

ARHEOLOOGILISED
VÄLITÖÖD
EESTIS

ARCHAEOLOGICAL
FIELDWORK
IN ESTONIA

2006

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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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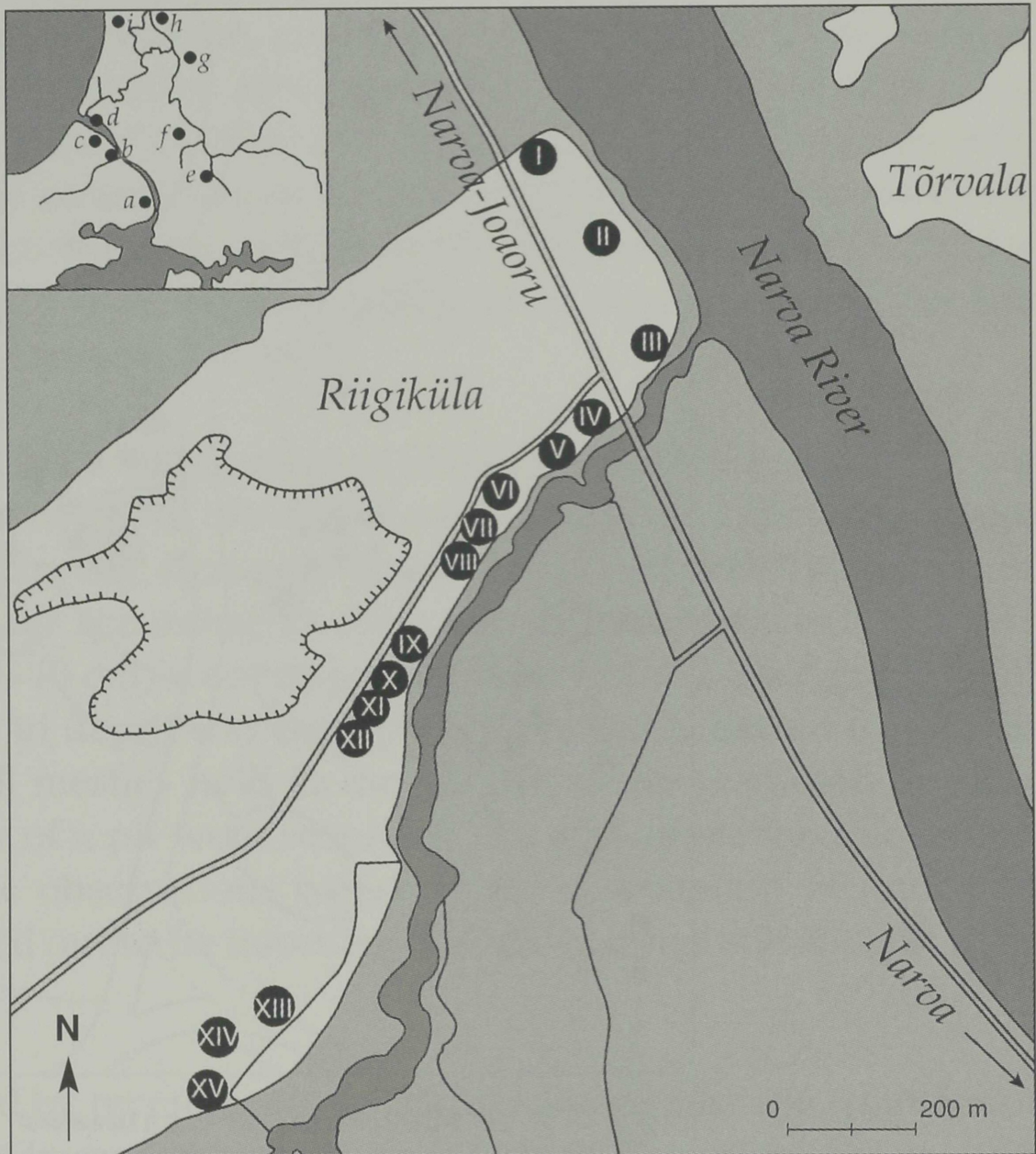
ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK AT STONE AGE SETTLEMENT SITES IN RIIGIKÜLA, NORTH-EASTERN ESTONIA

Aivar KRIISKA and Kerkko NORDQVIST

Tartu Ülikool (University of Tartu), Lossi 3, 51003 Tartu, Eesti (Estonia)
aivar.kriiska@ut.ee

Helsingin Yliopisto (University of Helsinki), Unioninkatu 38
00014 Helsinki, Suomi (Finland)
kerkko.nordqvist@helsinki.fi

