

Public meetings

After the memorial park was established, it was consecrated at a Foundation Festival in the summer of 1913 on Frøbjerg. The first bigger festival was held on the smaller hill in September 1915, with an audience and 4000-5000 people, who listened to various speeches. In the following years, Frøbjerg became a popular place to hold meetings on Constitution Day and in other connections.

From 1920, Frøbjerg became the place where countless gymnastic displays took place. As the weather often made it impossible for outdoor arrangements to take place, a sports centre was build, but was destroyed by a fire in 1959.

During the German occupation in 1941, 12.000-14.000 people took part in the Constitution Day Festival at Frøbjerg. On this day, more than 10.000 bicycles were parked below the hills.

After the war the area, including the present festival site, was acquired by The Bavnehøj Society. August 29th, 1954, the Memorial Grove was consecrated in order to remember the victims of Funen during the occupation of Denmark.

In the fifties and in the beginning of the sixties, the Royal Theatre performed here on their summer tour. The actor Poul Reumert called the place "Denmark's Most Beautiful Open – Air Stage". In 1969 The Bavnehøj Society was closed, and the State took over the area.

Frøbjerg is still used for various meetings and excursions. For example there is a large annual meeting on Constitution Day and in August "Frøbjerg Festival Play" performs a musical.

Nature conservation

Around the year 1900, the hills were covered in grass and without trees. Sheep and cattle would graze here. In 1911-1912 The Bavnehøj Society planted many of the present trees. In the course of time those trees, and many self-seeded trees, have grown.

In order to maintain the view from the hills, it has been necessary to keep the vegetation down. This has been done partly by cutting down trees and allowing sheep to graze the land, which prevents new growth.

Practical information

The path on the hills is steep, but the road to The Memorial Grove and to The Festival Place is passable for prams etc.

Toilet and exhibition are only open in the summertime.

Dogs have to be on a leash, both inside and outside the fenced area.

The best way to visit Frøbjerg Bavnehøj is by bicycle and by car. The nearest public transport is Tommerup Station.

By the old sports ground there is an area where fires are permitted. Please remember to put out the fire, before you leave. Also please leave the place, as you would like to find it.

Fyns Statsskovdistrikt
Sollerupvej 22, 5600 Faaborg
Phone: 62 65 17 77
Internet: skovognatur.dk/fyn

Front page illustration by Knud Dahl. "Strejftog gennem fredede egne på ærne". 1961. Printed with license from P. Haase & Sønns Forlag.



Frøbjerg Bavnehøj

Miljøministeriet
Skov- og Naturstyrelsen
Fyns Statsskovdistrikt
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Frøbjerg Bavnehøj

Welcome to the highest spot on Funen – Frøbjerg Bavnehøj, which is 131 metres high, and definitely one of the most important cultural places on Funen. The State owns 12 hectares around Frøbjerg Bavnehøj, and The Stateforest District takes care of the area.

The impressive hilly scenery was created during the last Ice Age, which ended about 12.000 years ago. During the Ice Age a block of ice about a kilometre thick covered the area of Vissenbjerg. The Frøbjerg Hills were formed from the melt water after the Ice Age, which deposited earth and stones.

