de la Hague 9 miles away across Le Raz Blanchard (The Race) it would have been the obvious point for early settlers in the Stone, Bronze and Iron ages to land. The sea level was much lower than today then and they would have touched land below today's extreme LWM. The flat sandy bottom of the middle of the bay is an ideal spot for beaching flat-bottomed boats, which almost certainly led the Romans to use it as their base and build the original fort at the Nunnery up to 100m or so inland, just where a good stream of fresh water runs out onto the shore. The height of Essex hill commanding the whole bay area would have been an excellent lookout position and, in later times a watch tower was present here, long before Les Murs de Haut, started in the reign of Henry VIII and now known as Essex Castle, was built.

Soon after his restoration in 1660, Charles II ordered the building of a stone jetty on this side of the bay, the remains of which can still be readily seen as the tide falls, projecting nearly half way across this part of the bay, (Figure 74, below). Archaeological finds during the last 170 years, with tools, weapons and domestic utensils, going back some 4,000 years, indicate that Longis Common certainly held the earliest settlement on the island and the bay remained the principal harbour until the stone jetty was built at Braye Bay in 1736.



After the sudden rise from the flat E and NE coastal areas to the top of Essex Hill the land then continues at an elevation of around 85-90m to the western end of the island. As will be seen from the geological map on page 2, the underlying diorite or granodiorite of the central part of Alderney is overlain on the coastal side of this whole 'region' with a layer of sandstone, in places up to 120m thick, faulted at about 45º. Alderney is the only Channel Island with any sandstone in its geological formation. An area of the central part of the island has a loess overlay of windblown soil and the whole of the high level part of the island forms

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the agricultural region knows as La Grande Blaye, the ‘greater corn-growing land’, to distinguish it from Les Petites Blayes, along the western coast.

Divided from the rough cliff area of former Crown or common land, later distributed amongst the people by the Crown in 1830, this agricultural area is surrounded by an earth and stone bank surmounted by gorse and bramble to keep cattle out, known as La Costière. There are a number of cattle watering places along its length placed where springs produce a year round flow of water. The troughs, gulleys and cobbled standings which can be seen today at some of these, were probably constructed in Victorian times and the cattle, tethered whilst they grazed were then taken to them for water twice a day. (Figure 75 above, trough at Vau Renier). The bracken from the common lands was cut for bedding and the gorse cut and dried regularly, to fuel the bread ovens present in most farmhouses at that time.

Agriculture was carried on in a communal strip system, which was not changed during the periods of land enclosure from the 16-18th centuries, carried out in Britain and the larger Channel Islands. It was governed by strict laws and customs for planting, harvesting, turning the cattle in in winter to graze the stubble and maintaining it weed free. The light mainly sandy soil was heavily manured for centuries by vraic (seaweed), brought up from the shores in spring and autumn, with another set of well established customs strictly kept for its gathering. This maintained fertility and helped retain soil moisture and, as far as can be ascertained, corn crops were grown continuously, with little fallowing. Potato growing was introduced in the late 18th century and some of the customs were modified to suit the later maturing of this crop. These laws and customs were kept until the island was evacuated in 1940 when a considerable proportion of the islanders were still engaged in agricultural activity, mostly with small holdings, each farmer keeping a cow and a few pigs or sheep and growing much of the food their families consumed, many of them also working in the stone quarries for their main employment. Even today there are few dividing walls or fences across the area.

As has already been mentioned under Region 2, when the islanders began to return in late 1945, the island was run as a communal farm for almost two years, (Figures 76/77 above). The subsequent horticultural enterprise kept many people employed and resulted in pickers being brought in from UK to help with the flower and potato harvests. Italian workers were imported and housed in Fort Tourgis in the late 1950s - early 60s. Many married island girls

and their descendants are still here. Transport difficulties saw the decline of crop exports, as the rising costs made them uncompetitive and, with the introduction of many, often wealthier, British settlers, from UK and the former colonies, attitudes to education standards; which were gradually brought up to UK levels; and to a preference for better paid, cleaner, less physically demanding work, by the better educated youngsters; agriculture declined until with the death of the last dairy farmer in 1999 it virtually ceased.

Figure 78. Daffodils growing on Les Petites Blayes, about 1950

Figure 79. Italian workers harvesting potatoes c. 1960 (from an old newspaper cutting)

The farm house and some of the land had been rented, but the farm and those agricultural buildings on its land, were later bought by a local landowner and, in May 2000 a tenant was found for the property, who proposed to carry out the planning consent already given to the previous owner and build a new Dairy, the building and equipment of the old States Dairy now being unfit for continued use. Although two of the pedigree bulls and some of the milk cows had been slaughtered when no buyers could be found, there were still apparently about 110 cows and calves on the island and the new tenant hoped to be able to restart the production of Alderney milk as soon as a new dairy was built and equipped to conform with current hygiene standards.

By September 2000 a good start had been made on cutting fields for hay and silage and mowing and clearing Ragwort from other fields. He also proposed to extend crop production beyond the necessities of the animals. Now in 2005 the dairy farm is well established and keeps Alderney supplied with clean fresh full-cream, semi-skimmed and skimmed milk, some cream, ice cream and yoghurt, when there is a surplus of milk and small quantities of excellent, well hung, beef, lamb and pork, both direct from the farm or butchered, packed and chilled, from the local grocery shops. The land all round is in much better heart and a new modern dairy and a farmhouse have been built on the site, making it a considerable asset to the island.

This has given a new lease of life to agriculture in Alderney and help to prevent further succession to scrub of at least some part of the Blayes.

Many vergées of the land in the Green Belt, (see Appendix on legislation), particularly on the cliffs, now belong to non-resident families, whose parents or grand parents had emigrated to the colonies during hard times here and have inherited it from their islander relations, but have no interest in looking after it. The States too seem never to have enough agricultural team workers to attempt to keep their own land clean. As a consequence, over the last 30-40 years; gorse, bracken and bramble scrub has gradually encroached on much of cliff areas and of some of the agricultural land.

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Changing living standards, with more women going out to work and thus having less time and energy for domestic chores, has resulted in a huge upsurge in the use of ready-prepared 'convenience foods'. There is now no mill to grind flour for bread making and comparatively few households still make their own bread. Thus, hardly any corn has been grown for years, except barley and oats for animal feed; few potatoes and no carrots are now grown, due partly to the importation of ready packed, clean-washed produce in convenient small bags by the food shops; and partly to the lack of workers willing to harvest them.

Since the introduction of myxomatosis, few local rabbits, once a staple meat dish for many families, are now eaten and, when their numbers increase again, they are more often excessively controlled by poisoning or gassing. The development of silage harvesting, whilst there were still enough cattle and sheep on the island to need large quantities of winter fodder, has meant that traditional hay-making, both preceded and followed by grazing, and other traditional farming techniques, have been dropped. As a consequence meadows have recently been mown for silage several times in the season, the wild flowers in them have not had time to flower or set seed and have slowly disappeared. The lack of enforcement of the Mauvaises Herbes laws has allowed Ragwort, Docks, 'Stinking Onions' and Hogweed in particular, to spread greatly, all now having reached the point where it would be almost impossible to control them. In 2003/4, to save the States embarrassment, as much of the infestation was on public land this law was finally reduced to Ragwort only.

All these factors are signs of modern 'progress' but have had a considerable, often adverse, effect on the landscape and ecology of the island. With fewer rabbits and almost no sheep, short turf habitats are vanishing and with them the minute plant and animal species which need this type of habitat.

A new, suburban, obsession with "tidiness", introduced in the last five years or so by recent settlers, has resulted in pressure on the States for commons, traditionally grazed and cut for hay twice a year, now being mown every few weeks and farm animals are excluded from them for "sanitary" reasons. Verges are mown with a depressing frequency and in both cases, the finely chewed up cuttings left to rot on the surface, resulting in the complete suppression of the smaller wildflowers and the subsequent nutrient enrichment of the soil, which creates an unacceptable environment for many "poor soil" species. The loss of some of these has resulted in a considerable reduction of butterfly, moth and other insect species numbers and spraying hedge bottoms and gutters with weed killer, instead of cutting or pulling the offending species, has made the situation worse. A plague of Brown-tailed Moths across the Channel Islands in 1997-99 resulted in widespread use of chemical insecticides in attempts to destroy their "tents" in which the eggs overwinter and which provide shelter for the developing caterpillars in the spring. This of course had the incidental effect of killing a lot of other butterfly and moth caterpillars and was not particularly successful in reducing the numbers of the moths, whose caterpillars have extremely irritant hairs if they are touched or accidentally brushed against. This sort of infestation tends, like plagues of locusts, to be cyclical and will probably subside shortly any way, but complaints about their effect on visitors, particularly in the dunes behind the best beaches resulted in a lot of work for the local hospital and panic in the States. Both types of spraying carry with them the additional hazard of the toxic chemicals used getting into the water table and thus into our drinking water.

Finally, generations of rubbish disposal at the "Impôt" two former small quarries on the coast near La Tchue worked well in Victorian times and up to 1939 when there was little domestic waste. Fields were ploughed regularly and the weeds turned in to help fertility. Garden waste was composted or burnt and thus recycled, to the great benefit of the land.

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There were few motor cars or other motorised machines, no fridges, washing machines, electric and gas cookers or TVs to need replacing and little in the way of builders waste, or nothing like milk cartons, beer cans or plastic containers to dispose of. It worked well and after burning, the remains were pushed over the cliff. Local fishermen gathered good lobsters and conger eels which made their homes in the occasional old lorry or bus pushed over into the deep water at the foot of the cliff.

Today's throwaway society has radically changed this. Everything from furniture, kitchen equipment, TVs and computers, tools, nails and screws, electric fittings, bedding and clothing, etc. etc., to virtually all foodstuffs, comes pre-packed in a variety of wooden, cardboard, and/or plastic bags, boxes or containers, all of which have to be disposed of. Fewer homes now burn solid fuel of any kind, so most of this ends up at the tip. From less than 25 cars in the island in 1930 there are now almost 2,500 and several end up at the Impôt every month. The population has increased by 50% in the same period. New owners of existing property have their kitchens and bathrooms remodelled and much of the old equipment and fittings is discarded. Double glazed units are being fitted to many homes and the old windows and doors thrown away. It is now illegal to feed pigs and chickens on household and hotel waste food and few people keep them anyway. Most waste, collected daily from business premises and domestic waste weekly from homes, was put into plastic sacks and together with old car and lorry tyres, burnt there, producing a pall of noxious black smoke, reputedly carcinogenic and, depending on the wind direction, more often than not blowing across parts of the island in the prevailing S-westerly winds. Builders take all their empty paint tins, old doors and window frames, kitchen units and plumbing materials, pipes and tanks and the plastic boxes and wrappings in which they were delivered there.

With a lack of many qualified service agents for TVs, radios, washing machines, etc. in Alderney, it is often cheaper and easier to buy a new one than to have the old one sent to Guernsey to be repaired and pay all the incidental (but now considerable) freight charges, as well as the repair costs.

No-one can really blame those who dispose of their waste this way, much of the packaging has no possible use for any other purpose and has gradually developed to make the presentation of anything more attractive to the potential purchaser and increase the profits of the manufacturers and distributors. EU regulations mean that cement can now only be sold in 25Kg bags virtually doubling the amount of waste paper produced by the old 1 cwt. bags and increasing the price accordingly. Gardens are mostly smaller than in the past and many have no suitable places to deal with the garden waste without upsetting the neighbours. The Wildlife Trust has organised a supply of cheap compost bins for domestic use, but many householders find it easier to take it to the Impôt rather than by composting or burning it at home. All garden maintenance contractors, have to do the same, here it is piled for compost and the heavy trunks and branches and other woody elements are turned into chips first.

The resulting atmospheric pollution and often unpleasant smell across the island, from the burning plastic and rubber, mixed with the other rubbish, has produced many complaints from residents about both the health hazard and the adverse effect on tourism. Although not part of the EU, the Channel Islands seem to feel obliged to accept many of its regulations imposed on the UK, some of them quite ridiculous, irrelevant and unnecessary, unsuitable, or beyond their financial means, for such small communities as Alderney and Sark.

The way of life of small rural communities is being adversely affected in many countries by these pointless bureaucratic regulations and considerable unnecessary expense being incurred by the taxpayer in employing the Inspectors required to police the regulations.

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Burning at the Impôt is now only permitted when the wind is offshore, all the waste vehicles, domestic appliances, etc. are being crushed and exported and a recycling operation has been set up near the harbour. Paper, cardboard, tins, and plastic are separated by many of the inhabitants and put into a range of containers changed weekly, the cardboard is compacted and baled, and all this is exported and sold. The glass bottles are separated into bins, crushed and used as hard core and for making paving and other blocks on the island. Other domestic and shop refuse, disposable nappies, etc. are now sent to Guernsey for disposal, at great cost to Alderney.

Figure 80. Scrap cars being piled for export, 15.5.2000

The older systems for scrap metal and vehicle, rubbish and sewage disposal however presented both a health and an environmental challenge which is now being faced. The recent huge pile of scrap cars, trucks, batteries, and domestic equipment has been by sea to UK for recycling. This has been an occasional event in the last 3-4 years but will be better organised and more regular in future. For the last couple of years a bottle bank and a container for aluminium drinks cans has been set up near the harbour and cleared frequently. Two shiploads of scrap were eventually exported in July 2000, but within a month about 30 scrap cars and small trucks had accumulated at the Impôt and were set on fire on Saturday evening 19th August, by an unknown arsonist, resulting in considerable work and trouble for the volunteer fire brigade, who had to use breathing apparatus to tackle the blaze with the use of 1,000 gallons of foam, at great expense to the community, to extinguish the fire. Black smoke ascending from the burning cars was visible all over the island and from Guernsey, 20 miles away. Fortunately the wind was light and only a small area of the cliffs was set alight, taking about 1,000 gallons of water to control and damp down the surrounding area.

A Salvation Army container was provided for surplus clothing, bedding, etc for a few years, it was well used but has now been withdrawn owing to difficulty in disposing of the large amount of clothing collected. Active steps were being taken in 1999-2002 to obtain or build a suitable incineration plant for the domestic rubbish. This would have reduced the wind blown plastic and other rubbish seen along the cliffs near La Tchue and floating debris carried by sea, mainly round to Longis Bay, the second largest and most popular beach in the island, but has been banned by Guernsey who are themselves about to build a new incineration plant.

Part of the town foul-water drainage system has been treated in the filter beds at Longis Bay for at least 20 years. More properties have recently been linked to this system, but the greatest number of properties either have drains linked to the untreated sewage outfall at Crabby Bay, which is far too near the shore for comfort, or have their cess pits regularly emptied by the States with the contents then being disposed of through this same outfall. This too is being examined, but an effective remedy will prove vastly expensive and the direction and falls of the various existing sewers will still not allow many properties to be connected to them unless additional pumping stations are built.

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Almost in spite of these man-made problems, the area along the south cliffs still holds many interesting plant and animal species. The cliff path westward along the coast from the top of Essex Hill can be a delight when the Impôt is not burning. Bare patches on the cliffs hold a wealth of small plants including the Sand Crocus, Autumn Squill and Shepherd's Cress. On Essex Hill the largest remaining concentration of Primroses flourishes, with a mass of Common Dog Violets scattered through the grass and patches of Honesty, Variegated Catchfly, Great Quaking-grass; Bluebells, the native, the Spanish and hybrids between them in some profusion. Another tiny colony of Sand Quillwort manages to survive in a small hollow and, in a square stone tank, partly water filled throughout the year, the island's only stand of Greater Reedmace *Typha latifolia* (Figure 81, on left, now officially called "Bulrush", a name formerly reserved for a different plant), is to be found. In this species there is no gap between the male and female flowers forming the brown mace head at the top of the flowering stems. Probably originating as either the cellar of, or a water storage tank for, the Coast Guard Lookout house built here in 1906, used by the Germans during the war as a lookout for their antiaircraft batteries situated on top of the hill here, but demolished soon afterwards, this tank also holds a few plants of the Fringed Water-lily *Nymphoides peltata* (Figure 82, on right), and a considerable amount of the pernicious alien New Zealand Pigmy-weed *Crassula helmsii* (Figure 83, below), all probably introduced originally. The latter having since spread into the ponds at Longis and Mannez and other places.

Beyond the Impôt the cliff path crosses the road leading to it from Longis Road. On the right here, beyond the large field are the remains of an old brick kiln. The level area close by this was composed of wind blown loess from many millennia ago and was used to make bricks, probably in the late 18th/early 19th centuries. close to the brick kiln lies a large Neolithic stone circle. The origins of this and any possible past archaeological work done here are somewhat obscure.

Keeping to the cliff path however, we descend a steep slope and, to the left of this down an even steeper track, there is the first of the remaining *abreuvoirs publiques*, the cattle watering troughs, kept filled by a small spring nearby. A good view of the Hanging Rocks to the east is gained from here. These geological freaks of (presumably) harder sandstone than that which had surrounded them, were

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somewhat modified during the Second World War, when the Germans blew the top off the larger of the two. A photograph of this actually happening, taken by a German soldier from Fort Essex has survived. Both photos below are by Asbeck, taken August or September 1941.

Fig. 84. Shelling the Hanging Rocks

Fig. 85. The Coast Guard lookout during the war

Large tracts of gorse clothe the cliffs beyond this track with a number of Alderney's not very common wild roses among them. This is ideal country for the Dartford Warbler and you may see them anywhere along the next mile or so. A few areas are still lightly covered with scrub and several small, rare in Alderney in not elsewhere may be found in the barer patches. Chief amongst these is the Annual Knawel *Scleranthus annuus*, only previously recorded in 1908 and 1951, until it was found by the author along here, in some quantity over a few square metres, in 1996 and yearly since. It seems most likely that it had been overlooked in the interim. In the short trodden turf of the cliff path here, in early May look for several minute members of the pea family. The pink and white flowered Bird's-foot *Ornithopus perpusillus* is frequent, with the very much rarer Orange Bird's-foot *O. pinnatus* seen in small patches. Two of the Bird's-foot-trefoils, Hairy *Lotus subbiflorus* and Slender *L. angustissimus* may be found by the careful observer. Masses of several different Vetches, Hairy Tare, *Vicia hirsuta*, Common and Narrow-leaved Vetch *V. sativa* and *V. sativa subsp. nigra*, and Lucerne *Medicago sativa* appear along the edges of the scrub and on the wall bounding the Grande Blaye.

This path is one of the places you might encounter the Slowworm as well.

Just below the path on the seaward side you will notice a white navigation cone part way down the cliff, above Bluestone Bay. Placed here as a mark for ships using the Cachalière Pier to load stone after the diorite quarry was opened, about the turn of the 20th century, it is the end of this region of our survey and also marks the end of the sandstone overlay along the south cliffs. Just below the cone, on the almost bare sandstone slides is the habitat of another of our endangered species rare plants, Flax-leaved St. John's-wort *Hypericum linariifolium.*

Beware; do not try to get down to this site from here, it is far too dangerous.

The best approach to the beach is down a very narrow winding track from Les Becquets headland about 50m east of this spot. This is also somewhat hazardous, but with great care you can reach the beach safely, if the tide is down. This beach is composed of a thick layer of blue, water-worn, diorite pebbles, over the sandstone, a legacy of the stone crushing activity from the quarry just beyond the headland between about 1890 and 1924.

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Figure 86. Flax-leaved St. John's-wort

At low tide the offshore stack L'Etac de la Quoire, is connected by a natural causeway to the end of the beach and is the breeding place of many seabirds. The headland here marks the first exposed section of the central diorite, (see the geological map (Figure 1), on page 2), which was the reason for the start of the quarrying industry on this section of the coast. It will be dealt with, in the next chapter.

Figure 87. L'Étac de la Quoire from Bluestone beach

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❖ Region 9. South cliffs to Telegraph Bay; comprising the granodiorite part of the Grande Blaye, now mostly under the airport.

After leaving the previous Section, you are soon above the Cachalière quarry, the old military road turns sharply inland and then runs behind a field behind the quarry. There is a somewhat overgrown coastal path going straight on here, on private land above the top of the quarry. The pier below, was partially destroyed by the Germans during the Second World War, to prevent its possible use as a landing point for a British invasion,

The quarry was the scene of great commercial activity for some 30 years until the unfortunate wrecking of the main cargo boat, the SS *Tyne* with the loss of five lives on 12th January 1922. Docking at the jetty was always hazardous and limited by the tidal state although the quarry had a very efficient loading system for crushed roadstone. As a result of this tragedy the quarry was closed a couple of years later and the machinery was dismantled a few years after that.

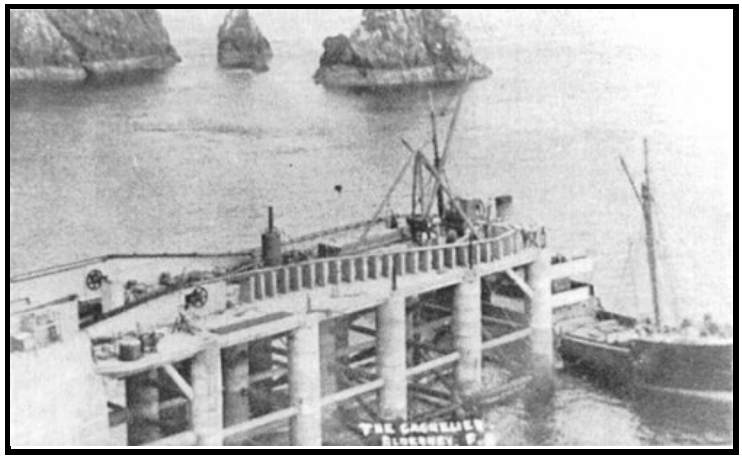

Fig. 87 Cachalière Pier with SS *Tyne* loading stone about 1920

Soon you come to Les Quatre Vents, until recently, an ordinary, quite attractive house, the only building ever permitted on the south cliffs, erected about 1936 by the man who started Alderney's original land-based airport. This was bought by a wealthy Belgian about 1996/7. An unwise planning committee, perhaps blinded by wealth and a promise to create an associated educational centre, at which local students could be taught agricultural skills, granted permission for an "extension" to the house. Within days of the consent being given, the entire house vanished in a single day and an enormous prefabricated structure was started some

Figure 88. Les Quatre Vents, two days before demolition

distance from the original house. The specialised nature of the construction plans persuaded the States to allow Sicilian building workers (and their families) to come to Alderney, Work Permits were issued for specialist terrazzo and marble workers, at least some of whom subsequently proved to be no more than labourers.

Fig 89. The new building at an early stage

The families reputedly lived illegally on the site, in a former large shed with no proper toilet facilities and few other amenities. The foreman spoke no English and could not communicate with the States Surveyor, plans were not adhered to, some of the structural steel used proved inadequate for the weight it had to carry, the public coastal path was obstructed for weeks at a time, a tunnel was built underneath it to link to the adjacent Vau du Fret, which formed part of the property and a ghastly concrete wall was built round the path boundary more than double the height of the former local stone wall and a stop was put on the building works on several occasions whilst planning requirements were revised. In late 1999 after a second huge public outcry, petitions to the States and considerable adverse comment on the ability and sense of the members of the Building and Development Committee, all work ceased and the workers left. By this time the building was two storied, with a high, incomplete, collapsing roof, large holes had appeared in the floors of the upper storey, steel girders were rusting and some had sagged and the walls seemed to be mainly composed of large, thin, prefabricated panels.

Fig 90. The partly built structure 11.9.2000 after being abandoned for 11 months

Several local contractors had court cases pending against the owners for non-payment for their services and parts of the building seemed in danger of collapse. In April 2000 after more discussion in the States Meeting it was suggested by the two principal committee chairmen, at least one of whom had been involved in permitting the fiasco in the place, that a compulsory purchase order should be taken out on the property and the entire structure demolished. This met with great public approval but, so far (November 2000), no action has been taken. Later promises, made early in June 2000 by the owner, to rebuild parts not constructed in accordance with the plans and continue the work within one month, were still unfulfilled when this picture was taken.

Work nearby, the second project for the recently formed Alderney Conservation Volunteers, over the weekend of 8-10th September 2000, assisted by members of the Guernsey group and organised by Roland Gauvain, Alderney's Conservation Officer, (a six month trial post subsequently extended for a further six months and now the Alderney Wildlife Trust's Manager), in clearing and draining the boggy area round one of the old Abreuvoirs Publiques, (Fig. 91 on left at Le Vau du Fret), where the Victorian 25 foot Military Road passes across the dip in the road at

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the eastern side of Quatre Vents, repaired and exposed the trough fully, for the first time in many years and replaced the blocked drains where the Fret stream was formerly piped under the trackway. Altogether a worthwhile job, well done.

On the cliffs in front of the Quatre Vents site are some of the few plants of Common Broom *Cytisus scoparius* in the island. Continuing to the west, the path dips down into the Val du Saue. Commonly called, (and on some maps shown as) the Val du Sud (South), the proper name means Willow Valley. Well watered by a short stream which drops over a 10-15m cliff into the sea, to the north of the path the area has been cultivated at various times in the past as a market garden. It has also been planted, many years ago, with a variety of uncommon plants. Contorted Willow *Salix matsudana* has reached a considerable height. In this species the twigs are twisted and bent into many directions and even the leaves are twisted. There is a large patch of Giant Rhubarb *Gunnera tinctoria* beside the stream, its huge leaves up to 1½-2m across on petioles up to 2m tall. The fruiting stems are up to 1½m tall. Several Cupressus species and, beside the wall bounding the old military road a large, suckering patch of the deciduous *Elaeagnus commutata*, looking at first glance like one of the many willows in this area, in June/July this produces many tiny, sweet-scented, yellow, bell shaped, flowers in the leaf axils. Almost spherical silver fruits are developed in September, (Fig. 92 on left). There are two other Elaeagnus species frequently planted in the island as salt and wind resistant hedges. Both are evergreen, flower late in the Autumn, with white or silvery flowers and produce thin coated oval green or silvery fruits, turning red in early spring. Much favoured by birds, each with a single, pale brown, hard cased seed, these germinate quite frequently where they are dropped.

Below the road on the seaward side is a plantation of various pines and other trees and a number of bog plants will be found at the sides of the stream.

At the top of the rise, now almost buried under encroaching Ivy on top of the wall, is one of our few colonies of Burnet Rose *Rosa pimpinellifolia* (Fig. 93 on left). Beyond this the former road which we have been following, no longer fit to be used by vehicles becomes a more obvious roadway where it is joined by the track from the top of Little Street, passing the end of the Airport runway. The main part of the Grande Blaye is now on your right, the greater area of this being occupied by the Airport. Between the road and the sea is a mixture of formerly cultivated fields, pasture land and Gorse scrub and along the top of the cliffs a pathway, difficult to follow in some places, and crossed by several watered valleys, in others widened by the States in 1999/2000 and with a rustic bridge built crossing the narrow stream at Vau Renier where a stepping stone served previously.

At this point, what I thought was the only site in Alderney of Wild Madder (*Rubia peregrina*), with two plants rooting virtually in the stream bed for many years, the widening process destroyed the nearest plant (Fig. 94 on right). Before crossing the bridge, coming back to the east, along a new path running uphill and then down to a spot close to the cliff edge, created through previously impenetrable

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bramble/gorse/bracken scrub I was happy to find, about 50m away, about a dozen well grown Madder plants amongst the gorse alongside the new path.

This part of the coast holds a wealth of our rarer plants, a few of them rare or endangered in the British Isles generally. Most important in the tiny annual, Spotted Rockrose (*Tuberaria guttata*). In many years this is abundant over a 2-300m stretch of the path and the cliff areas beside it (Fig. 95 on right), just a few metres beyond west of the bridge. Germinating in the autumn the plants are rarely above above 5-8cms tall and each flower last only a single day, opening on sunny days and dropping its petals around noon. If you look for it in the afternoon you may well miss it altogether or only find scatted tiny petals on the surrounding ground. Another colony exists over about 60 x 10m of a field margin on the inland side of the gorse to the right of the track more or less level with this patch.

In the same area and most easily seen along the edges of the narrow path trodden between the abundant Gorse, both species of Bird's-foot, the quite common pink and white *Ornithopus perpusillus* (Fig. 96 on left in photo) and the rare (but comparatively locally common in Alderney), Orange Bird's-foot (*O. pinnatus*) (Fig. 97 on right in photo). Both are frequent along much of the S. cliff path and even abundant in some close cropped grassy parts, such as the Tête de Judemarre. Scattered along the path you will also frequently find small groups of yellow flowered Hairy Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus subbiflorus*) and occasional plants of the very rare Slender Bird's-foot-trefoil (*L. angustissimus*). Both are normally only found in dry grassy patches by the sea and then, in the UK, usually only in the south.

Both small and large patches of another scarce yellow flowered plant, Smooth Cat's-ear (*Hypochoeris glabra*) (Fig. 98 on right), often only 5-6cm high, but in the shelter of the edges of the gorse along the less trodden parts of the narrow track up to 10-15cm high, another species common in many parts of Alderney, but rarely seen by most British botanists, except in the east of England.

Continuing west, in a few dozen yards, a small quarry part way down the cliff has been home for at least 40 years to a single clump of Royal Fern (*Osmunda regalis*), the only plant in the island as far as is known. Presumably planted here, but no-one seems to know when, or by whom, it has spread but does not seem to have multiplied. Royal Fern spores were found in the peat at Longis, dated from more than 1,000 years ago, but it can scarcely be considered as "native" today. This part of the path continues to Les Couriaux headland, where a seat awaits the walker. A broad expanse of gorse between here and the old Military Road is one of the few places in Alderney where you may see Dodder (*Cuscuta epithymum*) actually growing on Gorse. Along the sides of this well trodden path look for Trailing St. John's-wort (*Hypericum humifisum*), in some quantity. An alternative path leading along and down the cliff side behind the seat will take you to the steep sided Val L'Emauve and the Lover's Leap.

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On the cliff on the eastern side of the valley, at least one pair of the Ravens were nesting in Spring 2000. The opposite valley side was a mass of small wild flowers and looked almost like a planted rock garden at this time. A large number (50-60+) empty hen's egg shells were noted on a small bare patch at the summit of the valley side nearest the sea here. Obviously stolen by the Ravens from the range of plastic chicken houses in the field at the top of Trois Vaux, one of the Ravens sat above its nest on the eastern cliff face at "Krarked" at me all the time I was in its view on the western side, especially when near the eggshell pile.

Carrying on we cross the shallow Vallée des Goudalons, which contains a huge area of Lousewort (*Pedicularis sylvatica*) (Fig. 99 on left), covering 2-300m x 50m, as well as many of the commoner small plants, several Speedwells (*Veronica spp.*), Eyebrights (*Euphrasia spp.*) and Forget-me-nots (*Myosotis spp.*).

Above the west side of this valley is a former German lookout point, now converted into a sort of summer house by the owner of the Telegraph Tower 3-400m inland. From this point along the cliffs all the way to the SW tip of the island and someway round to the North from there, the cliffs are clothed with Ox-eye Daisies (*Leucanthemum vulgare*), Thrift (*Armeria maritima*) and especially with Prostrate Broom (*Cytisus scoparius subsp. maritimus*), the latter forming sheets of yellow flowers virtually obscuring the stems, all the way to the end of this Section of our study. Scattered frequently among the Prostrate Broom, which it parasitises, is the Great Broomrape (*Orobanche rapum-genistae*) (Fig. 100 on right). Locally abundant here, this is only locally frequent in Jersey, absent from Guernsey, Sark and Herm and only found very locally in England.

We now reach the cliffs of Telegraph Bay, a veritable wild garden of flowers. Ravens used to be seen 'tumbling' here quite frequently in the spring and hopefully will soon return. The bare sandy 'head' at the top of the steps leading down to the beach is honeycombed with the holes of several species of Sand and Digger Wasps and Mining Bees, seen going in and out of their nests throughout the summer days.

(Two pairs of Ravens were reported nesting nearby in June 2005)

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Figure 101. Telegraph Cliffs in mid January 2000

We have now reached the end of this section.

Figure 101a. The photograph below shows the atmospheric chill of a late December morning looking down into the sea, from the edge of the Lover's leap (see page 88)

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❖ Region 10. Le Giffoine; comprising the high SW part of the island, including the Trois Vaux valleys.

The eastward kink in the north running boundary drawn for this region, (see map on page 3), is occasioned by the head of Baxter's Valley, one of the three arms of Les Trois Vaux starting a few dozen metres from the top of the Telegraph steps. Here the metalled track from

the old Military Road turns into a grassy track leading straight on to the headland Tête de Judemarre and at the same point a, now barely discernible, track through the first 50m or so of bracken and bramble at about 45º to the right, leads down at slightly wider path to the main valley below. The offshore stack Ortac, with its large Gannet colony from January to about October can be seen, about 1 mile offshore, directly in line with the end of this valley (Figure 102 above).

The valley narrows and the sides become steeper as you descend. Within about 150m a spring makes this path very damp and gradually the flow increases with running water in a narrow groove which moves from one side of the track to the other as the underlying rock strata dictate. Here you will find what is probably the only colony of Bog Pimpernel (*Anagallis tenella*), in the island, (Figure 103 on left).

A number of sedges and rushes and large colonies of Water Mint (*Mentha aquatica*) and Common Fleabane (*Pulicaria dysenterica*), will be noted along the course of this tiny stream. Close by the Pimpernel and a little downhill, look for Marsh Pennywort (*Hydrocotyle vulgaris*) either side in the wet ground. This is also rare in Alderney, but I found it in great quantity in the almost dried up bed of Longis pond in 1992 (Figure 104 on right, taken in Baxter's Valley).

The valley widens out as it approaches the main arm of Les Trois Vaux and, at the junction, a small scrape of barish rock partly filled with water from the junction of the streams holds colonies of Common Spike-rush (*Eleocharis palustris*), Bristle Club-rush (*Isolepis setacea*) (See Figs. 105/6 below on

left) and Slender Club-rush (*I. cernua*). the former with (as the photo on the left shows) a very much longer bristle, overtopping the inflorescence, is much rarer than its fellow (on the right).

. The main valley runs roughly NE-SW with Les Etacs, otherwise known as the 'Garden Rocks', the main gannet colony, now occupying even the lower stacks in this small group,

about 600m offshore, exactly opposite the bottom of the valley, (Fig. 107 below in mist). At

the appropriate season, the SE facing slope of the valley is, in some years an almost solid mass of white flowered Ox-eye Daisies. The stream discharges onto the beach over a low cliff at the bottom of the valley. In the 17-18th centuries this was a prime smuggler's cove, formerly with a set of wooden steps called Les Dègrées giving access to the beach. The stream runs just in front of the dark green vegetation on the right (Fig 108 on left below), and, as is apparent in the photo, the 'head' of the crumbly cliffs on this part of the island is frequently eroded by storms, with landslides to the beaches below and resulting loss of vegetation. The third arm is much less steep sided and runs down above Baxter's Valley, from the north side of La Houguette de la Taillie, originally a Neolithic burial site and later, from the 11th Century, the site of Alderney's first windmill.

Returning, (at least in thought), for a moment to the top of Baxter's Valley, the track going straight on from the junction also has a rich flora. Foxgloves (*Digitalis purpurea*) abound amongst the Gorse and Heathers. The short turf of the track holds several more scattered patches of Lousewort, frequent plants of tall Heath Groundsel (*Senecio sylvaticus*), a number of other small, yellow, Daisy family species, including the Smooth Cat's-ear,

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Trailing St. John's-wort and also the two Bird's-foots mentioned in the previous chapter. These two and the Cat's-ear are all three present in considerable quantity in the short turf area at the top of the slope of Tête de Judemarre, at the end of this track, looking down into Trois Vaux.

Large areas of Gorse clothe the top of the cliffs here, either side of the track and down the adjacent southern slope of Baxter's Valley, although a large part of the cliffs between Telegraph Bay and here has been almost bare of vegetation since hurricane force gales in January 1990. From 50 or 60m inland the land is covered with a peaty soil, much undermined with Rabbit burrows and several German bunkers and clothed with large areas of Bell Heather (*Erica cinerea*) and Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*) as well as the Gorse. Autumn Squills and Autumn Lady's-tresses orchids are also found here in season.

From the grassy slope just mentioned a very steep path, almost like a set of earth steps leads down to the bottom of Trois Vaux, just above the cliff edge. On the seaward side of the climb up to the Giffoine, Thrift, Prostrate Broom, Sea Beet, Ox-eye Daisies and many other maritime plants will be noted (Fig. 109 on left). The Prostrate Broom in particular extends round much of this part of the cliffs and round the first part of Hannaine Bay. Excellent views of the Garden rocks and the Gannet colony are obtained from this section. Amongst the thick gorse on the flat part at the top of the Giffoine, very small numbers of Dartford Warblers have been nesting in the last few years.

Turning north, in the first small bay on the north-western side of the headland, look for the nesting sites of a colony of 40+ pairs of Fulmars, usually present from late January to early September and frequently seen gliding stiff-winged in the cove below. In 1999-2000 at least one pair of the Ravens, displaced from the cliffs near Quatre Vents nested along this stretch of the cliffs. Further north again, several pairs of Puffins nest in the cliff face and on the vertical faces of a couple of small outlying rock stacks, just a few metres offshore. Just to the N of these rocks there is a clear sandy bottom to part of the bay and Puffins can sometimes be seen floating here, or swimming underwater when the sea is calm.

The Giffoine was one of the strongest defence positions erected by the Germans on the island, with a battery of 3 x 15cm captured Russian Naval guns installed in the three large circular gun pits. These had a range of about 20-25,000 metres and their field of fire overlapped that of other large batteries on Guernsey to cover the whole sea area between the two islands. A huge rangefinder, a searchlight position overlooking the Swinge and many other bunkers and defence works are scattered across almost the whole of this section on our map. Today most of the formerly cultivated area is a dense tangle of Gorse, Bramble, Honeysuckle and Ivy with patches of Hawthorn, Blackthorn and Elder bushes. The path along the cliffs is not easy to follow, but was cleared to some extent in 1998/99.

(Fig 110. Glanville Fritillary)

Following the coastal path northwards, a steep climb down to a broad shallow valley and a short upward climb along the path brings you back to one of the bends in the Zig-Zag at

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the start of our first Section of this work. At the right time of year, June-August Glanville Fritillary, and many other butterflies are frequent along this stretch.

Hen and Marsh Harriers usually only in passage for a few hours, the occasional passing Buzzard and resident Sparrow Hawk add to the frequent resident Kestrels seen flying along here, to give an interesting raptor fauna. In the maze of narrow tracks left by walkers between the coast and the roadway, you may be lucky enough to see a Slowworm, apparently quite common along most of the S and SW cliff areas; these legless lizards, Alderney's only indigenous reptile, are rarely seen and, if disturbed, quickly vanishing amongst the grass roots. Amongst the dense vegetation, along the edge of one path a large colony of bright yellow Common Toadflax (*Linaria vulgaris*) may be found, (Fig. 111 on left). This is the only place I have ever found this plant in Alderney.

The last Section in Part 1 of this book follows and deals with the offshore islets of Burhou, Little Burhou and Les Casquets and the major offshore stacks.

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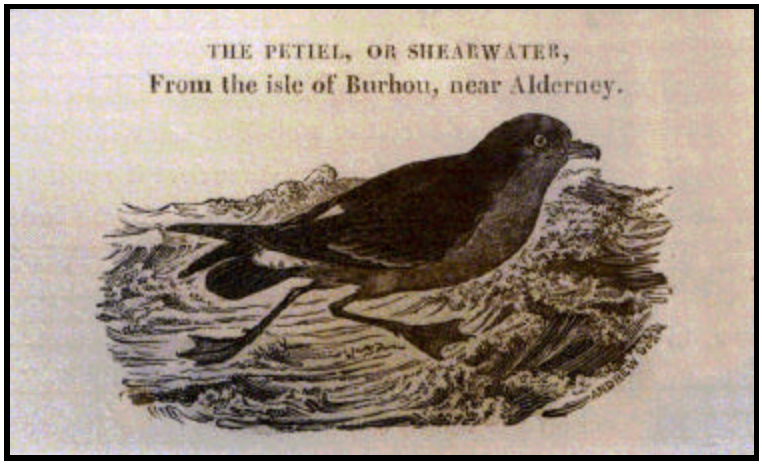
❖ Region 11; Burhou, Little Burhou, Les Casquets and the offshore stacks.

a. Burhou and Little Burhou

The earliest known map showing all of the Channel Islands, with some detail, was made by Thomas de Soulemont about 1540. It was incorporated by Leyland in his Survey or *Itinerary* of the British Isles, drawn up for Henry VIII between 1534 and 1545. The original hand drawn and annotated sketch is in Leyland's MS notes in the Bodleian Library in Oxford. The *Itinerary* was published in 1710 by Thomas Hearne and includes a smaller version of the map, about ¼ size, with the Latin text properly edited and printed. In both versions, 'Bureho' is noted as "an island with many rabbits". Another old map notes Burhou as "an island of much fern [bracken] and many conies [rabbits], a situation which still exists today.

Geologically Burhou is part of the sandstone reef, extending about 20 miles, from Le Cap de la Hague in Normandy to Les Casquets. At the NE end a well developed 8m raised beach is to be found, relic of the water levels before the last ice age. (Fig. 112 on left). A similar beach, at the same height above sea level, is to be found on Little Burhou, (Fig. 113 on right below).

The earliest reference to birds on Burhou which I have found is given by an engraving published by Andrew and Sons about 1830, showing "The Petiel, or Sheerwater, from the Isle of Burhou, near Alderney". This picture has been interpreted as showing the Manx Sheerwater, (a bird still seen on the island in small numbers) but, to my mind does not have the white underbelly of the Sheerwater and looks rather more like the Storm Petrel. This, the smallest European sea-bird, about the size of a Sparrow, spends most of its life out in the Atlantic and only comes ashore in the breeding season to nest. At this time they are nocturnal. At sea they fly like a bat, just above the surface of the water, on which, as the picture Fig. 114 below shows, they often appear to walk. They frequently follow ships, giving them the name amongst sailors of 'Mother Carey's Chickens'. In the 1960s these nested in dry stone walls and amongst rocks on Burhou in their thousands. They are much less common today, but bird ringers on the island on 15-16th July 2000, ringed over 200, trapped in mist nets, ringed and released again, in the two nights.



Four of these c. 200 birds had already been ringed in the Scilly Isles and one in France. They spend the winter in the South Atlantic and earlier ringings have been recovered off Southern Africa.

Burhou is an important breeding ground for seabirds. Again in the 1960s, Puffins in their thousands nested there, mainly in old rabbit burrows, population estimates in excess of 100,000 being given. These numbers gradually dwindled as supplies of their principal food, Sand Eels, diminished, probably through overfishing. Predation by the Great Blackback Gull, some pairs nesting on Little Burhou, with three or four nests on Burhou itself, may also have had some small effect. By about 1990 numbers were down to possibly less than 100 pairs. These have gradually increased to around 300 pairs. Herring Gulls nest in their hundreds amongst the Bracken here and many pairs of Lesser Blackback Gulls. Wheatears, Rock Pipits and other species have also been recorded breeding on the island.

Some years ago the States of Alderney declared Burhou to be a bird sanctuary and forbade landing on the island during the breeding season from 23rd March to 23rd July. This time span has been changed slightly on at least two occasions. First it was lengthened by 2 weeks to allow late hatched Puffins time to leave their nests and some years later reduced again for political reasons to extend the "tourist trade" to the sanctuary. This prohibition on landing has been well observed for many years by most people, but still does not have the actual force of a law and is abused by the few.

Burhou is about 1 mile from Alderney on the other side of the swift tidal channel of Le Swinge, the main route to Alderney Harbour from the south. It is about half a mile long and 3-400 yards wide at its widest. Little Burhou is separated from the main island by a narrow tidal channel and is only about 300 yards across. The islands have been the scene of many wrecks in the past and long ago, a stone cottage was built on the island for the use of fishermen and wrecked or stranded sailors, (Fig. 115 on right about 1930). On 7th April 1912, the SS *Rhenania* carrying cattle and a mixed cargo was wrecked on Burhou. The crew all managed to scramble ashore after releasing most of the cattle to swim for it. A few were lost, but the rest got ashore, (as Figure 116, below left shows). It took about three weeks, during which the crew salvaged most of the cargo and the cattle were left in the care of the mate, before the cattle were able to be removed to Alderney. In the 1920s a French family lived on the island for a few years and kept cows and sheep there

This cottage was demolished by the Germans during WWII for target practice for their guns on Alderney. Some time after the war local people rebuilt the cottage as a holiday cottage. Somewhat primitive, it sleeps 6 people, all supplies needed during their stay, including drinking water, have to be taken with them. In the last few years visitors have been provided with a 2-way radio to link them to the Harbour Office in an emergency.

There is a small source of fresh water on the island, seeping from a spring below the peaty soil and collected in a trough, just above the beach on the north side, (Fig. 117 on left below). The overflow from this creates a brackish habitat just around the trough and is the site

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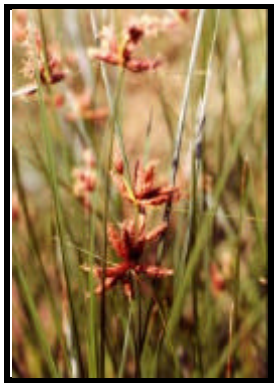
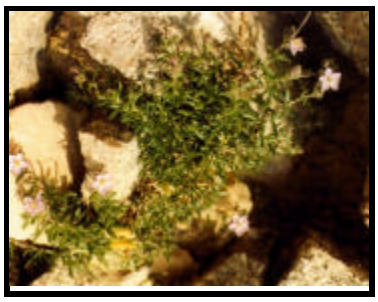
of our only colony of Sea Clubrush (*Bolboschoenus maritimus*) (Fig. 118 on right), first noted here in 1901 and still thriving..



The vegetation of Burhou has, until recently contained very little grass. The principal herbage on which rabbits, cattle and sheep have fed over the years being Rock Sea-spurrey (*Spergula rupicola*) (Fig. 119 on left below). In midsummer, seen from Alderney's SW cliffs, the pink haze of this plant in flower is clear.

On Little Burhou by contrast, separated by less than 50m at high tide, this was only found in very small quantity, the dominant species, (at least since records were first made there in 1901), has always been Sea Campion (*Silene uniflora*) (Fig. 120 on right below), a plant absent from the larger islet until after the 1987 hurricane. Then the wind came mainly from the SW and presumably carried seed or vegetative material of the Campion with it. By 1993 there were a number of patches up to 1m across, mostly adjacent within 100m of the nearest shore. These gradually scattered themselves further across Burhou and by 1999 some of these patches had spread to 30-50m across, suppressing the Sea-spurrey. In spring much of Burhou outside the areas of Bracken turns blue with the native Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) (Fig. 121 on left below). The colour haze produced by this too, in season, can clearly be seen from Alderney's cliffs.



Use of the hut by residents and visitors since the 1920s has gradually introduced new species, particularly around the hut itself, and a list of the species found on the islets and stacks dealt with in this section will be found at its end.

b. Les Casquets

The Casquet rocks forming a group of emergent stacks about ½ mile across, mark the western end of the sandstone reef and have been the site of many shipwrecks, both before and since the first three Lighthouses were erected there in a triangle in 1724. From that time until 1997 the lighthouses were continuously occupied by families, originally from Alderney who spent many years there and cultivated the terraces they constructed in a sheltered spot for vegetables for their own consumption. Regular supplies were brought from Alderney by small tenders. In early days the three towers were of equal height and each housed a coal fire which

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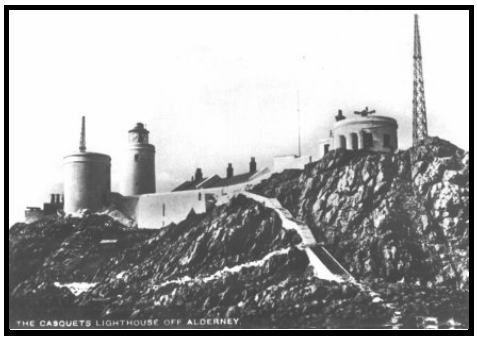
had to be tended continuously. These were gradually replaced over the years by oil lanterns and the towers were altered in height with a clockwork mechanism to turn the ring of lanterns installed, which had to be wound by hand every 1½ hours. Trinity House keepers resident in Alderney later took turns of about 2-3 weeks duty to man the lights, a semaphore signalling station was replaced by radio and later radio telephone and finally a single more powerful petrol vapour light installed, later in the 1950s replaced by electricity. The last phase in the operation was making the installation completely automatic, controlled from Lowestoft and withdrawing the keepers in 1997.

Figs. 122/123



Casquets in 1815

Casquets in 1938. Note garden area terraced, in dip below tallest tower and radio mast on right

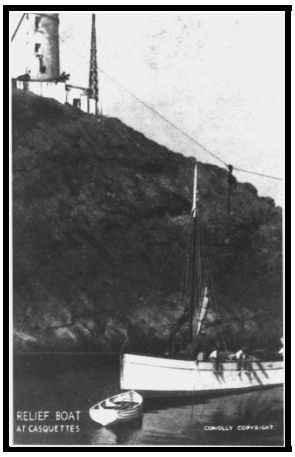


Fig. 124. Relief boat MV *Burhou* arriving c. 1936

Fig. 125. Sunset over Casquets , July 1989
Note helicopter landing pad on central tower

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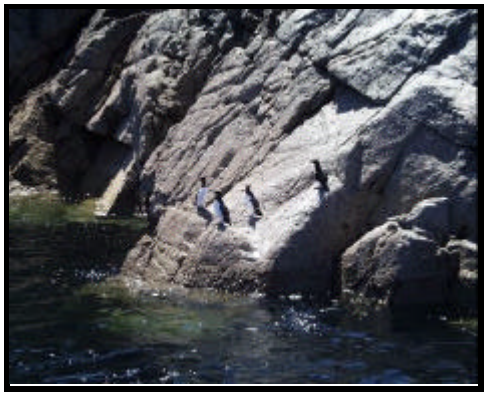
c. Cocque Lihou

A small islet about 500m off Alderney's south coast, this is covered with a limited vegetation and is the nesting place of many Gulls, and small numbers of Little Auks, Razorbills and Guillemots. (Fig 126 below, Guillemots & Razorbills on Cocque Lihou)



d. Les Étacs, (The Garden Rocks)

The nesting site of thousands of pairs of Gannets, as mentioned in the previous section, their activity and the acid nature of their droppings makes vegetation extremely rare here. The Gannets bring in sections of Hottentot Fig (*Carpobrotus edulis*) as nesting material, but this and Sea Beet are the only plants recorded. The rocks are frequently swept clean by the winter gales and high sea and the white manure washed off by wave action.

e. Ortac

The other Gannet colony off Alderney, the position of this has already been shown in the last section. No vegetation seems to have survived here for much the same reason and the white cone-shaped rock left as the Gannets depart in late September/October is usually washed clean by the time they return in January.

Fig. 127. Gannets on Ortac June 1999

Fig. 128. Gannets on lower ledges of Ortac

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Checklists for the Off-Islets plants

1. Burhou

Updated by the author 1987, 1991, 1993 and 1999. All species present 1987-93 unless noted. On 15/7/1999 visit, many were past flowering and not recorded.
TSG signifies recorded in the *Transactions* of La Société Guernesiaise for that year. Other sets of initials are those of the recorders on the date noted.
Frequencies noted are; abundant; common; frequent; occasional; rare. Some of these are qualified by locally or very.

