

# GIPSDALEN north nord, Svalbard

Vegetation map  
Vegetasjonskart

1: 25,000



Base map Grunnlagskart: S100 C8

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Method Metode:  
Vegetation classification described by Elven et al. (1990)  
Vegetasjonsklassifisering beskrevet i Elven et al. (1990)

Basis Grunnlag:  
Fieldwork 1985, 1987, 1989;  
Aerial photography 1961  
Feltarbeid 1 85, 1987, 1989;  
Flybilde 1 61.

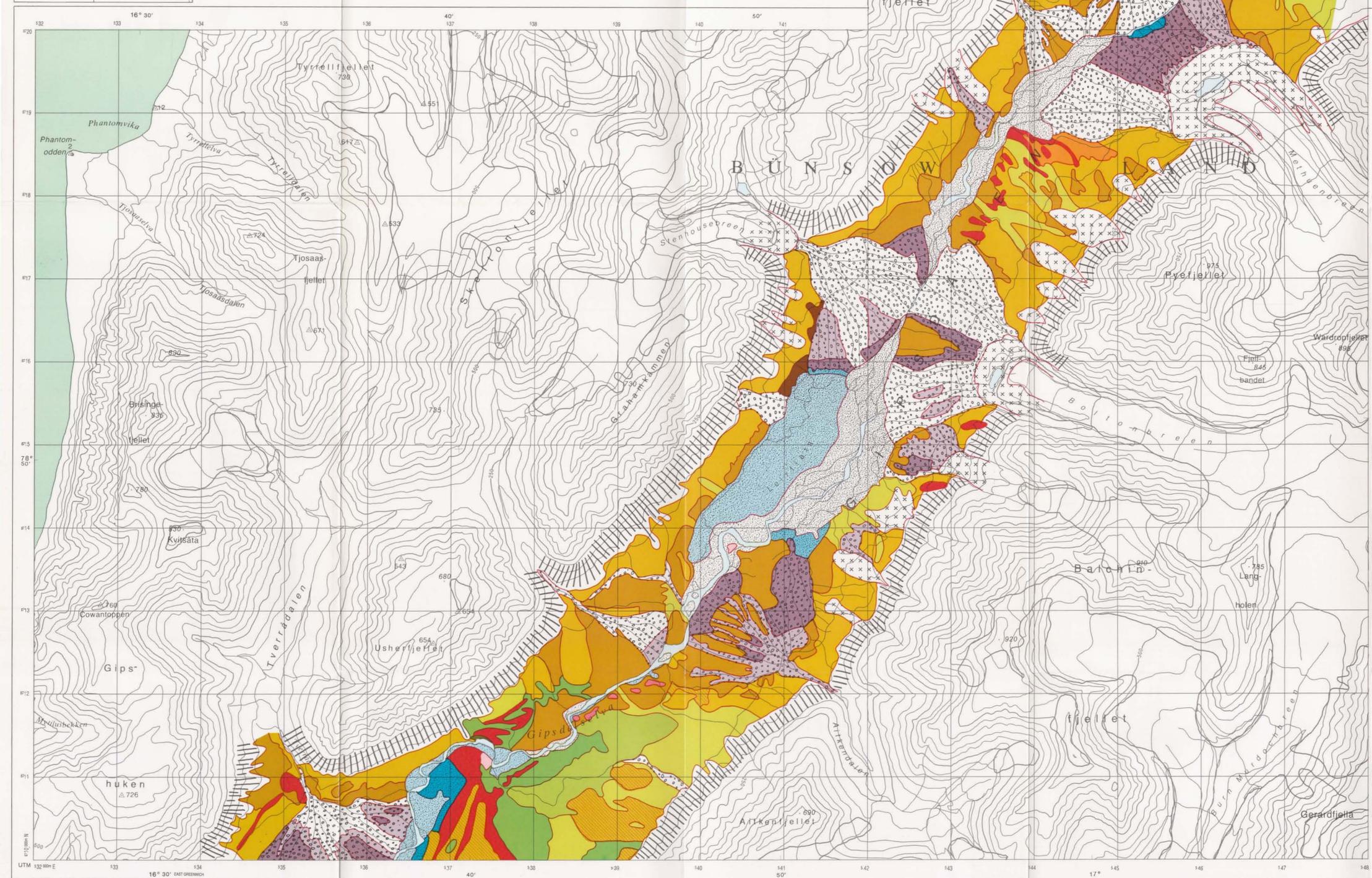
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Scale Målestokk: 1:25,000

