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Pre-urban and urban settlement activities at Pärnu Road 22, 22a and 24, Tallinn

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INTRODUCTION

The fieldwork at Pärnu Rd. 22, 22a and 24 started in July 2016, it lasted until January 2017 and was run by OÜ Agu EMS. It was preceded by preliminary excavations carried out in the spring of 2016 which ended with the suggestion that in addition to medieval and modern layers and artefacts there might be traces of Viking Age material culture (Toos 2016). The research comprised about 1400 m² of the 2200 m² plot and was simultaneous with the building activities on the site. The construction continued throughout the entire fieldwork, causing problems with planning the works and slowing excavations down, forcing us to work through the winter, leaving thus a considerable impact on the conditions of the investigations. The work started with monitoring the perimeter of the site where a wooden wall was installed for the safety of workers to prevent land sliding in the southern part and a solid concrete wall in the northern part. In the most western part of the investigated area no cultural layer was preserved because there were late buildings with deep cellars. The following paper focuses by and large on the first phase of the human activities on the investigated area as this will add new important data for the early settlement development in Tallinn.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Pärnu Rd. 22, 22a and 24 are located at the lower plateau of Tõnismägi Hill in the historical Harju Gate suburb in the vicinity of the medieval walled town of Tallinn (Fig. 1: 1). In addition to St. Barbara cemetery founded in the 14th century on the site of present day Roosikrantsi St. 2, 2A, excavated in the late 1980s and 1990s (Fig. 1: 2; Sokolovski 1996), many other significant sites are situated in the area where late medieval and early modern period town dwellers kept gardens and pastures. Most of them are related to the town's water supply such as Karja spring located at Tatari St. 24 (250 m south) and the 14th century water duct at Pärnu Rd. 31, 33 and 35 (100 m south, Fig. 1: 3; also excavated in 2016, see Bernotas *et al*., this volume) running from Ülemiste Lake into the medieval moat near Harju Gate. Not far from the present excavation the remains of the medieval smithy, pre-mid-14th century dwellings and tracks of prehistoric (?) and later road were found at Roosikrantsi St. 9/11 in 1996

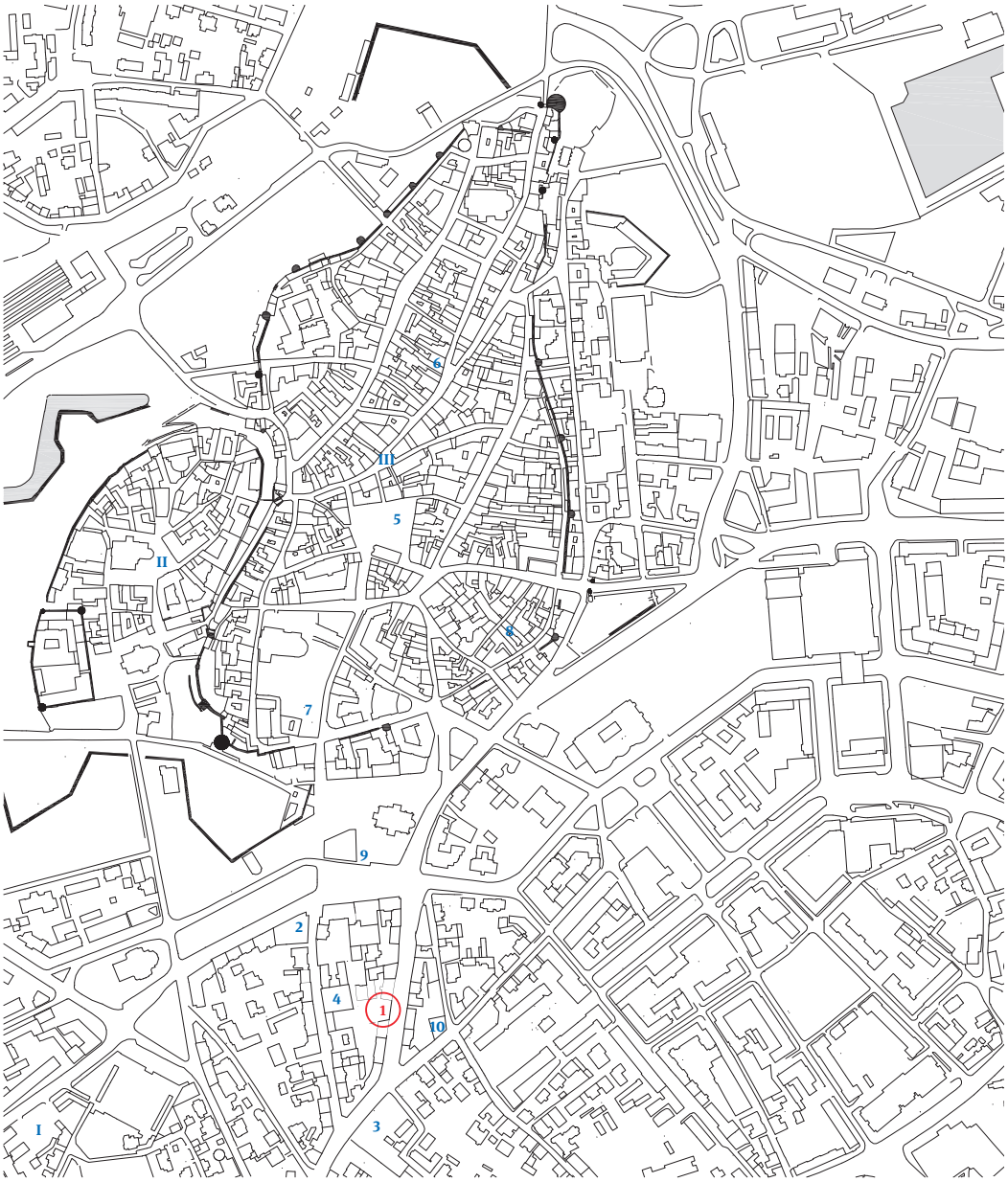

Fig. 1. *The researched area and other archaeologically excavated sites mentioned in the text. I – area of Tõnismägi hill, II – Toompea Hill, III – medieval walled town. 1 – Pärnu Rd. 22, 22a, 24 (2016–2017), 2 – Roosikrantsi St. 2, 2A (1988ff), 3 – Pärnu Rd. 31, 33, 35 (2016), 4 – Roosikrantsi St. 9/11 (1996), 5 – Town Hall Square (1953), 6 – Pikk St. 33b (1998), 7 – Harju St. (1988–1990), 8 – Sauna St. 10 (1998–1999), 9 – Vabaduse Square (2008–2009), 10 – Sakala St. 8 / Tatari St. 22 (1997).*

Jn 1. *Uuritud ala ning teised artiklis mainitud arheoloogilised kaevamised. I – Tõnismäe kõrgendik, II – Toompea kõrgendik, III – keskaegse linna ala. 1 – Pärnu mnt 22, 22a ja 24 (2016–2017), 2 – Roosikrantsi 2, 2A (1988jj), 3 – Pärnu mnt 31, 33, 35 (2016), 4 – Roosikrantsi 9/11 (1996), 5 – Raekoja plats (1953), 6 – Pikk 33b (1998), 7 – Harju tn (1988–1990), 8 – Sauna tn 10 (1998–1999), 9 – Vabaduse väljak (2008–2009), 10 – Sakala 8 / Tatari 22 (1997).*

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(Fig. 1: 4; Sokolovski 1997). The evidence towards a possible late prehistoric settlement area is not limited to the mentioned place as several other plots nearby have unearthed quite a few stray finds dated from the 10th to early 13th century or even earlier (see Tamla 2016), however distinctive pre-urban activity layers and structures (pits, buildings, fences, *etc*.) have not been found so far. Nevertheless, the analysis of the artefacts as well the former landscape lets us to speculate that the recently excavated site situates close to the early (e.g. Late Iron Age) roads heading to the prehistoric harbour or landing place at the mouth of the Härjapea River and to the hill fort on top of Toompea heights (see Tamla 2016, fig. 3; Russow 2016, Abb. 1).

