

# **THE PRINCIPLES OF CREATING A DIGITAL FINE SCALE MAP OF PARENT MATERIALS ON THE EXAMPLE OF THE TERRITORY IN MOSCOW REGION**

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Parent materials are considered as an important factor of soil genesis. The factors controlling the soil properties in a given point are presented in the SCORPAN model

$$S = f(S, C, O, R, P, A, N),$$

where S is soil, C is climate, O is organisms, R is relief, **P is parent material**, A is age, and N is spatial position in the neighborhood.

In most of the studies (76%), only one or two out of these 7 predictors are applied. According to the estimates of 2009, the **contribution of parent materials was only 6%**

## Why only 6%?

- Such a low percent is due to objective difficulties: the main input data that are used, are based on lithology maps, developed by geologists.
- The number of the maps is very limited.

**At the same time data on parent materials can be obtained during soil survey to produce soil maps.**

**The project**  
**Digital soil map of the Training and**  
**Experimental Soil-Ecological Center**  
**(TESEC) of Moscow State University**  
**had been launched in 2012.**

**The project includes all the necessary information to develop digital map of parent materials for the studied territory:**

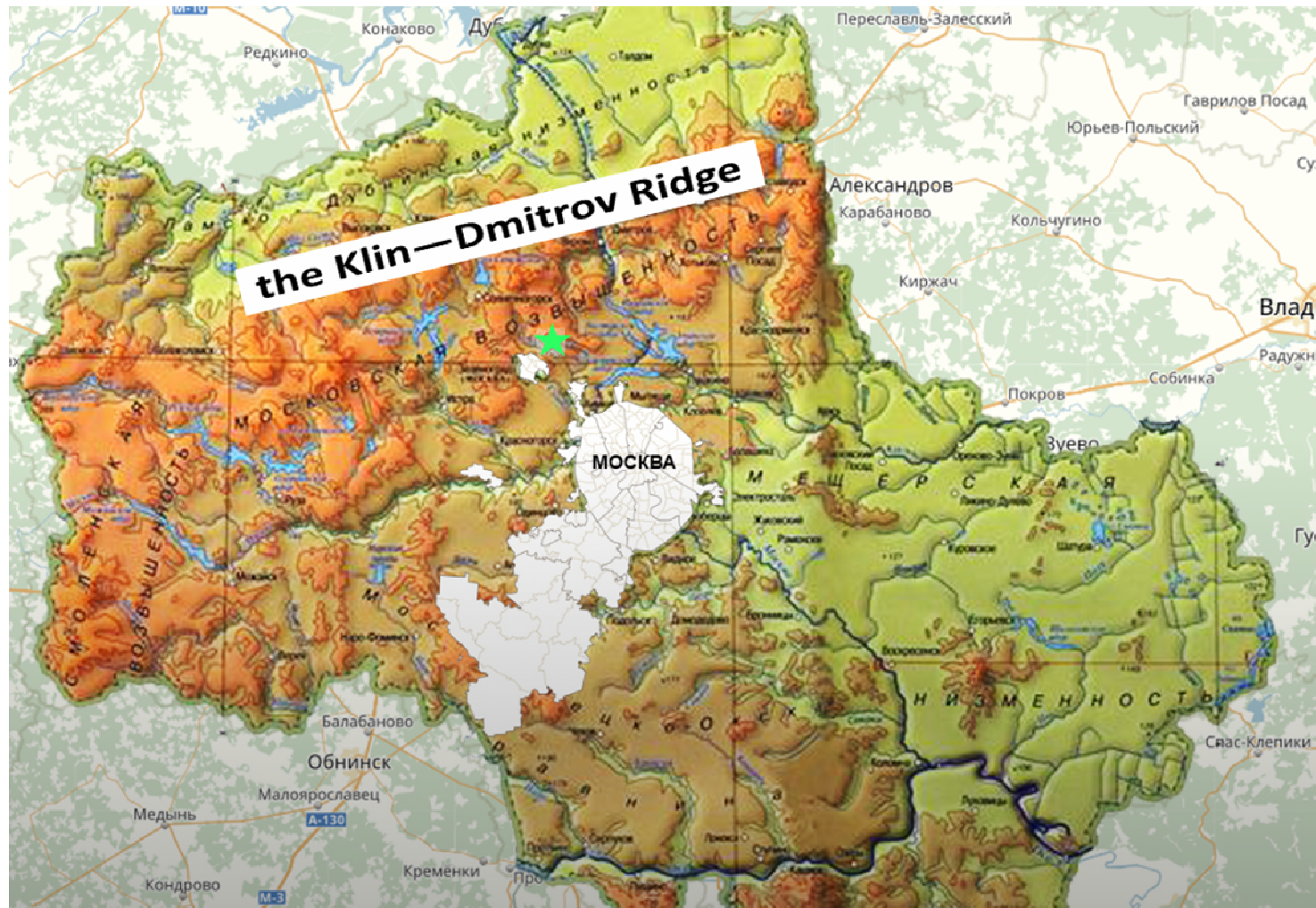
- 1. All information is entered into the database.**
- 2. All pits have GPS coordinates.**
- 3. The format of the annual studies of the same area allows to correct position of the parent material boundaries in question.**

## **THE AIM**

**Based on the project data,  
the aim of this study was  
to create fine-scale (1:10 000)  
digital map  
of parent materials  
of the TESEC territory.**

# OBJECTS - STUDY AREA

The territory of TESEC lies within the southern spurs of the Klin—Dmitrov Ridge.



