



Observations about the early history of the suburb in front of the Karja Gate in Tallinn

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INTRODUCTION

The new development plan of Tallinn foresees busy construction activities in the city centre, including in the area between Estonia Avenue, Kaubamaja Street, Rävala Avenue and Teatri Square, that historically formed a suburb in front of the Karja and Viru Gates. In 2018 the author of the article carried out three archaeological studies in this area – in Tammsaare Park, at Teatri Square and in the courtyard of Estonia Avenue 7 (Fig. 1). Valuable information was obtained that now allows drawing conclusions about the initial use of the area, its further development as a suburb and its character in general.

EARLIER INVESTIGATIONS OF THE AREA IN FRONT OF THE KARJA GATE

From May to June 2009 archaeological excavations were carried out at the sports ground of Tallinn Secondary School of Science (Est. *Tallinna Reaalkool*), which revealed a cultural layer of a medieval suburb in the part close to the Estonia Avenue (Fig. 1: 1; Nurk *et al.* 2009; Nurk *et al.* 2011). In the south-west part of the sports ground the cultural layer consisted of up to 50 cm thick blackish-brownish soil, covering the natural sand (12.11–11.41 m a.s.l., declining north-eastward) and transition layer, which according to the finds was dated to the period from 13th/14th century until the first half of the 16th century. Several constructions could be associated with this layer, e.g. vertical timber posts and a bottom of a cask, also a limestone foundation of a building, bound with lime mortar, which was dated to the 16th century. In the south-east part of the sports ground the transition layer was covered with a level ground paved with small pebbles, which in turn was coated with a 5–10 cm thick dense manure layer. The finds picked from the layer dated the first use of the pavement to the second half of the 13th century to the first quarter of the 14th century. The manure layer was in turn covered with another layer, and in order to level the ground the upper part of the manure layer had been dug down. According to the reconstructions of the street network in the suburbs Ragnar Nurk has suggested that the test pit in the south-east part of the sports ground was located upon the street that commenced from the Karja Gate and was later named Väike-Tartu Road, while the test pit in the south-west part was dug to the plot that remained south-west of the road (Nurk *et al.* 2009, 23).

From July to August 2009 archaeological monitoring took place on Suur-Karja and G. Otsa streets (Fig. 1: 2; Nurk *et al.* 2010; Nurk *et al.* 2011), where a medieval cultural layer outside the city wall was documented in the vicinity of the outer slope of a first moat. On top of the natural ground level (11.79–11.94 m a.s.l.) there was a layer of darkened sand, above which a

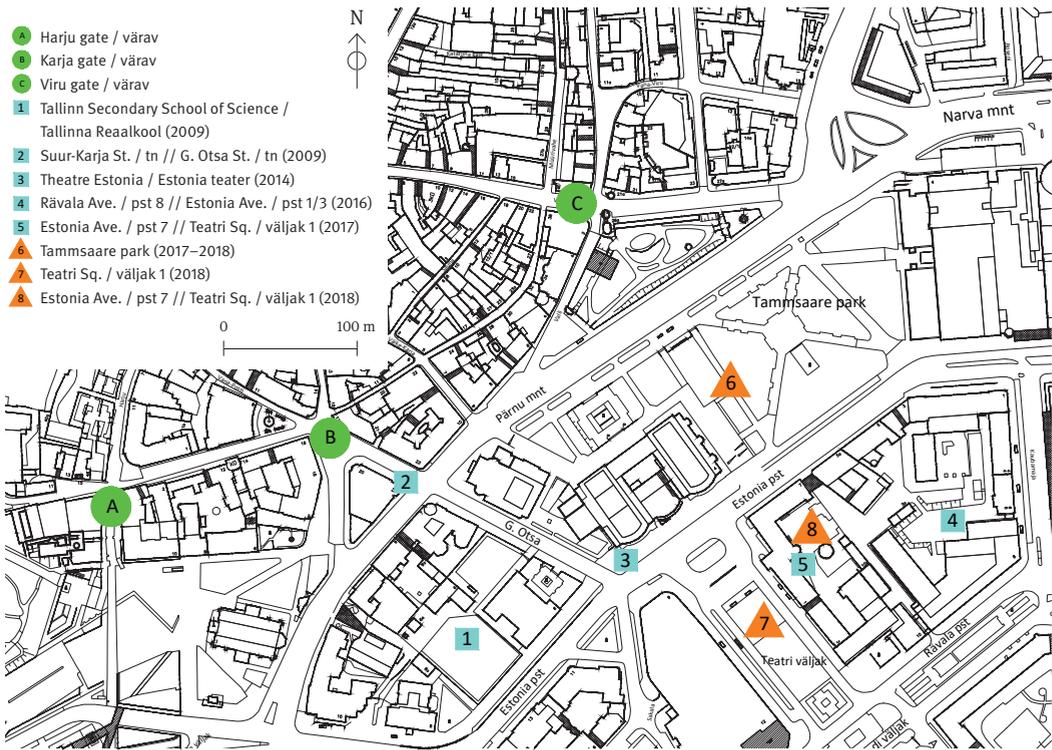


Fig. 1. Archaeological excavations in the area in front of the Karja Gate.

Jn 1. Karja värava esised arheoloogilised uuringud.

Map / Kaart: Eero Heinloo

paving surface from small rubble was distinguished. According to the findings, earlier deposits on the outer slope of the moat and the street level were dated to the second half of the 13th century to the first quarter of the 14th century.

