

Abstract for the poster exhibition

Dynamic Beekdal the Kleine Aa

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The Aa en Maas water board, the municipalities of Sint-Michiëlsgestel and Bernheze and the Province of North Brabant are working together on the Dynamic Beekdal stream valley project. The Aa is now a straight stream running between Heeswijk-Dinther and 's-Hertogenbosch, with steep banks and dykes. In the future, the Aa will become a meandering stream with no dyke banks and with no obstacles for fish; in other words, a naturally-functioning stream in a valley where water and nature will be given space to develop.

Using old topographical charts, the ancient course of the Aa will as far as possible be restored within a zone of between 100 and 150 metres wide. At certain points, old meanders will be re-connected to the new Aa, but not everywhere. Wherever valuable nature has developed, the decision has been taken to alter the course of the stream.

In the past, much nature land was converted into drained agricultural land or urban development. As a result, rainwater enters the Aa more quickly and the Aa now has to discharge far more water. A number of high-water links are now necessary. Normally speaking, these remain dry. Only after heavy rainfall do these connections help to ensure rapid water discharge, because the old meanders can no longer deal with the high volumes of water.

The water levels that occur once every 100 years have been compared with the levels at which gardens and buildings have been installed. All buildings and gardens where flooding may be expected more often than once every 100 years have been placed on the map. At these points, in consultation with the various stakeholders, protective measures will be taken.

The Aa is set to become an ecological link between the Meuse and the Peel for amphibious species, fish and insects, with ponds, a water-bearing stream and with gradual transitions between different environments.

The existing walking and cycling paths will be maintained and wherever necessary improved. In the future, special angling sites will be created in the Zandvang or along the high-water links.