



## **MEDIEVAL AND EARLY MODERN SUBURBAN SITE IN TALLINN, TARTU ROAD 1: CONTEXTS AND STRUCTURES**

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### **INTRODUCTION**

Archaeological excavations at Estonian Academy of Art (abridged as EKA) plot in Tartu Road 1 (Tallinn) were carried out from 13 June 2011 to 20 January 2012.<sup>1</sup> The main aim of the fieldwork was to fully research an area of about 1100 m<sup>2</sup> in the eastern part of the plot, where during 2010 preliminary archaeological investigation signs of a medieval and Early Modern cultural layer and preserved remains of constructions were found. The excavated area was situated outside the former main building of EKA – in the area of the former courtyard with two late 19th century two-storey timber buildings, all demolished in 2010. Whereas during the construction of the main building of EKA almost all cultural layers had been removed, the deeper layers in the courtyard area had been almost untouched during the construction of the timber buildings, despite of their massive limestone foundations. The cultural layer at the site was 2.5–3 m thick. The uppermost 1–1.3 m, connected with the recent demolition works or originating from the second half of the 19th and from the 20th century, were removed with a backhoe under the supervision of an archaeologist. The cultural layers and construction remains from the 14th – 19th century were excavated manually until the natural soil.

The present article gives an overview of the location of the plot at Tartu Road 1 in the historic townscape, excavation methods and recording principles, the cultural layer accumulated during seven centuries – building remains and soil deposits under, around and above these layers. The results of find material and analysis of natural sciences are presented in the following article (Russow *et al.*, this volume).

### **HISTORICAL OVERVIEW OF THE SITE AND ITS NEARBY AREA**

The plot is situated near the edge of the Tallinn Bay coastal plain on the left bank of the former Härjapea River (Fig. 1). In the beginning of the 13th century the shoreline and the estuary of the Härjapea River were about one km to the south from the current

<sup>1</sup> Research was conducted by OÜ Agu EMS. The leaders of fieldwork were Ulla Kadakas and Guido Toos. Gurlu Vedru with Kristi Tasuja and Anneli Kalm documented structures and soil layers and organized the collection of finds. Villu Kadakas, Erki Russow and Ragnar Nurk offered their consultations. In order to manage large amounts of data Kahrut Eller and Priit Lätti compiled a database (see Kadakas *et al.* 2013).



**Fig. 1.** Tallinn suburbs in the 17th century. Situation plan of the excavation area Tartu Rd 1. 1 – Town Hall Square, 2 – Toompea hill, 3 – harbour, 4 – Tõnismägi hill, 5 – former River Hārjapea, 6 – road to Tartu, 7 – medieval road to Narva, 8 – road to Pärnu, 9 – medieval St. John’s hospital, 10 – clay pond, 11 – Viru gate, 12 – Karja gate, 13 – medieval execution site, 14 – mill pond.

**Jn 1.** Tallinna eestinnad 17. sajandil. Tartu mnt 1 kaevandi asendiskeem. 1 – Raekoja plats, 2 – Toompea, 3 – sadam, 4 – Tõnismägi, 5 – kunagine Hārjapea jõgi, 6 – Tartu mnt, 7 – kunagine Narva mnt, 8 – Pärnu mnt, 9 – keskaegne Jaani seek, 10 – savitiik, 11 – Viru värav, 12 – Karja värav, 13 – keskaegne hukkamispaik Võllamägi, 14 – veskitiik.

Drawing / Joonis: R. Nurk, V. Kadakas  
 Base map/ aluskaart: Unpublished reconstruction of 17th c Tallinn by K. Schultz / K. Schultz  
 avaldamata rekonstruktsioonjoonis 17. saj Tallinnast (TLA 149-4-53).

shoreline, until about the line of Gonsiori street. In the 13th century there was a broad bay in the mouth of the Hārjapea River, extending from Kadrioru to the Old Town and at that time the sea border was approximately 2 m above today’s sea level (Künnapuu 1970, 57–58; Zobel 2008, figs 21, 129). Such topography has led to the assumption that there might have been a harbour at the end of pre-history and in the beginning of the Middle Ages (i.e., early 13th century), maybe even until the 14th century (Tamm 2003, 311–324). As a result of the land rise the sea had retreated further from the Tartu Road 1 plot to the north of the current Narva road by the beginning of the 16th century (Zobel 1980, fig. 303).<sup>2</sup>

In addition to the nearness of sea the important natural dominant of the research area has been the Hārjapea River that coursed through the present Maakri, Kivisilla (Eng. Stone bridge) and V. Reimann streets, and which was abundant in water and fish during the Middle Ages. The source of the river was Lake Ülemiste and since the river had a favourable downfall many watermills were situated on it already during the medieval times, which were the bases of many industries in Tallinn in the beginning of the 17th century. A number of reports from the 18th – 19th century describe how the dams broke and the suburbs near the Hārjapea River were flooded when water level in Lake Ülemiste was high (Kivi 1966, 100–104). Similar accidents may have occurred during previous times as well. There are many written sources from the Middle Ages and Early modern times that describe the destruction caused by autumn and winter storms at Tallinn Bay (Alamaa 1966, 14–15, 24–25), which probably affected the mouth area of

<sup>2</sup> The speed of land rise is currently considered to be, instead of 2.5–3 mm per year (Künnapuu & Raukas 1976, 34) only to 2.4 mm per year (Saarse *et al.* 2003, 261–268), but that does not change the fact that in the beginning of the Middle Ages (early 13th century) it was a coastal area, but by the 16th century not any more.

