

n°19 The Ardoisière Saint-Martin, known as Trou Cadet.

The founding deed for this slate mine, dated 27 July 1889, was signed by *Hippolyte Rofidal-Pêcheux* and the owner of the woodland, Widow *Catoir-Gihoul*.

A total of 19 hectares of land was granted, and 3 areas set aside for buildings and waste storage, spread out over the hillside. The main plot on the banks of the Morhon stream is 0.0924 hectares, the intermediate plot is 0.04 hectares and the upper plot is 0.024 hectares.

Of the 3 underground entrances, only two are still accessible.

To access this completely isolated, woodland slate mine site, a path had to be created, running alongside the stream on the right bank, leading to the area around the *Saint-Pierre* slate mine (point 20). From there, a ford in the stream provided a link with the local road.

This path was built in response to the need to transport equipment and cut slate.

However, in order to provide more direct access to *Haybes*, and to avoid taking the longer path along the right bank of the stream, a small brick and slate bridge was built over the stream, joining the stone path above, where the road now stands. As for the forest track you're following, it didn't exist originally and replaced a narrow path running alongside the stream on the left bank.

As with other small slate mines in *Haybes*, it is not known when work at the mine came to a stop, but, given the absence of any archived documents, the most plausible hypothesis is that the site closed around 1905.

However, one question remains unanswered. Was this slate mine started completely from scratch in 1889 or was it taken over from an earlier operation? After all, «empirical» slate deposit surveys had already taken place between 1840 and 1847 on this right bank of the stream.



ardoisière St-Martin ou Trou Cadet. One of the entries
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Saint-Martin ou trou Cadet Access to a gallery
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ardoisière St-Martin ou Trou Cadet. Retaining walls
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Warning: access to the mining galleries is dangerous!