

# THIS IS WHAT INTEGRATED CONNECTION TO NATURE LOOKS LIKE



## ERDF. Pathways to experience nature

Döberitzer Heide, once a former military training ground, is now a popular destination for nature and riding enthusiasts thanks to its biological diversity. To improve both accessibility and nature experience, many projects are currently being funded there with the help of the ERDF – including a new footpath and bridleway.

Döberitzer Heide is a large nature reserve located in the Havelland region. Covering an area of close to 5,000 hectares, it provides a spacious refuge for countless species of flora and fauna. The landscape, which is reminiscent of deserts and steppes, was previously used as a military training ground for around 300 years, thus saving it from cultivation and development. This allowed the varied landscape with its mosaic of sparse forests and large open areas to develop undisturbed.

Döberitzer Heide is therefore a popular recreational area, not only for the people of Brandenburg, where you can go hiking, cycling or simply enjoy nature. In order to protect this landscape and make it accessible, many projects are being implemented locally with funding from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

### Project details



**Beneficiary:**  
Municipality Dallgow-Döberitz  
Wilmsstraße 41  
14624 Dallgow-Döberitz  
[dallgow.de](http://dallgow.de)



**Priority:**  
Integrated development of urban and rural areas



**Investment amount:**  
278,000 Euro, of which 159,000 Euro is ERDF-funding



**Project term:**  
October 2019 to February 2020





The Döberitzer Heide landscape – from barren steppes to sparse forests © CONVIS

## WHY IT MAKES SENSE

- ✓ **Preservation and strengthening of natural and cultural landscapes**
- ✓ **Integrated development of urban and rural areas**
- ✓ **Boosting the attractiveness of the region** through improved accessibility and a better experience of the nature reserve for guests and locals
- ✓ **Improving road safety** by separating lanes for vehicle, pedestrian and mounted traffic
- ✓ **Closing gaps** in the trail network and improving visitor guidance
- ✓ **Supporting equestrian tourism** as an important regional economic factor

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### A new bridleway and footpath into nature

As part of Brandenburg's urban environment competition, for instance, the footpath and bridleway running along Waldrandstraße and Kirschallee in Dallgow-Döberitz has been upgraded. Guests on horseback or on foot can freely access Döberitzer Heide on a car-free footpath. Prior to this development, visitors to the heath, be it on foot or on horseback, had to share the narrow country road with cars and lorries. This situation was extremely dangerous for everyone. In an effort to protect the natural landscape and the many different animal species, visitors are requested to stay on the designated paths around the wilderness core zone. The Döberitzer Heide Tourism Association issues separate riding tags for using the riding trails.

### Other projects with the Heinz Sielmann Foundation

Numerous other projects are being implemented in close cooperation with the Heinz Sielmann Foundation. The common goal is to make the heath accessible to guests while protecting the countryside. Examples of this include the clean-up of the abandoned military sites as well as the installation of an observation tower on Finkenbergrücken and a nature experience centre in Elstal. An interactive exhibition on the protected animal and plant species in Döberitzer Heide is to form the centre-piece of the visitor centre. In addition, almost extinct animal species, such as bison and wild horses, are being introduced to the wilderness core zone in the large scale Döberitzer Heide wilderness project. The approximately 90 bison, 30 Przewalski's horses and 90 red deer constantly graze the areas, ensuring the preservation of the heath landscape.



Observation tower on Finkenbergrücken in Döberitzer Heide © CONVIS

## DID YOU KNOW?

The observation tower on Finkenbergrücken, which is funded by the ERDF, can be reached by taking the star-shaped hiking trails and is well signposted. Rising 85 metres above sea level, this tower offers a unique panoramic view of the Döberitzer Heide landscape. When the weather is good, you can even see as far as the TV tower at Alexanderplatz in Berlin which is 25 kilometres away.