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**ARHEOLOOGILISED  
VÄLITÖÖD  
EESTIS**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
FIELDWORK  
IN ESTONIA**

**2005**

Koostanud ja toimetanud  
Ülle Tamla

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*Esikaas:* Hilisviikingiaegne kõrva- või oimurõngas.  
Rekonstruktsioon 2005. a. avastatud Ubina hõbeaardes  
sisalduva fragmendi põhjal. Joonistanud Kersti Siitan.  
*Cover:* Earring or temple ornament from Late Viking Age.  
Reconstruction based on the fragment from the silver board  
of Ubina discovered in 2005. Drawing by Kersti Siitan.

*Tagakaas:* Tartust Tähtvere tänavalt 2005. a. leitud 15. saj.  
haruldase savikannu kild.  
*Back cover:* Fragment of stoneware goblet from the 15<sup>th</sup> century.  
Stray find from Tartu, Tähtvere Street in 2005.

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TARTU ÜLIKOOLI  
RAAMATUKOGU  
SUNDASEMPLAR



# EXCAVATIONS ON THE COASTS OF PREHISTORIC AND MEDIEVAL SAAREMAA

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In July 2005, various archaeological excavations at prehistoric and medieval harbour sites continued in frames of the research project "Coastal settlements on prehistoric and medieval Saaremaa" (Grant No. 5432 of the Estonian Science Foundation). In part, the excavations were financed by Tallinn University, especially by the target-financed project *Land, Sea and People: Estonia on its way from the Iron Age to the Medieval Period* of the Institute of History of Tallinn University. The field work was conducted as seminar excavations for history and archaeology students of the Tallinn University. Three of the archaeology students acted as excavation assistants: Triin Äärismäe and Katrin Treuman at Viltina, and Ragnar Nurk at Pällamõis.

A broader-scale investigation of Saaremaa's prehistoric harbour sites was initiated in 2004, when harbour sites at Tornimäe, Viltina, Sutu and Pällamõis were excavated simultaneously (Mägi 2005). In 2005, excavations were continued at all of these sites except at Tornimäe. Viltina and Pällamõis expeditions were supervised by Marika Mägi, the trial excavations at Sutu by Kristin Ilves (see separate article in this edition). In addition to these excavations, which were carried out in July, trial excavations were conducted at Tammese, West Saaremaa, at the end of April. At Viltina and Pällamõis, the investigations will be continued in 2006.

## VILTINA – HARBOUR SITE, BURIAL GROUND AND/OR MEETING PLACE

### Research history and location in cultural landscape

The dispersed village of Viltina, with its farmsteads now only used in summertime, is located in the north-eastern end of the Kõiguste peninsula on the southern coast of Saaremaa, 600–800 meters away from the sea. The village emerged only in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, and is called *Filtin* in the Atlas of Mellin (1798). Single farmsteads existed there already before that. On late 17<sup>th</sup>-century land survey maps, the place of the later Viltina village is occupied by single farmsteads called *Kofferra* and *Mürke* (EAA 308–2–64). When they were founded is not known. In several other places around the Baltic Sea, prehistoric settlements remained 1–2 km away from the coast and moved closer to the sea-coast only during the



13<sup>th</sup>–14<sup>th</sup> century (e.g. Crumlin-Pedersen 1996). Areas right next to the one-time sea-line with cultural layer similar to that of ordinary prehistoric settlement sites are, therefore, commonly interpreted as archaeological remains of prehistoric harbour sites (Mägi 2004, 147–152 and references). People did not live right next to the sea even in the Middle Ages: fishermen-villages of those days were located at least at some distance, e.g. a few hundred meters, from the water.

Two old settlement units 1–2 km away – Asva and Randvere – can be pointed out, both at approximately the same distance from Viltina (Fig. 1). The settlement unit at the place of present Randvere village has been there since the first centuries AD at the latest, as it is demonstrated by an excavated cairn in the middle of the village fields. In the Viking Age, a burial ground partly consisting of stone circle graves, partly stone cemetery without formal structure, was established right next to the old grave (Mägi 2002, 47–51). The settlement unit of Asva is not marked by stone graves in the vicinity but burial grounds from varying periods can be found on the fields of Kahtla and Laimjala settlements a bit further away from Asva and Randvere. The significance of the area during the Bronze Age is emphasized by a fortified settlement on what was then an islet near the coast of Asva, which probably functioned as a center of bronze casting and international trade.

The fortified settlement of Asva with a probable landing place next to it can be considered as Bronze Age predecessor of the Viltina harbour. The distance between these two sites is only 1400 metres. Here, in the vicinity of Asva and Viltina, comparatively deep sea water of a protected inlet reached close to arable

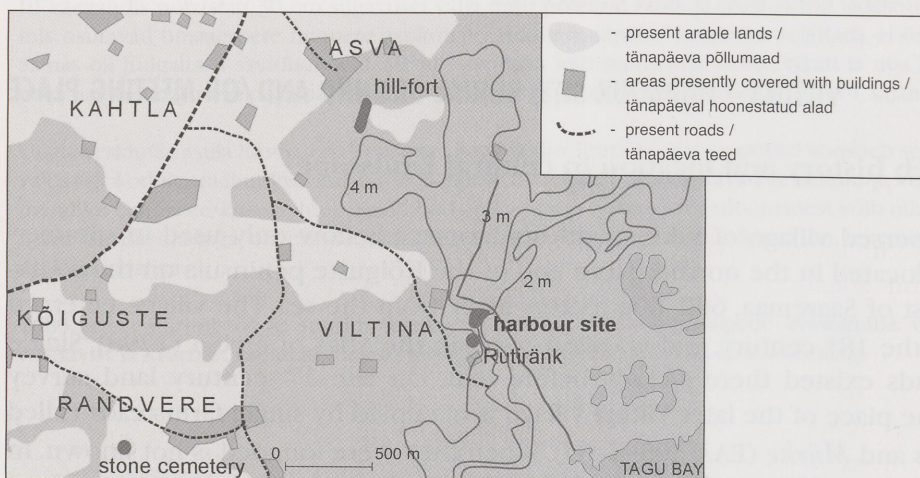


Fig. 1. Viltina and surrounding cultural landscapes.

