

A landscape to be proud of

Low-lying fen areas belong to the typically Dutch landscape. A landscape where people and nature have been working together for centuries. The open water lakes, the flower-rich peat meadows, the rustling reedbeds and the wet swamp woodlands are important survival places for endangered birds and special plants. Because peat has not been produced for a long time, the low-lying fenland areas are slowly but surely drying out. Natuurmonumenten and Staatsbosbeheer therefore implemented LIFE restoration measures in eight low-lying fen areas to reverse this process. Please come and discover it!

Staatsbosbeheer is the green public utility in the Netherlands. We develop and protect the green heritage of our country. We bring nature closer to people, now and in the future. That is in our nature.

Natuurmonumenten is the movement of people with a love of nature. We encourage everyone, young and old, to experience and enjoy nature. Natuurmonumenten protects nature reserves, valuable landscapes and cultural heritage. We do this with the support of many Dutch people. Please join us as well, because nature lets you live.



9x

into nature with Natuurmonumenten and Staatsbosbeheer



9x

living fenlands

Discovering traditional Dutch landscapes




















Natuurmonumenten




staatsbosbeheer

Overview of symbols used

-  Walking route
-  Canoe route, rental
-  Boat mooring
-  Disabled people
-  Ferry
-  Boat excursion
-  Dogs not allowed
-  Tourist Office
-  Car park
-  Information centre
-  Information board
-  Cycling Node (cycling waymark point)
-  Viewpoint
-  Bench
-  Fort
-  Windmill
-  Restaurant
-  Nature playground
-  Campsite


Others

-  Alternative route
- reed warbler* The species pictured on photos are shown in *italics* in the main text

Low-lying fens in the Netherlands

The following areas hosted the LIFE project 'New Life for Dutch fens':

- 1 Wormer- and Jisperveld
- 2 Botshol
- 3 Nieuwkoopse Plassen
- 4 Westbroekse Zodden
Eastern Vechtplassen
- 5 Vuntus
Eastern Vechtplassen
- 6 Het Hol
Eastern Vechtplassen
- 7 Naardermeer
- 8 Rottige Meente
- 9 De Wieden


 low-lying fen



 Marsh harrier

 Yellow water-lily

 Green hawk

 Ragged robin

 Purple heron



 Great egret


Unique species of low-lying fen

Many special plants and animals live in the low-lying fen. From the floating water soldier to the elegant purple heron, from the green hawk dragonfly to the marsh harrier. Some species can be seen easily, but for others you have to make more effort. And different species are found in one area of low-lying fen than in another. But sometimes your patience is rewarded and you suddenly come face to face with a beautiful rarity.



 Grass snake



 Bluethroat




 Water soldier




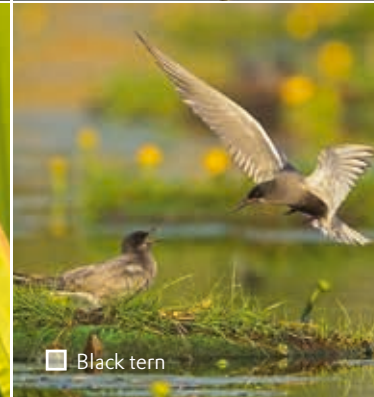
 Great bittern




 European white water-lily




 Water mint



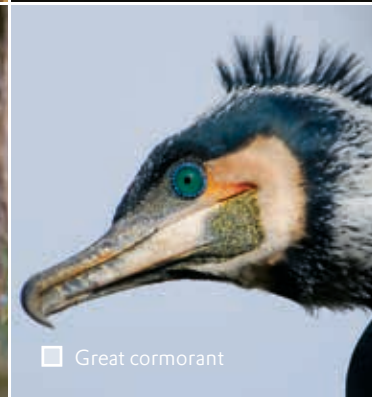
 Black tern



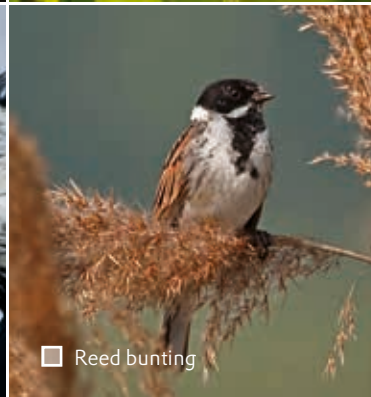
 Otter



 Roe deer



 Great cormorant



 Reed bunting



 Marsh marigold