

Stockby: A Viking Age farm and gravefield on Lidingö

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The grave field on the hill seen from the [later](#) farmstead site, Photo: George Wood

Lidingö 6:1, 7:1, 59:1 and 59:2

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Archaeologi B Moment 2 HT 2017
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Kommenterad [GS1]: Väl genomfört även detta. Du tycks anta att det funnits bebyggelse på den övergivna gårdstomten (RAÄ 59:1-2) som du faktiskt inte har redovisat belägg för. Du bara skriver att det är en "Iron Age dwelling". Hur vet du det? Man måste underbygga en tolkning. I detta fallet kan det vara troligt, åt minstone från Vikingatid, med tanke på gravfältet. Dock kan de äldre boplatserna (om dateringen 600-1050 på gravfältet stämmer) ligga på annan plats. Detta kunde du resonerat mer kring.

Thanks to the Lidingö Museum, Dr. Torun Zachrisson, Professor Neil Price, Lidingö Kulturchef John Svensson, and Stefan Gottfridsson of the Antiquarian-Topographical Archive of the Swedish National Heritage Board for their help.

“Gräv där du står!”

The modern island of Lidingö did not exist before around 500 BC. It had slowly emerged from the sea from around 6000 BC, and by 3000-2000 BC what would become Lidingö consisted of around 50 small islands (see *figure 1*). The oldest finds, from before the island came together, are a Neolithic axe of greenstone, from around 3000 BC, found in Sticklinge, and a flint dagger from the early Bronze Age, around 2000 BC, found at Långängen, close to Stockby (von Schmalensee Törnblom 2009: 11- 12; Flodin 2009: 45).

This paper will examine the monuments associated with the ~~village/farmstead of Stockby, village of Stockby,~~ which dates back to the Late Iron Age, and which by the Middle Ages was a prominent village/farmstead. The Stockby burial mound was apparently plundered long ago, but the grave field is unexcavated, and there are indications there was a much larger grave field, which may lie under modern construction. Amidst this paucity of material, a survey might be a challenge, but it seems like time well-spent trying to chronicle this relatively unknown corner of the Iron Age. Moreover, after living on Lidingö for 25 years, it was exciting to learn that these Viking Age remnants lay just a 15 minute walk from my house.

Kommenterad [GS2]: Her it would be good with a more extended explanation of the location, with county, and parish along with the village name.

Stockby

The SGU coastline map of the area around Stockby around 1000 AD (*figure 2*) indicates that while the water level around the island and in the modern Kottlasjön was higher, Stockbysjön next to Stockby appears to have been the same size as today.

However, Gustav Peterson, Statsgeolog at SGU, writes (personal comm.):

Formaterat: Engelska (USA)

”Stockbysjön har, sedan den avsnörptes från havet, varit en sjö med liknande utbredning som idag. Dock har den de senaste 1000 åren säkerligen växt igen och är således något mindre nu än tidigare.”

~~The ruins of the Iron Age dwellings at Stockby overlook the lake, which is less than 50 meters away (*figure 5*).~~

Kommenterad [GS3]: Ruins from the Iron Age? What do you mean. If it is an ancient remain in FMIS, you must reference to it's ID (Is it the historical Bytomt 59, you mean?). Detta borde du ta bort. Det passer inte här, och du redogör ju för detta senare.

Apparently in the Middle Ages Lydningar only covered the part of the island south of the bay, while the northern part bore the name of the modern district of Sticklinge. The southern area was divided into four settlements, each ending in “by” (modern names in parentheses): Haersby (Hersby), Vikby (Bo), Sundby, and Stukkaby (Stockby). These appear first in the written record when much of the island was purchased in 1379 from Birger Ulfsson, the son of St. Birgitta, by the Lord High Chancellor Bo Jonsson Grip, the richest individual property owner ever in the country, who took advantage of the economic situation following the Black Death to amass more

than half of Sweden and all of Finland (Stähle 1954: 13, 18-23, 30-31; von Schmalensee Törnblom: 2009: 13; Ljungberg 1977: 8; Forsgren and Forsgren 1995: 14-15).

