

This map made in 1783 shows that the course of Brænde River has remain unchanged up to the present. Note the treeless Håre Lunge Hills.



Photo: Naturfotovej/Jakob Damboog

Maj-Gøgeurt

Orchids along Brænde River
Along the Brænde River, there are several wet meadows, where the protected orchid May Orchid, grows. In May and June you might be lucky to see the May Orchid in flower. The beautiful purple flower covers the meadow in shades of red and purple. The May Orchid is rare in Denmark. In recent years, and in spite of it becoming a protected species, it has declined dramatically.



Photo: Maj-Gøgeurt

Isfugl

Amazing birds in the area
In the area around Brænde Valley you will have the opportunity to spot many different birds including ravens, kites, osprey, kingfisher and white-throated dippers. The kingfisher is very easy to recognize with its unique plumage. The name kingfisher originates from the German Eisvogel, which means iron bird. The name is inspired by the feathers metallic-like shine. The small bird is very shy, but you can be fortunate to catch a glimpse of it as it catches fish in the water.

The legendary stone in Brænde River
The conflict between ancient beliefs and Christianity is the source of many legends, as in the following from Brænde River:



Illustration of

built up during the day was broken down by him during the night. Then the parishioners were advised to turn loose an ox in the churchyard. Wherever it lay down would be the place where they should build the tower. They followed this advice and built the tower which the troll could no longer hit. One of the stones he threw flew past the tower, landing in the Brænde River between Kerte Bridge and Mølleknappe. It lies in the water next to the south bank of the river and still bears the marks of the troll's fingers.



Legendary stone in Brænde River.

The stone is situated in a place that is difficult to access in the unusual, yet beautiful river valley that winds its way through Ørsbjerg Woods and Fauruskov Hills. A 1926 publication refers to it as the Bell Stone (Regional Society of Funen).

Welcome to Brænde Valley

Brænde Valley is one of the most beautiful and interesting areas on Funen. A walk through the valley is like travelling through time. The landscape is hilly and you will find a wide range of



Photo: Marie Niemann Hansen

different plants. To protect species that flourish in open spaces, and to preserve species that depend on high light environments, the area is kept free of trees and bushes. This also makes landscape features stand out. Along the trails there are several viewpoints, where the view is sure to take your breath away. The viewpoint near Klakkebjerg was previously covered in pine trees. In 2005 the trees were removed, and now wild herbs thrive. Bike route No 71 passes through the area, and you can take your bike with you on the train to Gelsted.

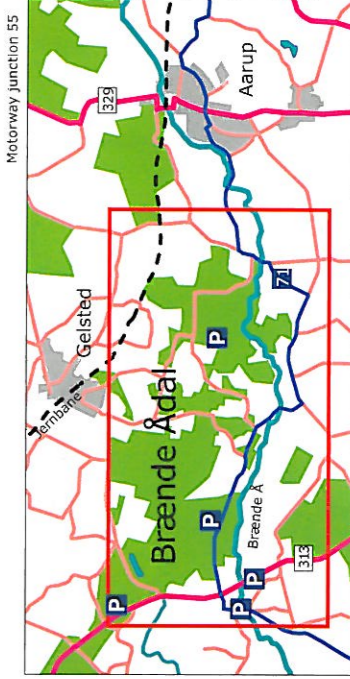
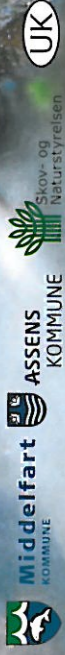