In 2014 a suburban cultural layer was documented next to the south corner of the building of theatre ‘Estonia’ (Fig. 1: 3; Kalm & Ööbik 2015), where ca. 20 cm thick black organic rich soil occurred upon natural sand (9.33 m a.s.l.) in the bottom of a trench that was dug for the communications well of electric cables. The layer contained no finds, yet considering the absolute height and stratigraphy, archaeologists associated this layer with the medieval deposits found at the sports ground of Tallinn Secondary School of Science.

In 2016 preliminary investigations took place at the plots of Rävåla Avenue 8 / Estonia Avenue 1/3 (Fig. 1: 4; Kraut 2016). This study ascertained that natural layers (5.35–5.10 m a.s.l.¹, declining north-eastward) were in the middle part of the plots covered with soil that contained limestone dust and loam, which first and foremost are characteristic of the rear parts of the suburban plots (mainly used as farmland, gardens or pastures). The north-east part of the investigated area by or in the close vicinity of the historic Maakri street was characterised mainly by sandy or loamy soils that intermediated with waste layers containing pieces of bricks and limestone, marking either infill layers that were brought to the Maakri street or the demolition of the houses on the edges of the street. The finds collected during the preliminary investigations ranged from the 14th century to the 19th century.

¹ The natural layers in the central and southern parts of the property were peaty soils up to 20 cm thick, with natural sand underneath.

In 2017 archaeological studies were carried out at the Estonia Avenue 7 / Teatri Square 1 plot (Fig. 1: 5; Reppo *et al.* 2017). The test pits in the south part of the plot revealed natural sand (7.32–7.06 m a.s.l., declining north-eastward), on top of that a mixed sandy layer, the finds from that layer could not date it to any earlier than the mid-17th century. Yet, a few plough marks were detected in natural sand, testifying that the southern part of the investigated plot had been used as arable land. In the northern part, however, a ca. 65 cm thick dense peaty manure layer could be distinguished on top of the natural sand (5.92 m a.s.l.). Its upper part was marked by a thin layer of limestone gravel that constituted a level surface. This was followed by another ca. 30 cm thick layer of manure, finds from this layer could be dated to the Middle Ages. On top of the manure layers was a ca. 10 cm thick clayey surface mixed with limestone pieces, followed by mixed infill layers that in addition to 17th–18th century finds contained also medieval stoneware, late medieval and early post-medieval glazed redware.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL STUDIES IN 2018

Tammsaare Park

Archaeological monitoring² that commenced in summer 2017 to supervise the reconstruction of Tammsaare Park came to an end in spring 2018 (Fig. 1: 6; Fig. 2; Heinloo 2019a). The dig was mostly not very deep and no archaeologically interesting deposits³ were discovered. However, two deeper pits were dug to the Estonia Avenue and to the east side of the old market hall. There the original depth of natural soil could be documented, as well as deposits and constructions connected with early human settlement.



Fig. 2. *Archaeological excavations in 2018. Jn 2. 2018. aasta arheoloogilised välitööd. Map / Kaart: Eero Heinloo*

² To a smaller extent (at an area of ca. 11 m²) also rescue excavations were carried out during the archaeological studies, necessitated by the construction of water lines at the south-east side of the old market hall (Fig. 2: C). The deposits in the excavation denoted a glacis that had been piled up in the second half of the 18th century. It is highly likely that the find-rich soil of the embankment had been brought from the suburban area. In the north-west part of the excavation a limestone wall was discovered – 1.1 m thick and preserved to the height of 90 cm – that marks the wall that had supported the inner side of the glacis (Fig. 2: D).

³ Archaeologists documented also scarp walls of earthen fortifications from the 18th century, which are not analysed here at length due to the different topic of the present article.

The trench dug for the new water pipes to the south-east part of the Estonia Avenue (Fig. 2: A) revealed that on top of the natural greyish sand (5.60 m a.s.l.) lay ca. 30 cm thick layer that contained brownish organic material and manure, followed in turn by ca. 55 cm thick greyish loam with homogeneous content. The watching brief revealed no datable finds, yet the character and stratigraphy of the layers suggest that this cultural layer represents the medieval and early post-medieval suburb in front of the Karja Gate.

The profile of the trench in the east corner of the old market hall⁴ (Fig. 2: B) demonstrated that on top of natural sand (4.95 m a.s.l.) ca. 60 cm thick brownish soil rich in organics was distinguished (Fig. 3), from the upper part a fragment of Siegburg stoneware (see e.g. Russow 2006, 45) was discovered that dated the deposit probably to the Middle Ages. Still, the scarce finds did not allow determining precisely when active human activities had started in the area. A NE/SW directional ditch and a vertical stake could be associated with the organic-rich soil. The stake had lost its function prior to the last phase of depositing the organic material. The ditch may have been dug either for drainage or as a boundary. The stake may be associated with a vertical stockade that marked the plot boundary.

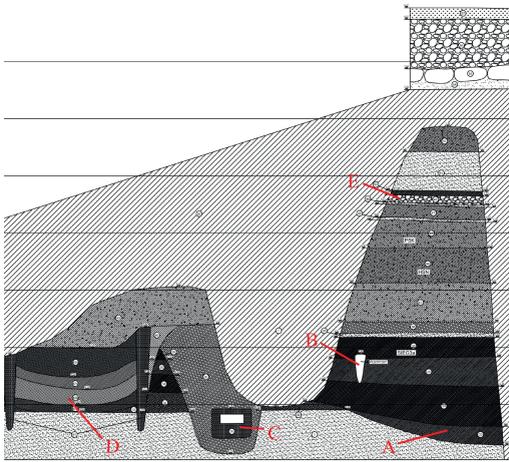


Fig. 3. Cultural layers documented in the east corner of the old market hall. A – ditch, B – stake, C – water pipe, D – refuse pit, E – covered way.

