



# THE WORK IS DONE!

*Project LIFE Going up a level:  
the results at a glance*



Boundless nature in the Natura 2000 area of Drents-Fries Wold.  
The largest forest area of the Northern Netherlands is  
a premium nature area. In this national park work has been  
done to improve the sustainability of streams and heaths, fens and bogs  
and extensive natural woodlands. Here you can enjoy nature -  
limitlessly. Welcome!



Nationaal Park  
Drents-Friese Wold

provincie Drenthe





## DOLDERSUMMERVELD

The Doldersummerveld is connected to the Wapserveld. It is a widely varied heath area, sometimes soaking wet and bone dry here and there. The wet areas with marshy heath and bog have dried out and become grassy over the years. Furthermore, the area was once split in two separate parts – a large heath and a much smaller section.

In between was agricultural land. The richly fertilized topsoil of this former farmland has been removed to encourage the regrowth of heather. Now it is one large heath area again.

### Measures in a nutshell

- The valley through the area has been made shallower
- Ditches have been filled
- Minimal sod cutting has taken place
- Two separate heath areas have been connected
- Topsoil removed from former farmland to stimulate heather growth



## BOSCHOORD

The sub-region of Boschoord used to be endless heath and bog. In the 1930s large areas were transformed into production forests. Some small heather fields and bogs remained but, unfortunately these open sections became increasingly drier and grew closed with trees. Main goal was therefore to connect the remaining little 'gems' to realise a connected and varied heath area.

### Measures in a nutshell

- Ditches were filled
- Woodland has been transformed into open heath
- Topsoil was removed from former woodland and grassy heath



## WAPSERVELD, BERKENHEUVEL AND DE NUL

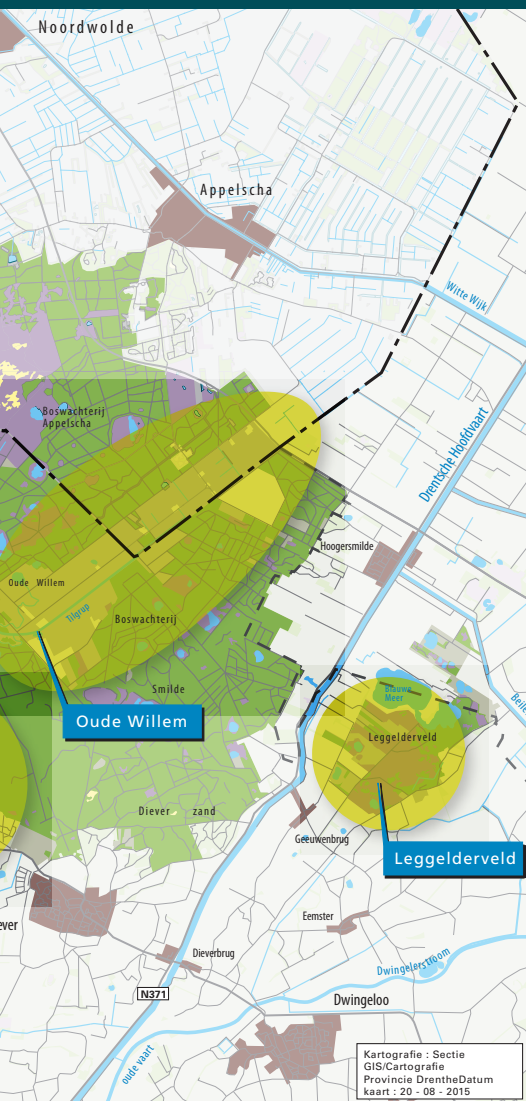
The Wapserveld is an extensive area of heath with fens. To the east, the heath gradually changes into the Berkenheuvel woods. The originally marshy heath has dried up considerably and become grassy over the past decades. As a result, in combination with the deposition of nitrogen, there was a significant reduction in the plant and animal sorts normally found in this kind of area.

### Measures in a nutshell

- Ditches were filled
- Removal of young trees at the fen edges, allowing the fens to restore
- Small-scale sod removal from grassy heath

*Natura 2000 LIFE project  
Going up a level  
Improving Nature*





## OUDE WILLEM

Oude Willem is a former agricultural area in the very heart of Drents-Friese Wold. In order to make farming possible the land was drained intensively using a network of deep ditches to run water through the Tilgrup. This had a serious negative impact on heath, fens and woodlands in a wide area surrounding Oude Willem. Plants and animals were in difficulty as a result of the drier conditions.

