

The "Grande Prairie" trail

“ The village of Pierrefitte-sur-Sauldre, located less than two hours from Paris, offers us more than 7000 hectares of a patchwork of fields, meadows, woods and moors on the "Grande Sauldre" river. ”

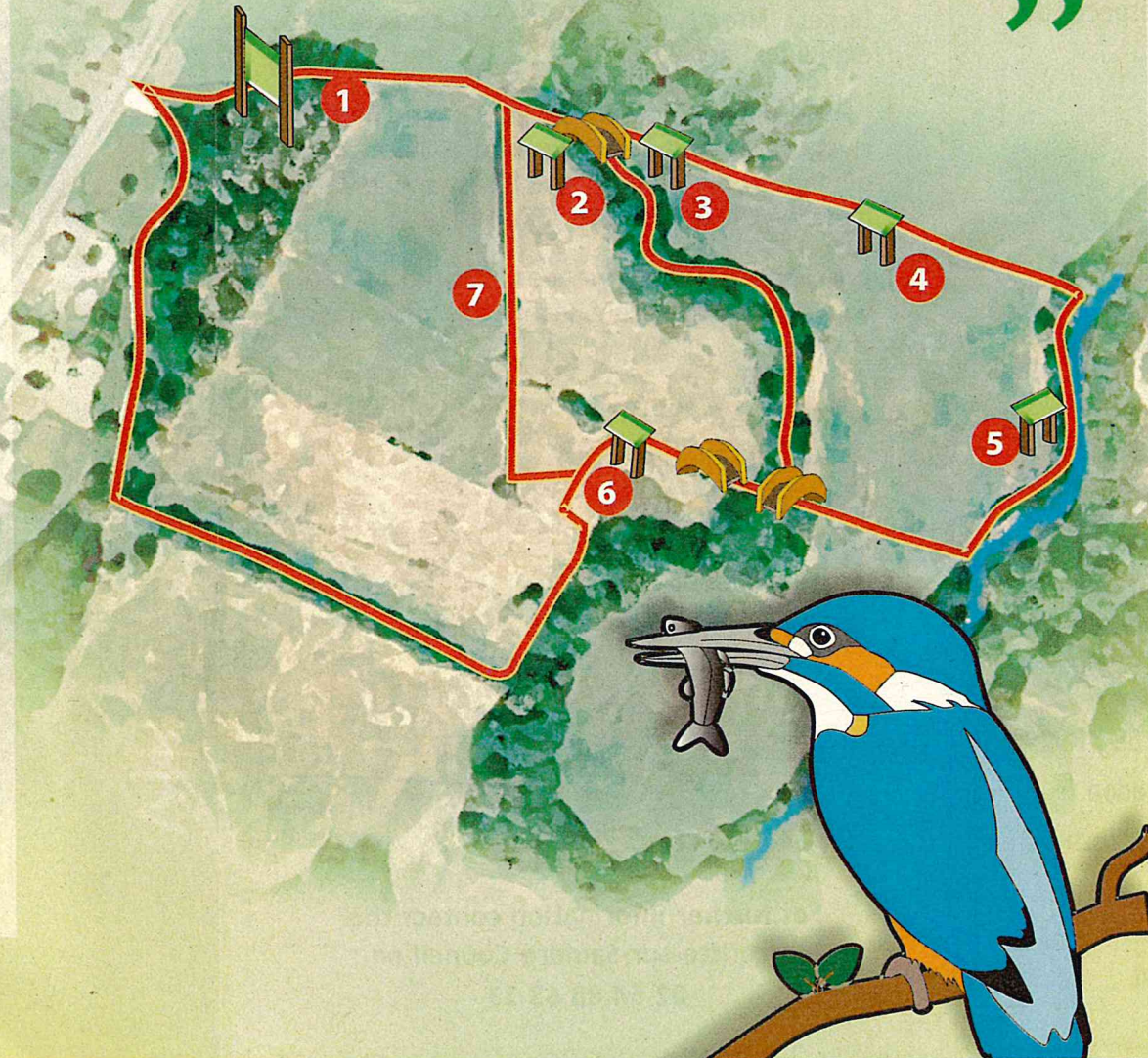
The "Grande Prairie" trail presents a fascinating mosaic of interwoven habitats.

