

BELGIUM



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General

Belgium - officially the Kingdom of Belgium - is bordered by France, the Netherlands, Germany and Luxembourg. The country has an area of 3.05 Mha (million hectares) with in 2020 a population of 11.6 million, or 3.80 persons per ha (Wikipedia and United Nations, 2019).

Climate and geography

The climate is maritime temperate with significant precipitation in all seasons like most of Northwest Europe. The average temperature is lowest in January at 3 °C and highest in July at 18 °C. The average precipitation per month varies between 54 mm for February and April, to 78 mm for July.

Belgium has three main geographical regions; the coastal plain in the Northwest and the Central Plateau both belong to the Anglo-Belgian Basin, and the Ardennes uplands in the Southeast to the Hercynian Orogenic Belt. The Paris Basin reaches a small fourth area at Belgium's southernmost tip, Belgian Lorraine. The coastal plain consists mainly of sand dunes and polders. Further inland lies a smooth, slowly rising landscape irrigated by numerous waterways, with fertile valleys and the north-eastern sandy plain of the Campine (*Kempen*). The thickly forested hills and plateaus of the Ardennes are more rugged and rocky with caves and small gorges.

Dendooven and Lippens (1968) describe that since the 2nd century BC there have been three important periods of flooding: Duinkerke I, II and III. During these periods the peat lands were covered with clay and sand. The Duinkerke II period took place in the 4th century. They state that since then small-scale endiking took place. Duinkerke III occurred between the 10th and 12th century. This flooding is divided in two phases. In the 10th century there has been the Duinkerke III A-transgression, which created the Zwin. To prevent expansion of the flooded area the Blankenbergse dike was constructed, running from Brugge to Blankenberge. Later a second dike was constructed from St.-Pieter-op-de-dijk to Uitkerke. In the 11th and 12th century the Duinkerke III B-transgression took place.

Drainage has been undertaken since the 12th century. Drains of various order collected the water and discharged it to the main outlet drains, which discharged during low tide through sluices into the North Sea. This has resulted in a surface level upto 5 m below high tide level (Group Polder Development, 1982).

In the Master plan for Antwerp is foreseen that the quay wall along the river Scheldt to protect Antwerp from flooding will be raised with 0.90 m. The middle part will be made movable.

In Lillo near Antwerp there is a polder museum. Tolhuisstraat 10 – 16, 2040 Antwerpen – Lillo. Tel.: +32 485 614832. E-mail: boekingenpoldermuseum@gmail.com

In Knokke-Heist there is the museum Sincfala. Pannenstraat 138, 8300 Knokke-Heist. Tel.: +32 50 530730 E-mail: sincfala@knokke-heist.be.

Existing polders

Dendooven and Lippens (1968) describe that in the flooded area of the Zwin from the 13th till the 19th century several polders have been constructed. They mention in the course of the 13th century: St-Jospolder, Greveningepolder and Vardenaarspolder, They also show a map on the situation with respect to polders in the Zwin area in 1667 (Figure 1).

The Group Polder Development (1982) describes that between Antwerp and Ghent river polders exist in the tidal reach of the rivers, especially opposite Antwerp on the western bank of the Scheldt. They also show a map with the polders in Belgium (Figure 2). The total area is 306,117 ha.

Ameryckx (1959) describes the origine of the seapolders in Belgium. In his publication there are three maps where these polders are shown, being the polders of Ostende (Figure 3), polders and dikes northeast of Brugge (Figure 4) and polders and dikes in the IJzer estuary (Figure 5). Ook noemt hij vele namen van polders.

Wikipedia mentions several polders. In addition there is a list with 122 polders in Belgium. All

the names have been included in Tables I.

Nijhuis *et al.* (in preparation) includes a paper on the polder De Moeren (Moëres) (1160 ha).



Figure 1. Polders in the Zwin area in 1667 (Dendooven and Lippens, 1968)

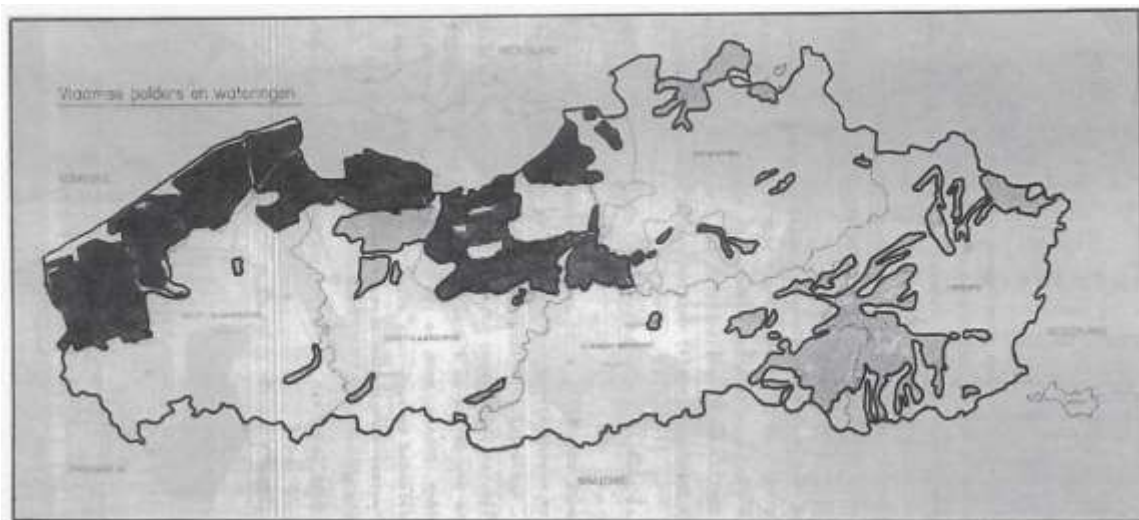


Figure 2. Polders in Belgium (Group Polder development, 1982)

Several Regional Water Authorities and Provinces show on their website maps with the polders in their territory. The following maps have been found: polders in the Middenkustpolder (Figure 6), polders in the Province Oost-Vlaanderen (Figure 7) and polders in the Zwin area (Figures 8 and 9).

