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Heritage Alert: 6000-Year-Old Vingen Rock Art Area (Norway) and Pristine Surrounding Landscape Face Threat of Damage

Press Release

27 May 2024

ICOMOS, together with its Norwegian National Committee and the International Scientific Committee on Rock Art (ISC-CAR), is issuing a Heritage Alert, to stop the planned stone quarry on Aksla mountain, close to the Vingen rock art area, that will damage this remarkable site and its pristine surrounding landscape, unchanged for over 6000 years.

The Vingen rock art area in Bremanger, Western Norway, is one of the most extensive and best-preserved concentrations of rock art in Northern Europe. Thousands of petroglyphs from the Stone Age can be found on large rock panels, big boulders and smaller stones surrounding the impressive and unspoilt beauty of the Vingen fjord.

This landscape has until now remained virtually unchanged since the rock art was made during the Stone Age. The Vingen area is only accessible by boat, and the surrounding region is one of the largest on the outer coast of Western Norway to have retained an uninterrupted slope from fjord to mountains, free of roads.

However, the Municipal Council of Bremanger recently approved the establishment of a stone quarry on the Dyrstad peninsula, close to Vingen, to extract 360 million tons of sandstone. This development, particularly the new shipping port towards Frøysjøen, will significantly alter the landscape. In addition, dust and noise pollution will affect the site.

In February 2024, the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development approved the quarry development, despite the formal objections raised by the Directorate for Cultural Heritage, the Norwegian Environment Agency, the County Governor of Vestland and the Ministry of Climate and Environment.

ICOMOS, its Norwegian National Committee and its International Scientific Committee on Rock Art, strongly oppose the approval of the development of the stone quarry at Aksla mountain and in particular the new shipping port at Inste Bårdvikneset. We are convinced that this will lead to irreparable damage to the rare pristine surrounding landscape and expose the Vingen rock art area to severe negative visual impact and pollutions from the massive planned industrial activity.

We urge that current approvals be withdrawn and that a thorough and independent evaluation of possible alternative quarry and shipping port locations be undertaken, and that those charged with this assessment be provided with full information on the environmental and cultural values of the area.

[Read the full letter to the Norwegian State, Bremanger Municipality and the developer](#)

This letter was sent to:

- Office of the Prime Minister of Norway
- Stortinget (The Norwegian Parliament)
- Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development
- Ministry of Climate and Environment
- Municipality of Bremanger
- Bontrup Aggregates BV

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