Scientific name	Frequency	Notes, recorders, dates, etc.
Pteridium aquilinum	a	Noted on Leyland's map of 1540. Still 'a' 1999, spread has been controlled somewhat by 1991/93 spraying
Asplenium marinum	r	TSG 1964
Dryopteris filix-mas		EDM 1899 only
Ranunculus repens	r	HP list 1974, '1972'
Ranunculus bulbosus	r	First record; One plant TSG 1964
Ranunculus ficaria	o	TSG 1964
Urtica dioica	o	EDM 1902. Spreading somewhat 1999
Urtica urens	o	TSG 1964. Still 'o' 1999
Atriplex prostrata	f	EDM 1901. Still 'f' 1999
Atriplex glabriuscula	o	BB 1987. Still 'o' 1999
Beta vulgaris ssp. maritima	r	DdeV 1927. A few plants seen 1999
Honkenya peploides	o	TSG 1964
Stellaria media	f	TSG 1964
Cerastium fontanum	r	EDM 1901, HP 1971
Sagina maritima	o	TSG 1964
Sagina procumbens	f	TSG 1964, AS 1966, BB 1987
Spergularia rupicola	a	DdeV1927. The dominant species to 1987. Areas being reduced by spread of S. unifora 1999

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Silene uniflora	vlf	EDM 1901, TSG1964, BB 1993, greatly increased since the 1987 hurricane. Now f. Very large patches 1999, one c. 100 x 80m.
Rumex acetosella	c	EDM 1902 ('o' in TSG 1964). 'f' 1999
Rumex acetosa	o	BB 1993. 'lf' 1999
Rumex crispus	lf	BB ('1899 only' in TSG 1964). Still 'lf' 1999
Rumex obtusifolius	o	BB 1991. Increasing to 'f' 1999
Armeria maritima	r	BB 1987
Matthiola incana	l	BB 1987
Cochlearia danica	c	TSG 1964. Appears 'r' 1999, but probably over for year
Anagalis arvensis	f	TSG 1964. Seems 'a' 1999
Glaux maritima	r	('r' in TSG 1964). Same 1999, 1 site
Umbilicus rupestris	f	TSG 1964. Spreading slightly 1999
Sedum anglicum	o	('r' in TSG 1964)
Rubus caesius	r	BB 1987
Erodium maritimum	lc	('f' in TSG 1964)
Crithmum maritimum	lf	('o' in TSG 1964)
Solanum nigrum	o	EDM 1902
Solanum tuberosum	r	TSG 1964
Anchusa arvensis	o	TSG 1964. 1999, now frequent in landing area and in front of hut
Myosotis arvensis	o	TSG 1964
Plantago coronopus	vlf	('r' in TSG 1964)
Sambucus nigra	vr	BB 1 bush 1991, 2 in 1993, 1999
Cirsium vulgare	r	AS 1966. Increasing to 'o' 1999
Hypochoeris radicata	o	BB 1993
Sonchus oleraceus	o	BB 1991, 1999
Sonchus asper	o	TSG 1964, AS 1966. 'r' 1999

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Crepis capillaris	r	TSG 1964. not seen by BB
Crepis vesicaria	r	3 plants BB 1993
Taraxacum officinale	r	TSG 1964
Tanacetum vulgare		HP list 1974 only, '1971'
Hyacinthoides non-scripta	la	TSG 1964, 1999
Juncus bufonius	f	TSG 1964
Bolboschoenus maritimus	vr	('r' in TSG 1964). Patch 3x1m by water trough on W side
Festuca rubra	r	TSG 1964. Large area of grass NW side, none flowering ?spp. 1999
Festuca ovina	f	TSG 1964
Poa infirma	c	('r' in TSG 1964)
Poa annua	l	EDM 1902 5 plants, BB 1989
Poa annua var. reptans	r	MH2 1977
Poa trivialis	r	TSG 1964
Dactylis glomerata	r	TSG 1964
Holcus lanatus	o	HP list 1974, '1971'
Holcus mollis	?	AS 1966
Aira praecox	r	MH2 1977
Agrostis capillaris	r	MH2 1977
Agrostis stolonifera	r	TSG 1964
Agrostis canina	r	HP list 1974, '1971'
Hordeum distichon		1956 only

2. Little Burhou

Frequency updated by the author 1991. All species seen. Not visited 1999, tides wrong for access.

Atriplex prostrata	r	EDM 1901

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Sagina maritima	o	TSG 1964
Spergularia rupicola	o	DdeV 1927
Silene uniflora	a	EDM 1901. The dominant species
Rumex crispus	r	TSG 1964
Cochlearia danica	o	TSG 1964
Erodium maritimum	o	TSG 1964
Sedum anglicum	r	TSG 1964
Poa annua	o	TSG 1964

3. Casquets

Updated by the author 1989. (Earlier records not seen in my brief visit in 1989 starred *)

Lampranthus roseus	BB Two small patches ? planted
Carpobrotus edulis	BB Several large patches
Atriplex prostrata	TWA 1958
Atriplex portulacoides*	DdeV 1927
Beta vulgaris ssp maritima*	DdeV 1927, TWA 1958 'plentiful'
Sagina maritima	BB 1989
Spergularia rupicola*	DdeV 1927
Spergularia rubra	BB 1989
Silene uniflora	BB 1989
Rumex crispus*	DdeV 1927 (?as R. conglomeratus)
Rumex conglomeratus*	DdeV 1927 (? error for R. crispus)
Armeria maritima	TWA 1958, 'abundant'
Lavatera arborea	A Mourant 1927, TWA 1958, 'plenty'
Cochlearia danica	BB 1989
Umbilicus rupestris	TWA 1958, '1 plant'
Melilotus indicus	BB 1989
Eryngium maritimum*	DdeV 1927
Crithmum maritimum	TWA 6/1958, 'rare'
Daucus carota ssp gummifer*	DdeV 1927
Plantago coronopus*	DdeV 1927
Plantago major*	DdeV 1927
Plantago lanceolata	TWA 1958
Hebe x franciscana	TWA 1958. (Probably planted)
Sonchus oleraceus*	DdeV 1927
Crepis vesicaria	BB 1989
Carex arenaria	BB 1989
Catapodium marinum	TWA 1958

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4. Cocque Lihou

Beta vulgaris ssp. maritima	DdeV 1927
Cerastium glomeratum	HP list 1974, '1973'
Spergularia rupicola	DdeV 1927
Silene uniflora	HP list 1974
Armeria maritima	HP list 1974
Lavatera arborea	HP list 1974
Cochlearia danica	HP list 1974
Umbilicus rupestris	HP list 1974
Plantago coronopus	HP list 1974
Dactylis glomerata	HP list 1974
Catapodium marinum	HP list 1974
Bromus mollis	HP list 1974

5. Garden Rocks

Beta vulgaris ssp. maritima	DdeV 1927
Carpobrotus edulis	BB 1990

6. Ortac

No vegetation has been recorded here. The stack gets washed clean of both guano and any possible vegetation during the autumn and winter storms.

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❖ Alderney's 'Ramsar Site'. (The UN convention on Wetlands of International Importance)

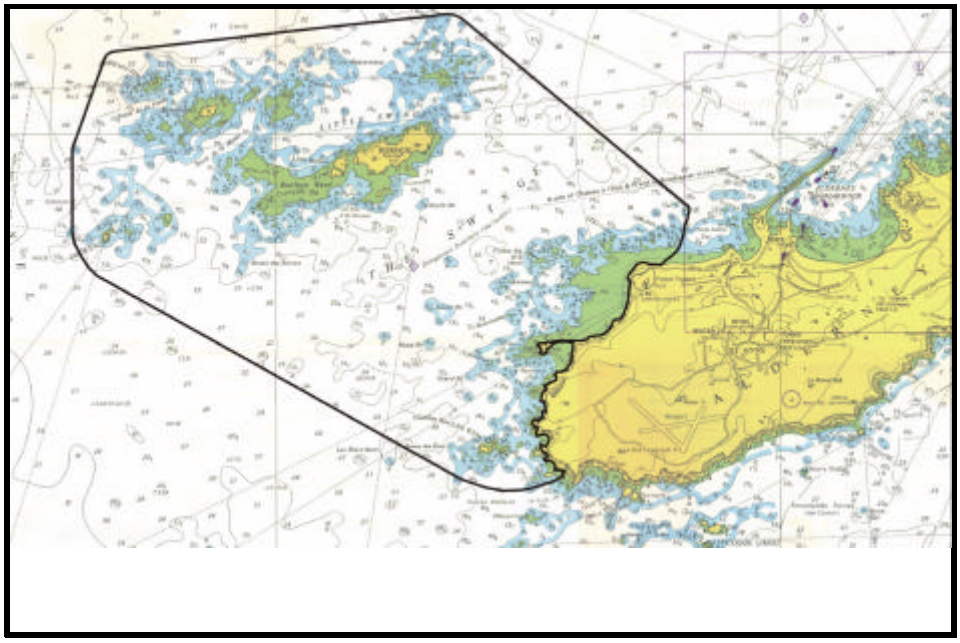

Figure 129. Ramsar site map

The site was registered under this convention on 15th August 2005

A RAMSAR SITE FOR ALDERNEY

Extract from a report compiled by Juan Salado Tuero, Licenciado en Ciencias del Mar.

In January 2003, after lengthy debate the States of Alderney formally requested, through its land management committee (the General Services Committee), that the Alderney Wildlife Trust investigate the possibility of a Ramsar Site for Alderney. However, the Committee also stipulated that the States of Alderney would not be prepared to allocate resources for the Ramsar application process until it could be assured that such an application would be successful.

In response the following objectives were identified:

❖ Identify the area most suited for Ramsar designation; initial research pointed to the areas around and between Clonque Bay, Hannaine Bay, Les Etacs, Ortac, and Burhou

❖ Establish what data is available for that area; it was quickly established that in the past there had been minimal research within this area and as a result little scientific data recorded; with the exception of bird ringing data from Les Etac, Ortac and Burhou, though this data has traditionally been held in Guernsey.

Therefore the Trust undertook to complete a baseline study of the flora and fauna for proposed site in order to get the data required for the JNCC's approval.

To this end Juan Salado Tuero (Licenciado en Ciencias del Mar) was employed by the Trust to complete a baseline study for the Clonque and Hannaine Bay areas.

❖ Approach the Joint Nature Conservancy Council with the results of the baseline study.

❖ Upon gaining approval from the JNCC, to lobby the States of Alderney for the designation of a Ramsar site.

The Trust commenced the study in July 2003 and is grateful to Bridget Ozanne (Biological Records Centre Officer, Societe Guernesiaise) and Charles David (Vice President, Societe Guernesiaise) who both visited Alderney in late September 2003 to assist in the work. With their expertise it has been possible to classify some invertebrates within this area; however, the survey has so far concentrated largely on identifying algae.

The Trust is also in the process of collecting all ornithological data in relation to the proposed Ramsar site, especially for Burhou, Les Etac and Ortac because of the importance of their bird colonies upon which a future Ramsar application is likely to rest.

Results

To date species lists have been completed as follows:

Flora

❖ 83 species of Algae

§ 12 Clorophyta

§ 22 Phaeophyta

§ 49 Rhodophyta

§ approximately 15 non classified specimens

❖ 15 species of Lichen

Note.

No flowering plants have been included in this application, although a very extensive database of these exists, on the part of Alderney, both on and adjacent to, the shore and also of each of the offshore islands and islets within the proposed site. This has been developed over more than 20 years by Brian Bonnard, BSBI (Botanical Society of the British Isles) recorder for Alderney, and was studied by Juan Tuero during his researches.

Fauna

❖ 59 species of invertebrates

N.B. 98 Algae and Lichen species have been identified within an estimated 55% of the total Clonque and Hannaine Bay areas.

(See lists of Algae, Invertebrates and birds recorded in the site which follow)

Conclusion

Initial results strongly support the Trust's belief that the proposed site would qualify for Ramsar status. However, whilst it is likely that the States of Alderney would support a future application, it would seem doubtful that they would be prepared to support the effort to collect the necessary data.

(This proved to be the case and the AWT found, and paid the costs of, the experts involved in the surveys and the preparation of the application.)

❖

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ALGAE	Hannaine	Clonque
CHLOROPHYTA		
Blidingia minimun	x	
Enteromorpha intestinalis	x	x
Enteromorpha linza	x	
Spongomorpha aeruginosa		x
Ulva lactuca	x	x
Chaetomorpha aerea	x	
Chaetomorpha linum	x	x
Chaetomorpha tetragona	x	
Cladophora sp	x	x
Cladophora rupestris	x	x
Codium fragile	x	
Codium tomentosum	x	x
PHAEOPHYTA		
Laurencia pinnatifida	x	
Halidrys siliquosa	x	
Petalonia fascia	x	
Alaria esculenta	x	
Desmarestia aculeata	x	
Cystoseira baccata	x	
Cystoseira tamariscifolia	x	
Fucus vesiculosus	x	
Ascophyllum nodosum	x	
Ectocarpus sp	x	
Ralfsia verrucosa	x	x
Laminaria digitata	x	x
Saccorhiza (polyschides) bulbosus	x	x
Cladostephus verticillatus	x	x
Fucus serratus	x	x
Fucus spiralis	x	x
Pelvetia canaliculata	x	x
Himanthalia elongata	x	x
Bifurcaria bifurcata	x	x
Cystoseira nodicaulis	x	
Cystoseira placata	x	
Sargassum muticum	x	x
RHODOPHYTA		
Calliblepharis jubata	x	
Phycodrys rubens	x	
Halymenia latifolia	x	
Palmaria palmata	x	
Heterosiphonia plumosa	x	
Delesseria sanguinea	x	
Gracilaria verrucosa	x	
Plumaria elegans	x	
Porphyria leucosticta	x	
Calliblepharis ciliata	x	

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	Hannaine	Clonque
Callophyllis laciniata	x	
Sphaerococus coronipifolius		x
Polisiphonia simulans	x	
Hildebrandia	x	
Ceramium ciliatum	x	
Cystoclonium purpureum	x	
Gastroclonium ovatum	x	
Halurus equisetifolius	x	
Plocamium coccineum	x	
Dilsea carnosa	x	
Gelidium latifolium	x	x
Gelidium pusillum	x	x
Furcellaria lumbricalis	x	x
Catenella caespitosa	x	x
Plocamium cartilagineum	x	x
Audoinellia floridula	x	x
Ahnfeltia plicata	x	x
Chondrus crispus	x	x
Mastocarpus pistillata	x	x
Mastocarpus stellata	x	x
Corallina elongata	x	x
Corallina officinalis	x	x
Mesophyllum	x	x
Lithothamnion sp	x	x
Asparagopsis armata	x	x
Lomentaria articulata	x	x
Ceramium sp	x	
Ceramium rubrum	x	x
Cryptopleura ramosa	x	x
Halopithys incurvus	x	
Osmundea pinnatifida	x	
Porphyria umbilicalis	x	x
Gracilaria gracilis	x	

LICHENS

Lichina pygmaea	Rhizocarpon richardii
Verrucaria maura	Buellia subdisciformis
Verrucaria mucosa	Rinodina luridescens
Xanthoria parietina	Tephromela atra
Xanthoria ectaneoides	Lecanora actophila
Pertusaria pseudocorallina	Caloplaca marina
Pertusaria sp	Caloplaca thallincola
Ramalina siliquosa	

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INVERTEBRATE RECORDS

	Clonque	Hannaine	Burhou	English name
Porifera				
Halichondriidae				
1 Halichondria panicea	x	x		
Cnidaria				
Actiniidae				
2 Actinia equina	x	x	x	Beadlet Anemone
3 Actinia fragacea		x		Strawberry Anemone
4 Actinia prasina	x		x	Perhaps just a green form of equina
5 Anemonia viridis	x	x	x	Snakelocks Anemone
6 Aulactinia verrucosa	x			Gem Anemone
Sagartiidae				
7 Cereus pedunculatus	x			Daisy Anemone
8 Actinothoe sphyrodeta		x	x	(the small white one)
Caryophyllidae				
9 Caryyophyllea smithi		x		Devonshire Cup Coral
Bryozoa				
Bugulidae				
10 Bugula turbinata	x			
Annelida				
Arenicolidae				
11 Arenicola marina	x			
Terebellidae				
12 Lanice conchilega	x			
Crustacea				
Cirripedia				
13 Chthalamus stellatus		x	x	
14 Semibalanus balanoides		x	x	
15 Balanus crenatus		x		
Isopoda				
16 Halophiloscia couchi		x		In shingle at top of beach, new record
17 Porcellio scaber	x	x		
18 Ligia oceanica	x	x		
19 Idotea granulosa	x			
Amphipoda				
20 Caprella acanthifera		x		
Palaemonidae				
21 Palaeomon serratus		x		Prawn
Hippolytidae				
22 Hyppolyte varians	x	x		red or green prawn
Galatheidae				
23 Galathea squamifera		x	x	Squat Lobster
Porcellanidae				
24 Pisidia longicornis	x	x		Smooth Porcelain Crab

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25 Porcellana platycheles		x	Hairy Porcelain Crab
Cancridae			
26 Cancer pagurus	x	x	Chancre
Portunidae			
27 Necora puber	x	x	Lady Crab
28 Carcinus maenas	x	x	Shore Crab
Xanthidae			
29 Pilumnus hirtellus	x	x	Hairy Crab
Chilopoda			
Geophilidae			
30 Strigamia maritima	x		
Mollusca			
Trochidae			
31 Gibbula magus	x	x	
32 Gibbula cineraria	x	x	
33 Gibbula pennanti	x	x	
34 Gibbula umbilicalis	x	x	
35 ? Monodonta lineata		?	Thick topshell
36 Osilinus lineatus	x	x	Unusually large specimens compared with rest of Bailiwick
37 Calliostoma ziziphinum	x	x	
Patellidae			
38 Patella sp	x	x	
The three species are probably all present (39,40)			
41 Helcion pellucida	x	x	Blue-rayed Limpet
Littorinidae			
42 Littorina littorea	x		Edible periwinkle
43 Littorina litoralis	x		Flat periwinkle
44 Littorina obtusata	x	x	
45 Littorina saxatilis agg.	x	x	
46 Melarhaphe neritoides		x	
Muricidae			
47 Ocenebra erinacea	x		
48 Nucella lapillus	x		Dog Whelk
Buccinidae			
49 Buccinum undatum	x	x	Whelk (dead shell only)
Onchidiidae			
50 Onchidella celtica		x	
Pectinidae			
51 Chlamys varia	x		
Galeommatidae			
52 Lasaea adansoni	x		
Insecta			
Chironomidae			
53 Clunio marinus	x	x	
Dolichopodidae			
54 Aphrosylus celtica	x	x	
55 Aphrosylus ferox	x	x	new record to Alderney
56 Aphrosylus raptor	x		new record to Alderney

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Sepsidae				
57 Orygma luctuosum		x		
Echinodermata				
Asterinidae				
58 Asterina gibbosa	x			Cushion Star
Chordata				
Botryllinae				
59 Botryllus schlosseri		x	x	

These records have been collected by:
B. J. Ozanne, Guernsey Biological Records Centre.
C. David, Guernsey Biological Records Centre.
Juan Salado Tuero, Alderney Wildlife Trust.

BIRDS

Species	Locations	Population	Status	Source
Storm petrel	Burhou	60+	SPEC, BL	JNCC
Gannet Ortac,	Les Etac	4850	SPEC, BL, BI	LSG
Cormorant	Little Burhou	1	BL, WL	LSG
Shag	Burhou, Little B., Les Etacs	44	BL, BI	LSG
Kittiwake	Les Etacs, Ortac	16	BR	LSG
LBB Gull	Burhou, Little B.	273	BL, BI	LSG
Herring Gull	Les Etacs, Burhou, Little B.	105	BDMp, BL	LSG
GBB Gull	Burhou, Little Burhou	32		LSG
Guillemot	Les Etacs, Ortac	105	BI	LSG
Razor Bill	Les Etacs, Ortac	17	BL, BI	LSG
Puffin	Burhou, Little Burhou	280	SPEC, BL	LSG

LSG, Le Societe Guernesiaise.
JNCC, Millennium Bird Survey
* *Status:*
SPEC, Species with unfavourable conservation status in Europe
BL, ³ 50% of UK breeding population in 10 or fewer sites, but not rare breeders.
BI, ³ 20% of European breeding population in UK.
BR, Five-year mean of 1-300 breeding pairs in UK.
BDMp, Moderate (25-49%) decline in UK breeding population over last 25 years.

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Figure 130. Clonque and Hannaine Bays at sunset

Figure 131. Hannaine Bay from the cliffs

Figure 132. Clonque Bay looking north

Figure 133. Fort Clonque; Casquets, Ortac and Burhou on the horizon

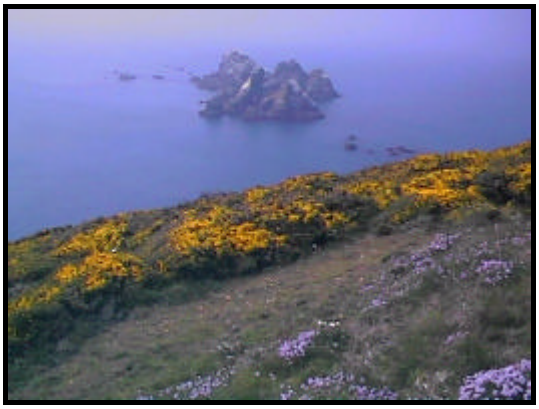

Figure 134. Les Etacs, (the “Gannet Rocks”)

See also figures 3, 10, 127 and 128 for other views of the site

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Index to Part 1

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List of Illustrations to Part 1

Note; where a complete page is devoted to illustrations, these are not given distinct "Figure" numbers. Reference is made in the text to the page where these may be found.

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Part 2.

A Monthly Nature Diary of the island throughout a year

An Alderney Year

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A Monthly Nature Diary of the Island throughout a year

Selected from the monthly diaries for the period 1999 to 2004

Note; Whichever year they come from these are arranged keeping the whole January - December sequence.

The 1957 - 2004 climate tables will be found in Appendix 2

An Alderney Nature Diary

January 2000

The Weather

January started out with very light winds for the first two days, after the gales of December and, over the first 6 days, (except for the last day), the warmest temperatures of the month. Temperatures overall were slightly below average although most nights were warmer than usual for January.

Slight ground frost occurred on several mornings, especially on higher ground, persisting in a few sheltered, shady hollows on 27th. with very light, mainly southerly winds and a calm sea. By contrast the next 3 days had warm SW-W gale force winds to 40-42 knots, temperatures rising to 11.4º, a little rain but not much sun and rough seas. Winds were mainly S-westerly for the first 12 days and the last 4, with almost a week of NE winds in the middle of the month with the next 5 days very variable, swinging between NE and W, through S.

This brought colder weather, with two nights registering temperatures below zero and two days with average temperatures only around 3ºC.

The month was the second driest January since 1955, with only 1992 drier. There were 17 days without rain and 2 others with less than 0.1mm. Sunshine was 15 hours above average but, with 7 sunless days and 2 others with less than 0.1hrs. recorded, broke no records.

The total eclipse of the full moon, lasting several hours on the night of 20/21, was unfortunately obscured by thick cloud. As might have been expected, the next night was crystal clear !!!

Figures for comparison with January last year and the 20 year average

Year	**2000**	**1999**	**20-year average**
			1980-1999
Rain mm.	14.69	116.46	79.0
Sun hrs.	66.55	69.99	51.3
Max. temp recorded °C	11.8	12.9	12.8
Min. temp recorded	-2.8	0.5	0.4
Mean day temp	8.4	8.8	9.4
Mean night temp	7.7	8.7	5.8

The Diary

Except for small patches of Gorse throughout the month, very few plants were seen in flower. On walks all round Platte Saline, on 4th only four plants of Daisy (*Bellis perennis*) were noted in the grass, each with only a single flower, a single young plant of Ragwort (*Senecio jacobea*) on 27th and, in the same area, in the dunes a single brave mauve flower was seen on the large patch of Hottentot Fig (*Carpobrotus edulis*) on 31st. The very wet December has left Platte Saline pond with a good area of water, but owing to the fact that it was dry for most of last year, a lot of grasses, Great Willowherb (*Epilobium hirsutum*),

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Nettles and Docks have spread into the area and colonised the pond bottom. Their dead dried stems obstructing much of the open water surface.

A few blooms were noted on a small area of Winter Heliotrope (*Petasites fragrans*) in Le Chemin du Meunier from 4th and a few more on the large area of the plant in La Vallée. From 11th. Elephant's Ears (*Bergenia spp.*) a large pink Saxifrage and several Veronica (*Hebe*) species, all in flower for much of the year and grown in many gardens for that reason, have been in bloom throughout the month. Several of the multi-headed Jonquils and "Cheerfullness" or "Paper-White" Narcissi, have been seen in several parts of the island since about 13th. Also much grown in gardens for their early flowering; these are remnants of the large-scale horticultural flower growing activity in the 1950s and 60s, in many open fields, hedges, verges and banks, often sheltered at this time of year by dried bracken or by more or less leafless brambles, which have spread well beyond their original planted sites.

On 18th the first of the Primroses (*Primula vulgaris*) in the churchyard were in flower along the shelter provided by a high stone wall. The churchyard will soon be full of these harbingers of Spring, rare in the island generally after generations of "transplanting", but here safe from uprooting by either States or public. By then they will be accompanied by a mass of the wild Common Dog-violet (*Viola riviniana*) and Lesser Celandine *(Ranunculus ficaria.*), neither flowering at the moment. In contrast the Sweet Violet (*Viola odorata*), only rarely found in the wild as a garden escape, is already a solid mass of colour on a pebble covered bank in my own garden and in several others. The first Buttercups (*Ranunculus repens*) on Braye Common and more Daisies were flowering the same day.

On 21st. about a dozen plants of Summer Snowflake (*Leucojum aestivum*) were flowering on a steep bank under trees in The Terrace, one of its only two naturalised 'wild' spots in the island. Here, amongst a great mass of Stinking Onions (*Allium triquetum*), young plants of Cow Parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*) and Italian Lords and Ladies (*Arum italicum* both the all-green leaved subspecies *neglectum* and the somewhat commoner white-veined subspecies *italicum*, all being present in considerable quantity. None of these were in flower yet, but the following day four plants of the ubiquitous Stinking Onion were noticed in flower amongst a large area of their leaves, under Sycamores on a steep bank alongside Braye Road.

A surprise visitor to the garden on 19th was a White-tailed Bumble Bee, possibly surviving or having its burrow, amongst the dense shrubbery and tempted out by the lack of cold wind, (recently rare), that day, to patrol the few shrubby Veronicas, Marigolds, Geraniums, Rosemary and Elaeagnus bushes, flowering in this sheltered area.

On a sunny afternoon in the churchyard on 18th, birds were carolling loudly and Wrens, Blackbirds, Thrushes, Robins, a Chaffinch and perhaps others unseen, were flitting between the bushes, trees and gravestones, perching for a few moments to sing their mating songs.

The sight of a few Gannets flying just offshore, past our windows on 20th prompted me to go up to the Giffoine to observe their regular breeding ground on Les Etacs, the 'Garden Rocks' about 200m offshore. It was dull, with a strong biting wind freezing my hands when I got there, as I trained my binoculars on the area. There seemed to be about half a dozen Gannets amongst the 'white horses' on the choppy sea about half a mile offshore, occasionally rising a short distance into the air. There were none on any of the Garden Rocks and I could not seen any around the other colony close to Ortac about ¾ mile offshore to the NW. In the first little cove to the N of this point about a dozen pairs of Fulmar were huddled in their usual nesting sites on the N-facing cliff slope, with others gliding around a few yards offshore. As I retraced my steps to the level ground at the top of the cliffs the sun came out

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from behind a large cloud. I turned to look and, in a few moments 30-40 gannets took to the air out at sea, sparsely scattered over the sky about ½ mile away and at heights from 30- 2 or 300 feet above the water. Mostly adults, their yellow heads and black wing tips made a noticeable contrast to their brilliant white bodies, or the younger birds still with dark speckled tops to their wings and lacking the yellow heads, as they flew towards Burhou island, sparkling in the brilliant sun for just a few minutes before it went behind another cloud.

On 25th, walking along the West coast, at Clonque Bay near low tide on a bright but cold and windy afternoon, 20-30 Curlew were seen calling from the rocks or flying low in little groups of five or six along the low water mark. A few Oyster Catchers were calling in the same area, whilst a small number of Gulls about picked around the exposed rocks.

The ancient vraic road near Blue Bridge, (formerly a cobbled path to allow horses and carts access to the beach to gather seaweed, now much overgrown in its upper part down from the dirt roadway along the bay), was destroyed at its lower end on the beach many years ago, leaving a large curved, detached, section exposed above the shingle and the extremity, where it became level with the beach, still bounded by its cut blue granodiorite blocks with the first 4 or 5 rows of cobbles still attached, covered or exposed from time to time, by small shingle and seaweed. The detached section has been very much reduced by the storms of the last few years and, at the bottom of the remaining slope where the Vau Pommier stream originally ran under the vraic road, the old stone slab square drain or souk, probably centuries older than the Victorian red brick tunnel with its blue granite archways either end, which carries the stream under the present roadway along the bay, has had a large area of the surrounding ground washed away in the past year and the first few rows of stones have collapsed, leaving the capstones tilted. Ten years ago this part of the bank extended at least 2-3m further onto the beach with the old drain visible at the outer end, carrying the water from both drain and tunnel.

In Hannaine Bay, beyond the causeway to Fort Clonque, considerable cliff erosion has occurred in the past year. A deep band, about 20m high, of stratified, sharp edged, 'head', sitting of top of the 8m 'raised beach', its water -worn pebbles a remnant of the last Ice Age, has been worn away and the loose soil and rock washed away by the tides leaving a band of well worn pale grey granodiorite boulders exposed. (Photo on left). Over about 50-100m this band reduces in thickness, leaving the land on top at the same height, as several wide 'dykes' of well worn granodiorite, dolerite, (which, I believe, is a volcanic intrusion between the other veins), lamprophyre and porphyritic microgranite rise up above the beach level. Beyond this as the cliff cuts back inland, a large fall of soil and head appears to be at about the point where, until last year, a British Government '100 ft boundary from the sea' marker stone used to be sited several metres inland from the top of the cliff, (Photo on right), above one of the bends in the Zig-Zag cliff path. Careful search of the surrounding rock failed to reveal the marker, which is presumably buried in the soil which brought it down. These markers were placed around many parts of the Alderney coast in 1830 to delineate the 100ft wide strip of land above HWM, retained by the Crown for military purposes and on which the inhabitants were allowed to dry their seaweed. This suggests that 100 feet wide strip of the cliff has been eroded away here in 170 years.

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Further on, in what gradually becomes a rocky cliff up to 60-70m high, a number of exposed vertical faces of a coarse gritty brown rock have one face of some rounded boulders of granodiorite up to ½ to ¾ metre across exposed. Not being a geologist, I think these may well be 'xenoliths', older rocks picked up and included in later rocks modified by heat.
Beyond these, a huge rectangular lump of granodiorite as big as a small truck has fallen from the cliff many years ago and the sharp edges have not yet been rounded by wind and wave action, but between the back of this and the present cliff face, several smaller pieces, one about the size of a small car, have sheared off the vertical fissuring in the last couple of years. The various rocks present here in bands of different widths from a few centimetres to many metres include broad bands of granodiorite, fine smooth dark brown lamprophyre veins only about 10cms wide and mauve porphyritic microgranite with an arch about 15m high and large outcrops on the beach level.

A few yards further on are more narrow bands of coloured veins of a whitish quartzy looking rock, pinky aplite, etc, many of them cross-banded in fissures of different geological ages. Pink felspar veins in some of the rocks have a narrow bright green line of epidote either side. From this part of the coast on, round to the south facing cliffs theses various coloureds intrusions have given the area the old Norman-French name of L'Étac aux Ribbons, the Ribbon Rocks.

26th was a brilliant cold, clear day with light winds and the first subzero temperatures of the winter, down to -2.5º, but averaging -0.1º overnight, recorded that night with brilliant moonlight all night.

A walk down the Bonne Terre valley on 28th, to escape the keen wind on the Petit Blaye above was revealing. Last autumn, two public-spirited gentlemen, both well over 70, spent several weeks clearing this mile long path, which had become virtually impassable. They made a fine job of it, but the recent gales have blown two, ivy clad, dead trees down, across the path and I had to crawl under one, making a gap like a large rabbit hole in the ivy to get through. Another small area on, a sideways slope close to the stream in the valley bottom, was very wet through a running spring in the hillside above and, without wellington boots, required careful navigation.

Below this area and immediately behind the old mill leat dam wall a pleasant site greeted me. The dam was breached after the watermill ceased to be used in the early 1920s and the stream has provided a good proportion of the island's water supply since the last war. The former leat had become a marshy area, invaded by willow scrub, bramble, Willowherbs, Ragged Robin (*Lychnis flos-cuculi*) grasses and rushes and, until a few years ago was the principal home of the very few Marsh Orchids (of several closely related *Dactylorrhiza* species) to be found in Alderney. It also was home to the only island colony of Great Tussock Sedge (*Carex paniculata*) also rare in Jersey and Guernsey and absent from Sark and Herm. I had only ever seen about six plants of this strange, large plant at this site and had been unable to penetrate the dense growth of willows and bramble for the last 4-5 years, even using a ladder to get over the dam wall.

Recently bought by the Alderney Society, this triangular area bounded by the stream to the west and a steep hillside to the east has been cleared by volunteers and now presented a flat, open patch about 50m x 30m. To my great joy the clearance had removed all the scrub and left 21 specimens of the Great Tussock Sedge, their cushions standing up to 1½m high on a damp grassy base, many of them alongside the stream, the bed of which had been cleared and widened a little.

A fine ending to what was otherwise an uneventful month.

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The old Mill leat, (below), taken on the dull day above, 28th January, when they were first found after the clearance. Previously only the five plants middle right, to the left of the wall beyond the stream, had been visible.

Another shot on 2nd February, taken in sunshine,
note the old outlet to the leat stream.
There was a sluice gate in the wall to the right in the photos.

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An Alderney Nature Diary

February 2000

The Weather

Winds remained between W & S for the entire month except for 13th & 21st when they swung suddenly into the N-NE and back again next day. Speeds were roughly the same as last year throughout the month. Strong westerly winds on 16/17th kept the wing chill factor below zero for more than 24 hours, with the highest reading of -4.8º around 0900 on 16th when the air temperature was +4.8º.

Humidity remained high across the month and temperatures were slightly above both last year and, except for the highest daily record, also the long term average, but felt colder because of the strong winds.

Rainfall was about average in total, spread across the month, with only 7 days without any falling, but the total for the year to date was barely half the average.

Sunshine was well up on both last year and the long-term average, with only two completely sunless days and the first two month's total was some 20 hours up on the average.

Figures for comparison with February last year and the 20 year average

Year	**2000**	**1999**	**20-year average**
			1980-99
Rain mm.	56.5	43.2	57.2
Sun hrs.	88	72.8	76.6
Max. temp recorded °C	11.8	11.7	12.0
Min. temp recorded	1.6	-0.7	0.1
Mean day temp	9.2	8.1	8.9
Mean night temp	8.3	7.7	5.1
Total rainfall, year to date, mm.	71.7	159.8	135.9
Total sunshine, year to date, hrs.	154.6	142.8	134.3

The Diary

An early Spring seems to be on the way for some flowers and birds, whilst other plants appear to be later than usual.

On 1st. Gannets were noted back in residence on the Garden Rocks, about two weeks earlier than they usual settle there. Fresh Rabbit droppings were noted in front of the small quarry on the track to Fort Clonque and several runs and small mole hills had been put up in the same spot, the first time I have ever seen any evidence of Moles in this part of the island. A shoal of about a dozen 15-20cm silvery-grey fish, probably Pollack were seen in a permanent tidal pool alongside the Clonque causeway. The winter storms had caused a tremendous amount of undercutting of the raised beach at the beginning of Clonque islet and at other

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points along the low cliffs in Clonque Bay and the much higher ones in Hannaine Bay, on the other side of the causeway. Green *Ulva* (Sea Lettuce) and *Enteromorpha* seaweeds were already growing in the shallow pools either side and Channelled Wrack around the high water mark, was starting to show fruiting bodies.

Returning from Clonque I noticed 40-50 Mallard swimming at the edge of the beach along Platte Saline, with two or three pairs amongst the vegetation in the nearby pond.

In gardens on 2nd, Autumn germinated seedlings of several annual plants were flowering, together with other perennials. Great Quaking-grass, White Ramping-fumitory,

Stinking Hellebore, Marigolds, a few Daisies in lawns; Rosemary, Fuchsia and Blue-Gem Veronica (*Hebe*) bushes; multiflowered Narcissus of several varieties, (photo on left), Summer Snowflake, (photo on right) and a single pink Hyacinth; and banks of Sweet Violets, covered in bloom, were all noted. Chaffinches,

Blackbirds, Thrushes, Dunnock, Wrens and Robins were back singing and seemed to be making early pairing and nesting preparations in both gardens and hedgerows.

In the wild in Bonne Terre Valley, Boreau's Fumitory and one of the Oxalis species were just opening their flowers.

5th, several Curlew (30-40 in total in small groups) and Oyster-catchers were calling and a single Little Egret seen in Clonque Bay.

7th. Several Ringed Plover on Platte Saline beach, a lot of Pheasants and a few Partridges about on the Petites Blayes above it.

11th. A walk along the South cliffs on a brilliant sunny day (8.24 hours), after two days of high winds and torrential rain with one of our rare periods of calm winds and seas. Nothing much of botanical interest was showing only a few dozen Daisies and two plants of Ragwort in flower along about a mile of cliff path, but two Larks were singing their hearts out in the fields just behind the navigation mark at Bluestone Bay and there were literally hundreds, if not thousands, of mole hills in the field inland from that and scores more in the field to the east of that again. The 'little gentlemen in velvet' do seem to have multiplied greatly and spread their range much more widely over the last 5 years or so. There were about 40 cattle grazing or just chewing the cud and sunbathing in the Rond But field, the highest point of the island.

14th. First sign of blossom on the Cherry Plum thicket by La Blanche Fontaine, (south of the Longis Road), one of the earliest spring flowering trees in the island, and just a few single buds opening on the hedge of Sour Cherry in Les Venelles Gaudion in town. We were fogged in for much of the day on top of the island and sea fog rolled in across Braye Bay and down to the Lighthouse mid morning. I was just passing this as the fog horn started up. The fog cleared about tea time and there was loud sweet sound of birds singing in Le Petit Val as dusk fell.

17th. First blossom seen on the two cherry plums in La Vallée and rather sparse flowers on the large areas of Winter Heliotrope below them. Pussy Willows and Alder catkins were just opening in the thicket along the stream at the bottom of Essex Hill. Our 'Pussy' willows are more properly called Rusty Sallow (*Salix cinerea subsp. oleifolia*), the English *Salix caprea* is not found in Alderney,

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20th. Looking for the early spring flowers around the Essex cliffs, I noted a few Shepherd's Cress (*Teesdalia nudicaulis*) in flower and many rosettes of leaves of this tiny annual plant growing around them. This is usually one of our earliest plants. Not far away a small clump of the equally tiny Common Whitlow-grass (*Erophila verna*) was flowering, sheltered by some thicker vegetation. This is not of course a grass, but another member of the cress family, both with tiny white flowers. Scattered over the hill many of the large patches of gorse were showing a few yellow blooms and several plants of Butcher's Broom both on the cliffs and on the flat top of the hill, where the gorse had been mown off a couple of years ago. Returning towards St. Anne, a stop at the Cimitière St. Michel (Stranger's cemetery), the only site in Alderney where Cowslips grow, rather to my surprise I found a single stem with eight, fully open, clear yellow flowers.

By now there were masses of single and multi-headed Daffodils or Narcissi blooming in hedges, fields and on banks and verges all round the island. Mostly the remnants of flower crops from the 1950-60s they have gradually spread far and wide since the horticultural industry ceased and most of the bulbs were removed from the fields.

22nd. Two plants of Three-cornered Garlic (Stinking onions) found in flower under trees in Braye Hill. Masses of leaves everywhere but these are the first flowers I have seen since noticing four plants flowering here a month ago and only one other sighting of three plants flowering in a little hollow on top of Essex Hill by the end of this month. Later than usual.

23rd. A loud dawn chorus started, repeated on succeeding mornings despite early fog which lasted all day until just before a brilliant sunset. Celandines noted on the cliff paths but none yet in the verges around Platte Saline where they were mown off last year. Celandines and Primroses flowering in the churchyard and more flowers on the Summer Snowflake in The Terrace. This has survived last year's strimming.

25th. Another brilliant cloudless day from early morning, but winds to 30 knots (34mph). The 9.71 hours sunshine was a record for any February day in the last 20 years. The actual amount recorded would have been even higher at the old weather station at the airport but, at this time of year with the sun still low in the sky, my sunshine recorder, on a mast well above the roof, is shielded by the higher bulk of the island to the SE, for at least the first 15-20 minutes of early morning sunshine, which was already bathing Fort Tourgis, in clear view from my study window, higher up the hill to the west of us.

29th. Leap Year Day. The Gorse on the Petite Blaye area has turned a brilliant yellow, almost overnight, but with plenty of green leaves still showing and many flowers still to open before it reaches its peak and the W-facing cliffs down the Zig-Zag are similarly bright.

Local Bird watchers recorded several unusual visitors during the month. A Great Crested Grebe in Crabby Bay, a Rook on the Grande Blaye and two Short-eared Owls and a Woodcock. Ravens were seen tumbling above the cliffs on the Giffoine as usual, but it is feared that our five or six resident pairs are now down to two pairs, owing to long term disturbance at their previous nesting site near Quatre Vents due to the building works there.

There were several Ormering Tides during the month and numbers of people were out turning stones at low water level and just below, to look for this much-prized mollusc.

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An Alderney Nature Diary

March 2000

Weather

At ¾ moon on 28/9th, its position relative to the sun gave us the lowest tidal diurnal variation for 14 years. Low water was at 2.8m and High tide at 4.2m, above datum line.

Rainfall was below average for March, with 19 consecutive days with no significant precipitation, including 14 dry days. Total rainfall for the year to date is about80mm below average and barely half of last year's total.

Sunshine was above average, but still well below last year's total, with 4 sunless days and 4 days with over 10 hours (2 of them with over 11 hrs). Year-to-date sunshine is some 50 hours up on the average, but less than 1999.

Overall temperatures were about average with the maximum recorded above and the minimum below.

Winds were mainly westerly for the first two week then going N on 15th and slowly veering round to W again over the next 10 days, with another sharp veer NE on 27th. A sudden return to gale force NE winds and wintry condition occurred from 27-30th, but over the month strengths were similar to last year. There were few calm periods throughout the month except on 31st.

Figures for comparison with March last year and the 20 year average

Year	**2000**	**1999**	**20-year average**
			1980-99
Rain mm.	38.12	47.56	54.4
Sun hrs.	147.16	170.48	123.6
Max. temp recorded °C	15.0	17.9	13.5
Min. temp recorded	1.2	2.5	2.1
Mean day temp	9.5	9.4	10.3
Mean night temp	8.2	7.7	6.2
Total rainfall, year to date, mm.	109.3	207.2	188.5
Total sunshine, year to date, hrs.	301.8	313.2	257.7

The Diary

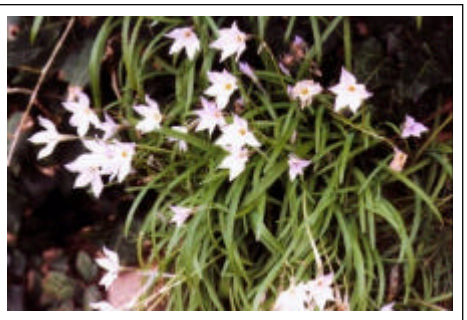
Although a number of plants seem to be ahead of their normal flowering times, the Gannets arrived earlier than usual this year and many other birds have started their nesting other flowers seem to be considerably later and it my impression that, in this respect at least, Spring is late. The dry weather, strong NE winds and return to wintry temperatures for a few days at the end of the month all contributed to this impression.

The Cherry Plum trees in La Vallée and Val Fontaine, usually the earliest trees in the island to flower, were covered in blossom on 1st and Hedge Parsley and Summer Snowflake were flowering in the Terrace. The single patch of Summer Snowflake here has spread

somewhat in the past couple of years as has the other stand in Barrackmaster's Lane. Masses of leaves of the two sorts of Italian Lord's-and-Ladies (*Arum italicum*) were present and the area where the purple spotted leaves of common Lord's-and-Ladies (*Arum maculatum* which has never been recorded in Alderney, except for my finding it, or possibly a hybrid with the Italian species, here in 1996), has spread several yards.

The States are almost finished constructing some broad, board-edged, steps covered with bark chippings up the steep slippery slope on the right as you enter The Terrace. There is little disturbance to the ground flora as a result and it should make a great improvement on what was somewhat of a hazard to walkers, in wet weather.

3rd March. A cycle ride out to the Giffoine, thousands of Gannets now settled on Les Étacs or circling round overhead and, out to sea, Ortac has turned white with the settled birds and others were circling around the rock. The Petite Blayes were slowly turning yellow with Gorse flowering and by the end of the month the green of the foliage was almost totally obscured by the flowers.



5th March. A mass of Spring Starflower was growing, as usual, out of the asphalte road surface along the base of the wall of Red Tiles in Route des Mielles. (Photo on right). This delicate lily has survived under several resurfacings of the road in the last 20 years and still manages to push up through the asphalte every year.

The other patch in a dry wall at Fort Essex was also in bloom. Large patches of Mouse-ear Chickweed were flowering along the roadside edges of Braye Common and in bare patches amongst the grass, with occasional plants of red Dead-nettle in flower. Honeysuckle and Elder were beginning to sprout their leaves in a number of spots. On the South side of the airport, Hairy Bittercress, Lesser Celandine, Sea Campion, Butcher's Broom were flowering along the banks and scattered clumps of many species of Daffodil were to be seen in hedge banks, field margins and amongst the grass now covering the fields where they were grown in the 1950/60s, amongst bramble scrub and on verges, all round the island. The most frequent and widespread of these varieties, of which, by the middle of the month there were literally thousands of clumps self-sown and naturalised almost everywhere, is an 8-10 headed member of the Tazetta group, Narcissus 'Grande Primo Citronière'. as the name might imply to you, this has a halo of six pale yellow tepals surrounding the short, lemon yellow, corona or trumpet and bright orange stamens. A very distinctive and now abundant 'established alien' in our flora. A similar smaller-flowered species, whose proper name I don't know, has an almost white halo and even shorter trumpet. It is nowhere near as frequent. Single flowered species are numerous and mostly of varieties no longer cultivated, but generally appear singly or in very small clumps.

On Telegraph Bay and Essex cliffs there were a few flowers on the patches of Hottentot Fig, with Butcher's Broom (photo left), Shepherd's Cress and Common Whitlow-grass flowering in a few bare patches on the S. side of Essex cliffs.

On 6th I noticed a small clump of Primroses flowering in the hedge opposite my front gate. The ground level here is some 4 feet above mine and retained by a dry stone wall. Presumably self sown from some in my garden I had not noticed these before.

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Just behind them, in the bramble/Sycamore scrub of the hedge, a clump of blue Iris *Iris hollandica*, has survived for many years, probably another relic of the 1950/60s horticultural industry and by the end of the month had three blooms open, with more to come. (Photo on left). All round the island the 'Pussy Willows' were in full bloom, with the common Rusty Sallow, the Alderney version of Goat Willow a picture, with bright yellow stamens on the male catkins. The twigs of a large stand of Osiers in the valley just above La Blanche Fontaine, were glowing bright glossy orange/brown in the sun. They always seem to turn a much brighter colour and shine for several weeks before the leaves appear. The Alders near the Nunnery were almost finished flowering and their leaves were beginning to break.

On 9th a surprise in my own garden, was a large patch of Variegated Catchfly *Silene gallica var. quinquevulnera*, (photo on right) like a minute Sweet William, in full flower, apparently from last Autumn's unnoticed seedlings. This prompted me to search the area a few yards above the beach about 200m in front of my house, where it is sometimes found in some quantity over about 100m of the trackside, but there was no sign of it there, nor near the Impôt on the other side of the island. There was a flock of about 30 Black-headed Gulls in York Hill Quarry.

On 10th Pink Campion and a few Three-cornered Garlic, ('Stinking Onions'), were flowering on the banks of Tourgis Hill up to the fort walls, with about a dozen plant of Borage flowering on the earth bank above the beach, formed from tipped quarry spoil last year as a safety edging above the new foreshoring, put in to protect the road from the threatened erosion. the Campion and Lesser Celandines were also flowering in Bonne Terre valley and on Platte Saline, with the occasional plant of Soft Sow-thistle and Dandelion carrying at least one open bloom in both places. A large patch of Charlock was flowering on Platte Saline.

Sweet Alison was clothing the roadside banks with a mass of white flowers for much of the month, in most parts of the island. Wild Carrot plants, with their delicate young, pale green, feathery leaves were just coming into flower and the much stronger coarser Wild and Sea Radish, both yellow and white-flowered forms were beginning to bloom, but the Three-cornered Garlic, ('Stinking Onions'), the leaves of which form solid patches of green over large areas of Alderney, was still barely in flower even by the end of the month, much later than usual. Hogweed was rearing its coarse head in flower, with the large rosettes as yet not bearing flowering stems, scattered in many places.

On 13th I surprised a very large Grey Heron fishing in Mannez Pond. He took off over my head and must have had a wing spread of over 6 feet. I doubt if he was having much luck. A pair of Mallard were less disturbed by my presence We rescued several thousand fish, mostly small dark coloured carp and goldfish, from here as the pond dried up in 1989 and put them in the Corblets Quarry reservoir and in several larger domestic ponds. I returned about 50 to Mannez in 1992 after raising the dam at the lower end to retain more water, but I doubt if they have multiplied sufficiently to provide much food for visiting herons. In the quarry bottom and on Mannez Hill above, lots of 'Good Friday Grass' (Field Woodrush) was

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flowering. So called locally for it is rare not to find this is flower on that day, it was well ahead of the late Easter this year. Many tiny plants of Dune Stork's-bill and Dove's-foot Crane's-bill were flowering in the short rabbit-cropped turf in both places and the ground was well sprinkled with 2-3cm high plants bearing the minute 4 notched petals like a small white cross of Sea Mouse-ear, easy to distinguish as the only one of its family not having 5 petals and the tiny blue and yellow flowers of Early Forget-me-not. Both species were also noted along the East coast and on Longis common, as was a small flock of Wheatears and several small warblers and pipits.

On 14th, a nice sunny afternoon a single White-tailed Bumble Bee, was buzzing round the Cow Parsley flowers in The Terrace. A big patch of Germander Speedwell was in flower in the grass by the Nunnery next day.

By the second and third weeks of the month, patches of Periwinkle *Vinca major* were flowering in verges in many places, I don't remember seeing all of these before and the more familiar patches have spread considerably. Several of the clumps of Red-hot Poker, long escaped from gardens and now well established in the wild, were flowering. Common Dog-violets were flowering on 24th with the Primroses and Celandines in the Churchyard and, with Celandines only, along the track sides to Clonque. Many large areas of Blackthorn were white with blossom, brambles, honeysuckle, including the *var. quercifolia* with oak-shaped leaves on the new growth, (photo on left) which seems to occur in quite a number of parts of the island; and a number of the other trees and shrubs were now well clad with leaves. Sycamores were just breaking in more sheltered spots and the Horse and Sweet Chestnuts in the Churchyard and Le Pré were in leaf. Those more exposed on Essex Hill followed about a week later and there was a good flowering of Primroses in the mown gorse scrub on top of the hill, the major colony on the island, with more at the edge of the brambles around one of the German bunkers nearby. Down below in Val Fontaine some of the small colony of Rescue Brome was already in flower and plenty of seedlings nearby. This tall, coarse, grass has only ever been recorded in Alderney over about 50 yards along the track here, in front of the now empty Devereux House Hotel. The same small area is also one of the haunts of the Alderney Crane's-bill, not yet in flower.

By the Lighthouse and along the East coast on 21st, the first Bluebells of the season were just opening, both the native English and the Spanish invader were noted. There were masses of leaves on the Cyclamens partly hidden amongst the dead Bracken along the coastal path and several large clumps of the Narcissus 'primo' already mentioned. Sand Quillwort seems in good quantity at two of its locations along here, the little 'rosette' (if that is the right word to use for a fern), of dark-green, glossy fronds still a bit small. A few plants of Dune Stork's-bill were in flower at St. Esquère and masses of leaves of the Sand Crocus, but no flowers showing yet. The Myrtle growing from under a rock on this headland had plenty of new leaves and the two small seedlings nearby seem to have survived the winter. A few tiny patches of mauve-tinted flowers of Danish Scurvy-grass were noted, with a couple of Rock Pipits amongst them at the edge of the low cliff here. A little further south, the Bastard Toadflax was present in some quantity, several hundred plants over a narrow band 1-2m wide and 2-300m long, at the moment showing as frequent dark olive-green patches 5-8cm across, of tightly curled buds and short new stems. 5 plants of Common Dog-violet were flowering here, the cream-coloured spurs very prominent, the first of the season that I had seen. A few plants of the mauve flowered Hoary Stock here and also by the Harbour and Crabby Bay on

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the following day. Whitlow-grass and Three-fingered Saxifrage were found in flower of Longis common, with more Bastard Toadflax close by.

The first Butterfly of the season on Essex Hill on 22nd, quite large and fairly dark but it was too quick to identify. The Ash trees here were showing signs of the buds breaking, More of the Narcissus 'primo' flowering around the slopes leading up to the fort, masses of Montbretia leaves here and further down the cliff and several plants of Tree Mallow (not yet in bud), with Periwinkle flowering amongst the grass and scrub on this bank The Dog-violets were showing well at the sides of the track around the summit of the hill, with a few plants of Boreau's Fumitory, scrambling through the brambles and Herb Robert in flower. Plenty of Viper's Buglos seedlings round the water tank and Honesty seedlings the other side of the track. Plenty of evidence of Mole activity all round the track, as in many other places across the island. On the S-facing slope of the cliffs, the Gorse seems to be encroaching on the Heather and coarse grasses are filling in the bare patches between some of the rocks. The pink and yellow Hottentot Figs here have spread considerably, especially the yellow variety along the base of the cliffs just above HWM. About a dozen plants of Sand Crocus were in flower in the rapidly narrowing path between the low gorse patches, with plenty of their leaves and a few more flowering and masses of English Stonecrop and Scarlet Pimpernel seedlings in the barer patches either side. Young Sea Beet and Ox-eye Daisies in plenty with a single Ox-eye Daisy about to open a flower and masses of the common Daisy everywhere. Several Ladybirds were noted on this mild sunny afternoon with very little wind.

