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Excavations of the destroyed grave at Harni

Kaevamised hävinud Harni kalmel

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Esi- ja tagakaas: 2001. aastal Haapsalust leitud ahjukahlid. 16. saj. esimene pool.
Cover and back cover: Stove-tiles found from Haapsalu in 2001. The first half of the 16th century.

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TARTU ÜLIKOOLI
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SUNDEKSEMPLAR

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PREHISTORIC SETTLEMENTS IN VILJANDI: NEW EVIDENCE

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In 2001 excavations were finished on Pähklikmägi, on the hill with the remains of the besieging construction from 1223 (Valk 2000; 2001). The excavation plot of 2001 was extended for 1 meter both in the northern and southern direction – until the steep slopes (Fig. 1). Excavation of the cultural layer with a thickness of 50–60 cm yielded no new data about the besieging construction. The investigated soil consisted, as in previous excavation years, of stones and a disturbed settlement cultural layer dating from the 10th/11th – early 13th century.

Also the finds (VM 10849: 1–122) resemble those from the previous years. Among them one should note an unfinished half of a quern (Fig. 2), an ice nail (Fig. 3: 1), a suggested spur fragment (Fig. 3: 2), fragments of bits (Fig. 3: 3), a coin of the Danish king Valdemar II (1202–1241) minted in Schleswig,¹ a fragment of a crucible and a piece of a bronze item, probably a remain of a “Hanseatic bowl” (Trozig 1991, Figs. 30: b, 31: a). A similar find was obtained also the previous year (Valk 2001, Fig. 8). Hand-made pottery (Fig. 4: 1–2) included two sherds with small



Fig. 1. Excavation plot on Pähklikmägi in Viljandi after the excavations. Photo from the east.
Joon. 1. Kaevand Viljandi Pähklikmäel pärast kaevamiste lõppu. Pildistatud idast.

¹Determined by Ivar Leimus (Estonian History Museum).

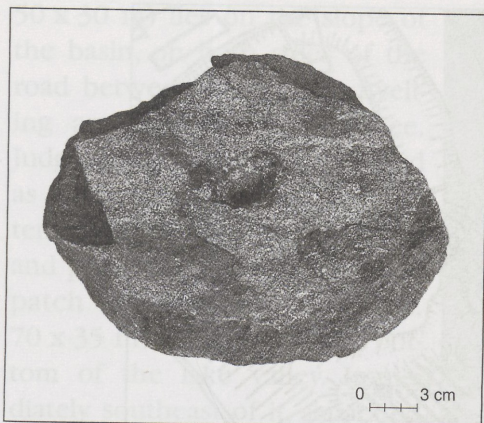


Fig. 2. Half-finished quern from Pähkli-mägi. (VM 10849: 3.)

Joon. 2. Lõpetamata jäänud käsikivipoolmik Pähkli-mäelt.

holes in the upper edge and a fragment of a smoothed vessel. The biggest sherd of wheel-pottery (Fig. 4: 3) was ornamented with two rows of simple waves, one of them on the upper edge of the rim. From the hill also a brick (31 x 13.5 x 9 cm in size) and some lime mortar were found. Analyses of the clay and brick finds of previous excavations yielded also some new fragments of profile bricks.

With 3 test pits the extent of the layer of the fallen stones in the eastern, i. e. lake direction was established. The layer of stones ended some 4–5 m from the edge of the excavation plot, i.e. 9–10 m from the suggested eastern edge of the trebuchet platform. Since no undisturbed natural soil was found above the virgin sandy loam in any of the test pits, the earlier settlement cultural layer had been removed from the area – evidently, during the besieging of 1223.

In 2001, also the Iron Age settlement area found in 1999 ca. 500–600 m south of Pähkli-mägi (Fig. 5) was studied. The prehistoric settlement traces can be found on the slope of Lake Viljandi, in a basin-like area, open from the east and the south towards the lake. In the spring of 2001 it was established that the cultural layer consists of two more-or-less compact patches (Fig. 5: 1). The first of these (ca.

