

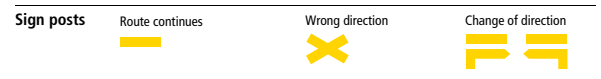
La Somme

- D Starting point**
at the information panel on the small bridge that crosses the Evoissons
- P Car park**
in front of the little bridge that crosses the Evoissons
- 1** Go around the barrier and turn right
- 2** Join the road, take the left turn after 50m (be careful) and then turn right
- 3** Take the right turn
- 4** When the path meets the road, turn left and return to the village via the main road (200m) (Be careful)
- View Point**
- Information point**

Be careful:
Closed during the hunting period (displayed at entrance)

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

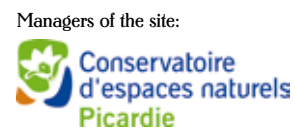
This trail is maintained by the Communauté de Communes du Sud Ouest Amienois



This leaflet was created by the Somme County Council
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For more information:
 • Tourist Office:
 Poix-de-Picardie : 03 22 41 06 05
 • Somme County Council:
www.somme-tourisme.com
www.somme-nature.com



The Mountain of Guizancourt

Guizancourt, 31km
 from Amiens, 10km
 from Poix de Picardie

In the south-west of the Somme, the Evoissons Valley is a countryside haven. Overlooking the village of Guizancourt, the chalk-bank is a site especially appreciated by nature lovers.



- D Starting at:** Centre of Guizancourt Village
- Time:** 1 hour 20 mins
- Distance:** 4km
- Route:** moderate



Exploring the natural sites

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 Summer 2012



The Mountain of Guizancourt

With the juniper trees and the southern-feel to the atmosphere, the Mountain of Guizancourt, maintained by the Conservatoire d’Espaces Naturels de Picardie and the municipality, is a very popular natural habitat. On the hillsides the various fauna and flora flourish to the delight of nature lovers and walkers. This is a walk that will awaken your senses...



Dany Vasseur,
Mayor of
Guizancourt

“From the mountain we have a dominating view over Guizancourt and the River Evoissons that snakes through the village. The shades of colour create a wonderful mosaic. The trail, surrounded by trees, is a paradise for rabbits and orchids. The site attracts a great number of walkers and families wishing to enjoy the beauty of the different surroundings (chalk-banks, rivers.) Unfortunately we are sad to say that people still park on the grass verges even though an information panel states that this is not allowed and that there is a parking area available. We must respect this natural habitat!”

About the site

- > **Proprietor:** Municipality of Guizancourt
- > **Size:** 3,3ha
- > **Managed by:** Conservatoire d’Espaces Naturels de Picardie
- > **Maintenance partners:** Municipality, a sheep farmer
- > **Financial partners:** Europe, State, Regional Council of Picardie, Somme County Council

Rendez-vous at Guizancourt. The starting point of the walk is situated along the River Evoissons. Cross the wooden foot-bridge and follow the trail, which will take you to the top of the hill. After having crossed the grasslands, follow the trail up to your right. You will soon notice how steep the slope is, and very soon you will notice a change of scenery. You are now in an arid area, surrounded by juniper trees, in the peace and quiet. Here, the atmosphere will make you think of the Mediterranean - and the fauna and flora will confirm it.

will come across a number of different wild orchids, such as the Lizard Orchid and the Short Spurred Fragrant Orchid, and aromatic plants such as Thyme and Oregano. In the springtime the yellow and mauve flowers of the Horseshoe Vetch colour the ground. Many insects have colonised the area: crickets, grass-hoppers and butterflies.



Change of perspective...

It is when you reach the summit of the hillside that you will appreciate the view in front of you: the village of Guizancourt and the varied landscape of the valley, with its grasslands, woods and hedgerows surrounding the River Evoissons. Leaving the chalk-banks you could return to the village by re-tracing your steps; or you could continue along the heights, following the trail that meanders towards the Chemin de Poix Valley – this circuit is about 3km long. The walk continues amongst the grasslands and agricultural land.



Going down towards Guizancourt, you will discover a multitude of landscapes: woodlands, pastures and fields separated by stretches of hedgerows and banks. Join the road to finish the walk. After you have crossed the bridge of the old mill over the Evoissons, follow up the river to come back to the starting point.

Abandoned since the 1960’s, grazing was re-established in 2003 with the introduction of a flock of sheep to the site. Since then, each summer, about 20 sheep actively participate in the clearing and maintenance of the chalk-banks. This completes the work carried out at the opening of the site (clearing and wood cutting) by the Conservatoire d’Espaces Naturels de Picardie who manage the site. It should be noted that there was no need for much clearance work because of the steep slopes and the work rabbits had already carried out.



In May the chalk-banks are adorned with the bright yellow flowers of the **Horseshoe Vetch**.

Along the trail, you may come across a Yellowhammer, a bird that likes to position itself at the top of trees to sing. Following the river, you will see delicate damselflies such as the stunning metallic-blue Jewelwing.