

The Violette marshes (Les marais de la Violette)

This walk takes you to unsuspected landscapes. It would be pointless to say more, just go for a stroll...

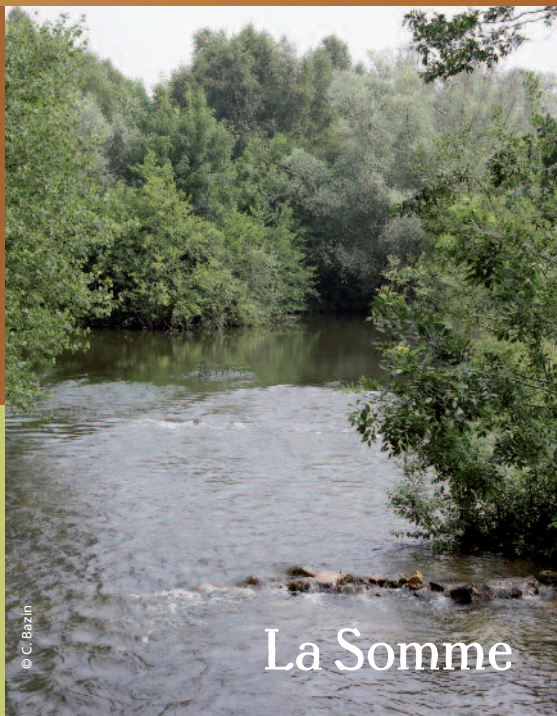
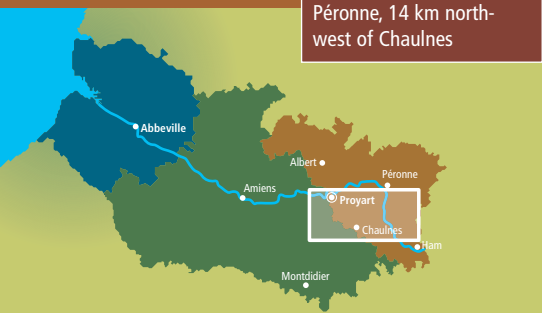
🕒 Time: 2 hours 50

📏 Distance: 8,5 km

🗺️ Route: easy

Leaving from: Campsite in Proyart

Proyart, 22 km west of Péronne, 14 km north-west of Chaulnes



© C. Barin

La Somme

- ① Head downhill from the hoarding and carry on to the left. Turn right round a hairpin bend. Go deep into the communal marshes.
- ② Take the second narrow lane on the left. Cross the footbridge. Walk past the ponds. The scenery becomes ever wilder.
 - ▶ *The marshes and ponds are manmade through digging and breaking up the land to extract the peat. Once dried out, it was used to build houses and factories. The people also used it as fuel and, after it was burnt, as fertiliser.*
- ③ Cross a second footbridge. Continue your stroll off the beaten track, between the trees and the luxuriant vegetation. Your route is punctuated by the singing of marsh birds. Cross a third footbridge before coming out onto the grassy towpath of the Canal de la Somme.
- ④ Follow the Canal de la Somme

- for several kilometres until you come upon the weir where the original Somme tumbles into the main river.
- ⑤ At the end of the towpath, which is now a gravel road, turn left by the lock keeper's house. Follow the road. At the Méricourt-sur-Somme campsite, go left and walk up to the plain to reach the Marais des Tourberies.
 - ▶ *The restored Méricourt-sur-Somme ponds and marshes are an area for walking and exploring within one of the eight meanders of the Somme, and is designated Tourisme et Handicap.*
- ⑥ Pass through the narrow entrance (made from cement blocks), and go down several metres. Turn right. Follow the

