

# Collaborative strategy making for agrarian landscapes

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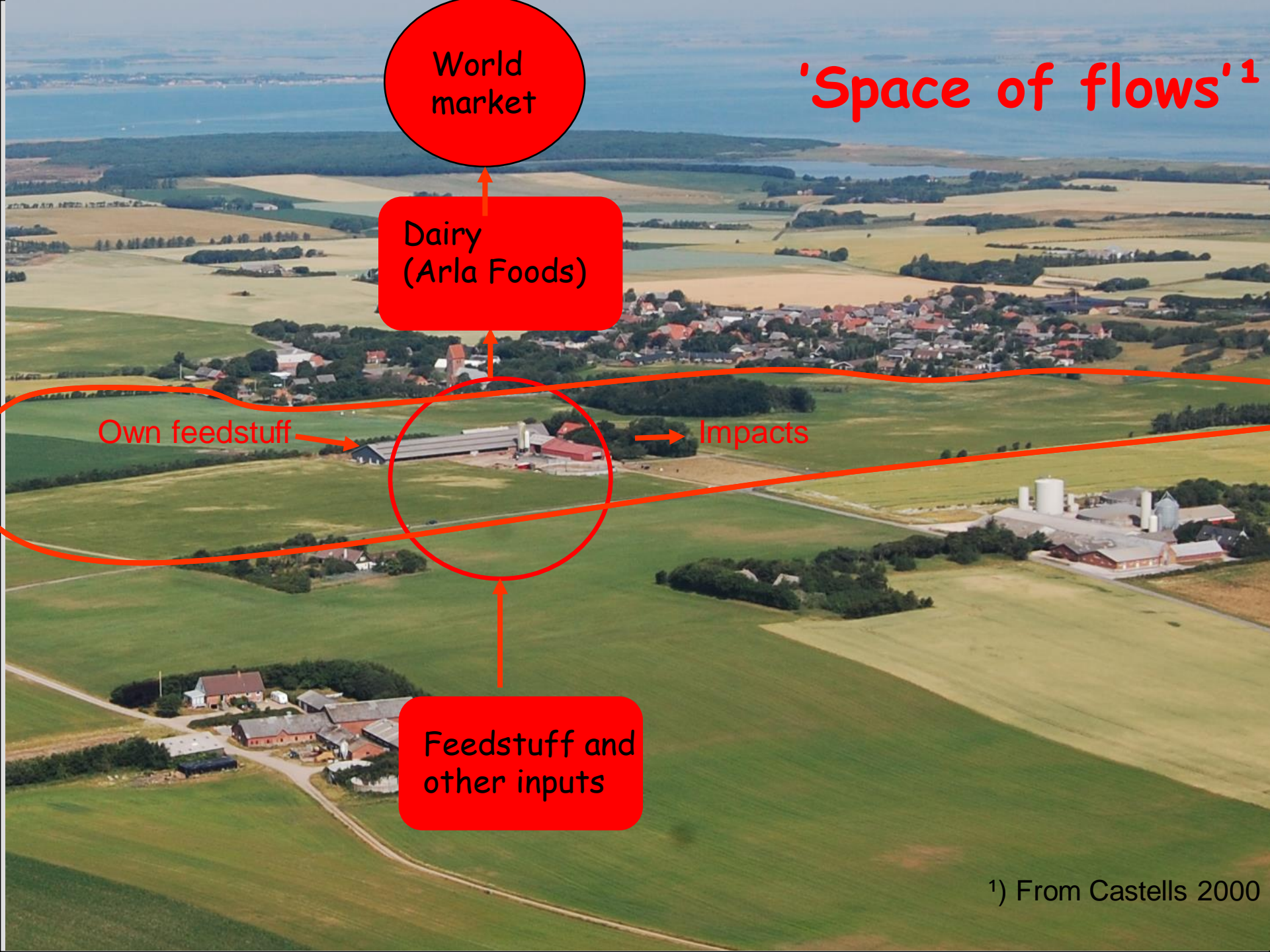
# A socially fragmented Tuscan landscape

*All the challenges can be met if the local partnerships cooperate and find a way forward and are capable of integrating the different activities present in the region. The alternative, the progressive distancing between new homes and agricultural production constitutes the most serious menace in Chianti. (Baldeschi, 2007, p. 363)*



2009





World market

'Space of flows'<sup>1</sup>

Dairy (Arla Foods)

