



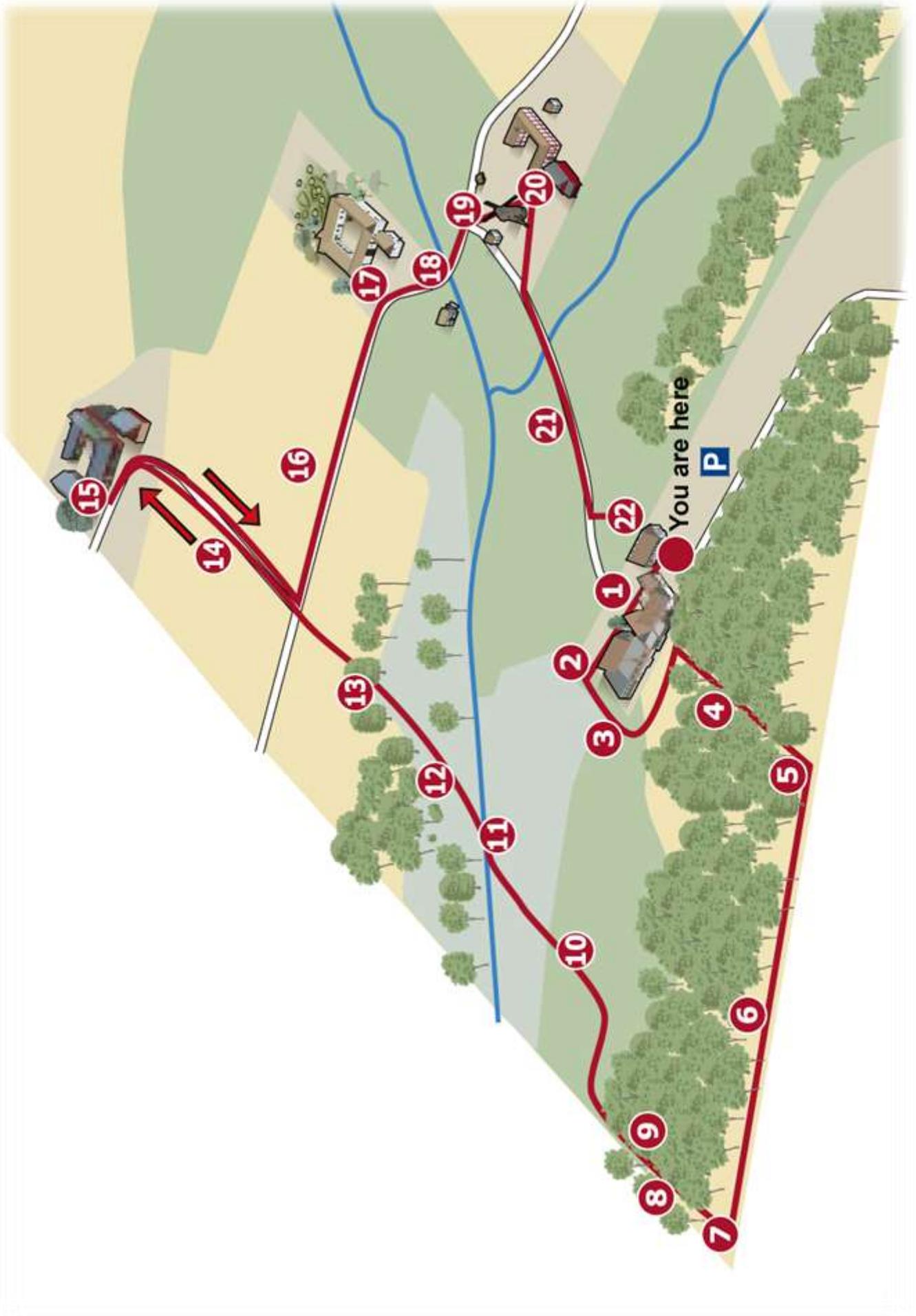
The Östarp trail

Searching for impressions

This is where your walk begins. It will take you past flora, fauna, humans, and houses. If you are observant, you might meet different types of magical beings. Follow the red clogs on the yellow pillars and they will lead you to the red numbered signs.

The walk is 1.8 km and will take you along paths and over cattle grids and wooden foot bridges.

Welcome to the nature!



