

**ARHEOLOOGILISED
VÄLITÖÖD
EESTIS**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
FIELDWORK
IN ESTONIA**

2003

Koostanud ja toimetanud
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Tagakaas: Tinaraamis klaas (fragment vitraažist?) Piritalt.

Cover: Bracteate of the 13th–14th century, minted in Livonia.

Back cover: Glass in lead frame (fragment of a stained glass window?) from Pirita.

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS ON MÕISAKÜLA SETTLEMENT SITE IN KIHNU

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During the archaeological survey on the island of Kihnu in 1997 a prehistoric settlement site was located near the church (about 100 m to NE) on the former land of Mõisaküla village (Kriiska 1997; Fig 1). At that time the scanty finds gathered, altogether 17 pottery sherds, offered only limited evidence about the age of the site and enabled it to be dated only into a very broad period of the Metal Ages. Neotectonics still permitted the assumption that if people lived directly on the coastline, the settlement site could have origins as far back as in the Early Metal Age (Kriiska & Tamla 1998; Kriiska 2003).

In June 2003 new archaeological excavations were carried out on the Mõisaküla settlement site. The purpose of the investigations was to ascertain the age of the settlement and the estimated extent of the cultural layer as well as to determine the settlement pattern. The fieldwork was financed by the participants themselves and by the MPM (*Mynämäki-Paikuse-Mietoinen*) esihistoriamatkailutuotet project of the European Regional Development Fund.

THE EXTENT OF THE CULTURAL LAYER AND THE HEARTH

To determine the size of the cultural layer of the settlement site, small-scale trial excavations were carried out during which test pits were dug into the fossilized slope of the seashore. Out of the overall 25 trial pits excavated into the surroundings (Fig. 2), six revealed pottery sherds and/or bone fragments. The thickness of the cultural layer – stained sand containing finds – varied in the pits, reaching on the average 20 centimetres.

Two small excavation plots were opened (plot A measuring 2 x 6 m, plot B approximately 10 m south from A measuring 2 x 4 m; (Figs. 2 and 3). A hearth was partly excavated at plot B. It was distinguished in the sand as a darker area containing coal and burnt rock debris. The hearth, up to 60 x 80 cm in size, was depressed into the natural soil by 10 to 15 cm.

