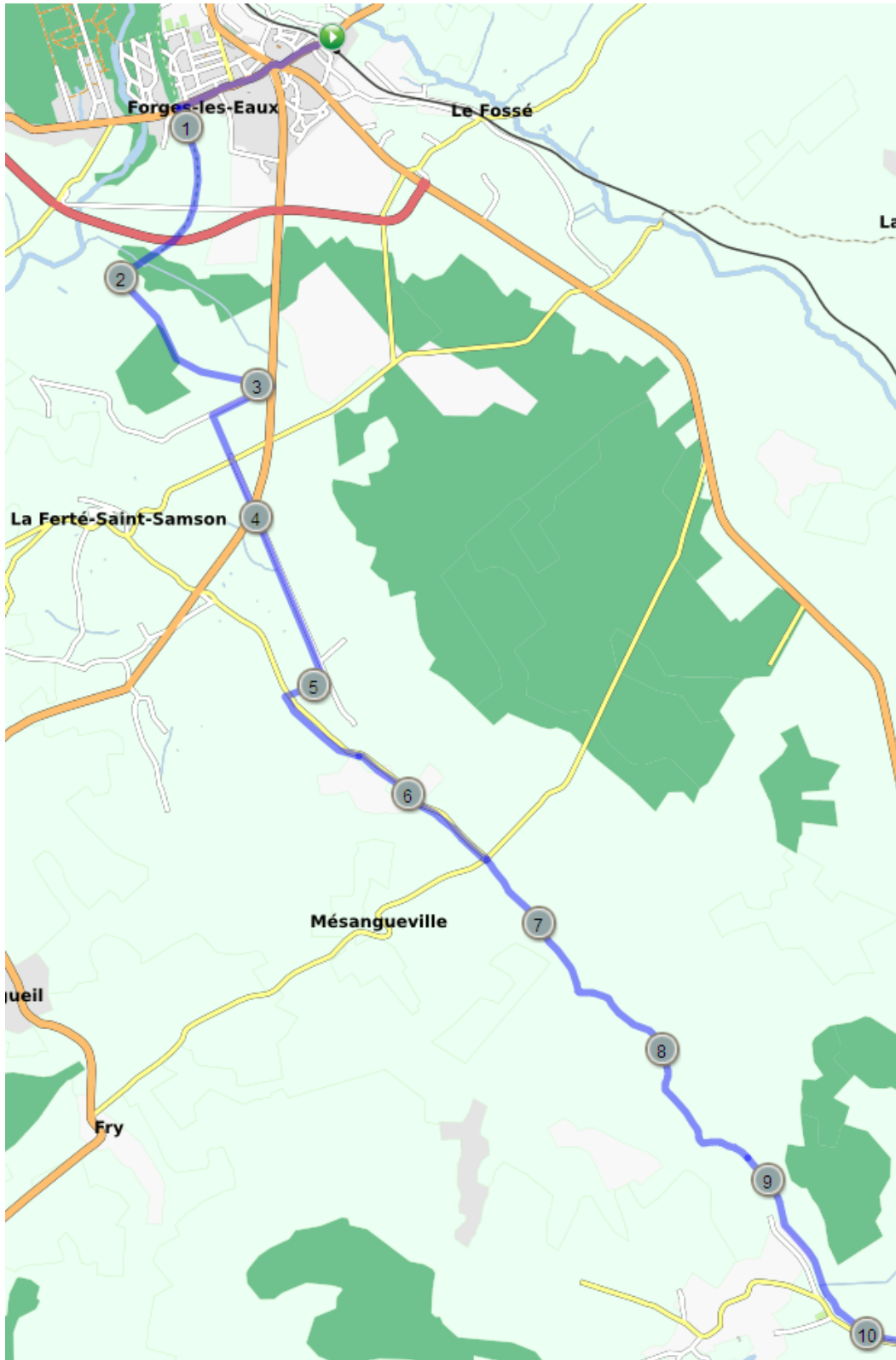


## Weybridge to Paris – Day 3 – Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> May

### Forges les Eaux

... was a roman settlement where iron was mined and worked. The coat of arms has an anvil and 12 hammers, which reflects this fact. It is also a Spa town, due to the iron and mineral rich water found there, with many spa hotels, and a casino (open until 5am on a Saturday night). We'll have missed the Cycling Tour de Normandy by a week, but the 24th International Festival of Magic will be in town and there's a painting exhibition at the Church. There's also the Museum of the Resistance.

