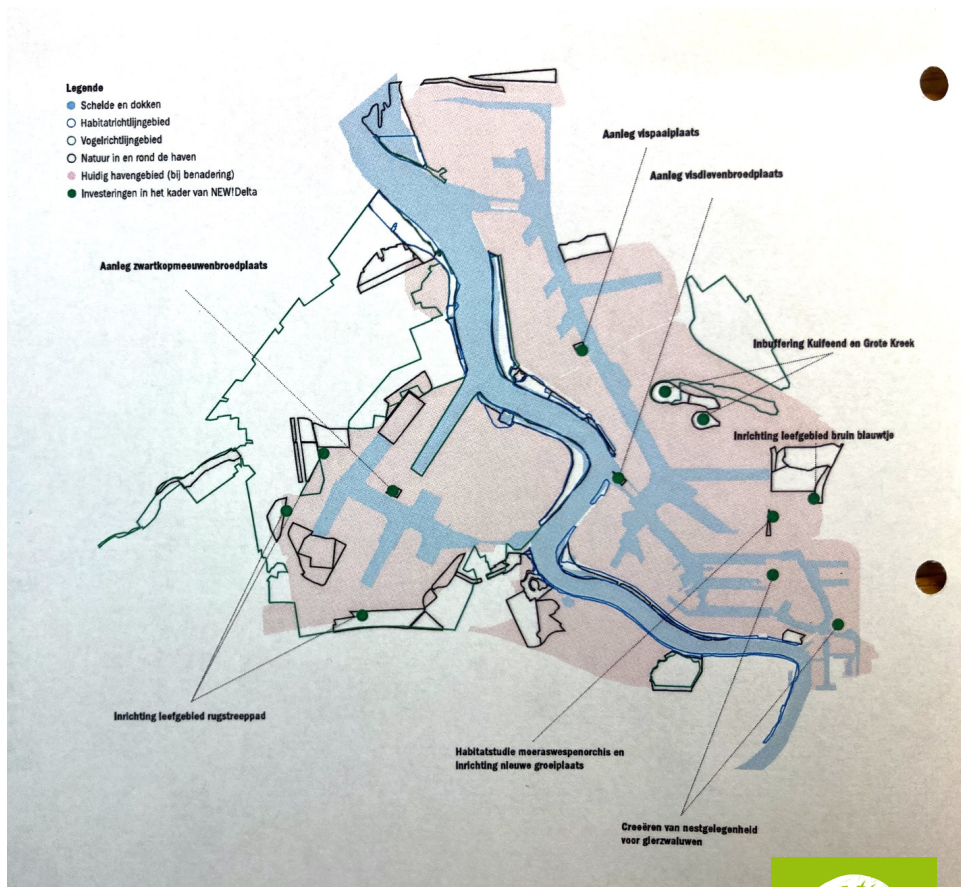


On the emergence of an eco- industrial pact at the port of Antwerp

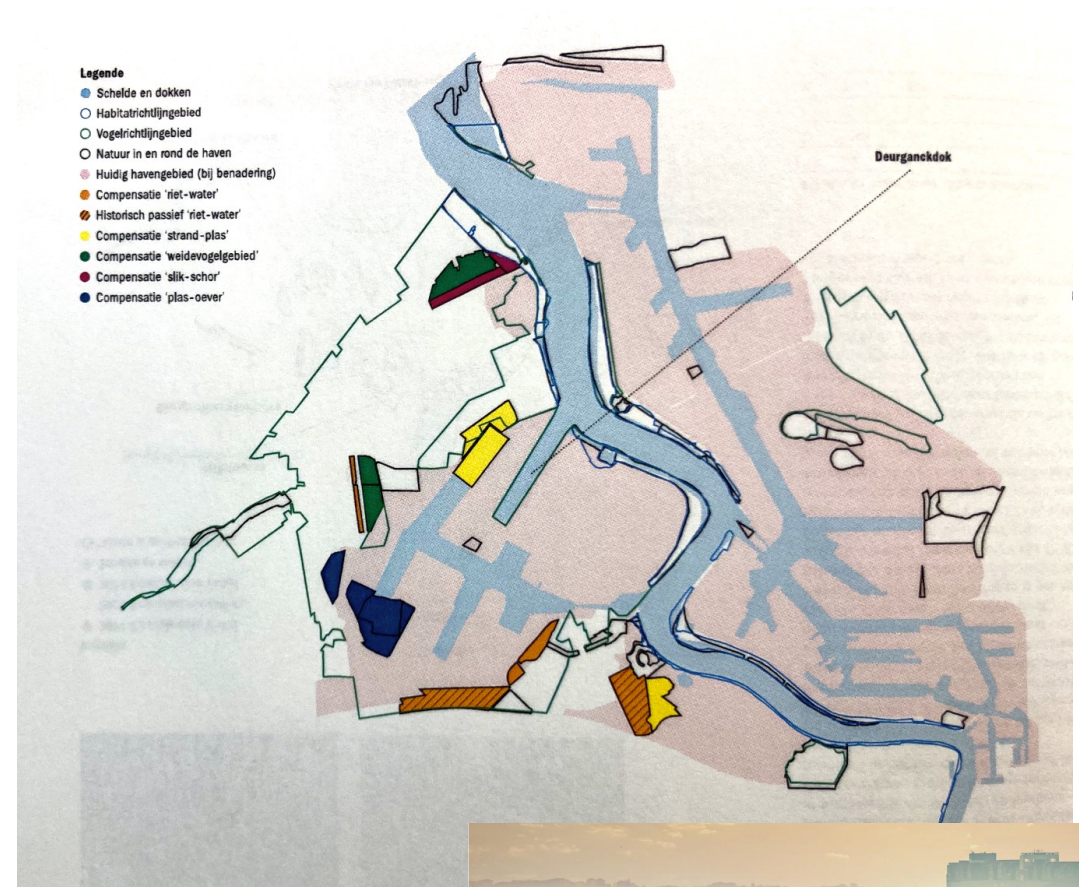


City and Planet: A
Conversation
between Urban
Political Ecologists
and Global Urban
Historians

Workshop organised
by the Urban
Studies Institute at
the University of
Antwerp July 4th,
2025



Infrastructure écologique
du port d'Anvers (archive:
SAA 2451#85)



Terres de compensation
du port d'Anvers (archive:
SAA 2451#85)





Graafmachines laten opnieuw water in de polders stromen. Arie Kievit © Arie Kievit

REPORTAGE ONTPOLDERING

+ Hedwigepolder loopt onder water: 'Ze hadden beter Scheldewater schoner gemaakt'

De Nederlandse Hedwigepolder en de Belgische Prosperpolder lopen vanaf deze week onder water. De ontpoldering werd jarenlang verhinderd, maar 'ze wilden niet luisteren, het water moest en zou erin komen'.

Victor De Roo

27 oktober 2022 om 05:25

[Delen](#)

Hedwigepolder en Prosperpolder



Dépoldérisation accords 2005

A



The Promises of the New Wetlands

Benedikte Zitouni

LYING IN THE middle of Antwerp's shipping delta, these wetlands (see fig. A) face the gigantic North Sea Container Terminal and the world's second largest BASF production site, both of which lie across the river and can be seen on the horizon. In contrast, they seem quiet and inoffensive, detached from the surrounding industrial activity. But make no mistake, many stories lie buried within. The wetlands are unusual in that they have been newly created as part of an ecological restoration scheme. People who were evicted see in this picture a rather desolate place of irreversible loss and grief, whereas ornithologists and naturalists see it as flourishing nature.

Sketching the portrait of these wetlands will

what structural changes are reshaping the land in the name of a greener future.

