

DE STORE ENGE THE GREAT MEADOWS

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De store enge

Bilerne suser forbi. De færreste har ærinde her. Vi er bare på gennemfart. Vi kender det som kæret eller engene. Flade strækninger med marker, spredte ejendomme og gennemskåret af grøfter.

Måske skulle man en gang imellem stoppe op og sætte sig i grøftekanten. Prøve at lade dette unikke landskab fortælle sin historie.

En gang var dette havbund. Der er tidligere fundet et skelet af en hval, der i tidernes morgen har forvildet sig ind i de lavvandede sunde. Nu har havet trukket sig bort. Dræn og dybe grøfter gør kæret til et tørt sted det meste af året.

Der har levet mennesker her ude i kæret i mange generationer. Optegnelser viser, hvordan børnerige familier, generation efter generation, har bearbejdet den våde, tunge jord. De små husmandssteder lå spredt ude på de flade enge. Mange huse eksisterer end-

nu, men de færreste lever af jorden omkring husgrunden.

For et par generationer siden var her våde enge med græs, hvor fårene åd sig mætte. Nu er der dyrkede marker overalt.

De mennesker, der drev små husmandssteder her ude i kærene, havde håbet, oplevet lykken, drømt om et fredeligt liv med deres kære. Men de har også oplevet det opslidende arbejde, håbløsheden, når vejrliget var imod, og den dybeste sorg, når endnu et nyfødt barn skulle bæres til det sidste hvilested oppe på landsbyens kirkegård. Mange urolige forældre har vinket farvel til den alt for unge datter, når hun skulle leve sit eget liv som tjenestepige langt borte fra hjemmet.

Når du nu alligevel har givet dig tid til at sidde her på grøftekanten, så lyt lige til lærken deroppe på himlen -og bemærkede du frøernes små kvæk nede fra grøften?

The great meadows

The cars are whizzing by. Most people do not have errands here. We are just passing through. We know it as meadows. Flat stretches of fields, scattered houses and farms and intersected by ditches.

Maybe sometimes, you should stop and sit on the edge of the ditch. Try to let this unique landscape tell its story.

Once this was the seabed. Previously, a skeleton of a whale has been found. It must have strayed into the shallows in the dawn of time. Now the sea has pulled away. Land-drain and deep ditches make it an arid place for most of the year.

Out here, there have been people living for many generations. Records show how large families, generation after generation, have tilled the wet, heavy soil. The smallholdings lay scattered out on the flat meadows. Many houses still exist, but today few support themselves on the fields around the houses.

A few generations ago, there were wet meadows with grass, where the sheep feed themselves. Now, there are cultivated fields everywhere.

The people, who ran the smallholdings out here, have every hope, experienced happiness, dreamed of a peaceful life with their loved ones. But they have also experienced the back-breaking work, the hopelessness when the weather was against, and the deepest sorrow, when another new-born child was to be carried to the final resting place up in the village cemetery. Many worried parents have waved good-bye to the too young daughter, when she had to leave, and live her own life as a maid far away from home.

Now that you have given yourself time to sit here on the edge of the ditch, would you mind listening to the lark up there in the sky and notice the croaking of the frogs down from the ditch?



Østhimmerland, oktober 2019

Eastern Himmerland, October 2019



Østhimmerland, maj 2018

Eastern Himmerland, May 2018



Østhimmerland, maj 2018

Eastern Himmerland, May 2018



Østhimmerland, september 2019

Eastern Himmerland, September 2019



Østhimmerland, oktober 2019

Eastern Himmerland, October 2019



Østhimmerland, december 2019

Eastern Himmerland, December 2019



Østhimmerland, december 2019

Eastern Himmerland, December 2019



Østhimmerland, september 2018

Eastern Himmerland, September 2018



Østhimmerland, august 2018

Eastern Himmerland, August 2018



Østhimmerland, september 2018

Eastern Himmerland, September 2018



Østhimmerland, oktober 2018

Eastern Himmerland, October 2018



Østhimmerland, april 2018

Eastern Himmerland, April 2018



Østhimmerland, august 2020

Eastern Himmerland, August 2020

KOLOFON

*Ugens foto: De store enge
Af Keld Jensen*

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COLOPHON

*Photo of the week: The great meadows
By Keld Jensen*

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