

GEOPARK TRANSMANCHE - PARC NATUREL RÉGIONAL DES CAPS ET MARAIS D'OPALE

LONGUEVILLE
The Church of Saint-Sylvestre was built with chalk

NOVANDIE ANDROS
This dairy is one of the many in the Boulgne region whose farms are centred around beef and dairy production.
Like this one in Vieil-Moutier, the dairies are located near to the farms to facilitate the collection and processing of the milk.

OLD LOTTINGHEN CEMENT WORKS
Founded in 1883 by the Delattre family, the cement works was a major employer contributing to the economic development of the region until 1981.
The Boulonnais hills furnish the raw materials required for high quality cement: limestone and clay.

VIEIL-MOUTIER

THE BOULOGNE CUESTA

In the foreground, the Bas-Boulonnais, composed of clay and sandy loam, goes back to the Jurassic era – 150 million years ago. In the background, the relief of the Haut-Boulonnais, called a cuesta, forms a ridge around the region. The cuesta is made up of chalk and limestone from the Cretaceous period, making it 90 million years old.
The clay and loam of the Bas-Boulonnais used to be covered by a chalk layer. It was gradually eroded by rivers and streams, revealing the underlying rock. This basin-like morphology is known as a buttonhole. It extends as far as England.

THE BOGAGE: EMBLEMATIC FEATURE OF THE BOULOGNE

The rolling countryside that lies before you is made up of small hills and valleys. The first farmers adapted to the water-laden clay soils, keeping the fields small and mainly used for pastoral farming. The hedgerows lining these fields can contain as many as 45 different species of tree and bush, forming an essential eco-system for the region's wildlife (birds, bats, mammals, insects, etc.).

By preserving the hedgerows of the Boulagne region, we also protect the landscape and its biodiversity, whilst maintaining its agricultural activity.



Common Blue



Bee Orchid

THE CHALK HILLS: RESERVOIRS FOR BIODIVERSITY

The steep grassy slopes of the chalk downs with their well-drained, dry soil are especially favourable to the development of some rare species of flora and fauna. This rich habitat is a result of the mainly pastoral farming of the land in the past.

The Mont de la Calique on which you stand is an example of the chalk hill conservation project began in 2020 by the Conservatoire d'espaces naturels des Hauts-de-France in order to maintain these areas that are so emblematic of the geology, the landscape and the biodiversity of the Boulagne region.

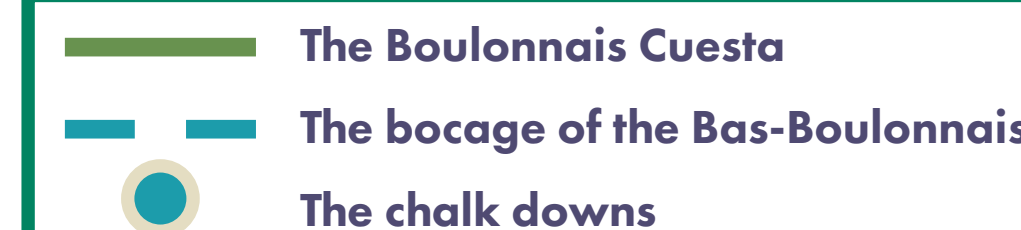
Welcome to the Mont de la Calique, in Vieil Moutier. The rolling countryside you can see all around you here is marked by the patchwork of hedgerows and fields created by the farmers of old. This green basin is surrounded by ridges that stand out against the sky. The Haut-Boulonnais and the Bas-Boulonnais differ in terms of their underlying rock, their local crafts and industries, and the species of plant and animal life that are predominant there.

The Mont de la Calique is a Cross-Channel Geopark site of particular geological importance. It is representative of the landscapes, fauna and flora, and local crafts and traditions that are so intrinsically linked to geology.

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