

ARHEOLOOGILISED
VÄLITÖÖD
EESTIS

ARCHAEOLOGICAL
FIELD WORKS
IN ESTONIA

1997

Koostanud ja toimetanud
Ülle Tamla

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Tallinn 1997

TARTU ÜLIKOOI
RAAMATUKOGU
SUNDEKSEMPLAR

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS IN TALLINN AND VAIDA

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AS Tael (Tael Ltd.), Rüütli 6, EE 0001, Tallinn, Eesti (Estonia).

Tael Ltd. Carried out rescue excavations and archaeological supervision on four sites in Tallinn, and also trial excavations in Vaida, Jüri parish, Harjumaa.

At **Hobujaama Street 6**, the construction works of Norma Business Centre were supervised. There proved to be no cultural layer of any archaeological importance on the site. Some archaeological objects of the 17th–18th centuries, found on the site (pottery, fragments of clay pipes, a musket bullet, etc.; AI 6222: 1–16) seem to be stray finds accidentally lost or carried there. Formerly the site was probably a moist coastal area (Alamaa, Kivi, 1966).

During the rescue excavations on the site of **Viru Street 1/Vene Street 2 and 4a**, ploughing and spade traces, analogous to those discovered in

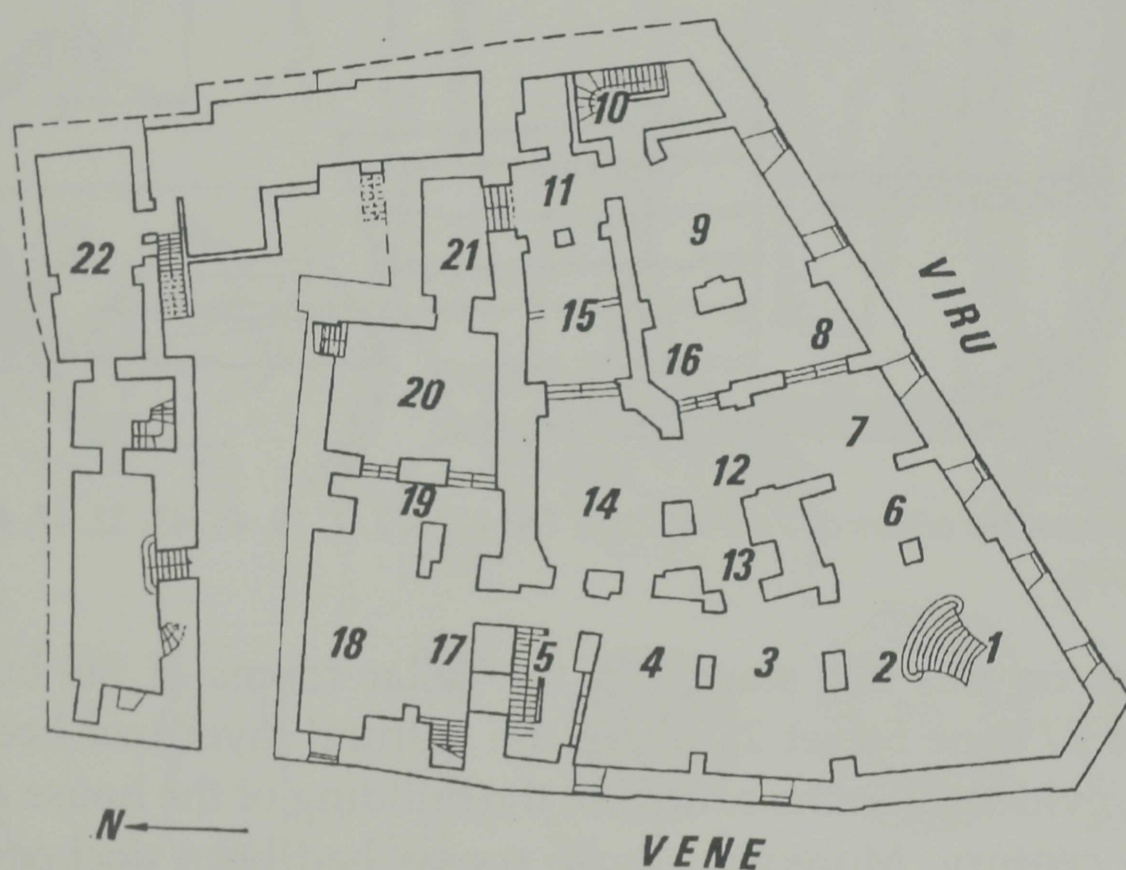


Fig. 1. The location plan of the cellar rooms of Viru Str. 1/Vene Str. 2 and 4.

1996 on the sites at Roosikrantsi Street 9 and 11, were discovered in the sand below the cultural layer of the 13th–14th centuries.