See *figure 3* for a Google Earth image showing the Stockby [historic period](#) farmstead/village (Lidingö 59:1 and 59:2), the Stockby grave field (Lidingö 7:1) and the nearby Stockby burial mound (Lidingö 6:1) and *figure 4* for them all displayed on a modern map.

Stockbygård village/farmstead

The origin of the name Stukkaby is uncertain, but it might refer to a bridge of planks (“stockar”) near the village (Stähle 1954: 19-20). Lidingö archaeologist Torun Zachrisson says the site differs from those of contemporary Iron Age Lidingö settlements like Hersby and Sticklinge in that it was inland, and not next to a harbor. The site dates to the Late Iron Age (Lidingö Tidning, August 7, 2009: 14).

The nearby Långängen farm may originally have been part of Stockby (Stähle 1954: 17), as a croft (“torp”) before becoming an independent farm (Forsgren and Forsgren 1995: 15). The grave field and the burial mound associated with Stockby have not been excavated (nor has the nearby larger Långängen grave field, Lidingö 9:1).

The earliest map showing the location of Stukkaby is Pedher Mehnlöös’s Lidingö map of 1661 (*figure 6*). The earliest map showing the village and the location of the fields and meadows is from 1720 (*figure 7*, full map online at <http://wood.nu/images/1720map.jpg>). Sadly, the latter does not obviously indicate the nearby burial mound or grave field (except possibly as a hill indicated adjacent to the village, but without other references). The legend on the map (see *figure 8*) reads in part:

13. Ståckbij ½ Frälse hemman, som Staffan Person äboer, hafwer:
14. Sädes gierdet af Sandmijllejord till
15. Dito gierde af Sand och moojord
16. Trädes gierdet af Swartmijllejord
17. I samma gierde af Sandmijlla och skogjord

In my translation this would be:

13. Stockby ½ tenant holding, where Staffan Persson resides, holds;
14. A sowed field of sandy soil
15. In addition a field with sand and silt
16. A fallow field with black soil
17. In the same field sandy soil and forest soil

The Fmis database entry for the two [historic period ruins on the farmstead \(Lidingö 59:1 and 59:2\)](#) [Iron Age ruins on the farmstead \(Lidingö 59:1 and 59:2\)](#) are identical and read (edited and my translation, and my bold):

Kommenterad [GS4]: Som jag tidigare kommenterat är detta inte järnålder. I FMIS sägs det att de senast finns med i en karta från 1819, vilket du citerar nedan. De är alltså från historisk tid.

“Remains of buildings within two of the areas divided by fields:

A. Remains of building within an area of 70 x 30 meters (NNW-SSE) consisting of a foundation ca 20 x 70 meters (ENE-WSW) and 1.5 meters high. Partly overgrown and covered with stones around 0.3-1 meter in size. A basement pit in the WSW corner. The foundation is laid on a stone terrace ca 40 x 25 meters and ca 1 meter high.

B. Remains of building, some of which within an area of ca 70 x 45 meters (NNW-SSE) consisting of at least two foundations ca 12 x 6 meters (W-E) and 0.3 meters high, of which for the most part there remain foundation stones and a cellar foundation, collapsed, 6 x 4 meters (NNW-SSE) and 1 meter high, with 0.5 meter stones along the edge.

The area is overgrown by deciduous forest and lilacs. The northern section of the original village lot as it is reflected in the 1819 surveyor's map is now built over and completely destroyed. The area can be expected to contain older cultural layers, remains, and structures than what can now be observed above ground. **Attested to in documents from 1384** and on the 1819 survey's map.”

Formaterat: Teckensnitt:Fet

See *figure 9* for a view of the farmstead site and *figures 10* and *figure 11* for the ruins of the [historic period Iron Age](#) homes, presumably B and 59: 2. Remains A seems to be 59:1, the long and narrow stone foundation running towards the lake (*figures 12 and 13*), which appears to be the ruins of the elegant farmhouse (“ständmässig mangårdsbyggnad”) erected by Lt. Colonel Klas Hallencreutz in 1815, as recorded on the sign posted by Lidingö stad (*figure 14*).

