

The museum centre at Hanstholm

The Hanstholm battery is the largest World War II fortification in Northern Europe. The bunker museum features a 3,000 square metre bunker which during the war housed one of four 38 cm guns. With the help of the Kristiansand battery in Norway, the task was to block the entrance to the Skagerrak. Next to the bunker, a centre features exhibitions on the "Atlantic Wall".

The museum is open from April to the end of October.

Kællingdal

At Kællingdal, the chalk is clearly visible in the cliffs. At the periphery of the beach are so called Bryozoan chalk banks, composed of a hard, flintlike type of carbonate rock. Coastal erosion means that the bank is constantly exposed.

During the summer, the car park and beach are popular with windsurfers whilst a northerly wind over the high cliffs makes for ideal kite- and model-flying conditions.



Bavn

At 64 metres above sea level, Bavn is almost the highest point in Hanstholm, second only to Hjertebjerg, slightly to the south west. In clear weather, there is a lovely view over Vigsø bay.

During World War II, Bavn was part of the Hanstholm military coastal defence which extended over no fewer than 9 square kilometres. According to German sources, 188,000 cubic metres of concrete were used in the construction of 455 buildings. Four 10.5 cm anti-aircraft guns were stationed at Bavn, and one can still see traces of their existence in the area.

Febbersted

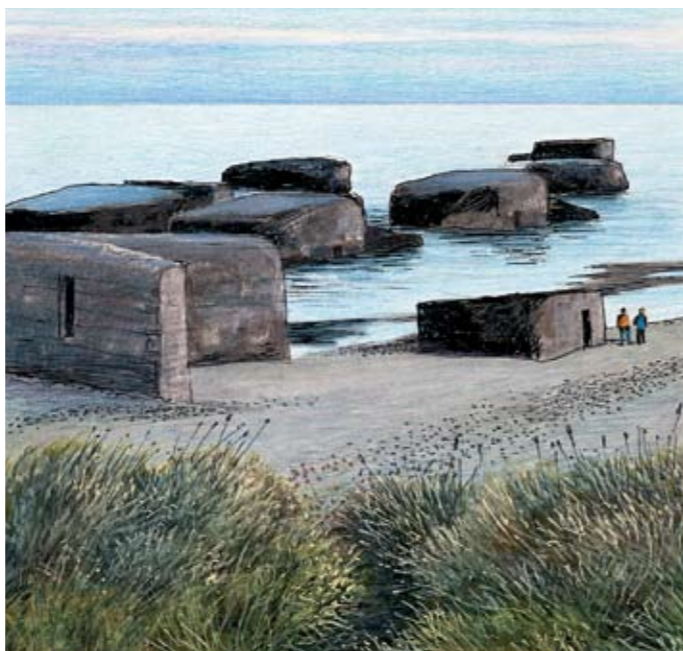
The gorge north of Febbersted is a famous haunt of botanists. The western side is composed of chalky rubble and stone: Vegetation is incredibly diverse. It includes some of Denmark's rarest species such as hoary whitlow grass which have survived here since the time when ice withdrew from the area. If you are lucky, you might find the drug eyebright, unique in the entire world to the Febbersted gorge and Bulbjerg. The ground is cropped to achieve the best conditions for the growth of wild flowers.

Vigsø

Thanks to its location in a bay, Vigsø was a centre of maritime trade. Large quantities of corn and other foodstuffs were shipped to Norway in exchange for wood, iron and other materials. The town was of particular importance during the Napoleonic wars (1807-1812) but by 1890, trade had ceased.

The remains of Vigsø battery stand at the extremity of the line of cliffs and on the beach. These were constructed by the Germans during World War II. Their purpose was to protect the major gun positions in Hanstholm from attacks from the east. Today, Vigsø is an attractive holiday destination. The Dansk FolkeFerie organisation has shown that it is possible to build fairly concentrated facilities in nature areas without destroying the landscape.

Vigsø beach is one of the best bathing beaches in Thy.



Vigsø plantation

Vigsø plantation was established during World War II and today covers the eastern side of Hanstholm as well as extensive areas of sea bed uplift, below the bluffs. The bluffs have now been cleared of forest to improve the landscape, so that they now command an impressive view of the sound that during the stone age linked the North Sea with the Limfjord.

