HUL in Holland

Implementation of the Historic Urban Landscape approach in Dutch World Heritage sites

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A publication by **the Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands**
in cooperation with **Feddes/Olthof landscape architects bv**

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Beemster Polder
17th Century Canal Ring Area of Amsterdam inside the Singelgracht
Defence Line of Amsterdam and New Dutch Waterline
Mill network at Kinderdijk-Elshout
Groningen
Zwolle
Amsterdam
Utrecht
The Hague
Arnhem
Rotterdam
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Maastricht

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The Historic Urban Landscape approach

In 2011, the General Conference of UNESCO adopted the new Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape. The Historic Urban Landscape approach is aimed at preserving the quality of the human environment, enhancing the productive and sustainable use of urban spaces, while recognizing their dynamic character, and promoting social and functional diversity.

Core to the HUL approach is a new understanding of the historic urban landscape.

> *"The historic urban landscape is the urban area defined as the result of a historic layering of cultural and natural values and attributes, extending beyond the notion of 'historic centre' or 'ensemble', to include the broader urban context and its geographical setting."*

The Historic Urban Landscape approach addresses the inclusive management of heritage resources in dynamic and constantly changing environments, aimed at guiding change in historic cities. It is based on the recognition and identification of a layering and interconnection of natural and cultural, tangible and intangible, international and local values present in any city. These values should be taken as a point of departure in the overall management and development of the city. Heritage management thus becomes the management of change, instead of the prevention of change. Rather than hindering development, heritage can foster development: it can be used as a driver and source for building sustainable and resilient cities.

> *"Historic Urban Landscapes are planned or organically evolved urban areas that retain an active social and economic role in contemporary society. They are settlements in which the evolutionary process of the urban landscape is still in progress and which exhibit significant material evidence of their founding and evolution over time."*

The HUL approach requires that account be taken of the local context of the historic city. This results in different approaches to the management of urban heritage. The successful management of urban heritage in complex environments demands a robust and continually evolving toolkit. It should include a range of tools, which can be organized into four different categories.

Knowledge and planning tools should help protect the attributes of urban heritage and their integrity and authenticity. They should also allow for the recognition of cultural significance and diversity, and provide for the monitoring and management of change to improve the quality of urban space and of life in the city.
Examples: Planning, GIS, impact/vulnerability assessment, policy assessment

Civic engagement tools should involve a diverse cross-section of stakeholders, and empower them to identify key values in their urban areas, develop visions that reflect their diversity, set goals, and agree on actions to safeguard their heritage and promote sustainable development.
Examples: Publicity, dialogue and consultation, community empowerment

Regulatory systems should reflect local conditions, and may include legislative and regulatory measures aimed at the conservation and management of the tangible and intangible attributes of the urban heritage, including their social, environmental and cultural values.
Examples: Laws and regulations, traditional customs, policies and plans

Financial tools should be aimed at supporting innovative income-generating development and building capacities to improve the process of planning and management. Government and global funds, private investment at the local level, other flexible financing to support local enterprise and a variety of models of partnerships are central to making the historic urban landscape approach financially sustainable.
Examples: Economics, grants, public-private partnerships

World heritage and spatial planning in the Netherlands, in the spirit of the Historic Urban Landscape approach

The Netherlands is a small and densely populated country that is constantly adapting to new societal demands in relation to housing, work, transport, leisure and the quality of the living environment. At present, the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the transition to a sustainable society are key elements in the field of spatial development. Protecting and preserving heritage sites is an essential challenge in this. In the spirit of the Historic Urban Landscape approach, the Netherlands is working to bring about this sustainable future. In this section, we describe the policies of the Netherlands and how the country applies the Historic Urban Landscape approach.

Caring for our heritage

Responsibility for treating heritage properly is an important part of Dutch policy. At both central and non-central level, concern for cultural heritage is firmly embedded in policies and legislation. Concern for world heritage is also linked with developments in the physical environment, with regard to housing, business, mobility, agriculture, protection of the countryside, and water management, for example. This means that Dutch spatial policies and legislation serve as effective preconditions for meeting the conservation obligations set by UNESCO. The protection of world heritage has an explicit position in the system of spatial planning, as the Historic Urban Landscape approach demands.

Robust support from society for the sustainable conservation of world heritage is at least as important as policies and legislation. Democratically elected officials take the final decisions, but they base them in part on the wishes of the electorate. The Netherlands is therefore investing strongly in involving administrators and citizens alike in the process of conserving world heritage and in other areas that could affect world heritage. Where at all possible, maintaining support requires that scope be allowed for other types of development and that the interests of various groups be accommodated. Compromises designed to conserve world heritage and at the same time allow for spatial developments - especially in dynamic urban areas - are often unavoidable, but should be to the advantage of both.

Spatial challenges and strengthening heritage

During the past twenty years, the Netherlands has been devising strategies for combining challenges regarding the conservation of heritage with a range of different types of spatial challenges in a form of integrated planning, as a means of conserving or improving the quality of the living environment. In the process, we have been using the Historic Urban Landscape approach since 2011. This is summarized in brief below. The approach is then further highlighted with the help of four case studies.

Policy and legislation
Conserving and strengthening world heritage is one of the thirteen national priorities for the spatial development of the Netherlands.
The Heritage Act was revised in 2015, and the Environment and Planning Act in 2016.
Dutch world heritage sites are legally protected as official monuments, in their entirety or as areas, with the help of both Acts.

Administrative agreements
Since 2011, all world heritage sites in the Netherlands have been covered by Management Plans. The Management Plans are periodically updated by the site holders, and the conservation of world heritage is monitored.

Finance
The conservation and restoration of world heritage is a spending priority for the central government.
Between 2012 and 2016, some 7.2 million euros were spent on special communication and visitor centre projects.
The umbrella organization for world heritage sites, The Netherlands World Heritage Founding , receives an annual grant.

Knowledge and planning tools
The Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands plays a supporting role as a knowledge organization in issues concerning the conservation and management of world heritage.
The Heritage Impact Assessment was introduced in 2013, since when it has been implemented successfully on numerous occasions.

