

### SHORT INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the site of the battle of Waterloo, the battle of Waterloo was fought on different territories the largest being Braine l'Alleud. Why was it called the battle of Waterloo?

Field Marshal Von Blucher during his meeting with the Duke of Wellington at La Belle Alliance after the battle asked that it be called The battle Of The Belle Alliance to signify the combined effort of the Monarchies of Europe to defeat Napoléon. Wellington declined his offer.

After having returned to his HQ in the coaching Inn at Waterloo he began to write the Waterloo Dispatch. Being exhausted after the days battle he retired to bed and continued the dispatch early the following morning.. He signed it and beside his signature wrote... Waterloo. He called his aide Major Percy and gave him the eagles which had been captured on the battlefield that day, he also gave him the dispatch with orders make sure the Prime Minister received them. Percy left Waterloo in a carriage with the eagles sticking out the window and headed for Ostend, he boarded a British warship to Dover, from Dover he arrived at no 10 Downing st on Wednesday 21 June. He was told that the prime minister, Lord Liverpool was dining with the prince regent at Mrs Bohens house in St James sq. He arrived there ,gave to dispatch to L Liverpool who read it aloud., the prince regent said to major Percy, congratulations Colonel Percy. The following day Thursday 22 June the London Times published the Dispatch. From then on the battle was known as The Battle Of Waterloo.

### AFTER THE BATTLE

The battle of Waterloo was the bloodiest and most important battle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

It changed the face of Europe, it signaled the end of over 20 years of war and the end of Napoleon's reign, and also the emergence of Britain as a colonial power.

Despite the poor level of communication at that time word began to spread about this famous battle. Shortly after the battle the battlefield was visited by King George III of England in the company of Wellington, King William of the Netherlands, Tzar Alexander of Russia, the King of Prussia and many other crowned heads. Waterloo became a destination of pilgrimage for many people, particularly those who had lost loved ones on the battlefield and in many cases had not recovered their bodies which were buried in mass graves or burned on funeral pyres.

A tourist industry sprung up in the environs of the battlefield Inns and Hotels were opened transport by horse carriage boomed, it was regarded as being very chic in Britain to visit Waterloo, Wellington visited many times in the company of Monarchs of many countries.

The locals became battlefield guides with, in many case stories to suit the public they were guiding. As the efficiency of transport increased more and more people came to Waterloo, a tram line was installed a couple of hundred meters from the battlefield.

Waterloo became famous throughout the world and particularly due to the fact that Britain was a colonial power, Towns all over the globe had the name Waterloo. It is estimated that there are between 75 and 120 places named Waterloo. There are 35 In the United States,15 in Gt Britain,8 in Australia,5 in Jamaica and even 1 in Sierra Leone and many others.

And of course the ultimate sign of fame... a winning Eurovision song named Waterloo !!!!!

As it approached the centennial anniversary of the battle It became evident that because of its proximity to Brussels and its attraction to large crowds of visitors that the area of the battlefield was an attractive place for commercial investment and that the integrity of the battlefield was threatened.

Thankfully the Belgian Government, with vivid encouragement from Britain had the foresight to understand the dangers that lay ahead for the future integrity of the battlefield. In an act for which we can be grateful for today they passed a law in 1914 protecting the site of the battlefield from any form of development. In 1914 a law was passed designed to protect the site: In an area of 500 hectares it is no longer possible to erect or renovate buildings or cut down plant trees.

Thanks to that law it is now possible to view the battlefield as it was in 1815.

Many memorials have been placed on the battlefield. The most notable being the Gordon memorial which was the first one, in memory of Wellington's aide Colonel Alexander Gordon who died the night of the battle in Wellington's HQ. There is also the Hanoverian memorial which is situated where the sandpit was and is built on a mass grave. There is the Wounded Eagle which marks the location of the last square of the old Guard during their retreat.

On the ridge of Mt ST Jean there is the memorial to Gen Picton, The Inniskillings who formed a square and held their ground despite being decimated by cannon fire. Capt Mercer of the RHA who faced the French Cavalry charges, these are but a few of the memorials.

