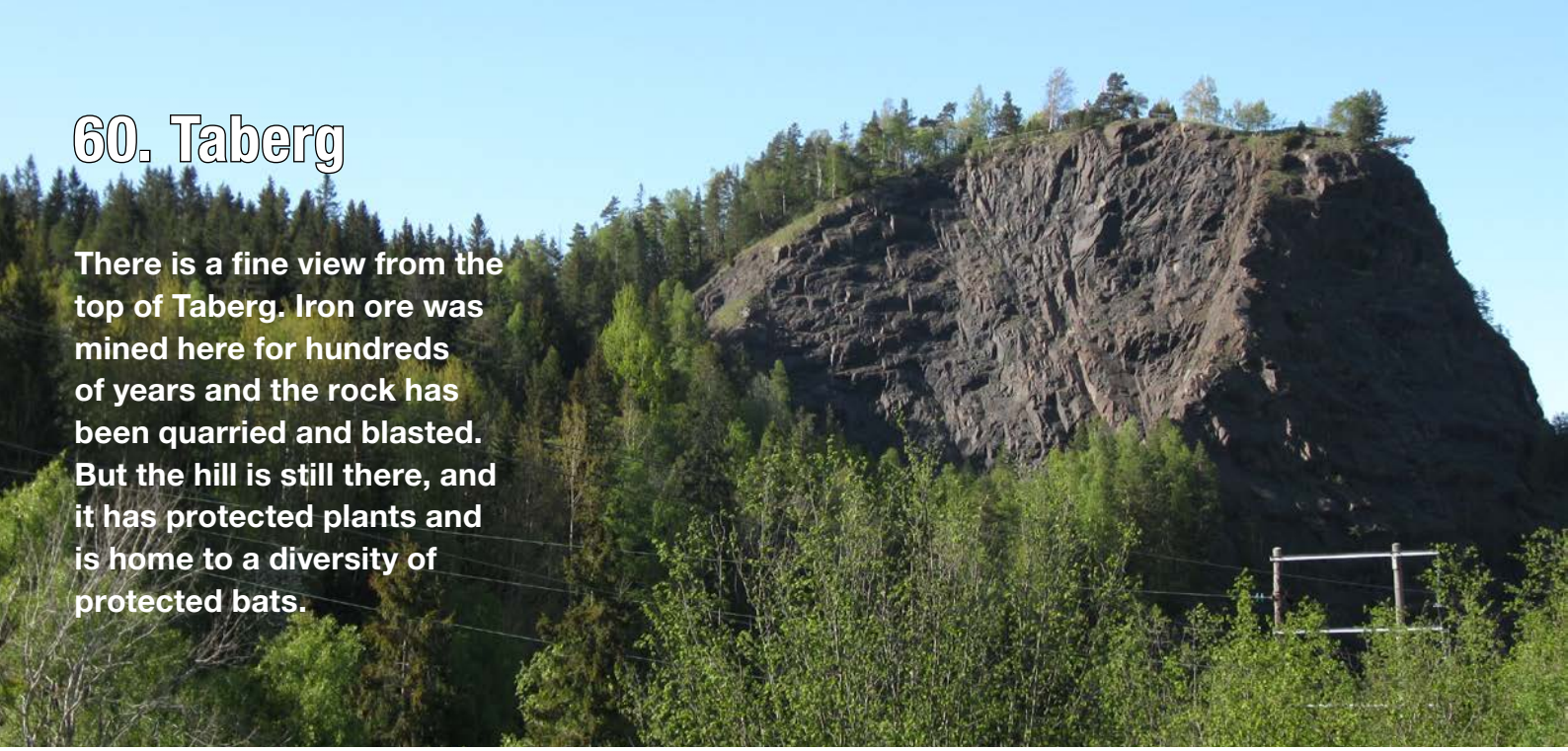
60. Taberg



There is a fine view from the top of Taberg. Iron ore was mined here for hundreds of years and the rock has been quarried and blasted. But the hill is still there, and it has protected plants and is home to a diversity of protected bats.

The hill is in the middle of the Taberg urban area. Smålands Taberg consists of calcite, magnecite, copper pyrites, dolomite and several serpentine minerals. But Taberg is mainly known for the unusual mineral titanomagnetite olivinite. This mineral is only found in one other place in the world, in eastern North America. When Taberg was formed 1,200 million years ago, the area was geologically active. Magma was forced up into the bedrock and cooled. Over time, the landscape was eroded but the hard rock of Taberg was more resistant than the surrounding bedrock.

Taberg and its surroundings are rich in plant life. In one square kilometre 540 different species of vascular plant have been found, and in the nature reserve, 300 mosses. It is one of the most species-rich areas of the Municipality of Jönköping. The bedrock has a high level of fertility and is optimal for some plants, for example, ladder spleenwort, green spleenwort and nodding stickseed. The nearest areas where they also grow are in the mountains to the northwest, and as regards ladder spleenwort, the Central European mountains. In the rocky, hilly ground at the mining area are butterfly blue, field wormwood, liquorice milkvetch and slender stonecrop.

At the western top of Taberg is a meadow which the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation and local history association keep open. The meadow is raked in April and mowing is conducted in August. Everyone is welcome to join in.

Taberg is a favourite area for bats. They do well in the vicinity of human habitation and in this agricultural area fringed with woodland, buildings, water and large trees. Old hollow trees are of importance for bats that need somewhere to rest during the day.

During the winter the bats need the protection and isolation of the mine. In order to survive, they go into a deep hibernation and their body temperature is lowered. They “sleep” securely fastened to the walls and ceiling of the mine corridors. Here over-winter such species

WORTH KNOWING

Two long-distance footpaths lead from the mine buildings to the top of the hill and the Toppstugan which has a restaurant and mini-golf course. The Södra Vätterleden path passes Taberg, and the Tabergs-å-leden path goes alongside the river southwards to Månsarp and northwards to Jönköping. Taberg is a Bat Centre, and in the mining buildings area is a Bat Museum. During the summer, one can go on a guided tour of the mine.

HOW TO GET THERE: Drive towards Taberg and the summit of Taberg. Or from the railway station it is 400m to the mining buildings southwards, or cross the railway, then 300m north to Masugnsplan, a footpath to the top.

PARKING: At the top of Taberg and on the way up or at the station.

BUS/TRAIN: Tabergs centrum bus stop. And most trains to Vaggeryd/Värnamo stop in Taberg.

DIFFICULTY: ● *Medium*

One-flowered wintergreen

as the northern bat and the unusual Natterer's bat.

Taberg was important as Sweden's southern-most mining district. Iron was produced in the Taberg area from the Viking period until the 20th century, a livelihood which supplemented farming.

Taberg became a nature reserve in 1985 and 64 hectares of the hill are protected. Mining is prohibited in the reserve.

Daubenton's bat

Green spleenwort

Bat survey

Haymaking