



Biological cultural heritage of avenues and roadside trees

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Biological cultural heritage - living organisms that can tell about human history.



Biological cultural heritage

“Ecosystems, habitats and species which have originated, developed or been favored by human utilization of the landscape and whose long-term persistence and development is dependent on, or favored by management.”

(definition by Swedish National Heritage board)

Avenues and other roadside trees constitute BCH in several ways



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Steneryd, Blekinge

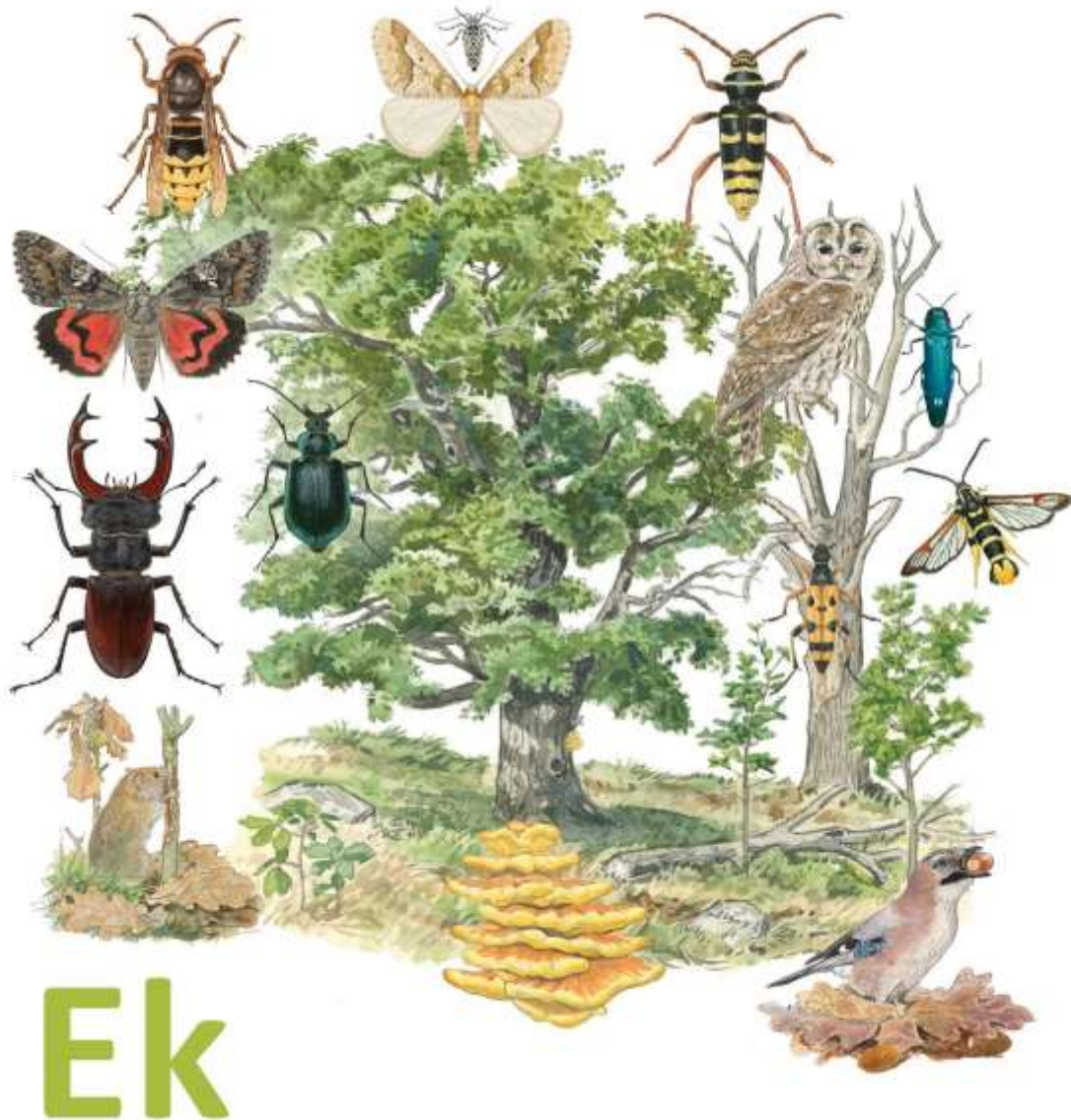
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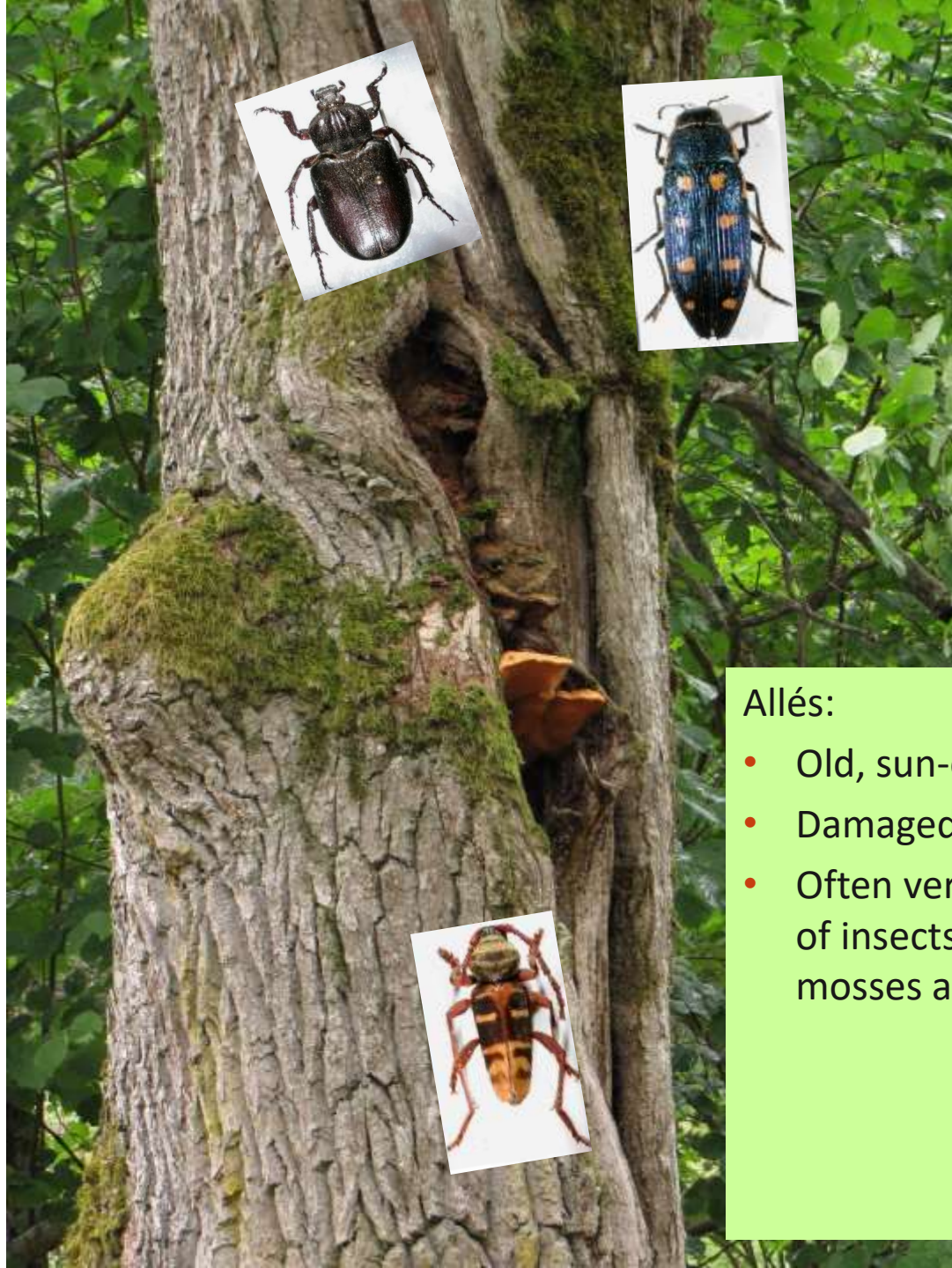