Let us not forget the most famous of all the memorials, Lion Hill built by William King of the kingdom of the Netherlands, which at that time included Belgium, to commemorate the place where his son Prince William was injured. In describing the mound, discrete would not be one of the adjectives used, however with its platform at a height of 42 m it gives a panoramic view of the entire battlefield.

When Wellington saw it he exclaimed "What have they done, they have ruined my battlefield"

Given that 13000 soldiers were killed on the battlefield and that the vast majority of these were buried in mass graves or burned on funeral pyres, To this day there is no indication of the exact location of these graves, for that reason the field of battle must be considered in itself a memorial.

The fortified farms are also still visible, La Paplotte Wellington's left flank, La Haie Sainte which was only 120 m from Wellington's line and was courageously defended by KGL. And on his right flank the most famous of farms, Hougomont, where the ferocious fighting went on all day, and also the farm of La Belle Alliance which was Napoleon's forward line and where Wellington and Blucher met at the end of the battle.

In 2008 the division of Patrimoine of the region Wallonne entered the sites of the Battlefield and the Panorama for consideration for acceptance as World Heritage sites. Their candidature was accepted by a panel of inspectors. This in itself is evidence of the value and integrity of both sites.

*I would now like to read you the conclusions of the inspectors*

#### **Statements of authenticity and / or integrity**

The site of Waterloo came to us in a very similar state to that which existed in the nineteenth century. The good state of preservation is understandable because of the agricultural use of the site

that was maintained throughout the nineteenth century, this part of the Walloon Region is barely affected by industrialization. The project to save the battlefield from uncontrolled urbanization was born as they approached the centennial celebration, especially to counter land speculation caused by the proximity of Brussels. British public opinion was very sensitive to the risks to the site and significant funds were collected to allow the Belgian government to compensate the owners. After brief debate in Parliament, the Act of 26 March 1914 for the preservation of the battlefield of Waterloo was adopted. This is the first law of heritage protection in Belgium. It is unique in that it relates to a specific site.

The German authorities not having shown the same interest, the protection is limited to the field of Franco-British battle. An expansion process is underway to protect three important areas that will make it easier to understand the events of the day.

After the battle, various memorials were built strengthening the memorial value of the site.

#### Comparison with other similar properties

The battlefield of Waterloo is undoubtedly one of the great symbols of the Napoleonic epic , from 1796 to 1815 marked European history. It is also one of the last authentic witnesses. If the names of Montenotte, Rivoli , Marengo, Ulm, of Austerlitz , Jena , Eylau , Friedland , Wagram , Dresden and Leipzig are etched forever in the history books , it is clear that most of these sites have lost their authenticity. While at Austerlitz, Jena, Marengo, local authorities were keen to protect certain landscapes or historical sites but Waterloo managed to preserve a landscape somewhat similar to that which existed in the nineteenth century. The top of the Butte du Lion, was the vision of what was to be a battleground in the early nineteenth century. In addition, the site is also a member of the European Federation of Napoleonic Cities which is chaired by Prince Charles Napoleon. The Federation aims to value the historical heritage of the Napoleonic era. It is intended to work in conjunction with the Federation to develop trans-national proposals for the best preserved Napoleonic battlefields.

#### Statements of authenticity and / or integrity

The Panorama of the Battle of Waterloo in Braine -l'Alleud offers all the conditions of authenticity and integrity. Since its opening, its activity has never been interrupted. It's painting still preserved in situ and never having been moved or had significant damage it still has a very good state of preservation.

All of its features are in place, only minor and reversible interventions were performed over time ( store change and consolidation platform , maintenance of faux- terrain). The restoration of the rotunda , having been damaged by a slide of earth are being conducted in accordance with the rules on protected heritage.

