

**ARHEOLOOGILISED
VÄLITÖÖD
EESTIS**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
FIELDWORK
IN ESTONIA**

2003

Koostanud ja toimetanud
Ülle Tamla

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Esikaas: 13.–14. saj. Liivimaal löödud brakteaat.

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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TRIAL EXCAVATIONS OF THE NORTHERN PART OF THE LEHMJA SETTLEMENT SITE

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The archaeologically investigated area of the Lehmja settlement site is the largest in Estonia today. Due to its location at the crossroads of important roads, this village site in North Estonia stands more and more in the path of expanding economic activities. In connection with the construction of the Jüri road junction of the Tallinn–Tartu highway, as well as several local construction projects, more than 18 000 sq. m have been investigated through rescue excavations. Since a large supermarket is planned for the northern part of the settlement site, the aim of the investigations of 2003 (Fig. 2) was to obtain information about the nature of the cultural layer of the SW slope of the higher *Tuuleveskimägi* (Windmill Hill).

PREVIOUS INVESTIGATIONS

The earliest traces of the Lehmja settlement site date from the second half of the Pre Roman Iron Age (Lavi 1996, 19). The settlement traces from the first millennium BC –first millennium AD are located on a 20–30 m wide strip 100–300 m

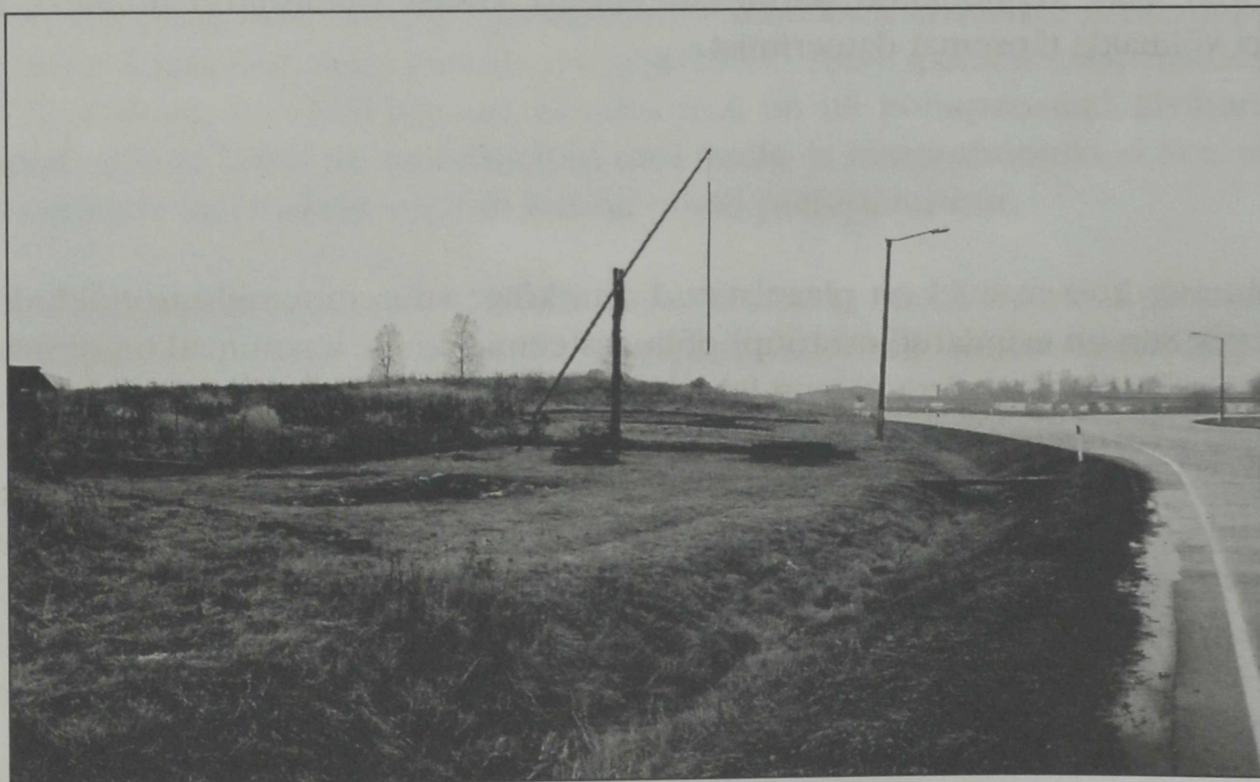


Fig. 1. The hillock of *Tuuleveskimägi* dominates over the northern part of the Lehmja settlement site. View to the SW slope.