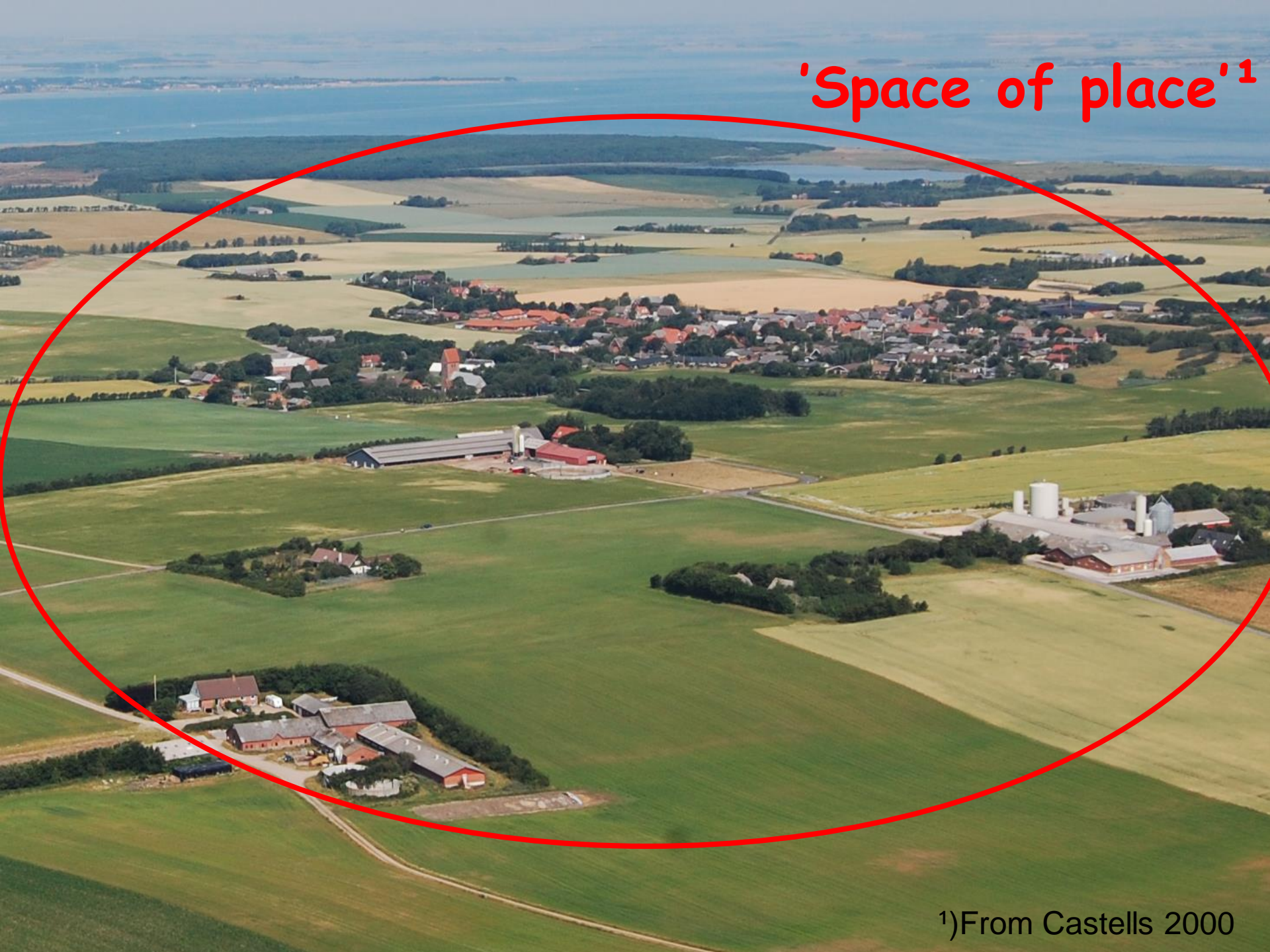
Own feedstuff

Impacts

Feedstuff and other inputs

<sup>1</sup>) From Castells 2000

'Space of place'<sup>1</sup>

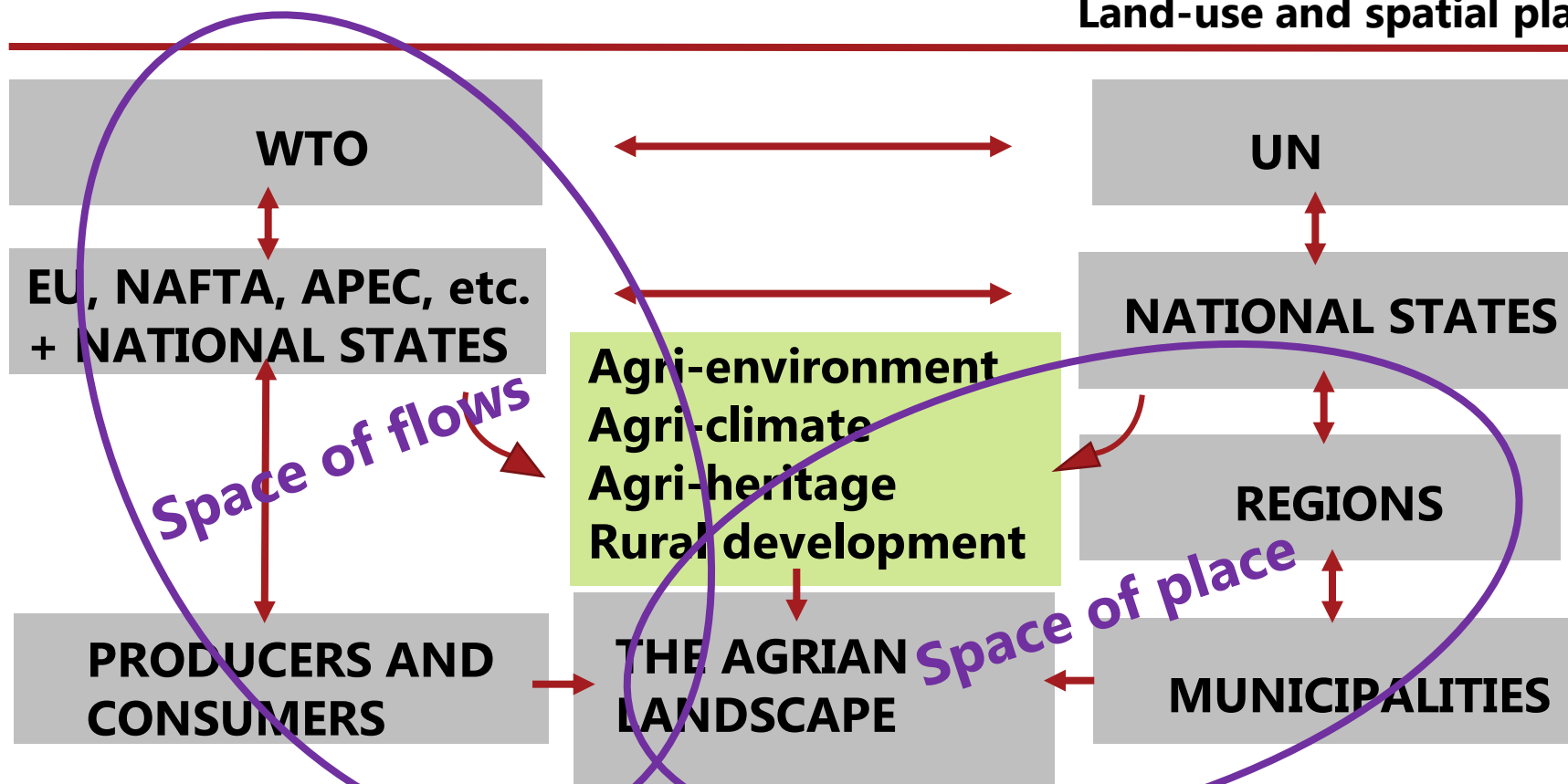


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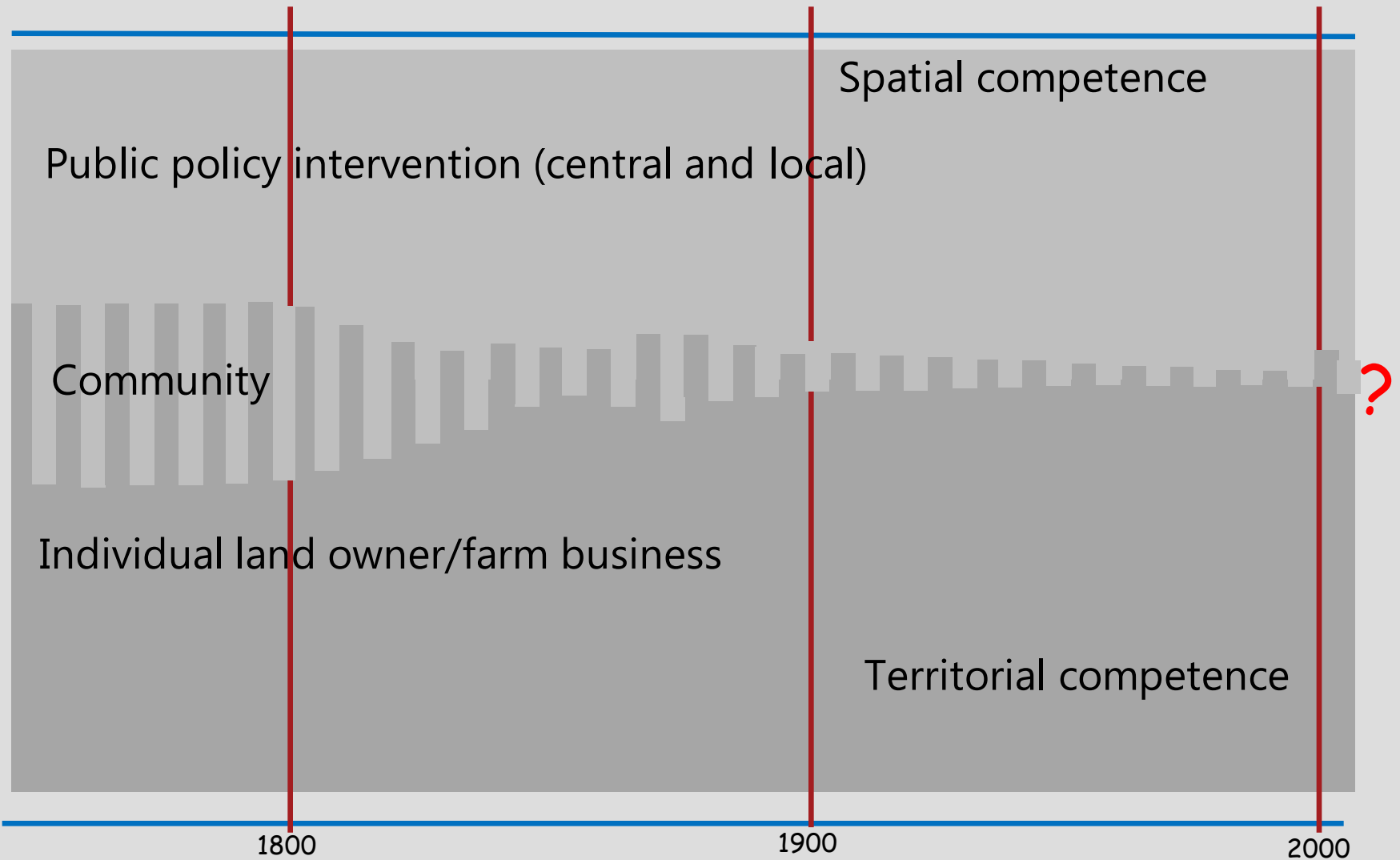
# Policy agendas and the agrarian landscape

