

Anundshög – cooperation between local community and local government

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With 150,000 visitors during summer season the Anundshog site is one of the most important Viking age monuments in Sweden. It is listed in the "Council of Europe Cultural Route Follow the Vikings".

Anundshog is maintained through cooperation between three local offices: the Cultural Amenities Department, the Job Training Programme for Disabled Persons and the Programme for Occupational Rehabilitation. The cooperation enables an area of 80 hectares with approximately 1,500 prehistoric graves to be kept in order to greet visitors.

The local community's engagement in the site is crucial for making it possible to receive visitors. Community members educate each other so they can do the regular site guiding. Guided tours by local community members are offered daily in the summer months. All guided tours are available in Swedish and English; other languages are available upon request.

The local historical society is a pivotal factor when it comes to arrangements at Anundshog. The Midsummer feast and other traditional days attract thousands of visitors each year. The archaeology day is a national day to enhance the importance of archaeological research. With the help of the local historical society news are presented from research done at the Anundshog site as well as other excavations.

What's in it for the local community with all of this? Pride and commitment to the area's success is obvious. It also means that the local community has the possibility to influence planning in and outside the archaeological area. The Cultural Amenities Department gives the local historical society financial support. The historical society has managed to attract new and younger members to the voluntary work which guarantees continuation of the work.

Local politicians clearly see advantages in the local engagement. With this as a motivator it was possible to finance a visitor centre at the site. It's run by the local community in cooperation with the Program for Occupational Rehabilitation which runs the café.