



Archaeological excavations at Harju Gate suburb in Tallinn, Tatari St. 13 / Sakala St. 13, 15 and 17

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INTRODUCTION

Archaeological research in the plots of Tatari St. 13 / Sakala St. 13, 15, 17 (Fig. 1: 1) prepared the area for the construction of the concert hall of the Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre. Fieldwork lasted from October 2017 to January 2018, encompassed an area of 1122 m² and was organised by OÜ Arheox (Bernotas *et al.* 2018).

The archaeologically investigated plots lie in a medieval and later suburban area of Hanseatic town Tallinn known as the Harju Gate suburb. The suburb with its street network can be visually traced back to the earliest town plans from the 17th century (Raid 2011), information on plot division is available from the cadastral map of Tallinn from the year 1699 (TLA.230.1.Aa120) and layout of buildings starts with the map of 1764 (Raid 2011, map 12), with later plans showing that the area was covered densely with houses throughout the 19th and 20th century. In 2017, a three-storey building from the early 20th century at Tatari St. 13, located at the NW-part of the excavation area was demolished before the construction activity. Other late 19th – early 20th-century houses were removed from the future construction site already several decades ago.

Historically two important infrastructural elements were close to the plots under discussion. Firstly, the excavated area is situated on the southern side of Sakala Street. This street can be regarded a prehistoric connecting road between the mouth of the Härjapea River where the probable Late Iron Age (11th–12th cc) harbour site was located and the contemporary settlement on the SE-foot of Tõnismägi Hill (Russow 2016, fig. 1; Tamla 2016, fig. 3). Secondly, about 100 metres south from the investigated plots, a spring called *Karjaallikas* (Eng. Cattle Spring) can be located (Fig. 1: K; Raid 2011, map no. 4) – possible water source for the surroundings already during the prehistory as well as one of the main suppliers of water for the walled town. Thus, on the western side of the Tatari Street ran a medieval and early modern water pipe which has been unearthed several times during the archaeological excavations (Pärn 2004, fig. 2).

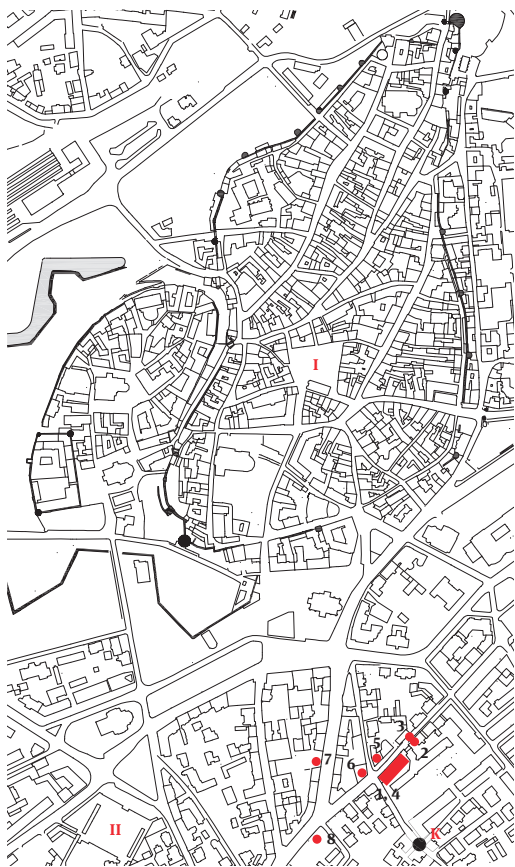


Fig. 1. Places and fieldwork sites mentioned in the article. I – Medieval walled town, II – Tõnismägi Hill, K – Karja Spring. 1 – Tatari St. 13/Sakala St. 13, 15 and 17 (2017–2018), 2 – Sakala St. 11c (1990, 1992), 3 – in front of Sakala St. 11 (1994), 4 – Sakala St. 13/15 (2011), 5 – Sakala St. 20 / Tatari St. 9, 11 (2004), 6 – Sakala St. 8 / Tatari St. 22 (1997), 7 – Pärnu Rd. 22, 22a and 24 (2016), 8 – Pärnu Rd. 31–35 (2016).