Take One: A Tale of Recovery and Compensation

THE TALE OF the new wetlands is one of redemption: in 2005, the Flemish Government agreed to return marshes to a delta that has lost so many of them in the last decades in the interests of the economy. The diked river needs more breathing space; nature must again be developed on the banks to promote a more natural interplay of shallow and deep waters. It's a tale of am-

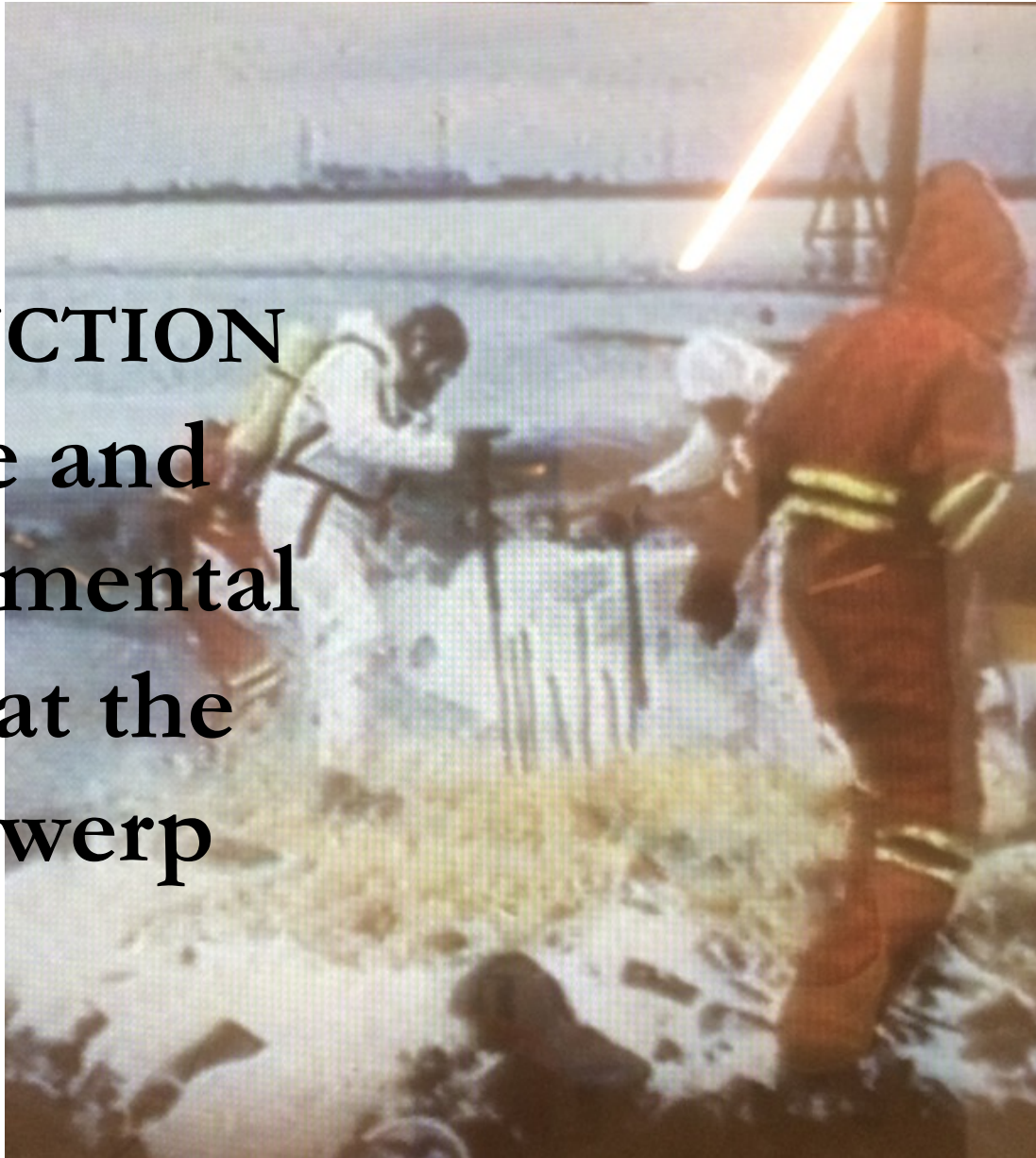
- 1 For further information on the cross-border park Groot Saeftinghe, the extension of which is funded by the EU's Interreg Europe program, visit <https://www.keep.eu/project/18295/grenspark-groot-saeftinghe>.
- 2 For further information visit <https://www.sigmaplan.be/uploads/2017/08/170817-sigmabrochure-2017-en-lr.pdf>.
- 3 The Farmers Syndicate played an important role in dwarfing the Natural Protection Plans during the 1990s, lobbying for the reduction of the 353,000 hectares of protected nature claimed by the environmentalists to 153,000 hectares finally provisioned for the "Flemish Ecological Network" in 1997 (see the contextual notices produced by the AMSAB-ISG Institute of Social History in Ghent on the basis of data and negotiations reported by the main environmental institutions).

