

LANCEWAD

Landscape and Cultural Heritage
in the Wadden Sea Region



WADDEN SEA ECOSYSTEM No. 12 – 2001



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**Landscape and Cultural Heritage
in the Wadden Sea Region
Project Report**

Colophon

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The Wadden Sea is a marine wetland area on the North Sea coast of major international importance shared by The Netherlands, Germany and Denmark. In order to ensure that the area is conserved and managed as an ecological entity, the three Wadden Sea countries commenced a joint cooperation on the governmental level.

But the Wadden Sea is not only an important ecological entity, the Wadden Sea Region as a whole has also a common cultural identity with a very specific regional historic diversity. The landscape and cultural heritage in this region are of outstanding importance, and the three Wadden Sea countries have therefore jointly agreed to give high priority to these values.

At the 8th Trilateral Governmental Conference in Stade, a framework for the overall Wadden Sea management was agreed upon. This framework also entails targets for landscape and culture, and in order to enhance the knowledge in this field, a joint project, making an inventory of the landscape and cultural historic values in the North Sea Region, was decided on.

The project considered the similarities as well as the diversity regarding the heritage in the Wadden Sea Region of Denmark, Schleswig-Holstein, Lower Saxony and The Netherlands. The project was executed from December 1999 until October 2001 and was co-financed by the EU Interreg IIC North Sea Program.

This is the final report of the common project LANCEWAD, Landscape and Cultural Heritage in the Wadden Sea Region.

After the introduction, an impressive general overview of the natural and cultural history of the whole region is given. The next chapter focuses on cultural landscapes, actually, how landscapes are experienced as a living-and-learning space by individuals and social groups.

The perception of landscapes is very much anchored to ones experience so that the values and meanings of landscape elements could be very different among the people and through time periods.

In order to outline typical characteristics of certain areas, the whole Wadden Sea Region was divided into sub-regions. Chapter four describes the details of the historic landscape development as well as the cultural identity. This part is underlined by regional and local maps and, to make it more vivid, by a set of illustrative photos.

Chapter five provides the more technically interested reader with a detailed insight into the used data bases and sources, but it also gives more information of the survey area and the meaning of the mapped elements. Additionally, the elements of the common history in the Wadden Sea Region is depicted on several maps.

An important aim of the project was to contribute to the conservation and management of the landscape and cultural heritage and to spatial planning issues in the Wadden Sea Region. Consequently, the report comes up with targets, visions and strategies regarding sustainable management and use of the heritage. This is elaborated in chapter six, with basic information about the status of conservation and management of the landscape and cultural heritage in the Wadden Sea Region.

The editors would like to thank all those who have contributed to the report, in particular, external experts who made their expertises and knowledge available, to emphasize the exceptional and outstanding values of the landscape and cultural history.

All those, who have contributed to the LANCEWAD project are mentioned by name in chapter 7.3 of the report.

Folded Maps

Folded Maps Included in the Report

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1. Introduction

1. Introduction

1.1 Landscape and cultural heritage

This report is about the landscape and cultural heritage values or characteristics of the Wadden Sea Region. What exactly do we mean by cultural heritage values? 'Culture' can be defined as 'the state of civilization of a particular society or a particular time'. Cultural heritage is what remains from the past and can give us insight into the development of that civilization.

However, this is a very broad description. Traditional costume, folk tales, church organs, paintings by Emil Nolde, the songs of Ede Staal: these are all well known expressions which provide insight into the development of our culture. But there are also more simple activities which reflect the culture, such as the organization of one's leisure time, celebrations, etc. We do not intend to take such a broad approach in this report. We are interested in tangible cultural heritage objects, which we come across in our ordinary surroundings, in urban and rural areas. Actually, perhaps it would be better to talk about the 'cultural landscape; but for the purposes of the report, we will stick with the more current term 'cultural heritage'. Since these elements and structures show something of our history, and contribute to the uniqueness of an area, village or urban district, we attribute a value to them. Hence, we talk about cultural heritage values.

This refers to old farms, churches, castles and forts, but also archaeological sites such as ancient dwelling mounds, castle grounds, urban structures, dykes, waterways and forms of land division. It has also to do with contextual relationships, such as the dwelling mounds with the division of the surrounding land. In short, it refers to all elements and structures which give a picture of the history of human settlement in the Wadden Sea Region, which are still present now and which can play a role in future in the development of the urban and rural areas. These cultural heritage values can be subdivided into three categories of specialization: archaeology, the history of architecture and historical geography.

