

DEAR HUNTER

Cartopological
Landscape
Sample Atlas

of the

Euregio Meuse-Rhine

2019

First edition



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Introduction booklet

Introduction

Already for some years, the *Three Countries Park Project* (an initiative of the Euregio Meuse-Rhine) has been collecting knowledge on landscape qualities within its cross-border region. However, the perspective of the inhabitants on their natural surroundings is still missing. For that reason, the 3LP/P3P project group initiated *Dear Landscape* and commissioned Dear Hunter to gather insights across the Euregio Meuse-Rhine. Becoming more aware of what matters to the inhabitants and visitors in order to use the insights within landscape policy making was the ultimate goal.

In *Dear Landscape*, six locations and their surroundings have been mapped through intensive fieldwork and participant observation. Local issues and insights have been gathered: how do the different municipalities in this Three Countries Park deal with their landscape? How is it opened up? What are the distinctive qualities and how can they be used in a better way for the benefit of its inhabitants and/or its visitors?

Dear Landscape started in July 2017 with three stays: in Visé (Wallonia/Belgium), Vaals (The Netherlands) and Heers (Flanders/Belgium). The project continued exactly one year later with another three locations: Sourbrodt (Ostbelgien, Belgium), Kempen-Broek (Flanders, Belgium) and Walheim (Aachen, Germany).

Methodology

Dear Hunter is a *cartopological*¹ research practice and produces alternative maps and atlases through qualitative fieldwork. Being a 'Dear Hunter', referring to the behaviour and methods of hunters, means that we thoroughly immerse in situations in order to understand them completely, mostly by living and working on-site for relatively long periods of time. Our maps contain local, specific, symbolic and 'intimate' knowledge.

In the past, sea monsters on maps enchanted viewers, educated them about what could be found in the sea, indicated which parts still needed to be conquered and sometimes highlighted the importance of religion to the conquerors. Our maps offer a different perspective on an existing situation, too, but also lead to insights applicable within spatial, economical or cultural development.

In the case of *Dear Landscape*, we have been on site for one month each. There was a specific focus within the assignment on each location: local themes were added, of which the hosting community could benefit from. To give an example of this: the municipality of Vaals acknowledged that the physical and mental distance between their famous tripoint and the village itself could be shortened. Clues for how to actually embed a new connection have been sought while actually living and working between the tripoint and the village, experiencing the situation at first hand.

After all six stays, which resulted in six cartopological maps, seven themes have been derived from them: themes that were an issue in all locations, either to a very small or large extend. These themes have been metaphorically translated into ‘soils’, because we regarded the mapping we did during the six stays as ‘collecting soil samples’. Each time it was a matter of getting to know a specific local situation, taking a sample so to speak.

This document, the *Cartopological Landscape Sample Atlas of the Euregio Meuse-Rhine*, compiles the results of the project as a whole. It contains the underlying maps, the soil samples as taken on location, an analysis of the various soils and a comparative study on the quantities and ratios of the soils throughout the locations, making it possible to compare the (local) results.

The aim of this atlas is to enable learning from the experiences and insights gathered on the six locations, but also to offer an uncommon way of comparing the perception of the landscape on the various locations. With that, it should reveal additional insights that are rooted in locality but thematically transcend it.

It doesn’t require extensive knowledge of all locations but it will help if one is familiar to a certain place to some extend. As such, we hope it does encourage to dig into the locations one doesn’t know (yet) and add to the understanding of -and knowledge on- the euregional landscape.

Dear Landscape is executed by Dear Hunter and funded by the People to People program of Interreg V-A Euregio Meuse-Rhine, with the support of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) in the framework of the Interreg V A program EMR. Project partners & financing are:

Footnote

1. Because we combine the use of anthropological methods with cartographic ways to translate experiences and insights into maps, we developed the discipline of cartopology.





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Soils

Soils, an introduction

The soils represent a selection of themes and topics sampled on all six locations. Each soil represents a single theme and consist of at least two different substances: the ratio of the mixture delivers a more detailed insight in the quality of that theme on the sampled location.

Soils form the basis of all insights and conclusions as they are the core material sampled on all locations. However, they do not mean to be complete: samples have been taken on six locations, covering an area of about 11.000km. As a result, they cannot be seen as representative for the Euregio Meuse-Rhine as a whole. Moreover, not all anecdotes, conclusions and insights gathered within and deriving from the specific local assignments can be traced back to one (or more) of the soils. Rather, the soils represent the themes that are near to the surface on all sampled locations and with that, they represent the most urgent, common, widespread or relevant themes that play a role on the scale of the Euregio Meuse-Rhine.

Each soil represents a certain theme and consist of at least two different substances. The ratio of the mixture delivers a more detailed insight in the quality of that theme on the sampled location.

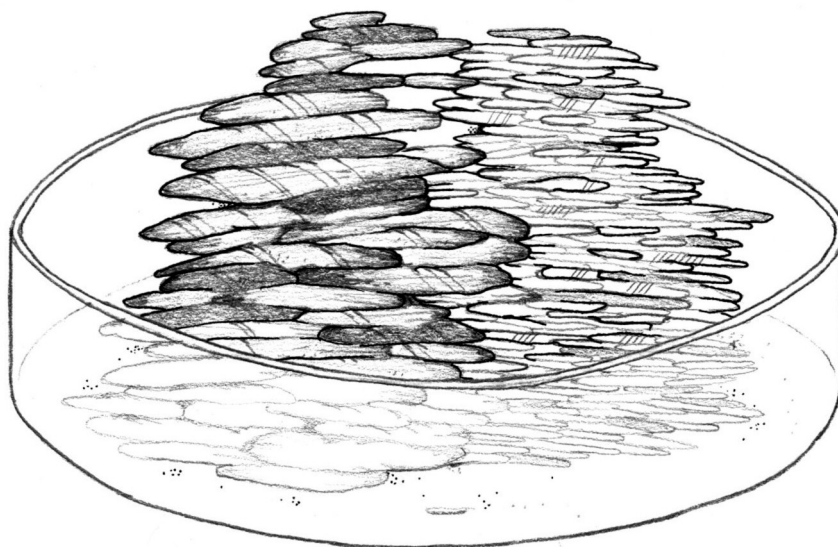
The resident, the visitor

There's so much variety within this topic. Certain landscapes are hardly appreciated by the inhabitants themselves, although there's visitors in search of them. On the other hand, valued places do not necessarily attract tourists, and if the latter is the case, harmonious situations are sometimes hard to find. Think about the Vaalserberg for example: during daytime and especially during holiday periods it's a very well attended location, which makes inhabitants adapt their schedule, taking a walk in the morning and evening so they will cross the tourist's paths a bit less.

One location flourishes and attracts thousands of visitors, like Eijsden, while the other, Lanaye, only the separated from Eijsden by the Meuse river, is the opposite world in many respects. Or take the example of orchards: in the northern part of Hesbaye they seem to be developed in order to mass-

produce fruits. The typical landscape appearance changed because of upscaling and the transition from tall-cone to short-cone trees. The employment and economic importance is well-appreciated, but the 'industrial' use of the landscape also leads to conflicts when producers and cyclists meet on the roads in-between the orchards.

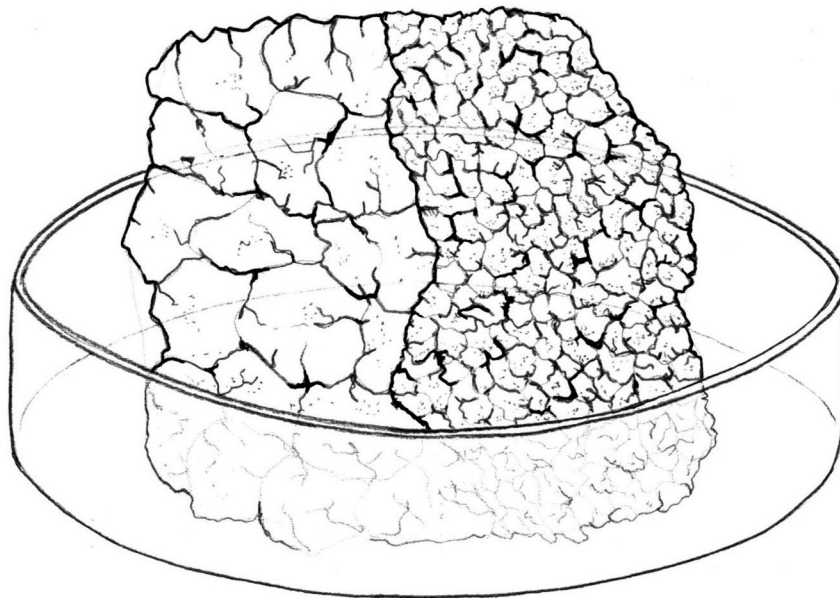
In the Dutch Heuvelland, there seems to be another development going on: no upscaling in order to survive but producers trying to make their living by adding a B&B or other tourist-related functions to their business, keeping the traditional landscape but their landscape-related tasks losing the idea of producing and evolving into maintaining and preserving the landscape. This is beautifully illustrated by the example of a farmer that sticks to his relatively small and thus unprofitable cherry orchard, regarding the profit from his



The cultivated, the natural

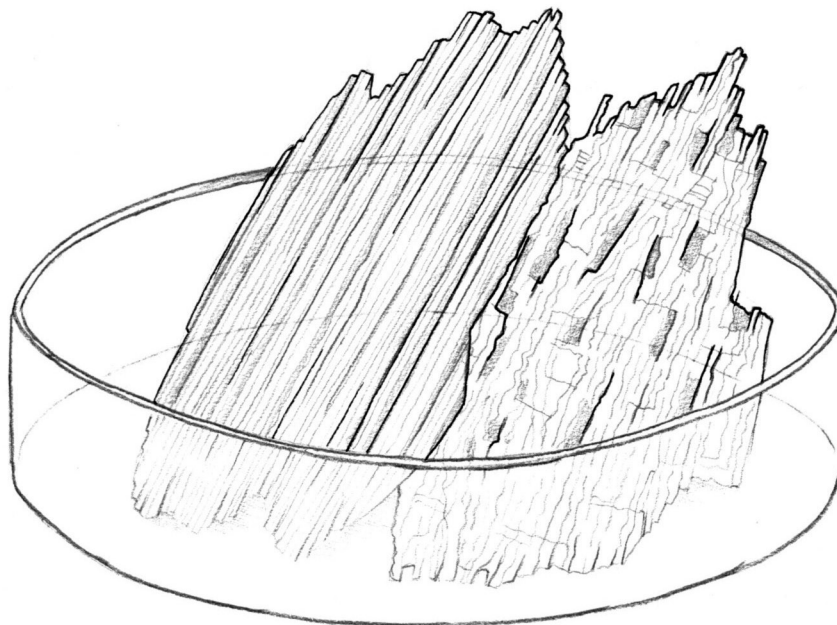
What is regarded as (purely) natural often turns out to be man-made or cultivated to a large extent. From the High Fens to Kempen~Broek: the natural character as it is perceived exists due to interventions like harvesting, foresting or re-wilding. Is there something like 'untouched' nature anyway? However, the appreciation of (cultivated) nature varies greatly throughout the Euregio Meuse-Rhine. For example, former quarries and lime kilns that can be found in Maastricht, Lanaye and Walheim are being regarded from microclimates and nature reserves, more beautiful than nature could ever create itself (in Maastricht and to a lesser extent in Lanaye) to abandoned industry that should be cleaned up in Walheim.

Moving beyond the idea that both are separated and thus need to be protected from each other, there's the most splendid creations and subtle co-productions to be discovered: the already mentioned quarries and kilns, the vast heathlands of the High Fens, the water flows and mills in Kempen~Broek, the Albert Canal cutting through the Caestert Plateau and nearby sluice in Kanne are only a few examples.



Right to access (formal), inaccessibility (informal)

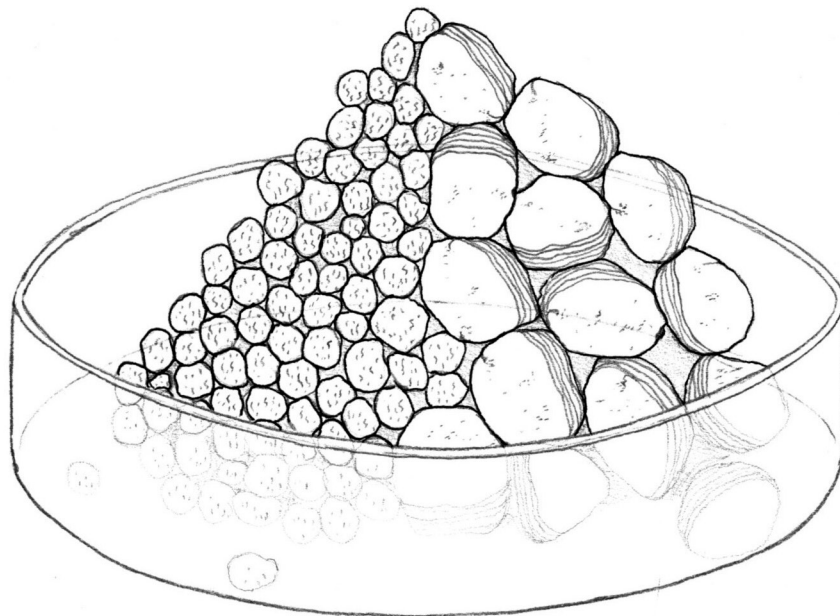
Apart from 'landscape-types' as defined by experts, also various 'accessibilities' and ways of dealing with the accessibility of the landscape exist. In Hesbaye, there's large plots of inaccessible orchards left and right of concrete allotment roads. Once in a while you'll find small plucks of forest which look like oases, offering a welcome change and some shade during a bike trip, but they are fenced off as they are private property. Although not all agreeable plots of land are officially accessible, inhabitants turned out to be inventive enough to climb over barbed wire, which happens on a daily basis in Walheim. The farmers seem to have no problem at all with that, something that we cannot imagine in Hesbaye for example. Within the Heuvelland and to a somewhat lesser extend also in Voeren, the paths and walkways through fields have been 'formalised' by placing turnstiles. This gives the impression that farmers acknowledge there's a necessity or added value to open up their property and regarding the landscape as something common.



Beloved, be lost

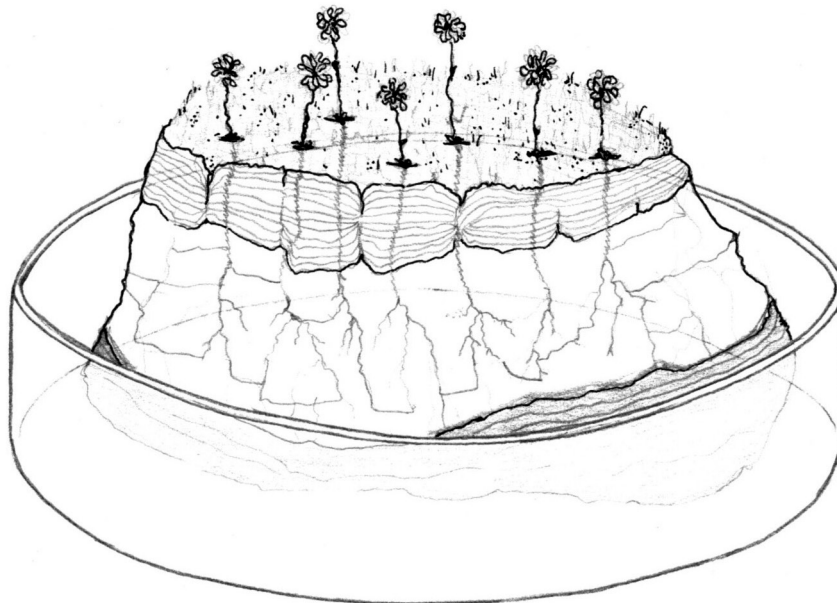
Despite their gardens sometimes have a beautiful view, all across the Euregio Meuse-Rhine we found residents that fence off their property and don't seem to care at all about their surroundings. Take for example some new housing next to the Zuid-Willemsvaart near to Bocholt: the houses are barely inhabited yet and fences have already been installed, blocking the view all across the canal and meadows behind. Also the contrary takes place: In Lanaye, a communal garden appeared on a small forgotten plot of land in-between infrastructure. We discovered more locations where a sense of ownership for the landscape results in the identification of inhabitants with their surrounding landscape, thus becoming a part of their identity. The solitude evoked by the High Fens for example, but also the picturesque Heuvelland & Voeren and the accessible Kempen~Broek certainly are more than a backdrop.

However, also within these more beloved areas, there's still problematic locations to be found. Locations where litter continues to appear, where residents blame tourists for not taking care and vice versa, like the Vaalserberg or the Montagne Saint-Pierre in Lanaye.



The sublime, the picturesque

The sublime, drawing on the meaning of the term in aesthetics, and art, definitely forms a part of the landscape perception within the Euregio Meuse-Rhine. Panoramic views near to Aubel, far-away horizons, the vast and uncompromising High Fens or remote parts of the Campine region appeal to feelings of beauty and transience. There's also the opposite: picturesque small-scale landscapes from Herve to Heuvelland, winding roads & pathways all over the Euregio Meuse-Rhine that appeal to an intrinsic feeling of beauty. Interestingly, these feelings do not only appear because of 'natural' experiences: a large-scale industrial intervention like the Albert Canal, viewpoints on (industrial) interventions and relics evoke overwhelming feelings too, being in line with the fact that there's hardly any square meter to be found in the Euregio Meuse-Rhine that hasn't been turned upside down in recent history (as said by an inhabitant).



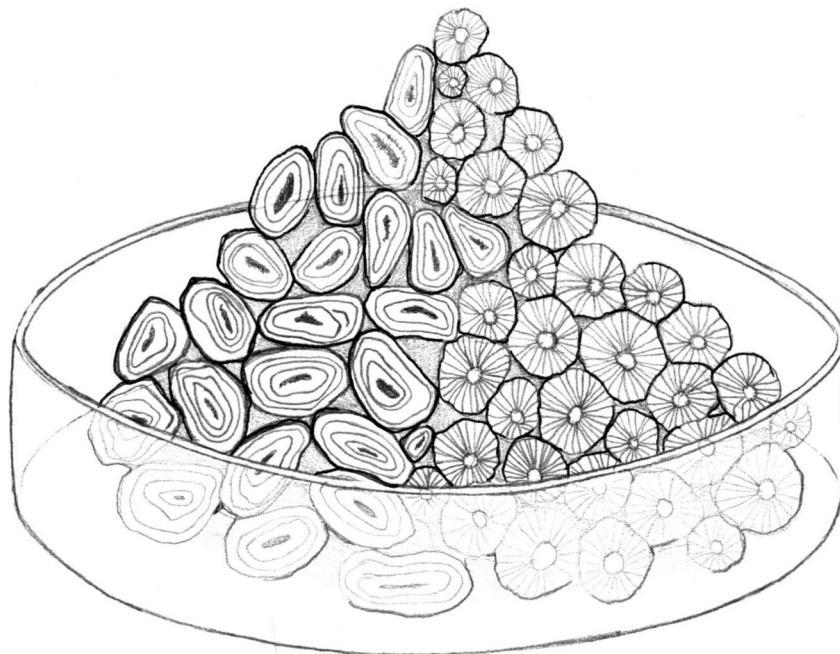
Stories to be told, secrets to be kept

Stemming from religious motives, historical events, strange occurrences or simply personal memories, certain locations are 'loaded' with meaning that makes them special to more than just individuals. It's stories and secrets that add an extra layer of meaning to the landscape.

Sometimes, stories are being told via the official tourist information: for example, there's information on well-hidden burial mounds in Vaals, literally just around the corner from the three countries point, but at the place itself they can hardly be recognised. However, for most of the stories, you have to rely on the information that's given to you by inhabitants. It will definitely not be unique to the Euregio Meuse-Rhine, but there's literally hundreds of them, some widespread, some lesser known, but all tied to specific places and landscape elements. Drunken bees, a 'stone man' that fell apart due to the construction of the Albert Canal, a tunnel of almost two kilometer next to the same canal, the pathetic confusion and around the highest point of the Netherlands

and the three countries point, a ghost that chased young couples in Heers, symbolic trees and buries Spanish soldiers next to Heers castle, cows chasing pears, there's so much more here that does not meet the eye or that once has been and now only exists in memory.