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1. The design and location of avenues mirror their historical context, e.g., how they manifest power, ideas and architectural fashion.
2. The trees preserve traces of pruning, pollarding and other types of human influence on bark and wood.
3. The biodiversity connected to the trees may tell about the history of the surrounding landscape.



Allés:

- Old, sun-exposed trees
- Damaged
- Often very rich in species of insects, lichens, mosses and fungi.



Allés:

- Old, sun-exposed trees
- Often very rich in species of insects, lichens, mosses and fungi.
- Species have colonized from trees in the surrounding cultural landscape.

Tree-rich traditional habitats



Forest pasture - coniferous



Wooded pasture - deciduous



Wooded hay meadow



Former wooded pasture

Tree-rich traditional habitats



Forest pasture

Such ecosystems have decreased drastically in the landscape

ure - deciduous



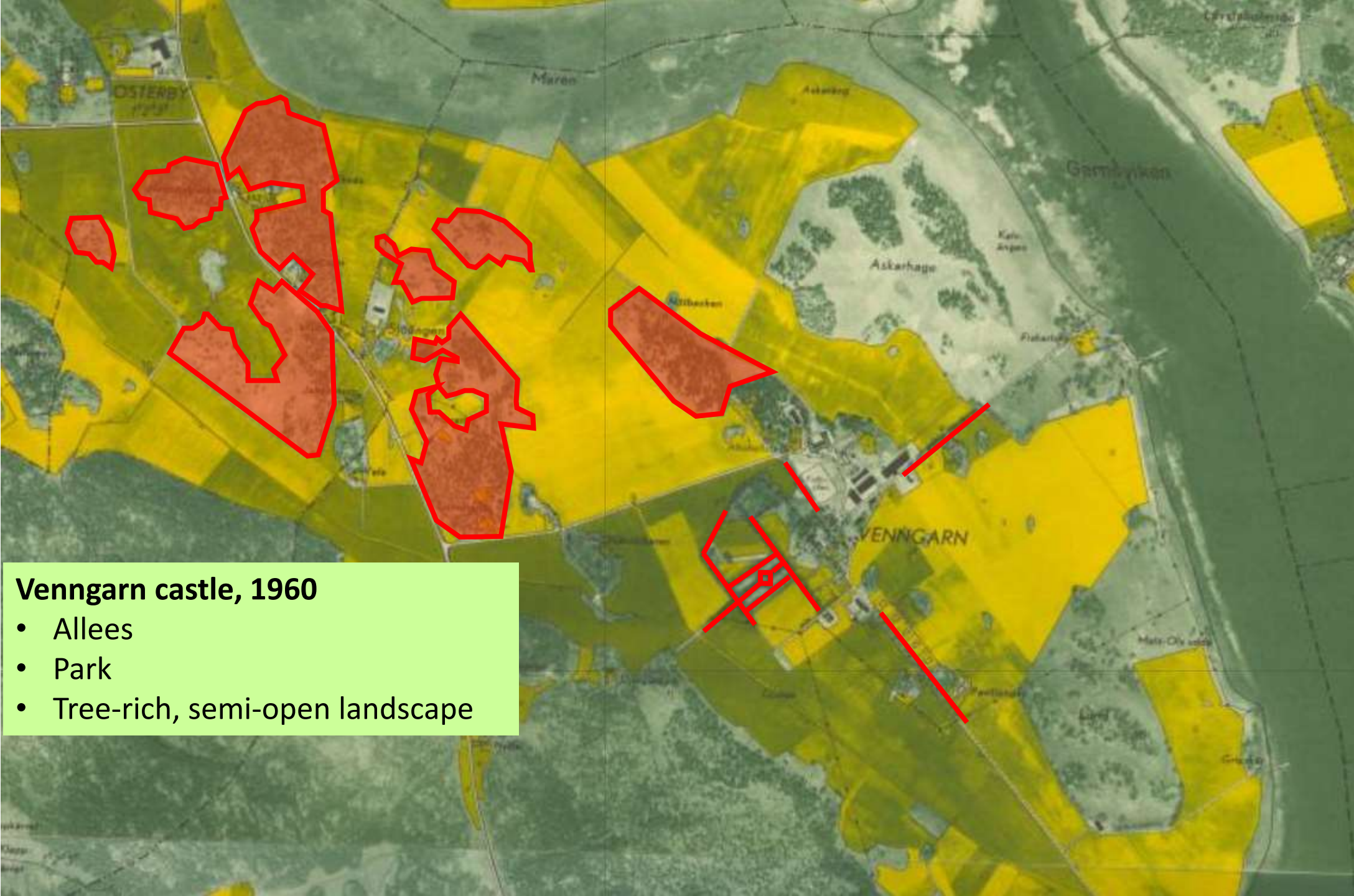
Wooded hay meadow



Former wooded pasture



Venngarn, Sigtuna



Venngarn castle, 1960

- Allees
- Park
- Tree-rich, semi-open landscape

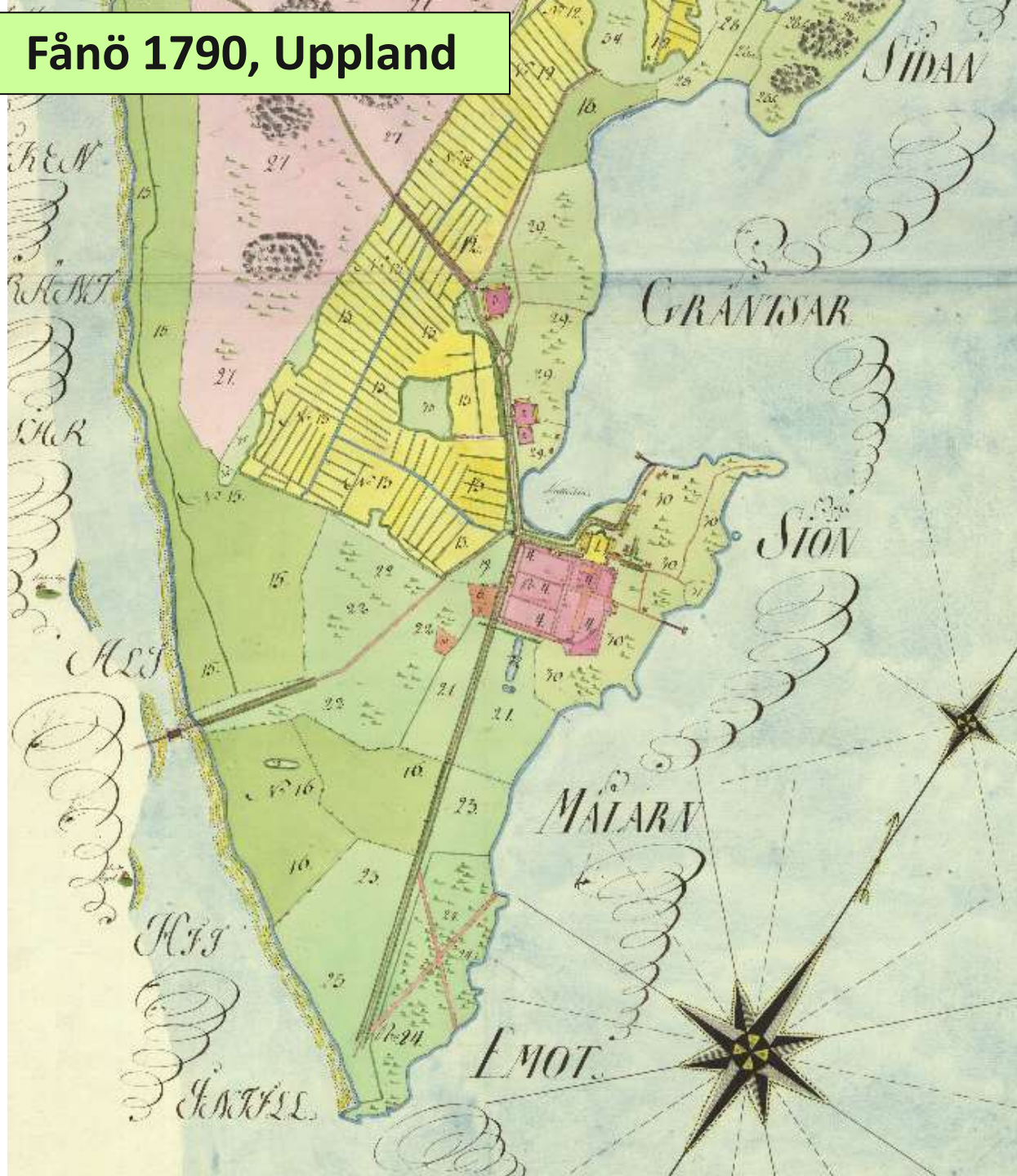


Venn garn castle, 2020

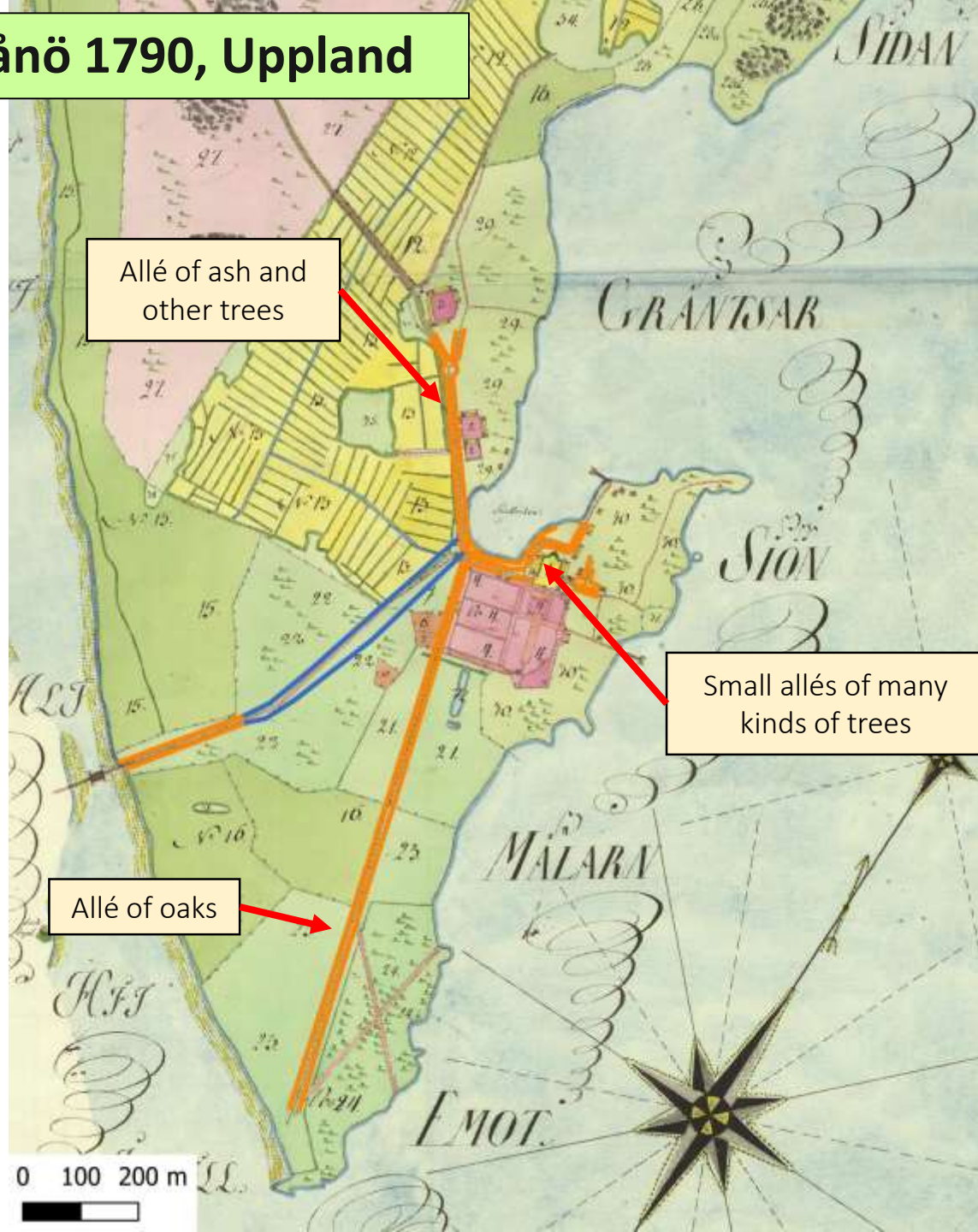
- Allees
- Park

Species in the remaining trees are legacies of the historical landscape, i.e. biological cultural heritage