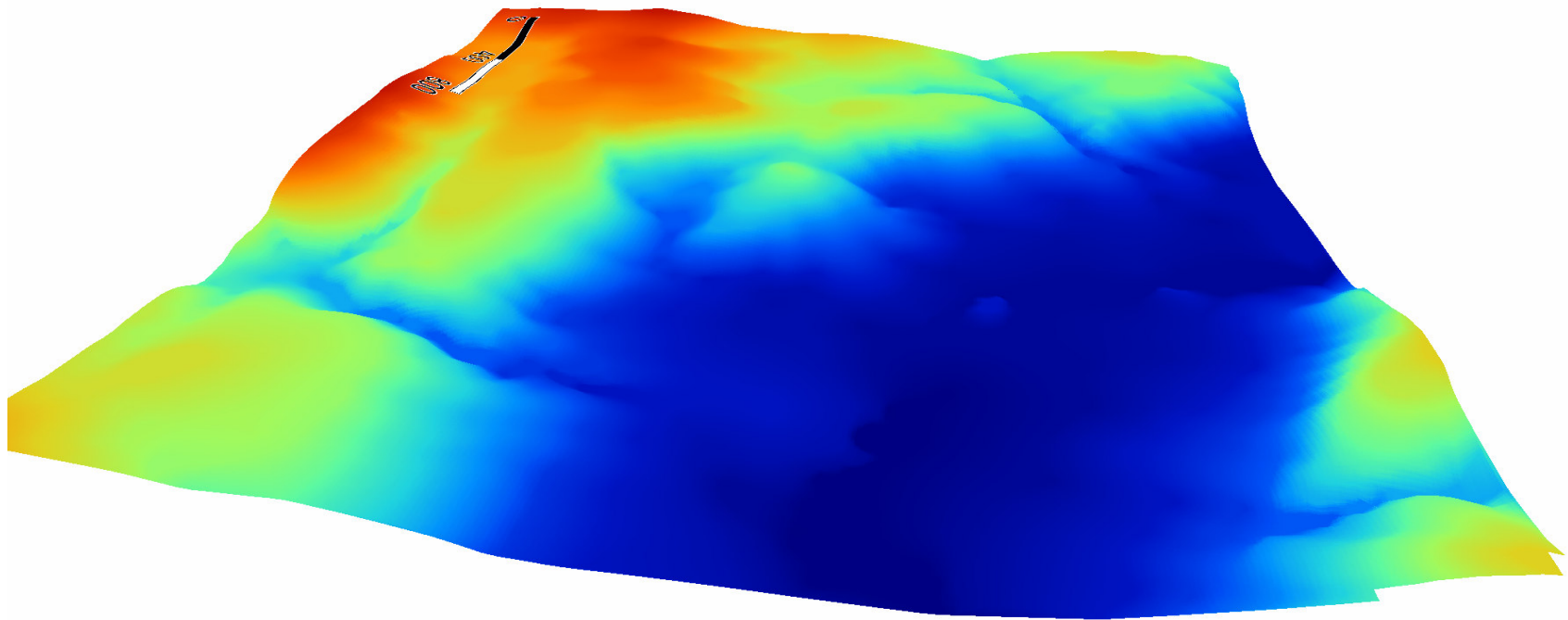
**The major features of the relief were shaped by the Moscow glaciation.**



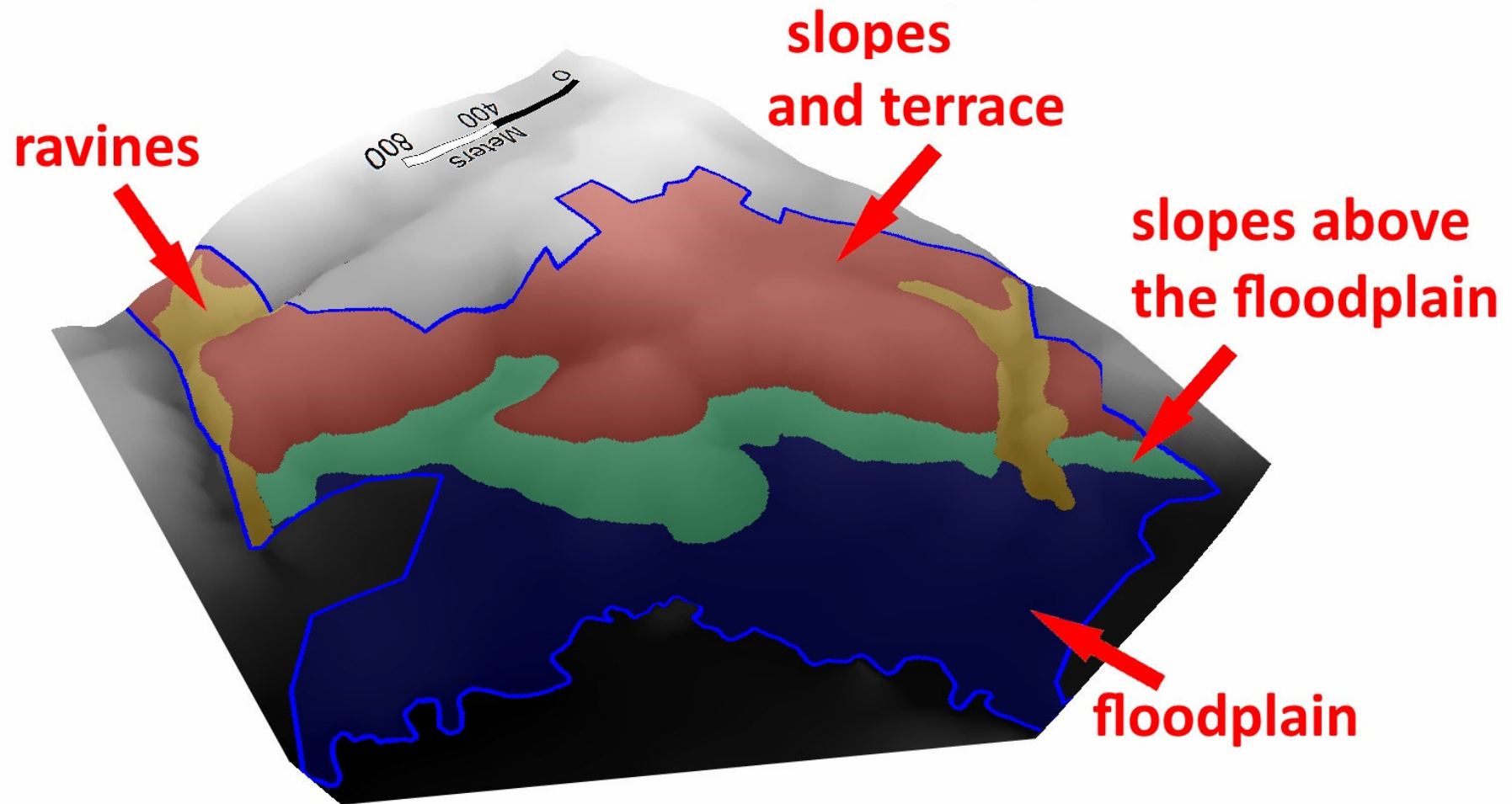
**Ancient glacial hollows were  
processed by the Klyaz'ma River  
and small rivulets**



