

## **The dig continues!**

Starting June 2018, we're back at the site of the old hotel, continuing the excavations. During the autumn of 2017 a small portion of the site, adjacent to the Westerlund plot, was excavated. We uncovered several layers of well-preserved archaeology, from urban households as well as coastal buildings. The finds date from the 11th to the 17th centuries.

Enköping's origins as a town are early. Already in medieval times, about 800 years ago, it was an important hub for commerce and travel. Situated by the Enköping ridge and a Lake Mälaren bay, it was ideally placed. Trading included copper, iron and silver from Bergslagen (a mining district north of Lake Mälaren). Other commodities comprised fish, pelts, horn and berries from the north of Sweden (Norrland). Visitors and residents exchanged both goods and ideas.

Old towns often have substantial cultural deposits containing traces of earlier building and activities. The bottom deposits are the oldest, while the topmost are the most recent. The deposits in Enköping are up to 3 metres thick and brimming with history. We archaeologists transform this into knowledge for everyone.

The moist clay has helped preserve objects made from wood, bone and leather. This contribute to the importance of this excavation, and the interest it will gain well outside the confines of Enköping, even internationally. Our expectations are high. Major excavations in towns are rare and the results will be discussed for a long time.