

## ***The Fairies' Bat***

The largest surviving ancient standing stone on the island sits in a field off the Route des Paysans in St. Pierre du Bois, overlooking Rocquaine Bay. Local Folklore says that the stone was set in this location by the Guernsey fairies.

One day two well-known *Pouques*, named *Lé Grànd Colin* and *Lé P'tit Colin*, were playing a game of bat-and-ball. Despite being of small stature, the fairies had supernatural strength. They regularly used this huge stone as the 'bat' for their game, even though it is over four metres long. A huge rounded boulder was used as their 'ball'. For their playing pitch they chose a field near the *Paysans* which was conveniently flat.

On this particular day, *Lé Grànd Colin* took his turn batting and struck the ball with such force that he knocked it far beyond the field. *Lé P'tit Colin*, who was bowling and fielding, was quick to object that this was out of bounds. *Lé Grànd Colin* became so angry that he took the giant stone bat and slammed it upright into the ground, refusing to play anymore.

The stone has remained in this position ever since, and is known as *La Longue Rocque*. Local people also claim that the huge boulder that the fairies were using as their ball still rests on the far-away hillside to the west of the Imperial Hotel, just where the fairies left it.



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