

Informing the
World Heritage Committee
about threats
to the property of

World Heritage
'Droogmakerij de Beemster'

January 2009

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Preface

This report was compiled by the Initiative Group Manifest of Residents of Beemster World Heritage (in short: Initiative Group) following actions of various groups of residents in the Beemster municipality against deterioration of the quality of historical, cultural and landscape values of the World Heritage 'Droogmakerij de Beemster'.

In 2008 the town council has approved local zoning plans that will create new threats to the property.

The Initiative Group, that includes representatives of various groups of residents, concluded that the Beemster municipality, although it is well informed about the concerns of its residents, is not willing to adjust its policy on spatial developments.

By publishing 'Informing the World Heritage Committee about threats to the property of World Heritage Droogmakerij de Beemster' the Initiative Group draws maximum attention of the Dutch national and provincial government, and the UNESCO, to stop existing threats.

The responsibility of the Dutch government is expressed in the text of the World Heritage Convention, a summary of which is shown in appendix-1.

L.P.J. Stelder.

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1 Comment about the Nomination Documentation

The sections mentioned in Appendix-2, state the importance of preservation, restoration and improvement of landscape structures and characteristics and quality of the rural area, differentiating it from the urban area. The pattern of the roads with trees planted alongside them, the ground plan for the watercourses and belt canal with ring-dike, the dimensions of the plots, the scale of construction, the location of the farms, the historical structure of the settlements and the functional, because agrarian use of this 17th century polder has continued to be the determinative features. In 1999, at the time of the nomination, the protection against further urban development of Zuidoostbeemster was considered an essential quality against developmental pressure.

2 Existing developmental regulations

(more in section 4.3.1)

In the existing Regional Plan, 'Streekplan Noord Holland Zuid' (2003), preservation, restoration and improvement of historic, cultural and landscape characteristics are major goals for the area of Lower Holland ('Laag Holland'), which is one of the national landscapes of The Netherlands.

The Beemster municipality and its small village of Zuidoostbeemster are located within the boundaries of this national landscape.

Even though a 'red contour' around Zuidoostbeemster is drawn on the map of the Regional Plan, indicating the outer limits within which development for homebuilding is allowed, the existing policy for any spatial development is preservation, restoration and improvement of historical, cultural and landscape characteristics.

In the area of the UNESCO-monument 'Droogmakerij de Beemster' and of Lower Holland this policy is based on the 'area-specific' policy according to the Regional Plan, which is based on the national plans, 'Nota Ruimte' (Nota National Space) and 'Nota Belvedere'. The Regional Plan is the instrument to effect this area-specific policy. As part of this policy the provincial government had a document developed by landscape architects 'La4Sale', named '[Bouwen voor Waterland 2020](#)'² (Building in Water Land 2020) that gives direction as to the way and extent of homebuilding within the boundaries of Lower Holland.

These directions of 'Building in Water Land 2020' have been included in the Regional Plan as an imperative construction guide.

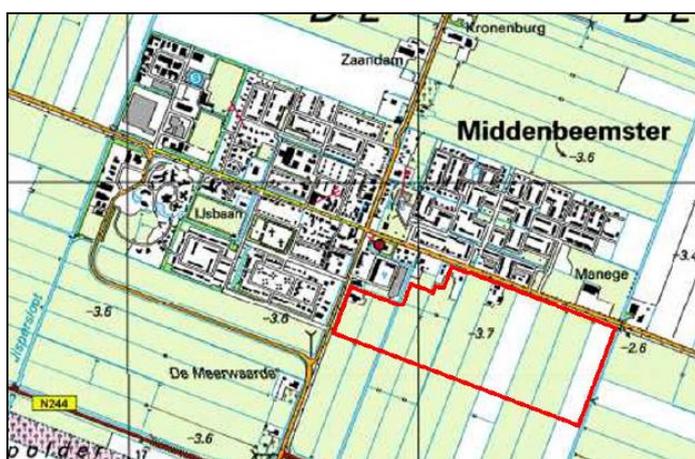
In a [letter addressed to the Beemster municipality on June 26th 2002](#)³ the Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment (Ministerie van VROM) reminded the local government of the then, and today existing developmental aims for Lower Holland. Those aims mentioned were, and still are:

- to conserve and reinforce cultural-historical and ecological values;
- to reinforce visual cohesion between construction area and its surrounding;
- to preserve open space along infrastructure, by which open views on landscapes are conserved;
- to avoid expansion of construction area in open spaces.

