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# ARHEOLOOGILISED VÄLITÖÖD EESTIS

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK IN ESTONIA

2001

Koostanud ja toimetanud  
Ülle Tamla

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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 16<sup>th</sup> century.*

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# ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS IN JÕELÄHTME AND KUUSALU PARISHES

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In 2001, archaeological fieldwork was carried out in Jõelähtme and Kuusalu parishes, Harjumaa. Two sites, the settlement site of Joa and the fossil field remains of Kõnnu, both discovered in the same year, were chosen for more detailed research. Trial excavations were also carried out in the pit grave cemeteries of the Juminda peninsula. The fieldwork was financed by the Estonian Science Foundation (grant no 4202).

## THE SETTLEMENT SITE OF JOA

The settlement site of Joa is located on the right bank of the Jägala river, some 30–50 meters from the waterfall, at the edge of the North Estonian Limestone Plateau (Fig. 1). The site is bordered by an old quarry on its southern, southwestern and western sides and by the houses of the Joa village on the north and east. The hill-fort of Jägala Jõesuu is situated about 1 km downstream from the settlement site of Joa. A cup-marked stone with 15 small depressions on its top, is located about 175 meters east from the settlement site of Joa. A Stone Age settlement site is known on the left bank of the Jägala river, just opposite the Joa settlement. In the written sources the settlement of Joa (Juka) with 8 plots of arable land is mentioned in the account book Liber Census Daniae, compiled in the beginning of 13<sup>th</sup> century (Johansen 1933, 390–391).

A number of potsherds (AI 6472: I 1–161) dating to the Bronze Age and to the period from the Viking Age to the Middle Ages (incl.) were picked up in the course of the archaeological survey. Questions regarding the location and the age of the settlement site and its relations with other archaeological sites of the same time period, situated in the vicinity, were the main reasons for the archaeological excavations. The first task was to determine the exact location and extent of the cultural layer. For that purpose, a trench and small plots, measuring altogether 20 m<sup>2</sup>, were dug in different parts of the settlement site. It appeared that the original black coloured cultural layer was 20–30 cm thick and partly destroyed by the building activities of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, when a number of greenhouses were built (Vedru 2001). The settlement site once covered an area of 1.5–2 hectares approximately, as determined with an earth borer. One can only suppose that it was once



