

2005. aasta arheoloogiliste välitööde tulemused

Results of archaeological fieldwork in 2005

Reinhard JONHANSON and Martin YULIN

Archaeological excavations at Jägala Hillfort

Arheoloogilised välitööd Jägala hüüdnägil

Andres THAURI and Kristina JONHANSON

Archaeological research on Kärassa, Mätsküla and Pärnu-Bückeri-Bückeri

Arheoloogilised välitööd Kärassa, Mätsküla ja Pärnu-Bückeri-Bückeri

Julia LÄÄ and Margat LÄHEMAN

New investigations at Sassi fields at Pärnu-Bückeri-Bückeri

Uus uurimusi Pärnu-Bückeri-Bückeri Sassi väljal

Margit KORSIA, Julia LÄÄ, Karin TÄRRE and Märt PÄRIL

Ringwall enclosure of Laps in Pärnu-Bückeri-Bückeri

Lapsi ümbritseva ringseina arheoloogilised välitööd

Detl MÄRK

Über die Funktion der Neolithischen Hügel in Estland

Neoliitiliste hülgede funktsioonid Eestis

Martti AAL

Excavations on the coast of Puhkela and Mätsküla

Puhkela ja Mätsküla rannapiirkonnas läbiviidud välitööd

Margit KORSIA

Archaeological investigations on the coast of Puhkela

Puhkela rannapiirkonnas läbiviidud välitööd

Margit KORSIA and Märt PÄRIL

Archaeological investigations in the surroundings of Mätsküla

Mätsküla ümbruskonnas läbiviidud välitööd

Andres THAURI and Riina BERNDIA

Archaeological investigations carried out by the University of Tartu

Tartu ülikooli arheoloogilised välitööd

Julia LÄÄ and Märt PÄRIL

Archaeological investigations at Lai Street in Tartu

Lai tänaval läbiviidud välitööd

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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 15th century.
Stray find from Tartu, Tähtvere Street in 2005.

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TARTU ÜLIKOOLI
RAAMATUKOGU
SUNDASEMPLAR

NEW INVESTIGATIONS AT FOSSIL FIELDS OF PROOSA, NORTH ESTONIA

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Fossil fields of Proosa near Tallinn were discovered in 1992 and next year the first trial excavations and mapping of the complex were carried out (Lang 1994a). Remains of fields, which are located only 1 km west of the Saha-Loo fields (Lang *et al.* 2005), were then preserved in an area of 10 ha (Fig. 1), although the once cultivated area had been much larger there. The first excavations yielded a radio-carbon date from the middle of the 1st millennium BC (Fig. 4: St-13879), which gave a reason to date this complex as a whole into the Pre-Roman Iron Age (e.g. Lang 1994b; 1995).

After the privatization of one part (ca. 4 ha) of this state protected area, the new owner (Loo Auto Ltd.) illegally removed all soil cover above the limestone bedrock by using a bulldozer. The area in question had previously belonged to the Soviet military base, which in its term had already destroyed quite a lot of fossil fields located there (Lang 1994a, 381). In the course of an inspection in spring 2005 it became evident that there was only one relatively small area (ca. 700 sq.m), which had been preserved from this destruction. In autumn of the same year, rescue investigations were carried out on the field remains still preserved there.

METHODS OF INVESTIGATION

As both the field remains and surrounding landscape of the Proosa and Saha-Loo complexes are very similar, we decided to use the same methods of investigation (see Lang *et al.* 2005, 118 ff.). First, all the area that was still intact was measured, with elevations read with a level at 1 m intervals. Using the computer program MapInfo, a topographic map of this area was then composed (done by Helena Kaldre). Second, four two-metres-wide trenches (starting with the 1993-excavations' trench as no. 1, the new trenches were numbered from 2 to 5) were dug through different baulks in order to get representative information and dating material for the fields. Small pieces of charcoal found beneath the stones (or between the lowermost stones), indicating the first land clearing before the cultivation, were used for dating purposes. A third operation carried out at Saha-Loo