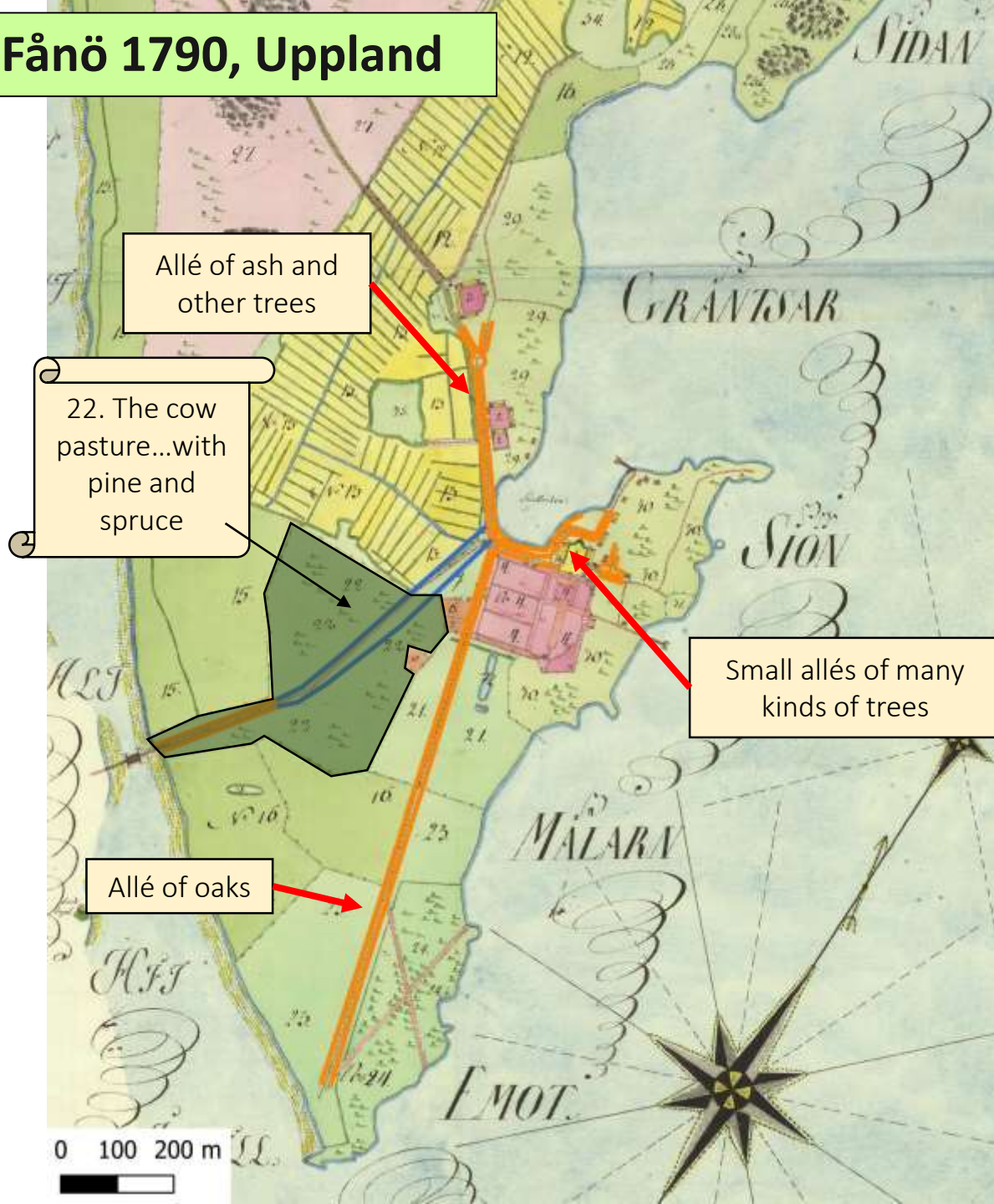
Fånö 1790, Uppland



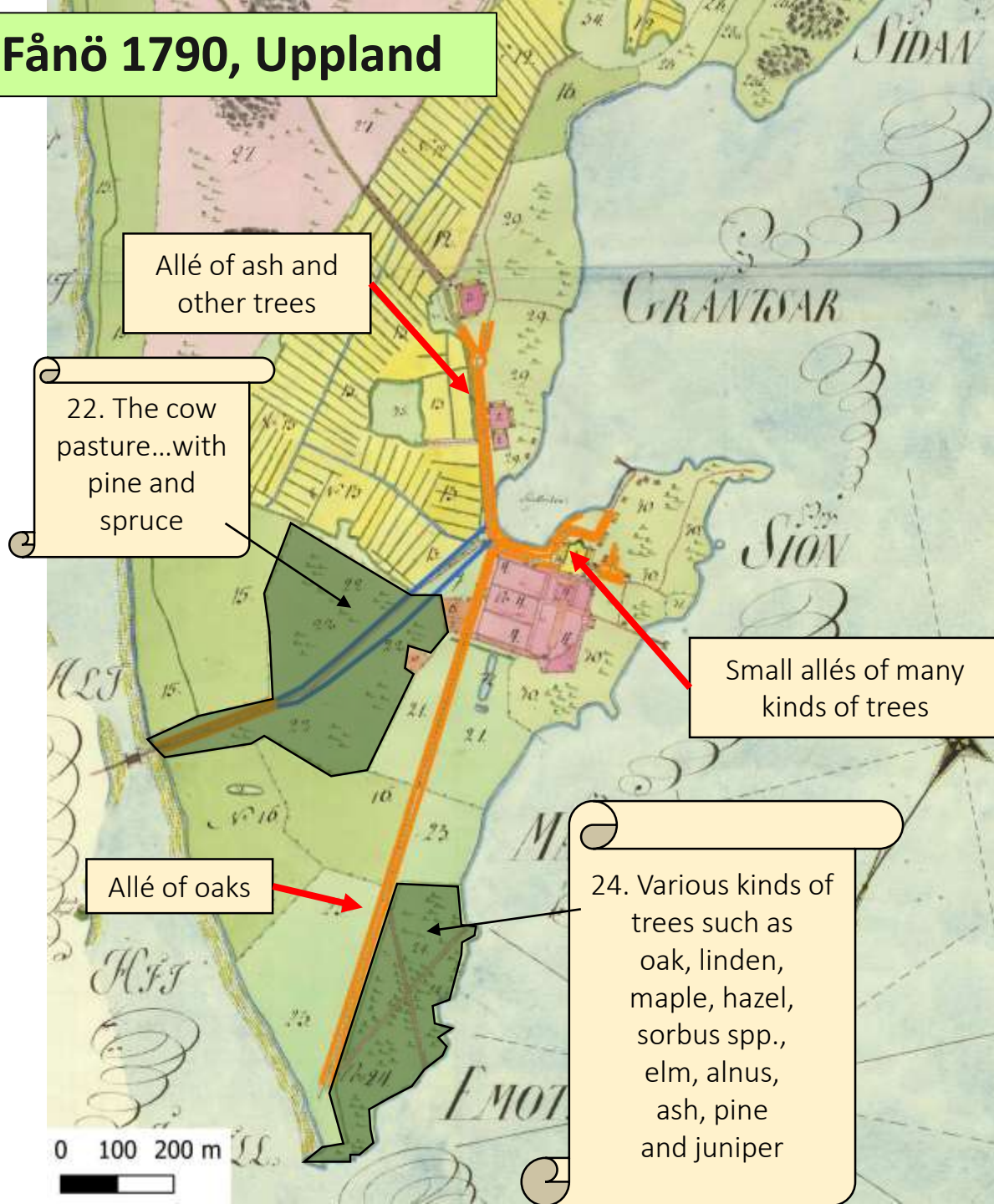
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