

La Somme

D Starting Point

P **Parking**
possible along the road or, during summer, in the former quarry by the **i** point.

1 From the edge of the road, take the path along 50m to reach the information panel by turning left

2 Turn right

3 Turn right to reach the village

4 Turn right at the path just after the pond

View Point

i **Information point**

Be careful:
This trail is for pedestrians only. It is closed during the hunting period (displayed at entrance). 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

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

Sign posts	Route continues	Wrong direction	Change of direction

This leaflet was created by the Somme County Council

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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:



The Mountain of Montenoisy

Saint-Aubin-Montenoisy, 26km from Amiens, 5km from Molliens-Dreuil

To the south-east of Amiens, the Mountain of Montenoisy occupies the east side of the Terrière Valley. These chalk-banks, which used to continue over 4km, are the last of the former landscapes and types of habitat of the area.



D **Starting at:** From Saint-Aubin-Montenoisy, take the Bougainville road

Time: 45 mins

Distance: 2km

Route: moderate

Spring
Summer
Autumn
Winter

Exploring the natural sites

Walk **14**



The Mountain of Monteno

Overlooking the agricultural fields, the Mountain of Monteno, managed by the Conservatoire d'Espaces Naturels de Picardie, is a remarkably preserved natural habitat. These chalk-banks, which used to reach the gateway of Molliens-Dreuil, are today a refuge for specific endangered fauna and flora. Notably, wild orchids have made this their home once more.



Vincent Viltart, Mayor of Saint-Aubin-Monteno

"The chalk-banks are a place where it is always nice to walk. As they are south-facing, from the first rays of sunshine you can enjoy a change of scenery and take pleasure in some lovely walks. In the spring, visitors have the added pleasure of discovering flowers characteristic of the site, like the Pasque flowers, which seem so fragile."

About the site

- > **Proprietor:** Municipality of Saint-Aubin-Monteno
- > **Size:** 7.3ha
- > **Managed by:** Conservatoire d'Espaces Naturels de Picardie
- > **Maintenance partners:** Municipality, a sheep farmer and a hunting association
- > **Financial partners:** Europe, State, Regional Council of Picardie, Somme County Council and Fondation de France

The starting point is situated on the road between Saint-Aubin-Monteno and Bougainville, at the entrance to a former limestone quarry. Leaving from the information panel, following the marked trail you will cross the flowered grasslands, which will take you to the heart of the chalk-banks - recognisable by the first juniper trees. Follow the bottom of the slope and discover the sparse ground, typical of the chalk-banks.

A varied habitat

In the spring, the grass is covered with a carpet of flowers characteristic of the site: the yellow Horseshoe Vetch, the blue Globularia, and the purple Pasque flower. Six varieties of wild orchids can be counted here such as, the Fragrant Orchid or the Lady Orchid.



The Pasque flower is spectacular in March and April.

Many insects have colonised the area: crickets; grasshoppers; and butterflies such as, Zygaenas and Berger's Clouded Yellows. A little further along you will come to an enclosure where sheep graze from June to October. Apart from the efficient work carried out by volunteers as part of the maintenance program, the sheep - and their healthy appetites - also play their part in maintaining the area. They eat not only the grass but also the tree roots and saplings.

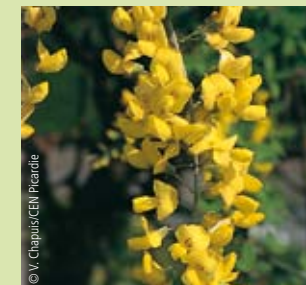
The chalk-banks and their beautiful views

Following the trail that climbs the slope amongst the Juniper trees, you might hear the song of the Yellowhammer, who likes to perch in the bushes. When you arrive at the top, you'll discover a beautiful view over the dry valley below. It is a landscape of agricultural land that slopes down to the village of Saint-Aubin. Further away to the south, you will see the church steeple of Fricamps, and to the north you will see the Semermesnil Woods. Join the track that descends among the pine trees; these were planted at the end of the 1950's.



Leave the enclosure and continue along the trail, shadowed by maple and ash trees, which will take you to the hamlet of Monteno. Turn to the right along the Rue du Larris. After the last houses, leave the road via the path to the right, which follows alongside the bottom of the hillside amongst the fields. This will bring you back to the starting point.

On site, about 50 sheep graze, keeping the grass short and maintaining the area. Much maintenance work is also carried out by the Conservatoire d'Espaces Naturels de Picardie in partnership with the farmer, the municipality and volunteers.



In the springtime, Laburnum bushes are adorned with beautiful bunches of yellow flowers.

Clearance work consists of containing the progressive invasion of the chalk-banks by trees and bushes. Amongst the bushes you will see the juniper trees, recognisable by their spiky leaves and their berries, and the laburnum wood, planted and used for fuel and for pit-props in mines.