Jn 1. Artiklis mainitud kohad ja välitööd. I – vanalinn, II – Tõnismägi, K – Karjaallikas. 1 – Tatari 13/Sakala 13, 15 ja 17 (2017–2018), 2 – Sakala 11c (1990, 1992), 3 – Sakala 11 esine (1994), 4 – Sakala 13/15 (2011), 5 – Sakala 20/Tatari 9, 11 (2004), 6 – Sakala 8/Tatari 22 (1997), 7 – Pärnu mnt. 22, 22a ja 24 (2016), 8 – Pärnu mnt. 31–35 (2016).

Map / Kaart: Villu Kadakas, Erki Russow

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INFORMATION PRIOR TO THE RECENT FIELDWORK

The Tatari St. 13 / Sakala St. 13, 15, 17 site and its closer neighbourhood has been archaeologically surveyed and investigated for several times. In 1990, archaeologist Ain Lavi from the Institute of History made a brief study of the Sakala 11c property where the building of the Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre had started (Fig. 1: 2). He succeeded to ascertain that the thickness of the deposits that were removed without any archaeological supervision was on average between 1 and 1.5 metres, and that on the natural ground a 6–10 cm thick habitation layer with clear traces of fire can be observed (Lavi 2004, fig. 3). Based on the ^{14}C analysis (Tln-1790) of the sampled charcoal, the aforementioned layer was dated to 1287–1402 cal AD which was also confirmed with a few medieval pottery sherds (*ibid.*, 139–141).¹ The same location was again visited in autumn 1994 when archaeologist Peeter Talvar (OÜ Agu EMS) carried out a brief monitoring work during the pipeline renewal at Sakala street, in front of Sakala St. 11c (Fig. 1: 3). According to an oral presentation from December 1994, occasionally up to 2–3 m thick cultural layers were registered, with the earliest human activities dated to the 15th–16th century (Lavi 1996, 56). The collected finds (AI 6203) do not confirm this proposition as the surviving (the collection is probably not intact) fragments of pottery belong to the 17th–18th century.

In spring 2011, Ain Lavi made two trial pits at the Sakala St. 13/15 plot (Fig. 1: 4), but the results were less rewarding: only early modern pottery and three parts of a secondarily used late medieval limestone pillar were found.² Still, relying on his earlier research

results Lavi suggested that the plot contains patches of medieval cultural layer but the majority of the deposits were dated to the 17th and later centuries (Lavi 2011).

¹ Apparently the finds were discarded as there are no information about their whereabouts. The published description in Lavi 2004 allows to agree that at least 14th–15th century pottery was found. Lavi visited the same place also in February 1992, the only artefact collected but not kept is a wrought nail, though the inventory number AI 5965 was submitted for all the finds of 1990 and 1992.

² Unpublished inspection notes and photos of municipal archaeologist Toomas Tamla from 11.05.2011 (TLPA). The official fieldwork report of the preliminary investigation by OÜ Muinasprojekt has neither been completed nor submitted to public archives.

In 2004, on the other side of the street archaeological salvage excavations on an area of ca. 650 m² were organised at Sakala St. 20 / Tatari St. 9/11 (Fig. 1: 5) by Villu Kadakas and Hanno Nilov from OÜ Agu EMS (Kadakas 2005, 160; Kadakas & Toos 2011). On top of the natural sand a 30–50 cm layer with scarce traces of medieval settlement activities was found, although the majority of the finds (AI 6791) from this deposit were dated to the 17th century (*ibid.*). A few years earlier archaeologist Jaak Mäll (OÜ Agu EMS) directed rescue excavations at an area of 410 m² on another nearby plot at Tatari St. 8 / Sakala St. 22 (Fig. 1: 6). This site unearthed a section of a 15th century water pipe, remains of five buildings, a 50–70 cm wide shallow ditch dug into the natural ground, interpreted as a drainage trench as well as tracks of two medieval roads. The well preserved deposits, containing finds (AI 6221) from the 13th to 17th century were also documented (Mäll 1997), some of the oldest coarseware (AI 6221: 241) could be also from the Late Iron Age, i.e. the end of the 12th or the beginning of the 13th century.

In summary, the previous archaeological research and the landscape analysis pointed towards the possibility of relatively early settlement activities in this area. However, the archaeological evidence indicating prehistoric and medieval habitation was too modest to claim it as a part of an early settlement site on the SE-foot of Tõnismägi Hill.

THE RESEARCH OF 2017–2018

Prior to the excavations, four test pits were dug on the site of the future building in autumn 2017. These pits indicated the existence of a medieval cultural layer on top of the natural sand at the absolute height of approximately 14–15 m (Bernotas *et al.* 2018).