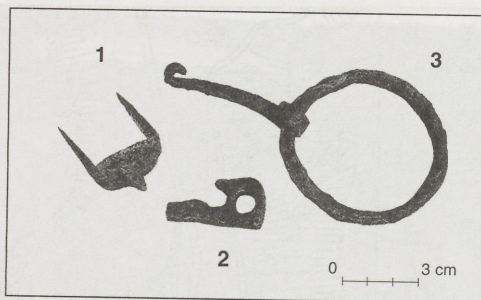


Fig. 3. Finds from Pähkli-mägi. 1 - ice nail, 2 - fragment of spur(?), 3 - fragment of bits. (VM 10849: 109, 118, 9.)

Joon. 3. Leiud Pähkli-mäelt. 1 - jäänael, 2 - kannusekatke (?), 3 - suitsekatke.

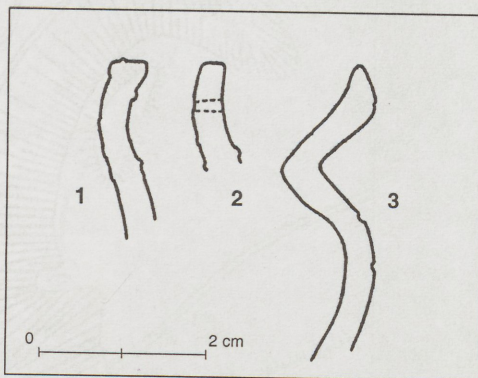


Fig. 4. Profiles of pottery from Pähkli-mägi. (VM 10849: 73, 49, 34.)

Joon. 4. Savinõude profiilid Pähkli-mäelt.

