

Tved Church was once surrounded by fields. Sand drift forced farmers to move eastwards. Drawing by J. Magnus-Pedersen, 1875

Tved Church

Tved church is a Romanesque structure believed to date from the 1100s. The church was once surrounded by a small town, but drifting sands resulted in the departure of inhabitants of the parish, so that all its houses now lie east of the country road. The interior walls are decorated with chalk paintings dating from 1100-1500, the largest of which depicts the Garden of Eden transposed to Tved. Adam and Eve stand in a landscape of dunes and Adam holds an apple picked from the only tree for miles around.

Cultural history

Each of the houses in the hinterland to the east once owned their own parcel of heath land, which was used for grazing, harvesting hay and heather for animal fodder and for the extraction of peat for fuel. There are therefore few signs of a settlement in the area. Around Savbjerg, as well as between Isbjerg and Blegso are sites on which farms and houses once stood.

Remnants of trial plantations can be seen near both south and north forestry cottages, dating from 1816-20. Despite their age, these specimens of common spruce, silver fir, birch and larch are no taller than a man. In both sites, cottages were constructed for the overseer whose job it was to plant and care for the trees. The trials were abandoned after only 20 years, but the southern forestry cottage was inhabited until approximately 1900.

Several locations bear witness to the Second World War. The "Hansthholm I" battery near Kystvejen just north of the reserve is well-preserved. During the war four 17 cm naval guns were stationed here. The battery is the best example of German coastal defence in Denmark. It is laid out as an open air museum, allowing access to most of the bunkers. Smaller installations can be found to the south along Kystvejen near Ørgaard and on Risbjerg.



Great places from which to observe birds and deer

Symbols on the maps inside this leaflet indicate places from which to observe wildlife. We recommend a visit, equipped with a good pair of binoculars.

Welcome to Hansthholm Nature Reserve and Tved Dune Plantation

Tved Dune Plantation and Hansthholm Nature Reserve constitute the most northerly section of the Thy national park. The area is a wonderful illustration of all the types of landscape and habitat specific to the national park.

Practical information



You are welcome to ride your horse on the gravel paths, using the verge or outer shoulder. Please note that riding is not permitted in Hansthholm Nature Reserve.



The many forest tracks are perfect for cycling. The newly laid cycle track along Kystvejen means that you can now cycle round the perimeter of the reserve, a tour of approximately 40 km.



Peter Odgaards Plads at Sårup is a simple camping area with shelters, bonfire site, privy, water and firewood. The camping area is for the use of walkers and cyclists. A reservation in advance is necessary if you are planning a trip as a larger group. There is a bonfire site and barbecue area between Bagsø and Nors Lake. Firewood is freely available.



Fishing is allowed at Bagsø. Those with mobility impairments may use the fishing platform.



There is a forest playground in the east of the plantation. Parking is at Tved Church and the playground is approx. 400 metres down the trail. There is also a bonfire site and firewood.

Further information: Hansthholm Nature Research and Tved Dune Plantation are managed by the Danish Forest and Nature Agency, Regional Office Thy. Tel.: + 45 97 97 70 88. Email: thy@sns.dk, www.skovognatur.dk.



Thy National Park
www.nationalparkthy.dk

- Hansthholm Nature Reserve and Tved Dune Plantation



The "Nature Trail" series of folders cover selected nature areas. They are available at libraries, tourist information offices and at the entrances to many of the areas. See also www.skovognatur.dk

Danish Ministry of the Environment
The Forest and Nature Agency

- administration of state-owned forests and other nature areas in Denmark
- management with a view to recreation, timber production and the protection of natural and cultural assets

The Danish Forest and Nature Agency manage 190,000 hectares of forest and other nature areas

