

# HERITAGE STEWARDSHIP IN FLANDERS



# Heritage Stewardship

## ■ History

- Definition of Stewardship + existent VLM schemes
- Heritage Stewardship: Origin of the idea?
- Heritage management in Flanders
- Heritage Stewardship: What is it about?
- Framework

## ■ Future developments

- RDP2: axis 3
- RDP 3 Heritage Stewardship in action
- Other developments

## ■ Conclusions

# History: Stewardship?

## Definition

- contract on voluntary basis
- between public authority and individual or company
- one party undertakes himself to fulfill a number of acts (the management measures)
- in return, the other party pays a compensation
- intended to raise, maintain or create a certain value

# History : Existing stewardships

## Existing VLM stewardships:

- In execution of EC Regulation 1257/1999 and 1698/2005 (Rural Development Regulation)
  - Stewardship on reduced manuring i.e.o. Manure decree
  - Stewardship on Small Landscape Elements, Buffer Strips, Erosion Management, Meadow and Farmland Bird Management and Botanical Management i.e.o. Nature decree
- ➔ New type stewardship: Heritage Stewardship

# History : need for heritage stewardship?

Urgent need for an instrument for the management of local, rural, non-scheduled heritage features:

- quickscan of VLM projects (1999 – 2006) : > 50 features  
mainly archeological sites, cropmark sites, moated sites  
but also barrows, chapels, duck decoy, redoubt, sheepfold,  
orchards, bridge, baking house,...
  - Regional Landscapes etc projects : X00 features
- Now: buy or trade - develop – bestow - manage?
- From 2013 on: more important sites are still bought, but valuable local rural heritage is managed with heritage stewardship

# History: heritage management in Flanders at present

## Flanders

- Act on protection of monuments and landscapes
- Decree Archaeological Heritage
- Decree Heritage Landscapes
- Decree Small Historical Heritage (1999 - 2000)
- Regional Landscapes: projects
- Projects in framework of Rural Development (Leader)
- VLM projects: buy/trade - develop - bestow

# History: development of heritage stewardship

- First proposition by internal working group 'Heritage'

Description + listing of possible management activities for a great number of heritage elements (archaeological, historical-geographical, build heritage)

- Study heritage stewardship

Detailed description

Threats?

Managements actions within stewardship

Managements actions outside stewardship

21 'features': soil record, raised field, ice cellar, baking oven, moated site, chapel, pill boxes, field cross, orchards, solitary poles, ...

# Heritage stewardship: what is it about?

Stewardship can be split up in 4 'Modules' :

Preservation & management of the soil record (archaeology, palaeo-environm)

Preservation & management of landscape features with cultural historical value

Preservation & management of "green heritage"

Preservation & management of cultural historical build heritage

# Heritage stewardship: what is it about?

- combining & grouping all management actions results in 4 modules with each a range of measures
- for each heritage feature all relevant measures are selected of the most suited module: made to fit or “à-la-carte” approach
- 4 separate modules with measures (cf. ingredients) to be submitted to the European Commission for approval

advantages: Flexible

Correct management assured

High efficacy

# Heritage Stewardship – framework

- Rural Development Regulation EC 1698/2005
  - art. 57. “conservation and upgrading of rural heritage”
- Compensation for management measures
  - loss of income, work, expenses
  - Which compensation is appropriate for which measure?
  - Who will pay for this?
- Projectlike approach
  - Stewardship is offered in stead of applied for
  - A-la-carte system : correct composition of stewardship
  - Commission heritage stewardship: experts and officers

# Heritage Stewardship – framework

## 2006

- Political agreement by different departments
- Budget foreseen: 20.000 euro to start with
- Nevertheless not entered in RDP2 by heritage administration because of the “soon to be expected new heritage decree” (2006)
- Problems with financial-technical aspects: different departments  
→ in fridge up to now

## 2009

- New Flemish government: political agreement to work out heritage stewardship for RDP3 (2013)
- RDP2: Axis3

# Future developments

- Heritage Stewardship from 2013 onwards
- Start with provincial rural development projects (Axis3) from 2010
- As result of raised awareness in heritage administration, VLM is asked to draw up management plans for scheduled sites
- Expected new heritage decree (2010?)
- Long term vision: linking of archaeological SMR with parcel registration → raise awareness in farming community
  - cross-compliance: no damaging agricultural activity allowed (should be European directive)

# Conclusions

- Raised awareness of 'endangered' heritage in different administrations, especially of damaging impact of agriculture
- Starting to draw up management plans for archaeological sites
- Start with provincial rural development projects (Axis3) from 2010
- Start with heritage stewardship in RDP3 (2013)
- Heritage is becoming 'sexy' but financial crisis is interfering
- First steps taken, but long way to go



Thank you all for  
your attention!

## Present system



## New system





# Archaeological sites in agricultural land

## Measures foreseen in stewardship scheme

- reversion to grassland : € 580/ha
- permanent grassland: € 150/ha ?
- minimum cultivation : € 100/ha
- direct drilling : € 200/ha
- erosion controle : € 50 à € 250/ha
- limited manuring: € 400 à € 500/ha
- limited grazing: € 350/ha
- crop limitations : € ?
- reburial : € ?
- chalking: € 30/ha ?
- raising groundwater : € ?

# Archaeological sites in agricultural land