3 Existing threats affecting the property

3.1 Housing expansion (more in section 3.4)

On December 18th 2008, a local zoning plan for Zuidoostbeemster, 'bestemmingsplan Zuidoostbeemster-I', was confirmed by the town council of the Beemster municipality. This plan does not limit the amount of homebuilding, by location in each sub-zone, in Zuidoostbeemster within the newly drawn 'red contour' around the village. This red contour indicates the outer limits of development of homebuilding. The new local plan encourages the construction of more than double the number of houses in the village. Today about 800 houses are located in this section of Zuidoostbeemster, and the town council wants to build another 1250 in two steps ('Zuidoostbeemster-I' 800, and 'Zuidoostbeemster-II' 450), making the small area of Zuidoostbeemster an urban developmental area. This includes construction of a huge care centre for the elderly also for the region. In recent years in all publications of the town council such an urban development was described as undesired. Despite this fact urban development has now turned into a major threat. For the next 12 years the town council has construction plans across the whole area of the Beemster municipality. These plans exceed the need for homebuilding based on the natural growth of the local population (based on national and rural demographic and migration numbers). In August 2008 zoning plan 'Fourth Quadrant of Middenbeemster' was confirmed, which gives the [location for construction of 240 houses](#)⁴.



picture-1 (source: zoning plan 'Fourth Quadrant Middenbeemster')

This location is an existing open meadow near the historic townscape of Middenbeemster. The amount of houses to be constructed here, added to the amount for Zuidoostbeemster, is in conflict with migration-balance-zero, as stated in the national plan 'Nota Ruimte'.

On page 60 of the nomination documentation (Appendix-2) states that 'Beemster forms part of the open space' specified by the national government. The surrounding townships may not undertake any construction here.'

About the Fourth Quadrant the National Office for Archaeology, Culture landscape and Monuments gave negative advise to the Beemster municipality. The municipality has not respected this advice.

The existing plans for housing expansion have included targets from surrounding townships. As stated in the nomination documentation in 1999, the protection against further urban development of Zuidoostbeemster was considered an essential quality against developmental pressure. Not only is the scenic quality of Zuidoostbeemster threatened, but in fact the scenic quality of the whole property⁵ is threatened by these excessive homebuilding plans. The plans for housing expansion for the whole property for the next 12 years exceed by far

the need of the municipality by a factor three to four.. In relation to the 'dimensions of the plots and the scale of construction as continuing determinative features' in the 400-year-lasting lifetime of the Beemster Polder, all these construction plans are diametrically opposed to these values listed in the nomination documentation on page 17.

3.2 Disproportional building

3.2.1 Historic centre of Middenbeemster, protected townscape under the 1988 Monuments Act

The church board is planning a big new building right next to the central church in this historic centre.



This plan is the subject of lively discussion and protest among inhabitants of Middenbeemster, especially about its potential negative effect on the historical view of the church. The building will be the venue for religious service purposes, and for cultural events for the community. The town council supports the plan financially, without having explored the need for this community centre. Residents have taken legal steps to prevent the start of the construction of the building, because it will affect the historic townscape of Middenbeemster. This townscape is protected by the Monuments Act. The planned construction site lies within the boundaries of this protected townscape.

3.2.2 'Middelwijck'⁶



photo-2

'Middelwijck' is a newly built centre for the elderly from Beemster and the region in the main village of Middenbeemster. The dimensions are disproportional, and the architecture does not match the architecture of the surrounding houses. This building, located directly along the historic protected townscape of Middenbeemster affects the visual quality of this townscape from a viewpoint from the centre of the village as well as from the surroundings of the historic site. The building blocks an uninterrupted view from these viewpoints.

