

ROMMEN FIELD BARN LANDSCAPE

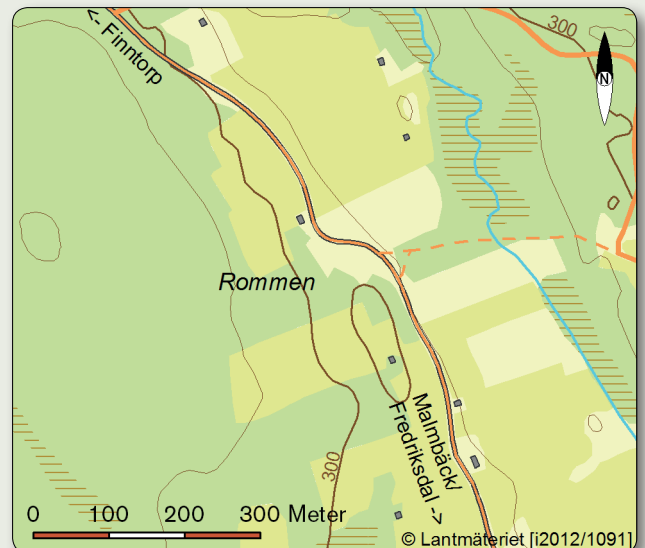
Rommen is an open area of meadowland belonging to the village Berg, but lying as a separate enclave to the west of the village. What makes Rommen so special is all the field barns standing in the landscape. Once upon a time, Rommen consisted of meadowland that was cut with scythe to provide hay for the livestock. The more hay that was harvested, the more animals could be fed during winter. The animals gave food, and their dung was spread as manure on the fields. This benefited cultivation and the food supply. Hay was thus one of the key factors for determining whether the household would starve or not.

In an agricultural society, there is a clear difference in workload between summer and winter. Summer was a hectic time with preparation of the soil, sowing, hay-making and harvest. Winter was a much quieter period largely spent working in the forest. As a way of somewhat dividing the work more evenly over the year, the task of transporting hay from the remote fields to the farm was often left until winter. Those who chose to wait until then also had the benefit of better transport options. Big loads could be taken on sledges on the frozen roads. Sometimes iced over lakes were also used. A prerequisite for postponing the hay transport was the temporary storage in barns out on the fields.

In Rommen there are two different types of field barns. The oldest type is smaller, and the log construction has gaps to let the air in. In the first decades of the 20th century, the barns started to be built with a timber frame and vertical boarding on the outside. These barns are often larger than the log-buildings. Many had large doors on both long sides, allowing carts to drive into the barn, unload or load, and then drive out again.



Field barn with timber frame and vertical boarding. Photo: Jönköping County Museum.



HIDDEN GEM 29



HOW TO GET HERE

From the road between the church village Malmbäck and Fredriksdal, turn off towards Fintorp. Drive approx. 10 km in the direction of Fintorp and you will come to Rommen Field Barn Landscape.

Coordinates:
N 6387270 / E 470064
(SWEREF 99 TM) // N 57°
37' 45.294" // E 14° 29'
51.582"
(WGS84)



Rommen Field Barn Landscape. Photo: Jönköping County Museum.

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MUSEUM

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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.

