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SELECTED AGRICULTURAL LANDSCAPES
This spring, it was a great pleasure to present 20 Selected Agricultural Landscapes, a joint project between the agricultural and environmental authorities in Norway. These varied landscapes illustrate the relationship between people’s use of the land and nature’s harvest through the generations and the valuable environmental features that have developed as a consequence. This long-term natural resource management has left physical traces in the landscape e.g. stone-built paths, walls, buildings and, most significantly, a very rich natural environment where we can experience a manifold of special plant and animal species. In order to preserve these areas and to reduce the loss of biodiversity, the agricultural landscape must be actively maintained. These areas contain both culturally-historical and biologically rich treasures which are a source of knowledge and history of our common biological and cultural inheritance.

Paradoxically, the challenge today is to maintain the existing environment and its assets which have evolved through many years of toil and drudgery. Unfortunately, this is not always economically feasible and therefore, extraordinary measures must be carried out in certain specially selected regions.

Norway, being a very long country, varies immensely both geologically and climatically. This has led to its unique cultural character and diversity, varied farming practices, and a manifold of culturally-historic and biological treasures. As we wish the country to be widely represented, we have chosen to study coastal landscapes, areas near the fjords, the mountains and valleys from the interior of Norway.

These 20 selected agricultural landscapes have resulted from single individuals as well as the Municipalities’ maintenance of valuable natural and culturally-historical sites. Without these enthusiastic and dynamic people who have managed the cultural landscape in a fitting and responsible manner, we would not be able to continue the efforts today in ensuring the long-term upkeep of these important landscapes. Our vision is to build on the continued involvement of the local community, their assistance and interest.

Our hope is that these areas which have been specially selected, can be showpieces for the whole country. Key stakeholders have contributed towards this objective. The project has generated strong feelings of belonging in the local community.

We would like the landscapes to be accessible for the public in general and the Councils to contribute in their upkeep and show them at their best so that we can all take pride in them. We are open to creativity and for taking advantage of the benefits which can be gained from tourism, local culture and trade development in the designated areas.

This brochure is designed to present the selected agricultural landscapes with all their special qualities and characteristics and in connection with His Royal Highness the Crown Prince Haakon’s opening of the project at Vangrøftdalen on 28. June 2009. A broader presentation can be seen on our Web pages: www.utvalgtekulturlandskap.no.

Enjoy the view and broaden your mind!

Oslo, June 28th 2009

LARS PEDER BREKK
MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

ERIK SOLHEIM
MINISTER OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
Agricultural landscapes are shaped by people interacting with nature. Buildings, stone walls, grave-mounds, roads and paths have been built by the fruits of hard labour. Meadows, coastal heather-clad hills, pastures, hillside coppice for winter feed, and grazing fields have been formed by different land-use regimes over a long period of time. In some places this has been a long process over many thousands of years. The collective efforts of the community have resulted in an integrated whole as can be seen by the position of the farmyards with associated agricultural buildings, the cultivated/uncultivated fields, and in the open and varied agricultural landscape. These values depend on continued use, maintenance and unceasing commitment for their further existence. Naturally, the farmer is the most vital actor here. In Selected Agricultural Landscapes, Environmental Management, Agricultural and Cultural Heritage Authorities have all combined their resources to aid the farmer.

On 13 July, 2006, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food and Ministry of the Environment gave an assignment to the Norwegian Agricultural Authority, Norwegian Directorate for Nature Management, and the Directorate for Cultural Heritage. The mandate was based on the Ministry of Agriculture and Food’s, Parliamentary Paper no: 1 (2005-2006). It stated “Cultural landscapes of special historical and biological value are to be registered, and a plan for their management effected before the end of 2010”. Parliamentary Paper 21 (2004-2005), on Norway’s Environmental Policy/State of the Nation’s environment stipulates that “The historical agricultural landscapes are to be managed in such a way that the historical features, aesthetic values, biodiversity and accessibility are maintained”. The Norwegian Agricultural Authority has led and coordinated this project in close cooperation with the Regional Agricultural Authorities, Nature Management, and Cultural Heritage administrations.

The criteria for selecting the landscapes was as follows:

- agricultural landscapes rich in biodiversity and historical/cultural assets
- that long-term management and upkeep of the landscape was viable

Furthermore, the sites were chosen according to the following criteria: A defined and holistic area, formed by continuity of management over time, representative of particular areas or alternatively have special qualities/characteristics and finally, provide important examples of interest for the outside world. Almost all of the designated areas can be found in: "Valuable Cultural Landscapes – A National Register". Of the 20 designated landscapes, 19 are on the List of Priorities, 16 are on the National Representative List, and 13 are completely or partly overlapping areas which are protected under the Nature Protection Act. The majority of the sites contain automatically protected historical and culturally important features and many of the buildings are also on the Heritage List.