As the results of the preliminary investigation confirmed the existence of well-preserved layers, undisturbed by 18th–19th century buildings and structures in the area, the aim of the subsequent salvage work was to manually excavate those deposits. The work began with archaeological monitoring while the upper layers, containing finds from the 18th and 19th centuries as well as the remains of the buildings from those centuries were removed with excavator. Up to 40 cm thick section on top of the natural sand was left for manual digging. Underneath the 10 cm thick leftover of modern era layers, up to 30 cm thick brownish sand, containing numerous finds from the 13th to 15th century had deposited on the natural subsoil of clayish sand. The medieval cultural layer was sieved.

Ard marks and plough layer

Traces of ploughing were revealed on natural subsoil across the entire excavation area. These were darker parallel lines visible in sand 30–40 cm apart (Fig. 2). The criss-cross arrangement of lines in the sand indicates the use of a simple type of plough – an ard. As this area was divided to plots in the second half of the 17th century at latest the ard marks should date to earlier time. On the natural subsoil also one pair of trails of cart track (Fig. 2) were found that appear to be slightly younger than the ard marks.

An up to 30 cm thick layer of brownish sand on top of natural sand and ard marks



Fig. 2. Ard marks on natural ground.
Jn 2. Künnijäljed looduslikul aluspinnal.
 Photo / Foto: Rivo Bernotas

must thus be a plough layer of onetime field. Underneath the plough layer, various irregular-shaped depressions filled with darker soil emerged. Some of them contained a few sherds of bricks, bone fragments and charcoal. The analysis of the find concentration indicated that the potsherds, fragments of burnt clay daub, and animal bones did not form any concentration areas, they were scattered all over the trench. The unearthed depressions were, with few exceptions, mostly natural hollows, not man-made.

Arte- and ecofacts from the plough layer

Altogether 1039 finds (AI 7863) were collected from the excavation, 123 of those from the plough layer on the natural ground, from intrusions into the sandy natural ground or from the depressions below the plough zone. The oldest find from the plough layer is a rim sherd of handmade pottery (AI 7863: 11). This type of pottery went out of use in northern Estonia during the first half of the 13th century at the latest (Tvauri 2005, 125). Unfortunately, the sherd does not have any distinctive features to date it more precisely, thus the find can be connected either with the prehistoric settlement activities in this region or with the land use after the Danish conquest of Tallinn area in 1219.



Fig. 3. Some sherds of the oldest imported pottery – Siegburg proto-stoneware (left) and highly decorated redware (right).

Jn 3. Mõned katked vanimast importkeraamikast – Siegburgi protokivikeraamika (vasakul) ja ornamenteeritud glasuurkeraamika (paremal).

(AI 7863: 127–129, 179–180.)

Photo / Foto: Jaana Ratas

There are also a few finds from the earliest phase of the medieval urban development of Tallinn during the first half of the 13th century, reflected by the sherds of Pingsdorf-type ware (1 sherd), Paffrath globular pot (1 sherd), Siegburg proto stoneware (6 sherds) and highly decorated redware (2 sherds) from southern Baltic (Fig. 3). However, most of the finds from the plough layer date from the 14th–16th century and represent the typical urban material culture of Hanseatic towns in the northern Baltic through the pottery fragments of Siegburg, Waldenburg, Langerwehe, Raeren and southern Lower Saxony stoneware. The sherds of southern Baltic grey- and redware are also abundant in the collection. Of other

items, some fragments of glass beakers as well as a key of an iron push-key padlock are worth mentioning here.

The sampled bone material belongs mostly to the domestic animals (97% of the collection), dominated by the finds of bovine (53% of a total collection), and sheep and goat (34% of domestic animals) and to a lesser extent (12% of domestic animals) of bones belonging to pigs (Maldre & Tomek 2018). The bones of wild animals were represented only with a few examples as well as with some finds of migrant birds such as common scoter (*Melanitta nigra*), common goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*) and long-tailed duck (*Clangula hyemalis*). One bone complex from square B8, collected from a pit in the natural sand and filled with dark soil must be highlighted here. This collection consisted of small fragments of burned bones, belonging to hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*) and seals (*Phocidae*) as well as to migrant birds, but no bones of domestic animals were present (*ibid.*).