**Market policy agenda:**  
 agricultural policy,  
 energy policy

**Sustainability agenda:**  
 Environmental policy (soil,  
 water, air, biodiversity etc)  
 Climate policy  
 Land-use and spatial planning



# On territorial and spatial competences\* and public policy



\*) From Hägerstrand 2001

# The Four main actors in collaborative rural landscape management

## The primary manager

(owner, producer, citizen)

Self-determination

*-Local collaboration -*

*-conflict management -*

## The expert

## The local community

(in different forms)

Co-determination

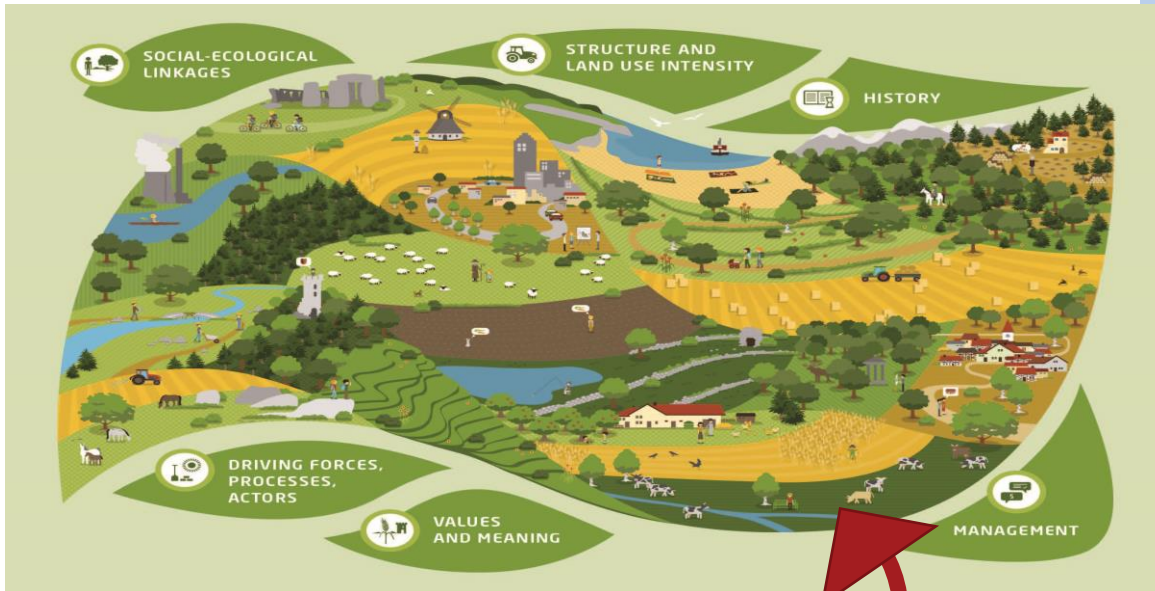
*-The development of the  
landscape (place making)-*

## The public agency

(at different political-  
administrative levels)



# A 'landscape approach' has been proposed and widely accepted



HERCULES

## The landscape approach:

Recommendations towards landscape-centred policies

- On:
- Landscape labelling
  - Landscape stewardship
  - Landscape resilience to climate change



*Annual Review of Environment and Resources*

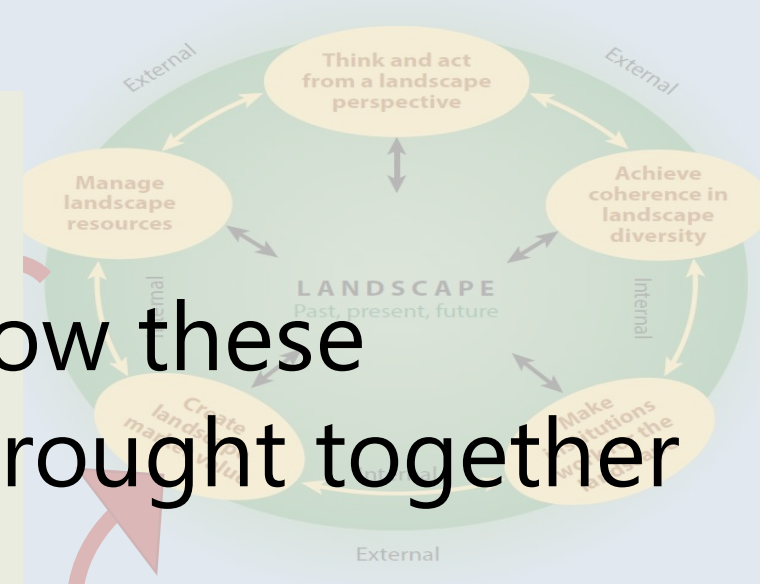
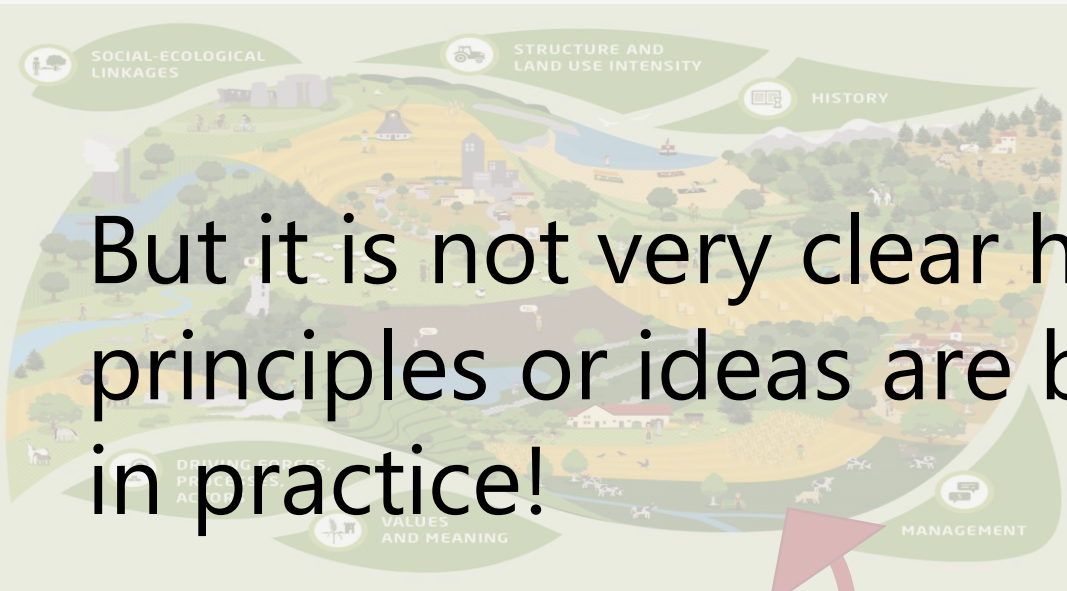
## Landscape Approaches: A State-of-the-Art Review

