

**ARHEOLOOGILISED
VÄLITÖÖD
EESTIS**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
FIELDWORK
IN ESTONIA**

2003

Koostanud ja toimetanud
Ülle Tamla

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS ON THE CEMETERY OF KODASOO AND THE SETTLEMENT SITE OF LAGEDI

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In 2003, archaeological investigations were carried out in Kodasoo village, Kuusalu parish, Harjumaa. Small-scale excavations took place on the flat-ground cremation cemetery (Vedru 2003a). The fieldwork was financed by the Estonian Science Foundation (Grant No 4202). Archaeological salvage excavations on the settlement site of Lagedi, Rae parish, Harjumaa continued. These investigations were financed by the Rae Parish Administration and one of the landowners.

THE CEMETERY OF KODASOO

The cemetery is located in the easternmost part of the present Kodasoo village, on the S slope and the top of a moraine ridge. The latter is situated immediately N from the small road connecting the villages of Kodasoo and Rummu; Lake Rummu is located about 900 m NE from it (Fig. 1). The ridge measures ca. 60 m in N-S and 80 m in W-E direction. At present, the buildings of Aasmäe farm cover most of it. Two known settlement sites, one belonging to the Bronze Age and the other to the period from the Viking Age to the Middle Ages are located near Rummu village ca. 600–700 m E from it (Fig. 1). The archaeological sites of Kaberla village are located about 3 km NW from the cemetery of Kodasoo.

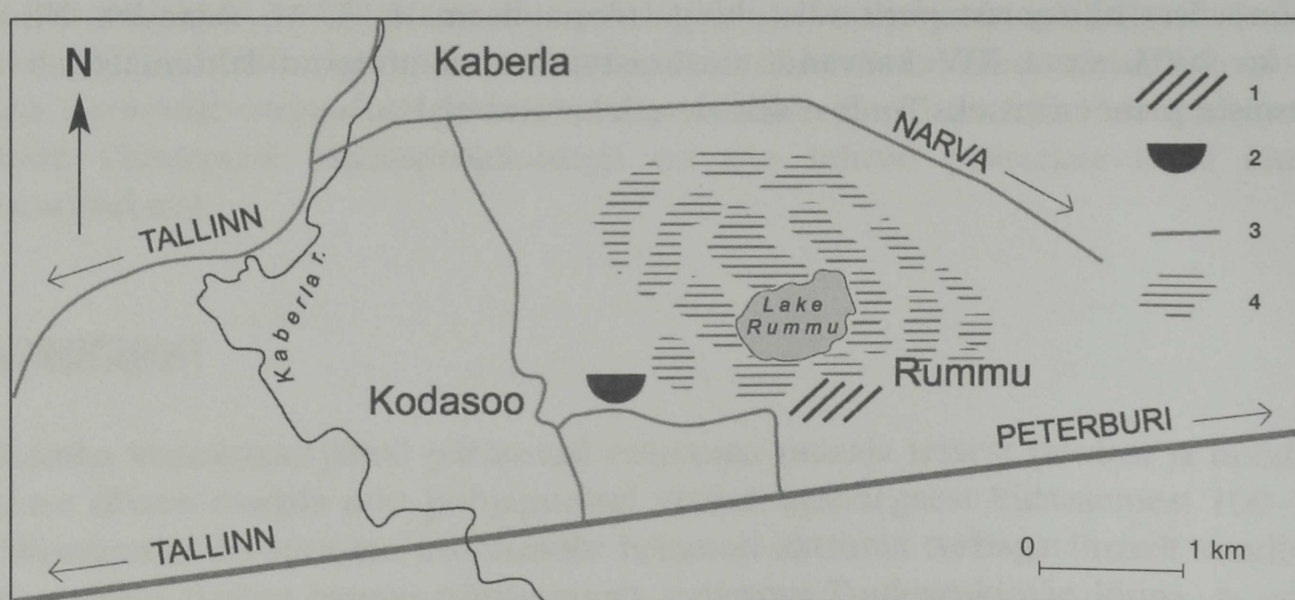


Fig. 1. Location plan of the archaeological sites in Kodasoo and Rummu villages. 1 – settlement sites, 2 – cemetery, 3 – roads, 4 – swamp.

