

Meandering through the Somme Valley

Cycling between Corbie and Méricourt-sur-Somme



Starting point: the lock at Corbie



Distance: 12km from the lock at Corbie to Cerisy
10km for the circuit starting at Cerisy



Family option: From the lock at Corbie to Cerisy
and back again: 22km, approx. 3 hours
Sporty option: The Morcourt-Méricourt-Chipilly
circuit: 42km, approx. 4 hours

The Conseil départemental de la Somme invites you to discover the Somme Valley, from Corbie to Méricourt-sur-Somme, National Cycle Route V30.

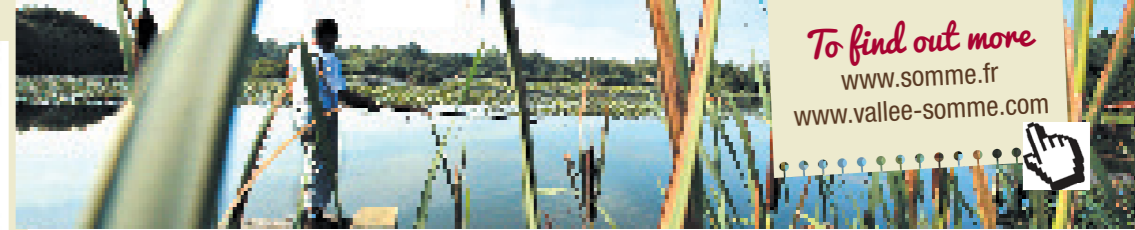
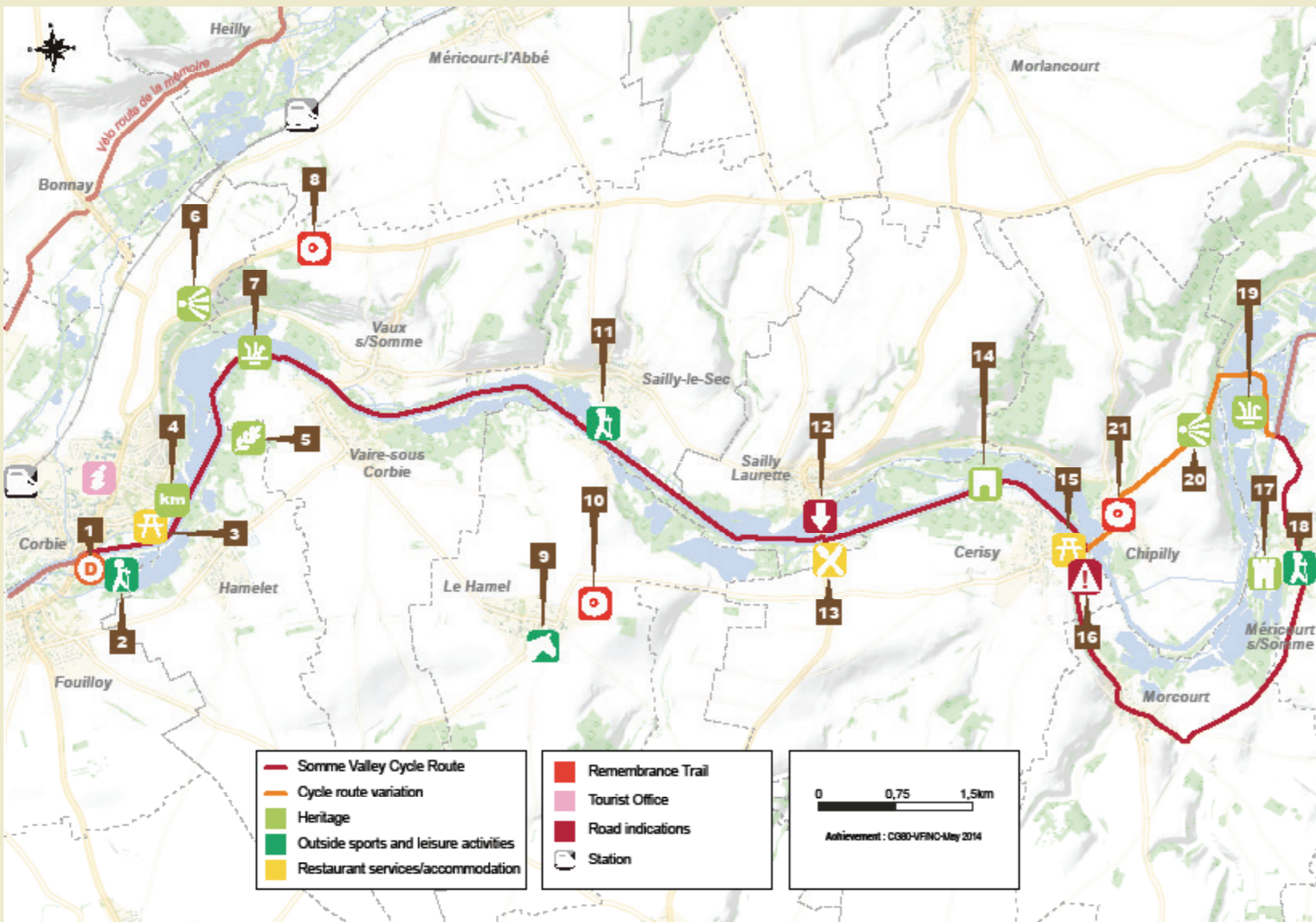
The array of vegetation is a celebration of the intimate union between water and nature. A line of pollarded willows forms a guard of honour and is home to owls and tits. A little farther away, trees spread their branches over mirror-like ponds in an elaborate arabesque; while, in the distance, the pontoon where a heron might land is inviting you into the heart of the wetlands, to explore the meanders of the old River Somme.