Joon. 1. Lehmja asulakoha maastikuline dominant on kõrgem *Tuuleveskimägi*. Vaade küünka edelanõlvale. Esiplaanil rekonstrueeritud hoonepõhjad ja kooguga kaev.

south of the medieval village site, on the northern slope of a shallow hollow. In the Late Iron Age the earlier cultural layer was overgrown with turf (Lavi 2001b, 13). The rising level of surface water has forced the inhabitants to move northwards, to the S and SW foot of the Tuuleveskimägi (Fig. 1). In 1219 in *Liber Census Daniae* the size of the village named Lemethel indicated as 15 ploughlands or medium-sized farmsteads (Johansen 1933, 476–477). Thus it was one of the largest villages of the central part of the later Jüri parish. In 1630 a manor-house was built on the site of the Väike-Lehmja village and in 1765 the remaining lands of the village were turned into estate fields. The farm households were resettled in the Jagumäe village 2 km towards Tallinn, and the toponym *Lehmja* followed the settlers to the new location.

In the extensive excavations of 1985–1987 (17530 sq. m) numerous remains of farm buildings of different times came to light, augmenting our knowledge of the more distant history of Estonian farm buildings (Lavi & Niinre 1990; Lavi 1997, 94–96). With special interest we can see here the development of the ancient chimneyless hut into a barn dwelling – a type of farmhouse unique in the world (Lavi 2001a; Lavi 2003a). Nevertheless, our knowledge of the ancient appearance and construction of chimneyless huts, which were the typical farm dwellings of the 8th–15th centuries, is still too scanty. Information on these can be obtained mainly through archaeological investigations of settlement sites.

