Some digital services at Riksantikvaren, the Directorate for Cultural Heritage in Norway

Anders Olsson, Riksantikvaren

Community-based monitoring and Citizen science in the Svalbard area (6.-9. august 2022)

Today's text

1. A bit about me

2. The basics of Askeladden

3. A quick look at distributed services (WMS/WFS, API's, licences…)

4. A short presentation of Kulturminnesøk

5. Q and A

5 bullet points about me

- Former Archaeologist (mostly urban medieval excavations)

- Now I work as an «Virksomhetsutviklere» in the section for digital services at Riksantikvaren (since 2014)

- Involved in the digital development of Kulturminnesøk and Spor (search system for digitized historical records)

- Also involved with procurements, licenses/open data, and various cross-institutional projects

- Not an expert at anything, but I know our systems fairly well

Askeladden

Askeladden is a nationwide database system for managing cultural heritage monuments and sites.

The system uses both database and GIS functionality

Aims to integrate all data relating to immovable sites and monuments that are protected by the Cultural Heritage Act (and then some!)

First version in 2004 built upon digitized data from several older analog systems/records

In daily use throughout the country for management and planning processes

RIKSANTIKVAREN

Velkommen til Askeladden

Brukernavn

Passord

Logg inn   Glemt passord?

Brukermanual finner man under *Din profil og lenker - Hjelp* etter pålogging.

Til Brukere av Riksantikvarens WMS-tjeneste

25.06.2022 erstattes vår gamle gamle WMS-tjeneste med en ny. Informasjon om den nye tjenesten finnes på Geonorge**. Den Gamle tjenesten blir kort tid etter dette slått av.**

Leveranse gjennomført 15.juni.2022

Følgende er utbedret

- Teknisk oppgradering
- Feilretting av diverse bugs
- Søk på konsekvensgrad
- Bildezoom under skala 1:625

Pågående arbeid

Users of Askeladden

Approx. 5.000 registered users

Approx. 1.000 of these can create content and edit the database

The rest have just reading access

A wide variation of users:

- Those with editorial rights – Heritage Professionals (i.e.. Counties, NIKU, University Museums, Riksantikvaren, Byantikvarer, Sysselmesteren….)

- Those without – Municipalities, «plan people» at various levels, researchers, students, real estate people…)

Digital Heritage objects in Askeladden (the data)

- Approx. 220.000 automatic protected archeological objects

- Approx. 8.700 protected buildings

- 17 protected vessels

- 238 protected churches

- Approx. 1.400 protected technical/industrial objects

- Approx. 800 protected «utomhuselement»

- Approx. 20.000 municipality/regionaly listed object (verneverdige/vernede kulturminner)

Structure in the data

A division between:

- Lokaliteter – a defined area/geometry with to or more "Enkeltminner" + optional protection zone

    - Enkeltminner – heritage objects that are part of an "Lokalitet" but with their own area/geometry, dating, protection status, description, events…

- Kulturminner – an "Lokalitet" with just a single "Enkeltminne" + optional protection zone

4 Heritage types at top-level (with many more subtypes under each level):

- Archaeological sites

- Churches

- Bebyggelse-infrastruktur (built heritage)

- Kulturmiljøer

Example – 145558 Hiorthamn

An Events-based database

"Things" that happens to the Heritage objects are recorded as events, for example:

- New or changed registration, name, description, category or sub-category

- New or changed dating, geometry, protection status or zone

- Fieldwork or excavations, assessment activity, changed "state" for part or the whole of the object etc.

- *And also – opportunities to query and search, filter, download and export sets of data, from within the application*

Challenges/problems

- Many archaeological remains not recorded (not discovered yet!)

- Quality of data (descriptions, geometries, statuses, missing/wrong, info….)

- A variety of users and no common standard for registration (and also regional differences)

- Complex multi-layered structure in an common UX with different types of objects (i.e. archaeology, buildings, churches…) that have different needs associated with them (overviews, reports…)

- Differing competence of the users of the system

- Plan 2021-25: Data Quality, Standards, Terminology, Competence...