The main aim of the LIFE project 'Going up a level' was to end this situation. The rainwater is now retained, resulting in higher groundwater levels and heath and fens become wet again. This is now also a useful retention area following extreme rainfall, meaning downstream is less likely to flood. Since the area in and around Oude Willem is wetter, conditions have improved for many birds, plants and animals.

### Measures in a nutshell

- The Tilgrup and ditches were filled
- A new, shallower stream was dug so water drains slower in the case of extreme flooding or high-water levels
- Pools were created for amphibians
- The fringes of forests were diversified, and extra woods were planted
- Phosphate was extracted from the previously cultivated soil



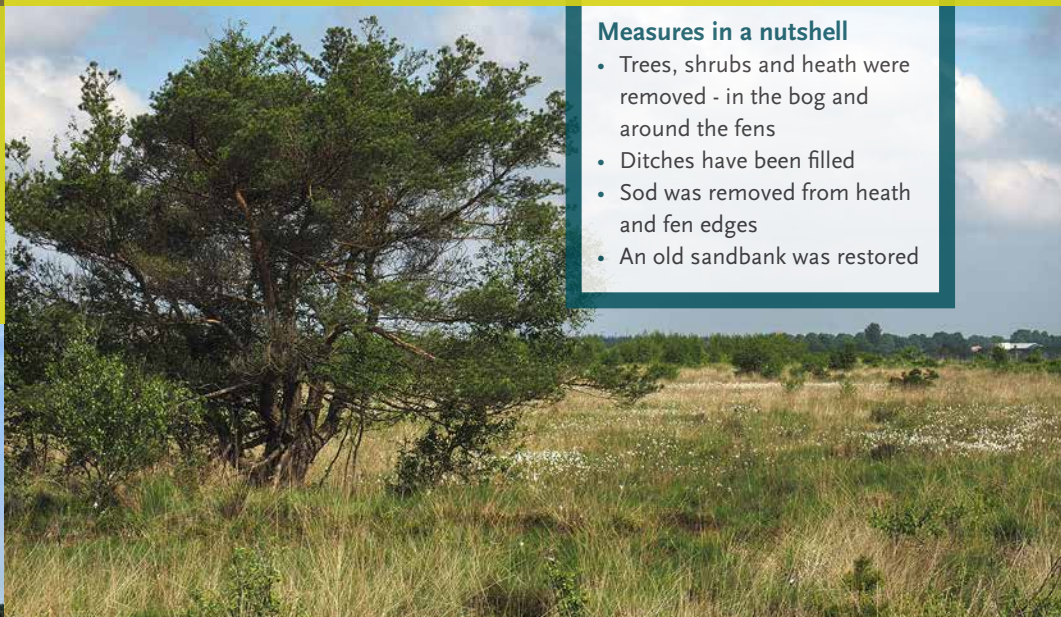
## LEGGELDERVELD

The Leggelderveld is an extensive and diverse heath and bog area. Some signs are still visible of the turf cutting that took place by farmers in the past. Peat was extracted here in some parts up until the mid-1960s; ditches were dug at that time.

Draught and nitrogen deposition stimulated the growth of more and more shrubs and grass in the heath. Characteristic plants and animals such as the Heath spotted orchid, Bog Asphodil and Gentian Blue) were under threat. To restore the Leggelderveld to a nature area of outstanding beauty, the water balance was tackled, resulting in a largely open natural heath and bog landscape.

### Measures in a nutshell

- Trees, shrubs and heath were removed - in the bog and around the fens
- Ditches have been filled
- Sod was removed from heath and fen edges
- An old sandbank was restored



There are a number of beautiful fens in Berkenheuvel and De Nul which were under pressure as a result of ditches previously dug. This caused woody overgrowth around the fen edges and typical flora and fauna simply disappeared.





# Oude Willem



## Goals

Restoration of the water balance in and around Oude Willem  
Development of a diverse and flowery meadow with small bushes and shrubbery and a variety of transitions to forest.

