



A hideout, fortified dwelling and labyrinths – archaeological investigations in Hiiumaa

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In April and May 2014, field surveys were carried out on five sites in Hiiumaa (Fig. 1: 1–5) that have been entered into the national registry of monuments to identify their compliance with the designation as a cultural monument and to identify the current state of these sites.

THE HIDEOUT IN HIDING

Recent attempts to identify the exact location of the Saunaseljamäe hideout (Fig. 1: 1; Muda village; reg. no. 8901) had failed. With the help of local inhabitants (Reppo 2014a, 14), the site was finally located in the forest, colloquially called ‘the Bermuda triangle’. In the 1960s, Ruudi Muda (1919–1988), a local inhabitant, marked out the site, and luckily, the sign was still in place, albeit fallen over. First inspected in 1923 by Eerik Laid, the site has been described as an area 300 × 125 m in size, slightly higher (1–1.5 m) than its surroundings used during periods of unrest and plague for hiding in saunas dug into the roughly north-west/south-east-oriented gravel mound. The foundations of the two barns described in 1923 (Laid 1923a, 9–10), 4 × 5.2 m on the north-west end and 5 × 7 m on the south-east end, were easily recognizable and helped in identifying the alleged hideout Laid had described. The foundations lay 65 m apart. Six small test pits were dug. In most of them, dark brown, stony soil (15 cm) containing charcoal (none in test pit 3 and 4) lay on top of undisturbed gravel and was covered with dark humus (3–5 cm). Clearly visible indentations at first, test pits 2 and 4 were cleaned rather than dug, as they turned out to be stone-lined, possibly a fire pit and a surface water well respectively. No finds were collected, though pieces of glass and nails were found. The test pits and visual inspections in the surrounding forest did not reveal anything that could conclusively be linked to the alleged hideout. However, the area that was marked in the 1960s and rediscovered in 2014 stands out in the extremely wet forest.

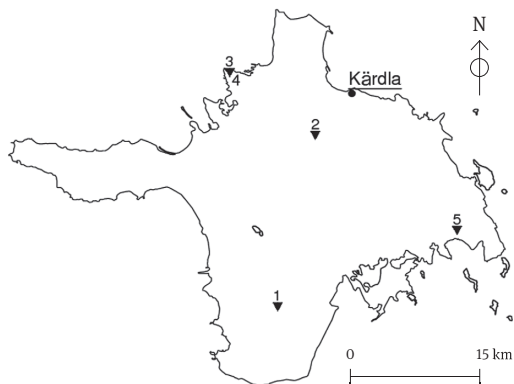


Fig. 1. Five cultural monuments in Hiiumaa: 1 – Saunaseljamäe, 2 – Kanapeeksi, 3 – Kootsaare ‘Jerusalem’, 4 – Kootsaare small labyrinth, 5 – Valipe.

Jn 1. Viis kultuurmälestist Hiiumaalt: 1 – Saunaseljamäe, 2 – Kanapeeksi, 3 – Kootsaare Jeruusalemm, 4 – Kootsaare väike labürint, 5 – Valipe.

Map / Kaart: Monika Reppo; Basic map / Aluskaart: Estonian Land Board (Maa-amet)

LABYRINTHS

Three of the studied sites were labyrinths. Theories on the founding, naming (Troy, Giant's Garden etc.) and use of the labyrinths have been presented by Kristin Ilves, who connects them with maritime and magic-related activities (2003, 86–97). The results of the inspections bring disappointing news for labyrinth-enthusiasts. Solely by looking at the map, **Kanapeeksi labyrinth** (Fig. 1: 2; Kaibaldi village; reg. no. 8906) is exceptional, being located *ca.* 4.5 km from the sea, whereas most known labyrinths are situated on the coast or very close by (Ilves 2003, 90–91). Yearly rooting by wild boars has nearly destroyed the site. Although unfortunate for a labyrinth to be lost, the inspection uncovered that it was constructed only around 1955. The author, Olga Juliane Kaivapalu (1913–2003, *née* Tubi) had lived near the Kootsaare labyrinth and taught her children how to build a labyrinth. The children built two other labyrinths further south using stones from an old foundation. It has been suggested to withdraw this labyrinth from the national registry of monuments due to the apparent misinterpretation of the site as an archaeological monument (Reppo 2014b).

