

LUSTIGKULLE TUMULUS

Lustigkulle is one of several large burial mounds from the Early Bronze Age (1800–1000 B.C.) erected around Jönköping. Three of them remain today: Lustigkulle in Liljeholmen, Domarekullen in Gräshagen and Dödskalleshöjden in Råslätt. The tumuli bear witness to a rich Bronze Age district with links to e.g. Visingsö island.

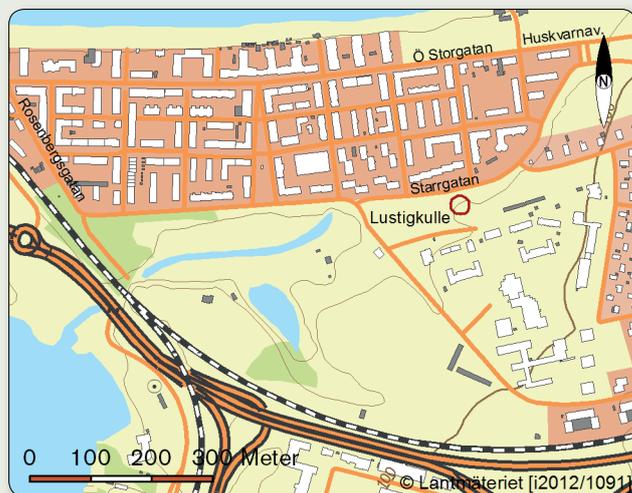
Today, the tumulus is 30 metres in diameter and approx. 4 metres high with a flat top. It is located in a green area by the Liljeholmsparken park, surrounded by recent buildings. Topographically, it is situated on a ledge at the foot of a slope down to Lake Vättern. At the time, this was a monumental location: Below the tumulus were wetlands that stretched out to Lake Rocksjön and were also connected to Lake Vättern. The location of the tumulus in a flat and probably open landscape, surrounded by lakes, made it visible from far away.

The tumulus was partly investigated in 1892 by the cultural conservationist and founder of the Ancient Monuments Association, Algot Friberg. Records show that then the tumulus was 21 metres in diameter, around 3 meters high and built up of sand. Originally, the sand probably came from sandy turf and covered a small central cairn in the middle of the mound. No artifacts were found, but at the bottom were burned bones and dark colouring “sooted by fire”. Friberg did not investigate the entire burial mound, and he may not have reached the bottom of the grave. The above facts together with the location in the landscape mean that the tumulus is most likely from the Bronze Age.

Over the years, the burial mound has been used for many different purposes. In the 17th century, it is supposed to have been a place of execution. In the 19th century, the top was levelled to make place for a gazebo. The mound was given the name Lusthuskullen (Gazebo Hill), which then became Lustigkulle. A wine cellar was constructed underneath the gazebo. In the 20th century, new earth was added, the mound became bigger and thereby an even better sledge run.



Lustigkulle and surroundings in 1935. The Jönköping-Gripenberg railway line passed right next to the mound. In the background, to the left, you glimpse the tower of Östra Kapellet Chapel. Photo: Jönköping County Museum.



HIDDEN GEM 64



HOW TO GET HERE

From Ö. Storgatan in Jönköping, turn onto Rosenbergsgatan and then onto Stargatan, approx. 600 m. Lustigkulle is just south of the street, opposite Stargatan 10.

Coordinates:

N 6404451 / E 452752
(SWEREF 99 TM) // N 57°
46' 46.59", E 14° 12' 19.92"
(WGS84)



Lustigkulle surrounded by today's buildings. 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.

