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ARHEOLOOGILISED
VÄLITÖÖD EESTIS
ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD
WORKS IN ESTONIA IN
1996

Koostanud ja toimetanud Ülle Tamla

EESTI ARHEOLOOGIASELTS

TALLINN 1997

Trükitud Eesti Teadusfondi toetusel

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Rüütli 6, Tallinn, EE-0001, Eesti

Makett: Ivar Leimus

ISBN 9985-50-175-6

Tartu Ülikooli Raamatukogu

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS AT TÕNIJA TUULINGUMÄE TARAND-GRAVE, SAAREMAA

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Archaeological excavations at Tõnija Tuulingumäe *tarand*-grave began in summer 1995 (Mägi-Lõugas, 1996) and were almost finished in 1996. Money for the excavations was provided from Museum of Saaremaa in Kuressaare, the Community Administration of Valjala and a fund in England, organized by Gordon and Mary Snow.

In addition to the two *tarands*, opened in 1995, two more *tarands* were unearthed in 1996 (Fig. 1). It was established, that the surviving part of

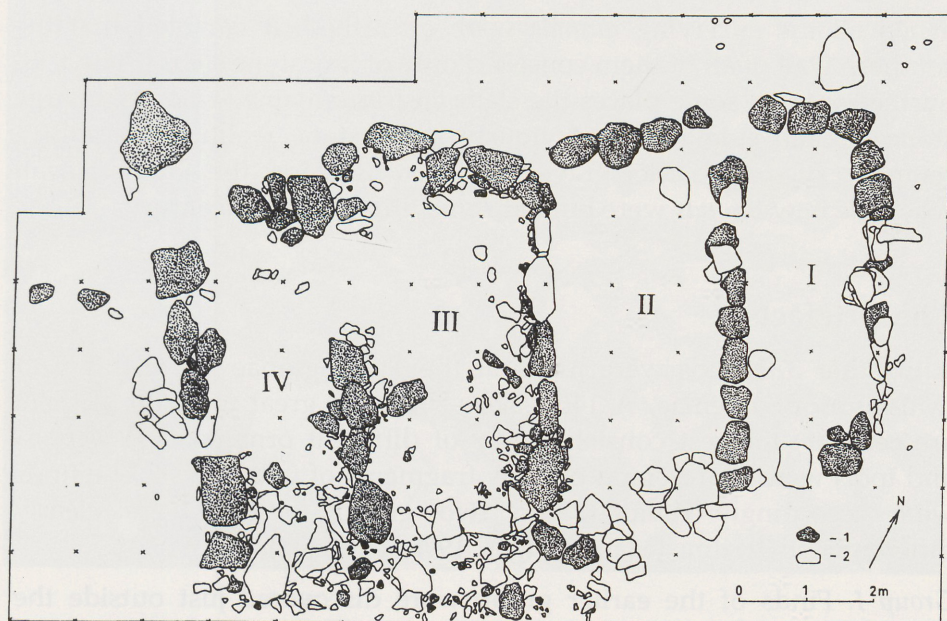


Fig. 1. Four preserved *tarands* of Tõnija Tuulingumäe grave after excavations in 1995 and 1996.

the whole grave consisted of four *tarands* only, though there had been more of them in the eastern part of the hill, destroyed by a vaulted cellar and the excavations of Prof. Arnē Michael Tallgren in 1921. The total area of our digs in 1995 and 1996 was 118 m².

Tarands III and IV

Both these *tarands* were ca 6 m long and 3 m wide, orientated NNW—SSE. These were the oldest *tarands* of the burial site, with *tarand* IV built at the same time or a short while after *tarand* III. Particularly massive stones, some of which were probably still on their original natural site, were used in the northern, eastern and western walls of these *tarands* (Plate I, 2). The southern walls were built of limestone slabs. The bottom of *tarand* III had been paved with limestone slabs, on a base of smaller stones with burials placed among them. The upper part had been paved with limestone slabs again, forming probably something like a floor at the time the burial site was used.

One intriguing finding was that there was an opening between *tarands* III and IV. Levels in this part were not mixed and it would be hard to imagine that someone had later moved away from the middle of the grave such huge stones as the others in this wall.

When all the surviving *tarands* were unearthed, it emerged that the southern wall of all of them consisted only of limestone slabs (Plate I, 1). Furthermore, in some places the slabs clearly remained under the large stones of the side walls. Obviously some stone walling, possibly a remnant of some earlier grave, had been used for the southern wall when the new *tarands* were built at some time in the 4th century.

