




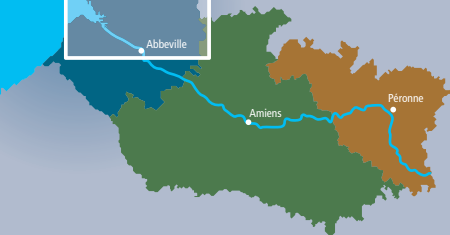
# The Valloires Circuit PR®

A country walk in the Authie Valley around an ancestral Abbey and its splendid flowered gardens.

-  Time: 2 hours 45 mins
-  Distance: 8km
-  Route: very difficult (high fitness level required)

**Starting at:** The Valloires Gardens Car Park, Argoules

**Argoules**, 35km north of Abbeville, 17km north-east of Rue.



- ① From the car park, turn right along the D192 and follow alongside the Abbey wall.
  - ▶ *The 7<sup>th</sup> Cistercian abbey was built here in the 12<sup>th</sup> century but suffered terrible damage during subsequent wars. Today's abbey was built in the 18<sup>th</sup> century; no damage was caused during the revolution, but the monks were driven out of their home. Its imposing Louis XV façade is elegant in its simplicity and a pretty dovecote stands in the courtyard.*
- ② When the road divides for the second time, climb up the track to the left.
- ③ Turn left, ignore the track to the right and walk down until you meet another path. Turn right along this path, but ignore the next path on the right.
- ④ When the road divides, continue to the left and then take the track that leads down to the left.
- ⑤ Turn right along the track just before the D192.
  - ▶ *Be careful: steep path, difficult for families with young children.*
- ⑥ Turn left at the crossroads and then right when you reach the road. Continue for 100 metres and then turn left. When the road divides, head left to the village. Turn left at the next junction, onto the D192, and then right towards Saulchoy.
- ⑦ Cross the little bridge and turn left before you reach the bridge over the River Authie. Continue straight on at the crossroads following the D192 to the abbey.
  - ▶ *Wooden engravings, majestic wrought-iron gates and a huge, carved pipe-organ can be found in the chapel.*

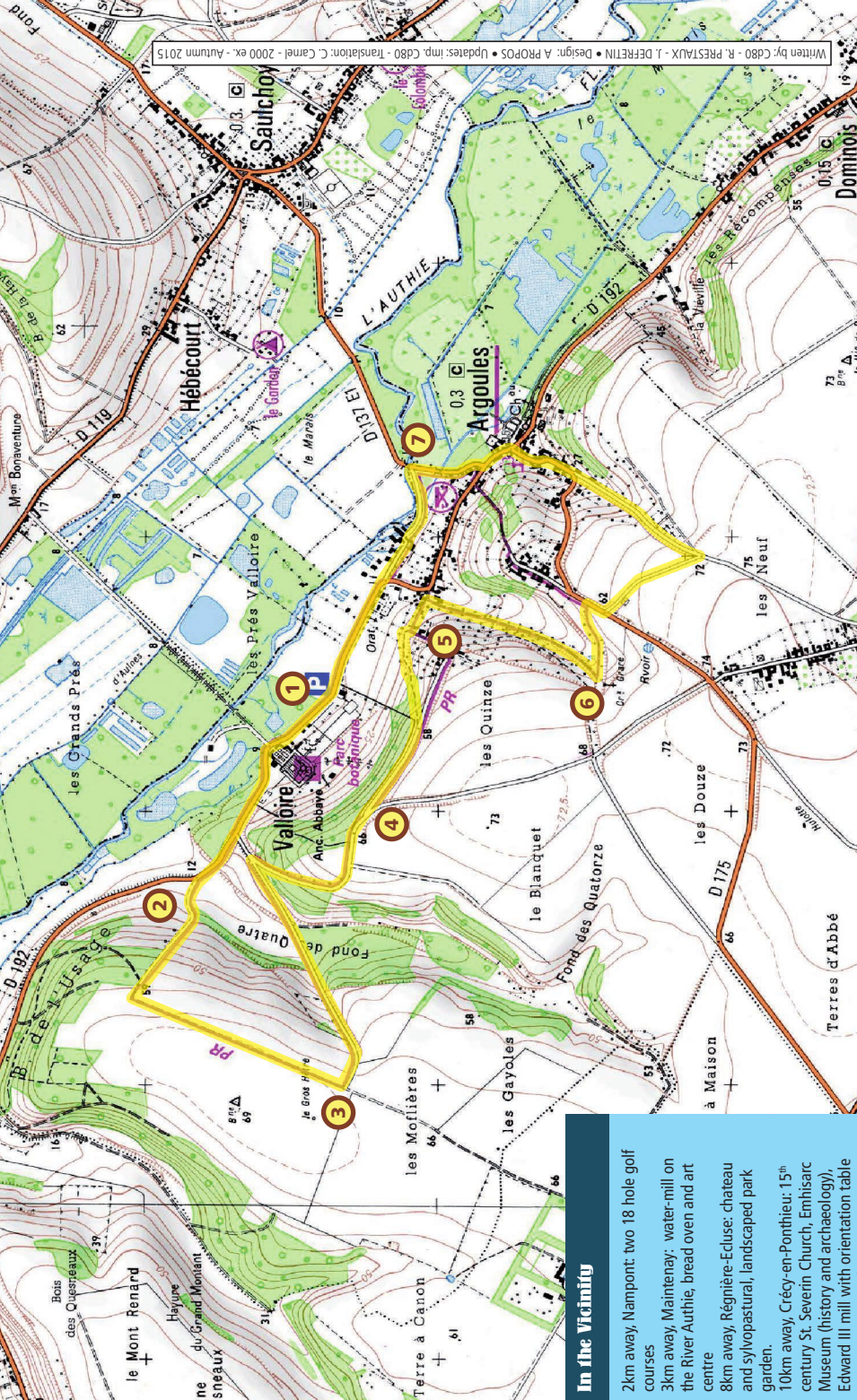
## Of Interest

### An Extraordinary Garden...

The popular song "C'est un Jardin Extraordinaire" perfectly illustrates the abbey's park and gardens. It is a living replica of the monastery's former gardens and the natural architecture is unchanging. Almost 4000 plant varieties, chosen for their particular beauty, take pride of place in the botanical gardens, and 400 different varieties of roses can be found in square patches of soil, where this queen of flowers reigns over other plants and vegetables; a clever way the monks had of covering the ground and naturally preventing weeds from growing.

### Tourist Offices:

Crécy-en-Ponthieu: 03 22 23 93 84  
 Rue: 03 22 25 69 94



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## In the Vicinity

- 2km away, Nampont: two 18 hole golf courses
- 3km away, Maintenay: water-mill on the River Authie, bread oven and art centre
- 8km away, Régnière-Ecluse: chateau and sylvopastural, landscaped park garden.
- 10km away, Crécy-en-Ponthieu: 15<sup>th</sup> century St. Sevein Church, Embisarc Museum (history and archaeology), Edward III mill with orientation table about the Battle of Crécy in 1346, village cross known as the Lantern of the Dead, Jean of Luxembourg monuments, Forest of Crécy.
- 10km away, Dompierre-sur-Authie: 15<sup>th</sup> century St. Pierre Church.