

# HÖRNEBO SLATE MINE

The area around Fröderyd has an interesting geology, rich in ore and minerals. In the 18th century, both copper and iron ore were mined in the parish. Fredriksberg copper mines, south of Årset, were established in the 1760s and operated until the early 1800s, probably without any real profit, as the company was granted tax exemption. Operations resumed around 1850. The new company started to mine slate in Karstorp on the border with Hörnebo, and the production of roof slates prospered. In 1864, the Southern Main Line opened, and the station in Sävsjö solved some of the transport problems.

In the newspaper Jönköpingsposten from March 1866, you can read about a severe accident in connection with the slate mine, with two people dead and several wounded. The inquest showed that someone had been careless with blasting oil, as the early nitroglycerin was called. The operation continued despite the accident, and in the same newspaper you can read that the company was taking part in an industrial exhibition in Stockholm.

The company Fredriksbergs skiffer-aktiebolag was founded in 1873, and large investments were made at the slate mine. A railway was built in a tunnel from the bottom of the mine to transport the mined slate for processing in the newly built workshops. The railway track continued to the pond Hörnebo göl, where waste rock was dumped. In 1875, 42 people worked at the mine; 17 with blasting and transport and the others with splitting and cutting the slate. The main product was roof slates.

The finished product was taken by horse-drawn carriage to the railway station in Sävsjö, for further transportation to Stockholm, Lund and Malmö. You can still see many houses in Sävsjö that have Hörnebo slate roofs. The operations closed around 1880, but temporarily started again in the early 20th century.

The fenced-off pits and the mountains of waste rock on both sides of the road are reminders of the mining activities. The long tunnel from the bottom of the pit is still there, and it is possible to enter the open pit. Torch and rubber boots are recommended.



Hörnebo was an open cast slate mine, with blasted workings at the bottom. Photo: Jönköping County Museum.



## HIDDEN GEM 84



### HOW TO GET HERE

Hörnebo slate mine is located approx. 7 km north-west of Ramkvilla, along the road to Huluboda.

Coordinates:

N 6343618 / E491248  
(SWEREF 99 TM) // N 57°  
14' 10,60 E 14° 51 14,50"  
(WGS84)



The small stone cellar was used for storing explosives. The roof is made from local slate. 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.

