

ARHEOLOOGILISED
VÄLITÖÖD
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ARCHAEOLOGICAL
FIELDWORK
IN ESTONIA

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Esikaas: 2006. a Palutaja külast avastatud aardes sisalduv
hõbedatud hoburaudsõlg.

Cover: Silver-plated penannular brooch from Palutaja hoard,
discovered in 2006.

Tagakaas: Krõllid Palutaja aardest.

Back cover: Silver beads from Palutaja hoard.

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK AT SETUMAA

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In 2006 at Setumaa archaeological research work was continued at the known settlement sites and new sites were also searched for. Minor trial excavations were carried out at two settlement sites in Northern Setumaa (Popovitsa in Värskas and Kretska in Mikitamäe rural municipality, Põlva County)¹. The landscape inspections were more focused on finding out new archaeological sites in the South Eastern part of Meremäe rural municipality in the present Võru County. All in all 30 new archaeological sites were discovered, of which 12 were settlements sites (Kiristaja 2006a, 2006b, 2006c).

TRIAL EXCAVATIONS

Popovitsa settlement site. A trial trench of 4 square meters (Fig. 1) was dug at the Southern part of the settlement that was located on the Southern shore of

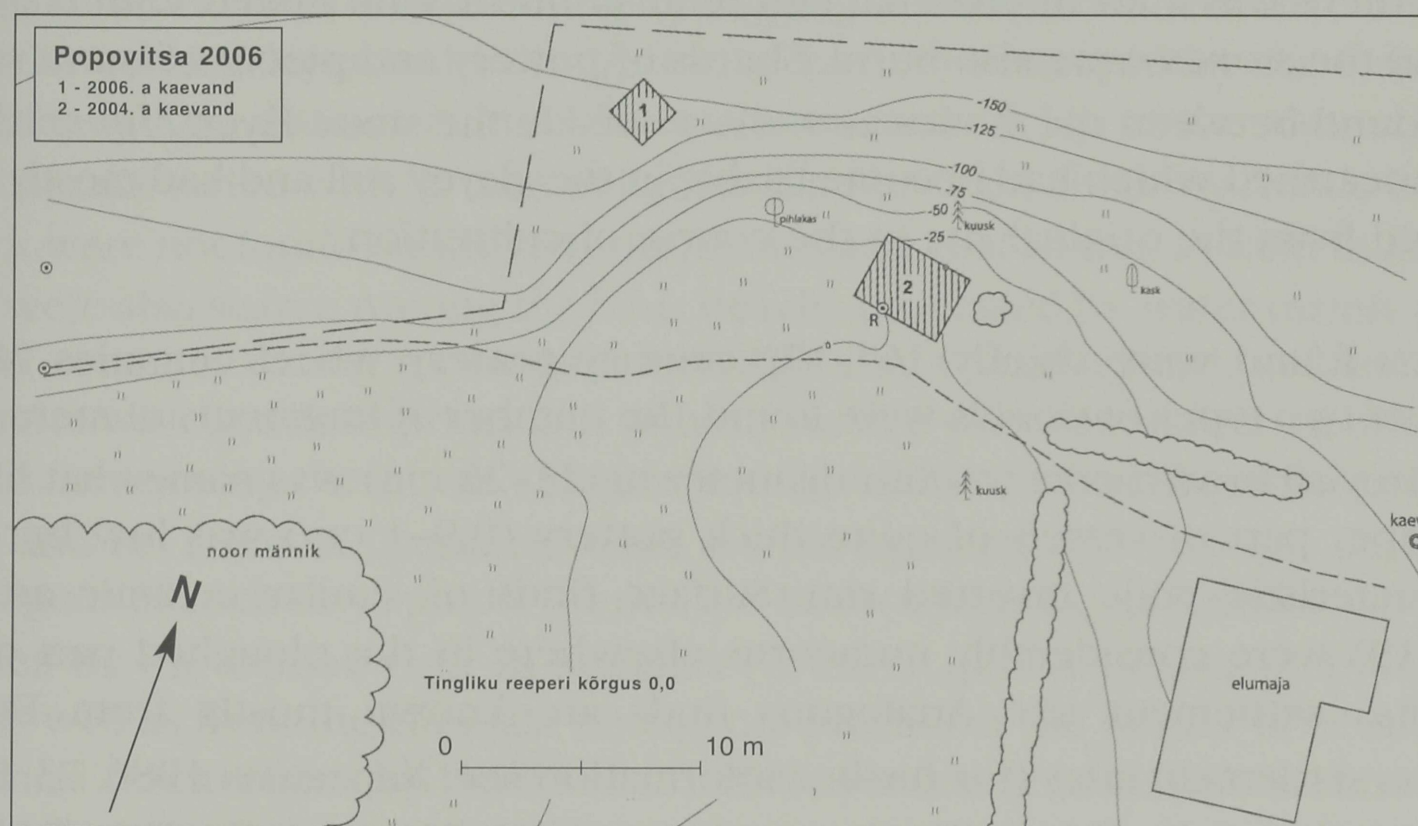


Fig. 1. Popovitsa settlement site. Location of the excavation plots. 1 - excavation of stone grave, 2 - excavation of settlement site.

Jn 1. Popovitsa asulakoht. Kaevandite asukoht. 1 - kivikalme kaevand, 2 - asulakoha kaevand.

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Fig. 2. Popovitsa settlement site. North-Western side of the hearth pit. View from North-West.

Jn 2. Popovitsa asulakoht. Leaseme loodepoolne osa. Pildistatud loodest.

Värskas bay so that it included the 2004 shaft where in 2003 during agricultural field work potsherds of two bigger vessels were found (Aun 2005, 141). During the excavations a layer of granite stones was found and left at the site to be dug out on a wider area in the future (*ibid.*). A cultural layer of 20–23 centimeters, a bit thinner towards the southeastern side (15 cm), appeared to be plowed through to the