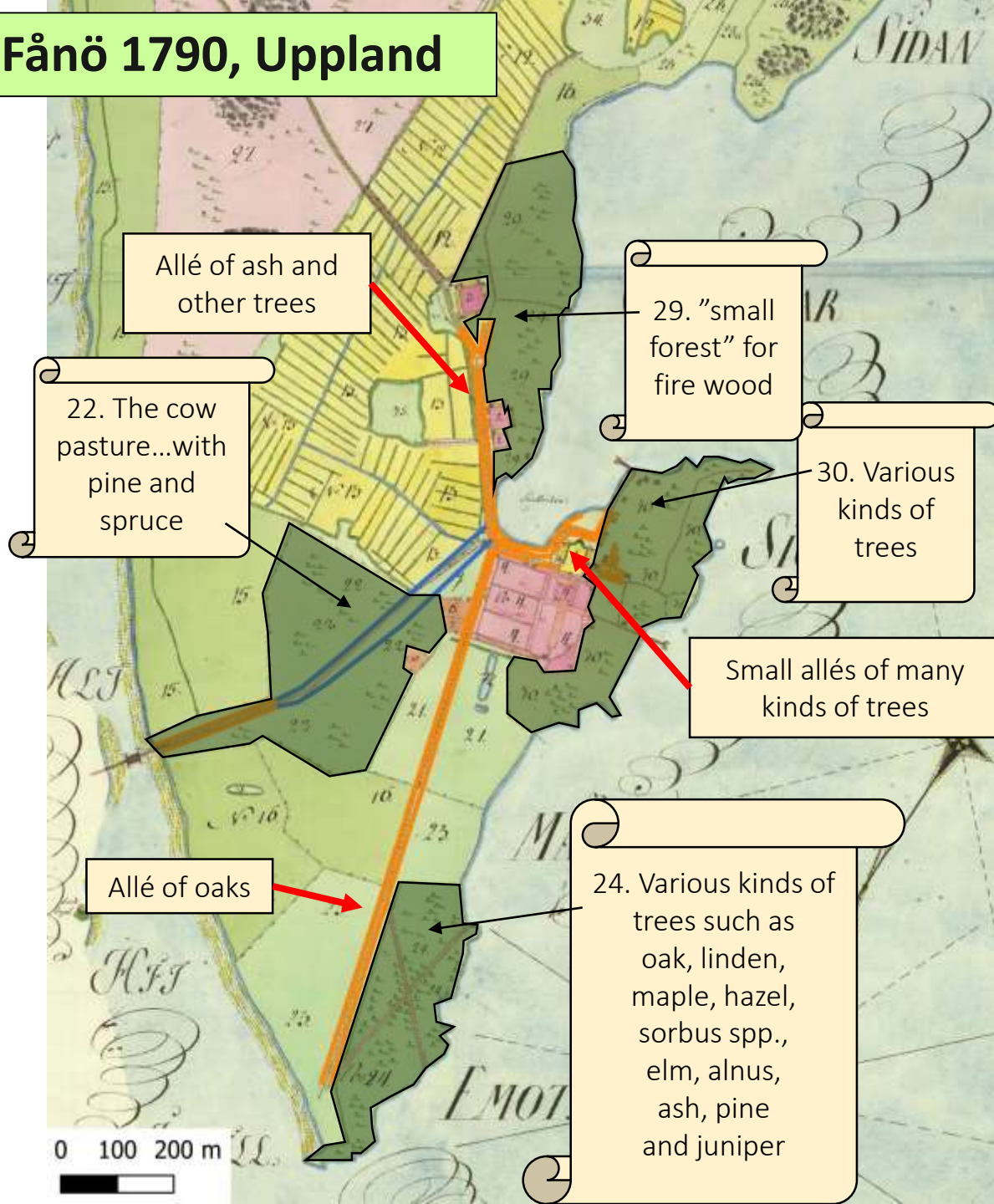
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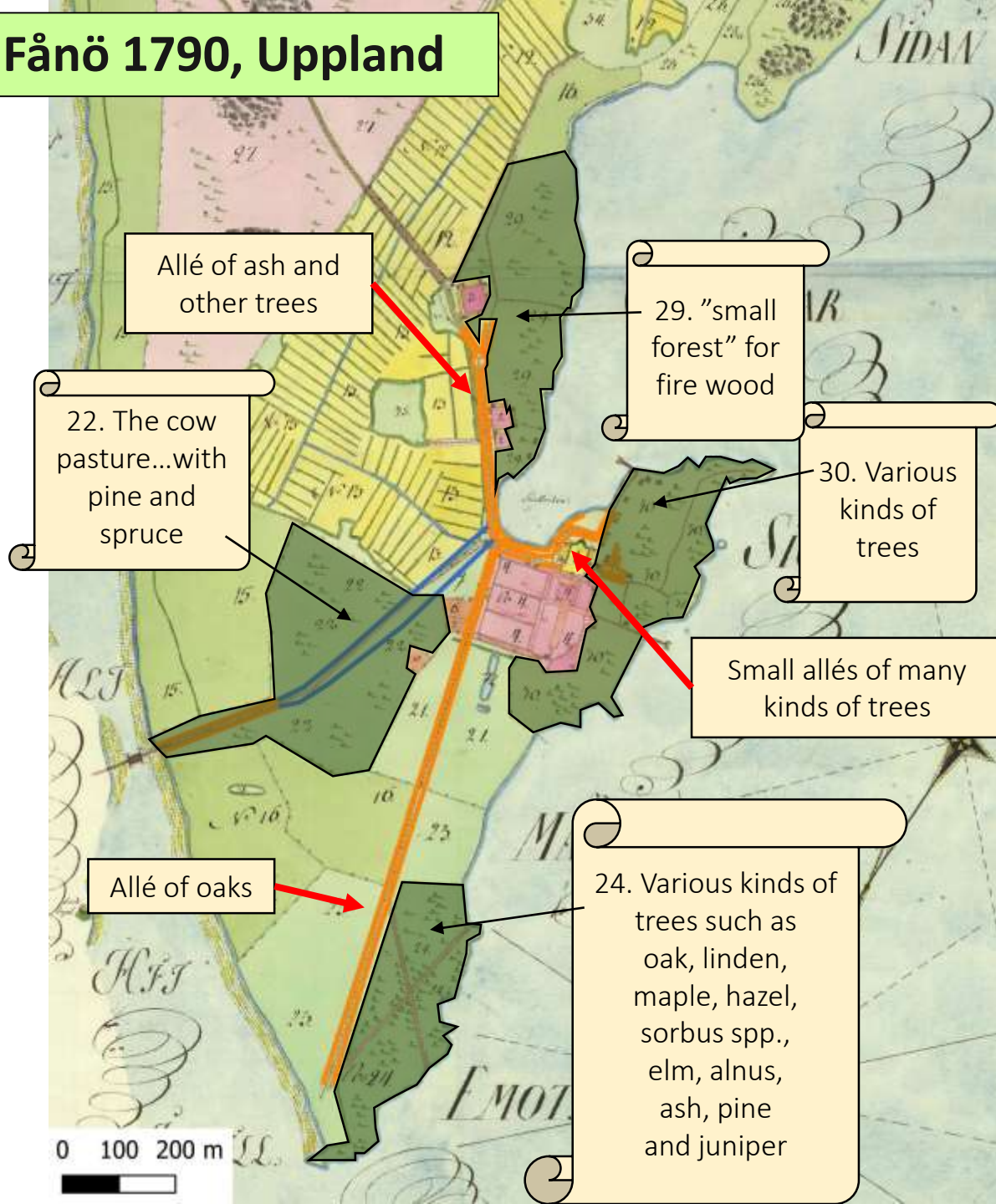
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