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MAP SYMBOLS

	Green Way (no motor traffic, easy gradients, prepared surface)		tourist information point
	Green Way route continued and signed on roads shared with motorised traffic		museum
	Suggested alternative to signed route		sports field
	Green Way route continued, but not signed, on roads shared with motorised traffic (un-signed, so only suggested)		racecourse (<i>hippodrome</i>)
	Green Way route, practicable but not yet developed to full Green Way standard (possible lack of signs, poor surface, unsecured junctions, etc.)		abbey
	detour route		church (usually the centre of a <i>bourg</i>)
	minor road or track crossing		chapel
	busy road crossing		cemetery
	railway/level crossing		
	canal/lock		
	parking		
	toilets		
	water		
	picnic table/area		
	seat		
	shelter (often a trackside hut, somewhere to get out of the rain)		
	café		
	restaurant		
	supermarket		
	position of Tourist Office		
	seasonal tourist office		

liaisons

	Green Way
	departmental cycle routes
	cycle tour/vélo promenade circuit clockwise
	cycle tour/vélo promenade circuit anti-clockwise
	cycle tour/vélo promenade/circuit direction not specified
	VTT (mountain bike) circuit
	walking circuit
	GR - <i>grande randonnée</i> - long-distance footpath
	train service TER (bikes accepted)
	ferry/boat service

accommodation

(the numbers refer to the accommodation listings, see p.130)

	hotel/B&B/ chambre d'hôte
	gîte d'étape/hostel
	camping



Green Ways & Cycle Routes

The network of Green Ways and cycle routes in Brittany is still growing. The information given here reflects the situation in early 2016, according to information available at that time.

REGIONAL ROUTES

Name:	V1 Roscoff to Nantes (part of Velodyyssey* from Ilfracombe in Devon to Hendaye on the French/Spanish border)
Developed:	Roscoff to Nantes
Length:	358kms (approximately)
Type:	cycle route, largely on Green Way (canal towpath or railway)
Route:	Roscoff - St-Pol-de-Léon - Morlaix - Poullaouen - Carhaix - (Port de Carhaix) - Rostrenen - Gouarec - Lac de Guerlédan - Pontivy - Rohan - Josselin - Malestroit - Redon - Guenrouët - Blain - Nort-sur-Erdre - Nantes

Starts at Roscoff and shares the V7 cycle-route (see below) to Morlaix then the V7 Green Way to Carhaix. From here to Gouarec there is a choice of routes.

Alternative 1 (shorter): follow the V6 from Carhaix to Gouarec.

Alternative 2 (prettier): from Carhaix, continue on the V7 to Port de Carhaix (or just before at the bridge over the canal, see map on p.107) then follow the canal towpath eastward to Gouarec.

From Gouarec the V1 is contiguous with the V6 to a point just east of Lac de Guerlédan, where the V1 leaves southwards on a signed linking route to rejoin the Nantes-Brest Canal (below the barrage de Guerlédan), and follow it to Pontivy. From Pontivy the V1 continues eastwards on the canal. Just before the end of the canal the V1 (signed as Velodyyssey) diverts southwards to re-integrate with the road system to Nantes (c.25kms including some further sections of Green Way or cycle track).

NB Full details of the route from Port de Carhaix to the end of the canal near Nort-sur-Erdre are not given in this book but can be found in **The Nantes-Brest Canal, a guide for walkers and cyclists** (Red Dog Books).

*Velodyyssey is part of the EuroVelo Atlantic Coast route (Ev1) from the North Cape in Norway to Sagres in Portugal (Eurovelo is a concept of the European Cyclists' Federation. ecf.com)

Name: **VD3 / VD8 Fougères - St-Broladre**
Length: 61kms
Type: Fougères to Antrain mostly Green Way, cycle route from Antrain to Roz-sur-Couesnon, then Green Way to St-Broladre
Route: Fougères - St-Germain-en-Coglès - St-Etienne-en-Coglès - St-Brice-en-Coglès - Antrain - Sougéal - Vieux-Viel

The Green Way VD3 from Fougères to Antrain follows a former railway from the centre of Fougères. At the midway point the Green Way is diverted alongside a road for a kilometre to near St-Etienne-du-Coglès. The last few kilometres approaching Antrain are said to be the quietest and prettiest, passing through a wooded river valley, with a short tunnel. From Antrain the VD3 continues as a cycle route to Vieux-Viel, from where it continues as the VD8. At les Quatre Salines, a hamlet in the lowlands between St-Broladre and Roz-sur-Couesnon, the VD8 meets the V4 Littorale coming from Normandy and shares its Green Way to the Chapelle Ste-Anne (Bay of Mont St-Michel).