Emphasis has been placed on the 20 landscapes representing the national identity with reference to landscape types, agricultural adaptation and geographical variation. The great variations in the Norwegian landscape make this quite challenging. The choice of landscapes is large, and includes the following: subalpine summer farms in mid- Norway, coastal heathland landscapes from Trøndelag to Lista, grazed islands on the Skagerak coast, one of the largest areas of hillside coppice for winter feed still in existence, a typical West Coast hay meadow, valley hamlets in the interior of Agder and several crofts from the “wide villages” of the East Coast. The Sami peoples’ agricultural history from the north of Norway is also represented. The landscapes vary greatly in size i.e. from 9 to 16500 hectares. As previously mentioned, only continued sustainable land-use can preserve these agricultural areas! Regional administrators and councils cooperate with the landowners by managing and maintaining the natural- and cultural treasures in the areas. The two Departmental bodies have contributed financially and earmarked a funding for this purpose, based on voluntary agreements between the landowners/interested parties and the Government. This is to ensure a satisfactory and long-term administration of the assets shaped by the hard labour of our ancestors for the benefit of both the present and future generations!
The area specially selected in Aremark, Østfold depicts a vivid picture of a typical smallholding community of woodland villages near the Swedish border from 1850 – 1950. The area includes the following crofts: Bøensætre, Knatterød, Laggerholt, Boensæterhagen, south Storholtet and Størholtødegården. Cottages at Nedre Sørenskas and Søndre Støholter are also included.

Bøensætre is the largest and best preserved smallholding in Østfold. Bøensætre is owned by Aremark municipality, whilst the day-to-day running is undertaken by a host/hostess. There is a great deal of activity at Bøensætre as it is very popular with visitors/ramblers, and schools and other organizations are keen users of the facilities. Many may have seen Bøensætre on television, as the programme "Farmen", which was shown on TV2 in 2008, was filmed here.

The landscape is varied and consists of forests, creeks, small lakes, meadows, pastures, islets in fields, and hillside copses. The history of the area can be read in the well-preserved buildings, culturally-historical remains, dry stone walls, traditional wooden rustic fences, ancient paths, and old cultivated fields utilized for grazing and meadows. Most of the agricultural areas are in operation today and many are run organically. Much of the landscape is kept open by sheep, horses and cattle which still graze the area.

This specially chosen area has an unique flora and an abundance of diverse species, many of which are included on the Norwegian Red list such as: Field gentian, Arnica Montana, Moonwort, Bristly Bellflower, Leafless Hawk’s Beard, and Viper’s Grass, as well as rare plants such as Creeping Soft-grass, Corn Chamomile, Greater Yellow Rattle, and Mouse Tail. Many of these rare plants grow on pastures or other cultivated land which requires mowing annually, either by machinery, manually by scythe or by animal grazing. In turn, the rich flora produces a rich insect and birdlife.

The local community has, over many years, put in a great deal of effort in preserving the buildings, the cultural landscape and the biodiversity of the area.
Øya – Nordre Eik belongs to Nannestad municipality. It is located directly South-west of Gardermoen, and is home to 20 farms. It is the core of a coherent ravine landscape along the river Leira. The ravine is V-shaped, and smaller valleys have been eroded by the running water of the clay areas. The ravine formation in this area is very well-preserved and is among the largest ravine areas of clay deposits in Northern Europe. It is a very special and unique area: steeper, narrower, and on a smaller-scale than usual for Eastern Norway. Other ravine areas in Romerike are mainly flat, and cereals are the most commonly grown agricultural product.

On the plateau above the ravine, the farms lay just as they have been for a thousand years. Traditional farming practices and building customs are kept alive. One part of the landscape, Øya, as it is known in everyday speech, may have been a place of cult worship in the Iron Age, and is geographically placed with a wide view over the neighbouring villages. The large farm and its former smallholdings present a varied picture of various types of agricultural styles, typical for the area, and constructed over different periods. Among them, lafted timber barns which are a seldom sight nowadays.

Eik is situated on another plateau in the south. The cultural landscape of Eik and Øya is rural, typified by old pathways and other historical and cultural features. The old cluster of farm buildings are situated on the ridge of the ravine encircled by flat fields. The valleys of the ravine are open terraced grazing slopes surrounded by abundant woodlands of mixed trees. The ever-changing scenery, from old farmsteads to fields, grazing livestock on the hills and woodlands creates an exciting, beautiful, and varied landscape.
The Oslo area consists of four smallholdings from around the 1700s. These lie like beautiful, open, green jewels in Nordmarka’s gigantic spruce forest, and are called Blankvannsbråten, Finnerud, Slagteren and Svartorseter. These were previously used as summer dairy farms, associated with the large farms in Aker. Finnerud was where Finnish immigrants originally settled, and much of the meadows and grazing land has been cultivated over a very long period. The original farm ambience is very well-preserved and contains important, historically-valuable buildings. It lies beautifully in the landscape, in harmony with the rugged inlying fields, encircled by the ever-changing old patchwork of meadows and pastures, abundant with herbaceous flowers and woodland areas where horticulture has left its mark. There are also stone walls and clearance cairns here, as well as an overgrown lime kiln at Svartorseter. There are a great many cottages in the area dating mostly from the 1920s.

The cultural landscape is a representative example of settlement patterns and different land-use regimes. It is also unique because of many rare plants such as Dragon Head, Lady’s Slipper orchid, Knob flower, and Early Marsh orchid that grow here. This combination of lime-rich soil and continuous farming carried out over a long period of time, has resulted in a magnificent flora of rare and prolific species in the meadows and pastures, as well as features of culturally-historical interest.

