



# Archaeological research in Joaorg and former Peter's district of the town Narva

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## INTRODUCTION

Archaeological surveys conducted in Narva over the past decade have primarily focused on rescue work prompted by new constructions or renovations, often associated with bastions and the Narva Hermann Castle. However, in 2021 and 2022, a significant number of surveys were also conducted in other areas of the town. This article provides a summary of the results from two archaeological fieldwork projects in Narva. In 2021 and 2022, archaeological monitoring and preliminary investigations were carried out at Joaorg necessitated by the promenade construction, and in 2022 in the former Peter's suburb, near the bastion Triumph, during the construction and renovation of Tuleviku and Aleksander Puškini Streets and the intersecting sidewalks.

## NARVA JOAORG

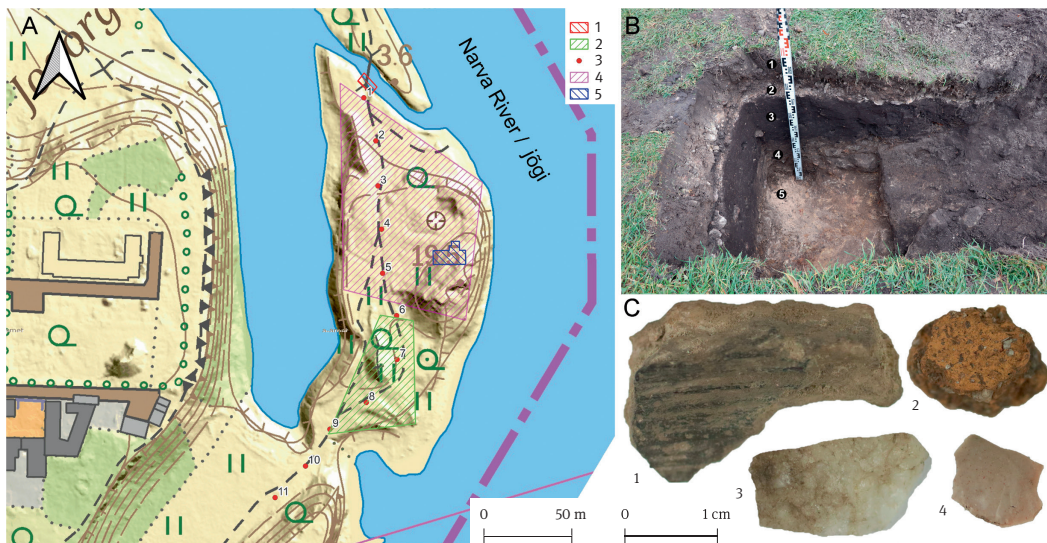
Joaorg is an approximately 800 m long bend of the Narva River, located south of the Hermann Castle, and bordered by a canyon edge carved into the Ordovician limestone and sandstone. There are two protected archaeological sites: 1) a Stone Age settlement site (no. 9136 in the National Registry of Cultural Monuments), and 2) a fortified settlement (no. 9135). The archaeological surveys conducted at the Stone Age settlement site in different times revealed that in addition to several Stone Age occupation layers, there are also traces of Iron Age settlements and findings related to the historical periods. The fortified settlement has also been occupied during the Stone Age; it was a fortified settlement during the Bronze and Early Iron Age, and a hill fort in the Late Iron Age (Jaanits *et al.* 1982, 243–246; Nikitjuk 1997; 1998; Kriiska & Lavento 2006; Kriiska *et al.* 2020, 293).

In the vicinity of these sites, several instances of archaeological rescue work and preliminary surveys (including ground penetrating radar investigations) have been previously conducted in connection with the renovation of the recreation area. During these studies, primarily soils (different fill layers), brought in during the 20th century, containing various Modern Period finds have been discovered (Nikitjuk 2009; Kriiska & Štšogoleva 2014). Historical maps indicate that Joaorg was partially built up during the 17th–18th centuries, and remnants of the contemporary cultural layer and building remains have been preserved in some areas (Nikitjuk 2009).

In 2021 and 2022, construction work was carried out as part of Narva Promenade (phase 2) project, which involved excavation of several test pits and archaeological monitoring during some of the digging works, including the building of a bridge abutment and installation of electrical cables (Jegorov *et al.* 2022).

