



6_Dårskilds-högar-har-mange-steinringer-av-ulik-størrelse_alle-har-reiste-stener-med-oddetall-som-fem,-syv,-ni,-elleve- osv_ Foto-S-Norheim_ DSC_8561.jpg

DÅRSKILDS HÖGAR – A LEGENDARY BURIAL GROUND

The ridge in the landscape is a remnant of the Ice Age. Legend has it that a chieftain named Dårskild drew up his men behind the ridge during a battle long ago. He suffered a defeat and all the men were killed. He and all his men are said to have been buried here and the mounds were named after him. The

people of past times were discriminating in choosing burial sites. They used them for long periods and graves dating from different time-periods are often found side by side. These graves are dated from Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age (ca 1000 BC – AD 500).

Dårskild's Mounds are located at a typical site: on an elevated moraine close to an early settlement. It is not uncommon for paths and routes to pass right through burial sites alerting the traveler that inhabited areas were up ahead. The Church Road that goes through the graves area leads north to Skee church where another burial site is located and running parallel are two sunken tracks used in early days as footpaths or bridle-ways.

AN EXCEPTIONAL GRAVE FROM THE PAST

Standing stone circles are mainly found in the South and West of Sweden and they usually consist of seven stones. In northern Bohuslän not only are there an unusually large number of stone circles but they often consist of nine or more stones. Another fact that has intrigued researchers is that the number of stones is always odd, never even, although folklore and myth agree in assigning such numbers magical powers.

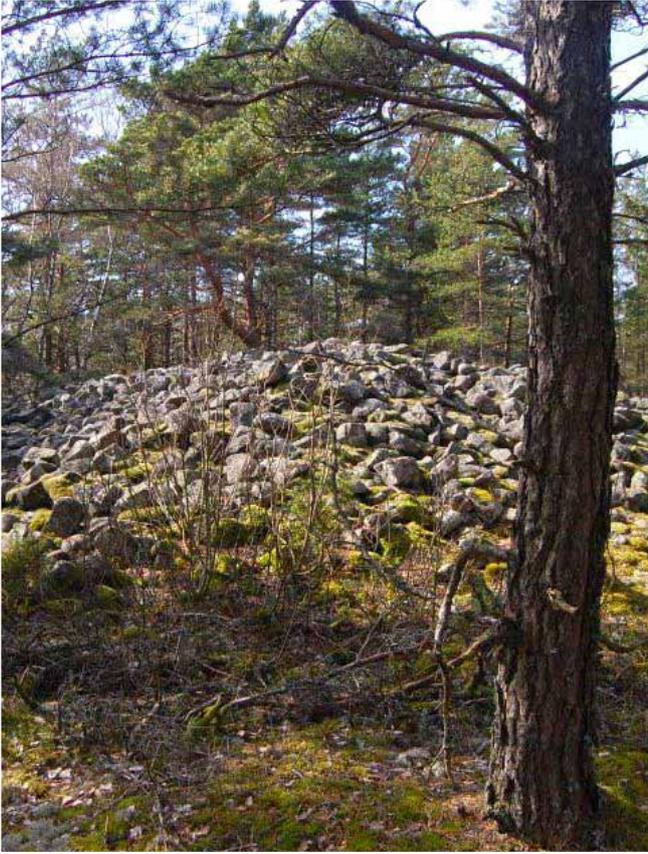
It used to be thought that pre-historic tribes assembled at the stone circles to dispense justice in the open air, before God and the ancestral graves. We know now the stones were simply raised to mark burnt remains of the dead and their grave goods.

This is an impressive ring with 18 meters in diameter with its 19 standing stones. The burial pit lay at the center, beneath a capstone. Now there is only a small depression and some disturbed stones, perhaps the traces of a grave robbery.

TALLRIKSSTENEN - THE PLATTER

Travelling south Church Road leads to the largest standing stone circle with its 19 stones, while beyond the ridge to the west lies Tallriksstenen, a unique boundary stone with rock-carvings. Tallriksstenen "The platter" is the name of a conspicuous solitary rock that has long been an important local feature. From this point six ancient village boundaries radiated that still are in use today. The oldest maps we have, dating from the early 1700s, show both the rock and the boundaries. The farms are first mentioned in written documents from the 14th century but probably have a longer history still.

On the upper side of the rock are carvings: cup-marks and grooves. Cup-marks are found on capstones



14_ Dårskilds-högar, på-fjellet-nord-for-gravfeltet-ligger-en-imponerende-stor-röys-som-antas-å-være-fra-bronsealderen-(1500-500-för-vår-tidsalder)_Foto-S-Norheim_DSC_8589.jpg

of Neolithic dolmens and played a part in popular belief until well into the 19th century.