

**Figure 1.** Brarup Church. A typical Danish parish church. The nave and chancel are Romanesque. The tower and porch are Gothic additions.  
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passes to the deanery and, from there, projects are handed over to the diocese, the head of the administrative system, which refers directly to the Ministry of Ecclesial Affairs. The dioceses consult a number of advisers. The National Museum acts as a consultant in all cases concerning antiquarian, architectural and cultural values, and provides expertise on archaeology, art history, cultural history and conservation. Besides its recommendations to the dioceses, the National Museum's work with churches consists of consultancy services for the country's churches and archaeological investigations in connection with restorations that are carried out. In addition, proposals are drawn up for the uncovering and restoration of wall paintings and the restoration of furniture. Finally, the National Museum functions as a consultancy for limewashing, the so-called limewashing service (Trampedach, 1996). Its job is to ensure that aesthetically and historically valuable limewash and plaster layers are preserved, and to prevent unjustified uncovering of wall paintings.

As the dioceses are the sole authority, and the churches, their furniture and decorations are not protected by the Heritage Agency, the National Museum's role as adviser is essential to protect the churches' cultural heritage. This demands an ongoing dialogue with dioceses as well as church councils and church communities in general (Brajer, 2008). During this process, it is fundamental to know the National Museum's position as presented by art historians, historians, archaeologists and conservators acting as its advisers and what the aim of the advice is. The purpose is not, according to the law, to change churches into museums, but to find solutions where present needs can be implemented, while respecting historical values. This process most often leads to agreements, and sometimes to compromises, but also can end, as mentioned above, in no agreement