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ARCHAEOLOGICAL
FIELD WORKS
IN ESTONIA

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD WORK IN THE SURROUNDINGS OF LAKE KAHALA

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In 1998, archaeological research was continued in the vicinity of Lake Kahala (Kuusalu parish, Harjumaa; previous fieldwork in the Lake Kahala area cf. Vedru 1996, 1997, 1998a). Archaeological inventories were also carried out in the NE-part of the Kuusalu village. During inventories four new prehistoric and mediaeval settlement sites were found. Some test pits were made in the prehistoric settlement site of Loo (Vedru 1998b). The main investigations took place in Muuksi, where the hill-fort was excavated.

INVENTORIES

A third mediaeval settlement site was found on Välja farm in the village of Uuri (Fig. 1). A number of ceramics and a yellow glass bead were discovered (AI 6373). Sherds of mediaeval pottery were also found from Käli (AI 6374) and Võnsi (AI 6376) farms in Kuusalu village. On Oduli farm in Kuusalu village one more settlement site was found. Numerous quartz pieces with traces of work and some sherds of Corded Ware vessels were picked up (AI 6375).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS

Two sites were excavated in the surroundings of Lake Kahala in 1998: the settle-

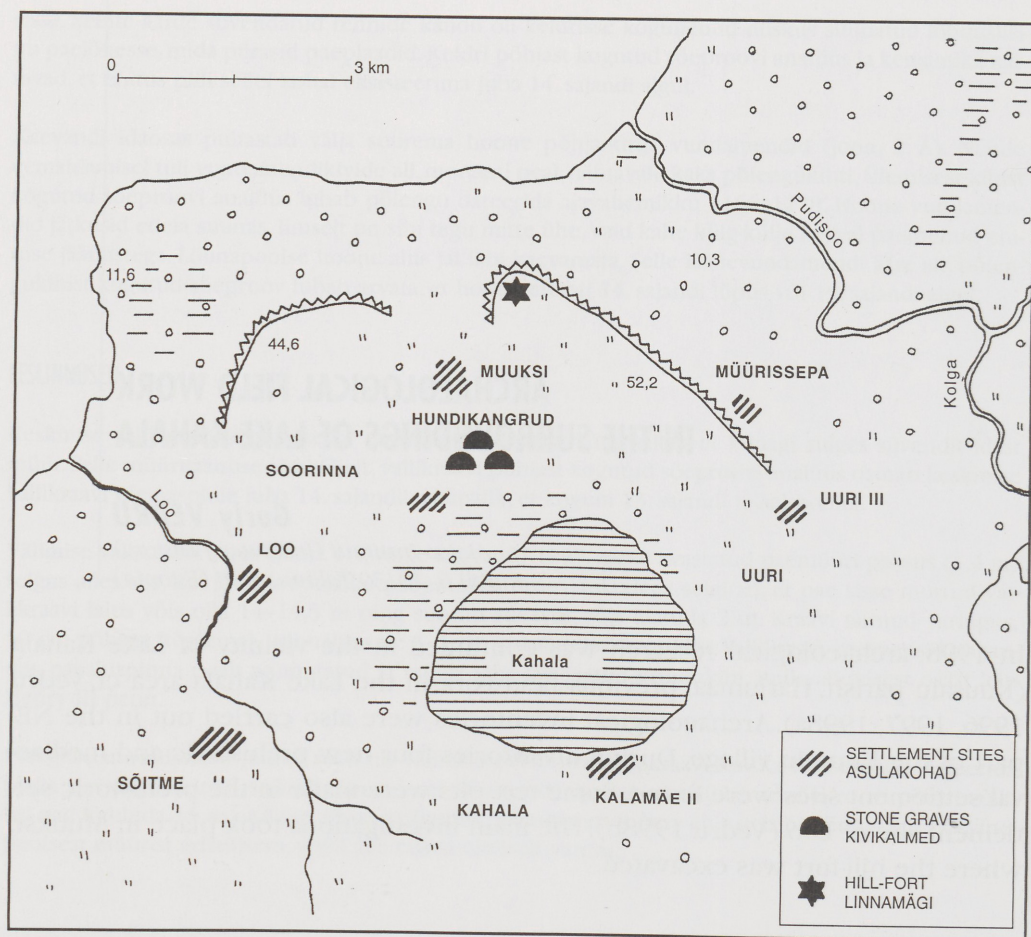


Fig. 1. Sites discovered and/or excavated in 1996-1998.

Joon. 1. 1996.-1998. aastal avastatud ja/või kaevatud muistised.

ment site of Loo and the hill-fort of Muuksi.

The prehistoric settlement site of Loo, discovered on the land of Rohtaia farm in 1996 was excavated in small scale, using systematically made test pits (cf. also Vedru 1997, 63). The aim was to ascertain when the site was inhabited. According to the ceramics (AI 6377), found from the test pits, the settlement site of Loo was used both in the Viking Age and Early Mediaeval times.