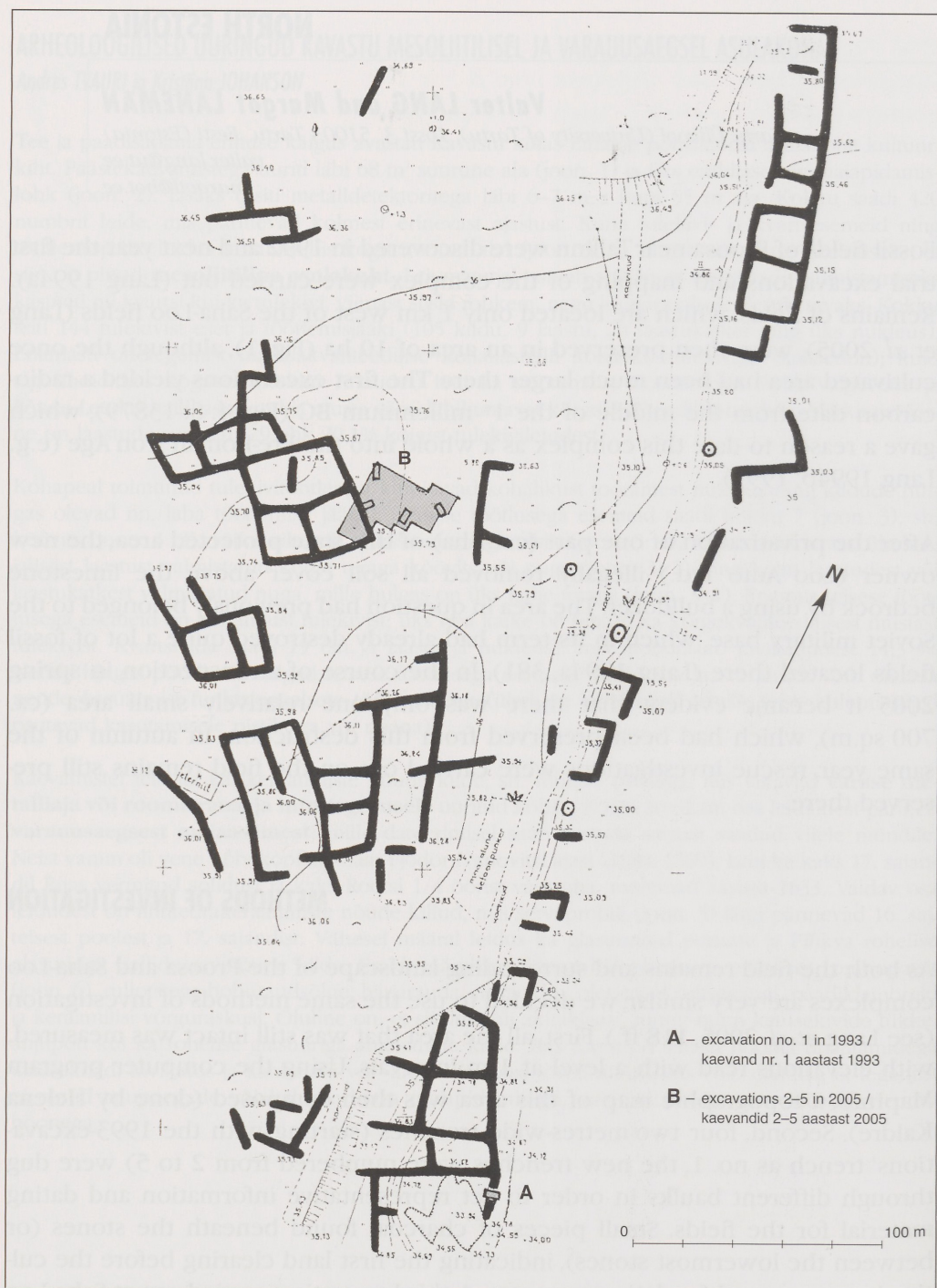


Fig. 1. Map of the fossil fields at Proosa.

Joon. 1. Proosa fossiilsete põldude plaan.

in 2004, i.e. the entire excavation of all baulks surrounding one well-preserved field plot, was not possible at Proosa, as there was no such field plot any more in the destruction area.

RESULTS OF INVESTIGATION

The main result achieved by the mapping of the area of investigation was the certainty that no complete field plots were preserved there (Fig. 2). This was at least partly due to the destructions made already by the military base. The only remains of prehistoric fields were rather indistinct and sometimes uncertain sections of baulks running in different directions. Judging by quite an even surface of the ground, a part of a cultivated plot was observed in the central and northern portion of the area in question. The width of this cultivated plot reached 11 m, the length was ca. 16–18 m.

The excavated area in four trenches totalled 31.5 sq. m. All baulks were similar to each other by their shape, measures (4–4.5 m wide and 30–35 cm high) and consistence. The baulks consisted of bigger and smaller limestone slabs thrown together; granite stones were extremely rare (Fig. 3). There was no structure or order in the position of stones observed, and this is the situation everywhere in the case of the fields of the same age. The only finds discovered during the excavations were small fragments of animal and bird bones, which with one exception came to light beneath the lowermost stones of the baulks. This proves that these bones and the fields belong to one and the same era.

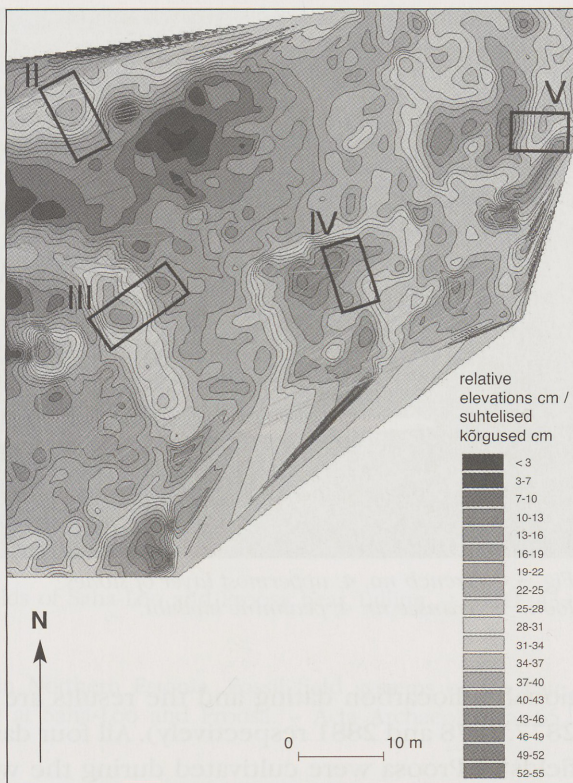


Fig. 2. Topographic map of the area of investigation with excavation plots.