Contour interval Ekvivaldistanse: 50 meters



## LEGEND TEGNFORKLARING:

### LOWLAND AREAS WITH MORE OR LESS CLOSED VEGETATION COVER.

Group 1 Well drained sites (heaths, snowbeds and related types)

Subgroup 11 Erosion ridges and flats with discontinuous vegetation cover. Open *Dryas* and *Dryas-Carex* *rupicola* types. Vegetation formed by scattered *Deschampsia* and *Hebe* sedge in the Gipsdalen area also with numerous *Salix* care in other areas. Very open and low-productive.

Subgroup 12 Dry closed heath vegetation.

Type 121 Closed *Dryas* and *Dryas-Carex* *rupicola* type. More or less closed, low-productive heaths of dwarf shrubs (*Myrica* ssp., very locally of *Arctic Cassiope*) and of grasses (*Deschampsia*). In Gipsdalen with a more calcicolous composition than usually found.

Type 121a Closed *Dryas-Carex* *rupicola* type. Less calciphilous variant on dolerite outcrops. As the preceding, but with more mosses, grasses and forbs, and less distinctly calciphilous plants. This is the main type of Mountain heath in other areas in Svalbard.

Subgroup 13 Warm slopes with closed, thermophilous meadow-type vegetation.

Type 133 Thermophilous *Festuca* *barbiflora* type. Fragmentary developed vegetation of dry grasslands and forbs on moist, calciphilous substrates. Only found in a mosaic with erosion ridges E of Gipsdalen and at a part of the vegetation complex in the bio-crits of Tempel.

Type 134 *Trisetum apiculatum*-*Minuartia biflora* type. Forb- and grass-dominated vegetation of dry, snow-protected slopes, with comparatively high productivity. It is used as meadow pastures, but is of little importance due to very small areas.

Subgroup 14 Early snowbed and snowflush vegetation.

Type 141 *Hornichthymum nitens*-*Dryas* type.

Type 142 *Salix* *polaris* type and related types.

Type 143 Seasonally hygrophilous *DuPoncia pellegriana* type. Most of the snow-covered vegetation types, matting late early in summer, and impeded by surficial erosion. Composed by mosses, dwarf shrubs and/or grasses and wood-tussocks. The types may be subdivided, and are of importance as meadow pastures both early and late in the season. They are widely defined and of little importance in Gipsdalen, due to small areas.

Subgroup 15 Late snowbeds.

Type 151 *Phippia concinna* type and related types.

Open vegetation of very low-grown forbs and grasses on ground with a long-lasting snow-cover. A distinct type characterised by *Carex* ssp. *puberula* ssp. *puberula* in addition to the *Phippia* type. The vegetation has low productivity, but is grazed by reindeer. It is of little importance due to its appearance and size.

Subgroup 16 Bird-diff vegetation, matured, *Luzula* *ovata* and species-rich meadows of tall-grass patches and forbs, depending upon bird mowing. The snow disappears early, and grass growth commences earlier than in other vegetation types. In addition to heavily mowed meadows, the *Phippia* ssp. (*Templei*) meadows may occur. The bird-diff meadows are high-productive, used by reindeer as pastures, and usually receive heavy seeding in October that fall from reindeer.

Group 2 Poorly drained areas.

Subgroup 22 Wet moss tundra.

Type 221 Thermophilous *Carex* *parallata*-*C. saxatilis* type. Dwarf and tussock tundra vegetation, co-dominated by several *Carex* spp. In the area this type has a calciphilous composition. The *Carex* ssp. *puberula* ssp. *puberula* is probably the most productive vegetation type in the area. The *Carex* ssp. *puberula* ssp. *puberula* is heavily utilized as meadow and grass pastures.