1

Seventeenth-Century Canal Ring Area of Amsterdam inside the Singelgracht was placed on the UNESCO World Heritage list, according to the following criteria:

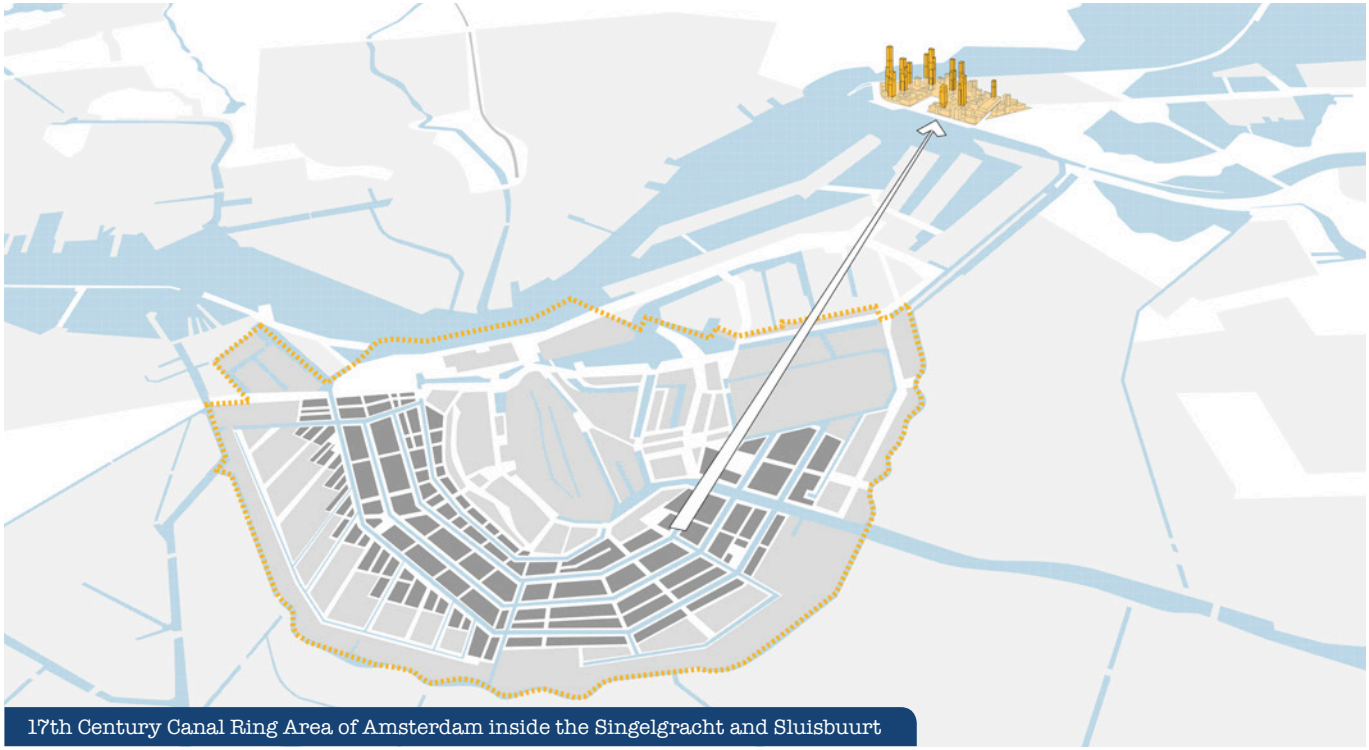
Criterion (i): *The Amsterdam Canal District is the design at the end of the 16th century and the construction in the 17th century of a new and entirely artificial 'port city.' It is a masterpiece of hydraulic engineering, town planning, and a rational programme of construction and bourgeois architecture. It is a unique and innovative, large-scale but homogeneous urban ensemble.*

Criterion (ii): *The Amsterdam Canal District bears witness to an exchange of considerable influences over almost two centuries, in terms not only of civil engineering, town planning, and architecture, but also of a series of technical, maritime, and cultural fields.*

Criterion (iv): *The Amsterdam Canal District represents an outstanding example of a built urban ensemble that required and illustrates expertise in hydraulics, civil engineering, town planning, construction and architectural knowhow. In the 17th century, it established the model for the entirely artificial 'port city' as well as the type of Dutch single dwelling with its variety of façades and gables.*

Seventeenth-Century Canal Ring Area of Amsterdam inside the Singelgracht

Case study: **High-rise buildings in the Sluisbuurt district**



17th Century Canal Ring Area of Amsterdam inside the Singelgracht and Sluisbuurt

Introduction

In the seventeenth century, Amsterdam grew to be one of the largest and most influential trading cities in Europe. From a cultural, political, and economic perspective, the city experienced rapid development. The greater prosperity resulted in an explosive growth in population, which meant the city was at bursting point. To deal with this increase in the number of inhabitants, a unique expansion plan was devised that entailed the construction of a ring of canals around the mediaeval city centre. The urban design, hydraulic engineering, and architectural features of the canal ring are of outstanding universal value. The canal district is an urban landscape of 198 hectares, fourteen kilometres in length, has eighty bridges, and is home to many historic canal buildings.

Challenges

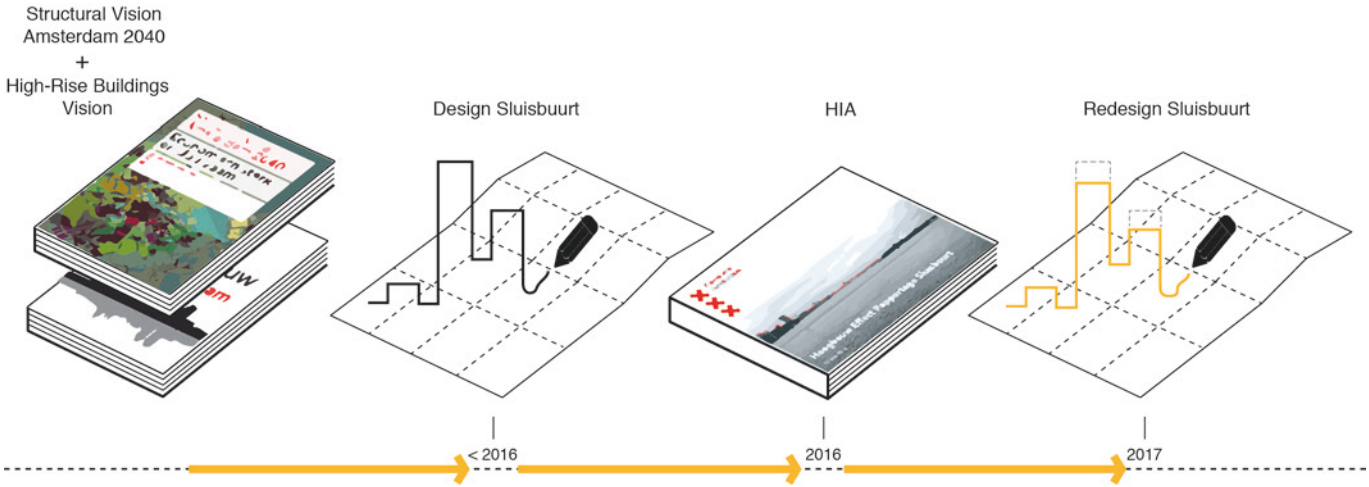
Amsterdam is currently again facing a significant rise in its population, as was the case in the seventeenth century. The number of inhabitants is growing by 11,000 a year (1.3%). There is therefore a need to create more living space. The space around Amsterdam is ‘off limits’, which is why efforts are underway at finding ways of

creating concentrated areas of newly built houses in the city itself. The local authority is seeking to build Sluisbuurt district on the Zeeburgereiland (island) in the River Y, four kilometres away from the canal district. It is intended that 5,500 homes will be built in this sustainable district, which will consist of a mix of low, medium-height, and high-rise buildings.

