

The Guet.

On a high hill at Albecq, along the coast facing Cobo, there is a building in red granite on top of a great rock. It is called the Guet, a name that comes from the French for "to watch" (guetter). From there we can see the coast from Portinfer as far as L'Erée. This rock has served as a place to keep watch since the sixteenth century (1581) and probably since the Middle Ages. It is just the place to see any ship which would want to raid along the coast. The beacon of the Câtél - a fire which warned the parish of danger - could be lit there, and all could see it. In 1780, during the War of American Independence, the western parishes had to raise £1,600 to build the watch-house at Albecq, and another at Pleinmont, but it seems that there was already a kind of house there because on a sixteenth century map, there was marked "la Maison du Guet", and in 1757 there was a report of repairs that were done at that time.

In 1782 the States took responsibility for the Guet and paid for everything that the soldiers who were stationed there would need. The governor, Sir John Doyle, during the Napoleonic war, appreciated that this watch-place gave early warning of any invasion by an enemy and during the Occupation the Germans made use of it too. They put a battery alongside the watch-house and mounted a cannon there.

These days, what they put there serves as a place where we can sit to admire the beautiful view and to rest for a while.