

9. Västana and Röttle by



This nature reserve attracts many visitors, not least during the spring when the beech trees have new leaves and there are many flowers, including herbaceous plants, wood anemone and yellow wood anemone.

Just south of Gränna is Röttle by (village) with its mediaeval mill and heritage buildings. At Röttle by, the Västana nature reserve begins, and it continues for almost 5 km southwards along the fault scarp between Lake Vättern and the E4 road. The area is very varied and offers valuable nature and cultural values and rewarding walks alongside Lake Vättern, with beautiful views over the lake and Visingsö.

There are several paths in the area, making it easy to get around. The dramatic typography alongside the low-lying Lake Vättern enhances the experience.

Up on the fault scarp, pinewoods dominate, with some oak trees and spruce. The ground is covered by blueberry plants and heather. Old knotty trees, with dry trunks exposed to the sun and dead trees lying on the ground enhance the impression of an undisturbed natural wood. On the slope there is an old spruce wood. There are rare woodland fungi and mosses on trunks and other dead wood.

The slope has many boulders and is difficult to negotiate; here and there are almost sheer faces of rock. Sandstone and slate from the Visingsö formation can be studied at close quarters here. In the lower part of the

steep slope, the woodland becomes a mixture of deciduous trees, such as ash, elm, oak, aspen and beech, and also plantations of spruce which are, however, to be discontinued. The deciduous woodland is old and has a high natural value.

Below the steep slope are the so-called “rests” by a more level area down by the lake shore, with beech wood and deciduous woodland which is rich in herbaceous plants.

The lower part of the Röttleån river is included in the nature reserve; it drains into Lake Vättern through a deep ravine edged with deciduous trees. The Röttleån river drains the



WORTH KNOWING

The nature reserve at Västanå is 130 hectares. The Västanåleden path and the John Bauerleden path go through the area. There is a picnic area with windbreak in the south-eastern part.

HOW TO GET THERE: Take the E4 towards Gränna, turn off on Exit 103 towards Gyllene Uttern, turn right and after that turn left towards Röttle.

PARKING: There is parking at Röttle by (village) and by the entrance to the reserve.

BUS: Bus towards Gränna, bus stop Röttlevägen, walk about 1 km to Röttle.

DIFFICULTY: ● *Medium*



Grayling

Kvarnsjöarna lakes and Bunn through a north-south rift valley. The considerable fall heights allowed water power to be used for milling as far back as the early middle ages. Down at Röttle there are remains of old milling and millpond dam installations.

The Röttleån river is especially valuable for fish. The lower part is an important spawning area for salmon-trout and grayling which migrate up from Lake Vättern. Upstream in the river there is also a stationary population of salmon-trout.

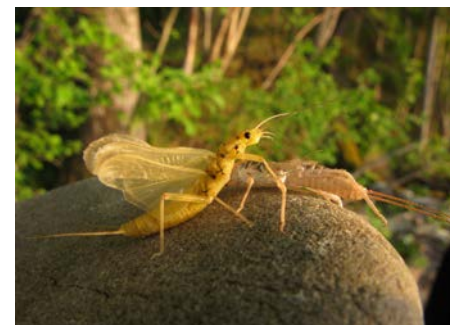
The nature reserve has rich biological diversity with many red-listed species, not least lichens and mosses, and beetles which are associated with



dead wood. The reserve is also known for its bird life, including stock dove, scarlet rosefinch and red-breasted flycatcher. The dipper nests by the Röttleån river, as does the grey wagtail. Eight species of bat have been recorded in and around Röttle. The mountain bulin, which is otherwise only found at the eastern Vättern slopes, is well represented at Röttle.



Silver-washed fritillary



Stonefly