The panorama is protected under the law of 26 March 1914 on the protection of the Battlefields. Facades, roofs and canvas are classified as monument by Ministerial Decree of 24 February 1998, an expansion process is underway for the classification of the whole building and staging device

#### RENOVATION

cf. the "Status of work" document

# Intercommunale Bataille de Waterloo 1815

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**Renovation of the 1815 battle field**

**Status of work**

**General Assembly – 3 April 2014**

## Introduction :

The Battlefield of Waterloo is a historic landmark and a memorial of the utmost importance in Europe which enjoys an international reputation.

Major cultural and tourist center of Wallonia, the Lion Hamlet is currently undergoing major works. The construction of a memorial and a large parking area near the Ring, the renovation of the *Hôtel du Musée* and associated restaurants, the restoration of both the Panorama and Hougoumont Farm and the implementation of an outstanding scenography all go to form the extensive renovation project which was initiated more than 10 years ago and which is mainly financed by the Walloon Region, which has consecrated almost € 40 million.

The public entities concerned by this project (federal, regional, provincial and municipal) are making every effort to ensure the success of this major project, which has as its focal point, the bicentenary of the battle.

The spirit that prevailed in the development of this vast project was the effecting of renovations/restorations which would give the site, as far as possible, the look it had on the day after the battle.

# 1815 Memorial

Project Architect: C.GOEHLEN - BEAI | Office of Engineering and Industrial Architecture

Start of construction: May 2012 - expected end of work: June 2014

An impressive exhibition and documentation center dedicated to the Battle of Waterloo in 1815 is gradually emerging. A vast underground area of about 6000m<sup>2</sup>, 112 m long and approximately 50m wide with an expected completion in June 2014 in time to accommodate a state of the art scenography.

The company Duchène has been carrying out this work since 9 May, 2012. Impressive machinery was first used to drill for and install some 345 secant piles, followed by earthmoving equipment which moved into action to remove some 48000m<sup>3</sup> of earth, loading no less than 3000 trucks.



Next, side walls were built with a concrete coating before the installation of foundations, the construction of interior walls, support columns and the construction of a storm basin that can accommodate about 200 m<sup>3</sup> of water for supply to the bathrooms on the site.



Today the cranes have been removed giving us a foretaste of the building's future appearance since now it has been covered, the next step is to cover it with topsoil which will restore appearance of the site to that which it had almost 2 years ago, with the exception of the patio offering visitors to the museum and its staff a pleasant and welcome skylight.

The memorial will be heated by geothermal energy via fifty holes which have been drilled to an approximate depth of 150m in order to draw heat or coolness as necessary.

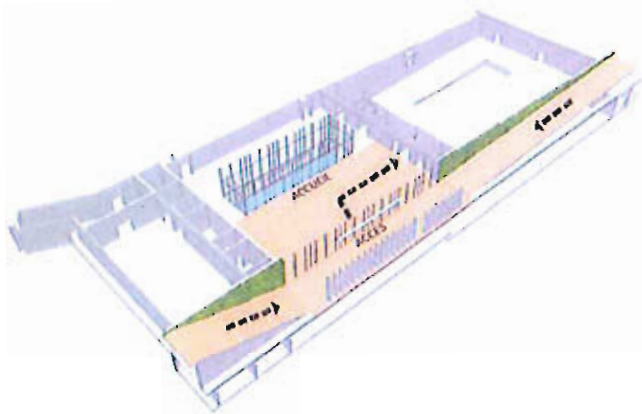
The façade will be covered with a vegetation composed of 11 different plant varieties such as virginia creeper, clematis, climbing hydrangea, honeysuckle, ....

The memorial will be fitted out with more than half of the space given over to a permanent exhibition where the scenography will be installed, as well as a shop, a conference room, a room dedicated to temporary exhibitions and, on the lower floor, offices will be arranged around a large open patio that will provide permanent natural lighting.