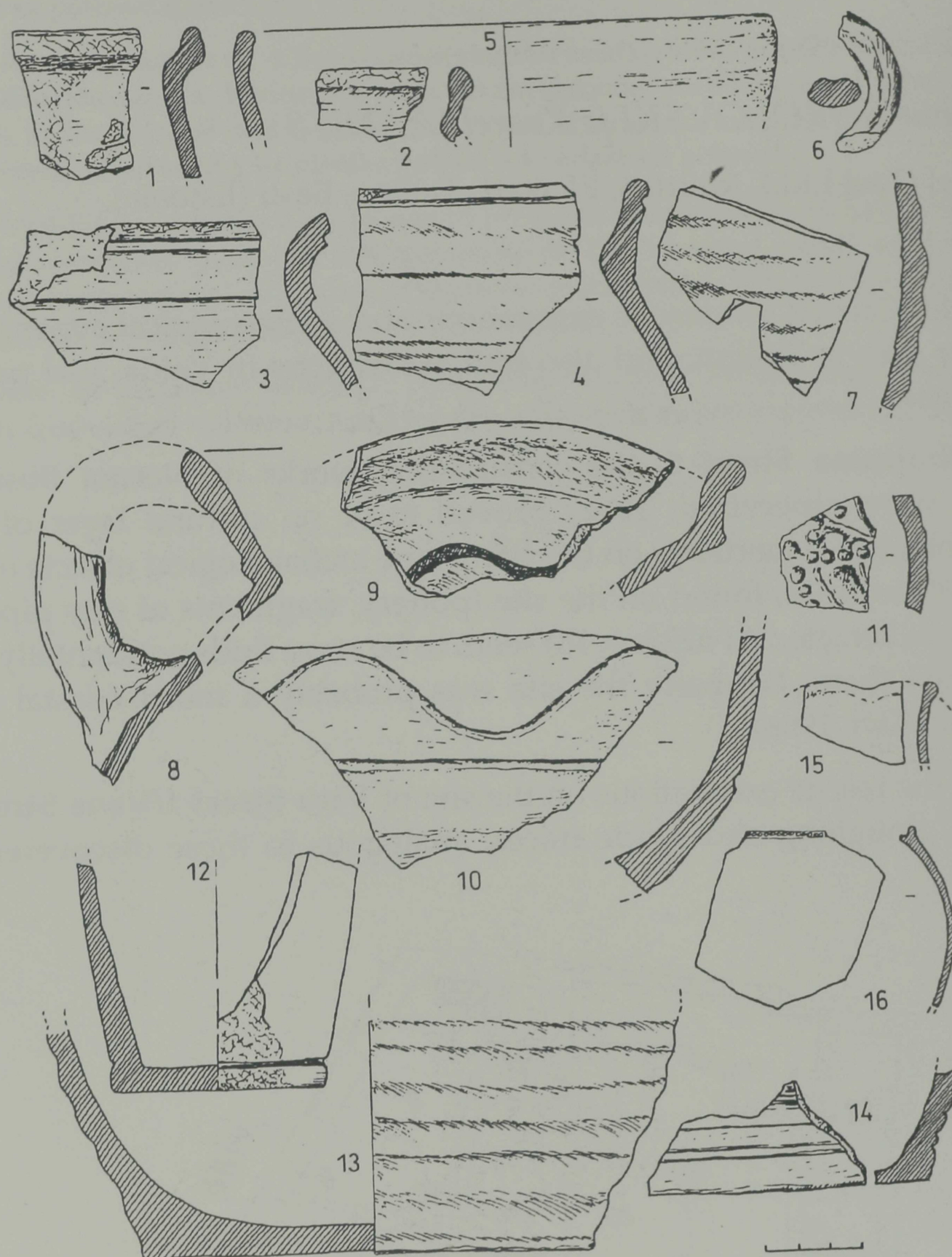


Fig. 2. Pottery from the cellars of Viru 1/Vene 2 (AI 6226: 1, 1, 19, 45, 43, 32, 47, 45, 11, 37, 1, 21, 45, 1, 29, 29).

Excavations on this site started in the cellar rooms of the building at Viru Street 1/Vene Street 2, where the cultural layer had been mostly destroyed, evidently in the course of the building of the house at the end of the 19th century. Moreover, those rooms had been deepened before the beginning of the archaeological excavations as low as 6.10–7.20 m above sea level, by the workers of Restor Ltd., reconstructing the

building. Thus, the remains of any cultural layer containing archaeological finds, and earlier constructional details were preserved only sporadically. Household pits in room 6 and cellar constructions in room 10 should be mentioned in this connection (conventional numerical order of the cellar rooms: see Fig. 1).

Archaeological finds (Fig. 2 and 3) mostly belong to the 17th–18th centuries. A ring brooch, decorated with Roman letters (Fig. 3: 20) seems to be the earliest. K. Kirme dated the brooches of this type to the period from the 13th century to 1560 (Kirme 1986, 19–22).

