

# Marais de Sacy //



RAMSAR SITE  
NUMBER  
**2312**



FRANCE

Area :  
**1 073 ha**

Date of designation :  
**October 9<sup>th</sup> 2017**

Coordinates :  
**49° 20'N 02° 33'E**

## Summary

The Marais de Sacy represent a vast group of alkaline peaty marshes in a single block of great ecological and heritage interest, due to their diversity of flora and fauna. Located within a natural depression, they are bordered to the south by wooded areas and to the north by meadows, poplar groves and cereal or market garden crops. The wooded area to the south includes a portion of wet moors and ponds with a more marked acidity and environments different from the alkaline peaty marshes. Its double hydraulic system, an underground supply in the north and a rain supply in the south, presents a particular character with waters of different composition and quality.

## International importance

These marshes contain a group of exceptional natural habitats and are home to remarkable fauna species on a global scale. They are also an important stage for the migration of passerines, waders and anatidae.

## General location

The marshes of Sacy are located in the north of France in the Hauts-de-France region, in the department of Oise. Close to the Oise valley, they are located in a triangle formed by the towns of Clermont, Compiègne and Creil.



Les marais de Sacy

## Advers factors

Drinking water withdrawals for the local population and agriculture provide services to the population but also represent significant threats of marsh drying during the summer period.

In addition, the extensive network of ditches and the straightness of the watercourses present in the Sacy marshes constitute drains that accelerate their emptying and accentuate the critical periods of drought.

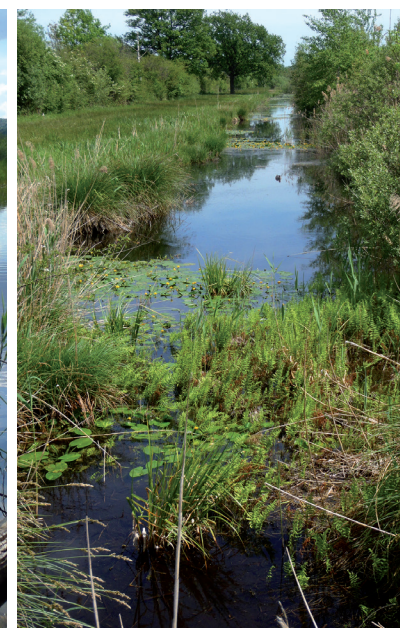
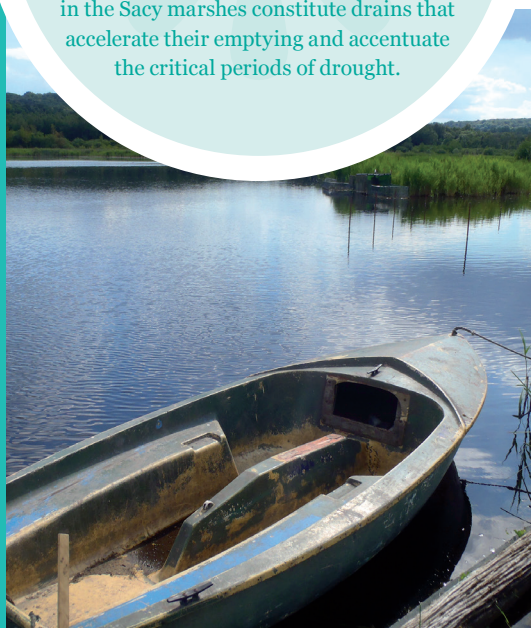
## Services provided by wetlands

The Marais de Sacy contribute to good water management through their purification capacities (water quality) and water storage (flood control and low water support). Their watershed provides drinking water for more than 25,000 inhabitants. Agricultural withdrawals also allow the development of irrigated agriculture.

These marshes also contribute to the fight against global warming by storing carbon in the peat.

They are a major site for the practice of night hut hunting (waterfowl), a traditional hunting method.

A path on the departmental property (representing a little more than 20% of the marshes) allows the discovery and observation of a part of the Sacy marshes, making the local population aware of the necessity to preserve the wetlands.



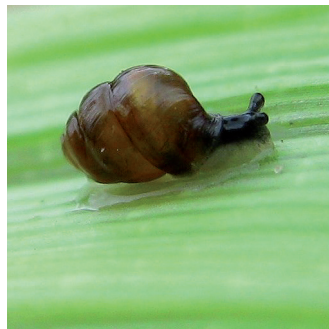


## Four species representative of the site



**MARSH GENTIAN**  
(*Gentiana pneumonanthe*)

This gentian of plain frequents meadows and marshes on soils rich in organic matter to peaty and wet to temporarily flooded on the surface. In the north-west of France, it is only present in a few marshes inland in the Somme (around Amiens), the Oise (marais de Sacy) and in the Aisne (Laonnois and Tardenois).



**DESMOULIN'S WHORL SNAIL**  
(*Vertigo moulinsiana*)

The populations of this very small snail are mainly located in Southern Europe, Central Europe and Western Europe. It frequents wetlands of good quality. The marais de Sacy constitute one of the bastions of this species at the regional level.



**SOUTHWESTERN WATER VOLE**  
(*Arvicola sapidus*)

This vole is locally present in France, Spain and Portugal where it frequents the banks of rivers and wetlands. Its presence in the marais de Sacy, which represent the northern limit of its range, was confirmed in 2015 thanks to the genetic analysis of droppings with a distribution that has yet to be defined.



**GREAT RAFT SPIDER**  
(*Dolomedes plantarius*)

This spider is widely distributed throughout the European continent but remains localized to large wetlands. On the site, the species *Dolomedes plantarius* is well represented, especially in sectors that are flooded for a large part of the year. The marshes of Sacy are one of the rare stations in France.

## Biodiversity

An ornithological station present on the site allowed to have a better knowledge of the birds. More than 160 bird species frequent the marshes throughout the year. The site is one of the strongholds for the northwestern quarter of France for the typical paludicolous species.

The marshes are also home to other remarkable animal species such as amphibians, dragonflies, orthopterans and butterflies.

For the flora, 53 species of heritage interest have been observed, including 18 protected at the regional level. The Sacy marshes also play an important role in the preservation and conservation of charaphytes and bryophytes in northwestern France.



## Gestion et conservation

The Syndicat mixte des marais de Sacy is the main local animator on the marshes. Its mission is divided between water and biodiversity management. It provides technical assistance to the owners and tenants of the marshes through advice and direct aid for their good hydraulic and ecological management. It also contributes to the development of the marshes. The Department of Oise is also an essential player in the preservation of marshes through the acquisition of 240 hectares. The Conservatoire d'espaces naturels de Picardie also has management agreements with three municipalities and one private owner. Finally, we should mention the owners and tenants who work to maintain open environments in the marshes.

The Syndicat Mixte des Marais de Sacy has been responsible for the integration of the marshes into the Natura 2000 network. They have thus benefited from maintenance and restoration work on nearly 10% of its surface.



### The Ramsar Convention

The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, commonly known as the Ramsar Convention, is a global inter-governmental treaty that provides the frame-work for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources. It is the only global treaty to focus on one single ecosystem.