bottom. Building debris found on the trial excavations site were represented by the North-Western fragment of a North-West–South-East orientated 80 cm wide oblong hearth pit (Fig. 2). The hearth pit was located in a dell which bottom reached up to 40 cm deeper than the ploughed surface. Between and around the stones there was a lot of charcoal and reddish burnt sand mixed with charcoal, some of the stones were also burnt. Sherds of pottery and pieces of burnt stones were found between the stones as well as outside the stone layer. Human bones were unearthed which had become friable in the clayey soil and had mostly been removed from the original site in the course of cultivation.²

Artifacts found were chiefly 16th–17th century pottery wheel ceramics. Mainly sherds of two types of vessels were found, the number of fragments of more capacious greyish-brown pots (mouth diameter *ca.* 23–26 cm) was somewhat bigger. The upper part of vessels of quite thick pottery (0.9–1 cm) was low, but with a characteristic wide inverted rim. Surface finds of similar ceramic artifacts (AI 6819) were considerably numerous elsewhere in the ploughed part of the Popovitsa settlement site. Analogous finds are known mostly from Eastern Setumaa settlement sites (for further information see: Харлашов 1986, 73, Fig. 2: 34) as well as from Pskov (Кильдюшевский 2002, 16), such ceramic finds are more scarce in Northern and Western Setumaa. The other type was composed of fine-grained red-ware bowls with flat bottom and glazed inner surface, the mouth

² Based on the information provided by Voldemar Järveküla, a local dweller, in 1970 during plough work an almost complete skeleton, its head pointing to the North, was found; an iron knife (on the chest) and a bronze ring had been buried with the body.

diameter of which was 11–15 cm and the glaze colour either greenish yellow, yellowish brown, grayish beige, brown or dark brown. At least one fragment of a fine-grained red-ware vessel with a handle (AI 6839: 1) originates as an occasional find from the South-Eastern edge of the Popovitsa settlement site. Other finds obtained during the excavations worth mentioning were iron nails and fragments of these (AI 6692: 46, 97, 121, *etc.*) and a fragment of a net weight with a diameter of about 6 cm (AI 6692: 73). No ancient finds (neither those dating to the same period with the 3rd–4th centuries stone grave located nearby) (Fig. 1: 1) were detected at the Popovitsa settlement site nor in the near vicinity.