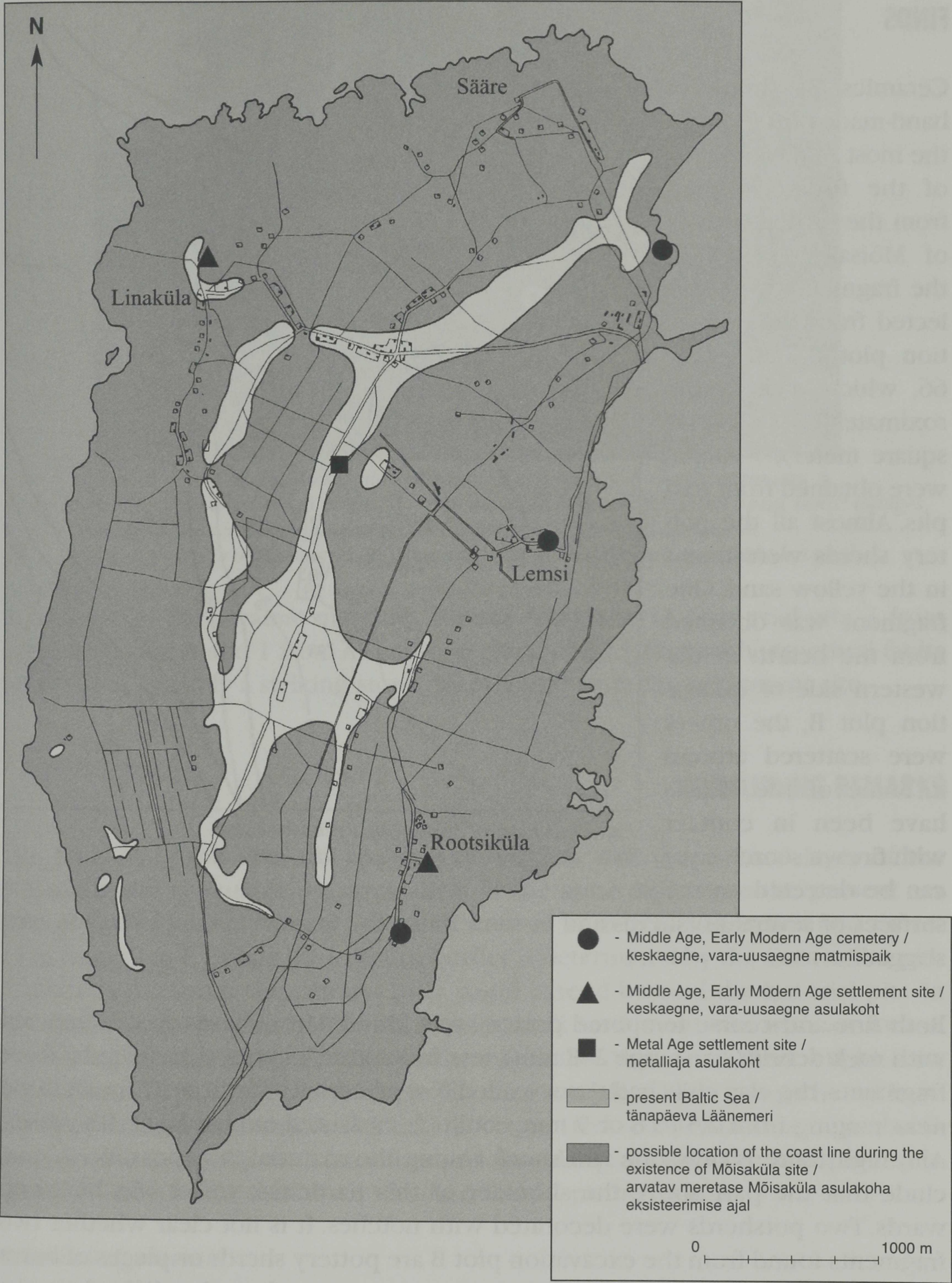


Fig. 1. Sites on the Island of Kihnu.
Joon. 1. Kihnu saare muistised.

FINDS

Ceramics, 73 sherds of hand-made pottery, form the most numerous part of the finds gathered from the settlement site of Mõisaküla. Most of the fragments were collected from the excavation plot B (altogether 66, which means approximately 8 finds per square meter), 7 sherds were obtained from trial pits. Almost all the pottery sherds were found in the yellow sand. One fragment was obtained from the hearth in the western side of excavation plot B, the others were scattered around it. Some of the sherds have been in contact with fire – a scorch layer can be detected on the surfaces of several potsherds and in some cases the fragments are bloated or even slagged.