Thrift was just coming into flower. Hairy Bittercress was frequent in drier patches and Ivy-leaved Toadflax was flowering on several dry stone walls.

24th. The Cowslips in the Stranger's Cemetery were now in full bloom and had been carefully mown round yesterday. The small patch of Hairy Onion by the Lighthouse was just opening its heads and the single Pear tree (*Pyrus communis*) in Mannez quarry had three open buds on a single spur whose leaves were just opening The 'Wordsworth', English native Daffodils in the field beside Fort Corblets were now fully out and formed a dense mass of yellow over about 25m square. Mixed with these are the slightly larger wild Spanish Daffodil (*Narcissus pseudonarcissus subsp. major*) the outer ring of tepals being twisted at their bases. Both are the remnants of the 1950/60s horticultural enterprise.

On 28th four male Chaffinches were seen perched on the wall surrounding the Lighthouse, possibly part of an incoming migrant flight. A lot more Bluebells were out here, mainly the Spanish species or possibly hybrids between the two species. At Longis Bay by the Nunnery Car-park, five Curlew landed and searched along the water's edge as we watched. A short distance away on Bluestone Hill on the bank of scrub below the golf course, the 10 or more bushes of Everlasting Flower (*Helchrysum petiolare*) have each spread considerably in the last couple of years and even seem to be suppressing the brambles now. A good number of small plants or seedlings from these are in the roadside edge of the bank, where they get mown off from time to time and, not previously noticed, a small patch of about a dozen Grape Hyacinths, a patch of Garden Pink-sorrel (*Oxalis latifolia*, photo on right), the sort that grows from a bulb and not a rhizome and a clump of Italian Lords-and-Ladies with prominent white leaf veins are established in the nearly vertical bank here.

On the last day of the month, after some mixed rain and sunshine in the preceding two weeks, with some dull days following and a return to wintry conditions, the whole island seemed suddenly to have turned green. Leaves were fully or partly out on many trees and shrubs, Sycamore buds were bursting, Black Poplar leaves were just opening, the red catkins

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yet to appear, White Poplar, Sweet and Horse Chestnut and Alder leaves were unfolding in the more sheltered parts, the several Cherry (*Prunus* species) were almost fully covered with leaves as were many Hawthorn and Elder bushes. Brambles and Honeysuckle were well clothed, the latter with a lot of new growth as well. Most of the Blackthorns and Willows were covered in their blooms with few leaves yet unfolded.

Wrens, Blackbirds, Collared Doves and many of the song birds seem to be nesting. We have these three and Dunnocks in our garden and a pair of Mallard grazing on the lawn or on the fish ponds or swimming pool for much of the day for the last week. It may be the same pair who hatched 13 young behind the garage last year. The young male Chaffinch who came last year, most likely an offspring of our 7-year resident pair, seems to have returned and sings at me from the hedge opposite or the electricity wires along the roadside, whenever I go outside. He hasn't got round to tapping on the windows yet, but hopefully that will come later, in April.

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An Alderney Nature Diary

April 2000

The Weather

The 29th, with 14 hours continuous sunshine from 6.26am to 8.26pm was the sunniest April day in the last 20 year's records. There were 5 other days with more than 10 hours, 3 of them with over 12 hrs. Despite this the total for the month was well below average, although the year-to-date figure was some 14 hours up on the 20-year average, it was 12 hours less than last year.

Rainfall was double the long term average and the 4th highest for April since 1955. (Most of southern England had about 30mm more and the wettest April since 1882). There were however 6 days without rain and another 6 with barely a trace.

Unusually, winds had a strong easterly direction for most of the first 2 weeks and came from the south for most of the rest of the month. Winds were NE force 6-8 on 4th, gusting to 40 knots (45 mph), with a minimum of 15.8 knots, and averaging 23.8 knots throughout the 24 hours. For 9 consecutive days from 9th-17th wind speeds reached over 30 knots, with a 50 knot (56 mph) maximum on 15th and averaged about 13 knots day and night throughout this period.

Air temperatures were about average, but the wind chill factors during these 9 days went as low as -6º on 15th and averaged just below zero throughout the 24 hours that day.

Figures for comparison with April 1999 and the 20-year average.

Year	**2000**	**1999**	**20-year average**
			1980-99
Rain mm.	95.02	80.9	45.5
Sun hrs.	156.75	168.83	188.2
Max. temp recorded °C	16.6	18.1	15.9
Min. temp recorded	3.2	2.9	3.2
Mean day temp	10.3	11.3	11.8
Mean night temp	8.7	10.1	6.7
Total rainfall, year to date, mm.	204.3	288.05	235.9
Total sunshine, year to date, hrs.	458.5	480.1	444.2

The Diary

4th. 9am. 10 Mallard drakes and a single female suddenly descended on the winter cover of our swimming pool. Much scuffling and attempts to mate for about 10 minutes until one of the drakes walked out through the front gate followed by the female. The other males stayed on the water.

5th. Flock of about 50 Wheatears in the field at the side of the Airport approach road.

7th. Gale force NE winds coming into Braye Bay for the last 4-5 days have cut a cliff about 4 feet high all along the bottom of the dunes at the top of the beach from the middle to the Braye St. end.

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8th. Bracken unrolling, now about a foot high and just spreading the 2nd leaf. A few bunches of flowers on the Elders by the stream at the bottom of Barrackmaster's Lane. The bank alongside the road from the Lighthouse, just before La Cachette had 5 Green-winged Orchids *Orchis morio*, a single plant of Smooth Cat's-ear *Hypochoeris glabra*, a mass of Sea Mouse-ear *Cerastium diffusum* and Dove's-foot Cranesbill *Geranium molle*, with smaller amounts of Portland Spurge *Euphorbia portlandica* (photo on left), and Early Forget-me-not *Myosotis ramosissima*, all in flower. Patches of Wild Thyme and many Common Centaury leaf rosettes in evidence, not yet of course in flower. Many Willows around the island are now in leaf as well as the remains of their flowers, including the glossy, shining pale brown, twigged Crack Willows *Salix fragilis*, near the Nunnery and above Val Fontaine. Alderney's version of "Pussy" Willow, the Rusty Sallow *S. cinerea subsp. oleifolia* (photo on right), is a mass of yellow stamens showing on the catkins between the pale unfolding leaves. Buglos *Anchusa arvensis*, in flower in the rough ground near the entrance to "Tides" on the east coast.

12th. Bluebells suddenly opening their flowers in many places, with the first signs of Thrift, Sea Carrot *Daucus carota subsp. maritima* and a mass of Dandelions in flower along the track to Fort Clonque. Here the Three-cornered Garlic *Allium triquetum*, is only just beginning to flower, it seems very late this year, as were the Celandines, still flowering along the edges of the track in the shorter turf, now interspersed with a mass of Daisies. The whole hillside surrounding Fort Tourgis is a solid mass of yellow Gorse. The cliffs and scrub areas all round the island are now at their brilliant best with this.

Large patches of white Sea Campion *Silene uniflora*, can be seen amongst the rocky outcrops on both sides of the track. A few pink flowers were showing on the Hottentot Fig covering the top of the German gun emplacement by the parking area. A few blooms could be seen on the Greater Periwinkle *Vinca major* here and rosettes of large grey leaves of the Globe Artichoke *Cynara scolymus* (photo on left), both planted 50 or more years ago by the then postwar "tenant" of the bunker.
Along the beach at Platte Saline the Sea Kale *Crambe maritima*, as yet nowhere near fully grown, is already showing heads of flower buds on its short stalks. A similar situation applies to the Sea Beet *Beta vulgaris subsp. maritima*, both coming into flower at a very young stage. This seems to happen some years when conditions are less than favourable, the strong winds and heavy rainfall so far this month not helping development.

15th. Pink May flower in some sheltered gardens in La Vallée and the Churchyard a riot of Primroses, Common Dog-violets and Celandines. Mauve and White forms of Hoary Stock *Matthiola incana*, flowering in many places now, mostly close to the sea. It is curious how these two colour forms seem to confine themselves to certain areas and rarely hybridise or even mix at the same sites. The Corblets quarry walls and the cliff side in The Cut, near the harbour always have white-flowered plants, whilst just round the corner from the cut the walls of York Hill quarry only carry the mauve plants.

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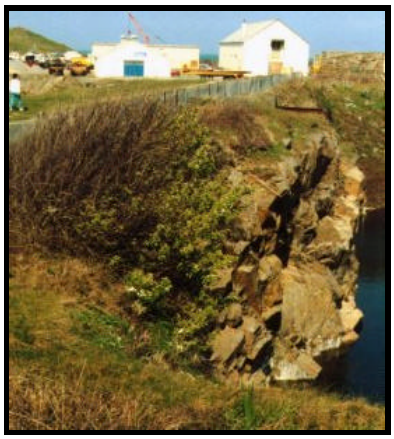
16th. The Mallard duck brought 6 newly hatched young onto the swimming pool, next morning there were only 4 and later that same day she appeared alone. I assume from the direction they came that she must have hatched in the garden, but haven't found the nest. Ducks are poor mothers, (they obviously can't count) and always seem to loose a high proportion of their offspring. Just as well perhaps, or the whole island would soon be overrun by ducks !! They have increased enormously in numbers in the last 10 years.

18th. A very loud dawn chorus, particularly hearing Blackbirds and Chaffinches. A series of depressions had swept in from the Atlantic over 4-5 days, with winds to 50 knots. The wind direction changed rapidly through 180° and back again several times. Apple blossom was appearing on several of the trees in rough waste areas around the island and the Pear tree *Pyrus communis* (photo on right), in Mannez quarry, the only one on record in the island, was flowering on a few shoots. Narrow-leaved Vetch *Vicia sativa subsp. nigra*, and Hairy Onion *Allium hirsutum*, were flowering near the Lighthouse, the Bluebells nearby now fully open with a single pink-flowered plant amongst them. The "Stinking Onions" (Three-cornered Garlic) were at last in full flower all round the island making verges, hedgebanks, waste land quarries and commons a sea of white. Buttercups were covering Braye common and many plants of Wild and Sea Radish, here, at Platte Saline and on Longis Common were coming into flower.

20th. A huge bank of pink Rosy Dew-plant (*Lampranthus sp.*) was in flower on the rock outcrop below the eastern walls of Fort Corblets. Early Forget-me-not, Sea Mouse-ear, Groundsel and Lamb's Lettuce (more properly known as Keeled-fruited Cornsalad), *Valerianella carinata*, were all flowering in some quantity near the shore at Platte Saline, the latter on very reduced plants and also with much larger plants in various untended parts of my garden.



I saw my first Swallow of the year over Platte Saline in the afternoon. The Pear tree in the garden has suddenly come into full blossom and the wind-shaped Wild Pear *Pyrus pyraster* (photo on left), on the seaward edge of York Hill quarry, also the only one of this species in the island, as far as I know, is blooming at last. With the strong cold winds there are very few bees about to pollinate the pear or apple trees and I would not be surprised if this year shows a poor crop of fruit.

21st. heard my first Cuckoo calling from near Fort Tourgis and again the next day from the hill above the house, more towards Town.

23rd. The Horse Chestnut tree near the bottom of Essex Hill just coming into flower and signs of 'candles' on those in the Churchyard and The Terrace. Hart's-tongue Fern, Common polypody and Male Fern in plenty on the banks, with Celandines, Hairy Bittercress *Cardamine hirsuta* scattered and a big patch of Self-heal *Prunella vulgaris*, in the verge half way up Essex Hill, with Cow Parsley blooming everywhere. On top of the hill, Dog-violets were present in quantity in the shorter turf, the large areas of assorted native and Spanish Bluebells were doing somewhat better now. More Bluebells and some later Primroses were round the old Wireless Hut and the cliff sides were a mass of yellow Gorse. The Sand Crocus seems to have finished flowering now, but plenty of leaves are still in evidence on the bare patches on the cliffs. Sea Campion and both White and Pink Campion, Sweet Vernal-grass *Anthoxanthum*

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odoratum and Cock'sfoot *Dactylis glomerata* and more Hairy Bittercress, were also flowering on the cliffs. Bracken now about two feet high.

A few bright red/pink catkins were noted on the Black Poplars *Populus nigra*, at the bottom of Essex Hill and the single, very large Black Poplar at the top of Stoney Lane was just unrolling its leaves (photo on right). For the second year running few catkins seem to have formed on this tree. The Hawthorns everywhere are opening their leaves and just a few flowers beginning to show.

Platte Saline and Braye Commons are thick with the black flower heads of Ribwort Plantain *Plantago lanceolata*.

24th. A few Chiff-chaffs spent half an hour in the garden, the Collared Doves are getting active on the tree outside my study window and the many different "Flowering Cherries" in gardens all round the island are in full bloom. Stinking Onions and Bluebells now seem to be at their peak. I don't remember ever seeing so many Bluebells on the island before. The Great Horsetail *Equisetum telmateia*, in Le Grand Val has produced a number of fertile spikes and the vegetative stems are now growing. The small square plantation of Prunus species nearby which I believe to be Bullace *Prunus domestica subsp. insititia*, is flowering a little half-heartedly this year compared with last, but I have yet to see any fruit on these plants. The Blackthorn is now more or less over and the bushes are well leafed now, as are many of the brambles.

25th. Common Bird's-foot-trefoil *Lotus corniculatus* is just coming into flower in several spots.

29th. Siskins noted in "Bottle Alley". Cuckoo heard and then seen flying in the trees above Newtown Road. Earlier in the day three White Storks flew over the airport buildings, just after a plane carrying bird watchers from Guernsey had landed.

30th. A few flowers on the Bithynian Vetch *Vicia bithynica* (photo below), at Crabby Bay. Also a long line of Sea Carrot, some Red Clover and Bird's-foot-trefoil flowering just above the low cliff above the beach, a few yards away.

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Alderney Nature Diary

May 2000

The Weather

Up to 23rd, May looked like being the 3rd or 4th driest on record and one of the dullest. Rainfall on 24th doubled the monthly rainfall total and on 26th doubled that again, after a brilliant day with almost13hrs. sunshine on 25th. After a mostly sunny day with a couple of showers on 27th, 40.6mm rain fell between 7.30pm and 6am on 28th, of which 18mm fell in the hour from 11.30pm to 0030, doubling the month's total once again. The total of 42.8 mm in 24 hours was the third highest single day's rain since 1992 (59.4mm on 12/6/92 & 81mm on 23/8/93). By the end of the month it became the 3rd wettest May since 1955.

Winds were consistently from NE for first 2 weeks, then changing to SW quarter for 12 days and backing completely round the compass on 26th as a deep depression passed up the Channel, rising suddenly from f 2-3 to f 7-8 at5pm.

Much of the month's sunshine came in just 9 scattered days with 10-14 hours each and was about 45 hours below average in total. Temperatures, humidity, wind speeds and directions were generally similar to last year.

Figures for comparison with May last year and the 20 year average

Year	**2000**	**1999**	**20-year average**
			1980-99
Rain mm.	104.73	10.55	41.6
Sun hrs.	193.87	242.23	238.6
Max. temp recorded °C	22.2	22.1	19.3
Min. temp recorded	6.0	7.7	5.6
Mean day temp	13.4	14.0	14.4
Mean night temp	11.4	12.2	9.1
Total rainfall, year to date, mm.	309.1	298.6	277.6
Total sunshine, year to date, hrs.	652.4	722.3	682.8

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The Diary

5th May. The slope up to Fort Tourgis is now a complete mauve carpet of Bluebells, mostly the native *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*. Further up the hill, by the small Alderney Society plantation, the predominant species is the larger Spanish Bluebell *H. hispanica*, or a hybrid between the two. The morning was foggy and the Gorse above the plantation and all along the western cliffs was glowing a brilliant orange-yellow through the mist. The large area of blackthorn scrub between the road and the Bonne Terre valley had more or less finished flowering. Hogweed *Heracleum sphondylium*, was beginning to flower everywhere in the grassy patches and hedges and several large patches of Italian Arum *Arum italicum subsp. italicum*, with its conspicuous white-veined leaves were noted in the verge at the edge of the scrub. The Cyclamen *C. hederifolium*, patch along here has spread considerably in the bottom of the hedge over the last 5 years. The five or six Apple trees, (species not yet identified) opposite the top of the track down to St. Vignalis' Garden were just showing pink in the clumps of buds at branch ends. The fog was thick up by the Airport and large patches of Herb Robert *Geranium robertianum*, were flowering on walls and verges along the Rose Farm boundary en route. At this time all Channel Island Airports were fogged in, with Alderney apparently the least affected.

Returning home from the airport I noticed a huge bank of Charlock *Sinapis arvensis*, flowering at the top of Wide Lane. The soil here seems to have been disturbed in the last year or so. It was sad to see that someone had dug out all but two or three of the Rustyback Fern *Ceterach officinarum*, plants from our primary, but small colony of less than 20 plants, growing undisturbed in the old mortar of the wall round Ladysmith for more than a century and jealously guarded by myself, for the last 15 years, from disturbance by repairs or weeding of this wall by the States Public Works Dept. They are unlikely to survive for long in any other environment and this just emphasises the great need we have for a conservation law, with strict penalties for those who abuse it.

Rustyback Fern at Ladysmith

Even with a law in place, catching them is of course the problem.

6th May. After the fog and gloom yesterday, there was still a belt of thick sea fog all round the island. Red, White and Pink Valerian *Centranthus ruber*, are now becoming quite frequent in flower on walls, banks, quarry scree, etc., all round the island. Lawns, commons and grassy patches are studded with the white of Daises and the yellow of Buttercups (including the not often noticed Small-flowered Buttercup *Ranunculus parviflorus*), Medicks both Spotted *Medicago arabica*, and Black *M. lupulina* and pinky-mauve Dove's-foot Crane's-bill *Geranium molle*, varying in size from small rosettes about 10cm across and 2cm high in mown, trodden or grazed areas to straggling 20cm high plants along hedge bottoms.

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Wall Speedwell


Ivy-leaved Speedwell


Ivy-leaved Toadflax

The tiny bright blue-flowered Wall Speedwell *Veronica arvensis* and the larger, straggling, Ivy-leaved Speedwell *V. hederifolia*, were in flower in crevices in old stone walls in many places, as was the Ivy-leaved Toadflax, rather more spectacular with its mauve and white trumpets and similar shaped leaves.

Narrow-leaved *Vicia sativa subsp. nigra* and, less frequently, Common Vetches *V. sativa subsp. segetalis*, with larger more rounded leaves, are flowering throughout the island. Bird's-foot Trefoil was also just coming into flower along verges, cliffs, paths and bare patches and in some places would form large yellow carpets after a few more days sunshine. With a folk name of 'Eggs and Bacon' in many places, it is interesting to note the wide variation in the amount of red shown on the opening flowers, from virtually none to a wide dark streak on the end of the bud. The Gorse is brilliant this year, several people have commented to me that they do not remember it so bright and dense for years. Alderney has a wealth of all these Pea family (Fabaceae) plants and many others as well. The Western Clover *Trifolium occidentale*, (photo on left), is in flower at last. Frequently the earliest of the Clovers to flower and always 3-4 weeks before the White Clover *T. repens*, with which it was included until about 30 years ago, it has been preceded this year by the Red Clover *T. pratense*.

Patches of Kaffir or Hottentot Fig *Carpobrotus edulis*, were flowering on coast and cliff, round all the forts, in gardens and on many verges around the commons and, in at least a dozen places, bright blue Greater Periwinkle *Vinca major*, is flowering from hedge bottoms and verges in scrubby areas.

In the afternoon we had brilliant sunshine onshore, but still thick mist only a few yards offshore and the foghorns at the Alderney and Casquets Lighthouses were blowing continuously all day. Near the entrance to La Cachette at Longis the *Aeonium x velutinum* (photo on left), has again spread somewhat amongst a large area of the Kaffir Fig. This member of the Stonecrop family has no common name, was almost certainly planted originally, but has survived and spread here for many years and was just coming into flower.

A few yards further on, a steep area of short sandy turf was covered in the minute, white, 4-pointed, flowers of Field Madder *Sherardia arvensis*, amongst these were a small number of the pinky-mauve flowered plants, the more usual colour in Britain generally. Plenty of Portland Spurge *Euphorbia portlandica*, scattered plants of Thyme-leaved Sandwort *Arenaria serpyllifolia*, a mass of Sand Sedge *Carex arenaria*, more Bird's-foot Trefoil and

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about 25-30 Green-winged Orchids *Orchis morio* (photo on left), were all in flower. I looked in vain for the Small Restharrow *Ononis reclinata*, an 'endangered species' (photo on right) and one of Alderney's special plants. This tiny annual was present here in some quantity at various times in the past 5-6 years, but is difficult to catch in flower, variable in numbers and often not seen for several years at a time. Eyebright *Euphrasia sp.*, Common Stork's-bill *Erodium cicutarium*, and Little Mouse-ear *Cerastium semidecandrum*, were abundant over the area with a few plants of Scarlet Pimpernell *Anagallis arvensis*, in flower and many more plants not yet in bloom. A few small rosettes of Common Centaury *Centaurium erythraea*, were scattered about the area with a similar amount of another 'scarce species' Smooth Cat's-ear *Hypochoeris glabra*, (photo on left), also infrequent in UK, but this one quite common in Alderney. Some tiny plants of Sand Cat's-tail *Phleum arenaria*, no more than 5cm high, were flowering on the barer sandy patches. At the top of this bank a large saucer shaped bush of Wild Privet *Ligustrum vulgaris*, several metres across but only about 60cm high at the centre and not particularly common in Alderney, was showing loads of buds, just turning white. I had not noticed this one before.

Above the eastern side of Mannez Quarry pond, the Hawthorns, Elders and the single Apple tree were all in flower, with Sea Radish *Raphanus raphanistrum subsp. maritimus*, both yellow and white-flowered forms frequent. A lot of Sea Carrot *Daucus carota subsp. maritimus*, a mass of Germander Speedwell *Veronica chamaedrys*, in one verge and Bluebells, Pink-sorrel *Oxalis articulata*, and blue Buglos *Anchusa arvensis*, across the road. By the Lighthouse Redhot Pokers *Kniphofia sp.*, were flowering in a verge, surviving here for many years and spreading a little and a few Marigolds were noted outside the wall surrounding the Lighthouse, probably self-seeded from its garden. A considerable number of Swallows were 'hawking' over the grassy area close by and several White Butterflies were noted, but not close enough to identify.

Above the beach at Corblets Bay and round the northern edges of Corblets Quarry, Dove's-foot Crane's-bill, Ribwort Plantain *Plantago lanceolata*, Little Mouse-ear, Common Mouse-ear, Creeping Buttercup *Ranunculus repens*, Bulbous Buttercup *R. bulbosus*, Dandelions of several subspecies, Ragwort, White Clover (leaves only), Portland Spurge, Lucerne *Medicago sativa*, Bird's-foot Trefoil, Sea Carrot, Hogweed, Cow Parsley *Anthriscus sylvestris*, Common and Narow-leaved Vetches, a large area of Kidney Vetch *Anthyllis vulneraria*, a few Ox-eye Daisies *Leucanthemum vulgare*, a lot of Red Clover and rosettes of Buck's-horn Plantain *Plantago coronopus*, Broad-leaved and Curled Dock *Rumex obtusifolius & R. crispus*, yellow Perennial Wall-rocket *Diplotaxis tenuifolia*, Spotted Medick several different Brome grasses, including Great, Sterile, Soft, Least Soft and Meadow, (all *Bromus* or *Anisantha sp.*) and, all round the top rim of the quarry walls, the

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white-flowered form of Hoary Stock *Matthiola incana*, were noted. (Photos above, both common mauve and rarer white forms). The latter only ever seems to have the white form in this area. A Shoveller Duck was noted on the quarry pond.

Altogether a rewarding day, with 12.7 hours sunshine onshore.

What a difference the last week has made; scores of plants have suddenly come into flower and most of the trees are in full or nearly full leaf. It still seems to have been a late start for many of them.

7th May. On Longis Common and along the east coast, Western Clover was now plentiful in flower. The heads are noticeably smaller than White Clover and the sepals form a reddish brown ring in the centre of the inflorescence. Eyebright, Bastard Toadflax *Thesium humifusum* (just one plant in flower so far), a few lovely clumps of Common Milkwort *Polygala vulgaris*, with delicate mauve and white flowers, no sign of Small Hare's-ear or Small Restharrow at the most usual site, Field Madder abundant, mostly with white flowers, several patches of the leaf rosettes of the Dwarf or Stemless Thistle *Cirsium acaule*, Early Forget-me-not still flowering here in the short turf, the inflorescences now lengthening considerably in seed. Large patches of *Carpobrotus* now flowering, both the common large flowered Hottentot Fig and the much smaller and far less frequent Angular Seafig *C. glaucescens*, the pink/purple petals of which have a white patch at their base.

A few plants of Hoary Cress *Cardaria draba*, were just coming into flower near the Hammond Memorial. This seems to be the only site in the island for this plant. An unusual sight in the bank of scrub Hawthorn etc. edging the golf course on Bluestone Hill was three plants of a Corn-lily *Ixia paniculata*, in flower. Presumably self sown from a nearby garden, I have not noted this plant 'in the wild' before. We must see if it becomes established. The Everlasting Flower *Helichrysum petiolare*, a silver-leafed shrub with about a dozen large clumps under this big area of Hawthorn scrub, probably escaped originally from a garden above the stream on the opposite side of the road, has put up masses of seedlings in the verge below for several years, unfortunately tending to be regularly mown off and never reaching any great size. Several Laburnums were noted in flower in gardens round the island.

9th May. Stinging Nettle noted in flower at several sites for the first time this year. Docks beginning to flower and a single Dartford Warbler seen perched on a bramble arch near the eastern end of the airport runway. Navelwort *Umbilicus rupestris*, flowering all along the bank of La Costière to the south of the airport. A mass of Pink Campion *Silene x hampeana*, in flower near the "Madonna Stone". This standing stone 5-6 feet high above ground, is thought, under certain lighting conditions to look like the carved figure of a smiling woman in a long robe, with a loose veil over her head, holding a baby in her arms.

The photo shown here, which I copied some years ago from a small, 3" x 2", colour print taken by Leslie Wells, at the time Vice-President of the Alderney States, was taken in the late 1960s and clearly shows this appearance. The stone may just possibly be an ancient menhir, but was apparently moved to its present position about 1950, from the field across the track, where it had stood before the war and was used by cattle as a scratching post. Unfortunately it was knocked over by a vehicle in 1998 and when re-erected about 18 months later at the same spot had, as far as I can tell, been rotated somewhat in doing so and the image, be it man-made or just a trick of the light, may never be seen again.

The cliffs were brilliant with Gorse flowers, so dense they almost obscured the foliage. A considerable number of grasses were coming into flower all along the old military road.

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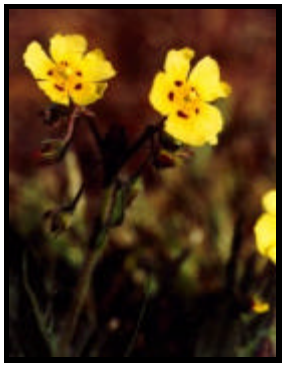
Common and Narrow-leaved Vetches were adding patches of purple with paler wings, or dark pink/purple respectively, to the Costière bank with a few clumps of white Sea Campion *Silene unifora*, here and there amongst big patches of Navelwort and Hogweed along most of its length. Descending to the SW corner of the 'Piacerty field' (Plat Côtil), the path across the Vau Renier stream has recently been cleared, a small wooden bridge built across the stream and a path cut through the scrub and down along the cliff to the east of this. The States have made some effort to clear parts of the path along the South cliff tops, widening it to its former metre or so. Constructing the bridge sadly has eliminated the only plant of Wild Madder *Rubia peregrina*, I had ever seen in the island, but this has more than been compensated by the discovery this month, by Trevor Davenport, of five or six (and possibly more) well grown plants half buried in the bramble scrub through which the new portion of the path has been cut. Herb Robert, Pink Campion and Boreau's Fumitory are common along this new path.



Crossing the bridge to the west, we soon come to one of Alderney's prime botanical spots. Here flourishes the tiny annual Spotted Rock-rose *Tuberaria guttata*, another 'Scarce Plant List' species, rare both nationally and in the CIs. The Spotted Rock Rose colony, over about 3-400m to the west of Vau Renier has been splendid in the early mornings for most of the month but almost invisible after midday when the plants have all dropped their petals (Photo on left). Fortunately the restoration of the path has not affected these. Along this same section of the cliff path, a very considerable amount of the pretty pink and white Bird's-foot *Ornithopus perpusillus*, with smaller patches of the rare Orange Bird's-foot *O. pinnatus*, scattered amongst it at intervals all along this stretch. This native plant is found only in the CIs and the Scillies. (Both sp. illustrated on right). Also along this area Smooth Cat's-ear and Hairy Bird's-foot-trefoil *Lotus subbiflorus*, both rare in Britain, may be found in quantity and the careful observer may also find the very much rarer Slender Bird's-foot-trefoil *L. angustissimus*. Changing and Early Forget-me-nots are still flowering here, with large patches of Early Hair-grass *Aira praecox*, in the barer areas of thin soil over and around the rocky outcrops. A few plants of Heath Groundsel *Senecio sylvaticus*, already in flower, together with some late native Bluebells, English Stonecrop *Sedum anglicum*, just coming into flower and plenty of Wood Sage *Teucrium scorodonia*, (not yet in flower), along the sides of the narrow path. There was thick mist out at sea but brilliant sunshine on land at this time. A Small Copper Butterfly was searching for nectar along here.

Just before reaching Trois Vaux valley, a cock Pheasant with three half-grown young, two female and a male, was picking amongst the grass in a grassy field, with two Hedge Sparrows sitting on an old reaper and binder abandoned beside the track a little further on.

10th May. Large numbers of St. George's Fly along the east coast, with a few small Blue butterflies (exact species not determined) and Small Whites. On Essex Hill Lesser Celandines were still flowering in the verge and patches of Ground Ivy *Glechoma hederacea* just beginning to flower. Primroses and Stinking Iris were noted under the Ash trees and Hart's-tongue, Common Polypody and Lady Fern were all unrolling, as well as the bracken.

11th May. The Cowslips in the Stranger's Churchyard (Cimitière St. Michel) are now in full bloom. They were carefully mown round yesterday.

13th May. Thick fog for much of the day, mainly at sea and on the higher parts of the island. Clearing around 4pm. A mass of Pale Flax *Linum bienne*, on the uncut part at the E

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end of Braye Common and the triangle of grass across the road. The Cabbage Palms *Cordyline australis*, along the roadside edge of the common, first planted in the 1930s and now fully regenerated from the bases left after the 1987 hurricane, are carrying multiple flower heads, each with thousands of the individual tiny, creamy-white bell-like flowers, typical of the Agavaceae family to which they belong. The barer areas in the recently mown grass show large patches of Common Mouse-ear, Mouse-ear Chickweed, Dove's-foot Cranesbill and Buttercups. On the other side of the road amongst the Gorse, patches of red, pink and white Valerian are now in flower and I was told today that there were even a few Primroses in flower on the sloping bank in front of the newly built houses on the Banquage site a few weeks ago. It is unlikely that they were planted here and the seed may well have come in with the grass seed used by the States to sow this bank when it was evened off as the houses were finished a couple of years ago.

A solid line of white marked the large flowering heads of the Sea Kale in the shingle along Crabby beach just above HWM. It has certainly spread considerably in the two years since Ronez ceased to remove this shingle each year for road maintenance. A few feet further inland from the Kale, several plants of Silver Ragwort *Senecio cineraria*, were also in flower having also increased their numbers in this period. I saw my first Red Admiral Butterfly of the year on a Maderan Geranium in my garden. Its wings looked pretty tatty and it had probably been hibernating. Over the next couple of days several more smaller and fresher looking specimens were seen on the same plant, probably newly hatched.

10th May. A walk along the south cliffs and round Telegraph Bay was well worthwhile. A few Foxgloves were in flower, with a single white one. The cliff sides and top edges were a mass of pale yellow Prostrate Broom *Cytisus scoparius subsp. maritimus*, with a number of the flowering spikes of the parasitic Great Broomrape *Orobanche rapum-genistae* (photo on right), just poking up between many of the patches. This is another of our 'special' plants, not found at all in Guernsey, Sark or Herm, very local in Jersey, uncommon and in decline in Britain, but quite abundant over nearly a mile of cliffs in Alderney wherever the principal host plant is found. The Prostrate Broom itself is locally plentiful on parts of the cliffs in all three larger islands, but absent from Sark and Herm. Its presence in some quantity on the SW cliffs of Guernsey, makes the absence of the Great Broomrape there something of a mystery. In the bare almost vertical sandy bank below the Broom, at the top of Telegraph steps, several species of Burrowing Bees and/or Mining Wasps were busy round their holes in the sunshine.

12th May. I noticed for the first time, a complete line of Ox-eye Daisies in flower round the rim of York Hill Quarry, mainly on the seaward side. The Hoary Stocks also here are all mauve, with more plants in the turf on the grass verge just above the beach. Here the Bithynian Vetch *Vicia bithynica*, was flowering well on the cliff edge, its only site in the island and the colony, only about a metre wide from the edge of the cliff, has spread several metres along that edge in the last year or two. There was a big patch of Germander Speedwell a few metres away, plenty of Bird's-foot-trefoil and several large plants of Sea Carrot, the heads of which are generally quite a bright pink before the white flowers open.

15th May. Hottest day of the year so far, temperature reaching 22.2ºC for a short time in the late afternoon. Very little wind and low humidity (70%) at the same time. Along Platte Saline there was quite a lot of Great Quaking and Hare's-tail grasses *Briza maxima & Lagurus ovatus*, coming into flower and a large patch of

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Variegated Catchfly *Silene gallica var. quinquevulnera* (photo on right above), flowering close by, but in my garden, where it has probably seeded from a considerable quantity noted nearer the sea 2-3 years ago. The Hare's-tail in particular has spread widely across Platte Saline in the last few years varying in size from 7-10cm high with tiny flower heads on the dry, gritty, barer, areas over the old sandpit, to about 40 cm high with 5cm heads in the longer unmown grass near the German wall at the western end. Both have colonised my garden on the other side of the road from the dunes and the old, recently backfilled sand pit. A number of Small White butterflies and a single Blue were seen in the same area. The Tamarisks by Robin Rock and also by the hospital houses at Crabby were just coming into flower again.

16th May. The Green-winged Orchids on the bank by La Cachette at Longis are now almost over. They seemed less numerous than in some years at the other sites on Mannez Hill and the East coast this year. The Wild Gladiolus *Gladiolus communis subsp. byzantinus*, are just coming into flower near the Lighthouse, in small numbers at dozens of other sites and in considerable quantity along the top of the bank below the navigation beacon in Braye Road, (photo on left). At the same spot by the Lighthouse about half a dozen plants of Hairy Garlic *Allium hirsutum*, were in flower. More delicate than the Star-of- Bethlehem, the two are sometimes confused.

Most of the trees are now in full leaf, with the Sycamores just beginning to show their hanging 'catkins' of greenish flowers. Hawthorn, Elder, the few planted pink Horse Chestnuts, always 2-3 weeks later than the common variety and the single Pear-fruited Cockspur-thorn *Crataegus pedicillata* in the Old Churchyard, are now in flower. The leaves on the single Indian Horse-chestnut planted by the Queen in Connaught Square are just opening, now a delicate pale pinky-brown colour. These will gradually turn green by the time it flowers in 5-6 week time.

There were several Kestrels about in various parts of the island today. This is our commonest raptor and breeds freely. There seem to be far fewer Starlings than usual this year, but masses of "Little Brown Jobs", Pipits and Warblers, with several Chiff-Chaff/Willow Warblers in the garden for an hour or so.

Pendulous Sedge *Carex pendula* (photo on right), is in flower all down La Vallée, mostly alongside the stream and on Platte Saline, where a single plant of Rosy Garlic *Allium roseum subsp. bulbiferum* (photo on left), was in flower. On top of the high wall by the German Water Tower in Les Mouriaux, the Wallflowers *Erysimum cheiri*, long established on top of the high walls either side of the road here and the *Centaurea cineraria* a Mediterranean 'Hard head' species only noted for the first time in 1995 has spread somewhat along the wall below the tower. Both were flowering.

17th May. Spear Thistles and Slender Thistles, *Cirsium vulgare* & *Carduus tenuiflorus*, both present in considerable quantity in various parts of the island were just beginning to flower in the field behind the houses at Whitegates, all along to the Campsite. Tree Mallow *Malva sylvestris*, Snow-in-Summer *Cerastium tomentosum*, and Hedge Mustard *Sisymbrium officinale*, are also flowering, mostly as individual plants, on banks and verges in many parts of the island. Bird's-foot-trefoil is now flowering in quantity, brightening up many verges and, at Corblets Bay, forming a huge yellow

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carpet on the rough ground near the car park. A pair of Terns were swooping after each other a few yards offshore here.

At low tide a mass of green *Enteromorpha*, with a little Sea Lettuce *Ulva lactuca* and, coating the rocks, the dull purple of Laverbread *Porphyra umbilicalis*, was to be seen on several beaches, especially in Longis Bay. On the common here the usual large patches of Bastard Toadflax seem to be greatly reduced, whilst I could not find any Small Hare's-ear, but Eyebright was as abundant as usual and there were literally thousands of plants of Western Clover in flower, now that we had ceased to search particularly for it. A flock of Meadow Pipits was busy feeding nearby.

20th May. A Banded Carpet-moth flying in the garden in daylight.

23rd May. After only 9mm rain so far this month and looking set to be the 4th driest May since 1955, today, with the visit of 11 members of the Wild Flower Society whom I had agreed to guide round the cliffs to some of our rarer plants; thick mist, intermittent driving rain and winds to 40 knots greeted their arrival. All were well equipped for the weather and it was reasonably warm despite the wet. Botanising is a slow process, particularly when the botanists are unfamiliar with the area and are finding plants which are not too common in their home areas. The hunt was very successful with about 4 miles covered, well over 170 species recorded, mostly in flower and at least a dozen of the Alderney specials found flowering, most of which were new to all of the group, particularly the several rare plants near the site of the Spotted Rock-rose and at the top of Telegraph cliffs. There it was fortunate that the fierce wind was onshore from the SW or we could well have been blown over. At Val L'Emauve, in a flat patch of vegetation on top of the cliff edge we found a big patch of about 50 hens' eggs, all obviously pecked open and eaten raw. A few moments later the culprit revealed himself. A Raven was sitting on top of a rock on the other side of the valley and 'cra rked' at us all the time we were there and then as we traversed the valley side. He had probably stolen these from the free range hens kept in several aks above Trois Vaux valley about a mile away.

The path here is only a few inches wide, seems to have been little used recently and forced us to do a long traverse about half way up the steep valley side towards the old military road which crosses the valley higher up. The whole of this steep, rocky, east facing side was like a well planted rock garden with a wealth of colour from the many, mostly small, wild flowers there. After that, a steep descent down to the narrow stream in the valley bottom was made worth while by the sight of a Slowworm resting across the narrow path half way up the opposite, even steeper, side. It remained there whilst about half the party passed it before gliding slowly into the longer grass and vanishing In my previous experience with this legless lizard, Alderney's only indigenous reptile, they usually disappear rapidly when disturbed on a sunny day. I expect the cold damp grass had lowered his metabolism somewhat. It was refreshing too that the new views of an experienced group caused them to record several sites for some of our more common plants that I had not previously noted. The wind dropped quite a bit and the rain had stopped whilst we lunched by the Madonna Stone.

Another 1½ miles got us to La Blanche Fontaine and Barrackmaster's Lane with only a light shower and several more of the less common plants en route. I had arranged a coach to pick up the, by then weary, group for the last three sites to visit at Houmet Herbé, Corblets, Braye and Crabby Bays and take them back to Town afterwards. Their enthusiasm remained to the end and we had only actually had just over 3mm rain in the day. Disaster struck at the Airport however, where they were to get the 6.30 plane back to their hotel in Guernsey. We were in thick fog. The 5.30 plane from Southampton to Alderney was diverted first to Guernsey and then to Jersey where it did mange to land. All the Channel Island airports were then fogged in and flying was abandoned for the night. We managed to find them all beds in one guest house and next morning dawned bright and sunny so they got off about 8.30. They

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had been made very comfortable and given a good breakfast. Shortly after the plane left it rained heavily and we had another 11mm in the day with only the 1½ hours early sun.

One of the few drawbacks to living on our lovely island is the lack of any regular alternative to air transport when fog descends or fierce winds above 45mph prevent flying.

Over the next four days with alternating periods of torrential rain and long days of sunshine, as noted at the head of this month's report what had looked like being the 4th driest May in 45 years became the third wettest.

28th May. Saw my first Dragonfly of the season over our ponds, an Emperor. Young Greenfinches, Chaffinches and Blackbirds were in the garden now flying free from their nests in our bushes and the pair of Collared Doves seem to have a nest in the Cypress trees outside my study window.

29th May. In the Vallée des Gaudulons, near Telegraph Tower a solid mass of Lousewort made a brilliant pink carpet about 80m x 20m, with several smaller patches in the short turf areas of the middle of the valley. Several more small patches were amongst the Heather on the Tête de Judemarre about half a mile away.

The last two days of the month gave us another depression with light but cold winds with the wind chill factor of -2º about 7am and another 12.87mm rain on 30th, the temperature down to 7.2ºC around 4-5am on 31st, but rising to 17.7 later in the day with 10.7 hours sunshine.

Next month we are officially into Summer, so let us hope for a general improvement.

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An Alderney Nature Diary

June 2000

The Weather

Rainfall for the month was about half of the average, with significant amounts on only 3 days and none at all on 13 days. Total for the year to date was still slightly above average.

Sunshine just managed to reach the long term average with over 15 hours on 5 days, 6 other days with more than 10 hours, but none on 3 days. The total was 70 hours down on last year and the total for the year to date was 114 hours down on 1999 and 27 hours down on the average total. The best day, 25th, was only 0.07 hours less than the 1999 record for a June day. Fog was a large feature in the month almost bringing the Airport to a standstill on 5 days and causing delays on several others.

Barometric pressure, humidity and wind direction and speeds, were not significantly different from last year, with most of the wind coming from the SW bringing the mist and fog with it.

Day time temperatures were about average, with only 17th (25.7º) and 18th (26.5ºC [79.7ºF]) well above the average. Night temperatures however were generally well above the average.

Figures for comparison with June last year and the 20 year average

Year	**2000**	**1999**	**20-year average**
			1980-99
Rain mm.	24.79	65.4	45.8
Sun hrs.	233.95	303.18	230.9
Max. temp recorded °C	26.5	20.9	21.2
Min. temp recorded	8.0	8.9	8.3
Mean day temp	16.4	15.9	16.7
Mean night temp	14.4	13.3	11.5
Total rainfall, year to date, mm.	333.9	364	323.3
Total sunshine, year to date, hrs.	886.3	1025.5	913.3

The Diary

1st. June. Wall, Blue and Small White butterflies frequent in several places. A Mallard duck and three ducklings about a week old in the road by Robin Rock. Hairy Tare *Vicia hirsuta*, (photo on left below) now flowering in many hedges and banks, with the Common and "Narrow-leaved Vetches. A single large plant of Weld *Reseda luteola* (photo on left), in flower amongst a number of Broad-leaved and Curled Docks *Rumex obtusifolius* and *R. crispus* at the roadside, by the car park at Corblets Bay.

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Nearby, the single plant of Burnet Rose *Rosa pimpinellifolia*, first noted about 3 years ago and having suffered from verge mowing each year since, was just putting out new growth between the stones, near the bottom of the dry stone wall surrounding the grounds of the fort. Perhaps it will survive to flower this year. Giant Echium *Echium pininana* (photo on left below), spikes growing to 3-4m high over the last few weeks is now in flower in gardens and several odd "wild" spots all round the island. Russian Comfrey *Symphytum x uplandicum* (photo on right), is flowering in several fields and on hedgebanks and verges.

4th June. First Californian Poppies *Eschscholtzia californica*, of the year noted on a bank in Bluestone Hill.

5th June. Biting Stonecrop *Sedum acre*, together with Thrift *Armeria maritima*, and Eastern Gladiolus *Gladiolus communis* (picture in May diary), Bird's-foot-trefoil *Lotus corniculatus* and Valerian *Centranthus ruber*, in flower at the Arsenal and along the east coast. On Braye Common a large area of Pale Flax *Linum bienne*, in flower in the shorter grass where the old steam driven stone crusher used to stand in the 19th century.

On Longis Common I noticed a huge, low-domed, spread of Wild Privet *Ligustrum vulgare*, just behind the German sea wall near the central gun emplacement. I can't remember recording this before, although Wild Privet is not very common on Alderney but it must have been there for years. A large area of the common was pinky-brown with a forest of Red Fescue grass *Festuca rubra*. About 100 Starlings were congregated down by the Lighthouse. These seem much less common than usual this year.

12th June. The Wall Campanulas, *Campanula portenschlagiana* and *C. poscharskyana* the former with a funnel-shaped corolla and the latter with a star-shaped flower, are just opening on many old walls in Town and also in some garden rockeries.

Campanula portenschlagiana

Campanula poscharskyana

The track leading down to the Impôt quarry was also bright with mauve Viper's Buglos and Sheep's-bit *Jasione montana*, yellow Bird's-foot-trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*, Hop

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and Lesser Trefoils *Trifolium campestre & T. dubium*, Sea Radish *Raphanus raphanistrum subsp. maritimus* and Cat's-ear *Hypochoeris radicata*, the white of Ox-eye Daisies *Leucanthemum vulgare*, Sweet Alison *Lobularia maritima*, Cow Parsley *Anthriscus sylvestris* and several rather stunted bushes of Elder *Sambucus nigra*, with many species of grass and docks also flowering. Amongst these were the lovely pink heads of the first Pyramidal Orchids *Anacamptis pyramidalis*, I had seen this year. An hour or so later, more of these were noted along the roadside verges at Longis and Braye and scattered in the longer grass at both places. (By the end of the month many were noted in other places too, including the southern cliff path. It seems to be a very good year for this splendid little orchid). Large areas of Pink Campion were flowering all the way down the cliff side between the gate and the quarry, with a few plants of Tree Mallow *Lavatera arborea* and many plants of both Common Mallow *Malva sylvestris*, Spear, Creeping and Slender Thistles *Cirsium vulgare, C. arvense* and *Carduus tenuiflorus* on the bank above the roadway, adding to the pink and pinky-mauve carpet of colour here.

On Crabby beach there was a mass of Viper's Buglos *Echium vulgare*, in flower at one end. The Sea Kale *Crambe maritima*, now stretches along most of the edge of the coarse shingle, just above HWM and there are several plants of Silver Ragwort *Senecio cineraria*, and a couple of Hoary Mustard *Hirschfeldia incana*, clumps flowering amongst them. Large patches of Sea Holly *Eryngium maritimum*, Sea Sandwort *Honkenya peploides*, Sea Bindweed *Calystegia soldanella*, Creeping Cinquefoil *Potentilla reptans*, Restharrow *Ononis repens*, and various Docks, including Fiddle Dock *Rumex pulcher*. The Bithynian Vetch along the top of the low cliff round the bay, mentioned in the May Diary, has now finished flowering and is in fruit, but I noticed for the first time that it has spread down the bank almost to the beach about 20-30m south of the main colony.

Crabby Beach

Platte Saline was showing many more species in flower. Hoary Mustard, (a Mediterranean species uncommon in UK, but found in sandy areas in Alderney in considerable quantity), two plants of Fragrant Evening-primrose *Oenothera stricta*, with another in the cobbled gutter in Le Petit Val a few yards away. A small number of Common Poppy *Papaver*

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rhoeas, in the barer areas. Large numbers of (mainly small) plants of Hare's-tail *Lagurus ovatus*, in the bare ground recently bulldozed flat near the German walls at the western end, with more scattered in the grass all across the common area and Great Quaking-grass *Briza maxima*, here and there, especially on the raised banks near Fort Platte Saline. The line of the

Ladysmith stream running into the artificial pond from its culvert under the road and houses opposite was bright with Yellow Flag *Iris pseudacorus* (photo on left), spread greatly from a single planted clump, with several large patches of it beside the natural pond at the western end, fed by the Bonne Terre stream. At both these places Umbrella Sedge *Cyperus alternifolius*, has established itself and spread from some small pieces planted about 6 years ago. This native of Madagascar is occasionally grown as a house plant, standing in a dish of water, but, in our mild climate, reaches a metre or more in height outside and does well in garden ponds where it often seeds itself vigorously in the surrounding lawns. It also reproduces by viviparous plantlets formed amongst the circle of long narrow leaves produced at the top of the naked stem. These can be cut off and put into a pot where the soil is kept wet. The three large patches of Galingale *Cyperus longus*, in this pond have also spread, but much of the shallow open water has been colonised, whilst it was more or less dried up last summer, by Broad-leaved Docks, Amphibious Bistort *Persicaria amphibia*, Creeping Bent-grass *Agostis stolonifera*, Spear and Creeping Thistles, Nettles and Great Willowherb *Epilobium hirsutum*. A few plants of Greater Spearwort *Ranunculus lingua*, were about to flower amongst this thicker vegetation. The bank of the sandy track on the seaward side of the pond held many plants of Hoary Mustard, Hogweeed and a few Ox-eye Daisies, Slender Thistle and Hedge Mustard *Sisymbrium officinale*.

On the dryish area behind the dunes here, just east of the Vallée stream, 20-30 or more plants of Silver Ragwort are now well established, with plenty of Bird's-foot-trefoil, Rough, Knotted, Red & White Clovers, Common Broomrape *Orobanche minor* and Restharrow in the short turf around them. 3 or 4 Pyramidal Orchids were flowering close to the wall of the first bungalow This area used to be well endowed with them, but the occasional flooding of the stream through blockage by the roots of the rapidly expanding area of Great Willowherb, has considerably reduced the dry area favoured by the orchids. There is a small area of 2-3 dozen plants of the furry Mouse-ear Hawkweed *Pilosella officinarum* and hundreds of the tiny reddened plants of Sea Fern-grass *Catapodium marinum*.

On the dunes in front of the houses here, now built up to above the top of the German sea wall and permanently established, at a level now some 2-3m higher than that of the beach level below the wall 20 years ago, stabilised by considerable colonies of Sea Holly, Sea Bindweed, Sand Couch *Elytrigia juncea*, Hottentot or Kaffir Fig *Carpobrotus edulis*, both yellow and pink/puce forms and Rock Samphire *Crithmum maritimum*. Smaller areas of Sea Sandwort, Sea Spurge *Euphorbia paralias*, Sea Kale, Sea Beet, Sea Carrot, Sea Radish with some white flowered specimens, a little Cow Parsley, Silver Ragwort, seedlings of Yellow Horned-poppy *Glaucium flavum*, with a few plants already in flower, Common and Purple Broomrape, Yarrow *Achillea millefolium*, Cinquefoils *Potentilla spp.*, many grasses, various yellow Asteraceae family 'daisies', Docks, Kidney Vetch (Lady's Fingers) *Anthyllis vulneraria*, Bird's-foot -trefoil and other smaller vetch and clover species were noted, plus a variety of small numbers of plants of various 'garden escapes' from the houses opposite, mostly annuals or biennials, which rarely survive for more than a couple of years. The Sea Kale and Docks in particular were supporting large numbers of the Mediterranean Sandhill Snail *Theba pissana*.

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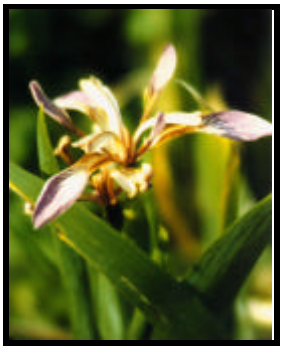
June 2000

At Braye the first mauve/pink flowers on the patches of our only colony of Rough Star-thistle *Centaurea aspera*, were just opening. This site was saved from development as part of the extension to the Golf Course a couple of years ago and the patches seem to have spread somewhat over the last five years or so, but are still all within about a 40-50m radius. Vetches were now abundant, both the more frequent Narrow-leaved Vetch *Vicia sativa subsp. nigra* its single coloured pink/purple flowers and the seed pods from which are black when ripe with dark brown seeds and the less frequent Common Vetch with 2 shaded flowers *V. sat. subsp. segetalis.* Hairy Tare *Vicia hirsuta* with its delicate straggling stems and fine leaves, was now bearing the tiny off-white flowers and 2-seeded pods, growing through long grass, brambles and other vegetation in many places. Many plants of Fennel *Foeniculum vulgare*, are now forming their pale green flower heads, none yet open and making the large patches of bright yellow seen here and in many other sites in a week or two. Sea Radish however is now setting seed and the amount of yellow, or less frequently white, flowers much reduced. Cut-leaved Geranium *Geranium dissectum* and the pink, turning white, heads of Sea Carrot *Daucus carotus subsp. maritimus*, are now in flower here and in many other places. Sea Beet is in seed all along the top of the low cliff above the beach.