The Stone Age settle-
ment area in Riigiküla
has been known for
more than fifty years.
Fifteen Neolithic settle-
ment sites have been
discovered there since
1951 (Fig. 1), and several
of them have also been
excavated (see, e.g.,
Гурина 1967; Kriiska
1996; 2000). In 2006
small-scale rescue exca-
vations were carried out
at the settlement site II
of Riigiküla (financed by
the National Heritage
Board of Estonia), and an
extensive shovel pit test-
ing was conducted at
the Riigiküla XIV settle-



a - Narva Joaorg	c - Kudruküla and Viljapea	e - Lommi I–III	g - Kurovtsy 1	i - Kuzemkino
b - Riigiküla I–XV	d - Väiküla	f - Izvoz 1–3	h - Galik	
<div> <div></div> - mainland in the Neolithic / maismaa varaneoliitikumis </div> <div> <div></div> - the area flooded by the Litorina Sea in the Early Neolithic / Litoriinamere poolt üleujutatud ala varaneoliitikumis </div> <div> <div></div> - present rivers / nüüdisaegsed jõed </div> <div> <div>III</div> - Stone Age settlement site in Riigiküla / kiviaja asulakoht Riigikülas </div> <div> <div>e</div> - Stone Age settlement sites in the surroundings of the Gulf of Narva / kiviaja asulakohad Narva lahe ümbruskonnas </div>				

Fig. 1. Stone Age settlement sites in the surroundings of the Gulf of Narva and on the ridge in Riigiküla.

Jn 1. Kiviaja asulakohad Narva lahe ümbruskonnas ja Riigiküla seljakul.

Map 1: a–i compiled by Aivar Kriiska and Sergei Lisitsyn / Kaardi 1: a–i on koostanud Aivar Kriiska ja Sergei Lisitsyn.



Fig. 2. The Riigiküla XIV settlement site.
Jn 2. Riigiküla XIV asulakoht.

ment site (co-financed by the target-financed project of the University of Tartu “Interdisciplinary archaeology: Interactions of culture and natural environment in the past”, and by the participants of the expedition).

THE RIIGIKÜLA XIV SETTLEMENT SITE

The Late Neolithic settlement site XIV in Riigiküla was discovered in 1996, and it was excavated to a limited extent in 1998 (Kriiska 1999; 2000). An abundant find assemblage was obtained, and the charcoal gathered from the site yielded the radiocarbon date of 3970 ± 100 BP ^{14}C -years (Ta-2680), corresponding to 2500 ± 200 cal BC (Kriiska 2000, 74). New investigations began in 2005 and they will be continued for a few more years, as the aim is to completely excavate one of the areas with high concentration of finds at the site, which is important for the research on the Corded Ware cultures not only in Estonia but also in the whole of the northern and eastern Europe.

In June and July 2006 extensive archaeological shovel pit testing was carried out at the Riigiküla XIV settlement, with the aim of ascertaining the extent of the site based on the phosphate mapping, stratigraphical observations and distribution of finds. A site grid was set up according to the cardinal directions, and test pits (measuring 30–40 cm \times 30–40 cm) were dug at the intervals of 2.5 metres. A total of 539 test pits 20–50 cm in depth was dug (Fig. 2). The soil removed from a pit was dry sieved with small meshes held in the hand, and the finds and in most cases also the stratigraphy of a pit were recorded. The phosphate analysis is currently in progress, but the observations based on the distribution of finds and other characteristics turned out to be informative and deserve publishing in their own right.

The site has been damaged by recent human activities, judging by the splinters of a bomb which were found in several test pits, tens of hollows variable in size and origin, presence of the berry bushes of the former farmyard, and the ploughed soil horizon in the western part of the site. However, the major part of the site has been preserved relatively well and undisturbed.

Altogether 83 test pits (15.5% of the total) yielded finds¹ from the Stone Age. The assemblage includes ceramics (177 potsherds from 75 test pits, with the total weight of *ca* 500 g), quartz flakes (2 flakes from 2 test pits, with the total weight

¹ NLM 2181.

of 4.7 g; one of the items (: 252) has been made in the bipolar flaking technique), polishing stones (2 fragments from 2 test pits, with the total weight of 88.3 g) and burnt bones (5 fragments from 5 test pits, with the total weight of 0.6 g). The majority of the pottery is the Corded Ware (altogether 175 sherds), but also the Narva type ceramics were represented by two sherds. As for the fragments of burnt bone, their provenance from the Stone Age is rather likely.

The earliest finds from the site are the two potsherds of Narva type which were found approximately 40 m apart from each other. The sherds cannot be regarded as the remains of a settlement, but rather as isolated finds which may have come from the nearby settlements of Narva Culture. The closest of them, the Riigiküla XV settlement site, is located only 50 metres south-west of Riigiküla XIV. Both of the potsherds of Narva type originate from vessels that were modelled in the coiling technique with U-type conjunctions (one of the coils was 1.3 cm in width); the clay had been tempered with vegetable mixture.

Judging by the rim fragments, the Corded Ware sherds originate from at least six vessels; however, the actual number of pots represented is considerably greater. The majority of the Corded Ware vessels were relatively large pots with a flat bottom (the bottom fragments are recorded as: 1457, 1478; Fig. 4: 7-8), while only one small and thin sherd may have originated from a beaker (: 1460). The rims have been modelled as outwards-protruding borders around the vessels' mouths; their top surfaces are either horizontal or slanting inwards. The vessels have been modelled in the coiling technique with N-type conjunctions. Altogether 11 coils were identified, but it was possible to measure the width of only one coil, which was 4.9 cm (: 1428). The thickness of the sidewalls of the pots varies from 4 mm to 12 mm; however, in more than a half of the cases the sherds are 8-9 mm in thickness.

