

## Summary

The parish name *Hammerdal* – misspelling, or a correct description?

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Hammerdal is a medieval parish in north-east Jämtland. The name has been considered to contain the word *hammare*, in the sense ‘rocky eminence’, ‘cliff’, but has also been linked – most recently by Carl Lindberg and Bertil Flemström – to the original name of the river *Ammerån*, which has its headwaters in the area. The occurrence of an *H* in all the early records of the name *Hammerdal* is explained by Lindberg as an addition that arose in the spoken language by association with the familiar noun *hammare*, and Flemström also suggests the possibility of the *H* having been added in the 14th century as a deliberate misspelling, to create the more intelligible place-name *Hammerdal*, instead of *Ammerdal*. However, the present author believes that the name does in fact contain the word *hammare*, as that word was evidently well known in the area, in both the East Scandinavian sense of ‘rocky eminence’ and the West Scandinavian sense of ‘cliff, rock face’. In eastern parts of the parish, rocky eminences occupy large areas, and several of them are referred to as *hammare*, which is unusual in central Jämtland. Probably most important in the formation of the name, though, were the steep rock faces of Edeberget and Vikberget which, viewed from both near and far, dominate the Hammerdal landscape.