

ARHEOLOOGILISED
VÄLITÖÖD
EESTIS

ARCHAEOLOGICAL
FIELD WORKS
IN ESTONIA

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Koostanud ja toimetanud
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Tagakaas: kaelavõru fragment Harjumaalt Harmi kalmest
Back cover: fragment of neck-ring from Harmi grave in Harjumaa

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NEW ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES IN SOUTH HARJUMAA: THE SETTLEMENT SITE, CUP-MARKED STONES AND THE BASE OF A GRAVE AT HARMI

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In the 2nd half of the '90s Arne Kivistik, the history teacher in Harmi School and the counsel of the Board of Antiquities, started the survey of archaeological sites of South Harjumaa. During the survey trips of several years he has discovered many archaeological sites, including settlement sites, in the southern part of Kose parish (see Kiristaja *et al.* 1998, 215–216; Tamla 1999, Fig. 2; Kivistik 1999), which have altered the previous opinion about the low density of population in this area in the prehistoric period. On the basis of the hitherto obtained information, the lands of two neighbouring estates on the Kuivajõgi River, Vana- and Uue-Harmi are the richest in archaeological sites. Vana-Harmi is located 5 km and Uue-Harmi 6 km SSE of Kose-Risti. Presently the area belongs to the Harmi village of Kõue parish. A settlement site with an extensive cultural layer, two cup-marked stones and the remains of a grave damaged by land cultivation are located there (Fig. 1: 1–3).

THE SETTLEMENT SITE AND TWO CUP-MARKED STONES

The settlement site covering a total of 5–6 ha was discovered on the right bank of the Kuivajõgi River near the former manor-house of Uue-Harmi (Fig. 1: 1). Though archaeological excavations haven't been carried out there, the nearly 1 m thick cultural layer indicating a long-time occupation, and the abundance of finds on the surface allow us to presume that the ancient centre of the village was located about 300 m NNE of the manor-house (presently the Harmi School). There the oldest finds came to light: three grinding stones (Fig. 1: 4) and fragments of hand-moulded pottery with a coarse surface (AI 6411). It is possible that at the end of the prehistoric period the centre of the village was shifted southwards, to the area about 100 m WSW of the manor-house, extending to the Kuivajõgi River. The finds (mostly pottery) from this part of the settlement site date from the period from the end of the prehistoric period up to the Late Middle Ages. Very likely the settlement site discovered in Harmi is the village of *Hermae* mentioned in *Liber Census Daniae*, the greatest in the neighbourhood with its 25

hides (Johansen 1933, 20). It is remarkable that within a distance of 5 km there are three more big villages, also mentioned in *Liber Census Daniae*: to the North the Alantsi (*Atanascae*) village with 17 hides and the Kirivalla (*Kiriawold*) village with 15 hides, and to the South the Kõue (*Køye*) village with 19 hides (*op. cit.* 20, 25).

The two cup-marked stones are located to the SE of the settlement site: one stone with three deep and one shallow mark stands 600 m from the Harmi School, on the N side of the village lane, and the second stone with four marks is located 150 m WSW of the first one, in the field (Fig. 1: 2).