The grassy triangle between Battery Quarry and the Lower Road now carries a mass of many of these plants, but the Pyramidal Orchids, formerly found in their hundreds on this area now seem to be reduced to a few dozen after mowing at the wrong times in the last 4-5 years. On the other hand, Wall Barley *Hordeum murinum*, not a very common sight a few years ago, is now to be seen in considerable quantity along most verges and mown banks and grassy patches, presumably spread by the mowers.



Small patches of Stinking Iris *Iris foetidissima* (photo on right), with their fairly inconspicuous pale mauve/brown flowers were noted on roadside banks in La Vallée, Longis Road, near Sharpe's Farm and around Mannez Quarry, as well as in the many damper spots where one usually expects to find them. Either side of the short grassy track up to the entrance to the Catholic Cemetery, suckering Hornbeam *Carpinus betulus*, trees were noted, the main, more easterly one, being quite a large specimen. As the only others I have ever noticed were planted in the Parish Churchyard many years ago, it seems likely that these too were planted at some time in the last 20-30 years. Nearby several planted Silver Birches *Betula pendula*, were just coming into catkin.

Altogether an interesting day's observations.

Amongst all the many flowers detailed above, large numbers of Butterflies have been seen this month all over the island. Several people have commented on their numbers this year. The number of species recorded is only the usual ones expected, but the quantity of each suggests a good year for these too.

Emperor Dragonflies *Anax imperator*, also seem plentiful, many pairs being seen, patrolling over ponds and pools, occasionally touching in mid air with an audible clash of their wings and the females soon after depositing eggs on vegetation stems just below the surface. One or two Damselflies have been seen, but in no quantity as yet.

13th June. Top of the island fogged-in all day, but quite a lot of sunshine down by the sea on the N & E sides of the island. Loud music from a considerable number of Larks singing up at the airport, despite the fog.

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16th June. After 4 days of almost continuous fog drifting in and out from sea level to the airport and very little flying the wind changed from SW to E around 10.30 am and the rest of the day was brilliant sunshine. At various places, mainly in verges near houses Purple Toadflax *Linaria purpurea*, presumably a garden escape, is now flowering. Some of these sites have now existed for several years. A walk round Platte Saline showed most of the plants detailed above on 12th June and, in the areas of old Battery Quarry spoil, not yet heavily colonised after the last tipping to fill the old sandpit a couple of years ago; a single plant of Weasel's Snout *Misopates orontium*, was noted. Common and Opium Poppies have also come from long buried seed in the spoil. Large patches of Rough Clover with small white axillary flower heads, with some Knotted Clover, similar in general appearance but with pink flower heads were scattered across these bare areas. Kidney Vetch, the several small yellow *Trifolium* species, the Hop Trefoil *T. campestre* being a particularly bright lemon-yellow here, Ribbed and Small Melilot *Melilotus officinalis* and *M. indicus*, a few scattered plants.

Down Bluestone Hill, the big bushes of Everlasting Flower *Helichrysum petiolare*, are just coming into flower. Some quite small plants in the verge are again in danger from the mower, but will almost certainly, as usual, sprout again afterwards. A mass of Common Poppies are flowering in the tipped soil in the garden below the road level at the bottom of the hill and another large stand of these has appeared in the verge by the football pitch where a cable trench was dug last winter and back filled.

Beside the road round Longis Common, large pink patches of Dodder *Cuscuta epithymum*, are growing flat on the ground as usual, parasitic on the Thyme. In Alderney this seems very rarely to grow on its usual host, Gorse, and one wonders if there is not perhaps some subspecies involved here. It is not yet in flower, but several of the Thyme patches were. A mass of Pyramidal Orchids is mixed with the large patches of Eyebright *Euphrasia spp.*, in the same area. There are at least six or seven species of Eyebright recorded in Alderney over the last 160 years but, for lack of a local expert to identify them individually, they have not been closely examined for more than 40 years and I usually record them all under "aggregate". Western Clover is still in flower here, now accompanied by the much larger, more widespread, White Clover. Another hatch of Blue butterflies, apparently both Small Blue and Common Blue, were busy round the flowers, with a small number of Small Copper butterflies also seen here. On the other side of the road, a large area of very short turf with a lot of Sea Fern-grass and barish soil now holds hundreds of plants of Bastard Toadflax with a number just beginning to flower. This is one of its established sites, but where I could not find any a few weeks ago. Clumps of pale yellow-green Yellow Oat-grass *Trisetum flavescens*, Silvery Hairgrass (photo on right), and a big spread of Pyramidal Orchids In a small hollow in the path, about 4-5m across but only about 10-15cm deep here, several score plants of Yellow Bartsia *Parentucellia viscosa* were in flower. 50m or so back along this path towards the Nunnery another of the usual patches of Bastard Toadflax has spread further into the shorter surrounding grass, several of the minute plants of Small Hare's-ear *Bupleurum baldense* (photo on left), usually found nearby were there at last, about a hundred plants in an area about 1m square and another 50+ plants a few metres further on. I was sure it had gone from here, as I couldn't find it last year, or earlier this year. A few plants of Pale Flax, dozens of plants of the small and rare (elsewhere than Alderney), Smooth Cat's-ear *Hypochoeris glabra*, and hundreds of plants of Common Centaury and Biting Stonecrop were also

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scattered along the edges of the path over about 20m with a few well grown plants of Hairy Rock-cress *Arabis hirsuta*, which I haven't noted for a long time. Several Wall butterflies and the first Glanville Fritillary I have seen this year, with five or six more seen over the next few yards, single Painted Lady and Green-veined White butterflies, a Banded Carpet moth and a Seven-spot Burnet moth. The well trodden surface of this path is now thick with the short rigid stems of Crested Dog's-tail grass *Cynosurus cristatus*, with tiny plants of Sand Cat's-tail *Phleum arenarium* at the untrodden edges. Scarlet Pimpernel and Lady's Bedstraw *Galium verum*, was just coming into flower in many places on the common and more interestingly perhaps, the latter seen in considerable quantity on top of an old, 2-3m high, stone wall along the Longis Road, where it runs parallel with La Corvée much nearer town and also growing out of interstices in the mortared wall of the Alderney Pottery.

Large plants of yellow flowered Sea Radish, with only a few white flowered plants and masses of Sea Carrot, Hogweed and Hoary Mustard, Sand Couch and other coarse grasses were flowering over the common generally, with Common Reed *Phragmites australis*, in a broad band surrounding the outside of the pond. There are many of the smaller Hawkbits and Hawkweeds and a wide range of Fabaceae (Pea-flowered plants such as Vetches, Trefoils, Medicks and Clovers) in the less dense vegetation.

June and July are always our best months for the numbers of wild flowers with around 400 species found blooming in each month in most years. Lack of cultivation or grazing in many parts helps to keep the numbers up in any given spot for a few years, but the natural progression to scrub in completely untended areas, gradually allows coarse grasses followed by brambles, bracken, ivy and gorse and, to a lesser extent, in low coastal parts and around the old forts, Hottentot Fig, to suppress the underlying vegetation.

In a small island, with a population of just over 2,000, where the high costs of transport to bring in stock, seed and fertilisers and export produce or surpluses, make agriculture unprofitable as a business and uneconomic for young people to take up as an occupation. The traditional involvement of a high proportion of the people of Alderney with agriculture/horticulture, at least for their own family consumption if not as a commercial venture, lead, before the Second World War, to a mainly subsistence farming level with low incomes and few luxuries for many islanders. Today's society demands much higher standards of living generally, with all the modern vehicles, equipment and home appliances and a more varied range of meat, dairy products, vegetables and fruit for home consumption, than can be produced or grown here. Young people by and large are not interested in the, relatively poorly paid, hard and often dirty, work associated with farming.

Progress has its price to pay and the ecology of the countryside suffers as a result.

18th June. A walk along the East coast on what turned out to be the hottest day of the year so far, reaching 26.5º around teatime, with light winds and over 15 hours sunshine, held few surprises, but some interesting observations. Starting from Fort Quesnard, the small depressed area just below the track, regularly flooded or damp in winter and dry in summer is the first recorded site of the Sand Quillwort *Isoetes histrix*, a primitive spore-bearing plant the only sign of which on the surface is a small rosette of curved, bright shiny dark-green 'leaves' which turn olive-brown about now and are easier to spot amongst the, not too dissimilar looking, rosettes of leaves of Autumn Squill and tiny plants of Buck's-horn Plantain found in

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the same area. As noted earlier in the year this was plentiful and, a few yards away a good stand of Yellow Bartsia *Parentucellia viscosa* (photo on right), mostly about 20cm high and in full flower. Several Speckled Wood butterflies were flitting around the site. We have not had any significant rain this month so far, but the spot was still quite damp, probably a result of the unusually heavy rain in May.

Further on near Fort Houmet Herbé a good quantity of Alderney Sea-lavender *Limonium normannicum* and Rock Sea-lavender *L. binervosum*, was to be found, accompanied by a few plants of Sea Aster *Aster tripolium*, in the usual spots on the beach and in the splash zone, none in flower yet. The small colony of Sea Milkwort *Glaux maritima*, in the inland facing crevices between layers of the sandstone was just in flower and seems to have spread a few yards further around.

Above the rim of Berry's Quarry near Sharpe's Farm a few plants of Hairy Rock-cress and a small colony of Mouse-ear Hawkweed *Pilosella officinarum*, pale green, silver-furry leaves, runners, a hairy stem and bright red backs to the flower rays were noted. This attractive small plant can be found in a considerable number of places, but generally only as single plants or in small groups. The Daisies here seem very much smaller than average with very narrow petals and the yellow button in the centre only 2-3mm across. Bird's-foot-trefoil, Kidney Vetch and Thyme are quite abundant around, with several patches of the much tinier Hairy Bird's-foot-trefoil *Lotus subbiflorus*, rosettes of Carline Thistle *Carlina vulgaris* (photo on left), (with a single dried plant from last year) and Smooth Cat's-ear, were scattered about and a single Pyramidal Orchid. In the shorter turf and barer patches, tiny Heath Pearlwort *Sagina subulata*, with its single flowers on long hairlike stems made an attractive carpet. In the quarry pool below, the water looks well over a metre deep, unusual at this time of year, but also probably resulting from the heavy rain in May. There was a small quantity of Duckweed, probably *Lemna minor*, floating on the surface but I did not go down to check the species.

A large stand of Common Poppy has appeared along the verge near the football pitch where Alderney Electricity dug a trench to put the cables underground last year. The germination of long buried Poppy seed is quite a common occurrence when the ground is next disturbed. The Greenpeace flagship was in Braye Bay this afternoon, anchored for a day or two, whilst further investigating the discharge of radioactive waste from the undersea pipe at the French Cap de la Hague Nuclear Reprocessing plant, about 9 miles away across The Race.

21st June. A few large clumps of Stinking Iris were noted flowering under trees on the steep bank running up La Vallée. It is quite common elsewhere in the island, usually favouring dampish spots. Its handsome but not very conspicuous pale mauve/brown flowers will soon be replaced by large pale green seed pods, opening in the autumn to reveal very conspicuous bright orange seeds, which usually persist throughout the winter.

The remainder of the month brought few surprises, the increased amounts of the more common plants, most of which have already been mentioned above, produced carpets of colour in most of the unmown areas of the island. Pyramidal Orchids were reported to me from several places, where the observers had not noticed them before and it has certainly been an extremely good year for them. Butterflies have been abundant.

New sites were recorded for several less common plants. In the last two days of the month I received calls from four people asking me to identify plants they had seen. Three were

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in their gardens and were all plants that they had never seen there before, in two cases from very long term residents. One 93 year old gentleman with a large vegetable garden in the centre of Town which he has been unable to cultivate for the last few years, found a patch of what turned out to be Dragon Arum *Dracunculus vulgaris*, 4-5 feet high with several of the large purple spathes and almost black spadices making a brilliant show almost hidden by overgrown brambles. The stems are mottled with large mauve spots. He swore that he had never seen this in his garden in more than 80 years. The same day, another call from a house near the sea, turned out to be an even large patch of the same plant. I have it in my own garden, where it appeared spontaneously about eight years ago and has since produced seedlings in a flower pot left standing round the corner of the house, outside my conservatory door. The third garden plant was under the edge of a hedge, in a large garden surrounded by high walls, owned by a lady for over 40 years. This turned out to be a good sized plant of Bear's-breech *Acanthus mollis*, with a single 1.5m flower stem. This is commonly grown in gardens and self seeds regularly, but was the first time she had everseen the plant. I have not included it in our "wild flower" list as I have never seen it outside truly "in the wild".

The fourth was a more interesting and unaccountable find. Phacelia *Phacelia tanacetifolia*, an annual of the Hydrophyllaceae family, closely related to the Boraginaceae or Forget-me-not family. (Photo on right). A single well-grown plant at the side of a recently cut path through a very large area of bracken and scrub on the Côtil du Val, overlooking Braye Bay. This large hillside area has been untended for very many years and the present owner has just mown a series of 3m wide tracks through the bracken.

The plant originates from California and has been planted in some places for bees, (if but rarely elsewhere in the British Isles and probably only once in Alderney) and on the continent occasionally, as a fodder crop. A very small field of this was planted along Le Grand Val, some 2 miles away, by a bee keeper, about 5-6 years ago and the field was sprayed with weed killer and reseeded with grass after a couple of years. I failed to find any remaining plants there a few weeks ago. Two years ago I found a few plants self seeded on recently tipped soil, beside the track, just above the low cliff in Clonque Bay, about a mile from this field in the opposite direction. The soil had come from steep land, excavated from behind the cottage for an extension and it is possible that this had once been cultivated as a vegetable patch, but the source of these plants and the newly found one is unknown. Further down the hillside, beside one of these newly cut swathes, a single well grown bush of Tutsan *Hypericum androsaemum*, was in both flower and fruit. It was also noticeable that there were at least a twenty well grown plants of Buddleia *Buddleja davidii*, standing out above the bracken and bramble over an area 3-400m in each direction. Below and to the west of this hillside lies the lower part of Val Reuters with the only Ash wood in the island on the steep slope between the two and a number of 2-3m high Ash seedlings noted among the bracken nearest the wood. There were also more than a dozen well grown bushes of Dog Rose *Rosa canina*, in the same area, rising above the bracken and in full flower.

Round the Trig Point at the top of this hillside, a narrow, longer established, path was bordered by dozens of Pyramidal Orchids, some of them with very large inflorescences.(Photo on left).

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Bird report

These records were collated by Jeremy Sanders and have been condensed from his report in the Alderney Journal.

Most of the resident birds have been busy feeding young, House Martins have nested in Le Banquage and at St. Martin's. Cuckoos have laid in Meadow Pipit and Reed Warbler nests on Longis Common. The Gannet colonies have done well, increasing their numbers on Les Etacs and almost reaching its maximum capacity on Ortac, with a few Guillemots there also. Puffins on Burhou seem to be in about the same numbers as last year. Fulmars have increased in numbers on the cliffs, especially in the most westerly inlet at Hannaine Bay. Jackdaw numbers are now about 50, a good increase and our last remaining pair of Ravens have raised two young at a new site. The former nesting sites of our five or six pairs having been greatly disturbed by the building works at Quatre Vents and seem to have been abandoned.

Visiting birds nesting here include Swallows (it is my impression that there are considerably fewer than usual and that Starlings, both resident and visiting, are also less numerous this year) and Ringed Plover.

Migrants seen include a few Dunlin and Bar-tailed Godwits, a Marsh Harrier, a Dottrel and a Hoopoe.

Gannets nesting on Ortac 23rd June 1999

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Alderney Nature Diary

July 2000

The Weather

No records were broken this month. Winds were mainly from the SW for 3 weeks and from the E for a week from 20-26th. Maximum, minimum and average speeds were similar to last year. Humidity at Platte Saline was high throughout the month.

Temperatures were about average, with nights being cooler than last year, but warmer than average. The highest temperature, 23.9ºC (75ºF), was reached on the last day of the month with a total of 8 days reaching 20ºC or above.

Rainfall was almost totally received on 3 days with the night of 23/24th having a total of 28.7mm (1.13in.). The month's total was 12mm above long term average, but nine times that of last July. The total for the year to date being somewhat above both 1999 and the 20 year average.

Despite only one day with no sunshine recorded at all, there were several days with fog for much of the day and 8 days with more than 12 hours sunshine, including 4 days with over 15 hours. The total was 41 hours below last July and 10 hours below the long term average for the month, whilst the total sunshine for the year to date was almost 200 hours less than in 1999 and 40 hours below the long term total.

Figures for comparison with July last year and the 20 year average.

Year	**2000**	**1999**	**20-year average**
			1980-99
Rain mm.	46.66	5.33	38.3
Sun hrs.	232.69	283.81	242.8
Max. temp recorded °C	23.9	23.3	22.4
Min. temp recorded	9.2	12.1	10.3
Mean day temp	17.3	18.3	18.8
Mean night temp	15.3	16.1	13.8
Total rainfall, year to date, mm.	380.5	369.23	361.6
Total sunshine, year to date, hrs.	1119.0	1309.2	1156.5

The Diary

1st July. Masses of Pyramidal Orchids were now flowering in Braye Road near the Navigation lights, on Côtil du Val, at Crabby Bay, on the commons, cliff paths, etc. A whole range of yellow flowered plants, Ragwort, Hawkweeds, Hawkbits, Hawk's-beards , Pineapple-weed (*Matricaria discoidea*), Common Fleabane (*Pulicaria dysenterica*), Dandelions of many types, Perennial, Smooth & Prickly Sow-thistles (*Sonchus arvensis, S. oleraceus* & *S. asper*), Bristly, Hawkweed and Druce's Oxtongues (*Picris echioides, P. hieracoides* & *P. hieracoides*

var. incana, photo on left), Cat's-ear and Smooth Cat's-ear, Hoary Mustard, Wild and Sea Radish, Wall Rocket (*Diplotaxis tenuifolia*, photo on right), several Buttercup species, Large-flowered and Fragrant Evening-primrose (*Oenothera glazioviana* & *O. stricta*).

The large white trumpets of the Bellbines, (Hedge & Large Bindweed, *Calystegia sepium* & *c. silvatica*) were gracing the hedges and scrub, with the closely related Field Bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis*), on most verges, banks and dune areas, varying in colour from almost white, through several pink striped forms, to quite a dark pink with only narrow bands of white. Sea Bindweed (*Calystegia soldanella*, photo on right), looking like a large fleshy form of Field Bindweed is plentiful on dunes at Longis, Crabby and Platte Saline bays. Sea Kale, frequent above HWM at Platte Saline and Crabby Bays, with a few plants at Longis Bay and Sea Beet, common near the sea all round the island, were both in seed, whilst the several "garden escape" domestic roses out in the wild, white Alberic Barbier and pink Dorothy Perkins at Platte Saline, Dorothy Perkins at Blue Bridge and red American Pillar at * were all in bloom.

There were a lot of butterflies about today; Common Blue, Wall, Speckled Wood, Small White, Peacock, the first Glanville Fritillaries of the season (photo on left) and Emperor Dragonflies were all seen.

2nd July. The Myrtle (*Myrtus ugni* photo on right below) was in flower at its only known site, on the east coast, whilst a large patch of Chicory (*Cichorium intybus*), on recently spread soil just above the low cliff opposite the Clonque cottage proved, somewhat disappointingly on investigation, to have come from a packet of "Wild flower seed" scattered last year by the owners of the cottage. The large number of Common Poppies seen here last year and again now, evidently came from the same packet. Giant Echium is now about 2m high in many gardens and selfsown in a few places in fields and on verges.

6th July. Several Gatekeeper butterflies came right into my conservatory and even into the house, again the first of the season and somewhat further west than any seen in earlier years. First recorded in the island about 5 years ago on the east coast by my wife and I, these have become earlier, more frequent and widespread since. During the later part of the month, several more were noted along the verge up Tourgis Hill about 200m further west still. more Emperor Dragonflies and several pairs of Blue-tailed Damselflies noted in the garden round the ponds with one pair of damselflies apparently mating on a white shirt on the washing line. When disturbed they took off, still coupled.(Photo at end of this report).

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July 2000

7th July. Ragwort now fully in flower in many places. The field below the Fort Albert glacis right up to the campsite is almost solid with it, despite being rented from the States last year by the Golf Club, for an extension to the course and on their promise to keep the land in better order than the States had previously done. The plant certainly adds a mass of brilliant colour to the landscape (photo on left) and is the food plant of several butterflies and moths, but, having been on the *Mauvaises Herbes* (Noxious Weeds) list since 1933, it is supposed to be illegal to have on your land in flower or seed. As the worst culprits have long been the States themselves, they can hardly prosecute private landowners or their own tenants for failing to eliminate it. It has spread vastly over the last five or six years, in many cases through being mown either before, or whilst in flower and, because of the unfortunate ability of many Asteraceae (Daisy family plants) to fertilise themselves even before the flowers open, if left lying and not removed immediately and burnt, the drying/dying plants produce masses of viable windblown seeds. Shunned by cattle and horses grazing the fields when growing, (although eaten by sheep apparently without ill effects) once dried on the ground it is sometimes eaten by them and, if the field is cut for hay before the Ragwort is removed, cattle and calves will later eat the hay, sometimes with fatal results from the alkaloids it contains.

The Indian Chestnut (*Aesculus indica*) (photo on right) planted in Connaught Square by the Queen many years ago, has just come into flower (and in fact remained in flower well into August). Lucerne (*Medicago sativa*) in many shades of pink, blue and purple, from almost white to nearly black, is to be seen flowering in many verges, field margins, etc.

9th July. Small patches of Rose-Bay Willowherb (*Chamerion angustifolium*), not very common in Alderney, are in flower under the old Cypress trees near Battery Crossing, amongst bracken and gorse along the track to Fort Clonque and in a small corner of a field above the track to St. Vignalis' Garden. Fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*) is just coming into flower almost everywhere on the sandy soils. By the end of the month fields and commons will be bright yellow with its flowering heads, above the aniseed-scented, finely dissected foliage, some plants reaching almost 2m in height.

13th July. *Centaurea cineraria*, a sort of 'Hardhead' (or Knapweed), native of Italy, two plants first noted four or five years ago along the top of a high wall below the German water tower in Les Mouriaux, has spread here and there are now more than a dozen plants flowering on top of the wall (photo on right).

17th July. Huge purple patches of Wild Thyme in flower amongst the short turf on Longis common, round Mannez Quarry and several other grassy areas. The several very large shrubs of Everlasting Flower (*Helichrysum petiolare* photo on left below) on the bank of Hawthorn, Elder and Bramble scrub on Bluestone Hill are now covered in dusty, dark yellow-brown, blooms with many younger plants struggling for survival in the mown road margins.

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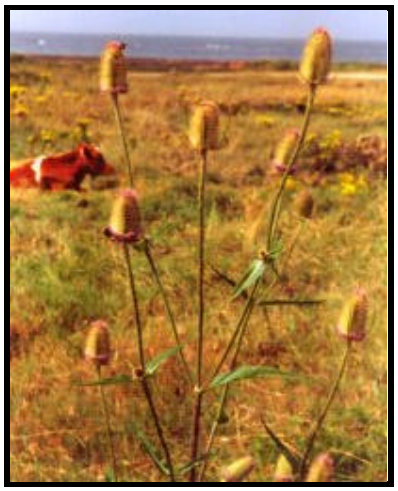
This escaped from the garden below the road level opposite many years ago and some of the bushes are now 5-6m across.

19th July. The east end of Braye meadow mown for hay. With very little rain on most days this month the crop was dried, baled and removed, all in the dry by 22nd.

21st July. Greater Knapweed (*Centaurea scabiosa* photo on right below), the largest and least common of Alderney's Knapweeds is now flowering with a few plants in each of several spots, by the entrance to the Arsenal, at the bottom of Butes Lane, etc. Great Willowherb (*Epilobium hirsutum*), a very handsome moisture-loving plant usually about 1.5m tall is now giving broad bands of white centred mauve-pink flowers all round Platte Saline pond, in Mannez Quarry, along the Chemin du Meunier, in gutters here and there and in many other damp places. A good crop of Wild Teasels (*Dipsacus fullonum* photo on left below) is flowering on the verge opposite the junction of this road and La Marette. Teasels have been frequent within about 100m of this spot at opposite ends of the same field, for some years, probably escaped from nearby gardens. A small vegetable patch nearby has a few self sown Globe Artichokes (*Cynara scolymus*) growing up to 2m tall with many very small (for the species), extremely spiny (and almost certainly inedible) flowering heads.



23rd July. Quite a lot of Earthballs (*Scleroderma verrucosum* photo on right below), in the garden again this year. Emerging from the turf under some trees, 5-8cm in diameter, their thin dry pale brown coats cover a mass of almost black spores, which puff out from a split in the coat when ripe. These seem to be quite common in my garden and the one next door, (and are still appearing in November), but I have never noticed them elsewhere. All the houses here were built in what was a large pasture until the 1960s and 70s, and had formed part of the German slave camp, Lager Helgoland, during the war. According to one of the Russian slaves whom Jean and I traced and got back to Alderney for a holiday in 1990, our house is built just where the German hut where their "tarts" lived stood. We wondered whether to put a red light at the gate after he told us this story. Two or three years later, in excavating a hole for my fish pond, I came across a well built gravel path about 4ft wide, a foot or so below the surface, presumably leading across the camp to the door of the hut. Over an inch of rain overnight with a spectacular electrical storm.

25th July. Bell-heather (*Erica cinerea*), flowering all round the outside walls of Fort Tourgis, especially along the track to Clonque and in a few spots along the road from the fort to the airport. A surprise in the verge here was a small patch of Eyebright (*Euphrasia spp.*).

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Reaching almost the top of the rise towards the airport a field on the seaward side has a small clump of New Zealand Flax (*Phormium tenax* photo on right below), on top of a small German bunker in the bank between two fields. I first noticed it about 12 years ago and haven't seen it for the last 2-3 years, but it now has a single flowering spike towering nearly 3m into the sky. The hillside down the Zig-Zag was brilliant with its rosy-purple flowers and a small number of Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*), showing spikes of tiny pale mauve flowers amongst them. The small scattered colony of Slender St. John's-wort (*Hypericum pulchrum* photo on left below), a delicate 5-petalled yellow flower, on the bank down one of the legs of the Zig-Zag was almost obscured by the surrounding vegetation, which included long lines of yellow-flowered Leafy Hawkweed (*Hieracium umbellatum*), whilst many small mounds of the delicate 4-petalled, Maltese Cross-shaped flowers of Tormentil (*Potentilla erecta*), one of the few 4-petalled members of the Rose family, peeped out between the two heathers and along the sides of the track. A few more Glanville Fritillary butterflies were seen along thistrackway, one of their more usual haunts and also about half a dozen Gatekeepers.

Returning along the track past Blue Bridge, the Hedge Fuchsia (*Fuchsia magellanica*) just above the Vau Pommier stream was covered in blossom and the Dorothy Perkins Rose mixed up with it was also flowering. A large patch of Common Horsetail (*Equisetum arvense*), is regularly to be found where a small spring drips water onto the trackway here. In the little quarry along this track Montbretia (*Crocosmia x crocosmiflora*) was making a brave show of orange, with a smaller patch of Tutsan (*Hypericum androsaemum*), behind it. The clump of Galingale (*Cyperus longus*) here, one of only 3 or 4 sites in the island, is just coming into flower. It hasn't spread much in the last ten years. The Marsh Thistles and Ragged Robin which were earlier giving a grand patch of tall, coarse spiny leaves with dark mauve flowers and delicate short waving pinky-white flowers respectively, are now both in seed and drying up. The large patch of Chicory opposite the cottage was still bearing a mass of heavenly blue flowers and was surrounded by a forest of Common and Opium Poppies, Ox-eye Daisies and Scentless Mayweed. Reaching Platte Saline again, Square-stemmed St. John's-wort (*Hypericum tetrapterum*) was noted near the pond. more Blue-tailed Damselflies here.

27th July. Hen Pheasant and five recently hatched young in the road to the Impôt, just by the junction with Longis Road. A male Pheasant has been walking across our garden most evenings for the last couple of weeks.

29th July. Quite a surprise this evening, a hen Pheasant and five well grown young came out of the shrubbery in the garden and started pecking round the lawn. From the markings it looked like 2 male and 3 female young. Came back again the next night for a few minutes.

31st July. Magpie Moth (photo on left) on the bedroom window. First I've seen this year. The yellow, *Buddleja x weyeriana* (photo below with parents) in the garden, a cross between the ordinary mauve Buddleia *B. davidii* and the

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Orange-ball Tree *B. globosa* has just come into flower and is already attracting its usual quota of butterflies and moths. Red Admirals, Small and Cabbage Whites, Peacocks, etc. Haven't seen any Small Tortoiseshells yet this year, they seem to have got very scarce lately.

Buddleja x weyeriana (centre) with parents *B. globosa* (l) & *B. davidii* (r)

Giant Echium (*Echium pininana*) in a field overlooking Crabby Bay and Fort Grosnez

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Alderney Nature Diary

August 2000

The Weather

Up to the 26th, August looked set to be the 3rd driest since 1955. Apart from 2 days, the majority of the precipitation recorded having been dew. The widespread thunderstorms and flooding in UK, with 6 inches of hail recorded in Hull on one day and more than 2 inches of rain in 24 hours in several places, had also been forecast for the Channel Islands on several days, but not received in Alderney. The most rain in one day was 2.31mm, with only 3 other days exceeding 1mm. Brief showers on two days in the last week still left the total as the 6th lowest amount since 1955, with only 20% of the long term average for August.

Despite a number of very dull days and some fog, sunshine total for the month was 50 hours up on last year and 21 hours above the 20-year average. There were no totally sunless days. Both rainfall and sunshine totals for the year to date were well below last year and also slightly below the long term averages. Night-time and daily average temperatures were both higher than usual for August.

Overall wind directions and speeds were similar to last year but the highest recorded gust of 30 knots was well below 1999 level of 42 knots. Humidity and barometric pressures were generally slightly higher than in 1999.

Figures for comparison with August last year and the 20 year average

Year	**2000**	**1999**	**20-year average**
			1980-99
Rain mm.	8.77	100.17	41.8
Sun hrs.	251.76	200.41	229.9
Max. temp recorded °C	23.0	22.1	23.4
Min. temp recorded	11.4	12.1	11.2
Mean day temp	18.7	18.2	19.3
Mean night temp	16.8	16.5	14.4
Total rainfall, year to date, mm.	389.3	469.5	403.4
Total sunshine, year to date, hrs.	1370.8	1509.7	1386.4

The Diary

1st August. First Jersey Tiger moth of the season in the garden. These insects seem very people oriented and, once they arrive, seem to hang around near the house entrances and fly close to you whenever you step outside the door, even brushing your hair or face on occasions. A long term resident who has spent more than 40 years observing and recording Alderney wildlife made a similar remark to me a few days later, without any prompting. Over the next week or so as many as five were in the garden at the same time.

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5th August. A considerable amount of Great Willowherb (*Epilobium hirsutum*) now in flower. For a plant which prefers damp conditions there were surprisingly large clumps alongside the track leading up Mannez Hill to "The Odeon", basically a dry sandy area and scattered in many other damper sites round the island. Restharrow (*Ononis repens*) now widespread on the sandy shorter turf areas, in some places making a pink and white carpet over several yards. Quite a lot of water still in Mannez pond and also in Le Mar du Roe (Longis pond). The unusually wet July obviously contributing to this.

9th August. Cyclamen (*Cyclamen hederifolium*) flowering in the verge near Courtil Cartier (only 2 tiny flowers) and also in some quantity under bracken along the East coast. No leaves showing on them at this time of year.

10th August. Russian Vine (*Fallopia baldschuanica*) in flower in Basse Picaterre and elsewhere.

15th August. A Grey Long-eared Bat found in a room in the Old Presbytery, apparently entering overnight through the open conservatory window. Taken to the animal welfare it did not appear to be injured, but died the next day. These are now rare in UK and have always been very rare in Alderney. A few days later two Pipistrelles, usually the only bat recorded in Alderney, were hunting insects over my swimming pool late in the evening.

Everlasting Peas, one plant each of *Lathyrus grandiflorus* and *L. latifolius* growing on the lower cliff face in The Cut, the latter with much paler brighter pink flowers than the other and a single plant of this species along the track leading from Braye Bay up to Corporation Quarry. A single plant of Common Pigweed (*Amaranthus retroflexus*) was noted on the railway track by the level crossing at the back of the school.

20th August. Two Clouded Yellow butterflies and two Wheatears on Platte Saline where there is a magnificent show of purple Common Mallow (*Malva sylvestris*) and Hare's-tail Grass (*Lagurus ovatus*) in flower, together with several plants of Mugwort (*Artemesia vulgaris*) and Wormwood (*A. absinthum*). These last two and the former large patch of Tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare*) on Platte Saline, none of them common in Alderney, have been mowed almost out of existence over the last 3-4 years and I found none last year. Today there were seven flowering stems of Tansy close together and several scattered small plants of the other two, emerging from their surviving perennial rootstocks but, before I could protect them with stakes, the whole common was mown off by the States early the next morning !!!! It seems that nature cannot defeat our totally environmentally unaware States passion for keeping open grassy areas "tidy", whilst allowing huge areas of noxious weeds like Ragwort and Hogweed to flourish, however hard the local naturalists try.

Over the next few days more sightings of Clouded Yellows in several parts of the island, Albert Glacis, Longis Common and, along the East coast, where there were about a dozen over a few yards of pathway.

21st August. A single plant of Green Bristle-grass (*Setaria viridis*) (photo on right) with two flowering stems (the first record for Alderney) and about 8-10 plants of Apple of Peru (*Nicandra physalodes*), have come into flower in my garden where I dug out some old shrubs a couple of months ago (photo on left).

Brown Argus butterflies were in the garden and four Emperor Dragonflies (*Anax emperator*) were circling the area at the same time. Blue-tailed Damselflies (*Ischnura elegans*) have been frequent throughout the month, often several seen together.

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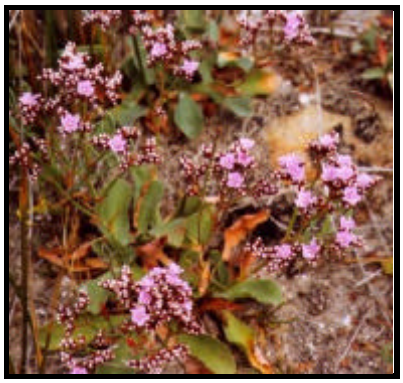
August 2000

A visit from Jersey BSBI joint botanical recorder, Margaret Long, also produced a first record for Guernsey Fleabane (*Conyza sumatrensis*) (photo on right), apparently now quite frequent here and probably overlooked by myself and other botanists, assumed to be the more common Canadian Fleabane (*C. canadensis*) (photo on left below), which is locally frequent. The new species has greyer, hairier stems, greyer foliage and the leaf margins have many hooked hairs <0.5mm. instead of sparse straight marginal hairs >1.0mm. Margaret also reported Tansy from Braye Common and brought a dried specimen of *Gaura Lindheimeri*, a member of the Onagraceae or Willowherb family, which she collected by the streamside near the old Watermill in 1975. The plant persisted there for 3 or 4 years but has not been recorded since.

22nd August. The first Silver-Y moth of the season seen, with many more over the next few days.

24th August. A Small Tortoiseshell butterfly came into the conservatory and settled for several minutes. This once common butterfly seems to have become rare in our garden over the last two-three years and this is the first I have seen here this year. It also now seems less common around the island generally. Later that day more Clouded Yellows, several Small Whites and a number of Common Blue butterflies seen at Houmet Herbé. The Small Whites seem to be common this year, but we have only noted a very few Large Whites. The Sea Lavenders have spread a little more and many have almost finished flowering now. Alderney Sea-lavender (*Limonium normannicum*) (photo on right below), is much more compact, with larger flowers, the leaves are usually spathulate and red edged or tinted with 3, 5 or 7 veins showing. The taller Rock Sea-lavender (*L. binervosum*) (photo on left below), generally has narrow obovate to lanceolate, 1-3 veined green leaves and a larger, more open inflorescence, the individual flowers of which are usually smaller.



There was no sign of our small colony of Sea Aster (*Aster tripolium*) yet. Last year these were few in number and not obvious until well into September. The Sea-milkwort (*Glaux maritima*) colony found in the crevices between layers of sandstone on this headland seem to have spread considerably into the flattened outcrops on the beach here.

The Garden (Flat-leaved) Parsley (*Petroselinum crispum*), growing for many years down the footpath leading down to Houmet Herbé was in both flower and seed.

At the other end of the island, the Gannet colony on Les Etacs, the Garden Rocks, has spread considerably and is now occupying even the lowest of the stacks, projecting barely 7-10m above the sea at high water. In the first inlet of Hannaine Bay here, the Fulmar colony still had two pairs apparently sitting on the cliff ledges and several dark-winged youngsters were gliding and circling below them. Bittersweet (Woody Nightshade), (*Solanum dulcamara*)

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is still flowering amongst the brambles. The dry weather, with only4mm rain so far this month, has left the Blackberries hard and still green with the foliage already drying off. In the scrub all over the Giffoine, Creeping Thistle (*Cirsium arvense*) is also drying off, with thousands of grey-white heads of thistledown open, almost ready to blow. A few hundred yards further on a Hen Harrier was quartering the ground, which was only a few feet below its flight level, just west of the NW-SE grass runway of the airport.

Robins have appeared in the garden, the first for months. after 2-3 days only one was coming regularly, with an, as yet a very pale red breast, he is easily distinguished by two or three white feathers below it. Several small groups of well grown Pheasants and a few Partridges have been seen.

25th August. Bracken, Grass, Brambles and Sycamore leaves drying up and going brown everywhere. Where fields of longer grass have been mown recently there is very little green to be seen and large areas of the island are presenting dull brown, botanically uninteresting, sites.

A female Great Green Bush-cricket, (photo on right), spent several hours on the outside of one of our conservatory windows on a dull morning, moving slowly around and giving good photo opportunities. Note the long, brown tipped ovipositor at the top of the photo, which was taken from the ventral side. As these large 6-8cm insects, with feelers of almost equal length again, are not good fliers, in the end I offered her a hand and she walked slowly onto my fingers to be deposited on suitable vegetation below.

Large numbers of Autumn Squills (*Scilla autumnalis*) (photo on left), were noted on the grass topped parapet of the wall round the Arsenal, overlooking Braye Bay and several clumps of a dozen or so Autumn Lady's-tresses orchids (*Spiranthes spiralis*) (photo on right), were noted in the grass below. As fate would have it the grass was mown and the top of the parapet strimmed the next day. "Tidiness" wins again !!!

In the evening a single Grey Heron flew along Platte Saline, the first I have seen for some months.

27th August. Another first record for Alderney, this time by Jean Possnicker, confirmed by Roger Long, a male Banded Demoiselle dragonfly, (*Calopteryx splendens*) a large species, the male with a broad dark mauve or purple band across the middle of the wings.

28th August. A pair of Grey Herons flying along Platte Saline about 2.30pm. Wall Brown, Red Admiral and Small White butterflies in the garden.

30th August. Another Heron passing along Platte Saline around 5pm.

31st August. The month ended with the highest winds of the period, 30 knots in the 15 minutes around 10pm.

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Alderney Nature Diary

September 2000

The Weather

12th was 3rd warmest September day since 1955. (1961 27.2ºC, 1984 25.0º). Conversely, 4th was the 7th coldest September day since 1955.

In UK it was the wettest September for 15 years, but Alderney had barely half last year's rainfall, only2/3rds the long term average and was in fact the 13th DRIEST September since 1955. Most of the rain fell on just 4 days, with 14 days receiving either none, or less than 0.1mm.

Average temperatures, barometric pressures, humidity, wind speeds and direction, were not much different from last year. Totals of rainfall and sunshine for the year to date, were about the long term average, but both were considerably lower than last year, with 127mm less rain and 152 hours less sunshine.

Figures for comparison with September last year and the 20 year average

Year	**2000**	**1999**	**20-year average**
			1980-99
Rain mm.	45.7	92.9	61.0
Sun hrs.	181.3	194.9	169.7
Max. temp recorded °C	24.8	22.5	21.5
Min. temp recorded	8.8	12.5	10.1
Mean day temp	17.5	17.6	17.9
Mean night temp	15.9	16.2	13.7
Total rainfall, year to date, mm.	435.0	562.4	464.5
Total sunshine, year to date, hrs.	1552.1	1704.6	1556.1

The Diary

1st September. Lots of cudweeds and fleabanes now in flower. Common, Small, Jersey and Cape Cudweeds (*Filago vulgaris,* (photo on left) *F. minima*, (photo on right below) *Gnaphthalium luteo-album*, (photo on left below) & *G. undulatum*), Canadian and Guernsey Fleabane (*Conyza canadensis, C. sumatrensis*), (photos below) in bare sandy ground or between paving slabs, as at Platte Saline and some of them elsewhere. JerseyCudweed is rare in Alderney and has only been noted in the Platte Saline area. In Alderney Common and Small Cudweeds are not common anywhere, but Cape Cudweed and Canadian Fleabane are frequent in these sort of habitats, whilst Guernsey Fleabane, not recorded in Alderney before has now become more common in Jersey than the Canadian plant. This month Margaret Long

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one of the two Jersey BSBI recorders found a number of plants of it on Platte Saline common, (as well as two in my own garden, just across the road) and also in Mannez Quarry. The physical distinctions between the two species are small and I have always assumed, based on earlier records from before 1980, that it was still absent from Alderney and not examined the plants sufficiently closely. *C. canadensis*, originating in Canada, has yellowish-green, hairless or sparsely hairy phyllaries, green leaves with well spaced, straight, hairs on the margins (Phyllaries are the sepal like involucral bracts, in rows round the outside of the capitulum or head of Daisy family flowers). It was

first recorded in Guernsey in 1876 and then not again until 1947. There it is locally frequent and mainly found in the sandy north part. It is common in Jersey and locally frequent in Alderney. *C. sumatrensis*, despite its name, comes from Peru and was first recorded in Guernsey in 1961, its first record anywhere in the British Isles. By the mid 1970s it was described as frequent in the north of Guernsey, locally abundant in Jersey, but absent from the other islands. The phyllaries are greyish-green, hairy or densely so and the greyish-green leaves have many hooked hairs along their margins.

Conyza sumatrensis (L), C. canadensis (R)

Long grass and bracken are drying off everywhere and the leaves are already falling from many Sycamores, some already completely bare of leaves. On Longis common, near the top of the steep slope to the NE of Longis pond, I noticed for the first time a large patch of Everlasting Flower (*Helichrysum petiolare*) (photo below left), the grey shrubby mound being covered with the dirty-white flower heads. It must have been there for years !! A few Clouded Yellow butterflies were flying around the common.

9th September. More Clouded Yellows near Fort Corblets, several people have reported seeing them in other places on the island, must be a good year for them. Eight or ten Painted Lady butterflies were around a mauve Buddleja above Mannez pond. Two unidentified Dragonflies were flying around my swimming pool; midway in size between the Emperor and the various Damselflies, they appeared to be the Banded Demoiselle species. A later confirmed report of a caught specimen of this species suggests this was probably a correct identification and adds a new species to our Dragonfly list. Jersey Tiger moths still around. (Photos at end of report).

All round the island Italian Arum spikes were now covered in red berries. On the roadside bank on the E. side of La Vallée, more than a dozen plants of the "Compass plant" Prickly Lettuce (*Lactuca serriola*) were spaced out over about 100m.

At Val du Saue on the south coast the deciduous Elaeagnus (*Elaeagnus commutata*) was in good fruit and the bushes here had spread further. Along the road to Fort tourgis at Courtil Cartier, the Cyclamen (*Cyclamen hederifolium*) in the hedge bottom on the E. verge now had about 50-60 blooms on it, three of them white.

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11-12th September. Quite a lot of Wheatears were seen in several places, probably passage migrants. At Longis Bay on the afternoon of the 12th, two Cattle Egrets and several Little Egrets were searching for food in shallow pools around the water's edge towards low tide.

14th September. Masses of Old Man's-beard (*Clematis vitalba*) (photo on left), in seed around the German bunkers along the top of Les Rochers towards the TV relay and around also the edge of the Church Glebe land. A good number of Clouded Yellow, Red Admiral and several other butterflies were seen along the track here at the same time. In the small triangular field by the Willow thicket along Le Grand Val, many small plants of Phacelia (*Phacelia tanacetifolia*), were flowering near the two beehives in the corner. This was planted here several years ago, but subsequently ploughed in and small numbers of seedlings have appeared round the margins ever since. Tamarisk trees are in flower again in many places round the island, their pinky "catkins" of tiny flowers adding a welcome contrast to the dull grey-green leaves at this time of year. The Duke of Argyll's Tea-plants are also flowering again in many places, their small mauve bells showing brightly amongst the foliage.

A single patch of Phacelia has suddenly appeared in flower soil above the lower corner of the roadside wall of the new cemetery in Longis Road.

19th September. 50 or 60 Dunlin along the strand line in Saye Bay and a flock of about 100 Meadow Pipits at the bottom of the Albert Glacis, by the Campsite field. The Cyclamen clump in the verge between the Hammond Memorial and the railway crossing has about 50 flowers. Three straggly plants of Common Pigweed (*Amaranthus retroflexus*), in the verge in La Marette. I've not seen it here before. Red-hot Pokers (*Kniphofia spp.*) are also flowering again in their several 'wild' spots.

In gardens the Jersey Lilies (*Amaryllis belladonna*) are coming into flower (photo on right), the next couple of weeks should show a great splash of deep pink and white colour in many island gardens. They are known as 'Naked Ladies' because the flowers appear before any leaves. One patch has also existed 'in the wild' in a grass verge for many years. The stems, about 75-100cm high, can appear and grow to their full height in a couple of days before the flowers open. In my own garden, the even large Crinum lilies (these are *Crinum moorei*), in theory a greenhouse or conservatory plant, which seems to like our almost frost-free climate, which I grew originally from seed from our indoor ones, have now been outside for 10 years or more and have multiple bulbs some of them as big as 15-20cm across, are also covered in bloom. One patch has 14 stems, each with between 10 and 14 creamy-white, just flushed with pink, flowers in the head, lasting 2-3 days each with three or four open at a time on each 1.5-1.75m high stem. The single seeds produced by a few of the flowers are similar in size and appearance to a horse chestnut. When ripe, if left on damp soil they produce a radicle (root), which curves down into the soil and produces a small bulb at the point where in enters the ground. This gradually increases in size over the next few months as the seed is gradually absorbed and shrivels. They then take about 3-4 years to grow before they flower. A slightly smaller and shorter, all pink species, *Crinum powellii* has survived in the dunes at Saye Bay for at least 45 years (photo above left). This too is in flower at the moment.

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26th September. A spectacular sight in the afternoon sunshine in The Swinge, just beyond the reef in Clonque Bay and almost opposite the white navigation cone by Fort Tourgis, was literally hundreds of gannets diving into the water, emerging and then flying, in groups of 20+, the half mile or more back to their nests on the Garden Rocks with full crops, to feed their young. There must have been a considerable shoal of fish in the 3-400m square area in which they were diving. This went on for about 15 minutes when they began to disperse, probably having exhausted the supply of fish there.

30th September. The last few days rain and some warmth from the bright sunshine has brought up a good crop of Parasol Mushrooms (*Lepiota procera*) in a number of places, 23 in one patch about 5m across. The dry late Summer/early Autumn has not given a great crop of any kind of mushrooms this year and we have seen no Giant Puffballs (*Langermannia gigantea*) in their usual spots. The Parasols were mostly a good handspan across and the four I picked were delicious fried.

On Essex Hill many small plants of Wood Sage (*Teucrium scorodonia*) were flowering, apparently seedlings from the flowering earlier in the year. Honesuckle was still in good flower in several patches down the sides of the hill and the adjacent cliffs, flowers and berries together on the same plant. The large quantities of Ivy (*Hedera helix subsp. hibernica*), both here and all over the island were covered in their globular flower heads, many with the bright yellow stamens now showing. The Hawthorns have already lost most of their leaves and at least some of the berries, whilst the Elders have been stripped of fruit. The mauve Buddlejas here were still flowering and a few butterflies were sampling the nectar, Horse and Sweet Chestnuts were covered with, as yet unripe, fruit cases. A few plants of Hedge Bindweed (*Calystegia sepium*) crawling over the scrub, were still showing their large white trumpet shaped flowers. With the rain and sun of the last few days, the Blackberries were finally swelling, ripening and looking worth picking, but we didn't stop. Some of the plants were still flowering, mostly with small, dark pink flowers. Several patches of bright yellow Tormentil (*Potentilla erecta*) and odd plants of both Pink and White Campion (*Silene x hampeana & S. latifolia*), were flowering again in the grassy banks alongside the road up the hill.

The equinoctial gales of the last week have almost stripped the Sycamores of their leaves in exposed spots and gutters are choked with them. The Hawthorns are already bare as noted above and the few remaining Elms have lost some of their leaves. Both Sycamore and Elm fallen leaves in the Longis Road were carrying thickened, almost circular, black spots about the size of a 5p piece or a new penny, which I believe are called Tarspots, but whether they are of fungal or viral origin I have not yet discovered. Any information from readers of this page would be welcomed.

The September Bird records from the local twitchers will be included at the beginning of next month's diary

<Jersey Tiger moth underside

Jersey Tiger moth topside>

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An Alderney Nature Diary

October 2000

The Weather

Wind and rain were the predominant features this month. Starting with maximum speeds between 30-40 knots from 1st-5th and 32.87mm rain in 24 hours on 9th, we had a relatively calm spell from 15th-22nd, immediately followed by strong winds reaching from gales of 30 knots up to storm force 11, from 23rd-31st. with gusts to 60 knots (68mph) reached at Platte Saline on 30th. The level at the airport was almost certainly higher. There were only 3 days without rain and, in the gales at the end of the month 14.78mm on 28th and 18.62mm on 30th fell in the 24 hours. Total rainfall for the month was 50% up on the long term average and almost three times that of last October. Rainfall totals for the year to date were 28mm (just over an inch) more than average, but about the same amount less than last year.

As might be expected sunshine amounts were well below both last year and the average. There were only 2 days with more than 8 hours and 5 days with none. Sunshine totals for the year to date were only slightly less than average, but almost 200 hours down on 1999.

Most highs and lows of temperature, pressure and highest and average wind speeds were similar to last year and the average, although day temperatures were almost 2ºC down on the long term average, the night-time temperatures were up by about the same amount.

Figures for comparison with October last year and the 20 year average

Year	**2000**	**1999**	**20-year average**
			1980-99
Rain mm.	147.79	56.07	91.29
Sun hrs.	91.62	126.36	112.85
Max. temp recorded °C	18.2	16.9	18.9
Min. temp recorded	8.4	7.7	7.7
Mean day temp	13.7	13.9	15.4
Mean night temp	13.1	13.5	11.7
Total rainfall, year to date, mm.	582.8	618.5	555.8
Total sunshine, year to date, hrs.	1643.7	1831.0	1669.0

The Diary

First, a summary of the September bird report from the local twitchers, to amplify my own observations in last month's diary.

Large migrations of first year, Swallows (noted as 'tens of thousands') on a hot clear day on 23rd, with more of these and House Martins for the rest of the month. A Hoopoe was

seen on 10th, A Pied Flycatcher and a Redstart on 11th, a Wryneck on 14th, with Wheatears and White Wagtails throughout the month. A White Stork was seen soaring over St. Anne on 13th. The first Grey Wagtail of the season on 16th, with Yellow Wagtails on 23rd. Five Greylag Geese passed over, travelling S on 22nd and a Brent Goose spent 3 days along the N side of the island from 27-30th. Sanderlings, Bar-tailed Godwits and Ringed Plovers noted in the bays and up to 8 Little Egrets were seen at any one time at Longis, Clonque or Braye bays.

Sandwich Tern families passed through all the month, with several groups staying a few days and fishing in several bays.

The bird report also noted a large migration of Painted Lady butterflies flying S. on 9th. A Clouded Yellow migration was noted around dusk on 16th and Red Admirals were coming in from the sea throughout the month.

1st. October. The Ivy (photo on left) is now in flower everywhere and being visited by several sorts of Bee and, when the sun came out in the afternoon, by Peacock butterflies.

2nd. October. A visit to the Giffoine showed no sign of Gannets on or around Les Etacs, where a single dead bird was noted, presumably trapped in the fishing net that they often pick up and incorporate in their nests. No sign of movement over the more distant Ortac colony either. They have apparently been gone about a week, a bit earlier than usual this year.

9/10th. October. 33mm rain in the 24 hours and winds to 55 mph 2 a.m. on 10th and 11th.

13th. October. Horse Chestnut leaves all falling in Le Pré de L'Eglise, Elm leaves beginning to fall everywhere, Sycamores turning in the sheltered area of La Vallée, but already bare in more exposed sites. The rain and some bright sunshine have brought out another fine crop of Parasol Mushrooms (*Lepiota procera*) (photo on right) in many parts of the island.

