

# Klåverön

(Klöverön)



## Welcome to Klåverön

The island has been called both Klöverön and Klåverön, after the narrow faults between the rocks, which in Bohuslän are called klåvor, klovor eller klövor. Those who live on the island say Klöverön. Klöverön's cliffs, pastures, and woodlands are loved by walkers, and its bays are popular with boaters and bathers. On fine summer days, many people go for a swim at Utkåften and pleasure boats are clustered in the bay. The view from the steep and hard to reach Lindberget is magnificent.

Nowhere is as beautiful as Klöverön! So say many in the Marstrand archipelago. Everyone who travels by land to Marstrand comes via Koön. On the island of Marstrand itself there is the old town centre and fortress. But it is Klöverön that forms the edge of Albrektsund, and which forms the backdrop of cliffs for the international sailing routes between Södra Strandverket on the Marstrand side and the lighthouse Grå Huvud on the Klöverön side.

## A vibrant farming community even today.

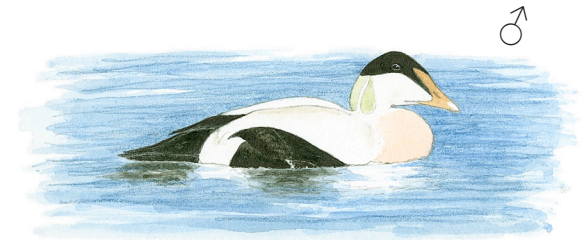
Seclusion has been both good and bad for Klöverön. The bad being the associated depopulation, and an uneven struggle to keep the land open. The good being that it has conserved the countryside and the rare and beautiful traditional rural landscape.

The island has slowly risen out of the sea since the ice sheet retreated. The oldest settlements found here date back to the Early Stone Age, around 10000 – 4000 BC. At that time, the island was much smaller than it is now, and the shoreline was about 25 metres above the current level. The settlements were all close to the water. The island was probably also inhabited in the Middle Ages.

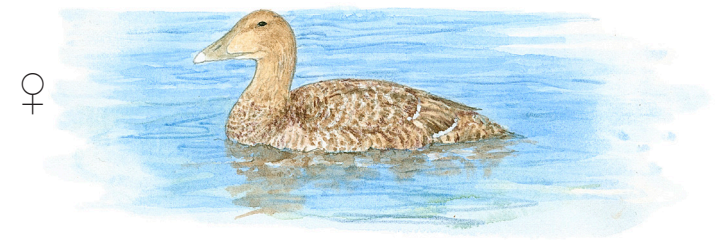
In the 1580s, Marstrand's mayor Peder Brems owned a farm here. All of the island's farms now have farmhouses built in the style typical of the larger dwellings from the 18th and 19th Century, with two storeys, a width of two rooms and with each

floor divided into six rooms. The oldest house is Klåverö Nordgård. Klåverö Nordgård is also called Prästegården. The oldest preserved croft is Stentorpet, a small red house, two rooms wide, by Stenen.

The "Vannholme girls" lived on Vannholmarna; two sisters (the last of whom died in 1918) who looked after the beacons at Leskär and Sillesund. They also collected eiderdown for cushions and sold them together with home-spun rugs to bathers in Marstrand.



**Eider, *Somateria mollissima***



In the 1970s, the whole of Klöverön was still a lively and farmed landscape combining farming and livestock management with seabird hunting and fishing mainly for cod, eel, and salmon. Wheat, barley, oats, fodder crops, and potatoes have been grown in the fertile soils. Cows, calves, horses, pigs, sheep, and hens were kept in large numbers on the various farms. There were salt and fish-oil works, a seine workshop, a shell mill, and a shipyard. The sale of farm produce by farmers from Klöverön was a common feature of Marstrand's quayside even into the present day.



There was also a school on the island for a few decades around the turn of the century. Anders Wilhelm Ekedal was a teacher on Klåverön 1880-1990. He was married to Anna Sofia Bengtsson, and they had a daughter Mildred. Richard Båysen, son of Mathilda and Calle, has told us that most of the teaching took place in the large house at Bremsegården. Probably not all the children could fit in the school house, which was quite small.

