Black-Veined White

Common Lousewort
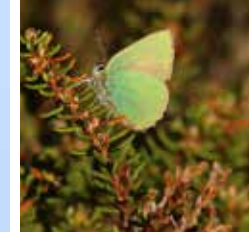

Pasqueflower

Ladybird Spider

Five-Spot Burnet

Emus hirtus/Rove Beetle

European Honey Buzzard

Green Hairstreak

European Green Woodpecker

Use the iNat app for ID

Glanville Fritillary

Giant Tachinid Fly

Tormentil

Common Milkwort

Red-Backed Shrike

Andrena hattorfiana

Wood Lark

Crested Cow-Wheat

The Mols Laboratory – The wildest place in #dknatur

(Wilderness, noun: A place that is wild and messy –thus forming a contrast to society, culture etc.)

REWILDING

EXMOOR PONIES AND GALLOWAY CATTLE

Exmoor ponies

Exmoor ponies are the oldest and most primitive of the native British ponies. They are also the purest breed, and herds of these ponies still live wild on Exmoor in southern England. The breed has existed since before the Ice Age, and it has survived because it was isolated in moorland areas, where it has only changed slightly. The animals are intelligent and have a friendly temperament. They are a powerfully-built, strong and enduring breed. Adult ponies grow to a maximum height of 125 cm (12 hands). The ponies came to Molslaboratoriet in 2016.

Galloway cattle

Galloway cattle come originally from south-west Scotland, and are suited to living outdoors all year round. The breed is naturally hornless, and has a thick inner layer of fur which enables the animals to survive in the wettest winters. The cattle came to Molslaboratoriet in 1972.

Welcome to Rewilding Mols that hosts nature in the wild where Exmoor ponies and Galloway cattle roam 120 hectares of nature.

WHY REWILDING?

The idea behind rewilding is to recreate the best possible version of wild, self-regulating nature. Nature can actually manage itself if only we drop the reins. However, if we want nature to be as wild as it was for millions of years it requires some big animals. At our latitude this includes predators like bear and wolf and herbivores like horse, ox, bison, wild boar, deer and extinct species like giant deer, forest elephant and rhinoceros. In our huge enclosure we have settled on horses and cattle since they are relatively easy to contain within a simple fence. Fencing is imperative as the animals would otherwise be liable to roam neighboring farmer's fields and have a feast.

HOW DO WE DO IT?

At rewilding Mols we apply a reactive management principle. Instead of deciding beforehand how many animals the area can sustain and regulating accordingly, we allow the population to grow without regulation. As the animals are not fed in the enclosure, one limiting factor is the amount of available plant food. If the population grows too big it will inevitably decline just as it does

in natural habitats. Under normal circumstances horses and cattle will die naturally from lack of food or of illnesses. However, the Animal Welfare Act prohibits that. If specific animals are unable to survive in the enclosure without treatment they will be removed from the herd. Some will be put down, others sent to similar rewilding projects. Due to health regulations we are not allowed to leave carcasses in the open as would have been the case in wildlife areas.

WHY RIGHT HERE?

Rewilding Mols is the first rewilding project in Denmark that is located in a first-rate nature area with a large number of rare species where horses and cattle are allowed to populate the area without constraining measures. Thus the Mols Laboratory is one of the few places where we have a real chance of learning how rewilding affects and enhances biodiversity.

WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN?

We do not know yet what the outcome will be. We are quite confident, though, that the distinct boundaries between open pastures and forests will be erased. Probably the landscape will turn into a mosaic, a sort of forest savannah with glades, alternating with bush and forest. We have already registered a huge increase in the number of flowering herbs in the summertime, and manure

from big herbivores can be found everywhere. Both are essential factors in creating a rich habitat for insects and the birds that prey on them. It is true that the Common Broom takes up much room in the landscape at the present, but in the long run we expect the population to find a more natural level in the ecosystem.

