

# **The Wadden Sea Region: A Living Historic Landscape**

**A draft integrated strategy to preserve, maintain and develop  
the cultural landscape and heritage in the Wadden Sea Region**

**Elaborated by the project LancewadPlan**

**(Integrated Landscape and Cultural Heritage Management and  
Development Plan for the Wadden Sea Region)**

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## **1. Introduction**

### **1.1 The Strategy**

“A Living Historic Landscape” encompasses the joint strategy for the landscape and cultural heritage of the Wadden Sea Region. This includes the Wadden Sea islands, the mainland areas which border the Wadden Sea and the Wadden Sea itself. It is understood that the unique landscape and cultural heritage of the Wadden Sea Region is a commonly shared heritage, which must be passed on to future generations and be managed within a common framework. The heritage must be managed within a common framework, so that the identity, variety, history and scenery can be conserved and developed sustainably. In that way the Wadden Sea Region’s position as a unique landscape within the world can be safeguarded.

The strategy is a long term vision on how this heritage will be maintained as a shared heritage. The stakeholders, both governmental and non-governmental, have an essential role and function to fulfil in terms of conserving this heritage. It is intended to help create and extend new opportunities to stimulate local ownership and local responsibility for the maintenance and sustainable use of the cultural landscape.

It is an integrated strategy which takes as a starting point that the uniqueness of the landscape and cultural heritage is combined and multifaceted. This strength and potential must be safeguarded and further developed through an integrated approach.

The aims of “The Wadden Sea Region: A Living Historic Landscape” are primarily

- To establish an overall framework for the management and sustainable development of the cultural landscapes and heritage in order to give the heritage a role in coastal development
- To establish and further extend a network within which the competent stakeholders act and co-operate in a trans-boundary context
- To implement sector strategies to support the opportunities that heritage presents towards regional development
- To further raise awareness of the unique landscape and cultural heritage

### **1.2 Sector Strategies**

After an introduction to the overall heritage values and the issues with which we are confronted, a general strategy is outlined in conjunction with specific strategies covering five selected areas considered of essential importance for the heritage: namely tourism, housing and settlement developments, agriculture, nature and coastal protection and water management. These sectoral strategies are based on the results of four regional workshops held during the latter part of 2006 in each of the four regions. Each of these chapters follow a common structure in the sense that they outline visions which have a time frame until 2020. These visions guide the management and sustainable use of the area. The strategies set out what is necessary to achieve the vision, the obstacles identify possible barriers to delivering these strategies and help identify what policies and projects should be employed.

“A Living Historic Landscape” will only come into effect when all those involved in the future development of the region have the same sense of urgency to act now. The cultural landscape and heritage of the Wadden Sea Region offers enormous opportunities for sustainable social and economic development, if opportunities are taken and threats are eliminated or mitigated. A carefully considered mix of measures to preserve, maintain and develop the landscape and heritage values is therefore needed. To gain broad support for these measures, activities that involve the participation of as many sectors of the region’s population are urgently needed.

### 1.3 Lancewad

From 1999 to 2001 an inventory of the landscape and cultural heritage of the Wadden Sea Region was carried out within the framework of the Interreg IIC project Lancewad. It demonstrated and further substantiated the outstanding importance of the landscape and cultural heritage in this region as unique in the world. There are few cultural landscapes world wide where man's interaction with his natural environment can be traced back over more than 2500 years on such a spatial scale and which have left such a complex and combined heritage which is visible in all its facets in today's landscape.

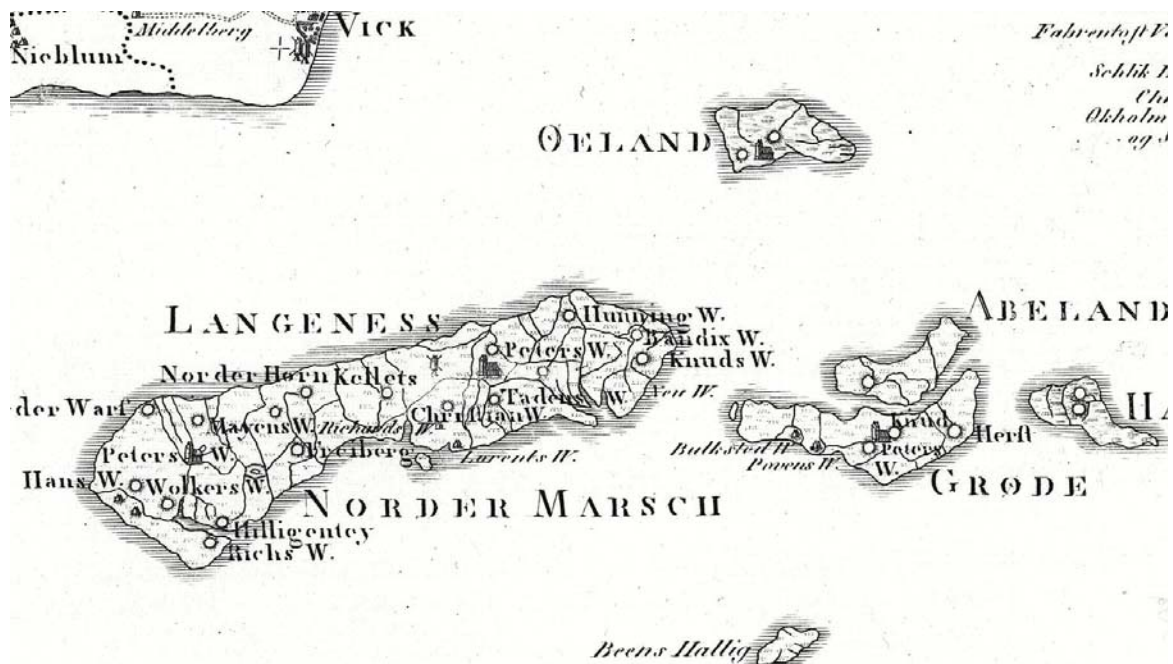


Figure 1: The map from 1805 shows the historic landscape of the Halligen in Schleswig-Holstein

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### 1.4 Project Aims of LancewadPlan

Based on and in continuation of the Lancewad-Project, LancewadPlan aims to extend and enhance, in cooperation with the relevant governmental and non-governmental stakeholders, the development, management and sustainable use of the common trans-boundary landscape and cultural heritage of the Wadden Sea Region. This complements the natural and environmental facets of the region and takes into account the regional diversity of the area.

In particular the aims were directed towards:

- An improved integrated management and development of the common landscape and cultural heritage, as a part of a common coastal landscape and cultural heritage.
- A sustainable use of the landscape and cultural heritage for the balanced development of the Wadden Sea Region.
- An increased awareness of the unique landscape and cultural heritage in contributing to creating or enhancing the identity of the region.
- Improved public participation in, and responsibility for, the development and management of the heritage in a trans-boundary context.