Joon. 1. Kodasoo ja Rummu külade muististe asendiplaan. 1 – asulakoht, 2 – kalmistu, 3 – teed, 4 – raba.

The cemetery of Kudasoo was discovered by the tractor drivers ploughing there in the late 1980s. The bronze objects, ploughed to the surface, became visible after a rain and were picked up. Some of the finds remained in the hands of the finders and were given to the collections of the Institute of History in 2002 (AI 6576: 1-48).

The aim of the excavations was to obtain information about the structure, extent and more exact dating of the cemetery. Also of interest were the relations between the cemetery and the settlement sites of Rummu. In addition, the investigations in Kudasoo-Rummu area provided data for comparison with the other settlement clusters of the eastern part of Harju County investigated previously (Joa, Kaberla, Kuusalu *etc.*).

The first task was to determine the extent and nature of the cultural layer. To do this, two excavation plots were established in the area where the concentration of finds had been the highest. The first excavation plot was oriented in the N-S direction and measured 10 m². It was located on a slope of the ridge ca. 30 m N from the Rummu-Kudasoo road and 30 m E from the main building of Aasmäe farm. It was established that both the ca. 40 cm thick brown cultural layer as well

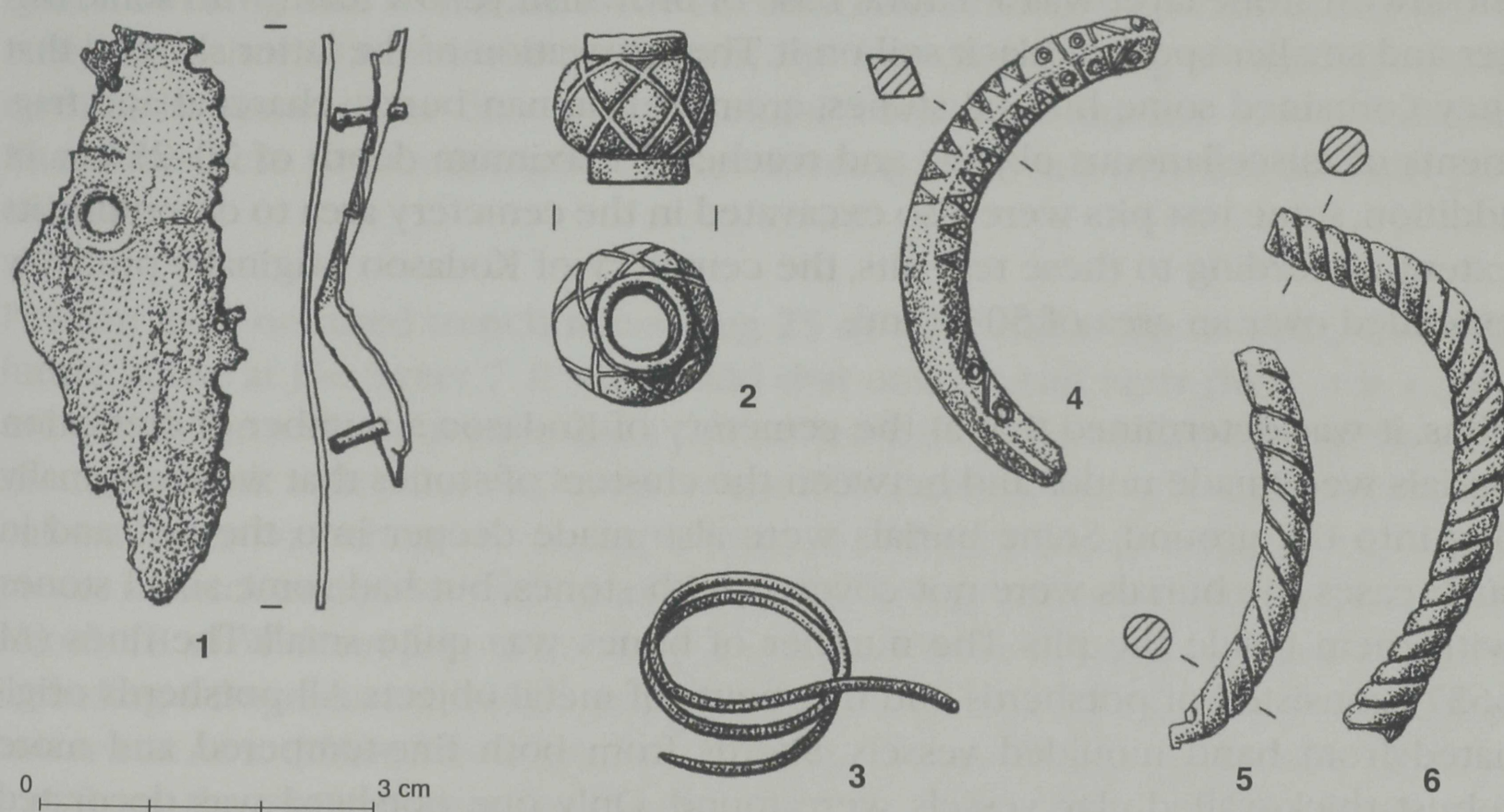


Fig. 2. Finds from the cemetery of Kudasoo. 1 - fragment of a knife sheath, 2 - bead, 3 - ring, 4 - fragment of penannular brooch, 5, 6 - fragments of bracelets. (AI 6672: 29, 46, 27, 8, 53.)

Joon. 2. Leide Kudasoo kalmest. 1 - noatupe katkend, 2 - helmes, 3 - sõrmus, 4 - hoburaudsõle katkend, 5, 6 - käevõrude katkendid.

as the natural loamy base beneath it were disturbed by deep ploughing. The finds were rather small in number. Beside a small quantity of burned human bones, some fragments of melted bronze objects and potsherds were found. Some bigger limestone slabs and granite stones lay at the base but did not form compact clusters and were not connected with the bones or other finds. Small pieces of charcoal also occurred on the natural base but their quantity was not sufficient for radiocarbon analysis.

