



3_Lommelanda kulle_Den gamle kirkegården med klokkestøpul_Foto-S Norheim_DSC_0432.JPG

LOMMELANDA – A HISTORICAL LANDSCAPE

***Welcome to a historical landscape
and to the local history centre!***

***Two small villages and their 7 farms
shared this hill until the begin-
ning of the 19th century, when the
farms were moved out as new fields
were enclosed. On top of the rise
stood one of the oldest churches in***

***Bohuslän, built in Norman style in the 13th century. The church stood for 600 years, until
demolished in 1867.***

Lommelanda slumbered on for more than 100 years until a group of enthusiastic local historians woke it to life again in 1991. That was when the association, founded in 1963, acquired their home farm here through a donation.

As welcome visitors we hope you will explore the traces of history that are still to be found here and enjoy the peace of the majestic chestnut trees by the old churchyard.

THE LEGEND – THE CARVING CROSS

Legend has it that Olav Tryggvasson, King of Norway, set sail from his palace on a missionary endeavour to Viken in the year 996. Viken was the old name for the territory we know as the Oslo fjord and north Bohuslän and it all lay in Norway.

On his journey Olav was accompanied by some English monks. English contacts and English influence on Scandinavian rulers and even everyday life were considerable at this period. A cross of St Peter hewn in the stone near two cup-marks is supposed to commemorate the success of the missionaries.

Cup-marks are one of the oldest of the rock carvings as well as the most common. They were frequently called “fairy mills” from popular belief that elves ground meal in the hollows. Some of the holes are unusually large and deep, indicating that they were made at a relatively late date.

TWO SMALL VILLAGES – SEVEN FARMS

Two small villages with seven farms once graced this hill. The outlines of their foundations can still be traced in soil that has never known the deep ploughing of modern agriculture. The dry stone walls that remain once served to mark property divisions and the small village track still passes between a pair of gateposts on its way across the hill.

The picture uses old maps in an attempt to show how the villages must have seemed in about 1800. Shortly after that two of the farms were moved out from the village to new sites closer to cultivated land, to be followed by two others a score or so years later. The 1800s saw radical changes in agriculture.



6_Lommelanda kulle_ Informasjon ved helleristningsfeltet_Foto-S Norheim_DSC_4438.JPG

church became cramped. People were convinced the trend would continue and began to look for a suitable new site. It took them almost 70 years to agree on one, though, a kilometre or so to the north.

Despite protests the medieval church was demolished in 1867. Peasants from the parish were ordered to the job and used gunpowder to demolish the sturdy old walls.

The old church path crossed Lommelanda hill as it wound through the parish, from Naverstad in the interior to Hälle on Idefjorden. Hälle was a well-known lading place and sailing boats came to trade there from far and wide.

THE CHURCH

A powerful man had a church built here in early medieval times. Viken, as Bohuslän was then known, was early converted to Christianity. Voyages across the North Sea and trade with England had a part in shaping the outlook of the rulers and through them the people.

The stone church was built in the predominant Norman style of the 11th century and modelled on English examples. It was built of granite, with a high vault and a window in each wall of nave and choir, and was 16.3 m long by 7.2 wide. In the 18th century many Norwegians from just across the fjord were accustomed to worship here. People in the border area have never taken national boundaries too seriously.

As the population increased in 19th century the