All in all, the plough layer covering the natural ground with the finds mainly dating to the 14th–16th century and without building remains was a soil layer that was created through the long-term agricultural activities. The finds that were found from this layer are primarily typical to the households inside the walled town and not to the domestic environment of suburban areas. Thus, it is plausible that the found artefacts landed here in connection with the regular emptying of latrines and trash pits, containing human faeces and muck to the fields behind the town walls. The few shallow depressions in the natural ground, sometimes with sparse domestic debris might indicate both the filling of the hollow parts of the area during the agricultural activities, but occasionally surviving evidence of possible Late Iron Age habitation (e.g. the above mentioned pit from square B8 with animal bones) on spot cannot be excluded either.

Finds from early modern fill

The layer on top of the plough zone included finds from the 13th to the 19th century. Some of these belong to the already mentioned pottery groups – medieval and later stoneware from Siegburg, Langerwehe, Waldenburg, Raeren, Frechen, Westerwald, Southern Lower Saxony and Duingen. Also sherds of southern Baltic greyware vessels were found as well as medieval and early modern era glazed redware. From the younger pottery, the fragments of 17th–19th century faience (among Dutch products also a sherd of Arnstadt faience from Germany, AI 7863: 326) and late 18th–19th century transferware (Wedgwood, Davenport) were present.

Nevertheless, some (Fig. 4) of the ceramic finds collected are less common in Tallinn such as 15th century Spanish Valencian lustreware and southeastern German Lausitz stoneware. These late medieval pottery groups are occasionally represented in suburban fill layers in Tallinn but always in a very modest amount. The same applies to one exotic coarseware from Portugal, namely Merida-type costrels that have been mainly found in early modern contexts in Tallinn and other Estonian harbour towns (Russow 2006, 126). This dating seems to be also true for the base sherds from Tatari St. 13 (AI 7863: 210–211) but as recent excavations show, also the slightly earlier appearance of Merida-type ware in Tallinn (e.g. in the last quarter of 15th century) is not excluded. The rarest pottery finds considering the relevant examples in Tallinn are the two fragments of 16th-century Russian whiteware (AI 7863: 256, 267; Tvauri 2004).

Among artefacts made of other materials, a bone stylus, a two-sided comb and two rumbler bells of copper alloy, and an animal-head-shaped bronze spout (Fig. 5) of a possible hand washing vessel – lavabo – deserve mentioning here. This is the first example of this kind from Tallinn, after more than 40 years of archaeological research of the Hanseatic town and its suburbs.³ Similar vessels are rare finds also elsewhere in Estonia. So far, only two complete examples are known, one from Viljandi castle and another from the vicinity of Laiuse castle.



Fig. 4. Sherds of Valencian lustreware and Lausitz stoneware.

Jn 4. Valencia säravapinnalise keraamika ja Lausitzi kivikeraamika katked.

(AI 7863: 891, 970.)

Photo / Foto: Jaana Ratas

³ Another one, dated to the last quarter of the 15th century, was found in the summer of 2018 during the Jahu St. 6 / Väike-Patarei St. 1 excavations.



Fig. 5. A spout of a lavabo.

Jn 5. Keskaegse kätepesunõu – lavabo – tila.

(AI 7863: 842.)

Photo / Foto: Erki Russow

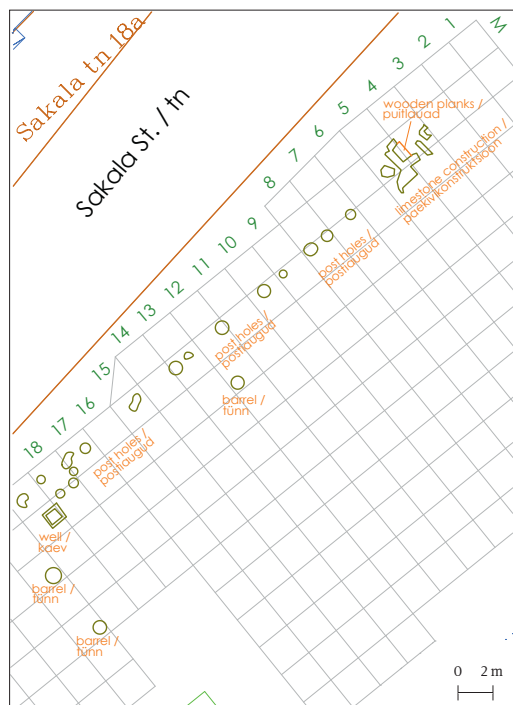


Fig. 6. The modern-era constructions in the trench.