Archaeology studies finds and organic deposits from former times, from prehistory to the recent past. Archaeological digs often attract considerable attention, such as the excavation of the artificial mound of Ezinge in the nineteen thirties by Van Giffen, or – more recently – the excavation

of the 'king's terp' of Wijnaldum in The Netherlands or the excavations of the Feddersen Wierde in Lower Saxony. These excavations not only appeal to the imagination, they also add to our knowledge of the history of human settlement. Yet archaeologists are not always equally happy with an excavation: excavation means disturbing the site of a find, sometimes even completely destroying it so that future research, with even more advanced methods, will no longer be possible.

The history of architecture examines both individual buildings and urban planning structures. The large numbers of visitors attracted by Architectural Heritage Days show just how much popular interest there is in historical buildings. Architectural research is carried out to discover as much as possible about the history of a property. However, it is not only the individual buildings which are important, the structure of the town or village is also interesting. Narrow winding streets in the center of medieval towns like Leeuwarden show that there was no planning behind the layout of the town. The towns of Esbjerg and Wilhelmshaven, which were laid out according to a plan, show the other side of the coin.

Historical geography studies the development of the use of space. Urban and rural areas are shaped (and continually re-shaped) by Man, depending on the functions the area is to fulfil. The residential function led to concentrated building on the dwelling mounds; ditches were dug to facilitate agriculture, dividing the old cultural landscape into irregular blocks. Villages devoted to trade and industry often had an elongated or oval shape.

The battle against the water led to the construction of dykes and later to the construction of mills and pumping stations. Roads, canals, waterways and railways were created for transportation.

It is often these three specialist fields which are concerned with studying the history of the cultural landscape, but we should not see them in isolation. Together they tell the tale of the creation of our surroundings. Of course, the story never ends, and it is continually being adapted. New finds, new discoveries and new insights fill out and help to complete the story.

1.2 Background

The Wadden Sea is a marine wetland area on the North Sea coast of major international importance shared by The Netherlands, Germany and Denmark. The joint area of cooperation as delimited by the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation – the Wadden Sea Area – covers an area of about 13,500 km². The vast majority of the area has been designated as nature reserves, national parks, Ramsar areas and Special Protection Areas according to the EC Bird Directive by the national authorities. In order to ensure that the area is conserved and managed as an ecological entity, the three Wadden Sea countries commenced a joint cooperation on the governmental level twenty years ago. According to the Joint Declaration, concluded between the parties at the Third Governmental Wadden Sea Conference in 1982, the countries declared their intention to coordinate their activities and measures to implement a number of international agreements and conventions for the comprehensive protection of the Wadden Sea region as a whole.

Whereas the trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation, until the beginning of the 90s, focused on the natural and environmental values of the Wadden Sea, at that point, it was acknowledged that the contemporary landscape had been, to a large degree, determined by the way it was shaped by Man. The Wadden Sea landscape is characterized as wide open, with the seawall as the delimitation between the dynamic processes of the tidal flats and salt marshes and the cultural landscape of the island and mainland marshes and polders.

The cultural-historic and landscape heritage is essential for the comprehension of the area's development and identity and the inhabitants' identification with the landscape. It entails a distinctive international dimension comparable to its natural values. The cultural historic and landscape values are equivalent to the area's natural values. These need to be better understood and perceived to enable an appropriate protection and development according to the specific values including tourism purposes. Therefore, at the Wadden Sea Conference in Leeuwarden, The Netherlands, in 1994, it was agreed to pay attention to this aspect as the third dimension in the trilateral Wadden Sea cooperation, in addition to the natural and environmental dimensions. The integration of all three dimensions into a coherent policy and

management is essential to ensure a sustainable development.

In September 1997, a workshop on the landscape and cultural heritage of the Wadden Sea Region was held in Ribe, Denmark, with the participation of experts, policy-makers and planners of the three countries. The aim of the workshop was to consider the heritage in its entirety and to develop recommendations for the 1997 Wadden Sea Conference.

At this Conference, the Trilateral Wadden Sea Plan (WSP), which is a framework for the overall Wadden Sea management, was adopted. It is a statement on how the three countries envisage the future coordinated and integrated management of the Wadden Sea Area.

