

Project outline

## Stream Valley Project – Tude Å

Restoration and conservation of the natural and cultural landscape surrounding the Viking fortress Trelleborg



Outline of the major restoration and conservation project - with focus on cultural and natural values surrounding the Viking fortress Trelleborg.

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## Restoration and conservation of the natural and cultural landscape surrounding the Viking fortress “Trelleborg”

The natural stream valley along Tude Å from the ancient Viking fortress of Trelleborg in the east to Great Belt in the west is one of Slagelse municipality's most distinctive landscape elements and contains magnificent natural sites and priceless cultural treasures. Slagelse municipality has a unique opportunity to convey the municipality's past and future through focus on natural and cultural values inherent to the stream valley along Tude Å.

The wet meadows and marshes along Tude Å hold huge potential. But the meadows and marshes are now drained and are in intensive agricultural use. The river has in the past been straightened to ensure draining of the agricultural fields/lands. Previously a large number of rare animal and plant species were to be found in the stream valley. Some of these species are now gone, or occur only very sparsely, but this development can be turned to the benefit of both humans and animals.

The stream Tude Å is the main migrating route for a large portion of Zealand's trout (*Salmon trutta*) population on their way to the spawning grounds in our river systems.

The restoration and development of the stream valley will contain several elements, primarily focused on the natural and cultural values that are readily found in the area. A list of possible subprojects is posted below. These subprojects will, individually or collectively, be subject to a more detailed examination. A map of the project area can be found in the appendix (subareas 1-6).

### **The cut off delta – Skudeløbet (subarea 1)**

Immediately south of the holiday cottage area at Næsby Beach we find the cut off stream delta “Skudeløbet”.

The cut off delta today resembles a lake, but is historically the outer most part of the original stream outflow to the sea. In the past the outflow to the sea was as a lagoon/delta area including several islets, one of which is the area today known as Tjokholm. Initially the stream ran through the delta into the Great Belt and here formed a shallow area with associated islets, marshes, wet meadows and coastal grasslands.



Photo: Part of the lake "Skudeløbet". This lake is not a natural lake, but a cut off river delta. The lake is currently receiving water from the stream “Tude Å” through a pipeline.

Several of these natural elements can still be distinguished, among them the inlet of Tude Å to the lake Skudeløbet, which today is covered by a large beach ridge and adjacent sandy marshes. Most of the areas around the lake are grazed by cows and therefore has a potential for great botanical values for species adapted to this specific type of cultural landscape.

In the present day the cut off delta does not hold major natural values. The reason for this lies in the fact that the lake receives large amounts of nutrient-loaded stream water and periodically large amounts of seaweed. This causes the lake periodically to be strongly affected by nutrients, which explains why the lake is periodically afflicted by low oxygen levels. "Skudeløbet" has great potential to once again hold rare species of birds and amphibians. The area today houses a small colony of Little Tern which is only found in 4-5 other sites in the entire municipality.

A restoration project could include a reopening of Skudeløbet. This would create a delta/lagoon area; a critically rare nature type in Denmark.



Photo: Part of the straightened stream along Skudeløbet. In the background Tjokholm can be seen. The area is currently grazed and has great recreational value for the cottage residents at Frølunde Fed. This part of the stream is also home to Tude Å boat club.

### **Tjokholm and Little Vejlen (subarea 2)**

Tjokholm and the Little Vejlen are located to the north of the holiday cottage area at Frølunde Fed. The area is historically part of the delta/lagoon that formed at Tude Å's outlet to the Great Belt.

Today the area consists of small lakes, reed beds and meadows. Especially the meadow aspect has great potential as it represents the agricultural and historical landscape. A large pumping station ensures a low water level in the area, thereby allowing drainage of the underlying lands. The project will restore the area's natural water level by shutting down the pumping station.

The restoration project will ensure a permanently higher water level in the western areas and will be based on a holistic care plan.

### **Sortesvælgsrenden (subarea 3)**

This part of the Tude Å system is a cut off stream arm and a historical part of the old stream. Sortesvælgsrenden was cut off as part of the straightening of Tude Å.

The area is of great botanical importance. A restoration project could be based on total or partial replacement of Tude Å into this original stream course thereby providing a basis for the creation of wet meadows in the area and restoring and securing the landscape as it once was.

#### **Great Vejlen (subarea 4)**

Great Vejlen is today farmland, but was previously a large wetland and according to some sources once held the largest Zealand populations of the now endangered birds species Godwit (*Limosa limosa*) and Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*). These birds are now completely absent from the lower course of Tude Å.

The commercial interests in the area are relatively small but two large cow farmers ensure that the area is grazed thereby securing the area as a very important landscape element.

Great Vejlen represents the largest subarea and could be the main element of the overall project.

#### **Mill Lake, Pine hullet and other locations (Subarea 5)**

The area is primarily a natural area and therefore contains significant natural and landscape values which need to be protected and ensured for generations to come. The area is dominated by wet meadows, reedbeds, marshes, ponds and pools. Pinehullet is one of the municipality's main botanical sites but is now endangered by lack of grazing. A restoration project could be based on protection and extension of the already registered natural values and heritage. At the same time a water level increase would provide additional natural and landscape values to the area.

#### **Trelleborg (subarea 6)**

The Viking Fortress Trelleborg naturally possesses priceless historical value. Trelleborg is located in the stream valley with views westward over meadows and marshes, making it an ideal venue for conveying both cultural and natural history.



The natural and cultural area encircling the fortress has a large potential for creating a larger coherent wet area consisting of wetlands and ponds.

Photo: Meadows and marsh areas west of Trelleborg. The area contains great values of natural and cultural history. Here exists a grand opportunity to convey these two sides of history. The area contains numerous rare plant species.

### **Project effects**

This project outline contain a variety of possible natural improvements that can greatly influence the nature in Slagelse municipality. The project as a whole will be important for retention of water, phosphorus and nitrogen and will, in the long run, contribute significantly to improved water quality both locally and in the coastal areas, especially around Næsby Beach and Frølunde.

The project will be a perfect base for promoting the scarce landscape types that are found along the Great Belt coast line and will ensure the landscape for the generations to come.

The project will be broadly anchored by focusing on both the natural and cultural aspects. In addition there are good opportunities to bring public health and recreation into focus. The recreational values in the area are large, with significant fishing and hunting interests. There are also agricultural interests, which should not be neglected.

### **Project vision**

The stream valley along Tude Å has vast natural and cultural values. These values will be the overall focus of the project

The completion of the project will make the valley first among the natural and historical pearls in Slagelse municipality.



Photo: The meadows of Great Vejlen – a further opening of the landscape will create spectacular scenery with full view of the wetlands. A cultural landscape in harmony with nature