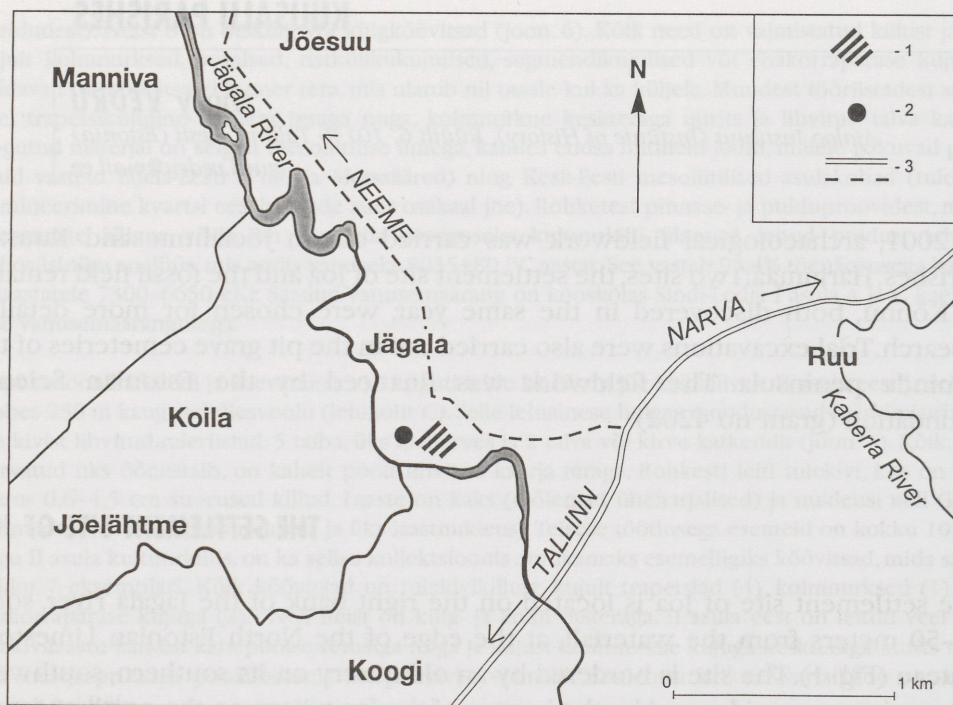


Fig. 1. Location plan of the Joa settlement site. 1 - settlement site, 2 - cup-marked stone, 3 - roads.

Joon. 1. Joa asulakoha asendiplaan. 1 - asulakoht, 2 - lobukivi, 3 - teed.

even larger and reached to the riverbank, but the cultural layer was destroyed with the founding of the quarry, mentioned earlier. The original cultural layer of the settlement is preserved intact only in the lower layers of the western and south-western parts of the settlement site. The majority of the finds (AI 6472: II 1-208) consists of mostly hand moulded potsherds. Only twenty potsherds originated from vessels, made on a potters wheel. Five pieces of striated pottery (AI 6472: I 1-3; AI 6472: II 12, 13), belonging to the Bronze Age, were found. According to these finds, the settlement site of Joa was first inhabited in that time period, when it was probably a place of a single farmstead. As the potsherds of this type were found from quite a small area, it seems possible that the farmstead was located in the vicinity of the houses of Joa village closest to the river, about 100 m north of it.

The biggest part of the datable finds, i.e. the pieces of ceramic vessels, belong to the Viking Age, when the settlement site was intensively used and its area was the largest, reaching probably from the river and the edge of the limestone plateau to the areas further in north and west. Test pits made in the larger area showed that



the settlement covered an area of ca 2 hectares during that period. The discovered fine-tempered potsherds of that time are partly decorated with lines, zig-zags or net ornament. There were only few other finds, including some nails and animal bones. The habitation in the settlement site of Joa continued to a smaller extent also at the end of Estonian prehistory and in the Middle Ages.

## THE FOSSIL FIELDS OF KÕNNU

Archaeological excavations were also carried out at a clearance cairn field discovered between the villages of Kõnnu and Kalme. These fossil field remains are located in the alvar area about 150 meters north from the small road that leads from the village of Kõnnu to Loksa road (Fig. 2). The clearance cairns of different size cover an area of two-three hectares. This is the only area in Kõnnu district that has remained intact from the land improvement activities of the Soviet period.

Two cairns were excavated for dating the complex. The diameter of the first cairn was 4.5–5.0 m and the height 0.5 m. The first stone layer consisted of granite stones of different size mostly. The second layer consisted of limestone slabs with dimensions of 30–40 cm, and only a few small granite stones were found. The

