

The oldest known photo of Nigardsbreen, was taken by Vilhelms Flyvefotoarkiv A/S in 1938 (contract no. 50, neg. scale 1:40 000 for the German expedition. The negatives were unfortunately destroyed in Berlin during the war, so only a set of paper prints is available, and they are over-exposed leaving almost all the snow as white areas. This picture shows the ice front at a position where the lake has its outlet today - compare the map from 1937.



Nigardsbreen photographed in 1937 from Gardsfjella by professor W. F. Peterson. Several moraines formed since the maximum about 1750 are clearly visible. Their ages were determined by Faerg (1933). The steep barabre can be seen in the left.

BRIEF COMMENTS ON THE MAP

The compilation of this glacier map, covering a part of the Jostedalbreen ice cap in southwestern Norway, was based on vertical air photographs taken for the purpose on 10 August 1954 by Fjellanger Videreve A/S (contract no. 8310). The plotting was made solely for the purpose of producing a glacier map, so special attention could be made to emphasize certain features. Areas of predominant crevasses in the firn area (generally above 1500 m) were specially marked, triangulation points, used for glaciological field work, and the delta area in the lake were plotted. Although the exact form and size of each crevasse are not depicted in detail, an attempt was made to plot the main direction of crevasses. Note that one single blue line on the glacier may indicate more than one crevasse! The border line between ice-free areas and the glacier (or snow patches) was plotted with a minimum of generalization. A brown colour was used to indicate areas of "bare ground" at the time of photography.

A great number of triangulation points were used in the plotting procedure, and the quality of the air photographs, taken from 6 300 m flying height, was good. Even in the highest areas details in the snow surface made the construction of contour lines relatively easy. The plotting accuracy is assumed to be better than 5 m both in horizontal and vertical direction.

Although a scale of 1:10 000 was recommended for glacier maps in general at the International Symposium on Glacier Mapping held in Ottawa, Canada, in 1965, it was necessary for technical reasons to use the scale of 1:20 000 for this relatively large glacier. The recommended contour interval 10 m, however, could be used. The Universal Transverse Mercator grid net, Zone 32, is drawn on the map, whereas geographical coordinates and coordinates of the Norwegian Geographical Survey (Stasjons Kartveik) Axis No. 1, are marked in the frame.

The outlet glacier Nigardsbreen, particularly its lower part and its numerous and moraines, has been studied and mapped several times by various scientists, and the retreat of the tongue has been observed for several decades. To demonstrate this retreat, some older maps are reproduced, as well as cross profiles at four selected locations. From these it is evident that a dramatic retreat has taken place since 1937 (profiles e-f and g-h), but a growth has later started in the higher areas (profiles a-b and c-d). Similarly, results from annual mass balance measurements indicate several years of positive mass balance, and in recent years (since the map was plotted) the glacier front has, in fact, moved forward. This map shows the minimum size of the lower tongue during the last decades, and is therefore an important historic document.

Note that similar glacier maps of Nigardsbreen were published in 1965 and in 1975. These are now replaced by the present map for glaciological field work.