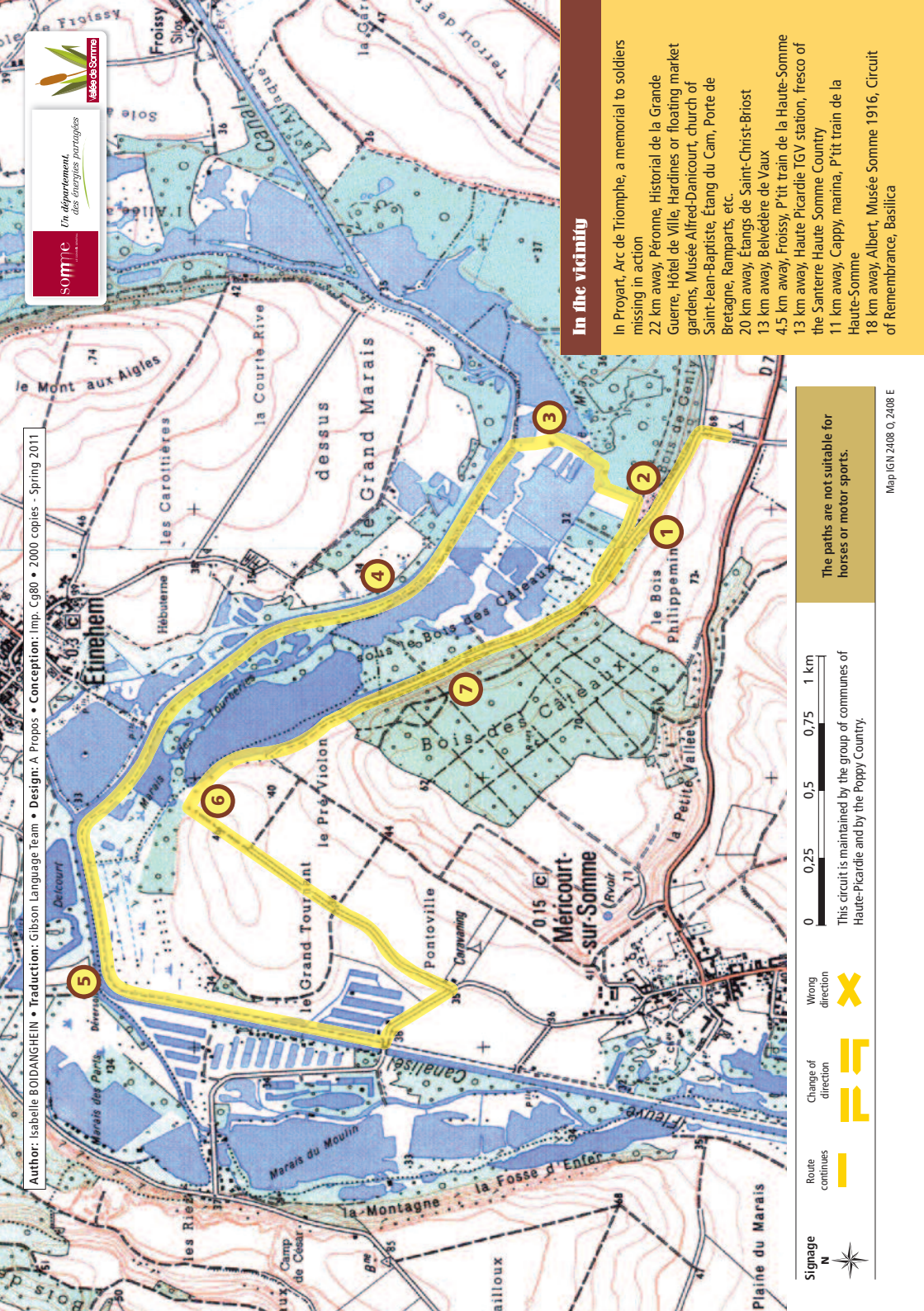
Tourism Offices: Haute-Somme,
Tel: 03 2284 4238
www.hautesomme-tourisme.com
Poppy Country:
Tel: 03 2275 1642
www.tourisme-paysducoquelicot.com

- marshes then take the path upward, with the Sous-bois des Câteaux on one side and the Bois des Câteaux on the other.
- ⑦ Keep walking straight on then turn right to return to the campsite in Proyart.

Of interest

The bountiful Somme

The Somme and its tributaries are home to an extraordinary variety of flora and fauna. For instance: 114 nesting species out of 264 identified in France are present in the valley. You can find rare species such as the little bittern, the black-crowned night heron, the Eurasian bittern or the bearded reedling. Little grebes, fulmars, moorhens, and mallards adore the ponds. Reeds, carnivorous plants, orchids, and ferns are in their element. White water-lilies serve as larders and shelters to the aquatic species.



In the vicinity

- In Proyard, Arc de Triomphe, a memorial to soldiers missing in action
- 22 km away, Péronne, Historial de la Grande Guerre, Hôtel de Ville, Hardimes or floating market gardens, Musée Alfred-Dancourt, church of Saint-Jean-Baptiste, Étang du Cam, Porte de Bretagne, Ramparts, etc.
- 20 km away, Étang de Saint-Christ-Briost
- 13 km away, Belvédère de Vaux
- 4.5 km away, Froissy, P'tit train de la Haute-Somme
- 13 km away, Haute Picardie TGV station, fresco of the Santerre Haute-Somme Country
- 11 km away, Cappy, marina, P'tit train de la Haute-Somme
- 18 km away, Albert, Musée Somme 1916, Circuit of Remembrance, Basilica



Signage



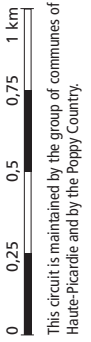
Route continues



Change of direction



Wrong direction



0 0.25 0.5 0.75 1 km

This circuit is maintained by the group of communes of Haute-Picardie and by the Poppy Country.

The paths are not suitable for horses or motor sports.