

INDUSTRIAL ENVIRONMENT IN DUNKEHALLA

Before steam and electricity, water power was a prerequisite for all industry. In the scenic ravine of the Dunkehalla river are the traces of Jönköping's old industrial history, dating back to the Middle Ages. Along the last kilometer, before the river discharges in Lake Vättern, it passes around ten waterfalls with a total height of 90 metres.

In medieval times, the Franciscan monastery in Jönköping owned a flour mill in the ravine, the so called Munk Mill, which was later donated to the town's hospital by king Johan III. At the site today, is one of the few preserved mill buildings in the area, built in the 1880s. There are records of another medieval mill, and there were probably more. Milling was an important source of income, and even the slightest current was utilised.

When king Gustav II Adolf gave Jönköping special privileges in 1620, investments were made to further develop water power in the Dunkehalla river. Above today's bridge, water-powered industries were established, linked to the town's war material industry. This included a clothes factory, making wool cloth for army uniforms, and a boring mill for the town's gun factory. However, nothing from these activities is visible above ground today.

In the 19th century, there were many small mills for different purposes along the river. Jakobsdal and Storkvarn by the highest waterfall were the largest enterprises, and an attempt to create a private monopoly. What remains today is the manor-like residence and the impressive two-storey mill built in stone. Just downstream is the Stallkvarn red wooden building where there was once a 17th century mill. The building later housed Ljungbergs metal factory, an example of the many small industries that set up in Dunkehalla at the turn of the 20th century. Here were also a tannery, spirit distillery, mineral mill, fan factory, foundry, etc.

From the sprawling settlement of workers' dwellings that was here a hundred years ago, only a fragment remains; the picturesque small wooden houses by the bridge.



In line with the Storkvarn mill, the Dunkehalla river rushes down in a dramatic way. Photo: Jönköping County Museum.



HIDDEN GEM 18



HOW TO GET HERE

Dunkehalla is located in the north-western part of Jönköping. The ravine stretches from Kortebovägen (behind the filling station) and to the west. From Kortebovägen there is a walking trail with steps.

Coordinates:
E 449060 (SWEREF 99 TM)
// N 57° 47' 14.43", E 14° 8'
35.73" (WGS84)



The built environment in the Dunkehalla ravine mainly comprises old industrial buildings and workers' dwellings. Photo: Jönköping County Museum.

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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.