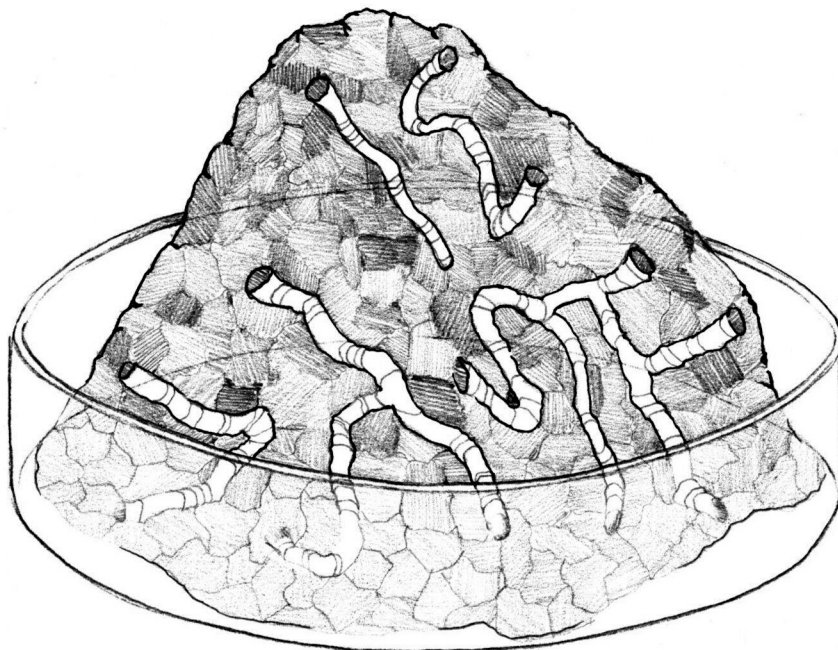
There are more or less two categories of stories and anecdotes that have been shared with us: on the one hand there's the innocent ones just like the ones above, that are being shared with passion. At the other hand there's facts and less factual events that people are less likely to share: stories related to trespassing and smuggler, across the wire of death but also in the tunnel underneath the Vaalserberg, to the problematic periods of the first and second world war with all the physical reminders still present like the concrete pyramids of the Siegfried Line, the constant shifting of borders, the wire of death. Some historical events are still tangible and not yet expressed or buried.



Subterranea, Below and/or above

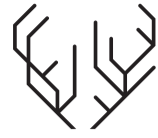
Besides stories and anecdotes, there is more that's less tangible but of great importance. Of course, we mean the soil, the literal underground, being fertile and the reason for the agricultural importance of this region (already since the Romans). We also mean the underground in a broader sense, and all that goes with it or came from it. Forts, bomb shelters, tunnels for transportation of men and material, Hundreds of kilometers of cave shafts and galleries in order to retrieve the building and energy sources that were needed for a much larger area than the Euregio Meuse-Rhine only. It brought welfare but also undermined society, especially in the coal mining districts.

Although the shafts and galleries aren't, the influence is still visible in all respects: buildings and structures now regarded as heritage in for example Genk, slag heaps of black soil, literally put upside down on the surface of the earth and still determining the view, monumental garden cities all over the Euregio Meuse-Rhine but also societal problems and unemployment, for example in Heerlen and its surroundings. In a more positive sense, tunnels made sure transportation could take place (like the one underneath the Vaalserberg) and assured a safe haven for one of the most famous artworks in history: Rembrandt's *The Night Watch* was hidden for the nazis in a cave in Maastricht during the war. Whether it be for shelter or resources, you cannot overestimate the influence of what has happened underneath on life above.





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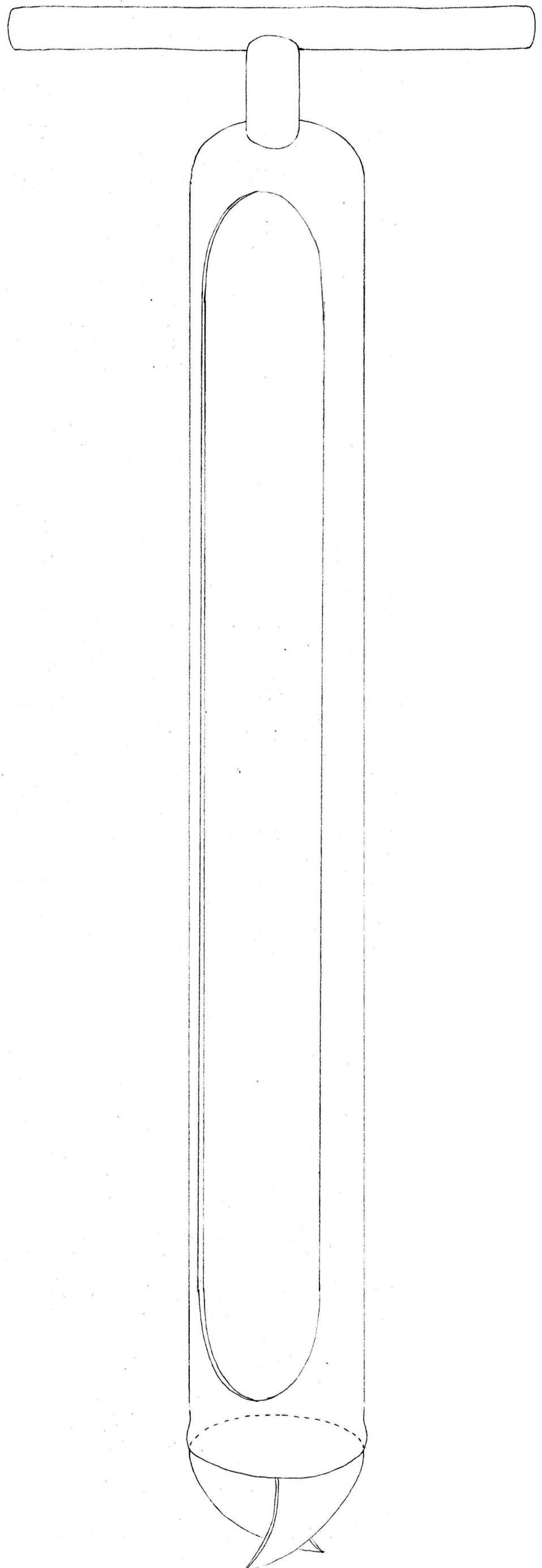
Soil samples

Soil samples, an introduction

The soil samples are representative of the area sampled and taken to a uniform depth, resulting in the presence of seven euregional soils in all soil corers. Each soil represents a certain theme and consist of at least two different substances: the ratio of the mixture delivers a more detailed insight in the quality of that theme on the sampled location.

The soils are visualised in such a way that they represent the various dynamics of the location at a glance but also are relatable and comparable to each other. In that way, the various researched locations of Dear Landscape can be seen next to each other and additional insights can be derived from them.

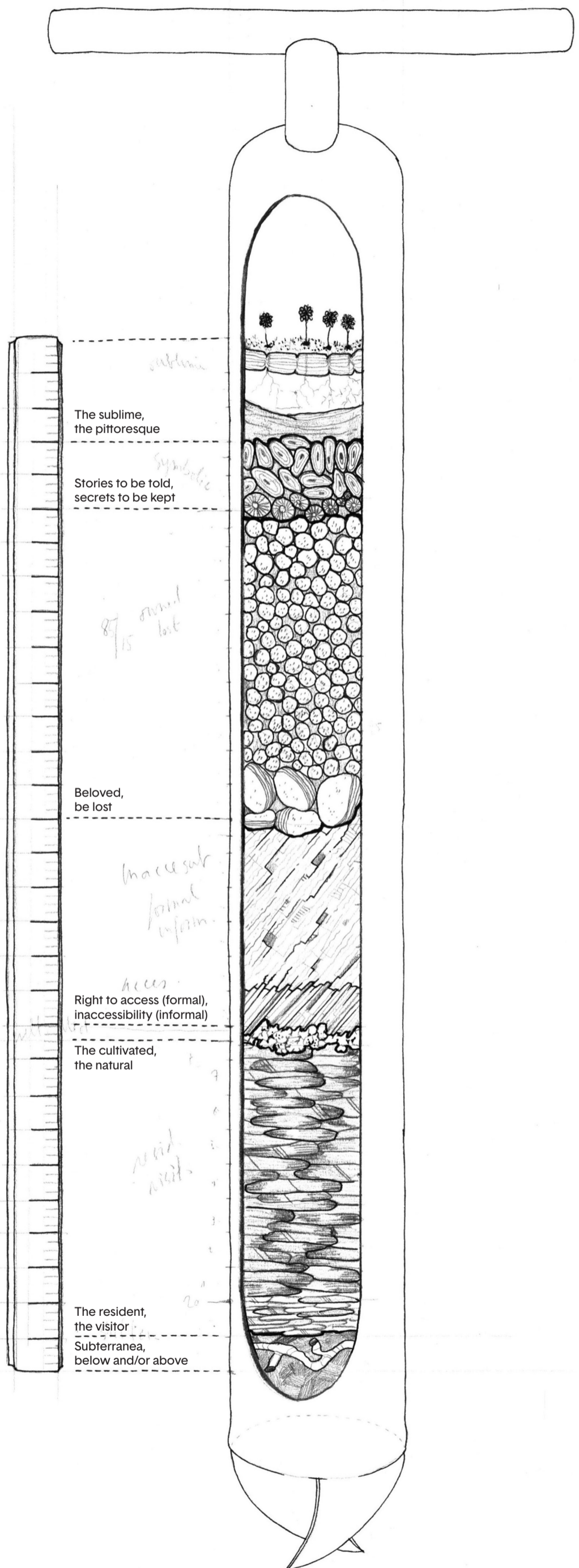
These soil samples are taken on six locations, covering an area of about 11.000km. As a result, they cannot be seen as representative for the Euregio Meuse-Rhine as a whole, but need to be regarded as single samples representing nothing more and nothing less than the six samples locations.



Lanaye (Visé)

Explanation of sample

There's a disbalanced mix to be found within this soil corer: the soils *beloved, be lost* and *the resident, the visitor* are present above average. Looking more closely at the ratio within both soils, they indicate that the landscape surrounding Lanaye isn't frequented that much by visitors, but highly rewarded and appropriated by the inhabitants themselves. The fact that it's not that much known by non-residents might (partially) be caused by the (lack of) accessibility: the presence of quite a lot of this soil combined with the imbalance of it (very much leaning towards inaccessible & informal) confirms this. Above all, there's a relatively large amount of sublime soil, of which the Montagne St. Pierre and it's various natural and industrial manifestations indeed cannot be ignored.



Vaals

Explanation of sample

This soil corer shows a relative balanced mixture of soils, although there's one soil that catches the eye over here, being *the resident, the visitor*. Within this soil, there's an imbalance: the visitor is more present. This manifests itself around the three countries point and to a lesser extend in the village of Vaals itself.

Besides, there's a relatively large portion of *beloved, be lost* in which *be lost* prevails, which can be perceived in especially the areas that are being used by the visitors, being (again) the zone around the tripoint.

Finally, *subterranea* is very present, which might be due to the good conditions Vaals and its surroundings offered to industrials (mainly textile and mining), agriculture and tourism, but also because of the tunnel underneath the Vaalserberg which offers a connection for freight trains between Montzen and Aachen-West.

sublime

stories

lost

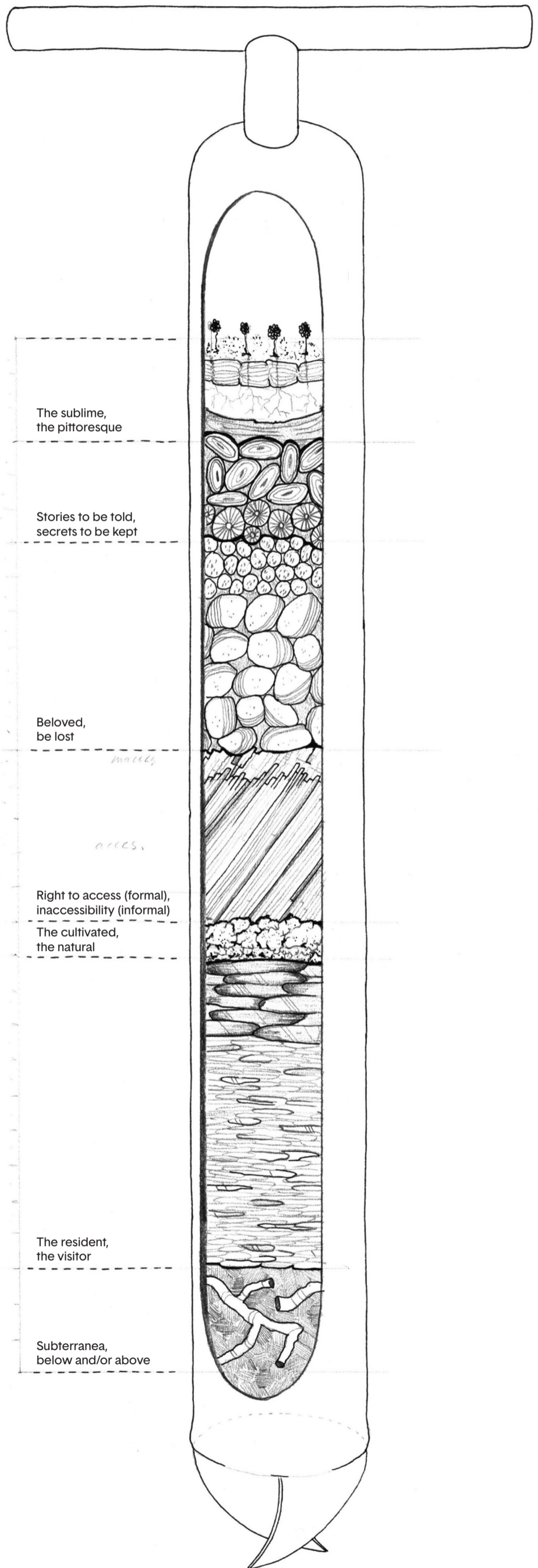
might to mm...

access

cultivated

resident/visitor

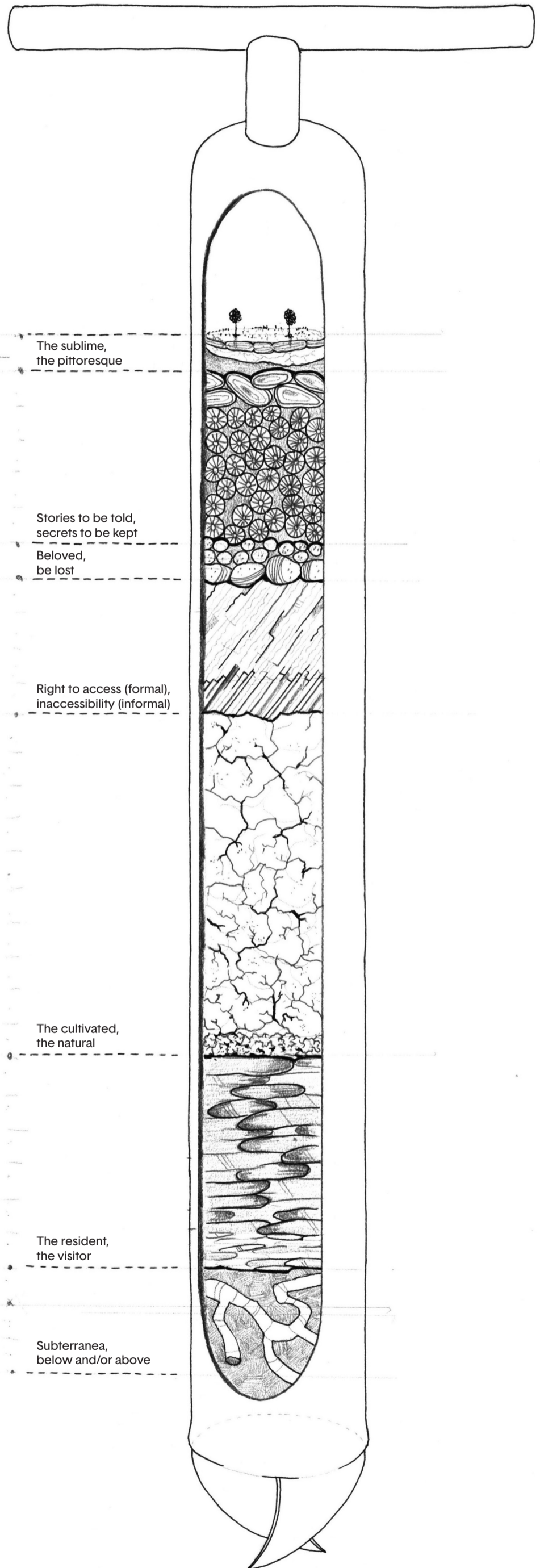
subterranea



Heers

Explanation of sample

A sample corer that shows a soil mixture in a slight dis-balance. *The cultivated, the natural* is a highly present soil over here, of which the large amounts of agriculture and industrialised orchards seem the most dominant manifestations. Other soils that catch the attention for being relatively present are *stories to be told, secrets to be kept* and *subterranea*, and it's likely both somehow have to do with the castle of Heers: surrounded by myths and stories, but also being a literal repository for long gone wars and more recent events that not always showed the good in mankind. The soils *right to access, inaccessibility* and *the resident, the visitor* are clearly visible and - moreover - geologically connected. The soil that's in-between, *the natural and the cultivated*, the reason for the already mentioned industrial land use, makes the landscape both hardly accessible but also leads to conflicting interests between residents and visitors, which in Heers results in the latter being almost absent. Finally, there's little *beloved, be lost* indicating that appropriation of the landscape isn't a topic of importance at the sampled location.



sublime

stories

lost

inaccessibility

cultivated

resident

underage

The sublime, the pittoresque

Stories to be told, secrets to be kept

Beloved, be lost

Right to access (formal), inaccessibility (informal)

The cultivated, the natural

The resident, the visitor

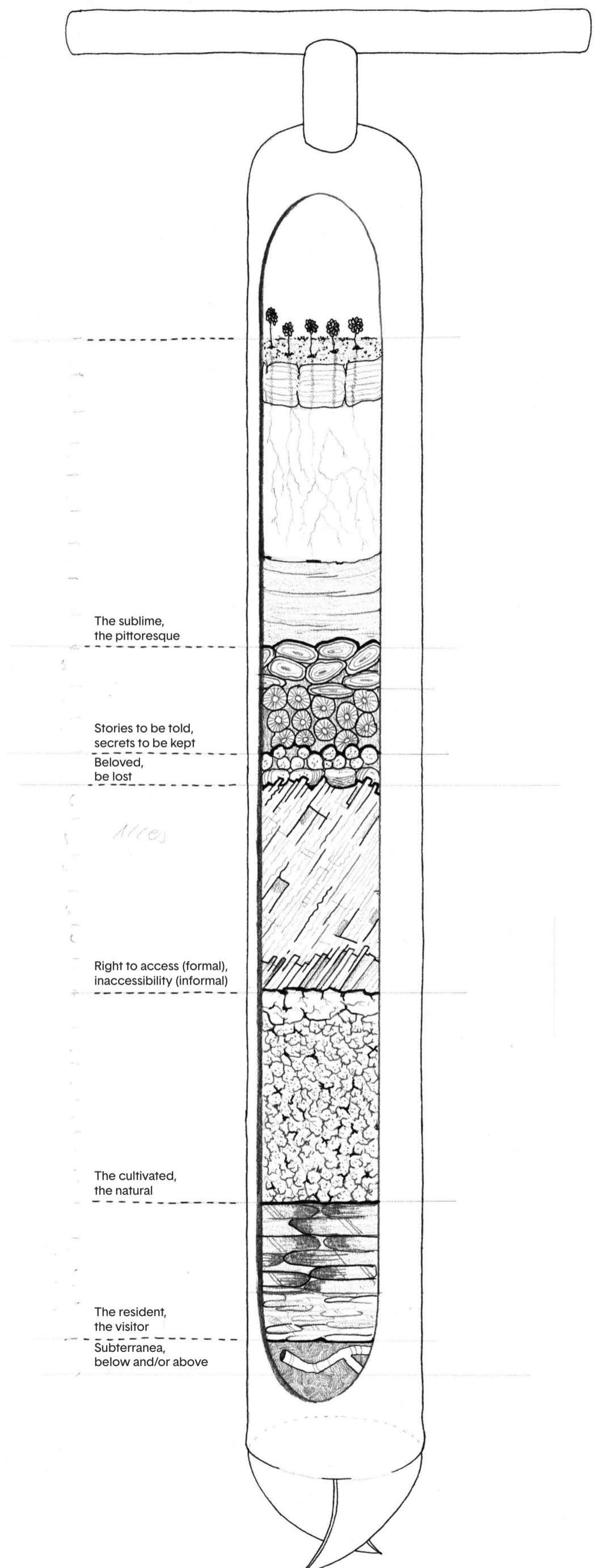
Subterranea, below and/or above

Sourbrodt (Waimes)

Explanation of sample

The large amount of *sublime* catches the attention. We already can conclude that this soil is related to *the cultivated, the natural*: the landscape surrounding Sourbrodt (being the High Fens) is being perceived as highly natural and desolate at the same time, it also offers views that generally are highly rewarded. We also see the presence of a large but imbalanced amount of *right to access, inaccessibility*, an indication that the area is only partly opened up by formal paths and marked tracks, giving the impression of being hardly accessible but at the same time offering the ones who dare a large amount of the sublime.

The very small amount of *beloved, be lost* indicates that appropriation of the landscape is not a topic of importance at the sampled location.