Jn 3. Vana turuhoone idanurgas dokumenteeritud kultuurkiht. A – kraav, B – vai, C – veetoru, D – prügiauk, E – varjatud tee.

Drawing / Joonis: Eero Heinloo

A deep cut was made into the soil that consisted of medieval deposits, in the bottom of the cut there was a NE/SW directional water pipe that was covered by a wooden plank. The cut for the water pipe was filled with greyish soil mixed with sand that contained organic material, which marked also the ca. 10 cm thick ground planing made after the installation of the water pipe. There were no related finds, yet it is likely that it had been part of a (late) medieval water system. A refuse pit to the NW of the water pipe that had been dug after the water system also can be dated to the Late Middle Ages. The sides of the ca. 1-metre-deep refuse pit were supported by vertical stakes and it contained deposits of human excrements, in total four different stages of usage could be distinguished.

The mostly organic-rich soil was followed by deposits containing loam, in total three intense loam layers were distinguished. The upper loam layer contained a lot of limestone pieces and mortar, suggesting either in-fill of

the ground or dispersing demolition ruins. It may be possible that this layer relates to the events that took place after the Great Northern War, e.g. later than 1710.

In the second half of the 18th century earthwork took place in the south-eastern part of the Old Town, when two new half-bastions were built, and the moat was renewed. A so-called ‘covered way’ was constructed to the outer slope of the moat, which in turn was protected by a low wall (glacis wall) (Nurk *et al.* 2009, 9). By the eastern corner of the old market hall the

⁴ The reconstructions made by Tallinn municipal archaeologist Ragnar Nurk (see e.g. Nurk 2011) demonstrate that the excavation pit was made in place of the covered way constructed in the second half of the 18th century.

possible ‘covered way’ was referred to by a ca. 10 cm thick debris-rich pavement layer, covered by thick brownish soil (surface at 6.86 m a.s.l.). On top of the layer of the ‘covered way’ were already thicker in-fill sand layers from the second half of the 19th century, connected with the liquidation of the earthen fortifications and in-fill, demolition and planning layers from the end of the 19th and the 20th century.

Teatri Square

In October 2018 preliminary archaeological studies took place in the Teatri Square (Fig. 1: 7; Fig. 2) and three test pits were made to the studied area (Heinloo 2018). Test pit no 1 and 2 that were made to the north and west part of the square (Fig. 2: 1–2) revealed that older deposits, including the upper part of natural sand, had been dug down, consequently greyish and greyish-brown sandy layers that marked fields and gardens could be distinguished on top of natural sands. The finds from these layers date from the 18th/19th centuries, suggesting that the large-scale earthwork in the north and west part of the Teatri Square may relate to the construction of earthen fortifications at the second half of the 18th century. The field and garden layers were covered by sands characteristic to in-fill, which may be connected with the liquidation of earthen fortifications in the second half of the 19th century, the upper parts of the test pits revealed deposits from later times, i.e. from the end of the 19th century and the 20th century.

Situation in test pit no 3 (Fig. 2: 3) in the middle of the north-east part of the square was different, since the ground had not been levelled there. Consequently, natural sand layers (at 8.28 m a.s.l.) and deposits of early human activities had preserved at the location of the pit (Fig. 4). A cultural layer of early human activities could be distinguished on top of natural sand, it appeared as a ca. 12 cm thick mixed sandy layer from where a fragment of a Siegburg stoneware jug was found, dating to the 14th/15th century. Right on top of the sand layer grey dense pressed surfaces appeared, which in places demonstrated sandy intermediate layers. The character of the layers suggests active use of land. The existence of a courtyard or a street was also supported by a ca. 10 cm thick beige loamy layer right over the dense surfaces. Considering the reconstructions based on historic town plans it may be assumed that test pit no 3 was located at the street which was situated on the line of Väike-Karja street and was in use until the beginning of the 18th century.

On top of the street levels was a ca. 30 cm thick layer of debris that contained a lot of limestone and mortar, followed by greyish sandy layers containing little organic material. The small number of finds makes it difficult to date the layers, yet the stratigraphy and settlement logic of the area as well as its historic background suggest that the demolition debris marks the earthwork that took place after the Great Northern War (post-1710), and the greyish sandy layers designate garden and field layers from the 18th/19th century. The upper part of the test pit showed construction deposits and surface planning from the end of the 19th century,



Fig. 4. Profile of test pit no 3 in Teatri Square.

Jn 4. Teatri väljakule tehtud prooviaugu nr 3 profil.

Photo / Foto: Eero Heinloo

including a cobblestone pavement on top of a light sandy pad that had been in use until World War II.

Estonia Avenue 7 / Teatri Square 1

From September to November 2018 archaeological rescue excavations took place at Estonia Avenue 7 / Teatri Square 1 (Fig. 1: 8; Fig. 2; Heinloo 2019b), a trench of ca. 325 m² was made to the courtyard of the plot (Fig. 5).



Fig. 5. Excavation pit in the courtyard of Estonia Avenue 7 / Teatri Square 1.