General characteristics of the polders in Belgium are shown in Table I.

Proposed polders

No proposed polders have been identified.

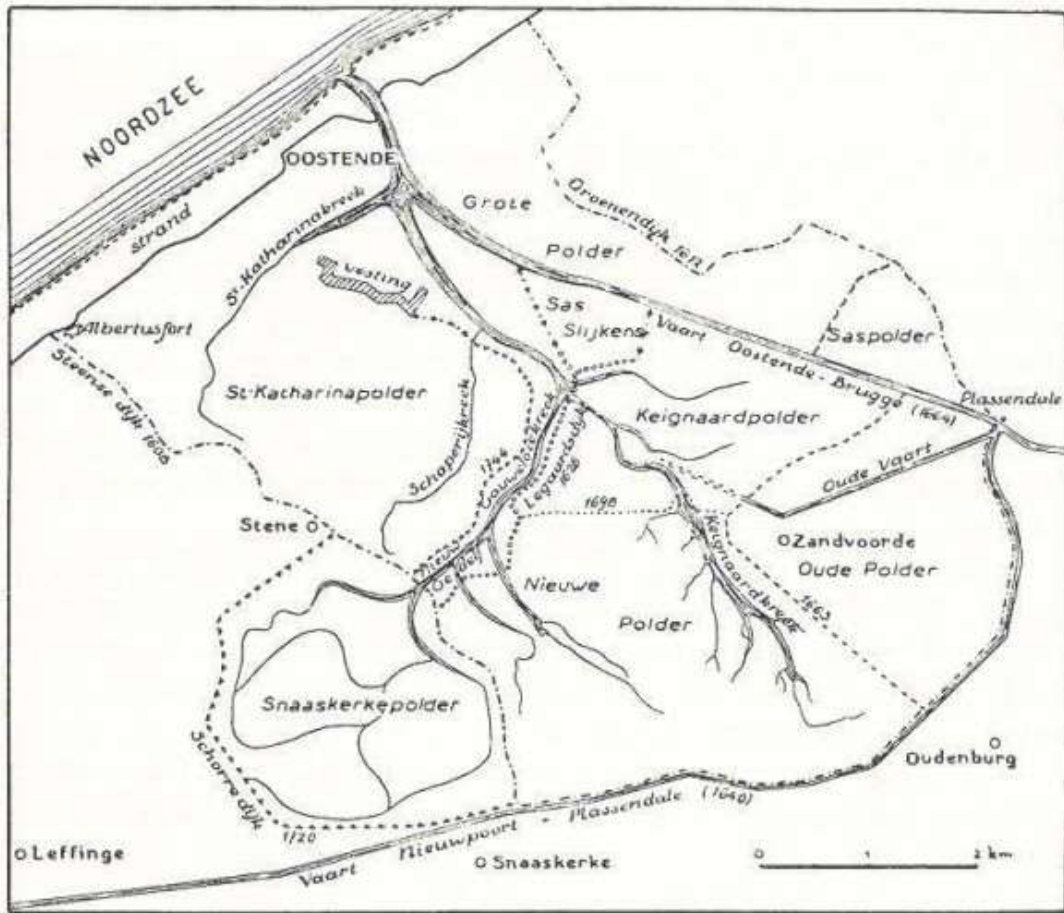


Figure 3. The polders of Ostende (Ameryckx, 1959)

