Trössa – a prehistoric island name?

By Lennart Elmevik

Trössa is the name of a village in the eastern part of the province of Södermanland, not far from the coast. On the basis of medieval spellings of the name, the oldest from the mid-14th century, the author concludes that its phonological development over the period covered by these records was Trýsla > Tryslla > Trössa. The form Trýsla he assumes to have been preceded by *Trýnsla, which he regards as containing an appellative OSw. *trýnsl(a), cognate and synonymous with Swedish tryne ‘pig’s snout’ (OSw. tryne, OWS scand. trýni, PrGmc *treunia-) and with OWS scand. trjóna with the same meaning (PrGmc *treunōn). The author suggests, at least as the most likely alternative, that Trössa is an old island name, referring to one or more topographical formations resembling the snout of a pig.