

The result



1 fens and pools



2 new heathland



3 sound barrier



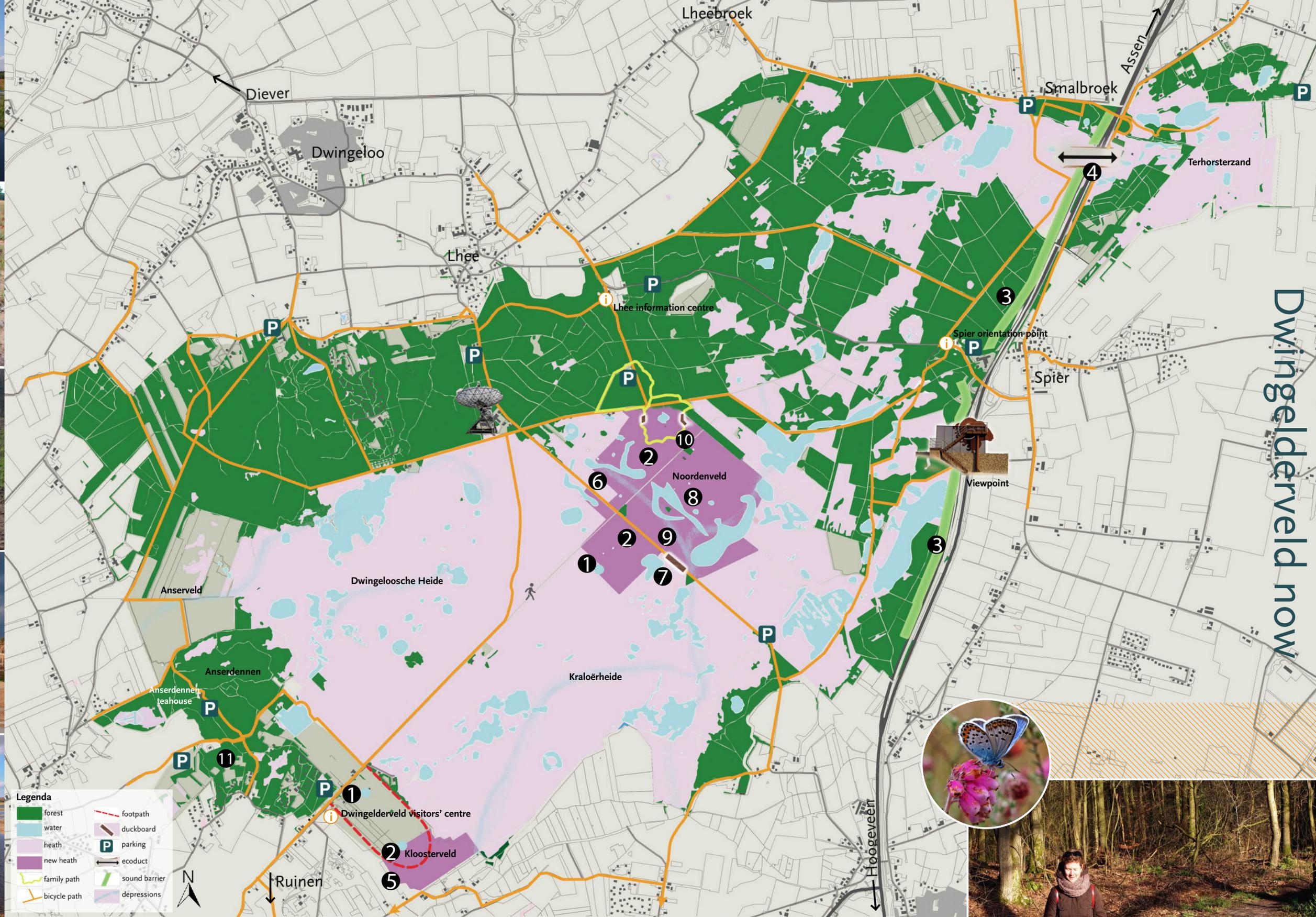
4 ecoduct



5 embankment and weirs



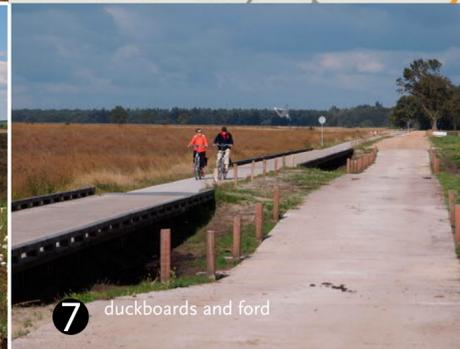
6 open area



Legenda

forest	footpath
water	duckboard
heath	parking
new heath	ecoduct
family path	sound barrier
bicycle path	depressions

Dwingelderveld now



7 duckboards and ford



8 depressions



9 rewetting



10 family path



11 stepping stones

Source: Jaap van Room



This project was made possible with a grant from LIFE, the European funding programme for the conservation of Natura 2000 areas.



Nationaal Park Dwingelderveld

## Welcome to Dwingelderveld National Park



### See you soon!

We hope to see you again soon. For more information please visit our website:



www.nationaalpark-dwingelderveld.nl

### Colophon

Published by the Dwingelderveld Steering Committee, May 2015. Photos: Hans Dekker (unless stated otherwise). Text and graphic design: Grontmij. No rights can be derived from the contents of this product.

The Dwingelderveld Development is a joint project of the Province of Drenthe, Reest and Wieden water authority, Staatsbosbeheer, Natuurmonumenten, the municipalities of Westerveld, De Wolden and Midden-Drenthe, the department of Public Works and Water Management, and LTO. The project was made possible by a grant from the Life Fund of the European Union.

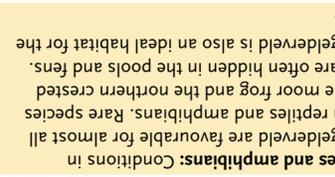
