



Additional information about Tallinn suburban areas on the background of recent Estonia Avenue and Tatari Street surveys

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INTRODUCTION

In recent years the busy construction activity in Tallinn is concentrated in the historical suburban areas surrounding the Old Town. Thus, numerous new buildings can be spotted in the Kalamaja and Kalaranna areas, on the properties adjacent to Maakri street at the historical Pleekmäe, but also in the areas south of the Old Town, such as the plots along Pärnu road and Tatari street, disused for a long time. In 2019–2020, MTÜ AEG archaeologist Peeter Piirits conducted two archaeological surveys – on the properties of Estonia Ave. 7 / Teatri Sq. 1 and Tatari St. 1 – which as plots remain historically in suburban areas outside the Harju, Karja and Viru Gates (Fig. 1).¹ In the Medieval and Early Modern Periods, suburbs did not constitute, as a rule, areas with a permanent population. Although some of the more densely built-up settlement cores with a permanent population stood out, the majority of suburban properties belonged to townspeople, who used them primarily as household plots. In addition, several individual objects related to the functioning of the medieval city (e.g., welfare institutions, chapels) and plots related to economic activities remained in the suburban areas.

Since 2017, the Heritage Protection Department of the Tallinn City Planning Board has commissioned expert assessments of suburban areas outside the city walls, the aim of which has been to gather information from previous archaeological research and to describe and delimit areas where medieval and early modern archaeological cultural layer has been or is likely to be preserved. Within the framework of the project, an expert assessment of the suburban areas outside Tallinn's Harju, Karja, and Viru Gates was completed by the author of the article in 2020 (Heinloo 2020a). This article reflects the preliminary results of the surveys conducted by MTÜ AEG in 2019–2020, which the author of the article synthesizes with the conclusions of the expert assessment of the suburban areas outside the Harju, Karja, and Viru Gates.

¹ Both archaeological surveys continued in 2021.

SURVEYS ON THE ESTONIA AVE. 7 / TEATRI SQ. 1 PROPERTY

In the years 2019–2020, archaeological excavations continued in the courtyard of the real estate at Estonia Ave. 7 / Teatri Sq. 1 (Fig. 1: 1), where the survey had started in 2018. The total area surveyed in 2019–2020 was 460 m², which expanded the 2018 survey area towards Estonia avenue and Teatri square (Fig. 2). In the first year of the survey, a natural depression was observed in the central part of the courtyard, in the bottom of which a thick and moist peat layer had deposited. Habitation has reached this hollow area no later than in the last

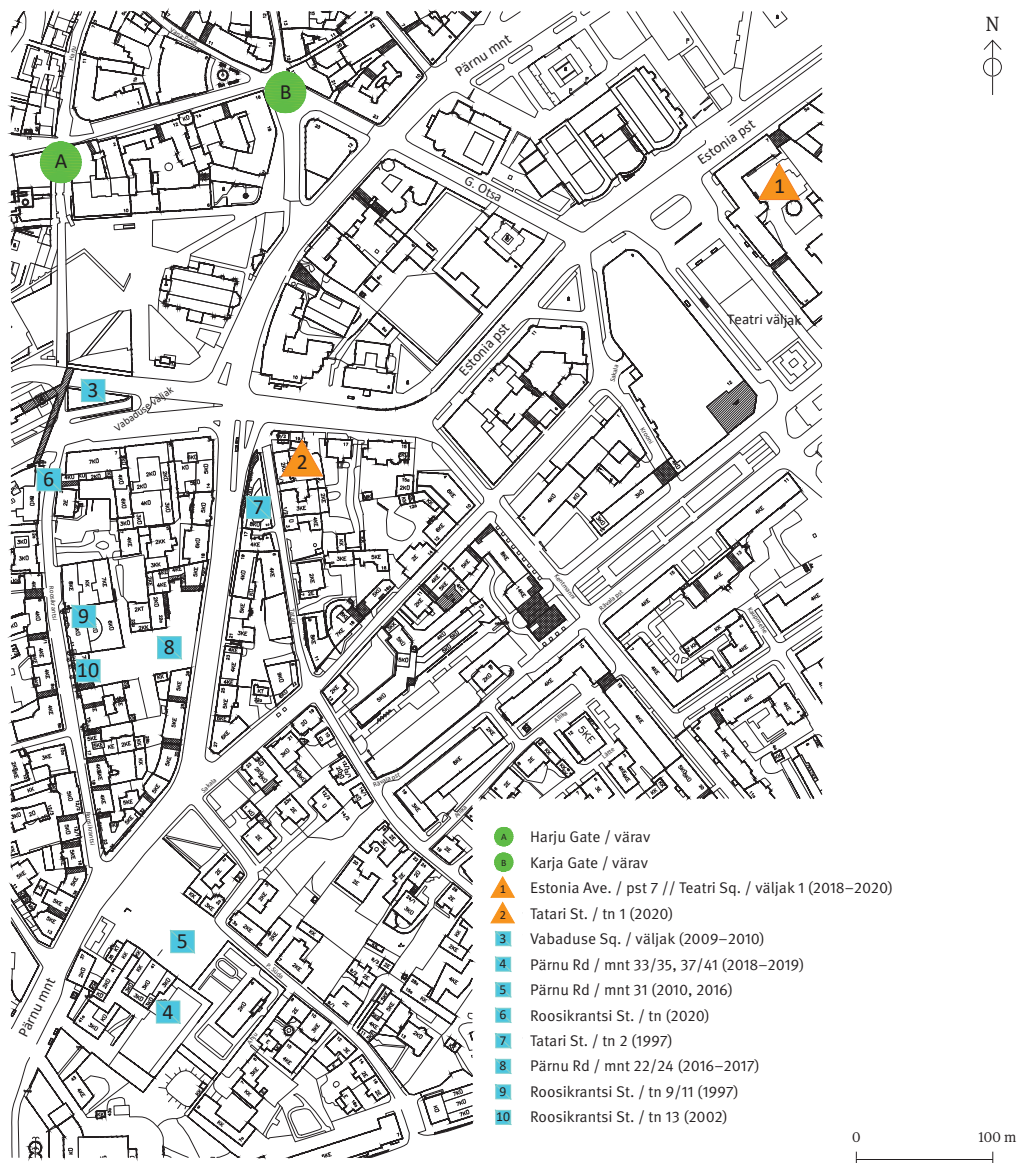


Fig. 1. A selection of the important archaeological investigations in the front area of the Harju and Karja Gates.

Jn 1. Mõned olulisemad Harju ja Karja väravate esisel alal toimunud arheoloogilised uuringud.

