

9. Conclusions

1. Abandoned lands in the buffer zones around landscape parks of the Łódź Voivodeship are found most frequently in lithogenic habitats characterised by high water permeability, conditioned by the dominance of the sandy fractions.
2. The phenomenon of land abandonment occurs in all geocomplex types because it is influenced not only by environmental conditions, but also by economic and social factors.
3. The soil conditions of abandoned lands, and particularly their pH reaction and content of certain elements, mainly nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium, influence the structure of vegetation which grows as a result of secondary succession of the abandoned lands.
4. The analysed abandoned lands are characterised by high diversity of their vegetation, flora and macromycetes. Phytocoenoses which occur in the abandoned lands exhibit low stability and are open to impact from the neighbouring habitats.
5. Abandoned lands which lie in direct neighbourhood of landscape parks and forest complexes function as a buffer, which provides protection from negative environmental impact.
6. A considerable portion of the analysed abandoned lands is of great ecological significance for the agricultural areas where they occur, by providing refugia for species and genes which enrich the biodiversity, or by forming natural ecological corridors.
7. Abandoned lands inhabited by invasive plant species of foreign origin, can pose a threat to other habitats, in particular to the natural phytocoenoses of protected areas.
8. Abandoned lands in the agricultural landscape are interesting, though insufficiently recognised natural habitats. Due to their important biocoenotic role, they should become the subject of more detailed ecological research.