



November progress report

November got off to a turbulent start for the Kustwerk Katwijk coastal work project. The sand replenishment operation had to be suspended for several days due to an autumn storm. At first glance, it looked as if a lot of the work on the beach would have to be repeated. However, the storm had moved the sand to the shoreface, which is exactly where additional sand is needed, so none of the work was in vain. In late November, the replenishment operation moved to the south side. Switching from one location to the other did not go all that smoothly. Due to the storm, the sag pipe ended up so deep under the sand that it broke twice and when it was brought ashore, the vessel, which had two employees on board, capsized. The emergency services and the Royal Netherlands Sea Rescue Institution (KNRM) quickly arrived at the scene. Fortunately, all the crewmembers suffered from was wet gear, and they were able to resume operations following a routine examination at hospital. Once repaired, the sag pipe was lowered into the ground on the south side on 27 November. The vessel the 'Njord R' could then be deployed to supply fresh sand again. Allowances were made in the sand replenishment schedule for time lost due to 'technical problems' and 'bad weather', as a result of which the operation is still on schedule.

Site hut

Site huts and offices were built across from the restaurant 'De Zwaan'. The site huts were built just one storey high, to avoid obstructing the view wherever possible. In early December, the staff and project team of the Kustwerk Katwijk consortium will move onto the site. The Ballast Nedam/Rohde Nielsen staff will park on (a portion of) the Noorduinen car park or alternatively within the project grounds (out of sight, wherever possible). In this way, we hope to avoid cars and vans being parked in public parking spaces.

Shifting sands

By now, area caretaker Arie van Delft has become a familiar face on the Boulevard. Above all else, he had his hands full in November with cleaning up the shifting sands. In the dunes, the layer of soil containing seeds was removed and brought to a sand depot, so that plants such as sea holly can be kept there safely during the winter. This layer will be replaced once the Dyke-in-Dune is complete. To avoid the inconvenience of shifting sands and dune erosion, marram grass was planted temporarily by the former entrances to the beach and at a site where archaeological research had been conducted (across from the car park).

Access to the beach

The beach is not just closed to the public; measures have also been taken to prevent the natterjack toad and sand lizard from entering the site. These are protected species, which therefore require additional protective measures. The natterjack toad and the sand lizard live in the dunes, but at times they sometimes move south from the northern dune area. To prevent them from crossing the site, amphibian barriers were installed east of the discharge canal and on the south side of the project site.

The hiking route across the beach on the south side of the project grounds will therefore also remain open in December. Once work has started on the Dyke-in-Dune, a second hiking route across from De Zwaan will also be opened if it is safe to do so.

Other work completed in November include moving the outdoor area of the restaurant 't Zeepaviljoen and fitting out the logistics centre for the construction on the industrial estate 't Heen.

Schedule

Work started on the Dyke-in-Dune during the first week of December, whereas, initially, the work was scheduled to start in November. Given that the details of, and choices to be made for, the car park design, dune layout and hard barrier are closely related, the decision was taken to finish the entire integrated implementation design first. Now that we have finally started, construction is moving along quickly, which is not surprising given that all of the necessary preparations had been made in advance. It will take approximately 8 to 12 weeks to complete the dyke, so there is no reason why the deadline of 1 April 2014 cannot be met ('open beach' milestone).

Moving on to December

In December, we will continue the sand replenishment on the south side of the project and a second layer of sand will be laid on the beach across from De Zwaan. We started building the Dyke-in-Dune on Monday 2 December on the south side. We are installing information plaques and hanging a scaffolding cloth up on the fencing to reduce the nuisance from shifting sands. In the southern portion, the dunes are being replaced. Additional research is also underway to determine the exact location of the Atlantic Wall, to prepare for the construction of the car park.