The vessels were made of clay which in most cases contained organic tempers. Only a few per cent of the sherds have exclusively mineral inclusion, the sand, in their fabrics. More than a half of all sherds (100 in number) have only smashed plants added to the clay, but the vegetable mixture had also been used in combinations with sand (one sherd), rock debris (43 sherds) or chamotte (14 sherds), or with both sand and chamotte (8 sherds).

Only 56 sherds (32% of the total) had both surfaces preserved or preserved to the extent that the surface finish could be identified. In more than 50% of these cases (30 in number) both surfaces of the sherd were smoothed; the sherds which were striated inside and smoothed outwardly (12) or *vice versa* (8), or which were stri-

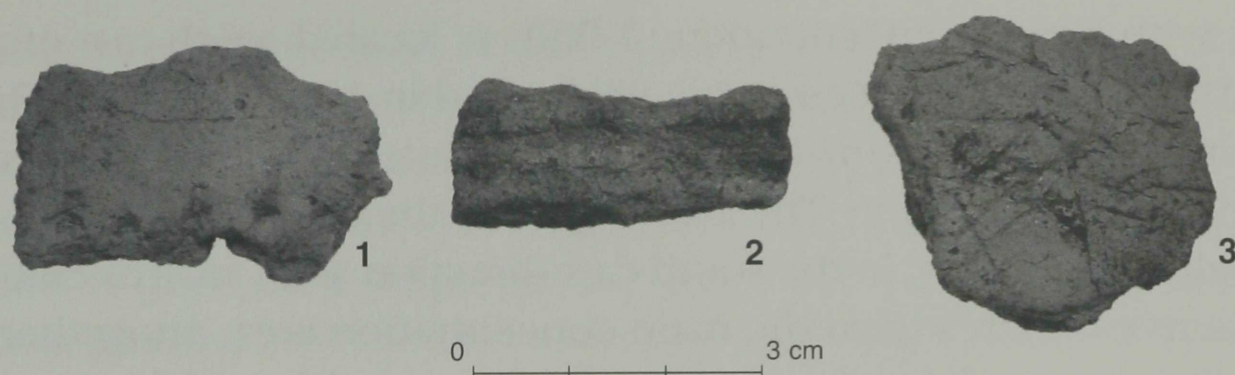


Fig. 3. Sherds of the Corded Ware from the settlement site of Riigiküla XIV.
 Jn 3. Nöörkeraamika killud Riigiküla XIV asulakohalt.
 (NLM 2181: 1441, 1442, 1447.)

ated on both surfaces (6) were less numerous. Many sherds have fibriform impressions on their surfaces (Fig. 3: 3). The vessels have been fired in an oxygen-rich environment.

Decoration occurs on 6.3% of the sherds (11 in number). In most cases only the upper parts of a vessel, often the neck and/or the rim have been decorated. The basic decoration elements include shallow pits (on 4 sherds), pits (2 sherds), notches (2 sherds; Fig. 3: 1), cord impressions (2 sherds; Fig. 3: 2) and grooves (2), and they have been arranged in horizontal lines. In two cases two ornament elements have been combined: first, grooves on the edge of the rim and notches below the rim (: 1419), and second, heart-shaped pits on the edge of the rim and cord impressions below the rim (: 1485; Fig. 3: 2). One of the sherds has probably a textile impression on its surface (: 1463).

The find assemblage is analogous to that collected at the excavations in 1998. Mainly ceramics and a few quartz flakes (: 299, 406) were recovered then. The ceramics of the 1998 excavation originated from the pots that had been made of clay containing vegetable mixture or, in few cases, chamotte, and modelled in the coiling technique with N-type conjunctions. The percentage of decorated sherds is close to that calculated for the 2006 ceramics, and the decoration elements (including the presence of textile impressions) are similar in both find assemblages (Kriiska 2000, 65). The other important characteristics of the pottery are also analogous. Both of the find assemblages are similar in many ways to the finds obtained from the other Corded Ware Culture settlements on the lower reaches of the Narva River (Kriiska 1995, 95 ff.; 1996, 416; 2006, 64 ff.).

As a result of the systematic shovel test pit sampling, three (and not two, as previously assumed; see Kriiska 2000, 61) separate activity areas can be distinguished at the site based on the evidence, first and foremost the finds. The so-called concentration areas alternate with zones which are empty or poor in finds. One of

the areas with a high concentration of finds is located south-east of the crossing of forest trails, and it has been partly uncovered in 1998 and 2005. The finds concentrate in a zone approximately 20 m in diameter, including the excavated area and its immediate proximity. The areas south of the excavation plots contain finds too, though not so many; in the south-east direction such an area extends as far as a few dozens of metres from the main concentration area. Altogether 33 test pits in this activity area of the site revealed finds, comprising of 53 sherds of Corded Ware vessels and 2 sherds of Narva type ceramics (altogether 99.1 g in weight), 2 fragments of burnt bone and one quartz flake. A small amount of ceramics was obtained from the area north of the excavations, i.e. south-east of the crossroads, but for the most part finds are absent in the zone next to the road of east-west direction. The cultural layer, as far as it was distinguishable by its colour (which was darker reddish brown) and presence of charcoal particles, was observable mainly on the 5–7 m wide elevation immediately east of the excavation plots. The layer of the 'stained' sand was mostly 5–15 cm, and in rare occasions even up to 30 cm, in thickness. The distribution of finds correlates relatively well with the location of the 'stained' sand, as the majority of finds, both in number and in total weight, was obtained from the slightly elevated area (i.e. the fossilized slope of the seashore) north, south-east and east-southeast of the excavation plots.

