

Barsebäck

The Barsebäck estate is situated in a part of the province that was populated from very early times. An indication of this is one of Scania's biggest Stone Age graves, the Gillhög passage grave, which is located not far from the castle.

The roots of the Barsebäck estate stretch a long way back into the Middle Ages, when the Bartsebec family are thought to have built and owned a manor farm on the site. There is an early mention of Niels Bartsebec, who was part of the cathedral priesthood in Lund, and is thought to have donated an estate to the church in the late 1200s. Through the family's links to the manor of the same name, it could have been a part of Barsebäck's later estate that for a period was owned by the office of the archbishop. The first known owner of the manor was Peder Nielsen, who is named as the owner in documents dated 1339. It is possible that he built the first manor farm, a two-storey granite house, as it is considered to originate from the 1300s.

In the late 1400s, the manor was owned by the Brocks, and in the early 1500s it was transferred, through marriage, to the Ulfstand family. During the Brock's period, a new building was constructed based on a Dutch design. In the late 1500s, after two further generations of the Ulfstand family, Barsebäck passed, again through marriage, to the Podebusk family, via Claus Mouridsen Podebusk. Through the daughter's marriage to Frederik Rantzau, he became the estate's owner for a short period at the start of the 1600s.

In 1630, Barsebäck became the property of the Thott family, through "the Scanian king", Tage Ottesen Thott. He died in 1658, the year of the Treaty of Roskilde, when Scania became Swedish. After his death, Barsebäck was owned for two generations of the Thott family, and for a short period by a Swede, Johan Eriksson Brunius, before it was confiscated for the Swedish Crown estates in connection with the Scanian war, 1676-1679.

After the war, the Thott family received an offer to take back Barsebäck, but they felt no affinity with Sweden and preferred their Danish estate. The widow of Knud Thott, Brigitte Skeel, was the last Danish owner of Barsebäck.

The estate was then purchased by the regimental chief judicial advisor, Johan Langenhielm. After his death, the widow became the owner and married Colonel Lorentz Christoffer Stobée. Thus, the Stobée family became owners of Barsebäck for around 20 years until 1743, when Colonel Gustav David Hamilton acquired the estate and the present owning family took over.

During the first half of the 1700s, the estate fell into disrepair, but Colonel Hamilton rectified the situation and introduced several radical initiatives, in agriculture, care for the poor and the local school. He made Barsebäck an entailed estate in 1767, and died in 1788, aged 90.

The first holder of the entailed estate, Count Hugo Vilhelm Hamilton, was followed by seven generations from 1788 until the present day. Over this period, the estate has developed into a large-scale farm. Barsebäck Castle is located 15 km north-west of Lund in close proximity to the Öresund strait.

The current holder of the entailed estate is Count Wathier Hamilton.

The Järavallen cultural area

Järavallen, or Littorinavallen, is a natural sand bank that follows the coast for several hundred metres behind the present shoreline. It consists of sand and stone that has been driven up by the waves of Littorinahavet. The name of the local waters, Littorinahavet, derives from the common beach snail, *Litorina litorea*, which is still found in the Öresund.

The protective bank, which was higher from the Early Stone Age onwards, encouraged very early inhabitation of the area. Its protected position provided ideal settlement sites, and the sea was close by for fishing, as well as for hunting seals and sea birds. Food was very abundant. Archaeological

excavations have revealed remains of more than 70 species of animal at certain sites. Long ago, the present Scanian and Danish landmasses were joined, which early man exploited to populate the south-west part of Scania.

The inner part of the bay, Lundåkrabukten, has shallow waters and a beach that turns into flat coastal meadows towards Littorinavallen. Behind the bank are dunes with marshy and mossy areas. The pine forest on, and close to, the bank was planted in the 1800s to prevent the sand from shifting.

Järvallen previously belonged to the Barsebäck estate, which used the coastal meadows for hay-making and pasture land. The damp earth provides even, reliable growth of grass and a rich variety of plants. Here and there are traces of seaweed banks, which probably date from the war-torn 1600s. There was a shortage of stone and wood, and these were replaced by turf mixed with eelgrass. Nowadays, there is no hay-making on the meadows, but the area is used for grazing sheep and cattle in order to retain the open landscape's character.

The area's diverse nature means a rich flora and fauna. In bushy parts, one can find elder, Guelder-rose and honeysuckle, and in the moss under the pine trees there are ferns such as narrow buckler fern and male fern. In certain places, club moss creates dense carpets. Chickweed and May lily are common. The open, sandy and therefore dry meadows are dominated by a variety of grasses such as common bent, wavy hair-grass and sand sedge.

The animals most often seen are rabbits and roe deer. Prominent among the birds are waders, wild ducks and geese. Coastal meadow birds such as lapwings and oystercatchers are numerous, whereas avocets are a rarer sight.

A variety of birds of prey can be seen throughout the area.

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