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The legacy of glacial contexts in Norway

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Reindeer near Brattfonna, Norway.

In the context of global warming, ice patches are increasingly important foci of high-elevation archaeology. For thousands of years, hunters have been aware of the need for reindeer to seek cool and windy ice patches in the high mountains during hot summer days to find relief from insects and summer heat. Thus, ice patches have been active hunting grounds since the stone age and until today. The interplay between ice, reindeer and humans, and the conserving context of the ice is the basis for Norwegian glacial archaeology. Large amounts of unique artefacts and faunal remains particular to the ice are appearing during summer

melts. In addition to long-term hunting, the ice discloses ancient transportation routes, and important aspects of the use of the inland ice in Sami cultural tradition. This paper will provide an overview of Norwegian glacial archaeology and the challenges met in light of global warming.

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