

# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENTS IN SWEDEN

Lessons for Ecotowns

Lynne Ceeney



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## SUMMARY

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This report provides case study information on three sustainable settlements in Sweden. Each settlement was visited as part of a study tour organised by the Town and Country Planning Association and led by Sir Peter Hall. The study tour visited Sweden in April 2009. The three case study locations visited were Ekostaden Augustenborg and Vastra Hämmen in Malmö, and Hammarby Sjöstad in Stockholm – all illustrating different solutions to the challenge of sustainable development. Both Vastra Hämmen and Hammarby Sjöstad are sustainable new communities, whereas the Ekostaden Augustenborg project is a sustainable refurbishment.

While there are very different political, social and legal characteristics in the UK compared to Sweden, we share similar environmental, growth and community challenges.

An Ecotowns programme (for England only) has now been given the go-ahead by the British government to provide sustainable new communities. Many of the features of the Swedish settlements could provide useful guidance for this programme.

This report provides case studies for each of the settlements, explaining the context for each, the ways in which the development was planned and the sustainability measures taken. Where measurable results have been published they are included. The final part of the report discusses features from the case studies which could be transferable to the Ecotowns programme in England.





# 1 INTRODUCTION

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The Town and Country Planning Association organised a study tour to visit various sustainable settlements in Sweden in April 2009, which the author of this report attended. The study tour gave an excellent opportunity to look at three sustainable settlements in the company of the eminent planner Sir Peter Hall, colleagues from the private and public sectors and guides from the Malmö and Stockholm city planning departments. Each settlement portrayed different characteristics and had taken different planning and sustainability measures. The settlements were:

- **Ekostaden Augustenborg, Malmö:** Sustainable retrofitting of an existing community.
- **Vastra Hämmen, Malmö:** A new community and demonstration sustainable neighbourhood on a former industrial site. (The developed neighbourhood in Vastra Hämmen referred to in this report is known as Bo01.)
- **Hammarby Sjöstad, Stockholm:** A new sustainable community and extension of the inner city on a brownfield site.



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Each settlement portrays different characteristics and has taken different planning and sustainability measures, while avoiding the identikit housing approach. They also provide high quality and varied design which takes note of the local vernacular.

This report describes the ideas, risk taking and leadership involved in the development of each settlement, which offers real opportunities for exportation and further adaptation for the UK's Ecotowns programme.



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