## **1.5 Co-operation**

In addition to partners from the Wadden Sea Region, a partner from the Wash in the United Kingdom was included in the project. This was in recognition of the fact that new partners can bring objectivity and new experiences to work being undertaken by partners that have worked together previously, The Wash Estuary Strategy Group, was approached to be a partner in this second instalment of Lancewad work. This partnership has already developed a series of policies which are based on the principles of delivering Integrated Coastal Zone Management. These policies are contained within a management plan, and the cultural heritage, and land- and seascape have been recognized as elements that define the special qualities of the area. Policies relating to cultural land and seascapes recognize the need to develop spatial planning tools. Through being involved with this project not only do The Wash partners share their experiences of building consensus between stakeholders but they in return gain a greater understanding of landscape perception and value from the Wadden Sea people, and how protecting such values might work in reality.

## **1.6 Approach**

With regard to the elaboration of LancewadPlan, a cross-sectoral integration was stated as essential to ensure that cultural landscape and heritage values would be integrated in spatial and sectoral policies and management, according to an ICZM approach and its principles (spatial, temporal, horizontal and vertical integration dimensions), which underpin the sustainable use of the heritage and enhance regional identity.

A central approach of the project was to design ways of using the opportunities for economic and social development, which the heritage offers and to contribute to the economic and social cohesion, both of the region, and the wider North Sea area. The project supported the liveability of the rural areas through e.g. adapted land use and social perspectives for cultural tourism.

Because the landscape and cultural heritage of the Wadden Sea Region is shared by three countries, the interregional and trans-national cooperation was at the heart of the project. State, regional and local governments co-operated on both levels, horizontally and vertically. Additionally, a cross-sectoral and interdisciplinary project application as well as an involvement of relevant non-governmental and sector stakeholders, as well as the public, were valuable features of the integrated project approach.

## **2. Potentials and Vulnerabilities**

### **2.1 Introduction**

As already indicated, the Lancewad-Region encompasses, in an international perspective, an unmatched and unique landscape and cultural heritage. There are very few areas worldwide where man's interaction with his natural environment over more than 2,500 years has resulted in similar and still exceptionally recognizable imprints in the contemporary landscape. In the cultivated landscape the profile of the natural landscape and its deeps are still discernible. The former seawalls witness the progressive embankment of over almost 1000 years. The settlements throughout history are located on the higher parts of the natural landscape. The villages and cities display a 2000 year settlement in the marsh area and the areas' economic and social relationships with regions outside the area.

If seen in combination with the natural landscape of the Wadden Sea, which is still largely subject to undisturbed natural processes, and for a generation has been under strict nature protection laws, the landscape and cultural heritage of Wadden Sea Region as defined by

the LancewadPlan is truly unique. There is no other such area in the world and it must be considered outstanding on the global level.



Figure 2: Map of the described Cultural Entities in the Wadden Sea Region

For this project, the entire Wadden Sea Region (the regions of the LancewadPlan project), has been characterized into 59 regional entity descriptions and a description of the Wadden Sea itself, addressing also the open seascape. The characterizations were determined by a combination of the geological and geomorphological features and the landscape and settlement history through time. Additionally, the modern development and related planning issues were addressed in order to reference the cultural entities to modern concerns. The entity descriptions include a portrayal of the vulnerabilities and potentials of each of the defined areas. This portrayal was also used to elaborate strategies and further recommendations for the development and sustainable use of the heritage. Furthermore, in the Danish region, cultural environments have been defined and described to be used as tools in regional and local planning.

In addition, The Wash area is unique in a national context in terms of its cultural landscape, which is recognised in part through being designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Situated on the east coast of England, it has similar qualities to that of the Wadden Sea, an area that depicts the relationship between man and nature over the millennia. The evolution of this relationship can be seen in the landscape in a number of ways including the remains of Iron Age saltworks, a series of sea embankments dating from the Saxon times

onwards, a canalised river and drain network and landscape specific monuments such as pump houses, sluice gates and new infrastructure such as industrial-sized wind turbines. The landscape also has evidence for earlier times, with old sea cliffs now located inland and peat soils containing remnants of former dry woodland. The constant changes in time of seawater and freshwater influences have resulted in many metres of deposits, which have supported rich farmlands both in the past and the present, with seasonal colour provided by the bulb industry.

The variety and diversity of the cultural heritage reflects the historical interaction of human activity and a changing natural environment. The cultural heritage is a central resource for modern life. It has a powerful influence on peoples' sense of identity and civic pride. Its enduring physical and mental presence contributes significantly to the character and 'sense of place' of rural and urban environments. In the Wadden Sea this resource is rich, complex and irreplaceable; it has great potential both with regard to its intrinsic worth and its role in economic development.

From these descriptions a picture emerges of a cultural landscape, comprising diversity within an overall uniformity, on an unprecedented spatial scale. In total it covers an entire coastal region over a distance of almost 1000 km. Similar patterns can be identified: these are most pronounced in the dwelling mounds, the same embankment history is evidenced by the thousands of kilometres of dikes and the way in which the water has been managed over a 1000 years. There is the same evolution in agricultural practices and the way in which they have shaped the present landscape, similar evolution in the cities, towns and villages, all reflecting man's encounter with very specific environmental conditions basically confined to this region.



Figure 3: The historical map of Fanø shows the natural landscape and its use  
Copyright: Danish National Mapping Agency

However, there is also a striking diversity within this uniformity. The oldest settlements in areas such as Westergo, Oostergo, Krummhörn, Wangerland, Dithmarschen and Eidersted, although very similar in structure, have left lasting and very location specific characteristics on those regions. The embankment history can be observed in all its phases throughout the region, with excellent early embankments in the southern part of the region, the renaissance embankment of Sint Annaparochie and later the Tønder marsh, the systematic 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century embankments of Nordfriesland and the Dollard area and the modern land reclamation embankments which are present in practically all parts of the region, these latter examples are probably most pronounced in the Schleswig-Holstein area. The very specific landscapes that evolved around the major rivers of the region, the Ems, the Weser and the Elbe, form part of an international economy because of their vicinity to major urban areas.

At the mouth of the rivers and along the coast harbours developed. Some had a local limited role, such as fishing or transport to the nearby islands, whilst others played an important role in the international marine trade (like Harlingen en Husum) or in the naval defence of the country (like Den Helder).

The development of agriculture is another very dominant feature with very specific regional differences, for example the more modern pre-industrial agrarian landscape of the Dollard or in the Elbe and Weser marsh and the industrial agrarian landscape in the modern polders.

Further dominant features include the development of new harbours and centres in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, as at Wilhelmshaven, Brunsbüttel and Esbjerg. In terms of settlement history and urbanization there remains some areas of still uninhabited marsh, as in the Danish region, and a number of remarkably intact medieval cities, including Ribe and Tønder. In addition there are the relative populous areas in the Dutch and Lower Saxony area with many old and intact villages.