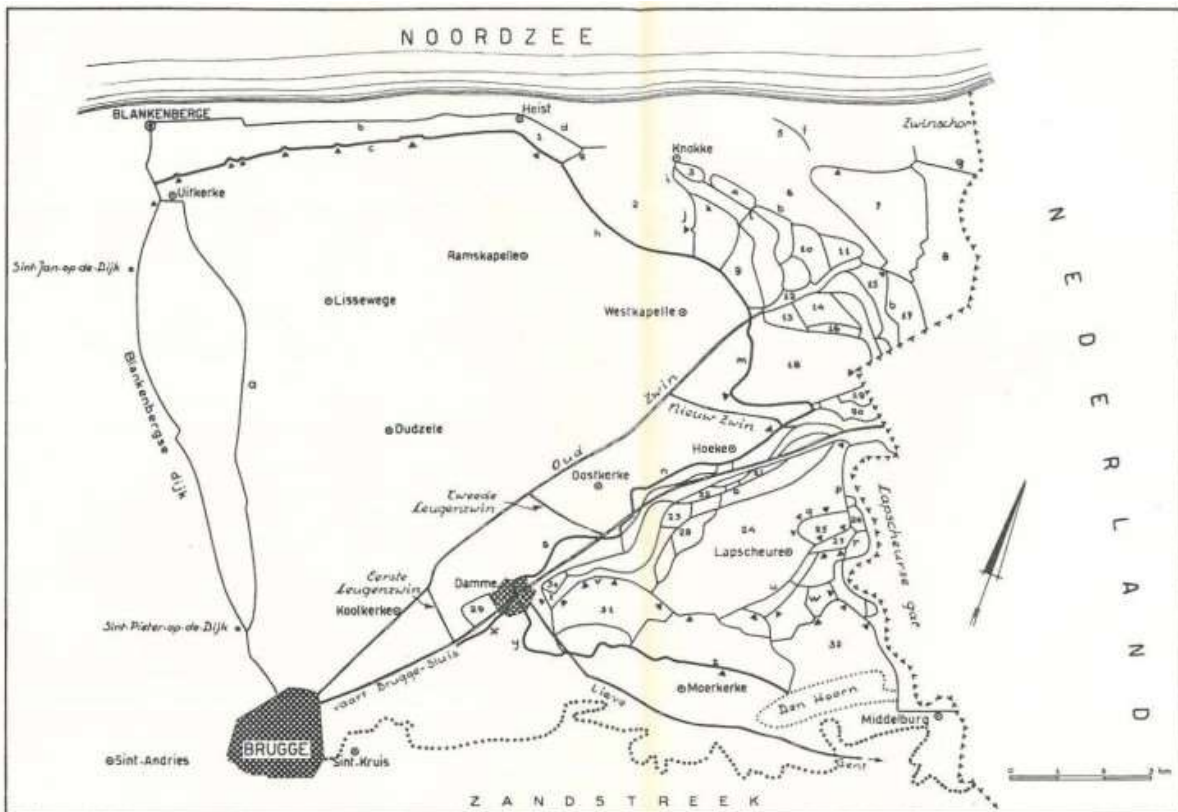


Figure 4. Polders and dikes northeast of Brugge (Ameryckx, 1959)

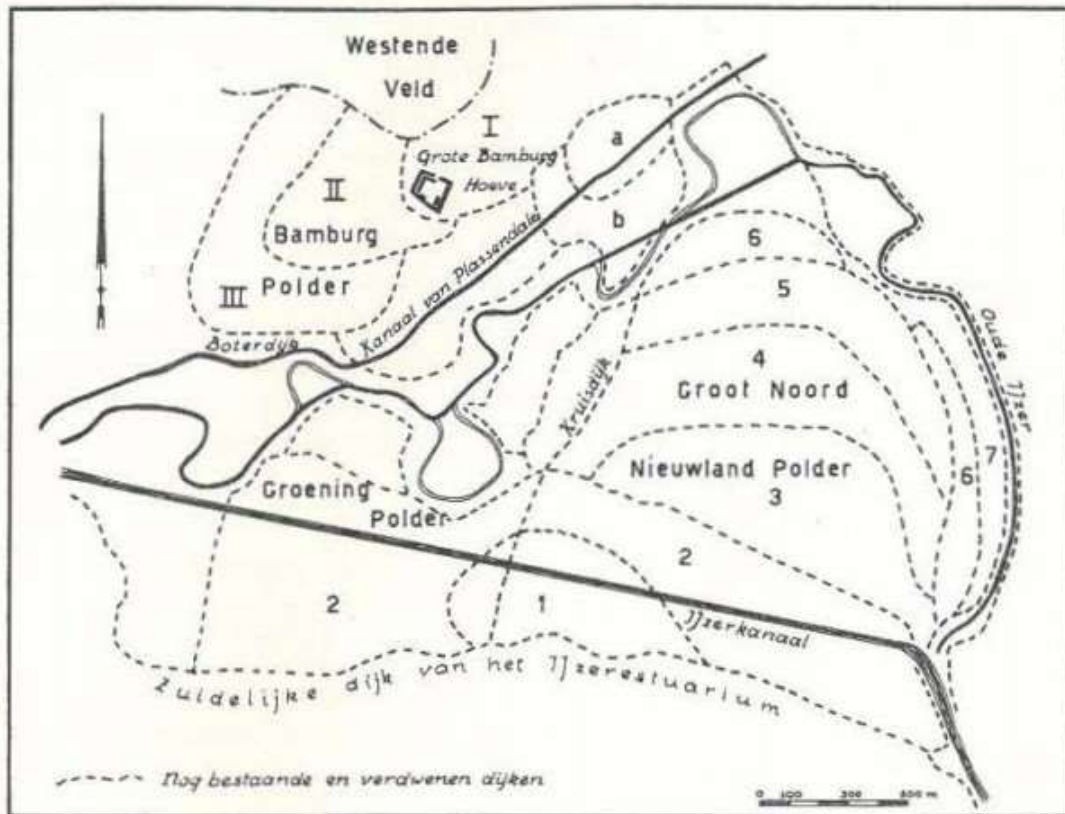


Figure 5. Polders and dikes in the IJzer estuary (Ameryckx, 1959)

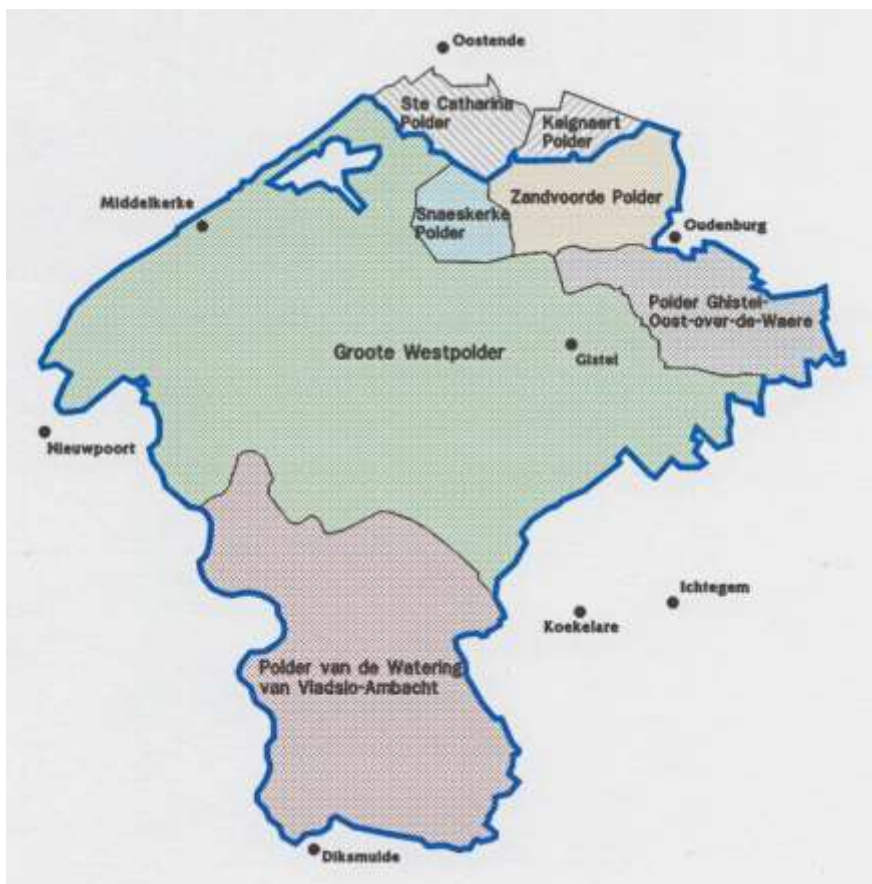


Figure 6. Polders in the area of the Middenkustpolder (source: Middenkustpolder)

