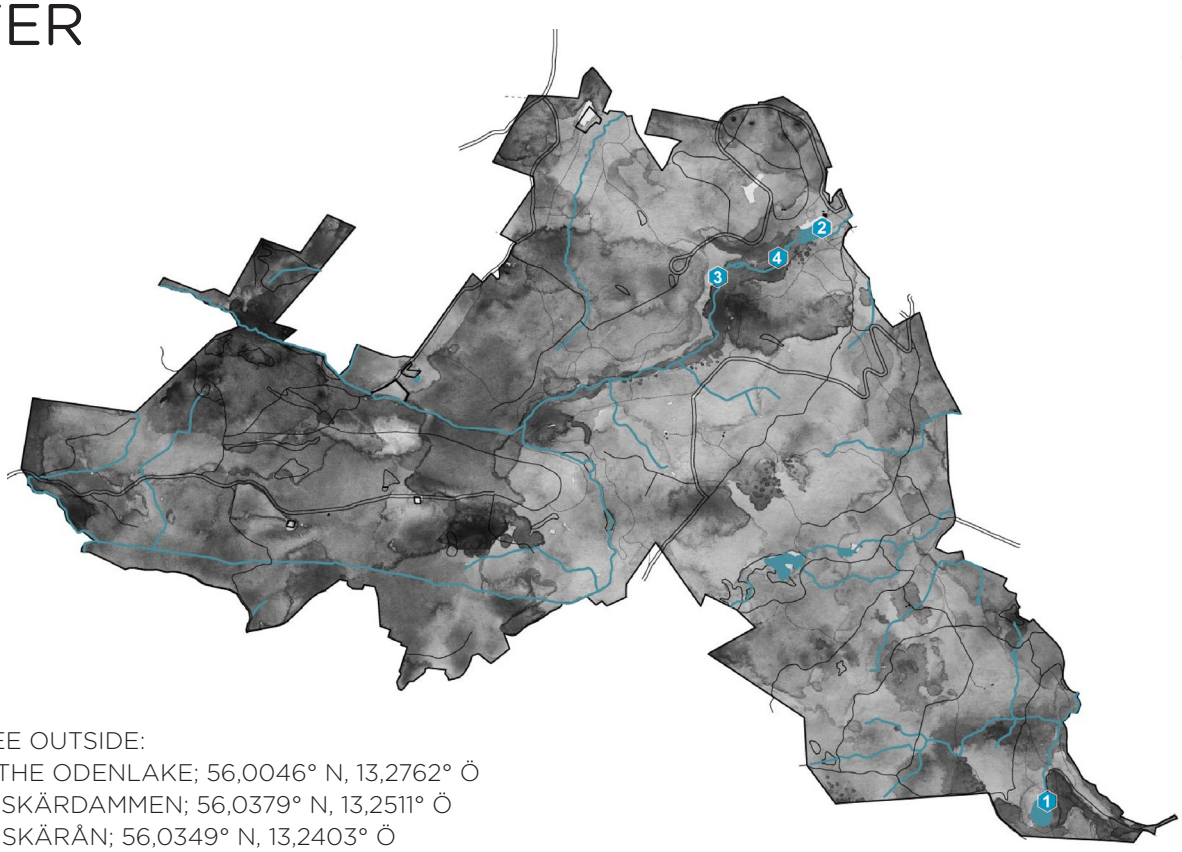
WATER



SEE OUTSIDE:
1. THE ODENLAKE; 56,0046° N, 13,2762° Ö
2. SKÄRDAMMEN; 56,0379° N, 13,2511° Ö
3. SKÄRÅN; 56,0349° N, 13,2403° Ö
4. RÅRÖDSPÅGEN SPRING; 56,0361° N, 13,2465° Ö

WATER FROM PREHISTORIC TIMES

All the water on the planet is part of the same cycle. It falls as snow or rain, is drunk and evaporates. Again and again since the beginning of time.

Water from springs is part of the same cycle. It once fell as precipitation and has been cleansed through soil and rock layers. The water here in the National Park is unusually clean because of the many springs and the few contaminants in the surrounding areas.

Look after the water we have. Take a little in your hand and imagine that dinosaurs have swum in it and Columbus has sailed on it.

Water is a living companion; just imagine if it could talk!

THE DRAGONFLY
- A RAPACIOUS PREHISTORIC CREATURE

Dragonflies have been around for 300 million years. In those times, they had a wingspan of 70 cm!

The adult insect lives for a few months, but for several years as a larva in water. There it catches small water insects with its lower lip that looks like a pincer.

The larva changes its skin many times before it leaves the water as a grown dragonfly. When it is ready to shed its skin for the last time, it crawls out of the water and uses its legs to cling fast to an aquatic plant. The empty larval skin remains there as the dragonfly creeps out ready to fly. Look how it hovers over the water just like a helicopter. It navigates with great precision, hovers and reverses using its two pairs of wings that are attached to the thorax and can be moved with great flexibility in relation to each other.

