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VIKING AGE GRAVEYARD AT PIILA, SAAREMAA

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A large but partly destroyed graveyard between the villages of Piila and Oha at the northern end of Kaarma parish, central Saaremaa (Ösel), was recorded and partly excavated during the last century. Its presumed area at that time was ca 79 000 m². The first excavations there were led by amateur archaeologists Friedrich Kruse (1840) and Holzmayer (1868, 1872), but no plans or exact reports have survived from these digs. In 1922, during a great campaign to record archaeological sites, the Piila graveyard was described as mostly destroyed by treasure–hunters (Saaremaa ja Muhu muinasjäänused 1924,19–20). Vello Lõugas, who investigated the site in 1986, found a part of it still intact (Fig. 1). Three

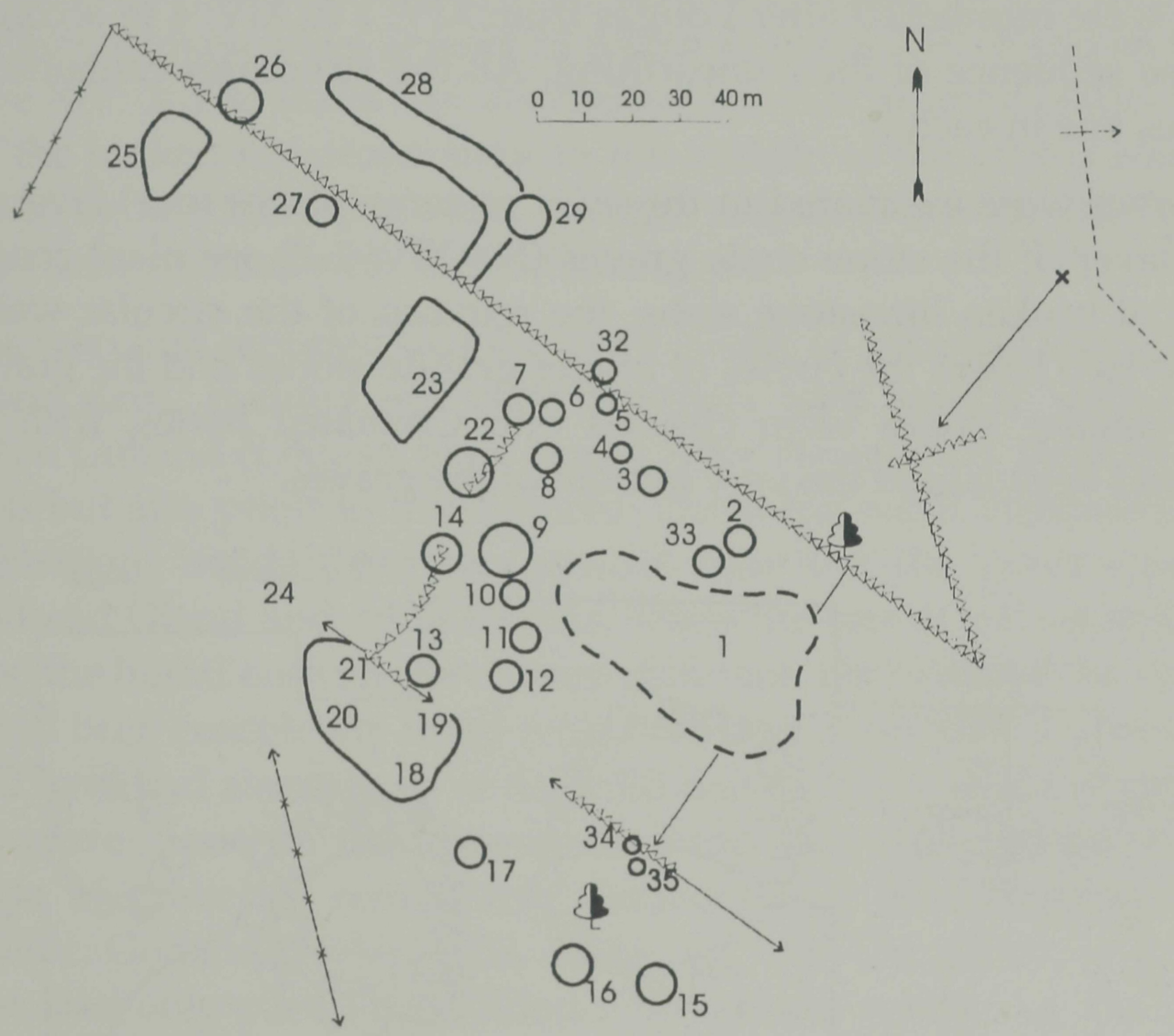

Fig. 1. – Piila graveyard, recorded by Lõugas, 1986. Grave No 14 is the group of graves XIV: 1–4, excavated in 1989 and 1997.

years later, two Viking Age graves were partly unearthed by archaeological excavations led by him. The results of these digs have been used in this report together with the results of archaeological excavations at Piila graveyard in the summer of 1997.

In this year, excavations at Piila graveyard were carried out under the leadership of Marika Mägi, of the Institute of History, in co–operation with the Museum of Saaremaa. Anthropologist Raili Allmäe and osteologist Liina Maldre, both from the Institute of History, were responsible for the bones, made all the osteological analyses afterwards and have written the osteological part of this article. The finds were magazined in the Museum of Saaremaa, SM 1468: 1–239.

Stone structures

A site for a trench, which eventually covered 76 m^2, was chosen alongside Lõugas's trench from 1989. Four stone graves, together with the two that had been partly unearthed in 1989, were opened in 1997 (Fig. 2). They had all formed the foundation of a much later stone wall between fields. Three of the graves were so called stone circle graves with low walls of limestone slabs and one was a grave of large granite stones. The graves were numbered after Lõugas from XIV: 1 to XIV: 4 in accordance with the sequence of their unearthing. All the structures contained cremations, one in each.