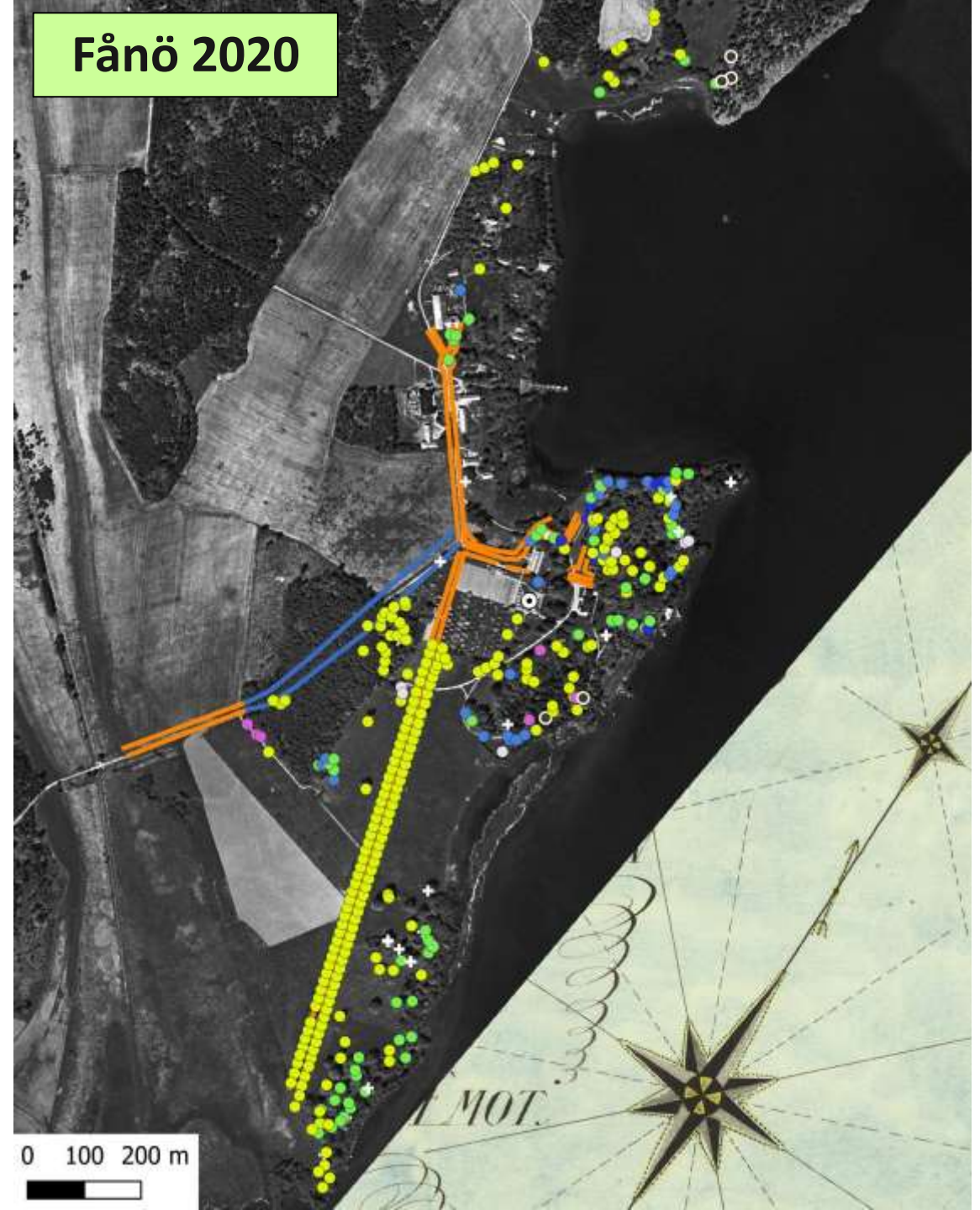
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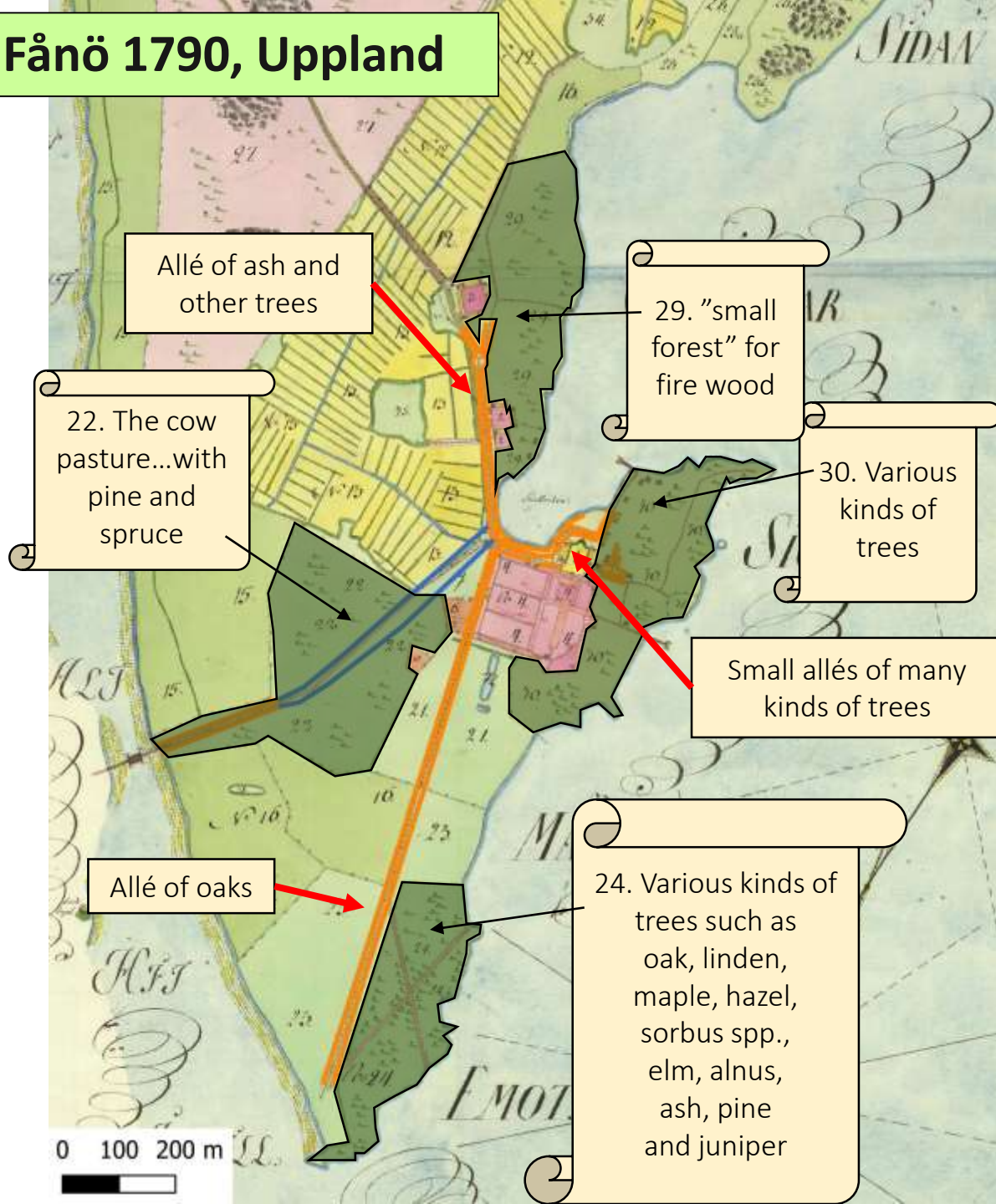