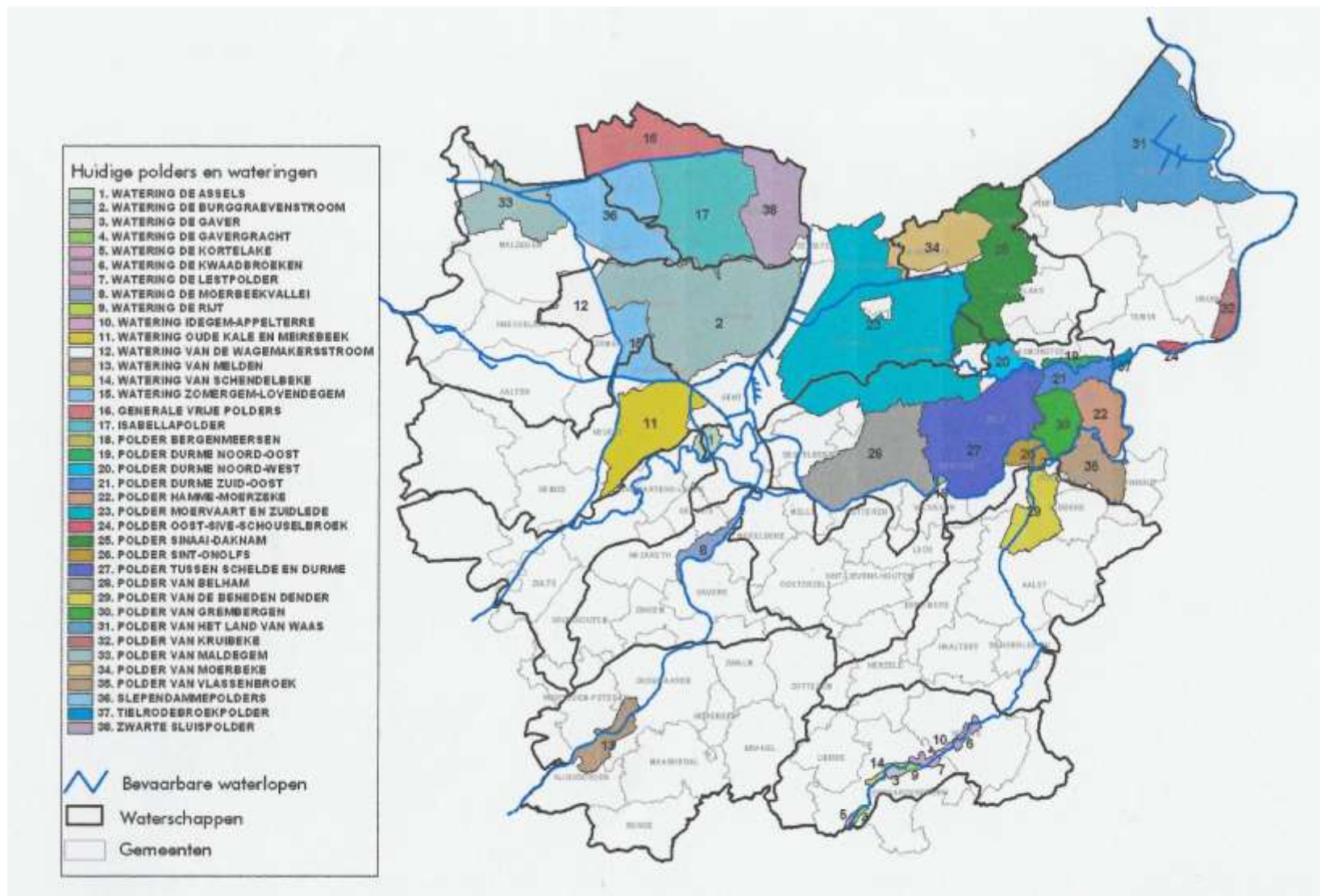


Figure 7. Polders in the Province Oost-Vlaanderen (source: Province Oost-Vlaanderen)

