

Summary

Sparrsätra and Nysätra

By Per Vikstrand

Ever since the 1940s, it has been generally accepted that the element *säter* in Swedish place-names originally referred to meadows on outfield or forest land. However, the two parish names *Sparrsätra* and *Nysätra*, with the church villages *Sparrsätra by* and *Nysätraby*, seem difficult to reconcile with such a view. Closer investigation reveals that, in both cases, the parish name originated as the name of the place where the church was built, which was then transferred secondarily to the church village. The two names show that *säter* could also refer to meadows on new land, formed by postglacial uplift, in more central parts of a settlement area. The church village in *Sparrsätra* was originally called *Årby*, while the old name for the church village in *Nysätra* has probably disappeared. The first element of *Sparrsätra* could possibly contain *sparr*, a variant of *spärr* neut. ‘spear, lance’, and if so would have referred to the shape of the original meadow.