

The limestone and chalk

The entirety of Rold Skov is situated on limestone and chalk and in the slopes of Gravlev Ådal there are chalky outcrops. Traces of limestone mining are visible in the surface of the limestone quarry Skillingbro Kalkgrav (2) where you can go hunting for fossils or visit the limestone mine of Thingbæk Kalkmine (1) whose tunnels house a sculptural museum.

The forest of springs

Nowhere else in Denmark will you find this many springs. Springs as big as the ones you find in the woodlands of Rold Skov. Rainwater accumulates under the forest in cracks in the limestone, and where the erosion of millennia has exposed the limestone of the valleys, water will spring at the foot of the hills some 50 years later.

The water is cool, 7-8°C all year round. It has maintained its temperature since the end of the ice age more than 12,000 years ago. The stable micro-climate of the springs has provided for an

interesting flora; especially, populations of small animals are particularly abundant. The springs are home to several hundred species of small mosquitoes, rare caddis flies, mayflies, flatworms, etc. Several species have survived in the springs since the end of the ice age, completely unaffected by numerous changes in the climate. Gravlev Ådal has no less than seven larger springs, of which five are passed on the walk around the lake Gravlev Sø.

Near the springs and along the stream Lindenberg Å, you may spot otters, dippers, kingfishers and grey wagtails. Trout use the gravel bottom of the spring brooks as spawning grounds.

Kovadsbæk (spring) (28)

In the valley Stendalen at the foot of Rebild Bakker, the water wells forth from the many small marsh springs,



Kovadsbæk



Ravnkilde

The history and geology

Rebild Bakker are actually not hills, at all. Rebild is located on a plateau 60 metres above the level of the present Lindenberg Ådal and when the ice age ended 12,000 years ago, the melt water and rain water cut the deep valleys visible today.

The Rebild area was settled early, as the sandy soil was easily cultivated by the primitive tools of ancient times. The sandy soil was quickly depleted, and heather took over and turned the hills into moorland. The steep slopes could not be cultivated but were used as common grazing areas (village commons).

Previously, there were many more dwellings in Rebild Bakker; however, these days, there is only the House of Lars Kjær (8), which has been turned into a museum for the renowned poacher and his wife, Marie, who was a fortune-teller.

In the forested parts of the hills, you can see the twisted and multi-stemmed beeches characteristic of the deciduous woodland of the old Rold Skov. Their appearance results from being repeatedly chewed down or cut down for fire wood. The fire wood was used for charcoal, amongst others - a very particular trade which is demonstrated each summer by the local charcoal burner guild at the charcoal burning site in the south-easterly part of the hills. Exhibitions on the history of the area may be found at Museum Rebild (9).



Rebild National Park

Rebild National Park Society, or Rebildselskabet, was founded in 1912. A circle of Danish emigrants living in the USA, fronted by Max Henius, collected donations which financed the acquisition of approximately 80 hectares of land in Rebild Bakker. At the first Rebild Celebration in 1912, the land

was granted to King Christian X on behalf of the Danish people on the following terms:

- The National Park shall be open to the public and access shall be free.
- The National Park shall remain a natural scenery.
- Rebild Celebrations shall be held on 4th of July, the American Independence Day, and the National Park shall be available for other activities celebrating the Danish-American friendship association.

Ever since then, the 4th of July Rebild Celebrations have attracted many participants who, through speeches, song and entertainment, have celebrated the friendship of the two nations. The location of the Celebrations is the natural amphitheatre Gryden (12). Exhibits in the Lincoln Log Cabin (9) tell more of the story and one of the walking trails leads past the bust of Max Henius.

which gather in the brook Kovadsbækken. Just west of the road Rebildvejen, where the brook traverses underneath the road, you can see the ruins of a dam in the meadow, which previously dammed up the brook for the water mill Kogers Mølle. In the beginning of the 1900's water was led from the brook and along an aqueduct across the brook to the dry meadow on the other side to water the grass and, thus, safekeep the winter feed crops for the cattle. You can still see the aqueduct and, when the sunlight is waning, you can still just about see the system of ditches in the meadow.

Ravnkilde (spring) (29)

To many, the spring, Ravnkilde is the most beautiful spring of Rold Skov. It is, without doubt, also the one most visited. An added reason may be that one can wade through it (however, this is only permitted where the water traverses the road). Stepping stones ensure that you can get across without getting your feet wet. It is a marsh spring welling at the foot of the crippled beeches and running between large clumps of water moss across the gravel road before vanishing into the meadow in the direction of Lindenberg Å.



Lille Blåkilde (small blue spring) (30)

Despite the word "little" ("lille"), this is the most abundant spring in Rold Skov. Every second, approximately 90 litres spring from the cracks in the limestone. Along the path, you will also spot small pooling springs, where the water can be seen percolating from the underground. Just south of Lille Blåkilde, one of the ancient roads cross Lindenberg Å. The dike is still there in the meadow. In the forest on the other side of it, you find one of those areas in Denmark where the prevalence of burial mounds and other ancient monuments is the greatest. For 6,000 years, people have lived here, near the invigorating and holy water of the spring.



Gravlev Kilde

Gravlev Kilde (spring) (32) and Egebæk Kilde (spring) (33)

On the western side of the valley you find the pooling springs Gravlev Kilde and Egebæk Kilde, whose winding spring brooks have been restored after having previously been used for fish farming. In the beautiful, emerald green spring of Gravlev Kilde, you often see large trout cruising lazily.



