



Opzoekingscentrum voor de Wegenbouw  
Uw partner voor duurzame wegen

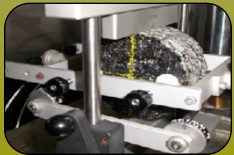
*Over 15 years experience of water permeable pavement blocks in Belgium: how legislation promotes the application*

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# What I learned during my stay in Bonito...



- You know what heavy rains are!

- You know how to deal with it!
- BUT ... what to do in the cities where place is lacking?





# Over 15 years positive experience in Belgium and growing!

- Mainly parking lots and low volume roads
- Mainly pavement blocks, some pervious asphalt, pervious concrete as base layer



# Why do we apply permeable pavement blocks?

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- To optimize water management (storage and infiltration) by a minimum of investment
- To comply with legislations: new legislation in Flanders encourages and even enforces in some cases the use of permeable surfaces as storage and/or infiltration system
- To combine an environmental friendly structure with traffic: combination of bearing capacity and water permeability/storage, taking into account the necessary frost protection of the soil

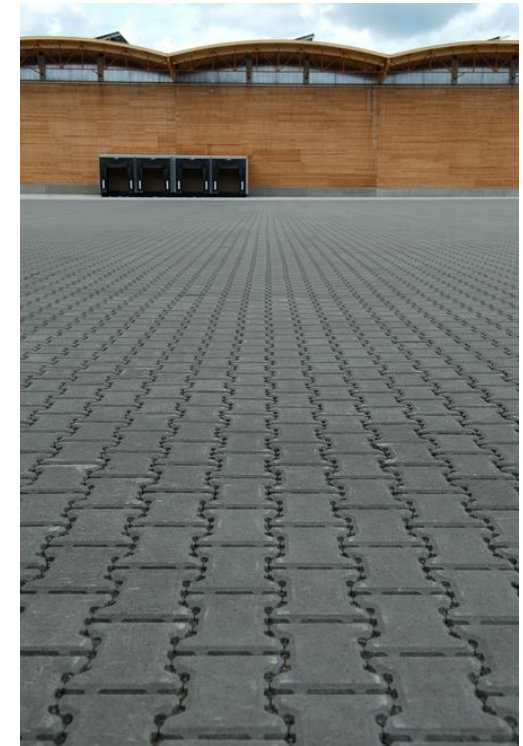




# All types of water permeable pavement blocks



# More recent applications due to legislation and increased knowledge and confidence through better material specifications

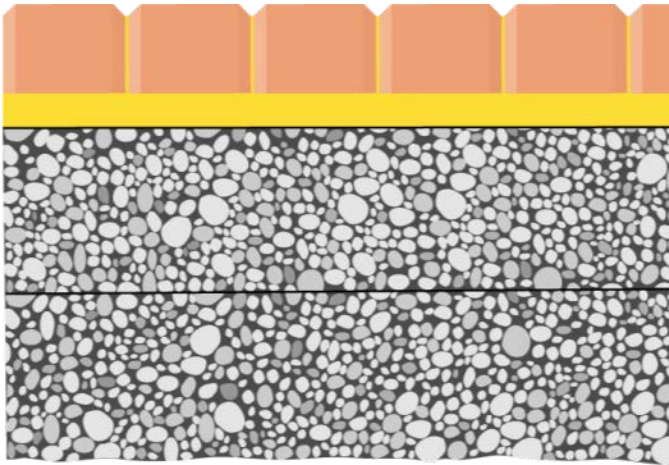


Nieuwpoort - Okselaar - Ghent - Beringen - Paris - ...





# The permeable pavement system in Belgium



- Pavement blocks: passing the water
- Base layer: bearing capacity
- Sub base layer: storage capacity and frost protection
- Drainage system: infiltration in the soil or retarded drainage of the water to an infiltration system

NO gullies needed at the surface - extra security through adjacent green surfaces

NO slope required (0,5 % as min by preference - max. 5% - application in terraces)

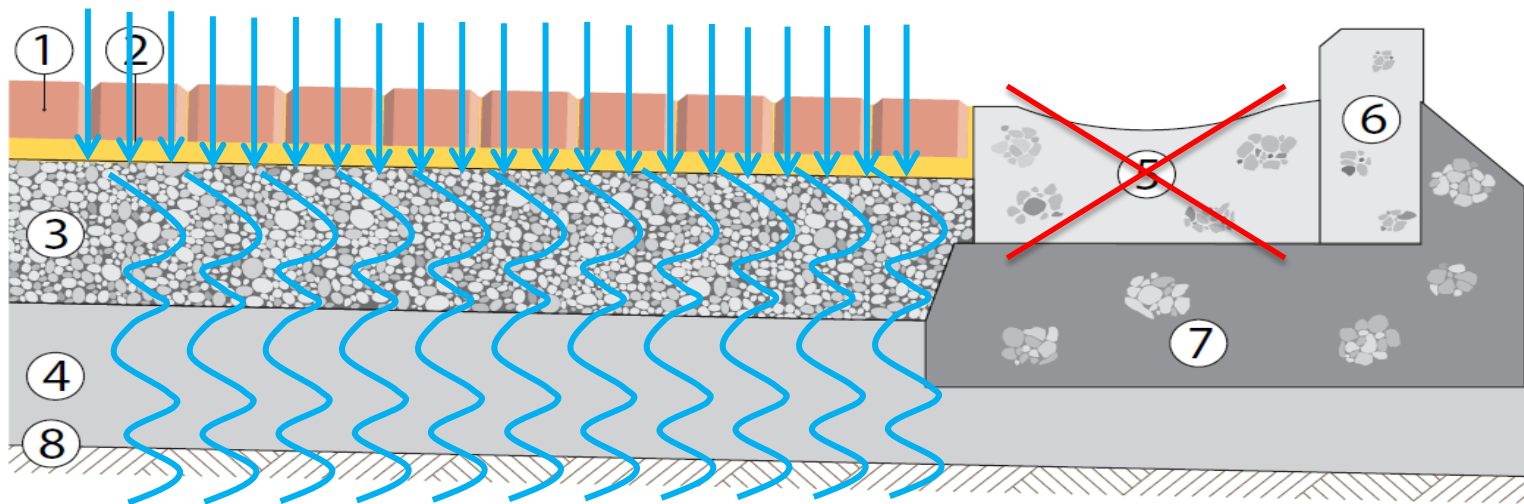
NO extra water storage capacity needed: reduced outlet in order to store the water in the structure





# The permeable pavement concept

- Water infiltration at the surface => no ponding
- Water infiltration in the sub grade => no water evacuation or drainage needed
- Water storage in the structure, by preference in the sub grade (4)
- Drainage at bottom of structure if infiltration is not possible or limited
- The whole structure permeable!

