The oldest parts of Tomarps Kungsgård date from the mid-1200s when privy councillor, John Lille, was lord of the manor. Gradually, the main building developed into a grand Renaissance castle surrounded by a moat, parts of which can still be seen today.

After the Lille family, Tomarp was owned by the Sparres and Brostrups before it passed, through marriage, to the Giedde family, who owned the property until the treaty between Sweden and Denmark in 1658. The last of the owners, Ove Giedde, is one of Danish history’s most well-known people. Giedde became one of the pioneers of the Danish East India Company when, at the age of 24, he was named as commander of a Danish fleet with a mission to sail to the East Indies to create trade links on the spot. He succeeded in his mission and was richly rewarded with granted property and titles. After Sweden’s takeover of the Scanian estates, Tomarp was leased to “deserving Swedish noblemen”. The first deserving holder was field marshal Gustaf Banér.

With Charles XI’s compulsory restitution of alienated estates, the castle yet again passed into the Crown’s ownership in 1697 to be integrated into the then new organisation of the Swedish military called the allotment system. In 1709, Tomarps Kungsgård became a regimental commander’s residence and in 1727 officers’ quarters for the Northern Scania cavalry regiment. The castle gradually declined in the 1700s and was restored to today’s form in the 1770s.

After the allotment system’s gradual phase-out in the last few decades of the 1800s, the castle was leased out. At present, the Swedish Property Board owns and manages all the buildings and the park.

The surroundings
Tomarps Kungsgård is located in the fertile and beautiful hilly countryside in the Rönneån river valley, 3 km west of Klippan.

Close to Kungsgården is the village of Kvidinge, which has a monument to Crown Prince Charles August, who died at a military parade on 28 May 1810.

History changed on Kvidinge heath
Tension began to rise in Sweden in the early 1800s. One of the reasons was that the more or less autocratic Gustav IV had managed to turn all the neighbouring countries against him when he stubbornly supported Napoleon’s opponents. In 1809, Sweden had lost the whole of Finland to Russia, and the Swedish state was on the verge of breaking up. The king was accused of misrule and in the spring of 1809 there was a coup d’état engineered by General Carl John Adlercreutz. The king was deposed, forced into exile on 14 March and forbidden to ever return. The ageing and ill Charles XIII was named as regent. He had no children and the succession problem had to be addressed. The issue was resolved on 18 July 1809 when parliament, on George Adlersparre’s advice, chose the Danish-Norwegian Prince Kristian August of Augustenborg as Swedish crown prince.

Kristian August accepted the offer to become Charles XIII’s adopted son and thereby the rightful heir to the Swedish crown. As a further step in Swedicisation, he decided to change the tyrannical-sounding name, “Kristian”, to the more resolutely Swedish “Karl” (Charles). Thus, Sweden had a new heir to the throne, Crown Prince Charles August.

In the spring of 1810, the crown prince suffered from stomach problems. He also suffered from fatigue, which caused him to fall asleep at the most inappropriate moments. The nervous political climate spawned rumours that the crown prince had been poisoned, probably by someone from the
conservative circle of "the Gustavians". It was even claimed that Countess Sophie Piper, sister of leader Axel von Fersen, was the guilty party.

At the end of May 1810, the crown prince left Stockholm for a trip to Ramlösa in Scania to drink the health-restoring waters. It was a difficult journey along uneven, narrow roads through the unending forest. In addition, he had caught a heavy cold that he tried to cure through the repeated intake of toddy (hot water, sugar and schnapps).

He was also looking forward to the stay at Ramlösa because his brother, Frederick Christian, would join him there. They had a lot to discuss, including how to realise the dream of a joint Scandinavian state under one king, now that Kristian (Charles) August had become crown prince of Sweden. After a time the brothers parted in Helsingborg and Charles August went on to Kvidinge heath to visit Mörner’s Hussar regiment. He wanted to get to know Scania, where he thought he had friends who supported the Scandinavian idea. On 28 May, which was cold and windy, an inspection of the regiment was to take place and the crown prince was present on horseback. Suddenly the horse staggered and the crown prince fell to the ground and lay there lifeless. Help arrived quickly, but despite blood-letting and massage his life could not be saved.

The postmortem revealed no sign of poisoning, but the rumour persisted and around the time of the funeral in Stockholm, on 20 June, Axel von Fersen was murdered by an incensed mob.