



*The Kauwberg quiz walk is a year-round invitation to discover this semi-natural site that is much more than simply a green space with undeniable biological and landscape interest. Its interest is also social, with its allotments and spaces for leisure, and historical (former sand quarry, extraction of clay, historical boundary stone, mediaeval paths, traces of the last war,...)*

*Like other green spaces in Uccle, the Kauwberg's history is linked to various proposals for motorways round Brussels: the Ring, but also a motorway linking Uccle to Waterloo (that would have started from the site of the Dieweg cemetery), which should have crossed it according to plans made in the 1950s.*

*Fortunately, these never came to fruition thanks to the residents' associations and the White Paper against the southern ring road (ACQU 1974). These ensured the Ring project was dropped from the official development plans for the area and the Kauwberg was given 'reserved zone' status.*

*At the end of 1986, a project for a golf course surrounded by housing developments was put forward as a way to generate commercial income from the land. SOS Kauwberg was the response to this project. Since then our association has continued to defend the Kauwberg and worked to guarantee it a better future by calling for a clear definition of its status with regards to the land-owners, a definition that would allow a form of management designed to conserve the natural riches of the site.*

*For our 20th anniversary, we plan to publish a new booklet about the Kauwberg that will expand on the themes in this quiz. It will be based on the theme 'The Kauwberg, more than a symbol of environmental protection in Brussels, a heritage site and a memory of the history of Brussels and Uccle from 1945 to the present day'.*

*SOS Kauwberg publishes a quarterly newsletter: Kauwberg Info. You can subscribe by transferring 8 Euros to account number: 068-2075494-12.*

*The quiz is also available on line at <http://www.kauwberg.be/rallye.htm>*

# The Kauwberg Quiz Walk



*A unique way to discover  
the many faces of the Kauwberg*

*through 16 questions on a variety of subjects - history,  
geology, landscape, geography, flora and fauna, urban  
and rural street furniture, local industry and heritage ...*





This guide is an initiative of SOS Kauwberg. In 2004, the environmental department of the local government of Uccle granted SOS Kauwberg a subsidy. Through this guide, we aim to share this subsidy with the citizens of Uccle and visitors from across the Brussels Capital Region who come to enjoy this remarkable semi-natural site.

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#### ANSWER 1,2 or 3

Opposite the cemetery, the Kauwberg plateau reaches a height of 101 m. From the summit and along the right of way, you can see the top of the spire of the church of Altitude 100. But most striking is the curved building of the Magnanerie at the edge of Forest, above the Forest National stadium. 'Magnanerie' is a term to describe the farming of silk worms and the building gets its name from a farm that existed here in the 19th century. However, it was only operational between 1833 and 1858 because the Belgian climate was too cold for these sensitive creatures.

The Kauwberg offers a wonderful vantage point. Migratory birds used to enjoy its vast open spaces to make a stopover in Spring and Autumn. Today, the woods are taking over the open grassland and few birds still stop at the Kauwberg whereas 30 years ago it was one of the best bird-watching sites in the region. Appropriate management would remedy this situation.



#### ANSWER 2

The Kauwberg was one of the many sites (more than a dozen) used for the anti-aircraft defence of Bruxelles in 1945 after the liberation of the city. In this sense, it is the only relic of the war of its type in the Brussels Region. The batteries were deployed to protect Brussels from V1 missiles (the cruise missile of its age). The holes on the Kauwberg are remains of their emplacements. There are a dozen between the quarry and the avenue de la Chênaie. The camp of the 101st Brigade (British Army) on the Kauwberg was halfway down the slope from avenue Dolez to avenue Chênaie, at the site of the old brick works. Over the course of the war, 281 V1 and V2 rockets hit Brabant, killing 114 people. Some 8,661 V1 and V2 rockets struck 698 Belgian cities, killing 6,448 people and injuring 22,500 others. Uccle was hit seven times by V1s. The older people of the neighborhood still remember a V1 that fell not far from the Kauwberg, hitting the Europa campsite (now no longer in existence) on the site of today's Clos du Drossart.

#### Where to find the emplacements:

- Coming from the cemetery, on the right of the right of way: 3 holes in the undergrowth; on the left of the path, 1 hole to the left of the small path and 3 on the right.
- in the cow pasture - 2 clearly visible holes
- finally, a series of holes below the quarry, 3 in the undergrowth and 1 at the edge of the field, not far from a large hornbeam.