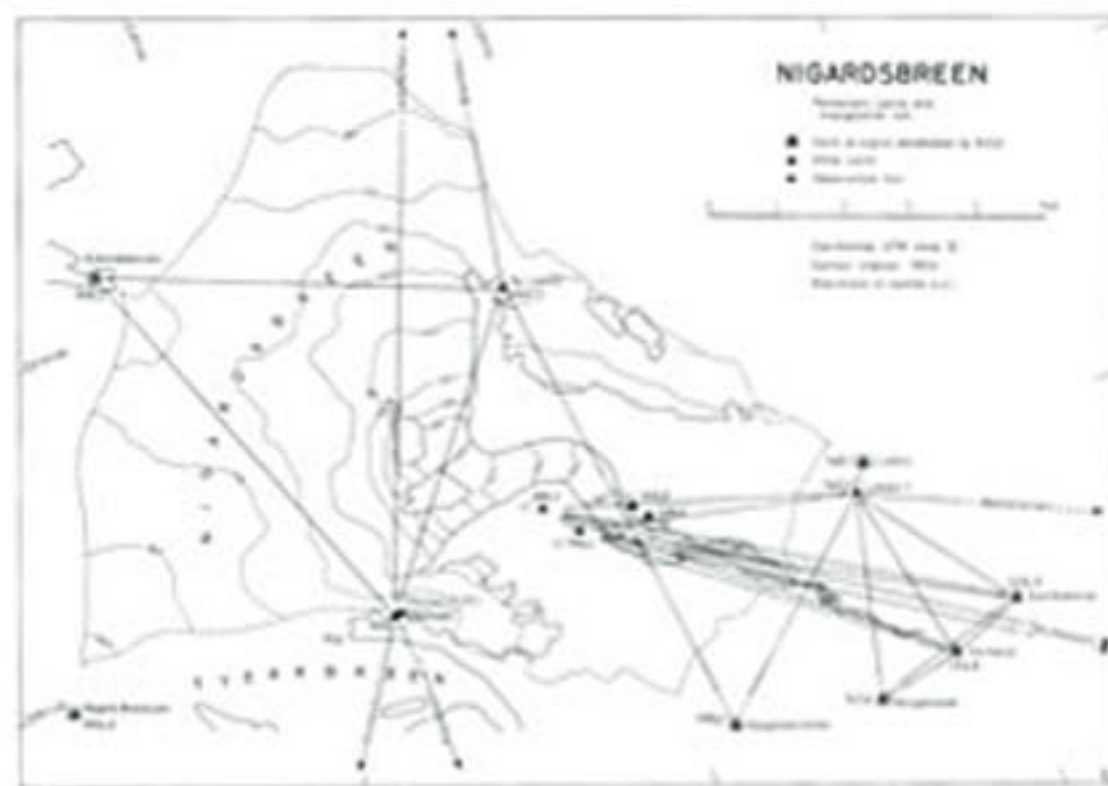
Gunnar Østrem

TRIANGULATION

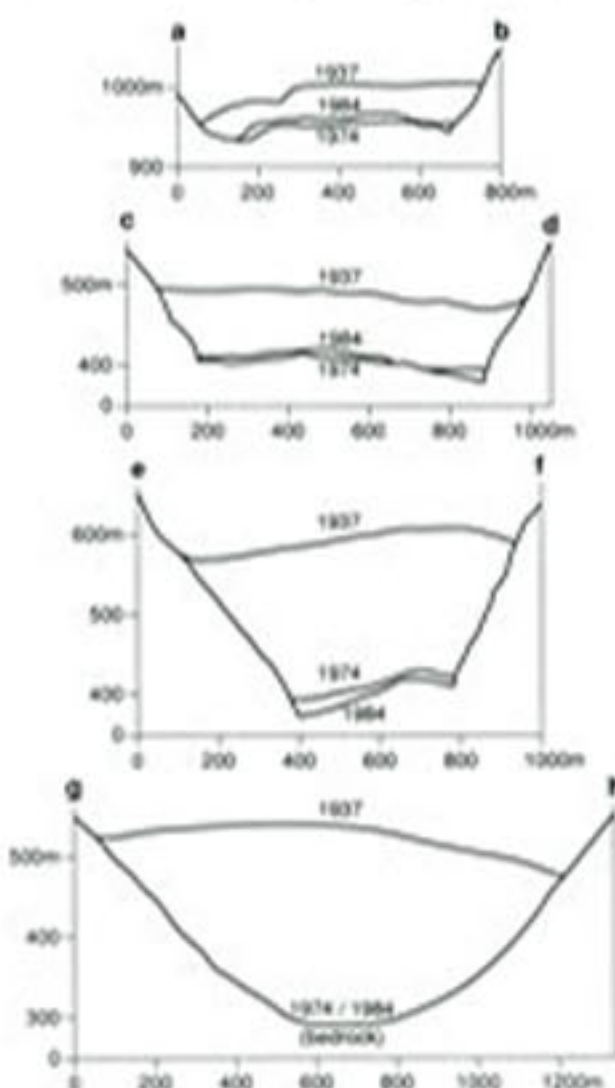
To study the glacier's surface movement, it proved practical to establish four triangulation points, two on each side of the tongue. These points overlook most of the tongue, and are marked on the map, numbered 1-4. In the table they are numbered 130, 131, 132, and 133, respectively.