Map / Kaart: Eero Heinloo

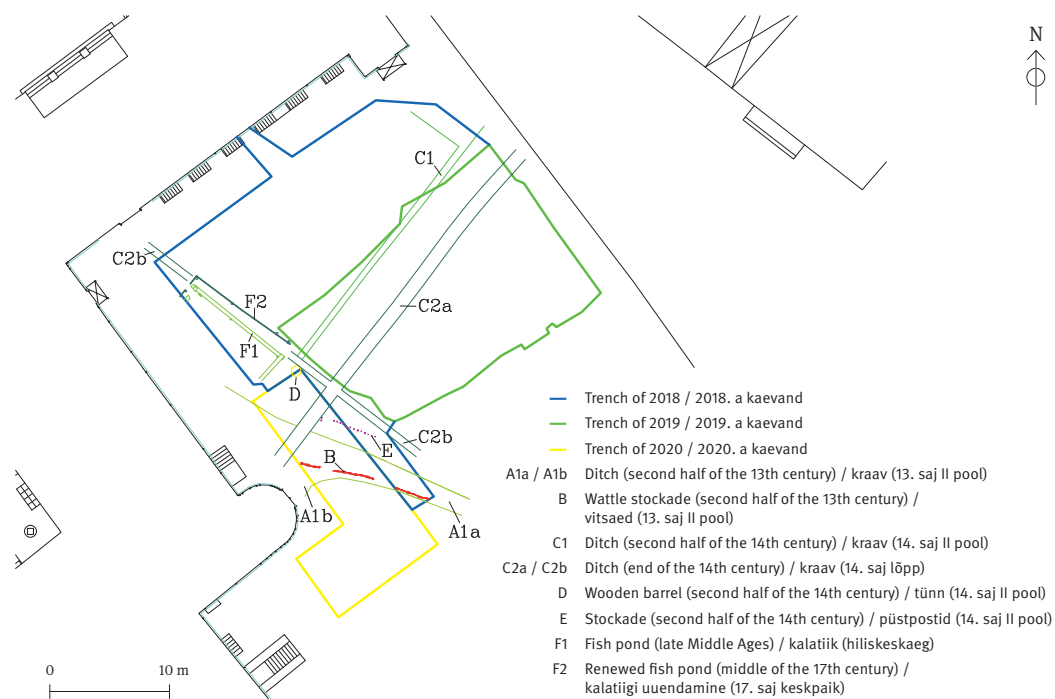


Fig. 2. General plan of the courtyard Estonia Ave. 7 / Teatri Sq. 1, with focus on the 2019–2020 trenches.
Jn 2. Estonia pst 7 / Teatri väljak 1 kinnistu hoovi üldplaan, rõhuasetusega 2019.–2020. a kaevanditele.
 Map / Kaart: Eero Heinloo

quarter of the 14th century, and the boundaries between the historical properties at the courtyard of Estonia Ave. 7 were immediately established, which remained unchanged until the events of the Great Northern War (see Heinloo 2019). A few finds dating from the second half of the 13th century (mixed inside later soils) provided an opportunity to assume in 2018 that, on the north-eastern edge of the historical road running at Estonia Ave. 7, i.e., in the direction of Väike-Karja street, human activities could have taken place somewhat earlier, confirmed also by the surveys of the following years.

The natural ground has been higher in the southernmost corner of the exploration area, where the soil untouched by human activity was a gritty layer of light beige sand, the upper seam of which remained at the maximum height of approx. 7.50 m a.s.l. The original ground level has reached even higher, but in the course of the levelling that took place after the Great Northern War, earlier deposits, including the upper horizon of natural sand, have been removed in the southern part of the exploration area.² Naturally, the ground inclines to the north and northeast, with a drier thick layer of peat remaining on top of the sand layer at the edge of the natural depression, and the thicker, moist peat surface created by excessive moisture at the depression. In the survey area, the lowest point of the depression could be documented at the height of 5.80 m a.s.l, which makes a drop of at least 1.7 m in about 40 m.³

² For example, during the preliminary surveys carried out on the plot of Estonia Ave. 7 in 2017, only finds dating from the 17th and 18th centuries were found in the test pits in natural sands of the southern part of the courtyard area (Reppo *et al.* 2017).

³ The decline of natural ground continues primarily in the direction of the sea or north-east, but also in the direction of the Old Town or north, at least to the central part of Tammsaare Park (the location of the old market building), where the height of natural ground was documented in the absolute height of 4.95 m a.s.l (Heinloo 2020b).



Fig. 3. Finds dating from the second half of the 13th century to the beginning of the 14th century from Estonia Ave. 7 / Teatri Sq. 1 investigations.

Jn 3. 13. saj II poole kuni 14. saj alguse leiud Estonia pst 7 / Teatri väljak 1 uuringult.

(AI 8013.)

Photo / Foto: Eero Heinloo



Fig. 4. An early ditch and a wattle stockade at its edge from the second half of the 13th century.

Jn 4. 13. saj II poolest pärinev varajane kraav ja selle servas olev põimtara.

Photo / Foto: Eero Heinloo

The earliest traces of human activity can be dated from the second half of the 13th century to the beginning of the 14th century. The sediment associated with early habitation had been preserved as a narrow strip on the northeastern slope of the higher, drier, and sandier area, where about 10 cm thick soil containing a small amount of organic matter was distinguishable on a dense dry peat layer. Exclusively from the second half of the 13th century to the beginning of the 14th century, imported pottery, including the Siegburg proto- and near-stoneware (SIEG1, SIEG2), southern Lower Saxony near-stoneware (LASX1) and highly decorated redware (ORNPGL) were found in the layer (Fig. 3).⁴ A similar find composition had been observed in mixed layers already during the 2018 surveys. The earliest habitation in the survey area is related to the ditch with the southeast-northwest bearing (about 1.5 m wide) (Fig. 2: A1a) and the wattle stockade (Fig. 2: B) erected at its southwestern edge (Fig. 4). At the ditch, the excavations of several later ditches and their sandy fillings could be observed, which mark the renewal, arrangement, and filling of the ditch, set as the property boundary. The ditch intersects with the northeast-southwest ditch (Fig. 2: A1b) at the southwestern edge of the survey area, which is in line with the later northeast-southwest property boundary (Fig. 2: C2a) set in the last quarter of the 14th century. During the early habitation period, the property, which was located next to historical road in the direction of Väike-Karja street had not yet extended beyond the southeast-northwest ditch (Fig. 2: A1a).

On top of the earliest layer in most of the surveyed area, there is an ever-richer layer of habitation since the last quarter of the 14th century. In the course of the 2019–2020 surveys, the continuation of the northeast-southwest aligned structures (ditches, stockade) (Fig. 2: C1, C2a), documented in 2018, was observed in new survey areas. Several new ditches, stockades, and a wooden barrel dug into the ground were additionally documented (Fig. 2: C2b, D–E). The wooden barrel remained on the line of the existing ditch (Fig. 2: C1), so it can be assumed that they had the functions characteristic

⁴ The dates and estimates of origin are based on Russow 2006.

of sediment boxes. A partially investigated wooden structure of round logs placed horizontally on the ground (Fig. 2: F1) is presumably of late medieval origin; it probably was the shore fortifications for a fish pond (Fig. 5). The pond was renewed in the middle of the 17th century, when the new sides of the fish pond were supported by horizontal beams (Fig. 2: F2) and by vertical beams on the inside, with a slight shift from the previous wooden structure. The pond has been in use at least until the beginning of the 19th century, after which the area deepened into the ground has been filled with rich fill soil or trash.

In the 2019 survey area, i.e. in the north-western part of the courtyard, the deposits later than the 16th century were largely destroyed due to modern construction activities (building foundations, sewerage pipelines, fuel oil tank). However, the surveys on the southwestern and southern corners of the courtyard in 2020 largely revealed the absence of deposits earlier than the 18th century due to the levelling of higher areas after the Great Northern War. As a result, the find collection gathered during the 2019–2020 surveys⁵ was mostly supplemented with medieval and modern fragments of consumer ceramics, in addition, mainly metal finds (e.g. knives, scissors, keys, coins, etc.) were collected. Of particular significance is the pilgrimage badge from Bad Wilsnack in northern Germany from the end of the 15th century (Fig. 6) among a few other religious signs that were not so well preserved.