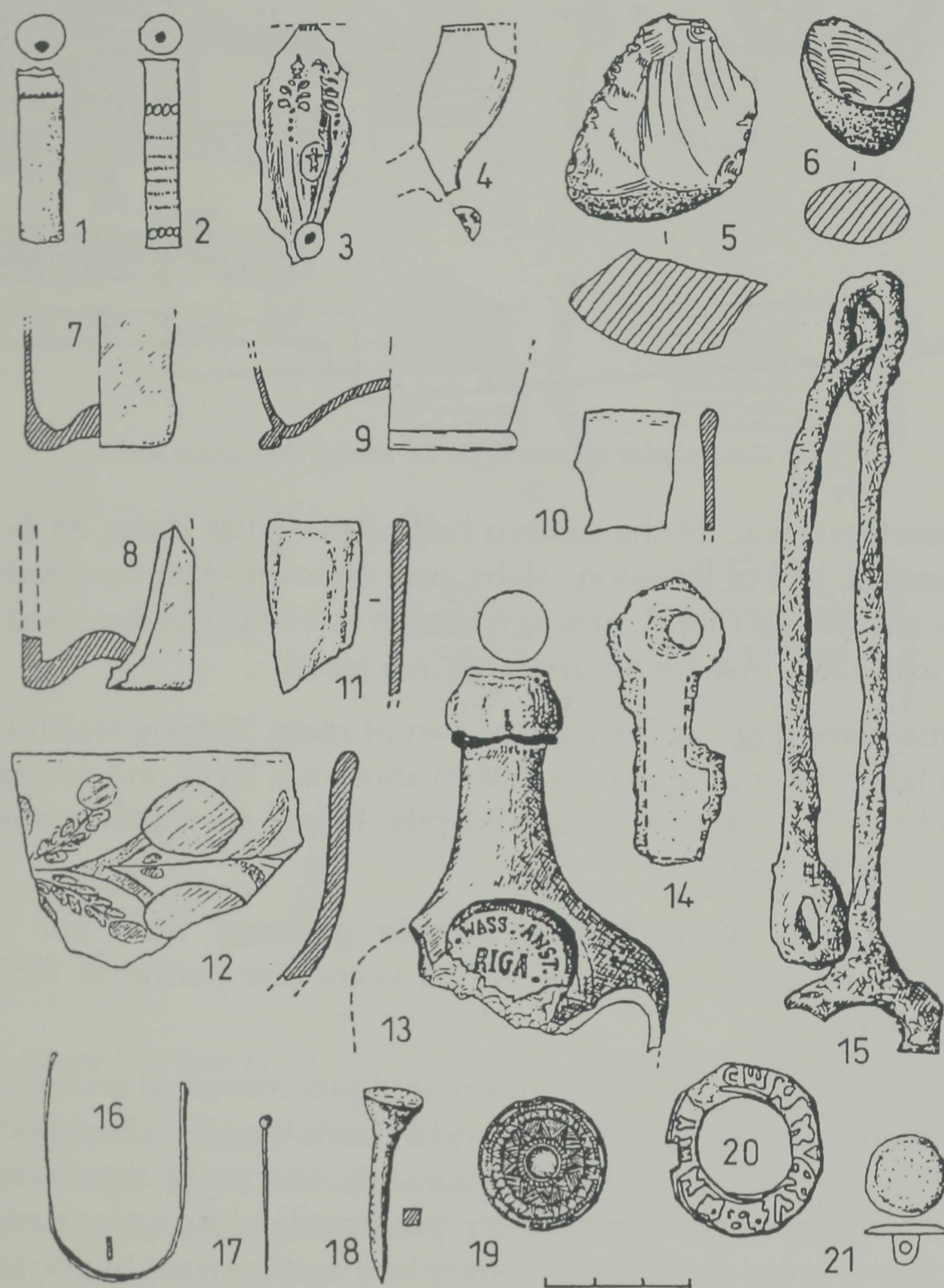


Fig. 3. Archaeological finds from the cellars of Viru 1/Vene 2 (AI 6226: 17, 38, 41, 39, 19, 18, 25, 12, 2, 36, 6, 28, 31, 16, 35, 48, 9, 27, 13, 3, 27).

In cellar room 22 of the building at Vene Street 4a, a cultural layer of brownish grey colour appeared under the limestone cellar floor. Below, a wooden floor made of planks (12–25 cm wide), came into sight in the eastern part of the room (Fig. 4).

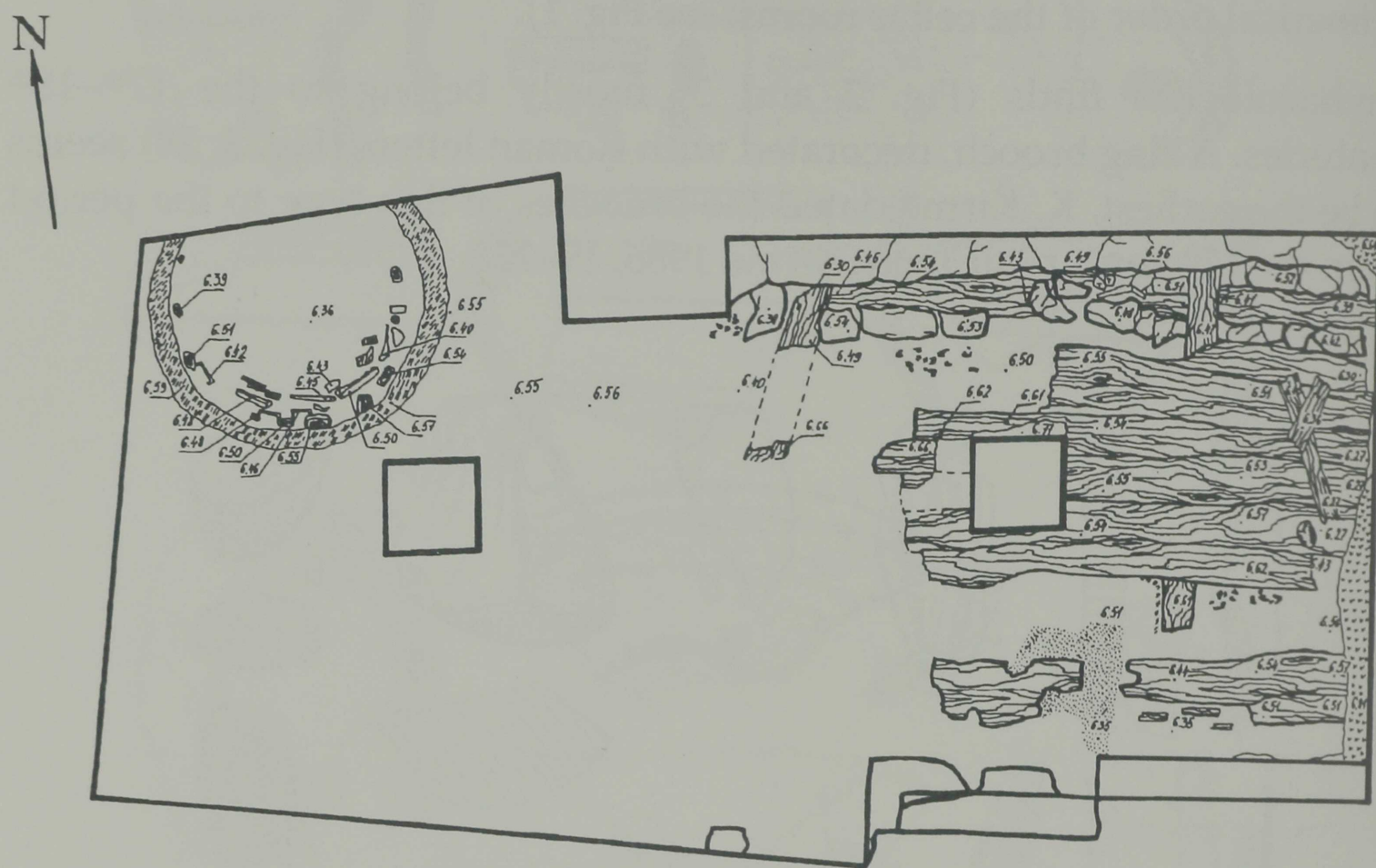


Fig. 4. General plan of room 22 on the level of the wooden floor.

At the northern wall of the eastern half of the cellar room, an 8–15 cm wide channel, laid of limestone slabs, was discovered on the plank floor. An iron arrowhead (Fig. 7: 6) was found in it. The plank floor was dated to the years 1461–1646 by ^{14}C analyses (see table).

Below the plank floor of the eastern part of room 22 there was the black cultural layer, extending to 6.10–6.38 m above sea level, and sporadically up to 5.82 m in probable household pits. Below the cultural layer, the original sand followed.

The ^{14}C analysis of a charcoal sample gathered from one of the household pits gave a result of 677 ± 32 years (the period of 1284–1318 AD, see table).

