

32. Bondberget



Spring time is the most beautiful time of year here, with carpets of white wood anemone together with blue anemone, yellow wood anemone, lungwort, dog's mercury and toothwort.

Bondberget mountain is a varied nature reserve close at hand for many town dwellers. The reserve is used to a great extent for exercise and outdoor life, and there are many jogging tracks and paths to choose from. The area is on the wooded hilltop between Jönköping and Huskvarna close to the residential areas of Ekhagen, Österängen and Öxnehaga.

On the slopes below the hill south of Österängen is one of the municipality's largest and finest stands of oak. Here are large, old oaks with wide crowns and also birch, sallow, hawthorn, hazel, crab-apple and juniper. In the

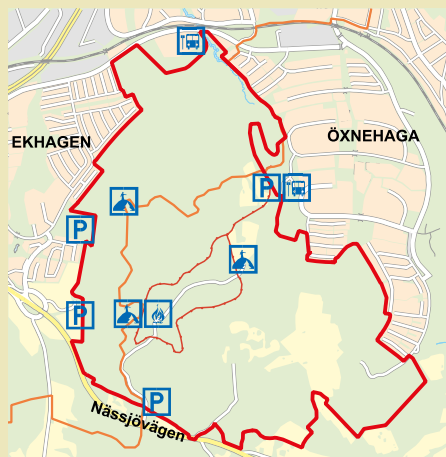
enclosed pasture with oak trees, the municipality has made young oak trees older by cutting off the tops, peeling off bark and boring holes like woodpecker holes. The intention is that animals and plants which thrive on old oaks shall be able to live on the younger ones.

Broad-leafed deciduous woodland dominates the northern side of Bondberget with oak, ash, maple and hazel groves. During the spring, birdsong is at its most intense, with species such as robin, wood warbler, red-breasted flycatcher and song thrush. On a rocky promontory in the

north-west is an Iron Age cairn, and a view over the southern Vättern countryside is captivating.

Much of the woodland in the area consists of spruce and mixed coniferous forest with steep slopes and flat areas of rock. On both sides of Järabacken in the west, the woodland is like ancient woodland, with tall pine trees, large spruce trees and dead, fallen tree trunks. The black woodpecker and other woodpeckers find food under the bark of dead and dying trees.

In the southern part of the reserve lies the farm of Lönneberg in a valley



WORTH KNOWING

The nature reserve is 372 hectares in extent and was inaugurated in 1974 and subsequently enlarged. The long-distance footpath of Södra Vätterleden passes through the nature reserve. Öxnegården is run by the Swedish Outdoor Association, and from it go many jogging tracks, floodlit paths and other paths. There is also an outdoor classroom with nature paths close to Öxnegården. Information sign boards explain about the reserve, protected plants and the “veterinisation” activities on the oak trees.

HOW TO GET THERE: From the E4 road turn off at the Huskvarna södra junction, turn right towards Öxnehaga. Then follow the road signs to the nature reserve. To the southern part, take Näs sjövägen, after a few kilometres turn off at Lönneberg.

PARKING: There is parking at Öxnegården, below Järabacken, at Ekhagen’s sports fields in the west and Näs sjövägen in the south.

BUS: Towards Öxnehaga, the bus stop is called Öxnegården.

DIFFICULTY: ● Easy



Globeflowers surrounded by fields and pastures and streams with wild cherry trees. Here are large, old ash trees with interesting flora of lichens, mosses and fungi, and also spruce and mixed deciduous woodland at the top of the hill.



Click beetle



“Veterinisation”
- making young oak trees older



Lily of the valley



Lungwort