Härjapea River. Residents of the eastern suburbs used the water from the river for drinking and other purposes at least until the end of the 19th century, although it was also used as a wastewater dump. In the 1930s the polluted river was enclosed into an underground sewage channel and the riverbed was filled (Entsüklopeedia Tallinn, 1, 131).

The course of Tartu road probably developed during the end of prehistoric times and in the beginning of the Middle Ages as a road from the market place situated at the current Old Town territory to Virumaa and Järvamaa. Many researchers believe that the beginning of Tartu road was Väike-Karja street that started from Vana Turg (Eng. Old Market) and headed towards southeast along the coast, crossed the Härjapea River in the area of present Maakri street and reached the current Tartu road. The ascent to the Lasnamäe klint allowed reaching Narva road (Zobel 2008, 37). After the building of town fortifications in the end of the 13th century or in the beginning of the 14th century Tartu road could be accessed either through Viru or Karja gate (Zobel 2008, fig. 81). The importance of the Tartu road during the Middle Ages is further supported by the fact that the overlord of the town, Master of the Teutonic Order in Livonia used this road to enter the town (Süvalep 1936). On the 19th century town plans the road from Viru gate was called the Great Tartu road and the path originating from the Karja gate was the Little Tartu road. Both of those roads lead to the stone bridge located at the corner of the current Tartu road and Kivisilla<sup>3</sup> street and met directly south of the Tartu road 1 plot, creating a small triangular area (Fig. 2). The stone bridge existed until the beginning of the 20th century.

Since the EKA plot had a naturally advantageous location and was situated near the junction of the main roads it is possible that there might have been a permanent settlement site already at the end of prehistory. Historians have considered Kivisilla area to be one of the earliest settlement centres among Tallinn suburbs (Bruns 1993, 30–31). On the opposite bank of the river, slightly to the south from the Tartu Road 1 plot, St John's Hospital was established already during the first half of the 13th century (first mentioned in 1237). During the following centuries it developed into a complex with massive buildings.<sup>4</sup>

The first maps where the contours of Tallinn suburbs have been marked come from the end of the 17th century. In the book by Sigismund von Staden from 1699 with plans of suburban blocks complementing these maps plot borders are also

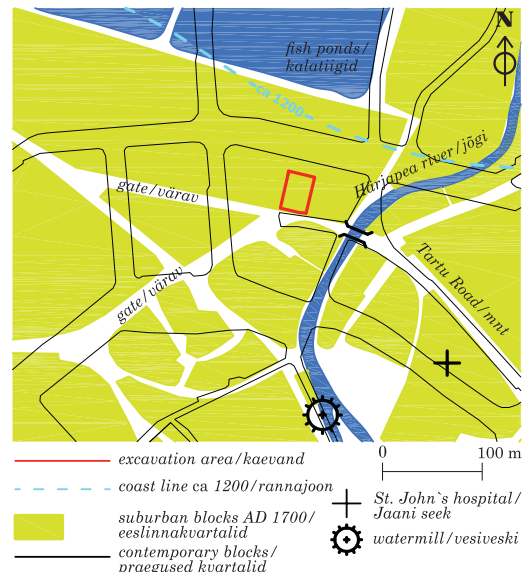


Fig. 2. Situation plan of the excavation area in Kivisilla suburb.

Jn 2. Tartu mnt 1 kaevandi asendiskeem Kivisilla eeslinnas.

Drawing / Joonis: Ragnar Nurk

<sup>3</sup> The beginning of Tartu road until the bridge crossing the Härjapea River has also previously been named Silla (Eng. Bridge) and Kivisilla (Eng. Stone Bridge) street. The current Kivisilla street developed only in connection with enclosing the river into a collector (Kivi 1972, 24, 120–121).

<sup>4</sup> This is further affirmed by archaeological research conducted in 2001 at the Tartu road breakthrough (Tamla 2002, 8–14, 21–23; Toos *et al.* 2002; see also Gaimster & Russow 2011).

shown (TLA 230-1-Aa-120). Buildings are first depicted on maps from the end of the 18th century – beginning of the 19th century. On the large scale the structure of Tallinn suburbs seen on earlier maps was maintained until the first half of the 20th century.