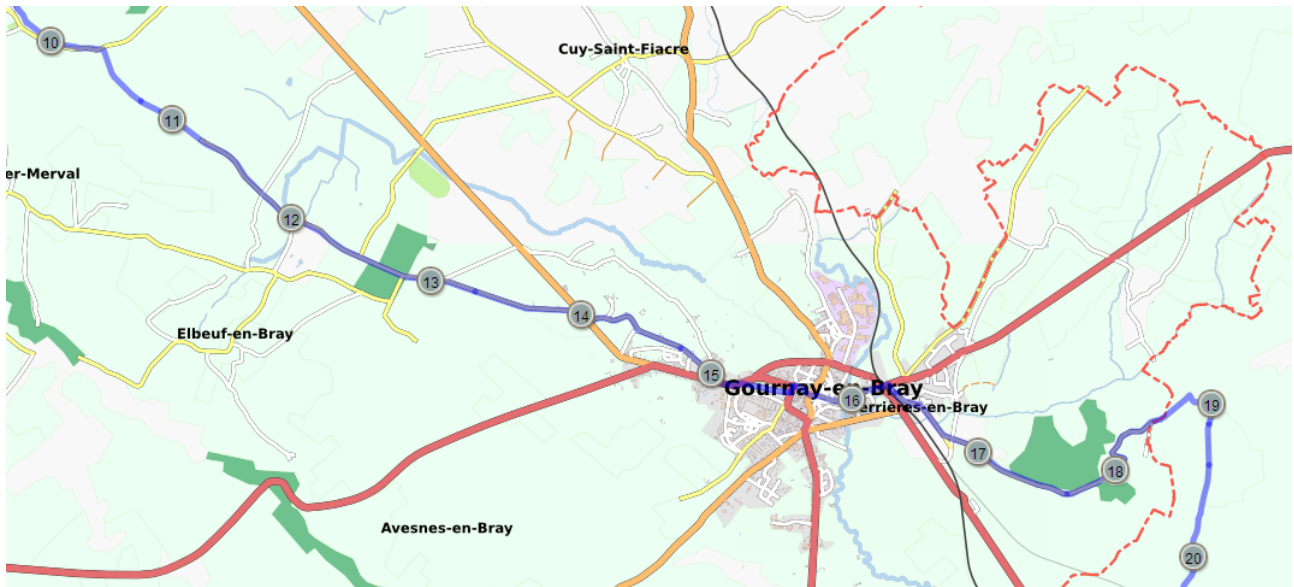
### Miles 0 – 10



We take an experimental alternative route for the section between Forges-les-Eaux and Gournay-en-Bray. We might get lost.

The first section is the very last bit of the Avenue Verte railway line, after than it's just country lanes.

## Mile 10-20



After Gournay-en-Bray we cross the river L'Epte again and then the railway, before heading past the railway station at Ferriers-en-Bray in a south easterly direction. With woodland to our left we climb the hill towards Auchy. A right turn in Auchy points us due south as we head down hill towards the main road the N31.