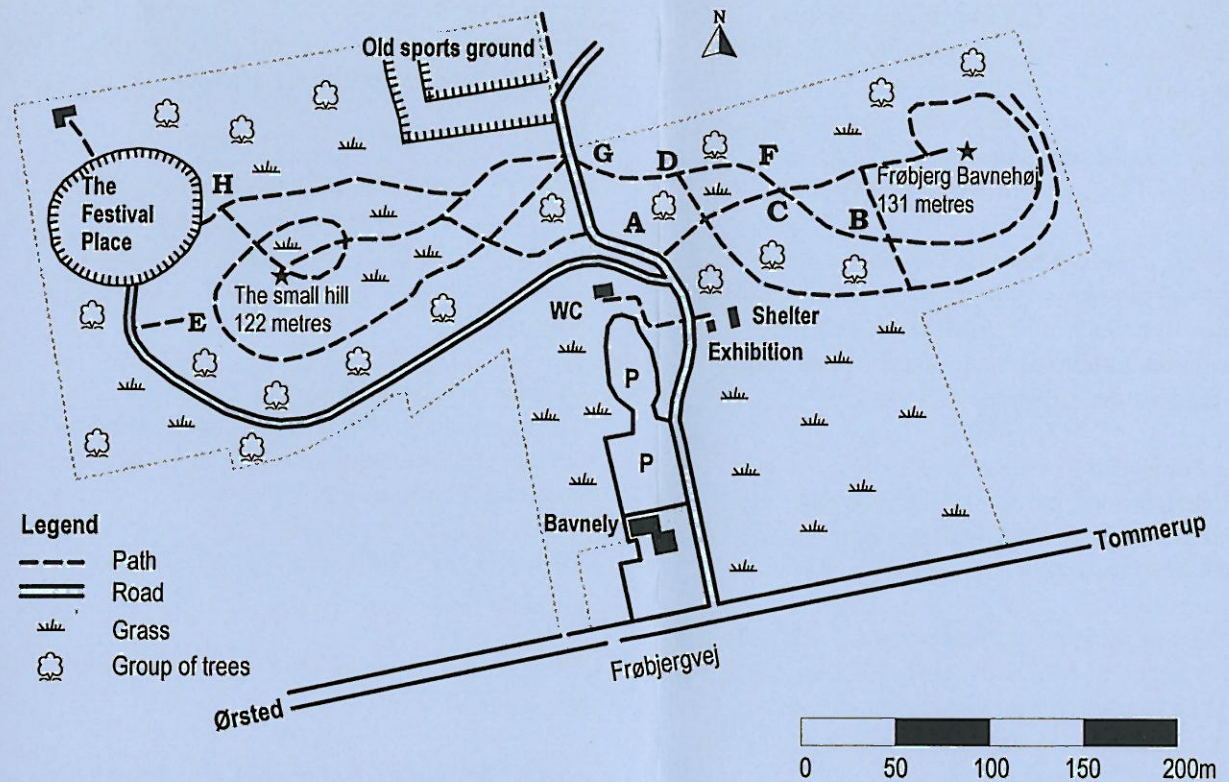
People from the antiquity had a cult place here at Frøbjerg for the fertility god called Frø, Frøya or Frej. From this, the name Frøbjerg derives.

In the Middle Ages and till the last part of the Napoleonic war, 1807-1814 Frøbjerg Bavnehøj was part of a chain of beacons, where people in wartime lit fires (beacons) on the top, in order to communicate with each other. "Bavnehøj" means beacon, when you translate it into English.

The Bavnehøj Society

Around 1910 a group of citizens, led by J. Kyed, wanted to form a Funen meeting point similar to "Skamlingsbanke" and "Skibelund Krat" in Jutland. Money was collected and the park became a reality in 1912. The park then included only the two hill-tops. It was E. Glæsel, one of the leading landscape architects in Denmark, who did the drawing of The Memorial Grove, as it was called. Various Danish trees and bushes were planted, which was quite normal at that time. It was intended that people

should meet each other, whilst strolling in the park on the meandering paths, and talk about culture and nature.



Summary of memorial stones:

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| <p>A Stone raised by Funen women, in gratitude for having gained the right to vote on the same term as men, as a result of the Constitution of June 5th, 1915. The stone was consecrated in 1918.</p> <p>B June 5th, 1922 a larger stone was consecrated in memory of the reunion of Southern Jutland.</p> <p>C Memorial stone for the first bishop of Funen, elected by the people: A.J. Rud.</p> | <p>D Stone in memory of the abolition of the Feudal System in 1788, consecrated May 14th, 1939.</p> <p>E Memorial Grove to the Funen victims during the occupation of Denmark 1940-1945.</p> <p>F + G Memorial to the two founders of The Bavnehøj Society. J. Kyed (F) and J.J. Westh (G).</p> <p>H Oak of Constitution. The oak was planted and a memorial stone was raised on June 5th, 1999 on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the constitution.</p> |
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