The historical maps of Tallinn (Raid 2011) reveal only modest information on the development of the excavated area before the 19th century. From the surviving maps of late 17th century the town plan by Sigismund von Staden compiled in 1699 (TLA.230.1.Aa.120.74), plots 631 and 632 correspond to Pärnu Rd. 22 and 22a and Pärnu Rd. 24, but it is unclear whether any houses had been built by the end of the 17th century on the plots. Plans from the 18th and 19th century depict a smaller building with a yard at the side of Pärnu Road in the middle of the area in question. In 1922, building works started at Pärnu Rd. 24 to build a chocolate factory (Pantelejev 2010). Subsequently, the building was stretched to cover Pärnu Rd. 22a and some of Pärnu Rd. 24. It is notable that the measurements of the buildings do not add up to the discovered structures which may be a result of the numerous changes in the plans.

SITE DEVELOPMENT

Phase I: Prehistory – medieval town formation period (Fig. 2)

Preliminary excavations on the site revealed that the natural base layer of fine silt and coarser sand lay at +15.82–16.20 amsl. According to calculations based on the development of the shoreline, this layer can be dated to 4450–3650 BC. Although initial fieldwork showed that there might be some Viking Age or even earlier layers preserved (Toos 2016, 3–4), the excavations did not confirm this information, but two Stone Age stray finds – a stone adze, a flint burin (AI 7586: 1990, 1989) from the disturbed deposits indicate towards occasional early human activities on the area. Considering the location of the Late Neolithic settlement found at Vabaduse Square (Kadakas *et al*. 2010) about 200 metres NW and few pottery sherds from the same period at Pärnu Rd. 31 (Karro *et al*. 2011) about 100 metres S from the site under discussion, it is not a surprising discovery.

It is hard to estimate when exactly the area excavated in 2016 and early 2017 was taken into more permanent human use. This is

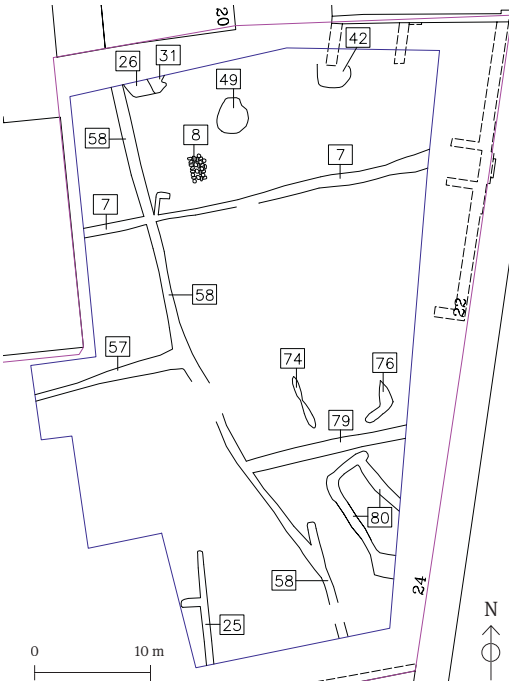

Fig. 2. *I phase of the settlement activities at the excavated area. The numbers indicate stratigraphical units mentioned in the text.*

Jn 2. *I faasi elutegevusjäljed uuritud alal. Numbrid tähistavad tekstis mainitud stratigraafiaüksusi.*

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difficult both because of the excavation conditions during the winter time, the division of the site to several separately researched territories as well as the medieval and later settlement activities have either destroyed or mixed the evidence of earliest habitation here – to a large extent only the negative units (pits, ditches, plough marks, *etc*.) dug into the natural ground and deposits filling the cavities were survived. Despite that, the following interpretation on the site formation processes can be offered.[1]

On the natural ground of coarser sand with occasional boulders on its surface a thin layer of subsoil, consisting of podzol evolved (unit 6). During its arising, a minimum human impact can be suggested as the amount of artefactual evidence is almost nonexistent – only two sherds of pottery were found (AI 7586: 552, 553). However, one of these fragments (Fig. 3: 1) deserves extra handling here. This body sherd of a pot is a first such kind of find from Tallinn and cannot be defined as local pottery elsewhere of coastal Estonia either. Considering the ornamentation, parallels with western Slavonic pottery can be made, but similar decoration can be seen on Iron Age/Migration Period pottery (Torbjörn Brorsson, pers. comm.) as well on later finds of Baltic Ware in Scandinavia (Mathias Bäck, pers. comm., with a parallel from Gamla Uppsala). Thus an early dating between the 8th and 10th century must be taken into consideration also with this find.

The following development of the site is slightly complicated to determine as in several places the next deposits have been destroyed by later activities (by ploughing, see below) and were not visible on the whole excavated area but, only as patches of various size. Still, the layers (units 20, 52, 53 respectively) right on top of the subsoil can be regarded as soil accumulated during the relatively intense exploitation of the area, as the dark, moist and compact organic soil layers with the average thickness of 8–10 cm included a collection of pottery fragments (AI 7586: 10–12, 51–54, 70–71) of at least 5 vessels. Among these sherds, a comparison with Baltic Ware can be drawn – the wavy line decoration and rims like on Fig. 3: 2 are common finds in eastern Scandinavia (Mathias Bäck, pers. comm., with a parallel from Gamla Uppsala). Again, it is hard to offer the exact time period for the formation of the layers, even though the lack of signature finds of the earliest urban layers in Tallinn – Paffrath-type ware, proto stoneware and highly decorated redware (see Russow 2016, Abb. 4 on the distribution of early finds and datings) – indicates the time preceding the foundation of the medieval town, e.g. before the 1230s and 1240s. Thus the dating of the layers whether to the 12th or early 13th century can be cautiously suggested.

From the top of these layers, which can be interpreted as an interface, surface or even more boldly a 'yard' level, the first negative units were dug (Fig. 2: units 26, 42, 49, 74, 76, 80). Not all of these pits can be associated to the first activity layers discussed above with absolute certainty while on a few occasions the former stratigraphic relation has been destroyed either by ploughing or the visual determination of the borders between different deposits was during the winter time too problematic to ascertain the relative order of the units. Despite of these drawbacks the content of at least two pits (filled with units 49, 76) do confirm that the temporal connection between the horizontal deposits (e.g. 'yard' level) and holes dug into this unit is if not contemporary then very close one. The other pits without any artefacts (filled with units 62, 71) should also belong to the same time sequence.

The presence of the pits with finds shows quite clearly that human occupation on the investigated area was something more than just a brief stopover (e.g. accidental stay for a

[1] The numbers of the stratigraphical units used in the present text and on figures follow the original excavation documentation (Ööbik *et al*. 2017).

