

Le Petit Houx du Parc

5,km 1h 30

- Departure :** Bretoncelles, car park at the 'complexe sportif'.
- Direction:** clockwise.
- Way marking:** yellow panels and painted way marks.
- Ease of walking:** good, easy
- Terrain:** dirt or stony paths and narrow gravel tracks (72%)

Cross the car park to pass in front of the schools, then turn left towards the traffic lights. Turn right onto the D918 leading to the village and **the place du Général de Gaulle**. Turn left up the side of the church, taking the D294 in the direction of Saint-Victor-de-Buthon. Go over the level crossing and continue up the **rue Roger Calbris** for 100 metres.

1. Turn right towards the hamlet of **le Parc**. There used to be a castle on the top of the hill, probably destroyed by the English during the Hundred Years War. Remnants of the enclosure wall still existed in 1840. The road climbs up to **le Parc**. Just after the last houses of the hamlet there is, along the edge of the road, a fine patch of holly broom or Ruscus (butcher's broom), hence 'le petit houx' in French. The path now becomes a stony dirt track, often wet, which emerges from the trees and continues up a slight gradient.
2. At the crossing of the paths, turn right in front of the Calvary cross erected in the memory of *Captain Ernest Pommerelle*, killed here during the Franco-Prussian War of 1870-71. Continue on straight descent towards the valley along a stony track (fine views over the **valley of the Corbionne**). Keep the railway to your right for 100 metres. Go over the bridge and go down to the right to meet the D918. Cross the road and take the path opposite, **le Chemin du Gué Cheval**. Walk down the track and cross over the **Corbionne** via the footbridge. Meet the D622.
3. Follow the road to the right. Cross the D38 and continue to the **moulin** (mill) **d'Arrondeau** (picturesque site). Cross over the stone bridge and then the footbridge. Walk up the stony track and then the tarmac as far as the **rue Jules Lemaître**. Turn left to arrive back at the **place du Général de Gaulle**. Continue, bearing to the left via the rue Garreau, the road back to the starting point.