From an economic perspective the landscape of the Wadden Sea Region is, as with many other cultural landscapes today, changing from a production area into a consumption area. Agriculture, fishing, industries and trade were once the main economic factors, nowadays the economy has shifted towards leisure facilities, sustainably-produced regional products, ecological and landscape amenity values. The shift from production to consumption also affects the way we want the area to be organised, maintained and exploited. In this changing economic landscape, the environment and the cultural heritage of the Wadden Sea Region can be seen as a 'marketable commodity'. There is a growing need for distinctive and unique landscapes, for places with stories and histories that offer visitors new perceptions and experiences and that offer local inhabitants and entrepreneurs new opportunities in income production.

Not only is the economic landscape changing; the social situation of the people living in the area has changed significantly in the last few decades. This is reflected in the way people now look at their surroundings and the issues they raise concerning the environment they want to live and stay in. An environment with which one can identify themselves becomes increasingly important, especially in regions with a decreasing population such as this area. In short: the joy we experience from a landscape with identity, that is lively and full of surprises, is of growing importance socially as well as economically.

The challenge is now to safeguard the heritage and cultural landscape assets and use those strengths regionally, because only a living landscape will create living communities and vice versa. More specifically the potentials and vulnerabilities that emerged from the regional entity descriptions need to be considered.



## **2.2 Potentials**

### *2.2.1 Variety and Landscape Values*

Elements of the cultural heritage lie hidden beneath the ground in the form of archaeological deposits. Other elements, such as the area's historic landscapes, are highly visible records of millennia of agriculture, flood defence, industry and commerce and now form an integral part of peoples' daily lives. The built element of the cultural heritage is equally rich, with distinctive towns, villages, hamlets and farms. As a fundamental aspect of the region's environmental infrastructure the cultural heritage has a major role to play in the future of the Wadden Sea Region.

The fundamental and most valuable potential is the variety of cultural landscapes and heritage present, including all the historic monuments, the architecture, archaeological sites, historic social remains and traditions as well as artistic values. The individual monuments, sites and other cultural elements are each intrinsically significant, but added value is provided by their interrelationships and context in space and time. This creates cultural ensembles or cultural environments of greater value than a number of unrelated or poorly integrated individual sites or elements.

### *2.2.2 Biodiversity*

Conservation of biodiversity assets provides significant cultural and social benefits for the Wadden Sea Region. The maintenance of a high biodiversity value will often require the maintenance of a rich diversity in the cultural landscape. Conservation and enhancement of the natural and cultural landscape can thus be a symbiotic process which can be used to enhance people's appreciation of the region as a place to live and work in or to visit.

### *2.2.3 Awareness*

A sound awareness among the community, stakeholders and politicians about cultural heritage values in the region is vital for the preservation, development and sustainable use of the cultural landscape and heritage. Awareness and understanding is a precondition for managing development in a sustainable fashion which values the heritage and which will create a strong sense of place for local people and visitors.

### *2.2.4 Accessibility*

Physical accessibility to the cultural landscape and an understanding of heritage values plays an important role, not only in developing sustainable uses, but also in raising awareness. Easy accessibility is a precondition for further development of cultural tourism, which is an important economic factor on the islands and in the rural areas of the Wadden Sea Region. Good accessibility to cultural environments and ensembles through foot paths or cycling routes, especially if these are historic route ways, can in itself enhance understanding of the cultural landscape. This could be further developed through education and training programs. Furthermore, accessibility which is sustainable maintains the cultural heritage and landscape, enhancing people's sense of place and making the area a desirable place to live.

### *2.2.5 Cultural Tourism*

There is considerable potential in the Wadden Sea Region for cultural tourism, developed in respect to the assets and treasures of our cultural heritage. The openness of the landscape, the significance of historic settlements and trade, characteristic agricultural features, the reminders of the different ways people have coped with and defended themselves from the threat of flooding, together with other sites and activities traditional to the region, are all attractive to visitors. Tourism contributes to the economic development of the region and thus to the wealth of its people and a healthy social environment.

## **2.3 Vulnerabilities**

The cultural heritage is sensitive to change. In the Wadden Sea Region it is under pressure from structural changes, often driven by issues at national, European or even global level, leading to rapid transformation. The pressures are mainly caused by economic development across all relevant sectors, but also by changes in the natural environment, notably sea-level rise and global warming. Careful consideration is required as change is planned in order to ensure that the cultural heritage can make its full contribution to a sustainable future for Wadden Sea Region.

### *2.3.1 Agricultural Policies*

Farming in the EU has evolved into a high-tech industry employing less than 5% of the population. When the common agricultural policy (CAP) was introduced, the aim was to increase food production, and support schemes were established to achieve this. The aims of the CAP, together with the resulting scale enlargement, could threaten the diversity of cultural landscapes, the accessibility to valuable landscapes and the conservation of unique heritage elements. Whilst this is still a matter of concern, a recent trend to move from payments subsidising production to payment for environmental stewardship offers an opportunity to develop enhanced conservation of, and access, to cultural heritage and landscapes.

### *2.3.2 Urban Development*

In order to maintain the area as a place that people wish to live in with a viable economy, modern developments are necessary. This inevitably requires development in and around towns and villages leading to potentially adverse impacts on the cultural landscape and heritage. Impacts may affect particular sites and locations, but there may also be a cumulative affect, on valuable ensembles and cultural environments. Only well informed and carefully considered spatial and physical planning can secure the cultural heritage values while meeting the needs of new settlement and industrial areas as well as of the related infrastructure.

### *2.3.3 Demography*

An insidious vulnerability affecting conservation of the historic values is population change, which although less obvious than physical change, is nonetheless important. Demography and other social parameters such as unemployment rates, housing market and mobility and patterns of commuting have effects on the landscape and its maintenance. Living conditions change due to migration to and from rural areas like the Wadden Sea Region and influence the need for infrastructure. A declining population level in the region could threaten the local quality of life (liveability), the sense of belonging and awareness about the cultural values.

### *2.3.4 Energy Supply*

Energy creation plays an important role in the Wadden Sea Region. In the Dutch and German part of the region gas extraction takes place and in the German part also oil exploitation. Numerous wind parks have been installed. The strategy of developing the region as a hub for renewable energy production, such as wind and solar generated energy in particular, will tremendously effect the cultural landscape and its perception. Energy production parks are large scale constructions with effects on space, landscape structures, openness and the cultural environment. Here again careful planning will be particularly important.



Figure 4: Hattstedtermarsch-Reußenköge  
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### 3. Managing the Landscape and Cultural Heritage: The Overarching Approach

#### 3.1 Introduction

The management of the cultural and landscape heritage of the Wadden Sea Region is a complex issue. In the following section targets are identified for the preservation and conservation of the historic landscape and the primary management principles described. Vision 2020 which states the importance of the characteristics and cultural history of the Wadden Sea Region is restated. Following on from this a range of strategies are presented and potential obstacles identified. Policies are also identified which will provide guidance on how the cultural heritage should be integrated into existing planning and conservation documents and strategies. Finally a number of projects are outlined which will address specific issues to promote the cultural heritage of the Wadden Sea area.

