

KÅLLERSTAD ABANDONED GRAVEYARD

Around the church village Kållerstad are several croft remains and traces of cultivation, i.e. clearance cairns. The oldest visible monument, is the remains of a large grave field from the Late Iron Age (550–1050 A.D.) located in a wooded area less than 200 metres south-east of the church.

Kållerstad has two graveyards. In the northern part of the village is the church from 1858. The previous church was located around 600 metres south of there on the top of a ridge. All that remains is the old abandoned graveyard. The oldest known church on this site was an early medieval stave church with a Greek cross floor plan. This was a so called offering church, and as such it received particularly many church offerings and sacrifices. Some fixtures were saved when the old stave church was demolished. They included a 13th century rood cross, a late medieval church bell and the pulpit from the 1640s. The school building in Kållerstad from 1864 also contains reused timber with wall paintings from the demolished medieval church.

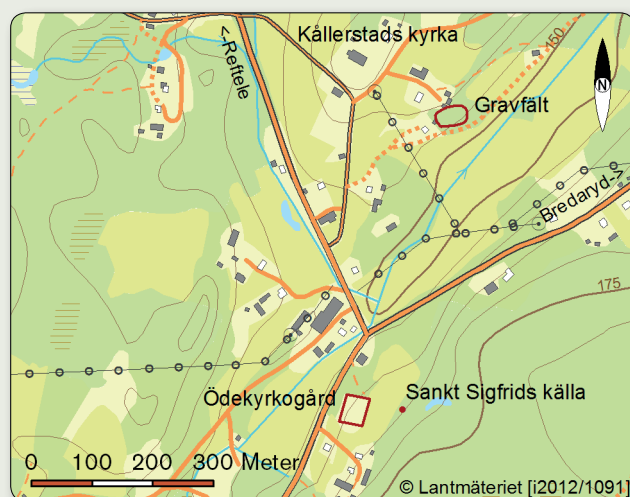
Around 1760, a new cross-plan stave church was built on the same site as the old church. This was demolished around 100 years later when a new church was built in a different location in the village.

Today, you can see around 30 gravestones and some 20 wrought-iron crosses in the abandoned graveyard. The foundation of the 18th century church is more difficult to find, although a standing cross marks the site of the altar table. The graveyard now resembles a meadow, typical of graveyards in the past.

According to legend, the stave church was inaugurated by Saint Sigfrid, and exactly to the east of the graveyard is a stone-lined offering spring bearing his name. Saint Sigfrid was an English bishop who was a missionary in Sweden and Norway in the 11th century. He is called the Apostle of Småland and Västergötland. A commemorative stone from the 19th century stands by the spring with the inscription: "Saint Sigfrid's Spring. The first Christians in the district were baptised here".



Kållerstad abandoned graveyard is located on a hill approx. 500 metres south of the existing church. Photo: Jönköping County Museum.



HIDDEN GEMS 54



HOW TO GET HERE

Drive westwards on Road 27/153. At the roundabout before Bredaryd: Continue on Road 153 to Reftele. Turn south at the roundabout in Reftele and continue on the road Kållerstadvägen for approx. 9 km. Turn south at the three-way junction just south of Kållerstad Church and follow the road for around 150 m.

Coordinates:
N 6328849 / E 415051
(SWEREF 99 TM) // N 57°
5' 42. 49", E 13° 35' 52.74"
(WGS84)



Kållerstad abandoned graveyard has grave markers both of stone and wrought iron. 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.

