



MONT D'ANHÉE, BELGIUM

Resume

La propriété est située dans la province de Namur à Anhée, à environ 75 kilomètres au sud-est de Bruxelles.

Au seizième siècle la propriété appartenait au Comte de Namur, un vassal du roi de France. Plus tard, la propriété faisait partie du domaine de l'Abbaye de Moulin.

Les propriétaires actuels, achetèrent la propriété en 1995.

D'importants travaux de reconstruction des bâtiments et des jardins ont été entrepris.

La propriété est connue comme Mont de Anhée, et dans son ensemble la zone atteint 190 mètres au dessus du niveau de la mer. Elle se développe sur deux collines, le Canon (200 mètres) et le Mont (150 mètres) et est traversée par deux petits ruisseaux, la Molinee et le Bocq. Le relief du domaine est très variable, très vigoureux au nord et au nord-est de la propriété, particulièrement dans les entailles importantes des vallées de la Meuse et de la Molinee. Certaines pentes situées sur les coteaux de la vallée de la Meuse sont supérieures à 20 degrés et constituent des zones sensibles du point de vue de l'érosion. Le terrain s'adoucit au sud-ouest.

Il y a un troupeau d'environ 100 vaches de la race Ab-

erdeen Angus qui sont croisées avec des taureaux de la race Limousin. Annuellement le troupeau produit 35 veaux dont la viande est commercialisée sur le marché local.

La forêt est dominée par des peuplements de chênes qui occupent, en première estimation, près de 80% de la surface forestière. Viennent ensuite les surfaces régénérées naturellement en bouleaux (*Betula Sp*) (11%) et en mélange érable/frêne (*Fraxinus excelsior*) (10%). La coupe de plus grande envergure est concentré dans la forêt d'âge mûr, essentiellement de chênes (79%), (10%) et (10%). La production en bois est actuellement de 300m3/an.

La gestion de la forêt est réalisée en collaboration avec la "Fondation Wallonne pour la Conservation de Habitats". Ensemble ils se sont compromis en une active politique pour la protection de tourbières et la conservation de haies et des zones humides.

Mont de Anhée présente toute une gamme de biotopes en rapport avec la nature de la roche-mère et le microclimat. Les sols peuvent être limoneux ou schisteux humides ou secs. Les pentes sont plus ou moins fortes et plus au moins exposées. A cette diversité de milieux répond une grande variété de groupements forestiers.

ESTATE:

Mont d'Anhée

LOCATION:

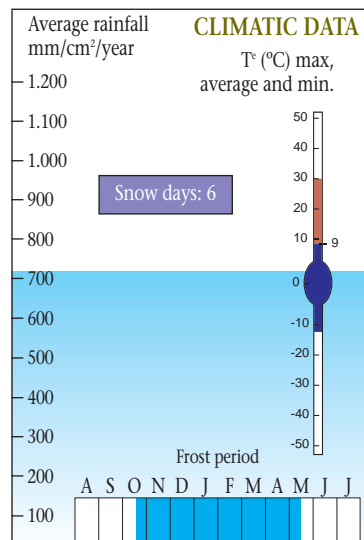
Municipality of Anhée, province of Namur, Belgium

ADJACENT ESTATES:

- North: Land of Hun, Abbey of Moulin
- East: Meuse river
- South: Senene
- West: Maredsous

SURFACE AREA OF THE ESTATE:

170 hectares





The Main House, constructed in 1890 and restored in 1997, is in Anglo-Norman style.

J de Hemptinne



A BRIEF HISTORY

The Estate is located in Anhée, Namur province, some 75 kilometres south-east of Brussels.

In the 16th Century the Estate belonged to the Count of Namur, a vassal of the King of France. Later, the Estate formed part of the land of the Abbey of Moulin (*Cistercian order*); until it was acquired towards the end of the 19th Century with the objective of creating a

The old well-known owners

- 1890: Edmond Drugman.
- 1919: Baroness Rachel de Séllys Longchamps.
- 1985: Roger Capelle, son of Baroness Rachel de Séllys.
- 1990: Anne Capelle.

stud farm for horses. The owner built the Castle and its outbuildings

During the two World Wars (1914-1918 and 1939-1945) the Estate was the site of fierce battles between French and German troops. The forests of the Estate dominated the Meuse valley and offered the French an elevated position to protect the Yvoir bridge. The Castle was occupied during the war by the French who used it as a field hospital.

The present owners acquired the property in 1995. Important work has been carried out on the reconstruction of the buildings and the gardens.