History accompanies you along your journey, introducing you to an English poet and a German pilot of the Great War. Their names will be forever linked to this path traversing the Somme.

And, if you suddenly desire to climb higher and see new horizons, the surrounding view points offer a patchwork of blue and green scenery.

For more information, please visit vallee-somme.com or download the Somme Balade application.





To find out more
www.somme.fr
www.vallee-somme.com

From Corbie to Méricourt-sur-Somme... not to be missed

- 1** Starting point. At the lock: Follow the tow path on the right bank. Starting point of the cycle route "The 3 Valleys" (2 circuits 34/42 km)
 "La Marine" Restaurant (03 22 48 01 51)
- 2** At the lock, starting point of the hiking trail: 9km "Exploring the Corbie ponds".
- 3** Rest and picnic area at the Corbie nautical centre.
 "Les Poissonniers" Campsite, open from 1st April to 30th October (03 22 48 23 35)
- 4** Don't miss the milestone covered with vegetation, it reads PK 73. This means that you are 73 kilometres from the start of the canal at Saint Simon, in the Aisne. These milestones have become rare over time.
- 5** Look at the hill on your right: this succession of parallel banks is typical of the landscapes of Picardy. It is the result of hundred's of years of continued ploughing
- 6** The Saint Colette Belvedere, accessed from the RD1, offers a superb panorama of the Barrette Ponds dug by monks of the Corbie Abbey for fishing and used in the 19th century for peat extraction.
- 7** The domain of the Barrette Ponds belongs to the Conseil Général and enables 40 hectares of marshland and ponds to be explored with the Centre Permanent d'Initiatives pour l'Environnement and the Corbie Tourist Office: in boat, on foot or in the shelter of an educational cabin (More information about the Belvedere on the banks of the canal).
- 8** The Brick Factory, where the Red Baron crashed. Information panel on site.
- 9** The "Pensée" Association at Le Hamel: Tour the battlefields with a horse and carriage with Pensée the Boulonnais draught horse
 Tél. : 03 22 96 03 16
- 10** The Australian Corps Memorial pays tribute to the 100 000 Australians who fought in France during the First World War.
- 11** Starting point of a 9.5 km hiking trail around Saily-le-Sec. This trail leads away from the tow path but returns to it a little later on.
 "Les Puits Tournants" Campsite, open from 1st April to 31st Oct (03 22 76 65 56) and "Les Rainettes" self catering accommodation for groups (03 22 75 02 43)
- 12** The cycle route changes sides at the Saily-Laurette lock: take the left bank and continue with your journey.
- 13** Take a welcome break at the lock's inn, which provides traditional cuisine.
 Tel. : 03 22 76 60 14
 Opposite, the Marbella Company creates body jewellery for haute couture and individuals.
 "La Renardière" Campsite, open from 1st April to 15th October (03 22 76 60 19)
- 14** This bridge now serves a group of holiday homes, but when the canal was first constructed, this bridge provided access to communal, fallow land, providing pasture land for the local inhabitants' livestock. The construction of the bridge shows the cultural importance of these areas and livestock farming in the valley.
- 15** Rest and picnic area of Cerisy. "Les Merisiers" Campsite, open from 1st April to 30th October (03 22 76 61 18)
- 16** At Cerisy bridge, a section of the tow path to Méricourt-sur-Somme is reserved for fishing. Follow the sign posts to the marshlands of Méricourt where you will be able to return to the tow path. You can either continue on your way or follow the circuit passing through Caesar's Camp at Chipilly. But be aware, it is steep!
- 17** The Chateau de Méricourt, surrounded by landscaped grounds and centenary trees, dates from the 17th and 18th centuries. It is one of the beautiful dwellings that are lucky enough to have direct access to the river (tours possible by appointment : 03 22 76 12 24 ou au 06 83 97 22 70).
- 18** At the Mairie (town hall): starting point of the "Marais des Vaches" hiking trail. 10.5km trail around the meanders of the Somme.
- 19** Starting point for the "Exploring the Méricourt Wetlands" walk. A 30 minute walk through a landscape of land and water, through wetlands where ponies graze. You can see one of the future Houses of the Valley at the lock.
- 20** Continue your journey towards Caesar's Camp for a view over the wetlands. Head towards Chipilly to finish the circuit. You can join the tow path at Cerisy.
- 21** The memorial at Chipilly was erected in remembrance of the 58th London Division and is a heartfelt tribute to horses killed during the First World War.
 "Au Gros Buisson" Campsite, open from the end of March to mid-October (03 22 74 63 32) and "Le Pont Rouge et les Vignes", open from 20th March to 30th October. (09 50 70 86 56)

Calendar

- Wednesday mornings: Picardy Local Produce Market at Corbie from 7am to 1pm and traditional market on Friday mornings.
- At the end of July, every two years (odd years) : Nature Festival at Méricourt-sur-Somme. Tél. : 06 81 05 87 82
- Last Saturday of June: Corbie Street Festival

A little bit of history....