In order to find their coordinates, a triangulation program was carried out, with single or double sight-lines to cairns or signals with known coordinates, see the map above. (A dashed line indicates single sight-line to that point, unbroken line indicates that the theodolite has been used also to survey from that point.)

A list of UTM-coordinates, elevation and description of the various points is given in the table below.



Glacier surface changes along selected profiles



The Norwegian artist J. C. Dahl made this painting in 1847. The original (25 x 35 cm) is exhibited in the National Gallery in Oslo.



SEDIMENT TRANSPORT STUDIES

A sediment sampling program was started 1968 in the stream between the glacier front and the lake, as well as at the outlet of the lake.

Water samples were taken normally five times per day, but during rising water stage, samples were taken much more frequently, up to one sample per hour. Filtering was done in the field, and the filter papers were sent to Oslo for laboratory treatment.

Runoff was recorded continuously at both places, water gauges nos. 1939 and 1828, shown on the map. Thus the daily total transport of suspended sediment could be calculated, as well as the deposition of the material on the lake bottom. On average 75% of the suspended sediment input to the lake was deposited in the lake for the years 1968-1981. The field seasons covered the main melt season each year, only minor discharge peaks in the fall may have carried unmeasured amounts of sediment past the observation points.

Bed load transported coarse material accumulated on the delta where a careful survey was made each year in late fall, to obtain a volumetric determination of annual increments on the delta. Using a general density of 2 g/cm³, comparative figures for delta accumulation could be obtained, and the total annual mass transport by the glacier stream was calculated.

In 1969 a fence was built across the stream just above its inflow into the lake, to measure the bottom load directly (Østrem 1975). All material coarser than 2 cm was captured by this fence, the accumulation above it was surveyed daily by leveling and sounding in 178 single points. Daily bottom load could then be compared to daily suspended sediment transport. During three weeks about 800 metric tons were trapped, and this was almost equal to the amount of suspended sediment transport in the same time period.

The 28 year's average indicates, however, that the bottom load accounts for about 43% of the total transport of solid matter in the glacier stream.

The results are summarized in the table. Observations at the lake outlet were terminated in 1981, so no data on bottom deposition is available since then. Further, from 1982 the manual water sounding was replaced by an automatic device, so that the results since then may not be directly comparable with those given for the period 1968-81. A description of methods is given in Bogen 1988.

