

# n°3 The Saint-Luc slate mines

A few hundred metres from the entrance to the Trou du Diable car park, higher up on the western flank of *Chestion* hill, you will come across two slate mines: *Notre-Dame* and *Saint-Théodore*. These two underground quarries were part of the Belgian extensions of the *Société Ardoisière de Saint-Luc* in Fumay.

We know that these two mines were already active in the last quarter of the XIX<sup>th</sup> century, as the managing director of the slate mine sent a letter to the village council in February 1898, seeking permission to install a boiler and steam engine at *Notre-Dame*. Another letter, dated February 1902, states that the mine had been abandoned a month earlier, in January. Today, all that remains of the *Notre-Dame* slate mine, marked *Saint-Luc* on the IGN map, is the collapsed roof of the access gallery and a large slag heap of purple slate, veined with green, along *Chestion* stream.

Proof that the *Saint-Théodore* slate mine was up and running at the time can be found in two notes concerning the steam pump and winch installed there. The barrel-vaulted entrance to the inclined gallery, which is still well preserved, is partly carved out of the rock and partly made of shale rubble and brick. There is no information about when mining was actually halted.



*Collapsed entrance of the Notre-Dame slate mine*



*Entrance of the Saint-Théodore slate mine*



*Slate mine descent at Saint-Théodore*