MODERN SCIENCE

We have studied the Danish nature at the Mols Laboratory since the 1940s. In the rewilding projects we track the animals by means of e.g. GPS. Drones monitor the area, and 22 monitored fields have been established to compare areas with continuous grazing to other grazing strategies, such as summer and winter grazing, haymaking and lack of grazing. Thus it is imperative that research setups and markers are respected.

HOW TO ACT IN THE ENCLOSURE

When entering you will be in the company of cattle and horses. The must be treated with due respect, so please keep a safe distance. Feeding is forbidden since this will make them seek contact with visitors thus make them potentially aggressive.

Take pleasure in the fact that fencing is limited to an absolute minimum - and enjoy your hike!

WILDERNESS AND SCIENCE AT MOLSLABORATORIET

REWILDING MOLS

Den Danske NATURFOND

NATURHISTORISK MUSEUM MOLSLABORATORIET

Welcome

Welcome to Molslaboratoriet, the Natural History Museum's research station in Mols Bjerge. Molslaboratoriet includes an area of 1½ km² of natural countryside, where ecological research and experiments in nature management are carried out. If you have questions, you are welcome to call +45 86 36 25 35 or send a mail molslab@molslab.dk

RULES FOR ACTIVITIES

The whole area is protected. Camping and use of open fire are not permitted.

There is public access to the area under the Nature Conservation Act.

Acute problems with the animals can be reported to our emergency line, tel. +45 21 53 09 13

PLEASE NOTE, HOWEVER:

- Feeding the animals is not allowed – ever! Keep your distance, and never go in between the animals.

- We recommend that dogs should NOT be taken into the enclosed area. If you choose nevertheless to take a dog in, it MUST be kept on a short lead.

- If you cycle in the area, please take care. You may meet freely roaming animals anywhere.

- Horse riding is not permitted in the enclosed area.

- Wildlife cameras may be set up to monitor and register the animals and the surroundings.

- Do not touch experimental equipment.

- Wheelchairs and prams are welcome, but the paths are not really suitable for them.

- Only use the official entrances, please remember to close all fences and gates after going through them. Gates in the electric fences are only to be used by Molslaboratoriet staff – and the handles carry electric current!

- The animals and the area are under the protection of the public.