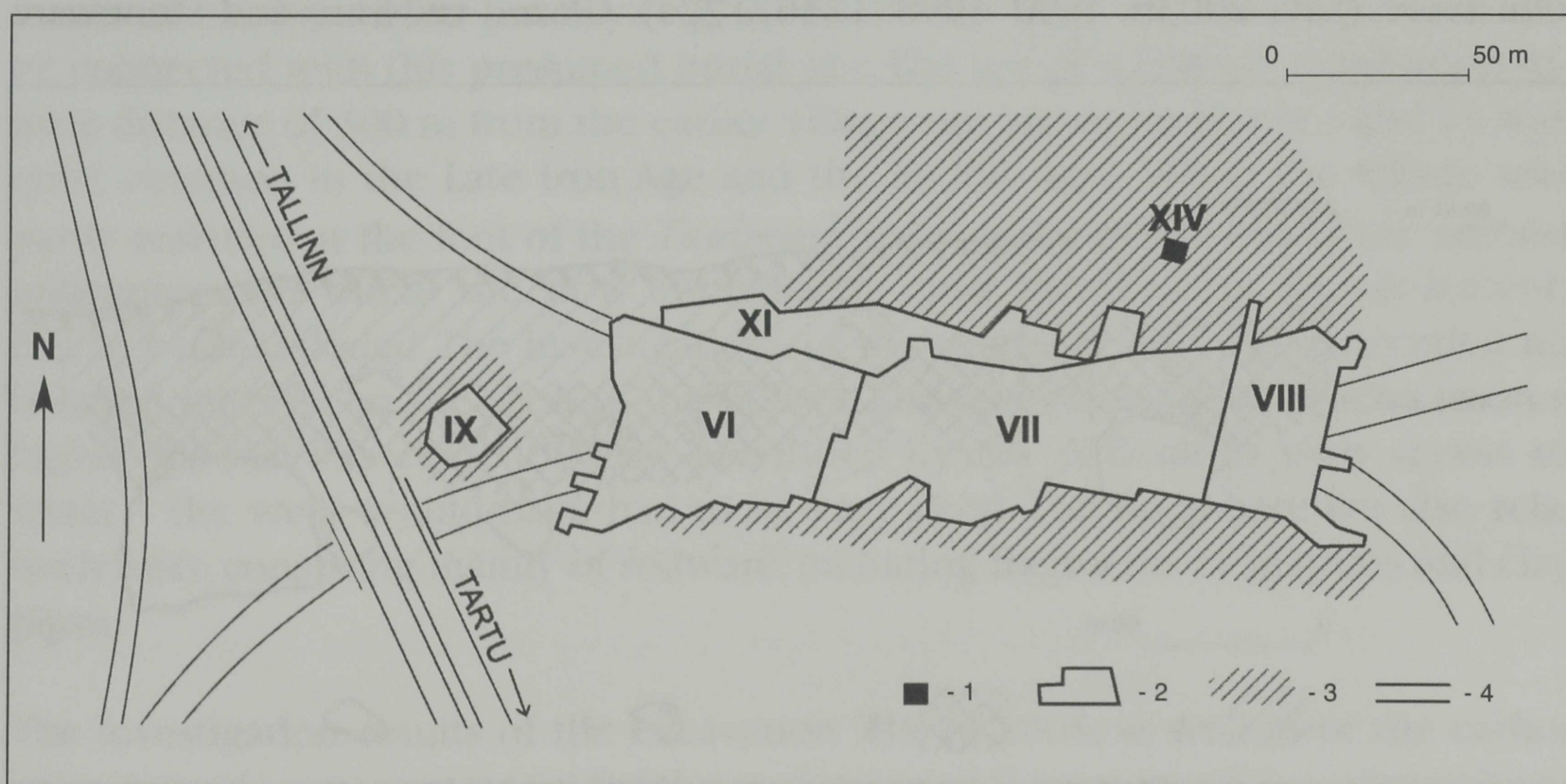


Fig. 2. Excavations on the northern part of the settlement site of Lehmja. 1 - excavation plot XIV of 2003, 2 - excavation plots of 1986–1989, 3 - cultural layer, 4 - Tallinn–Tartu highway.
Joon. 2. Arheoloogilised kaevandid Lehmja asulakoha põhjaosas. 1 - 2003. aasta kaevand (XIV), 2 - 1986.–1989. aasta kaevandid, 3 - kultuurkiht, 4 - Tallinn–Tartu maantee.

EXCAVATION SITE XIV

The base of a building on the SW slope of Tuuleveskimägi could be discerned before the excavations by the foundation stones, partly in line, protruding from the sod. These suggested a rectangular house plan measuring 6 x 4–4.5 m. The house was not located on the slope, but on a flatter terrace. Since the place was damaged by the levelling of the roadside area with a bulldozer, the excavations were necessary from the aspect of heritage protection as well.

The greatest thickness of the layer at the base of the house was 95 cm. The 15–25 cm thick quite dark cultural layer rich in finds and bone material was covered by a less intensive settlement layer of a secondary origin, sporadically 30–50 cm thick, partly washed down from the slope above. In the eastern part of the house base some burnt cobblestones were discovered, suggesting the location of a fire-place (Fig. 3), which apparently remains mostly eastwards, beyond the limit of the excavation. In the western part of the excavation the cultural layer had been destroyed in the course of land improvement in the 1960s.