Stockby Grave Field

The Stockby grave field is located just north of the village farmstead. The Fmis entry is (edited, in my translation):

“Grave field, 40 x 20 meters (WNW-ESE) consisting of 5 ancient monuments, of which 5 are uncertain. They comprise round stone-settings, of which the certain ones have a diameter of 6 meters and are 0.40-0.5 meters high. Overgrown. All have vaulted-like profiles. The uncertain stone-settings are 3-4 meters in diameter and 0.2 meters high. Overgrown. One is indistinct and difficult to delimit and of the others all that remains now is just a segment of the NNW part ca 1 meter wide. Otherwise the stone-setting (?) is levelled. The grave field is overgrown with oak, birch, maple, as well as some smaller trees. An information sign is posted in the grave field's southern side.”

The first “5” in the first line seems to be an error, as Ståhle writes (citing Frödin 1927 and Anderbjörk 1936) (my translation):

“Stockby: 7 ancient monuments (of which 2 are uncertain), north and east of the farmstead.” (Ståhle 1954: 17).

~~The graves are believed to be from the Late Iron Age (600-1050 AD).~~ ~~The graves are from the Late Iron Age (600-1050 AD)~~ and there may have been more. While not excavated, it is believed the graves may contain pre-Christian cremation burials, or possibly Christian inhumations. The grave field belonged to the Stockby farmstead (Sävahlen 2009: 51; Ankarberg 1983: 3; Anderbjörk 1936: 14-15).

(See *figure 15*, a map of the grave field and *figure 16*, a photo of the grave field with the information sign, showing one of the stone-settings.)

The grave field overlooked the historic period farmstead (*figure 9*) and was clearly visible from the farmstead site (frontispiece and *figure 17*). This would have served the dual purpose of forming a link between the residents and their ancestors and marking the boundary of the village/farmstead.

Frödin (1927: 9-10) writes that during the Late Iron Age a new type of grave appeared, stone-settings with round mounds of earth with stones mixed in, often with a stone curb (“fotkedja”) around the base. The cremated corpse would be buried with possessions like weapons, jewelry, household items etc. The grave fields stood next to the farms and villages. He mentions the Stockby mound and grave field as examples from the Viking Age. He describes (1927: 23) the grave field in more detail (my translation, see the map *figure 1* for the legend numbers, see *figure 15* for a map of the grave field, grave 1 must be “C”, the one next to the “här står du” on the sign”):

13. Three, possibly four *burial mounds* from the Late Iron Age, located on a forested slope ca 200 meters east of the Stockby farmstead, and ca 125 m ENE of Sofielund, just north of a small road leading eastwards.

Grave 1: Distance from the road 2 meters. Height ca 0.5 meters. Diameter ca 5.5 meters. On the surface a depression. A few smaller stones (“klumpstenar”) in the earthfill.

Grave 2: Located 4.5 meters NNW of the aforementioned, and of the same size. Also with some stones in the earthfill.

Grave 3: Located 5 meters WNW of the just-mentioned, and around 10 meters north of the road. Otherwise like the previously mentioned.

Grave 4 (?): Located 1.5 meters ESE of number 1. Diameter around 4 meters. Uncertain whether a grave, as the mound is very damaged, partly dug up in the middle, partly damaged on the side by an old gravel pit.

Kommenterad [GS5]: Hur vet man det utan utgrävning?
Morfologiskt?

Stockby Burial Mound

Two hundred meters from the Stockby grave field is Lidingö 6:1, an Iron Age burial mound (see *figure 18*). Sadly, when I visited, the information sign (*figure 19*) had been vandalized and cement blocks had been dropped on the side of the mound. After an e-mail to the Stockholm County authorities, the cement blocks were removed, and Carina Örneklint Berg of the County Administrative Board's Enheten för kulturmiljö wrote that she had inspected the site and would be informing the land owner and the adjacent recycling center of their responsibilities to preserve the site.

John Svensson, Kulturchef for Lidingö stad told me he had unsuccessfully tried to reinstall the information sign. He sent the text, which reads in part (my translation):

“The elevation on the crest is a prehistoric grave complex. We call this kind of grave a stone-setting, which is one of the most common types of prehistoric graves. This grave is ca 7 meters in diameter, a few decimeters high, and with larger stones around the edge...the graveyard in Stockby is around 200 meters from this burial mound.”

Writing in 1936, Anderbjörk describes the mound:

“Mound, with remains of a stone curb (“fotkedja”). One meter high. Severely damaged by three depressions, the easterly 0.7 meters deep, the others both 0.4 meters deep.”

