

Nature Guide **Högsby**



Nature Guide Högsby

Distributor: Högsby Municipality, Environment and Construction Office, 2018
Second edition 2020

Contact: telephone: +46(0)491-290 00, e-mail: kommun@hogsby.se

Text: Lena Arén Kulturkonsult

Photo: Lena Arén, Sven Gunnvall

Maps: Högsby Municipality. © Lantmäteriet

Air photos: Published under licence from Lantmäteriet Dnr 601-2018/6985

Cover photo: The Emån River at Åsebo, back cover: Hornsö EcoPark

Layout and maps: Sven Gunnvall

Translation: GingerBread Translation Services

ISBN: 978-91-519-4120-2

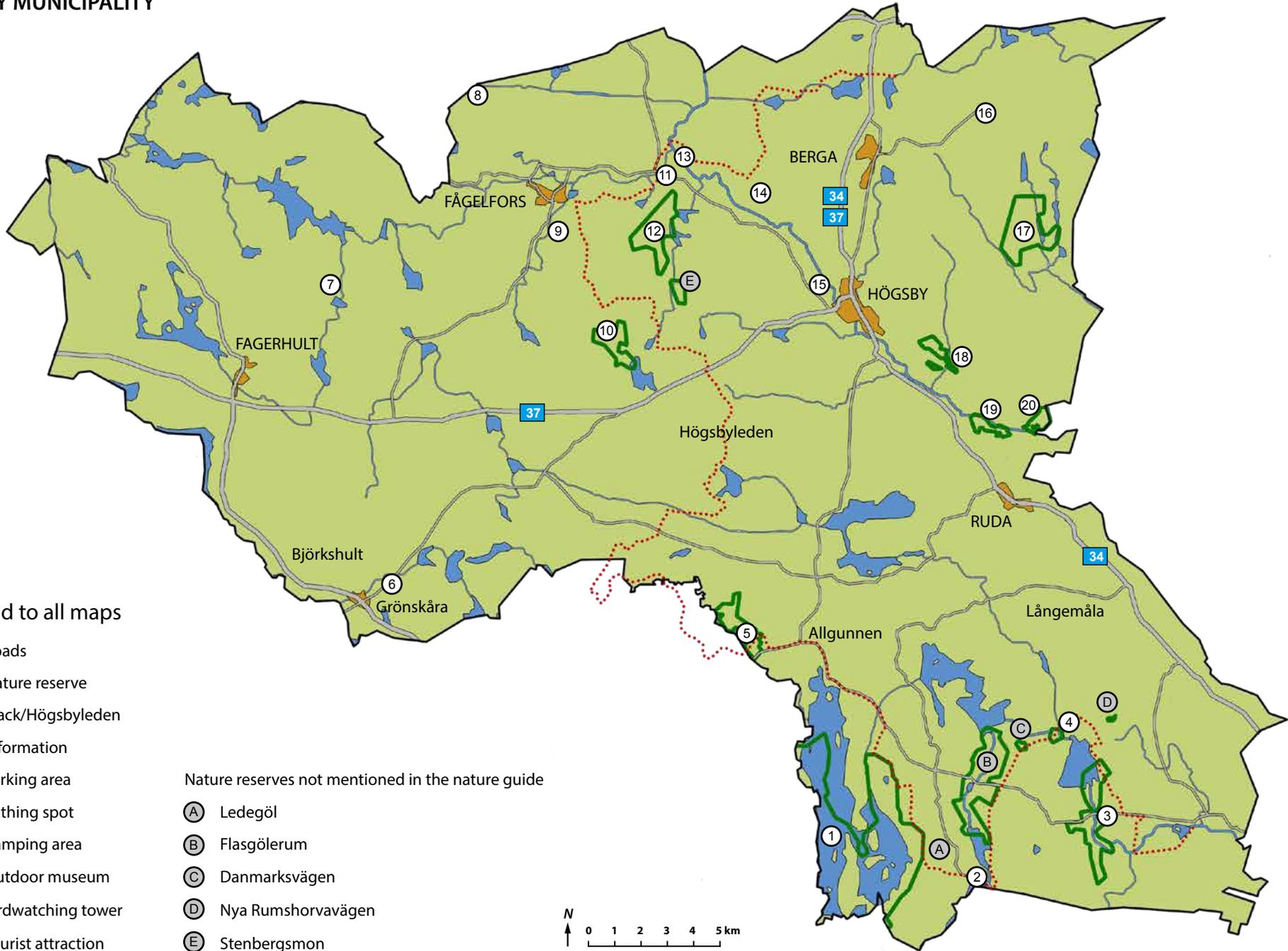


HÖGSBY
KOMMUN

Högsby Sparbank



HÖGSBY MUNICIPALITY

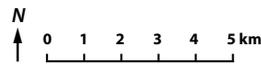


Legend to all maps

- Roads
- Nature reserve
- Track/Högsbyleden
- Information
- Parking area
- Bathing spot
- Camping area
- Outdoor museum
- Birdwatching tower
- Tourist attraction

Nature reserves not mentioned in the nature guide

- (A) Ledegöl
- (B) Flaggölerum
- (C) Danmarksvägen
- (D) Nya Rumshörvavägen
- (E) Stenbergsson



CONTENTS

Hornsö EcoPark	The insect paradise	3
1 Allgunnen	Habitat for rarities	4
2 Arbåga	Waterfall at the Alsterån River	8
3 Getebro	Forests and wetlands	10
4 Bokhultet	Beech forest by the Alsterån River	12
5 Aboda klint	Fantastic view	14
6 Strömsrum	Meadowlands by the Badeboda River	16
7 Ringhults borg	Fortified mediaeval property	18
8 Moredalen with More kastell	Ravine	20
9 Horvan	Wooded, flowering meadow	24
10 Gryssebo	Village dating from the Middle Ages	26
11 Svindla kvarn	Water as a power source	28
12 Lixhultsbrännan	Slash-and-burn and charcoal pits	30
13 Ryningen	Wetlands with rich birdlife	32
14 Emådalen	The Emån River – Högsby's blue vein	34
15 Lanhagen	Heritage park by the Emån River	36
16 Jonas Stolts kyrkväg	Walk in the footsteps of the shoemaker	38
17 Kyllen	Old forest with refreshing pond	40
18 Berga	The mistletoe paradise	42
19 Rudalund	Dance floor beneath the oaks	44
20 Åsebo	Deciduous forest along the Emån River	46
Bathing and fishing		48

Welcome out into nature!

In your hand you're holding a guide to the finest natural surroundings Högsby has to offer. You can choose to visit Hornsö EcoPark, the nature reserves or any one of our walking tracks. You can experience the watercourses along the Emån, the Alsterån and the Badebodaån rivers. You're always invited – anytime, all year round!

In the outdoors, the experiences are there for you, regardless of whether you come when the beech forest is delightfully spring green or on a clear winter's day. In the nature reserves the animals and plants have their resorts, and these areas are being preserved for the future.

Here, we can enjoy our Right of Public Access and take advantage of a unique opportunity to move around freely.

But remember there are restrictions in the reserves! You must not disturb or cause damage.

The natural surroundings of Högsby are richly varied, offering everything from the wilds of Hornsö EcoPark to a small-scale agricultural landscape. It is this arable landscape with all its demanding species that is most endangered. The forest is full of its own memorabilia: Slag heaps, charcoal pits, tar pits, mill ponds and tens of thousands of cairns are scattered all over the Municipality of Högsby.

Here you have fantastic opportunities for a rich outdoor life. Why not have a go at the eighty kilometre long Högsbyleden trail that meanders through the municipality!

We invite you to come and see for yourself!

HORNSÖ ECOPARK

Hornsö EcoPark was created by Sveaskog for the purpose of preservation of biological diversity. Hornsö is the landscape of the insects and one of Western Europe's most important areas for the preservation of beetles; 700 species have been reported. Take along a big picnic basket, because this area is vast!

Hornsö EcoPark covers almost 10 square kilometres, which makes it one of Sveaskog's largest eco parks.

It covers areas of the Högsby and Nybro municipalities. Recurring fires, caused by lightning strikes, have created a mosaic of various forest types.

Nowadays preventative burn-offs take place almost every year. The results of burning the forest are different types of dead and fire-damaged wood that is beneficial for certain insects. Pines withstand fire better than other trees, and both aspen and birch are rejuvenated by recurring fires.

Old pine forest grows best together with European oak, aspen and beech. Broadleaf deciduous and swampy deciduous forests are also important. Old deciduous trees usually mulch down slowly from the inside, and these hollow stumps are hives of activity. For woodpeckers and owls, having access to dead and dying trees is of vital importance. Did you know that the *tragosoma deparium* beetle is found in only a few places in Sweden? One of the reasons for its preference for the EcoPark is that it contains plenty of dead pine trees. The acutely endangered hedgehog mushroom lives in the trunks of old deciduous trees. Above all, it favours beech and oak.

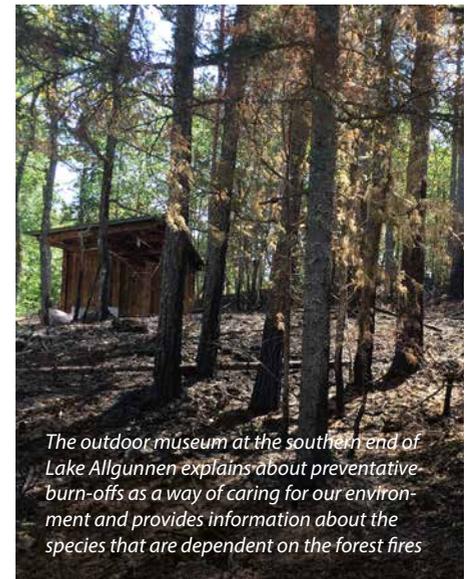
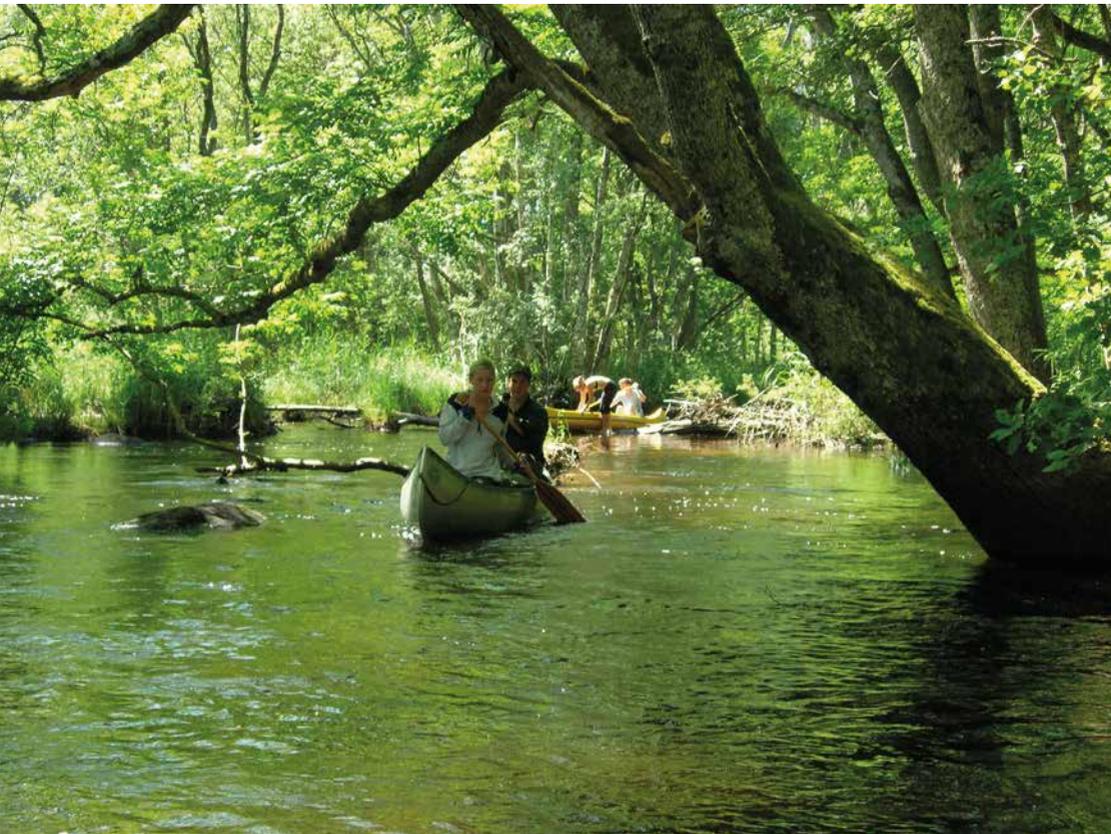
We have chosen to describe four areas in the EcoPark: the nature reserves of Allgunnen, Bokhultet, Getebro and the Arbåga Falls at Alsterån.