Bats flying in circles over our swimming pool in the late evening. Probably Pipistrelles.

19th. October. A lot of Black-headed Gulls about at Corblets Bay and a few Common (or possibly Sandwich) Terns. The Ivy is really making a huge show this year, I don't remember so many flowering heads on the short, almost ground level branches. These usually seem to form only on the higher levels overhanging rock and wall tops. Old Man's-beard seed heads in some quantity under the Cupressus trees by Battery crossing. There is an absolute mass of this all along the track on Les Rochers and it is a plant, not formerly very frequent, which seems to have spread considerably in the last 4-5 years from the few small colonies.

20/21st. October. Peacock and Small White butterflies quite frequent on these two days and several Silver-Y moths in the garden. I thought that these last had finished for the season. A single patch of Jersey Lilies has appeared amongst the pine trees behind the filter beds at the Nunnery. Not noticed here before.

25th. October. White Wagtails at Corblets Bay, more than a dozen. A fine crop of The Prince mushrooms (*Agaricus augustus*) on a bank near Fort Tourgis.

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26th. October. Single flower noted on a large patch of Sweet Violets in my garden. These usually come into flower just before Christmas. In the afternoon a mixed flock of several hundred Gulls and several score of Gannets were circling and fishing over the Swinge current just off shore from Fort Les Hommeaux Florains. The Gannets were plunging into the sea from quite a low level, whilst many of the Gulls were swimming on the surface and dipping for fish. A local fisherman told me later that it is not uncommon to get large shoals of Bass along here at this time of year, which the Gannets were probably after and they drive the smaller fish, Pollock. etc., up to the surface where the Gulls can get them. Over about 20 minutes the whole flock gradually moved along as the shoal moved against the current.

These Gannets could well have been in passage from areas further north as the local breeders all seem to have gone about a month ago.

27th. October. A family of four Pheasants on Platte Saline and scores of Starlings on the electricity wires along the road here. A male Pheasant has visited my garden several times a day all month. A Blackcap seen on an arched Bramble along Longis Common.

30th. October. Worst storms and floods in southern England since the 1987 hurricane. Winds to 91mph at Falmouth and Portsmouth, with a tornado at Bognor and another at Selsey the next day. Port of Dover closed for 24 hours. More flooding in S. Wales and the Midlands. We had winds to 68mph and about 19mm rain in the 24 hours but no significant damage or flooding. Several places in UK had more than this in an hour.

31st. October. Another Blackcap on a similar perch on Mannez Garenne, kept moving a few yards ahead of me for several minutes. Mannez pond well filled after the large amount of rain and the natural pond at Platte Saline also with plenty of free water among the encroaching vegetation. Flights of up to a dozen Mallard circling the area most evenings during the month.

October Bird report from Jeremy Sanders

Our winter migrant Greenfinch, Chaffinch and Goldfinch have all been reported from bird tables, flocks of them arriving from the sea on a clear morning on 22nd. more Robins were reported arriving from mid month. Small numbers of Swallows were noted in passage during the month and, on 22nd, 27 swallows and a single House Martin were seen at Quesnard.

Goldcrests from 16th, White Wagtails in some numbers in several parts of the island and a single Firecrest seen in La Vallée on 18th. Strong winds brought in migrating Redstarts overnight on 21st and Redwings arrived later in the month.

Over 1,000 Gannets were counted on the Garden Rocks on the 8th, but only 8 adults and 3 young remained by 11th after 3 days of severe gales. A rare visitor, a Kingfisher was seen at Longis on 14th and possibly the same bird at Battery Quarry on 18th.

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An Alderney Nature Diary

November 1999

The Weather

November was generally a dry, but cheerless month, with strong winds, mostly from a westerly direction in the first and last weeks and from the NE in the middle of the month. Although the maximum speed recorded at Platte Saline, 42 knots (48mph), was well below last year's maximum, the 14.3 knot average throughout the month was slightly higher and there were only 4 days with even brief periods of calm.

Most of the rain fell on 2 days, 5th and 21st, with a total for the month of little more than half the long term average. Total for the year to date is 15mm above average, but well below last year's amount.

There were only 3 days with more than 5 hours sun and 4 days with none at all. Total for the year to date is 40 hours up on 1998 and 88 hours above the long term average.

The first day was the warmest in all measurements, with temperatures dropping slowly for the first 3 weeks and then rising slightly. The month overall was however considerably warmer than both last year and the long term average.

Barometric pressure across the month was higher than last year, with pressure so high on 9 & 10th (1046mbar, 29.9in.) that most domestic barometers were almost at the end of their scale.

Figures for comparison with November last year and the 20 year average

Year	**1999**	**1998**	**20-year average**
			1978-97
Rain mm.	**43.5**	**54.1**	**77.0**
Sun hrs.	**60.6**	**95.6**	**77.5**
Max. temp recorded °C	**16.9**	**15.7**	**16.3**
Min. temp recorded	**5.7**	**1.3**	**4.1**
Mean day temp	**11.4**	**9.7**	**12.6**
Mean night temp	**11.1**	**9.4**	**8.7**
Total rainfall, year to date, mm.	**662.0**	**742.2**	**646.8**
Total sunshine, year to date, hrs.	**1895.6**	**1855.1**	**1807.1**

The Diary

Wall tops, quarry scree and coastal banks were yellow with the stamens of the otherwise not very conspicuous flowers of Ivy at the beginning of the month. The mild weather had encouraged many of this years seeds to germinate and even to flower, with Ragwort and Hogweed quite frequent and masses of Sweet Alison blooming through out the month. Occasional plants of Pink Campion, Canadian Fleabane, Fennel, various yellow Hawkweeds, Hawkbits, Hawk's-beards, Mayweeds and Cat's-ears were still flowering in

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verges and meadows, whilst a few Blackberries were still producing the occasional small usually dark pink flower and the frequent clumps of the Duke of Argyll's Tea-plant, scattered as hedging and wild patches in both gardens and scrub, in many places close to the sea around the island, were covered in their small mauve trumpets for the third or fourth time this year.

Patches of Gorse are in flower again on the cliffs, whilst new leaves of Navelwort are frequent here and on walls and banks all around the island. Pale pink clusters of the catkin like flowers on the Tamarisk were also brightening the bushes/small trees for the third time in the year. Many of these are also close to the sea and the larger tree-like specimens, up to 15 feet high, are often well over 100 years old, being noted as mature specimens in several places by Marquand, in his 1901 *Flora of Guernsey and the lesser Channel Islands*. The few plants of Sea Buckthorn, *Hippophae rhamnoides*, another maritime plant, (photo on p.178) often found on English coasts, apparently not native to Alderney, but planted in some gardens, were covered in the orange berries, clinging closely to the branches. The conspicuous fruiting capsules of Stinking Iris, (photo on left), scattered in many moist spots on cliffs, commons and scrubland, whose delicate mauvey-brown flowers are often overlooked, were opening, revealing their closely packed, brilliant orange-red, seeds.

By the end of the month, some of the winter-flowering Cherries were already in blossom in gardens and Daffodil leaves were well up in a few sheltered spots. The frequent hedges of Elaeagnus (photo on p.178) were covered, mostly on the current year's growth, with the delicate silver-grey, sweet-scented bells, later to turn to red rugby-ball shaped fruits in the winter, but often not noticed, hanging underneath the dense canopy of large, shiny green-brown, leaves with their brown-spotted silver backs. It seems a pity that, like the equally frequent Escallonia hedges, if you keep them neatly trimmed, you rarely get any flowers. It has been a good year for the evergreen Japanese Spindle to flower and many hedges and more isolated large bushes are heavily laden with clusters of their 4-angled fruits, just beginning to turn an orangey-red. (photo on right). The tiny clusters of pale green flowers appear in April and May, although few people notice them, hidden beneath the dense dark green leaves, but the swollen bunches of fruits, when they do appear, push the leaves aside to get to the sun in late Autumn and the whole bush can then turn orangey-red in December. This is a plant which often does not set fruit here for several years at a time and is the third most popular of these widely planted salt and wind resistant hedges in Alderney.

Autumn migrant birds continue to appear in smaller or larger groups. Small groups of Chaffinches, Fieldfares and Redwings have visited our garden on several days, whilst the resident Blackbirds and Robins are back again and seen throughout the day picking at the grass and surrounding bushes and popping under cover for a few moments if disturbed. Groups of 20 or more "small brown jobs", pipits and warblers, often not easy to identify for certain, pop up from the commons and scrub or fly swiftly overhead. We have seen a few

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Wheatears and Linnets on the commons and heathlands, with occasional Curlews, Whimbrels, Dunlin, Plovers and other small waders on the shores. Oyster Catchers and the various gulls are frequent, with the small Black-headed gulls now in their winter plumage and lacking their black heads. A few Terns are still about.

Sea Buckthorn

Unobtrusive flowers

Prominent fruit

Elaeagnus flowers

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Alderney Nature Diary

December 2001

The Weather

December was drier and sunnier than usual with average temperatures and overall wind speeds, after another cooler, windier, but fairly dry, November.

Figures for comparison with December last year and the 20-year average

Year	2001	2000	20-year average
			1982-2001
Rain mm.	30.6	142.3	98.7
Sun hrs.	79.0	68.2	52.1
Max. temp recorded °C	14.1	14.1	14.4
Min. temp recorded	1.6	1.6	1.7
Mean day temp	8.4	9.1	10.4
Mean night temp	8.0	9.2	7.0
Total rainfall for year to date, mm.	798.8	883.9	723.8
Total sunshine for year to date, hrs.	1971.0	1765.6	1799.2

Monthly figures for 2001 and Annual Summary

Year 2001	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec		TOTAL
Temp. highest °C	11.90	13.60	14.60	14.60	19.60	23.90	27.00	23.90	20.90	21.30	15.20	14.10		
Temp. lowest °C	1.60	2.40	2.80	3.60	7.20	5.60	10.30	14.10	10.90	15.00	4.00	1.60		
Average daily Max.	7.80	8.00	9.00	10.30	13.60	16.60	18.30	18.80	16.90	16.30	11.30	8.40		
Average daily Min.	7.10	7.60	8.20	9.20	11.80	14.00	16.10	17.00	15.70	15.50	10.80	8.00		
Monthly mean °C	7.40	7.80	8.60	9.70	12.60	15.20	17.60	18.00	16.30	15.90	10.60	8.00		
Rain mm.	175.98	82.54	136.67	59.83	25.94	12.87	24.32	63.54	24.49	128.70	33.24	30.74		798.86
Sun hrs.	81.76	75.70	76.73	162.89	278.43	309.14	285.77	214.99	191.54	131.83	83.19	88.24		1980.21
Barometer highest mb	1036	1050	1027	1039	1035	1036	1037	1035	1030	1043	1049	1045		
Barometer lowest mb	982	981	992	999	1002	1004	994	1003	1020	990	1006	995		
Barometer mean mb.	1012	1023	1007	1019	1024	1024	1021	1022	1022	1018	1032	1031		
Humidity max. %	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100		
Humidity min. %	74	72	75	79	61	48	74	78	81	77	80	75		
Humidity average %	92.5	92.7	92.7	92.9	92.1	90.8	94.3	93.9	93.1	92.7	91.9	91.9		
Wind direction mean °	181	168	167	170	142	224	204	190	217	200	164	148		
Wind speed max kts.	46	42	42	40	44	28	32	32	44	48	46	42		
Wind speed mean kts	13.4	12.0	11.6	9.6	9.2	6.7	7.3	8.8	11.4	12.4	13.2	9.3		
Summary for the 20 years 1982-2001														
Temp. monthly max	12.69	12.13	13.63	15.95	19.42	21.59	22.87	23.41	21.64	18.94	16.15	14.40		
Temp. monthy min	0.32	0.45	2.07	3.16	5.67	8.16	10.72	11.36	10.37	8.10	4.15	1.70		
(Max	9.28	8.82	10.19	11.66	14.35	16.67	18.66	19.25	17.77	15.32	12.35	10.40		
Average daily (Min	5.99	5.52	6.33	7.07	9.33	11.80	14.12	14.63	13.79	11.96	9.02	7.18		
(Mean	7.63	7.17	8.26	9.36	11.86	14.24	16.43	16.94	15.87	13.65	10.66	8.79		
Rain mm.	82.67	53.51	52.23	53.82	42.24	42.67	34.64	42.08	56.06	88.62	76.62	98.68		723.83
Sun hrs.	58.72	77.62	122.39	183.83	238.33	235.00	244.41	230.30	171.37	112.74	72.34	52.56		1799.61

January Rainfall and June Sunshine were the highest recorded since 1955

The Diary for December 2000

Year 2000 finished up with a continuance of what seemed to be months of unusually dull, windy and wet weather and New Year's Eve, ushering in the start of the Second Millennium was accompanied by 50 knot gales and11mm rain before midnight, with 40 knot winds and another 7.8mm rain on New Year's day. On that day we still fared better than the forecast which was for winds to 90mph in Alderney. My weather station is somewhat protected from winds in the southern half of the compass by the higher bulk of the island to its south and, at this time of year, when the skies are clear near the horizon and the sun is actually shining as it sets, for about 2 weeks either side of the winter solstice (21st December) the sunshine recorder is in the shadow of Tourgis Hill for about half to three-quarters of an hour in the evening. This situation came about on both 21st and 29th. About an inch of snow fell during the evening of 28th but had all gone by morning.

Impressions are one thing, but the reality as shown by both text and tables above was not as bad as it seemed. Winds were fiercer, rainfall 50% higher, temperatures lower and sunshine 50% less in December 1999. All in all we fared far better than the UK and did not suffer anything like the extremes recorded there.

As in November there was little inducement for nature observations, but a few points stood out.

We noted a Little Egret in Braye Bay on the rocks in front of the Arsenal on Christmas Eve and a Blackcap along the road from Whitegates to the Hammond Memorial.

In the first week, a large male Heron who has visited our garden on many occasions over the last few years made several visits gazing longingly into the large fish pond with its protective netting and nylon fishing line strings. On the lawn he stands over 4 feet tall (measured by comparison with nearby plants and a stone pillar). I was greatly surprised early one morning to find him, for the first time ever, in the small open area between the stretched netting layers over the centre of the pond, standing on a large floating clump of White Water Lily, the roots of which had been pulled from the silt on the bottom of the pond in water about three feet deep by the gales pushing on the floating leaves. In landing he had squashed down the upright stems of Spearwort which had grown through the netting and the net was down onto the water surface. I doubt if he had much luck with fishing as the vegetation was making a fairly dense cover over all of the small surface area he could reach which was not covered by the netting.

It was a dry day, so later on I removed the netting, pulled out all the old Spearwort, Parrot's Feathers and Canadian Pondweed to clear a large part of the surface and pushed the clump of Water Lily towards the edge where it would be completely under the netting when this was replaced. The nylon fishing line strings were tightened and the netting replaced all round the pond and over the top of the metal stakes holding the strings, leaving it some two feet above the water surface, as it had been before. I laced the edges of the black nets from each side together with bright yellow polypropylene plant string, the strands cris-crossing the pond about 18inches apart, which I thought would be highly visible to the heron and act as a strong deterrent. Next day was sunny and there were plenty of fish near the surface. I was amazed in the afternoon to see that he was standing IN the pond towards the shallow end with the water up to the top of his legs, in a tiny square between the yellow strings. Herons can take off almost vertically, and go up like a lift and have seen this many times in my own garden, but I had always understood that they could not step down into a pond from the edges because of the way their legs bent. There was nothing solid he could have landed on near him and no other access than straight down from the air, between the strings and the gap where the

nets don't quite meet in the middle of the pond. On seeing me he rose rapidly, but his feet caught in the netting or strings and he had to struggle with great flappings of his 6 foot or more wingspan to rise. A few seconds sufficed and he rose about 6 feet above the pond and then flew horizontally through the gap between two trees whose branches overhang the pond.

We haven't seem him since !!! I have now covered the gap completely, with more netting, but the cold weather with little sun has kept the fish down out of sight and I have no idea how many he had managed to catch.

Botanically there was still plenty of Sweet Alison in flower and a few of the yellow daisy family plants, but no sign of the Three-cornered Garlic ("Stinking Onions") in flower yet, despite plenty of leaves everywhere. On the 30th in a sunny spell in the afternoon we noticed the first signs of Winter Heliotrope in flower this year, a patch about 2 x 3m along a grass verge under the shelter of a hedge bottom, in the Chemin du Meunier. This is usually the first patch to flower. Ivy all over the island was now covered with its black berries.

In gardens the Elephant's-ears and Rosemary were still flowering the Elaeagnus flowers had given way to their rugby-ball shaped fruits. The patches of Sweet Violets were now covered in flowers as was the Hedge Veronica.

So ends another year's diaries.

Brief summary of the Diaries for the year 2001

January was the wettest on record here since 1955, with only 1984 coming close. Rainfall was almost twelve times that of last year and more than double the 20-year average. A spell of high pressure from 13-19th brought 6 consecutive dry days, but there had been only 13 days without rain between 13th September and 9th January. As was the case last year, the total eclipse of the moon, this time on 9th, was largely obscured by cloud.

Despite the rain, January was the third sunniest since 1955 with more than 30 hours over the average. Gale force winds from ENE, up to 42-44 knots each day, blew from 10-14th, the maximum readings recorded in each 15 minute period averaging 33 knots over the whole of that time. This brought a wind chill factor down to -5ºC most days. Towards the end of the month winds backed round to the north.

Winds continued with a strong cold northerly element for much of the month, the wind chill factor reaching -8.2º on 25th, rainfall was up on both last year and the average. Sunshine was 33 hours less than in 2000, but still above average for February and the year to date.

March continued with above average rainfall with the total rainfall for the 6-month period from 1st October 2000 amounting to 844.05mm (33.3inches), almost double the 20-year average of 447.07mm (17.6inches). The average annual total in Alderney is 730mm or 28.7 inches. It was however only the 5th wettest for this 6-month period, in all our records.

The full moon on 7th April was so bright that the sunshine recorder noted 0.01 hours at 23.13. There was only one day in the month with no sunshine recorded, but the total was still well down on last year and the average. Rainfall was just a little above average.

May by contrast was unusually dry and sunny, with 60% of the month's total of 25.9mm falling on 1st. and 84 hours more sun than last year.

The sunny spell continued through June with no days without some sunshine and 10 days each recording more than 15 hours. The total of 309.1 hours was 78 hours above average and set a new record for the month.

Winds were unusually light in July with a maximum temperature of 27ºC reached on one day in the "mini-heatwave" of the last 10 days of the month, compared with the average

maximum for the month of 21.5º, the 6th highest July temperature since 1955. It was also the 6th sunniest since 1955.

Rainfall in August was well above average and eight times that of 2000, whilst sunshine was correspondingly down, 37 hours less than in 2000 and 14 hours below average. Temperatures, wind speed and direction, barometric pressure and humidity were about average although the minimum night temperature recorded of 14.1º was 3ºC above average.

September by contrast had only about one third of the average rainfall and some 20 hours more than the average sunshine. The other parameters were about average.

October turned wet again with twice the usual rainfall and 45 hours less sunshine.

November reversed the rainfall trend with little more than half the average, but was a dull miserable month with only 72 hours sunshine to compare 181 hours last year and the 20-year average of 170 hours. The highest temperature reached was 10º down on last year and 6º below average.

December finished the year somewhat better, with only 30.7mm rain compared with last year's 142.3mm and 98.7mm for the average and 88 hours sunshine compared with 66.2 and 52.6 hours respectively. The annual totals were 75 hours more sun than the average and 180mm of rain above average. There were no temperatures below 0ºC recorded during the year. As noted below the charts, rainfall in January and sunshine in June were both records since 1955.

Botanically there was still plenty of Sweet Alison in flower and a few of the yellow daisy family plants, but no sign of the Three-cornered Garlic ("Stinking Onions") in flower yet, despite plenty of leaves everywhere. Ivy all over the island was now covered with its black berries and several of the fern species were showing spores under their leaves .

In gardens the Elephant's-ears and Rosemary were still flowering the Elaeagnus flowers had given way to their rugby-ball shaped fruits. The patches of Sweet Violets were now covered in flowers as was the Hedge Veronica. Garden Fuschias were still in flower.

Alderney Botanical Report for 2001

2001 has not been a very productive year for new records. with only one new species recorded and a few new sites for existing species. I have recorded the names and number of species which I have noted in flower each month for the last 16 years and there is generally little variation shown. This year was no exception.

April 1st. A walk along the East coast on this sunny afternoon showed our Sand Crocus (*Romulea columnae*) in full flower by the hundred and a profusion of some other small, or even minute flowers, blooming in the short turf and trodden paths on the St Esquére headland. Here too the rare Myrtle shrub (*Myrtus ugni*) growing out from under a rock for the last 5 or 6 years, had branched considerably, with a mass of new shoots and three seedlings within about a metre. Not far away along to the east, the endangered species Land Quillwort (*Isoetes histrix*), (photos on right above, the next page shows a half section of the plant), one of our most primitive flowering plants, a member of the Lycopodium group

was in profusion in two of its three known colonies along the stretch between here and Fort Quesnard.

In May, three members of the British Lichen Society were in the island for a week updating the 1975 survey of Alderney Lichens. Peter James of the British Museum of Natural History, is one of the co-authors of *The Lichen Flora of Great Britain and Ireland* (Purvis et al 1992). Ann Allen wrote, and Barbara Hilton illustrated, their 1993, privately published *Field Companion; Flowers of Sark*, and all three collaborated in the article *Lichens of Sark* published in the 1999 *Transactions*. I spent an interesting day with them surveying the Lichens in the Churchyard, during which they recorded 60+ species, including several species not previously reported from Alderney. Lichens are not always easy to identify positively, and a deal of work is entailed with microscope and with chemical tests, which can only be done in the laboratory, on some species. Their whole visit has added a considerable number of new species to our list and I await their final report with great interest.

Of particular interest are the Lichens *Opegrapha subelevata*, still at the Longis site where it was first recorded on the Nunnery wall in 1975, one of only three British records for this plant. *Fulgensia fulgens* on the nearby common and formerly at one other site about a mile away, now appears to be confined to this one site and, with a colony on the dunes of Herm Island makes only two known sites for the plant in all the Channel Islands.

Whilst in the Churchyard I noted that the colony of Kraus's Clubmoss (*Selaginella kraussiana*), (Picture bottom p.184), along the base of the NW wall of the Church, first recorded by Jenny Le Huquet in 1993, has spread considerably in the last two years and now covers much of the 10 x 1m area of soil here.

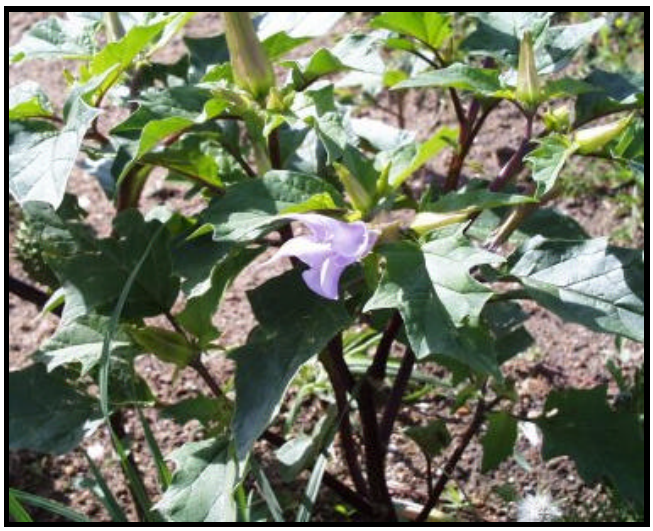
In June, a new site for Ivy Broomrape (*Orobanche hederae*), was noted in the new car park at Le Cocq's Stores just off Marais Square. This plant is surprisingly rare in Alderney despite vast amounts of Ivy. June 2005 yielded another record close by, on the wall of the Studio in St. Martins, (Picture p.184 on left). These are still more or less within the line of the former Marais stream which goes under the Island Hall and down La Valée, and keeps to the only known sites of this plant in Alderney, which all lie along the line of this stream.

August gave us our only new record for the year; A new species of Angel's Trumpets has appeared, this one appears to be *Datura stramonium var. tatula*, (Picture p.184 on right), about 20 plants were noted in a small area of recently spread soil at the Railway Station. An annual about 30-40 cms high with big green shiny seed pods with many spines and pale blue and white flowers about 10cm long. A few days later Margaret Long, the Jersey botanist, independently identified this as this species, which I had already run down in the RHS Dictionary. The soil came from St. Catherine's House in Victoria Street. The owners are sure they have never seen this plant in their garden in the 20 years or so they have been there. In common with many other Solanaceae, the seed has probably been long dormant in the soil and only germinated after it had been disturbed.

The remainder of the year yielded no new records of any special interest.

Ivy Broomrape

Angel's Trumpets



Selaginella kraussiana

Alderney Nature Diary

(included to bring records up to date)

Weather report for December 2004

A run of 22 consecutive days without rain ended on 15th. Total rainfall for the month was only about 2/3rds both that of December 2003 and of the long-term average.

Very little sunshine was recorded in the same period. Total sunshine for the month was about half that of 2003 and 2/3rds of the average, but total sunshine for the year was over 110 hours above the 20-year average, despite being about 140 hours less than last year.

December was a very windy month. The peak gusting, to 72 knots, coincided with high tide on the 17th and was far and away the windiest day of the year.

Humidity and average temperatures most months were not greatly different from previous years.

Figures for comparison with December last year and the 20-year average

Year	2004	2003	20-year average
			1985-2004
Rain mm.	61.8	94.9	98.9
Sun hrs.	34.6	68.2	48.9
Max. temp recorded °C	13.2	13.2	15.8
Min. temp recorded	2.8	2.8	5.5
Mean day temp	9.3	8.9	9.6
Mean night temp	9.0	8.5	9.1
Total rainfall for year to date, mm.	758.8	683.4	720.9
Total sunshine for year to date, hrs.	1930.4	2072.8	1819.4

Annual Summary

Year 2004	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL
Temp. highest °C	12.30	14.10	15.00	17.30	20.40	25.70	22.20	26.10	21.70	17.70	14.10	13.20	
Temp. lowest °C	3.20	0.80	1.20	5.60	8.40	10.00	11.40	14.10	9.60	7.60	6.80	2.80	
Average daily Max.	8.70	7.90	8.20	11.20	13.40	16.60	17.00	18.80	17.30	14.10	11.50	9.30	
Average daily Min.	8.70	7.30	7.10	9.10	11.60	14.90	14.70	16.60	16.30	13.40	11.20	9.00	
Monthly mean °C	8.70	7.50	7.90	10.10	12.80	15.90	16.40	18.10	16.30	13.80	11.40	9.20	
Rain mm.	111.46	27.29	23.33	70.11	17.20	6.95	109.58	153.51	28.61	123.46	25.30	61.81	758.61
Sun hrs.	59.51	93.56	134.19	208.09	298.11	311.81	228.73	230.35	181.31	101.33	48.80	34.56	1930.35
Barometer highest mb.	1031	1038	1037	1028	1031	1035	1029	1023	1030	1022	1039	1034	
Barometer lowest mb.	986	996	987	974	975	994	993	989	1009	983	1007	989	
Barometer mean mb.	1010	1022	1020	1012	1017	1019	1017	1011	1020	1006	1023	1020	
Humidity max. %	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	
Humidity min. %	75	77	77	76	76	78	80	56	72	80	66	69	
Humidity average %	92.0	91.8	92.3	92.5	93.5	93.5	93.0	85.9	92.9	92.4	91.9	92.0	
Wind direction mean °	227	132	170	176	180	242	225	223	216	210	199	197	
Wind speed max kts.	50	50	46	44	40	46	44	38	40	54	44	72	
Wind speed mean kts.	15.2	12.5	11.0	8.7	6.9	7.3	7.3	8.9	11.9	14.1	10.5	11.0	
New rain sensor fitted 1.10.04													
Summary for the 20 years 1985-2004													
Temp. monthly max	12.76	11.82	13.54	15.26	19.25	23.20	24.54	25.28	23.00	20.36	17.57	15.76	
Temp. monthy min	0.53	0.77	2.08	3.38	6.13	12.12	14.34	14.73	9.64	11.31	7.55	5.48	
(Max	9.11	8.31	9.64	11.07	13.61	15.78	17.41	18.28	16.94	14.36	11.47	9.60	
Average daily (Min	6.36	5.73	6.55	7.32	9.61	13.16	15.61	16.28	15.49	14.59	11.61	9.56	
(Mean	7.69	7.01	8.12	9.20	11.65	14.22	16.07	16.84	15.86	13.85	10.85	9.08	
Rain mm.	81.94	52.32	49.46	51.59	32.80	39.84	38.84	44.33	45.98	86.69	76.16	88.92	688.88
Sun hrs.	61.03	77.12	122.72	174.02	238.85	225.10	230.71	220.36	170.05	102.33	71.81	48.86	1742.96

Alderney Botanical Report 2004

The activity of the Alderney Wildlife Trust, of which I am a director and Hon. Treasurer has taken up a lot of time this year, although various members of the trust have been involved in field survey work towards the setting up of a RAMSAR site covering the western shore and adjacent coastal area of the island. (See file Eco 15). Ill health, following a severe bout of pneumonia picked up in, or travelling back from South Africa just before Easter has greatly curtailed my own wild flower recording and I have had no contributions this year from other botanists

Visits from Guernsey by Bridget Ozanne (BSBI Recorder [Botanical Society of the British Isles]) and zoologist Dr. Charles David, have assisted the Trust's young Spanish marine biologist Juan Pajero, with a survey of marine fauna and flora of the RAMSAR site . Bridget has particularly surveyed the lichen flora of that area. The final report has been submitted to our States and we await the result of their application to have the site registered.

In addition to the Conservation area covering over 160 acres of the east coast, Longis Common and Mannez garenne, pond, quarry and hill, recorded last year, which has given rise to more work in clearing overgrown areas and creating new sections of footpath. A second site in another smaller area has now been cleared and is being planted with native species at Val du Saue on the south coast. The Trust has now mapped both areas and other areas of interest on the **Digimap** satellite imaging. Maps of the Conservation and other areas of activity are now easily printed from this source. No formula has yet been created to allow my 11,000+ UTM grid references to be inserted into one of the overlays. There is a small problem of compatibility of the grid references. A survey by the OS several years ago in updating part of the island 1:10,000 maps found that the co-ordinates of the 1960s survey, on which the map I use to give me the sighting references was based, were about 200 yards out in the northerly direction. This will mean some species on the south cliffs will appear to be in the sea, unless a correction factor can be applied and all other records will be displaced on land by this amount.

As BSBI Recorder for Alderney, I have also contributed the full Alderney botanical records to the ***Vice-County Census Catalogue of the Vascular Plants of Great Britain, The Isle of Man and the Channel Islands***. This has included supplying a number of photographs of our rarer plants, for the CD-Rom to be published in conjunction with the book. A similar project Edited at Amsterdam University in Holland, ***The Interactive Flora of the British Isles***, also contain a selection of my photographs.

All of this has left little time for regular field work in recording the island flora and no new vascular plant species have been found, except perhaps Slender Speedwell (*Veronica filiformis*) a native of Turkey and the Caucasus, established in Britain since 1922 and recorded in Guernsey Sark and Herm in 1933, but never confirmed in Alderney. This minute Speedwell is now frequently found in damp garden lawns where it has probably been imported with seed and has been suspected for some years in Alderney but, although I did not have the specimen confirmed by an expert, seems now to be present in my own lawn. This will need to be checked in 2004 and I would welcome possible specimens from other Alderney sites.

A careful watch has been kept on the sites of our various scarce or endangered species and most have survived or increased slightly. The Green-winged Orchids (*Orchis morio*) had a good year at their various sites with 129 plants recorded at one site and 63 at another on 2nd

of May, as well as scattered plants over a considerable area The Annual Rock-rose (*Tuberaria guttata*) and Sand Crocus (*Romulea columnae*) were in quantity at their usual sites. Several plants of the rarer Bee Orchid (*Ophrys apifera*) were seen at its only remaining site, more than for several years. Two specimens of Southern Marsh Orchid (*Dactylorhiza praetermissa*) were found where they had reappeared in Bonne Terre last year after some ground clearance for the first time in years

Bee Orchid

Southern Marsh Orchid

Pyramidal Orchid

It was generally an excellent year for our common Pyramidal Orchids (*Anacamptis pyramidalis*) although these were noticeably missing from Braye Meadow and Platte Saline, the result of much too frequent mowing.

An encouraging feature was the greater number of well established plants of the Greater Tussock Sedge (*Carex paniculata*) (photo p.125) in Bonne Terre. Further clearance upstream by the Conservation Volunteers has exposed a further 12 plants over about 80 yards along the stream edges which had not been visible before. Smaller than the long established group by the dam wall these were still at least several years old and perhaps their potential size had been reduced by competition for both light and space from the encroaching scrub, making them appear younger than they actually are. The House Holly Fern (*Phanerophlebia falcata* [formerly called *Cyrtomium falcatum*]) (photo below) further downstream has continued to spread and now covers many yards of the bank behind Watermill Farm. There are also some small tussocks of the sedge growing along the stream bank in this area, probably 3-5 years old now.

House Holly Fern

Part 3.

Species lists for;
Birds, Dragonflies, Butterflies, Moths
Plants & Fish

Alderney Bird List

This list includes all species recorded in Alderney up to 2000. For greater details of status and frequency etc., please refer to the booklets and lists available in the Alderney Society Museum

Status of species;

R= resident, breeds here. SR= summer resident, breeds here. SV= summer visitor, does not breed here. WV= winter visitor. M= passage migrant. V= visitor, any time

Frequency of sighting (in small case); c= common, f= frequent, o= occasional, s= scarce, r= rare.

Year dates are the only records.
Records after 1990 are mostly given without status notes.

NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	FAMILY	STATUS
Auk, Little	Alle alle	ALCIDAE	rWV
Avocet	Limosa limosa	RECUROVIROSTRIDAE	1981, 1983
Bee-eater	Merops apiaster	MEROPIDIDAE	1917, 56, 82, 83.
Bittern	Botaurus stellaris	ARDEIDAE	rWV
Blackbird	Turdus merula	TURDIDAE	cR.
Blackcap	Sylvia atricapilla	SYLVIIDAE	sR, fM, rWV.
Bluethroat	Luscinia svecica	TURDIDAE	1976, 1979
Brambling	Fringilla montifringilla	FRINGILLIDAE	sWV
Bullfinch	Pyrrhula pyrrhula	FRINGILLIDAE	rSV, rWV
Bunting, Cirl	Emberiza cirlus	EMBERIZIDAE	rWV
Bunting, Corn	Milaria calandra	EMBERIZIDAE	1952, 75, 76
Bunting, Lapland	Calcarius laponicus	EMBERIZIDAE	6 records 1975-88
Bunting, Ortolan	Emberiza hortulana	EMBERIZIDAE	3 records 1967-76
Bunting, Red-headed	Emberiza bruniceps	EMBERIZIDAE	1972, 1975
Bunting, Reed	Emberiza schoeniclus	EMBERIZIDAE	r Autumn & WV
Bunting, Snow	Plectrophenax nivalis	EMBERIZIDAE	rWV
Buzzard	Buteo buteo	ACCIPITRIDAE	oM. Recorded most months of the year
Buzzard, Honey	Pernis apivorous	ACCIPITRIDAE	oSV, oM. 4 records in 1996
Buzzard, Rough-legged	Buteo lagopus	ACCIPITRIDAE	3 records 1877, 1960, 1988, 2004
Chaffinch	Fringilla coelebs	FRINGILLIDAE	cR, cM
Chiffchaff	Phylloscopus collybita	SYLVIIDAE	cSR, cM
Chough	Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax	CORVIDAE	3 records 1876, 1975, 1977
Coot	Fulica atra	RALLIDAE	sR, oWV
Cormorant	Phalacrocorax carbo	PHALACROCORACIDAE	sR
Corncrake	Crex crex	RALLIDAE	Was cR, now rSV
Crake, Spotted	Porzana porzana	RALLIDAE	1891, 1978
Crane	Grus grus	GRUIDAE	4 records 1963-1988
Crossbill	Loxia curvirostra	FRINGILLIDAE	1966, 1988
Crow, Carrion	Corvus corone	CORVIDAE	cR
Crow, Hooded	Corvus corone cornix	CORVUS	rSV
Cuckoo	Cuculus canorus	CUCULIDAE	cSR
Cuckoo, Great Spotted	Clamator glandarius	CUCULIDAE	1982
Curlew	Numenius arquata	SCOLOPACIDAE	cWR, cM
Curlew, Stone	Burhinus oedicnemus	BURHINIDAE	1887

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Dipper	Cinclus cinclus	CINCLIDAE	1861/2
Diver, Black-throated	Gavia arctica	GAVIIDAE	rWV
Diver, Great Northern	Gavia immer	GAVIIDAE	rWV
Diver, Red-throated	Gavia stellata	GAVIIDAE	sWV
Dotterel	Charadrius morinellus	CHARADRIIDAE	sM
Dove, Collared	Streptolia decaocto	COLUMBIDAE	cR
Dove, Rock /Feral Pigeon	Columba livia	COLUMBIDAE	fR
Dove, Stock	Columba oenas	COLUMBIDAE	oR, oM,
Dove, Turtle	Streptopelia turtur	COLUMBIDAE	fM
Duck, Eider	Somateria mollissima	ANATIDAE	1/1996 3 imm. male
Duck, Ferruginous	Athya nyroca	ANATIDAE	
Duck, Tufted	Bulbucus ibis	ANATIDAE	8 records 1979-96
Dunlin	Cladris alpina	SCOLOPACIDAE	cWR, cM
Dunnock	Prunella modularis	PRUNELLIDAE	cR
Eagle, Booted	Hieraeetus pennatus	AQUILA	
Eagle, White-tailed	Haliaeetus albicilla	ACCIPITRIDAE	4 records 1872-1908
Egret, Cattle	Bulbucus ibis	ARDEIDAE	oWV
Egret, Little	Egretta garzetta	ARDEIDAE	rR, oM
Eider	Somateria mollissima	ANATIDAE	rWV
Fieldfare	Turdus pilarus	TURDIDAE	cWV, cM
Finch, Trumpeter	Bucanetes githagineus	FRINGILLIDAE	1973
Firecrest	Regulus ignicapillus	SYLVIIDAE	rWV
Flycatcher, Collared	Ficidula albicollis	MUSCICAPIDAE	
Flycatcher, Pied	Ficedula hypoeauca	MUSCICAPIDAE	fM
Flycatcher, Red-breasted	Ficedula parva	MUSCIPAPIDAE	5 records 1973-88
Flycatcher, Spotted	Muscipapa striata	MUSCIPAPIDAE	rSR, fM
Fulmar	Fulmarus glacialis	PROCELLARIIDAE	R 40+ pairs
Gadwall	Anas strepera	ANATIDAE	2 records 1979, 1985
Gannet	Sula bassana	SULIDAE	cR
Garganey	Anas querquedula	ANATIDAE	
Godwit, Bar-tailed	Limosa lapponica	SCOLOPACIDAE	uM, uWV
Godwit, Black-tailed	Limosa limosa	SCOLOPACIDAE	sM
Goldcrest	Regulus regulus	SYLVIIDAE	fWV & fM
Goldeneye	Bucephala clangula	ANATIDAE	1979
Goldfinch	Carduelis carduelis	FRINGILLIDAE	cR & cM
Goosander	Mergus merganser	MERGUS	
Goose, Barnacle	Branta leucopsis	ANATIDAE	1968, 1981
Goose, Bean	Anser fabilis	ANATIDAE	1913
Goose, Brent	Branta bernicla	ANATIDAE	oWV
Goose, Canada	Branta canadensis	ANATIDAE	oWV
Goose, Greylag	Anser anser	ANATIDAE	9 dates 1921-1996
Goose, White-fronted	Anser albifrons	ANATIDAE	7 dates 1972-1985
Goshawk	Accipiter gentilis	ACCIPITRIDAE	1980, 1982
Grebe, Black-necked	Podiceps nigricollis	PODICIPITIDAE	sWV
Grebe, Great-crested	Podiceps cristatus	PODICIPITIDAE	Was fWV now oWV
Grebe, Little	Tachybaptus ruficollis	PODICIPITIDAE	fWV
Grebe, Red-necked	Podiceps grisegena	PODICIPITIDAE	rWV
Grebe, Slavonian	Podiceps auritus	PODICIPITIDAE	oWV
Greenfinch	Carduelis coris	FRINGILLIDAE	cR
Greenshank	Tringa nebularia	SCOLOPACIDAE	sM
Guillemot	Uria aalge	ALCIDAE	fR (up to 100 pairs)
Gull, Black-headed	Larus ridibundus	LARIIDAE	cWV, cM
Gull, Common	Larus canus	LARIIDAE	rWV, rsV
Gull, Glaucous	Larus hyperboreus	LARIIDAE	1983, 1984
Gull, Great Black-backed	Larus marinus	LARIIDAE	R (50-100 pairs)
Gull, Herring	Larus argentatus	LARIIDAE	cR, cM
Gull, Iceland	Larus glaucoides	LARIIDAE	1984
Gull, Lesser Black-backed	Larus fuscus	LARIIDAE	cR, cM

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Gull, Little	Larus minutus	LARIIDAE	1959, 1966, 1986
Gull, Mediterranean	Larus melanocephalus	LARIDAE	oM
Gull, Sabine's	Larus sabini	LARIIDAE	1978
Gyrfalcon	Falco rusticolus	FALCONIDAE	1988
Harrier, Hen	Circus cyaneus	ACCIPITRIDAE	oWV, oM
Harrier, Marsh	Circus aeruginosus	ACCIPITRIDAE	rM
Harrier, Montagu's	Circus pygargus	ACCIPITRIDAE	1877/8, 1976 (2)
Hawfinch	Coccothraustes coccothraustes	FRINGILLIDAE	1876/7, 1974, 1978
Heron, Grey	Ardea cinerea	ARDEIDAE	cV, most months
Heron, Night	Nycticorax nycticorax	ARDEIDAE	1987
Heron, Purple	Ardea purpurea	ARDEIDAE	oV
Heron, Squacco	Ardeola ralloides	ARDEIDAE	1986
Hobby	Falco subbuteo	FALCONIDAE	sM. 4 records 1996
Hoopoe	Upupa epops	UPUPIDAE	sM
Ibis, Sacred	Threskionis aethiopica	THRESKIORNITHIDAE	One stayed several weeks in 2004
Jackdaw	Corvus monedula	CORVIDAE	rR
Jay	Garrulus glandarius	CORVIDAE	6 records 1956-87
Kestrel	Falco tinnunculus	FALCONIDAE	fR
Killdeer	Charadrius vociferus	CHARADRIIDAE	1973
Kingfisher	Alcedo atthis	ALCEDINIDAE	sV
Kite, Black	Milvus migrans	ACCIPITRIDAE	rV. 3 rec. in 1996, 2004
Kite, Red	Milvus milvus	MILVUS	1998
Kittiwake	Rissa tridactyla	LARIIDAE	oR (up to 50 pairs)
Knot	Clidris canutus	SCOLOPACIDAE	rM
Lapwing	Vanellus vanellus	CHARADRIIDAE	cWV
Lark, Shore	Eremophila alpestris	ALAUDIDAE	1970 (5)
Lark, Short-toed	Calandrella brachydactyla	ALAUDIDAE	cR
Linnet	Carduelis cannabina	FRINGILLIDAE	cR
Magpie	Pica pica	CORVIDAE	4 records 1968-73
Mallard	Anas platyrrhynchos	ANATIDAE	fWV, oR
Martin, House	Delichon urbica	HIRUNDINIDAE	fSR, cM
Merganser, Red-breasted	Mergus serrator	ANATIDAE	rWV
Merlin	Falco columbarius	FALCONIDAE	sM. 4 records 1996
Moorhen	Gallinula chloropus	RALLIDAE	rR
Nightingale	Luscinia megahynchos	TURDIDAE	sM
Nightjar	Caprimulgus europaeus	CAPRIMULGIDAE	rM
Nutcracker	Nucifraga caryocatactes	CORVIDAE	1968
Nuthatch	Sitta europaea	SITTIDAE	1983
Oriole, Golden	Oriolus oriolus	ORIOLIDAE	rM
Osprey	Pandion haliaetus	PANIONIDAE	5 records 1973-86. 1 rec. most years since
Ouzel, Ring	Turdus torquatus	TURDIDAE	sM
Owl, Barn	Tyto alba	TYTONIDAE	rR (up to 3 pairs)
Owl, Long-eared	Asio otus	STRIGIDAE	1904, 1975, 1984, 96
Owl, Short-eared	Asio flammeus	STRIGIDAE	rWV Bred 2005
Owl, Snowy	Nyctea scandiaca	STRIGIDAE	1993, several weeks
Owl, Tawny	Strix aluco	STRIGIDAE	4 records 1966-83, ?1996.
Oystercatcher	Haematopus ostralegus	HAEMATOPODIDAE	oR, cM
Partridge, Grey	Perdix Perdix	PHASIANIDAE	Introduced 1980, fR
Peregrine	Falco peregrinus	FALCONIDAE	R 1946, oV
Petrel, Storm	Hydrobates pelagicus	HYDROBATIDAE	Breeds on Burhou, once abundant now f
Phalarope, Grey	Phalaropus fulicarius	SCOLOPACIDAE	1978
Phalarope, Wilson's	Phalaropus tricolor	SCOLOPACIDAE	1978

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Pheasant	Phasianus colchicus	PHASIANIDAE	Introduced 1986, fR
Pintail	Anas acuta	ANATIDAE	1863, 1978, 1985
Pipit, Meadow	Anthus pratensis	MOTACILLIDAE	cR, cM
Pipit, Red-throated	Anthus cervinus	MOTACILLIDAE	
Pipit, Richard's	Anthus novaeseelandiae	MOTACILLIDAE	1979
Pipit, Rock	Anthus petrosus	MOTACILLIDAE	cR
Pipit, Tawny	Anthus campestris	MOTACILLIDAE	1988
Pipit, Tree	Anthus trivialis	MOTACILLIDAE	sM
Pipit, Water	Anthus spinoletta	MOTACILLIDAE	1984
Plover, Golden	Pluvialis apricaria	CHARADRIIDAE	cWV 2004
Plover, Grey	Pluvialis squatorola	CHARADRIIDAE	oWV
Plover, Kentish	Charadrius alexandrinus	CHARADRIIDAE	Was SR, now rM
Plover, Little Ringed	Charadrius dubius	CHARADRIIDAE	1960
Plover, Ringed	Charadrius hiaticula	CHARADRIIDAE	oR, cM
Pochard	Aythya ferine	ANATIDAE	7 records 1972-87
Puffin	Fratercula arctica	ALCIDAE	fR (now c. 300 prs)
Quail	Coturnix coturnix	PHASIANIDAE	rV, bred 1964
Rail, Water	Rallus aquaticus	RALLIDAE	oWV, oM
Raven	Corvus corax	CORVIDAE	oR, several prs breed
Razorbill	Alca torda	ALCIDAE	oR, & oWV
Redpoll	Carduelis flammea	FRINGILLIDAE	sV, mainly Spring
Redshank	Tringa totanus	SCOLOPACIDAE	cWV, cM, oSV
Redshank, Spotted	Tringa erythropus	SCOLOPACIDAE	sM 1966-78
Redstart	Phoenicurus phoenicurus	TURDIDAE	fM
Redstart, Black	Phoenicurus ochrurus	TURDIDAE	fM, sWV
Redwing	Turdus iliacus	TURDIDAE	cWV, cM
Robin	Erithacus rubecula	TURDIDAE	cR, cM
Roller	Coracias garulus	CORACIIDAE	1969
Rook	Corvus frugilegus	CORVIDAE	1977, 1988
Ruff	Philomachus pugnax	SCOLOPACIDAE	rM
Sand Martin	Riparia riparia	HIRUNDINIDAE	rR, oM
Sanderling	Calidris alba	SCOLOPACIDAE	sM
Sandpiper, Buff-breasted	Tryngites sub-ruficollis	SCOLOPACIDAE	1977
Sandpiper, Common	Actitis hypoleucos	SCOLOPACIDAE	oSV
Sandpiper, Curlew	Calidris ferruginea	SCOLOPACIDAE	sM
Sandpiper, Green	Tringa ochropus	SCOLOPACIDAE	5 records 1996
Sandpiper, Purple	Calidris maritima	SCOLOPACIDAE	rWV
Sandpiper, Wood	Tringa glareola	SCOLOPACIDAE	
Scarlet Rosefinch	Carpodacus erythrinus	FRINGILLIDAE	
Scaup	Aythea marila	ANATIDAE	1982, & 87 (2 dates)
Scoter, Common	Melanitta nigra	ANATIDAE	rV
Scoter, Velvet	Melanitta fusca	ANATIDAE	1985
Serin	Serinus serinus	FRINGILLIDAE	9 records 1972-1986, 2 pairs in 1996
Shag	Phalacrocorax aristotelis	PHALACROCORACIDAE	cR
Shearwater, Cory's	Calonectris diomedia	PROCELLARIIDAE	1977 (2 dates)
Shearwater, Great	Puffinus gravis	PROCELLARIIDAE	
Shearwater, Manx	Puffinus puffinus	PROCELLARIIDAE	oSV, oM
Shearwater, Sooty	Puffinus griseus	PROCELLARIIDAE	oM
Shelduck	Tadorna tadorna	ANATIDAE	5 records 1971-78. Pair bred 2 young Platte Saline 1996
Shelduck, Ruddy	Tadorna ferruginae	ANATINAE	
Shoveler	Anas clypeata	ANATIDAE	1970, 1983, 1986
Shrike, Great Grey	Lenius excubitor	LANIIDAE	1888
Shrike, Lesser Grey	Lanius minor	LANIIDAE	1962, 1974, 1996
Shrike, Red-backed	Lanius collurio	LANIDAE	rM
Shrike, Woodchat	Lanius senator	LANIIDAE	7 records 1956-88, 96

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Siskin	Carduelis spinus	FRIGILLIDAE	rWV
Skua, Arctic	Stercorarius parasiticus	STERCORARIIDAE	oM, seen offshore
Skua, Great	Stercorarius skua	STERCORARIIDAE	oM
Skylark	Alauda arvensis	ALAUDIDAE	cR, cM
Smew	Mergus albellus	ANATIDAE	1918, 1985
Snipe	Gallinago gallinago	SCOLOPACIDAE	cWV, cM
Snipe, Jack	Lymnocryptes minimus	SCOLOPACIDAE	6 records 1975-88
Sparrowhawk	Accipiter nisus	ACCIPITRIDAE	rR since 1984
Sparrow, House	Passer domesticus	PASSERIDAE	cR
Sparrow, Tree	Passer montanus	PASSERIDAE	rV
Spoonbill	Platalea leucorodia	THRESKIORNITHIDAE	1905
Starling	Sturnus vulgaris	STURNIDAE	cR, cM
Starling, Purple Glossy		STURNIDAE	1999
Stilt, Black-winged	Himantopus himantopus	RECURVIROSTRIDAE	1988, 3 weeks
Stint, Little	Calidris minuta	SCOLOPACIDAE	rM
Stonechat	Saxicola torquata	TURDIDAE	CR to winter 1984/5 now oWV
Stork, White	Ciconia ciconia	CICONIIDAE	5 records 1973-88
Swallow	Hirundo rustica	HIRUNDINIDAE	cSR, cM
Swallow, Red-rumped	Hirundo daurica	HIRUNDINIDAE	1988
Swan, Mute	Cygnus Olor	ANATIDAE	5 records 1971-92. Pair overwintered in Corblets qu. 1995/6
Swan, Whooper	Cygnus cygnus	ANATIDAE	
Swift	Apus apus	APODIDAE	oR, fM
Swift, Alpine	Apus melba	APODIDAE	1988
Teal	Anas crecca	ANATIDAE	fWV
Teal, Blue-winged	Anas discors	ANATIDAE	1983, 3 individuals
Tern, Arctic	Sterna paradisaea	STERNIDAE	oM
Tern, Black	Chlidonias niger	STERNIDAE	rM
Tern, Common	Sterna hirundo	STERNIDAE	oR, fM
Tern, Little	Sterna albifrons	STERNIDAE	sM
Tern, Sandwich	Sterna sandvicensis	STERNIDAE	oM
Thrush, Mistle	Turdus viscivorus	TURDIDAE	rR, rV
Thrush, Song	Turdus philpmelos	TURDIDAE	cR
Tit, Bearded	Panurus biarmicus	TIMALIIDAE	1973 (x2), 1988
Tit, Blue	Parus caeruleus	TIMALIIDAE	cR
Tit, Coal	Parus ater	TIMALIIDAE	sM
Tit, Great	Parus major	TIMALIIDAE	cR
Tit, Long-tailed	Aegithalos caudatus	TMALIIDAE	sM, sWV
Tit, Marsh	Parus palustris	TIMALIIDAE	1957, 58, 68
Tit, Willow	Parus montanus	TIMALIIDAE	1969
Treecreeper, Short-toed	Certhia brachydactyla	CERTHIIDAE	sR
Turnstone	Arenaria interpres	SCOLOPACIDAE	cWV, cM, oSR
Wagtail, Grey	Motacilla cinerea	MOTACILLIDAE	fWV
Wagtail, Pied	Motacilla alba yarrellii	MOTACILLIDAE	cM, cWV
Wagtail, White	Moticilla alba	MOTACILLA	oR, fWV
Wagtail, Yellow	Motacilla flava	MOTACILLIDAE	sM, bred 1952
Wallcreeper	Trichodroma muraria	TICHODROMADIDAE	1899
Warbler, Aquatic	Acrocephalus paludicola.	SYLVIIDAE	1972, 76, 87
Warbler, Cetti's	Cettia cetti	SYLVIIDAE	1975, 76, 79, 96
Warbler, Dartford	Sylvia undata	SYLVIIDAE	sR, oSV
Warbler, Fan Tailed	Cisticola juncidis	SYLVIIDAE	
Warbler, Garden	Sylvia borin	SYLVIIDAE	oSR, fM
Warbler, Grasshopper	Locustella naevia	SYLVIIDAE	cM
Warbler, Greenish	Phylloscopus trochiloides	SYLVIIDAE	1976, 1986
Warbler, Icterine	Hippolais icterina	SYLVIIDAE	5 dates 1975, 1 1982
Warbler, Marsh	Acrocephalus palustris	SYLVIIDAE	

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Warbler, Melodious	Hippolais polyglotta	SYLVIIDAE	6 records 1955-77
Warbler, Moustached	Acrocephalus melanopogon	SYLVIIDAE	1 record
Warbler, Reed	Acrocephalus scirpaceus	SYLVIIDAE	sSR, rR Longis pond
Warbler, Sardinian	Sylvia melanocephela	SYLVIIDAE	1976
Warbler, Sedge	Achrocephalus schoenobaenus	SYLVIIDAE	oR, cM
Warbler, Subalpine	Sylvia cantilans	SYLVIIDAE	1988
Warbler, Willow	Phylloscopus trochilus	SYLVIIDAE	cSR, cM
Warbler, Wood	Phylloscopus sibilatrix	SYLVIIDAE	rM
Warbler, Yellow-browed	Phylloscopus inornatus	SYLVIIDAE	1988
Wheatear	Oenanthe oenanthe	TURDIDAE	cM, rR on Burhou
Wheatear, Black-eared	Oenanthe hispanica	TURDIDAE	1977, 1982
Whimbrel	Numenius phaeopus	SCOLOPACIDAE	fSV
Whinchat	Saxicola rubetra	TURDIDAE	cM, past breeder
Whitethroat	Sylvia communis	SYLVIIDAE	cSR, cM
Whitethroat, Lesser	Sylvia curruca	SYLVIIDAE	sSR, rM
Widgeon	Anas penelope	ANATIDAE	9 records 1921-96
Woodcock	Scolopax rusticola	SCOLOPACIDAE	fWV, fM
Woodlark	Lullula arborea	ALAUDIDAE	1985
Woodpecker, Great Spotted	Dendrocopus major	PICIDAE	sV
Woodpecker, Green	Picus viridis	PICIDAE	1961, 1969
Woodpecker, Lesser Spotted	Dendrocopus minor	PICIDAE	1975
Woodpigeon	Columba palumbus	COLUMBIDAE	sR, fM
Wren	Troglodytes troglodytes	TROGLODYTIDAE	cR
Wryneck	Jynx torquilla	PICIDAE	Was oR now sM
Yellowhammer	Emberiza citronella	EMBERIZIDAE	Was rR now sSV

Notes;

Status of species;

R= resident, breeds here. SR= summer resident, breeds here. SV= summer visitor, does not breed here. WV= winter visitor. M= passage migrant. V= visitor, any time

Frequency of sighting (in small case); c= common, f= frequent, o= occasional, s= scarce, r= rare.