In the draft urban design plan for Sluisbuurt, the local authority's starting point in 2016 was a maximum of 28 buildings, varying in height between 30 and 143 metres. The distance to the canal district is great, as a result of which the high buildings would not, or only be barely, visible from the world heritage site. Moreover, Sluisbuurt lies outside the canal district buffer zone. The plan was made available to the general public for consultation, which elicited several responses. A public discussion was also launched. The responses to the consultation suggested that there were fears that the visual appearance of the high-rise buildings in the Sluisbuurt would affect the outstanding universal value of the canal district.

Instrument

The protection of the canal district against the negative consequences of high-rise buildings is set down in the policies of the Amsterdam City Council in various ways. Structural Vision Amsterdam 2040: Economically strong and sustainable, published in 2011, states "to ensure in every case that high-rise buildings are accommodated in the urban landscape in a responsible manner, especially where they affect the world heritage site or other areas of particular value." The policies of the Amsterdam City Council are set out in greater detail in its High-Rise Buildings in Amsterdam vision document. The High-Rise Buildings Vision states that, viewed from the canal district, a building may not appear higher than the average height of the built-up area. Plans for high-rise buildings both in and outside the canal district that would be visible from the world heritage site must be assessed in terms of the visual effects on the heritage site. A High-Rise Impact Assessment is used for making such assessments.



Based on the results of the High-Rise Impact Assessment, the department of Spatal Planning and Sustainability and the department of Monuments and Archaeology' of the Amsterdam City Council recommended to the Centrum District Council that the original plans for high-rise buildings in Sluisbuurt be rejected.

Result

Following the responses to the consultation procedure and the negative recommendation by two of the city's departments in relation to the High-Rise Impact Assessment, the urban design of the plan for Sluisbuurt was modified in 2017 because of the importance of the outstanding universal value of the canal district. The maximum height of the two highest towers was lowered from 143 to 125 metres to allow the visual integrity of the canal district to remain intact.

The Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands was positive about how the local authority took account of the effects on the world heritage site in reaching and implementing its decisions. The plans were set out in a State of Conservation report and sent to UNESCO in 2017.

Visualisation of the urban plan for Sluisbuurt

Knowledge and planning tools
- High-Rise Impact Assessment

Community engagement tools
- Consultation
- Public discussion

Regulatory tools
- Strutural Vision Amsterdam 2040
- High-Rise Buildings Vision
- Urban Design Plan Sluisbuurt

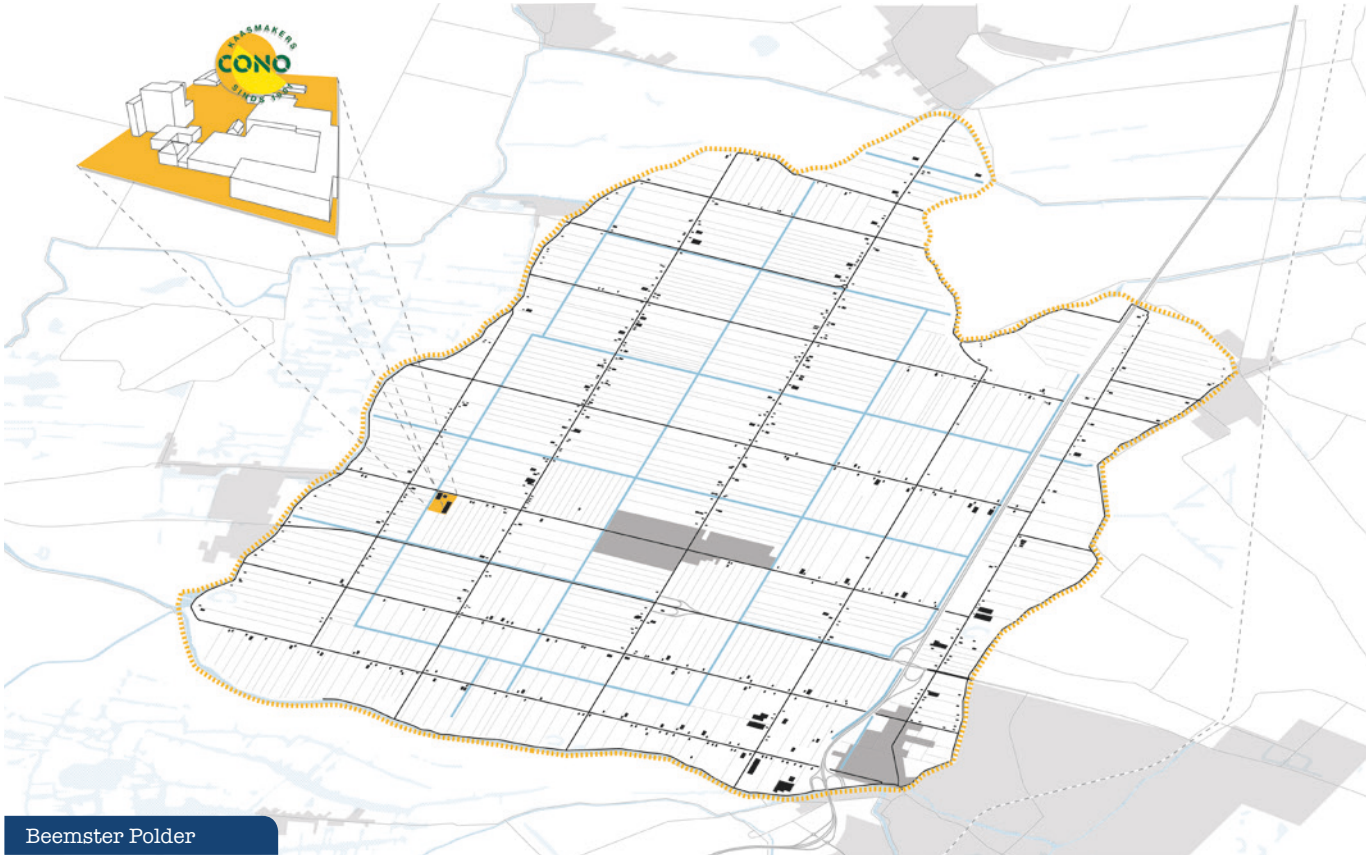
Financial tools
- N/a

2

Beemster Polder was placed on the UNESCO World Heritage list, according to the following criteria:
Criterion (i): *The Beemster Polder is a masterpiece of creinfative planning, in which the ideals of antiquity and the Renaissance were applied to the design of a reclaimed landscape.*
Criterion (ii): *The innovative and intellectually imaginative landscape of the Beemster Polder had a profound and lasting impact on reclamation projects in Europe and beyond.*
Criterion (iv): *The creation of the Beemster Polder marks a major step forward in the interrelationship between humankind and water at a crucial period of social and economic expansion.*

Beemster Polder

Case study: **New cheese dairy**



Beemster Polder

Introduction

Lake Beemster was reclaimed in the early seventeenth century in order to create land for agriculture. A 42-kilometre dyke was constructed around the lake, and a canal ring was dug around the dyke. The lake was then drained using 43 windmills. The polder was designed according to an orderly and neatly geometric pattern, based on the ideals of antiquity and the Renaissance. The orderly landscape of fields, roads, canals, and settlements of the polder remains intact today.