Jn 5. Estonia pst 7 / Teatri väljak 1 sisehoovi kaevand.

Photo / Foto: Eero Heinloo

The study determined that natural surface at the area was formed by light (sea) sand, on top of which was a 40–60 cm thick natural peat layer. The natural ground was slightly declining north-eastward, hence the upper part of the natural peaty layer was at 6.27 m a.s.l. in the south-west part of the excavation pit and at 5.89 m a.s.l. at its north-east part.

On top of the natural peaty layer were 30–45 cm thick soil layers, containing peat mixed with organic material. Three different stratigraphic usage phases could be distinguished, the earliest could be dated based on finds to the last quarter of the 14th century or turn of the 14th and 15th centuries, the latest phase is mostly connected with the second half of the 15th century. Early human activities are reflected in low NE–SW directional ditches that on the one hand may be built for drainage, on the other hand mark historic plot boundaries. In the first half of the 15th century the early simple ditches were replaced by a new water system (Fig. 6), that consisted of brushwood trenches dug ca. 30–35 cm into the ground and covered

with birch bark. The main NE–SW directional trench followed the earlier plot boundary. Possible intersecting (plot) boundaries are referred to by two additional ditches that joined the main trench from the south-west. A massive limestone well had been built to one of the connecting points. As a remarkable find four stumps were documented at the north-west side of the brushwood trench, covered with birch bark, that mark a row of trees that was planted to the plot boundary after the trench had been dug.

Some major changes to the plot were referred to by a ground level rich in timber chips, over the peaty layer mixed with organic material, with a cess pit, a water pipe that started from the north side of the cess pit, running north-eastward and a stockade along the plot boundary. The finds suggest that the change had occurred at the turn of the 15th and 16th centuries or beginning of the 16th century. The cess pit made of hewn logs and fastened with fishtail tenons (Fig. 7) demonstrated at least five different usage phases. At some point the cess pit had been filled up and thereafter taken into use again as originally intended. The find assemblage allows us to speculate that the cess pit was filled up due to events that took place after the Russian-Livonian War (1558–1583), its final abandonment was probably at the second half of the 17th century, as suggested both by finds and stratigraphy.

A moist and clayey pavement that contained small limestone pieces, which covered the chips-rich soil and the entire excavation area, can be also dated to the beginning of the 16th century. The excavation could not specify whether the waste layer was an in-fill brought to the suburb from elsewhere or whether it was remains of the basement of a light construction nearby. A late medieval layer containing manure and organics could be detected mostly at the south-eastern part of the historic plot; it was located on top of the above-mentioned pavement. Several trenches that ran along the plot border could be associated with this layer. In the bottom of one of the trenches horizontal posts had been thrown, which originated from a stockade that had stood at that place earlier.

No specific burnt layer or destruction layer could be associated directly with the events during the Russian-Livonian War. However, in a large part throughout the trench ca. 15–20 cm thick organic-rich soil that contained a lot of charcoal was documented on top of the manure and organic-rich soil. Finds from that layer allowed us to date it to the last quarter of the 16th century until the first half of the 17th century, i.e. to the time after the Russian-Livonian War.



Fig. 6. Medieval system of trenches made of brushwood and covered by birch bark.

Jn 6. Kasetohuga kaetud keskaegne hagudega kuivenduskraav.

Photo / Foto: Eero Heinloo



Fig. 7. Medieval cess pit.

Jn 7. Keskaegne jäätmekast.

Photo / Foto: Eero Heinloo

It is possible that the abundance of charcoal in this layer was caused by scattering the burnt remains of demolished constructions (e.g. buildings, fences, upper parts of wells, etc.) over the plot, which during the following suburban activities – first and foremost land cultivation – were spread evenly in the soil.

Next, another layer rich in manure and organic material covered the entire excavation pit. Prior to the deposition of this layer the earth had been evened to some extent, and consequently some earlier depositions had been levelled down. The layer could be dated from the mid-17th century to the beginning of the 18th century, according to the finds, could be associated with upright posts, supported by pieces of limestone, that quite characteristically were placed along the plot boundary. Over the manure layer lay interfaces containing debris, which stratigraphically could date from the events of the Great Northern War, yet the upper part of the trench was mainly characterised by blackish and dark brownish loamy layers, which designate human activities of the 18th–19th century when the plot was mostly used as a field or a garden. More substantial constructions were built to the plot in the second half of the 19th century, as testified by massive limestone basements.

Collected finds⁵ included mostly imported pottery that could be dated to a period from the last quarter of the 14th century to the 19th century. Different layers contained also earlier pottery to a lesser extent – from the last quarter of the 13th century to the first half of the 14th century, e.g. Siegburg near-stoneware and Southern Lower Saxony stoneware. It is not entirely certain whether these finds have got to the suburban area as stray finds, or whether they indicate an earlier settlement in the area. In addition to pottery, also a significant amount of metal objects was uncovered during the research (including many of forged nails) and a remarkable number of tin and brass plaques that were used as belt decorations (Fig. 8). The abundance of metal objects may refer to metal treatment activities at the plot, as suggested by dozens of forges and residue of slag and metal.⁶ The connection of finds with the studied plot is indirectly (at least partly) confirmed by the small number of leather, textile and timber finds that would normally be characteristic to suburban cultural layers.⁷ At the same time the



Fig. 8. Selection of decorative metal plaques for the belt.

