

Internodal Arteries

A New Lease of Life for the Countryside

Internodal Arteries contribute to:

The reinforcement *and* sustainable management of the **landscape**;

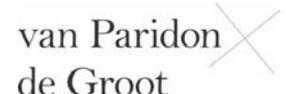
The development of large-scale **agriculture** in a small-scale landscape;

The creation of a broader range of rural functions including **living, working, recreation** and **care**;

The improved **accessibility** of the countryside;

The preservation and development of our agricultural **heritage**.

Internodal Arteries is a project of:



For information about Internodal Arteries contact Mr. Nico Beun at InnovationNetwork, P.O. Box 19197, 3501 DD Utrecht
phone +31 70 3785929 email N.J.BEUN@INNONET.AGRO.NL

The countryside is changing. Many farmers are stopping. They are selling their land to colleagues who want to expand. And citizens are buying the vacant farmsteads. Larger-scale farming and the arrival of citizens are reshaping the characteristic look of the centuries-old landscape. The '**Internodal Arteries**' concept is a contemporary solution for this new challenge. It offers new opportunities to farmers, citizens and the countryside.



Every day 7 farmers stop in the Netherlands

Mid-sized agricultural farms have lots of arable land plus a farmstead with stables and sheds. While the land is economically attractive for expanding farmers, the farmstead itself is too large for an individual family from the city. But its size is ideal for combining home and work.

Internodal Arteries are developed from vacant mid-sized farmsteads



Internodal Arteries aim to preserve and develop the historical farmstead character. Beautiful buildings are kept intact, while all necessary alterations are carefully designed to blend in with the old structures. Less attractive buildings, such as stables, can be pulled down. The Internodal Arteries can accommodate several homes, which combine characteristic heritage buildings and new-build additions. This creates space for new functions including living, work, care and recreation.



Internodal Arteries build on the historical farmstead character...

The new residents not only look after their own home, but also the farmyard and immediately surrounding countryside. The Internodal Arteries are all connected via historical or new routes and planting with their surroundings. The residents not only own their home, but also parts of the landscape in their proximity. They are responsible for its development and maintenance. They can either take this into their own hands or outsource it to e.g. an agricultural association, a farmer or gardener. In this way, residents of Internodal Arteries share responsibility for their splendid views and the walking, cycling and horse-riding routes that connect their homes to the countryside.



...and look after the surrounding countryside

Neighbouring farmers can expand their business with land that becomes available. They can also swap their unprofitable routes, landscape elements and planted areas - which are needed to develop the Internodal Arteries - for production land that is released from the sold mid-sized farms. In this way, farmers can expand while preserving the historical character of the landscape, where many have roots going back generations



The neighbouring farmers benefit too

The shape and appearance of Internodal Arteries depends on the landscape in which they are developed. The first has been started in Overijssel. The landscape here is characterized by old farmsteads and small-scale farmland surrounding lower-lying villages. The farmsteads are situated along the flanks of the higher-lying (convex-shaped) fields. These landscapes are a motley mix of open fields, pasture land, wooded banks, woodland, streams and farmsteads.



Internodal Arteries: starting in Overijssel

For many centuries, the farmsteads were the pivotal point from which the landscape was developed and cultivated. This resulted in strong links between the farmstead and the surrounding landscape. Informal sand paths ran from the farmstead to the fields and then on to the next farmstead.

Farmsteads in Overijssel were originally linked together by planting ..



Modernization and larger-scale agriculture have had a strong impact on this small-scale landscape. In the course of the last century the wooded banks, woodland and finely-meshed routes lost their agricultural purpose. They were removed to make way for larger-scale landscape development. The new landscape still contains fragments of the old wooded banks and sand paths which are extremely valuable in providing historical identity, aesthetic pleasure and practical benefits.



...but many small-scale elements made way for large-scale development

More opportunities for living and working on the farmsteads in exchange for investments in agriculture, landscape and attractive routes. That is the essence of the "Internodal Arteries" concept. Stronger agriculture creates a sustainable basis for the continuation of viable farming in a small-scale landscape. At the same time, the new residents of the Internodal Arteries can enjoy the benefits of country living and beautiful views across green fields and grazing cows. The new connecting routes are attractive for cycling and walking. Internodal Arteries thus reconcile and unite the interests of farmers, citizens and the landscape.

Internodal Arteries create new connections