The graves were excavated in three (or in some places four) layers. The upper layer of the stone circle graves (No XIV: 1–3; see plan) consisted mostly of broken limestone slabs, the remains of the circular walls. In the next two layers the circles of bigger granite stones and the grave–infill of smaller stones were cleaned out. Cremated bones, with other finds, had been laid at the very bottom of the graves.

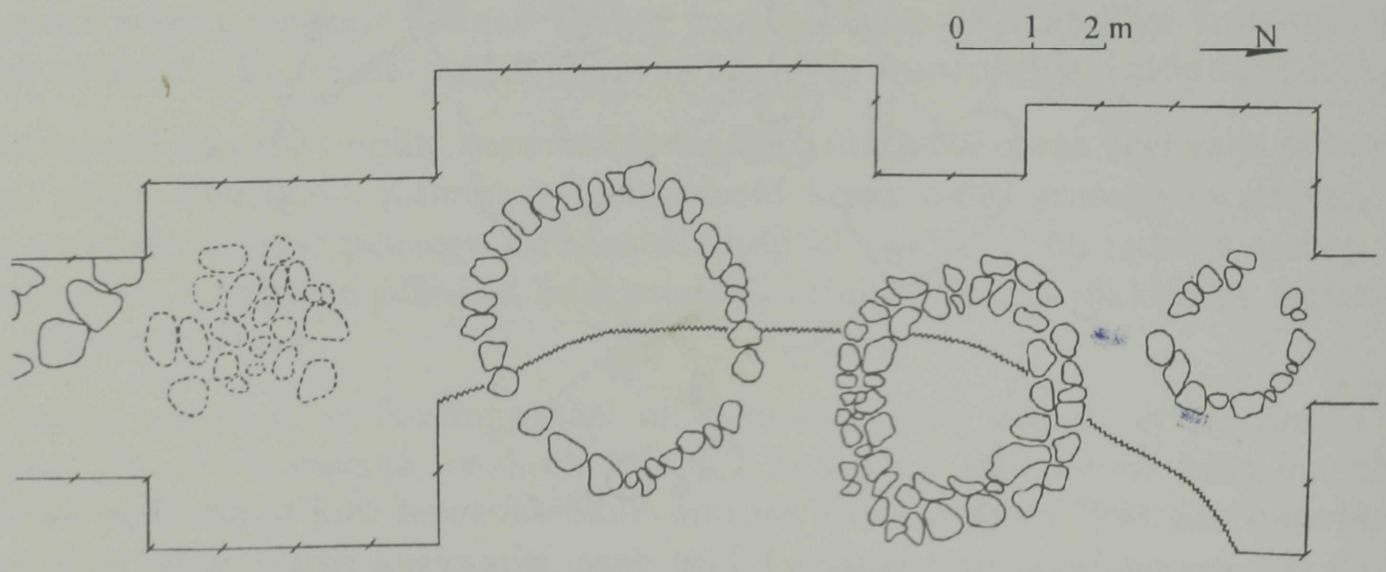

Fig. 2 – Piila grveyard. Graves XIV: 1–4.

Fig. 3 – Piila. Profile of the fall of limestone slabs between graves XIV: 1 and 3.

The falls from the limestone walls were clearly observable in places, where distances between two graves were ca 1 m (Fig. 3). The heights of the walls must have been at least ca 65 cm in grave XIV: 1 and ca 50 cm in grave XIV: 2. The walls had also fallen inwards in some places. Since not all the broken limestone slabs in the middle of the graves could be explained by falls from the walls, one can presume that the infill stones had also been covered with slabs of limestone.

Lõugas, who first reported that the stone circles of Piila had had walls of limestone slabs, pointed out close parallels with similar Viking Age graves on Gotland (Lõugas, pers. comm.). We can confirm some of these parallels but also point to divergences. The stone walls themselves and the cremations inside them are features that link the grave–types on Gotland and Öland and on Saaremaa, while the rest of the construction and also the burial customs have been different. On Gotland the circular walls had been completely filled with rubble or a mixture of gravel and soil and have had also a heap of the infill material on top of the grave. A special grave–stone on the apex of the heap was also characteristic of this type of grave, as remarkably demonstrated by reconstrations at Trullhalsar, Gotland (Nylén 1958, 78–80, fig. 14). The graves at Piila, in contrast, had only partly been filled with smaller rubble, i.e. the upper part of the inside of the stone circles had been empty. This is clearly demonstrated by profiles of the graves, where the infill stones occur

nowhere else but in the bottom of the grave. A layer of infill stones above the ruins of the walls, as could occur naturally when a grave of the Gotland type had collapsed, has never been found either in Piila or in the other graves of the same type in Saaremaa, as far as it is possible to determine from the old plans and reports. It should be noted here that some stone graves with cremations in Birka, though without walls, have also been empty inside (Gräslund 1980, 67).

Grave XIV: 3 had a kerb of granite stones, whose diameter was clearly smaller than that of the other two stone circle graves. This grave, however, had had an additional kerb of limestone slabs, laid directly to the ground. The outer wall had been destroyed in the northern and north–western part of the structure, obviously because of the building of the later stone wall. In addition, grave XIV: 1 had a wall foundation of double kerbs, in this case of granite stones. The wall of grave XIV: 2 had been built on a foundation of a single kerb of medium–sized granite stones, but had arguably been the highest among these graves at Piila. The diameter of this grave was ca 4,5 m; the great size of the structure was consistent with the great number of different grave goods in it.

Grave XIV: 4 differed completely from the others. No stone circles were recorded here, but an area with diameter of ca 2 m was simply covered with large granite stones (Ø 60 – 70 cm). There was little trace of smaller stones or even gravel between or above these stones; the soil between them was dark and gritty. The big stones covered a ca 10–cm–thick sooty layer containing finds, cremated bones and pieces of charcoal. The structure was surrounded by smaller stones, mainly pieces of limestone.

Thist kind of grave has never been recorded as a separate grave type in Estonian archaeology, though similar constructions have also been found in some other graveyards of the Late Iron Age. The main reason why they have not previously been identified as graves could be that the earlier excavations in this type of graveyard were carried out in haste and the stones have been removed in only two layers or even all simultaneously.

