



Hallalli in the water. Gouache by J.J. Bruun c. 1750. Anders Hoby ©

Par force hunt (chasse à course)

During a hunt par force, one chosen hart was run down with hounds and horses, killed with a sword or a spear by the master of the hunt, and quartered according to age old traditions. The hunt had five phases: The quest (for the hart), the rendez-vous (the planning meeting), the hunt, the hallali (the hart's death), and the curée (the feeding of the hounds). In 16th century France, the hunt symbolized the king, and by the end of the 17th century, the hunting landscapes became part of most European absolute rulers' display of power. Danish kings hunted par force from 1670 till 1777.

The forests in North Zealand were hilly with swamps and actually unfit for the par force hunt. The practical function of the hunting rides was to cut the forest into smaller parcels, which might more easily be overseen from the rides, and on which the hunters could safely follow the chase.

August 2015 Jette Baagøe

Site manager: The Danish Museum for Hunting and Forestry, www.jagtskov.dk

Front: *The Royal Scientific Academy's map of Northern Zealand 1768*



The par force hunting landscape in North Zealand

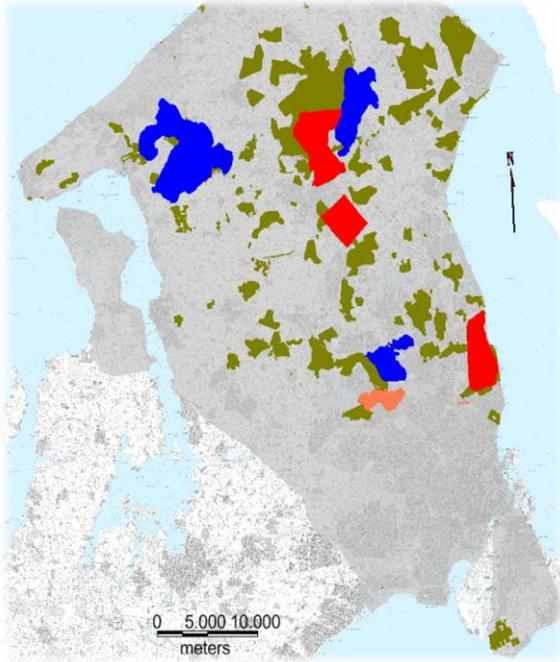


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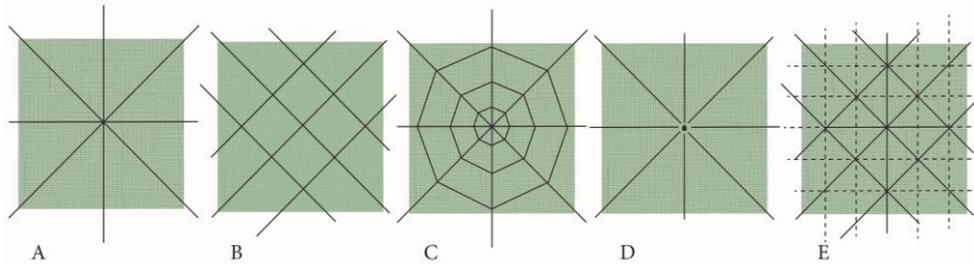


The par force hunting landscape in North Zealand
inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2015

The par force hunting landscape in North Zealand



Three par force hunting forests (red) in the former royal hunting estate in North Zealand (grey) were inscribed on the World Heritage List in July 2015. From south to north they are: Jægersborg Dyrehave (Deer Park) from 1670, 2. The square Store Dyrehave, and 3. Gribskov. The par force hunting rides and roads in the two latter forests were made in the 1680ies and 1690ies, and did originally make up a continuous grid of stars and squares in the forests around the castle of Frederiksborg in Hillerød. To preserve a full impression of the original system, remains of the long, connecting hunting roads in the agricultural landscape and in the town of Hillerød have also been included on the World Heritage List.



The par force hunting landscape exemplifies how the interchange of Baroque values in Europe influenced developments in landscape design in the 17th-18th centuries, and particularly bears witness to the influence exerted by French and German designed hunting landscapes (Figs A-D). These models were adapted to the specific situation of the Danish terrain and to the Danish kings' aspirations (Fig. E). The series of forests illustrates a development in design that evolved alongside the landscape's function during par force hunts also in terms of its increasing symbolic significance.



The King's Star with the King's Stone marks the centre of the system in Store Dyrehave

As a landscape of power created by an absolute monarch in the late 17th century, the par force hunting landscape in North Zealand exemplifies a significant stage in European landscape design applied to hunting grounds when the rise of scientific thought took place within the context of absolutist ambitions. The orthogonal geometry conceived for its design improved the octagon or circle-based star network used in French or German examples. In its infinite expandability, the orthogonal grid could give equal access to all parts of the forest; differently from radial examples, its diagonals created more than one star point suitable for the rendezvous.