



Where are the archaeological remains of medieval and Early Modern town of Paide?

Archaeological monitoring in the Old Town of Paide

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INTRODUCTION

Archaeological monitoring in the historic area of the Old Town of Paide took place in the spring and summer of 2015 in connection with the renovation of street lighting. The fieldwork was carried out by OÜ Arheograator under the supervision of Andres Tvauri; Kärt Metsoja, Andres Vindi, and Aarne Malmre also participated in field surveys.

The trenches for lighting cables were dug in the Central Square to the southern and eastern side of the Holy Cross Church and along Tallinna, Veski, Parkali, Valli, Posti, Rüütli, Vee, Pikk, Vainu, Karja, and Kevade streets. The width of the cable trenches was approximately 50 cm and depth 60–80 cm. 1.2 m deep pits were dug to install lamp posts. The entire length of the trenches in the historic area of the Paide Old Town was approximately 2.7 km. The monitoring gave a comprehensive overview of occupation layers under the streets of the historical town centre of Paide.

EARLIER ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS IN PAIDE

Earlier archaeological investigations in Paide have mainly been connected with the conservation works of the Paide Castle of the Livonian Order that took place in the 1970ies and 1980ies (Aluve 1978; Lange 1986; 1987; 1990). Several monitoring works have been carried out since the year 2000 due to different earthworks at the territory of the Paide Castle (Lange 2000; Piirits 2009; 2010; Lavi & Lange 2011; Tvauri 2011).

The first monitoring in the territory of the medieval and Early Modern town of Paide was carried out by Kalle Lange in 1987 (Lange 1988). Investigations in the Holy Cross Church and around it in the years 2007, 2008 and 2013 were directed by Villu Kadakas (2009; 2011; 2014). These investigations provided new information about the medieval stone church that preceded the current church building erected in 1767–1786. The oldest finds were coins dating from the 14th century (Kadakas 2014, 157). Everything that was discovered associated with the parish church. No information about the medieval and Early Modern town of Paide was collected.

Vladimir Sokolovski carried out monitoring works at the installation of sewerage pipelines under the streets of Tallinna, Veski, Valli, Parkali, and Rüütli in 2009. Although the streets are in the territory of the historic town centre, no occupation layers of archaeological



Fig. 1. Plan of Paide from 1692. 1 – remains of the scarp wall of the southeastern bastion of the castle, 2 – find spot of medieval earthenware, 3 – find spot of medieval stoneware, 4 – find spot of human bones.

Jn 1. Paide plaan 1692. aastast. 1 – linnuse kagubastioni eskarp müüri jäänus, 2 – keskaegse lihtkedrakeramika leiukoht, 3 – keskaegse kivikeraamika leiukoht, 4 – inimluude leiukoht. (EAA.1.2.C-IV-173, s. 1.)

interest or archaeological finds were discovered (Sokolovski 2009). Katrin Treuman was monitoring earthworks also in 2009 at the Central Square, east from the church and at the streets of Rüütli and Vee. The only remarkable discovery was unearthing of human skeletons in the eastern part of the Central Square (Treuman 2009). It is evident from the Paide town map from the year 1692 that the churchyard has historically enclosed the territory east of the church, currently part of the Central Square (Fig. 1).

Written, iconographic and archaeological records about the medieval and Early Modern town of Paide have been investigated and summarized by Arne Malmre in his BA thesis (2015). Malmre searched the possible remains of town fortifications from the plots of Rüütli Street 6 and 8 by digging test pits. For his research Malmre purchased a georadar survey in 2014 (Jõeleht & Plado 2014) to locate possible remains of town fortifications of medieval and Early Modern Paide at the eastern side of Rüütli street. No fortification remains were discovered. Malmre disputes the existence of the medieval town of Paide in general in his study.

TRENCHES NORTH, WEST AND EAST OF THE ORDER CASTLE

Excavations at Tallinna street, west of the order castle did not reveal anything archaeologically noteworthy. In most places, layers of pavements and fills from the second half of the 20th century were exposed in the trench.

North of the castle, at Veski street and east of the castle at Parkali street, the trenches were dug inside the Early Modern moat that surrounds the castle. The only archaeologically interesting construction was unearthed near the southeastern bastion of the castle (Fig. 1: 1). 30 cm from the street level an approximately 1.5 m thick limestone base of the southern scarp wall was revealed. The same scarp wall was unearthed already during the monitoring works accompanying the installation of the water pipeline in 2000 (Lange 2000). None of the scarp walls erected in the second half of the 16th century are currently visible above ground.

