Vliegend Hert (Stag Beetle)

The stag beetle is one of the largest beetles in Europe and can reach a total length of more than 9 centimeters. The Dutch name is due to the enormous jaws of the males. These are branched at the end and resemble a stag's antlers. The females lack these antlers.

The large jaws of the males look impressive but are not suitable for biting; the males are therefore harmless. The jaws are only used for display and cannot be closed with much force. The females, however, have smaller jaws, but unlike those of the males, they are strong and sharp and can easily cause skin injuries. Females use them to gnaw holes in tree bark in order to lick up the sap flows.

The stag beetle is rare!

ITS CURRENT HABITATS IN THE AREA INCLUDE:

- DRIESCHICHTSWEG
- MANDER
- MANDER ESCH
- MANDER HEIDE
- MANDERMATEN
- MANDERSTREU
- MOLEN BELS
- MOSBEEK
- VASSE

De Akkers (The Fields)

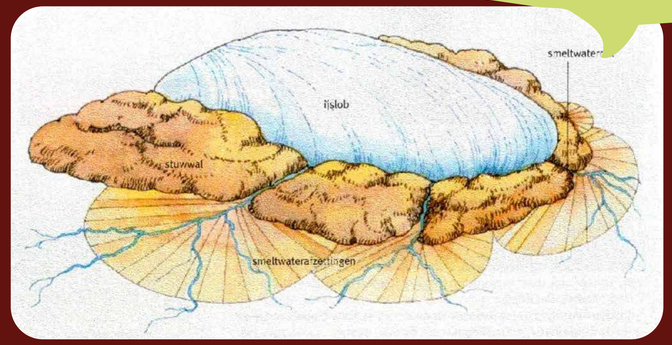
BEFORE THIS CAMPSITE WAS ESTABLISHED, THE LAND WAS MOSTLY USED FOR AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES. GRASS WAS GROWN EITHER TO MAKE HAY OR TO LET THE COWS GRAZE. IN THE PAST, THE COWS WERE MILKED BY HAND IN THE BARN DURING THE WINTER AND OUT IN THE PASTURE DURING THE SUMMER.

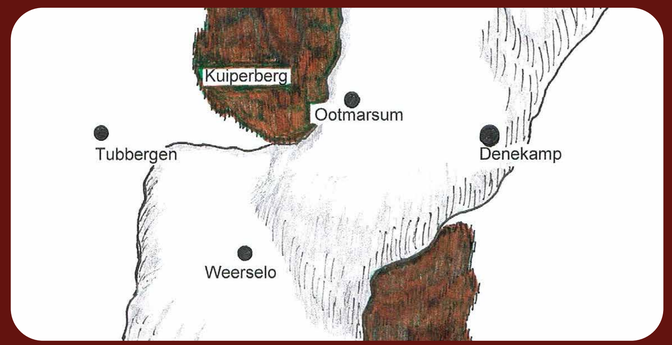
Stuwwal (Push Moraine)

The push moraine complex of Ootmarsum was formed approximately 150.000 years ago.

Around 140,000 years ago, massive ice sheets hundreds of meters thick moved from Scandinavia into the central part of what is now the Netherlands. In Northeast Twente, the ice pushed the frozen ground up by as much as 200 meters. The ice then moved further across these push moraines. About 10,000 years later, the ice retreated, followed by a warm and humid period. The sand, clay, and rocks carried along by the ice were left behind. Over time, the constant abrasive wind eroded the moraines, reducing their height by half. Around 13,000 years ago, trees, plants, and animals returned to the landscape.
The Witte Berg is part of the moraine that stretches from Ootmarsum to Uelsen in Germany.

THE CURRENT TWENTE PUSH MORAINES





Beekprik (Brook Lamprey)

THE BROOK LAMPREY IS A REMARKABLE, RARE JAWLESS FISH. THIS EEL-LIKE CREATURE CAN GROW UP TO 17.5 CENTIMETERS IN LENGTH AND LIVES UP TO 6 YEARS. THE BROOK LAMPREY FEEDS ON SMALL ORGANISMS FILTERED FROM THE WATER. AS A RESULT, THE WATER IS FILTERED AND REMAINS VERY CLEAR. THE SPRINGENDALSE BROOK IS ONE OF THE FEW SPRING-FED STREAMS IN THE NETHERLANDS WHERE THE BROOK LAMPREY IS FOUND. THIS IS DUE TO THE FAST-FLOWING AND HIGHLY OXYGEN-RICH WATER.