The quarter where the Tartu Road 1 plot is situated was previously much bigger. From the south it was bordered by the Great Tartu road, from the east by the Hārjapea River, from the north by two large ponds, and from the west by town fortifications. As a result of cuts made during the 20th century only the south-eastern corner of the quarter has preserved. Based on the map from 1699 where plot borders are depicted there were two big plots on the present Tartu Road 1 plot, reaching through the whole quarter oriented from north to south and also one smaller plot near the Tartu road. From the 19th century it is known that buildings were situated along the side of the Great Tartu road and inside the quarter there were some large gardens.<sup>5</sup> Many construction projects in the archives of the Tallinn City planning department from the second half of the 19th century and the first half of the 20th century<sup>6</sup> demonstrate how plots were divided into parts and how courtyards were also gradually filled up with buildings.

### **RESEARCH METHODS AND PRINCIPLES OF RECORDING**

During the archaeological study of the Tartu Road 1 plot context-based excavation methods were applied, relying on the principle of disentangling the stratification with the objective to reconstruct the construction events and their sequence.

During excavations the recording of the sequence of the events was based on the laws of archaeological stratigraphy (Harris 1989) and thereby the relative chronology was established. The chronological dates of the events were specified based on the datable artefacts (pottery, leather, metal and timber artefacts, coins, etc.) found from these layers and an absolute chronology was worked out as much as possible.

Context based archaeological excavations can be technically carried out in different ways, but the principal objective is to successively remove the younger units and in this way reach the older units. In Tartu Road 1 it was not always possible to remove the later contexts earlier than the earlier ones, because part of the later features reached very deep into the earlier deposits and the early removal of these would have endangered the stability of the earlier deposits or structures. The logistics of soil removal did not enable to open the whole excavation area at one time. In addition to these objective circumstances, digging the same context piecemeal was necessary to make the observation of stratification easier. During the fieldwork in addition to the four side sections of the quadrangular excavation area 19 in-between sections with different length were recorded.

The excavation area was divided into 24 sectors which mostly followed the borders of massive 19th century structures, which had been cut deep into the earlier deposits. Thus the division into sectors was essentially arbitrary, not referring to the stratification logic of earlier archaeological events.

752 units of stratification were recorded. The contexts were divided into five bigger categories: soil deposits, stone and timber structures, interfaces and other elements. For every type of context a system of subtypes and an individual description sheet was worked out (see Kalm 2012, 43–45). Several contexts originally marked with different numbers later appeared to be parts of the same archaeological event.

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<sup>5</sup> E.g. plan from 1825: The Russian State Military Historical Archive in Moscow 349-Revel-9628, 9629.

136 <sup>6</sup> For the plots Tartu Road 1, 3 and 5.

The contexts defined are often parts of a bigger event formed in a sequence of minor events. E. g. the interface of the building trench, the foundation, backfill and the remains of the wall and the floor are all elements of the same construction project, but there has been a certain sequence of these construction elements. Grouping the contexts like this over 50 structures – construction projects – earlier than the 19th century, were defined in the excavation area, preserved better or worse: seven supposed dwellings and eight ancillary buildings, over 30 cesspits, several wattle fences from different periods and stake systems of lighter buildings (Fig. 3).

**SOIL DEPOSITS, PERIOD INTERFACES AND BUILDING REMAINS**

The cultural layer formed during seven centuries on the plot of Tartu Road 1, is connected with six larger periods, quite distinct of each other. The topographic development of the surroundings can be monitored and analysed in the excavation area, where man was the main factor influencing the change of nature; also probably one local natural disaster affected the estuary area of the Härjapea River.

**First settlement traces**

In the excavation area, the natural land surface – light yellow or greyish yellow sand, rose from the sea by the 13th century – reaching the present absolute height of 1.6–2 m above sea level. In the north-western and south-eastern parts of the excavation area the natural deposits reached the highest. The original ground level was not even but as characteristic to coastal areas, gently undulating. With a distance of 5 m to each other two, in parts three natural depressions, 2–3 m wide and reaching 0.5–0.75 m deeper than the rest of the surface, run through the excavation area in the north-eastern–south-western direction. The earliest traces of human habitation were located right on top of the natural sand surface: some post holes in the north-eastern part of the excavation area and probable wheel tracks in the south-eastern part (Fig. 4). It was not possible to determine whether these were marks of the earliest Tartu road, or of

