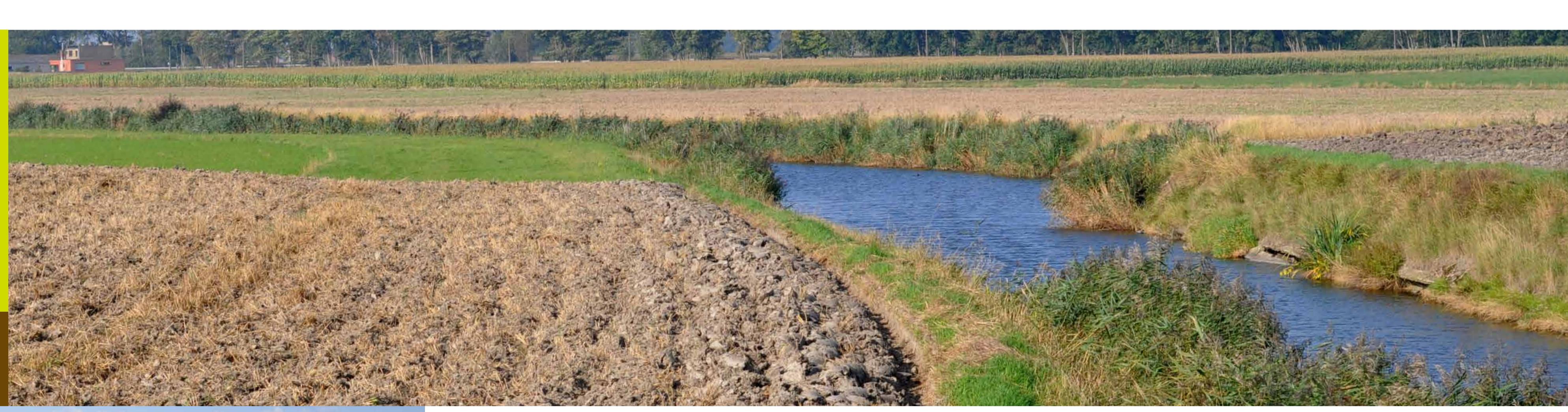


RESTORE

DEMONSTRATION SITE 'T POMPJE



luchtfoto 't Pompje, Yves Adams (Vilda)



't Pompje



stomp kweldergras



kluut

In the summer of 2014 the second phase of habitat restoration starts. It will consist of the restoration of marshland and of the implementing of the results of the hydrological study in the field by the construction of a water treatment at the water inlet. This will have direct, positive impacts on biodiversity on the site.

This action is advised by our internal expert panel in which all project partners are represented. This will encompass regular consultation of the specific know-how of the project partners and workshops including at field visits. In this transnational cooperation good practices will be exchanged, which will lead to a better understanding of the ecosystems we are working in.



RESTORE

DEMONSTRATION SITE 'T POMPJE

't Pompje is a former clay extraction site of 100 ha in the province of West-Flanders (Belgium). It is part of the Natura 2000 network (Special Protection Area, SPA), consists of low lying grasslands and brackish groundwater and is recently managed by the Flemish Agency for Nature Conservation. These elements provide excellent conditions for 'wetland' restoration. The two main nature goals in this restoration project are salt meadows and reed marsh.

The first phase of habitat restoration started a few years ago (2008-2009) and incorporated ground works for the restoration of salt meadows and a raising of the water table for the development of reed marsh. To create the best possible circumstances for these habitats, 't Pompje also has been isolated from its agricultural surroundings.