DIGITAL STRATEGI

Digital strategi for kulturmiljøforvaltningen 2021 - 2025

Fortida gjør framtida rikere

RIKSANTIKVAREN 2021

Lisencensing and data sharing

Askeladden – a "locked" system but:

- Sentral data is licenced openly (NLOD – Norwegian License for Open Government Data)

- It is shared through the GeoNorge cooperation and through our own API's

- This data is <u>used extensively </u>in GIS-systems in all Counties and most Municipalities (and then some…)

- It can also be used to build new/other services

Home / kulturminner / Data / kulturminner / Queryables

Queryables

"Queryables" are attributes that can be used in search or selection expressions, for example, in queries or styling rules.

opphav	opphav Data type: string
beskrivelse	beskrivelse Data type: string
created	created Data type: string
datauttaksdato	datauttaksdato Data type: string
enkeltminneart	enkeltminneart Data type: string
enkeltminnekategori	enkeltminnekategori Data type: string
enkeltminnetilleggsartid	enkeltminnetilleggsartid Data type: string
gardsnavn	gardsnavn Data type: string
kommune	kommune

Distributed services (Kartkatalogen) at GeoNorge

- Links to the services/systems, to API's and downloadable data

- Services configurable and based on open standards as WFS (Web Feature Service) and WMS (Web Map Service)

API and an example (GIS solution by UiO)

Kulturminnesøk

A national website for dissemination of cultural heritage,

The service is targeted towards the general public and everyone with an interest in cultural heritage

A website designed both for computers and for use on cell phones

As of now over 230.000 objects from the entire country from:

- The national Cultural Heritage database «Askeladden» and images from Riksantikvarens photo archive

- The public who contributes with their heritage objects, images, comments and links
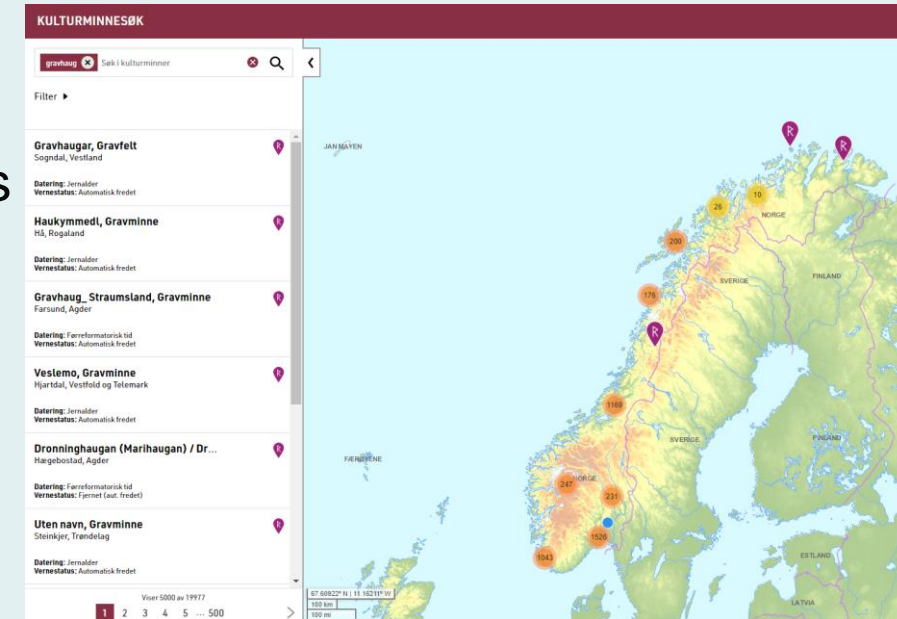
Kulturminnesøk – a brief history

- Established in «Kulturminneåret 2009»

- Open for user contributions since 2012

- Latest version in 2021

Design of Forms and user "flow"

From something fairly
"complicated" to a more
simplistic approach
(simple, but not stupid
and hopefully easy to contribute)

Pageviews per Year

User characteristics

Brukere

- Over 7.600 registered users (but 90–9-1% rule is at hand!)

