Beech-wooded of Charlannes
Name: Beech-wooded plateau of Charlannes
Name of village/town: La Bourboule
Owner: council and private
References:
  GPS
  Latitude : 45°34'30.48"N
  Longitude : 2°43'41.33"E

Access: by car and/or on foot
By car: from La Bourboule, take the D129 in the direction of La Tour d'Auvergne and Plateau de Charlannes for 2 kilometres then turn left in the direction of the Plateau de Charlannes. After passing the large car park located on the right, take the farm road on the left parallel to the road. After passing the entrance to road, the beech wood is located to the left of the path. The path is wide and accessible by all vehicle types.

Length of itinerary: On foot: next to the path

Public parking and activities: 1 car park, 1 cable car to reach the plateau on foot without taking a car

Location of the artwork: The beech wood

Description of the site: Type of soil/surface area/vegetation/exposure
A cool and leafy forest path leads to the beech wood. The beech wood is located on the Charlannes plateau. This plateau overlooks the town of La Bourboule. A cable car station in the town centre runs the cable car which gets you to the plateau in just 5 minutes.

Charlannes Plateau - history:
In 1902, a funicular railway, the speed of which was governed by a tank of water which was either filled or emptied, connected La Bourboule to Charlannes plateau, where a small health resort had developed which was soon joined by a high-level golf course; on misty days the bells would peal out to lead lost golfers home. Golf fell into disuse before the war, and the funicular railway was demolished in 1955.

Nowadays the plateau is popular among mountain-bikers who take their cycles up in the cable car to then hurdle down the rough slopes of Charlannes from the plateau.

There are 2 means of access to the beech wood for visitors:
- they can either take the cable car, then a 900 metre-long shady path from the arrival of the cable car;
- or they can come by car and park in the deep-winter skiing car parks or those for the summer hikers near the old golf course. The track leading to the beech wood is just opposite the skiing hostel.

The wood is approximately 160 metres in circumference. It is young, the beech trees not yet very tall, and their shapes are unusual, some double and knotty, with visible roots, while others are straight and majestic, and almost 30 metres in height. The atmosphere of this wood is unusual, external sounds are unable to penetrate, and all that can be heard is the sound of a stream quietly rippling. The small area reinforces the feeling of intimacy exuded by the location, making the beech wood feel like a cocoon.

Technical aspects of the site:
The site is easily accessible by all vehicle types, and no problems transporting materials are to be envisaged.

Best points:
This is at the same time a site lying close to a main road, and hence very accessible, and also a calm, peaceful island of greenery. A magical site because of the intimacy of the place and the beauty of the trees.

The Charlannes plateau is popular in the summer thanks to the activities on offer: rambling, off-road cycling, children's games only 5 minutes from the La Bourboule town centre by cable car. Going up in the cable car makes the walks unique and offers a changing panorama of the surrounding peaks.
The heart of the beech wood
Top of the beech wood
The beech wood on the left of the path with a pine forest on the right

The beech wood: central part

The beech wood: the part between the streams
The site