The second area with a high concentration of finds is located west of the north-south directional road (Fig. 2). The finds were especially numerous at the distance of a few dozen metres from the road, and it is notable that one of the test pits there revealed finds at an exceptional depth of 50 cm. The cultural layer can be recognized by its rather dark reddish brown colour and the presence of abundant charcoal particles.

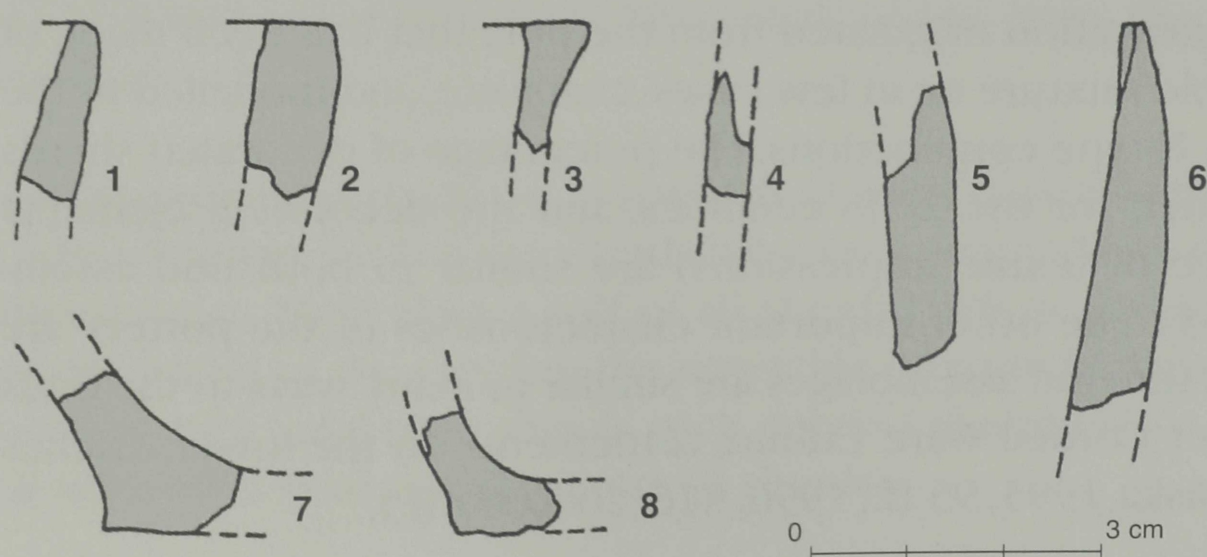


Fig. 4. The profiles of the Corded Ware rims (1–3), coils (4–6) and bottoms (7–8) from the settlement site of Riigiküla XIV.

Jn 4. Riigiküla XIV asulakoht. Nöörkeraamiliste nõude servade (1–3), lintide (4–6) ja põhjade (7–8) profiilid. (NLM 2181: 1414, 1439, 1443, 1458, 1475, 1428, 1478, 1457.)

The thickness of the cultural layer is 30 cm. In the north and south the boundary of the intense activity area can be firmly established against the zone empty of finds (with the exception of a piece of burnt clay found from the zone between the

road and the concentration area). In the east the borderline is not so clear. Here the find-rich area ends before the road and it may be assumed that there is an empty zone between the first and the second concentration area. However, the existence of the road allows no firm statement in this respect, and one may hope that the results of phosphate mapping will help to clarify the issue. In the southwest, the concentration area of finds stretches as a couple of dozen metres wide zone in parallel with the ancient littoral terrace. Although the cultural layer cannot be firmly distinguished by colour in this zone, the finds are nevertheless present and, in places, notably numerous. In conclusion, the intense activity area on the fossilized terrace is approximately 20 m in width and 30 m in length. Altogether 32 test pits yielded finds here; 57 Corded Ware sherds (133.2 g in total weight), 3 fragments of burnt bone, one flake of quartz and 2 polishing stones were found.

The third concentration area of finds is located northwest of the crossroads. The area was known before, as it was here where Aivar Kriiska discovered the site in 1996. This activity area covers a part of the fossilized littoral terrace that rises higher than the other above-mentioned terraces, and its slope. The finds concentrate in three smaller zones, the westernmost of them being the richest. However, the cultural layer which can be distinguished by the colour slightly different from the surrounding area, and the presence of charcoal transcends the boundaries of the find-rich zones. The thickness of the 'stained' horizon is normally 10–20 cm, but in the find-rich zones even up to 50 cm. The whole concentration area is nearly 25 m in length and 15 m in width, following the contours of the terrace; in addition, there is a 10 × 15 m find-rich strip extending further south. Stone Age finds were recovered in 17 test pits, which yielded altogether 69 Corded Ware sherds (270.9 g in total weight).