By restoring the water level and ecological management the environment with mowing and grazing, a nature area with great diversity has been created. Oude Willem also retains excess water resulting from extreme rainfall or flooding.



BEFORE



AFTER



**Tartget species** Red-backed shrike • Sooty Copper • Crested newt • Wolf's Bane



# Wapserveld, Berkenheuvel and De Nul



## Goal

Restoration and development van dry and wet heath, recovery of grassland and six fens

In this way the natural habitat for plants and animal living on heath and fen, as well as the landscape with forest transitions, is greatly improved.

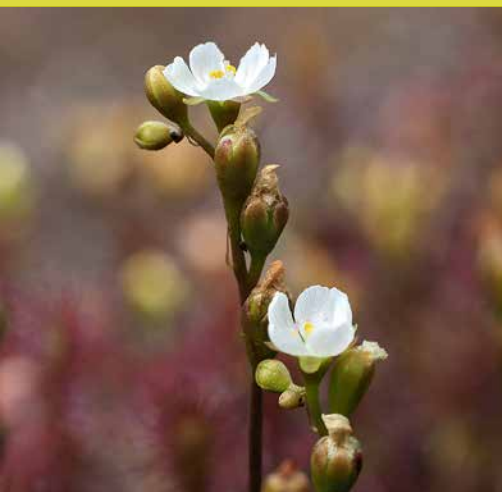


BEFORE



AFTER

**Target species** Sundew • Wryneck • Emperor Dragonfly • Moor frog





# Doldersummerveld



## Goal

Expansion and improvement of the heath quality

In this way the Doldersummerveld provides better survival rates for animal and plant species living here and the traditional landscape remains intact.



BEFORE



AFTER



**Target species** Stonechat • Alcon Blue • Common Viper • Marsh Gentian

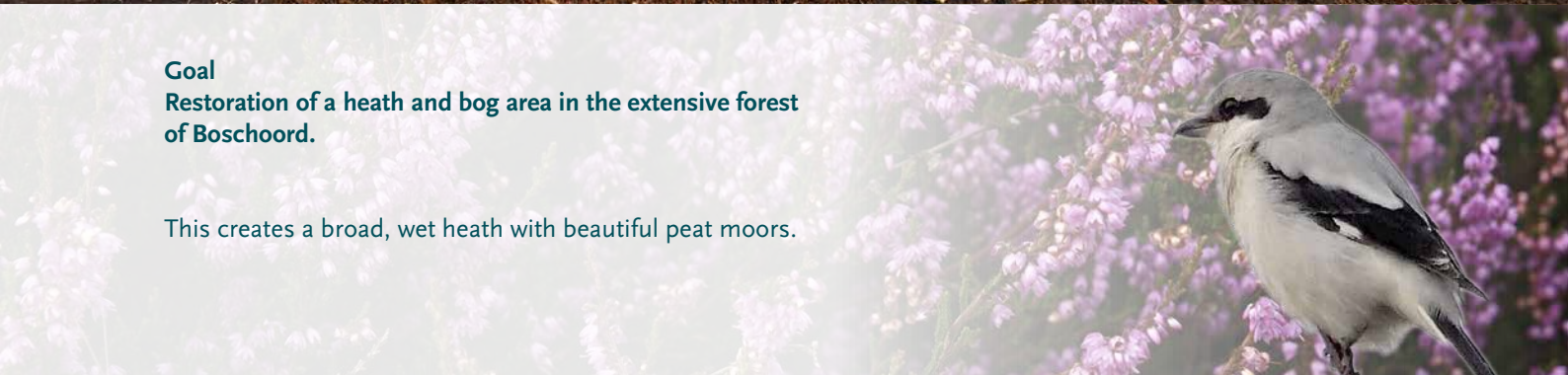


# Boschoord



**Goal**  
Restoration of a heath and bog area in the extensive forest of Boschoord.

This creates a broad, wet heath with beautiful peat moors.



**Target species** Great grey shrike • Silver-studded Blue • Grass snake • Heather





# Leggelderveld



## Goal

Restoration of an expansive and diverse heath and bog area.

Most noticeable is the restoration of a moorland with pools and an increased bio-diversity. This is sustained with grazing and other forms of management.



BEFORE



AFTER



**Target species** Whinchat • Small Copper • Viviparous Lizard • Heath Spotted Orchis