The beginning of the trail borders a poplar grove (1), planted for harvesting poplar wood.

After crossing a meadows, you will be pleasantly surprised to discover local domestic animals (2) like the Sologne sheep, the great black donkey of the Berry region and the Sologne black turkey. Their presence on the site is important to the maintenance of the meadows.

Then, via a fottbridge, it crosses the "False River" (3). The stream, fed by ground waters of the Grande Sauldre, flows very slowly. It provides a habitat for rare plants like Yvy-leaved Water-crowfoot.

The trail passes beside wet meadows (4) composed of specific flora that alternate temporary winter flooding and cycles of grazing and mowing.



This important heritage contains numerous endangered species of plants and animals. It is also a refuge for migratory birds. There they find an abundance of food.

Crossing the meadows, the murmuring waters of the Grande Sauldre (5) can be heard. The surrounding fields and river banks are shaped by the cycles of flooding and low water levels. The floods create various habitats favourable of rich biodiversity.

After crossing the "False River", a swamp (6) reveals its natural riches. Completely dependent on rainwater and its run-off, its water levels vary widely. The flora of the banks are of major interest, for rare and endangered species and the pool itself is a site for breeding amphibians and aquatic insects.

Continuing along a hedge (7) of wild shrubs, you discover that this dense habitat is a refuge and food source for many species.

A place to relax ... The "Grande prairie"

On the discovery trail of the "Grande Prairie" you will find a picnic area for your enjoyment.

Fishing facilities are also available along the Grande Sauldre river for our fishing friends.

For the protection of this natural area and for our visitors' enjoyment, please respect the following instructions:



The "Grande Prairie" was organised and equipped by the council of Pierrefitte-sur-Sauldre :

Townhall of Pierrefitte-sur-Sauldre

26, rue de Souesmes

41300 Pierrefitte-sur-Sauldre

Phone 02 54 88 63 23 - Fax : 02 54 88 71 91

E-mail : pierrefitte.41mairie@wanadoo.fr

Web-site : www.pierrefitte-sur-sauldre.fr

The "Grande prairie"

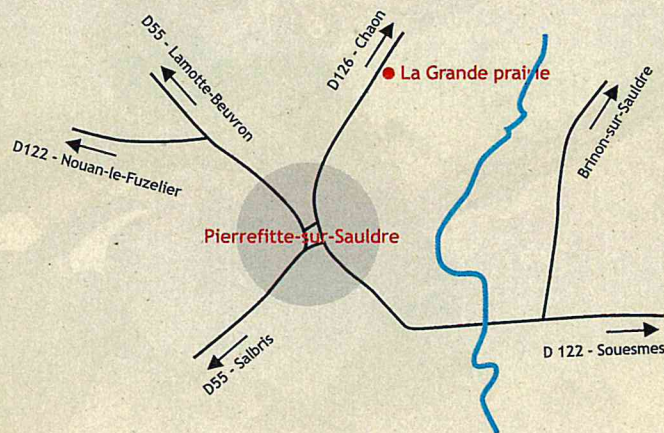
The grounds of the "Grande Prairie" have been owned by the Pierrefitte-sur-Sauldre Council since 2005. The area of about 8 hectares is contained between the road D 126 (road to Chaon) and the Grande Sauldre river.

It is part of a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) situated in Sologne, a region of exceptional natural heritage and one of the largest sites in Europe of the Natura 2000 ecological network.

This area, bordered by the Grande Sauldre river, contains four main natural habitats: a poplar grove, a pool, pastures and a large meadow divided by the "False River".

A discovery trail has been created to allow you to enjoy the ecological riches of the fauna and flora.

How to get there:



For further information contact the Pierrefitte-sur-Sauldre Council on :

02 54 88 63 23

Village of Pierrefitte-sur-Sauldre

In Sologne :

Discover the mysteries of nature on the "Grande Prairie" trail



Printed on recycled paper by Sologne Graphic Printing

Design :

Sologne Nature Environnement