THE RIIGIKÜLA II SETTLEMENT SITE

The settlement site II of Riigiküla was discovered and investigated in 1951–1953 by Nina Gurina. The excavated 257 square metres revealed all types of Neolithic pottery, mostly Typical and Late Combed Ware (Гурина 1967, 14 ff.). In summer 2006 small-scale rescue work was carried out at the site in connection with the construction of a dwelling-house and an adjoining building there. In the course of the construction work, the previously existing foundation trenches were deepened and the cultural layer of the settlement site was disturbed. The aim of the archaeological fieldwork was to record what had been survived the disturbing, and to check the state of preservation of the cultural layer in the courtyard

between the buildings. For this purpose, the walls of the foundation trench of the dwelling-house (63 m in total length) were prepared, the findings were measured in and the stratigraphy was recorded. Three test pits measuring 1 × 1 m were dug in the courtyard, the findings and the stratigraphy of which were recorded.

Although the cultural layer of the Riigiküla II settlement site has been destroyed, mixed and buried due to the construction work and other human activities, it has nevertheless been preserved to a considerable extent. The *in situ* strata were to a greater or lesser extent recovered in the areas of the future dwelling-house and outbuilding, as well as in the courtyard. The maximum thickness of the layer containing finds may be *ca.* 1 m, and it has been preserved undisturbed in the thickness of up to *ca.* 0.5 m.

The find assemblage includes 605 artefacts which may originate from the Stone Age². Besides these, finds from the modern times, such as cartridge cases, wheel-thrown ceramics, glazed redware, pieces of glass, etc. were unearthed. Animal bones, some of which date probably from the Stone Age, were also gathered.

Only 65 flint items were found. Most of the flint is of high-quality and grey, violet or beige in colour; and with a few exceptions, mostly probably originating from

central Russia. Part of the flint inventory collected in the 1950s has more precisely been associated with the area on the upper reaches of the Volga River in Valdai Hills, based on the spectral analysis (Галибин & Тимофеев, 1993, 15). In the times of the Combed Ware cultures, flint from this area was widely distributed both in the eastern Baltic region and Finland (Edgren 1984,



Fig. 5. A supposed fire-place observable in the northwestern wall of the test pit No. 3.

Jn 5. Prooviaugu nr 3 loodesein, milles on näha arvata tulease.

² TÜ 1507.

40). Mostly the flint has been struck by the free-hand platform technique. The fewness of bipolar flaking technique among the Riigiküla II flint inventory is remarkable since bipolar percussion occurs to a greater or lesser extent in almost every Stone Age find assemblage in Estonia, although it never predominates, except for quartz artefacts. This peculiarity of the Riigiküla II flint assemblage is probably related to the abundance of foreign flint and perhaps also to the influences from the source area which left their effects on the flaking technique. Altogether 57 flakes (87.7% of all flint items), one blade and two fragments of thereof were recovered. There were only three flint artefacts of secondary processing: a knife (:1), a retouched blade (:45) and an end-side scraper (:48). The latter has been made from a fragment of a flake core; the raw material is light-grey flint of foreign origin.

The rest of Stone Age finds, besides ceramics, include two quartz flakes (:37, 48), a quartz blade (:47), and a fragment of a bone (:34) and of a stone artefact (:50) which both have polished surfaces.

Four types of Stone Age ceramics were present at the site: the Narva-type ceramics, the Typical Combed Ware, the Late Combed Ware, and the Corded Ware. Besides, three sherds of the Narva-type ceramics were collected. One of the sherds is a fragment of a coil with the U-type conjunction, which originates from a vessel made of clay tempered with vegetable mixture; both internal and external surfaces of the vessel were smoothed, and the thickness of its walls was 6 mm.

The Typical Combed Ware was represented by 184 sherds. The fabrics of this type of pottery contain rock debris (in exceptional cases also chamotte); the vessels were made of coils with N-type conjunctions and have mostly been fired in an oxygenating environment. The vessels were relatively large. The thickness of the sidewalls of the vessels, measured on the sherds with both surfaces preserved, varies from 4 mm to 17 mm, with about 45,4% of the sherds being 8–9 mm thick. The surfaces of the vessels have in most cases been smoothed (47 sherds have both surfaces smoothed); the sherds which have been striated on both surfaces (3 in number), smoothed outside and striated on the inside (4), or *vice versa* (1), are less numerous. Only the external surfaces of the vessels have been decorated. The decorations consist mainly of comb impressions (on 52 sherds), pits (59 sherds; Fig. 6: 2) and grooves (2 sherds). In many cases the zones of comb impressions alternate with the lines or zones of pits (17 sherds bear the combinations of the above mentioned ornamentation elements). In a few cases the comb impressions form a more complex geometric pattern of rhombic motifs (Fig. 6: 1).