### Discover the area!

Dwingelderveld National Park is the largest wet heathland in Western Europe. A lot was done from 2011 to 2015 to improve the natural values in Dwingelderveld. This has made Dwingelderveld a better habitat for rare flora and fauna. Work on this vast heathland has now been completed. Dwingelderveld is now **WETTER, QUIETER, MORE ATTRACTIVE** and the heathland is **BIGGER**. Discover these 3,700 hectares of nature!

**You:** You too can discover the attractions of this sweeping wet heathland. The area is accessible by foot and bicycle paths as well as equestrian trails. A special feature is the family path, which is wheelchair accessible. Or you can test your balance on the stepping stones!



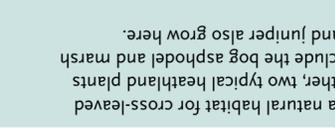
**Birds:** Dwingelderveld is the habitat of about 300 bird species, and over 100 species breed in the area. Typical heathland birds are the great grey shrike, the skylark and the stoehat. Common cranes have also made a comeback in recent years.



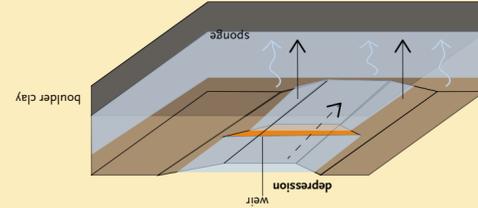
**Reptiles and amphibians:** Conditions in Dwingelderveld are favourable for almost all Dutch reptiles and amphibians. Rare species like the moor frog and the northern crested newt are often hidden in the pools and fens. Dwingelderveld is also an ideal habitat for theadder.



**Insects:** Dwingelderveld has many different insect species, such as the tiger beetle and the dung beetle. Have you spotted a dung beetle yet? It is almost impossible to miss due to its size and shiny blue-black colour. There are also dozens of butterfly species in Dwingelderveld, including the rare silver-studded blue.