1

Look around! The view of the slopes of Romeleåsen seen from here is magnificent. This area was formed 17 000 years ago when the ice sheets melted in Skåne (Scania).

Further away you can see different types of houses and in between is the cultural landscape. It is an area that has been cultivated and where people have kept animals during hundreds of years. Can you see any grazing animals at this moment? Östarps Gästgivaregård (the restaurant) opened in 1924, the same year Kulturens Östarp became an open-air museum. After a generous donation to the founder of Kulturen, Georg Karlin, he was able to purchase the land on which Gamlegård (the white farm from 1810s that you will walk past later) is situated. The generous donor wanted to eat well when she visited the museum, so the story tells that the restaurant was built to accommodate her needs. In the old days a 'gästgivaregård' was an important place where one could change horses, stay for the night, and of course get a meal. You can still get a well-cooked meal or a 'fika' at Östarps Gästgivaregård.



*The donor, Willhelmina
Von Hallwyl*



Georg Karlin

2



The giant tree on your right-hand side is a beech. How old do you think it is? This kind of tree came to Skåne from southern Europe 2 500 years ago. Back in time the beechnut was the most valuable on the tree. Beechnuts were the favorite food for the pigs that wandered around in the forest. It has been told that during the 1600 century a woman named Beata Bille (see the photo) had 60 beechnutpigs in these surroundings.

Have you guessed the age of the tree yet?
It is around 200 years.

Please walk across the cattle grid/guard (the metal bridge that the animals cannot walk across) into the meadow and over the wooden footbridge.

3

In the meadow, the grazing stock (the farm animals) had an important chore: to eat and keep the trees away for the meadow not to go wild. There were no fencing around the animals. A child went with them during the day to keep them from harm or getting lost. Stories tell that these 'grazing children' could see the elves dancing, with pale and beautiful faces and their dresses were white and swept around in the dewy grass. A boy's mother warned him not to dance with the elves as he could fall ill or become insane. If he needed to pee during the day, he had to tell the elves beforehand as they lived in the soil and could become angry if they had not been warned.

