



FORM BEST PRACTICES CONTEST 2023

Municipality Borger-Odoorn Country The Netherlands

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Name project **La storia dei Valtherschans**
The Reconstruction of the historic fortress ramp



Category Certification Criteria: mark the category of your project

- Energy and environmental policies (politiche energetiche e ambientali);
- Infrastructure policies (politiche infrastrutturali);
- Quality of urban life policies (politiche per la qualita' urbana);
- Agricultural, touristic and artisan policies (politiche agricole, turistiche, artigianali);
- Policies for hospitality, awareness and training (politiche per l'ospitalita, la consapevolezza e la formazione);
- Social cohesion (coesione sociale).



Summary project

Making the historic Valtherschans visible and experienceable, which is part of the identity and pride of the village of Valthe.

The project is a great example of self-initiative by an active association in a small village community. Through the efforts of many volunteers, they have innovatively succeeded in realizing a large-scale project.

History relives

Valthe is a village with 1.200 habitants in Borger-Odoorn. Four hundred years ago, a simple defensive structure was built nearby: the Valtherschans. The region around Valthe was very difficult to access in the 1600's, consisting mostly of swamps and peat moors. The only safe route through the swamps was along a ridge called the Hondrug, and the south entrance to that ridge was at Valthe. During the Eighty Years' War (1568-1648), defenders built the Valtherschans there to stop enemy soldiers using the ridge to travel north, up to Groningen.



Een kaart van Drenthe uit 1628 met daarop de Valtherschans en de verbindingsweg naar het klooster in Ter Apel. Foto: RAAP/Plaatselijk Belang Valthe



At first glance, the rampart looks like nothing more than a small elevation in the landscape. Only when you stand on top of it does it become clear why this defensive work was so important.

Goal project

- Increased social cohesion in the village of Valthe, by making the village's history and identity visible and by increasing opportunities for social gatherings.
- Strengthening the tourism sector, increase in the number of visitors to the village, with a positive effect for the entrepreneurs (e.g. hospitality, B&B and bakeries).
- Increase in the regional appeal and regional cooperation.
- The project also contributes to innovation by investigating the 3D perception of antiquity (entrenchment as a defensive structure and peat development).

Result project



The Valtherschans has become a wonderful meeting place for young and old, residents and visitors! In the coming years, the initiators will work on the furnishings, events, educational programs and recreation around the project, such as a reconstruction of a well, cannons, pillory and paving in the inner courtyard, benches & picnic sets and signs in the area and various events will be organized.



During the opening

The fortress consists of two ramparts and a moat. The ramparts are three metres high and have a path 60-70 metres long. Standing on the high rampart, you can look out over the valley for dozens of kilometres. There is no water in the moat, but a seed mixture with blue flowers.





A unique archeological find: a cast-iron cannon



During the excavation



Finance (costs and benefits)

The help of volunteers has been invaluable in saving on the total cost of the project. The total costs of the project so far are € 250.000,00.

Staff (staff involved and use of time)

Between 2014 and 2021, the local working group Valthe (volunteers), undertook activities to realise the project: archaeological research, inspirational excursions to other fortifications, workshops with various parties and residents on the elaboration of the plans, and lobbying to persuade landowners to sell the land on which the Valtherschans is to return.

[Plaatselijk-Belang-Valthe Brochure-Valtherschans 210526-LR.pdf](#)

The historical society Oringer Marke provides historical knowledge about the Valtherschans. Contacts have been made with academia Groningen University and Van Hall Larenstein Institute. A group of students has researched scenarios for the return of the Valtherschans to the Landscape.

Municipality Borger-Odoorn

Aries Kuiper is the municipal contact person for the village: "*I take great pleasure in this special project. The Valtherschans contributes to the cultural-historical experience of the entire municipality. Such a special project I can probably only do once. We are bringing back a piece of history. I am very happy that it worked out so well*". Marjo Monforts, senior archaeologist, supervised the preparations for the excavations and works. Furthermore we supported them with the grant applications.

Additional information (if necessarily)

Jeroen Jacobs and Marion Maters have made a stunning video of the Valtherschans. (link via wetransfer)

Link website [Valtherschans | IJzersterk verdedigingswerk in Valthe](#)

Once filled in this form please send it to: info@cittaslow.net

- Participation Deadline, 15 May 2023 –