3.2.3 [Multifunctional centre](#)



A big multifunctional centre is being built in Zuidoostbeemster, on the location where there used to be a soccer field. This building is disproportionately large in relation to the surrounding houses. It blocks the pre-existing open view over the green fields.

The green 'high value' according to the Cultural and Historical Values Map, the '[Cultuurhistorische Waardenkaart](#)'⁷, of the former soccer field where this centre is being built, has been lost.

3.2.4 **Planned and approved massive 18-meters high centre for housing and care for the elderly**

In zoning plan Zuidoostbeemster-I this massive building is projected in an open 'green chamber'. Its capacity will also be used by elderly from the surrounding municipalities. This is in conflict with the text: 'surrounding townships may not undertake any construction here' on page 60 of the nomination documentation.

3.2.5 Industrial areas and business activity contrary to provisions of Regional Plan and local zoning plans

For these plans typical 'green chambers', as they are referred to in the nomination document, are sacrificed, despite the fact that they are considered to be of high value, and to be protected by the Cultural and Historical Values Map. In this way highly valued green spaces in the property will disappear.

3.2.5.1 Cono cheese plant⁸



photo-3

This is a milk powder and cheese factory. Its production facilities are important to the agrarian use (livestock) of the Beemster Polder. The economic significance of the plant creates an ambivalent attitude of the town council as to size of the plant.

In 2002 the Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality disapproved plans for erecting the 30-meter-high building for this plant.

Despite this, and the fact that this plan was completely contrary to local, regional and national regulations, the town council approved construction of this enormous building. The building was labelled as 'landmark' to silence opponents.

It now consists of several massive buildings. There are plans for further expansion. The National Office for Archaeology, Culture landscape and Monuments, the '[Rijksdienst voor Archeologie, Cultuurlandschap en Monumenten](#)'⁹ (RACM - [contact](#)¹⁰), states in its provisional opinion that the planned new expansion will again affect the property.

3.2.5.2 **Large greenhouse in the village of Zuidoostbeemster**

The town council has approved the construction of a 12,000-square-meter greenhouse in the village of Zuidoostbeemster. Although horticulture and greenhouse culture was a common activity in Zuidoostbeemster, the policy of the provincial government on building new greenhouses is centralization of them in specific 'agriports' because of the enormous size of these greenhouses. Low scale greenhouse agriculture and horticulture are still common in Zuidoostbeemster. The actual plan to build the

12,000-square-meter greenhouse does not provide for horticulture, nor for greenhouse agriculture. In fact the projected greenhouse will be used for massive parking of campers and caravans and for retail. It will be located directly along projected homebuilding sites.

3.2.5.3 Disproportional expansion of industrial activity

Several construction companies like

Dura Vermeer



Hollenberg



Van 't Hek



Lankelma



have grown to a size that is disproportional to their surroundings (Nekker road, Vredenburg road). They do not have any economic significance for the agrarian use of the Beemster Polder. These industrial activities are developing organically, even though these activities are contrary to the provisions of existing zoning plans and the Regional Plan.

They attract heavy traffic to the existing infrastructure that is not adequate for it.

This area, with the beautiful Volger road nearby, has a rich history of country homes, built around 1640 by rich people of the United East Indian Company (VOC) in Amsterdam. Surrounding inhabitants have protested against expansion of Hollenberg and Dura Vermeer. They delivered a petition at the Town Hall and they demand a strict policy to stop this expansion.

3.3 Architectural short-term trends

The new zoning plan 'bestemmingsplan Zuidoostbeemster-I' holds imperative provisions on architectural qualifications for homebuilding. Historical architecture is disapproved in the zoning plan.

Historical architectural values are mentioned in the nomination documentation:

'There is also a number of country homes with their formal gardens, intended as pleasure farms (lusthoven) and out-of town houses which served as summer residences for urban proprietors, mainly from Amsterdam. Decoration and practical use interchanged in the design of orchards, arbours, kitchen gardens, and footpaths. However, most of these were demolished in the 18th century, and all that remains is a number of monumental entry gates to farms built at later dates.'