Jn 8. Valik metallist vöökaunistusi.

Photo / Foto: Eero Heinloo

⁵ Collection AI 8013 contains ca. 5000 finds.

⁶ No furnaces nor crucibles that were in use during melting processes were actually unearthed.

⁷ If no constructions are found in suburban areas, the find material there is often described as brought from the cess pits of the town core to be disposed to suburban plots. However, the content of cess pits is generally characterised mainly by abundance of timber, textile and leather items, which constituted mass material in addition to pottery in medieval households. The good preservation of timber constructions at Estonia Avenue 7 excludes the possibility that such find groups have not survived in the soil.

artefact collection contain find groups, which generally should be ruled out with this particular plot, like dozens of lead cloth seals, but also pilgrim badges, which during the 2018 excavation were unearthed at least five. The abundance and diversity of finds against the scarcity or absence of constructions remains one of the major challenges in interpreting the suburban cultural layer. The present article attempts to contribute to the understanding of that layer.

SUBURBAN CULTURAL LAYER

The development of cultural layers in suburban areas may be divided into two phases: active phase of shaping on site and passive phase of re-developing.

The active phase of shaping on site relates to intense human activities, which in the cultural layer is characterised by a variety of layers, i.e. deposits connected with habitation and production alternate repeatedly with in-fill, planning and demolition layers. As a rule, the layers associated with the active phase of shaping on site are easy to date, since the layers are not mixed, and the finds characterise a specific deposit. The active phase of shaping on site is associated with several constructions like dwelling houses, auxiliary buildings and household buildings, also timber, stone or rubble levels, cess pits and household pits, etc.

The passive phase of re-developing is in turn connected with field banks and agricultural land, fruit and vegetable gardens and animal husbandry, which in the cultural layer are characterised by less distinguishable changes⁸ and disturbance of layers, i.e. deposits from different periods have mixed during gardening and field work. Deposits of the passive phase of re-developing are more difficult to date, since disturbances (e.g. plough furrows, planting, digging trenches, etc.) may cause later finds to appear lower in the soil than earlier finds, and *vice versa*. The passive phase of re-developing may first and foremost be associated with e.g. water systems, furrows, fences, garden beds, water wells. However, fences and wells may also be associated with the active phase.

Typically, the passive phase of re-developing is rather connected with the rear parts of plots, while the active phase may be associated both with the areas facing street and also the rear parts.⁹ It is characteristic to the active phase of shaping on site (yet not inevitable) that a transition layer or natural turf may occur between the lower part of the cultural layer and natural soil. In the passive phase of re-developing the transition layer is generally absent, because cultivation often mixes natural turf with the garden and field layer. Suburban cultural layer is generally characterised by in-fill deposits that are brought there more or less purposefully (for raising lower land, for the need to level new land, for depositing rubbish, etc.). In-fill deposits mix in time with layers of local human activities, and hence the suburban cultural layer is characterised by the abundance of impurities that refer to construction debris (pieces of brick and mortar, limestone, fragments of tiles).¹⁰ For the same reason the suburban cultural layer may be characterised by (abundant) finds that normally would not be associated with the suburb – e.g. stove tiles, fragments of window glass, precious luxury goods (e.g. beakers), lead commodity seals, etc. However, specific finds that refer to crafts can often be found in suburban areas, e.g. in the Riga suburb of Tartu furnaces for brick making and residue of copper alloy production have been found (Vissak *et al.* 2015, 163), in the Tartu suburb of Viljandi items associated with textile work (Haak 2006, 72–73) that give us an idea about local lines of activity.

⁸ For example, layers from different periods can be differentiated only by the abundance or scarcity of impurities.

⁹ As a rule, buildings for crafts / industrial activities are located in the rear parts of plots, which are associated with the active phase of shaping on site.

¹⁰ Yet it is not imperative that debris always refers to in-fill. It may also mean that stone buildings were erected to suburbs, which occasionally has been the case.

ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT THE SUBURB IN FRONT OF THE KARJA GATE

The amount and scope of archaeological fieldwork in the area in front of the Karja Gate is not large enough to draw substantial conclusions. Yet a certain speciality appears from the research that allows us to make some assumptions about the early history of the suburb.

There is a clear north-eastern drop in the natural landscape of the study area, so the natural ground level close to the Karja Gate and to the sports ground of Tallinn Secondary School of Science is ca. 11.41–12.11 m a.s.l., while on the north-eastern plots (e.g. Tammsaare Park, Rävåla Avenue 8) the natural ground is occasionally found at ca. 4.95 m a.s.l. Predominantly the natural land surface is light (sea) sand, while on the northern part of Estonia Avenue 7 and the central and southern part of Rävåla Avenue 8 a 20–60 cm thick peat layer is observable on top of the natural sand. It is an indication of a territory that has remained moist for a long time, so it is possible that peaty layers are signs of remnant lakes created after the retreat of the sea, as mentioned by Rein Zobel in his research (Zobel 2009, fig. 21). During the 18th century large-scale earthworks, the original uneven terrain with local hills and caverns has been replaced by flat land surface, as the raised natural elevations have been levelled down, which has resulted in a better preservation of the archaeological cultural layer in the naturally lower areas.

