

# Regulations concerning area protection and regulation of access to Virgohamna in Svalbard

*Laid down by the Directorate for Cultural Heritage on 3 May 2000 pursuant to section 4 of the Act of 17 July 1925 No. 11 relating to Svalbard and section 20 of the Royal Decree of 24 January 1992 No. 34 concerning cultural remains in Svalbard.*

## Part 1. General provisions

### I

Pursuant to section 4 of the Act of 17 July 1925 No. 11 relating to Svalbard and regulations laid down in section 20 of the Royal Decree of 24 January 1992 No. 34 concerning cultural remains in Svalbard, an area of cultural remains at Virgohamn on Danskøya is protected under the name of Virgohamn by Regulations issued in accordance with the decision of the Directorate for Cultural Heritage of 3 May 2000.

### II

The protected area is located on Danskøya in the Nordvestspitsbergen National Park in Svalbard. The area consists of the bay between Ekholmpynten and Kapp Pike, extends southwards from the beach, and comprises a 360 degree radius of 100m from the cultural remains.

There are cultural remains at Virgohamna from several periods. These include the following:

- remains of three double tryworks<sup>1</sup> and ruins of buildings belonging to the Dutch whale factory Harlinger kokerij from 1636 as well as graves from the whaling era,
- remains of a building known as Pike's house, a prefabricated house from the overwintering of 1888,
- remains of Andrée's balloon shed and gas production plant from 1896–97,
- remains of Wellman's airship base from 1906–09.

All cultural remains in the area are automatically protected, cf. the Regulations of 24 January 1992 No. 34.

The protected cultural remains are located as shown on the map dated 28 April 2000 and stamped by the Directorate for Cultural Heritage. Maps and regulations concerning protection are kept by the Governor of Svalbard, the Directorate for Cultural Heritage and the Ministry of the Environment.

### III

The purpose of the protection is to safeguard and secure a unique national cultural heritage site. The objective is to safeguard this area and the cultural remains that are found there as a historical reference and as a source of knowledge and research in Svalbard, and to secure the value of Virgohamn as a place of interest and experience deriving both from the cultural remains themselves and from their effect on the landscape.

The purpose of the protection is furthermore to limit and control access to the area, since the accumulated effect of free access to this valuable cultural heritage site will be to cause

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<sup>1</sup> Translator's note: Furnaces used for rendering oil from blubber.

damage, alteration or disfigurement with the subsequent danger of accelerating disintegration. Regulation of access is therefore to be introduced in the protected area.

## **Part 2. The protected area**

The following provisions shall apply to the protected area:

**Section 1.** Without the express permission of the Directorate for Cultural Heritage, no measures may be implemented in the protected area that may alter or otherwise affect sites important for their landscape or cultural history or that otherwise conflict with the objectives of the protection.

Without the permission of the Directorate for Cultural Heritage, it is furthermore prohibited to damage, excavate, move, alter, cover up, conceal or disfigure cultural remains or initiate measures that may give rise to a danger of this. Removal of cultural remains from the area is prohibited.

**Section 2.** All traffic in the protected area is prohibited without the permission of the Governor of Svalbard. Permission may be granted in response to an application to and on conditions laid down by the Governor of Svalbard. The prohibition shall not apply to ambulance, police, rescue and inspection operations.

**Section 3.** Camping, erecting tents and lighting campfires in the protected area are prohibited.

**Section 4.** Any person who wilfully or negligently violates these Regulations or prohibitions of orders issued pursuant to these Regulations shall be liable to fines or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year. Any person who aids and abets such an offence shall be liable to the same penalty.

**Section 5.** These regulations shall enter into force immediately.