Challenge

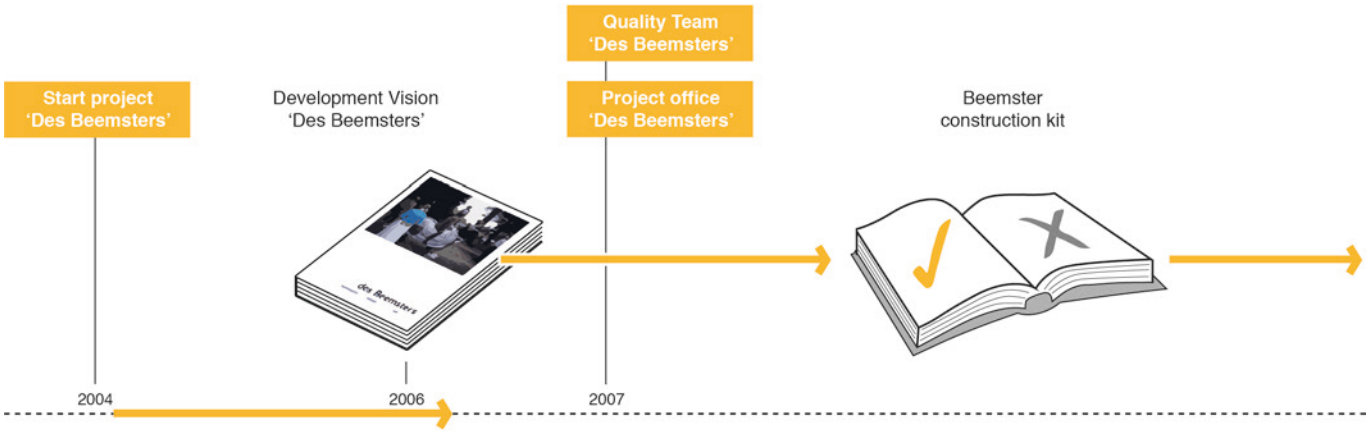
The production of cheese is inextricably linked to the Beemster Polder. After it had been drained, the new land offered space for cattle farming, and the new farms started to produce cheese. The production of cheese by individual farmers made way for cooperative-based production in around 1900. CONO Kaasmakers was founded in 1901 as the cooperative of dairy farmers and has always been based in the Beemster Polder. The nomination file referred to the craft of cheesemaking, but

not the presence of a cheese dairy. In 2008, CONO stated its desire to build a new extension to the existing cheese dairy in the Beemster Polder. An extension could have consequences for the OUV of the polder in that it could affect its landscape qualities. Economic reasons and the traditional links with the Beemster Polder (which are reflected in the name of the product, 'Beemster cheese'), meant that building the cheese dairy outside the Beemster Polder was not really an option for CONO.

The Beemster Polder is seen as a 'living landscape'. The continued use of the Beemster Polder as an agricultural production landscape, by dairy farming in this case, helps maintain the character and therefore the heritage value of the polder.

Instruments

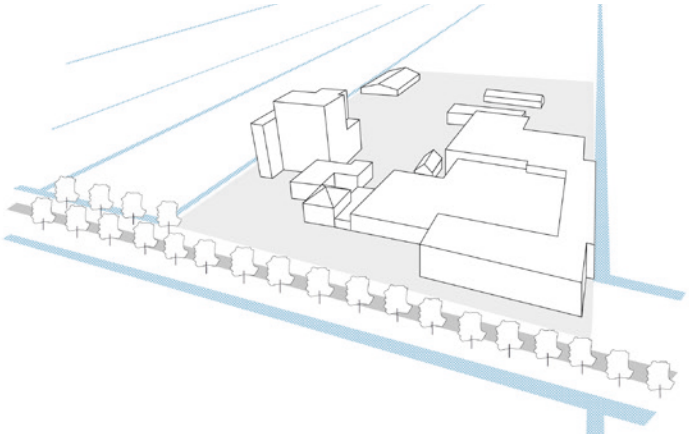
Various spatial development plans that appeared shortly after the addition of the area to the World Heritage List led to a realization among the site holders, the Beemster local authority and the Hollands Noorderkwartier water board, that the world heritage status of the Beemster Polder would have consequences for the choice of location and the nature of any such development. "It is not that the polder will become just an open air museum; rather, developments need to be tested in the light of the OUV of the area, with stringent quality requirements needing to be imposed for the design and incorporation into the landscape." The 'Des Beemsters' ('From Beemster') project was therefore launched in 2004 to examine how the outstanding universal value of the Beemster Polder should be expressed and maintained in the landscape.



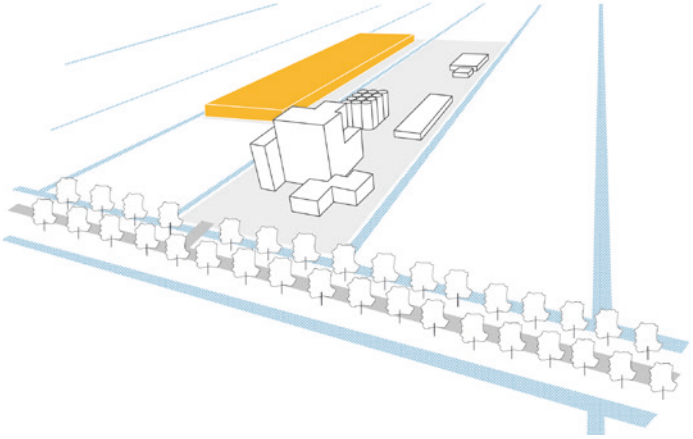
The local authority adopted the 'Des Beemsters' Development Vision in 2006. This Development Vision describes in detail how the outstanding universal value of the polder can be maintained and strengthened in the context of spatial developments. One of the instruments was a set of spatial 'rules', known as the 'Beemster construction kit', by which new initiatives in the Beemster Polder could be accommodated. The dimensions of the landscape are a key consideration here. Whether or not something is 'Beemsterish' is not determined retrospectively, but is instead a controlling factor from the start of any developmental proposals.

The 'Des Beemsters' project office was established in 2007, and the local authority appointed a Quality Team in the same year. The Quality Team monitors the cohesion and consistency of spatial designs in the Beemster Polder. In 2008, the local authority started to renew its structural vision, the Zoning Plan for rural areas, and the Building Aesthetics 'policy document. Having adopted this package of policies in 2012, the local authority now has a consistent vision and clear rules for new spatial developments at its disposal.

Old situation
without consistency with the structure of the polder



New situation
in line with the structure of the polder



Result

CONO organized a design contest for its new cheese dairy. According to the jury, the winning design proved that a modern design is perfectly compatible with the world heritage status of the Beemster Polder. The new cheese dairy was designed and integrated in line with the rules of the 'Beemster construction kit' and its proportions, scale, and height are consistent with the landscape of the Beemster Polder. The geometry and openness of the Beemster landscape form the underlying basis for the design of the cheese dairy. Rather than a complex of separate buildings, the architect designed one large and transparent building, situated on one plot of land. The height of the cheese dairy was limited to seven metres, allowing the geometry of the landscape to remain visible. After the construction of the new cheese dairy and the demolition of the old one, the road, ditch, and plantation structure will return to their original state.