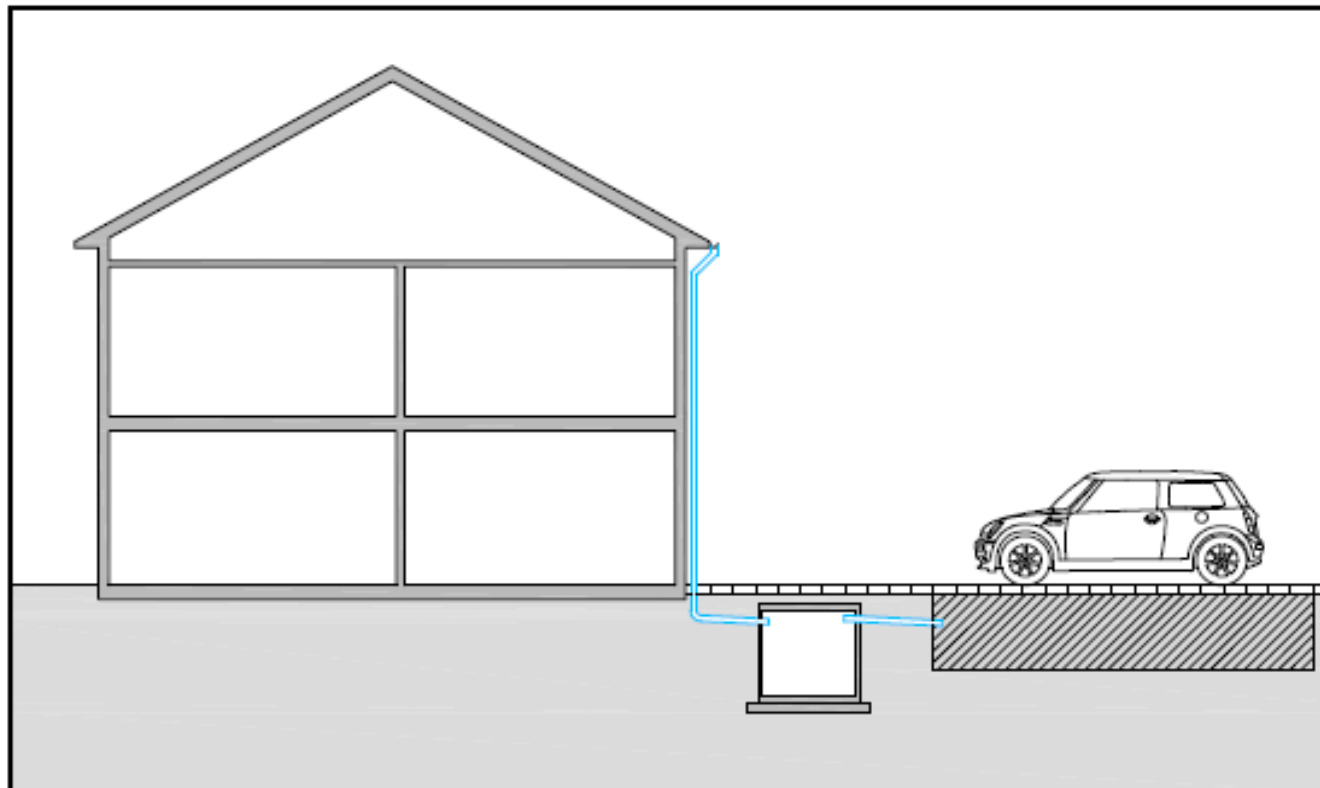


- From 2004 on: water permeable pavements admitted as infiltration system - reduced extra water storage capacity necessary
- New regulation (in Flanders) on rainwater: water permeable pavements do not need extra storage or infiltration system if no drainage beneath or evacuation of the water at the surface is foreseen
- If infiltration in the soil is not possible, water permeable pavements can be designed as storage system
- Water permeable pavements can be designed as storage for rain water from adjacent housing or surfaces

More confidence and better applications through insertion of technical requirements in standard specifications

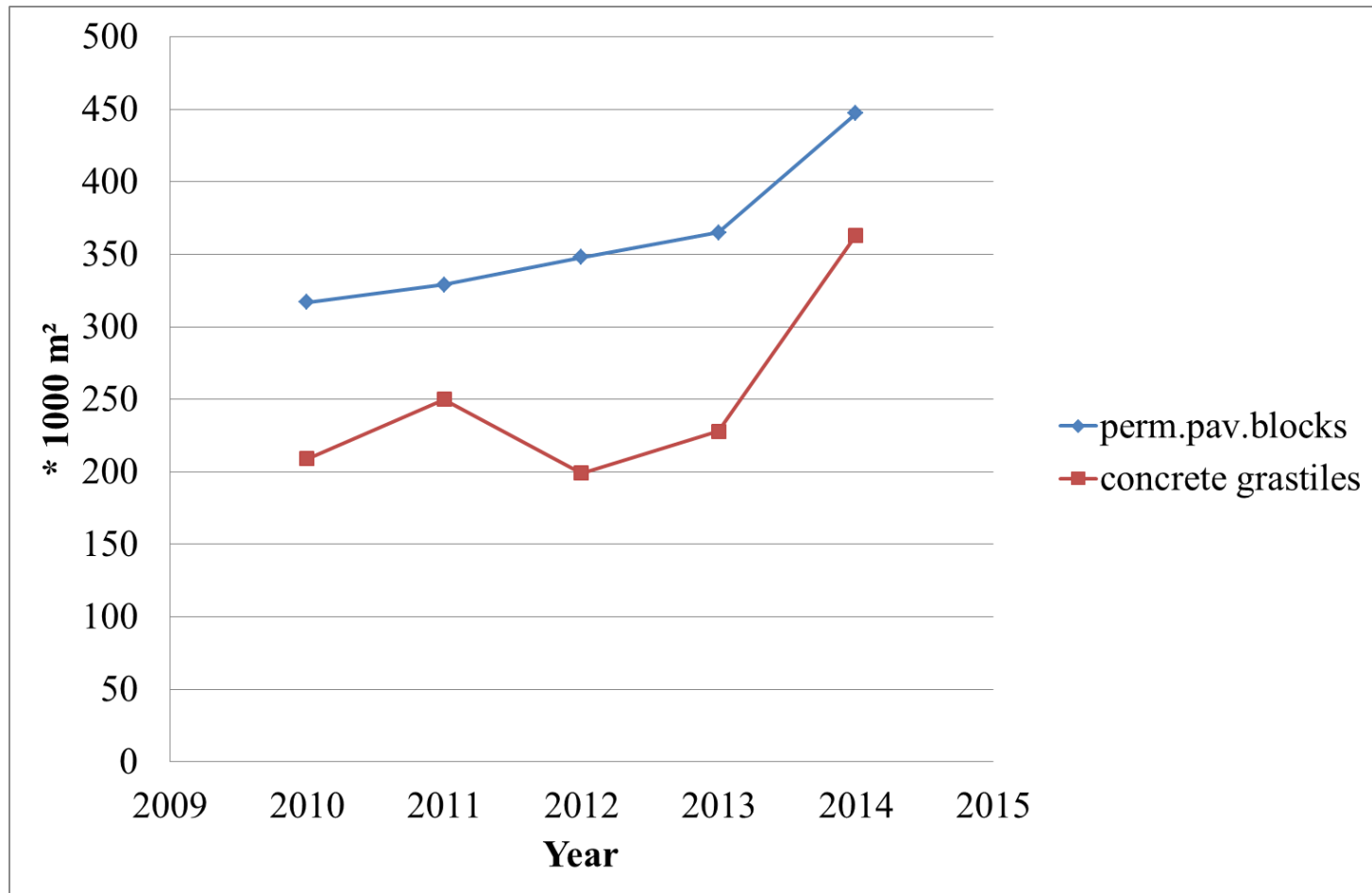


# Water storage from adjacent housing or surfaces - directly in sub base layer





# Growing production due to legislation and experience



- Legislation in order to promote water permeable pavement structures at regional level as well as at local level



- Evaluation and certification of the whole system: drainage, sub-base layer, base layer, pavement blocks
- Specific structure is certified, taking into account the material characteristics as well as the placing of the structure on site
- Other technical prescriptions: PTV 122 for water permeable paving blocks and tiles and PTV 121 for concrete grass tiles



# *Design of permeable pavements with concrete pavement blocks*

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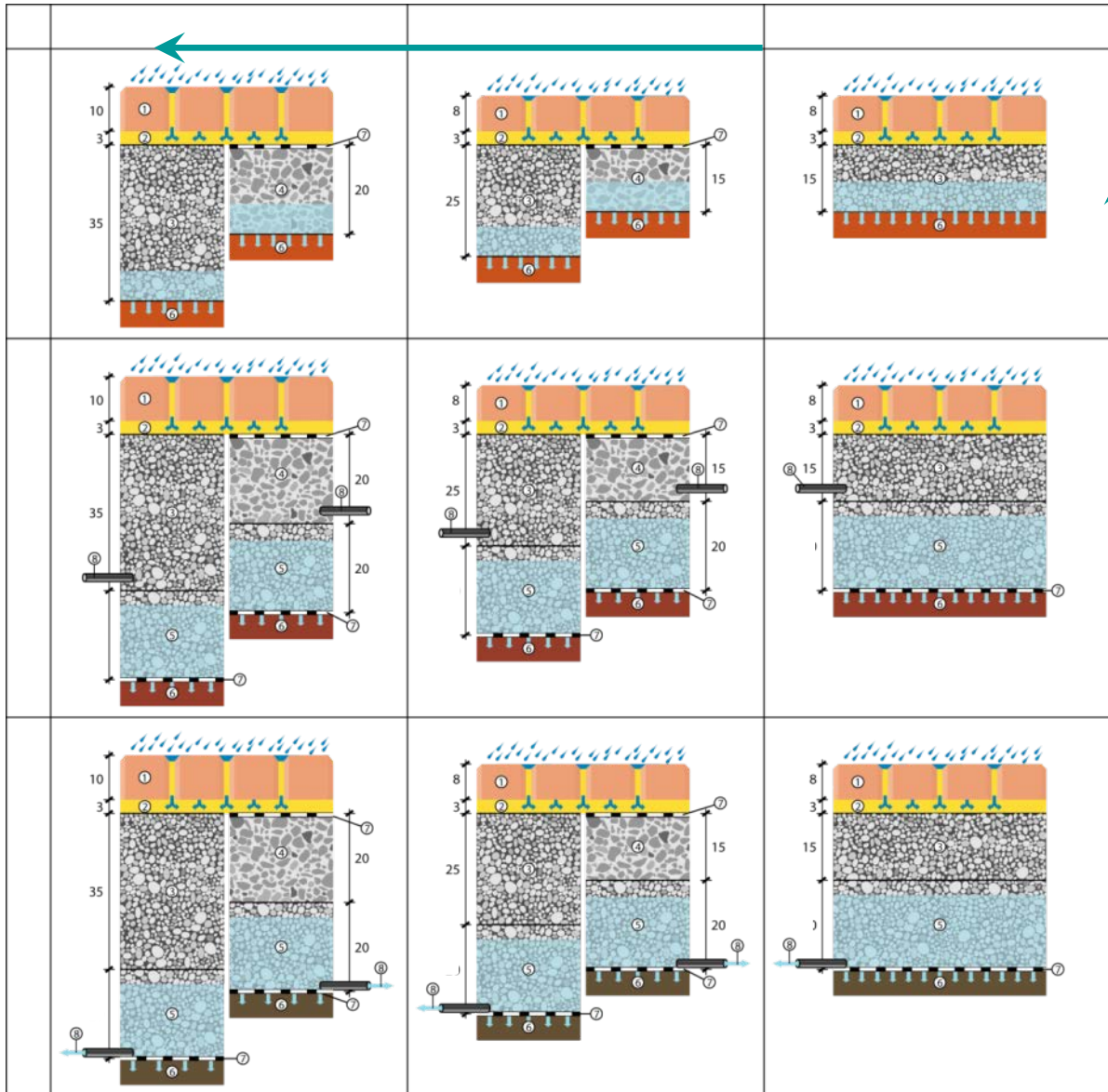
- Base layer: thickness and choice of material in relation with traffic
  - Pervious lean concrete
  - Unbound granular mixture with limitations on fines
- Sub base layer: thickness in relation with the needed storage volume
- Pavement blocks according to choice of designer
- Drainage: if no or very limited infiltration is possible





