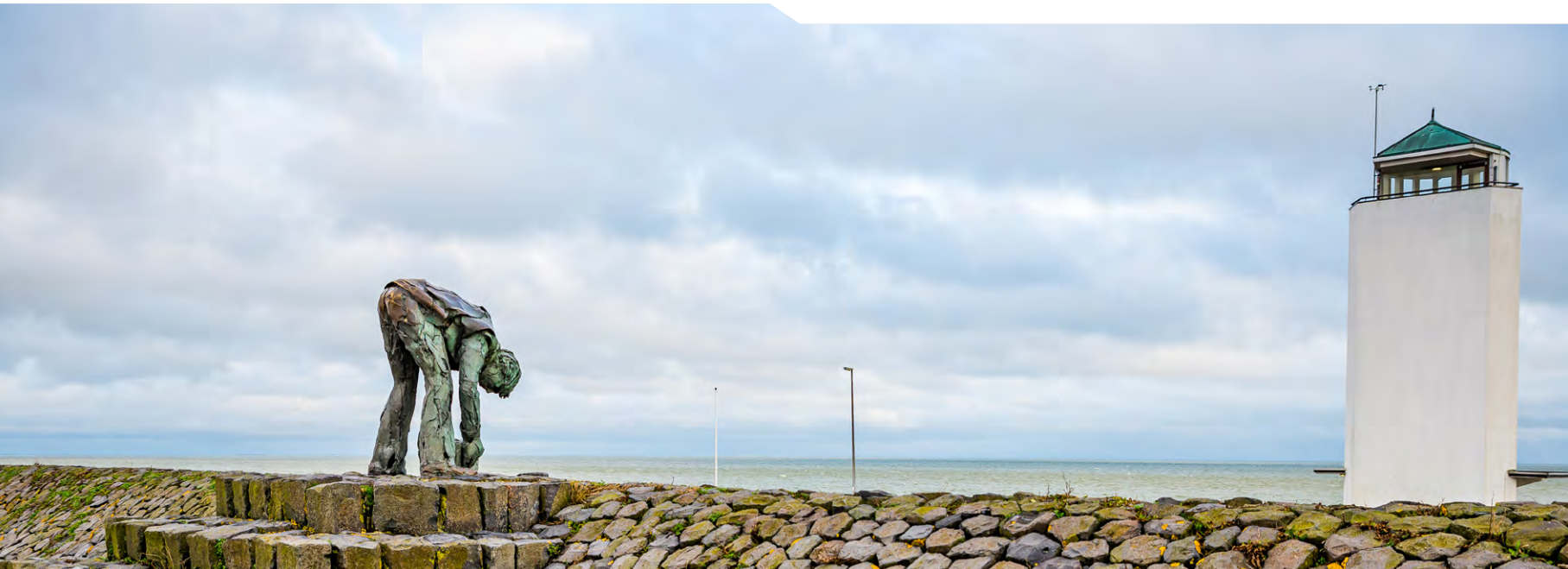




Ministry of Infrastructure
and Water Management

Project Afsluitdijk

Attention to cultural history



Unique

The Afsluitdijk has great cultural-historical value. From the Vlieter Monument and the military defences to the protected villagescape of Kornwerderzand. As we work to reinforce and renovate the Afsluitdijk, we are taking that unique value into account.

Project Afsluitdijk

Attention to cultural history



FOREWORD

Project Afsluitdijk demonstrates that heritage can be a wonderful source of inspiration for the future.

Being the daughter of a hydraulic engineer, I learned at an early age the importance of having 'dry feet'. I heard my father's stories about the Netherlands being a country behind the dikes from an early age. Who would have thought that I would later become the Managing Director of the Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands, involved in the renovation of the Afsluitdijk, a perfect example of Dutch hydraulic engineering.

The heroic story of the construction of the Afsluitdijk captures the imagination. The construction provided protection against the water. It also became possible to reclaim new land. Today, we appreciate the dike for the beautiful scenic experience it offers when we drive along it. The long straight line with the sweeping vista of the sky and water. The monumental lifting towers of architect Roosenburg, the dike's gatekeepers. Dudok's slender Vlieter Monument, a vertical accent on that long horizontal line. The casemate islands that remind us of the military history.

Functionality combined with careful design. These impressions always make a car ride along the Afsluitdijk special.