To establish the possible preserved structure of the cemetery, another plot was opened. This was located 8 m N from the first plot and had the same direction. It penetrated the top of the ridge and extended a few meters to both sides of it. The second plot measured 14 m². Under the turf layer was a 35–40 cm thick layer of darker brown soil that had been disturbed by ploughing. Beneath it, at a depth of 35–40 cm some clusters of limestone slabs and granite stones occurred. Some of these were heavily burnt. A number of burned bones, fragments of various objects and small pieces of charcoal were located between the stones. The stone clusters consisted of two or three layers of stones. Some of the stones in the lower layers were quite large, having a diameter of 60 cm. The number of burned stones was smaller in the second and third layer of stones. Pieces of charcoal occurred all over the excavation plot and were gathered for radiocarbon analysis. Beneath the lowest stone layer was a natural base of brownish yellow loam with some bigger and smaller spots of black soil on it. The excavation of the latter showed that they contained some burned stones, cremated human bones, charcoal and fragments of miscellaneous objects and reached a maximum depth of 20–25 cm. In addition, some test pits were also excavated in the cemetery area to determine its extent. According to these test pits, the cemetery of Kodasoo originally probably extended over an area of 50–70 m².

Thus, it was determined that at the cemetery of Kodasoo a number of cremation burials were made under and between the clusters of stones that were originally dug into the ground. Some burials were also made deeper into the soil, and in such cases the burials were not covered with stones, but had some small stones with them inside the pits. The number of bones was quite small. The finds (AI 6627) consisted of potsherds and fragments of metal objects. All potsherds originated from hand moulded vessels. Sherds from both fine-tempered and more robust thick-walled clay vessels were found. Only one potsherd was decorated with grooves (AI 6627: 36). None of the potsherds gathered from the cemetery of Kodasoo had been in the fire with the dead.

