



Svältan, Karum's Malmen

You are now standing at Karum's Malmen community, where those who did not own land and a house in the village lived. It was a varied assembly who lived here, but they had one thing in common – they were poor. Karum's Malmen was therefore called Svältan (Starvation). In the 1870s many emigrated to America in search of a better life. Svältan was emptied and the houses demolished.

DEPENDENT WIDOWS AND WIDOWERS

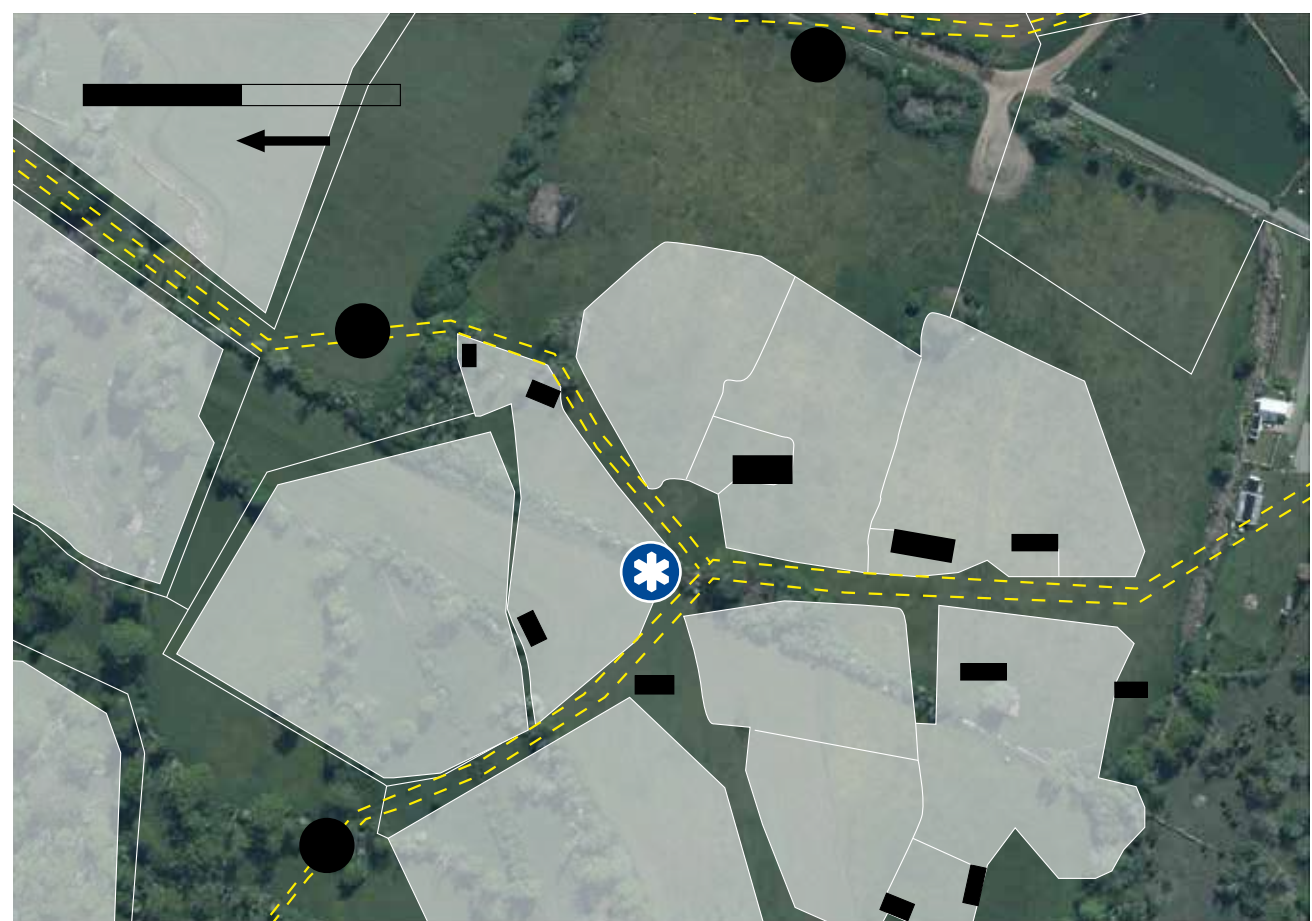
When Karum was at its biggest in 1870, the village had 102 inhabitants. 32 of them lived here in Malmen. Just like in other villages on Öland, Malmen lay on the outskirts of the village. Unlike the farmers, the inhabitants of Malmen owned no land that they could live off. However, they could grow potatoes, cabbages and swedes on patches and grow grain on small fields. Most inhabitants were single widows, widowers or landless people without a house of their own. They lodged with the families in the small cottages in return for a small allowance. Some of them were so poor they owned only the clothes they stood up in.

BOSUN REDIG

Johan Nilsson Redig was one of those who lived here in the 19th century. He was a former bosun in the Navy. The farmers in Karum provided Johan and his family with a croft. The croft included a small field and a meadow which could provide winter hay for one cow. Johan's wife and children had to do most things in the household when Johan was working in the village.

LIFE ARTISTS AND CRAFTERS

The inhabitants of Svältan made a living as fishers, maids, farmhands and crafters such as shoemakers, tailors and smiths. Others were workers in the village when there was a lot to do, for example during autumn haymaking and harvesting. At other times of the year they had different types of all-round work. For a while a miller also lived in Svältan. Perhaps he worked in the windmill which still stands on Svältbacken Hill. If you have not already been there, feel free to continue that way.



