

DÖDSKALLEHÖJDEN TUMULUS

On the hill Dödskallehöjden is one of several large burial mounds from the Early Bronze Age (1800–1000 B.C.) erected around Jönköping. Three of them remain today: Dödskallehöjden in Råslätt, Domarkullen in Gräshagen and Lustigkulle in Liljeholmen. The tumuli bear witness to a rich Bronze Age district with links to e.g. Visingsö island. Between 1932 and 1940, five of the burial mounds to the east of Lake Munksjön were investigated as they were located within the proposed site for an airport, now the Ljungarum industrial estate.

Dödskallehöjden Tumulus is 16 metres in diameter and around 1.5 metres high. It is located approximately 100 metres north of the Råslätt sports arena.

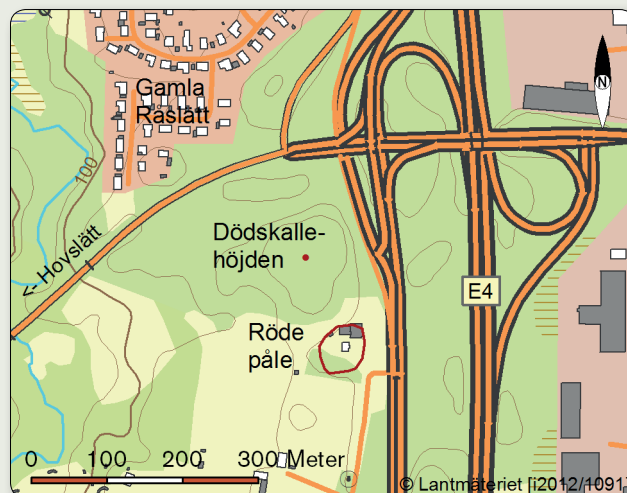
At the time, the grave was probably situated in an open landscape and surrounded by marshes. Sandbanks and islands rose from the wetlands, and it was on these that the tumuli were built. Thanks to the flat landscape, they were visible from far away.

According to old records, the Dödskallehöjden grave was originally a cairn, but was covered with grass turf in the 1920s. It was the cultural conservationist Algot Friberg who initiated this in an attempt to protect the grave from vandalism. Just like in Domarkullen and many other tumuli, a large looting pit had been dug in the grave. Friberg and his men restored the grave in 1929. The looting pit was filled, in and it is possible that the mound was turfed at the same time.

Next to Dödskallehöjden is the Röde påle filling station. This is one of a string of stations forming a modern “filling station history”. Before the E4 motorway was built in the 1960s, National Road 1 passed through here, and it is said that there was an unusual filling station that sold petrol of several different brands: Esso, Caltex and Mobil. The name Röde påle may be associated to a milestone along an earlier stretch of road east of Råslätt. Another theory is that the place was named after a red gatepost in the vicinity.



Röde påle filling station. Dödskallehöjden Tumulus is located in the grove in the background. Photo: Jönköping County Museum.



HIDDEN GEM 63



HOW TO GET HERE

From Jönköping: Drive south on the E4 motorway. At the Råslätt interchange, follow the signs for “Råslätt”, drive 600 m on Värnamovägen and park at the Röde påle filling station. The tumulus is approx. 100 m north-west of the filling station.

Coordinates:
N 6400817 / E 449704
(SWEREF 99 TM) // N 57°
44' 47.90", E 14° 9' 18.18"
(WGS84)



Dödskallehöjden. 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.

