

Summary

Dyarna in Sorunda

By Staffan Nyström

Flowing through central parts of Sorunda parish on the Södertörn peninsula, in a roughly ten-kilometre long valley, is the river Dyån. On either side of it stretches fertile arable land, belonging to the villages situated along the edges of the valley: Berga, Blista, Gudby, Hoxla, Tibble, Torp, Tyrved etc. In prehistoric times, much of this valley was under water. As the water gradually receded, extensive marshlands arose which came to be known as *Dyarna*. These wetlands were used for haymaking and grazing, no doubt over a very long period of time; not until the 1870s were they drained and converted to arable land. Some sixty place-names at least can be connected with the former marshes, ranging from the overall names *Norra* and *Södra dyarna*, with the church as a point of reference, via names linked to individual hamlets and farms, such as *Berga dye* and *Blista dye*, to even more local names like *Dyängen*, *Mossdyen* and *Skarnhålet*. All that now remains of the large marshlands is a fen known as *Gorran*, but the names still recall the former topography of the area. Particularly telling is the name *Sorunda* ‘the district characterised by marshlands’.