Worth knowing

You don't need a lot of equipment for walking, though it's important to wear comfortable shoes. When embarking on a longer walk, you must not forget to take some food and water. Rest places with wind shelters are provided, where you can sleep overnight if you wish to live in the wilds a few days in a row. There is a network of forest roads that can be used for both walking and bike riding. The EcoPark offers good fishing opportunities in lakes and rivers, but you need to buy a Fishing Permit.

How to get there

The EcoPark is an extensive area with many bigger and smaller roads around Lake Allgunnen and along the Alsterån River. Equipped with a good map and GPS, you won't have any trouble finding your way around.



The outdoor museum at the southern end of Lake Allgunnen explains about preventative burn-offs as a way of caring for our environment and provides information about the species that are dependent on the forest fires

1 ALLGUNNEN

Spanning 2500 hectares, Allgunnen is one of Kalmar County's largest nature reserves. It includes a greater part of the lake that has given it its name, as well as many islands. The gnarled old pines, the cliff faces along the shores of Lake Allgunnen that bear glacial evidence, along with the massive boulders, contribute to the sense of being in the wilds. The reserve has an insect fauna without equal anywhere in northern Europe!





Osprey. Photo: Michael L. Baird CCBY-2.0

The forest surrounding Lake Allgunnen is predominantly pine, and many of the older parts have the character of a natural forest. There are very thick trees, interspersed with deadwood in the form of fallen trunks and dead trees that are still standing. The rough bark of the old pines that get the sun is the habitat of many different species of beetles. Over 700 species have been found, which is more than in any other researched area in northern Europe. Dry summers have made the forests highly

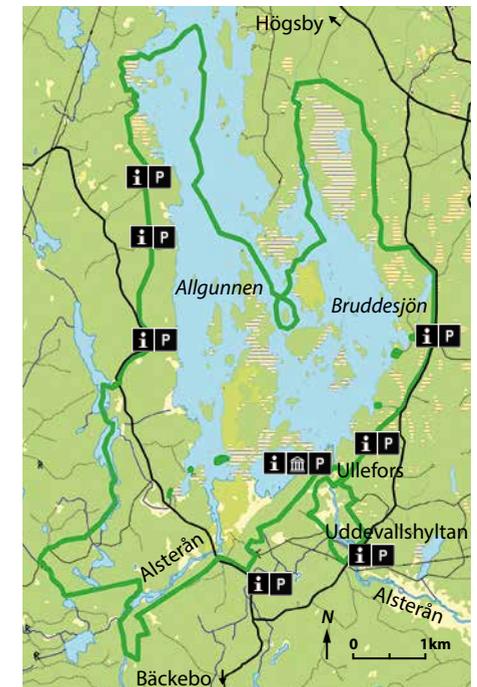
Worth knowing

Lake Allgunnen provides good fishing, but you need a Fishing Permit. There are several bathing spots around the lake. The reserve is a part of the Hornsö EcoPark.

How to get there

Allgunnen is situated on the border between the Högsby and Nybro municipalities in the Hornsö EcoPark and can be reached from a number of roads. There are many entry points in the reserve that you can choose from for your visit. You'll find them on the map.

flammable. The area has often habitat for a myriad of insects. When forests increased in value at the end of the 19th Century, fire-fighting became more efficient and slash-and-burn agriculture was prohibited. Kalmar County Council and Sveaskog are nowadays conducting controlled burn-offs as an important preventative method. Allgunnen is the second biggest lake in Kalmar County. The lake is situated in a Dead Ice area, which means an area where gigantic ice blocks were left after the Glacier had subsided. At Lake Bruddesjön you can see how ice ridges have formed when rocks that were frozen into the ice, have been scraping against the outcrops. The lake contains many different species of fish, the most common being Perch, but you can also catch White Bream, Roach, Zander, Pike, Bream, Ruffe, Common Bleak and Carp here. The Black-throated Diver and the Osprey both breed at Allgunnen.



2 ARBÅGA



Arbåga is one of the most beautiful nature spots in the EcoPark. Here you can take a rest on the rocks, and listen to the waters of the Alsterån River rushing through the floodgates. The name, Arbåga (which means elbow) refers to the fact that the Alsterån River at this point turns like an elbow.

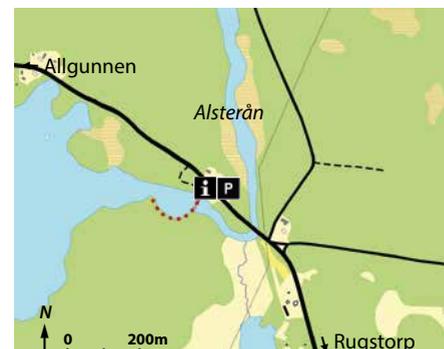
The Alsterån River has a large catchment area which includes parts of both Kalmar and Kronoberg counties. It is one of the most valuable watercourses along the coast of Småland. The river bed is like a sample card of glacial terraces, steep rift valleys, rapid necks and other glacial phenomena. Part of the stretch is edged with wetlands, surrounded by swamps and deciduous forests, with a rich fauna.

The Alsterån runs through Lake Allgunnen and on to Strömsrum, before emptying into Kalmarsund north of Pataholm. Trout and salmon thrive in this river. Birds such as the Grey Wagtail, Goosander and

Common Goldeneye are also attracted to the running water. During the late 19th Century, the forestry industry was booming. Substantial felling was taking place in the Hornsö forest. Logs were floated along the Alsterån River to the sawmill in Arbåga. At the beginning of the 20th Century, the sawmill was in use in Kronoparken, here at Arbåga, driven by a waterwheel in the river. Between the frame saw and the lumberyard a rail system was built to facilitate the transportation of the cut planks. During the 1940s, the sawmill was running for three months a year. In 1965 the saw was demolished and the building sold at auction to be rebuilt in Träthult, where it is still in use. Before the sawmill was built, there was a mill by the 2 metre high waterfall. Eel fishing was another industry that people were engaged in here. The women of Rugstorp and Abbetorp washed their rag-rugs in the rapids.



The Alsterån River has many good paddling stretches.



The Sawmill at Arbåga. Photo: Charles Karlsson, property of Bäckebo Hembygdsförening (heritage association).



Commemoration spot

Worth knowing

The Alsterån River has European Natura 2000 status and was voted the nature pearl of Kalmar County by WWF in 2015. At Arbåga there is a rest area with information about the Hornsö EcoPark. Sveaskog also provides information about how to acquire a Fishing Permit using your mobile phone. There is a track that takes you to the point on the other side of the river, where there is a commemoration spot that was set up in connection with the inauguration of the Hornsö EcoPark in 2004.

How to get there

Arbåga is situated along the road between the village of Allgunnen and Rugstorp, 13 km from Allgunnen and 8 km from Rugstorp.

GPS coordinates for P-area:

WGS84: 56.98591 N, 16.09966 E

WGS84: 56.98591 N, 16.09966 E

3 GETEBRO

Getebro nature reserve is a part of Hornsö EcoPark and consists of forest and wetlands along the Alsterån River.

The reserve is dominated by mixed forest, including some large old beeches here and there. The forests along the Alsterån River have not been ravaged by any forestry in more recent times, which allows Getebro to retain its wild character and great natural value. The wetlands consist of marshy meadows, so called "mader", adjacent to the Alsterån River. Here, the moist ground has long been used for growing forage. Four of the marshy

meadows are being used that way today, and there are many interesting species, for example white and brown beak-sedge and various types of sundew. The largest of the marshes is Berkeven, which is located in the centre of the reserve. This is one of the most easterly places in Sweden where you'll find pink bog heather growing. The village of Barnebo in the northern part of the reserve is well worth a visit, with its splendid stone walls from the 1860s and its beautiful giant oaks.

Healthy stands of Royal Fern growing along the Alsterån River.



Capercaillie hen



Pink bog heather

Worth knowing

The reserve is a part of the Hornsö EcoPark.

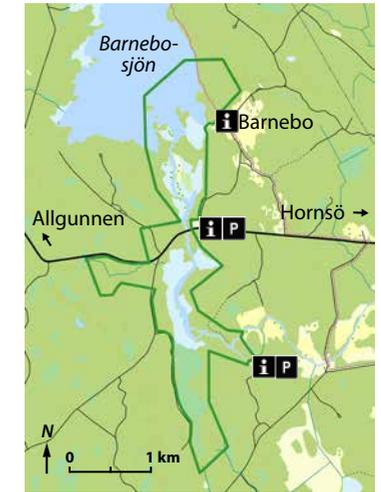
How to get there

From Högsby, follow Route 34 southward. At Värlebo you turn right towards Hornsö. Veer right at the T-intersection, towards Allgunnen. The nature reserve is situated 4 km to the west of Hornsö, along the Alsterån River.

GPS coordinates for P-area:

WGS84: 57.00884 N, 16.16152 E

Sweref 99: 6316355.67, 566825.78



Impressive stone walls at Barnebo.



4 BOKHULTET



The Bokhultet Nature Reserve consists largely of old beech forest. Here you can enjoy the buds bursting into spring, the lush summer foliage and the stunning colours of autumn.

A little forest track leads into the beech forest. Through the woods the sound of the Alsterån River becomes increasingly louder, until you are suddenly standing right there, by the rushing water. A footbridge takes you across the river, which during the spring melt spreads out between the trees towards the Barnebo Lake. Right by the bridge you can spot the ruins from a mill and a mill dam hiding among the trees. Beech is characteristic for Bokhultet; trees that are sensitive to frost and therefore only grow naturally in southern Sweden. Here, as in the nature reserves Danmarksvägen and Nya Rumshorvavägen nearby, the beech has one of its most northerly outposts along the east coast. Beech leaves grow horizontally in order to get maximum sunlight. That has the effect of the undergrowth being relatively limited, and the falling beech leaves mulch

down slowly. On the old beech trunks that have fallen and started to rot, there is a type of fungus growing, called coral tooth fungus. It is white in colour and has a spiny shape. It's Småland's special county mushroom and quite rare. In Bokhultet the yew has survived, perhaps since the periods of warmer weather. Yew trees thrive in a milder climate. You can recognise the yew by its dark green, shiny needles. It is different from our other Swedish conifers in that it does not have any cones. Instead, the seeds are contained inside a fleshy red cover, making it resemble a berry, but they are poisonous. Bokhultet is an Eldorado for beetles that dwell in large stumps and hollow deciduous trees. Certain beetles are virgin forest relics, a type of living fossil that remains only in a few areas of untouched forest today. On old trees, there also grow a number of demanding mosses and lichen. The green lichen (*Lubaria Pulmonaria*) grows on very old beeches. It is hard to please; so when thriving, it's therefore signalling clean air as well as an environment with great biological diversity.



Worth knowing

The track through the nature reserve is okay for prams and walking frames. Adjacent to the Alsterån River there is a rest area with tables. Parking area with an information board. The reserve is part of the Hornsö EcoPark

How to get there

Turn south from Route 34 at Långemåla and follow the signs towards Böta kvarn – 5 km. The reserve is situated just south of the buildings in Böta kvarn next to the Alsterån River.

