

- ### Habitats and landscapes
-  Marshes
 -  Fields and hedgerows
 -  Woods or forest
 -  Heath
 -  Dunes
 -  Salt marshes
 -  Foreshore
 -  Regional park boundary

Discovery site

Interpretation trail: start

Walking trail: start

Trail map

Local nature reserve

Observation point

Birdwatching hide

Nature reserve

Protected area

Remarkable building

GPS coordinates expressed in Latitude, Longitude in WGS84 in decimal degrees (D: d. 49.321636, -1.265671)

To find out more

DES MARAIS DU PARC

The waymarked footpaths of the Marais du Cotentin et du Bessin regional park in 1 click!

www.parc-cotentin-bessin.fr

BIODIVERSITÉ DU PARC

The wildlife database of the Marais du Cotentin et du Bessin regional park in 1 click!

www.parc-cotentin-bessin.fr

CARTE DE VISITE

Landscapes, walking trails, nature and water-based activities.

LES RENDEZ-VOUS DU PARC

Activities organised by the Regional Park and its partners.

These Regional park publications are available at the park HQ (+33 (0)2 33 71 65 30), at the Tourist information offices or on www.parc-cotentin-bessin.fr

Responsible behaviour

Do not disturb the animals and their habitats. Watch from a sufficient distance to avoid causing the birds and seals to depart.

Stay on the roads, paths and trails. Avoid obstructing traffic with your own vehicle.

Avoid walking along the top of the beach in order not to crush the eggs or chicks of the Kentish Plover.

Respect the rights of others, their activities, property or outdoor work.

Comply with national and regional legislation on the protection of sites, plants and animals.

Please log your sightings on an app such as Naturalist (available in English) to share the data with regional wildlife societies: the protection of species and sites depends on the collection of data; sensitive data can be hidden if necessary.

To contact us about such matters:

accueil@parc-cotentin-bessin.fr

@marais.cotentin.bessin

9

LE MONT DE DOVILLE

49.32218, -1.56051

3 km

1h30

Map

Breeding birds

At 127 meters elevation, the site is topped with short heathland of heather and gorse, while the sides are covered with higher heathland vegetation and stands of oak. You may see an old guard house, an old windmill and an old church.

LOOK FOR: Breeding Dartford Warbler, Meadow Pipit and Nightjar.

HOW TO GET THERE? Signposted from the D900 between La Haye-du-Puits and Saint-Sauveur-le-Vicomte. Information boards along the paths.

12

THE SURSAT POND

49.16288, -1.53809

1.2 km

1h

Map

Breeding birds

Deep in the Pirou public forest, the Sursat pond is one of the last peat bogs of the Lessay heaths. The acidic, stagnant waters encourage the growth of sphagnum mosses, which contribute to the formation of peat.

LOOK FOR: Nightjar and Hobby.

HOW TO GET THERE? Car park off the D94 between Pirou-Pont and the D2 (Lessay - Coutances). Walking trail accessible directly from the car park, crossing the wooded heathland to the south of the peat bog. Be careful, bogs are fragile and spongy environments, please avoid trampling the site.

10

LA LANDE DU CAMP

49.18910, -1.50231

3 km

1h30

Map

Breeding birds

Historically owned by the inhabitants of Lessay, then a military ground, the site is now managed by the Coastal conservation agency. It includes a patchwork of dry and wet heathland and peat bogs.

LOOK FOR: Breeding Nightjar, Tree Pipit, Willow Warbler.

HOW TO GET THERE? Car park on the D394 between the village of Hotot and La Rendurie. Be careful, in winter the site is regularly flooded.

13

THE BRUYÈRES LAKE

49.21585, -1.45983

2.7 km

1h30

Map

Breeding birds

This old sand quarry has been converted into an area for walking. Between the valley of the Ay and its meadows and the Millières heaths, the walk allows the visitor to discover a wide range of habitats.

LOOK FOR: Breeding Nightjar, Tree Pipit, Willow Warbler.

HOW TO GET THERE? Path signposted from the D900 between Périers and Lessay.

11

THE ST PATRICE-DE-CLAIDS HEATHLAND

49.22760, -1.43316

1.9 km

1h

Map

Breeding birds

The Saint-Patrice-de-Clai public forest is dominated by maritime pine but still hosts a wide diversity of environments: dry moor, peat moor, ponds, streams, stands of deciduous trees...

LOOK FOR: Breeding Nightjar, Black Woodpecker, Coal Tit, Crested Tit.

HOW TO GET THERE? Interpretation trail signposted from the D24 between Périers and Saint-Jores.

14

THE ROUGES-PIÈCES WETLANDS

49.21136, -1.27022

0.8 km

0h30

Map

Breeding birds

Near the confluence of the Taute and the Lozon rivers, the Rouges-Pièces wetlands form an island of surface peat. Today, a central meadow is surrounded by tracts of Willow and tall grass glades.