Gunnar Østrem

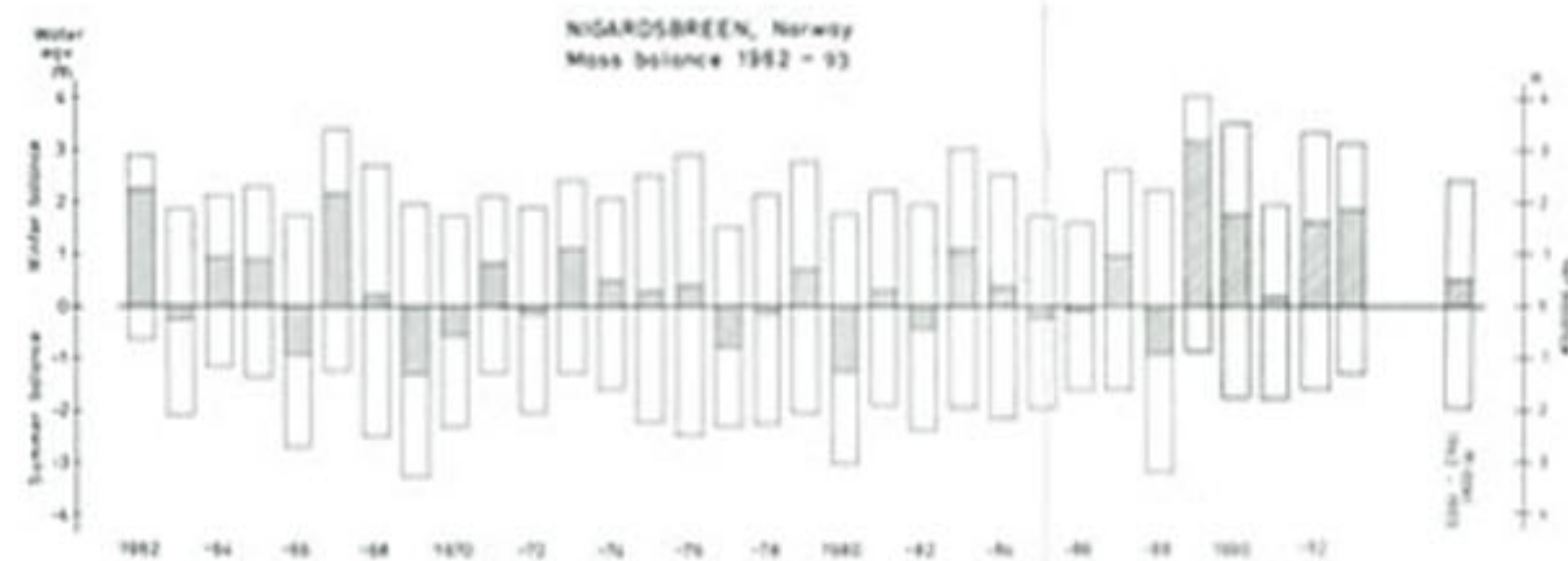
Year	Discharge 10 ⁶ m ³	Susp. matter 10 ³ kg	Deposited on lake bottom 10 ³ kg	Accum. in delta 10 ³ kg	Total transport from glacier 10 ³ kg
1968	180	8300	3500	71	12000
1969	200	10700	4700	76	15400
1970	205	14700	6700	80	21400
1971	180	10200	4800	80	15000
1972	180	10200	4800	73	15000
1973	170	11700	5000	73	17400
1974	160	8900	4700	76	13900
1975	180	10800	5800	80	17400
1976	170	12400	5700	80	17900
1977	170	7700	4700	73	13000
1978	180	9100	4700	77	13800
1979	180	10800	5800	80	16600
1980	200	11900	6300	76	17900
1981	180	8300	3500	76	12000
1982	180	8100	3500	71	12000
1983	180	8300	3500	76	12000
1984	180	8300	3500	76	12000
1985	210	14000	6000	80	20800
1986	180	7400	3500	76	11700
1987	110	17000	7000	80	24800
1988	210	9000	4000	76	14800
1989	180	8300	3500	76	12000
1990	170	10800	4700	76	16300
1991	180	10800	4700	80	15800
1992	180	8300	3500	76	12000
Average	180	10800	5000	76	16000

* Calculated from figures based on results from previous years.

