Summary

Skällerö in Funbo parish

By Svante Strandberg

Skällerö is a now lost settlement in Funbo parish in the province of Uppland. Its name was written (in) skiælarø in 1316 and (villa) skællaróghe in 1344. The final element consists of the word ö in the old sense of ‘land by water’.

An earlier interpretation suggests that the first element of Skällerö could contain an older name for the nearby river Funboån, OSw. *Skæl f., gen. *Skællar, or *Skiael f., gen. *Skiaellar, a name describing the sound of the river and etymologically related to OWScand. skjallr ‘loud, resounding’. The earlier topography of the site, however, poses problems for this interpretation. Another scholar has therefore preferred to regard Skällerö as containing an old genitive of the word sköld ‘shield’, used to denote an elevation.

While not wishing to reject the sköld alternative, the present author points out that a river name OSw. *Skæl f. or *Skiael f., descriptive of the sound of a river, could be linked in a topographically satisfactory way to another watercourse: the one that flows from Lake Trehörningen, between the manor of Marielund and the former site of Skällerö, and discharges into the larger Funboån.