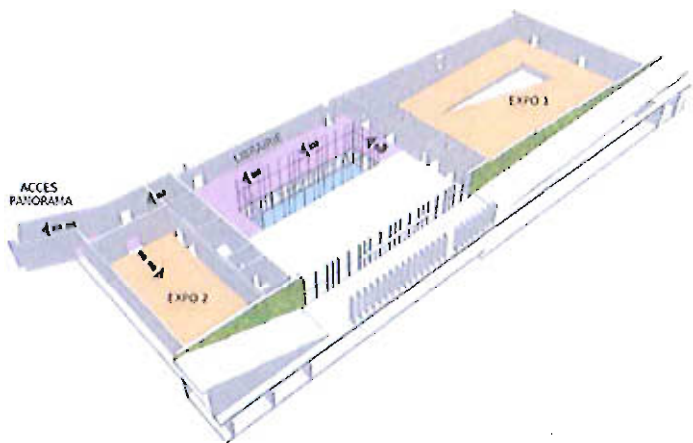
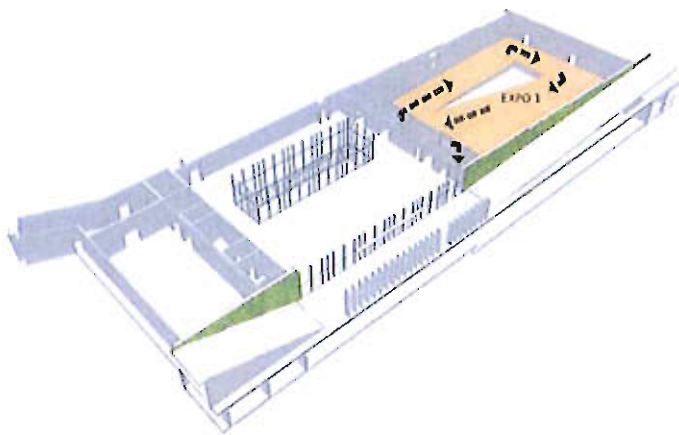


Access will be either via a ramp that will slope down towards the entrance to the memorial – the gradient will not exceed 4.8% in order to provide easy access for disabled people – or via a staircase which will begin beside the Panorama. The Wall of Memory will be installed along the ramp. This will include the names of all the regiments, French and allied, who fought on 18 June, 1815.

The visit will start at the Memorial and continue, via an underground tunnel, with the Panorama, fully restored for the occasion, access the Lion Mound and return to the Memorial.







# The Wall of Memory

Project Architect : C.GOEHLEN - BEAI | Office of Engineering and Industrial Architecture



Beginning and end of work expected: Autumn 2014

The biggest of the monuments raised in memory of soldiers at the Battle of Waterloo will be located along the ramp leading to the Memorial. A series of 24 steel stele, bearing the names of the regiments who fought on 18 June, 1815, will be docked against the wall of the ramp and will face the side for which each of the regiments fought.

All renovations of the site have been studied carefully and carried out with all the historical rigor required for a major, even exceptional, Wallonian heritage listed site. To this end, the Walloon Region has appointed an international scientific support committee consisting of distinguished French, British, German, Dutch and Belgian historians. The names and historical data that will be engraved on the Wall of Memory have been validated by the committee.

The contract is about to be awarded

# Car Parks and access roads

Project Architect : C.GOEHLEN - BEAI | Office of Engineering and Industrial Architecture



Start of construction: May 2012 – end scheduled : Autumn 2014

Started in May 2012, the car park for the Waterloo battlefield is nearing completion. It is approximately 500m long and will accommodate 250 cars, including 10 for disabled persons and 29 buses. Parking for motorcycles and bicycles has also been installed. The surfaces are of tarmac, paving, grass and dolomite.

The work was entrusted to the company Eurovia.

In the summer of 2014, a second phase of work is scheduled with the installation of a very wide footpath and, in the area of the Memorial entrance, a 'quick drop-off' area and parking for 40 cars, 6 parking spaces for handicapped drivers as well as spaces for motorbikes and bicycles.