Joon. 1. Viltina ja ümbritsev kultuurimaastik.



lands, thus creating favorable conditions for the use of the place as a harbour. The gradual “move” of the actual harbour closer to the open sea can be followed at many prehistoric and early medieval harbour places, and has predominantly been caused by the upheaval of the land mass (Mägi 2004, 147–152; Scandinavian parallels see e.g. Lundström 1981; Carlsson 1999, 181–184). As long as society was economically based on the same primary resources, i.e. agriculture, the harbour sites occupied the same area of cultural landscape.

The low hill, former islet, where the fortified settlement had been situated in the Bronze Age, was taken into use again right before the beginning of the Viking Age, when a hill-fort was erected there. The exact period of its use is not known but it must have been abandoned by the 11<sup>th</sup> century at the latest. Approximately at the same time, that is, in the 10<sup>th</sup> century, a stone cemetery was founded on top of a hill right on the then coast at the present Viltina village. This cemetery – Viltina Rutiränk – was almost completely uncovered in 1940, and proved to be one of the largest late prehistoric burial grounds with abundant find material that had ever been excavated in Estonia. Among other finds, a much greater variety of ceramics than in other cemeteries on Saaremaa can be pointed out, presumably reflecting over-seas connections of the local community (Mägi 2002, 60–63; Tvauri 2005, 87–118).

Viltina Rutiränk was used most intensively during the 12<sup>th</sup> century. The latest burials in the cemetery were probably three inhumations, equipped with 13<sup>th</sup>–14<sup>th</sup>-century artefacts. According to very obscure calculations, the burial ground might have been used by two or three families. The author has pointed out in her earlier research that after the 11<sup>th</sup> century new burials stopped nearly completely in the Randvere cemetery, while exactly at the same period burying intensified in the Viltina cemetery. It suggests that the members of Randvere elite family were now also buried in Viltina cemetery, together with people from Asva, and perhaps some other (elite) families (Mägi 2002, 62).

Viltina Rutiränk was actually not only the cemetery on top of the hill, but the burial ground consisted, in addition to that, of several small cairns on the fields around Rutiränk. Most of them were probably individual graves, and some of them were also uncovered in 1940. Investigation of the area, which got its start anew in 1999, has pointed to even more burial grounds in the vicinity (e.g. the Käo-Matsi grave, named after the nearest farm, which was partly touched by the excavation plots of 2005; Mägi 2000). The arable lands of the Viltina village are stony and infertile, thus in a contradiction with the abundance of graves and the often luxurious or foreign artefacts in them. It forms a ground to suggest that the large



cemetery was founded and used because of a ritual significance of the area, perhaps because of a (sacred) meeting place for rituals and negotiations in the vicinity. Alike in other sea-bound areas, such places, often marked with the concentration of burial grounds (e.g. Kurevere in western Saaremaa or Muuksi in North-Estonia), occur close to suitable landing places – travelling seaways was presumably preferred.

## Archaeological excavations in 2004–2005

The culture layer of possible prehistoric harbour site at Viltina was recorded in 1999 (Mägi 2000). The excavations started in 2004, then supervised by Villu Kadakas. The work was continued in 2005 under the supervision of the present author. The area uncovered in 2004 was widened, and in addition, three other excavation plots were opened at the site (Fig. 2). The total area investigated at Viltina in 2005 was 174 sq. m. The finds are stored in the Museum of Saaremaa (SM 10464).

The final area of **the excavation plot No. 1**, which was first opened in 2004, reached 116 sq. m in 2005. In some parts of the excavations, subsoil gravel came into light right underneath a thin layer of sod, while in some other places stone

girdles were recorded. In a few cases, the latter formed more regular stone structures. Parallels drawn from similar-looking stone structures, excavated at Estonian, Finnish and Scandinavian settlements and harbour sites suggest that the stone girdles were remains of light, probably temporary timber buildings. No traces of ovens were found but quite large sooty area was uncovered in the middle of the excavation plot. Smaller pieces of charcoal were found in different parts of the excavated area. More charcoal surrounded by stones came into light in the south-western corner of the plot, probably indicating a fireplace. Most of these remains were located outside of the excavations of 2005.

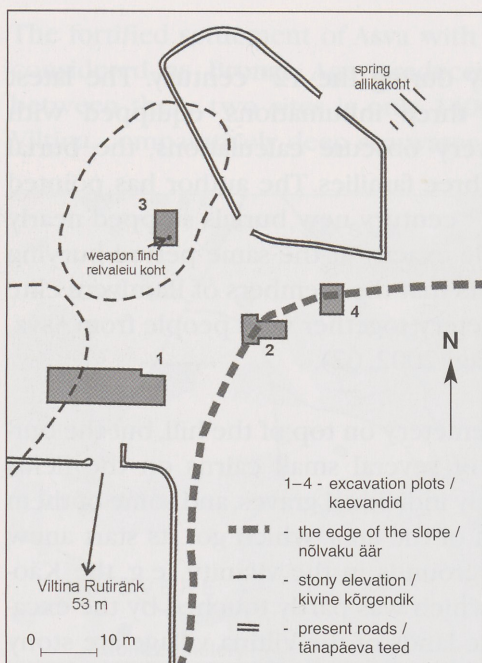


Fig. 2. Map of the Viltina excavations.  
Joon. 2. Viltina kaevamiste plaan.