This area has been, and continues to be of great importance for Oslo’s inhabitants who still make use of the traditional, outdoor lifestyle in this natural environment. There are many ski- tracks and marked trails throughout the landscape. The cabins, often built in traditional style, belong to the old Christiania Skiing clubs, and are vital in illustrating the history of skiing and outdoor life.
The subalpine valleys of Dalsbygda comprise unique historical landscapes. Nowadays, many of the farms still practice summer farming and keep livestock on the fenced-in meadows and pastures, thus making use of the whole area. There are approximately 130 of these subalpine farms in the district. Forty are still run according to traditional practices. Cattle are milked indoors and set free to graze on the outlying fields though some farmers keep the animals fenced in overnight. This land-use regime keeps the landscape open around the farms, and maintains the rich vegetation of the area.

Over generations, the area has been used for grazing, and the production of grass for fodder. Since ancient times, the valleys have been separated into strips for haymaking and mowing, and barns and shelters were built nearby. The grass was then brought home to the farm and used for winter fodder. Some haymaking areas were maintained by being mowed regularly.

The mountain bedrock is Cambro-Silurian chalk rock which gives a very fertile soil, rich in lime, and a very rich vegetation. There are almost 400 different plant species in the area, and many endangered species. Many of these can be seen in the cultural landscape, and among them are: Dwarf Campion, Mountain Dense Grass and Lance Leaf Grape. Of the orchid species is Vanilla orchid, Patch orchid, Frog orchid and White Mountain orchid.

The building environment in the subalpine valleys is very unusual. Many buildings are connected to each summer farm, and there are a great deal of significant listed buildings, and their environs. The traditional building customs have been kept alive.

The landscape is of great cultural-historical interest, and as previously mentioned there are many summer farms connected to each property. Crop rotation was usual in the valleys. In earlier times, many of the farms owned from four to six places each. It was usual to have one for Spring, one for Autumn close to the village, as well as two summer dairy farms, one in Vangrøftdalen and one in Kjurrudalen. Haymaking took place in one valley one year, dairy farming in the other and then alternating the following year. Many of the farms still own two or three properties for summer farming and a cottage dwelling.
Nordherad is a dynamic agricultural area situated on the north side of Vågåvatnet and west for Vågåmo centre. It is highly visible from Highway 15 as a steep, sunny, and open mosaic landscape of great aesthetic value. There are 49 agricultural properties in the area, 34 of these being run independently. Most of the farms keep livestock for grazing. The altitude of Nordherad varies greatly, and the farms can be said to be two-storeys high. The first storey or floor is along the Vågåvatnet, and the next at the outlying fields. Between these two levels there is a steep slope of woodland and pastures.

Large, brown timber buildings dominate the landscape. A great many smaller buildings used for various purposes are protected for posterity. Names such as “smithy, kiln-house and drying-house” etc. are all familiar terms in the village. The farm buildings are mostly placed closely together, in a tight cluster around an open yard. Nordherad has Norway’s most dense collection of listed agricultural buildings, i.e. a total of 38 houses, spread over six farmsteads.

The extremely dry climate and nutrient-rich, calcareous rock is ideal for an abundance of various species which are prolific in a typical “steppe vegetation”. In particular, deposits of rare, unique lichens thrive here, and give the area international status in the biological world. Eighty places of important natural assets are recorded, the foremost being non-fertilised, species-rich pastures. A total of 70 species of lichen, fungi, plants and animals which are on the Norwegian Red List have been found here.

Besides a valuable mass of buildings, Nordherad also has various culturally-historical monuments from different eras. Human settlements in Nordherad are extremely old, and many remains such as saucer-shaped hollows in the hills are witness to a cultural activity dating back to the Bronze Age. Many small and abandoned dwellings in the outlying fields illustrate the differences in social standing from earlier times. There are a great deal of historical features of what is assumed to be irrigation systems and stone quarries.

Since 1999, the landowners themselves have run the “Nordherads project”, which is intended to protect the historical landscape, whilst improving road transport and promoting leisure activities and tourism. This project was awarded the National Cultural Landscape prize, by the Norwegian Cultural Inheritance in 2009.
The location, a long history, fertile soil and a good climate have contributed along with skilled, hard-working farmers to making Steinssletta a valuable cultural landscape.

Among the designated landscapes, Steinssletta represents the lowland villages. Dynamic agriculture has shaped this valuable cultural landscape, and is a prerequisite for its upkeep. Much of the area is fully cultivated for production of cereals, seeds, potatoes, vegetables and oilseed plants. In addition some livestock are kept.

Steinssletta is situated between Steinsfjord in the east, and Tyrifjorden/Storelva in the west. A good climate, calcareous bedrock, surrounding rivers, lakes, forests and wetlands provide for a diverse flora and fauna. The areas of greatest biological interest are small dry hills, former meadows and grass verges, as well as the ponds used for collecting the excess fertilizer.

Farmers at Steinssletta were among the first to construct these ponds to isolate the run-off nutrients, nitrogen and phosphates from the fields after fertilization. These ponds have, along with new regulations on fertilizing and better agricultural practices, contributed greatly to improving the water quality of Steinsfjorden.

Agriculture has been practised at Steinssletta continuously for 4000 years, and most of the farms are mentioned in written sources from the 1300s. The farm named Stein, has been an important meeting place throughout history, and the ruins of a church from the 1200s can still be found. The cultural-historical treasures are partly connected to the overall property structures, and partly to single elements in the form of prehistoric monuments, buildings, and farmsteads and their associated agricultural buildings. Land ownership patterns are depicted by divisions formed by the fenced-in farm boundaries, and their relationship with the original farms/smallholdings and the former crofters' cottages. Properties which were later separated from the main farm. A great many buildings such as farmhouses, food larders on pillars and annexes on the largest farms are now on the Heritage List.