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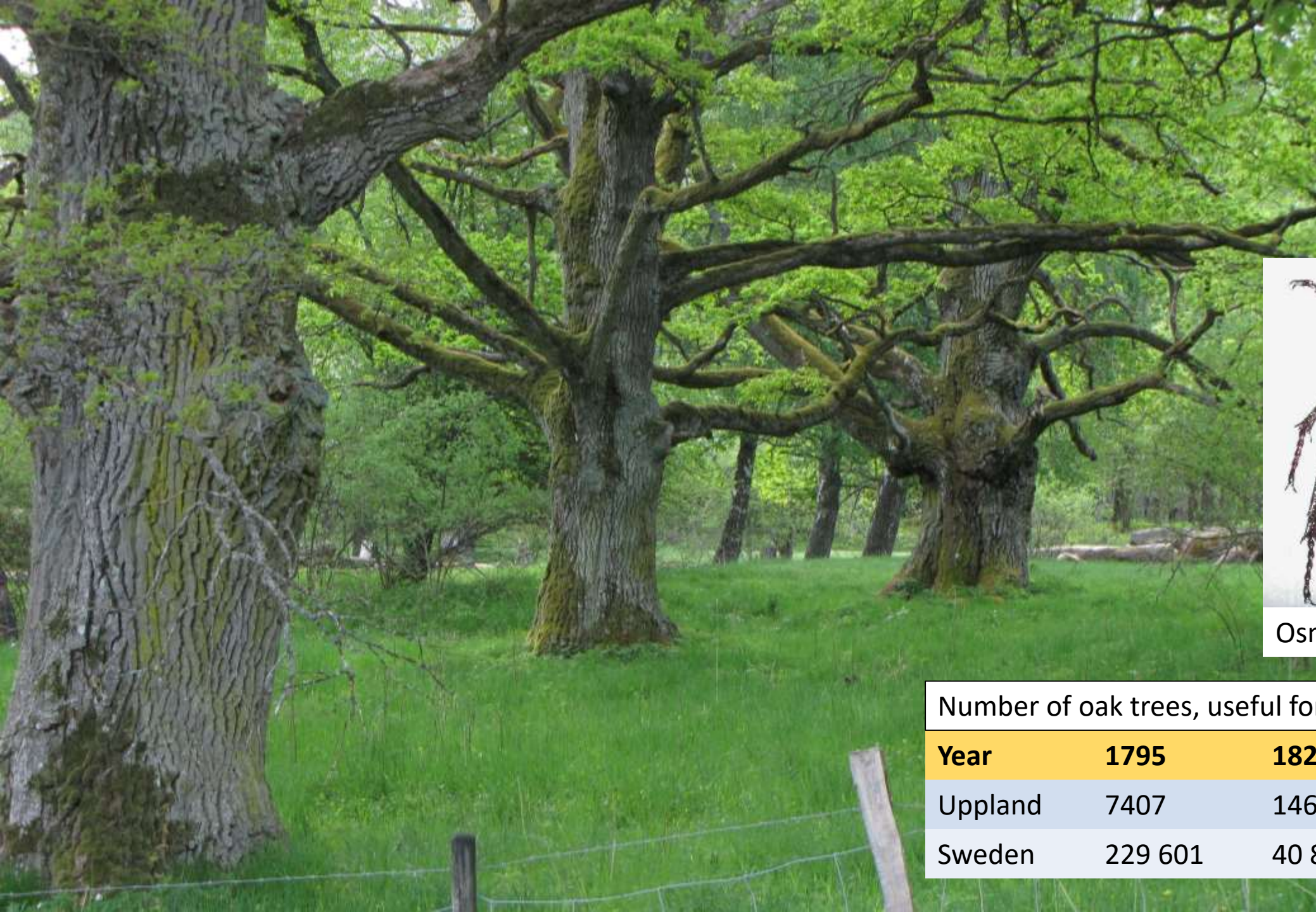
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Osmoderma eremita



