

A WELL KEPT TREASURE

The exceptional biodiversity of the nature reserve is very fragile. Our team from the **Conservatoire d'espaces naturels de Bourgogne** (Burgundy natural spaces Conservancy) is now its steward.

Warning!

Access by land to the nature reserve is dedicated to agricultural activities, therefore there is no public access.

However there are still ways to explore :

- From the water by **canoe**, but please respect the rules of the reserve.
- By participating in **free activities** organised by the Conservatoire d'espaces naturels de Bourgogne.

To take part, please consult the schedule at

www.cen-bourgogne.fr

As a result, **decisive action plans** can be put in place to **actively manage the preservation of these environments alongside human activities** on this site.

European bee-eater



ALL INFORMATION RELATED TO THIS SITE CAN BE FOUND BY CONSULTING :

Conservatoire d'espaces naturels de Bourgogne
13 Rue Marguerite Monnot
58300 Decize
contact@cen-bourgogne.fr
Tél. 03 45 82 93 07
www.cen-bourgogne.fr



Decree n° 2015-8-A001Z-09 dated 13th of November 2015, creating the natural reserve.



Dogs permitted on leash



Quiet space



No camping



No littering



No flower picking

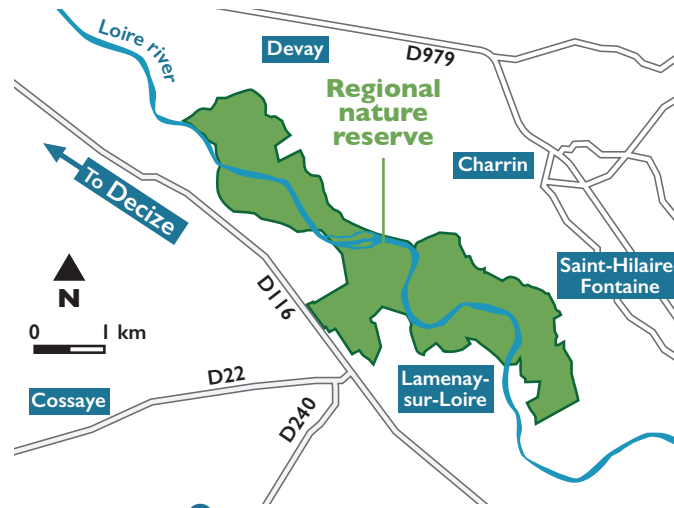


No fire

FOREWORD ABOUT THE NATURE RESERVE

The regional nature reserve occupies **740 ha**, between **Saint-Hilaire-Fontaine and Decize**. Created on November 13th 2015, its role is to contribute to the preservation of the Loire river natural heritage.

The nature reserve designation is a **strong legal protective status**.



Designation authority : Région Bourgogne-Franche-Comté

Management :
Conservatoire d'espaces naturels de Bourgogne

With financial support from :
European Regional Development Funds (FEDER)
Région Bourgogne-Franche-Comté



Réserve Naturelle Régionale
LOIRE BOURGUIGNONNE

LOIRE RIVER Regional Nature Reserve
in BURGUNDY



AN UNEXPECTED AND
EXCEPTIONAL GEM

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www.bourgognefranche-comte.fr
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QUICK PEEK OF THE TREASURES IN THE NATURE RESERVE

● **These exceptional environments depend on the Loire river and on pastoral agriculture**

In the Nièvre [Département], the Loire slithers and delineates its sandy channel, eroding, carving, transforming landscapes with each flood and receding water cycle.

50% of the nature reserve includes environments of high ecological value, some with unique interest within Europe. 30% are considered of rare ecological geography or 'endemic'*.

This ebb and flow dynamic shapes characteristic natural environments, notably the river banks and Loire grasslands.

With decades of farming, the nature reserve encompasses a majority of prairie pastures and harvest grasses that characterise the territory.

*'Endemic' refers to an environment restricted to a small geographical area

● A rich and diversified fauna

Many animal species live at the heart of this protected area, which is characterised by dry environments contrasted by wetlands. Here they find food, shelter and breeding sites.



The **Sulfur oedipod** is fond of the dry and sandy grasslands of the Loire river banks. This cricket is well represented in the nature reserve despite being rare elsewhere in the region.



The **Natterjack toad** favours sun exposed ponds with sandy beds.



Fabrice Croset

The **Eurasian stone-curlew** lives on terrain sparse of vegetation, usually sandy or rocky. It nests on the ground, amongst the banks and grasslands of the nature reserve.



Gilbert Lienhard - regards-photos.fr

The **European beaver**, a nationally protected species reintroduced in the 70's, has recolonised the Loire river. Clues of its presence such as gnawed wood and characteristic tooth marks on bark can often be observed within the nature reserve.

● Rare and threatened flora

Plants with varied needs grow within the nature reserve. With changing life conditions that can go from extremes tied to the Loire river dynamics, some of them can survive both droughts and floods!



The **Loire piloselle**, similar to a dandelion, grows on sandy grasslands that are often redrawn by the course of the Loire river. This is an *endemic species to the Val de Loire area protected in Burgundy.



This unassuming tuft found on sandy grasslands may seem pretty insignificant, but it is a protected species in Burgundy! It is called the **Grey hair-grass**.



Illustrative representation of the reserve's natural environments