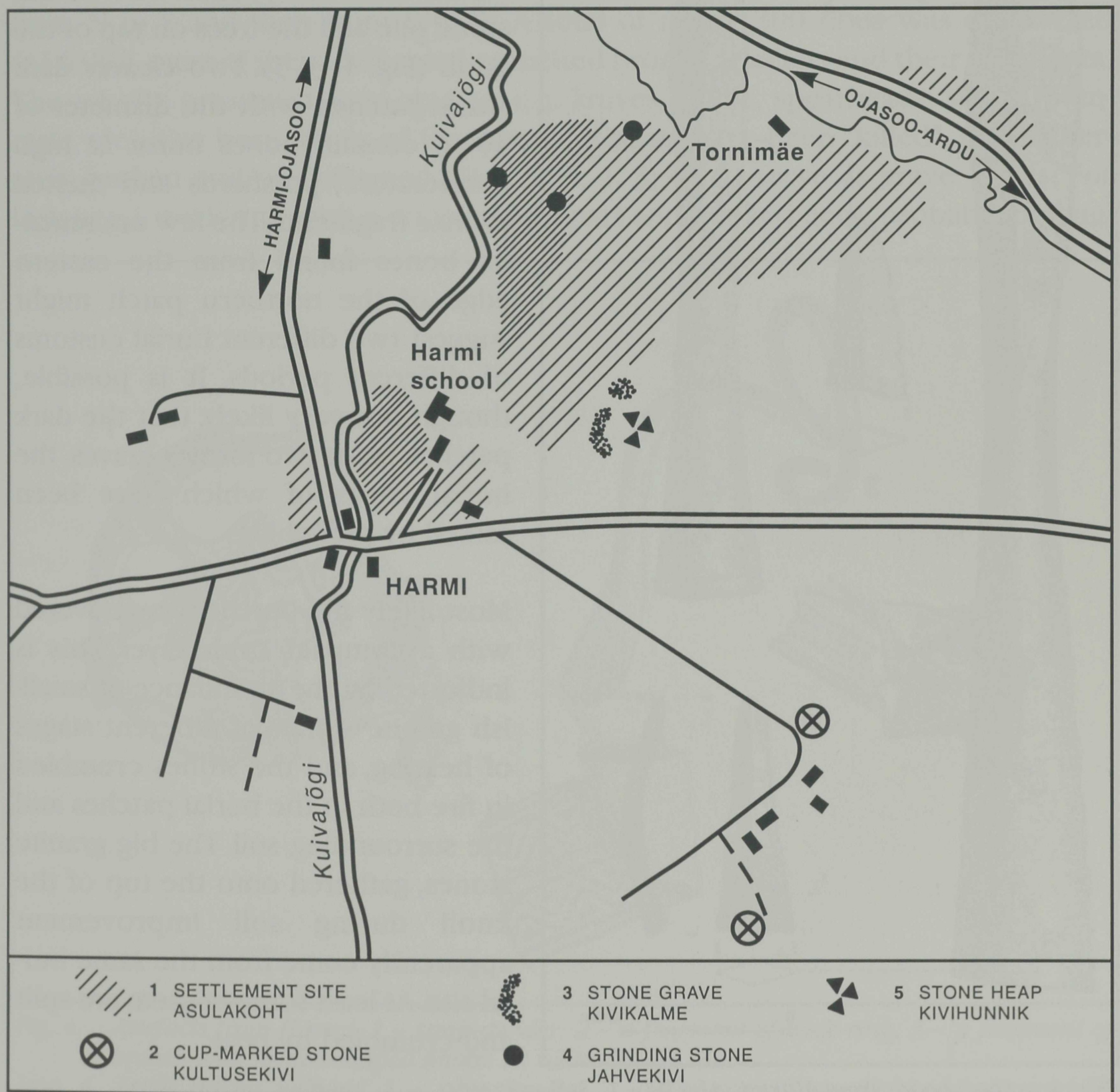


Fig. 1. Location of archaeological sites in Harmi. Joon. 1. Arheoloogiamälestised Harmis.

