

# REPPERDA

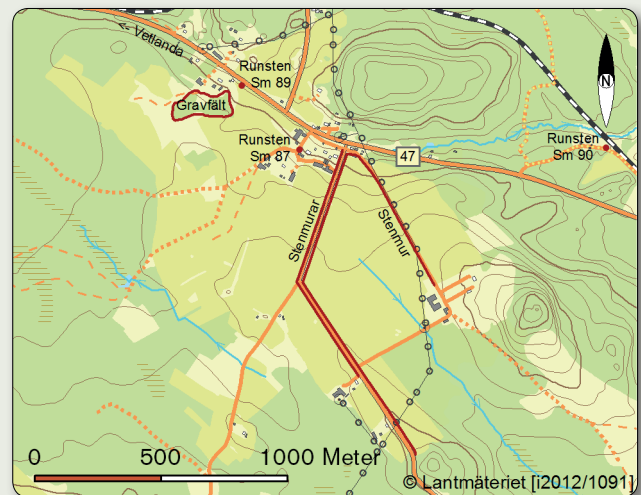
Perhaps you knew that Kettil from Repperda met Odin himself at Repperda forest? The Old Norse god taught him so much about runes that he was nicknamed Kettil Runske. There is a long record of this legend, from 1690. You can also read that Kettil later went to Visingsö with his runic knowledge and conquered Gilbertil, the giant who threatened to destroy the island. The area between Repperda and Vetlanda is a landscape of legends. It is likely that the many rune stones along the ancient road close to the river Emån have provided the inspiration for these myths. There are three rune stones in Repperda. One is located in the north-western part of the village, along Road 47, just north-east of the large Late Iron Age grave field (550–1050 A.D.) with more than 120 graves. The runes surround the so called braided cross and read: “Boe raised this stone in memory of Torgöt, (his) brother”. Both Torgöt and Boe had probably become Christians, and if the first church had not yet been built in Alseda, they are likely to be buried in the large grave field in the village.

Grave fields from the Late Iron Age and rune stones are signs of a rich agricultural district. One favourable factor was the seasonal flooding of the marshy meadows by the river Emån, which contributed to large amounts of hay for the livestock. The villages along the river were on average larger than the villages further north, which also shows that land must have been plentiful, especially by way of meadows and pastures. This led to a focus mainly on cattle-farming.

When going south from Repperda, you will notice the huge stone walls on both sides of the road. In total, there are more than 3 kilometres of this type of walls around the village. The background is the terribly bad harvests in 1867 and 1868. The first year was unusually cold and rainy, and this was followed a year of widespread drought. To alleviate the crisis, emergency relief was organised around Sweden. Here in Repperda, the stone walls were built, in other places, roads were constructed. The main purpose was not to build walls, but to clear the surrounding fields from as much stone as possible. In this way, new agricultural machinery, such as ploughs, could be used more efficiently.



The rune stone north-east of the grave field in Repperda is in its original location along the old road. Photo: Jönköping County Museum.



## HIDDEN GEM 74



### HOW TO GET HERE

From Vetlanda: Drive east on Road 47. Repperda is located along the road, approx. 14 km east of Vetlanda.

Coordinates:

N 6362147 / E 519337  
(SWEREF 99 TM) // N 57°  
24' 6.076", E 15° 19' 18.430"  
(WGS84)



Part of the enormous walls in Repperda. 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.