Hansthholm Nature Reserve and Tved Dune Plantation

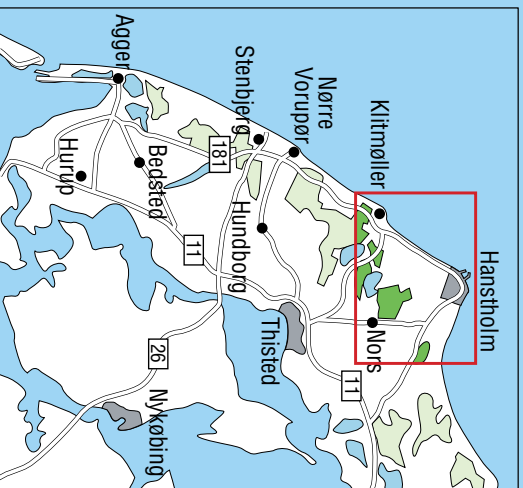
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Danish Ministry of the Environment
The Nature and Forest Agency
Nature trails series no. 51E

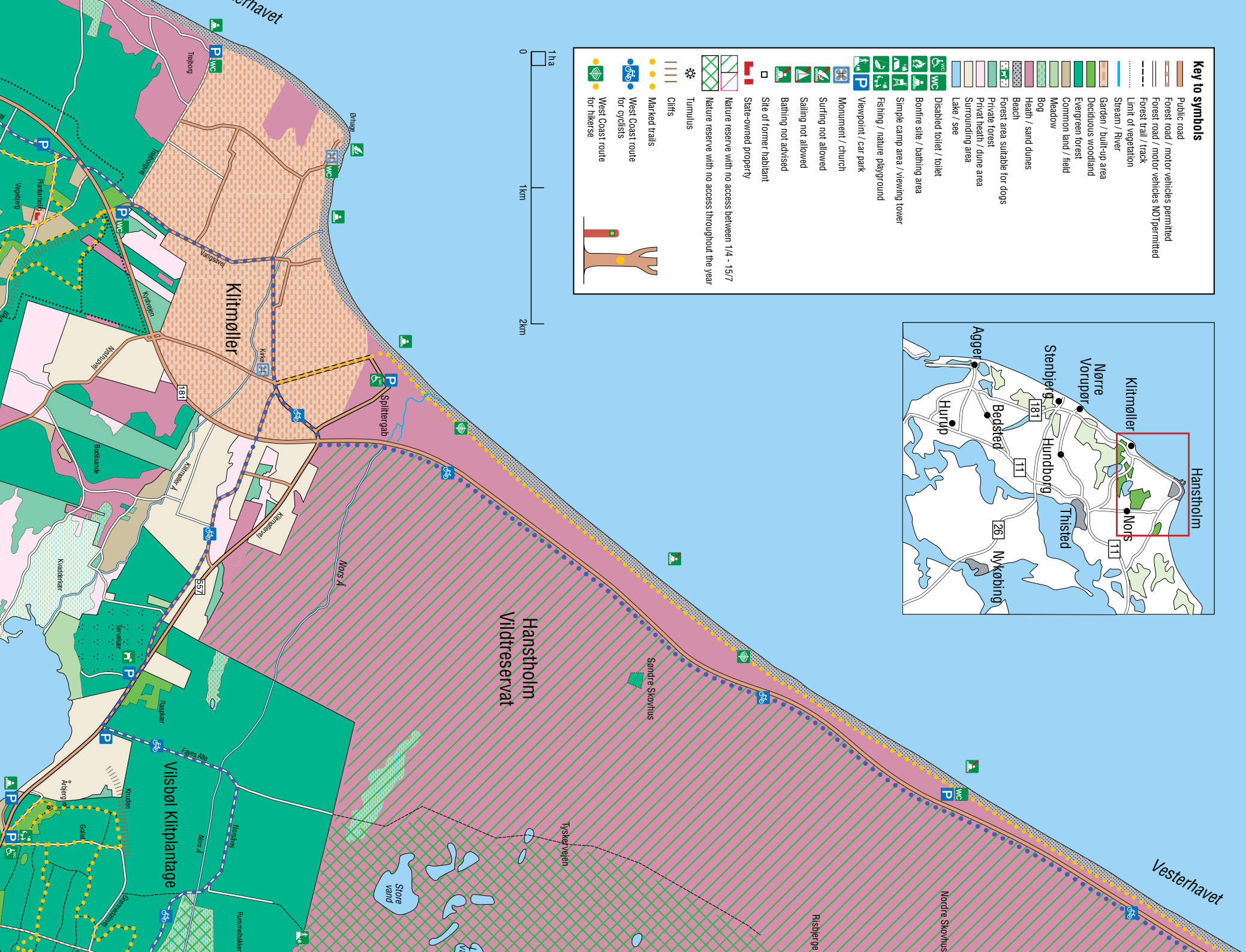
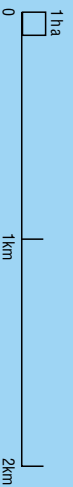


