Biodiversity Partnership

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States of Guernsey
Agriculture, Countryside and Land Management Services

Nature Commission
Nature Matters

Inter-Island Environment Meeting 2026

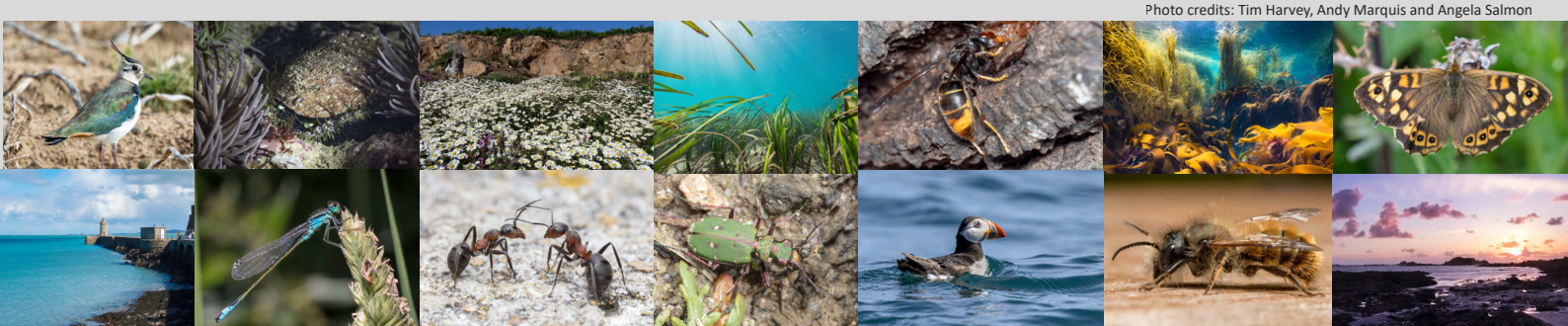
Guernsey

Wednesday 30th September -
Thursday 1st October 2026

PROGRAMME

IIEM 26 GUERNSEY

Photo credits: Tim Harvey, Andy Marquis and Angela Salmon





The Guernsey Nature Commission and the States of Guernsey are delighted to be able to host the 2026 Inter-Island Environment Meeting (IIEM). We are pleased with the range and scope of presentations on offer, as well as informative posters submitted by delegates.

This year's event has been made possible thanks to the support of Ørsted, the States of Guernsey, and the delegates attending the conference.

The event will be hosted at Les Rocquettes Hotel, St Peter Port. If you are travelling to the venue by car, please park in the rear car park, as this has been reserved for IIEM delegates.

Theme

The theme for this year's IIEM is 'Nature for the Next Generation'. This theme reflects several important ideas: supporting environmental education, inspiring the next generation of environmental leaders, and ensuring that our natural environment is protected and enhanced so it can be enjoyed by future generations. It also highlights the importance of the progress we can make within the next generation through collaboration, innovation, and practical conservation action across the islands.

Aims and Objectives

The IIEM was established to facilitate discussions among government bodies, NGOs, environmental managers, and individuals about the status of our islands' natural environment and to aid in planning for the future.

The IIEM is held annually and provides an opportunity for people from across the Channel Islands, Isle of Man, UK, and France to come together to share ideas, learn from each other's experiences and achievements, and collaborate for the benefit of nature and people.