Jn 6. Kaevandist leitud uusaegsed ehitusjäänused.

Drawing / Joonis: Rivo Bernotas

Another spout of a lavabo with comparable animal head but different technological solution, tentatively dated to the 15th century was unearthed in 2017 in western Estonia, Hälvati village (Russow 2018). The recent steady increase of this kind of metal artefacts is a good example of the use of detecting devices at urban archaeological excavations that has been a more common practice only for the last 6–7 years.

The formation of the layer with early modern and later finds is by and large similar to the previous deposit. The absence of building constructions and floor/yard levels in this layer as well as the composition of artefacts indicates the same deposition practices as earlier: most likely we are dealing here again with domestic (and occasional industrial) debris collected from the Old Town and scattered around the suburbs. This kind of action is very well visible also elsewhere in southern and southeastern suburbs of Tallinn – next to the already mentioned sites at the crossing of Tatari-Sakala streets, it was recently recorded in other nearby excavated areas such as plots at Pärnu Rd. 22, 22a and 24 and Pärnu Rd. 31–35 (Fig. 1: 7–8; Bernotas *et al.* 2017; Russow *et al.* 2017). Whether the agricultural activities were continued during the period of trash disposal is difficult to confirm but highly likely (see below).

Modern era constructions

During the fieldwork, also traces of early modern constructions were discovered which were dug through the medieval cultural layer, the resulting intrusions containing modern age finds. Firstly, the post holes, discovered in an area 32 metres in length, parallel to Sakala Street (Fig. 6). This larger structure also contained limestone foundation in its northeastern side – it is the same area from where the fragments of the medieval but possibly secondarily used limestone pillar were found in 2011. The measurements

and the location of the remnants probably refer to a stable with some accompanying dwelling.

Next to the southwestern side of the mentioned building remains, a well, built of 20 cm thick logs and measuring 1.3×1.3 m was found (Fig. 6). The pieces of early modern pottery and clay pipes collected from the well allow dating its usage to approximately the 18th–19th centuries.

Also three barrels, with diameters of up to 90 centimetres were found. Based on the glass vessel fragment found from the barrel, the use of the barrels might be dated also to the 18th–19th centuries.

HISTORY OF THE RESEARCH AREA

Based on the archaeological finds and written records, the research area witnessed several phases of human activity and occupation.

It is impossible to confirm that the region under discussion was in active use already in prehistoric times: despite its suitable location close to the settlement, water source (Karja Spring) and probable road to the harbour site at the mouth of the Härjapea River, nothing is definitely indicating towards human activities here during the 11th–12th centuries. One tiny fragment of handmade pottery and some bone finds from one pit are not enough to verify this assumption. It is also hard to connect the found traces of agricultural activities with pre-urban settlement on the SE-foot of Tõnismägi Hill even though this cannot be fully excluded. On the other hand, the area was possibly too wet because of the nearby spring (Lavi 2004, 141) for farming before extensive landscape modification.

The first medieval artefacts collected – a handful of imported pottery from the first half of the 13th century – are highly likely secondarily deposited, originating from distant places (e.g. medieval town core) and should be handled together with the main collection of medieval pottery. Thus, based on ard marks and irregularly scattered medieval pot sherds within the plough zone, the area was used as agricultural land from the late 13th century at the latest.

The area was used as a field and/or pasture throughout the medieval and early modern period. This is substantiated with the fact that neither signs of domestic and industrial activities nor remains of the buildings or other structures were found. The composition of the found cultural layer is similar to the deposits found across the street at the excavations at Sakala St. 20/Tatari St. 9, 11 in 2004 and Tatari St. 8/Sakala St. 22 in 1997.

This is in accordance with the information derived from written sources. It is known that on the foot of Tõnismägi Hill, around the Pärnu Road, Vaestepatuste⁴, Tatari, Liivalaia and Veerenni streets, an enormous property called Müller's Field (Germ. *Müllers Acker*) was situated which belonged to an alderman Georg Müller. In 1645 when the town council rented this land to the mentioned Müller for the first time, the given area was open space, without buildings and he got permission not only for tillage, but also to erect houses there (Alamaa 1966, 46–47, 100). Indeed, the first houses on the present-day plots of Tatari St. 13, Sakala St. 13, 15 and 17 were probably built in the 18th century (although the 17th century cannot be excluded) and over a longer time up to 2.5 m thick layer of fill accumulated on the spot. Some of it reflects the previous deposition habits, another part of it belongs to the local occupation as the first few generations of houses were replaced with newer and larger ones during the second half and late 19th century, when the rapid growth of Tallinn brought along regeneration of its historical suburbs.

