



Cleared rapids

Right now, you are standing on one of the many cleared rapids along Agnelån. Cleared rapids are very common remnants of timber floating. In order to transport the logs in our watercourses, they needed to be cleared of rocks and blocks that protruded and hindered the timber. The rocks that were removed were often used to build embankments. As a result, the watercourse became straight with a smooth bottom – perfect for transporting timber, but detrimental to almost everything living in the watercourse.



The oldest cleared rapids were entirely cleared by hand, involving hard work where watercourses were manually cleared, and the material was thrown up to form embankments. Later, stump extractors started being used to lift larger blocks. Eventually, the work was mechanized with excavators and bulldozers.

Around 1950, a new channel was blasted in Agnelån where you are standing now. The result was an entirely new canal for the timber floating route. After the blasting, all the blasted stones were lifted, and this cleared rapid was constructed. If you look across to the other side, it's evident that the embankment was built using the blasted material.



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