Burial customs

Only one burial was found in each grave. The pyre had been laid in some other place and the bones and remains of artefacts were brought to the grave in clay vessels. Sherds of 1–3 pots were found in every grave and were spread over an area of ca 1.5 m2. This indicates that the vessels were ritually smashed, perhaps thrown into the grave. Without inten-

tional smashing the pots would be intact, or, if broken, the sherds would lie together in one spot, as indicated by several similar finds in Sweden and elsewhere (Gräslund 1980, 53–54; report on Bjurhovda). Characteristically a bowl of Viking Age fine ceramic was found in each grave at Piila. As the sherds of it were spread over the same area as most of the bones and finds, it could be identified as a container for the burial remains collected from the pyre. The rest of the vessels were so–called household pottery. No signs of their contents have survived, but it could have been food, drink or water with which the dead had been washed, if we draw parallels with burial customs in South–East Estonia during the last century (Heiki Valk, pers. comm.). The potsherds lay on the bottom of the grave and had not been exposed to fire, which means that they had been smashed during the burial rites in the grave. In grave XIV: 4 potsherds of a probably later vessel were also found in the upper layers and could thus have been broken later, possible even centuries later above the grave. Sherds of another vessel of household pottery were found in the area between graves XIV: 2 and XIV: 4.

All the dead had been laid on the pyre dressed on their festive clothing, with ornaments, belt decoration and some other items like a knife in its sheath, all which belonged to the clothing. Melted bronze spirals indicate that the clothing, probably the edges of some pieces, had been decorated with spiral–decoration, woven into the fabric. Some bronze items in grave XIV: 2 probably belonged to a horse harness. Weapons were not found from the Piila graves, though they were quite common in some other graveyards of the same type in Saaremaa. However, the number of graves excavated at Piila was too small to draw any conclusions from this evidence. Concerning tools, a piece of a scythe was found in grave XIV: 2; this was a common grave good for a man in Estonia during this period (Mägi–Lõugas 1995, 522).

Some differences between burial customs in different grave types could be observed. Few traces of the pyre itself (soot, charcoal, etc.) were found in the stone circle graves (XIV: 1–3). Only part of the cremated bones and melted artefacts were collected in the vessel, but these were carefully picked up from the remnants of the pyre. As indicated by larger artefacts (brooches, bracelets, etc.), they had been intentionally broken or damaged before being put onto the pyre. In grave XIV: 4 ca 10–cm–thick sooty layer with many pieces of charcoal was recorded in an area of ca 1,5 m2, under the large stones. Comparatively more cremated bones than from the other graves were found in this layer. The remains of the cremation were obviously brought to the grave with sev-

eral containers. It should also be noted here that at least one penannular brooch and a key found in this grave had been intact before burning.

Whether the stone circles were erected before or after the burial rite remains debatable at the present moment. Continuing excavations at Piila will, we hope, also throw light on this apect of the burial customs of Viking Age Estonia.

Osteological material

The skeleton of an adult human individual produces approximately 2 – 2,5 kg of cremated bones during a cremation. In Iron Age cremation graves in Sweden the minimal weight of the bones in one grave is 3 g, the maximum 1363 g, which means that about 80–90 % of the skeleton was missing (Sigvallius 1994, 28). In Piila 3,2 – 185,5.g human bones were found in each grave (table 1).

Table 1. *Human bone finds in Piila graves*

Grave	No	Depth	Weight (g)	Species	Bone fragment	Colour	Description
XIV: 1			179,3	Human	different bone fragments	from white to black	no animal bones were found
			3,6		1.teeth		1.1. one upper molar and 4 other tooth fragments
							1.2. upper right molar. Adult
							1.3. fragments of two incisors or premolars: roots
							1.4. lower pre–molar. Adult
							1.5. fragment of molar
							1.6. fragment of incisor or pre–molar: root. Adult
			2,7		2.cranial		8 fragments of thin–walled cranium
					3.long bone		5 epiphyseal and amounts of small diaphyseal fragments (part of them with elliptical sequences)
Total weight of human bones in grave XIV: 1			185,5				

XIV: 2	51	–23	2.8	Human	long bone	white	4 pieces, thick–walled long bone fragments with elliptic crack sequences Femur?
	25	–21	1.5	Human?	*metatarsale*	light	fr. of *metatarsale*
	15	–18	0.2	Human?	tooth, C'	bluish	upper left canine, root
	75	–37	0.75	Human?	long bone	light	one fr.
Total weight of human bones in grave XIV: 2			5,25				
XIV: 3	5	6	0.3	Human?	cranial	bluish–white	one cranial fr., 1,5/*1cm, bluish–white, human?
	37	–11	0.5	Human?	long bone	light	one fr.
	44	–11		Human?	long bone	white	10 fragments.
	8	–4	1.6	Human?	long boneu	white	fr. of long bones
	10	–7	0.8	Human	*Os temporale, pars petrosa*	white	fragment of right temporal bone (pars petrosa)
Total weight of human bones in grave XIV: 3			3,2				
XIV: 4	7	–24	1.05	Human?	long bone	light, partly dark	fragment of thin–walled long bone
	79	–34	0.4	Human?	cranial ?	light	thin–walled cranial fragment
	49	–30	0.45	Human?	long bone	light, dark	3 light and 1 dark long bone fragments
	54	–26	0.3	Human?	cranial ??	light	2 fr.: one from the cranial vault? 8*8mm, relatively thick–walled
	67	–30	0.7	Human?	long bone	light	one fragment.
	48	–28	1.0	Human?	long bone	light	one fragment
	53	–28	0.5	Human?	cranial ??	light	thick–walled cranial fragment?
	47	–26	0.2	Human?	long bone	light	one fragment
Total weight of human bones in graveXIV: 4			4,6				
Total weight in all graves			197,85				

Only a few cremated human bones, most of them burned white, were found in the graves of Piila. The survival conditions for osteological material could not have been poor, because the cremated bones of a dog in grave XIV: 2 were preserved quite well. Berit Sigvallius has suggested that the loss of bone material in the Viking Age graves can be due to

various kinds of ritual events. The bones or possibly only a few of them were picked out from the ash layer of the pyre and then intentionally crushed, with the result that some of the bones were reduced to powder and it was thus not possible to recover them at the archaeological excavation (1994, 29–32). The remains of the bones from earlier period cremations are considerably larger, and thus obviously not crushed.