- Approx. 20.000 web visitors a month of all types:

  - The cultural heritage interested general public

  - Members of local history societies

  - Metal detector enthusiasts

  - The Geo-caching circuit

  - People hiking and out and about

  - Journalists

  - People who own and/or have cultural heritage objects on their land
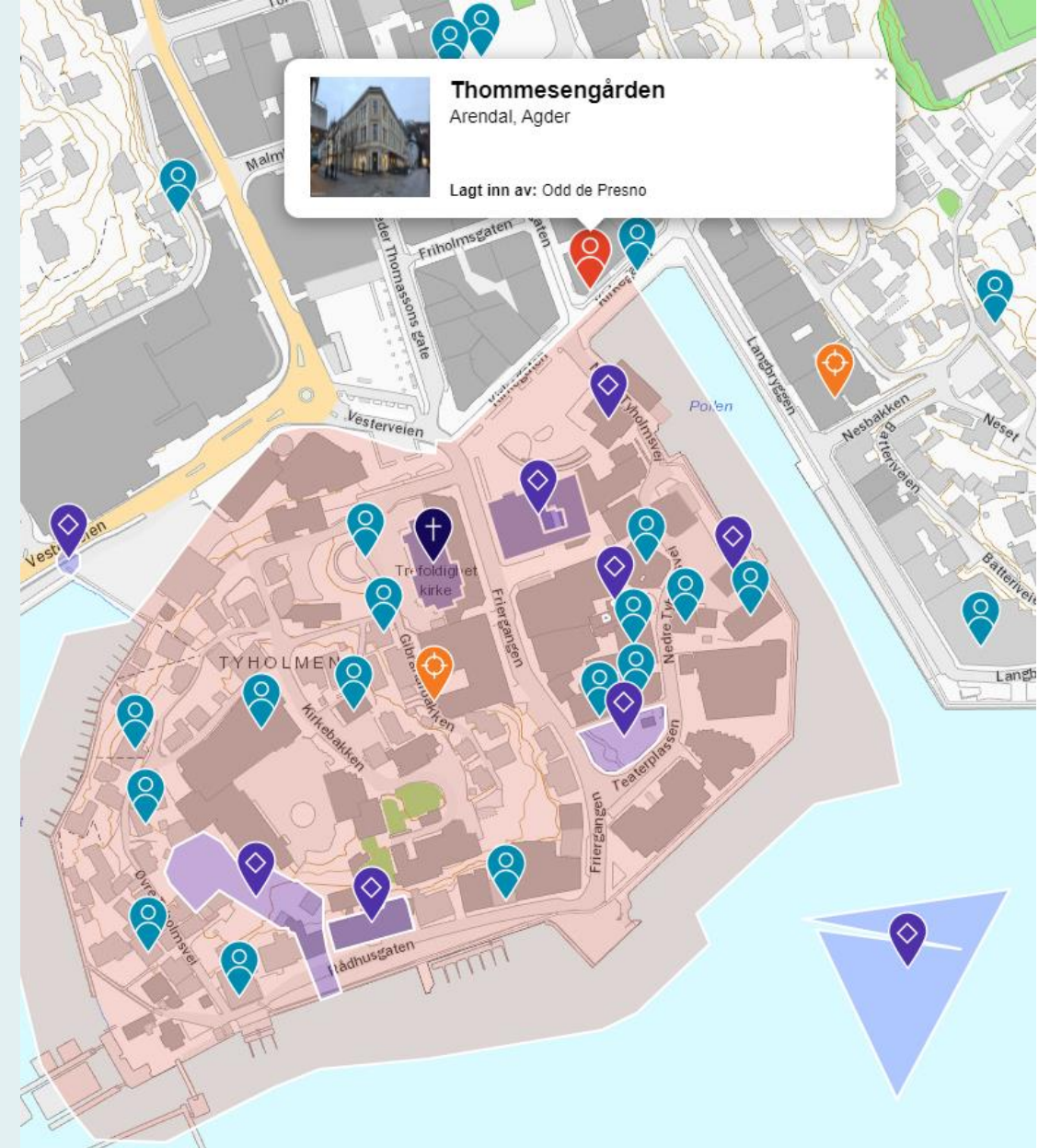
  - Etc. ++

User contributions

- 4 types of content

    1. User generated heritage objects

    2. Photos uploaded by users

    3. Comments from the users

    4. Links to other digital resources

For photos, comments and links these could either be attached to objects that are:

- User generated

- Or - from Askeladden

Add a heritage object (logged in)

- A fairly simple online form

- Default fields:

  - *Title

  - *Description

  - *Coordinates (zoom in the map and pick a spot)