The Artefacts

Altogether 379 finds were made at the Tuulingumäe grave this year (Museum of Saaremaa, A 1466: 324—702). The great majority of them are ceramic; the rest consist mostly of different ornaments. Weapons and tools were represented only by fragments of two knives. The finds were accordingly divided into two groups, which were clearly differentiated in time (Mägi-Lõugas, 1996, 428—430).

Group I. Finds of the earlier group were discovered just outside the north-western end of the grave or between the limestone slabs of the southern walls of *tarands* III and IV, i.e. in places, where the later *tarand*-grave had not destroyed the earlier stone-grave. This group consists mostly sherds from pots with very rough surfaces or from



Plate I, 1 — Tõnija Tuulingumäe tarand-grave. Tarands I and II, unearthed in 1995.

Plate I, 2— Tõnija Tuulingumäe tarand-grave. The southern half of tarands III and IV with filling-stones.

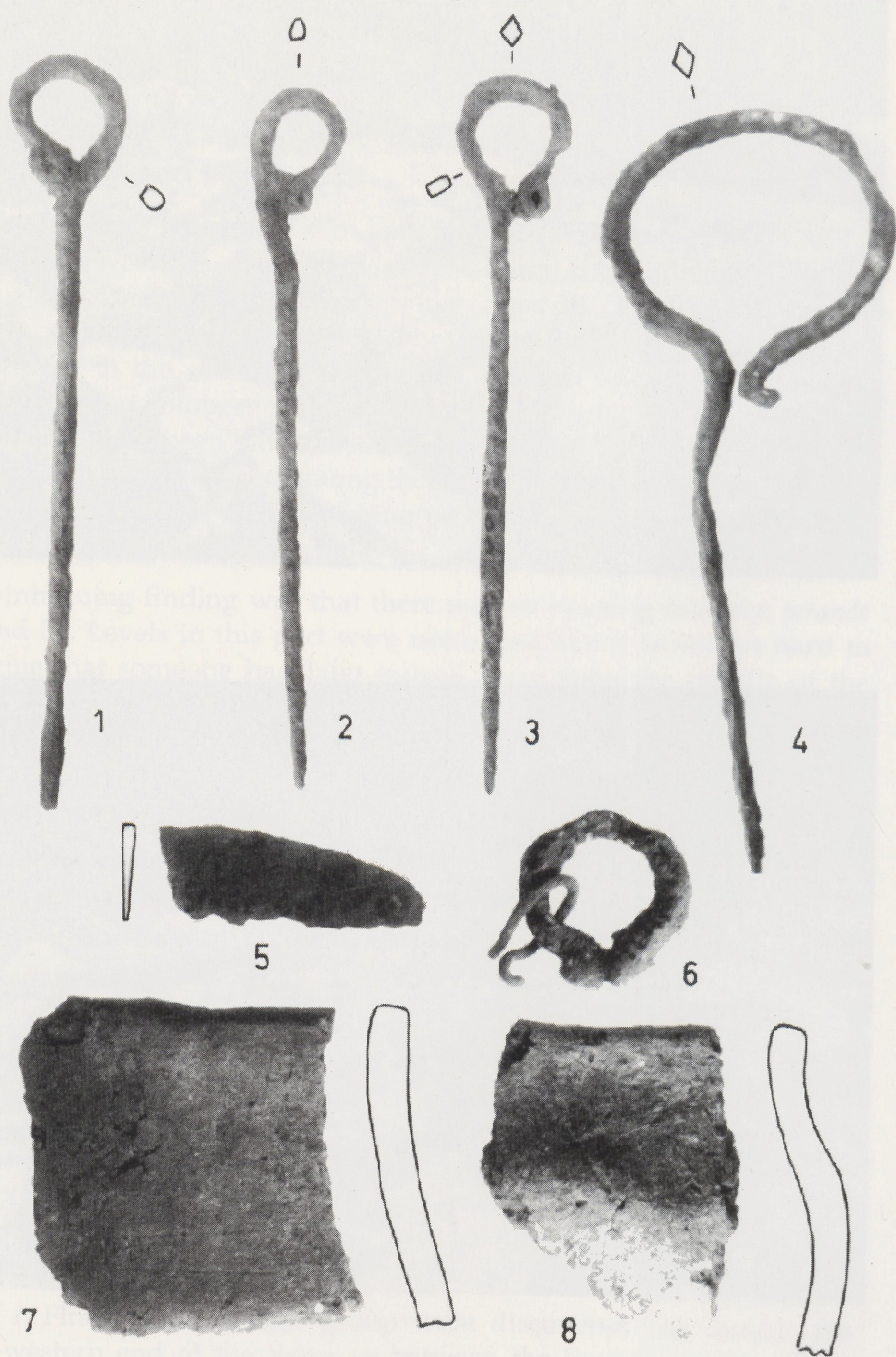


Plate II — Finds from Tõnija Tuulingumäe tarand-grave. 1—4, 6 — iron crook headed pins, 5 — piece of an iron knife, 7—8 — pottery (SM 1466: 605, 530, 500, 691, 661, 641, 601, 649). 1:1.

small pots with cord-impressed decoration (Fig. 2; Plate II, 8). The rest of the finds consisted of an iron belt-hook (Fig. 3, 1), bronze pendant (Fig. 3, 7), end of iron bracelet (?) (Fig. 3, 2), crooked head of iron pin (Plate II, 6), piece of iron knife (Plate II, 5) and possibly also iron crook-headed