



The walking route "Nässjaleden"

The agricultural landscape is well managed and attractive. There are ample opportunities for recreation. Visitors can follow footpaths through the varied nature. The Nässjaleden is a three kilometre long walking route. The starting point is at the most westerly farm. Walkers will pass through wooded grassland and reach the lake shore. There is a special area arranged for barbecues. From there, the path leads southwards along the shore to Löjerudd, further eastward along the southern shore and then northward back to the car park. Alternatively, there is a shortcut, see the map.

Remnants of the manufacture of iron

The path leading south past the most westerly farm takes walkers to one of the places where iron was once produced. It is an oval, elevated area, some 5–6metres by 11metres and up to 60centimetres high.

A beach

The above footpath leads further to a small beach well suited for a swim in the clean waters of Lake Unnen.

Resting place for canoeists

A resting place with a simple shelter where it is possible to spend a night is located near the shore on Nässja udde. There is also a place for barbecue. Barbecuing is allowed at most times, but all outdoor fires are prohibited during drought.

Further reading

The year books of Södra Unnaryd–Jälluntofta Society for Cultural Heritage of 1961 and 1983 contain more information about Nässja but only in Swedish. These and other relevant books are available at the library in Unnaryd.

How to get there?

Branch off the road between Unnaryd and Odensjö some 5km from Unnaryd where there is a sign "Sjö". A recommended option is to leave the car at the junction and take a three-kilometre walk (one way) to the western tip. Walking one way will take less than an hour without rushing. Some nice body exercise is a bonus! It is of course also possible to reach Nässja by boat on Lake Unnen.

Illustration on cover: The shore of Lake Unnen at Nässja. Main sources of information: "Herresäten i S. Unnaryd" by Gunnar Lundin, published in "Södra Unnaryd–Jälluntofta Fornminnes- och Hembygdsförenings Årsskrift 1983"; "Här är din vilda släkt, Ugglan", from "Aftonbladets Nöjesliv", 5.12.2005; "En Nässja-gård" by Adolf Fred, published in "Södra Unnaryd–Jälluntofta Fornminnes- och Hembygdsförenings Årsskrift 1961"; Sören Kabell, Unnaryd. **Research:** Malin Ekwall. **Text:** Karin Tengnäs. **Photo:** Bo Tengnäs. **Logotype:** Lars Lidman. **Design:** Tecknaregården/Willy Lindström. **Production:** Naturbruk AB/Bo Tengnäs. **Project coordination:** Bitte Rosén Nilsson, Hylte kommun. **Copyright:** Naturbruk AB. **Year:** 2006. The brochures "In the Wake of Ebbe Skammelson" are available on www.unnaryd.com and www.hylte.se



IN THE WAKE OF EBBE SKAMMELSON



In the 18th century, Anders Johansson lived and worked in Nässja. He was married to Britta. One day Britta disappeared completely from the house. When she came back after some time she told of amazing experiences. Trolls had taken her to a mountain nearby. There she had to milk 18 white cows every day. It was only when she managed to pass through a 6 inch wide gap between a wall and a pole seven times that she was released. The clergyman did not appreciate the story. He did not like superstition. Britta was called for interrogation. She confessed that the story was made up by her. The reality was that she had been hiding in the hay barn where a man had been giving her food. The reason why she went into hiding was that Anders, her husband, was cruel and their living together had become unbearable. The clergyman was sympathetic and understanding. After some time Anders got a letter from the trolls. They threatened to remove Britta forever from him unless he improved his behaviour as a husband.....

Translation of a story by Adolf Fred published in the yearbook 1961, Södra Unnaryd–Jälluntofta Society for Cultural Heritage.

Nässja is a very scenic place located on a peninsula in Lake Unnen. There is a good place for outdoor swimming and an attractive mix of open fields, wooded grazing areas and forest. There is a beautiful beech forest by the lake, north of the most westerly farm. Rare mosses and lichen can be found there resulting in the area being classified as a key-habitat area. This means that endangered species live there and such forest is to be managed with great care.



Löjerudd.

Love across the lake

He lived on one side of the lake and she was on the other. They married and got three children but nevertheless they continued staying on their respective farms. They commuted, summertime rowing, wintertime on the ice. Farming and animal husbandry continued on both sides and the forests were well managed. The three children continued the work of the parents until they aged. Carl Oscar was the one to survive longest. As a token of love for his home area he wrote in his will that all people of Unnaryd, including those who did not own land, should have been able to enjoy the forests and the shores of Lake Unnen as if it was theirs. Therefore, he donated the farms to the Society for Village Affairs in Unnaryd.

