

E16 LIVING CITIES-  
**Douaisis Agglo**  
France

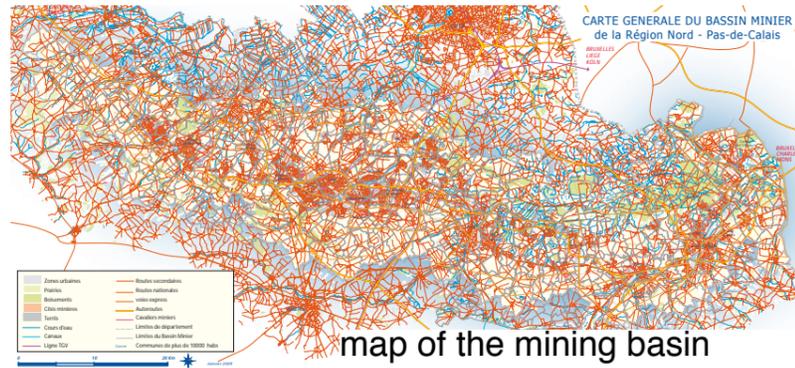
SCALE: L / S  
TEAM REPRESENTATIVE: architect/urbanist/ landscape architect  
SITE TOPIC: Revitalization / Making Territories Performative

LOCATION: Douaisis Agglo, Douai and Flers-en-Escrebieux, Nord (59)

POPULATION: Douaisis Agglo: 148 910 inhab./ City of Douai: 39 700 inhab./ City of Flers-en-Escrebieux: 5 856 inhab.

STUDY SITE: 152 ha  
PROJECT SITES: (1) 2.8 ha + (2) 8.5 ha + (3) 4.4 ha

SITE PROPOSED BY: Douaisis Agglo, City of Douai, City of Flers-en-Escrebieux  
ACTORS INVOLVED: Douaisis Agglo, City of Douai City of Flers-en-Escrebieux, Agence Nationale pour la Rénovation Urbaine, Norvée (social landlord)



map of the mining basin

OWNER(S) OF THE SITE: Mining Company, RFF/SNCF, City of Douai, City of Flers-en-Escrebieux, Norvée (social landlord), private land

COMMISSION AFTER COMPETITION: Urban studies and urban programming to propose a place of solidarity economy (1), a different kind of land management (2) and to develop innovative housing (3).