Kootsaare Jeruusalemm (Fig. 1: 3; Reigi village; reg. no. 8911) has been connected to the Coastal Swedes deported from Hiiumaa in 1781 (Kraft & Selirand 1990; Laid 1923b, 65). Research started on the site in 1981 with archaeological work carried out in 1986 (Kraft & Selirand 1990; Püüa *et al.* 2010, 112). In April 2014, the site was cleaned from moss, grass and turf, leaving the sides of the stones fairly untouched to avoid movement (e.g. by erosion). Only on the north-east-side of the labyrinth the junipers were too dense to clean the construction. The site is quite well-preserved, the 10–30 cm rocks form an oval labyrinth, 7.8 × 6.2 m in size with 7 rows (Fig. 2). The drawing from 1992 based on the 1986 sketch (Fig. 3; Kraft & Selirand 1990; Kraft & Selirand 1992, 242) matches up in scale, however there are significant

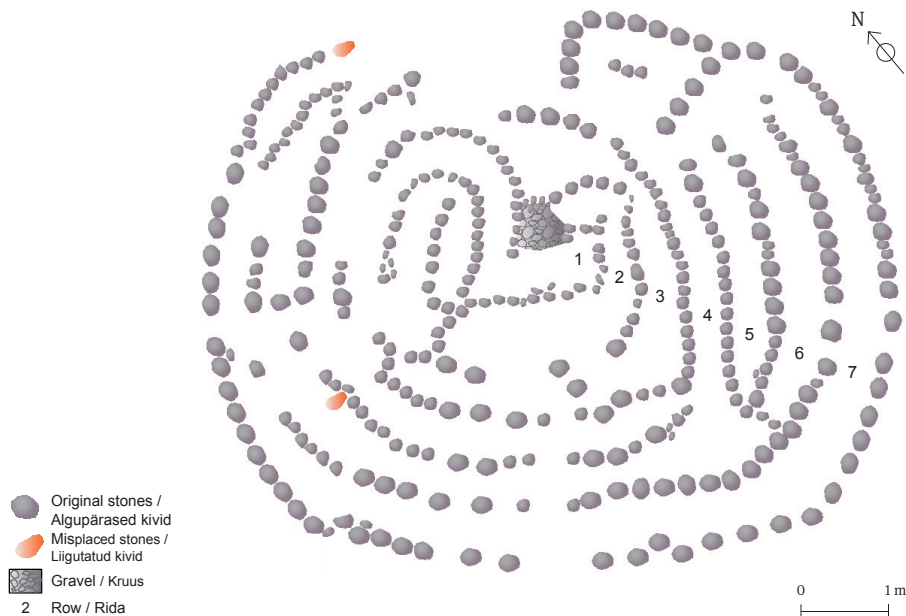


Fig. 2. Kootsaare 'Jerusalem' in 2014.

Jn 2. Kootsaare Jeruusalemm 2014. aastal.

Drawing / Joonis: Monika Reppo

differences in the north-east part with the 2014 drawing. This may be the result of different drawing and measuring techniques. The method used in 2014 was based on triangulation. No archaeological finds were retrieved. The **smaller Kootsaare labyrinth** (Fig. 1, 4; Reigi village; reg. no. 8912) was conclusively identified not to be located by its marker 93 m south from Kootsaare Jeruusalemm. After meticulous survey only a few stones were found on the entire open area. Difficulties related to identifying this labyrinth have been pointed out also elsewhere (Püüa *et al.* 2010, 112). It is possible that the marker is not erected on the site identified in 1990 (Kraft & Selirand 1990).

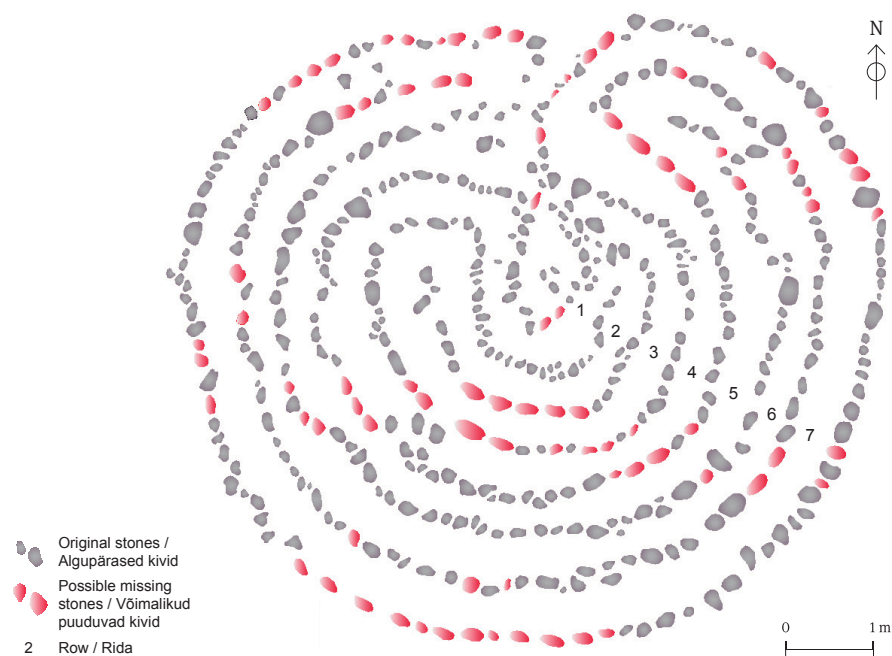


Fig. 3. Kootsaare 'Jerusalem' as drawn in 1986 with possible missing stones added in 1992. The direction, which does not match the 2014 results, is taken from the original.

