



A group travelling by horse and sleigh on the winter road from Falun in Sweden to Røros. Røros Mining Town is on UNESCO's World Heritage List. Norway has submitted a proposal for extending the world heritage area to include the cultural landscape around the mining town. Photo: Stephan Quint

Norwegian Directorate for Cultural Heritage: A few highlights from 2007 and 2008

Annual Report 2007

Public sector construction projects

Dronningberget – the government’s gift to the King and Queen

When H.M. King Harald and H.M. Queen Sonja turned 70 in 2007, the government’s gift was the restoration of Dronningberget (The Queen’s hill) at Bygdøy.

Restoration of the Palace of Oscarshall

The Directorate for Cultural Heritage is participating together with the Royal Palace and Statsbygg (Public Construction and Property Management) in the restoration of the Oscarshall Summer Palace.

Fit-out of the Museum of Architecture

The Directorate for Cultural Heritage has cooperated with Statsbygg and the architect Sverre Fehn in the remodelling of Bankplassen 3 as a museum of architecture.

Rehabilitation of the University of Oslo’s buildings in Oslo city centre

The Directorate for Cultural Heritage is participating in the restoration of the University of Oslo’s buildings in the city centre.

Formal protection work

Formal protection of Bygdøy cultural environment

At the beginning of April 2007 the Directorate for Cultural Heritage issued a notice stating that a proposal will be made to protect the northwestern part of the Bygdøy peninsula in Oslo as a cultural environment.

National protection plan for the public sector

Airports, prisons, hospitals and other large building complexes shall be included on the protection list. The national protection plan for the public sector is the largest protection project since the 1920s.

The world’s northernmost bastion fortress protected

Vardøhus fortress was protected in July 2007.

Protection review on schedule

2007 was the first year of the Directorate for Cultural Heritage’s review of protection orders and the project is planned to last five years altogether. The project has two goals. Firstly we will carry out a review of the status of all decisions on protection in the period from 1923 to 1979. This will be concluded with a specification of the extent and purpose of the protection order, together with updated documentation of the listed buildings, conducted in cooperation with the county authorities and through dialogue with the owners. Secondly we will complete

all ongoing protection cases that were commenced prior to 2005. Counties involved this year are the counties of Aust-Agder, Buskerud, Finnmark, Hedmark, Nord-Trøndelag, Oppland, Sør-Trøndelag, Troms, Vest-Agder and Vestfold. Aust-Agder, Vest-Agder and Troms have almost completed the process while the remainder must carry on this work during part of or the whole of 2008.

Archaeology: the State will cover more expenses

In 2007 the Directorate for Cultural Heritage has worked with the follow-up of Circular T-02/2007 – Payment of expenses for archaeological work in the case of small, privately-owned sites

As a follow-up of the Parliamentary Report *Living with our Cultural Heritage* (Report no. 16 (2004-2005) to the Storting) the Ministry of the Environment issued a new circular in 2007 – Circular T-02/2007 – Payment of expenses for archaeological work in the case of small, privately-owned sites. In autumn 2007 the directorate commenced the work to prepare guidelines for case-processing in connection with this circular. The work will be completed in the spring of 2008.

Cooperation with cultural heritage protection in Zambia

The Directorate for Cultural Heritage has cooperated with the National Heritage Conservation Commission (NHCC) in Zambia since 1998 to strengthen the preservation and management of cultural heritage assets.

Cultural heritage is a key resource for development in Africa and good governance is a prerequisite for safeguarding the many values of cultural heritage. In January 2007 it was announced that culture was no longer to be a prioritised area for Norwegian development aid to Zambia and that support for the NHCC would thus cease. Nonetheless the Norwegian Embassy wished to make sure that the programme be concluded in the best possible way. NHCC and the directorate put forward proposals intended to help ensure that the results of the Norwegian investments will live on.

Efforts to preserve European cultural heritage

Norway contributes considerable funding to the protection of European cultural heritage through the EEA and Norway Grants. These efforts have generated a range of cooperation projects between cultural heritage institutions in Norway and the beneficiary countries.

