



## **Developing the first Nordic chronology of pollarding events based on dendrochronological data**

Pollarding of trees to provide leaf-fodder for domestic animals has been an important part of self-subsistence throughout human history. The practice was widespread in Europe, including the Nordic region. Pollarding played a role in shaping the look of historic landscapes. Skåne is one such example where pollarded trees became a characteristic feature of our region. Although pollarding has been well studied by historians interested in land use practices, use of tree rings to precisely date temporal patterns of pollarding is rare. In Nordic region, such dendrochronological studies are totally lacking.

In this project, we will rely on a unique material from old elm (*Ulmus*) trees to develop detailed reconstruction of pollarding history from the island of Gotland. Through analysis of growing patterns, we will date pollarding events over the last 150 years and will attempt to link their temporal pattern to tree ontogeny, cultural history, and climate variability.

The project will feature laboratory work in the Dendrochronological lab ([www.dendrochronology.se](http://www.dendrochronology.se)), R-based statistical analyses, and writing of the project report (= Master theses). Please note that the samples for this project have been already collected.

OBS! Depending on the student's interests, the project can be split into two separate master projects: (a) a part focused on cultural, social and economic value of pollarding, and (b) dendrochronological study looking primarily at development of tree-ring-based reconstruction and analyses of growth patterns.

Interested? Contact [igor.drobyshev@slu.se](mailto:igor.drobyshev@slu.se)

Relevant reading: <https://www.ksla.se/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/test1.pdf>  
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s00468-022-02343-8>

---