Wednesday

Key timings for presentations and activities



08:55 - 10:00	• His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor Lieutenant General Sir Richard Cripwell KBE CB • Housekeeping • History of the IIEM and 2026
10:00 - 10:20	**From Consent to Conservation: Delivering Long-Term Seabird Restoration Through Partnership and Innovation** Presented by Ørsted & NIRAS
10:20 - 10:50	**Seabird Restoration Project in Practice: Delivering Predator Eradication Across the Channel Islands** Presented by the Alderney Wildlife Trust Enterprises and Habitat Assessment & Restoration (HAR)
10:50 - 11:10	**Morning Break**
11:10 - 11:30	**How to Build Budget Busting Partnerships** Presented by Remarkable Partnerships
11:30 – 11:50	**Shrew Distribution Patterns in the Bailiwick of Guernsey** Presented by Sangan Island Conservation
11:50 - 12:10	**Storm Goretti Gets Guernsey: Impact on and Future Resilience of Guernsey's Trees and Woodlands** Presented by Guernsey Trees for Life and the Nature Commission
12:10 - 13:15	**Lunch Break** Break includes travel time to your chosen field trip (see field trip transport options).
13:15 - 17:00	**Field Trip** • Lihou Island guided walks and/ or Beach Clean • Candie Gardens tour



FIELD TRIP - LIHOU ISLAND GUIDED WALK & BEACH CLEAN

! Field trips have been organised in advance, according to registration forms. If you did not note your attendance on your registration form, please do not attend a field trip. It is not possible to switch between field trips - please be sure of which trip you have selected to attend. !

Lihou Island Guided Walks

Join us on a trip to Lihou Island, to explore its history, archaeology and ecology, and to have a closer look at Guernsey's first Ramsar site. The event will begin at ***1:15pm*** at the Lihou Island causeway car park - please refer to page 5 for transport information. Before crossing the causeway at ***2pm***, a short talk will be given on the area as a Ramsar site. Once on the Island, attendees will split into two groups and be taken on guided walks starting at ***2.20pm*** to discuss the ecology and archaeology of the island respectively - groups will be able to experience both tours. Please bring a water bottle, appropriate clothing and footwear for weather conditions on the day and wet walking, and bring binoculars if desired.

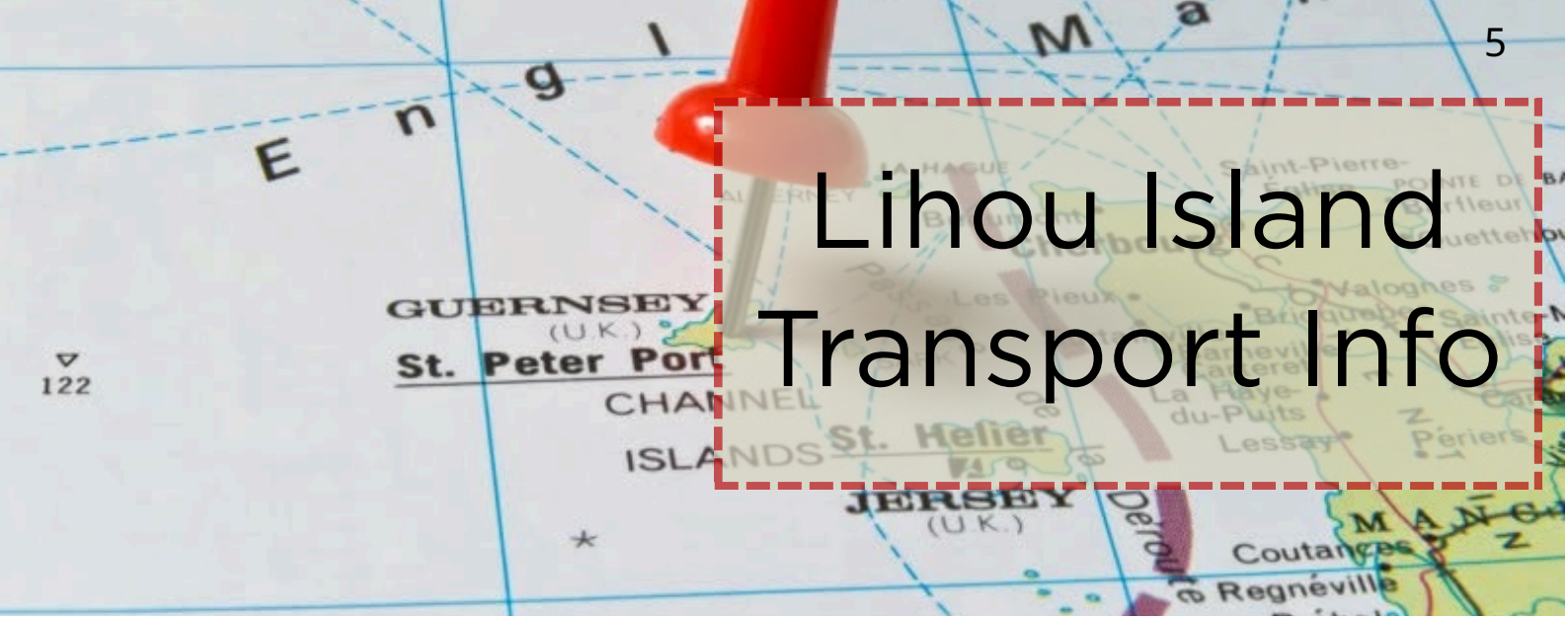
There is no access to toilet facilities on Lihou Island - the closest facilities are at L'Erée Bay, a short walk from the car park.

