

Partners

The LIFE Going up a level project for the Drents-Friese Wold National Park and Leggelderveld is a joint project of the provinces of Drenthe and Fryslân, the Drents Overijsselse Delta (water authority), Wetterskip Fryslân (Frisian water authority), Staatsbosbeheer (Forestry Commission), Natuurmonumenten (Nature Conservation Foundation), Het Drentse Landschap (The Landscape of Drenthe Foundation), Maatschappij van Weldadigheid (Society of Humanitarianism), Recreatieschap Drenthe (Drenthe Recreation Society municipal joint venture) and the municipalities of Westerveld and Ooststellingwerf. This project has been realised with a financial contribution from the EU LIFE+ financial instrument for the conservation of Natura 2000 sites..



Drents-Friese Wold and Leggelderveld



Editing, design and production

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More information?

Visit <http://www.np-drentsfriesewold.nl/documents/life-n2000.xml?lang=en> for background information and the latest news.



A quality natural environment at its best



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The LIFE Going up a level project contributes to the realisation of the joint futuristic view of Leggelderveld and Drents-Friese Wold: A world without borders.

By 2025 the national park will have developed into a continuous, rugged and beautiful nature reserve. Nature can largely evolve naturally here. The forests will enable natural variation. The bog heaths thrive because of the natural groundwater level and marsh forests and valleys full of flowers have developed spontaneously at different locations. Meandering streams create connections. The Drents-Friese Wold National Park has become an important wildlife area that is waiting to be discovered.

Even more will change in the future. In addition to the LIFE project, the water authority will start the restoration of the middle course of the stream the Vledder Aa. Conservationists are busy transforming the production forest into a more natural (deciduous) forest. Agreements have also been made to reduce groundwater extraction by half near Terwissha.

2025 vision

An even more beautiful, varied and exciting Drents-Friese Wold National Park

The water system of the Drents-Friese Wold will become more natural and more climate-resilient. This means that any precipitation will remain in the area longer. In case of extreme rainfall, this will prevent or reduce flooding of houses and companies in areas located downstream.

Climate-resilient water system

It is not just the flora and fauna that will benefit from the changes. Visitors will be able to enjoy the area even more: they can take walks and cycle along areas where the fens, peat bogs and heathland have been restored. This will make the Drents-Friese Wold one of the few regions in the Netherlands where true wildlife can be experienced.

More recreation

- Ninety additional hectares of special habitat types such as bog heaths, moorlands and species-rich grassland with heather on poor soil;
- Better habitats for some 50 fens;
- A greater habitat for beautiful flowers such as bog gentian, bog asphodel and spotted orchids and for special birds such as the red-backed shrike, stonechat and whinchat.

More wildlife

The natural environment will benefit in multiple ways from the

Results

Measures

Water is the key to the LIFE Going up a level project. A more natural water level will bring the wildlife of the Drents-Friese Wold and the Leggelderveld to a higher level: more varied and even more exciting to experience. The project will take place between 2016-2019 in five subregions (see inside).

In the largest consecutive forest area of Northern Netherlands we are working together on top quality nature. By restoring the original groundwater level we create a richer variation in valleys with meandering streams, heather, shifting sands, fens and natural forest. A natural environment where animals and people can wander for hours on end.

This is made possible by a contribution from LIFE+, the European fund for the restoration of the natural environment and its development. Together with the adjacent Leggelderveld, the Drents-Friese Wold is part of Natura 2000, the network of the most beautiful and valuable natural environments in Europe.

