

### Hvorfor er grotter verneverdige

#### Cave conservation

Caves contain esthetic and scientific values. These values can be destroyed by construction works, souvenir hunters, vandalism and/or pure carelessness. There are several reasons for conserving Norwegian caves:

1. Caves contain many unique geological formations.
2. Caves contain unique information about the development of climate, flora, fauna, glaciers etc. through the ages, information that can't be found anywhere else.
3. Caves, with complete darkness and low supply of food and energy, can host very specialized ecosystems.
4. Some caves contain rare archaeological findings.
5. The mere existence of caves, their site and extent, can tell a lot about the climate in previous ages.

In Rana in Nordland and in Kongsberg in Buskerud, there are special resolutions with the aim of cave conservation.

There are caves and karst inside several existing and planned national parks in Norway. Even though cave conservation is not the main purpose with these parks, the parks will protect the caves in several ways:

1. The caves will not be destroyed by road constructions, by water reservoirs for power plants etc.
2. Because the caves are inside a national park, people will (hopefully) act with more care.
3. The caves can't be damaged without breaking an official resolution and thereby breaking the law.