Jn 3. Kootsaare Jeruusalemm 1986. a joonise ja sellele 1992. a lisatud võimalike puuduvate kivide põhjal. Põhjasuund, mis ei kattu 2014. a tulemustega, on võetud originaalilt.

Drawing / Joonis: Monika Reppo, based on / algne joonis: Meeli Pauska (Kraft & Selirand 1992, 242)

THE FORTIFIED DWELLING OF VALIPE

Already mentioned in the 16th century, the fortified dwelling at Valipe (Fig. 1, 5; reg. nos 8939, 23654) may have remained in use until the beginning of the 18th century (Hermann 1974, 120–122). At around 1900, Otto von Stackelberg (1867–1947) excavated the north end of the dwelling (Aluve 1993, 57; E 55092 < Pühalepa khk¹). Pits were dug to the west end of the northernmost elevation during World War I according to information recorded during the inspection and mapping a few years later (Vaas 1923, 13–16). Treasure hunters dug pits on the mid-section of the same area in spring 1925, which were followed by excavations in July 1928 on the middle (4 m²) and the westernmost elevation (trial pit; Laid 1928). Mapped and photographed in 1965 (Hermann 1974, 122), excavations followed in 1974–1975 on the northernmost

¹ Accessed from database Rehepapp, <http://www.folklore.ee/rehepapp/tekst.php?page=25&page=333> (10 April 2015).

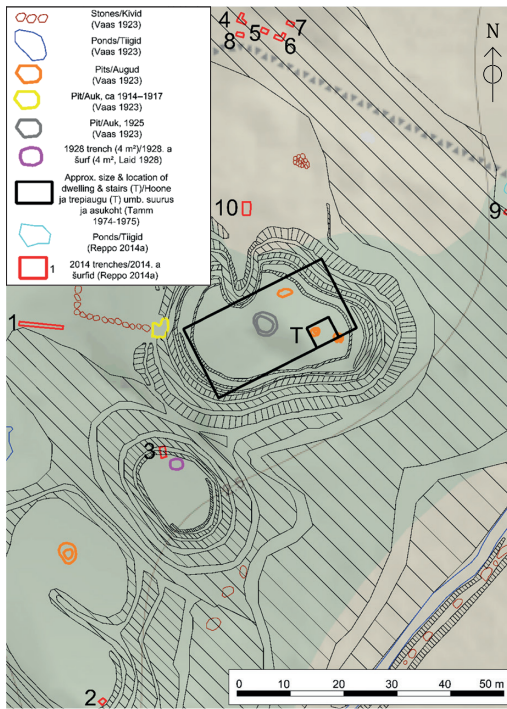


Fig. 4. Results of archaeological excavations at Valipe, 1923–2014.

Jn 4. Valipel toimunud arheoloogiliste uuringute tulemusel, 1923–2014.

Drawing / Joonis: Monika Reppo, based on / lähtendmed: Vaas 1923, Laid 1928, Tamm 1974 and the Estonian Land Board (Maa-amet)

stones covered with turf (15 cm). Results from trench 10, 14 m north of the dwelling showed that the dwelling area extended at least this far – the dark, stony cultural layer (20 cm) lay atop natural limestone gravel, below turf (20 cm) and contained items mainly dated to the 16th – 17th century.

Trial trenches 2 (1 × 1 m, 50 cm deep) and 3 (1 × 2 m, 40 cm deep) gave no results that could be connected to the fortified dwelling as was expected. Trial trenches 4–7 showed that the supposed southern foundation of the Valipe manor house, still visible in 1963 (Hermann 1974, 61), was only one stone layer high, 8.6 m long, built straight on the limestone gravel and had been subject to fire. No finds were retrieved from trial trench 9 (75 × 60 cm) near the visibly altered spring, but the turf (15 cm) and the light sand (35 cm) beneath it contained charcoal. They laid on a dark, muddy layer containing burnt granite and charcoal (15 cm) which was deposited on clean natural sand. It is noteworthy that wild boars had done remarkable damage to the topsoil on the entire site. Luckily, no structures were affected. As a result of the inspection, it was proven that the cultural layer of the dwelling reached the open area in front of it (trench 9, 10) and that this area was surrounded by an already naturally existing elevation; however, it is unclear whether it has been used as the boundary of the dwelling area or not.