The history of the Båysen family reflects the diverse life on Klöverön. Calle Båysen was an enterprising farmer, educated at Alnarp. Prior to that, he was a well-travelled entrepreneur who, amongst other things, founded a casein factory in Argentina. He is also described as the island's greatest sailor. He started sailing at the age of three, received his first sailing prize from the hand of Oscar II at the age of seventeen, and continued competing until he was eighty-six. His wife, the painter Mathilda Båysen gathered around her in the 1940s, a colony of artists including Sigfrid Ullman, Eda Douscha and Evald Björnberg. Many of the paintings of people and nature by these Klöverön artists can still be seen in various farm houses.

In 2018, the author Ann Rosman published the novel "Porto Francos Guardian" part of which takes place on Klåverön. The book mentions Bremsegården for example.

Today, farming on the island is largely limited to the domestic needs for livestock fodder. Klöverön's shipyard remains in the form of a small marina. Some of the 15 permanent residents still keep livestock, mostly for nature conservation and to keep the landscape open. The most common means of transport for the residents of Klöverön is by a small wooden boat.



**Nettle-leaved bellflower,**  
*Campanula trachelium*

### Albrektsund Canal

Albrektsund was barely navigable with a rowing boat in the 16th Century. In 1782, the Halsekanalen was opened to Koön, but a hundred years later, it too was inadequate. Albrektsund Canal was blasted along Klöverölandet in the 1840s and deepened further for steamboat traffic later the same century. Canal dues were collected at the Högvakten croft.

### Beautiful countryside - heathland

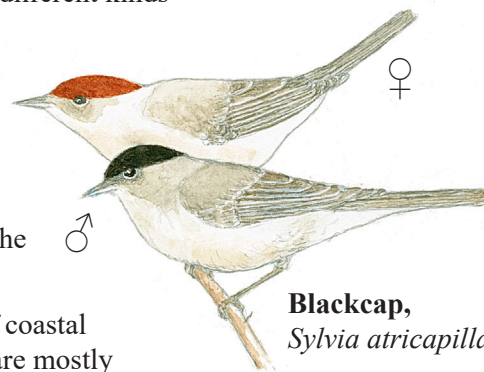
Large parts of the island consist of exposed rocks and heathland. The heathland is not continuous, but a mosaic of rocks, heather, and grassland. In the grassland you can see heath and mat grass, common milkwort, and devil's bit scabious, all of which benefit from grazing. Where the soil is both poor and moist, the heath spotted orchid, lousewort, cross-leaved heath, or purple moor-grass grow. In addition to grazing the land, the heather is also burned regularly to conserve the nature conservation values. Without management, the heather will grow tall and coarse, and the land becomes overgrown with bushes and trees.

Remnants of shell-bearing gravel banks are found in places and provide a special flora. In the bushes of blackthorn, hawthorn, rose, and different kinds of blackberries grow nettle-leaved bellflower, agrimony, wild basil, field garlic, perforate St John's wort, and cowslip. The dense bushes are important for small birds. Broadleaved trees such as oak, ash, and hazel grow between the meadows and rocks.

There are several different types of coastal meadows: on the outer side, there are mostly



**Devil's bit scabious,**  
*Succisa pratensis*



**Blackcap,**  
*Sylvia atricapilla*

saltmarsh plants, greyish green from the salt marsh grass. The fact that the island is still kept open by grazing is incredibly important for the species diversity.

### Still a rich wildlife

If you are on the island in the summer, you may see a small tortoiseshell, peacock, or swallowtail butterfly fluttering by. They are favoured by the richness of flowers in the area.

The fact that the landscape is less cultivated than in the past, means some changes in the wildlife of Klöverön, just like elsewhere in Sweden. What is more distinctive however, is that some of the characteristic species of the rural landscape are still common, such as linnet, common whitethroat and red-backed shrike. The woodland with roe deer and foxes, also characterise the island. Among the trees, willow warbler, chiff chaff, wood warbler and black cap sing. Visitors may also spot birds of prey such as kestrel, buzzard, and goshawk.

The yellowhammer thrives in the semi-open areas and its characteristic song is often heard. There was a population of yellowhammer that survived here in the 1950s and 60s, when DDT spraying of seeds hit populations in the rest of the country hard.

Black grouse were once a common feature along the grazed and heather-rich islands of Bohuslän's coast, and they were also present on Klåverön, but have long since disappeared.