government and industry have understood that resilience must be built into the coastline. The wetlands are hailed by the Port of Antwerp as one of its main ecological infrastructures and they are participating in the Flemish Sigma Plan for water security² that consists of many more projects for re-inundating river banks and building hydrological resilience, all over Flanders.

It's as if the wetlands hold a promise, of a new kind of governance, of professionals, and planners who, in acknowledging the usefulness of the marshes and restoring them, have finally shed their cloak of past hubris. They could well signal a turning point for the environmentalists, a victory at last, were it not for the fact that the



OF DESTRUCTION
New nature and
the environmental
movement at the
port of Antwerp

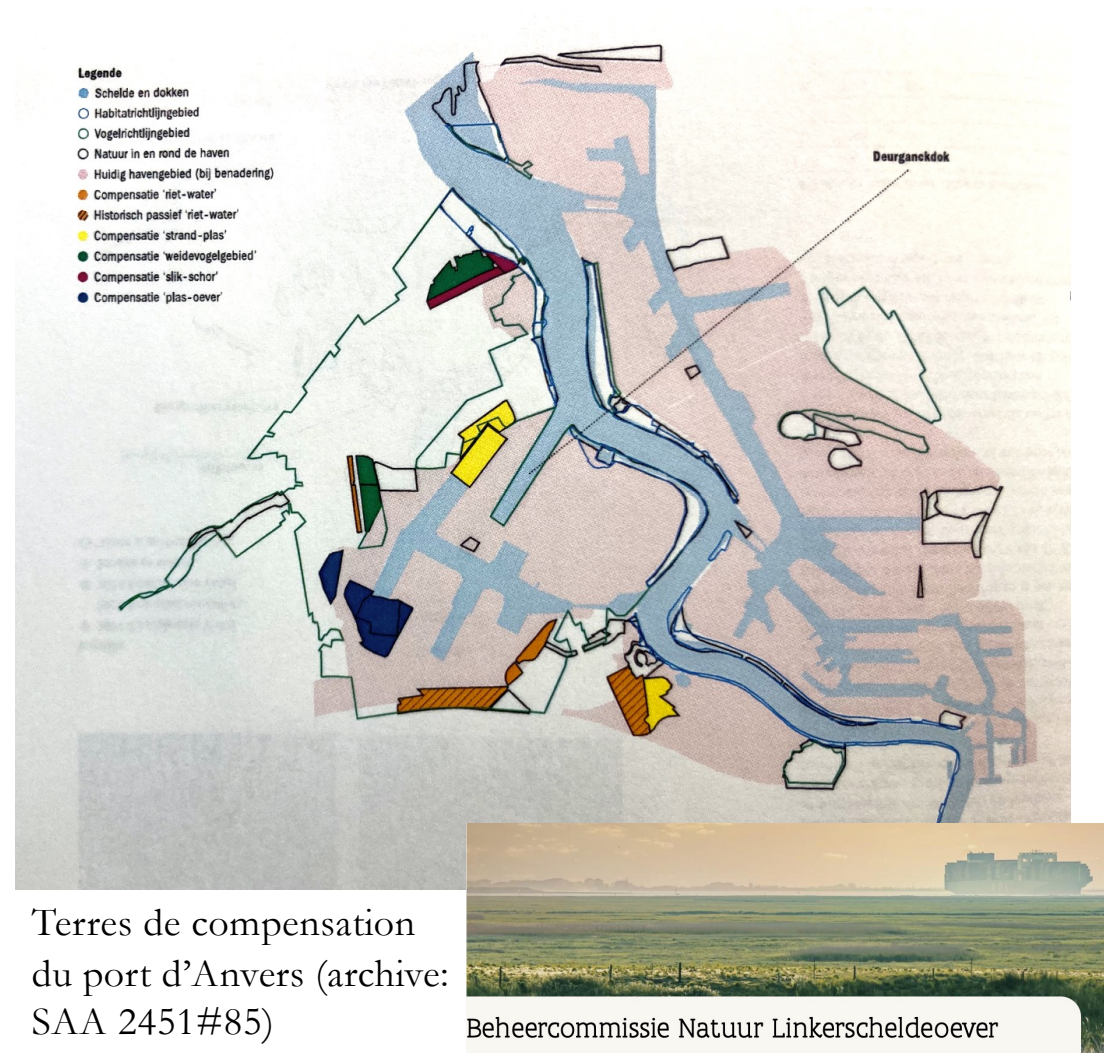


City and Planet: A
Conversation
between Urban
Political Ecologists
and Global Urban
Historians

Workshop organised
by the Urban
Studies Institute at
the University of
Antwerp July 4th,
2025

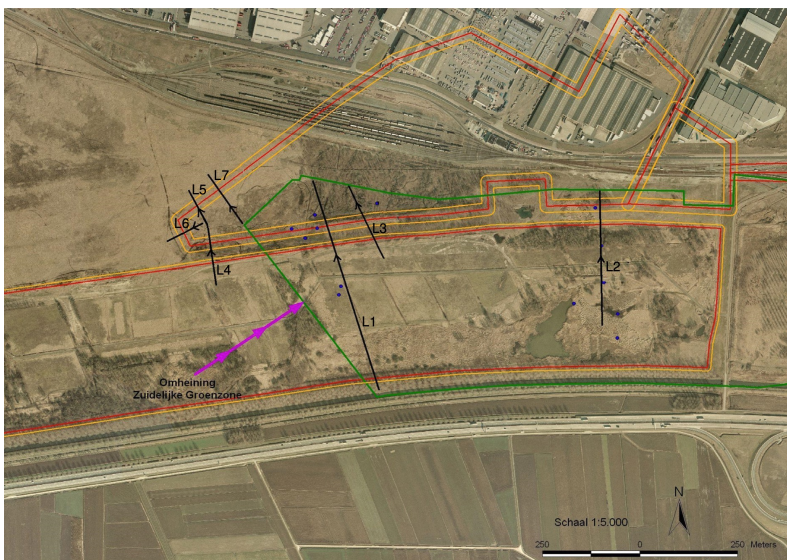


Infrastructure écologique
du port d'Anvers (archive:
SAA 2451#85)