**The modern hilly topography corresponds to the moraine landscape at different stages of erosion. The slopes are dissected by ravines. The river bed crosses the ancient lacustrine depression with peat deposits.**



# The four distinguished geomorphological areas are discussed

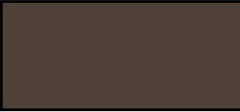







**In total, 6 types of parent materials (11 - including binomial types) were identified on the studied area**

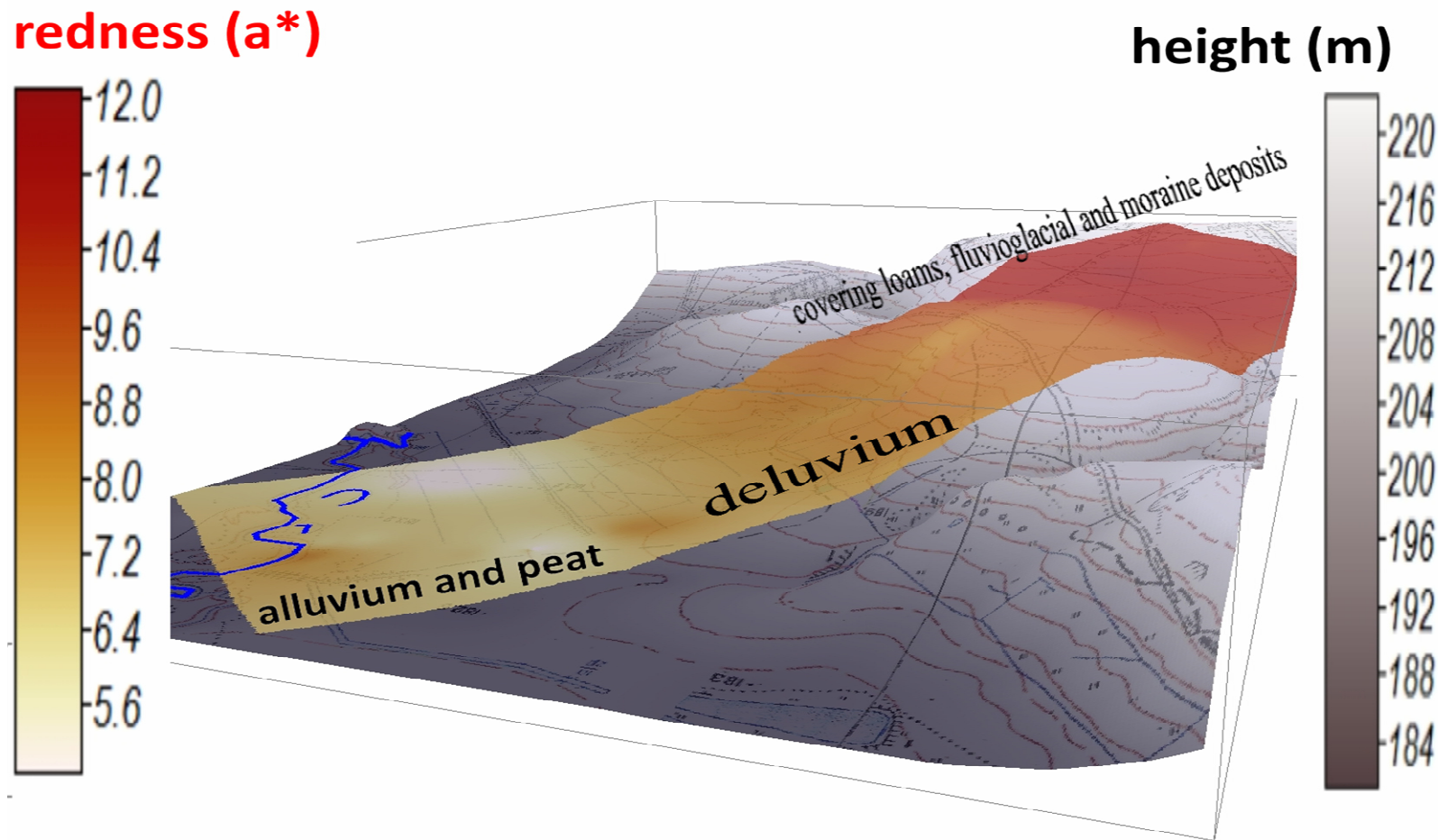
1. **Covering loams** - loesslike deposits.
2. **Moraine deposits** - marginal zone of the moraine of Moscow age.
3. **Fluvioglacial deposits** - unsorted polymineral sand, cemented with iron hydroxides.
4. **Deluvial deposits** can be considered as shifted covering loams.
5. **Alluvial deposits** of the Klyazma river are very diverse, often layered, have different granulometric composition.
6. **Peat.**

**To improve the  
diagnostic of parent  
materials we used their  
colour estimation  
with the  
spectrophotometer.**

**The parent materials can be differentiated by 1-3 colour coordinates in CIE-LAB colour space.**

Parent materials	<i>N</i>	Colour	$L^* \pm SE_{L^*}$	$a^* \pm SE_{a^*}$	$b^* \pm SE_{b^*}$
Peat	37		29.1±1.7	5.3±0.3	8.1±0.9
alluvial deposits	26		51.3±1.7	5.6±0.3	15.5±0.7
deluvial deposits	7		51.6±6.2	7.0±0.5	16.5±2.0
covering loams	15		53.5±1.3	10.4±0.4	22.2±0.4
fluvioglacial deposits	6		46.8±0.9	11.1±0.8	21.7±1.0
moraine	4		49.6±1.6	13.4±0.9	23.4±0.6

When moving from the floodplain (alluvium and peat) upwards (covering loams, fluvio-glacial and moraine deposits) through the floodplain slopes (deluvium) redness of the parent materials increases.