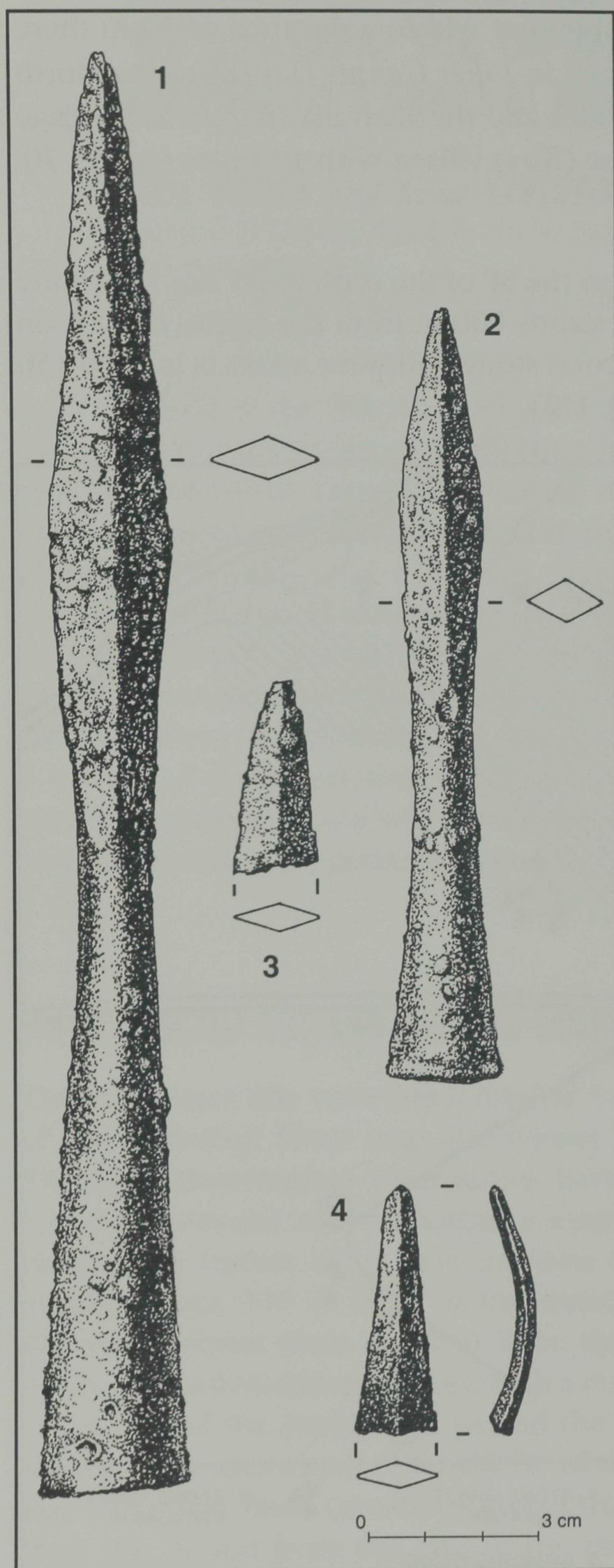


Fig. 2. Spearheads from Harmi. AI 6386: 1, 3-5. Joon. 2. Odaotsad Harmi kalmest.

THE DESTROYED GRAVE

The ancient grave is located about 300 m east of the Harmi School, on the WSW slope of the eastward elevation at the absolute altitude of 72 m. The grave, at least partly destroyed by ploughing, can be distinguished from the brownish-grey field soil by darker patches situated in a semicircle 20-40 m to N,W and WSW of the stone pile and the trees on top of the knoll (Fig. 1: 3, 5). Two clearer dark stony patches, with the diameter of 30 m contain bones burnt at high temperature, potsherds and melted bronze fragments. The few uncremated bones found from the eastern edge of the northern patch might suggest two different burial customs of different periods. It is possible, though not very likely, that the dark patches mark two former graves, the burial layers of which have been mixed by ploughing.

Most likely the burials were covered with a compact stone layer. This is indicated by the abundance of smallish granite stones of different stages of heating, and the stones crumbled in fire both in the burial patches and the surrounding soil. The big granite stones, gathered onto the top of the knoll during soil improvement apparently come from the same burial site. At least some of them are split and crumbled by heat.

The survey trip to Harmi in late

autumn of 1999, just after the ploughing, revealed that the cultivation brings to surface many bones and finds on the former burial site. In order to save the finds in the plough layer we decided to use a metal detector. First, the dark burial patches were carefully searched and after that also

the surroundings within a distance of 50 m. The area was meticulously searched from N to S and then from E to W. A total of nearly 300 finds was discovered (AI 6386), most of them deformed or melted bronze artefacts and their fragments. The wholly preserved iron objects, e.g. knives, bridle, spearheads, sword pommels, etc., also bore traces of fire. Many artefacts have been "killed", i.e. deliberately broken and/or deformed (Figs. 2: 3, 4; 3; 4), to serve as grave goods. For instance, a neck-ring with a wide middle part and hooked ends, probably belong-