The area is home to a series of burial mounds from the Iron Age. One of these mounds, Halvdanshaugen forms a very impressive site as it towers above the plain towards Steinsfjorden. It is over 50 metres in diameter and, therefore, one of the largest burial mounds in Scandinavia.

### STEINSSLETTA

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<tr>
<td><strong>Features</strong></td>
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<td><strong>1200 hectares</strong></td>
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**Photo: Eirik Kolstø, Fylkesmannen i Buskerud**
The area covers the entire archipelago to the east of Nøtterøy and Tjøme. The boundaries correspond to a great extent with the Ormø – Færder landscape, a protected area.

Nowadays, only three of the islands have permanent settlements but many of the islands have a long history of habitation. Remains of these settlements are registered on 19 of the islands. These settlements were founded on a combination of farming and fishing along with marine piloting for the shipping industry. Therefore, many of these historic features are related to combined land and sea activities.

There are three working farms on the archipelago and these keep livestock i.e. sheep and cattle for meat production. These farms are located on three separate islands. The owner of the farms, in addition to his own islands, also tends another six islands which he uses for grazing. On the mainland, another livestock owner is responsible for the management of eleven islands, also used for grazing. The Norwegian Branch of Friends of the Earth produce hay on one of the islands. Three islands which were previously used for farming are no longer in active use.

Many of the islands make up a large natural mosaic compiled of varied vegetation which thrives in these natural and semi-natural conditions. Sando is home to many biological treasures, and has registered more than 80 rare species which are on the Norwegian Red List, but there are probably many more. There are 29 sites of ancient monuments on the islands, including many stone burial mounds. Additionally, a long list of newer, culturally-historical features are registered. In particular buildings, dry stone walls, and clearance cairns built from stones removed from the fields and meadows.

There are a great many summer cottages in the area as it is very attractive for recreational activities and outdoor life. In Tønsberg, Nøtterøy and Tjøme, 11 704 small boats are registered in the small boat register, showing how popular the area is for leisure maritime activities, both for day trips and for overnight stops. Holidaymakers from many parts of Eastern Norway make good use of the islands.

Therefore, good management of the area and paving the way for promoting leisure/tourist activities is vital.
Towards Skagerrak, furthest out in the Telemark archipelago, people in boats can catch a glimpse of two lighthouses. As they get closer, their vision rises above the horizon and they can see the spectacular view of part of the great moraine of Scandinavia. This is a result of the ancient remains of metamorphic bedrock being covered and transformed by glacier deposits.

The islands have a rich and diverse flora and fauna on land, in the sea and on the beaches. The oldest traces of human settlements on the islands dates back to approximately 2000 years BC but permanent settlements are from a later date. We can see from old documents that a combination of seafaring, piloting of ships through unknown waters, fishing and farming has been carried out since the Middle Ages.

The two lighthouses and the remains of the Decca station at Jomfruland, as well as the Neutral Guard station at Stråholmen, quay facilities and boat-mooring places are all important historical monuments from seafaring, fishing and defence.

Agriculture has made an impact on the islands through farming, animal husbandry, and the land cultivation. The buildings at Stråholmen are all beautifully grouped together, and the cluster of farmsteads at Jomfruland are unique historical features. The places for seaweed-collecting, road systems, cow ponds and not least of all the dry stone walls are all very impressive. The remains of the stone burial mounds can give us a feeling of historical depth in the landscape and opens for questions and possibly more research.

Agriculture in the area has gone through many stages, from self-sufficiency to specialisation. From export of vegetables and seaweed fertilizer, to mechanization and more market-orientated production of milk and meat. The latest development is from intensively-run and fertilized pastures to more extensively-run and low-input grazing land. Many areas are reverting back to scrub encroachment and reforestation. This land-use regime opens up for a great wealth of species from different biological communities. Everything from micro-organisms to insects, plants and birds which provide opportunities for adventure and learning. Large areas of Stråholmen and parts of Jomfruland are protected under the Nature Conservation Act.

At Stråholmen, the overgrown areas have been cleared and are now used as grazing land for low-maintenance sheep.
RYGNESTAD AND FLATELAND

The geographical boundaries of Rygnestad and Flateland are clearly marked in the landscape and are of important biological and culturally-historical value. The area lies between 450 – 480 metres above sea level and is representative of Setesdal’s agricultural structure. The villages face south and enjoys a good climate and soil, which gives a relatively rich vegetation.

The properties vary greatly in size and character, from the modest croft Slengen, to Rygnestad, a very large farm. Buildings and farms in the villages are traditional, and placed in the landscape according to old customs. As well as the listed property of Rygnestad, many other good examples of traditional buildings such as barns, summer farms, mills, lofts, smithies, and saunas etc. can be seen here. Historical features such as dry stone walls, terraced walls, clearance Cairns, and cattle tracks leading from the farm to the outlying fields still exist.

An iron ore mine in the mountain has been registered. In Flatland, there are hollows in the landscape from coal mining and almost 50 burial mounds dating from the Iron Age as well as the remains of settlements. These are probably from the Middle Ages or possibly even older. This illustrates the long tradition of habitation in the area which was probably based on iron ore production, both in the Iron and Middle Ages.