From the very beginning of the renovation, Rijkswaterstaat (the executive agency of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management, dedicated to promote safety, mobility and the quality of life in the Netherlands) recognised the significance of the Afsluitdijk as a monumental entity and as an important part of the plans as a whole. I am proud of the contribution that the Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands is making in its advisory role in this process. Project Afsluitdijk demonstrates that heritage can be a wonderful source of inspiration for the future.

Susan Lammers

Managing Director of the Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands



Reinforcing the Afsluitdijk with attention to cultural history

A large part of the Netherlands lies below sea level. That makes our country vulnerable to flooding. Since 1932, the Afsluitdijk has protected large parts of the Netherlands from flooding by the sea. However, the dike is due for regeneration. It no longer complies with current legislated water safety standards. In addition, greater amounts of water must be drained. This is why Rijkswaterstaat (the executive agency of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management, dedicated to promote safety, mobility and the quality of life in the Netherlands) is working on reinforcing and renovating the Afsluitdijk. This way the Netherlands will also be protected against water in the future.

We are reinforcing the dike's revetment and strengthening the navigation locks and discharge sluices. And two new discharge sluices and two pumping stations will be constructed at Den Oever. This will enable us to drain more excess water from the IJsselmeer (Lake IJssel) into the Wadden Sea.

The Afsluitdijk is more than a dike that protects us from the water. It is a perfect example of Dutch hydraulic engineering of significant cultural-historical value. Designed by engineer Cornelis Lely as a cohesive whole, the dike and associated structures – the locks, lifting towers and military fortifications – form a unity in terms of design, construction, profile and use of materials.

The unity in the design of the Afsluitdijk forms the core of its cultural-historical value. Although the Afsluitdijk itself is not a listed national monument, it will be treated as such during the reinforcement and renovation work. On and around the Afsluitdijk are listed monuments, each with its own story. This brochure draws attention to these listed national monuments.

Portrait photo of Lukas Meursing

‘Together, we look for a balance between preserving and renovating.’

‘Water safety and water management are at the forefront of the Afsluitdijk renovation. It is also particularly important to Rijkswaterstaat that the dike's special cultural-historical character is preserved. To ensure this takes place, we are collaborating with many different partners. Architects and landscape architects have compiled the Afsluitdijk Visual Quality Master Plan, which sets out the spatial frameworks for quality and design of the Afsluitdijk. The Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands advises on listed national monuments. Together with regional authorities, we are looking into improving the environment around Dudok's Vlieter Monument. The multidisciplinary Afsluitdijk Quality Team has been tasked, among other things, to assess whether the proposed renovation work is harmful or actually beneficial to the cultural-historical value of the Afsluitdijk. Together, we will ensure that the cultural-historical value of the Afsluitdijk will continue to be shown off to its best possible advantage, even after the work has been completed.’

Lukas Meursing

Stakeholder Manager, Project Afsluitdijk, Rijkswaterstaat



‘Change and still remain yourself. That is what the Afsluitdijk is all about.’

‘How can the dike change and still remain itself? That is the question. As a cultural historian, I pay special attention to heritage. The dike should not turn into a newly decorated Christmas tree. The Afsluitdijk Quality Team, of which I am a member, is the Afsluitdijk’s memory and conscience. We assess, among other things, whether the Levvel building consortium adheres to the Aesthetic Program Requirements. Central to this program are the Visual Quality Master Plan’s core values: the way in which we use size and scale, the objects located on and around the dike, the way in which we work with proportions and the dike’s expanse and openness. The Quality Team oversees the whole process and monitors the spectacular simplicity.

The Quality Team provides support where necessary in the implementation. It is quite difficult to translate the abstract concepts from the Visual Quality Master Plan into an actual design. How do you do that? We use our expertise and experience to advise on design steps where there is not much experience yet. The cultural history is the starting point for all interventions. A concept which is often new for designers. This means thinking ‘the other way around’ as it were: not from the perspective of new additions, but from the existing qualities.

The Afsluitdijk Quality Team’s independent experts provide solicited and unsolicited advice on spatial quality during the project. This multidisciplinary team, chaired by the Chief

Government Advisor on the Built and Rural Environment, includes a cultural historian, an architect, a hydraulic engineer (until 2022), an ecologist and a tourism expert (from 2023).