The most numerous finds were small bronze spirals (e.g. AI 6627: 1, 2, 8, 13, 32)

that originally belonged to clothing; also a large number of fragments of bracelets made of three wires (Fig. 2: 5, 6) and fragments of penannular brooches were found (e.g. Fig. 2: 4). Among other ornaments were numerous fragments of chain arrangements. A bronze bead, decorated with a zigzag ornament, was quite unique (Fig. 2: 2). Some belt mounts and a point of a knife-sheath (Fig. 2: 1) also came to light. Two cross-shaped iron bridle plaques found originated from a rider's equipment (AI 6627: 41, 52). In addition, a fragment of a knife and scythes, and two spearheads, all bearing marks of intentional breaking were found.

Based on the finds, the cemetery of Kodasoo was used from the 11th century to the beginning of the 13th century. Thus it belongs to the same period as the settlement site of Rummu I.

THE SETTLEMENT SITE OF LAGEDI

In 2003 the archaeological fieldwork at the settlement site of Lagedi was continued (previous field works cf. Vedru 2003b, c). This year the investigations were carried out at the building sites at Jõe Street 5 and 7. The aim of these excavations was the same as last year – to investigate the protected land under the future dwelling and to release it for construction activities. As established previously, the cultural layer of the settlement site was disturbed by ploughing or was missing in some parts due to the natural conditions on the low riverbank. Therefore these two building sites were investigated with trenches and test pits only.

First, an E-W oriented trench measuring 25 m² was dug at the building site of a future house at Jõe Street 7. It was found that under a turf layer there was a dark soil which formed a transition from the brown soil of the southernmost building site to the dark valley flat soil of the N and NW parts of the investigated area. No cultural layer was observed in that trench. The finds consisted mostly of bones, pieces of brick and glass; some potsherds of different periods were found as well. About 18 m W from Jõe Street, was a location with a larger number of finds, including a fragment of a knife and a bone spindle whorl, but also modern glass and wires. As it differed from the surrounding, one can only suggest that perhaps soil from the higher areas, probably from the eastern side of Jõe Street, was brought here to fill a hole, approximately 4 m² in size. The depth of the dark soil layer containing the finds was 50 cm in the E and about 1 m in the W part of the trench. Beneath that layer was a clayey natural base. The material of the refuse dump, known to be located at Jõe Street 5, occurred in the W end of the trench.

Also, an N-S oriented trench, measuring 20 m², was dug crossing the E part of the first trench. From that trench materials dating from the Viking Age to the Modern Age were collected. In addition, 15 test pits measuring 1-2 m² were made on the building site at Jõe Street 7. It was established that the number of finds diminished towards W and N directions; no intact cultural layer was preserved.

The building site at Jõe Street 5 was also investigated with a trench and test pits. As previously known, an anti-tank ditch of the Second World War ran through that plot of land in a SE-NW direction (Sarv 1999). At the end of the 1980s local inhabitants filled it with refuse (personal statements by local people). From the 10-15 cm thick upper layer of the refuse dump some potsherds originating from prehistoric and medieval vessels were also gathered, but the lower part consisted of refuse from the Modern Age. The older finds in the upper layer can be explained by the fact that the refuse was covered with soil from the higher eastern areas of the settlement site.

The result of the fieldwork carried out in 2003 was quite similar to the previous results, according to which the original cultural layer has not survived at the building sites, located west from Jõe Street. The number of finds was quite small. The biggest part of the finds consisted of animal bones. Also the number of potsherds was not large. The area excavated was most likely at the margin of the settlement and can be dated to the period from the Viking Age to the modern times.

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ARHEOLOOGILISED KAEVAMISED KODASOO KALMEL JA LAGEDI ASULAKOHAL

Gurly VEDRU

2003. aastal jätkati arheoloogilisi välitöid Harjumaal Kuusalu ja Rae vallas. Kodasoo uuriti muinasaaja lõpusajanditesse kuuluvat maa-alust kalmistut (joon. 1), mis paikneb Aasmäe talu maal Kodasoo küla idaosas Rummu-Kodasoo teest põhja pool, u. 900 m Rummu järvest edelasihis jääval moreenikõrgendikul. Muistisest u. 600 m ida poole jäävad kaks Rummu küla maadel teadaolevat muinasaegset asulakohta.

