

14. Björkkullen

At the northern edge of Ölmstad by the road towards Gränna there is a wooded meadow of high botanical value.

People who live nearby call the meadow Björkkullen, the Ölmstad birch park, because there are birch trees in it. Apart from its biological value, the scythe hayfield is an old cultural manifestation. Today, meadowland is



Heath spotted orchid

uncommon and valuable for conservation. Less than 1% of the environments that used to be meadows in the mid 19th century are still cut today.

The meadow

has been unaffected by fertiliser and has a very fine flora. Large parts are covered by viper's-grass, leopard's bane and devil's bit scabious. There are also many species of orchid. Early marsh orchid, lesser butterfly orchid and heath spotted orchid in clumps. Here also are commoner meadow plants such as peach-leaved bellflower, bitter vetch and lady's yellow bedstraw.

Through cooperation with the regional history society and local people, hay has again been cut for some years now. The flora requires the hay to be cut rather late and always removed

from the meadow. Otherwise there is a risk of smothering the plants which this traditional form of cultivation favours.



WORTH KNOWING

The area is a valuable recreation area. Part of it is used as a park/play park.

HOW TO GET THERE: Drive towards Gränna from Ölmstad. Turn in towards Brötjemarks by (village) and continue 350m. Björkkullen is on the left-hand side.

PARKING: A few cars can be parked where the asphalt road ends at Björkkullen.

BUS: From Jönköping/Huskvarna/Gränna to Ölmstad.

DIFFICULTY: ● Very easy