

15. Kyrkröset

The 2,000 year-old grave field at Kyrkröset is in the fertile Ölmstadsdalen valley. Kyrkröset is on a hillock formed when the inland ice sheet retreated.

The area around Kyrkröset (The Church Cairn) is mainly natural pasture and has not been affected by fertilisation, soil liming, draining or the clearing of stones, and has been grazed for a long period of time. It is an attractive enclosed pasture with some sparse, divaricated old oak trees. Conservation value here is connected to the oak trees and the flora which benefit from the traditional land use.

Plants that do well in the natural pasture include viper's-grass and

speedwell. Oxeye daisy, common milkwort, burnet saxifrage and pyramidal bugle are other species that grow in the enclosed pasture.

In the area, breeding boxes have been set out for dormice, made by pupils of the Ölmstad school. The boxes have a hole facing the tree trunk so that the small dormice can get in and out – but not predators. Visitors can peep carefully into the boxes to see how dormice live. They are not disturbed by quiet spectators.

The area is partly listed as an ancient monument area, with 20-25 relics of antiquity. Legends relate that local people once released two white steers; where they stopped a church should be built, and there is now a cairn there, said to be the remains of this church. But according to archaeologists, no church or chapel has ever existed here.



WORTH KNOWING

There is a barbecue site with benches at the entrance to Kyrkröset cairn. From the Ölmstad school a path leads to the area.

HOW TO GET THERE: Drive towards Bunn from the roundabout in Ölmstad. After 400m turn left into Mellangårdsvägen, then left again. The Kyrkröset cairn is on the right after 50m.

PARKING: At Ölmstad school.

BUS: From Jönköping/Huskvarna/Gränna to Ölmstad.

DIFFICULTY: ● Very easy