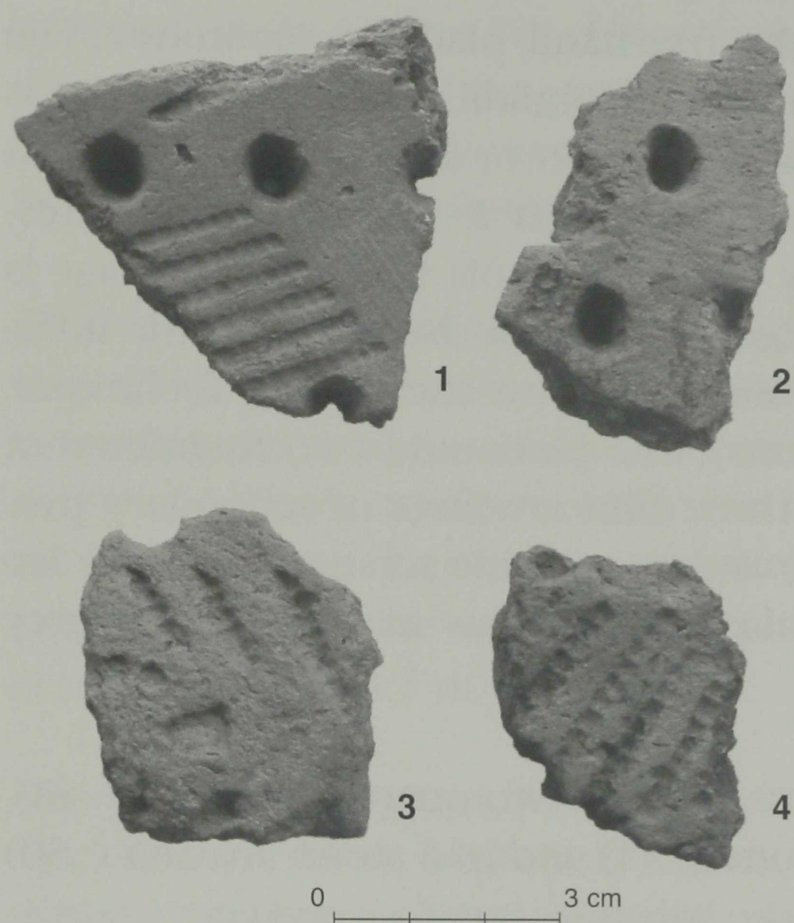


Fig. 6. Typical (1–2) and Late (3–4) Combed Ware from the settlement site of Riigiküla II.

Jn 6. Tüüpilise (1–2) ja hilise (3–4) kammkeraamika killud Riigiküla II asulakohalt.
(TÜ 1507: 38, 4, 5.)

The number of Late Combed Ware sherds totals 335. The vessels had been made of clay tempered with crushed shells or, in a few cases, vegetable mixture. Sometimes the organic tempers have been complemented with some amount of rock debris or chamotte. The vessels were modelled from coils with conjunctions of type N, and fired in most cases in an oxygenating environment. The vessels were relatively large. The sherds which had both of their surfaces preserved were 3–12 mm in thickness, whereas 61.9% of them were 6–8 mm thick. The surfaces of the vessels have mostly been smoothed (54 sherds with both surfaces smoothed), while the number of sherds having both surfaces striated (4), or the outer surface smoothed and the inner striated (7) is smaller. With one exception (: 33), only the external surfaces of the vessels have been decorated. There

are comb impressions (37 sherds; Fig. 6: 3–4), pits (33 sherds), shallow pits (5 sherds) and a circle (1 sherd) among the decorations. In many cases the zones of comb impressions alternate with lines or belts of pits (there are 12 sherds which have both of the mentioned ornament elements on their surface).

The find assemblage also includes 7 sherds of Corded Ware. The sherds originate from vessels which had been made of clay tempered with vegetable mixture. The wall thickness of the vessels was 5–7 mm, and their surfaces were either smoothed (4 sherds which have both surfaces preserved) or striated (1 sherd).

Acknowledgements

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ARHEOLOOGILISED VÄLITÖÖD RIIGIKÜLA KIVIAJA ASULAKOHTADEL KIRDE-EESTIS

Aivar KRIISKA ja Kerkko NORDQVIST

Riigiküla kiviaja asustuspiirkonda teatakse enam kui viiskümmend aastat. Alates 1951. a on seal avastatud 15 neoliitilist asulakohta (jn 1: a-i), millest mitut on arheoloogiliselt kaevatud. 2006. aastal toimus ulatuslik arheoloogiline luure XIV asulakohal ja päästekaevamine II asulakohal.

Riigiküla XIV hilisneoliitilist asulakohta (avastatud 1996) uuriti mõnevõrra juba 1998. a. Toona saadi rikkalik leiuaines ja ^{14}C -analüüsi tulemusel dateeriti muistis aastatesse 2500 ± 200 eKr (kal.). 2005 alustati uuesti uuringuid ja 2006. a suvel tehti asulakohal arheoloogilist luuret, mille eesmärk oli määratleda muistise ulatus fosfaatkaardistuse, stratigraafiliste tähelepanekute ja leidude leviku alusel. Kokku kaevati 539 20–50 cm sügavust prooviauku (jn 2). Kuigi muistist on hilisema inimtegevusega osaliselt lõhutud, on suurem osa säilinud võrdlemisi hästi.