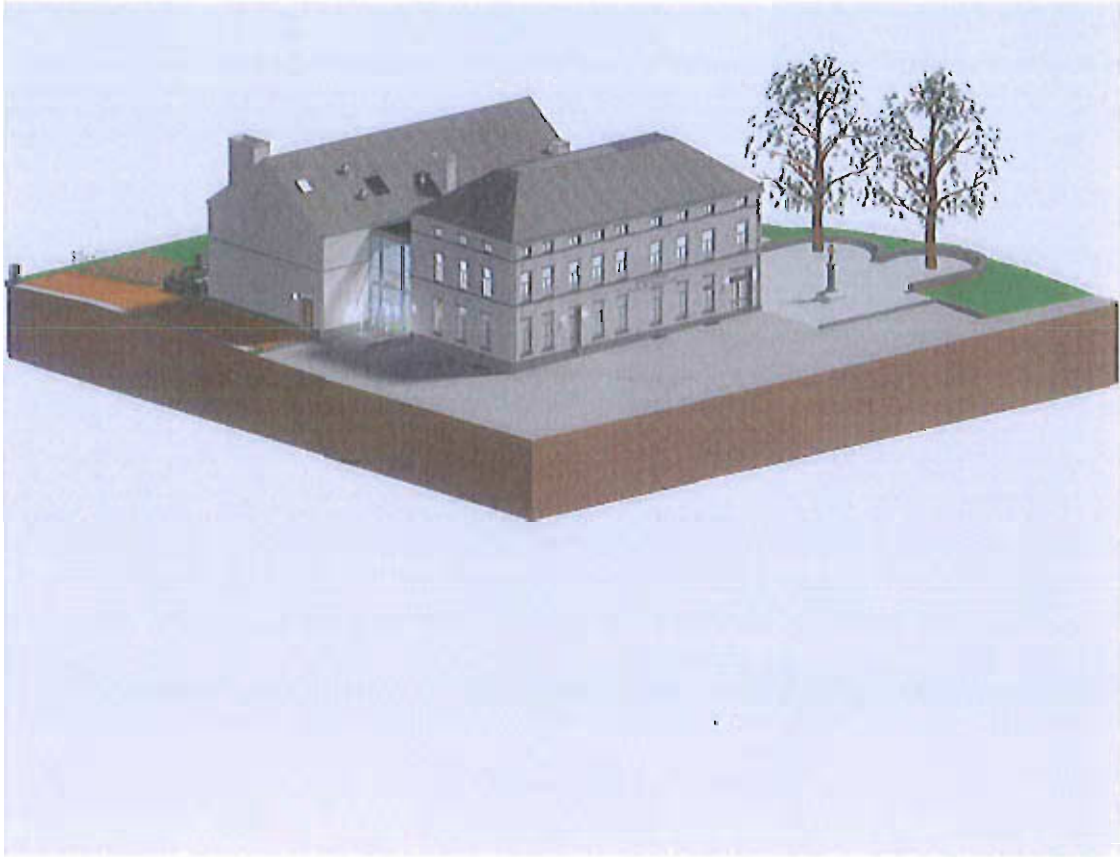
Parking will be operational upon completion of the renovation works at the site.

