

18. Slottsberget



From the highest point of Slottsberget there is a fascinating view over the Skärstaddalen valley.

The slope below Hillinge has varied, open areas of deciduous woodland and agricultural land, enclosed woodland pasture and forest. The area is undulating with many rocky outcrops and flat areas of rock. A brook runs through the Slottsberget nature reserve, which is also called Lyckås ekskog.

On the slopes of the reserve is luxuriant, thick deciduous woodland dominated by oak and hazel. There are big old oaks and dead wood in various stages of decomposition. Other species of tree are ash, maple, common alder and elm. On the heights there are pine trees and a rake-like oak

wood. Crab-apple trees are found in open glades.

During the spring, carpets of wood anemone blossom, and the grove flora is rich with species such as blue anemone, alternate-leaved golden saxifrage, wood stitchwort, true-love and dog's mercury. Wood warbler, stock dove and hawfinch are some of the birds that nest in the area. The visitor can also see the dormouse which builds its nest high up in the dense shrubbery from twigs and branches, leaves and dry grass.

The oak wood has a history as enclosed oak pasture. Lopped ash, birch,

Swedish whitebeam, hazel and juniper bushes are dotted around. In the lower part of the enclosed oak pasture there are two stone circles from the Iron Age.

There is also grazing land north of the reserve. Here, the land is more open than in the deciduous woodland. On the slope below Hillinge is a valuable forest-edge environment.



WORTH KNOWING

A marked path leads through the Slottsberget nature reserve. At suitable places there are benches and tables. Information boards explain about ancient and cultural remains in the area.

HOW TO GET THERE: Drive towards Skärstad, turn left towards Hillinge, there is parking after a couple of hundred metres on the left-hand side.

PARKING: There is a parking area below Slottsberget in the east.

BUS: Bus stop at Skärstad.

DIFFICULTY: ● *Medium*



Red campion



Nuthatch



Oakmoss



Dormouse



Orpine