The black cultural layer and the household pits contained archaeological finds. Among the potsherds (Fig. 5 and 6) from the pits, wheel pottery of the village type, early unglazed stoneware, and early stoneware with violet as well as mottled glaze were represented. In the upper part of the black cultural layer, late glazed pottery and earthenware of greyish clay were found. Besides potsherds, fragments of glass vessels and windowpanes (Fig. 7: 3 and 4), whetstones (Fig. 7: 1 and 2), nails, and an

iron bridle (Fig. 7: 5) came to light. Consequently, the find material from the household pits was in accordance to the ^{14}C dating and also with the finds from Roosikrantsi Street 9/11, dated to the 12th– first half of the 14th centuries (compare: Sokolovski 1997, 150 ff.).

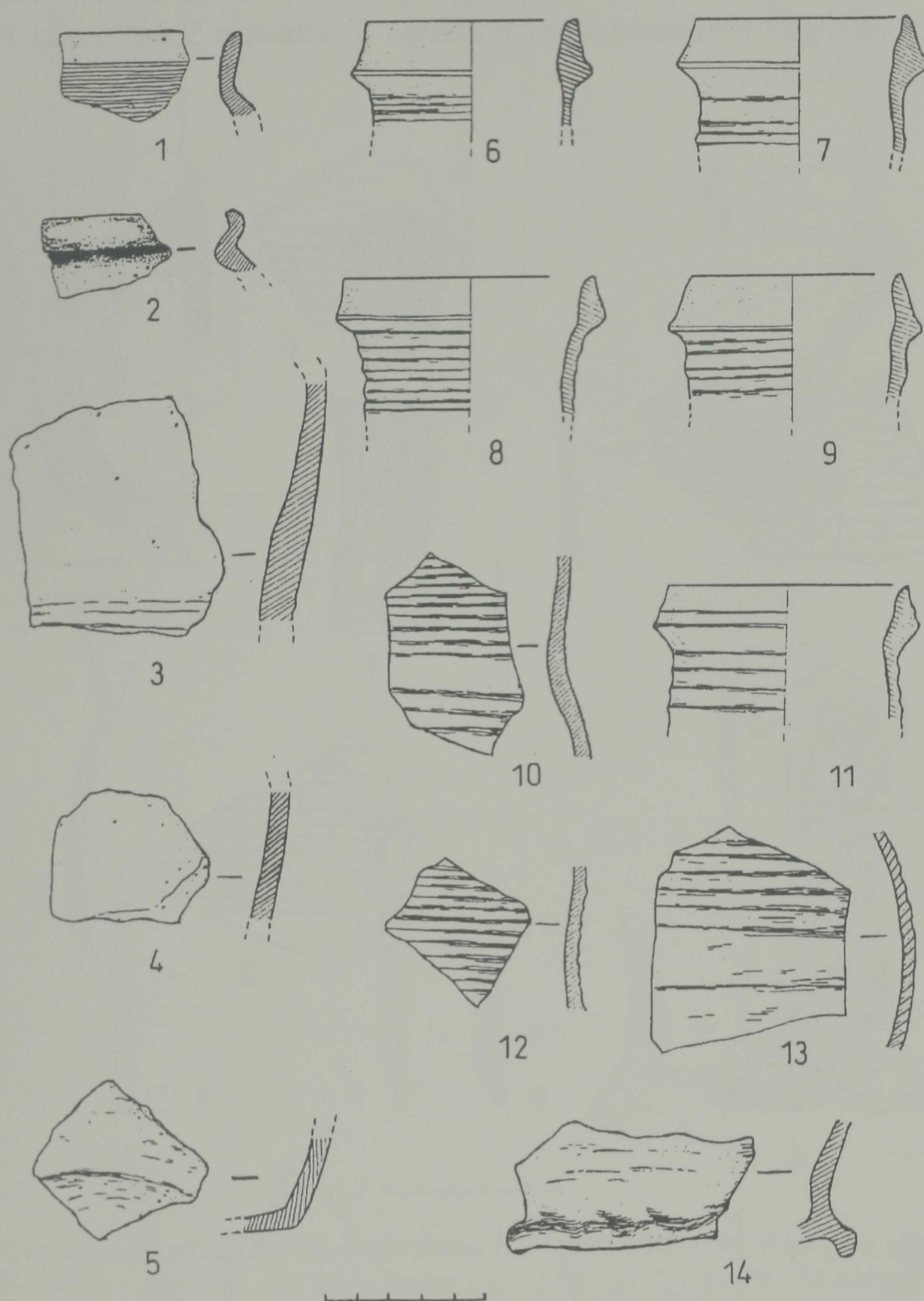


Fig. 5. Pottery from room 22 (AI 6226: 61, 59, 85, 97, 73, 60, 74, 92, 62, 84, 92, 93, 84, 94).

In the northwest corner of the same cellar a 1.70–1.80 m diameter well was discovered (Fig. 4), which was excavated to a depth of 6.36 m above sea level. The investigated part of the well contained only late finds. In the central and western part of the southern half of room 22, there was a 15–20 cm thick black dung layer below the limestone floor of the cellar, and under that, about 20 cm of greyish soil. The only finds were

fragments of wheel pottery, early unglazed stoneware and glazed stoneware. After the soil was removed up to the original sand, ploughing and spade traces came to light (Fig. 8 and 9), analogous to those discovered in the excavations in Roosikrantsi Street 9/11. The ploughing traces were 4–7 cm and the spade traces 15–20 cm wide, like the traces in the Roosikrantsi excavations (compare: Sokolovski 1997, p. 40 ff, photos 10–22).