In 2018, the Quality Team discovered that there were nine reviewing parties involved in this project, from the municipal building standards committee to regional and governmental bodies. We then facilitated the consortium by taking the initiative to set up a consultative body for environmental quality assurance in which the various parties are represented. This means that the consortium only has one body to deal with instead of nine.

In the consultative body for environmental quality assurance we seek to reach agreements at different levels. That is not always straightforward, because with so many different organisations, cultures and interests, things sometimes clash. It largely boils down to timely and open communication and sticking to the task at hand. The principles of the Visual Quality Master Plan and the Aesthetic Program Requirements form the established frameworks. The Quality Team has been working on these frameworks since 2013, enabling us to play an active and positive role as the Afsluitdijk’s memory and conscience.’

Marinke Steenhuis
Cultural historian, Afsluitdijk Quality Team



Levvel

The work is commissioned by Rijkswaterstaat and carried out by the Levvel building consortium (BAM, Van Oord, Rebel and Invesis). Levvel will also maintain the Afsluitdijk for twenty-five years. Levvel’s design is based on managing risks, seizing opportunities, sustainability and smart applications of proven technology. It pays particular attention to the cultural-historical value of the Afsluitdijk. Today’s engineers are building on Lely’s legacy in a contemporary way, while preserving the Afsluitdijk’s unique qualities.

The body of the dike

The long, straight line and the sober, sleek design give the Afsluitdijk a monumental character. The dike provides an ultimate experience of Dutch skies, the surrounding water and the immense space of the Wadden Sea and the IJsselmeer. Since its construction in 1932, the dike has hardly changed.

A unified whole

Engineer Cornelis Lely devised a dam as a single sleek straight line, making use of the gullies and sandbanks in the Wadden Sea. Architect Dirk Roosenburg designed the lock complexes at Den Oever and Kornwerderzand in the same sleek, no-nonsense style. A monument by architect Dudok, in the form of a watchtower, was constructed on the spot where the last gap in the dike was closed in May 1932. Again, in clean, simple lines. Finally, the military fortifications, which mark the beginning and end of the dike, are also sleek and sober.

Lorentz's Bend

At Kornwerderzand, the Afsluitdijk makes a slight bend towards the north. Originally, the dike was planned as a straight line between Den Oever in North Holland and Piaam in Friesland. However, a committee led by Nobel Prize winner Hendrik Lorentz calculated that, with that design, the Afsluitdijk would produce higher water levels along the Frisian coast, forming a danger to the dikes there. Lorentz therefore proposed a more northerly connection, near the village of Zurich. And to be able to cross the deep gullies perpendicularly, the dike was designed with a bend.

Rijkswaterstaat and the dike body

Rijkswaterstaat is taking the cultural-historic values of the body of the dike into account during the renovation of the Afsluitdijk:

- The design – the gentle slope on the seaward side, the narrow crest and the steep inner slope – will be retained.
- A new revetment layer will be laid over the original basalt revetment.
- We will apply basalt revetment when modifying the dike of the lock approach in Den Oever for the reinforcement and construction of a new storm surge barrier, so that this historical revetment is retained.





‘The profile of the classic sea dike, which is uniform along the entire length, contributes significantly to its monumental value.’

INTERVIEW

‘Everyone involved in this project is keen to preserve the Afsluitdijk’s cultural-historical value as much as possible. That is also the common thread throughout the Visual Quality Master Plan. Of course, solutions have been chosen that meet technical requirements, but the plan also ensures that the monumental value of the Afsluitdijk is preserved. New resources are being used in the construction, while respecting the original design. We also use the work to ensure that visitors will be able to enjoy the Afsluitdijk even better in the future, by constructing a recreational path for cycling and walking on the side facing the Wadden Sea, for example.

Spatial features determine the aesthetics of the Afsluitdijk. One of the elements of the Aesthetic Program Requirements is the dike’s profile, which is that of a classic sea dike, with a gentle slope on the seaward side, a narrow crest and a steep inner slope. The fact that the profile is uniform along the dike’s entire length adds significantly to its monumental value. We will uphold that character while strengthening the dike.

During the work, I am involved in the project as a landscape architect. Together with the architect, the team from Rijkswaterstaat and all other parties involved, I advise on aesthetic

issues and problems involving the spatial aspect. We try to adhere to the original Aesthetic Program Requirements as closely as possible. What makes this project special is the integrated approach. From the very beginning, it has been about the combination between the technical aspects and the way it will look spatially. For the dike, these two elements are inseparable.’