Tours will finish in time to return to Guernsey for those signed up to the *4pm* Beach Clean event. **The causeway will close at *5:18pm* - if you decide to remain on Lihou Island, please leave enough time for your return, or you will be trapped by the tide.**

Beach Clean

Following the Lihou Island guided walks, the Clean Earth Trust will run a beach clean on the Guernsey side of the causeway for those registered for this event. Delegates will be split once again into 2 groups for a 30 minute beach clean, followed by sorting and counting of collected rubbish.

The beach clean will finish at ***5pm***, and those requiring transport will be taken back to Les Rocquettes Hotel.



Lihou Island Transport Info

Lihou Island is located on the west coast of Guernsey, approximately 17 minutes from Les Rocquettes Hotel by car. The following transport options are available should you need transport to and from the Lihou Island field trip.

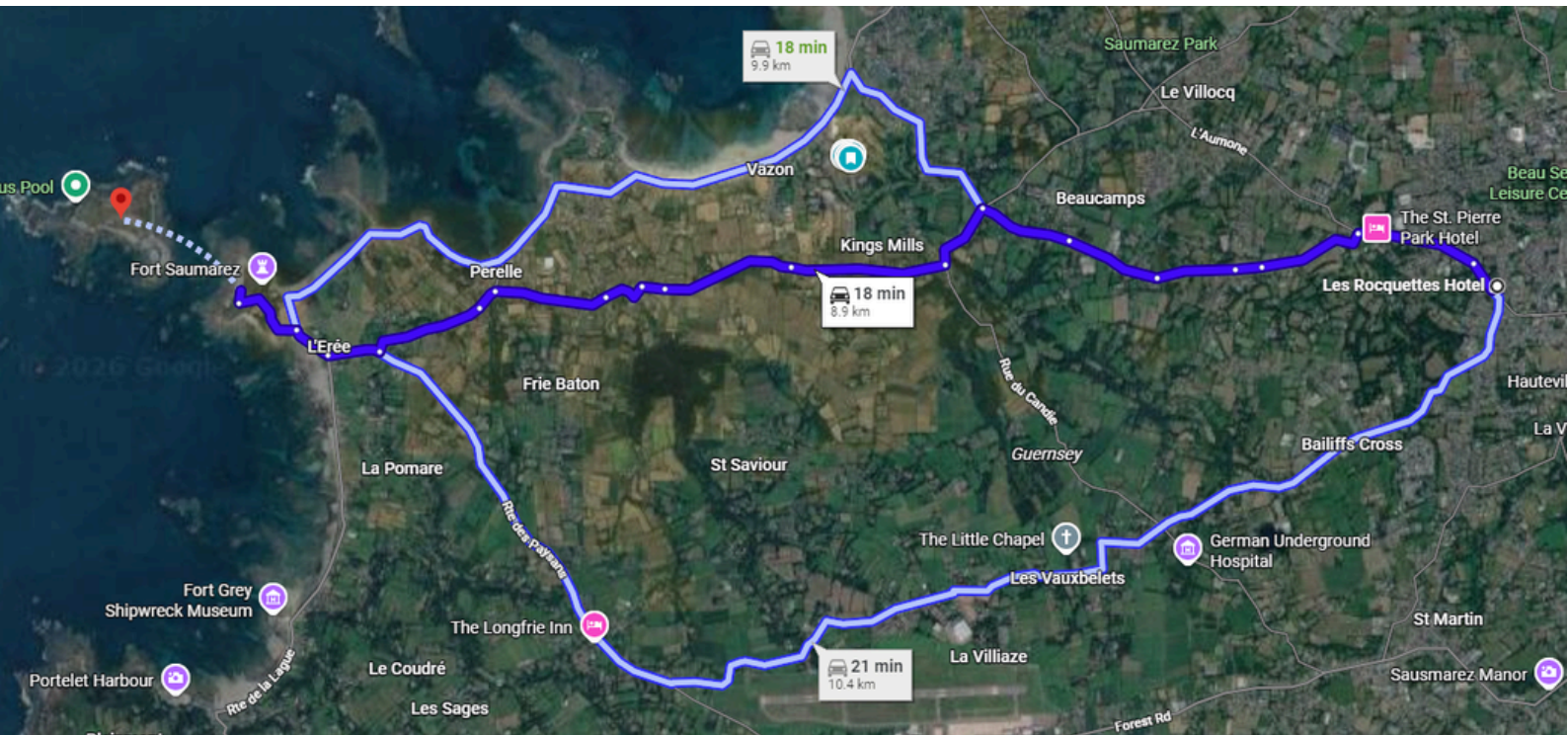
Mini buses

Minibuses will be available to transport the majority of delegates to the Lihou Island field trip. The minibuses will take delegates to the field trip meeting point and return them to Les Rocquettes Hotel once the field trip has finished.

Thank you very much to Outdoor Guernsey for offering this service.

Carpooling