The clearest lines of stones – nearly complete circle of granite stones, surrounded in a small distance by a presumably quadrangular narrow zone of limestone slabs – was found in the eastern part of the excavated area (Fig. 3). Though, at first view, the circular construction resembled a stone circle grave, the possibility was contradicted by the absence of proper infill stones, surrounding deposit of stones or cremation deposit inside the circle, which all characterized the stone circle graves of Saaremaa. It was more logical to suggest that here we dealt with remains of circular temporary building. The circle was open in the northern side; in this gap, an axe and some boat rivets were found (Fig. 4). The rest of the finds inside the circle comprised mainly potsherds, cremated and unburnt bone fragments.



Fig. 3. Circular stone structure in the eastern part of the plot No. 1 at Viltina after the removal of the sod. View from SW.

Joon. 3. Kaarekujuline konstruktsioon Viltina 1. kaevandi idaosas peale kamarakibi eemaldamist. Vaade edelast.

In the rest of the excavated area, especially in the middle part of the plot, girdles consisting mainly of limestone slabs came into light, compiled with areas without stones (Fig. 5). Drawing parallels with ethnographic buildings, the stones might have been stuck underneath the walls of timber buildings.

In the western part of the excavated area (partly in the plot of 2004), a probable cremation burial was recorded in



Fig. 4. Axe and boat rivets found from Viltina.  
Joon. 4. Viltinast leitud kirves ja paadineedid.  
(SM 10464: 19.)





Fig. 5. Presumable building remains in the central and western part of the plot No. 1 at Viltina. View from SE.

Joon. 5. Arvatavad hoonejäänused Viltina 1. kaevandi kesk- ja lääneosas. Vaade kagust.



Fig. 6. Plot No. 2 at Viltina. The urn burial was found behind the big boulder in the upper left corner. View from SW.

Joon. 6. Viltina 2. kaevand. Üleval vasakul oleva kivi tagant leiti urnimatus. Vaade edelast.

an area between and next to bigger stone boulders. A great number of small bronze rings were found together with cremated bones, suggesting that the bones were originally wrapped in some sort of bronze-decorated garment. No other finds could be connected with the burial.

The area of **the excavation plot No. 2** was 30 sq. m, and it was situated on a slope between the area with cultural layer, and the wetland, former sea. On the slope we found natural gravelly ground without any kind of finds right underneath the sod. The horizontal part of the plot was characterized by stones that formed girdles similar to these in the plot No. 1. The most interesting find was a cremation burial next to a bigger granite stone right at the edge of the slope. The bones had been in an earthen vessel, and covered with a flat stone (Fig. 6). Urn burials were generally unknown on Viking Age Saaremaa but rather widespread in some neighboring areas, e.g. in Gotland.

**The excavation plot No. 3** with the dimensions of 4 × 2 metres was opened on an elevated stony ridge, where a deposit of weapons had been found in 1999 (Mägi 2000). The location was selected for obtaining more data of the presumable stone cemetery there.



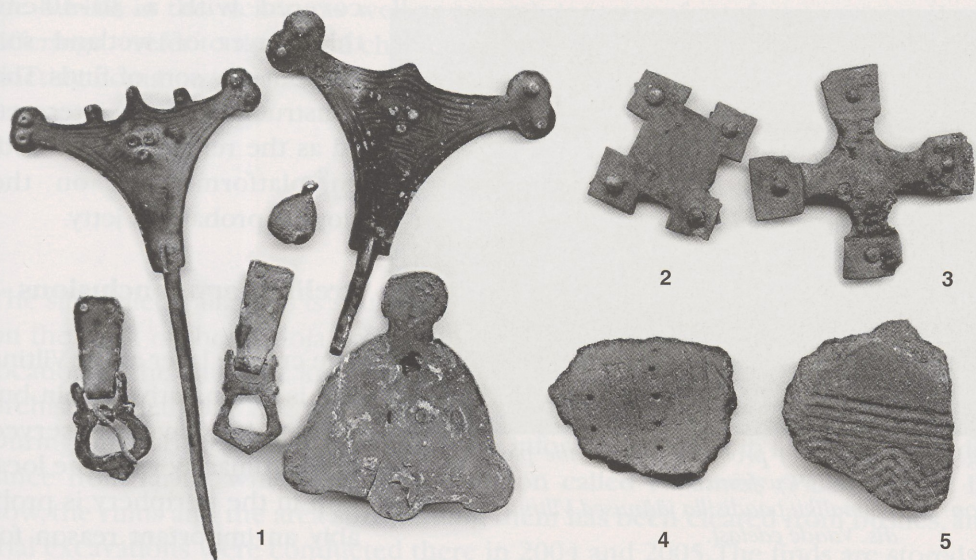


Fig. 7. Selection of finds from Viltina.  
Joon. 7. Leide Viltinast. (SM 10464.)

As estimated, the area contained much more stones than other excavation plots of Viltina. Though some semi-circular lines of stones could be observed, no real constructions were possible to distinguish – maybe because of the too small area of the excavations. Next to a big rock, which partly remained in the excavation plot, another deposit of 11<sup>th</sup> century artefacts came into light – this time consisting of ornaments typical to Saaremaa women (Fig. 7: 1). All artefacts were intact and had not been in fire. No bones could be associated either with this find complex or with the deposit of weapons uncovered in 1999 but cremated bones were uncovered in other places at the excavation plot No. 3. Several smaller metal finds (Fig. 7: 2,3) as well as ceramics (Fig. 7: 4,5) were also recorded outside the two deposits.