##### 3.1.1 *Managing our Cultural and Landscape Heritage*

Spatial planning is the most important tool for the conservation and enhancement of cultural heritage and landscape values. Planning is also a central instrument for a sustainable use of the heritage integrated with the various economic requirements for regional development. A vulnerability in this respect is that the valuable cultural issues are not deeply integrated at the legal and management level, and a comprehensive consideration of the cultural landscape heritage in physical planning is therefore not guaranteed. The cultural entities may prove particularly valuable in addressing this issue as a means of engagement with planners and others, and as a means of moving from a site based to a character based approach in strategic planning for the cultural heritage.

Monitoring has become - in all environment relevant planning procedures - an important means of assessing the outcome and effectiveness of decided measures. The application of monitoring techniques on issues concerning the cultural landscape in the Wadden Sea Region is however still not widely spread, and therefore shortcomings in actual planning procedures are not sufficiently reflected, discussed and eliminated.

### 3.1.2 *Points of Departure*

Targets for the landscape and cultural heritage were adopted at the 7<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference on the Protection of the Wadden Sea held in Leeuwarden in 1994 (Leeuwarden Declaration) and implemented in common policies and projects within the Wadden Sea Plan adopted at the 1997 State Conference. These were complemented with management principles adopted at the 9<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference held in Esbjerg in 2001 (Esbjerg Declaration). These Targets and Management Principles remain the starting points for the trilateral approach on the landscape and cultural heritage of the Wadden Sea Region.

#### Targets Landscape and Culture (Leeuwarden 1994/Wadden Sea Plan 1997)

- To preserve, restore and develop the elements that contribute to the character, or identity, of the landscape. (*Identity*)
- To maintain the full variety of cultural landscapes, typical of the Wadden Sea landscape. (*Variety*)
- To conserve the cultural-historic heritage. (*History*)
- To pay special attention to the environmental perception of the landscape and the cultural-historic contributions in the context of management and planning. (*Scenery*)

#### Management Principles (Esbjerg 2001)

- Managed development of the heritage.
- Use of the landscape and cultural heritage as an opportunity.
- Involvement of stakeholders in the management.
- Integration of policy and management of the natural and cultural environment.
- Enhancement of the awareness of the landscape and cultural heritage.

## 3.2 **Vision 2020**

Within the Lancewad project a vision has been stated in image-terms to inspire the long-term protection by development of the landscape and cultural heritage of the Wadden Sea Region:

“For more than 2000 years, the landscape and cultural heritage of the Wadden Sea Region has displayed the richness of the specific nature of the Wadden Sea and the unique interaction with man to its full extent. The overall landscape characteristics entail the wide open skies, the straight horizons, the clear transition between sea and land, the notion of being engulfed by nature on the seaside; and on the landside, the dwelling mounds, dykes and the settlements as green oases in the open fields. In the inhabited areas, the different characteristics of the landscape and cultural heritage of the several sub-regions can be clearly distinguished. The cultural heritage is well kept and (re)used. New developments show new faces into the “old portraits” enriching them and telling the continuing story of living in the Wadden Sea Region, a landscape of world-uniqueness”.

To achieve this in the framework of the LancewadPlan project, an operational vision has been formulated in process-terms:

- (1) Preserve the identity, variety, history and the scenery of the landscape and cultural heritage of the Wadden Sea Region as a coherent heritage which will be reflected as a common responsibility of the appropriate authorities of the three countries.
- (2) Manage and use the landscape and cultural heritage of the Wadden Sea Region in a sustainable way, as one coherent natural and cultural landscape heritage in a land-sea interface in respect of the specific facets of each of the landscape types by making it an integrated part of coastal management.
- (3) Enhance the awareness of the unique landscape and cultural heritage of the Wadden Sea Region supporting the targets of the trilateral Wadden sea cooperation, and making use of the opportunities the heritage assets provides to strengthen the region through a single coherent awareness program.

### **3.3 Strategies**

- (1) To identify and evaluate the landscape and cultural heritage in a coherent way with a view to fully understand its outstanding international value.
- (2) To apply the international and national legal instruments for the conservation, management and sustainable use of the heritage in a coordinated way for the coherent management of the heritage across the Region.
- (3) To integrate the landscape and cultural heritage of the Wadden Sea Region within spatial planning on a national, regional and local level that corresponds to its unique qualities. Using planning to strengthen the spatial qualities of the landscape and its cultural historic elements in order to support the regional development of the land-sea interface.
- (4) To develop appropriate landscape assessment tools in order to better understand the various values of the landscape character and to provide support in decision making.
- (5) To increase the awareness of the heritage and landscape assets among all relevant politicians, organizations, the regional and local public, also through the empowerment of the local communities and within an international context.
- (6) To improve the work with the cultural heritage in the Wadden Sea Region on an international level. This includes trans-national cross border co-operation to work with cultural values and create awareness of the Wadden Sea Region. In this respect, the experience from nature protection can be used.
- (7) To create added value for the Wadden Sea Region regarding ensuring and promoting the common cultural history, particularly with the support of public institutions.
- (8) Exchanging information by the utilisation of modern communication techniques. Spatial planning, as well as the evaluation of potentials and assets e.g. by nature conservation and cultural heritage management, require the information stored in different databases and GIS-systems in order to produce results integrating all issues. Harmonisation, interfaces and mutual platforms and formats are therefore essential tools.

- (9) Implementation of suitable financial instruments and adaptation of existing funds to the requirements of integrated landscape management.

### **3.4 Obstacles**

- (1) The current relevant international and national legal instruments which protect the cultural heritage are limited in scope and application. There is no automatic legal protection of landscapes, landscape elements and ensembles comparable to the biotope protection encompassed in the nature conservation laws. The legal instruments will only to a very limited extent be able to secure the protection and management of comprehensive landscapes.
- (2) Spatial planning is often only able to manage landscape and landscape ensembles to a limited extent. The landscape heritage is often not acknowledged in planning as a comprehensive heritage in which the different elements add up to a single whole, but is approached on the basis of the single features and elements.
- (3) The landscape and cultural heritage is seen separated from the regions natural and environmental qualities and not as one coherent heritage asset. The natural heritage in the region is perceived as representing different interests and therefore impeding the mutual reinforcement of the values and their use to strengthen the regional development.
- (4) The awareness and understanding of the (inter)national importance of the Wadden Sea cultural heritage is limited among decision makers. There are very few organizations which operate with the landscape heritage as a whole.

