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# - Le Moulin Du Puy -

Site development project



**Professional Project**

University degree

"Management and Development of Rural Space and Heritage"  
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“I love the earth; what I see fills me with joy, and I even sometimes believe that the pure line of the treetops, the majesty of the trees, the vivid movement of the water at the bottom of a ravine, the grace of a church façade—since they are so intense in these regions at certain times of day—can only have been willed, and for our own good. This harmony has meaning; these landscapes and these species are, still frozen, perhaps enchanted, a word; it is only a matter of looking and listening intently for the absolute to reveal itself at the end of our wanderings. Here, in this promise, is the place.”

Y. BONNEFOIS (“*the hinterland*”).

## PROJECT FRAMEWORK

As part of our preparation for the University Diploma in "Management and Development of Rural Space and Heritage," we conducted a study on the development of the Puy mill site. Driven by a shared desire to revitalize the site, Mr. Manville from the "Heritage Economics Center," Mr.

Roudier, the mayor of Chamberaud, were our sponsors. They also supported and guided our efforts.

The village of Chamberaud, located in the Marche region, in the heart of the Creuse department, lies between two tourist hubs: Masgot and Le Moutier d'Ahun. Its close proximity to Masgot, a hamlet featured in numerous national guidebooks, is a considerable advantage for us. A network of hiking trails connecting Masgot and Chamberaud will generate significant tourist traffic to the mill site. This project will be carried out in collaboration with Mr. Delprato, mayor of Fransèches.

Located in the heart of the Aubusson-Bourgageuf-Guéret triangle, the mill belongs to the commune of Chamberaud. This commune of 750 hectares has 125 inhabitants including 4 farmers, 2 artisans, and 1 shopkeeper (restaurateur).

It was in 1993 that the town hall acquired the mill site (land-mill-barn-dwellings). From the moment of its acquisition, the mayor, Mr. Roudier, wished to enhance this heritage.

The creation of the "Heritage Economics Hub" (PEP) provided an opportunity to revive the project. Indeed, the mission of this organization is to revitalize rural areas through the promotion of heritage.

The PEP is organized around Michel Manville, head of projects. Among his team, we met Maurice Robert, research officer on the memory of the Grand Siècle (1850-1950), who proposed a working methodology to us.

At PEP, Alain Freytet, DPLG landscape architect and professor at the Versailles School of Landscape, also joined us, supervising our work (advice, methodology).



~View of the Puy mill from the road

## Introduction

The following presentations should not be read as definitive projects, of course, but rather as a set of open avenues and proposals, material for discussion and a basis for future development. Reflecting on the rural heritage surrounding the Puy mill and its promotion through hiking offered us the opportunity to broaden the scope of our investigations.

The approach taken to enhance the site of the Puy mill was built on the scale of an entire territory.

A hiking product development program will bring tourist appeal to the mill. It has been designed to establish a strong identity within a network of local activities.

Furthermore, it would result in significant economic benefits for certain municipalities.

With this objective in mind, the proposals for development will find a balance between: economic activities (cafe/stopover accommodation/reception, donkeys...) and cultural activities (discovery of heritage, exhibitions, relaxation, leisure...).

The proposals for valorization are built around the idea of a process. These emerged following a sensitive approach to the place.

We organized our work into several phases: Historical research and field surveys were the starting point of our thinking. Thanks to the quality of the information gathered from local stakeholders, our plan of intent gradually took shape.

Thus, all our development proposals have attempted to exploit the potential of the site for local economic development.

Finally, we felt it was important to specify the different phases of work to create as well as the elements essential to the proper functioning of the site.



~View of the pond

# THE PUY MILL SITE: GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

## SENSITIVE APPROACH

*Travel, Landscape, Village...*

We are far from the urban world. The patterns of the landscape remind us of the identity of the Creuse region. So many paths so well traveled by our ancestors: farmers, masons, washerwomen.

As the kilometers pass by in the car, the observer is amazed: the characteristics of the granite integrate into a vegetal universe where the granite emerges from the fields in the form of tori and structures well-proportioned houses.

In this region with a strong agricultural character we arrive at the village of Chamberaud, near Masgot, Moutier d'Ahun and not far from the Creuse valley.

Arrival at the site:

- from the village of Masgot

From the church, we set off on foot, as if we needed to be quiet to discover the site. In this almost sleepy world, a whole story surely lies hidden... The story of a mill, and of all those who worked to produce flour for daily bread.

- from the Chamberaud pond

If you arrive via the Chamberaud pond on the D 16, perhaps after a stop at the stonemasons' village of Masgot, the discovery of the site is quite different.

A charming, tiny building welcomes us. This former fishpond seems to guard the entrance to the site. The ochre of its walls and the orange of its roof lend it a tranquil and welcoming character. Certain geometric elements primarily evoke their function. Among them, the outflow of the pond draws our gaze. It connects the millrace to the small fishpond cottage. Nearby, a washhouse reminds us that the site is deeply linked to water.

A small valley and its stream:



In the hollow of this valley, in the morning-glittering grass, geese wander peacefully. They are the guardians and the very image of the estate. The orange hue of their beaks resembles brick, and their grey plumage blends with the granite.

The shimmering of a stream catches our eye and crowns a canopy of vegetation slightly ruffled by winter. Here and there, we can make out different clumps of trees, whose shade we imagine would be prized in summer, when the mercury soars to tens of degrees...

The branches of the trees lightly cover the access path. Dry stone walls accompany our walk. Along the path, anchored in the

On the ground, a low wall seems to be deploying all its strength to support the upper part of the valley.

A car drives by...

This sign reminds us of the road's presence, so easily forgotten. Facing us, the opposite slope seems to define the site; it reinforces the feeling of the mill being enclosed. Beyond this boundary, the sight of the asphalt reminds us of a certain urban form that makes us reluctant to leave this protected and reassuring place.

From this spot, you can really feel the vastness of the valley. The place inspires meditation; a tree trunk  
The fallen tree invites us to sit down and fully appreciate the calm.

Protected as if in a cocoon:

Throughout the day, the light creates a colorful, natural, and harmonious atmosphere. Tiles, granite, grass, earth, bricks, slate. The murmur of the stream adds its own tone. The simplicity of the lines and forms organizes the space and animates the surprising volume of the land.

These various assembled motifs reveal the originality of this place and already hint at its future identity. Like a secret garden, this haven seems to want to protect itself, not revealing itself at first glance. One longs to enter this place with infinite slowness, so as not to disturb it. It seems so perfectly settled. Downstream from the site, an old wash house hides in the foliage. On its sloping stones, one imagines all the secrets of the washerwomen slipping away amidst white, transparency, and light.

A sense of tranquility slowly allows us to perceive the soul of this place. A small culvert makes the water disappear beneath our feet. It flows into the tangled greenery that encloses the site.

A look at the built environment:

We look away from the stream, but its murmur remains with us. As we walk back towards the courtyard, several buildings come together.

"The mill":

The verticality of the old mill and its adjoining house, its solid doorway, its brick-framed windows, all aligned vertically, intrigue us. Their staggered arrangement suggests the different stages of the transformation of grain into flour. A treasure lies hidden within this building. Something compels us to discover its mysterious workings, which still allow us to imagine the pervasive whiteness of this place.

Outside, on the "park" side, the sound of a waterfall catches our attention. It's the millrace water falling at the foot of the facade. Only one wheel hub remains.  
The sound of the fall falls like a lament in our ears. Wounded, crippled, has the mill lost its soul?

And if we gave him back his wheel, would he get people talking?  
A "chatterbox," what a strange metamorphosis. A project for the future...



"The barn":

On the other side of the courtyard, upstream from the mill, a barn and its outbuildings stand alongside an old granite staircase. This barn, typical of the Auvergne region, is striking for its height, its massive appearance, and its imposing granite lintels. On one side, it provides access to the courtyard; on the other, its first floor opens onto a wooden shed.

Near the barn, in the courtyard, is the stone of the old oil press.

"The Marquise":

Old agricultural machinery is stored in this wooden shed and a few bundles of dried white beans remained hanging from the beams.

"The discount":

Between the mill and the barn, there is a building that encloses the courtyard. This building currently serves as a garage and storage area. A fairly small pigsty is attached to the rear of this building and opens onto a small garden.

Our path continues, curving away from the stream. The sound of the water fades, and we reach the higher ground of the site. A sweeping view of the village of Chamberaud unfolds before us. A small road skirts the site at this point. The asphalt beneath our feet almost instinctively draws us back towards the valley. A small rockfall in the low wall invites us to re-enter the mill grounds, near another building.

"The House of Rocks":

This house, with its adjoining barn, stands apart from the other buildings. It seems to be waiting for some inhabitants. A sense of urgency is palpable: the roof of a small outbuilding is gaping open, the garden is overgrown, and the windows are broken. Fortunately, the charm of the place makes us forget the feeling of neglect that had previously taken hold.

A small meadow hugs the slope, where a few fruit trees provide shade in summer. The apples and pears surely delighted skilled cooks and their families.

Crossing this meadow, you come across the wooden shed, the barn which you can go around by following a low wall. You then find yourself in the heart of the site, in the courtyard, where the sound of the water regains its full intensity.

Throughout this walk, the coherence and harmony evoke a pleasant sense of peace. This healthy and secure place opens itself to various project possibilities. Its characteristics (location, complementary buildings, aesthetics) and the space it offers are just waiting to be revealed. The way this space has been shaped by human hands allows us to imagine the home of past generations, who seemed able to live there almost entirely self-sufficiently.

The Puy mill, now dormant, awaits its revival.

# HISTORICAL

## 1. Watermills

"Watermills, whose origin is very ancient, since the architect Vitruvius described them a century before Christ, used the hydraulic force of watercourses through large paddle wheels or bucket wheels depending on the topography of the place.

The waterwheel, commonly called a paddle wheel made of buckets, is supplied with water from above. The dam and the wheel's sluice gate are opened to allow the water to pass through, the current of which flows towards the canal and the waterwheel [as at the Puy mill].

Watermills contributed to the prosperity of villages for centuries.

After the Second World War, many of these small rural mills ceased operations for various reasons (outdated equipment, lack of funding, and above all, competition from modern industry). The millers either changed careers or went to work in large flour mills.

Many villages felt they had lost a bit of their soul because the mill was respected like the town hall or the church. This somewhat magical place was a friendly meeting place and a hub for exchange among the villagers scattered throughout the surrounding hamlets.<sup>1</sup>

### 1.1. The Puy Mill

Our encounters with the local population and the descendants of the last miller enriched our knowledge of the mill's history: all their accounts were of great interest to us. They allowed us to better understand the social and spatial organization of the place, particularly through the "oral toponymy" given to certain plots of land and buildings.

Madame Jeanne Lemenier, niece of the last miller, remembers the "house of God," the mill's nickname, a nod to the generosity of the lady of the house. "In front of the barn, you remember, we used to jump up and down to pack the clay between the stones..." recall JL and his brother, Michel Faily. This detail particularly caught our attention. Now overgrown with vegetation, it's all barely visible anymore.



Thanks to the information received, we were able to explain the purpose of certain elements that had caught our attention. Until now, our subjective perception of the site was

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<sup>1</sup> (source: Larousse encyclopedia, "au temps des moulins" by Claude CANIN and "la maison des moulins" by MARRAUD).

More aesthetically pleasing, each of the anecdotes recounted offered us a more vivid image of the place: At the beginning of the

19th century, the Puy mill developed a significant agricultural activity. The production of coarse bran supported a substantial livestock farming operation (poultry, cows, horses, pigs, rabbits, sheep, etc.).

Thus, the local population could come and obtain supplies of flour, but also of farm products: milk, bread, eggs, poultry...

The Faily family also owned an orchard and old hemp fields. "Every autumn, two cartloads of apples were harvested, just for the orchard located on the site of the mill!", Michel Faily tells us.

## 1.2. Extract from the journal of Chamberaud's friends

"Once upon a time, there were three small mills nestled together in a small valley at the foot of a pond..."

The first one in relation to the current was an oil mill. The oldest ones still remembered until recently "Father Saja" with his long white beard and his "smock" stiffened by many oil harvests.

Of this mill, where nuts were mainly processed, the receiving stone of the oil press still remains.

The second was a cloth-beating mill. The feed chute that provided the motive power to operate the hammers that "calendered" the hemp cloth is still visible today.

Finally, the third one, which was a flour mill.

These three mills formed the current site of the Puy de Chamberaud mill...

The mill was bought around 1860 by a man named CLEDIERE.

At that time, it only had a single pair of millstones with the bolting machine located below.

Cledière had three children, two boys: Sylvain and Jean, and a girl. Sylvain Cledière became the owner in 1877 and undertook significant modifications.



A specification dated June 23, 1878, drawn up on stamped paper between Sylvain Cledière, owner of the Puy de Chamberaud mill, and the LHOUMMEAU company, located on the road from Paris to Limoges, describes a two-ring waterwheel, which "will have the diameter that the fall allows," and a pair of millstones, the runner stone made of La Ferté stone and the fixed stone made of Domme stone. These millstones will be 1.55 meters in diameter and, with spokes, "will produce good merchandise, both in terms of whiteness and quality."

In 1881, to compensate for the lack of water due to the summer period, Sylvain Cledière added to his mill a 6-horsepower "Gérard system" steam-powered traction engine.

Here, then, is the mill equipped with a second motive power that will allow it to produce without interruption. Around 1898, Joseph Faily, son-in-law of Sylvain Cledière, took over the mill's management. In turn, he would make significant modifications.

He is most likely the one who will transform the mill as it currently exists. Around 1907, he replaced a pair of millstones with a grinder and a converter and enlarged the buildings so that the sifting would take place not below the level of the grinding, but above.

The mill will therefore consist, as it does today: a ground floor, a first floor, plus the attic where the bolting machine is located. Modernized, it is probably during this period that the mill will experience its most prosperous era, no longer content with grinding local wheat, but bringing in grain from the cereal plains, or even from abroad.

Joseph Faily will buy back the oil mill, demolish it, which will allow him to construction of the current path serving the mill.

It should be noted that the mill was the first house in Chamberaud to be lit by electricity.

Indeed, possessing the "water right", the miller was authorized by "EDF" to produce electricity for his personal use.

Let us remember that the commune of Chamberaud only experienced the "fairy of electricity" in 1934/1935.

It was 10 years later that the steam engine was replaced by an electric motor.

In 1940, two years before Joseph Faily's death, one of his sons, René Faily, took over the management of the mill while awaiting the return of his two brothers who were prisoners of war in Germany.

Upon their release in 1945, it was André and Lucien who took over the leadership.

Lucien died from an illness contracted in the German camps.

André then ran the mill alone until his retirement in 1973.

Since that time, the mill, which for decades had set the rhythm of village life in prosperous times as well as in the darkest, has fallen silent forever.

The oldest residents of the village remember when farmers delivered their grain to the mill, and the miller supplied the baker directly with the milled flour. Often, money didn't even change hands. Each party received payment in kind. During the Second World War, after the defeat of 1940 and the subsequent German occupation, the mill played a vital role in supplying flour to the rural population.

At night, with a sack of wheat on his shoulder, the peasant would carry his grain to the mill along the narrow paths of the Creuse region, bringing back the flour in the same way—the key to delicious loaves of brown bread baked in the family oven, supplementing the meager rations provided by the government. All of this required great care and trust, as the risks involved were considerable.

Here, then, is a summary, perhaps with some gaps, for which you will excuse the author, of the history of the Chamberaud mill, recently acquired with great foresight by our municipality.

It was indeed by a unanimous vote that the municipal council, following its mayor, decided that the mill would be municipal property.

He deserves thanks from all those for whom the word heritage is not an empty word.

No doubt that now there will be no shortage of goodwill to gradually revive this token of the past.

YES, one day we will see the wheel of OUR MILL turning.

*RENE MAGNAT.*



~The Failyly family in front of the mill

## INVENTORY OF PREMISES

### 2. A look at the buildings and the land parcels

#### 2.1. The mill

The mill is organized over three floors (see appendix pages 1 to 3). On the ground floor are the gears, powered by the rotation of the now-vanished waterwheel. There, the floorboards are completely eaten away by damp.

On the first floor, there is the pair of millstones used to grind the grain (the bedstone and the runner stone, protected by a wooden case). In the center of the room are the roller mills that replaced these millstones. These rollers are heavily oxidized, but the adjustment wheels can still be turned.

On the second floor are the hexagonal bolting machines. The cloths that form the Most of the sieves are torn.

The floor is in danger of collapsing, mainly due to leaks around the skylights.

A system of trapdoors and pulley ropes that allowed sacks of wheat and flour to be hoisted up is still in working order.

The window and door frames of the entire mill are in poor condition: broken panes, rotten wood... The swing-lock system for the windows should be preserved.