pin (Plate II, 4). Similar crook-headed pins have been found from other *tarand*-graves in Saaremaa and North-Estonia (Kungla, 1967; Lang, 1996, tahv. X, 5; XLIV, 3; Moopa, 1974, 85, таб. IV, 10—13, 15—16; Lõugas, 1974, 81, Taf. I, 11; Lõugas, 1977; Lõugas, 1986, 349—351, Taf. IV, 6—8; Шмидехельм, 1955, рис. 8, 1; 10, 8 etc.). The pendant is obviously of East-Prussian origin and had an almost exact counterpart in the Kurevere grave, West Saaremaa (Lõugas, 1977, Taf. II, 6). Ceramic items similar to that of Tõnija group I occur in all late stone-cist or early *tarand*-graves in Saaremaa (Kungla, 1967; Lõugas, 1977, Taf. II, 9—11, 15, 17; Lõugas, 1986, Taf. IV, 1—5). All these finds have been dated to the very beginning of our era.

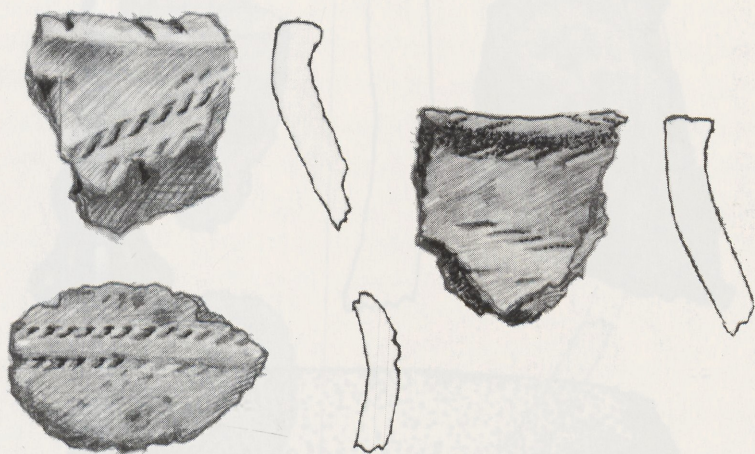


Fig. 2. Potsherds with cord-impressed decoration (SM 1466:440, 622). 1:1.

Group II. The finds of later group in *tarands* III and IV clearly differed from those of *tarand* II (Mägi-Lõugas, 1996, 429—430). Most of them were found over the whole area of *tarand* III, while there were only some potsherds in *tarand* IV. *Tarand* IV was poor of both finds and burials. Though the burials in *tarands* II and III looked similar, the finds proved a definite difference in date.

While finds in *tarand* II were mostly imports from East-Prussia and included different pendants and even 22 glass beads (Mägi-Lõugas, 1996, 429—430), the finds in *tarand* III were unpretentious. Three crook-