GPS coordinates for P-area:
WGS84: 57.03379 N, 16.13888 E
Sweref 99: 6321723.19, 569120.08



Tree Lungwort

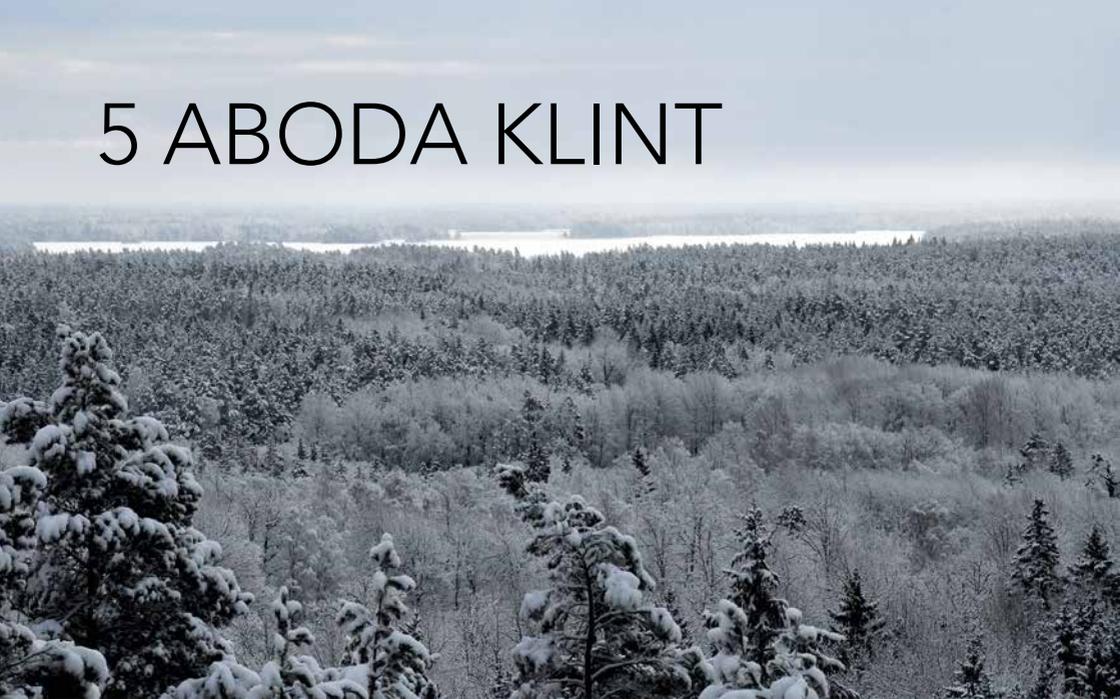


Fluted Bird's Nest fungus



Coral Tooth fungus

5 ABODA KLINT



Aboda Klint is a nature reserve where outdoor living is central. The Klint, with its breathtaking views, rises fifty metres above its surroundings, and drops steeply into Lake Kleven. A delightful lookout spot and a popular destination for skiers in the winter and joggers along the running tracks in the summer.

At Aboda you'll find many types of nature, from arable land with the odd grove of deciduous trees to wild wooded terrain, including swampy forests consisting of Downy Birch (*Betula pubescens*) and Alder. Around the mountain there is some scrub forest, consisting of Mountain Oak, which is rare in this part of the country. The crest of the mountain has some sparse Hällmark pine forest. Otherwise, the area is dominated by mixed spruce and pine, interspersed with birch and the occasional oak tree. In the south-eastern part of the reserve there are some small fields and grazing meadows. To the southwest, the reserve reaches the lakes Kvillen and Kleven and the Badebodaån River. The river forms a continuous, one

kilometre long running stream with a drop of almost seventeen metres between Lake Kleven and Lake Bjärsjön. The water power of the Badeboda River has been utilised in Aboda kvarn, the mill that you can see to the south of Lake Kleven, along the Högsbyleden trail.

The purpose of the nature reserve is to promote outdoor living and recreation. Here, you have every opportunity of enjoying a quiet walk through the surroundings, or jogging yourself sweaty.



Long-tailed Tit

Aboda Klint with the ski slopes, the restaurant and Lake Kleven.

Worth knowing

The nature reserve is administered by Högsby Municipality. The association, the Allgunnen Sinnerbo Village Development Group leases and takes care of the area, cabin hire, rental of canoes, skis, etc. The reserve has two ski slopes with lifts, heated cabin, prepared fireplace with table, as well as toilets. There is a bathing spot at Lake Kleven with a jetty, prepared fireplace and wind shelter. Fishing Permit needed. 2.5 km walking track through the nature reserve and 5 km walking track around Lake Kleven.

Parking area with facilities for caravan or campervan. On the crest of the mountain you'll find the Aboda Café & Restaurant.

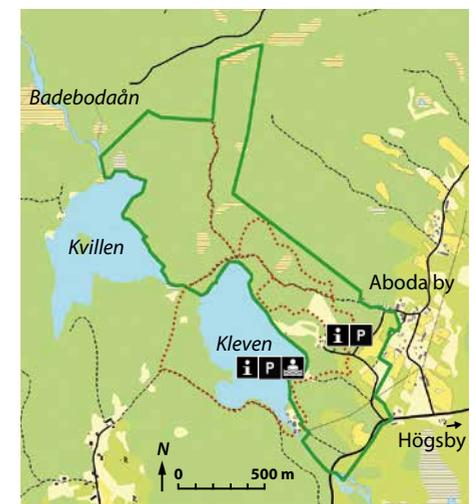
How to get there

Follow the signs toward Aboda Klint, 14 km, from Route 34 between Högsby and Ruda and from Kråksmåla along Route 125.

GPS coordinates for P-area:

WGS84: 57.06374 N, 15.96155 E

Sweref 99: 6324891.87, 558311.28



6 STRÖMSRUM



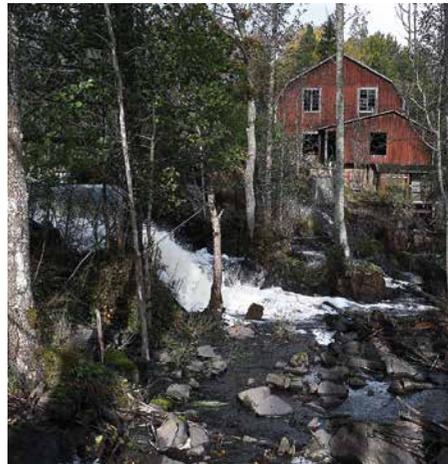
The gently flowing Badebodaån River, lined by spring-flowering bog myrtle.

Here you can walk by the Strömsrum property which is situated by the shore of the Badebodaån River.

The Badebodaån is the largest tributary of the Alsterån River and empties into Lake Allgunnen. New gravel and stones have been laid in later years as a precursor to the recent introduction of trout into the river. The Badebodaån River runs through the now defunct Björkshult Glass Works, the village of Grönskåra, Strömsrum's old sawmill, Aboda Kvarn and the Aboda Klint nature reserve. Strömsrum is an historical "industrial centre", with former mills and works that were all once driven by water power from the Badebodaån River. In the middle of the 18th Century a paper mill was established that was in use until the beginning of the 20th Century. In the 1830s, the mill was producing printing paper, cartridge paper, paper filling and envelopes. There was also a Customs mill, a potash kiln, a sawmill and an electrical works. All that remains of the paper mill are the foundations, and the sawmill building by

the upper dam wall is very dilapidated, but still worth a visit. Isabogården, where you are allowed to park your car, is owned by the Grönskåra Heritage Association. On the property there is a main dwelling, a barn, a cellar and a sawmill. Midsummer celebrations are held here every year.

The old mill at Strömsrum.

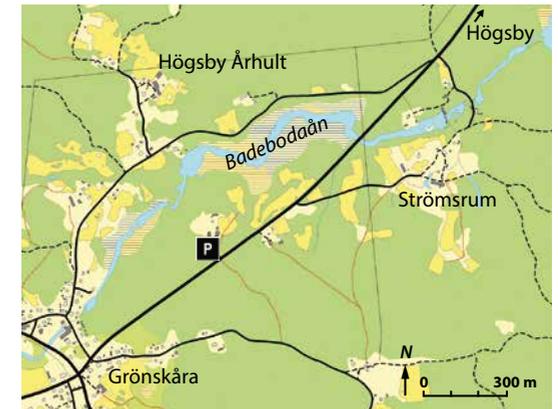


Worth knowing

Park at the Grönskåra Heritage property and walk from there up towards the main road. There you turn left and follow the gravel road towards Strömsrum.

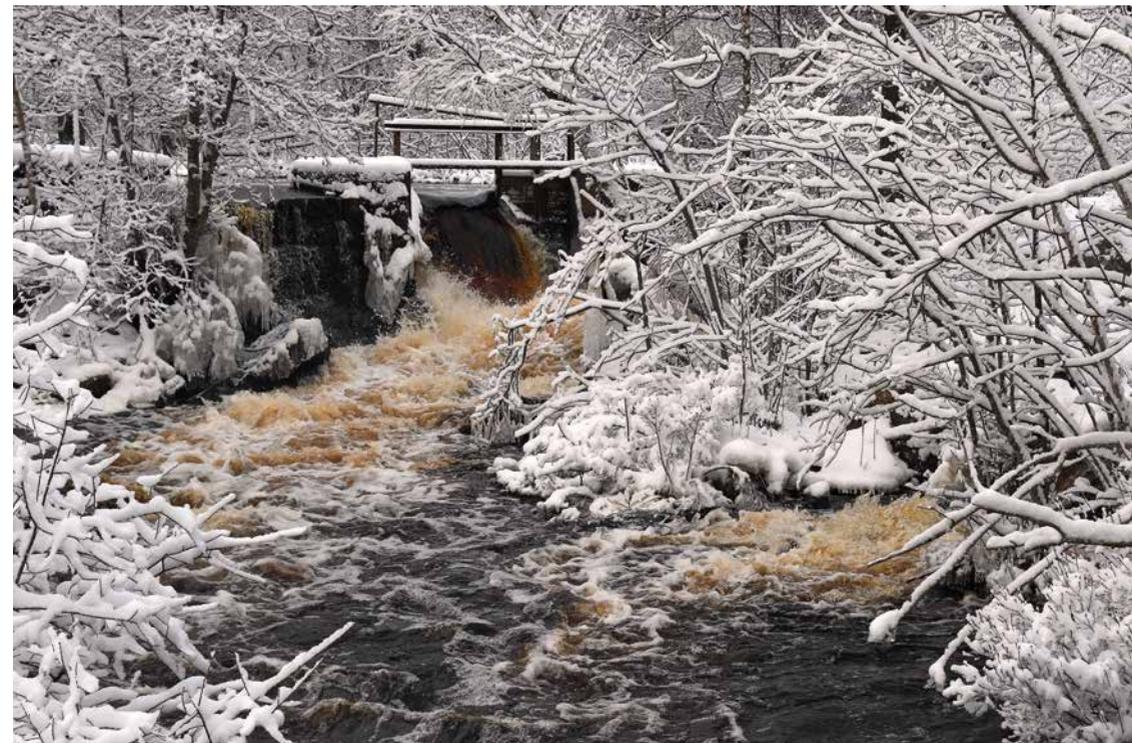
How to get there

From Högsby, drive towards Grönskåra. Just before entering the village you'll see the Grönskåra Heritage Property, where you can park. Follow the main road back again for 400m and then turn off towards Strömsrum. Follow the road through the village, down to the mill and back to the main road. From here, you can either walk back to the car (2.8 km) or take a longer loop via Högsby Århult and Grönskåra back (4.7 km).
GPS coordinates for P-area:
WGS84: 57.08036 N, 15.74470 E
Sweref 99: 6326577.15, 545140.70



Arable land at Strömsrum.

Remains of the lower mill at Strömsrum.



7 RINGHULTS BORG



At the village of Fagerhult, you take the north-eastern road towards the village of Ringhult. Drive past a line of mighty oaks. On a fenced-off hill very close to Ringhult you'll find Ringhults Borg. The location, which is commonly called Skansen or Dackeborgen, hides the remains of a medieval fortified property.

The ruin sits on a low moraine mound and is surrounded on three sides by a five metres wide moat. On the fourth side the ground is swampy and needed no protection. At the entrance there is a stone foundation for the drawbridge across the moat. What you see on the hill is the remains of an approximately 30 metre long, 10 metre wide building that has a cellar with a stone floor and a further 10 or so house foundations. At the beginning of the 1930s, some minor archaeological excavations were made at the location. Among the findings was a kiln, dating the property to the 14th Century. Other findings were a spur, belonging to a riding boot, a few little bells, a shoe buckle and a lot of burned birch bark. The burned bark testifies to the fact that Ringhult, like

A glimpse of the Ringhult Fort in the clearing this side of the village.

several other fortified properties, was destroyed by fire. Medieval Ringhult was built in an isolated location, as a typical mediaeval colony. In the middle of the 14th Century, Ringhult was the seat of the knight, Johan Hemmingsson from the Lejonansikte family line, and perhaps he was the one who had the property built and fortified.

The family was one of Småland's major landowners at that time. In 1355 he is recorded as a squire, and a few years later he became a knight, with the face of a lion on his shield. Knight Johan was married to Ingeborg Anundsdotter of the Ving family. Both presumably died in Ringhult during the plague known as the Black Death, and it is said that they were the ones who brought the plague to the area. After their death their son, Anund was brought up by Ingeborg's uncle.

In the dry meadow on the hill, there is a great variety of herbs growing, some of which are annuals. They bloom and have enough time to go to seed in the early summer, before the dry season sets in.



Worth knowing

A track leads from the parking area up to a stile, which you have to clamber over if you want to get onto the property. Sometimes animals are grazing on the hill, so don't bring your dog!

Ringhults Borg is protected in accordance with the Cultural Environment Act and there is an information board at the location.