Yttje Feddes

Landscape architect, Feddes/Olthof Landschapsarchitecten

Feddes/Olthof Landschapsarchitecten

Rijkswaterstaat and De Nieuwe Afsluitdijk (a partnership between the provinces of North Holland and Friesland and the municipalities Súdwest-Fryslân and Hollands Kroon) commissioned Feddes/Olthof Landschapsarchitecten, together with Paul de Ruiter Architects, to draw up the Afsluitdijk Visual Quality Master Plan and Aesthetic Program Requirements. This plan contains all the principles for quality and design during the renovation of the Afsluitdijk. Without locking it down and with space for innovation.

Dudok's Vlieter Monument

The renovation of the Afsluitdijk provides opportunities to redesign the space in and around Dudok's Vlieter Monument.

Watchtower

In May 1932, the Vlieter was closed. This was the last gap in the Afsluitdijk. The monument of the internationally renowned architect Willem Dudok marks this spot. The Vlieter Monument is designed as a watchtower in a sleek, expressionist style. It was commissioned by the contractors, united in the 'Maatschappij tot Uitvoering van Zuiderzeewerken'. After the construction was completed, they donated it to the Dutch State.

Tourist attraction

Right from the beginning, the Afsluitdijk and Dudok's Vlieter Monument have been a tourist attraction. A concrete footbridge was built in 1965 so that people could visit the monument from the side of the Wadden Sea. Due to the high number of visitors, there was also a need for a bus stop, parking spaces, fencing and waste containers. As a result, the area around the monument has become rather disorderly.

Plans are now in place to redesign the exterior space around the monument, with 'spectacular simplicity' as a starting point. In addition to moving the footbridge and the parking spaces, improving the monument's catering facilities is also included. The aim is to restore the monument to its former glory: a vertical accent on the sleek horizontal dike. Rijkswaterstaat is working closely with De Nieuwe Afsluitdijk to achieve these goals.



Artist's impression of the Vlieter Monument, Paul de Ruiter Architects

Rijkswaterstaat and Dudok's Vlieter Monument

The renovation of the Afsluitdijk offers an excellent opportunity to refurbish the monument designed by Dudok and the area around it. Old and new converge visibly at the Vlieter Monument.

- We are restoring the monumental building to its former glory, while preserving the bronze relief at the entrance made by artist Hildo Krop. The plaque of three stone-setters laying basalt blocks reflects the history of the place with the text 'Een volk dat leeft bouwt aan zijn toekomst' (A nation that lives builds its future).
- We are also creating additional space inside the building. The extension to the building, designed by Paul de Ruiter Architects, does justice to the iconic status of the monument.
- By redesigning the space around the monument, the building will come into its own again as a vertical accent on the horizontal sleek line between the Wadden Sea and IJsselmeer. More space will be created on the sides facing the IJsselmeer and the Wadden Sea so visitors can enjoy the view.
- A new commemorative marker will be placed on the spot where the last gap was closed in the Afsluitdijk.
- The new car park will be located behind a dike. As a result, motorists on the motorway will no longer see parked vehicles, but the continuous clean line of the Afsluitdijk.
- The footbridge will be located on the eastern side, further away from the monument, and will be less imposing in its construction.

‘Heritage is an impetus for quality, not an inconvenient sideshow.’

‘The Afsluitdijk is located in different municipalities. That is why the advisory committees on spatial quality of these municipalities are involved in the renovation plans of the Afsluitdijk.

With new plans, we not only assess what will take place, but also the way in which it will be carried out. In doing so, we look at what the cultural-historical consequences are and whether the plans need to be modified. In the case of the lock complexes, for example, major interventions are necessary. And measures also need to be taken in the vicinity of the locks. Since the locks are listed national monuments, we favour a cautious approach, which preferably involves preserving as much as possible.

When it is not possible to physically maintain every component of the monument, we ask for the plans to be adapted in such a way to preserve the current appearance as much as possible. Seeing that the access doors to the lifting towers need to be replaced for technical reasons, we have advocated

for the new doors to closely match the appearance of the original doors. So the distinctive image of a row of lifting towers protruding above the dike will remain intact.

