



NEW DATA ON THE MEDIEVAL AND EARLY MODERN SETTLEMENT IN RAKVERE

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PREFACE

In the summer of 2012, archaeological investigations took place in the northern part of the heritage protection area of the old town of Rakvere, conditioned by the installation of new water and sewage pipelines to the streets of Tiigi, Vabriku and Õllepruuli (Fig. 1). The total length of the pipelines, which ran mostly along the eastern part of the former manor park, was *ca.* 550 m. The fairly late (e.g. mostly 19th – 20th century) origin of the cultural layer required mainly archaeological monitoring. The only exception, however, was the southern part of the researched area, where above the pipelines medieval and early modern layers appeared and therefore archaeological excavations were undertaken in two trenches (see Fig. 1–2), covering an area of *ca.* 100 m².

CONTEXT

The oldest known records about human activities in Rakvere date from the first half of the I millennium AD. This has been suggested by archaeologist Toivo Aus, who conducted archaeological studies in the castle at the hill of Vallimägi and in the old manor ensemble of Teatrimägi during 1988–1990 (Aus 1990; 1993). Teatrimägi is a part of the Koeravere – Rakvere esker, where by the end of the first millennium AD, a settlement of farmers and cattle-breeders had developed (Aus 1993, 13; Kirss 2003, 21). From aerial perspective Teatrimägi is located *ca.* 100 m west from the southern end of the 2012 study area.

In the 13th century the settlement developed into a centre of handicraft and trade. By the year 1302, when Rakvere was granted the Lübeck town bylaws, Teatrimägi became the centre of the settlement that was located north to the hill fort (Kirss 2003, 21). In the 14th and 15th century the settlement moved more to the east and south-east, reaching the east terrace of Vallimägi – the present area bordering with Pikk street. By the beginning of the 16th century the core of the urban settlement had shifted from Teatrimägi to the western side of the town brook (Kirss 2003, 27). Teatrimägi, in turn, became the site where a Franciscan monastery was built since the beginning of the 16th century. However, during the Livonian War (1558–1583) the housing complex was destroyed (Kirss 2003, 27). The northern slope of the ridge was taken into use again in the mid-17th century, when a new manor¹ was built to Teatrimägi. The following centuries saw constant development and rebuilding of the manor ensemble, a park was created north to the manor buildings, with the oldest known ground plan dating from the year 1798.² Area covered by the 2012 archaeological excavations was located in the east side of the former manor park, reaching as far as the Tallinna street in the south.

¹ <http://www.mois.ee/viru/rakvere.shtml> (17.04.2013).

² <http://register.muinasa.ee/?menu=monument&action=view&id=15723> (16.04.2013).