Bas Arts,<sup>1</sup> Marleen Buizer,<sup>1</sup> Lumina Horlings,<sup>2</sup>  
Verina Ingram,<sup>1</sup> Cora van Oosten,<sup>1</sup> and Paul Opdam<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Wageningen University and Research, 6708 PB Wageningen, the Netherlands; email: Bas.arts@wur.nl

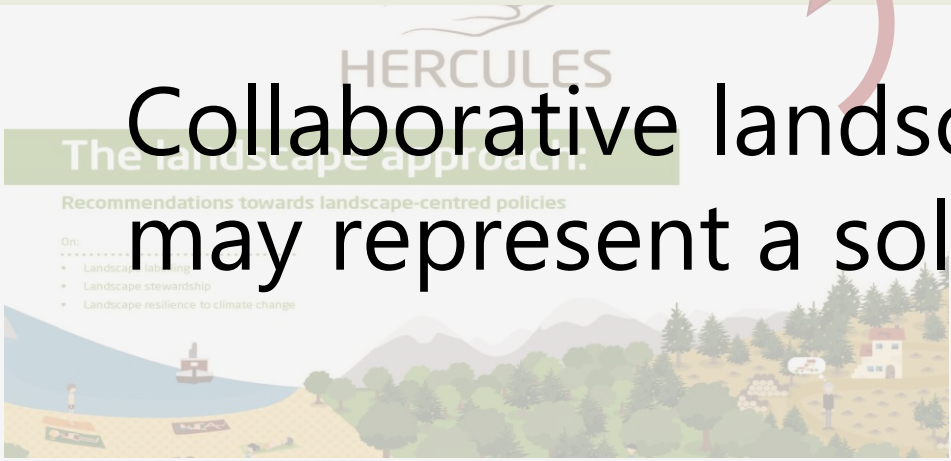
<sup>2</sup>Department of Planning, University of Groningen, 9747 AD Groningen, the Netherlands

# A 'landscape approach' has been proposed and widely accepted



But it is not very clear how these principles or ideas are brought together in practice!

Collaborative landscape strategy making may represent a solution



*Annual Review of Environment and Resources*

*Bas Arts, Marleen Buizer, Lumina Horlings, Verina Ingram, Cora van Oosten, and Paul Opdam*  
*A State-of-the-Art Review*

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## Summing up

- Agrarian landscapes world wide are facing profound changes caused by combinations of global change (including climate change) and local adaptations and strives for a better place
- These changes are intersecting and complex – single technical fixes of sustainable development is no option
- A landscape approach must have the capacity to cope with wicked problems – it must be able to advance and to cope with integrated and pro-active policies built into collaborative governance practices
- Landscape strategy making represents one – among others - pathway to collaborative governance

# A Framework for landscape strategy making

## Institutional context, process dimensions, and outputs



# A case: The Nørreå River Valley

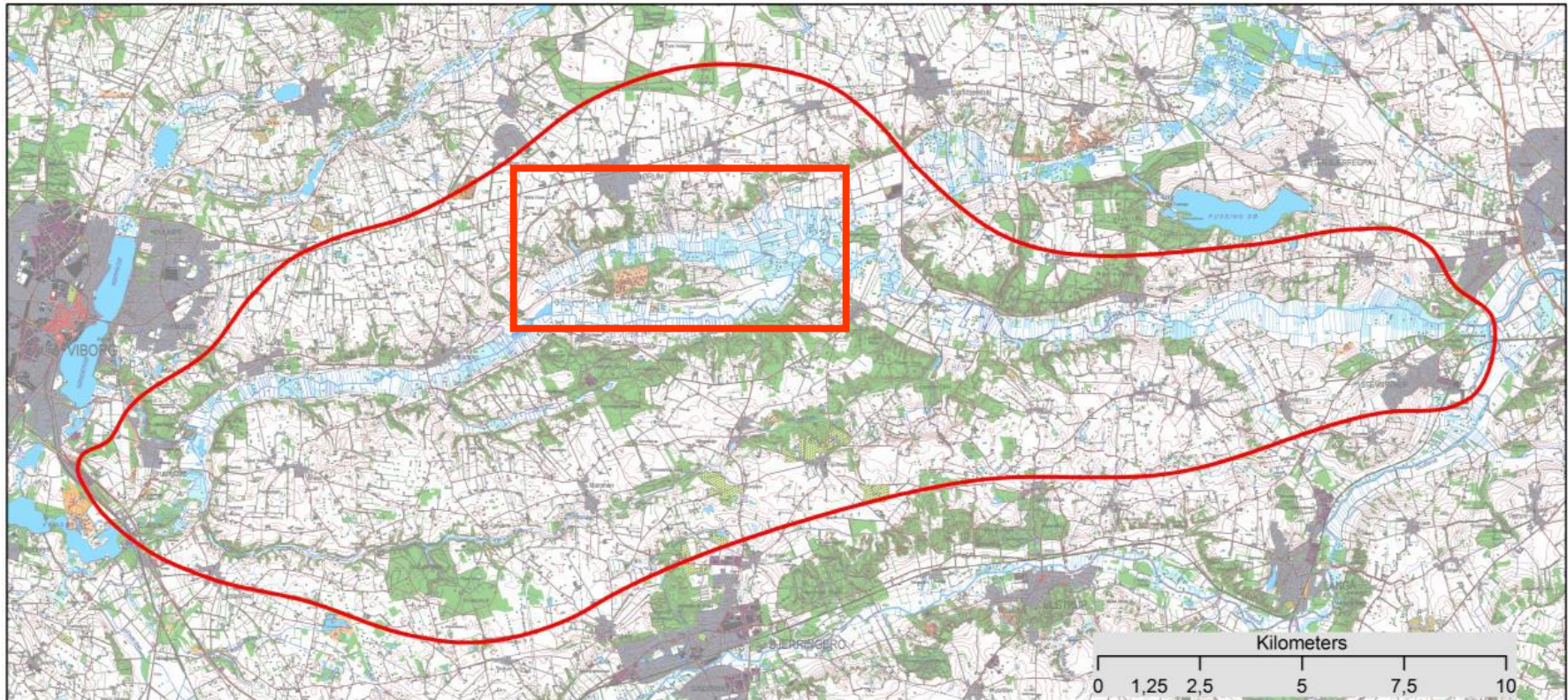
40 km long valley, one city at each end, 3 municipalities, no regional plan.  
The river is only dropping 4m ~ 10cm/km

Major policy issues include:

- Run offs and loss of nutrients from large fields on the plateaus
  - High water table and floodings - increased rainfall
  - Reduction of climate gas emissions from the wetlands
  - Maintaining grazing
  - Protection, management and restoration of habitats and heritage
  - Lack of recreational accessibility and facilities
  - Urban sprawl in some areas and village decline in others
- Several sectors, three municipalities many local communities are involved  
policy integration and landscape governance

