

HÄRYD BLAST FURNACE

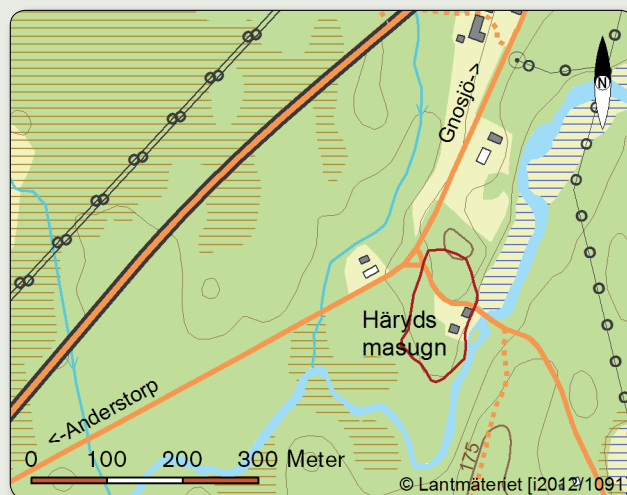
In the 17th century, Sweden was a great power, and a contributing factor was the country's rich iron ore resources. The ore was mainly mined in the counties of Dalarna and Västmanland. But Småland too had deposits, and in 1621, king Gustav II Adolf issued privileges for Taberg Bergslag, the southernmost mining area in Sweden. The unique ore titanomagnetite-olivinite was extracted from the rock and supplied to blast furnaces at the many iron works that were gradually setting up in the county from the 17th century onwards.

One of these was Gyllenfors iron works, founded in the 1740s in present-day Gislaved. In 1780, the works' blast furnace was moved to Häryd (now Häreryd) where production continued. However, iron ore from Taberg was not used in Häryds blast furnace, since ore was available from the adjacent Lake Hären. Lumps of lake ore from the bottom could be collected all year round. During summer, rafts with a hole at either end were used. A person stood at each hole amassing the lumps with a drag-rake. The ore was then hoisted onto the raft. While work was in progress, the prospectors lived on the raft, where there was a cabin with sleeping spaces. During winter, round holes were made in the ice. The ore was lifted out of the lake, collected in heaps and transported to the iron works to be smelted into iron.

The production in Häryd was interrupted in 1819 when the blast furnace burned down. A new furnace was built in 1862, and at the same time the company was released from Gyllenfors iron works. From then on, Häryd was run as an independent enterprise. It constituted one of the three iron works in Gnosjö, the others being Nissafors and Marieholm. Over the years, the operations grew to encompass a foundry, smithy, mechanical workshop, wire drawing mill, mill, sawmill and bone crusher. The last time the blast furnace was used was in 1902, although the wire drawing mill and foundry carried on well into the 20th century. Today, only the ruined blast furnace and smithy remain.



Apart from the blast furnace only one other building remains from the glory days. Photo: Jönköping County Museum.



HIDDEN GEM 55



HOW TO GET HERE

Along the road between Anderstorp and Gnosjö you find the village Häreryd (approx. 6 km north-east of Anderstorp and 5 km south-west of Gnosjö). In Häreryd, turn south onto a small road and drive for around 500 m, then turn left towards Lake Hären and continue for 150 m.

Coordinates:
N 6353077 / E 421428
(SWEREF 99 TM) // N 57°
18' 49.90", E 13° 41' 43.96"
(WGS84)



Häryd blast furnace with the ruins of the younger foundry in the background. Photo: Jönköping County 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.