Kamsalamander (Crested Newt)

CRESTED NEWTS OWE THEIR NAME TO THE SERRATED CREST THAT MALES DEVELOP ON THEIR BACKS IN SPRING. A DISTINCTIVE FEATURE IS THEIR ORANGE BELLY WITH AN IRREGULAR PATTERN OF BLACK SPOTS (SOMETIMES THE BELLY IS ALMOST COMPLETELY BLACK). DURING THEIR LAND PHASE, THE CREST DISAPPEARS AND THEY BECOME VERY DARK IN COLOR-~~AL~~MOST BLACK-~~WI~~TH SMALL WHITE SPECKLES. THE CRESTED NEWT IS THE LARGEST OF THE FOUR SPECIES OF AQUATIC NEWTS, REACHING A MAXIMUM LENGTH OF UP TO 20 CENTIMETERS.
CRESTED NEWTS ARE COMMONLY FOUND IN STREAM VALLEYS IN THE SURROUNDING AREA.

Zandhagedis (Sand Lizard)

THE SAND LIZARD IS THE LARGEST LIZARD IN THE NETHERLANDS. ITS LENGTH, INCLUDING THE TAIL, IS ABOUT 16 TO 20 CENTIMETERS. THE LIZARD HAS A STURDY HEAD AND A BLUNT SNOUT. THEY EAT SPIDERS AND INSECTS. INTERESTINGLY, THE SAND LIZARD SOMEWHAT RESEMBLES HUMANS BECAUSE AFTER EATING, IT WIPES ITS MOUTH WITH A LITTLE PAW.
THE SAND LIZARD IS NOW FOUND ONLY IN A FEW PLACES IN OVERIJSSEL, INCLUDING THE SPRINGENDAL. THIS REPTILE NEEDS OPEN AREAS WHERE THE SUN CAN KEEP THEM WARM. TO HELP THE SAND LIZARD, LANDSCHAP OVERIJSSEL MOWS PATCHES OF HEATHLAND IN THE SPRINGENDAL.

De Bronnen

There are approximately 125 springs located on the Twente push moraines.

This is due to the thick layer of marine clay that was deposited millions of years ago in the sea that once covered this area. On top of the impermeable clay, in the sandy layers, lie water reservoirs. The water finds its own way over the clay to the edge of the push moraine. There, springs form, and from the springs, streams begin.

The Springendal is a spring-rich area, and some of these springs are located on our grounds. The natural swimming pond is fed by one of the springs found on the site. There is a constant supply of clear spring water from the ground. Along the walking path with the stepping stones, several springs can be found.

Bonte Specht (Great Spotted Woodpecker)

The great spotted woodpecker is a black-and-white bird with red “pants.”

In flight, the large white shoulder patches stand out. The male has a red spot on the back of its head, which the female lacks. Young woodpeckers have a red cap.

The great spotted woodpeckers carve out nest cavities in trees with a round hole. They prefer soft wood species, such as birch. Woodpeckers can peck like this because their brains are cushioned by a kind of shock absorber. The eggs are laid directly on the wood inside the nest cavity.

If you listen carefully, you can hear the woodpecker here in the park.

Beenbreek (Bog Asphodel)

Bog asphodel is a rare plant in the Netherlands.

However, this plant is still commonly found in certain wetter spring areas in the Springendal and the Mosbeek Valley. **Bog asphodel** (Beenbreek) is yellow—very bright yellow. When it blooms (June to August), it stands out clearly because it flowers in large numbers. The plant grows to about 30 centimeters in height. Even in autumn, it remains eye-catching due to its orange-red seed capsules.

For a long time, people believed that bog asphodel caused bone fractures, especially in sheep. A possible explanation is that the plant only grows in acidic soils that contain little or no lime—while lime is essential for strong bones. Additionally, bog asphodel grows in wet soils where livestock can easily sink in.

