

The salvage, the procedure and the involvement of the municipality

In April 2019, the mayor and councillors of the municipality of Lochem approved the planned salvage operation of the aircraft wreckage in Eefde. The operation is subject to the National Program for the recovery of aircraft wreckages from the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations (BZK). The Ministry of Defence is closely involved because of its required expertise.

National Program

The salvage in Eefde is the second project as part of the national program that was authorised after a motion from the House of Representatives in 2018. An estimated 30 to 50 salvages will be carried out within the next 10 years. Eefde is considered a "promising location" because the crash site has already been established and preliminary research has determined that something can actually be located in the ground.

A great honour

At the time of the decision, the Assembly of Mayor and Aldermen of Lochem called it "a great honour" that Eefde had been selected for the second salvage operation in the Netherlands. Mayor Sebastiaan van 't Erve: "This pilot gave his life for our freedom. We see the salvage as a moral responsibility. And as a tribute to the killed pilot and his relatives. A very meaningful gesture on the eve of the celebration of 75 years of freedom."

Personally informed

The landowner, local residents, and Historical Society De Elf Marken were personally informed at an early stage. The landowner fully cooperates. He was, in fact, the one who pointed out the national program to the municipality.

Ceremony

On 26 September 2019, a ceremony was held on the site in question, near the small monument that was erected in 1999 in memory of the pilot William Hurrell. Thereupon, the sign on which the salvage is announced, was revealed. After playing "The Last Post", those present observed a minute's silence. Flowers were also laid at the monument, as is also customary on the 4th of May, the day of the Dutch National Remembrance.

Concerned

During the ceremony, Evander Broekman of construction company Leemans Speciaalwerken explained that, because of the manner in which the aircraft crashed, it can be expected that many small parts will be found. Broekman said that Leemans' employees feel very involved and are aware of their responsibility. This is further enhanced by the knowledge that mortal remains may be found. Ammunition may, in principle, also be uncovered. "We know that the aircraft were armed, but we don't exactly know what this entails," says Broekman.

For the salvage, which starts on November 11, a document with frequently asked questions has been written. This has been added to this set of information.