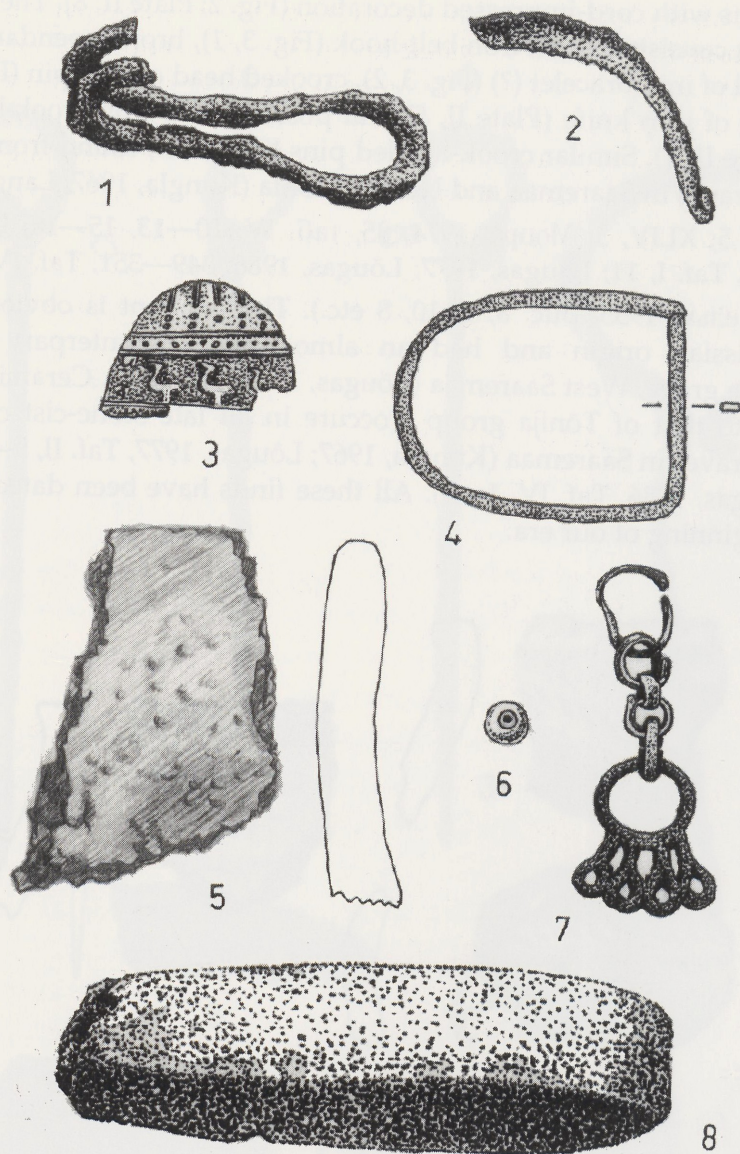


Fig. 3. Finds from Tuulingumäe tarand-grave. 1 — iron belt-hook, 2 — end of iron bracelet (?), 3 — bronze plaque, 4 — bronze frame, 5 — potsherd of group II, 6 — glass bead, 7 — bronze pendant, 8 — stone axe (SM 1466:259, 628, 562, 606, 388, 465, 640, 519). 1:1.

shaped pins (Plate II, 1—3) and only one glass bead (Fig. 3, 6) were found from it.

Ceramic ware belonging to this group consisted of jar-like pots in average or bigger size, with comparatively rough surfaces (Fig. 3, 5; Plate II, 7). Such pottery has parallels in North Estonian *tarand*-graves from the 4th—5th centuries AD (Lang, 1993, 50—53). Two half-oval thin

bronze-frames (Fig. 3, 4) and pieces of bronze-sheets also belong to this group. These finds could be dated to the 4th—5th centuries. Somewhat problematic is the dating of a bronze plaque decorated with tiny birds (Fig. 3, 3). It could be connected with group II by its stratigraphy. Such a decoration is also typical of the Migration Period. It is intriguing that a very similar plaque has been found in the Ojaveski *tarand*-grave, North Estonia, and dated to the 7th—8th centuries AD (Шмидехельм, 1955, 144, puc. 36, 7). Pieces of a small pot with thin and dark walls and line decoration (Fig. 4), found on the southern wall of *tarand* III, also belong to the 7th—8th centuries.

