

33. Rosenlunds bankar



In the banks there is a large colony of sand martins. Oystercatchers on the Rosenlund field are a sure sign of spring.

Opposite Jönköping and Huskvarna, the Rosenlund's banks rise on a broad promontory out in Lake Vättern. The shoreline banks are a marginal deposit that formed over 10,000 years ago when the inland ice sheet receded. They are formed of various strata of glacier lake clay, moraine and sand, which the glacial rivers left behind.

Since end of the Ice Age there has been a continual land elevation which is greater in the north of Lake Vättern than in the south. This means that Lake Vättern is slowly tipping over towards the south, and the water level in the southern part of the lake is rising by 1mm each year. The waves of Lake Vättern, together with winds and ground water have eroded the

banks so that a shoreline cliff 35m high has been formed. The erosion is a constant ongoing process and the top of the steep slope is moving southwards at an average of 25 m every 100 years.

The banks are partly wooded with deciduous woodland, but up on the plateau behind Elmia the open fields broaden out. A few wide-crowned oak trees grow at Skrämmabäcken, the border between Jönköping and Huskvarna. In the shaded northern slope with its deciduous woodland are threatened and rare snails. One of them is the mountain bulin, which is only found in deciduous woodland ravines close to Lake Vättern. During the autumn, the banks are a place to

watch migrating birds from.

The Rosenlunds banks can be seen from afar when one approaches Jönköping from the north. They are important for the landscape and outdoor life. Up on the banks is a path with a magnificent view over Lake Vättern.

Under the water in the Huskvarna bay are ancient remains from the Bronze and Iron Ages. At that time, the water level was much lower than today. Also, rows of wooden stumps and stone caissons from the Viking period to the Middle Ages have been found out in the bay.



WORTH KNOWING

Since 1971, Rosenlund's banks have been a nature reserve because of their geological value. In 2008, the reserve was enlarged. The enlargement was largely because the reserve is disappearing due to erosion! This is, however, a natural process which shall be protected. Next to the banks in the south is a camping site. There are bathing places with sandy beaches on both sides of Rosenlunds banks, at Strandparken in Jönköping in the east, and Sannabadet in Huskvarna at Vättersnäs.

HOW TO GET THERE: Take the Huskvarnavägen between Jönköping and Huskvarna and turn off at the sign Naturreservat (Nature reserve) about 700m east of the Elmia roundabout.

BUS: From Jönköping towards Huskvarna, Elmia bus stop.

PARKING: There is parking at Sannabadet and Elmia.

DIFFICULTY: ● Very easy



Sand martins' nesting holes



Buttercup



Oystercatcher