



# Karum's outlying land

Welcome to Karum's outlying land. In the past the outlying land was common pastureland of the village, but in central Öland many outlying lands have become overgrown. Here in Karum some of the outlying land have been cleared and farm animals brought to pasture, and help keep them open by grazing. In addition to grazing animals you will also see plants, birds and insects that thrive here – enjoy the tour!

## ALVAR AND THE KING'S HUNTING PARK

The outlying land lie on the alvar. The alvar consists of limestone pavement – a limestone base which offers very thin topsoil. For that reason such areas are mainly used for grazing. Areas of alvar lie on the islands of Öland and Gotland.

At one time all the outlying land on Öland were one big royal hunting park. From 1569 to 1801 it was only the king and his retinue who were allowed to hunt here. The farmers were not even allowed to cut firewood!

## FREE GRAZING AND SHEPHERDS

The outlying land was not divided by stone walls along the villages borders. Horses and young beef cattle could graze freely here. The farmers separated their animals by marking their ears with holes and cuts. They also employed shepherds, both male and female, to guard the sheep.

## STRANGE NAMES FOR THE OUTLYING LAND

Karum's outlying land include a number of small fields called horvor, for example Djurmanshorvorna (Animal Man's horva), Vaktarhorvan (Guardian horva) and Ödehorvorna (The Deserted horvas). To keep out grazing animals, stone walls were built around the horva areas. In the past everything in the landscape had a name. There was also Flathäll (Flat Rock), Yttersta Skogsmarken (Outer Forestland) and Byskekärr (Byske Bog) – perhaps the animals could drink water there.

## OUTLYING LAND AS A QUARRYING AND BURIAL SITE

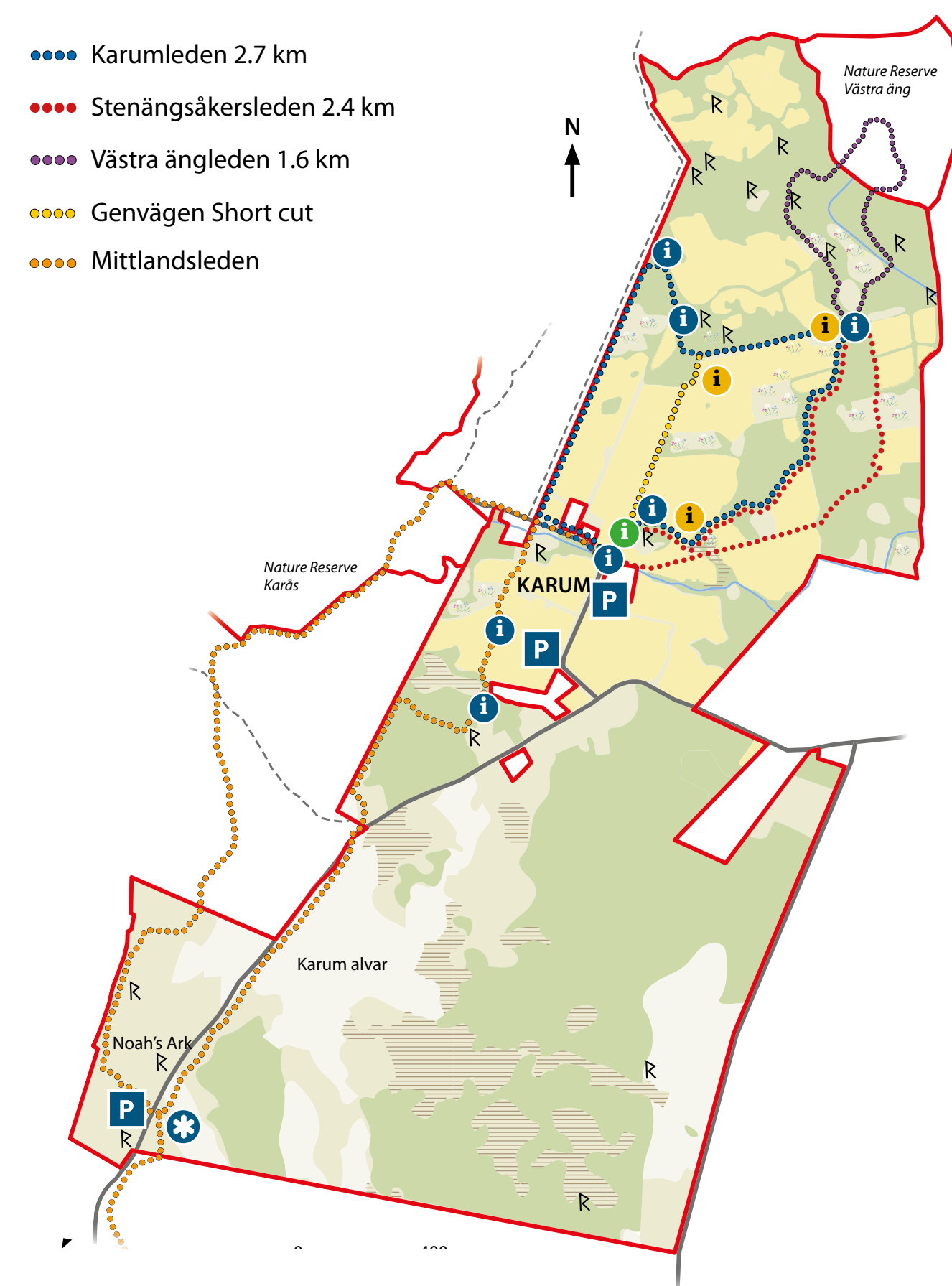
In the outlying land the farmers dug clay, limestone and gravel for their building material. That is why you see so many pits on the alvar. Limestone was also a big export. The people who lived here in historical times also used stone, among other things for the large burial area on the other side of the road. There you can see the remains of limestone slabs and the strange ancient remains of the so called Noah's Ark – don't miss that!



On the photograph from 1906 a man is herding sheep in Skärlöv on Öland.



Today, both beef cattle and sheep graze on Karum's outlying land. The sheep are of an ancient Gotland breed called Gutefår. Gutefår are good at keeping land open since they graze on grass, twigs and brush. Nowadays there are fences around grazing land, but in the past it was the fields and meadows that were fenced in.



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