#### 2.2. The miller's house



The municipality renovated this house in 1995 to create a rental property (see appendices 6 and 7). The ground floor comprises a kitchen, a living room, a bedroom, and a bathroom. The attic has been converted into a bedroom. It will be possible to create two more bedrooms.

The repointing of the facade does not correspond to a traditional restoration. However, the overall condition of the house, walls, and roof is satisfactory. During the renovation, the chimney flues were sealed off.

The bread oven and its bakehouse are in rather good condition (see appendix 12).

### 2.3. The barn



This building is built on a sloping site. The former stables and barns open onto a terrace overlooking the courtyard. The gates are no longer there. The lower part of the barn is currently used as a storage area and workshop.



The floor is uneven, the framework appears sound (see appendix 15).

### 2.4. The discount



The ground floor door was completely encased in concrete to convert the shed into a garage. Inside, a stone staircase leads down to a cellar. A wooden staircase leads to the upper floor, where the floorboards are badly rotten.

The roof covering made of mechanical tiles is in good condition. All the doors and windows no longer have frames (see appendices 13, 14).

### 2.5. The House of Rocks



This typical Creuse house consists of a living area with its adjoining barn and a small attached sheepfold.

The chamfered lintels and openwork shutters give a certain charm. The building has a certain charm.

The front door opens into the kitchen, the main room of the house, with its fireplace. A simple partition separates it from a small room lit by a single window.



In the kitchen, a staircase leads to the two upstairs rooms. There, the floors are in poor condition, but the walls are sound.

Outside, a staircase overgrown with brambles leads down to a vaulted cellar, dug beneath the barn (see appendices 21, 22). The corrugated iron roof of the sheepfold was torn off by the storm of December 1999.

### 2.6. The Marquise



Its name comes from the shape of its frame, which makes it an open building. Partially surrounded by brambles, it serves as a warehouse. Its wooden cladding distinguishes it from other buildings.

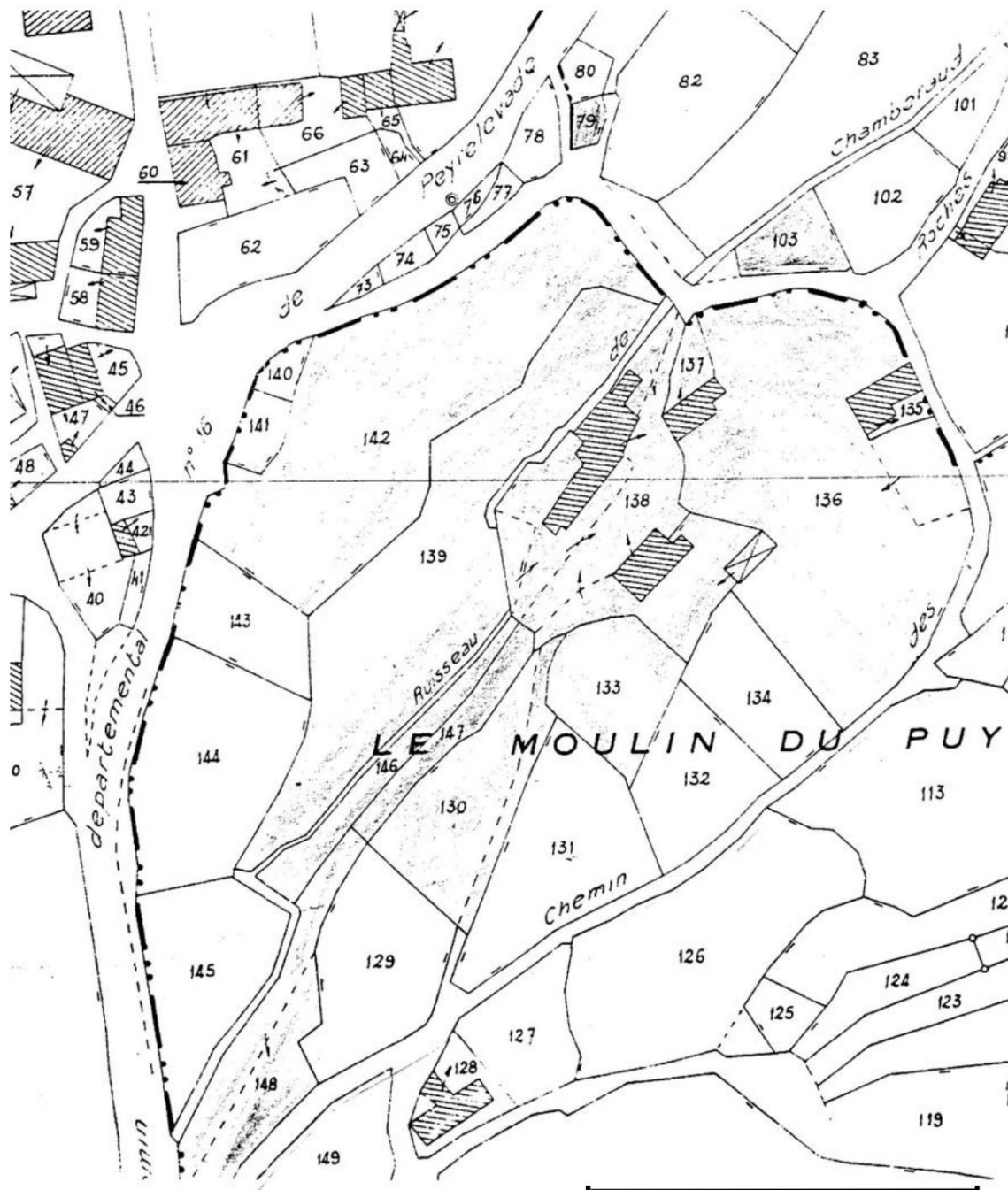
## 2.7. The fishery

Located at the entrance to the site, the plot is occupied by the pond's spillway, a concrete wash house and a small house. Its floor is made of packed earth.

This fisherman's hut is crossed by a trickle of water coming from the stream.

A fireplace occupies the back wall. The attic has no access (see appendix 20).

## 2.8. The land parcels



Scale: 50 meters

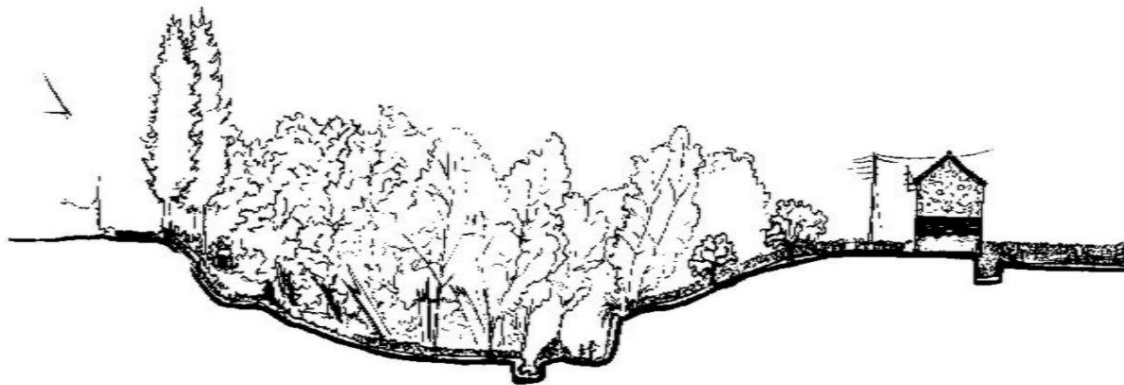
The plots located upstream from the site (nos. 250, 129, 131, 132 and 134) are not maintained. They are covered with spontaneous woodland. This coppice is of no particular interest. The plots are separated by dry stone walls, lined with hazel and holly hedges, which have not been maintained for many years.

Plots 130, 133, 136, and 137 are meadows regularly maintained by the municipality (mechanical mowing). In the hollow of the valley, plot 139, where the stream flows, is particularly damp. This plot is mowed in the summer, but the purple moor grass tussocks are left in place.

On the other side of the slope, the largest plot (no. 142) is mowed frequently. There are a few old, poorly maintained fruit trees there. Furthermore, a high-voltage power line crosses the valley, its visual impact being quite unsightly. At road level, waste is dumped and falls down onto plots 75, 76, and 77.

A former terraced garden occupies plots 140 and 141. Plot 140 is completely overgrown. Plots 144 and 145, which are meadows, are crossed by a power line. The concrete poles also have a significant visual impact.

Plots no. 82 and 83 (which do not belong to the municipality) have been devastated by the storm of December 1999.



~Cross-section of the valley (wood damaged by the storm)

## INTENTION DIAGRAM

Our thinking on the enhancement of the site was initially based on the cross-sector exchange of information with local tourist accommodation structures. The association of "Friends of the Masgot stone", "Pays'âne" (hiking with a donkey), "Galop Nature" (horse riding), the Vallaeys pony club and children's gîte (thirty beds) and many other local stakeholders we met expressed their interest in developing a reception area specifically for their activities.

Indeed, it seemed essential to us to be able to network with them. Thus, around its mill, Chamberaud will become a new center of activity. Clearly, our proposals must be integrated into a comprehensive heritage enhancement policy.

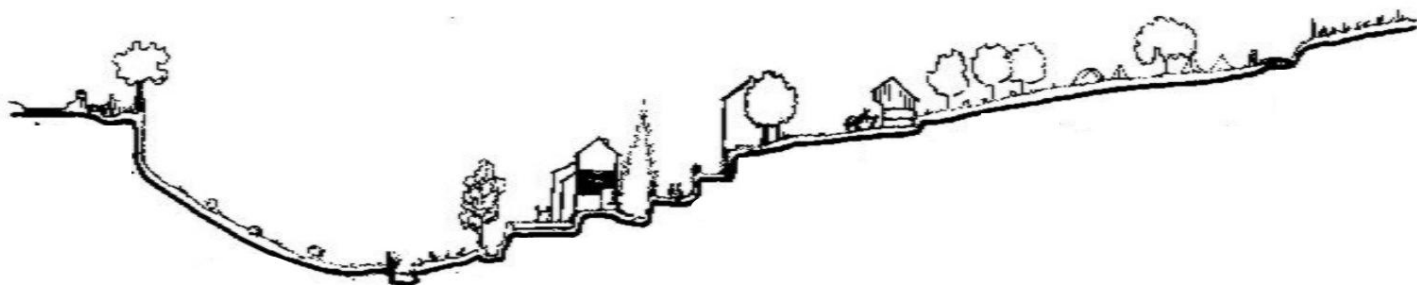
**Our aim will therefore be to preserve the human dimension of the place, while opening up possibilities for more contemporary uses. Furthermore, our objective is to reaffirm the charm of the place, in its simplicity and harmony.**

Finally, our aim is to offer walkers, hikers, and passing tourists this microcosm in all its aspects: plant, animal, mineral, but also human, bearing meaning in its past and present uses (a space for relaxation, leisure, and discovery). Through this contact between people and nature, we have sought to foster a unique, almost intimate relationship (through the green spaces). Our hope is that the Chamberaud mill site can be one of those places where people come to learn about rural life and its heritage. Certainly not sanctified or "scientized," but rich in soothing, unfamiliar, or forgotten sensations.

The Moulin du Puy estate will therefore offer a unique perspective on history during its lifetime. In this green setting, a path will trace a five-part journey: each part will contribute to the discovery of the site.

## DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

### 3. A tour of the site (see map)



~Valley Cross-Section

The development of our project involves formulating proposals for its layout. These proposals concern the use of the buildings, the outdoor spaces, and the organization of the site's essential components. The five defined phases of approach—arrival, the barn, the mill, the orchard, and the valley—will be structured around key elements (plants, water, stone, and animals).

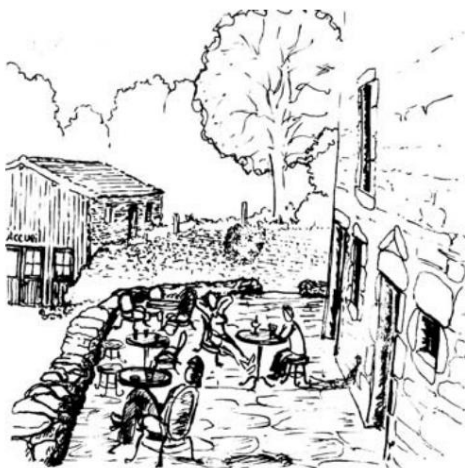
#### 3.1. Arrival time



Arriving on foot via the path leading to the mill, the fishpond marks the entrance to the site. It serves as a focal point and evokes the unique atmosphere that once surrounded this area (pond fishing). As visitors stroll through the site, they can discover the history of this small fisherman's cottage (museum, walking guide). On the other side of the path, a chestnut grove reinforces the regional identity of the area.

If arriving by car, a shaded and stabilized area will be provided for parking around thirty vehicles. This area will be bordered by vegetation and low walls, guiding visitors towards the courtyard at the heart of the site.

### 3.2. Barn Time



Walkers and hikers will be invited to make a first stop here.

On the ground floor of the barn, the café will open onto a small terrace overlooking the courtyard.

The proximity of the parking lot will be important for the smooth operation of this business. To ensure the café can comfortably welcome its customers, the layout must maintain the friendly atmosphere of this rural café.

Outside, an old granite staircase leads to the upper floor of the barn. Here, during the summer months, temporary exhibitions will be offered to visitors.

The animation and renewal of the programs will contribute to the site's dynamism. It seems essential to maintain a connection between the theme explored within the exhibition space and the site itself. This cultural space will offer a play of references (interior/exterior) that will allow those unfamiliar with the place to better grasp its spirit.

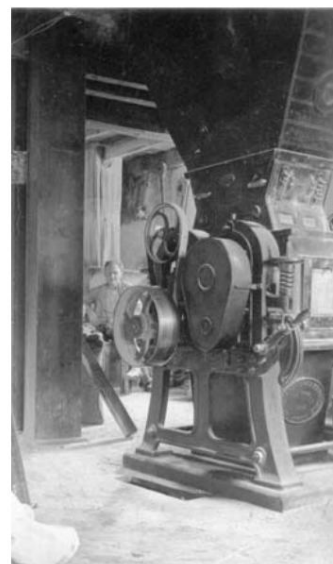
### 3.3. The Mill's Time

Attempting to revive the mill's economic activity would be unrealistic. The mill restoration project will therefore focus on developing the museum potential of this space, based on the concept of a "mill of stories." To give this place new meaning, researching elements deeply rooted in its history will be essential.

If the visitor comes specifically to discover the workings of the mechanisms (in a certain authenticity), a more contemporary scenography will also offer them a very special encounter with the characters who have marked the history of this mill.

This shared heritage will allow us to uncover the threads that connect this past to our present. The scenography will then transform the mill into a kind of "memory laboratory" at the heart of the site. The numerous legends associated with milling<sup>1</sup>

, The wealth of testimonies and the precision of the memories of people who lived in these places is formidable; it deserves to be at the heart of this project and will offer the visitor an atmosphere where all of their senses will be awakened.



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<sup>1</sup> The library of the federation of friends of mills allowed us to gather a number of literary references concerning the life of mills (tales, legends, songs, sayings, etc.); see appendix and research file.

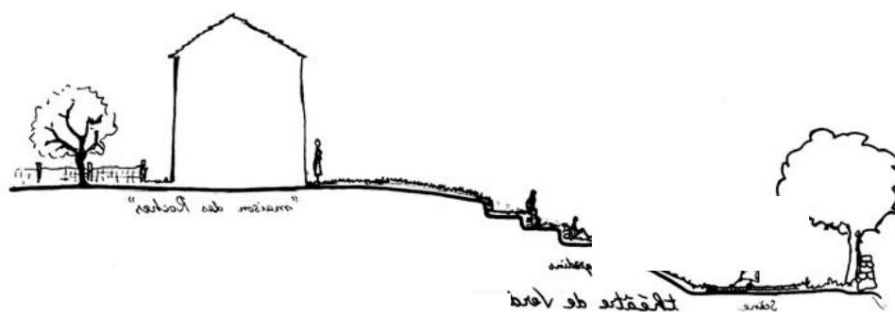
### 3.4. Orchard Time

Here, a special moment of discovery awaits. The approach will be cultural, educational, and delicious. Fruit trees from various regions will flourish here. The orchard, with its plums, eating and cider apples, and walnuts, will be an excellent resource for educational activities and events. The fruit production will allow us to offer local cuisine to be enjoyed on-site (apple juice, tarts, walnut oil, etc.). It will also provide a few additional recipes for the café.

This time can also be devoted to relaxation and rest: a few elongated granite blocks will provide a place to sit for a moment. This shaded area will contribute fully to the landscape quality of the site.

A campsite could very quickly be set up upstream from the orchard. Slightly set apart, you can enjoy the shade of the trees in summer and the proximity of the restrooms. On the other side of the road, another orchard extends the walking path. But if you follow the curve of the valley, the extension of the traditional orchard leads to a small open-air theater.