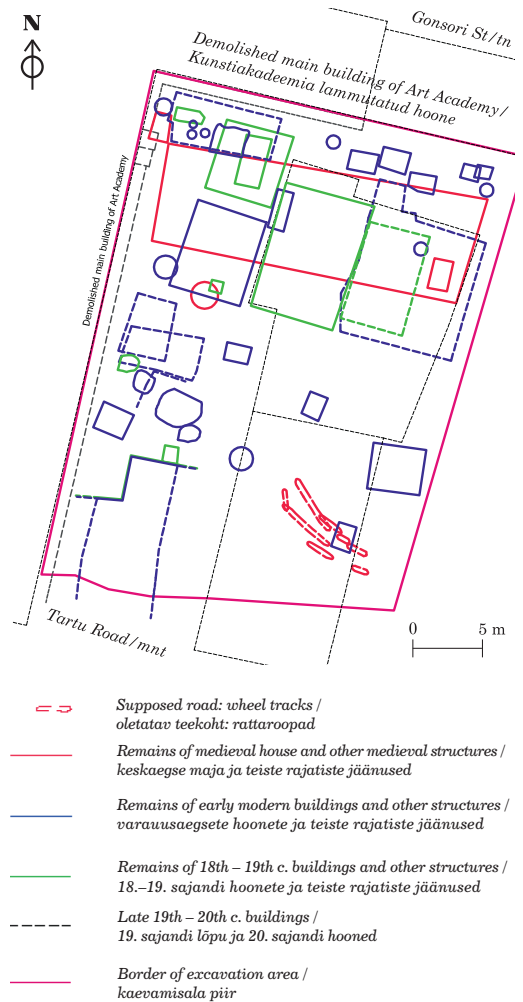


Fig. 3. Plan of the excavation area. Remains of structures.

Jn 3. Kaevamisala plaan. Ehitusjäänused.  
Drawing / Joonis: Ulla Kadakas

a local track inside the plot; but deciding on the position of the marks on the ground, the vehicles that left the tracks headed towards or came from the location of the later stone bridge.

### ***Medieval period***

Medieval deposits and building remains, formed from the turn of the 13th – 14th centuries until the 16th century, lay as a layer *ca.* 0.5–0.7 m thick upon natural sand. These were mostly dense layers, coloured black and rich in organics, including here and there also building and demolition debris, that was probably brought to the place for filling lower spots and lifting the ground level. In the naturally higher areas the medieval deposits were probably formed mostly in the course of natural everyday activities. 3–4 layers were distinguishable inside the earlier ones, containing in places even finds originating from the end of the 13th century and 14th century. The earliest layers were filling the natural depressions described above; and a bit younger layers, with the finds of the 14th – 15th centuries levelled the whole excavation area into a quite flat plot with a relief that slightly rose towards the south direction (2–2.5 m above sea level).

A building with dry limestone foundations (Fig. 5) was erected in the northern part of the excavation area after the plot had been filled and flattened. The building was 9.3 m long and 7 m wide with a wooden floor partially preserved in its interior. In the eastern part of the building the floor built of boards laid perpendicular to the



*Fig. 4. Supposed road, wheel tracks. View from west.*

*Jn 4. Oletatav tee, rattaroopad. Vaade läänest.*

*Photo / Foto: Ulla Kadakas*

building was in its central axis divided by a narrow floor part with 7 boards laid longitudinally (*ca.* 1 m) (Fig. 6, A).

A foundation of limestone slabs bound with lime mortar and measuring *ca.* 4 × 2.9 m and up to 20 cm high was located in the eastern part of the building. It had distinguishable remains of outer walls 40–50 cm thick, and in the central part of it was an area *ca.* 1 m wide that had been preserved in the same height as the outer walls. It was not possible to ascertain whether this central part was a basis for the floor or for the dividing wall. Rectangular areas 5 cm lower were situated on both sides of it, the northern of them was *ca.* 0.9 m and the southern *ca.* 1.25 m wide. It might have been a foundation that bore a fireplace with a chimney

which possibly also had some kind of heating oven. On the southern side of the foundation a plaster fragment was preserved indicating that the structure had been elaborate.

Next to the building's south-eastern corner, right against the eastern wall, a timber cesspit of a lavatory with dovetail-notch corners, measuring *ca.* 2.1 × 1.45 m was deepened in the ground. Its exterior had a lining of upright limestone slabs above the ground level of that time. The lavatory was probably reached from inside the building, through a narrow corridor located to the south from the probable chimney.

A natural water disaster that carried an up to 0.5 m thick sand layer to the site took place sometime in the end of the 15th century or in the beginning of the 16th century. The sand layer was preserved in the north-eastern part of the excavation area in the surroundings of the building described above. On the area to the north of the building, the upper surface of the layer of sand was on the average height of 2.3 m.a.s.l., to the south of the building its height was 2.5 m.a.s.l. In the present state of research, the question whether the sand silted from a flood caused by the breakage of the dams of the Hārjapea River as known from later periods, or if the mouth of the river was temporarily closed by a great storm or pressure ice, remains unanswered.

Probably in the course of clearing the consequences of the water disaster, or in some other case, the foundations of the building had been fixed and built higher; the building was enlarged towards west by half of its previous length (Fig. 6, B). Now the building was at least 19.5 m long. Unfortunately the real length of the building was impossible to ascertain because its western wall had not been preserved – it had been destroyed in the 1960s when a foundation pit was excavated for the new main building of the EKA. A cesspit with corner posts, board walls and bottom, located in the north-western corner of the excavation area, that had partially been preserved under the foundation of EKA main building, had gone out of use due to the natural disaster or when the building had been enlarged towards west at the latest.



