



Six-trunked beech

streams and clear spring ponds, have formed a distinctive natural habitat featuring woodland marshes, ash springs and alder swamp. The cold, oxygen-rich spring streams are ideal for small forms of aquatic life, while the many springs support a variety of plant life, such as giant horse-tail and forest orchids.



Early purple orchis



Travertine was once used to improve the quality of the soil (a process called marling). It was also cut into blocks for use in building – in Jelling church, for example.

To the north, the upper valley is boxed in by wooded valley slopes. The southern side, however, is open arable land with fields, common and hedgerows covering the softly shaped moraine hills.

**Old farm woodlands.** Jelling Skov was originally woodland where local farmers each had their own plot. However, because of the steeply sloping terrain and the many springs, much of the area has been left alone, resulting in variation right from intensively forested areas to virtually untouched woodland. Beech is prominent here, while the forest floor features spiked rampion, great woodrush and wood loosestrife. The raven breeds here, the woodlands often resounding to its harsh cry.

The individual woodland plots were marked by embankments, and old sets of wheeltracks can be seen in places.

**Many springs.** The steep slopes, with their

The springs have also left travertine deposits, formed when rain-water seeping through the soil dissolved the lime in moraine deposits. When the water later emerged in springs, the lime appeared as travertine.

**Shapes moulded by ice.** The Grejs Å river valley was formed by melt water and glaciers during the last Ice Age. The valley runs parallel to the Vejle Å river valley, with a north-south erosion valley link from Grejs to Vejle. After the Ice Ages, melt water clefts have cut into the slopes along the Fårup Lake and along the Grejs Å valley, forming their rounded, hilly shapes.



The middle of the valley bottom, lining the Grejs Å river, features a patchwork of meadow and marsh.

**Fårup Sø and Grejs Å are fed by springs.** Fårup Lake is one of the deepest in the county – 11 metres at its deepest point. Most of the water comes from springs in and around the lake. Vigorous growths of algae in the late summer often turn the lake completely green, a soup of algae caused by too many nutrients from fish farms, built-up areas and fields.

The source of Grejs Å lies in the many springs in and around Fårup Lake. The lower section is one of the finest in the county, with a winding course and

a heavy fall, providing ideal habitats for the stone fly, May fly and caddis fly. This in turn means that birds such as the grey wagtail, the dipper and the kingfisher can breed along the valley.



Fårup Lake is good for perch, as well as roach, bream, pike, lake trout and eel.

**From manor farm to smallholding.** The history of Fårupgård can be traced back to the 1400s. Over the centuries, it passed through many different hands before being divided up into 26 small farms in 1911. Today, the main house is occupied by an organisation dealing with young people with special social problems.



Fårupgård also serves as a training centre for the county's personale.



The upper part of the Grejs Å river valley, with the Fårup Sø lake, the many springs, extensive stretches of woodland, and grassy, open meadows and common land provides the setting for a fascinating area of countryside.

**Walks and access.** 5 different easily accessible walks and cycle routes have been laid out in the woods and along the valley and Fårup Lake. Most of the area is privately-owned farmland or woodlands where the usual rules for access apply:

- Walking is permitted on publicly owned land, on roads and paths and on uncultivated land if not fenced in
- Cycling is permitted on proper forest roads and on normal countryroads
- There are no restrictions on access to publicly owned land
- Access to privately owned land is restricted to the period from 7 am to sunset
- Dogs must be kept on a leash

Please note that some areas can be closed off during the hunting season (as indicated by signs).

There is public access at the east end of the lake, where there is a small shop, and pedalboats and rowing boats are for hire (fishing is allowed). A path leads from the Fårup Skov woodlands to the lake, with a small jetty and a viewing platform. Abrahamsens Gård is a former farm right in the middle of Jelling Skov that is now a recreational centre, with parking, tables and benches, toilets and a covered picnic area. The Hærvejen 'Ancient Highway' walk and regional cycle routes nos. 34 and 35 cross the valley at the east end of the lake.