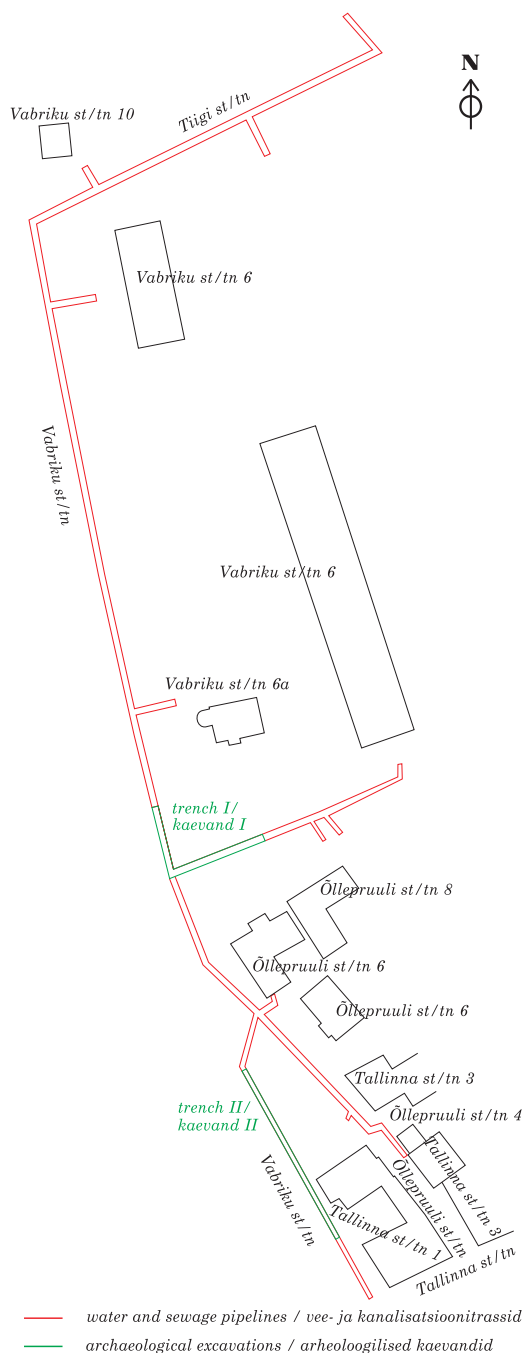


Fig. 1. Investigated areas in 2012.

Jn 1. 2012. a uuringute asukoht.

Drawing / Joonis: Andres Tepper

THE OLDEST DEPOSITS

The oldest layers connected with human activities were discovered in the southern part of trench II, where greyish-brown clayey sand layers that in parts contained a lot of gravel, were above natural sand. A characteristic feature was natural hollow depressions that reached the gravel-rich natural sand (Fig. 3). In the cleaner clayey sand that filled the depressions, occasional lines of charcoal and lime mortar occurred. The finds included a nail and at least four clay gaskets, which indicate that a timber building had been constructed in the vicinity. Fragments of pottery found from the layer date from the mid- or third quarter of the 13th century. These include a fragment of the Paffrath-type ware and also a piece of the Siegburg-type proto-stoneware jug (Fig. 4), and fragments of local wheel-made pottery including a rim sherd of type 3: 2 of 'North-western Russian type simple wheel pottery' according to Tvauri (2005, 48–53). Apart from the natural depressions also single depressions of a regular size appeared, possibly a result of human activities.

Above the brownish-grey clayey sand layer there were a dark grey sandy layer containing ample charcoal and a greyish-brown clayey layer mixed with natural soil. Two Siegburg-type proto-stoneware fragments were discovered from the lower part of the charcoaly layer, including a fragment of the rim, which suggests that the layer might originate from the second half of the 13th century (Russow 2006, 46, fig. 11: 2).

REMAINS OF THE BUILDINGS

About 50 cm lower from the present ground, the walls of a building made of limestone and field stones were discovered (Fig. 5; 6: I). The walls reached ca. 1 m down from the ground level of the