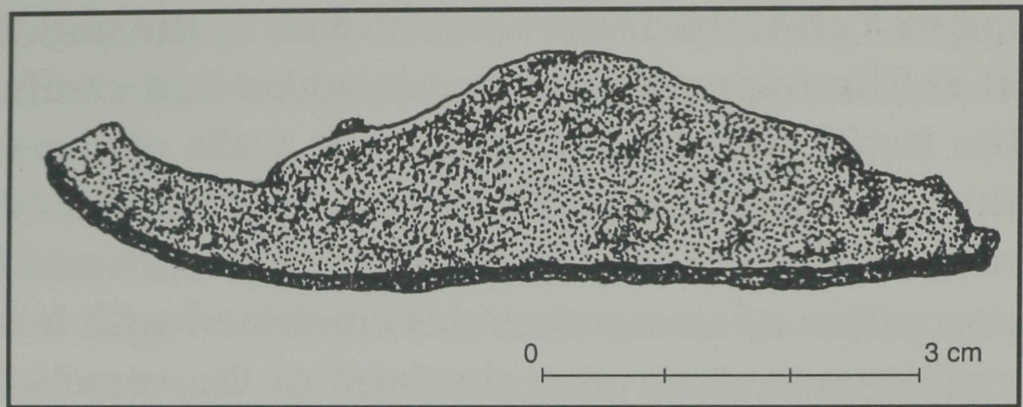


Fig. 3. Strike-a-light from Harmi. AI 6386: 9.
Joon. 3. Tulusraud Harmi kalmest.