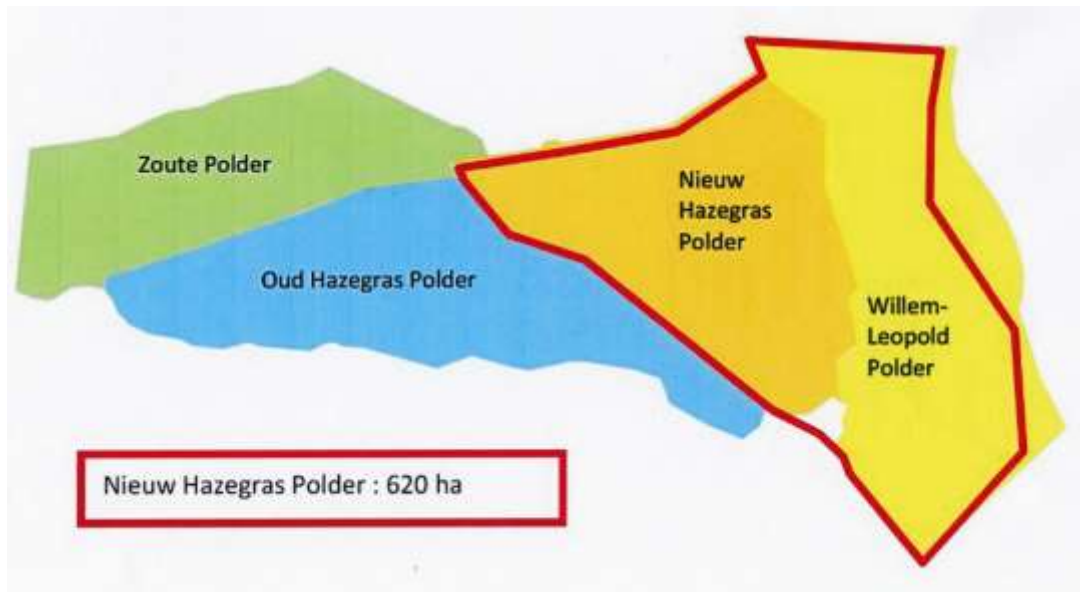


Figure 8. Polders in the area of the Nieuw Hazegras Polder (source: Wikipedia)

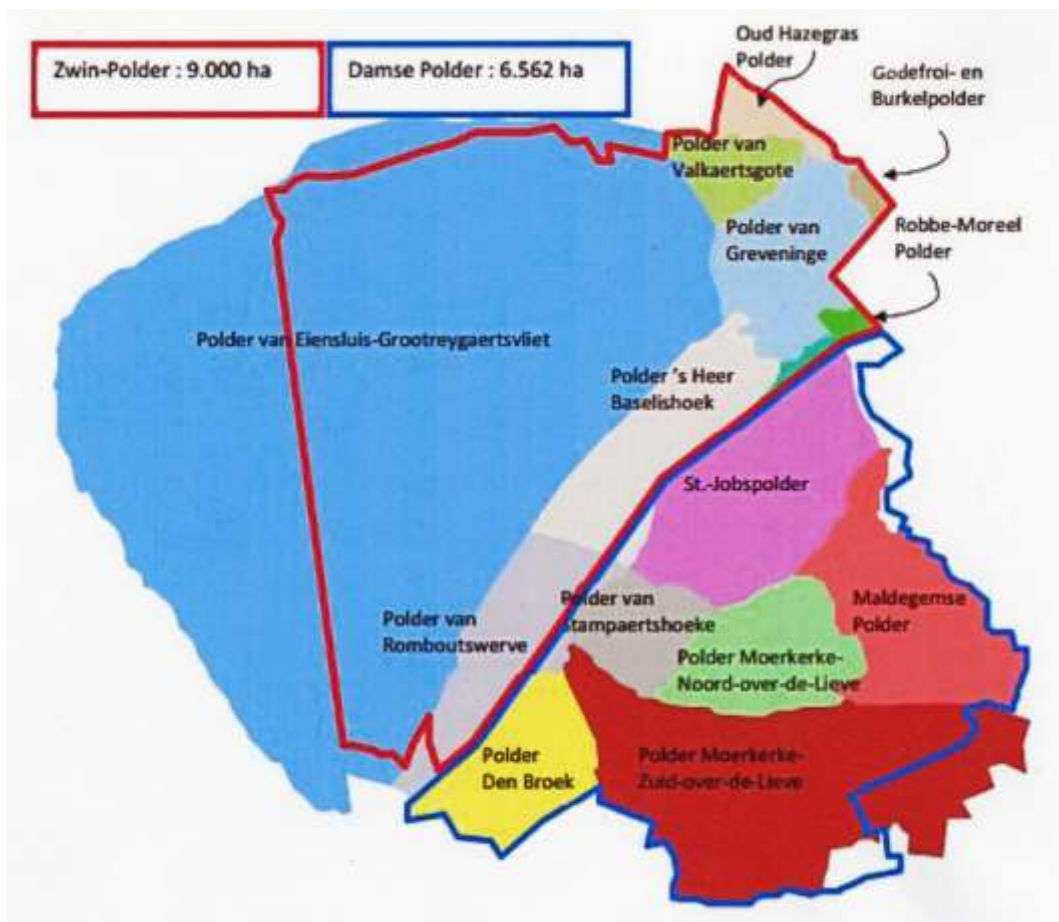


Figure 9. Polders in the Zwin area (source: Wikipedia)

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Table I. General characteristics of existing polders in Belgium