Kodasoo kalme avastasid seal kündnud traktoristid 1980. aastate lõpus. Pärast uudismaa kündi sadanud vihm muutis nähtavaks põllupinnal olevad pronksesemed, mis üles korjati. Osa leidudest jäi leidja kätte ning jõudis 2002. aastal Ajaloo Instituudi arheoloogiakogudesse.

Kalme ehituse ja selle ulatuse ning täpsema ajalise kuuluvuse kindlakstegemiseks rajati kaks kaevandit. Neist esimese suuruseks oli 10 m² ning see jäi u. 30 m Rummu-Kodasoo teest põhja poole ning 30 m Aasmäe talu eluhoonest ida poole kallakjale maapinnale. Selgus, et u. 40 cm paksune mättaalune pruun mullakiht oli tervenisti segi küntud, kohati oli künniga segatud ka kollakaspruuni värvi aluspõhja liivsavi. Seega oli algne kalmistukiht sellel kohal täielikult segi küntud ning ka leiumaterjal oli vähene. Aluspõhjas olid mõned suuremad pae- ja raudkivide tükid, mis ei moodustanud ühtset ladet ega olnud seotud ka matustega. Kaevandi põhjal oli üksikuid söekübemeid, millest ei piisanud C¹⁴ analüüsiks.

Teine kaevand rajati esimesest 8 meetrit põhja poole ja nii, et see läbis ka kõrgendiku harja. Kaevandiga avatud alal paljandus mättakihi all u. 40 cm paksune künniga segatud tumedam pruun mullakiht, mille põhjast tuli nähtavale pae- ja raudkividest kogumikke, kusjuures osa kive olid tugevasti põlenud. Kivide vahel ja all leidis põlenud luu- ning söetükke ja esemeid. Kahest kuni kolmest kivi kihist moodustuvate kogumite all oli savine pruunikas-kollast värvi aluspõhi. Selles leidis suuremaid ja väiksemaid musta mulla laiuke, millest suurimate läbimõõt ulatus 60 cm. Nende läbikaevamine näitas, et luid, söetükikesi ning leide sisaldava musta mulla paksus ulatus 20–25 cm. Lisaks kaevanditele tehti kalme alale ka mitmeid šurfe, mille abil tehti kindlaks, et Kodasoo kalme hõlmas algselt u. 50–70 m² suuruse ala.

Seega on Kodasoo kalme puhul tegu maa-aluste põletusmatustega, kus põlenud luud paiknesid ilmselt maasse kaevatud lohkudes, mille peale asetati kive. Siiski pole välistatud, et mõni matus puistati kalme pinnale, kuhu eelnevalt oli toodud kive. Kõik kalmest leitud inimluud olid tugevasti põlenud. Võimalik, et just seetõttu oli ka leitud luude kogus väike. Samas võib siin tegemist olla ka väikese, näit. vaid ühele perele kuuluva matmiskohaga, kuhu sängitati vaid mõni surnu. 2003. aastal kogutud leiumaterjali (AI 6627) moodustasid savinõude killud, katked pronksehetest ja rauast töö- ning tarberiistadest (joon. 2).

2003. aastal jätkati päästekaevamisi Lagedi asulakohal, kus proovikraavide ja šurfidega uuriti kultuurikihi ulatust ja iseloomu Jõe t. 5 ja 7 kruntidel. Selgus, et nii nagu 2002. aastal, oli ka seekord tegu kaevamistega omaaegse asula servaalal, kus kultuurikiht puudus või oli tugevasti segatud: Jõe t. 5 krunti läbistas Teise Maailmasõja-aegne tankitõrjekraav, mida kohalikud elanikud olid 1980. aastate lõpus kasutanud olmeprügi ladustamiseks. Kaevamistega kogutud leidude hulgas oli arvukuselt esikohal uusaegne keraamika. Vanimateks leidudeks olid üksikud viikingiaegsed savinõude killud. Pärast kaevamisi vabastati mõlema krundi ala ehituspiirangutest.