CONO invested an additional 1.5 million euros so that the cheese dairy would be in keeping with the landscape of the Beemster Polder. During the process, CONO and the local authority were advised by the Quality Team and the Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands. The design was received positively by UNESCO. ICOMOS praised the process and the way in which the cheese dairy in the Beemster Polder has been suitably adapted into its surroundings, in both architectural and landscape terms.

New cheese dairy

Knowledge and planning tools

- Development Vision 'Des Beemsters' in which core values are named
- Appointing Quality Team
- Design contest

Community engagement tools

- Dialloque with residents and other stakeholders to determine core values

Regulatory tools

- Zoning Plan
- Structural Vision
- Buildings Aesthetics policy document

Financial tools

- Private investment by CONO

3

The Defence Line of Amsterdam was added to the UNESCO World Heritage list in 1996, under criteria ii, iv, and v. An extansion of the New Dutch Waterline is currently being prepared under the name of Dutch Water Defence Lines.

Criterion (ii): *The Defence Line of Amsterdam is an exceptional example of an extensive integrated European defence system of the modern period which has survived intact and remained well conserved since it was created in the late 19th century. It is part of a continuum of defensive measures that both anticipated its construction and were later to influence some portions of it immediately before and after World War II.*

Criterion (iv): *The forts of the defence line are outstanding examples of an extensive integrated defence system of the modern period which has survived intact and remained well conserved since it was created in the later 19th century. It illustrates the transition from brick construction in the 19th century to the use of reinforced concrete in the 20th century. This transition, with its experiments in the use of concrete and emphasis on the use of unreinforced concrete, is an episode in the history of European architecture of which material remains are only rarely preserved.*

Criterion (iv): *It is also notable for the unique way in which the Dutch genius for hydraulic engineering has been incorporated into the defences of the nation's capital city.*

Defence Line of Amsterdam and New Dutch Waterline

Case study: **Energy line, a defence landscape against climate change?**

Defence Line of Amsterdam and New Dutch Waterline

Introduction

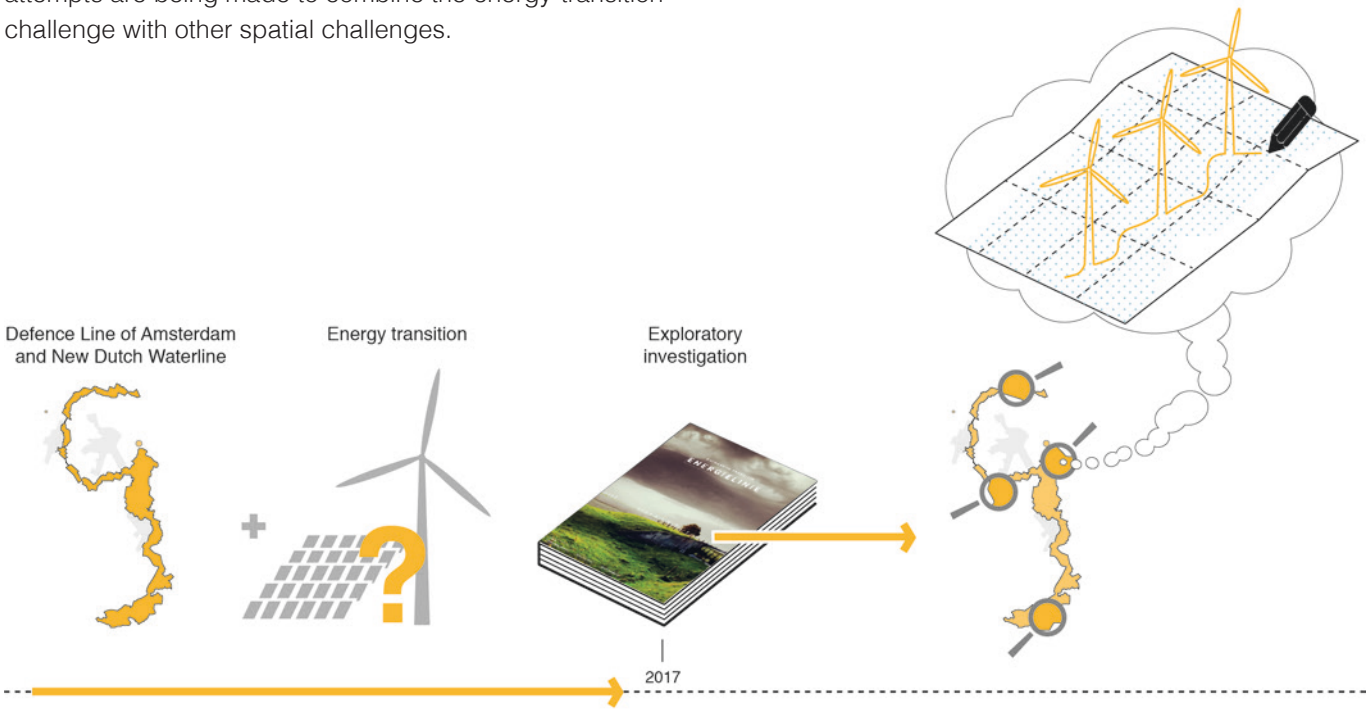
The Defence Line of Amsterdam and the New Dutch Waterline were constructed to defend the economic heart of the Netherlands. The defence lines were built in the 19th century and improved until World War II. The combined defence lines are a linear monument with a length of 220 km. The key aspect in the defence system was a controlled inundation of large areas of land. These inundations made large parts of the Netherlands inaccessible to hostile armies. After World War II the defence lines lost their defensive function. Nowadays the defence lines function as a Green Belt for the nearby metropolitan region. The setting of the defence lines is dominated by agricultural areas and nature reserves. Some 25% is situated in a highly dynamic urban zone.

Challenge

In 2015, a global agreement on the reduction of climate change was reached at the UN Climate Change Conference in Paris. The most important precondition for limiting climate change is the reduction in emissions of greenhouse gases and the transition from polluting fossil fuels to sustainable sources of energy. The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals also state that everyone in the world should have access to affordable, reliable and sustainable energy by the year 2030. The energy transition is therefore expanding apace all over the world, something that will have spatial consequences in the near future, especially in the most heavily populated areas. The Netherlands, too, is facing this challenge. Much of this challenge is being met by wind farms at sea, but interventions on land are also needed. Where possible, attempts are being made to combine the energy-transition challenge with other spatial challenges.

Instruments

To anticipate the energy transition and what the possible spatial consequences on heritage could be, an exploratory investigation has been carried out, called “Energy line”. The investigation looked at the options by which sustainable energy generation could be carefully accommodated in the Defence Line of Amsterdam and the New Dutch Waterline. It examined which type of sustainable energy generation could be accommodated into the landscape and where, whether the transition offers opportunities for strengthening the defence line landscape, and the conditions under which this should take place.