SURVEYS ON THE TATARI ST. 1 PROPERTY

The surveys on the Tatari St. 1 property (Fig. 1: 2) were due to the planned office building, the future area of which will cover most of the plot. In the summer of 2019 two survey test pits were made on the property in the course of the preliminary archaeological surveys (Bernotas 2019). The survey



Fig. 5. Fish pond found at the property of Estonia Ave. 7 / Teatri Sq. 1.

Jn 5. Estonia pst 7 / Teatri väljak 1 kinnistult leitud kalatiik.

Photo / Foto: Eero Heinloo



Fig. 6. A pilgrim badge from Bad Wilsnack in northern Germany found on the property of Estonia Ave. 7.

Jn 6. Estonia pst 7 kinnistult leitud Põhja-Saksamaalt Bad Wilsnackist pärit palverännumärk.

(AI 8103.)

Photo / Foto: Eero Heinloo

⁵ The estimated size of the collection (AI 8013) is about 8000 finds.

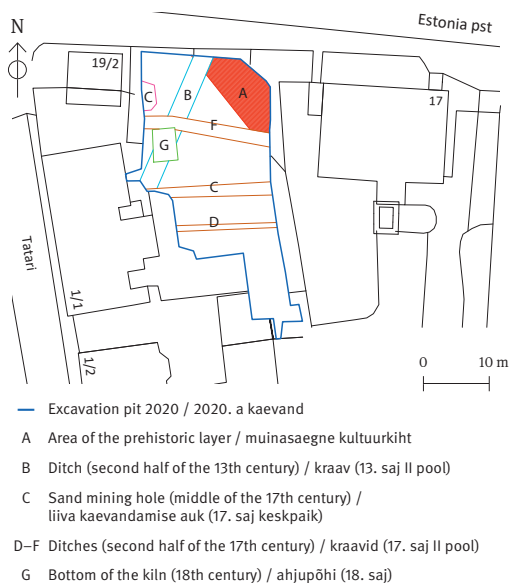


Fig. 7. General plan of the 2020 trench on the Tatari St. 1 property.

Jn 7. Tatari tn 1 kinnistu 2020. a arheoloogiliste uuringute üldplaan.

Map / Kaart: Eero Heinloo

height of ca. 14.60 m a.s.l in the southwestern part of the surveyed area. The natural ground has been noticeably declining in the north-eastern direction, with the north-eastern corner of the study area standing out, where the ground dropped sharply by almost 0.9 m in an area only about 15 m wide. The original ground level has also been somewhat steeper in the central and south-western parts of the survey area. However, during the levelling of the ground in the middle of the 14th century (see below), both the earlier layers of habitation and the top of the natural sand layer have been partially removed, so the relief untouched by human activities could not be seen in most of the surveyed area.

On a natural slope in the north-eastern part of the survey area (Fig. 7: A), above the original ground level, a dark brown layer of sand up to 40 cm thick was observed, with a few smaller ground rocks. No structures were identified in connection with the layer, although about a hundred ceramic fragments were found in the layer, which can be dated to the Late Bronze Age or Pre-Roman Iron Age (broader dating in the middle / second half of the 1st millennium BC). The fragments were from handmade coarse pottery, containing large stone rubble, most of which were the so-called Ilmandu-type ceramics. In addition, there were fragments of textile-impressed ceramics in the find complex, as well as ceramics characteristic of early *tarand* graves (Fig. 8).⁶

On the prehistoric layer, as well as only in the north-eastern corner of the survey area, a human activity related dark brown sandy deposit about 20 cm thick was preserved, from which the highly decorated redware (ORNPLK), Siegburg proto-, near- and stoneware (SIEG1, SIEG2, SIEG3), greyware characteristic of the 13th century (HSN1) and southern Lower Saxony stoneware (LASX2) were found. According to the finds, the layer can be dated to the

determined that a brownish soil layer up to 45 cm thick is situated on the natural sand, from which the found earliest pottery can be dated to the 14th–15th centuries.

The volume of surveys carried out in 2020 was 500 m², which is about 1/3 of the area that requires archaeological excavations before the construction of the office building (Fig. 7). Approximately 2.5 m of human activity-related layers have been deposited on the property's natural ground, of which the upper ones are the later filling soils of 1.5 m, which were removed during archaeological monitoring. The excavation of archaeologically interesting layers began approximately at an absolute height of 15.00–15.20 m a.s.l and the thickness of the manually dug soil was 0.3–1 m in the southwestern and central part of the excavation pit, up to 1.3 m in some places in the north-eastern part.

On the property, a whitish-yellow layer of sand formed at the natural ground level, which remained maximally at an absolute

⁶ Identified by Professor Valter Lang (TÜ).

second half of the 13th century till the first quarter of the 14th century. The deposit was associated with a presumably artificial ditch (at the top with a width of about 1.5–2 m; Fig. 7: B), which ran diagonally to the nowadays Tatari street, i.e. approximately in the northeast-southwest direction, through the central part of the property (Fig. 9). No dated finds were obtained from the deposit filling the ditch. However, a layer covering the filled-in ditch, was already associated with the next stage of habitation of the property.

The prehistoric habitation layer and the deposit above the former, associated with the second half of the 13th century and the beginning of the 14th century, had survived only in the north-eastern corner of the property at a naturally sharp decline of the slope. In the rest of the surveyed area, the previous layers, together with the upper part of the natural sand have been removed in the middle of the 14th century during the levelling of the ground, and the subsequent habitation in the property is related to the human activity starting in the second half of the 14th century. Based on finds, the medieval layer of habitation covering the entire property can be dated between the second half of the 14th century and the beginning of the 16th century. Several holes dug in natural sand can be associated with the late Middle Ages. The function of these holes can be sand extraction, garbage pits or both. No other structures (e.g. building foundations, property boundaries) were observed in connection with this layer, but a horizon containing smaller stones could be distinguished on the layer, which marks the former ground level.

The finds collected in the course of the surveys represent modestly typical artefacts from the first half of the 16th century to the middle of the 17th century, which may indicate both the temporary abandonment of the property or a change in land use. Instead, rich deposits dated at the earliest to the middle of the 17th century stood out on top of the deposits associated with late medieval habitation, these deposits are presumably formed from rubbish brought to the property from the Old Town area. Before bringing the fill soil, active sand extraction has taken place on the property. The latter is evidenced by the deep excavation pit

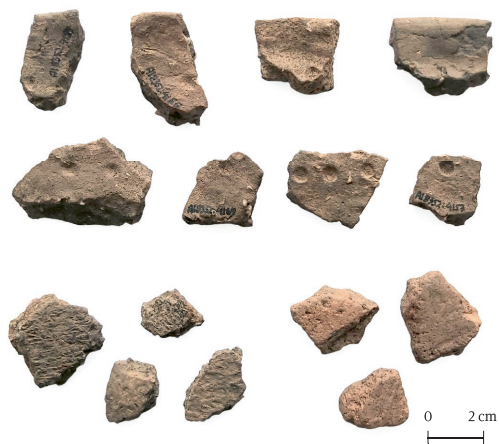


Fig. 8. Prehistoric pottery from Tatari St. 1. On top – Ilmandu type pottery, bottom left – textile-impressed ware, bottom right – pottery characteristic to early tarand graves.

Jn 8. Tatari tn 1 kinnistult leitud muinasaegne keraamika. Ülal – Ilmandu tüüpi keraamika, all vasakul – tekstiilkeraamika, all paremal – varajastele tarandkalmetele iseloomulik keraamika.

