



Nybøl Cove Trail

A walking trail south of Nybøl Cove



From Smøllede to Egersund

The Nybøl Cove Trail links the Nybøl Trail to the Gendarme Path. The Nybøl Cove Trail is 6.5km long and runs from Smøllede, past the many brickyards, through Skodsbøl Forest to Egersund.

The walk from Smøllede follows the cove, from where you can experience the rich birdlife all year round. The area's special melt-water clay has been used for centuries, and the landscape and the surrounding areas bear testimony to this. On your walk, you will come across every stage of the brick-

making process – from raw-material harvesting to the manufacturing of the end product. Nowhere else can



you hike along a beach of brick for kilometres on end. The colourful mosaic is a visit worth in itself.

The trail meanders through an ever-changing landscape, alternating between recently reinstated and historic natural scenery. The old clay excavation areas have become new natural landscapes featuring lakes, newly planted woodland and dikes. On the edge of Skodsbøl Forest, you will pass an old and listed earth dike. The surrounding landscape has been stripped of its surface of clay, making the dike appear particularly impressive.

Skodsbøl Forest offers a wealth of plant life and boasts a particularly rich bird life. And just outside the forest, you will discover a fantastic nature picnic area and the marine environment of Egersund.

The Dikes and Hedgerows project

The Nybøl Cove Trail is part of the Dikes and Hedgerows Project. Partially financed by the EU and the Danish Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, this project centres on bringing focus to the dikes and many hedgerows that characterise the Sundeved landscape.

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Nybøl Cove Trail

The section of the trail that winds between Smøllø along Nybøl Cove to Egersund is 6.5km long. The trail leads you through ice-age-formed landscapes, newly established areas of nature, ancient ducal woods and the marine environment of Egersund.

Smøllø in 1864

During the war of 1864, the Prussians shipped supplies to Smøllø from Flensburg. Colonel Kriegsheim turned the now-demolished inn at Smøllø into the headquarters of the engineering corps. Right next to the inn, the Prussians erected a 1:1-scale Danish earthwork fort known as a redoubt. Here, 46 companies trained in preparation for the storming of Dybbøl Banke.

The cove and the clay

The trail runs south of the 6.5 km² Nybøl Cove, which is connected to Flensburg Fjord by the narrow Egersund sound. The cove, which is a trough-shaped basin, is up to eight meters deep and was formed by a gigantic chunk of glacial ice surrounded by a lake of meltwater. In the stagnant meltwater lake, much fine, stone-free clay sediment was deposited.

Over the centuries, this glacial meltwater clay has formed the basis for the area's extensive brick-making industry, which still exists along the coastline. The cove is a national geological area of interest, and, together with the rest of the Flensburg Fjord, is an internationally protected natural reserve.



Birdlife in Nybøl Cove

Thanks to the large number of birds that inhabit the area, birdwatching opportunities abound all year round. Around Nybøl Cove and in Skodsbøl Forest, it is possible to see tufted ducks, common eider, greater scaup and red-breasted merganser.

An ever-changing landscape

Where the substratum lends itself to industrial production, the character of the landscape changes. Nowhere is this more clearly visible than at Nybøl Cove. The trail takes you on a journey past every stage of the brick-making process – though mining areas, past still-operating brickyards and by areas used for finishing the bricks. And along the beach you cannot escape the many industrial by-products of the brick industry in the form of the deposits of imperfect bricks along the beach used as foundations for jetties.

Beside the brickworks themselves, you will see mounds of clay ready to be processed and you can observe the bustle of working brickyards. The Petersen Tegl brickyard produces specialist bricks for high-profile architectural projects around the world, and at the yard there is an outdoor display of the many varied types of brick they produce. Take care to follow the safety instructions when visiting.

In the centre of this area are remains of historic clay excavations. Today, reflections of the surrounding tall trees shimmer in the large and picturesque lakes with their rich birdlife. All of these open excavations have been filled in with surplus earth from, for example, construction projects. Even though these sites have been



covered in a layer of humus-rich topsoil, it takes many years for the earth to become fertile again. These re-established areas will be planted with forestry and bushes once the mining of clay comes to an end in 2016. The result will be an exiting new natural environment where the landscape, the soil and the planted vegetation will all be new.

Tall dikes with living hedgerows

Unusually large and overgrown hedgerows on top of dikes are a common sight throughout the area. The reason for this can be found in the fact that the dikes and hedgerows were left standing whilst the clay was being dug out from the ground. When the excavation of clay ended, the now-much-lower landscape was left unchanged. Today, it is more common for such excavations to be filled back up to re-establish the original ground level.

Hawthorn of every shape and size

Tall and thin, squat and gnarled – hawthorn of every shape and size abound as the most common type of hedgerow plant across the landscape of Sundeved. In May, the plant blossom lights up the countryside, and in autumn the hedgerows colour the landscape with ochre, russet and crimson hues. And in winter, the many red berries provide nourishment to the birds.

From new forests to ancient woodland

Some areas that had been mined in the past have been purchased by the Danish state and planted with trees. At Bøsbæk, you can see two forested areas covering approx. 100 acres in total; these small forests were first

planted in the 1990s. Moving into Skodsbøl Forest, you will notice a huge contrast between the newly forested areas and the ancient ducal woods of Skodsbøl.

Skodsbøl Forest is home to many species of bat. The cove, the hedgerows and the majestic old trees are key habitat elements for the bat, providing both a source of insects for food and plenty of well-protected nesting sites.

The Skodsbøl Forest once housed a large grange called Skodsbølgaard/Nienhof. This large property was built during the Dano-Swedish War of 1658-60 by Duke Philip. In 1785, from when Skodsbøl Forest dates, the property was divided up into individual farms.

Primitive campsites

If you follow the coastal trail into the forest, you will come across the Danish Nature Agency's primitive campsite with picnic tables and an open-fire barbecue. For those exploring the area by kayak, for example, the site can easily be accessed from the water.

Egersund

Even though Egersund's golden days as a centre of maritime importance may be long gone, the area still offers a true maritime experience. If you look carefully, you may be able to steal a glimpse of the light and motifs that fascinated the artists of the artist's colony that flourished at Egersund during the late 1900s. Today, many of these artist's paintings can be enjoyed at the art museum in Flensburg.