

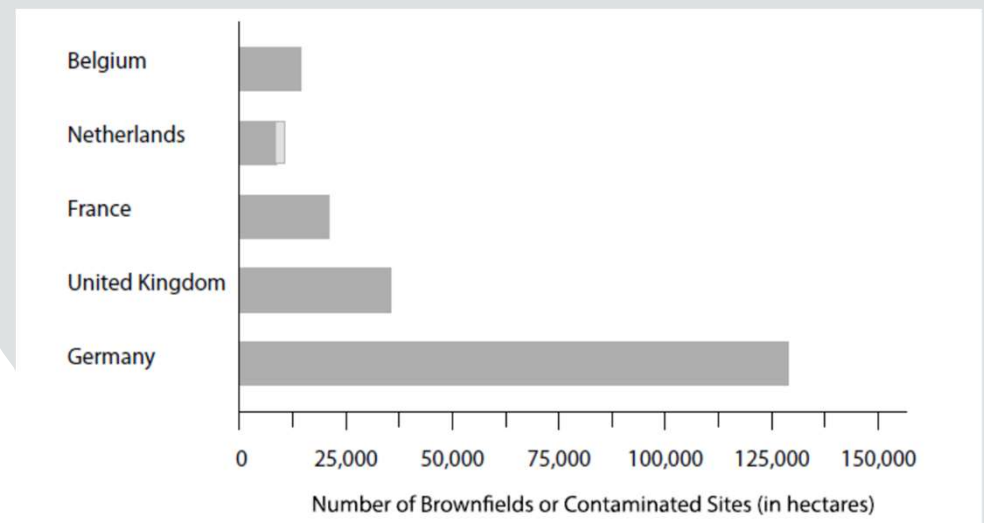
The importance of the fourth nature - towards a comprehensive solution for post-industrial peri-urban open spaces

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The scale of urban brownfields in the EU

- Estimated urban brownfield areas: approximately 128,000 ha of brownfield land in Germany, 39,600 ha in the United Kingdom, 20,000 ha in France, between 9,000 and 11,000 ha in the Netherlands, and at least 14,500 ha in Belgium.
- Poland and Romania – 800,000 and 900,000 ha.
- The European Environmental Agency (EEA) estimates the number of contaminated sites at 250,000 and that of sites potentially contaminated at 3 million. In about 70 % of cases, contamination was caused by military or industrial use.
- EU environmental directives focus on contamination prevention and the management and control of surface water and groundwater.



E. Rey et al., *Neighbourhoods in Transition*, The Urban Book Series

FUNDING ALLOCATED FOR THE REGENERATION OF BROWNFIELD SITES AND MAIN MEMBER STATES CONCERNED

	2000-06	2007-13
Funding allocated	2,3 billion euro	3,4 billion euro
Main beneficiaries	Germany, United Kingdom, France	Hungary, Czech Republic, Germany, Romania, Italy, Poland

Source: European Court of Auditors, on the basis of data collected by the Commission.

The challenge of urban brownfields

- Diversity of abandoned brownfield sites – 2011: “Roadmap to a Resource Efficient Europe”, the European Commission called for giving priority to projects located on urban brownfields (density, mobility, compactness).
- UK policy: 1998 new target for the reuse of brownfields set at 60% of new residential housing built on brownfields by 2008. Reached – 2000. 2010 – refinement of establishing the level and localization of dwellings by local planning authorities. Still – in 2016 new 1,2 bln £ fund created to support the purchase of and construction on abandoned land, thus encouraging the densification of urban regions.
- New opportunities for housing, shops, offices, services, quality public spaces and infrastructure... or?



Südegelände railyard in 1935



Natur-Park Südegelände

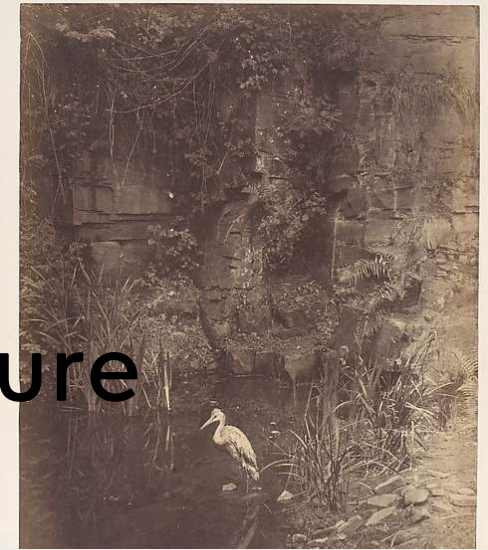
The European Union Policy Framework Related to Brownfields

- The 2030 Agenda a) calls for reducing negative impacts of urban activities and chemicals that are hazardous to human health and the environment and b) includes environmentally sound chemical management plans, reduction and recycling of waste, and more efficient use of water and energy.
- The existing environmental directives can support cleanup and redevelopment of brownfields (e.g., the Waste Framework Directive can address petroleum contamination).
- European Union Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 - a long-term plan for protecting nature and reversing degradation of ecosystems. Brownfields reuse focused on protecting and creating green space, restoring watersheds, reducing the urban heat island effect, protecting the night sky and wildlife, and turning blighted and abandoned spaces into community assets.



First, second, third and fourth nature

- The first nature is the one that is almost gone - areas of natural landscape, such as former forests or single ancient trees. They are legally protected as nature reserves or protected landscape areas.
- The second nature is the one we have already changed – agricultural fields, managed forests and hay meadows. It's quite interesting, because when we stop using them, they automatically become the fourth nature after some time.
- The third nature is the one we deal with most often today - well-kept lawns, flowerpots and city parks. Fortunately, they look more and more natural.
- The fourth nature includes wastelands and areas degraded by man, which nature is slowly (re)colonizing.



New hope. Revitalisation through nature restoration

- The Green Belt of Vitoria-Gasteiz - restoration and recovery of the peripheral areas of Vitoria-Gasteiz to create a large green area for recreational use around the city.
- The river Zadorra, the most important river in the municipality of Vitoria-Gasteiz, is the main feature of this future periurban park.
- Zabalzana - the result of intense restoration work, conversion of an extremely degraded area with old gravel pits into a place of great natural value and leisure.
- Salburua consists of wetlands, together with the number of turfed areas and a small oak wood. Having been drained several centuries ago to transform this area into farmland, the work intended to restore this area was begun in 1994 and has returned the wetlands to their original condition.



<https://www.vitoria-gasteiz.org/we001/was/we001Action.do?idioma=en&accion=anilloVerde&accionWe001=ficha>

Thank you!

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