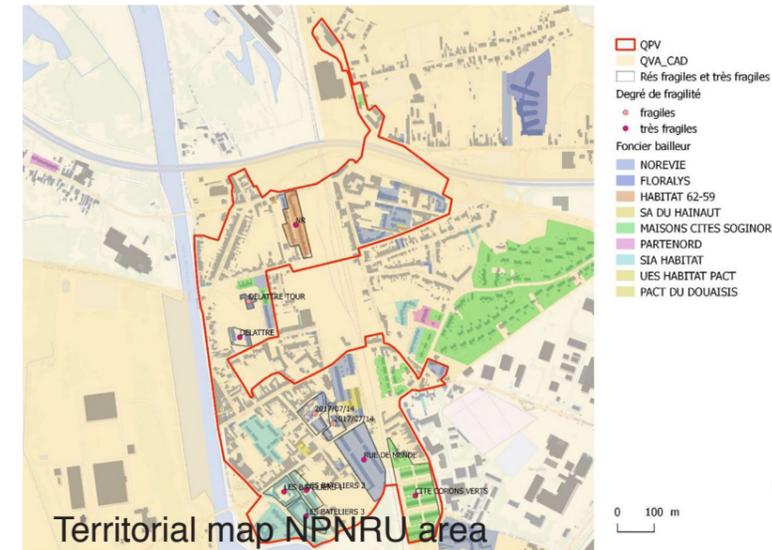


Aerial oblique view of an urban fracture

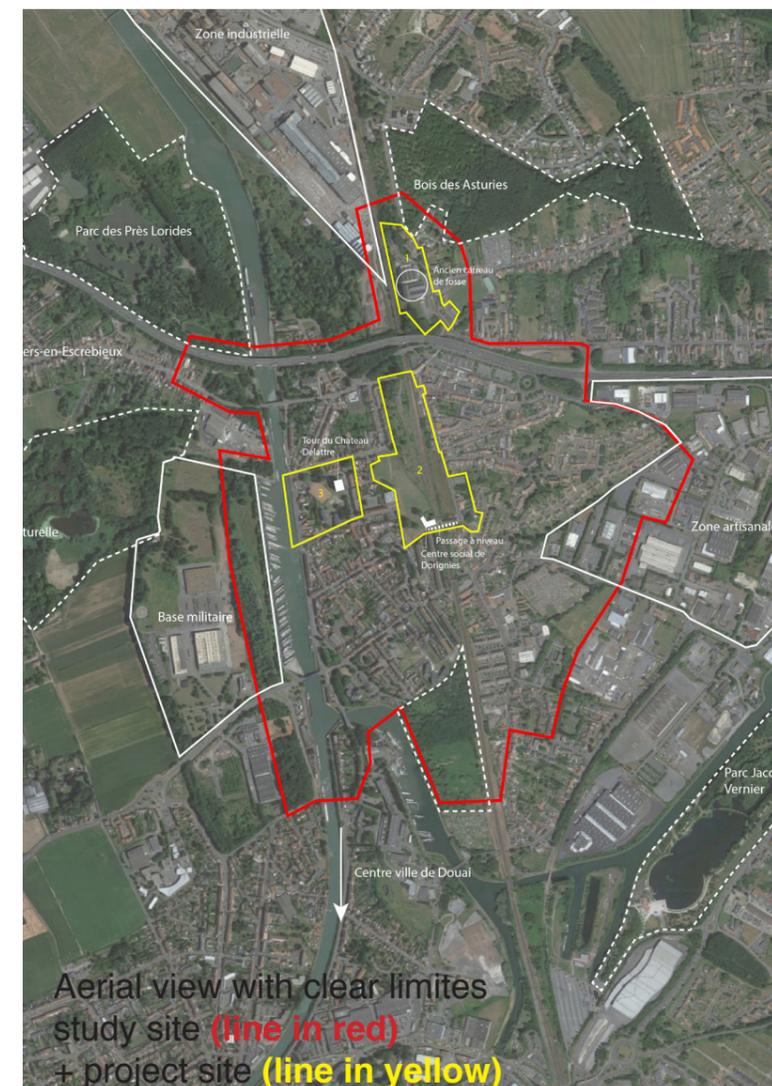


General aerial oblique view

**Dorignies / Pont-de-la-Deûle,**  
A new social utopia



Territorial map NPNRU area



Aerial view with clear limites study site (line in red) + project site (line in yellow)