The cultural-historical value of the Afsluitdijk is just one of the factors that we must take into account. Sometimes other interests weigh more heavily. The dike will be raised two metres. As a result, a number of cultural-historical assets, such as old tank barriers, will disappear under the clay. As a monument advisor, you have to realise and accept that not everything can be preserved. The challenge is to maintain recognisable traces above ground in the finished work of the things that have disappeared underground. This will ensure the Afsluitdijk’s history remains legible into the future. In this way, cultural heritage serves as a stimulus and source of inspiration.’

Gertjan Timmer

Monument advisor, hûs en hiem

Municipal advisory committees on spatial quality

The Afsluitdijk lies partly in the municipality of Súdwest-Fryslân and partly in the municipality of Hollands Kroon. Permits for a number of activities on those parts must be issued by the municipality in question. The advisory committees on spatial quality of the municipality of Súdwest-Fryslân (hûs en hiem) and the municipality of Hollands Kroon advise the municipalities on granting permits, on dealing with cultural heritage and on spatial quality.

Protected villagescape of Kornwerderzand

The lock complex, the military fortifications and the settlement of Kornwerderzand together form a protected villagescape. This image will remain undisturbed as much as possible by the work on the Afsluitdijk.

Kornwerderzand

The lock complex, the military fortifications and the houses at Kornwerderzand are integral to the protected villagescape. In contrast to the sleek, expressionist style that Dudok applied to the watchtower, the architect Granpré Molière designed the brick lock-keepers' houses in the more traditional style of the Delft School. As a symbolic act, a row of tiny wooden houses was built next to the lock-keepers' houses. The Afsluitdijk inspired so much confidence that people actually dared to live on the dike, close to the water. A wooden hotel next to the swing bridges served as a canteen during the construction of the Afsluitdijk.

The original lock keepers' houses from 1932 were pre-emptively cleared in 1940 for the defence of Kornwerderzand. The small row of houses was rebuilt after the war, once again in the style of the Delft School. Due to the special combination of the lock complex, fortifications and houses, the villagescape of Kornwerderzand was formally designated a national protected monument in 2007. This means that the characteristic spatial quality of Kornwerderzand will continue to be maintained into the future.



Rijkswaterstaat and the protected villagescape of Kornwerderzand

Rijkswaterstaat is working closely with De Nieuwe Afsluitdijk to ensure the status of the protected villagescape of Kornwerderzand is maintained during the renovation of the Afsluitdijk:

- The new storm surge barrier at Kornwerderzand will be located on the side of the Wadden Sea. This will minimise the impact on the protected villagescape.
- The unique structure of the lock complex – a lock approach with navigation lock, two discharge sluice complexes and casemate islands on both sides of the complexes – will remain intact.



Military fortifications from the Second World War

The construction of the Afsluitdijk in 1932 created a direct connection for road traffic between the provinces of Friesland and North Holland. In order to defend this connection, military fortifications were built. These listed national monuments will be maintained as much as possible while work is being carried out.

Casemates

The distribution of the discharge sluices over two complexes has a military background: spreading the risk of destruction. As fear of an attack from the east was greatest, most of the discharge sluices were placed in the west, near Den Oever. Islands with gun emplacements in and around concrete casemates were located on

both sides of the sluice complexes. Swing bridges were installed, so that shooting could continue even when the bridges were open. A heavy protection beam (defence barrier) along the discharge sluices was intended to protect the sluice gates from attacks from the North Sea. The military fortifications consist of hard elements (casemates, stone cladding) and soft elements (trenches, earthen walls, vegetation), forming a cohesive whole. Together, these elements formed the line of defence.

Kornwerderzand is the only place in the Netherlands where the invading Germans were held back.

Cold War

During the Second World War, fighting took place against the invading Germans at Kornwerderzand. It is the only place in Europe where the German Blitzkrieg was halted. Tank barriers were laid at three locations along the Afsluitdijk, which are still intact as base plates. The Germans added a number of bunkers during the war, fearing a possible attack from sea. After the war ended, the casemates were kept in service until 1960 during the Cold War. Privet shrubs were planted during this period to ensure they remained camouflaged.

Because the defensive lines were used in different periods, layers of history can be found in the structures, construction and archaeological remnants. While work is carried out on the casemate islands, we will ensure that the different historical periods remain visible at various places.