Graves before the Merovingian Period contain only a few cremated animal bones in Sweden. Many bones of various animals have been found in cremations from the Merovingian period; during the Viking Age their number decreases again (Sigvallius 1994).

In Sweden the most common of all animal species in cremations was the dog, which occurred slightly more frequently in male than in female graves (Sigvallius 1994, 67). In Piila, the bones of a dog were found in graves XIV: 2 and XIV: 3, which were both probably male graves. The dog in grave XIV: 3 had probably been burned together with its master, i. e. on the same pyre. Bones of a rather large dog (shoulder height 50–60 cm), unearthed in grave XIV: 2, were clearly less burned than human bones in the same grave and fragments of all parts of the dog's skeleton were represented. Was the dog burned separately? If so, then one of the two household vessels in this grave could plausibly have been a container for its remains. As many as four dogs of similar size – shoulder height 55 – 65 cm – were found in cremations at North Spånga in Sweden (Sigvallius 1994, 68–69). In addition only some very few remains of a sheep or goat, a horse and a small bird were found in the Piila graves (table 2).

Tabel 2. *Animal bone finds in Piila graves*

Grave	№	Species	Bone	Colour
XIV: 2	6	Dog?	2 long bone fragments	light
	11	Hare	2 fragments of tooth	unburnt
	12	Dog	skull fragment (left temporal)	light
	13	Dog	distal end of phalanx	light
			fragment of phalanx II	light
	20	Dog	distal end of metapodial bone	light
			fragment of tooth root ($(M_1?)$	light
			2 fragments of occipital bone	light
			fragment of parietal bone	light
			fragment of nasal bone fragment	light
	21	Bird	ulna	unburnt
	22	Dog	fragment of left tibia	light

		fragment of right tibia	light
23	Rodentia	skull fragment	unburnt
24	Animal	fragment of vertebra	light
25	Dog?	fragment of cervical vertebra	light
	Hare?	fragment of cervical vertebra	unburnt?
26	Bird	humerus of a small bird	unburnt
27	Rodentia	mandibula	unburnt
56	Dog	fragments of left tibia	light
57	Bird	humerus	unburnt
		fragment of radius	unburnt
	Cattle	tooth fragment (M?)	dark (burned?)
	Dog	2 phalanx II fragments	light
		fragment of cervical vertebra	light
	Rodentia	fragment of femur	unburnt
58	Dog	fragment of vertebral body	light
		fragment of right tibia	light
59	Sheep/Goat	tooth fragment (M?)	unburnt?
60	Dog	fragment of left mandibula *(proc. art.)*	light
		fragment of maxilla	light
		fragment of right temporal bone	light
		fragment of vertebral body	light
		fragment of proximal end of right radius	light
		fragment of radius	light
		fragment of mandibula	light
		fragment of carpal bone *(o.c. accessorium)*	light
		distal end of phalanx	light
		fragment of right temporal bone	dark
		fragment of tooth	light
61	Dog	distal end of phalanx	light
		fragment of left radius	light
		fragment of cervical vertebra	light
		dorsal end of rib	light
		fragment of proximal end of left ulna	light
62	Dog	caudal vertebra	light
		fragment of vertebral body	light
		fragment of palatinum	light
		distal end of phalanx I	light
		fragment of left femur	light
63	Dog	phalanx I	light
		fragment of right temporal bone	light
64	Dog	fragment of phalanx I	light
		4 fragments of right radius	light

			2 fragments of left tibia	light
			fragment of cervical vertebra	light
			fragment of vertebra	light
	65	Dog	fragment of right maxilla (P^4–M^2 alv.)	light
			fragment of left ulna	light
			2 fragments of second cervical vertebra	light
			fragment of first cervical vertebra	light
			proximal end of phalanx I	light
			fragment of caudal vertebra	light
			2 fragments of phalanx I	light
			2 fragments of vertebral body	light
			2 fragments of femur	light,black
			fragment of vertebra	light
			fragment of left zygomatic bone	white
			2 fragments of left humerus	light
			9 teeth fragments	light
	72	Animal	fragment of lumbar vertebra	unburnt
	74	Sheep/Goat	2 fragments of tooth	unburnt?
	80	Dog	fragment of occipital bone	white
XIV: 3	10	Dog	fragment of canine tooth	light
	31	Dog?	fragment of canine tooth	light
	33	Horse	tooth	unburnt?
	44	Cattle?	2 teeth fragments	bluish
XIV: 4	45	Horse	fragments of first cervical vertebra	unburnt
	81	Sheep/Goat	fragment of tooth	unburnt?

The graves

Grave XIV: 1 (Fig. 4)

Measurements: outer diameter 4 m, inner diameter 2,3 m, minimum height of the wall 50 cm.

Grave goods: a penannular brooch (3, 5), two spiral finger–rings (4, 6), a strap end (8), pieces of chain (7), pieces of bronze plating (1), probably from a knife–sheath, an iron knife (2).

Pottery: 2 vessels
Dating: 1000–1050
Sex: ?