Species records are mainly up to publication of the last full list in 1990. Any blanks in column 4 are new records since then.

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Alderney Dragonfly List

The first records of Alderney Dragonflies were made by Guernsey naturalist W.A. Luff in the late 19th Century and published in several annual issues of La Société Guernesiaise *Transactions* from 1899-1908. The 25 specimens collected during this period by Luff and other Guernsey and UK naturalists, in a total of six separate species, still exist in the collections in the Guernsey Museum.

Suitable habitats are very limited in Alderney. Most of these species were collected at Mannez pond, but other important breeding sites are La Mare du Roe (Longis pond), Corblets quarry and a number of domestic fish ponds.

Later records of other naturalists have been published in several editions of *Transactions* since that time. The most recent was "Dragonflies in Alderney" in the 1989 edition, page 370 by Jersey naturalist, Roger Long. This added three new species to the earlier lists, summarised by Dr. Jean Belle in her article, "The Dragonfly fauna of the Sarnian Islands" in the 1979 *Transactions* pages 465-481, which listed seven species, repeated in her small booklet, "The Dragonflies of Alderney", published by the Alderney Society in 1980, with an additional single species added in 1981.

Luff's six species in lists published from 1900-1909 were;
The Blue-tailed Damselfly, *Ischnura elegans;* the Southern Emerald Damselfly, *Lestes barbarus;* the Migrant Hawker, *Aeschna mixta;* the Four-spotted Chaser, *Libellula quadrimaculata;* the Yellow-winged Darter *Sympetrum flaveolum;* and the Red-veined Darter, *Sympetrum fonscolombei*.
The Common Darter, *Sypetrum striolatum* was added to this list by Dr. Bell, who collected this, *Ischnura elegans* and the Emperor Dragonfly *Anax imperator* from Mannez quarry pond in 1979.
Rich and Margaret Austin from Guernsey identified the Common Blue Damselfly *Enallagma cyathigerum* in Mannez Quarry in September 1981, whilst the Black-lined Orthetrum, *Orthetrum cancellatum* was found in Corblets Quarry by Roger and Margaret Long in July 1987. Most of these have been recorded on a number of occasions since.
In August 2000, local resident Jean Possnicker found a male Banded Demoiselle, *Calopteryx splendens* near her garden pond, the identity confirmed by Roger Long and a pair of what appeared to be the same species was seen a day or two later by the author, flying around his swimming pool for about half an hour in the evening.
This brings to eleven the number of species recorded in the island and, of these, the Emperor Dragonfly and the Blue-tailed Damselfly are now seen regularly in considerable numbers in several parts of the island.

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Alderney Butterflies

English name	Latin names	Frequency
Brimstone	Gonepteryx rhamni	o
Brown Argus	Aricia agestis D&S	o
Camberwell Beauty	Nymphalis antiopa	
Clouded Yellow	Colias croceus Geoff	lf 2004/5
Comma	Polygonia c-album L	c
Common Blue	Polyommatus icarus Rott	a
Dark Green Fritillary	Argynnis aglaja L	r, 7/-4, 8/05
Gatekeeper	Pyronia tythonus L	a
Glanville Fritillary	Melitea cincxia	c
Grayling	Hipparchia semele L	c
Green Hairstreak	Callophrys rubi L	c
Green Veined White	Pieris napi L	f
Holly Blue	Celastrina argiolus L	a
Large Copper	Lycaena dispar	
Large Tortoiseshell	Nymphalis polychloros	r
Large White	Pieris brassicae L	a
Meadow Brown	Maniola jurtina L	a
Orange Tip	Anthocharis cardamines	
Painted Lady	Vanessa cardui L	f
Pale Clouded Yellow	Colias hyale	probably r
Peacock	Inachis io L	c
Purple Hairstreak	Neozephyrus quercus L	c
Purple Emperor	Apatura iris	
Red Admiral	Vanessa atalanta L	a
Silver-Washed Fritillary	Argynnis paphia	
Small Blue	Cupido minimus	
Small Copper	Lycaena phlaeas L	lf
Small Heath	Coenonympha pamphilus L	c
Small Tortoiseshell	Aglais urticae L	lf
Small White	Pieris rapae L	lf
Speckled Wood	Pararge aegeria L	a
Swallowtail	Papilio machaon L	r 7/04 Longis, 8/05 Braye
Wall	Lasiommata megera L	o
White-Letter Hairstreak	Satyrium w-album	

This list was compiled from several sources in the last 100 years. Those with no entry in the frequency column have not been recorded for many years.
Numbers of individuals of each species seen each year vary considerably and several species have limited habitat ranges.

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Butterfly List

Note;

The latest surveys of Alderney's lepidoptera were made in August - September 2005. Because of the lateness in the year many of the spring butterflies were not seen then. In particular, Brimstone and Glanville Fritillary were not seen during this period despite good numbers of the latter earlier and several sightings of Brimstones.

Peacock

Small Tortoiseshell

Common Blues

Painted Lady

Common Blues mating

Small Copper

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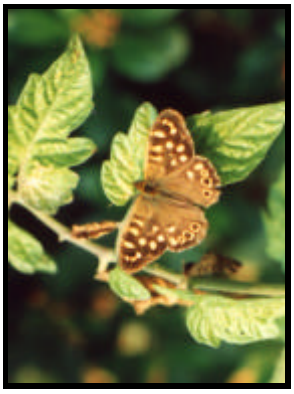
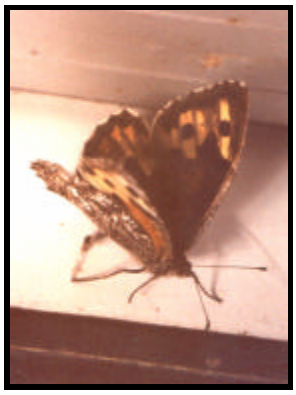
Red Admiral

Clouded Yellow



Speckled Wood



Grayling

Large White

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ALDERNEY MACROMOTHS
as at 30.9.05

List created by David Wedd including his recent captures

Key to Notes in Column 3

m migrant
a abundant
c common
fc fairly common
r rare

LVC La Vallee Clos
N The Nunnery
BB Brian Bonnard's, + Platte Saline
FC Farm Court
Braye + Butes + Longis etc

MOTHS	English Name	Notes & frequency
14 Hepialus sylvina L	Orange Swift	a
17 Hepialus lupulinus L	Common Swift	7.04, FC (2)
161 Zeuzera pyrina L	Leopard Moth	c
162 Cossus cossus L	Goat Moth	(3) 7.04, FC, 8.05, BB, FC
170 Zygaena trifolii Esp ssp	Five-spot Burnet	a
383 Synansphecia muscaeformis Esp	Thrift Clearwing	a
1636 Lasiocampa trifolii D&S	Grass Eggar	a
1637 Lasiocampa quercus L	Oak Eggar	(1 f) shop window 26.8.05
1638 Macrothylacia rubi L	Fox Moth	c
1640 Euthrix potatoria L	Drinker	a
1642 Gastropacha quercifolia L	Lappet	(1) FC, 7.04
1643 Saturnia pavonia L	Emperor Moth	c
1648 Drepana falcataria L	Pebble Hook-tip	c
1651 Cilix glaucata Scop	Chinese Character	a
1652 Thyatira batis L	Peach Blossom	c
1653 Habrosyne pyritoides Hufn	Buff Arches	a
1654 Tethea ocularis L	Figure of Eighty	a
1657 Ochropacha duplaris L	Common Lutestring	c
1666 Geometra papilionaria L	Large Emerald	-5
1669 Hemithea aestivaria Hubn	Common Emerald	c
1673 Hemistola chrysoprasaria Esp	Small Emerald	c
1674 Jodis lactearia L	Little Emerald	c
1678 Cyclophora pupillaria Hb	Blair's Mocha	(2) rm

1680 Cyclophora punctaria L	Maiden's Blush	c
1682 Timandra comae Schmidt	Blood-vein	c
1689 Scopula marginepunctata Goeze	Mullein Wave	a
1690 Scopula imitaria Hb	Small Blood-vein	c
1693 Scopula floslactata Haw	Cream Wave	4 or 5 FC, LVC
1699 Idaea rusticata D&S	Least Carpet	a
1701 Idaea sylvestraria Hb	Dotted Border Wave	2 LVC
1702 Idaea biselata Hufn	Small Fan-footed Wave	c
1705 Idaea fuscovenosa	Dwarf Cream Wave	c
1707 Idaea seriata Schrank	Small Dusty Wave	a
1708 Idaea dimidiata Hufn	Single-dotted Wave	c
1709 Idaea subsericeata Haw	Satin Wave	c
1711 Idaea trigeminata Haw	Treble Brown Spot	c
1713 Idaea aversata L	Riband Wave	a
1714 Idaea degeneraria Hb	Portland Ribbon Wave	c
1716 Rhodometra sacraria L	Vestal	m 7.04
1720 Orthonama obstipata Fabr	Gem	m 7.04, 7.05
1722 Xanthorhoe designata Hufn	Flame Carpet	c
1724 Xanthorhoe spadicearia D&S	Red Twin-spot Carpet	c
1725 Xanthorhoe ferrugata Cl	Dark-barred Twin-spot Carpet	4
1728 Xanthorhoe fluctuata L	Garden Carpet	a
1730 Scotopteryx peribolata Hb	Spanish Carpet	c
1732 Scotopteryx chenopodiata L	Shaded Broad-bar	c
1735 Catarhoe rubidata D&S	Ruddy Carpet	(1) FC, 7.05
1738 Epirrhoe alternata Muller	Common Carpet	a
1740 Epirrhoe galiata D&S	Galium Carpet	a
1741 Costaconvexa polygrammatica B	Many-lined Moth	(1) 9.05 N
1742 Camptogramma bilineata L	Yellow Shell	a
1745 Larentia clavaria Haw	Mallow	N 3.10.05
1752 Cosmorhoe ocellata L	Purple Bar	c
1754 Eulithis prunata L	Phoenix	several FC
1759 Ecliptopera silaceata D&S	Small Phoenix	(3) 8.05 LVC
1760 Chloroclysta siterata Hufn	Red-Green Carpet	(1) LVC, 14.9.05
1764 Chloroclysta truncata Hufn	Common Marbled Carpet	a
1765 Cidaria fulvata Forster	Barred Yellow	c
1766 Plemyria rubiginata D&S	Blue-bordered Carpet	c
1768 Thera obeliscata Hb	Grey Pine Carpet	(2) LVC, 9.05
1776 Colostygia pectinataria Knoch	Green Carpet	a
1777 Hydriomena furcata Thun	July Highflyer	a
1789 Rheumaptera undulata L	Scallop Shell	(2) FC, 7.05
1808 Perizoma flavofasciata Thun	Sandy Carpet	(2) FC, LVC
1811 Eupithecia tenuiata Hb	Slender Pug	c
1823 Eupithecia venosata Fabr	Netted Pug	c
1825 Eupithecia centaureata D&S	Lime-speck Pug	a
1827 Eupithecia intricata arceuthata	Freyer's Pug	(4) FC
1830 Eupithecia absinthiata Cl	Wormwood Pug	several

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1832 Eupithecia assimilata Doubleday	Currant Pug	c
1833 Eupithecia expallidata Doub	Bleached Pug	(1) FC, 7.04
1834 Eupithecia vulgata Haw	Common Pug	a
1835 Eupithecia tripunctaria H-S	White-spotted Pug	c
1837 Eupithecia subfuscata Haw	Grey Pug	c
1838 Eupithecia icterata Villers	Tawny Speckled Pug	c
1840 Eupithecia subumbrata D&S	Shaded Pug	c
1841 Eupithecia millefoliata Rossler	Yarrow Pug	larvae, Braye
1846 Eupithecia nanata Hb	Narrow-winged Pug	c
1855 Eupithecia phoeniceata Ramb	Cypress Pug	a
1855a Eupithecia ultimaria Boisd	Channel Islands Pug	c as larvae
1858 Chloroclystis v-ata Haw	V-Pug	c
1860 Pasiphila rectangulata L	Green Pug	c
1862 Gymnoscelis rufifasciata Haw	Double-striped Pug	a
1882 Pterapherapteryx sexalata Retz	Small Seraphim	c
1883 Acasis viretata Hb	Yellow-barred Brindle	a
1884 Abraxas grossulariata L	Magpie	c
1887 Lomaspilis marginata L	Clouded Border	c
1889 Macaria notata L	Peacock Moth	several
1890 Macaria alternate D&S	Sharp-angled Peacock	c
1893 Macaria liturata Clerck	Tawny-barred Angle	several
1901 Cepphis advenaria Hb	Little Thorn	m FC 7.04-5
1904 Plagodis pulveraria L	Scorched Wing	c
1906 Opistograptis luteolata Hb	Brimstone Moth	a
1907 Epione repandaria Hufn	Bordered Beauty	(3) FC, LVC
1910 Apeira syringaria L	Lilac Beauty	(1) FC 9.9.05
1911 Ennomos autumnaria Werneburg	Large Thorn	c
1913 Ennomos alniaria L	Canary-shouldered Thorn	c
1914 Ennomos fuscantaria Haw	Dusky Thorn	(3) FC 9.05
1917 Selenia dentaria Fabr	Early Thorn	c
1918 Selenia lunularia Hb	Lunar Thorn	c (migrants?)
1921 Crocallis elinguaria L	Scalloped Oak	a
1921a Crocallis dardoinaria	Dusky Scalloped Oak	(1) LVC 13.9.05
1922 Ourapteryx sambucaria L	Swallow-tailed Moth	c
1931 Biston betularia L	Peppered Moth	c
1936 Menophra abruptaria Thun	Waved Umber	c
1937 Peribatodes rhomboidaria D&S	Willow Beauty	a
1945 Cleorodes lichenaria Hufn	Brussels Lace	c
1947 Ectropis bistortata Goeze	Engrailed	c
1952 Ematurga atomaria L	Common Heath	a
1955 Cabera pusaria L	Common White Wave	c
1956 Cabera exanthemata Scop	Common Wave	less common
1958 Limographa temerata D&S	Clouded Silver	c
1961 Campaea margaritata L	Light Emerald	a
1968 Semiaspilates ochrearia Rossi	Yellow Belle	c
1972 Agrius convolvuli L	Convolvulus Hawk-moth	cm
1976 Sphinx ligustri L	Privet Hawk-moth	c

1978 Hyloicus pinastri L	Pine Hawk-moth	(2) BB 9.05
1980 Smerinthus ocellata L	Eyed Hawk-moth	(2) FC 7.04, 05
1981 Laothoe populi L	Poplar Hawk-moth	c
1984 Macroglossum stellatarum L	Humming-bird Hawk-moth	am
1992 Deilephila porcellus L	Small Elephant Hawk-moth	a
1994 Phalera bucephala L	Buff-tip	c
1995 Cerura vinula L	Puss Moth	(1) FC 7.05
2000 Notodonta dromedarius L	Iron Prominent	c
2003 Notodonta ziczac L	Pebble Prominent	c
2007 Pheosia tremula Clerck	Swallow Prominent	c
2008 Ptilodon capucina L	Coxcomb Prominent	fc
2011 Pterostoma palpina Clerck	Pale Prominent	c
2018 Clostera anachoreta D&S	Scarce Chocolate-tip	-5
2019 Clostera curtula L	Chocolate-tip	(1) FC 8.05
2020 Diloba caeruleocephala L	Figure of Eight	larvae
2026 Orgyia antiqua L	Vapourer	fc (+larva)
2028 Calliteara pudibunda L	Pale Tussock	c
2029 Euproctis chrysorrhoea L	Brown-tail	a
2030 Euproctis similis Fuessly	Yellow-tail	a
2033 Lymantria monacha L	Black Arches	fc
2034 Lymantria dispar L	Gypsy Moth	(4) FC
2035 Thumatha senex HB	Round-winged Muslin	c
2037 Miltochrista miniata Forster	Rosy Footman	a
2044 Eilema griseola Hb	Dingy Footman	c
2045 Eilema caniola HB	Hoary Footman	c
2047 Eilema complana L	Scarce Footman	c
2049 Eilema depressa Esp	Buff Footman	(1) FC 7.04
2050 Eilema lurideola Zincken	Common Footman	c
2051 Eilema quadra L	Four-spotted Footman	am
2053 Coscinia cribraria L	Speckled Footman	(1) Longis 7.04
2057 Arctia caja L	Garden Tiger	fc
2059 Diacrisia sannio L	Clouded Buff	c Giffoine
2060 Spilosoma lubricipeda L	White Ermine	c
2061 Spilosoma luteum Hufn	Buff Ermine	c
2064 Phragmatobia fuliginosa L	Ruby Tiger	a
2067 Euplagia quadripunctaria Poda	Jersey Tiger	a
2069 Tyria jacobaeae L	Cinnabar	a
2076 Meganola albula D&S	Kent Black Arches	c
2081 Euxoa tritici L	White-line Dart	c
2082 Euxoa nigricans L	Garden Dart	c
2083 Euxoa cursoria Hufn	Coast Dart	(1) 27.8.05 BB
2085 Agrotis vestigialis Hufn	Archer's Dart	a
2087 Agrotis segetum D&S	Turnip Moth	a
2088 Agrotis clavis Hufn	Heart & Club	c
2089 Agrotis exclamationis L	Heart & Dart	a
2090 Agrotis trux lunigera Stephens	Crescent Dart	a
2091 Agrotis ipsilon Hufn	Dark Sword-grass	am

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2092 Agrotis puta Hb	Shuttle-shaped Dart	a
2094 Agrotis crassa Hb	Great Dart	c
2098 Axilia putris L	Flame	c
2102 Ochropleura plecta L	Flame Shoulder	a
2107 Noctua pronuba L	Large Yellow Underwing	a
2109 Noctua comes Hb	Lesser Yellow Underwing	c
2110 Noctua fimbriata Schreber	Broad-bordered Y U	c
2111 Noctua janthe Borkh	Lesser Broad-bordered Y U	a
2111a Noctua janthina	Langmaid's Yellow U	6 so far
2112 Noctua interjecta Hb	Least Yellow Underwing	c
2117 Eugnorisma glareosa Esper	Autumnal Rustic	LVC 3.10.05
2118 Lycophotia porphyrea D&S	True Lover's Knot	c
2119 Peridroma saucia Hb	Pearly Underwing	cm
2120 Diarsia mendica Fabr	Ingrailed Clay	c
2123 Diarsia rubi View	Small Square-spot	a
2126 Xestia c-nigrum L	Setaceous Hebrew Character	a
2128 Xestia triangulum Hufn	Double Square-spot	c
2134 Xestia xanthographa D&S	Square-spot Rustic	a
2135 Xestia agathina Duponchel	Heath Rustic	c
2138 Anaplectoides prasina D&S	Green Arches	(2) FC 7.04.05
2145 Discestra trifolii Hufn	Nutmeg	c
2147 Hada plebeja L	Shears	c
2152 Sideridis albicolon Hb	White Colon	fc FC only
2154 Mamestra brassicae L	Cabbage Moth	c
2155 Melanchra persicariae L	Dot Moth	c
2158 Lacanobia thalassina Hufn	Pale-shouldered Brocade	(4) FC
2159 Lacanobia suasa Hufn	Dog's Tooth	several FC
2160 Lacanobia oleracea L	Bright-line Brown-eye	a
2164 Hecatera bicolorata Hufn	Broad-barred White	fc Longis
2165 Hecatera dysodea D&S	Small Ranunculus	(1) LVC 27.9.05
2166 Hadena rivularis Fabr	Campion	fc
2167 Hadena perplexa + capsophila D&S	Tawny Shears/Pod Lover	c
2169 Hadena luteago barrettii Db	Barrett's Marbled Coronet	c
2171 Hadena confuse Hufn	Marbled Coronet	several
2173 Hadena bicruris Hufn	Lychnis	c
2176 Cerapteryx graminis L	Antler Moth	fc
2193 Mythimna farrago Fabr	Clay	c
2194 Mythimna albipuncta D&S	White-point	a (now res.)
2195 Mythimna vitellina Hb	Delicate	a
2197 Mythimna straminea Treitschke	Southern Wainscot	c
2198 Mythimna impure Hb	Smoky Wainscot	a
2199 Mythimna pallens L	Common Wainscot	a
2201 Mythimna litoralis Curtis	Shore Wainscot	c

2202 Mythimna l-album L	L-album Wainscot	a
2203 Mythimna unipuncta Haw	White-speck	c
2205 Mythimna comma L	Shoulder-striped Wainscot	c
2206 Mythimna putrescens Hb	Devonshire Wainscot	c
2208 Mythimna loreyi Duponchel	Cosmopolitan	(1) LVC 27.9.05
2216 Cucullia umbratica L	Shark	c
2225 Brachylomia viminalis Fabr	Minor Shoulder-knot	c
2226 Leucochlaena oditis Hb	Beautiful Gothic	a
2229 Dasypolia temple Thunb	Brindled Ochre	(3) 3.10.05
2232 Aporophyla nigra Haw	Black Rustic	c
2251 Trigonophora flammea Esper	Flame Brocade	(1) so far, LVC
2252 Polymixis flavicincta D&S	Large Ranunculus	c
2255 Polymixis lichenea Hb	Feathered Ranunculus	a
2269 Atethmia centrago Haw	Centre-barred Sallow	several FC
2270 Omphaloscelis lunosa Haw	Lunar Underwing	a
2274 Xanthia icteritia Hufn	Sallow	(1) LVC 26.9.05
2279 Acronicta aceris L	Sycamore	a
2283 Acronicta tridens D&S	Dark Dagger	c
2284 Acronicta psi L	Grey Dagger	c
2289 Acronicta rumicis L	Knot Grass	a
2291 Acronicta ligustri D&S	Coronet	c
2293 Cryphia domestica Hufn	Marbled Beauty	c
2295 Cryphia muralis Forster	Marbled Green	a
2300 Mormo maura L	Old Lady	fc
2301 Dypterygia scabriuscula L	Bird's Wing	c
2303 Thalpophila matura Hufn	Straw Underwing	a
2304 Trachea atriplicis L	Orache	c
2305 Euplexia lucipara L	Small Angle Shades	c
2306 Philogophera meticulosa L	Angle Shades	a
2318 Cosmia trapezina L	Dun-bar	c
2321 Apamea monoglypha Hufn	Dark Arches	a
2322 Apamea lythoxylaea D&S	Light Arches	several
2337 Oligia strigilis L	Marbled Minor	a
2338 Oligia versicolor Borkh	Rufous Minor	c?
2339 Oligis latruncula D&S	Tawny Marbled Minor	c
2340 Oligia fasciuncula Haw	Middle-barred Minor	c
2341 Mesoligia furuncula D&S	Cloaked Minor	a
2343 Mesapamea secalis L	Common Rustic	a
2343a Mesapamea didyma Esper	Lesser Common Rustic	c
2353 Luperina testacea D&S	Flounced Rustic	a
2360 Amphipoea oculea L	Ear Moth	fc
2361 Hydraecia micacea Esper	Rosy Rustic	a
2364 Gortyna flavago D&S	Frosted Orange	c
2373 Archanara sparganii Esper	Webb's Wainscot	(1) 6.9.05
2375 Rhizedra lutosa Hb	Large Wainscot	c
2379 Coenobia rufa Haw	Small Rufous	(3) LVC
2380 Charanyca trigrammica Hufn	Treble Lines	a

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2381 Hoplodrina alsines Brahm	Uncertain	c
2382 Hoplodrina blanda D&S	Rustic	c
2384 Hoplodrina ambigua D&S	Vine's Rustic	a
2385 Spodoptera exigua Hb	Small Mottled Willow	cm
2387 Caradrina morpheus Hufn	Mottled Rustic	fc
2387a Platyperigia kadenii Freyer	Clancy's Rustic	(10) 9.05
2389 Paradrina clavipalpis Scop	Pale Mottled Willow	c
2400 Helicoverpa armigera Hb	Scarce Bordered Straw	fcm 8/9.05
2403 Heliothis peltigera D&S	Bordered Straw	fcm 7.04
2410 Protodeltoyte pygarga Hufn	Marbled White-spot	c
2422 Pseudoips prasinana L	Green Silver Lines	2 gen 9.05
2423 Nycteola revayana Scop	Oak Nycteoline	7.05
2434 Diachrysia chrysitis L	Burnished Brass	c
2436 Macdunnoughia confusa Steph	Dewick's Plusia	(1) LV 6.9.05
2439 Plusia festucae L	Gold Spot	fc
2441 Autographa gamma L	Silver Y	am
2449 Abrostola triplasia L	Dark Spectacle	c
2450 Abrostola tripartita Hufn	Spectacle	c
2452 Catocala nupta L	Red Underwing	c
2462 Callostege mi Clerck	Mother Shipton	Longis 7.04
2463 Euclidia glyphica L	Burnet Companion	7.04
2469 Scoliopteryx libatrix L	Herald	c
2474 Rivula sericealis Scop	Straw Dot	c
2477 Hypena proboscidalis L	Snout	a
2478 Hypena obsitalis Hb	Bloxworth Snout	a
2484 Schrankia costaestrigalis Steph	Pinion-streaked Snout	c
2492 Herminia grisealis D&S	Small Fan-foot	c

Cream-spot Tiger Moth

Jers ey Tiger Moth

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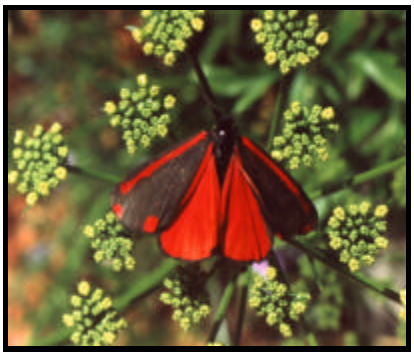
Ma gpie Moth

Swallo wtail Moth



Cinnabar Moth

Poplar Hawkmoth

ConvolvulusHawkm

Late Ranunculus Moth

Red Band Moth (normal form)

Red Band Moth (green form)

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ALDERNEY PLANT LIST

Scientific names	English names
Lycopodiopsida	**Clubmosses**
Selaginellaceae	
Selaginella kraussiana	Kraus's clubmoss
Isoetaceæ	
Isoetes histrix	Land Quillwort (RDBk)
Equisetopsida	**Horsetails**
Equisetaceæ	
Equisetum arvense	Field Horsetail
Equisetum palustre	Marsh Horsetail
Equisetum telmateia	Great Horsetail
Pteropsida	**Ferns**
Ophioglossaceæ	
Ophioglossum vulgatum	Adder's-tongue
Ophioglossum lusitanicum	Least Adder's-tongue (RDBk)
Osmundaceæ	
Osmunda regalis	Royal Fern
Adiantaceæ	
Adiantum capillus-veneris	Maidenhair Fern (Scarce)
Polypodiaceæ	
Polypodium vulgare	Polypody
Polypodium interjectum	Intermediate Polypody
Dennstædtiaceæ	**(Formerly in Hypolepidaceæ)**
Pteridium aquilinum	Bracken
Aspleniaceæ	
Phyllitis scolopendrium	Hart's-tongue Fern
Asplenium adiantum-nigrum	Black Spleenwort
Asplenium obovatum	Lanceolate Spleenwort (Scarce)
Asplenium marinum	Sea Spleenwort
Asplenium trichomanes	Maidenhair Spleenwort
Asplenium ruta-muraria	Wall-rue
Ceterach officinarum	Rusty-back Fern
Woodsiaceæ	**Formerly Athyriaceæ**
Athyrium filix-femina	Lady-fern
Dryopteridaceæ	**Formerly Aspidiaceæ**
Polystichum setiferum	Soft Shield-fern
Cyrtomium falcatum	House Holly-fern
Dryopteris filix-mas	Male-fern
Dryopteris affinis ssp borreri	Golden-scaled Male-fern
Dryopteris dilatata	Broad Buckler-fern
Blechnaceæ	
Blechnum	Hard-fern
Azollaceæ	
Azolla filiculoides	Water Fern
Gymnospermæ	
Pinopsida	**Pines & Cyprusses**
Pinaceæ	
Picea abies	Norway Spruce
Larix decidua	European Larch
Cedrus deodora	Deodar
Cedrus libani	Cedar-of-Lebanon
Pinus sylvestris	Scots Pine (Scarce)
Pinus nigra ssp. nigra	Austrian Pine
Pinus nigra ssp. laricio	Corsican Pine
Pinus pinaster	Maritime Pine
Pinus radiata	Monterey Pine
Pinus attenuata	Knobcone Pine
Tsuga heterophylla	Western Hemlock
Cupressaceæ	
Cupressus macrocarpa	Monterey Cypress
cX Cupressocyparis leylandii	Leyland Cypress
Chamæcyparis lawsoniana	Lawson's Cypress
Thuja occidentalis	White Cedar
Thuja plicata	Western Red-cedar
Araucariaceæ	
Araucaria araucana	Monkey-puzzle
Taxaceæ	
Taxus baccata	Yew
Magnoliopsidæ	**Flowering plants**
1. Magnoliidæ	
Lauraceæ	
Laurus nobilis	Bay
Nymphaeaceæ	
Nymphaea alba	White Water-lily
Nuphar lutea	Yellow Water-lily
Ceratophyllaceæ	
Ceratophyllum submersum	Soft Hornwort

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Scientific names	English names
Ranunculaceæ	
Caltha	Marsh Marigold
Consolida ajacis	Larkspur
Clematis vitalba	Traveller's-joy
Ranunculus acris	Meadow Buttercup
Ranunculus repens	Creeping Buttercup
Ranunculus bulbosus	Bulbous Buttercup
Ranunculus sardous	Hairy Buttercup
Ranunculus parviflorus	Small-flowered Buttercup
Ranunculus lingua	Greater Spearwort
Ranunculus flammula	Lesser Spearwort
Ranunculus ficaria agg.	Lesser Celandine
Ranunculus ficaria ssp. ficaria	Lesser Celandine
Ranunculus ficaria ssp. calthifolius	Lesser Celandine
Ranunculus ficaria ssp bulbifer	Lesser Celandine
Ranunculus ficaria ssp. chrysocephalus	Lesser Celandine
Ranunculus hederaceus	Ivy-leaved Crowfoot
Ranunculus trichophyllus	Three-leaved Water-crowfoot
Thalictrum minus	Lesser Meadow-rue
Berberidaceæ	**Barbaries**
Berberis vulgaris	Barberry
Berberis darwinii	Darwin's Barberry
Papaveraceæ	
Roemeria hybrida	Violet Horned Poppy
Papaver somniferum	Opium Poppy
Papaver rhoeas	Common Poppy
Papaver dubium	Long-headed Poppy
Papaver hybridum	Rough Poppy
Glaucium flavum	Yellow Horned-poppy
Glaucium corniculatum	Red Horned-poppy
Eschscholzia californica	Californian Poppy
Fumariaceæ	
Pseudofumaria lutea	Yellow Corydalis
Fumaria capreolata	White Ramping-fumitory
Fumaria bastardii	Tall Ramping-fumitory
Fumaria muralis ssp. boraei	Common Ramping-fumitory
Fumaria officinalis	Common Fumitory
Ulmaceæ	Most of today's Elms were originally planted, a few have survived the Dutch Elm disease as suckers
Ulmus glabra ssp. glabra	Wych Elm
Ulmus glabra ssp. montana	Smooth-leaved Elm
Ulmus x hollandica	Dutch Elm
Ulmus procera	English Elm
Ulmus minor ssp. minor	Small-leaved Elm
Ulmus minor ssp. angustifolia	Cornish Elm
Ulmus minor ssp. sarniensis	Jersey Elm
Cannabaceæ	
Cannabis sativa	Hemp
Humulus lupulus	Hop
Moraceæ	
Ficus carica	Fig Probably all planted
Urticaceæ	
Urtica dioica	Common Nettle
Urtica urens	Small Nettle
Parietaria judaica	Pellitory-of-the-Wall
Soleirolia soleirolii	Mind-your-own-business
Juglandaceæ	Planted
Juglans regia	Walnut
Fagaceæ	Mostly planted
Fagus sylvatica	Beech
Castanea sativa	Sweet Chestnut
Quercus cerris	Turkey Oak
Quercus ilex	Evergreen Oak
Quercus petræa	Sessile Oak
Quercus robur	Pedunculate Oak
Betulaceæ	Mostly planted
Betula pendula	Silver Birch
Alnus glutinosa	Alder
Carpinus betulus	Hornbeam
Corylus avellana	Hazel
Nyctaginaceæ	
Mirabilis jalapa	Marvel-of-Peru
Aizoaceæ	
Aptenia cordifolia	Heart-leaf Ice-plant
Lampranthus roseus	Rosy Dew-plant
Carpobrotus acinaciformis	Sally-my-Handsome
Carpobrotus edulis	Hottentot-fig
Carpobrotus glaucescens	Angular Sea-fig
Chenopodiaceæ	
Chenopodium polyspermum	Many-seeded Goosefoot
Chenopodium vulvaria *	Stinking Goosefoot (RDBk)
Chenopodium murale	Nettle-leaved Goosefoot
Chenopodium ficifolium	Fig-leaved Goosefoot
Chenopodium opulifolium	Grey Goosefoot
Chenopodium album	Fat-hen
Atriplex prostrata	Spear-leaved Orache
Atriplex prostrata x A. glabriuscula	
Atriplex glabriuscula	Babington's Orache

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Scientific names	English names
Atriplex littoralis	Grass-leaved Orache
Atriplex patula	Common Orache
Atriplex laciniata	Frosted Orache
Atriplex portulacoides	Sea-purslane
Beta vulgaris ssp. maritima	Sea-beet
Salsola kali	Prickly Saltwort
Amaranthaceæ	
Amaranthus retroflexus	Common Pigweed
Portulacaceæ	
Claytonia sibirica	Pink Purslane
Montia fontana ssp. fontana	Blinks
Montia fontana ssp. chondrosperma	
Montia fontana ssp. amporitana	
Caryophyllaceæ	
Arenaria serpyllifolia ssp. serpyllifolia	Thyme-leaved Sandwort
Arenaria serpyllifolia ssp. leptoclados	Lesser Thyme-leaved Sandwort
Honckenya peploides	Sea Sandwort
Stellaria media	Common Chickweed
Stellaria pallida	Lesser Chickweed
Stellaria graminea	Lesser Stichwort
Cerastium tomentosum	Snow-in-Summer
Cerastium fontanum ssp. vulgare	Common Mouse-ear
Cerastium fontanum ssp. holosteoides	Common Mouse-ear
Cerastium glomeratum	Sticky Mouse-ear
Cerastium diffusum	Sea Mouse-ear
Cerastium semidecandrum	Little Mouse-ear
Moenchia erecta	Upright Chickweed
Sagina nodosa	Knotted Pearlwort
Sagina subulata	Heath Pearlwort
Sagina procumbens	Procumbent Pearlwort
Sagina apetala ssp. apetala	Annual Pearlwort
Sagina apetala ssp. erecta	Common Pearlwort
Sagina maritima	Sea Pearlwort
Scleranthus annuus	Annual Knawel
Herniaria glabra	Smooth Rupturewort
Herniaria ciliolata ssp. ciliolata	Fringed Rupturewort (RDBk)
Polycarpon tetraphyllum	Four-leaved Allseed (RDBk)
Spergula arvensis	Corn Spurrey
Spergularia rupicola	Rock Sea-spurrey
Spergularia rubra	Sand-spurrey
Spergularia bocconei	Greek Sea-spurrey
Lychnis flos-cuculi	Ragged-robin
Agrostemma githago	Corncockle
Silene nutans	Nottingham Catchfly (Scarce)
Silene vulgaris	Bladder Campion
Silene uniflora	Sea Campion
Silene armeria	Sweet William Catchfly
Silene latifolia	White Campion
Silene x hampeana	Pink Campion
Silene dioica	Red Campion
Silene gallica	Small-flowered Catchfly
Silene gallica var. quinquevulnera	Variegated Catchfly
Silene conica	Sand Catchfly
Saponaria officinalis	Soapwort
Petrorhagia nanteuilii	Childing Pink
Dianthus armeria	Deptford Pink (Scarce)
Polygonaceæ	
Persicaria amphibia	Amphibious Bistort
Persicaria maculosa	Redshank
Persicaria lapathifolia	Pale Persicaria
Persicaria hydropiper	Water-pepper
Fagopyrum esculentum	Buckwheat
Polygonum oxyspermum	Ray's Knotgrass
Polygonum arenastrum	Equal-leaved Knotgrass
Polygonum aviculare	Knotgrass
Fallopia japonica	Japanese Knotweed
Fallopia baldschuanica	Russian Vine
Fallopia convolvulus	Black Bindweed
Rheum x hybridum	Rhubarb
Rumex acetosella	Sheep's Sorrel
Rumex acetosa	Common Sorrel
Rumex hydrolapathum	Water Dock
Rumex crispus	Curled Dock
Rumex x pseudopulcher	A hybrid Dock
Rumex conglomeratus	Clustered Dock
Rumex sanguineus var. viridis	Wood Dock
Rumex sanguineus var. sanguineus	Wood Dock
Rumex rupestris	Shore Dock (RDBk)
Rumex pulcher	Fiddle Dock
Rumex obtusifolius	Broad-leaved Dock
Plumbaginaceæ	
Limonium (Limonium auriculae-ursifolium)	Common Sea-lavender Broad-leaved Sea-lavender
Limonium normannicum	Alderney Sea-lavender
Limonium binervosum	Rock Sea-lavender
Armeria maritima	Thrift
Armeria arenaria	Jersey Thrift
Clusiaceæ	**Formerly Hypericaceæ**
Hypericum androsæmum	Tutsan
Hypericum tetrapterum	Square-stalked St. John's-wort

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Scientific names	English names
Hypericum humifusum	Trailing St. John's-wort
Hypericum linariifolium	Toadflax-leaved St. John's-wort (RDBk)
Hypericum pulchrum	Slender St. John's-wort
Hypericum elodes	Marsh St. John's-wort
Tiliaceæ	
Tilia platyphyllos	Large-leaved Lime (Scarce)
Tilia x europea	Lime
Tilia cordata	Small-leaved Lime
Malvaceæ	
Malva moschata	Musk-mallow
Malva sylvestris	Common Mallow
Malva neglecta	Dwarf Mallow
Lavatera arborea	Tree-mallow
Cistaceæ	
Tuberaria guttata	Spotted Rock-rose
Violaceæ	
Viola odorata	Sweet Violet
Viola riviniana	Common Dog-violet
Viola canina	Heath Dog-violet
Viola arvensis	Field Pansy
Tamaricaceæ	
Tamarix gallica	Tamarisk
Frankeniaceæ	
Frankenia laevis	Sea Heath (Scarce)
Cucurbitaceæ	
Cucurbita pepo	Marrow
Salicaceæ	
Populus alba	White Poplar
Populus x canescens	Grey Poplar
Populus nigra	Black Poplar
Populus x canadensis	Hybrid Black-poplar
Populus candicans	Balm of Gilead
Salix pentandra	Bay Willow
Salix fragilis	Crack Willow
Salix alba	White Willow
Salix purpurea	Purple Willow
Salix daphnoides	Violet Willow
Salix viminalis	Osier
Salix x stipularis	Eared Osier
Salix x sericans	Broad-leaved Willow
Salix x smithiana	Silky-leaved Osier
Salix caprea	Goat Willow
Salix cinerea	Grey Willow
Salix cinerea ssp. oleifolia	Rusty Sallow
Salix aurita	Eared Willow
Salix babylonica	Weeping Willow
Salix matsudana	Contorted Willow
Brassicaceæ	**Formerly Cruciferæ**
Sisymbrium orientale	Eastern Rocket
Sisymbrium officinale	Hedge Mustard
Alliaria petiolata	Garlic Mustard
Arabidopsis thaliana	Thale Cress
Erysimum cheiri	Wallflower
Hesperis matronalis	Dame's-violet
Malcolmia maritima	Virginia Stock
Matthiola incana	Hoary Stock (RDBk)
Barbarea intermedia	Medium-flowered Winter-cress
Barbarea verna	American Winter-cress
Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum	Water-cress
Rorippa x sterilis	Hybrid Water-cress
Rorippa microphylla	Narrow-fruited Water-cress
Armoracia rusticana	Horse-radish
Cardamine flexuosa	Wavy Bitter-cress
Cardamine hirsuta	Hairy Bitter-cress
Arabis hirsuta	Hairy Rock-cress
Aubrieta deltoides	Aubretia
Lunaria annua	Honesty
Bertoroa incana	Hoary Alison
Lobularia maritima	Sweet Alison
Erophila verna	Common Whitlow-grass
Cochlearia officinalis	Common Scurvy-grass
Cochlearia danica	Danish Scurvy-grass
Capsella bursa-pastoris	Shepherd's-purse
Teesdalia nudicaulis	Shepherd's Cress
Thlaspi arvense	Field Penny-cress
Lepidium sativum	Garden Cress
Lepidium heterophyllum	Smith's Pepperwort
Lepidium draba ssp. draba	Hoary Cress
Lepidium ruderale	Narrow-leaved Water-Pepper
Coronopus squamatus	Swine-cress
Coronopus didymus	Lesser Swine-cress
Diplotaxis tenuifolia	Perennial Wall-rocket
Diplotaxis muralis	Annual Wall-rocket
Brassica oleracea	Sea Cabbage (Scarce)
Brassica napus	Rape
Brassica rapa	Turnip
Brassica nigra	Black Mustard
Sinapis arvensis	Charlock
Sinapis alba	White Mustard
Eruca vesicaria ssp. sativa	Garden Rocket
Coincya monensis ssp.recurvata	Wallflower Cabbage
Hirschfeldia incana	Hoary Mustard
Cakile maritima	Sea Rocket
Crambe maritima	Sea-kale

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Scientific names	English names
Raphanus raphanistrum ssp. raphanistrum	Wild Radish
Raphanus raphanistrum ssp. maritimus	Sea Radish
Raphanus sativus	Garden Radish
Resedaceæ	
Reseda luteola	Weld
Reseda lutea	White Mignonette
Ericaceæ	
Calluna vulgaris	Heather
Erica cinerea	Bell Heather
Primulaceæ	
Primula vulgaris	Primrose
Primula veris	Cowslip
Cyclamen hederifolium	Cyclamen (RDBk)
Anagallis tenella	Bog Pimpernel
Anagallis arvensis ssp. arvensis	Scarlet Pimpernel
Anagallis arvensis ssp. foemina	Blue Pimpernel
Anagallis minima	Chaffweed
Glaux maritima	Sea-milkwort
Samolus valerandi	Brookweed
Hydrangeaceæ	
Hydrangea macrophylla	Hydrangea
Grossulariaceæ	
Escallonia macrantha	Escallonia
Ribes nigrum	Black Currant
Ribes sanguineum	Flowering Currant
Ribes uva-crispa	Gooseberry
Crassulaceæ	
Crassula helmsii	New Zealand Pigmy-weed
Crassula pubescens	Jersey Pigmy-weed
Umbilicus rupestris	Navelwort
Aeonium x velutinum	Aeonium
Sedum spectabile	Butterfly Stonecrop
Sedum telephium	Orpine
Sedum spurium	Caucasian-stonecrop
Sedum acre	Biting Stonecrop
Sedum album	White Stonecrop
Sedum anglicum	English Stonecrop
Saxifragaceæ	
Bergenia spp. (?crassifolia)	Elephant-ears
Saxifraga x urbium	Londonpride
Saxifraga tridactylites	Rue-leaved Saxifrage

Scientific names	English names
Rosaceæ	
Filipendula vulgaris	Dropwort
Rubus idaeus	Raspberry
Rubus caesius	Dewberry
Rubus fruticosus agg.	Blackberry. (Many subspecies)
Rubus series rhamifolia	Blackberry
Rubus leucostachys	Blackberry
Rubus corylifolius	Blackberry
Rubus rusticanus	Blackberry
Potentilla fruticosa	Shrubby Cinquefoil
Potentilla anserina	Silverweed
Potentilla erecta	Tormentil
Potentilla x mixta	Hybrid Cinquefoil
Potentilla reptans	Creeping Cinquefoil
Potentilla sterilis	Barren Strawberry
Fragaria ananassa	Garden Strawberry
Geum urbanum	Herb Bennet
Agrimonia eupatoria	Agrimony
Sanguisorba minor ssp. minor	Salad Burnet
Aphanes arvensis	Parsley-piert
Aphanes australis	Lesser Parsley-piert
Rosa multiflora	Many-flowered Rose
Rosa pimpinellifolia	Burnet Rose
Rosa x involuta	(R. pimpinell. x R. sherardii)
Rosa rugosa	Japanese Rose
Rosa stylosa	Short-styled Field-rose
Rosa canina	Dog-rose
Rosa tomentosa	Harsh Downy-rose
Rosa mollis	Soft Downy-rose
Rosa rubiginosa	Sweet-briar
Rosa micrantha	Small-flowered Sweet-briar
Rosa wicheriana x Shirley Hibberd	Alberic Barbier Rose
Rosa wicheriana x Gabriel Luiget	Dorothy Perkins Rose
Rosa wicheriana x R. setigera	American Pillar Rose
Prunus spinosa	Blackthorn
Prunus domestica ssp. domestica	Wild Plum
Prunus domestica ssp. insititia	Bullace
Prunus x fruticans	Hybrid between P. spinosa & P. domestica
Prunus avium	Gean
Pyrus pyraster	Wild Pear
Pyrus communis	Pear (RDBk)
Malus sylvestris	Crab Apple
Malus domestica	Apple
Sorbus aucuparia	Rowan
Sorbus intermedia	Swedish Whitebeam
Cotoneaster simonsii	Himalayan Cotoneaster
Crataegus pedicellata	Pear-fruited Cockspur-thorn

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Scientific names	English names
Crataegus monogyna	Hawthorn
Crataegus laevigata	Midland Hawthorn
Fabaceæ	**Formerly Leguminosæ**
Robinia pseudacacia	False Acacia
Onobrychis viciifolia	Sainfoin
Anthyllis vulneraria agg.	Kidney Vetch
Anthyllis vulneraria ssp. vulneraria var. vulneraria	
Anthyllis vulneraria ssp. vulneraria var. langei	
Anthyllis vulneraria ssp. maritima	
Lotus corniculatus	Common Bird's-foot-trefoil
Lotus pedunculatus	Greater Bird's-foot-trefoil
Lotus subbiflorus	Hairy Bird's-foot-trefoil;
Lotus angustissimus	Slender Bird's-foot-trefoil
Ornithopus perpusillus	Bird's-foot
Ornithopus pinnatus	Orange Bird's-foot
Vicia cracca	Tufted Vetch
Vicia villosa	Fodder Vetch
Vicia hirsuta	Hairy Tare
Vicia tetrasperma	Smooth Tare
Vicia sativa ssp. nigra	Narrow-leaved Vetch
Vicia sativa ssp. sativa	Common Vetch
Vicia lathyroides	Spring Vetch
Vicia bithynica	Bithynian Vetch (Scarce)
Vicia faba	Broad Bean
Lathyrus pratensis	Meadow Vetchling
Lathyrus grandiflorus	Two-flowered Everlasting-pea
Lathyrus latifolius	Broad-leaved Everlasting-pea
Lathyrus aphaca	Yellow Vetchling (Scarce)
Ononis reclinata	Small Restharrow (RDBk)
Ononis reclinata f. albiflorus	White Small-restharrow (RDBk)
Ononis repens	Common Restharrow
Melilotus altissimus	Tall Melilot
Melilotus albus	White Melilot
Melilotus officinalis	Ribbed Melilot
Melilotus indicus	Small Melilot
Medicago lupulina	Black Medick
Medicago sativa ssp. sativa	Lucerne
Medicago polymorpha	Toothed Medick
Medicago arabica	Spotted Medick
Trifolium ornithopodioides	Bird's-foot Clover
Trifolium repens	White Clover
Trifolium occidentale	Western Clover
Trifolium hybridum	Alsike Clover
Trifolium glomeratum	Clustered Clover (Scarce)
Trifolium suffocatum	Suffocated Clover
Trifolium fragiferum	Strawberry Clover
Trifolium fragiferum ssp. bonannii	Strawberry Clover (Southern)
Trifolium campestre	Hop Trefoil
Trifolium dubium	Lesser Trefoil
Trifolium micranthum	Slender Trefoil
Trifolium pratense	Red Clover
Trifolium medium	Zigzag Clover
Trifolium stellatum	Starry Clover
Trifolium incarnatum ssp. incarnatum	Crimson Clover
Trifolium striatum	Knotted Clover
Trifolium bocconei	Twin-headed Clover (RDBk)
Trifolium scabrum	Rough Clover
Trifolium arvense	Hare's-foot Clover
Trifolium subterraneum	Subterranean Clover
Lupinus arboreus	Tree Lupin
Laburnum anagyroides	Laburnum
Cytisus scoparius ssp. scoparius	Broom
Cytisus scoparius ssp. maritimus	Prostrate Broom
Ulex europaeus	Gorse
Ulex gallii	Western Gorse
Ulex minor	Dwarf Gorse
Elæagnaceæ	
Hippophae rhamnoides	Sea-Buckthorn (Scarce)
Elæagnus commutata	Elæagnus species
Elæagnus glabra	Elæagnus species
Elæagnus ebbingei	Elæagnus species
Haloragaceæ	
Myriophyllum verticillatum	Whorled Water-milfoil
Myriophyllum aquaticum	Parrot's-feather
Myriophyllum spicatum	Spiked Water-milfoil
Gunneraceæ	
Gunnera tinctoria	Giant-rhubarb
Onagraceæ	
Epilobium hirsutum	Great Willowherb
Epilobium parviflorum	Hoary Willowherb
Epilobium montanum	Broad-leaved Willowherb
Epilobium lanceolatum	Spear-leaved Willowherb
Epilobium tetragonum ssp. tetragonum	Square-stalked Willowherb
Epilobium tetragonum ssp. lamyi	Square-stalked Willowherb
Epilobium obscurum	Short-fruited Willowherb
Epilobium ciliatum	American Willowherb
Epilobium palustre	Marsh Willowherb
Chamerion angustifolium	Rosebay Willowherb

