

= Herm =

Herm (Guernésiais : Haerme) is one of the Channel Islands and part of the Parish of St Peter Port in the Bailiwick of Guernsey . It is located in the English Channel , north @-@ west of France and south of England . It is 1 @.@ 5 miles (2 @.@ 4 km) long and under 0 @.@ 5 miles (0 @.@ 80 km) wide ; orientated north @-@ south , with several stretches of sand along its northern coast . The much larger island of Guernsey lies to the west and Jersey to the south @-@ east , and the smaller island of Jethou is just off the south @-@ west coast .

Herm was first discovered in the Mesolithic period , and the first settlers arrived in the Neolithic and Bronze Ages . Many tombs from that period remain today , the majority in the north of the island . The island was annexed to the Duchy of Normandy in 933 , but returned to the English Crown with the division of Normandy in 1204 . It was occupied by Germany in the Second World War and the scene of Operation Huckaback , but was largely bypassed . Herm is currently managed by Herm Island Ltd , formed by Starboard Settlement , who acquired Herm in 2008 , following fears during the sale of the island that the ' identity ' of the island was at threat .

Herm 's harbour is on its west coast . There are several buildings of note in the vicinity including the White House , St Tugual 's Chapel , Fisherman 's Cottage , " The Mermaid " pub and restaurant , and a small primary school with about eight children . During a busy summer season , up to 100 @,@ 000 tourists visit the island , arriving by one of the catamaran ferries operated by the Trident Charter Company . Cars are banned from the island , as are bicycles ; quad bikes and tractors used for staff and luggage transport respectively are allowed .

= = History = =

= = = Ancient history to Middle Ages = = =

Herm was first found in the Mesolithic period (between 10 @,@ 000 and 8 @,@ 000 B.C) , when hunters were in search of food . In the Neolithic and Bronze ages , settlers arrived ; the remains of chamber tombs have been found on the island , and may be seen today ; specifically on the Common , and the Petit and Grand Monceau ; it has been suggested that the northern end of the island , i.e. the Common , was set apart for burials . After a three @-@ year project by the University of Durham , supported by specialists from the University of Cambridge , the University of Oxford , and the Guernsey museum , they stated that the " density of tombs suggests that the northern end of Herm may have been a place set apart for funerary activity " .

The first records of Herm 's inhabitants in historic times are from the 6th century , when the island became a centre of monastic activity ; the followers of Saint Tugual (also called Tudwal) arrived , establishing Saint Tugual 's Chapel . In 709 , a storm washed away the strip of land which connected the island with Jethou .

An important moment in Herm 's political history was in 933 , when the Channel Islands were annexed to the Duchy of Normandy , they remained so until the division of Normandy in 1204 , when they became a Crown Dependency . In 1111 Brother Claude Panton was a hermit in " Erm " and in 1117 the then hermit , Brother Francis Franche Montague is recorded as living on " Erm " . After the annexation , Herm gradually lost its monastic inhabitants , and between 1570 and 1737 the governors of Guernsey used it as a hunting ground ; visiting to shoot , hunt , and fish .

= = = 19th century to the Second World War = = =

In 1810 , an inn was founded ; and during the Industrial Revolution , roads , paths , a harbour , accommodation , a forge , blacksmiths , a brewery , a bakery and a prison were built to cater for the largest number of inhabitants since prehistoric times . Most were quarrymen working in new granite quarries . Several quarries can still be seen at present , such as on the Common . When the Prince and Princess Blücher leased the island from the British government during the First World War , he

introduced a colony of Red @-@ necked wallabies to the island , around 60 @-@ 70 in number . They increased up to the First World War , after which they decreased in numbers , and the remaining few were re @-@ captured and put in enclosures .

The German occupation of the Channel Islands during the Second World War essentially by @-@ passed Herm . The island was claimed on 20 July 1940 by the Third Reich , ; a few weeks after the arrival of German troops in Guernsey and Jersey , German soldiers landed on the island to shoot a propaganda film , The Invasion of the Isle of Wight . Herm 's sandy beaches were soon used for practising landings from barges , in preparation for the invasion of England , but otherwise the island saw little of the Germans beyond officers making trips to shoot rabbits . Herm had only a little German construction during the war ; a flak battery was placed on the island for a few weeks , and mines were placed in an area . Occasionally German soldiers would travel to Herm to cut wood for fuel . In April 1945 a German officer , Oberst von Helldorf was exiled to Herm for not displaying sufficient loyalty to the Führer .

