

Vision for the North-West Overijssel Region



North-West Overijssel is the region of Wieden and Weerribben, two areas distinctive for their unique natural environments and open countryside. Hence they have been designated for protection as conservation areas. Given its unique natural value, North-West Overijssel is also a major attraction for recreation on water, such as boating in the Weerribben. At present the water quality in the region's lakes and other expanses of water is often unsatisfactory which also affects conservation. A major cause of this is the layer of silt present in the water.

Dredging is therefore essential. The authorities responsible for water management in North-West Overijssel are the Province of Overijssel, the Municipality of Steenwijkerland, the Reest & Wieden District Water Board, the conservation society "Natuurmonumenten," the Dutch forestry commission "Staatsbosbeheer" and the public works department "Rijkswaterstaat." All share a common goal: to conserve and, where possible, enhance the quality of the region. They have therefore decided to adopt a joint approach to the task of dredging.

Royal Haskoning has been asked to draw up a plan on how to approach this. The plan considers how much dredging is to be done, and where. A primary concern is to find possible uses for dredge spoil. This is a major problem and therefore a major influence on the costs of dredging work. Based on the information about quantities and purposes, Royal Haskoning has developed a guideline scenario up to the year 2030.

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thinking in
all dimensions

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The next stage will be to refine this approach further and then put the work out to tender in 2010.

Cradle to Cradle® features

The formation of silt in watercourses is a natural process. Silt (dredge spoil) occurs through the breakdown of organic material in the watercourses, due to erosion and leaves falling from adjacent land. The natural decomposition of peat in the area also plays its part. Hitherto, spoil from dredged watercourses has usually been taken away and dumped or spread elsewhere. This also removes many useful nutrients from a system. From the point of view of a (closed) cycle, it is really important to re-use the spoil from dredging in the same area. We have therefore started using dredge spoil within North-West Overijssel, in support of the region's principal functions: nature, recreation and agriculture.

Some applications involve natural silt collection in the larger bodies of water (water quality), laying out nature-friendly foreshores (nature), creating small islands in the area's large bodies of water (recreation and nature) and raising the level of farmland (agriculture). This way, raw materials and other substances are not extracted from the region.

Clients

Province of Overijssel, Municipality of Zwartewaterland, Reest & Wieden District Water Board, Natuurmonumenten, Staatsbosbeheer and Rijkswaterstaat

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Disciplines

Sediment and Water

