

HAURIDA AND ÅSENS BY VILLAGES

Haurida, high up in the Småland highlands is one of the smallest and most barren parishes in the county. The old timber church from the Middle Ages is one of three preserved timber churches from this era in Jönköping County. The others are found in the neighbouring parish of Vireda and in Stenberga, southeast of Verlanda. The nave is the oldest part of the church, dating back to late 13th century/early 14th century. The original timbered chancel was replaced by a stone chancel in the late Middle Ages. Around the same time, a sacristy was constructed in stone. In the 17th century, the chancel was rebuilt, and the nave was extended. The tower was built in 1664. The interior of the church includes interesting fixtures and beautiful ceiling paintings from 1760 by an unknown artist. The church village is characterised by the red, two-storey buildings, mainly from the 19th century. It includes the old shop, now a rural community centre, and the parish hall.

Less than a kilometre to the north is Åsens by, which was established as the first cultural reserve in Sweden in year 2000. The village is an outstanding example of a small-scale agricultural environment in northern Småland in the early 1900s. The three farms in the village comprise several traditionally built dwelling houses and outbuildings. On two of the farms, the tenants lived in one-room cottages, whereas those who had the old vicarage at their disposal enjoyed a slightly larger two-room dwelling.

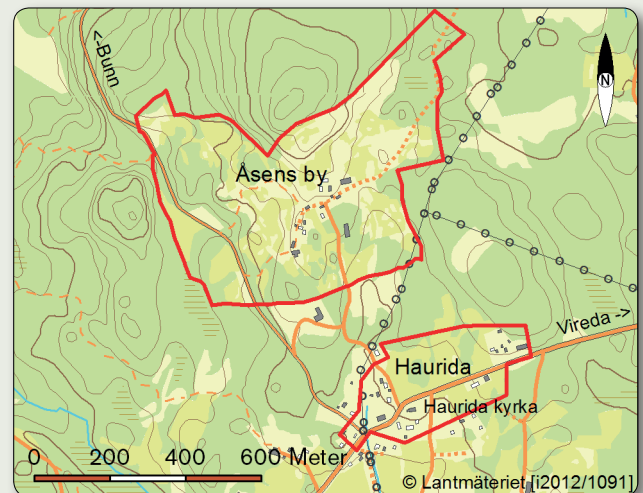
The farms are surrounded by small fields, meadows, pastures, pollarded trees, stone walls, cattle paths and clearance cairns belonging to the village. The field clearance cairns are evidence of past farming methods. Since the village dates back to the Middle Ages, it is not surprising to find traces of previous agricultural practices. The fact that so much remains intact is because the land was never parcelled out. The old-fashioned village with its many activities is a popular attraction in the summer months.



Village road through Åsens by. Photo: Jönköping County Museum.



Interior from Haurida Church. Photo: Jönköping County Museum.



HIDDEN GEM 50



HOW TO GET HERE

Haurida Church is located 15 km north of Lekeryd. From Lekeryd: Drive north for around 15 km. Haurida Church is situated along the road. From the church follow the signs for "Åsens by", approx. 600 m.

Coordinates:

Haurida Church:
N6416598 / E471674
(SWEREF 99 TM) // N 57°
53' 25.11", E 14° 31' 20.06"
(WGS84)

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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.