This performance space will be used for themed events (storytelling evenings, plays, etc.). The green surroundings and the proximity of the buildings will allow the site to be integrated into the stage performance.



-Cut of the open-air theatre

### 3.5. The time of the valley

This is where the essential characteristics of the site are expressed. The existing landscape identity already formulates a strong image of this place.

The aim will therefore be to highlight its natural features, such as the slope of the valley, the patterns of the stream, the vegetation, and the wet meadow. The stream's wetland is currently the home of the neighbor's geese.

They come here every day, as if to guard the place. It would seem inconceivable to drive them away from this spot under the pretext of a potential danger to walkers. That's why it will be necessary to build an enclosure around their territory. In this way, these charming guardians can coexist peacefully with visitors.



An enrichment of the flora scattered randomly across the plot will underline the spirit of freedom adopted by the braids of the watercourse.

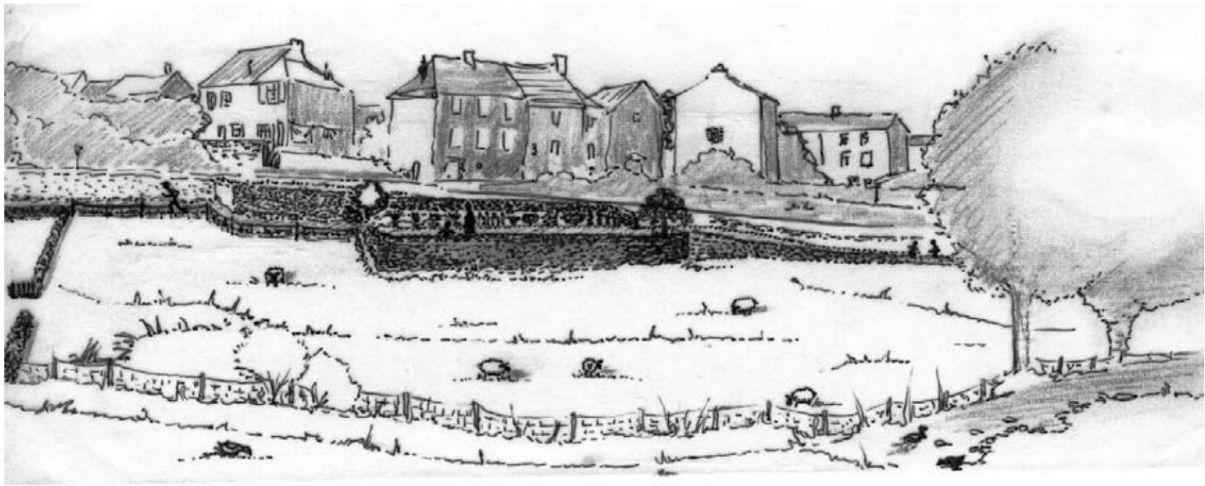
Near the "Sagne", a willow plantation will be established. During "workshop days", educational activities will be offered, focusing on projects using willow (plant huts, basketry, etc.).

Some more ornamental shrub species will bring varied foliage and staggered flowering: bicolored elderberry, purple hazel and butterfly trees (whose purple inflorescences attract these graceful insects).

Some aromatic plants such as mint, lemongrass, thyme, lemon balm, calendula, could be grown for herbal teas, at the site of the current "landfill".

Extending from the existing path, bordered by a low stone wall, the vegetable garden will be crossed by the walkway. This will allow visitors to continue their journey more pleasantly than by road.

Other more cultural motifs will have an important visual impact when discovering the valley: the reinstalled mill wheel will be the focal point of the site; the millrace and the low walls will provide the essential lines of this "micro landscape".



~View of the valley

(in the foreground, geese in their enclosure, then sheep, and in the background, the herb garden in front of the village of Le Puy)

## WORK PHASING

The planned development work is organized around two main areas: building rehabilitation and landscaping. It seems essential that the work be completed before the site is opened and promoted. Premature public access could damage its image.

### 4. Building rehabilitation

The first phase of the work must concern the restoration of the buildings in depending on their new assignments.

#### 4.1. The House of Rocks



The Chamberaud town hall has already commissioned a feasibility study for the rental development of this building. Initially rented to private individuals, the house will subsequently be integrated into the project as the main residence of the site managers (see appendix 23).

Ms. Maisonneuve, project manager for "housing and living environment" at CIATE, has developed proposals for improvements to this house. Its capacity has been estimated at four people. A technical feasibility study has been conducted for this dwelling.



Some architectural details seem important features to note in order to preserve the charm of this building: - small pane windows, - openwork shutters with a star, - enclosed private garden, south side (formerly bordered with plum trees).



A preliminary estimate has been put in place for the cost of the work. This includes sanitation, masonry, roofing, carpentry, plastering, plumbing, electricity, heating and wall coverings.

The total cost of this rehabilitation amounts to 409,445.50 francs including VAT. The total projected aid amounts to 298,889.10 francs in the best-case scenario (see appendices 26 to 30).

#### 4.2. The Talking Mill

It was at the "Friends of Mills Federation" that we were able to find a wide range of information relating to mill restoration. We then contacted various professionals to assess the work.

The operations will be organized in three phases:  
First, the restoration of the building is planned; then that of the mechanisms, then a significant amount of work to bring it up to standard and to create a museum layout for welcoming visitors.

##### *The building:*

Guy Maumot (Technical Director of CETEC, Building Engineering; Limoges) helped us define the urgent work to be carried out:

- Making the mill watertight (roof repairs)
- Sanitation and insulation of the ground floor
- The strength test of materials (beams, joists, stairs, etc.)
- Treating the timber frame against woodworm (avoid xylophene, which is toxic)
- Complete floor renovation - Replacement of window and door frames (for the windows, it would be worthwhile to (retain the rocker-lock system)
- The restoration of the interior plasterwork.

As part of a work integration program with COORACE (Coordination of Organizations Assisting the Unemployed through Employment), most of this work could be undertaken by the municipality at a lower cost. Such a partnership would add a social dimension to the project.

##### *The mechanisms:*

Restoring the mechanisms seems essential to fully satisfy visitors. Meeting with André Croix, a carpenter and moulder, allowed us to define the steps involved in restoring the mechanisms and to assess the overall cost.

The work to be carried out will be: -  
restoration of the waterwheel - redressing of the millstones - dismantling of the gears  
and checking of all the teeth (replacement of defective teeth)

- Mechanical restoration of the flour mill (re-grooving of the cylinders) - Restoration of the bolting machine (stainless steel silk) - Repair of the wooden conduits and bucket chains - Restoration of the belts.

The total cost of this work has been estimated at 415,000 francs. This estimate was made assuming that a training site would accompany the craftsman for certain tasks. Choosing this recognized craftsman in this specialized field would guarantee the long-term viability of the work. Mr. Croix would also provide long-term operational support; this is included in the initial cost estimate.

### *Museography:*

The idea of designing a museum around the life of the mill without putting it back into operation. The mechanisms could potentially betray the image of the site.

The museography in this space remains a delicate undertaking. It involves technically reconciling the production of flour, for demonstrative purposes (for educational activities), and the staging of the stories that will tell us about the life of the site.

However, disengaging the grinding wheels and cylinders allows the mechanisms to run without load during museum visits. The design of this project should be entrusted to a museum professional.

Recording the stories of people who can still bear witness to the life that once animated this mill seems a priority. This work could be undertaken by the PEP, thanks to Anne-Marie Amoros of "Radio-France Creuse".

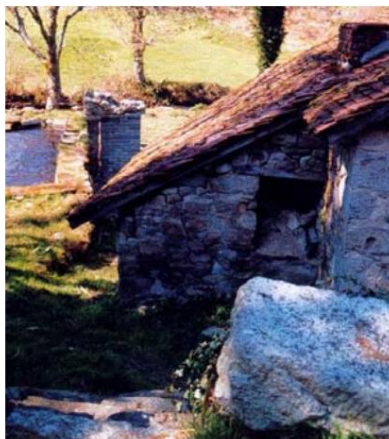
Safety standards relating to public attendance will represent certain technical constraints that will need to be integrated into the scenography of the "talking mill".

### 4.3. The miller's house

Despite the building's recent renovation (1995), further work will be required to convert it into a gîte (see appendices 9 and 10). This accommodation will have a capacity of 14 people (including the room located above the shed).

- On the ground floor, the bedroom will be converted into a bathroom and a laundry/changing room (necessary for hosting groups). Sleeping accommodations will be spread over two floors, in five bedrooms for two people each.
- The work upstairs concerns, on the one hand, the sanitary facilities (removal of the bathtub, installation of two independent showers), and on the other hand, the installation of a partition separating the bedroom from the stairwell.
- On the second floor, the creation of two additional bedrooms in the attic will require insulation and the installation of two skylights (courtyard side, so as not to change the appearance of this building on the valley side).

### 4.4. The bakery

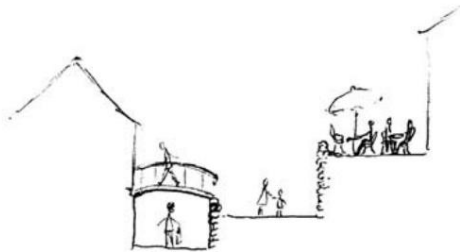


~The bread oven

The bread oven area is in good condition (sun floor, roof, vault).

However, its use for educational activities requires modifications to the bakehouse area. The earthen floor will need to be replaced with terracotta tiles. The equipment in this relatively small room should be simple (kneading trough, kneading table, sink). Clearing the rubble above the bread oven area will allow for the storage of firewood.

However, the area above the bakehouse offers sufficient space (18 m<sup>3</sup>) for converting it into a separate bedroom with a shower and sink. It will accommodate one person. A walkway will be required for access.



| Cross-section of the footbridge

Sketch of the layout



#### 4.5. The discount



This building will have several functions:

- The ground floor will be used for "an office space", where visitor reception and site management will be handled.
- The concrete facade, opening onto the courtyard, will be clad in chestnut wood. The shutters of the entire building will be identical to those existing on the ground floor (openwork with a star pattern like at the Maison des Roches).

Upstairs, the 40 m<sup>2</sup> space will allow for the installation (courtyard side) of a sanitary block intended primarily for the campsite. The remaining space will be used for a stopover gîte (spare room for 4 people). A window overlooking the open-air theatre will allow for a variety of performance opportunities.

#### 4.6. The barn

On the ground floor of the barn, the café will occupy the largest part (36 m<sup>2</sup>). The other part (24 m<sup>2</sup>) will be used for the kitchen and storage (see appendix 16).

The terrace will be able to accommodate about ten bistro tables.

The stone paving of the old stable will be restored to preserve its character authentic to the place.

Upstairs, the exhibition space (or activity room) will cover 60 square meters. To preserve the barn's character, it seems necessary to retain its full volume and exposed beams (which will need to be treated against woodworm). The existing floor cannot be kept as is. Installing rustic tiles will be more aesthetically pleasing and easier to maintain.

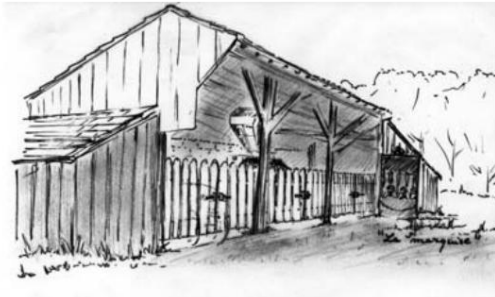
This project could be undertaken in collaboration with "Maison Paysanne de France". The municipality would then only need to provide the materials, as the association would contribute professional expertise and labor.

Exhibition setup involves the installation of picture rails (wall hanging system) and directional lighting.

Installing a fixed projection screen in this space is an interesting tool for educational activities (slide shows, conferences, etc.).

An outdoor tap in the corner of the barn will be needed, for certain activities and to water the animals in the fields.

#### 4.7. The Marquise



This storage space for municipal equipment will also serve as a workshop. The presence of tools, a lawnmower, and oil cans necessitates the enclosure of this shed for safety reasons. Wooden doors will need to be installed.

The adjoining lean-to will be equipped with saddle racks, shelves and bridle racks to accommodate equestrian equipment.

Near the enclosures, bars fixed one meter from the ground will allow horses and donkeys to be tied up for harnessing.

## 5. Exterior amenities

### 5.1. The mill's feed shovel

In the past, during periods of low water, the mill was supplied with water using a shovel. This allowed water to be pumped through a conduit in the pond's dam. Mr. Foiret, president of the "Ahun Water Syndicate," has informed us of an agreement in principle for the restoration of this water supply system.

The technical implementation of this project will require consultation with Ms. Vidali, hydrogeologist at the Departmental Directorate of Agriculture and Forestry. Prior to this, the volume of water needed to power the mill wheel must be estimated. In the event of water restrictions, the supply of drinking water to households will remain the priority.

### 5.2. The millrace

It will be necessary to restore the millrace's watertightness so that it can be refilled in case of a water shortage. The basin is indeed important from a tourism and landscape perspective.

### 5.3. The small hemp field

This paddock, intended for horses and donkeys, will be fenced (electric fence). On the side facing the access road to the parking area, the fence will be protected by a dry stone wall. A wooden shelter (6m<sup>2</sup>) will be located at the far end of the paddock.

### 5.4. The Puy Enclosure

This plot of land will be completely cleared. All the retaining walls will be restored. Also intended for donkeys and horses, the two parks set up in this space will be equipped with fences and a wooden shelter.

### 5.5. The orchard

The existing trees will need maintenance, the mistletoe removed, and the dead wood pruned. A dozen apple trees will be planted behind the Marquise. A row of plum trees will mark the boundary of the rock garden. Walnut trees will be planted below.

A few elongated granite blocks will allow you to sit in the shade of the apple trees.

### 5.6. The open-air theatre

Four low stone walls will be built to form tiered seating. The stage will be defined by leveling the ground (a compacted surface gradually recolonized by grass).

### 5.7. The goose enclosure

A honeycomb wire mesh will be used to contain the geese in the Sagne (1 meter high). The willow grove will be planted upstream of the Sagne (about a dozen plants).



### 5.8. The sheep meadow

This meadow covers the entire southern slope of the valley. It will be enclosed by ursus wire mesh.

### 5.9. The old wash house

Dredging will be necessary as the wash house is currently filled with sand (deposits left behind) (via the stream). It will also be necessary to reinforce its banks and reposition the stones to be washed.

### 5.10. The mill fountain

Clearing access to this fountain will be a priority in order to showcase it. It will also need to be cleaned out. The installation of a granite bench (a simple monolithic block) will invite people to linger in this peaceful spot.

### 5.11. Below the road

An illegal dump has covered the slope. Rehabilitation through the removal of the waste is urgent. Raising awareness among the landowner is necessary to prevent this nuisance from recurring. Aromatic plants will be planted at the bottom of this area, on top of the low wall.



### 5.12. The vegetable garden

This area will need to be cleared, treated, and plowed. A passage of approximately one meter hole will be drilled in the back wall for the passage of the path.

### 5.13. The path

Below the road, this path will connect the vegetable garden to the fishpond. The slope of the land will require some minor earthworks to mark the path's route. The path's surface will be covered with a stabilized surface (tufa). Downstream from the pond's spillway, a few flat stones will allow passage across the wetland area.

A slightly curved wooden footbridge will span the Chamberaud stream.

A few stone steps will lead up into the chestnut grove.

### 5.14. Power lines

The visual impact of these concrete posts represents a considerable nuisance for the Site enhancement. Burying these cables would be ideal for landscaping.

### 5.15. The chestnut grove

Planting four chestnut trees will create a distinctive landscape. The entire area of overgrown land will need to be cleared manually. The sloping terrain will require leveling and earthmoving to create the path.

### 5.16. The parking lot

The parking area will be included within the site and delimited by a dry stone wall, so that vehicles do not disperse.

From the parking area, a small path leading to the heart of the site allows visitors to avoid walking along the road. Several types of vehicles, with different requirements, must be taken into account: - motorcycles, - cars, - motorhomes, - coaches.

One way to select them is to limit the height of the entrance (portico, pergola). This would then require providing a more suitable parking area for larger vehicles, allowing them to visit the site (slightly set back from the road).

#### *Coating:*

Here, we are prioritizing the landscaping aspects. Therefore, we have opted for a stabilized, stone-based surface. This surface will consist of layers of stones of varying sizes. The use of a local material will give the surface a natural color that blends into the environment.

These surfaces are of modest cost, but require maintenance of the layer superficial (potholes, ruts).

#### *Trash: Where*

possible, it is preferable to encourage the public to take their rubbish with them. We have provided only one container. It must be placed so that it is visible, but must not obstruct traffic.

#### *Plantings:*

Through its vegetation, the parking area will appear to be integrated into its environment (plantings of local species).