- Optional fields

  - «Tags»

  - «Image/Photo» (.jpg or .png – max 5MB)

The new heritage object is enriched with a county/municipality relation from its coordinates and is searchable according to its title, description and tags

Image-form (logged in)

- Pick an image and upload it (.jpg or .png – max 5MB)

- 3 default fields (limited number of characters):

    - *Image description

    - *Photographer (remember you need to have copyright to upload and use the image)

    - *Licence (pick from the dropdown list)

Other content (logged in)

- Links and comments – both available as «tabs» on the relevant heritage object page

The comments tab ➡️

The links tab ⬇️
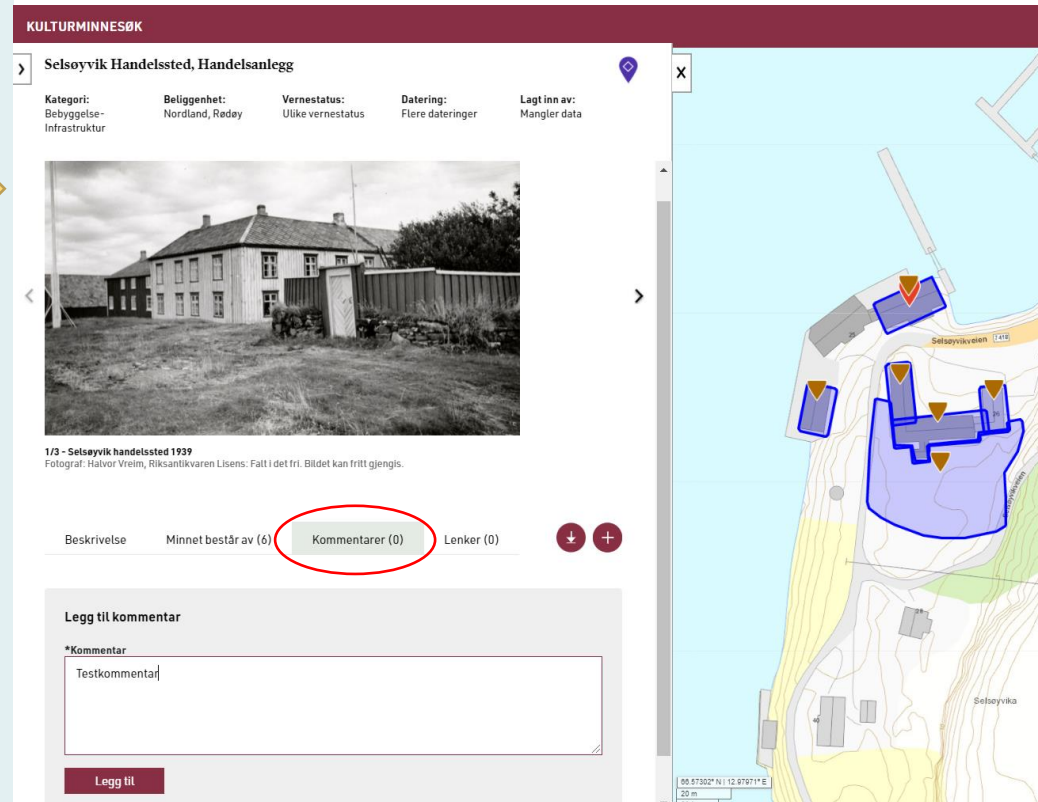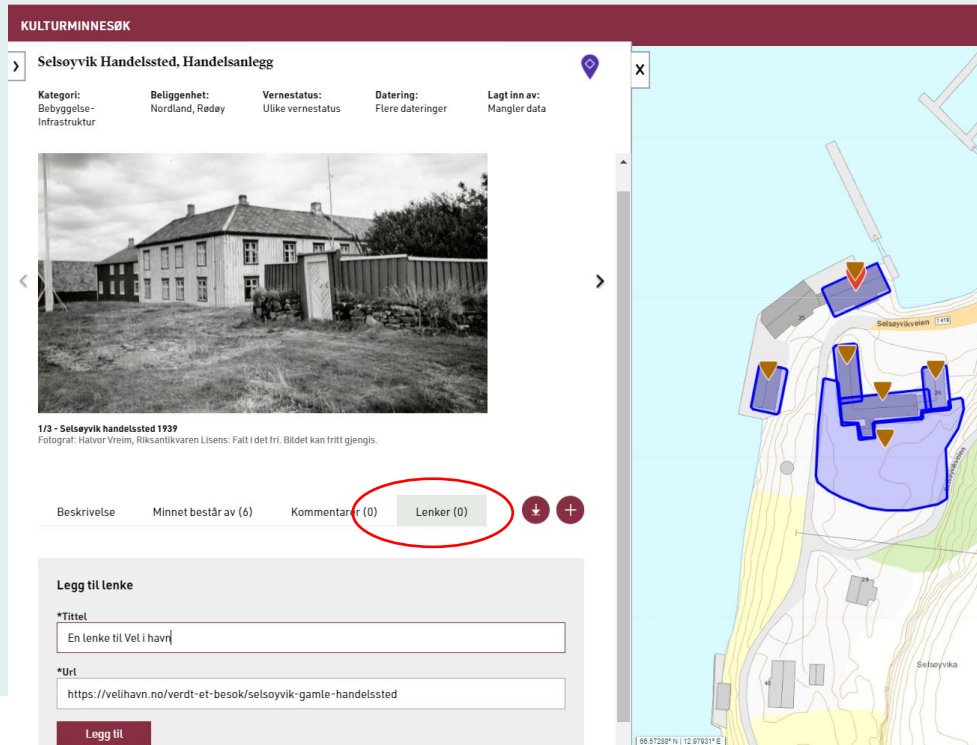
Heritage objects from the users

