

**THE 1:250000 SOLID GEOLOGY MAP
OF THE OSTEND SECTOR (51°-52°N; 2°-4°E)
OF THE NORTH SEA**

**M. DE BATIST¹, J.P. HENRIET^{1 2}, F. MOSTAERT^{1 3}, P.S. BALSON⁴,
C. LABAN⁵, P.J. FRANTSSEN⁵ & N. PARKER⁵**

The British Geological Survey, the Rijks Geologische Dienst and the Belgische Geologische Dienst - the latter in close cooperation with RCMG at the University of Gent - have jointly compiled a 1:250000 pre-Quaternary ("solid") geological map of the Ostend sector of the southern North Sea between 51° and 52° N and 2° and 4°E.

This Solid Geology map is presented along with 2 type sections and 4 additional maps: a map of the geophysical traverses, a map of the Permian and Mesozoic tectonic units, a sub-Mesozoic geological map and a map of the depth to the base of the Quaternary. All information is based on a dense geophysical grid covering the entire offshore area and on a number of - usually shallow - offshore samples in essentially the Dutch and UK sectors.

The map face entirely consists of Paleogene and Neogene deposits, gently dipping to the NE. In large parts of the French, Belgian and UK offshore sectors these sequences are exposed at the seabed, or only concealed by a thin Quaternary cover. These offshore Paleogene and Neogene sequences, as well as the Cretaceous deposits, have been correlated with French, Belgian, Dutch and UK onshore litho- and chronostratigraphy. Structural contours of the top of the Chalk Group and of the Paleozoic basement ("London/Brabant Massif") are linked to the Dutch and Belgian onshore data as well.

¹ Renard Centre of Marine Geology, State University of Gent, Krijgslaan 281 S8, 9000 Gent, Belgium

² Present address: Département des Géosciences Marines, IFREMER Centre de Brest, BP 70, 29280 Plouzané, France

³ Present address: Ministry of the Flemish Community, Bureau of Natural Resources and Energy, Markiesstraat 1, 1000 Brussel, Belgium.

⁴ British Geological Survey, Marine Geology Research Group, Keyworth, Nottinghamshire NG12 5GG, United Kingdom

⁵ Rijks Geologische Dienst, Postbus 157, 2000 AD Haarlem, The Netherlands