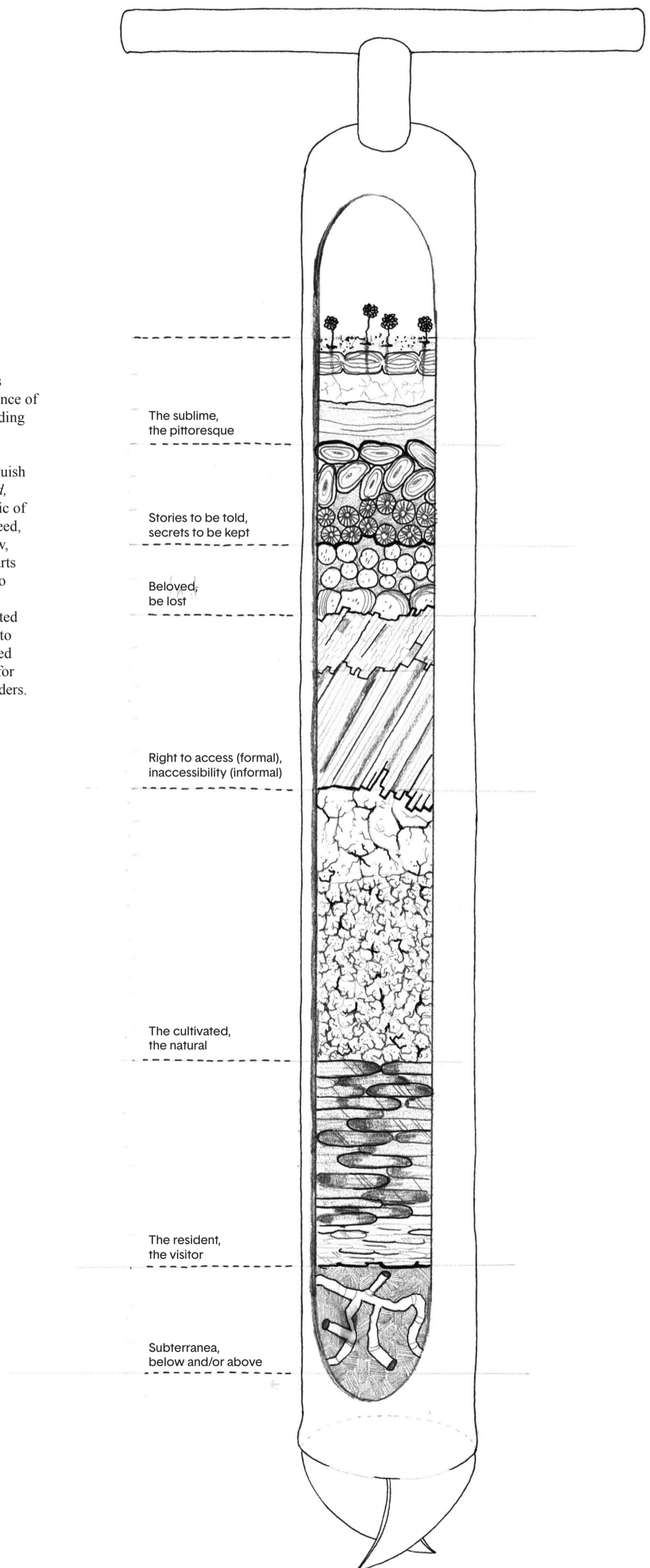


Kempen~Broek (Bocholt)

Explanation of sample

A beautifully balanced mixture within this sample corer, not only regarding the presence of the various euregional soils but also regarding the mixtures of the soils themselves.

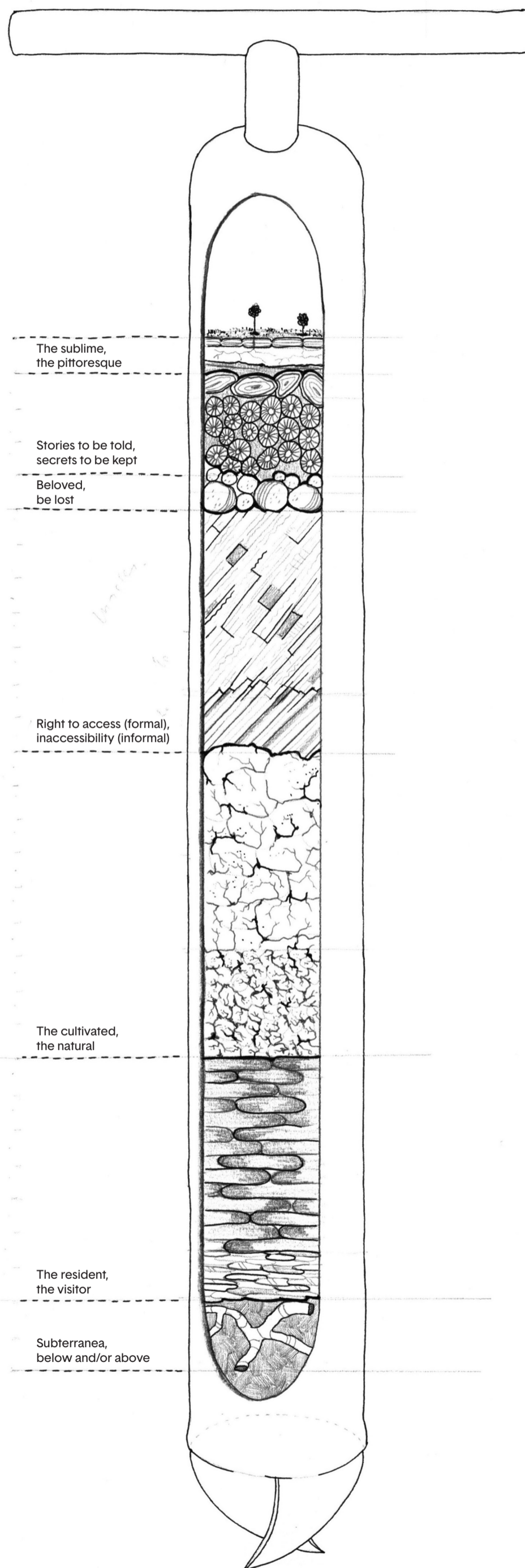
After a more close look, one could distinguish the slightly larger amount of *the cultivated*, *the natural*, an indication that this is a topic of major importance in Kempen~Broek. Indeed, the process of cultivating the land and now, since a couple of years, rewilding large parts of it again is highly discussed. There's also reasonable parts of both *subterranea* and *stories to be told, to be kept*. Both are related to each other, as the former poor soils led to close communities and with that to the need for sharing resources and stories but also for keeping secrets and securing against intruders.



Walheim (Aachen)

Explanation of sample

This sample corer shows a specific mixture in which there's a relative large amount of dense soils, enabling well-funded development on top of it. Especially *the resident, the visitor, the balance within the cultivated, the natural* and *the right to access, inaccessibility* contribute to this. However, these soils aren't as balanced as they seem: there's relatively much inaccessibility with which the inhabitants learnt to deal with. Within the soil *the cultivated, the natural* there's big contrasts to be found: most cultivated areas that are used for agriculture are highly appreciated but the ones left over by former excavations, now taken over by nature aren't valued at all or still regarded as industry leftovers. To conclude with, within the relatively small amount of *beloved, be lost* there's an indication that, apart from the former kilns and quarries that can be regarded as 'lost', the inhabitants do really care and appropriate their direct surroundings.





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Soils samples, a visual comparison

This map depicts the soil samples as taken on location, but enables comparing the various soils and their ratios across the six locations. By studying these samples, it becomes clear that not only the amount of the various soils differs, also their ratio fluctuates heavily. While this map gives an overview, if consulted in combination with the other documents within the atlas one will get a detailed view of both the provenance and meaning of the amounts and ratios.

This document is a part of the *Cartopological Landscape Sample Atlas of the Euregio Meuse-Rhine*, published in June 2019 by Dear Hunter.

The sublime, the picturesque

The *sublime* clearly is most present in Sourbrodt, due to its situation in the Hight Fens. Lanaye's soil also consists of a reasonable amount of sublime, due to its height difference, excavations and the Albert Canal that's dug into the Montagne St. Pierre. On the other hand, in Kempen-Broek there's relatively much of the picturesque to be found, most likely due to the variety of the landscape and accessibility of it.

Stories to be told, secrets to be kept

On all locations, a reasonable amount of *stories to be told*, *secrets to be kept* can be found. Most of this soil is present in Heers: although it's not the most vibrant village, the castle with its long and diverse history forms a solid layer of both appealing and more sinister anecdotes.

Beloved, be lost

Talking about appropriation and connection with the landscape, above all Lanaye stands out. Within this soil layer, it's clearly the *beloved* part that dominates. This stands in high contrast to Vaals, where there's also quite a lot of *beloved, be lost* but the ratio is almost the opposite, meaning that the landscape surrounding the location where the sample has been taken isn't appropriated that much. Lastly, the sample of Kempen-Broek also shows quite a disbalance within the soil, although over here it's just as in Lanaye, containing mostly *beloved*.

Right to access (formal), inaccessibility (informal)

Looking at the variety in mixture within these samples, one can see that the landscapes of Vaals and Kempen-Broek are by far the most accessible ones. Contrary, it's Lanaye and Sourbrodt and to a lesser extend Heers where the *inaccessibility and/or informal access* is most present.

The cultivated, the natural

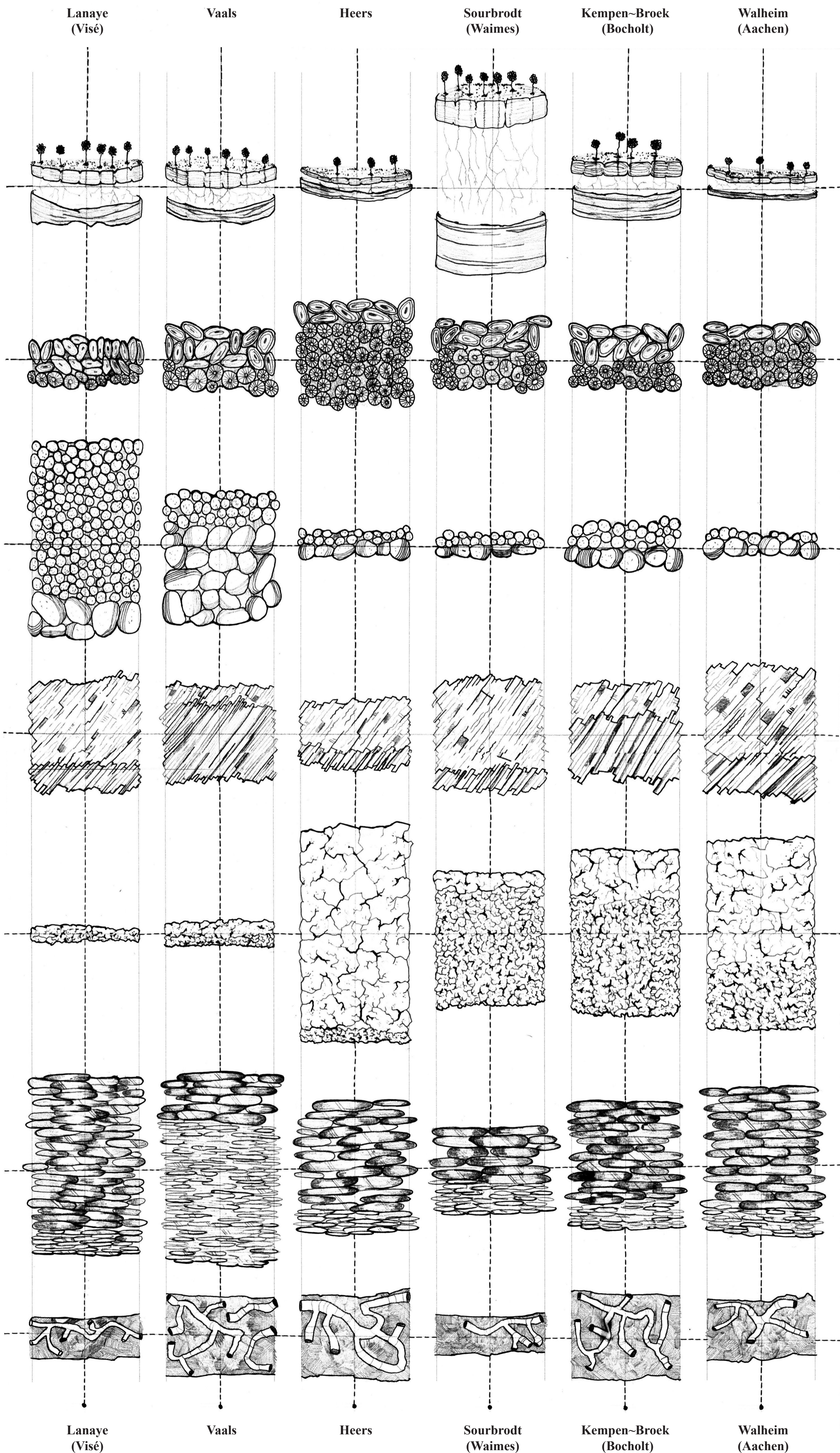
A very present soil within four out of six samples and almost absent in the samples of Lanaye and Vaals. In Heers and Walheim *the cultivated, the natural* is much discussed, as on both locations there's a rather peculiar distinction between the two elements of this soil in the perception of inhabitants. Some (former) industrial or cultivated parts that have been transformed, just by nature alone or with the help of man, still are regarded as industry. On the other hand, cultivated arable lands or other forms of man-made landscapes are regarded as natural and highly rewarded for several reasons. The latter also is the situation in Sourbrodt and the High Fens to a large extend.

The resident, the visitor

This soil layer is quite present on all locations, although in totally different ratios. Clearly distinguishable is the difference between Lanaye and Vaals: Whereas in Lanaye *the resident* dominates, *the visitor* is the most visible within the mixture of Vaals. In the cases of Heers and Walheim, *the resident* is the most prominent one, too. Apart from the ratios, the soil itself is a hot topic in both Vaals and Heers as in these places the imbalanced mixture leads to certain conflicts.

Subterranea, Above and/or below

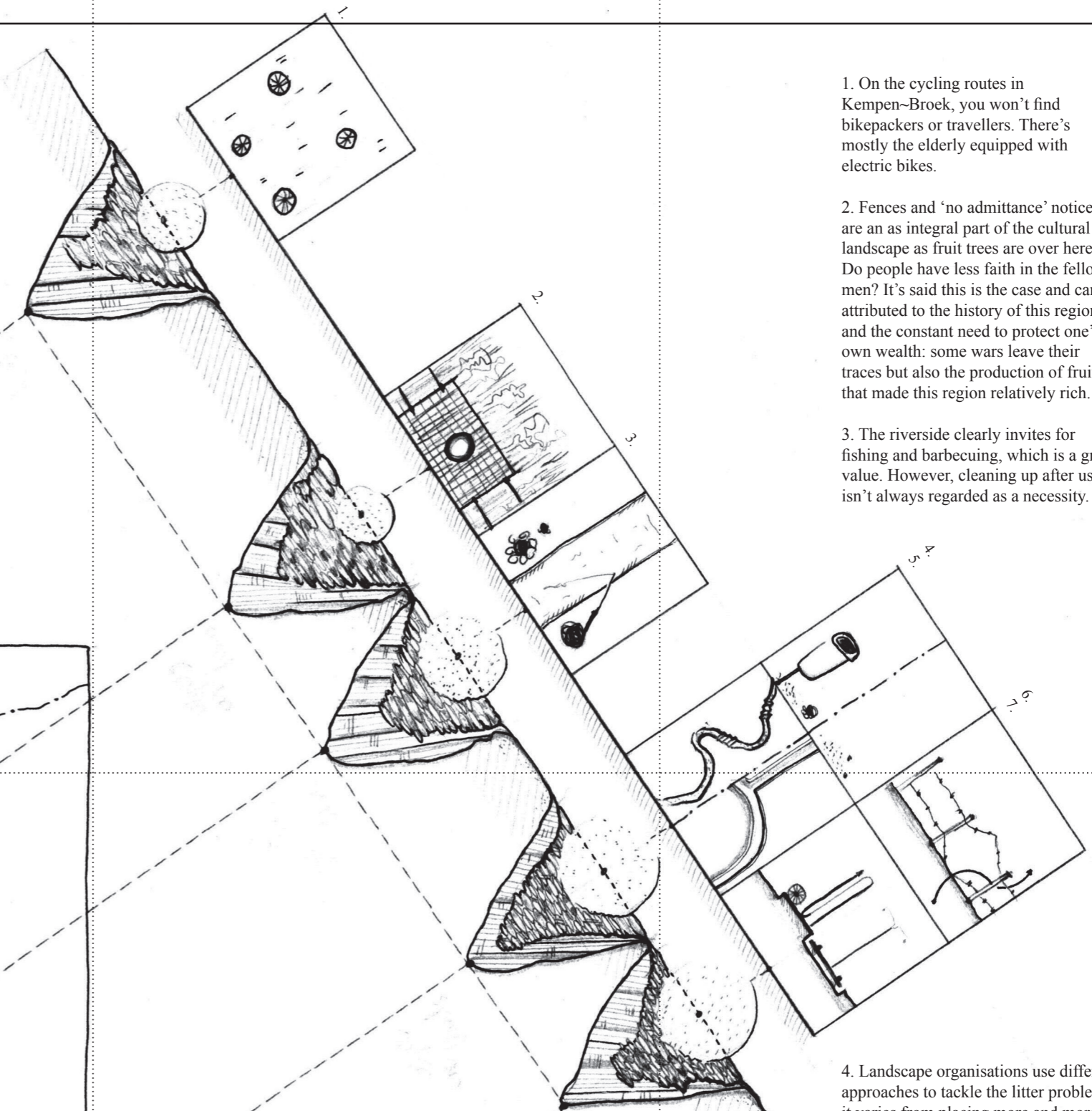
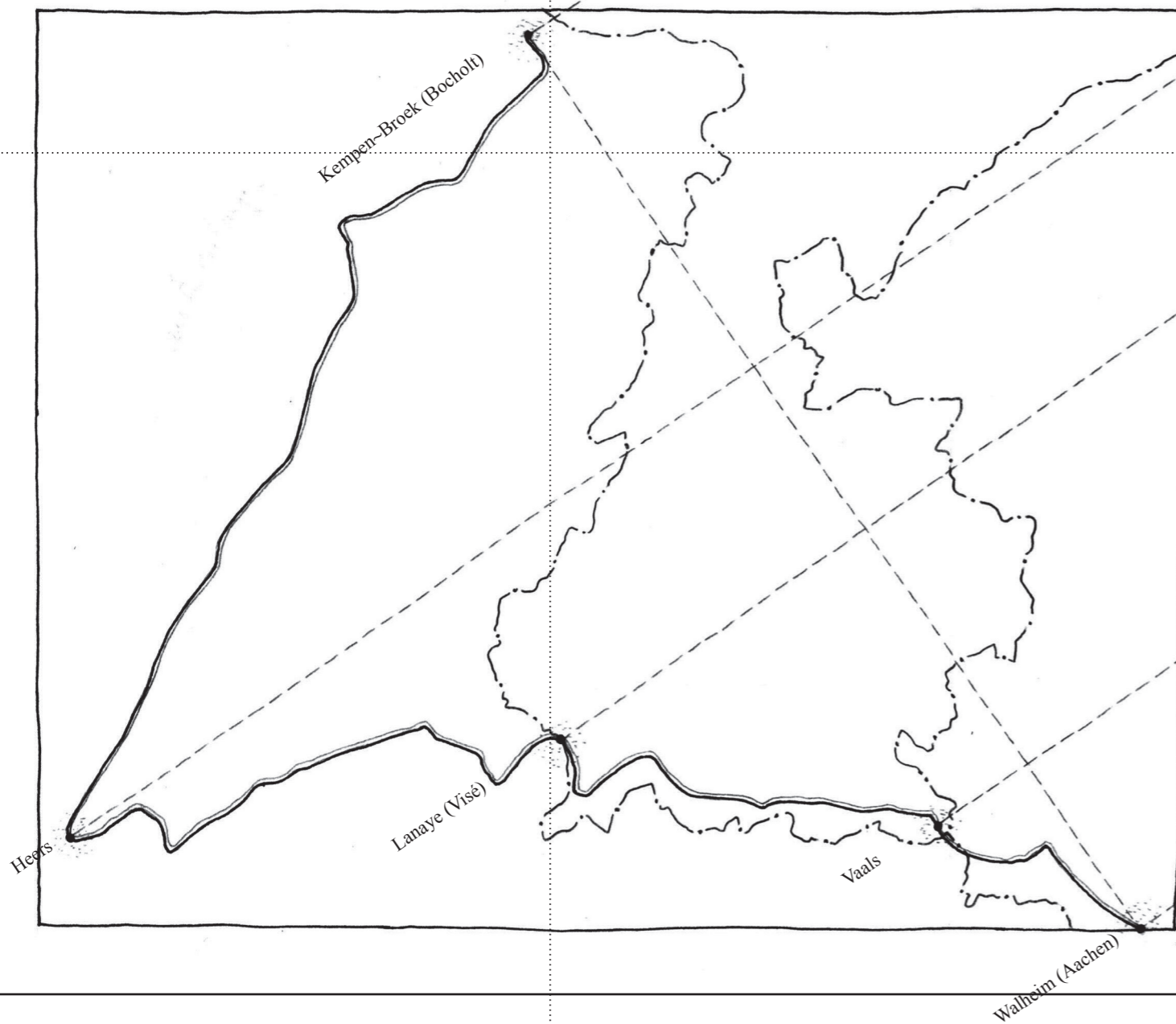
The soil that lies underneath all other euregional soils shows resemblance on all locations and does only slightly differ in amount across the various sample tubes. In Vaals and Heers there's the most to be found, the castle in Heers responsible for a large majority of it. The smallest amount of *subterranea, above and/or below* can be found in Sourbrodt: the vastness of the landscape and the relatively small presence of man might be the cause for this, one might have to dig deeper in order to reach more of it.