Name	Reclamation	Area in ha	Type *)	Latitudes	Longitudes	Elevation in m+MSL	Land use
Polder van Greveninge	1170	740	LGS	51° 20' N	3° 21' E	1	Agriculture
Polder van 177 Gemet	Approx 1200		LGS	51° 19' N	3° 21' E	0	Agriculture
Polder van 94 Gemet	Approx 1250		LGS	51° 20' N	3° 22' E	1	Agriculture
Butspolder	1255-1259		LGS	51° 20' N	3° 21' E	2	Agriculture
Vagevierspolder	1280	132	LGS	51° 20' N	3° 20' E	0	Agriculture
Maneschijnpolder	1282 and 1407	26	LGS	51° 20' N	3° 22' E	1	Agriculture
Oudemaerspolder	1288		LGS	51° 19' N	3° 11' E	1	Agriculture
Sint-Jobspolder	13 th century		RLL	51° 18' N	3° 22' E	1	Agriculture
Vardenaarspolder	13 th century		RLL	51° 20' N	3° 16' E	2	Multiple land use
Zoute Pannepolder	Before 1323		LGS	51° 19' N	3° 22' E	1	Agriculture
Robbe-Moreel Polder	Before 1375	60	LGS	51° 19' N	3° 23' E	1	Agriculture
Polder Lem	1390		LGS	51° 19' N	3° 21' E	2	Agriculture
Kallo Polder	1432		RLL	51° 15' N	4° 17' E	-2	Multiple land use
Kerkwatering van Oostkerke	Before 1459		LGS	51° 16' N	3° 18' E	1	Agriculture
Sint-Christoffelpolder	1499	522	RLL	51° 16' N	3° 38' E	2	Agriculture
Sint-Annaspolder	1505	134	LGS	51° 17' N	3° 38' E	2	Agriculture
Sint-Barbarapolder	1508	264	LGS	51° 17' N	3° 40' E	2	Agriculture
Polder Ghistel-Oost-over-de-Waere	1540	1647	LGS	51° 10' N	3° 1' E	2	Rural area
Doelpolder	1597	677	RLL	51° 20' N	4° 16' E	1	Agriculture, nuclear plant
Riede Polder	1600		LGS	51° 14' N	3° 49' E	2	Agriculture
De Moeren	1626	1160	DL	51° 01' N	2° 33' E	-0,33 to 2,67	Agriculture
Oud Hazegraspolder	1627		LGS	51° 20' N	3° 20' E	3	Agriculture and recreation
Sint Catharinapolder	1627-1744	493	RLL	51° 13' N	2° 56' E	-4	Urban and agriculture
Isabellapolder	1649	6985	RLL	51° 16' N	3° 40' E	2	Agriculture
Oude Karnemelkpolder	1652	28	RLL	51° 13' N	3° 59' E	4	Urban
Amelis Polder	Before 1665		LGS	51° 15' N	3° 18' E	2	Agriculture
Groote, of Oude Sint-Albert Polder	1664	480	LGS	51° 15' N	3° 48' E	1	Agriculture
Nieuwe Polder van Zandvoorde	1664-1700		RLL	51° 12' N	2° 58' E	-4	Agriculture
Spermaliepolder	1681		LGS	51° 17' N	3° 22' E	1	Agriculture
Oud Arenbergpolder	1688	393	RLL	51° 17' N	4° 12' E	4	Agriculture
Lippenspolder	1698	42	LGS	51° 20' N	3° 22' E	2	Agriculture
Brandkreekpolder	1711	200	RLL	51° 17' N	3° 32' E	2	Agriculture
Gouverneurspolder	1716	47	LGS	51° 19' N	3° 23' E	1	Agriculture

Beukels Godefroy Polder	1718		RLL	51° 17' N	3° 23' E	1	Agriculture
Snaaskerkepolder	1721-1803		RLL	51° 11' N	2° 56' E	-4	Agriculture
Kraeyenspolder	1747	43	RLL	51° 18' N	3° 22' E	1	Agriculture
Kabeljauwpolder	1768	163	RLL	51° 22' N	4° 19' E	1	Agriculture
Nieuw Arenbergpolder	1783	648	RLL	51° 17' N	4° 10' E	2	Urban and agriculture
Nieuw Hazegras Polder	1784	620	LGS	51° 20' N	3° 21' E	2	Agriculture
Nieuwe Arenbergpolder	1784	648	LGS	51° 18' N	4° 13' E	1	Agriculture
Zoute Polder	1786		RLL	51° 21' N	3° 18' E	4	Recreation
Polder van Vlassenbroek	Before 1796	2022	LGS	51° 3' N	4° 8' E	2	Rural area
Polder Oost-Sive Schoeselbroek	1851	150	LGS	51° 7' N	4° 15' E	1	Forest
Prosperpolder	1857	1051	RLL	51° 19' N	4° 12' E	1	Agriculture
Zwin-Polder	1864	235	LGS				
Willem-Leopold Polder	1873	496	RLL	51° 20' N	3° 23' E	1	Agriculture
Polder van Willebroek ten Oostzijde	1892		RLL	51° 03' N	4° 22' E	0	Rural area
Baespolder			LGS	51° 19' N	3° 21' E	1	Agriculture
Bakkers Polder			RLL	51° 13' N	3° 46' E	0	Agriculture
Basel Broek Polder			RLL	51° 09' N	4° 19' E	2	Agriculture
Berendrecht polder			RLL	51° 21' N	4° 17' E	4	Industry
Beverenspolder			RLL	51° 14' N	4° 15' E	7	Agriculture
Binnen Polder			RLL	51° 07' N	4° 12' E	1	Agriculture
Blokdijkpolder			RLL	51° 13' N	4° 21' E	3	Multiple land use
Brixuspolder		15	LGS	51° 19' N	3° 22' E	1	Agriculture
Burkelpolder			LGS	51° 20' N	3° 22' E	2	Agriculture
Carbosadepolder			LGS	51° 20' N	3° 22' E	1	Agriculture
Caudronspolder			LGS	50° 20' N	5° 22' E	183	Agriculture
Cruybeke Broek Polder			RLL	51° 10' N	4° 19' E	1	Nature and recreation
De Graspolder			RLL	51° 11' N	4° 20' E	-4	Urban
De Plaat			RLL	51° 20' N	3° 23' E	1	Agriculture
Eikenbroekpolder			RLL	51° 06' N	4° 19' E	0	Multiple land use
Generale Vrije Polders		4185	LGS	51° 17' N	3° 33' E	3	Agriculture
Gheerolfspolder			LGS	51° 20' N	3° 16' E		In the Zwin area
Godefroy Beukelspolder			RLL	51° 20' N	3° 22' E	1	Agriculture
Godefroi- en Burkelpolder			RLL	51° 20' N	3° 22' E	2	Agriculture
Gouweloze Polder			RLL	51° 12' N	2° 57' E	2	Multiple land use
Groot Noord Nieuwland Polder			RLL	51° 07' N	2° 47' E	3	Agriculture
Grote Polder			RLL	51° 13' N	2° 57' E	4	Urban
Grote West-Polder		11,963	RLL	51° 06' N	2° 57' E	4	Rural area