Here you see an aerial photo showing part of Svältan and where you are standing. We have also drawn what Svältan looked like in 1817: White areas were the cottage plots with small patches and fields for cultivation.

The black squares were cottages and outbuildings. So five buildings stood in front of you on the other side of the stone wall. The wall did not exist back then.

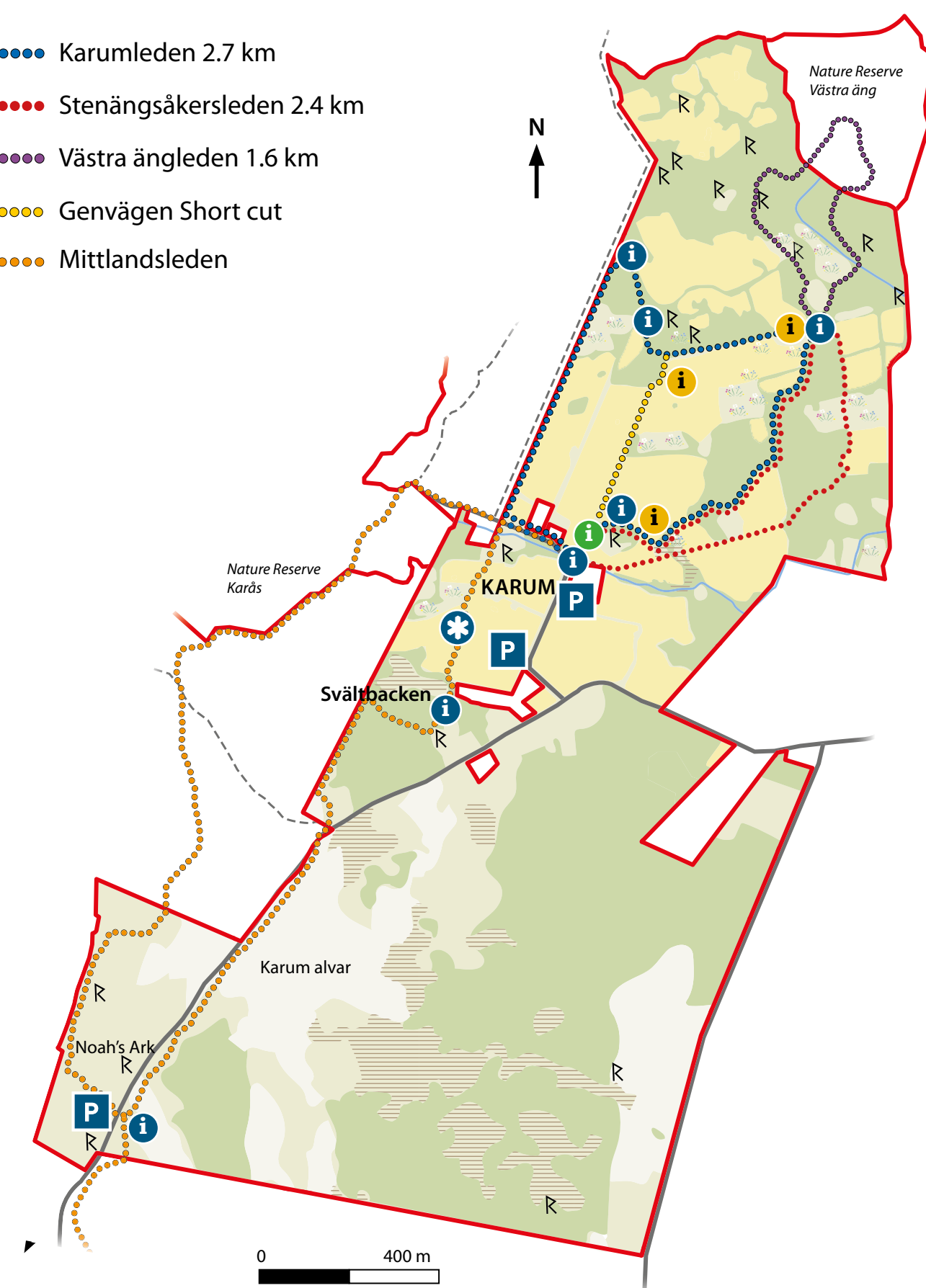
The yellow dotted lines show the road to the village. You are standing exactly where the road split up. One road led to 1) Västergården farm, and the other road to 2) Mellängården farm. 3) Östergården farm had its own road.



The photo from around 1900 shows a Malmen cottage here in Högrum parish. Svältan may have looked like this. The women on the photo are wearing their best clothes for the camera and are standing in front of their home. The boys on the wall are bringing a load of firewood which is being pulled by two oxen. Just think – people lived like this in Sweden only 100 years ago!

- You are here
- Kvarnkullen Information centre
- Information board
- Field info-board
- Car park
- Alvar land
- Open land
- Hay meadow
- Wetland/wet meadow
- Farmed land
- Forest/brushland
- Reserve boundary
- Road
- Watercourse
- Ancient remains

- Karumleden 2.7 km
- Stenängsåkersleden 2.4 km
- Västra ängleden 1.6 km
- Genvägen Short cut
- Mittlandsleden



Länsstyrelsen
Kalmar län

lansstyrelsen.se/kalmar