Measuring heights on the one-time coast, the slope towards the present wetland proved to be much steeper than normally in an about 20-m-long sector, suggesting that it had been dug steeper intentionally. **The excavation plot No. 4** with an area of 20 m<sup>2</sup> was opened in the beginning of the steeper part of the slope. On the horizontal part of the plot gravelly soil occurred right underneath the sod, together with a clear straight line of stones along the beginning of the slope. It can be dated to the Viking Age, as indicated by some potsherds between the stones. The construction of stones continued on the slope, where two places of posts lined with stones were uncovered (Fig. 8). The lower part of the slope was





Fig. 8. Remains of probable jetty in the plot No. 4 at Viltina. View from SW.

Joon. 8. Võimaliku paadisilla jäänused Viltina 4. kaevandis. Vaade edelast.

covered with a 30–40-cm-thick layer of wetland soil without any sort of finds. The construction can be interpreted as the remains of a wooden platform built on the slope – probably a jetty.

### Preliminary conclusions

The culture layer at the Viltina site is comparatively thin but seems to have preserved extraordinarily well. The location in the periphery is probably an important reason for that – the area has never been

ploughed or used for building. Nearly all finds uncovered so far can be dated to the 11<sup>th</sup> or in some cases to the 12<sup>th</sup> century, giving a good reason to believe that the site was used only during that period.

It is however difficult to interpret the site. The location of it and probable remains of seasonally used buildings refer to a harbour site. The interpretation is supported by the traces of a plausible jetty. Single burials have also been found in Scandinavian and Finnish prehistoric harbour places (e.g. Lundström 1981, 117–120; Carlsson 1999), and the same is true for the deposits of artefacts as well as for single offerings. The collections of finds as well as several single intact and unburnt artefacts at Viltina – weapons, ornaments, fittings of belts and bridles – can accordingly be considered as sacrifices. It is also worth noting that more than 40 boat rivets, iron nails or their fragments were found in the four plots of 2005.

Viltina remains quite remote from centres of its time, which makes it difficult to assume that the site functioned as a port of trade. The culture layer at Viltina is also too thin, and differs clearly from that at e.g. Tornimäe, another harbour site of almost the same time. The thin culture layer suggests that people only gathered here occasionally. The author has in some earlier writings presented an idea that the Viltina site might have functioned as a war harbour, especially because of the Viking Age hill-fort in the vicinity, which probably was supporting the harbour at the excavated place or somewhere else (Mägi: In press). At the present stage of the investigation it seems more likely that the site was a kind of meeting place, although it might have been used for gathering war ships, too. Cemeteries and sin-



gle burials in the vicinity, as well as several deposits of artefacts – cenotaphs or offerings – refer to the sacral character of the site. Perhaps it was a place for conducting common rituals and/or negotiations.

## PÄLLAMÕIS – PREHISTORIC (RIVER) HARBOUR AND RUINS OF LATE MEDIEVAL STONEHOUSE

The site called Pällamõis is situated on southern Saaremaa near the Püha church, on the bank of the Ristioja brook, 900 metres from present sea coast. It was the location of the church 2 km north-east from the site that inspired the search of a prehistoric harbour site on the north-western coast of the Sutu bay (Fig. 9). During our surface survey trips, we were informed of ruins in forest at some distance from farms, which the local tradition called Pällamõis (Pälla Manor). By now, the ruins and the area surrounding them has been cleared from bushes, and trial excavations were conducted there in 2004 and 2005. The finds are stored in the Institute of History, University of Tallinn (AI 6711).

The ruins remained at the distance of approximately 10–20 metres from the bank of the Ristioja brook. The dimensions of the central building, which probably had been built entirely of stone, were 11 × 12 metres (Fig. 10). Stone foundation of approximately 9 × 9 metres was attached to it on the western side. An elevation about 20 metres eastwards from the central ruins is under heritage protection as an ancient offering place. Nevertheless, trial pits there proved that the elevation had originally formed a part of the building complex, too. The ruins are not under heritage protection.

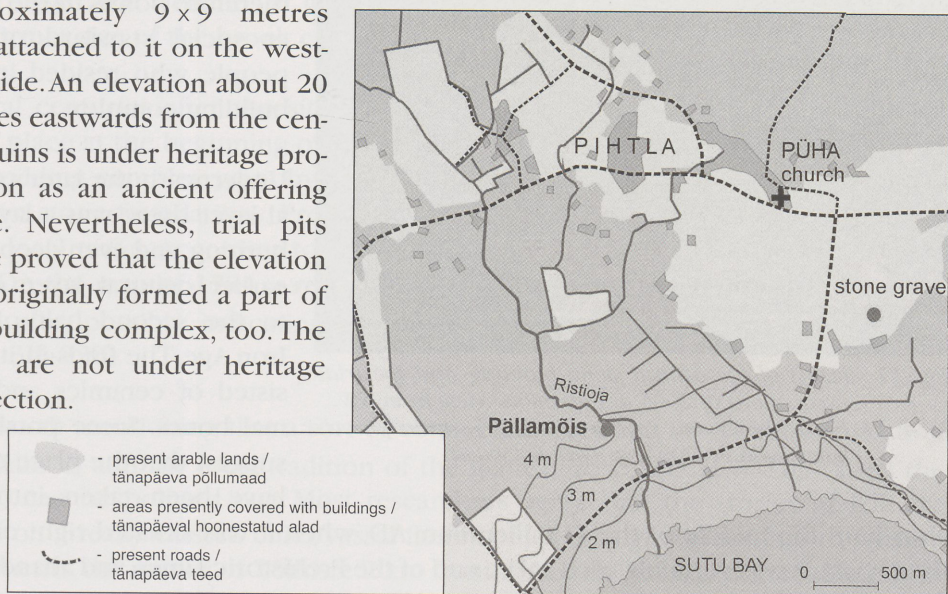


Fig. 9. Pällamõis and surrounding landscape.

Joon. 9. Pällamõis ja ümbritsev kultuurmaastik.