How to get there

Take Route 37 to Fagerhult. At Fagerhult you drive straight on past the church and then follow the signs for 5 km to Ringhult. GPS coordinates for P-area:
WGS84: 57.178566 N, 15.72130 E
Sweref 99: 6337170.91, 543610.58



Cowslip



Milkwort

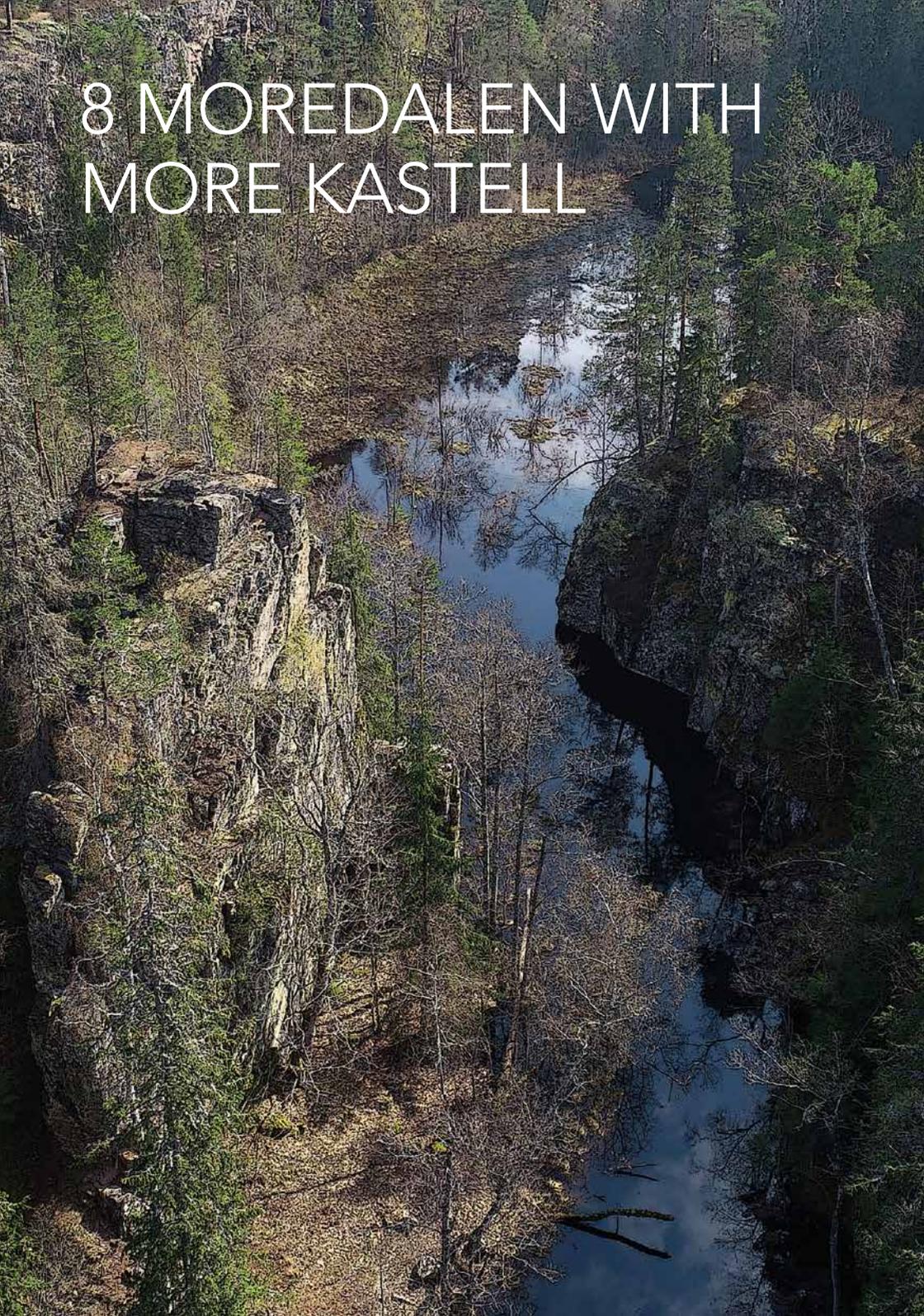


Almond blossom



Buckbean

8 MOREDALEN WITH MORE KASTELL

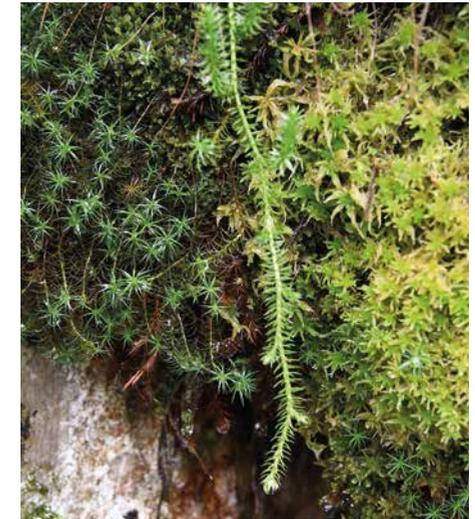


More dalen is a ravine on the border between the municipalities of Högsby and Hultsfred. With its impressive cliff shelves, its steep sides and running water, it has been called the Grand Canyon of Småland. In this environment, you also find a rich flora of mosses and lichen.

The More Valley is an eight kilometre long rift valley that has become wider and deeper as a result of the masses of water created by the glacier melt 12,000 years ago. When the glacial waters washed away millions of tons of rock and stone from the More Valley, all this material ended up eastward, in the Trånshult delta.

The More Valley is known for its rich flora of mosses and lichen. If you climb down into the ravine, it feels like entering a damp cellar. The cool environment is very different from the dry pine forest above. Here, you are suddenly surrounded by steep cliff faces. Along the valley floor runs the small Morån River. In the middle of the narrow ravine, a 25 m high rock pillar, More Kastell, has defied the powers of erosion and remained in its place. Ravens breed among the cliffs, their loud

crowling adding to the desolate atmosphere. The Morån River is a small watercourse that follows the rift valley and empties into the Emån river at Ryngen. River trout and freshwater pearl mussel live in the river. These two species are dependent on each other. For a period of time, the freshwater pearl mussel larvae live on the gills of the trout. When the larvae have finished growing, they let go of their grip and attach themselves to the bottom of the river, where they develop into mature mussels.



Haircap Moss, White Moss and Clubmoss. Lady Fern in the picture below. Plants that are typical for the dank environment down in the ravine.





Raven

How to get there

Drive northward from Högsby towards Fågelfors. At the Fågelfors mill, follow the road towards Virserum for approx. 6 km. Then follow the signs to More Kastell, approx. 5.5 km.

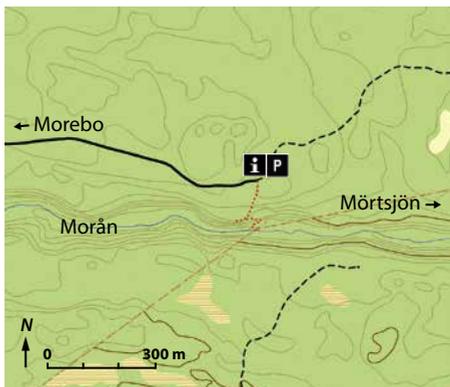
Please respect that other roads leading to the P-area should not be used, since they are minor forest roads that might be closed off or difficult to drive on.

GPS coordinates for P-area at More Kastell:
WGS84: 57.24016 N, 15.80166 E
Sweref 99: 6344404.52, 548384.39

To reach the area from the east, you need to turn right towards Oskarshamn from the road between Högsby and Fågelfors after 8.4 km. Then, after 2.4 km, turn left at Tränshult towards Mörtsjöbergen, 1 km

Worth knowing

Parking area with table, prepared fireplace and dry toilet. A track follows the northern edge of the ravine. Keep a careful eye on your children, because the drop is very steep! There are info signs at the rest area and along the track.



Some kilometres downstream from More Kastell, the ravine becomes broader when the More stream runs out into Lake Mörtsjön.

9 HORVAN



Arnica

In one of his songs, the late troubadour, Evert Taube sang about cowslips, almond blossom, catsfoot and the blue violet. These very species grow in the meadow at Horvan thanks to the landowner, who works hard to recreate an environment with a rich flora. Horvan is a wonderful place, both for the visitor and for its biological diversity. Hayfields, grazing land and small arable fields are becoming increasingly rare in today's rural landscape.

The name, Horvan means a small, fenced off field or meadow. In Horvan there is a birch meadow that has been in use since the 16th Century or earlier.

It contains areas covered in flat rocky outcrops, small ponds and a meadow barn. The meadow has a very rich flora due to never having been fertilized. At the edge of the forest, there stood a soldier's cottage between 1670 and 1899, which belonged to the village of Lilla Klobo.

Worth knowing

The meadowlands are private property, cared for by the owner family and the grazing cattle. Take care when you visit Horvan, and don't bring your dog!

How to get there

Horvan is situated 15 km west of Högsby. From Fågelfors you follow the main road for 1 km towards Fagerhult. In a sharp right-hand curve, just when the forest has taken over from the fields, you veer off to the left. After just a little more than a kilometre, you're there. You now have the meadow right in front of you. Follow the track straight ahead and enter through the gate. Please remember to close the gate, as there may be animals grazing in the meadow.

GPS coordinates for P-area:
WGS84: 57.18428 N, 15.84335 E
Sweref 99: 6338214.43, 550977.64



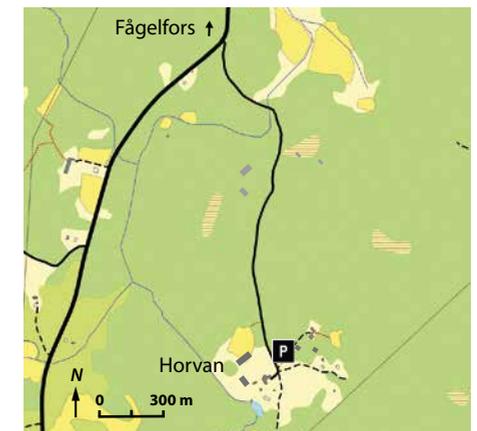
Fringed orchid

The name of the last soldier who lived here was Klang. Horvan was redeemed by the present owner's great grandparents in the year 1900. It previously contained a spruce plantation that was cleared in the 1970s, and grazing animals were then released into it to restore the old paddocks. Ten years later the County Council contributed to the care of them. In Horvan you can spot the gentle, greater butterfly orchid. At dusk its vanilla fragrance attracts the moths. Examples of rare species that grow here are: Field Gentian, Ragged Robin, White Catsfoot, Geum hispidum, Fairy Flax, Milkwort

and Arnica. For thousands of years, the farmers and their herds formed a varied landscape where an abundance of animals, insects and plants have thrived. It's only 50 years ago that this life cycle was broken, when farming became increasingly mechanised and artificial fertilisers were introduced. Now the meadow flowers, mushrooms, insects and small birds are struggling to survive.



Geum hispidum



10 GRYSSEBO



The nature reserve comprises largely what used to be outfields, belonging to the village of Gryssebo. Here you find a blend of grazing land, broad-leaf deciduous forests with old lopped trees, coniferous forests, marshes and swamps.

Gryssebo is a mediaeval property that was first made mention of in 1498, when it belonged to Arvid Trolle. As late as the 1940s, several of the stony fields were in use and you can see masses of stones that have been dug up and gathered into large mounds. The Stora Gryssebo property was closed down and disappeared in the late 1960s. You can still see the remains of the buildings - the

main house, the barn, the earth cellar and several small outhouses. The storehouse was moved to the Fågelfors Heritage Park. The property was situated by the shores of Lake Gryssjön, (which has since been drained), surrounded by a garden. Traces of it can be seen in the form of rose bushes, snowberry, lilac, gooseberries, plenty of allium, pearl hyacinths and aquilegias around the house foundations. Down through the ages the women of Småland have carried the heaviest load, when it comes to the vital water supply. Carrying water was one of the most mundane and least glamorous of all the daily chores. The Gryssebo well is located at

the edge of the village, so it was a very heavy job to carry enough water for the household as well as for the animals. The yoke that was carried on the women's shoulders eased some of the burden and was a necessary aid. The property owners were engaged in hay-making as well as gathering leaves for fodder, and there are still trees remaining that bear traces of foraging. The roadsides, with their rich flora of herbs, and the overgrown fields promote a rich fauna of butterflies with several species of burnet. A burnet is a small butterfly with bright red spots against dark coloured wings. This insect collects cyanide in its body by eating certain plants and that is why birds avoid eating them.