Kretska settlement site is situated about 6–7 km to the North West of Popovitsa on a higher narrow bank along the Western shore of Lake Pskov. The settlement site was discovered in 2000 (Konsa & Ots 2001, 126). In spring 2006, in the course of specifying the extension and boundaries of the settlement, ceramics (AI 6755) was found between the lake and the Kaamenska marsh on the shore strip extending for about 2,5–3 km from North to South (Kiristaja 2006a). Among the sherds of pottery collected as surface finds, some fragments of textile ceramics were older, dating to the Roman Iron Age (AI 6449). The aim of the trial excavations was to determine the character of the cultural layer and how it had preserved as well as the presence of the Roman Iron Age layer. The pit with the extension of about 4 square meters was dug at the Southern edge of the demolished site in summer, 2006. In the course of digging it became evident that at the said spot the cultural layer had been up to the bottom destroyed by the water from the lake and no distinct cultural layer was unearthed. Up to the natural surface dark streaks varied with streaks of lighter sand brought about by floods. *Building debris* were not found on the trial site; stones and coal as well as sand mixed with coal were also scarce. Among *the finds* heavily processed by water mainly pottery wheel ceramics dating to the Late Iron Age and a small quantity of hand made ceramics with textile imprints and smooth surface were found. Among other finds worth mentioning there was a fragment of a double-conical clay whorl (1.65 cm high and *ca.* 2 cm in diameter) with a wide opening (1,1 cm) (AI 6800: 222). Analogues of such clay spindle whorls are known from Lezgi (Leeska) settlement located by the Optjok river in Setumaa (Александров & Белецкий 1994, Fig. 2: 11) as well as from the Hinniala stronghold located at the border of Setumaa and Võrumaa (excavations by Heiki Valk in 2006, see article of H. Valk in this volume, Fig. 13: 1).³ The Russian archaeologists date such spindle whorls to the third quarter of the I Millennium and they are also found among the artifacts of long-

³ In Estonia earlier double-conical clay whorls dating to the middle of the I Millennium – the 11th century, are also at the Rõuge settlement site (see: Vedru 1999, 96, Table 2), but they differ from the clay whorl unearthed at Kretska by the shape and capacity (cf. Ayn 1992, Plate XX: 5).

barrow culture (Исханова 2006, 107–108). Among the wheel ceramics the sherds of ornamented pottery were relatively scarce (only 10% of the total number of sherds) whereby these ornamented with loose horizontal streaks occurred more often than those with dense regular horizontal strokes. Only a few shreds originated from clay vessels ornamented with wavy lines. In some cases the ornament on the surface of the vessel was in the form of stripes composed of two or three lines. One shred was decorated with an ornament formed of sparse wide grooves the analogues of which have been found from an ancient settlement site at Tartu (Auh 1994, Plate XXXVII: 11). The collected pottery wheel ceramics that according to the preliminary determination dates mainly to the 12th and 13th centuries (cf. Tvauri 2005, 40–48, and the referred literature) has the closest analogues from the settlement site of Väike-Rõsna II at the Northern part of Setumaa (Luik 1997). Based on the fragments of the textile ceramics and earlier types of double-conical spindle whorl the emergence of the Kretska settlement site could be dated back to the 5th century, at the latest.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEYS

Archaeological surveys in 2006 were carried out twice in the Estonian part of Setumaa and once in East Setumaa. In spring 2006 33 archaeological objects⁴ were investigated and seven new settlement sites and four finding places of pottery were discovered, two possible sites from the Stone Age and one barrow-shaped sand mound near Lake Engli (Kiristaja 2006a, 6).



Fig. 3. Karisilla settlement site. View from South-Eeast.
Jn 3. Vaade Karisilla asulakohale kagust.

Some fragments of flint and quartz were found in Engli (AI 6745) and Tiirhanna (AI 6747). Settlement sites Haldi, Tiklasõ I, Veretinä, Tsirgu II and Kari-

⁴ Due to the future excavation area of dolomite near Marinova village, the surrounding area (and possible antiquities) in this region had to be investigated. In the SE-part of Meremäe municipality, there may be a number of possible archaeological objects, especially near Lake Engli. The effect of that kind of activities on the ground water for example is not known yet (Kiristaja 2006a, 6; 2007).

silla (Fig. 3) date back to late Middle Ages⁵. The most interesting settlement site is Podmotsa-1 (Fig. 4) where some hand-moulded ceramics was found (one of the potsherd has textile impressions on it); some wheel pottery from Late Iron Age was also found (AI 6751). Ceramics (AI 6755) from Kretska-Kaameska (Kretska II) settlement site also belongs to the same period (*op. cit.*, 5).

In autumn 2006 the investigations in Setumaa were continued by visiting 25 archaeological sites whereby four new settlement sites and two finding places of pottery (Kiristaja 2006b, 4) were discovered. Two places (N from Lobodka and in Tedrepalo) with barrow-shaped sand mounds should be mentioned.⁶ Settlement sites of Tiklasõ III (Kõivosaarõ) and Kuigõ (Fig. 5) date back to the Late Middle Ages, Suurõ-Rääptsüvä and Peresi Umbjärve to the Modern Era (18th-20th century). About 1 km Norht from Lüübnitsa, on top of a little hill in Hvoshchino swamp near Lake Pskov, there is a possible hiding place called *Pun'uhha* situated there. Due to the complicated landscape the place could not be reached. The pit in Väike-Rõsna stone age settlement site (*op. cit.*, 1), where Raivo Jänesmägi had discovered a nice dark-brown fragment of flint (AI 6827) was also visited. The place is also known as a Late Iron Age settlement, with wheel pottery, as discovered by the surveyors (AI 6828: 1-2).



