



EXPLORATION OF THE BESNÉ MARSHLAND (LA CHALANDIÈRE & LE BRIVET) Besné



 8.8 km  2 hours 15

 Alternative route suitable from November to May

 'La Gériais' picnic area

Access

from the town centre of Besné, follow the signs to La Morandais. Go past the old Gériais mill and stop off at the picnic area.

Brière Tourist Information Office

Maison du Parc - Village of Kerhinet - Saint-Lyphard
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Saint-Nazaire Tourist Information Office

Submarine base,
Boulevard de la Légion d'Honneur
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THE NORTHERN LAPWING (VANELLUS VANELLUS)

The northern lapwing is a typical species found in wetlands. It has a long, thin crest, black and white plumage and broad, rounded wings (unique among waders). In the autumn, thousands of lapwings migrate to southern Europe and North Africa. In March, it's time to come back. The nest is always in an open area on a meadow or ploughed land. During courtship, it utters a plaintive and melancholic call.

An exploration of the charms of Besné, from the Breton 'Bez Enez', meaning 'the island of the tomb'.

When the water rises in winter, the town of Besné resembles an island. The trail takes you into the depths of the marshland to discover the stones of ancient cults.

 From the Gériais picnic area, cross the road, take the path along the edge of the woods and then turn left to go up towards the old mill. Between September and January, on Sundays and public holidays (hunting season), take the alternative route along the road leading to the village of Besné and take the first right towards the old mill.

- 1 When you leave the woods, with the old windmill of la Gériais (16th century) on your left, go to the right along the farm track leading to Le Vignaud.
- 2 Cross over and follow the RD 204 for about 200 m, watch out for traffic and walk well on the side of the road. Then take the first farm track on your left. Continue to Le Tillon.
- 3 Turn left to join the RD 204, then right for 600 m, towards the village. After the Chaussée bridge, turn right before the granite cross. Bear right and carry on towards the Chemin de la Chaussée. You will be passing the Bourg d'Avau district.
- 4 Follow the Chemin de la Chalandière (this path may be flooded in winter, if so, take the alternative route), halfway along, head left onto the Chemin de la Loutre. You can also go as far as the canal and then retrace your steps to get back onto the marked path. Enter the marshes of Saint-Second, a protected site left in its natural state. The route leads to the hamlet of Saint-Second where you will discover the chapel dating from 1640 and its cross, as well as the garden created by the locals in 1856.
- 5 Then turn right to continue your exploration by going around the business park. Cross the old RD 773 then go over the bridge towards Brivet river.
- 6 Continue on to the Roche Civant footbridge, a fishing spot and jetty for the canoeing-kayaking centre. Take the opportunity to discover the Brivet, the last tributary of the Loire, with a multitude of springs from the marshes of the surrounding communes flowing into the river. Go back on yourself and then turn right. Follow the path along the disused railway line to the RD 204, then head left.
- 7 After crossing the new RD 773 at the designated pedestrian crossings, turn right onto the Chemin des Perrettes, cross the Chaussée canal and then turn right again onto a farm track. Continue to the new housing estate and go around it to the right to get back to your starting point.



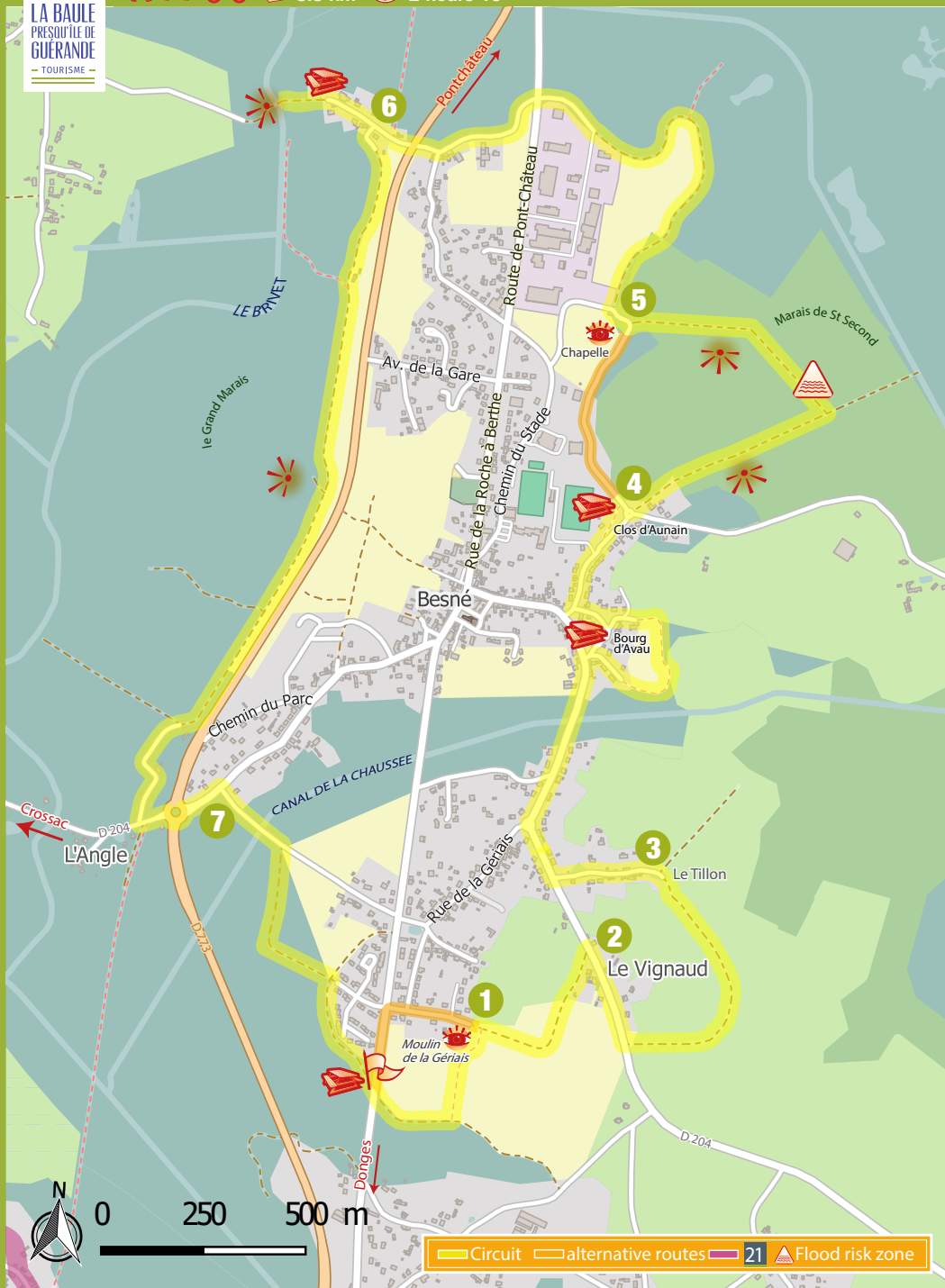
TO SEE ON THE WAY...

- the Saint-Second chapel (1640-1856)
- marshland scenery
- the fauna and flora of the marshes
- vernacular heritage (see sheet 25)





8.8 km 2 hours 15



0 250 500 m

— Circuit — alternative routes 21 ▲ Flood risk zone