Helle Polder			RLL	51° 15' N	3° 39' E	2	Agriculture
Hingene Broekpolder			RLL	51° 07' N	4° 16' E	1	Forest
Hobokenpolder			RLL	51° 11' N	4° 21' E	2	Urban and nature
Hooge Helft Polder			LGS	51° 15' N	4° 22' E	1	Harbour area
Jeronimus Oudlandpolder			RLL	51° 17' N	3° 36' E	1	Agriculture
Kapel Polder			RLL	51° 15' N	3° 44' E	0	Agriculture
Keygnaert Polder		338	RLL	51° 12' N	2° 59' E	-3	Multiple land use
Keuvelpolder			LGS	51° 20' N	3° 19' E	2	Agriculture
Kielse Polder			RLL	51° 12' N	4° 23' E	5	Urban
Klein Broekpolder			RLL	51° 06' N	4° 20' E	3	Urban
Kleine Buiten Schorre			LGS	51° 22' N	4° 16' E	4	Industry
Kleine Doelse Polder			LGS	51° 18' N	4° 15' E	-3	Industry
Kleine Reigaarsvlietpolder			LGS	51° 19' N	3° 21' E	2	Agriculture
Koning Kieldrecht polder			RLL	51° 16' N	4° 10' E	0	Agriculture
Koppelaarspolder			LGS	51° 16' N	3° 18' E	1	Agriculture
Krankeloonpolder			LGS	51° 15' N	4° 19' E	1	Industry
Kristoffelpolder			LGS	51° 16' N	3° 39' E	1	Agriculture
Laureinepolder			LGS	51° 17' N	3° 22' E	1	Agriculture
Luciepolder			LGS				
Magere Schorre			LGS	51° 20' N	3° 18' E	3	Recreation
Manselinspolder			LGS				
Maria Polder			LGS	51° 14' N	3° 46' E	2	Agriculture
Marquettepolder			LGS	51° 16' N	3° 22' E	2	Agriculture
Melselepolder			RLL	51° 23' N	4° 32' E	19	Agriculture
Merksempolder			LGS	51° 15' N	4° 26' E	3	Urban
Monnikenpolder		274	LGS	51° 19' N	3° 19' E	2	Agriculture
Naillenbroekpolder			LGS				
Nieuw Haantjesgatpolder			LGS	51° 16' N	3° 32' E	1	Agriculture
Nieuw Westland Polder			LGS	51° 22' N	4° 16' E	4	Industry
Nieuwe Polder van Blankenbergen		20,723	LGS	51° 14' N	3° 06' E	0	Agriculture
Nieuw-Noordlandpolder			LGS	51° 22' N	4° 18' E	3	Industry
Onze Lieve Vrouwpolder			LGS	51° 16' N	3° 20' E	2	Agriculture
Oorderense Polder			LGS	51° 17' N	4° 21' E	4	Industry
Oosterweelpolder			LGS	51° 15' N	4° 22' E	2	Industry
Oud-Noordlandpolder			LGS	51° 22' N	4° 20' E	4	Agriculture
Oude Broekpolder			LGS	51° 07' N	4° 17' E	3	Agriculture
Oude Polder van Zandvoorde			RLL	51° 12' N	3° 00' E	-3	Multiple land use

Oude Sint Anna Polder			LGS	51° 17' N	4° 16' E	1	Industry
Pannepolder			LGS				
Papenpolder		90	LGS	51° 16' N	3° 24' E	1	Agriculture
Pennemans Polder			LGS	51° 14' N	3° 46' E	1	Agriculture
Polder Bergenmeersen		41	LGS	51° 1' N	3° 58' E	2	Nature
Polder Bethoostersche Broeken			LGS	51° 2' N	2° 55' E	2	Agriculture
Polder de Calloo			RLL	51° 15' N	4° 15' E	1	Multiple land use
Polder de Koebeemden			RLL	51° 04' N	4° 28' E	6	Rural area
Polder d'Eeckeren			RLL	51° 16' N	4° 25' E	3	Multiple land use
Polder Den Broek			LGS	51° 14' N	3° 15' E	4	Agriculture
Polder Durme Noord-Oost		303	RLL	51° 6' N	4° 09' E	2	Nature
Polder Durme Noordwest		839	RLL	51° 6' N	4° 07' E	3	Nature
Polder Durme Zuidoost		1120	RLL	51° 5' N	4° 09' E	2	Urban
Polder Grembergen		1687	LGS	51° 4' N	4° 6' E	1	Rural area
Polde Hamme-Moerzeke		1857	RLL	51° 5' N	4° 10' E	3	Rural area
Polder Keetenisse		30	RLL	51° 17' N	4° 18' E	1	Harbour area
Polder Moerkerke-Noord-over-de-Lieve			LGS	51° 17' N	3° 21' E	1	Agriculture
Polder Moerkerke-Zuid-over-de-Lieve			LGS	51° 16' N	3° 21' E	1	Agriculture
Polder Moervaart Zuidlede		17,346	RLL	51° 9' N	3° 53' E	3	Rural area
Polder Mostaardpot en Fermerijbeemden			LGS	51° 5' N	4° 29' E	2	Multiple land use
Polder Niel-Wullebeek-Schelle			LGS	51° 7' N	4° 20' E	2	Multiple land use
Polder Noordwating Veurne			LGS	51° 4' N	2° 38' E	6	Agriculture
Polder Notre-Dame			LGS	51° 16' N	3° 20' E	2	Agriculture
Polder Oude en Nieuwe Schorren			LGS				
Polder Scheldeschorren-Noord			LGS	51° 6' N	4° 13' E	1	Multiple land use
Polder 's Heer Baselishoek			LGS	51° 18' N	3° 20' E	2	Agriculture
Polder Sinaai-Daknam		5892	RLL	51° 8' N	4° 59' E	4	Rural area
Polder Sint Onolfs		747	LGS	51° 3' N	4° 5' E	0	Rural area
Polder St. Trudoledeken		1822	LGS	51° 11' N	3° 14' E	3	Multiple land use
Polder tussen beide Zwinnen			LGS	51° 22' N	3° 22' E	2	Nature
Polder tussen Schelde en Durme		7072	LGS	51° 6' N	4° 8' E	4	Rural area
Polder van Battenbroek			LGS	51° 4' N	4° 27' E	0	Rural area
Polder van Belham		5739	LGS	51° 2' N	4° 27' E	2	Rural area
Polder van Blankenberge		20,723	LGS	51° 14' N	3° 7' E	1	Rural area
Polder van Bornem			LGS	51° 6' N	4° 13' E	1	Multiple land use
Polder van Boudin van Assebroek			LGS	51° 16' N	3° 23' E	2	Agriculture
Polder van de Beneden Dender		2176	LGS	51° 3' N	4° 4' E	1	Agriculture

