

MEANDERING IN LOSBYELVA THROUGH ELVEPARKEN

We are saying that Losbyelva are creating meanders.

Meandering in a river is a series of convolutions (close to sinus curves) in a path of the river that runs through a flat landscape where the soil conditions consist of sandy of clay soil (erosion prone sediments)

A bend, a meander, is created because the water current in a river has a tendency to create swirls. The water will, due to the current and swirls, carry sediments that are deposited where the swirls cease, and the current weakens. The sediments will be built up and start a bend in the river stream. As times goes by the curve will expand in outer periphery where the water has the highest velocity, and the sediments will continue to be deposited in the inner part of the curve where the water has the lowest velocity. In this way, the curve is expanded. A so-called ox-bow lake is created by the curves expanding to a near circle and the water breaks through and an island is created in the middle.

In Losbyelva the condions are very good for creating meanders. Th eriver runs through a flat landscape with clay soil that can easily be carried by the swirls and currents in the water.

The are not yet formed any Ox-bow lakes in Losbyelva through Elveparken, but the overview picture shows that we can expect selveral ox-bow lakes as the rivver continues to dig into the banks. Naturly flood, with the increased water current, will speed up the creation of ox-bow lakes.

Examples of other rivers that are creating meanders in the neighbourhood are Leira north of Lillestrøm and Nitelva south of Rotnes in Nittedal. Mississippi river is probably the river in the world most known for meandering.

The term meander originates from a river in Turkey, called Buyuk Menderes, in greek Maiandros, and in latin Maeander



Foto: Kjell Erik Sandberg

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