

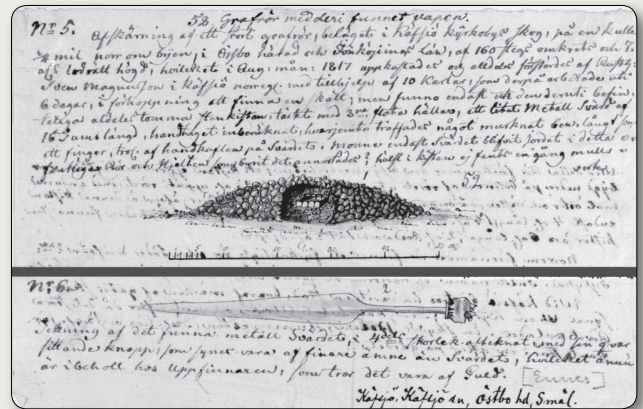
HÖGA RÖR

On the crest of a small moraine ridge south of Lake Flaten, between the river Storån and the wetlands of Store Mosse, are a number of square stone settings, probably from the Middle Iron Age, 200–600 A.D. It is not completely certain that they are graves, and may have served as territorial or boundary markers. Here is also one of the largest burial cairns in the county, Höga Rör. The cairn is more than 30 metres in diameter and almost 2 metres high. In some places, stones are missing and in the centre of the cairn is a hole which is 10 metres in diameter. The old stone wall that goes past the cairn most probably contains some of the missing stones.

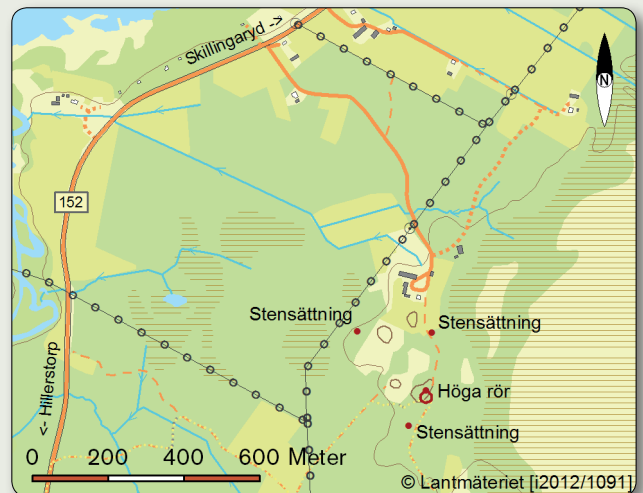
The hole in the middle is the result of grave-looting in the hope of finding something valuable, since cairns were often associated with hidden treasures. Sometimes it was said that “light” emanated from the cairns, from the gold gleaming under the stones. The gold was guarded by dragons, so it was not easy to reach. If, despite this, anyone decided to try, they must be careful and very quiet: The smallest sound, and the excavated treasure would be swallowed up by the ground again.

Maybe because of all the myths about cairns, a team of workers started digging in Höga Rör in 1817. We have learned what happened from the major B.A. Ennes at Näsbyholm, who was hugely interested in ancient monuments: “... a large such burial cairn, located in the forest of Käfsjö Church Village (...) in Östbo Hundred in Jönköping County, having a circumference of 160 steps and 7 ell in vertical height, and which in the month of August year 1817 was thrown up and completely destroyed by a maintaining farmer with help from 10 men, who worked on this for 6 days, in the hope of finding a treasure ...”

The excavation resulted in one find – a bronze dagger, as documented by Ennes. He also made a profile drawing of the cairn, the first one of its kind of an ancient monument in the county. Through his engagement, we know that there was a more than 2 meter long stone cist that had contained the dead person. The dagger dates the Bronze Age cairn to 1 000 years B.C. It is now found at the Swedish History Museum. In 1925, cultural conservationist Algot Friberg ensured that the cairn was restored. The dense forest surrounding the cairn today does not do justice to the site. When the cairn was built, it was visible from far away.



Documentation from the excavation in 1817 showing the profile of the burial cairn, and the recovered dagger. Antiquarian Topographic Archive.



HIDDEN GEM 56



HOW TO GET HERE

From the Hillerstorp roundabout just east of Hillerstorp: Drive northwards on Road 152 for approx. 3 km. Turn right onto smaller road and drive approx. 1 km south; continue on path for around 150 m.

Coordinates:

N 6354969 / E 435265
(SWEREF 99 TM) // N 57°
19' 58.88", E 13° 55' 28.97"
(WGS84)



The Bronze Age cairn Höga Rör. 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.

