

# **Negotiated Change and heritage values: Systematic destruction or a possibility for innovative reconstruction of the cultural heritage?**

**Magnus Rönn, Benjamin Grahn Danielson & Stig Swedberg**

**Kulturlandskapet, September 2015**

## *Abstract*

Maybe you have been discussing and negotiating with authorities and developers, over impact on an heritage site or buildings with high cultural values? And maybe experienced that all this discussion ends with an excavation or an evaluation with the result of a report some where in a dusty library... And afterwards you have asked yourself why?

What if we should leave the discussion about negative impact on heritage and instead start with a discussion about how we want to form and use cultural heritage values in the landscape?

Since 2013 Rio Kulturlandskapet have been working with a research project about compensation measures for impact on cultural heritage. We want to share our thoughts and experiences from several case studies from this project. One important conclusion is that 'value' is a crucial concept when discussing compensation: What value are we going to compensate? We have also found out four (at least) different strategies that could be used in professional practice for rethinking cultural values. One of these strategies is to compensate the loss of a cultural heritage value in the landscape by adding something totally different... and elsewhere(!). Crucial in all strategies is that there is a negotiation over the change. But this negotiation has to include the evaluation of the cultural heritage at the site and the everyday landscape! And with this in our mind we could start working with archaeology and architectural design as systematic reconstruction: First excavating – then creating!

**Key words;** value, compensation, reconstruction, culture heritage