# Standard structures in relation to traffic and soil permeability

More traffic



Higher permeability of the soil

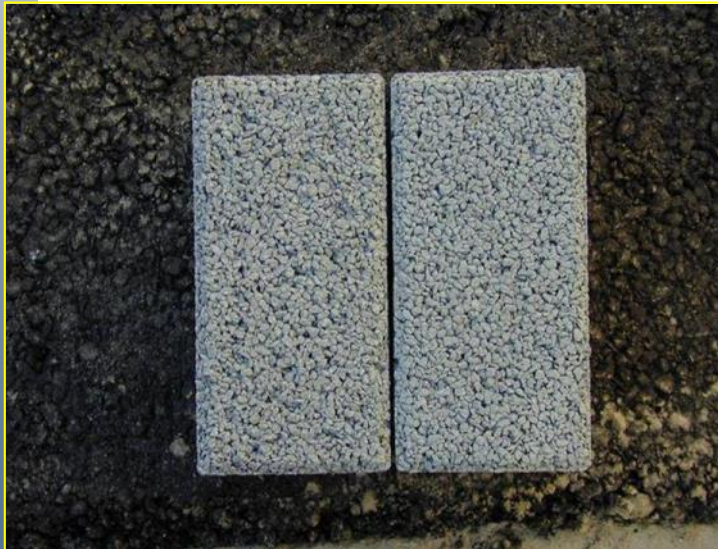
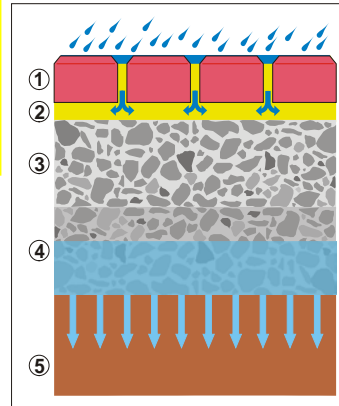
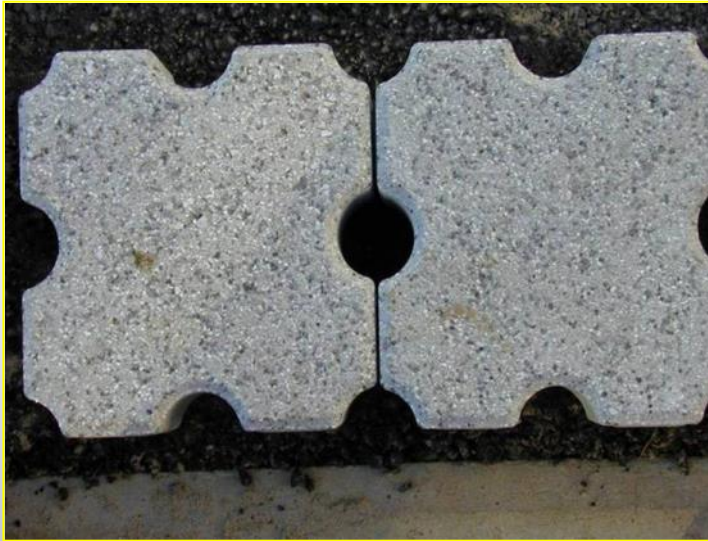


- Base and Sub base layer - unbound granular mixture 0/32 - 2/32 :
  - fines (<0.063 mm) < 3%
  - Fraction < 2 mm < 25%
  - If recycled concrete aggregates are used, no aggregates smaller than 2 mm
- Base layer - bound material
  - Drainage lean concrete: Permeability of  $4 \cdot 10^{-4}$  m/s and strength of 14 MPa
- Bedding layer
  - fines (<0.063 mm) < 3%
  - Maximum grain size: 6,3 or 8 mm
  - LA < 20 - MDW < 15: reducing risk on formation of fines
  - Filter stability
- Joint filling material - in relation to type of pavement block
  - 0,5/2 sand for pervious pavement blocks
  - 2/4 porphyry aggregates for pavement blocks with enlarged joints or with drainage holes

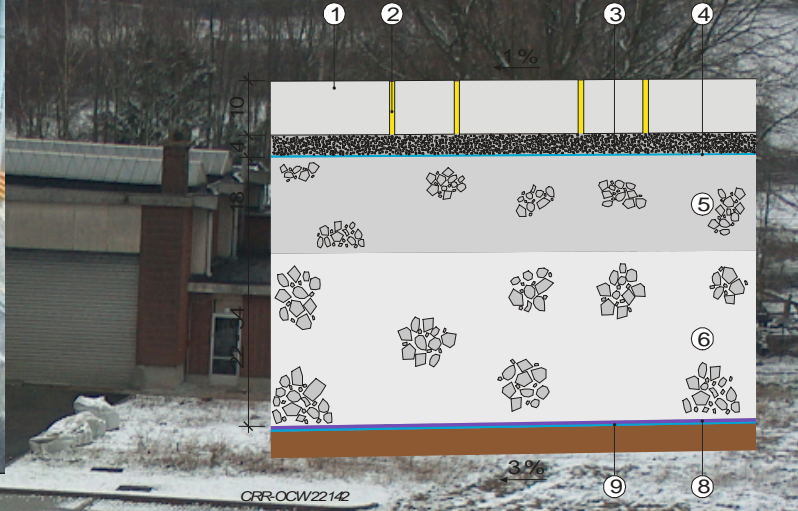
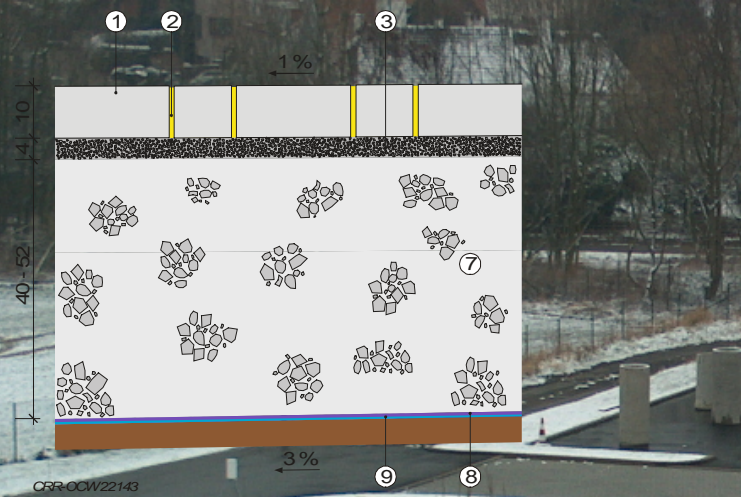
AT ANY TIME: COMPROMISE BETWEEN MECHANICAL STABILITY AND PERMEABILITY