Among the outstanding characteristics of the area are: well-preserved natural grazing land, hay meadows, semi-natural fields and old coppices. The fields are still fully cultivated but a great deal of the grazing areas are becoming overgrown.

Nowadays, only about four of the fifteen properties are still actively run. In addition to their own land, these four farmers lease the remaining cultivated fields and grazing meadows for their livestock. In earlier times, dairy cows were usual on many of the farms but today there are only sheep and horses. The Museum of Setesdal is responsible for the upkeep and administration of the buildings and the inlying fields.
WEST-LISTA

West-Lista is a unique landscape, rich in both natural and cultural experiences in a dynamic agricultural environment. It is one of Norway’s oldest agricultural landscapes and farming has been carried out here for over 6000 years. Agricultural practice through many different eras has left its mark on the landscape.

There are rock carvings (glyphs) at Jærberget of 22 ships and more than 70 saucer-shaped hollows from the Bronze Age, as well as burial mounds, coastal cairns, phallic stones and a fort from the period from the Bronze to the Iron Age. All of this illustrates the living conditions, from the cradle to the grave, of people in prehistoric times.

Lista is distinguished by all its longhouses i.e. the outhouses and the dwellings are joined together to make one longhouse. This building custom dates back to the Iron Age, and Lista is the only place in Norway where we can still see very well-preserved longhouse traditions. The typical dwelling house is a middle passage house from the south of Norway.

At West-Lista, most of the farms are organized in a cluster around a yard, as was usual in the Middle Ages. Most other places in the country stopped this building tradition around the 18th/19th century. Traditionally, the dwelling houses and outbuildings belonging to many properties were arranged in a cluster encircled by the inlying fields which are divided into strips for each individual farmer.

Numerous dry stone walls, terraced walls, and clearance cairns have left their mark on today’s landscape. These tell the tale of the clearing process of inlying fields and the division of property over many generations. Animal tracks and outlying field fences are the oldest historic features illustrating traditional agricultural practices.

It was customary to utilize the outlying fields for grazing and harvesting, and treat the inlying fields with manure from the outlying fields. As a result of this, we have produced a type of vegetation, influenced by human intervention, which can be seen in both the in- and outlying fields. At Penne, there are still remains of the old culturally-dependent biodiversity.

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<td><strong>Features</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Agricultural landscape, traditional farms and associated agricultural buildings, inlying fields, and coastal heather moors</td>
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<td><strong>540 hectares</strong></td>
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The coastal heather-clad area at Rennesøy varies greatly: heather-clad on the plateau and dry slopes, meadows and leafy groves on the warm south-west slopes. This area has a particularly high content of endangered species and other seldom plants. A total of 480 different kind of plants are registered in the area, and five of these grow no other place in the country. This rich, diverse biotope is also due to the climate as Rennesøy has both very mild winters and relatively warm summers. This ensures very good growing conditions for the various kinds of vegetation. The open grazing landscape is among the oldest in the country and has been in continual use for about 6000 years.

Furthermore, the area includes a variety of historical features, the most obvious being the characteristic barbed stone fences. There are also traces of old paths, remains of boathouses and buildings for storing peat etc. The farm property, Førsvoll, which comprises many old and distinctive buildings is located here and the oldest construction which is from the middle of the 1800s is dry stone walled.

The designated coastal heathland area is easily accessible and Rennesøy municipality in co-operation with Stavanger Tourist Association has marked several trails in the area.

Over the past few years, many of the landowners in the area have shown great interest in protecting the landscape and the buildings. Large parts of the heather uplands are now used as non-fertilized grazing areas but many places are under pressure to fertilize. Several historical relics have been restored or brought out into the open. Management and traditional use of the landscape is a prerequisite for protecting the area’s outstanding qualities for the future.
Gjuvslandlia belongs to the farm Gjuvsland and covers a total of seven field strips, which were previously outlying fields. The different strip fields, as well as being used for harvesting and grazing and containing leafy coppices for fodder have been the source of hazel, used in the production of barrels. Nuts, plums, yew and holly for decoration purposes have all been gathered here.

Lia faces south-east, towards the Hardanger fjord and inclines steadily, with an average inclination of 38 degrees only starting to flatten out by the bottom of the sea.

The local topography provides a favourable local climate and the bedrock soil is calcareous. The natural vegetation is a result of Gjuvslandlia deciduous forest, containing lush examples of various types of vegetation which thrive on chalky soil. Most of the landscape is a designated conservation area and the yew/ holly trees are also protected.

Strip field number 170/5 is located centrally in the area and has the best tended hay meadows which contain a rich manifold of diverse plant species. Among the important and valuable recorded plant species are: Quaking-grass, Tawny Sedge, Geranium Columbinum, Wild Flax, Pimpinella Saxifrage, Caraway, Butterfly Orchid, Rhinanthus Minor and Mouse Clover.

Until the present day, the hay meadow has been tended traditionally by mowing and grazing. Traditional management of the meadows has been carried out i.e. sheep grazing in the Spring and Autumn, raking after grazing, and harvesting at the end of summer, and hay-drying on the ground or on a rack. The hay was then temporarily stored in the barn and transported home later in the winter by boat.

Gjuvslandlia contains many different cultural relics. The River Gjuvsland flows through the farmyard and down the hill into a narrow gorge. Wooden dams from the sawmills still exist. The water-run sawmill which was previously a straight-bladed saw, is situated south-west of the river and was used collectively by the four properties.

