

E16 LIVING CITIES

Hjertelia Norway

SCALE: S - urban and architectural

TEAM REPRESENTATIVE: urbanist, landscape architect or architect

SITE TOPIC: Care, Valorizing Natural Elements and Landscapes

LOCATION: Hønefoss, Ringerike

POPULATION: 9 600 inhabitants

STUDY SITE: 60 ha

PROJECT SITE: 3,7 ha

SITE PROPOSED BY: Ringerike municipality

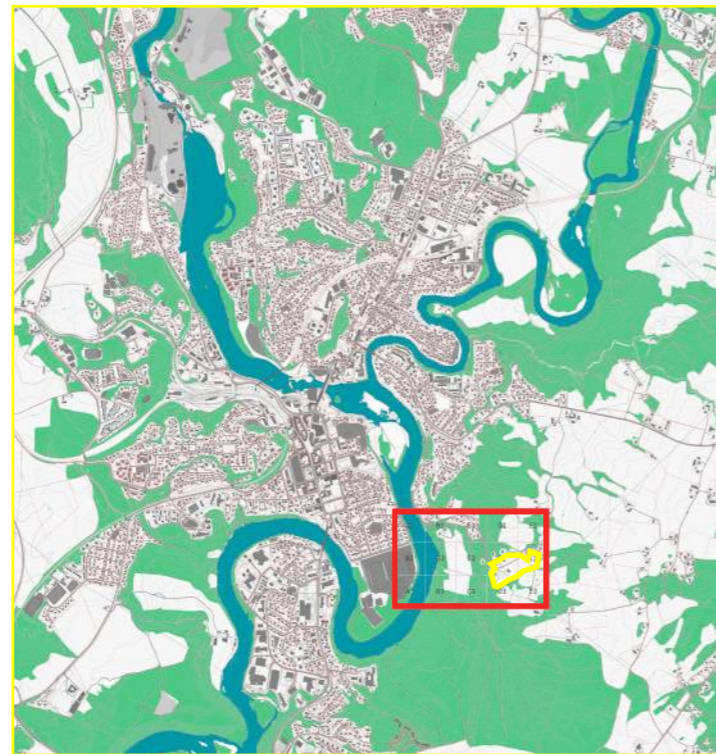
ACTORS INVOLVED: Ringerike municipality

OWNER OF THE SITE: Ringerike municipality

COMMISSION AFTER COMPETITION:

Preliminary architectural study of pilot project.

Commission value 500 000 NOK.



The project site consists of a publicly owned lot surrounded by agricultural land. View towards southeast.

Social and productive pilot-project for a town on the cusp of transformation

STRATEGY

Hønefoss is a town on the cusp of radical transformation. To expand on the town's rapidly changing identity, the task is to develop a new pilot neighbourhood which embraces sustainability in its broadest sense. The project site Hjertelia sits on farmland close to the town centre and the goal is to build an inclusive community through new housing typologies and architecture that enhances the productive capacity of the landscape.

Degradation of natural and agricultural land into low density suburban housing is a pressing concern all over the country. As a reaction, the ambition in Hjertelia is to develop the lot as a sustainable alternative to the typology of detached homes that dominates the Norwegian landscape. The development must be planned around mobility solutions for pedestrians and cyclists.

Through European, Ringerike municipality wants to investigate how Hjertelia can become an experimental pilot neighbourhood based on urban farming and social forms of living that underpins belonging in a town undergoing large scale changes. The ambitious goal is to show the way for further development within the study area, and more so, contribute with new examples to a common library of housing typologies for the future.