3/4 of this grave was excavated in 1989 (XIV: A), from which no plans have survived. Both bones and artefacts were extremely burnt. The terminals of the penannular brooch were not preserved, but the hoop had a

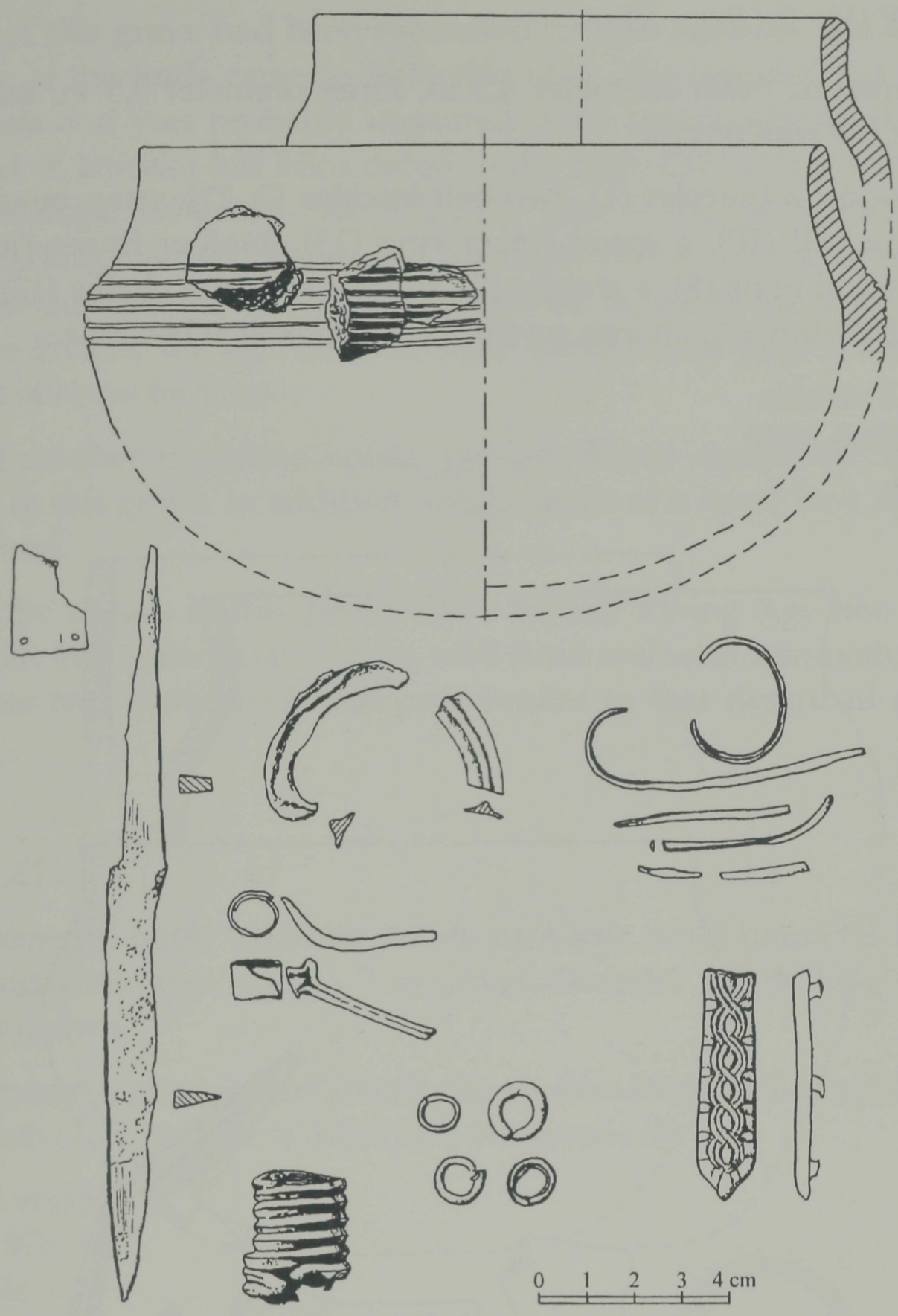

Fig. 4 – Finds in grave XIV: 1. AI 5386: 4, 18, 5/6 , 9, 7/10 , SM 1468: 6, AI 5386: 3/11, 1.

triangular cross–section that dates the brooch to the 11th century (Carlsson, 1988). Strap ends with similar, but double–plaiting decoration, had been found in 10th century graves on Öland (Ölands järnaldersgravfält 1987, 58–60, 103). Bronze strap moulds could be connected with both male and female graves in Estonia.

One of the vessels was a carinated Viking Age bowl with thin walls, well fired, smooth dark surface and a decoration of deep lines. The other was a typical jar–like household pot, characterized by coarse content and rough surface.

Grave XIV: 2 (Fig. 5)

Measurements: outer diameter 4,5 m, inner diameter 3,5 m, minimum height of the wall 65 cm.

Grave goods: a bracelet (1), two belt buckles (3, 11), strap mould with loop (4), a bell (10), a spiral finger–ring (13), another finger–ring with double–spiral ends (8), a weight (9), bronze and iron chains (12), pieces of bronze plating (2), an iron scythe (5), a probable whetstone.