As the plants mature, their size should be staggered (a mix of trees, shrubs, and bushes) to ensure harmony. We have chosen an assortment of chestnut trees, crab apple trees, hazelnut trees, rowan trees, and spindle trees. It is best to plant them irregularly, either in groups or in groves.

### 5.17. The picnic area

Below the parking lot, granite slabs will be placed to provide seating and picnic areas. This type of installation has also been chosen for the hiking trails.

### 5.18. Stone structures

Some dry-stone walls will need to be restored, others will be built (see the plan of intent). The ruins of Couderc will provide the materials needed for this work. The granite steps leading up to the terrace of the future café and providing access to the Marquise will be realigned. The paving in the mill courtyard will be uncovered and restored (it is currently covered with a layer of gray stabilized gravel).

## OPERATING DIAGRAM

### 6. Important issues

#### 6.1. How the site works

Managing the venue will require the investment of two people, constantly present on the site.

*These will be responsible for:*

- Museum surveillance, - welcoming and informing visitors, - maintaining all buildings (cleaning, repairs...), - running the café (service, orders, maintenance...), - landscaping (vegetable garden, orchard...), - welcoming guests to the gîte, preparing breakfasts, - accounting (gîte, museum, café), - educational activities,
- promoting the site, customer follow-up and reservations.

A "Friends of the Chamberaud Mill" association will help mobilize everyone's efforts. Its members will be able to assist with the mill's operation during peak periods. Furthermore, the association will be able to organize events, such as those for Heritage Day. Its role in communicating with the local community will also be valuable.

#### 6.2. Herd Management

An agreement will be established with a sheep farmer to graze his sheep in the valley, as long as the quality of the pastures remains sufficient. He will be responsible for the care of his animals. Hay and pellets must be provided for the hikers' horses and donkeys (storage will be provided in the old henhouse).

#### 6.3. Communication

To ensure the viability of this development, it is necessary to enhance the site's reputation and image.

At the departmental and regional tourism level, the site will be included in their information network (guides, itineraries, website, etc.). It also seems essential to inform teachers about the educational programs that will be designed for them.

To communicate within the local area, it will be necessary to use widely distributed media (local radio and newspapers). At the municipal level, it seems very beneficial to regularly publish articles about the project and the progress of the work. A "Friends of the Mill" association could be perfectly responsible for this. This local information seems essential to raise awareness among residents about their heritage. Moreover, being at the heart of local life, they are generally excellent "distribution partners."

Within the site itself, the information point will allow for welcoming communication for visitors.

Here you will find a leaflet describing the site. This leaflet will serve as both proof of the site's existence and a souvenir for the visitor. It will act as a guide throughout the exploration, offering both a sensory and educational approach.

Inside the visitor center, you will find brochures, leaflets, and posters showcasing local attractions. This will allow Chamberaud to be included in the local, regional, and other tourist network.

Therefore, to make this heritage appreciated, it is essential to raise awareness of it. A significant communication effort will thus be necessary.

However, make no mistake: all of this comes at a cost. Communication is a constantly evolving science and a field in which one cannot simply become an expert overnight. The graphic charter and visual identity must be established by professionals.

A budget should be allocated for communication, because it is too often neglected, yet it is a key factor in the success of projects.

#### 6.4. Signage and information

The Departmental Directorate of Equipment (DDE) will be responsible for road signage. Signposting will also be provided on hiking trails.

The parking access signage will be clearly displayed. It will comply with the principles (style) of the graphic charter established for the communication of the site.

#### 6.5. Target audiences

The site will be able to attract a wide audience. Tourists will come here, but also hikers, horse riders, people with donkeys, elderly people, schoolchildren, and also the regular fishermen of the Chamberaud pond.

Groups of up to 14 people can come for overnight stays in the cottage. A campsite is planned for overnight stops. It will be open to hiking groups, youth camps, etc.

Educational activities for schoolchildren can be organised with the teachers, on the themes offered by the mill's website...

## HIKING: FACTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Understanding the importance of the "hiking phenomenon" is essential because it allows us to justify to public authorities the need to consider hiking as a factor in the economic development of a territory.

This knowledge also helps to identify the value of certain projects. However, it remains incomplete due to the wide variety of activities encompassed by the term " *hiking*." Nevertheless, some figures<sup>1</sup> resulting from recent studies can be presented:

- Three out of four French people practice "nature sports", with hiking: 66% of French people (30 million) comes out on top by a wide margin, followed by mountain biking: 28% of French people (13 million).

- Hikers have an average annual practice time of 20 days, but among these approximately 30 million, "four segments of practitioners" can be distinguished:

- walkers 47% 14.5 million At most half a day every two months.

- assets 39% 12.1 million Two hours per week, one day every two months.

- Intensive 12% 3.7 million One day per month or more. - Itinerant 2% 0.6 million Several days in a row (long hike).

- 75% of hikers use marked trails. - 22% only hike near their homes and 19% only during tourist stays, but most (58%) hike both at home and on vacation.

Hiking can be the means or the pretext for exploring an environment, monuments, people... It can be a leisure activity or a sporting pursuit. Whether on foot, horseback, or bicycle, relaxation and discovery are always at the end of the trail.

The Puy mill should serve as a starting point, offering numerous route options. It therefore seems important to prioritize the development of three types of trails: a direct *link* to the village of Masgot, a themed *walk* around the mill, and a discovery *walk* through the commune of Chamberaud.

Hiking will help diversify the range of activities offered on the mill site, for the most enriching stay or visit possible.

It also seems essential to us to insert the mill into a network of attractive sites (Moutier d'Ahun, Masgot, Busseau sur Creuse, Aubusson...) while developing local partnerships and solidarity.

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<sup>1</sup> FFRP and DATAR, 1999. *49 fact sheets for the development of hiking in countries.*

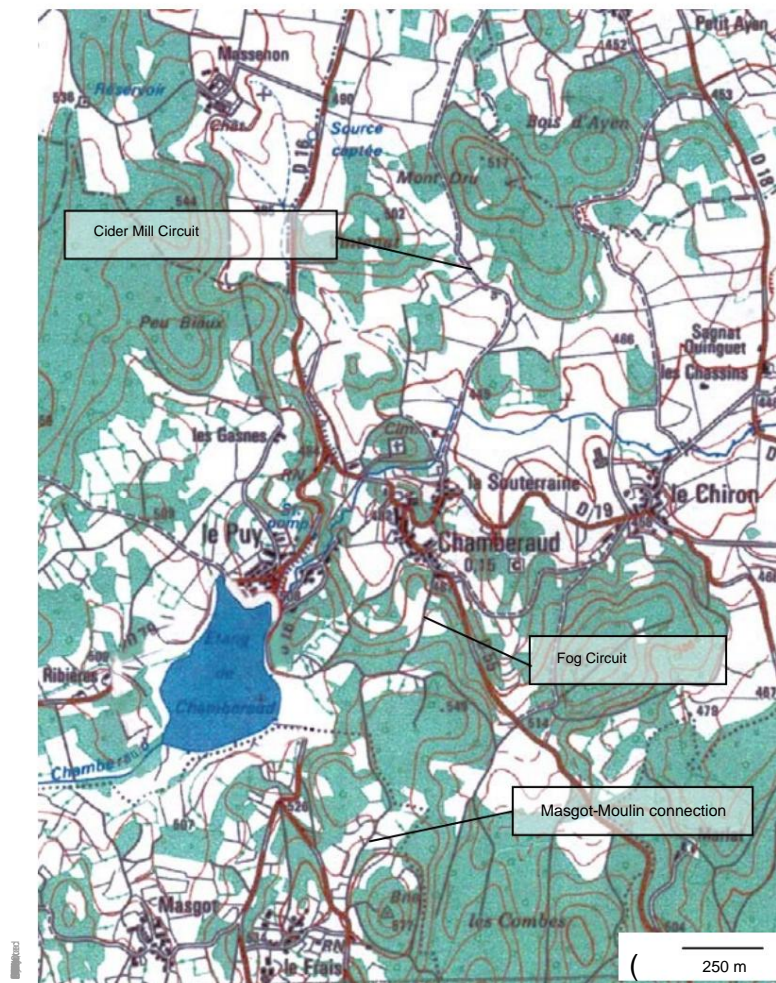
These routes will need to be integrated into the future network around Fransèches and Chamberaud. This project to link the two towns in terms of *hiking* opportunities is overseen by Creuse Randonnée (see appendix pages 35, 36) in collaboration with the mayors of the two towns, Mr. Roudier, mayor of Chamberaud, and Mr. Delprato, mayor of Fransèches.

The first three trails are treated in the same way, meeting the landscape and technical requirements of the request. The presentation will therefore be structured as follows: purpose of the circuit, inventory of the heritage addressed, recommendations for the development of this heritage, and finally, recommendations for the development of the trail heritage.

A second phase will consist of discussing the prospects of networking through hiking and the creation of tourism products based on the Puy mill site.

### Presentation of the Circuits Studied

Map #1



## A MASGOT – PUY MILL CONNECTION

### 1. Purpose of the circuit

The proximity of the village of Masgot (approximately 1.5 km by road) where the imprint of François Michaud is preserved is a tremendous asset for Chamberaud.

The development of the Puy mill is justified by the increasing number of visitors to one of the leading tourist destinations in the Creuse region. Indeed, 22,000 people visited Masgot during the summer of 1998.

Currently, only the road and a small, unmarked path connect the two municipalities.

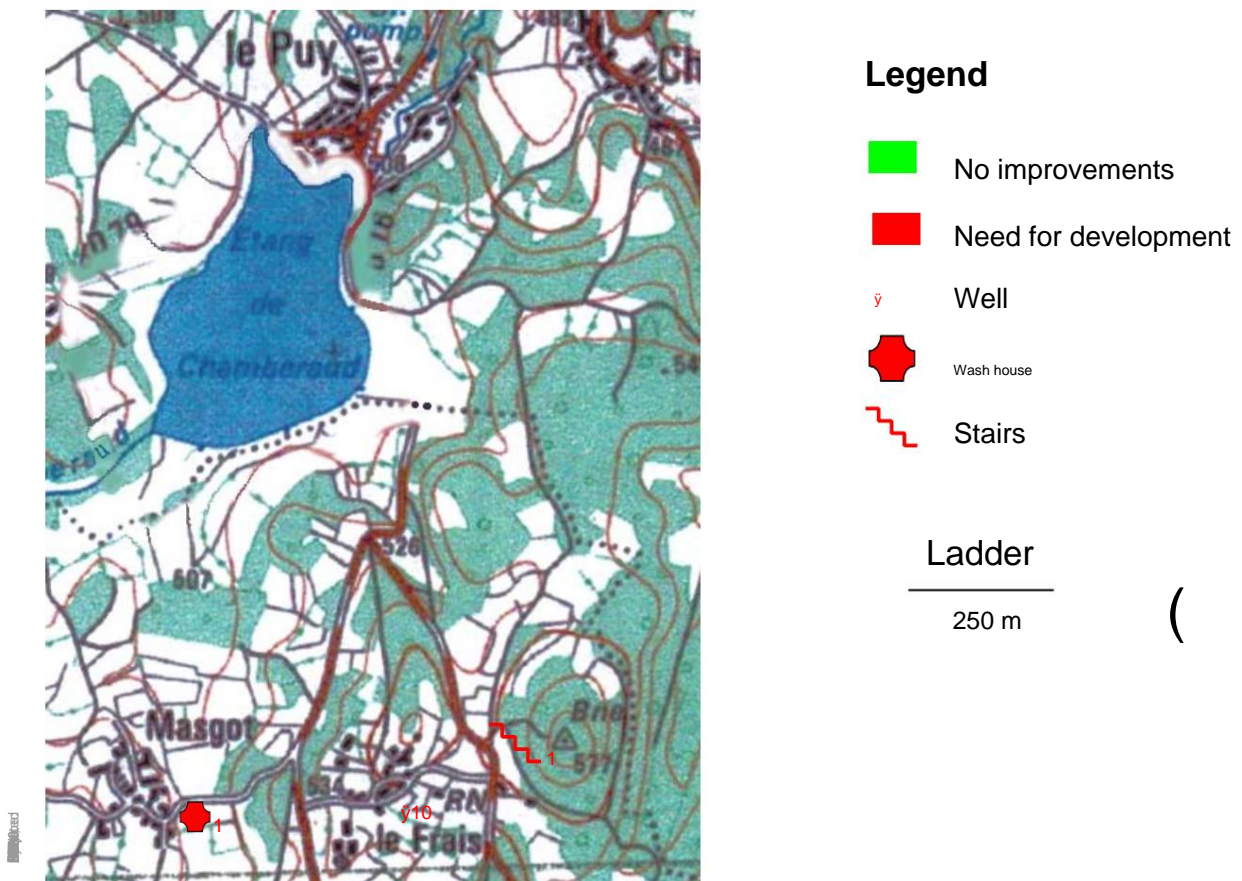
The proposed connecting route, as follows, will allow summer visitors to reach the mill via a path in less than half an hour.

The activities offered at the mill, along with the refreshment options, will complement the existing tourism potential. Masgot's growing tourism appeal will support the mill site. In return, the mill will provide accommodation for travelers staying for a few days thanks to its guesthouse.

In both cases, the connecting route is accessible to all audiences.

### 2. Inventory and management of heritage

Masgot - Moulin connection - Map n°2



We believe it is useful to address these two phases simultaneously for reasons of consistency in terms of presentation and ease of reading.

The proposed improvements to the heritage site aim to restore its original appearance, as it was during its time of use. The structure must retain its authenticity as much as possible.

- Wash house

1 At the exit of Masgot, a wash house is located on our right below the road. It forms a widening of the stream. When flowing, it is likely to dry up in summer. Rectangular in shape, it consists of four washing stones inclined on one side (the other side serving as a watering trough).

The architectural peculiarity of this building is its base covered with a granite pavement measuring approximately 2 meters by 3 meters (dimensions of the wash house).

A flat stone placed against the fence provides a place to sit.

ÿ **Layout:** Although in

excellent condition it will require better presentation: - The 4 washing stones should be highlighted by cleaning their edges.

- The paved base must be cleared of the alluvium carried by the river.

- Well 1 It is

covered by a monolithic block with two slopes, flared towards the rear resembling a roof. The wellhead is raised and curved inwards. A crank still allows the winch to be operated. The well can be closed by a screened door.

ÿ **Improvements:**

Regular mowing of the plot is recommended, and selective treatment of nettles at the base of the well can be considered. A chain could be reinstalled on the winch. Neighbors could then draw water to irrigate their gardens.

- Staircase 1 It

consists of six steps built into a wall. These facilitated access to the elevated plot.

ÿ **Development:** Only

regular monitoring is recommended. Trees growing above the wall could weaken the whole structure.

- Low walls

In the forest, fragile low walls are formed by layering small stones. Not mortared and assembled in a very simple way, they are more fragile than traditional dry stone walls. They must be preserved as they bear witness to a traditional skill.

- Chamberaud Pond

This pond allows fishing activities, but its primary purpose is to supply drinking water to 12 municipalities around Ahun. The banks are home to 4 plant species listed in the ZNIEFF inventory (see appendix on pages 41 and 42).

This short, heritage-focused route represents the link between stone and water. Reaching Chamberaud will also open up new avenues for exploration through hiking, around the mill, the water source, and the cider presses. A perfect way to round off a pleasant Sunday in the countryside.



~Arrival at the Puy mill

### 3. Trail development

Masgot - Moulin connection – Map n°3



Land consolidation has had an impact on the quality of the roads, notably with the disappearance of sunken roads, hence the need for maintenance and enhancement of the parts still preserved.

1- In the village of Frais, the small communal path begins after the ruin. The path could use some freshening up by pruning a few trees. With some stones having fallen, the low wall needs to be reinforced in a few places.

2 - The trees lining the path have sometimes caused damage to part of the retaining wall, either through storm damage or the growth of their root systems. The stones across the path should be used to rebuild the retaining walls, which have an average height of 1.30 m. The sound sections must be preserved.

3 - At this point, the sunken path was paved, but the earth is beginning to cover it. This feature of the path deserves to be restored along all or part of its surface.

This paving is made up of small and medium-sized stones, well arranged and very stable; after scraping the path, the original appearance could be restored.

4 - On the Sartauds path, known as the "log behind" path, another low wall has collapsed following the passage of game. The collapse is old; the stones on the ground are covered with moss and do not obstruct passage. A measurement indicates approximately 4 meters to be reconstructed.

For aesthetic reasons, one might consider rebuilding the low wall, but that's not a priority since it does not obstruct the passage of walkers.

5 - We can just make out the Chamberaud pond, behind a curtain of trees; the route could be enhanced here with a view of the body of water which is not perceptible when the trees have leaves.

The plan would consist of opening a window in the wooded area, which has already been thinned out following the storm.

6 - Further along this path, numerous trees have fallen across the road. Logging is essential here, as the trees are impassable and force a detour through the forest.