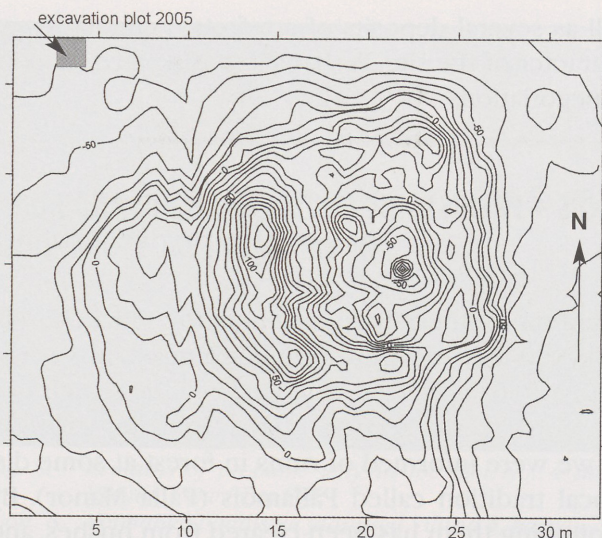


Fig. 10. Ruins of Pällamõis.  
Joon. 10. Pällamõisa varemed.



Fig. 11. Ruins of the central stone building and the trial excavations of 2005 at Pällamõis. View from NW.  
Joon. 11. Keskse kivihoone varemed ja 2005. aasta proovikaevandid Pällamõisas. Vaade loodest.

The plots of trial excavations comprised 4 m<sup>2</sup> in both years, and they were opened on a plateau between the Ristioja brook and the ruins (Fig. 11). Both excavation plots were characterized by an intensive cultural layer from the 16<sup>th</sup>–17<sup>th</sup> centuries, presumably the time of use of the building complex. The finds consisted of artefacts of everyday life, ceramics (Fig. 12) and animal bones, and some coins. The ceramics resembles material in Estonian towns, as well as generally in western Europe (the assessment of Erki Russow, 2006–03–14), and therefore points to the higher social standard of the people who resided in the building complex.

Underneath the later cultural layer there was a layer of burning, and even deeper an earlier cultural layer, dated to the second half of the Iron Age. The finds in it consisted of ceramics and animal bones. Some potsherds suggest that the place could have been taken into use

already in the middle of the 1<sup>st</sup> millennium AD, when it was situated right on the then coast. It was certainly used at the end of the Prehistoric Times, and abandoned probably in the beginning of the Middle Ages.



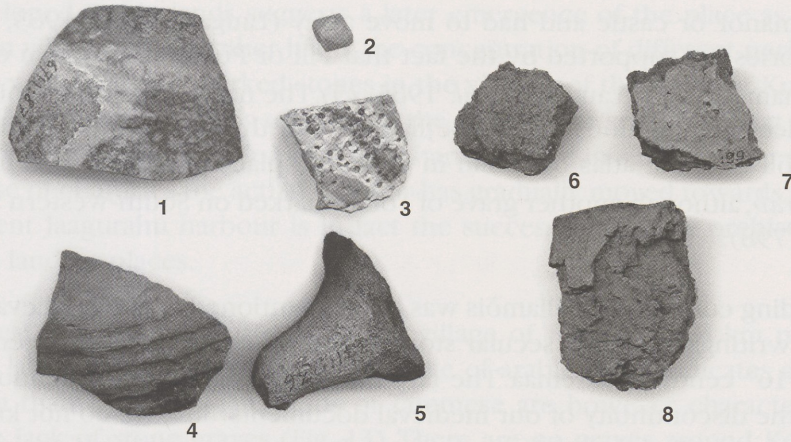


Fig. 12. Selection of finds from Pällamõis.  
Joon. 12. Leide Pällamõisast. (AI 6711.)

The site remains at some distance from arable lands, and could therefore not have been used as an ordinary living place. The location on sea coast and later only a few hundred meters away from it next to a river is suitable for a harbour, especially on the coast of the Sutu Bay, which has been and still is very flat, making it difficult for sea vessels to find a place for landing. The Ristioja brook has once been bigger: the wetlands at its headwaters are completely drained by now, and the former size of the brook can be estimated from the riverbed.

Several centuries after the site was abandoned, buildings were erected in the same place at the beginning of the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The central quadrangular part of the building complex was obviously of stone while the rest were wooden buildings on stone foundations. Presumably the complex was a small fortification of some local vassal. According to the find material, it was abandoned in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. On the map of 1784, a rectangle has been marked in the middle of a separated plot, possibly indicating ruins, and the site is called *Pella Moiss* (EAA 2072-3II-220).

It is worth mentioning that a sort of connection between the vassal fortification at Pällamõis and the local tradition of the giant hero called *Suur Tõll* (Toell the Great) can be pointed out. Most researchers agree that the stories of Tõll are based on a really existed chief/vassal family of local origin. According to written documents, the manor of Tõlluste 7 km from Pällamõis belonged to that family in the Middle Ages. The tradition of Saaremaa tells that Tõll was defeated in a battle,



lost his manor or castle and had to move away (Laugaste *et al.* 1963, 45–256). These stories are supported by the fact that Pill or Pöll was a seldom occurring parallel name to Töll (Laugaste *et al.* 1963, 25). The name Pällamõis, which in the local dialect often sounds like Põ[oe]llamõis, can thus be defined as “the Manor of Töll/Pöll”. On the atlas of Mellin in 1798, the place of Pällamõis is marked as *Tölles Grab*, although another grave of Töll is marked on South-Western Saaremaa (Mellin 1798).

The building complex of Pällamõis was never mentioned in late medieval or early modern writings, although secular stone buildings could not have been so common on 16<sup>th</sup> century Saaremaa. The fact that Pällamõis was not mentioned indicates at the discontinuity of our medieval documents. Still, we do not know how the place was called during its time of use. It cannot be excluded, therefore, that a castle *Vic* that occurs on nearly all late medieval maps of Saaremaa and is often marked approximately on the coast of the Sutu Bay was actually the fortification at Pällamõis.