Pottery: 3 vessels
Dating: 1000–1050
Sex: male

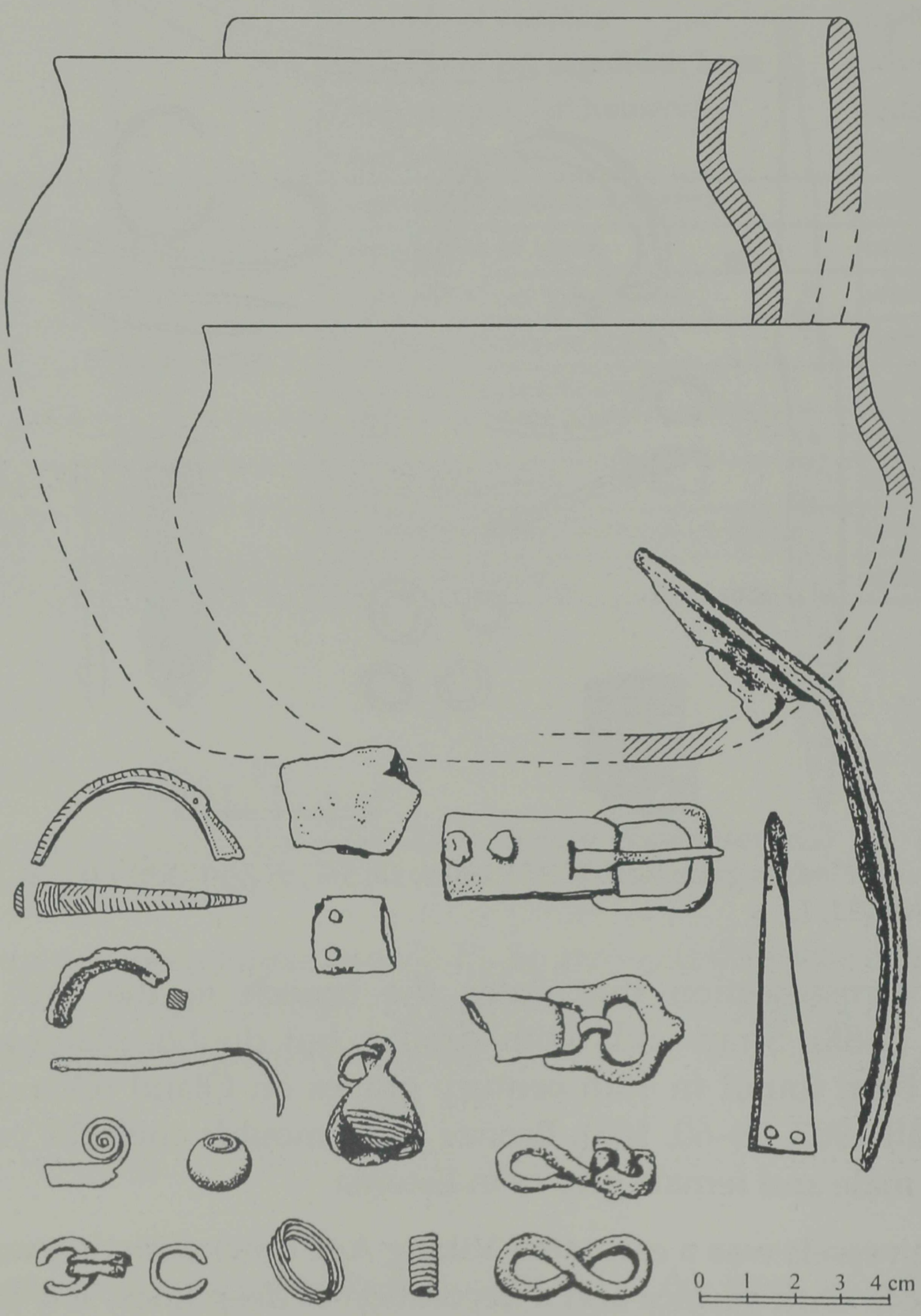

Fig. 5 – Finds in grave XIV: 2. AI 5386: 22, 21/SM 1468: 56, 146, 101, AI 5386: 24, SM 1468: 138, 145, 57, 128, 100, 139, 39/136, 51, 43, 151/187.

Ca 1/3 of this grave had been excavated in 1989 (XIV: B), but the great majority of the finds came to light this year. The bracelet had animal–head ends and was probably imported from Latvia (Curonia?), where this kind of bracelet has been dated to the 10th–13th centuries (Latvijas PSR arheoloģia 1974, 189–190, 202, 231). One of the belt buckles was a simple rectangular iron frame, but the other was a typical buckle of the so called Gotland–Baltic type and could be dated to the 11th century. The iron buckle, the bell and the strap mould with loop are probable remains of horse harness.

A great number of canine bones, perhaps burnt separately, were unearthed in this grave. In addition, single bones of a small bird and an ox were found.

One of the vessels in this grave was a typical Viking Age fine ceramic bowl with thin walls, convex axes, well fired and with a smooth surface. The other two were household pots similar to that described in grave XIV: 1.

Grave XIV: 3 (Fig. 6)

Measurements: outer diameter 2,2 m, probable outer diameter together with outer limestone wall ca 3 m, inner diameter 1,5 m, height of the walls unknown.

Grave goods: a penannular brooch (4), an iron knife and bronze plating of a sheath (1–3), bronze spirals (6), a whetstone (5).

Pottery: vessel
Dating: 975–1025
Sex: male

The sheath of the knife was the main artefact that enabled us to determine sex of the dead. The knife sheaths of women in Saaremaa had a different shape with special widening. The whetstone also belonged more plausible among male grave goods. The penannular brooch had poppy–shaped terminals with decoration, which was unusual for this kind of penannular brooch in Estonia. However, the decoration resembled that of some ornamental pins from the end of the 10th century (Mägi 1997, 35–41, 63–65, Pl. V: 4). Only some single potsherds of a Viking Age fine ceramic bowl were found from this grave. In addition to human bones some single fragments of dog's and ox's teeth were found.