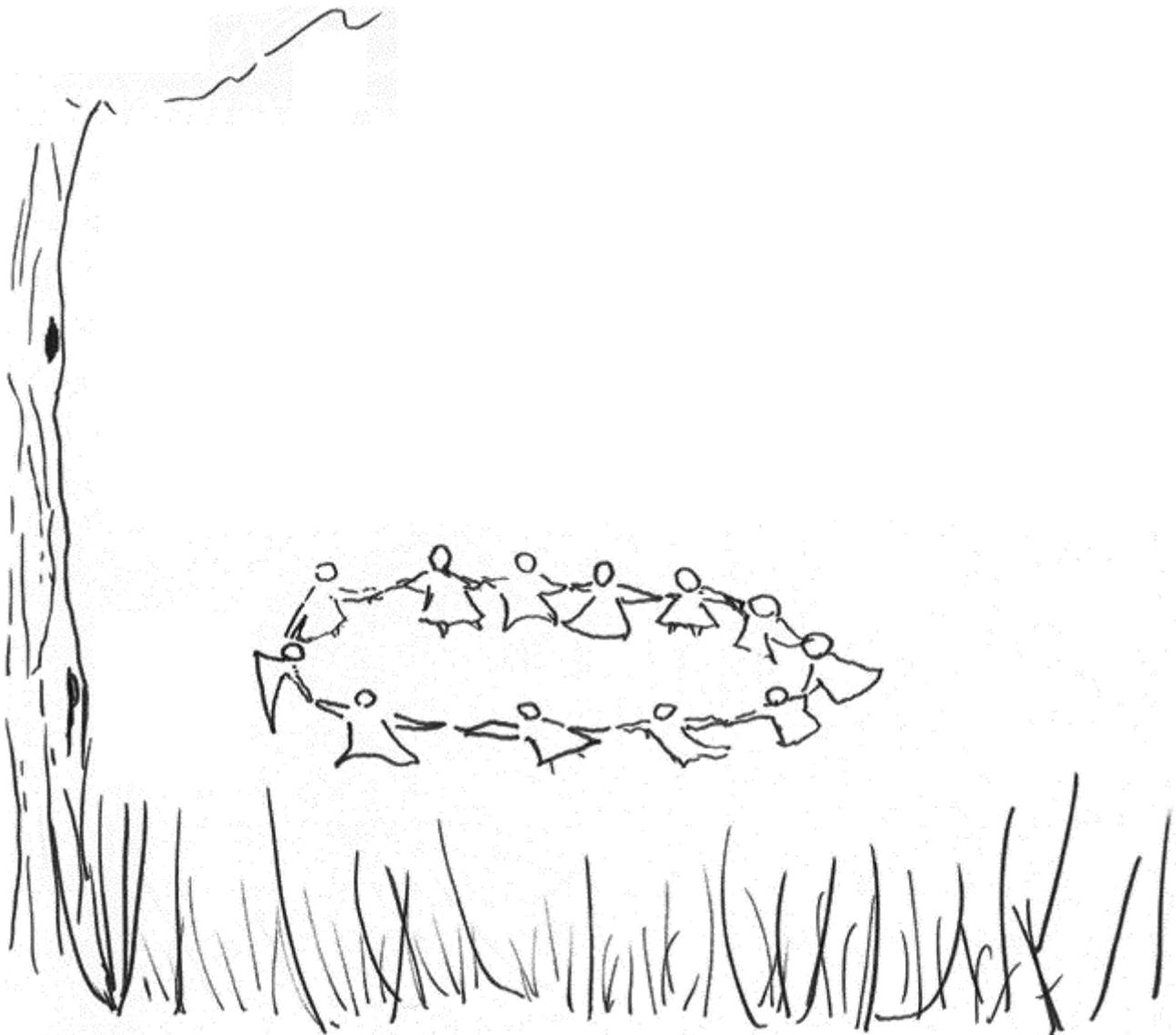


Illustration Sigrid Bakran

4



During the 1800s the agricultural land around us at this place, was called "utmarken", and was placed away from the farm. The forest was sparse, and during the 18th century almost all trees had been removed. Where you stand now was an area of fields. Today the forest is back consisting of beech, pine, oak, and birch. In springtime and early summer, you can see for example Lilies-of-the-valley, Wood anemone and Wood sorrel in bloom. You can also find May lily, Solomon's seal, Arctic starflower, and Woodruff.

Please look in the yellow cabinet if you want to know what these plants look like.

Now you have reached a path that one used, by foot or by horse. A story tells of a man who once saw a moose walking this path. The strange thing was the woman with long greenish hair sitting on the moose. He was so fond of her that he wanted to follow her and the magnificent moose. When he saw the back of the woman there was only a hollow tree trunk. It was the "skogssnuvan/skogsrået". She is a magical being, known to make people, especially boys and men, getting lost in the forest. The man immediately turned his jacket inside out, which still is the best way to protect oneself from her temptation.