## ANSWER 2

### Question 13

"What happens when the road forks in a Y? In folk tales, these moments mark a turning point in the story (for instance, in Little Red Riding Hood). The choice of a particular branch is definitive and irreversible. The fork is a place of judgement. It's where the hero takes on his or her full responsibility (for example, will they resist the temptations of the Devil, the wolf, etc). This theme - that dates back to Pythagoras- represents the choice mankind is offered between the path of evil, a life of pleasure, or the ascetic life, the way of salvation. Many avatars of the Pythagorean Y exist in Christian iconography and symbology." Claire Billen, *The path in traditional rural societies of our regions: reality and imagination* - in *Pedestrian traffic and rights of way*, colloquium organized by the residents' association of Saint-Job in 1987.

To return to our quiz walk. From the quarry you have followed path number 36 also known as the 'Broekweg'. This is a recorded path that has existed since the 14th century. The path you cross connects the cemetery to the avenue Dolez. This path is a right of way used long before the creation of the 'new' cemetery of Uccle-Verrewinkel. Its status of 'public right of way' was confirmed at the end of July 2005, by the Justice of the Peace of Uccle, after nine years of legal wrangling.



## ANSWERS 1 and 3

### Question 14

Before your eyes, near where the last bricks were baked on the Kawberg in 1960, are two plants that don't come from round here.

**A:** The giant hog-weed ('berce du Caucase' in French) is an imposing monster whose leaves burn the skin. Be careful! The sap of the plant makes the skin photosensitive, so that it burns in the light, producing the symptoms of sunburn that appear some two days after exposure. The plant arrived in Belgium by colonizing land alongside roads and railways.

**B:** The Japanese Knotweed or Polygonum ('renouee du Japon' in French) is a formidable, highly invasive plant that crowds out all at its feet, causing flowers and grasses to disappear. It has fearsome roots (rhizomes) that go deep into the soil and make it difficult to destroy. If even a small part of the root is left in the ground, the plant will reappear as vigorous as ever.

It's vital to dig up and destroy knotweeds or they spread like wildfire. The allotment owners along the railway line are well aware of this and have been systematically clearing these plants for many years. The knotweed made its invasion via wetland valleys and watercourses - a preference that means the water-dominated valleys of Uccle are particularly vulnerable.

**C:** The Black Cherry (*Prunus Serotina* or 'cerisier tardif' in French) comes from North America and is planted on roadsides because it likes poor, sandy soils ... like the Kawberg and other parts of this region. It is spread by birds that eat its fruits and drop the seeds. Once it starts growing it colonizes the undergrowth pushing out native trees and shrubs.

## Brochure - Guide

**16 places, 16 multiple-choice questions, a map, and 16 answers with background details.**

*The guide you have in your hands is all you need to try the quiz at any time of year.*

*The itinerary leads you through 16 places in the Kawberg. For each, there is a question and three possible answers. These cover a variety of subjects, allowing you to discover many different aspects of the Kawberg. The questions are on pages 4 - 9.*

*You will find the answers, complete with extra background details in the second half of the booklet, following the map in the centre pages.*



## Quiz Walk - Where to start

The walk follows footpaths that loop right round the Kawberg. The full route takes about one hour and a half. See the map in the centre pages.

We suggest two possible starting points:

- Start A: in front of the cemetery (easy parking), avenue de la Chênaie, 25 - begin with question 1
- Start B: chemin du Kawberg, under the railway bridge as you come from the crossroads at the bottom of rue Basse / chaussée de Saint-Job. Begin with question 9 (see page 7).

## Itinerary



Use the map on the centre pages to locate the places corresponding to each of the 16 questions. Our hiker (left) will help you find your way ...

 Start: on the path in front of the cemetery, with this view in front of you:

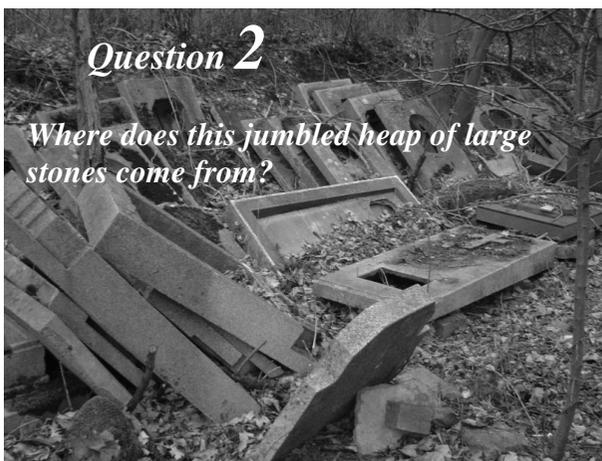


## Question 1

Which region do you see spread out before you?