Most of the test pits and open excavations yielded fill layers containing artefacts dating from the 19th–20th centuries. However, prehistoric cultural layers were discovered in the test pits on the Narva Joaorg Stone Age settlement site (Fig. 1A, test pits 2–5). The finds collected from the study area (AI 8615) include 22 fragments of pottery.

Narva-type pottery (14 sherds, among them one rim fragment) was made of clay mixed with crushed plants (9 sherds) or shells (5 sherds). Vessels were molded using the coiling technique. Five U-coils (width 7.3–8.3 mm) and one N-coil (width 16.9 mm) were distinguished. The wall thickness of sherds (measurable in 10 cases) was 5–10 mm. In 6 cases, both preserved surfaces of the sherds were smoothed, and in three cases, they were striated. The found pottery sherds have characteristics ‘common’ for northeast Estonian Narva Ware (e.g. Kriiska 1995; 1997; Kriiska *et al.* 2021). Narva Ware can be dated typo-chronologically



**Fig. 1.** A – Areas of archaeological research conducted during the construction work of the second stage of Narva Promenade in Joaorg, within the protected Stone Age settlement site and the fortified settlement site, and in their immediate vicinity. 1 – excavation of bridge abutment, 2 – fortified settlement (no. 9135), 3 – test pit, 4 – Stone Age settlement (no. 9136), 5 – L. Jaanits’s excavations in the 1960s; B – test pit no. 5. Layers: 1 – humus, 2 – clay fill layer with limestone, 3 – cultural layer, 4 – limestone dust mixed with humus, 5 – sand; C – finds. 1 – sherd of Narva-type pottery from test pit no. 3 (AI 8615: 1), 2 – sherd of Iron Age hand-made pottery from test pit no. 5 (AI 8615: 4), 3 – quartz flake from test pit no. 5 (AI 8615: 9), 4 – Carboniferous flint flake from test pit no. 5 (AI 8615: 3).

**Jn 1.** A – Arheoloogiliste uuringute alad Narva promenaadi 2. etapi ehitustöödel Joaorus „kiviaegsel asulakohal“ ja „kindlustatud asulal“ ning nende vahetus läheduses. 1 – silla toendi kaevis, 2 – „kindlustatud asula“ (nr 9135), 3 – prooviauk, 4 – „kiviaja asulakoht“ (nr 9136), 5 – L. Jaanitsa kaevandid 1960. aastatel; B – prooviauk nr 5. Kihid: 1 – humus, 2 – savine paekividega täitekiht, 3 – kultuurkiht, 4 – huumusega segatud paeklibu, 5 – liiv; C – leiud. 1 – Narva tüüpi keraamika kild prooviaugust nr 3 (AI 8615: 1), 2 – rauaaegse käsitsikeraamika kild prooviaugust nr 5 (AI 8615: 4), 3 – kvartsikild (AI 8615: 9) prooviaugust nr 5, 4 – Karboni tulekivi kild prooviaugust nr 5 (AI 8615: 3).

Base map / Aluskaart: Estonian Land Board / Maa-amet

Photos / Fotod: Sander Jegorov

to the period between 5200–3900 BC (Kriiska *et al.* 2020, 49). Two flint and one quartz flakes (Fig. 1C, 3–4) may possibly also originate from the Stone Age. One flake (retouched) is made of Carboniferous flint, and the other of Cretaceous flint.

Seven sherds were fragments of hand-made pottery, dating from the Iron Age, most likely from the second half of the period. The vessels (with a wall thickness ranging from 5.3 mm to 10.9 mm) were made of clay mixed with rock debris. They were smoothed on both surfaces. Additionally, a sherd of wheel-thrown pottery from the Middle Ages or Early Modern Period was found.

Although the 0,35 m thick dark humus-rich cultural layer (Fig. 1B) is partially disturbed, the finds are significant enough to warrant archaeological investigations in case of further earthworks.

### THE AREA IN FRONT OF BASTION TRIUMPH IN FORMER PETER'S DISTRICT OF THE TOWN NARVA

During the renovation of Aleksander Puškini Street and the intersecting sidewalks, as well as the installation of various utility lines, remains of at least four demolished and fire-damaged building ruins were uncovered under archaeological supervision. Their limestone foundations were just partially unearthed (Fig. 2A, 2C), as they extended deeper than the required excavation depth for construction purposes.



**Fig. 2.** A – Locations of the excavated remains of buildings found along Aleksander Puškini and Tuleviku Streets; B – excerpt from an aerial photo of the town Narva taken in 1932 depicting the buildings along Posti and Tuleviku Streets; buildings, the remains of which were partially excavated during the fieldwork in 2022 are enclosed by a red rectangle; C – partially excavated remains of building no. 4 along Tuleviku Street.

