

Discovering the Millennium Walk

A guide for locals and visitors

About the Millennium Walk...

Formed in 2000, the Millennium Walk is a 3km long nature trail encircling St Saviour's reservoir. The Walk was created by Guernsey Water in consultation with environmental groups and other users to enable the public to enjoy the environment and wildlife that surround the reservoir.



This valuable Island habitat is carefully managed, and specific planting has ensured that screening is provided between the path and the water's edge to minimise the impact on wildlife.



Since its completion in 1947, St Saviour's reservoir has developed into an important local site for nature conservation, significantly helped by its relatively undisturbed nature. As Guernsey's largest area of freshwater, the reservoir and surrounding woodland support a wide range of bird species and an increasingly rich diversity of plants, insects and fungi.

St. Saviour's reservoir itself is one of Guernsey's major water storage facilities holding 240 million gallons or 25% of the Island's total stored water.

The Walk is maintained by La Société Guernesiaise's company Environment Guernsey. The company provide two wardens who take care of the site and ensure it is being used sympathetically by keeping the paths clear of vegetation and litter and minimising disturbance to the wildlife. They also regularly report to Guernsey Water on how rainfall and storage levels are affecting plant and animal life.

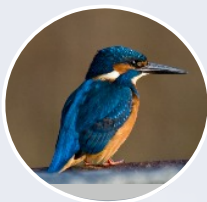


In order to keep disturbance to a minimum, walkers are asked to keep to the footpath and keep dogs on leads. Only fishermen are permitted to use the various access points to the water's edge and fishing is only allowed by members of the Guernsey Trout Society.



Interpretation boards can be found in each of the car parks and provide information on the abundant flora and fauna to be found around the reservoir and a number of brass rubbing plaques have been placed around the walk depicting the wildlife. The detailed map in this leaflet will also give you further information on the various highlights of the Millennium Walk.

Animal and Plant Life on the Walk...



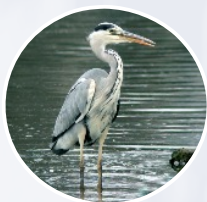
Kingfisher



Cormorant



Sparrowhawk



Grey Heron



Long-Eared Owl



Grey Wagtail



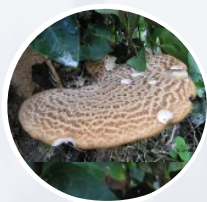
**Speckled Wood
Butterfly**



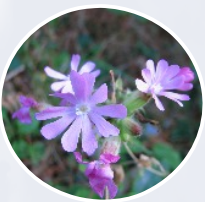
**Blue-Tailed
Damselfly**



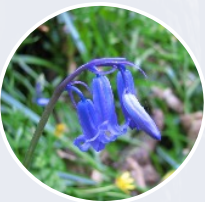
Fly Agaric



Dryad's Saddle



Red Campions



Bluebells

Photo Credits: Kingfisher & Long-Eared Owl (Phil Alexander), Blue Tailed Damselfly & Sparrowhawk (Barry Wells - www.barrywells.co.uk), Grey Wagtail (Paul Hillion - www.paulhillion.com), Fly Agaric, Red Campions & Bluebells (Jamie Hooper), Dryad's Saddle (Val Bloese), Speckled Wood Butterfly (Charles David), others (Guernsey Water).

History of the Walk...



(Left) The same view of the reservoir in 1938 and present day

Before the area was flooded to create the reservoir, the land was used for farming. Eight cottages and associated farm buildings were situated within the reservoir property, each with a wide area of domestic curtilage. The valley bottoms were generally too wet for cultivation and were mainly used for seasonal grazing. The shallower slopes were used for the cultivation of potatoes or in many cases for growing flowers. The remnants of this activity can be seen in some plots where bulbs still bloom each spring.

Some of the steeper slopes were left to scrub and woodland while others were grazed. When the land was flooded, the affected property owners were bought out and in some cases new houses were built for them next to the reservoir. Le Neuf Chemin House and some of the development at Les Annevilles Farm were built for this purpose.



The road network was also altered and several farm tracks were lost underwater. Originally, Le Neuf Chemin road (left) was known as La Vielle Rue and carried on down from the old Mont Varouf School through the site of the dam wall and water treatment works to join Rue Des Choffins at the bottom of

the hill. Le Neuf Chemin translates as 'The New Road' and was constructed around the newly flooded east arm of the lake in the late 1940's.

Construction on the impounding dam (right) began in 1938, although work was halted during the occupation of the Island during the Second World War. The dam was completed in 1947 and by April of that year the reservoir was full to overflowing.



The reservoir was created at the confluence of three former valleys, which resulted in a lake resembling a bird's foot in shape. The three 'arms' of the reservoir are named (from east to west) Les Choffins, Beau Valet and Les Padins.

Millennium Walk Map...



Key to Map:



Parking Area



Millennium Walk



Brass Plaques



Road Section of Walk

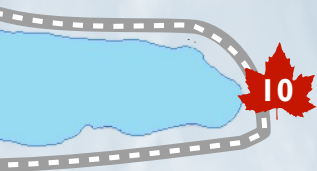


Reservoir



Points of Interest

'Or



Neuf Chemin



1. From here is a clear view of the three 'arms' of the reservoir and the two dominant woodland types (Coniferous and Broadleaf).
2. Here the recycled treatment water from the plant is discharged back into the reservoir.
3. There is a bridge here to cross Les Padins stream. This stream brings in water from the St Peter's area.
4. The best view of one of the floating reedbeds in the reservoir. Reedbeds offer a secure local place for birds to roost and feed while simultaneously treating the water.
5. The path passes along a slope with mature native Oak trees. Oaks can support over 400 species of insects and wildlife.
6. Here the Sous L'Eglise stream arrives at the reservoir after draining water from land as far away as the Airport.
7. Upon re-entering the footpath, the ruins of one of the old farmhouses which had to be abandoned still stands. The fireplace can be seen inside.
8. Here are two commemorative stones - one for the opening of the Walk and the other for the twinning with Montebourg.
9. The house on the corner of Le Neuf Chemin road was one of several built to replace the flooded properties.
10. A good view of the dam and east arm of the reservoir. The Walk reverts to the road here to allow an undisturbed refuge for wildlife.