Several Guernsey-based delegates have kindly offered to provide transport for off-island delegates travelling to the Lihou Island field trip, and to return them to Les Rocquettes Hotel afterwards. If there is no space remaining in a minibus, please check with one of the IIEM 2026 Organising Team for who has offered a space in their car.



20 YEARS OF GUERNSEY'S 1ST RAMSAR SITE

Accessible via a causeway during low tides, Lihou is a beautiful small island that supports an incredible amount of biodiversity. This designated Ramsar site also includes the shingle bank Les Anguillieres and the Western end of L'Erée Headland, as well as the surrounding coastal areas.

We are celebrating 20 years of designation this year, and want to show you exactly why this site is so important.



Habitats: Part of the reason that this site is so rich in species diversity is the range of habitats. The Lihou Island and L'Eree Headland Ramsar site includes rocky, gravelly and sandy shoreline, coastal grassland, and a rich sublittoral zone, saltmarsh, reedbed and saline lagoon, as well as vegetated shingle banks, seagrass beds and wet grassland, all encompassed within this 427ha area. The latter three habitats are recognised internationally as threatened.



Marine species: One of the most significant marine habitats at the site are the Eelgrass beds. These areas are fantastic as nurseries for young fish, and as carbon sinks. The Ramsar site is also rich in seaweed diversity; looking only in the shoreline around Lihou island, you can find over 200 different species. Another species with particular cultural significance in Guernsey is the Green Ormer.