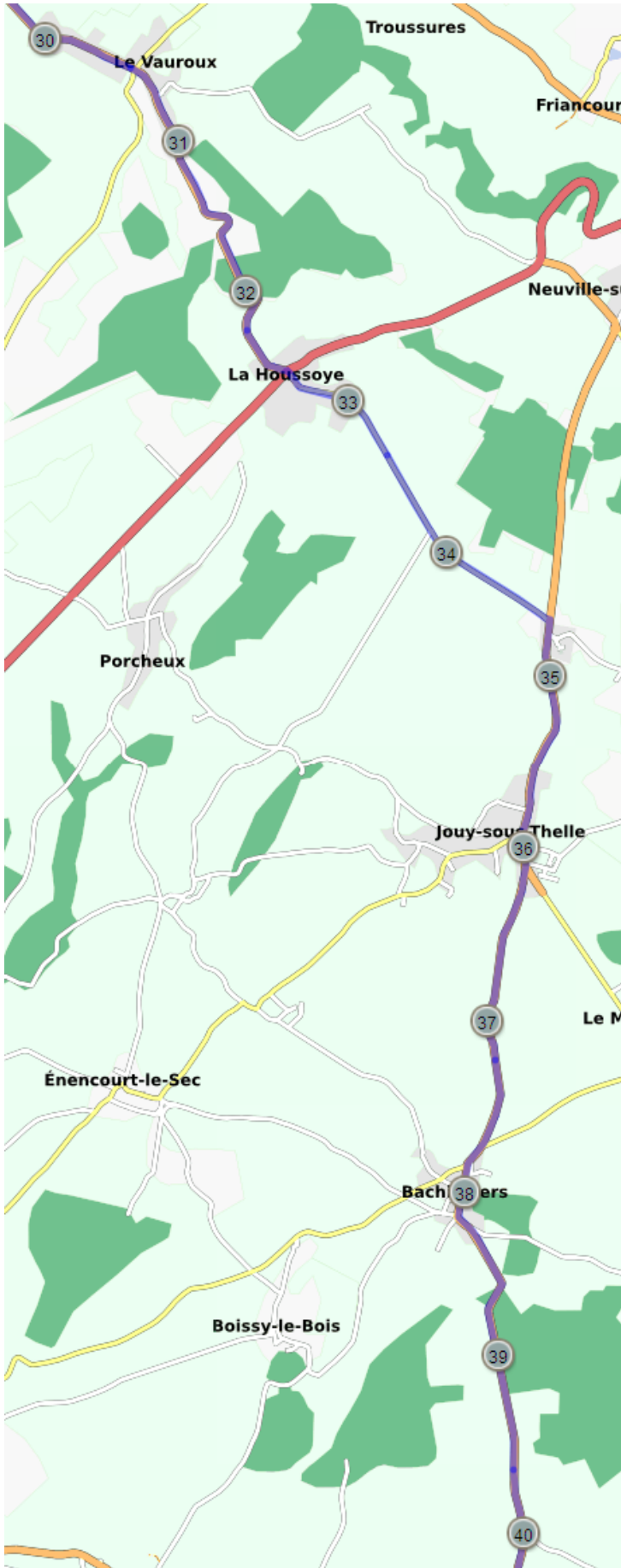
## Mile 20-30



We cross the N31 just after the 20 mile point and enter Saint-Germer-de-Fly along Rue de l'Etang. The Benedictine Abbey dates from the 12th century and is an early example of the gothic style. It is now the parish church.

Next, after a stiff hill, we pass through the villages of Le Coudray-Saint-Germer and then Lalandelle, Le Trou-Jumel and Le Varoux.