Fig. 5. The earliest building stage of the medieval house. View from south-east.

Jn 5. Keskaegse hoone varaseim ehitusetapp. Vaade kagust.

Photo / Foto: Ulla Kadakas

The building contained at least four rooms after it was rebuilt. The westernmost, preserved only in 2.4 m breadth had a clay floor. The next room was *ca.* 7.2 m wide, it contained remains of a wooden floor where boards were laid out in different directions. There were no signs of lighter wooden dividing walls. A dry stone foundation of a dividing wall with the length of 4.05 m and an opening 1.8 m wide had been preserved in the southern part between the two westernmost rooms. The dividing wall ended against a foundation made of limestone slabs and measuring *ca.* 2.5 × 2.2 m, a probable base for an oven (Fig. 7). The walls of the oven were *ca.* 0.5 m thick, the floor of it measured 1.95 × 1.4 m. The northern wall of the oven was positioned tightly against the foundation of the building's outer wall. The oven door was probably in the room with the clay floor where an ash-box measuring 1.35 × 0.45 m with a limestone floor and surrounded with upright limestone slabs was situated in front of the oven foundation.

The older part of the building was at that period also divided into two rooms with a dividing wall that was based on a dry stone foundation made of big limestone slabs running along the western edge of the supposed big chimney/oven mentioned above. The western room was 3.75 m wide, it had a floor of longitudinally laid boards. The eastern room was 4.55 m wide. In that period the supposed chimney/oven had been already demolished down to its foundation and it had been covered with a layer of shattered lime mortar with a thin layer of wooden chips on top of it. There were no signs of a timber floor. The lavatory cesspit in the south-western corner of the house was still in use.

The house was repaired once more before it was abandoned sometime in the second half of the 16th century, probably during the events of the Livonian War (1558–1583) around and near Tallinn in the 1570s. This time it was enlarged towards the east. The foundations were repaired and built higher, in the case of the northern wall the new foundation was only partially positioned on the older one, totally diverging from it in the north-eastern part (Fig. 6, C).

In the course of the rebuilding works, the lavatory cesspit located near the south-western corner of the house was filled and the building was extended 1.8 m. A board floor of longitudinal direction was preserved in small parts in the easternmost room, now almost 7 m wide. The dividing wall, situated in the central part of the building, was removed in the course of rebuilding and the whole 11.3 m wide room that was formed now was covered with a new board floor. The westernmost room of the building got a wooden floor instead its previous clay floor. A new floor made of big limestone slabs was laid on the hearth in the western part of the building.

It was not possible to ascertain how the building's exterior looked like, whether it was a crossbeam log house or a timber-framed one, because the remains of the walls had been only partly preserved and as a very thin layer of timber.

The ground levels connected to the later two period interfaces of the house had been preserved as a 5–7 m wide zone along the southern side of the building. Approximately 5–15 cm thick layer of soil, rich in organics had been deposited on the sand of the flood, described above; on top of it a 5–10 cm thick layer of limestone pieces and sherds had been laid. The latter can be interpreted as the paving layer of the surroundings, originating from the in-between building stage. The finds from these layers can be dated to the first half of the 16th century. The paving layer was either lacking on the