Worth knowing

There is an information board at the Gryssebo parking area.

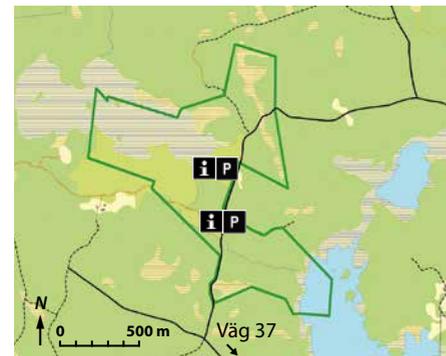
How to get there

Take Route 37 from Högsby towards Fagerhult, and after 7.5 km turn right at the sign towards Gryssebo, 3 km. After about 200 metres, make a right turn at the crossroads. This road continues through the nature reserve. Keep driving past the first information board and park by the second one. You have now reached Stora Gryssebo gård.

GPS coordinates for P-area:

WGS84: 57.15770 N, 15.88454 E

Sweref 99: 6335288.09, 553505.73



Narrow-Bordered Five-spot Burnet



Map (butterfly)



Holly Blue butterfly

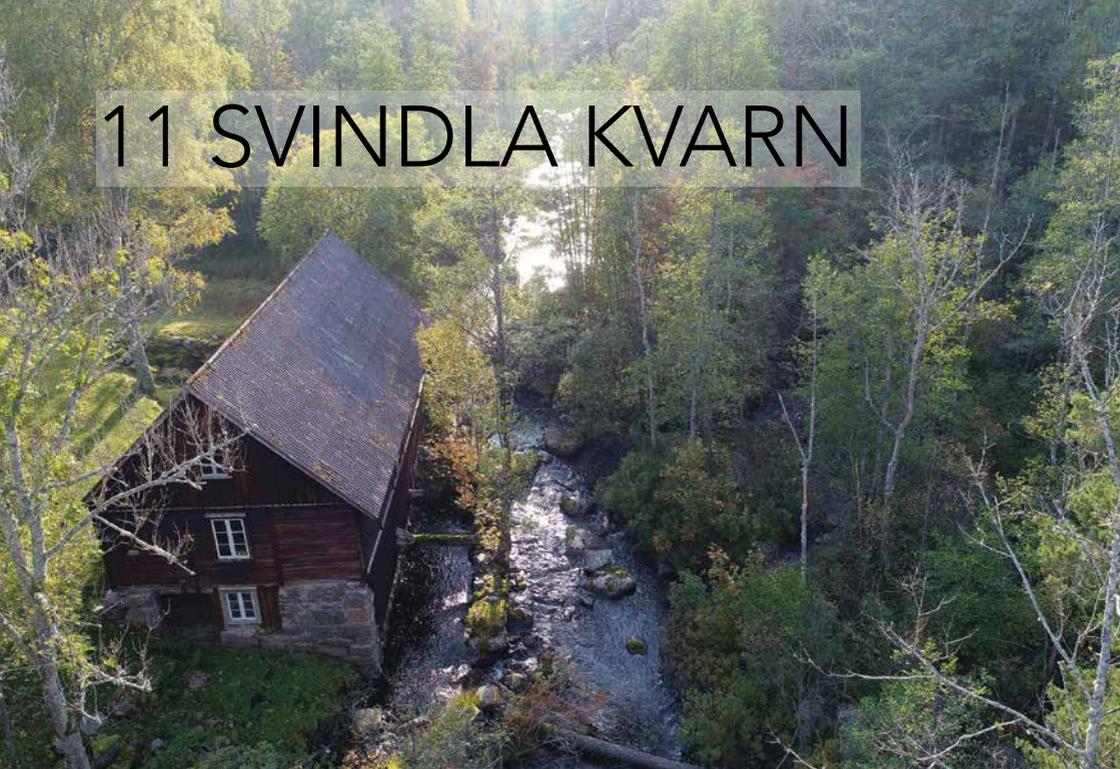


Hawthorn butterfly



Tortoiseshell butterfly

11 SVINDLA KVARN



The Svindla Mill, with its miller's cottage is beautifully situated by the Nötån River, one of the Emån tributaries. Trout and river pearl mussel both thrive in the rapids of this river.

Water power was the most important factor for the establishment of smaller industries. In the 1698 register, listing the mills in the parish of Högsby, there were ninety-two mills belonging to fifty-six villages and private properties. In those days, along the shores of the Nötån, you would find a tannery, a spinners with a fulling works, a dyeing plant, a weaver's cottage, a smithy and a small watermill.

The Svindla Mill was built around 1850 as a lease mill and was owned by the farmer of Lixhults gård. It was in use up until 1924. The miller lived on what the local farmers would pay to have their grain made into flour. The Mill is large and it had three wheels, each of which drove a millstone. Each wheel and pair of stones constitute a mill, actually, so Svindla kvarn is really three mills under

one roof. The Nötån River was contained by means of a stone wall on the opposite side of the river to ensure that there would be water in the dam whenever needed. From the dam, the water was then led into a channel from where it drove the millstones.

The Nötån provides a vital habitat for the endangered river pearl mussel, which is a protected species. The mussel has a strong, dark, kidney-shaped shell that can change colour from brown to black. It is totally dependent on clean, running water and a river-bed of sand, gravel and stone. At the larvae stage, the river pearl mussel relies on the presence of trout or salmon. It attaches itself to the gills of the fish and gets its nutrition from the fish's bloodstream for 8 – 10 months. After that, it releases its grip and from then on lives a sedentary life, two thirds of it buried in the gravel. There, it survives by filtering the water. Pearls can develop when a foreign particle gets into the mussel and becomes covered with mother of pearl.



River pearl mussel. Photo: "Boldie", CC BY-SA



River pearl mussel.
Photo: Jakob Bergengren,
CC BY-SA



Mezereon

The river pearl mussel usually becomes sexually mature when it is 18 to 20 years old. During its summer growth, rings develop in its shell, making it possible to determine its age. The river pearl mussel, when fully grown, can be 10 to 16 cm long, and they can live to over 280 years.

In the spring you can enjoy the Spring Pasque flower (or lady of the snows) that grows around Svindla kvarn and which thrives on account of the fires in the pine forest that eliminate its competitors. Its roots are deep enough to survive a fire.

The Spring Pasque flower is a protected species.

Spring Pasque flower



Worth knowing

The mill is privately owned. There is a parking area in the forest, about 200 metres from the mill. No cars or dogs are permitted inside the fence.

At Svindla kvarn there is an information board, telling about the mill.

A LIFE-project for the river pearl mussel has been carried out in the Nötån River at Ljusholms kvarn, Fågelforsdammen and Kronobo kvarn, where fishways have been built to bypass the dams.

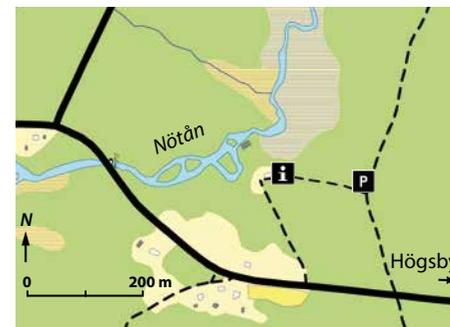
How to get there

Drive in a northerly direction from Högsby towards Fågelfors. After 8 km there is a sign to the right, towards Svindla kvarn, 400 m.

GPS coordinates for P-area:

WGS84: 57.21102 N, 15.91090 E

Sweref 99: 6341243.35, 555020.67



12 LIXHULTSBRÄNNAN



The Lixhultsbrännan nature reserve is a large area of mixed deciduous and coniferous forest with traces of fire. The forest fires have contributed to there being an abundance of deciduous trees and plenty of deadwood.

Lixhultsbrännan used to be the backwoods of the village of Lixhult. This is where the village animals would graze during the summer. In order to improve the pastureland, the farmers burned their forests. In the autumn, the trees were felled and when spring came, the burning took place. After that, rye was sown into the ashy soil. For years to follow, the scorched area (or swidden) provided good grazing for the animals. The forest was a part of the old agricultural landscape and a cornerstone in the farmer's economy.

After burning, the deciduous trees increase to the point where they form a broadleaf succession in the pine forest. That contributes to the rejuvenation of aspen and birch. The deciduous trees then dominate the forest for many years, which provides a good environment for beetles, lichen and mushrooms. Species that favour burned

forests are: black woodpecker, fire cranesbill, the spring pasque flower, pine mushroom, *Daldinia loculata* (a wood-decaying fungus), *Hormopeza obliterata* (fly) and *Tragosoma deparium* (beetle). When the iron works in Fågelfors (1744) and the blast furnace in Hornsö (1760) were established, everyone was competing for the forest, especially the charcoal. Enormous amounts of fuel were used in the iron works. In the reserve you can see the remains of charcoal pits and kiln foundations from old charcoal burners' cottages. You can just make out some raised circular areas, evidence of the charcoal production. If you dig around with your hands in the moss in some places, you get black fingers from the charcoal.

During the first half of the 19th Century, slash-and-burn agriculture reached its height. When railways began being built, the price of timber increased and it was no longer profitable to continue with slash-and-burn methods. Högsby Municipality continued its burn-offs longer than any other municipality in Kalmar County.



Worth knowing

The gravel road passes right through the reserve. The first opportunity to park is by the Övre Leksjön lake, and the second a couple of hundred metres further on, where there is an information board with a map of the area. Here, in the western part of the reserve, you can walk along old roads and paths.

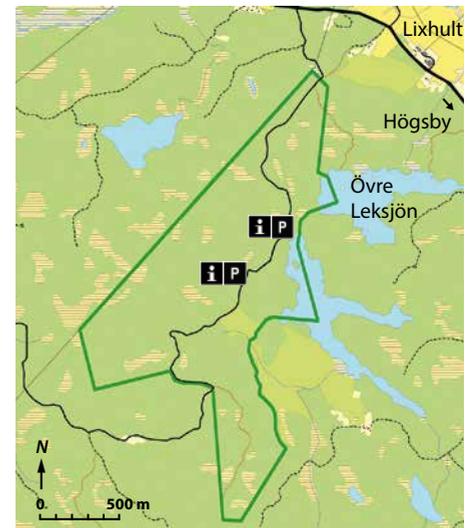
How to get there

From Högsby you drive towards Fågelfors for about 8 km. Just after Högmossult, before the turnoff to Svindla kvarn there is a little forest road on the crest of a hill in to the left. Follow that road through the reserve.

GPS coordinates for P-area:

WGS84: 57.19603 N, 15.91375 E

Sweref 99: 6339577.69, 555214.95



13 RYNINGEN



Ryningen is one of southern Sweden's most bird populated wetlands. It is a fine bird sanctuary all year round but perhaps most interesting in the spring, when the Emån River floods and turns all of Ryningen into a lake. Binoculars and a bird book is all you need for an exciting experience.

Spanning about 300 hectares, Stora Ryningen is situated on the border between the municipalities of Högsby and Hultsfred and is claimed to be the largest wetland in Småland. Around one hundred years ago, Lake Ryningen was located between the villages Trånshult and Ryningsnäs. Around the end of the 18th Century, the area was drained to provide more farmland. Channels were dug and the ground was dried out. All traces of the lake are not gone however. Every year the plain floods, creating pools of water that attract ducks and waders. The wetlands along the Emån River are dominated by marshy meadows covered with purple moor-grass and sedge. The meadows are mown or used for grazing.

The south-eastern parts are mostly overgrown with salix and bullrushes. A lot of restoration work was done at Ryningen in the 1990s, when stands of trees and shrubs were cut down. The sedge meadows were cleared of roots and beef cattle were let out for grazing, which has made the area more attractive to birdlife. Suddenly, after the spring melt, one day they've arrived: the whooper swans, the geese and the lapwings, the latter usually being on their way to their final destination of the wetlands in the far north. Almost every spring you can hear the sound of the common snipe, and in the swampy meadows you can see the male ruffs playing for the females. When the water begins to subside, the area becomes perfect for waders. In the summer you go from bird-watching to bird-listening. There are quite a number of nocturnal songsters at Ryningen, such as the corncrake, the nightingale and the rare spotted crane. From the birdwatching tower at Venen, you might spot a red kite, a teal or a sea eagle.