Name: **VD4 St-Pern - Antrain**
Length: 70kms
Type: cycle route
Route: St-Pern - Miniac-sous-Bécherel - Cardroc - Les Iffs - St-Brieuc-des-Iffs - Hédé - Montreuil-sur-Ille - Feins - Marcillé-Raoul - Bazouges-la-Pérouse - Antrain

At St-Pern, the V3 is only 2kms away at Plouasne, over the border in Morbihan (see p.49 for liaison). The route goes from St-Pern via Miniac-sous-Bécherel (but don't miss nearby Bécherel, Brittany's equivalent of Hay-on-Wye for bookshops). Then on through Les Iffs, where a detour is in order to the Château Montmuran (see p.41). Continuing via St-Brieuc-des-Iffs to Hédé and the Ille-et-Rance canal (V2 Green Way). Leaving the canal again at Montreuil-sur-Ille the route continues via Feins, Marcillé-Raoul and Bazouges-la-Pérouse to Antrain.

Name: **VD5 Fougères - Louvigné-du-Désert**
Length: 22kms
Type: Green Way (railway)
Route: Fougères - St-Germain-en-Coglès - Le Châtellier - Parigné - Louvigné-du-Désert

Starts near centre of Fougères, from the parking du Nançon, initially following the same route as VD3 (see above). After 4.5kms, at a crossing 1km after the D782, the line forks. Divert a few metres right to take the right hand track (straight on goes to Antrain). After Louvigné-du-Désert the Green Way continues towards St-Hilaire du Harcouët in Normandy (Manche) and on to the Green Way east/west from Vire to the Bay of Mont St-Michel (V4).

Name: **VD6 St-Méen-le-Grand to Vitré**
Length: approx. 135kms
Type: cycle route St-Méen-le-Grand to Moutiers; Green Way (railway) Moutiers to Vitré
Route: St-Méen-le-Grand - St-Malon-sur-Mel - Plélan-le-Grand - Bréal-sous-Montfort - Le Pont Réan (on the River Vilaine) - Pont Péan - Amanlis - Essé - Marcillé Robert - Moutiers - Vitré
From St-Malon-sur-Mel to Plélan-le-Grand the route passes through the legendary Forest of Brocéliande. Later, between Essé and Marcillé Robert, don't miss the massive dolmen 'La Roche aux Fées' beside the D341.

Name: **VD7 St-Pern to Redon**
Length: approx 110kms
Type: cycle route
Route: St-Pern (link to VD4) - Iffendic - Monterfil - Maxent - Pipriac - St-Just - Redon (link to Nantes-Brest Canal V1)

In conjunction with the VD4, this is a useful north-south route linking the V3 Green Way at Plouasne or the V2 at Hédé with the V1 Nantes-Brest Canal (Velodyssy) at Redon. Highlight on the way for megalith hunters is the multiple site at St-Just, second only to Carnac.

Name: **VD8 Vieux-Viel - St-Broladre**
(see VD3 / VD8 Fougères to St-Broladre, page 21)

Name: **VD9 Parcé - Bazouges-la-Pérouse**
Length: approx. 38kms
Type: cycle route
Route: Parcé - Saint-Marc-le-Blanc - Rimou - Bazouges-la-Pérouse (link with the VD4)

LOIRE ATLANTIQUE

Name: **Vélocéan** (north of Loire)
Length: 46kms
Type: cycle route on roads
Route: Piriac-sur-Mer - Guérande - branch to Le Croisic - La Baule - St-Nazaire

Piriac-sur-Mer (*Petite Cité de Caractère*) is a seaside resort with a marina. Guérande, a well-preserved medieval walled town gave its name to the Treaty of Guérande (1364) that ended Brittany's War of Succession. For more than a thousand years salt has been produced from the extensive salt marshes in the area. The route branches to Le Croisic, seaside town on a peninsula beyond the salt marshes, La Baule, resort with extensive harbour, leisure port and plenty of restaurants, and St-Nazaire, industrial town, port and dockyard.

