

SKILLINGARYD MILITARY AREA

The Skillingaryd plains were first used as a military training ground in the late 17th century. Up until 1901 Sweden had a system of tenement soldiers, who gathered for training at so called meeting places. The military meetings were held in summer and usually commenced with an officers' meeting. This was followed by a meeting of new, untrained recruits, and next came the big regimental meeting. In the beginning, each soldier had to bring their own food, but later this was organised jointly.

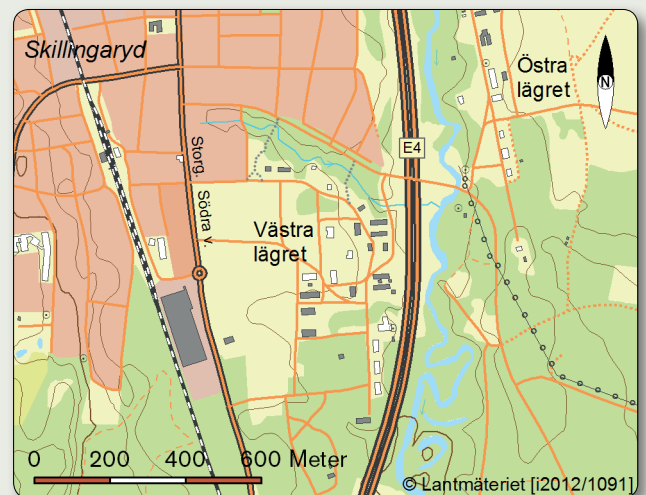
Between 1777 and 1914, Skillingaryd was the training ground for the Jönköping Regiment. A firing range for the Småland Army Artillery Regiment and the Artillery Shooting School was established to the east of the original buildings around 1900.

At the meeting places, the soldiers slept in tents, and there were only a few buildings. The officers, for example, might lodge with civilians in the village Skillingaryd. Sometimes, officers owned houses in the vicinity. Eventually, two separate areas formed on either side of the river Lagan – the Eastern Camp and the Western Camp. From the late 1800s, more and more buildings were constructed in the camps, including special buildings for the officers and soldiers, refectories and stores. The so called camp huts that were built around the turn of the century had large dormitories for the rank and file. In general, you can tell which were the officers' buildings, as they often chose colours other than the traditional Falu red.

Today, the buildings, land and environment are listed. A special museum for military history – Miliseum – opened in the Western Camp. The purpose of the museum is to retell the story of the tenement soldiers and their families, as well as being a national museum for the Engineering Troops.



The military history museum Miliseum is housed in the old refectories at the camp. Photo: Jönköping County Museum.



HIDDEN GEM 38

HOW TO GET HERE

The Military Area is located in the southern part of Skillingaryd, on both sides of the E4 motorway. Clearly signposted: "Miliseum".

Coordinates:

N 6365359 / E 445973
(SWEREF 99 TM) // N 57°
25' 39.765", E 14° 6' 1.159"
(WGS84)



The buildings in the Western Camp are mainly from the period late 1800 to early 1900. 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.