(AI 8352: 4134, 4153, 4154, 4157, 4166, 4169, 4171, 4172, 4175, 4185, 4190, 4194, 4195, 4195.)

Photo / Foto: Eero Heinloo



Fig. 9. View of the excavation pit on the property of Tatari St. 1. Red lines – artificial ditch, yellow line – sand mining hole.

Jn 9. Vaade Tatari tn 1 kinnistu kaevandile. Punased jooned – tehisklik kraav, kollane joon – liiva kaevandamise auk.

Photo / Foto: Peeter Piirits

found (Fig. 7: C) on the edge of the survey area on Tatari street (Fig. 9).⁷ There are also several ditches under the fill layers that cross the nowadays Tatari street, which probably testifies to the division of the area into smaller properties not earlier than in the first half / middle of the 17th century. It is possible that the parcelling (Fig. 7: D–F) has taken place after the sand mining, but immediately before bringing the fill soil.

The horizon with vestiges of fire could sometimes be distinguished on the fill soil, mostly dated to the middle or second half of the 17th century, in which case references to events during the Great Northern War cannot be ruled out. Generally, modern clayey-sandy layers were observed on the early modern fill and use layers, with which it is possible to connect several late structures – the bottom of a kiln dug into the ground (Fig. 7: G) and the holes of vertical posts indicating a light wooden structure.

The majority of the finds⁸ collected during the surveys is household pottery, clay pipes, glass bottles, etc., which have been circulating since the middle of the 17th century. These were collected from the fill soil on medieval layers and the sand extraction holes. There are much less medieval artefacts (ceramics, metal objects). Special mention should be made of coarse pottery dating from the end of the Bronze Age or Pre-Roman Iron Age and a stone adze, a stray find derived from later layers (AI 8352: 3085) (Fig. 10). The nature of the deposits and the largely different number of finds from these periods indicate changes in the use of the area. While at the end of the Bronze Age / Pre-Roman Iron Age there was a settlement core with permanent habitation, the medieval suburbs were the property of citizens mostly residing in the walled town. The plots were used, for example, to grow fruits and vegetables, but also to dump rubbish, to graze animals, to keep firewood, or, in many cases, to erect temporary buildings or to engage with a variety of crafts (see also Heinloo & Nurk 2019).



Fig. 10. A stone adze found on the property of Tatari St. 1.
Jn 10. Tatari tn 1 kinnistult leitud kivitalb.
 (AI 8352: 3085.)
 Photo / Foto: Eero Heinloo

ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT THE DEVELOPMENT OF SUBURBAN AREAS IN FRONT OF THE HARJU AND KARJA GATES

In 2020, the author of this article completed an expert assessment of the archaeology of the suburban areas in front of the Harju, Karja, and Viru Gates (Heinloo 2020a). It focused primarily on the analysis of the distribution of medieval and early modern suburban settlements, but also briefly reflected on the information about the earlier (Stone Age and prehistoric) settlements.⁹ Archaeological surveys carried out on the properties of Estonia Ave. 7 / Teatri Sq. 1 and Tatari St. 1 provide a good opportunity to compare the information collected from individual objects with the generalizations made during expert assessments, allowing the developments visible in a limited area to be seen as part of a big picture.

⁷ First and foremost, numerous holes indicating sand mining can be seen in the area of survey that continued on the Tatari St. 1 property in 2021.

⁸ Finds are stored at TLÜ AT under AI 8352.

⁹ Previously, expert assessments concerning the suburban areas of Tallinn have been completed for the suburb of Kalamaja (Heinloo 2018), the suburbs of Toompea (Reppo 2019), and the Old Port area (Nurk *et al.* 2020). A separate expert assessment of the Stone Age settlement in the centre of Tallinn has also been completed in 2020 (see Rosentau *et al.* 2020). To date, no separate expert assessment of the prehistoric settlement has been completed.

The oldest object found on the property of Tatari St. 1 – a stone adze – can be dated to the Stone Age. The object was found in mixed soil, where co-finds could be dated to the end of the Middle Ages. No intact Stone Age deposit was found on the property. At the same time, the Tatari St. 1 property remains in the eastern part of the Stone Age settlements' predictable area (Rosentau *et al.* 2020, fig. 3), and the nearest deposits related to the Stone Age settlements (from Comb Ware and Corded Ware cultures) have been found only a hundred metres to the west, from the excavations at Vabaduse square (Fig. 1: 3) (see Kadakas, U. *et al.* 2010). Thus, it cannot be completely ruled out that the Stone Age settlement has reached the line¹⁰ of the eastern properties of Tatari street in part as patches. However, since the ground leveling works that took place at the beginning of Tatari street in the middle of the 14th century have destroyed previous deposits, including the upper horizons of natural sand, the undisturbed Stone Age layers have not yet been found anywhere besides Vabaduse square and Pärnu road properties.¹¹

After the Stone Age settlement patches, new layers of habitation associated with more permanent settlements appear on the southern side of Tallinn's Old Town from the end of the Bronze Age or Pre-Roman Iron Age. For the first time, an extensive layer of habitation was identified in 2018–2019 from Pärnu Rd 33/35 and 37/41 properties (Fig. 1: 4), although early Iron Age finds had already been collected from the mixed layers of Pärnu Rd 31 property (Fig. 1: 5), both during the archaeological preliminary surveys (Karro *et al.* 2011) and excavations (Bernotas *et al.* 2017a). Earlier, some pottery sherds found at the beginning of Tartu road were dated to the pre-Roman Iron Age (see Aus 1997), but as the finds appeared from heights that were still underwater during the period under review, the finds have deposited at the specific property (Tornimäe St. 2) secondarily, e.g. as a result of the transfer of sediment sands or landslides, indirectly referring rather to a settlement patch located in the immediate vicinity (e.g. the landing site).

The deposit, dating from the end of the Bronze Age or the pre-Roman Iron Age, sometimes up to 40 cm thick, found on the property of Tatari St. 1, is another fragment contributing to mapping the early settlement of Tallinn's city centre area. Against the background of the present state of research, it is difficult to assess the connections with the previously known settlement patch next to Pärnu road, as their temporal overlap is unclear. Also, the distance of the settlement patches is large enough (approx. 400 m) to exclude one large complete prehistoric village, rather separate sets of farms could be presumed. However, it cannot be ruled out that the Tatari St. 1 find complex is directly related to the finds collected at the end of 2020 at the beginning of Roosikrantsi street¹² (Fig. 1: 6). It is only 100 m from the beginning of Tatari street. There are also several hand-made striated pottery fragments dating from the end of the Bronze Age or Pre-Roman Iron Age, that were found on the plot of Tatari St. 2 in 1997¹³ (Fig. 1: 7). In the current state of research, the earlier settlement history of Tallinn city centre (Stone Age and Bronze Age / Early Iron Age) thus distinguishes two central areas¹⁴ – the

¹⁰ For example, individual Stone Age finds have been obtained from the surveys on the Tatari St. 13 property (see Rosentau *et al.* 2020, fig. 1).

¹¹ On Pärnu Rd 31, 33/35, and 37/41 properties, a settlement patch associated with the culture of Corded Ware has been found, which was studied by OÜ Arheox in 2016 (Bernotas *et al.* 2017a; 2017b) and 2018–2019 (the report being prepared). Survey on Pärnu Rd 37/41 property will continue in the near future.

¹² In the autumn of 2020, sherds dating back to the pre-Roman Iron Age were found at the beginning of Roosikrantsi street. Studies were carried out by OÜ Arheox.