elevation (Tamm 1974; Aluve 1993, 57). In 2014, OÜ Agu EMS dug 10 small test pits (Fig. 4) on the area surrounding the dwelling and on the middle and southern elevation to identify the extent of the dwelling area and cleaned the upper steps of the spiral staircase (Reppo 2014a, 1–9). Trenches 1 (8.2 × 0.7 m, 0.55–1.15 m deep) and 10 (1.4 × 2.5 m, 0.5 m deep) were the most telling. Trench 1, located 23 m west from the dwelling, was dug into the clearly visible north–south-oriented mound deposited atop a gravelly yellow layer of clay. Stones covered in white clay and dark, loose soil (45 cm) to the west end of the trench seemed to be naturally deposited. Some burnt granite, a sherd of Early Modern window glass (AI 7284: 12) and fragments of an iron object were found from the yellowish clay (20 cm) above. This layer was in turn covered with clean, white sand (3–30 cm) that contained a lot of shells; this layer was apparently brought in by the sea. A darker cultural layer (10 cm) that seemed to have levelled the ground, contained animal bones and charcoal and separated the second layer of light sand (3–30 cm) from the first. Another darker, clay-rich cultural layer (30 cm) was situated on this layer of sand that contained animal bones, brick pieces and

CONCLUSIONS

Fieldwork carried out in Hiiumaa discovered that one of the sites on the national registry was in fact located in a different place (Saunaseljamägi) and another one was identified as missing (Kootsaare small labyrinth). The third labyrinth was discovered not to be of archaeological significance at all (Kanapeeksi labyrinth), however, it demonstrates that outstanding archaeological monuments may be copied and cultural heritage offers inspiration for generations to come, as such they call for caution in inspecting similar sites. The investigations carried out on the remaining two (Valipe; Kootsaare Jeruusalemm) proved them to be well-preserved and informative, although no datable information was found for one of them. As the region has seen very little archaeological study in the recent past, the five sites inspected in 2014 give valuable information on the past of the island.

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PELGUPAIK, KINDLUSTATUD ELAMU JA LABÜRINDID – ARHEOLOOGILISED UURINGUD HIIUMAAL

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Aprillis ning mais 2014 inspekteeriti Muinsuskaitseameti tellimusel viit kultuurimälestiste riiklikusse registrisse kantud Hiiumaa muistist (jn 1), selgitamaks nende vastavust mälestise tunnustele ning seisukorda. Uuringute tulemusel tuvastati kohalike abiga Saunaseljamäe pelgupaiga (jn 1, nr 1; Muda küla; reg. nr 8901) eeldatav, 1923. aastal ja 1960. aastatel märgitud asukoht, kuid kahjuks ei saadud rajatud proovikaevanditest ega lähiümbruse inspekteerimisel infot, mida võiks täie kindlusega seostada siin väidetavalt asunud pelgupaigaga. Kootsaare väikest labürinti (jn 1, nr 4; Reigi küla; reg. nr. 8912), mille tuvastamisel on olnud probleeme ka varem, ei suudetud tähistatud alalt leida. Esialgne inspeksioon ümbritseval alal ei andnud mingeid tulemusi – puudusid igasugused kivilasud, mida võiks labürintiga seostada. Kanapeeksi labürint (jn 1, nr 2; Kaibaldi küla; reg. nr 8906) on tänaseks päevaks on metssigade töö tagajärjel hävinud. Inspeksiooni tulemusel selgus, et antud labürint on rajatud Kootsaare Jeruusalemma koopiana 1955. aastal. See teeb Kanapeeksi labürintist hea näite silmatorkavate arheoloogiliste muististe kasutamisest inspiratsiooniallikana. Kootsaare Jeruusalemm (jn 1, nr 3; Reigi küla; reg. nr 8911) puhastati ja joonistati üles (jn 2). Suhteliselt hästi säilinud seitsmerealise ovaalse labürinti mõõtmeteks saadi 7,8 × 6,2 m, vaid ühe kivirea puhastamine ebaõnnestus äärmiselt tiheda kadakakasvu tõttu labürinti kirdeosas. Seetõttu on huvitav märkida, et 2014. aastal valminud joonis erines varasemast (jn 3) just nimelt kirdeosas, kuid tegemist võib olla lisaks muutunud taimkattele ka erineva mõõte- ning joonestustehnika kasutamisest tulenevate lahknevustega. Metsesad olid külasthanud ka Valipe kindlustatud elamu ala (jn 1, nr 5; Valipe küla; reg. nr-d 8939 ja 23654), kuid õnneks oli siin tekitatud kahju väiksem. Inspeksiooni eesmärk oli tuvastada elamu kultuurikihi ulatus elamuesisel alal ning lähedalasuvatel küngastel. Prooviaukudega selgitati, et kultuurkiht ulatus elamu esisele lagedale alale, mis on ilmselt olnud mingil määral (looduslikult) piiratud, ning puhastati välja keerdtrepi ase (jn 4). Arheoloogilised leiud kuuluvad peamiselt 16.–17. sajandisse.