The Eaucourt Windmill

A country walk around a windmill that was rescued from oblivion and has been restored to its former glory.

Time: : **2 hours**

Distance: **6km**

Route: **moderate**

Starting at: Eaucourt Community Centre (Salle des fêtes)

Eaucourt, 7km south-east of Abbeville.





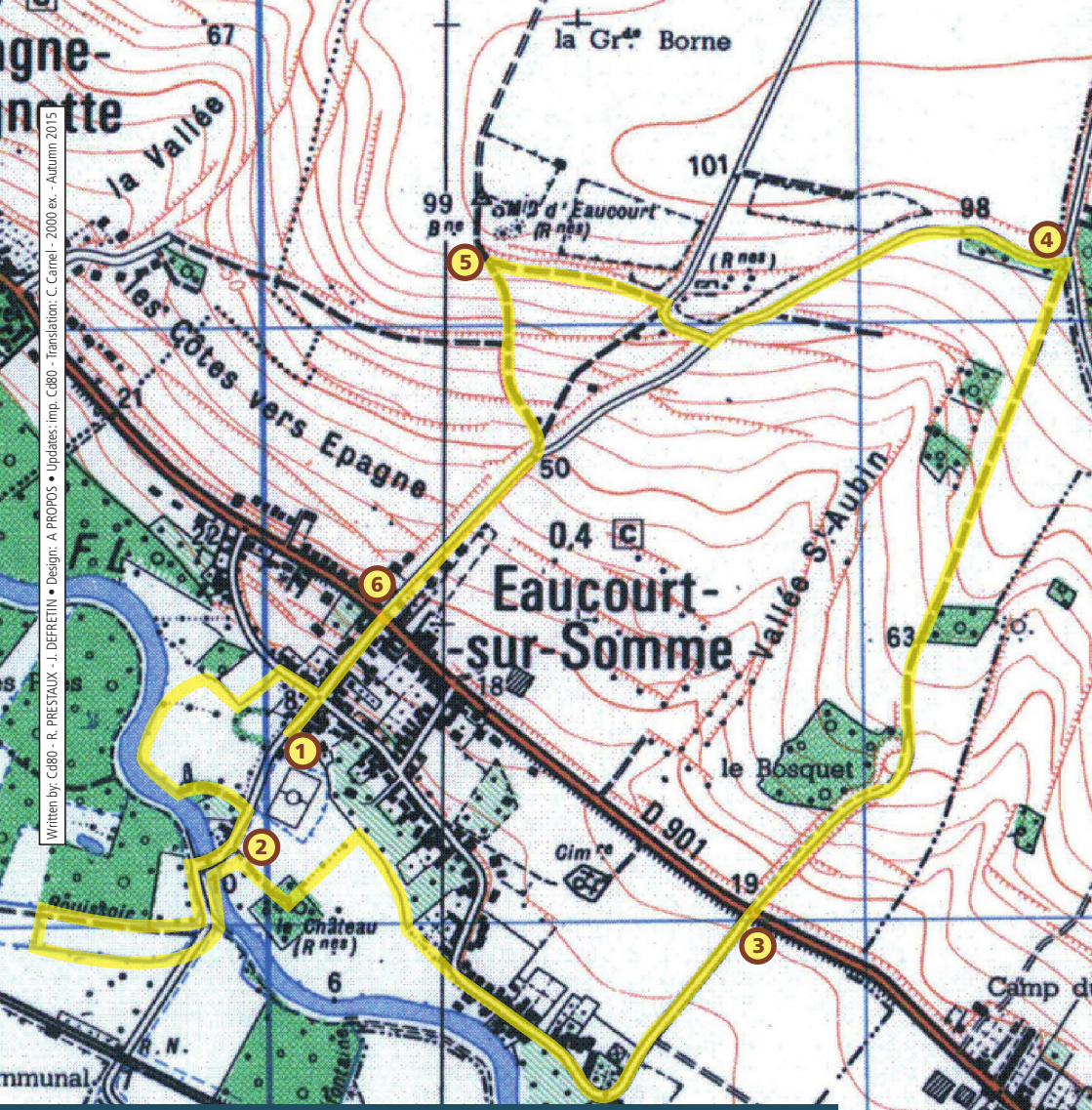
1. From the car park head towards the town hall and turn left. Walk through the A. Sannier Park. At the bridge, follow the path alongside the pastures and turn right at the road. Cross the bridge and after the bend follow the path heading right around the retting pond.
   ▶ *Flax stalks used to be submerged into the water of these ponds to help separate the fibre from the stem, a process known as retting. By the combined action of heat and damp, the stalks became soft and it was easier to remove the fibre. This type of retting was not good for the environment and was abandoned many years ago. Flax is now left in the fields to rett on the ground.*
   Return to the road and follow it in the opposite direction.
2. After the bridge, follow the trail to the right going past the ruins of the chateau.
   ▶ *Only the door of the draw-bridge and the remains of the turrets and walls are left of the mediaeval castle. A local association now organises cultural events in these remains.*
   Head right along a grassy track between the ditch and pastureland and then continue along Rue du Mellier to the D901.
   ▶ *Outside of the village, in the midst of the cemetery stands the 16th century St. Aubin Church.*
3. **Carefully** cross the road and follow the track opposite until you reach the road.
4. Head left along the road until you reach the path to the windmill.
   ▶ *To the right you will see the sails of the new windmills turning: the modern emblem of Wind Gods.*
   Turn right and at the junction take the track opposite towards the windmill.
5. At the fork-in-the-road descend the track to the left, ignoring the path to the right. At the crossroads, turn right to the D901.
6. **Carefully** cross the road. Continue straight on and return to the starting point.

Of Interest

The Windmill Rediscovers its Past Glory!

Dating from the 17th century, the Eaucourt Windmill ground grain until 1919. It is located at 98 metres in altitude and the top of Amiens Cathedral can be seen from its windows. It was also used as a location point for sailors in the Somme Bay, which is why it was nick-named "guidon" (guider). As time went by the windmill fell into disrepair and if a local association hadn't decided to give it a new lease of life, this testimony of the past would have perished. Today, on top of its hill, the mill stands 10 metres tall and is topped with a revolving, wooden roof and 9 metre long sails covered with red canvas. Open for visits, inside you can find its mechanisms and stone grinders still used when it grinds flour for the annual bread festival.

Abbeville Tourist Office:
03 22 24 27 92



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In the Vicinity

2km away, Pont-Rémy: Ambiani Association, archaeological reconstructions of Gaul buildings and a river boat from Gallo-Roman times. More information: 00 33 (0)3 22 27 06 91.
7km away: Abbeville and its rich heritage. This includes the 15th century, St. Vulfran Collegiate; the St. Sépulcre Church listed as a historic monument with its 15th century tower, entombment and modern stained-glassed windows by Manessier; St. Gilles Church with its 15th century portal; 13th century, UNESCO World Heritage listed belfry.
8km away, Long: hydro-electric plant, 12th century St. Jean-Baptiste Church, 18th century "Folie" chateau.
10km away, Saint-Riquier: Abbey-church, UNESCO World Heritage listed belfry, museum and Hotel-Dieu.
9km away, Longpré-les-Corps-Saints: Maison des Marais (Marshland Centre), viewpoint, walking and boat trips.
Somme Valley Cycle Route

Sign posts — Route continues | Wrong direction | Change of direction

This hiking trail is not suitable for horse-riding.

0 — 250 — 500 m

Carte IGN 2207 O

This hiking trail is maintained by the Communauté de communes de l'Abbevillois.