### **3.5 Policies**

- (1) To apply the available relevant international and national legal instruments in an effective way and subsequently design a program of application of legal instruments.
- (2) To designate cultural environments of national and international importance with the view of preserving and protecting them from deterioration and extinction
- (3) To integrate the landscape and cultural heritage as developed through the LancewadPlan project in national and regional spatial plans, when they are being made, subject to regular revision by developing regional and local cultural heritage plans or cultural environment plans.
- (4) To integrate the landscape and cultural heritage interests in the ongoing developments of the strategies for Integrated Coastal Zone Management plans, to ensure that the land-sea interface which has been a dominant feature of the region will be taken into account on the level of the environmental and natural interests.
- (5) To designate as positive examples particular areas with a comprehensive integrated heritage exemplary for the overall regional heritage as national landscapes. It is proposed to install management plans for such areas tailored to the needs of those landscapes and its local inhabitants.
- (6) To develop landscape characterization as a tool for use in the Lancewad region following unified principles with a view to identifying the international and national values of the area.

- (7) To protect the marine archaeological heritage in an appropriate way, making use of the existing protection schemes for protecting the natural environment of the Wadden Sea.
- (8) To use agri-environmental measures to subsidize the conservation and restoration of the Wadden Sea landscape and cultural heritage.
- (9) To develop and implement a strategy for monitoring the landscape and cultural heritage according to European standards for environmental issues, including the continuation and extension of the Lancewad data base.
- (10) To support the establishment of a transnational heritage network in cooperation with existing landscape organizations and institutes for raising awareness through local involvement and consultations.
- (11) Harmonise the Trilateral Wadden Sea Plan to the aims of integrated management of landscape and cultural heritage.

### **3.6 Projects**

- (1) To carry out in a coordinated way a landscape characterization in selected parts of the Wadden Sea Region with a view to testing the applicability of the methodology for use in spatial planning, policy development and awareness building.
- (2) To investigate how the available relevant international and national legal instruments can be most effectively applied.
- (3) To carry out and test the applicability of the cultural environment designations for regional and local planning.
- (4) To publish a landscape and cultural heritage atlas of the Lancewad region to support and enhance the awareness of the landscape and cultural heritage.
- (5) To carry out a marine archaeological project on the creation of an inventory of the archaeological heritage of the Wadden Sea marine area. This would respectively close the gap in knowledge on the marine heritage and to develop the proposal for conserving and managing this heritage in conjunction with the protection of the natural heritage.
- (6) To review how to best monitor and assess the heritage in a trans-boundary context for the Wadden Sea Quality Status Reports.



Figure 5: Ockholmer Koog and Sönke-Nissen-Koog  
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## 4. Sector Strategies

In this section the individual sectors are considered: settlement, urban and landscape development, agriculture, nature conservation, tourism, coastal protection and water management. For each sector the Vision for 2020 is identified, obstacles to this vision described and strategies and project proposals to achieve the vision identified. These different sections will help to target policies and strategies for the cultural heritage for each of the different types of sector identified.

### 4.1 Settlement, Urban and Landscape Development

#### Introduction

Towns, villages and settlements in various forms are important and integral elements of the Wadden Sea cultural landscape and heritage. Originally, settlements, and indeed life, throughout the entire region was adapted to the ever-present threat of flooding and the exploitation of the natural resources – with different regional and local expressions in structures, form and architecture.

The economy of the Wadden Sea islands were mainly orientated towards the sea, while the mainland concentrated on agriculture, both pastoral and arable. One of the overall qualities and specific features of the entire region has been the distinct transition between the rural area and (urban) settlements.

Today, life within the Wadden Sea Region is largely related to landscape and nature values and cultural assets. In the future these aspects will be more decisive for the development and the attractiveness of the Wadden Sea Region. In order to meet these developments and challenges the traditional building structures and cultural historic landscapes of the different regions must be maintained.



In many parts of the Wadden Sea Region, however, the structural changes lead to population migration and farms and buildings no longer serve their original functions. If awareness and substantial economic efforts are not invested increased remoteness and abandoned buildings are expected to be an everyday feature in many areas.

In almost all parts of the Wadden Sea Region physical developments tends to blur the transitions between towns and villages (the Geest) and the open marshlands. Another quality, the traditional building style, has to compete with individual concepts of identity and "good architecture", leading to changes to the buildings, villages and consequently the entire region. Combined with structural changes in farming and settlement which lead to migration from the area, leaving a lot of empty buildings no longer serving their original function. The long term consequences are "loss of identity" and blocking of the visual experience.

### Vision 2020

- (1) Settlement development takes place with respect for our history and historic cultural heritage.
- (2) In the Wadden Sea Region the distinct borders between urban areas and building concentrations and the open rural area are still visible.
- (3) In the villages and cities many buildings of cultural historic and architectonic value which lost their original function like agricultural facilities, factories and schools, have got a new function and are wisely used. Grown settlement structures are still discernible and are integrated into spatial planning.
- (4) New residential areas are carefully designed with consideration to the surrounding landscape and have a good correlation to historic grown features like settlement structures.

### Strategies and Policies

- (1) To strengthen the inclusion of the cultural and natural heritage in land use planning, and to raise awareness of specific vulnerable areas. The elaboration of local preservation plans ("bevarende lokalplaner" in Denmark, "beschermde dorps- en stadsgezichten" in The Netherlands) in the Wadden Sea Region can help in developing and protecting those areas.

By dividing the landscape into different character zones, we could take the landscape and cultural history into consideration in the entire Wadden Sea Region.

- (2) The development of landscape characterisations should be a mandatory integral part of the landscape plans of the municipalities and/or counties. This should be legally anchored.
- (3) The historic development and its influence on present landscape and building patterns with a focus on cultural ensembles has to be made clearer in modern planning. Furthermore, the development of landscape and heritage policy plans has to be stimulated by the local and regional spatial planning authorities.
- (4) Planning with living communities should aim to take the valuable cultural environments of the region into consideration.
- (5) To strengthen the co-operation between the heritage sector and the municipalities with regard to planning in areas with preservation values. Within this cooperation, guidelines can be developed providing good advice for example with regards to new

buildings and the change of older and listed buildings, or for dealings with high voltage cables in the landscape.

- (6) The establishment of a heritage “LIFE-foundation” and town foundations in order to preserve the settlement structures, the valuable towns and villages, as well as single buildings.
- (7) New settlements, residential areas and areas for recreation houses should not be located in the open countryside, but rather in or close to the urban areas or villages.
- (8) To secure possibilities for development in the region and at the same time to protect cultural landscape through spatial planning, it is necessary to identify areas where new buildings can be placed, so they do not conflict with the interests of the landscape and the cultural environments.

### Obstacles

- (1) Priorities for economic development often leads to negative effects on valuable cultural environments.
- (2) Lack of money in conserving valuable and protected buildings.
- (3) Contradictory legislations and unclear responsibilities in dealing with and planning with landscapes, e.g. agriculture and cultural heritage. In addition, there are problems regarding compatibility of legislation which leads to contradictory decisions.
- (4) The need for economic and structural changes is sometimes rejected for individual purposes, which leads to short term thinking in implementation.
- (5) Some listed and preserved buildings do not get the necessary attention. There are gaps in the legislation for the enforcement of the activities of private owners.
- (6) A lack of knowledge and awareness often leads to planning and development decisions with a negative impact on cultural landscapes and heritage

### Projects

- (1) Study about local traditions and values with regard to nature, landscape and cultural historic features in order to tune settlement and town development to those values in respect for their traditions.
- (2) Initiate a project to increase the awareness of the decision makers and the citizens in order to ensure that new buildings and settlements are placed and created in a functional and beautiful way without conflicting with local architectural and cultural historical traditions.
- (3) Development of best practise examples of how new technical and architectural solutions will function with the older settlements and buildings.

