

La Somme

- D Starting Point**
Opposite the town hall (mairie): from the signpost head towards Oresmaux
 - P Parking**
possible in the square next to the church
 - 1** Turn left and follow the "Tour de Ville" path
 - 2** Turn right just after the entrance to the underground tunnels
 - 3** Turn left to reach the cemetery
 - 4** Follow the road to the right, to the 1st track on the right (be careful)
 - 5** Turn right
 - 6** Turn to the right and follow along the foot of the chalk-banks
 - 7** Climb the steps and turn left following the trail along the chalk-banks
 - 8** Turn right
 - 9** Climb the steps and turn right along the path
 - 10** Turn right
 - 11** Turn left
 - 12** At the pond, turn left
- View Point**
- Information point**
- Be careful:**
This trail is for pedestrians only. It is closed during the hunting period from the end of September to the end of February. During grazing periods, please keep gates closed, keep dogs on leads and do not disturb the animals.
- 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

The Mountain of Grès

Grattepanche, 15km from Amiens, 12km from Boves

To the south of Amiens, at Grattepanche, the Mountain of Grès is a remarkable natural habitat. The scenery of the chalk-banks is characteristically beautiful, offering a varied fauna and flora and making it an ideal place for walking.

- D Starting at:**
Grattepanche, opposite the town hall (mairie)
- Time:** 1 hour 20 mins
- Distance:** 4km
- Route:** Easy

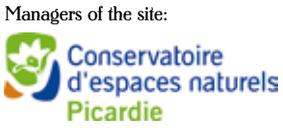


- Spring
- Summer
- Autumn
- Winter



This leaflet was created by the Somme County Council
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Exploring the natural sites



The Mountain of Grès

In the municipality of Grattepanche, the Mountain of Grès is a welcoming site for walkers, botanists and nature lovers. The chalk-banks, managed by the Conservatoire d'Espaces Naturels de Picardie, will allow you to observe a fauna and flora more familiar to the Mediterranean. This former grazing ground is now once more frequented by a flock of sheep that ensures the maintenance of the area.



Betty Roger,
President of the
Association for the
Environment in
Grattepanche

"A remarkable view is available from the top of the chalk-banks. From there one can admire the many riches of the area, including the Pasque Flower and the Lady Orchid. The site needs to be explored in all seasons and don't forget to make a stop at the pond, which is a very pleasant area!"

About the site

- > **Proprietor:** Municipality of Grattepanche
- > **Size:** 2ha
- > **Managed by:** Conservatoire d'espaces naturels de Picardie
- > **Maintenance partners:** Sheep farmer from Grattepanche, the village, Association for the Environment in Grattepanche (ASPEG)
- > **Financial partners:** Europe, State, Regional Council of Picardie, Somme County Council, Caisse d'Epargne

Rendez-vous at Grattepanche, (at the square by the town hall) to start the walk. By following the marked trail, you will wind through the village to the stone Calvary, dating from the 17th Century. Take the "Tour de Ville" trail to the left where you will see the entrance to the underground tunnels that stretch out under the village: they were used as shelters during the 2nd World War. Today, these tunnels are used by bats that hibernate here: five different species occupy the tunnels from October to March. Some are protected on a European level. Because of a risk of death if they are suddenly awakened during their hibernation, no-one is allowed to approach them and the tunnels are closed. Descend to the right by the Saint-Cyr Valley, and then, at the crossroads,

turn along the track to the left taking you to the cemetery. You will have a beautiful panoramic view of the chalk-banks adorned with juniper trees.



The Lady Orchid is a wild orchid common to Picardy. Flowering in May it is one of the first to flower. It particularly appreciates the sunny, dry slopes of the chalk-banks.

A nice variety

Following the road which will take you to Estrées, turn to the right and then once again to the right. You are following the foot of the hillside marked by a hedgerow of Dogwood

and Sloe. When you reach the information panel, take the trail which climbs the chalk-banks. Here, you will meet the juniper trees and notice the dryer ground with chalk showing through. Many types of fauna and flora, more common to the Mediterranean, have developed here because of the following conditions: steep slopes of limestone rock, eroded ground, little water, and much sun as the banks face the south. You will discover the scents of plants such as: Thyme, which attracts the butterflies and bees; and the Pasque Flower, etc. A great variety of wild orchids, including the Lady Orchid, or



the Fragrant Orchid, can also be seen. Many insects have also colonised the areas such as, crickets, grass-hoppers and butterflies.

Change of perspective...

As you leave the chalk-banks, take the turning to the right and then again to the right to descend into the Saint-Cyr Valley. Here you will have a beautiful view of the village from the ridge. At the next crossroads, leave the "Tour de Ville" path to your left and climb towards the village where you will discover some of its history: the old well, its war memorial and a beautiful pond.

Apart from the efficient work carried out by volunteers, as part of the maintenance programme organised by the Conservatoire d'Espaces Naturels de Picardie, who manage the site, sheep - and their healthy appetites - also play their part in maintaining the area. Since 1999, the Conservatoire has been able to re-establish pasturelands thanks to a partnership which a local farmer, this helps to maintain the area, and is beneficial to the fauna and flora. The shepherd, accompanied by his dogs, brings his flock to the mountain every summer - just like in the olden days. Volunteers, students and villagers complete the work as part of a maintenance programme, to help stop the chalk-banks becoming too overgrown.



The juniper tree is the only conifer tree naturally present in Picardy on the sunny, dry slopes of the chalk-banks. It has distinct male and female varieties, which can be distinguished by the amount of berries that they hold. Juniper trees thrive on sparse ground and mark the former sheep trails.