

A living landscape

The landscape changes continuously. That is not so troublesome, as long as we still can recognize the characteristic elements that are meaningful. Since the last ice age, some thousand years ago, the Wadden Sea developed by the unique interaction of nature and Man. The sea level rise and the tides left their marks in the whole area and formed the wide open marsh areas. People managed to make their living in a unique way, as we still are able to see. If we handle our cultural 'treasure' in a wise way, the area offers many chances and opportunities for sustainable balanced development.



Valuable tracks

From 1999 until 2001 the tracks from the past in the landscape were being investigated in the Lancewad project. Lancewad means **Landscape** and **cultural heritage** of the **Wadden Sea Region**. The project produced an accurate inventory of all important cultural qualities of our landscape and our heritage. Countless witnesses are mapped promptly like for example dwelling mounds, sluices, mills, dikes, lighthouses and embankments which are symbols of the interaction of Man with nature. This enables us to read our own history in the landscape, like we read the folds in a beloved face. We can use the valuable tracks consciously to develop a landscape that is fully alive: economically, socially and historically.

Management principles

The Wadden Sea Ministers Conference in Esbjerg in 2001 agreed on the following central management principles.

- The landscape will always be subject to transformation. We can not tie the landscape but we can try to manage the development.



- This necessitates the involvement of those who live, work and visit the area and use the opportunities which the region offers.
- Enhancing their awareness of the heritage is a prerequisite for also putting the strategies into practical policies which will be adopted by the communities.

Passing on the treasure

The follow-up project LancewadPlan, running from 2005 until 2007 and finally supported by the Interreg IIIB North Sea program focuses on the management and planning issues regarding our unique cultural landscape and heritage.

Aims

A vision and a strategy

The two German Federal States of Lower Saxony and Schleswig-Holstein, Denmark and The Netherlands must develop and agree on a vision and strategy for the conservation, management and sustainable use of our common heritage. We have a common responsibility.

We need answers to questions such as: How do the agricultural reforms within the European Union influence our landscape? How can we best keep our villages while at the same time use the heritage for an additional income? Where do we want to be in 15 - 20 years and what strategy should be applied to reach the vision?

Reinforce our planning

In the first project we have looked primarily at the individual elements such as the dwelling mounds, the dykes and churches that make up for the heritage. We will now look at the heritage in its entirety because it are the elements in their context that make the heritage. Such cultural environments and areas of historic interest that displays important features of the social development of the region will be delimited and characterized geographically and result in a cultural environment atlas.

What, for example, are the characteristics of those environments? Are they special on an international level? What are the primary management issues? What are the main threats and opportunities, for now and in the future? With the involvement of all stakeholders and public participation the ambitious aims can be reached. It is of great importance that the findings and recommendations of the project are sound and can be accepted by a wider audience.

Challenge

LancewadPlan is a challenging task. People work here to make a living; tourists visit the area to enjoy the landscape; others live here and wish to enjoy both the rural countryside and the quiet and open space. Others are keen on preserving the heritage as a witness of the history of the landscape. Many interests, many perceptions that interfere.

Results

Stakeholders will be more aware of the cultural landscape wealth which former generations have left us; they get a clear picture of what they can contribute and what the opportunities are to care for the heritage. Planners take the heritage into account within the entire spatial development.

Of course, all results will be available on internet and the best practices will be published in a handbook.



New links: Wadden Sea and The Wash

The Wash is located on the east coast of England and is bordered by the counties of Lincolnshire and Norfolk. It shares many similarities with the Wadden Sea region. From similar reclaimed land patterns with dikes and drains criss-crossing the landscape, mills and lighthouses punctuating the skyline and historic ports and village patterns. The Hanseatic League traded here so there are timbers from our land in their historic buildings.

The Wash Estuary Strategy Group has recently undertaken a wide ranging review of their management plan covering issues such as sustainable use of the landscape, historic environment and cultural heritage. For this reason we successfully invited them to be involved within this project, so we can share experiences, highs and lows, and learn from one another.