The Fmis entry for the mound reads (edited, my translation):

“Mound, 7 meters in diameter, 0.7 meters high. On the edge individual stones, 0.2-0.3 meters each. Remains of a stone curb (“kantkedja”) 0.3 meters high, of stones 0.2-0.4 meters long. On the edge in the SE are three stones, of around one meter. In the middle is a round depression ca 1.5 meters in diameter and ca 0.35 meters deep. In the stone-setting's NW section are two depressions, ca 1.5 x 1 meter and 0.3 meters deep. The limits are now unclear because of damage in former times...”

There don't appear to be any signs of the curb stones around the base of the mound today, although there is a pile of stones at one side, which may be a modern dump (see *figure 20*).

Frödin writes (1927: 23) (the number 12 is from his map, see *figure 1*):

12. *Burial mound* from the Late Iron Age, located on the small hillock just NNW of Stockby farmstead and just west of the road to the church. Height 0.5–1 meter. Diameter 7.5-9 meters. In several places on the side stone blocks belonging to the mound's stone curb, as well as some stones in the earthfill. A pine tree is growing on the side of the mound, which in three places has been damaged by digging.

It is possible that an entire grave field originally lay at this location, as ca 4 meters to the SSE can be seen the somewhat uncertain remains of another mound, which would have had a diameter of around 6 meters.

Flodin says that the depressions indicate that mound was plundered, possibly long ago. Its location was next to the no-longer existent road between Stockby and Lidingö kyrka. She also comments that the Stockby burial mound and the Stockby grave field may be remnants of a larger grave field belonging to Stockby (Flodin 2009: 51-52).

Today the area that might have been that grave field is covered by a very large Beijer builder's supply store (*figures 21 and 22*).

Questions and Conclusions

The Stockby monuments have been examined and registered, and dated to the Late Iron Age (the farmstead first mentioned in 1384, the existing ruins apparently from much later), but they have not been excavated. The burial mound was likely plundered long ago, as evidenced by the three depressions. (It has also been sadly neglected and somewhat vandalized.)

Stockby was a village going back to at least the Late Iron Age, becoming a single farm in historical times. It was situated close to water, and during that period the modern Stockbysjön, while having the same size as today, but it would have been less overgrown. In the Iron Age, there would have been much more land devoted to meadows and animal husbandry and less to fields with crops. By 1720 there were several fields, apparently in a rotation system. Farming continued at Stockby until 1950, according to the sign posted at the site by Lidingö stad.

The grave field apparently served the Iron Age farm before the arrival of Christianity. It was located on a hill overlooking the site, both as a boundary-ownership marker, as well as providing a visible location for later generations to connect with their ancestors. But it is also very likely there was a much larger grave field. There was apparently a now-lost mound, recorded by Frödin in 1927, next to the Stockby burial mound. It is very possible there are more hidden graves between them and the Stockby grave field, perhaps under the modern Beijer store.

Perhaps one day there will be new scanning technologies that will allow that area to be examined, without having to tear down the store.

Sadly, among all the files of the Antiquarian-Topographical Archive of the Swedish National Heritage Board about Lidingö, the only folder about Stockby has just one single page (*figure 22*), which concerns the proposal to name the local house Villa Finedal, built in 1884, as a heritage building (see Ankarberg 1983: 6). There may be many more sites with a higher priority for documentation and excavation, but Stockby does seem somewhat neglected.

