

De Oude Tempel (The Old Temple)

A short multi-cache of one kilometer (less than one mile).

History

People are traveling between Utrecht and Amersfoort for centuries. In the Dutch Golden Age, townspeople from cities like Amsterdam got interested in the "Utrechtse Heuvelrug". Manor houses were built. Because of the interest, the provincial government decided to for a road to be build, the "Nieuwe Amersfoortse Straatwegh". The road was financed by selling parcels, together with the duty to construct and maintain 376 meters of road.

Along the old road in Soesterberg, there is the manor The Old Temple. Originally, it was on both sides of the road. For years, member of the Dutch Royal family owned it. In the eightteenth century, it was owned by Prince Hendrik, brother of King Willem the Third. The manor was called after a large farm and inn, which burned down in 1867 and was never rebuild.

It is unclear how the farm got its name. There is proof that the name existed already in 1800. There are speculations about a pagan temple, and old inn for pilgrims, and even a relation with the Knights Templar. Beautiful stories, but not many facts to prove them. It is a fact however, that in earlier times two important road crossed near Soesterberg: the road from Naarden, via Austerlitz and Rijsenburg to Arnhem and Cologne, and the road between Utrecht and Amersfoort. The area was feared because of bandits.

In 1912 esquire Van Holthe tot Echten ordered for a new lodge to be built. The next year, a home for the gamekeeper was build. In 1919 the manor was build. In the second world war, the Germans occupied the manor, and used it as an infirmary. The top floor was demolished, because it could hamper planes flying to the runway. After the war, the manor was owned by the "Nederlands Hervormde Stichting voor Zenuw en Geesteszieken" (a foundation for the mentally ill), later 'De Open Ankh'. In 2001 the manor was renovated, and the thatched roof was replaced. Nowadays "Zorgcoöperatie Nederland" has its office here, and there is room for offices.

The manor adjoins the street "Oude Tempellaan" (Old Temple Avenue). In early days there were exit roads between the parcels, eleven meters wide. Some of these exit roads became crossroads, like the "Oude Tempellaan". Some houses and villas here are a reminder of Soesterberg in its early days.

The cache

The trail has a length of about 1 kilometer. On schooldays between 8:00 and 9:00 am it is very busy near the stash, you can better visit at a different time. Searching in the dark is discouraged. You can park a car at N 52° 07.361 E 005° 17.459. Keep enough space for other traffic (cars, cyclists) to enter the area. The cache can be done as a part of geocache "[Sight Seeing Soesterberg](#)" (GC3AEM0). Bring your own pen.

Attention please:

The trail passes private property. The owner (Zorgcoöperatie Nederland) has granted permission. Please follow the trail and stay on the paved paths. There are people living here who are very keen on their privacy. Please respect their privacy, and do not explore other parts of the area!

WP1: N 52° 07.358 E005° 17.497

Here you will find two strings of three words, of twelve and of thirteen characters.

What is the character that occurs most times in the string of twelve characters? Continue adding up the value of the character value until you end up with a single digit (example: Z --> 26 --> 8). This is answer A.

What is the character that occurs most times in the string of thirteen characters? Continue adding up the value of the character value until you end up with a single digit. This is answer B.

WP2: N 52° 07.319 E005° 17.539

Here you find an artwork of Hanneke Pereboom, titled 'Zorg' (Care). What is the standing figure lifting?

Bricks: C = 3 A stretcher: C = 5 A briefcase: C = 7 A ladder: C = 9

WP3: N 52° 07.310 E005° 17.489

Which text do you find here?

Levensgevaarlijke hoge spanning (dangerous high voltage): D = 1

Fietsenstalling (bicycle parking): D = 3

Vrijhouden brandweer (do not obstruct, fire brigade): D = 6

Uitlaatterrein (outlet area for dogs): D = 8

WP4: N 52° 07.288 E005° 17.472

This shelter for travelers has a number of seven digits on its frontside. Take the final digit, that is answer E.

The stash

You will find the stash at **N 52° 07.(C-A-B)(E-B-D)(C-B)
E005° 17.(A+B-D)((A+C)/(B+D))((E/2)+D)**

The stash can be spotted with your hands on your back, digging is not necessary and also not permitted.

Spoiler info: pbawbvarq gjvaf

Sources

The background of the cache page is a part of a historic map from "Kuyper's Gemeente Atlas (1868)"

<http://www.buitenplaatsenin nederland.nl>

<http://www.tempelieren.nl>

<http://www.zeist.nl>

De geschiedenis van het landgoed 'De Oude Tempel', De Open Ankh, 2007

Thanks to

- Zorgcoöperatie Nederland, for the permission to enter their private property for this trail.
- The community of Soest, for the permission to place the stash.
- De Struijsvogels, Lizelot and White Tiger Team for having a test walk of this cache.