Fig. 4. Podmotsa-1 settlement site. View from East.
Jn 4. Podmotsa-1 asulakoht. Pildistatud idast.



Fig. 5. Kuigõ settlement site. View from North-West.
Jn 5. Kuigõ asulakoht. Pildistatud loodest.

⁵ At the very end of the year 2006, there was a little trip to the forest of Marinova, where one barrow-shaped sand mound was found.

⁶ An object from the long-barrow culture – a rounded barrow – came to light at Väiko-Härmä village (Meremäe parish); Jaan Salumäe, a local inhabitant pointed it out to Heiki Valk (for further details see: Aun 2006).

In late autumn 2006 the Eastern part of Setumaa, especially the region North from Izborsk (Irboska), at the historical area of the Setu people was investigated (Kiristaja 2006c, 1). 35 archaeological objects were visited and a new settlement site at Roogova village (*op. cit.*, 5) and a hiding place on the hill, called *Gorodets*, near the village of Vahtsõ were discovered. A destroyed zhalnik-type cemetery is located East from Sahnova that was not known before, and there is also one West from Konechki. The weather and conditions (snow and good view) were suitable for more close investigation of the forthill near Sahnova as well as of the village itself. It is important to explore these antiquities more closely because the cultural and archaeological objects are disappearing very fast, especially in East Setumaa (*ibid*; see also Kiristaja 2007).

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ARHEOLOOGILISED VÄLITÖÖD SETUMAAL

Mare AUN ja Arvis KIRISTAJA

2006. aastal jätkati Setumaal teadaolevate asulakohtade uurimist ning uute otsimist. Kahel Põhja-Setumaa asulakohal (Popovitsa Värskas vallas ning Kretska Mikitamäe vallas Põlvamaal) tehti proovikaevamisi. Maastikuinspeksioonidel keskenduti muististe väljaselgitamisele Meremäe valla kaguosas. Kokku avastati 30 uut muistist, millest 12 on asulakohad.

PROOVIKAEVAMISED

4 m² suurune proovikaevand (jn 1: 2) rajati Värskas lahe lõunakaldal paikneva **Popovitsa asulakohta** lõunaossa nii, et see hõlmas 2004. a šurfi kohas, kus 2003. a põllutöödel oli päevavalgele tulnud kahe suurema savinõu killud. Kultuurkiht osutus põhjani läbiküntuks. Ehitusjäänustest jäi proovikaevandi alale 80 cm laiuse pikliku leaseme loodepoolne osa (jn 2). Leaseme paiknes lohus, mille kumer põhi ulatus künnikihist kuni 40 cm sügavamale. Leasemest loode pool tulid nähtavale savikas pinnases pudedaks muutunud ning põllutöödega algselt matmiskohalt liigutatud inimluud. Kohaliku elaniku Voldemar Järveküla teatel leiti 1970. aastal kündmisel samast lähedusest üks tervem luustik (pea läänes), mille rinnal oli raudnuga ning pronksõrmus. Leidudena saadi peamiselt hilisemat, 16.–17. sajandi ketrakeraamikat. Killud pärinevad kahte tüüpi savinõudest, kusjuures arvukamalt on hallikaspruuni värvusega suuremate (suuava läbimõõduga 23–26 cm) pottide fragmente. Märkimisväärselt palju leiti sellist keraamikat ka pinnaleidudena Popovitsa asulakohta ülesküntud osast. Nendele savipottidele leidub analooge Ida-Setumaa asulakohtadest, samuti Pihkvast, vähem on samasugust keraamikat tulnud päevavalgele Põhja- ja Lääne-Setumaa asulakohtades. Teise tüüpi kuuluvad peeneteralisest punasavist glasuuritud sisepinnaga lamedapõhjalised kausid, mille suuava läbimõõt on olnud 11–15 cm ning glasuuri värvus rohekaskollane, kollakaspruun, hallikasbeež, pruun või tumepruun. Kaevamistel saadud muudest leidudest võib nimetada raudnaelu ja nende katkeid (AI 6692: 46, 97, 121 jt) ning u 6 cm läbimõõduga savist võrguraskuse katket (AI 6692: 73).