Casemate Museum

The Casemate Museum at Kornwerderzand attracts around 20,000 visitors a year. The museum tells the story of 225 Dutch soldiers who managed to fend off about 15,000 Germans in May 1940. The disappointment was great when, without being defeated, they had to surrender. The casemates are furnished as they had been at that time, with weapons, sleeping quarters, a telephone exchange, a kitchen and lookout positions. kazemattenmuseum.nl



Rijkswaterstaat and the military fortifications

Rijkswaterstaat is taking the military fortifications in Den Oever and Kornwerderzand into account during the renovation of the Afsluitdijk:

- In the course of our work, we will minimise the impact on the casemates and the surrounding military landscape. However, due to the addition of the pump groups in Den Oever, we cannot prevent modifications to the casemate islands and having to slice through an underground bunker.
- Due to the greater loads that the Afsluitdijk must withstand, we are unable to retain the defence barriers. They will be replaced by new concrete elements that prevent wave overtopping.
- Due to the renewal of the revetment, we are unable to retain two tank barriers at Den Oever and Kornwerderzand. These locations will get a commemorative marker. A third tank barrier at Kornwerderzand will be retained.
- A new cycle and footpath, commissioned by De Nieuwe Afsluitdijk, will be constructed on the casemate island at Kornwerderzand. This will make this adventurous location accessible.



INTERVIEW

‘It is nice to continue building on what already exists.’

‘Ask people about the use and history of the Afsluitdijk and they think about the construction period and the Dutch resistance at Kornwerderzand at the beginning of the Second World War. After that, there seems to be a gap in the way it is perceived. Even though the fortifications at Den Oever and Kornwerderzand also had a military function during the German occupation and the Cold War, there is less known about how this area was used during those periods. Additions that were made at the time can really only be determined through archaeological research. Because certain soil bodies have to be excavated, there is now an opportunity for this to take place. This will make the history of the Afsluitdijk more visible and enable us to gain a better understanding about this area.

As heritage advisors, we are keen to have such archaeological research carried out. In addition, we advise Level on the design and we assess the extent to which the plans are in line with the set standards for heritage conservation. We submit the advice to the various Level design teams, so that it is clear where there is common ground. Only in this way can we preserve and strengthen the heritage in its entirety.

The first question we ask with respect to design plans that affect heritage is: why is this necessary? And then: can we preserve what

already exists? We look for alternative solutions that enable heritage to be preserved and show that it is not always necessary to wipe the slate clean. It is actually nice to continue building on what already exists. That often works out well technically too.

The new sluice components to be installed at Den Oever are a good example of this. The existing sluice lifting towers are essential for the appearance of the dike. They act as a gateway to and from the Afsluitdijk. The new discharge sluices and pumping stations must work as optimally as possible, but should not overshadow the old elements. That is why Level has put a lot of effort into absorbing the new sluice components into the landscape. You can see the new additions, while at the same time we are leaving the original elements intact. In this way, we are adding a new cultural-historical layer to the Afsluitdijk.’

Floris van Oosterhout

Senior advisor on heritage, Level building consortium
Right in the photo

Koos Mol

Advisor on heritage, Level building consortium
Left in the photo

‘We ensure that the monumental values of the Afsluitdijk as a whole are preserved as well as possible.’

‘The Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands has been advising Rijkswaterstaat on preserving the cultural-historical value of the Afsluitdijk since the beginning of this project. We look at the character and the significance of the dike. The Afsluitdijk is an integral design in which hydraulic engineering and military standards are intertwined. It is important that we preserve all of its monumental values.

The value of the dike’s hydraulic engineering is evident, but its military function is less well known. The former Ministry of War even opposed the construction of the Afsluitdijk for a long time. The threat from Germany was serious and such a connection between the provinces of Friesland and North Holland made national defence vulnerable. The military fortifications at Den Oever and Kornwerderzand were therefore integrated into the dike design. The casemates of heavy reinforced concrete together with tank barriers, trenches and earthen walls formed the military system of the Afsluitdijk. Not long after, a defence barrier was installed in the discharge sluices to protect the sluice gates from attack from the sea.

After the Cold War, the dike no longer had a military function. Nevertheless, we want the traces of its military history to remain visible. In this process, the Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands advises on how to minimise changes to elements of cultural-historical value and how to maintain the legibility of the history layers. That is not always easy, given the extensive modifications that are needed.