Theoretical preconditions for the formation of the suburban settlement structure existed already by the second half of the 13th century at latest, when the actual urban settlement was surrounded by a moat and an earthen rampart (Zobel 2009, 95–96) that separated the town from its future suburb. In the close vicinity of the Karja Gate, on the outer side of the first moat (Nurk *et al.* 2010, 23, 28), but also on the plot of the Tallinn Secondary School of Science on the natural sands upon Väike-Tartu Road¹¹ a simple pavement of gravel, small limestone pebbles or rubble was documented, its occupation layer dated from the second half of the 13th to the first quarter of the 14th century (*ibid.*, 35).¹² Also the earlier part of the cultural layer at the south-west corner of the Tallinn Secondary School of Science plot has been dated to the last quarter of the 13th century / first quarter of the 14th century, and fragments of early imported pottery (even though from later deposits) from Estonia Avenue 7 may also be associated with the same period. Current information allows us to assume that immediately after the town core had been separated by a moat and an earthen rampart, a paved section of a road was built from the Karja Gate towards Tartu road and (stone) bridge over Härjapea river, by which early suburban activities may have taken place.

A more active use of the suburb in front of the Karja Gate started probably only in the last quarter of the 14th century / beginning of the 15th century, when a greater part of the suburbs in front of the Karja and Viru Gates were taken into use. Evidence of the suburban cultural layer that dates to this period occurred in most archaeological excavations that took place in the area in front of the Karja Gate. It is significant that almost at the same time a turn-off of a road was taken into active use that ran toward Väike-Karja street, which is depicted on the 17th century city plans, and which was in use until the beginning of the 18th century. By the turn of the 14th and 15th century at the latest the historic structure of the suburban plots between the Karja and Viru Gates had taken shape, which remained almost unchanged until the late 17th century, prior to Great Northern War (Fig. 9). This is confirmed by excavations in the Tammsaare park and on the plot at Estonia Avenue 7, where boundaries of plots that had

¹¹ No clear evidence exists about the prehistoric road at that site, although in rare cases thin lines containing humus have been documented (see e.g. Nurk *et al.* 2009, 19; Nurk *et al.* 2010, 22). Researchers do not exclude that they may date from prehistory.

¹² Later the street surfaces have been repeatedly re-levelled.

been set in the late 14th century were documented and which remained the same until the end of the 17th century.

The cultural layer of the suburban area of the Karja Gate has the characteristics of both a passive phase of re-developing and active phase of shaping on site. An example is the archaeologically excavated area of Estonia Avenue 7, located historically at the rear part of the property. Most of these studies documented layer of passive phase of re-developing, which could primarily be associated with arable and horticultural lands. The latter are also indirectly indicated by the lack of a natural transition layer and the mixing of the lower sediments with the natural peat layer. The sediments were characterised by relative homogeneity where differences were occasionally observed only due to changes in colour tone, increase and decrease of soil constituents, or changes in organic to clay sand ratios. The layers were characterised by abundant and diverse finds, so it can be assumed that at least some of the finds have been brought to the property as in-fill or garbage. At the same time there were artefact groups (e.g. finds referring to metal work) which in the current research situation may also refer to metal work in the immediate neighbourhood. In addition to the so-called passive phase of re-developing deposits, the site was also characterised by some layers of active phase of shaping



Fig. 9. Plan of plots in the suburbs that belonged to burgesses, drawn in 1699 by Sigismund v Staden. Present day situation added by Eero Heinloo (idea from Ragnar Nurk). 1 – Karja Gate, A – plot boundary documented at Estonia Avenue 7, B – plot boundary documented at Tamsaare Park, C – street area documented at Teatri Square.

Jn 9. Linnakodanike eeslinnakinnistute plaan, joonistatud 1699. aastal Sigismund v Stadeni poolt. Kaasaegsele alusplaanile pannud Eero Heinloo (idee Ragnar Nurk). 1 – Karja värav, A – Estonia pst 7 dokumenteeritud kinnistupiir, B – Tamsaare pargis dokumenteeritud kinnistupiir, C – Teatri väljakul dokumenteeritud tänavaala.

Map / Kaart: TLA, Eero Heinloo

on site, such as interlayer associated with the medieval cess pit, or rough levels suggesting land planning, but as a rule, the study area was classical rear part of the historical property, characterised by passive alteration of the ground.

All in all, the cultural layer that is associated with the suburb in front of the Karja Gate is characterised both by the passive phase of re-development and the active phase of shaping on-site. There are areas in the suburb that may first and foremost be associated with fields and gardens, yet also street and ground levels, cess pits and refuse pits, water control ditches and pipes, stockades, etc. have been documented that refer to a more active usage of the suburb.

CONCLUSIONS

A greater part of the suburb in front of the Karja Gate had been taken into use by the turn of the 14th / 15th century at the latest, however, over and in the immediate vicinity of the historic roads (e.g. Väike-Tartu road) also deposits dating from the second half of 13th century have been documented. Archaeological research verifies that despite of later earthworks the medieval and early post-medieval deposits have survived very well in the area, calling future real estate developers to treat our historic heritage with due respect.

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TÄHELEPANEKUID TALLINNA KARJAVÄRAVA ESISE EESLINNAALA VARASEMAST ARENGULOOST

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2018. aastal viis artikli autor Karjavärava esisel eeslinnaalal läbi kolm arheoloogilist uuringut (jn 1), kus kogutud väärtuslik info võimaldab teha olulisi järeldusi nii piirkonna esmase kasutuselevõtu, edasise arengu kui ka eeslinnaala üldise iseloomu kohta.