# Permeable pavement blocks - in combination with the permeable structure



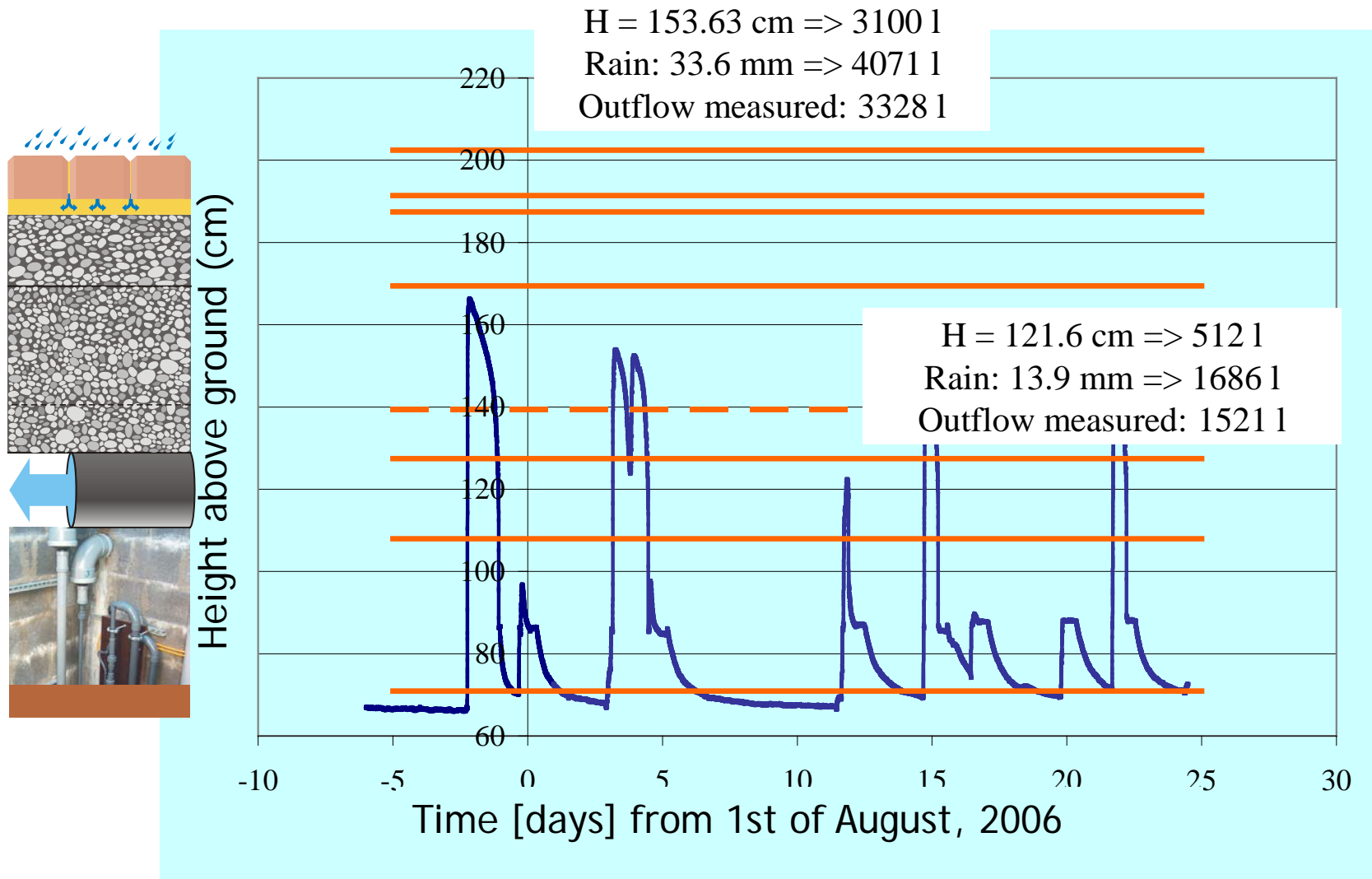




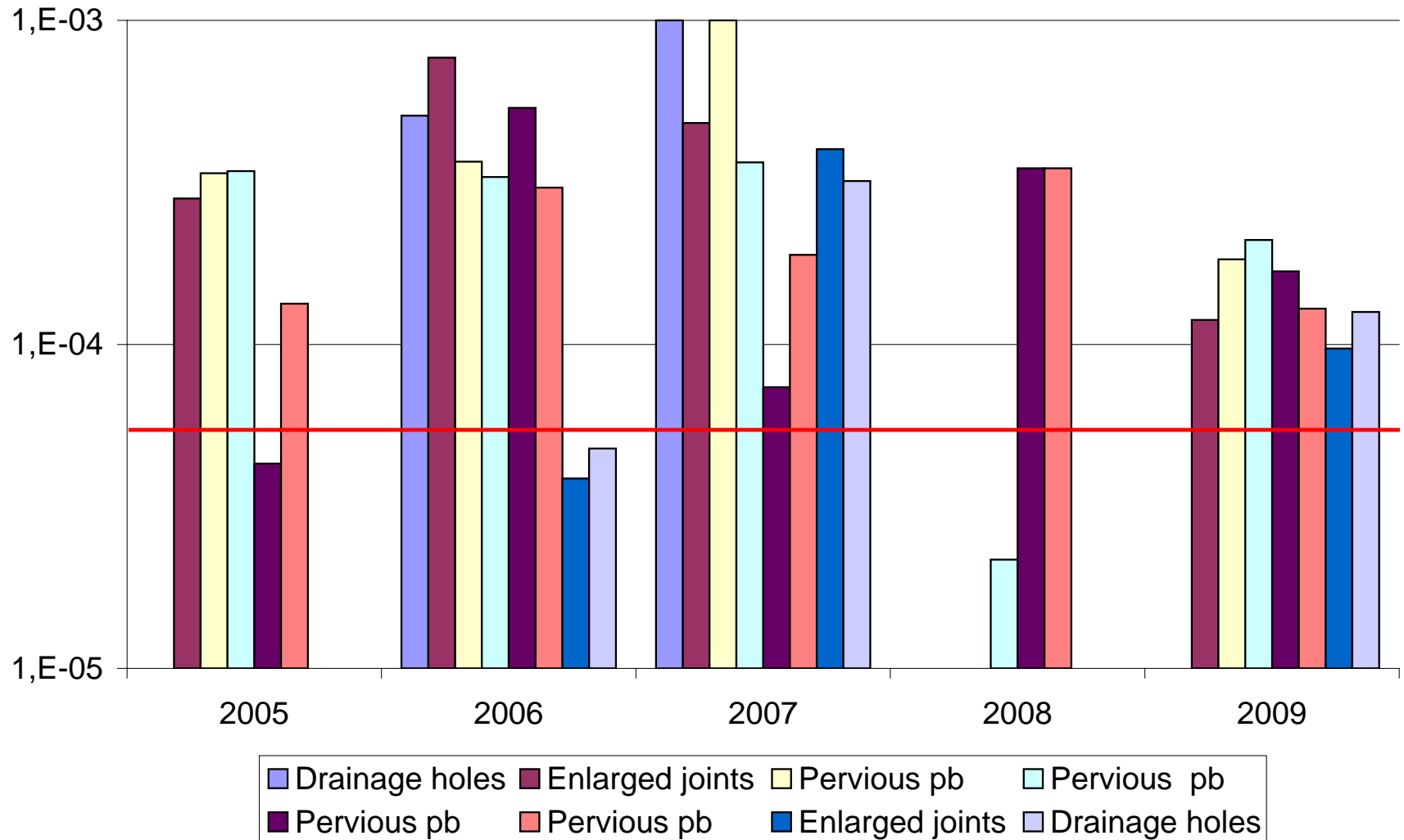
Research project at BRRC  
2003-2007



# Height of water in the structure



# Surface permeability on parking lot



# Design volume for water storage in SUB BASE

- Rain: average rain of 10 minutes with a return period of 30 years = 270 l/s/ha
- Successive rains:

Outflow	Return period overflow			
	2 years	5 years	10 years	20 years
30 l/s/ha			180 m <sup>3</sup> /ha	240 m <sup>3</sup> /ha
25 l/s/ha		160 m <sup>3</sup> /ha	200 m <sup>3</sup> /ha	240 m <sup>3</sup> /ha
20 l/s/ha	120 m <sup>3</sup> /ha	170 m <sup>3</sup> /ha	210 m <sup>3</sup> /ha	260 m <sup>3</sup> /ha
15 l/s/ha	140 m <sup>3</sup> /ha	190 m <sup>3</sup> /ha	240 m <sup>3</sup> /ha	290 m <sup>3</sup> /ha
10 l/s/ha	160 m <sup>3</sup> /ha	220 m <sup>3</sup> /ha	270 m <sup>3</sup> /ha	330 m <sup>3</sup> /ha
5 l/s/ha	210 m <sup>3</sup> /ha	280 m <sup>3</sup> /ha	340 m <sup>3</sup> /ha	410 m <sup>3</sup> /ha



- Increasing porosity with increasing depth: if clogging occurs, it will occur at the surface => cleanable!
- Joint filling is necessary to avoid clogging of the bedding layer
- Limited to low-volume roads with restricted speed limits (30 km/h) - most applications are parking lots or pedestrian areas
- Restrictions of amount of fines and limitations on the formation of fines: grading and quality of aggregates!



