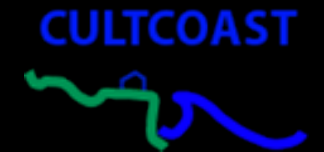




# A taste of the latest findings CULTCOAST field work 2022

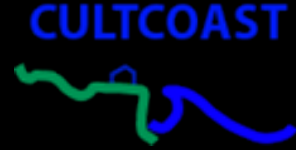
Collaboration with  
Arctic Alpine Decay  
Field trip 25.7.-5.8.22



Cecilie Flyen (NIKU), Anne-Cathrine Flyen (NIKU) and  
Atle Hegnes (NIBIO)



# CULTCOAST



- WP4:
  - Looking into the impact of the combined loads of climate change and human impact from tourism on CH environments in polar/arctic areas
  - Case study at Svalbard (Russekeila and Hiorthhamn) and Andøya on mainland Norway
  - Qualitative case studies; interviews, observations, literature studies

The cable car station at Hiorthhamn, Svalbard

Photo: C Flyen/NIKU





# Alpine Arctic Decay

- WP Tourism
  - Looking into the impact of the combined loads of climate change and human impact from tourism on wooden CH environments in polar/arctic areas
  - Case study at Svalbard (Longyearbyen and Ny-Ålesund) and Finse in the Hardangervidda National Park) on mainland Norway
  - Qualitative case studies; interviews, observations, literature studies

Tourist traffic at London, Ny-Ålesund, Svalbard

Photo: AC Flyen/NIKU





# Cruiseship impressions

Education of guides and training of tourists – observations and interviews

- Mandatory video on board the ship, about behavior on and around CH sites and in nature, and site specific guidelines
- Guides embarked first, high level of knowledge, indicated where the tourists could walk; tourists followed up
- Development since 2019: increased focus on behavior and sustainability

Cruiseship docking at Ny-Ålesund.

Photo: AC Flyen/NIKU





# Tourist behavior and measures

- Expressed desire to come closer to CH objects and sites;
- Understood reasons for restrictions;
- Did not want to disturb or destroy;
- Difficult to understand what CH is;
- Measure: Wooden pathways in between the CH objects.

The Amundsen Airship anchoring pole at Ny-Ålesund

Photo: AC Flyen/NIKU





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Wooden pathway Hiorthhamn, on top of CH structures

Photo: C Flyen/NIKU





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Wooden pathway Ny-Ålesund

Photo: AC Flyen/NIKU





# Wear and tear; tourists impact on CH and nature

- Heavy traffic, huge impact on vulnerable wooden structures and nature;
- Observed CH structures less damaged than expected (according to traffic load, and impact on nature);
- Pathways should be used, here it is «overused»
- Increased traffic leaves traces.

Pathway from beach to CH site at London, Ny-Ålesund

Photo: AC Flyen/NIKU





# Information

- New glass information boards welcomed;
- Want for more information and history/knowledge;
- Can be overload of information;
- Want for more digitalized information, more personalized and easier access (internet dependancy).

Glass information boards at Skjærings, Longyearbyen

Photo: C Flyen/NIKU





# Why are Cultural Heritage environments important?

- Difficult and complex question
- To see oneself in a historic perspective
- To understand how hard life has been
- To acknowledge the efforts of people who have been working under very harsh conditions
- It adds to the whole experience of Svalbard

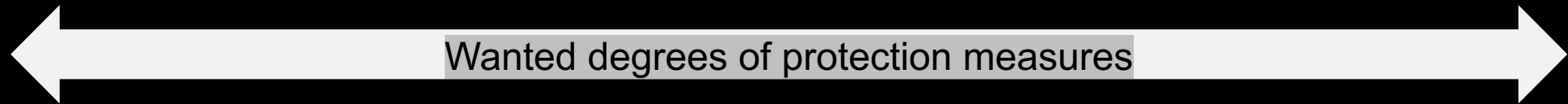
Ship wreck at Hiorthhamn

Photo: C Flyen/NIKU





# Tourists suggestions for degree of protective measures



«Everything has its own time»

«Build a glass house over everything»

«Build pathways to get close»

«Tear it all down»

Do nothing

Do something to protect

Do something to increase availability

Do everything





# Concluding remarks

- Increasing numbers of tourists (peaks in -19 and -22?)
- Covid-19: Postponed but not cancelled travels to Svalbard
- Increased consciousness on behavior and sustainability (site specific guidelines) since 2019
- Most come for nature – leave with better understanding for CH
- Difficult to understand what are actually cultural heritage

High tourist activity at Londen/Ny-Ålesund

Photo: AC Flyen/NIKU







Delevopment at Russekeila since 2019

Photo: C Flyen/NIKU





Delevopment at Russekeila since 2019  
Photo: C Flyen/NIKU





Delevopment at Russekeila since 2019

Photo: C Flyen/NIKU





Delevopment at Russekeila since 2019  
Photo: C Flyen/NIKU



Thank you for your attention!

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of Norway



The Amundsen Airship anchoring pole at Ny-Ålesund  
Photo: AC Flyen/NIKU