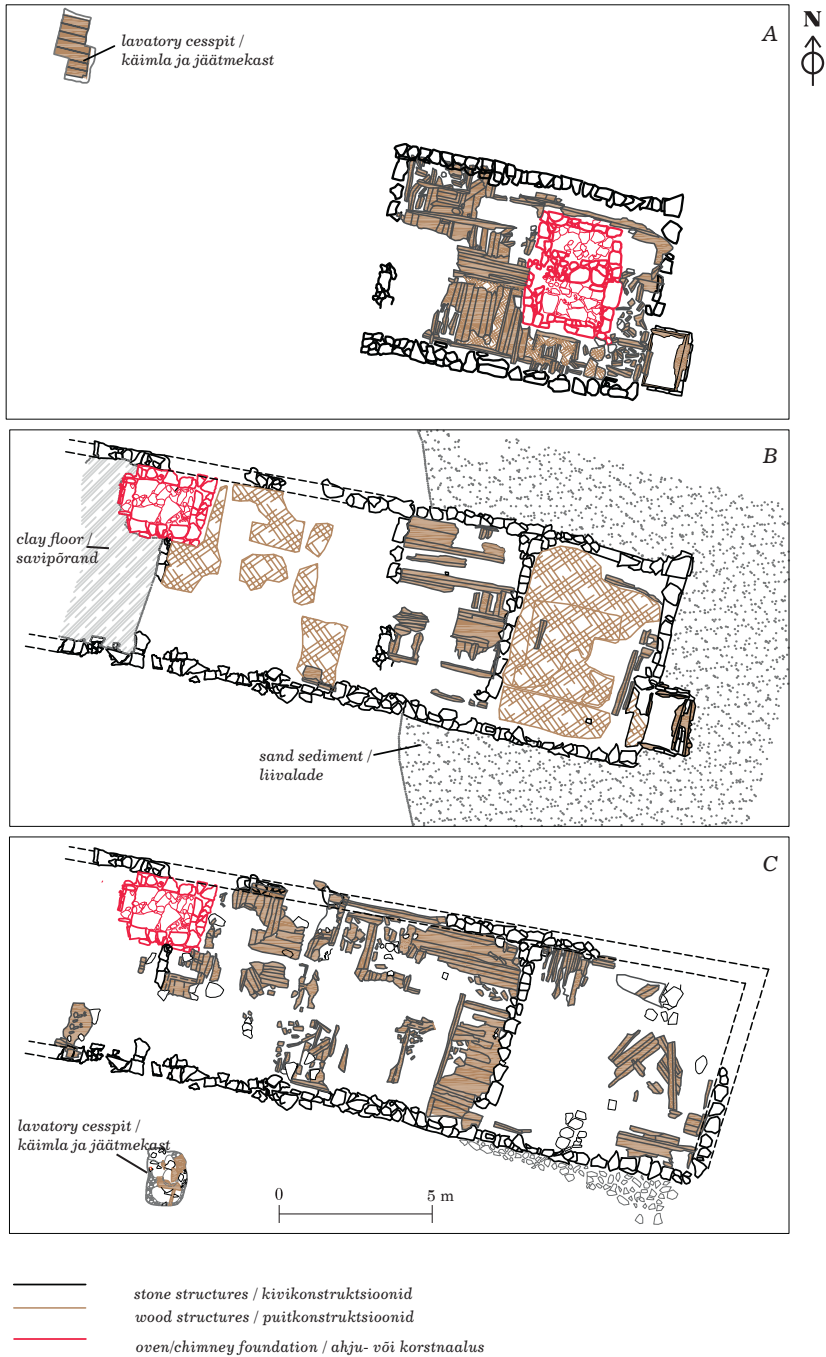


Fig. 6. Building stages of the medieval house.

Jn 6. Keskaegse hoone ehitusetapid.

Drawing / Joonis: Ulla Kadakas, Anneli Kalm, Monika Reppo



Fig. 7. The western part of the medieval house. Foundations of an oven. View from west.

Jn 7. Keskaegse hoone lääneosa. Ahju vundament. Vaade läänest.

Photo / Foto: Kahrut Eller

northern side or it was totally disturbed by digging lavatory cesspits located tightly beside each other in a later period. After the last rebuilding the ground level surrounding the building was also raised with soil that in some places contained large limestones and in others quantities of smaller limestone pieces. The ground level of the last period of the building was *ca.* 2.5–2.8 m.a.s.l. near the eastern part of it and 2.9–3 m.a.s.l. by the western part.

In addition to the large house, some remains of other buildings, in some occasions only hardly visible, come from the medieval period. These were the lavatory cesspits mentioned above and some other cesspits, also some remains of fragmentarily preserved wattle fences.

What had been the function of the large house which had been at least in its final stage a rather large building by the road running from town to the stone bridge? No remains of an analogical building have been found among the archaeological material of the medieval period, neither inside the town walls nor in the suburban areas. Also rural archaeological and preserved built heritage lacks counterparts. Both the location of the plot as well as its intricate building development, its size, division of space, repeated paving of the immediate surroundings, etc. indicate rather a building for public use than a simple dwelling. Taking into account also the plentiful and varied find material, it might have been some kind of a guesthouse or a tavern, for example.

### ***Early Modern Period (the second half of 16th century – 17th century)***

Based on written sources the St John's Hospital, which was situated on the opposite bank of the Härjapea River from Tartu Road 1, was burnt and demolished during the Livonian War (Russow 1967, 194; Kala 2004). The house described above has been torn down already earlier or during the scorched earth policy before the siege of 1570, probably affecting all the suburbs, although no traces of fire were recorded. Archaeological

excavations demonstrated that buildings on the area in question were replaced shortly.

The Early Modern Period cultural layer was approximately 0.5–1 m thick. Three ground surfaces that were used for a long time were distinguishable. The last of these was probably in use at least until the mid-18th century.

On top of the eastern part of the previous medieval house, completely destroyed by that time, somewhere during the beginning of 17th century a building with a wooden floor (two layers) and an oven was constructed (Fig. 8). The location of walls and foundation was not identified as those had been completely destroyed in the course of building the basements of later houses. The room with the wooden floor was at least  $5.8 \times 5$  m big, however all the contexts related to the building were observable on an area of approximately  $9.6 \times 8.5$  m.

A cesspit with timber walls and a floor had been built in the western part of the remains of the big medieval house. Behind the house on the north side, in the north-western part of the excavation area, many cesspits were dug during the 17th century. Some of these were just pits, but mostly these were built entirely of timber or had timber walls and limestone floors.