URBAN CITY STRATEGY

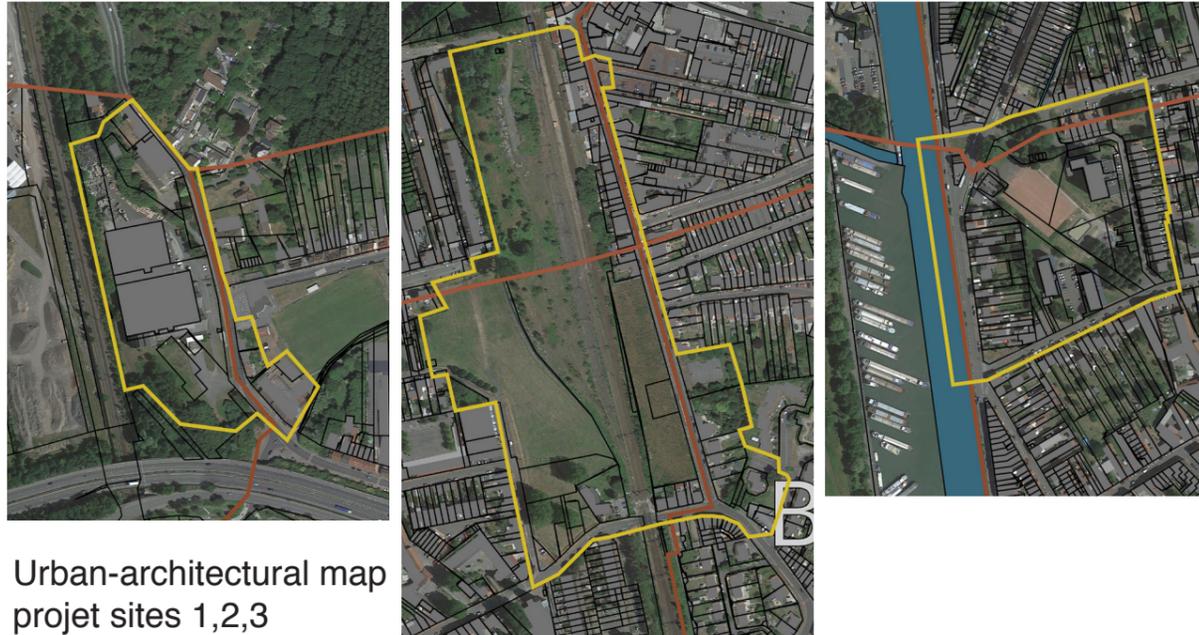
The State, the Communauté d'Agglomération and the two municipalities agreed on the need for intervention through the NPNRU (New National Urban Renewal Programme). A tool that will allow the consultation of all the partners involved and the concentration of financial means. The NPNRU's ambition is to structure the territory, to requalify public and private housing and to develop functional and social mixes through urban action. At the same time, the Communauté d'Agglomération must question the sustainability of its interventions. This is one of the questions raised by the «Living City» session. Methodological proposals are expected to take into account existing informal uses and make them legitimate. An overall plan linking the various projects underway in the neighborhood may be proposed.

The objective is to recreate a link between the different neighbourhoods and «sub-neighbourhoods» of the city, which are highly fragmented, while at the same time enhancing the local identity and the very strong sense of belonging specific to the neighbourhood. The living beings living in the neighborhood will be treated with dignity and put at the center of the proposed transformation process.

SITE DEFINITION

The Dorignies/Pont-de-la-Deûle site is located in northern France, in the heart of the mining area. The territory developed thanks to the industrial activity of coal mining, which operated for three centuries and had significant impacts on the economy, social context, landscape, ecology and culture. The neighborhood is made up of fragments of the city and spread over two different municipalities. The channel, the mining bypass (A21) and the railway are fracture elements that contribute to the patchwork effect that is unique to the neighborhood. These elements of fragmentation can become the support for new uses and the vector of new synergies.

## E16 LIVING CITIES - Douaisis Agglo France



Urban-architectural map  
project sites 1,2,3



Urban-architectural aerial oblique view



Ground view of the canal (3)



Ground view of the tower of the Château Delattre



Ground view of the former building of the  
radiological archives (1)



Ground view of the Dorignies social centre (2)

### HOW MUST BE DEVELOPPED AND CONNECTED METABOLISM AND INCUSIVITY?

The territory's strong social and cultural heritage resulting from its industrial past, as well as the landscape transformed by human activity but hosting great diversity, are sources of inspiration for building the ecosystems of tomorrow.

The candidates are invited to propose projects that include the problems of soil decontamination or dangerous road traffic, but also to question the need to deconstruct or build with proposals ranging from the rehabilitation of old buildings to the improvement of the living environment through innovative housing.

Social problems are very prevalent in certain sectors and the overall precariousness is growing in neighborhoods where the housing stock is not adapted to the needs of the inhabitants. Residents must therefore show resilience and develop ways of adapting to the difficulties and to urban planning that was not designed for their use. An economy and informal practices have emerged from these adaptations.

Non-human milieus are numerous and rich in diversity. Green and blue infrastructures extend over the entire territory and are able to provide many ecosystem services.

Like the rare flowers that grow on land polluted by heavy metals or the slag heaps formed by the accumulation of mine products that today offer views of the territory, synergies between human and natural systems can be created in order to strengthen ecosystems.

The resilience demonstrated by the residents of the Dorignies/ Pont-de-la-Deûle neighbourhood and the services provided by natural ecosystems can reinforce each other and enable the sustainable transformation of the neighbourhood.