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Plant List

Scientific names	English names
Oenothera glazioviana	Large-flowered Evening-primrose
Oenothera stricta	Fragrant Evening-primrose (RDBk)
Fuchsia magellanica	Fuchsia
Circaea lutetiana	Enchanter's-nightshade
Santalaceæ	
Thesium humifusum	Bastard-toadflax
Celastraceæ	
Euonymus japonicus	Evergreen Spindle
Aquifoliaceæ	
Ilex aquifolium	Holly
Euphorbiaceæ	
Mercurialis annua	Annual Mercury
Euphorbia peplis	Purple Spurge (RDBk)
Euphorbia helioscopia	Sun Spurge
Euphorbia lathyris	Caper Spurge
Euphorbia peplus	Petty Spurge
Euphorbia portlandica	Portland Spurge (Scarce)
Euphorbia paralias	Sea Spurge
Euphorbia cyparissias	Cypress Spurge
Linaceæ	
Linum bienne	Pale Flax
Linum usitatissimum	Flax
Linum catharticum	Fairy Flax
Radiola linoides	Allseed
Polygalaceæ	
Polygala vulgaris ssp. vulgaris	Common Milkwort
Polygala vulgaris ssp. collina	Common Milkwort
Polygala serpyllifolia	Heath Milkwort
Hippocastanaceæ	
Aesculus hipposcastanum	Horse-chestnut
Aesculus carnea	Red Horse-chestnut
Aesculus indica	Indian Horse-chestnut
Aceraceæ	
Acer platanoides	Norway Maple
Acer campestre	Field Maple
Acer pseudoplatanus	Sycamore
Simaroubaceæ	
Ailanthus altissima	Tree-of-Heaven

Scientific names	English names
Oxalidaceæ	
Oxalis corniculata	Procumbent Yellow-sorrel
Oxalis corniculata var. villosa	
Oxalis exilis	Least Yellow Sorrel
Oxalis articulata	Pink-sorrel
Oxalis debilis	Large-flowered Pink-sorrel
Oxalis latifolia	Garden Pink-sorrel
Oxalis latifolia var. cornubiensis	Mexican Oxalis
Oxalis pes-caprae	Bermuda Buttercup
Oxalis incarnata	Pale Pink-sorrel
Geraniaceæ	
Geranium endressii	French Crane's-bill
Geranium x oxonianum	Druce's Crane's-bill
Geranium endressii x oxonianum	
Geranium versicolor	Pencilled Geranium
Geranium rotundifolium	Round-leaved Geranium
Geranium pratense	Meadow Crane's-bill
Geranium sanguineum	Bloody Crane's-bill
Geranium columbinum	Long-stalked Crane's-bill
Geranium dissectum	Cut-leaved Crane's-bill
Geranium submolle	Alderney Crane's-bill
Geranium x magnificum	Purple Crane's-bill
Geranium pyrenaicum	Hedgerow Crane's-bill
Geranium pusillum	Small-flowered Crane's-bill
Geranium molle	Dove's-foot Crane's-bill
Geranium robertianum ssp. robertianum	Herb-Robert
Geranium robertianum ssp. maritimum	Herb-Robert
Geranium purpureum	Little-Robin (RDBk)
Erodium maritimum	Sea Stork's-bill
Erodium moschatum	Musk Stork's-bill (Scarce)
Erodium cicutarium	Common Stork's-bill
Erodium cicutarium ssp. dunense	Dune Stork's-bill
Erodium cicut. var. pimpinellifolium	
Erodium lebellii	Sticky Stork's-bill
Tropaeolaceæ	
Tropaeolum majus	Nasturtium
Araliaceæ	
Hedera helix ssp. hibernica	Atlantic Ivy
Aralia elata	Japanese Angelica-tree
Apiaceæ	**Formerly Umbelliferæ**
Hydrocotyle vulgaris	Marsh Pennywort
Eryngium maritimum	Sea-Holly
Eryngium campestre	Field Eryngo (RDBk)

Scientific names	English names
Chaerophyllum temulum	Rough Chervil
Anthriscus sylvestris	Cow Parsley
Anthriscus caucalis	Bur Parsley
Scandix pecten-veneris	Shepherd's-needle (Scarce)
Coriandrum sativum	Coriander
Smyrnium olusatrum	Alexanders
Smyrnium perfoliatum	(A Southern European sp.)
Aegopodium podagraria	Ground-elder
Berula erecta	Lesser Water-parsnip
Crithmum maritimum	Rock Samphire
Oenanthe crocata	Hemlock Water-dropwort
Aethusa cynapium	Fool's Parsley
Foeniculum vulgare	Fennel
Conium maculatum	Hemlock
Bupleurum baldense	Small Hare's-ear
Apium graveolens	Wild Celery
Apium nodiflorum	Fool's Water-cress
Apium nodiflorum var. pseudorepens	Fool's Water-cress (prostrate form)
Petroselinum crispum	Garden Parsley
Petroselinum segetum	Corn Parsley (RDBk)
Falcaria vulgaris	Longleaf
Pastinaca sativa var. sylvestris	Wild Parsnip
Heracleum sphondylium	Hogweed
Heracleum sphondylium var. angustifolium	Hogweed
Torilis japonica	Upright Hedge-parsley
Torilis nodosa	Knotted Hedge-parsley
Daucus carota ssp. carota	Wild Carrot
Daucus carota ssp. gummifer	Sea Carrot
Daucus carota ssp. sativa	Carrot

Gentianaceæ

Centaurium erythraea	Common Centaury
Centaurium pulchellum	Lesser Centaury (RDBk)

Apocynaceæ

Vinca major	Greater Periwinkle

Solanaceæ

Nicandra physalodes	Apple-of-Peru
Lycium barbarum	Duke of Argyll's Teaplant
Lycium chinense	Chinese Teaplant
Hyocyamus niger	Henbane
Lycopersicon esculentum	Tomato
Solanum nigrum	Black Nightshade
Solanum nigrum var. atriplicifolium	
Solanum sarachoides	Leafy-fruited Nightshade
Solanum dulcamara	Bittersweet
Solanum tuberosum	Potato
Datura stramonium	Thorn-apple
Nicotiana rustica	Wild Tobacco
Nicotiana alata	Sweet Tobacco

Convolvulaceæ

Convolvulus arvensis	Field Bindweed
Calystegia soldanella	Sea Bindweed
Calystegia sepium	Hedge Bindweed
Calystegia silvatica	Large Bindweed

Cuscutaceæ

Cuscuta epithymum	Dodder
Cuscuta campestris	Yellow Dodder

Menyanthaceæ

Nymphoides peltata	Fringed Water-lily (Scarce)

Hydrophyllaceæ

Phacelia tanacetifolia	Phacelia

Boraginaceæ

Lithospermum arvense	Field Gromwell
Echium vulgare	Viper's-bugloss
Echium plantagineum	Purple Viper's-buglos
Echium pininana	Giant Viper's-bugloss
Symphytum officinale	Common Comfrey
Symphytum x uplandicum	Russian Comfrey
Symphytum tuberosum	Tuberous Comfrey
Anchusa arvensis	Bugloss
Pentaglottis sempervirens	Green Alkanet
Borago officinalis	Borage
Myosotis secunda	Creeping Forget-me-not
Myosotis sylvatica	Wood Forget-me-not
Myosotis arvensis	Field Forget-me-not
Myosotis ramosissima	Early Forget-me-not
Myosotis ramosissima ssp. lebelii	Early Forget-me-not
Myosotis discolor	Changing Forget-me-not
Cynoglossum officinale	Hound's-tongue

Verbenaceæ

Verbena officinalis	Vervain

Lamiaceæ **Formerly Labiatæ**

Stachys sylvatica	Hedge Woundwort
Stachys x ambigua	Hybrid Woundwort
Stachys palustris	Marsh Woundwort
Stachys arvensis	Field Woundwort
Ballota nigra	Black Horehound
Lamiastrum galeobdolon ssp. argentatum	Yellow Archangel
Lamium purpureum	Red Dead-nettle
Lamium hybridum	Cut-leaved Dead-nettle
Lamium amplexicaule	Henbit Dead-nettle

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Plant List

Scientific names	English names
Galeopsis tetrahit	Common Hemp-nettle
Marrubium vulgare	White Horehound (Scarce)
Teucrium scorodonia	Wood Sage
Nepeta x faassenii	Garden Cat-mint
Glechoma hederacea	Ground-ivy
Prunella vulgaris	Selfheal
Prunella laciniata	Cut-leaved Selfheal
Melissa officinalis	Balm
Clinopodium vulgare	Wild Basil
Origanum vulgare	Wild Marjoram
Thymus polytrichus	Wild Thyme
Mentha aquatica	Water Mint
Mentha x piperita	Peppermint
Mentha spicata	Spear Mint
Mentha x villosonervata	Sharp-toothed Mint
Mentha x villosa	Apple Mint
Mentha x rotundifolia	Round-leaved Mint
Mentha longifolia	Horse Mint
Salvia pratensis	Meadow Clary
Salvia verbenaca	Wild Clary
Hippuridaceæ	
Hippuris vulgaris	Mare's-tail
Callitrichaceæ	
Callitriche stagnalis	Common Water-starwort
Callitriche platycarpa	Various-leaved Water-starwort
Plantaginaceæ	
Plantago coronopus	Buck's-horn Plantain
Plantago maritima	Sea Plantain
Plantago major	Greater Plantain
Plantago lanceolata	Ribwort Plantain
Plantago lanceolata var. sphaerostachys	
Buddlejaceæ	
Buddleja davidii	Butterfly-bush
Buddleja x weyeriana	Hybrid between davidii / globosa
Buddleja globosa	Orange-ball-tree
Oleaceæ	
Fraxinus excelsior	Ash
Fraxinus angustifolia	Ash
Syringa vulgaris	Lilac
Ligustrum vulgare	Wild Privet
Ligustrum ovalifolium	Garden Privet
Scrophulariaceæ	
Verbascum thapsus	Great Mullein
Verbascum nigrum	Dark Mullein
Scrophularia auriculata	Water Figwort
Antirrhinum majus	Snapdragon
Misopates orontium	Weasel's-snout
Cymbalaria muralis	Ivy-leaved Toadflax
Kickxia elatine	Sharp-leaved Fluellen
Linaria vulgaris	Common Toadflax
Linaria alpina	Alpine Toadflax
Linaria purpurea	Purple Toadflax
Linaria maroccana	Annual Toadflax
Digitalis purpurea	Foxglove
Veronica serpyllifolia	Thyme-leaved Speedwell
Veronica officinalis	Heath Speedwell
Veronica chamaedrys	Germander Speedwell
Veronica beccabunga	Brooklime
Veronica anagallis-aquatica	Blue Water-speedwell
Veronica arvensis	Wall Speedwell
Veronica agrestis	Green Field-speedwell
Veronica polita	Grey Field-speedwell
Veronica persica	Common Field-speedwell
Veronica hederifolia	Ivy-leaved Speedwell
Veronica longifolia	Garden Speedwell
Hebe salicifolia	Koromiko
Hebe x franciscana	Hedge Veronica
Euphrasia agg.	Eyebrights
Euphrasia rostkoviana	An Eyebright
Euphrasia tetraqueta	An Eyebright
Euphrasia nemorosa	An Eyebright
Euphrasia confusa	An Eyebright
Euphrasia stricta	An Eyebright
Euphrasia ostenfeldii	An Eyebright
Odontites vernus	Red Bartsia
Parentucellia viscosa	Yellow Bartsia
Pedicularis sylvatica	Lousewort
Orobanchaceæ	
Orobanche purpurea	Yarrow Broomrape
Orobanche rapum-genistae	Greater Broomrape (Scarce)
Orobanche hederae	Ivy Broomrape (Scarce)
Orobanche minor	Common Broomrape
Orobanche minor var. maritima	Carrot Broomrape (RDBk)
Campanulaceæ	
Campanula portenschlagiana	Adria Bellflower
Campanula poscharskyana	Trailing Bellflower
Jasione montana	Sheep's-bit
Rubiaceæ	
Sherardia arvensis	Field Madder
Asperula cynanchica	Squinancywort
Galium palustre	Common Marsh-bedstraw
Galium verum	Lady's Bedstraw
Galium mollugo ssp. mollugo	Hedge Bedstraw

Scientific names	English names
Galium mollugo ssp. erectum	Hedge Bedstraw
Galium saxatile	Heath Bedstraw
Galium aparine	Cleavers
Cruciata laevipes	Crosswort
Rubia peregrina	Wild Madder
Caprifoliaceæ	
Sambucus nigra	Elder
Lonicera periclymenum	Honeysuckle
Lonicera periclym var. quercifolia	Honeysuckle
Valerianaceæ	
Valerianella locusta	Common Cornsalad
Valerianella carinata	Keeled-fruited Cornsalad
Valerianella dentata	Narrow-fruited Cornsalad
Valerianella eriocarpa	Hairy-fruited Cornsalad (RDBk)
Centranthus rubra	Red Valerian
Dipsaceæ	
Dipsacus fullonum	Wild Teasel
Dipsacus sativus	Fuller's Teasel
Knautia arvensis	Field Scabious
Asteraceæ	**Formerly Compositæ**
Carlina vulgaris	Carline Thistle
Arctium minus ssp. minus	Lesser Burdock
Arctium minus ssp. nemorosum	
Arctium lappa	Greater Burdock
Carduus tenuiflorus	Slender Thistle
Carduus nutans	Musk Thistle
Cirsium vulgare	Spear Thistle
Cirsium acaule	Dwarf Thistle
Cirsium palustre	Marsh Thistle
Cirsium arvense	Creeping Thistle
Onopordum acanthium	Cotton Thistle
Centaurea scabiosa	Greater Knapweed
Centaurea cyanus	Cornflower (Scarce)
Centaurea aspera	Rough Star-thistle
Centaurea x moncktonii	A hybrid Knapweed
Centaurea nemoralis x jacea	A hybrid Knapweed
Centaurea nigra ssp. nigra	Common Knapweed
Centaurea nigra ssp. nemoralis	Common Knapweed
Centaurea cineraria	(A western Mediterranean sp.)
Cichorium intybus	Chicory
Lapsana communis	Nipplewort
Hypochaeris radicata	Cat's-ear
Hypochaeris glabra	Smooth Cat's-ear (Scarce)
Leontodon autumnalis	Autumn Hawkbit
Leontodon hispidus	Rough Hawkbit
Leontodon saxatilis	Lesser Hawkbit
Picris echioides	Bristly Oxtongue
Picris hieracoides	Hawkweed Oxtongue
Picris hieracoides var. incana	Druce's Oxtongue
Tragopogon pratensis ssp. minor	Goat's-beard
Tragapogon porrifolius	Salsify
Sonchus arvensis	Perennial Sow-thistle
Sonchus oleraceus	Smooth Sow-thistle
Sonchus asper	Prickly Sow-thistle
Lactuca serriola	Prickly Lettuce
Taraxacum spp. agg.	Dandelions
Sect. 1. Erythrosperma	Lesser Dandelions
Sect. 2. Obliqua	
Sect. 3. Palustria	
Sect. 4. Spectabilia	Red-veined Dandelions
Sect. 7. Celtica	
Sect. 8. Hamata	
Sect. 9. Ruderalia	Common Dandelions
Taraxacum fulvum	Sect. 1.
Taraxacum fulviforme	Sect. 1.
Taraxacum placidum	Sect .1.
Taraxacum subbracteanum	Sect. 7.
Taraxacum pseudohamatum	Sect. 8.
Taraxacum lamprophyllum	Sect. 8.
Taraxacum bracteatum	Sect. 8.
Taraxacum boekmanii	Sect. 8.
Taraxacum expallidiforme	Sect. 9.
Taraxacum ekmanii	Sect. 9.
Taraxacum cordatum	Sect. 9.
Taraxacum ancistrolobum	Sect. 9.
Taraxacum insigne	Sect. 9.
Taraxacum polyodon	Sect. 9.
Taraxacum dahlstedtii	Sect. 9.
Taraxacum uncosum	
Taraxacum crispifolium	
Taraxacum privum	
Taraxacum simile	
Crepis biennis	Rough Hawk's-beard
Crepis capillaris	Smooth Hawk's-beard
Crepis vesicaria ssp. taraxacifolia	Beaked Hawk's-beard
Pilosella peleteriana ssp. peleteriana	Shaggy Mouse-ear-hawkweed
Pilosella officinarum	Mouse-ear-hawkweed
Hieracium umbellatum	Umbellate Hawkweed
Filago vulgaris	Common Cudweed
Filago minima	Small Cudweed
Gnaphalium uliginosum	Marsh Cudweed
Gnaphalium luteo-album	Jersey Cudweed
Gnaphalium undulatum	Cape Cudweed
Helichrysum petiolare	Everlasting Flower
Inula conyzae	Ploughman's-spikenard
Inula crithmoides	Golden-samphire (Scarce)

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Scientific names	English names
Pulicaria dysenterica	Common Fleabane
Solidago canadensis	Canadian Goldenrod
Aster tripolium	Sea Aster
Erigeron glaucus	Seaside Daisy
Erigeron karvinskianus	Mexican Fleabane
Erigeron acer	Blue Fleabane
Conyza canadensis	Canadian Fleabane
Olearia paniculata	Akirabo
Olearia macrodonta	New Zealand Holly
Olearia traversii	Ake-ake
Bellis perennis	Daisy
Tanacetum parthenium	Feverfew
Tanacetum vulgare	Tansy
Artemesia vulgaris	Mugwort
Artemesia absinthum	Wormwood
Otanthus maritimus	Cottonweed (RDBk)
Achillea ptarmica	Sneezewort
Achillea millefolium	Yarrow
Chamaemelum nobile	Chamomile (Scarce)
Anthemis arvensis	Corn Chamomile
Anthemis cotula	Stinking Chamomile
Chrysanthemum segetum	Corn Marigold
Leucanthemum vulgare	Oxeye Daisy
Leucanthemum x superbum	Shasta Daisy
Matricaria recutita	Scented Mayweed
Matricaria discoidea	Pineapple-weed
Tripleurospermum maritimum	Sea Mayweed
Tripleurospermum inodorum	Scentless Mayweed
Senecio cineraria	Silver Ragwort
Senecio jacobea	Ragwort
Senecio vulgaris	Groundsel
Senecio sylvaticus	Heath Groundsel
Tussilago farfara	Colt's-foot
*	
Petasites fragrans	Winter Heliotrope
Calendula officinalis	Pot Marigold
Helianthus annuus	Sunflower
Helianthus tuberosus	Jerusalem Artichoke
Eupatorium cannabinum	Hemp Agrimony
Cynara scolymus	Globe Artichoke

2. Liliidæ

Hydrocharitaceæ

Elodea canadensis	Canadian Waterweed
Lagarosiphon major	Curly Waterweed

Juncaginaceæ

Triglochin palustre	Marsh Arrowgrass

Scientific names	English names
Potamogetonaceæ	
Potamogeton berchtoldii	Small Pondweed
Potamogeton natans	Broad-leaved Pondweed
Zosteraceæ	
Zostera marina	Eelgrass (Scarce)
Araceæ	
Zantedeschia aethiopica	Altar-lily
Arum maculatum	Lord's-and-Ladies
Arum italicum ssp. italicum	Italian Lord's-and-Ladies (Scarce)
Arum italicum ssp. neglectum	Italian Lord's-and-Ladies (Scarce)
Dracunculus vulgaris	Dragon Arum
Lemnaceæ	
Lemna minor	Common Duckweed
Lemna trisulca	Ivy-leaved Duckweed
Lemna minuta	Least Duckweed
Juncaceae	
Juncus gerardii	Saltmarsh Rush
Juncus bufonius	Toad Rush
Juncus capitatus	Dwarf Rush (RDBk)
Juncus articulatus	Jointed Rush
Juncus acutiflorus	Sharp-flowered Rush
Juncus bulbosus	Bulbous Rush
Juncus maritimus	Sea Rush
Juncus acutus	Sharp Rush (Scarce)
Juncus inflexus	Hard Rush
Juncus effusus	Soft Rush
Juncus conglomeratus	Compact Rush
Luzula campestris	Field Woodrush
Luzula multiflora	Heath Woodrush
Cyperaceæ	
Eleocharis palustris	Common Spike-rush
Eleocharis multicaulis	Many-stalked Spike-rush
Eleocharis quinqueflora	Few-flowered Spike-rush
Bolboschoenus maritimus	Sea Club-rush
Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani	Grey Club-rush
Isolepis setacea	Bristle Club-rush
Isolepis cernua	Slender Club-rush
Cyperus longus	Galingale (Scarce)
Schoenus nigricans	Black Bog-rush
Carex paniculata	Greater Tussock-sedge
Carex muricata ssp. muricata	Prickly Sedge
Carex divulsa ssp. divulsa	Grey Sedge
Carex divulsa ssp. leersii	Tall Spiked-sedge
Carex arenaria	Sand Sedge

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Scientific names	English names
Carex disticha	Brown Sedge
Carex ovalis	Oval Sedge
Carex echinata	Star Sedge
Carex lachenalii	Hare's-foot Sedge
Carex hirta	Hairy Sedge
Carex pseudocyperus	Cyperus Sedge
Carex pendula	Pendulous Sedge
Carex flacca	Glaucous Sedge
Carex panicea	Carnation Sedge
Carex distans	Distant Sedge
Carex extensa	Long-bracted Sedge
Carex flava	Large Yellow-sedge
Carex viridula	Yellow-sedge
Carex caryophyllea	Spring Sedge
Carex pulicaris	Flea Sedge
Poaceæ	**Formerly Graminæ**
Subfamily Bambusoideæ	
Yushaniana anceps	Indian Fountain-bamboo
Pseudosasa japonica	Arrow Bamboo
Subfamily Pooideæ	
Nardus stricta	Mat-grass
Festuca pratensis	Meadow Fescue
Festuca arundinacea	Tall Fescue
Festuca arenaria	Rush-leaved Fescue
Festuca rubra ssp. rubra	Red Fescue
Festuca rubra ssp. juncea	
Festuca ovina	Sheep's-fescue
Festuca filiformis	Fine-leaved Sheep's-fescue
Festuca lemanii	Confused Fescue
Festuca longifolia	Blue Fescue
Festuca huonii	Houn's Fescue
Festuca maritima	Sea Fescue
X Festulpia hubbardii	A hybrid Fescue
Lolium perenne	Perennial Rye-grass
Lolium x boucheanum	A hybrid Rye-grass
Lolium multiflorum	Italian Rye-grass
Lolium temulentum	Darnel
Vulpia fasciculata	Dune Fescue (Scarce)
Vulpia bromoides	Squirreltail Fescue
Vulpia myuros	Rat's-tail Fescue
Vulpia ciliata ssp. ambigua	Bearded Fescue
Cynosurus cristatus	Crested Dog's-tail
Cynosurus echinatus	Rough Dog's-tail
Briza media	Quaking-grass
Briza minor	Lesser Quaking-grass
Briza maxima	Greater Quaking-grass
Poa infirma	Early Meadow-grass (RDBk)
Poa annua	Annual Meadow-grass
Poa annua var. reptans	
Poa trivialis	Rough Meadow-grass
Poa humilis	Spreading Meadow-grass
Poa pratensis	Smooth Meadow-grass
Poa angustifolia	Narrow-leaved Meadow-grass
Poa chaixii	Broad-leaved Meadow-grass
Poa bulbosa	Bulbous Meadow-grass (Scarce)
Dactylis glomerata	Cock's-foot
Catabrosa aquatica	Whorl-grass
Catapodium rigidum	Fern-grass
Catapodium marinum	Sea Fern-grass
Parapholis strigosa	Hard-grass
Parapholis incurva	Curved Hard-grass
Glyceria fluitans	Floating Sweet-grass
Glyceria x pedicellata	Hybrid Sweet-grass
Glyceria declinata	Small Sweet-grass
Glyceria notata	Plicate Sweet-grass
Helictotrichon pubescens	Downy Oat-grass
Helictotrichon pratense	Meadow Oat-grass
Arrhenatherum elatius	False Oat-grass
Arrhenatherum elatius ssp. bulbosum	False Oat-grass
Avena strigosa	Bristle Oat
Avena fatua	Wild-oat
Avena sterilis ssp. ludoviciana	Winter Wild-oat
Avena sativa	Oat
Gaudinia fragilis	French Oat-grass
Trisetum flavescens	Yellow Oat-grass
Koeleria macrantha	Crested Hair-grass
Holcus lanatus	Yorkshire-fog
Holcus mollis	Creeping Soft-grass
Aira caryophyllea	Silver Hair-grass
Aira praecox	Early Hair-grass
Anthoxanthum odoratum	Sweet Vernal-grass
Phalaris aquatica	Bulbous Canary-grass
Phalaris canariensis	Canary-grass
Phalaris minor	Lesser Canary-grass
Agrostis capillaris	Common Bent-grass
Agrostis gigantea	Black Bent
Agrostis stolonifera	Creeping Bent
Agrostis canina	Velvet Bent
Ammophila arenaria	Marram
Lagurus ovatus	Hare's-tail
Apera spica-venti	Loose Silky-bent (Scarce)
Polypogon viridis	Water Bent
Alopecurus pratensis	Meadow Foxtail
Alopecurus geniculatus	Marsh Foxtail
Phleum pratense	Timothy
Phleum bertolinii	Smaller Cat's-tail
Phleum arenarium	Sand Cat's-tail
Bromus commutatus	Meadow Brome
Bromus hordeaceus ssp. hordeaceus	Soft Brome
Bromus hordeaceus ssp. ferronii	Least Soft-brome

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Scientific names	English names
Bromus hordeaceus ssp. thominei	
Bromus x pseudothominei	Lesser Soft-brome
Anisantha diandra	Great Brome
Anisantha rigida	Ripgut Brome
Anisantha sterilis	Barren Brome
Anisantha madritensis	Compact Brome
Ceratochloa cathartica	Rescue Brome
Ceratochloa carinata	California Brome
Brachypodium pinnatum	Tor-grass
Brachypodium sylvaticum	False Brome
Elymus caninus	Bearded Couch
Elytrigia repens	Common Couch
Elytrigia repens var. aristatum	
Elytrigia atherica	Sea Couch
Elytrigia juncea	Sand Couch
Elytrigia x obtusiuscula	A hybrid Couch
Elytrigia x laxa	A hybrid Couch
Leymus arenarius	Lyme-grass
Hordeum vulgare	Six-rowed Barley
Hordeum distichon	Two-rowed Barley
Hordeum murinum	Wall Barley
Subfamily Arundinæ	
Danthonia decumbens	Heath-grass
Cortaderia selloana	Pampas-grass
Phragmites australis	Common Reed
Subfamily Chloridoideæ	
Cynodon dactylon	Bermuda-grass (RDBk)
Subfamily Paniceæ	
Panicum capillare	Witch-grass
Panicum miliaceum	Common Millet
Echinochloa crusgalli	Cockspur
Setaria pumila	Yellow Bristle-grass
Sorghum halapense	Johnson-grass
Sorghum bicolor	Great Millet
Zea mays	Maize
Sparganiaceæ	
Sparganium erectum	Branched Bur-reed
Typhaceæ	
Typha latifolia	Bulrush
Typha angustifolia	Lesser Bulrush
Liliaceæ	**Now includes former Amaryllidaceæ**
Kniphofia praecox	Greater Red-hot-poker
Kniphofia tuckii	A Red-hot-poker
Tulipa gesneriana	Garden Tulip
Convallaria majalis	Lily-of-the-valley
Ornithogallum angustifolium	Star-of-Bethlehem
Scilla peruviana	Portuguese Squill
Scilla autumnalis	Autumn Squill
Hyacinthoides non-scripta	Bluebell
Hyacinthoides non-scripta x H. hispanica	A hybrid Bluebell
Hyacinthoides hispanica	Spanish Bluebell
Muscari comosum	Tassel Hyacinth
Allium schoenoprasum	Chives
Allium roseum ssp. bulbiferum	Rosy Garlic
Allium neapolitanum	Neapolitan Garlic
Allium subhirsutum	Hairy Garlic
Allium triquetrum	Three-cornered Garlic
Allium sphaerocephalon	Round-headed Leek
Allium vineale	Wild Onion
Tristagma uniflorum	Spring Starflower
Amaryllis belladonna	Jersey Lily
Leucojum aestivum	Summer Snowflake
Narcissus spp. ag.	Not indigenous. Mostly relics of cultivation in the 1948-60's period. Several unidentified spp. Common
Narcissus x medioluteus	Primrose-peerless
Narcissus poeticus	Pheasant's-eye Daffodil
Narcissus pseudonarcissus	Daffodil
Narcissus x ?	Scilly White
Asparagus officinalis ssp. officinalis	Garden Asparagus
Ruscus aculeatus	Butcher's Broom
Crinum powelli	Crinum
Iridaceæ	
Iris germanica	Bearded Iris
Iris pseudacorus	Yellow Iris
Iris foetidissima	Stinking Iris
Romulea columnae	Sand Crocus (RDBk)
Gladiolus communis	Eastern Gladiolus
Crocosmia x crocosmiflora	Montbretia
Agavaceæ	
Agave americana	Century Plant
Cordyline australis	Cabbage Palm
Phormium tenax	New Zealand Flax
Trachycarpus fortunei	Chusan Palm
Orchidaceæ	
Spiranthes spiralis	Autumn Lady's-tresses
Anacamptis pyramidalis	Pyramidal Orchid
Dactylorhiza fuchsii	Common Spotted-orchid
Dactylorhiza maculata	Heath Spotted Orchid
Dactylorhiza incarnata	Early Marsh-orchid
Dactylorhiza praetermissa	Southern Marsh-orchid
Orchis morio	Green-winged Orchid
Orchis mascula	Early-purple Orchid
Ophrys apifera	Bee Orchid

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Various members of the Liliaceae **which are found in the wild in Alderney**

Portuguese Squill on Longis Common

Narcissus Primrose Peerless at Essex

Crinum at Saye Bay

Spring Starflower at Route des Mielles

Butcher’s Broom at Val du Saue

Neapolitan Garlic near the Lighthouse

Star-of-Bethlehem on Golf Course

Lily-of-the-Valley in the Water Lanes Wood

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Alderney Fish

Littoral Zone, Inshore and local commercial fish

This list is only intended to cover those fish found;
1. Mainly within the intertidal zone,
2. Those caught with rod and line from the shore and
3. Those caught from small boats within about 1-3 miles of the shore or over known wreck sites up to 12-15 miles away by the larger boats.

❖ 1. Littoral Zone Fish

A brief list of the majority of those most commonly seen or caught, will be found in the text of Region 1. on pages 21/22, but is being repeated here for the convenience of readers.

A few species, which are virtually confined to this zone, are only of interest to the naturalist and have no value as a food source, but many more of those found here are fry of the larger species covered in the next two categories, see the two tables below for their scientific names.

Likely to be found in upper tidal pools;

Sole, Dab and Plaice fry, Rock (*Gobius paganellus*) and Sand (*Pomatoschistus minutus)* Gobies, may be seen in sandy pools;

Usually in mid-tide pools;

Montague's Blenny (*Coryphoblennius galerita*), Shanny (*Blennius pholis*), Topknot (*Zeugopterus punctatus*; tiny fry of the Thick-lipped Grey Mullet; small specimens of Sand-eels, both the Lesser and Greater;. three species of the interesting worm-like Pipefish may be found. The Worm (or Snake) Pipefish (*Entelurus aequorius*), the Lesser Pipefish (*Syngnathus rostellatus*) and the much larger (up to 50cm.) Greater Pipefish (*Syngnathus acus*) and Montague's Seasnail (*Liparis montagui*).

Usually at the bottom of the tidal range;

The Tompot Blenny (*Blennius gattorugine*), Butterfly Blenny (*Blennius ocellaris*), Butterfish (*Pholis gunnellus*), Garfish, 2-spotted Gobies (*Gobiusculus flavescens*), the Sand Goby (*Pomatoschistus minutus*), Sand Smelt, Fifteen-spined Stickleback (*Spinachia spinachia*), may be seen down to about 10m depth.

Lump Suckers or Sea Hens, Cornish Sucker, young Wrasse and Conger Eel fry (photo p. 12). Young of the Ballan Wrasse are also found and other brightly coloured species of Wrasse have all been recorded in this range.

Young Pollack are frequent and shoals of small specimens of Shore Rockling (*Gaidropsarus mediterraneus*) and the Five-bearded Rockling (*Ciliata rostella*).

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Shore catches

❖ 2. Fish caught by shore fishermen

In recent years the annual Aurigny Airlines Fishing Competition has brought considerable numbers of fishermen from the other Channel Islands and the UK to Alderney each October. A list of the species caught in these competitions and the prize weights of some species is appended below. A number of British and CI records now come from Alderney.

Common names	Scientific names	Max. weights caught (lbs.ozs)
Bass	*Dicentrachus labrax*	16.8
Bream	*Abramis brama*	6
Bream, Couches		1.13
Cornish Sucker	*Lepadogaster lepadogaster*	
Conger Eel	*Conger conger*	6.8
Dogfish	*Scyliorhinus canicula*	2.7
Garfish	*Belone belone*	2
Gurnard, Red	*Aspitrigla cuculus*	1.11
Lump Sucker, (Sea Hen)	*Cyclopterus lumpus*	
Mackerel	*Scomber scombrus*	1.13
Monkfish	*Squatina squatinus*	
Mullet, Golden Grey	*Liza auratus*	3
Mullet, Grey	*Chelon labrosus*	11.14
Mullet, Red	*Mullus surmulatus*	3.15
Plaice	*Pleuronectes platessa*	7.9
Pollack	*Pollachius pollachuis*	16.1
Pout	*Trisopterus luscus*	2.1
Ray, Small-eyed	*Raja microocellata*	14.7
Ray, Spotted	*Raja montagui*	
Ray, Undulate	*Raja undulata*	19
Rockling, Shore	*Gaidropsarus mediterraneus*	
Saithe	*Pollachius virens*	
Sand Eel, Greater, (Launce)	*Hyperoplus lanceolatus*	
Sand Eel, Lesser	*Ammodytes tobianus*	0.4
Sand Smelt	*Atherina presbyter*	
Skate, Common	*Raja batis*	
Scad	*Trachurus trachurus*	1.7
Smoothound	*Mustelus mustelus*	7.1
Sole	*Solea solea*	6.8
Tope	*Galeorhinus galeus*	50
Wrasse, Ballan	*Labrus bergylita*	8.8
Wrasse, Cuckoo	*Labrus mixtus*	1.12

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Boat catches

❖ **3. Fish caught by off-shore fishermen: mostly by amateurs from small boats, but including those caught in 'home' waters by Alderney based professional fishermen**

These lists are not exhaustive but includes most of the species commonly or frequently caught and some of the more interesting occasional finds

Offshore and reef, mostly to 3 miles; wreck	**fishing; up to 8-15 miles from Alderney**	**Max. weights caught. Up to (lbs.ozs)**
Bass	*Dicentrachus labrax*	17.5
Bream, Black	*Abramis brama*	6.1
Bream, Couche's	*Spondyliosoma cantharus*	4.7
Brill	*Schophthalmus rhombus*	13.8
Coalfish	*Pollachius virens*	26.3
Cod	*Gadus morhua*	39
Poor Cod	*Trisopterus minutus*	0.6
Conger Eel	*Conger conger*	108
Dogfish	*Scyliorhinus canicula*	3.2
Garfish	*Belone belone*	2
Gurnard, Grey	*Eutrigla gurnadus*	1.5
Gurnard, Red	*Aspitrigla cuculus*	2.13
Huss, Bull	*Scyliorhinus stellaria*	14.5
Herring	*Clupea harrengus*	
Launce, (Greater Sandeel)	*Hyperoplus lanceolatus*	8.7
Ling	*Molva molva*	26
Mackerel	*Scomber scombrus*	4.2
Mullet- Grey	*Chelon labrosus*	15
Mullet- Red	*Mullus surmulettas*	5.14
Plaice	*Pleuronectes platessa*	8.11
Pollack	*Pollachius pollachuis*	18
Porbeagle Shark	*Lamna nasus*	220
Pout(ing)	*Trisopterus luscus*	3.6
Ray Blonde	*Raja brachyura*	39
Ray, Sting	*Dasyatis pastinaca*	36.2
Ray, Thornback	*Raja clavata*	
Ray, Undulate	*Raja undulata*	19.6
Scad, (Horse Mackerel)	*Trachurus trachurus*	
Smoothound	*Mustelus mustelus*	
Smuts		12.7
Spratt	*Sprattus sprattus*	
Tope	*Galeorhinus galeus*	55
Triggerfish	*Ballistes carolinensis*	
Tuna		

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Turbot	*Scophthalmus maximus*	32.4
Wrasse, Ballan	*Labrus bergylita*	8.6
Wrasse, Cuckoo	*Labrus mixtus*	1.15

The earliest recorded list of Channel Island fishes which I have been able to find is a list of 16 species caught commercially, "in great quantity by Guernsey fishermen, ...", in Berry's 1815 *History of Guernsey*. Anstead's 1862 *History of Guernsey* contains F.C. Lukis' list of 121 species, created over many years of studying and drawing the fish, with their scientific and local names.

The next, by Joseph Sinel, in La Société Guernesiaise *Transactions* 1905 pp56-65, printed below, lists ninety species of sea fish and six freshwater species, with both their local English, patois and scientific names and notes about their frequency, habitats, times when found and, occasionally, descriptions of the fish or notes on the islands where they have been caught. This was followed in 1908 by E.D Marquand's shorter list, referred to above, on pp522-4 of the 1908 *Transactions*, and listed on page 21 of this book.

All these authors seem to feel that there is little difference in the numbers of species to be found around each of the islands, only a difference in quantities. The two species of Seahorse (*Hippocampus spp.*) do however seem to be more frequent in the slightly warmer waters around Jersey and are not mentioned in the Alderney lists.

Joseph Sinel's list, 1905

Note; Names are as written in the original article.

Frequency a:c:o:r:= abundant, frequent, occasional, rare

Found in J:G:A:= Jersey, Guernsey, Alderney
Left blank if present in all islands

English name	Frequency	Found in	English name	Frequency	Found in
Great Spotted Dogfish	a		Sciena	r	
Lesser Spotted Dogfish	a		Mackerel	c in G & A	less c in J
Blue Shark	r		John Dory	f	
Porbeagle Shark	o		Scad	f/c	
Tope	c		Boar Fish	o Spring visitor	
Smooth Hound	f		Black Goby	f in pools	
Picked Dogfish	a		Little Goby	c in pools	
Monk Fish	o		Two-spotted Goby	c in pools	
Skate	c		Slender Goby	o in pools	
Long-nosed Skate	o		Broad-finned Goby	r	J
Thornback Ray	c		Yellow Sculpin	o in deep water	
Spotted Ray	f		Lump Fish	f	
Painted Ray	o		Montagu's Sucker	o	
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Electric Ray	o		Cornish Sucker	f	
Sting Ray	o		Angler	o	
Sea Bullhead	a		Gattarine Blenny	c in deep water	
Sea Adder or Stickleback	c in pools		Smooth Blenny	a in deep water	
Basse	c		Butter Fish	c in pools	
Serranus	r		Wolf Fish	vr	J
Surmullet	f		Atherine Smelt	a	
“Old Wife”	f	c in J f inG	Grey Mullet	c	
Common Sea Bream	c	Less c in Jersey	Lesser Grey M	c	
Red Gurnard	f		Spotted Wrasse	c	rocky shores
Grey Gurnard	f . young c in pools		Green Wrasse (Doubtful)	c	rocky shores
Streaked Gurnard	less common		Comber Wrasse	c	rocky shores
Great Weever	o		Striped Wrasse	f	deep water
Viper (Little Wr)	o	not in J	Three-spotted Wrasse	female of above	
Rock Cock	a	rocky shores	Flounder	f	
Cork-wing	female of above		Sole	f	
Cod	f		Little Sole	c	
Bib	c		Herring	o	
Whiting	f		Sprat	o	
Pollack Whiting	a		Whitebait	c	
Coalfish	o		Allis Shad	o	
Ling	r		Garfish	c	less c in J
Torsk	vr	G	Salmon	r	
Three-bearded Rockling	c		Conger	c	
Five-bearded Rockling	a in pools		Great Pipe Fish	c in Zostera	
Lesser Sand-eel	a		Broad-nosed Pipe Fish	c in Zostera	
Greater Sand-eel	a		Snake Pipe Fish	c in Zostera	
Turbot	f		Worm Pipe Fish	f on rocky shores	
Brill	f		Sea Horse	o	J & G
Topknot	f	on rocky shores	Sun Fish	vo	
Plaice	c		Lamprey	vr	J
Dab	o				
read from	top of next	column			

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Cuckoo Wrasse

Sea Horse

Pictures by Sue Daly

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Appendices

1. Protective Legislation
2. Climate Tables

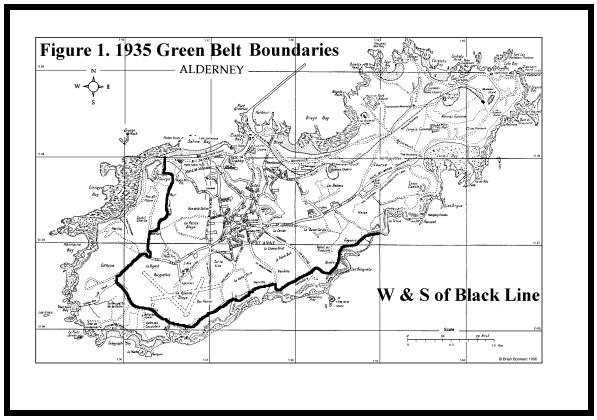
Annual updates from 2006

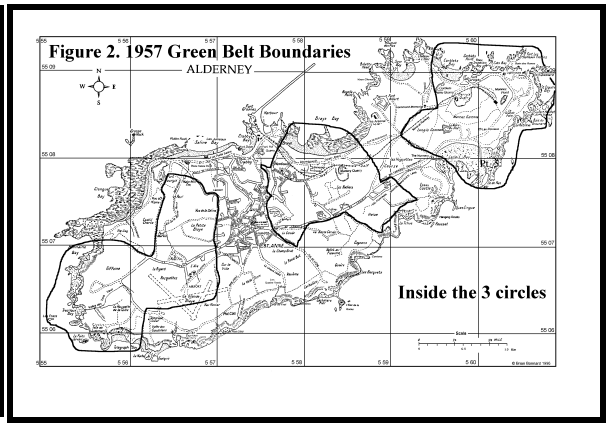
❖ Appendix 1

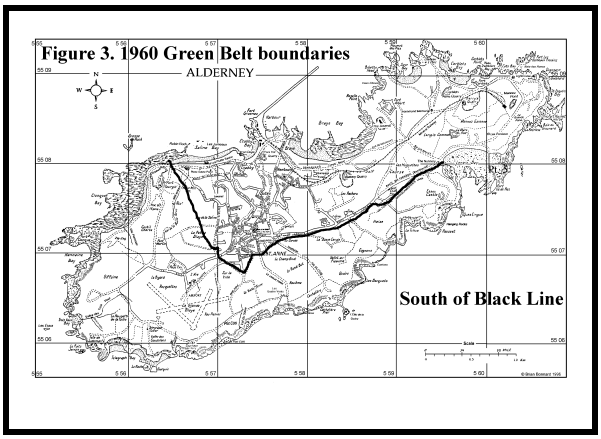
❖ Protective Legislation

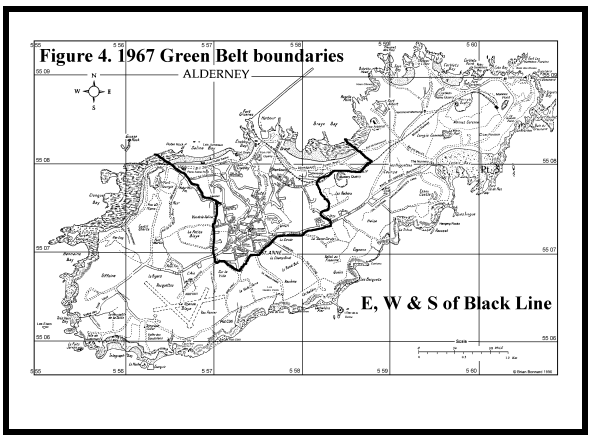
At the moment there is no formal overall wildlife protection law in place. This is currently under consideration, after the author had presented a case to the States, the island parliament, at Chief Pleas in March 1997, following his earlier appeal on the same subject in November 1992 and those of others before him over the previous 20 years or so. (Chief Pleas is an ancient Norman custom unique to the Channel Islands, when [in Alderney at least] electors are enabled by law to address the States in session twice a year, on any subject of their choice, after giving due notice. If the subject of the plea is considered of sufficient merit, some action may eventually result. The Sark Parliament is still known as Chief Pleas).

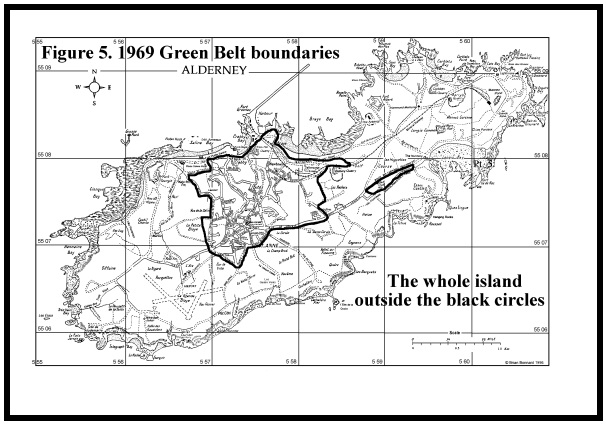
Alderney first introduced a **Green Belt Law in 1935** to protect the S & W cliffs from housing development. This was extended on a number of subsequent occasions in 1957, 60, 67, 69, 76 and 89 (see Figures 1-5 below). The last two were only minor modifications.











A Bird Protection Law was first introduced in 1933 and later amended. It now includes The **Protection of Wild Birds Ordinance 1949**, as amended in 1962, 65 and 86. This makes it an offence to interfere with the nests or nesting sites of any bird and to kill or capture any, except a short list of 'vermin'; Rook *Corvus frugilegus*; Carrion Crow *C. corone corone*; Hooded Crow *C. corone cornix*; Magpie *Pica pica* (these last two are virtually unknown in the island); Woodpigeon

Columba palumbus; House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*; and Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*; which may be killed at any time and a few game birds; Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*; Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*; Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*; Partridge *Perdix perdix*; and Quail *Coturnix coturnix*; which may be shot in a limited season between October and 1st January.

The **Mauvaises Herbes Loi 1933** (Noxious Weeds Law) sets out a short list of plants; "Hemlock Water-dropwort *Oenanthe crocata*; (which had actually already been eliminated by the farmers by 1860 because of its poisonous effect on cattle), Hogweed *Heracleum sphondylium*; Ragwort *Senecio jacobea*; Creeping and Marsh Thistles *Cirsium arvense & C. palustre*; Docks *Rumex spp.;* of all kinds, Nettles, both Common *Urtica dioica;* and Small *U. urens*; and Wild Garlic" (Three-cornered Garlic *Allium triquetum*; known locally as 'Stinking Onions'), which all land and house owners are required to remove from their land if in flower or seed, to prevent invasion of neighbouring land. Charlock *Sinapis arvensis*; Dandelions *Taraxacum spp.*; and Hedge Mustard *Sisymbrium officinale*; were added to the list in 1952.

Intended to encourage good husbandry on the agricultural land, this was well observed until the 1960s, when agriculture ceased to be of much importance to the island economy. Since then, although the provisions were published in local journals annually, as a reminder, until about 1985 and once again in 1997, the law has been largely ignored and, in particular Hogweed, various Docks and Ragwort have infested considerable areas of the redundant, mostly privately owned, agricultural land and the commons and cliffs, (large areas of which are public land). From then to about 2000 some effort was put into removing these weeds from States' controlled areas by spraying and mowing, but nothing has been done to enforce the law on other landowners. The continued spread of Hogweed and Stinking Onions particularly and to a lesser extent Ragwort, all over the island, had made the task virtually impossible to achieve for both the States and private landowners and, in 2003/4 the law was modified to leave only Ragwort, which can cause death in cattle if eaten in hay, as the island's "Noxious weed". When growing, cattle and horses usually avoid this, although sheep do not seem to suffer unduly from eating it, but when dried and made with hay it is eaten readily and can have dire consequences, especially for young animals.

This law, whilst intended for the common good, produced something of a 'Catch 22' situation and can actually have adverse effects on many insect and bird species. In addition to the direct effect of the toxic herbicides used; on birds, insects and small mammals. These sprays also kill many broad-leaved wild flowers, e.g. Celandine *Ranunculius ficaria,* Clovers *Trifolium spp.,* etc., which are not their target. If fully applied, eliminating or greatly reducing Nettles, Ragwort, Docks and Thistles, either by mowing or spraying, would remove the food plants of many insect species who feed on their nectar and, in particular, the moths and butterflies who use them as host plants to lay their eggs on and for their caterpillars to feed on. Many birds rely greatly either on these caterpillars, or on the seeds produced by the plants, for their own food and/or to rear their young.

Scrub clearance can also adversely affect the habitats of some birds, notably the Dartford Warbler *Sylvia undata,* an infrequent species inhabiting large unbroken areas of bramble and gorse, which breeds here in small numbers and is a great attraction to visiting "twitchers". Attempts to control the Rat *Ratus spp.* population, thriving on the Grande Blaye in some years on unharvested or flattened grain crops, with poisons, also affects other small mammals including that Alderney special, the Greater White-toothed Shrew *Crocidura russula* and, indirectly, the well established population of Kestrels *Falco tinnunculus,* the island's principal resident raptor, which catch and feed on the rodents.

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A 1950 **Wild Plants Protection Order** made it an offence to dig up plants to sell for commercial purpose, without permission of the landowner. The **Maintenance of Hedges, etc. Ordinance 1953** concerned the cutting by landowners of foliage overhanging public highways and footpaths 'to prevent obstruction'. It replaced the much older *Branquage Loi* which required this done to a height of 15 ft and is now included in the **Road Traffic & Public Highways Ordinance 1966**. It was not greatly obeyed until about 2003/4 when a reminder of its provisions was once again published in the local journal.

The **Trees Ordinance 1963** is now included in the **Building & Development Control Law 1969** (as later amended). It forbids the felling of any tree more than 9 inches in circumference, without planning consent. This was widely ignored for many years, especially by building developers, and no action was ever taking against offenders, but has recently been more frequently observed, with many people applying for consent to fell or lop large trees. So far this has probably never been refused and no enquiry has ever been made, by the relevant States committee, about possible environmental consequences.

The **Protection of Animals (Alderney) Ordinance 1977** covers captive and domestic species only and prescribes penalties for cruelty, abandonment and deliberate administration of poisonous substances, and the **Animal Experiments (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law 1991** concerns strict controls on experiments for veterinary or other scientific purposes.

The marine environment around the island is not greatly threatened directly by the local population. Gathering the Ormer *Haliotis tuberculata* a large, ear-shaped, mollusc regarded as a great delicacy in the islands and virtually at the northern limit of its range in Alderney, is protected by ancient Bailiwick laws concerning the manner and timing of its gathering and the minimum size which may be taken. Fish stocks all round the Channel approaches have become considerably reduced in recent years through over-fishing by EU countries and Russian trawlers, although they are theoretically controlled within the 6-12mile limit around Alderney, with a reduction to halfway between the French coast and the island. This is widely ignored by the French despite the authorities in Guernsey taking action against both French and Jersey skippers ignoring the regulations on many occasions. The withdrawal about 4 years ago of HMS Alderney from the fisheries protection fleet has aggravated the situation in the Channel Islands generally.

❖ Current situation regarding a Wildlife Protection Law; August 2005

My submissions to Chief Pleas;

In September 1989 I made a "plea" on this subject. Nothing happened for nearly three years and I then made another on 5th March 1992 and, at the suggestion of the President of Alderney States, after discussions with the Chairman of the then Agricultural Committee produced a draft proposal for consideration by the States which was sent to all members and the President on 8th November 1992 and discussed by the committee shortly after who apparently agreed in principal. The amended draft was approved by the Agriculture Committee and apparently sent to the Procureur, for drafting the necessary enabling law, in February 1993. The Clerk to the States assured me on several occasions in the next 4 years that it was still awaiting attention. As the Law would be quite simple and very short this seems strange. At this time we would have been well ahead of the rest of the Bailiwick in giving protection to the Flora and Fauna of this island, but nothing was forthcoming within a short time.