**Jn 2.** A – Aleksander Puškini ja Tuleviku tänava äärest välja kaevatud hoonejäänuste asukohad; B – väljavõte 1932. aastal Narva linnast tehtud aerofotost, millel on kujutatud toonase Posti ja Tuleviku tänavate ääres paiknenud hooned, punase ristkülikuga on piiratud hooned, mille jäänused avati osaliselt 2022. aasta välitöödel; C – osaliselt avatud hoonejäänus nr 4 Tuleviku tänava ääres.

Base map / Aluskaart: Estonian Land Board / Maa-amet

Photo B / Foto B: Air Force of the Republic of Estonia, from the Collection of the Film Archives / Eesti Vabariigi lennukogust.

Photo C / Foto C: Aivar Kriiska



The building ruins are located along the former Posti and Tuleviku Streets (Fig. 2B)<sup>1</sup>, which were developed only in the last couple of decades of the 19th century as part of the former Peter's district of Narva. This became possible only after 1864 when Narva was excluded from the list of fortress towns of the Russian Empire, and the bastions were handed over to the town (Soom 1935, 76). The buildings were destroyed during intensive bombings of Narva by the Soviet Union Air Force in March 1944 (Tõnisson 2014).

The reconstruction of Tuleviku Street revealed that layers of previous streets that had been formed since the second half of the 19th century were uncovered. In the 1880s, a part of the right face of the Triumph Bastion was demolished, and Pavlovskaya Street was built in its place. It was renamed as Tuleviku Street in the 1920s. The foundation of this street is made up of fill material with numerous pieces of different sized limestone. Possibly crushed limestone extracted before from the bastion's moat and used for the wall building was reused for the street construction after this part of the bastion was demolished.



**Fig. 3.** Fragment of a glass mineral water bottle with a text.

**Jn 3.** Klaasist mineraalveepudeli katke tekstiga.

Photo / Foto: Irina Khrustaleva

In some areas, there were also layers of fill soils transported to the site from elsewhere, containing artefacts (including glass, building ceramics and faience vessels fragments) and animal bones. Among other things, a fragment of a light-green glass bottle with an oval-shaped bottom was found (Fig. 3). It is a part of a mineral water bottle with the text '...Н. ВОДЪ'. Most likely, it was made in St Petersburg, where bottles of such shape and with this text were manufactured from 1834 until 1918 (see Archaeological collection of Memorial Museum 'Raznochinnny Petersburg'; Popkov 2021, 343–344). From the early 20th century onwards, the street was paved with cobblestone.

A section of limestone wall, measuring 6.2 m in length, was excavated on the street, which is aligned with the preserved escarpment wall of the right face of Triumph Bastion and is a part of it (Fig. 4). The wall, up to 0.7 m thick, is constructed of limestone blocks bonded with lime mortar. On the inner side of the bastion, an additional buttress constructed of limestone blocks joined this wall. The exact construction period of this specific section of the wall cannot be determined, but the bastion was built in the late 17th century, and it was likely further supplemented and repaired in the 18th century (e.g. Soom 1935, 74; Nurk 2015, 37).

<sup>1</sup> See also the aerial photo of the Narva taken in 1941: <https://fotoladu.maaamet.ee/?basemap=digiaero&minimap=19410707%20Narva&zlevel=14,28.19424,59.37702&overlay=tyhi> (accessed 30.06.2023).



**Fig. 4.** A – Location of a section of the escarpment wall of Triumph Bastion uncovered on Tuleviku Street; B – view of the wall section from the former bastion; C – part of the escarpment wall, the white dashed line connects the excavated section with the remaining bastion wall, and 'B' indicates the location of the wall section shown in photo B.

**Jn 4.** A – Tuleviku tänaval avatud Triumph bastioni eskarp müüri osa asukoht; B – vaade müüriosale kunagise bastioni poolt; C – osa eskarp müürist, valge katkendjoon ühendab väljakaevatu tänini säilinud bastioni müüri lõiguga ja 'B' tähistab fotol B esitatava müüriosa asukohta.

Base map / Aluskaart: Estonian Land Board / Maa-amet

Photos / Fotod: Aivar Kriiska

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors are grateful to all participants of the archaeological expeditions and for the excellent and constructive collaboration of the road construction companies OÜ N&V (personally to Mr. Dmitry Suslov) and AS YIT Eesti (personally to Mr. Andres Vinkler).