## TAMMESE SETTLEMENT SITE

Trial excavations were conducted at the village of Tammese near Kihelkonna, West Saaremaa, at the end of April, 2005. The excavations followed earlier investigation in the vicinity of Kurevere and Tammese villages, in order to localize a pre-historic harbour site. The location of present Kurevere between the former coast

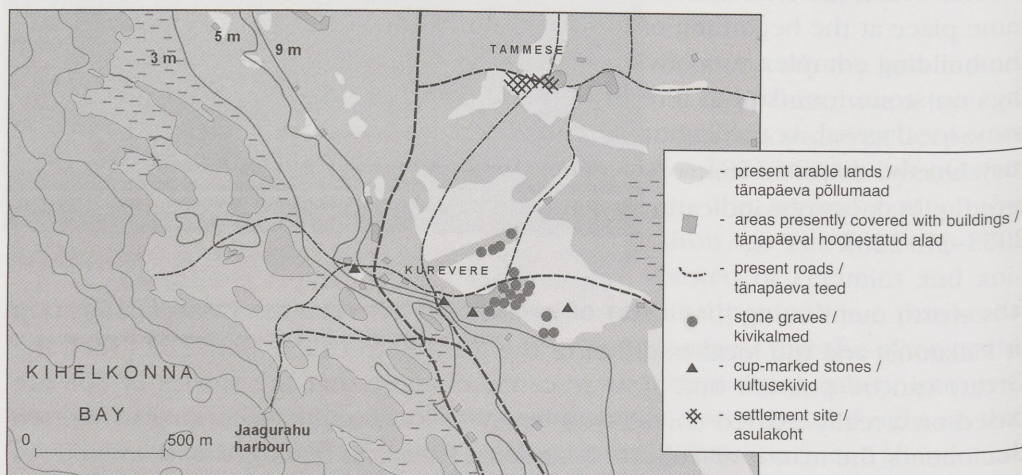


Fig. 13. Tammese village and surrounding cultural landscape.  
Joon. 13. Tammese küla ja ümbritsev kultuurmaastik.



and developed arable lands suggests a later emergence of the place as a typical fishermen village. On the other hand, the concentration of different period stone graves as well as of cup marked stones in the vicinity of the farms of Kurevere is striking. The graves have been erected on the coast of the sea bay of that time that was a topographically suitable place for a harbour. Like in several other places, in the course of centuries the actual harbour has gradually moved towards the open sea. Present Jaagurahu harbour is in fact the successor of these prehistoric and medieval landing places.

The closest neighbor of Kurevere is the village of Tammese 1.8 km north-east from the latter, which location in the middle of arable lands indicates an earlier formation than Kurevere. The fields of Tammese are however characterized by complete lack of stone graves (Fig. 13). There are no graves around Kehila and Läägi either, which are next settlement units a bit more than 2 km away from Kurevere. The abundance of graves at Kurevere points to the possibility that the place was considered sacred and the dead from the surrounding settlements were buried there (Mägi 2004, 148–149). The pattern of the cultural landscape resembles, to a certain extent, that of Viltina.

On the western field of the Tammese village, as well as partly underneath the farms, a settlement site with a strikingly intensive cultural layer was recorded in



Fig. 14. Trial excavations at the settlement site of Tammese. View from N.  
Joon. 14. Proovikaevandid Tammese asulakobal. Vaade põhjasibist.



2004. Three spearheads and saddle stone for grinding have been found there in different times.

The trial excavation plot was opened in the southern part of the western field of the village, where the land smoothly slopes towards the south (Fig. 14). The cultural layer was nevertheless more intensive in the northern part of the field but trial excavations there were opposed by the landowner. The area of the excavation plot was 2 x 2 metres, in addition to what 40 x 40 cm was added for measuring the size of a post hole. The finds are stored in the Museum of Saaremaa (SM 10467).

The soil was sandy, partly plain sand, where charcoal and remains of wood had survived particularly well. Fragments of a log in horizontal position and remains of at least two posts were found. In addition to these, one or maybe two fireplaces were recorded, and especially the layer underneath the sod carried signs of intensive fire. We can conclude that the trial excavations touched some building remains, which character cannot be estimated because of the too small size of the plot.

The find material was typical for a dwelling site, consisting mainly of ceramics, fragments of iron artefacts and animal bones. Some of the potsherds can be dated to prehistoric times, possibly even to the first half of the Iron Age.

## CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological excavations on sea-bound areas of prehistoric and medieval Saaremaa will be continued at nearly all places mentioned above. All conclusions should therefore be considered as preliminary. More detailed analyses of find material are still waiting their time, and <sup>14</sup>C dates of several samples can specify the dates and interpretations of the sites.

The results of the investigation of the last years have emphasized harbour sites as important elements in the development of cultural landscape on coastal areas. Smaller or bigger sized excavations on sites selected by the study of different maps and preliminary surface survey, have all resulted in finding traces of human occupation. The research conducted so far suggests that the settlement pattern as well as the development of cultural landscapes in Estonia have been similar to other areas around the Baltic Sea. The earlier absence of harbour sites in the archaeological evidence here seems to have been caused, first of all, by the lack of proper methods for finding them.



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## KAEVAMISED SAAREMAA MUINAS- JA KESKAEGSEL RANNIKUL

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2005. aastal jätkusid arheoloogilised kaevamised Saaremaa rannaladel. Suurem kaevand avati Viltinas, kus laiendati 2004. aasta uurimisala kolme kaevandiga. Proovikaevamised toimusid Pällamõisas ja Tammese külas, samuti Sutus (viimatinimetatu kohta vt. K. Ilvese artiklit käesolevas kogumikus).