From the footbridge across the river, runs a small path towards the north-east through the strip fields. This path is skilfully constructed on the hillside terraced walls, and outhouses and boathouses used in the traditional running of the farm can be seen on several of the strip fields.
Grinde-Engjasete has a very interesting cultural history and many of the farms still practice traditional agriculture. The local community at Grinde has been successful in utilizing the natural resources, and the younger generation are keen to continue the customary ways of farming. A great deal of old elm trees in the area show that coppicing was important for farmers in bygone days. Leaf-gathering for fodder has been a vital factor in the region and contributed to variation in the cultural landscape. There are cultivated fields of birch and ash, leafy meadows of ash, elm, birch and willow and coppices of foliage for fodder. Most of the pollarded trees can be seen near paths, dry stone walls, clearance cairns and streams. Endangered species of fungi can be found in the meadows, as well as rare woodland mushrooms and interesting species of lichen and moss in the hillside coppices.

Burial mounds and other historical features bear witness to the fact that farming has been practiced in the region since the late Bronze Age. Coppicing can be traced back to 2,400 years BC, and habitation in the historical settlement area since 500 years BC. The dwellings and outbuildings on the inlying fields date mainly from the 1800s, and are part of the valuable architectural environment. It is a rich historical area of dry stone walls, hillside walls constructed on natural terraces, clearance cairns, and old paths.

Grinde-Engjasete is a typical farm by the fjord based on natural resources. These resources have covered everything from fjord fishing to mountain harvesting in the outlying fields. Dairy farms for use in the different seasons are still standing, both in the interior of Grindsdalen and on the mountain side. At Orrasete, the ancient farm buildings were used each Spring and Autumn by the Grinde and Engjasete farms. There are also many technical structures here in addition to stone walls and old remains of stalls and haybarns.

The old cultural landscape and historical features make up a mosaic, along with the more modern fruit production area, meadows and grazing pastures. The area has been carefully tended using few modern methods. It stands out as an ancient cultural landscape giving us a feeling of historical depth. Annual harvesting and grazing in the meadows combined with the pollarded trees has shaped an open, airy and park-like landscape.
Hoddevik-Liset is part of Stadlandet, a plateau with steep cliffs plunging to the sea, a startling green lowland area, and reddish-brown coastal heather-clad hills. A harsh climate, the topography and diversified agriculture has shaped the landscape which has many similarities with the North Sea islands. People settled in the valley on flat farming land, or clung on to the steep, rocky cliff sides facing the wide-open sea. Archeological digs have found relics showing that farming has been carried-out in the region since the early Iron Age. The whole area contains buildings, dry stone walls, hillside terraced walls, and stone-marked paths from the farm through the inlying to the outlying fields illustrating former rural operations and activities.

The coastal cultural landscape is characterized by open grazing fields, coastal heather-clad hills, and peat bogs in a gradual transition from the intermingled fields. Several old meadows which have been crop-rotated over the years are species-rich and contain a manifold of rare and endangered species. Hoddevik is situated in a clearly marked valley leading to the sea and is a distinguished part of the landscape. The farms lie, like pearls on a string, along the flat bottom of the valley. The wide sandy beaches and the large sand dunes along the sides of the valley are very visible in the landscape. The sides of the valley are broken-up by the dry stone walls, strip fields which have been surfacely-cleared, cow tracks and small byres. A characteristic row of boathouses lie on the North side of the beach. The cluster of houses and associated agricultural buildings at Indre Fure is a special sight, placed in a sheltered spot to protect against the rough weather. From Inner Fure, a narrow path leads to Outer Fure, where the farms have been placed on a shelf facing out to sea. This area is partly bare rock, but also lush grassland which has been used for grazing or harvesting. Built-up dry stone walls, paths, and hillside terrace walls traverse the cultural landscape along with the remains of old hay barns on the hillside. At Drage, the farms are spread out over a geological feature known as a strandflat of gently slanting, arable fields, encompassed by woody mountain sides of grazing land and coastal heather-clad hills. The farms in Årdal, Skårbo and Liset amount separately to holistic, harmonious examples of the cultural landscape in the divide between mountain and sea. The area is rich in technical structures, ancient monuments and historical features. Species-rich plants are abundant in the meadows here.

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<th>SELJE MUNICIPALITY, SOGN AND FJORDANE</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Agricultural region</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Features</strong></td>
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<td><strong>4500 hectares</strong></td>
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Grøvuvassdraget is situated in the far east of Sunndal municipality towards South Trøndelag and Oppland, at a height of between 200 to 800 metres above sea level. The scenery is very dramatic with steep, woodland slopes, deep gorges and ravines, terraces of rubble, wide valleys of good grazing land and summer farms. Four waterfalls plunge down to Jenstad gorge and their place of confluence at Åmotan. In the background range the mountain peaks of a height of up to 2000 metres above sea level. This is Northern Europe’s only intact highland ecological system and is home to caribou, musk ox, arctic fox and wolverines. However, the historic features of old, scorched, log-timber houses, encircled by open grazing land, meadows and fields make this a very valuable cultural landscape where natural and cultural qualities meet.

Mountain farms in the area, of which there are eighteen, are run by five active farmers. The agricultural area comprises a total of 68 hectares. The many jewels in the cultural landscape are very well-documented. The biological treasures of the region are connected to the calcareous soil of the mountain valleys, the rich plant species, and the natural meadow and woodland grazing.