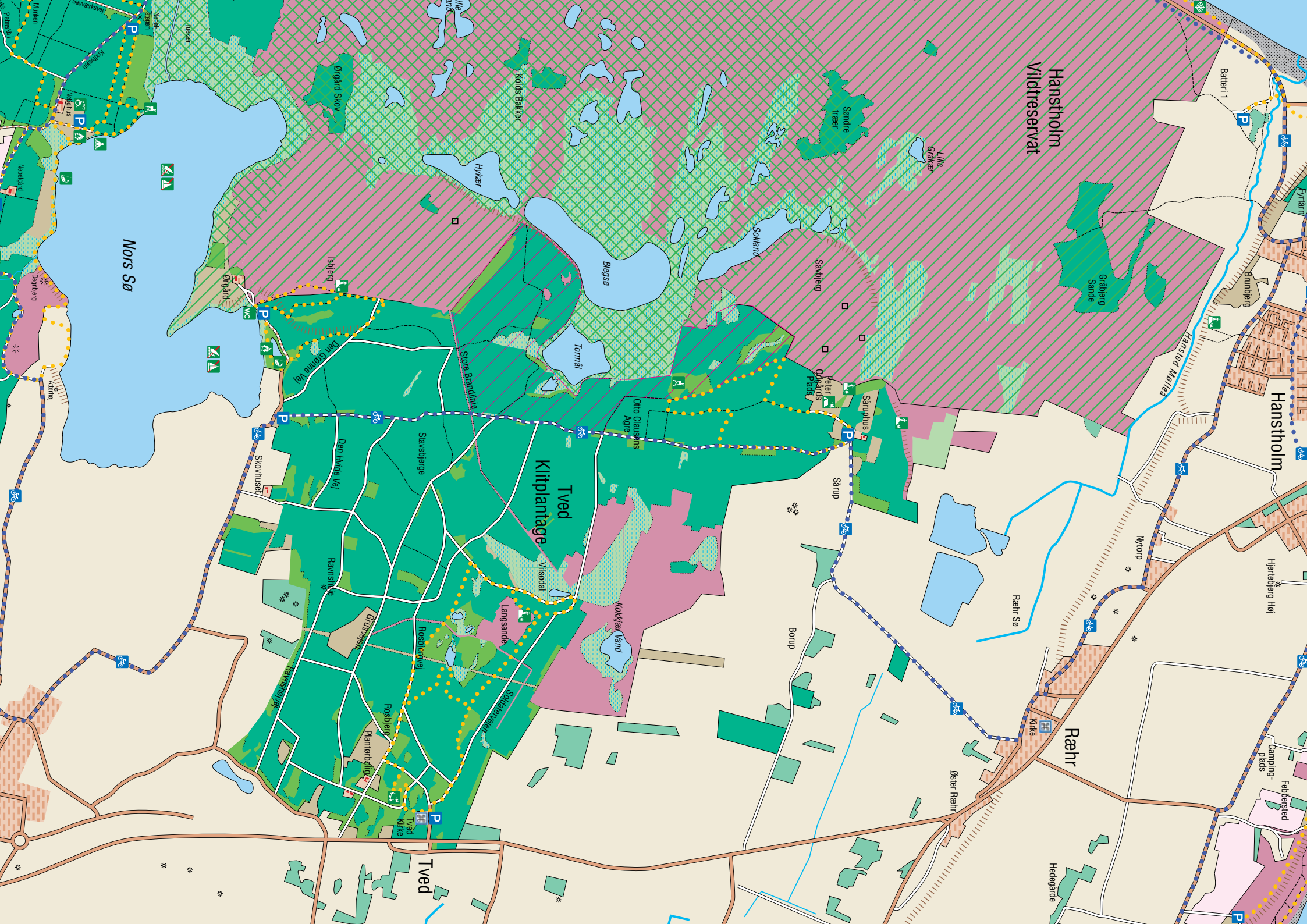
Hanstholm Nature Reserve and Tved Dune Plantation