Marked trails

Marked trails can be taken from the bluffs west of Hanstholm lighthouse, through Hanstholm town plantation and along the tops of the old north-facing bluffs to Vigsø. The trail divides in two at Dansk FolkeFerie grounds and carries on around Vigsø plantation, coinciding with the West Coast Route from Hanstholm to Vigsø.

The trail through Hanstholm town plantation to Vigsø is 7 km long and the whole route including Vigsø plantation is 12 km long.

State-owned areas have red posts with yellow markers, whilst the posts in Dansk Folkeferie areas are green.

Welcome to Hanstholm

Hanstholm is a headland at the furthest north west point of Jutland where the North Sea meets the Skagerrak.



Marked nature trails: A marked trail starts from the crag west of Hanstholm lighthouse, traverses Hanstholm town plantation and follows the coastal cliff to Vigsø where it then forms a loop, taking in part of Vigsø plantation. The route is marked by yellow arrows. Short trails - marked with red posts - depart from the lighthouse and from the museum centre in Hanstholm.

Nature playground: A nature playground has been constructed in the Hanstholm town plantation.

Simple camping areas: East of Vigsø, near the beach, is a simple camping area with shelters. Wanderers and cyclists are welcome to pitch their tents here for a night or two. A further simple camp area can be found at Tved dune planation, south west of Sårup.

Facilities for the disabled: Due to this very hilly terrain, the marked trails are not suitable for the disabled. However, there are short wheelchair-friendly stretches in the vicinity of most marked car parks.

Nature tours: Personnel from Regional Office, Thy organise nature tours as open events, and large groups may book tours by applying to the office.

The Danish Forest and Nature Agency, Regional Office, Thy can be contacted by tel +45 97 97 70 88 or by e-mail: thy@sns.dk. For more information go to the website www.skovognatur.dk.

Hanstholmen



The "Nature Trails" series of leaflets covers selected nature areas. They are available at libraries, tourist information offices and at the entrances to many of the areas. See also www.skovognatur.dk

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Hanstholm

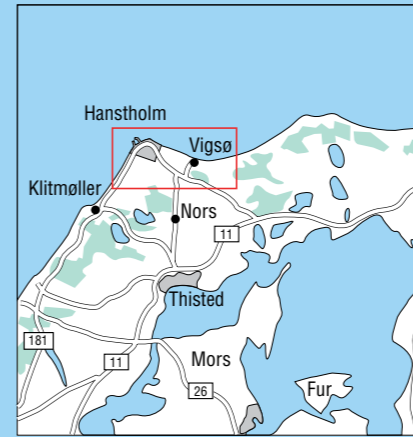
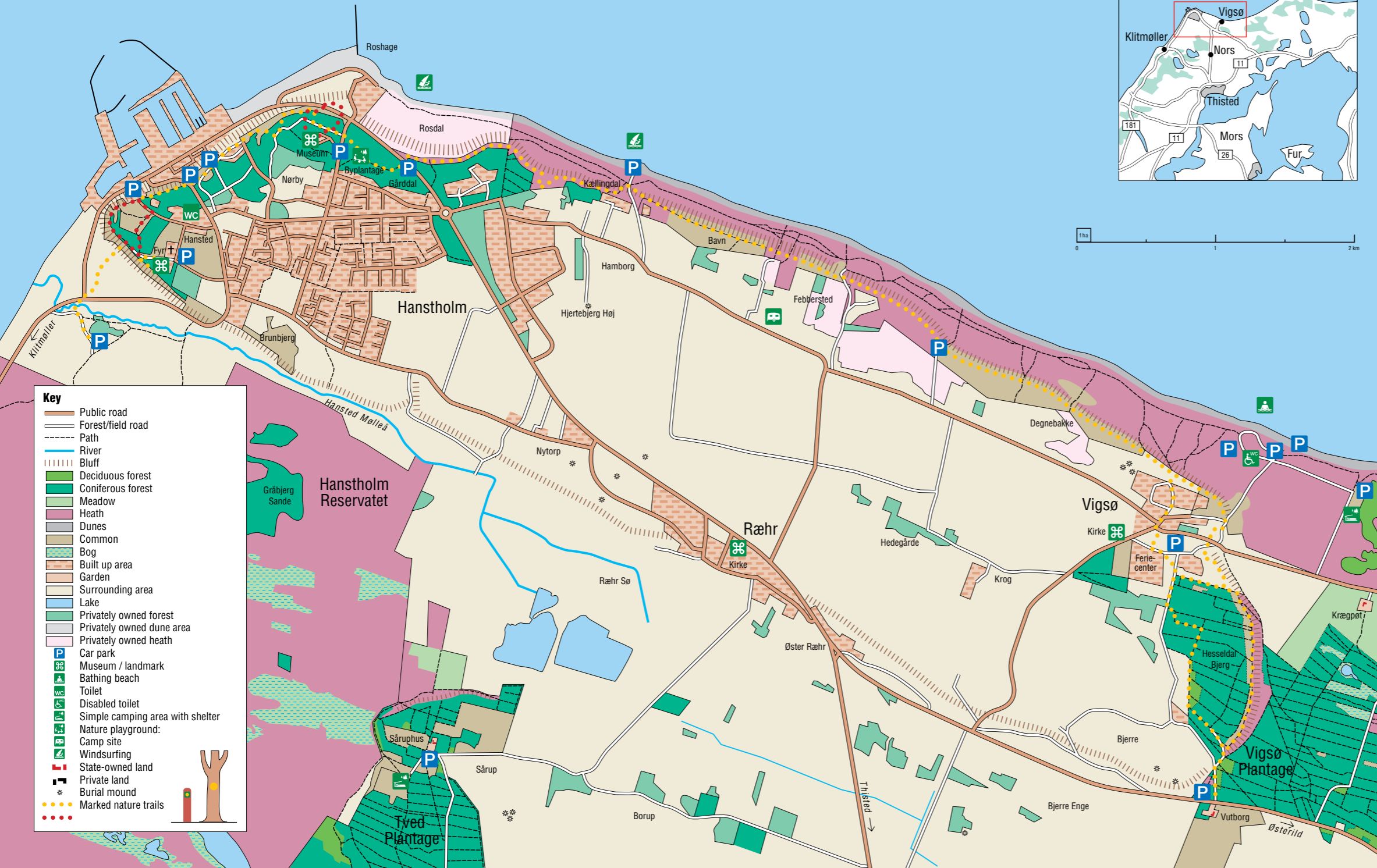
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**Danish Ministry
of the Environment**
The Forest and Nature Agency
Nature trails series no. 118E