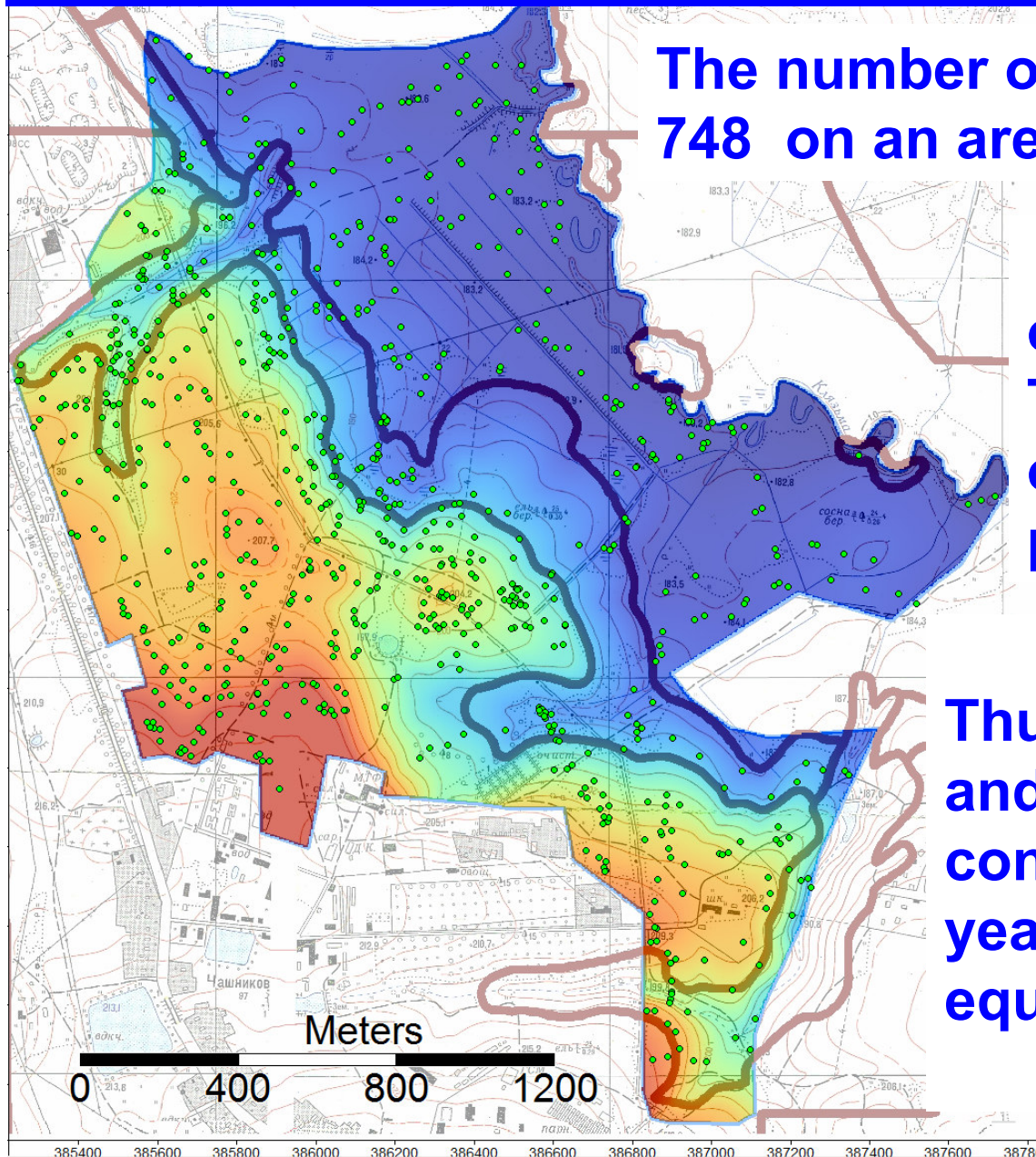
**The colour characteristic  
of parent materials  
provides a reliable  
criterion for their  
differentiation.**

# The data sets

The number of sampling points -  
748 on an area of 339 hectares.

Training set included  
odd sampling points.  
The test set consisted  
of even sampling points.

Thus, both the training  
and the tested samples  
contained data of all the  
years of the study in  
equal proportions.



**To build a digital map we  
used 5 methods, where the  
independent variables were:**

**X, Y coordinates,  
height, slope,  
plan and profile curvature,  
and a categorical  
geomorphological index of the  
territory.**

# Methods of building a digital map

Method	<i>A0</i>	<i>Kappa</i>
<b>KNN</b> - <i>K-Nearest Neighbors</i>	0.70	0.66
<b>MM</b> - <i>Match Method</i>	0.74	0.70
<b>SANN</b> - <i>Automated Neural Networks</i>	0.63	0.57
<b>SOLIM</b> - Solim Solution 2013, Sample-based	0.68	0.63
<b>SVM</b> - <i>Support Vector Machines</i>	0.64	0.57

**A0** - overall accuracy

**Kappa** - the smaller the kappa, the higher the probability that the coincidence is purely accidental

**The method to build a parent materials map does not significantly affect the overall accuracy of the digital map.**

**The highest values are for the K-Nearest Neighbors method and the Match Method. It is not surprising, since they both use the same computing algorithm - the proximity of points to each other by distance.**

# Method selection

For further calculations we chose **the match method** as the best in the overall accuracy, and available as an automated software module directly connected with the SAGA, which greatly facilitates the work on building the map.

