

A brief history of Grampound

In the past the little white river, part of the upper reaches of the River Fal which runs under the bridge at the bottom of Fore Street, was a deep and busy waterway with a Roman encampment nearby. About 1,600 years ago the Romans built a great bridge here; in Norman times the bridge was called Grand Pont, as the village was the lowest crossing point on the River Fal, by which name the village was known and from which its present name has evolved.

The community flourished and by 1332 Grampound was given its charter by Earl John of Eltham which gave the townspeople the right to 'hang convicted thieves' and to exemption from taxes and tolls on the repair and building of other bridges. Most importantly they were granted the right to hold 52 markets a year without payment of dues. The seven-sided market cross still remains in Grampound outside what was once the market hall. The clock tower, now a landmark on the A390, was a symbol of the status of the borough in later years.

The tanning of leather in Grampound goes back to medieval, perhaps even Roman, times and the large cattle markets supplied the hides. At one time there were five tanneries in the area, which was a centre for leather. From 1711 the Croggon tannery flourished in Grampound and until quite recently produced high quality leather by the traditional oak-bark method.

A small dark chamber behind the market hall was the gaol. Perhaps it was used quite often, as later in its history Grampound became a notorious 'rotten' borough, with much buying and selling of votes. It was once described as 'one mass of notorious corruption' but, as it was also described elsewhere as 'a place of great privileges and very poor inhabitants', maybe the temptations were hard to resist.

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Grampound sent two members to parliament from the time of Edward VI up to 1824, but was in that year disenfranchised for bribery, being the only borough so treated prior to the Reform Bill of 1832. It had the honour of introducing to parliamentary life two very notable men, Wm. Noye, the great lawyer (1604 to 1611), and John Hampden, the hero of the ship-money dispute (1620) and prominent parliamentarian during the Civil War, both good friends of the people, though the former deserted the popular cause. In 1768 it was represented by Grey Cooper, secretary to the treasury, and Charles W. Cornwall, afterwards speaker of the house, a man of great ability.

The village possessed a mill, mentioned in the Domesday Book, located at the end of what is still called Mill Lane. In 1501 there were spinning mills, in 1653 fulling mills and later, in 1801, these became woollen manufacturers. From 1816 the industry changed to glove manufacturing.



A walk near the ancient township of Grampound with Creed

Walk No. 2

A circular walk (about 3 miles) in beautiful countryside to the north and east of Grampound

Published by
Grampound with Creed Parish Council
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A good walk in the countryside around Grampound mostly on quiet lanes and a bridleway.

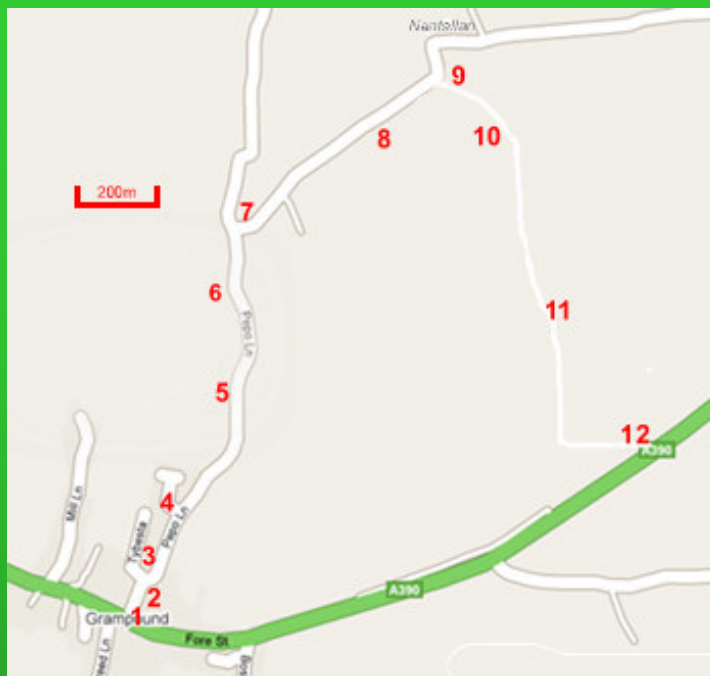
Free parking is available at Grampound Recreation Ground where you will also find public toilets.