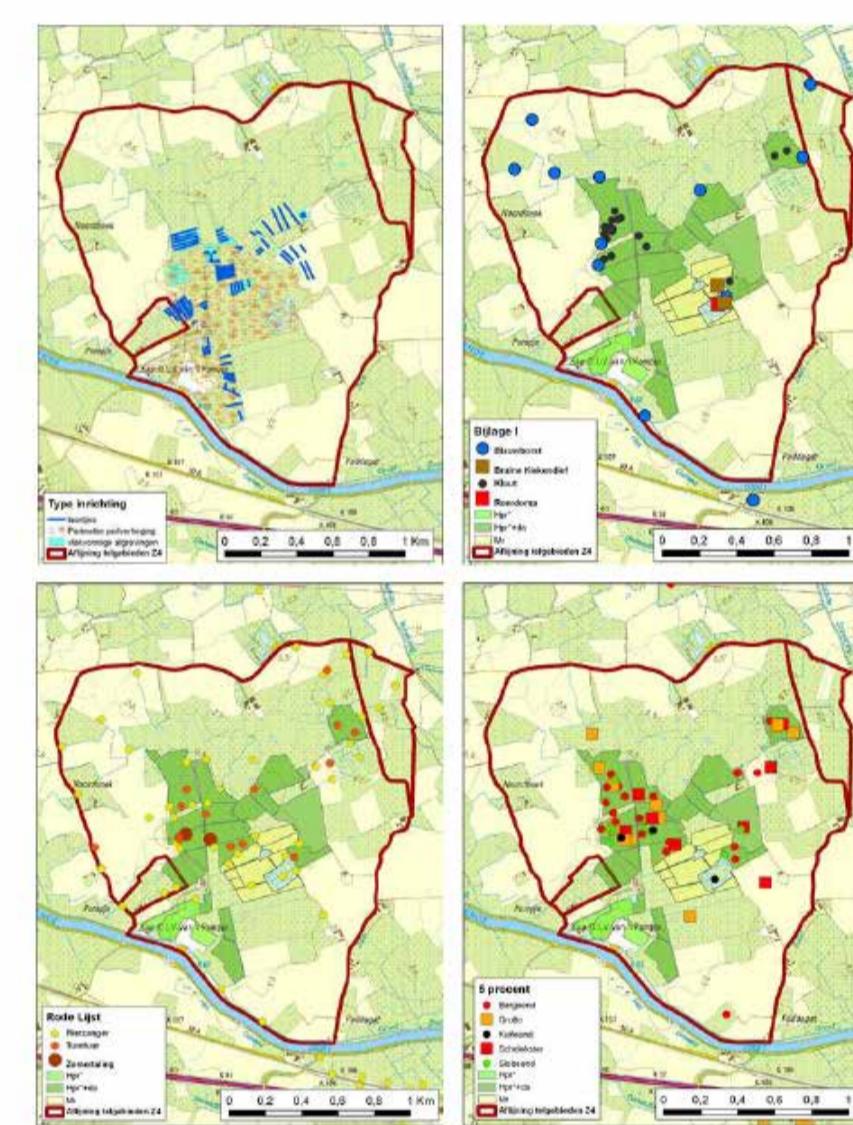


Figure 4.1.24 Pompje
Boven links: de ingeplande percelen van 24.
Boven rechts: locatie van de Blijde 1 soorten in 24.
Beneden links: locatie van de Rode Lijst soorten in 24.
Beneden Rechts: locatie van de 5% soorten in 24.

The ground works immediately had a very positive impact on the number of meadow and marshland birds. In 2012 27 avocets and 14 redshanks bred in 't Pompje, as compared to 10 in 2008. For the breeding season of 2013 two territories of the Western marsh-harrier and one of the great bittern are the most remarkable findings (see figures below). If the three breeding seasons before restoration are compared to the five after, we see a very positive balance for most bird species.

Although 't Pompje has been isolated from its surroundings, the supply of external water in summer times is needed in order to keep the water table high enough. Unfortunately this external water is heavily eutrophicated as a result of intensive agriculture in the vicinity, resulting in water quality problems in the wetland area.

Within RESTORE new technology for nature management during and after ecological restoration of former extraction sites is tested in this site. A hydrological study has been performed in 2013 which investigated

- the effects of irrigation with external, non-purified water (which is considered of bad quality in this site);
- all possible methods to reduce the loading capacity of the water system with nutrients and to avoid eutrophication in this way.



luchtfoto 't Pompje, VLM