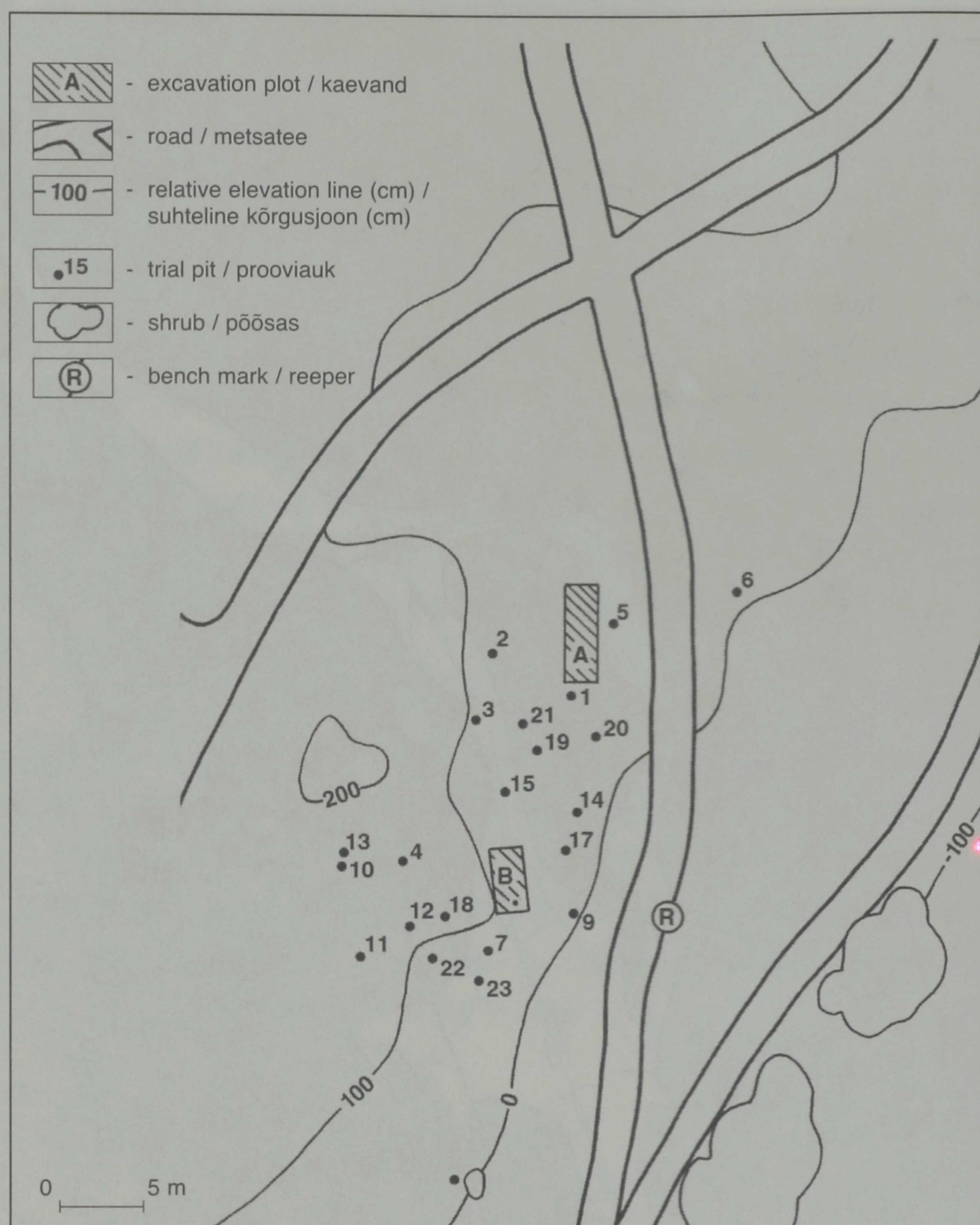


Fig. 2. A plan of Mõisaküla settlement site.
Joon. 2. Mõisaküla asulakoha üldplaan.

Both fine and coarse tempered pottery was found. Most sherds were tempered with rock debris (size range 2–8 mm), less frequently with sand. Judging by three fragments, the clay coils had the so-called N-type contact surfaces. The wall thickness, ranging from 2.5 to 8 or 9 mm, could be measured only in 10 (7.3 %) cases. Although there is only one rim sherd among the material, it is possible to conclude that the part above the shoulder of this particular vessel was bent outwards. Two potsherds were decorated with notches. It is not clear whether two fragments found from the excavation plot B are pottery sherds or pieces of burnt clay. There is no coarse rock debris in their clay mass; they also differ from the others by their reddish-brown colour.



Fig. 3 View to the Mõisaküla settlement site from NE. 1 - excavation plot A, 2 - excavation plot B, 3 – low meadow between Mõisaküla and Lemsi villages.
Joon. 3. Vaade Mõisaküla asulakohale kirdest. 1 - proovikaevand A, 2 - proovikaevand B, 3 - madal niit Mõisaküla ja Lemsi külade vahel.