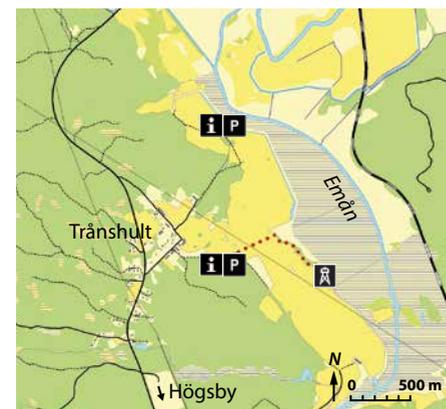
Worth knowing

There are two birdwatching towers and a bird platform in the area. In the far south, by Venen, there is a path from the parking area to the birdwatching tower. There are information boards with pictures of the birds and QR codes that you can use to listen to their calls. In a box at Venen you'll find brochures with a map, available in Swedish, English and German. You can drive all the way up to the pump house platform that stands on the wall built in the 1990s

How to get there

Drive from Högsby towards Fågelfors. After 8.4 km, turn right towards Oskarshamn and the bird sanctuary, Ryningen. After 3.2 km, at the Trånshult bus stop, turn right onto a gravel road towards the village of Trånshult. 300 m along, you'll see "fågeltorn" on a little sign, and there you turn right between two barns. After a further 600 m you'll find a parking area with info and a map. There is a bird platform at the pump house. Turn right when you get to the village road again and drive for 200 m, then turn right at a little sign with "platform" on it and continue a further 1.1 km to the bird platform.

GPS coordinates for P-area at the bird tower:
WGS84: 57.24304 N, 15.91440 E
Sweref 99: 6344810.51, 555184.12



Sea eagle



Canada goose



Common goldeneye



Whooper swan

14 EMÅDALEN



The Emån River is the biggest water course in south-east Sweden and a habitat for the catfish, a protected species. The Emån meanders its way through Högsby Municipality and the river plain consists of fertile farming land.

The Emån valley is a rift valley, where powerful rivers rushed through glacial tunnels, causing the formation of mighty ridges. The valley remained a sea bay for several thousand years, until the land had risen high enough to form a valley for the Emån River. So, the valley floor, along the river, consists of fertile growing fields, whilst you find the villages collected a little higher up. Valåkra and Drageryd are good examples of such villages. Drageryd is one of Sweden's best preserved ribbon villages, where still today the narrow farms huddle closely together. The little "cottage pairs" from the early 1800s stand lined up in a row, with joined barns on the opposite side of the village street. The Emån River has a flow that varies from fast-flowing rapids to stretches of gentle slow-running waters. Where the water flows

slowly, the river takes a meandering course. Between the former stretches of rapids, large plains are spreading. These previously consisted of extensive wetlands, where the river flooded at times. Much drainage work has transformed the marshes into arable land. And here, the river is edged with levees to contain any flooding. The catfish that lives in the Emån River is Europe's largest fresh water fish, and can grow to more than two metres. It is a predatory fish that needs warm temperatures and hunts in the dark with the help of a highly developed sensory organ in the barbs on its head.

The place where the Högsby locals especially enjoy the spring flower, liverwort is at Besebacke next to the Emån River, 1 km from Högsby. The liverwort spreads slowly and it can take up to ten years before a new plant begins to flower. Left undisturbed, it can become several hundred years old. An area that has great natural value is Kyrkstenarna, near the town of Berga – a very large boulder that has split into three parts.

Worth knowing

The entire Emån River has European Natura 2000 status. Various projects are underway to improve the quality of the water and the living environments in the river. You can read more about these at www.eman.se. Emåturism in Lixhult rents out canoes and cabins. The brochure, "Paddla på Emån" provides tips about fine and navigable paddling stretches – available at Högsby Tourist Information. The Emån River was voted the nature pearl of Kalmar County in 2013 by WWF.

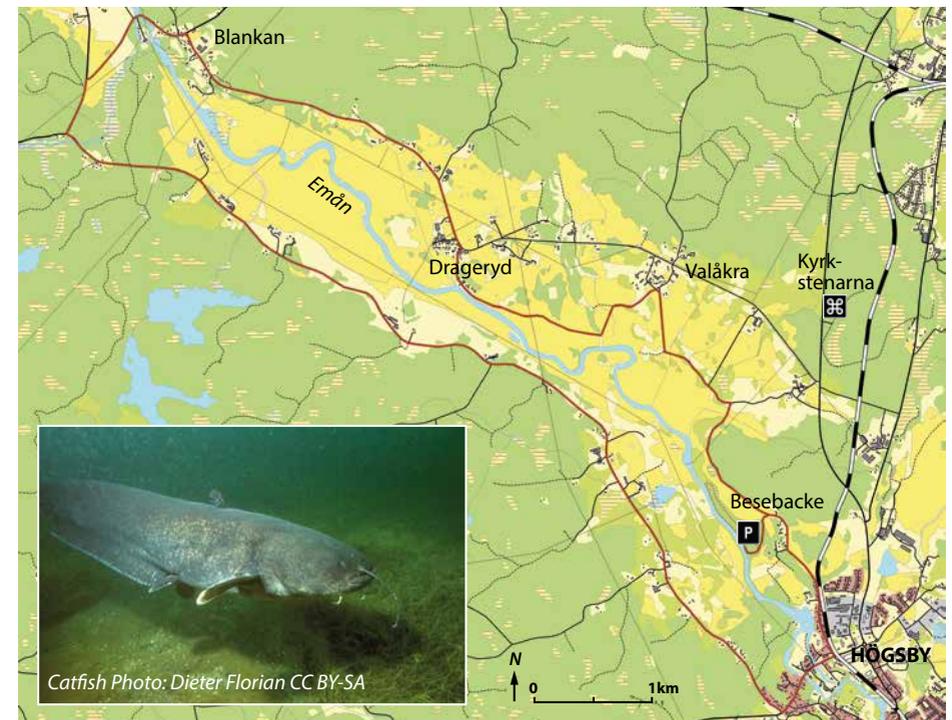
How to get there

Drive north from Högsby towards Fågelfors. After 8.4 km, turn right towards Oskarshamn and drive a further 300 m before turning towards Blankan, 1 km. Drive across the Emån River and soon after that turn right towards Drageryd, 3 km. At Drageryd you can park your car by the

side of the road and walk to the village. 50 m from Drageryd turn right and follow the old road towards Valåkra, along the river. At Valåkra, turn right at the 4-way intersection and drive towards Ångsborg for 7.4 km, where you turn right towards Besebacke. The road straight ahead continues towards Högsby.
GPS coordinates for P-area at Besebacke:
WGS84: 57.18054 N, 16.00342 E
Sweref 99: 6337929.39, 560658.83



Liverwort



Catfish Photo: Dieter Florian CC BY-SA

15 LANHAGEN



Lanhagen is situated in the middle of Högsby, by the Emån River. The Högsby Parish Heritage Association has moved eight houses to this location from the villages surrounding Högsby. Here, you can walk around among the old houses.

Spring tip – come here and enjoy the display of wood anemones, blanketing the ground in white, like snow. The wood anemone must bloom before the trees burst into green, after that it will not get enough light. The flowers spread via underground runners and can grow half a metre per year.

The name, Lanhagen relates to the eel fishing that used to take place in the Emån River. Eel and salmon were caught with fixed fishing equipment – lanor (standing nets) and eel traps. The power in the running water was relevant for the fishing. The nets and traps were built with the openings facing upstream, so that the eels would be washed into the trap.

You can visit eight different buildings in Lanhagen. Katt-Kari's cottage dates from the 17th Century and came from a farm in Basebo. The Ryggåsstugan is just one room, with the entrance at one of the sides. The last person who lived there was Kari who had lots of cats. The roof is covered with birch bark and peatmoss. A barn from the 17th Century has come from the village of Gösebo. Valåkrahuset is a small farm cottage from the 18th Century. There is also a food storehouse from Valåkra of the same age. In it, they kept grain, flour, cheese, salted fish and pork. Ångslada (barn) dates from the 19th Century and has been moved here from Trändenäs. Stenholmska huset was built by the organist, Erik Stenholm at the beginning of the 19th Century and has been moved from Storgatan in Högsby. Dragerydsstugan belonged to Manda from Lia and is a worker's cottage from the middle of the 19th Century. The smithy and the carpenter's workshop both come from Berga gård.

Worth knowing

You can follow the walking track past the houses and walk along the Emån River. The track is suitable even for prams and wheelchairs. Several information boards have been put up that tell you something about the grazing land, the old-fashioned fencing and the houses. In Lanhagen there is a lot of activity during the summer. Guided tours are available all year round, conducted by the Högsby Parish Heritage Association. You need to buy a Fishing Permit to fish in the Emån River.

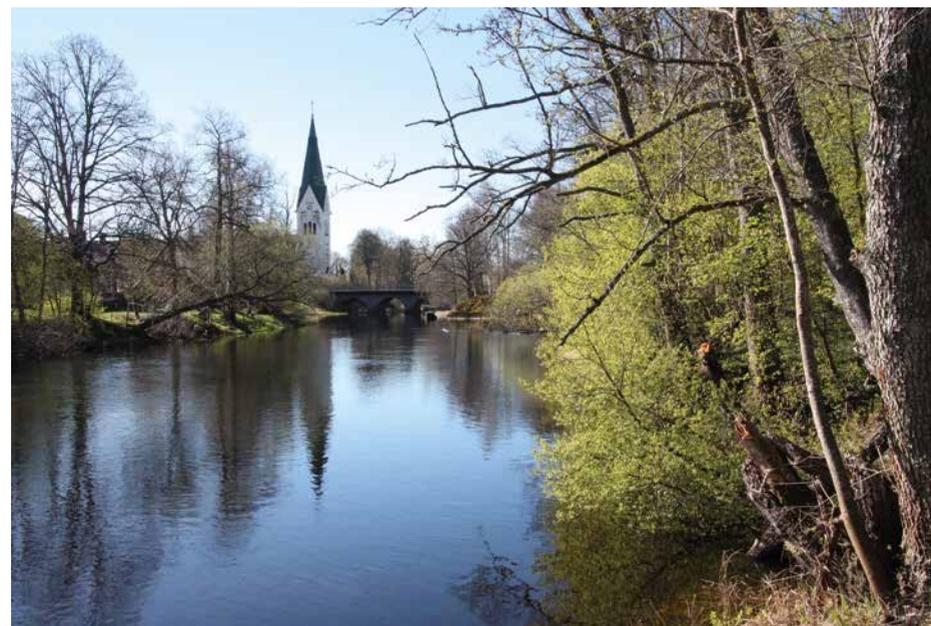
How to get there

From the Högsby Tourist Information office, you walk or drive across the Emån River and follow Kyrkogatan past the Municipal House. After that, you turn right into Lanhagsvägen. Then turn left into Ringvägen, where you can park next to Lanhagen.

GPS coordinates for P-area:
WGS84: 57.16734 N, 16.01882 E
Sweref 99: 6336474.06, 561611.56



Bumble bee on a pussy-willow.



16 JONAS STOLTS KYRKVÄG



Just over 200 years ago, the village shoemaker Jonas Stolt walked from his home at Stenkullen in Basebo to the Högsby church. This 10 km stretch has been made into a walking trail. Today, the walk takes you along forest paths and past built up areas.

Jonas Stolt was the village shoemaker, fiddle player and writer, who in his book entitled "Jonas Stolts minnen", depicts his home parish between the years 1812 and 1883. Stolt writes about the people who lived in the little cabins and cottages that he passed by on his way along the church road – Katt-Kari's cottage, the Basebo school, Åskebäck, Mor Lotten's cottage and Persdal. He also gave a detailed description of what the houses looked like inside, e.g. the "krunstånga", a wooden rod around the stove where they would hang their wet socks and where the hens used to sleep at night.

Jonas Stolt tells about the bog that was called Slätmossen. The only vegetation found there were some heather and the



occasional scruffy pine tree. There were also several small hides built by the grouse hunters from shrubs and small trees. That's where they would hide in the spring, when up to a hundred black grouse would play on the bog. Before sunrise you could hear the gunshots from all over. Another marsh was so sodden that you had to walk on planks, supporting yourself with a wooden stick, so as not to end up in the water. That marsh has since been drained.

Worth knowing

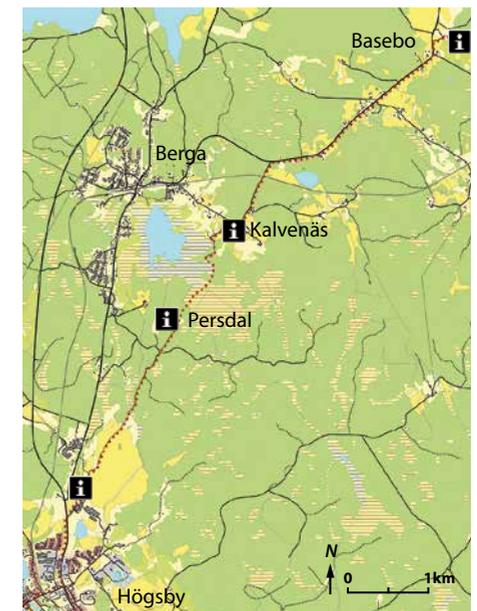
There are a number of info signs along the 10 km trail. The best place to have a picnic is at the Persdal cottage, so don't forget your coffee thermos! At the Högsby Tourist information office you can pick up a map, and there you can also buy the book by Jonas Stolt.