## 4.2 Agriculture

### Introduction

Agriculture has always been and still is (one of) the main determining factors of the cultural landscape in the Wadden Sea Region. The dwelling mounds, sod banks, farmhouses, field systems and drainage patterns etc. that characterise the region reflect the centuries of agricultural use both on the islands and the mainland. The former and present sea dykes for instance bear witness to the progressive embankments, which were carried out mainly for agricultural purposes. These ensembles and elements of the cultural history contribute to the identity of the Wadden Sea Region and makes it a special area to live in, to experience its cultural heritage and to enjoy its landscape.

Agriculture still is an important economic factor in the region, however it's role and the methods of farming have changed considerably. These changes are to a large extent initiated by the EU-agricultural policies. An upcoming business is growing crops for the production of energy, which is a large scale issue with severe effects on the cultural landscapes. The central question is how to deal with market demands and with the maintenance and development of the qualities of landscape and cultural heritage. Therefore a vision is needed and choices have to be made.

The cultural landscape offers possibilities for an economic development that includes a role for agriculture in the Wadden Sea Region.

To maintain and manage the cultural landscape of the region it is necessary to develop sustainable agricultural use and to incorporate landscape management into agricultural practise.

### Vision 2020

- (1) In 2020 there (still) is prospering sustainable agriculture in the region, including forms of mixed-income farming and activities in landscape management.
- (2) Agriculture takes variety and identity of the cultural landscape into account in farming practices.
- (3) In some areas, agricultural structures dominate the landscape, but the main cultural heritage features are still visible.
- (4) Many regions are recognized as very valuable cultural landscape areas and agriculture is in harmony with the preservation of historic landscapes.

### Strategies and Policies

- (1) To raise awareness among farmers of the specific characteristics (the story) of the landscape and cultural history of the Wadden Sea Region and about the role of agriculture in creating the identity of the region.
- (2) Improvement and amendment of the local and regional spatial plans to create sufficient protection of the landscape and the cultural historic values of the Wadden Sea Region.
- (3) To elaborate strategies for landscape management together with agricultural stakeholders.

- (4) To strengthen and develop opportunities for the agricultural industry to incorporate sensitive management of landscapes and the cultural heritage into commercial farming practises.
- (5) To develop and strengthen new financial instruments for landscape management by farmers like the EAFRD Program.
- (6) To promote cooperation within the agricultural sector and between farmers and other stakeholders at a local level (such as local interest groups and local authorities).
- (7) to offer the agricultural sector development opportunities and to enable new products and markets to evolve.
- (8) Implementation of policies for funding public ("green" or "golden") services.

### Obstacles

- (1) Agriculture has evolved from market driven food production into an economic sector influenced by EU policies. This has brought along price regulations and production quota, scale enlargement, a decreasing number of farmers, intensification and monocultures.
- (2) The effects of agricultural policies and programs on the landscape and landscape management (both positive and negative) are underestimated.
- (3) Awareness of the value of the landscape and the contribution of the landscape to the social and economic well-being of people is not seen as a common asset.
- (4) Energy production (such as wind power) has become and will become even more economically attractive for farmers which will result in a huge pressure on the cultural landscapes.
- (5) Existing nature and landscape management programs and financial instruments aim almost entirely at ecological goals and lack connections with cultural landscape values.
- (6) When initial investments in the landscape are made, the costs of long term management are not always secured.

### Projects

- (1) Elaboration of best practises and pilot projects for knowledge exchange in agriculture practices
- (2) To marketing, strengthen and further develop the "Wadden Sea product" label and a common "Wadden brand" in order to include services which aim at the maintenance and the management of the cultural landscape"
- (3) Initiation of a project to raise awareness about agriculture and landscape by using the knowledge of farmers and local people regarding the cultural heritage of the area.
- (4) Study on improvement of the farmers organisation and cooperation with a view to new synergies and tourism as an "agricultural" side product.

- (6) Development of a measure, including financial support, for adaptive re-use of typical (traditional) elements such as farmhouses, sheep sheds, mills etc.
- (7) Elaboration and implementation of a landscape assessment tool in the process of spatial licensing.

### 4.3 Nature Conservation

#### Introduction

The Wadden Sea Region has always been an area of highly dynamic landscapes and drastic changes, originally shaped by Ice Age glaciers, then the forces of the advancing and retreating North Sea, constantly remodelled by the recurrent influence of the tides and by the extraordinary events of storm tides. Landscapes and ecosystems resulted where cultural and natural forces have intermingled to create a unique situation which is still in constant change, even though modern sea dikes have created a new and definite border between the extremes of the tidal flats and the artificial land of the marshes. This strong separation veils, however, the historic developments of constant man-nature interaction, which have not only shaped land and sea but also people's minds and attitudes exceedingly. Modern, man-made changes in landscape tend to enhance this trend and increasingly cover up and even destroy the evidences of the historic collaboration between culture and nature.

Nature conservation has therefore become a major issue in the Wadden Sea Region in the last decades, leading to extensive national parks and sanctuaries behind and in front of the sea walls. The protected sites encompass not only tidal flats, sandbanks and salt marshes, but also parts of the reclaimed land and they cover large parts of the Wadden Sea Region. The focus of nature conservation has, however, been mainly the protection of habitats, fauna and flora even though the development of underlying structures, elements and, eventually, landscapes is inseparably connected with human influence in the area.

To emphasise the common context of natural and cultural heritage in the Wadden Sea Region and to develop approaches integrating these dimensions must be the goal of a vision for the area and a management strategy which also can enhance people's awareness and acceptance of the multiple facets of their heritage.

#### Vision 2020

- (1) Natural and cultural heritage will be regarded as different dimensions of the same asset, which cannot be separated. Nature protection management therefore harmoniously integrates the maintenance of cultural heritage and landscape as part of its task.
- (2) Landscape is accepted as consisting of both natural and cultural aspects in a mutual historic context and is an integrated part of sustainable development.
- (3) The integrated management and preservation of cultural and natural heritage has been established as voluntary work by inhabitants and other stakeholders on a broad local basis.
- (4) All protected sites are kept and maintained by stakeholders in collaboration with relevant authorities and therefore damage has not only been reduced to zero but many deteriorated monuments and areas have been improved.