Storyline: Knowing ways, ways of knowing

This storyline combines the manifestations of the soils *The resident, the visitor* and *Right to access (formal), inaccessibility (informal)*, as these are closely related in most of the cases. Not all 'formal' highlights are also the highlights for the residents. On the contrary: sometimes there's literally two streams alternating, being residents and visitors, both spatially and temporally. Walking the line, you'll get on & off the beaten tracks and find highlights & hidden gems along short-cuts and detours.

This map is a part of the *Cartopological Landscape Sample Atlas of the Euregio Meuse-Rhine*, published in June 2019 by Dear Hunter.



1. On the cycling routes in Kempen~Broek, you won't find bikepackers or travellers. There's mostly the elderly equipped with electric bikes.

2. Fences and 'no admittance' notices are an integral part of the cultural landscape as fruit trees are over here. Do people have less faith in the fellow men? It's said this is the case and can be attributed to the history of this region and the constant need to protect one's own wealth: some wars leave their traces but also the production of fruit that made this region relatively rich.

3. The riverside clearly invites for fishing and barbecuing, which is a great value. However, cleaning up after use isn't always regarded as a necessity.

4. Landscape organisations use different approaches to tackle the litter problem: it varies from placing more and more litter bins to getting rid of them all, like at the Vaalserberg.

5. People looking for the tripoint in Vaals clearly prefer the short-cut along the asphalt road in favour of the slightly longer winding path through the forest.

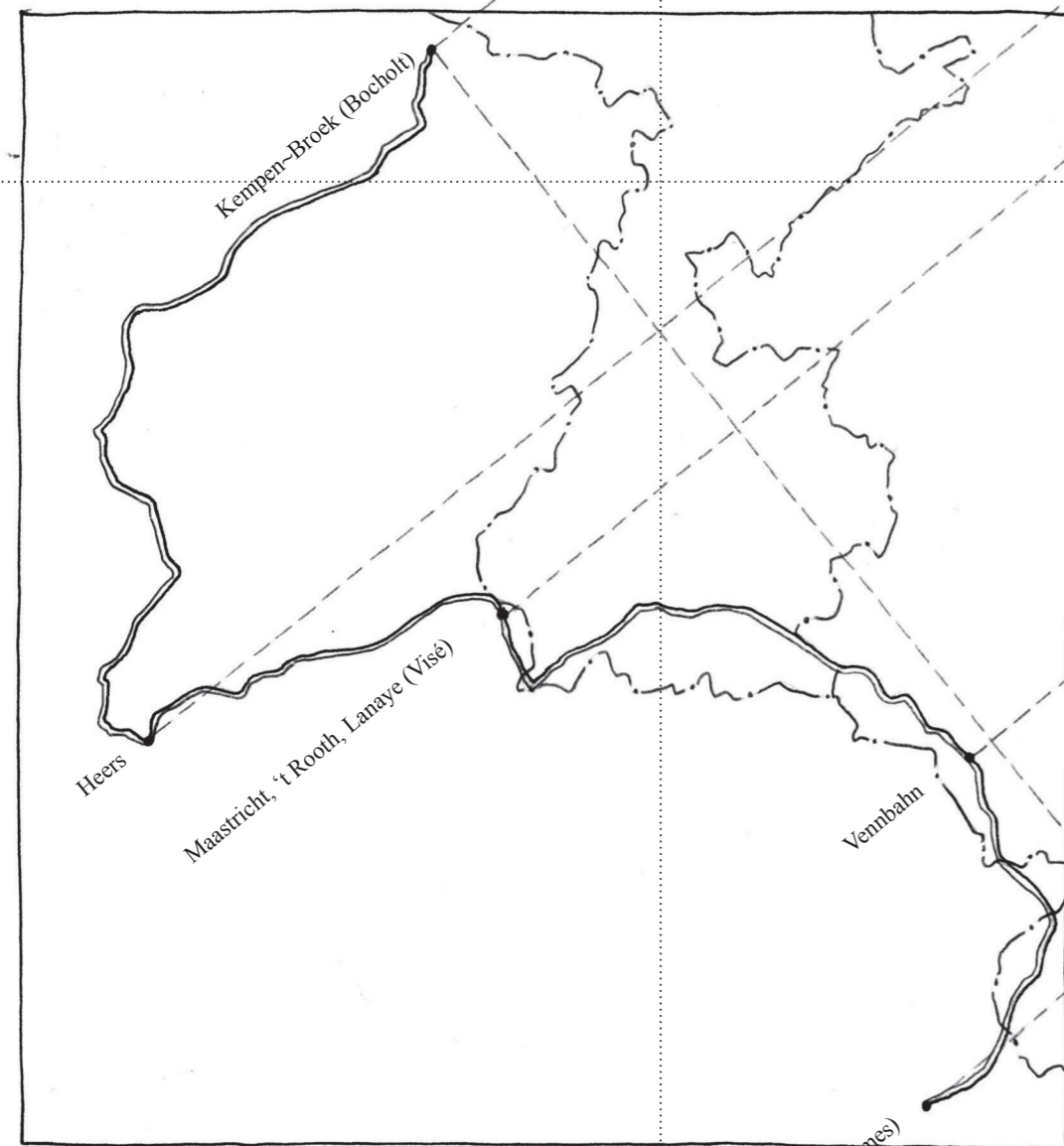
6. Inhabitants of Walheim don't mind to crawl over barbed wire to reach the fields that are nice for a walk. The farmers don't seem to care about that, too. Now, imagine that in Heers!

7. The RAVeL really functions like a park in Walheim, with commuters and dog owners intensively using the place.

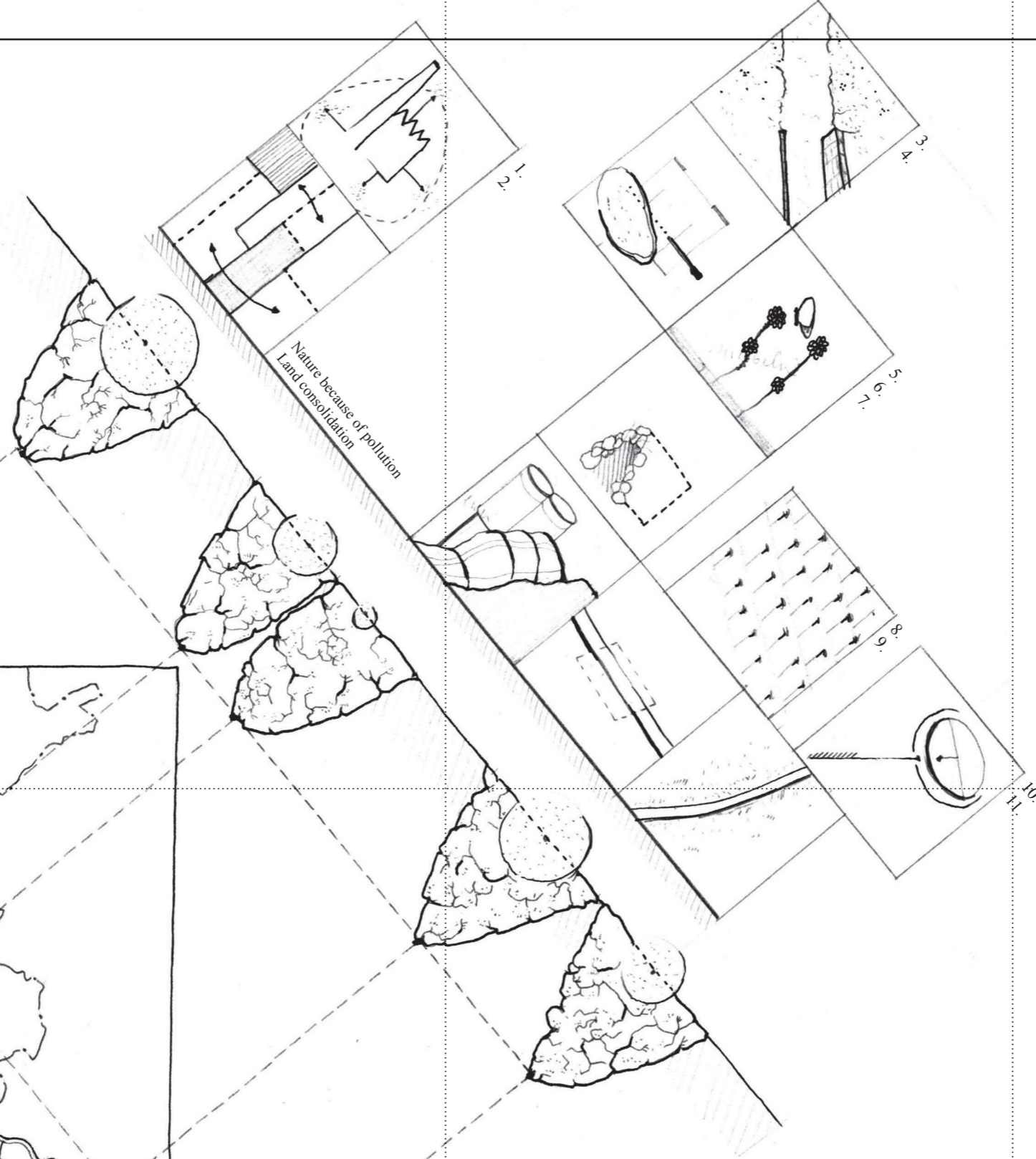
Storyline: The cultivated, the natural

Within the Euregio Meuse-Rhine, there is no such thing as the cultivated nor the natural. Actually, the places where the two come together are often the most surprising ones. Think of the former quarries, now turned into reserves where the protected species profit from the micro-climate, or the linear former Vennbahn railroad, now a cycling route with unique flora besides it only because of the trains that used to carry seeds with them. This storyline guides you along exactly these places, where nature and culture go hand in hand.

This map is a part of the *Cartopological Landscape Sample Atlas of the Euregio Meuse-Rhine*, published in June 2019 by Dear Hunter.



Sourbrodt (Wannes)

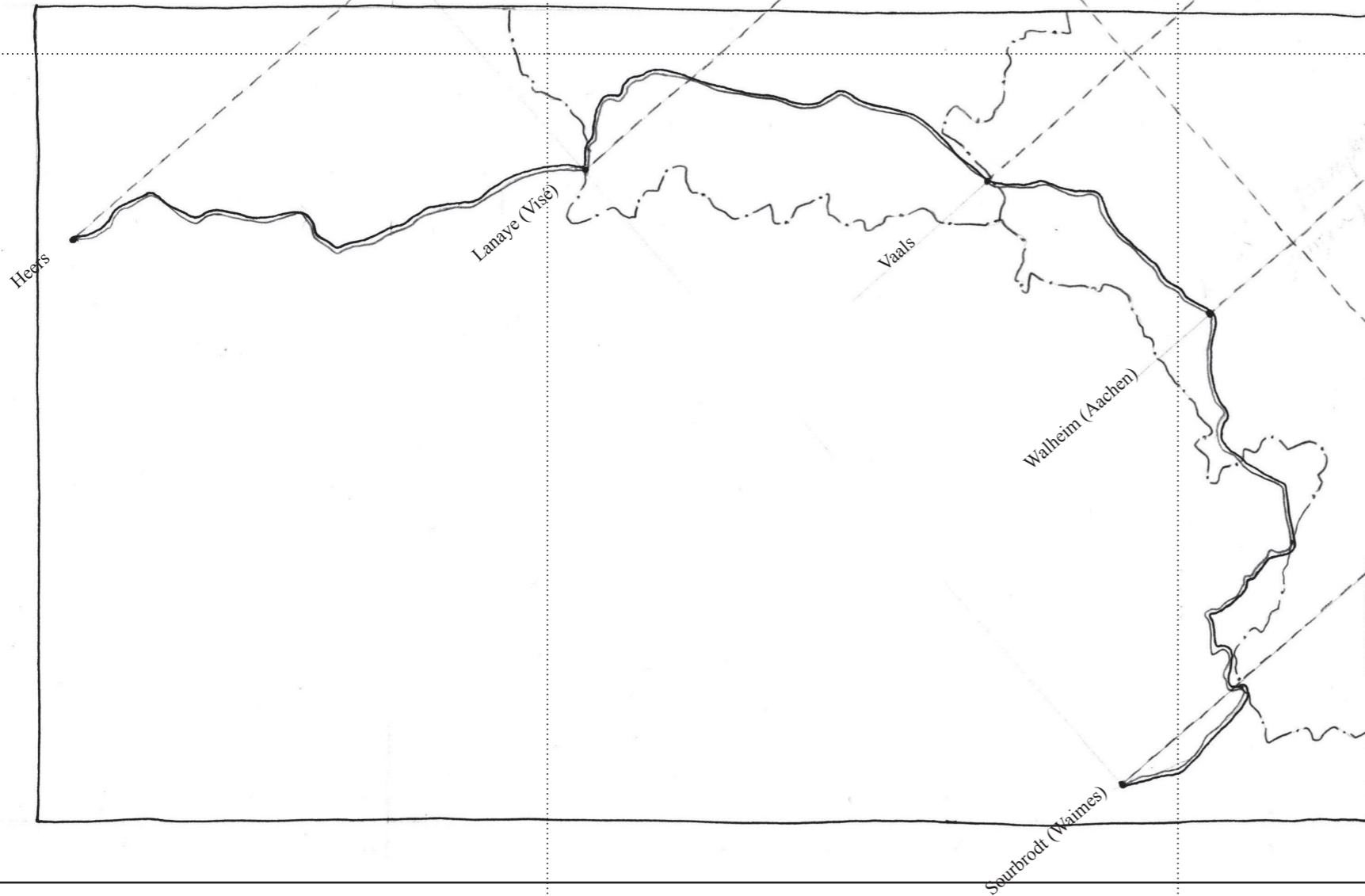
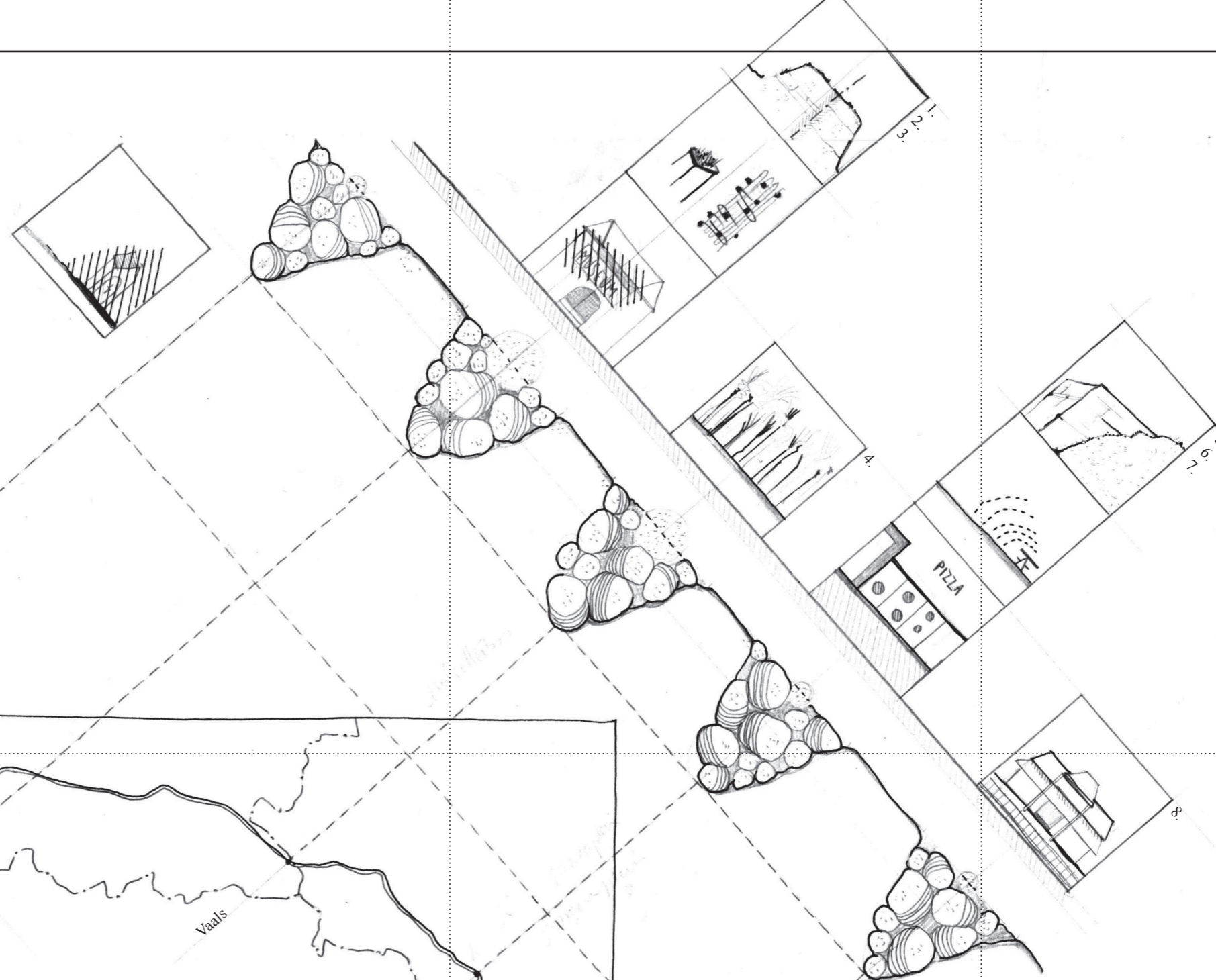


1. The toxic emissions of the zinc industry in Budel-Dorplein always kept this area from development, so the fact that there still is lots of open space is because of this factory.
2. ARK had an enormous impact on the landscape. Generations have cultivated these lands and now they turn into nature again in only a couple of years. Years of negotiating and signing land consolidation agreements for no less than about 800 acres made this possible.
3. Some years ago, the west bank of the Meuse was covered with concrete. This has been removed in order to give the river a little more space to meander freely through the landscape. The removed concrete has been crushed and reused in the construction of the new sluice but also in the Koning Willem-Alexandertunnel in Maastricht.
4. There are many hunters active in Heers, most of them around the ponds of the castle. In order to fulfil their hunting needs, they generously feed the ducks over there, resulting in a temporary overpopulation and lots of croaking.
5. The orchids are able to grow over here because of the combination of the soil and the microclimate due to the former quarries, which makes this place unique in the region. Besides orchids, there's lots of butterflies, too.
6. There's so many caves to be found at this side of the Montagne St. Pierre. Lots of them are accessible, however you're officially not allowed to.
7. The CBR-quarry is still in use, but people say the lake within it is certainly one of the most beautiful spots of this area.
8. The orchards in the Hesbaye region are of a different order than the ones in the Dutch Heuvelland: bigger in scale, less tied to the landscape and with a much more industrial appearance.
9. The flora next to the Vennbahn differs from the vegetation a bit further away from it: apparently, the trains unintentionally took seeds with them that spread along the railroad track.
10. There's an old railway turntable near to the station in Sourbrodt. There's only a few of them left in the region, apparently there's also one in Eupen.
11. The 'Trambaan' is a former railroad track between Maastricht and Aachen that has been removed almost completely. There's a lot going on about it, though: some want to turn the line into a cycling route. Other people have strenuous objections as a cycling route would destroy certain nature values but also ruin their peaceful life.

Storyline: Beloved, be lost

Landscape and its beauty, quality and experience is not an established fact, like: *'it's there or it isn't'*. It stands or falls with the appreciation that the inhabitants have for it, the way they do or do not appropriate it and care for it. What 'technically' could be seen as a qualitative landscape can become a garbage dump depending on small but important gestures (like the presence or absence of litter bins, and graffiti), on culture or on priorities. This storyline highlights the 'beauty' due to appropriation and the forgotten potential.

This map is a part of the *Cartopological Landscape Sample Atlas of the Euregio Meuse-Rhine*, published in June 2019 by Dear Hunter.



1. The difference in use and appropriation between the Dutch and the Belgian side of the St. Pietersberg/ Montagne St. Pierre is amazing: on the one side, it's a frequented extension of the town park, at the other a best kept secret for nature admirers.

2. A leftover piece of land between infrastructures has been 'occupied' by inhabitants and turned into a beautiful and lively communal vegetable garden.

3. The former town hall of Lanaye has been turned into a museum on the Montagne St. Pierre and is run by volunteers to a large extend.

4. The Holsetterbos, near to Vaals, used to be a 'common' forest where everyone of the community was allowed to chop wood, as long as it was maintained in a good way.

5. The difference in appreciation for quarries and other (former) mining industry cannot be greater: quarries and lime kilns in Walheim are being treated as litter bins while the ENCI quarry in Maastricht had to close because there were too much people willing to recreate in it.

6. Youngsters are hanging around at the market square. There's also the forest nearby: it is said that during night, there's people *'using drugs and so'*.