= = = = Operation Huckaback = = = =

Operation Huckaback was a British Second World War military operation that was originally designed to be a raid on Herm , Jethou and Brecqhou , but instead became only a raid on Herm undertaken on the night of 27 February 1943 , following an earlier attempt that had been aborted . Ten men of the Small Scale Raiding Force and No. 4 Commando under Captain Patrick Anthony Porteous VC landed 200 yards to the north @-@ west of Selle Rocque on a shingle beach and made several unsuccessful attempts to climb the cliff in front of them . Porteous finally managed to climb up the bed of a stream and pulled the others up with a rope . They later reported that they had found no sign of any Islanders or Germans (who were supposed to be billeted near the harbour) . They had failed to make contact with the few civilians on the island whose duties included looking after the sheep .

= = = Since 1945 = = =

In 1949 , the States of Guernsey bought Herm from the Crown because of the " unspoilt island idyll that could be enjoyed by locals and tourists alike " . One of the island 's most influential tenants was Major Peter Wood , who looked after the island from 1949 to 1980 with his wife . The island was run down when he arrived , with the manor hidden in undergrowth , the windows and roofs of the houses having been blown off by a sea mine drifting into the harbour shortly after their arrival , but they created a school , and restored St Tugual 's Chapel . Major Wood 's daughter Pennie Wood Heyworth and her husband Adrian succeeded them ; Major Wood died in 1998 . Their early efforts are recorded in Herm , Our Island Home , written by Major Wood 's wife Jenny Wood .

On 17 May 2008 , the BBC reported that the tenants had put the remaining 40 years of their lease up for sale , with an asking price of £ 15 @,@ 000 @,@ 000 . Within four days , there were over 50 potential buyers , which led to fears from residents that the island 's identity would be lost if it was bought by the wrong owner . In September 2008 it was announced that Starboard Settlement , a trust , had acquired the remainder of the lease for considerably less than the asking price . The trust formed a company based in Guernsey , Herm Island Ltd , to manage the island for the trustees .

In 2013 , negotiations for a 21 @-@ year extension to the lease broke down , with the tenant offering £ 440 @,@ 000 and the owner requesting £ 6 @,@ 000 @,@ 000 plus improvements to infrastructure .

= = Geography and geology = =

Herm is only 1 ½ miles long and less than half a mile wide . It is oriented so that its greatest length runs north ? south . In the northern part of the island are the Le Petit Monceau and Le Grande Monceau hills . To the north of this is a common , leading to Mouissonniere Beach on the northern coast , with Oyster Point in the northwestern corner and La Pointe du Gentilhomme or Alderney

Point at the northeastern corner . To the east of the common is Shell Beach and to the west is The Bear 's Beach , leading down to the harbour . Half of the coastline of the northern part of the island is surrounded by sandy beaches ; the southern half is rocky . Much of Herm 's bedrock is granite . In 2008 , Adrian Heyworth , who was at the time the island 's tenant , said that two or three metres of sand were being lost annually at Alderney Point .

Off the northwestern coast of Herm is the islet of Le Plat Houmet , and beyond that Fondu , which like Herm belongs to Guernsey . In Belvoir Bay on the eastern side of the island are the islets of Mouliere , situated off Frenchman 's Point which is to the northeast of the manor village , and Caquorobert . To the south of this off the southeastern coast is Puffin Bay , which contains the islet of Putrainez near the coast and the islet of Selle Rocque further out to the south . The far southwestern point of the island is Point Sauzebourg , and Bishop 's Cove is just to the north of this . North of the cove and south along the beach from the harbour and White House are the Rosiere Steps , with a quarry and cottage of the same name in the vicinity . The Mouette and Percee reefs are offshore here . Hermetier , along known as Rat 's Island , lies about 250 metres (820 ft) off the western coast between Fisherman 's Beach and The Bear 's Beach , to the north of the harbour , linked by a low causeway from the beach .

The isle of Jethou is around three @-@ quarters of a mile to the southwest beyond Point Sauzebourg . It is possible that in AD 709 a storm washed away the strip of land that connected Jethou to Herm . About 215 metres (705 ft) off the northern coast of Jethou is the islet of Crevichon , which measures about 212 metres (696 ft) by 168 metres (551 ft) , with an area of less than three hectares . To the west , between Herm and Guernsey , lies the channel Little Roussel (Petit Ruau) ; between Herm and Sark , to the east , lies the Big Roussel (Grand Ruau) . Bréhon Tower , a Victorian @-@ era fortification , is in the Little Roussel between Herm and St Peter Port . The tower was created by Thomas Charles de Putron (1806 ? 1869) using granite from Herm between 1854 and 1856 .

