

The line of fortifications was constructed between 1916 and 1918 by the German army and traversed what was at the time North Schleswig. Around 60 kilometres long, it consisted of 900 installations, from the 24-cm guns furthest to the south to the lighter batteries at the centre of the line. Furthest to the north, many personnel bunkers and flanking bunkers were located behind the trenches and the many kilometres of barbed wire.



Gammelskov Batteri 1918

Following the Reunification, the Danish army blew up most of the installations. Many remnants of this dramatic period of Danish history can still be found in the landscape, however.



Gammelskov batteri 2022



What was left of the fortifications were protected on an individual basis in 2016. Of the around 900 installations that were built from 1916 until 1918, approximately 65 remain intact, whilst other major elements are still visible.

They are scattered throughout the military landscape of which they were a part and are therefore not always easily accessible.

The most common installations are the personnel bunkers with built-in hooks for hammocks. However, there are also observation bunkers with armoured observation slits and flanking bunkers, from where machine guns could protect the barbed wire and trenches.

Finally, there are remnants of heavy and medium-heavy gun batteries.

Signposts and information boards have been set up at the installations that offer access. Follow the signs and read about the installation concerned.

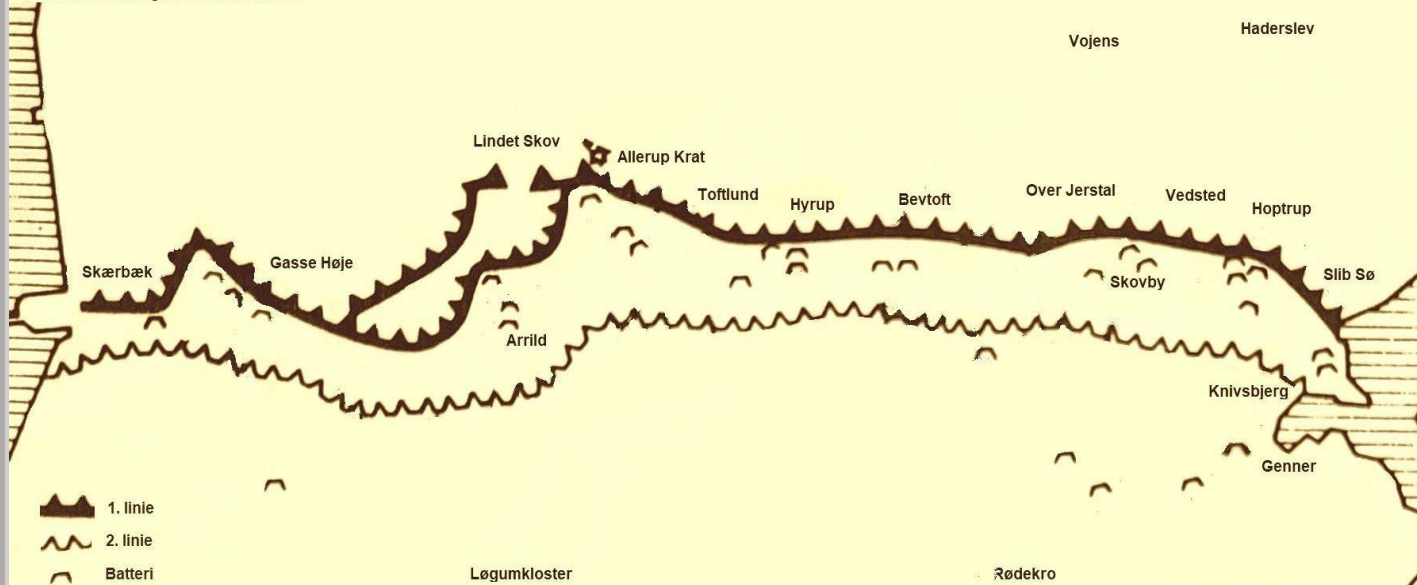


Remember to watch out for the local flora and fauna when walking in the terrain. Many of the access roads are made available by local landowners. Please treat these areas with respect.



Many of the intact bunkers are accessible. However, please pay attention to the following:

- make sure you wear suitable footwear.
- there may be water in some of the rooms.
- there are high steps in some places.
- there are steep inclines at the entrances.
- bring a torch with you.



Defence Line North



From west to east:

1. Kalby, half-platoon bunker and machine gun bunker.
2. Gasse Høje, machine gun bunker.
3. Øster Gasse, munitions store from battery.
4. Arrild, half-platoon bunker, battery and flanking bunker.
5. Allerup, battery (blown up), flanking bunker, timber room.
6. Toftlund, flanking bunker, machine gun bunker.
7. Gøtterup, Haverbækvej flanking bunker.
8. Hyrup Skov, battery (blown up).
9. Hyrup, machine gun bunker.
10. Gammelskov, battery (blown up).
11. Neder Jerstal, outpost room.
12. Strandelhjørn, battery (blown up).
13. Torsbjerg Plantage, battery (blown up).
14. Gl. Torsbjerg, machine gun bunker & half-platoon bunker.
15. Abkær, Langdyssevej, observation bunker.
16. Rugbjerg Plantage, battery (blown up).
17. Andholm Plantage, only intact battery.
18. Pothøj, revolver gun bunker and observation bunker.
19. Vedsted, flanking bunker.
20. Skovby, battery (blown up) with several intact rooms.
21. Vedbøl, half-platoon bunker.
22. Lerskov Plantage, battery (blown up).

It is possible to visit the remnants of Defence Line North, regardless of where you are in the region. See general map.



You can find a lot more information about the history of Defence Line North and the many different bunkers and installations at Friends of Defence Line North (in Danish)

sikringsstillingnord.dk



One of the world's best-preserved German field fortifications from the First World War – right in the heart of Sønderjylland