OCCUPATION LAYERS IN THE TERRITORY OF THE HISTORIC TOWN SOUTH OF THE CASTLE

The thickness of the occupation layers revealed during the earthworks varied from 0.5–1.2 m, in a few places also up to 1.5 m. Virgin soil in the research area consisted of greyish yellow sandy loam with limestone debris.

At the Central Square (both south and east of the church) and at Tallinna and Parkali streets, cobblestone pavement from the first half of the 20th century was revealed in several places in the depth of 10–80 cm from the street level. Pavement had been laid on coarse sand bedding and in some spots, for example below the green area in the middle of the Central Square, cobblestones had been removed and only the bedding had preserved.

In places where the occupation layer had not been disturbed in the 20th century, a layer of greyish soil consisting limestone and brick fragments and some animal bones was revealed underneath the modern pavement or recent gardening soil layers. Even though the layer was carefully examined, very few finds of archaeological value were obtained.¹ In most places, the above-mentioned greyish soil contained finds from the 19th and 20th centuries even in the bottommost part. In some places it revealed fragments of glazed redware, glass bottles and clay pipes. West from the Central Square, in the courtyard of Väike-Aia Street 1, a fragment of Duingen stoneware bottle came to light. All these finds date from the 17th or 18th centuries.

In front of the building at Vainu Street 14 and up to 10 m west from the building (Fig. 1: 2; 2), excavations revealed a dampish brown occupation layer with no limestone debris in the depth of 60–80 cm from the ground until the bottom of the trench. From that layer fragments of earthenware vessels were obtained. One of those was a rim fragment decorated with horizontal lines (Fig. 3). Rim profile of this type is widespread in medieval occupation layers of Tartu and Viljandi, more precisely in the layers dating from the 13th – 14th centuries (see Tvauri 2000, fig. 8). The occupation layer in front of the building at Vainu Street 14 has probably been deposited in the 14th century.

A fragment of medieval pottery was found from the lamp post hole dug at the corner of Rüütli and Vainu streets (Fig. 1: 3). Here the depth of occupation deposits reached 1.2 m from



Fig. 2. Trench in front of Vainu Street 14 building between the streets of Rüütli and Vahe. View from the east. Here a sherd of medieval pot was found in the depth of 60–80 cm from the ground.

Jn 2. Kaevis Vainu tänaval Rüütli ja Vahe tänavate vahel Vainu 14 hoone ees. Vaade ida poolt. Siit leiti 60–80 cm sügavuselt keskaegne savinõukild.

Photo / Foto: Andres Tvauri



Fig. 3. Fragment of medieval earthenware pot.

Jn 3. Keskaegse lihtkedrakeraamilise savinõu kild. (TÜ 2476: 5.)

Photo / Foto: Andres Tvauri

¹ Finds: TÜ 2476.



Fig 4. *Fragment of medieval stoneware jug.*
Jn 4. *Keskaegse kivikeraamilise kannu kild.*
(TÜ 2476: 20.)

Photo / Foto: Andres Tvauri

the ground. A layer of greyish brown soil containing limestone debris had deposited on top of natural sand. In the lower part of that layer, pieces of limestone were more numerous and there were also animal bones that did not occur in the upper part. From the lower part of that layer a fragment of Siegburg stoneware jug (Fig. 4) dating from the 14th or 15th centuries was obtained (see Russow 2006). In addition, a fragment of an earthenware pot, fragments of Early Modern glazed redware, and a piece of Early Modern glazed stove tile were collected. These discoveries make the site the richest in finds during the current monitoring work.

HUMAN BONES NEAR PAIDE CHURCHYARD

At the northwestern corner of the building at Central Square 8 (Fig. 1: 4), the trench revealed brown soil until its bottom at the depth of 1.2 m from the ground level. The soil removed from the trench contained human bones. No *in situ* burials were discovered. Altogether 66 bones or bone fragments were collected. Osteological analysis was executed by osteoarchaeologist Martin Malve from the Institute of History and Archaeology of the University of Tartu. Long bones and their fragments were most numerous among the bone material. Some bones had fractures that had occurred either during the current excavations or former earthworks. Osteological material was too fragmented to determine the minimal number of individuals. There were skeletal fragments of both men and women, mostly of adults but juveniles were also represented (Malve 2015).

The bone fragments had ended up in the given spot either with the soil already containing bones re-deposited from the cemetery of Paide church, or it might be that skeletal remains unearthed during some former earthworks have been reburied into the area. East of the church, skeletons were unearthed already during the previous fieldwork (Treuman 2009).