⁴ A street that does not exist anymore.

CONCLUSION

The salvage excavation on the plots of Tatari St. 13 and Sakala St. 13, 15 and 17 was an important addition to the archaeology of suburban areas of Tallinn. It helped to elaborate the previous thoughts on the genesis of the region as well as brought some new information on the material culture of the medieval and early modern period households of the walled town. The fieldwork also established that also here farming and possibly grazing took place during the medieval and post medieval period. Most importantly, the excavation could not confirm the hypotheses on the active land use in this area during the prehistoric period. This is not ruled out but the material evidence collected is remarkably sparse to indicate that the area at the corner of current Tatari and Sakala streets was part of a late Iron Age settlement on the SE-foot of Tõnismägi Hill.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The article was written with the support of research projects of the Estonian Research Council IUT 18-8 and IUT 20-7, and the research grant of the Estonian Research Council no. PRG29 and private-held research company OÜ Arheox. We are grateful to Liina Maldre (TLÜ AT) for the identification of the excavated animal bones.

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- TLA.230.1.Aa120** Wahrer und Eigentlicher Entwurf aller der in der Revalschen Vorstadt liegenden Plätze, Gründe, Gärten, Äcker und Wießen. Wie dieselbe sowohl ihrer wahren Figur nach gemeßen und aufgerißen, als ihrer Superficialischen Inhalt nach calculieret und außgerechnet worden Anno 1699 durch Sigismund von Staden. (*Map in TLA.*)

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ARHEOLOOGILISED KAEVAMISED TALLINNAS HARJU VÄRAVA EESLINNAS TATARI 13 / SAKALA 13, 15 JA 17

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2017. aasta lõpus ja 2018. aasta alguses toimusid Eesti Muusika- ja Teatriakadeemia kontserdisaali ehitamise tõttu Tallinnas Tatari 13/Sakala 13, 15 ja 17 kinnistutel arheoloogilised päästekaevamised 1122 m² suurusel alal (jn 1: 1). Lähiumbruses varem toimunud uurin-gute (jn 1: 2–6) ning maastikuanalüüsi põhjal võis oletada, et piirkonnast võib leida jälgi muinasaja lõpu asustusest ning keskaegsest elutegevusest. Sellele osutavad muuhulgas ka kaks lähikonna maastiku-elementi: Sakala tänav, mis võis olla muinasaegne tee Härjapea jõe suudmes asunud sadamakohta ning Karja allikas, mis oli keskajal, aga ilmselt ka muinas-ajal, oluline veevõtukoh.

2017. aasta päästekaevamistele eelnesid eeluuringud. Rajati neli prooviauku, mille põhjal kultuurkihi iseloom sarnanes juba varem teada olnud olukorrale. Looduslikul maapinnal, absoluutkõrgusel 14–15 m asus kuni 2,5 m paksune kultuurkiht, mille alumine osa sisaldas keskaegseid leide. Järgnenud pääste-kaevamised keskendusid kultuurkihi alumise 30 cm käitsi kaevamisele, ladestuse ülemine osa ehk uus-aegsed ehitusjäänused ja -praht seevastu eemaldati arheoloogilise järelevalve all. Loodusliku saviliivase pinnase peal asunud kultuurkihi kõige alumine võond sõeluti läbi.

Kaevamistel tuli looduslike ladestuste ülapinnal päevavalgele ohtralt künnijälgi (jn 2). See asjaolu ja looduslikul saviliival asunud 30 cm paksuse lades-tuse iseloom (tarindite puudumine, korrapäratult pinnases asunud leiud) viitavad, et kultuurkihi kõige alumise osa moodustab künnikiht. Künnikihi alla jäi ka mõningaid lohke, millest enamik olid looduslikud.