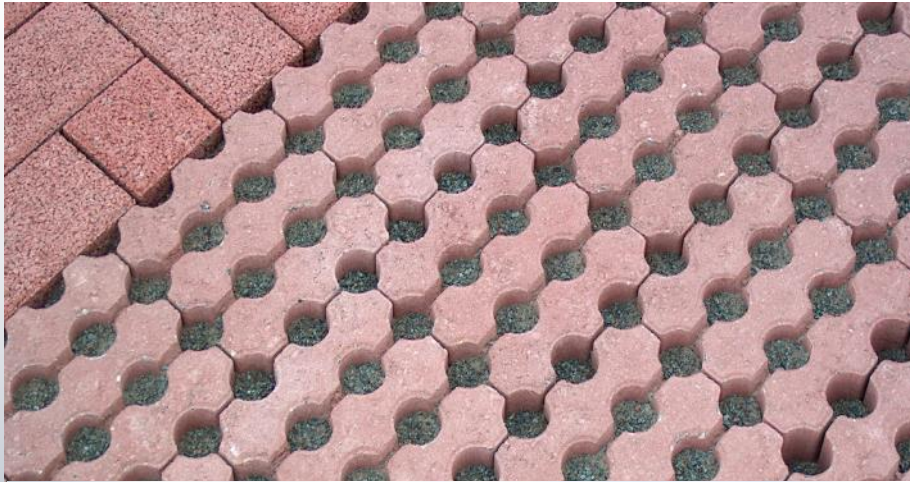


# Project: D'leteren



# D'leteren in Kortenberg

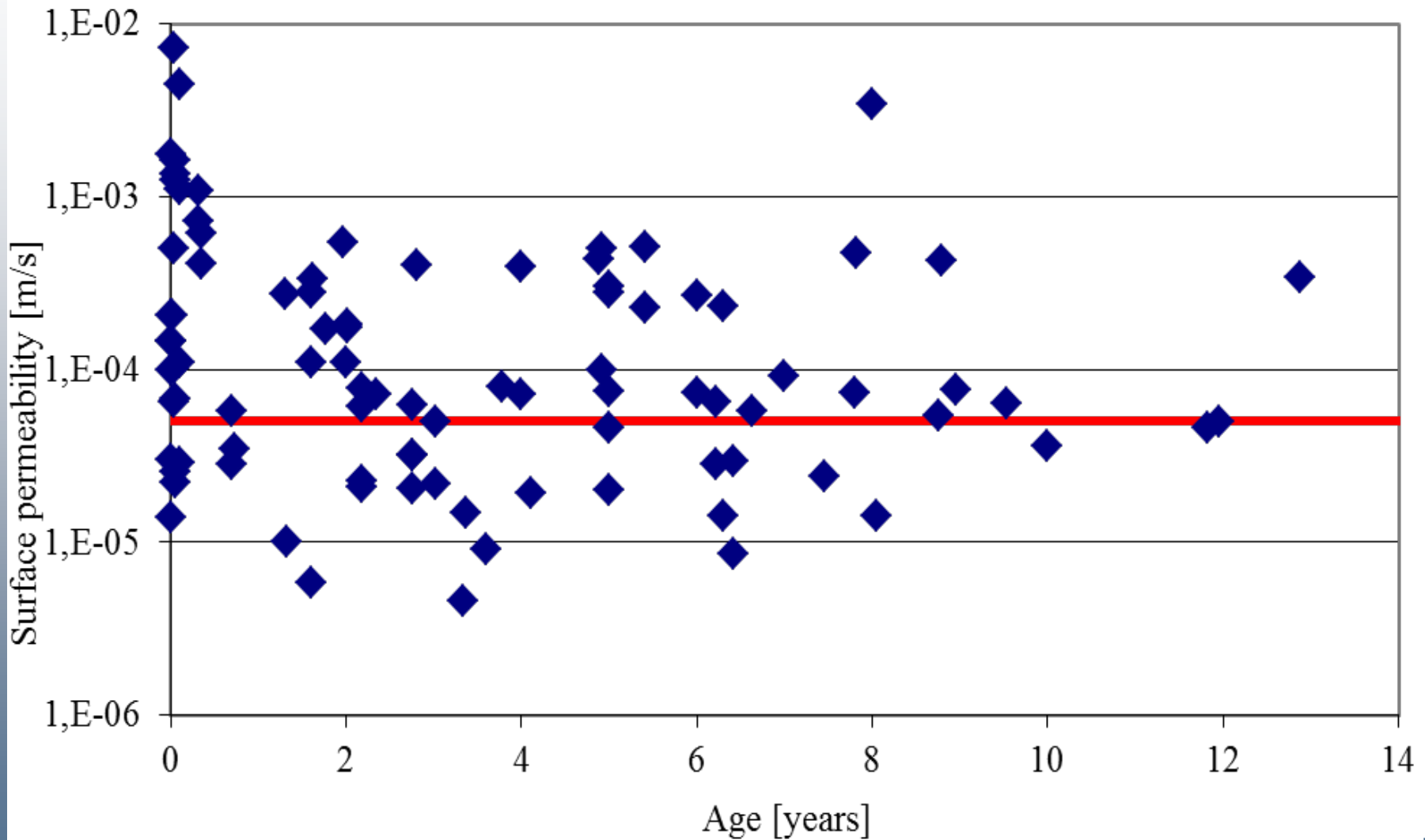
Sand bed 2/7; base layer 2/20; sub base layer 7/32 + 0/7



- Road in jointed concrete plates
- Transition in pervious concrete pavement blocks
- Parking area in concrete pavement blocks with drainage holes (>30% porosity)
- 70.000 m<sup>2</sup>



# Good experience with existing parking lots towards long term permeability





## Special applications: water permeable structures in allotments

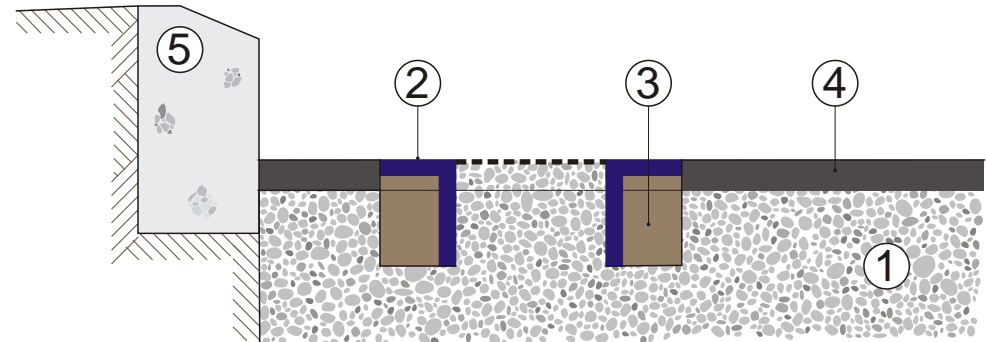
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- Risk of clogging of structure during construction of houses



# Possible solutions to minimize risk of clogging

- Working in 2 phases: sub base and asphalt layer during phase 1, removal of asphalt layer (or piercing of the asphalt) and final base layer, bedding layer and pavement blocks in phase 2 after construction: water evacuation!



CRR-OCW 21775

- Construction of final road with a very precise cleaning scheme and filling of joints

