

MARIEHOLM WORKS

Marieholm Works, located on the border of the parishes Kävsjö and Åsenhöga, received its privileges from the Swedish Board of Mines in 1836, and around a year later, the first trip hammer was in use. The operations grew, and by the end of the 1840s, wrought-iron manufacture was extensive. Items such as horseshoes, shares, horseshoe nails, spades, saw blades, hoes, dampers, band iron, rail-iron, cutting wires and sledgehammers were made. Cut nails were produced early, and when wire nail manufacturing started up in the late 1860s, Marieholm was ahead of several other works. In 1862, Marieholm started making chains, and at the same time a rolling mill was installed. Marieholm's iron production, however, was short-lived. The first blast furnace did not work, and a new furnace was built in 1870 and remained in operation until 1891.

During the first half of the 20th century, the main production at Marieholm was agricultural machinery. The next industrial era was boat-building, and the fiberglass boats from Marieholm are still renowned, although production ceased almost 30 years ago.

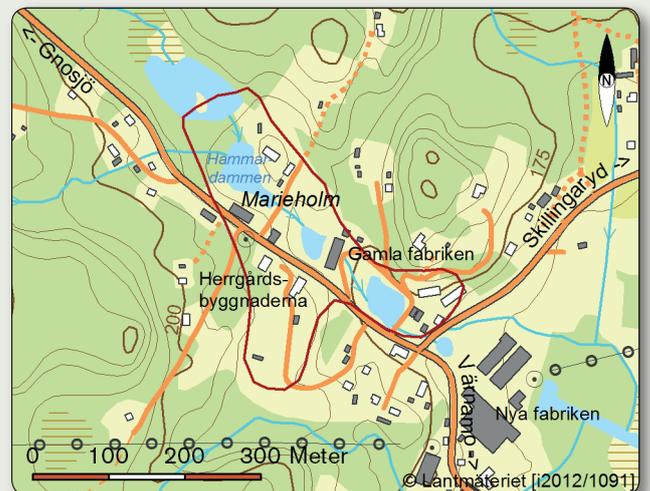
Today, the centre of the works environment comprises the old factory and preserved warehouses, manor buildings, cowshed, early workers' dwellings by the dam Hammardammen, castings shed, fettling shop, blow moulding building, old office/post office and the new factory.

In recent years, the industrial environment has been renovated and restored. The old forge hammer was returned to its original setting in the old factory. Furthermore, a new chute and water wheel have been made. The turbine from 1899 has been restored and now generates electricity for the building.

Walking trails along the river Skärvån pass, for example, the ruins of Saxhyttan rolling mill. The importance of water power for the development of industries here is still obvious through the well-preserved dam system along the river Skärvån's watercourse.



Marieholm Works. To the right is the church, originally a stone warehouse. To the left, the old factory with the cofferdam in front. Photo: Jönköping County Museum.



HIDDEN GEM 12



HOW TO GET HERE

From Road 152 between Skillingaryd and Hillerstorp turn to the west, signposted Marieholm.

Coordinates:
N 6360770 / E 431358
(SWEREF 99 TM) // N 57°
23' 4.41", E 13° 51' 29.58"
(WGS84)



Industrial environment in Marieholm, determined by the watercourse. Photo: Leif Gustavsson/L.G.foto.

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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.

