

## LAND TAKE

## TERRIT 2

The construction of buildings, infrastructure and equipment results in an artificialisation of the territory, with numerous environmental consequences: loss of natural and agricultural resources, soil sealing, a disturbance of the natural water cycle, fragmentation of natural habitats, etc.

### The increase in land take

In 2015, artificialised land<sup>1</sup> occupied at least<sup>2</sup> 1,756 km<sup>2</sup> (or at least 10.4% of Walloon territory<sup>3</sup>), compared to 1,260 km<sup>2</sup> in 1985. In the space of 30 years, artificialised land has therefore increased by 39.3%, corresponding to an average growth rate of 16.5 km<sup>2</sup>/year. The land take was highest during the 1990s (on average, 19.7 km<sup>2</sup>/year between 1990 and 2000) and has followed a generally decreasing trend since the early 2000s: on average, 15.9 km<sup>2</sup>/year between 2000 and 2010, and 12.7 km<sup>2</sup>/year between 2010 and 2015. The increase in land take is evenly spread throughout the territory<sup>4</sup>.

### Growth mainly due to the expansion of the residential sector

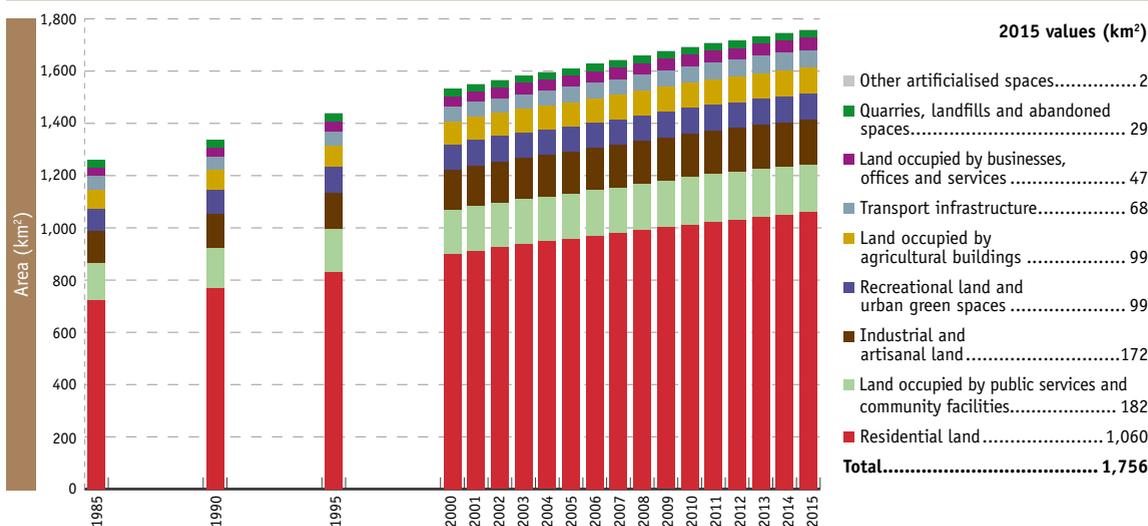
Since 1985, land take has mainly resulted from the expansion of the residential sector<sup>5</sup>, whose surface area has increased from 723 km<sup>2</sup> to 1,060 km<sup>2</sup> (an increase of 46.6%). The increase in the area dedicated to industrial and artisanal land and land occupied by public services and community facilities also contributed to the increase in land take, but to a lesser extent (48 km<sup>2</sup> and 42 km<sup>2</sup> respectively).

### Towards numerical targets for reducing land take?

In order to achieve a "no net land take"<sup>6</sup> by 2050, Wallonia would need to adopt binding numerical targets relating to land take, at the risk of seeing the sustainable use of the territory relegated to secondary importance compared to other concerns. The 1999 Regional Spatial Development Plan (*Schéma de développement de l'espace régional - SDER*), currently in force<sup>7</sup>, recommends combating housing dispersion, making areas intended for urbanisation more dense, recycling land which is currently abandoned, and protecting the natural resources of the soil and subsoil. This document is currently under review. Scheduled in the Territorial Development Code (*Code du développement territorial - CoDT*), it will be called the Territorial Development Plan (*Schéma de développement du Territoire - SDT*) going forward. This revision of the SDER represents an opportunity for Wallonia to lay the foundations for a sustainable territorial development policy.

[1] Areas removed from their natural state, either forest or agricultural, which may or not be built or covered. | [2] Land of unknown nature and/or not in the land registry, which represented 4.9% of Walloon territory in 2015, is not considered as artificialised land here. They nonetheless include artificialised elements (roads, railways, etc.). | [3] → Map 8 | [4] → Map 9 | [5] → HOUSE 1 | [6] → TERRIT 1 | [7] As of 11/07/2017

Fig. TERRIT 2-1 Area of artificialised land in Wallonia



SOERW 2017 – Sources: FPS Finance - AGDP (Bodem/Sol database); FPS Economy - DG Statistics/IWEPS calculations based on IWEPS/DG03/CPDT classification (2008)