= = Politics = =

Herm is part of the St Peter Port parish of Guernsey but is not part of any canton . It belongs to the Electoral District of Saint Peter Port South . It is rented out to various tenants. and , unlike the largely autonomous islands of Sark and Alderney within the Bailiwick , Herm is administered entirely by the States of Guernsey .

Cars and bicycles are banned from Herm , in order to keep " peace and tranquility " . However , Herm does allow quad bikes and tractors for staff and luggage transport respectively .

= = Economy and services = =

Tourism is Herm 's main source of income . During a busy summer season , up to 100 @, @ 000 tourists visit the island , arriving by one of the Travel Trident catamaran ferries operated by the Trident Charter Company . Money is also made from vegetable growing , livestock and the occasional issue of stamps . The residents in Herm are workers on the island and their families .

There are three volunteer Special Constables resident on the island , trained and supervised by the States of Guernsey Police Service . On Bank Holidays they are augmented by a visiting full @-@ time Constable from Guernsey . Crime rates on the island are low .

There are no medical facilities on Herm and no resident doctor . A small team of first aiders and community first responders is maintained amongst the resident population , and receives regular training from the Guernsey Ambulance and Rescue Service , a private company operating on a charitable basis under the umbrella of the Venerable Order of Saint John . Medical evacuation to hospital in Guernsey , where necessary , is achieved by means of the ambulance launch ' Flying Christine III ' operated by the Guernsey Ambulance and Rescue Service .

A voluntary fire service operates on the island . Herm Fire Brigade operates a tractor @-@ hauled fire tender with a hose @-@ reel , a pump , a 2 @, @ 000 @-@ litre water tank , and basic fire @-@ fighting equipment which they use while waiting for assistance from the Guernsey Fire Brigade , who

also provide the Herm volunteers with training and support .

= = Notable landmarks = =

The nondenominational St Tugual 's Chapel dates to the 11th century , but it is believed that there was a place of worship on Herm as far back as the 6th century , although it hasn 't been confirmed whether the chapel was founded by St Tugual himself or his followers at a later date . The current building is Norman and appears to have been a monastery during medieval times . Of particular note is its stained glass windows featuring Noah 's Ark and Guernsey cows and Jesus talking to the fisherman at Herm harbour . In 2010 and 2011 , the chapel was closed for restoration work .

Other buildings on the island include the White House hotel , " The Mermaid " pub and restaurant , and 20 self @-@ catering cottages . The most notable cottages are Fisherman 's Cottage , north of the harbour , and Manor Cottage . There is an obelisk on The Common , in the north of the island . The White House has no clocks , televisions , or phones , which is described as " part of its charm " , and has a customer return rate of 70 % (i.e. each year , 70 % of customers have been before) . Herm has no consecrated religious buildings or resident professional clergy , but visiting clergy conducts non @-@ denominational weekly services during the summer months , and monthly services , led by local lay people , are held during the winter .

Sculptor Antony Gormley had a sculpture installed on Herm in 2010 , originally planned to be removed after one year , but it received such a positive reception that it was kept for two years , and removed in 2012 . The statue was number XI (11) of the Another Time series .

= = Education and culture = =

A number of French / Norman placenames remain , from the period when the island was in the jurisdiction of the Duchy of Normandy . The Herm Island map , published by the tenant of Herm , states that main place names , including the island name itself , have unclear origins , although there is an unofficial Anglicisation of names ; for example , La Pointe du gentilhomme was changed to " Alderney Point " . The primary present language on Herm is English .

Herm has one primary school , with around eight pupils ; they are taught by a teacher who travels from Guernsey daily . Children over nine are schooled in Guernsey , usually as boarders .

Herm has won Britain in Bloom categories several times : in 2002 , 2008 , and 2012 , Herm won the Britain in Bloom Gold Award . The author , Compton Mackenzie , who was the island tenant 1920 @-@ 23 , represented it in Fairy Gold , albeit in a fictional representation .

The northern part of the island was recognised in 2016 as an area of international environmental importance under the Ramsar Convention .