During the 17th century two small buildings were erected of which cellar walls built of limestone were preserved. One of these (Fig. 9) was situated in the north-western and the other one (Fig. 10) in the south-eastern part of the excavation area. The foundation stones of the first structure had clay between them, but the second was bound with moss. Fragments of some small wooden above-ground buildings from the same period were also discovered. Stone foundations had been usually preserved, the above-



Fig. 8. Remains of a 17th century dwelling house in the north-eastern part of the excavation area. View from east.

Jn 8. 17. sajandi eluhoone jäänused kaevandi kirdeosas. Vaade idast.

Photo / Foto: Ulla Kadakas



Fig. 9. A limestone foundation bound with clay. View from west.

Jn 9. Saviga seotud paekivivundament. Vaade läänest.

Photo / Foto: Kahrut Eller



Fig. 10. Limestone foundation caulked with moss. View from west.

Jn 10. Samblaga topitud paekivivundament. Vaade läänest.

Photo / Foto: Ulla Kadakas



*Fig. 11. A dwelling built in the end of the 17th century beside Tartu road. View from north.*

*Jn 11. 17. sajandi lõpul Tartu maantee äärde rajatud eluhoone. Vaade põhjast.*

*Photo / Foto: Ulla Kadakas*

ground structures, however, had left fewer traces – thin fragments of wooden floors or fragments of limestone floors, remains of furnaces, etc.

Somewhere in the end of the 17th century a building at least partly constructed as a timber-framed structure was erected near the southern edge of the excavation area (Fig. 11). The structure had been rebuilt multiple times; it had also been expanded. In the interior various floors of timber and limestone, also of brick and upright limestone and partition walls as well as oven foundations were recorded. The building had been demolished or abandoned somewhere around the first half of the 18th century; based on the coins found from the debris layer it might have happened during the reign of Empress Elizaveta Petrovna (1741–1762).

Also, there were other structures in the early modern period layers, for example remains of fences (mainly wattle fences). It is possible that multiple post-holes, reaching deep into the ground of that time and wedged with limestones, were indicating the existence of temporary buildings.

Most of the Early Modern finds were collected from an organic (manure, wood chips, branches, etc.) rich soil layer that was 30–40 cm, at times up to 70 cm thick, which was filling a large artificial depression. From north to south it was 10–15 m wide and from east to west the cut covered the whole excavation area. The sand mentioned

above, deposited during the flood, was removed already in the medieval times – at least the part that was further south than 5 m from the medieval house. Approximately on the same area the topmost medieval cultural layers had been dug away during the Early Modern Period. It was not clearly identifiable whether the purpose of such undertaking was to use limestones found from that layer or to build a ‘pond’ with gentle slopes. The area where the soil had been dug away was soon filled up with manure. Before long the area in question was covered with a demolition fill layer composed of rocks with grinds of mortar and pieces of bricks and at least partly paved with limestone tiles.

In the second half of the 17th century and in the beginning of the 18th century in the course of construction and life processes two other organic rich layers alternating with limestone pavement or rubble layers were found. The ground level used during the Early Modern Period was 3.2–3.6 m.a.s.l.

### ***Modern Period and contemporary history***

From the 18th to mid-19th century the changes in the ground level of the excavation area have been more local probably due to the formation of smaller plots. Many layers that were formed as a result of building and demolition were observable around secondary structures and further away from the buildings manure and wood chips rich organic layers were present. Sadly the documentation of structures from that period was aggravated by the fragmentation of the remains because they had been damaged in the course of building the structures in the second half of the 19th century, the foundations of which extended deep into the earlier cultural layers. During the second half of the 19th century large, all encompassing re-planning on the excavation area took place: in the east side of the area residential buildings with massive limestone foundations were constructed, also limestone sewerage system was built and lead water pipes were installed. In the course of this extensive building phase the ground level was raised by at least 0.5 m.

In the second half of the 20th century many small structures built during the end of the 19th century and in the beginning of the 20th century were demolished in connection with constructing the building of EKA. The last period on the research area starts with demolishing the EKA building along with two wooden residential buildings after which a temporary parking lot was constructed onto the site. Debris and pavement layers had raised the ground level during the previous century approximately one metre and currently the ground level is 4.6 m.a.s.l.

### ***CONCLUSION***

From June 2011 to January 2012 in Tartu Road 1 a small part of a medieval and Early Modern suburb just outside the Tallinn medieval town wall was researched. Archaeological excavations were carried out in a block bordering in south with Tartu road. A few hundred metres towards east once there was a crossing of the Härjapea River – the so-called stone bridge which was rather necessary for anyone who wished to travel east towards Narva or south-east towards Tartu from the Old Town. The analysis of historic maps showed that the current Tartu Road 1 area has had many narrower and broader plots over time, but the basic structure of plots has remained almost the same – these were long and slightly oriented from southwest to northeast, with their narrow end

towards Tartu road. During the excavations it was possible to monitor and record some of those changes in the structure of plots.