¹³ Finds: AI 6281. Pottery was identified by Professor Valter Lang (TÜ).

¹⁴ With a certain concession, the southern end of Pleekmäe (later the northern shore of the Tiigiveski reservoir) stands out as a third area, a presumable location for a favourable ford to cross the Härjapea River. This created a long-distance road connecting one of the central areas of Tallinn's city centre and the counties to the east and southeast. From that area finds from the end of the Stone Age and hearths, which can be dated to the pre-Roman Iron Age based on ¹⁴C samples (Tamm 2019, 158–160), have been found.

immediate vicinity of Vabaduse square and the southeast side of Pärnu road near the former Kalevi gym. It should be noted that individual finds from the Stone Age have been obtained from a somewhat larger area (incl. e.g. Kalamaja, Toompea, as well as from Veerenni area).

Studies and collections concerning the prehistoric settlement of Tallinn in recent years have sought the seemingly missing Late Iron Age or pre-conquest habitation in the Old Town especially in the areas adjacent to Roosikrantsi and Tatari streets. However, in the eyes of the author of this article, this is in no way justified in the light of numerous studies. Of the more than half a hundred archaeological surveys carried out at the eastern foot of Tõnismäe, the cultural layer and find collection associated with the Late Iron Age have been identified essentially in one case only. Archaeological surveys on the Pärnu Rd 22/24 property (Fig. 1: 8) in 2016–2017 found an *in situ* prehistoric cultural layer, a considerable amount of pre-conquest probable Slavic wheel-thrown ceramics with line and wavy line ornamentation, and several structures (e.g. a rubbish pit, a hearth, and a possible building site) (see also Russow *et al.* 2017). Based on the settlement logic and stratigraphy, the section of the road¹⁵ found on the properties of Roosikrantsi St. 9/11 (Fig. 1: 9) (Sokolovski 1997) and Roosikrantsi St. 13 (Fig. 1: 10), located diagonally to the nowadays Roosikrantsi street, and the adjoining plough tracks on both sides of it can, at its earlier usage, probably be dated to the prehistoric period. Individual finds and some pottery have been obtained from some other properties along Roosikrantsi street and Pärnu road¹⁶, but there are no clear find complexes or cultural layers, nor references to structures (i.e. hollows of buildings, hearths, waste pits, etc.). It can be argued that there may not be many vestiges of the scattered settlement on the ground at the end of prehistoric times, but the lack of indicators (except for the Pärnu Rd 22 property) is still remarkable. True, the early layers have often been disturbed by later habitation (usually due to tillage), but the number of finds dating back to the end of the prehistoric period from mixed layers is very modest.¹⁷ Also, no removal of early habitation layers was observed in most studies, except for the properties at the beginning of Tatari street. Considering the limited extent of the cultural layer of the end of the prehistoric period found on the Pärnu Rd 22/24 property, in the opinion of the author of the article, the cultural layer identified at the eastern foot of Tõnismägi probably does not represent the core area of the pre-conquest (i.e. pre-1219) prehistoric settlement. Rather, it was a relatively short-lived (foreign?) layer of habitation located at the intersection of former traffic routes (Fig. 11: I), which is also indicated by the relatively modest thickness of the deposit. It cannot be ruled out that near the road intersection or on the edges of the road running towards Rüütli street, there are still some similar patches of habitation, but the presumed core area of the pre-conquest settlement is most likely still located elsewhere, e.g. in the Old Town area on the properties near Rüütli street.

The layer of habitation immediately after the conquest, dated to the second quarter of the 13th century, can be assumed in the southern and south-eastern suburban areas only in the region of Vabaduse square. It is expected that the later area of the Old Town was not yet surrounded by physical boundaries during this period. The relatively numerous finds

¹⁵ In the case of the road section, its direction towards Toompea has been previously assumed (earliest Sokolovski 1997). However, it is more likely a road running in the direction of Rüütli street, which was in use until the middle of the 14th century, when it was replaced by a road leading from the Harju Gate, running towards the nowadays Roosikrantsi street (more Heinloo 2020a, 197). An ancient road running along Rüütli street has also been assumed by historian Leo Tiik (Bruns 1993, 27).

¹⁶ For example, Roosikrantsi St. 2, 2a, 9/11, Pärnu Rd 31/33, 37/41, Tatari St. 8, Hariduse St. 11a.

¹⁷ As a comparison, for example, there are properties on the south-eastern side of Pärnu road (Pärnu Rd 31, 33/35), where numerous ceramic fragments were revealed in the late mixed layers dating back to the end of the Bronze Age or the Pre-Roman Iron Age.

in Vabaduse square, dated to the middle of the 13th century at the latest, mark the southern edge of the then-emerging centre; the core area being the properties adjacent to Rüütli street. Elsewhere, including Tatari St. 1 and Estonia Ave. 7 / Teatri Sq. 1, the first vestiges of habitation after the conquest will appear no earlier than in the middle of the 13th century / the second half of it. The reason for the spread of the cultural layer may be the construction of city fortifications, starting in the middle of the 13th century (Zobel 2014, 44–49), and the development of primary suburban properties. The demarcation of properties in the second half of the 13th century can also be observed on the properties of Tatari St. 1 and Estonia Ave. 7, where the early plot boundaries are marked by simple ditches dug into the ground. At the same time, the early ditch found on the property of Estonia Ave. 7 has unambiguously followed the direction of the road on the line of Väike-Karja street¹⁸, which remained in use