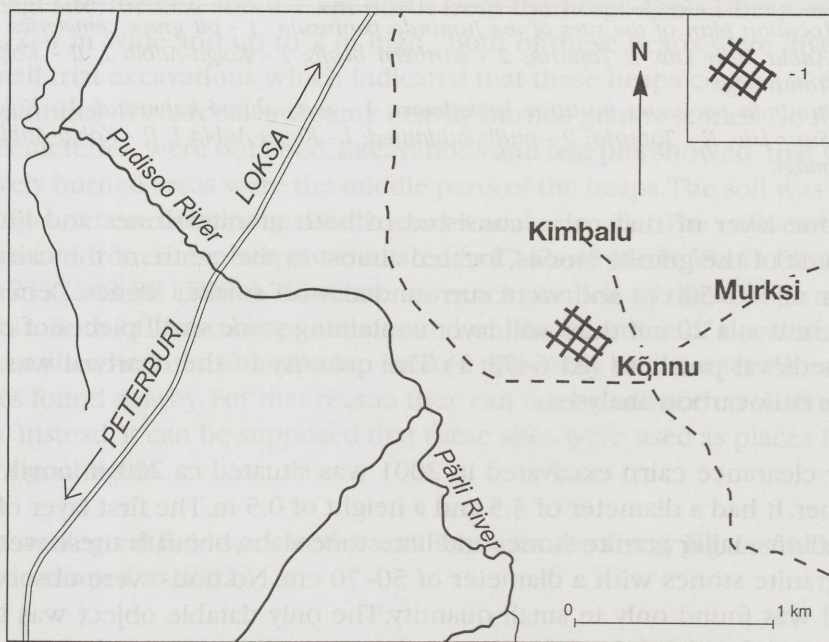


Fig. 2. Location plan of the fossil field remains of Kõnnu. 1 - fossil field remains.  
 Joon. 2. Kõnnu fossiilsete põllujäänuste asendiplaan. 1 - fossiilsed põllujäänused.



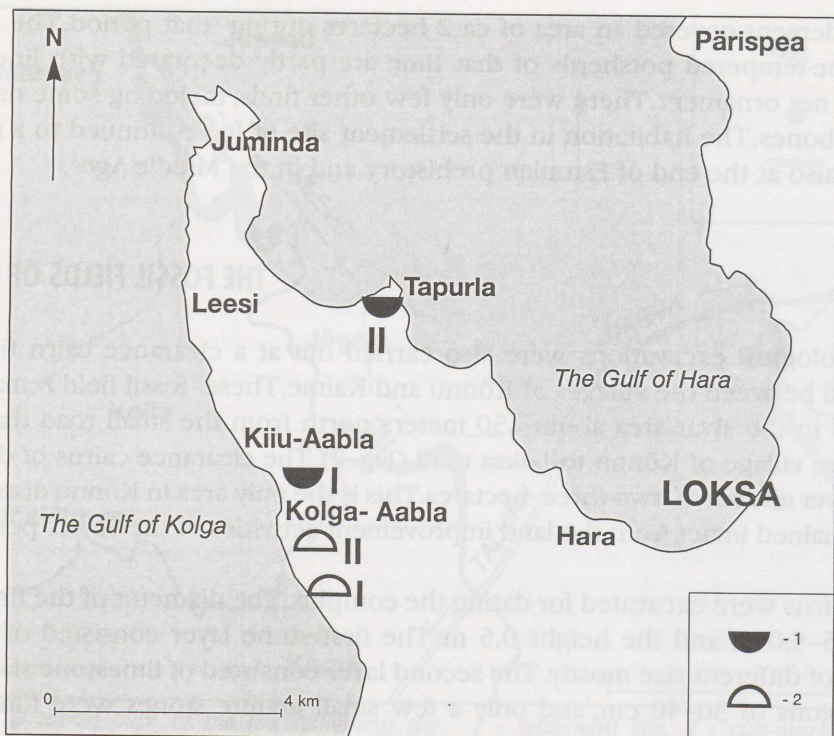


Fig. 3. Location plan of the sites of the Juminda peninsula. 1 - pit grave cemeteries: I Kolga-Aabla Suur Liiv, II Tapurla; 2 - earthen beaps: I - Kolga-Aabla I, II - Kolga-Aabla Tondimägi.

Joon. 3. Juminda poolsaare muististe levikukaart. 1 - maa-alused kalmistud: I - Kolga-Aabla Suur Liiv, II - Tapurla; 2 - mullakuhjatised: I - Kolga-Aabla I, II - Kolga-Aabla Tondimägi.

third stone layer of that cairn consisted of both granite stones and limestone slabs. Some of the granite stones, located almost in the centre of the cairn, had a diameter of 40–50 cm and were surrounded with smaller stones. Beneath this layer there was a 20 cm thick soil layer containing some small pieces of charcoal and a medieval potsherd (AI 6473: 1). The quantity of the charcoal was insufficient for radiocarbon analyses.

