



Holtingerveld highlights

- Havelterberg:** from the more than 15 meters high Havelterberg you have a beautiful view over the area. Numerous special plants can be found on the so-called mountain meadows.
- The former airstrip:** the runway was 1400 meters long and 80 meters wide. Thick clinker bricks formed the pavement. After the dismantling, the thousands of bricks were used for the reconstruction of Rotterdam, among other places, but some bricks can still be found scattered around the area. Many orchids can now be found on the former airstrip.
- Dolmens D53 and D54:** during the penultimate ice age, the boulders were carried from Scandinavia to the Netherlands and used by the Funnelbeaker people to build tombs. They are the southernmost dolmens in the Netherlands and D53 is the second largest of our country. You will find them at the foot of the Havelterberg.
- Sheepfold:** the Holtinger flock plays an important role in the management of the area. In the summer, the shepherd daily leads the flock from the sheepfold into the fields. The signboard near the sheepfold shows the current location of the flock.
- Hangars:** in some places the open-air hangars used during the war can still be clearly recognised; elongated open spaces surrounded by a rampart. Especially the hangar behind the sheepfold is clearly visible.



Like to know more about the Holtingerveld?

Holtingerveld Information Centre
 Van Helomaweg 18
 7971 PX Havelte
 +31 (0) 521-34 12 22
www.holtingerveld.nl
 Twitter: @holtingerveld1

Like to experience even more?

Visit the other nature reserves in the region!

Drents-Friese Wold

Buitencentrum Drents-Friese Wold
 Terwisscha 6a
 8426 SJ Appelscha
 +31 (0) 516 - 46 40 20
www.np-drentsfriesewold.nl

Dwingelderveld

Visitors Centre
 Benderse 22, 7963 RA Ruinen
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Holtingerveld



Holtingerveld at a glance



Primeval landscape sculpted by ice and war



Colophon

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People have been roaming around the primeval landscape of Holtlingerveld for thousands of years. People initially came here to look for food, later to start farming. Nowadays, we appreciate the Holtlingerveld as a special nature reserve with a unique history, a place that allows you unwind. Numerous special plants and animal species can be found here.

Ice sculpted the landscape

During the penultimate ice age, advancing ice caps from the far north pushed sand and stones forward and crushed them into boulder clay. The soil was forced upwards and this formed the Havelterberg. A layer of boulder clay was left behind, which has given the area its remarkable types of flora and fauna. For instance, on the 'mountain meadows' of the Havelterberg there are more rare plants than anywhere else in Drenthe. You will find, among other things; arnica, zigzag clover, bitter vetchling, burnet saxifrage, moonwort and slender St John's wort.

The war changed the landscape

In the 1920s, the Dutch government made plans to build a second Schiphol airport on the 'mountain', but due to the crisis caused by the First World War these plans were never carried out. During the Second World War, the German occupiers used these plans as the basis for a military airfield, which was actually built as well. Towards the end of the war, even before it was put into use, the airfield was bombed by the Allies. Five times as many bombs fell on the Havelterberg as on Rotterdam. This has partly led to the presence of a rich flora and fauna. In fact, the entire area is littered with bomb craters. Some of them hold water and these ponds now form breeding areas for amphibious creatures, such as the crested newt. During the construction of the airport, relatively chalky boulder clay came to the surface. This turned the former airstrip into an orchid

paradise after the war. Many butterflies can also be found here, as well as ferns, daisies, goldenrod and all kinds of Nardus species. Unintentionally, the war created a unique piece of nature that is worth protecting.

Natura 2000

Holtlingerveld is part of the European network of very special nature areas, Natura 2000. The aim of this network is to stop the decline in biodiversity. The Natura 2000 status ensures that drifting sands, fens, wet heathlands, Nardus grasslands, raised bogs and old oak forests are protected. There are also two protected animal species: the crested newt and the yellow-spotted whiteface.

Maintenance

The Holtlinger sheep flock grazes parts of the heaths and grasslands to prevent them from becoming overgrown with trees and shrubs. Nardus grasslands are mowed and from small areas of wet heathland the topsoil is removed (the so-called 'plaggen'). In some forests the nature managers cut down trees to obtain a more balanced structure of the forest.

Three unique nature reserves

Just steps away from the Holtlingerveld are two National Parks: Dwingelderveld and Drents-Friese Wold. These are also Natura 2000 areas. Dwingelderveld is the largest continuous wet heathland in Western Europe. The Drents-Friese Wold is one of the largest nature reserves in the Netherlands with over 7,000 hectares of forest, heathland, drifting sands and stream valley grasslands. Together with the villages in the area with their interesting cultural history, the three nature reserves are a great place to discover the stories about the origin of the Dutch landscape.

Holtlingerveld Information Centre

The Information Centre offers a wide range of activities. Walk through the exhibition space and discover the story of this unique region. At the Tourist Information Point, which is located in the same building, they will be happy to tell you how you can discover the area by yourself. Here, you will find walking and cycling routes and you are welcome to ask any questions you may have. In the bar section of the Information Centre you can enjoy a snack and a drink. A nature playground has been created especially for children.

Opening hours

For current opening hours, please visit our website www.holtlingerveld.nl

Address

Van Helomaweg 18, Havelte

Accessibility

The best way to start exploring the Holtlingerveld is from the entrance, Poort Holtlingerveld. This is located north to the town of Havelte. Here, you will find a large car park from where you can easily walk to the Information Centre and the sheepfold. There are also some smaller car parks in the area. All car parks are shown on the overview map of the area.

Walking

- **Hunebedroute:** 2.75 kilometres, red arrows This short route leads via a sandy trail to the highest point, from where you have a beautiful view of the Holtlingerveld and the two dolmens. Along the way you will pass bomb craters, burial mounds and the Geological Monument.
- **Flardenroute:** 3.1 kilometres At several places, during this walk of about an hour, you will be able to listen to fragments (so-called 'flarden') from the past. Experience for example the

hunting of a group of reindeer hunters. An exciting adventure! Install the IZI travel app to listen to the fragments on a smartphone. A separate flyer about this route and further instructions are available from the Tourist Information Point in the Holtlingerveld Information Centre.

- **Ice route:** 6.3 kilometres, blue arrows This route shows you landscapes that owe their existence to the ice ages.
- **War route:** 9 kilometres, green arrows The Second World War radically changed the landscape of the Holtlingerveld. This route takes you past hangars, bomb craters, a large runway and over various roller tracks.

Cycling

The Holtlingerveld is home to dozens of kilometres of cycle paths, varying from narrow shell paths to wide asphalt paths. Along the way there are plenty of picnic areas and benches. The construction of a new cycle path through the small hamlet Het Moer has made it possible to cycle around the entire Holtlingerveld. There is also a special washing area on the car park where mountain bikes can be cleaned.

With the cycle junction planner of the ANWB you can easily set your own route. We recommend starting at cycle junction 10 Havelte, as parking facilities are available here.

By horse and cart

There are a couple of equestrian routes through the Holtlingerveld. A special car park for horse trailers can be found along the Van Helomaweg, between Wapserveen and Poort Holtlingerveld (follow the signs).

Taking your dog

A special off-leash dog area has been created at the entrance Poort Holtlingerveld, including a walking route. Outside the off-leash areas dogs must be kept on a leash. However, just like people, dogs must stay on the roads and paths. This means that you should keep your dog well under control and has to come immediately when called. Do not underestimate the damage caused by sniffing dogs on breeding birds, sheep and young animals. If your dog is not (yet) listening very well, please keep it on a lead at least from March to August (and in case of severe frost).