At one of the new pumping stations, for example, slicing through an underground military bunker is unavoidable. As a result, this casemate will not come out of the battle unscathed. However, we will ensure that the casemate is carefully documented prior to the procedure and that components that can be saved can find a place elsewhere.

Daan Lavies

Architectural historian, the Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands

The Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands

The Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands (RCE) strives to ensure responsible stewardship of the nation’s heritage. The Afsluitdijk is valuable because of the considerable spatial and visual cohesion between all the elements that collectively make up the dike, including the landscape of the Wadden Sea, the IJsselmeer and the associated monuments and military fortifications. The RCE advises Rijkswaterstaat on preserving the cultural-historical value of the Afsluitdijk while the work is being carried out.



Stevin Lock and Lorentz Locks

During the renovation of the Afsluitdijk, we will install storm surge barriers at the Stevin Lock at Den Oever and the Lorentz Locks at Kornwerderzand. We will construct large pumping stations and extra discharge sluices at Den Oever to drain more water. We are combining innovation with the preservation of valuable cultural-historical features.

Zuiderzee Works

Architect-engineer Dirk Roosenburg designed the housing for the lock complexes at Den Oever and Kornwerderzand. The locks have a monumental and symmetrical design. In terms of construction, civil engineering and architectural history, they are of significant value as pristine examples of reinforced concrete construction. The locks also have great cultural-historical value as elements from the history of the Zuiderzee Works.

Lifting towers

The concrete lifting towers, with their grooves and flat roofs with overhang, conceal the mechanism for lifting the sluice gates. These robust vertical towers form a nice contrast to the long horizontal line of the dike. The lifting towers look like the dike's gatekeepers, marking the dike's beginning and end.

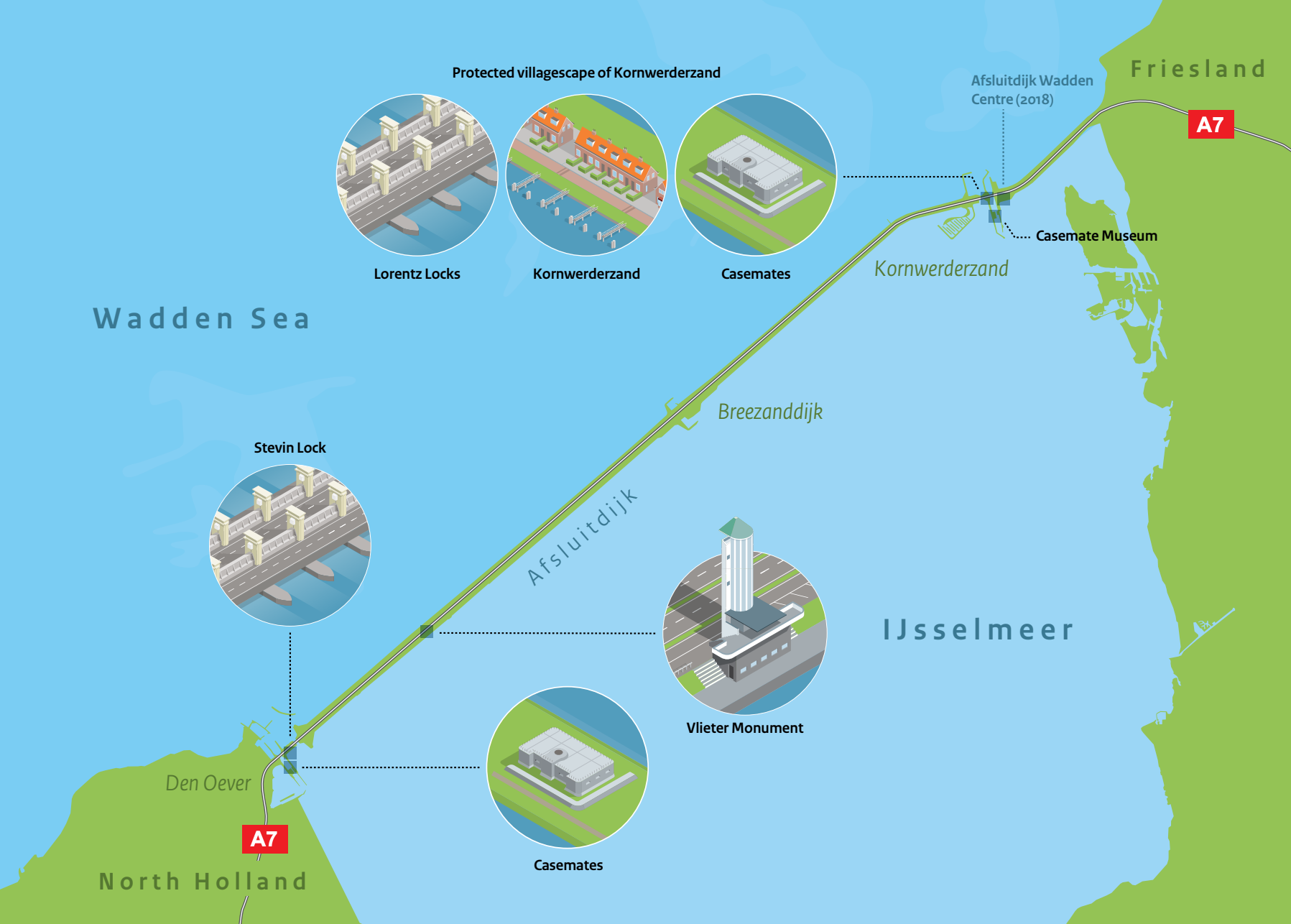
Over time, the aggressive salty conditions near the sea have caused damage to the lifting towers. That is why they were renovated in

