

travels. The stump of the oak tree sprouted new shoots which later grew into a large tree that stood for several hundred years. The tree is known throughout Kegnæs as Hagen's Oak. The tree is no longer there, but the name lives on.

### The Marsh Flats near Østerby

In the old days, all peasants owned a piece of the Marsh Flats (Flaimosen), where they could dig good quality peat. The area around Østerby and the Marsh Flats were earlier plagued with shifting sands, and both the Marsh Flats and Hartsø Lake were



gradually separated from the sea as the sand dunes blocked the water outlets. A fisheries official named Hein wanted at one time to donate the whole area of sand to the fishermen, as according to him, it was directly connected to the beach. The peasants, however, insisted on their rights, and that is how it came to be.

### Kegnæs Lighthouse

There has been a lighthouse on Kegnæshøj since 1845, but only since 1896 has the current lighthouse guided shipping. After the reunification of Southern Jutland, a new lighthouse keeper's lodge was built; today, it houses association activities. There is a weather station at the lighthouse which transmits data to the Danish Meteorological Institute throughout the day. In the summer the lighthouse is open to the public.

### Kegborg

In the early Middle Ages, Als was frequently attacked by Wendic pirates, who plundered the south eastern coasts. As a means of defence, therefore, the nobles established a number of forts. By the parking area at Drejet can be seen the remains of one of these forts: Kajborg.

The fort was built by digging around a Bronze Age barrow and depositing earth on top until it was surrounded by ridges and double ditches.



Stone opposite Kegnæs Church

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# Kegnæs

## Kegborg – Kegnæs Ende



## Kegnæs – A peninsula in Flensburg Fjord

This beautiful peninsula is a flat moraine hill that was formed during the last ice age. When the ice melted, a small basin was created on land as far as Høruphav, and this was only flooded when the waters of the Baltic Sea started to rise around 8000 years ago.

The major part of the island is farmland with a few woodland areas. The island has a number of notable areas of natural beauty, such as Hartsø and Hjortholm Sø, which are splendid venues for days out, while the island also boasts many beaches suitable for families – especially on the South coast. Kegnæshøj, with its lighthouse, is the highest point on the island at a lofty 10 metres above sea level.

## Exciting relics of the past

Kegnæs includes a vast number of relics that tell their story of earlier cultures. However, some of these relics are no longer visible today. In the sea lanes off Kegnæs one can discover many wrecks from different periods, including a German U-boat from the Second World War lying North of Kongshoved.

## The diversity of animal life on Kegnæs

Drejet is very popular with bird spotters – particularly in the winter, but also in the migration season, when one can see many species flying along the embankment. In the winter months you can glimpse long-tailed duck, common eider, pintail, widgeon, pochard, mallard, tufted duck, common shelduck, common goldeneye, goosander, red-breasted merganser, great crested grebe, coot, mute swan, cormorant, oyster catcher and lapwing. The Danish Ministry for the Environment has singled out Sønderborg Municipality to be responsible for the protection of the goosander. Measures taken to ensure this include the setting up of nesting boxes and restriction of access to the areas where the birds feed.

The goosander is vulnerable and is therefore on the Danish 'red' list of endangered species. Half of the limited numbers in Denmark breed in Sønderborg Municipality, almost exclusively in the nesting boxes, since there are few hollow trees available to provide them with a natural nest.

## The Grønmark Stone and the Giantess

The ice age deposited the Grønmark Stone at the water's edge outside Grønmark on the West coast. It is a huge block of granite measuring 5.20 x 3.80 x 2.45 metres which originated from the mountainsides of the Scandinavian peninsula.



A folk legend says that the stone was thrown to Kegnæs by a giantess from Klintinghøj. She put the stone in her apron, which she used as a sling in order to throw it at another giantess. But the apron ripped apart, so the stone fell onto the beach.



Follow this stretch of coast for just over 10 km, take the route around Bredsten for about 6 km, or the westerly route around Kegnæs Ende of about 7 km. Enjoy the nature and please keep to the marked pathways. But be careful not to annoy the giantess!

## Kegnæs Church – Built in 1615

It was a very tragic story that led to the building of Kegnæs Church. Duke Hans the Younger sentenced ten peasants to be hanged because they were thought to have stolen meat from his pantry. But when the spring came and the ice melted, the meat was discovered lying in the moat. It had gone bad, and the servants dared not tell the Duke, and therefore, threw the meat out. The church was founded as an act of penitence for the unjust executions.

The pulpit of Kegnæs Church is also famous for its hourglass, which shows the congregation how long the service has lasted.

## Hagensig – Hagen's Oak

Squire Hagen, who lived on Kegnæs, had fallen in love with the daughter of the squire of Lysabild Castle. While he was journeying to ask for her hand in marriage, he carved the sign of the Cross in an oak tree by the roadside to bring him luck. At the castle, however, he was ridiculed and rejected out of hand. In his bitter indignation, he had the tree felled and went on his