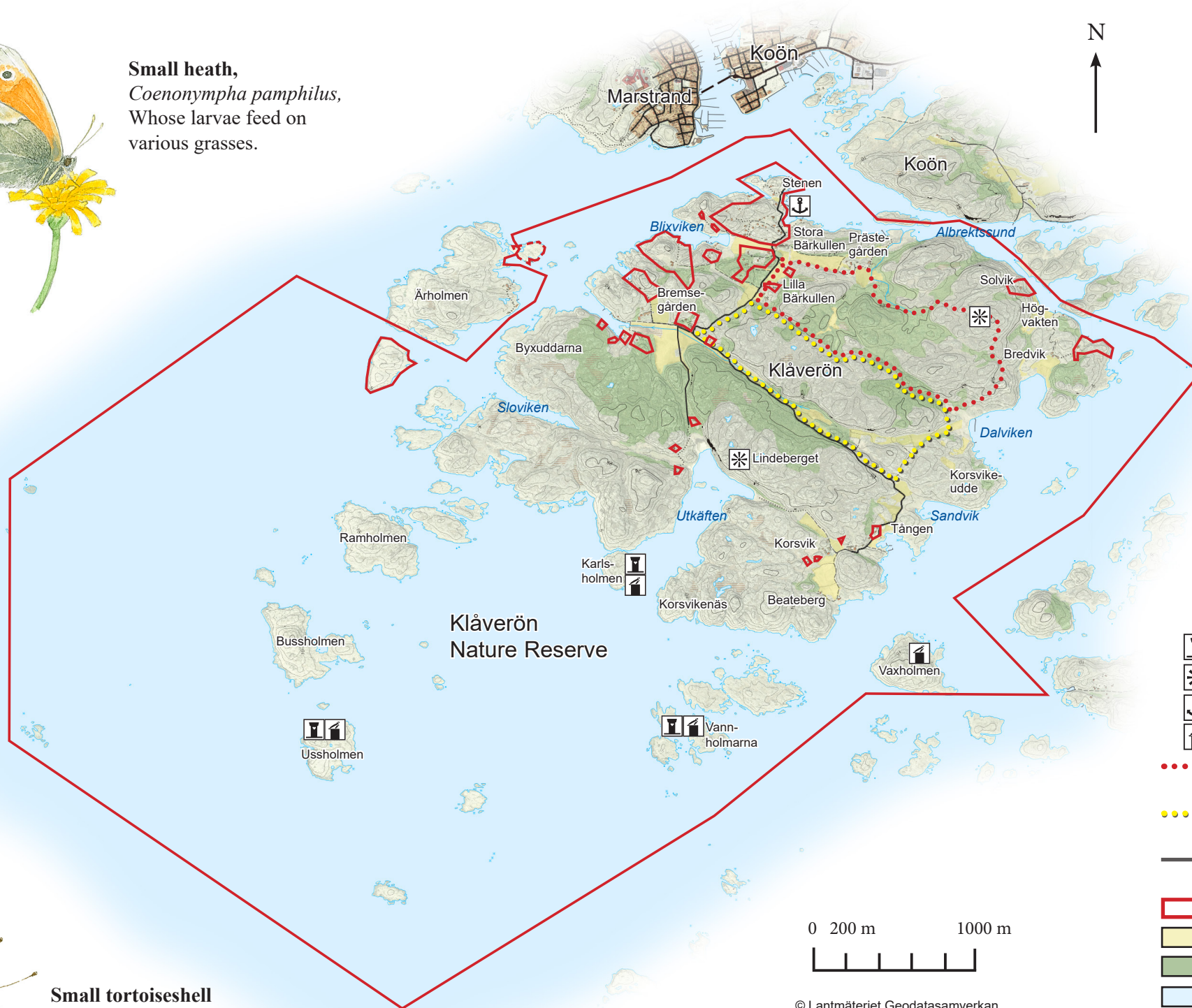
The island's location, to the far west, means that many birds rest here in the spring during their migration northwards, including warblers and thrushes. Large flocks of blackbirds, song thrushes, and redwings usually settle on the island's pastures and farmland to replenish their energy reserves. The slightly rarer bluethroat has also been seen on the island.