Kiviaegseid leide saadi 83 prooviaugust. Leiti 177 savinõukildu, 2 kvartsikildu, 2 lihvimiskivi ja 5 põlenud luukildu. Enamus savinõukilde on nõorkeraamika katked (kokku 175), kuid leiti ka kaks Narva-tüüpi kildu, mis paiknesid teineteisest u 40 m kaugusel. Tegemist ei ole toonase elupaiga jäänustega, vaid juhuleidudga, mis on mingil põhjusel sinna sattunud läheduses paiknevatest Narva kultuuri asulatest.

Nõorkeraamika pärineb servatükkide järgi vähemalt kuuest, tõenäoliselt aga enamast, nõust. Valdavalt on need olnud suured lamedapõhjalised (jn 4: 7–8) potid, mille servad (jn 4:1–3) on väljapoole eenduvad ja servapealsed kas horisontaalsed või sissepoole kaldu. Nõud on vormitud N-tüüpi ühenduspinnaga lintidest; seinapaksus ulatub 4–12 mm, kusjuures üle poole kildudest on 8–9 mm paksused. Vormimiseks on kasutatud orgaanilise lisandiga segatud savi. Vaid paaril protsendil kildudest on savimassi koostises üksnes liiv. Enam kui poolel on ainsaks savilisandiks purustatud taimed, kuid taimset lisandit on kasutatud ka koos liiva, kivipurru ja šamotiga või siis koos nii kivipurru kui ka šamotiga. Anumate pinnad on enamasti silutud, harvem riibitud. Nõude põletuskeskkond on olnud oksüdeeriv.

Ornamenteeritud on 6,3% kildudest. Üldiselt katab dekoor horisontaalsetes ridades vaid nõude ülaosa, sageli kaela, aga samuti serva. Ornamendielementidest esinevad lohundid, lohud, täkked (jn 3: 1), nõörivajutised (jn 3: 2) ja sooned. Kahel juhul on koos kaks kaunistuselementi.

Erinevalt varasemast oletusest võib leidude põhjal eristada Riigiküla XIV asulas mitte kahte, vaid kolme kontsentratsiooniala, mille vahel on tühjad või väheste leidudega piirkonnad. Üks ala paikneb juba varasemate kaevamistega osaliselt avatud piirkonnas metsateede ristumiskohast kagus (jn 2). Leiud kontsentreeruvad seal läbikaevatud alale ja selle ümbruse u 20 m läbimõõduga piirkonnas. Sellest piirkonnast saadi leide 33-st prooviaugust: 53 kildu nõorkeraamikat ja 2 Narva-tüüpi kildu, 2 põlenud luufragmenti ja 1 kvartsikild. Pisut leiti keraamikat ka kaevanditest põhjasihis jäävast teede ristumiskohast kagu poolt, kuid enamasti on piirkond vahetult ida-lääne-suunalise tee kõrval leitudeta. Värv- ja söeosakeste sisalduse poolest selgemalt eristuvat 5–30 cm paksust kultuurkihti esines põhiliselt kaevandite lähialal, ida poole jääval 5–7 m laiusel kühmul.

Teine leiukontsentratsiooniala paikneb põhja-lõuna-suunalisest teest läänes (jn 2). Iseäranis palju saadi leide paari-kolmekümne meetri kauguselt teest, kusjuures erandina ulatusid leiud seal kuni

50 cm sügavusele. Kirjeldatud piirkonnas eristub kultuurkiht ka tumedama punakaspruuni tooni liiva ja rohke söetükikeste sisalduse poolest. Lääne ja põhja suunas on kontsentratsiooniala selgelt piiritletud leiutühja alaga (ainsaks erandiks on üks põlenud savitüki leid kirjeldatud ala ja tee vahelt). Ida suunas ei ole leidudega ja leidudeta ala piirid aga nii selged: intensiivne ala lõpeb enne teed ja tõenäoliselt jääb kirjeldatava ning esimese leiukontsentratsiooniala vahele leiutühi tsoon (tee tõttu ei ole seda võimalik täie kindlusega väita). Edela suunas jätkub kohati kuni paarikümne meetri laiune leidudega vöönd paralleelselt muistse rannaterrassiga. Aktiivsema inimtegevusega ala on võimalik täheldada kokku u 20 laiusel ja u 30 m pikkusel muistsel terrassilõigul. Leide (57 kildu nöörikeramik, 3 põlenud luufragmenti, 1 kvartsikild ja 2 lihvimiskivi) saadi sellest piirkonnast 32 prooviaugust.

