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PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATIONS OF THE LAGEDI SETTLEMENT SITE

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At the beginning of August 1998, Tael Ltd carried out preliminary archaeological investigations on the settlement site of Lagedi (no 2398) to determine the nature and state of preservation of the cultural layer on the sites for summer cottages.

The settlement site of Lagedi (Fig. 1) lies on the eastern bank of the Pirita River, downstream from a large bend in the river, just by the bridge where the road to Raasiku crosses. The presence of a cultural layer was known long ago. In 1972 Vello Lõugas determined the extent of the cultural layer and documented it, and the area was taken under protection. Several stray finds have been found from the area of the settlement: a fragment of a stone axe (AM 496) and a stem of a bronze pin (AM 543). From the earlier trial pits and during V. Lang's inventory trip in 1984, 170 potsherds, a couple of clay packings and some animal bones with cutting traces were collected (AI 4667, 5293). The potsherds date from the period around the year 1000 and later (Lang 1996, 210).

To investigate the cultural layer, 14 pits were dug (measuring 1 x 2 and 1 x 4 m), forming three lines in an east-west direction, traversing all three planned summer cottage sites. The intensively black cultural layer was 25–35 cm thick and contained charcoal fragments, bones and stones (some of them bearing traces of fire), and potsherds.

The cultural layer was preserved on an area of 4200 sq. m on the northward slope between the road and the river, but has been mixed by ploughing. In the NW area, the bottom part of the cultural layer, with a thickness of 15 cm, was pre-

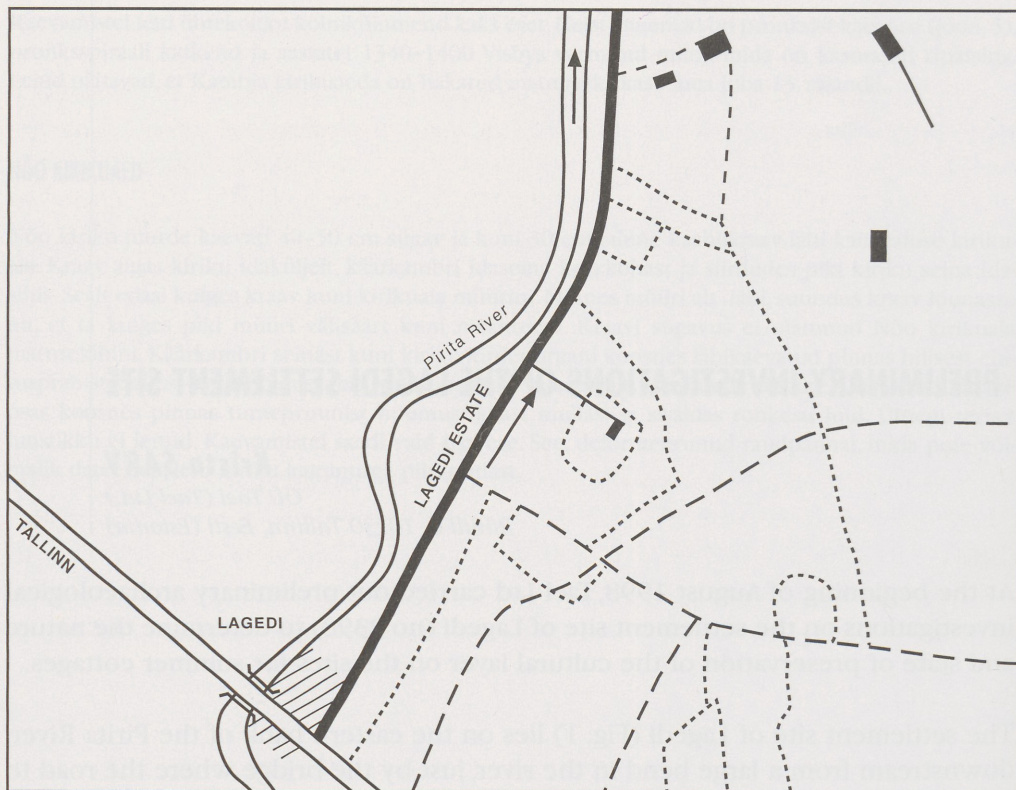


Fig. 1. Location of the Lagedi settlement site.
Joon. 1. Lagedi asula asendiskeem.

served intact. The whole cultural layer was destroyed only in an anti-tank ditch running in a SSE-WWN direction, which was filled with refuse. Under the defence wall on the southern bank of the ditch the cultural layer was preserved, likewise on the banks of the other ditch running into the area from the NE.