Typical finds in the undamaged part of the cultural layer were fragments of wheel pottery with two-ply walls, uneven baking and an inwards-turned rim. Such pottery occurs in the layers of the 13th–14th centuries in the stronghold of Tartu adjacent to it (Trummal 1970, 17, Fig. 6, b–c), as well as in the settlement layer of Olustvere (Lavi 2003b, 4; AI 4998: 1256, 1774). Glazed redware and stoneware

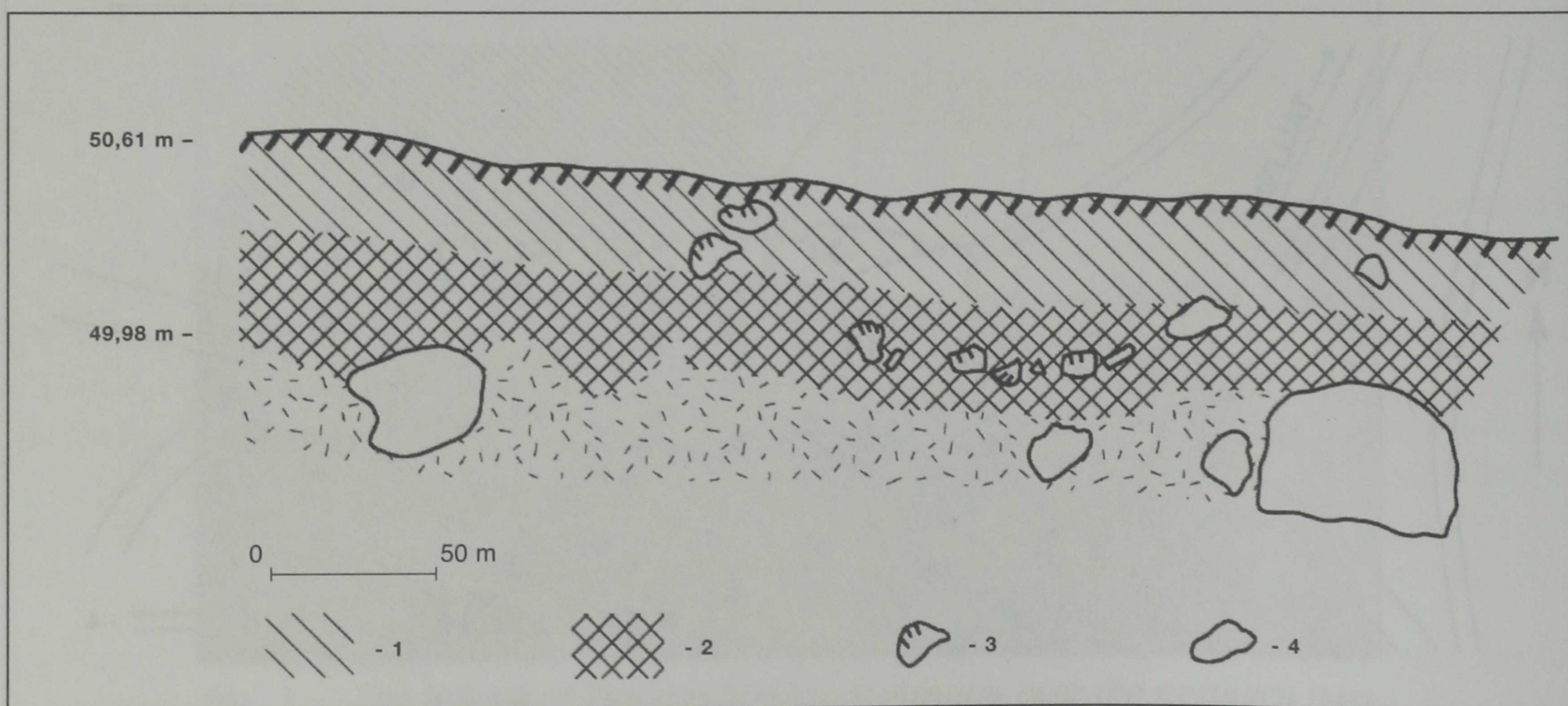


Fig. 3. The Lehmja settlement site. Profile of the E wall of the excavation. 1 - disturbed layer, 2 - preserved cultural layer, 3 - burnt granite cobblestones, 4 - limestone.