Key to symbols

	Public road
	Forest road / motor vehicles permitted
	Forest road / motor vehicles NOT permitted
	Forest trail / track
	Limit of vegetation
	Stream / River
	Garden / built-up area
	Deciduous woodland
	Evergreen forest
	Common land / field
	Meadow
	Boo
	Heath / sand dunes
	Beach
	Forest area suitable for dogs
	Private forest
	Private heath / dune area
	Surrounding area
	Lake / sea
	Disabled toilet / toilet
	Bonfire site / bathing area
	Simple camp area / viewing tower
	Fishing / nature playground
	Viewpoint / car park
	Monument / church
	Surfing not allowed
	Sailing not allowed
	Bathing not advised
	Site of former habitation
	State-owned property
	Nature reserve with no access between 1/4 - 15/7
	Nature reserve with no access throughout the year
	Tumulus
	Cliffs
	Marked trails
	West Coast route for cyclists
	West Coast route for hikerse





Nors Sø

Tved
Kiitplantage

Hanstholm
Vildtreservat

Hanstholm

Ræhr

Tved

Fabbersted
Camping-
plads

Hertehøj
Høj

Batteri 1

Brundberg

Hanstød Mølleå

Myrup

Kirke

Oster Ræhr

Hedegårde

Bonup

Sårup

Såruphus

Peter
Ogards
Plads

Sandberg

Søklund

Bløjsø

Tområ

Stor Brandlille

Stavsleje

Isbjerg

Den Grønne Vej

Den Hvide Vej

Ravnsløkke

Grønsvik

Ravnsløkkevej

Rosbjerg

Pantordvej

Tved
Kirke

Langsønde

Rosbjergvej

Søklundvej

Søklundvej

Kikkøer Vand

Otto Clausens
Ager

Lille
Grøkke

Søndre
Træer

Koldes
Bakker

Ørgrød
Skov

Tubæk

Mørk
Skov

Højbjerg

Næsthus

Ørgrød

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Welcome to Hanstholm Nature Reserve and Tved Dune Plantation

The landscape

Any description of this landscape starts with the influential presence of our neighbour the North Sea. Over the years Vesterhavet ("the West Sea" in Danish), has provided sustenance to generations of local people but often exacted payment in return, in the form of lives lost at sea. And the daily breaking of thousands of waves deposited the sands that, with the help of the wind, drove man and beast away, covered fertile agricultural land and created spectacular dune formations.

Most of Hanstholm Nature Reserve is on former seabed. Only 3-4 km inland does one come across the coastal cliffs of Stone Age times. In some parts, such as Blegso, the ancient coastline is clearly visible whilst in others, notably west of Isbjerg, it has been obscured by accumulations of windblown sand.

If one imagines the plantation cleared of trees, its surface would be one large, undulating cover of sand - in some places several metres thick and in others so thin as to allow plants to draw nutrition from the underlying, fertile soil.

