

Summary

The village and parish name *Öttum* in Västergötland

By Svante Strandberg

Öttum is the name of a village and parish in Västergötland. Its final element derives from *-hem* ‘farm; district’. The village is situated on the Slipån (Lannaån), a tributary of the river Lidan. The present author suggests that the first element of *Öttum* could very possibly contain a now lost name for the Slipån–Lannaån, used in prehistoric times. He discusses various conceivable starting points for such a river name: (1) Words such as OWScand. *ótti* m. ‘fear’ and Goth. *ogan, ohta* ‘to fear’. (2) Words like Sw. *otta*, OWScand. *ótta* f. ‘dawn’ and OE *ūht(a)* m. ‘half-light; early morning’. (3) Words such as Sw. *öka*, Goth. *aukan* ‘increase’ and OWScand. *aukr* m., OE *éaca* m. ‘growth’.

The Slipån–Lannaån originates in Lake Rösjön, which is surrounded by large areas of bogland and which in the past could cause severe flooding. The author is inclined to assume that the first element of *Öttum* contains a river name, OSw. **Øtt(a)* f., meaning either ‘the river with an increase (in water), the swelling one’ etc. or ‘the river coming from the lake with a name in **Øtt-*’.