The EEA and Norway Grants were established in 2004, when the EEA was enlarged by ten new countries. The grants are Norway's contribution to social and economic development in the new EU countries. In the period from 2004 to 2009 Norway contributed approximately NOK 10 billion. Most countries have announced the availability of the funding and the process of project approval is in full swing. A significant proportion of the funding is devoted to the conservation of our common European cultural heritage. It is estimated that roughly 20 per cent of the EEA and Norway Grants will be awarded to cultural heritage. There is a great need for funding and the grants have generated an enormous number of applications. The new

EU countries are at the stage of nation building and the conservation of cultural heritage is an important part of this process.

Gardens as cultural heritage

Gardens, parks and other green areas constitute a particular category of cultural heritage that is found throughout the country as a whole and in every layer of the population. In 2005 the Directorate for Cultural Heritage took the initiative to establish a project that would run over several years devoted to the management of historical gardens and parks in Norway, otherwise known as the *Garden Project*.

The long-term objective of the project is to prepare a nationwide protection plan for this type of cultural heritage, based on far wider registration than is the case today. The preliminary project is to be completed by the directorate in the spring of 2008. To round off the preliminary project we will conduct a pilot project during 2008 in which the county authorities of Troms, Sogn og Fjordane, and Hedmark will participate by trying out the best possible method of registering green areas of cultural-historical value.

Annual report 2008

Foreword: The diversity of cultural heritage

Cultural heritage is diverse. At this point in 2009, the Norwegian Year of Cultural Heritage, we can see that most people experience cultural heritage as much more than cog-jointed houses and burial mounds. In our annual report we look back at the work of the Directorate for Cultural Heritage in 2008. It is clear that our work is also characterised by variation and diversity.

The tasks of the Directorate for Cultural Heritage range from the international to the local, from the monumental to the minimal, and from the general to the detailed. Our work in 2008 was characterised by large and important projects that will run for several years. These will provide a sound basis for the management of cultural heritage in the future.

Norway in a global perspective

Norway is in the fortunate position of having the ability and means to contribute to the preservation of cultural heritage in less prosperous countries. Through the EEA and Norway Grants, Norway contributes to the work to build a safe and unified Europe. Many of the countries who benefit from these grants have chosen to focus on cultural heritage.

Norway also possesses cultural heritage monuments and sites of international importance. A proposal has been put forward on the extension of Røros Mining Town World Heritage Site. Røros Mining Town has been inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List since 1980. Now Norway also wishes to include the cultural landscape to show why the mining town was founded and how it could function in a cold climate and in a remote location.

Importance of an overview

A good overview of all culture heritage assets in Norway is a prerequisite for their management. A review of all protection orders is presently underway in 15 counties and this review is beginning to yield results. The work of recording the condition of listed buildings is reaching completion and through the *Stave Church Programme* a growing number of stave churches have been restored.

Work with the national protection plan for the public sector will give the State an overview of the cultural-historical properties that are state-owned. This is the largest protection project in Norway since the 1920s. Moreover, a new national protection plan for vessels will ensure that vessels are safeguarded in a better manner.

Cultural heritage and development

The Directorate for Cultural Heritage cooperates with municipalities, counties and private actors on the sustainable development of towns and villages, and the landscape. In this work we wish to preserve cultural heritage in the best possible way, while facilitating a sound development of the local community.

The road ahead

The Norwegian Year of Cultural Heritage 2009 directs focus on cultural heritage in everyday life. It is hoped that the year will prove fruitful in respect of increased knowledge of cultural monuments and environments, and of the importance of safeguarding these. Then we will be well equipped for the task of paving the way for sound management in the future.

Nils Marstein
Director General

Extension of the world heritage area

Røros Mining Town was inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List in 1980. The Norwegian State represented by the Ministry of the Environment now proposes that World Heritage Røros Mining Town and the Circumference be considerably extended and that a buffer zone be established in line with the requirements of the Operational Guidelines of the World Heritage Convention.

Commissioned by the Ministry of the Environment, the Directorate for Cultural Heritage has prepared the nomination documents in cooperation with municipalities, county authorities, regional museums and other executive agencies and individuals who possess special competence in various fields. The nomination documents have been presented to UNESCO in Paris, and if everything goes according to plan, the proposal on extension will be submitted to the World Heritage Committee in 2010.