The extensive wetland area of the Parc Naturel Régional de Brière and the Château de Ranrouët at Herbignac make an interesting detour inland.

V2. 6: Hédé to St-Médard-sur-Ille (22.3kms, Green Way)

Tourist information - Maison du Canal, La Madeleine, Hédé (see map) or bretagne35.com or paysdelabaie-mtstmichel.com

After Hédé the V2 leaves the tow-path but still follows the canal along a lonely stretch of woodland track from which, initially, one can look down on the last few in the ladder of 11 locks. Then the Bassin de Bazouges can be glimpsed through the trees before the canal turns east and heads across the high ground in a deep cut. As usual in these loneliest of spots where canal construction was at its most laborious, there was a place nearby for the workers that is still called 'le camp'.

Hédé regularly hosts street theatre in mid-August and a weekend jazz festival on the canal in mid-September.

Refreshments & Provisions:

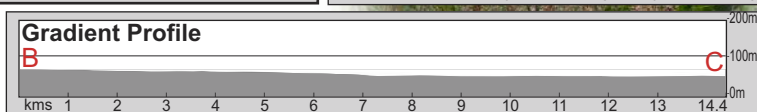
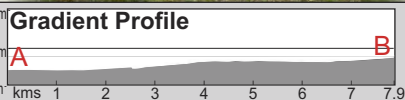
Hédé (*bourg*), Guipel (*bourg*), Montreuil-sur-Ille (*bourg*), St-Médard-sur-Ille (*bourg*).

Signage: V2 Hédé, Guipel, Montreuil-sur-Ille, St-Médard-sur-Ille.

Route: Canal tow-path, follow signs for correct side of canal. ▶S at Hédé V2 switches sides and climbs into woods to follow canal at a higher level (some shared roads here).

Surface: compacted sand, occasional tarmac, good.

Detours: Hédé - pleasant, small town with a ruined castle overlooking the old Roman road between *Condate* (Rennes) and Aleth (near St-Malo). Worth the climb for the view.



LIAISONS:

VD4 St-Pern - Antrain, Ille-et-Vilaine cycle route.

c. Circuit Duguesclin (see p.38).