Vejle County and Randbøl state forest district work with landowners in the area regarding access and nature conservancy. Coloured posts mark the paths in the area, both on publicly and privately owned land. Most paths are established by agreement with landowners, some passing through areas where sheep or cattle graze. Please show due consideration and leave the countryside as you yourself would wish to find it.

Published by Vejle County in collaboration with the Jelling Tourist Society, February 1998. Revised, July 2004.

The photo on the front page shows Fårup Lake, with the lakeside woodlands to the north and the open, grassy moraine hills south of the lake.  
Photo: Bert Wiklund



# Fårup Lake – Jelling Forest Rugballe Marsh

## Tours in the area:

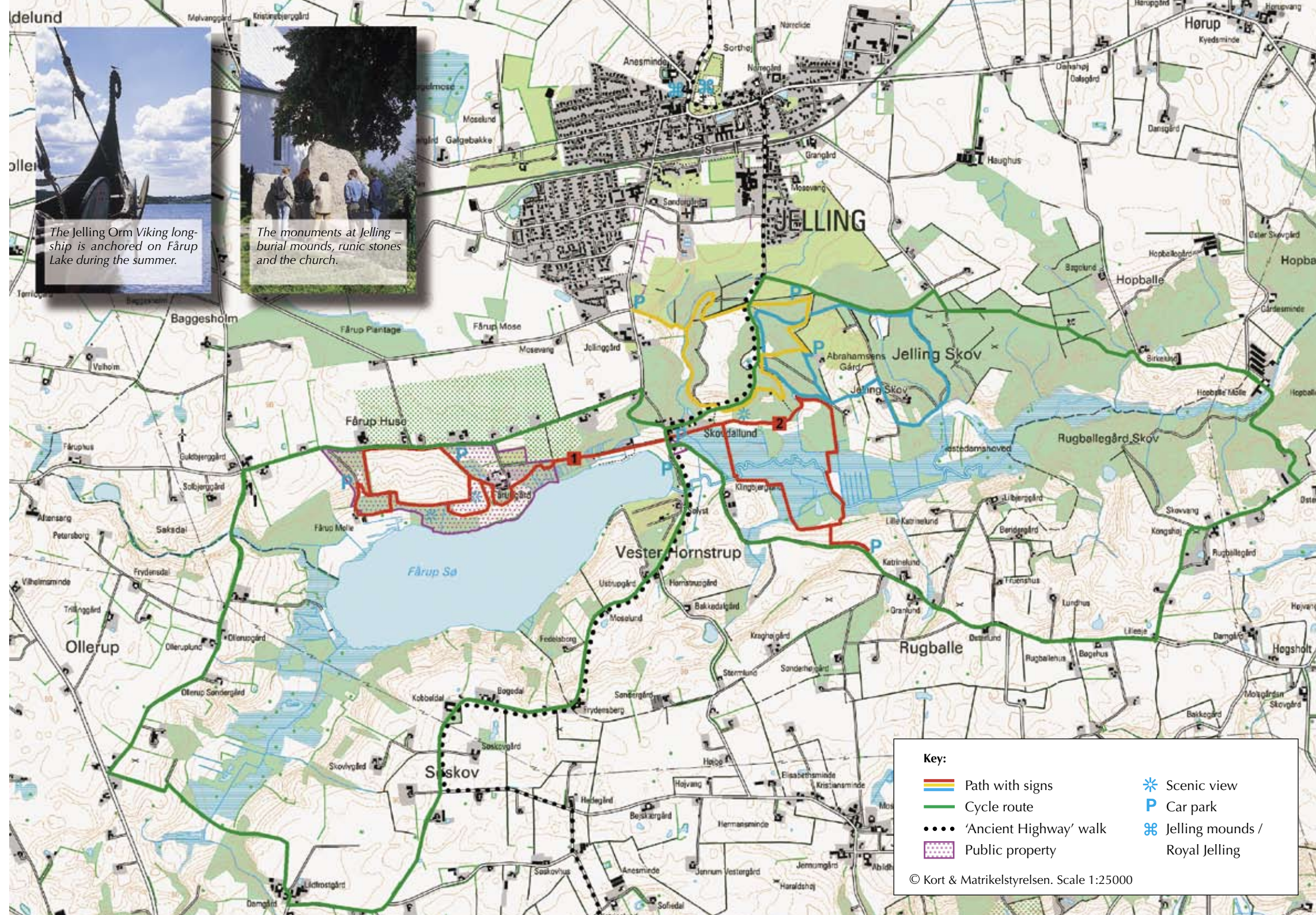
**1 Fårupgård–Fårup Lake.** With 2.5 km of marked-out paths in each direction along the north side of Fårup Lake, there are also several smaller round-tour walks. There are paths through the sloping lakeside woodlands from the car parks north of the lake and from Skovdallund, (in places) with excellent views over the lake. The path leads past the Fårupgård manor house, with remains of a medieval basement from an earlier farm on the site. The great crested grebe and the sheldrake are often to be seen on the lake.