The male defends a territory close to the water. When a willing female arrives on the scene, they mate and create the mating wheel typical for the species. Afterwards the female lays her eggs in the water.

THE WHOOPER SWAN
- FAMED IN SAGAS AND FAIRYTALES.

Whooper swans live in pairs and can live for 30 years. They build a very big nest from parts of the vegetation from the lake bottom. This is where they raise their young in the springtime. The youngsters leave the nest early, but they stay with their parents for a long time. Sometimes they overstay and are pushed out when the next brood comes. The swan feeds on land and in water. Some swans migrate whilst others overwinter.

How does that work exactly? Do they keep the same partner all their lives?

WATER PLANTS

Water plants are carried by the water so that they can manage with a soft stalk. They oxygenate and clean the water where they grow and provide protection, food and egg-laying places for different animals.

THE SALAMANDER
- THE LAKE'S MINIATURE DRAGON

The great crested newt is an amphibian with a

tail. The name comes from Greek and means 'fire lizard' as it was thought to be fireproof. We used to believe that it could withstand fire as certain species live in places such as rotting tree-trunks, and when wood like that was put onto a fire they would of course flee from the heat and it was most often in the fire that they were to be seen.
During the mating season, the male grows a magnificent crest along its back to impress females. The eggs are fertilised in the female's body and she then fastens them to underwater plants.
During the mating season the male grows a magnificent crest along its back to impress the females. The eggs are fertilised in the female's body and she fastens them to underwater plants.
The salamander eats small creatures such as worms, snails and insects and spends most of its life on land. In the winter it hibernates under decaying dead wood, under stones or amongst boulders.

THE BROOK LAMPREY - A FISH WITH NO SCALES

The Northern Brook Lamphrey's skeleton consists of cartilage, just like that of the shark. Its sucker-shaped mouth has teeth, is jawless and it belongs to the group of cyclostomata. There are many different species.
The brook lamprey can live for up to 6 years as a larva. The larva lies buried in the sandy bottom with only its head sticking up. After a radical metamorphosis in late summer, with the intestinal tract growing back, the creature reaches adulthood. During the following spring it leaves the bottom and swims out into shallow, running water for spawning and mating. Mature fish gather there at suitable spawning -grounds. They are often mistaken for small eels. The males move small stones and gravel with their mouths, and use their bodies to sweep away other loose material to create a spawning redd. Spawning takes places in groups, with 2-10 creatures in each, over a period of several days. The creatures die within a month of spawning. The eggs measure 1 mm, with the female laying up to 2000 eggs. During the lively spawning period the eggs are covered with loose material and stay buried until hatching 2 weeks later. The larvae then move downstream to a suitable soft or sandy bottom.
The lamprey's oldest relative lived in the oceans 500 million years ago.
The etymology of the fish's name stems from the German "neun augen", or "nine-eyes", indicating the seven gill-slits, the eye and nostril as viewed from the side.

THE WHITE THROATED DIPPER - AN OVERWINTERING WINTER-BATHER

A robust and tough little bird that uses its bodyweight and the power of the water to hunt for stonefly larvae and other small creatures along the bottom. It stays constantly close to water, where it flies back and forth over the surface all year long.
Its nest is round with a narrow opening and is built between stones or under bridges. Both parents take turns sitting on the 4-6 white eggs and to look after the youngsters.

THE BROOK STONEFLY

There are many different species of stonefly. They need clean water for the larvae to develop. Thanks to its flat body the larva of the Brook Stonefly can live in brooks and streams without being washed away. As it breathes through its skin, it cannot survive in contaminated water.

THE GREY HERON - A CRY AT TWILIGHT

The grey heron is a member of the stork family. It eats fish and amphibians that it catches in its sharp beak. The heron builds its nest high up in a deciduous tree, close to water, happily sharing the same tree with other breeding couples. It might seem a bit 'nerdy' with its crested neck, slow-motion walk and its complaining sound.

THE BROWN TROUT - A HUNTER LYING IN WAIT

The brown trout spends its entire life in the brook where it was born. It will lie in wait behind a stone waiting for prey such as insects, crustaceans and small fishes.

THE SPRING - PART OF WATER'S CONTINUOUS CYCLE

Rainwater trickles down through the broken rocks in the valley and is cleansed on its way. When it meets the solid bedrock, underground waterways are created, and when it becomes full the groundwater is pushed up through and forms a gushing spring. Here at Söderåsen, there are around 100 springs thanks to the rock and its many cracks.

PURE WATER - DESPITE LEAVES AND TWIGS

Don't let your eyes deceive you. Leaves and branches as well as foam from the diatoms are not pollutants. The National Park's water comes from underground springs and is not affected much by fertilisers and pollutants. Additionally, calcium-rich bedrock and many deciduous trees contribute to the unusually pure water.
Allow yourself to be tempted. Take a walk along the streams, swim in the lakes and drink the spring water. That's what the prehistoric animals did. In the very same water!