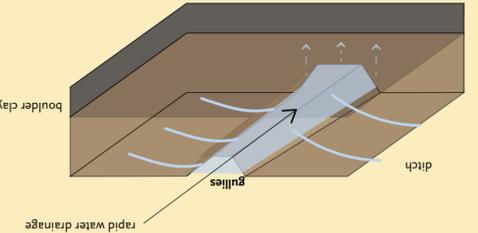


**Plants:** Dwingelderveld is a natural habitat for cross-leaved heather and common heather, two typical heathland plants in Drenthe. Rare plants include the bog asphodel and marsh gentian. Arnica montana and juniper also grow here.



Now

**Now:** Agriculture is no longer practised in Dwingelderveld. As the deep waterways no longer served a function, they were filled in and the area has become WETTER. The water in Dwingelderveld now drains off slowly through natural layers in the landscape. Layers that had been ploughed over or had disappeared have been restored. Dwingelderveld now acts as a sponge, which has two advantages. In dry periods this prevents the area from desiccation. In wet periods there is less flooding in the surrounding area.



Then

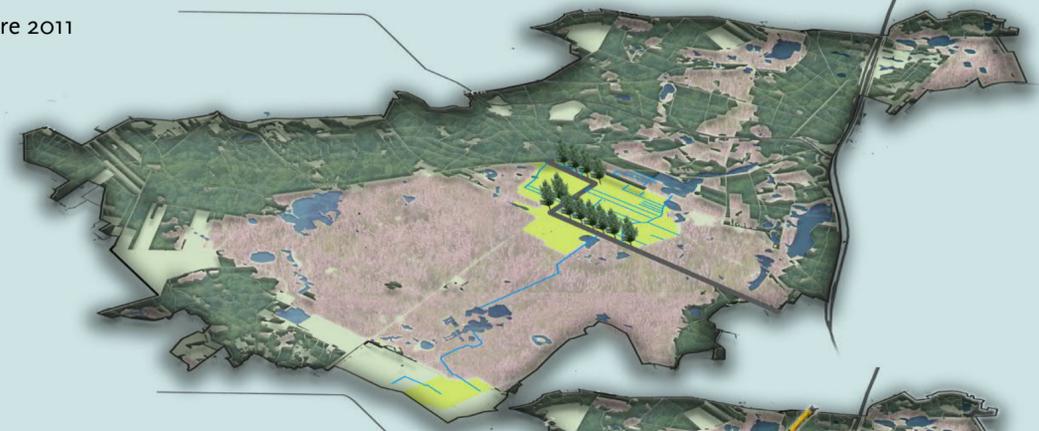
**Then:** In the mid-1900s the heathland in this area was cleared for agriculture. One of the requirements was that the land should not be too wet. Ditches and waterways were created straight across the heathland so that water could drain off quickly. As a result of this land use Dwingelderveld dried up and parts of the heathland were lost.

**From agriculture to nature**  
Various measures have been taken in Dwingelderveld in recent years. Important goals were to restore the wet heath habitat and related rare species and to increase the capacity for water storage.