1. The Brabant Wallon.
2. The Pajottenland.
3. The Woluwe valley.

 Cross the road and go east (see map).



## Question 2

Where does this jumbled heap of large stones come from?

- 1 The ruins of a town destroyed by an earthquake
- 2 The walls of a missile shelter
- 3 A tombstone makers.

 Follow the road in the same direction (east) towards the Parc de la Sauvagère. Go through the main gate and continue a few metres, then look right:



## Question 3

The 'giant' of the park is:

1. a cedar of Lebanon
2. a North American sequoia
3. the last specimen of the Verrewinkel fir?

 Leave the park and continue down the road for another 20 metres.



## Question 11

### ANSWER 3

The wet zone close to the chaussée de Saint Job is dotted with springs. Rainwater appears in the valley bottom having filtered through the underground sand layers of the plateau. There are no streams running down the slopes of these valleys: any water simply penetrates into the sand which acts like a natural sponge.

These natural wet zones are rich in numerous species of animals and plants that are becoming increasingly rare in these regions. They need our protection, which is why SOS Kawwberg plays an active role in the rehabilitation of the Broek, not far from the valley of the Geleytsbeek an area that consisted primarily of marshes and ponds up to the 19th century.

Notice the houses on the other side of the chaussée de Saint-Job. The oldest ones are build high up, with their feet out of water. Today, the valley has been largely drained and dried out, although it is often flooded during heavy storms.



## Question 12

### ANSWER 3

The Sablon gets its name from the sand that underlies the area of central Brussels where this famous square is situated. And this fact connects us to the sand quarry that you are standing above. Up to the 1980s, a lot of Ucclois had never heard of the Kawwberg but everyone had heard - at least by name - of the quarry Saint-Job.

In fact, at the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th, there were huge sand quarries operational right in the heart of Uccle, which was at the time nothing more than a large country village.

Several of these quarries were situated near the town hall (maison communale) and in the area now known as 'Le Chat' (between avenue Coghén and rue Vanderkindere). The biggest and deepest sand quarry (*the Chevalier* after the name of its owner) was to be found near the Kawwberg, on the other side of avenue Dolez.

Saint-Job and the Chevalier were among the last operational quarries in Uccle, along with those of Verrewinkel that backed onto the woods of the same name, along the rue de Percke (about 1 km south of the Kawwberg). The Verrewinkel quarries were still being used for sand extraction in the 1960s.

Since then, the majority of the quarries have been filled in and the traces of these bygone activities have disappeared. Indeed, some parts of Uccle are built on these former quarries and sand works.



### Question 9

#### ANSWER 2

The Kauwberg was in fact one vast allotment during the years 1940-45. The main crop was swedes – a now rather unfashionable vegetable – that sustained many a resident of Saint-Job in these difficult times.

Since the war, the area allocated to allotments has diminished steadily. You can still find traces of allotments around the quarry where the workers from both the quarry and the brickworks cultivated their small parcels of land.

The last allotments occupied by the local inhabitants are situated along avenue Dolez and between the quarry and the railway line. In Spring, you can see flowering cabbage which attracts numerous butterflies. The presence of these allotments reflects the social role of the Kauwberg and contributes to the diversity of its functions.



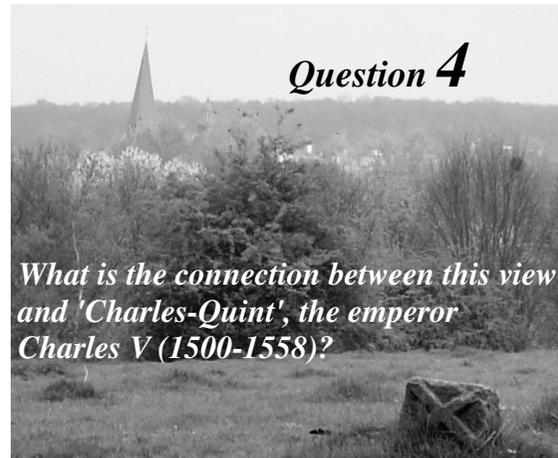
### Question 10

#### ANSWER 1

The 'Kauwberg street' (rue du Kauwberg) which leads to the quarry was lit by three streetlamps that ran on gas up to as recently as April 2005.