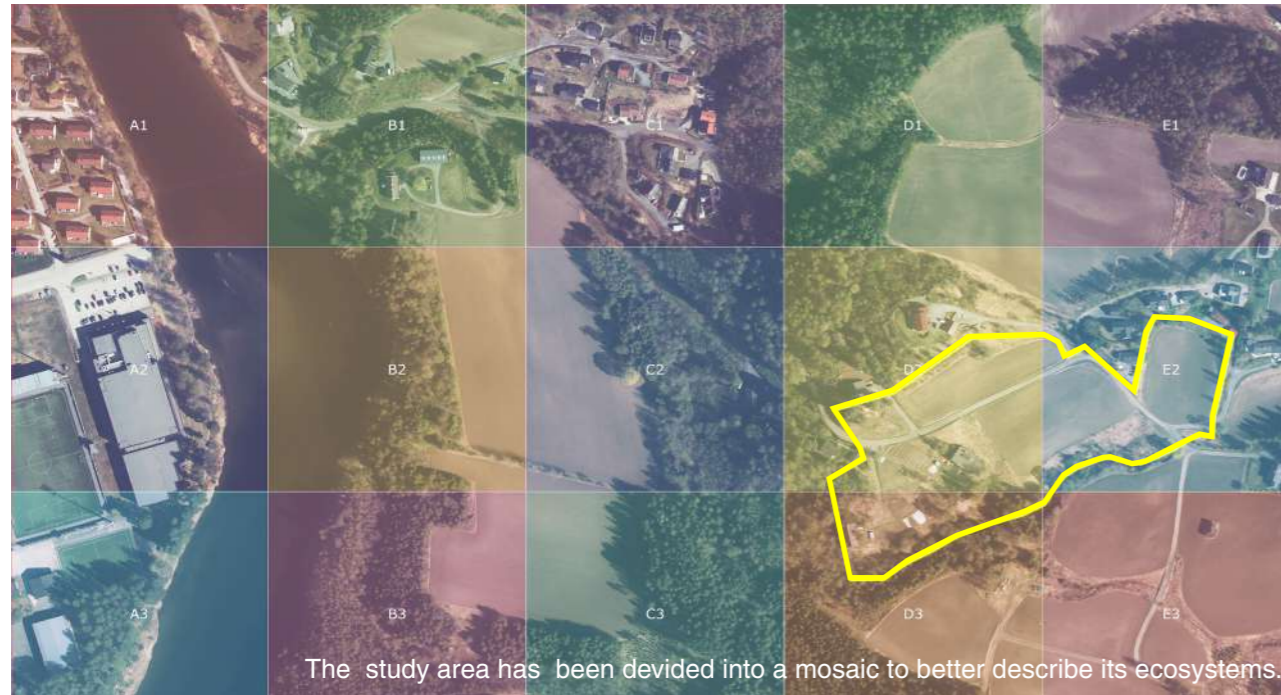
SITE DEFINITION

When the new railway arrives in Hønefoss, the shorter journey time to Oslo will change everything. Suddenly the town will be integrated with the Oslo region and serve as a suburb to the fast-growing capital. Expecting to see explosive growth, Hønefoss has the potential to absorb extensive development in the town centre. The population of the municipality is forecast to increase from 30,000 to 40,000 by 2030. Most of the growth will take place in the centre of Hønefoss. The goal is to accommodate 7,000 new residents in and around the



The project - and study site in Hjertelia is the last development area in the zoning plan of Krakstadmarka.

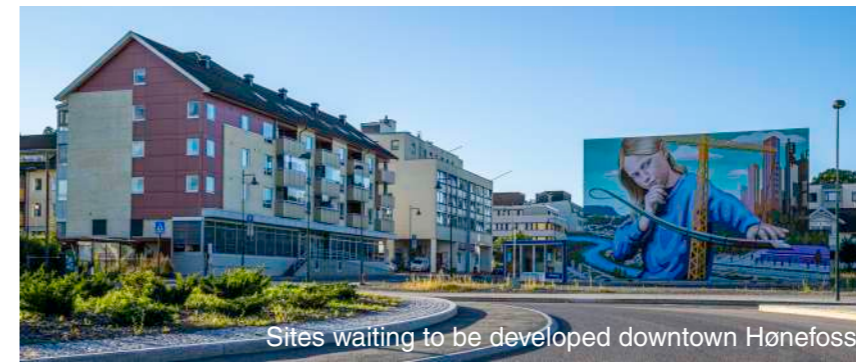
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The study area has been divided into a mosaic to better describe its ecosystems.



The project site is a productive landscape.



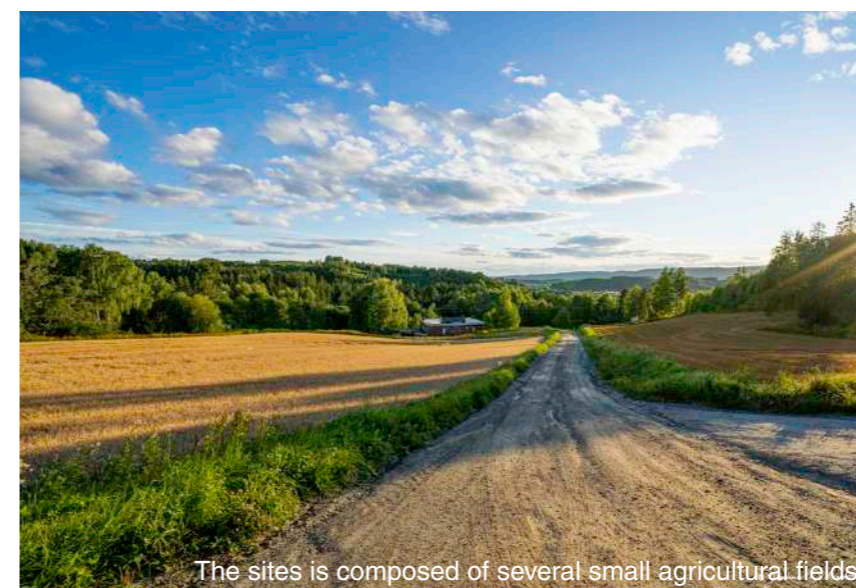
Sites waiting to be developed downtown Hønefoss.



Most of the forest is planted.



An abandoned institution on the project site.



The sites is composed of several small agricultural fields.

town centre, the downtown area which is currently home to just over 1,000 people. Growth on this scale will result in major changes for a municipality which is heavily car-dependent and where most people live in detached houses away from the town centre. Its mobility infrastructure will have to undergo a major transformation, and all growth must be based around public transport, cycling and walking.

Yet urbanisation involves bigger challenges than mobility planning. A rural and agriculturally based community will grow quickly with a new kind of educated and urban population. The identity of Ringerike will be challenged. Many people are asking whether anyone would want to move to Ringerike to live in a flat at all, considering how the district is better known for its agriculture and beautiful ravines than for its trendy cafés. What we do know is that an urban identity in Hønefoss will be different from urban identities in large cities. As it takes on population growth, climate change and technological advances in agriculture, Ringerike will have to build denser. How can a new kind of urban identity be expressed in a peripheral agricultural district such as Ringerike?

The development of Hjertelia has been controversial because the area consists of farmland and forest. Development of such suburban woodland and agricultural plots is common on the fringes of many small Norwegian towns and a major challenge globally. Yet the zoning plan for Hjertelia and the adjacent areas have been approved by the politicians, and parts of the area are already under construction. The local authority wishes to use its property in Hjertelia to develop an ambitious example of sensitive and site-specific architecture and outside space which helps intensify the ecology and productive properties of the landscape.