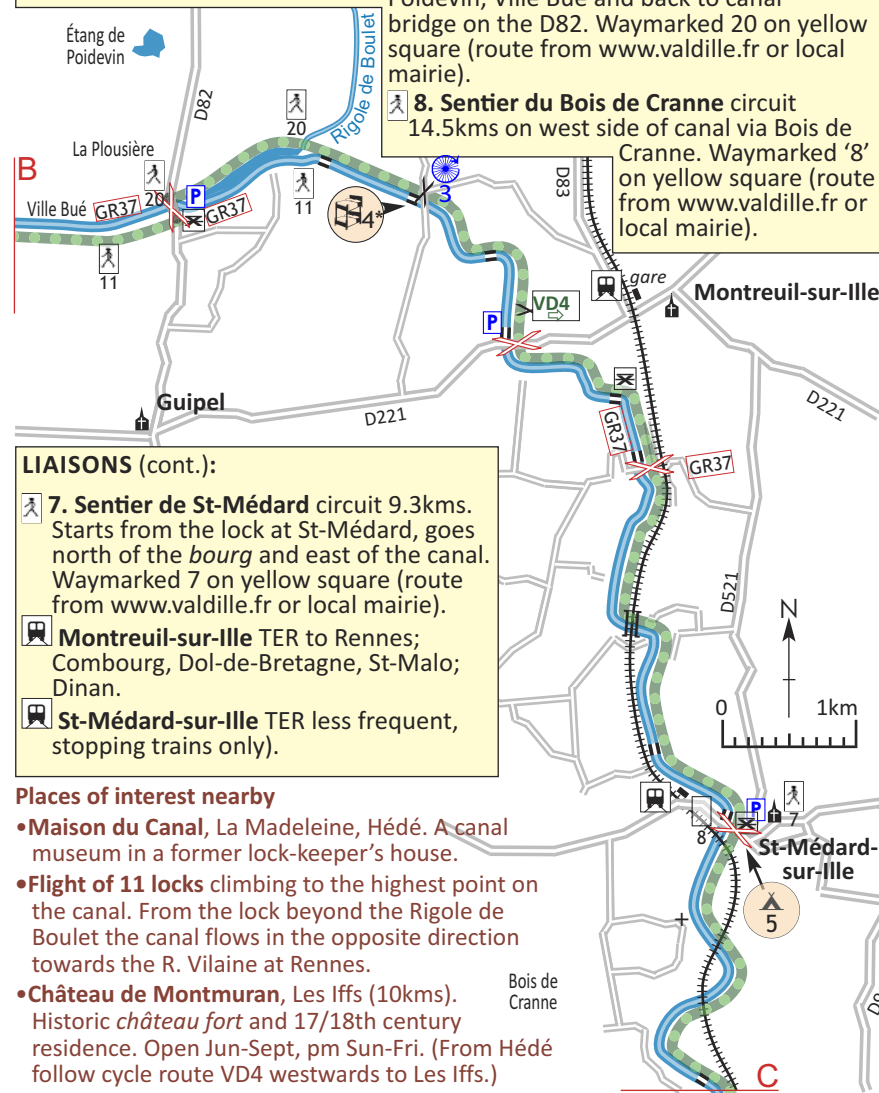
3 De canal en bocage, 24kms medium. Montreuil-sur-Ille, north to Étang de Boulet, Feins (Ref. & Pro.), south to Aubigné and rejoining the Green Way where the GR37 crosses, south of Montreuil (velo promenade No.3).

a. Various circuits, details from local *mairies* and tourist information points.

11. Sentier des Guipellois circuit 8.6kms. Starts in Guipel, Place de l'Église. Waymarked '11' on yellow square (route from www.valdille.fr or local *mairie*).

20. Sentier de la Plouisière circuit 7kms via Rigole de Boulet, Étang de Poidevin, Ville Bué and back to canal bridge on the D82. Waymarked 20 on yellow square (route from www.valdille.fr or local *mairie*).

8. Sentier du Bois de Cranne circuit 14.5kms on west side of canal via Bois de Cranne. Waymarked '8' on yellow square (route from www.valdille.fr or local *mairie*).



LIAISONS (cont.):

7. Sentier de St-Médard circuit 9.3kms. Starts from the lock at St-Médard, goes north of the *bourg* and east of the canal. Waymarked 7 on yellow square (route from www.valdille.fr or local *mairie*).

Montreuil-sur-Ille TER to Rennes; Combourg, Dol-de-Bretagne, St-Malo; Dinan.

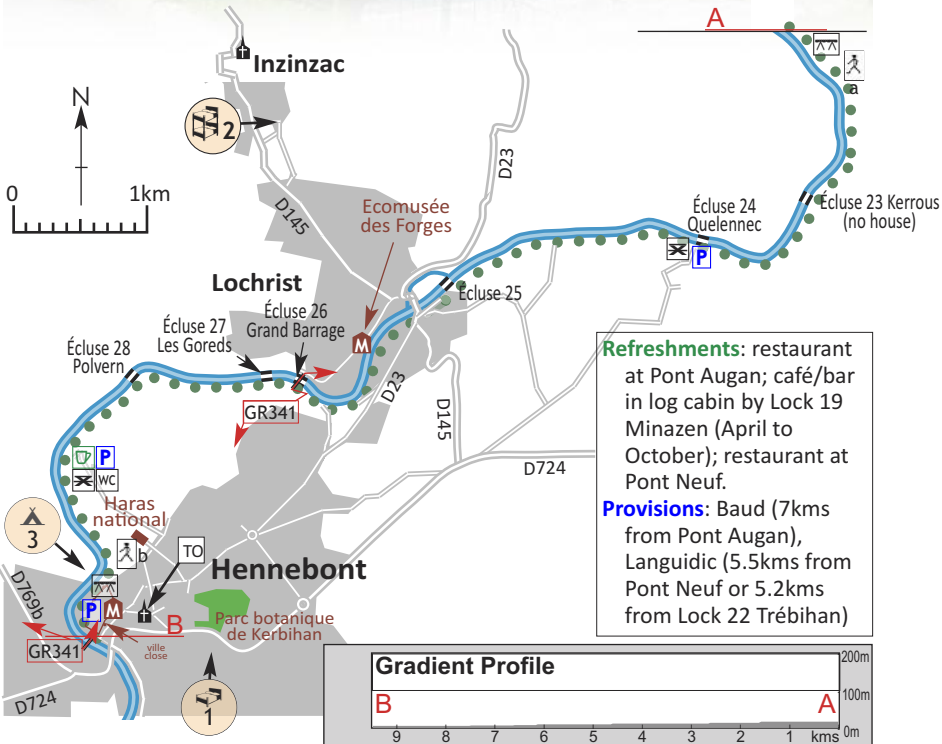
St-Médard-sur-Ille TER less frequent, stopping trains only).