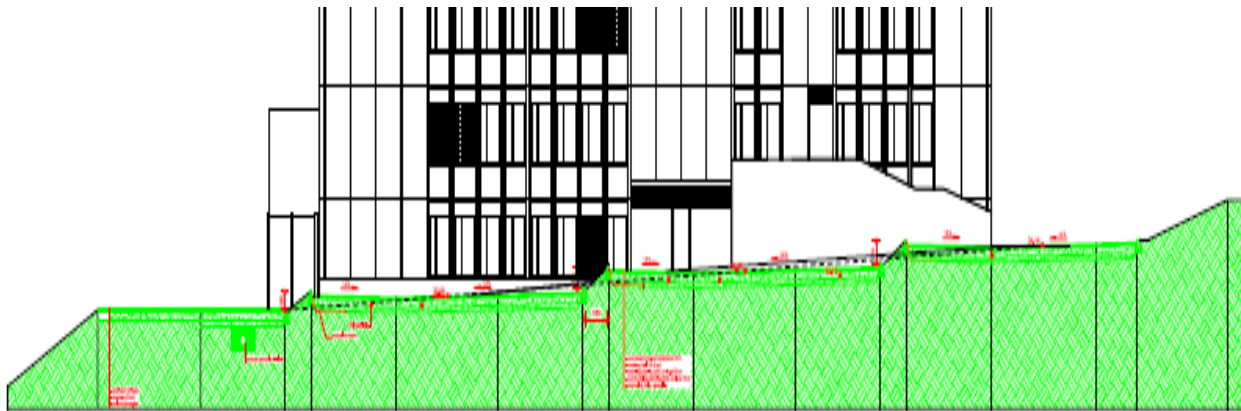






# Use of recycled concrete aggregate as base layer - an example: parking SEG, KULeuven in Heverlee

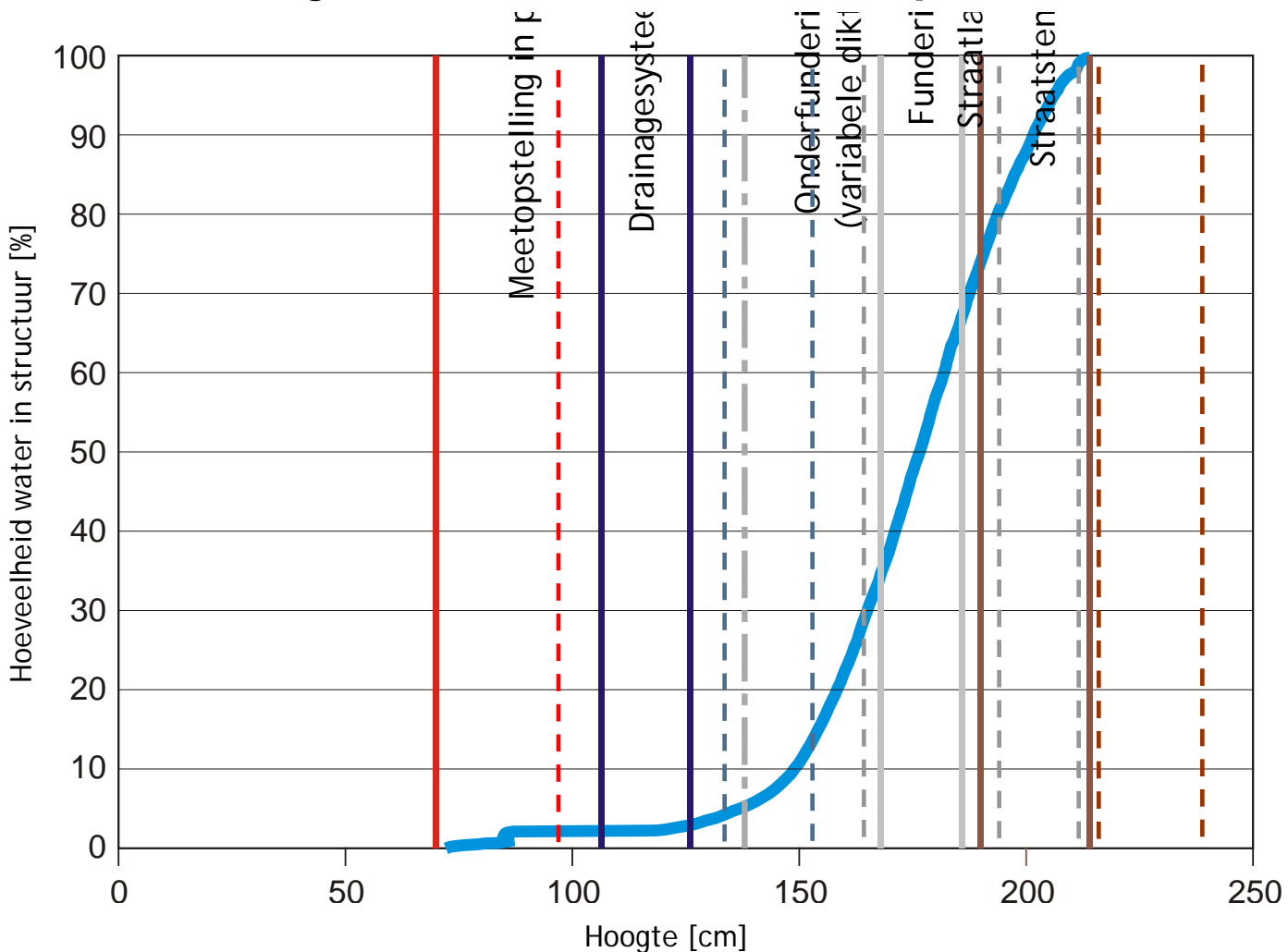
- Two challenges:
  - integration of the slope
  - Choice of materials - use of recycled aggregates: bearing capacity and permeability



# Storage capacity - integration of slopes

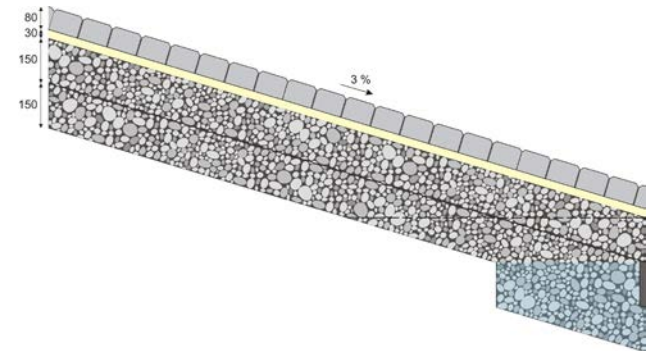
Slope 1 % - 10 m further = 10 cm difference in height

=> Storage in sub base NOT in pavement blocks

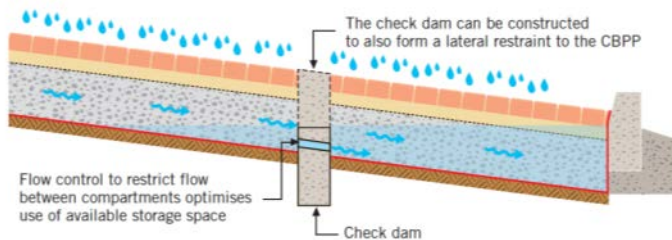


# Integration of slopes

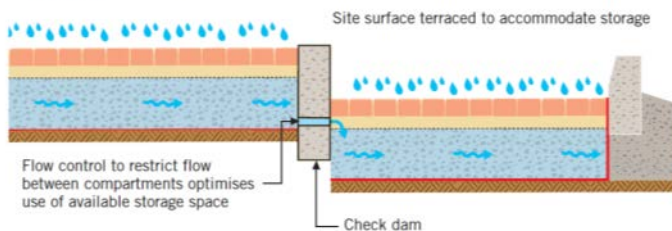
- Working with obstructions to slow down the water outflow
- Working with terraces



Solution – check dams



Solution – terracing





*Good compaction crucial for durability, but low-volume roads => 80 MPa in stead of 110 Mpa for  $M_1$  (plate compression test)*

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**Bearing capacity: M1 plate test**  
**17 MPa soil - 35 MPa sub base layer - 80/110 MPa base layer**



# Bearing capacity and permeability tested on site

Material for the base layer, 250 mm thick	Bearing capacity	Permeability
Crushed aggregate 2/32 mm	21 MPa	$7 \cdot 10^{-4}$ m/s
Recycled concrete aggregate 4/40 mm with 20 % of crushed sand from recycled aggregate	40 MPa	$1.2 \cdot 10^{-10}$ m/s
Recycled concrete aggregate 0/40 mm	57 MPa	$2 \cdot 10^{-11}$ m/s
Recycled concrete aggregate 4/40 mm with up to 20 % of crushed natural aggregate 0/8 mm	94 MPa	$> 10^{-4}$ m/s



# Permeability measurements in laboratory

- Porous lean concrete
- Aggregates





# Measurement of permeability : soil and structure

- Soil: Open-end-test  
(US Bureau of Reclamation: Earth Manual)



- Base layer



*Surface: double ring test*







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*BUT....*



# Problems with design

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Ertvelde,  
Market Place  
2004



## *Inadequate integration*





# *Problems with block paving material - concentrated on permeability*



Melsele, Park & Ride, 2001

Relation porosity - strength was not respected



## *Influence of de-icing salts on the durability of pervious pavement blocks*

- Adapted test method to determine the scalling resistance of pervious pavement blocks in the presence of de-icing salts
- Porosity-strength relation is very important to obtain a durable pavement block and consequently a durable pavement





# Permeable pavements with dolomite - resistance to traffic!

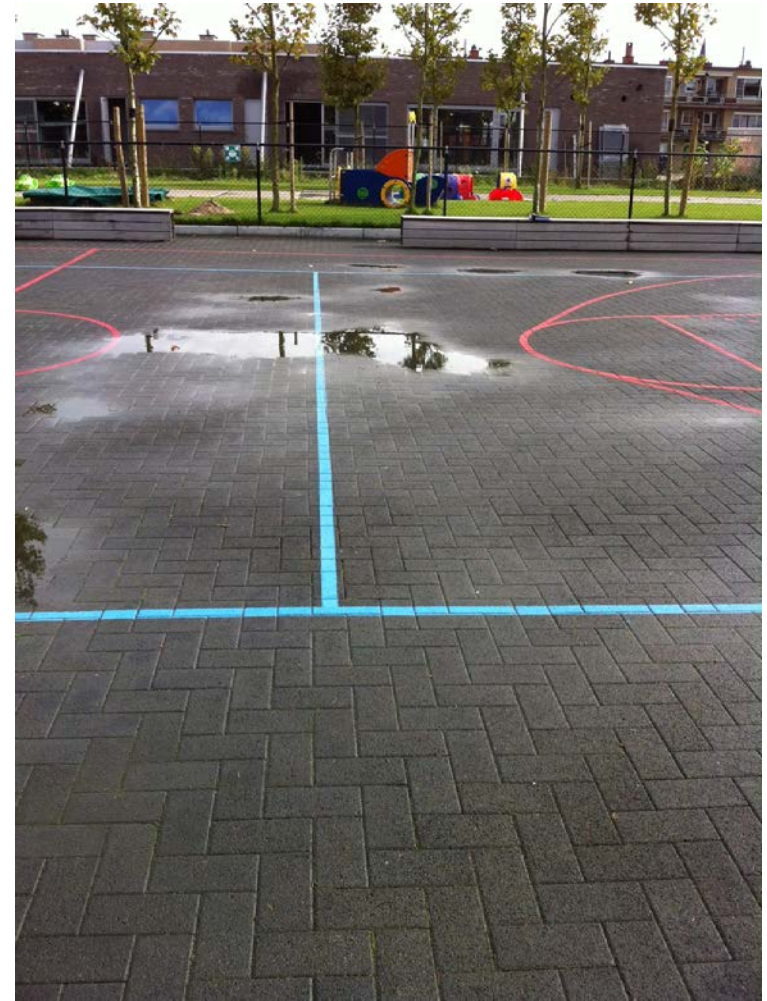
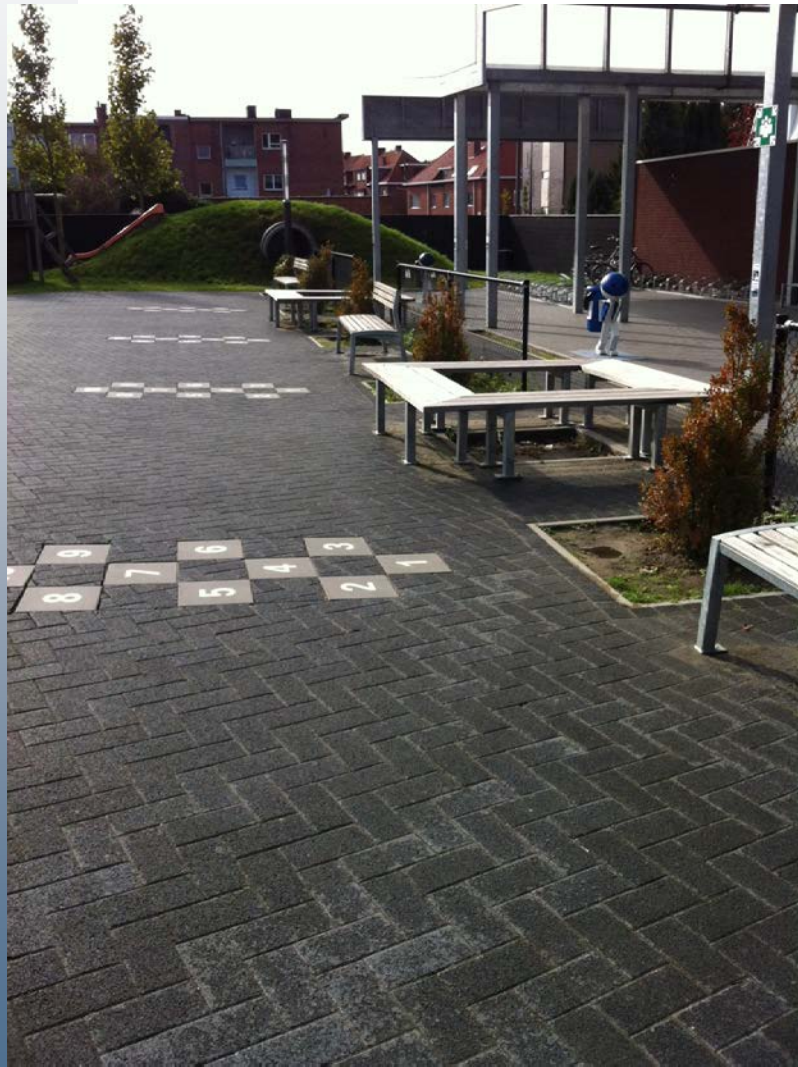
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# Importance of quality of materials!