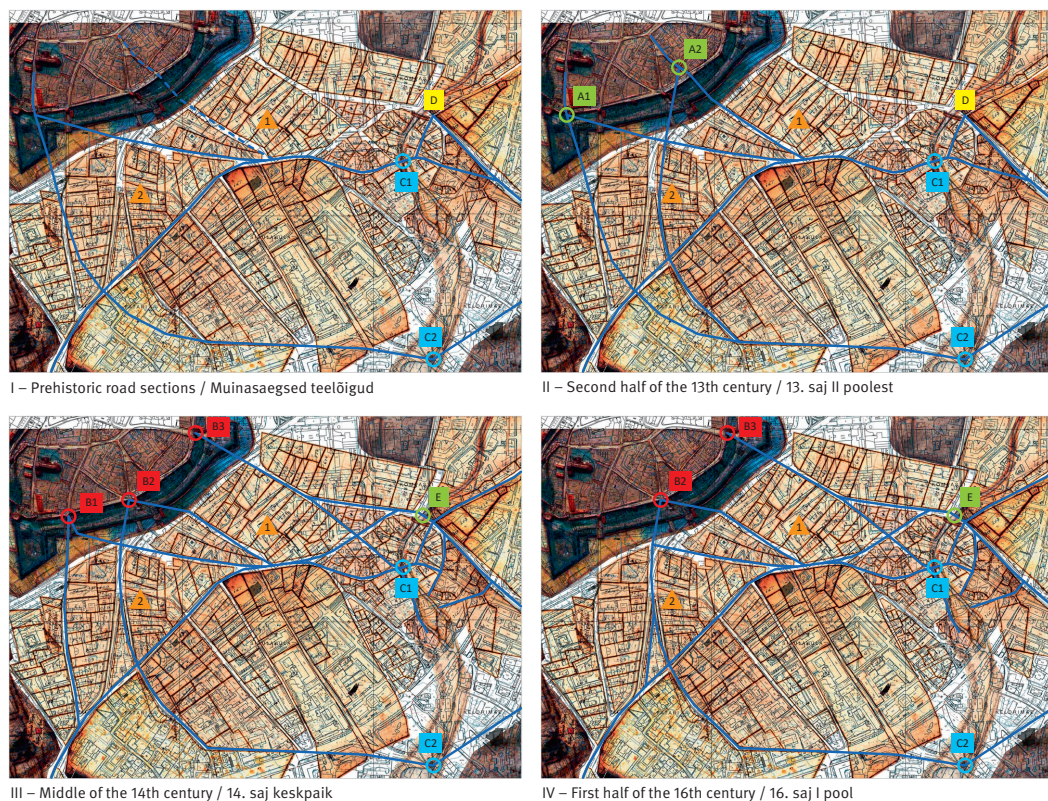


Fig. 11. A concept of the most important routes on the southeast side of the Old Town on the basis of archaeological evidence in the background of the Sigismund von Staden suburban real estate plan (compiled in 1699). 1 – Estonia Ave. 7 / Teatri Sq. 1, 2 – Tatari St. 1, A1, A2 – locations of presumed original city gates, B1, B2, B3 – city gates, C1, C2 – ford, later dams, D – harbour, E – Stone bridge.

Jn 11. Vanalinna kaguküljele jäävatest olulisemate liiklemisteede arheoloogilistele andmetele tuginev kontseptsioon Sigismund von Stadeni eeslinnakinnistute plaani (koostatud 1699. aastal) taustal. 1 – Estonia pst 7 / Teatri väljak 1, 2 – Tatari tn 1, A1, A2 – oletatavate algsete väravakohtade asukohad, B1, B2, B3 – linnaväravad, C1, C2 – koolmekohad, hilisemad veskitammid, D – sadam, E – Kivisild.

Map / Kaart: Tallinna Linnaplaneerimise Amet, Eero Heinloo

¹⁸ Earlier, historians have assumed, without archaeological evidence, that the road on the line of Väike-Karja street may have been in use already at the end of prehistoric times or in the beginning of 13th century (see for instance Zobel 1980, fig. 1).

at least until the Great Northern War in the early 18th century. It cannot be ruled out that before the construction of the Karja Gate, the original city gate was located at the intersection of the city fortifications¹⁹ and Väike-Karja street (Fig. 11: A2). Indirectly, this is evident by the boundary ditch found on the Tatari St. 1 property, the direction of which also clearly runs not in the direction of the later Karja Gate, but in the direction of the supposed gate location on the line of Väike-Karja street (Fig. 11: II). In the front area of the Harju Gate (primarily on Vabaduse square and the properties adjacent to the nowadays Roosikrantsi street (for instance Roosikrantsi St. 2, 2a), but also in some quantities from the property on Tatari St. 1), numerous vestiges of blacksmithing can be observed in connection with the habitation layer from the second half of the 13th century. These are slag, forges' bottoms, scrap metal, crucibles, which testify to active metalworking (Saage & Russow 2020). A similar situation has been observed, for example, in the so-called Riga suburb of Tartu, where brick production and metal processing have been carried out in the later suburban area at the beginning of the second half of the 13th to the beginning of the 14th century (Heinloo 2006, 66). The reason is the rapidly developing town, which needed numerous metal items for construction and everyday life.

Significant changes took place in the suburban areas in the second quarter / middle of the 14th century when the construction of the city wall on the southeast side of the Old Town was completed, stone gate towers, the Ülemiste aqueduct, dams, and watermills were built. Transformations continued in the third quarter of the 14th century, when the first barbicans and new roads were built. In connection with the changes, a targeted and extensive liquidation of the previous settlement scheme can be identified in the front area of the Harju Gate. Thus, on the plots along Roosikrantsi street and Pärnu road, the burning of the previous settlement can be observed, while on the properties at the beginning of Tatari street, the previous deposits have been purposefully levelled off. After the destruction of the old one, a new structure is built, which now unambiguously originates from the city gates at the Karja and Harju Gates (Fig. 11: III). Due to the changes, but also demographic aspects (e.g. famine, plague), the suburban areas usually have a modest number of finds dating from the second and third quarters of the 14th century, and habitation intensifies again from the last quarter of the 14th century. At this time, classic suburban areas (settlements with permanent populations (*Vischermaye*, *Reperbahn*, *Bleke*, *Tönnisbergh*) and household plots owned by citizens) begin to develop. A similar development scheme relating to the Middle Ages applies to the properties of Tatari St. 1 and Estonia Ave. 7 / Teatri Sq. 1.

The next significant change took place in the second quarter of the 16th century when the Harju Gate was closed to traffic and a rampart with moat was built in front of the city wall. The lower part of the Kiek in die Kök tower was covered with an earth fortification called the High Roundel, which was the predecessor of the Ingrian bastion. New ramparts were built in front of the Karja Gate, including the Lühnenburg artillery tower (Kenkmaa & Vilbaste 1965, 15). The work carried out partly affected the properties located closer to the Old Town, including the construction of a road²⁰ paved with limestone rubble on the western side of the nowadays Tatari street (Fig. 11: IV).²¹ The road led to the more important and more powerfully built Karja Gate, which remained the only entrance to the city on this side of the Old Town.

¹⁹ It is assumed that the initial city fortification (earthen rampart) was located on the line of Sauna street (see Zobel 1980, fig. 5).

²⁰ As a result of the closure of the Harju Gate, a road section between Roosikrantsi and Tatari streets was built in the first half of the 16th century, which, as the predecessor of Pärnu road, was located somewhat to the east of the nowadays road line. The archaeologists of OÜ Arheox managed to observe the latter in the spring of 2021 by excavating the property at Pärnu Rd 21.

²¹ First documented in the Tatari St. 2 property in 1997 (Vissak & Piirits 1998–2000).

These changes, i.e. the construction of earth fortifications and new roads paved with limestone rubble on the line of Tatari street and Pärnu road, are most probably the reason why the Tatari St. 1 property has a modest cultural layer and only a few finds that could be dated from the first half of the 16th century to the middle of the 17th century. At that time, the purpose might have been to keep the roadside area in the immediate vicinity of city fortifications intact from active construction or economic activities.

On Tatari St. 1 property, in inactive use at the beginning of the Early Modern Period, active sand mining began at the latest in the middle of the 17th century. Deep excavations with straight sides on the property's Tatari street side testify to being a sand quarry. Chronologically, a large part of the documented sand extraction pits in Vabaduse square can be placed in the same period, although, similarly to the property at Tatari St. 1, a more modest amount of sand has been already mined in the Middle Ages (see Kadakas, V. *et al.* 2010, 60–61). Following the mining, the sand extraction pits are filled with soil, which can be quite rich in finds in places. Both the sand extractions pits and the entire Tatari St. 1 property are covered with a thick fill soil containing numerous finds (Early Modern household pottery, clay pipes, fragments of glass vessels, etc.). A similar situation was observed on the property of Tatari St. 2, where, in the middle of the 17th century a fill soil more than half a metre thick had been brought to the former limestone road, and also on the Pärnu Rd 21 property. It can be assumed that by that moment the historical road sections of Pärnu road and Tatari street have finally shifted to their current location. Also, the properties that were previously substantially free of humus are covered with thick fill soil to create cultivation soil so that the areas could be reused in a way typical of suburban areas (e.g. vegetable and fruit gardens, pastures).