When they were electrified, all that was done was simply to replace the mantle with an incandescent bulb and put a cable in the post. These streetlamps - which are over one hundred years old - certainly needed some renovation. However, in the end the local authority preferred to replace them with some news ones, imitations of the originals.

If you want to see the last real ones, take a walk to the chemin Avijl, the chemin 't Cortenbos or the drève des Renards. But be quick, they may not be there for long!



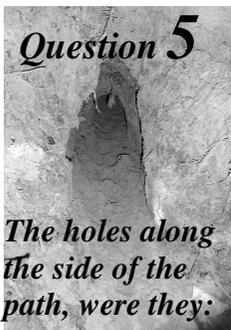
### Question 4

*What is the connection between this view and 'Charles-Quint', the emperor Charles V (1500-1558)?*

- 1 He owned a castle situated on the same spot as today's Place Saint-Job
- 2 He presented a reliquary to the parish of Saint-Job
- 3 A marker stone on the Kauwberg denotes the boundary of one of his properties.



Continue down the road, look at the bank on your right:



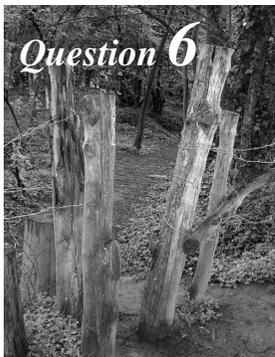
### Question 5

*The holes along the side of the path, were they:*

- 1 dug by dogs belonging to 'prinkères' (may-bug) hunters
- 2 made by foxes
- 3 the burrows of rabbits escaped from the Sauvagère park?



Continue a few more metres down the road. A small path leads up the bank into the large field. Take it and you arrive at:



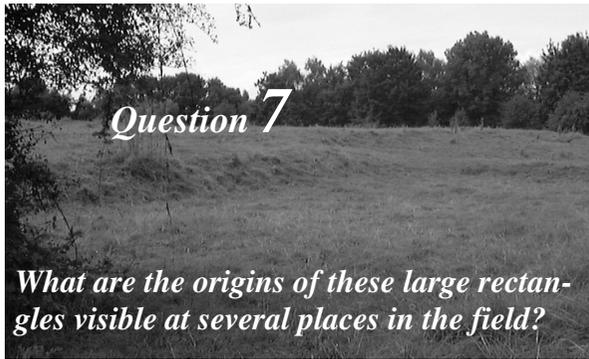
### Question 6

*What is the purpose of these 'slalom' gates?*

- 1 They let walkers through, but not cows
- 2 They help walkers find the paths and avoid damaging the fences
- 3 They are the remains of an ancient system for counting visitors to the Kauwberg run by the gendarmerie.

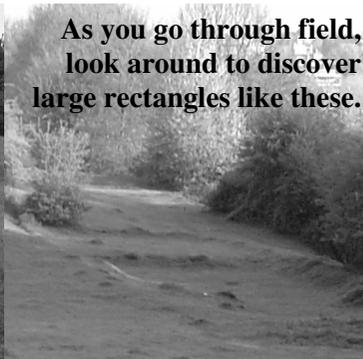


Go through the gate and cross the large field in a straight line, parallel to the railway. Keep your eyes on the trees opposite. Go down the bank on the far side and you'll reach another gate.



## Question 7

*What are the origins of these large rectangles visible at several places in the field?*



As you go through field, look around to discover large rectangles like these.

- 1 They are the remains of lawn tennis courts from days gone-by
- 2 They were intended as picnic areas for the Brussels Ring
- 3 They are places where bricks used to be baked.



Go through the gate and bear left, taking the path that goes down between steep banks (known as a 'chemin creux'). (In Spring, large parts of these banks are covered in wild chives.)