Hanstholm Nature Reserve

Covering an area of nearly 40 square kilometres, Hanstholm Nature Reserve is the most extensive area of dune heath in Denmark. Most of the reserve was purchased in the years leading up to World War II by Jagtforeningen (the Game Foundation of the Ministry of Agriculture) with a view to creating a haven for wildlife and preserving the Danish dune heath habitat for future

generations. The landscape is a mosaic of large plains - known as "wind-blown levels" - and massive dune formations. On the plains there are a large number of shallow lakes which often dry out in the summer. Further eastwards, just below the coastal cliffs, is a ring of lakes whose waters can be up to 6 metres deep, as with Blegso. Like the much larger Nors Lake, these bodies of water are karst lakes, with chalk bottoms. Most of the water flowing into these lakes comes from fissures in the carbonate rock.

The Hanstholm reserve is the breeding ground for approximately 5 pairs of cranes and 50 pairs of wood-sandpipers, the latter representing half of the entire wood-sandpiper population in Denmark. Some years, one of the country's last breeding pairs of golden plover can be seen here and in years of plentiful mice, the short-eared owl breeds in the reserve. The osprey and white-tailed eagle are regular visitors, whilst the golden eagle is somewhat rarer. In the autumn, thousands of greylag geese, bean geese and pink-footed geese rest at Hanstholm and in winter, bird spotters record goosanders, red-breasted mergansers, tufted ducks, golden-eyes, pochards and whooper swans on the lakes of the reserve.

There is a large, healthy and growing population of red deer in the reserve. They graze on the dune heath and find protection in the surrounding plantations and small stands of mountain pine that grow on many of the larger dune formations. There are similar good populations of roe deer, fox and otter. At first sight, the vegetation in the reserve may appear to be uniform. It is in fact highly varied. The drier dune heaths are dominated by heather, crowberry, sand sedge, marram grass and lichen. Rare species such as sea bindweed and Scotch lovage appear on coastal dunes and damper depressions support bog bilberry, bog myrtle, purple moor grass, bell heather, marsh gentian, cranberry and several species of sundew. Many of the shallow lakes harbour species of water lobelia, whilst the deep, pure water of Nors Lake features rich flora including many species of stonewort and the very rare slender naiad or nodding water nymph.



Access to the reserve

The central zone of the reserve is closed throughout the year. Access is prohibited in the remaining section east of Kystvejen during the birds' breeding season from 1 April to 15 July. At other times, pedestrian access is permitted. The area between Kystvejen and the North Sea is open for pedestrian access throughout the year. Groups and sports activities are not allowed and dogs are forbidden. The two thirds of Nors Lake to the west belong to the reserve. Here sailing and windsurfing are prohibited.

The sand plantation

Planting of Tved dune plantation began in 1902. Initially, the hardy mountain pine was almost exclusively favoured, as it could withstand storm and frost and created the forest microclimate that allowed the subsequent introduction of other, more productive tree species. The western part of the plantation is dominated by conifers whilst to the east and around the forester's house, the church and the playground, there is pleasant and luxuriant deciduous woodland.

The plantation is a favourite location of mushroom-gatherers. In good years there are large quantities of chanterelles and boletus in particular, but other rarer species abound. Plants are typical of Nordic forest floor flora, with species such as linnæa and wintergreen carried by migrating birds.

The plantation has substantial numbers of roe deer and red deer. The nightjar's mating flight can be witnessed at dusk on summer evenings in forest glades; in recent years, a pair of eagle owls have raised their brood in the northern part of the plantation.

Nature trails • There are three marked trails. Marking consists of yellow arrows on red posts. Two of the trails offer the option to shorten the distance by taking a blue arrow route. None of these trails is suitable for the disabled.

Trail starting at Tved Church (6 km, blue route 3 km). The trail begins in lush woodland. One of its points of interest is Langsande, the largest parabolic (U-shaped) dune in the plantation.

Trail starting at Nors Lake (3 km, blue route 1.5 km). This trail takes in Isbjerg, the highest point in Hanstholm Nature Reserve at 56 m above sea level.

Trail starting at Sårup (4 km). One of the features of this walk is the viewing tower which affords good opportunities for observing deer, cranes, etc.