There are a great many historic features in the area i.e. animal graves from hunting and tracking, ancient ruins, burial mounds etc. which illustrate prehistoric times from the Stone Age onwards. There are also several old, well-kept farms such as Svøu/Svisdal and Jenstad, dating most probably from the early Iron Age. In Svøu/Svisdal, there are two mountain farms by the river Grødola, approximately 600 metres above sea level. These farms are surrounded by many old outhouses and buildings of great heritage value.

In the highland valleys, there are a great many summer farms showing that there has always been farming here. From the “Olden Days” until the present day, summer farming has been carried out at Gammelsetra in Grudalen. Dairy cattle graze here every summer. Their milk is used for the production of butter, cheese, and local specialities such as “gubb”, made from traditional, old recipes. Annual courses in summer hill-farming techniques are also held at Gammelsetra.

In 2002, important parts of the cultural landscape were registered on the Heritage List as the Åmotan-Grøvudalen Landscape Conservation Area. This area borders the Dovrefjell-Sunndalsfjella National Park.
Mountain valleys in Budal represent a landscape that is characterized by varied and continuous use over a long period of time. Here, our ancestors have left their mark over the centuries. We can read their history today in the form of Stone Age settlements, the remains of hunting, tracking, fishing activities, iron ore production, coal tar pits, hay barns and summer farms. The livestock grazing and mowing has stimulated a manifold of plant species. A Pilgrim trail runs through the area. In Budal, summer farming has probably been practiced since the 1600s and many of the buildings in the area date from the 1700s.

In the mountain valleys, traditional summer dairy farming is still practiced, and it is a typical subalpine farming region. The mountain valleys in Budalen cover a large area, and there has been very little modern technical interventions. Milk production is carried-out on 15 dairy farms in the summer. For first-time visitors to Budalen, the numerous, vital farms dotted over a limited area leave a lasting impression. Livestock grazing in the outlying fields all summer long are an important factor in keeping the cultural landscape alive. Calves, young animals, sheep and goats graze in the hillside valleys along with the dairy cows.

Budal is an exciting landscape for those interested in botany. There is a wealth of plant species and the abundance of rare plants witnesses that these are old hay meadows. In Budal, the custom of mowing the outlying fields has a long history and there are still places which are managed this way. On the sides of the valley and on the river plains, it is still possible to see areas marked by earlier mowing and which are now grazed by livestock.

Mountain valleys in Budal are used a great deal for research and teaching purposes and many surveys have been carried out in the area. Storbekkøya musem’s summer farm is a good starting-place for those who are interested in finding out more about the farming culture and the history of the valleys of Budal.
SKEI AND SKEISNESSET

Skei and Skeisnesset are situated on a peninsula in the far north-east of the island of Leka. The area includes a total of 520 ha, including approximately 353 hectares of coastal heather moorland. There are 12 landowners and 66 residents on the Peninsula and it is home to Leka Rural Museum. Today the area produces cereal and potatoes and keeps livestock.

Skei is a natural unit of consecutive farmyards and associated agricultural buildings, in/outlying fields, peatbogs, and maritime activities. Visually, the area appears as a coherent low-lying Peninsula. Apart from a power line above the inlying fields, very little intrusive intervention has been carried out here. Skei is a good example of coastal heather-clad moorland typical of the coastline from the West of Norway to the Lofoten islands, and is useful as a reference area. It is characterized by the unique Herlaugshaugen, and the unique hay meadows which are now in danger of becoming extinct.

Coastal heathland is predominant at Skeisnesset. There are also several types of peat bogs and various types of meadows resulting from earlier farming practices which were carried out in each area. The region has several types of vegetation of great importance. Some of these are on the Norwegian Red List including other significantly important vascular plants. Approximately 24 Red-listed and threatened bird species have been recorded here. The Western part of Skeisnesset is a protected bird conservation area.

At Skeisnesset, there are a great many historical features which are on the Heritage List. These are Stone Age Settlements, burial mounds and building remains from the Middle Ages. Herlaugshaugen at Skei is Norway’s second largest burial mound dating from the Viking Age. From the 1700 – 1900s, Skei has had varied settlements and some of them are well-worth preserving. Cultural heritage and landscape structures show the balance of power in the agricultural community as well as the inequality in social conditions between larger farms, crofts and smallholdings.

The area is also mentioned in Snorre’s Saga and this is important for its identity and symbolic value. The open landscape is a treasure in the form of a rich visual experience and is widely used for research and educational field trips. Tourism and leisure activities are also carried out here. A trail is established through Skeisnesset and relevant information on the area and the protection of the heather-clad hills is provided for ramblers.
Engan/Ørnes is located in Sørfold municipality on the north side of and along Route 613 and up to the end of the fjord. These are two contiguous communities comprising an in/outlying field area of 69 hectares. Engan/Ørnes is a typical north of Norway fjord landscape rising from 0–110 meters above sea level. It is characterized by its steep slopes, very rugged terrain and extreme variation in soil depth. There are only two farmers out of the 38 landowners in the region who claim agricultural production subsidies under the Land Management Plan. Some cattle, horses and 180 sheep are to be found here. The cultural landscape in Engan/Ørnes is probably the largest and most intact of its kind in the county of Nordland. Much of the area is in active use and is tended carefully to maintain its biological qualities and the varied conditions of the landscape.

