25. Eskilstorps ormgranar

There is a very unusual variety of spruce about 4 km south of Lekeryd in Eskilstorp.

These trees grow alongside ordinary spruce in an area about one hectare in extent, which is a nature reserve.

Their extraordinary appearance is due to a mutation: the trees have lost the ability to form side shoots on their branches. The trunk of the tree or a branch can grow for several years without forming any side shoots, or just a few. The hanging, snake-like branches are sparse on the trunk.

In Eskilstorp, there are about a hundred of these spruce trees. Some are 150 – 200 years old.

WORTH KNOWING

From the parking area, a marked path follows a field edge to an enclosed pasture with the ruins of a cottage and a couple of these unusual trees. In the enclosed field, there are more old trees. The path continues through the reserve.

HOW TO GET THERE: Take the Anebyvägen road (Road 132) to Lekeryd. Turn right towards Forserum, turn right after 4 km.

PARKING: There is a small parking area by the road 4 km south of Lekeryd.

DIFFICULTY: Easy