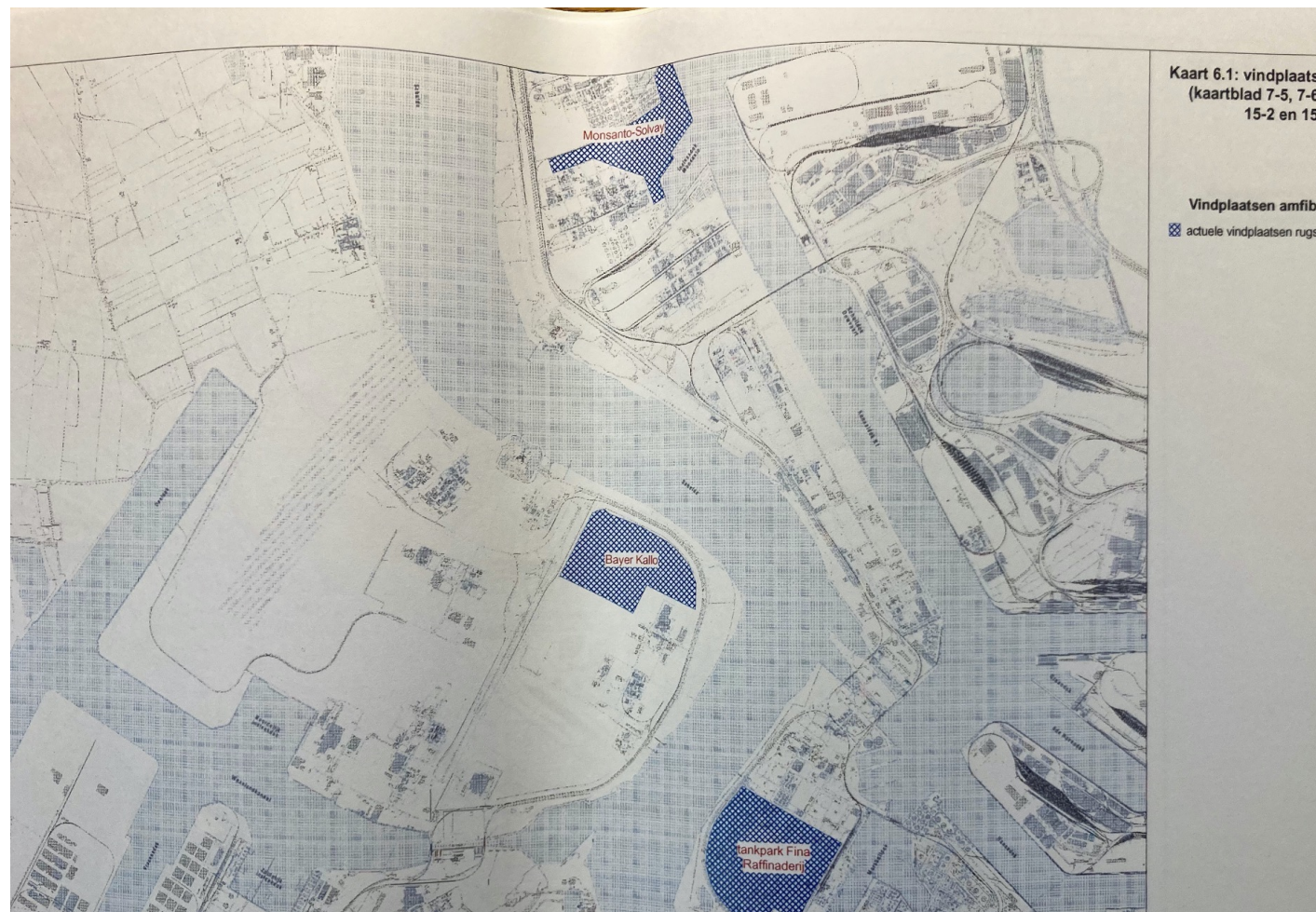


Terres de compensation
du port d'Anvers (archive:
SAA 2451#85)





Haasop 2010 profilage electromagnétique
(rapport en ligne)



Recensement en vue de la création de l'infrastructure écologique
(archive: SAA 2452#238)



Graafmachines laten opnieuw water in de polders stromen. Arie Kievit © Arie Kievit

REPORTAGE ONTPOLDERING

+ Hedwigepolder loopt onder hadden beter Scheldewater so gemaakt'

De Nederlandse Hedwigepolder en de Belgische vanaf deze week onder water. De ontpoldering w verhindert, maar 'ze wilden niet luisteren, het w komen'.

Victor De Roo

27 oktober 2022 om 05:25



Het is niet zeker of de koelen en schapen na de winter nog terugkeren naar het Verdrongen Land van Saeftinghe, wegens de hoge concentraties PFAS in hun bloed. © Gert Jochems

LEEFMILIEU

+ Buffels afgemaakt en veebedrijven geblokkeerd door PFAS-vervuiling: "Triest wat we met onze natuur hebben gedaan"

Rondom het Verdrongen Land van Saeftinghe zijn de gevolgen van PFAS-vervuiling bijzonder concreet. Vijf veebedrijven zijn er al maanden geblokkeerd. "Het is triest wat we met onze natuur hebben gedaan."

Jef Poppelmonde

11 februari 2025 om 03:00

< Delen

Hedwigepolder en Prosperpolder



Dépoldérisation accords 2005

**THANK YOU &
LET'S TALK!**