### Strategies and Policies

- (1) Improving co-operation between nature protection and cultural heritage management by recurrently exchanging ways of thinking, continuously promoting mutual understanding of each others goals and principles and by building networks on and between all levels of activity. It is important to learn from each other about the different mentalities and approaches as different focuses are often facets of the same overall goals. This is necessary as landscape is always a subjective concept dependence on date as well as the cultural and personal background of the viewer.
- (2) Promoting co-ordination of policies and intensifying collaboration on all responsible levels of nature protection and cultural heritage management. Interest groups, administrations and other stakeholders work more efficiently towards the sustainable development of landscapes. Integrated management of cultural heritage is institutionalised on an interdisciplinary level and put on a permanent basis. This will further minimise conflicts, create synergies, improve results and appeal to a broader public.
- (3) Enhancing awareness and understanding of the historically developed man/nature interrelations. The public and stakeholders can be involved on a much larger scale if the natural and cultural dimensions and causal-dependencies of landscape are explained by integrated public relation strategies.

### Obstacles

- (1) Legislation on natural and cultural heritage is often not harmonised and integrates other relevant sectors to a limited extent only.
- (2) Objectives of administrations and interest groups often differ widely or are sometimes even contrary to each other's aims and therefore also disadvantageous to an integrated landscape management.
- (3) Financial funds are rarely suited to the aims of cultural landscape protection or to the integrated development of cultural heritage.

### Projects

- (1) Study about possibilities of how to improve and harmonize legal instruments like EU-directives, national and state legislation.
- (2) Emphasising the characteristics and variety of the local landscape by guided tours, sign-posted routes and ways, especially in connection with information centres and local recreation areas.
- (3) Common projects and further cooperation between nature and cultural heritage conservation, as well as educational projects for building awareness as well as regular open discussions, workshops and conferences.
- (4) Integration of cultural heritage management and nature conservation, into spatial and regional planning activities as well into sector planning from the first stage onwards.
- (5) Establishing a comprehensive mapping of the historic landscape character.

## 4.4 Tourism

### Introduction

The Wadden Sea and its hinterland represent a remarkable landscape that has emerged since Neolithic times. Since its beginning, it is a man-made landscape that is subject to continuous change. Since the 19th century tourism has been an important economic factor in the Wadden Sea Region. The success of the tourism industry in the Wadden Sea Region is largely based on two pillars: the maritime heritage of the area and the rural landscape. Even if several synergies can be recognized, the tourism sector is affected by its regional and local fragmentation. Numerous bonds, associations, marketing organizations, and facilities under public law can be recognized, which represent the overall area on different levels and under different brandings. The involvement of cultural heritage protection on different levels within tourism offers the possibility of developing a structure that has the protection of the cultural heritage landscape in mind and that leads tourism planners to a sustainable interaction with the cultural heritage landscape. An irrevocable precondition is the acceptance that a knowledge of one's own history is a unique selling proposition. Only if someone appreciates the values of the region, are they able to pass this appreciation and the opportunities arising from it on to tourists.

### Vision 2020

- (1) The landscape character of the Wadden Sea Region remains unique and intact and is reinforced and promoted.
- (2) The local and regional potential of the cultural heritage is a unique selling factor that is based on the principle of authenticity.
- (3) Cultural tourism contributes to the maintenance of the cultural historical landscape and, in return profits from this.
- (4) A balanced use of the historic landscape is the basis to assure the success of cultural tourism.
- (5) A healthy sustainable tourism industry is integrated in the living region aware of its roots.

### Strategies

- (1) To keep the environment and landscape healthy and diverse. A diverse landscape is also the basis for future tourism use. This strategy concerns not only the management of the common heritage itself, but also the public knowledge of its possibilities and constraints. Landscape development must refer to this context. The common heritage is best protected by involving the local population.
- (2) To improve knowledge about cultural values within the tourist sector.  
The historically grown diversity of the Wadden Sea landscape implies the common heritage should be made visible. All tourist use should therefore be pathway oriented and take the historic framework into consideration in order to elaborate its potential.
- (3) To make sustainable use of the cultural and natural heritage.  
In terms of protection by use, cultural tourism can play an important role. Therefore, it seems important to consider heritage conservation within the different levels of the planning processes of the tourism industry. As an output cultural heritage may become more tangible.

- (4) To promote the common Wadden Sea as destination and as brand or trademark.  
The north European Wadden Sea area is a well known label that was “introduced” in the 19th century, although it is still important for the development of new brands. In this respect it appears very important to select and to use specific cultural-historical themes for promotion as well as to overcome competition between the regions and to strengthen trans-boundary cooperation.
- (5) To promote the cultural heritage of the quiet rural mainland within the coastal tourist centres in order to develop a more regional, rather than a local, source of income and to strive for sustainability.
- (6) To stimulate a coordinated approach of cultural tourism development in the Wadden Sea Region by regional boards.

### Obstacles

- (1) Lack of information: even if suitable information on the landscape is theoretically available, frequently too little information about the values of the cultural and natural heritage is obtainable by tourists or by the tourism boards.
- (2) Musealization of the landscape: a presented perception of the landscape and heritage, chosen to be used as a subject for tourism use, reflects just one aspect of the overall historic development, commonly used at the cost of other historic features.
- (3) Increasing competition philosophy. Recent economic structures, market changes and an increasing competition among the tourism boards negatively affect the cultural heritage landscape.
- (4) Loss of identity: mass tourism presents the danger of losing one’s identity and of adapting an identity created or generated by the tourism sector.
- (5) A lack of opportunities to increase access, particularly for walkers, to rural areas.

### Projects

- (1) Implementation of trans-boundary and cross-sector working groups and development of an integrated marketing and promotion plan.
- (2) Establishment of collaboration between partners with regard to specific themes of cultural tourism like “The Vikings”, the Hanseatic League and pilgrimage and recent themes with a historic foundation (water management, migration).
- (3) Compilation/provision of suitable information for cultural tourism (information sheets, booklet).
- (4) Development of museums etc. to act as markets for the cultural heritage.
- (5) Labelling of points of interests under a common brand, e.g. development of theme routes and development of transnational projects.



## 4.5 Coastal Protection and Water Management (climate change)

### Introduction

Climate change and its effects have become a central issue over recent years and have got the highest priority in recent policy development, nationally and globally.

Although climate has always changed, the new feature of the present situation is the expected speed of the change as influenced by man, increasing heavy weather conditions and rising water levels off-shore and on-shore. Both could have severe impacts on the cultural landscape and heritage, the changes within the ecosystem and reactive human activities.

The Wadden Sea Region has been inhabited for least two-and-a-half thousand years and the people have always lived with and fought against the sea. Since the last Ice Age, the Wadden Sea Region has been formed by the unique interaction of nature and Man. The sea level rise, storm floods and tides left their marks in the whole area and formed the wide open marsh areas. People managed to make their living in a unique way by building dwelling mounds and sea walls and using the water system for transport and trading.

These traces of development and activity, as well as the history of the region, have to some extent always been readable in the landscape.