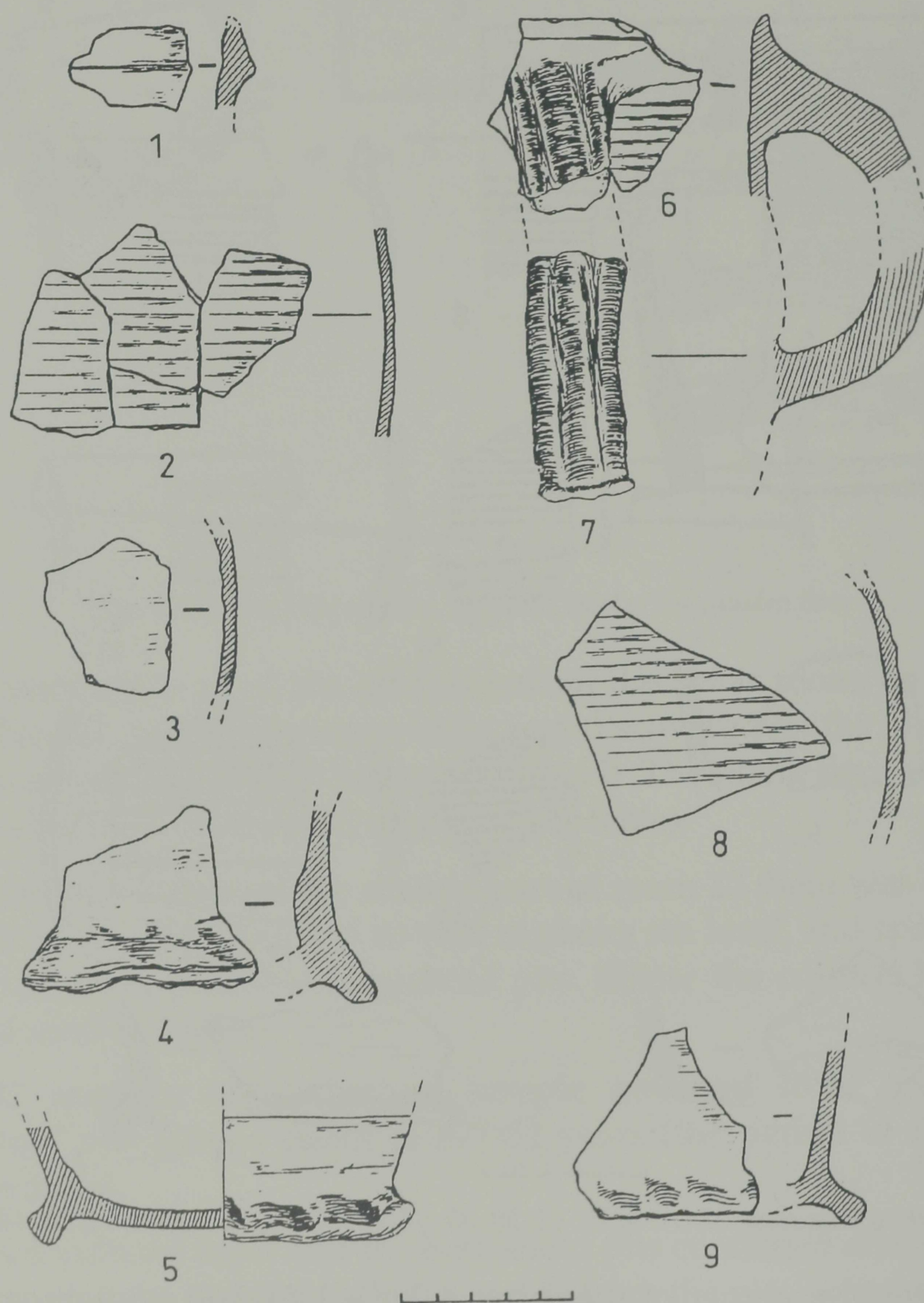


Fig. 6. Pottery from room 22 (AI 6226: 72, 74, 52, 68, 57, 78, 76, 82, 74).

Immediately to the east of the ploughing and spade traces, at an absolute altitude of 6.45 m, staves of a barrel bottom came to light, with a diameter of about 65 cm. These were dated by the ^{14}C method, with a

result of 1047 ± 44 years, corresponding to the period 890–1152 AD (see table).