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	Specifications	Materials used
Paving blocks	Porous paving blocks 100 mm thick	Porous paving blocks 80 mm
Bedding layer	30 mm crushed aggregate; 75 % 2/6.3 + 25 % 0/6.3; high-quality stone to limit the formation of fines	Min. 30 mm “pouché” (untreated crushed stone)
Base layer	150 mm continuously graded crushed aggregate 0/32 mm with restrictions on fines (max. 3 % < 63 μm and max. 25 % < 2 mm); the use of recycled concrete aggregates is allowed	150 mm continuously graded recycled concrete aggregates 0/32 mm, with a limited amount of fines
Subbase layer	100 mm gap-graded crushed aggregate 2/20 mm (M1 > 85 MPa)	100 mm gap-graded crushed aggregate 2/20 mm





# *Importance of quality of materials*





# Clogging at the surface



	Permeability prior to cleaning	Permeability after cleaning
Porous paving block taken from structure	$3,45 \cdot 10^{-6}$ m/s $1,59 \cdot 10^{-6}$ m/s	$7,64 \cdot 10^{-5}$ m/s $1,85 \cdot 10^{-4}$ m/s
Porous paving block taken from storage	$2,60 \cdot 10^{-4}$ m/s $8,66 \cdot 10^{-5}$ m/s	





## de Bus

*Gare de bus de Gembloux*  
*Emplacement de stationnement*

*Surface pavée : 15615 m<sup>2</sup>*  
*Réalisation des travaux : 2007*

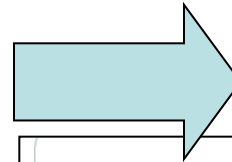
### *Structure*

*Type de pavés : Joints larges*  
*Remplissage des joints: sable concassé 2/5*  
*Couche de pose : Gravier concassés 2/5 4 cm*

*Fondation : empierement 0/20 15 cm*

*Sous-fondation : empierement 0/32 Type II 20 cm*

*Perméabilité du sol : 1 . 10<sup>-7</sup> m/s (2007)*  
*Perméabilité de la fondation : 5,4 .10<sup>-5</sup> m/s (2007)*



## Belgian Road Research Centre

- English
- Français
- Nederlands

The reference Centre regarding guidance and road research in Belgium

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# Software to help with design of the pavement

Permeable block pavement design software - Untitled

File Edit View Help

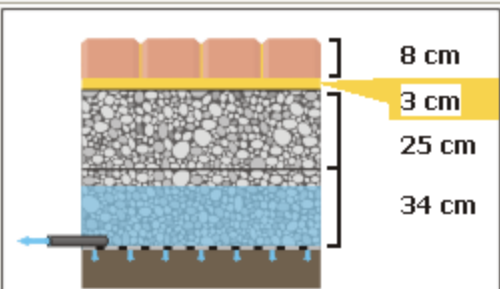
Permeable block pavement design software - Untitled\*

File Language Help topics Info...

App General data Concrete paving blocks Traffic Standard structures Subbase layer Specific choice of material Summary

Project name :  
Address :  
Designer :  
Surface (m<sup>2</sup>) : 1000    Contrib. catchment (m<sup>2</sup>) : 0


Water management designed on :  
Successive rainfall: 240 m<sup>3</sup>/ha  
Storage in the subbase layer: 102 l/m<sup>2</sup>  
Extra safety : storage in the base or 75 l/m<sup>2</sup>