2017 and restored to their original state as much as possible. Artist and innovator Daan Roosegaarde applied a retroreflective layer to the sixty renovated lifting towers. The lines of the lifting towers are now lit up by the headlights of passing cars. In this way, Roosenburg's original design has been given a new lease of life.

Rijkswaterstaat and the lock complexes

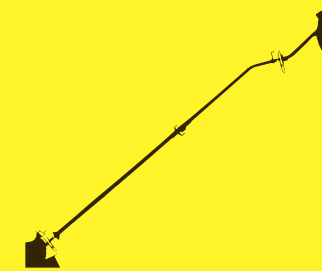
Rijkswaterstaat is taking the Stevin Lock and the Lorentz Locks into account as important listed monuments during the renovation of the Afsluitdijk.

- The monumental appearance of the lock complexes will be maintained.
- We are renewing the sluice gates in a way that ensures a whole row of sliders is exactly the same.
- The gates of the new discharge sluices are only visible when they are open. The sluice gates will be black, so that the difference between the original and new situation remains visible.
- The cycle path that runs along the sluice complex will remain in place, but will be quieter and simpler, and therefore safer. This will have a positive effect on the cycling experience.
- The pumping station at Den Oever will fit in with the image of the sluice complex: not too big, too high or too bulky. The main function of the pumps may be visible, but the supporting technology will remain concealed.



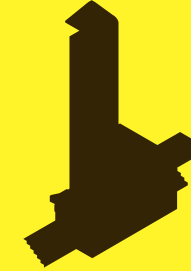
The Afsluitdijk Facts and figures

The Afsluitdijk



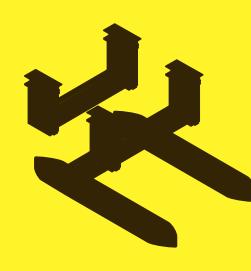
about 50
listed national monuments
on the Afsluitdijk

Vlieter Monument



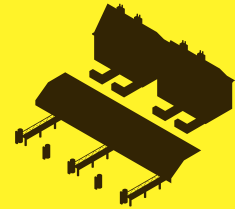
in May 1932
the last gap in
the Afsluitdijk was closed

Lorentz Locks and Stevin Lock



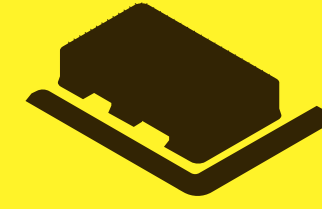
60
monumental lifting towers
grace the lock complexes

Kornwerderzand



since 2007
the villagescape of Kornwerderzand
has enjoyed a protected status

Casemates



until 1960
the casemates were used
during the Cold War

Casemate Museum



225
Dutch soldiers managed
to stop more than 15,000
Germans in May 1940

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