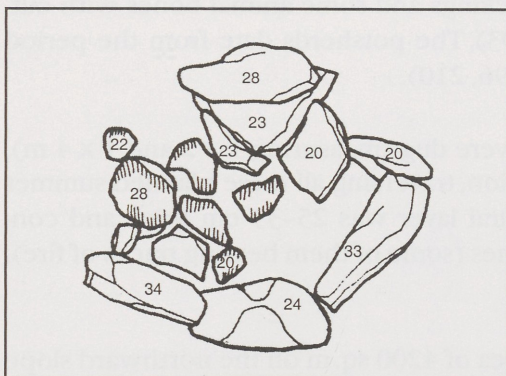


Fig. 2. Trial pit no 10. Remains of a furnace.
Joon. 2. Prooviauk nr. 10. Ahjufüäänused.

In the sod layer, at a depth of 20 cm, building remains were discovered in pit no 10. In the NE part of the ditch, by the N edge, a pavement, 80 cm in diameter, comprised of smaller granite stones came to light. In its W part, a post-hole with a diameter 30 cm, lined

with upright granite stones, was discovered. In the middle of the pit, 1.30 m west of the eastern wall, a stone setting of four upright limestone slabs and granite stones was discovered. One of the granite stones was a fragment of a quern. The stones (measuring 15 x 35 cm) were laid on yellowish-brown soil mixed with sub-soil sand, in a circle with a diameter of 45 cm (Fig. 2). The slag, numerous fragments of clay packings, fragments of tuyeres (?) and charcoal led us to assume that this construction was a furnace. In general, pit no 10 was rich in finds – 22 potsherds, a fragment of an iron object, a nail of iron, ore of Johan III of Sweden from 1566, and a fragment of a whetstone.

Among the finds, pottery dominated (AI 6341). Of the 102 potsherds, 31 came from hand-moulded pottery, 24 from wheel pottery, two sherds belong to a *gräpen* of the 14th–16th centuries and eight fragments to later glazed earthenware. Thirty-five fragments were too small to determine accurately. Since the potsherds are not ornamented and mostly come from the sides of pots, their precise dating is not possible either. Twenty fragments of hand-moulded clay vessels with polished surfaces resemble the fine-grained pottery from the neighbouring Iru hill-fort and settlement. Two types of V. Lang's typology of Iru pottery, *AI* and *AII*, (Lang 1996, 40, Pl. VI: 11) can be distinguished among the potsherds from Lagedi. The group of *AI* consists of very well baked fragments with black surfaces bearing traces of polishing (AI 6341: 8, 19, 21, 22, 24, 26, 27, 31). They belong to vessels with walls 3–4 mm thick and with very fine mineral admixture in the composition of clay. Two fragments come from a carinated vessel. The potsherds of group *AII* (AI 6341: 24, 29, 30, 35, 36) resemble the others by their temper but their walls are much thicker. One of the sherds (6341: 36) can be dated more accurately. This may belong to Lang's type *AIII*, consisting of relatively wide and high vessels with one bulge on the neck and probably a flat bottom (Lang 1996, 81, Fig. 26: 1, 2), which are dated by the I and II fortification stages of Iru hill-fort, to the 6th–10th centuries (Lang 1996, 102). The hand-moulded pottery of Lagedi is typical to the hill-forts and settlements of Northern Estonia, especially to Iru (Lang 1985, 205).

Among wheel pottery, only two rim fragments were found; one of these (AI 6341: 14) comes from a smaller bowl with a pronouncedly S-shaped profile, and the other (AI 6341: 28) to a bigger clay vessel with a rim slightly curving outwards. On two fragments (AI 6341: 1, 14), ornamentation of parallel lines could be observed.