LOOK FOR: Breeding wetland warblers (Zitting Cisticola, Sedge and Grasshopper Warblers...) and Willow Warbler.

HOW TO GET THERE? Interpretation trail signposted from the D57 between Marchésieux and Saint-André-de-Bohon. Be careful, in winter the site is regularly flooded.

16

THE PORT OF CARQUEBUT

49.36600, -1.34433

5 km

2h

Map

Breeding birds

A former industrial quarry, this site is in essence a body of water surrounded by cliffs, limestone grasslands and young woodlands. Quarrying has revealed Jurassic limestone and marls, and Cretaceous clays and green sands.

LOOK FOR: During a cold spell: Scaup and Tufted Duck... Breeding Little Ringed Plover.

HOW TO GET THERE? Trail signposted from the town of Fresville.

17

THE AURE MARSHES

49.3067, -1.03933

5 km

2h30

Map

Breeding birds

These marshes form a vast expanse of wet meadows interspersed with canals and ditches. There are few trees and winter transforms the marshes for a few weeks into a vast body of water, known as the «blanche» (or whitened). In summer, only the ponds and ditches have water in them.

LOOK FOR: Breeding Lapwing, Garganey, Marsh Harrier and wet meadow birds (Winchcat, Yellow Wagtail, Sedge Warbler, Reed Bunting...). Several storks nest in the surrounding countryside.

HOW TO GET THERE? Signposted from the D124 between Osmanville and Canchy. Be careful, in winter, the trail is regularly flooded.

18

THE COLOMBIÈRES COUNTRYSIDE

49.29699, -0.98032

10.5 km

3h30

Map

Breeding birds

The trail through the Colombières countryside allows the visitor to see a different area of the Aure marshes and especially the fields and hedgerows on higher ground. Meadows, crops, hedges, ponds and orchards provide for a good sample of the fauna and flora of this hedgerow landscape, typical of western France.

LOOK FOR: Breeding: hedgerow birds (warblers, thrushes, Redstart, tits...), marsh birds. Feeding area for Hobby, Little Egret and Cattle Egret. Wintering birds of a mixed agricultural habitat (thrushes, finches...). Several storks nest in the surrounding countryside.

HOW TO GET THERE? The walking trail starts from the car park at the church in the village of Colombières. Be careful, in winter, the portion of the path crossing the marshes is regularly flooded.

19

THE ST-SAUVEUR-LE-VICOMTE FOREST

49.37589, -1.59314

2 km

1h30

Map

Breeding birds

This national forest is composed mainly of copices of thickets of oak and beech, some of which are old and impressive, with the odd pine mixed in. An arboretum adds an exotic touch. Nearby, at the top of Mont de Besneville, an area of moorland completes the walk.

LOOK FOR: Breeding: Middle Spotted Woodpecker, Honey Buzzard, Nightjar, Redstart, Dartford Warbler...

HOW TO GET THERE? Interpretation trail signposted from the D15 between Saint-Sauveur-le-Vicomte and Portbail.

20

THE MATHON PEAT BOG

49.21589, -1.52453

3 km

1h

Map

Breeding birds

This National nature reserve, created in 1973, covers a small peat depression that connects the Lessay heaths to the south and the Ay marshes to the north. Covering only 16 hectares, there is however a large diversity of habitats here: woodland, meadow, heath, peat bog and marsh. Access on request or during summer guided tours. Information: Cotentin CPE (+33 (0)2.33.46.37.06).

LOOK FOR: Breeding: Lapwing, Curlew and wet meadow birds (Yellow Wagtail, Sedge Warbler...). Migratory stopover and wintering of waterbirds (Teal, Shoveler, Gadwall, Snipe...).

HOW TO GET THERE? Signposted from the D124 between Osmanville and Canchy. Be careful, in winter, the trail is regularly flooded.

21

THE BOHONS RESERVE

49.26348, -1.24026

3 km

1h

Map

Breeding birds

A hunting and wildlife reserve, this former communal marsh includes a vast set of peat meadows interspersed with canals and ditches; ponds were created in the 1970s to provide suitable habitat for waterbirds. Accessible only during guided tours. Information: Fédération Départementale des Chasseurs de la Manche (+33 (0)2.33.72.63.63).

LOOK FOR: Breeding: Lapwing, Curlew and wet meadow birds (Yellow Wagtail, Sedge Warbler...). Migratory stopover and wintering of waterbirds (Teal, Shoveler, Gadwall, Snipe...).

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22

THE SANGSURIÈRE AND THE ADRIENNERIE

49.21874, -1.60895

3 km

1h

Map

Breeding birds

This National nature reserve constitutes one of the best preserved peat bogs in the region. A central area is dominated by tall grasses with a surrounding area of cultivated peat meadows. Guided tours in spring and summer. Information: Regional park HQ (+33 (0)2.33.71.65.30).

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