Images

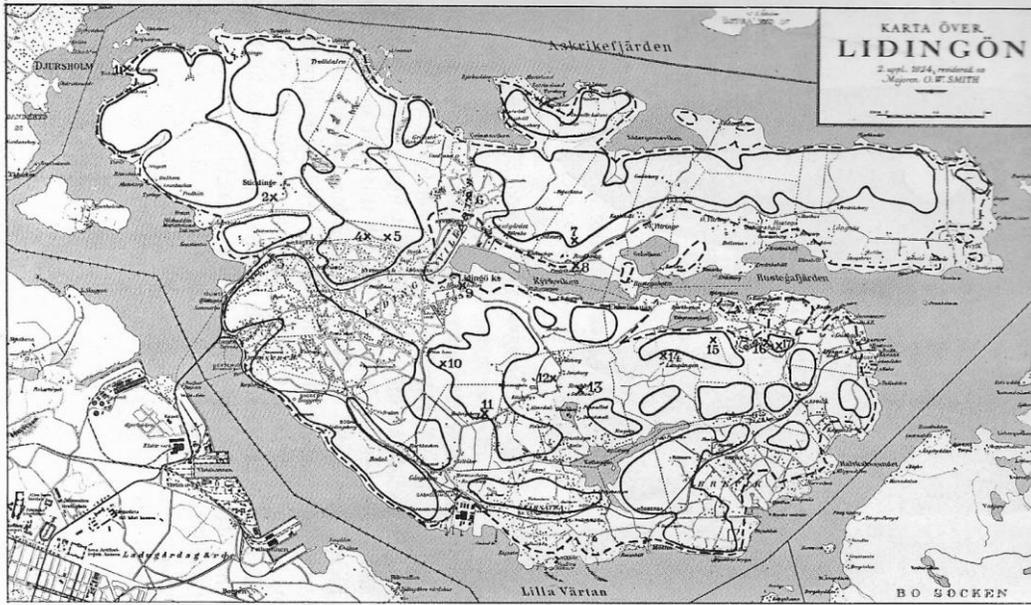


Figure 1, Map showing Lidingö as many small islands around 2000 BC. The Stockby burial mound is no. 12, the Stockby grave field no. 13, and the Långängen grave field is no. 14 (Frödin 1927: 5, figure 1)

