

Review of “*Dendrochronological dating of Roman time*” By Larsson, P.O. and Larsson, L-A.

If the reported errors in the Irish oak chronology are correct, the results of this research will lead to a revision of several generally accepted tree-ring chronologies with major implications for radiocarbon calibration and subsequent archaeological inferences.

Unfortunately the paper is not written in an objective manner following the convention for scientific work. The paper starts well with an acceptable ‘Introduction’ to establish a framework for the research but the ‘Methods’ section is missing. Consequently, it is difficult to follow the methods employed (e.g. CDendro) and draw the same conclusions as the authors. This is a serious problem with the paper. Although it is easy to criticise others, the authors do not make it easy for people to follow their own work! Some of this material is presented elsewhere but it is not easy to follow. Unfortunately the Hohenheim chronology is not available to the authors but there’s nothing that they can do about this.



In my opinion it is quite possible that there *could* be errors in the ‘gaps’ of the early European chronologies but the authors have not convincingly demonstrated that they exist in this paper. Unfortunately the standard of presentation is very poor with every figure merely a poor quality screen dump often with unlabelled axes. It would be better to present some of the actual time-series rather than just bar graphs. I’m not sure of the journal policy but most of the paper appears online anyway!

<http://www.cybis.se/forfun/dendro/hollstein/index.php>

As it stands the paper should be rejected by Tree-ring Research.