

RYNINGSHOLM – GRAVE FIELDS & SEAT FARM

A few kilometres south of Eksjö you find Ryningsholm, one of the county's many sites of national interest. Such areas are considered to be of national interest for the conservation of various cultural environments. In this case, a manor house environment. The site also contains several Iron Age grave fields.

In the early 17th century, the manor was named after the privy councillor Peder Nilsson Ryning. But it was not until 1647, during the ownership of the Bagge family, that it became a seat farm. To the existing manor house a second floor was added in 1822. The manor house environment and surrounding cultural remains are located in an open cultivated landscape marked by lowerings in the late 19th century of the upper reaches of the river Solgenån.

In the Middle Ages, there was a village here called Sjustad. The suffix -stad suggests an Iron Age origin (around 500 B.C.–1050 A.D.). Ryningsholm is located in Höreda parish, which has one of the highest concentrations of ancient monuments in the district. Most prominent are the three grave fields along the road north of Lake Långsjön. But there are also many traces of charcoal production, and the remains of an ancient road, a so called sunken lane. Scattered finds of Stone Age axes have been made in the fields.

There are also records of a long since disappeared rune stone. It is believed to have stood near the cottage Brostugan, along the old road and the river that discharges in Lake Långsjön. According to one record from the 17th century, the inscription was "Gunnmund raised these stones after Sven, (his) father".

The biggest of the remaining grave fields contains more than one hundred standing stones. Over the centuries, it has been subject to much damage. Stones have been removed for different building purposes, and large parts of the grave field have at times been used for cultivation. At the end of the 1920s, the grave field was restored and the stones were raised. At the same time, small excavations were carried out around some of the stones. Among the finds were burnt bones, a slate whetstone, an iron knife and iron-slag.



This photo from the 1940s shows the manor Ryningsholm from the south. Photo: Jönköping County Museum.



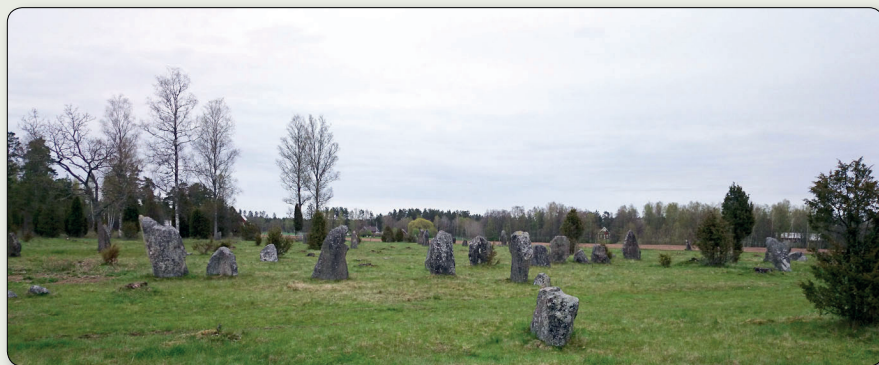
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HOW TO GET HERE

From Eksjö: drive approx. 6 km south on Road 32. Ryningsholm is just to the east of the road.

Coordinates:
N 6385100 / E 498305
(SWEREF 99 TM) // N 57°
36' 29.80", E 14° 58' 17.89"
(WGS84)



The grave fields at Ryningsholm include a large number of standing stones. 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.