- Of two types:

  1. Heritage without protection (objects people view as important heritage to them – i.e. possible "Heritage of the future")

     - Homesteads/Cottages, remnants of mines, mills and bridges, milestones, inscriptions etc.

  2. Heritage object that should be protected and a part of Askeladden

- Both are valuable but for different reasons

RIKSANTIKVAREN
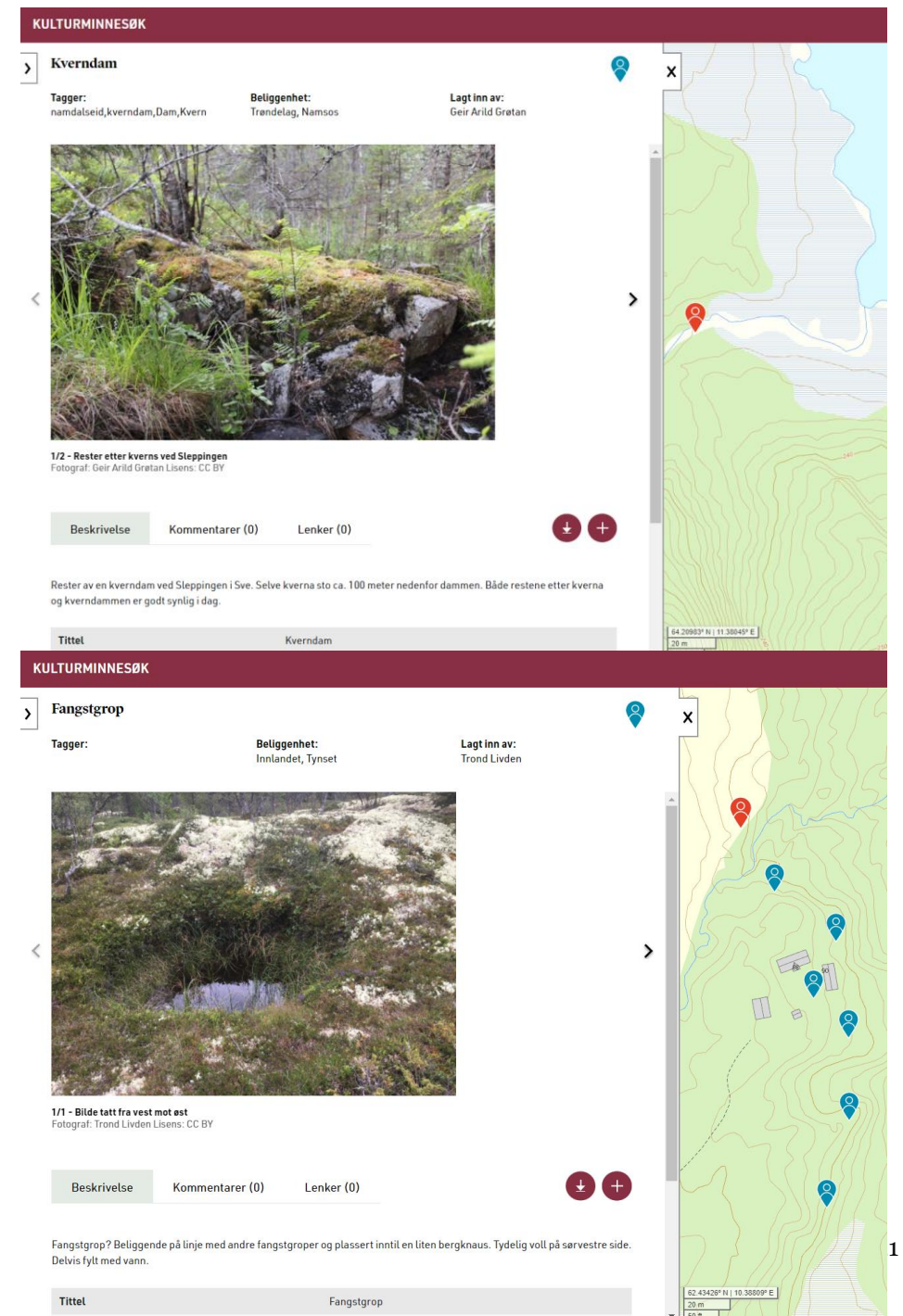
Other content from users