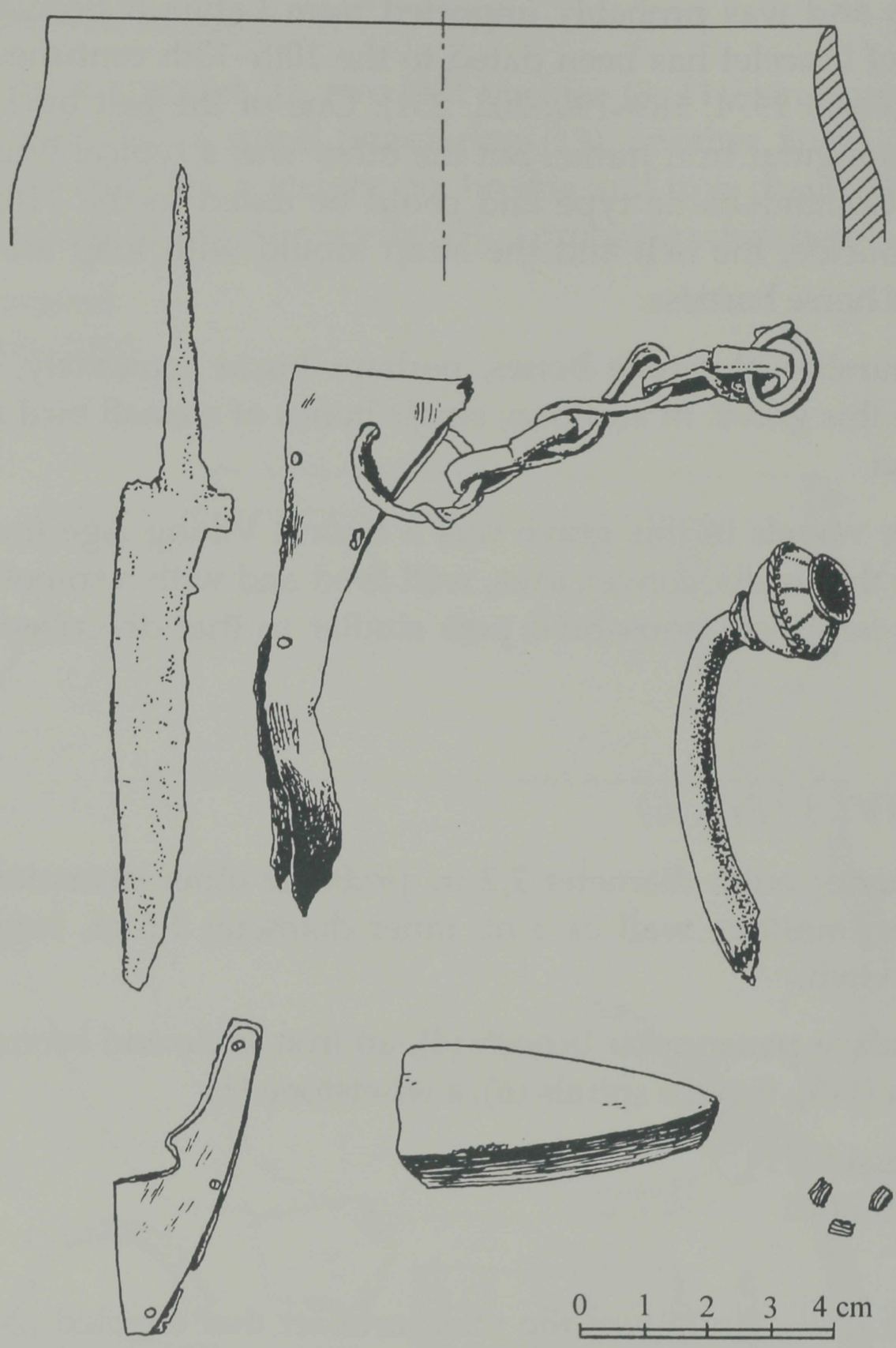

Fig. 6 – Finds in grave XIV: 3. SM 1468: 129, 74, 66, 81, 78, 65/68.

Grave XIV: 4 (Fig. 7)

Measurements: area with diameter of 2,5 m covered with large granite stones.

Grave goods: a penannular brooch with a spiral finger–ring (1), a bracelet ? (4), chains and spirals (2–3, 6), an iron key (5).

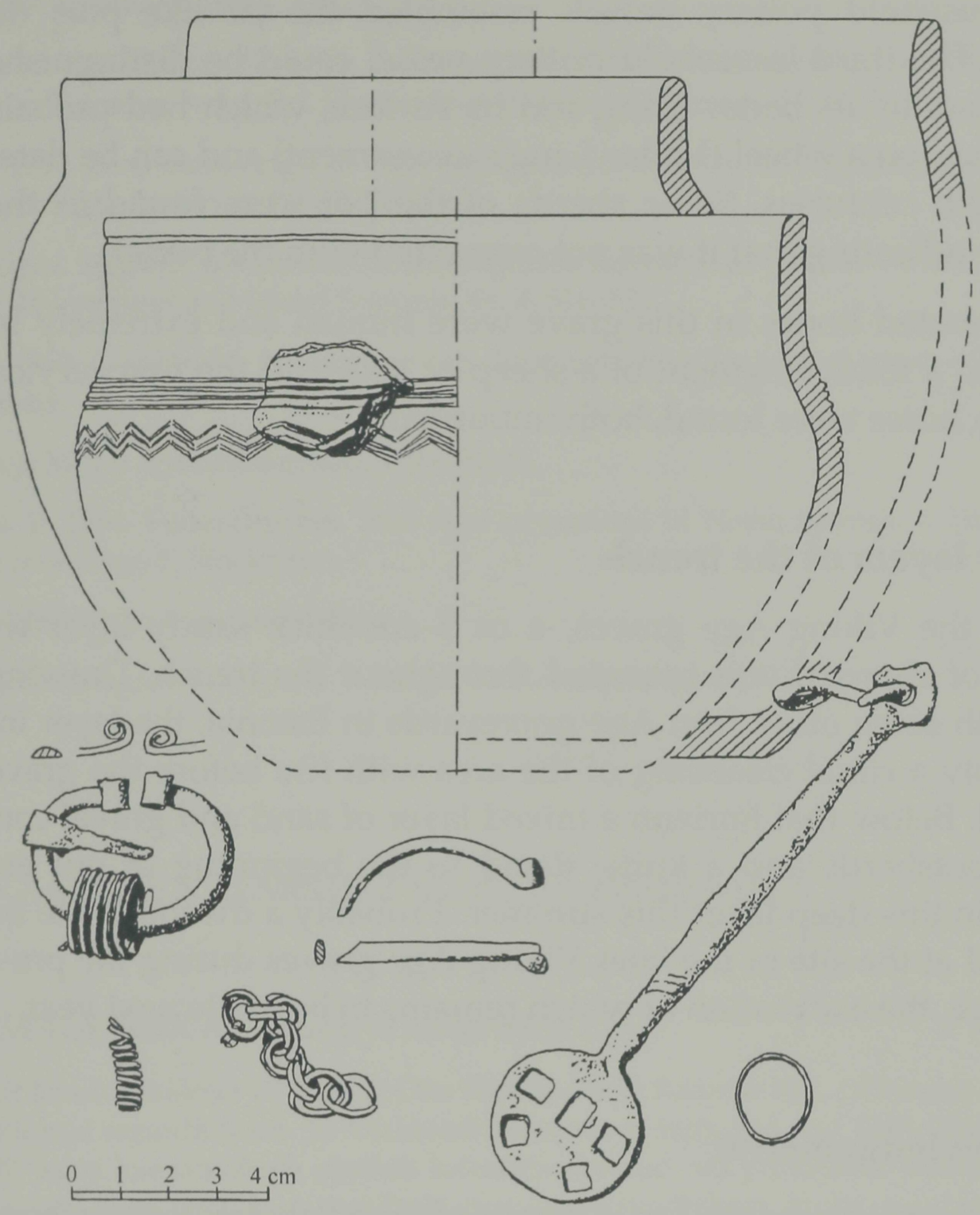

Fig. 7 – Finds in grave XIV: 4. SM 1468: 24, 63, 91, 30, 99, 28.