**2 Rugballe Marsh.** A challenging 3.5-kilometre walking tour in the area with the winding watercourse. A tramped earth path leads through the meadows, where sheep and cattle graze. Part of the route follows the edge of Jelling Forest, often with excellent views of the river valley. The path leads round Rugballe Marsh and through willow scrub, where the nightingale and the grasshopper warbler can be heard early in the summer. The route passes some old diggings, where lime was once dug for marling the soil. For this walk, boots are necessary in wet periods. The path is not suitable for those with pushchairs, or with difficulty in walking.

**Jelling Forest–Hestedamshoved.** A 4 km walk starting near the Abrahamsens Gård farm, with most of the route on good forest paths. These run along the edge of the woodlands with views of grazing land and with open valley vistas, and through woodlands featuring both dense pine and tall beeches. The countryside is quite hilly, with a very steep slope near Hestedamshoved that can be difficult for those with pushchairs, or with difficulty in walking.

**Jelling Forest–Skovdallund Møllebæk.** A 3 km walk along the stream and in valley clefts. The path starts from the car park north of the forest or from Abrahamsens Gård farm, passing through areas of tall beeches and following the winding Møllebæk stream. The path sometimes passes through the ancient eroded clefts where melt water cut into the sides of the valley after the last Ice Age.

**Fårup Lake/Hopballe Mill.** A cycle route that makes a circuit in the hilly terrain around Fårup Lake and the upper Grejsdal valley (not marked out). The figure-of-eight route is 20 km long but can be enjoyed in sections. Starting at one of the car parks at the east end of Fårup Lake, the route follows Fårupvej over the low moraine hills south of the lake, with several excellent views. Turn right at Lildfrost along a field path down across the valley by the Lildfrost stream and continue along Ollerupvej, crossing the Saksdal watercourse. Cycle northwards round the lake along Gammelbyvej and then back to the Grejsdal valley along Fårupvej. At the Skovdallund Inn, turn along Skovgade past Skovdal Mill and continue on gravelled paths through Jelling forest – Amhøjvej and Birkelundvej. Emerging from the forest, follow Bøgelundvej down to Hopballe Mill and the Grejs Å river. Then continue up onto the higher ground south of the Grejs valley, before returning to the starting point via Hover Kirkevej, Høgsholtvej and Skovdallundvej. This section of the route passes through the open, hilly moraine landscape along the edge of the river valley.



The Jelling Orm Viking longship is anchored on Fårup Lake during the summer.

The monuments at Jelling – burial mounds, runic stones and the church.

**Key:**

- Path with signs
- Cycle route
- 'Ancient Highway' walk
- Public property
- \* Scenic view
- P Car park
- ⊗ Jelling mounds / Royal Jelling

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