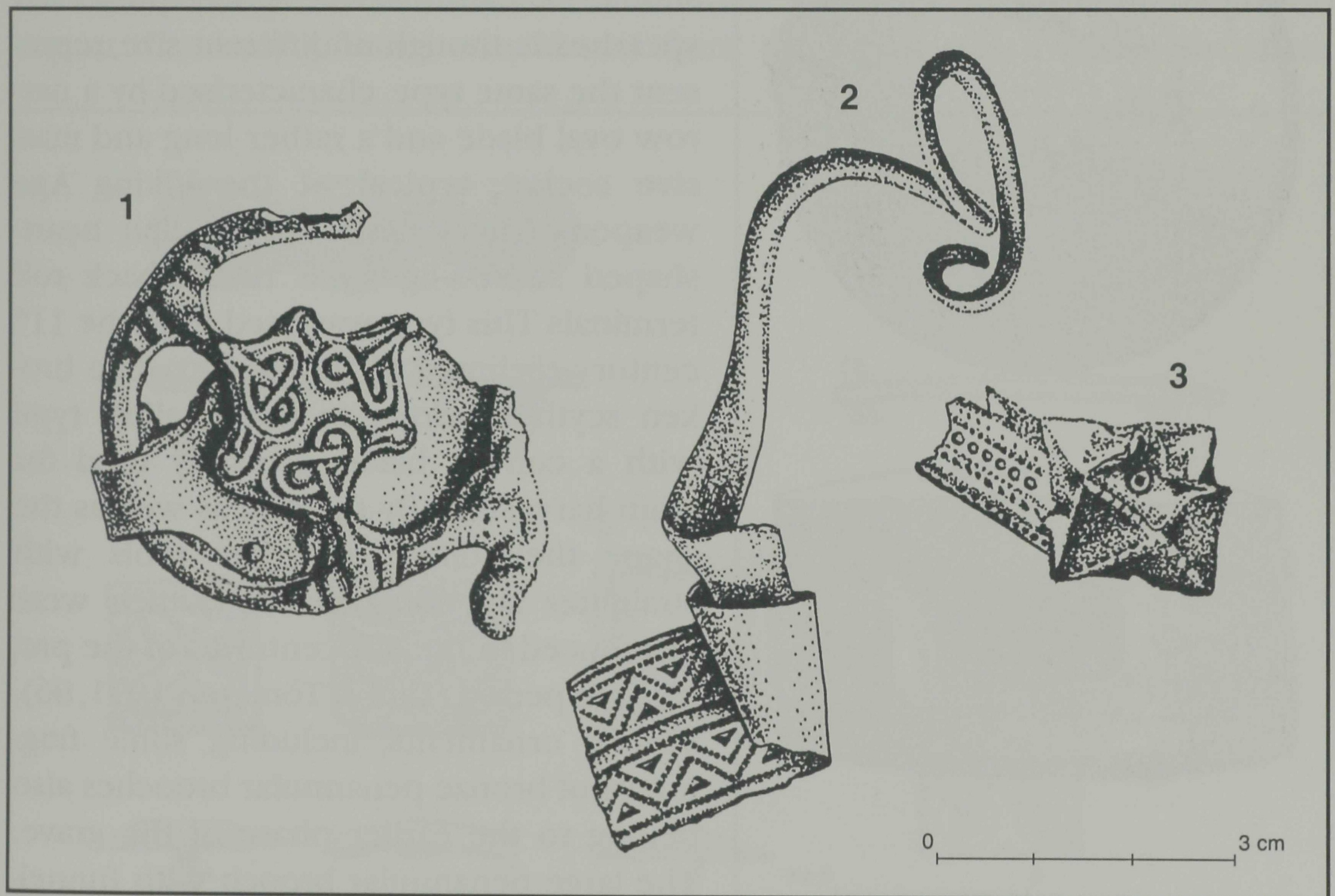


Fig. 4. Artefacts from Harmi. 1 – strap-divider, 2 – a fragment of neck-ring, 3 – a fragment of brooch with funnel-shaped knobs. AI 6386: 77, 71, 39.

Joon. 4. Leide Harmi kalmest. 1 – rihmajagaja, 2 – kaelavõru fragment, 3 – hoburaudsõle otsanupp.

ing to a child, had been first broken in the middle and then rolled together (Fig. 4: 2). The fragments of hand-moulded and carefully finished pottery, found from the burial site, are also small. The walls of the vessels were mostly up to 1 cm thick, in some cases with polished and decorated surface. The vessels were decorated with a net ornament of varying depth and density, one of the vessels had a decoration of stamped circles combined with horizontal lines. Two rim fragments enable us to determine the form of the vessels brought to the grave: they were both cup-shaped small vessels with an upright neck, with the diameter of the orifice not exceeding 7 cm.

The preliminary analysis of the finds from the grave, based on artefact typology, indicates that the grave dates from the Late Iron Age. It was possibly established already in the 10th century, or in the 11th century at the latest, but the site must

have been still used in the 12th-13th centuries. Among the earliest finds, two spearheads (Fig. 2: 1, 2), a broken strike-a-light (Fig. 3) and two scythes (AI 6386: 10, 14) should be mentioned. The well-preserved spearheads, though of different size, represent the same type, characterised by a narrow oval blade and a rather long and massive socket, typical of the Viking Age weapons. The deliberately broken heart-shaped strike-a-light has turned-back roll terminals. This type was used until the 11th century (Selirand 1974, 99-100). The broken scythes belong to the smallish type with a convex blade, probably used for grain harvesting. By the size as well as the shape they differ from the tools with straighter and longer blade, which were introduced in the last centuries of the pre-historic period (Laul & Tõnisson 1991, 86). Several ornaments, including some fragments of bronze penannular brooches also belong to the earlier phase of the grave. The large penannular brooch with funnel-shaped knobs and a hexagonal cross-section of the middle part is a characteristic ornament of the Viking Age (see Mägi-