The lost listings

- Results of the project *Review of Protection Orders*

From 1921 to 1979 when the Act relating to the protection of buildings was in force, a total of approximately 2,200 individual buildings were listed. It is easy to believe that a listing is permanent and that it will ensure that the building is preserved in an unchanged state forever, but out of a total of 2,200 buildings approximately 300 (13 per cent) are no longer considered to be formally protected.

We have chosen to refer to these as the lost listings". These have been registered for the purpose of both documentation and statistics in *Askeladden*, the Norwegian Cultural Heritage Database, as part of the project *Review of Protection Orders*. There are many reasons for the loss of listed buildings but the most usual reasons are that the buildings have been demolished or have burnt down to the ground, or that the protection order has been revoked because of the loss of their cultural heritage value.

The EEA and Norway Grants for cultural heritage protection

Norway is an active contributor to the work to create a safe and unified Europe through the EEA and Norway Grants. One of the objectives of these financial mechanisms is to contribute to reducing social and economic disparities in the enlarged European Economic Area. In addition, the EEA and Norway Grants provide a unique opportunity to strengthen Norway's ties to the new EU member countries through increased contact and through various forms of project cooperation.

Many of the beneficiary countries have chosen to prioritise cultural heritage protection in their use of the funding. This allows for a wider range of projects in the different countries and often offers an opportunity for cooperation with groups of experts in Norway. Several countries have indicated that they wish to establish project cooperation with Norwegian partners. The Directorate for Cultural Heritage is working actively to stimulate the building of

European networks and cooperation under these EEA schemes. The directorate also assists Norwegian partners who wish to develop cooperation projects in the cultural heritage sector with the new EU member countries.

Cupboard with decorative 'rosemaling' returned

After a 20-year disappearance, a corner cupboard painted in the decorative folk style known as 'rosemaling' was returned to its original home in the listed Kleppenstua house in Telemark. The cupboard was unlawfully removed from the house in the 1980s and sold.

Kleppenstua was first listed in 1923 and the cupboard was part of the fixed inventory that is also covered by the protection order. Therefore the removal of the cupboard in the 1980s was unlawful. In order to ensure the return of the cupboard to Telemark, the Directorate for Cultural Heritage granted a sum of NOK 150,000 for its purchase. The present owner of Kleppenstua provided the remaining NOK 30,000. The right of ownership has been transferred to the owner through an assurance of an allocation on the central government budget.

Half of Norway's stave churches have been restored

Due to the poor condition of the stave churches, the Directorate for Cultural Heritage initiated the *Stave Church Programme* in 2001. Major improvements have been carried out in 2008 to several of these.

The aim of the Stave Church Programme 2001-2015 is:

- to restore the stave churches so that they can be preserved for posterity
- to preserve the decor and church art
- to provide documentation of the stave churches as a basis for research and reconstruction of parts that are missing.

In 2008 improvements had been carried out to the stave churches of Hopperstad, Urnes, Reinli, Grip, Eidsborg and Kaupanger.

Registration of the condition of listed buildings

The Directorate for Cultural Heritage is in the process of completing a project recording the condition of listed buildings in private ownership. The survey shows that a number of the buildings are in good condition, but that many are in need of repairs, whether large or small.

In the Report to the Storting *Living with our Cultural Heritage* it is stated that cultural heritage assets and cultural environments that are either protected or are deemed worthy of protection, shall be safeguarded and shall be in an ordinary state of maintenance by 2020. As a basis for the planning of this enormous restoration task, the registration of the condition of

listed buildings in private ownership was commenced in 2005. At the end of 2008/beginning of 2009 well over 90 per cent of the registration was completed.

Largest protection project since the 1920s

The State will take steps to acquire an overview and documentation of all state-owned historical properties and to identify which properties are worthy of preservation. Each sector must prepare a protection plan for the properties they own.

A national protection plan for the public sector contains an overview of properties worthy of protection and a historical overview of the sector in question. The aim is to safeguard the buildings that show and represent the diversity of the State's activities as well as to promote an understanding of the history and development of Norwegian society. All public sector buildings – totalling more than 13,000 properties and six million square metres – shall be evaluated by the relevant sector in cooperation with cultural heritage management as regards their need for protection.

Monitoring of the environment

Knowledge about the condition of cultural heritage assets and cultural environments, their development and the reasons for changes is a fundamental prerequisite for the shaping of fact-based policies and management. Monitoring the environment gives results through a systematic and long-term collection of data, thereby contributing to the development of knowledge in this field. This provides a basis for assessing the extent to which we reach the national goals laid down for cultural heritage and cultural environments.

