

HABO WOOL SPINNING MILL

Habo Wool Spinning Mill is one of the best-known enterprises in the village. The company started on a modest scale in 1882 at Kvarnekulla, but relocated to its more central location in Habo a few years later. At first, the wool spinning mill only made yarn, but from the 1920s, blankets dominated production. They were marketed under the label Habo blanket, and over the years millions of blankets were produced. In addition to the own production, the company also worked extensively on commission, whereby wool was collected by agents and then made into yarn, blankets, etc. on the owners' behalf. In the 1930s, the company had 30 commission agents in central and southern Sweden. To take on commission work was common among small Swedish wool companies.

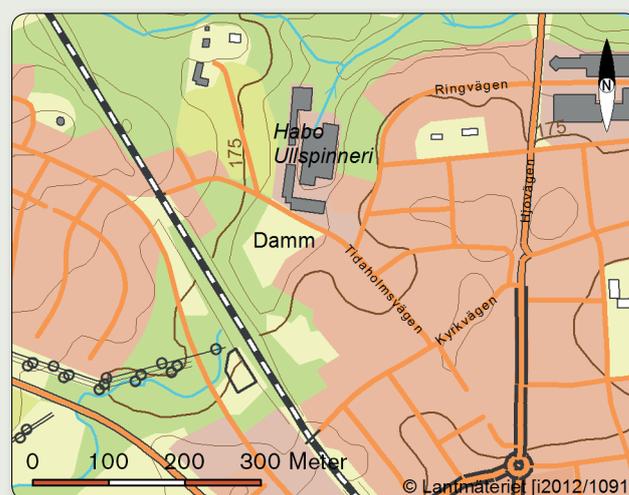
In its heyday, after World War II, the company employed approximately one hundred people, around half of them women. The wool spinning mill operated until 1966, when the weaving mill and blanket production was taken over and closed down by Tidstrands in Sågmyra. The spinning mill, however, carried on for a few more years. The dyehouse continued to operate under the original owner family into the 21st century.

The central industrial plant is dominated by two large red wooden buildings erected at an angle, one containing the spinning mill and the other the weaving mill. The buildings are predominantly from the period 1915 to 1945. Wooden factory buildings of this size are unusual today. They have often been replaced by brick buildings as a fire precaution measure. Like most other textile industries, the plant was located near a waterfall. The large dam in the river Hökesån has supplied both power and electricity to the factory. The dam, which was built in 1917, was drained a few years ago.

Spinnet in Habo is now an exhibition hall and centre for culture. The large open rooms give a good picture of the original factory, even though all production equipment is long since gone.



The industrial chimney was originally constructed in yellow brick and later extended in red brick. Photo: Jönköping County Museum.



HIDDEN GEM 15



HOW TO GET HERE

Tidaholmsvägen 14 in Habo. Follow local signs for "Spinnet" from Habo village.

Coordinates:
N 6419333 / E 444865
(SWEREF 99 TM) // N
57° 54' 44.621" // E 14° 4'
9.452" (WSG 84)



Habo wool spinning mill. 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.

