

When the sea swallows up land

The small village, Lønstrup, is located on the coast of the North Sea. Within the memory of man, the main source of income for the locals has been fishing. The sea has formed the livelihood for the small community.

Today, the sea is still the main income base. Now it is tourists who are being allured to the place because of the grandiose coast scenery and the fresh sea.

For centuries, man has lived with the powerful sea as a neighbour. The weather can be rough. Storms can tear the houses apart, and the trees in the area are all deformed by the west wind.

The coast of Lønstrup consists of high cliffs facing the sea. Year by year, the cliffs are eroded by the sea. The local church, Maarup church, and the appurtenant cemetery have already become the victims of the greedy sea. The graves fall down from the cliff. Now, the church has been removed before it would have fallen off the cliff.

Various forms of coast protection have been established along the coast, but the coastline is still moving one to two metres each year. In the future, the expected climate changes including more severe storms will increase the eroding of the cliffs.

This summer day the beautiful lighthouse, Rubjerg Knude Fyr, towers on top of the cliff south of Lønstrup. The beautiful landmark was built in 1899. Now they plan to take it down and move it to a safer location. Today, the coast is eroded below the lighthouse in a much faster speed than expected. No action, and the lighthouse will be at the edge of the abyss.



South of Lønstrup, Vendsyssel, June 2018