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## GOLD IN NORWAY

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Gold mineralisations (gold >1g/t) are found in many types of ore deposit in Norway, and as alluvial gold in rivers in all the geological provinces. Work carried out by NGU has increased our knowledge of Norwegian deposits.

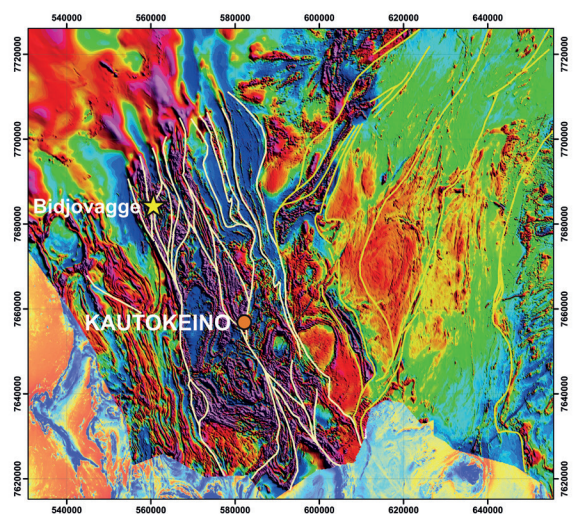
The first gold mines in Norway were established at Eidsvoll (Brustad) in 1758 after visible gold had been found in a quartz vein in an old copper mine at Eidsvoll in southeastern Norway. Gold mining continued through the first part of the 1800's. Later, similar gold-bearing quartz veins were found also in Bømlo in Telemark and in Bindal (Kolsvik) in Nordland. The quartz vein deposits are generally small with resources in the order of 10-100 Kt. The exception is the gold deposits in Nordland (e.g. Kolsvik) which represent a hybrid between shear zone hosted and quartz vein deposits. Detailed investigations of the Kolsvik deposit in Bindal demonstrate an operation potential of at least 0.5 Mt at 5-10 g/t gold.

During the 19th and 20th centuries gold was produced as a by-product from Cu-Zn-Pb concentrates from massive sulphide deposits, such as Bleikvassli, Hjerkin and Joma in the Central Norwegian Caledonides. The recently discovered Nussir sediment-hosted Cu deposit in the Repparfjord window in Finnmark also carries significant amounts of subsidiary gold (<http://www.nussir.no/index.php>).

The recognition of shear zone hosted gold mineralisations in the mid 1980's initiated new interest in gold exploration. The Bidjovagge gold-copper deposit in the Kautokeino Greenstone Belt in Finnmark, in northernmost Norway, was actively mined from 1985 to 1991, producing 6200 kg of gold. The current license-holder of the Bidjovagge deposit, Arctic Gold, claims a resource of 2.3 Mt grading 1.62 g/t gold and 1.08 % copper (<http://www.arcticgold.se/bidjovagge.html>). Sizeable gold deposits also include the Gjeddevann Au-As deposit close to the Russian border, carrying grades of up to 10 g/t Au. The Bidjovagge deposit is hosted by a Paleoproterozoic shear zone, and recently completed high resolution geophysical surveys of most of northern Norway have identified an abundance of Palaeoproterozoic ductile shear zones which are demonstrated to host gold. Integrated geophysics and understanding of the tectonics will lead to better and more accurate prospecting for metals, particularly orogenic gold, in the future. Additionally, recent discoveries include the Sankt Jonsfjorden mineralisation on Svalbard.

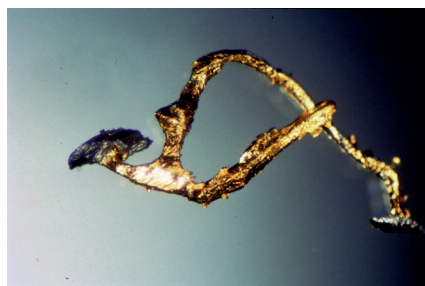


Bidjovagge Gold Mine open pit (abandoned).  
Photo J.S. Sandstad

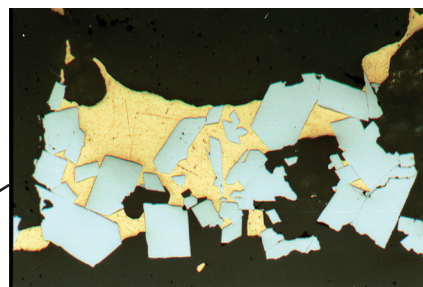


Aeromagnetic data for the western Finnmark plateau showing two sets of interpreted Palaeoproterozoic ductile shear zones, related to gold mineralisation. The location of the Bidjovagge Gold Mine, associated with one of these shear zones, is shown.