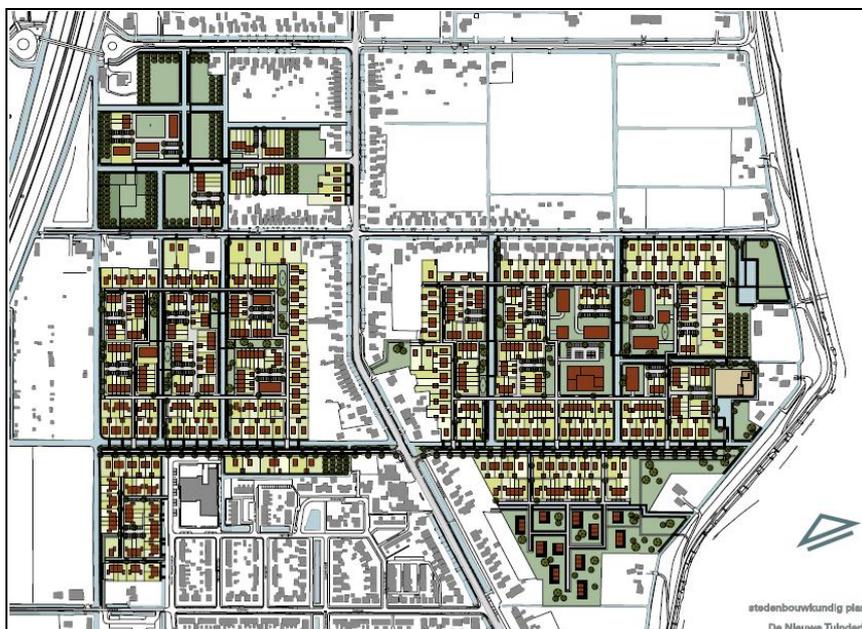
Although these qualifications do not directly apply to normal houses, this paragraph illustrates the meaning of historical architectural values, with a 400-year-long tradition. In the zoning plan Zuidoostbeemster-I the existing rejection of historical architectural values, and more: the prescribed modernistic ('eigentijds') style does not match the [existing historical style](#)¹¹ and general taste of the inhabitants.



photo-4 existing architectural style (source: Building for Water Land 2020)

3.4 Building urban residential neighborhoods

The [zoning plan Zuidoostbeemster-I](#)¹² creates possibilities for building [urban neighbourhoods](#)¹³ (about 800 houses, picture-5).



picture-5 (source: zoning plan Zuidoostbeemster-I) Grey is existing construction; the buildings in colour show approved plans for new housing construction.



picture-6 (source: zoning plan Zuidoostbeemster-I)

The picture on the left shows the existing construction in Zuidoostbeemster; the picture on the right shows the orange coloured outlines of zoning plan Zuidoostbeemster-I and –II (picture-6) with a total of 1250 houses to be built.

Planning housing estates should follow the rural directives of Building for Water Land 2020 ('[Bouwen voor Waterland 2020](#)¹⁴'), specially developed for homebuilding in the region of Lower Holland and the property. Building for Water Land 2020 was included in the Regional Plan as an imperative guideline to preserve and reinforce quality of historical, cultural and

landscape characteristics. In this report, commissioned by the Province of North Holland, all locations associated with housing and construction capacity per village are put on the map. The composite map shows all the places in the region where homebuilding, judged by a cultural, historic and landscape perspective, is possible and sometimes even desirable, and it outlines a policy on development for the region in the near future. The exploration indicates how many residential units per location can be realized, and which specific quality future buildings must meet.

Building for Water Land 2020 disapproves building of urban neighbourhoods in villages. It gives a [possible building solution for Zuidoostbeemster](#)¹⁵ (picture-7),



picture-7: housing solutions for Zuidoostbeemster (source: Building for Water Land 2020)
The green zones are labelled for housing. Black areas are existing green open spaces.

and [Middenbeemster](#)¹⁶ (picture-8). These guidelines of Building for Water Land 2020 recommend construction sparingly along existing infrastructure without construction of new residential areas. The existing zoning plans for Zuidoostbeemster and Middenbeemster are in conflict with these guidelines .



picture-8: housing solutions for Middenbeemster (source: Building for Water Land 2020)
The green zones are labelled for housing. Black areas are existing green open spaces.

