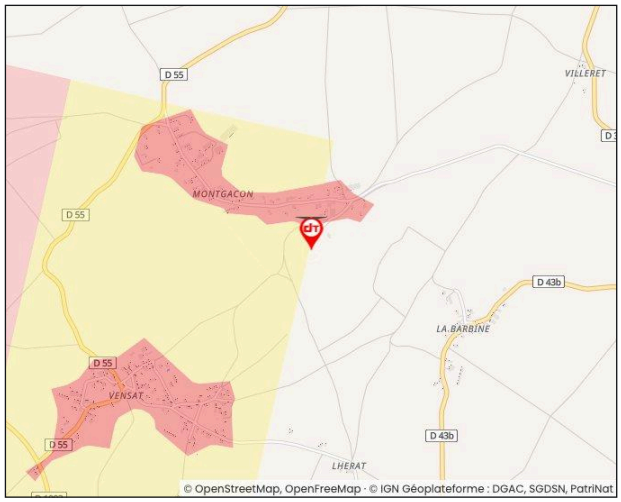
The Montgacon mound

Heritage · Puy-de-Dôme

GPS coordinates	45.94771, 3.35446
Elevation	402 m
Maximum height	120 m max
Access	Direct access by car
Nearest aerodrome	Clermont-Ferrand Auvergne Airport (LFLC) 23 km SW · spot 70 m higher
Spot reference	307843



Spot location and restrictions (Drone-Spot map image)

Sun (local times, UTC+01:00)

Day	Dawn	Sunrise	Sunset	Dusk	Day length	Golden hour
Sat 21 Nov	07:22	07:55	17:10	17:43	9 h 14	07:55–08:42 · 16:23–17:10
Sun 22 Nov	07:24	07:56	17:09	17:42	9 h 12	07:56–08:43 · 16:22–17:09
Mon 23 Nov	07:25	07:58	17:08	17:41	9 h 10	07:58–08:45 · 16:21–17:08

Nearby aerodromes

Aerodrome	Type	Distance	Elevation
Clermont-Ferrand Auvergne Airport	Airport	23 km SW	332 m
Vichy-Charmeil Airport	Airport	25 km N	249 m

Description

The Montgacon mound is one of the many mottes in the region that formed a line of fortifications along the Allier, but it is certainly one of the most important in the département. Its current appearance (two superimposed platforms topped by a round dome) is the result of a reworking of the summit after the damage caused by demolitions over past centuries. In 582, under the lordship of the Dukes of Aquitaine, a Gascon colony settled here, hence its present name Montgacon, derived from Mont Gascon, and it became a powerful barony on the border of Auvergne. The first written record of the castle dates from 1052, from a text by Henry I, King of France, confirming the donation of the castle chapel to the abbey of La Chaise-Dieu.

Scan to open the up-to-date spot page: weather, map and restrictions.

https://www.drone-spot.tech/en/fiche-spot.aspx?id=307843

Before every flight: check the UAS zones map, NOTAMs and temporary areas, the weather and the Kp index.

Preparing the flight

Pre-flight Check-List

- ☐ Area checked: UAS zones, restrictions, protected areas
- ☐ NOTAMs and temporary areas checked
- ☐ Weather: wind, gusts, rain, visibility; Kp index
- ☐ Operator number displayed on the drone
- ☐ Training certificate or licence with me
- ☐ Third-party liability insurance checked
- ☐ Batteries charged: drone, controller, phone
- ☐ Propellers, motors and frame in good condition
- ☐ Memory card inserted and empty
- ☐ Software up to date, compass and IMU calibrated
- ☐ Return to home: home point and return height set
- ☐ Electronic signalling or remote ID active
- ☐ Take-off area clear, people informed and at a distance
- ☐ Observer present for FPV flights

Key rules of the open category

Recreational flying in France: European open-category rules, applied by the DGAC.

- Maximum height: 120 m above the ground, lower where a restriction requires it.
- Always keep the drone in sight; when flying FPV, an observer keeps it in sight next to you.
- Never fly over crowds and keep the distances of your subcategory (A1, A2 or A3).
- Respect UAS geographical zones: around aerodromes, prohibited or restricted areas, protected areas, sensitive sites.
- Register as an operator if the drone weighs 250 g or more or carries a camera (toys excepted), and display the number on the drone.
- Training: online A1/A3 certificate from 250 g or for a class C1 drone; A2 certificate to fly closer to people with a class C2 drone.
- Always give way to manned aircraft and land if one approaches.
- Respect privacy: no images that identify people without their consent; aerial photography is prohibited in some areas.
- Check your third-party liability insurance.
- In France: registration and training on AlphaTango (DGAC); a drone of 800 g or more must broadcast electronic signalling (or the remote ID of class-marked drones).

Non-exhaustive summary: rules change. Reference: the DGAC open-category guide and the country's regulations.

Useful links

UAS zones map around the spot : https://www.drone-spot.tech/en/carte-uas.aspx?lat=45.94771&lon=3.35446
Drone pilot library : https://www.drone-spot.tech/en/bibliotheque
DGAC open-category guide (French) : https://www.drone-spot.tech/en/bibliotheque/guide-categorie-ouverte
Registration and training (AlphaTango) : https://alphatango.aviation-civile.gouv.fr
NOTAMs and temporary areas (SOFIA Briefing) : https://sofia-briefing.aviation-civile.gouv.fr

My flight notes

Information sheet generated by Drone-Spot from community data: it replaces neither official aeronautical information nor the regulations. The remote pilot remains responsible for the flight.