


23. The eastern side of Lake Ylen



At the steep, eastern side of Lake Ylen, oak trees are cut free, grazing land is restored and an old barn from the 18th century is given new cladding and roof.

At the farms of Holma and Hemmingstorp Norrgården in the parish of Järsnäs, enterprising landowners want to restore the old agricultural landscape with its natural and cultural values. Here the key words are small-scale, ecological farming, and tradition.

At Norrgården in Hemmingstorp, the farmers are working to restore the pastures which have become overgrown since they were last grazed in the 1960s. It is the largest ongoing restoration project in the county, and about 10 hectares of grazing land has been opened up. There is also wet wooded pasture, carefully preserved to retain its ecological quality. There

is an old barn at the northern part of the property on the steep slope facing Lake Ylen. It is believed to be from the 1700s and is being renovated to restore its original appearance and condition. Here you can bring your “fika” (coffee and sandwich), look at the barn and the unique view.

The winding gravel road towards Holma is edged on the southern side by magnificent, enormous oak trees, several over 250 years old. At Holma there is intensive work by the landowners to help older oaks by cutting them free, giving more light and space for many species. Their branches are actually very sensitive to being impinged upon, and then start to die. This can

be positive in a purely biological sense in the short-term, because many lichens, fungi and wood-living insects are favoured by this, but it is better that the oak trees should live as long as possible. Red-listed species, such as the elm gyalecta, may be found on some old ash stump with new shoots.

The lichen *Schismatomma pericleum* is found on the oaks furthest to the east. Here there is alder marsh woodland which is biotope-protected, it has old common alder and ash. It is just east of Holma, and a little further eastwards/northwards along the road you can see plantations of ash and wild cherry trees, which are not all that common. Newly planted



WORTH KNOWING

Holma gård dates back to the 12th century when it was owned by the Bishop of the Diocese of Linköping. On the Lusthusön island in Lake Ylen just below the Holma farm, there was previously a pavilion built in the 19th century. Today, the island has both black-throated diver and osprey.

HOW TO GET THERE: From Lekeryd take the road towards Aneby and after 7 km turn towards Ryd. Drive about 4 km and just after passing the canal between Ylen and Stora Nätaren turn towards Hemmingstorp. Alternatively, drive from Lekeryd towards Svarttorp and turn left towards Björkudden. Go round the lake, and a few kilometres after Lilla Björkudden you are at Hemmingstorp Norrgården.

PARKING: At the old barn at Norrgården or at the old mechanical “rock lift”. You can also stop for a short time at passing places along the road from the south.

DIFFICULTY: ● Easy



Vendace



deciduous woodland is needed for timber. Some ash saplings have a difficult time because of the ash die-back disease, but most of them recover.



Black-throated diver eating crayfish