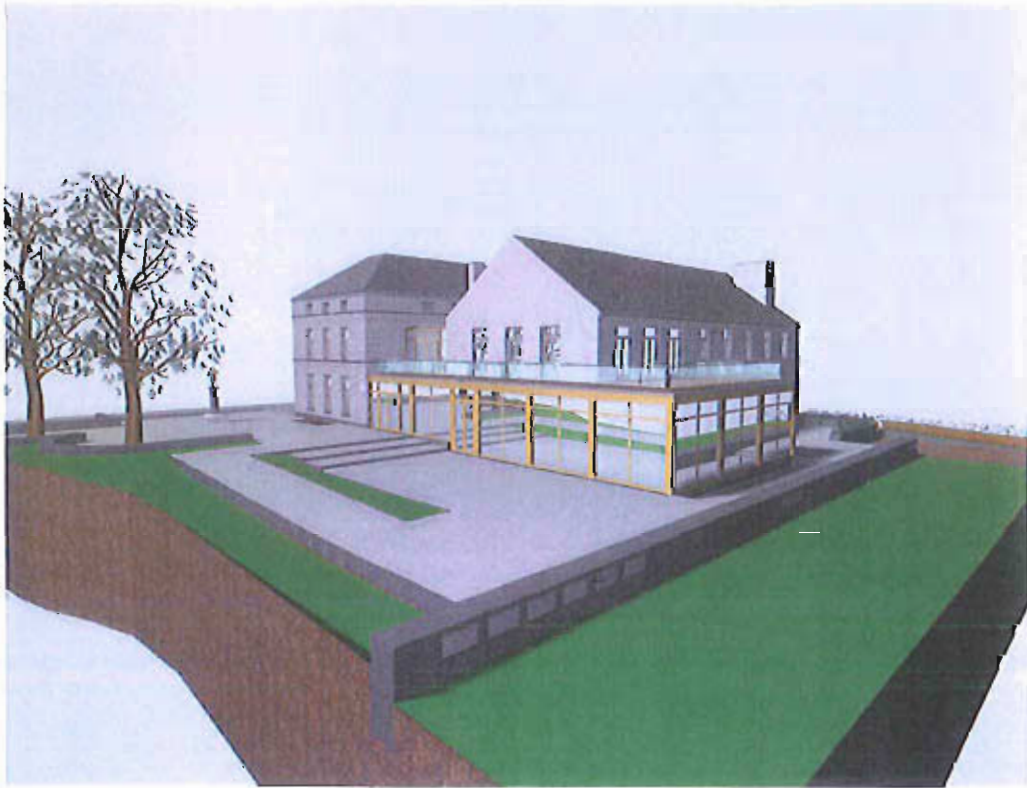
The re-opening of the road to traffic in one direction, Waterloo / Lasne to Braine-l'Alleud, is scheduled for the end of the works in 2015.

# The *Hôtel du Musée*

Project Architect: C.GOEHLEN - BEAI | Office of Engineering and Industrial Architecture

Start of construction: December 2013 – end scheduled: March 2015





The *Hôtel du Musée* has been the subject of a thorough renovation in order to expand it, to consolidate things and install a restaurant "*Le Bivouac de l'Empereur*", which will accommodate 90 visitors; a brewery, "The Wellington Brewery" which will have space for some 138 visitors; two conference and reception rooms for between 50 and 60 people on the first floor and two multipurpose rooms of 200m<sup>2</sup>. Finally in the eaves of the building there will also be a room which will accommodate 60 people.

In order to be able to provide an efficient catering service, the *Hôtel du Musée* will be equipped with a large kitchen in the basement and a rotisserie and a kitchen on the ground floor.

It is planned to restore the restaurant "*Le Bivouac de l'Empereur*" to the appearance and decoration it had before the renovation work. To this end, all of the authentic historical furniture, bluestones, flagstone floors, doors, windows, fireplaces ..., were dismantled and stored before awaiting their re-instatement in the restaurant.

Outside, large terraces will enjoy a clear, beautiful view of the Lion Mound.

The works were entrusted to the consortium Duchêne- Delens and began on 2 December 2013.

Currently, site clearance has been completed as have the major earthworks and the creation of the floor of the basement of the new building. The dismantling and cleaning of the old building is underway.

# The Memorial - Panorama Link

Project Architect : DDGM - associated architects

Start of work : February 2014: - End scheduled: end of 2014

This is the fifth work site operational on the 1815 Battlefield coming after the 1815 Memorial, the car park beside The Ring, the *Hôtel du Musée* and Hougomont Farm. Its aim is to facilitate the visitor's route by linking the Memorial and the Panorama.



The beginning of the tunnel at the start of the Memorial is already visible but it is the development of the Panorama, classified as major Wallonia heritage, where the works will be most substantial.



The end of the tunnel will lead into a double staircase that will rise to the ground floor of the Panorama. The staircase will be decorated over its entire length with drawings that were used to paint the canvas of the Panorama.

A concierge will also be installed in the annex building which runs along the *Chemin des vertes Bornes*.



Following a procurement process, the works were entrusted to the company DBL .