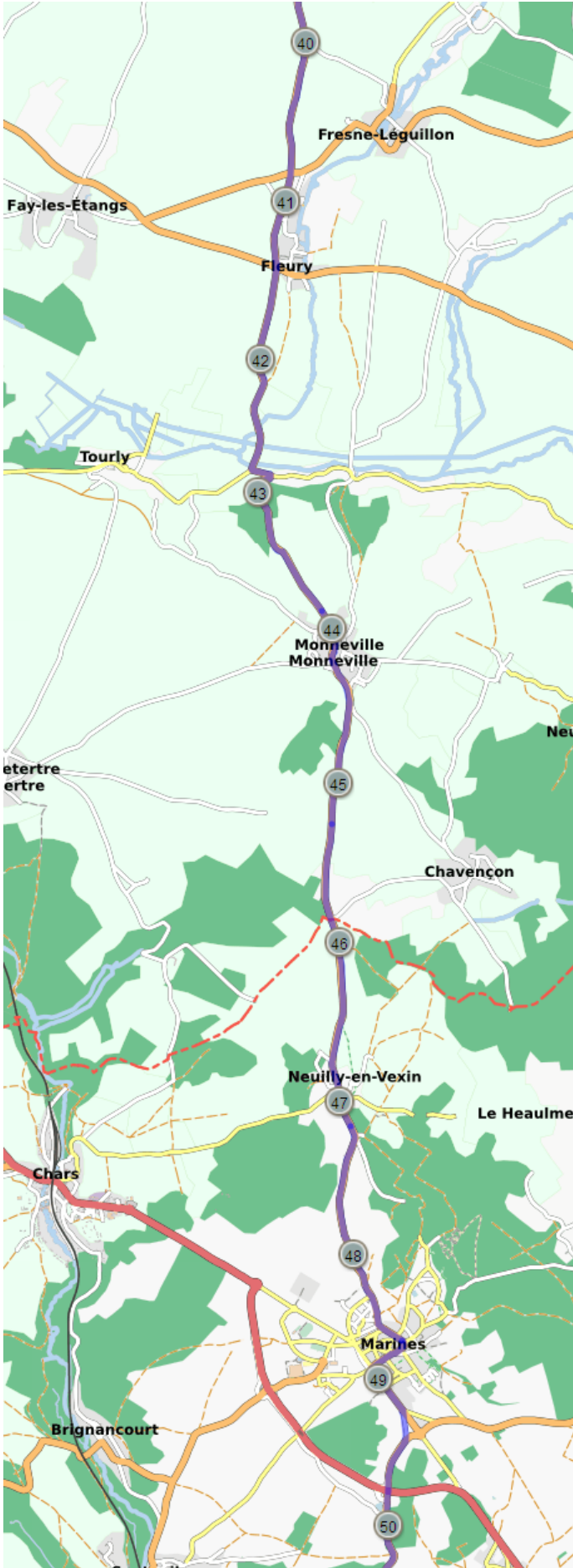
## Mile 30-40



After Le Vauroux we plunge downhill through the woods to La Houssoye. Look out for the Chateau de La Houssoye to your right as we enter the village. It was here in this village, in 1899, that the Stratosphere was discovered by a Monsieur Lebrun. As we leave La Houssoye look out for the Croix de fer about 200m from the end of the village.

After a couple of miles we turn right at a T-junction in the village of Jouy la Grange to join the D3. The next village is Jouy sous Thelle. There's a couple of shops here although they are closed in the afternoon. The boulangerie closes at 1:30pm and the pharmacy closes at 12:30pm. On leaving the village we take a right branch towards the village of Bachivillers and then Fleury.

## Mile 40-50



The road is flat for a while after Fleury as we run parallel to a small stream known as the Ru du Mesnil. We cross it and another stream before starting an ascent through the woods that leads us to Monneville. We may catch a glimpse, one street over to our left, of the priory of St Martin Marquemont.

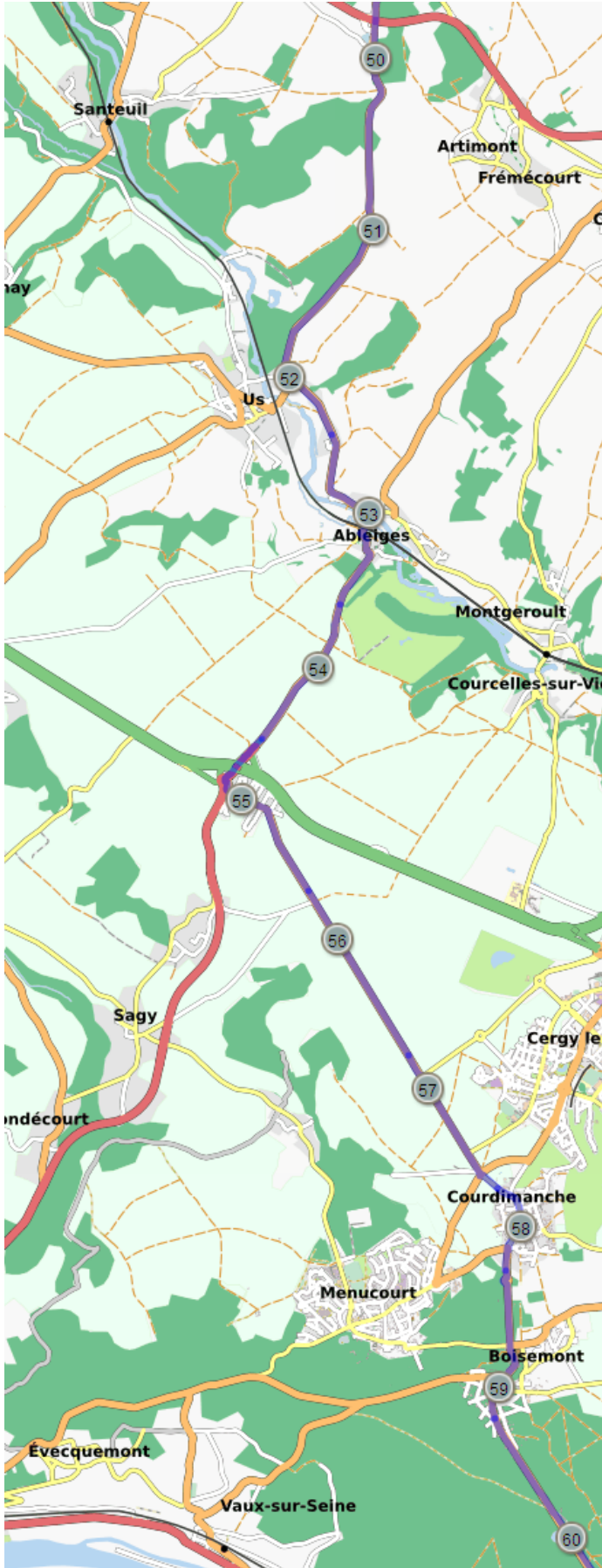
Inexplicably after we leave Monneville the D3 becomes the D28.