### Vision 2020

- (1) Securing the life behind the dikes.
- (2) Preserving the living and economic conditions for a further healthy development.
- (3) Coastal spatial plans include buffer and flood-hazard zones and are established on the principles of integrated coastal zone management.
- (4) Preserving the knowledge and the structures of land reclamation and protection.
- (5) Keeping as much as possible of the natural and cultural heritage in the Wadden Sea Region.

### Strategies and Policies

- (1) Increase awareness about the readable history in the region.  
An important goal is to make the people who live and work in the Wadden Sea Region aware of the cultural history and the visible witnesses to the past. The cultural variety of the area is an important element of the matured identity of the inhabitants. In particular the stakeholders in coastal protection, integrated coastal zone management and water management have to be integrated in the awareness building process.
- (2) Development of adaptive, sustainable strategies in coastal protection and water management.  
Coastal protection and water management need flexible and adaptive strategies to cope with coastal dynamics like sea level rise, storm floods and high water levels in the low lying marsh area. As well as dike strengthening, it is possible that dike relocation or building a second dike line could be options in the future for the meeting of safety standards. The possible impacts on the cultural landscapes as well as on the economy have to be balanced with the benefits of the new solutions compared with e.g. dike strengthening. Coastal protection and water management have to be coordinated with national ICZM strategies and the approaches of the EU Green Paper.

- (3) Implementation of sustainable management techniques and methodologies.  
Several “Best Environmental Practise” measures (BEP) are under discussion and recommended as coastal defence techniques. The most important ones are sand nourishment and dune management, which can be combined successfully. With increasing rates of sea level rise, the amount of sand needed will increase correspondingly and could have effects on e.g. archaeological sites in the Wadden Sea.
- (4) Taking into account the cultural historic values when flood hazard zones are identified.  
Due to climate change and its effects on sea level and water management, also in the hinterland, spatial planning becomes more and more important. An issue of spatial planning is the nomination of buffer zones to reserve space for future coastal defence measures as well as of flood hazard zones to restrict or regulate spatial utilization, in order to reduce damages of economic values. But also natural and cultural historic values have to be taken into account in spatial planning.
- (5) Improvement of stakeholder participation.  
For sustainable planning with water and coastal protection, an improvement of stakeholder participation is necessary in order to reach a better acceptance for the implementation of the strategies and measures. The involvement of all relevant interest groups and an interdisciplinary approach with regard to coastal protection and management would help in avoiding resistance to implementing new and forward-looking strategies and measures as an answer to the effects of climate change.
- (6) Establishment of an interdisciplinary network to secure sustainable solutions with regard to cultural landscapes as reaction on climate change and its effects.

### Obstacles

- (1) On a local level, there are still some preference towards hard constructions in coastal protection.
- (2) Psychological barriers to the giving up of embanked areas and the implementation of new techniques and methods.
- (3) Nomination of large areas for coastal protection would have negative impacts on cultural landscapes and archaeological sites.
- (4) Appointing water retaining areas conflicts primarily with the interests of the agriculture sector.

### Projects

- (1) Elaboration of a communication strategy with the general public.
- (2) Study on the consequences of climate change and increasing freshwater problems in the hinterland on cultural heritage in coastal areas.
- (3) Study on the consequences of coastal protection strategies on cultural heritage.
- (4) Undertake a feasibility study of best environmental practise measures.

## 5. The Next Stage

The LancewadPlan has developed the present strategy utilizing regional cultural plans, cultural environment plans, and a handbook of best practice examples in planning and management of the landscape and cultural heritage. LancewadPlan has clearly demonstrated that it is essential to manage the heritage in a sustainable way, both at a national, regional and local level. It is imperative that there is a continuing exchange of information and experience between the regions involved in the plan to both increase and share knowledge as well as raise the awareness of the areas unique heritage.

It is essential therefore, not to see this work as a finished project but as a continuing process. There will need to be continuing co-operation at the regional level, especially in a trans-boundary context, and in addition there should be the promotion of work at a more regional and local level which would feed back into the trans-boundary work.



Figure 6: Fahretoft-Hollaenderdeich  
Copyright: Archäologisches Landesamt Schleswig-Holstein

### 5.1 Implementing the Strategy

Once completed the strategy should be circulated as widely as possible and then be promoted for deliberation by government bodies. The strategy should if adopted, be promoted as a framework strategy for the common conservation, management and use of the landscape and cultural heritage of the LancewadPlan region. The policies provided within the strategy should be promoted at national, regional and local authority level. The proposed projects should be implemented wherever possible or appropriate by the competent authorities and the institutions and organisations working in this field.

To stimulate, coordinate and oversee the implementation of Wadcult the strategy should fit within the framework of the trilateral Wadden Sea cooperation. The primary tasks for this are:

- to oversee and coordinate the implementation of the proposed policies
- to coordinate the implementation of the proposed projects
- to support the exchange of information on best practices
- to initiate other activities to implement the strategy
- to take appropriate initiatives to further the awareness of the strategy and the heritage in general
- to support the established network

Wadcult should (continue to) be composed of representatives of the competent authorities in the three countries.

## **5.2 Using our Knowledge Base**

It has become apparent throughout the Lancewad and LancewadPlan projects that there is a long tradition of interest and management of the cultural landscape, both on an expert level as well as on the level of users and inhabitants. During the last century expertise was established which has not been exploited to its full capacity within an international or regional context. The cornerstones of this knowledge base are the regional and local museums, landscape institutions and other archaeological or historical research institutes.

It is proposed to establish in consultations with the above institutions a trans-boundary network to help in managing the landscape and spreading awareness of the heritage, in particular

- to ensure the exchange of information to managers and planners in a trans-boundary context
- to help evaluate the landscape heritage
- to help design heritage awareness activities
- to organize international symposia and conferences

The soundboards as established regionally throughout this project should continue to exist as they provide indispensable partners for discussion and support.

## **5.3 Keeping an Eye on Developments**

Monitoring is incomplete if the data resulting from the monitoring is not assessed. It is therefore proposed, as outlined in the strategy, that developments are monitored and reviewed. It is suggested that the assessment of the landscape targets are included in the regular Quality Status Reports made within the cooperation framework. Wadcult should carry the responsibility for such an assessment and ensure that the suitable expertise is included among the network proposed above.

With a view to future developments, it is proposed to cooperate with other projects and programs like the Machu Project, in order to develop and implement techniques to protect the underwater cultural heritage and to make it accessible for the benefit of the people.

Further awareness building is necessary also in a trilateral context. This should make use of the synergies which will be created as a result of the implementation of the strategy. It is proposed as a first step:

- To publish the landscape characterizations referred to in the strategy in a form understandable for a broader public
- To publish the regional descriptions as a LancewadPlan atlas

## **6. Conclusion**

The LancewadPlan has shown the unique character and quality of the cultural heritage and historic landscape of the region. The adoption and implementation of the strategy will be a major step forward in the protection and management of this unique resource. As part of this implementation it will be essential to widen the understanding of the cultural heritage amongst people that live in or visit the region, whilst also making the strategy an integrated part of planning and conservation management at national, regional and local level.