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Wood heating mode in the Pays de Bitche: between identity and resource

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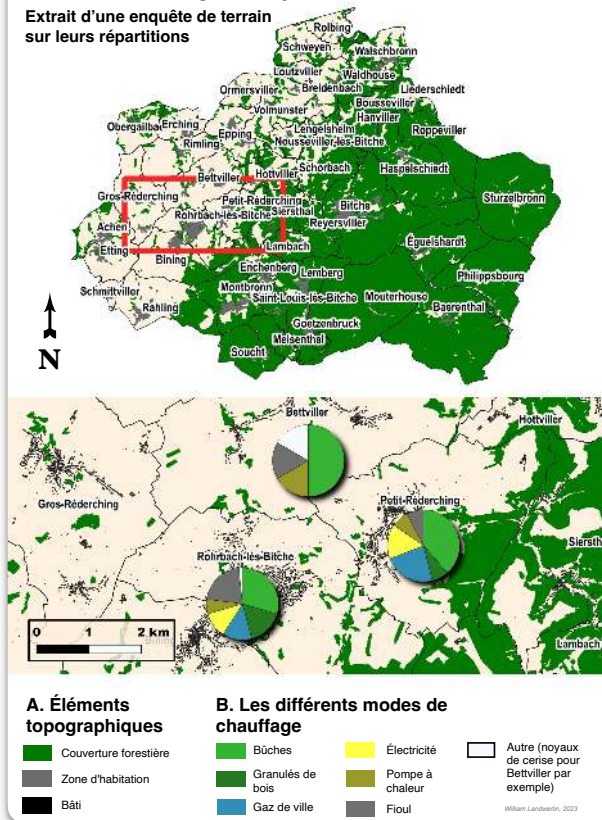


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Modes de chauffage au Pays de Bitche

Extrait d'une enquête de terrain sur leurs répartitions



A territory characterized by its forest

This map was designed to point out two physical aspects of the Pays de Bitche (PdB) :

- Its forest occupies a large amount of the territory
- The forest occupies mostly the eastern part of the territory also called « covered land », in contrast of the « uncovered land » at the west

Furthermore, this map is an extract from an on-going study, that deals with the repartition of the heating modes in the PdB. Its forest plays a major role in the using of wood heating mode.

Wood : a tangle of symbols and beliefs

« Wood is reassuring, it's like a « livret bleu », we have wood for 10 years, we can sleep peacefully » according to an interlocutor

- Wood is considered as **safe** by its stock
- **Belief in wood** : it is a ritualized object, through the repeatability of its stocking
- **Cheap** : it knows a renewed interest with today's increasing energy prices
- **A political object** : it responds to a strong desire for **autonomy** by producing their own wood, in private or public forests (Photo 2)
- **Cultural heritage** : wood has a high identity value (Photo 1 « Swedish oak » in Reyersviller, which was used to hang people in the XVIIth century)



Wood : a social object

- **Intergenerational attachment** : it enlightens the reproduction of parents/grandparents's practices
- **Wood creates social ties**: it requires organization and a concrete social encounter, that involves the user with one or more groups (family, friends, neighbors)

