

## How to discover the « Bois du Parc » Natural Heritage site

This National Natural Reserve is always opened to the public.

• **A discovery trail** meanders along the cliff tops and allows for the exploration of the plateau's **dry grasses and forests environment**.

**Access starting point** : « Quatre Pieux » quarry parking lot

**Distance** : 1.3 km

**Hike time** : 1 hour

Caution : this trail includes several steep sections which prevent easy access for persons of limited mobility. Please follow the marked trail and signs carefully : the path follows the cliff edge closely which can present hazardous conditions.



The discover trail

• **Interpretive signs and panels** guide you and describe the little known **geological heritage** of this reserve as well as that of the Yonne river valley.

**Location** : « Quatre Pieux » quarry parking lot and « Quatre Pieux » quarry



Quatre Pieux quarry

• Access to the other quarry, the **« Bois du Parc » quarry** is restricted but may be reserved for interpretive guided tours.

**A guided tour may be booked for private or school groups** with the cultural heritage ocer. For further information, please contact the ocer at +33 3 45 02 75 84.

To arrange for a group guided tour, please contact the «Office de Tourisme Entre Cure et Yonne» by phone at +33 3 86 81 54 26.

## Improve protection through regulation

Conservation and protection of this heritage site and its unique landscapes is our joint responsibility. Please be mindful to leave only footprints and kindly respect the following restrictions by ministerial decree.

Hunting, camping, plant or rock picking, driving, loud noises and fires are strictly forbidden.



Rock climbing is restricted to specific sites within the natural reserve (please refer to the map below as well as to signage on site).

For rock climbing enquiries, please contact the 'Comité Départemental d'Escalade de l'Yonne' at +33 6 62 77 89 91 (or at [www.ffme.fr](http://www.ffme.fr)).

## Practical information

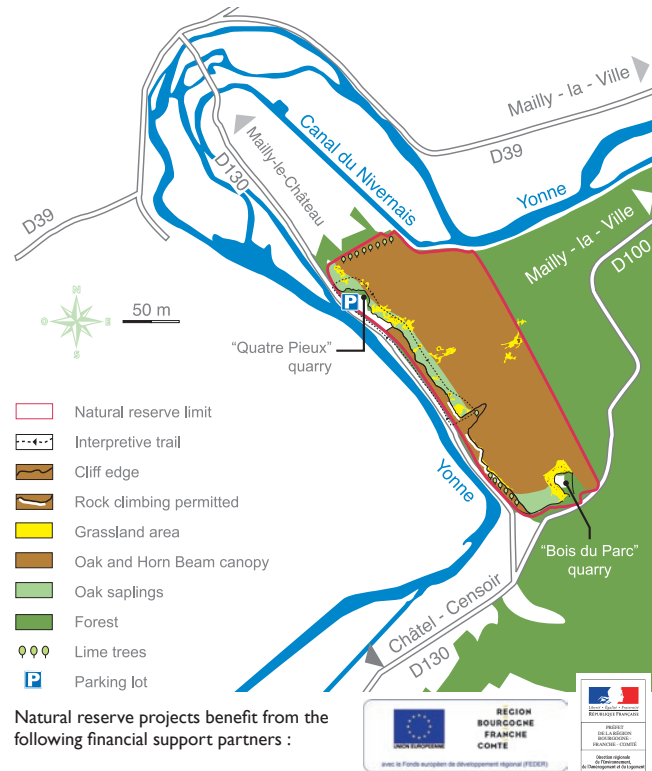
**Location** : Bourgogne - Franche - Comté, Département de l'Yonne

**Municipality** : Mailly - le - Château, 30 km from Avallon or Auxerre

**GPS Coordinates** : 47.584913 / 3.643194

**Area** : 45 ha

**Owner and manager** : Conservatoire d'espaces naturels de Bourgogne

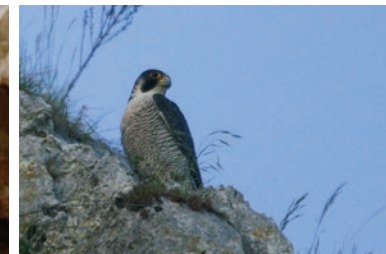


Natural reserve projects benefit from the following financial support partners :



English language guide

# Réserve Naturelle BOIS DU PARC



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# Travel through time and history !

