

# St Clement's Country Trail

## Short Walk

This trail is little known and a good percentage of St Clement's parishioners may not realise that they have this trail and its ancillary lanes on their doorstep. It is possible to walk from just east of St Clement Church to Samares Manor and most of that journey will be on little used field tracks and footpaths.



### Starting Point

Parking area on the St Clement Inner Road.

### Public Transport

Bus Route 1a

### Difficulty

This walk has been attributed an easy to moderate rating

### Duration

Estimated walk time 1 hr

## Directions

Starting from the parking area on the St Clement Inner Road end of Rue Hamel turn right onto the main road and look out for the wall sign on the left for Rue Graut.

Today this is a very careworn farm track, however there was a time before the Second World War when as a lane it linked the area around Grouville Mill with the St Clement Inner Road. Graut is a surname and reference can be found of a Mlle. Marguerite Graut gifting a cup to St. Pierre de la Rocque Chapel in the 1800s that now resides in Grouville Church. This is a wonderful trackway that changes from tree covered footpath to open fields along its initial length and has three individual habitats that from April to October is the haunt of butterflies, bumblebees and a host of other insects and birds.

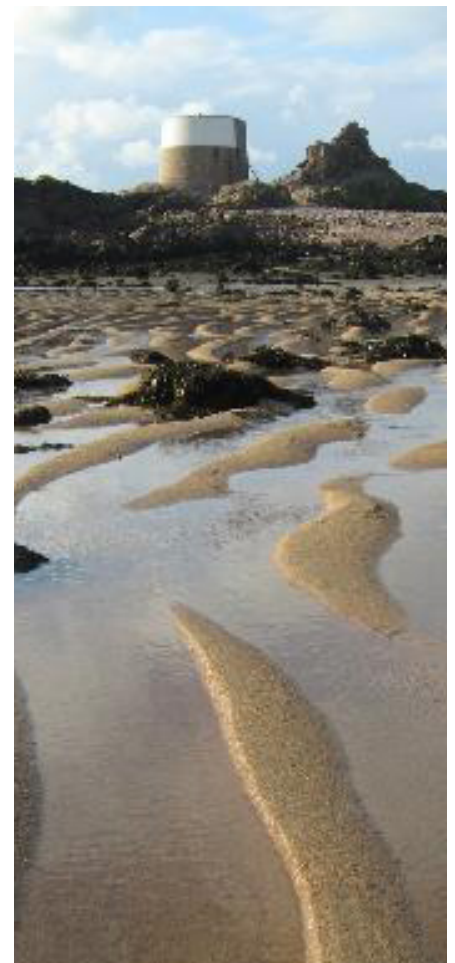
*The track curves slowly uphill getting steeper as you go until toward the top it divides left and right. On this walk turn right and on your left is a fine view of Grouville Mill and ahead you will come upon a large open field.*

There is a walkway through the field that has potatoes in it early season and usually grass after that. Ahead on the left you should see a venerable old ash tree with dead branches sticking out of the top and as you near it you will see that the track again divides.

*Take the grass track on the right.*

The views here are stunning with St Clement Church nestling in the valley to the west with the white towered navigation light on Rue de la Houquette on the hill above while the wide expanse of the Violet reef system out and beyond Icho Tower opens before you.

The hedgerow here is dominated by Alexanders that, although providing pollen and some nectar early season tends to dominate and so suppresses the growth of other beneficial plant species later on in the summer.



■ Icho Tower

*At the end of the field track turn right taking care as it is often littered with stones and is steep sided. Follow the twists and turns and emerge on flat ground with woodland ahead.*

Do not venture into the hedge on the left as there are German trenches and fortifications hidden along its edge. The woodland contains a barn owl box that is often occupied and the woods are also frequented by Long eared owls. The path skirts the edge climbing as it goes before dropping slowly down again into yet another field system. This one has a line of pine trees along its western edge much loved by Holly Blue butterflies in spring and early summer and often there will be signs of a kill made by a Sparrow Hawk along this way.

The trackway now begins to slope downhill with high banks either side and views to the west of the horse paddock and grazing field passed at the beginning of the walk. There is a wide range of plant species along here as tractors very infrequently use this section of track and as a result it is rich in insect life. This track joins onto Rue Graut so turn left at that junction to retrace your steps taking care when emerging onto the main road.



■ *St Clement's Church*