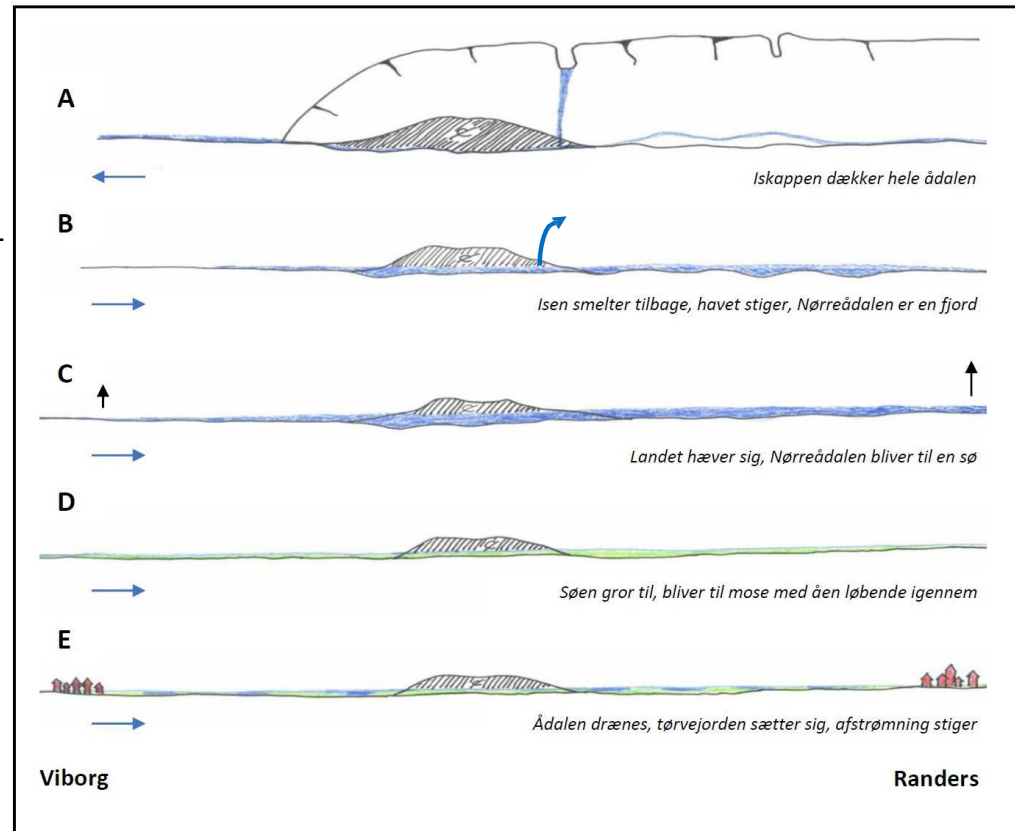


Two strategies were made:  
A regional strategy for the entire valley  
A local strategy for the central part

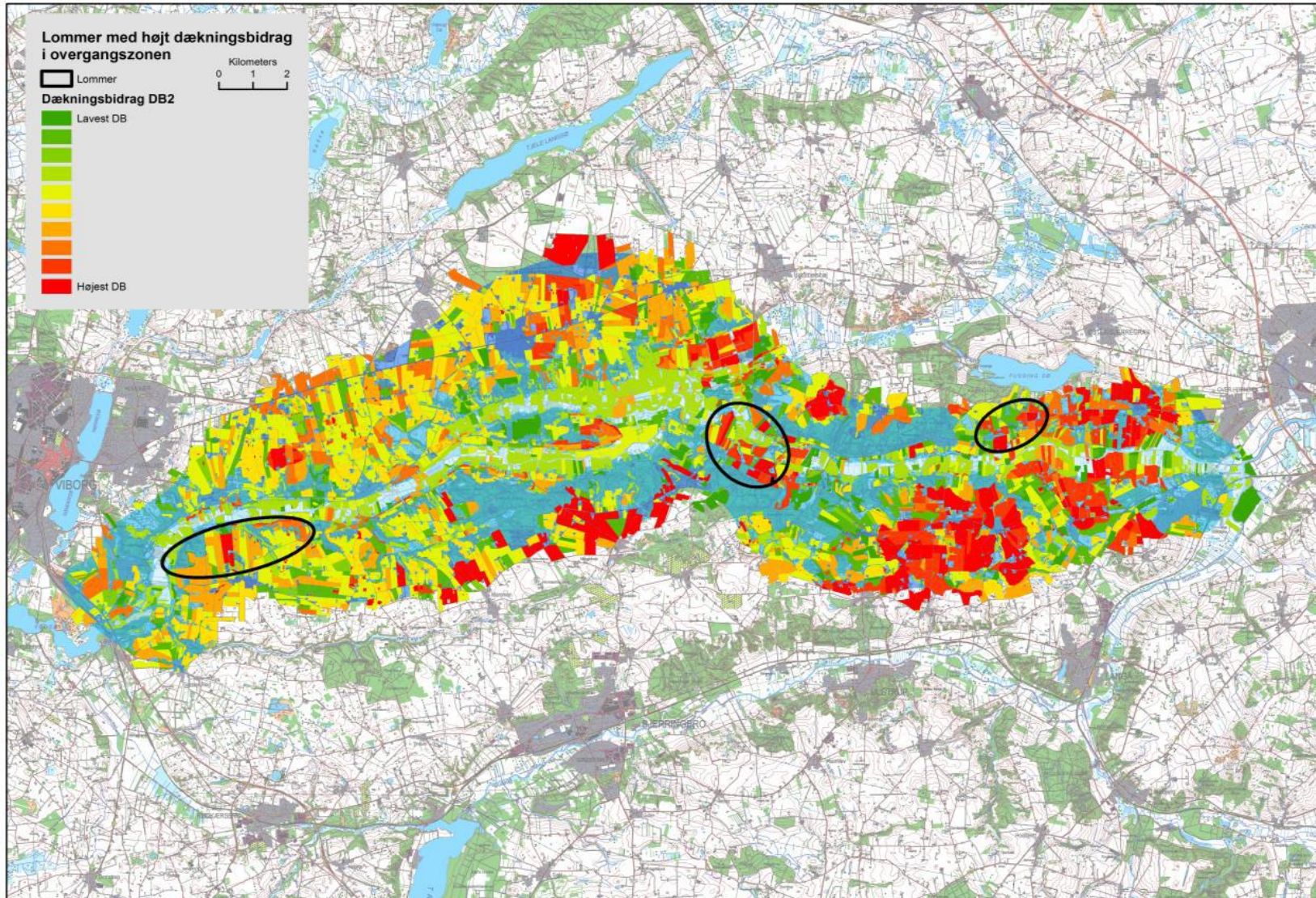


# Point of departure: The Nørreå Valley was formed by climate change and geology

- A. The Ice cap is covering the whole valley – 20.000 years ago. Drains to W
- B. It gets warmer the ice melts back. Drains N and then E. The sea is rising – the valley becomes a fjord
- C. The natural uplift extend the rise of sea: the valley becomes a freshwater lake
- D. The lake turns into a bog (like all lakes do in cold climates) with a river running E
- E. The valley gets drained/reclaimed. The organic soil burns and sink, runoff increase (more rain), increased extreme events, many fields/sites get flooded

