

10. Västana slott



The northern crested newt is present in the pond here. It is black or very dark brown, with warty skin on its back and sides. Underneath it is yellow or orange, with sharply delimited black patches.

Västana slott (castle) lies south of Gränna, above the rocky slope at Röttle. Today, the castle is a hotel with a golf course. The main building of the castle is flanked by two wings around a gravel square. In front of the castle is a stone wall edged with old trees, including ash, with traces of lopping.

Behind the castle is an old overgrown park with many large, old trees. Beech, oak, ash, lime, horse chestnut and hawthorn dominate. The oldest trees, at least 300 years old, grew a

very long time before the park was laid out. The area southwards between the golf course and the motorway is characterised by old deciduous woodland, with many old trees and dead wood. The park and the woodland are valuable for, among other things, beetles which live in bark and wood, including the rufous-shouldered longhorn beetle and *Anthaxia similis*.

South of the castle is a pond with a good colony of northern crested newts. They live in water when breeding, but otherwise they live under decaying

stumps and similar. Therefore it is very important that there should be older woodland in the vicinity of the breeding ponds.



WORTH KNOWING

The Västanåleden long-distance footpath starts just south of Västanå Castle. The John Bauerleden footpath passes through the area at Sandvik in the south.

HOW TO GET THERE: Take the E4 towards Gränna, turn off on Exit 103 towards Gyllene Uttern, and follow the signs towards Västanå. You can also drive to Röttle and from there take the road up the hill to Västanå (goes under the E4).

PARKING: There is parking at the golf course in Västanå.

BUS: Bus towards Gränna, bus stop Reaby, then a half hour to one hour walk to Västanå.

DIFFICULTY: ● Easy



Brown hawker



Rufous-shouldered longhorn beetle



Northern crested newt