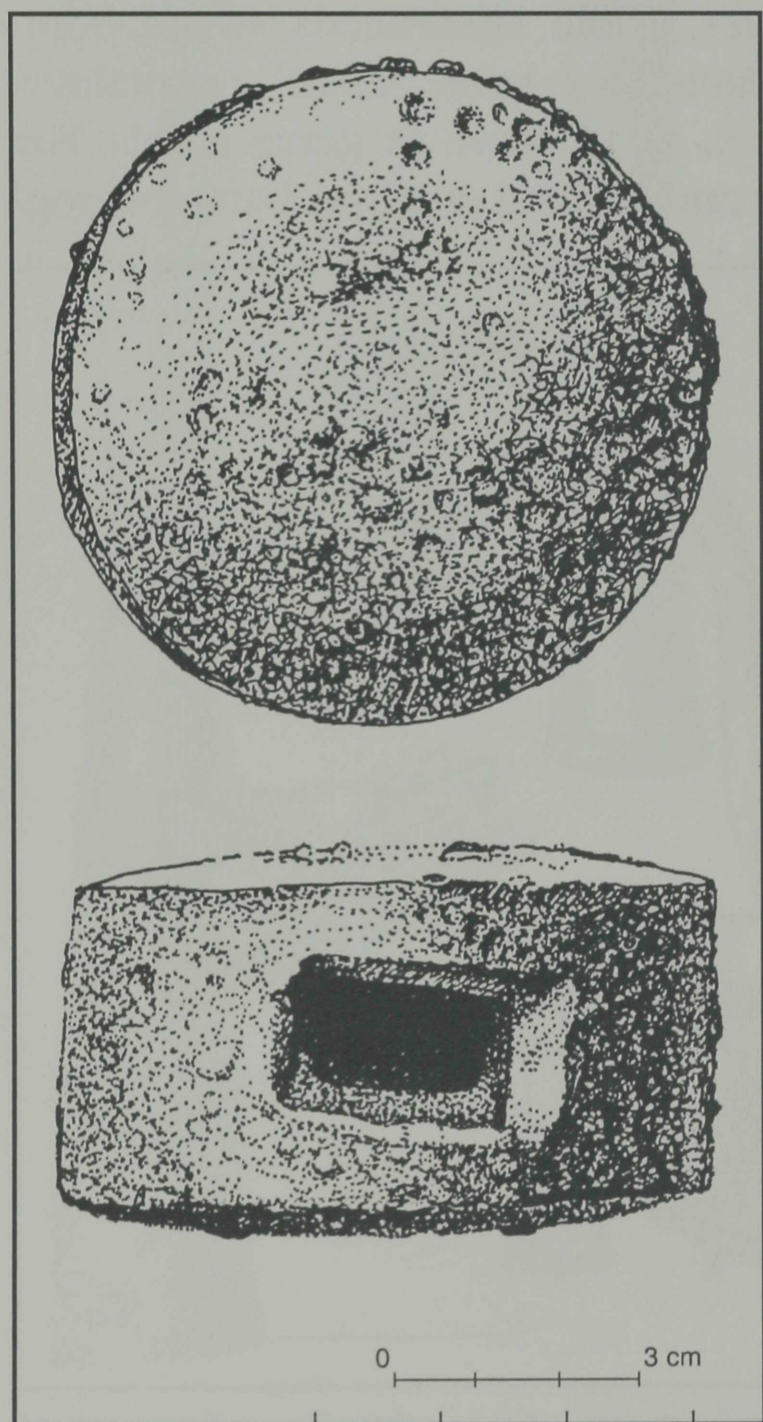


Fig. 5. Sword pommel from Harmi.
AI 6386: 2.

Joon. 5. Mõõga käepidemenupp Harmist.

Lõugas 1994). Its middle part is decorated with rows of small dots (Fig. 4: 3). A strap-divider (Fig. 4: 1), slightly deformed in fire, bears the so-called runestone ornament also typical of the Viking Age.

The male burials with disc-shaped sword pommels (Fig. 5) date from the end of the prehistoric period. The double-edged swords with such pommels came into use over a wide region, including both sides of the Baltic Sea, not before the 12th century. In Estonia about 20 disc-shaped sword pommels have been found from graves. Of the two nearly whole weapons one was found from Neeruti and the provenience of the other is not known (Mandel 1991, 122).

The types and the dates of many of the finds from the Harmi grave cannot be determined with accuracy. Such finds are, for instance, the ornaments broken into small fragments and severely deformed in fire – these might date from the early as well as the late phase of the grave. Many well preserved grave goods, e.g. bronze plaques with various shapes and decorations (Fig. 6: 1–5), chain spreaders (Fig. 6: 6), knives and bridle are also difficult to date accurately, since they were used for a long time, mostly in the 11th–13th centuries, throughout the Baltic region. The only pierced coin found from the burial site, a denar struck in