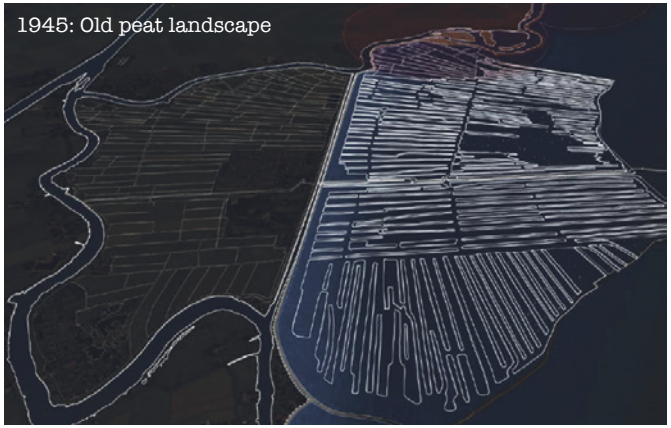


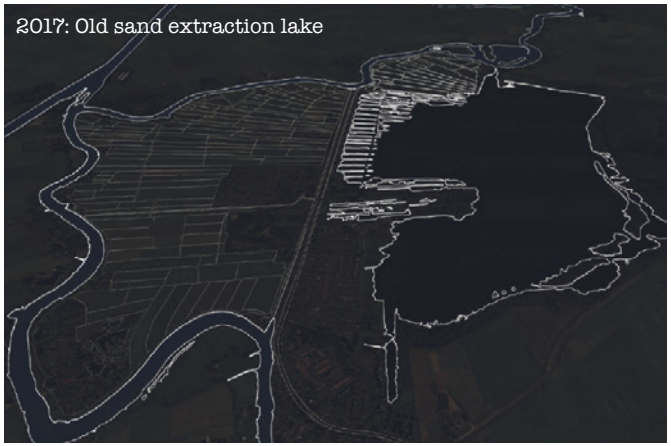
The investigation explored, for example, whether the military heritage could be made better visible through the targeted accommodation of sustainable energy generation at specific locations in the defence line landscape. Giving parts of the defence line landscape an energy-landscape function could serve as a counterbalance to urban development. Generating sustainable energy on a large scale could lead to the creation of a serious revenue model. These revenues could be channelled to a development fund that invests in the conservation and management of the heritage.

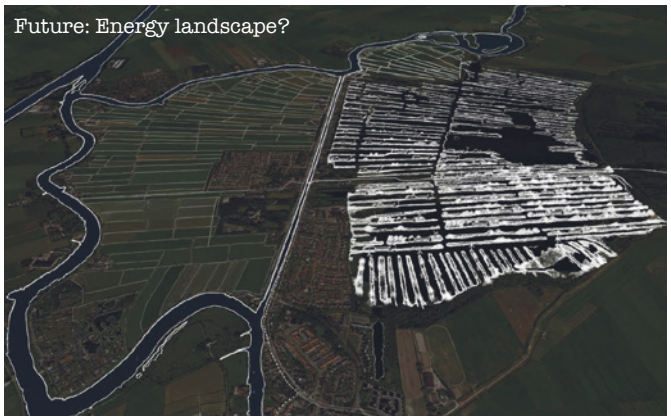
The starting point for the investigation into accommodating sustainable energy generation was the OUV. Other starting points were:

- The military landscape of the defence lines is one that has evolved, and to which new layers of quality and significance can be added.
- The lines were a military defence landscape and can now once again play a defensive role against a new enemy: climate change.
- The lines form a multi-functional landscape, which unites many functions.

Can wind turbines highlight the landscape structure?







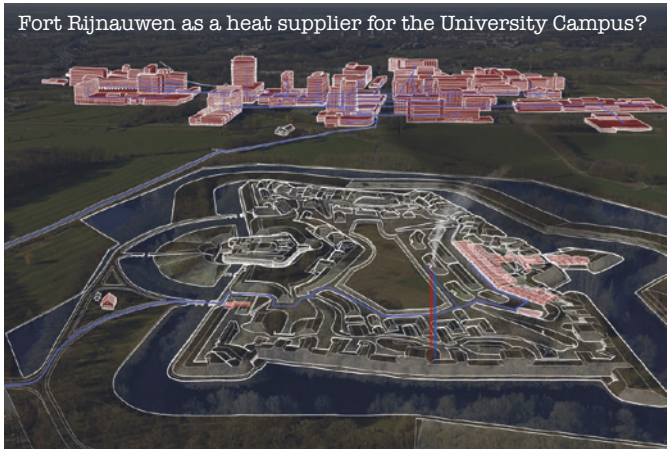
There are distinct areas in the defence line landscape, each with its own identity. The defence line landscape manifests itself in different ways in each area and there is a variety of challenges to be faced. Based on the above features, an examination has been made of what form the energy transition in the defence line landscape could take. The options for each separate area were set out in the investigation, but the examples given are certainly not a blueprint. The examples are intended as a means of moving forward the discussion about what is and what is not desirable with regard to accommodating sustainable energy generation in the defence line landscape. In order to offer regional and local governments an assessment framework, a Heritage Impact Assessment of the energy transition challenge is currently underway. The results of this assessment will form the basis for a policy framework by which plans will be evaluated in practice. The purpose of the policy framework will be to show what types of energy generation will be compatible with the status of the landscape and under what conditions.

Details of two concrete examples

There is an old sand extraction lake in the inundation area of the New Dutch Waterline. An exploration is underway to see how this area could be used for cultivating bio-mass by means of landscape restoration. Reintroducing peat growth will lead to the production of oxygen and the capture of CO2.

Casus: Energy line, a defence landscape against climate change?

The Rijnauwen Fort is part of the New Dutch Waterline and is near the Utrecht Science Park, the Utrecht University campus. The extent to which excess residual heat from the Science Park data centre and the cool climate in the fort can be exchanged to the benefit of both is being explored. The same is true of how the fort could gain a function in the extraction of ultra-deep geothermal heat that can be used to supply electricity to the data centre and the energy network.


Fort Rijnauwen as a heat supplier for the University Campus?