Next is the village of Neuilly-en-Vexin. There's a 17th century chateau here.

We then come to the town of Marines. There's a church with a very old bell here and a 16th century castle which was painted by Cezanne in 1896. There are shops in this town.

Exiting Marines, we pass under a main road, the D915, and head for the village of Us.

## Mile 50-60



As we drop down into the valley of the river La Voisne, we will see the village of Us ahead, but we skirt it and run parallel to the river for a couple of miles before crossing both the river and a railway line as we enter the village of Ableiges.

We leave the D28 in the village of La Villeneuve Saint Martin, after crossing over a dual carriageway, the D14, we turn left at a large roundabout onto the D38. This takes us through the middle of La Villeneuve Saint Martin and then continues dead straight for a couple of miles before heading uphill into Courdimanche which is dominated by a tall water tower.

Next we join the D22 towards Boisemont and then enter the L'Hautil forest. After a mile or two we leave the D22 turning right to go deeper into the forest. This forest is part of the Massif Hautil. This area has been mined extensively for Gypsum over the centuries. Old tunnel collapses and sinkholes are common. Watch your step.

## Mile 60-70



At the 60 mile point we reach the Parc aux Etioles located in the Castle Tower. This is a popular observatory in the heart of the forest, featuring a 23cm telescope and a museum.

From here we start to head downhill towards the river Seine. We reach the river at the town of Triel-sur-Seine. In 1845 an English woman arrived in Triel searching for treasure. She searched for over 50 years, excavating a large area looking for treasure believed to have been hidden by King James II. No treasure was ever found.

