



D Starting point
After the bridge, take the track that goes to the right just after the farm

P Parking
possible at the exit of the village in the direction of Andainville

1 At the panel, take the little trail which climbs through the woods

2 Turn right at the junction of tracks

3 Cross the stile to join the chalk-banks

4 Go down to the right by following the trail and cross the stile

5 At the junction of tracks turn to the right

6 Walk down the left turning

7 Turn right to return to the parking area

View Point

i Information point
and picnic area

Be careful:
The trail is for pedestrians only.
Closed during the hunting period (displayed at entrance). Be careful not to trespass, the walk is situated close to private properties. Do not approach the edges of the quarry. Keep dogs on leads when walking on the chalk-banks during grazing periods.

Protect the natural environment
To help with the conservation of the rich natural habitats of this fragile site, please:
. Always use the marked trails
. Keep gates and stiles closed
. Respect the fauna and flora
. Take your litter away with you
. Always keep dogs on leads

This trail is maintained by the Communauté de Communes de la Région d'Oisemont

Sign posts	Route continues	Wrong direction	Change of direction

This leaflet was created by
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For more information:
• Tourist Offices:
Poix-de-Picardie : 03 22 41 06 05
Airaines : 03 22 29 34 07
• Somme Tourist Board:
www.somme-tourisme.com
www.somme-nature.com

Managers of the site:
 Conservatoire
d'espaces naturels
Picardie



La Somme

The Chalk-banks of Saint-Aubin-Rivière

Saint-Aubin-Rivière,
33km from Abbeville,
14km from Oisemont

Visit the south-west of the Somme, in the Liger Valley, for an amazing change of scenery during a walk in a Mediterranean-like environment, as you explore the chalk-banks of Saint-Aubin-Rivière.



D Starting at: At the exit of the village of Saint-Aubin-Rivière, on the Andainville Road: the track to the right after the farm.

Time: 30 mins

Distance: 1.6km

Route: moderate

Spring
Summer
Autumn
Winter

Exploring the natural sites



The chalk-banks of Saint-Aubin-Rivière

Nothing more resembles a chalk-bank than another chalk-bank... however, even if the area is the same, the environment is different. Here in the Liger Valley, the hillsides of the Saint-Aubin-Rivière, managed by the Conservatoire d'Espaces Naturels de Picardie, are dominated by hedge-rows, pastures and agricultural land; with the forests of Argüel and Limer in the background. A rich and remarkable fauna and flora - including many orchids - flourish on the chalky hillsides.



Dominique Lefèvre
Volunteer warden of the site

"Every year, high school students from Beaucamps-le-Vieux take part in a maintenance program. Children are naturally very interested in all aspects of the environment, but they initially need an adult to help them. Afterwards it's the children who ask to come back! I've seen children return with their parents, explaining to them the characteristics of the fauna and the flora!"

About the site

- > **Proprietor:** Municipality of Saint-Aubin-Rivière
- > **Size:** 14ha
- > **Managed by:** Conservatoire d'Espaces Naturels de Picardie
- > **Maintenance partners:** Municipality, a sheep farmer, hunters, Collège Beaucamps-le-Vieux
- > **Financial partners:** Europe, State, Regional Council of Picardie, Somme County Council

The starting point for this walk is situated along the road between Saint-Aubin-Rivière and Andainville, just after the bridge across the Liger. Follow the trail that starts on the right just past the farm (water-mill). The trail weaves its way upwards, sheltered by maple and beech trees. In the springtime, bunches of yellow Laburnum flowers announce the proximity of the chalk-banks and when you meet the first juniper trees you will have arrived. Conifer trees cover the hillside. On the carpets of short grass, the yellow flowered Horseshoe Vetch and the Blue Globularia attract many butterflies. A little further along, you will have access to an enclosure where sheep graze.



Late Spider Orchid: Well adapted to the difficult living conditions on the dry, chalky slopes. The chalk-banks host a pretty palette of colours with the browns and pinks of the Late Spider Orchid flowers.

Discover those who inhabit the area

A little further up you will be on the most remarkable part of the chalk-bank. Vegetation is less dense here and less invaded by bushes; this is where you will find the Pasque Flower, Creeping Thyme and a number of different orchids, including the Late Spider Orchid.

This fine state of conservation is explained by the presence of rabbits who contribute to the maintenance of this part of the site. Insects also thrive here and you will find many butterflies, spiders, bumblebees, honey bees, crickets and grass-hoppers.

Panoramic views

At the large pine tree you will have reached the first view point over the village of Saint-Aubin-Rivière. The second is situated close to the edge of the ledge; from here, you can look across the Liger Valley. Opposite, you can see fertile agricultural land and below, pasturelands with woods to the

left. It is interesting to think that 60 years ago the wooded area was an arid chalk-bank.

With the area no longer used for grazing and because of a lack of maintenance work, the woods have gained more and more ground.

After this stop, take the steep trail down to the stile where you can retrace your steps. Pass by the enclosure to a fork in the path to the right. You will reach the former cultivated terraces, once used to cultivate vegetables. At the end take the "Pierre" track until you have returned to the starting point.



At Saint-Aubin-Rivière the whole community is mobilised in the maintenance of the site, which is managed by the Conservatoire d'Espaces Naturels de Picardie.



Apart from the efficient work carried out by volunteers as part of the maintenance program, sheep - and their healthy appetites - also play their part in maintaining the area. The Conservatoire d'Espaces Naturels de Picardie has been able to re-establish pasturelands thanks to a partnership with a local sheep farmer who has since been bringing his flock to the site to help maintain the fauna and flora. Specific maintenance programs are organised to clear the juniper thickets and allow sunlight to filter down.