7 - There is a meadow to the right in the forest; the fence around the plot is accumulating the dead branches.

- To its right: For a neater appearance, the hawthorns should be kept short. The ferns crowning the low wall can be retained.

- On the left: the brambles that are smothering the honeysuckle need to be cleared.

8 - On the way back down to the pond, a section at the edge of the forest is starting to become overgrown with broom. This area needs to be cleared before the path becomes blocked.

This elevated vantage point offers a view of the pond nestled between meadows and fruit trees. A bench for walkers could be installed there. For the sake of integration, a granite block would be preferable to a wooden structure. More discreet, stone is in keeping with the character of the place.

9 - On the return to the road, before the mill, the route could be enhanced with a section along the pond. Currently, the path follows the road and can pose safety problems.

The banks would need to be leveled and widened. From the mill, this path would serve as an invitation to begin the route (another circuit will also use this passage).

**In any case, the Masgot-Moulin association could be offered to works councils, senior citizens' clubs, or school groups coming by bus for a day trip. A visit to the village of Masgot, a tour of the mill site and its milling facilities, followed by a short themed discovery trail would be possible.**

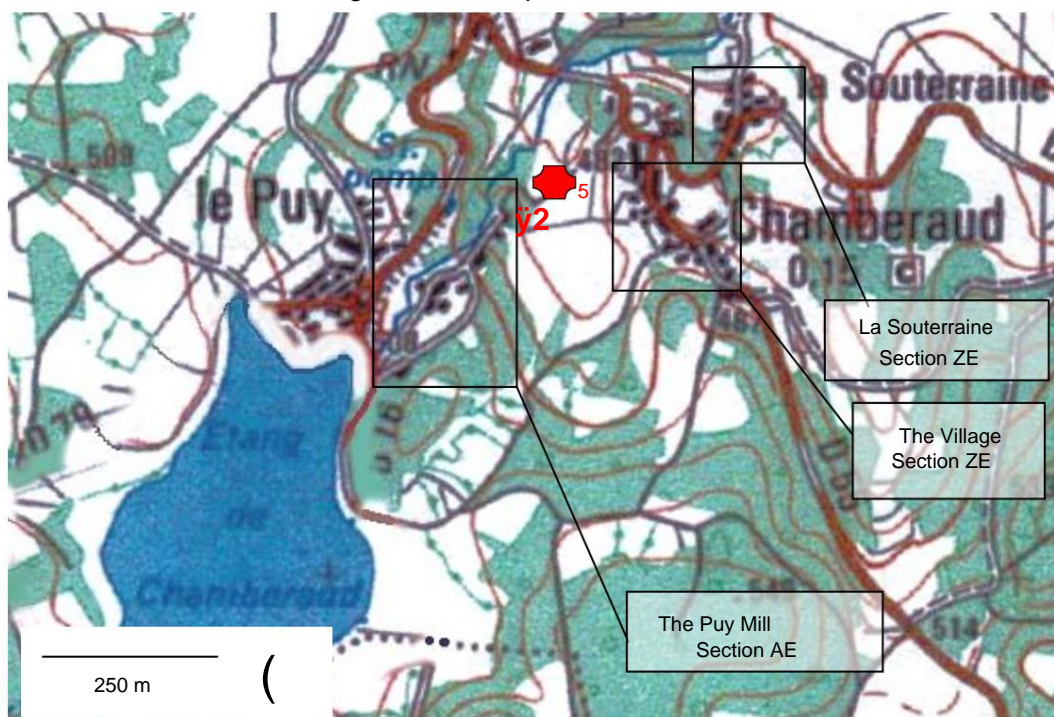
## THE FOUNTAIN CIRCUIT

### 1. Purpose of the circuit

This route is a leisurely *stroll*, the most modest type of hike, with a distance of 2.5 kilometers. The loop, which by definition has the same starting and ending point, is suitable for all types of walkers. The aim is to discover the history of the town and aspects of daily life through its local heritage.

### 2. Inventory and management of heritage

Fog Circuit – Map No. 4



Source: IGN map 2230 East, May 2000. Produced by: LW PM PT R-HV SF

For each proposed development, we will specify the cadastral section number and the parcel number; this information will allow us to find the owner's name in the appendix on pages 43 and 44.

In the case of a private plot, the development can be carried out following the signing of an agreement between the owner and the municipality.

If the focus of the development is the path itself, the landowner will transfer the maintenance and usage responsibilities for their path to the municipality. A copy of this agreement is attached as an appendix on pages 45 to 48.

If the purpose of the development is the country's heritage, a fountain included in the wall of a house for example, a similar type of agreement can be drawn up. This private law agreement will offer the owner the opportunity to enhance and maintain their structure and its surroundings. The owner will then commit to allowing access to or visibility of the structure being enhanced.

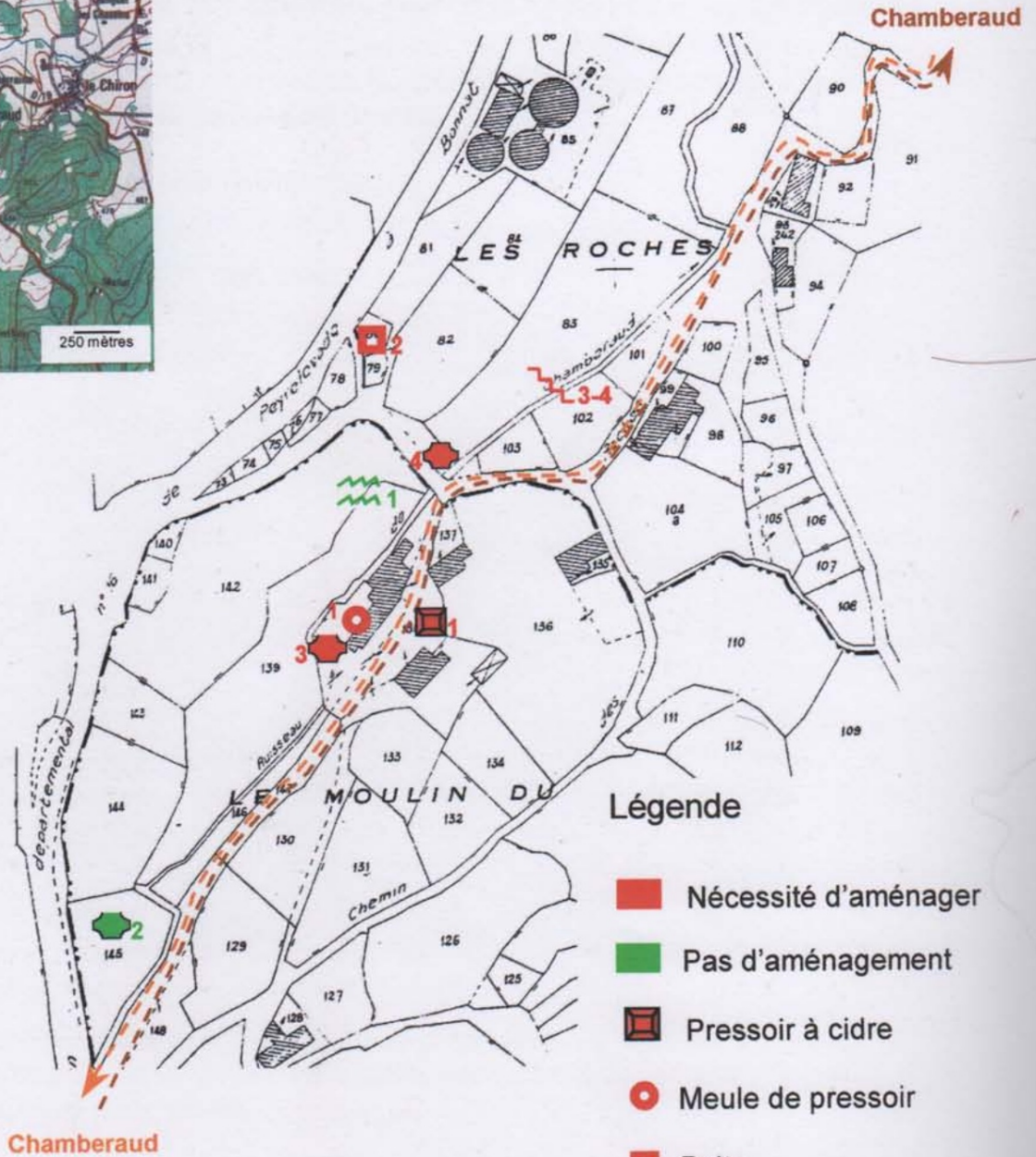
When recommendations for development are made, if the plot numbers are not specified, the land is public or the numbers were not in our possession.

The indication of these property titles is only made for the plots located in the hamlets (le Bourg, la Souterraine le Chiron and le Puy) where the majority of the heritage is recorded.











Only elements that present a genuine need for development will be addressed.

# Inventaire et Aménagement du Patrimoine

## Le Moulin du Puy – Section AE – Carte n°5



### Légende

-  Nécessité d'aménager
-  Pas d'aménagement
-  Pressoir à cidre
-  Meule de pressoir
-  Puits
-  Lavoir
-  Aqueduc
-  Escalier
-  Circuit des buées
-  Circuit de la meule à cidre



Echelle :



50 mètres

## The Puy Mill Site – Section AE

- Washhouse 2

This cement wash house is attached to two watering troughs and is located near the small fishing hut (modest house).



- Wash house 3 (Section AE, plot no. 138)

This is the millrace basin, where three washing stones are included in the masonry.

• **Improvement:** It is desirable that this basin be made watertight, so that it can retain water in summer when the millrace is dry.

- Wash house

4 This one is the most basic and perhaps the oldest. In the expansion a washing stone lies in the stream.

• **Layout:**

Reposition the washing stones so that they are clearly visible.

- Well 2 (public land, section AE)

Built against a wall, it has a monolithic lintel and a curved curb on the inside. The height between these two elements is 70 centimeters, with a width of 85 centimeters. Its base is flat, and the stonework is rough.

It is equipped with a bucket stone.



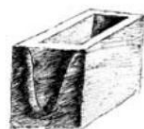
• **Improvements:** It is

necessary to clear the trees that fell during the storm and are blocking access. These trees have also weakened the structure of the small building and the adjoining wall, so we deem it necessary to reinforce the entire structure. The fountain itself must be cleaned, and the area around it must be cleared of nettles.

- Aqueduct 1: This section is made up of six blocks, the remains of an aqueduct that dates back to the Middle Ages. The function of this structure would have been to channel the stream between the different mills.

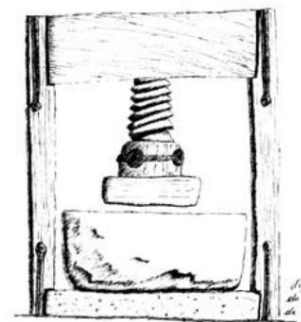
- Press 1 It was

used to extract juice from apple pulp. Often only the base remains, the support and the wooden screw having disappeared.



The screw press used for oil production

| Press base



- Millstone 1 (Section AE plot no. 138)

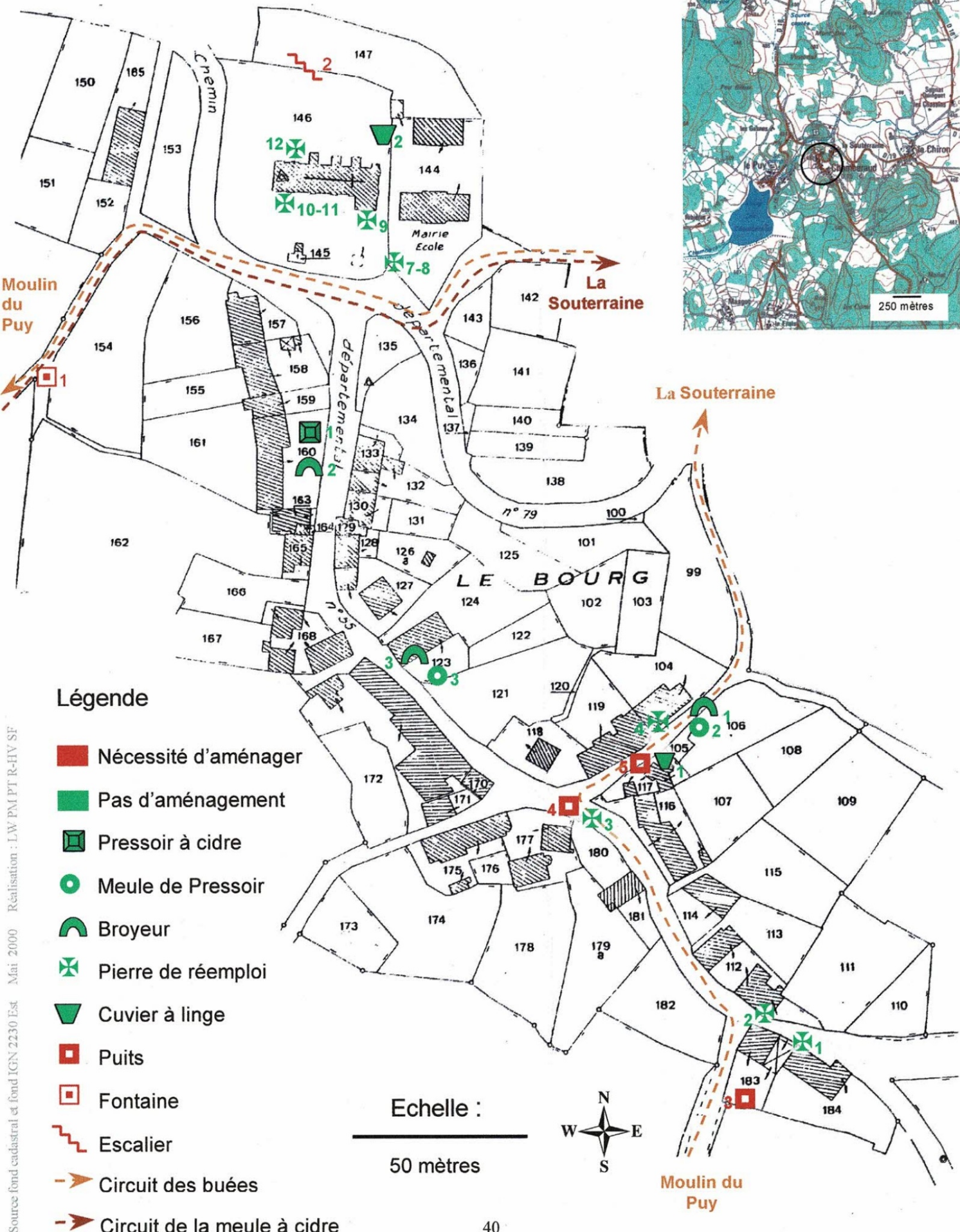
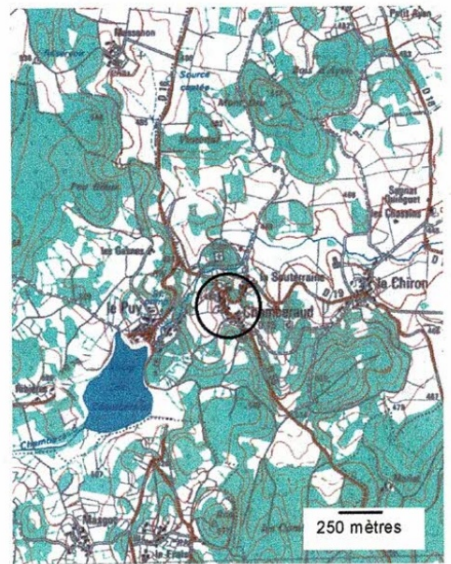
It is a monolithic block carved into the shape of a cylinder.

• **Development:** Move

and group these two elements on the orchard (plot 136).

# Inventaire et Aménagement du Patrimoine

## Le Bourg – Section ZE - Carte n°6



### Légende

- Nécessité d'aménager
- Pas d'aménagement
- Pressoir à cidre
- Meule de Pressoir
- Broyeur
- Pierre de réemploi
- Cuvier à linge
- Puits
- Fontaine
- Escalier
- Circuit des buées
- Circuit de la meule à cidre

Echelle :  
50 mètres



## The Village – Section ZE

- Well 3 (Section ZE plot 183)

It is circular, the rim is made of several stones, and it serves as the base for the metal trestle that supported a wooden winch with a crank. The small lean-to that topped the structure has disappeared.

Two troughs stand beside the well; one of them is a monolith (watering trough), the other is in concrete (in which a washing stone is placed).

### • Improvements:

Restore the well by cleaning the metal trestle, complete the structure with a wooden winch and a lean-to. Keep the monolithic trough (watering trough) and remove the concrete trough.

Clean the surroundings by applying a biodegradable selective weed killer to destroy the nettles and not harm the quality of the well water.

