

12. Ölands by

At Ölands by (village) there is an East Vättern Scarp Landscape Biosphere Reserve demonstration area for tree lopping.

Öland is a large village situated above the Vätterbranterna and the E4 road, some 3 km north of Ölmstad. Around the village is a small-scale, strongly undulating landscape of considerable conservation value. The view over Lake Vättern from the highest parts of the hilly agricultural landscape is enchanting.

There are many lopped trees in the pasture and at the steep, rocky slopes. Many of the lopped trees are old, large and have holes, with a valuable flora of red-listed lichens, including elm gyalecta and the red-listed *Cliostomum corrugatum*, also *Homalothecium sericeum* and Porella liverwort.

Pasture here has many areas of flat rock and rocky outcrops and there is old arable land with deciduous trees, also scree and steep rocky slopes. The hay meadows are not fertilized and have a rich flora including viper's grass, burnet saxifrage, quaking grass, pyramidal bugle, lesser butterfly orchid and devil's bit scabious. Nowadays this land is kept open by grazing.

In the south-eastern part, large, stony meadows were cut with scythes until about 2000. Single oak, alder, birch and mountain ash trees are dotted around in the village grounds and the bush canopy is varied with juniper,

common buckthorn and hawthorn.

Around a brook by the motorway furthest to the east, enclosed forest pasture is grazed. Here, oak, ash and lime trees dominate the tree canopy, and there are many lopping trees which are still worked. Surviving hay meadow flora mixed with dry meadow species are found around the islands of bare rock. Rock rose, *Hypochoeris maculata* and leafless hawk's beard are yellow against maiden pink, common milkwort and burnet saxifrage, red, blue and white. In the spring there is wild garlic in the forest pasture.

At the Måleskogsberget hill by the road northwards is a steep rocky slope



WORTH KNOWING

In the village one can hire horses. Or one can continue towards the Ölabergen/Sjöbergen nature reserve – turn towards the steep slope in the village and drive a few kilometres towards the retreat/Wettershus. There is a path to Ölands brygga, see also Ölabergen.

HOW TO GET THERE: Take the E4 road and turn off towards Vättersmålen, Ölmstad. Turn right and then left at the second unmade road at the sign towards Öland. After about 4 km you are in the Öland village.

PARKING: No specific parking in Öland village, parking at Sjöbergen nature reserve.

DIFFICULTY: ● Easy



Lesser butterfly orchid



Lopped ash

facing east with deciduous woodland, some of which was formerly lopped. Recently the area was cleared and some trees lopped again. The lopped trees are mainly elm and ash, while lime and oak form a higher tree canopy. Some lopped trees are large with holes. Uncommon tree lichens and mosses adorn the trunks.