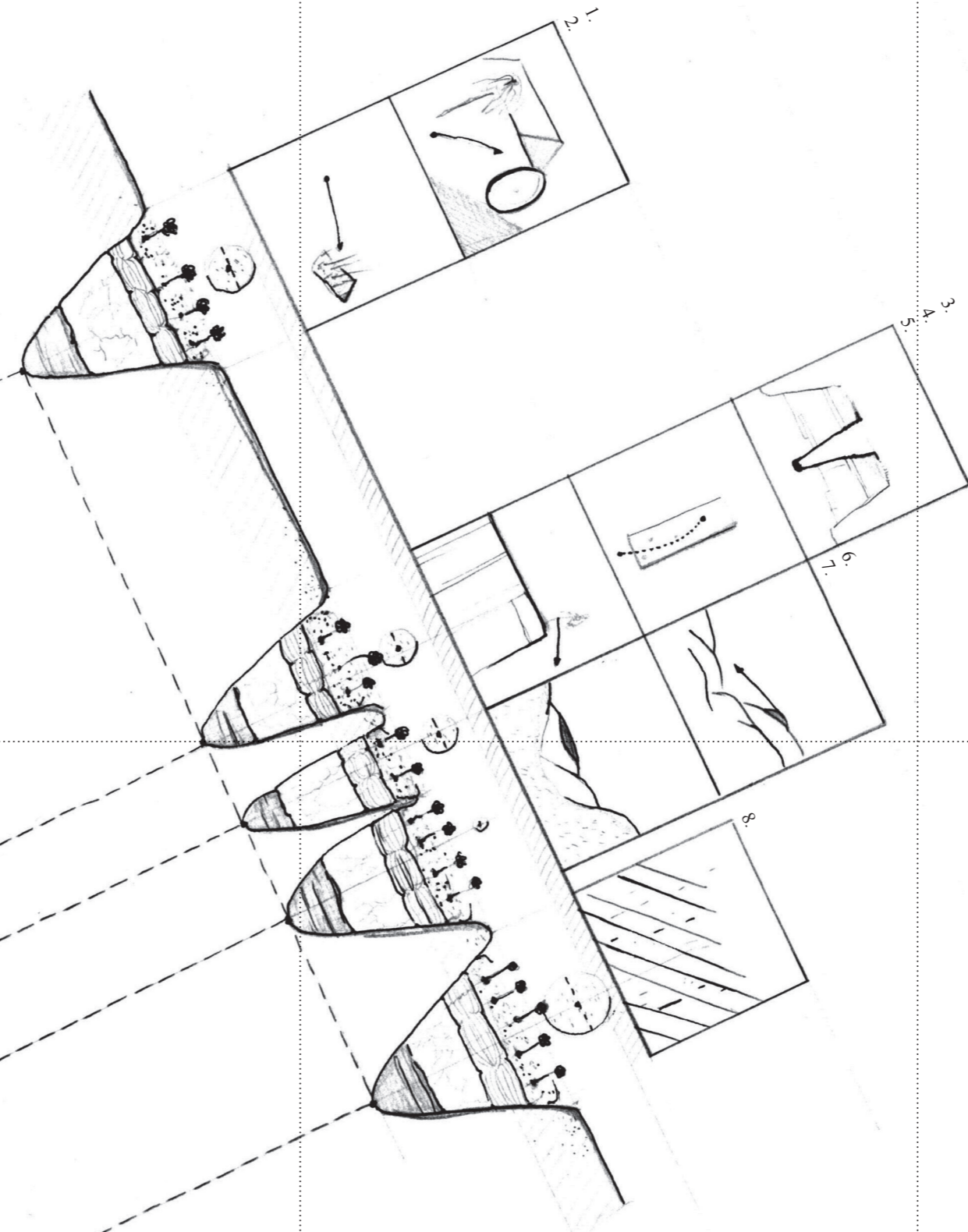
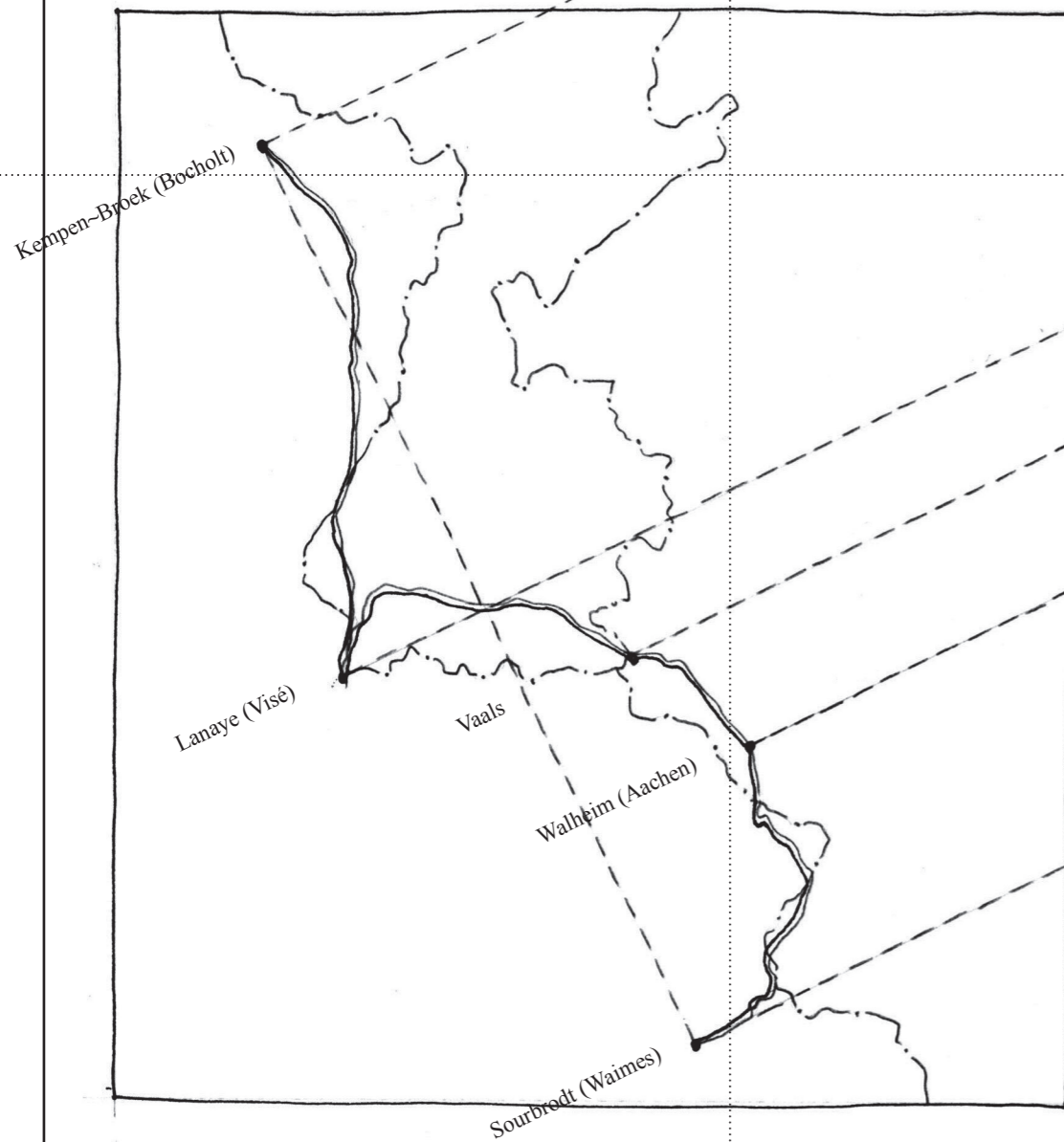
7 There's no terrace in front of the pizzeria, so the tables and chairs are just placed on a couple of parking places.

8. The station and its direct surroundings give a bit of a desolate impression. It still is a bit industrial and certainly is valued by passers-by, but there's also housing now. It has a bit of a negative image, unfortunately.

Storyline: The sublime, the picturesque

These are the places that offer a unique experience, the 'extremes' in various respects, both grand interventions by man and/or nature but also the contrary: the small, the picturesque. This line leads you along beauty and associated emotions found in the biggest and the tiniest.

This map is a part of the *Cartopological Landscape Sample Atlas of the Euregio Meuse-Rhine*, published in June 2019 by Dear Hunter.



1. It happens often that people come to Kempen-Broek to do a wedding photoshoot, next to one of the water mills. They do their best to keep their clothes clean and neat.

2. Everything is small-scaled over here: small plots of arable land, small pieces of forest, small shifting sands, small farms, small villages... all within a stone's throw of each other.

3. The cut right through the Montagne St. Pierre, dug for the Albert Canal, offers one of the most impressive views of the Euregio Meuse-Rhine.

4. Next to the church in Lanaye, there is a beautiful enclosed petanque field to be discovered. Even people not playing the game mention it as one of the most beautiful parts of the village.

5. The advantage of fact that the Caestert Plateau stands out from its surroundings are the splendid views on its surroundings. You can experience the feeling of standing on top of a cliff on at least two spots: on the Belgian and on the Dutch side of the plateau.

6. From various plateaus across the Euregio Meuse-Rhine you can experience 'multiple horizons', meaning panoramic views on the rolling, hilly landscape. This is particularly the case near to Aubel and from the Walemerweg in Klimmen.

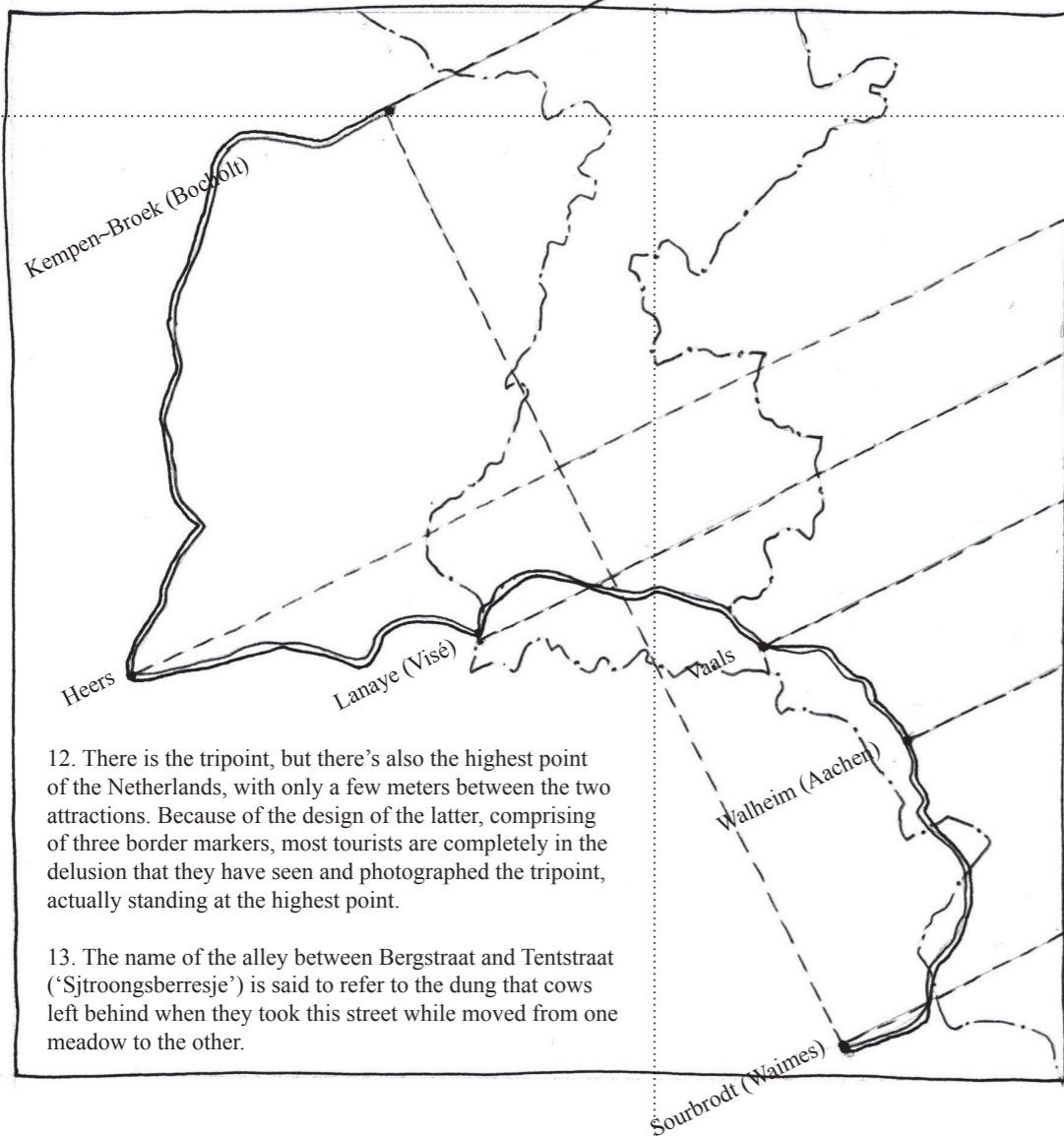
7. The typical rolling hills do not only offer panoramic views, they also create enclosed, more intimate fields. There is a valued one like this to be found in-between the tripoint and Wolfhaag.

8. The most desolate and vast area to be experienced is without a doubt the High Fens. Although this is also a man-made landscape to a large extent, it definitely doesn't feel like that.

Storyline: Stories to be told, secrets to be kept

There's legends, stories, anecdotes, historical facts, fiction and more or less credible stories all across the Euregio Meuse-Rhine. They might be tangible in some way, but you only get to 'see' and experience them as soon as you know them. As such, they add an extra layer of meaning to the everyday. Along this storyline, there's both stories and anecdotes that are shared with passion, but also ones that are carefully preserved and only told after some hesitation.

This map is a part of the *Cartopological Landscape Sample Atlas of the Euregio Meuse-Rhine*, published in June 2019 by Dear Hunter.



1. There's almost nothing left of the infamous Wire of Death, but the stories of it are very much alive, all the way from Kempen-Broek to Vaals.

2. In the past, you could see the chapel at the end of the lane from the castle in Heers. There is a myth about a white shadow that circled around the chapel.

3. It is completely overgrown, but still visible: the private lane and entrance to the church for the lord of the castle. One of the many connections between these two former centres of power and wealth.

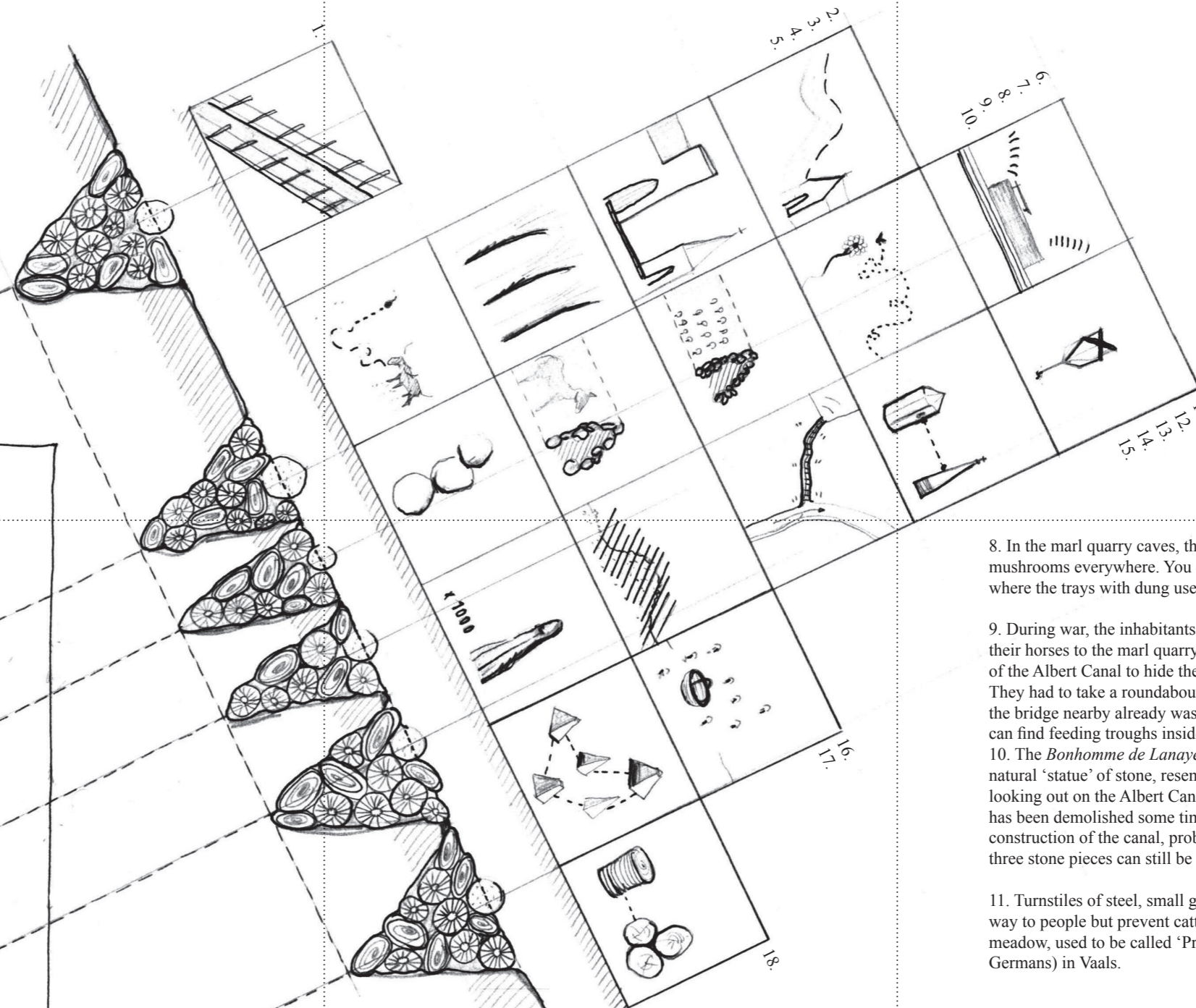
4. In the overgrown park of the castle of Heers, you can find three plane-trees standing next to each other. They might have been planted to celebrate the birth of the three last inhabitants of the castle: the brothers

Ricardo and Michel and sister Carmen. This is likely because in the past, more trees have been planted to celebrate special occasions.

5. Orchards with standard fruit trees and cows kind of belong together, according to some. The view of a bunch of cows running towards a pear that just fell off a tree is simply unforgettable.

6. If you are near to the Albert Canal in Lanaye, you can feel and hear the bigger ships pass by. Inhabitants say the low buzz is a beautiful and familiar sound.

7. There is a story that says the nectar of orchids contains a little alcohol, and that bees get drunk from it. Because of that their flying skills decrease so they have to hop from one stable place to the other, which is very good for the pollination.



12. There is the tripoint, but there's also the highest point of the Netherlands, with only a few meters between the two attractions. Because of the design of the latter, comprising of three border markers, most tourists are completely in the delusion that they have seen and photographed the tripoint, actually standing at the highest point.

13. The name of the alley between Bergstraat and Tentstraat ('Sjtroongsberresje') is said to refer to the dung that cows left behind when they took this street while moved from one meadow to the other.

14. Myths have always been connected with Vaals. Near to the tripoint, one can see an old burial mound but also pieces of stone that actually look like being melted together which happened because of geological processes. These stones are called 'Sterrenstenen' (star stones), as if they were shooting stars that landed over here a long time ago.

15. Visitors heading for 'Museum Vaals' face a collection of more than 200 religious statues crammed into one single room, offering an overdose of religious symbolism that will stay with them for years. What these actually tell about Vaals is not yet clear to many.

16. Someone looks for mushrooms in the forest. She did that since she was young, with her grandma and now uses an app to find out which ones are edible. In and around Walheim, there's still a very typical attitude towards nature, agriculture and the products coming from the land every season, still celebrated with the highly appreciated yearly 'Erntedankfest'.

17. The concrete pylons of the Siegfriedline are clearly present in some meadows in Walheim. It seems the inhabitants still have a hard time telling about the part of history that caused these 'things' to be here.

18. In the past there were dozens of smaller companies near to Sourbrodt station, mostly because of the German influence. Nowadays it's way too silent, according to some.

8. In the marl quarry caves, they used to grow mushrooms everywhere. You can still see the places where the trays with dung used to be.

9. During war, the inhabitants of Lanaye brought their horses to the marl quarry caves at the other side of the Albert Canal to hide them from the Germans. They had to take a roundabout route via Kanne, as the bridge nearby already was blown up. Still, you can find feeding troughs inside these caves.