Hanstholm



Hanstholm

Hanstholm is the headland at the furthest north west point of Jutland where the North Sea meets the Skagerrak.

Over thousands of years, the former island became a mosaic of geological forms, the result of various periods. In the stone age, Thy was a kingdom of islands. Subsequent land uplift over the last 5,000 years brought Hanstholm into close proximity with the rest of Thy, and today the resulting ridge stretches from Hanstholm in the west to Vigso in the east.

Hanstholm town and harbour

100 years ago, Hanstholm was a small fishing settlement with a scattering of houses on the top of the promontory. In 1917, the decision was taken to build a harbour with further plans for its future. But the harbour project was a victim of World War II when the Germans chose the town for the location of extensive fortifications. The locals of Hanstholm had to wait 50 years before the harbour could be inaugurated in 1967.

Today, Hanstholm is a modern industrial and trade centre, Denmark's largest harbour for fishing for human consumption, and a ferry port with connections to the Faeroes, and Iceland. Hanstholm has approximately 2,600 inhabitants.



Hanstholm town plantation

Hanstholm town plantation was established in the 1950s to provide some shelter for the town and to obscure the German defences. The climate here is harsh: The area is a peninsula jutting out into the North Sea and the forest edge that faces west has been strongly shaped by the sea winds.

Today, the once predominant pine plantation is slowly giving way to new plantings of deciduous trees.

Hanstholm lighthouse

Hanstholm lighthouse was built in 1843 and converted to electrical power in 1889. It was the first dioptric light in Denmark, and for a while the world's most powerful lighthouse. At 65 metres above sea level, it is the most elevated of the country's lighthouses and visible far out at sea. The lighthouse is open to the public and affords a breathtaking view to the horizon in all directions.

Key

- Public road
- Forest/field road
- Path
- River
- Bluff
- Deciduous forest
- Coniferous forest
- Meadow
- Heath
- Dunes
- Common
- Bog
- Built up area
- Garden
- Surrounding area
- Lake
- Privately owned forest
- Privately owned dune area
- Privately owned heath
- Car park
- Museum / landmark
- Bathing beach
- Toilet
- Disabled toilet
- Simple camping area with shelter
- Nature playground
- Camp site
- Windsurfing
- State-owned land
- Private land
- Burial mound
- Marked nature trails
- Marked nature trails