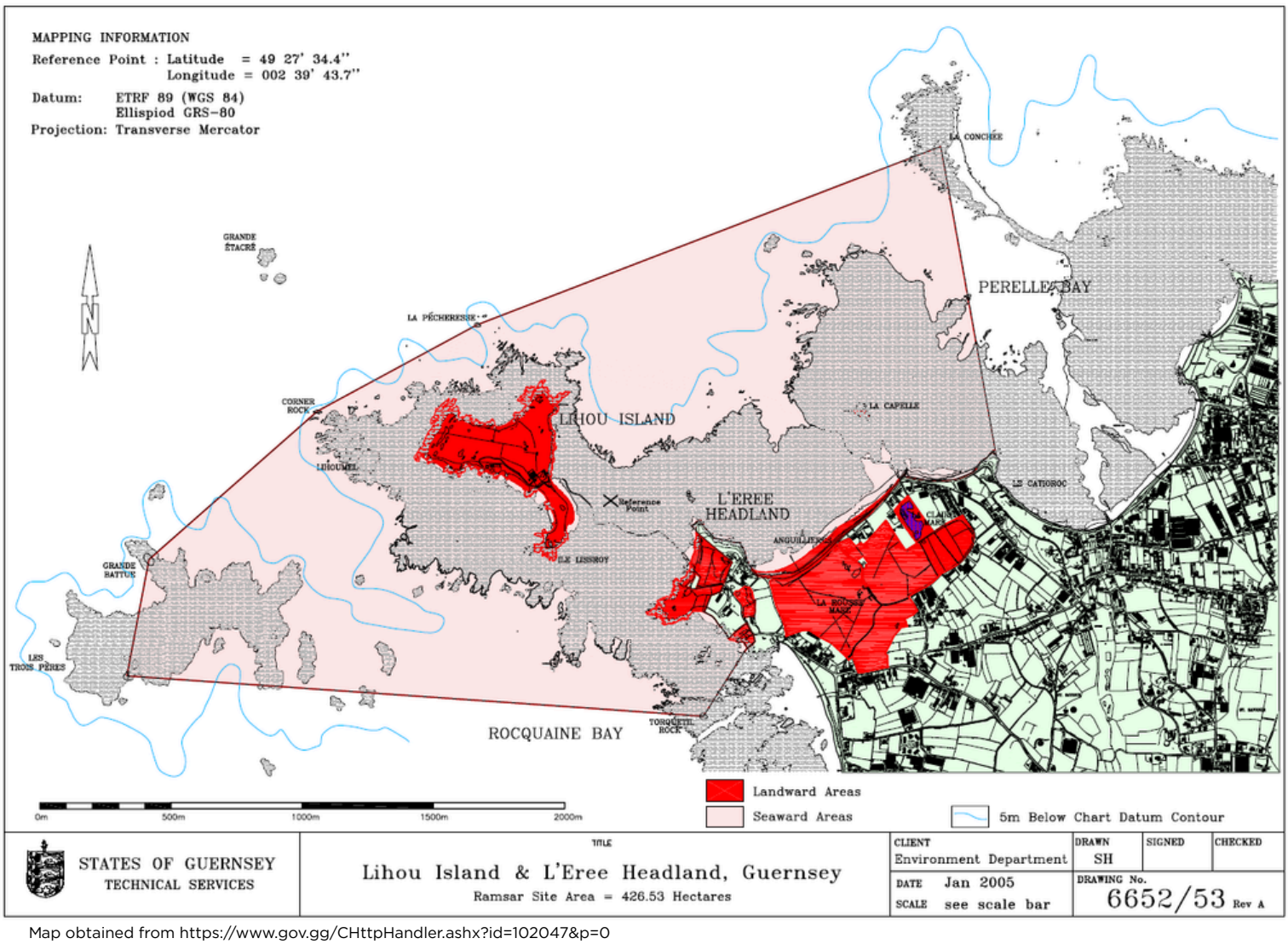
Terrestrial species: The site has a vast number of bird species including Reed Warblers, Goldcrests, Atlantic Puffins, and Eurasian Sparrowhawks. Many migrant species such as the Aquatic Warbler and Snow Bunting have also been recorded at the site. Other species include the European Rabbit, Brown Long-eared Bat, Wolf Spider, and the Emperor Moth.



