

KOMSTAD VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT

Komstad was the site of early settlements, as shown by archaeological finds along the shores of the river Ljungaån. Objects have been found from the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age. North of Lake Sävsjön is a grave field from the Iron Age. The grave field also contains a rune stone with the evocative inscription "Vræe erected this stone in memory of Gunne, his brother. He died in England."

Even in historic times, Komstad was something of a regional centre with an inn, courthouse, store and industries linked to water power from the river.

Komstad is also where the hundred court was held from 1734 to 1908. One of the early courthouses has been preserved and is now used as a private residence. In the eastern part of the village, where the old court was located, the old district gaol has been preserved.

In the past, long transports in the countryside were largely organised at inns and stables. The system required many horses and became a burden for farmers in Sweden. In the neighbourhood of Komstad, 39 horses were included in the stage coach system in the mid-19th century. The last inn in Komstad was built in 1885. It served as a meeting place both for travellers and the local population, and the attraction was, allegedly, the beverages. During the latter part of the 19th century, the system with coaching inns became increasingly outdated, and much of the long transports were replaced by trains. The inns and stage coach institution was therefore abolished in 1933.

Komstad went through the "laga skifte" land reform in the period 1867 to 1869, and thereby the part owners of the village obtained more contiguous land. The reform also meant that several farmers had to move their buildings from the crowded village centre. Out of 17 part owners, 11 were obliged to move to more peripheral farm locations. The village also included a soldier's cottage and a grenadier's cottage.

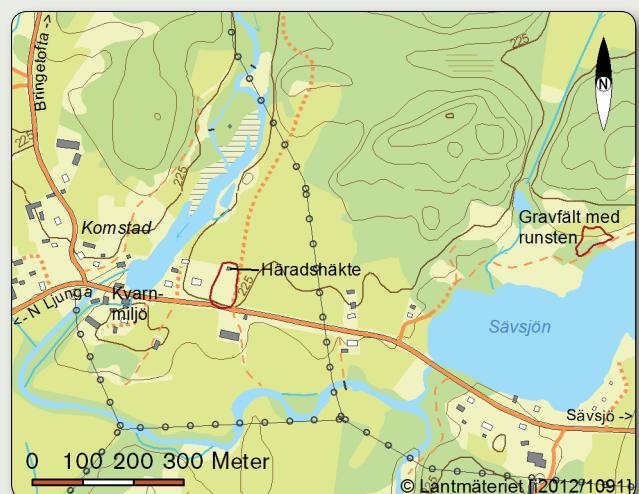
The village has several attractions: an old store, frame and circular saws from 1872, a millstone factory and a mill from 1871. A new forge and water mill for cereals have been constructed for pedagogical purposes.



Komstad Village Environment seen from the east. Photo: Leif Gustavsson/L.G.foto.



The large mill in Komstad was originally constructed around 1870 and was extended in 1928. Photo: Jönköping County Museum.



HIDDEN GEM 32



HOW TO GET HERE

From Road 127 west of Sävsjö, turn northwards approx. 4 km from Sävsjö. After around 2 km you reach Komstad.

Coordinates:

N 6362345 / E 476758
(SWEREF 99 TM) // N 57°
24' 11.232", E 14° 37' 0.424"
(WGS84)

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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.