

HILLFORT BY LAKE NOEN

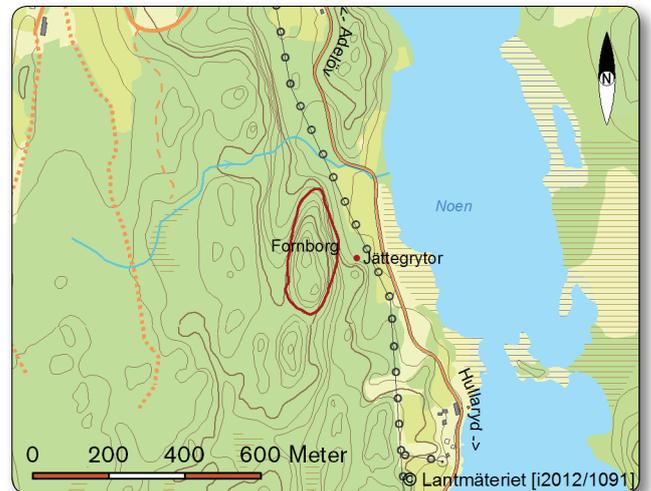
On a rock with views across Lake Noen, you find one of the county's three hillforts. Hillforts are pre-historic fortifications, usually from the Iron Age (500 B.C.–1050 A.D.). They were constructed in strategic places in the landscape, often on top of cliffs or high knolls. In this way they offered commanding views across the surrounding countryside, and at the same time they were difficult to attack. Generally, hillforts are associated with times of conflict, but they may also have served as cult places, thingsteads or fortified settlements. Due to its location by the lake, which was used for transport and communication, the hillfort by Noen was probably a fairway fort.

The actual fort area is approx. 300 x 100 metres. It is surrounded by precipices to the east and west and steep slopes with several stone walls in the other directions. The northern wall runs in a curve and is around 30 metres long and 2–4 metres wide. It has been restored in places and entrance holes have been opened up. The southern stone wall is around 70 metres long, mostly 4–6 metres wide, with an entrance at one end. The south-western slope contains two stone walls; one is 18 metres long and 1–4 metres wide, and the other is 38 metres long and 3–6 metres wide. The shorter wall is largely collapsed. The longer wall has an assumed entrance. In general, all the walls are up to one metre high and constructed without the use of mortar, so called dry-stone walls.

Around 120 metres to the east of the hillfort are five giant's kettles. The largest has a diameter of 1.5 x 0.5 metres and is 0.4–0.8 metres deep. An oval-shaped stone at the bottom of the deepest giant's kettle shows how giant's kettles were formed: Streaming water created eddies, which sometimes carried rocks and gravel. The rotation of the stones eroded the rock. All this happened when the ice sheet melted around 10 000 years ago.



View from the hillfort across Lake Noen. Photo: Jönköping County Museum.



HIDDEN GEM 49



HOW TO GET HERE

From Road 133 in line with Adelöv: Drive south on Road 133, approx. 9 km. The hillfort is located to the west of the road, just north of the beach at Lake Noen. Signposted from the road.

Coordinates:
N 6422796 / E 483940
(SWEREF 99 TM) // N 57°
56' 46.86", E 14° 43' 43.33"
(WGS84)



Parts of the stone wall at the hillfort. Photo: Jönköping County 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.