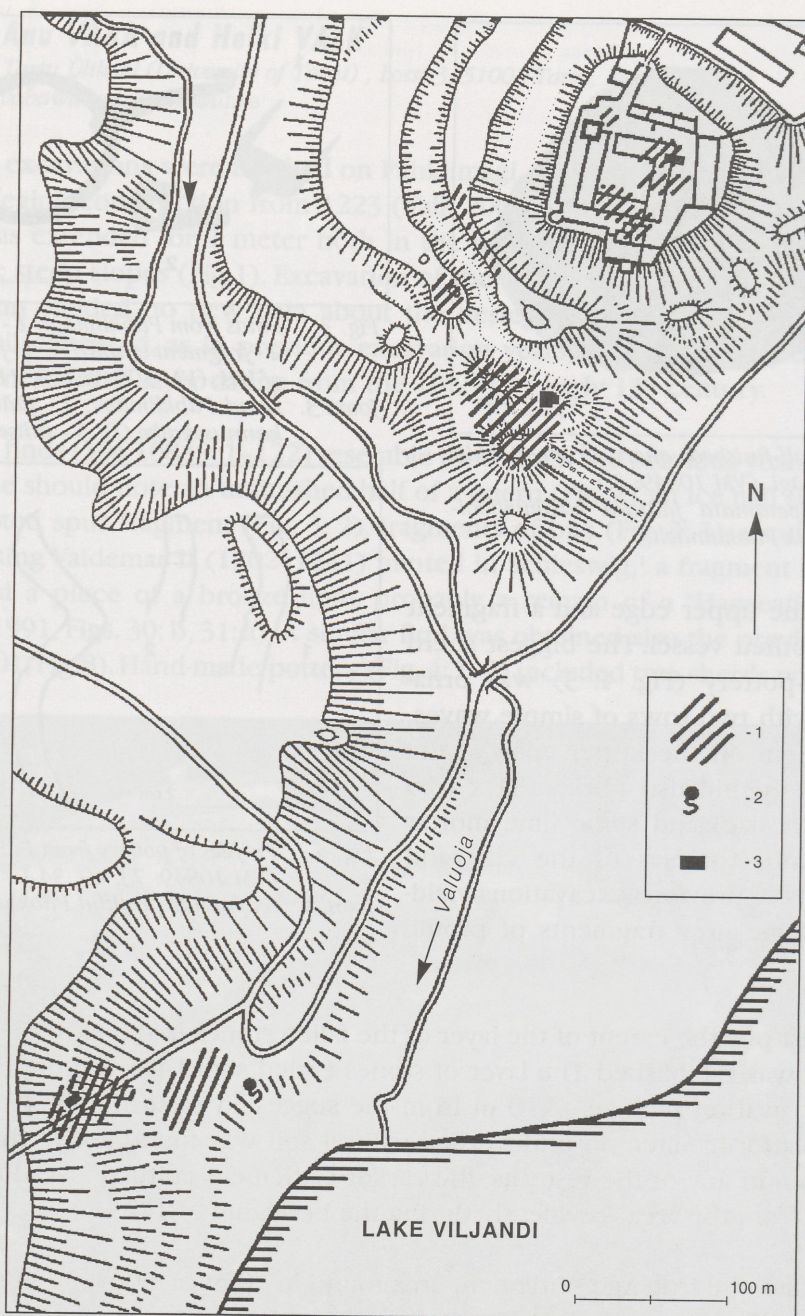


Fig. 5. Prehistoric settlement traces in Viljandi. 1 - area with Iron Age cultural layer; 2 - spring; 3 - excavation plots of 2001.

Joon. 5. Muinasaegsed asustajäljed Viljandis. 1 - rauaaegse kultuurikihi ala; 2 - allikas; 3 - 2001. aastal rajatud kaevandid.

50 x 30 m) lies on the slope of the basin, on both sides of the road between Männimäe dwelling area and Ranna Puistee. Judging by the pottery, gathered as surface finds, the site could tentatively be dated to the Viking and post-Viking Age. The second patch of cultural layer (ca. 70 x 35 m) is located at the bottom of the lake valley. Immediately southeast of it, separated from the settlement by a steep 1.5 m high embankment, lies the low and wet lakeside area. The water supply for the settlement was, evidently, based on springs coming out of the embankment. The cultural layer with a thickness of some 70 cm was extremely intensive and black. The soil contained some granite rubble from burnt stones but, in contrast to the higher settlement, only one sherd of hand-made pottery, more primitive than those characteristic of the Viking Age, was found. Based on the different character of the cultural layers the two settlements can be regarded as dating from different periods.



Fig. 6. Excavation plot at Viljandi settlement. Photo from the southwest.

Joon. 6. Viljandi muinasasulakoht, kaevandi üldvaade. Pildistatud edelast.

In the summer of 2001 an excavation plot (36.5 m²) was made in the area of the first settlement (Fig. 6). The excavations took place in the area where the cultural layer was most intensive but was partly washed by erosion into the big, more than 1 m deep roadside ditch.

The cultural layer in the area of the excavation plot was 70–90 cm thick. As the surface of the earth descended comparatively steeply from south to north and

