

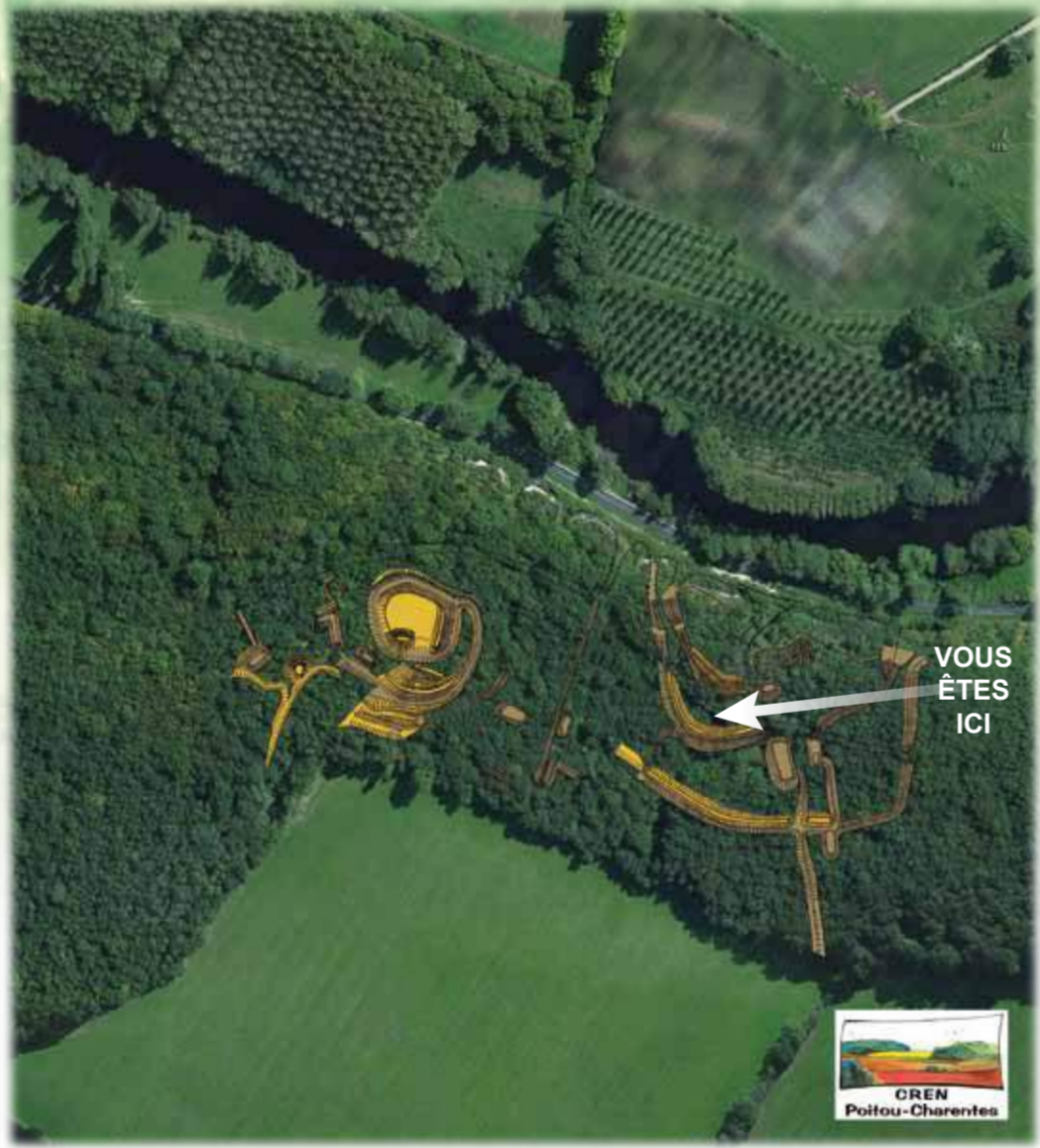


Once upon a time in the wood the castle de la Motte Charon

The Motte Charon was occupied from the XII to XIV centuries. Its name implies a feudal mound which would have had a wooden fortified castle standing on it. It would have been the residence for a Lord and could have been part of a medieval protection for Montmorillon. The site is protected, digging is forbidden and the upkeep of the Grand Bois is regulated.

An ancient, highly coveted wooden castle.

Built on a cliff high above the Gartempe river, this defensive position offered an ideal viewpoint for watching over the valley. Digs have revealed a series of ditches outlining three zones. The area furthest north was circular and protected on the west side by three ditches and banks. It would have been surrounded by high wooden fences to protect the local people when under attack.



Topographic plan of the Motte Charon



CC, Pierre Jacob

An illustration of a feudal mound

In 1699 Babert of La Pilatière bought this ancient ruin in order to give a noble title to his youngest son. From whence came the family name Babert de Juillé.

Management of the Grand Bois

The Motte Charon is in a wooded area and maintenance work is essential in order to prevent it becoming overgrown or the area being closed.

The Ecomuseum in partnership with l'ADECL from Lussac les Chateaux cuts wood for heating and coppice to regenerate growth of trees for the future.

This work conforms to the PEFC set out by the National Forestry Centre.



Wood of the Motte Charon



What would be the significance if the site were to be left unmaintained ?

If the area was to become overgrown, it would change from being an environment made up of a variety of habitats to an area of a single type. The disappearance of the habitats would cause problems for some of the species that are currently found here and therefore to the biodiversity of the site.