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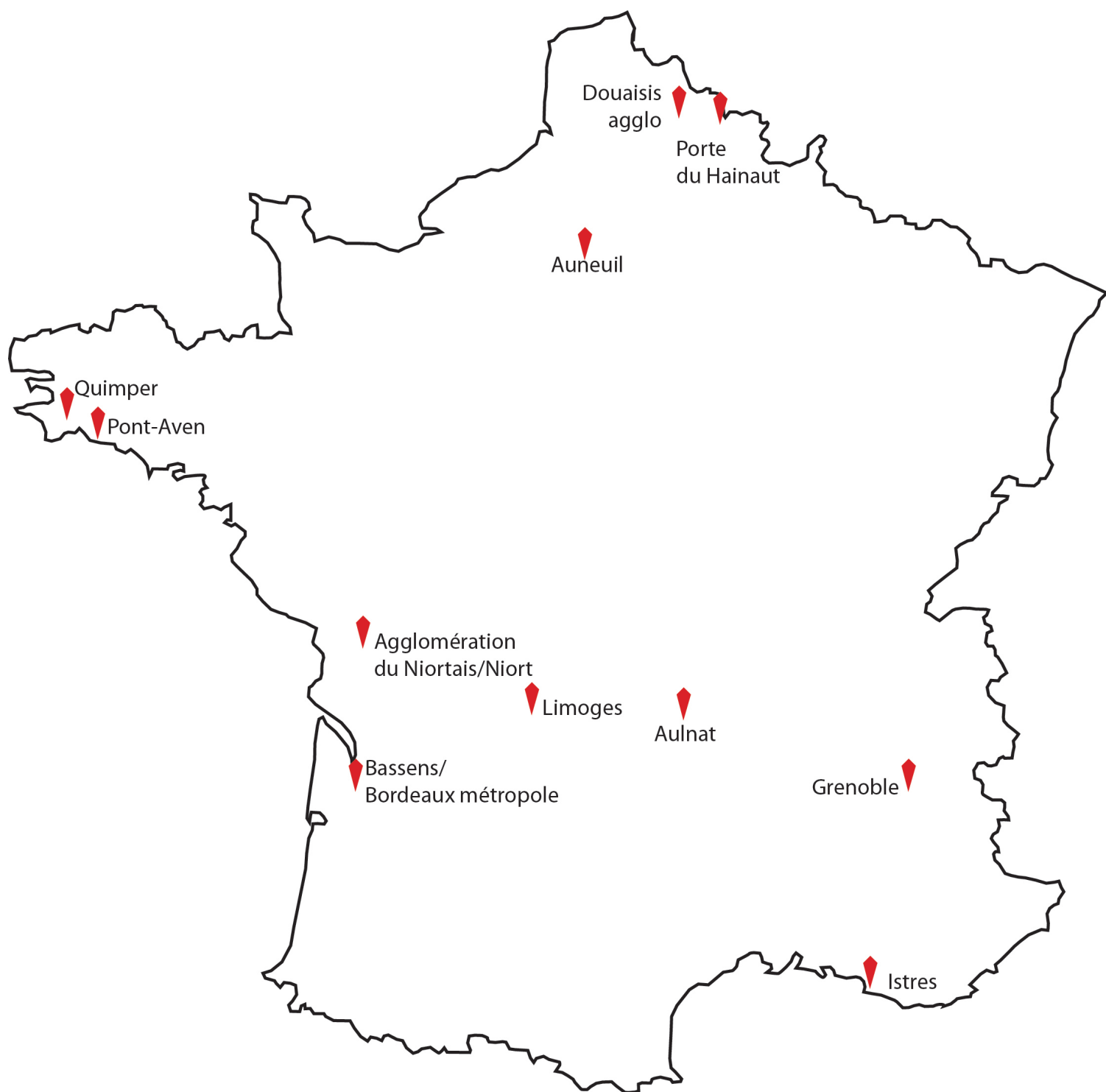
E16 - Living Cities

DORIGNIES PONT-DE-LA-DEULE DOUAISIS AGGLO

A NEW SOCIAL UTOPIA

Site brief





Quimper

Pont-Aven

Douaisis
agglo

Porte
du Hainaut

Auneuil

Agglomération
du Niortais/Niort

Limoges

Aulnat

Bassens/
Bordeaux métropole

Grenoble

Istres

SITES, IDEAS, AND MORE!

European is once again presenting 11 sites in France for the 16th session, based on the theme Living Cities, Metabolic and Inclusive Vitalities.

For more than 30 years, European has provided an opportunity to experiment with new ways of thinking and creating cities, and the themes regularly address major issues at the heart of their relevance.

It left nobody in any doubt that the word LIVING is at the center of debates, works, research, and that considering the progressive extinction of this world, little by little reached by a dominant human civilization of exhaustion of the resources and the otherness. And as soon as we position ourselves in this thematic, the horizon of the revitalization is huge, and the work to be carried out on the scale of these perspectives.

We often use the term European « competition » when we should be mentioning the overall original process which continues to demonstrate its capacity to adapt. First of all, the sites are identified and then analyzed in collaboration with the various players, starting with the theme and exploring these themes in situ. The meetings, visits and films, and the proposition of articulation between site and theme allow the candidates to reexamine and question them.

The proposals submitted by the teams are once again part of a long and very rich process that will lead in one way or another to a recognized experimentation, that of ideas, encounters, expressed possibilities, and re-expressed questions. The follow-ups will continue the elaboration of a living urban and architectural thought, in evolution and in active transformation.

The theme Living Cities reflects the urgency of thinking differently about human lifestyles, with a heritage that is sometimes fraught with consequences but also very rich: the prospects for renewing, recycling and transforming modes of production associated with a thought of the living are immense.

The European process makes it a unique ongoing event because, like a philharmonic narrative, it allows young generations of architectural and urban designers to speak out and then to be commissioned. European allows them to tell us that we are sometimes wrong, that there are other ways of thinking, of doing things, and of projecting themselves into the future.

This theme Living Cities, after such a particular year of pandemic, is dedicated to them.

EUROPAN FRANCE



EUROPAN 16 THEME: LIVING CITIES

CREATIVE PROCESS-PROJECTS TO REGENERATE INHABITED MILIEUS

In the conditions of the Anthropocene –a new bio-geological period where human activities on the global scale have a destructive impact on life on earth– how to face climate change and inequalities? How to imagine other possibilities to inhabit the planet Earth?

The European 16 topic focuses on living cities as a new paradigm, in which new kinds of synergies can be considered between the environmental, biological, social, economic, cultural and political dimensions. This paradigm leads us to think the space in terms of co-evolution and interactions, and to work with regenerative project dynamics, combining metabolic and inclusive vitalities.

METABOLIC VITALITIES

Metabolic vitalities go beyond the nature-culture combination, allowing the European projects –mixing architecture, urban design and landscape architecture– to identify and to negotiate with an ensemble of transformations taking natural elements into account –like water, material flows, energy...– which are all part of the life cycles. These new relations generate inhabited milieus. These milieus are considered as complex ecosystems generating flows (with entries and exits) and in constant evolution. Developing such cyclic processes leads the design process to minimize the environmental footprint and the consumption of non-renewable energy, and to promote new forms of dwelling.

Metabolic vitalities encourage design processes on different scales. The recycling competence, the enhancement of organic or energy material, the adaptation to climate change, the integration of nature and biodiversity are as many metabolic vitalities that European 16 sites should trigger to allow their own transformation into ecosystems between nature and culture. To be rewarded, the projects should translate this metabolic dynamic in their proposals.

