

Seaward Solution Rysumer Nacken

- 57. Änderung des Flächennutzungsplanes (ca. 25 ha)
- 62. Änderung des Flächennutzungsplanes (ca. 240 ha)
- Bebauungsplan D150
"Rysumer Nacken" (ca. 134 ha)
- Bebauungsplan D150K
"Wybelsumer Polder" (ca. 240 ha)



Gestaltungsplan mit Schnittführung im Bereich der geplanten Umschlagsflächen sowie Darstellung der Lage im Raum

The tidal flats of the Rysumer Nacken came into existence due to the building of an embankment. Thereafter the southern area was used as a dredging spoil dump site, which effectively put an end to the tidal character of the area. It is an example of an early mud-management development where a relatively one-sided approach was taken, and natural areas were still mainly considered as space to be used to solve human problems. Although nowadays such an approach is widely felt as no longer appropriate, there is tremendous pressure to enhance the economic development of the Emden harbor and Ems fairway. In this, the use of especially the high-lying Rysumer Nacken Süd is regularly reconsidered.

The Rysumer Nacken is located on the eastern bank of the Ems between the Lighthouse of Campen in the north and the Knock channel in the south near the city of Emden. The area owes its current form to the relocation of the main waterway of the Ems, an enterprise to make the Port of Emden more accessible for larger ships. In the course of the relocation, the 3.5 km long stone embankment from the Knock to the north was built between 1930 and 1933, behind which strong sedimentation occurred. In the period 1949-1995, the area served as a landfill for ever larger volumes of dredging material from the Ems. As a result, the area became elevated about 5 to 8 meters above mean sea level. This led to a



process with the European Committee (1990), considering the EU Bird Directive. However, the German Federal Government stated that Rysumer Nacken had not been designated as a special protection zone within the meaning of Article 4(4) of the Directive; the national park "Niedersächsisches Wattenmeer" ends north of this area. The Rysumer Nacken consists of two different areas, the Rysumer Nacken Nord, a pure wadden area, and the Rysumer Nacken Süd, an already dammed area, where the dumping took place. The arguments were accepted by the EU Committee, but the process gave a warning to the precautions to be taken for landfills near or in the special nature protection areas.

Originally, it was planned to establish farms on the fertile land, but it was decided to release in total some 480 ha of land for industrial settlements. In 1977, a gas terminal has been built, responsible for the distribution of natural gas from Norway. For a while not much changed and a large part was grazed with robust cattle breeds. Since 2006, industrial settlements are developed. Wind turbines are manufactured and Windpark Rysumer Nacken was built in 2007-2008 (Bard & Enercon). Further industrial settlements are planned, so most of the land may be used. The city of Emden actively promotes the use of the area. Plans for a new harbor in the Rysumer Nacken were proposed by Niedersachsen Ports GmbH & Co. KG, the city of Emden and the IHK-Nord (industry and trading houses). The plans were terminated in 2014, partly due to protests by BUND, NABU and WWF which pointed out the far-reaching consequences of further influencing the estuary. New plans to develop the Rysumer Nacken for industry and compensate in the Wybelsumer Polder are currently planned by the city of Emden via Ingenieurbüro W.Grote GmbH. If plans are realized the larger part will become industry area.

Large parts of the Rysumer Nacken are still not in use and nature developed relatively undisturbed. Sandy soils and large reed areas offer retreats for rare plant and animal species, such as orchids. Also, some woods with alders, birches and pastures are present. There are also several ponds, which serve as a breeding area and should therefore be avoided during the breeding season.

Lessons learned

Over the period of the establishment of the Rysumer Nacken the natural values of the Ems estuary have become increasingly important in considerations concerning the development of functions of the area. This is clearly reflected in the most recent plans where a compensation area is sought for in the Wybelsumer Polder upon development. However, in the same period, the economic interests also expanded. At the moment, the strengthening of these two aims are still at odds with each other. However, due to many green developments such as Greener Ports, there might come a time that these can be reconciled. For the moment the Rysumer Nacken is still an example of a development set into motion for a single cause and not the result of an integrative planning process. If mud management is to be successful both on the local and regional scale such a planning is needed.

Furthermore, the landfill does not only take space but also changes the landscape considerably in height. Such changes have a huge impact on the landscape, loading of the subsurface, water management and nature development and are -to a considerable extent- irreversible. Also here, an integrative approach is needed.

Stakeholder process

The city of Emden, economic interested parties and the government of Lower Saxony all had interest in the deepening and maintenance of the fairway to the Ems. As a result, the Rysumer Nacken was formed. Thereafter various initiatives were taken to use the area for industrial development and harbor activities. This was hindered by the lack of an extensive hinterland for cargo brought in by ship and by the Dutch economic interests. Moreover, the ever-decreasing natural values of the Ems estuary led to protests of nature conservation groups and several of the initiatives did not bear fruit. Presently, such discussions are still ongoing.

Discussion points

The Rysumer Nacken are an example of a single-user driven development and an integrative approach was not followed. What would be prerequisites/elements for an integrative approach?

The height of a mud landfill forms a long-term influencer in many respects. Would a lower but larger area be more recommendable?

Literature

Essink, K., 2013. De Dollard, een dynamisch systeem onder invloed van de mens. In: K. Essink (Red.), Stormvloed 1509 – Geschiedenis van de Dollard. Stichting Verdronken Geschiedenis, Groningen,: 137-148. (ook: online op www.verdronkengeschiedenis.nl).

Díez de Velasco, M., 1991: Rapport ter Terechting in zaak C-57 / 89 *Commissie van de Europese Gemeenschappen tegen Bondsrepubliek Duitsland „Behoud van vogelstand — Werken in een speciale beschermingszone.

<https://www.ing-buero-grote.de/bauleit.html>

DRAFT