



Up on Svältbacken Hill

The mill you can see is a so-called post mill – the post (or stump) can be seen below the mill itself. On the stump stands the rudder post, which allows the whole windmill to be turned with the wind. The oak stump was felled in the 1790s and the mill was moved here from another village on Öland. The farmers of Karum had their grain ground into flour here and into hulled oats for the animals. But Svältbacken Hill has also been used for other purposes.

GRAVES, ROOT CELLARS AND A HORVA

All around Karum there are traces of the farmers who lived here about 2000 years ago, in the Iron Age. They preferred to have their burial grounds on high ground and up here there are a dozen stone graves. At the most, the graves are 6 m in diameter and 2 dm high, but they are covered in grass and very difficult to see.

To the right of the mill you can see a pit, probably from a root cellar. Perhaps there was also a dwelling for the miller who ground the grain into flour in the mill. Some way to the left of the mill there is a small field, on Öland called a horva. It is a reminder of the land shortage in the 19th century when the growing population was searching for land to cultivate. They cleared small fields on land which had not previously been farmed.

THE MILL AND THE FLOUR

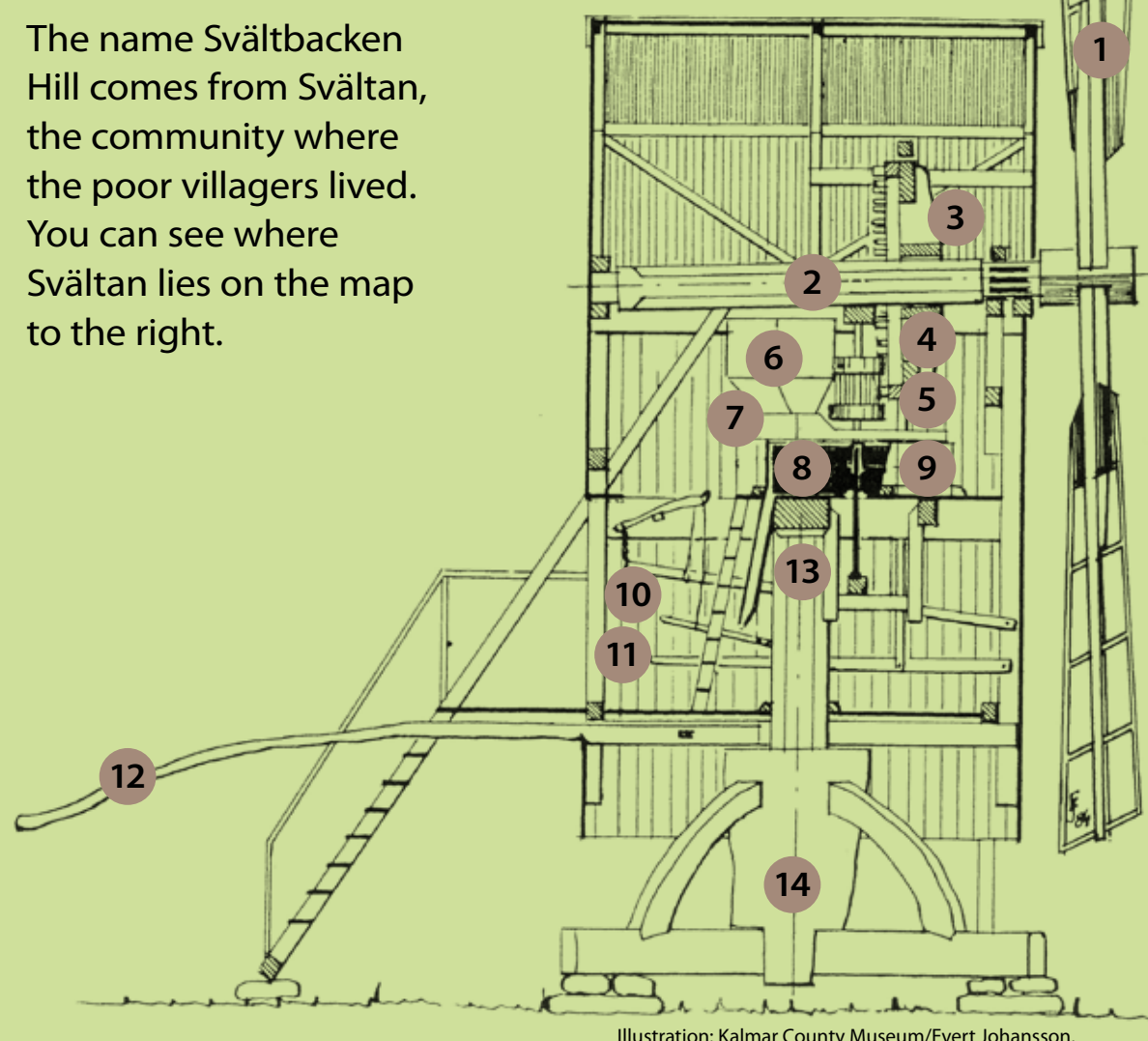
A map of Karum from 1769 shows that a windmill then stood here. In the village at that time there were also waterpowered mills which were in use in spring and autumn when there was high water in the streams. The windmills replaced watermills because they could be used year-round.