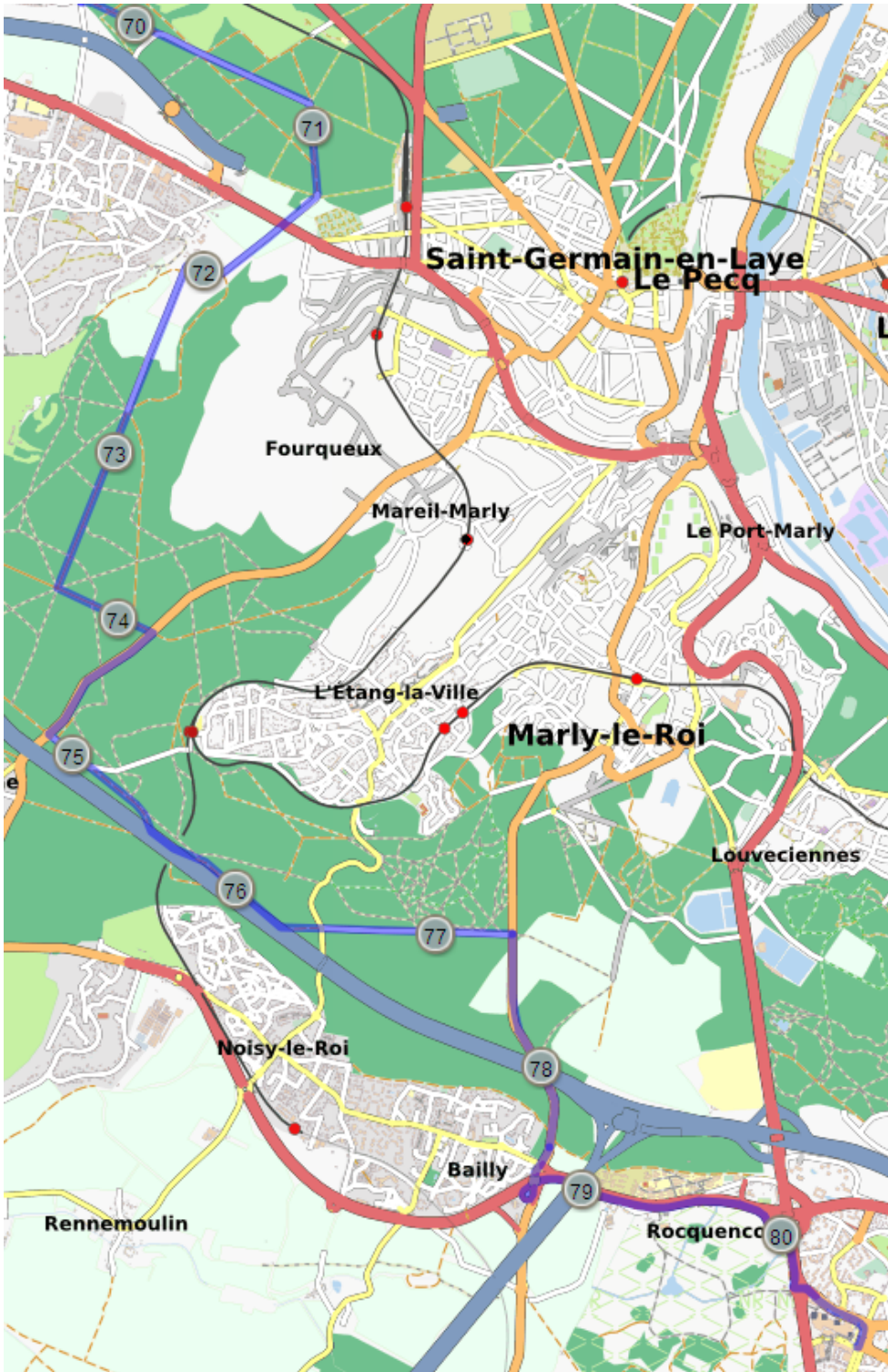
We travel along the northern (right) bank of the Seine for a mile or so before joining the busy D1 to cross it at the Pont de Triel where the river is split by the Ile

d'Herniers. After clearing the railway line we drop down off the bridge onto the D154 heading for the village of Medan.

Medan was the home of writer Emile Zola. His buddy Cezanne also painted here. In the middle of the river is the Ile du Platais which was the home of Physiopolis, established in 1927 as one of the first ever naturist resorts.

We continue on through Villennes-sur-Seine and turn right as we approach the town of Poissy. Traversing some back streets we avoid the centre of Poissy and arrive at the forest of Saint-Germain-en-Laye.

## Mile 70-80



Within the forest we take a right turn to head almost due South until we leave the forest at some riding stables.

After then crossing the busy N13 we follow the Routes des Princesses into the next forest, the forest of Marly-le-Roi. Zigzagging through the forest we ultimately turn south along Route de Marly (D7). Passing under the Autoroute de Normandi (A13) we reach the village of Bailly.

We then negotiate a cloverleaf junction and pick up a cycle lane on the D307. Passing the military camp de Voluceau on our left and the Rocquencourt nature reserve on our right we shortly arrive at the Centre Commercial Parly 2 where our hotel awaits.