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## ARHEOLOOGILISED UURINGUD NARVAS JOAORUS JA ENDISE PEETRI EESLINNA ALAL

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2021. ja 2022. aastal toimusid Narvas seoses promenaadi ehitustöödega Joaorus ning 2022. aastal seose tänavate, kõnniteede, torustike ning kaablite rajamise ja uuendamisega Tuleviku ja Aleksander Puškini tänavatel (endises Peetri linnaosas) arheoloogilised uuringud. Käesolevas artiklis esitatakse lühidalt nende tulemused.

Narva promenaadi (2. etapi) ehitustöödel tehti Joaorus prooviauuke ning osa kaevetöid (sillaaluse toendi kaevis ja osa elektrikaablite kraave) toimusid arheoloogilise jälgimise all. Prooviauukudes ja avatud kaevistes paljandusid enamasti 19.–20. sajandi esemeleide sisaldavad täitepinnased. Kaevete sügavuses tuvastati esiajalooline kultuurkiht vaid Narva Joaoru kiviaegse asulakohana kaitse all oleva muistisel (jn 1A, prooviaugud 2–5). Sealt kogutud esemeleidude hulgas on Narva tüüpi keraamika ja rauaaegse käsitsikeraamika katkeid ning tulekivi- ja kvartsikilde (jn 1C), lisaks veel üks kild kesk- või varauusaegsest ketrakeraamilisest nõust. Kuigi kuni 0,35 m paksune tume huumuserikas kultuurkiht (jn 1B) on seal vähemalt osaliselt segatud, on leiuaines sedavõrd oluline, et uute pinnaseteilsaldustööde korral tuleks kiviaegse asulakoha alal teha töid mitte jälgimisena, vaid viia eelnevalt läbi arheoloogilised väljakaevamised.

Aleksander Puškini tänava ja sellega ristuvate kõnniteede renoveerimise ning erinevate kaablite ja torustike paigaldamiseks vajalikel kaevetöödel avati mitu purustatud ja põlengujälgedega hoone varet. Erinevas mahus kaevati välja arvatavasti nelja paekivist vundamendiga hoone jäänused (jn 2A, 2C). Ühtegi neist ei eemaldatud kogu mahus, sest need

ulatusid sügavamale ehitustöödeks vajalikust kaevetööde sügavusest. Hoonevared paiknevad omaaegse Posti ja Tuleviku tänava ääres (jn 2B), mis hoonestati 19. sajandi viimasel paaril aastakümnel. See osa toona-sest Peetri linnajaost ehitati välja pärast Narva väljarvamist Vene keisririigi kindluslinnade hulgast, mille järel bastionid anti üle linnale. Hooned hävitati Teise maailmasõja ajal Nõukogude Liidu lennuväe pommirünnakus 1944. aasta märtsis.

Tuleviku tänava rekonstrueerimisel avati alates 19. sajandi teisest poolest kujunenud tänavate kihistusi. 1880. aastatel kaevati läbi Triumph bastioni parema fassi Pavlovskaja tänav, mis 1920. aastatel nimetati ümber Tuleviku tänavaks. Tänavala moodsustab rohkelt eri suuruses paetükke sisaldav täitepinnas. Laiguti oli selles ka esemeleide (sh klaasikilde, ehituskeraamika ja fajanssnõude katkeid) ning loomaliid sisaldavat rusukihti. Ühest sellisest laigust leiti tõenäoliselt Peterburist pärit klaasist mineraalveepudeli katke, milliseid valmistati vahemikus 1834 kuni 1918 (jn 3). Alates 20. sajandi esimesest poolest oli tänav kaetud munakivisillutisega.

Tänavalaalt kaevati välja 6,2 m pikkune pae-müüri lõik, mis paikneb ühel joonel bastioni Triumph parempoolse fassil tänini säilinud eskarpmüüri ja küllap on osa sellest (jn 4). Kuni 0,7 m paksune müür on ehitatud lubimördiga seotud paekividest. Bastioni siseküljel liitus sellega veel paekividest laotud kontraforss. Konkreetse müüriosa täpset ladumise aega ei ole võimalik määrata, kuid bastion ehitati 17. sajandi lõpul ning tõenäoliselt täiendati ja parandati seda veel ka 18. sajandil.