Polder van Eyensluis-Grootreygaertsvliet			LGS	51° 20' N	3° 17' E	2	Urban
Polder van Ettenhoven			LGS	51° 19' N	4° 22' E	4	Agriculture
Polder van het Land van Waas		12,165	LGS	51° 15' N	4° 11' E	-1	Rural area
Polders van Kruikebeke		775	LGS	51° 10' N	4° 19' E	-2	Nature
Polder van Lier		156	RLL	51° 5' N	4° 30' E	5	Rural area
Polder van Maldegem		3353	LGS	51° 16' N	3° 23' E	2	Agriculture
Polder van Moerbeke		3335	LGS	51° 13' N	3° 55' E	1	Agriculture
Polder van Muisbroek			LGS	51° 20' N	4° 23' E	1	Rural area
Polder van Romboutswerve			LGS	51° 17' N	3° 19' E	1	Agriculture
Polder van Rumst			LGS	51° 5' N	4° 23' E	5	Multiple land use
Polder Scheldeschorren-Noord			LGS	51° 6' N	4° 15' E	4	Multiple land use
Polder van Stabroek			LGS	51° 20' N	4° 22' E	4	Multiple land use
Polder van Stampaertshoeke			RLL	51° 17' N	3° 20' E	1	Agriculture
Polder van Valkaertsgote			RLL	51° 20' N	3° 20' E	1	Agriculture
Polder van Weert			LGS	51° 7' N	4° 13' E	0	Rural area
Polder van Zandvoorde	Before 1102	1174	LGS	51° 12' N	2° 59' E	2	Multiple land use
Polder Vladslo-Ambacht		5325	LGS	51° 5' N	2° 54' E	2	Rural area
Polder Vliet en Zielbeek		7000	RLL	51° 5' N	4° 17' E	4	Urban
Poorterspolder			LGS				
Princepolder			LGS				
Pullaarpolder			LGS	51° 04' N	4° 20' E	1	Industry
Respagnepolder			LGS				
Rijnsepolder			LGS				
Robrechtspolder of 100 Gemet Polder			LGS				
Rode Moerpolder			LGS	51° 15' N	4° 6' E	1	Agriculture
Roomspolder			LGS	51° 16' N	3° 24' E	1	Agriculture
Ruipen Broek Polder			LGS	51° 7' N	4° 18' E	1	Agriculture
Saint-Francois Polder			LGS	51° 12' N	3° 49' E	4	Urban
Saint-Laurent Polder			LGS	51° 16' N	3° 42' E	2	Agriculture
Saint-Nicaise Polder			LGS	51° 14' N	3° 45' E	1	Agriculture
Saliegem Polder			LGS	51° 14' N	4° 8' E	1	Agriculture
Saspolder			RLL	51° 13' N	3° 00' E	-2	Urban
Schellandpolder			LGS	51° 7' N	4° 16' E	1	Nature
Schellebankpolder			LGS				
's Heer Pieter Bonispolder			LGS				
Sint-Andries Polder			LGS	51° 13' N	3° 46' E	2	Agriculture

Sint-Elooi­polder			LGS	51° 13' N	3° 52' E	1	Agriculture
Sint-Fransiskus­polder			LGS	51° 12' N	3° 49' E	4	Urban
Sint-Gillis Broek­polder			LGS	51° 14' N	4° 7' E	1	Agriculture
Sint-Jans Polder			LGS	51° 15' N	3° 44' E	2	Agriculture
Sint Jorispolder			LGS	51° 8' N	2° 47' E	3	Agriculture
Sint-Nicaisepolder			LGS	51° 14' N	3° 45' E	2	Agriculture
Sint-Niklaas Polder			LGS	51° 16' N	4° 14' E	1	Harbour
Sint Onolfspolder			LGS	51° 3' N	4° 4' E	2	Agriculture
Slependammepolders		5979	LGS	51° 14' N	3° 32' E	2	Agriculture
Snaeskerke Polder		509	LGS	51° 10' N	2° 57' E	2	Agriculture
Spierbroekpolder			LGS	51° 7' N	4° 14' E	1	Forest
Stroopers Polder			LGS	51° 14' N	4° 4' E	3	Rural area
Tantspolder			LGS	51° 20' N	3° 22' E	1	Agriculture
Tielrodebroekpolder		152	LGS	51° 7' N	4° 11' E	0	Agriculture
Turfbankenpolder			LGS	51° 15' N	4° 8' E	1	Agriculture
Vier Landsherenpolder			LGS				
Vijfpolders			LGS				
Volkaaertsgotepolder			LGS				
Vrasenepolder			LGS	51° 15' N	4° 11' E	1	Agriculture
Wijtvliet Polder			LGS	51° 16' N	4° 19' E	1	Harbour
Zeepolder			LGS	51° 16' N	3° 2' E	0	Recreation
Zeuge			LGS				
Zwartesluispolder		4002	LGS	51° 14' N	3° 45' E	1	Agriculture
Zuidijzerpolder	1971	9666	LGS	50° 57' N	2° 47' E	2	Agriculture
Total		306,117					

*) RLL = reclaimed low-lying land; LGS = land gained on the sea; DL = drained lake