Drents-Friese Wold National Park Nature without borders

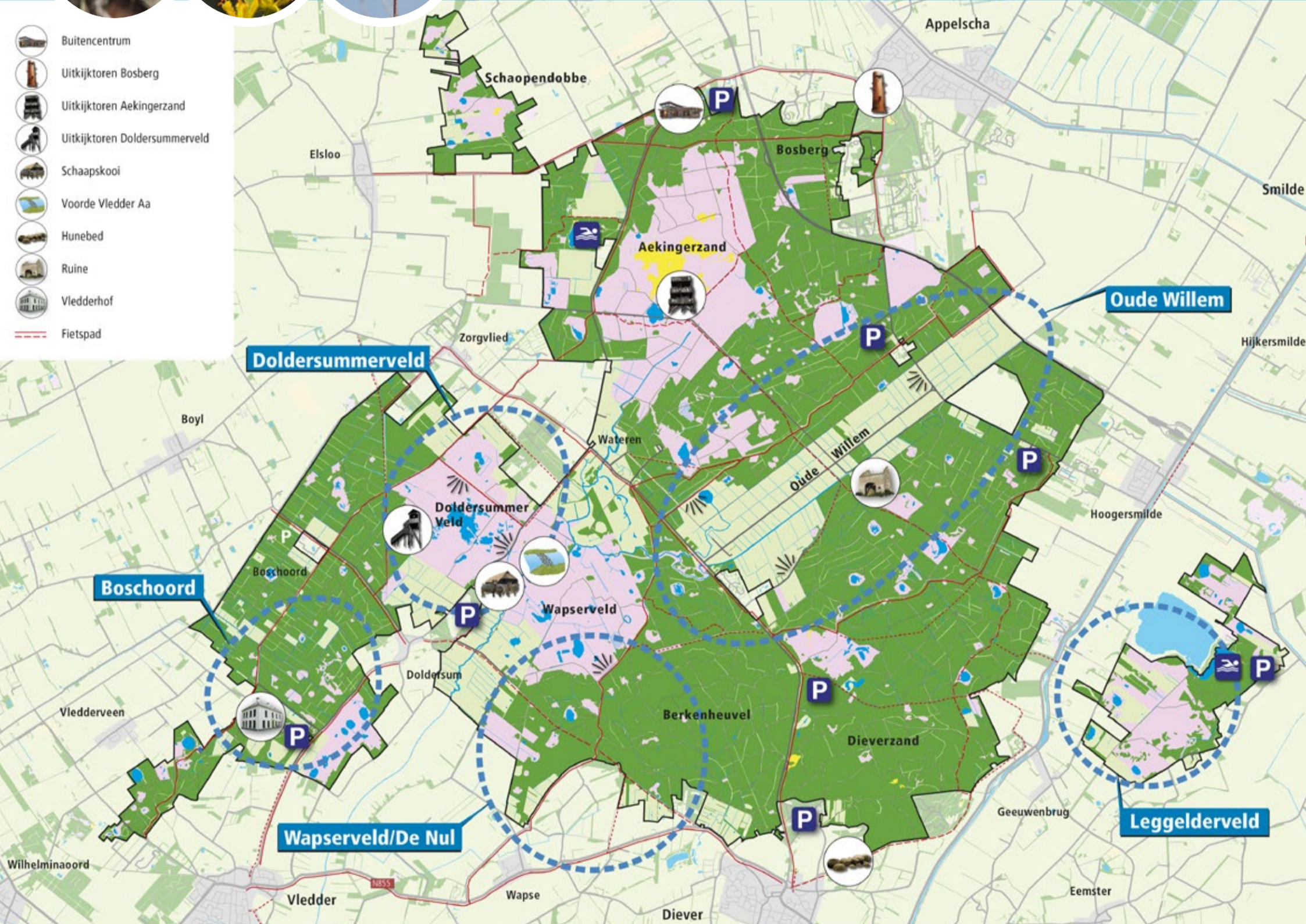
Five subregions

Oude Willem

In the heart of the Drents-Friese Wold National Park agricultural lands are transformed into a natural brook landscape. The "Oude Willem" will again serve as a headwater area of the stream the Vledder Aa. Most of the ditches and trenches will disappear, enabling the groundwater level to rise. A new rift will gradually dissipate the water to the Vledder Aa. This rift will follow the natural hollows in the terrain as much as possible. The fens in the surrounding forest will also benefit from the higher groundwater level. Forest edges will form a natural transition with shrubs and herbs. This will result in a varied, half-open natural landscape in the middle of the Wold where you can wander for hours. Herds of grazing cows will aid the development of the new natural habitat. Mowing the area will continue for now in order to accelerate this development.

Doldersummerveld

Heather will be given further room in one of the most valuable wetlands in the Netherlands. Water in and surrounding the region will be retained in the region longer by filling in ditches or making them more shallow. Former agricultural lands will be peat cut to ensure moist heaths and grassland with heather on poor soil can develop. Just like in the old days, grazing sheep and cows will help manage the region. The sheepfold at the Huenderweg is and will remain the starting point for discovering this vast heather reserve.



Leggelderveld

The Leggelderveld is a surprising heathland with high/low and wet/dry areas. It boasts special plants such as the common cottongrass, bog asphodel, bog gentian and heather orchid. Through a combination of measures such as peat cutting, filling in ditches and transforming the forest, these and other species will be provided with an even better habitat. The fertilised top soil of former agricultural lands will be removed. This will result in a nutrient poor soil that will enable the heather to be restored to the region. Herds of grazers will help maintain the heath's condition.

Boschoord

The Boschoord estate works with the "Maatschappij van Weldadigheid" (Society of Humanitarianism) on a new perspective for bog heath and peat bogs. This is established through the cutting of production forest, making ditches less shallow and rewetting fens. In the future, the renewed heathlands will better fit in with the adjacent Doldersummerveld and expand the habitat of special flora and fauna.

Wapserveld en De Nul

Near Wapserveld and De Nul six fens will be restored. In Wapserveld, ditches will be filled in and trees will be cut along the heath edges to create gradual transitions between forest and heathland. These transitions will improve the habitat of many plants, birds, amphibians and reptiles.

LIFE Going up a level: enabling people, flora and fauna to thrive in the perfect natural environment