Joon. 2. Uuritud ala nivelleerimisplaan koos kaevanditega.



Fig. 3. Trench no. 4, uppermost layer of stones.
Joon. 3. Tranšee nr. 4, pealmine kivikiht.

Small pieces of charcoal started to occur amongst the stones of the baulks; yet, beneath the baulks they already were quite numerous. In trench no. 2 the location of charcoal pieces suggested that they originated from a burnt stump, which had been left beneath the baulk. Three samples – those from the trenches nos. 2, 4 and 5 – were large enough for conven-

tional radiocarbon dating and the results are presented in the table (Fig. 4: TIn-2877, 2878 and 2881 respectively). All four dates available so far indicate that the fields of Proosa were cultivated during the whole Pre-Roman Iron Age, i.e. from the 5th (6th) century BC to the 1st century AD.

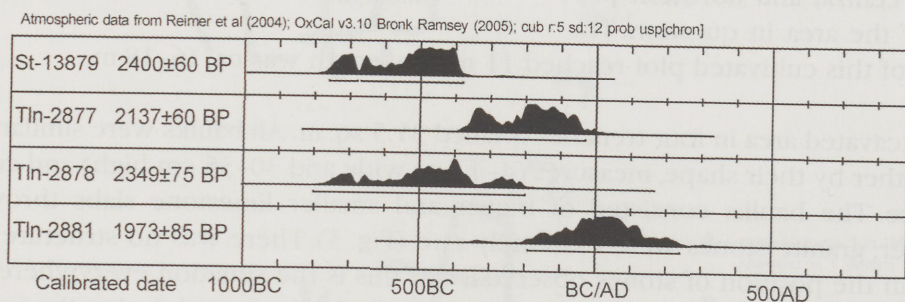


Fig. 4. Calibrated radiocarbon dates from field remains of Proosa.
Joon. 4. Proosa põllujäänustest kogutud kalibreeritud radiosüsiniku dateeringud.

CONCLUSIONS

The more recent investigations at Proosa proved the earlier assumption about the relatively later date of this complex in comparison with the nearby fields at Saha-Loo. From the morphological point of view, these fields also represent a later, more advanced stage, as the layout of the whole complex seems more regular than that of Saha-Loo. The more substantial regularity in the layout might have come from the measuring of the arable land before utilization of the first fields. This, however, is only a theoretical supposition, of which we did not find any material evidence during the excavations. Most probably it was so due to the very limited scope of investigations. We have to state, therefore, that the still preserved part of the fossil fields at Proosa must be protected from any further destruction with the aim of carrying out new and detailed investigations there.

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UUED UURIMUSED PROOSA FOSSIILSETEL PÕLDEDEL PÕHJA-EESTIS

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Proosa fossiilsed põllud avastati 1992. aastal ning esimesed uurimistööd viidi seal läbi järgmisel aastal (joon. 1). Pärast ühe osa põllujäänustega kaetud ala – see kuulus varem Nõukogude sõjaväebaasile – erastamist firmale Loo Auto OÜ, lükati seal buldooseriga ära kogu paepõhja kattev pinnas, millega hävitati kõik jäljed kunagisest põlluharimisest. Üksnes krundi ühes nurgas, u. 700 m² suurusel alal, säilis kunagine maapind koos seal asunud põllupeenardega. 2005. aastal viidi nimetatud kohas läbi päästeuuringud, mille jooksul nivelleeriti kogu säilinud ala ja kaevati neli tranšeed läbi säilinud peenrajuppide.

Uuritaval alal säilinud põllujäänused olid fragmentaarsed, ühtki terviklikku põllulappi seal ei olnud (joon. 2). Eristada sai vaid ebamääraseid ja erisuunalisi peenrakatkeid, kusjuures ala põhja- ja keskosas võis suhteliselt ühtlase kõrgusega maapinna näol olla tegu kunagise põllulapi osaga. Kaevatud peenrad olid u. 4–4,5 m laiad ja paepõhjalt mõõdetuna 30–35 cm kõrged, koosnesid valdavalt kokkuvisatud paekividest ja -tükkidest (joon. 3). Ainsateks leidudeks olid mõned looma- ja linnuluud, mis peale ühe erandi tulid kõik välja peenrakivide alt. See kõneleb nende leidude samaaegsusest põldudega. Esimesest aletamisest tunnistavat sütt leiti kõikidest kaevanditest, kuid dateerimiseks vajalikul määral koguti seda vaid kolmest kohast. Radiosüsiniku dateeringute tulemused (joon. 4) kinnitavad, et Proosa põllud rajati ja neid kasutati eelrooma rauaajal.