

Rygglösa in Bettna

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Summary

Well into modern times, Sjövik Farm in the parish of Bettna in Södermanland was known as *Rygglösa*, a place-name recorded in medieval sources as *rigeløso* (1378) and *rygialøso* (1431). This older name appears to be a *-lösa* name of a type denoting a natural feature or piece of land, and dating from the Iron Age. The first element could conceivably contain the word *rygg* 'back' (in the anatomical sense), referring here to a rise in the landscape. The topographical basis for such an interpretation is somewhat uncertain, however. Nor is the word *rygg* indicated by the earliest record of the name. The author therefore discusses the possibility that the first element of *Rygglösa* could contain the adjective *rik* 'rich', referring to land that is fertile or rich in grass.

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