INCLUSIVE VITALITIES

Urban environments are facing increasing inequalities and conflicts produced by invisibility, exclusion, marginalization, and inaccessibility to housing, to work, to education and to public services. To fight against these social fractures, inhabited milieus should become places where new inclusive policies and practices are

supported.

Inclusive vitalities put on the foreground modes of doing that can support territorial justice articulating social and ecological concerns. Issues of accessibility to public infrastructures and to housing should get a predominant role, promoting conviviality. Taking care of living environments could promote inclusion by transforming marginalised spaces into places of exchange, co-learning and biodiversity. This could allow new inclusive narratives of inhabited environments across scales and generations, promoting new forms participatory democracy.

When choosing the sites, when defining the programmatic frames that come with their evolution, and when judging the participants' proposals, European 16 will emphasise on the consideration of the inclusive dimension of the inhabited milieus.

CONCLUSION

If we want to face these social and environmental emergencies, we have to address new creative and responsible project dynamics, which should be able to reconnect with the cycles and rhythms of the living nature, associating metabolic and inclusive vitalities.

The European 16 sites should therefore consider these two dimensions in their transformation goals. How can the project spatialize and, at the same time, spare resources, common goods, recycling processes, hybridisations, sharing and the different temporalities ?

This is the question raised for European 16.

EUROPAN EUROPE

*See also : Contributions to the theme Living Cities :
<http://www.euopanfrance.org/publications/single/38>

GENERAL INFORMATION

SITE REPRESENTATIVE: Douaisis Agglo, city of Douai, city of Flers-en-Escrebieux

ACTOR(S) INVOLVED: Douaisis Agglo, City of Douai, City of Flers-en-Escrebieux, Agence Nationale pour la Rénovation Urbaine, Norévie (social landlord)

TEAM REPRESENTATIVE: Architect/ Urbanist/ Landscape Architect

EXPECTED SKILLS REGARDING THE SITE'S ISSUES AND CHARACTERISTICS: Urban programming, consultation, urban planning, architecture, landscaping

COMMUNICATION: Promotion of the projects after the competition: publication of a catalogue of the results and national exhibition

JURY – 1ST EVALUATION : With the participation of the site representatives

JURY – PRIZE SELECTION:

Selection of three projects per site. With the participation of the site representatives

Reward: the rewards are granted by the jury independently of the sites: Winner (12.000€), Runner-up (6.000€) and Special Mention (no reward)

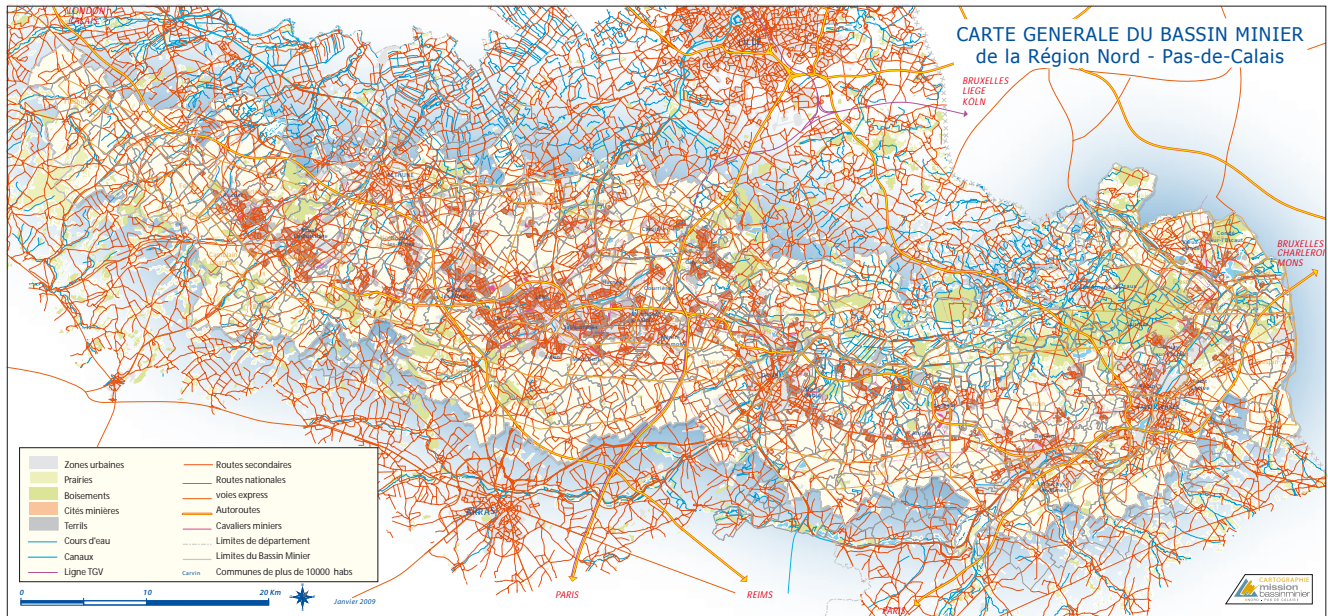
POST-COMPETITION INTERMEDIATE PROCEDURE:

- Meeting with sites representatives and 3 selected teams, organized by European France in Paris at the beginning of 2022
- On-site meeting with sites representatives and 3 selected teams organized by cities and partners from January 2022
- Assistance and consultancy to the cities and partners, also their collaborators, for the implementations processes, by European France.

MISSION GIVEN TO THE SELECTED TEAM(S) FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION:

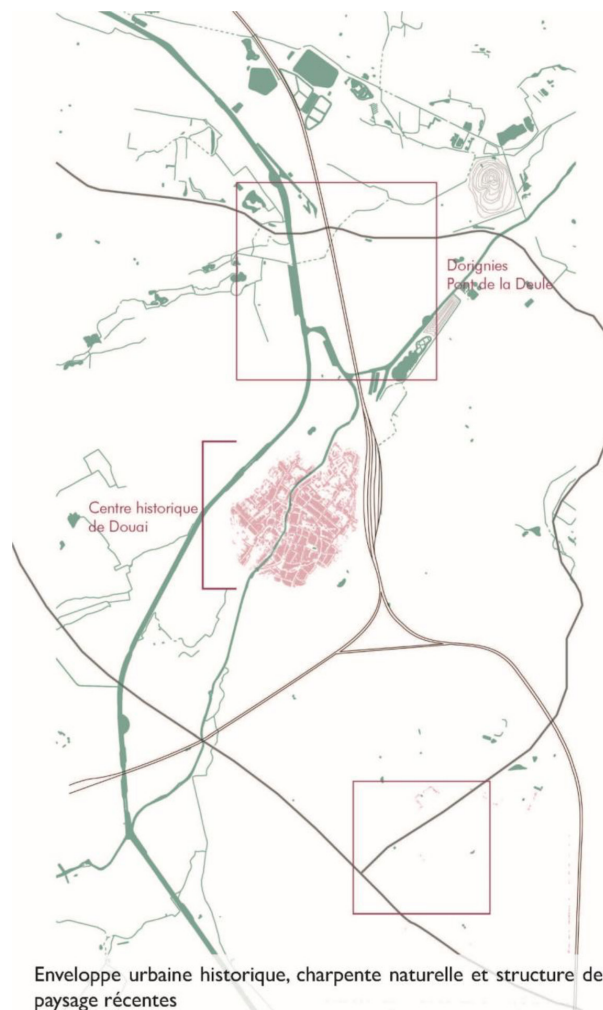
Study and project missions for the development of the strategic proposals resulting from the competition.