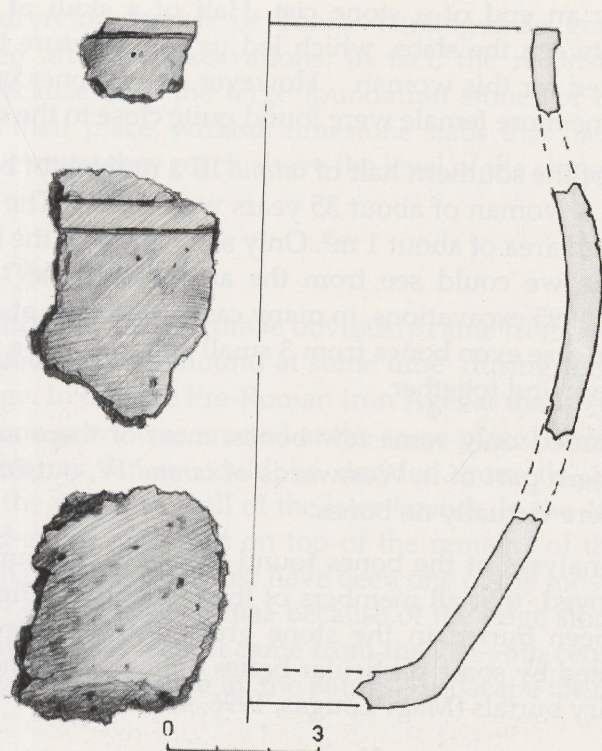


Fig. 4. Pot with line decoration (SM 1466:600).

In addition there were some finds from the late Neolithic or Bronze Age. A small stone axe (Fig. 3, 8) and some processed flint flakes obviously came from some earlier dwelling site.

The Burials

The bones from the excavations of summer 1996 have not yet been completely assessed, but it seems that human bones had not been in a fire and the burned bones had mostly belonged to animals. The latter were presumably connected with ritual meals. The bones have been investigated by anthropologist Raili Allmäe and osteologist Liina Maldre, who both participated in the excavations at Tuulingumäe.

Osteological material in *tarands* III and IV resembles that of *tarands* I and II. All the bones lay in great disorder. In the middle of the northern part of *tarand* III were found three upright limestone slabs which formed something like an end of a stone cist. Half of a skull of a very old woman lay between the slabs, which led us to conjecture that the cist had been erected for this woman. However, some bones of two males and possibly one more female were found quite close to the skull.

In the middle of the southern half of *tarand* III a number of bones from a man and from a woman of about 35 years were found. The bones were scattered over an area of about 1 m². Only some parts of the bodies were represented. As we could see from the analyses of the osteological material of the 1995 excavations, in many cases the bones of a man and a woman (in one case even bones from 3 small children), or a woman and an infant, were found together.

Tarand IV included only some few bones, most of them animal bones from the southern part of it. Westwards of *tarand* IV, outside the whole grave, there were virtually no bones.

Osteological analyses of the bones found in the Tuulingumäe grave in 1995 have proved that all members of the family, including new-born infants, had been buried in the stone grave. All skeletons, however, were represented by some particular bones only, confirming the theory about secondary burials (Mägi-Lõugas, 1996, 430).

Reconstruction

One of the most interesting questions about the *tarand*-graves is what they looked like during the time when they were in use. Taking into account the rather small number of *tarand*-graves compared with the presumed population in Roman Iron Age Estonia, it is clear that only the elite of the society had the right and opportunity to bury their dead in *tarand*-graves. The monumental structures of these graves have been believed to act as symbols of power. The reconstructions made up to the present time show *tarands* as stone-walled boxes filled with smaller stones and with a heap of stones on top of them.

In two cases, in the southern wall of *tarand* II and the eastern wall of *tarand* I, the limestone slabs of the wall were preserved almost in situ, but inclined a little outwards. By visualising them back in their original position, we confirmed that the minimum height of the walls was 60 cm — i. e. that they would reach a minimum of ca 10 cm above the present-day ground-level. One can therefore see that the grave had not been completely filled with smaller stones during its period of use, but that it was actually a construction of stone-walled enclosures. We cannot exclude the possibility, that there may also have been some light wooden construction on the walls, of which no traces have survived to the present day.

The four surviving *tarands* of Tõnija Tuulingumäe grave have been reconstructed after the excavations. In fact, the reconstruction is not complete, because only the large foundation stones of the walls were put back in their place, without limestone slabs that had been laid on them. At all events, they reach above the level of the stone infills.

Preliminary conclusion

The earliest finds at Tuulingumäe obviously came from a dwelling site that was situated on the mound at some time during the late Neolithic or Bronze Age. In the late Pre-Roman Iron Age, at the very beginning of our era, a stone grave was erected at the same place. It was presumably a *tarand*-grave, as far as could be decided from its only surviving elements — the southern wall of the later *tarands*. In the 4th century AD a new *tarand*-grave was built on top of the remains of the earlier one. Tõnija Tuulingumäe grave must have been one of the most monumental of the *tarand*-graves in Saaremaa because of the huge stones used in its walls. The latest finds from it came from the 7th—8th centuries, but the walls must have been visible in the natural landscape for much longer.