How to get there

From the roundabout at Högsby, Hanåsa you take route 34/37 northward. After 1 km turn right towards Berga, 4 km. At Berga turn right towards Basebo, 4 km. There, keep right towards Livemåla. After a few hundred metres you'll see a sign that marks the beginning of Jonas Stolts kyrkväg.

GPS coordinates for the beginning of Jonas Stolts kyrkväg:

WGS84: 57.23313 N, 16.10249 E
Sweref 99: 6343876.03, 566552.65



17 KYLLEN

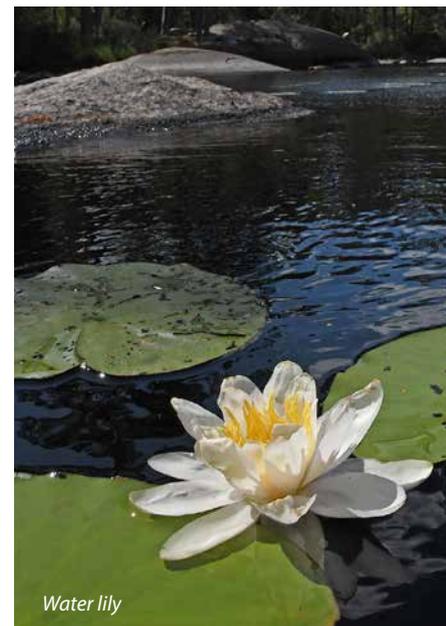


The forest in the Kyllen nature reserve is not a virgin forest, but has been allowed to grow freely. It has been formed by countless fires through the centuries. Here, you can experience the pleasant smells of muddy marshes, swampy forests, pine bogs and small ponds.

Kyllen comprises the grounds that used to be the outfields of the villages of Högsby and Klebo. The outfields were their shared pasturelands. The animals often grazed on this less fertile forest floor. Large parts of the reserve testify to having been burned, the bark of the stumps and pine trees bearing evidence of fire. It may be the result of the deliberate slash-and-burn agriculture of the past, which was a way of creating more fertile soil. The nutrients were bound up in the acidic soil and were released with the help of fire. The slash-and-burn method resulted in a denser coverage of grass – better grazing for the animals. Scorched forest is very valuable, since in the long term it becomes the habitat for many rare species. A forest fire is advantageous for aspen, for example, and in Sweden there are more than 300 diffe-

rent beetles that live on aspen. Their larvae live inside the bark and the wood, where they enter the pupa stage and develop into fully grown beetles. By preserving forests with plenty of living and dead aspen, these insects are given the possibility of survival. In Kyllen there are vast numbers of tall stumps and large amounts of coarse woody debris, an “el dorado” for wood dependent plants and animals that have difficulty surviving in well-kept commercial forests. This area has an abundance of large boulders and contains older pine, mixed coniferous and mixed deciduous forests.

The Linnea is Småland’s special flower and was named after the famous botanist, Carl von Linné. In the month of June, the small unassuming plant blooms with tiny hanging pink bells. Capercaillie, grouse and hazelhens are relatively common, and you can see the capercaillie play in several locations. Among the birds that breed here are the osprey, the crane, the loon, the bearded grebe, the black grebe and the goosander.



Water lily



Moose calf



Linnea

Worth knowing

There are no tracks, but there is a road that runs through the entire reserve. You’ll find a pleasant bathing spot by the Lilla Kyllen lake, where you can jump in from the steep cliffs. There is also a table and nearby you’ll see an information board with a map of the area.

How to get there

At the Högsby railway station you cross the railway track, turn left and then right into Allégatan. At the end of the street, continue straight ahead towards Klebo, 6 km. Follow the narrowing road towards Klebo. Pass by Sveaskog’s road sign Klebovägen, from which you have 1 km to the border of the reserve. There, you’ll find an information board. Continue through the reserve for 1 km to Badarbergsvägen, where you can park if you want to visit the Lilla Kyllen Lake bathing spot.

GPS coordinates for P-area:
WGS84: 57.18746 N, 16.13254 E
Sweref 99: 6338822.47, 568451.19



18 BERGA



In the Berga nature reserve there is a lot to discover. Here you can see the protected mistletoe, one of our most peculiar plants. The generously growing mistletoe at Berga gård has been known since the beginning of the 19th Century and is one of the most plentiful in all of Scandinavia.

The Berga nature reserve is dominated by oak, linden and aspen. Many of the linden trees have been lopped. There is also plenty of deadwood from linden, small twigs and thick hollow stumps, providing food for wood dependent insects. Summer is the best time for bug watching. The aspen butterfly is often seen flying about along the edges of the gravel roads, when it is not high up among the treetops. The mistletoe is Sweden's only wood dependent parasite. The seeds of the mistletoe are spread with the help of birds, especially thrushes, who gladly eat the sticky berries.

The first summer it sends into the host plant a suction organ that resembles a root, from which a little stem forms with two leaves. The plant divides in a fork-like manner each year. So, you can gauge its age by counting the forks. 75 percent of all mistletoe plants grow on linden trees. Other common host trees are sycamore and apple. The mistletoe is winter-green and is therefore easiest to see before the trees burst into leaf. Several thousand mistletoe plants grow at Berga gård, a freehold dating from the Middle Ages. The main house was built by Major Henrik af Harmen in 1782. The property is surrounded by a park-like environment with a lot of elm, ash and sycamore. At the end of the 19th Century, a brick works was established south of Berga gård. It lasted for a hundred years, and you can still see traces of it in the form of house foundations and the remains of water-filled clay pits.



Mistletoe



Brachyta interrogationis



Powderpost beetle

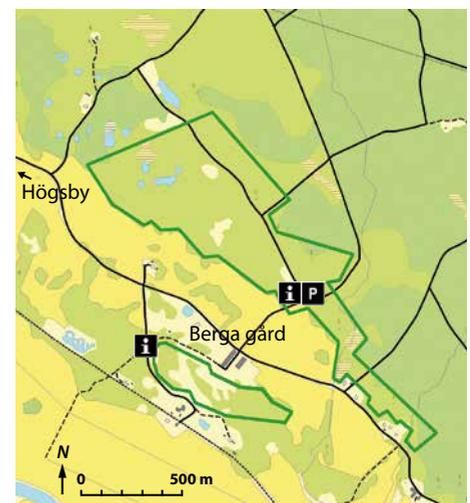
Worth knowing

The nature reserve is divided into two parts – both sides of the road that passes Berga gård. The best place to park is at the northern end of the reserve, where there is an information board with a map of the area. Berga gård is private property and can only be seen from the road.

How to get there

Pass the railway at the southern entry into Högsby. Keep right towards Berga gård, 2 km. Turn right opposite the finance buildings at Berga gård. After 300 m you'll find a parking area with an info sign.

GPS coordinates for P-area:
WGS84: 57.15322 N, 16.07347 E
Sweref 99: 6334952.69, 564941.31



19 RUDALUND



Impressive old oaks and a rich flora make the Rudalund nature reserve a popular destination for an outing. The oldest trees are at least 500 years old, and many rare species that are dependent on broadleaf deciduous trees have their sanctuary here.

Up until the 19th Century, what is today a nature reserve used to be the hay-making fields and pasturelands of the village of Ruda. That village has disappeared, but was first mentioned in 1441 as Rudw. At the end of the middle ages the village comprised five homesteads. The grounds became the property of Ruda gård from the beginning of the 19th Century. The pastures are home to a great number of giant oaks and linden trees. Many insects favour warm sunny conditions, whilst some species of lichen demand a high level of humidity, such as the tree lungwort, which grows on the rough linden bark. Flowering shrubs are kept to provide food in the form of pollen and nectar for the insects. The hermit beetle and the stag beetle are totally dependent on old trees for all or some



Common Pasque flower

of their life cycle. The trees in Rudalund are also valuable for bird life. The lesser spotted woodpecker, the tawny owl and the wryneck all breed in the hollows that form over time in old trees. On the dry ground grows the common pasque flower, the maiden pink and the almond blossom. Where the conditions are moister, you find arnica, rough hawkbit, greater butterfly-orchid and cowslip. In the more enclosed woodland environments grow liverwort, coral root and small corydalis.

The area west of the railway is called Rudalund. During the 20th Century the annual "Rudalundsfesten" was held here at the beginning of July. The sports club in Ruda used to erect dance floors beneath the oaks and Rudalund was visited by Sweden's popular orchestras and artists. You can still see the traces of two dance floors, a reminder of the outdoor party era that came to an end at the beginning of the new millennium.



The Rudalund party. Photo: Ruda IF.

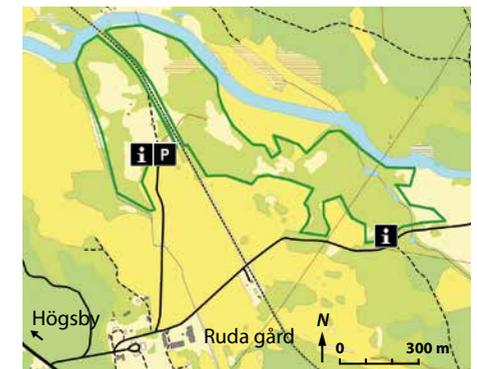
Worth knowing

The railway divides the reserve into two parts. Parking facilities with information boards are provided in both the western and the eastern parts of the reserve. During the summer, there are animals grazing in the meadows, so don't bring your dog! In this reserve you'll find fauna depots, piles of tree trunks, where many beetles and other little bugs have their dwellings as well as their food supply.

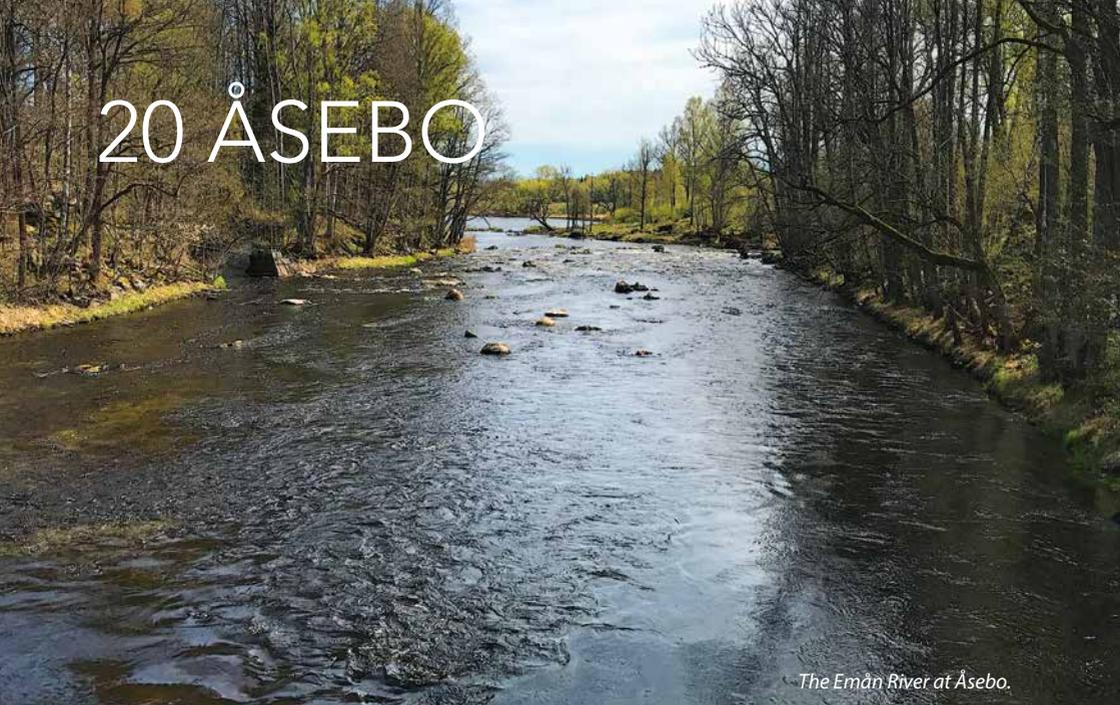
How to get there

Take Route 34 southwards from Högsby. After about 5.7 km, follow the sign to the left towards Ruda gård. Turn into the fifth gravel road on the left, soon after you see the first large finance building. Follow that road straight ahead. Park at the information board, and please close the gate behind you!

