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SOME METHODS USED IN THE QUATERNARY MAPPING OF THE AREA VILVOORDE-ZEMST

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ABSTRACT.

The area of Vilvoorde-Zemst is situated south of Malines and north of Brussels. Based on sedimentological-climatological units the investigation area belongs mostly to the transitional area, which coincides for its greater part with the sandloam region of Belgium, and it belongs partly in the south to the loess area, where aeolian sedimentation was the dominant process of the Last Glacial Period.

The geological mapping of the area was based on the collection of several different data.

In the first place the archives of the Geological Survey of Belgium were gathered, because they already show the general distribution of the Quaternary deposits and consequently give an idea of the existing lithostratigraphic sequences of the area.

A series of undisturbed borings provided new and complementary data. With this type of borings the deposits remain undisturbed so that all the lithologic aspects could be studied in detail.

Special attention was paid to sedimentary structures as they are essential in reconstructing the palaeo-environments and whereby a better limitation of the lithostratigraphic units is obtained.

Although the borings provide very much information, they impose certain restrictions.

On the one hand only a width of ten centimeter is perceptible with the result that the position and the bounding planes of certain beds are not visible. On the other hand a boring remains a isolated spot in the field, and many information about the continuity and the general trend of different structures, layers is not shown.

Therefore existing outcrops were studied in detail as indeed they show an integer unit of layers, both vertical and horizontal.

As final phase in the systematic mapping handborings are carried out to limit the different lithostratigraphic units, and geoelectrical soundings are used to border the gravel and sand deposits.

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