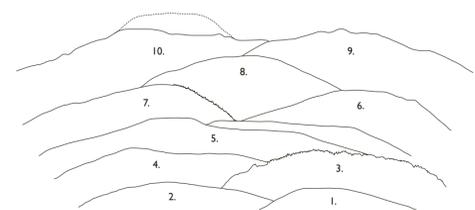
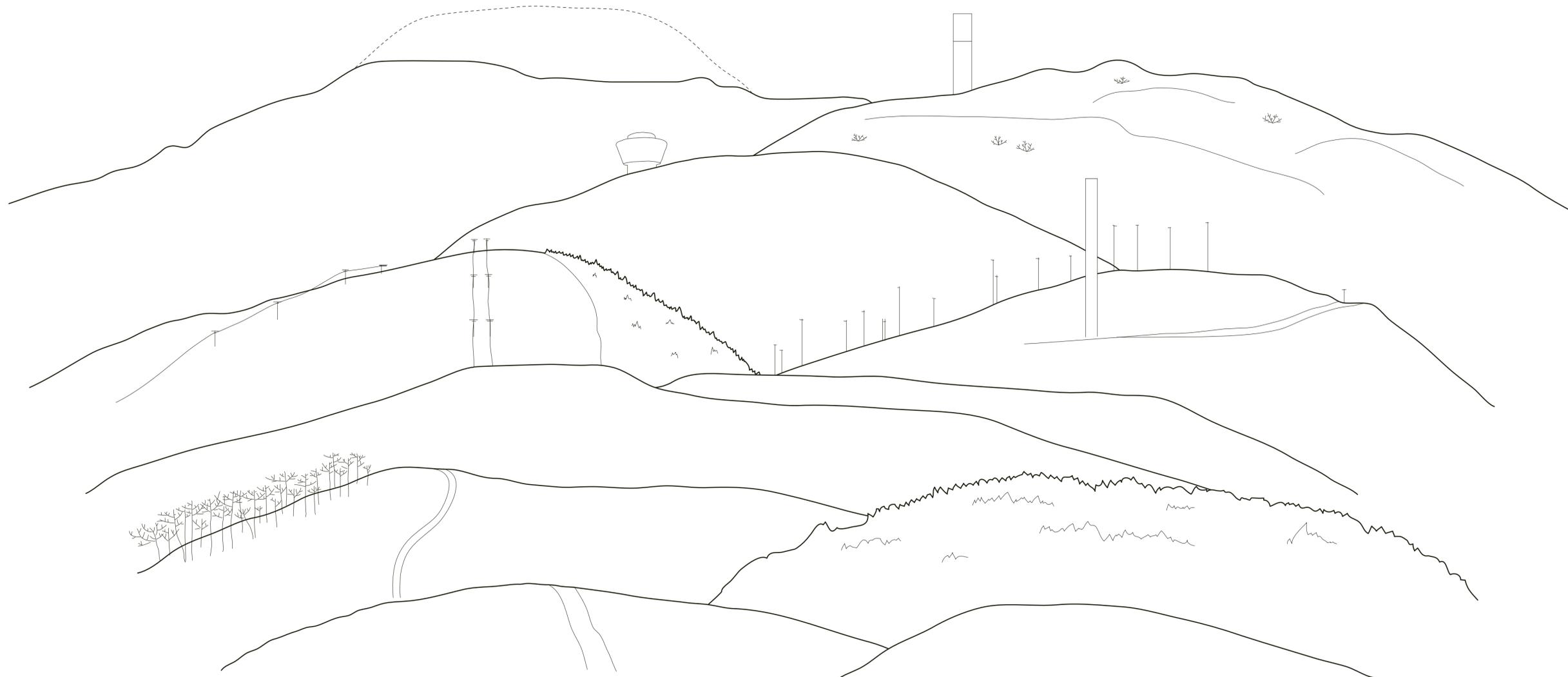


# STOCKHOLM'S TIPS AND TOPS



## Historical background

In the process of transforming central Stockholm and building new suburbs in the 1960s, the question arose concerning what to do with the large amounts of rubble and debris produced during the preparations for the new underground trains. The problem landed with the park administration and the creative solution – to use the material to make artificial hills or mounds – came from the city's Parks Superintendent, Holger Blom. He commissioned artists to design sculpted mounds in modelling clay. Blom conceived of the mounds as art, as landscape sculptures, which with their artificial forms and large scale, would contrast with their surroundings and function as recreation areas. His plan also included a change of names – a "tip" would become a "top".