Fig. 3. *Selection of pottery from the I phase of the settlement activities.*
Jn 3. *Valik keraamikat asustuse I faasist.*
(AI 7586: 553, 12, 377, 79–80, 116, 127, 243, 313, 77, 78, 107, 126, 330, 342, 125, 131.)
Photo / Foto: Erki Russow
Drawing / Joonis: Kersti Siitan

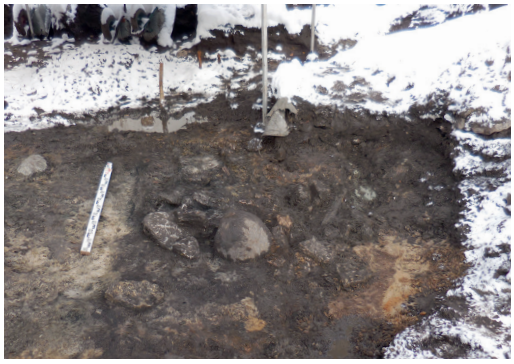

Fig. 4. *A hearth dug into natural ground.*
Jn 4. *Maasse süvendatud koldease.*
Photo / Foto: Paul Ööbik

few nights), and if not permanent then at least seasonal. This can be substantiated with another feature from the northern part of the site, slightly dug into the natural ground – a 1.5 × 2.5 metres wide structure of field and lime stones (Fig. 2: unit 8) which had no binding but a mix of dirt and charcoal between them. A sharp edge on the western side of the structure (Fig. 4) marks the possible place of the former wall. Whether the stones with burning traces interpreted as a hearth belonged to some building is hard to assert but the pottery sherds (AI 7586: 36–37, 72–75) found from the fireplace are characteristic to Baltic Ware, yet difficult to date solely by typological features. The ^{14}C sample[2] taken from the assumed hearth can perhaps give us more closely fixed date range as the *ca*. 20 cm thick sandy layer with a high charcoal composition (which had turned the sand blue) covering the stones and a two metres wide area around it included only two small pieces of 14th century Siegburg stoneware (AI 7586: 548–549), contradicting thus with the idea of an early dating of the covered feature. On the other hand, this can be perhaps explained with the disturbance created by the activities connected to the subsequent layer – a plough level (unit 5).

Presently the most important features helping to characterize the early activities on the investigated area are the pits and their contents. As stated above, the pits fall into two categories: the ones with finds and others without. The size and the shape of the holes are different, thus it is complicated to have a common denomination for these. The largest pit, filled with a moist organic layer (unit 26), at the northern border of the excavation plot measured 4.5 metres at length[3] and with maximum depth 70 cm was only partially excavated and revealed neither structural nor artefactual evidence (except one body sherd of coarseware; AI 7586: 58) which might help to interpret it. The sheer size of the pit refers for some grander activity or structure, yet the paucity of material evidence leaves the final interpretation of it open. The uneven bottom of the pit speaks against the idea of a larger building with a sunken floor. The same applies to the second largest pit (2.15 m at length) filled with dark coloured sand (unit 42), with less clear stratigraphical relationship to earlier levels which have been destroyed by late medieval ploughing and a foundation trench of a 20th century building. However, the sherds (AI 7586: 375–394; Fig. 3: 3) picked from the bottom of the pit do belong to the same category of finds[4] collected from the pit with moist fill (unit 76, see below) and thus the contemporariness with other holes should be if not certain then highly plausible.

Special attention should be paid to the final pit discussed here as it can be regarded as one of the key features unlocking the early habitation on the discussed area. This is an 'L'-shaped pit with relatively straight walls, filled with organic rich and moist soil designated as unit 76

[2] The result of the ^{14}C analysis (Ta-3131) was received after the completion of the present paper. Its calibrated (Bronk Ramsey 2009; Reimer *et al*. 2013) outcome – 1022–1403 AD with median age as 1218 AD – does not contradict with the above presented vision but likewise do not confirm it with absolute certainty.

[3] The shape of the pit on Fig. 2 does not follow the original size of the hole as at some point later the next feature (ditch, filled later with soil marked as unit 58) was dug through it – an important element helping to reconstruct the temporal sequence on the site.

[4] Includes also one rim sherd (AI 7586: 386) similar to NW-Russian type coarsewares (Type 3: 2 by Tvauri 2005, 48–53), abundant finds in southern Estonian 12th and early 13th century find contexts.

(Fig. 2). The nature of the fill points towards the use of the hollow as a trash pit as the deposit in it consisted of 266 pottery sherds (AI 7586: 76–342). The amount of the fragments by itself should confirm the interpretation of the fill as trash, whether the pit itself was dug with that intention in mind is less well explainable. Beside the size of the collection, also the minimum number of vessels found refers to the direction of intentional discarding: among the finds, 7 rims, 27 base sherds (four of these with bottom marks) and 18 fragments of lids were collected. After the preliminary estimation it seems that remains of possibly more than 20 pots and 10 lids have been thrown into the pit.

The pottery sherds from the trash pit fall to the west Slavonic and Baltic Ware pottery groups (see selection on Fig. 3: 4–16) as out of 266 fragments 261 are characteristic to these wares. The remaining five sherds must be handled as excavation errors resulted by the low light during the short winter days or the disturbance made by ploughing as the four fragments of early Modern Age glazed redware tripods and one body sherd of late 14th–15th century stoneware from southern Lower Saxony (LASX3 after Russow 2006, 75) are significantly later products – the temporal distance between the main pottery groups (coarsewares, 98.12%) and others (redware tripods and stoneware, 1.88%) is at least approximately 100 and at broadest 200–300 years.

This large set of early coarsewares from the trash pit is a remarkable find complex, highly likely not comparable with anything else found from Tallinn. The coarsewares, among local pottery also foreign ones, are by itself not rare finds in Tallinn. We can encounter these at almost every excavation that touches deposits dated to the 13th–14th centuries, however, these are normally finds from the secondary contexts, scattered around the fill layers or from the activity layers dated very broadly. Here, once and for all we have an almost sealed context with products that are at first glance exclusively alien. On the one hand, this is the first time when a collection of pots with bottom marks (Fig. 3: 3, 11–14) have been discovered in Tallinn, and the respective finds are extremely rare elsewhere in late Iron Age and medieval Estonia as well (Tvauri 2005, 62–65). On the other, the occurrence of so many lids (like on Fig. 3: 15–16) is also notable as presently only a meagre handful of examples can be offered: from the neighbouring excavation at Roosikrantsi St. 9/11 (AI 6109 II: 555) and a later find from the Town Hall Square excavation in 1953 (Fig. 1: 5; Mäll & Russow 2003, fig. 9). This should be regarded as one of the arguments in the reasoning of the foreign background of the pottery, although alternative explanations are also possible.