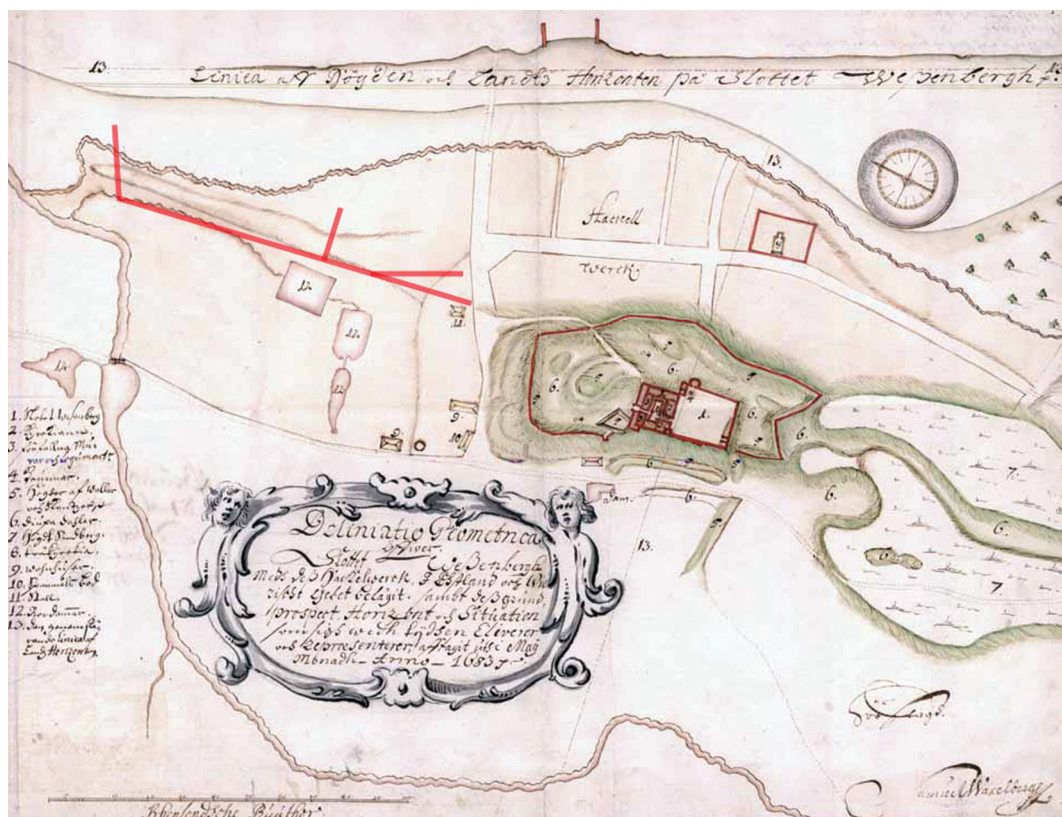


Fig. 2. Rakvere town plan from 1683 and approximate location of pipelines (marked with red).

Jn 2. Rakvere linnaplaan aastast 1683 ning trasside ligilähedased asukohad (märgitud punasega). (RKA 0406:28:057:002.)



Fig. 3. Shallow depressions in the natural gravelly sand.

Jn 3. Loodusliku kruusase liiva sisse ulatuvad madalad sulglohud.

Photo / Foto: Eero Heinloo



Fig. 4. Paffrath-type ware and Siegburg proto-stoneware associated with the timber building.

Jn 4. Puihoonega seondunud Paffrathi tüüpi keraamika ja Siegburgi protokivikeraamika. (RM A 164: 129; 120/2; 259; 118; 130; 119; 120/1.)

Photo / Foto: Eero Heinloo



Fig. 5. Remains of the medieval stone building in trench II.

Jn 5. Kaevand II alale jäänud keskaegse kivihoone jäänused.

Photo / Foto: Eero Heinloo

construction time, referring to a half-cellar. The trench came across the southern and northern wall of the building; also a north–south oriented partition wall was documented in the western profile of the trench. A joint existed between the partition wall and the northern wall, which indicated that the partition wall had been built at a somewhat later stage. The interior walls had neatly been laid out from limestone, while the outer side of the walls that remained below the ground level of the time, were made of irregularly laid field stones. The stones were connected mostly by brownish clay, on the outer side also bluish clay had been used to bond the field stones. The floor of the stone building was clayey and at times charcoaly, covered by heavy limestone debris.

The construction time of the building is not certain, because of the few finds discovered. Yet, in Teatrimägi the early stone buildings have been dated to the second quarter of the 14th century (Aus 1993, 11). The destruction time of the recently found stone building is, however, better dated, since the finds discovered on the floor level – local wheel-made pottery – originate from the 16th – 17th centuries. From the debris in the half-cellar also fragments of early ceramics in the local tradition with fine line and zig-zag ornament were discovered, apart from the early modern glazed redware. These may be fragments of prehistoric pottery, but since the finds were in the clearly distinguished early modern fill-layer, they must have got there as a result of mixing the layers. Apart from fragments of ceramics also pieces of window glass and fragments of lead window frames were discovered.

Two test pits were made to the inner side of the walls in order to evaluate

³ In his excavations at Teatrimägi T. Aus documented post holes connected with timber buildings. At the time stone wedges were clearly distinguished (Aus 1993, 9).

the depth of the foundations of the stone building. It appeared that the stone building was preceded by another construction that was also partly dug into the ground, with two separate clay floor levels distinguished. Above the first floor a charcoal stria occurred, referring to a fire. Finds that could be dated more precisely, like a rim fragment of a local wheel-thrown vessel (see Tvaauri 2005, 48–53, sub-type 3: 2) and a fragment of the Paffrath-type pot (see Fig. 4) were collected from the later floor level, these finds date the floor to the mid-13th century. No wall constructions were identified, yet the clay caskets and nails that were found from the two floor layers suggest that there had been a timber house.

The situation in the test pits largely coincided with the stratigraphy of the lower layers to the south of the stone building. It is therefore possible that the early stage of the timber building was constructed in the mid-13th century. It may have been a plastered timber construction or the so-called timber-frame-type building, since the stripe of lime mortar that was documented on the outer side of the building and is possibly connected with the early building stage, may refer to works on the facade. A timber framework building was discovered also during archaeological excavations in Teatrimägi (Aus 1993, 11). The building that was located in the test pit was probably destroyed soon after construction (or had been heavily damaged in fire)⁴, and therefore a new timber building was constructed to the same location. The time span between the two timber buildings has been little, since both stages may be dated to the mid or second half of the 13th century. Also the two timber buildings found in Teatrimägi have been dated to the second half of the 13th century (Aus 1993, 11).