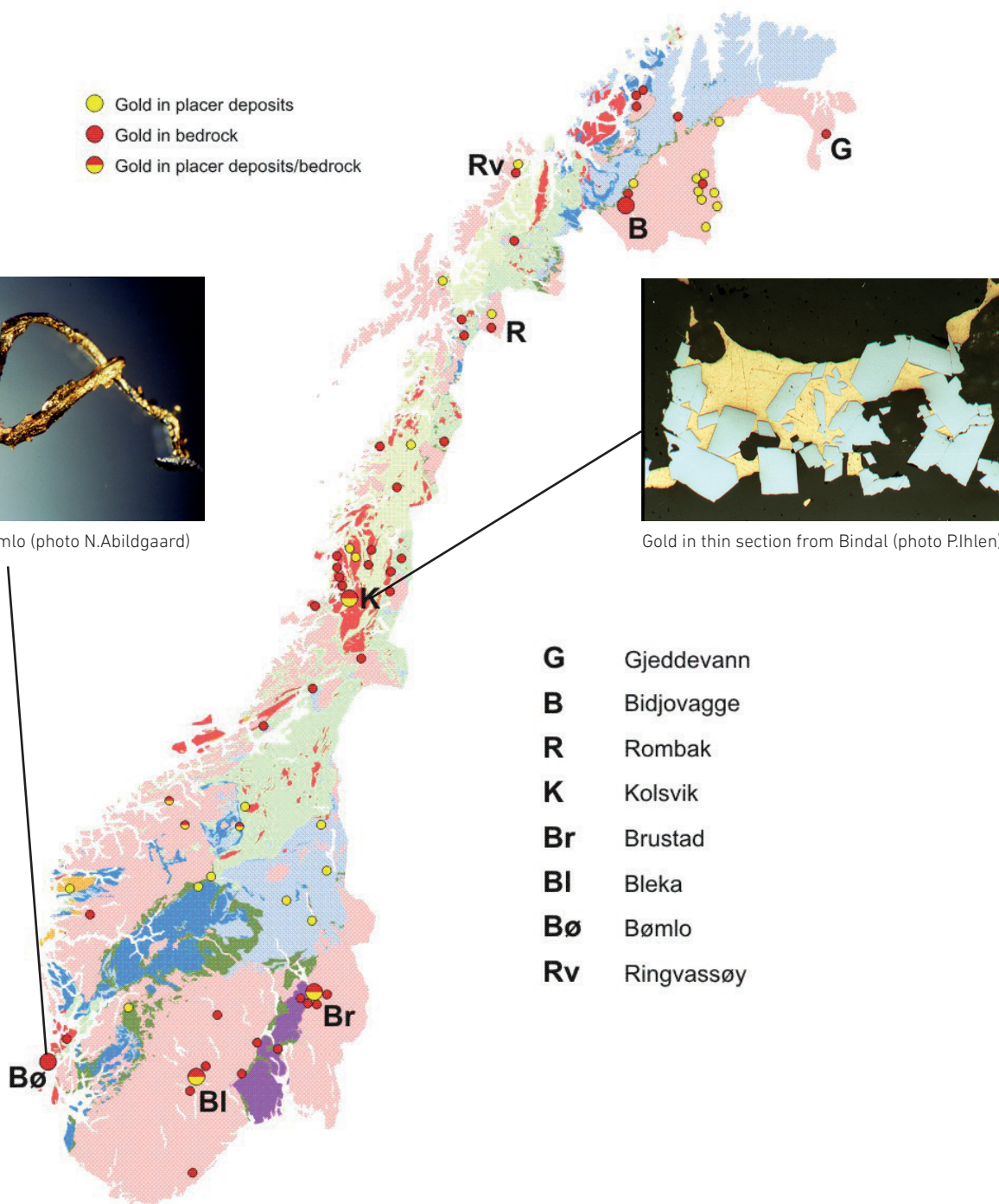
- Gold in placer deposits
- Gold in bedrock
- Gold in placer deposits/bedrock



Native gold from Bømlo (photo N.Abildgaard)



Gold in thin section from Bindal (photo P.Ihlen)



- G** Gjeddevann
- B** Bidjovagge
- R** Rombak
- K** Kolsvik
- Br** Brustad
- Bl** Bleka
- Bø** Bømlo
- Rv** Ringvassøy

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