In the layers of the Modern Period, there are streaks of fire on the Tatari St. 1 property, which could be associated with the events of the Great Northern War according to stratigraphy. In the southern corner of the property at Estonia Ave. 7 / Teatri Sq. 1, deposits earlier than the 18th century have been levelled off during the large-scale earthworks. Previously, on the south side of the old market building in Tammsaare Park, it has been established that in the second half of the 18th century, the soil used for the construction of the glacis (the outermost fortification rampart) seems likely to come from suburban properties. Also, no previous deposits from the habitation layers of the Modern Period were found in the test pits in the northern part of the Teatri square (Heinloo 2019). The reason is that the real estates remained in the immediate vicinity of the outer perimeter of the newly built fortifications, where larger-scale earthworks took place during the construction of the fortifications and which were kept free from more capital constructions for protection purposes.

CONCLUSIONS

Surveys on the properties of Estonia Ave. 7 / Teatri Sq. 1 and Tatari St. 1 make another contribution to the puzzle, which helps us to form a comprehensive picture of developments in the suburban areas south and southeast of Tallinn's Old Town. The surveys of Tatari St. 1 showed that in the earlier period of the Iron Age, a settlement was located at the beginning of Tatari street, which is indicated by an intensive cultural layer rich in finds. Habitation on the Tatari St. 1 property continues and begins on the Estonia Ave. 7 / Teatri Sq. 1 property in the second half of the 13th century when the areas are purposefully used as household plots. In the first half of the 14th century, a decrease in the intensity of use of the area and the liquidation of old property relations can be observed in the suburban areas, especially in the front area of the Harju Gate. Suburban areas, sometimes with new property boundaries, will

be re-used from the last quarter of the 14th century. At that time, on the one hand, settlements with permanent suburban residents will start to form in areas outside the city gates. And on the other hand, citizens will acquire properties, to use suburban plots for household purposes such as fruit and vegetable gardens, fields, grassland, pastures etc.

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TÄIENDAVAT TALLINNA EESLINNAALADEST ESTONIA PUIESTEE JA TATARI TÄNAVA UURINGUTE TAUSTAL

Eero Heinloo

2019.–2020. a viis MTÜ AEG arheoloog Peeter Piirits läbi arheoloogilisi uuringuid Estonia pst 7 / Teatri väljak 1 ning Tatari tn 1 kinnistutel, mis kruntidena jäävad ajalooliselt Harju ja Karjavärava esistele eeslinnaaladele (jn 1). Käesolevas artiklis tutvustatakse uuringute esialgseid tulemusi, mida artikli autor sünteesib 2020. a valminud Harju, Karja- ja Viru värava esiste eeslinnaalade eksperdihinnangu järeldustega. Mõlemad uuringud jätkusid 2021. a.

Aastatel 2019–2020 jätkati Estonia pst 7 / Teatri väljaku 1 (jn 1: 1) kinnistu hoovis 2018. a alanud välitöid. Jätku-uuringute ala suurus oli kokku 460 m² (jn 2). Looduslik maapind oli kõrgem uuringuteala lõunapoolseimas nurgas, kus inimtegevusest puutumatu pinnas kujutas endast sõmerat helebeežikat liivakihti, mille ülapiir jäi maksimaalselt abs. kõrgusele u 750 m. Ilmselt ulatus algne maapinnatasand veelgi kõrgemale, kuid Põhjasõja järel aset leidnud tasandamisega on varasemad ladestused, sh loodusliku liiva ülemine horisont, uuringute ala lõunapoolses osas ära kaevatud. Väike-Karja tänava suunas kulgenud ajaloolise tee kirdeserva jäänud kinnistutel on varasemad inimtegevuse jäljed dateeritavad vahemikku 13. saj II pool kuni 14. saj algus (jn 3). Kihiga seostus uuringute alal kagu–loode sihiline kraav (laiusega u 1,5 m) (jn 2: A1a) ning selle edelaserva püstitatud põimtara (jn 2: B). Kraavi (jn 4) kohal võis täheldada mitmete hilisemate kraavide sissekaeveid ja nende liivaseid täiteid, mis markeerivad krundipiiriks oleva kraavi uuendamisi, korrastamisi ja täitumisi. Varaseima kihi peale jääb suuremas osas uuritud alast alates 14. saj IV veerandist intensiivistuv elutegevuskiht. 2019.–2020. a uuringutel selgus varem dokumenteeritud kirde-edela sihiliste ning kinnistupiiri tähistavate rajatiste (kraavid, püstpostid) jätkumine uutel uuringualadel. Täiendavalt uuriti mitmeid uusi kraave, püstposttarsid ning maapinda kaevatud puutünne. Eldatavalt paigutub hiliskesk-aega 2019. a avastatud horisontaalselt maapinda asetatud ümarpalkidest puitkonstruktsioon (jn 5). Tõenäoliselt oli tegu kalakasvatuseks rajatud tiigi kaldakindlustustega.

2020. a Tatari tn 1 (jn 1: 2) uuringute maht oli 500 m². Kinnistu looduslik maapinnatasand oli valkjas-kollakas liivakiht, mis kaevandi edelaosas jäi maksimaalselt abs. kõrgusele u 14,60 m. Maapind oli algselt mõnevõrra järsem, kuid hiliskesk-aegse maapinna nivelleerimise käigus kaevati osaliselt maha nii varasemad elutegevuskihid kui ka loodusliku liivakihi

ülaosa. Uuringuteala kirdeossa jäänud looduslikul nõlval leiti kohati kuni 40 cm paksust tumepruunikat liivakihti (jn 7: A). Tarindeid kihist ei avastatud, kuid saadi sadakond hilispronksiaegset või rooma rauaaegset keraamikakatket (laiem dateering I aastatuhande keskpaik / II pool e.Kr). Killud kuuluvad käsitsi valmistatud ning suurt kivipurdu sisaldava jämekeraamika sekka, milleks valdavalt oli nn Ilmandu tüüpi keraamika, kuid esines ka tekstiilkeraamika katkeid ja varajastele tarandkalmetele iseloomulikku keraamikat (jn 8). Muinasaegsel kihil oli säilinud u 20 cm paksune inimtegevusega seostuv tumepruun liivane ladestus, mis tekkis u 13. saj II poolel – 14. saj I veerandil. Ladestusega seostus oletatav tehiskraav (jn 7: B), ülaosas laiusega u 1,5–2 m. Muinasaja elutegevuskiht ning selle kohale jäänud ladestus olid säilinud vaid kinnistu kirdenurgas looduslikult järsuma langusega nõlval. Mujal on varasemad kihid 14. saj keskpaigas aset leidnud maapinna nivelleerimisel koos loodusliku liiva ülaosaga eemaldatud ning järgnev ladestus seostub kinnistul alates 14. saj II poolest aktiveerunud tegevustega. Leidude järgi moodustus kinnistut kattev kesk-aegne elutegevuskiht 14. saj II p kuni 16. saj alguse vahel. Hiliskeskajaga seostuvad mitmed loodusliku liiva sisse kaevatud augud, mis võisid olla nii liivavõtu- kui ka prügiaugud või siis mõlemat. Kuna 16. saj I poole kuni 17. saj keskpaiga leide on vähe, võib oletada kas kinnistu ajutisel kasutusel ära jäämist või kasutuskorra muutust. Sellele „kasutuspausile“ järgnevad 17. saj keskpaiga leiurikad täitepinnased: arvatavasti vanalinnast kinnistule toodud prügi. Prügiladestamisele eelnes kinnistul aktiivne liiva kaevandamine (jn 7: C). Reeglina tähtsitud varauusaegsete täite- ja kasutuskihtide peal uusaegseid elutegevuskihte, millega on võimalik seostada ka mitmed hiliseid rajatise – maapinda kaevatud ahjupõhja (jn 7: D) ning kerghoonele osutavaid püstpostide auke.