It is possible to see Sjö from the southern tip of the Nässja Peninsula. A clearly visible hollow-way leads from the western tip of the peninsula to the village. This road bears witness of transport efforts. For centuries, ox-cart loads were transported between the lake and the village. Wagon wheels and hooves of oxen have worn away the soft ground.

Fascinating nature



The Nässja landscape offers scenic views. Here, towards the north with the church of Unnaryd at a distance.

An exciting geology

The glacier, which covered the country for a long time, was in constant motion from northeast towards southwest. The ice was heavy and the motion caused crushing and transportation of rocks and gravel. As a result, a layer of soil was formed containing crushed particles of different sizes; big rocks as well as fine clay particles. Such soil is known as moraine. The ice delivered moraine to the ice frontier where it was deposited. As long as the ice frontier withdrew at an even pace the moraine was well spread in the landscape. However, during some periods, the climate did not improve and thus the frontier remained at roughly the same place for some period of time. Climate changes could even result in temporary advances of the ice frontier. A result of such delays in the melting and “withdrawal” of the ice was that heaps or ridges of moraine accumulated at the ice frontier. Such ridges are known as end moraines or terminal moraines. About 12,700 years ago a long end moraine was formed in southwest Sweden. Although not continuous all the way, it is possible to follow a ridge in the landscape from the area around Gothenburg through a well-known ridge called Fjärås Bräcka through the Torup area and to an easterly point at Nässja. The western tip, Nässja Udde, consists of such moraine material brought by the glacier.

Ancient relics

There are several relics from ancient times around Nässja providing evidence that the area has been inhabited for a long time. Pieces of worked flint as well as animal teeth have been found at Nässja udde indicating that this was a settlement during the Stone Age. There are also cairns in that area. Such cairns have been formed by people as they have removed stones from fields to facilitate cultivation. These clearance cairns indicate that the area was once cultivated. Elsewhere on the Nässja peninsula there are remnants of the manufacturing of iron. In this area iron was produced from ore that was collected from the bottom of lakes or bogs, so

The beach.



called bog ore. The manufacture of iron generated heaps of useless slag. There are such heaps at three different locations at Nässja.

Important men

The oldest known written evidence about Nässja dates back to 1466. The village was called Nexerydh by then. It is likely that a man called Jöns Erlandsson lived at Nässja early in the 15th century. There is some historical evidence that this man was the first known ancestor of the Swedish noble families Hård and Liljesparre. Some 200 years later descendants in the Hård family appeared as owners of Norrnäs and Sundranäs at southern Bolmen. In 1576

the nobleman Mickel Arvidsson Uggla became the owner and resident of Nässja. His title was Supreme District Judge, but nevertheless it is known that he ran into trouble at least once. He was beaten and stabbed with a knife at a meeting with male members of the national bourgeoisie at Vadstena in June 1598. The attacker was a Duke Karl, the same man that later became King Karl IX. The conflict originated in the competition between King Sigismund in Poland and Karl regarding who was entitled to the Swedish throne. Mickel did, at least at that time, support King Sigismund. Mickel's grandfather had been an advisor to the Swedish political leader Sten Sture during a period when the Nordic countries formed a Union. Mickel also had a brother Claes and 12



A milk stand as in the past.

generations later a descendent to this brother Claes appears on the scene: the Swedish musician Magnus Uggla.

Nässja was classified as a manor from the 16th century until 1826. In 1828, the newly formed four Nässja farms were bought by local farmers with full ownership rights.

One of the Nässja farms

The main residential building of one of the Nässja farms is a special building both with regard to size and architecture. The building is 25m long and constructed from pine timber. There are two storeys with a total of 13 rooms - at least 10 have been used for residential purposes. The second floor is particularly interesting with its arched ceiling. The wall paper is hand-painted and there are also paintings directly on the timber. According to information obtained from elders a farmer called Nils Andersson constructed the building in the 1840s, but the year 1829 is carved in a wooden wall. This may be the year the building was constructed.



The Stone Age is a collective word for the longest part of prehistory. In the Nordic countries, it is commonly divided in an earlier part and a latter part. The earlier part started in the Nordic countries more than 10,000 years ago. The latter part, which was the time when people became sedentary farmers, is about 4300–1800 B.C.

A manor (säteri, sätesgård) was originally a landholding owned and inhabited by a person belonging to the noblesse. As the noblesse had privileges such landholdings were exempted from land tax. The building was supposed to be well maintained to match the status of the owner. The tax privileges could be jeopardised if the building or the land was neglected.

The resting place for canoeists on Nässja udde.