It is too early to offer here thorough analysis of the finds, including the potential origin of the pottery but as stated above, the sherds from the trash pit share visual resemblance with products made in 1) west Slavic areas and 2) Scandinavia. For the first, one presumable region to focus more closely in the future research of Tallinn finds (an example being Fig. 3: 9) is Pomerania on the southern coast of Baltic Sea where the respective ceramics is a regular (11th)12th–13th century local domestic product (Marian Rębkowski, pers. comm.). This is not the first time in Tallinn to discover similar pottery from the early deposits, one of the best examples is a pot from Pikk St. 33b (Fig. 1: 6) in the heart of the town with exactly the same bottom mark (AI 6326: 197–204; see Russow 2016, Abb. 3: 9), associated with earliest settlement activities in that region and dated tentatively to the 12th – first half of the 13th century (Mäll 1998, 31). This ware is also available elsewhere inside the walled town, but only in a very limited amount (e.g. at Harju St., TLM 24098: 915; at Sauna St., AI 6332: 614; Fig. 1: 7–8). A more broader area can be offered for now as the sherds identified as Baltic Ware (an example being Fig. 3: 5) do not allow to narrow down the area more closely than eastern

Scandinavia (for an comprehensive analysis on Baltic Ware in Scandinavia, see Roslund 2007). This applies also to the dating of the finds – neither the context nor the sherds can be dated exclusively to the 12th century as dating to the 13th century cannot be excluded. Still, the overall composition of the collection and surviving stratigraphical situation speaks for the early and pre-urban (here: time before the formation of the medieval town of Tallinn on the foot of Toompea hill) context. However, an alternative explanation – the surviving traces of human activities belong to the early days of the arising medieval town – cannot be rejected with full confidence either.

What happened right after the above described situation on the site is less clear as lot of the earlier deposits and stratigraphic relationships between the layers have been either destroyed or mixed with subsequent plough layer. There are a few sparse signs that presumably a fire occurred on the northern part of the excavation area (unit 10), how extensive it was, remains unanswered. The few finds (AI 7586: 7, 48–50) from the layer, namely two sherds of Baltic Ware, a handle of highly decorated redware and a body sherd of Siegburg proto stoneware date this event to *ca*. mid-13th century, but earlier dating is also feasible as an intrusion from the overlying plough zone cannot be excluded with absolute certainty.

We can only extrapolate that the results or implications of the possible destruction were quite significant and the investigated area saw after that complete reorganisation of the available space. This is reasoned with the appearance of the next important feature on the site: the ditches (Fig. 2: units 7, 58, 79, 25), of which altogether 136 metres were documented.

According to the available stratigraphic relations, around 10–15 cm deep (in the north-east corner exceptionally over 50 cm) and *ca*. 60 cm wide ditches were cut through the filled pits discussed above, giving thus some indications about the temporal sequence of the features on site. Since there was no clear evidence on the differences of depth of the ditches generally, an interpretation of the ditches as drainage should be closed out with some confidence. The rather ordered organisation as well the shallowness of the ditches point more likely out towards the division of the available land to different parcels. Whether they can be regarded as plot boundary ditches of newly acquired lands for permanent settlers of the first generation of colonists like elsewhere around the Baltic (e.g. Stammwitz 2014, 44–45, Abb. 5 for Lübeck; Rębkowski 2016, 468 and fig. 1 for Kołobrzeg, among plenty of other examples) cannot be answered with absolute certainty, but the few available measures of width (app. 12 m for westernmost and 21 m for eastern 'plot', both measures from N to S) does not contradict with this kind of hypothesis. In any event, such an earthwork suggests complete change of the use and the ownership of the place.

It is rather complicated to estimate when exactly the area was divided into separate 'parcels'. As mentioned above, the ditches were dug through the filled pits and previous occupation layers, however the exact time cannot be established. Here the later fill of the trenches helps only a little further. First of all, the collection of finds from the ditches is surprisingly scarce, consisting of 8 sherds (AI 7586: 554–561) for unit 7, one sherd (AI 7586: 570) for the northern part of unit 58 and five sherds (AI 7586: 522–526) for the middle section of unit 58. Elsewhere no artefacts were found. This might point to the relatively short usage period of the ditches and rather quick filling or levelling of the area after the discussed division of the land. Against this assumption speaks the variety of pottery: the latest sherds belong possibly to the 16th–17th century glazed redware (3 from 8 fragments in unit 7), as well from the middle section of the unit 58 (3 pieces from one rim). The other finds are either previously described coarsewares (residue from previous deposits?) or late 13th – early 14th century southern

Lower Saxon and Siegburg stoneware. All in all, the amount of the finds is too modest for a reliable statistic, but if handling the later redware as an intrusion from the upper deposits, then the probable filling up of the ditches happened around 1300 AD or even earlier. This is also substantiated with the following activities on the site.

It is noteworthy that no other signs of activities contemporary to the ditches are observable. Whether this points towards a rapid neglect of the area, complete and clean demolishing of presumable light structures on the ground (only in one occasion a collection of stones were found from the fill of the ditches) or something else is not possible to answer with the evidence on hand. The next clear proof of the use of the investigated area is a deposit covering the whole investigated area and interpreted as a plough level (unit 5). This is a homogeneous 10–15 cm layer of sand mixed with humus. The humus richness might have achieved by bringing in manure to increase the fertility of the soil and to make farming in the area possible. The absence of all kinds of stones in the layer and the concavities may indicate farming as well, but the most significant sign of farming in the area are the plough marks, which lay sporadically yet intensely all over the excavation area and may be the major reason for the intrusion of younger finds to the stratigraphically older deposits altogether with the almost complete destruction of preceding layer(s) on the whole excavated area.

Based on the composition of the finds (AI 7586: 1–4, 8–9, 13–35, 395–483) collected from the plough level one can arrive to various conclusions. Among the 116 sherds, a lion's share (78.5%) belongs to the coarsewares described above. The remaining 25 pottery fragments (21.5%) can be divided between typical 13th–14th century urban wares in Tallinn (Siegburg proto stoneware (8 pieces) and near stoneware (1), highly decorated redware (2), grayware (5), southern Lower Saxony stoneware (1), Dutch redware (1)) and later urban wares (Siegburg fully developed stoneware (2), glazed redware (4), Duingen stoneware (1)). Thus it is plausible to assume that the overwhelming majority of finds – coarsewares – is a clear redistribution from the older layers, and if removing the youngest wares (7 of 116 sherds) as quite probable intrusion, then first of all the formation period of the farmland should be around late 13th – early 14th century. Secondly, the visibly modest number (even 15.5%, if leaving the later sherds out) of 13th–14th century urban milieu imports (proto and near stoneware, highly decorated redware) speaks for the rather sparse or peripheral domestic use of the land preceding the farming. An alternative idea – the finds are part of the debris brought from the town centre – should be neglected as the amount of the fragments is quite small as well because of the temporal context. The emerging hanseatic town of Tallinn had other places where to discard the household trash even nearer to the town wall, such as sand pits dug on the area of Vabaduse Square (Fig. 1: 9; Russow *et al*. 2010, 249). This is also the period when the majority of household residue was accumulated on spot and not removed from its original place, as confirmed by the numerous excavations at the old town area.

Due to the missing stratigraphical relations it is difficult to estimate whether another interesting find complex belongs to the first or already to the second activity phase. Namely, from a small hole dug into the natural ground a find complex consisting of six arrowheads (Fig. 5) with traces of wood and two pieces of pottery were found. As suggested by Ain Mäesalu (TÜ), a researcher of medieval weaponry, the arrowheads are typologically Russian and may correspond to the 1223 siege of Tallinn (pers. comm. A. Mäesalu; for similar finds see Mäesalu 1989, 33–34). Unfortunately, the sherds (AI 7586: 567, 568) from the same fill do not support this interpretation, as both fragments cannot be dated earlier than the 14th century. Thus both the date and the actual activity connected to these arrowheads should be left open for now.