Joon. 3. Lehmja asulakoht. XIV kaevandi idaseina profiil. 1 - segatud kiht, 2 - säilinud kultuurikiht, 3 - kuumust saanud raudkivid, 4 - paas.

suggest the increasing influence of the medieval urban culture of Tallinn upon its closest southern hinterland. Among the finds is also a fragment of a cast iron vessel, similar to the ones found elsewhere in the 16th-17th-century horizons of the Lehmja settlement layer. The layer eroded from the slope contained mainly finds of a relatively late date.

Judging by the investigation results of the preserved cultural layer the settlement layer in the middle part of the slope of the *Tuuleveskimägi* originated in the Middle Ages. Since the foundation stones were located in the upper part of the cultural layer, the house base (most likely only partly preserved remains of a chimneyless hut) apparently dates from a later period, probably from the 15th-16th century.

CONCLUSIONS

The investigations of the southern part of the *Tuuleveskimägi* in 1988 (excavation VIII) brought to light a spearhead (AI 5310 VIII: 1250) and a sword of B-type, with a double-bent blade, dating from the turn of the 8th and 9th centuries, with slag traces on it suggesting a cremation burial (Mandel 1991, 102, Pl. VII). It is possible that at the end of the first millennium and the beginning of the second millennium the crest of the hillock was used as a burial site for cremations. The fragments of hand-moulded pottery (e.g. AI 5310 VIII: 1191, 1178, 1279) could also be connected with this presumed burial site. The use of a hillock at the approximate distance of 300 m from the earlier village site located towards S and SE was quite common in the Late Iron Age and the Middle Ages. When the village was partly resettled at the foot of the *Tuuleveskimägi* at the beginning of the second millennium, the burial site, now immediately upon the verge of the settlement, had to be abandoned. The investigations of the southern slope have revealed no building remains on the crest of the hillock. The emergence of a settlement on a higher hillock was evidently also precluded by the difficulties with access to water – the wells would have had to be very deep. The finds here are also relatively later, consisting mainly of redware, including fragments of grapens and clay pipes.

The investigation results of the excavation XIV of 2003, as well as of the earlier years, provide source material for the evaluation of the nature of the cultural layer of the SW slope of the *Tuuleveskimägi*.

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PROOVIKAEVAMISED LEHMJA ASULAKOHA PÕHJAOSAS

Ain LAVI

Lehmja muistne asulakoht on kõige suurema pindalaga uuritud arheoloogiamälestis Eestis. Tegemist on Põhja-Eesti põlisküla asemega, mis oma asukoha tõttu kesksete teede ristumiskohas on jäänud ette nüüdisaja laienevale majandustegevusele. Seoses Tallinn–Tartu mnt. Jüri teedesõlme rajamise ja mitmete teiste väiksemate ehitusprojektidega on siin tehtud päästekaevamisi ühtekokku u. 18 000 m² suurusel alal.

VARASEMAST UURIMISLOOST

Lehmja asulakoha varasemad jäljed pärinevad eelrooma rauaaja teisest poolest ja need paiknevad 20–30 m laiuse ribana madala nõo põhjapoolsel veerul, keskaegsest külaasemest 100–300 m lõuna- ja edelajalamile. Hilisrauaajal on varasem kultuurikiht hakanud kattuma turbaga: ilmselt sundis pinnaveetaseme tõus asukaid ümber asuma põhjasuunas paikneva Tuuleveskimäe lõuna- ja edelajalamile (joon. 1). Taani Hindamisraamatus märgitud 15 adramaaga Lemethel oli siinse piirkonna ja hilisema Jüri kirikukihelkonna tuumikala üks suuremaid küli. Aastail 1985–1989 toimunud arheoloogilistel suurkaevamistel (17530 m²) tuli Lehmjas päevavalgele rohkesti eriaegsete taluehitiste jäänuseid, mis täiendasid oluliselt meie varasemat ettekujutust Eesti taluehitiste vanemast ajaloost.