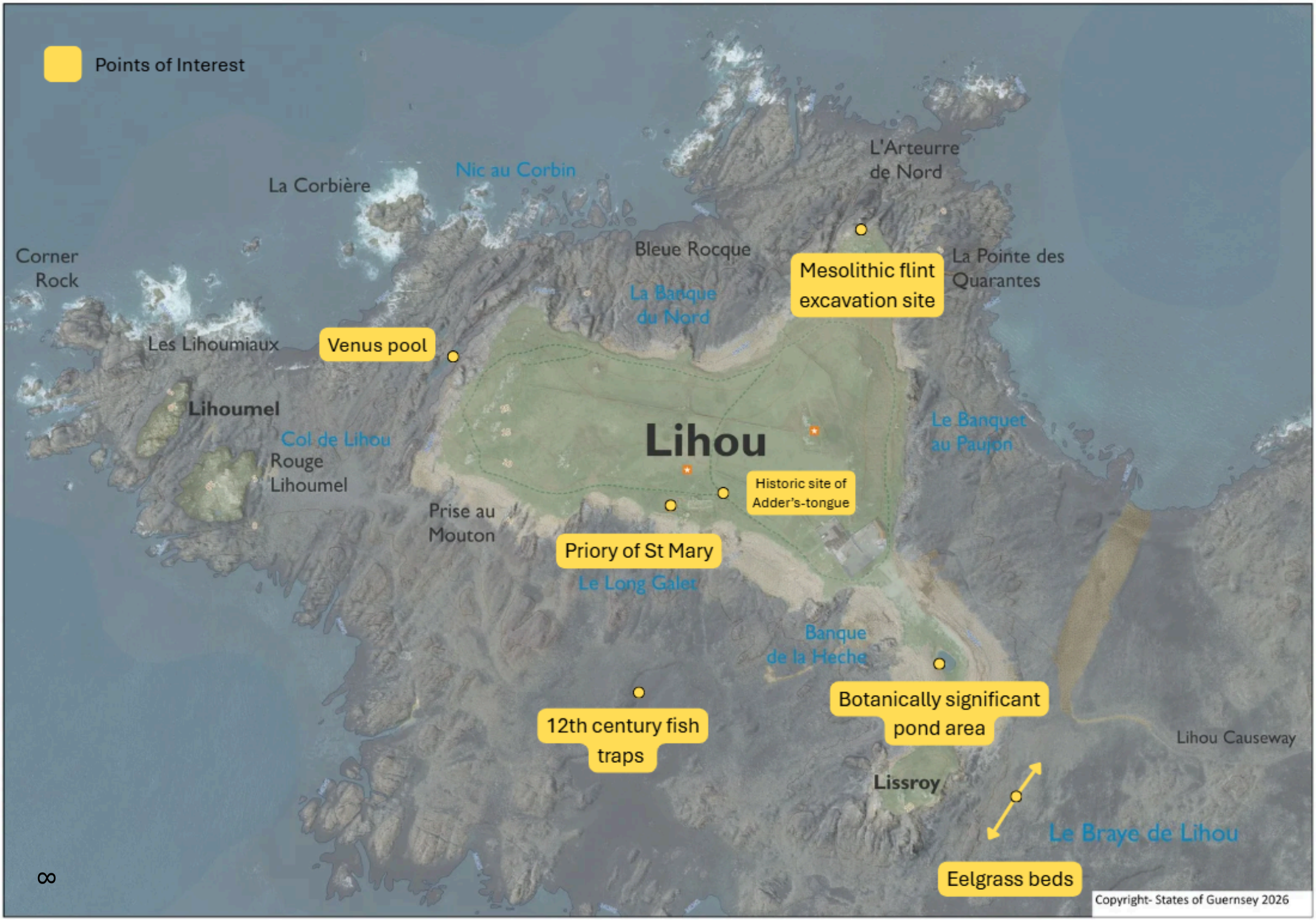
Plant species: The variety of habitats allows for rich plant diversity, housing many species that are rare or not present in the UK. Land Quillwort is present - only found in 1 site in England. Sand Crocus occurs in only two places on the UK mainland, and Loose-flowered Orchids which grow in the marshy areas of the site, are not found in the UK. The saltmarsh areas are scarce, yet home to another rare species - Saltmarsh Goosefoot.