Osmoderma eremita

Number of oak trees, useful for the navy			
Year	1795	1825	Loss
Uppland	7407	146	98%
Sweden	229 601	40 841	82%



Past (18th century)

- Plenty of sun-exposed trees in the Swedish countryside
- Parks and Allées were comparably young



Lövstaholm, Sigtuna

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- Parks and Allées were comparably young

Present

- Most old and valuable trees have been cut down or suffer in forest
- Trees in parks and allées are now old and sun exposed.

Avenues and their biodiversity links :

- The present and the past
- Urban and rural areas
- Humans and nature



Ledinge, Knivsta



Stockholm, Gärdet



Many of the characteristics that make avenues species rich are also appealing to humans.

- Old trunks
- Hollow
- Sunny landscapes



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- Many trees in the same place
- Close distance between trees
- Exciting and beautiful



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Connections between humans and trees have a long history



In Norse mythology:

- Yggdrasil – one ash tree is the entire cosmos
- First humans were created from two trees.



New roads sometimes cut through old allées



Stora Väsby, north of Stockholm

New roads sometimes cut through old allées
Here, the drivers are reminded about the allé by a an artistic tree of metal
But, the living trees of allés are more than an archietcural monument



Biological cultural heritage - summary

Trees and their species in allés are legacies from the past

They tell about the past landscapes and humans:

- Where in the landscape there have been trees of different ecological quality (e.g. large, hollow and sun-exposed trees)
- The amount of sun-exposed old trees in the landscape
- Openness
- Aesthetic ideals
- The use of trees, e.g.:
 - Leaf harvest
 - Wood cutting
 - Basket production
 - Shade