Tuuleveskimäe lõunapoolse osa uurimisel 1988. aastal (kaevand VIII) avastati künka harjale ulatuvast kaevandist tulesolekujälgedega odaots ja 8.–9. sajandi vahetusest pärit kokkupainutatud teramikuga B-tüüpi mõõk. Ilmselt on nende esemete näol tegemist põletusmatuse panustega. Võimalik, et I aastatuhande lõpul – II aastatuhande algul kasutati siinset künkaharja põletatud surnute matmispaigana. Tolleaegne küla jäi arvatavast kalmekohast u. 300 m kaugusele. Oletatava kalmega võib seostada ka käsikeraamika kilde. Seoses küla osalise ümberpaiknemisega Tuuleveskimäe jalamile tuli II aastatuhande algul loobuda varem kasutatud kalmest, kuna see jäi asula äärealale. Otsustades mäe lõunanõlva uurimistulemuste põhjal, puuduvad künka ülaosas hoonestusjäljed. Püsivama asustuse teket sellel kohal takistas ilmselt asjaolu, et vett oli raske kätte saada. See oleks nõudnud hoopis sügavate kaevude rajamist. Samast kohast kogutud leiumaterjal (savipiipude ja punasavikeraamika, sh. kolmjalgnõude katked) pärineb hoopis hilisemast ajast.

KAEVAND XIV

2003. aasta kaevamised toimusid kaevandis XIV (joon. 2). Hooneaset Tuuleveskimäe edelanõlval reet-sid kamarakihi nähtavad ja osalt ridastikku paiknevad kivid. Need osutasid 6 x 4–4, 5 m suurusele nelinurkse põhiplaaniga hooneasemele. Omaaegne ehitis ei asunud mitte kaldsel mäenõlval, vaid veidi tasasemal astangul. Hoonepõhja alal kattis 15–25 cm paksust tumedamat, leidude- ja luu-materja-lirohket kahjustamata kultuurkihti 30–50 cm tusedusega heledam, sekundaarse päritoluga ja osaliselt erodeerunud kiht. Hooneaseme idaosas avastati küttekoldest pärit kerisekive (joon. 3), mille peamine levikuala jäi itta, kaevandist väljapoole. Kaevandi lääneosas oli kultuurkiht hävitatud 1960. aastate maaparandustöödega.

Kahjustamata kultuurkihis olid tüüpiliseks leiuks 13.–14. sajandi ebaühtlase põletusega kedranõude killud, mille suupoolne ääreosa pöördus sissepoole. Tallinna keskaegse linnakultuuri tugevnevale mõjule osutasid glasuuritud pinnaga peene koostisega punasavi- ja kivistikeraamikakillud. Leidude hulgas oli ka malmnõu katke, millele sarnaseid esimes ka varasematel Lehmja asula kaevamistel 16.–17. sajandi horisondis. Mäenõlvalt allapoole valgunud kiht sisaldas suhteliselt hilist materjali.

2003. aasta kaevamistulemuste põhjal näib, et Tuuleveskimäe edelanõlvale tekkis asustus keskajal. Kuna vundamendikivid paiknesid kultuurkihi ülaosas, pärinevad hoonepõhja (arvatavalt suitsutoa) jäänused mõnevõrra hilisemast perioodist, kõige tõenäolisemalt 15.–16. sajandist. Nii varasemate aastate kui ka 2003. aasta XIV kaevandi uurimistulemused annavad lähtematerjali eesseisvate päästekaevamiste planeerimiseks Tuuleveskimäe edelanõlva alal.