In the course of preliminary investigations, the field in the southern part of the area was also studied. It had intensive dark soil typical of a cultural layer, and eight potsherds and several fragments of slag were found.

Relying upon the found potsherds and the unusually large number of finds obtained in the course of prospecting, we may assume that the area has been actively used since at least the 6th–7th century, up to the present day.

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EELUURINGUD LAGEDI ASULAKOHAL

Krista SARV

OÜ Tael tegi Lagedi asulakohal (kaitsealune mälestis nr. 2398) arheoloogilisi eeluuringuid kultuurikihi iseloomu ning säilivuse määramiseks suvilaehituseks planeeritud kolmel krundil. Lagedi asulakoht paikneb Pirita jõe idakaldal, allpool suuremat jõekääru, Raasiku tee ja Pirita jõe ristumiskoha juures, silla naabruses (joon. 1).

Kultuurikihi kontrollimiseks tehti 14 prooviauku. Need läbisid ida - lääne suunas kolmes reas kõiki kolme ehituskrunti. Keskmiselt 25–35 cm paksune musta värvi kultuurikiht oli säilinud tee- ja jõe vahelisel põhjasuunalisel kallakul umbes 4200 m² suurusel alal. Kogu ulatuses ülemises horisondis künniga segatud kiht sisaldas söe- ja luutükikesi, põlenud kive ning savinõukilde. Kultuurikiht oli täielikult hävinud asulat kagu - loode suunas läbivas prügiga täidetud tankitõrjekraavis, kuid oli säilinud kraavi lõunaserva kuhjatud kaitsevalli all.

Prooviaugus nr. 10 paljandus u. 20 cm sügavusel allpool mättakihti kaks kivikonstruktsiooni. Nendeks olid 80 cm ulatuses väiksematest raudkividest laotud sillutis koos serviti kividega kiilutud 30 cm läbimõõduga postiauguga ja aluspõhja heleda liivaga segatud pruunile mullakihile ringikujuliselt asetatud neli serviti pae- ja raudkivi (joon. 2), millest üks oli purunenud käsikivi. Kivide vahelt leitud šlakk, rohked savitihendite katked, arvatavate õhutudüüside fragmendid ja süsi lubavad seda pidada ahjuks.

Leidudest (AI 6341) moodustab enamuse keraamika. Leitud 102 savinõukildu jagunevad järgmiselt: 31 kildu pärineb käsitsi ning 24 kedral valmistatud nõudest. Kaks kildu on 14.–16. sajandi kolmjalgnõust e. grapenist ning kaheksa veelgi hilisematest glasuuritud savianumatest. 35 kildu on mõõtetelt liiga väikesed, mistõttu nende täpsem määramine pole võimalik. Kuna saadud savinõukillud

on enamasti ornamendita nõude seinatükid, ei saa neid täpsemalt dateerida. Vaid 20 käsitsi valmistatud kiilapinnalist kildu saab dateerida V. Langi poolt koostatud keraamika tüpoloogia põhjal ajavahemikku 6.–10. sajandisse. Need sarnanevad oma koostiselt ja pinnatöötluselt Lagedi asula läheduses paikneva Iru linnuse peenkeraamika rühmadega *AI* ning *AI*.

Kedrakeraamika kildudest saadi kaks servatükki, millest üks (*AI* 6341:14) pärineb tugevalt S- kujulise profiiliga väiksemast kausist ning teine (*AI* 6341: 28) suuremast kergelt väljapoole profileeritud servaga nõust. Kahel killul (*AI* 6341: 1, 14) on paralleelsetest joontest ornament.

Eeluuringutega kontrolliti asula lõunaosas paiknevat põldu, mis välisel vaatlusel oli kultuurkihile iseloomuliku tumeda mullavärviga. Sealt saadi kaheksa savinõukildu, sh. käsitsi- ja kedrakeraamikat ning šlakitükke.

Leitud savinõukildude ja prooviaukudest saadud tavatu leiurohkuse põhjal võib oletada, et Lagedi asula on olnud aktiivses kasutuses alates vähemalt 6./7. sajandist ning püsinud tõenäoliselt järjepidevalt kasutusel kuni tänapäevani.