## Question 8

*What are the origins of the 'chemins creux' and other paths in the Kawwberg?*

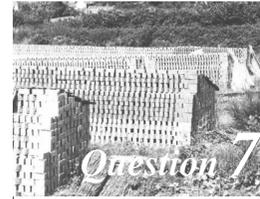
- 1 They were created by water eroding the soil
- 2 They are the result of a Motocross competition
- 3 Agricultural activities?



Continue along path 33 (a 'chemin vicinal', an ancient path noted in official records). It goes down hill, with allotments on the left and a small plantation of alders on the right. When you reach the bottom, do not turn right in the direction of the quarry (known as the 'carrière de Saint-Job – you'll visit this later on our walk), instead turn left and head towards the railway bridge.

Note that there are no trees among the vegetation in the triangle of ground between the paths and the allotments. This is because workers crushed bricks that hadn't baked properly there to make 'brique pilée' used for paths and tennis courts.

Stop when you reach the paved road.



## Question 7

### ANSWER 3

From the 1920s up to 1962, the Kawwberg was home to a vast itinerant brick-making industry that moved each year to create new work yards or brick 'tables'.

The banks of the field that you have just crossed form the limits of this brick-making area. The bricks, made largely from alluvial clay, were moulded in the Spring and put out to dry through the Summer on the terraces that you can still see in the field and at many other places in the Kawwberg. The terraces had to be completely flat so that the piles of bricks did not collapse. In the Autumn, the workers made large piles with alternating layers of brick and coal. These piles burnt for about 12 days and baked the soil. Vegetation has found it difficult to colonize these 'country ovens' (the name given to the piles of baking bricks). As you can see, the trees grow only around the edges and clearly indicate the boundaries of the brick 'tables'



## Question 8

### ANSWERS 1 , 3 and even 2!

A 'chemin creux' is characterized by the fact that it is surrounded on both sides by banks, whose steepness varies with the depth of the path. Such paths that follow the slopes of valleys are created by both erosion and by the action of humans habitually using the same route to reach their fields.

One of the great riches of a 'chemin creux' is the number of different ecological niches they offer to flora and fauna.

When you walk through the Kawwberg, you will pass along certain 'chemins creux' that date from the Middle Ages, namely the paths number 33 and 36 (traditional paths that have gained official status as rights of way), the latter also being known as the 'chemin du Kawwberg'. Path no 33 leaves from the small square at the intersection of rue Basse and the chaussée de Saint-Job and leads to the avenue de la Chênaie, coming out opposite the cemetery. Path no 36 starts from the same place, and crosses the Kawwberg to avenue Dolez. Up to the dawn of the 20th century, paths like these were rarely paved.

But what is more surprising is that certain paths on the Kawwberg also result from the international MotoCross that took place here in 1969, with the top champions of the day taking part. These paths were 'taken over' in the 1980s by the gendarmerie who organized a number of obstacle courses for horses, the remains of which can still be seen in the large (slowly rotting) poles dotted about the Kawwberg.



### Question 5

### ANSWER 2

Foxes started appearing on the Kauwberg in 1985. Their numbers are recorded by local animal lovers who also ensure they are vaccinated. Their number is closely linked to the quantity of rabbits on the Kauwberg.

The nature of the rabbit population is sometimes a surprise because you will see wild rabbits that have bred with domesticated rabbits that have escaped from the Park de la Sauvagère (or that have been abandoned by their owners). Walkers often encounter rabbits of an amazing array of sizes and colors, especially as they get closer to the park.

As for 'prinkères' (a typically 'bruxellois' word which is part of the folk history of Uccle), they are may-bugs (cockchafers) whose larvae live in the first 10 cm of the soil.



Foxholes have many exits and entrances.

There is no point waiting in front of one to see a fox. The animal will be alert to your presence and make its escape discreetly a bit further away



### Question 6

### ANSWERS 1 and 2

As it says in the official document of 2002 that established the Kauwberg as a protected site: "The Kauwberg is a semi-natural site, and as such requires sustained human intervention (mowing, extensive pasturing, control of spontaneous woodlands) which alone is capable of ensuring the conservation not only of its wildlife resources but also of the interest that it presents as a rural landscape of mixed woodland

and pasture".

The gates placed at the various points of entrance to the large pasture are part of this management. They ensure that walkers follow the paths and avoid damaging the fences, and that the cows which come here each summer to enjoy the pastures do not wander into the woods or the quarry.

What has the gendarmerie to do with this question? You'll find out in the next answer ...