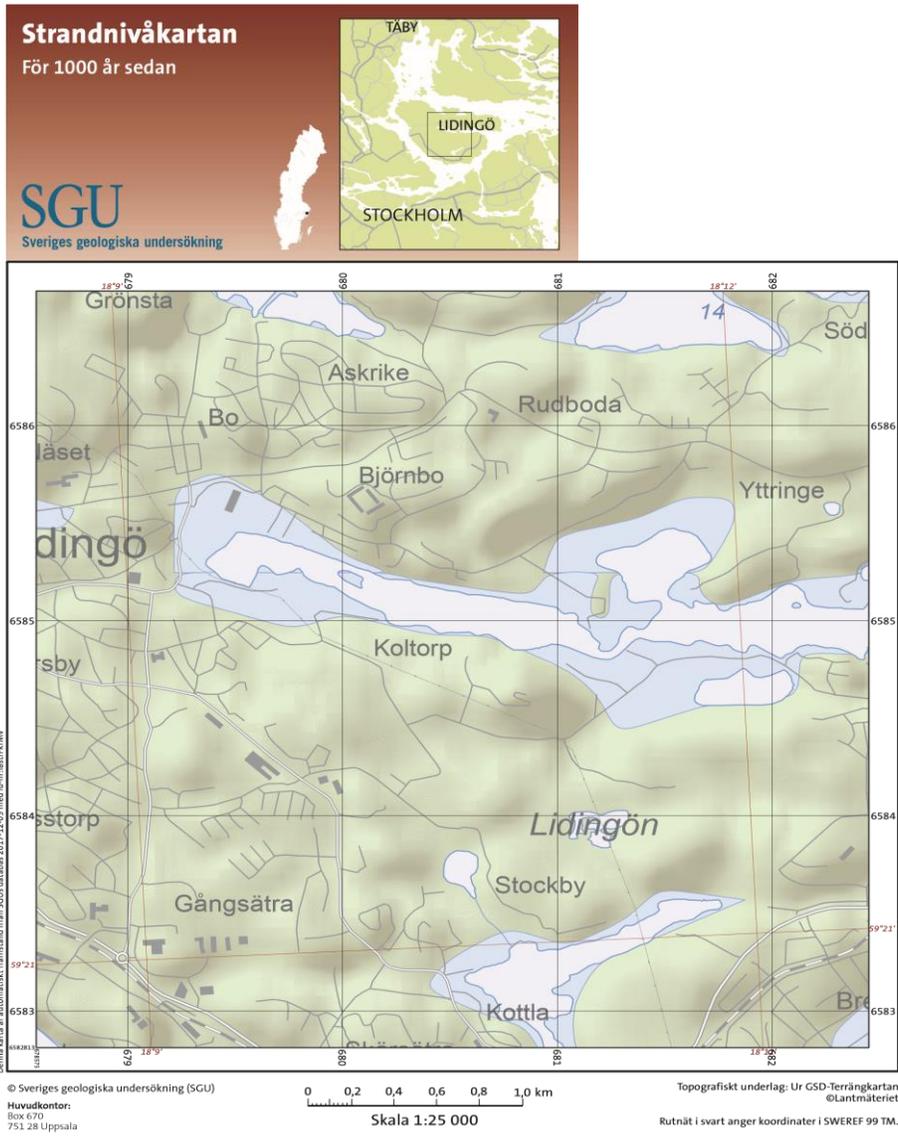


Figure 2, Geological map of the coastline around Stockby around 1000 AD, SGU

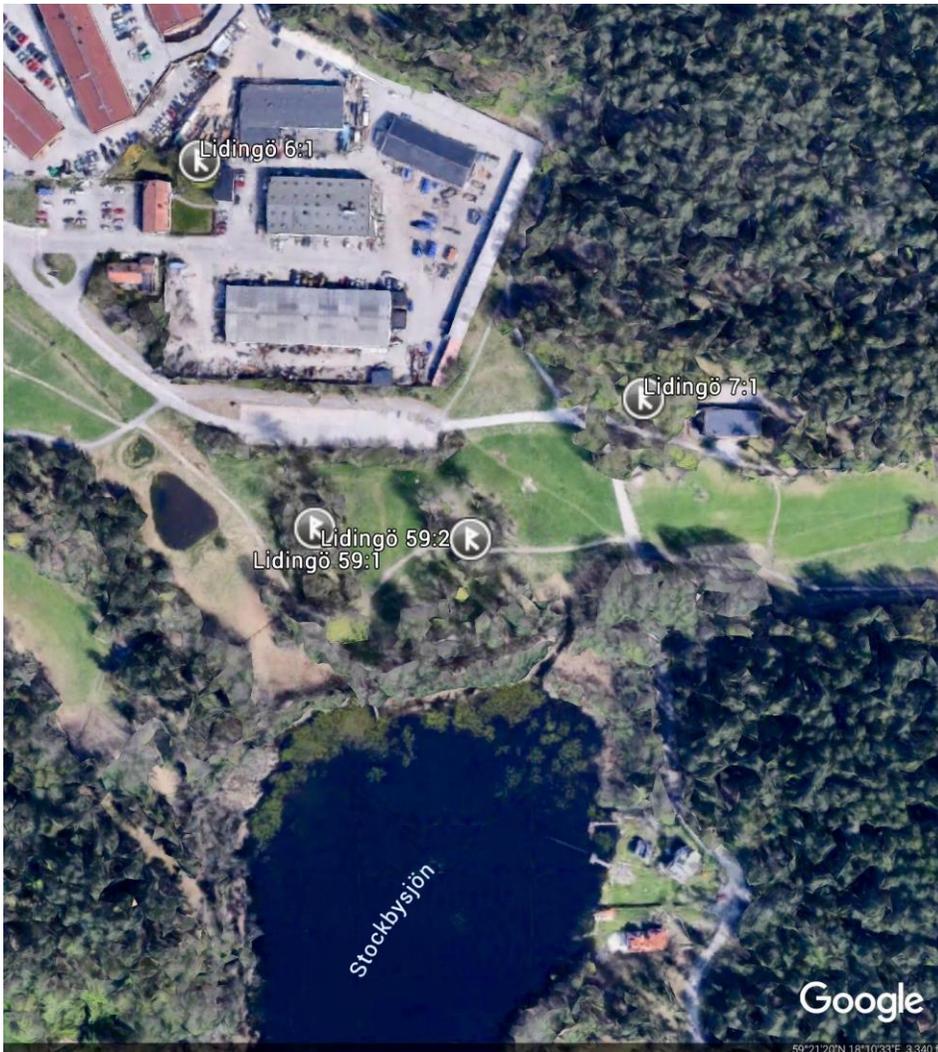


Figure 3, Google Earth image from Fmis showing the locations of Lidingö 6:1, 7:1, and 59:1 and 59: 2. The area just to the east of 6:1 has been rebuilt since the satellite photo was taken, and is now the Stockby Recycling Center. Note the large Beijer builder's supply store between 6:1 and the rest of Stockby. The distance from 6:1 to the grave field is just 200 meters