Encouraging an operational and/or architectural contract with associated clients.



GENERAL MAP OF THE MINING AREA NORD - PAS-DE-CALAIS
 FR-DOUAISIS_AGGLO-C-M1
 Source : <http://www.missionbassinminier.org/ressources/cartes.html>

HISTORIC URBAN ENVELOPE, NATURAL FRAMEWORK AND RECENT LANDSCAPE STRUCTURE
 FR-DOUAISIS_AGGLO-C-M6
 Source: 2020, Social and Urban Studies NPNRU



CONNECTION WITH THE THEME

The Dorignies/Pont-de-la-Deûle district spans two municipalities, Douai and Flers-en-Escrebieux, situated in the conurbation of Douaisis, within the Nord-Pas-de-Calais mining area.

Heavily marked by intensive coalmining for three centuries (from the end of the 17th to the end of the 20th century), part of this area has been a UNESCO world Heritage site since 2012, as a representative of the industrial revolutions but also of industrial architecture and landscape (<http://www.bassinminier-patrimoine-mondial.org/>). The industry had a major impact on the economy, the social context, the landscape, the ecology and the culture.

The 16th session of the European competition on the theme of Living Cities follows two sessions on the theme of the Productive City. Aubry, a town adjacent to Flers-en-Escrebieux, was one of the project sites for the 15th session. The metropolitan area of Douaisis faces the problems of the productive city, but in addition the district proposed for European 16 needs to tackle the transformation of ecosystems in a holistic approach, which includes synergies between the different human and nonhuman life systems.

SITE ISSUES RELATING TO THE THEME

An impetus given by the mining industry

The arrival of mining totally transformed the region. The mining companies brought work and economic activity, built houses for the miners and their families, and created the necessary amenities and services such as schools, health centres, etc. As a result, miners and their families were looked after by the companies “from cradle to grave”. For three centuries, the lives of the inhabitants of the mining region were governed by work, and the impetus came from the mining industry (<https://www.bassinminier-patrimoine-mondial.org/ressources/>). The pits gradually closed between 1960 and 1990, putting an end to the many services provided by the mining company and leaving the inhabitants without jobs, living in homes that would deteriorate with time and in a region in decline. The inhabitants, their housing and the landscape are witnesses to this history, which has given the region a powerful identity. Solutions have not yet been found for all the consequences of the closing of the mines, but the theme of European 16, Living Cities, provides an instrument for tackling these questions. The social and climate-related challenges of the 21st century require us to manage nonrenewable natural resources and to build new lifestyles that have less impact on ecosystems. Human and nonhuman lives must find a new place in the land and must create new synergies between the different social and economic systems that are respectful of different forms of life.

From industrial territories to incubators of resilience

A multitude of solutions have been tried in abandoned former industrial areas of all kinds and all over the world. The city of Detroit in the United States is one very well-known example. After the relocation of the automobile industry, the city's unemployment rates went through the roof and criminality exploded. Today, Detroit is an example of a renaissance, with the revival of solidarity between inhabitants, more and more of whom are involved in the transition of the city. Urban farms that grow local food are helping to build the resilience of the urban system. In Europe, the Ruhr Valley (Germany) was Europe's biggest industrial area (followed by Nord-Pas-de-Calais). Launched in 1988, IBA Emscher Park effected a total reorganisation of the region, which is now famed for the quality and scale of its green areas, despite its 5 million strong population. Closer to home, the town of Loos-en-Gohelle, located in the conurbation district of Lens-Liévin, demonstrates that the mining area is undergoing a revival. It is a Sustainable Development Pilot City and is seeing the emergence of a new kind of local ecosystem, notably through resident participation (<https://www.loos-en-gohelle.fr/loos-ville-pilote/>). The guide to "Citizen involvement in the town of Loos-en-Gohelle" was published in 2020 in order to give impetus to action in Loos and elsewhere. Citizen participation here is driven by a method that needs to be adopted and developed on other media, so this guide is presented as a basis for discussion (see appendix).

The site proposed for European must be understood in its complexity and in the richness of its territory in order to create new synergies between the different ecosystems and forms of life, while celebrating a strong industrial past and re-examining the societal models that contributed to the development of this territory.

THE SPECIFIC EXPECTATIONS OF THE MUNICIPALITY AND ITS PARTNERS

The district of Dorignies/Pont-de-la-Deûle is one of the 450 urban policy priority districts covered by the NPNRU (New National Urban Renewal Programme) as a regional interest project. Concretely, the goal of this renovation plan is to provide a high-quality and diverse range of housing, to highlight the qualities of private and public spaces, to attract new economic activities and to facilitate access between the district and the rest of the urban area or to build new public amenities. The NPNRU succeeds the PNRU, and one of the changes announced in this new programme concerns the need for strong resident participation in the design and implementation of projects, notably through the establishment of citizen councils and project forums. The experience and expectations of local people can therefore be shared at different stages of the project. It is also one of the firm expectations of the site representatives within the framework of the NPNRU and the European competition.

The site representatives argue that it is essential to work with local people. Methods of providing information, of raising awareness, of consultation or participation

need to be tested. A very fine-grained study of existing practices, drawing on anthropological and sociological approaches, will be needed to identify the informal behaviours that reflect the inhabitants' adaptation to a complex milieu and the specific desires of the district's users. The goal is to support alternative behaviours that are anchored in the nature of the population. Practices that at present are considered informal are the outcome of the needs and knowledge of local people, which have not been supported and given credence in existing urbanistic practice. These practices need to be placed at the centre of a project process that seeks to reflect their value.

The proposed project processes will need to fit within different timeframes. Elected officials, inhabitants and developers work to different timeframes, and financial resources may allow some projects to come to fruition more quickly. However, there is one timeframe that is incompressible, the timeframe of nature, of which human beings are a part, the timeframe of cultural change.

The site representatives expect to have their prejudices challenged, to be forced to think about the city differently because of the social and climate challenges of the 21st century and because of the specificities of the mining area and of the Douaisis. Relations with the living world, with the landscape and with the human sphere need to be re-examined in depth and the European competition is an opportunity to look at the territory in a new way in order to develop innovative proposals and projects that bring hope.

POSSIBLE PROGRAMMATIC ORIENTATIONS

General orientations

The candidates are expected to provide methodological proposals that take into account existing informal practices and aim to give them legitimacy. They might wish to propose a master scheme linking the different projects underway within the district.

The goal is to recreate links between highly fragmented neighbourhoods and "sub-neighbourhoods", while reinforcing local identity and the very strong sense of local belonging.

The living world will be at the centre of the proposed transformation process. For example, consultation methods could go so far as to include local people in the codesign of projects.