In addition to the agreement, it is necessary to obtain a right of use for the plot. This can be furnished with a flat granite block that would serve as both a bench and a table.



This development would offer a rest stop for walkers.

- Stone 1 In

the corner quoins of a house there is a shield within which we can make out the shape of a house. This stone probably comes from the old commandery.

- Stone 2 A

Maltese cross is carved at eye level in one of the cornerstones of the house.

- Stone 3 and Well 4 (Section AE public plot or no. 180)

This well attracts our attention because of the stone placed on top of it. This stone represents a head; it is in fact a corbel balanced on the small structure, which could also have come from the old commandery.

The well has a monolithic lintel with a regular, round hole in its center. Each of the jambs is made of two blocks. The bottom is flat. It is protected by a simple metal bar halfway up, wedged between the jamb stones.

### • Layout:

Clean the bottom, check the stability and if necessary recommend consolidation. Regarding the metal bar, we believe it should be kept as it does not detract from the structure and appears to have been here for a long time.

- Barn Located

on plot 117 next to well 4, this is a modestly sized pig barn notable for having retained its paved courtyard. The manger has been preserved in the barn's facade, now consisting of an opening that leads directly into the pig's trough. This design avoids getting dirty when entering and prevents encounters with the sometimes quite strong animals.

- Well 5 (Section ZE plot 117)



~ *Asplenium trichomanes*  
(capillary)

Incorporated into the retaining wall of the previous paved courtyard, it consists of a monolithic lintel and jambs formed from three blocks. It has a rounded base, built of large blocks covered with capillary stone. It was closed by a door; today it is protected by a wooden barrier.

• **Improvements:** Clean

out the bottom, preserve the capillary action, reinstall metal hinges and a slatted door. A locking system must be installed, allowing the door to open easily. We recommend a metal latch (common in this region) or a simple piece of wood cut at an angle and wedged between the door and the wall.

- Laundry tub 1 (or laundry basket)

It is built into the wall. It is a monolithic basin, pierced. It was used for washing clothes. Here, projecting from the wall, it is surmounted by a lintel (reused) and filled with earth.

- Crusher 1 - Grinding wheel 2

It is a quarter-circle grinder topped with a millstone whose axis has been preserved.



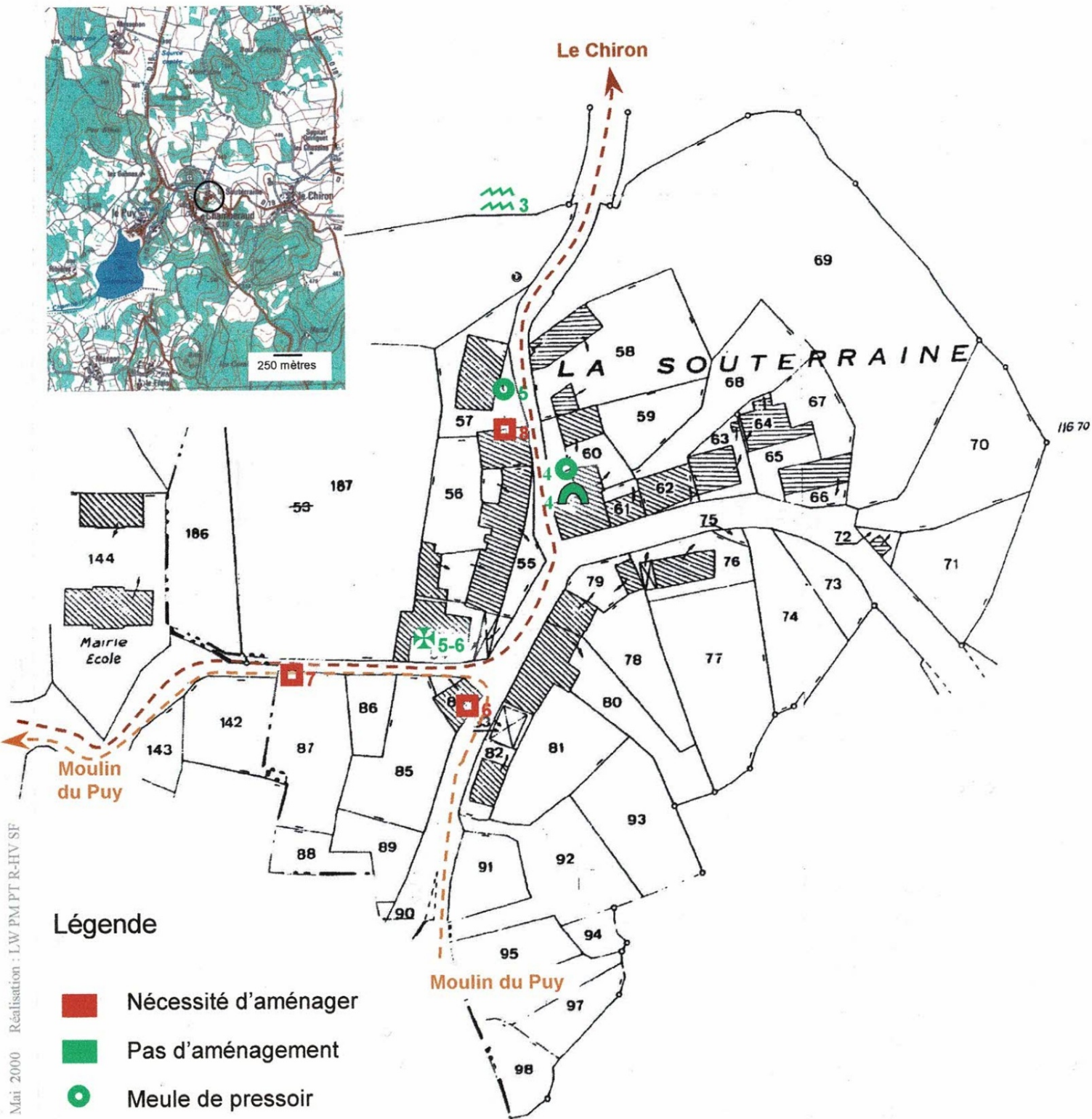
- Stone 4

Located in the wall of the house, it is engraved with a Maltese cross. would have come from the old commandery.

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<sup>2</sup> Delachaux et Niestlé, Guide des graminées. P 200.

# Inventaire et Aménagement du Patrimoine La Souterraine – Section ZE - Carte n°7



## Légende

-  Nécessité d'aménager
-  Pas d'aménagement
-  Meule de pressoir
-  Broyeur
-  Pierre de réemploi
-  Puits
-  Aqueduc
-  Circuit des buées
-  Circuit de la meule à cidre

Echelle :



50 mètres



### La Souterraine – Section ZE (page 43)

- Well 6 (Section ZE plot no. 84)

It is built into the wall of the house. The lintel is monolithic, the base is straight. The coping is curved inwards, it extends into the wall by two corbelled bucket stones.

#### • Layout:

Clean the bottom, remove the vegetation that has grown inside, clear the Stones for buckets and maintaining the surrounding area.

- Stones 5 and 6

On the house's facade, two sculpted faces project from the wall and are believed to have come from the former commandery. One of them is carved in greater detail, suggesting they are not from the same period. The simpler face is reminiscent of the one on well number 3.

Furthermore, on this house we can see two dated window lintels (1807 and 1798). The door lintel is carved in the style of a Tudor arch. In the low wall enclosing the plot, a millet stone marks the corner on the outside.

- Well 7 In

the retaining wall of a cultivated plot, this well is formed by a basket-handle arch lintel, its bottom is rounded, its masonry is average and rather irregular. Two corbelled bucket stones are visible.

#### • Development: (Section ZE, municipal plot or no. 87)

Clean out the bottom, keep the fern but remove the ivy (cut at the base and then pull up once dry). Clear away the bucket stones.

### Le Bourg – Section ZE (page 40)

- Town Hall.

Built during the reign of Napoleon III, this building has a generally rectangular plan. The structure actually consists of a central square section, the town hall, flanked by two wings (the boys' school and the girls' school). The town hall projects slightly from the rest of the building, each wing comprising two bays. The entire building has one story, and the town hall even includes an attic. The walls are constructed of granite and covered with a light ochre plaster. Dressed stones are visible at the openings, the corner quoins, and the stringcourse that delineates the floors. The slate roof is hipped.



- Stones 7 and 8

A Maltese cross in relief is surmounted by a resting place. This is a granite slab on which to place the coffin, allowing it to be blessed and allowing the pallbearers to rest.

Church and stones 9, 10, 11 and 12

Chamberaud was a commandery of the Order of Malta. The Templars had an establishment there whose chapel in 1282 was dependent on the church of Fransèches.

This building, which became a parish church, was attached to the buildings of the Commandery.

In 1313, following the abolition of the Knights Templar by King Philip IV the Fair, the commandery was given to the Knights Hospitaller of St. John of Jerusalem, who retained it until the French Revolution in 1789. Around 1617, the commandery consisted of an agricultural estate including land and mills. The castle included a tower, or residence, for the commander; this main building comprised several stories and a lower courtyard with two wings used as a menagerie.

The commandery also included outbuildings such as a cellar, a stable, and a communal oven. The entire complex was enclosed by a wall preceded by a dry moat. The Chamberaud commandery, perched on a rocky spur, is a prime example of a defensive site. Today, the church stands as an undeniable remnant of the original village. The outline of the ramparts is still visible, and numerous reused stones can be found throughout the commune (a Maltese cross, a lintel, a molded framing stone, a coat of arms, and sculpted faces).

The church, dating from the late 13th or early 14th century and repaired in the modern era, has a nave with a straight apse and four bays, the last forming the chancel. Its original stone rib vaults, now crumbling, have been replaced with wooden rib vaults with lierne supports. The original supports for the ribs have been preserved: these are small columns with polygonal capitals, stopping approximately 2.50 meters from the ground, which support corbels carved with human masks.

The pretty keystone embedded in the south wall (stone 9) must have come from this ancient vault. Also visible on this side are two inverted sundials that have been reused in the buttresses of the church (stones 10 and 11).



During the Hundred Years' War, the church was raised and fortified; remains of machicolations can be seen on the south facade. The apse has three long, narrow, round-arched windows. The portal in the bell tower at the western end of the building is a modern Gothic imitation. On the north facade, the lintel of a cellar door is carved in the Tudor style and surmounted by a Maltese cross (stone 12).

Inside the church, in addition to a 17th-century wooden altar, three Maltese crosses engraved in hewn stones are visible from the entrance.

- Staircase 2 (Section ZE plot no. 147)

This staircase is circular and convex. It comprises six steps, themselves formed from large blocks of granite.

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<sup>3</sup> Louis Lacrocq, *The churches of France – Creuse*. Paris 1934. P. 35 – 36.

### ÿ **Development:** Staircase 2 and adjoining plot (both communal)

The staircase requires a complete overhaul. It must be entirely dismantled and the foundations reinforced if they exist; otherwise, new ones will need to be installed. Afterwards, the staircase will need to be reassembled, preserving its original shape.

The lilacs, ivy, and other brambles that have grown in the low wall need to be pulled up and... tend to destabilize him.

Plot no. 147 corresponds to the former lower courtyard of the commandery; it is believed to be paved 30 to 40 centimeters below ground level. Surveys could be carried out to determine the actual condition of the paving, in the event of its restoration to create a space for various activities (fairs, markets, etc.).

#### • Cuvier 2

#### • Fountain 1 (Section ZE, on the municipal road or plot no. 154)

In the retaining wall, this fountain has a lintel with a semicircular arch formed from two blocks. The height of this structure, between the rim and the vault, is 80 centimeters, and its width is 90 centimeters. The base is flat, and there is a bucket stone on the side.

### ÿ **Improvement:**

Clean the bottom, remove any vegetation that obstructs it.

#### • Wash house 5 (On the local road)

It was filled in by sediments carried by the river, and vegetation grew to such an extent that nothing could be distinguished. Only the accounts of the local population and the few stones that mark its outline allow us to locate it.

### ÿ **Layout:**

Remove vegetation and accumulated sediment, consolidate the entire structure if necessary, add stones if any are missing.

#### • Aqueduct 2 (on the local road)

It forms a bridge; traces of it are visible in various places.

### ÿ **Landscaping:**

Uncover some of the stones covered by herbaceous vegetation.

#### • Waterfall: In a wooded area, the Chamberaud stream takes a chaotic appearance and forms the Roches waterfall.

### **The Puy Mill – Section AE**

#### • Staircases 3 and 4 (Section AE plot no. 102)

Above the millrace, in a retaining wall, two staircases face each other. The steps are made of large blocks projecting from the wall. They provided access to the millrace, either to draw water or to cross it.



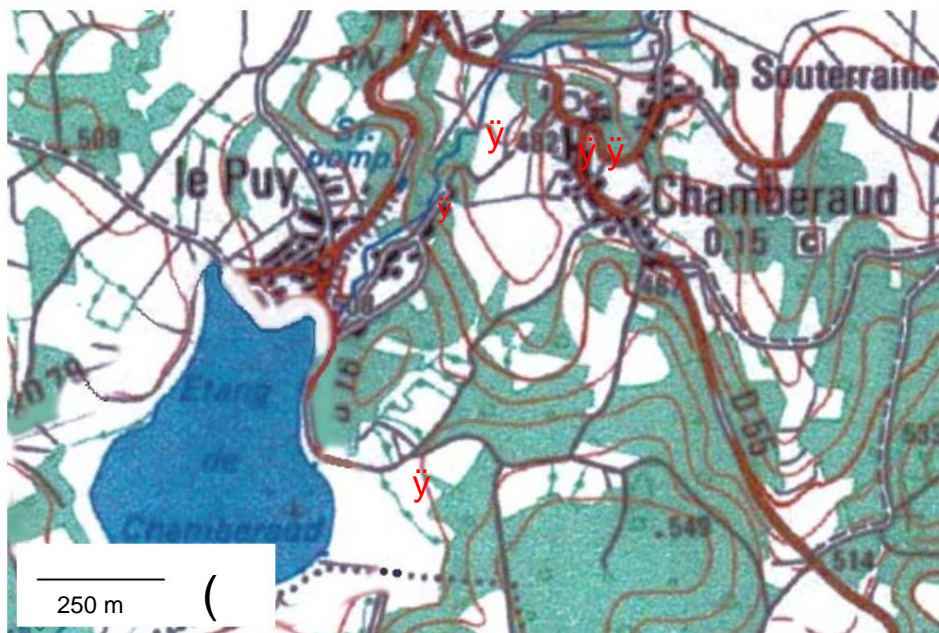
• **Layout:**

Clear the surrounding area by removing any shrubs that might weaken the low wall supporting the stairs.

The millrace passes under the road to supply the Devane mill. Today, only the hub, formed from a tree trunk, is visible outside the building and allows for identification.

**3. Trail development**

Circuit of the Mists – Map No. 8



Source: IGN map 2230 East, May 2000. Created by: LW PM PT R-HV SF

We believe it is necessary to make improvements to the trail for safety and aesthetic reasons. These improvements take various forms and are tailored as much as possible to each situation. We have identified five such improvements along the route.

1 In this area it is advisable to remove the broom bushes and place a bench of Pierre, this arrangement is already recommended on the connection at point 8.

In all wooded areas, the trail must be secured by cutting down and removing all trees that have fallen or been damaged by the storm.

2 The path needs to be reworked from the village of La Souterraine to Chamberaud. Two actions must be taken:

- Removal of hedges and brambles that are not maintained and whose distribution along the path is haphazard. They tend to weaken the low wall.

- Treat the old landfill (below the town hall), remove all the accumulated debris which is now covered by nettles, reseed with grass and treat against nettles if necessary.

3. Put a staircase in place below the town hall, next to the landfill.

We estimate the required length of the staircase to be three meters, and its height to be two meters. To calculate the number of steps, we use the

The formula  $2H+G = 65$  cm means that two riser heights plus one tread length (step) must equal 65 centimeters to create a comfortable staircase. After calculating, we find 11 steps, each 18.2 cm high and 27.5 cm long. This design will allow for easier passage over the slope.

The materials we recommend are wood and stone. Wood has the advantage of being inexpensive (it can come from logs hauled from trails) and is also easy to install; however, its lifespan is limited and it remains slippery when wet. Stone, on the other hand, is more resistant to the elements but is more difficult to work with. It is advisable to avoid using concrete, however, for the sake of aesthetics.

4 The path in this valley is particularly muddy because the stream and the overflow from fountain 2 cross the path. Clearing these two features would allow the water to drain more efficiently. Furthermore, it seems necessary to place two, or even three, sufficiently stable blocks on either side of the overflow to allow passage "out of the water."

5. A passageway must be created to provide access to the waterfall without damaging the vegetation, which appears fragile. Tufa stone could be used to mark this access point after clearing the vegetation. It seems advisable to place this passageway upstream of the waterfall, as this would minimize its visual impact. A stone bench should be installed.

