

Summary

Field-names and Iron Age archaeology

Landscape historical studies of three sites north of Lake Mälaren

By Martin Rundkvist and Per Vikstrand

In 2008 the authors of this essay carried out metal-detector surveys of three sites in the provinces to the north of Lake Mälaren in Sweden. The sites in question all have names suggesting a link with pre-Christian religion. In two cases – *Ulleråker* and *Onsalar* – the names have a clearly sacral surface structure. In the third – *Sankt Olofså kern* – the connection is indirect and based on a reconstruction. The suggestion is that Sankt Olofså kern, which is situated in Torstuna village in the former *hundare* (district) of Torsåker, corresponds to the Torsåker ‘Thor’s field’ that was probably once the assembly place of the district. At all three sites, metalwork from the late Iron Age were found, which can be said to lend some support to a corresponding dating of the field-names. However, none of the finds made can be directly linked to cultic practices.