

48. Bottnaryd's ancient woodland



There is mention of the forests in Bottnaryd as far back as the 17th century on account of timber theft and illegal slash-and-burn agriculture.

The oldest pine trees bear marks of fire. With their thick bark, pine trees can survive fire, but it is worse for spruce which is more vulnerable and easily becomes a torch in a forest fire. Here are living pine trees, the oldest is several hundred years' old, and dead fallen trees, and silvery grey, wind-tortured dried-out trees, still standing.

Bottnaryd's ancient woodland nature reserve is important for mosses, lichens and fungi which need dead wood to grow on or obtain nourishment from. Examples of unusual species are the fungi *Phellinidium*

ferrugineofuscum, *Phellopilus nigrolimitatus* and the especially-worthy-of-protection, *Tyromyces guttulatus*. On standing trees are hanging lichens, such as witch's hair, tree hair lichen, and the strange-looking dot lichen. *Phellopilus nigrolimitatus* is a typical species of the very north of Sweden which is found here.

The path into this core area of old woodland is through mixed pine and spruce and a blueberry spruce wood. In the interior of the ancient woodland there are many large fallen trees and trunks, on sandy slopes and on

mossy soft ground.

The nature reserve is not just woodland. In a long valley is a small marsh which is a waterhole for animals. Elk go out into the marshland to find fresh food and water.

Bottnaryd's ancient woodland is also a woodpecker wood. Grouse, hazel hen and capercaillie are also found there.



WORTH KNOWING

Bottnaryd's ancient woodland was designated a church conservation area in 1950 and twenty years later the County Administrative Board made it a nature reserve. The reserve was enlarged in 2004. When you approach the Bottnaryd ancient woodland, the road follows an old railway track to Ulricehamn and through a small tunnel under road 185.

HOW TO GET THERE: Drive into Bottnaryd and immediately after the access road to the village there is a sign Naturreservat (nature reserve) on the left.

PARKING: At the reserve entrance.

BUS: To Bottnaryd, get off at the first bus stop in Bottnaryd. Then walk about 500m to the nature reserve east of the village.

DIFFICULTY: ● *Medium*



Wolf's-foot clubmoss



Cauliflower mushroom

