

La Butte du Château (Castle Hill)

15.5 km – 4 hrs 30

Start:	Bretoncelles, 'complexe sportif' car park.
Direction:	clockwise
Signing:	yellow signposts and way markings
Ease of walking:	quite good (some wet stretches needing short diversions into undergrowth)
Ground condition:	dirt or stony paths and some narrow tarmac lanes (81%)
Points of interest:	largely forested walk; presence of wild boar; archaeological site (castle mound)

Cross the car park in front of the schools, then turn left to the traffic lights. At the lights turn right onto the D918. Continue straight on to the **place Général de Gaulle** (in front of the church).

1. Continue, then in the bend take the right-hand descent (**le chemin d'Arrondeau**). Cross the **Corbionne** via the footbridge and the millstream via the stone bridge.
2. Turn left at the calvary cross (**la Croix Guérin**) and take the tarmac lane via **La Rue** and **Saussay**.
3. Once at the clearing near the pond, **l'étang du Val**, take the signposted path up the forest edge (information panel), then bend left after 200 m and climb through the woods to arrive, 300 m further, at the access to the castle mound called **La Butte du Château**. Return to the **étang du Val** and turn right to continue along the stony path. At the next crossroad, pass through the gate and follow the woodland path. After the wide electric pylon corridor the path exits onto the D38. Follow this road to the right for 100 m.
4. Leave the D38 by climbing, on the right, the D619, a narrow, bendy road. At 100 m from the isolated house at the **Bout du Bois**, take a right to enter the forest through a gate following the path called **le chemin de César** (often very wet) dotted with hunting towers.
5. Pass underneath the power lines to the crossroads called **la Verrerie**. Continue along the **Chemin de César**. When you arrive at a stony path turn right towards a large shed. Pass around the left side of the shed to avoid it. Carry on for 600 m, ignoring a path on the right. Cross over the **chemin du Garde**.
6. Take a right turn to leave the **chemin de César**. Cross over a stony private road (water course). Take the winding path opposite for a kilometre that cuts through the same track twice. The path opens out onto a long straight line with a gate. Continue straight ahead following a path which descends gently before turning left after 800 m.
7. Take the left fork and then right 100 m further on, then left again (beautiful view). Follow the path down, leave the forest and reach the D620 at **Jonville**. Cross the D620 and walk in the direction of **Bas de Jonville**.
8. In the hamlet take a right turn towards **les Aunais** where, on the right, you meet the tarmac road. Turn left and continue via **les Jardins**, then on the left towards **le Buisson** and **la Blosserie**. Take a right turn to regain the D620 which you cross to reach **Montras**.
9. At the equestrian centre take a left turn onto a sandy path along the edge of the **Mesnil** wood which ends at **la Noue Marion**. Continue to the hamlet of **la Booz**. Turn left and continue to rejoin the D620.

Turn right to return to the car park via **le Pont de Crochet** (bridge over the **Corbionne**) and the **rue Henri Levier**.

