

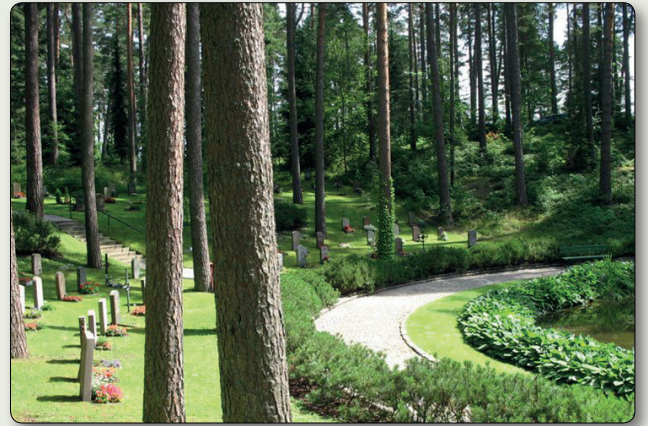
JÖNKÖPING WOODLAND CEMETERY

The woodland cemetery is located in a beautiful, hilly coniferous forest in the southern outskirts of Jönköping. The concept of woodland cemeteries adapted to an original forest landscape was born in Germany in the early 1900s. It had a great impact among the growing towns and cities in the Interwar and Postwar periods. Best-known is Skogskyrkogården in Stockholm, from the 1920s, designed by the leading Swedish architects of the time. Plans for the woodland cemetery in Jönköping started in 1936, but the cemetery was not opened until 1941.

Guidelines for the design of the cemetery were drawn up by Swedish Co-operative Union architect Olof Hult, who had worked on cemeteries in Stockholm. The detailed design was in the hands of Jönköping's town gardener, who later came to design several cemeteries in the county.

An important feature is the white chapel crematorium. In the 1930s, crematoria were still a novelty, but later became common in several woodland cemeteries. The chapel crematorium in Jönköping was designed in the 1940s by the architect Lars Israel Wahlman, responsible for several well-known churches, e.g. the Engelbrekt Church in Stockholm. However, building did not commence until 1958, after the architect had died. The strict, whitewashed building combines traditionalism with functionalism. The interior is decorated by the artist Sven X-et Erixon.

Sections of graves are interspersed in the terrain, between tall pines and spruces. The headstones are sometimes placed in straight lines, and sometimes in curved lines that follow the landscape. A couple water-filled kettles are beautiful features, as is the solemn processional road through the cemetery, bordered with Siberian fir. With their low profile and homogeneous design, the headstones reflect the equality ideal of the "Swedish Middle Way". In recent times, designs have become freer and more individual. As the cemetery has been extended over time, different parts have their own character. In this way, visitors can follow the development of the urban cemetery ideal until today.



The woodland cemetery has adapted to the original landscape such as this kettle, which remains from the Ice Age. Photo: Jönköping County Museum.



HIDDEN GEM 22



HOW TO GET HERE

The cemetery is located in the southern outskirts of Jönköping at the intersection between the E4 motorway and Göteborgsvägen (Road 40). Follow the signs for "Skogskyrkogården".

Coordinates:
N 6401648 / E 449218
(SWEREF 99 TM) // N 57°
45' 22.701" E 14° 8' 59.1"
(WGS84)



The chapel crematorium from 1958 was designed by the architect Lars Israel Wahlman, and the interior decorations are by Sven X-et Erixon. Photo: Jönköping County Museum.

JÖNKÖPINGS LÄNS
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.