3.5 No criteria available for quality of historical, cultural or landscape characteristics in zoning plan Zuidoostbeemster-I

Incorrectly, the approved zoning plan Zuidoostbeemster-I refers to a plan that is being developed to guarantee quality of scenic view, named 'Des Beemsters'. The zoning plan suggests that scenic and historic quality of homebuilding in this plan is guaranteed. The project 'Des Beemsters' has not developed any criteria for accurate historical, cultural or landscape quality yet. The threatening local zoning plan 'bestemmingsplan Zuidoostbeemster-I' refers to these documents in its [reading list](#)¹⁷, but nevertheless it ignores their implications.



reading list zoning plan Zuidoostbeemster-I

3.6 Monumental Purmerend road, 'Purmerenderweg'

The zoning plan and the intentions of the town council demand a new connecting road to be constructed from highway A7 to the Purmerend road ('Purmerenderweg'). This road has a strong historic and cultural value as part of the UNESCO-monument.

The Purmerend road is part of the orthogonal structure of roads and small canals. On both sides of the road such canals are present. The connection itself would interfere dramatically with the long uninterrupted view along the Purmerend road. The new connecting road will interfere with the orthogonal, geometric and rational layout of the property.

In the new plans the Purmerend road would become part of the urbanized neighbourhood of the city of Purmerend, just a mile away, which conflicts with current moderate traffic pressure, as it fits the existing easy living style of the small village. An option to avoid affecting this property is an alternative connecting possibility located to the north of Zuidoostbeemster: a connection near Oosthuizen directly westward to the A7 has been proposed. This option was also mentioned in the Regional Plan in 1999, at the time of the

nomination of the property. The objective of this option was to alleviate the traffic on the Midden road ('Middenweg') and possibly the Purmerend road.

At the start of the development of the zoning plan, one of the aims was to preserve the existing infrastructure of Zuidoostbeemster as it was written in the Structure Vision Zuidoostbeemster 1996 ('Structuurvisie Zuidoostbeemster 1996').

So the existing developmental ambition of the town council, concerning the Purmerend road, is now opposite to the spatial strategy of 1999 when it was considered important to alleviate the traffic on this road.

The only factor that changed the council's opinion is the threefold or fourfold size of homebuilding ambition, generated during zoning plan development.

A more modest ambition to size could diminish this pressure to spread traffic infrastructure.

3.7 Monument Fortress of Nekker road, 'Fort Nekkerweg'

This fortress is a Monument of the Province of North Holland (19-02-91 312295; 01-09-92 316966). It is listed two times on the UNESCO World Heritage List : 'Stelling van Amsterdam' (759) and 'Beemster Polder' (899).



Shortly it is being used commercially. For this, reconstructive modifications are being made. Because these reconstructive measures are substantial, they are subject to debate.

4 Chances for protection against existing threats

4.1 'Des Beemsters'

The Beemster municipality is working on a scenic quality plan called 'Des Beemsters', which should deliver the criteria to preserve and strengthen the scenic quality of the property in the long term. In this context, the [project team 'Des Beemsters'](#)¹⁸, that was installed June 2007, appointed a so called Quality Team. It is managed by the municipality, and it is also partially staffed by civil servants of the municipality.

To avoid mixed interests of the local administration in judging spatial developments, the Quality Team is supposed to judge the scenic quality of these developments in the near future independently.

'Des Beemsters', to which the new zoning plan refers, and its Quality Team, are to deliver various successive projects. They should be ready in the course of 2012.

Before starting homebuilding, 'Des Beemsters' should be given the opportunity to deliver criteria for historical, cultural and landscape quality criteria.