IJsvogel (Kingfisher)

A FLASH OF BLUE AND A HIGH-PITCHED, SHARP CALL ARE OFTEN THE FIRST THINGS PEOPLE NOTICE WHEN A KINGFISHER IS NEARBY.

IT'S A STRIKING BIRD WITH ITS CONTRASTING BLUE AND ORANGE COLORS. HOWEVER, IT IS ALSO VERY SHY AND NOT OFTEN SEEN. DURING QUIET TIMES, THE KINGFISHER CAN SOMETIMES BE SPOTTED NEAR THE NATURAL SWIMMING POND IN THE PARK.
KINGFISHERS DIVE INTO CLEAR WATER TO CATCH SMALL FISH AND AQUATIC INSECTS.

Dotterbloem (Marsh Marigold)

IN AND ALONG STREAMS, SPRING AREAS, AND WET GRASSLANDS, YOU CAN SPOT IT IN SPRING: THE BLOOMING **MARSH MARIGOLD**, WITH ITS BRIGHT YELLOW FLOWERS AND STRIKING YOLK-LIKE CENTER.

YOU'LL OFTEN FIND IT IN RIVER REGIONS AND LOW PEAT AREAS, BUT IN THE REST OF THE NETHERLANDS, THE COMMON MARSH MARIGOLD IS RARE TO VERY RARE. AFTER FLOWERING, THE DISTINCTIVE SLIGHTLY POD-SHAPED SEED CAPSULES STAND OUT, SITTING LIKE LITTLE CROWNS ATOP THE STEM.

Poelbeek

THIS STREAM MEANDERS THROUGH THE STREAM VALLEY ON OUR PROPERTY. ITS SOURCE IS LOCATED AT THE DALWEG, WHERE IT IS FED BY THE MANY SPRINGS FOUND THROUGHOUT OUR SURROUNDINGS. THE SPRING WATER FROM OUR NATURAL POND ALSO DRAINS INTO THIS STREAM, AS DO THE NUMEROUS SPRINGS VISIBLE ALONG THE WALKING PATH WITH THE STEPPING STONES. THE POELBEEK FLOWS INTO THE DINKEL VIA THE HOLLANDERGRAVEN.

Gele Kwikstaart (Yellow Wagtail)

THE YELLOW WAGTAIL CAN BE FOUND ALONG FAST-FLOWING STREAMS. ALONG THE BANKS AND ON STONES IN THE WATER, THEY SEARCH FOR INSECTS, CONSTANTLY WAGGING THEIR TAILS UP AND DOWN. HERE IN THE SPRINGENDAL, YOU CAN SPOT THEM ALONG THE SPRINGENDALSE BROOK. THE YELLOW WAGTAIL IS A JOY TO WATCH. THIS GRACEFUL BIRD MOVES ELEGANTLY ALONG THE STREAM, CONSTANTLY PECKING AROUND FOR INSECTS. ITS STRIKING YELLOW BODY COMBINED WITH A GREY TAIL MAKES THIS BIRD UNMISTAKABLE.

Heideveld (Heathland)

THE SPRINGENDAL BOASTS A BEAUTIFUL HEATHLAND. THIS HEATHLAND IS A REMNANT OF THE "ONLAND" THAT ONCE COVERED LARGE PARTS OF TWENTE. THE TERM "ONLAND" WAS HISTORICALLY USED TO DESCRIBE WILD LANDS THAT WERE ALMOST UNUSABLE FOR AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES. THE PROVINCE OF OVERIJSSEL IS ACTIVELY WORKING TO RESTORE THE HEATHLAND TO PROTECT THE HABITAT OF SPECIAL SPECIES SUCH AS THE STAG BEETLE AND THE CRESTED NEWT.

De Bleek

The Bleek is a short-mowed grass meadow that was used for bleaching linen.

Very early on, humans discovered the power of oxygen in the ‘bleaching of linen.’ After washing with water from the springs, the linen often still had a yellowish tint and retained odors from use. However, the linen became fresher and whiter, lighter in shade, by spreading it out on a grass field to dry.

Under the influence of the sun, free oxygen atoms were formed, which bonded to the dirt. This gave the linen a fresh scent and a bright color.

Laundry was laid out on the grass while spring water was poured over it. The sun then bleached the laundry.