## 1. Granholm Mound, 50 metres above sea level (m.a.s.l.)

One of the first proposals for this mound was drafted already in 1965, but for geo-technical reasons, it was not finished until many years later. In the beginning of the 1970s there were plans for a 71-metre-high ski slope, but these plans were discarded because the loose material forming the mound could not be shaped into such a high top. Today the mound is used for frisbee golf but will soon be given a new function as a cemetery.

## 2. Johannelund Mound, 60 m.a.s.l.

The Johannelund Mound was designed by Holger Blom and the landscape architect Erling Smedberg. A circle of trees originally stood on the top, but they were chopped down one night by an unknown person and for unknown reasons. A path leads to the top, which is furnished with ten park benches and well-trimmed grass. Today the mound is a park, but a number of lamp posts indicate that it was once used as a ski slope.

## 3. Haga Mound, 72 m.a.s.l.

Haga Mound or Haga Hill was designed by Holger Blom in 1960. Previously the site had a natural rise, part of the Stockholm ridge, which for centuries was used as a gravel pit. The mound was reconstructed with rubble from the demolition of districts in central Stockholm, the Klara district and Hagalund in Solna. The mound is covered in dense vegetation, with a great variety of both cultivated and self-sown plants.

## 4. Högdal Mound, 72 m.a.s.l.

The first top was completed in 1964 and planted the following year. Together with Johannelund, it is one of Holger Blom's first artificial mounds. The top was designed as a winter sport area, with cabins and skiing, sledding and tobogganing slopes. One of the most memorable events in the ski slope's history occurred in 1975 when the Swedish ski racer, Ingemar Stenmark, competed against his French rival Jean-Claude Killy.

## 5. Värberg Mound, 90 m.a.s.l.

The Värberg Mound was a tipping area from 1965. Designed by Holger Blom, the sculptor Bertil Johnsson and landscape architect Erling Smedberg, it was completed in 1980. The tops form a huge amphitheatre and between them lies a flat surface, 100 metres in diameter and called the Pot, which was originally conceived as an outdoor theatre or stage. From the mound's two tops one can see for miles and miles.

## 6. Hammarby Hill/Slope, 93.5 m.a.s.l.

Originally, Hammarby Hill was a natural slope mainly used for ski jumping. When a larger facility for winter sports was undertaken in 1970, the hill became a tipping area. The top was composed of rubble and demolition debris from central Stockholm and the Klara district. Finished in 1988, it had three downhill slopes and two ski lifts. In conjunction with the building of the residential district Hammarby Sjöstad the slope was raised further.

## 7. Väsjö Hill/Slope, 95 m.a.s.l.

The mound is located at Väsjön in Sollentuna. The top became a ski slope in the 1950s and has since then been raised in stages with rubble and refuse from demolitions and building works in Sollentuna. The material on the top comes from, among other places, the development of the shopping centre New Tureberg and from the building of the E4 highway. Behind the ski slope is Sollenkollen, a facility for ski jumping.

## 8. Fagersjö Mound, 95 m.a.s.l.

The Fagersjö Mound is the third of the Högdal mounds. Work on it began at the end of the 1980s and it consists of rubble from road works and construction sites. Beside the Fagersjö top, on what is left of the Högdal Hill, is the Högdal reservoir, a listed water tower designed by the architect Nils Sterner and built in 1962. The mound was never completed and the barren vegetation makes it a popular site for bird-watchers.

## 9. Hökaräng Mound, 102 m.a.s.l.

The second of the Högdal mounds is the highest artificial hill in Stockholm. It was built at the beginning of the 1970s and is said to consist of demolition material from the inner city, the Klara district and slag from the nearby refuse plant. The Hökaräng mound was intended to become an addition to the winter sport area in Högdalen and plans existed for a slalom slope, a skating rink and ski jump facilities.

## 10. Ullna Tip, 95 m.a.s.l. (131 m.a.s.l.)

The tip is a former ski slope located in Arninge, Täby. The slope has been a tipping area off and on since the 1950s. Today, on the top and on one half of the area, new rubble is being deposited and soil and crushed rock reclaimed. This ongoing project will, if approved by the municipality, raise the tip to 131 metres making it Stockholm County's highest point as well as a ski slope that maintains World Cup standards.