2018. aasta kevadel lõpetati arheoloogiline jälgimine, mis toimus Tammsaare pargi rekonstrueerimistöödega seoses (jn 1: 6). Kaevetöödel arheoloogiliselt huvipakkuvatele ladestustele enamasti ei satunud, erandiks kaks sügavale ulatunud kaevist, kus õnnestus dokumenteerida nii loodusliku maapinnatasandi algset kõrgust kui ka varaseimaid inimtegevusega seonduvaid ladestusi ning konstruktsioone. Estonia pst kagupoolsesse serva rajatud kaevises jäid loodusliku hallika liiva peale pruunikad orgaanikat ja sõnnikut sisaldavad ladestused, millele järgnes hallikas saviliivane pinnas (jn 2: A). Kihtide puhul on tegu kesk- ja varauusaegse eeslinnaala kultuurkihiga. Vana turuhoone idanurga juurde rajatud kaevandis (jn 2: B) eristusid loodusliku liiva peal keskaegsed pruunikad, rohkesti orgaanikat sisaldavad ladestused (jn 3). Konstruktsioonidest dokumenteeriti kirde-edela sihiline kraav ning püstpost, mis markeerivad kinnistupiire. Keskaegsete ladestuste sisse oli rajatud sügav sissekaeve, mille põhjas paiknes hiliskesk-aegne kirde-edela sihis kulgev, pealt lauaga kaetud puidust veetoru, ühtlasi on hiliskeskaega paigutatud ka veetoru kõrvale kaevatud jäätmekast. Valdavalt orgaanikat sisaldavatele kihtidele järgnesid saviliivased ladestused, mille peale jäi rusumem prügitus, mis osundab 18. sajandi II poolel rajatud nn varjatud teele.

2018. aasta oktoobris toimusid arheoloogilised eeluuringud Teatri väljaku piirkonnas (jn 1: 7), kus rajati 3 uuringušurfi (jn 2: 1–3). Teatri väljaku põhja- ja lääneosas rajatud šurfides ilmnes, et vanemad ladestused, sh looduslike liivade ülaosad, olid maha kaevatud, looduslike liivakihtide peal olid eristatavad põllu- ja aiakihid. Kihtidest saadud leiumaterjal asetub 18./19. sajandisse, mistõttu on tõenäoline, et Teatri väljaku põhja- ja lääneosas aset leidnud mastaapsed maapinnatööd on seostatavad muldkindlustuste rajamisega 18. sajandi II poolel. Teatri väljaku kolmanda šurfi (jn 2: 3; jn 4) kohal aga maapinna maha nivelleerimist ei ole toimunud. Varaseima inimtegevusest mõjutatud kihina eristus loodusliku liiva peal segatud liivakiht, millest saadi 14./15. sajandisse dateeritava Siegburgi lõomutusega kivikeraamilise kannu katke. Vahetult segatud liivakihi peal eristusid tihked ladestused, mille iseloom annab tunnistust aktiivselt kasutusel olevast maapinnatasandist. Tuginedes aja-

looliste linnaplaanide põhjal koostatud rekonstruktsioonidele, võib oletada, et šurf sattus kuni 18. sajandi alguseni kasutusel olnud Väike-Karja tänava joonel paiknenud teeotsa kohale.

2018. aasta septembrist novembrini toimusid arheoloogilised päästekaevamised Estonia pst 7 krundil, kus kinnistu hoovialale rajati u 325 m² kaevand (jn 1: 8; jn 2; jn 5). Loodusliku maapinnatasandi moodustasid uuritava alal hele (mere)liiv, mille peal asus looduslik turbakiht. Viimase peale jäid turbaga segatud orgaanikat sisaldavad ladestused, mida saab leidude põhjal dateerida 14. sajandi IV veerandist või 14./15. sajandi vahetusest kuni 15. sajandi II pooleni. Varajases inimtegevusest annavad tunnistust kirde-edela sihilised madalad kraavid, mis olid eelkõige kuivenduskraavid, samas markeerisid need ajaloolist kinnistupiiri. 15. sajandi I poolel asendati varajased lihtsad kraavid uue veejuhtimissüsteemiga, mille moodustasid maapinda rajatud kasetohuga kaetud hagudest kraavid (jn 6), sealjuures järgis kirde-edela sihiline põhikraav juba varem välja kujunenud kinnistupiiri. Võimalikest ristuvatest (kinnistu)piiridest annavad tunnistust kaks põhikraaviga kagu poolt liitunud lisakraavi, sealjuures oli ühte liitumispunkti laotud massiivne paekividest kaev. Kasetohuga kaetud hagudest kraavi loodeküljel dokumenteeriti 4 kändu, mis tähistavad kraavi rajamise järgselt kinnistupiirile istutatud puuderivi. Kinnistutega seonduvatest suurematest muutustest andis tunnistust turbaste orgaanikat sisaldavate pinnaste peal esinenud laastune tasand, millega seostusid jäätmekast (jn 7), jäätmekasti põhjaküljest juurest kirde suunas lähtunud veetoru ning piki kinnistupiiri rajatud püstposttara. Leidude põhjal toimus muutus 15./16. sajandi vahetusel või 16. sajandi alguses. 16. sajandi algusesse saab dateerida ka laasturohke pinnase peale maha planeeritud ja kogu kaevandi ala katnud niiske ja savise (pisemaid paekivitiükke sisaldava) prügitusse tasapinna. Liivi sõja eelse perioodi ehk hiliskeskajaga oli võimalik seostada prügitusastapinna peale jäänud sõnnikust ja orgaanikarohket kihti. Selle kihiga seostusid mitmed piki kinnistupiiri rajatud kraavid, üks neist oli täidetud horisontaalselt kraavi põhja visatud postidega, mis pärinesid samal kohal varem püsti olnud püstposttarast. Liivi sõja sündmustega ei seostunud uuritava alal ühtegi konkreetset põlengu- või hävinguhorisonti, küll aga tähdeldati suures osas kaevandist sõnniku ja orgaanikarikaste ladestuste peal rohkesti sütt sisaldavat kihti, mida leiuainesele tuginedes võis dateerida 16. sajandi IV veerandist