*This said, the proper management of the Kauwberg requires more than a few gates. This is why SOS Kauwberg continues to fight for the implementation of a management plan that was drawn up as long ago as 1995 (with appropriate updating obviously).*



If you are starting at question 9, walk up the path as far as the railway bridge, go under the bridge and walk up to the lamppost.

### Question 9



*What is the origin of the allotments on the Kauwberg?*

- 1 They have existed since the Middle Ages
- 2 They were created during the Second World War, so local people could feed themselves
- 3 They were created to grow hops for making 'gueuze' beer.



### Question 10



Look around and you'll see a decorative lamppost.

*These 'rustic' streetlamps are they fake old or genuinely old?*

- 1 They are reproductions of old streetlamps found in Uccle
- 2 They are old streetlamps that come from around the Grand Place in Brussels.
- 3 They are copies of lamps in Carcassonne.

With your back to the railway bridge, go up the path and follow it round to the left, then shortly afterwards go left again down a path in a ditch that heads towards the road and the railway. Don't go all the way to the road (you'll need to retrace your steps afterwards), but look out to see a change in the ground and plants on your right



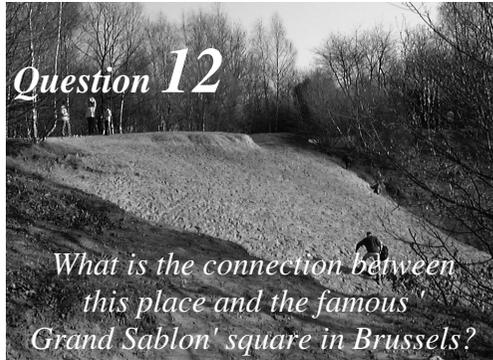
### Question 11

*Which stream do the pond and springs of the Kauwberg feed?*

- 1 The 'ru' of Saint-Job
- 2 The Dolez
- 3 The Geleytsbeek?



Go back up the path and at the top turn left along the 'chemin creux' through the trees. Near the top, climb up the bank on your right and you'll see this view:



- 1 They are both sites of interesting archaeological finds.
- 2 Both were used as artificial beaches in the 19th century (Bruxelles les Bains).
- 3 They were both used for the extraction of sand for use in the construction of buildings, roads and rail- and tramways.



Return to the path that forms the continuation of the 'chemin creux' by walking along the top of the quarry. Then follow the main path that leads away from the quarry through the woods.



*What is the traditional meaning of a place where a path forks in two, in the shape of a Y?*

- 1 None.
- 2 It's a place where a traveller's destiny is chosen.
- 3 The origin of the game of 'heads or tails'.



Take the path opposite the one you've just come along (not the one that bears left), which goes down into the woods. Stop just before the field on your right.



*Three plants found on this part of the Kauwberg are known as 'invasive', because:*



**ANSWER 2**

*Question 3*

The tree is a giant sequoia (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*), a type of conifer - as are cedars and fir trees. Originating in America, it was introduced to Europe in 1853. This one is the twelfth largest (5.2 meters in circumference) of the sixty giant sequoias recorded in the 19 communes of Brussels. Its bark is very thick, supple and spongy; if you hit it with your fist, the bark will cushion the blow. It also provides a kind of insulation and protects the tree against fire.

You can see the conical top of the tree - which rises above all others in the park - from the avenue Jean et Pierre Carsoel, as well as from the quarry of Saint-Job.



**ANSWER 2**

The emperor Charles-Quint, duke of Burgundy, duke of Brabant, etc. presented a reliquary and a wooden statute to the castle chapel of Saint-Job. (Uccle has been a place of veneration of the saint since the 15th century, when this was led by a group of musicians). Nowadays the reliquary has disappeared but the statue is still to be seen in the parish church.

It was also at this time that people started marking the boundaries of the forest of Soignes to prevent proprietors with bordering land - and above all the many religious communities established in the forest - from encroaching on it. The borders of the domain were indicated by an earth 'levee' and a ditch, with stone boundary markers placed at intervals along the other side.

These square 'bornes' were marked with an incision parallel to the boundary of the domain and a Burgundy cross in relief on the side turned towards the interior of the forest. Later, the Burgundy cross, formed by two crossed gnarled sticks, degenerated into a simple X, i.e. the cross of Saint Andrew. The Kauwberg boundary stone has a cross of Saint Andrew on both faces, an X towards the forest and one facing away from it.