**Small heath,**  
*Coenonympha pamphilus*,  
Whose larvae feed on  
various grasses.



**Oyster catcher,**  
*Haematopus ostralegus*



**NOTE!**  
The footpaths are  
currently not marked up  
in the Reserve.

- Toilet
- Viewpoint
- Visitor's marina
- Rubbish bin

..... Footpath, red trail,  
medium difficulty, 4.4 km

..... Footpath, yellow trail,  
easy, 4.3 km

— Gravel track suitable for  
pushchairs etc.

Nature Reserve boundary

Open areas/arable fields

Woodland

Water

Exposed rocks/bedrock

0 200 m 1000 m



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**Small tortoiseshell  
butterfly,**  
*Aglais urticae*



Extensive bird surveys from Klöverön have revealed Sweden's first and probably only record of the American robin, a guest that must have travelled across the Atlantic from North America. Redshanks and common ringed plover breed on the coastal meadows. They both nest on the ground. The redshank likes to sit on a fencepost and keep a lookout. The sharply dressed black and white oystercatcher can be seen and heard along the shore. Seabirds such as eider are also found in the area. They mainly eat blue mussels.

The small islands south of Klåverön are home to the protected natterjack toad, but common toad is also found here.

**Common toad,**  
*Bufo bufo*



**Cross-leaved heath, *Erica tetralix*,** grows in the wetter parts of the heathland. Historically, people burned heathlands to create pasture for livestock. In the past, animals grazed freely on these so-called 'outfields'

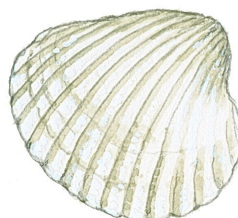
## Life in the sea

Within the Nature Reserve, there is a wide variety of different marine environments formed when the deeper clay and sandy slopes are broken up by rocky seabeds. The undulating underwater landscape creates favourable conditions for many plants and animals.

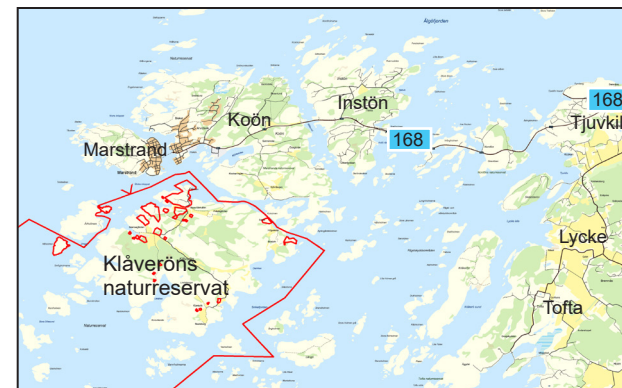
There is a high species richness on the wave-exposed rocky seabeds, and in several places large brown seaweed species such as sugar kelp or sea oak (*Halidrys siliquosa*) form lush belts. The small coral weed (*Corallina officinalis*) lives in more shallow areas, sometimes forming dense stands. A number of invertebrates such as hornwrack *Flustra foliacea* and dead men's fingers (*Alcyonium digitatum*) live attached to the rock. Both species thrive in areas with stronger currents where they can easily catch plankton from the water.

The shallow seabeds in the area consist mainly of clay, sand and gravel. In several places there are small meadows of eelgrass. These habitats create the conditions for many other species and contribute to increased biodiversity on the shallow soft seabeds.

The shallowest areas provide a nursery for several species of crustaceans and fish such as plaice. Adult flatfish also use the shallow areas to forage for food. By far the largest proportion of the animals found in these areas live buried in the sediment including various species of bristle worms and mussels.



**Common cockle,**  
*Cerastoderma edule*



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## Getting here

Klåverön is located south of Marstrand and Koön. From the E6 motorway at Kungälv, take the road 168 west towards Marstrand. You can get to Klåverön by taxi boat or with your own boat. There is a visitor's jetty in the harbour at Stenen on the north side of Klåverön.

Klåverön Nature Reserve was established in 1966. It is 2266 hectares in size, of which 1555 hectares are water. The Nature Reserve is managed by Väst kuststiftelsen.



Länsstyrelsen  
Västra Götaland



Naturservatet ingår i  
EU:s ekologiska nätverk  
av skyddade områden,  
Natura 2000.

I samarbete med  
Västra Götalandsregionen

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