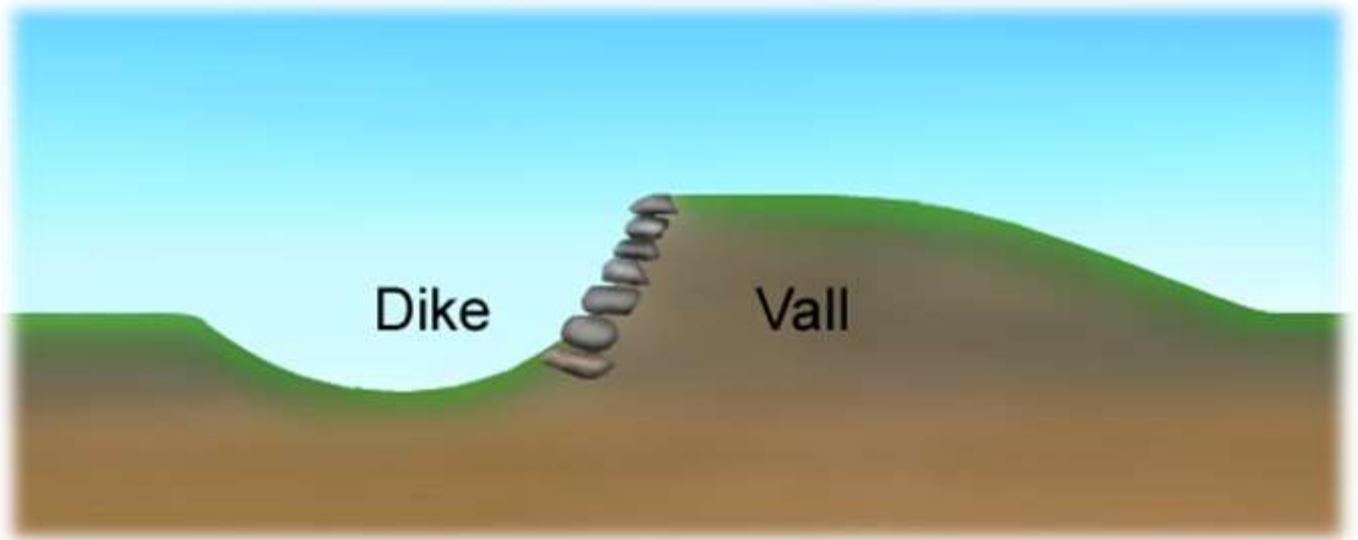


6

In the forest, you can find many different types of animals – and magical beings. During all times humans, animals and beings have lived alongside each other and shared the land and the forest. They have helped each other in different ways but wild animals can cause trouble to humans. Wild boar can ruin much when they grub in the soil after something to eat. But by grubbing the soil they also push cones and acorns into the ground, which then grows and becomes new trees. *Please look in the yellow cabinet if you would like to see what some of the forest animals look like.* On your right-hand side, you can see the hollow in the embankment where the wild boars pass during their nightly walks.

Please notice the sign of the boar passageway.





An embankment in combination with a stone wall was called an embankmentpit (swe: vallgrop). It had a pit in front and a wall that covered with brushwood to make it difficult for the grazing stock to walk across. Embankments and enclosures (fences, stone wall) were created to protect the fields and meadows from the gazing animals. Stone walls befriends both flora and fauna. Underneath a stone you can find for example centipedes, wood lice, beetles, and ants but also helix and sometimes salamanders. On a sunny day you could even find lady bugs and locusts on the embankment.

Please open the cabinet if you want to see some of these small animals.



Hazel and small rowan trees grow along this path. They have been useful to humans and animals both back then and in present time. Many like to crack hazelnuts at Christmas. Rowan berry jelly to the Sunday supper can be nice. Do you know that the rowan berries are sour, and that they contain much vitamin C? The wood is hard and tough. A small piece of rowan was put in boats or ploughs in the olden days to bring luck. In addition to that the rowan is one of the 'God-tree' according to Nordic Mythology. The Gods Thor and Loki was once lured into a river by trolls and was about

to drown. At the last minute Thor got hold of a branch – of a rowan – and survived.

9

This area was named 'lycka' in the old days. There used to be a field here that in some years was not cultivated but grazed by animals. Can you see any sheep and their lamb? If you can, you are lucky. The sheep help us taking care of the grounds so this place can be a "lycka" once again. Please be gentle with our furry friends.



10

On this slope you can find several large oaktrees and beeches. You can also find crabapple-trees (wild apple). In the past, it was common to pick these small and sour apples to make jelly. Maybe you are lucky enough to find blackberries on your walk down the slope. You can eat them but watch out for the thorns!

11

Now you have reached the 'stubbskottskog' where altrees stand with their roots in the damp soil. Just where they thrive. In the past, one used the tree trunks to plait fences. One could also use altree to make kitchen utensils like bowls and ladles. The most common thing to make was clogs (wooden shoe). Walk across the little bridge and look at the water running underneath.

Please have a look in the box to look at pictures of the flowers growing here. If you are lucky, you might see one for real!

12

On this old path, the people have driven their horse-and-carriage to collect hay or brushwood. Sometimes the 'goenisse' (elf) would come along. He was a tiny old man dressed in grey who took care of the animals in the barn. He would get angry easily if you were lazy or mean. If you did not have a 'goenisse' on your farm one could put knitted mittens behind the church where you attended the Sunday service. If you were lucky, a vacant 'goenisse' would find them and move in with you. To keep him happy and wanting to stay it was important to give him porridge at Christmas. Preferably with butter on top.