Misthusum Enge (DK)



Historic dwelling in the wide open marsh

Misthusum is the most northerly settlement on man-made dwelling mounds in the entire Wadden Sea region. Here, in the Middle Ages, eight mounds were built, each with its own farm, as well as a low summer dyke to protect against the less severe floods of that season. However, the dyke was not strong enough to withstand the big winter floods, and the village was flooded several times. In the eighteenth century, people started to move onto the Geest, and in 1814 the last family left Misthusum. All that remains now is the low dyke and the eight dwelling mounds as well as a small hut, Misthusumhus, built in 1814 for the herdsman on the northernmost dwelling mound. Misthusum Enge is part of the Ballummarsk which was embanked with a strong sea dyke as recently as in 1919.



Passing Project on the LANCEWADPLAN Treasure



King's Lynn (UK)

A historic quayside brought back to life

The historic medieval port of King's Lynn lies on the banks of the Great Ouse which drains into the south-east corner of The Wash. The quayside and river frontage have played various important roles through the ages, including whaling, boat building, trade centre, fishing, clay extraction and brick manufacturing. In medieval times, the Hanseatic League made their English base here, and built a warehouse which is still standing today (only one in England). But like many historic quaysides and water fronts, it became neglected as industry and trade changed, and as new developments started to encroach on the cultural character.

The people of King's Lynn and their council recognized that their heritage was showing signs of neglect and that action had to be taken to bring this important part of the town back to life and use in modern-day terms. This process has taken many steps to ensure integration between old and historic, and new and useful.

Photo Hallig ©www.nordseetourismus.de



Inseln & Halligen (SH)

Life on the borderline between land and sea

There is a word which precisely characterizes the North Frisian coastal area – the word is diversity. Divers are the forms of landscapes lying in close proximity: geest and marsh islands, Halligen, river and sea marshes, wadden areas, remnant swamp areas, outer-sands and tidal gullies dominate the landscape. The constant effort of the North Sea to reclaim cultivated marsh land and transfer it into wadden areas and the firm intention of the coastal inhabitants to protect their land against the sea does not only dominate the landscape but also the local population. Just recently the traces were still to be found in their faces, their houses, their customs, their traditional clothing and their language and dialects. Almost unchanged remains the constant struggle with natural forces. During the winter floodings (land submerged) the inhabitants of the Halligen are in particular repeatedly reminded of how life was managed on the coastal shores in former times despite extreme environmental conditions. Nevertheless, they stay anyhow – there is no better way of demonstrating the power which binds man and marsh.



Carolinensiel (Nds)

Wind of change and historic cultural landscapes

Landscapes are changing. These changes are due to environmental influences and, last but not least, Man's labor, e.g. his numerous efforts to make a living. The Wadden Sea area is a perfect example of this natural and cultural interaction. The beautiful "sluice harbor" village of Carolinensiel, now situated inland, was in former times a busy seaport. At its founding, the further south located former harbors, Alt- and Neufunnixiel, lost their importance. This caused the inhabitants to seek new ways of livelihood, just like the inhabitants of Carolinensiel nowadays. Our aim is to preserve its historic cultural landscape and heritage for future generations and make sure the area does not lose its character in the process. This needs a common vision.

Further information

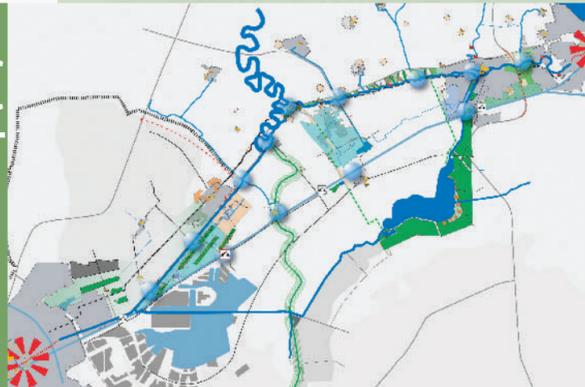
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Damsterdiep (NL)

A vision on identity

Along the Damsterdiep between Groningen and Delfzijl lie old dwelling mounds, paths, dykes, monumental churches, farms, bridges, walls and several more valuable features. Over the last decades the landscape lost a lot of its character. The province of Groningen and several municipalities saw the attractiveness and therewith the chances for the area. Consequently, they took initiatives and organized workshops with the water board, heritage-organizations, inhabitants, ministries, landscape architects and other experts. This led to a vision on the identity of the Damsterdiep, in which new spatial developments will reinforce the value of this area by, e.g. restoring dwelling mounds and farms, building new paths as missing links between the old ones, and reusing the industrial heritage. Thanks to this vision on its identity, the Damsterdiep will obtain new economical value over the next decades.