Photo: Michael Theilmann

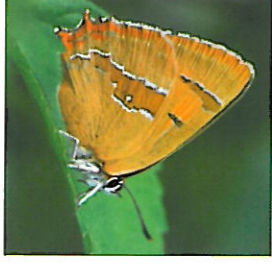


BRAENDE VALLEY



Cover photo: Kim Krohn

Brænde River – one of the most scenic on Funen
Brænde River is the longest river on West Funen (28 km) and its source is near Tommerup Stationsby. From Aarup to Håre it flows through a 20-meter-deep, gorge-like valley carved out by melt water at the end of the last ice age. The 9 kilometrelong watercourse drops about 40 meters in height. The river has retained its beautiful, winding course and water quality is very high. This is partly due to proper purification of wastewater discharged from Aarup, Vissebjerg and Tommerup, and partly to the steep decline of the river that helps to oxidize the water. Clean, fast-flowing water rich in oxygen provides good living conditions for an unusual abundance of aquatic organisms in the river. Many small animals live here, such as insect larvae that later transform into adults and live on land. Brænde River has a healthy trout population. Every autumn sea trout migrate upriver from the sea to spawn. After the construction of a fish ladder and a bypass at Brænde Mølle, the trout can swim to spawning grounds far up the river and its tributaries.



Scenaj Nordfoto: Ole Andersen

Brown Hairstreak

Butterfly on fire

Seeing a Brown Hairstreak, is like seeing a flame pass by. This butterfly is 3-4 cm big and has a golden yellow colour that is easily recognized. The butterfly is rare in Denmark, but it can be spotted in this area. In the winter the eggs of the butterfly are developed and placed on a tree. The larvae develop in the spring. The Brown Hairstreak flies in the late summer. Often it will be the females you spot, as the males spend much of their time in the treetops, where they feed on honeydew from aphids.

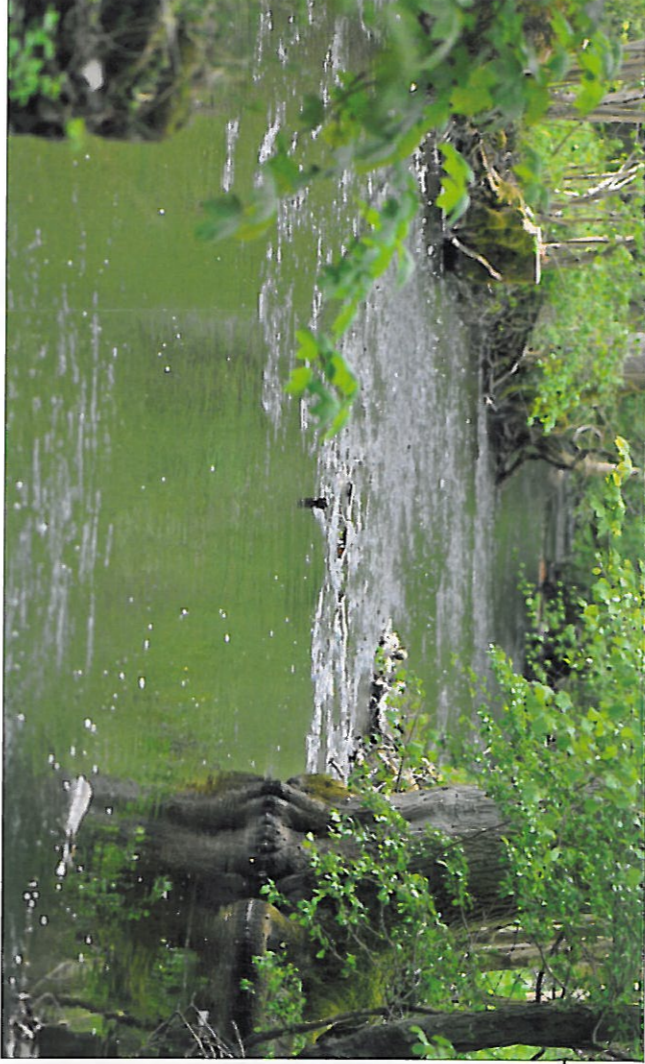


Photo: Kim Krohn

① Brænde Mølle ran on water power from the 1500s up to the 1970s. Constructing the dam, hindered the free movement of fauna in the river. A bypass and a fish ladder were therefore built, enabling small animals and fish to move upstream. The area along the river is open to the public and a pamphlet is available at the site.