WRITTEN RECORDS ABOUT THE MEDIEVAL TOWN OF PAIDE

The history of Paide begins with the year 1265 when the Livonian branch of the Teutonic Order started to erect the Paide castle. There is only a limited amount of written records about the town of Paide in the Middle Ages. The earliest among them is an apograph from the year 1555 made of the document from 1291 which states that Halti, master of the Livonian Order, has granted the Riga town privileges to Paide town (*oppidum nostrum in Wittensten*). Paul Johansen discovered the apograph in the Swedish National Archives (Johansen 1938).

It is not known whether the suburb near the stronghold emerged even before town privileges were given. The Debt Book of Riga refers to Hildegerus of Paide (*de Witzensteyne, de Wittensteyne*) as a debtor between the years 1286–1290 (Johansen 1938, 205; Tarvel 2009, 316–317). This fact does not provide information about the settlement of Paide because it is not possible to assert that the name Paide designated the suburb, not the castle.

Axel von Gernet refers to a privilege deposited in the Swedish National Archives given by master of the Livonian Order Wennemar von Brüggene in Põltsamaa (Germ. *Oberpahlen*) castle to Paide in 1398. According to this privilege, half of the Paide's court of law income was entrusted to the town to complete the building of the town (Gernet 1885, 6; 1892, 10). The document itself or its copy has never been found later (Johansen 1938, 206).

A letter from 1441 that has the oldest known seal of the town of Paide is being held at the Tallinn City Archives. The image of Paide castle tower with two adjacent stone blocks, familiar from the coat of arms of Paide used until today, was already present (Tarvel 2009, 317).

Some documents or their apographs connected to the town of Paide or its citizens have been preserved from the first half of the 16th century. For example, there is a list of assets and debts of the tailor Johann Molner from Paide from 1525 (Ungern-Sternberg 1910, 10–11). Letters from the years 1531, 1548, and 1552 composed by the burgomasters and town councilors are also known (Ungern-Sternberg 1910, 11–13; Aarma 2009, 11).

Medieval houses of the town and castle settlement of Paide were destroyed by several lootings and fires during the Livonian War (1558–1583). The earliest list of land lots and their owners in Paide has been formulated in the year 1591. It reveals that there were a two-storey town hall, a guildhall, a clergy house, two schoolhouses, and two almshouses before the Livonian War (*Hospitall vör die vnreine armen*). All those houses were empty in the year 1591. There were 48 private lots, out of which 27 were empty and the remaining 21 had altogether 54 buildings (Ungern-Sternberg 1910).

Several authors refer to August Wilhelm Hupel, according to whom there were two churches and 360 houses in Paide before the Livonian War (Hupel 1774, 369). It is not known on what sources Hupel's information is based on and thus it cannot be considered trustworthy.

WHERE ARE THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS OF THE MEDIEVAL TOWN OF PAIDE?

The overview given above demonstrates that despite the large extent of monitoring works in the historical town centre of Paide, only a few medieval finds were obtained. All medieval finds were discovered in the southern edge of the Old Town. There are no stray finds that would indicate the presence of medieval town. In the eastern side of Suur-Aia street, in the section between Pärnu and Vainu streets, 10 human skeletons have been discovered in 1957 (Tõnisson 1957). As there were no artefacts buried with the deceased, it is unclear which period they date from.

Is it possible that medieval Paide was situated somewhere else than modern Paide? On the earliest map/plan of Paide from the year 1692 (Fig. 1) the town lies in its current place and the network of streets correlates with the modern one. Considering the natural surroundings of Paide, it seems also unlikely that the town was built to some other place. Early Modern lots documented on the earliest map of Paide are situated on top of the north-south directional 1 km long and 0.5 km wide drumlin with the relative height of nearly 7 m (Heinsalu 1991, 18). The drumlin was surrounded by boggy land and a meadow of Pärnu River that could not have accommodated dwelling houses. Thus, given the presumption that the medieval town was erected near the stronghold (just as all towns in Old Livonia were), it could not have been in any other place than on the hilltop south of the stronghold and next to the church.

The scarceness of medieval finds obtained so far may be explained by the fact that previous investigations and monitoring works as well as the current one have been taking place in the territory of the streets. It is possible that the network of streets in medieval Paide

resembles the current network and medieval finds are yet to be found from inside the lots – in the courtyards and under the houses. During current monitoring it was only possible to observe trenches going through the lots in the western side of the Central Square, on Pikk street and western side of Vainu street. Unfortunately those trenches were situated either in spots where the ground was disturbed already by former earthworks (courtyard between the Central Square and Väike-Aia street) or in the territory that was covered with dwelling houses up until the 1950ies (Pikk and Vainu streets).