### When?

Preparations	2011	1 2 3
	2012	4 5
	2013	6 7 8 9
	2014	10
	2015	

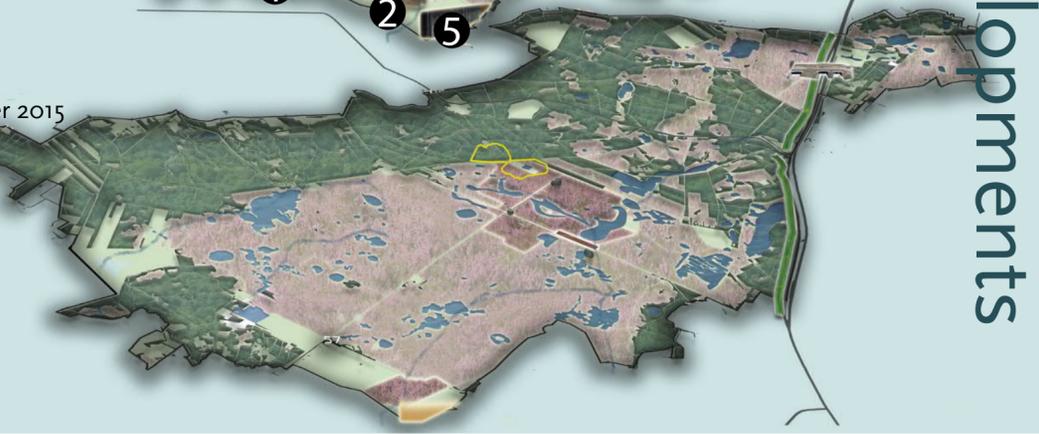
before 2011



2011-2015



after 2015



Developments

### What has changed?

The following measures have been taken in recent years to reintroduce wet heathland in Dwingelderveld.

- 1 Creation of pools and fens - WETTER**  
Special pools were created for the northern crested newt. This rare amphibian is only found in a few places in the Netherlands. Two fens by the family path have been restored to their original size and shape. These fens are an ideal habitat for amphibians such as the moor frog.
- 2 Excavation of former agricultural areas - BIGGER**  
Although Noordenveld and Kloosterveld were young agricultural areas, there was a lot of fertiliser in the upper soil layer. Heather cannot grow on this type of soil, so the upper soil layer (35cm average) of large parts of Noordenveld and a part of Kloosterveld were excavated so that heather can grow here again.
- 3 Creation of sound barrier - QUIETER**  
The excavated soil was used to construct a sound barrier along the highway A28. This creates the perception of a 'large, quiet heathland' for both animals and visitors. Experience the effect of this barrier yourself at the new view point, Schapenkop.
- 4 Creation of ecoduct - BIGGER**  
An ecoduct was created to ensure that animals can move easily between the different areas. A number of pools were created and tree stumps placed on the ecoduct so that reptiles and amphibians can also cross. This ecoduct connects Dwingelderveld with Terhorsterzand and beyond. Animals can now safely cross the highway A28 and have a larger habitat and breeding ground.
- 5 Water storage - WETTER**  
Our climate is changing and this brings a greater risk of flooding. Water storages contribute to reducing flooding. The water in Dwingelderveld is retained by so-called overflow weirs. Embankments have been constructed to protect the surrounding area against this volume of water (1.25 million cubic metres) so there is less flooding in the surrounding area.

- 6 Removal of avenue trees - MORE ATTRACTIVE**  
A number of trees would slowly die as a result of the wetter conditions, so these have been felled. Removing these avenue trees has also contributed to the openness of the area. Come and experience this open space!
- 7 Removal of Kraloërweg - QUIETER**  
The old asphalt road, which was accessible to motorised traffic, cut right through the heathland. This road has been removed and replaced by a dirt road and a paved bicycle path, so the area has become quieter. Duckboards across the depressions have been built in the bicycle path.
- 8 Creation of depressions - WETTER**  
Weirs have been created in several places to allow the existing nature to slowly adapt to higher water levels and to enable water levels to rise more in the future. The natural north-east to south-west depressions meandering through the area have also been restored. This allows water to be retained in the area for longer, which has a positive influence on nature.
- 9 Waterways filled in - WETTER**  
To increase the wetness of the area, all gullies, canals and waterways have been filled in. This means that water no longer drains off rapidly and remains longer in the area.
- 10 Recreational infrastructure - MORE ATTRACTIVE**  
New bicycle paths and attractive duckboards across the water have been created. This way everyone can enjoy the unique nature of Dwingelderveld. Footpaths, bicycle paths and equestrian trails have been renovated and improved. A new, wheelchair accessible family path has been constructed. In addition, stepping stones have been placed at various locations.