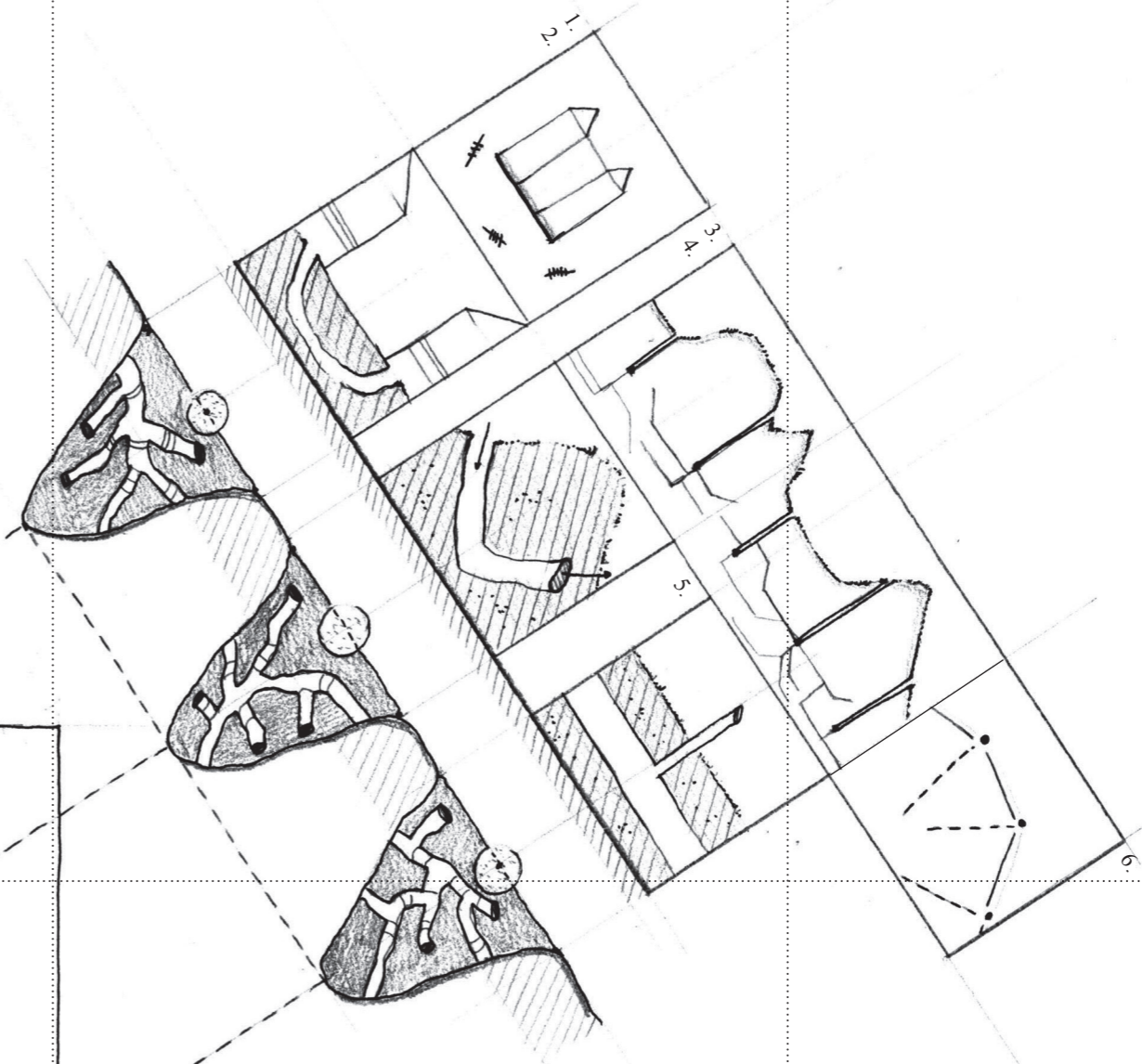
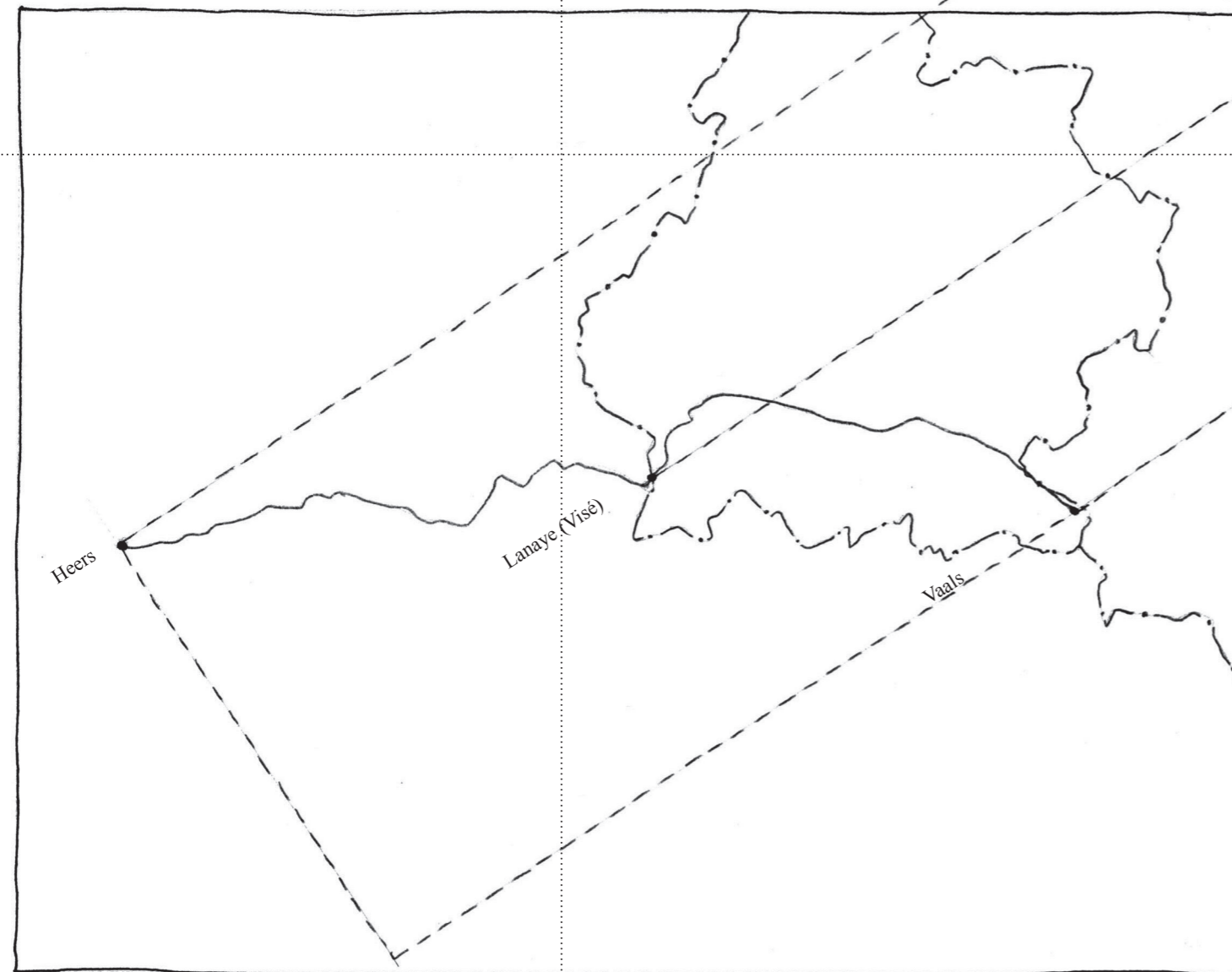
10. The *Bonhomme de Lanaye* was a famous natural 'statue' of stone, resembling a male figure, looking out on the Albert Canal and the village. It has been demolished some time ago because of the construction of the canal, probably accidentally. Its three stone pieces can still be found on the hillside.

11. Turnstiles of steel, small gates used to give way to people but prevent cattle from leaving the meadow, used to be called 'Pruisenfalle' (trap for Germans) in Vaals.

Storyline: Subterranea, above and/or below

This storyline will show you the Euregio Meuse-Rhine upside down: it deals with everything that lies beneath the earth's surface, with or without a dark side.

This map is a part of the *Cartopological Landscape Sample Atlas of the Euregio Meuse-Rhine*, published in June 2019 by Dear Hunter.



1. Not only the large amount of loopholes within the walls of the castle and farm indicate there have been fought many battles around it. It is said that when people started to plant trees in the surroundings, they came across skeletons, and the attic of the castle was littered with cannonballs.

2. Most of the cellars of the castle of Heers aren't accessible anymore, but they used to be huge. There is even a story of a tunnel between the cellars of the castles of Heers and Veulen.

3. There's hundreds of kilometres of shafts underneath the Euregio Meuse-Rhine, to enable thousands of miners to dig out the black gold. The leftovers have been put in the landscape, slag heaps locally called terrils or mijnsteenbergen, turning the landscape and soil literally upside down.

4. A straight tunnel of almost 2 kilometres connects both sides of the Montagne St. Pierre. It is still accessible and was dug before World War II. It's huge in height and width, crossing it is a fascinating experience.

5. Anyone with a good eye can spot a huge pipe coming out of a meadow near to Teuven. Apparently, it's a shaft from a railroad tunnel, the one that also traverses the Vaalserberg.

6. There's two rows of fortifications surrounding Liège, and to all of the forts there's numerous anecdotes and stories attached. Although they're also related to the war, there is less hesitation and embarrassment noticeable when people are telling about them. That's a whole different story compared to the German relics.

LE JARDIN SAUVAGE

"It is said, the Montagne Saint-Pierre was very dear to the former count of Heers. If he would have known of the excavations, he certainly would turn around in his grave."

"If you are near to the canal, you can feel and hear the bigger ships pass by. It's a beautiful and familiar sound, a very low buzz."

"On the landward side of the dike besides the canal, there is a sort of drain running parallel alongside the dike. Some call it 'le petit canal'. They say it used to function as a buffer in case the dike would filter. It is irregular in shape, full of weeds and partly in use by young islanders as self-made BMX- and motocross track."

"If you are near to the canal, you can feel and hear the bigger ships pass by. It's a beautiful and familiar sound, a very low buzz."

"When the concrete was removed from the quay alongside the Meuse, people grabbed the opportunity to plant wildflowers instead. They probably thought it was the right moment to claim it for themselves."

"Some years ago, the west bank of the Meuse was covered with concrete. This has been removed in order to give the river a little more space to meander freely through the landscape. The removed concrete has been crushed and reused in the construction of the new sluice but also within the Koning Willem-Alexandertunnel in Maastricht."

"There are not a lot of places where the sides of the Meuse are that natural and accessible. This certainly is a quality of this area."

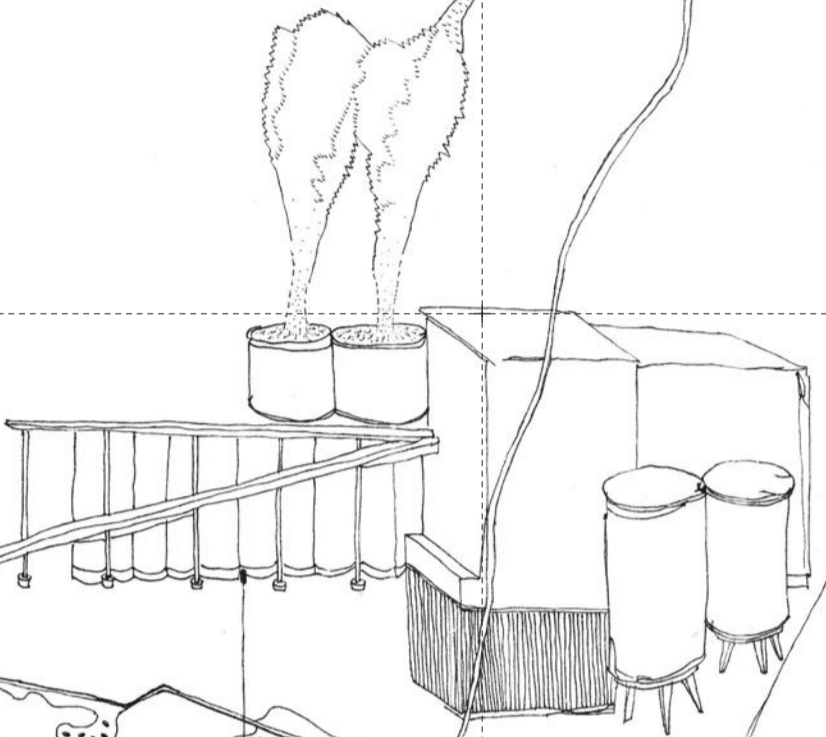
"Unfortunately there's a lot of rubbish all over the island. It clearly invites for camping, barbecuing and spending time alongside the water, which, of course, is a great value. It's a pity that cleaning up after use isn't regarded as necessary and that there's not enough surveillance to make sure it happens."

"It is said that the industrial excavations, together with the characteristics of the soil, created a microclimate that houses typical sorts of flora and fauna. Butterflies, orchids and spiders are the main examples of this, and are highly cherished by the islanders."

"During the war, the inhabitants of Lanaye brought their horses to the marl quarry caves at the other side of the canal to hide them from the Germans. They had to take a roundabout route via Kanne, as the bridge nearby already was blown up. Still, you can find feeding-throughs inside these caves."

"The CBR-quarry is still in use, but the lake within it is certainly one of the most beautiful spots of this area."

"In the marl quarry caves, they used to grow mushrooms everywhere. You can still see the places where the trays with dung used to be."



LE JARDIN SAUVAGE

MAISON COMMUNALE DE LA MONTAGNE

LANAYE

EIJSDEN

"Although the inhabitants of Lanaye sometimes can be very divided, there is one thing that unites them: the Montagne Saint-Pierre. Most of the inhabitants speak of 'their' Montagne, they deeply relate to it and take care of it very well. It belongs to their definition of home."

"Did you know this area used to be sea a long time ago? In the ceiling of one of the marl quarry caves in the montagne Saint-Pierre, the fossil of a turtle has been found."

"Someone said that from one of the look-outs on the montagne, he could clearly see that there were a sort of conversations going on between people in cars on the parking place besides the sluice. Cars flashing their lights, probably indicating when drugs could be bought, whose turn it was, something like that."

"Some look-outs offer a splendid panorama of the surroundings. But unfortunately you'll find piles of rubbish. This is especially sad because the impression of the reserve as a whole tends to become negative."

"There is an inhabitant from Lanaye that takes a walk on the montagne every day, cleaning up rubbish. Sometimes he speaks cans on fences to put the attention to the rubbish that's all over the place."

"You might spot a goldfish in this little natural pond, as somebody from the village dropped it over here. It probably won't live for a long time."

"There is a story that says the nectar of orchids contains a little alcohol, and that bees get drunk from it. Because of that their flying skills decrease so they have to hop from one stable place to the other, which is very good for the pollination. As you'll understand, this still has to be verified."

"The orchids are able to grow over here because of the combination of the soil and the microclimate, which makes this place unique in the region."

"Grate cu, a kind of gin distilled from locally found wild berries, is only produced in Lanaye. As its produced just for oven use, you can't buy it anywhere but you might be offered a drop if you're in Lanaye, though."

"There is a quarry cave called 'Grotte de l'Eglise'. It is very high and seems to have two stories, it clearly reminds of a gothic church."

"Next to the church in Lanaye, there is a beautiful enclosed petanque field to be discovered. Even people not playing the game mention it as one of the most beautiful parts of the village."

"Isn't it interesting that Lanaye and Petit-Lanaye are the most northern Wallonian villages?"

"Some years ago, the army used to practice at Fort Eben-Emael. After these exercises, boys from Lanaye sometimes went searching for shell casings."

"The sluice is called 'Le bouchon de Lanaye' (the plug of Lanaye). The Canal Albert bends to the left and cuts through the Montagne Saint-Pierre, the canal that continues after the sluice is called Canal de Lanaye. It is said that in the past, the canal just stopped over here and that ships couldn't travel further."

"The Bonhomme de Lanaye was a famous natural statue of stone, resembling a male figure, looking out on the canal and the village. It has been demolished some time ago because of the construction of the canal, probably accidentally. Its three stone pieces can still be found on the hillside."

"This point of land within the Meuse certainly is one of the most scenic spots to fish, or just to have a look. Unfortunately, it's a rubbish people leave behind on a place like this."

"The famous violinist, concert master and entrepreneur André Hees lives nearby. It's maybe the only reason why people that aren't from here have a slight idea of what Lanaye looks like. He lives in a castle on the Montagne St. Pierre near to Maastricht."

"You can find quite a lot of dirt around the montagne, especially at one place along the road: it's hard to see in summer when the leaves of the trees hide it."

"Alongside the Meuse, numerous spots where people have been barbecuing can be discovered. It is illegal but there is no surveillance, and apparently this is one of the best places within the region to do this, as even german and dutch people make use of the scenic backdrop with view on the river."

"Gerrit Smienk is a landscape architect from the Netherlands that lives in Visé. He once started a project to photograph the island. He is clearly fascinated by it, too."

DEAR HUNTER

This map is a revised version of an earlier published document in the framework of the Dear Landscape project (2017-2019). It is a part of the

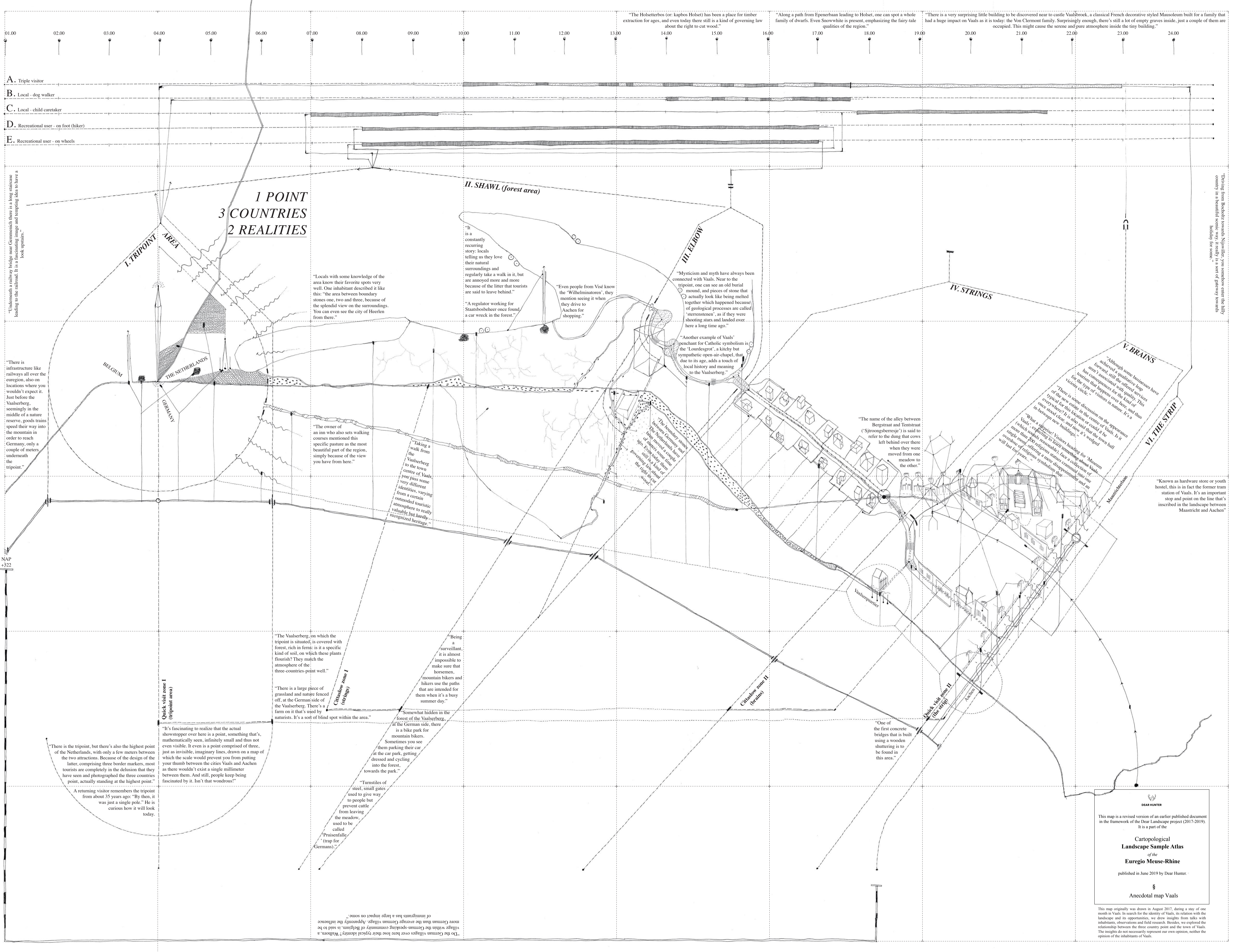
Cartological Landscape Sample Atlas of the Euregio Meuse-Rhine

published in June 2019 by Dear Hunter.

§ Anecdotal map Lanaye (Visé)

This map originally was drawn in July 2017, during a stay of one month in Lanaye. In search for the identity of Lanaye we drew insights from talks with inhabitants, observations and field research. These insights do not necessarily represent our own opinion, neither the opinion of the inhabitants of Lanaye.

Credits to: Cleopatra, Neoclassicism, there is a forest with very old and thick trees. They have been seen scattered by about 4000 people that all donated some money and thus are a sort of co-owners of this forest.



- A. Triple visitor
- B. Local - dog walker
- C. Local - child caretaker
- D. Recreational user - on foot (hiker)
- E. Recreational user - on wheels

**1 POINT
3 COUNTRIES
2 REALITIES**

II. SHAWL (forest area)

III. ELBOW

IV. STRINGS

V. BRAINS

VI. THE STRIP

"Underneath a railway bridge near Germondijk there is a long, ancient stone leading to the railroad. It is a fascinating image and tempting idea to have a look upstairs."

"There is infrastructure like railways all over the region, also on locations where you wouldn't expect it. Just before the Vaalsberg, seemingly in the middle of a nature reserve, goods trains speed their way into the mountain in order to reach Germany, only a couple of meters underneath the tripoint."

NAP +322

"Locals with some knowledge of the area know their favorite spots very well. One inhabitant described it like this: 'the area between boundary stones one, two and three, because of the splendid view on the surroundings. You can even see the city of Heerlen from there.'"

"It is a constantly recurring story: locals telling us they love their natural surroundings and regularly take a walk in it, but are annoyed more and more because of the litter that tourists are said to leave behind."
"Even people from Vlod know the 'Wilhelmstouwen', they mention seeing it when they drive to Aachen for shopping."
"A regulator working for Staatsbosbeheer once found a car wreck in the forest."