4.2 Provincial and national fixed frame of reference

4.2.1 Housing and construction expansion limits

The provincial government, as the regional arm of the State of The Netherlands, is supposed to be the site holder on the issue of preservation of the UNESCO-monuments in the region. The provincial government has the formal tools to stop the actual impeding threats due to excessive homebuilding. The problem is that the definition of 'red contour' and 'historic and cultural and landscape characteristics' are subject to misinterpretation. There are three documents considering these values that can help our provincial government: 'Kookboek Kleine Kernen' (cook book for small villages), 'Bouwen voor Waterland 2020' (Building for Water Land 2020), both by [Landscape Architects for SALE Stedebouw Architectuur Landschap Ekologie](#)¹⁹ (La4Sale), and the 'Cultuurhistorische Waardenkaart' (Cultural and Historic Values Map). The provincial government refers to these three documents in the rural plans as the fundamental reference to measure cultural, historical and landscape values in relation to homebuilding plans in this region. The rural plans, with these documents, form the legal framework for legal battle. The [Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality](#)²⁰ (Ministerie van LNV), which oversees the preservation of scenic quality of Lower Holland, refers to 'Bouwen voor Waterland 2020' as an example of development of landscape quality in a regional vision for housing expansion. The managing directors of La4Sale have given their judgment about the urban development paragraph of zoning plan Zuidoostbeemster-I in a [letter dated November 30th 2008](#)²¹, comparing the new zoning plan with their brainchild 'Bouwen voor Waterland 2020'. In this letter they disapprove all of the given suggestions for housing expansion. In particular they disapprove of taking the small urbanized part of Zuidoostbeemster as a reference to supposed historic building in Zuidoostbeemster, which this small urbanized part is not. The historical building type consists of 'lintbebouwing' (building houses side by side, like a ribbon - 'lint' - along small canals or along roads, with open fields directly along the backyard). The protection against developmental pressure, as it was considered an essential quality at the time of the nomination, is still being considered equally important as it was in 1999, as described in area-specific policy of the existing national and provincial spatial plans.

[The Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment](#) (Ministerie van

VROM) has listed the existing and future developmental aims for Lower Holland. Those aims are: conserving and reinforcing cultural-historical and ecological values; reinforcing visual cohesion between construction area and its surrounding; preserving open space along infrastructure, by which open views on landscapes are conserved; and no expansion of construction area in open spaces.

4.2.2 Formal limits to urban development in region Lower Holland

These homebuilding plans are exceeding maximum, migration balance zero ('migratiesaldo-0'), allowed numbers as they are indicated as such by the national government as to the region of Lower Holland in the 'Nota Ruimte'. We have alerted the provincial and national government about this.

Page 60 of the nomination documentation states:

'Beemster forms part of the 'open space' specified by the national government. The surrounding townships may not undertake any construction here.'

Now the provincial government can put a stop to these excessive homebuilding targets of the local zoning plan, 'bestemmingsplan Zuidoostbeemster-I'.

This plan is not operational yet because it has to be ratified first by the provincial government, the Province of North Holland, which is due in January, February or March 2009.

4.2.3 Reinforcement of agriculture: policy of choice in Beemster Polder

One of the policies of the national plan 'Nota Ruimte' is to preserve and reinforce that agriculture is the main function of the area. This is also stated in the nomination document on page 56. On page 54 the nomination document states: 'This entails that good options must be offered for the development of soil-related forms of agriculture.' This means that land claiming industrial activity that has no connection with agriculture should be banned.

4.3 The National Office for Archaeology, Culture landscape and Monuments

This National Office, the ['Rijksdienst voor Archeologie, Cultuurlandschap en Monumenten'](#)²², RACM, plans to publish the Heritage Review early in 2009. It is a monitoring tool to evaluate the state of the archaeological, built, landscape and urban heritages and the heritage care.

Next, because of the periodic evaluation every ten years of the World Heritage 'Droogmakerij de Beemster', in 2009 the RACM plans to evaluate the property because of the nomination in 1999.

4.4 The Mayor of the Beemster municipality

The Mayor of the Beemster municipality, being a member of the [Board of Directors of the Organization of World Heritage Cities'](#)²³ (OWHC), has a responsibility to stop the threats.

4.5 International commitment of the provincial and national government

Especially the mentioning in the nomination documentation of the fact 'that the regional plan does not permit any further urban development in the small area of Zuidoostbeemster' as 'an essential point for the spatial quality of De Beemster' is of high importance in convincing the provincial government, Province of North Holland, with ruling [State-deputy](#)

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of the Country Council, Ton Hooijmaijers²⁴, (contact²⁵) and the national government, presided by Prime Minister, J.P. Balkenende²⁶ (contact²⁷), that they should act according to the UNESCO World Heritage Convention of 1972²⁸, ratified by the Dutch parliament in 1992.