Fastpunktoversikt - Nigardsbreen

Navn	UTM koordinater X Y	Høyde H	Signal-høyde	X, Y og H referert ang til
NG 130 (1 på kartet)	6 840 755.43	403 728.55	868.23	Fot skæringspunkt i fjell.
NG 131 (2 på kartet)	6 840 229.51	404 170.12	786.47	Fot skæringspunkt i fjell.
NG 132 (3 på kartet)	6 840 193.66	405 135.01	808.0	1.00 Senter og topp bolt.
NG 133 (4 på kartet)	6 840 436.12	405 013.47	866.0	1.00 Senter og topp bolt.
NG 134 Støttmann	6 839 887.23	401 212.77	1629.97	Topp buehull under vædd kore i fjell mellom bytta og vædd.
NG 135 Lokuts V.	6 839 510.95	408 305.21	1345.00	1.80 Fot båndmønstret i vædd over vædd kore i fjell av for TP 13.
NG 136 TP Løstet	6 844 089.30	404 229.35	1667.24	0.45 Senter og fot stien vædd m/ulurake på høyeste bare knaus mot breen.
TP 11 Hagren Brakulven	6 839 931.86	386 106.84	1954.40	1.37 Topp vædd.
TP 13 Kjennelabruene	6 840 017.82	388 423.36	1832.19	1.38 Topp aluminosulfid.
TP 17 Gulbak	6 839 913.79	408 038.43	1480.28	Topp bolt under vædd.
TP 125 Haugmoen Sr.	6 838 665.68	407 753.02	747.80	2.00 Topp bolt under båndmønstret på haugen a for østrene.
TP 141 Haugmoen vædd	6 836 788.48	405 506.95	1359.23	Topp vædd ytterst på Haugmoen.
TP 142 Kullenev	6 836 748.77	408 987.50	253.83	Topp bolt på toppen av bergknaus 100 m a for Østfjellmannen.
TP 180 Svarthølet	6 837 230.50	410 129.26	626.24	1.88 Topp bolt på østste murbetone kant av fjell 150 m under skuggene.

An oblique air photo taken by Vilhelms Flyvefotoarkiv A/S on 24 August 1954 (Picture No. 79627). At that time the glacier had retreated so far that about half the lake was visible. It became totally uncovered in 1968.



LITERATURE

Andersen, J.L., and Solid, J.L., 1971. Glacial chronology and glacier geomorphology in the marginal zones of the glaciers Midtdalsbreen and Nigardsbreen, south Norway. Norsk Geografisk Tidsskrift 25, (1) p. 1-28.

Bogen, J., 1988. A monitoring programme of sediment transport in Norwegian rivers. In: Bogen, J.F., & Velling, D.E. (eds.) Sediment budgets. NANO Publ. No. 174 (591 p.) p. 149-159.

Ekman, S.R., 1969. Nigardsbreen som sedimentasjonsbassin. In: Pytte, R. (ed.) Glaciologiske undersøkelser i Norge 1968. Norges Vassdrags og Elektrisitetsvesen, Hydrologisk avd. Rapport nr. 5/69, p. 123-133. English Summary.

Evers, W., 1929. Norwegian-Deutsche Gemeinschaftsarbeit zur Erforschung und Kartierung des Jostedalbreen. Norsk Geogr. Tidsskrift 7, (1929-30), p. 181-184.

Furber, J.D., 1953. Jostedal-Fjeldfald, in Norway and its glaciers visited in 1951. A. & C. Black (Publishers) Ltd., Edinburgh, Chap. 7, 343 p.

Foss, M., 1903. Jostedalens korallige Bæstretter (Short description of the Jostedal valley). Meddelelse om Danmarks og Norges topografiske, økonomiske og statistiske Beskrivelse, vol. 2, p. 1-42.

Faerg, K., 1933. Over alle Längsprofilen av enig Glacier des Jostedalbreen og de dets vedrørende Planzen Sukkessjonen. Bergens Museums Årbok 1932, No. 2, p. 1-255.

Gjessing, V.T., & Wold, B., 1980. Flommen i Jostedal 14. 15. august 1979. Vædd 4 (1), p. 29-34.

Husnerud Nohaldet, 1864. Nigardsbreen i Jostedal (uvordret). 13. Aarg. Nr. 10 (March 1864), p. 51-62.