Another clearance cairn excavated in 2001 was situated ca 200 m northwest of the former. It had a diameter of 3.5 and a height of 0.5 m. The first layer of stones consisted of smaller granite stones and limestone slabs, beneath these were a few bigger granite stones with a diameter of 50–70 cm. No finds were observed and charcoal was found only in small quantity. The only datable object was the potsherd, found from the first clearance cairn. According to that sherd, the fields between the villages of Kõnnu and Kalme were tilled (at least partly) in medieval



times. Whether this is the dating of the whole complex is not known. As the area of these fossil field remains is quite large, it can be supposed that some of the cairns may belong to an earlier or a later period.

## INVESTIGATIONS IN THE JUMINDA PENINSULA

Additional archaeological research was carried out at the sites known as the pit grave cemeteries of the Juminda peninsula (Fig. 3). The aim was to determine their exact locations, to establish their dates and to get a better idea of the exploitation of the area in prehistoric times. It was determined that two of them, the cemetery on Suur Liiv (Big Sand) between the villages of Kiiu-Aabla and Kolga-Aabla and the one on the sands of Tapurla were indeed pit grave cemeteries. That was evidenced by the fragments of human bones found in the sand. Because of the dry sandy soil no test pits were made at these cemeteries.

Two of the sites investigated, mentioned in the earlier archaeological literature as the cemeteries of Kolga-Aabla (I) and the Tondimägi of Kolga-Aabla (Ghost Hill; archaeological site no 381; Jung 1910, 81–82) were small earthen heaps. The first of these measured ca 13 m in length and 4 m in width and 1 m in height. The Tondimägi site, located about 1 km north from the Kolga-Aabla I heap, was ca 10 m long, 2–4 m wide and up to 2 m high. Both of these heaps were investigated with small trial excavations which indicated that these heaps consist of dark soil, large quantities of charcoal and some heavily burned granite stones. No finds, typical of cemeteries, were obtained. Excavations and test pits showed that the most intensively burned areas were the middle parts of the heaps. The soil was brighter at the edges, where the amount of charcoal was also smaller. The radiocarbon samples gathered from these heaps were dated to  $2742 \pm 45$  BP;  $2658 \pm 41$  BP;  $1841 \pm 56$  BP and  $2357 \pm 48$  BP (Table). There are no exact parallels to these objects known in Estonia. Both of these heaps are situated on the coastline of the time of their use. The soils where these heaps are located are young and not fertile, with a lot of stones found nearby. For that reason they can not be connected with early cultivation. Instead, it can be supposed that these sites were used as places for some kind of signal lights.

The archaeological fieldwork in the area between the rivers Jägala and Valgejõgi will be continued in 2002.



Table. Radiocarbon dates from the heaps of Juminda peninsula.

Tabel. Juminda poolsaare kuhjatiste söeproovide analüüsitulemused.

Sample No	Lab No	<sup>14</sup> C date BP	Calibration (1 sigma) BC/AD	Site
1	Tln2620	2742±45 BP	917-833 BC	Kolga-Aabla I
2	Tln2626	2658±41 BP	887-885 BC 833-797 BC	Kolga-Aabla I
3	Tln2621	1841±56 BP	87-99 AD; 125-239 AD	Kolga-Aabla I
4	Tln2612	2357±48 BP	517-461 BC; 455-437 BC; 433-381 BC	Kolga-Aabla Tondimägi