² <http://www.belvedere.nu/page.php?section=08&pID=5&mID=3&prID=243>

³ http://www.zuidoostbeemster.net/index_bestanden/20020626_VROM_aan_Beemster_CONO_image.pdf

⁴ http://www.zuidoostbeemster.net/images/4ekwadrant_middenbeemster.jpg

⁵ 'Property' is the description used in the nomination documentation to refer to the whole of the Beemster Polder. In the same way 'property' is used in this letter.

⁶ <http://www.zuidoostbeemster.net/images/beemsterbajes.jpg>

⁷ <http://geo.noord-holland.nl/chw/>

⁸ <http://www.zuidoostbeemster.net/images/cono1.jpg>

⁹ <http://www.racm.nl/>

¹⁰ <http://www.racm.nl/content/contact.xml.asp>

¹¹ <http://www.zuidoostbeemster.net/images/la4sale7.jpg>

¹² http://www.zuidoostbeemster.net/images/urban_neighborhoods_ZOB_I.jpg

¹³ http://www.zuidoostbeemster.net/images/ruimtelijk_schema_ZOB_I_II.jpg

¹⁴ <http://www.belvedere.nu/page.php?section=10&pID=9&mID=1&bID=283>

¹⁵ <http://www.zuidoostbeemster.net/images/la4sale1.jpg>

¹⁶ http://www.zuidoostbeemster.net/images/bvw2020_middenbeemster.jpg

¹⁷ http://www.zuidoostbeemster.net/images/literatuurlijst_ZOB-I.jpg

¹⁸ <http://www.desbeemsters.nl/info>

¹⁹ <http://www.la4sale.nl/>

²⁰ <http://www2.minlnv.nl/thema/groen/ruimte/ols/algemeen/vb/inftgroav49.shtml>

²¹ http://www.zuidoostbeemster.net/index_bestanden/20081130_reactie_La4Sale_op_conceptplan_Zuidoostbeemster1.pdf

²² <http://www.racm.nl/>

²³ <http://ovpm.org/index.php?module=pagesetter&func=viewpub&tid=1&pid=27&mm=1029>

²⁴ http://www.noord-holland.nl/thema/concern/politiek_en_bestuur/Gedeputeerde_Staten/hooijmaijers/index.asp

²⁵ <http://www.noord->

[holland.nl/thema/concern/politiek_en_bestuur/Gedeputeerde_Staten/hooijmaijers/contact.asp?thema=home&ComponentID=65481&SourcePageID=64083#65481](http://www.noord-holland.nl/thema/concern/politiek_en_bestuur/Gedeputeerde_Staten/hooijmaijers/contact.asp?thema=home&ComponentID=65481&SourcePageID=64083#65481)

²⁶ http://www.minaz.nl/english/Prime_Minister

²⁷ <http://www.minaz.nl/english/contact>

²⁸ <http://whc.unesco.org/en/conventiontext/>

Appendix-1

Commitment of states, according to the [text of the World Heritage Convention](#)¹

To remind national and provincial government of their obligation according international law, the relevant text of the World Heritage Convention of 1972 is copied below:

II. NATIONAL PROTECTION AND INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION OF THE CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

Article 4

Each State Party to this Convention recognizes that the duty of ensuring the identification, protection, conservation, presentation and transmission to future generations of the cultural and natural heritage referred to in Articles 1 and 2 and situated on its territory, belongs primarily to that State. It will do all it can to this end, to the utmost of its own resources and, where appropriate, with any international assistance and co-operation, in particular, financial, artistic, scientific and technical, which it may be able to obtain.