Pottery: 3 or 4 vessels
Dating: 800–1000
Sex: female

Keys are typical grave goods for woman, but could not be dated more exactly than to the Late Iron Age. The penannular brooch had a hoop of segmental cross–section and concave rolled terminals. It can be dated to the first half of the Viking Age because of the terminals (Šnore 1987, 16, Fig. 1: 16).

A 9th–10th century fine ceramic pot with decoration of lines and zigzags and with other features typical of this kind of pottery was found in this grave. Similar vessels were dated to the 8th–9th centuries at Pöide stronghold, eastern Saaremaa (Lõugas, Mägi–Lõugas 1994, 29–30) and to the 5th–8th centuries at Iru, North – Estonia (Lang, 1996 74–76). Two of

the household pottery vessels resembled the jar–like pots described above. The third household pottery vessel could be distinguished from the others by its better firing and its surface, which had probably been smoothed on a wheel (Valter Lang's assessment) and can be dated to the 11th–12th centuries. Some sherds of the pot were found in the upper layers, indicating that it was not connected with the burial.

All cremated bones in this grave were human and extremely burnt. In addition a tooth fragment of a sheep or goal and the first cervical vertebra of a horse were found, both unburned.

Lower layers of the trench

Under the Viking Age graves, a ca 5–cm–thick sandy layer with tiny pieces of charcoal was recorded throughout the trench. Drawing parallels with some other Iron Age graveyards in Estonia, the layer indicated plausibly a ritual cleansing of the area with fire before the graves were erected. Below that horizon a mixed layer of sand and gravel continued. Some potsherds and a knife, dated to the beginning of our era, were found in this deep layer this summer. Probably a dwelling site had been situated at the site of the later Viking Age graves during the pre–Roman Iron Age, the excavation of which remains to be made next year.

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VIIKINGIAEGNE KALMISTU PIILAS, SAAREMAAL

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Suur, osalt lõhutud kalmeväli Piila ja Öha külade vahel Kaarma khk. põhjaosas oli teada juba möödunud sajandil (joon. 1). Väikesed kaevamised toimusid seal 1840, 1868, 1872 ja 1989. 1997. aasta kaevamistega alustati kalmistu säilinud osa põhjalikku uurimist. Kaevati lõpuni läbi kaks 1989. aastal osaliselt avatud kiviringkalmet, lisaks uuriti veel kahte kalmet. Neist üks oli kiviring– ja teine suurte raudkividega kaetud põletusmatusega kalme. Kalmed nummerdati avastamise järjekorras XIV: 1–4 (joon. 2). Igasse kalmesse oli maetud üks põletatud surnu.

Kalmed XIV: 1–3 olid kiviringkalmed. See kalmetüüp on iseloomulik Saaremaale viikingiajal ja hilisrauaajal. Kõigil neil puhastati välja raudkividest vundamendiring, mille peale oli laotud paeplaatidest madal müür. Kalmes nr. 1 oli raudkividest ring kahekordne; kalmes nr. 3 lisandus raudkividest sisemisele ringile vahetult maapinnale laotud paeplaatidest välimine ring. Paeplaatidest kalmemüüride varing oli hästi jälgitav kalmete nr. 1 ja 3 ning nr. 1 ja 2 vahel, s.o. kohtades, kus kahe kalme vahe oli u. 1m ning kus varisev müür kohtas takistust (joon. 3). Varingu järgi otsustades oli kalme nr. 1 müür olnud vähemalt 65 cm ning kalme nr. 2 müür 50 cm kõrge. Kuna osa paeplaate olid varisenud ka sissepoole, võib arvata, et kalmete täidisekivid katsid kalmete sisemusest vaid alumise osa. Tuleriidalt üles korjatud põlenud luutükid ning sulanud esemekatked olid maapinnal, täidisekivide all.

Kuna igas kiviringkalmes leidus vähemalt üks viikingiaegse peenkeraamika pott, võib arvata, et luud ning esemete jäänused toodi tuleriidalt kalmesse savinõuga. Otsustades nii potikildude kui ka teiste leidude paiknemise järgi, oli savinõu tahtlikult purustatud,

võib–olla kalmesse visatud. Kalmetes nr. 1 ja 2 oli lisaks peenkeraamikale purustatud veel 2–3 jämedama keraamika potti.

Inimluid leidus kõigis kolmes kiviringkalmes, kõige rohkem kalmes nr. 1. Kalmetest nr. 2 ja 3 leiti ka põlenud koera luid.

Ülejäänutest erines kalme nr. 4. See koosnes suurtest raudkividest, mis ühe kihina katsid u. 2 m läbimõõduga ala. Kivide alla jäi u. 10 cm paksune söetükikestega nõgine kiht, mille sees leidus põlenud luid ja leide. Arvatavasti ei olnud surnut põletatud kohapeal, kuna inimluid oli vähe ning keraamika polnud sekundaarselt põlenud.

Põlenud inimluude vanust ja sugu ei saanud praeguste võimalustega määrata. Leiumaterjali järgi otsustades (joon. 4–7) olid kalmetesse nr. 2 ja 3 maetud mehed, nr. 4 naine; kalme nr. 1 leiumaterjal ei võimaldanud täpsemat määratlemist. Kalmed nr. 1–3 pärinesid ilmselt hilisviikingiajast, kalme nr. 4 9.–10. sajandist.

Kivikalmete all paljandus asulakiht, mille võiks esimeste leidude järgi otsustades dateerida ajaarvamise vahetusse. Asulakoha kaevamised jätkuvad järgmisel aastal.