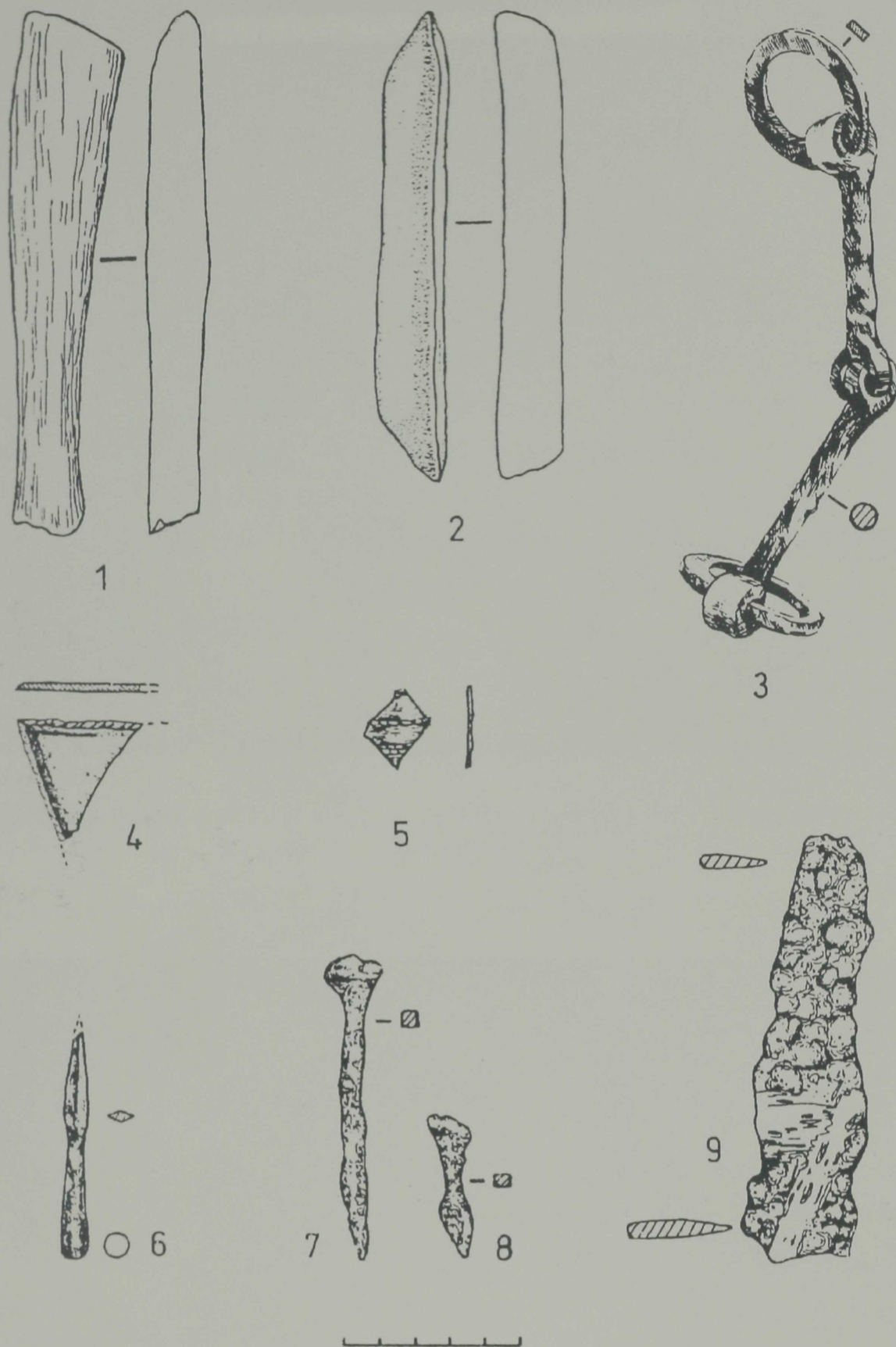


Fig. 7. Artefacts from room 22. 1–2 – whetstones (AI 6226: 72, 83), 3 – fragments of windowpane (AI 6226: 58), 4 – fragment of a glass beaker (AI 6226: 53), 5 – bridle (AI 6226: 66), 6 – iron arrowhead (AI 6226: 69), 7–8 – nails (AI 6226: 67, 80), 9 – fragment of an iron knife (AI 6226: 96).

Thus, the excavations of 1997 in the cellar room 22 of Vene Street 4 brought to light traces of settlement from the 13th century and probably even earlier. The oldest of these are evidently the ploughing and spade traces and the bottom of the barrel. The dung layer in the central part of



Fig. 8. Ploughing and spade traces in the central part of the southern half of room 22. View from the west.

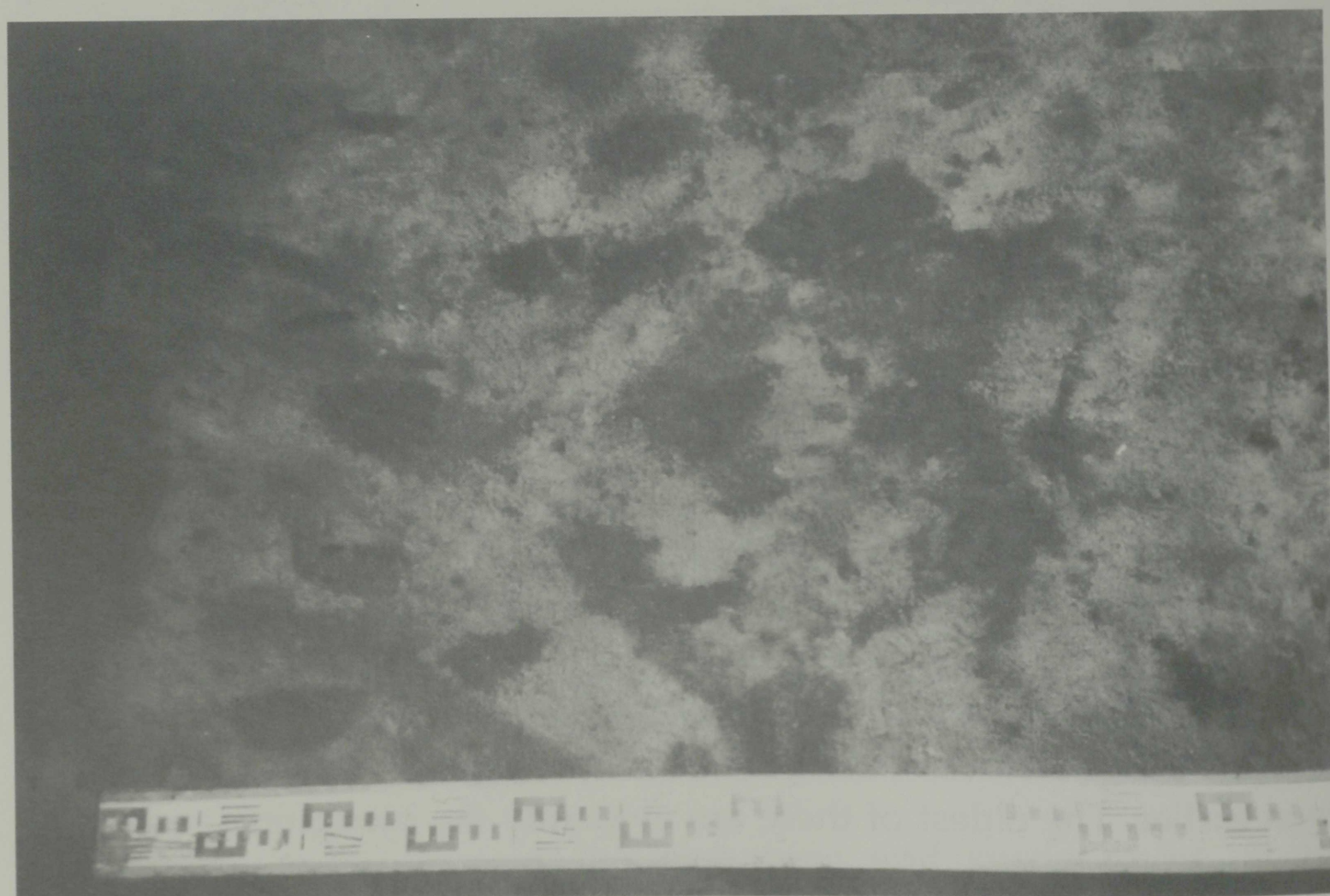


Fig. 9. Spade traces in room 22. View from the north.

the southern half and the wooden floor in the eastern part of the room may be more or less contemporaneous. The household pits under the wooden floor indicate the continuance of the settlement on the site in the intermediate period.