History: The history of Lihou Island is particularly fascinating. Archaeologists have found evidence of settlers from as far back as 7400BC in the form of flint tools. In the 12th century, monks set up a priory on the island, the ruins of which are still standing today. There are fish traps from the 16th century, made from stone walls and designed to work with nature, and an iodine factory was even set up in the 1880s to make use of the seaweeds on the shore.





Map obtained from https://www.gov.gg/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=102047&p=0


Points of Interest
L'Arteurre de Nord
Nic au Corbin
La Corbière
Bleue Rocque
La Pointe des Quarantes
Corner Rock
Mesolithic flint excavation site
La Banque du Nord
Les Lihoumiaux
Venus pool
Lihoumel
Col de Lihou
Rouge Lihoumel
Lihou
Le Banquet au Paujon
Historic site of Adder's-tongue
Prise au Mouton
Priory of St Mary
Le Long Galet
Banque de la Heche
Botanically significant pond area
12th century fish traps
Lihou Causeway
Lissroy
Le Braye de Lihou
Eelgrass beds
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FIELD TRIP - CANDIE GUIDED WALK

! Field trips have been organised in advance, according to registration forms. If you did not note your attendance on your registration form, please do not attend a field trip. It is not possible to switch between field trips - please be sure of which trip you have selected to attend. !

Guided Walk: From Les Rocquettes Hotel to Candie Gardens

This event will begin following the last presentation of the day at ***12.10pm*** and once delegates registered to attend this walk have collected their packed lunch.

Delegates will walk to Candie Gardens with Helen Litchfield, who leads the Botany Section of La Société Guernesiaise and is Guernsey's County Recorder for the Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland (BSBI). Along the route, Helen will highlight some of the interesting plants growing in St Peter Port's urban environment, demonstrating how botanical interest can be found in unexpected places.

The walk will continue into Candie Gardens, established in 1894 in the grounds of Candie House, and delegates will have the opportunity to enjoy the area with their packed lunch.

Following this, Helen will be joined by Andy McCutcheon, Principal Environment Services Officer within Agriculture, Countryside and Land Management Services at the States of Guernsey, and a Committee member of Guernsey Trees for Life. Together, they will explore the trees and plants of the Gardens, sharing their knowledge of the species encountered, their ecology and importance, and Guernsey's botanical heritage. The Gardens are an important part of Guernsey's horticultural heritage - they are a rare surviving example of a Victorian public flower garden, while the Gardens today feature a diverse collection of plants from around the world.

The guided walk ends at ***4pm***, after which delegates are free to walk back to Les Rocquettes Hotel or take the opportunity to explore Candie Gardens and the museum independently.



Delegate Dinner - Wednesday 30th September

Arrival

The 2026 IIEM Delegate Dinner will take place at Les Rocquettes Hotel on Wednesday 30th September, starting at 7.00pm. The Oak Bar will be open beforehand, providing delegates with an opportunity to relax and network with fellow attendees ahead of the meal.

There will be no seating plan, so delegates are welcome to choose where they would like to sit and enjoy the evening with fellow attendees.

Dinner

Menu choices have already been provided by delegates who registered to attend the dinner. These choices will be confirmed with you as you arrive at the venue.

Any delegate is welcome to join the event for networking in advance of the dinner, if they have not registered for the dinner.

If you are no longer able to attend the dinner, please provide at least 48 hours' notice so that your meal order can be cancelled. Cancellations received less than 48 hours before the dinner will still be liable for the cost of the meal.

Payment

Payment for your dinner must be made upon arrival at Les Rocquettes Hotel. The number of courses you have selected and the associated cost will be confirmed with you on your arrival to the venue. Please check that your payment is confirmed on the dinner list by Les Rocquettes Hotel staff, when you pay for your meal.

Any drinks you wish to purchase during the evening should be paid for separately at the bar.