In 1998, the promontory hill-fort of Muuksi was also excavated (Fig. 1). The hill-fort is situated on a triangular-shaped northern end of the klint ridge of the same name, about 700 metres from the sea. The length of the western edge of the hill-

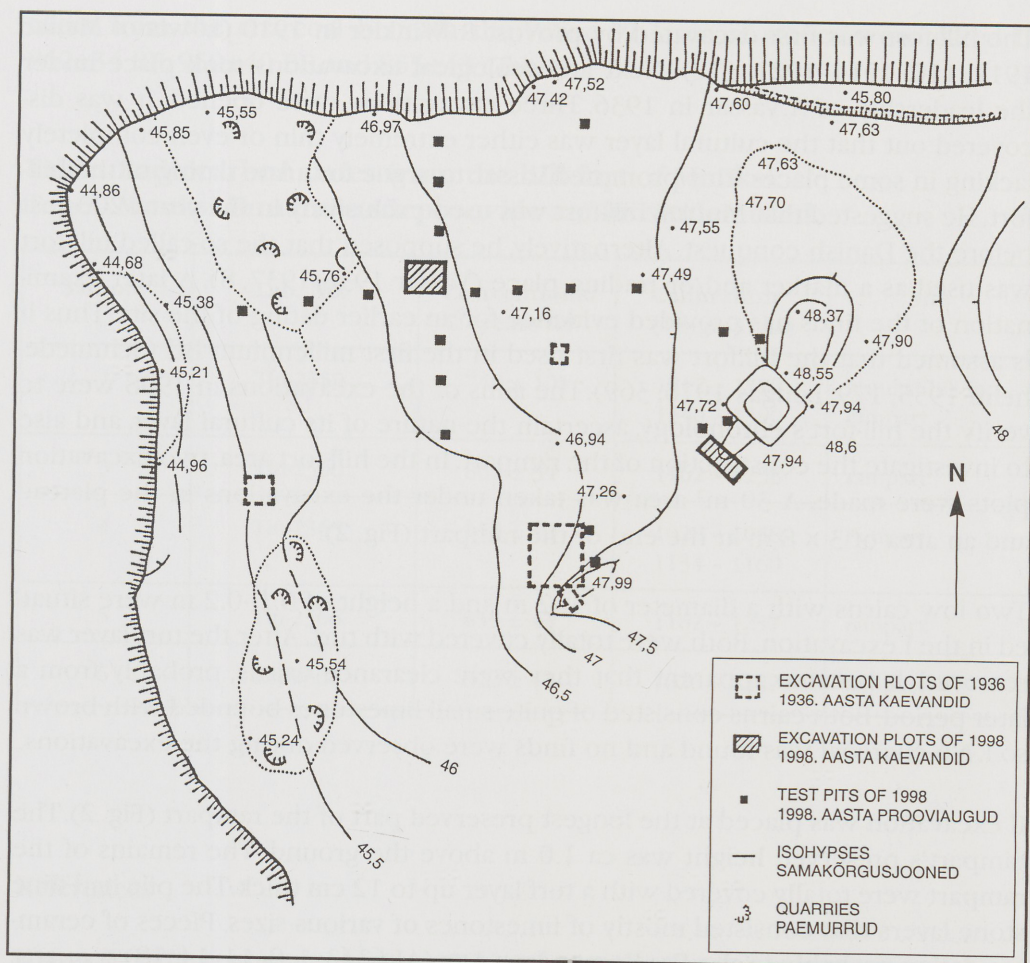


Fig. 2. The hill-fort of Muuksi.

Joon. 2. Muuksi linnamägi.

fort's plateau is ca. 85 metres from N-S, and ca. 112 from W-E. The plateau was surrounded by a warped rampart made of limestones (Fig. 2). The part of the ridge that was used as the hill-fort rises 8-10 m higher from the surrounding ground on the W-side of the promontory and its slope is ca. 27 degrees. The height of the N-edge is 13 m. If the gently sloping slant is added, the height of this side is 22 metres.

The surface of the plateau is 5300 m²; the remains of the rampart lie ca. 100-120 m from the northern end of the plateau. The rampart is preserved in small parts, measuring 0.2-1.5 m in height, 0.5-4 m in width and 4-6 m in length. Some small hummocks can be seen on the plateau of the hill-fort.

The hill-fort was first excavated by provost R. Winkler in 1910 (Löwis of Menar 1912, 110; 1914–1921, 172). Next archaeological excavations took place under the leadership of A. Vassar in 1936. Three excavations were opened. It was discovered out that the cultural layer was either extremely thin or even completely lacking in some places. This prompted Vassar to argue for a late dating of the hill-fort. He suggested that Muuksi hill-fort was used exclusively in the year 1200, just before the Danish conquest. Alternatively, he supposed that the so-called hill-fort was used as a market and/or trading place (Vassar 1936/1937, 8). A later examination of the finds has provided evidence for an earlier dating of the site. Thus it is assumed that the hillfort was first used in the first millennium BC (Schmiedehelm 1955, 179; Lõugas 1970, 369). The aims of the excavations in 1998 were to verify the hill-fort's chronology, ascertain the nature of its cultural layer, and also to investigate the construction of the rampart. In the hill-fort area, two excavation plots were made. A 30 m² area was taken under the excavations in the plateau and an area of 3 x 8 m at the end of the rampart (Fig. 2).