### ANSWER 2

#### Question 1

From the avenue de la Chênaie that runs along the edge of the Kauwberg, you can see a long way. Indeed, here you are 100 m above sea level, and in front of you lies the valley of the Senne, the river on which Brussels was founded. In a few (rare) places, the rural landscapes have not changed since the days of Breughel. Here is the Pajottenland, home of the local beer - Gueuze. Among its famous sites, you may just glimpse the castle of Beersel and the Flemish TV mast.

Right in front of you is the 'new' cemetery of Uccle, which dates from 1942. The first burial was that of an unknown German soldier who committed suicide.



### ANSWER 3

#### Question 2

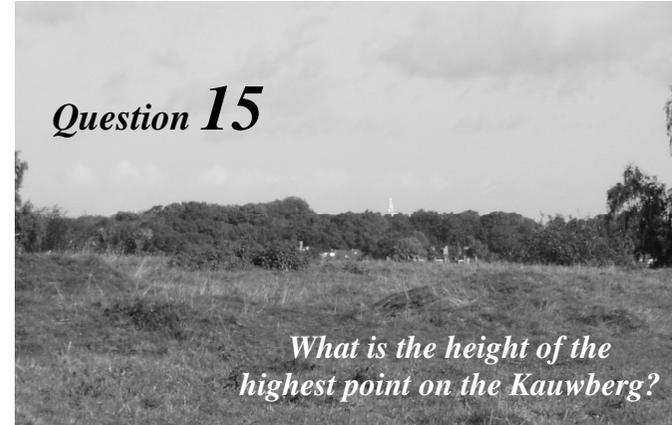
In the past, the stonemason Pierre Vanden Abeel set up as a maker of tombstones close to the new cemetery of Uccle, on the corner of avenue de la Chênaie and the rue du Verrewinkel. He used this area as a depot and when he closed his business, he added all the stones that were left to this heap.

Most tombstones in Belgium are made from the 'pierre bleue' (blue stone) that comes from the province of Hainaut. It is also used for kerbs and becomes shiny and smooth when walked on. Used for tombstones it follows an opposite evolution, becoming dull, grey and porous. You will also find 'granito' among these stones – a fake granite made out of concrete that has since gone out of fashion.

- 1 They come from Eastern Europe, Asia and America.
- 2 They were planted by the German invaders in 1942.
- 3 They overwhelm native plants and take their place.



Retrace your steps as far as the crossing of the paths and take the smaller path on your left, in the direction of the cemetery. You'll come to a large, open field on your right, walk through this field to the point where the view stretches farthest.



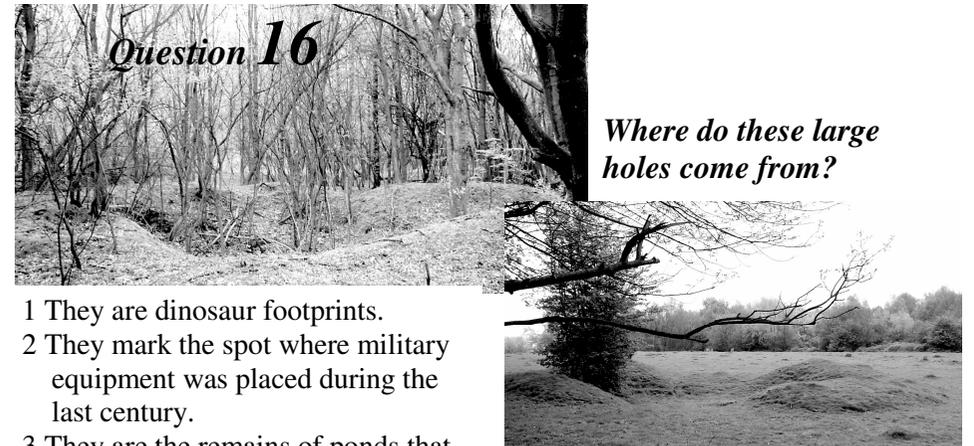
#### Question 15

*What is the height of the highest point on the Kauwberg?*

- 1 The same as Saint Augustine's church in Forest.
- 2 60 meters higher than the center of Uccle.
- 3 101 m above sea level.