13

If you look closely at the ground, one can see the remains of an embankment that used to be much more distinct. It divided the grazing meadows from the cultivated land. In the 1930s these grounds were managed by Per Jönsson. He lived at the farm we now call 'The Alriks-farm'. In the picture, you can see Pers son Alrik. Per wrote down everything he grew and what animals were kept at the farm. As their grounds lacked nutrition it was mainly rye that was cultivated here. Apart from making flour they did also use the long straws when making thatched roofs.



We still use straws from rye when we thatch roofs at Gamlegård.

Come. Let us continue to the farm of Alrik.

14

You are now passing the cultivated lands that once belonged to Alrik Jönsson. Sometimes it was grain growing here, and sometimes it was potatoes. In between those crops, the land was used as pasture for the animals and many periods the grounds lay fallow. That means the grounds were resting, without being cultivated, as the grounds here are very poor/meagre. If you are lucky, you might see beautiful flowers, such Sheep's bit scabies (Blue bonnets) or hawksbeard on your way.



15

Now we have reached the farm of Alrik Jönsson. The truth is, they were three brothers living here: Alrik, Einar, and Gunnar. They also had a younger sister named Anna, but she married and moved to another farm. When Anna was little, she had to rise early to milk the cows and thereafter walk the 3 kilometers to the school in Everlöv. She always brought sandwiches for packed lunch. If there was a lot of snow, the father took them to school in their sleigh. Now, turn around and walk back the same way, so you can continue the trail.

16



The 'Villageroad of Östarp', that was the name of this sandy little road. Along this road, three farms were placed on the same side. Today only Gamlegård remain. But take a moment to imagine what it may have looked like back in time. Who lived here? Who were the people walking here? Maybe some children walked here on their way to a friend's house – when they were not needed in the work at the farm.

17

Gamlegård was built in the 1810s for Anders Pålsson and his family who had just moved to Östarp. A couple of years previously another farm had burnt down at this place. It has been told that Anders found a treasure in the garden (on the other side of the house) that really belonged to ghouls. They warned him not to take the treasure, but he took it anyway. As punishment, his family should be extinct after three generations. His grandchild – Hanna Jöns Persson – was the last member of the family at this farm before it became a museum. Maybe one should listen to the ghouls? Please take a walk in

the beautiful garden that has been kept after Hanna, and maybe there is a new treasure chest to be found – if you dare!

18



As a snake you can see the creek – Orehusbäcken- meandering through the surroundings. You can also see the Hålebäck that connects with Orehusbäcken. Do not walk too close as you can never be sure if the 'Bäckhästen' is waiting for you there. He is a horselooking creature that lets you sit on his back, but suddenly he dives underneath the water, and you can drown. Sometimes one can see a naked man playing his violin – 'Näcken'. It sounds so enchantingly beautiful when he plays – but be careful. His music will lure you to walk into the depths of the water and you might not be able to get back up. From here, you can also see the water mill that was used to grind flour of the grain that was cultivated on the fields. During summer you can see ducks and geese in the pond close to the mill.

19

This little cottage is called 'Brytestugan', where one dried flax. From flax one made thread that later was used to weave material to make clothing. Drying flax was a dangerous, flammable task. Therefore, a small cottage was built away from the house and preferably dug into the ground –or like here in a slope. The cottage next to it is 'malttorkan' where barley was dried. The grain was used to brew beer. If you step inside, you can see the 'galt' which is the clay-oven where one carefully stoked up a fire to dry the malt. *You can also find other interesting things to do with beer-brewing.*



20

Can you believe that this large windmill once stood in the city of Lund? How was it brought here? Was it taken apart into smaller pieces to be put together again at this place? Imagine the look of the large wings when in use and the miller looking out of the window.

The animal keeper (gårdsbrukaren) lives at Møllegården and has done so since this area became an open-air museum in 1924. Møllegården was built the same year.



21

This is a meadow for mowing/scything. Back in time one used a scythe to cut the grass. It was then dried on 'hässjor' (wooden pole) to become hay that was given to the animals during the winter. During early summer, you can see many different plants here, including a wild- growing orchid.



22

A beautiful place to sit – you have reached the end of the walk! Please have a seat and relax for a while. Enjoy!

KULTUREN

©Kulturen 2022

Writer: Kristina Bakran

Photographs: Kristina Bakran, Jessica Ljung, Kulturen archives

Layout: Ivan Bakran

Illustrations: Sigríd Bakran