MY NATURE AREA – BORRE KIRKE

12/02/18 – 16/05/18

DIARY ENTRIES

VISITS COVERING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY

Average daily temperature – -9 Celsius

The purpose of the task was too train your eyes in observing. My nature area is an area which I had noticed even before the task was set. The small area of open land facing the church in Borre is where I have chosen to make my observations.

I have chosen it because I saw in my first few days how quickly it changed aesthetically depending on the weather conditions be it fog, snow, or even rain. In each condition to me at least it looked completely different.

The area is right by where I am staying in Norway, so I see it at least twice every day. I first saw it from afar while I was waiting at a bus stop it looked to me like there was only a few inches of soft recently fallen snow. What I did not know was that there is a bus stop essentially on top of part of my nature area, so when I returned home that day I got to see it up close and realized that it was more like a thick layer of icy almost rock-hard snow.

DIARY COVERING LATE FEBRUARY EARLY MARCH

Average daily temperature – -7 Celsius

Although the snow fall for the whole of Norway has generally been a lot lower this year than in recent years for some reason it has stayed for a lot longer giving the impression that there is more snow. I have heard a few reasons from friends why they think that this is, however I think it is because the temperature is slightly lower than usual the snow has been given a chance to melt properly I would assume that this is down to global warming. As well as this the daily temperature has been fluctuating a lot between positive and negative which has the effect of melting a small proportion of the area before it freezes again. This has lead to a thin sheet of super shiny ice forming on top of the soft snow below. One thing I have observed is that the only visible track that I have been able to record anyway are human. I have preliminarily put this down to its proximity to a busy road and the openness of the area which has the effect of scaring the any animals there may be away.

DIARY COVERING LATE MARCH AND INTO APRIL.

Average daily temperature – 5 Celsius

I left my next couple of visits for a number of weeks as not a lot had been changing an I wanted to give the snow a chance to melt a little. I had not realised but there was actually a lot more snow than I had expected. It was a really crisp bright morning, there was still some patches of snow however there was also a lot of grass visible too. The grass was yellow/brown in colour and looked like it had been burned in a way. However, this was due to the chlorophyll being removed from the grass as it had been deprived of late for the previous months.

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I also noticed how dirty the area seemed. There was a layer of dust and stones on a lot of the grass and around the road facing edges there's was a lot of small black stones. I attribute this to the road gritters that passed multiple times a night during the winter. I also wondered what would happen to them, would they just be left there? Would they be removed?

DIARY COVERING LATE APRIL EARLY MAY

Average daily temperature – 10 Celsius

By this stage Spring was well and truly underway. It may have been raining a lot, but the grass looked in super condition, whereas before it had been a yellowy brown it was now a vibrant green and looked super healthy. Somehow, I had overlooked a large bush in my area in my previous visits but I guess this exercise is about training yourself to see things so! It was beginning to show signs of life with its many buds. The stones I had previously seen had appeared to disappear into thin air! But I assume that the Horton Commune has taken them away. What I did notice as that there didn't seem to be any plant or even dandelions growing there was simply just grass and a few birds looking for worms.