Two low cairns with a diameter of 1–2 m and a height of 0.1–0.2 m were situated in the I excavation. Both were totally covered with turf. After the turf layer was removed, it became apparent that they were clearance cairns, probably from a later period. Both cairns consisted of quite small limestones bounded with brown soil. No charcoal was found and no finds were observed during the excavations.

II excavation was placed at the longest preserved part of the rampart (Fig. 2). The rampart's preserved height was ca 1.0 m above the ground. The remains of the rampart were totally covered with a turf layer up to 12 cm thick. The pile had nine stone layers that consisted mostly of limestones of various sizes. Pieces of ceramics, dating probably to the Pre-Roman Iron Age (AI 6343: 1, 8–11, 14, 18), a quartz tool (AI 6343: 5) and a knife (AI 6343: 7) were found. Some bones, belonging to sheep and/or goat and pig, were also found during the excavations (Maldre 1998).

Much charcoal, originating probably from the wooden constructions that propped up the rampart, was found all over the rest of the rampart. No uniform wall was found. One can suppose, that originally the rampart was a limestone wall of ca. 2.5 m in width and only its inner and outer sides were piled up regularly. To establish the possibility of buildings near the rampart, a number of test pits were made (Fig. 2), however no evidence was found. Some test pits were also made on the plateau, but no cultural layer was determined.

According to the ceramics, found from the rampart, one can presume that the hill-fort was used for a short time and/or very unintensively in I millennium BC. The rampart belonged to the later phase of the hill-fort – the radiocarbon samples,

taken from the charcoal beneath the V and VI layer of stones were dated to 862 ± 34 BP; 950 ± 40 BP and 855 ± 43 (Table).

Table. Radiocarbon dates from the hill-fort of Muuksi.

Tabel. Muuksi linnamäe söeproovide analüüsitulemused.

Sample	Lab. No.	Conventional C ¹⁴ years BP	Calibration (1 sigma) AD	Site
1	Tln-2359	740 ± 101	1212 - 1320 1340 - 1390	Muuksi hill-fort, rampart
3	Tln-2360	862 ± 34	1162 - 1238	rampart
4	Tln-2365	950 ± 40	1028 - 1058 1134 - 1160	rampart
5	Tln-2366	855 ± 43	1162 - 1257	rampart
6	Tln-2367	802 ± 41	1226 - 1287	rampart

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ARHEOLOOGILISED VÄLITÖÖD KAHALA JÄRVE ÜMBRUSKONNAS

Gurly VEDRU

1998. aastal jätkati arheoloogilisi välitöid Kahala järve ümbruskonnas. Arheoloogilist inspekteerimist tehti Kahala järve lähikonnas ja Kuusalu küla kirdeosas. Selle tulemusena avastati neli uut asulakohta: Uuri III (joon. 1), Kuusalu Käli ja Võnši asulakohad kuuluvad keskaega, Oduli aga nõorkeeramika kultuuri aegadesse.

Arheoloogilised kaevamised toimusid Loo asulakohal ning Muuksi linnamäel (joon 1; joon. 2: 2). Loo asulakohta uuriti süstemaatilise šurfimise meetodit kasutades. Väikesemahuliste proovikaevamiste eesmärgiks oli kindlaks teha asula täpne ajaline kuuluvus. Prooviaukudest saadud keraamika põhjal võib otsustada, et asulakoht oli kasutusel viikingiajal ning varakeskajal.

Põhikaevamised toimusid Muuksi linnamäel (joon. 1: 3). Muuksi linnamägi asub samanimelise klindiseljandiku kolmnurkse neemikuna eenduvas põhjapoolses tipus. Paekivist kaarja valliga piiratud linnuse platoo pindala on 5300 m². Linnuse vall on praeguseni säilinud 0,2–1,5 m kõrguste, 0,5–4 m laiuste ning 4–6 m pikkuste osadena. Linnust on varem kaevatud aastatel 1910 ning 1936. Oletatud on linnuse kasutamist nii I aastatuhandel e. Kr. kui ka muinasaja lõpul. 1998. aasta kaevamiste eesmärgiks oli välja selgitada linnuse vanus, teha kindlaks kultuurikihi iseloom ning uurida valli ehitust. Linnamäele rajati kaks kaevandit: üks linnuse platoole, teine vallijäänustele (joon. 2). Tööde käigus tõdeti, et platool kultuurikiht puudub. Valli kaevamistel selgus, et algselt u. 2,5 m läbimõõduga kaitseehitus on laotud kuivmüürina korrapäraselt nii sise- kui ka välisküljelt. Valli kaevamistel saadi eelrooma rauaega kuuluvaid savinõukilde, nuga, kvartsese ning loomaluid. Samas esines ka rohkesti sütt, mida korjati C¹⁴ analüüsiks (analüüsitulemusi vt. juuresolevast tabelist). Saadud leidude ning C¹⁴ dateeringute põhjal võib oletada, et linnamäge kasutati eelrooma rauaajal ning 11.–13. sajandil.