



– interaction on nature and agriculture

Welcome  
to a natural  
partnership





## About Smart Natura Objective and focus

New action plans aim to ensure the cultivation and care of the 246 Natura 2000 areas in Denmark. But how do we implement the action plans most appropriately with respect for the individual landowner? Smart Natura is based on the idea that dialogue and interaction between landowners, advisers and authorities provide the best results for all parties.

The project is a joint venture between the Municipality of Vejle and Knowledge Centre for Agriculture. The project will run until mid-2015 and is funded by the EU LIFE programme. Follow the project on [smart-natura.dk](http://smart-natura.dk).

The objective of Smart Natura is to find smooth and cost-effective methods to reach the goals of the Natura 2000 plans. The plans aim to conserve and protect habitats and wildlife that are rare, endangered or characteristic for the EU countries.

To implement the Natura 2000 plans, the Danish municipalities and the Danish Nature Agency are preparing action plans that will affect the Danish agricultural land significantly. The methods to reach the goals in the action plans are only described superficially, but the grounds have been prepared for mainly reaching the goals through volun-

tary agreements between the individual municipalities and landowners.

The primary focus of Smart Natura is to identify, develop, and disseminate methods and tools to ensure these voluntary agreements between authorities and landowners, for the benefit of nature as well as users and managers of nature.



## Objective and methods

The specific objective of the project is:

- to involve landowners actively and positively in the implementation of Natura 2000 action plans. The objective is therefore to generate increased awareness and ownership among the landowners in relation to biodiversity and Natura 2000 in a way that makes landowners see the opportunities in implementing concrete Natura 2000 action plans and thus contribute to maintaining biological diversity.
- to mobilise and educate more relevant authorities and advisers with the aim of actively involving the affected landowners in the preparation of implementing the Natura 2000 action plans.
- to facilitate and ensure development in Natura 2000 areas - for instance by creating ecological connections and networks to other natural habitats.

Two phases

The first part of Smart Natura aims to develop methods and tools based on the process of implementing the actual Natura 2000 action plans in the project pilot areas, Egtved and Upper Grejs River Valleys. In the second part of the project, the aim is to disseminate the methods and tools to other Natura 2000 areas through a "flying squad" visiting other municipalities and advisory centres.

Focus on cooperation

The methods and tools will be developed in close cooperation between the Knowledge Centre for Agriculture, the Municipality of Vejle, agricultural advisers and landowners, and will be based on the idea that knowledge, communication and cooperation between many different parties are decisive factors generating mutual ownership of the Natura 2000 action plans.



## Pilot areas

### Egtved River Valley

The Natura 2000 area covers 1043 ha, of which the state owns 37 ha. The area is very hilly and has a varied subglacial trench system around the watercourses Egtved River and Vejle River. The river valley holds a wide range of natural habitats. The watercourses are situated in the bottom of the valley with adjacent strips of tall herbs. Furthermore, it holds areas of fresh meadows and marshes, including alkaline fens and wooded marsh and alder (*alnus*) and ash (*fraxinus*) marshes. On the drier land on the slopes, there is grassland, heath and smaller woods of leaf-bearing trees as well as coniferous trees.

The grasslands are marked elements in the landscape and most of them are acidic grasslands. In several places on the slopes, in the woods as well as in the open areas, there are small springs with calcareous water.

The major part of the area is part of the Nybjerg Mølle-conservation area, the purpose of which is to conserve rural amenities and protect scientific interests particularly geological, botanical and zoological. The conservation also aims to increase public access to the area.

Find the Natura 2000 action plans for Egtved River Valley on [smart-natura.dk](http://smart-natura.dk)

### Upper Grejs River Valley

The habitat area of Upper Grejs River Valley includes woods and open areas along Grejs River and Faarup Lake. The Lake is a eutrophic lake with a size of 95 ha. Two thirds of the water comes from springs either in the lake or adjacent to the lake. The north side of the lake is covered by deciduous woods - mainly standard beech wood, but down by the lake, there are extended alder swamps with a number of ferruginous springs. On the south side of the lake, there are open areas with grasslands and cultivated fields.

East of Faarup Lake, a relatively large river valley opens with meadow and marsh along Upper Grejs River. On the north

side, Jelling Forest covers the slopes. Jelling Forest is dominated by beech stand with occasional alder and ash woods at the bottom of the river valley. Areas with travertine have been found here. Further to the east, the river valley narrows and there is a larger declivity on Upper Grejs River. There are some meadows and marsh areas by the river, but the dominating element is sloping woods. In these woods, there is a number of fast running wood streams with considerable declivity. In the eastern part of the area, there is a landscape conservation area of 226 ha.

Find the Natura 2000 action plans for Grejs River Valley on [smart-natura.dk](http://smart-natura.dk)

[www.smart-natura.dk](http://www.smart-natura.dk)



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The Smart Natura project is a joint venture between the Knowledge Centre for Agriculture and the Municipality of Vejle.



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