Fig. 5. *Buried arrowheads.*
Jn 5. *Maetud nooleotsad.*
(AI 7586: 2062–2067.)
Photo / Foto: Erki Russow

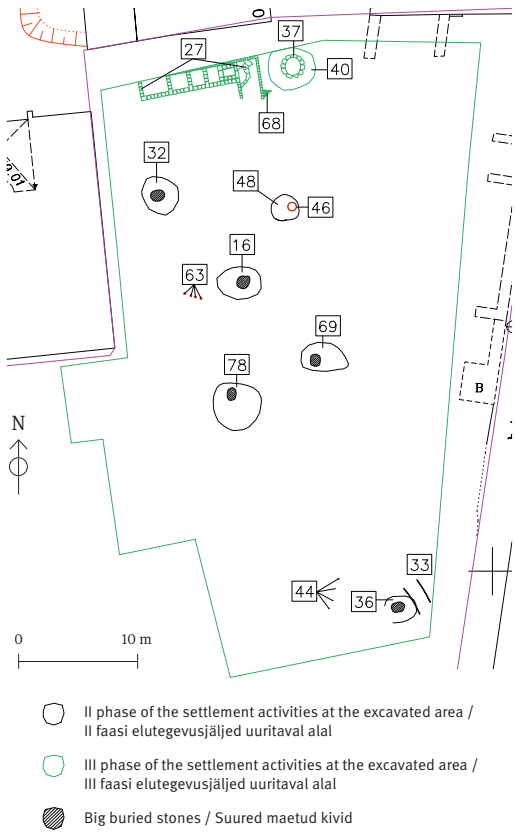

Fig. 6. *II–III phase of the settlement activities at the excavated area.*
Jn 6. *II–III faasi elutegevusjäljed uuritud alal.*
Drawing / Joonis: Paul Ööbik

Phase II: Late Medieval (Fig. 6)

The use of the area as a farmland continued throughout the medieval period and on top of the first plough layer another deposit (unit 4), rich in manure, finds and construction waste developed. The layer is twice as thick as the last one (up to 30 cm), is very well mixed and does not contain any stratums inside it, thus it is impossible to say whether some of the earth were brought to the area or the layer grew thicker over the years. Still, the construction debris and finds (mainly dated to the 14th–15th cc) inside of the deposit offer some thoughts on the formation processes. First of all, the results of the other nearby excavations have shown that around the mid-14th century the previous housing was destroyed by some kind of a larger fire catastrophe. This changed the use of the parcels at Roosikrantsi St. 9/11 area (Sokolovski 1997) and the cemetery of St. Barbara was created at Roosikrantsi St. 2/2a after the same event (Sokolovski 1996). If this interpretation can hold true then at least some of the waste might be connected with this, e.g. the large scale levelling of the neighbouring housing. On the other hand, transportation of the substance of latrines coming from *intra muros* plots cannot be ruled out, either as the finds from this layer are characteristic to the urban milieu. Among the rich ceramic assemblage (more than 900 sherds, mostly Siegburg fully developed stoneware) also glass and other artefacts were found, such as a trailed base and body fragment of two colourless glass beakers (late 13th – late 15th century; AI 7586: 2014, 2015), a few non-ferrous metal items like a 14th century fish hook (AI 7586: 2043), two sewing needles for heavy duty fabrics and leather (14th–15th century; AI 7586: 2041, 2042), possibly a book clasp (AI 7586: 2052), a bronze spiral ring (13th – early 15th century; AI 7586: 2053), an undecorated pin from a brooch or buckle (AI 7586: 2040) and a lead weight (AI 7586: 2046). Five spindle whorls were also found. Three of

these were ceramic double-conical with concentric grooves (14th–16th century, Rammo 2015, 57; Luik 2016, 53; AI 7586: 1983–1985), one was similar but flatter and from soft limestone (14th century; AI 7586: 1986) and a fifth one was made of soft limestone with double-conical sides with no grooves (13th century; AI 7586: 1987). The spindle whorls made of limestone are to our knowledge the first such kind of artefacts in Tallinn. Worthy of note is also the high number of coarsewares (more than 200 sherds) similar to the finds from phase I which once again is pointing to the heavy mixing and relocation of the earlier deposits during ploughing.

Another indicator of farming is the five big stones discovered on the excavation area that have all been buried deeper from their original height. According to stratigraphy, the stones were buried when the above-described layer was still in use. Most likely the stones were too big to remove which is why the decision to bury them deeper was made to be able to use the field more conveniently. In the south-east corner of the plot next to one of these stones carriage wheel tracks were documented (Fig. 7), created already after the stone had been buried.

Apart from the above mentioned construction debris within the plough layer indicating possible light buildings on the excavated area or close by also a few other traces of structures might belong to the first half of the same settlement activity phase. These are difficult to verify as the homogeneous plough layer does not contain *in situ* remains. But a few lines of post holes noticed on the natural ground and interpreted as traces of wooden fences (units 63, 44, see Fig. 6) should be connected to Phase II. Also a probable trash pit (unit 46) in the form of a dug in wooden barrel, consisting of leather, textile and pottery fragments from the 14th and 15th century might be contemporary to the wooden fences. Unfortunately, the clear stratigraphical relations of the hole dug for the barrel were destroyed during later farming on site.

Fig. 7. *Tracks found on natural ground.*
Jn 7. *Looduslikul pinnal paljandunud vankrijäljed.*
Photo / Foto: Paul Ööbik

Phase III: Early Modern Age (Fig. 6)

The next major change of the land use happened at some point during the early modern period, perhaps at the first half of 16th century. The extensive farming stopped and at the northernmost side of the investigated area a house was built with an adjacent well (Fig. 6: units 27, 37). During the excavations, only the southern part of the house was uncovered, as the rest of it remained out of the excavation area.

The available evidence shows that the house was most likely a wooden building with a relatively narrow stone foundation of which only one layer of stones survived. The remaining foundation of partition walls and a rectangular hearth (1 × 0.7 m) made of limestone indicate towards a heated house with relatively small rooms (1.2–2.7 m²) which had earthen floors. Since the whole house was not uncovered, it is difficult to determine what these rooms were used for, however, the availability of hearth and close proximity of the well speak for a habitable house. This might be also indirectly substantiated with the poorly preserved cobblestone pavement (unit 68) covering probably the yard area between the house and the well. In other areas south from the house the contemporary ground level consisted of a layer (unit 13)

rich in stones, bricks and roof tiles alongside dark humus, created by the levelling of debris, possibly brought from elsewhere. There are no clear signs how the open space or yard area connected to house were used during the existence of the building.

It is hard to estimate how long the house on the northern side of the excavation plot was in use but at some point in the late 16th century it was deliberately dismantled. As an archaeologically not very well founded speculation we can connect this perhaps with the administrative activities of 1577 to pull down suburban buildings before the approaching Russian troops during the Russian-Livonian war (Russow 1845, 225). This is perhaps substantiated with the absence of building wood, layer of demolition waste on top of and next to the house. Only the well next to the former house was left intact and was most likely also used later on, up to the first half of the 20th century when on top of it a concrete drainage well was installed. From the deeper layer inside the well, which was separated from the upper one with a layer of limestones, finds dated to the 16th century were discovered.

After the dismantling of the house another large scale landscaping happened as a *ca*. 30 cm thick layer of soil was deposited on the whole area (unit 3). The new layer consisted mainly of dark humus rich soil with some smaller stones and bricks in it which might indicate that the farming in the area now continued.