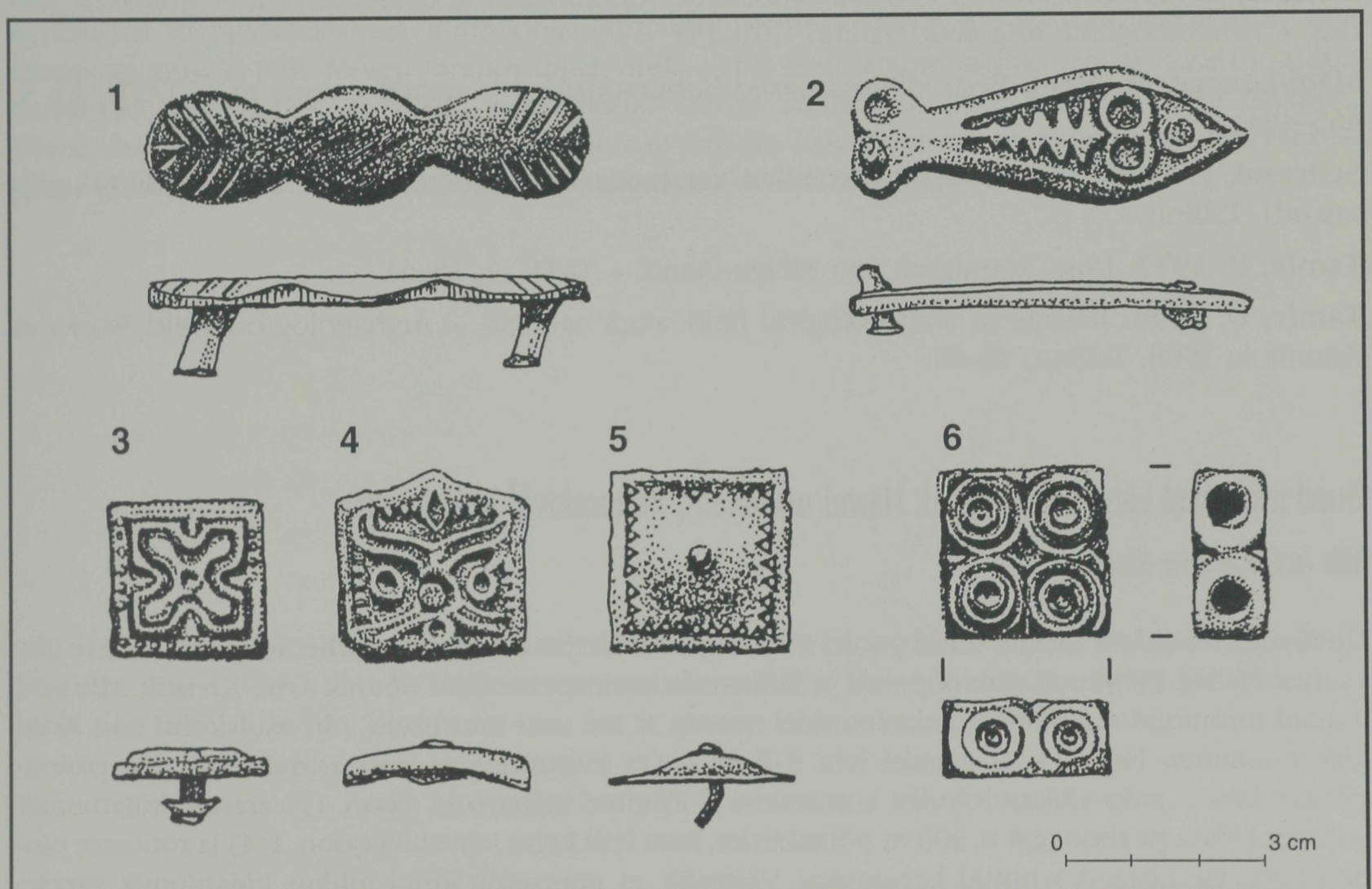


Fig. 6. Artefacts from Harmi. 1–5 – bronze plaques, 6 – chain spreader. AI 6386: 33, 27, 17, 34. Joon. 6. Leiud Harmi kalmest. 1–5 – pronksist vöönaastud, 6 – ketijagaja.

Münster, Germany, in the years 1075–1098 was, according to the numismatists A. Molvõgin and I. Leimus, used in Estonia at least to the mid-12th century.

Considering the amount of material collected from the plough layer with the aid of the metal detector, and the earlier experience with the Mõigu grave which was considered a completely destroyed site before the excavations (Tamla 1976), it is likely that the Harmi grave discovered in 1999 is presently not completely destroyed. Most likely some part of the burial layer is still preserved intact below the plough zone. This, and the rich finds suggest the need for immediate rescue excavations of the site.