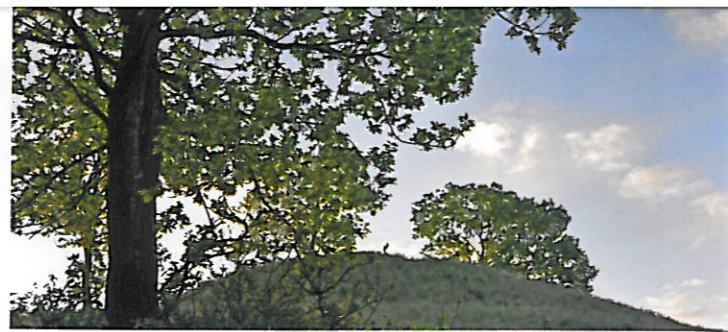


Foto: Kim Krohn

② In this area, you can see several burial mounds, which date from the Bronze Age and the Early Iron Age. An agreement with the owner means that trees and bushes are not allowed to grow on the mounds to prevent roots from ruining the burial chambers, and to maintain the mounds as distinct features in the landscape.

⑤ A gravel pit area where large quantities of gravel were excavated in the period 1930s-1960s. Digging was stopped due to the area's valuable landscape and nature. The hills are actually a long gravel hill established by melt water from the last ice age. After the ice had melted, the river bed remained as a hill of gravel.

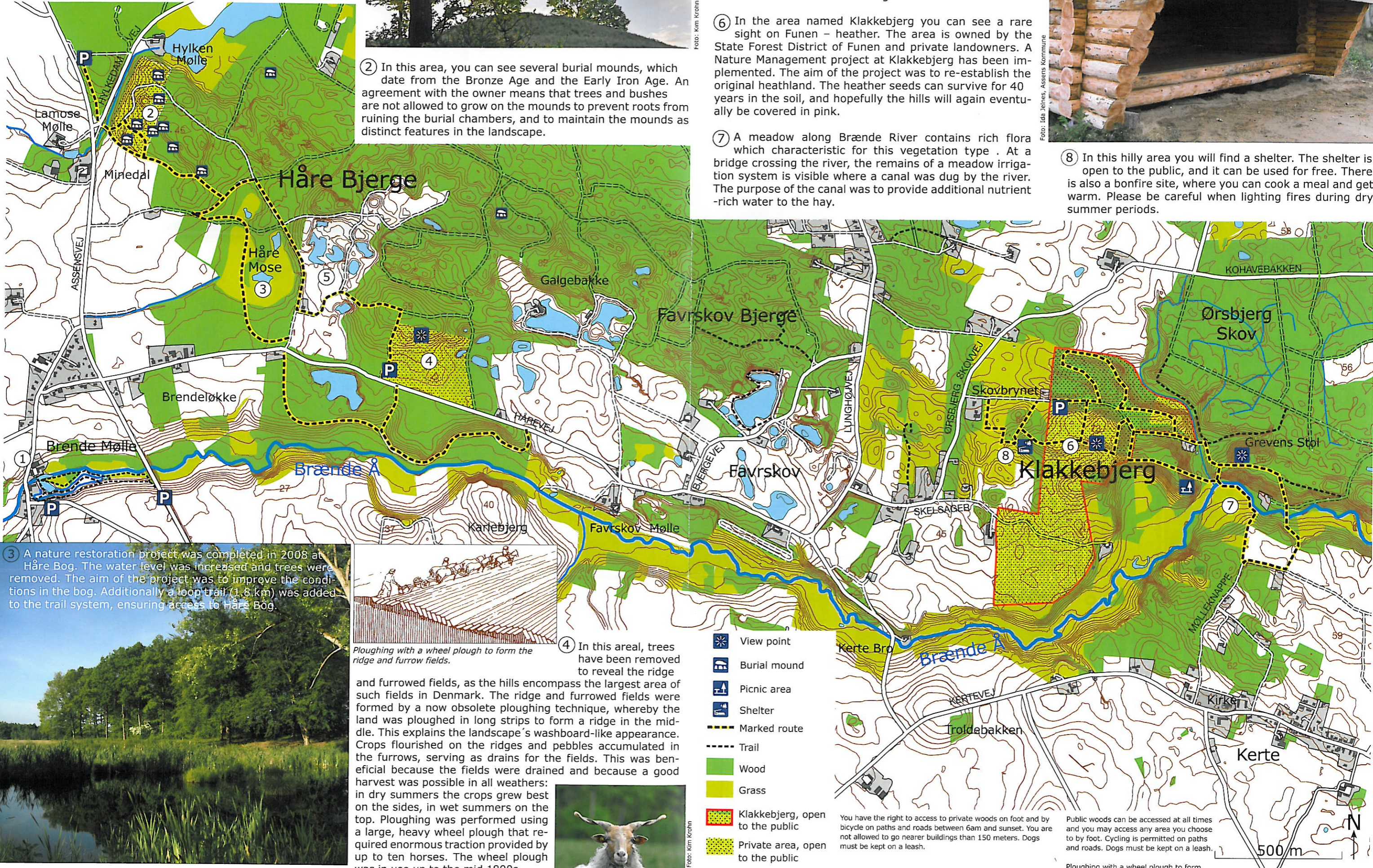
⑥ In the area named Klakkebjerg you can see a rare sight on Funen – heather. The area is owned by the State Forest District of Funen and private landowners. A Nature Management project at Klakkebjerg has been implemented. The aim of the project was to re-establish the original heathland. The heather seeds can survive for 40 years in the soil, and hopefully the hills will again eventually be covered in pink.