The cultural layer originating from six clearly distinct periods was 2.5–3.5 m thick. The earliest man-made deposits originate from the end of the 13th century and from the 14th century. Somewhere in the mid-15th century the first house was built onto the excavated area. On two occasions during the next century the structure was re-built and also extended. Considering the location of the house in the suburban townscape, its size and the complex constructional development it is likely that it was rather in public use either as a guest house or tavern, and not an ordinary residential building.

During the Livonian War the building was probably destroyed in the last half of the 16th century, but soon after the war had ended, housing was replaced.

From the 18th to the mid-19th century the changes in the ground level of the excavated area have been more local probably due to the formations of smaller plots. During the second half of the 19th century large all-encompassing re-planning activities took place: two residential buildings with massive limestone foundations were built.

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## **KESK- JA VARAUUSAEGNE EESLINNALINE ASUSTUS TALLINNAS, TARTU MNT 1 KINNISTUL: KONTEKSTID JA STRUKTUURID**

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2011. a juunist kuni 2012. a jaanuarini uuriti Tartu mnt 1 kinnistul ühte väikest osa kesk- ja varauusaegse Tallinna linnamüürist välja poole jäävast asumist. Väljakaevamised toimusid kvartalis, mille lõunaservas kulges ajalooline Tartu maantee ning paarisaja meetri kaugusel asus ülepääs Härjapea jõest – nn Kivisild (jn 1–2). Ajaloolise kaardimaterjali analüüsi järgi on praeguse Tartu mnt 1 kinnistu alal aja jooksul olnud mitmeid kitsamaid ja laiemaid krunte, kuid kinnistute põhistruktuur näib üsna püsivana – tegemist on pikkade pisut edela-kirdesuunaliste kruntidega, kitsama servaga Tartu maantee poole. Kaevamiste käigus oli võimalik osaliselt jälgida ja dokumenteerida aja jooksul kinnistustruktuuris toimunud muutusi.

Kuue selgelt üksteisest eristatava perioodi vältel tekkinud arheoloogiline kultuurikiht ulatus uuritava alal 2,5–3,5 m paksuseni. Leiti üle poolesaja 19. sajandist varasema rajatise paremini või halvemini säilinud jäänuse – seitse arvatavat eluhoonet ja kaheksa abihoonet, üle kolmekümne jäätmekasti või -augu, mitmeid eriaegseid vitsaedade süsteeme ja kergemate varjualuste post- või vaikonstruktsioone (jn 3). Varaseimad inimtegevuse jäljed seonduvad uurimisalal loodusliku maapinnatasandiga, millest leiti mitmete vaiade või postide jäänuseid, kuid ka rattaropaid (jn 4). Alates 13. sajandi lõpust kuni 15. sajandini täideti kogu ala orgaanikarikaste, kuid ka ehitus- ja lammutusprahti sisaldavate kihtidega. Millalgi 15. sajandi keskpaigas ehitati uurimisalale esimene hoone. Majal oli paekividest kuivlaos vundament, puidust seinad ja põrandad. Hoonet ehitati järgneva sajandi jooksul kahel korral ümber ja pikemaks. 16. sajandi alguses tabas piirkonda mingit laadi veeuputus, mille tulemusena kandus maja ümber ligi 0,5 m paksune liivakiht (jn 5–7). Pärast seda on maja ümbrust kahel korral korrastatud, orgaanikarikkale mullale on peale laotatud paekivitükke ja -kilde sisaldav prügituskiht. Arvestades maja asukohta ja keerukat ehituslikku arengut võiks seda pidada pigem avalikus kasutuses olnud võõrastemajaks või kõrtsiks kui tavapäraseks eluhooneks.

Liivi sõja perioodil krundil olnud maja arvatavasti lammutati, kuid peatselt pärast sõja lõppu on hoonestus taastunud. Endise hoone idaosa peale rajati uus maja, kuid sellest oli tänaseks säilinud vaid natuke puitpõrandate fragmente ning paar korda ümber ehitatud ahju jäänused (jn 8). Varauusaegse kasutushorisondiga seonduvad veel mitmed väiksemate hoonete jäänused (jn 9–11), paljud jäätmekastid ja -augud, samuti mitmete vitsaedade ja kergemate varjualuste postkonstruktsioonide jäänused.

18.–19. sajandi keskpaigani on uurimisalal maapinnatasandite muutumised olnud lokaalsemad, tingituna arvatavasti väiksemate kruntide moodustamisest. 19. sajandi lõpus toimusid uuritud kinnistutel suured, kõikehõlmavamad ümberplaneerimised: rajati kaks massiivsete paevundamentidega eluhoonet, paekivist kanalisatsioonisüsteem jms. 1960. aastatel rajatud kunstiülikooli hoone koos mainitud kahe puitelamuga lammutati 2010. aastal ning alale rajati parkla.