These more or less discreet arrangements will guide the public towards the important elements of Chamberaud's heritage by presenting the importance of water uses.

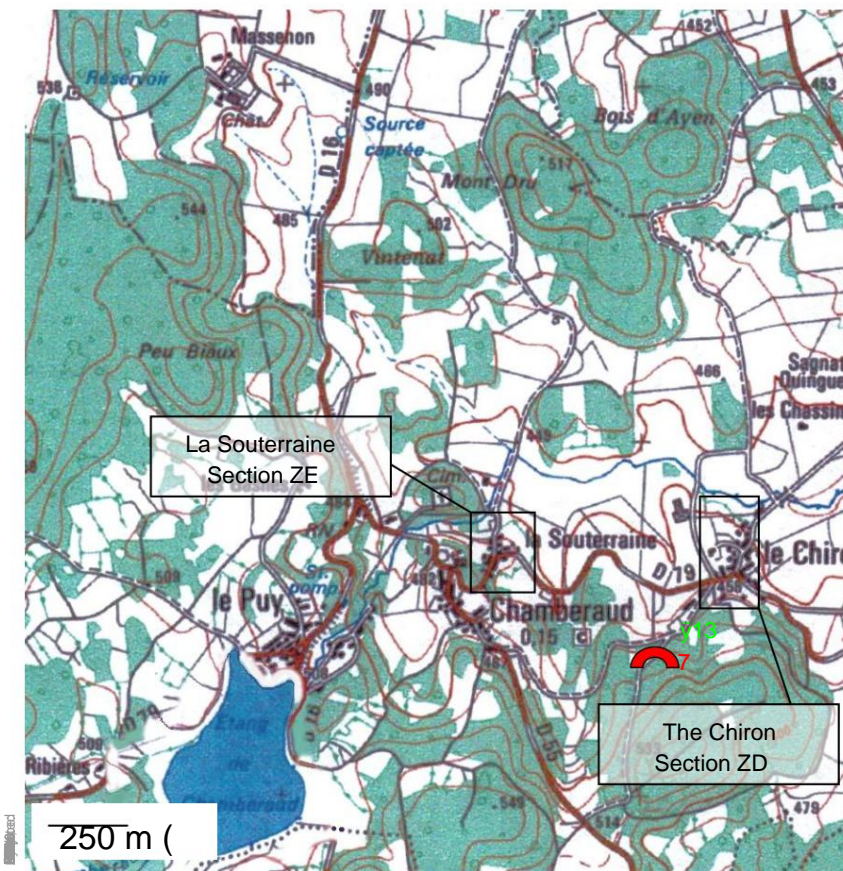
## CIDER MILL CIRCUIT

### 1. Purpose of the circuit

This 6-kilometer route, taking approximately two hours, is a *walk* with a heritage and cultural focus. Suitable for all types of visitors, it offers a middle ground between a *stroll* and a *hike*. Its purpose is to showcase the local heritage found around Chamberaud.

### 2. Inventory and management of heritage

Cider Mill Trail – Map No. 9



The circuit follows part of the route of the fog circuit.

The heritage presentation begins in the town square, from where a detour into the heart of the village will be offered. This alternative route will allow visitors to discover four structures related to cider production.

- Cider-making equipment

The earliest works combined two functions: that of a grinder and that of a press. They comprised two elements: a base or plinth, most often circular in shape, and a millstone.

The base is an imposing hewn stone. The hollowing out allows it to be held in place. wheel and to contain the fruit. The hollowed-out part corresponds to the width of the millstone.

This one, also made of granite, is pierced, allowing for the insertion of an axle and therefore to roll it on the base.

This system has evolved, and these elements now serve only to crush the fruit; the base is no longer perforated. Yield has been increased by using a screw press system. It consists of a hollowed-out granite basin into which the compote was placed. A wooden screw extracted the juice, which was collected through an opening in one side of the basin.

### **Le Bourg – Section ZE (page 40)**

- Press 1 – Crusher 2

The two corners of a flowerbed, intended for planting, are marked by reuse of a press and a crusher.

These two stones, although reused, are not highlighted. One can pass by them without noticing them, but being embedded in the masonry, they seem difficult to move and bring to light.

- Crusher 3 – Millstone 3

In a garden, these two stones presented together in their position of use now serve as an ornament.

### **La Souterraine – Section ZE (page 43)**

- Crusher 4 – Grinding wheel 4 (Section ZE, plot 60)

The grinder and the millstone are mounted together against the wall of a house.

A sculpted stone reminiscent of the shape of an oculus is also placed on the crusher.

An articulated harrow is attached to these elements. It is made up of three metal pieces assembled together. The harrow was pulled by an animal using a spreader bar.

#### **Layout:**

The grassy areas around the edge of the site must be maintained with regular mowing. The stones need cleaning. The millstone needs to be straightened in its base; an axle could potentially be added. The dressed stone and the harrow could be kept nearby as further reminders of a bygone era.

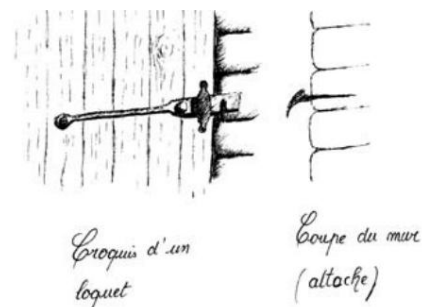
- Well 8 (Section ZE, plot 57)



A well is located in the wall of a house. Approximately 1.5 meters high, it is formed by a monolithic lintel with a flat bottom. It reaches a depth of 2.5 meters. This well was closed by a wooden door, visible next to the structure. Two hinges embedded in the masonry and the metal latch locking system are also still visible.

The stones of the jambs and lintel are cut to fit the doorway. Inside the well, the location of the winch, which must have been pegged, is still visible. On the right side of the well, a niche, covered in ivy, could have held a statuette, and a stone bucket stands out from the facade.

**Improvements:** As the well is still in use, cleaning does not appear necessary. The door should be repaired, retaining its locking mechanism, a latch. The pegged winch and chain can be reinstated. Clear the niche. The grassy area should be mowed regularly.



- Millstone 5

Lying in the grass, the millstone of a cider press awaits discovery.

- Aqueduct 3 The

aqueduct still passes through the meadow; the most visible traces of this ancient structure are found in this plot. Without entering, one can see two crossings formed by the stones that span the stream.

- Rampart If

you turn around, a clear change in elevation in the terrain continues on either side of the path. This low wall would correspond to the old outer rampart of the commandery.

- Massenon Castle (1482)

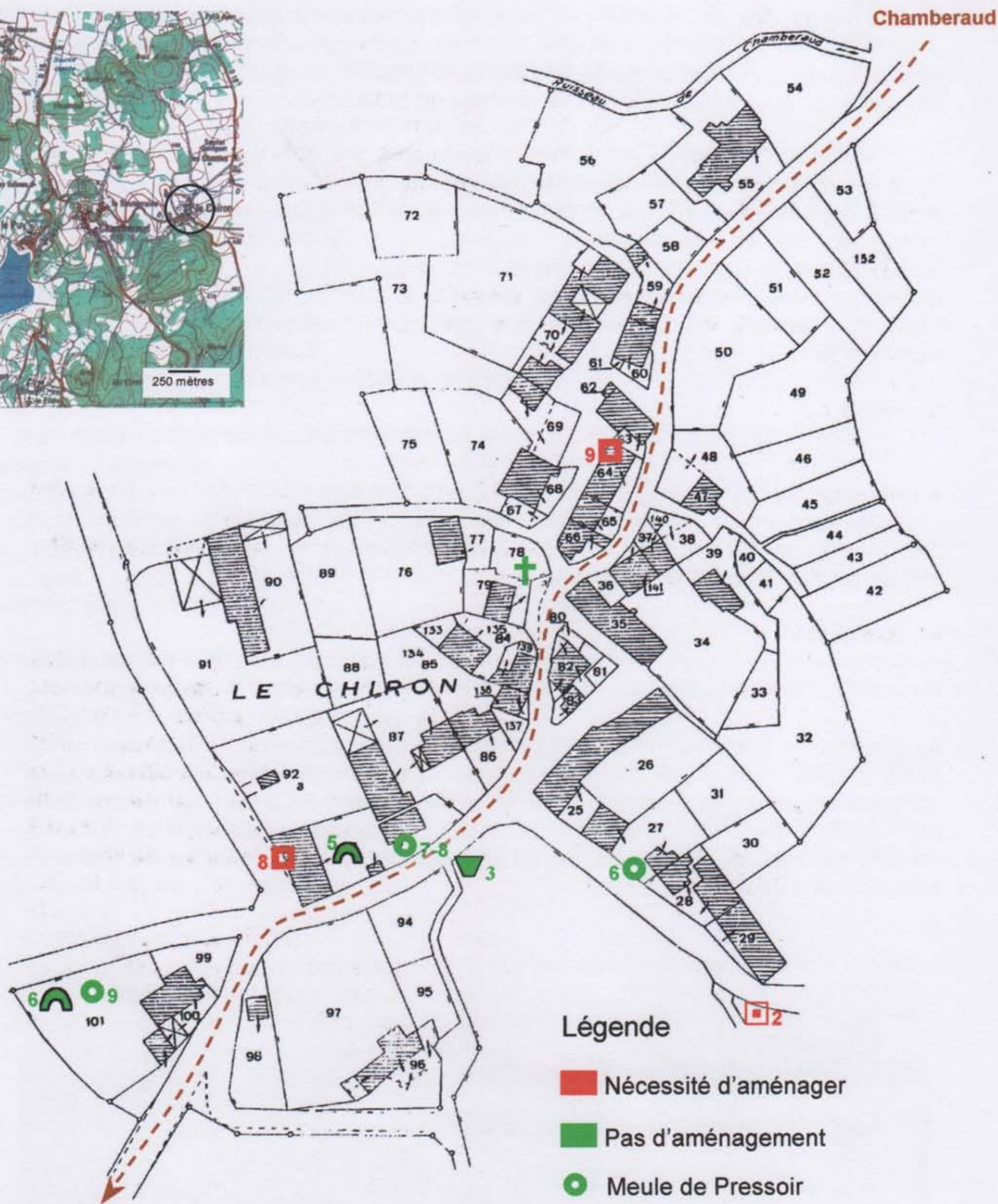
In the foreground, one of the two cylindrical corner towers is built against the ramparts surrounding the property. The former entrance is marked by a round-arched doorway, topped by a defensive cabin with machicolations and a portcullis. A quadrangular tower is visible behind the imposing main house. The other buildings are primarily agricultural structures.



~The Massenon estate, seen from the path.










# Inventaire et Aménagement du Patrimoine

## Le Chiron – Section ZD – Carte n°10

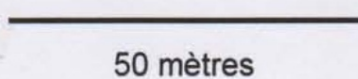


Moulin Du Puy

### Légende

-  Nécessité d'aménager
-  Pas d'aménagement
-  Meule de Pressoir
-  Broyeur
-  Cuvier à linge
-  Puits
-  Fontaine
-  Croix
-  Circuit de la meule à cidre

Echelle :



50 mètres



## The Chiron – ZD Section

- Cross 1

The cross surmounts a series of pedestals. The first has a square base measuring 1.50 meters on each side. This base is constructed of dressed stone, laid like the rest of the shrine. This base is surmounted by a trapezoidal shaft with a square base, which extends into the cross. Latin in shape, it is chamfered and adorned with a circle at the intersection of the shaft and the crossbars.

- Well 9 The

granite well is round with two iron gallows. The trestles, still present, supported the winch and its crank (now missing). The well is deep and covered with wooden slats for added safety.

Slightly off the beaten track and not fitting the chosen theme, it does not seem a priority to restore it by adding a winch.

- Millstone 6 A

gap will again be proposed in this alley where many elements are interesting.

This millstone from a wine press is included in the wall of a garden; tarpaulins of different sizes can also be seen there.

- Fountain 2



This surprising structure, included in a retaining wall, is topped with a millstone.

This one, with a larger diameter but a smaller thickness (about 15 centimeters) than that of cider millstones, is also pierced in the center.

The fountain basin is monolithic, its water supply coming from a conduit located just beneath the millstone. The water drains away

made through a conduit located just below the grinding wheel in two successive tarpaulins.

### Layout:

Replace the PVC pipe (and its tile support) that currently carries the water. Locate the source for a permanent water supply. Clean and clear the basin. Repair or remove the overflow drain pipe's mounting bracket. A young weeping willow is planted on the low wall and risks separating the wall from the fountain embedded in it. The shrub will need to be removed or cut back.

- Cuvier 3 A

large basin is now decorated with flowers. This container could be a Laundry tub. It was supposedly unearthed at Massenon Castle and brought here.

- Crusher 5 – Grinding wheels 7 and 8

At the entrance to a garden, a millstone and its grinder are displayed together; at the back of the vegetable garden, another millstone, half-buried, serves as a seat.

Well 10 (Section ZD, plot 93)

Set into a wall, this well is quite similar to others. It consists of a flat monolithic lintel, the base is irregular and the curb is at ground level.

**Development:** -

Dredging.

- Find the source.

- Cleaning and maintenance of the surroundings (removal of tile debris and other debris) along a low wall.

- Grinder 6 – Millstone 9 Still

in a garden setting, the two stones are presented together; however, the millstone is thinner than the groove left in the granite. The two stones were probably not originally together.

- Pierre13

An imposing hewn stone depicts a Maltese cross and a pair of pincers and a hammer. This stone may be evidence of the forge at the commandery.

- Shredder 7 A

shredder is located isolated in the forest. It is near the trail and was covered in moss and dead leaves.

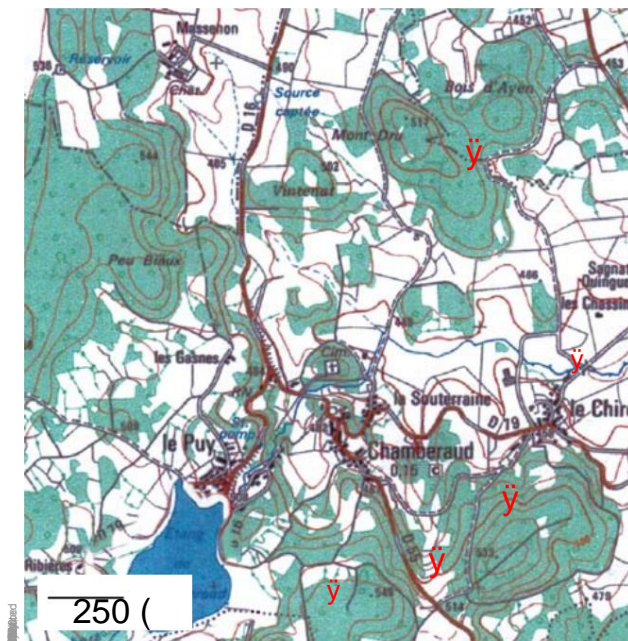
**Layout:**

It could be moved closer to the path and highlighted to serve as a rest stop.

With this in mind, he could be brought to the top of the slope where a window opens into the woods.

## Trail development

### Cider Mill Trail – Map No. 11



ÿ Secure and clean the path through the forest (two fallen trees and threatening branches overhead).

#### The Chiron

ÿ Remove the markings from the paved section that bypasses the village. Re-mark the crossing through the village.

ÿ One or two trees blocking the way need to be cleared.

ÿ Setting up a rest area with crusher 7 and a flat stone resembling a sacrificial stone (curved in its centre with two "grooves" on either side) found nearby.

Clear away the swollen birch tree to the right of the window. This botanical curiosity will be revealed and the increased light will be beneficial to it.

ÿ Clear the trees. Rebuild the walls that collapsed during the storm in order to restore the original appearance.

Treat the landfill below which creates visual pollution or plant a curtain of trees to serve as a visual screen.



~ Path, between the D 55 and the pond.

## SETTING UP THEMED TRAILS

### 1. The choice of themes

We believe it is essential to assign each of the two paths a their own theme, allowing them to have a specific purpose.

The short circuit, rich in water-related structures, would be designed around this element. It could be called the "Rock Waterfall Circuit"; the word "waterfall" evokes dynamism and wild nature, encouraging people to explore it. However, in summer, the flow is weaker, and the term "waterfall" could be misleading.

This route, entitled "Circuit of Mists," evokes the great washings of the sea and conveys the image of water within an ethnological context. It leaves an air of mystery, prompting a desire to explore the route further.

The largest circuit will be able to evoke cider making through the techniques used and fruit trees.

### 2. Presentation of the themes

To distinguish the two routes, we believe it would be helpful to create a small guide in addition to the directional markers and information panels. This booklet could be paired with the one for the mill.

Presented in the form of a cardboard folder containing detachable cards, it would allow for addressing various themes with a certain conciseness.