Karén, W., 1965. Varianter i avsmeltningen på Nigardsbreen. In: Pytte, R. & Østrem, G. (eds.) Glaciologiske undersøkelser i Norge 1964. Meddelelse nr. 14 fra Hydrologisk avd., p. 64-66.

Liestøl, O., 1950. Ice crystal observations on Norwegian glaciers. J. Glac. 1 (8), p. 467. (Mikk. fra Nigardsbreen).

Norges vassdrags og elektrisitetsvesen, 1965. Nigardsbreen. Kart i målestokk 1:20 000, skvidtastase 20 m. Utgitt av Hydrologisk avd.

Norges vassdrags og elektrisitetsvesen, 1975. Nigardsbreen. Kart i målestokk 1:20 000, skvidtastase 10 m. Utgitt av Hydrologisk avd.

Pilevizer, W., 1950. Bewegungstudien an Gletschern des Jostedalbreen in Süd-Norwegen. Erdkunde 4 (3-4), p. 201-206.

Pilevizer, W., 1952. Beobachtungen am Jostedalbreen in Südnorwegen. Zeitschrift für Geographische und Glazialgeologie 2(1), p. 29-34.

Reinert, J.E., 1902. Iagttagelser fra breen i Sogn og Nordfjord. Norges geol. unders. Aarbig 1902. (Publ. nr. 34).

Reinert, J.E., 1905. Fra Jostedalbreen. Bergens Museums Aarbig 1904. Naturhistorisk-beskrivelse nr. 1, 95 p.

Roen, S., 1953. Størrelsen i breen og stamvannet, sedimentasjon og termisk i Nigardsbreen. Hovedoppgave ved Geogr. inst., Universitetet i Oslo. 104 p. Unpublished thesis.

Roland, E. & Haskelson, N., 1965. Glaciologiske undersøkelser i Norge 1962. Norges vassdrags og elektrisitetsvesen, Hydrologisk avd. Rapport nr. 1/65, 102 p. (Contains also a review of all earlier mass balance results in Norway 1949-62. With an English summary.)

Wahr, D., 1956. Vannføring og stamvannet i Nigardsbreen vassdrags Hovedoppgave ved Geogr. inst., Universitetet i Oslo. 94 p. Unpublished thesis.

Østrem, G., 1966. Surface colouring of glaciers for air photography. Canadian Journ. of Earth Sci. 3, p. 877-880.

Østrem, G., 1975. Sediment transport in glacial meltwater streams. In: Jøssing, A.W. & McCorrie, R.C. (eds.) Glaciology and geomorphology sedimentation. Soc. Econ. Paleont. & Mineralog. Spec. Publ. No. 23, (320 p.) p. 101-122.

Østrem, G. & Karén, W., 1962. Nigardsbreen hydrologi. Norsk Geogr. Tidsskrift, 18 (1961-62), p. 182-202. With an English summary.

Østrem, G., Liestøl, O., and Wold, B., 1976. Glaciological investigations of Nigardsbreen, Norway. Norsk Geografisk Tidsskrift, 50, p. 147-209.

Østrem, G., Ode Selvig, K., and Tonberg, K., 1988. Atlas over breen i Sør-Norge (Atlas of glaciers in south Norway, revised ed.). Meddelelse nr. 61 fra Hydrologisk avdeling, Norges Vassdrags og Elektrisitetsvesen, Oslo, 248 p.

Østrem, G. & Haskelson, N., 1963. Glaciers of Norway. In: Williams, R.S. Jr. and Fennig, J. G. (eds.) Satellite Image Atlas of Glaciers of the world U.S. Geol. Surv. Prof. Paper 1386-B-3, p. 63-109.

Østrem, G., & Ziegler T., 1969. Atlas over breen i Sør-Norge (Atlas of glaciers in South Norway). Meddelelse nr. 20 fra Hydrologisk avdeling, Norges vassdrags og elektrisitetsvesen, Oslo, 207 p. (The text is duplicated in English.)