

### The Mill Lake

Duke Hans erected a mill at Sandbjerg and created the lake by building a dam across a small inlet. He obtained water for the mill from Snogebæk Stream by digging a canal through the surrounding hills and Nydam Bog. This would have been a massive project at the time, and stories are still told of how the evil Duke Hans forced his peasants to complete the dam's construction.

The mill lay at the end of the long mill dam, now flanked



by an allé of old silver poplars which shimmer in the wind when the leaves show their silver/white undersides. The foundations of the old mill building can still be seen by the restored mill house. The lake always provides a refuge for many species of birds. Grey geese breed here and during winter, many migratory birds come to rest.

### The Nydam Boat

In 1863, an excavation in the bog revealed three large boats and many artefacts dating from 200-400 AD. One of the vessels, the Nydam Boat, was 23.7 meters long. It had neither mast nor sail and would have been rowed by 45 men. The Nydam Boat is regarded as a very valuable find, as it was a forerunner for the later Viking ships. Shortly after the boat's excavation, war broke out in 1864. The Prussians demanded that the boat be handed over to them and it was, together with other bog finds, taken south of the border. Today, it is housed at Gottorp Castle in Slesvig together with other treasures from the bog. The other two boats were lost during the war and it is said that they were used as firewood in the little bog house which now displays information about excavations in the area. A post marks the boat's excavation position in the bog.



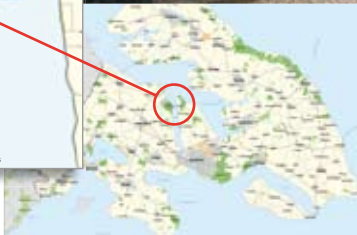
# The Nydam Path

Hiking path



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### The Nydam Path

A wealth of impressions await you along the beautiful trail known as the Nydam Path. The route follows along narrow Als Sound, where beech trees grow right down to the coastline and lean dangerously far out over the water, while sailboats glide quietly by all through the summer. Beautiful natural surroundings prevail, and you will pass a number of historic places. In Sottrup Storskov (forest), there are still signs of the war between Denmark and Prussia in 1864. Sandbjerg Castle bears witness to a time when local dukes governed the region, and the historic Nydam Boat was found in Nydam Bog. There are so many things to surprise you along the way that time will seem to fly on the app. seven km route. You can begin your walk in Sottrupskov near Sandbjerg Castle, or at the parking area by Nydam Bog.

### Sottrupskov

The route description in this folder begins in the idyllic village Sottrupskov with its many thatched houses and small, cosy gardens. The beautiful view across Als Sound makes a wonderful start to your walk. From the parking area, there is a view to the protected area Arnkilsøre on Als. From here, one can hear the rare leaf frogs croaking on warm spring evenings. At the northern end of the parking area, there is a warrior's grave from 1864. In this war, soldiers were buried where they fell, and there are a number of these small warrior graves in the area. The walk begins at the far end, by the inn. Past the bathing dock, you will find an area where fishermen can dry their nets.

### Sottrup Storskov (forest)

White butterbur grows at the side of the stairs leading up to the forest. It is quite common in this region but is found in only a few places around the rest of the country. Sottrup Storskov is a varied deciduous forest, marked by high beech trees at the start of the route, as well as a carpet of anemones in spring. There are swampy sections with ash trees and waterholes, thick brush and open, cultivated areas lined by hedgerows. It is often possible to find the prints of badgers along the trail, and there is a very large badger set in the bank running beside the path. Nesting boxes have been set out in the forest for large goosander, which normally seek natural nesting places in hollow trees. Night owls often use these nesting boxes as well.

### The War of 1864

The final battle in the 1864 war began here in the forest. After the Battle of Dybbøl Banke on 18th April, the Prussian soldiers assembled in Sottrup Storskov and waited for the result of peace negotiations. When a stalemate arose, the Prussians

launched boats and sailed across the sound to attack the Danish soldiers on Als. Traces of the chutes which they dug in the bank down to the sound can still be seen in a number of places in the forest, and there are still traces of canon dugouts.

### Sandbjerg Manor

Sandbjerg Manor was established by Duke Hans the Younger shortly after he acquired Sønderborg Castle in 1571. Duke Hans is still known for his brutal treatment of the peasants who worked on his land. It is said that he shot a man for collecting branches on the manor's land to use for firewood. On another occasion, he had seven peasants beheaded for allegedly stealing meat from his kitchen. It later transpired that the meat had been thrown away because it had rotted.

The original manor house lay on the far side of the mill-pond, but the present building was built in 1787-88 by the Reventlow family who took over the estate in 1673. The Reventlows were much kinder to their peasants and they eventually divided the estate into allotments. The buildings are now owned by Aarhus University and are used as a conference centre.