As early as the 19th century, the place name « Bois du Parc » attracts naturalists witnessing its rich flora and fauna. Later, the geological heritage of this site in the Yonne river valley rose to public notice, bringing it to National attention. Following several years of research, the rich biological heritage Yonne river valley site was elevated to protected National Reserve status. A project to extend the « Bois du Parc » quarry site to accommodate the building needs of the A6 motorway then raised concerns for the preservation of this unique site and its valuable environment. On August 30th 1979, a national decree blocks the quarry extension project and protects this Natural Reserve heritage indefinitely.

## Visit Bois du Parc to discover its hidden gems



View on the Yonne river valley from the natural reserve

O. Girard - CENB

### A remarkable geological heritage

Discover a **coral reef** without the need to travel thousands of miles or go under water! It's fossilized form stands right here before your eyes! During the Jurassic era, **some 160 million years ago**, the climate conditions where today's Yonne Department stands were prime for the colonization and growth of corals : **it was a tropical climate, with a warm and shallow sea**, with clear waters.

Paleo-geography Jurassic Era map



Modified from geologie.mnhn.fr

Keen observation along the banks of the river Yonne, or through the striations of the quarry excavations, allow visitors to retrace the growth stages of this coral reef as well as appreciate its distribution and intricate layering. Numerous **fossilized coral colonies** can be easily observed in their « frozen in time » state.



Ball shaped coral fossil

M. Jouve - CENB



Shaft shaped coral fossil

M. Jouve - CENB

### A precious biological heritage

Experience the feel of the South of France right here in Burgundy! Climb to the cliff tops overseeing the river Yonne. Here you will find an environment shared by **calcareous (alkaline) grasslands and shrubs**. This ecosystem associated with thin chalky soil is suitable for plants that are able to thrive under very dry and sunny conditions. Several **meridional plant species**, usually seen much in much farther southern climate conditions, find their habitat here. Such plants include the **White Rock-Rose**, the **Saint Bernard's Lily** as well as the **Cantabrian or dwarf morning glory** which color the natural reserve from spring into summer.



European Mantis

C. Foutrel - CENB



Sail Swallowtail

G. Doucet - CENB



White Rock-Rose

G. Doucet - CENB



Saint-Bernard's Lily

G. Doucet - CENB



Dwarf Morning Glory

C. Foutrel - CENB

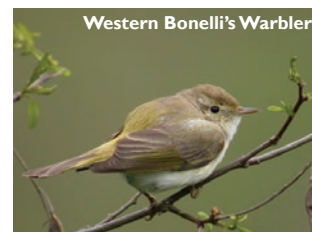
Non venomous reptiles such as the **smooth snake**, as well as many insects including the **European Mantis and the Sail Swallowtail** may be observed in this characteristic dry and open grassland habitat.



Smooth snake

L. Jouve

Many songbirds such as the **Western Bonelli's Warbler** particularly enjoy the dry and sun exposed hill sides of the natural reserve.



Western Bonelli's Warbler

F. Crosset

The forested area of the reserve offers more shady and cooler conditions.



Oak and Horn Beam canopy

J. Abadie - CENB

On the plateau, **Sessile Oak, common Maple and Horn Beam** are the dominant tree species.

The Northern exposed hillside displays chillier conditions which best suit growth for the **European Beech and lime trees**.



Alpine squill

M. Jouve - CENB

Early spring is the perfect time to view the exquisite blue and purple show of **Alpine squill** prior even to the trees coming to leaf.