

## Discussion

The archaeological evidence presented above still leaves many questions unanswered. Each of the four stages marking important transitions from Viking society to Christendom also demand further excavations.

Regarding the Royal Halls, firstly, the topography of and around the plateaus have been changed markedly by recent buildings and farming activities. It is therefore still difficult to get a picture of how all the parts of the Royal Demesne (the two plateaus, the present church area, the vicarage land, The Disagården area and the farm area to the north) all functioned as a whole. The southern plateau has been only partly excavated and the northern plateau has only had a few test excavations. On the southern plateau the question remains as to whether the evidence supports the theory of two houses (proposed by Hedlund) which burnt down there. Also some carbon dating from the bottom of one of the post holes gives dates of 295-490AD. Are there more remains of earlier Halls under the present excavation? The northern terrace has a base construction material of stones unlike the southern terrace's clay base. Was the northern terrace the place of another hall or maybe it had some other purpose (Duczko 1996, p41). Future excavations may find the answer.

The recent Ground Penetrating Radar evidence has just raised the stakes in the on-again off-again argument as to whether there really was a temple to the north of the present day parish church. Sune Lindqvist's temple reconstructions from his posthole excavations have had flimsy support from fellow archaeologists. However the deep N4 and N5 anomalies of Alkarp and Price (2005) show a direction similar to the NNW-SSE axis of the plateau that the present day church sits on. If so, then the N4-N5 anomalies may show that Adam of Bremen's temple was really a Long House come Royal Hall after all. This is a clear case where it is vital to do follow up excavations.

The First Church excavations with their grave directions and postholes which conform to the north transept northern wall direction are strong evidence for a wooden church on this site. The grave at an odd angle under the north transept wall combined with the remarkably shaped N3 anomaly of Alkarp and Price (2005) seems now to clinch the case for the position, size and shape of the first church in Gamla Uppsala. The excavation of the chancel end of this church is eagerly awaited.

There has always been a question as to the precise shape of the roof structure on the western of the original cathedral. Excavations to date say nothing of this problem: was there two smaller towers or one square roofed building? The extent of the cathedral seems to be settled however by the Ground Penetrating Radar study: it ended at the present church wall as Kjellberg (1896) indicated. However the intriguing buildings proposed by the A1, B1 and B2 anomalies have still to be explained.