This is a good walk of about 3 miles and is challenging in parts. It starts in the centre of Grampound at the Market Cross, heads north and then east along lanes, picking up and following the Nantellan/Tybesta bridleway in a southerly direction and returns to Grampound via Grampound Hill on the A390. The walk can also be reversed, in which case the walk along the side of the main road is at the beginning.

- 1 Begin by the Market Cross below the Clock Tower on the corner of Pepo Lane, named in honour of John Pepow, a cleric who in 1375 was granted a licence to hold services in the new Chapel of Ease known as St Mary's Chapel. By 1820, through neglect the building was a ruin and used as a sheep-pen. Eventually public funding enabled the church to be rebuilt and consecrated in 1869 as St Nun's Church, situated behind the ancient gothic Market Cross with its stepped base and long octagonal shaft of Pentewan stone.



- 2 The clock tower is part of Grampound Town Hall, originally the open market place with the upper room supported on four granite pillars. In 1894 it was enclosed and became the new Town Hall which housed the very first meeting of the newly elected Parish Council, which still meets in the building. To the rear of the building is the 'Black Hole', a tiny prison which still exists today.
- 3 Walk northwards along Pepo Lane and you will pass a number of old cottages on both sides, as well as some newer dwellings.



Past these on the left is the New Hill Estate, built on the site of the old allotments in 1948.

- 4 The lane continues and rises steeply with attractive stonework in the Cornish hedges on either side, passing Bonython Drive, a cluster of bungalows built in 1974.
- 5 Leaving the village behind you will come upon Black Barn, now roofless, where you may stop for a moment to enjoy the breathtaking view of the Fal Valley to the west. The ancient sunken lane now enters farmland and the full beauty of the old Cornish hedges is a wondrous sight when blanketed in wild flowers in spring and summer.
- 6 Walking on for about half a mile you will come across an old cob and granite cottage with barn on your left known as Higher Trevillick, recently re-united by purchase with Trevillick Farm just along the road.
- 7 A hundred yards or so further down the lane brings you to the head of the valley and a branch in the road. Turn right into the narrow un-named lane and immediately on the left is the beautiful Trevillick Farmhouse and old barns. This is one of the oldest agricultural settlements in the area, first mentioned in deeds in 1216.

- 8 In 1378 it was part of the manor of Tybesta and owned by the Duchy of Cornwall. Just past Trevillick on your right is an old cob barn and further along on the same side is the 19th century Trevillick Cottage.

- 9 Continue a short distance eastwards and you will come to Winnospring Cottage in the tiny hamlet of Nantellan. Turn right onto the ancient bridleway, climb the stile on your left and walk uphill in a southerly direction past a barn on your right and then an old disused quarry, home to a variety of wildlife including buzzards.

- 10 As the bridleway climbs you will pass through a number of farm gates and underfoot the way becomes rocky and uneven. At the top of the hill the land becomes quite flat and open, with stunning views of the countryside eastwards. Still continuing in a southerly direction you will pass on your left Castle Field (Carveen), the site of a huge earthworks measuring 300 x 360 feet. Once a great fort with ramparts and ditches, sadly nothing remains today as it was destroyed in 1848. Beyond this ancient site was the pre-Norman manor of Tybesta. Four houses were recorded in 1337, by 1840 only one remained and in 1880 the site was abandoned. Nothing is now visible except the fenced-off well.

- 12 Continuing along the bridleway you reach the main A390, and turning right will lead you back to Grampound.



Grampound in about 1900, hardly changed to this day, apart from the outfits and the traffic!