CONCLUSIONS

Although earthworks were carried out almost throughout the entire territory of the historic town centre of Paide, the results of current monitoring remained modest. Features and occupation layers of any archaeological interest were revealed only in a few spots.

It was asserted that the depth of occupation layers beneath the streets of the Old Town of Paide is 50–120 cm. The trenches mostly revealed layers of fills and pavements or gardening soil from the 19th and 20th century. In most locations there was a layer of greyish soil containing some finds dating from the 17th – 18th centuries underneath the above-mentioned layers. Only in two spots at Vainu street, a layer was discovered that contained potsherds from the 13th – 15th centuries. A trench at the northwestern corner of the building at Central Square 8 revealed human bones probably deriving from the Paide churchyard.

Although town privileges were given to Paide in 1291, it seems, against the background of archaeological investigations and monitoring up until today, that the occupation of medieval Paide has been far less dense than that of other small towns of Old Livonia like Haapsalu or Viljandi. Finds dating from the 17th and 18th centuries were also very scarce.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This research was supported by the institutional research funding of the Estonian Ministry of Education and Research (IUT20-7).

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KUS ON KESK- JA VARAUUSAEGSE PAIDE ARHEOLOOGILISED JÄÄNUSED? ARHEOLOOGILINE JÄRELEVALVE PAIDE VANALINNAS

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Arheoloogilist järelevalvet Paide vanalinna muinsuskaitsealal tehti seoses tänavavalgustuse renoveerimisega. Kaablikraavid sügavusega 60–80 cm ja kogupikkusega u 2,7 km kulgesid Keskväljakul ning piki Tallinna, Veski, Parkali, Valli, Posti, Rüütli, Vee, Pikka, Vainu, Karja ja Kevade tänavat.

Paides on varem arheoloogilisi uuringuid tehtud seoses ordulinnuse konserveerimisega 1970.–1980. aastatel. Esimesi arheoloogilisi uuringuid Paide kesk- ja varauusaegse linna alal juhatas 1988. a Kalle Lange. 2007., 2008. ja 2014. a toimusid Villu Kadaka juhtimisel uuringud Püha Risti kirikus ja selle ümber. Leitu seostub kirikuga ning seda ümbritseva kalmistuga. Teavet kesk- ja varauusaegse linna kohta uuringud ei andnud. Vladimir Sokolovski välitöödel Tallinna, Veski, Valli, Parkali ja Rüütli tänaval 2009. a arheoloogilise väärtusega kultuurkihti ega leide ei avastatud. Keskväljakul ning Rüütli ja Vee tänavatel tegi samal aastal järelevalvet Katrin Treuman, ainsaks leiuks olid inimluustikud, mis tulid välja kirikust ida pool. Andmed kesk- ja varauusaegse Paide kohta on bakalaureusetöös kokku võtnud Arne Malmre. Ta otsis Rüütli 6 ja 8 kinnistutelt linnakindlustuste jäänuseid, kaevates selleks šurfe ja tellis georadariuringu. Linnakindlustuste jäänuseid leida ei õnnestunud. Oma töös seab Malmre kahtluse alla Paide linna olemasolu keskajal.

2015. aastal selgus, et kultuurkihi paksus trasside alal oli 0,5–1,2 m, üksikutes kohtades kuni 1,5 m. Looduslikuks aluspinnaseks on kollakashall saviliiv, milles leidub paerähka. Arheoloogiliselt huvipakkuvat leiti vaid üksikutest kohtadest. Linnuse kagubastioni otsa juures (jn 1: 1) paljastus kaevises 30 cm sügavusel

tänavapinnast bastioni paekividest lõunapoolse eskarpmüüri vundament, mille paksus oli umbes 1,5 m. 16. sajandi teisel poolel rajatud bastionide müüre tänapäeval enam maapinnal näha ei ole.

Keskväljakul ning Tallinna ja Parkali tänaval paljastus 10–80 cm sügavusel munakividest tänavasillutis, mis oli kasutusel 20. sajandi esimesel poolel. Kohtades, kus kultuurikiht pole 20. sajandil rikutud, lasub uusaegsete sillutise- või haljastuskihtide all looduslikul aluspinnasel enamasti hallikas paeklibune muld, milles leidub tellisetükikesi ja üksikuid loomaluud. Mõnes kohas õnnestus leida ka glasuurkeraamika, klaas- ja kivikeraamiliste pudelite ja savipiipude katkeid, mis pärinevad 17.–18. sajandist.