Kretska asulakoht kitsal kõrgemal rannavallil piki Pihkva järve läänekallast jääb Popovitsast linulennult 6–7 km loode poole. Asulakoht avastati 2000. aastal. Selle ulatuse ja piirjoonte täpsustamisel 2006. aasta kevadel selgus, et järve ja Kaamenska soo vahel esineb keraamikat 2,5–3 km pikkusel põhja-lõuna-suunalisel rannaribal. Pinnaleidudena kogutud savinõukildude hulgas on ka mõned rooma rauaaga kuuluvad tekstiilkeraamika killud. Proovikaevamiste eesmärgiks oli selgitada kultuurikihi säilivust, iseloomu, aga ka rooma rauaaja kihi olemasolu. 4 m² suurune kaevand rajati 2006. a suvel lõhutud ala lõunaserva. Kaevamistel selgus, et järvevesi oli rikkunud kultuurikihi kuni põhjani ning ühtlast järjepidevat kihti siin ei esine: tumeda kihi viirud vaheldusid üleujutustest tekkinud heledama liiva viirudega kuni loodusliku pinnaseni. Ehitusjäänuseid proovikaevandi alalt ei leitud, vähe oli ka kive ning sütt ja söesegust liiva. Leiud – hilisrauaaegne ketrakeraamika ning vähesel hulgal ka rooma rauaaga kuuluva tekstiilivajutustega ja silutud pinnaga käsikeraamika – olid vee poolt tugevasti kulutatud. Muudest leidudest oli tähelepanuväärseim laia, 1,1 cm avaga kaksikkoonilise savikedra fragment (AI 6800: 222). Analooge sellistele savist värtnaketradele on teada Setumaalt Lezgi (Leeska) asulast Optjoki jõe ääres, samuti Setumaa ja Võrumaa piiril asuvalt Hinniala linnuselt. Vene uurijad dateerivad seda tüüpi savikedrad I aastatuhande kolmandasse veerandisse ja neid esineb muu hulgas ka pikk-käabaste kultuuri muististes. Tekstiilkeraamika ja varasemat tüüpi kaksikkoonilise värtnakedra katke järgi otsustades võiks Kretska asulakoht olla tekkinud mitte hiljem 5. sajandist. Kogutud hilisrauaaegne ketrakeraamika pärineb esialgsel andmetel valdavalt 12.–13. sajandist.

MAASTIKUINSPEKTSIOONID

Maastikuinspeksioone tehti nii Põhja-, Lääne- kui ka Ida-Setumaale. Uurimistöö peamine eesmärk oli uute asulakohtade väljaselgitamine ning teadaolevate ülevaatamine. Ühtekokku inspekteeriti 73 objekti, avastati 30 uut muistist, sh 12 asulakohta. Pinnaleidudena kogutud keraamika põhjal kuulub enamik avastatud asulakohtadest hiliskeskaega (nt Karisilla asulakoht Värska lähedal (jn 3), samuti Kuigõ Meremäe vallas (jn 4) jt.) või uusaega (kokku oli selliseid 10). Käsikeraamikat, sh tekstiilijäljenditega, saadi Podmotsa-1 asulakohalt (jn 5) ning hilisrauaaegset kedrakeraamikat leiti nii Podmotsa-1 kui ka Kretska-Kaamenska asulakohtadelt. Värska lahe madala veeseisu ajal leidis arheoloogiahuviline Raivo Jänesmägi tumeda tulekivikillu ning hilisrauaaegset kedrakeraamikat Väike-Rõsna II asula sellest piirkonnast, mis tavaliselt on olnud vee all.

Lisaks nimetatule vaadati üle Lüübnitsas ja Vahtsõs kaks arvatavat pelgupaika ning lõhutud žalnik-tüüpi kalmistud Sahnova ja Konetški küla lähedal Ida-Setumaal. Mõned täiendavat uurimist vajavad kääpataolised liivakuhjatised leiti Engli järve ääres ning Marinova küla metsas.

Engli järve ääres ning Tiirhanna külas avastati kohad, mis oleksid võinud maastikuliselt sobida elupaigaks kiviaja inimestele.

Ida-Setumaal Smolka-Optjoki jõgikonna alal (Irboskast põhjas) on olnud ajalooliselt setu asustus. Kuna sealkandi küli ähvardab hävimisoht, siis tegeldi lisaks arheoloogilisele inspeksioonile ka tühjaks jäänud setu tarede pildistamisega.