

54. Spaafors at Nissan and Krakhultabäcken

The Nissan river runs through a heritage countryside of ironworks and sawmills. Today, it is a place to experience the natural environment, listen to the water and explore open marshland and enclosed deciduous marsh woodland.

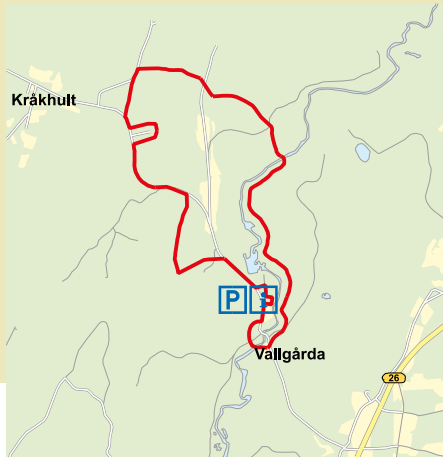
The river water that flows through Spaafors used to power watermills for tilt hammers and saws. Pig iron was refined from the blast furnace at Unnaryd, making it into malleable iron for equipment. Later, there was a sawmill. Machinery is still there, including the watermill with turbines, now part of the heritage of the municipality.

Apart from woodland paths and planked paths there are several small woodland tracks and gravel roads

in the area. One of them leads westward to the Vallgårdaterrassen terrace, which has been an agricultural landscape for a very long time. Here are ancient remains, mounds of stones from cleared ground, ancient fields and an abandoned churchyard. The Krakhultabäcken brook runs close by.

The Krakhultabäcken brook is one of the many tributaries of the Nissan river and is a nature reserve. The fall height down to the Nissan river is 100 metres, with many rapids

and waterfalls on the way. The brook has a good number of species of fish; salmon trout, brook lamprey, burbot and minnow among others. Creatures which live on the bottom of the brook include the larvae of rare mayflies and caddis flies which are sensitive to acidification.



WORTH KNOWING

Spaafors is a diocesan reserve with long-distance footpaths in the surrounding woodland and alongside the Nissan river. There are also many woodland tracks and gravel roads in the woodland and agricultural land. The Krakhultabäcken brook up in the north-eastern part of the area is a nature reserve.

HOW TO GET THERE: From Jönköping, road 40 westwards then road 26, Nissastigen. Pass Ryd and drive about 9 km. Turn off at the road sign, Elsabo, Vallgård. After 1 km you reach Spaafors.

PARKING: At the open-air recreation area.

DIFFICULTY: ● *Medium*