Thursday

Key timings for AM presentations



09:00 - 09:15	**Housekeeping and introduction to Day 2**
09:15 - 09:35	**Marine Protection Across the Channel Islands: Progress & Outlook** Presented by Blue Marine Foundation
09:35 - 9:55	**Dolphins on Our Doorstep** Presented by University of Plymouth
09:55 – 10:15	**Empowering Future Generations Through Citizen Science: Marine Mammal Monitoring and Education in Brittany** Presented by Association AL LARK
10:15 - 10:35	**Lessons from Island Conservation in Aotearoa New Zealand** Presented by Eva Kessels & Sebastian du Feu
10:35 - 11:05	**Morning Break**
11:05 - 11:25	**From Passion to Data: A Mother and Daughter's Butterfly Monitoring Journey on Sark** Presented by Estelle Day and Robin Scott
11:25 - 11:45	**Future-proofing Jersey's Largest Wetland Reserve** Presented by the National Trust for Jersey
11:45 - 12:05	**The Alderney State of Nature Project** Presented by Alderney Wildlife Trust

Thursday

Key timings for PM presentations



12:05 - 12:25	**How the Crown Dependencies, UK Overseas Territories & other UK islands can connect more effectively with international networks, policy processes & funding opportunities** Presented by The Wildlife Trusts
12:25 - 13:25	**Lunch Break** Get togethers will be held in the conference room by the Channel Islands Biological Records Centres and the Channel Islands Ramsar Group during this time, by invite only.
13:25 - 13:45	**School of Rock** Presented by Aspiring Jersey Island Geopark
13:45 - 14:05	**The Future Looks Bright for Sarks Guillemot Colonies** La Société Sercquaise
14:05 - 14:25	**Building the Bridge: Nature Skills and Wellbeing for Island Youth** Presented by Manx Wildlife Trust
14:25 - 14:45	**Protecting, Sharing and Celebrating the Isle of Man's Natural Heritage for Generations** Presented by Manx National Hertitage
14:45 – 15:10	**Afternoon Break**
15:10 - 15:30	**Forests for the Future: Revising the Isle of Man's Lost Temperate Rainforests** Presented by Manx Wildlife Trust
15:30 - 15:50	**Fort Field: Community Engagement for Conservation** Presented by the Guernsey Pollinator Project

Thursday

Key timings for PM presentations (contd)



15:50 - 16:10

Grow Guernsey Natives - A Learning Curve

Presented by the the Botany Section of La Société Guernesiaise and the County Recorder for BSBI

16:10 - 16:30

Bailiwick Bat Survey: Application of Advanced Survey Techniques to Citizen Science Data

Presented by the Sangan Island Conservation

16:30 - 17:00

Closing Speeches

- Deputy Adrian Gabriel, President of the Committee for the Environment and Infrastructure
- Jo Huxtable, Chair of the Nature Commission



Government House Event - Thursday 1st October

Arrival

A drinks reception to celebrate the 2026 IIEM will take place on Thursday 1st October at Government House from 6:00pm - 7:00pm. This event will be hosted by His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor.

Delegates who accepted the invitation to the drinks reception should have received their official invitation in a separate email.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

Primary sponsors:

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States of Guernsey
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Land Management Services

We are incredibly grateful for
their generous support in
bringing you IIEM 2026

With thanks also to Rotary Guernesiaise for their donation.



SOCIAL MEDIA

It’s important to ensure the wider community are aware of the 2026 IIEM, so please consider using the following if you are posting on social media:

- @IIEM2026
- conference main tag - #IIEM2026

RECORDING THE CONFERENCE

IIEM 2026 is open to remote attendance via YouTube. These sessions will be recorded for later viewing by those not able to attend on the day. Online access for both days is available here: https://www.youtube.com/@NatureCommission/streams

PHOTOGRAPHS

Please note that photographs will be taken throughout the conference. Please let one of the IIEM 2026 Organising Team know if you do not wish to be included.




IIEM 26
GUERNSEY
We look forward to seeing you at IIEM 2026!