 8 cm  
3 cm  
25 cm  
34 cm

Base material :  
Unbounded granular material

Subbase material :  
2/20

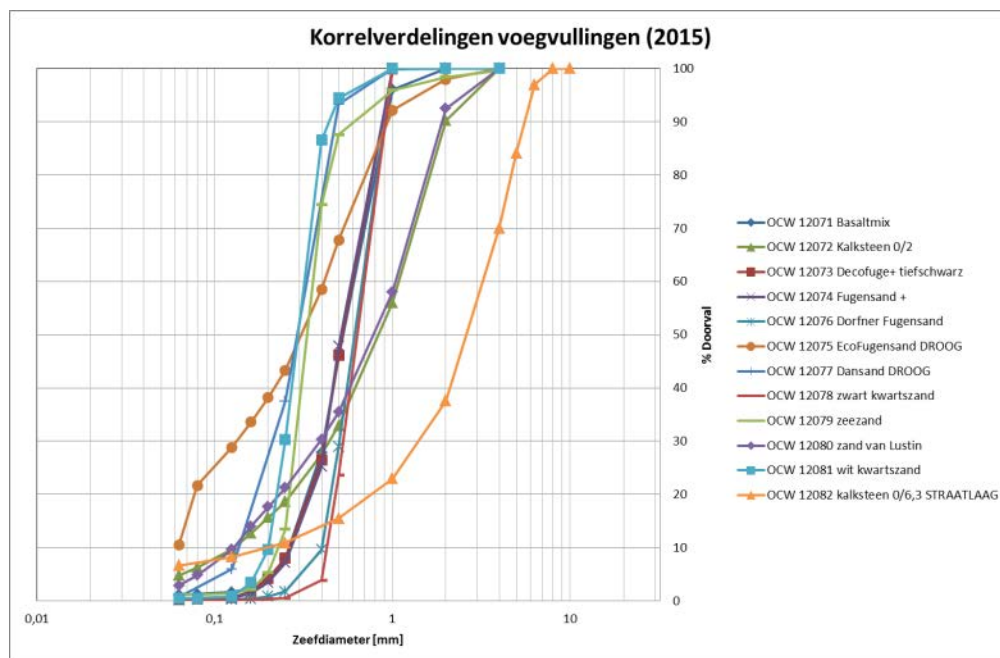
Soil permeability (m/s) :  
5,0E-007

 Bedding layer :  
2/6.3  
Joint filling material :  
2/5.6

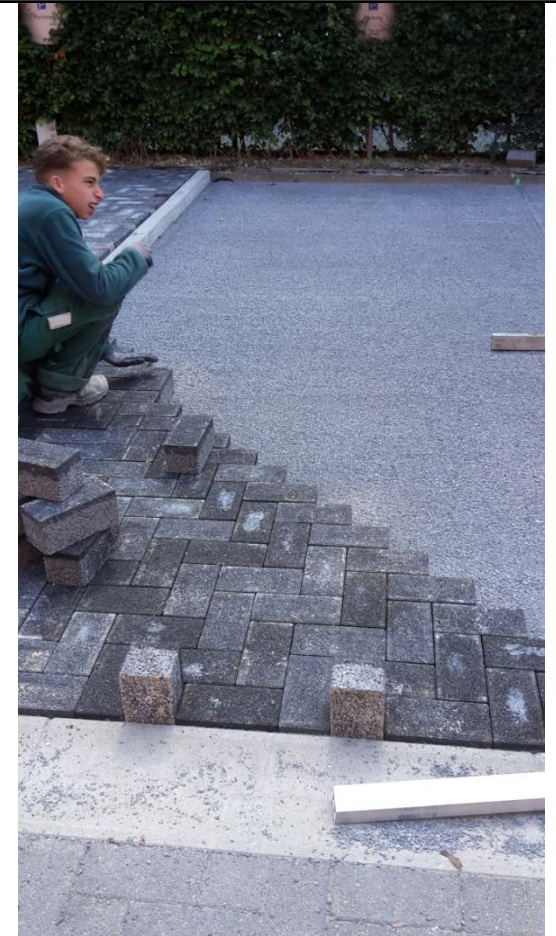
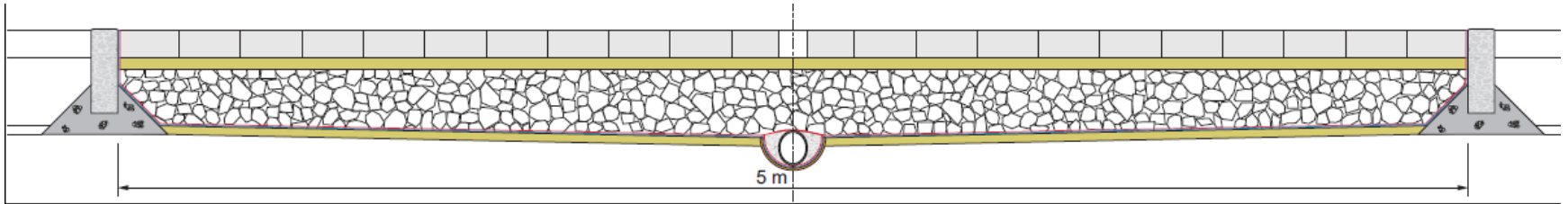
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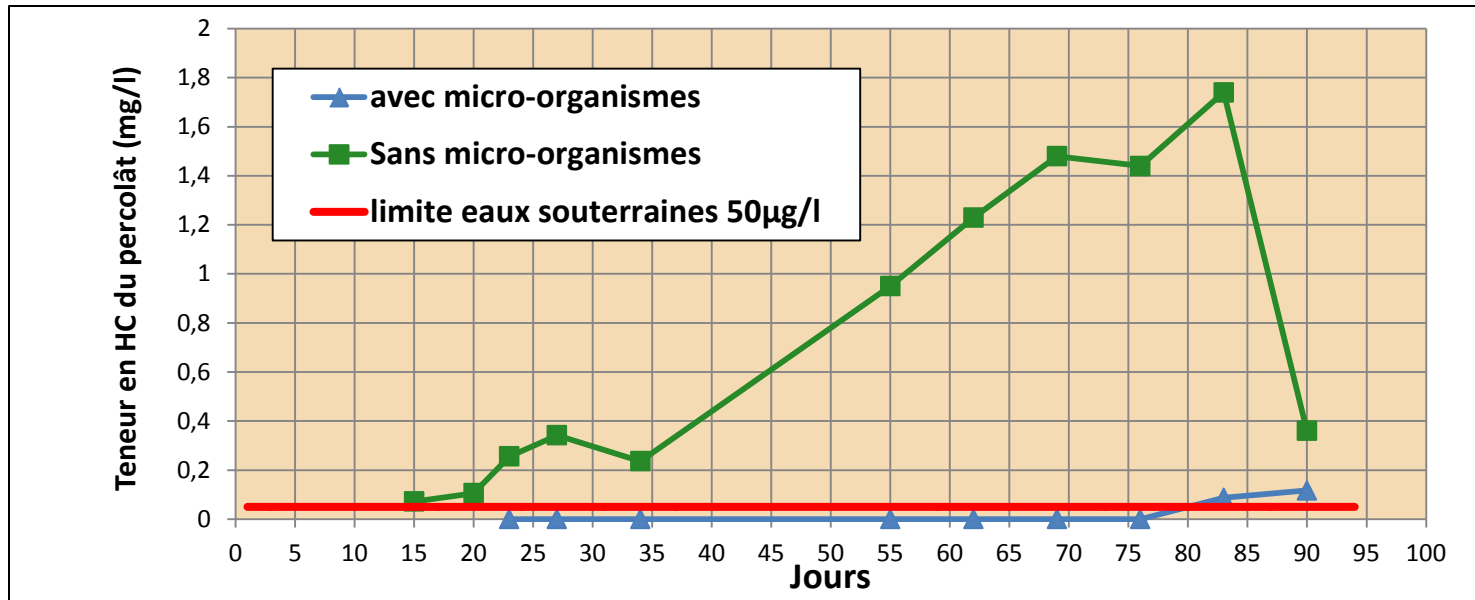
# Other aspects: joint filling material and weed prevention



# Water permeable pavements: what with pollution?



# Structure on itself is purifying



- HC is retained in the structure if the pollution is not too high
- Effect of micro-organisms: very limited concentration in the effluent at the bottom of the structure - simulation of 1 year rain
- Increase in HC in the effluent if more than 3 litres of diesel was added.

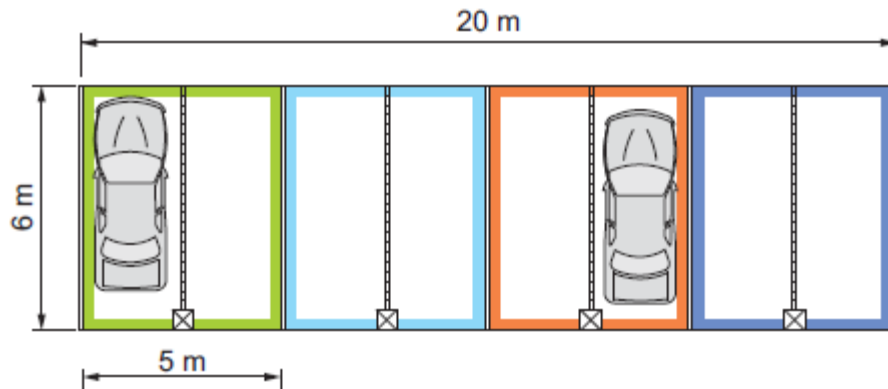








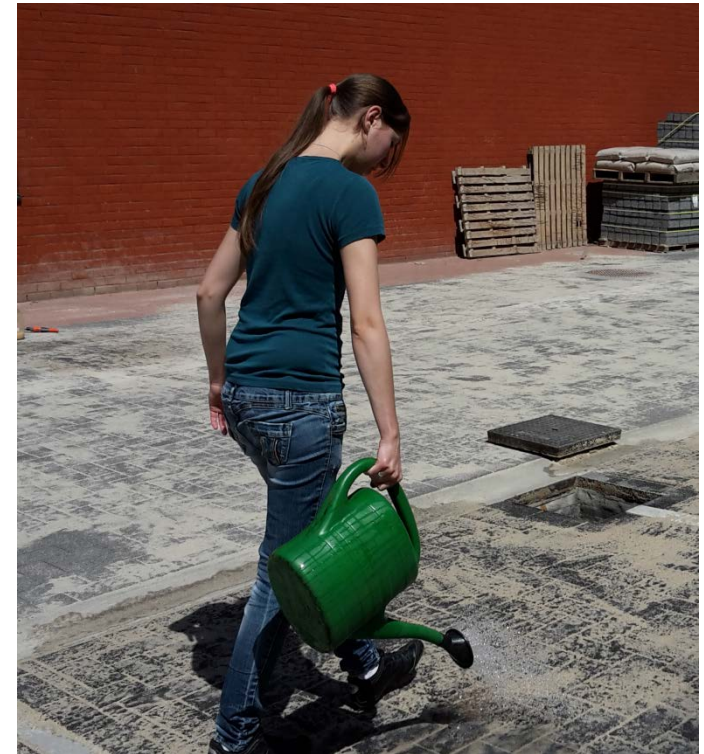
# Durability of the purifying effect in the lab



# Durability of the purifying effect on real scale with and without micro-organisms



-  Zone d'essai 4 : Structure type + épandage de micro-organismes sur la surface
-  Zone d'essai 3 : Structure type + épandage de micro-organismes sur la surface + pollution artificielle
-  Zone d'essai 2 : Structure type + enrobage par micro-organismes des granulats de la couche de pose + pollution artificielle
-  Zone d'essai 1 : Structure type + pollution artificielle



- Large increase in application of water permeable pavement blocks in Belgium, due to new legislation and good knowledge distribution
- Application of standard structure, provision of software in order to design correctly water permeable structures
- Combination of bearing capacity and water storage is improved by splitting up these tasks over the different layers in the structure - water permeability throughout the whole structure
- Choice of material and control towards bearing capacity as well as permeability during execution
- Durability of the permeability is demonstrated by research project as well as on site
- Maintenance is limited, mainly filling up joints to avoid in depth clogging, weed control and if necessary cleaning with high pressure









*Keep enjoying the water!*



*Thank you for your attention,  
questions?*