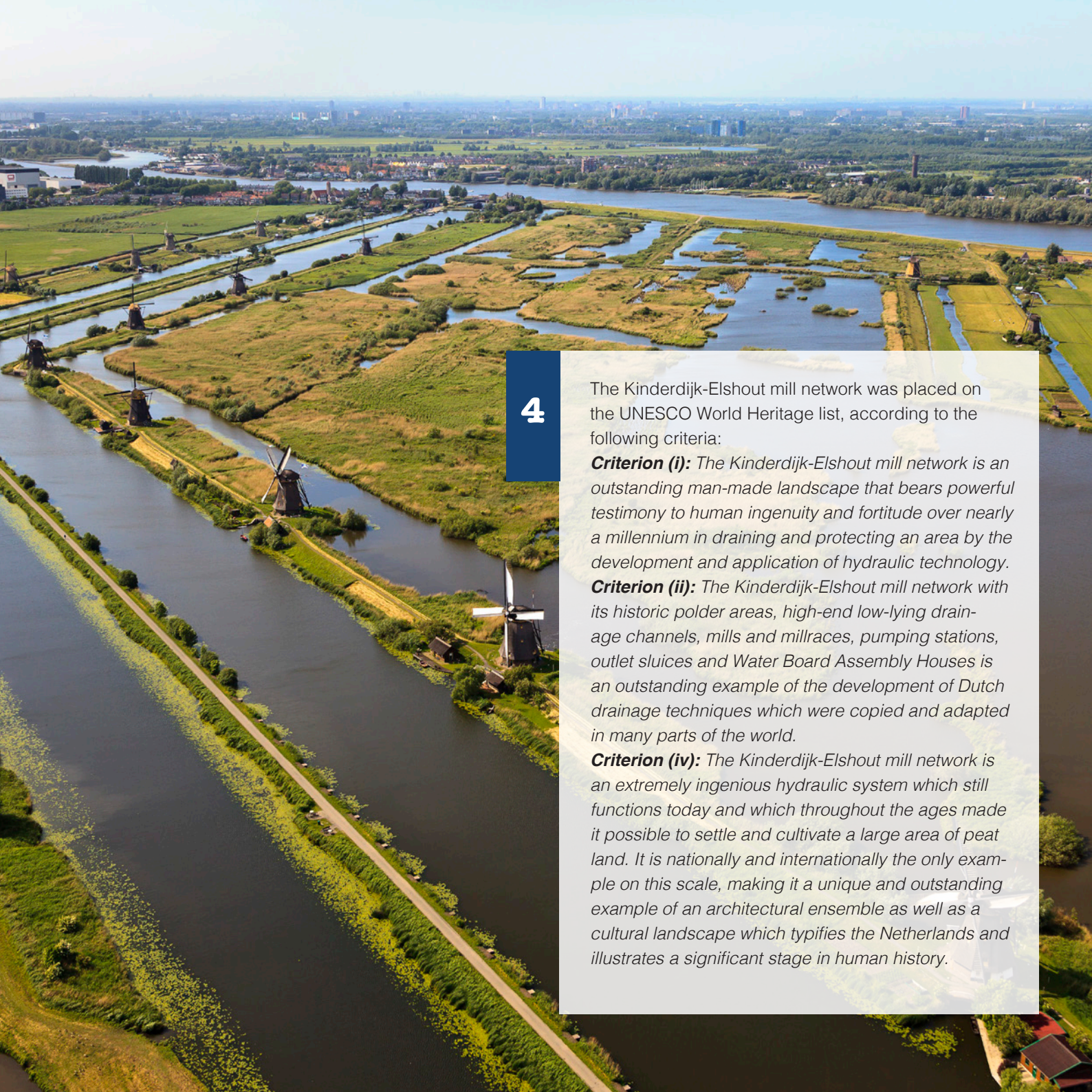
Inundating the landscape for peat conservation and local biomass cultivation?

Knowledge and planning tools
- Exploratory investigation of Energy line

Community engagement tools
- N/a

Regulatory tools
- Policy framework

Financial tools
- Development fund



4

The Kinderdijk-Elshout mill network was placed on the UNESCO World Heritage list, according to the following criteria:

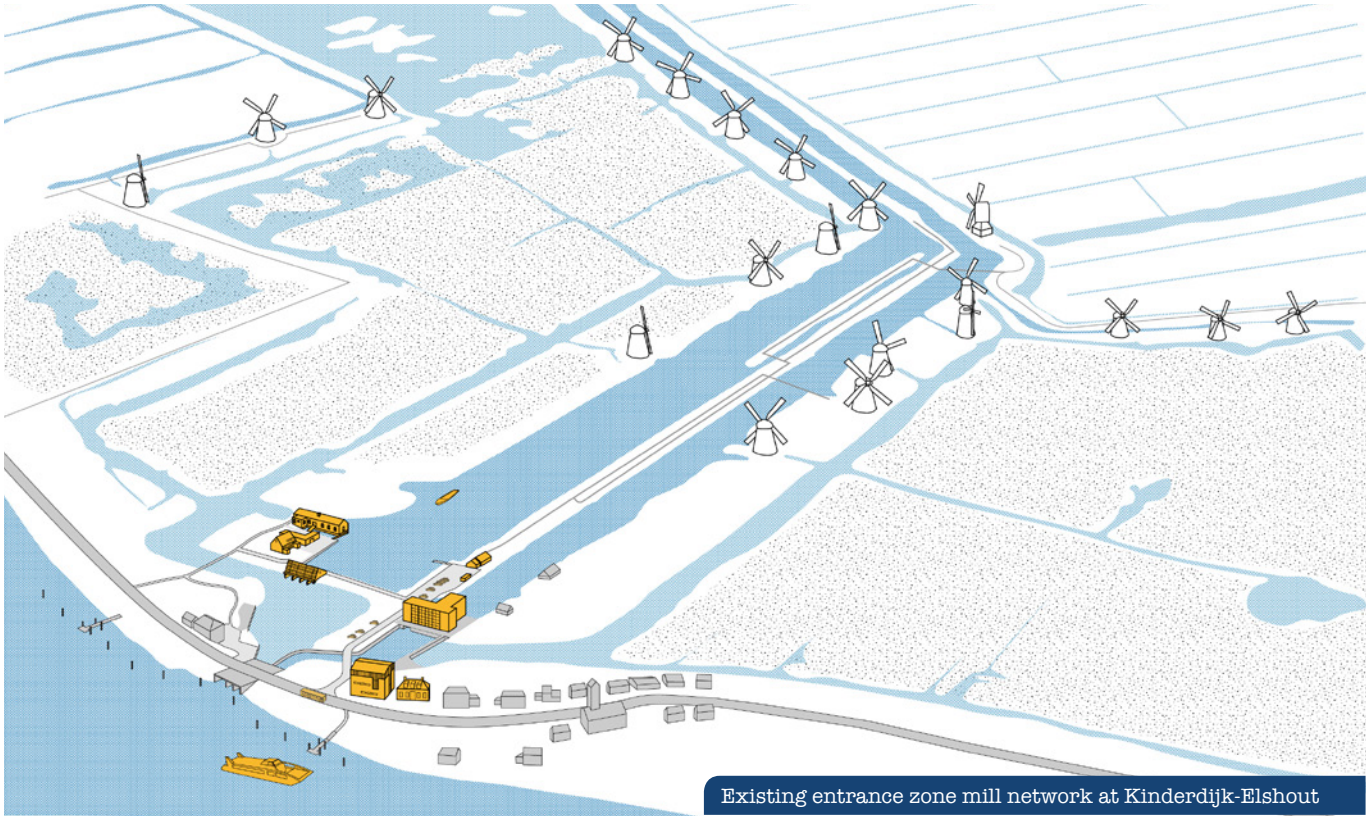
Criterion (i): *The Kinderdijk-Elshout mill network is an outstanding man-made landscape that bears powerful testimony to human ingenuity and fortitude over nearly a millennium in draining and protecting an area by the development and application of hydraulic technology.*