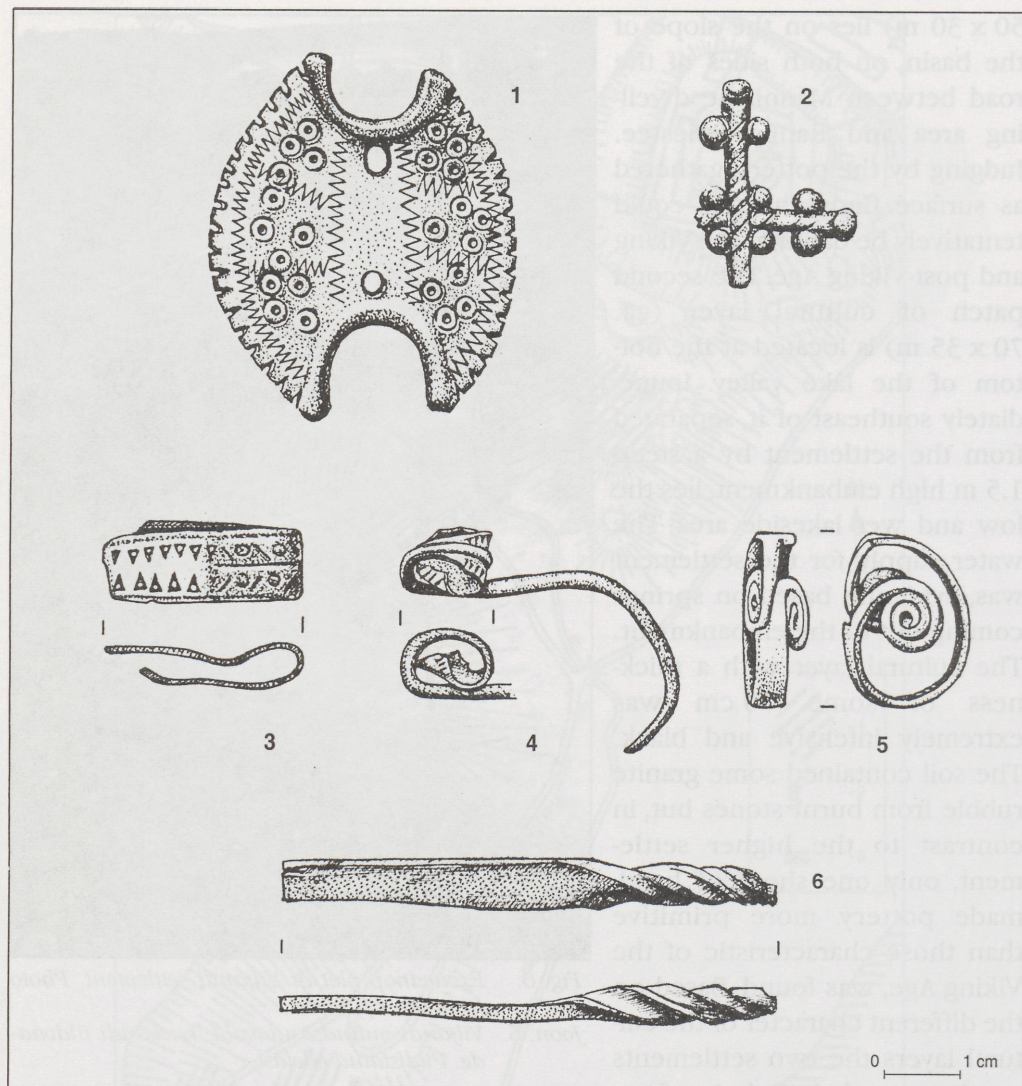


Fig. 7. Finds from the settlement of Viljandi. 1 - chain holder, 2 - cross pendant, 3 - bracelets with narrowing ends, 4 - needle from a penannular brooch, 5 - ring with volutes, 6 - awl. (VM 10847: 1111, 290, 390, 672, 96, 475.)

Joon. 7. Leiud Viljandi muinasasulast. 1 - keekandja, 2 - ristripats, 3 - abenevate otstega käevõru, 4 - hoburaudsõle nõel, 5 - prillspiraalotstega sõrmus, 6 - naaskel.

from southwest to northeast – at the level of the virgin soil the elevations at the ends of the plot differed by up to 100 cm – the thickness of the erosion layer varied a lot. The upper 20 cm of the excavated soil was greyish and dense. It contained tiny fragments of brick but almost no other finds. Probably it consisted of soil which had been washed down from the slopes onto the cultural layer. Deeper

down, the soil was formed by an eroded cultural layer. In the upper, southern and southwestern part of the excavation plot, this layer was followed by an undisturbed cultural layer. In the lower part of the plot, the eroded cultural layer extended down to undisturbed natural sandy loam which came to light in the eastern and southeastern part of the plot at a depth of 70 cm.