**Viltina** hajaküla, mis tänapäeval koosneb üksnes suvemajadena kasutusel olevatest endistest talukohtadest, paikneb Saaremaa lõunarannikul Kõiguste poolsaare edelaosas (joon. 1). Üksikud talukohad olid siin juba 17. sajandil. Millal need alguse said, pole täpsemalt teada. Mujal Läänemere-äärsetes maades liikus asustus päris ranniku lähedusse keskajal, eelkõige 13.–14. sajandil, samas kui muinasajal eelistati elada rannast vähemalt 1–2 km eemal. Seetõttu tõlgendatakse rauaaegsele asulakohale sarnaneva kultuurikihi alla otse omaaegsel rannikul sadamakohtadena.

Viltina sadamakohast 1,4 km kaugusele jäävat Asva kindlustatud asulat ning eeldavalt selle juures paiknenud sadamakohta võib pidada Viltina sadamakoha pronksiaegseks eelkäijaks. Just Asva ja Viltina kohal ulatub sügavam vesi piki lahesoppi viljeluseks sobivate maade lähedusse, luues eeldused sadamakoha tekkeks. Peamiselt maatõusust tingitud sadama järk-järguline "nihkumine" merele lähemale on täheldatav pea kõigi muinas- ja keskaegsete sadamakohtade juures.

Viltina võimalik sadamakoht registreeriti 1999. aastal. 2004. aastal alustati seal kaevamisi Villu Kadaka juhtimisel ja jätkati 2005. aastal Marika Mägi juhtimisel. Kokku kaevati Viltinas 2005. aastal läbi 174 m<sup>2</sup> (joon. 2). 2004. aastal alustatud **1. kaevandi** lõplikuks suuruseks kujunes 116 m<sup>2</sup>. Õhukese mättakihi all paljandus kohati kruus, kohati kividest vööndid ning üksikutel juhtudel ka selgepiirilised kivikonstruktsioonid. Tõenäoliselt oli tegu ajutiste puitehitiste jäänustega. Ahjuvaresid ei tuvastatud, kuid kaevandi keskosas leiti üsna suur sõene laik; vähemal määral leidus sütt mujalgi. Kividega piiratud tulease paljandus kaevandi SW-nurgas, jäädes osaliselt kaevamata alla sisse. Üks selgepiirilisi konstruktsioone – raudkividest kaar, mida väikese vahemaaga ümbritses paekividest, tõenäoliselt ristkülikukujuline vöönd – tuli välja kaevandi idaosas (joon. 3). Kuigi kaarekujuliselt asetatud kivide põhjal võis oletada kiviringkalmet, rääkis sellele vastu sisetäidise, äärevare ning Saaremaa kiviringkalmetele üldiselt iseloomuliku matuselaigu puudumine. Kividest kaare põhjaosast leiti kirves ja paadineidid (joon. 4), ülejäänud leiud koosnesid peamiselt savinõukildudest.

Ülejäänud kaevandiosas eraldusid paekividest vööndid ja ilma kivideta laigud (joon. 5). Kaevandi lääneosas avastati suurte kivide vahelt tõenäoline põletusmatus. Põlenud luude juurest leiti ohtrasti pronksist rõngakesi, mis võib osutada võimalusele, et luud olid asetatud pronksiga ilustatud riidetüki sisse. Muud matusega seonduvad leiud puudusid.

**2. kaevandi** suuruseks oli 30 m<sup>2</sup> ning see paiknes kallakjas kohas, kus kultuurikihi alla läks üle sooks. Seal paljandus otse õhukese kamara all leidudeta looduslik kruus. Kaevandi horisontaalses osas tulid välja kivid, võimalik, et samasugused kivivööndid, nagu kaevandis 1. Otse kallaku äärel paiknenud suure raudkivi kõrvalt leidsime lameda kiviga kaetud põletusmatuse, mis juuresolnud savinõukildude põhjal otsustades oli olnud savinõus (joon. 6).

**3. kaevand** mõõtmetega 4 x 2 m rajati seljandiku kõrgemasse ossa, kust 1999. aastal oli saadud relvaid. Kive oli siin rohkem kui eelnevates kaevandites. Kuigi eristusid mõned suurematest kividest kaared, polnud mingit selgepiirilist struktuuri nii väikesel alal siiski võimalik tuvastada. Osalt



kaevandi sisse jäänud silmatorkavalt suure raudkivi kõrvalt avastati järjekordne 11. sajandi leiukompleks – seekord koosnes see tüüpilistest Saaremaa naise ehetest (joon. 7: 1). Leitud luud ei seostunud otseselt ehte ega ka 1999. aastal päevavalgele tulnud relvakompleksiga, kuid põlenud luid leidis mujal 3. kaevandi alal. Väljaspoolt leiukomplekse saadi ka väiksemaid metall-leide ja keraamikat (joon. 7: 2–5).

Möödistades kõrgusi kultuurikihiga seljandikul, märkasime, et kallak oli soo suunas tunduvalt järsem umbes 20 m pikkusel lõigul, jättes mulje, nagu oleks seda kunstlikult järsemaks kaevatud. Asja selgitamiseks avasime 20 m<sup>2</sup> suuruse **4. kaevandi**. Selles paljandus seljandiku peal otse kamarakihi all kruus ning kividest vöönd piki kallaku algust. Kivide vahelt leiti kaks viikingiaegset savinõukildu. Kruusase kallaku peal eristusid selgesti kaks kividega kiilutud postiaugu kohta (joon. 8). Seega oli siin tegemist nõlvale rajatud puidust platvormi, tõenäoliselt paadisilla jäänustega.