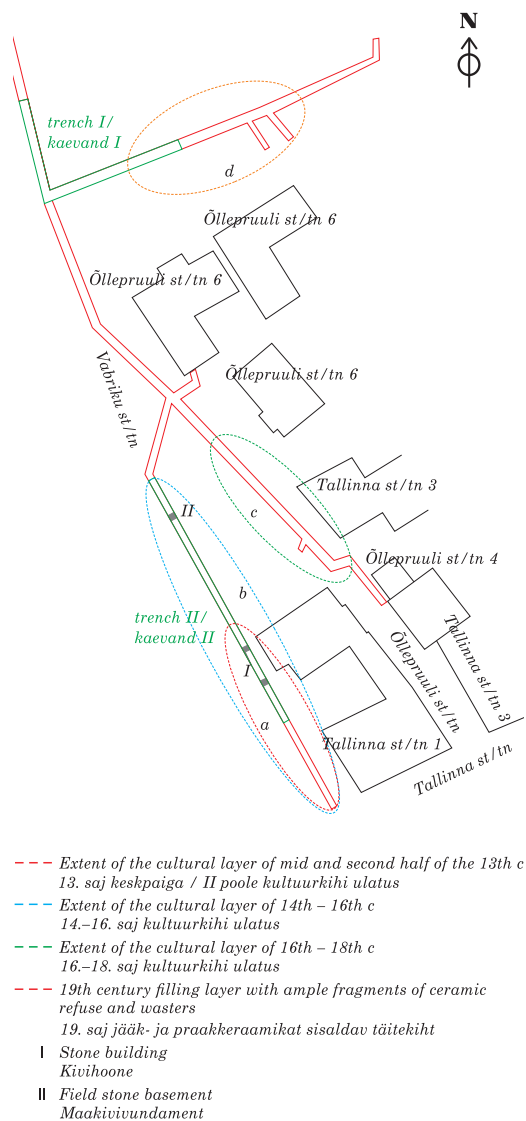


Fig. 6. Extent of the medieval and early modern cultural layer.

Jn 6. Kesk- ja varauusaegse kultuurikihi ulatus.
Drawing / Joonis: Andres Tepper

⁴ It is possible that the early part of the timber building got destroyed in the battle between Novgorod and Pskov dukes near Rakvere in 1268 (Kirss 2003, 15).

THE EXTENT OF MEDIEVAL AND EARLY MODERN CULTURAL LAYERS

Deposits connected with the mid- and second half of the 13th century timber buildings were only traced in the southern end of the Vabriku street (Fig. 6: a). A noteworthy fact is the occurrence of a few fragments of Late Iron Age hand-made clay vessels with an upright rim. It is possible that the existence of these fragments along with imported ceramics testifies that the prehistoric tradition of making clay vessels continued also in the 13th century. It is equally possible that the prehistoric layers preceding the 13th century layers may have got mixed with medieval cultural layers in the course of time.

In the central and northern part of trench II no earlier cultural layers were determined. Instead, layers containing little debris existed that could be associated mostly with the construction and use of the stone building (Fig. 6: b). The lower part of the layer contained mainly fragments of local wheel-made pottery, dating from the 14th/15th centuries. The upper part contained apart from local pottery also fragments of Raeren stoneware, majolica from the Netherlands (Russow 2006, 118, fig. 35: 3) and local redware, dating the upper part of the layer thus mostly to the 16th century.

The field stone basement, bound with clay, that was found in the northern end of trench II may also date from the same period (Fig. 6: II). The height of the basement was one row of stones, which suggests that it had supported a light timber construction. In the trench, a stone basement was determined at the southern part of the building, while the northern part of the basement had been destroyed. It is possible that it was destroyed in the course of building a cobblestone street at a later period, when the southern end of the Vabriku street was levelled. Earth was replanned in the area, as testified also by the absence of the 17th – 19th century layers straight under the sand fill below the pavement, i.e. at the depth of *ca.* 40–50 cm below the present street level 16th century layers are found.