- Images

  - Approx. 15 daily. Majority uploaded on users own heritage objects, but maybe 20% on heritage objects from Askeladden. Often the only depictions of that particular object

- Comments

  - Additional information on the object

  - Corrections – X/Y-coordinates, wrong description/image, details etc.

- Links

  - More and other information/context
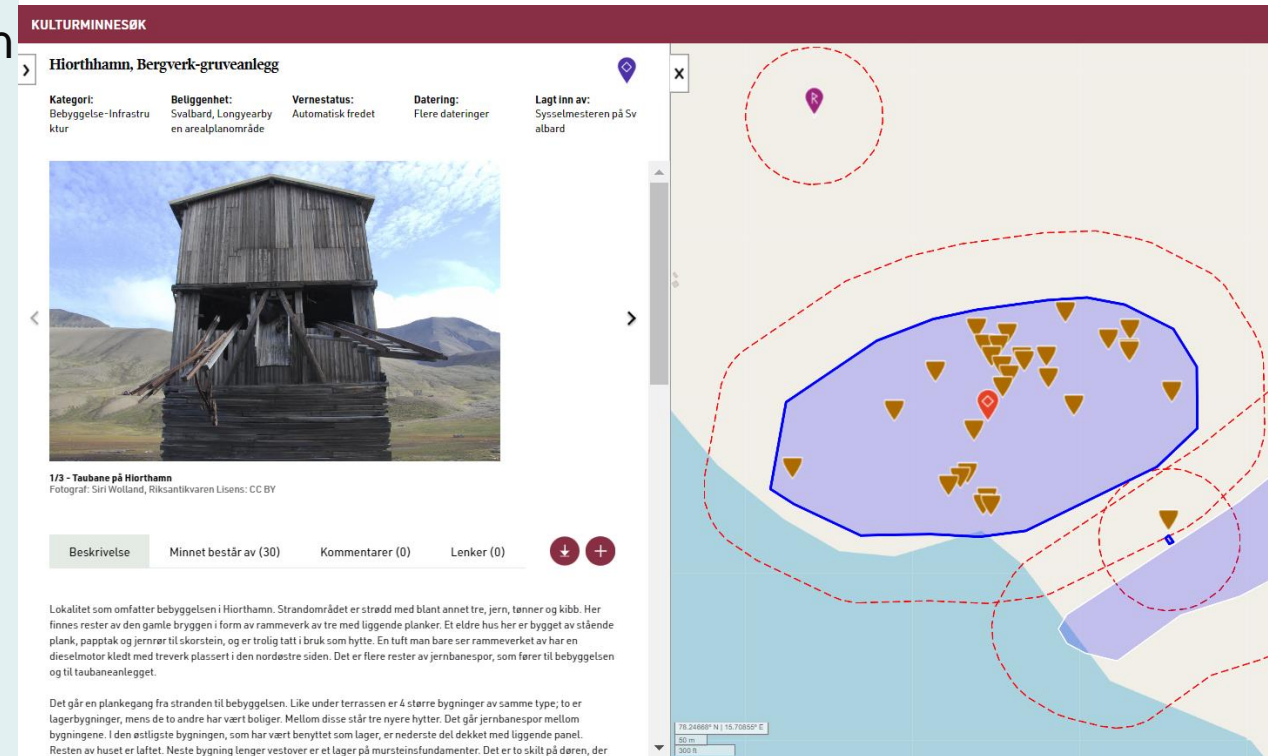
The editorial process and site «rules»