Vainu 14 hoone ees ja hoonest kuni umbes 10 m lääne pool (jn 1: 2 ja 2) oli alates 60 cm sügavusest kuni kaevise põhjani 80 cm sügavusel pruun nätske kultuurikiht, milles oli lihtkedrakeraamiliste keskaegsete savinõude kilde. Keskaegne nõukild saadi veel Rüütli ja Vainu tänavate ristmikult (jn 1: 3). Kultuurikiht ulatus siin 1,2 m sügavusele maapinnast. Kihi alumisest osast saadi Siegburgi 14.–15. sajandi kivikeraamilise kannu katke (jn 4).

Keskväljak 8 hoone juures (jn 1: 4) leiti segatud pinnasest 66 inimluud või -luukatket. Luud oli sedavõrd katkendlikud, et vähimat indiviide arvu ei olnud võimalik määrata. Luustike osad kuulusid enamikus täiskasvanutele, alaealiste luud oli vähem. Ilmselt pärineb pinnas Paide kiriku kalmistult.

Paide ajalugu algas 1265. a, mil Liivi Ordu hakkas sinna linnust rajama. Paide linna kohta on keskajast äärmiselt vähe kirjalikke andmeid. Neist varaseim on 1555. a tehtud ärakiri 1291. a ordumeister Halti poolt Paide linnale Riia linnaõiguse andmise ürikust. Kas alevik linnuse juures tekkis juba enne linnaõiguste saamist, pole teada. Riia võlaraamatus on ajavahemikus 1286–1290 mainitud võlausaldajana Hildegerust Paidest. Axel von Gernet mainib Rootsi Riigiarhiivis leidunud, 1398. a ordumeister Wennemar von Brüggene poolt Paidele antud privileegi, kuid nimetatud ürikut või selle ärakirja pole hiljem enam leitud. Tallinna Linnaarhiivis on säilinud kiri aastast 1441, millel on vanim teadaolev Paide linna pitser. Mõned Paide linnaga või selle elanikega seotud ürikud või nende ärakirjad on säilinud 16. sajandi esimesest poolest.

Paide linna ja linnusealevi keskaegne hoonestus hävis Liivimaa sõjas (1558–1583) rüüstamiste ja põletamiste käigus. Varaseim säilinud Paide kruntide ja krundiomanike loend on koostatud 1591. a. Sellest järeldub, et enne Liivimaa sõda oli Paides kahekorruseline raekoda, gildimaja, pastoraat, kaks koolimaja ja kaks seeki või vaestemaja. Paides oli toona 48 erakrunti 54 majaga, seejuures 27 krunti olid tühjad.

Eelpool esitatust selgub, et hoolimata ulatuslikul alal Paide ajaloolise linnasüdame piirkonnas tehtud arheoloogilistest järelevalvetest, on keskaegseid leide ülivähe ja needki saadi vanalinna lõunaservast. Ka pole juhuleide, mis viitaksid keskaegsele linnale.

Kas keskaegne Paide linn võis paikneda mujal kui uusaegne Paide? Varaseimal Paide plaanil 1692. aastast (jn 1) on alev praegusel kohal, samuti vastab tänavatevõrk tänapäevasele. 1692. a plaanil kujutatud krundid paiknevad voorel, mille suhteline kõrgus on ligi 7 m. Küngast ümbritsesid soised alad ja Pärnu jõe luht, kus eluhooneid olla ei saanud. Seega eeldusel, et keskaegne linn rajati linnuse lähedusse (nagu kõik linnad Vana-Liivimaal) ei oleks see võinud olla mujal kui linnusest lõuna poole jääval künkal kiriku ümbruses.

Kuigi kaevetööd hõlmasid peaaegu kogu Paide ajaloolise linnasüdame ala, õnnestus arheoloogiliselt huvipakkuvaid konstruktsioone või kultuurkihte leida vaid mõnes üksikus kohas. Seni saadud kesk- ja varauusaegsete arheoloogiliste leidude vähesuse põhjuseks võib olla asjaolu, et uuritud kaevised paiknesid tänavate alal. On võimalik, et keskaegse Paide jäänuseid leidub kruntide alal. Kuigi Paidele on antud 1291. a linnaõigused, näib seniste arheoloogiliste uuringute valgusel, et keskajal oli Paide linn oli palju hõredama asustusega kui näiteks keskaegsed väikelinnad Haapsalu või Viljandi. Ka 17.–18. sajandist pärit leide on seni Paide vanalinnast saadud vaid üksikuid.