

Company: Smals Berkerdonk BV
Location: Helmond, Noord-Brabant, The Netherlands

Objective The restoration of the sand and gravel area according to the environmental standards before handing it back to the municipality.

Context Actual operations commenced in 1987. With average annual regional sales of 220,000 m³, more than 5.5 million cubic metres of sand was marketed over a period of 25 years.

Actions During the exploitation, many roads, residential districts and industrial areas, as well as sports fields, were prepared for construction using sand from Berkendonk. Using a sound combination of hydraulic extraction and depot management, Smals Berkendonk has managed to produce multiple types of sand quality.

Afterwards, the company started the restoration of the 90ha area, protecting the natural habitat and the creation of lakes. Currently, natural diversity is monitored for the conservation of fauna and flora.

Result After completing the final renovation work in 2012, the entire 90 hectare nature and recreation reserve was handed over to the municipality. Currently, over 200,000 bathers visit the area each year.

Partners Municipality of Helmond and the Natural History association