"Mysticism and myth have always been connected with Vaals. Near to the tripoint, one can see an old burial mound, and pieces of stone that actually look like being melted together which happened because of geological processes are called 'sterrenstenen', as if they were shooting stars and landed over here a long time ago."
"Another example of Vaals' penchant for Catholic symbolism is the 'Lourdesgrot', a kitschy but sympathetic open-air chapel, that due to its age, adds a touch of local history and meaning to the Vaalsberg."

"The owner of an inn who also sets walking courses mentioned this specific pasture as the most beautiful part of the region, simply because of the view you have from here."

"Taking a walk from the Vaalsberg to the town centre of Vaals, you pass some very different identities, varying from a certain outmoded touristic atmosphere to really valuable but hardly recognized heritage."

"The country roads between Germany and the Netherlands are also interesting. One can find a lot of interesting things, such as a kind of governing law about the right to cut wood."

"The name of the alley between Bergstraat and Tanstraat ('Sjroongsberresje') is said to refer to the dung that cows left behind over there when they were moved from one meadow to the other."

"Although some businesses have achieved a qualitative leap, but consequences for the quality of the type of visitors to nature. It's a typical for this location or could be once stood clear, and now it's wedged in-between new buildings."
"What a surprise! Visitors heading for 'Museum Vaals', expecting to learn something about Vaals (which would be reasonable), face a collection of more than 100 religious statues, each one a unique piece of religious symbolism that will last for years."

"Known as hardware store or youth hostel, this is in fact the former tram station of Vaals. It's an important stop and point on the line that's inscribed in the landscape between Maastricht and Aachen"

"The Vaalsberg, on which the tripoint is situated, is covered with forest, rich in ferns: is it a specific kind of soil, on which these plants flourish? They match the atmosphere of the three-countries-point well."

"There is a large piece of grassland and nature fenced off, at the German side of the Vaalsberg. There's a farm on it that's used by naturists. It's a sort of blind spot within the area."

"Being a surveillant, it is almost impossible to make sure that horsemen, mountain bikers and hikers use the paths that are intended for them when it's a busy summer day."

"Somewhat hidden in the forest of the Vaalsberg, at the German side, there is a bike park for mountain bikers. Sometimes you see them parking their car at the car park, getting dressed and cycling into the forest, towards the park."

"Turnstiles of steel, small gates used to give way to people but prevent cattle from leaving the meadow, used to be called 'Prusenfall' (trap for Germans)."

"There is the tripoint, but there's also the highest point of the Netherlands, with only a few meters between the two attractions. Because of the design of the latter, comprising three border markers, most tourists are completely in the delusion that they have seen and photographed the three countries point, actually standing at the highest point."

"A returning visitor remembers the tripoint from about 35 years ago: 'By then, it was just a single pole.' He is curious how it will look today."

"It's fascinating to realize that the actual showstopper over here is a point, something that's mathematically seen, infinitely small and thus not even visible. It even is a point comprised of three, just as invisible, imaginary lines, drawn on a map of which the scale would prevent you from putting your thumb between them. And still, people keep being fascinated by it. Isn't that wonderful?"

"Do the German villages over here lose their typical identity? Without a doubt, within the German village community of Vaals, the influence of immigrants has a large impact on some."

"This is from Roderich's research. It's a beautiful scene, but it really is a sort of gateway towards Vaals for some."

DEAR HUNTER

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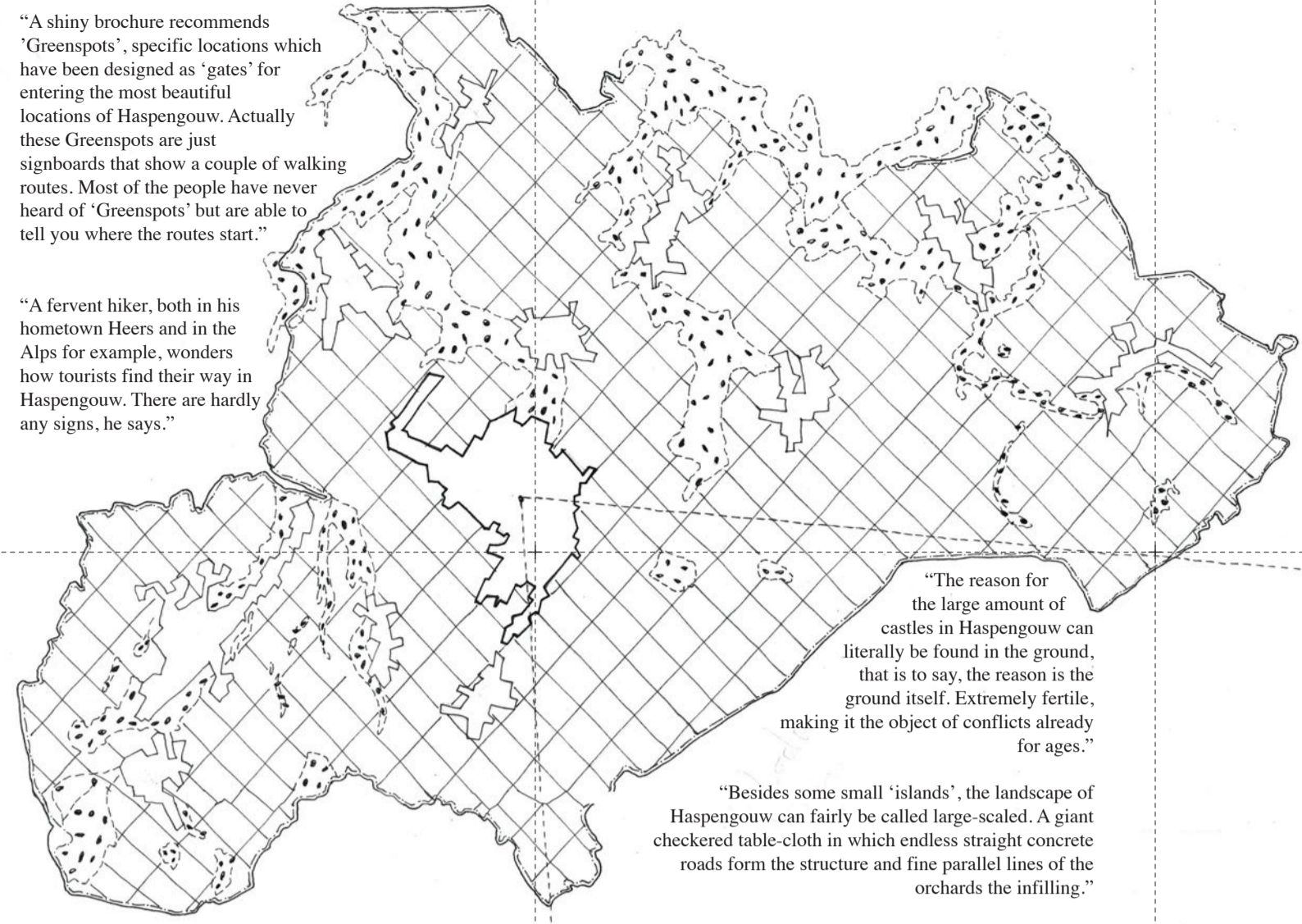
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§
Anecdotal map Vaals

This map originally was drawn in August 2017, during a stay of one month in Vaals. In search for the identity of Vaals, its relation with the landscape and its opportunities, we drew insights from talks with inhabitants, observations and field research. Besides, we explored the relationship between the three countries point and the town of Vaals. The insights do not necessarily represent our own opinion, neither the opinion of the inhabitants of Vaals.

HEERS, A HIDDEN CASTLE AND ITS CONTEXT



"A shiny brochure recommends 'Greenspots', specific locations which have been designed as 'gates' for entering the most beautiful locations of Haspengouw. Actually these Greenspots are just signboards that show a couple of walking routes. Most of the people have never heard of 'Greenspots' but are able to tell you where the routes start."

"A fervent hiker, both in his hometown Heers and in the Alps for example, wonders how tourists find their way in Haspengouw. There are hardly any signs, he says."

"The reason for the large amount of castles in Haspengouw can literally be found in the ground, that is to say, the reason is the ground itself. Extremely fertile, making it the object of conflicts already for ages."

"Besides some small 'islands', the landscape of Haspengouw can fairly be called large-scaled. A giant checkered table-cloth in which endless straight concrete roads form the structure and fine parallel lines of the orchards the infilling."

"The Haspengouw landscape is changing. Just as in other rural parts of the Euregio, grasslands are being replaced by arable land and by fruit trees in the case of Haspengouw. This makes it even more 'industrialized' production land."

"There is an old farm in Heers that used to be a sawmill until 30 years ago. It is likely that the wooden beams used in the castle and the barn besides it have been cut over there. A story like this is worth telling and illustrates the relation of the castle with its surroundings."

"Street litter is considered a problem all over the Euregio Meuse-Rhine, so Heers and Haspengouw are no exception. Recently the municipality placed signs to encourage people to use litter bins, maybe it is a good thing that these signs seem more widespread than the actual litter."

"Apparently, there is no less than one hectare of land for every single inhabitant in the township of Heers."

"Standard fruit trees are cherished as a part of the authentic landscape over here, just as in Eijsden-Margraten for example. Since not all of these orchards are being maintained well, they also cause a lot of annoyance among some."

"Birds aren't the most beloved animals of Haspengouw. Fruit growers declared war on them already a long time ago, sometimes you'll find crows hang up in an orchard to scare off their congeners, or caged by humers."

"This small but very adorable piece of land, a nature reserve still very cultivated, with fruit trees and beautiful scenery. There are, again, the inevitable fences, but here they make sure you won't stumble upon a herd of cows while walking across their field."

"Isn't it strange that in a region in which fruit is so enormously present, there are little places along the roads where this fruit is actually sold? It is even easier to find a bread vending machine."

"Orchards with standard fruit trees and cows kind of belong together, according to some. The view of a bunch of cows running towards a pear that just fell off a tree is simply unforgettable."

"In order to make agriculture more productive and efficient, some of the natural brooklets have been channeled: now they are exactly in line with the endless rows of fruit trees."

"Heers is a strange village, somebody told us. Strange things happen over here. It has always been like this..."

"Not only the large amount of brooklets within the walls of the castle, and from elsewhere there is said that when people stepped to foot across a brooklet, they came across a skeleton, that the site of the castle was infested with cannibals."

"During the time of the former abbots, the castle was an administrative center, but it is not as an administrative center as it was in the past. It is a museum of the past, but it is not a museum of the past."

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"In the past, the fence had of Heers, didn't have instruments. They agreed with the one from Beleguon to make use of their instruments, so every week, a horse and cart loaded with instruments rode from Beleguon to Heers and back."

"There are many hunters active in Heers, most of them around the ponds of the castle. In order to fulfill their hunting needs, they generously feed the ducks over there, resulting in a temporary overpopulation and lots of croaking."

"A retired man explained us the lane coming from the castle walking his dog, a used to be the place for awakening love: over there, young couples found the privacy and intimacy they needed."

"The chapel at the end of the lane coming from the castle walking his dog, a used to be the place for awakening love: over there, young couples found the privacy and intimacy they needed."

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"Some of the little chapels are in perfect condition, but most of the ones we encountered are definitely in need of maintenance. We heard that the little chapel at the end of the lane from the castle. There is a myth about a white shadow that circled around the chapel in the last 30 years, the castle."

"In the past, you could see the chapel at the end of the lane from the castle walking his dog, a used to be the place for awakening love: over there, young couples found the privacy and intimacy they needed."

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"Skakelpaart is a restaurant looking like a rather sinister cabinet of curiosities, and definitely one of the eye-catching locations of Heers. It's only open on Sunday and Sunday and you have to have a bit of luck if you want to have dinner, as the cook isn't always present."

"A rusty stragglender is placed over the barbed wire that fences off the orchard in front of the football pitch. Not to steal fruit but to get the ball in case it lands in the orchard. A minor but sympathetic detail!"

"In the past, the fence had of Heers, didn't have instruments. They agreed with the one from Beleguon to make use of their instruments, so every week, a horse and cart loaded with instruments rode from Beleguon to Heers and back."

"A recent architectural folly in the neighborhood town Beleguon, called 'See through church', opened a lot of eyes. It attracts visitors and passers-by and emphasizes the beauty of its surroundings. A church without being a church, but with almost religious and certainly spiritual effect on its visitors."

"Driving from Heers to Tongeren, you can see the old church of Tongeren flanked by these modern and lushes. Some say this is a visual disturbance of a historical scenery, others think it represents a progressive and modern attitude."

"A farmer planned to build a pig-far in Vechmaal and got permission to do."

DEAR HUNTER

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§ Anecdotal map Heers

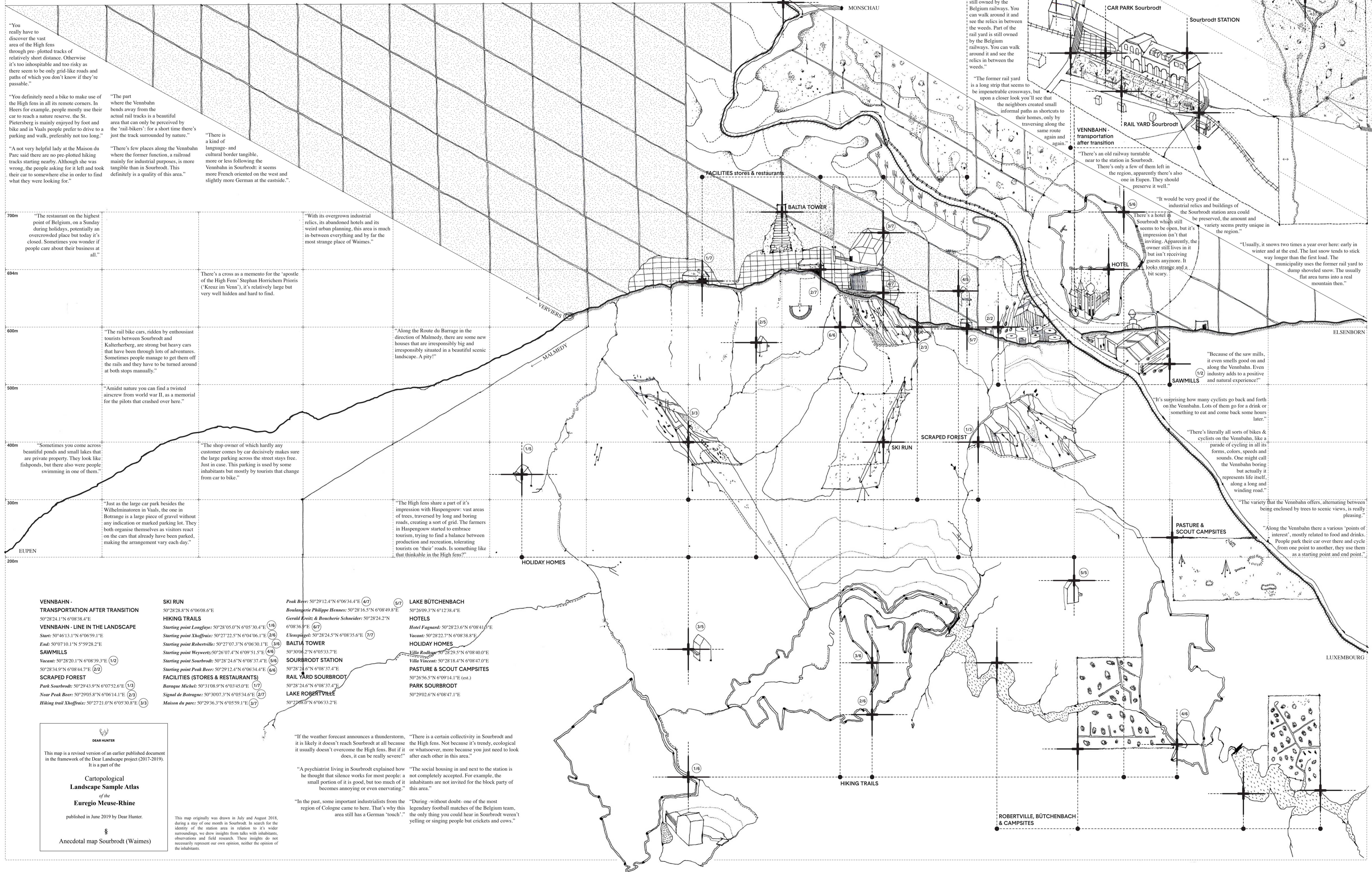
This map originally was drawn in September 2017, during a stay of one month in Heers. In search for the identity of Heers, its people and its relation with the landscape, we drew insights from talks with inhabitants, observations and field research. These insights do not necessarily represent our own opinion, neither the opinion of the inhabitants.

GARE SOURBRODT, WAIMES

THE VAST EMPTINESS

LEGEND

- Scraped Forest
- Peat (fagne, Fenn)
- Ski Run
- Holiday Home
- Closed facility
- Sawmill
- River
- Lake
- Parking
- Campsite
- Vennbahn - RAVEL
- Winding Path
- Hiking Trail
- Key location



"You really have to discover the vast area of the High fens through pre-plotted tracks of relatively short distance. Otherwise it's too inhospitable and too risky as there seem to be only grid-like roads and paths of which you don't know if they're passable."

"You definitely need a bike to make use of the High fens in all its remote corners. In Heers for example, people mostly use their car to reach a nature reserve. The St. Pietersberg is mainly enjoyed by foot and bike and in Vaals people prefer to drive to a parking and walk, preferably not too long."

"A not very helpful lady at the Maison du Parc said there are no pre-plotted hiking tracks starting nearby. Although she was wrong, the people asking for it left and took their car to somewhere else in order to find what they were looking for."

"The part where the Vennbahn bends away from the actual rail tracks is a beautiful area that can only be perceived by the 'rail-bikers': for a short time there's just the track surrounded by nature."

"There is a kind of language- and cultural border tangible, more or less following the Vennbahn in Sourbrodt: it seems more French oriented on the west and slightly more German at the eastside."

"With its overgrown industrial relics, its abandoned hotels and its weird urban planning, this area is much in-between everything and by far the most strange place of Waimes."

"There's a cross as a memento for the 'apostle of the High Fens' Stephan Horrichem Priors ('Kreuz im Venn'), it's relatively large but very well hidden and hard to find."

"The restaurant on the highest point of Belgium, on a Sunday during holidays, potentially an overcrowded place but today it's closed. Sometimes you wonder if people care about their business at all."

"The rail bike cars, ridden by enthusiastic tourists between Sourbrodt and Kalterherberg, are strong but heavy cars that have been through lots of adventures. Sometimes people manage to get them off the rails and they have to be turned around at both stops manually."

"Amidst nature you can find a twisted airscrew from world war II, as a memorial for the pilots that crashed over here."

"Sometimes you come across beautiful ponds and small lakes that are private property. They look like fishponds, but there also were people swimming in one of them."

"The shop owner of which hardly any customer comes by car decisively makes sure the large parking across the street stays free. Just in case. This parking is used by some inhabitants but mostly by tourists that change from car to bike."

"Just as the large car park besides the Wilhelmstoren in Vaals, the one in Botrange is a large piece of gravel without any indication or marked parking lot. They both organise themselves as visitors react on the cars that already have been parked, making the arrangement vary each day."

"The High fens share a part of it's impression with Haspengouw: vast areas of trees, traversed by long and boring roads, creating a sort of grid. The farmers in Haspengouw started to embrace tourism, trying to find a balance between production and recreation, tolerating tourists on 'their' roads. Is something like that thinkable in the High Fens?"

"North of Sourbrodt, the Vennbahn is diverted from the railroad track. It is said the reason for it is that the Vennbahn would disturb the Whinchat bird but some inhabitants believe that it has to do with Domine Ruhlhof and their unwillingness to have cyclists crossing their property."

"Monschau is really near, but you have to descend and climb a lot to cover the short distance between the Vennbahn and the village."

"Station Sourbrodt was mainly in use for goods, it didn't facilitate that much passengers. You can still see that when looking at the size of the building and the rail yard in front of it, with its various platforms."

"In the past there were dozens of smaller companies near to the station. Nowadays it's way too silent, according to an inhabitant."

"The station and its direct surroundings give a bit of a desolate impression. It still is a bit industrial but there's also housing now. It has a bit of a negative image that should be turned around."

"The former rail yard is a long strip that seems to be impenetrable crossways, but upon a closer look you'll see that the neighbors created small informal paths as shortcuts to their homes, only by navigating along the same route again and again."

"Part of the rail yard is still owned by the Belgium railways. You can walk around it and see the relics in between the weeds. Part of the rail yard is still owned by the Belgium railways. You can walk around it and see the relics in between the weeds."

"The unused rail yard actually isn't unused. Now and then some children use its platforms and its green to play a kind of alternative football, which they seem to enjoy a lot."

"There's an old railway turntable near to the station in Sourbrodt. There's only a few of them left in the region, apparently there's also one in Eupen. They should preserve it well."

"It would be very good if the industrial relics and buildings of the Sourbrodt station area could be preserved, the amount and variety seems pretty unique in the region."

"Usually, it snows two times a year over here: early in winter and at the end. The last snow tends to stick way longer than the first load. The municipality uses the former rail yard to dump shoveled snow. The usually flat area turns into a real mountain then."

"Because of the saw mills, it even smells good on and along the Vennbahn. Even industry adds to a positive and natural experience!"