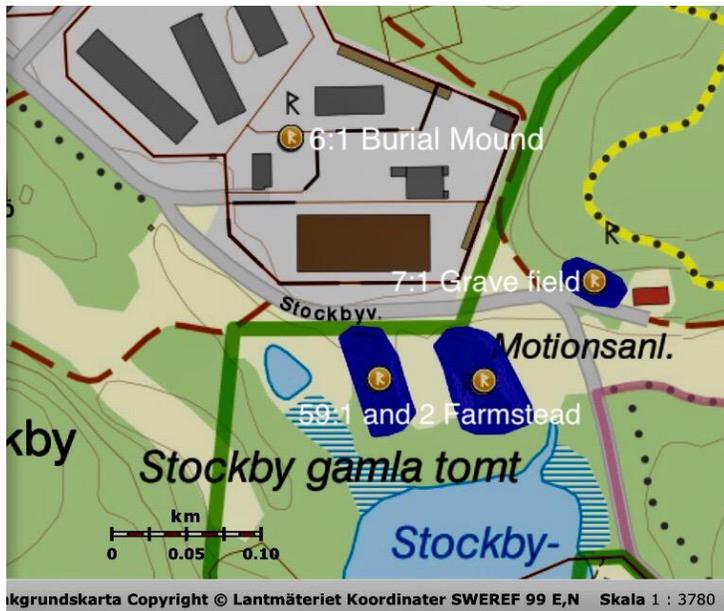


Figure 4, Map from Fm1s indicating the locations of the sites in this paper. Note the location of the large Beijer store (in brown) between the burial mound 6:1 and the rest of Stockby.



Figure 5, Stockbysjön from the site of the closest building remains, closest Iron Age building remains, Photo: George Wood

Kommenterad [GS6]: Är det bytomten 59:1 som du menar. Det är inte järnålder utan historisk tid



Figure 6. Detail of Pedher Mehlöös's 1661 map of Lidingö, showing Stockby just north of the "Träsk" (Stockbysjön) with Långängen to the east, from Lantmäterimyndigheternas arkiv.

Formaterat: Teckensnitt:10 pt

Formaterat: Teckensnitt:10 pt



Figure 7. Detail from the 1720 map of Långängen and Stockby from Lantmäterimyndighetens arkiv: A54-21:1

Figure 7. Detail from the 1720 map of Långängen and Stockby

For the entire map see <http://wood.nu/images/1720map.jpg>

Formaterat: Teckensnitt:(Standard) Times New Roman, 10 pt, Engelska (USA)

Kommenterad [GS8]: Denna karta finns i Lantmäterimyndigheternas arkiv och har aktnumret A54-21:1

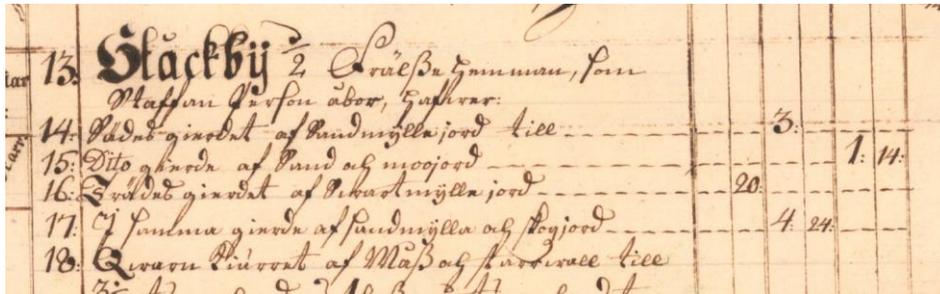


Figure 8, Detail of the legend of 1720 map



Figure 9, Stockby [historic period](#) farmstead, viewed from the slope of the grave field, Photo: George Wood



Figure 10, One of the [historic period](#) ruins at Stockby farm, [Lidingö](#) 59:2, Photo: George Wood



Figure 11, The other [historic period](#) ruin at Stockby farm, 59:2, Photo: George Wood