The croft, Kjelvik is located on the south side of Leir fjord, 200–230 metres above sea level. The farm comprises a well-preserved cultural environment of listed buildings. It was formerly a Sami settlement which was deserted in 1967. The cluster of farmyard buildings were used for various farm purposes such as: a smithy, farm mill, farmhouse, barn, underground cellar, house for smoking fish etc, and several other activities. Sørfold municipality owns the buildings and land while the agricultural, forestry and wildlife areas are owned by four landowners. The local historical society of Sørfold manages the buildings on behalf of the municipality, and they are used for practicing old handicraft traditions and traditional husbandry. Salten museum use the land and facilities for educational purposes and tourism. The croft functions as a living promoter of cultural history even though it is no longer inhabited.

The historical features and remains show the depth of time and have been formed over the ages. They reflect the transitions that the multicultural settlements have been witness to over the years. Engan/Ørnes and Kjelvik are considered to be good examples of trading settlements in Nordland illustrating similar changes in many villages along the fjords.
The village Skårfvåggi/Skardalen is located in north Troms in the municipality of Kåfjord. Historically the area has been inhabited by the Sami, Norwegians and Kvens. The Sami population can be traced back as far as the written word. The Kven immigrants are believed to have arrived in the 1700 – 1800’s from Finland. Permanent Norwegian settlements were mainly established in the 1800’s.

Settlements have formed here based on a combination of sea, forests, and land activities. These natural resources created fishermen-farmers who made a living out of agriculture and fishing.

Skårfvåggi/Skardalen is a typical example of a Coastal Sami village of traditional settlement patterns and with a long tradition of farming. The village is beautiful, with its lush vegetation surrounded by steep mountains and view of the inner and outer fjords. The region contains a diversity of cultivated land of great historical interest, as well as many cultural relics from the various eras.

The smallholdings are situated on terraces along the fjord in steep terrain. Many small pieces of land in a mosaic pattern between the old paths, clearance cairns, dry stone walls, field islets and woodland fences give the area its character.

The topography is unsuitable for farm machinery and therefore, the old farming methods have continued until the present day. This has resulted in herbaceous meadows, fields, orchards and hills used for grazing high up the mountainside. The landscape where the reindeer graze is found even higher up and further into the mountains. Today, Skårfvåggi is a reindeer grazing district with roots stretching far back in time.

In the Coastal Sami culture, the shoreline has also had value as an outlying field, as it has been used for grazing and harvesting of seaweed.

During the Second World War the village was burned to the ground. Most of the houses are from the rehabilitation period and create a harmonious impression of modernism. The many old boat-houses, fishermen’s cabins on the seashore and the jetties on the beach along with the summer barns in the belt of the outlying fields are all part of the complete landscape picture.
The cultural landscape of Makkenes is unique, containing great biological treasures and interesting cultural history. The area is situated directly to the West of Vadsø, the capital of the county, on the broad banks of the Varanger fjord. Some of the meadows are among the most impressive in Finnmark. They are species-rich, and show signs of having been cultivated for a very long time. Here we can find rich herbaceous meadows of the “old-fashioned” kind including Silk Carnations which are said to be in danger of becoming extinct in Norway.

Along the coast of Finnmark, people supported themselves by combining fishing and agriculture and the farms were arranged near the sea as they are in Makkenes. Until the 1600s, this area was used by the Varanger Sami for their summer settlements and very old remains of dwellings can still be seen in the meadows. Summer settlements were the base for fishing and an uncomplicated kind of agriculture. The winter settlements were situated more in the interior and further from the sea, where the forest ensured access to winter fuel.

In the 1600s, Finns and Norwegians settled here in a little fishing village. The living arrangements and building customs of the Kven (Finnish) Sami folk differed markedly from the norm in Finnmark. Dwellings were built from timber and traditional Sami tents were seldom used. The farmhouse and the barn were often joined together or at least connected by a gangway. This building style probably originates from the Russian region and is common in Finnmark and very widespread on the Varanger Peninsula. Therefore, the houses are often described as “Varanger houses”. On the Varanger Peninsula, there was often a shortage of timber and the buildings are constructed of timber and birch bark imported from Russia through the Pomor trade. Driftwood was also used.

Makkenes is situated along the National tourist road towards Hamningberg, with easy access from the main road. The area is best seen by walking along the sea shore.
20 Selected Agricultural Landscapes

Sogn and Fjordane
- Grinde - Engjasete
- Hoddevik - Liset

Hordaland
- Gjøslandlia

Rogaland
- Hodne-Vikøya: Holland-Bø and Farsvoll

Aust-Agder
- Rygnestad and Flateland

Vest-Agder
- West-Lista

Telemark
- Jomfruland and Stråholmen

Buskerud
- Steinsletta

Oslo
- Crofts in Nordmarka

Akershus
- Øya - Nordre Eik

Vestfold
- Islands and inlets, east of Nøtterøy and Tjøme

Ostfold
- Bøensætre including surrounding crofts

Nord-Trøndelag
- Skei and Skeinsneset

Hedmark
- Vangrøftdalen - Kjurrudalen

More og Romsdal
- Mountain farms and valleys of Upper Sunndal

Oppland
- Nordherad
NORDLAND
Engan/Ørnes and Kjelvik

TROMS
Skårvåggi/Skardalen

FINNMARK
Makkenes