Places of interest nearby

- **Maison du Canal**, La Madeleine, Hédé. A canal museum in a former lock-keeper's house.
- **Flight of 11 locks** climbing to the highest point on the canal. From the lock beyond the Rigole de Boulet the canal flows in the opposite direction towards the R. Vilaine at Rennes.
- **Château de Montmuran**, Les Iffs (10kms). Historic *château fort* and 17/18th century residence. Open Jun-Sept, pm Sun-Fri. (From Hédé follow cycle route VD4 westwards to Les Iffs.)

V8. 8: Lochrist and Hennebont - (9.7km Green Way)

TO Hennebont (mairie) 9, Place Maréchal Foch 02 97 36 24 52 ville-hennebont.fr
Lorient 02 97 84 78 00 lorientbretagnesudtourisme.fr



Industrial sky-line across the river at Lochrist

Places of interest nearby

- **Lochrist.** Ecomusée des Forges. Museum of the metalworking industry that was formerly on this site.
- **Hennebont.**
 - Haras national** - (National stud) Musée du Cheval en Bretagne
 - Ville Close** - the old town walls
 - Les Tours Broërec'h** (gate to Ville Close) - museum of art, traditions and history of Hennebont.
 - Parc botanique de Kerbihan** - botanical gardens - trees and plants from five continents.

Signage: awaiting new Green Way signs.

Route: ► towpath of the canalised River Blavet, always on the left bank.

Surface: canal towpath - mostly tarmac, good - some older patches.

Difficulties: none

WHERE NEXT?

Along the south coast, either westwards via Lorient (sooner or later there will be a completely signed cycle route into Lorient, whereas at present only a middle section of it is signed) or south along the left bank of the Blavet to Port-Louis (Museum of the *Compagnie des Indes* in the citadel) and then continue eastwards via Riantec and Plouhinec to Erdeven to see the Neolithic alignments of Kerzerho (right beside the D781) and continue to Plouharnel, Quiberon and Carnac. Further on from Carnac are even more megaliths (Locmariaquer and the island of Gavrinis in particular), the Gulf of Morbihan, the city of Vannes and the Presqu'île de Rhuy. As time goes by, more of the V5 will be signed on quieter roads or cycle tracks, even the odd bit of Green Way. There will eventually be a link-up from Rhuy to Questembert and the V3 northwards.

LIAISONS:

- a. Circuit de St-Urlo**, walking and VTT (12kms). Starts from Kerentestec (Languidic), joins the Blavet towpath between Locks 21 Le Rudet and 22 Trébihan (see page 118). Visits the Chapelle de St-Urlo on the way back to Languidic. Yellow waymarks. (blavet.bzh)
- b. Circuit du Talhouët**, walk (7kms). Starts from the Tourist Office/mairie. Green waymarks.

GR341 Pontivy(56) to Riantec(56). Long-distance waymarked path. Here it can serve as a waymarked path into either Hennebont or Inzinzac-Lochrist, or as a walking route from Hennebont to Pontivy not via the Blavet.