

PÅ SPORET
AF FORTIDENS SKOVE
ON THE TRACK
OF THE FOREST OF THE PAST

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På sporet af fortidens skove

En gang var Danmark dækket af skov. Det fortælles, at et egerne kunne springe fra træ til træ gennem hele Himmerland fra vest til øst. Fra trætop til trætop uden at skulle ned på jorden. Denne fortælling stammer fra et sagn, men det var virkelighed.

I en lang periode var egetræet det dominerende træ i de danske skove, men det ubetænksomme menneske høstede grådigt af netop dette træ, samtidigt med at flere og flere af fortidens skove måtte vige for byer, marker og veje.

Også i Himmerland blev egetømret anvendt. Den dag i dag kan man finde det smukke tømmer fra fortidens skove på egnen. Alle kirker og herregårde anvendte i stor udstrækning netop egetømmer i byggeriet.

Egetømmer har været anvendt i Himmerland i årtusinder. Via pollenanalyser er egens tilstedeværelse her i landet tidsfastsat til at starte

for 10.000 år siden. Op igennem historien er skovene blevet udnyttet af mennesket på forskellig vis. Men især fra Middelalderen og op til 1800-tallet gik store dele af tømret til byggeri og til skibe. Dengang var træ det altdominerende byggemateriale i Danmark.

Også på Kongerslev-egnen kan der findes spor af brugen af især eg som tømmer i bygningerne. Kirkerne er etableret ved anvendelse af tømmer, og det gælder også egnens herregårde. De første spor af byggeri med anvendelsen af egetømmer findes i udkanten af Nørre Kongerslev. Her blev der i 1300-tallet etableret en borglignende konstruktion med anvendelse af egetømmer ude i det våde kær. Da mosebruget blev industrialiseret, anvendtes egetømmer som sveller til togene, der fragtede spagnum ind til fabrikken i Sønder Kongerslev. Det samme gjaldt til mergelbanerne.

I Sønder Kongerslev by fortæller nulevende fortsat om en brønd i den gamle by, hvor vandet væltede ovenud og løb gennem en smal grøft ned til Mølledammen. Det er nærliggende at koble disse erindringer med en ældre beretning om, at der allerøverst i byen var en såkaldt trunde. En trunde er et hult træ, der sættes ned som en ring omkring det sted, hvor vandet vælter ud.

På Vildmosegården ude i Lille Vildmose var der en tilsvarende trunde. Men sagnet fortæller, at drak man af vandet fra denne kilde, så ville man få korte ben. Derfor var der mange, der nægtede at drikke dette vand, fordi de ikke ønskede at gå rundt på stumpede ben.

I dag kan skovene fortsat opleves i Himmerland. Det er oftest blandingsskove og de fleste steder præget af den industrielle drift af skovene.

On the track of the forest of the past

Once Denmark was covered with forest. It is said that a squirrel could jump from tree to tree throughout Himmerland from west to east. From treetop to treetop without having to move on the ground. This tale comes from a legend, but it was reality.

For a long period, the oak tree was the dominant tree in the Danish forests, but the inconsiderate man greedily harvested of this tree, while more and more of the forests of the past had to give way to towns, fields, and roads.

In Himmerland, too, the oak carpentry was exploited. Today, you can find the beautiful timber from the forests of the past in the region. All churches and manor houses used oak timber to a large extent in the construction.

Oak timber has been used in Himmerland for millennia. Through pollen analyses, the presence of oaks in this country is timed to start 10,000 years ago. Throughout

history, forests have been exploited by man in various ways. But especially from the Middle Ages up to the 1800s, large parts of the timber went to construction of buildings and to ships. Back then, wood was the predominant building material in Denmark.

Traces of the use of oak as timber in the buildings can also be found around the village, Kongerslev. The churches are built using timber, and this also applies to the manor houses of the area. The first traces of construction with the use of oak timber can be found on the outskirts of the village, Nørre Kongerslev. Here, in the 1300s, a fortress-like construction was established with the use of oak timber out in the water meadow. When the exploitation of the bog Lille Vildmose became industrialized, oak timber were used as sleepers for the trains that transported sphagnum to the plant in the village Sønder Kongerslev. Also, the marl railways used sleepers made of oak timber.

In the village Sønder Kongerslev, people still talk about a well in the old part of the village, where the water poured over and ran through a ditch down to a local pond. It is natural to link these memories with an older story that tells about a so-called 'trunde', placed at the very top of the village. A trunde is a hollow tree that like a ring is placed around the place where the water pours out.

At the old farm Vildmosegården out in the bog Lille Vildmose there was a similar trunde. But the legend tells that if you drank the water from this source, you would get short legs. Therefore, there were many who refused to drink this water, because they did not want to walk around on short legs.

Still today, the forests can be experienced in Himmerland. These are most often mixed forests and, in most places, characterized by the industrial management of the forests.



Rold skov, april 2018

The forest, Rold Skov, April 2018



Rold Skov, november 2018

The forest, Rold Skov, November 2018



Skindbjerglund, december 2019

The forest, Skindbjerglund, December 2019



Rold Skov, november 2018

The forest, Rold Skov, November 2018



Rold Skov, november 2018

The forest, Rold Skov, November 2018



*Ved Lindenborg Åen,
september 2018*

*At the small river, Lindenborg Åen,
September 2018*



Egensekloster Skov, september 2018

The forest, Egensekloster Skov, September 2018



Egensekloster Skov, juni 2018

The forest Egensekloster Skov, June 2018



Egensekloster Skov, juni 2018

The forest, Egensekloster Skov, June 2018



Egensekloster Skov, september 2018

The forest, Egensekloster Skov, September 2018



Rold Skov, maj 2019

The forest, Rold Skov, May 2019



Rold Skov, maj 2019

The forest, Rold Skov, May 2019



Vendsyssel, juli 2010

Vendsyssel, July 2010



Vendsyssel, juli 2010

Vendsyssel, July 2010



Lille Vildmose, januar 2014

The bog, Lille Vildmose, January 2014



Sønder Kongerslev Kirke, tårnet, juli 2010

The village, Sønder Kongerslev, the church tower, July 2010

KOLOFON

*Ugens foto: På sporet af fortidens skove
Af Keld Jensen*

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COLOPHON

*Photo of the week: On the track of the forest of the past
By Keld Jensen*

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