The policy and management of the WSP with regard to landscape and culture entails the following relevant agreements:

- a) The nomination of the Wadden Sea, or parts thereof, as a World Heritage Site will be striven for, taking into account the natural and cultural historic values of the area.
- b) The cultural-historic and landscape elements of the Wadden Sea Area will be protected and conserved through appropriate planning and management.
- c) The awareness of the area's cultural-historic and landscape values will be enhanced, where possible and appropriate, on a joint basis.

In order to implement these agreements, it was acknowledged that, as a first step, it was necessary to enhance the knowledge in this field to ensure that the available information would be on the same level as with regard to natural heritage. This would entail an inventory of the landscape and cultural heritage including an appreciation of the values. To make this information available, the implementation of a new project was agreed upon in the WSP.

The project should entail an inventory and a map of the most important cultural-historical and landscape elements of the Wadden Sea area, including an assessment of which elements should be maintained and developed, and recommendations for the protection, taking into account the recommendations of the 1997 workshop on cultural-historical and landscape values.

Since the WSP is principally confined to the above-mentioned Wadden Sea Area, which is primarily delimited according to ecological criteria and in recognition of the circumstance that a substantial part of the landscape and cultural heritage of the Wadden Sea region is outside the

Wadden Sea Area, the ministers decided that the planned mapping of cultural heritage in the Wadden Sea Area would be extended to relevant adjacent parts of the Wadden Sea Area (§37 Stade Declaration). The area which is subject to the mapping of the landscape and cultural heritage and use throughout the joint work plan is defined the Wadden Sea Region.

As a result of the agreements of the Stade Conference in 1998, the trilateral Working Group on the Landscape and Cultural Heritage of the Wadden Sea Region (WADCULT) was established by the Trilateral Working Group (TWG), which is the permanent policy working group within the trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation with the primary task to implement the above projects of the WSP.

1.3 Project objectives

The aim of the project was, to contribute to the protection as well as to a sustainable development of the landscape and cultural heritage of the Wadden Sea Region. This included proposals on how heritage can be addressed in physical planning, and how to make use of it in developing economic activities such as cultural tourism. The objectives of the project were:

- a) to describe and characterize the landscape and cultural heritage of the Wadden Sea Region in the framework of a geographical information system (GIS) based on an inventory and valuation of the most important elements, themes and categories including an assessment of the values.
- b) to outline the development possibilities, conflict issues and decision-making demands with regard to the rural area of the Wadden Sea Region; and in conjunction with the transfer of knowledge on landscape and cultural heritage, planning and management, to contribute to the development of a spatial vision including land use and proposals for spatial planning to also ensure the integration of the landscape and cultural heritage in the overall spatial planning on levels of government in the Wadden Sea Region.
- c) to initiate the development of proposals for promoting the future sustainable use of the landscape and cultural heritage of the Wadden Sea Region including proposals for policy and management concepts and measures to further protect and manage the landscape and cultural heritage and the promotion and strengthening of, e.g., cultural tourism.

- d) to contribute to promoting the integrated management of the landscape and cultural heritage within a long-term spatial vision of the North Sea region.
- e) to contribute to raising the awareness of the landscape and cultural heritage of the Wadden Sea region throughout the project and the publication of the results in a report comprehensible for a wider audience.

1.4 Contents

The implementation of the project was designed to be based primarily on existing knowledge on the landscape and cultural heritage of the Wadden Sea Region. This knowledge, however, was and still is scattered over several institutions, organizations and authorities in the countries. It was moreover in a different state of detail, completeness and quality, which, to a major extent, causes inconsistency and incomparability of the existing state of information between the countries. The project therefore demanded the collection of information according to a harmonized approach within an overall framework to be comparable and consistent and to enable a comprehensive assessment. As a result, a trilateral harmonized data base was implemented, but gaps in information did occur due to the differences in data sources and availability.

The mapping of the landscape and cultural heritage has most appropriately and effectively been undertaken in the framework of a geographical information system (GIS) which took account of both the overall and the regional heritage. It warranted the consistency and comparability of the information and the reuse and future extension of the information.

A detailed description of the data base structure, the data sources, the mapped elements and its types as well as the registration of the elements in the four regions is given further down in this report.