Return to the path and continue in the direction you were heading. You'll come out at the road opposite the cemetery (the start of walk A). But before then, a final question. Look to the left and right of the path.



#### Question 16

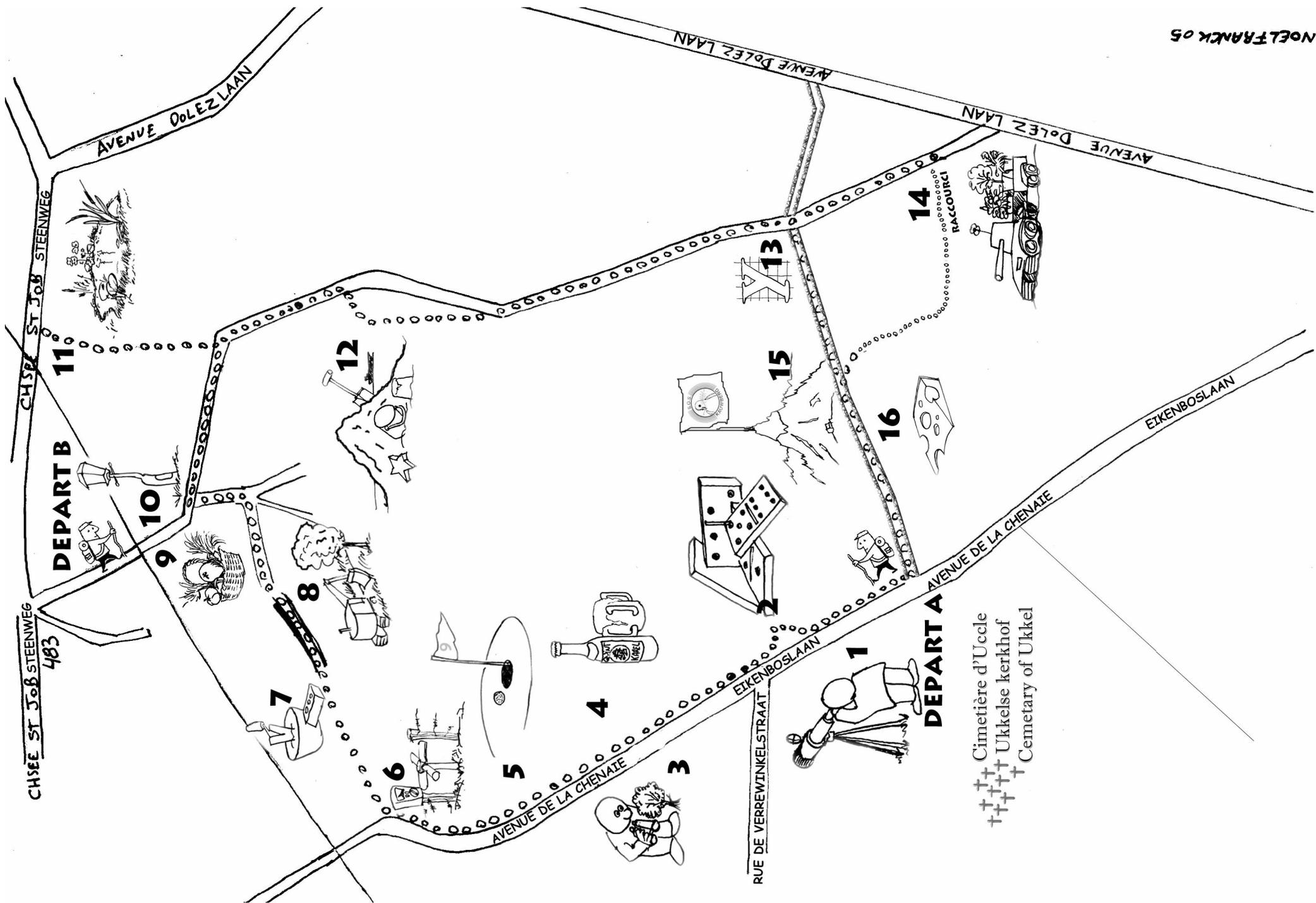
*Where do these large holes come from?*

- 1 They are dinosaur footprints.
- 2 They mark the spot where military equipment was placed during the last century.
- 3 They are the remains of ponds that were once much bigger.

**If you started at point A, you've reached the end of walk.  
We hope you enjoyed it.**

**If you started from point B, you're halfway round!**





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