The early modern cultural layers that were absent in the trench at Vabriku street, were documented, though, in the mid and southern part of the Õllepruuli street (Fig. 6: c), where on top of the natural gravely sand a 25–30 cm thick greyish layer of clayey sand was documented. The layer contained fragments of local wheel-made pottery, which cannot be dated more precisely as originating from the 16th – 18th century. The early street levels of the Õllepruuli street were on the clayey sand layer, dating from the end of the 18th or beginning of the 19th century. In total 5 levels of Õllepruuli street were differentiated.

STUDIES AT THE MID AND NORTHERN PART OF THE PIPELINES

The steep edge north to the northern end of trench II marked the disappearance of medieval and early modern layers. The middle and northern part of the area studied in 2012 was characterised mostly by later fill layers, which to a lesser extent contained some medieval and early modern ceramics, but which were transported to the area in the end of the 18th century when the ground of the manor park was being extensively replanned. Below the fill layers occasional find-free clayey sandy layers occurred with single fragments of 16th – 18th century wheel pottery, but

containing animal bones and charcoal, referring to possible fields or pastures. The early 18th century maps also depict animal paddocks north to the Tallinna street (Kirss 2003, 49). On the Vabriku street line some smaller cobblestone layers were documented.

Thicker fill layers were documented on the east and west side of the natural ridge (Fig. 6: d). A layer with ample fragments of ceramic refuse and wasters (incl. stove tiles, roof tiles, dishes), dating from the 19th century, was clearly distinguishable. The finds gathered from the fill layer constitute the unfinished production of a local pottery workshop (possibly connected to master potter Johann Friedrich Christian Bartels who had bought two nearby plots in 1828 (see Kirss 2011, 176) even though the Bartel's initial working place was by the oaky hillside behind the town cemetery), as suggested by the multiplicity of finds and the absence of glazing on the surface of dishes and stove tiles. The thick fill layers were aimed to expand the plateau of the narrow ridge both eastwards and westwards.

In the northernmost part of the studied area, in the pipeline along the Tiigi street, mostly thick fill layers dating from the beginning of the 20th century, were determined. These layers were to fill the bed of the former town brook. Also, three massive vertical posts were documented, marking the construction of a timber bridge over the brook.

SUMMARY

Archaeological excavations at the streets of Tiigi, Vabriku and Õllepruuli in Rakvere were undertaken due the installation of water and sewage pipelines. In the southern end of Vabriku street mostly medieval and early modern cultural layers occurred. Older layers are connected mainly with the mid-13th century, yet the single fragments of prehistoric pottery may refer also to a possible prehistoric layer. The excavations determined two floor level of a timber building, dating from the middle or second half of the 13th century, a medieval stone building and a field stone basement of a probably early modern (timber) building. In Õllepruuli street a cultural layer containing 16th – 18th century local wheel-made pottery was determined, but also several street levels from the end of the 18th century to the 20th century. The slopes of the ridge and lower areas were filled with thick fill layers, brought probably in the end of the 18th century when extensive ground re-planning was undertaken in the manor park. The fill layer at the eastern and western side of the narrow ridge is especially interesting – it contained a lot of ceramic refuse and wasters and may be dated to the 19th century.

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TÄIENDAVAT INFOT RAKVERE KESK- JA VARAUUSAEGSE ASUSTUSE ULATUSEST

Eero Heinloo

2012. a suvel toimusid Rakveres uute vee- ja reoveekanalisatsioonitorustike rajamisest tingituna Tiigi, Vabriku ja Õllepruuli tänavatel (jn 1) u 550 m ulatuses arheoloogilised uuringud. Kultuurikihi hilist iseloomu arvestades teostati peaaesjalikult järelevalvet, vaid uuritava ala lõunapoolses osa, kus trasside alal ilmnesisid kesk- ja varauusaegsed ladestused, rajati kaks kaevandit (vt jn 1) kokku u 100 m² suurusel alal. Uuringute asukoht jäi ennekõike omaaegse mõisapargi idaserva, ulatudes lõunapoolses otsas kuni Tallinna tänavani.