In the yard of **Raeapteek** (Town Council's pharmacy) at **Saiakäik 2**, a medieval lavatory was excavated, measuring 2x2 m, also a 1.5 m deep cesspit together with the inlet and the beginning of the overflow channel (Fig. 10). On the pharmacy side the pit was covered with a 2.25 m long and 1.25 m wide arch, built of limestone and bound with mortar. The walls of the pit were laid of 6–12 cm thick limestone slabs with straight sides inwards. The pit did not have a stone floor; its bottom, at an absolute altitude of about 11.50 m was covered with brushwood. A feeder, about 75 cm wide and 1 m long, beginning in the quadrangular shaft at the back wall of the pharmacy, opened into the pit through a 1.5 m high opening in its northeast corner. Originally the shaft had evidently extended into the building and only later was mured up along the outer wall of the building.



Fig. 10. Lavatory constructions in the yard of Raeapteek. View from the east.

In the eastern wall of the cesspit, 0.5 m above the bottom level, there was an 20x20 cm opening. This was the beginning of a canal, 22–25 cm wide and 20–21 cm high, sloping eastwards. It was built of mortared limestone slabs and covered also with limestone slabs.

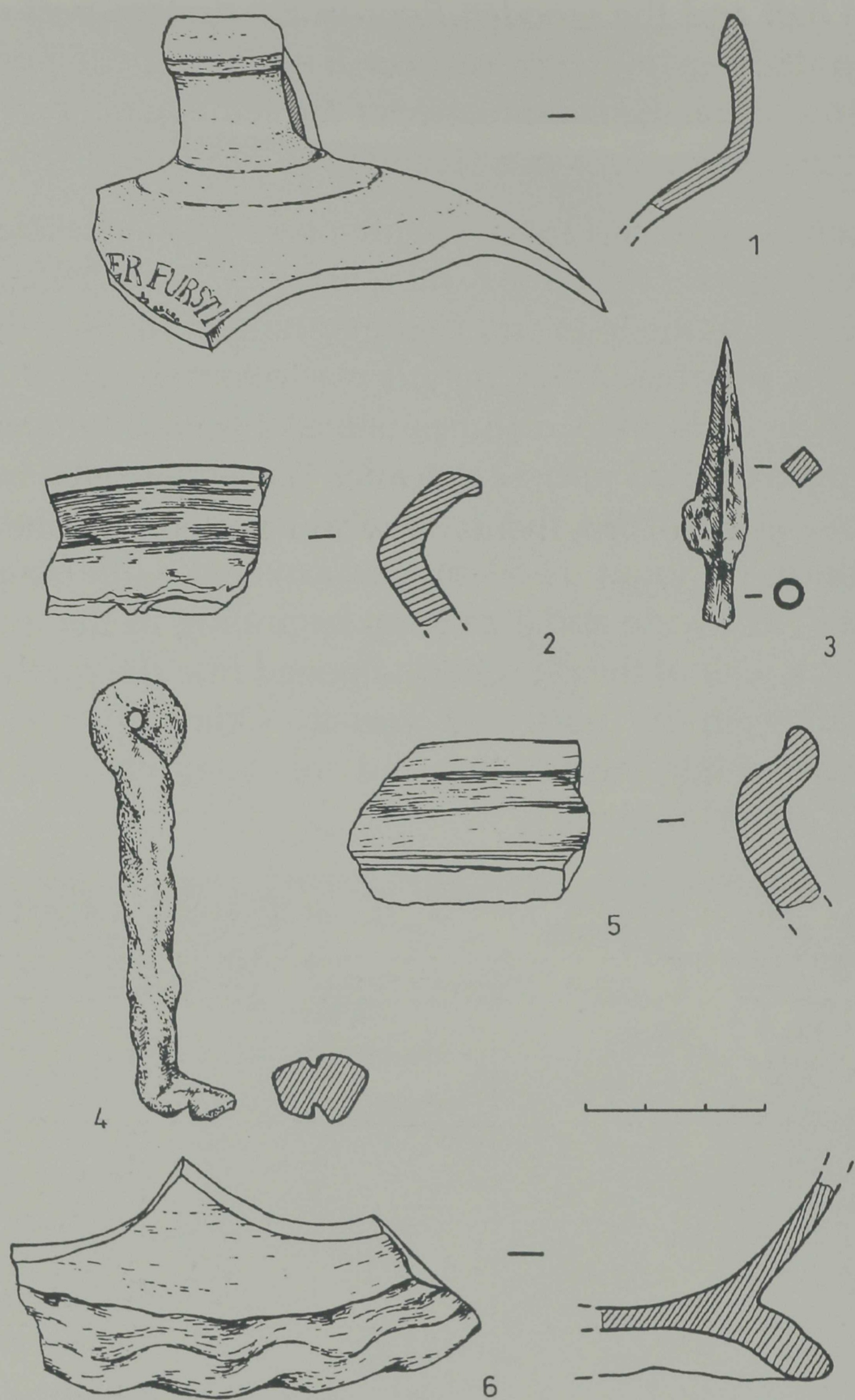


Fig. 11. Archaeological finds from the excavation in the yard of Raeapteek. 1–2, 5–6 – pottery (AI 6249: 10, 13, 13, 2), 3 – arbalest arrowhead (AI 6249: 9), 4 – key of a padlock (AI 6249: 14).

The cesspit, as well as both canals were filled with soil containing finds from the 17th–18th centuries (including fragments of Dutch pipes). From beside the pit, earlier artefacts (Fig. 11) were also found, including wheel pottery (Fig. 11: 2 and 5), a miniature arbalest arrowhead of iron (Fig. 11: 3) and an iron key of a cylinder lock (Fig. 11: 4). B. Kolchin has dated such padlock keys to the end of the 12th–14th centuries (Kolchin 1982). The wheel pottery and the arbalest arrowhead could be dated to the 13th century.

The cesspit was filled and the inlet walled up probably in the 18th century, simultaneously with the construction of the neighbouring house. The finds from the cultural layer outside the cesspit suggest the presence of the settlement in this area in the 13th–14th centuries.

The settlement site of Vaida in Harjumaa is primarily known for the silver hoard of the 12th century (Tõnisson 1962, 190). Trial excavations financed by the Board of Antiquities were carried out on the southwestern periphery of the settlement site, which will be destroyed by a planned road extension. The four trial excavations confirmed the presence of the cultural layer on the site. The majority of the finds (AI 6238: 1–24) consisted of fragments of wheel pottery. In one of the trial pits measuring 2x2 m, a limestone floor was discovered (the pit was dug no deeper), on which, besides pottery, slag and fragments of iron objects were found. The ¹⁴C analysis of the charcoal sample gathered in the largest trial pit, measuring 20x2 m, gave a result of 457±36 years (most likely 1408–1488 AD; see table).