GPS coordinates for P-area:
WGS84: 57.13088 N, 16.09523 E
Sweref 99: 6332487.02, 566297.65



20 ÅSEBO



The Emån River at Åsebo.

Åsebo is characterised by thick old broadleaf deciduous trees and deadwood. The nature reserve offers great variety, with its pastures, deciduous forests, its cairns and the streaming waters of the Emån River. The warm climate in this area also contributes to the favourable conditions for the rich fauna of insects.

The mainstream of the Emån River forms a rapids neck at Åsebo, and here it becomes a running stream that ends up in a large pond. The stretches of rushing water are important spawning and growing environments for salmon and trout, while the catfish prefers the quiet waters. The rare thick-shelled river mussel also lives in this river. Otter and mink are regular guests. In the winter the white-throated dipper finds its way to this ice-free water, hunting for insects.

Oak dominates the meadows and the deciduous forest. At Åsebo there are some very old oaks, with trunks having a radius of several metres. On the oaks and the old lopped trees, there is a rich flora of lichen, including

a great number of red-listed species.

The hermit beetle lives in the wood mould of the thick oaks. The mould consists of wood debris, borer meal, birds' nests and other compost material that hides in hollow trees. It takes three to four years for a larva to develop into a mature beetle. In Swedish the hermit beetle is called a leather beetle, because of the leather-like smell given off by the male.

The nature reserve is large and varied and formerly belonged to the village of Åsebo. The village is first mentioned in 1536. The road through the reserve is lined with the wide-crowned European Oak, testifying to the area once having been much more open than it is today. The western side of the road consists of dense mixed forest, with a great proportion of oak. On the eastern side of the road there is a forest that was formerly a grazing pasture. The area is undulated, with swampy hollows and dry heights. In the northern part grow several lopped ash trees that bear traces of the foraging industry of the past.

Worth knowing

At the wooden bridge that crosses the Emån River there is a parking area with an info sign and a map. From there you can pass through a gate and follow the path along the river. You will come to a stone channel that was built for a planned water-driven threshing mill. Apart from that, there are no tracks, but a gravel road runs all the way through the reserve.

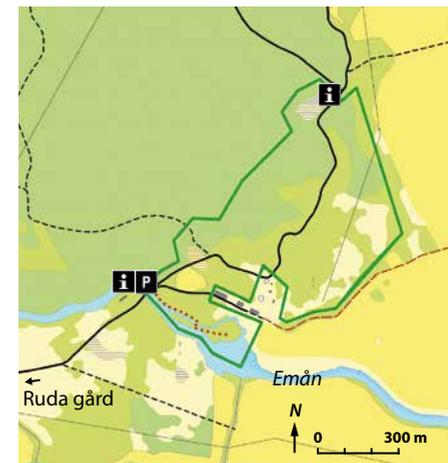
How to get there

Drive southward from Högsby on Route 34. After about 5.7 km, follow a sign to the left towards Ruda gård. Drive along the gravel road, straight ahead for a little over 2 km. Directly after the bridge across the Emån River there is a parking area.

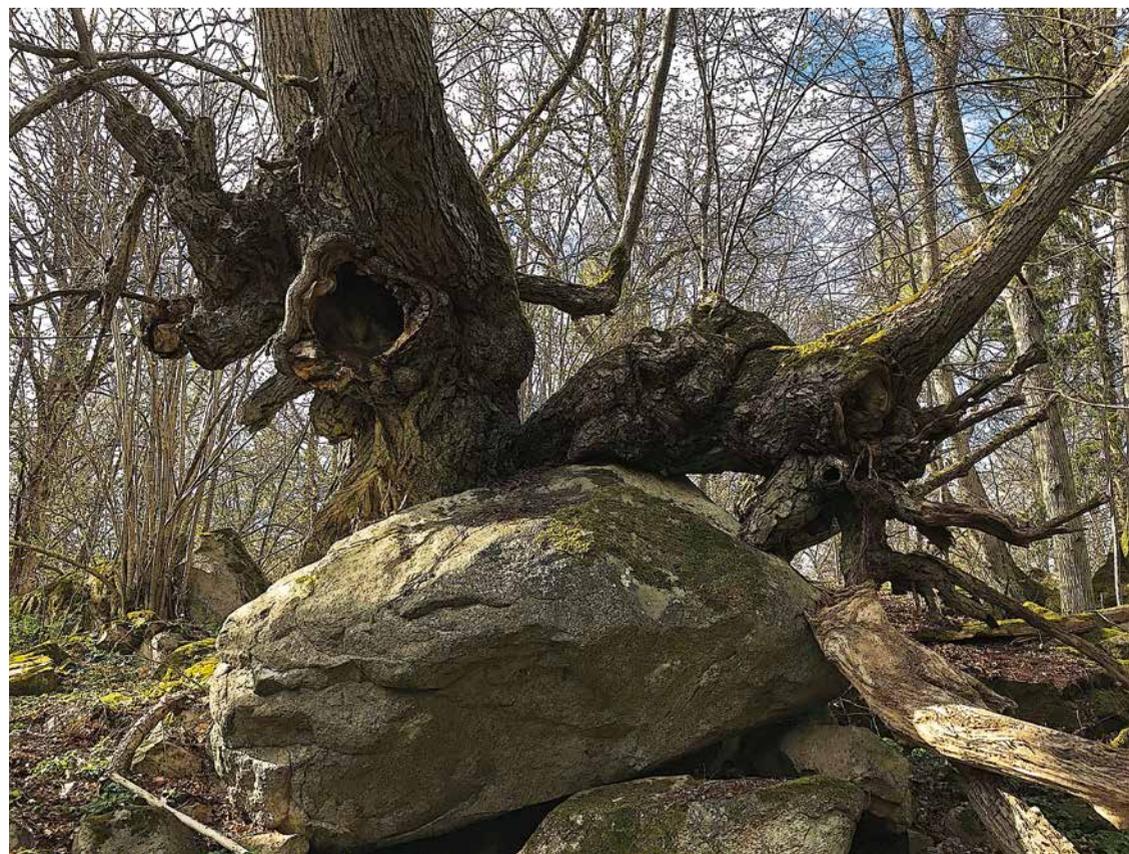
GPS coordinates for P-area:

WGS84: 57.13102 N, 16.12236 E

Sweref 99: 6332530.02, 567939.37



Lopped Linden tree.



BATHING AND FISHING

Take a dip in an idyllic lake on a balmy summer night. If you don't wish to go swimming, you can fish or cook a meal, using one of the great fireplaces provided. You'll find camping spots by the shores of the lakes.

Aboda klint – Lake Kleven

Jetty, table, prepared fireplace, wind shelter and dry privy. Kleven is situated next to the Aboda Klint nature reserve.

Barnebo – The Barnebosjön Lake at Lindsudd

Table and prepared fireplace. Lindsudd is a part of Hornsö EcoPark.

Berga – The Gösjön Lake

Camping area, jetty with jumping tower, table, prepared fireplace, WC, minigolf and tennis court.

Berga – The Lilla Kyllen Lake

Table. Lilla Kyllen is a part of the Kyllen nature reserve.

Björkshult – The Björkshultssjön Lake

Jetty, table, prepared fireplace and play equipment.

The Emån River

The Emån offers many fishing opportunities.

Fagerhult – Lake Välen

Camping ground with café and kiosk, cabins for hire, jetty, floating jetty with jumping tower, table, prepared fireplace and play equipment.

Fågelfors – The Övrasjön Lake

Jetty, table, prepared fireplace and changing booths.

Grönskåra – The Badebodaån River

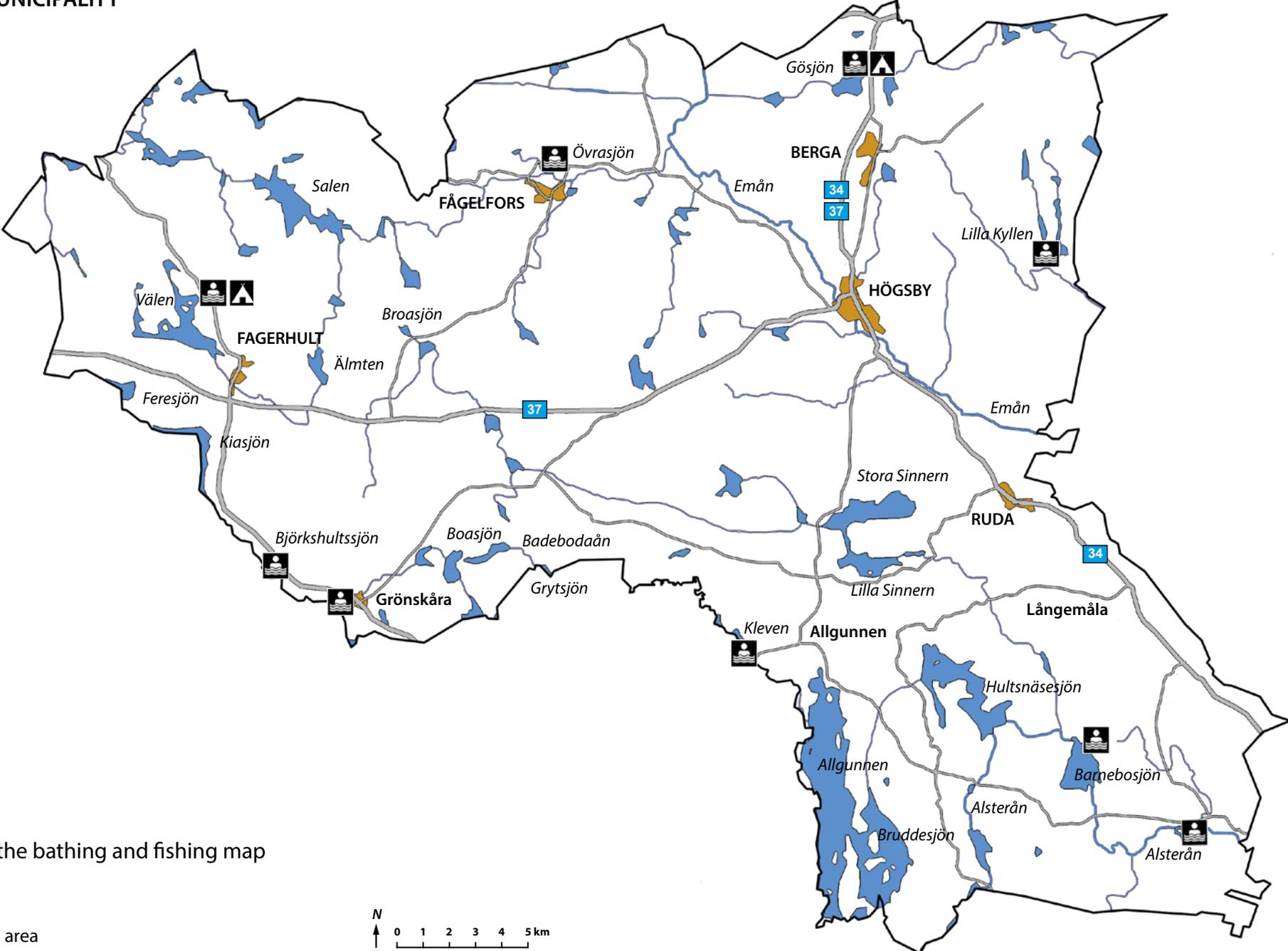
Jetty, table and prepared fireplace.

Hornsö – The Alsterån River

Jetty, table and prepared fireplace.

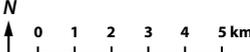
You can buy a Fishing Permit from Högsby Tourist Information or at www.ifiske.se

HÖGSBY MUNICIPALITY



Legend for the bathing and fishing map

-  Bathing
-  Camping area





Continue on your own

www.artportalen.se

www.birdlife.se

www.eman.se/sv/vattenforvaltning/vattenrad/

www.havochvatten.se

www.hogsby.se

www.ifiske.se

www.lansstyrelsen.se/kalmar/privat

<http://linnaeus.nrm.se/flora/>

www.naturvardsverket.se

www.sjv.se/tuva

www.skogsstyrelsen.se

www.slu.se

www.smalandsflora.com

www.sveaskog.se

www.vatmarksguiden.se

www.vattenkartan.se

www.vattenorganisationer.se/alsteransvr/

www.wwf.se



HÖGSBY
KOMMUN