Content from users <u>is not editorially checked prior to publication</u>. But we keep an eye on everything that is published (daily)!

- Simple terms of use (physical users, GDPR, copyright, potentional sanctions in case of misuse etc.)

- The site is technically developed by an external contractor

Designing for participation – some of our choices

- Showcase content and contributions

- Make everything searchable

- And - findable through maps (exploration)

- Focus on people's location (county/municipality/context and maps)

- And through use of filters

- Clear sender of information (who is contributing)

- Everything is reusable (NLOD or CC-BY)!
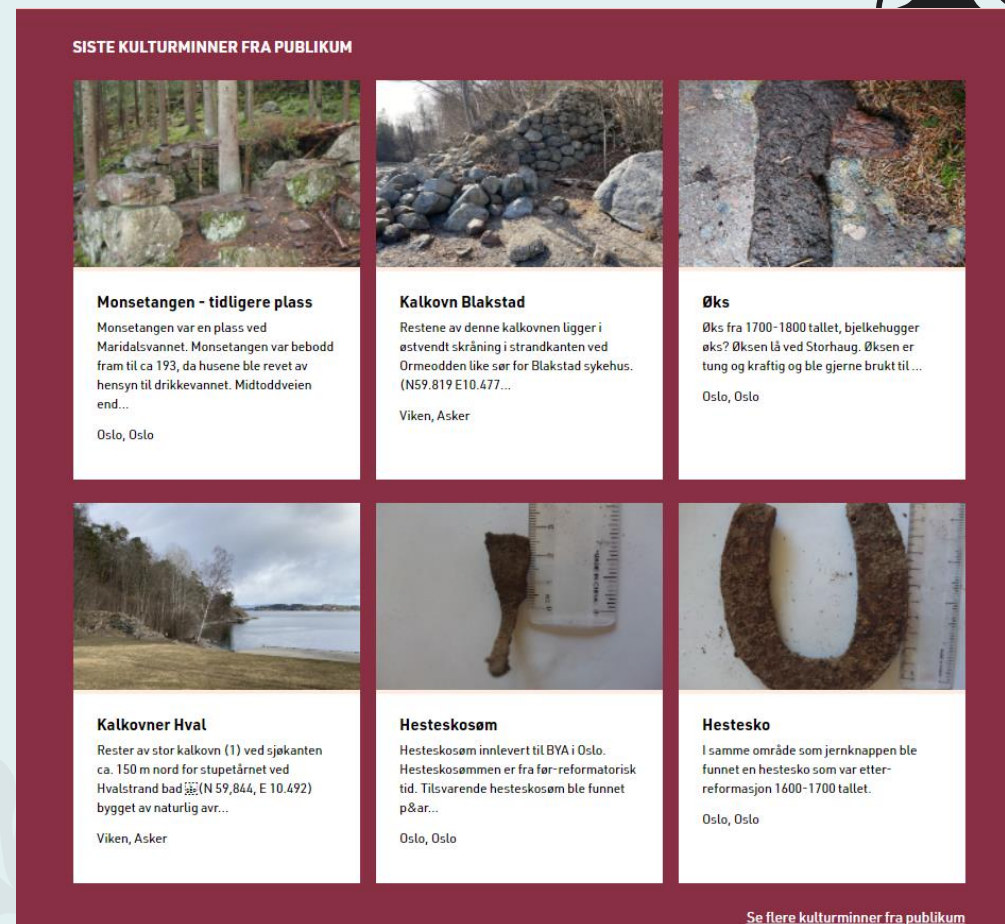
"Switchboard" effect – an online contact surface

Almost daily questions, feedback, complaints, reports and the like about:

- Someone is digging "over there" – is it allowed, what to do about it?