The artefacts collected from the early modern period layers, notably from unit 3 are in majority stray finds and only with difficulty associated to the on-site activities. The comparison with other excavations from the same suburb (notably alongside Tatari Street but also Pärnu Rd., see Bernotas *et al*., this volume) allows to conclude that this region was largely used as a dumping area for a household and industrial trash transported to the open fields from the town centre. Despite of the displacement from the original place of use it is still important to regard the insight to the early modern material culture of the trading city. It is notable how varied the late 16th and 17th century domestic goods were: of imported pottery renaissance style Siegburg and Waldenburg stoneware, Weser ware, Dutch maiolica (Fig. 8), of glassware a piled coil base fragment from a Römer or Berkemeier, a pedestal beaker base fragment, a quadrilateral base of a phial and a small bottle were discovered. In addition to these, three blue glass beads were found (Ø 4–7 mm). A few interesting non-ferrous metal items include one heavily-corroded Swedish coin, a thimble and a decorated beaker fragment, a beer tap handle and a lead cloth seal depicting a double-headed eagle. From the industrial waste several fragments of Hessian / Grossalmerode crucibles are also worth mentioning.

Phase IV: Modern Age

From historical sources we know that this is the area where town dwellers had their gardens (Kangropool 1989) and the discovered cultural layers also indicate this. Two different large scale landscaping jobs carried out on the excavation area could be dated to the Modern Age. During the first, some lower parts were filled with a 20 cm thick layer of graptolithic argillite, the rest of the area with sand. The finds connected with this work can be dated to the late 17th–18th century. The reason of this levelling is unknown, but this might just be the foundation for the next layer to have a level, stable ground. The second landscaping job was probably carried out in the beginning of the 18th century, when a *ca*. 40 cm thick layer of humus rich soil mixed with some construction waste was brought in. The consistency of the layer can be connected with farming or gardens in that area. No layers or structures dating to the 19th century were found. This might either be because of the gardens in the area or that the top layers were removed during construction works in the 20th century.

Fig. 8. *A selection of early modern pottery from the III phase of settlement activities.*
Jn 8. *Valik varauusaegset keraamikat asustuse III faasist.*
(AI 7586: 1512, 1775, 1751, 1514, 1598, 1501, 1508, 1673, 1573, 1922.)
Photo / Foto: Erki Russow

RESEARCH RESULTS IN A WIDER CONTEXT

The assumption that the SE-foot of Tõnismägi hill and its surroundings was settled already before the foundation of the medieval town of Tallinn is not a recent idea. Already in the 1960s, the landscape analysis and synthesis based on archaeological and historical research done in southern Baltic and Scandinavia led urban planners to the theoretical suggestion that some roads and a 11th–12th century settlement existed in the surroundings of lately excavated area (Härmson 1963). It took around three decades before the first archaeological evidence gave material proof to these allegations: based on the few fragments of surviving structures, a collection of stray finds and some ^{14}C-results from Roosikrantsi St. 2, 2a (1988–1989, 1990, 1992, 1995) and Roosikrantsi St. 9/11 (1996), archaeologist Vladimir Sokolovski suggested that a late Iron Age settlement situated on the lower plateau of the eastern slope of Tõnismägi hill before the Danish conquest in 1219 (Sokolovski 1997, 11 and fig. 2). Another interesting layer to this interpretation was recently added with a proposal that in the vicinity of Pärnu Rd. 31, 33 and 35 (Fig. 1: 3) a Viking Age and late Iron Age trading centre was situated (Mägi 2015; 2016, 56). As a large scale rescue excavation of 2016 on these plots showed, no affirmative proof to this supposition was found. Few loose finds unearthed might at most confirm land use during the late Iron Age up to the mid-13th century but without any remains of housing and accompanying structures nothing further can be concluded (Bernotas *et al.*, this volume). Despite of that, the idea of a prehistoric settlement and trading centre or even

more boldly of proto-Tallinn at the foot of Tõnismägi deserve further consideration and for that purpose the excavation at Pärnu Rd. 22, 22a and 24 can perhaps offer new glimpses.

Even though there are only some vague and not fundamentally verified traces of Late Iron Age settlement activities at Pärnu Rd. 22, 22a and 24, it is by far more than has been gained up to 2016.[5] The surviving features and related finds show human activities that may belong to 12th – early 13th century, and are by their nature significantly different from the average early traces found in Tallinn. Here the extremely rich collection of coarseware pottery is of critical importance. In spite the fact that both the west Slavic and Baltic Ware have been found in moderate amounts also from a handful of sites inside the walled town, it is striking how large the present assemblage is, consisting of more than a thousand fragments, if taking into consideration all finds unearthed. This should indicate towards a foreign presence for a longer period than a few days, which is also supported by preserved structures, as a temporary stay does not need neither this kind of waste management nor a house with a sunken hearth, as well other larger holes dug on the site during the settlement phase I.

Unfortunately, at least two problems concerning the broader historical settlement analysis will presently remain unanswered. First of all, without any firm dates it is difficult to ascertain that rather vaguely dated pottery from Pärnu Rd. 22, 22a and 24 belongs with absolute certainty to the pre-Danish conquest (e.g. before AD 1219) period as both types of coarsewares were in use at least up to the second half of the 13th century, even if their peak of usage lies at earlier times. Here, a more comprehensive pottery research of relevant finds from Tallinn is at utmost need. Secondly, even though the Late Iron Age settlement activities on the SE-side of Tõnismägi hill, stretching from Tõnismägi Street down to Tatari Street have been now with some confidence verified, it is still hard to estimate both the intensity as well the character of the settlement pattern here. At first glance the idea of a prehistoric trading centre needs more substantive proof beside the topographical analysis – apart the west Slavic and Baltic Ware we are still missing other kind of artefactual evidence supporting long distance exchange of commodities. On the other hand, the relative absence of trade goods from archaeological record has been noted at least in the case of 11th – early 13th century trading centre Schleswig, except a notable abundance of west Slavic and Baltic Ware pottery (Müller *et al*. 2014, 31).[6]

Another interesting problem for the future studies is unlocking the role of shallow ditches found at Pärnu Rd. 22, 22a and 24. The same kind of features have been found also elsewhere in the surroundings (like Sakala St. 22 / Tatari St. 8, Fig. 1: 10; see Mäll 1997), mostly interpreted as drainage. As said above, the rather geometrical pattern of ditches on the recently excavated plot offers also an alternative explanation. If the suggested hypothesis of deliberate plot division can be hold true then another speculation arises. Without any verified data so far it is very tempting to see here the earliest urban traces of post-Danish conquest settlers from the 1220s onwards. After all, the fair scarcity of settlement activities dated to the first half of the 13th century on the area of the medieval town have puzzled researchers for a long time: only a meagre amount of tangible evidence belonging with any confidence to the earliest town formation period has been found so far (for the latest summary, see Russow 2016). This leads to the far-fetched suggestion that perhaps before the successful town planting of the 1230s and 1240s on the foot of Toompea hill the first and failed or short-lived attempt to

[5] Certainly, the work done in the late 1980s and 1990s at Roosikrantsi Street by Vladimir Sokolovski needs to be emphasised once again; unfortunately the outdated excavation methods (i.e. digging by artificial layers) has taken its toll for the interpretation of contexts. There might be house remains and agricultural traces belonging to the 11th – early 13th centuries as supported by found artefacts (see Tamla 2016 for an overview), unfortunately nothing conclusive can be said upon consultation of excavation documentation.