**THE SECTOR OF DORIGNIES /
PONT-DE-LA-DEÛLE, A STRING
OF OPEN SPACES**

FR-DOUAISIS_AGGLO-SS-M6
Source: 2020, Social and Urban
Studies NPNRU



**VIEW OF THE REGIONAL
NATURE RESERVE OF THE
WAGONVILLE MARSH**
FR-DOUAISIS_AGGLO-SS-P18

BACKGROUND

TERRITORY, GEOGRAPHY AND LANDSCAPE

The district of Dorignies/Pont-de-le-Deûle is situated within the Nord-Pas-de-Calais mining area in northern France. An area 120 km long and 12 km wide with a broadly flat topography, it is a territory that saw its large deposits of coal extracted for three centuries by mining companies. This industry caused major transformations to the landscape and economy, and demanded the installation of big infrastructures and the construction of workers' estates that transformed the originally rural area into a place of intense industrial production. The territory has been structured to fit in with the transport infrastructures and natural features (in particular the River Scarpe) but industrial activities have had a significant impact, such as the creation of slag heaps or of a bypass channel larger than the natural river. This has "gradually caused elements of the anthropic structure to dominate features of the natural fabric." (Études sociales et urbaines NPNRU - Diagnostic, 2020, p12). From farming activities to mining operations, the territory and landscape have been shaped by human activities.

The Douaisis urban district occupies a central location in the mining area and is also strategically placed relative to the neighbouring metropolitan regions. Douai's high-speed rail station places Paris just one hour away and the train ride from Lille by regional express train takes 20 minutes. The proximity to Lille also provides fast connections to England by Eurostar, which covers the distance from Lille to London in 1 hour 20 minutes. This is also how long it takes by motorway to reach the city of Mons in Belgium from Douai. The urban area is fed by the A21 motorway, which is also connected to the A1 motorway linking Paris and Lille.

The mining area now has the status of a UNESCO world heritage site as a "living evolving cultural landscape", which means that it is not expected to be kept intact but that it must retain its exceptional universal value to remain on the register. Significant efforts were made for the territory to obtain UNESCO world heritage status and processes to preserve and enhance the landscape heritage of the area were implemented in the early 2000s. The specific landscape aspects of the mining industry obviously need to remain. These include the slag heaps, cone-shaped hillocks of mining residues essentially made up of schist and sandstone, showing the volumes of resources extracted from the earth by the miners. The slag heaps provide vertical features in this somewhat horizontal landscape. They are accompanied by head frames, vertical structures often made of metal that were used to lift the wagons out of the mine galleries. These small towers scattered across the territory resemble totems.

The mining area also witnessed two world wars. Situated on the frontline during

**VIEW OF THE SLAG HEAP OF
ROOST-WARENDIN**

FR-DOUAISIS_AGGLO-SS-P19

Source : <https://www.bassinminier-patrimoine-mondial.org/cartographie-interactive/>



RUE DE MENDE - DOUAI

FR-DOUAISIS_AGGLO-SS-P21

Source: 2020, Social and Urban
Studies NPNRU



**HEADFRAME OF THE PIT9
ROOST-WARENDIN**

FR-DOUAISIS_AGGLO-SS-P20

Source : <http://www.bassinminier-patrimoine-mondial.org/les-chevalements/>



World War I, almost two thirds of the territory was destroyed and had to be rebuilt after the war. The region was occupied by Nazi Germany very early on in World War II. During this period, the miners often expressed their resistance by slowing production, thereby limiting the quantities of coal and money available to the enemy.

ARCHITECTURAL AND URBAN HERITAGE

The architecture and urban design of the mining zone are largely inherited from its industrial past. Many buildings bear witness to past mining activity and could be refurbished and converted. However, the most widespread structures are undoubtedly the mineworkers' estates. In the early 19th century, industrial activity had become too extensive for the originally rural area to absorb the incoming miners and their families. The mining companies therefore had to build housing estates for their workers. The first of these estates took the form of terraces. The dimensions of these strips of houses grew over time (from a few dozen metres in the 1820s to more than a hundred metres around 1860) and the dwellings became more comfortable. Later on, the garden city model arrived in France, a model that would undoubtedly become the most common version of the workers' housing estate.

The garden city ecosystem

First theorised in 1898 by the Englishman Ebenezer Howard in his book *Garden Cities Of Tomorrow* (1902), the garden city was a model "urban society" proposed in response to the squalor and pollution of the English cities of the time. Howard imagined a living space that combined the dynamism of the city and the beauty of the countryside. The creation and construction of the city were possible by means of funding based on joint management of the land. A cooperative bought farmland at a low price and rented out the plots that would be built on or cultivated. After repayment for the purchase of the land, the surplus revenues were used to fund community services (roads, retirement fund, waste management). Howard's proposal, based on the carrot rather than the stick, consisted of a social and economic system that guaranteed freedom of choice for the users and gave a decision-making role to the inhabitants. Starting in 1903, work by Raymond Unwin and Barry Parker (architects and partners) led to a spatialisation of the principles developed by Howard. Unwin was very sensitive to issues of landscape and to the picturesque. It was he who was responsible for the winding road layouts and who specified the relations between the houses and the street (*Town Planning in Practice*, 1909).

The garden city as imagined by Howard and designed by Unwin and Parker was a human establishment combining economic activity (industries located along the railway and agriculture on the outskirts), a healthy living environment with planted streets, clean air and access to large parks, and decent housing with individual gardens and local amenities. Howard's work was extensively adopted in the United States and in Europe. The most widespread example in France is

the workers' housing estate, which seems more to adopt the spatial and aesthetic principles of the garden city than its socio-economic model. The ecosystemic vision of the human establishment developed through the garden city model can nevertheless offer potential responses to today's social and climate challenges.

Organismes de Foncier Solidaire (community land trusts)

The land management model proposed by Howard is not dissimilar from the *Organismes de Foncier Solidaire* (OFS) (equivalent to the Anglo-Saxon Community Land Trusts), set up in 2014 by the ALUR Act. These are nonprofit bodies established for the purpose of acquiring and managing land and retaining it permanently. The trust signs a long-term lease with a leaseholder, who may be obliged to build or renovate dwellings. Ownership of the land and ownership of the building are thus kept separate. The advantage of these trusts is that they can offer affordable housing to families on low incomes and limit land speculation. The householders are involved in the management of their homes and their neighbourhood, the rent they pay contributes to the funding of the communal spaces and amenities. The OFS constitutes a legal framework that can protect heritage, quality of life and the quality of the landscape, and at the same time offer a framework for ecological transition.

The OFS model could be adapted to housing-related problems in the Dorignies/Pont-de-la-Deûle district. Indeed, the analysis undertaken for the urban renovation project reveals that both the public and private housing stock provides homes for vulnerable households facing growing insecurity, in particular in Dorignies. Most of the dwellings need renovation and the homes available on the market do not always match local demand (shortage of small dwellings). The potential attractiveness of the neighbourhood needs to be activated, otherwise the dwellings may become even less suitable and living conditions could further deteriorate.

MILIEUX: HUMAN AND NONHUMAN

The district is broken up into sub-districts in which the residents' sense of belonging is very strong. The population is considered vulnerable, even precarious, and the housing stock is often in poor condition and unsuitable for the size of the households. The lessons to be learned from this fragility are multiple. Indeed, the inhabitants need to demonstrate significant capacity for adaptation in response to difficulties and a type of urbanism that was not designed for their purposes. An informal economy and informal practices have emerged from these adaptations. The nonhuman milieux are numerous and rich in diversity. The operation of the mines made a big impact on the region and also contributed to the specificity of its landscape. Nonetheless, there is substantial agricultural activity and solutions are being tested to decontaminate the soil (notably through the planting of miscanthus), solutions that could also be applied in this district. The green and blue infrastructures stretch across the whole territory and have the capacity to provide numerous ecosystem services. The continuity of these infrastructures is

remarkable. For example, the bypass channel of the Scarpe then joins up with other rivers and extends across several departments, while the Escrebieux waterway supports extensive vegetation for many kilometres. This bypass channel also embodies a significant component of the history of the Dorignies district, which also developed through river trading. To the north-east of the district it is the slag heaps left over from coal mining operations that now form very large green spaces that offer views over the whole territory.