We hope this type of presentation will be preferred to the tri-fold tourist brochures that pile up in tourist offices. We envision a playful, illustrated publication.

This document could be made available or for sale on the mill site, at the Chamberaud town hall, in Masgot and in the structures that will work in relation to the site (Pays-âne for example).

We will now discuss the various themes that we consider interesting. We will propose content for the different fact sheets.

This work is based on the inventory of heritage previously carried out.

#### 2.1. Theme of fountains and wells

The trail of the mist-stirring features six wells and a fountain. These humble yet charming structures, varying in shape, are full of character thanks to their proportions and the materials used. The information sheet would first provide general information on the topic and then delve into the legends and anecdotes surrounding these structures.

The first part will be organized around a descriptive diagram allowing the constituent elements of the structure to be identified.

It seems necessary to raise awareness among the hiking public about the fact that these elements of the small heritage have been in peril since 1965, when the municipality was equipped with water supply.

Furthermore, local legends and anecdotes could be added. We have not recorded any miraculous fountains here like those found in other towns (for example, the Bonnefond locality in Saint-Georges-la-Pouge).

A survey could be conducted among the local population to gather various anecdotes. This would add an ethnological dimension to the guide.

## 2.2. The time of the fogs

The route, which includes several washhouses and laundry tubs, could evoke the era of the "steaming" (a period of intense activity). These important times brought women together for the major laundry cleaning. Large washes took place once or twice a year, in spring and autumn, but smaller items were washed and rinsed every week.

The wash tub, originally carved from granite, became a terracotta tub in the 19th century. It had a hole at the base which was plugged with a cloth and a piece of wood. The dirtiest cloth was placed at the bottom of the container, and boiling water was poured over it several times before it was rinsed at the washhouse, beaten with a paddle.

In the vat, wood ash was used as a detergent. Chestnut ash was discarded, as the tannin it contained could dye the laundry.<sup>4</sup>  
We will also present the washerwoman's tools: laundry beater, tub for kneeling in the form of a drawing.

A description of the different types of wash houses could be presented, but the emphasis should be placed on the life around these collective spaces of exchange and sociability.

Legends about night washerwomen or sayings relating to laundry would be cited.

Given the vastness of the subject, a fact sheet would present laundry and its techniques, and a Another could present the wash houses and the legends.

## 2.3. The water cycle

The omnipresence of water along the route encourages us to present water in its natural cycle.

The educational poster will illustrate the differences in biotopes between the pond and the river. Chamberaud Pond is a second-class reservoir.

category. As is often the case in these waters, two fish attract all the attention. The strength and quiet cunning of the carp contrast with the impulsive power of the pike.



A biological description of the main carnivores and cyprinids, as well as the The fishing techniques used to capture them would be revealed.

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<sup>4</sup> Fournajoux O., 1999. Along the paths of Haute Marche and Combraille – Fountains, Wells, Wash Houses. Ed. ADHMC. 56 P.

Downstream, the stream has been influenced by the body of water and no longer shelters trout even though the profile of the watercourse would be suitable for it.

Raising awareness about pollution can then be suggested. Water, an intangible and collective resource, is the primary component of our planet but also one of the most fragile.

#### 2.4. Theme of mills and the aqueduct

Along the trail, we can see two mills and the remains of five other buildings. In total, seven mills once lined the route from the Chamberaud pond to the place called "Lélo" at the foot of the village. Each mill was supplied with water by the aqueduct that covered the Chamberaud stream along its entire length. This aqueduct clearly continued downstream from "Lélo," which, for the local population, is proof that other mills existed further along the trail.

The sheet could present around a small map the function of each building by taking the information from the journal of the friends of Chamberaud, supplementing it with the knowledge of the inhabitants (the Magnat, Devane and Payne families in particular).

Thus, it should be specified that the site of the Puy mill comprised three structures (the first was an oil mill, the second was used for beating cloth, and the third for producing flour). Only the third is still visible today.

The fourth mill belongs to Mr. and Mrs. Devane and was used for flour production. The fifth (below the previous one), as well as the sixth and seventh (further downstream, at a place called "Lélo"), have been demolished. Only the accounts of the villagers, old maps (the Napoleonic land registry and the Cassini map), and a few small clues (such as the remains of a millrace) allow us to locate them.

#### 2.5. The Commandery

The history of the town of Chamberaud leads us to discuss the Templars. The Temple was a religious and military order created in 1119 to protect pilgrims in the Holy Land and to fight against the faithful. Each Templar establishment was a lordship, called a commandery. There were as many as 9,000 of them, and Chamberaud was one of them.

The commandery belonged to the Order of Malta, which was abolished in 1312 by King Philip IV the Fair. It was taken over by the Hospitallers of St. John of Jerusalem, who cared for the sick and housed pilgrims until 1789.

The history of the town could therefore be revisited by showcasing the various buildings that once existed and the remains that are still visible today (church, rampart, foundations of collapsed buildings).



A game or a specific trail focused on finding Maltese crosses in the town could be suggested in a fact sheet. During our search, we spotted seven Maltese crosses on different buildings, but there are certainly more to discover in the town.

Other reused stones also pique our curiosity; the purposes of the vault, sculpted faces and sundials could thus be quickly described.

## 2.6. Theme of cider presses and millstones

Whether at the mill site or in the three hamlets crossed by the circuit, numerous millstones, presses and grinders can be found. They are sometimes displayed prominently in gardens like baroque statues, and we can also find them abandoned by the roadside.

We identified 9 millstones, 7 grinders, and 2 presses in the previous heritage inventory. These give the route a real character. Therefore, we believe it is important to incorporate this theme into the walking trail.



The fact sheet will outline the role of each element. By extension, information relating to apple cultivation could be included, providing a comprehensive overview of this activity.

The various constituent elements of the system will appear alongside illustrations.

The information provided will be based on the descriptions found in the heritage inventory. The evolution of the materials could be illustrated with diagrams.

Traditional varieties of the region (such as *Sainte-Germaine*) would be mentioned and a brief description of the fruits (in terms of morphology, flavor and color) could conclude the entry.

## 3. Signage

Identical signage must be installed on all discovery and connecting loops starting from the mill. As the trail projects are being carried out in partnership with the municipality of Fransèches, the spirit of the signage proposed in Masgot by Alain Freytet, a landscape architect, could be retained. Instead of using the symbols from Michaud's rebuses around the mill, a logo could be used to present and indicate the theme of the trails.

The Moulin – Masgot link would be the combination of the artist's portrait and a mill wheel.

The circuit of the waterfall or the commandery is said to be conveyed by the image of a bucket or a Maltese cross. The bucket represents the path of water, whether flowing or used for domestic purposes. The cross, a symbol of the Templars, is found sporadically throughout the commune.

The cider millstone circuit would be represented by a millstone (with or without its support).

The chosen signage is, of course, important for the trail's appeal and integration into its surroundings. The mill was once inhabited by a wheelwright, hence the frequent use of a cart-blue color on the site. This specific color reflects the image of the site and the life that once unfolded there. This vibrant yet non-aggressive color evokes the theme and the omnipresence of water along the route.



~ The Marquise's Kennel

Stained, pointed chestnut shingles could be laid along the paths. The logo would then be pyrographed or painted in black.

These signs, which would constitute the directional signage, should be complemented at the start of the trails by an information panel. This panel would be placed near the mill's parking area or prominently displayed on the site. Its purpose is to inform users of the existence of the trails. The panel will include a map of the site and the marked trails. It will indicate the type of trail markings and the theme covered (and possibly the availability of the guidebook at the mill's reception).

The sign could be a chestnut wood support with a map on an aluminum sheet. If a similar sign is installed in the village of Masgot, it must mention the mill loops.

#### **4. Sustainability of trails and feasibility of improvements**

These proposed routes use paths that have currently only been marked by the Intermunicipal Community for Territorial Development (Ciate) of the Creuse-Thaurion-Gartempe region. However, these paths are not included in the Departmental Plan for Walking and Hiking Routes (PDIPR).

Registering trails with the PDIPR (Departmental Plan for Hiking and Walking Routes) is a measure to protect our shared rural heritage . It is mandatory in the context of promoting trail tourism. Welcoming hikers and developing products related to this theme are our objectives. Trail registration will take place after deliberation by the Municipal Council, which will then commit to:

1. Maintain these hiking trails, which are accessible all year round, a public and open nature.
2. Ensure the opening of the routes and guarantee their maintenance on a regular basis each year, either at the municipal level, or by delegating the project management of the maintenance work to another structure of its choice.
3. Ensure the marking of trails in accordance with the trail marking technical specifications of the French Federation's national charter.

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<sup>5</sup> Law of July 22, 1983, supplemented by the decree of February 6, 1986 and by the circular of August 30, 1988.

Hiking (FFRP), in reference to the specificities of the trails (hiking and mountain biking) and guarantee the renewal of the brands as needed.

These registration procedures for the PDIPR (Departmental Plan for Hiking and Walking Routes) are underway in the municipalities of Chamberaud (trails on which we have worked) and Fransèches. Creuse Randonnée is responsible for preparing these applications.

The proposed development projects, concerning local heritage or trail heritage, would be carried out by various organizations. Creuse Randonnée or CIATE could then be tasked with providing project management assistance for monitoring the work.

The various structures within the department that are accustomed to these types of projects are:

- One of CIATE's functions is trail maintenance. A further commitment  
A marked (on the ground) inter-municipality approach should be considered.
- CEPE (Creuse Environment Heritage and Space), a structure that works with staff on integration contracts. Its goal is to train staff on various topics, such as the maintenance of green spaces, the management of waterways, the enhancement of small heritage sites, and the development of trails.
- Creuse Environnement is an integration association under the 1901 law. It works with staff in CES on fairly similar themes, but at lower costs due to a difference in status.
- The DDJS (Departmental Directorate of Youth and Sports). Its work is educational, as it collaborates with young people on projects supervised by tradespeople or other professionals. Here too, costs will be reduced and quality guaranteed.

The COORACE (Coordination of Organizations for Assistance to the Unemployed through Employment) structure will certainly work on the mill site for the renovation of the building, but it could also proceed within the framework of a specific project to the restoration of stone walls bordering the paths.

A day or weekend on the construction of dry stone walls could be organised with MR. Roland Bossier, President of Maisons Paysannes de France-Creuse.

## STRUCTURING AND OPTIMIZATION OF THE HIKING PRODUCT

The first three routes presented should only be a first phase in terms of proposed itineraries around the site. A second phase offering a diversification of the options seems essential. This should encourage the networking of tourist and heritage attractions.

### 1. A necessary addition of trails

To make the mill more than just a stop on the way to or from Masgot, different routes will still need to be created to obtain a true daisy of trails.

#### 1.1. The pond circuit

A short trail along the banks of the lake would be of great interest. The rich flora and fauna, as well as the mysterious atmosphere of the ponds, offer numerous themes to explore. This loop could pass through the village of Le Puy, which would thus be revealed and showcased.

The main problem here is that the grazed meadows in the catchment area are very marshy, especially in spring. This loop around the pond could use a boardwalk system, thus adding extra interest to the route.

The path itself would become an incentive to walk.

Mr. Foiret, president of the Ahun Water Syndicate, is not opposed to this prospect, but he does have a reservation. The Chamberaud reservoir is intended to supply drinking water to twelve municipalities (including Ahun), hence the upcoming establishment of a protection zone around it. The development of the banks and the installation of boardwalks would then be regulated. It would therefore be necessary to meet with Ms. Vidali, a hydrogeologist at the DDAF (Departmental Directorate of Agriculture and Forestry), to obtain her opinion on this matter and to understand the framework established by the relevant regulations and legislation.

#### 1.2. The 8-step route

Consideration should also be given to the possibility of creating a figure-eight route, starting at the mill and returning there halfway for a lunch break. This would allow hikers to walk without carrying their belongings.

This route could use the cider mill circuit for the first half-day, during the second half, the pond circuit or any other small loop can be considered.

#### 1.3. The hiking trail

One or two large loops of about twenty kilometers each will need to be marked out and developed. One of them would pass through Masgot and use the link.

## 2. Networking

An effective and sustainable visitor center must actively promote customer referrals. Each site could therefore display promotional brochures from other network members on its premises. Chamberaud does not have a tourist office, so the mill could serve as an extension of the Ahun tourist office, which covers the entire CIATE territory. This would attract a clientele well-informed about the area's attractions.

Tourists in the region would be more tempted to return and promote it.

For the mill site, the most important part lies in the link with Masgot, however it seems necessary not to limit ourselves to this link but to create a real spider web.

The Puy mill could therefore, in the medium term, offer accommodation as a starting point, providing numerous opportunities for hiking and walking trails. Its location in the heart of the Creuse region could make it an essential stop for food lovers and cultural enthusiasts, just like other sites.

### 2.1. The Moutier d'Ahun

Among the sites to be included in the routes, the Moutier d'Ahun will be one of the most interesting. Its strong tourism potential and proximity make it accessible to a wide range of hikers.

The loop put in place would offer the discovery of:

- St Martial le Mont where you can admire a very beautiful fortified church from the 13th century and a fragment in very good condition of a Gallo-Roman column placed in front of the church, -
- Chantaud where we notice the Pierre des Mesures, formerly used as a rudimentary scale, it served for the payment of seigneurial taxes and for numerous transactions.

This first phase of the journey represents approximately 14 kilometers.

The return journey could be via Ahun (6 kilometers) where we could see:

- The Creuse and its valley between St Martial le Mont and Moutier
  - Le Moutier d'Ahun: Romanesque church of the former abbey, admirable woodwork
- 17th century – Tool Museum – Medieval bridge spanning the Creuse.
- Ahun: ancient Gallo-Roman "Acitodunum" – Romanesque church – numerous old houses and remains of ditches.

This route can be subdivided into two equal parts according to the hikers' wishes. Lunch will then be taken on the banks of the Creuse river.

### 2.2. Aubusson

This town, a major tourist destination in the Creuse region, offers many attractions in addition to its tapestry. It could be included in a multi-day cultural itinerary, either on foot or by bicycle. This type of trip would be suitable for those for whom physical and nature-related activities are less of a priority.

### 3. Local partners

The economic impact of hiking is difficult to assess since the activity itself is often integrated into a tourist stay.

To capitalize on this observation, it's important to offer "hiking products" in collaboration with various partners. Those we've met with are reportedly receptive to networking through this channel. This aspect represents a key phase of our website's communication strategy.

#### 3.1. Pays'âne

The Pays'âne farm, based in Sardent, offers the opportunity to discover the Creuse region on foot with a donkey (see appendix 39 40). The animal is responsible for carrying bags and children on routes lasting from 1 to 7 days, with a daily distance not exceeding 15 kilometers.

Accommodation is available in bed and breakfasts, gîtes, hostels, farms, or hotels. Reservations and itineraries are planned by Géraldine and François, the farm owners. A few years ago, the proposed routes passed through Masgot and Moutier, but the lack of accommodation suitable for donkeys forced them to develop alternative loops.

Following their meeting, the possibility of creating a stop at the mill seemed to delight them. The theme of bread would thus be highlighted. Géraldine bakes her organic bread in a wood-fired oven, and the mill would serve as an educational tool for explaining the production of bread flour.

#### 3.2. The Puyberaud farm (Moutier d'Ahun)

This farm offers accommodation for hikers and a wide range of food products. farmers produce on site or deposited by other operators.

This farm, further away than Le Moutier (relative to the mill), would provide an overnight option for a two-day trip on either side of the Creuse.

Sights to see along the route: The Busseau Viaduct designed by Eiffel, the Creuse and its valley.

#### 3.3. The Cher farm (Ars)

A blueberry-themed hiking trail could be developed in collaboration with blueberry growers and producers of blueberries and their by-products (jams, nectars, frozen blueberries). The trail would offer jam-making demonstrations and tastings of toast at the mill after the bread has been prepared and baked in the site's oven.

Note: The

two operators mentioned were also partners of Pays'âne; creating products as described would strengthen ties and facilitate customer exchanges. This principle would benefit the economic development of all partners.

## CONCLUSION

**After defining the characteristics of the site and its environment, We have developed tourism potential for this project.**

**The search for a balance between cultural and natural elements, as well as the exchanges between tradition and modernity, guided our approach.**

**The goal was to put man back at the heart of his heritage.**

**The project's primary aim was to revitalize the site, while also fitting into a broader framework. It involved both restructuring the local area and revealing the economic and tourism potential of the site and its surroundings.**

**This heritage will therefore regain a "useful function" within the rural environment. since it will become the focal point for local activities.**

**However, let's not forget that the initial investment will be very significant and will require motivated individuals.**

**A funding study will be essential to bring the project to fruition and ensure its long-term viability. If the tourism activity at this location fully embraces a professional approach, a significant human resource will be required (rigorous and highly motivated). It will be necessary to adapt to the evolving tourism sector and establish a dynamic presence throughout the year.**

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