[6] Then again, the lack or extreme scarcity of early pottery from Rhine-Maas region (Pingsdorf, Paffrath, Andenne, *etc*.) in Tallinn speaks against a direct comparison with 11th–12th century trading centres in southern and western Baltic (for pottery range from Schleswig, see Lüdtke 1985).

establish a new urban settlement was done on the verge of a previously inhabited area. Only later, due to the changing political situation a new and for a western European-style mercantile town a better suited place was chosen, similarly to the urban development on the coast of southern Baltic (e.g. Müller 2010). For a confirmation of this idea an in-depth analysis of all the structural and artefactual evidence collected from the Harju Gate suburbs, especially of Roosikrantsi Street is essential. The presently handled excavation can be only seen as one important stepping stone for future research towards early urban settlement activities of Tallinn. But what is beyond any doubt – the prospective real estate developments between the Tatari and Tõnismägi Streets need heightened archaeological attention.

POST SCRIPTUM

After the completion of the present paper, the first results of the ICP analysis of the pottery found at Pärnu Rd. 22, 22a and 24 were received (Brorsson 2017). Six sherds were analysed, 5 (AI 7586: 12, 36, 107, 116, 553) from the recent excavations and one fragment (AI 6326: 197) from Pikk St. 33b with the aim to find out whether the pots with bottom marks share common origin. In all, the study of the fragments proved that indeed, the base sherds with similar round marks share the same origin. However, neither these nor other sherds revealed the exact place of production for this kind of wares – the analysed examples belong to four different production sites or regions, but in no cases it is possible to determine the direct geographical area of the pottery (Brorsson 2017, 6). The origin of these coarsewares could be close to Tallinn but the other suggested areas in the present paper are not excluded as well. This adds another interesting aspect to the interpretation of the current site, although our main claim – that we are handling here an early and from a point of view of Tallinn settlement history 'anomalous' site – should still stand unrefuted.

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LINNAEELSED JA -AEGSED ASUSTUSJÄLJED TALLINNAS PÄRNU MNT 22, 22A JA 24

Erki Russow, Paul Ööbik, Monika Reppo ja Guido Toos

2016. a juulist kuni 2017. a jaanuarini toimusid Tallinnas Pärnu mnt 22, 22a ja 24 kinnistutel arheoloogilised päästekaevamised 1400 m² suurusel maa-alal, kus eeluuringute alusel võis oletada muinasaja lõpusajanditesse küündivaid asustusjälgi. Järgnenud väliuurimised, mida teostati kõrvuti samal ajal toimuva ehitustegevusega, pakkusidki olulist informatsiooni piirkonna vanimast asustusloost.

Uuritud ala (jn 1: 1) asub Tõnismäe kõrgendiku jalamil ajaloolise Harju värava eeslinna territooriumil, kus asetses mitmeid olulisi kesk- ja varauusaegseid objekte nagu näiteks Karja allikas, Ülemiste järvest linna kulgenud veejuhe ja Püha Barbara kalmistu. Viimast kahte mälestist on arheoloogiliselt uuritud (jn 1: 2–3). Lisaks jääb 2016. a uuritud kinnistute lähedusse (esmajoones Roosikrantsi tänavale) veel paar suuremat kaevandit (jn 1: 4), millest kogutud juhuleidude ja üksikute söeproovide alusel saab väita, et piirkonna asustus ulatub nooremasse rauaaega või isegi viikingiaja lõppu. Vanimad linnaplaanid ja -kaardid pärinevad 17. sajandist ning nende põhjal paiknes Pärnu mnt 22, 22a ja 24 kinnistutel hõre kerghoonestus hiljemalt 18. sajandist. Üldjoontes toetab olemasolev kirjalik aines varasemate arheoloogiliste uuringute tulemusi, mille järgi jäid kesk- ja varauusajal Roosikrantsi tn ja Pärnu mnt regiooni linnaelanike aiad ja põllumaad.

Välitöödega kogutud teave lubab uuritud kinnistute asustusloo jagada üldistades nelja faasi, millest esimesed kaks väärivad Tallinna varaajaloo seisukohast kõrgendatud tähelepanu.

Jättes kõrvale üksikud kiviaegsed juhuleiud ning vahetult looduslikult aluspinnalt korjatud kaks viikingiaegset või noorema rauaaja savinõukildu (jn 3: 1), kuuluvad vanimad püsiasustuse jäljed arvatavasti noorema rauaaja lõppu või vahetult keskaegse linna asutamise aega. Hetkel puuduvad leidude ja kontekstide täpsed dateeringud, mille alusel ala elutegevust absoluutse kindlusega 13. sajandi algusest varasemaks määrata. Osalt on selle põhjuseks looduslikule aluspinnale ladestunud kultuurkihi ja struktuuride katkendlik säilivus – keskaegne ja hilisem tegevus kinnistutel hävitas vanimaid ladestusi märkimisväärselt, nii et esmajoones suudeti kirjeldada loodusliku liivakihini ulatunud sissekaeveid ja nende täiteid. Kihtide ja sissekaevete stratigraafilise paiknemise ning leidude iseloomu järgi võiks siiski eeldada, et vanimad asustusjäljed uuritud alal pärinevad 1219. aasta Valdemar II vallutuse ehk keskaegse Tallinna linna tekke eelsest ajast.

Kogutud teabe alusel näib, et millalgi noorema rauaaja lõpus kasutati ala üsna intensiivselt – looduslikule aluspinnasele tekkinud leetekihile ladestus esimene, 8–10 cm paksune elutegevuskiht, mis sisaldab üksikuid lääneslaavi ja nn läänemerekeraamika (i. k *Baltic Ware*, sks. k *Ostseeware*) katkeid. Kuid mis veelgi olulisem, faas I (jn 2) asustuse algusajal kaevatakse läbi selle maapinnatasandi mitmeid süvendeid (jn 2: 26, 49, 42, 74, 76), millest osad sisaldavad leide, teised mitte. Lisaks rajati arvatavasti kõnealuste aukudega samal ajal maasse süvendatud maa- ja paekividest alusega tulease (jn 2: 8), mis võis ühe halvasti säilinud puidujälje järgi (jn 4) olla hoonesisene kolle. Kui lähtuda sissekaevetest saadud keraamikast, eelkõige prügiauguna tõlgendatud "L"-kujulisest süvendist (jn 2: 76) kogutud arvukaist nõukildudest (nt jn 3: 4–15), siis paigutub faas I alguspool 12. sajandisse – 13. sajandi algusesse. Nimetamisväärne on ka selle keraamikakogumi võimalik päritolu: tuginedes mujalt saadud paralleelidele näib tõenäoline, et rohkem kui 20 savipoti ja 10 savikaane katked kuuluvad Läänemere lõunaranniku Pommeri piirkonna lääneslaavi ning Skandinaavia idaranniku slaavi taustaga läänemerekeraamikale. Ehkki sarnast keraamikat on Tallinnast tagasihoidlikus koguses leitud varemgi, kujutab kõnealune leid esimest üsna kindlat suletud leiukompleksi (jäätmeauk, mitte ajaliselt laiemast perioodist täitepinnas või kasutuskiht). Samasugust keraamikat leiti lisaks teistestki süvenditest. Järgnevad tegevused kinnistul on suure osa neist katkeist paigutanud hilisemate ladestuste leidude sekka – kokku koguti uuringutel üle 1000 lääneslaavi ja läänemerekeraamika nõutüki.