The theme of this session of European – Living Cities – is thus about reinforcing ecosystems that are already in place and creating new synergies between human and natural systems which, in some cases, coexist but do not cooperate. The resilience exhibited by the inhabitants of the Dorignies/Pont-de-la-Deûle district and the ecosystem services provided by the natural ecosystems can bring each other mutual support and lead to a lasting transformation of the sector.

MISCANTHUS PLANTATION
FR-DOUAISIS_AGGLO-SS-P22
A proven solution for soil
decontamination



**VIEW OF THE DORIGNIES/PONT-
DE-LA-DEULE DISTRICT**
FR-DOUAISIS_AGGLO-C-AP3



VIEW OF THE QUAI DE BOISSET
(right)
FR-DOUAISIS_AGGLO-PS3-P7

**VIEW OF THE PARC CARLOS &
MARC DOLEZ**
(from below)
FR-DOUAISIS_AGGLO-PSS-P16



“If, on 27 July 1890, the municipal council of Flers en escrebieux had not opposed the wishes of the all-powerful mining companies, which wanted to separate the hamlet of Pont de la Deûle and unite it with that of Escarpelle in Roost Warrendin and thereby create a new municipality, Douaisis-agglo would now encompass one more municipality.

This act of resistance has a symbolic significance today in the context of entry for the European competition, related to an attachment to a balanced environment.

Out of a territory that was originally largely agricultural, human beings created a whole environment entirely dedicated to the exploitation of the resources of the earth.

Starting in the ninth century, they began to dig canals, and then to dig deeper still. Railways and waterways would help to transport minerals that would turn this sector into one that even today continues to produce zinc, the substance Baron Haussman needed so much to cover the roofs of Paris.

From this district in the heart of a mining area, already listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site, it is curious to observe Paris’s candidacy for recognition of the roofing profession.

But while the canal is soon to be linked to the Seine-North project and continues to carry merchandise, and while zinc continues to be produced here and to be shaped in its rolling mills, the pits for their part have closed.

The people have remained and life has reorganised.

The centuries of disruption that preceded have left traces in the landscape and in bodies.

Housing, infrastructures, free spaces have accumulated in this vital node of land that has produced so much wealth.

Remaking, re-knitting, supporting and above all providing perspective, a lasting meaning for life in this place, is now an imperative and a duty for the community.

Municipal policy, which has not sufficiently recognised the behavioural changes engendered by the emergence of endemic unemployment, remains wedded to excessively restrictive criteria and continues to resemble little more than a device for covering the wounds.

Urban renovation that carries a visible message to the population that the community is genuinely interested in them must also accompany the new practices.

For centuries, urbanisation here has consisted in subordinating nature to human beings. The challenge now is to use every local resource so that the urban environment can become a permanent place of life.

A small corner of France, the Dorignies-Pont de la Deûle district offers every possibility for women and men who wish to offer solutions that can ensure

that urban renovation, combined with municipal policy, leads to a profound transformation in living conditions.

In 1890, the members of the municipal council took the view that not everything could be subordinated to economic criteria.

131 years on, European offers an opportunity to prove them right once again.”