In addition to the ceramic material, 7 bone fragments (3 from trial pits, 3 from excavation plot B and 1 from A) and one piece of grey flint with structural faults on all sides, possibly a striking stone, were found from the settlement site.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

The finds from the test pits allow us to suggest that the cultural layer of the Mõisaküla site is situated approximately at the same altitude as the present sea level of 6 m on ancient strand, extending at least 30 m in N-S direction and almost 15 m from W to E. While its northern border is determined by the excavation plot A, towards the south the cultural layer could extend beyond the last trial pits. In any case we are dealing here with a quite small settlement site with an area of less than a hectare, which indicates the possibility that once there might have been a farm here. The analysis of the charcoal sample which was gathered from the fire-place gave the result 2735 ± 55 C¹⁴ years (Hela-844), which is, in probability of 95.4 %, 1000-800 cal BC (calibrated into solar years with the computer programme CAL40DATA OxCal v.2.18 cub r:4 sd:12 prob[chron]).

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ARHEOLOOGILISED KAEVAMISED MÕISAKÜLA ASULAKOHAL KIHNU

Aivar Kriiska ja Mari Lõhmus

2003. aastal toimusid Kihnu saarel arheoloogilised kaevamised, kus seati eesmärgiks 1997. aastal kirikust sadakond meetrit kirde pool avastatud Mõisakülas asula kultuurikihi ulatuse ja iseloomu väljaselgitamine ning vanuse määramine. Asula kultuurikihi piiritlemiseks kaevati 25 šurfi, mille põhjal võib järeldada, et u. 30 x 15 m suurune asula paiknes tänapäevasest merepinnast u. 6 m kõrgemal fossiilsel rannamoodustisel. Võimalik, et tegemist on olnud üksiktalu kohaga.

Mõisaküla asula kultuurikiht on leide sisaldav määrdunud kollaka värvusega liiv, mille paksus varieerub asula piires, ulatudes keskmiselt paarikümne sentimeetrini. Savinõukilde ja/või luutükke saadi kuuest prooviaugust. Lisaks prooviaukudele avati kaks väikest kaevandit (A ja B), mille mõõtmed olid 2 x 6 m ja 2 x 4 m. B kaevandist avastati 10–15 cm looduslikku pinnasesse süvendatud 80 x 60 cm suurune tulease, mis sisaldas sütt ja põlenud kivipurdu.

Asulakohalt kogutud napist leiuvainest moodustab enamuse keraamika (kokku 73 kildu). Leiurikkam oli B kaevand, kus mitmed killud on olnud kokkupuutes tulega: mõne pinnal esineb kõrbekiht, teine osa on tugevas tules porsunud. Leidude hulgas on nii peen- kui ka jämekeraamikat. Vormimismassi lisandina domineerib kuni 8 mm läbimõõduga kivipurd, vähem esineb liiva. Otsustades kolme killu põhjal, millel on näha savilintide ühenduspinnad, valmistati siinsed anumad N-tüüpi ühendusega lintidest. Kümnel fragmendil oli võimalik mõõta seinapaksust ja see jääb vahemikku 2,5 kuni 8–9 mm. Nõu servast pärineb vaid üks kild, millest nähtub, et pott oli olnud väljapoole kaarduva võrikuga. Kahel savinõukillul esineb kaunistusena täkkeornament. Lisaks keraamikale leiti asulakohalt 7 luukildu (nende fragmentaarsuse tõttu ei olnud võimalik määrata loomaliike) ning üks kõigil servadel esinevate struktuuririketega halli värvi tulekivi, arvatav tuluskivi.

2003. aasta kaevamistega tuleasemelt kogutud söest tehtud radiosüsiniku analüüs andis vanuseks 2735 ± 55 C¹⁴-aastat (Hela-844), mis 95,4 % tõenäosusega on 1000–800 aastat e. Kr. (kalibreeritud arvutiprogrammiga CAL40DATA OxCal v.2.18 cub r:4 sd:12 prob[chron]). Samas tõdeti, et selles kohas pole olnud tegemist mitte ajutise laagripaiga vaid alla hektari suuruse püeiasustusüksusega, võimalik, et väikese talukohaga.