Järgnevalt toimus uuritud alal arvatavasti tulekahju, kuid selgusetuks jääb, millal ja kui ulatuslik see oli. Kindel on, et senine maakasutus muutus. Sellele osutab kogu territooriumi hõlvanud kraavidesüsteem (jn 2: 7, 57, 58), mida kokku registreeriti 136 m. Kraavid olid madalad, valdavalt 10–15 cm sügavused ja u 60 cm laiad. Kuna süvendeil puudus selge kalle, siis pole neid ilmselt põhjust pidada kuivenduskraavideks. Pigem võib mujalt pärit analoogidele toetudes seostada neid piirkonna kruntideks jagamisega, millele lisaks kraavide tegumoele viitaks ka tekkinud maalappide oletatav pindala. Jällegi on keeruline hinnata, millal see toimus, sest esiteks ei dateeri kraave täitnud pinnas süvendite rajamist, vaid nende eksisteerimise lõppu. Teiseks koguti täitest vaid mõned nõufragmendid, mis pealegi võisid täitepinnasesse sattuda järgnenud maaharimise käigus. Lähtudes

vanimaist kildudest, võiks kraavide täitmine jääda 13. sajandi viimasesse kolmandikku.

Faas I lõpetab kraavide kinni ajamine ja uuritud maa-ala põllupinnaks muutmine. Tekkis 10–15 cm paksune põllukiht, mille harimise ajal lõhkus kündmine alumisi ladestusi, jättes ühtlasi looduslikku aluspinda arvukaid kündmisjälgi. Künnikihti sattunud leidude analüüsi järgi võiks kihi tekkeaeg langeda 13. sajandi lõppu või 14. sajandi algusesse.

Võimalik, et faas I ajal on pinnasesse kaevatud lohk kuhu asetati järgnevalt kogum nooleotsi (jn 5), mis võiksid Ain Mäesalu hinnangul kuuluda 1220. aastate Vene päritolu nooltele. Sellele räägib vastu auku täitnud pinnas, millest leiti paar 14. sajandi nõukildu. Kuna süvendi stratigraafiline asetsemine teiste kihtide suhtes jäi kaevamistel lahtiseks, pole kahjuks selle põneva kompleksi osas kaugemale ulatuvaid järeldusi võimalik teha.

Faas II ajal (jn 6) jätkus ala kasutamine põllumaana. Selle aja jooksul kujunes uus, kuni 30 cm paksune künnikiht, mille sees ei olnud võimalik eristada üksikuid kihistusi. Põllukiht sisaldas muuhulgas arvukalt ehitusjäänuseid ja leide, mille alusel võib naaberkaevandite (Roosikrantsi 9/11 ja Roosikrantsi 2) uurimistulemusi kaasates oletada, et millalgi 14. sajandi keskpaigas hävis Roosikrantsi tn piirkonnas suurema õnnetuse käigus vanem hoonestus. Järgnevalt lükati rusud laiali ja osa sellest võis sattuda ka hiljuti uuritud alale. Samuti kaevati põllupidamise perioodil parema maaharimise nimel maasse viis suurt maakivi (jn 6: 32, 16, 69, 78, 36). Lisaks leiti jälgi kivide matmise järgsesse aega kuuluvaist vankri rataste tekitatud roopaist (jn 7).

Faas III on dateeritud 16. sajandisse ja hõlmab elutegevust kinnistutel. Põllupidamine alal katkes ja kaevandi põhjaossa püstitati õhukesele paekivivundamendile toetunud mitmeruumiline kerghoone (jn 6: 27), mille juurde kuulus ilmselt samal ajal rajatud kaev ning nende vaheline munakivisillutis (jn 6: 38, 68). Ehitisest leitud ahjujäänused viitavad, et maja kasutati ilmselt elamuna. Selgusetuks jäi, kuidas tarvitati hoonest lõunasse jäänud kivi, telliste ja katusekivide katketega prügitatud õueala. Lahtiseks jääb ka maja kasutuse lõpp. Tuginedes vundamendikividele ladestunud pinnase iseloomule ja ahju lammutamisele, näib olevat võimalik, et ehitis teisaldati sihipäraselt millalgi 16. sajandi lõpukümnenditel. Hüpoteetiliselt võis see juhtuda 1577. aasta Tallinna piiramise ajal. Samas jätkus kaevu kasutamine kuni 20. sajandi alguseni. Hoonet katnud tüsedam täitepinnas sisaldas väga rikkalikku kollektsiooni 16. sajandi lõpu ja 17. sajandi alguse esemeleide (jn 8), mille puhul võib eeldada, et need sattusid siia linnamüüriga piiratud alalt toodud ehitus- ja olmeprahiga.

Varauusajal ja uusajal (faas IV) kasutati uuritud piirkonda taas aiamaana: 17. ja 18. sajandi jooksul täideti ala mitmel korral harimiseks kõlbuliku pinnasega, samuti puudusid siin 17.–19. sajandil kapitaalsemad hooned.

Kokkuvõttes pakkusid hiljutised päästekaevamised Pärnu mnt 22, 22a ja 24 kinnistutel olulist täiendust Tallinna vanemasse kujunemislukku. Teoreetilisel tasandil pakuti juba 1960. aastatel, et Tõnismäe jalamil võis paikneda muinasaja lõpu asula. Arheoloogiliselt leiti sellele esimesed tõendid 1980. aastate lõpus ja 1990. aastatel kui mitmed juhuleiud, üksikud võimalikud tarindid ning kogutud söeproovid osutasid, et Vabaduse väljaku lõunaküljele jääval Tõnismäe kõrgendiku alusel platool asus ilmselt noorema rauaaja asula. Eelnevaid arvamusi täiendati hiljuti oletusega, et 2016. a uuritud kaevandi naabrusesse jäi kaubaasula. Siiski tugines eeltoodu suures osas katkendliku andmestiku põhjal tehtud tuletuskäigule ja alles kõnealused kaevamised pakuvad paremat ainelist toetust hüpoteesidele. Nüüd on kogutud soliidne kogum võõrast keraamikat, lisaks hooajalisele või pikemale viibimisele viitavatele elutegevusjälgedele. See võiks kinnitada, et tõepoolest, Tõnismäe ja Tatari tänava vahelisele territooriumile jääval muinasaegsel asustusalal leidub kaugematele kauba(?)kontaktidele viitavaid jälgi. See väide vajab siiski veel põhjalikumat analüüsi, sest kogutud avara ajamääranguga arheoloogiline aines võimaldab nii leide kui ka kontekste dateerida vahetult linna eelsesse ja linna asutamise aegsesse aega. Lisaks on omaette intrigeerivaks teemaks piirkonna võimalik kruntimine 13. sajandi esimesel poolel. Ala ulatuslik kraavitamine lubab esitada spekulatsiooni, et vahest tuleks hoopis sellest piirkonnast otsida vahetult Valdemar II vallutuse järgset linnaasustust ning alles hiljem, pärast esimest asustuslainet valiti uue kaubalinna asukohaks Toompea jalam – vähemalt aitaks see põhjendada, miks on Tallinna vanalinna alalt sedavõrd vähe 13. sajandi I poolde / II veerandisse dateeritud asustusjälgi.