Freddy Kaczmarek,

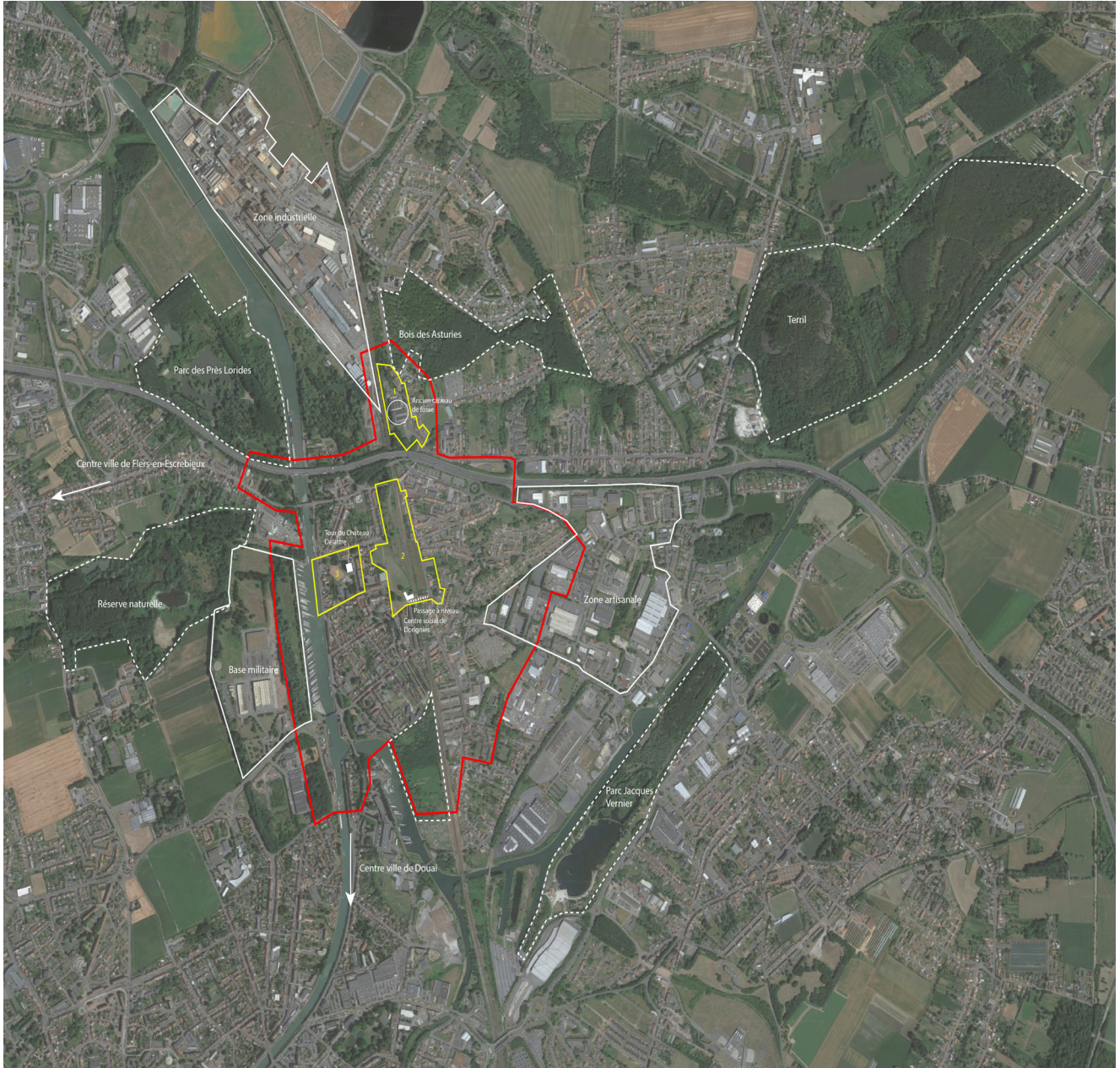
13ème Vice-Président OF Douaisis Agglo

Cohésion sociale,

Politique de la ville,

NPNRU,

Insertion par l'économie



**AERIAL VIEW STUDY AND
PROJECT AREAS AND CONTEXT**
FR-DOUAISIS_AGGLO-SS-AP1

STUDY SITE

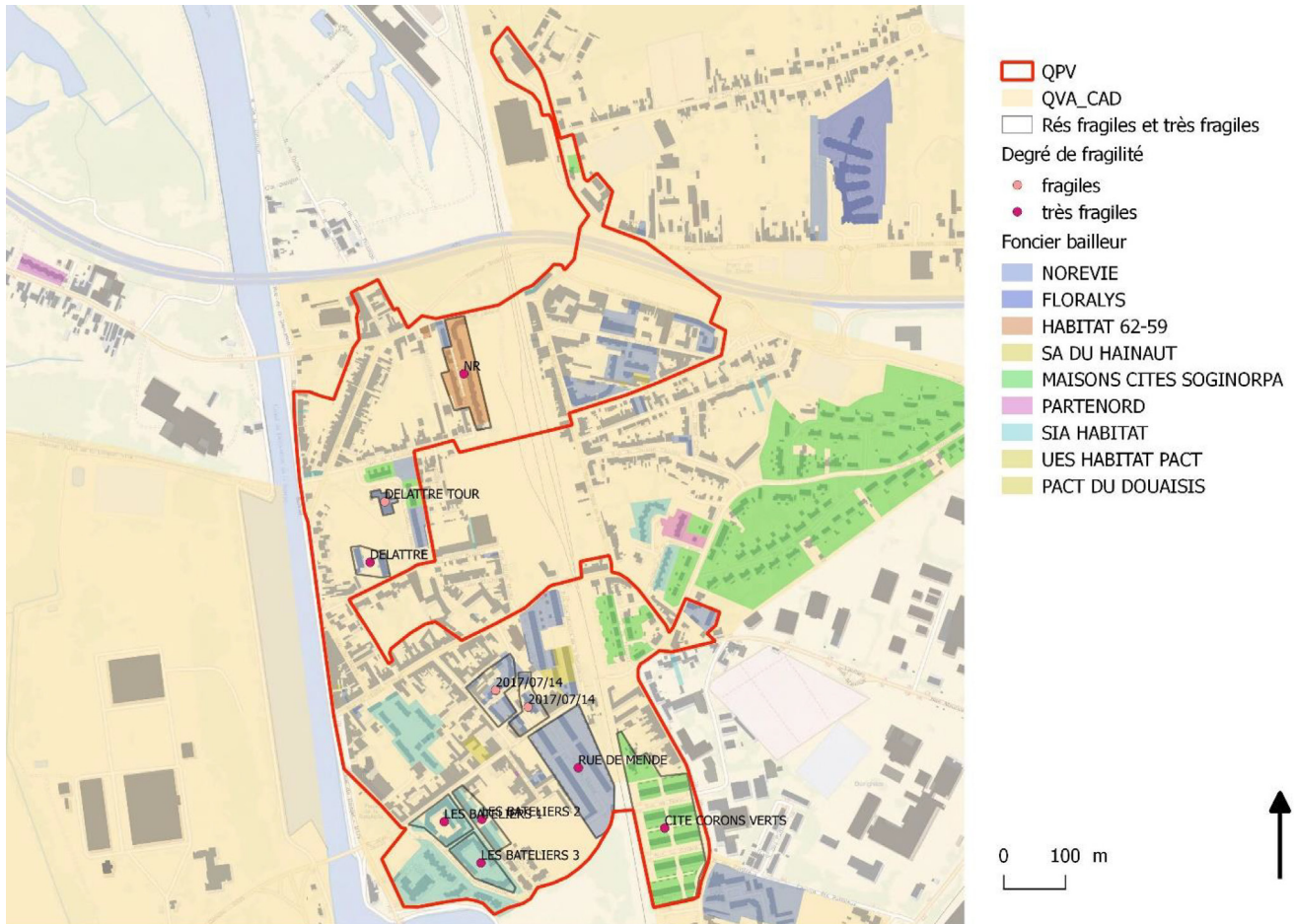
DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

The study site, which covers an area of 152 hectares, is bounded – respectively to the north, the east and the west – by industrial, small-business or military zones. However, it is also surrounded by extensive green spaces, park, natural reserves, river and canal.

The different infrastructures that cross the study site are nowadays seen as sources of urban fragmentation. The A21 motorway to the north, the Scarpe bypass channel to the west, or else the railway line that runs parallel to the channel, has the effect of splitting the Dorignies/Pont-de-la-Deûle district into numerous sub-districts. The natural Scarpe River represents the boundary between the Dorignies district and the rest of the city of Douai. More than a split, this natural feature can contribute to the quality of the local environment. Running next to Jacques Vernier Park (previously Parc Gayant), it is a place of leisure and a reservoir of significant biodiversity. The confluence between the natural Scarpe River and its bypass channel represents a strategic point for ecosystemic richness but also for green mobility, providing a link between the district and the rest of the city of Douai. The footbridge located in the extension to rue Jean Jaurès is heavily used by pedestrians.

CURRENT RELATED PROJECTS

The study area is partly involved in the urban renovation programme. The objective of the NPNRU is to provide a framework for housing renovation, economic diversification or the improvement of public spaces within a given area. These initiatives, which fit within a timeframe compatible with the European competition, include diagnoses (see appendices) and projects that are a starting point for the ideas that the candidates are invited to develop. The aim of the European competition is not to answer questions specific to urban renovation or to run counter to existing projects, but to provide an outside perspective that encompasses the district within its territory and proposes an innovative project process. Attention to the landscape, to biodiversity and to existing and future ecosystems will be a way to project synergies specific to the Living Cities theme.



NPNRU AREA (RED)

FR-DOUAISIS_AGGLO-SS-M4
Source: 2020, Social and Urban
Studies NPNRU

VIEW RUE DE LA MOUCHONNIÈRE

FR-DOUAISIS_AGGLO-SS-P5

**VIEW OF THE PASSAGE UNDER
THE MINING BYPASS**

FR-DOUAISIS_AGGLO-SS-P1

**VIEW OF THE SCHOOL RUE DE
L'ÉGLISE**

FR-DOUAISIS_AGGLO-SS-P11



POSSIBLE SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP TO THE TERRITORY

The European competition approach is therefore consistent with the initiatives undertaken for the purpose of UNESCO classification, although the study area proposed for the competition does not include UNESCO protected zones. It is bounded by a buffer zone (Parc Gayant), and the slag heap of Pit 9, the Escarpelle pit, is one of the protected elements. Any projects submitted must not interfere with the preservation and valorisation of features typical of the mining industry. River and canal activity is also to be included in the relationship to the territory. Indeed, Douai-Dorignies is France's second-biggest barge port and on 1 May every year since 1973 has hosted the Batellerie (Barge) Festival, which is held at the Water Station.