kuni 17. sajandi I pooleni. Võimalik, et kihi söerohkuse põhjus on hävinud rajatiste (nt hooned, tarad, ülemised kaevurakked) söestunud jäänukid, mis on kinnistule laiali planeeritud ja edasise eeslinliku elutegevuse (ennekõike maaharimise) käigus pinnases ühtlaselt laiali hajusid. Uus sõnnikune ja orgaanikat sisaldanud ladestus kattis kogu kaevandi ala, selle ladestumise eel on maapinda mõnevõrra tasasemaks planeeritud. Kihiga, mille leiuainese põhjal saab dateerida 17. sajandi keskpaigast kuni 18. sajandi alguseni, oli võimalik seostada paekividega toetatud püstposte, mis uuringualale iseloomulikult paiknesid piki kinnistupiiri. Sõnnikuse kihi peal eristusid kohati rususemad vahetasandid, mis stratigraafialegi tuginedes võivad jääda Põhjasõja sündmuste aega, samas asusid kaevandi ülasosas valdavalt mustjad ja tumepruunid saviliivased kihid, mis tähistavad 18./19. sajandi elutegevust, mil kinnistuid kasutati ennekõike põllu- ja aiamaana. Kapitaalsemate kivihoonete rajamine jäi uuritava alal 19. sajandi II poolde, millest andsid tunnistust massiivsed paekivivundamendid. Esemelidudena koguti uuringutel eeskätt importkeraamikat, mida oli võimalik dateerida vahemikku 14. sajandi IV veerandist kuni 19. sajandini. Vähesel määral esineb erinevates ladestustes ka varasemat, 13. sajandi IV veerandist – 14. sajandi I pooleni dateeritavat keraamikat, mis võis eeslinnaalale sattuda juhuleidudena, aga ka anda tunnistust eeslinna varasemast asustuspildist. Keraamika kõrval saadi uuringute käigus märkimisväärselt palju metallesemeid, eraldi tasub esile tõsta vöökaunistustena kasutatud tinast ja messingist naastukeste (jn 8) arvukust. Metallesemete rohkus võib kinnistul toimunud metallitöötlemisest, millele viitavad ka kümned ääripõhjad ning šlaki- ja metallijäägid. Samas esineb leiumaterjalis leiurühmi, mille puhul peaks nende seostamine konkreetse kinnistuga olema välistatud, nt kümned tinast kangaplommid, aga ka mitmed palverändurimärgid.

Karjavärava esisel alal toimunud arheoloogilistel uuringutel joonistub välja seaduspära, mis annab alust teha mõningaid oletusi eeslinnaala varasemast arenguloost. Teoreetilised eeldused eeslinliku asustusstruktuuri tekkimiseks olid täidetud 13. sajandi II pooleks, mil toimiv linnaline asula ümbritseti vallikraavi ning muldvalliga. Vahetult Karjavärava lähistel, esmase vallikraavi välisküljel, aga ka Reaalkooli kinnistul, ajaloolise nn Väike-Tartu maantee kohal, on looduslike liivade peal dokumenteeritud algset kruusa- või paekivitükikestest kivisillutist, mida kattev kasutushorizont dateeriti 13. sajandi II poolest kuni 14. sajandi I veerandini. 13. sajandi IV veerandisse / 14. sajandi I veerandisse on dateeritud kultuurikihi varasem osa ka Reaalkooli kinnistu edelapoolses osas, ühtlasi on sama perioodiga seostatavad Estonia pst 7 kinnistul saadud varajased importkeraamikakillud. Käesoleva info põhjal võiks teha oletuse, et vahetult pärast asulatuumiku eraldamist vallikraavi ja muldvalliga rajati Karjaväravast vana Tartu maantee poole suundunud kivisillutatud teets, mille vahetus läheduses võis toimuda juba ka algset eeslinliku elutegevust. Karjavärava eeslinnaala aktiivsem kasutuselevõtt jääb tõenäoliselt siiski alles 14. sajandi viimasesse veerandisse / 15. sajandi algusesse, mil tegutsetakse juba suuremal osal Karja- ja Viru väravate esistest eeslinnaaladest. Tähelepanuväärne on, et umbes samal ajal asutakse aktiivselt liiklema ka Väike-Karja tänava joonel paiknenud teetsal, mida on kujutatud veel 17. sajandisse dateeritavatel linnaplaanidel (jn 9) ning mida pruugitakse kuni 18. sajandi alguseni. Hiljemalt 14./15. sajandi vahetuseks on suuresti välja kujunenud ka Karja- ja Viru väravate vahelisele alale jääva eeslinnaala kinnistute ajalooline struktuur, mis püsis suuremate muutusteta kuni Põhjasõjani. Viimast tõestavad uuringud Tammsaare pargis ja Estonia pst 7 kinnistul.