Criterion (ii): *The Kinderdijk-Elshout mill network with its historic polder areas, high-end low-lying drainage channels, mills and millraces, pumping stations, outlet sluices and Water Board Assembly Houses is an outstanding example of the development of Dutch drainage techniques which were copied and adapted in many parts of the world.*

Criterion (iv): *The Kinderdijk-Elshout mill network is an extremely ingenious hydraulic system which still functions today and which throughout the ages made it possible to settle and cultivate a large area of peat land. It is nationally and internationally the only example on this scale, making it a unique and outstanding example of an architectural ensemble as well as a cultural landscape which typifies the Netherlands and illustrates a significant stage in human history.*

Mill network at Kinderdijk-Elshout

Case study: **Redesigning visitor entry zone**



Existing entrance zone mill network at Kinderdijk-Elshout

Introduction

The Kinderdijk-Elshout mill network shows the impressive contribution that the people of the Netherlands have made to the technology for keeping low-lying land dry and habitable by draining water. The work of the mills was subsequently taken over by pumping stations, but the mills are all still working. Even today, the historic landscape shows all the typical features related to this technology - dykes, reservoirs, pumping stations, drainage ditches, administrative buildings, and the nineteen wonderfully preserved windmills.

Challenge

In recent years, the number of visitors to the Kinderdijk-Elshout mill complex has risen sharply. The current design of the world heritage site has inadequate facilities to cope with this, access is not as good as it could be, and it does not do justice to its world heritage site status. At the entry zone, various traffic flows converge in a disorganized manner. There are insufficient opportunities for welcoming visitors and for distributing them across the site. A thorough overhaul of the spatial design of the entry zone is therefore essential.

Instruments

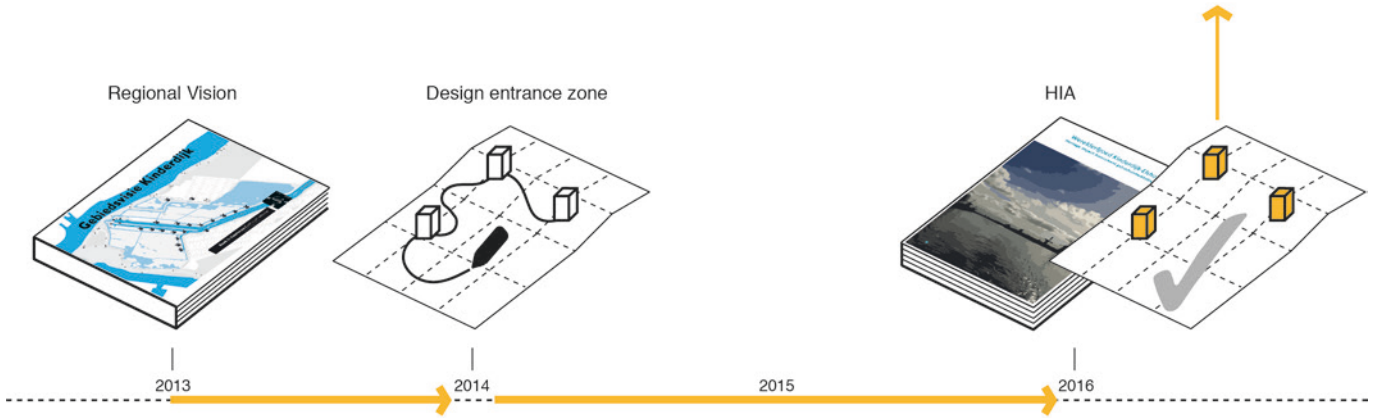
Through residents' consultation evenings and the active participation of a stakeholder group, local residents and businesses were involved with the drawing up of the Regional Vision in 2013. According to the Regional Vision, the development of the world heritage site should be aimed at maintaining the working historic landscape, enhancing the site experience and safeguarding its solid economic basis. Based on these three pillars, proposals were made for optimizing and expanding transport over water, redesigning the entry zone and increasing the number of windmills that can be visited from one to three. The Regional Vision also looks at the visual integrity of the area. The open views over the world heritage site are crucial for maintaining the iconic image of the mill complex. A Zoning Plan, in line with the Regional Vision, safeguards the outstanding universal value of the heritage site and provides the scope for the intended developments.

An overall design for the entry zone was made in 2014. Two years later, the possible effects and consequences of the construction of and the routing between the visitors' centre, reception building, pedestrian bridge, education building and the landscaping of the entry zone were assessed in a Heritage Impact Assessment. The HIA showed that the redesign of the entry zone would result in a markedly better spatial structure and that this would have a positive effect on how the heritage site would be experienced.

A priority in the Dutch government's Vision on Heritage and Spatial Planning is the targeted development of world heritage sites. The owner of the mill complex received a total of 1.5 million euros from the central government for the drawing up of the Regional Vision, for setting out the details of the plans for the entry zone and for the construction of the visitors' centre. The total cost of the construction of the visitors' centre is 6.7 million euros. This is being financed by government bodies, private partners and funds. Funds are being attracted by means of a bid book.

Funding the visitors' centre

• Central government	**1.25 million**
• The province of Zuid-Holland	**2.5 million**
• Site holder, municipalities and regional associations	**1.95 million**
• Private funding	**1.0 million**



Result

Thanks to the new routing, visitors will be better distributed throughout the area in future. By positioning several new buildings as separate units inside the existing entry zone that are appropriate in terms of scale, the openness of the landscape will be maintained. A transparent pedestrian bridge will form the link between the entry zone and the mills. The area will have two separate entrances. One entrance will be located near the new entry and exit zone for buses (Stop & Go), the jetties for the river cruises and a new reception building, the design of which is based on a workshed. The other entrance will be situated near an existing car park that is accessible only to a limited number of cars. Separate paths will be built that will keep motor vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians apart in future. The adoption of a clear house style will bring an end to the random styles in the area.

The visitors' centre is a building of exceptional architectonic quality that fits in very well with its surroundings. In its technical evaluation, ICOMOS emphasizes the need to limit the visual impact and to maintain the integrity and the authenticity of the site as much as possible. The visitors' centre will therefore be situated so that the lines of vision in the world heritage site will remain intact. The elongated shape is intended to match the character of the landscape. Thanks to the transparent facade, its limited height and placement in the water, the open views over the world heritage site will be maintained. The other buildings will also be sited in order to create minimum impact and to uphold the integrity of the area. The rebuilding of the entry zone and the construction of the visitors' centre have already begun.

Visual of the new entrance building

Knowledge and planning tools
- Regional Vision
- Heritage Impact Assessment

Community engagement tools
- Involvement of stakeholder association
- Residents' consultation evenings

Regulatory tools
- Zoning Plan

Financial tools
- Grants from public and private financing
- Bid book

Colophon

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Sources

Image p.13	-	Visualisation of the urban plan for Sluisbuurt, *Gemeente Amsterdam - Ruimte en Duurzaamheid (designteam Sluisbuurt)*
Image p. 18	-	New CONO building, *CONO Kaasmakers*
Images p. 23-24-25	-	Energy line, *H+N+S landschape architects, RO&AD Architects and Volharding Breda*
Image p. 29	-	Visual entrance building, *M&DB architects*

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