"It's surprising how many cyclists go back and forth on the Vennbahn. Lots of them go for a drink or something to eat and come back some hours later."

"There's literally all sorts of bikes & cyclists on the Vennbahn, like a parade of cycling in all its forms, colors, speeds and sounds. One might call it the Vennbahn hoving, but actually it represents life itself, along a long and winding road."

"The variety that the Vennbahn offers, alternating between being enclosed by trees to scenic views, is really pleasing."

"Along the Vennbahn there a various 'points of interest', mostly related to food and drinks. People park their car over there and cycle from one point to another, they use them as a starting point and end point."

"There's not much places where the peat is still untouched. In the area north of Sourbrodt you'll find one of the few exceptions."

- VENNBANH - TRANSPORTATION AFTER TRANSITION**
50°28'24.1"N 6°08'38.4"E
- VENNBANH - LINE IN THE LANDSCAPE**
Start: 50°46'13.1"N 6°06'59.1"E
End: 50°07'10.1"N 5°59'28.2"E
- SAWMILLS**
Vacant: 50°28'20.1"N 6°08'39.3"E (1/2)
50°28'34.9"N 6°08'44.7"E (2/2)
- SCRAPED FOREST**
Park Sourbrodt: 50°29'43.9"N 6°07'52.6"E (1/3)
Near Peak Beer: 50°29'05.8"N 6°06'14.1"E (2/3)
Hiking trail Xhoffraix: 50°27'21.0"N 6°05'30.8"E (3/3)

- SKI RUN**
50°28'38.8"N 6°06'08.6"E
- HIKING TRAILS**
Starting point Langfays: 50°28'05.0"N 6°05'30.4"E (1/6)
Starting point Xhoffraix: 50°27'22.5"N 6°04'06.1"E (2/6)
Starting point Robertville: 50°27'07.3"N 6°06'30.1"E (3/6)
Starting point Weyswert: 50°26'07.4"N 6°09'51.5"E (4/6)
Starting point Sourbrodt: 50°28'24.6"N 6°08'37.4"E (5/6)
Starting point Peak Beer: 50°29'12.4"N 6°06'34.4"E (6/6)
- FACILITIES (STORES & RESTAURANTS)**
Baroque Michel: 50°31'08.9"N 6°03'45.0"E (1/7)
Signal de Botrange: 50°30'07.3"N 6°05'34.6"E (2/7)
Maison du parc: 50°29'36.3"N 6°05'59.1"E (3/7)

- Peak Beer: 50°29'12.4"N 6°06'34.4"E (4/7)
Boulangerie Philippe Hennes: 50°28'16.5"N 6°08'49.8"E
Gerdal Kravis & Boucherie Schneider: 50°28'24.2"N 6°08'36.9"E (6/7)
Ulenpöggel: 50°28'24.5"N 6°08'35.6"E (7/7)
- BALTIA TOWER**
50°30'04.2"N 6°08'33.7"E
- SOURBRODT STATION**
50°28'24.6"N 6°08'37.4"E
- RAIL YARD SOURBRODT**
50°28'24.6"N 6°08'37.4"E
- LAKE ROBERTVILLE**
50°27'08.0"N 6°06'33.2"E

- LAKE BÜTCHENBACH**
50°26'09.2"N 6°12'38.4"E
- HOTELS**
Hotel Fagnard: 50°28'23.6"N 6°08'41.6"E
Vacant: 50°28'22.7"N 6°08'38.8"E
- HOLIDAY HOMES**
Villa Rodding: 50°28'29.5"N 6°08'40.0"E
Villa Vincent: 50°28'18.4"N 6°08'47.0"E
- PASTURE & SCOUT CAMPSITES**
50°26'56.5"N 6°09'14.1"E (est.)
- PARK SOURBRODT**
50°29'02.6"N 6°08'47.1"E

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§
Anecdotal map Sourbrodt (Waimes)

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"If the weather forecast announces a thunderstorm, it is likely it doesn't reach Sourbrodt at all because it usually doesn't overcome the High fens. But if it does, it can be really severe!"

"A psychiatrist living in Sourbrodt explained how he thought that silence works for most people: a small portion of it is good, but too much of it becomes annoying or even enervating."

"In the past, some important industrialists from the region of Cologne came to here. That's why this area still has a German 'touch'."

"There is a certain collectivity in Sourbrodt and the High fens. Not because it's trendy, ecological or whatsoever, more because you just need to look after each other in this area."

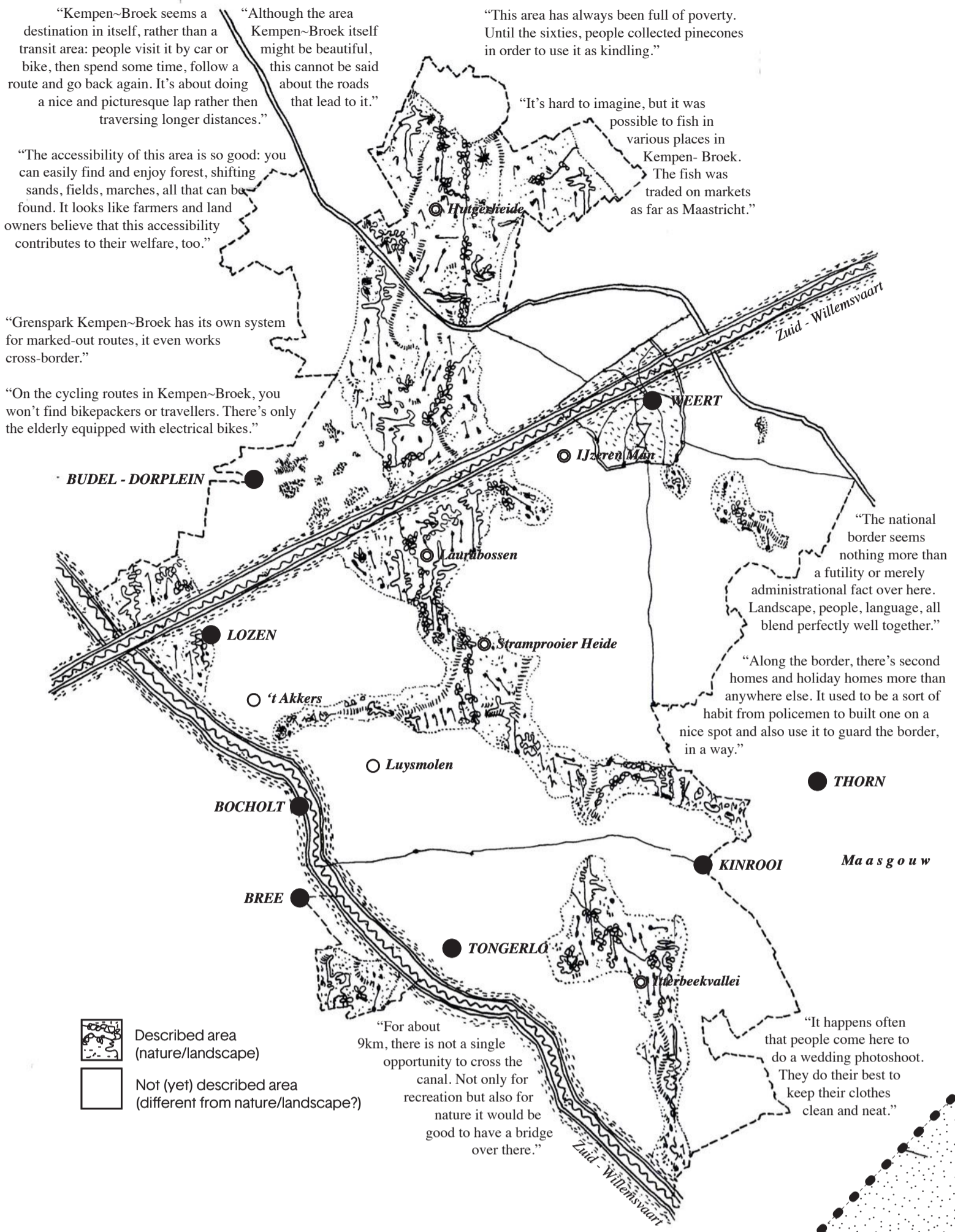
"The social housing in and next to the station is not completely accepted. For example, the inhabitants are not invited for the block party of this area."

"During -without doubt- one of the most legendary football matches of the Belgium team, the only thing you could hear in Sourbrodt weren't yelling or singing people but crickets and cows."

LUYSMOLEN, BOCHOLT

PATCHWORK KEMPEN~BROEK

The man-made in nature & the natural in the cultivated



"Kempen-Broek seems a destination in itself, rather than a transit area: people visit it by car or bike, then spend some time, follow a route and go back again. It's about doing a nice and picturesque lap rather than traversing longer distances."

"Although the area Kempen-Broek itself might be beautiful, this cannot be said about the roads that lead to it."

"It's hard to imagine, but it was possible to fish in various places in Kempen-Broek. The fish was traded on markets as far as Maastricht."

"Grenspark Kempen-Broek has its own system for marked-out routes, it even works cross-border."

"On the cycling routes in Kempen-Broek, you won't find backpackers or travellers. There's only the elderly equipped with electrical bikes."

"The national border seems nothing more than a facility or merely administrative fact over here. Landscape, people, language, all blend perfectly well together."

"Along the border, there's second homes and holiday homes more than anywhere else. It used to be a sort of habit from policemen to built one on a nice spot and also use it to guard the border, in a way."

"It happens often that people come here to do a wedding photoshoot. They do their best to keep their clothes clean and neat."

"For about 9km, there is not a single canal. Not only for recreation but also for nature it would be good to have a bridge over there."

"Typical for this area are crosses along the roads, alternating forest and small fields, forest edges that unfortunately disappear, wide open spaces, shifting sands, marches and so on..."

"ARK had an enormous impact on the landscape, they made it change rapidly and drastically."

"The toxic emissions of the zinc industry always kept this area from development, so the fact that there still is lots of open space is because of this factory."

"Everything is small-scaled over here: small plots of arable land, small pieces of forest, small shifting sands, small farms, small villages..."

"This area is like a mosaic: within a range of (blue) you come across a range of landscapes. The reality is a balance between agriculture, nature and tourism."

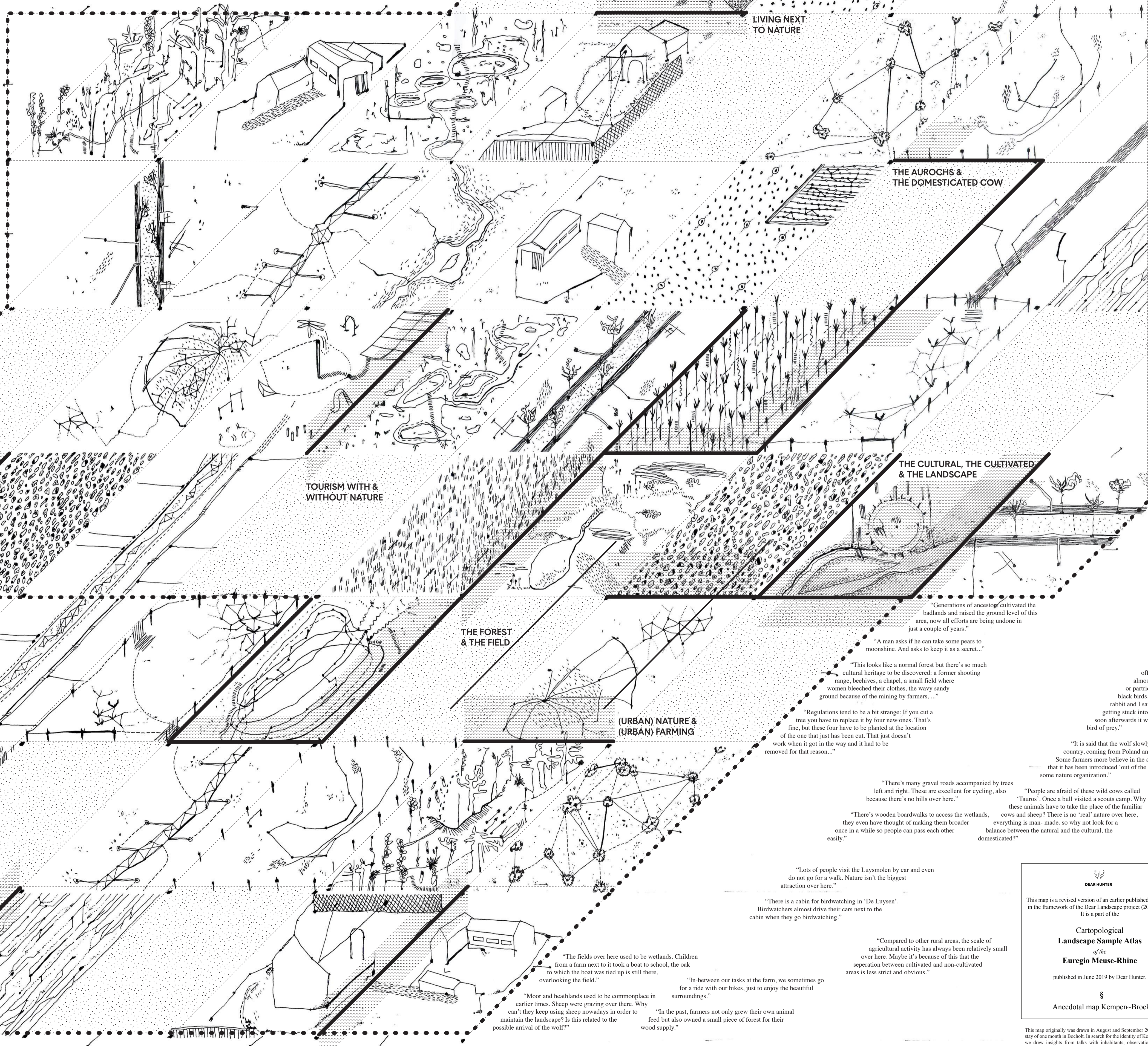
"The streams are well protected! farmers have to stay away from it while fertilizing the soil."

"Both nature and agriculture are responsible for phosphatic and nitrate, due to fertilization but also to the natural composting process of leaves."

"There are no less than 49 water mills in this area. The 'Uffelse molen' is the most beautiful one."

"A single beaver is easily able to rise or lower a stream's water level with one meter."

"When finally some rain fell after a dry and hot summer, some fields turned green again very quick and other stayed dry and barren for a really long time. This clearly indicated the differences in subsoil within the area."



DRAINING & (RE)CLAIMING (WET)LANDS

THE FARM-STYLE HOUSE & THE FARM

SMALL SCALE, LARGE SCALE

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§ Anecdotal map Kempen-Broek

This map originally was drawn in August and September 2018, during a stay of one month in Bocholt. In search for the identity of Kempen-Broek we drew insights from talks with inhabitants, observations and field research. These insights do not necessarily represent our own opinion, neither the opinion of the inhabitants of Kempen-Broek.

"Apparently, they are planning to build a wastewater on top of the waste dump near to Weert"

"The city of Weert grossly overestimates its green building law. neighbourhoods and still soon consist of 50.000 inhabitants"

"A natural balance is a long way off. There's almost no pheasant or partridge left, only black birds. Once I saw a rabbit and I saved it from getting stuck into my machine, soon afterwards it was killed by a bird of prey."

"It is said that the wolf slowly reaches our country, coming from Poland and Germany. Some farmers more believe in the assumption that it has been introduced 'out of the trunk' of some nature organization."

"People are afraid of these wild cows called 'Tauros'. Once a bull visited a scouts camp. Why do these animals have to take the place of the familiar cows and sheep? There is no 'real' nature over here, everything is man-made, so why not look for a balance between the natural and the cultural, the domesticated?"

"There's many gravel roads accompanied by trees left and right. These are excellent for cycling, also because there's no hills over here."

"There's wooden boardwalks to access the wetlands, they even have thought of making them broader once in a while so people can pass each other easily."

"Lots of people visit the Luysmolen by car and even do not go for a walk. Nature isn't the biggest attraction over here."

"There is a cabin for birdwatching in 'De Laysen'. Birdwatchers almost drive their cars next to the cabin when they go birdwatching."

"Compared to other rural areas, the scale of agricultural activity has always been relatively small over here. Maybe it's because of this that the separation between cultivated and non-cultivated areas is less strict and obvious."

"In-between our tasks at the farm, we sometimes go for a ride with our bikes, just to enjoy the beautiful surroundings."

"In the past, farmers not only grew their own animal feed but also owned a small piece of forest for their wood supply."

"Generations of ancestors cultivated the badlands and raised the ground level of this area, now all efforts are being undone in just a couple of years."

"A man asks if he can take some pears to moonshine. And asks to keep it as a secret..."

"This looks like a normal forest but there's so much cultural heritage to be discovered: a former shooting range, beehives, a chapel, a small field where women bleached their clothes, the wavy sandy ground because of the mining by farmers..."

"Regulations tend to be a bit strange: if you cut a tree you have to replace it by four new ones. That's fine, but these four have to be planted at the location of the one that just has been cut. That just doesn't work when it got in the way and it had to be removed for that reason..."

"The fields over here used to be wetlands. Children from a farm next to it took a boat to school, the oak to which the boat was tied up is still there, overlooking the field."

"Moor and heathlands used to be commonplace in earlier times. Sheep were grazing over there. Why can't they keep using sheep nowadays in order to maintain the landscape? Is this related to the possible arrival of the wolf?"

"Look around, isn't it paradise on earth?"

"Well, there is some litter around, though..."

"This looks like a normal forest but there's so much cultural heritage to be discovered: a former shooting range, beehives, a chapel, a small field where women bleached their clothes, the wavy sandy ground because of the mining by farmers..."

INFORMAL ENCOUNTERS

LEGEND

- Current formal connection
- Current informal connection

"When in an airplane above Germany, you can clearly see the development of villages and cities. This is much more difficult to distinguish in The Netherlands."

"The Dutch have such a different relationship with landscape compared to the Germans. They had - and still have - to fight nature in order to survive."

Scale 03 **Surrounding green and (former) industry**

"There used to be a lot of industry over here, most of these places are overgrown nowadays and hardly recognizable as such."

"It is said that the Eagle Owl lives within one of the former quarries, which makes it an area of importance!"

"There are beautiful former quarries of which it cannot be more unclear to whom they belong, if they are accessible, safe, ... you just have to know or find out informally."

"The former lime kilns and quarries are fascinating places but seem forgotten or neglected. People even throw their waste into them. A big difference with other (former) industrial sites that turned into nature, like the ENCI quarry in Maastricht for example, that's embraced by the inhabitants."

"The volunteer fire department cleaned the lime kilns from its litter, but after only two years it's a mess again."

In a relatively short walk to Friesenrath you come across a wide variety of landscape elements: forest, fields, nice views, a stream, a small historical village, ...

"Someone looks for mushrooms in the forest. She did that since she was young, with her grandma. She forgot which ones are edible, and unfortunately the app to find out doesn't function that well."

Scale 01 **The Vennbahn and its direct surroundings**

"On sunny days, lots of users, both strollers and joggers, use the same small strip of asphalt that's called 'Vennbahn'."

"A smart boy sells home-made cookies from the Vennbahn, or a very well chosen spot with a table and chairs. It doesn't take long before he sells out."

"I visit my mother in the elderly home every week. I go out for a walk on the Vennbahn every time I'm there."

"You have to cross the Vennbahn and back to get there, but the hedge has been cut so you can use it as a shortcut. It's a bit dangerous but the village and the apartment buildings east of it."

"From my wheelchair, I look left and right at the flowers and plants in the berm and I blissfully think: all these beauty, created by God!"

The village Walheim Scale 02

"The Ermedankfest (harvest festival) of Walheim in the region is definitely worth to see."

"There's only two nurseries and one primary school in Walheim, so everybody knows everybody."

"Although Konradminister is way more beautiful, Walheim has all the shops and facilities."

"The emblem of Walheim seems as if the village and its atmosphere very well."

"Inhabitants of Walheim care for each other, while in other places this really isn't the case anymore. How come?"

"Youngsters are hanging around at the market square, there's no place where they can go in the evening. There's also the forest nearby, it is said that during night, there's people using drugs and stuff."

"There's no terrace in front of the pizzeria, so the tables and chairs are just placed on a couple of parking places."

"You keep discovering shortcuts and desire paths through bushes and fields..."

"Farmers are consciously placing water troughs next to turnstiles, as the cattle turns, the place into a mud puddle, hikers will think twice before entering the field."

"The part of the Eifelsteig that passes Walheim is one of the most beautiful ones, because you leave the city behind and come across peatlands, forest and fields."

"Inhabitants don't mind to crawl over barbed wire to reach the fields that are nice for a walk."

DEAR HUNTER

This map is a revised version of an earlier published document in the framework of the Dear Landscape project (2017-2019). It is a part of the

Cartopological Landscape Sample Atlas

of the **Euregio Meuse-Rhine**

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Anecdotal map Walheim, Aachen

This map originally was drawn in October 2018. In search for possible connections between the Vennbahn, Walheim and its wider surroundings, we drew insights from talks with inhabitants, observations and field research. These insights do not necessarily represent our own opinion, neither the opinion of the inhabitants of Walheim.

"Soberly used to be a beautiful city with a castle, but nowadays there's lots of vacancy. Nobody wants to live there anymore."

Near to Friesenrath there's a historical village, a beautiful landscape with a stream, a small historical village, ...