Vaux-sur-Somme: The Red Baron



8 was here on the heights of Vaux-sur-Somme that the German flying ace Baron von Richthofen crashed in April 1918. The Red Baron, so-named because of the colour of his plane, had 80 victories to his name, many of which were won in the skies above the Somme. He was buried with full military honours by Australian troops at Bertangles.

Sailly-laurette: First World War

12 In 1916, hospital barges were often used for transporting injured First World War soldiers along the river towards Amiens. Wilfred Owen was transported through Sailly-Laurette giving inspiration to some of his poems.

Chipilly



Chipilly's war memorial

21 Chipilly is home to one of the many oppida which rise above the Somme. When danger threatened, the Gauls used these natural headlands as refuge to protect their tribes, belongings and livestock. The photograph is of the poignant memorial to the 58th (London)

The Somme, a river to share

The Grand Projet Vallée de Somme (GPVS) is a sustainable project initiated in 2009 by the Conseil départemental, which has been developed both with and for the inhabitants of the Somme. It invites the population, three quarters of whom live in the valley, to participate with a beautiful human adventure and reflect upon the future of their territory. The GPVS thus supports the river, a heritage of which the inhabitants can be proud. The Conseil départemental is making improvements along the river so that each and everyone can enjoy the waterway. A memorable experience that "Meandering through the Somme Valley" warmly invites you to begin, right away!

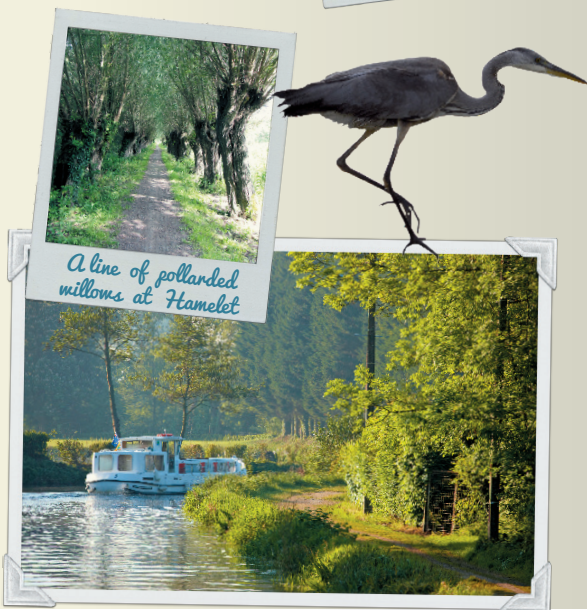
Photo album, along the water's edge...



Strange faces are watching you...

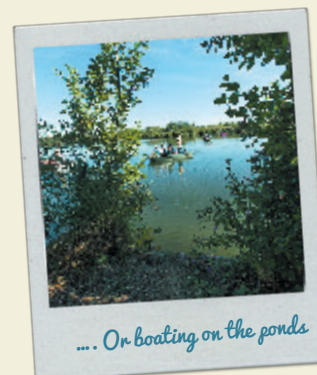


Former silos that used river transport...



A line of pollarded willows at Hamelot

Cruising along the river...



... Or boating on the ponds



17 The Chateau of Méricourt



4 Canal milestone



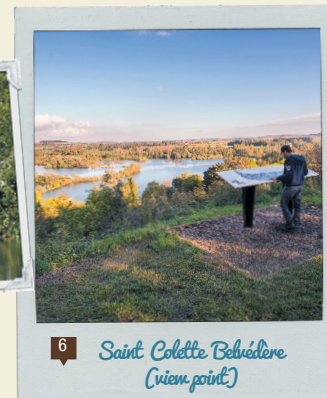
5 Land showing the continuation of farming activity on the banks



The cycle route can be walked as well!



"Les Eangs" Villa at Corbie



6 Saint Colette Belvédère (view point)

For more information

- Somme Tourisme
- 03 22 71 22 71 - www.visit-somme.com
- Maison de la Somme
- Place Notre-Dame à Amiens
- 03 22 97 20 20 - open every day
- Corbie Val de Somme
- (tourist office)
- 03 22 96 95 76 open Thursday to Saturday
- tourisme-corbie-bocage-3-vallees.com
- Poppy Country Tourist Office
- 03 22 75 16 42
- tourisme-paysducoquelicot.com
- Send your comments and suggestions about Meanders:
- contact@somme.fr