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## ARHEOLOOGILISED KAEVAMISED JÕELÄHTME JA KUUSALU KIHELKONNAS

Gurly VEDRU

2001. aastal toimusid arheoloogilised välitööd Harjumaal, end. Jõelähtme ja Kuusalu kihelkonnas. Jõelähtme kihelkonnas uuriti 2001. aastal avastatud ja ilmselt pronksiaega tagasiulatuvat Joa asulakohta (joon. 1), mis asub Jägala jõe alamjooksul, jõe paremkaldal, Jägala joast 30–50 m kaugusel. Joa asulakoha läheduses oli varem teada kiviajast pärit asulakoht, lohukivi ja u 1 km kaugusele allavoolu jääv Jägala Jõesuu linnamägi. Mitmete prooviaukude ja 20 m<sup>2</sup> suuruse kaevandi rajamise eesmärk oli välja selgitada vastavastatud asula ajaline kuuluvus, kultuurikihi ulatus ja iseloom. Selgus, et 20–30 cm paksust muistset asustuskkihti esineb 1,5–2 hektari suurusel alal, kuid enamasti on see põhjani segatud 20. sajandi ehitustegevusega. Vana elutegevuskiht on laiguti säilinud asula lääne- ja edelaosas, kuid seda üksnes alumistes ladestustes. Peamisteks leidudeks olid savinõude killud, millest suurem osa pärineb käsitsi valmistatud anumatest. Vähemal määral saadi veel naelu ning loomaluud. Leitud keraamika, sh ka riibitud pinnaga kildude põhjal võib oletada, et Joa asulakoht võeti kasutusele pronksiajal. Kuna toleaeagsete savinõukildude hulk leiumaterjalis on väike, võib oletada, et tegemist on üksiktaalu kohaga. Tõenäoliselt asustati sama koht uuest viikingiajal, mil asulakoha ulatus oli varasemast suurem ja elutegevus intensiivsem. Ilmselt püsis Joa asulakoht kasutusel ka muinasaja lõpul ja keskajal.



Kõnnu ja Kalme küla vahelisel alal (end. Kuusalu kihelkonna maadel) kaevati kahte põllukivihunnikut. Tugevasti kamardunud ja erineva suurusega kivivared asuvad siin u. 3 ha suurusel loopealsel, Kõnnult Loksa teele viivast külavaheteest põhja pool (joon. 2). See on ainuke koht Kõnnu küla piirkonnas, mis on jäänud ulatuslikest maaparandustöödest puutumata. Läbikaevatud esimese põllukivihunniku mõõtmed olid 4,5 x 5,0 m ning kõrgus ümbritsevast maapinnast 0,5 m. Hunnik koosnes kolmest raud- ja paekive sisaldavast kihist. Alumise kivikihi alt leiti keskaegse savinõu kild; samas leidis ka üksikuid söekübemeid, kuid nende kogus oli <sup>14</sup>C analüüsiks liiga väike. Kahest kivikihist koosneva teise põllukivihunniku läbimõõt oli 3,5 m ning kõrgus 0,5 m. Ka siin avastati kivide alt arvatavalt omaaegsest aletamisest pärinevat sütt, kuid niivõrd vähe, et sellest ei piisanud radioaktiivse süsiniku dateeringuks. Seega jäid Kõnnu ja Kalme küla piirimail asuvad põllujäänused 2001. aastal täpsemalt dateerimata.

Proovikaevamised koos maastikuinspeksiooniga toimusid ka Juminda poolsaarel varem registreeritud muististel, mis olid arvele võetud maa-aluste kalmistutena (joon. 3). Uuringute eesmärgiks oli kalmistute lokaliseerimine ja võimaluse korral dateerimine. Selgus, et matmispaigad Kolga-Aabla ja Kiiu-Aabla vahelisel Suurel Liival ja Tapurla liivikul on tõepoolest maa-alused kalmistud. Seda tõendasid liivapinnalt leitud inimluude fragmendid. Kolga-Aabla I kalme ja Kolga-Aabla Tondimägi osutsid 10–13 m pikkusteks ja 2–4 m laiusteks ning ümbritsevast maapinnast kuni 2 meetri kõrgusteks ovaalseteks kuhjatisteks. Proovikaevanditest selgus, et need koosnevad söesegusest mullast ning üksikutest tugevasti põlenud raudkividest. Mingeid kalmistule iseloomulikke leide siit ei saadud. Kogutud sõeproovidest tehtud <sup>14</sup>C analüüsid osutasid hunnikute kuulumisele pronksi- ja eelrooma ning rooma rauaaega (vt. tabel). Kuna mõlemad kuhjatised paiknevad tollaegsel rannikul, siis võib oletada, et tegu on omaaegse (sadama?) märgutule asemetega.