Article 5

To ensure that effective and active measures are taken for the protection, conservation and presentation of the cultural and natural heritage situated on its territory, each State Party to this Convention shall endeavour, in so far as possible, and as appropriate for each country:

1. to adopt a general policy which aims to give the cultural and natural heritage a function in the life of the community and to integrate the protection of that heritage into comprehensive planning programmes;
2. to set up within its territories, where such services do not exist, one or more services for the protection, conservation and presentation of the cultural and natural heritage with an appropriate staff and possessing the means to discharge their functions;
3. to develop scientific and technical studies and research and to work out such operating methods as will make the State capable of counteracting the dangers that threaten its cultural or natural heritage;
4. to take the appropriate legal, scientific, technical, administrative and financial measures necessary for the identification, protection, conservation, presentation and rehabilitation of this heritage; and
5. to foster the establishment or development of national or regional centres for training in the protection, conservation and presentation of the cultural and natural heritage and to encourage scientific research in this field.'

¹ <http://whc.unesco.org/en/conventiontext/>

Appendix-2

Reference to the [nomination documentation](#)¹ of the [World Heritage 'Droogmakerij de Beemster \(Beemster Polder\)'](#)²

(italic accentuation by editors)

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|-----------------------------|--|
| 'WHC | Nomination Documentation |
| SITE NAME: | Droogmakerij de Beemster (Beemster Polder) |
| DATE OF INSCRIPTION: | 4th December 1999' |

Page 8:

'Jan Adriaansz Leeghwater, one of the people who executed the reclamation of the Beemster wrote the following about the Beemster in his "Haarlemmermeerboek"1643: "Almighty God has blessed the Beemster with such abundance that it is the largest pleasure garden of Noord Holland, in pastures, farmland, orchards, houses, gardens, etc. It is said and taken as truth that there is no more joyous and pleasurable road in Holland than the Volgerweg in the Beemster, there all those clean, wonderful houses and orchards are laid out...."'

Page 17:

'2.3. INDICATION AS TO AUTHENTICITY AND INTEGRITY

The intellectual and architectonic concept on which the spatial layout of the Beemster polder was based has remained essentially unchanged since it was created. De Beemster has retained its orthogonal, geometric and rational layout.

The pattern of the roads with trees planted alongside them, the ground plan for the watercourses and belt canal with ring-dike, the *dimensions of the plots*, the *scale of construction*, the location of the farms, the *historical structure of the settlements* and the functional, because *agrarian use* of this 17th century polder *has continued to be the determinative features*.

Virtually everywhere, one can feel the typical spatial visual perception of the absolute scope of the polder which it has possessed since its creation. The traditional use of brick and wood still applies.'

Page 57:

"The regional plan sets out the spatial policy up to the year 2000. The main lines of this policy are "geared toward the preservation and improvement of urban and landscape structures. The policy is further geared toward frugal use of the scarce space" (p. 16). When discussing rural areas, the Regional Plan states that the policy "is geared toward *preserving, restoring and improving the unique characteristic and quality of the rural area and on the differentiation of town and country*" (p. 20).'

Page 60:

'Beemster forms part of the 'open space' specified by the national government. The *surrounding townships may not undertake any construction here*.'

Page 67:

'Chapter 5 FACTORS AFFECTING THE PROPERTY

5.1 DEVELOPMENT PRESSURES

Urban and rural development in the Netherlands does not take place just like that. Government permits are required to expand existing buildings and for new construction. Plans must be in accordance with the zoning plan which applies for a given municipality.

Municipalities are also obliged to review the zoning plan every ten years which does not always occur in practice.

Zoning plans must be in accordance with the province's regional plan. The regional plan must in turn further detail the spatial development policy as indicated by the national government for the entire country by means of papers on regional development. For a further specification of the various papers and plans which apply (including for De Beemster), see 4.3.

An essential point for the spatial quality of De Beemster is that the regional plan does not permit any further urban development in the small area of Zuidoostbeemster.

As described above, the historic centre of Middenbeemster was designated a protected townscape under the 1988 Monuments Act.

Gradual changes are occurring in agriculture, as the course of history and the above discourse shows. The provisions of the municipal zoning plan also apply to changes in farming.'

¹ http://whc.unesco.org/p_dynamic/sites/passfile.cfm?filename=899&filetype=pdf&category=nominations

² <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/899/>