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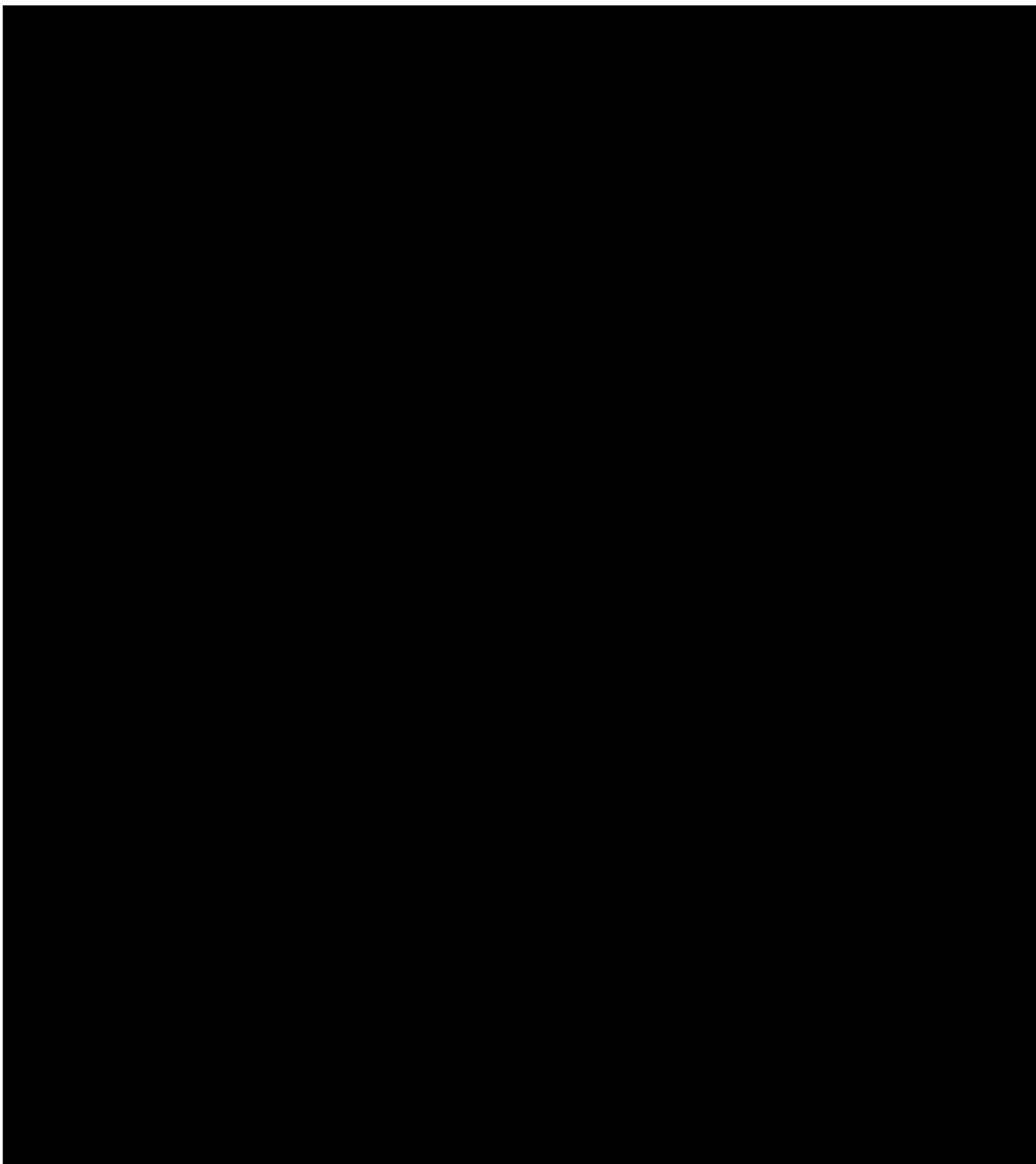
On our first day we were just getting used to our surroundings and so we took a step back and reduced our role to more shadowing the teachers while they undertook the activities throughout the day. The day began for us before the children had arrived. Hege tasked us with setting up four camp-fires and ensuring that they stayed lit throughout the day. This was cool because we learned how to properly make a fire using only wood and matches which was new for me. At around 9 o'clock the children began to arrive and gathered around the fires. We were introduced to the kids by name and then they had to try and guess our nationalities from us speaking a few sentences in our native tongues. The kids found this great fun and it acted as an unintentional ice-breaker of sorts between us and the children. There were 75 five kids in their final year of primary school. The group of 11 and 12 years olds was than further broken down into 3 groups to do 3 different activities. The aim of the day was to teach the children about the states of matter.

The first activity was bubble making. They mixed washing-up liquid with water and bent wire to make a frame for their bubbles. It was interesting to see the different techniques they adopted and how well they worked. I even had a go for myself and found out quickly that it's a lot harder than it looks.

For the second activity we made a bouncy ball, and this took place indoors. After a short talk on safety each table was given some latex, some vinegar and some water. Everyone was then given two cups. In one they put 5 teaspoons of water with 2 of vinegar, and in the second they put 3 of latex. The mixture was then added to the latex and quickly stirred into a ball shape as it sets almost immediately.

The final activity was investigating the effect substances can have on water in its different states. An ice cube was added to a small cup of

water. The ice, being less dense than water floated on the surface. A string was laid across the cup touching the ice. Salt was added to the water and then we waited for two minutes. When the time was up we gently lifted the piece of string and found that it the ice was now stuck to it!