The windmills on Öland were written about for the first time in the mid-16th century. Most of them came in the 1750s and in the following 50 years. The boom happened because the farmers began to grow more crops and they then got permission to fell oak trees, which belonged to the Crown. In the 1850s there were four windmills in Karum and altogether on Öland about 2,000!

The farmers grew above all rye and barley, as well as spelt wheat. Since the mill could grind at any time of year, women no longer needed to bake the crisp bread which would keep longer. Instead they baked loaves from sour dough that contained yeast and rye flour. From rye and barley they also made porridge and gruel – and Öland dumplings also contained barley flour.

The post mill on Svältbacken Hill is one of about 350 surviving windmills on Öland. At most there have been about 2,000 here. This is the inside of the post mill.

The name Svältbacken Hill comes from Svältan, the community where the poor villagers lived. You can see where Svältan lies on the map to the right.



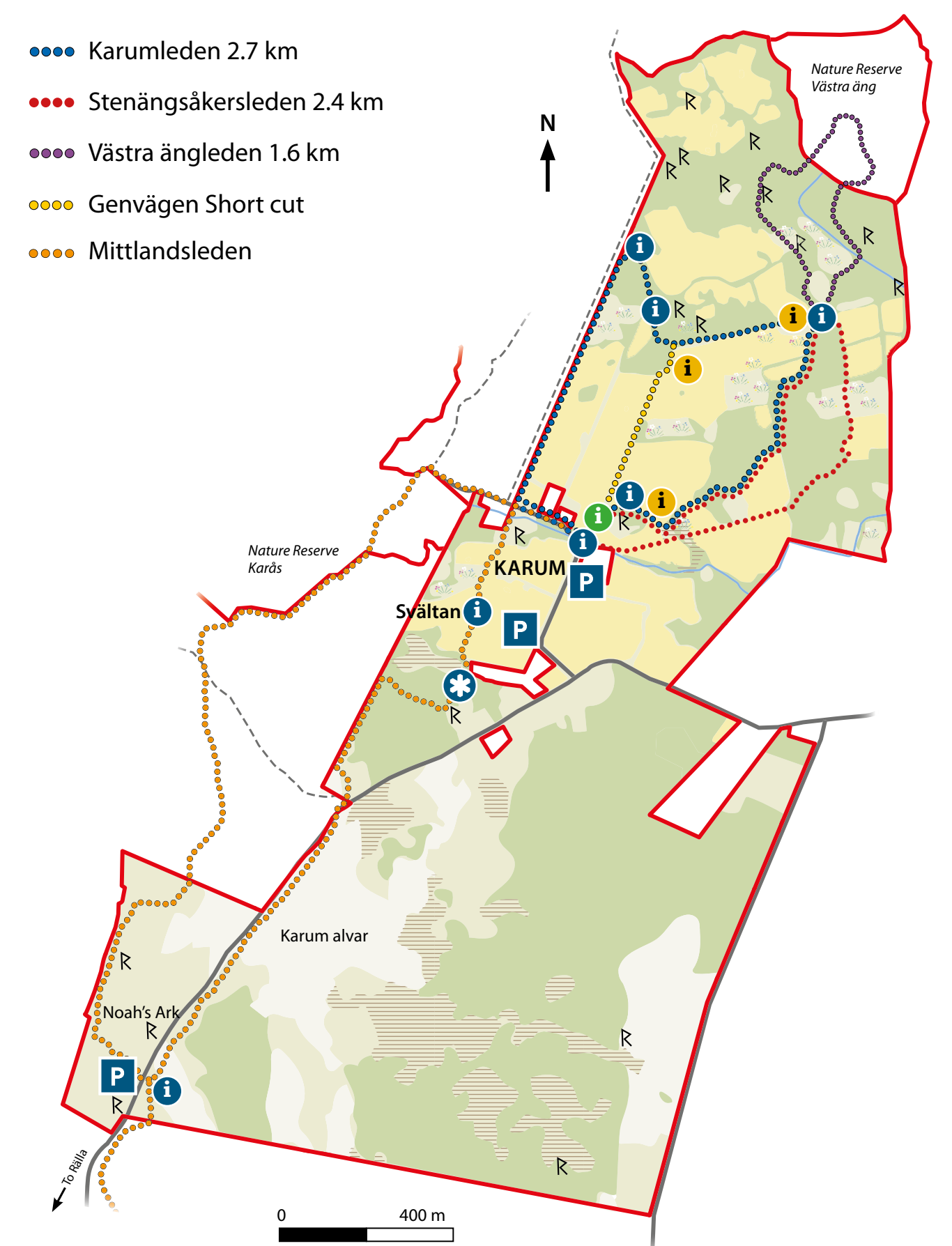
Grinding can begin when the runner stone, the upper millstone, starts moving. These are the parts that make it move: 1) sweeps, 2) windshaft, 3) brake wheel, 4) the spindle 5) the wallower.

The grain that is to be ground is poured into 6) the screw feeder. From there the grain runs down into 7) the shoe, then down to the eye – the hole down between 8) the millstones. The ground flour ran out into the 9) meal bin.

With 10) the tentering gear you could regulate the distance between the millstones. With 11) the brake you slowed the runner stone.

To turn the windmill structure you grabbed the 12) tail pole. The tail pole led to 13) the crown tree which was attached to 14) the post.

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



Länsstyrelsen
Kalmar län