In the southwestern part of the plot, the top of the intensively black cultural layer was unearthed below the eroded layer at a depth of 40 cm. The intensive layer contained more finds, as well as small fragments of burnt stones and tiny charcoal pieces. The area with black cultural layer expanded with every stratum. At the bottom of the excavation plot it measured

about 255 cm in length and 130 cm in width. Below the depth of ca. 70 cm this layer contained numerous stones, mostly with a diameter of ca. 10–20 cm. The stones were mostly unburned and did not form any discernible pattern. As the area with the intensive dark cultural layer was dug about 15 cm into the intact sandy loam and had a straight edge, it might indicate the inside of some building.

The excavated area yielded numerous finds: mostly pottery sherds and slag, but also fragments of ornaments and other artefacts (VM 10847: 1–1295). The majority of the finds were discovered at a depth of 50–80/90 cm. The fragments of bronze ornaments were well preserved, most of them covered with patina. The most noteworthy bronze ornaments were a chain holder (Fig. 7: 1.) and a fragment of a cross pendant (Fig. 7: 2) which has parallels in the Latvian archaeological material of the 12th–13th centuries (Mugurēvičs 1974, Fig. 2: 12). The finds also included some bronze spirals, two fragments of bracelets with narrowing ends (Fig. 7: 3), 2 glass beads, a fragment of probably a spiral bracelet, 2 bronze chain fragments, a small bell, a needle from a penannular brooch (Fig. 7: 4) and some rings and their fragments, including a ring with volutes (Fig. 7: 5). Iron artefacts were represented by three knives and 3 awls (Fig 7: 6). Two whetsone fragments of slate and 5 crucible fragments were also found.

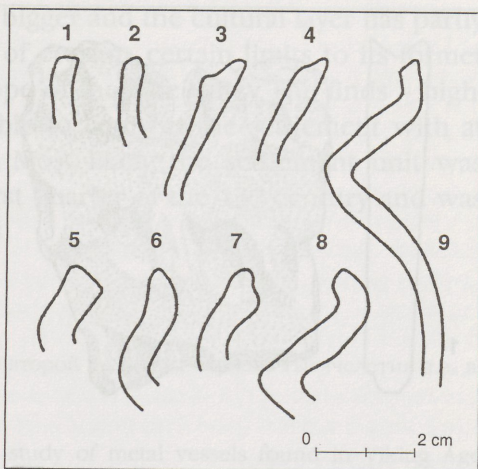


Fig. 8. Pottery profiles from the prehistoric settlement of Viljandi. 1, 2 - hand-made pottery; 3–9 - wheel pottery. (VM 10847: 797, 1159, 1279, 810, 825, 625, 100, 960.)

Joon. 8. Savinõude profiile Viljandi muinas-asulakohalt. 1, 2 - käsikeraamika; 3–9 - ketrakeraamika.