LAND AND LANDSCAPE

The Estate is known as Mount of Anhée, and the general area reaches 190 metres above sea level. It extends over two hills, Le Canon (200 metres) and Le Mont (150 metres) and is crossed by two small streams, La Molinee and Le Bocq. The physical relief in the area is very variable, with steep slopes in the north and the north-east of the Estate, particularly in the ravines of the Meuse and Molinee valleys. Some slopes on the sides of the Meuse valley are over 20°, and are subject to soil erosion. The terrain is more gentle in the south-west.

The whole Estate covers about 170 ha in a single block, including 100 ha of forest.

The soils derive from the "Famennien" which is made up of calcareous, slaty and sandy rock deposits. Most of the soil present on the Estate is relatively light, but generally stony. The organic content is generally good, and gives rise to a good top-soil. In the eastern part of the Estate the soil becomes more argillaceous and clayey in texture.



Welcome to Mont D'Anhée.

J de Hemptinne

The herd of about 100 head of Aberdeen Angus is crossed with Limousin bulls for beef production.



J de Hempinne

Following the total felling of softwood trees in the level areas of the forest, which were not replanted, a very dense regeneration of Birch has occurred. In the central area where the soils are wetter, there has been some colonisation by the European willow (*Salix alba*), Maple and Ash trees. The height of these trees reaches about 10 metres.

On the slopes in the south-east of the Estate, Birch, and Maple trees are dominant.

Young plantations have been established in attractive but relatively narrow stands on the fertile soils. In these areas, there has been abundant regeneration of Ash and Sycamore maple (*Acer pseudoplatanus*). Some of these stands have been subject to early and selective felling

The major felling is concentrated on the mature forest, essentially of Oak (80%), Ash (10%) and Birch (10%). The timber production is currently 300m³/year.

To date, the forestry policy of the Estate has worked to the sustainability standards of

the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC); a certification scheme developed by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF). But they now intend to work to the more recent Pan-European Forest Certification (PEFC) scheme.

Hunting

The large game species are Roe deer (*Capreolus capreolus*) and Wild boar (*Sus scrofa*). Each year 65 Roe deer are hunted, 25 of them bucks, which yield the high figure of 38.2 Roe deer/100 ha/year.

New uses

Mont D'Anh e organises Pony Camps, during the summer. Well over 100 children visit the Estate each year. The camps are run for groups of 20 children over a seven day period.



and the conservation of hedges and wet areas.

Mont de Anhée offers a wide range of biotypes related to the nature of its basic geology and microclimate. The soil can be somewhat slaty, wet or dry; the slopes variable, and exposed to the elements to a lesser or greater extent. This diversity leads to a great variety of forest types such as:

- the Ulmion with a bush stratum dominated by the Elm (*Ulmus minor*), relatively uncommon in the region;
- the Alno-Padion, observed on the muddy lanes in the presence of characteristic species such as Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*), Remote Sedge (*Carex remota*), Red-veined dock (*Rumex sanguinea*) etc;



Green Woodpecker (*Picus viridis*).

Staff at Mont D'Anhée

Name	Length of service
• Gérard Crucifix	25
• Guy Maréchal	1
• Sintillia Lubin	3

- the Carpinion, on drier areas, in the presence of a more acidified flora, especially comprising Wood bluegrass (*Poa nemoralis*), Greater Stitchwort (*Stellaria holostea*) etc;
- the Arrhenatherion, forming pretty herbaceous forest edges with Tall oat grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*) etc;
- elements of the Magno-Caricion in the lower areas of the Estate with European speedwell (*Veronica beccabunga*), Spiralis or Soft rush (*Juncus effusus*) etc;
- muddy areas where an area of vegetation occurs according to the degree of humidity;
- the wet places, where the species of Nanocyperion such as trailing St John's-wort (*Hypericum humifusum*) etc. are frequent; and.
- at the top of the slope, in conditions of good drainage, where there are areas with Wavy Hair Grass (*Deschampsia flexuosa*) and fragments of moorland with Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*), a hair-moss (*Polytrichum formosum*) and Polypody (*Polypodium vulgare*). (Quercion and Calluno-Genestion).

As mature trees are felled and the dense forest thinned, new and more diversified flora and fauna are developing. Forest management at Mont D'Anhée has been lacking until recent times, and so the creation of these areas is proving extremely interesting. In addition to the woodland management, the Estate is also restoring old ponds and marshes

There is an open-door policy on the Estate, and on two days a year, the Estate is open to the public, who can visit the natural areas as well as the stockbreeding facilities, meadows and buildings.