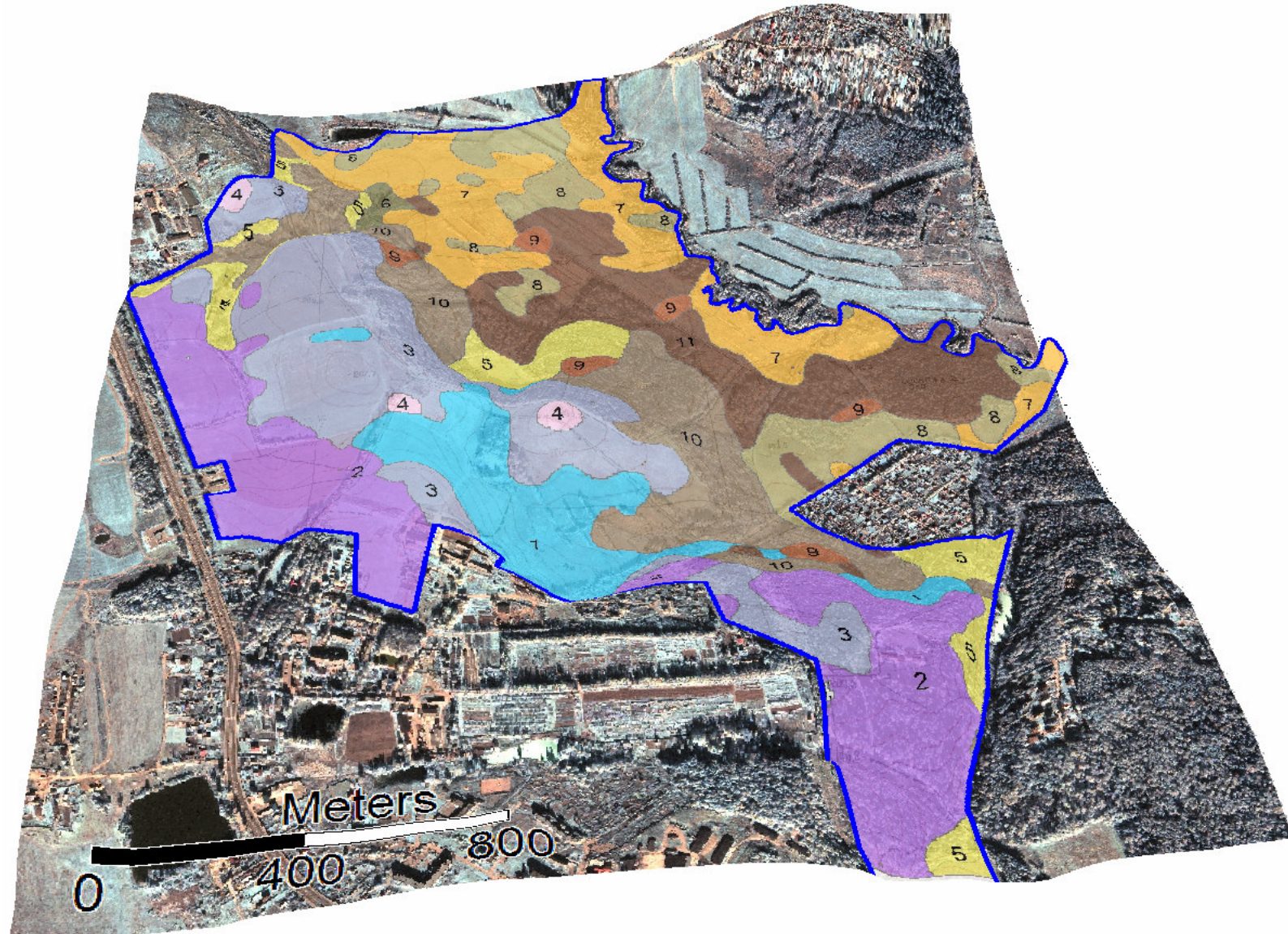
The **match method** can be considered as **formalized expert knowledge** based on interviews of experts, Russian normative documents on the building of soil maps, as well as the Russian classification of 1977.

# **Building a map**

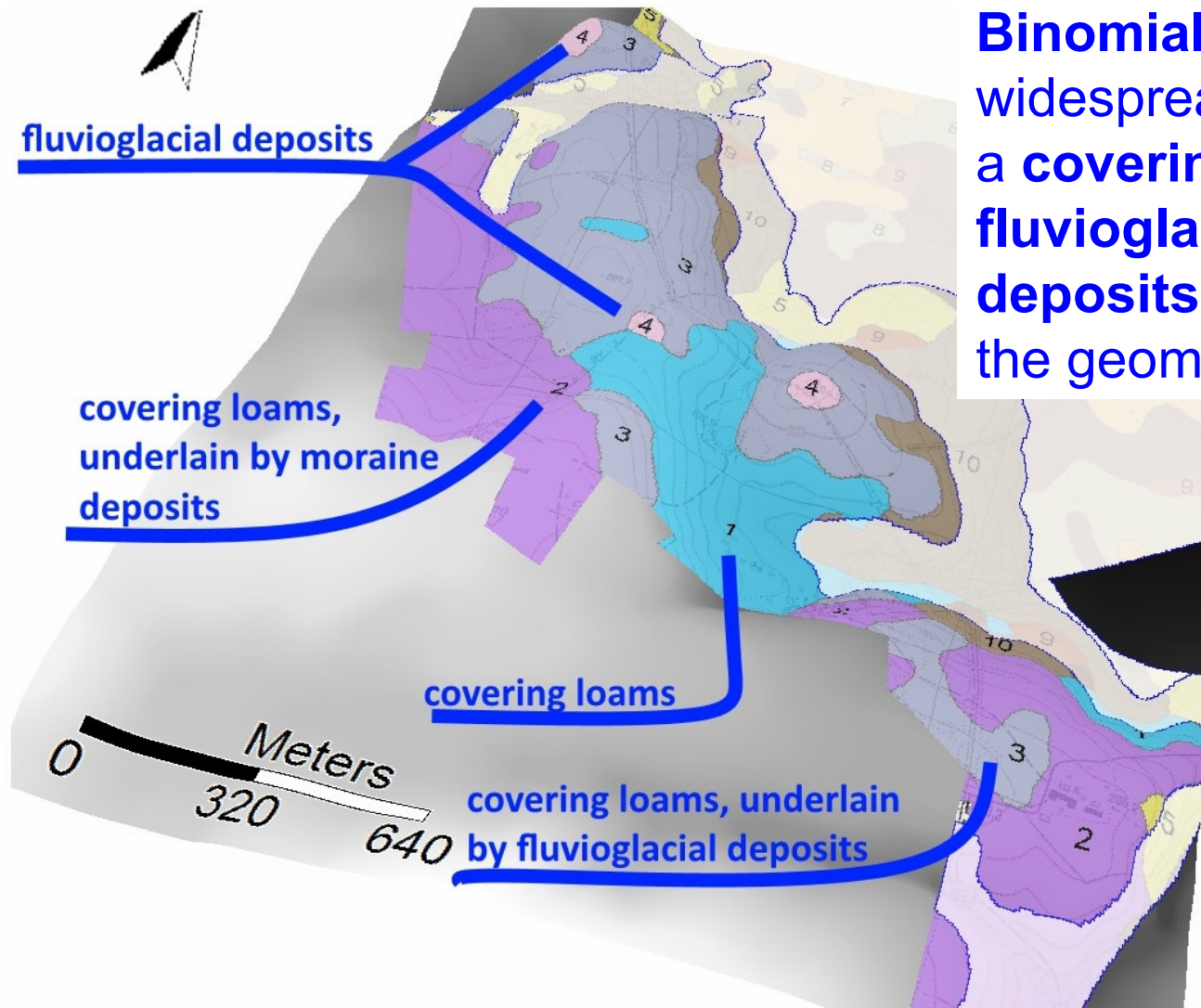
**After determining the method, having the greatest accuracy, a map of parent materials was built for all sampling points (both even and odd).**