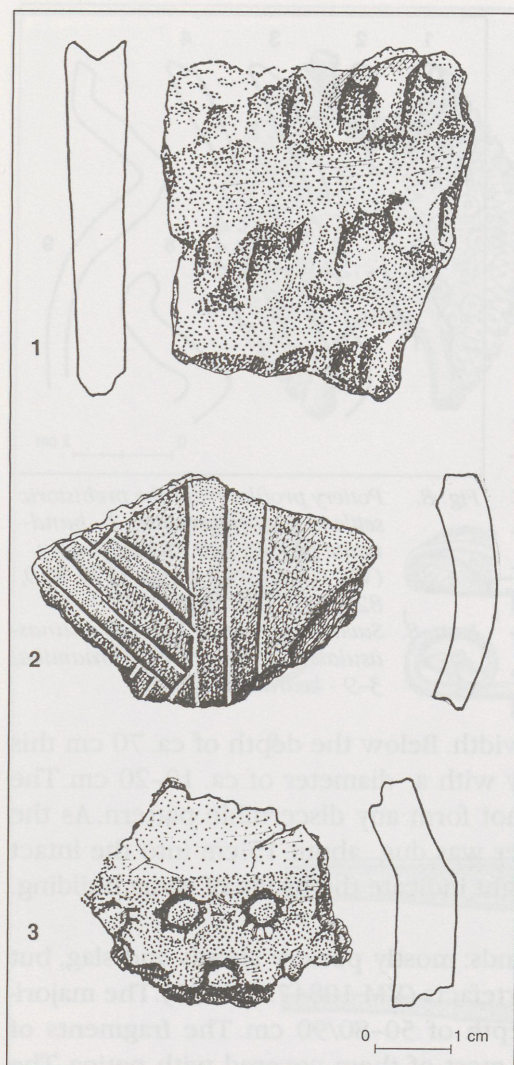


Fig. 9. Ornamented pottery from the prehistoric settlement of Viljandi. 1 - with pinched ornament, 2 - with net ornament, 3 - with circle ornament. (VM 10847: 1138, 1245, 1257.)

Joon. 9. Ornamenditud savinõukilde Viljandi muinasasulakohalt. 1 - näpiornamendiga, 2 - võremustriga, 3 - ringornamendiga.

The largest group of the finds was pottery – in all 3748 sherds. About 3/4 of them came from hand-made vessels (Fig. 8: 1-2). There were also some fragments of vessels with smoothed surface, some sherds with pinched ornament (Fig. 9: 1) and some sherds with net ornament (Fig. 9: 2). One sherd was ornamented with punched-in circles (Fig. 9: 3) and had a near parallel in Rõuge (Aun 1992, Table X: 3). The wheel pottery (Fig. 8: 3-9) was sometimes ornamented with a few lines clustered in pairs or trios, or it had wave ornament. As the sherds were small, the shape of the vessels remains unclear. The pottery from Viljandi greatly resembles that from other Viking and post-Viking Age settlements of Southern Estonia.

As also the deepest part of the cultural layer included both hand-made and wheel pottery, the beginning of the settlement can be dated to the 11th century. The same date is confirmed by two fragments of silver coins from the intensively back layer – minted in Utrecht by Willem de Ponte (1054-76) and in Regensburg by herzog Heinrich III or IV (982-1002).² Judging by the wheel pottery which had also parallels from the cultural layer of the late 12th – early 13th century in Viljandi (Valk 2000, Fig. 8), as well as from the hillfort of Lõhavere, the settlement was probably in use until the end of the Iron Age. The limited size of the area

with the cultural layer refers to a small settlement unit: a single farm or a hamlet.

²Determined by Ivar Leimus (Estonian History Museum).

Although the settlement area was initially bigger and the cultural layer has partly been washed down the slope as a result of erosion, certain limits to its former boundaries are set by the rather steep slope of the lake valley. The finds – high-quality ornaments and silver coins – enable to connect the settlement with at least a “middle class” social background. Most likely, the settlement unit was deserted in the conquest period in the first quarter of the 13th century and was not in use any more in the medieval times.

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UUSI ANDMEID VILJANDI MUINASASULATEST

Anu VABA ja Heiki VALK

2001. aastal lõpetati arheoloogilised kaevamised Viljandi Lossimägedes Pähklimäel. Varasemate aastate kaevandit laiendati meetri jagu nii lõuna kui ka põhja suunas (joon. 1). 1223. aasta piiramisrajatise aluseks kuhjatud viikingiaja ja hilisrauaaja asulakoha kultuurkiht sisaldas leide, mis sarnanevad varemsaadutele. Esile toomist väärivad lõpetamata poolik käsikivi (joon. 2), kasutamata jäänael, suite- ja oletatav kannusekatke (joon. 3), Valdemar II (1202–1241) Schleswigi hõbemünt ja arvatav pronksnõu katke. Nagu varem, saadi ka nüüd nii käsitsi kui kedral tehtud savinõude kilde (joonis 4). Eelmistel aastatel kogutud savi- ja tellisetükkide täiendaval läbivaatamisel leiti juurde väikesi lihtsate profiiltelliste tükke.