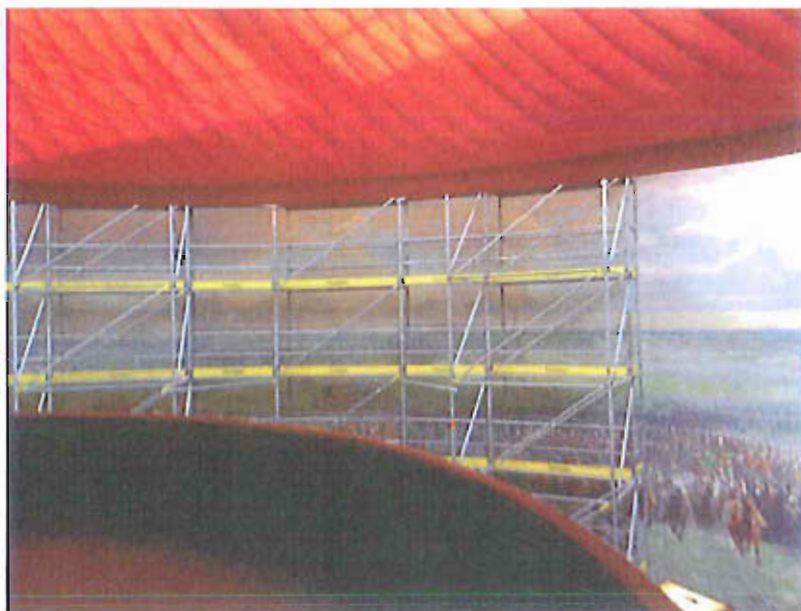
They should be completed in September 2014.



## The Panorama - restoration of the canvas.

Project Architect : DDGM - associated architects

Start of work: March 2014 – end scheduled: August 2014



After the exterior restoration and replacement of the awning of the Panorama, the *Intercommunale* will now proceed with the restoration of the canvas and subsequently its peripheral decor.

Subsequent to a due procurement procedure, the Board of Directors of the *Intercommunale Bataille de Waterloo, 1815* retained the consortium Isabelle Happart - Agnes Esquirol.

Currently, scaffolding has been installed in order to accommodate the 6 restorers who will work together at any one time. Their job is to clean and restore the canvas which is 110 m long and 12 m high and was painted by Louis Dumoulin in 1912.

Meanwhile, the painted figures placed in the foreground of the Panorama have been packed away to be transported to a workshop where they will be cleaned and restored.

# Hougoumont Farm

Project Architect : DDGM - associated architects

Start of work: September 2013 – end scheduled: June 2015



Of all the monuments on the battlefield, it is without doubt the most iconic and best preserved with respect to the appearance it had in the aftermath of the battle. Generally described as the last authentic witness to the Battle of Waterloo, Hougoumont Farm, also known as Goumont Farm, is the subject of extensive restoration - conservation not only partly funded by the Walloon Region but also by private funds raised by two Hougoumont Committees, one Belgian the other British, and by the British Government.

The crucial role played by the farm was decisive for the outcome of the battle. The Duke of Wellington was also alleged to have said that "the success of the battle turned upon the closing of the gates at Hougoumont».

An exhibition will be installed at the site referring to the key moments of the battle. The aim of this project is to create a place for reflection and reconciliation and contributing to the education of future generations.

The main building, called The Gardener's House, will be converted into two apartments. One, located on the ground floor will serve as housing for a caretaker, while the second, upstairs, will be developed into a cottage offering two bedrooms.



Restoration work began on 23 September 2013. Following a call for tenders, the contract was awarded to the company Bajart SA of Floreffe, a company well known in the field of heritage restoration.

After extensive preparative and cleanup work, the company proceeded with careful removal of all elements to be restored before their storage awaiting reassembly. The barn buildings were also consolidated by means of a series of micro piles.

Currently, the roofs are nearing completion, carpentry and masonry works are underway. The completion of the structural work and closing of the main buildings is scheduled for June 2014.

The end of the work is scheduled for June 2015.

Nathalie du Parc Locmaria

April 2014