

# World Heritage Volunteers

## Silex and the City

### *Neolithic Flint Mines at Spiennes (Mons)*

- ◆ Spienne (Mons)  
Wallonie, Belgium
- ◆ Cultural property inscribed  
on the WH list since 2000

15/08/2016 - 02/09/2016

The Neolithic flint mines at Spiennes, covering more than 100 hectares, are the largest and earliest concentration of ancient mines in Europe. They are also remarkable for the diversity of technological solutions used for extraction and for the fact that they are directly linked to a settlement of the same period. The men who started to dig mines in Spiennes, some 6,000 years ago, are among the oldest miners in the world. They had just discovered a profuse deposit of quality, which was to be exploited for more than 1800 years.



**Project objectives:** The project aims at raising awareness among volunteers and local population about UNESCO's values through the Neolithic Mines of Spiennes and allowing volunteers to take part in the scientific study of the site as well as its improvement.

**Project activities:** The project will consist in several missions - archaeological excavations in the mines, post-excavation operations in the research laboratory, restoration of the site and awareness-raising activities. The volunteers will participate in all stages of the ongoing excavations as well as in the processing of the artefacts and will prepare, together with the hosts, several conferences and workshops for the local population.

**Partners:** Société de Recherche préhistorique en Hainaut; Service Public de Wallonie; City of Mons; Hainaut Province