**SAGA was used as the GIS platform.**

# Analysis of the distribution of parent materials across the territory



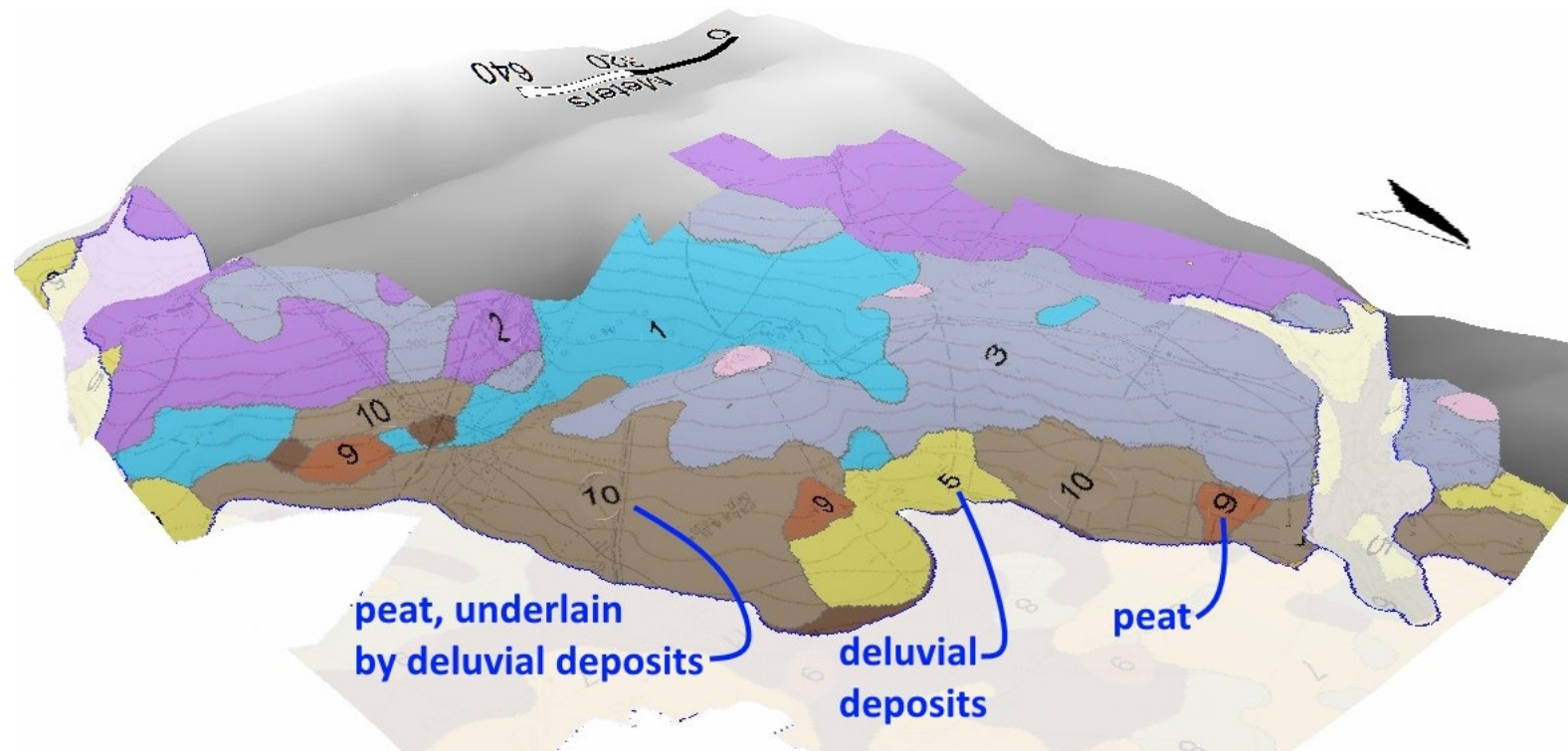
# Slopes and terraces



**Binomial deposits** are most widespread:  
a **covering loams**, underlain by **fluvioglacial** (41%) or **moraine deposits** (35% of the area of the geomorphological region )

