

NÅR HAVET ÆDER LAND WHEN THE SEA EATS LAND

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Når havet æder land

Ved den nordjyske vestkyst er kysten i stadig forandring. Umiddelbart virker kystlandskabet idyllisk. Men de flade sandstrande og de høje klinter er i evig bevægelse.

Vinden og bølgerne bearbejder time for time kysten nord for Rubjerg Knude. Konsekvensen er, at havet æder sig længere og længere ind i land.

I dette område byggede lokalbefolkning omkring år 1200 en kirke. En robust bygning med tykke kampestensmure. Igennem tiderne har kirken altid stået velholdt på trods af udfordringerne fra storme og sandflugt.

Men naturens kræfter havde mennesket undervurderet. Da kirken blev bygget, var den lokaliseret en kilometer fra kysten. Men år efter år har havet ædt sig nærmere

på kirken. Det er beregnet, at havet de seneste tre hundrede år hvert år har opslugt cirka 1,25 meter i gennemsnit af klinten.

Foran kirken har der i mere end to hundrede år stået et skibssanker. Ankret stammer fra den engelske fregat, The Crescent. Fregatten forliste ud for kirken i december 1808. Ved forliset døde 226 besætningsmedlemmer. De blev alle begravet i en fællesgrav på kirkegården.

I flere år stod det klart, at kirken og den tilhørende kirkegård ikke stod til at redde. I årevis styrtede gravsteder ned ad klinten, og for få år siden ville kirken være styret ned på stranden, hvis ikke myndighederne havde besluttet at tage den ned, sten for sten.

Planen var at genopføre kirken et andet sted, men planen blev senere opgivet, og

det tidligere herrens hus blev knust og anvendt som vejfyld i lokalområdet.

I dag er der fortsat spor af stedet, hvor kirken stod. Nogle gravsteder ligger der fortsat, men havet æder sig længere og længere ind i klinten for at opsluge de sidste grave.

Noget anderledes er det gået Rubjerg Knude Fyr, der står på kysten lige syd for kirken. Fyret har også været tæt på at blive opslugt af havet, men i år blev fyrtårnet under stor mediebevågenhed flyttet 75 meter længere ind i landet.

I de senere år er der gjort mange anstrengelser for at sikre bosætninger langs den danske vestkyst mod tilintetgørelse. Men når havet æder land, så er erfaringen, at man højest kan bremse udviklingen, ikke forhindre den.

When the sea its land

On the West coast of North Jutland, the coast is still changing. The coastal landscape seems to be idyllic. But the flat sandy beaches and the tall cliffs are in eternal motion.

Hour after hour the wind and waves are eroding the coast north of the cliff Rubjerg Knude. The consequence is that the sea is gaining longer and longer into the land.

About the year 1200 the local people built a church in this area. A solid building made of boulders. Throughout the ages, the church has always been well-preserved, despite the challenges of storms and sand drifts.

But the forces of nature had been underestimated by man. When the church was built, it was localized a kilometre from the coast. But year after year, the sea has getting closer to the church. It has been calculated, that the sea over the last three

hundred years each year has absorbed on average approximately 1.25 meters of the cliff.

In front of the church, an anchor of a ship has stood for more than two hundred years. The anchor originates from the English frigate, The Crescent. At the sea outside the church the frigate was wrecked in December 1808. 226 crew members were drowned in the loss of the frigate. They were all buried in a common tomb at the cemetery.

For several years it became clear that the church and the associated cemetery were not to be saved. For years, the graves fell down from the cliff, and a few years ago the church would have fell down from the cliff to the beach, if the authorities had not decided to dismantle it, stone by stone.

The plan was to build up again the church in another place, but the plan was later

abandoned, and the former house of the Lord was crushed and used as road filling in the local area.

Today, there are still traces of the place where the church stood. Some graves still remain in the cemetery, but the sea eats longer and longer into the cliff to absorb the last graves.

Different from the church, the Rubjerg Knude Lighthouse - standing on the shore just south of the church - has been saved from the sea. The lighthouse was very close to fall down from the cliff, but this year the lighthouse - under heavy media attention - was relocated to a place 75 metres further inland.

In recent years, a lot of efforts have been made to secure settlements along the Danish West Coast from the power of the sea. But when the sea is eating land, the experience show that we only can slow down the development, not preventing it.



Maarup Kirke, før nedrivning, december 2007

Maarup Church, before demolition, December 2007



Maarup Kirke, før nedrivning, december 2007

Maarup Church, before demolition, December 2007



Maarup Kirke, december 2007

Maarup Church, December 2007



Maarup Kirke, december 2007

Maarup Church, December 2007



Maarup Kirke, december 2007

Maarup Church, December 2007



Maarup Kirke, november 2019

Maarup Church, November 2019



Maarup Kirke, after demoliton, november 2019

Maarup Church, after demolition, November 2019



Maarup Kirke, november 2019

Maarup Church, November 2019



Maarup Kirke, november 2019

Maarup Church, November 2019



Maarup Kirke, juni 2018

Maarup Church, June 2018



Maarup Kirke, november 2019

Maarup Church, November 2019



Maarup Kirke, november 2019

Maarup Church, November 2019



Maarup Kirke, november 2019

Maarup Church, November 2019



Rubjerg Knude Fyr, oprindelig placering, juni 2018

The lighthouse Rubjerg Knude, original location, June 2018



Rubjerg Knude Fyr, ny placering, november 2019

The lighthouse Rubjerg Knude, new location, November 2019



Syd for Maarup Kirke, november 2019

South of Maarup Church, November 2019



Syd for Maarup Kirke, november 2019

South of Maarup Church, November 2019

KOLOFON

*Ugens foto: Når havet æder land
Af Keld Jensen*

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COLOPHON

*Photo of the week: When the sea eats land
By Keld Jensen*

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