

77°0.49'N 015°52.3'E

Gnålodden

Sør-Spitsbergen National Park – Gnålodden has its name from the incessantly humming mountain Gnålberget, that is inhabited by a large number of shrieking black-legged kittiwakes.

80°N

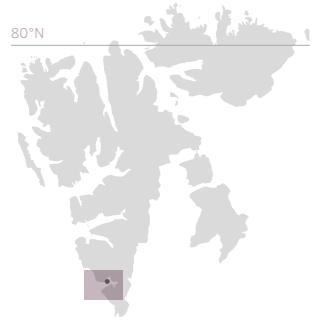


Photo: Jørn Henriksen

Trapper cabin under the sound of birds

The female hunter and trapper Wanny Woldstad was tougher than most males. Below the steep and very noisy bird cliff she stayed in one of her hunting cabins. The cabin stands as a monument over toil and self-denial. Her nearest neighbors were the remains of a Russian trapping station and a grave of a 17th century whaler.

VEGETATION

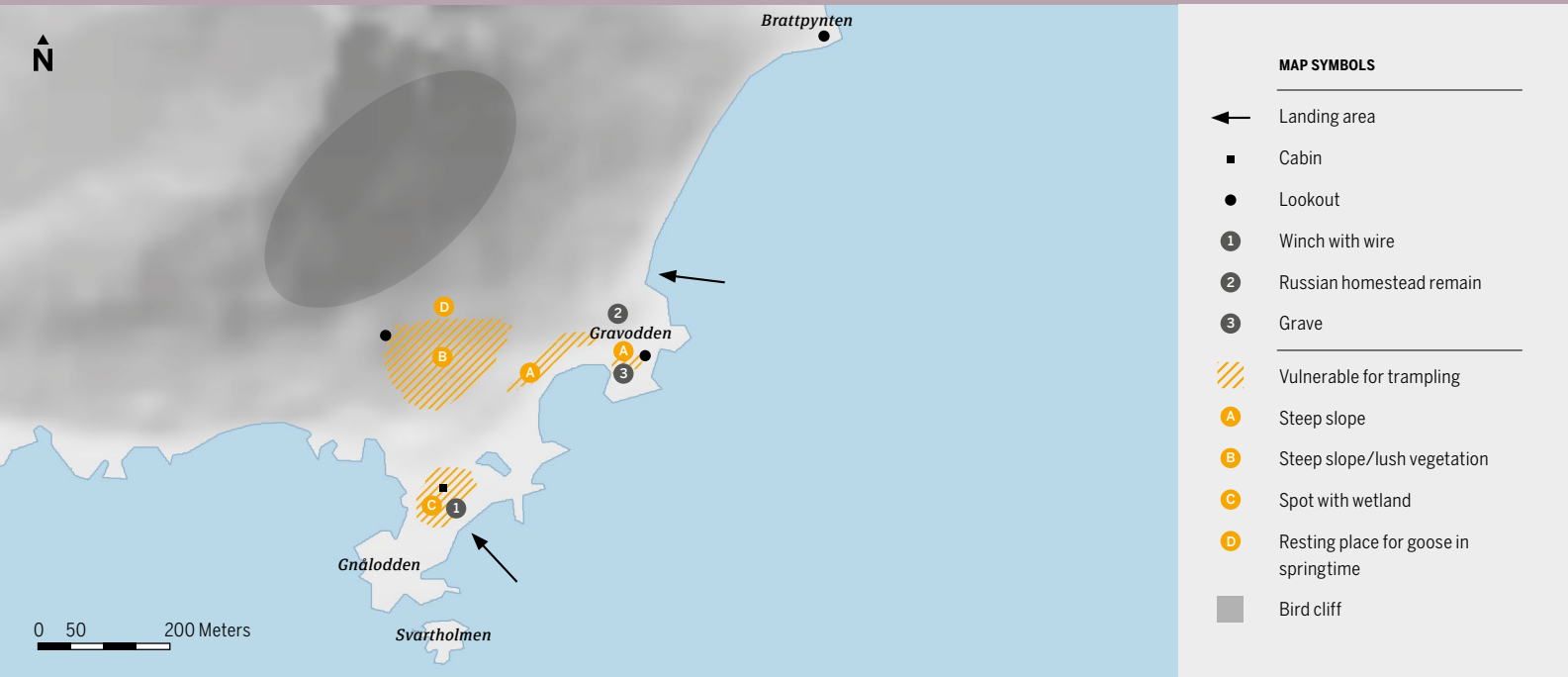
The south facing slope and rich nutrient supply from the large bird colony makes this a particularly productive vegetation site. Just inside the shoreline are continuous carpets of moss. Large diversity of flora can be found further up the cliff, including several species of buttercups, saxifrages, and a large population of the rare alpine rock cress.

FAUNA

The most striking feature of Gnålodden is the bird cliff in the characteristic Gnålberget mountain. This spectacular cliff is occupied by thousands of seabirds, dominated by three species; black-legged kittiwake, Brünnich's guillemot and northern fulmar. The ice in the fjord is also a good area for finding bearded seal and is frequently visited by polar bear.

CULTURAL REMAINS

Below the bird cliff is an old trappers' cabin used by Norwegian overwintering hunting and trapping parties. The cabin is well known because of the legendary female trapper, Wanny Wolstad. She used it as a satellite station when she overwintered in Hyttevika, just north of Hornsund, in the 1930's. Not far from the cabin a small homestead used by Russian overwintering parties during the 18th century and what is a grave from either the Russian overwintering or the whaling period.



MAP SYMBOLS

- ← Landing area
- Cabin
- Lookout
- ① Winch with wire
- ② Russian homestead remain
- ③ Grave
- ▨ Vulnerable for trampling
- A Steep slope
- B Steep slope/lush vegetation
- C Spot with wetland
- D Resting place for goose in springtime
- Bird cliff

GUIDELINES

Remember to always approach a landing site calmly and carefully.

Please walk on the vegetation-free shoreline when walking between the cultural heritage sites.

The moss carpet surrounding the cabin and the pond, and the hillside, is fragile. Walk carefully and minimize trampling in vegetation.

It is quite easy to reach the lower part of the bird cliff and observe the breeding birds without disturbing them. However, beware of falling/rolling rocks from the cliff as falling rocks can be triggered from people walking.

You are welcome to visit the cabin unless it is occupied. Remember to close the door behind you when leaving the cabin.

TIP

A small walking-excursion can bring you to the point east of Gnålodden from where you can view the large glacier fronts in Burgerbukta, the Sofiakammen mountain and potentially seals and bears on the ice.



Photo: Ole Magnus Rapp

Remember to close the door behind you when leaving the cabin.



Photo: Jørn Henriksen

Thousands of seabirds occupy the spectacular cliff, Gnålberget.



Photo: Dagmar Hagen

The rare alpine rock cress can be found in Gnålodden.