- What about my house, plot, place and Cultural Heritage?

- Is this "thing" something of value? What to do?

- My property is listed as… what does that mean for me/us?

We function as a communication channel between ourselves (and the rest of the cultural heritage management sector) and the general public – <u>contact, feedback, respect!</u>

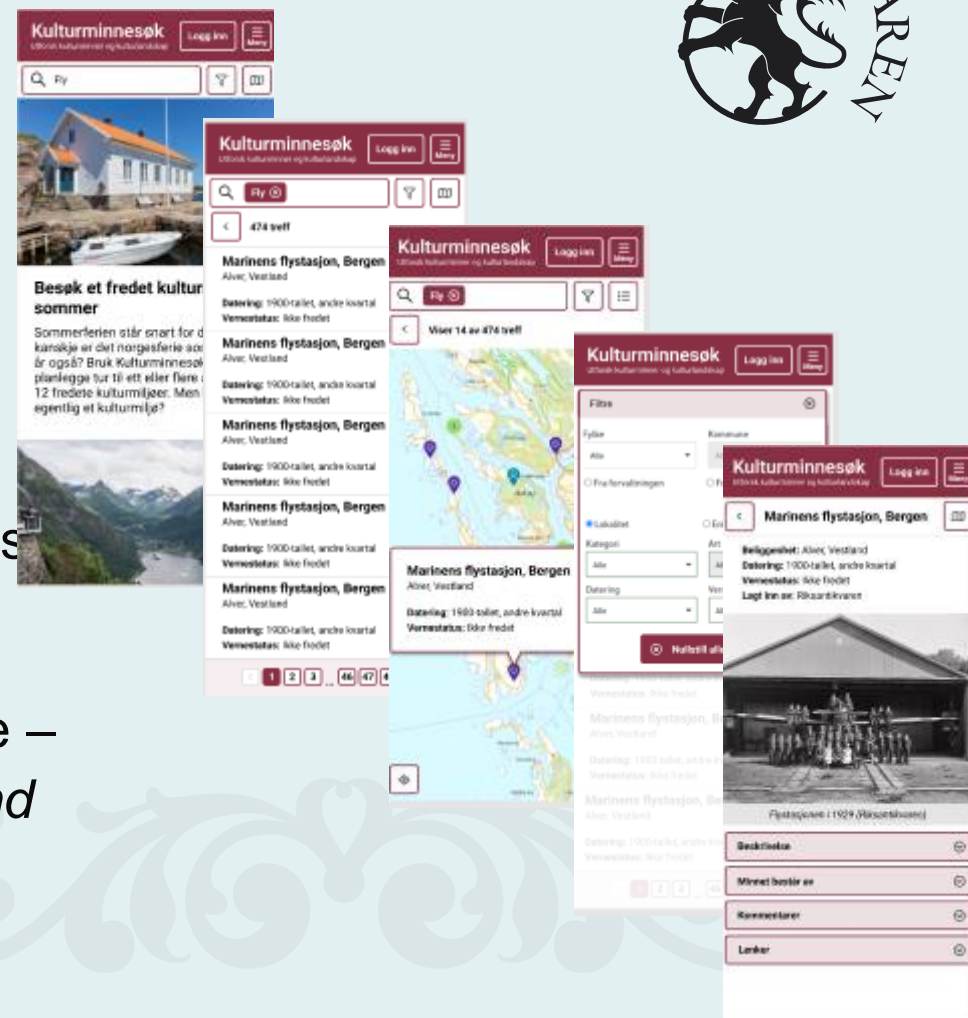# What's next – some thoughts on the road ahead

Incorporate user content into the overall dataflow for cultural heritage data

Share user content in other systems through services as WMS/API

A better user experience and "flow" on cell phones

Important to continue celebrate and showcase user contributions and content (we think)

Important to have as clear a "contract" with he users as possible – *what is in it for me and what to expect (differing expectations and starting points)*

Questions?