Monitoring the environment became one of the tasks of the Directorate for Cultural Heritage in 2001 and the work focused on strengthening and developing the monitoring methods and indicators to achieve an overview of our cultural heritage assets. Long-term, nationwide monitoring programmes have been initiated, and in the course of 2009 the results of two of these programmes will be available.

New national protection plan

The work with a new national protection plan for vessels was initiated in June 2008. The mandate for this plan is a follow-up of the government's Soria Moria Declaration, which states that the protection of vessels shall be better safeguarded through the provision of increased allocations and through the preparation of a new national protection plan.

In October the government presented its proposal for the 2009 central government budget in which it was proposed to allocate NOK 10 million more than in the last four years to the formal protection of vessels. The increase is seen on the part of the government in connection with the preparation of a new plan for the protection of vessels, cf. Proposition no. 1 to the Storting (2008-2009). Increased allocations are of great importance for vessel protection.

Competence development network

The Directorate for Cultural Heritage offers a range of courses for competence development to municipalities and other actors in the municipalities and in the local communities. One-day courses are the most widely known but the directorate also cooperates with several universities and university colleges in respect of supplementary training in the field of cultural heritage.

In 2008 a total of six one-day seminars were conducted, and the following topics were on the agenda:

- Knowledge promotion, craft subjects, and cultural heritage protection in the future
- The Bergen Railway's 100th anniversary – in the Norwegian Year of Cultural Heritage 2009
- Reconstructed buildings – how shall we look after this part of our cultural heritage?
- Protection of vessels
- Intangible cultural heritage – the place of narratives in cultural heritage efforts and their importance
- Global climate changes – challenges and consequences for culture heritage assets and cultural environments.

Interaction with the municipalities

The dialogue between cultural heritage management and the municipalities on land use planning constitutes an important part of the work of managing cultural heritage values. All cultural heritage monuments and sites are located in a municipality. Local authority decisions on land areas and building cases pursuant to the Planning and Building Act are the decisions that most often affect these.

In 2008 the Directorate for Cultural Heritage filed objections in thirteen cases. Five municipal council decisions have been challenged, and four cases were submitted that the directorate did not scrutinise. This is a small increase compared with 2007 when we lodged eleven objections and three complaints. Those objections that could not be settled through dialogue were submitted to the Ministry of the Environment for a decision in the case. The ministry processed four cases related to cultural heritage monuments and sites in 2008. Two of these involved objections raised by a county authority and two objections were raised by the directorate itself.

Development of towns and villages

Development of towns and villages brings to mind expansion, but expansion is only part of the development that takes place in and around local communities.

The forum for the development of towns and villages is a specialist meeting place for national actors. Together with this forum, the Directorate for Cultural Heritage, in cooperation with the individual county and the individual host municipality, arranges conferences on local development at which the subject is tailored to the special challenges faced by the region. The website www.stedsutvikling.no is intended to provide inspiration and ideas as to how attractive and environmentally-friendly towns and villages can be created as a basis for new settlement and business development.

Selected agrarian cultural landscapes - preservation through use and interdisciplinary cooperation

The authorities are following up the national goal that particularly valuable cultural landscapes shall be documented and shall be under special management by 2010.

The assignment is a unique cooperation project – between agricultural and environmental administration, within environmental administration, and between different levels of administration. The work also demands that municipalities are active in their participation and not least that landowners are motivated and interested. The assignment has been to designate valuable agrarian landscapes and to ensure that the values these represent are safeguarded for future generations. The selection has been based on two fundamental prerequisites: the areas must be of very great cultural-historical and biological value, and it must be realistic that continued, long-term operations and settlement can be assured. The scheme is voluntary.

Cultural-historical place analysis

Interest in urban history, landscape and architecture has soared in many parts of the world. Actors in the field of development increasingly view cultural heritage monuments and cultural environments as potential resources for added value.

This has resulted in a growing need for planning and management that stresses the potential of cultural heritage to a far greater extent than in traditional conservation planning. The new analysis tool DIVE (Describe, Interpret, Valuate and Enable) has been specifically developed in order to factor in the cultural environment in planning.