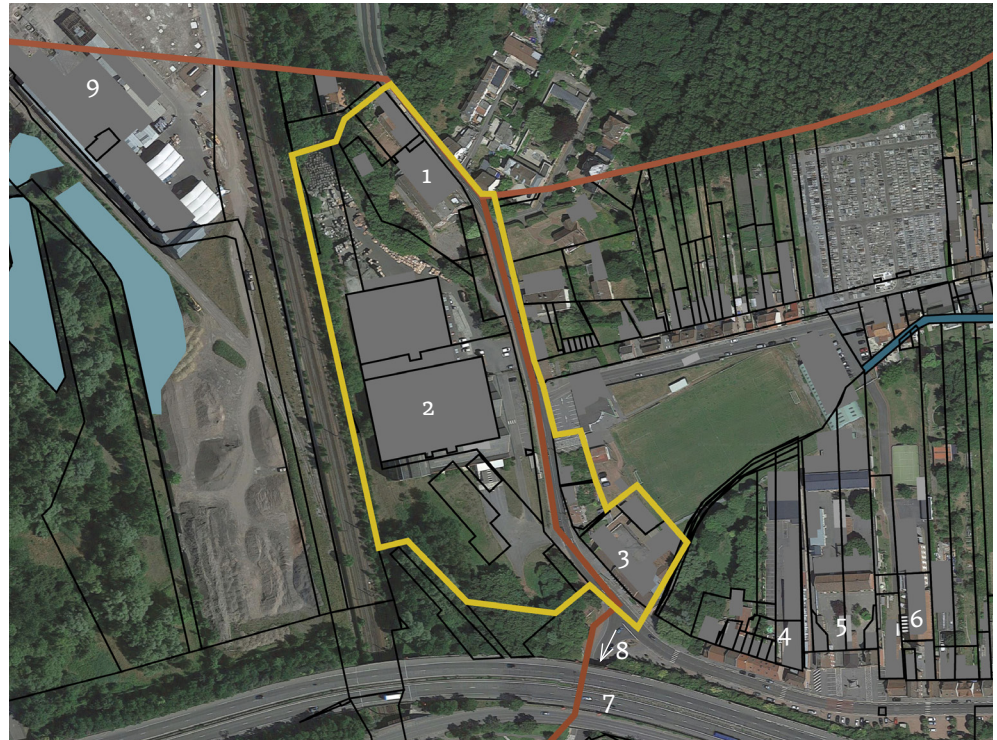
VIEW OF THE LEVEL CROSSING
FR-DOUAISIS_AGGLO-PS2-AP3



VIEW FROM THE FOOTBRIDGE
RUE DES MARTYRS
FR-DOUAISIS_AGGLO-SS-P15

- (1) Building of the old archives of radiology of the Mine
- (2) Entrance building of the pit N3
- (3) The Escarpelle Health Space
- (4) Mosque
- (5) School
- (6) Church
- (7) A21
- (8) Passage under the highway
- (9) Industrial area

PERIMETER OF PROJECT SITE
1FR-DOUAISIS_AGGLO-PS1-M1



VIEW OF THE OLD PIT ACCESS 3
FR-DOUAISIS_AGGLO-PS1-P2



**VIEW OF THE OLD
RADIOGRAPHY ARCHIVES**
FR-DOUAISIS_AGGLO-PS1-P3



PROJECT SITE 1

DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

The first site proposed is located in the municipality of Flers-en-Escrebieux and is present in the old radiology archives of the société des Mines (mining company) (1). The land and the building still belong to the société des Mines, which might transfer them to the town of Flers or to the Agglomération. The building requires renovation, but the structural components are in good condition. The former entrance building of the pit n°3 of the mine (2) is today occupied by an advertising distribution company and by an industrial handling and storage company. This building is intended to become a recycling center, the historical character of the site can be enhanced. To the south of the project site and across from the highway underpass, is the Escarpelle Health Center (3). The building has been recently renovated and several doctors have set up their practices there. A pharmacy is also located in the building.

EXPECTATIONS, PROGRAMMATIC GUIDELINES OR EXPECTATIONS FOR USAGE PROPOSALS.

Landscape and Environment: Particular attention needs to be paid to the quality of the soil, much of which has been polluted by industrial activities. Soil decontamination will thus need to be considered.

Public amenities: The municipality and the Conurbation have looked at the creation of a social economy centre, containing a recycling facility, shared vehicle repair workshops (motorbikes and bicycles), as well as accommodation spaces for different informal economic practices present in the territory. The candidates are asked to suggest programmatic proposals: Short supply chains need to be improved and healthy eating is an issue supported by DOUAISIS AGGLO, in particular through its ALIMCAD programme.

What programme could help to foster short supply chains? What actors could contribute to the project?

Mobility: The project site is located in a very busy location with heavy vehicle traffic, but it is an extremely lively neighbourhood. The candidates might consider the role of pedestrians and of walking, cycling and other green modes.



PERIMETER OF PROJECT SITE 2

FR-DOUAISIS_AGGLO-PS2-M1

- (1) SNCF station of Pont-de-la-Deûle (old station)
- (2) Wasteland plot
- (2.1) Wasteland plot (contaminated by the former industrial activity)
- (3) Youth club (Mille Club)
- (4) Social center
- (5) Church
- (6) Schools
- (7) Public sport field
- (8) Strip of private dwellings
- (9) Strip of businesses and housing (deteriorated)
- (10) Social housing
- (11) Grocery store

VIEW OF THE STATION OF PONT DE LA DEULE

FR-DOUAISIS_AGGLO-PS2-P1

VIEW OF THE LEVEL CROSSING

FR-DOUAISIS_AGGLO-PS2-P10

VIEW OF THE SOCIAL CENTER

FR-DOUAISIS_AGGLO-PS2-P15

VIEW OF THE WASTELAND PLOT (EAST OF THE RAILROAD)

FR-DOUAISIS_AGGLO-PS2-P3



PROJECT SITE 2

DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

The second project site runs along the railway line from rue du Pont (in Pont de la Deûle) to the level crossing on rue de l'Église (in Dorignies). This site includes, east of the railway line, the strip of buildings on rue Roger Salengro and rue du Pont-de-la-Deûle, whose small adjoining buildings, which hold shops and housing, are in a deteriorated state (9); a large strip of wasteland next to the tracks, whose soil is contaminated by heavy metals due to a former metallurgical activity (2.1); a public sport field (7); and the youth club (called Mille Club): associative local and multipurpose room (hosting the association «la bouée des jeunes») on rue de la Ferme (3). West of the railway line are two large wasteland plots and Dorignies social centre also belong to the project site (2). The social center (4) is highly frequented by the inhabitants and the children of the district, and its extension is planned. The project site area is surrounded by private houses on rue Roger Delaeter and cour de l'Escrebieux, industrial buildings and semi-detached houses on rue Alcide Moché and social housing on rue de l'Église. The rail tracks run across the whole site. Pont-de-la-Deûle (1) station has recently been dismantled and replaced by a train stop that is heavily used by the residents of the district.

EXPECTATIONS, PROGRAMMATIC GUIDELINES OR EXPECTATIONS FOR USAGE PROPOSALS

Landscape and Environment: Landscape and Environment: Areas of derelict land are a central feature of the neighbourhood and contain a wide variety of plants, in particular metallicolous plants which are distinctive in that they grow on soil rich in heavy metals, and are therefore a sign of industrial pollution. Some of the land belongs to the SNCF (national railway company) and therefore raises questions about how the company could be involved in developing new ways of managing this kind of vacant land. The polluted ground needs to remain closed to the public (2.1), but its aesthetic qualities might be enhanced through further planting.

Public amenities: The social centre, much used by people in the neighbourhood, needs extending. New activities are needed, in particular secure outdoor playgrounds for the children. The social centre and the Mille Club (youth club)

might develop synergies. Proposals could be made for temporary uses that could create opportunities for appropriation by the inhabitants, before perhaps becoming permanent.