Estonia pst 7 / Teatri väljak 1 ning Tatari tn 1 kinnistutel läbi viidud arheoloogilised uuringud annavad hea võimaluse võrrelda üksikobjektidelt kogutavat infot Tallinna eeslinnaaladid puudutavate eksperdihinnangute käigus tehtud üldistustega, lubades püüdnud alal nähtavaid arenguid vaadelda nõ suurem pildis.

Tatari tn 1 kinnistu jääb kivieaegsete asulakohade prognoosala idaossa ning lähimad kivieaegsete asustusalaikudega seonduvad ladestused (kamm- ja nörkeraamika kultuuride ajast) on leitud kõigest

sadakond meetrit lääne poolt, Vabaduse väljaku kae-
vamistelt. Uued püüvama asustusega seostatavad
elutegevuskihid tekivad Tallinna vanalinna lõuna-
poolsele küljele alates pronksiaja lõpust või eelrooma
rauaajast, sh ka Tatari tn 1 kinnistule. Keeruline on
hinnata hiljuti avastatud kihi seoseid varasemalt
teada oleva Pärnu mnt äärse asustuslaiguga. Samas ei
saa välistada, et Tatari tn 1 leiukogum seostub 2020. a
lõpus Roosikrantsi tänava algusest avastatud leiukom-
pleksiga, mis jääb Tatari tn algusest kõigest 100 m
kaugusele.

Viimaste aastate Tallinna muinasaegset asustust
käsitlevad uurimused on vanalinna alalt näiliselt
puuduvat hilise rauaaja elutegevust otsinud enne-
kõike just Roosikrantsi ja Tatari tänava külgnevatelt
aladelt. Artikli autori arvates pole see põhjendatud.
Tõnismäe idajalamil toimunud poolesajast arheo-
loogilisest uuringust on hilisrauaajaga seostatavat
kultuurikihti suudetud tuvastada sisuliselt vaid ühel
juhul, Pärnu mnt 22/24 kinnistult. Üksikleide ja keraa-
mikakatkeid on saadud veel üksikutelt Roosikrantsi
tänava ja Pärnu maantee äärsetelt kinnistutelt, kuid
puuduvad nii selge kultuurikiht kui ka rajatiste jää-
nused. Pärnu mnt 22/24 kinnistu muinasaja lõpu
piiratud ulatusega kultuurikihi piiratud ulatust kujutab
pigem kunagiste liiklemisteede ristumiskohas (jn 11: I)
paiknevat suhteliselt lühiajalist (võõrapä-
rast?) elutegevuskihti kui vallutuseelse (s.o enne 1219.
a eksisteerinud) muinasasula tuumikala.

Vahetult vallutuse järgset dateeritavat elutege-
vuskihti võib lõuna- ja kagupoolsetel eeslinnaaladel
oletada vaid Vabaduse väljaku piirkonnas. Mujal
ilmnevad esimesed vallutuse järgsed elutegevusjäl-
jed mitte varem kui 13. saj keskpaigast / II poolest.
Võimalik, et kultuurikihi intensiivse ladestumise põh-
juseks on linnatuumiku piiramine kaitserajatistega
13. saj keskpaigas ja esmaste eeslinlike kinnistute
väljakujunemine. Kinnistute mahamärkimist 13. saj
II poolel võib täheldada ka Tatari tn 1 ja Estonia pst
7 kinnistutel. Estonia pst 7 kinnistult leitud piirikraav
suhestub üheselt Väike-Karja tänava joonel oleva tee-
lõiguga (jn 11: II), mis püsis kasutusel vähemalt kuni
Põhjasõjani. Ei saa välistada, et Karjavärava rajamise
eel paiknes linnakindlustuste ja Väike-Karja tänava
ristumiskohas algne linnavärv (jn 11: A2). Kaudselt
osutab sellele Tatari tn 1 kinnistult leitud piirikraav,
mille suund kulgeb samuti oletatava Väike-Karja
tänava joonel oleva väravakoha sihis. Harju värava

esisel alal, ennekõike Vabaduse väljakul ja tänapäe-
vase Roosikrantsi tänava külgnevatel kinnistutel,
kuid arvestatavas koguses ka Tatari tn 1 kinnistult on
13. saj II poole elutegevuskihiga seoses võimalik tähel-
dada arvukaid sepatööle viitavaid jälgi, mis annavad
tunnistust aktiivsest metallitöötlemisest. Põhjuseks
on kiiresti arenev linn, mis vajas ehitus- ja elutegevu-
seks arvukaid metallesemeid.

Olulised muudatused leidsid eeslinnaaladel aset
14. saj keskpaigas (1330. aastaist 1370. aastateni),
mil lõpetati vanalinna kaguküljele jääva linnamüüri
ehitus, rajati kivist väravatornid, Ülemiste veejuhe,
tammid ja vesiveskid, järgnes linnavärvate kaitseks
esimaste eesväravate püstitamine ja maanteed raja-
mine või korrastamine. Muudatustega kaasnes Harju
värava esisel varasema asustusskeemi sihipärane ja
ulatuslik likvideerimine. Roosikrantsi tänava ja Pärnu
maantee äärsetel kruntidel lõppes varasem asustus-
viis; Tatari tn algusesse jäävatel kinnistutel nivellee-
riti varasemad ladestused eesmärgipäraselt maha.
Selle järgselt tekib uus linnaehitusstruktuur, mis läh-
tub Karja- ja Harju väravast (jn 11: III). Uuesti inten-
siivistub elutegevus alates 14. saj IV veerandist, mil
hakkavad välja kujunema klassikalised eeslinnaalad:
alalise elanikkonnaga asumid nagu *Vischermaye*,
Reperbahn, *Bleke*, *Tönnisbergh* ning linnakodanikele
kuuluvad majapidamiskrundid.

Järgnev oluline muutus leidis aset 16. saj II veeran-
dil, mil Harju värav suleti liiklusele ja linnamüüri ette
ehitati muldvall ja uus vallikraav. See mõjutas vana-
linnale lähemal paiknenud kinnistuid; tänapäevase
Tatari tänava lääneküljele, aga ka Pärnu mnt idapool-
sele küljele rajati paepuistega prügitatud maanteed
(jn 11: IV). Võimalik, et just seetõttu esineb Tatari tn 1
kinnistul tagasihoidlikult 16. saj I poole kuni 17. saj
keskpaiga kultuurikihti ja leide. Hiljemalt 17. saj keska-
paigas algab Tatari tn 1 kinnistul aktiivne liiva kae-
vandamine. Kaevandamise järgselt on liivavõtuaugud
täidetud pinnasega. Nii liivavõtuauke kui kogu Tatari
tn 1 kinnistut tervikuna katab paks arvukate leidu-
dega täitepinnas. Võib oletada, et selleks hetkeks on
Pärnu maantee ja Tatari tänava ajaloolised teelõigud
nihkunud lõplikult tänapäevasele asukohale ning
vabad kinnistud kaeti paksu ja viljaka täitepinnasega
kasvupinnase tekitamiseks, et alasid saaks ajaloolis-
tele eeslinnaaladele tüüpiliselt kasutada juur- ja puu-
viljaaedade ning karjakoplitena.