I made yet another "plea" at Chief Pleas on 5th March 1997, when I was informed by the President before starting my plea, that the earlier draft had now been found on the Clerk's desk and was being sent to the Procureur with a request for immediate attention, however the draft seems to have disappeared again shortly after I was given this information and never reached the Procureur's office

In September 1997 after much pressure from me, an item was placed in the Billet d'Etat for that month's meeting, in effect asking the members if they were minded to introduce a Wildlife Conservation Law. This was agreed by a vote of 11:1 and a requirement made for the States to appoint, within three months, a consultant to advise them on what was needed. I suggested that the States of Jersey Conservation Officer, who was familiar with the Alderney situation from his many visits here over several years would be the person to approach.

On 6th May 1998 I wrote to all States members reminding them of this and noting that nothing had been done to appoint a suitable adviser in the past nine months. Eventually this was agreed and Mike Freeman came over from Jersey at the beginning of March 1999. His report was promptly submitted to our States and his comments on the present situation, the status of the wildlife and the need for some protective legislation agreed very closely with those I had made over the years.

The most suitable law was deemed to be a short one, enabling the States to bring in local **Ordinances** for the protection of specific named species of both fauna and flora or of "habitats", particular areas of the island, to enable them to survive and multiply without disturbance, in the conditions they required. Ordinances do not require either a separate specific law, nor Royal approval, for the States to enforce them.

Shortly after this a ***Land Use Plan***, on which the chairperson of the Housing and Development Committee had been working for some time and had received all of the earlier documents and correspondence from me, to assist, was brought to the States and approved. Unfortunately it was considered that this would give the opportunity to protect the Wildlife and the Environment without any need for specific legislation. Since it contained no options for declaring species of plants and animals in need of protection, nor their particular habitats, and no penalties for infringement of any regulations it was obviously insufficient for the need.

No Wildlife Protection Law has as yet been drafted, although a young graduate in Conservation was appointed by the States in 2000 on a one year trial as the Alderney Conservation Officer. His term was extended by 6 months and with the setting up of the Alderney Wildlife Trust in May 2002, just as his term was ending, the States agreed to his being appointed as the Trust's Manager and agreed to grant the Trust an annual grant of his current salary for one or possibly two years. In the event this has proved successful. After the first year the Trust took on work on maintaining and improving the environment and acting as consultants on environmental matters to the various States committees when necessary. At the same time they were appointed to manage some areas of public land which the States either did not have the manpower or suitable machinery to carry out. The fees for this work would be covered by the Grant in future and the Trust keeps a careful record of the work done and the hours spent on it.

Two areas of land have already been designated as Nature Reserves, managed by the Trust, footpaths have been cleared or created, and some 160 acres of the island have been greatly improved as a result.

The work on the creation of the Ramsar Site and submission of the application for international recognition of this as an important Wetland area (see pages 105-112 of this book), were carried out entirely at the expense of the Trust and at no cost to the States

The Law will no doubt eventually be drafted to back up the work already done.

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❖ Pollution

In recent years, oil pollution from several wrecked tankers has taken its toll of seabird and sea mammal life and probably also of crabs and lobsters near the shoreline. However the greatest threat to the area is from the discharge of nuclear waste into the sea from the Atomic Reprocessing plant at Beaumont-Hague on the Cap de la Hague, 9 miles away on the French coast. This has already produced increased levels of radioactive chemicals in local shellfish and seaweeds and atmospheric pollution, although the actual levels, measured in regular monthly monitoring of the sea water, seaweeds and shellfish, are still claimed to be "within safe limits" by both the French and Channel Island authorities. Atmospheric levels are continuously monitored by a sensor on the roof of the States offices. Protests from the Channel Islands about the danger this reprocessing plant poses, have had little effect on the French authorities over the years, although in 1997 the French Minister of Health resigned after it was proved that the Cogema management, who run the plant, had consistently lied about medical statistics concerning leukaemia in the surrounding area and discharge levels into the sea. The Green Peace organisation was particularly active in measuring and publicising discharge levels from the pipe in 1996/7 and on several occasions found levels greatly above internationally agreed maxima.

Periodic shipments of reprocessed material to Japan from Cherbourg pass close by the islands and are always the subject of protests by locals in France and the islands and by Greenpeace, who, on occasions, have attempted to blockade the port. Shipments by rail to Cherbourg, Germany and other places meet with protests all along their routes, but seem to have had little effect on the French authorities.

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❖ Appendix II

❖ Climate Tables

The author has also compiled a monthly summary from the daily records of air temperatures, rainfall and sunshine from figures kept at the Alderney Airport from 1957 to 1979 and at the Alderney Lighthouse from 1981 to 1998, when it was automated and the keepers left. A summary of these for the twenty years ending on 31st December 1999 follows. Since then a greater number of parameters have been recorded by an electronic weather station installed at the author's home on Platte Saline.

During this time February 1986 had seven nights (only 2 consecutive) and no days below zero, with the coldest night -2.4º. January 1987 had seven nights recording below zero, five of them consecutive. The lowest was -9ºC. There was only one day when the midday temperature kept below zero (-1º). In February 1991 four consecutive nights fell below zero, the coldest -6º and two midday temperatures, the coldest -0.4º. December 1995 had five, (two consecutive) with the coldest night -2.5º. These were exceptionally cold (for Alderney). There were no other air temperatures below zero in those winters, night or day.

Weather Summary; Monthly Averages in 20-year groups, January 1957 to December 2003

Summary for the 20 years 1957-1976 Measured at the Airport	**Jan**	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**June**	**July**	**Aug**	**Sept**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**	Total
Temp. av. max	11.19	11.01	12.40	14.41	18.28	21.19	22.81	23.00	21.05	17.91	14.55	12.32	
Temp. av. min	-1.11	-0.24	0.64	3.00	5.28	7.73	10.29	11.04	9.68	6.40	3.39	0.50	
(Max	8.08	7.73	8.91	10.68	13.50	16.34	17.62	18.25	17.06	14.49	11.14	9.08	
Average daily (Min	4.06	3.99	4.70	6.14	8.42	10.73	12.76	13.41	12.58	10.78	7.28	5.32	
(Mean	6.07	5.86	6.80	8.41	10.96	13.54	15.19	15.83	14.82	12.63	9.21	7.20	
Rain average mm.	86.65	63.75	50.23	47.90	48.07	38.09	37.73	58.34	67.06	74.66	106.3	89.76	**768.59**
Sun average hrs.	50.23	80.59	135.2	171.5	222.1	243.2	238.7	213.6	167.4	119.9	68.34	50.08	**1760.79**

Summary for the 20 years 1980-1999 Measured at the Lighthouse from 1981	**Jan**	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**June**	**July**	**Aug**	**Sept**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**	Total
Temp. monthly max	12.78	12.06	13.49	15.98	19.25	21.19	22.56	23.40	21.50	18.85	16.29	14.43	
Temp. monthy min	0.42	0.27	2.08	3.13	5.56	8.31	10.84	11.20	10.09	7.70	4.14	1.71	
(Max	9.41	8.85	10.29	11.81	14.44	16.69	18.76	19.31	17.90	15.36	12.52	10.56	
Average daily (Min	5.83	5.25	6.16	6.86	9.08	11.53	13.93	14.37	13.69	11.70	8.85	7.02	
(Mean	7.62	7.05	8.21	9.34	11.79	14.12	16.36	16.84	15.80	13.54	10.68	8.80	
Rain mm.	79.07	55.03	54.44	47.37	41.65	45.75	38.33	41.78	61.05	91.25	72.36	100.8	**728.83**
Sun hrs.	57.01	77.15	123.6	186.5	238.6	230.9	242.8	230.0	169.7	112.9	72.8	49.7	**1791.47**

The most recent twenty years records overlap those in the table immediately above.

Summary for the 20 years 1984 to 2003.	**Jan**	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**June**	**July**	**Aug**	**Sept**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**	Total
Temp. av. max	12.7	12.3	14.1	16.4	20.1	21.9	21.8	23.7	21.8	18.9	16.2	14.4	
Temp. av. min	0.6	0.7	2.3	3.4	6.3	8.5	10.4	11.2	10.2	7.9	4.4	1.7	
(Max	9.2	8.8	10.2	11.7	14.3	16.6	17.6	19.2	17.9	15.2	12.3	10.3	
Average daily (Min	6.3	5.9	6.8	7.5	9.9	12.1	13.6	14.9	14.0	12.1	9.3	7.4	
(Mean	7.7	7.4	8.5	9.6	12.1	14.4	15.6	17.1	16.0	13.7	10.8	8.8	
Rain average mm.	84.9	56.9	51.7	52.3	40.1	41.1	35.5	42.0	52.1	85.2	80.4	98.7	**720.9**
Sun average hrs.	60.5	80.0	125.3	185.9	240.4	236.9	243.7	230.2	177.5	111.4	74.0	53.6	**1819.4**

From these tables it will be seen that, on an average annual basis, Alderney receives about 727mm rain, which is generally decreasing and 1791 hours of sunshine which is generally increasing. Over the last 20 years overall temperatures have risen slightly; the average minimum temperatures recorded in any month, have all been above 0.0ºC. in the last 25 years and the highest temperatures, usually in August, have all been around 23ºC, but are gradually rising.

The small size of the island and the fact that the sea temperature rarely falls much below 10ºC or rises above 15-18º, taken with the mainly SW prevailing winds, often much stronger than in the other islands, probably accounts for the relatively mild temperatures and comparatively small diurnal variation.

In the eight years, following the automation of the Lighthouse and the withdrawal of the keepers, the installation of an electronic weather station, belonging to the States of Alderney, at the author's home on Platte Saline, has given a much wider range of measurements than those above.

Each second, the station logs wind direction; max, min and mean, wind speed, barometric pressure and humidity; plus sunshine, rainfall, dry and wet bulb temperatures, dewpoint and wind chill factor. These items can all be shown up as continuously moving graphs or traces on a computer screen, (when the programme is open) and, continuously on the dials and digital readouts on the wall unit supplied with the station. The averages of each 1 second interval measurement are also downloaded to the logger memory at a wide variety of optional time intervals, formerly selected in my case as every 15 minutes, but now increased to hourly. The logger memory will store more than four month's records at this time interval. These records can be saved as a text file whenever convenient, (usually in my case on a daily basis), now making a total of 24 lines of figures in 13 columns, for each day. These are simply opened in a spreadsheet programme and a simple set of formulae have been created in the spreadsheet to cause this to automatically extract daily maximum, minimum, average and mean values of each column for the 24 hours from midnight to midnight.

The spreadsheet will also automatically produce graphs of any of the parameters selected. Given below are examples of the daily summary of the 24 lines of records for Thursday 30th. June 2005 and, on the following page a set of graphs of Wind direction, maximum and minimum temperatures and rainfall, for the month of June 2005.

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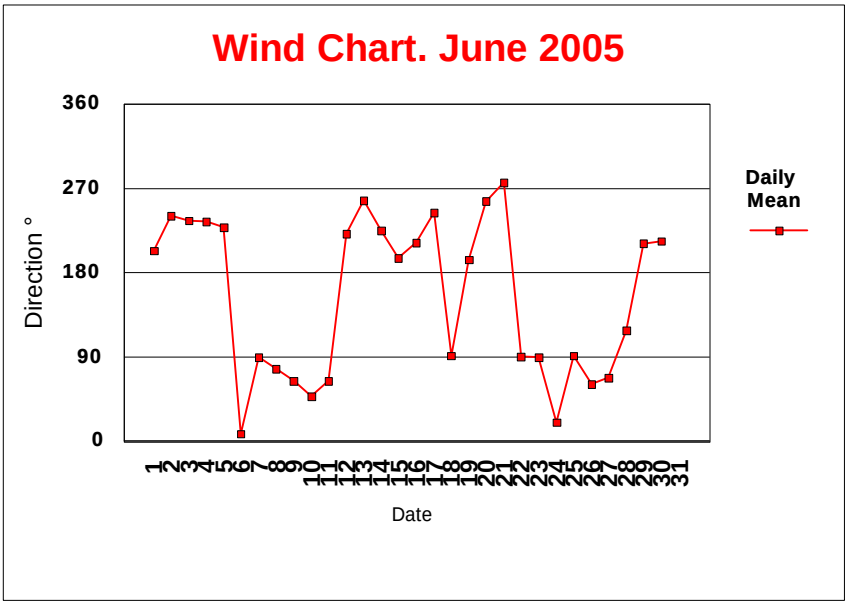
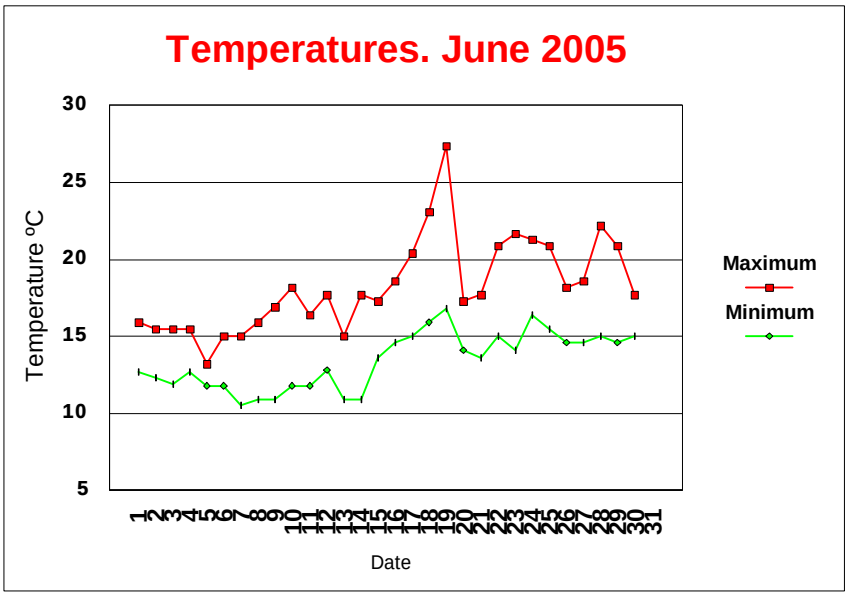
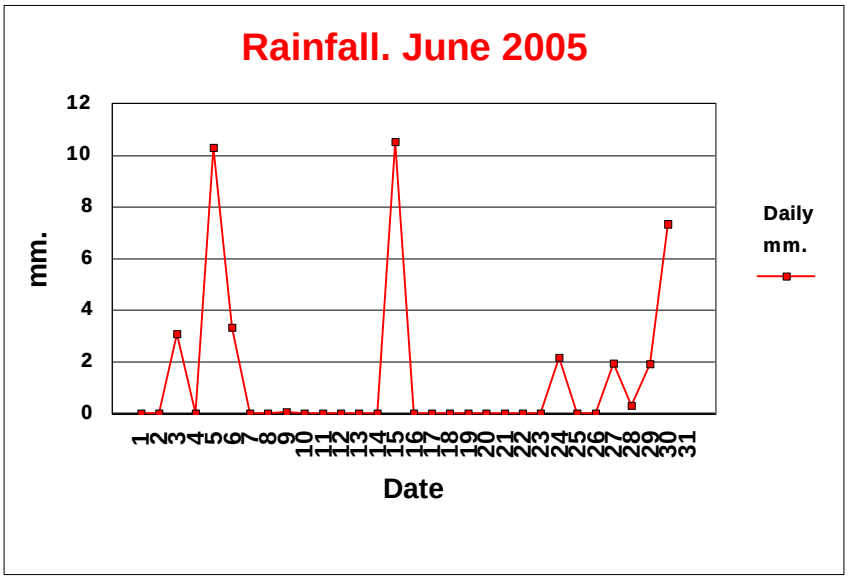
Daily summary for 30.06.2005. For comparison, the whole month's measurements for June 2004 are detailed on page 193

		Dirº	Min W spd (knots)	Max W Spd (kn)	Tmp(C)	Sun (hrs)	Rain (mm)	Pres (mB)	Humidity (%)	Aux(C)	Dew(C)	Chill(C)
Max or Total		248	6	26	17.73	4.37	7.37	1019	100	16.82	16.54	17.73
Min		172	2	14	15			1012	86	13.64	12.68	13.28
avg. day					16.1					15.5	15.0	15.6
avg. night					15.1					14.2	13.6	14.7
average		213.9	4.5	17.0	15.7			1014.4	91.4	14.9	14.4	15.2
av ngt 1	0.00 to 0600				15.2					14.2	13.5	14.3
av ngt 2	20.00 to 0.00				15.11					14.21	13.58	15.11
median		214.5	5.0	16.0	15.5			1013.0	90.0	14.6	14.1	15.0

See the next page for the graphs for June 2005, mentioned above.







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ANNUAL UPDATE NUMBER 1

Alderney Nature Diary

(included to bring records up to date)

Weather report for December 2005

A generally dull, cold, windy, month, with winds mainly in the South-west for the first week and East to North-east for most of the remainder of the month.

No temperatures were actually below zero at Platte Saline, but wind chill factors made it feel much colder in the later part of the month. Altogether a dismal end to a year in which August, (with 330.9 hours), was the sunniest month since 1955.

Rainfall total was 119mm below last year and 94mm below the 20-year average, whilst total sunshine, although well below the December average, was still 36 hours above 2004 and 135 hours above the long-term average.

Figures for comparison with December last year and the 20-year average

Year	**2005**	**2004**	**20-year average**
			1986-2005
Rain mm.	74.9	61.8	94.7
Sun hrs.	51.8	34.6	51.8
Maximum temperature recorded °C	12.7	13.2	14.3
Minimum temperature recorded ºC	0.3	2.8	1.8
Mean day temperature	8.9	9.3	10.1
Mean night temperature	8.6	9.0	7.8
Total rainfall for the year mm.	639.6	758.8	733.6
Total sunshine for the year hrs.	1967.9	1930.4	1832.6

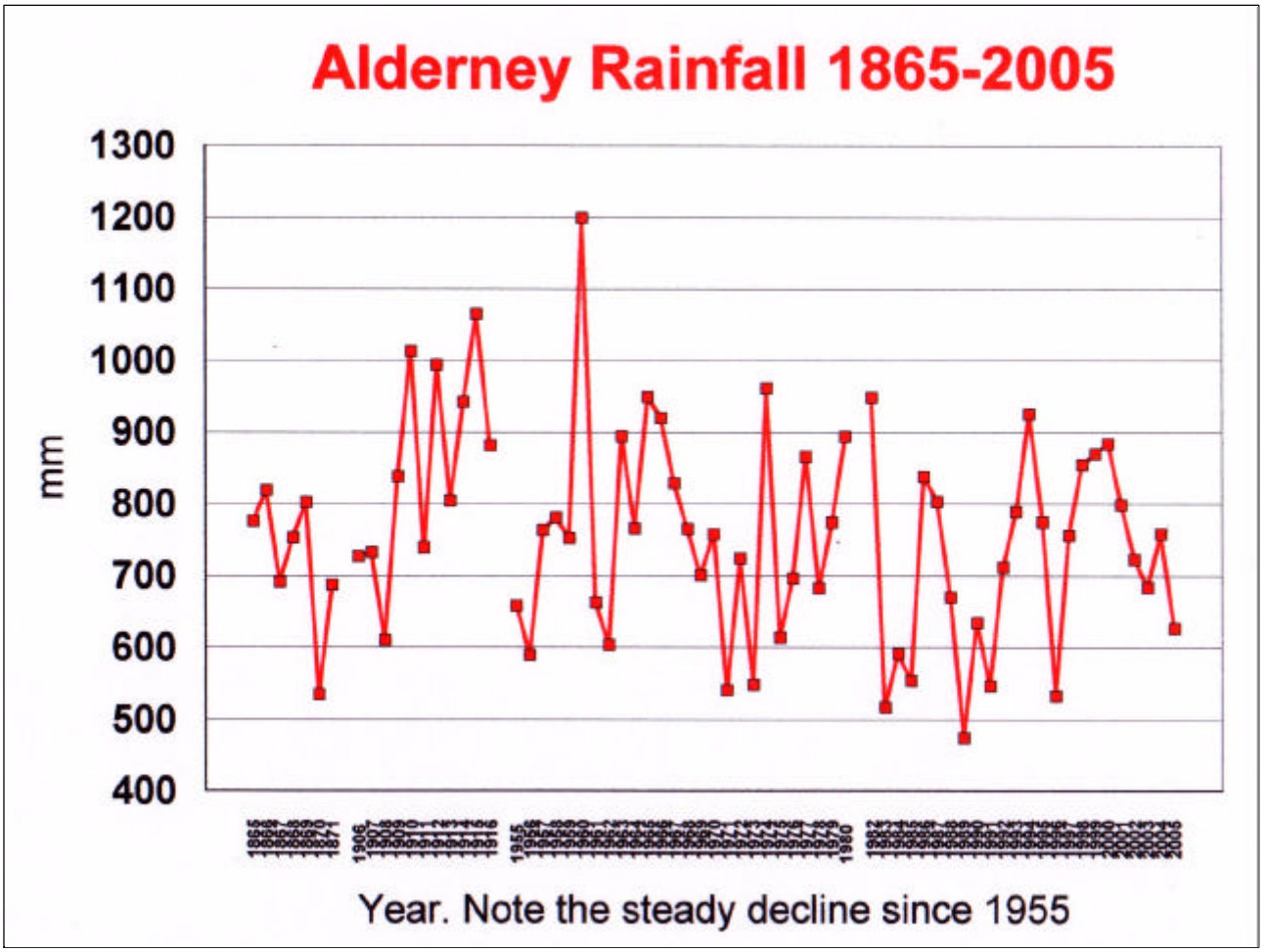
Annual Summary by month

Maximum figures in each line in red type, minimum in blue

Year 2005	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL
Temp. highest °C	12.7	**11.4**	16.8	18.3	24.4	**27.4**	24.4	23.0	23.9	20.9	17.3	12.7	
Temp. lowest °C	4.4	0.4	1.2	4.2	3.2	10.5	**13.2**	10.9	9.2	8.4	4.0	**0.3**	
Average daily Max	9.2	6.6	**8.7**	9.9	13.2	16.6	18.1	18.7	17.7	16.2	11.0	8.9	
Average daily Min.	9.0	6.3	**7.6**	8.7	11.0	14.5	**16.4**	16.2	16.2	15.4	10.4	8.6	
Monthly mean °C	9.1	**6.5**	8.2	9.4	11.8	15.6	17.4	**17.6**	17.1	15.1	10.8	8.7	
Rain mm.	42.8	44.3	38.4	68.3	71.6	41.2	52.0	**32.8**	34.6	69.3	69.6	**74.9**	639.64
Sun hrs.	**44.6**	69.6	114.5	202.9	221.9	275.0	267.7	**330.9**	187.6	114.9	86.5	51.8	1967.92

Averages for the 20 years 1986-2005	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL
Temp. monthly maximum	12.8	**12.4**	14.6	16.4	20.6	22.8	23.1	**24.1**	21.8	19	16.2	14.3	
Temp. monthly minimum	1	**0.8**	2.3	3.6	6.4	8.7	11.1	**11.3**	10.3	7.8	4.8	1.8	
(Max	9.2	**8.8**	10.2	11.6	14.3	16.7	18.4	**19.2**	17.8	15.2	12.2	10.1	
Average daily Min	6.7	**6.1**	7.1	7.7	10.2	12.5	14.5	**15.1**	14.3	12.4	9.7	7.6	
(Mean	7.9	**7.5**	8.7	9.7	12.3	14.6	16.5	**17.2**	16.1	13.8	10.9	8.8	
Rain mm.	80.8	57	49.4	56.4	**39.7**	40.8	41.5	48.9	50.9	93	80.5	**94.7**	733.6
Sun hrs.	60.9	79.1	125.7	183.8	247.2	241.9	**243.4**	236.6	178.2	109.7	74.4	**51.8**	1832.6

At this point a comparison of the annual summaries of all the available Alderney rainfall figures since 1865, which I have collected over the years, makes an interesting demonstration of the declining rainfall figures across the British Isles generally and no doubt across many other areas. The first figures 1865-71 were recorded at the Breakwater during its construction, the next block 1906-16 were recorded at the Le Huret home in St. Anne of the island Greffier. The next block from 1955-1980 at the Airport and those from 1982-97 at the Lighthouse, using a Stephenson screen and the remainder at my house on Platte Saline using a new electronic recording system.



Alderney Botanical Report 2005

" Alderney is the top area in the British Isles for Wild Flowers !!"

As many readers will know, for the purposes of wildlife recording the British Isles have been divided since Victorian times into 113 Vice-Counties (VCs). These largely follow the old county boundaries, with very large counties like Yorkshire divided into two VCs.

The Botanical Society of the British Isles, (BSBI) follow this system, with the whole country divided into "hectads" of 10Km. squares, more or less following the physical (former) county boundaries and each VC has one or more "recorders" Our duties are to confirm, correlate and record the records of plant sightings submitted by both local and visiting botanists. The Channel Islands are all lumped together as VC 113, or "S" (for Sarnia), originally for 40+ years under a single recorder, the late David McClintock, to whom the leading local botanists submitted their records, but, for the last 12 years or so, each now has their own recorder(s) of whom I act for Alderney, Bridget Ozanne for Guernsey and Roger Veall for Sark. Jersey has two recorders.

In 2003 Prof. Stace of Leicester University and 3 other eminent botanists published a 405 page ***"Vice-County Census Catalogue of the Vascular Plants of Great Britain, The Isle of Man and the Channel Islands"*****,** to which all of the BSBI recorders submitted their records of the plants found in their areas over the many years of their records.

A summary of the overall findings appeared in the September 2004 edition of BSBI News. This shows the total numbers of Wild Flowers recorded in each VC, divided into Native and Alien (naturalised) species (or taxa); the area of each VC in square kilometres; and the ratios of the number of plants per sq. km.

Surrey, with 2,409 taxa has the highest number of different species recorded in its 1,960 sq. km. area, giving a ratio of 1.229 species per sq. km., whilst Wester Ross in Scotland has only 902 taxa recorded in its huge area of 3,360 sq. km. and a ratio of only 0.275 species per sq. km. The average ratio for the whole UK is 0.955 species per sq. km.

The Channel Islands between them have 1,725 species found in their total area of only 194 sq. km. and thus have a ratio of 8.89 species per sq. km. The nearest similar number of taxa found in a UK VC is in Nottinghamshire, with 1,727 species in 2,180 sq. km. and a ratio of 0.792 species per sq. km.

Alderney with 1,042 species recorded since the first records were published in 1839 and approximately 900 still to be found today in its approximately 9 sq. km. area, thus has a ratio of at least 100 species per sq. km. if one includes only the current flora, rather than all the species ever recorded as is probably the case with the figures in this article for the UK and other Channel Island VCs.

It is therefore obvious why Alderney, with a wild flower density more than 100 times that of the average UK VC and almost twelve times that of the other CIs, is of such interest to visiting botanists and other naturalists and, with the appropriate publicity, is therefore in an excellent position to attract large numbers of "wildlife tourists".

This has long been noted and, in Marquand's ***"Flora of Guernsey and the Lesser Channel Islands"*** published in 1901, he was able to write; "Alderney is in several respects without a rival, even in this favoured archipelago.....and a visitor will find here in a single day's botanising a larger variety of really rare plants than in either of the other [larger] Channel Islands. There are certainly not many places in England where, within an area of four square miles, a dozen plants may be found equal in rarity to the following:--" (a list followed, all of which and several more, now on the Endangered Species lists for the UK, are still to be found in the island today).

The Alderney Wildlife Trust

2005 has been a very busy year for the Alderney Wildlife Trust, of which I am a Director and was the Hon. Treasurer from its formation in May 2002 until the AGM in May 2006, when I was elected President. We have acquired a new tractor with transport box, mower and trailer, etc., well suited to the many tasks required to improve and maintain some very rough and uneven ground, thanks to a generous interest-free loan from one member and the purchase of some additional equipment for it from another. Considerable progress has been made in the Trusts two Nature Reserves, designated by The States; (see the map elsewhere on this site to note their positions or click here for a link) Longis Common and most of the East coast, (the habitats of several rare and endangered species) and Val du Saou on the South coast, in removing encroaching bracken, gorse and bramble scrub in some parts, to allow the smaller (and more internationally important plants) to thrive in their proper habitats either of short, rabbit cropped turf, or under the indigenous deciduous trees which have been planted in newly cleared areas in Val du Saou. Several kms. of footpaths have been created or opened up again and marked in the reserves and grazing animals are helping to keep the invasive plants at bay. Much of the widespread and encroaching Reedmace or Lesser Bulrush, (Typha angustifolia) and New Zealand Pigmy-weed (Crassula helmsii) has been removed from Mannez pond when it was dry or almost dry and the latter has now been sprayed to try and prevent the Crassula recovering or spreading back in from the banks. Steps have been taken to raise the bank

at the NE end of the pond, which should help to reflood the tiny meadow at the SW end in the winter and perhaps enable the former and only known colony in Alderney of Ophioglossum vulgatum (Adder's-tongue fern) to return.

Alderney has now got its first "Ramsar" site registered with the UN, (a convention signed at Ramsar in Turkey, covering "Wetlands of International Importance"), only the second one in the Channel Islands so far. (See file Eco 14) or click the link in brackets. This consists of the whole of the West coast shoreline from some distance above the HWM and includes all the offshore islands and stacks from Burhou out to the Casquets. Inclusion under this convention does not in any way interfere with the traditional use of the area, but imposes an obligation on the States to ensure that nothing is done to destroy the present ecosystem.

The large amount of species surveying work necessary to prepare the document, which was then submitted to the UN by the States of Alderney, was carried out over about 18 months, at little expense to the States, by Trust members and several other experts who gave freely of their time. The site was included in the International Register in August. This has greatly increased our knowledge and record base of the various plant and animal groups which live in this area, and a number of new sites have been noted for plants in our existing flora, previously unrecorded here. It should also encourage eco-tourists.

Much of this recording work has now been incorporated into the island Digimap system and Dr. Charles David and Bridget Ozanne, who run the recently established States of Guernsey Biological Records Centre in the old Tobacco Factory premises, have also given considerable assistance in this part of the work as well as in the surveying. In particular Dr. David is converting my own 11,852 plant records, each with a map reference based on the old yellow covered OS map issued by the States of Alderney, to the "true" GPS co-ordinates. It had been found that the gridlines on the older map were about 183m north and 140m west of their true spatial positions, thus placing some species found on the N and W coasts and beaches too far inland and those on the S and W out in the sea, using the existing co-ordinates, as well as moving all the other sightings based on that map within the island. I have now redrawn the UTM gridlines on the map of Alderney used in my various books and articles and on my website, to reflect these changes and make available to visiting naturalists, who wish to record their sightings, a map which would closely mirror the same co-ordinates as a handheld GPS machine at any given point. It is hoped that all of the 11,852 sightings recorded in my database will soon have their co-ordinates changed to bring them into line with the corrected positions. These revised maps are now available from the several links on this website.

The species surveys done for the Ramsar submission have also given us greater details of the taxa found in this part of the island in several groups of plants, notably seaweeds, lichens, liverworts and mosses, which have not received a great deal of published recording attention for several, or in some cases many, years. The same can be said of the many marine, littoral zone and 'coastal' animal groups. Several of the updated lists are now available on this site.

Little progress has yet been made with the preparation of a proper Wildlife Conservation Law, despite my many attempts in the last 15 years and those of others before me, so it will be some time yet before a draft law can be brought to the States for approval.

I have not been able to spend a lot of time this year in routine botanical recording, but have kept a careful eye on the sites of our locally rarer and nationally scarce or endangered plants. We seem to have finally lost the two colonies of *Odontites verna* (Red Bartsia) in the verges either side of the road across Longis Common, due to mowing on one side and encroachment by *Carpobrotus* on the other. Lindsay Pyne, one of the Trust's volunteer workers has made a considerable list of the plants she has found, especially in the Ramsar site area and has noted more than a dozen new sites for plants already recorded in the island and several not previously recorded, yet to be confirmed.

Limonium normannicum (Alderney Sea-lavender) continues to thrive near Fort Houmet Herbé although the nearby colony of *Aster tripolium* (Sea Aster has become more fragmented and reduced). It has been a good year for *Romulea columnae* (Sand Crocus), *Tuberaria guttata* (Spotted Rock-rose), *Orchis morio* (Green-winged Orchid) and *Anacamptis pyramidalis* (Pyramidal Orchid). The single colony of *Ophrys apifera* (Bee Orchid) was badly damaged by the activities of 4WD vehicles climbing the steep bank and running directly over the colony, but a few specimens managed to recover and flower and a site barrier of rocks was created by Public Works to prevent further incursions. In 2006 some 14 plants have been seen in an area a few metres removed from the damaged site. A few plants of *Geranium sub-molle* (Alderney Geranium) have been noted at each of three sites and two plants of *Dactylorrhiza praetermissa* (Southern Marsh Orchid) once again appeared in Bonne Terre.

Frequent mowing of both Braye Meadow and Platte Saline Common has again prevented most of the smaller plants from appearing in any numbers, including the Celandines and the Pyramidal Orchids. The usual crop of *Calvatia gigantea* (Giant Puffballs) has not been found (at least by me) on Platte Saline this autumn, but *Scleroderma verrucosum* (Earthballs) have been plentiful and have spread considerably in several nearby lawn areas and even to wall bottoms and a cobbled gutter.

The influence on the flora of what is expected to be a very cold winter, especially on the naturalised alien species, will be observed with great interest in 2006.

<Bee Orchid

Earthballs in Le Petit Val gutter>

ANNUAL UPDATE NUMBER 2

Alderney Nature Diary

(included to bring records up to date)

Weather report for December 2006

The heavy rainfall at both the beginning and end of the month lifted the year's total to only the 6th lowest since 1955, an improvement on the total up to the end of November which was the second lowest since 1955. The total for December alone was only the 12th highest amount since 1955. Gales and rain at the beginning of the month tended to be associated with low pressure and at the end of the month with unusually high pressure, in both cases from an average WSW direction. Sunshine was distinctly lacking in the last 10 days and was some 13 hours below the 20-year average for the month. However, since 1955 there have been 13 Decembers with less sun and many more years with lower annual totals.

There was only one really cold day (on Christmas Day), when the temperature remained just above 4ºC throughout the 24 hours, but still well above both last year and the average. Overall the temperatures were also above average.

Barometric pressure and wind speeds across the month were a bit higher than usual, whilst humidity was almost the same.

Figures for comparison with December last year and the 20-year average

Year	**2006**	**2005**	**20-year average 1986-2005**
Rain mm.	118.1	74.9	94.7
Sun hrs.	39.0	52.6	51.8
Max. temp recorded °C	14.6	12.7	14.3
Min. temp recorded	4.0	0.3	1.8
Mean day temp	10.2	8.9	10.1
Mean night temp	9.9	8.5	7.6
Total rainfall for year to date, mm.	549.5	626.6	733.4
Total sunshine for year to date,hrs.	1904.1	1951.1	1832.6

Comment on the 2006 Alderney Weather

I completed last year's report by saying "The influence on the flora of what is expected to be a very cold winter, especially on the naturalised alien species, will be observed with great interest in 2006."

A similar prediction has been made for this winter and certainly December 2006 seemed a lot cooler than usual for much of the month due to high winds, although the minimum temperature recorded was actually 2.2ºC above the average, and in the event, the year overall proved to be the second driest since 1952 and the late summer and autumn one of the warmest up to the end of November, with the lowest temperatures recorded well above average.

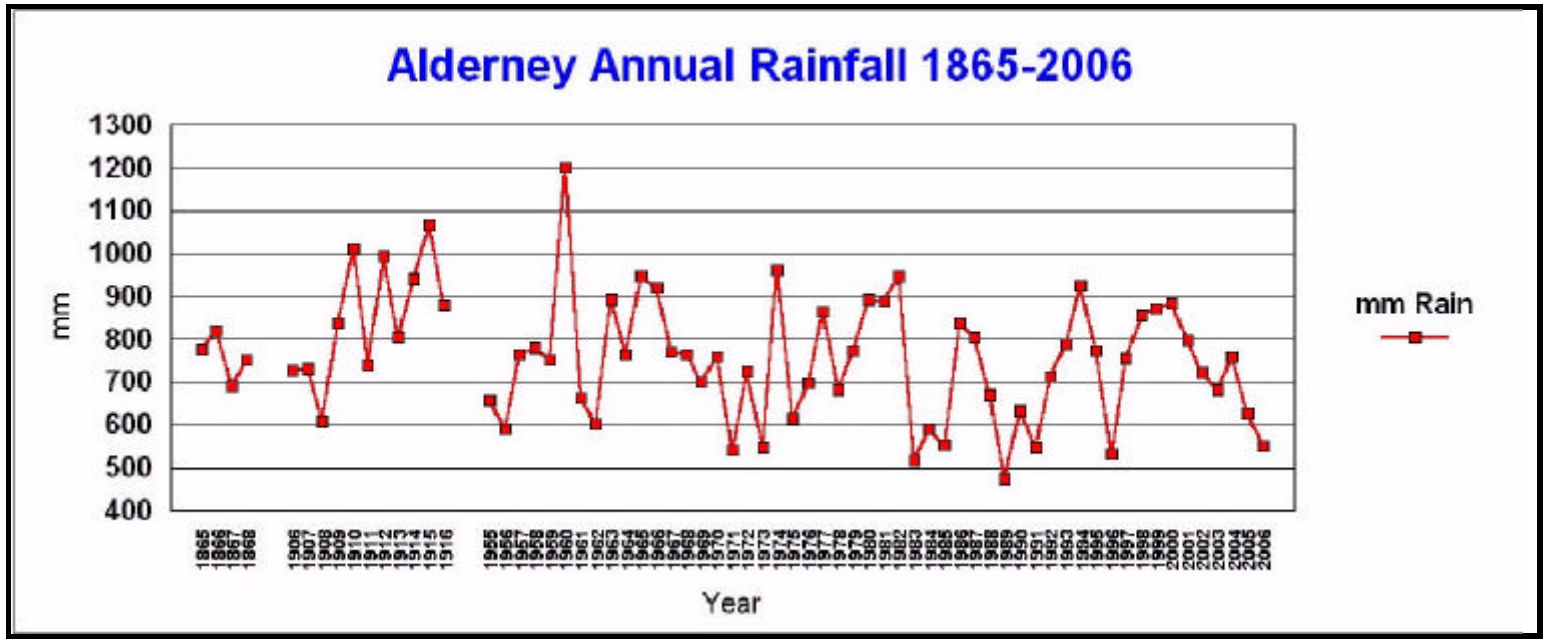
Annual Summary by month

Maximum figures in each line in red type, minimum in blue

MONTH	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL
Year 2006													
Temp. highest °C	11.40	10.00	14.10	13.60	21.70	27.40	27.80	21.70	25.70	20.00	15.90	14.60	
Temp. lowest °C	0.00	1.20	1.60	1.20	9.20	8.00	12.30	10.00	13.20	10.50	5.20	4.00	
Average daily Max.	7.30	6.50	7.60	9.00	12.80	16.70	19.90	18.30	18.40	16.40	12.30	10.20	
Average daily Min.	6.70	5.90	5.50	8.00	10.90	14.50	17.50	16.7	17.10	15.50	10.80	9.90	
Monthly mean °C	6.90	6.30	6.80	8.90	12.50	16.10	19.80	17.9	17.30	16.00	10.60	10.00	
Rain mm.	26.37	68.15	49.30	11.60	29.12	36.29	19.25	26.99	25.01	52.17	86.40	118.88	549.53
Sun hrs.	62.99	55.75	107.95	229.18	199.75	283.77	315.72	222.83	163.31	113.35	110.43	39.04	1904.07
Barometer highest mb.	1043	1041	1035	1032	1036	1040	1037	1031	1035	1037	1043	1051	
Barometer lowest mb.	1006	988	990	1006	989	1016	1012	1001	1002	990	984	986	
Barometer mean mb.	1029	1021	1016	1021	1021	1027	1025	1021	1019	1016	1021	1027	
Humidity max. %	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	
Humidity min. %	75	78	79	79	71	76	64	67	69	81	79	75	
Humidity average %	92.2	92.0	92.2	92.8	93.0	94.2	91.7	93.8	93.6	93.0	92.7	92.0	
Wind direction mean °	139	145	162	223	197	145	176	255	203	219	211	212	
Wind speed max kts.	40	50	44	38	42	30	30	26	36	42	46	56	

Wind speed mean kts.	12.2	12.7	14.9	7.3	9.8	6.3	7.1	8.2	8.1	11.2	13.5	15.1	
Averages for the 20 years 1987-2006	**Jan**	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**June**	**July**	**Aug**	**Sept**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**	**TOTAL**
Temp. monthly max	12.79	12.49	14.72	16.46	20.85	23.20	23.46	24.15	22.15	19.01	16.27	14.33	
Temp. monthly min	0.89	1.00	2.37	3.66	6.60	8.72	11.18	11.41	10.56	8.00	4.79	1.82	
(Max	9.09	8.88	10.13	11.54	14.28	16.76	18.53	19.25	17.94	15.21	12.14	10.06	
Average daily (Min	6.77	6.38	7.12	7.88	10.34	12.65	14.71	14.48	14.58	12.63	9.74	7.78	
(Mean	7.88	7.63	8.66	9.74	12.37	14.74	16.75	16.44	16.31	13.91	10.88	8.91	
Rain mm.	75.15	59.52	47.85	54.44	38.71	39.42	41.44	45.90	49.47	92.78	79.91	94.53	719.12
Sun hrs.	61.57	78.87	124.90	186.34	245.89	244.74	249.58	237.63	178.18	110.43	75.57	50.27	1843.97

At this point a comparison of the annual summaries of all the available Alderney rainfall figures since 1865, which I have collected over the years, makes an interesting demonstration of the declining rainfall figures across the British Isles generally and no doubt across many other areas. The first figures 1865-71 were recorded at the Breakwater during its construction, the next block 1906-16 were recorded in Le Huret in St. Anne by the island Greffier. The next block from 1955-1980 at the Airport, those from 1982-97 at the Lighthouse and the remainder at my house on Platte Saline.



Note the steady decline of amounts in years of high rainfall, average rainfall or low rainfall, since 1955

Alderney Botanical Report 2006

Alderney Wildlife Trust

This year has been a very busy one for the Trust, (of which I was elected President in May after serving as Hon. Treasurer for the more than 4 years since it was formed) and, with two separate "wildlife weekends" in the Spring and Autumn and several organised events during Alderney week in August, many visitors and local residents have taken the opportunities to join Wildflower Walks, Rock pool visits and some of the Conservation Volunteer's activities, as well as functions connected with the island fauna, especially moth light-traps, bat walks and small mammal trapping.

It was especially encouraging to see the number of local youngsters who attended the various walks and functions and showed considerable interest in the ecology of their island, as well as the visitors. During the year one of the trust students, Nick Andrews, doing a 1- year work experience attachment during his degree course, paid particular attention to the junior members and established a good relationship with both the school teaching staff and the children which we hope to build on and extend during 2007.

We have also assisted the States in its attempts to improve the island water storage capacity, by a clearance programme in Bonne Terre behind the old Mill leat dam carried out by the Conservation volunteers. The careful transplanting of many plants of the rare (at least in the Channel Islands) Greater Tussock-Sedge and several fern species, to new sites away from the area expected to be inundated hopes to preserve most of them. In doing this we found well over 50 stools of the Tussock Sedge, some of them about 5 feet high and of considerable age, hidden in the vegetation upstream from the dam, which had become dense and almost impenetrable over many years. A further 20 or so were in the area nearer the dam which had been cleared of encroaching vegetation six years ago and I have found several young plants at the edge of the water downstream below the pumping station in the last 2-3 years.

Old Mill leat during clearance work, April 2000

Most of the area belongs to the Alderney Society, who have owned the derelict Watermill for many years and are now trying to revive it. The rebuilding of the water-wheel itself is well along the road to completion. The dam wall, has been extended and repaired by the States and about 1-metre thickness of silt removed from the area behind it to increase both the catchment area and depth and allow most of the silt to settle before it goes to the filters and pumping station further downstream. AWT are also managing two areas of, mainly States, land as Conservation areas, the larger of which is home to several of our Red Data Book rare or endangered species, and hope to add a third area during the current year.

During the year Lindsay Pyne, (LP), one of the Trust volunteers, has spent much time in familiarising herself with the island flora and has drawn my attention to two species not previously recorded and one not seen for many years, as well as noting new sites for several other species. Further details of these will be found below.

We have been fortunate to have Jennie Page, (JP), a recently retired biology teacher from Guernsey, move permanently to Alderney this summer. A friend of almost 25 years, from when I lived in Guernsey, she ran the Botanical Section of La Société Guernesiaise for many years, was closely associated with the late David McClintock and contributed many of the Bailiwick records to his *Wild Flowers of Guernsey* published in 1975 and to the Annual *Transactions*. of La Société. She has already contributed some new records to the Alderney list. She also organised and taught a Wild Flower evening class on Fruits and Seeds in the Guernsey Education Department's Adult Education programme at St. Anne's school this autumn, with associated Saturday morning walks, to put what we had learnt into practice in the field. About 10 people attended the first sessions and these will start again in the Spring, almost certainly with a larger class, as a lot of interest has been generated. I look forward to having her expert help in increasing our knowledge and distribution records of the island flora.

Further work on Alderney's Ramsar site has added to the records of both the terrestrial and maritime flora lists and those of various fauna, noted in the site area.

Several visits from Bridget Ozanne (also the Guernsey BSBI recorder) and Dr. Charles David, who run the recently set up Guernsey Biological Records Centre, have given further impetus to our recording and, thanks to Dr. David, my entire 11,800+ database of Alderney records since 1824, of which he has modified the grid references to account for a long term discrepancy between the grid references obtained from the States of Alderney map and the true satellite co-ordinates, can now be mapped, printed out and manipulated to produce various printed records and species distribution maps on both the GBRC and the Alderney Wildlife Trust Dismap and Digimap programmes. Paul Griffiths at Aditsite, who created my recording programme, has converted my former map references in that programme to fit into the corrected UTM grid positions and I have created a new A4 map, with the corrected grid on it. This can be obtained in printed form from the AWT office or downloaded from my website <flora.org.gg> (File Alderne.gif) and is now included in all new copies of my Alderney Flora lists, books and CDs.

In the past year I have produced a 256+ page book on CD-Rom *A Very Wild Island. An outline of the Ecology of Alderney* This is also available to special order as an A4 ring-bound computer print. A much expanded update to my 1988 *Flora of Alderney* booklet has finally made its appearance this week, now entitled *The Wild Flowers of Alderney*. About 250 pages with the several maps including the corrected island map and some colour photographs, this is in A5 size, ring-bound with laminated covers. All are available from the AWT office.

New records

Rosa x alba, The White Rose of York

Rosa x alba, The White Rose of York, First noted by me in 1990 as a single large clump in a field hedge near the dip into Trois Vaux valley and obviously there for many years, has somehow escaped being included in our published or printed records until now.

1st island record 2005;

Hypericum perforatum Perforate St. John's-wort. LP. July, on Ft. Albert Glacis. Still there; BB 1.7.2006

1st island records 2006;

Medicago sativa subsp. falcata Sickle Medick. LP. August, on grassy verge of track leading to Bibette Head alongside Campsite. 1 large plant in flower and seed.

Oenothera cambrica Small-flowered Evening-primrose. ML, (Margaret Long, Jersey BSBI recorder). August. Several patches behind the sea wall at Platte Saline in old tipped soil and in 2 or 3 other sites for several years. Previously thought to be *O. erythrosepala* which does occur elsewhere in Alderney.

Tetragonia tetragonioides New Zealand Spinach. JP. 11th November, grass verge in Val Fontaine, possibly a garden escape. Still in flower and with many seed pods.

2nd island records 2006;

Malva moschata Musk Mallow. LP. August. Mannez Quarry. Recorded in Marquand 1901. Last record, 2 plants 1932 AK Jackson.

Allium sphaerocephalon; Round-headed Leek. LP. July. Waste ground alongside railway track opposite the Scots Pines on Mont Touraille. 8 plants. First record, .BB 1987, 2 plants Le Petit Val.

Portulac oleracea; Purslane. JP, 4th November. Small patch in line of a cable trench recently cut and filled in, across a grassy former pasture at Essex Farm, just above Longis Bay. First record ML 27.8.2001 in gravel at The Old Barn Restaurant, some 300m away from the new site.

All records seen, photographed and confirmed by BB.

	
Hypericum perforatum	Medicago sativa subsp. falcata
	
Malva moschata	Allium sphaerocephalon

	
Tetragonia tetragonioides	Portulaca oleracea

Please Note;

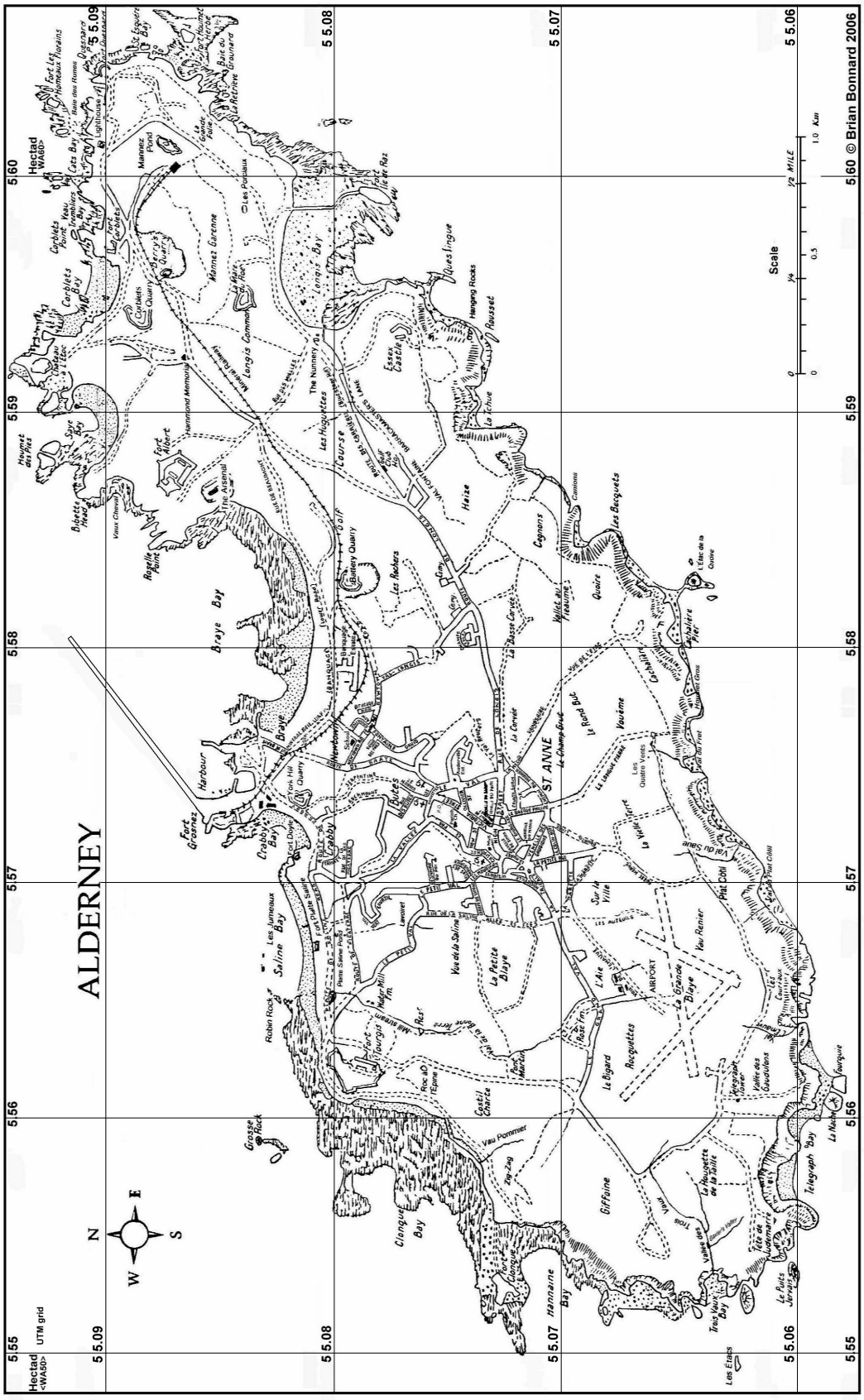
To avoid the need to insert annual updates of weather and species lists into this file, a separate numbered file named “AVWUpdatex.pdf” will be added to the website and to any CDs made for sale, sometime in January each year, where ‘x’ is the number in sequence.

Details of how to obtain the CD and its cost, will be published on the books page of my website; flora.org.gg

THE END

Thank you for reading my book, I hope you enjoyed it.

Should you wish to contact me, my address is on page 4 of this MS.



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