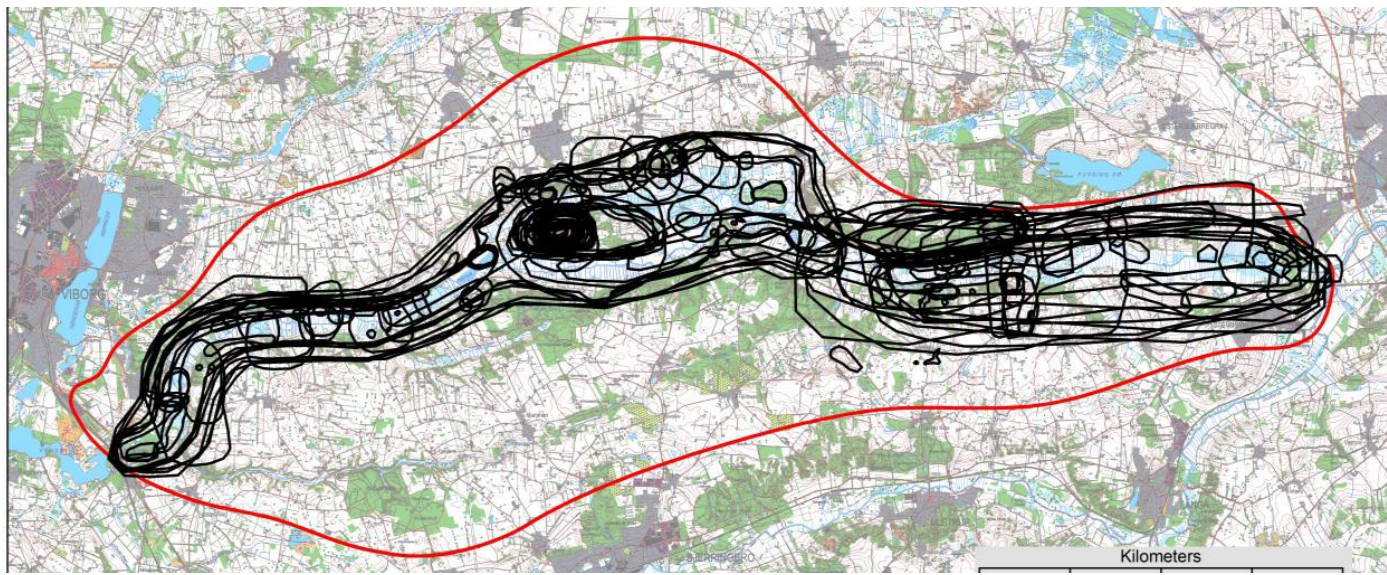
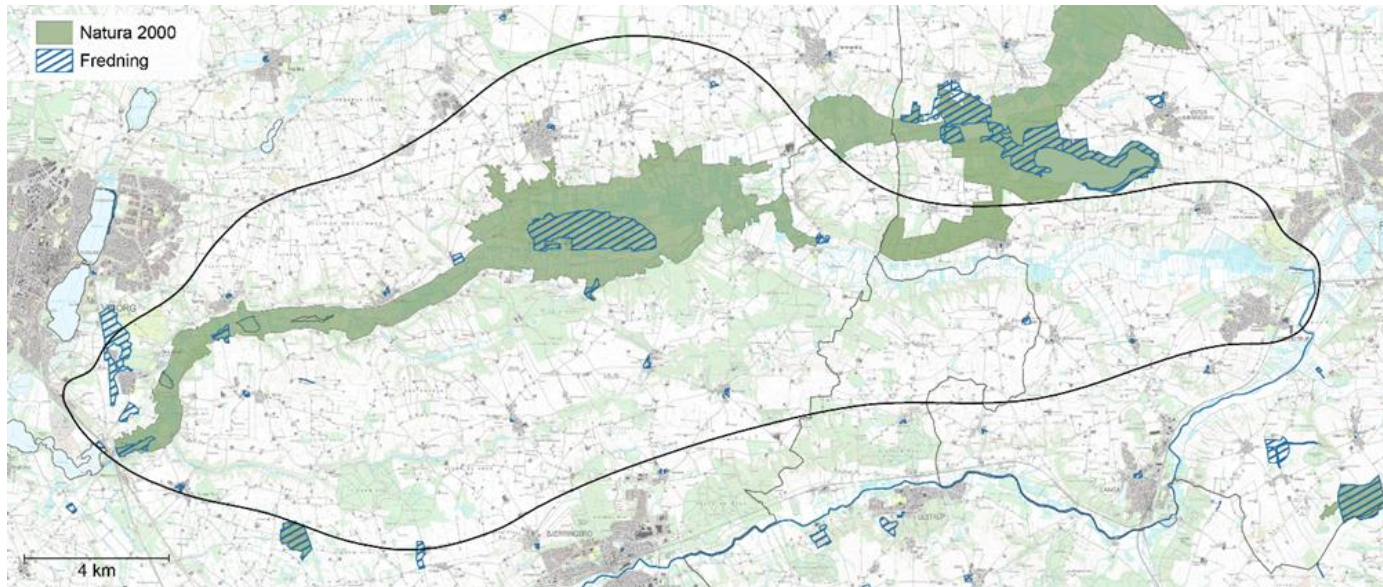


Point of departure: The river valley is first of all used for agriculture and forestry – but extensively used





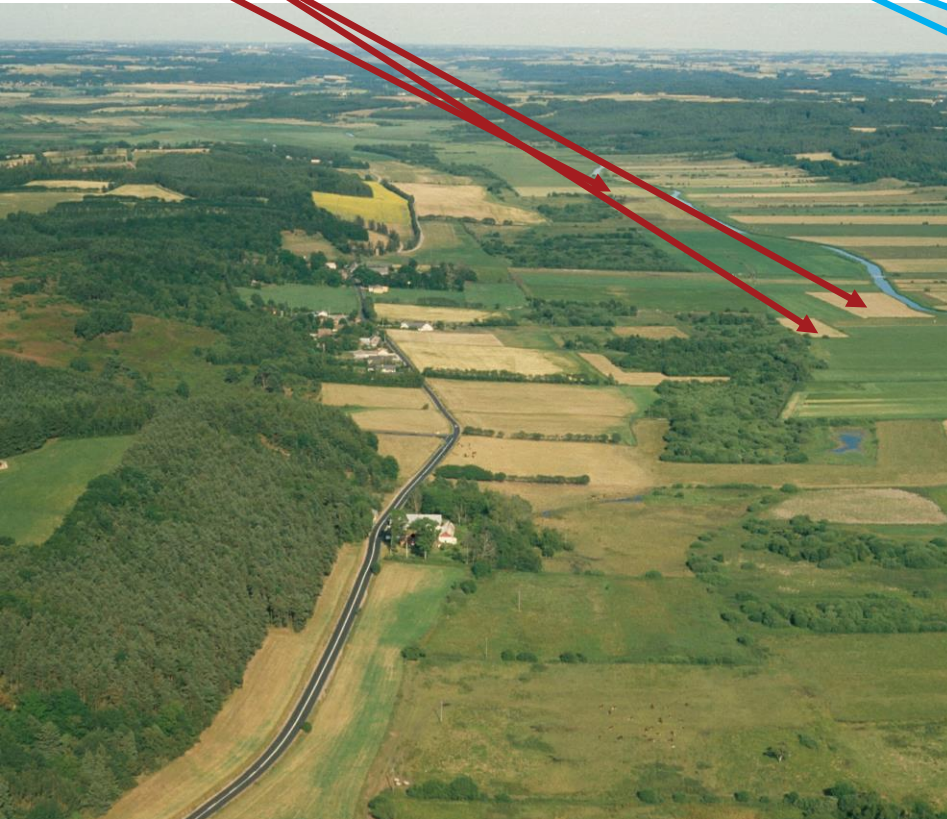
# Points of departure: The river valley is rich in landscape values