Kolmas leiukontsentratsiooniala paikneb teede ristumiskohast loodes ja see oli teada juba varem. Nimetatud ala hõlmab kõrgemal paiknevat rannaterrassi ja selle nõlva, kus leiud keskenduvad kolme väiksemasse piirkonda. Kõige leiurikkam on läänepoolsem ala. Kõiki alasid ühendab paiguti kuni 50 cm paksune kultuurkiht, millel on ümbritsevast eristuv värv ja mida iseloomustab söeosakeste rohkus. Leidude kontsentratsiooniala mõõtmed on 25 x 15 m, aga sellega liitub veel u 10 x 15 m suurune lõuna suunas eenduv "keel". 17 prooviaugust leiti 69 nöörikeramika kildu.

Riigiküla II asulakoht avastati 1951 ja seda uuriti aastatel 1951–1953. Toona leiti siit kõiki neoliitikumile iseloomulikke keramikatüüpe, põhiliselt aga tüüpilist ja hilist kammkeramikat. 2006. a suvel toimusid väikesed päästetööd seoses elu- ja kõrvalhoone rajamisega asulakoha territooriumile. Nimelt oli ehitustööde käigus laiendatud juba olemasolevaid vundamendisüvendeid ja sellega lõhutud asulakoha kultuurkihti. Arheoloogiliste välitööde eesmärk oli dokumenteerida lõhkumine ning teha kindlaks kultuurikihi säilivus hoonetevahelisel õuealal. Puhastati välja elumaja vundamendiaugu profiilid, fikseeriti leiud ja dokumenteeriti pinnas. Lisaks kaevati õuele kolm 1 x 1 m suurust prooviauku.

Kuigi Riigiküla II asulakoha kultuurkihti oli ehitustegevusega tublisti lõhutud, segatud ja maetud, oli seda säilinud veel märkimisväärses ulatuses *in situ* elumaja, kõrvalhoone ja hoovi alal. Leide sisaldava kihi paksus ulatus maksimaalselt meetrini ja kuni 0,5 m paksuselt võis see olla säilinud puutumatuna.

Kogutud leiuväine sisaldab 605 artefakti, mis võivad pärineda kiviajast; lisaks leiti ka uusaegset materjali. Koguti ka loomaluid, millest osa on tõenäoliselt kiviaegsed. Tulekivileide saadi 65, neist 57 kildu, 1 laast ja 2 laastu katket. Teisese töötusega tööriistu oli vaid kolm: nuga, retušitud servaga laast ja otskülgteraga kõõvits. Halli, lilla või beeži tooniga tulekivi on enamasti hea kvaliteediga ning pärineb kõige tõenäolisemalt Kesk-Venemaalt. Tulekivi lõhestamine on toimunud enamasti platvormtehnikas. Muust kiviaegsest materjalist leiti veel kaks kvartsikildu, kvartslaast ning lihvitud luu- ja kivieseme katke.

Kiviaegne keramika jaguneb nelja tüüpi: Narva-tüüpi, tüüpiline kammkeramika, hiline kammkeramika ja nöörikeramika. Narva keramikat leiti vaid 3 kildu, millest üks on U-tüüpi lindi katke. See pärineb taimse massiga segatud savist tehtud nõust. Tüüpilist kammkeramikat on 184 kildu. Nõud on valmistatud kivipurruga segatud (üksikjuhtudel esineb veel ka šamotti) savist N-tüüpi ühenduskohtadega lintidest ning neid on põletatud enamasti oksüdeerivas keskkonnas. Nõud on olnud suhteliselt suured. Mõlema säilinud pinnaga kildude seinapaksus jääb 4–17 mm vahemikku, kusjuures ligi pooled killud on 8–9 mm paksused. Nõude pinnad on enamasti silutud, harvem mõlemalt poolt riibitud, välispinnalt silutud ja sisepinnalt riibitud või välispinnalt riibitud ja sisepinnalt silu-

tud. Ornamenti esineb ainult välispinnal ja kaunistuselementidest kohtab kammivajutisi, lohke (jn 6: 2) ja sooni. Sageli vahelduvad kammivajutised lohuridade või -vöönditega. Mõnel juhul paiknevad kammivajutised keerulisemas geomeetrilises motiivis, moodustades rombe (jn 6:1).

Hilist kammkeraamikat on 335 kildu. Nõud on valmistatud põhiliselt teokarbipurruga, mõnikord ka taimse massiga segatud savist. Mõnel juhul on orgaanilisele lisandile pandud juurde ka kivipurdu või šamotti. Vormimine on toimunud N-tüüpi ühenduskohtadega lintidest ning nõud on põletatud oksüdeerivas keskkonnas. Anumad on olnud küllaltki suured. Seinapaksus mõlema säilinud pinnaga kildudel jääb 3–12 mm vahemikku, kusjuures ligi 2/3 neist on 6–8 mm paksused. Pinnad on enamasti silutud, harvem riibitud mõlemalt poolt või välispinnalt silutud ja sisepinnalt riibitud. Ühel juhul on ornamenteeritud ainult välispinda. Ornamendielementidest on esindatud kammivajutised (jn 6: 3–4), lohud, lohundid ja sõõrid.

Nöörkeraamikat on 7 kildu ja need pärinevad 5–7 cm seinapaksusega taimse massiga segatud savist tehtud nõudest, mille pinnad on kas silutud või riibitud.