



**D Starting point**

**P Car park**  
at the entrance to the reserve

**1** Follow alongside the River Avre for 400 metres

**2** Turn right

**3** Take the turning to the right to follow along the side of the road

**4** Turn right

**i Information point**

**Be careful:**  
Please respect the regulations of the Nature Reserve displayed on panels (keep dogs on leads, do not leave the trail...)

This trail is maintained by the Conservatoire d'Espaces Naturels de Picardie



**For more information:**

- Tourist Office: Amiens métropole : 03 22 71 60 50 [www.amiens-tourisme.com](http://www.amiens-tourisme.com)
- Somme Tourist Board: [www.somme-tourisme.com](http://www.somme-tourisme.com) [www.somme-nature.com](http://www.somme-nature.com)
- This walk has received the: "Tourism and Handicap National Label"



Managers of the site:



# The Nature Reserve of the Saint-Ladre Pond

Boves, 11km from Amiens

Close to Amiens, the capital city of Picardy, "dive" into the untouched surroundings of the Saint-Ladre Pond, National Nature Reserve.

**D Starting at:** Car Park at the entrance to the Nature Reserve

**Time:** 30 mins

**Distance:** 1,6km

**Route:** very easy



## Exploring the natural sites

Written by: Nathalie Saillard - Design: L'Agence par A Propos  
Updates and printing: imp. G60 - Translation: C. Carrel - Summer 2012







# The Nature Reserve of the Saint-Ladre Pond

5km south-east of Amiens, the Saint-Ladre Pond, National Nature Reserve at Boves, managed by the Conservatoire d'Espaces Naturels de Picardie, stretches over 13 hectares of the peaty Avre Valley. This discovery trail will allow you to explore a great variety of habitats. Be curious, prick up your ears: this is a walk that will awaken your senses.



Gaëtan Rivière, "Chargée de mission" for the Conservatoire d'Espaces Naturels de Picardie

"This is a site that I know well, as I've been working

here for 10 years. What I like about these marshlands is the play of light throughout the seasons over the grasslands, the reed beds and the silver birches. There is a light to be found here - so typical of the region - that creates an atmosphere that can't be found anywhere else."

## About the site

- > **Proprietor:** Municipality of Boves
- > **Size:** 13.4ha
- > **Managed by:** Conservatoire d'Espaces Naturels de Picardie (management agreement between the Conservatoire and the State)
- > **Maintenance partners:** Municipality of Boves, Lycée Agricole de Parcelet
- > **Financial partners:** Europe, State, Regional Council of Picardie, Somme County Council, Amiens Métropole, Agence d'Eau Artois-Picardie, EDF Foundation, Regional Tourism Board, Conservatoire d'Espaces Naturels de Picardie.

## The marshlands and the men and women who have marked them

Rendez-vous at Boves. The walk starts just after the entrance to the village, when coming from Cagny, after the Prussian bridge crossing the River Avre. The discovery trail starts from the reception-post. As the reserve was the first site in Picardy to have received awards for being accessible to all four types of disability (mobility, visual, hearing, and cognitive and learning difficulties), it is perfectly suited to people suffering from disabilities.

You are on the site of an old peat bog, where peat was extracted until the 1920's. This is how the ponds were created: scything the long grasses and drying out the peat in the meadows created the marshlands. Then, when the activity stopped,



the grasslands and reed beds regressed, allowing the thickets and woodlands to grow. At the beginning of the 1970's, the ecological interest of the site was revealed and the site was classed Nature Reserve of the State on the 11 September 1979 - the first site in Picardy to be classed in this way. The Conservatoire, managers of the site since 1993, combine a scientific approach to the maintenance and protection of the site.

## A mosaic of habitats

The Nature Reserve is characterised by the greatly varied

nature of its habitats. Following the trail along the banks of the River Avre you will discover the rich fauna and flora that it has to offer (read the following text box). As you leave the River Avre, you will turn right across the Fortmanoir grasslands towards the Saint-Ladre Ponds. Floating vegetation can be seen: this indicates the good quality of the water. Much floating vegetation is visible at the surface of the water: be careful, these "natural mattresses" are not stable and cannot take the weight of a person. Marshlands, reed beds, willow thickets and birch woods alternate along your way. Panels will give you more information along the trail.

After walking around the pond, the return journey is made on the right, along a little road.



**A Guide Booklet is available at the Town hall or at the Conservatoire.**



## > Be careful!

- This site is fragile. Help protect the fauna and flora by respecting these simple rules:
- stay on the paths
  - keep dogs on leads
  - watch animals from a distance and do not pick flowers
  - do not litter
  - camping and caravanning is not allowed
  - do not introduce foreign species of animals or plants

The reed beds host many species. It constitutes a huge choice of food for insect-feeding birds, such as the Bluethroat. You will also see warblers, martins in the autumn and noisy tits in the winter.



274 plants have been counted on the site, of which 25 are rare and exceptional to Picardy and 10 are protected. Along your way you may discover the remarkable Marsh Gentian, with its large blue flowers. Many species of peat moss thrive on the floating vegetation of the Saint-Ladre Pond and have made this site one of the richest of the region. Apart from the vegetation, the reserve is also home to many species of animals: birds nest in the marshlands alongside 35 different types of dragonfly, 14 types of grasshoppers and crickets, and 20 species of extremely rare butterflies. Keep your eyes open!