Figure 12, Stockby farm, Lidingo 59:1, the foundation of what appears to have been the 19th century farmhouse, Photo: George Wood



Figure 13, Stockby farm, Lidingo 59:1, close up of the foundation of what appears to have been the 19th century farmhouse, Photo: George Wood



Figure 14, Sign about Stockby Gård erected by Lidingö stad

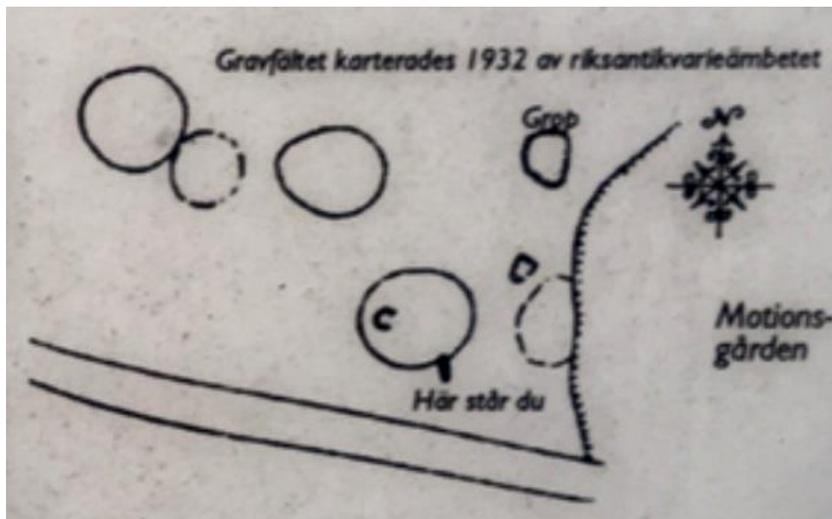


Figure 15, Map of the Stockby grave field from the information sign posted by Lidingö stad, with the location of the sign marked "Här står du".



Figure 16, Stockby grave field, with the information sign, which is at the foot of a stone-setting, probably Flóðin's Grave 1. Photo: George Wood



Figure 17, Stockby grave field from the site of the [historic period](#) farmstead. Photo: George Wood



Figure 18, Stockby burial mound, with stones dumped on the side, Photo: George Wood



Figure 19, Damaged sign at Stockby burial mound, Photo: George Wood



Figure 20, Stones at the base of the Stockby burial mound, possibly from the stone curb, but more likely a modern dump. Photo: George Wood



Figure 21, From the top of the burial mound looking towards the Stockby farmstead and grave field, on the other side of the Beijer store. Photo: George Wood



Figure 22, The Stockby burial mound is behind the car on the far left, the edge of Stockby farm is on the far right, with the grave field on the hill behind the street lights at the right. In between, on top of what might have been more graves, the Beijer builder's supply store. Photo: George Wood

A.T.A. *Op, Lidingö*
Kopia



LÄNSSTYRELSEN
Stockholms län
Planeringsavdelningen
Länsantikvarien
Handläggare
Antikvarie
Gösta Magnusson

Datum
1979-04-19
Ert datum

Beteckning
11.392-312-79
Er beteckning

STATENS HISTORISKA
BYGGMÄSTARE
1979

2085 79-01-20

Inskrivningsmyndigheten
Södra Roslags tingsrätt
Erik Dahlbergsgatan 60
115 32 STOCKHOLM

Fråga om byggnadsminnesförklaring av villabyggnaden Finedal på stg 2219 vid Stockby, Lidingö kommun

Länsstyrelsen får härmed jämlikt 13 § byggnadsminneslagen meddela att fråga väckts om byggnadsminnesförklaring av rubricerad byggnad.

Gösta Magnusson

1979-04-24 bestöt... Ub ✓
E. Magnusson

Inskrivet i förteckning på Kb 25/4 79

Kopia till:
Björn Almé, Riddarvägen 90, 180 21 ÖSTERSKÄR
länsantikvarien
akten
riksantikvarieämbetet

FA

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Lut 516.11.29 s. 1977-06 25 000 80 gr

Figure 23, The only page in ATA's folder for Stockby, from 1979, discussing naming the local house Villa Finedal, built in 1886, as a heritage building

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