Uuringutel koguti 1039 leidu, millest 123 päri-nevad kas alumisest künnikihist, adravagudest või olid sattunud sõmera loodusliku pinnase sisse. Neist esemekatkeist oli vanim üks käitsikeraamika servakatke, mille täpsem dateerimine ei ole võima-lik, sest sellist keraamikat kasutati nii muinasajal kui ka 13. sajandi I poolel, mil Tallinna alal oli juba alanud keskaegse linnaruumi kujunemine. Vanuselt järgmised leiud – Pingsdorfi ja Paffrathi tüüpi keraa-mika, Siegburgi protokivikeraamika, ornamenteeri-tud glasuurkeraamika (jn 3) – kuuluvad juba kesk-aegse, 13. sajandi I poole linnalise leiuväime sekka.

Suurem osa alumisest kultuurkihist saadud leidudest (Siegburgi, Waldenburi, Langerwehe, Raereni ja Lõuna-Alam-Saksi kivikeraamika ning lõunapoolse Läänemereregiooni hallid ja punased savinõud) pärinevad 14.–16. sajandist. Arvestades, et taoline keraamika on pigem tüüpiline linnamüüri piiratud alale, võib eeldada, et esemekatked sattusid eeslinna kultuurkihti vanalinna kinnistutel asunud käimlate ja prügiaukude tühjendamisel põllumajanduslikule maale. Ka kogutud loomaluud võivad osaliselt linna kinnistutelt pärineda, kuid teine osa võib olla maa-põue sattunud piirkonnas toimunud tegevuste tõttu, nagu näiteks künnikihi alusest lohust leitud põlenud luud, mille seas osteoloog Liina Maldre määrangul esines siili ja hüljeste luid.

Keskaegse künnikihi peal asunud järgmine täite-pinnasevöönd ei sisaldanud samuti ei tarindite ega ka õue/põrandatasapindade jälgi. Suure tõenäosusega jätkus varasem maakasutusviis seega vähemalt 17. sajandi lõpuni. Sellest kihist kogutud leidude seas on nii kesk-, varauus- kui ka uusaegset keraamikat, aga ka teistest materjalidest esemete katkeid. Savinõude killud esindavad taas tüüpilist linnalist olmekultuuri, sealhulgas leidub nt Tallinna kaevamistel haruldasi nõukatkeid, nagu 15. sajandi Valencia (Hispaania) säravapinnaline keraamika, Kagu-Saksamaa Lausitzi kivikeraamika (jn 4), aga ka Portugalist pärit Merida-tüüpi pudelite fragmendid ning 16. sajandi Vene val-gete savinõude katked. Muude esemete seast väärib eraldi esiletõstu metallist kätepesuanuma – lavabo – tila (jn 5), mis on esimene vastav leid Tallinnast.

Hüpoteesile, et keskaegse künnikihi peal asunud varauusaegne ladestus viitab samuti põllu- ja kar-japidamisega seotud alale, leiab kaudset kinnitust kirjalikest allikatest. 17. sajandil asus Tõnismäe nõlva all Pärnu maantee, Vaestepatuste, Tatari, Liivalaia ja Veerenni tänavate ümbruses ulatuslik maa-ala, mida kutsuti Mülleri põlluks. Nimelt sai Tallinna raehärra ja kohtufoogt Georg Müller 1645. aastal maa kasutus-õiguse loaga seda kohta kasutada nii põllumajan-duseks kui ka püstitada sinna hooneid. Arvestades, et 1699. aastaks on kõnealuses piirkonnas tekkinud kinnistud, võib arvata, et hiljemalt 17. sajandi II poolel või lõpus algas ka uuritud ala hoonestamine.

Arheoloogiliselt kinnitavad seda Sakala tänava äärest leitud konstruktsioonid (jn 6), mis võivad pärineda 18. sajandi talli- ja abihoonest. Ehitise lähedusest leiti samast ajast pärit kaev.

Kokkuvõttes andsid 2017.–2018. aasta arheoloogilised uuringud täiendavat teavet Harjuvärava eeslinna selle osa kujunemisloo kohta. Senised oletused Tatari – Sakala tänavate ristmiku piirkonnas asunud

muinasaegsest püüasustusest ei leidnud kinnitust – puuduvad ehitusjäänused ja muud tarindid, leidude hulk on nullilähedane. Juba muinasaja lõpul aset leidnud maaharimist ei saa siiski välistada. Arvestades, et Karjaallika ümbrus oli liigniiske, võib oletada, et tõsisem põllumajanduslik maakasutus algas siin keskajal ning ala krunditi ja järk-järgult ka hoonestati alles 17. sajandi lõpul.