

36. Strömsberg

In the spring there is much birdsong here, with robin, willow warbler, chaffinch, wood warbler, song thrush, blackcap and the rare red-breasted flycatcher. There are four species of woodpecker: great and lesser spotted woodpecker, green woodpecker and black woodpecker.

The Strömsberg nature reserve is 5 km south of the centre of Jönköping and just a few hundred metres from Ljungarums kyrkby.

The nature reserve is part of the deciduous woodland slope which stretches from Bondberget over the A6 right down to Barnarp. The varied deciduous woodland at Strömsberg is a popular open-air recreation area. In the hilly terrain of the nature reserve are many small paths and colour-marked jogging tracks. The Södra Vätterleden path passes through the Strömsberg wood, which is also used as a school wood for education. The greater part of the Strömsberg

Wood is the remains of an old agricultural landscape, which at one time broadened out on the slope above Strömsbergs Gård (farm). Above Strömsbergs gård is a planted beechwood, where the oldest trees are more than a hundred years old. From the picnic area at the beechwood is a fantastic view over Jönköping and the Södra Vätterbygden countryside.

The brook has cut several deep ravines in the deciduous woodland slope. Here, grey alder and hazel dominate. On the esker ridges there is a rich hazel, oak and birch woodland. In Strömsberg one can find most of the country's deciduous trees and bushes,

including hawthorn, elder and guelder-rose. The flowers include grove plants, blue anemone, yellow wood anemone and white wood anemone, dog's mercury, lungwort and coral-root bittercress. In the ravines are wood stitchwort and the impressive ostrich fern.

The Strömsberg wood has a few old, very large trees, mainly oak and also lime trees and crab-apple, which bear witness to the former open agricultural landscape. An enormous oak which is more than 620cm in circumference is estimated to be almost 600 years old. There is a tawny owl's nest in the hollow trunk.



WORTH KNOWING

There are beautiful birch avenues on the edge of the tracks up through the arable fields above Strömsbergs Gård (farm). Highest up in the south-east is Vassnöden, a pasture with old willow and common alder trees.

HOW TO GET THERE: Herkulesvägen towards the Ljungarum industrial area, left at the sign Strömsberg. Right at the Naturreservat (nature reserve) sign.

PARKING: North of Strömsbergs Gård, and south of it a little higher up on the slope (southern parking place).

BUS: Bus to Råslätt, bus stop Ljungarums kyrka (church), go through the avenue of trees towards Strömsbergs Gård. Or bus towards Norrahammar, bus stop Ljungarum. Walk along Ljungarumsvägen to the avenue.

DIFFICULTY: ● *Medium*



In some places in the Strömsberg wood are fallen trees with rotting trunks. Several fell in the storms named Gudrun and Per.

The once-open landscape is becoming a rich virgin forest with everything from mosses and lichens to woodliving insects, woodland mammals and birds.



Yellow wood anemone



Ostrich fern



The Vasa oak tree, one of Jönköping's largest