Legend
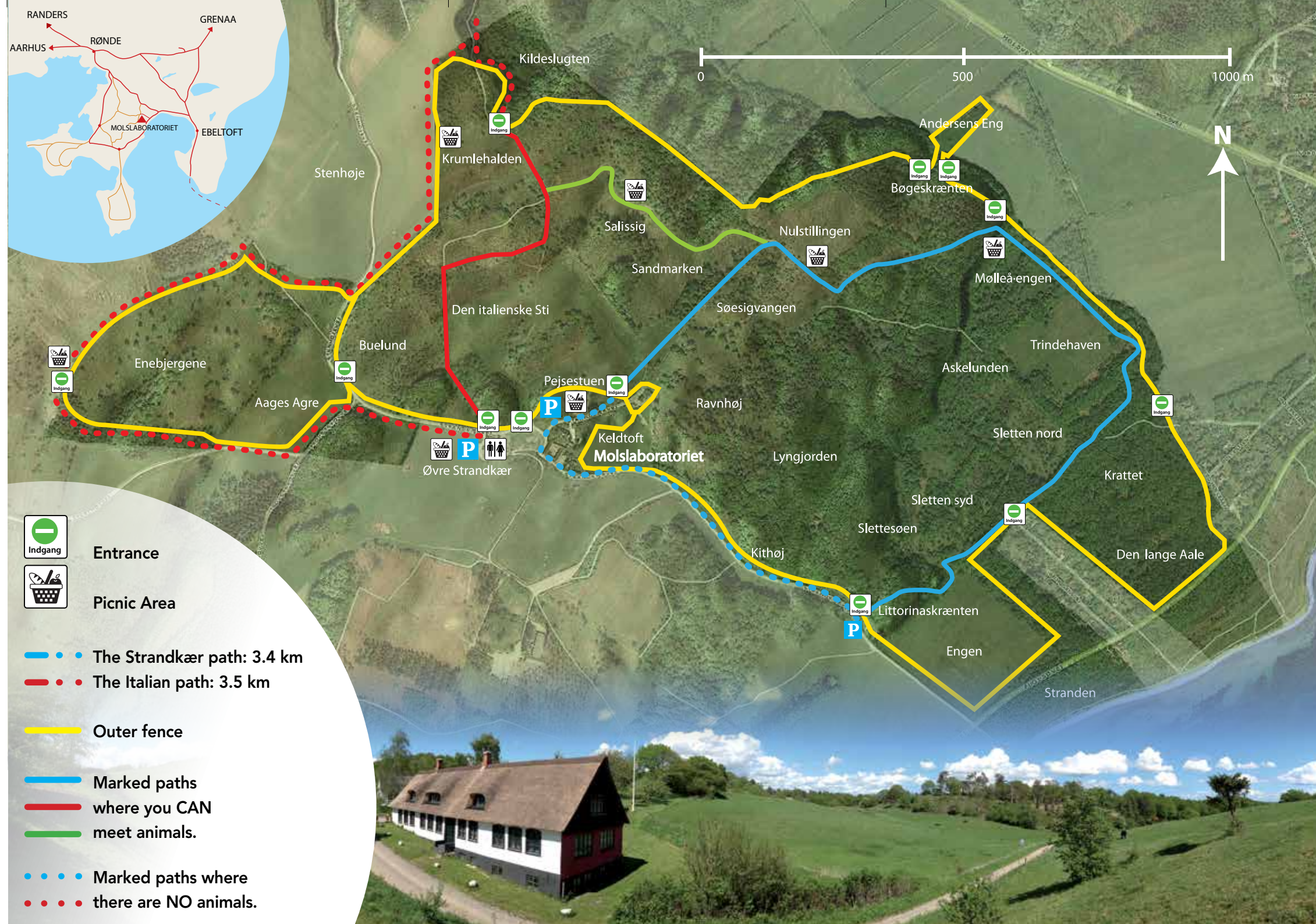
Indgang — Entrance

Picnic Area

— · — · — The Strandkær path: 3.4 km

— · — · — The Italian path: 3.5 km

——— Outer fence

——— Marked paths

——— where you CAN

——— meet animals.

· · · · · Marked paths where

· · · · · there are NO animals.

MOLSLABORATORIET

The history of Molslaboratoriet goes back to 1941, when the Natural History Museum in Aarhus was granted the right to research at the Nedre Strandkær farm by Ellen Dahl, a sister to the world famous author Karen Blixen. In 1951 the entire property – a four-building farm, a smallholding and the adjoining land – was donated to the museum.

THE BUILDINGS

The actual farm buildings at Nedre Strandkær are the third generation of buildings on the site. The oldest sections can be dated to around 1730. Today, Molslaboratoriet buildings are used as a course centre for universities, companies and private groups. There are facilities for 49 overnight guests. In addition, there are office and laboratory facilities, which are used by the permanent staff and visiting researchers.

Read more at www.molslab.dk
Please review us on tripadvisor.com

NATURHISTORISK MUSEUM
MOLSLABORATORIET

Map labels

RANDERS, GRENAA, AARHUS, RØNDE, MOLSLABORATORIET, EBELTOFT

Kildeslugten, Andersens Eng, Krumlehalden, Stenhøje, Bøgeskrænten, Salissig, Nulstillingen, Sandmarken, Mølleå-engen, Den italienske Sti, Søesigvangen, Trindehaven, Enebjergene, Buelund, Askelunden, Aages Agre, Pejsestuen, Ravnhøj, Sletten nord, Keldtoft, Molslaboratoriet, Lyngjorden, Krattet, Øvre Strandkær, Sletten syd, Slettesøen, Den lange Aale, Kithøj, Littorinaskrænten, Engen, Stranden