Nature restoration in the valley of Gravlev Ådal

Many of the beautiful natural features of the valley have been undergoing significant changes since the mid-1800s. Streams were straightened, lakes, marshes and springs were drained, fish farms were established, and the land was put into agricultural rotation. However, at the end of the

1990s, the area was restored in order to preserve biological diversity and the characteristic open landscape of the valley.

Fish farming has been replaced by winding spring brooklets; the lake Gravlev Sø dominates the landscape once more and the creek Lindenberg Å winds its way across the valley. The overgrowth of willow, birch and reeds has been stopped and replaced by cattle grazing in the meadows.

More information

This leaflet covers only part of the Himmerland areas in Rold Skov managed by the Danish Nature Agency. Please also see the leaflet on Rold Skov, which covers the entire nationally owned part of Rold Skov. You can get a broad overview of the entire forest by consulting the large index map of Rold Skov Nature and Culture Centre. Learn more here: www.roldskov.info

Learn more about outdoor activities with MTB trails, skiing tracks and running trails, etc, at www.RoldSkovTrailcenter.dk

Visit the Tourist Information at www.rebildporten.dk

Learn more about local events: www.naturguidenhimmerland.dk

Stiguide Himmerland (Trailguide in Danish)

The App provides suggestions for days out and information on the history and stories about points of interest. It also acts as a GPS, so that you can always identify your position on the map. Search for "Stiguide Himmerland" in App Store or Google play.

Read more in the Rold Skov digital guide of the Danish Nature Agency at (English): www.nst.dk/Rold-Skov



Ministry of Environment and Food of Denmark
Nature Agency

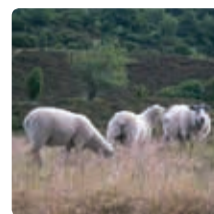
www.naturstyrelsen.dk
Tlf. 72 54 30 00

• Rold Skov



Nature

The Rebild farmers used the moorland hills as common grazing area for cattle, horses and sheep as late as 1912, when the area became designated national park. They also cut the heather for winter feed crops, fuel, thatching, bedding, etc. In old photos, you can see how well the grazing and the cutting kept trees and bushes off the hills. This has been preserved for nearly 100 years by preservation and conservation. The road at the bottom of the valley Stendalen forms a clear boundary between the heather- and juniper-covered northerly hills and the southerly wooded slope. Originally, this was home to old beeches, like Troldekskoven (Troll forest), but today most of its growth is conifers.



The conservation of Rebild Bakker is an eternal struggle with the trees. If the area was left to its own device, the heather-covered hills would quickly turn into woodland. The aspen would be the first arrival and followed closely by beeches. In recent years, sections of beech forest have been cut down to allow the hills to become visible again. However, animals still make up the most important conservation tool. Sheep graze the hills, preserving the characteristic population of heather by eating grasses and saplings.



Gravlev Kilde (spring)



Ministry of Environment and Food of Denmark
Nature Agency

Rebild Bakker National Park Gravlev Ådal

0242018 - Graphic design: www.gimvad.dk - Photos: Kjeld Thomsen, Uffe Westenberg, Leo Jensen, Karsten Frisk - Map: Kaj Boviga, Møgelgaard Kommune - Print.



- The limestone and chalk**
- The cultural history**
- The forest**
- The water**

- 1 Thingbæk Kalkmine, Rebild Centret*
- 2 Nørreskov Course of Stones
- 5 Stenrækken i Nørreskov
- 8 The House of Lars Kjær
- 9 Museum Rebild
- 9 Lincoln Log Cabin and Top Karens Hus
- 12 RebildPorten tourist information*
- 12 Rebild Bakker National Park and Gryden
- 16 Buderup Ødekirke
- 17 Troldeeskoven
- 18 Urskoven
- 20 Frueskoen/Bjergeskoven
- 28 Kovadsbæk*
- 29 Ravnkilde*
- 30 Lille Blåkilde
- 32 Gravlev Kilde*
- 33 Egebæk Kilde
- 35 Skillingbro Kilde
- 44 Gravlev Kirke and its cemetery
- 48 Ørnebjerg (ruins) The Artists' Colony

* Suitable for wheelchair users, people with mobility issues and prams. For other points of interest, please see the large Rold Skov maps.

Legend

Coniferous forest	Public road	Vista point
Deciduous forest	Woodland road	Tower
Meadow/common	Cycling permitted	Natural playground
Bog/wetland	Motoring prohibited	Camp fire
Moorland	Walking trails (yellow)	Camp fire house
Field	Rebild Bakker Ruten (white)	Lunch hut
Burial mound	Trail signs	Camp site
National forest boundary	Duration of walk	Primitive camp site
	Connecting trail	
	You are here	

The Rebild Bakker Trail (white trail)

Experience the most interesting parts of Rebild Bakker National Park. As one of the first in Denmark, the trail has been certified due to its outstanding quality. The walk may be divided by using the connecting trail between location G - B.

The entire white trail: 10.8 km, Time 3.5-4.5 hours
 The northern circular trail: 3.6 km, Time 1.5 hours
 The southern circular trail: 8.0 km, Time 3.0 hours

ROLD SKOV

- The Danish Nature Agency
- Private forest