Table. Radiocarbon dates (Tln) from the sites at Vene Street 4 and Vaida

Site	¹⁴ C years BP	68,3% (1 sigma) cal AD	95,4% (2 sigma) cal AD
Vene Street 4, room 22, wooden floor	348±39	1486-1526 1552-1608 1610-1632	1461-1646
Vene Street 4, room 22, household pit	677±32	1290-1306 1356-1384	1284-1318 1342-1394
Vene Street 4, room 22	1047±44	902-904 966-1028	890-1042 1096-1112 1144-1152
Vaida	457±36	1428-1464	1408-1488 1604-1614

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ARHEOLOOGILISED KAEVAMISED TALLINNAS JA VAIDAS

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AS "Tael" tegi 1997. aastal mitmeid päästekaevamisi Tallinna vanalinnas. Lisaks toimusid proovikaevamised Harjumaal Vaida asulakohal.

Eeluuringutel Tallinnas, Hobujaama t. 6 kinnistul arheoloogiliselt huvipakkuvat kultuurkihti ei avastatud. Üksikud 17. sajandi lõust ja 18. sajandist pärinevad leiud on kunagisele liigniiskele alale sattunud ilmselt juhuslikut.

Kinnistu Viru t. 1/ Vene t. 2 ja 4 hoonete keldriruumides oli kultuurkiht suures osas hävitatud samale kohale 19. sajandi lõpus rajatud hoonega. Seetõttu oli arheoloogilisi leide ning varasemaid ehituskonstruksioone säilinud vaid üksikutes lõikudes. Saadud leiud (joon. 2 ja 3) pärinevad enamasti 17.–18. sajandist. Varaseimaks tuleb pidada rõngassõlge (joon. 3: 20), mis tuli päevavalgele ruumis nr. 6 avastatud lohust. Vene t. 4 hoone keldri paeplaatidest põranda all oli säilinud varasem laudpõrand koos paeplaatidest renniga (joon. 4). Rennist leiti rauast nooleots (joon. 7: 6). Laudpõrandast tehtud ¹⁴C analüüs andis puidu vanuseks ajavahemiku 1461 – 1646 AD (vt. tabel). Ruumis nr. 22 oli põranda all tumedamat kultuurkihti, mis ulatus üksikutes kohtades (arvatavates omaaegsetes majanduslohkudes) märgatavalt sügavamale. Ühest sellisest lohust kogutud söe analüüs andis ¹⁴C analüüsil tulemust 677±32. aastat, mis vastab ajavahemikule 1284–1318 AD (vt. tabel). Majanduslohkudest kogutud savinõukildude hulgas (joon. 5 ja 6) on esindatud nn. külatüüpi kedarakeraamika, varane glasuurita või violetse glasuuriga reinikeraamika; ülemistest kihtidest leiti ka hilist glasuuritud ning hallikast savist valmistatud anumate kilde. Lisaks savinõukildudele saadi klaasnõude ja aknaklaasi tükke (joon. 7: 3 ja 4), mõned luisud (joon. 7: 1 ja 2), sepanaelu ning suitsed (joon. 7: 5). Majanduslohkudest kogutud leiumaterjal oli kooskõlas nii absoluutse dateeringuga kui ka varasemate Tallinna arheoloogiliste kaevamiste materjalidega, mis on dateeritud ajavahemikku 12.–14. sajandi esimese pooleni.

Ruumist nr. 22 avastati veel 1.80 m läbimõõduga ümara põhiplaaniga kaev, mis sisaldas üksnes hiliseid leide. Sama ruumi lõuna- ja lääneosas oli paepõranda all kuni 20 cm paksune sõnnikukiht, millele järgnes samasuguse paksusega hallikas mullakiht. Siit leiti üksnes kedrakeraamikat, varase glasuurimata ning glasuuritud reinikeraamika kilde. Mullakihi all paljandunud alusliiva väljapuhastamisel tulid nähtavale künni- ja labidajäljed (joon. 8 ja 9), mis on sarnased nendega, mis avastati 1996. aasta arheoloogilistel kaevamistel Roosikrantsi t. 9/11 kaevandis. Liivapinna väljapuhastamisel leiti 65 cm läbimõõduga laudadest tünnipõhi, millest tehtud ¹⁴C analüüs andis vanusemäärangu 1047±44 aastat, mis vastab ajavahemikule 890–1152 AD (vt. tabel).

Arheoloogilistel kaevamistel Raeapteegi õuel (Saiakäik 2) puhastati välja keskaegse käimla kogumiskast koos sisendkäigu ja ülevoolukanaliga (joon. 10). Nii kogumiskast kui ka mõlemad kanalid olid täidetud 17. ja 18. sajandi leide sisaldava täitepinnasega. Kogumiskasti kõrvalt saadi oluliselt varasemaid leide (vt. joon. 11), mille hulgas on kedrakeraamikat (joon. 11: 2 ja 5), miniatuurne ammunoolets (joon. 11: 3) ning silinderluku võti (joon. 11: 4). Niisuguste ripplukkude võtmed on dateeritud 12. sajandi lõpust kuni 14. sajandini. Veelgi varasemast ajast, 13. sajandist, võiksid pärineda kedrakeraamika ja ammunoolets. Käimlakast aeti täis ning sisendkäiku viiv šaht müüriti kinni tõenäoliselt üheaegselt naaberhoone ehitusega 18. sajandil.

Vaida asulakohas toimusid 1997. aastal proovikaevamised kaitse alla võetud asula edelapoolisel äärealal, kuhu on planeeritud Tallinn–Tartu maantee laiendus. Neli proovikaevandit kinnitasid asula kultuurikihi olemasolu ning edaspidiste uurimistööde vajalikkust antud kohas. Kaevamistel kogutud leiumaterjalis domineeris kedrkeraamika. Suurimast proovikaevandist kogutud söe analüüs andis puidu vanuseks 457±36 aastat, mis vastab ajavahemikule 1408–1488 AD (vt. tabel).