

# 11. Ölabergen, Sjöbergen and Gunneryd



**Ölabergen and Sjöbergen stretch about 7 km southwards from the nature reserve at Västanaå to Gudmunderyd and Vättersmålen. It is a narrow, steep slope, difficult of access, about 100m between the lowest and highest points.**

It is best to approach the slope from the lake, where you can see that the hill falls sheer into Lake Vättern in many places. The area is a nature reserve.

The nature here is dramatic, with different environments, rocky slopes with boulders, steep inclines, rocky tops with old knotty pine trees and deciduous woodland in brook ravines where the slopes are like natural woodland. Tall pine trees and oaks grow on the slope where the soil layer is thin, while spruce and various deciduous trees are on land which is a little more moist.

Here one can see old, sunlit pine trees and dry, dead trees and dead wood. Rare species here include many

beetles. One of them is the longhorned beetle. There are also several rare mosses and lichens.

Bird life is abundant, with lesser spotted woodpecker and small birds such as willow warbler, blackcap and pied flycatcher. The bird's-nest orchid is a small orchid in the wood.

The pasture at Gunneryd is cut through by the E4 road. Here there is open pasture and small fields, grazing land with trees such as oak, pine trees, Swedish whitebeam, wild cherry trees, crab-apple and hazel, juniper bushes, glaucous dog rose and hawthorn. Here one can find plants such as the fern-leaf dropwort, lady's yellow bedstraw, common milkwort, harebell, heather, rock rose and lesser butterfly orchid.

There are wonderful walks.

From the pasture on the west of the motorway there is a magnificent view over Lake Vättern and Visingsö. The open pasture with its flat areas of rock, scattered juniper trees and small bushes is steadily becoming more overgrown with trees and at the edge of the slope towards Lake Vättern it becomes woodland. Perhaps a white-tailed eagle soars overhead, or some other bird of prey uses the uplift above the steep slope. If you are really lucky, you might see a peregrine falcon. Close to here, the lake is at its deepest, 128 metres deep south of Visingsö.

The little village street in Gunneryd is edged by an avenue with old pear trees and majestic horse chestnut



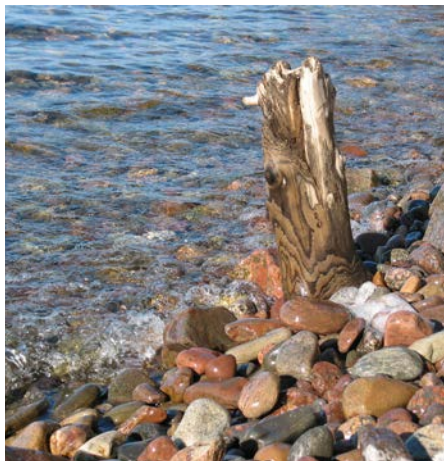
#### WORTH KNOWING

From Wettershus, a steep footpath goes down to Ölands brygga, a stony little inlet of Lake Vättern. Down here one can have a quiet time, bathe, or just enjoy the view towards Visingsö. In clear weather, Omberg can be seen in the north. A long-distance footpath goes through the entire reserve. You reach it from the reserve car park.

**HOW TO GET THERE:** Take the E4 Exit Vättersmålen, signs to Gunneryd and Wettershus.

**PARKING:** There is a small car park at Gunneryd below the E4. From here, a small road goes under the motorway down to the smallholding cottage sites at Lake Vättern. Down at Gunneryds brygga there is a car park, from there a short path with disabled access to the lake and a small bathing place. Another parking place is a few hundred metres before Wettershus, take the road northwards past Öland.

**DIFFICULTY:** ● *Medium*



trees. The buildings are from the 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century.

