

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.

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Some walks near the ancient township of Grampound with Creed

Walk No. 4

The main "all year" walk is of about 4 miles along quiet country lanes in beautiful countryside. For the period between 31st March and 30th September, the use of permissive footpaths allows a number of variations which give a variety of walks, the longest being about 8 miles, with the extensions mainly on footpaths.



The main walk is of about 4 miles along quiet country lanes in beautiful countryside—shown by the red numbers. **2**

For the period between 31st March and 30th September, the use of a permissive path allows a number of variations — shown by the green, purple or blue numbers. **16 11 17**

It must be stressed that these permissive paths are strictly closed during the October to March period.

1 Free parking is available at Grampound Recreation Ground where you will also find public toilets. From the Recreation Ground Car Park, turn right onto the main A390 and walk eastwards towards the

2 centre of the village. Turn right at Creed Lane and begin the mile walk to Creed Church. On the way look out for **3** the stone basin and cross in the hedge to your left about a third of the way along. Five such crosses originating in 1427 mark the spots where burial parties on their way to Creed Church would stop for prayers while the bearers rested.

4 Creed church is in a beautiful setting and in season the wild flowers in the churchyard are to be admired. At the church you will find information about a previous rector, Rev. William Gregor, who is celebrated for his discovery of titanium.

At this point, you have the choice of a number of routes:-

The all year walk : red numbers **4**

Summer only walks : green, purple or blue

16 11 17

The All Year Walk

Leaving the church porch, go back to the road, cross and turn left at the junction. On your left is **5** Creed House and if the gardens are open it is well worth a visit.

6 About 500 yards further on, on your right, is Tregonjohn Farm and after about another ¼ mile you will come to a junction. Turn left and this pleasant lane, with a stream on your left for some

8 of the way, leads to the hamlet of Bossillion. Soon you will arrive back at the A390 at the top of Grampound village, and a left turn will bring you back to the car park.

For those wishing longer walks during the April to September period when the permissive path is open, from the church porch take the path to the left just below the church, coming first to a gate and then a path along the top of the hedge to a bridge across a **9** ditch. Follow the way marks to the River Fal, walk along by the river to walk up by the hedge and through the farm gate. Again follow the hedge to the riverside and along to the next farm gate. Given time, peace and a little luck it is possible to view kingfishers, dippers and otters along this stretch of the river. **10** Coming out of the field and onto the farm track there are now 3 variations giving longer walks.

Variation 1 Walk to Tregony

11 Go straight on along the signed footpath and you will reach Tregony where there are shops, a pub and refreshments. Return can be by the same route but there are other possibilities (see map).

Variation 2 Adding about a mile to the All Year Walk

18 Turn left and up the concrete track beside a field with great views back to Creed. Upon reaching the lane turn left and you will be back at Creed after about 500 yards. From here you could follow the red route or go straight on back to Grampound.

Variation 3 A long walk, giving a total of about 8 miles

12 Turn right and go past Golden Mill on the River Fal to reach Golden with its interesting old building, probably once a chapel. Continue on across the crossroads towards Probus via Sunrising. Just before the end of this lane where it meets a the busy Probus bypass, turn right towards Trewithen. At the main road (about 400 yards) turn right but take care as there is no footpath here. Crossing the grass outside **13** Trewithen main entrance, you come to a bridleway on your right. Take this route, crossing a lane after about 600 yards, and then continuing along the old "Roman Road" past the eathwork of Carvossa, which was in use between the 1st and 4th centuries AD and once covered over 5 acres. You are now walking along the old turnpike road into Grampound and after reaching Old Hill will soon be back in the village. **14 15 16 17**

