

A wide-angle photograph of a gravel path in a polder landscape. The path is the central focus, leading from the foreground into the distance. It is flanked by two narrow, shallow water channels. The surrounding fields are flat and appear to be recently reworked or planted, with a light brownish-grey color. In the far distance, a long, low red structure, possibly a dike or a fence, stretches across the horizon. The sky is filled with heavy, grey clouds, creating a somber and overcast atmosphere. The overall scene is one of a vast, flat, and somewhat desolate landscape.

CALLANTSOOG POLDER 'T HOEKJE

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Commissioned by the Hoogheemraadschap (the Dutch water board) HOSPER made a design for a water retention / storage area in Polder 't Hoekje.

The assignment for the water retention area was to make a suitable design that included a pedestrian trail on top of the dike along the edge of the area. From the polder there are beautiful views towards the dunes, the forest, the dikes, a few historical farms and a windmill. The design proposes not to position the trail on the dike but to let it run right through the water retention area. This results in a diverse trail in which the views can be experienced to their maximum extent.

Diverse pedestrian trail

The pedestrian trail will be developed as a grass path situated higher than its surroundings. On both sides of the path a waterway ensures that physical contact between pedestrians and cattle is avoided. At times when the polder is under water the path will remain accessible and transform into a spectacular route through the water.

The surrounding quays define the edges of the water retention area. These quays double as refuge (and route to higher grounds) for the cattle in case of high water levels. The pedestrian trail runs along the main polder channel, connecting to the public road in the west and the existing pedestrian trail in the forest in the east. In this way conditions are created to make a short local walk possible.

Ecological enhancement

In the south of the polder the position of the quay will be shifted to create space for a spawning and breeding area for fish. An ecological bank will be created along the main polder channel.

Beautiful views

The southern point of the water retention area consists of open water. This accentuates the so called "Bosman mill": the windmill that will mill-dry the retention area in case of water retention. After passing the mill the pedestrian trail runs in between the open water and the fish spawning and breeding area. A picnic bench is placed along the north side of the spawning and breeding area. From here there are beautiful views towards the spawning area and the open water with the Bosman mill. The north holds a great view of the water retention area and the dunes.

CALLANTSOOG POLDER 'T HOEKJE
CALLANTSOOG, THE NETHERLANDS

Design Firm | HOSPER

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Partners | DG Groep

Client | Hoogheemraadschap Hollands
Noorderkwartier

Year of Design | 2012

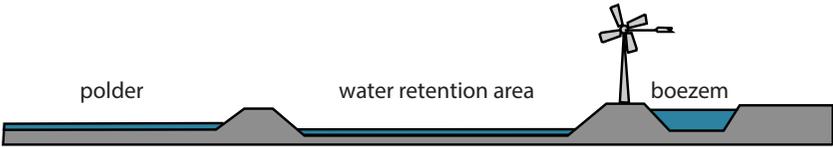
Completed | 2014

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In summer the water level of the polder is -0.6 m NAP and in winter the water level is -1.0 m NAP (Normal Amsterdam Level). The level of the water retention area is -1.2 m NAP in summer and winter.



When the water level in the polder rises above approx. -0.5 m NAP, the water will overflow over a weir and into the retention area.



After the calamity the water level in the polder will drop to the original -0.6m NAP.



A Bosman mill will empty the retention area onto the "boezem " (main polder channel) until the water reaches the standard level of -1.2 m NAP



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