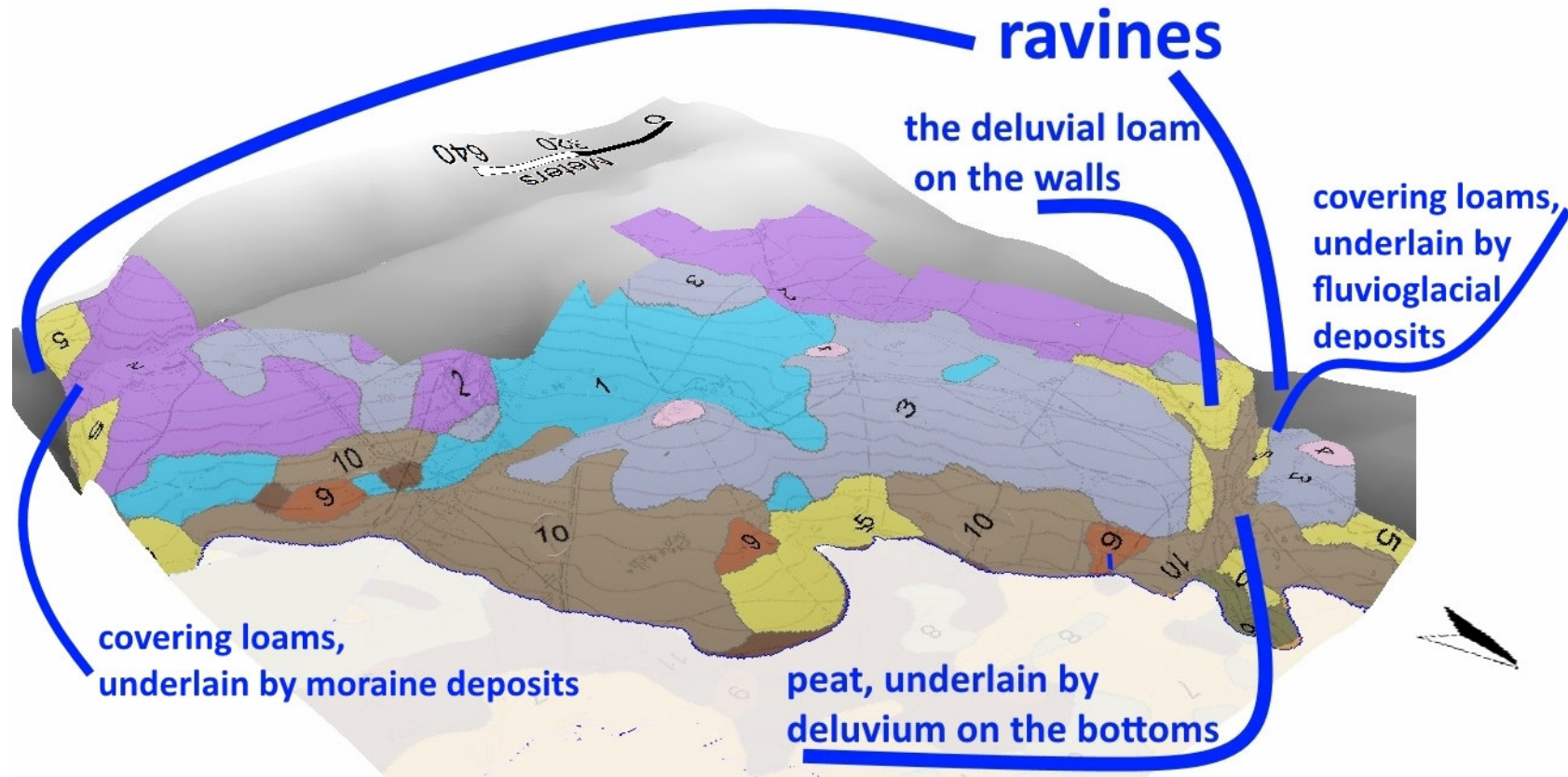
The **covering loams**, per se - 17%.  
Small areas are occupied by **fluvioglacial deposits** on elevated relief elements (1%)

# Floodplain slopes



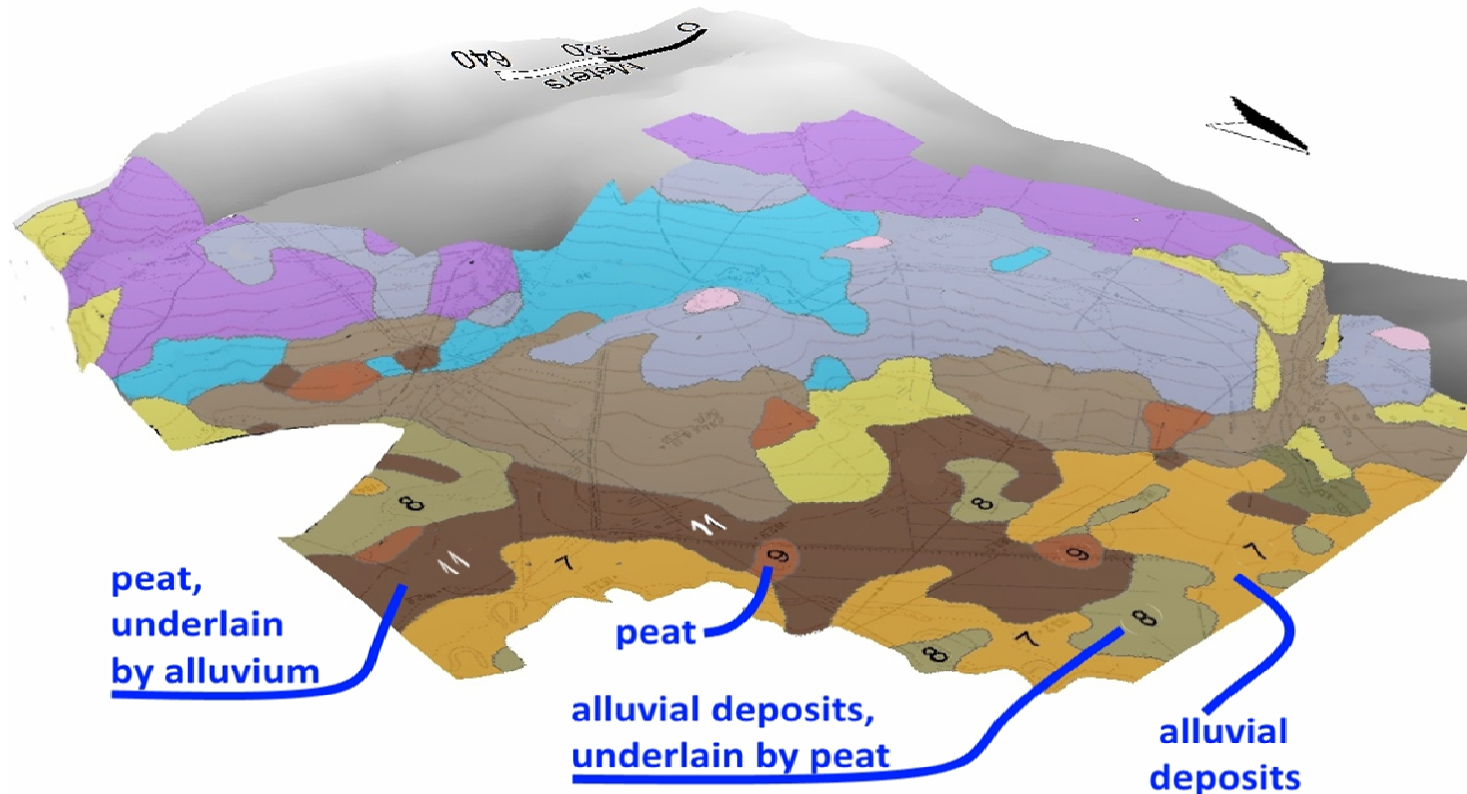
Floodplain slopes are marshy area, despite the melioration carried out, with a wide distribution of **peat, underlain by deluvial deposits** (66%), and **peat** (6%). In the not bogged parts parent materials are represented by **deluvial deposits** (21%).