Mobility : The level crossing over the railway line is particularly problematic. It is dangerous for pedestrians and causes vehicle traffic jams. Proposals are sought to make this crossing safe and perhaps to create new crossing points over the railway.

Housing: The strip of housing and shops situated along rue Roger Salengro and in the area near the level crossing is in generally poor condition. The candidates might focus on uses of and improvements to the buildings relating to the NPNRU objectives.

- (1) Tower of Château Delattre (site 3)
- (2) Wasteland plot (site 2)
- (3) School
- (4) Strip of private dwellings
- (5) Grocery store
- (6) Recently renovated small social housing units
- (7) Water station
- (8) Strip of businesses and housing (deteriorated)
- (9) Public sport field
- (10) Youth club
- (11) Strip of private dwellings
- (12) Level crossing
- (13) Slag heap of ROOST-WARENDIN
- (14) Activity area
- (15) Mouchonnière district
- (16) Military base



VIEW OF PROJECT SITES 2 AND 3

FR-DOUAISIS_AGGLO-SS-AP₂

VIEW OF PROJECT SITE 3

FR-DOUAISIS_AGGLO-PS₃-AP₃

VIEW OF PROJECT SITE 2

FR-DOUAISIS_AGGLO-PS₂-AP₉



- (1) Tower of Château Delattre
- (2) Wasteland plot (site 2)
- (3) Schools
- (4) Strip of private dwellings
- (5) Grocery store
- (6) Recently renovated small social housing units
- (7) Scarpe bypass chanel and water station
- (8) Church
- (9) Sport field/playground
- (10) Military base



PERIMETER OF PROJECT SITE 3
FR-DOUAISIS_AGGLO-PS3-M1

VIEW OF THE TOWER OF THE CHATEAU DELATTRE
FR-DOUAISIS_AGGLO-PS3-P5



VIEW ON THE CHANNEL
FR-DOUAISIS_AGGLO-PS3-P6



PROJECT SITE 3

DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

The third project site is bounded to the north by rue de l'Escrebieux (in Flers-en-Escrebieux) and to the south by rue du 8 mai 1945 (in Douai). To the east, the site includes the strip of houses that runs along rue du Château Delattre and the western boundary is marked by the Scarpe bypass channel (7), which includes Quai Boisset. Different types of housing coexist in this block: private detached houses along the quayside and rue du Château Delattre (4), terraced houses and apartment buildings managed by the social landlord Norévie. The small social housing buildings (6) have been recently renovated. With its 11 storeys, Château Delattre (Norevie) tower is the only high-rise building in the district (1). At the heart of the block is a sports field and children's playground where young residents of the surrounding housing (9) meet. The Château Delattre sub-neighborhood has a strong sense of belonging among its residents.

The Boisset quay is an axis of passage for vehicles but also a place for walking along the channel. Between rue de l'Escrebieux and rue du 8 mai 1945, the water level of the channel corresponds to the ground level, while continuing southward, the water level becomes higher than the road level, which can facilitate the creation of touch points of the neighborhood with the water.

EXPECTATIONS, PROGRAMMATIC GUIDELINES OR EXPECTATIONS FOR USAGE PROPOSALS

Landscape and Environment: Connecting the block with the Scarpe bypass channel would be one way to improve the living environment that would benefit the residents of the block but also the entire district.

Public amenities: It would seem important to improve the legibility of the private and public outdoor spaces around the Château Delattre tower block.

Mobility: Green and pedestrian mobilities could be enhanced along the bypass channel in order to create strolling areas and to highlight the water station that stands on the other side of the channel.

Housing: Château Delattre tower raises numerous problems. The large apartments are ill-suited to the size of the households, since most of the residents are people living alone. The apartments have some good qualities, such as a functional layout and well-lit living rooms, but the bedrooms are small and the insulation poor.

The main problems associated with the tower lie in the concentration of illicit activities and social problems, which damage quality of life for many people living in the tower and also affect the attractiveness of the whole sector, which is in any case already fragile. The architecture of the tower is seen as stigmatising and out of keeping with the rest of the neighbourhood. It creates a juxtaposition of different types of housing, where more harmonious urban relations could be established. It is hoped that the candidates will come forward with innovative proposals to improve the residential conditions and restore the attractiveness of the neighbourhood.

LISTES OF DOCUMENTS FOR DOWNLOAD

CONNURBATION - TERRITORIAL SCALE

FR-DOUAISIS_AGGLO-C-AP1	jpeg	
FR-DOUAISIS_AGGLO-C-M1	pdf	General map of the mining area
FR-DOUAISIS_AGGLO-C-M2	pdf	Green and blue map of the mining area
FR-DOUAISIS_AGGLO-C-M3	pdf	Mining estates in the mining area
FR-DOUAISIS_AGGLO-C-M4	pdf	Iconic heritage features
FR-DOUAISIS_AGGLO-C-M5	jpeg	Location, main road arteries
FR-DOUAISIS_AGGLO-C-M6	jpeg	Urban envelope and landscape structure

STRATEGIC SITE - URBAN SCALE

FR-DOUAISIS_AGGLO-SS-AP1	jpeg	Study and project areas, and context
FR-DOUAISIS_AGGLO-SS-M1	pdf	Land Registry
FR-DOUAISIS_AGGLO-SS-M1	dwg	Land Registry + project sites
FR-DOUAISIS_AGGLO-SS-M2	jpeg	L'Escarpelle tourist map
FR-DOUAISIS_AGGLO-SS-M3	jpeg	L'Escarpelle Prospect map
FR-DOUAISIS_AGGLO-SS-M4	jpeg	NPNRU area
FR-DOUAISIS_AGGLO-SS-M5	jpeg	NPNRU area
FR-DOUAISIS_AGGLO-SS-M6	jpeg	Green corridor
FR-DOUAISIS_AGGLO-SS-Po	jpeg	Location of photographs
FR-DOUAISIS_AGGLO-SS-P1	to	
FR-DOUAISIS_AGGLO-SS-P22	jpeg	Series of photographs

PROJET SITE - ARCHITECTURALE SCALE

Site n°1

FR-DOUAISIS_AGGLO-PS1-M1	jpeg	Perimeter of project site 1
FR-DOUAISIS_AGGLO-PS1-Po	jpeg	Location of photographs
FR-DOUAISIS_AGGLO-PS1-P1	to	
FR-DOUAISIS_AGGLO-PS1-P4	jpeg	Series of photographs

Site n°2

FR-DOUAISIS_AGGLO-PS2-M1	jpeg	Perimeter of project site 2
FR-DOUAISIS_AGGLO-PS2-Po	jpeg	Location of photographs
FR-DOUAISIS_AGGLO-PS2-P1	to	
FR-DOUAISIS_AGGLO-PS2-P23	jpeg	Series of photographs

Site n°3

FR-DOUAISIS_AGGLO-PS3-M1	jpeg	Perimeter of project site 3
FR-DOUAISIS_AGGLO-PS3-Po	jpeg	Location of photographs
FR-DOUAISIS_AGGLO-PS3-P1	to	
FR-DOUAISIS_AGGLO-PS3-P8	jpeg	Series of photographs

FR-DOUAISIS_AGGLO-T-01	pdf	NPNRU social and urban studies
FR-DOUAISIS_AGGLO-T-02	pdf	Citizen participation - Loos-en-Gohelle
FR-DOUAISIS_AGGLO-T	pdf	Site Brief

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