Type 222 *Hornichthymum nitens*-*Carex subopulenta* type. Moss-dominated wet marsh, where *Hoppon* *Sedum* and *Schistocarpus* *Collinsonii* ssp. *puberula* are ecologically subordinate. The type is productive and utilized as meadow pastures, except for the meadow areas also include some hydrologically related types, but with different ground.

Type 224 *DuPoncia pellegriana*-*Eriophorum schweizeri* type, including *Eriophorum* *late*-*Deschampsia* *brevis* type (221). Very similar meadows dominated by arctic grasses and colonials, with a scantily developed moss layer. The types are widely distributed in the area. They are of intermediate productivity, but of importance as pastures due to low water areas.

Subgroup 24 Swamp.

Type 241 *Arctophila lutea*, *DuPoncia poliflora* and *Ranunculus hyperboreus* types. Swampy vegetation of mosses and other single-species stands of distinct arctic grasses, extremely wet to submerged. In the area these meadows may be important both as meadow pastures and as nesting and grazing sites for reindeer. In Gipsdalen the distribution is very restricted.

LOWLAND AREAS WITH OPEN VEGETATION COVER.

Group 3 Very eroded, stable or eroded ridges.

Subgroup 31 Ridges with gravelly substrate.

Type 312 *Daba-Saxifraga-Cerastium arcticum* type. Open gravel ridges with scattered individuals of small-growing forbs (*Arctostaphylos* ssp., *Phlox* ssp., *Phlox* ssp., *Phlox* ssp.) and other grasses. Very low production.

Subgroup 32 Ridges with loamy substrate.

Type 321 *Poa abbreviata*-*Potentilla pulchella* type. Open calcareous gravel ridges with scattered individuals of distinct arctic species of *Macrolepis*, *Festuca*, *Potentilla* and others. Very low production.

Type 323 *Puccinellia angustata* type. Open loamy ridges with very low-growing scattered individuals of distinct arctic grasses and some forbs. Very low production. In Gipsdalen the type is restricted to a few ridges along the river.

Group 4 Sedimentation flats with loamy substrate.

Subgroup 41 Flats with more or less continuous vegetation.

Type 411 Dry *Polypogon viviparum* type. Dry sedimentary flats with an open and very low-growing carpet of *Alpine* *Heath*. Low production.

Subgroup 42 Flats with discontinuous vegetation.

Type 421 Open *Salix* *polaris*-*Saxifraga oppositifolia* type. Comparatively dry sediment flats with a more or less open cover dominated by *Poa* *lutea* and *Poa* *Saxifraga*, with scattered other forbs and grasses. Low production.

Type 423 Open *DuPoncia pellegriana*-*Deschampsia* ssp. type. Dwarf, often intertidal sediment flats with tussocks and mats of arctic grasses (mainly *DuPoncia* and *Hebe* ssp.), often widely scattered. Low to intermediate productivity, sometimes utilized as meadow pastures.

Group 5 Gravelly river fans.

Subgroup 51 Fans with vegetation cover.

Gravelly river fans with an open, but partly stabilised vegetation cover dominated by *Poa* *Saxifraga*, often associated with *Poa* *lutea* and a number of forb and grass species. Low production, scarcely utilized.

Subgroup 52 Fans with scattered plants.

Gravelly river fans with scattered plants, often present as isolated individuals only. The vegetation is highly unstable, but may often be *Hebe* ssp., low production, scarcely utilized.

Group 7 Seashores.

Subgroup 71 Saltbrack marshes on fine sand and silt.

Type 711 *Puccinellia phylloides* type. Fine-mained low salt marshes, in Gipsdalen with a more or less open cover. Very low production, very small areas.

Type 712 *Carex subopulenta* and *Carex urina* type. Fine-mained open salt marshes, in Gipsdalen with two species associated with a few mosses and forbs.

Subgroup 72 Gravel shores.

Non-vegetated areas. Gravelly river fans. Gravelly or loamy sedimentation flats.

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