# Ravines



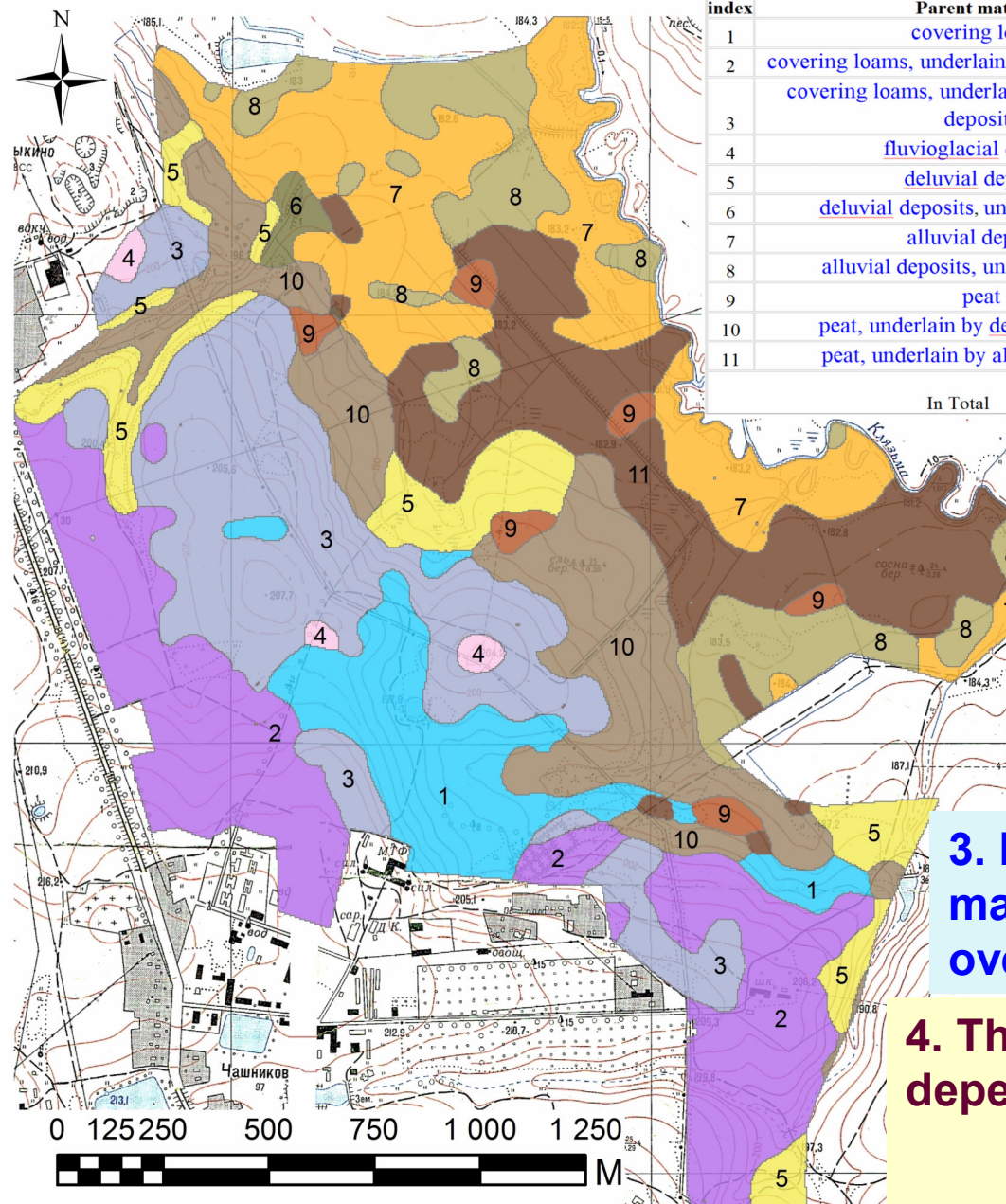
Two ravines reveal the deposits of the slopes, lying higher. Therefore, in addition to the deluvial loams on the walls of ravines (41%) and peat, underlain by deluvium on the bottoms (24%), there are covering loams, underlain by moraine (28%) or fluviglacial deposits (2%).

# Floodplain



Alluvial deposits of the Klyazmy river are extremely diverse in texture and colour.

In addition to the alluvium per se (40%), there are peat (2%), alluvium above peat (23%), and peat, underlain by alluvium (35%). In the soil profiles there are ironstone inclusions and marl horizons, sometimes a clear stratification of alluvial deposits is visible. The bottom horizons are often gleyed.



index	Parent material	Area, %
1	covering loams	7,9
2	covering loams, underlain by moraine deposits	16,7
3	covering loams, underlain by fluviglacial deposits	17,2
4	fluviglacial deposits	0,6
5	deluvial deposits	6,6
6	deluvial deposits, underlain by peat	0,4
7	alluvial deposits	14,5
8	alluvial deposits, underlain by peat	8,4
9	peat	1,6
10	peat, underlain by deluvial deposits	13,2
11	peat, underlain by alluvial deposits	12,9
In Total		100 (339 ha)

## Conclusion

**1. Based on extensive field survey, the main types of parent materials of the studied territory were revealed.**

**2. A statistically reliable criterion for the diagnosis of parent materials using colour characteristics in the CIE-LAB system is proposed.**

**3. Methods to build a parent materials map do not significantly affect the overall accuracy of the digital map.**

**4. The distribution of parent materials depends on the territory relief.**

**THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR ATTENTION**



podzolic soil



soddy soil



peaty black  
bog soil



soddy gley  
soil



bog podzolic  
soil



alluvial soddy  
acid soil



alluvial  
meadow acid  
soil



alluvial  
meadow bog  
soils



alluvial bog  
limous peat  
soil

## SOIL TYPES

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