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Uued muistised Lõuna-Harjumaal: Harmi asulakoht, kultusekivid ja kalmease

Ülle Tamla ja Arne Kivistik

Üheksakümnendate aastate teisel poolel alustas Lõuna-Harjumaal asuvate arheoloogiamälestiste ülevaatus Harmi Põhikooli ajalooõpetaja ja Muinsuskaitseinspeksiooni nõunik Arne Kivistik. Mitmeid aastaid toimunud maastikuinspeksioonidel avastas ta rea uusi muistiseid, s.h. asulakohti end. Kose khk. lõunaosas. Harmi küla maadel leiti 5–6 ha katva kultuurkihiga muinasasula Kuivajõe parempoolsel kaldal, kaks väikeselohulist kultusekivi ja lõhutud kalmekoht (joon. 1). Varasem külatuumik paiknes mõisa peahoonest u. 300 m põhjakirdes, kust leiti kolm jahvekivi (joon. 1: 4) ja robustse pinnaotlusega käsitsi vormitud keraamikat. Võimalik, et muinasaja lõpul nihkus külatuumik varasemast lõuna poole: sellest piirkonnast saadud leiud ulatuvad ajaliselt välja hilis-keskajani, kuid ei sisal-

da muinasaja lõpust varasemat materjali. Harmis avastatud asulakoha näol on ilmselt tegemist Taani Hindamisraamatus mainitud piirkonna suurema, 25 adramaaga *Hermae* külaga.

Muistsest matmispaigast on alles kaks u. 30 m läbimõõduga tumedat laiku (joon. 1: 3), milles leidub kõrges kuumuses põlenud luid, savinõukilde ning sulanud pronksitükikesi. Kalmet katnud kivivare on maaharimisega kokku veetud kõrgustiku laele (joon. 1: 5). 1999. a. kasutati künnikihis olevate leidude hävimisohust päästmiseks metalldetektorit. Ühtekokku korjati üles ligi kolmsada eset, millest enamuse moodustavad kõrges kuumuses deformeerunud või ülessulanud pronksesemed ning nende tükid. Ka tervena säilinud raudesemetel, näit. nugadel, suitsetel, odaotsadel, mõõganuppudel jt. on põlemisjäljed. Paljud esemed on hauapanusteks "surmatud", s.t. tahtlikult purustatud ja/või deformeeritud (joon. 2: 3, 4; 3–4). Leiumaterjali esialgne analüüs näitab, et Harmi kalme pärineb nooremast rauaajast. Matmist võidi alustada juba 10., hiljemalt 11. saj., kuid siinne kalmekoht pidi olema kasutusel ka 12.–13. sajandil. Varasematest hauapanustest pärinevad kaks odaotsa (joon. 2: 1, 2), katkimurtud tulusraud (joon. 3) ja mitmed ehted, s.h. mõned pronksist hoburaudsõle fragmentid (joon. 4: 3). Samale ajastule omase ornamendiga on unikaalne rihmajagaja (joon. 4: 1).

Muinasaja lõpus on kalmesse maetud need, kellele pandi kaasa kettakujulised mõõgapidemenupud (joon. 5). Selliste nuppudega kaheteralised mõõgad tulid kasutusele väga laial territooriumil, s.h. mõlemal pool Läänemerd mitte enne 12. sajandit. Rohkesti on leiumaterjali hulgas tules ülessulanud esemeid, mille täpset tüüpi ja sellel põhinevat dateeringut pole võimalik kindlaks määrata. Kitsamasse ajavahemikku ei saa paigutada ka mitmeid tervena säilinud nuge, suitseid, erineva kuju ja ornamendiga pronksnaaste ja ketijagajaid (joon. 6), mida kasutati pea kõikides Läänemereäärsetes maades, s.h. ka Eestis küllaltki pika ajavahemiku jooksul, enamasti 11.–13. saj.

Arvestades metalldetektoriga künnikihist korjatud esemete hulka ja toetudes varasemale kaevamiskogemusele näit. Mõigu tarandkalmel, mida peeti enne kalme läbikaevamist täiesti lõhutud muistiseks, võib loota, et 1999. aastal leitud Harmi kalmekoht pole tänaseks veel hävinud. Tõenäoliselt on künnikihi all säilinud vähemalt mingis osas puutumatut kalmekihti. Avariiseisus kalme kiiret läbikaevamist eeldab ka hävimisohus rikkalik leiumaterjal.