

BRUZHOLM WORKS

Bruzaholm Works was founded in 1660 where three parishes meet: Edshult, Ingatorp and Hult. The location was determined by the water levels and flows of the river Brusaån. Added to this, was the local availability of lake and bog iron ore and the fact that charcoal could be produced in the forest. Early on, a hammer was set up, and a few years later a furnace was added. The works suffered many setbacks, and flooding in 1688 closed down the activities for several decades. The foundry was restored in the 1720s, but a dam break in 1734 changed the course of the river Brusaån, and the site was abandoned.

The mid-1700s saw the beginning of a more successful period in the history of the works. The operation was uninterrupted, and the company enjoyed a steady growth. Profits were used to build a lavish manor house in 1785.

Apart from the manor house, there are a large number of buildings that have been more or less connected with the iron works. They represent different eras and functions, and typically, the area around the works has constantly adapted to the foundry's operations. Worker's dwellings, for example, were built in the southern part of the estate and still remain.

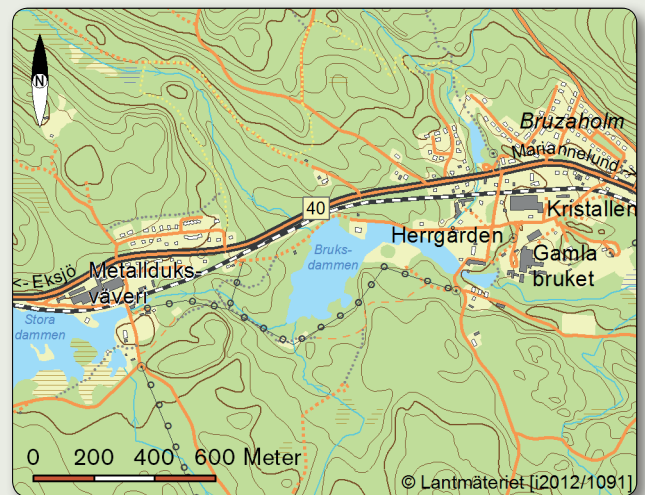
In addition to the iron works, other manufacturing has taken place in Bruzaholm, for example a hand paper mill, sawmill and flour mill.

The early 1900s saw the start of a new industrial era in the community with the establishment of Bruzaholms Metallduksväveri in 1906. The company manufactured woven steel wire. New premises were built in 1915 on the Stuveryd property by the upper big dam. The factory, manager's residence and gardens formed the centre of a western outcrop of the industrial community.

A further plant for making woven wire fabric was set up in a more central location. Due to the owner's great interest in landscape gardening, Kristallen, an ultra modern greenhouse and garden nursery built like a cube, was erected in 1960.



The manor from the 1780s. Photo: Jönköping County Museum.



HIDDEN GEM 4



HOW TO GET HERE

Bruzaholm is located 20 km east of Eksjö along Road 40.

Coordinates:

N 6388789 / E 516025
(SWEREF 99 TM) // N 57°
38' 28.155", E 15° 16' 6.473"
(WGS84)



Aerial view of Bruzaholm in 1947 with the iron works bottom left. Photo: Jönköping County Museum.

JÖNKÖPINGS LÄNS
MUSEUM

036-30 18 00 ▪ www.jkpglm.se



HIDDEN GEMS

There are so many things to discover in the countryside! Here, Jönköping County Museum presents some of the cultural environment and heritage attractions in the county.

They include well-known cultural monuments such as Habo Church and the Smålandsstenar Stone Circles, but also lesser known gems such as log-driving remains in the river Valån and Stengårdshult Church. Around the county you can find evidence of how people lived and worked in the past, everything from castles and manors to abandoned embankments and clearance cairns in forest areas.

The idea with Hidden Gems is to tempt you to make excursions in the cultural landscape – here you find our history, revealed in different ways in the physical environment. This heritage is worth experiencing and protecting. Bit by bit, we will be adding more sights under the heading Hidden Gems, both for people living in the county and visitors from further away. The more people who discover these gems, the better chance that they will be preserved for the future.

FACTS

In Jönköping County there are more than 4 000 registered ancient remains, 87 cultural environments of national interest, close to 130 listed buildings, around 150 churches, some 100 rural community centres with old settlements, a large number of industrial heritage sites, and two cultural reserves. There are also a large number of cultural environments with buildings worthy of conservation. More information about the sites can be found on the websites of the County Administrative Board, the municipalities and the local heritage societies.

GOOD TO KNOW

Access to the Hidden Gems varies. Some sites are well signposted, with easy access and proper parking facilities, etc. Others are more challenging to reach. Visitors may have to walk some distance, sometimes through scrubby forest, only to be met by a broken sign (if there ever was one) when they reach the site. All the sites, however, have an exciting and interesting history.

Please note that many of the cultural heritage buildings are privately owned and can only be viewed from the outside. Also, please respect private land. Many churches are open in the summer. During other times of the year, the churchwarden may be able to open the church for you.