Proovišurfidega tehti kindlaks kividest varingulasu piir. See ulatus eeldatavast viskemasina platvormi servast 9–10 m kaugusele järve poole. Asjaolu, et ka šurfide alal puudus segatud pinnase all looduslik alusmuld, viitab algse pinnase mahakaevamisele 1223. aasta piiramise ajal.

2001. aastal uuriti veel rauaageid asustusalgi Pähklimäest 500–600 m lõuna pool, kus asulakihti leidub kahe laiguna (joon. 5: 1). Esimene neist (50 x 30 m) asub järveoru nõlval, Männimäe elamu-

rajooni ja Ranna puistee vahelise tee mõlemal küljel ning selle võib dateerida nooremasse rauaaega. Teine, umbes 70 cm paksune kultuurkihi laia (70 x 35 m) paikneb järveoru põhjas. Musta värvi ning peent kivipurdu sisaldavast kihist leiti vaid üks, ilmselt viikingiajast varasem käsitsi vormitud nõu kild. Esimese asulakohalaigu alale, kõige intensiivsema kultuurkihi piirkonda, rajati 36,5 m² suurune kaevand (joon. 6), kus kultuurkihi paksus oli 70–90 cm. Mööda orunõlva allapoole kandunud halli ja leiuvase pinnase all oli erodeerunud kultuurkiht, mis kaevandi madalamas osas ulatus loodusliku saviliivani. Kõrgemas, lõuna- ning edelaosas muutus 20–30 cm paksune erodeerunud kiht sügavamale kaevates üha tumedamaks. Ühtlasi hakkas tume ja sõesegune kiht järk-järgult laienema ning sisaldas alates 70 cm sügavuselt 10–20 cm läbimõõduga, enamasti põletamata kive. Et kividega pinnas paiknes sirgeservalises, 10–15 cm võrra looduslikku saviliiva ulatuvas süvendis, ei saa välistada, et tegemist on ehitise sisemusega. Kaevatud alalt saadi arvukalt leide: savinõukilde, rauašlakki, ehtekatkeid ja tööriistu. Leidudest väärivad esile toomist keekandja (joon. 7: 1), ristripatsi katke (joon. 7: 2), pronksspiraalid, 3 käevõru katket (joon. 7: 3), hoburaudsõle deformeerunud ja murdunud nõel (joon. 7: 4), 6 sõrmust ja sõrmusekatket (joon. 7: 5) ning 2 klaashelmest. Tööriistadest leiti 3 nuga, 3 naasklit (joon. 7: 6) ning 2 luisku.

Suurima leiugrupi moodustasid savinõukillud (joon. 8), millest umbkaudu 3/4 pärineb käsitsi vormitud nõudest. Esines kiilapinnalist keraamikat, aga ka näpi- ning võreornamendiga kilde (joon. 9: 1, 2), üks potikild oli ilustatud ringikestega (joon. 9: 3). Mõni kedrakeraamika kild on kaunistatud joon- ja/või laineornamendiga. Viljandi asulakohalt leitud keraamika sarnaneb teistelt Lõuna-Eesti viikingi- ja hilisrauaaegsetelt asulakohtadelt pärinevaga. Kuna kultuurkihi kõige sügavam ja erosioonist puutumata osa sisaldas samuti nii käsitsi- kui ka kedrakeraamikat, võib asulakoha alguse dateerida 11. sajandisse. Seda dateeringut kinnitavad ka kaks hõbemündikatket, mis vermitud vastavalt Utrechtis Willem de Ponte (1054–76) ning Regensburgis hertsog Heinrich III või IV valitsemise ajal (982–1002). Keraamika põhjal võib oletada, et asulakoht oli kasutusel kuni rauaaja lõpuni. Kultuurkihi piiratud ulatus viitab väiksele, kõige tõenäolisemalt ühest või paarist talust koosnevale asustusüksusele. Tõenäoliselt jäeti asulakoht maha 13. sajandi esimesel veerandil muistse vabadusvõitluse ajal ning keskajal seda enam ei kasutatud.