# Points of departure: The river valley is in transition

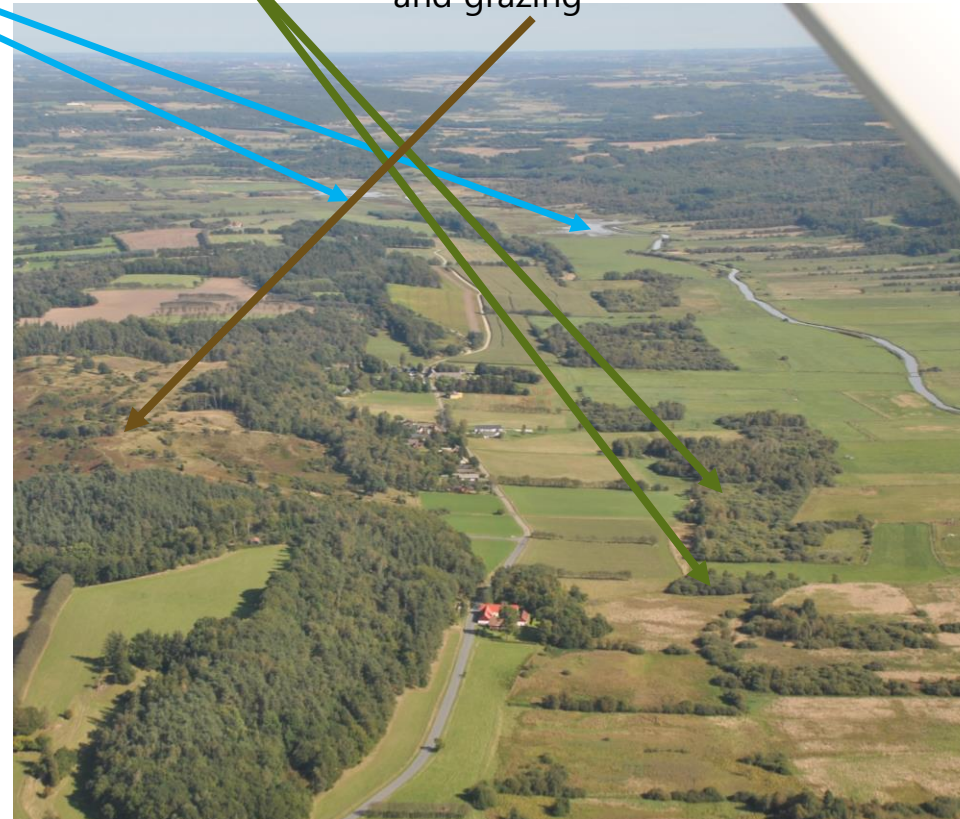
## 1996

Land in rotation is declining. The valley is getting wetter. Natural succession.



## 2020

Habitat management – clearings and grazing



**The Nørreå River Valley is in transition – what do we wish for the river valley in the future?**

# The Process – what we have done



## The regional strategy – vision:

***Together we will care for the river valley's diverse and magnificent nature and cultural landscape. The river valley will develop to a coherent landscape of national and international significance. It will happen through collaborative governance of the values with the river as our common waterway from Viborg to Randers. A good place to be.***



# The regional strategy – two general objectives:

- A. The valley's landscape values – a relatively open valley with a mosaic dominated by agriculture and nature – must be protected and developed through support for grazing, wetland reatoration projects in which concern for biodiversity and outdoor recreation is included.
- B. The management of the river and water flow through the vallye must be done in balanced considerations for agriculture, habitats, and climate change.



## The regional strategy – 2 (of 5) specific objectives:

**Development opportunities for agriculture** must be supported through land consolidation projects and support for semi-natural habitat management including fencing, grazing, mowing and biomass harvest.

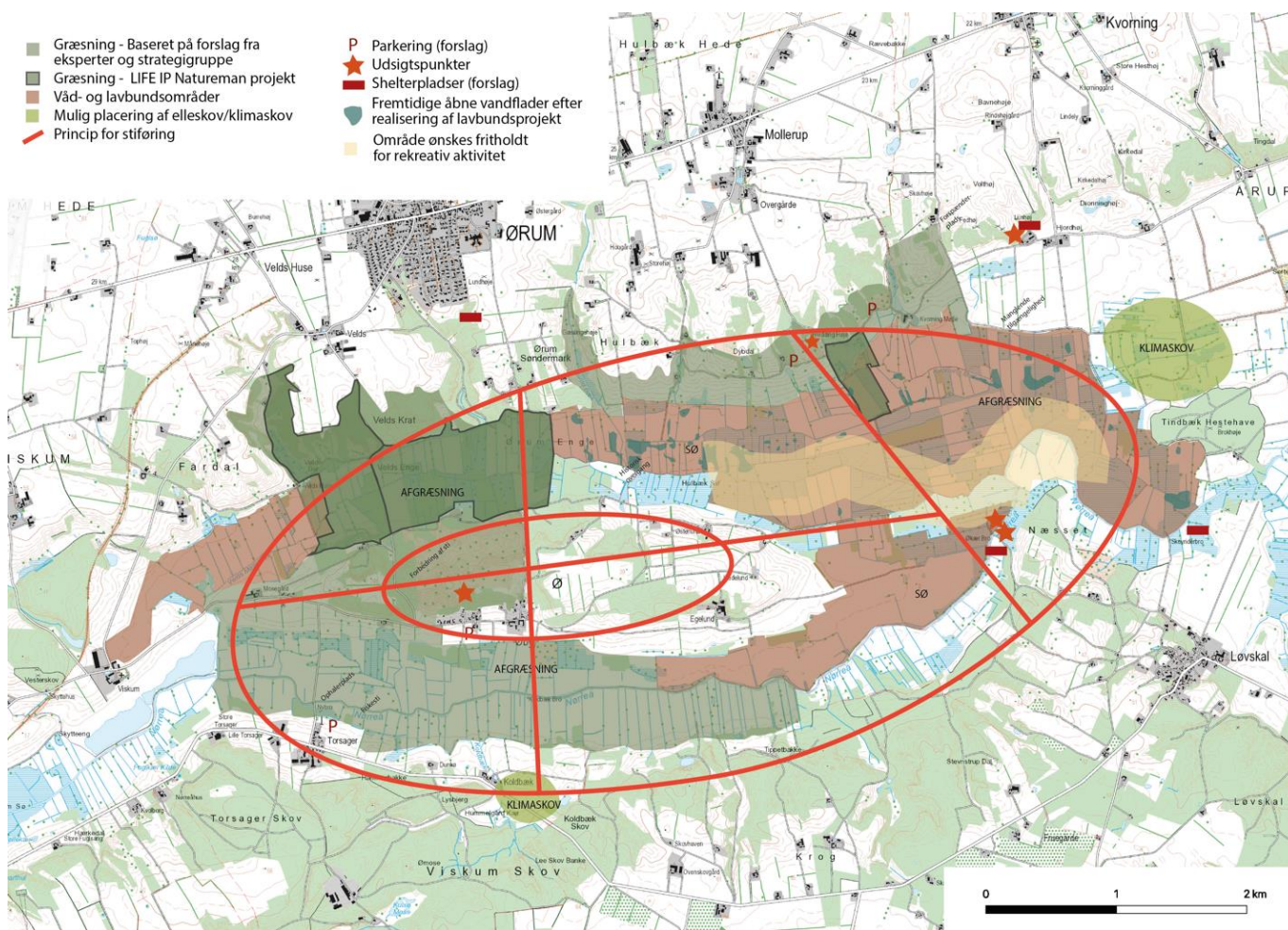
**The natural values must be conserved and developed** through advisory, habitat restoration and management. Valuable woodlands must be protected and enhanced. Land should be set aside for natural processes..