Vanimad inimtegevusega seonduvad ladestused ilmnesisid kaevand II lõunapoolsemas otsas, kus avastati loodusliku kruusase liiva sisse ulatuvad looduslikud madalad sulglohud (jn 3), mis dateeriti keraamika (jn 4) põhjal 13. sajandi keskpaika või kolmandasse veerandisse. Samast kihist leitud nael ning vähemalt neli savitihendit viitavad läheduses asunud puitehitistele. Looduslike sulglohkude kõrval esines ka üksikuid korrapärase kujuga lohkusid, mis võivad olla inimtekkelised. Tänapäevastest maapinnast 50 cm sügavusel paljandusid pae- ja maakividest ehitatud kivihoone müürid (jn 5; 6: I). Ehitusaegsest maapinnatasandist u 1 m sügavuseni ulatunud müürid viitavad poolkeldrikorrusega hoonele. Kivihoone rajamise aeg jääb väheste kaasleidude tõttu ebamääraseks, põrandatasapinna pealt saadud leiuväinise põhjal võib hoone hävimise dateerida 16./17. sajandisse. Poolkeldriosa täitvast rusust leiti ka eeldatavasti muinasaegset keraamikat, samuti aknaklaasikilde ning tinast aknaraami katkeid.

Kivihoone müüride siseküljele rajatud šurfidest ilmnis, et kivihoonele on eelnenud osaliselt maapinda süvendatud hoone. Eristati kaks savist põrandatasapinda, millest varasema peal esinev sөөviirg viitab põlengule. Hilisema põrandatasapinna pealt kogutud leiud (jn 4) lubavad selle dateerida 13. sajandi keskpaika. Ehkki seinakonstruktsioone ei leitud, viitavad kahe savipõrandaga seonduvatest kihtidest saadud savitihendid ja naelad puithoonele.

Šurfides ilmnenu situatsioon ühtis suuresti kivihoonest lõuna poole jäänud alumiste ladestuste stratigraafiaga, mistõttu võib oletada, et puithoone varasem järk on ehitatud 13. sajandi keskpaigas. Oletatavasti oli see krohvitud sөөrestikkonstruktsioonis hoone, kuna hoonest väljaspool ilmnenu ning esimese hoonejärguga seonduv lubimõrdiviirg võib anda tunnistust fassaaditöödest. Ajaline vahe varasema ja hilisema puithoone vahel on olnud väike, kuna mõlemad dateeriti 13. sajandi keskpaika või teise poole.

Puithoonetega seonduvaid 13. sajandi keskpaiga ja teise poole ladestusi täheldati vaid Vabriku tänava lõunapoolseimas otsas (jn 6: a). Tähelepanuväärne on üksikute hilisrauaaegsete püstise servaprofiiliga kätsikeraamika katkendite esinemine koos importkeraamikaga. See võib olla märk muinasaegse keraamika-traditsiooni jätkumisest 13. sajandil, või ka muinasaegsetest ladestustest, mis on hiljem segatud.

Kaevand II kesk- ja põhjapoolses osas esinesid kivihoone ehitamise ja kasutamisega seonduvad ladestused (jn 6: b). Kihistuste alaosa dateeriti kohaliku kedrakeraamika põhjal 14./15. sajandisse, ülaosa aga 16. sajandisse, sest lisaks kohalikule kedrakeraamikale esines Raereni kivikeraamikat, Madalmaade majoolikat ning punast glasuurkeraamikat. Samasse perioodi võib dateerida ka kaevand II põhjapoolses otsas ilmnenu ühe kivirea kõrguse maakivivundamendi (jn 6: II), mis oli saviga seotud ning viitab ennekõike kergemale puitrajatisele.

Varauusaegseid ladestusi täheldati Õllepruuli tänava kesk- ja lõunapoolses otsas (jn. 6: c), kus loodusliku kruusase liivakihi pealne tasand dateeriti 16.–18. sajandisse. Sellele järgnesid Õllepruuli tänava vanimad tänavatasapinnad (kokku eristati tänaval 5 tasandit), mis kuuluvad 18. sajandi lõppu või 19. sajandi algusesse.

Paksemaid täitekihte esines kitsa loodusliku vallseljaku ida- ja läänepool (jn 6: d). Eristati 19. sajandi keraamikatöökoja lõpetamata toodangut, s.h rohkelt praak- ja jääkkeraamikat. Piki Tiigi tänavat kulgenud trassilõigus paiknesid paksud 20. sajandi algusesse dateeritud täitekihid, mis täitsid endise linnaoja sängi. Kolm massiivset püstposti pärinevad üle linnaoja viinud puitsilla konstruktsioonist.