Kuna kõik Viltinast seni saadud leiud saab dateerida põhiliselt 11., osalt ka 12. sajandisse, võib oletada, et koht oli kasutusel võrdlemisi lühiajaliselt. Asukoha ja tõenäoliste ajutiste hoonete jäänuste järgi otsustades võiks tegemist olla sadamakohaga, millele viitavad ka arvatava paadisilla jäänused, samuti 2005. aasta kaevandist leitud üle 40 naela, paadineedi või nende katke. Skandinaavia ja Soome analoogide põhjal on tavapärane ka üksikute matuste leidumine sadamakohal. Läheduses olevad rohked kalmed või ka üksikmatused, samuti mitmed peitleiud, kas kenotaafid või ohverdused, osutavad kultusliku tähendusega kohale, kus ilmselt viidi läbi ka mitmesuguseid (ühis)rituaale ning võimalik, et ka nõupidamisi.

**Pällamõisa**-nimelised varemed asuvad Lõuna-Saaremaal Pihtla vallas, endises Püha kihelkonnas, Sutulahte suubuva Ristioja kaldal (joon. 9). 2004. ja 2005. aastal toimusid seal proovikaevamised ning asuti kaardistama nii kivihoonet kui ka seda ümbritsevaid varemeid. Kahe proovikaevandi suurus oli 4 m<sup>2</sup> ning need avati kivihoone, neid ümbritsevate kivivundamentide ning Ristioja vahelisel platool (joon. 10; 11). Mõlemas proovikaevandis paljandus intensiivne 16.–17. sajandi kultuurikiht, mis ilmselt markerib kõrvalolevate varemete kasutusaega. Hilisema kultuurikihi all oli põlengukiht, mille all eristus selgelt muinasäegne, ilmselt rauaaja teise poolde kuuluv kultuurikiht.

Inimtegevus Pällamõisas on saanud alguse ilmselt I aastatuhande keskel, mil see paiknes otse mere-rannal. Asudes laugjal rannikul merre suubuva jõekese kaldal, oli Pällamõisa ala sobiv sadamakohaks ka muinasaja lõpus. Põllumaadest jääb Pällamõisa eemale, mistõttu see ei saanud olla kasutuses tavapärase elamispaigana.

Inimtegevus Pällamõisa kohal lakkas ilmselt keskaja alguses. 16. sajandi algul rajati samale kohale hoonekompleks, mis omakorda hüljati 17. sajandil. Selle keskne ristkülikukujuline osa mõõtmetega 11×12 m on ilmselt olnud üleni kivist, ümbritsevad ehitised aga kivivundamentidel puithooned. Tõenäoliselt on tegemist vasallilinnusega, millele viitab ka euroopaliku ilmega leiuaines, peamiselt keraamika (joon. 12). 18. sajandi teise poole kaartidel on Pällamõisa märgitud eraldatud krundina, mille keskel on riskülik, mis tõenäoliselt markerib kivihoone varemeid. Samas on ära toodud ka kohanimi – *Pella Moiss*. 1798. aasta Mellini atlasel on koht märgitud kui *Tölles Grab*.

2005. aasta aprilli lõpus toimusid proovikaevamised **Tammese asulakohal** Lääne-Saaremaal. Need olid inspireeritud varasematest inspeksioonidest ümbruskonda Kurevere muistse sadamakoha otsinguil. Tänapäevane Kurevere küla, mis asub ranniku ning maaparandatud põldude vahelisel piiril, on asustusloogika põhjal hilisema tekkega ja ilmselt kujutanud enesest tüüpilist kaluriküla. Samas on silmatorkav eriaegsete kivikalmete, aga ka näiteks väikeselohuliste kultusekivide kontsentratsioon küla ümbruses (joon. 13). Kalmed ümbritsevad kunagist lahesoppi, mis topograafiliste näi-



tajate poolest on pika aja jooksul kujutanud enesest soodsat sadamakohta. Nagu taolistele sadamakohtadele omane, on ajaloolisel ajal sadam nihkunud merele lähemale. Kurevere varasemate sadamakohtade tänapäevaseks järglaseks on Jaagurahu sadam.

Lähim põllumaade suhtes keskset positsiooni omav ja seega tõenäoliselt vana asustusüksus on Kureverest 1,8 km kirde poole jääv Tammese küla, mille ümbritsevatel põldudel kivikalmed puuduvad. Külas registreeriti 2004. aastal intensiivse kultuurkihiga asulakoht, mis osalt ulatub külast lääne poole jäävale lõuna suunas laugjale seljandikule. Proovikaevand tehti põllu lõunapoolsesse ossa (joon. 14). Kaevandi suuruseks kujunes 2 x 2 m, lisaks u. 40 x 40 cm väljalõige avastatud postiaugu kohal.

Pinnas proovikaevandi kohal oli liivane, suures osas puhas liiv, milles söestunud puidujäänused olid hästi säilinud. Leiti ühe horisontaalasendis palgi ning vähemalt kahe posti jäänused. Ilmselt satuti proovikaevandiga mingisuguste hoonejäänuste kohale, nende lähem iseloom jäi aga kaevandi väikeste mõõtmete tõttu selgitamata. Saadi üsna rohkesti asulakohale tüüpilisi leide, eriti keraamikat, raudesemete katkeid ning loomaluid. Osa leitud keraamikast kuulub muinasaega, võimalik, et koguni rauaaja esimesse poolede.

Viimaste aastate uurimistöö tulemused on osutanud sadamakohtadele kui rannikualade arheoloogilise kultuurmaastiku olulisele osale. Kaartide uurimise ja inspeksioonide tulemusel välja selekteeritud kohtades läbi viidud kaevamistel on tulnud päevavalgele inimtegevuse jäljed. Juba praegused tulemused lubavad väita, et Eesti rannikualade kasutus ja kultuurmaastiku kujunemine on olnud sarnane teistele Läänemerd ümbritsevatele maadele ning sadamakohtade puudumine siinses arheoloogilises materjalis oli tingitud pigem nende otsimise metoodika puudumisest.