### 4 strategic projects:

- Large semi-natural grasslands will be established through support schemes
- The river valley will be designated as an area of national or international significance
- Natural habitats on the sides will be increased through new woodlands, grazing, rewilding etc.)
- One or two new 'multifunctional land consolidation projects will be implemented – and two local strategies made

# - With major examples from the local strategy:

**Strategic project: Large, coherent semi-natural grasslands.**



# The regional strategy – the water flow.

## Objectives and the strategic project:

A foundation for the management of water in the river valley will be established to ensure synergy between river management, habitat projects and climate policy in respect to grazing, biomass harvest and accessibility.

A **management plan for the flow of water** through the valley will be made based on analyses of the issues:

- Options for demand driven river management (as opposed to schematic)
- Demands and need for grazing and biomass harvest
- Habitat values (meadows, bogs and others)
- Implemented and potential wetland restoration projects and other habitat projects
- Potentials for 'climate forests'
- Potential and existing recreational facilities
- Ground water and drinking water resources
- Water water and surface water drainage
- Climate change



# The regional strategy – recreation, interpretation etc.

## Projects:

Outdoor recreation must be supported through additional and more coherent facilities for walkers, bikers, horseback riders, canoers and kayakers etc. A coherent trail from Viborg to Randers should be established

The river valley's importance as a living and visiting places should be enhanced  
Coordinated information services concerning natural and cultural sites and narratives should be provided.

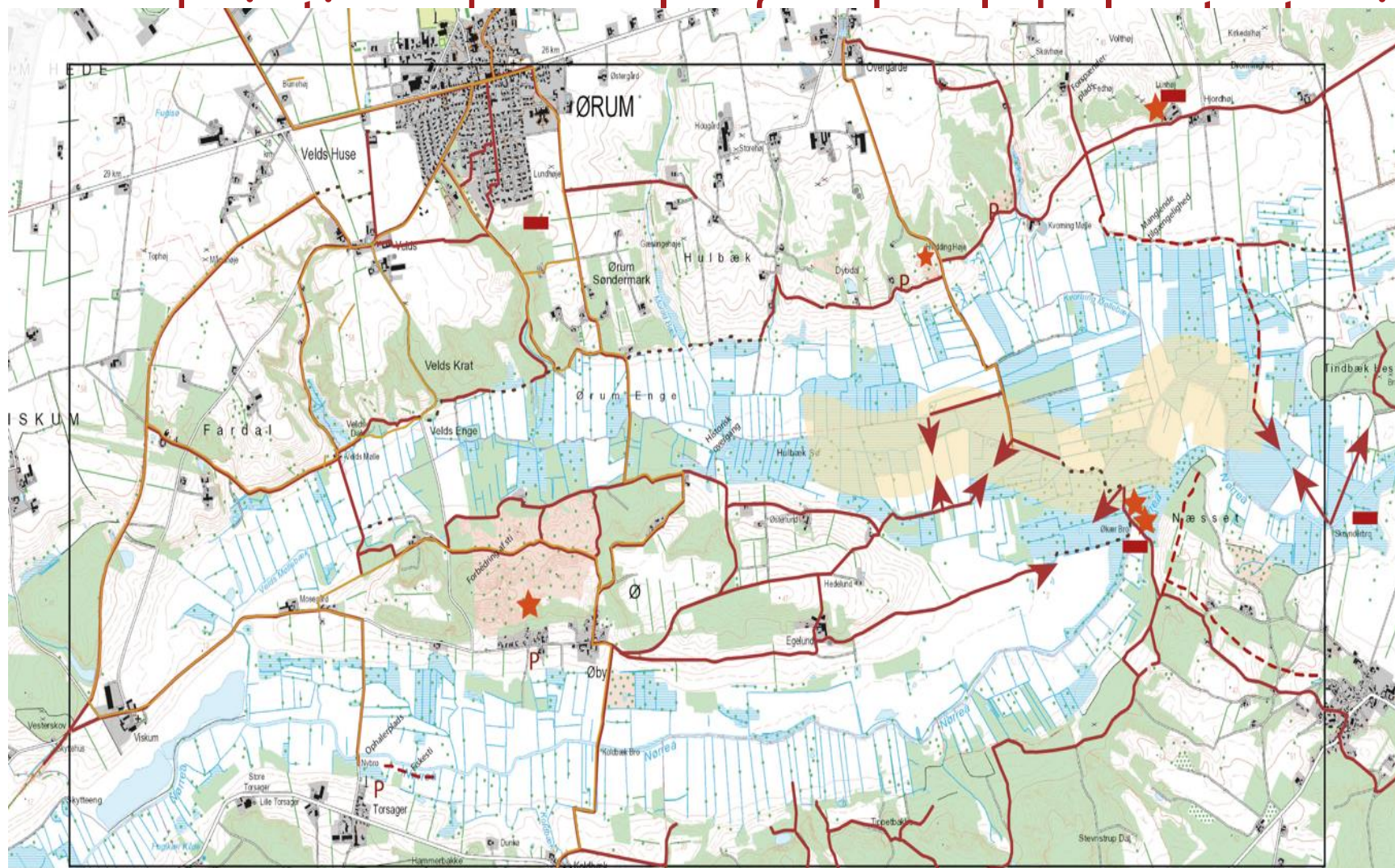
## Projects:

A coherent, recreational route between Viborg and Randers

Information material on habitats and heritage must be provided

A comprehensive campaign concerning the place identity of the river valley will be carried out and – if possible – a visitor center established

Planning and funding of the Nørreå Nature and Recreation Centre



es.

- Stier - Stifindergruppens ruter
- Stier - Eksisterende
- Potentielle stier - Strategigruppen
- Potentielle stier - Ekspertgruppen
- Potentielle stier - Ikke linjesat
- P Parkering (forslag)
- ★ Udsigtspunkter
- Shelterpladser (forslag)
- Område ønskes fritholdt for rekreativ aktivitet



## What difference will the strategy result in:

- It will enhance collaboration
- Enhance balanced concerns – both in relation to individual stakeholders and to the valley as a whole
- Will improve opportunities for funding
- Will contribute to the municipal land use and management plans
- Will contribute to make the river valley a better place
- Will be used as a paradigmatic model for other river valleys

# A few words on successes and failures

## Why do highly successful ideas and initiatives often pop up 'out of the blue' in a strategy making process?

- ***moments of resonance*** – or responsive relationships (Rosa 2018) was established between the participants and more fundamentally between the participants and the landscape in question. Confrontation between external and internal expertise and ideas stimulates resonance

## Why do we sometimes fail to initiate the most obvious ideas - commonly agreed upon?

- realisation of new ideas do not only rely on argumentation and reasoning– it has to be link with our experiences. It is basically a learning by participation process

## Maybe we need to built in the power of the example more systematically in our work?

# Conclusions

## **The governance of rural landscapes – is inadequate**

- Too many *uncoordinated* sectorial policies regulating the land uses
- Not enough *development oriented* and *integrated* spatial planning with point of departure in *the local landscape*
- *Too many ready responses* by central authorities to ‘not in my backyard’ reactions

## **Need of new planning approaches which can:**

- Coordinate and give direction to the development,
- Integrate different interests
- Function pro-active – execute change
- Include people from the beginning of the planning process and combine central and local decision making

# Thanks for the attention