⑦ A meadow along Brænde River contains rich flora which characteristic for this vegetation type. At a bridge crossing the river, the remains of a meadow irrigation system is visible where a canal was dug by the river. The purpose of the canal was to provide additional nutrient-rich water to the hay.

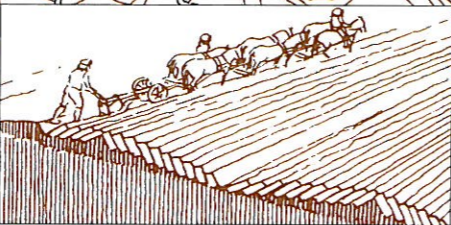


Foto: Lida Jørgensen, Assens Kommune

⑧ In this hilly area you will find a shelter. The shelter is open to the public, and it can be used for free. There is also a bonfire site, where you can cook a meal and get warm. Please be careful when lighting fires during dry summer periods.



③ A nature restoration project was completed in 2008 at Håre Bog. The water level was increased and trees were removed. The aim of the project was to improve the conditions in the bog. Additionally a loop trail (1.8 km) was added to the trail system, ensuring access to Håre Bog.



Ploughing with a wheel plough to form the ridge and furrow fields.

④ In this area, trees have been removed to reveal the ridge and furrowed fields, as the hills encompass the largest area of such fields in Denmark. The ridge and furrowed fields were formed by a now obsolete ploughing technique, whereby the land was ploughed in long strips to form a ridge in the middle. This explains the landscape's washboard-like appearance. Crops flourished on the ridges and pebbles accumulated in the furrows, serving as drains for the fields. This was beneficial because the fields were drained and because a good harvest was possible in all weathers: in dry summers the crops grew best on the sides, in wet summers on the top. Ploughing was performed using a large, heavy wheel plough that required enormous traction provided by up to ten horses. The wheel plough was in use up to the mid-1800s.



Foto: Kim Krohn

- View point
- Burial mound
- Picnic area
- Shelter
- Marked route
- Trail
- Wood
- Grass
- Klakkebjerg, open to the public
- Private area, open to the public

You have the right to access to private woods on foot and by bicycle on paths and roads between 6am and sunset. You are not allowed to go nearer buildings than 150 meters. Dogs must be kept on a leash.

Public woods can be accessed at all times and you may access any area you choose to by foot. Cycling is permitted on paths and roads. Dogs must be kept on a leash.

Ploughing with a wheel plough to form ridges and furrowed fields.