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ARHEOLOOGILISED KAEVAMISED TÕNIJA TUULINGUMÄE TARANDKALMEL SAAREMAAL

Marika MÄGI-LÕUGAS

Arheoloogilised kaevamised Tõnija Tuulingumäe tarandkalmel algasid 1995. aastal. Kahe-aastase kaevamistöö tulemusena uuriti läbi 118 m², millesse mahtus neli tervena säilinud tarandit (joon.1). Järgmisel suvel on plaanis uurida lisaks veel u. 30 m² kalme säilinud idaotsast ning äärevaredest.

1996. aastal kaevati läbi III ja IV tarand. Nende mõõtmed olid u. 6 x 3 m. Tarandite küljeseinad paiknesid NNW—SSO sihis. Otsustades väljapoole suunatud sirgete seinte järgi, pidi kõige vanem olema III tarand (tahv. I, 2). Sellest veidi hiljem või ka samaaegselt oli rajatud IV tarand. Mõlemad tarandid olid ehitatud silmatorkavalt suurtest raudkividest, välja arvatud lõunamüür. III tarandi põhi oli sillutatud paeplaatidega. Sillutise peale asetatud kivide vahel paiknesid panustega matused. Matuseid sisaldav kivihiht oli pealtpoolt kaetud paeplaatidega, moodustades kalme kasutamise ajal ilmselt midagi põrandalaadset.

Pärast säilinud tarandite väljapuhastamist selgus, et kõigi lõunamüür oli ehitatud lapiti paeplaatidest (tahv. I, 1). Ülejäänud müürides oli kasutatud valdavalt suuri raudkive. Kuna paeplaatidest lõunamüür ulatus mitmes kohas külgmüüri kivide alla, tuleb oletada, et hilisemate tarandite ehitamisel on kasutatud ära mingit varasemat paemüüri. Kuivõrd tarandite enamus külgmüüre toetub varasemale kivistihile ning ka leiud jagunevad kahte, 300 — 400-aastase erinevusega rühma, on selge, et väljakaevatud

tarandkalme all pidi paiknema varasem kivikalme. Ilmselt on lõunamüüri näol tegemist jäänukiga sellest.

1996. aasta leiud jagunesid kahte rühma. Neist vanemasse (rühm I) kuulusid rauast vööhaak (joon.3, 1), ažuurne pronksripats (joon.3, 7), karjasekeppnõelad (tahv. II, 4, 6) ning kumeraselgse noa katke (tahv.II, 5). Keraamika oli esindatud nii jämeda koostise ning pinnatöötlusega kui ka paremini viimistletud kildudega väikestest nõörnamendiga kaunistatud nõudest (joon. 2; tahv. II, 8). Need leiud võib dateerida ajaarvamise vahetusse.

Hilisemasse rühma kuuluvaid leide saadi peamiselt III tarandist. Kuigi II ja III tarandi matused olid esmapilgul samalaadsed, erinesid panused üsna tuntavalt, peegeldades ilmselt ajalist erinevust. Kui II tarandist leiti rohkesti preisi päritolu ripatseid ning koguni 22 klaashelme, siis III tarandi leiud olid üsna tagasihoidlikud. Saadi kolm rauast karjasekeppnõela (tahv. II, 1—3), klaashelmes (joon. 3, 6), kaks õhukest pronksraami (joon. 3, 4) ning mõned pronkspleki tükid. Keraamikast olid esindatud peamiselt üsna hea põletusega kergelt profileeritud nõud, mille valmistamiseks kasutatud savimass sisaldas jämedateralist liiva (joon. 3, 5). Nimetatud leiud võib dateerida 4. sajandiga. 7.—8. sajandist pärinevad väikeste linnukujutistega ornamenditud pronksnaast (joon.3, 3) ning joonornamendiga nõu killud (joon. 4).

Neoliitikumi lõpus või pronksiajal paiknes hilisema tarandkalme alal ilmselt asulakoht. Sellest oli jäänud maapinda väike kivitalb (joon.3, 8) ning mõned töödeldud tulekivikillud.

Tuulingumäe 1996. aasta kaevamiste luumaterjal on suuremas osas veel määramata, kuid näib, et see sarnaneb varemsaaduga. Tegemist oli peamiselt põletamata surnutega, kelle luud paiknesid segamini. Luustikud olid säilinud vaid osaliselt, kuid sellest hoolimata õnnestus I ja II tarandis teha kindlaks rida matuseid. Mitmel juhul paiknesid mehe ja naise luud lähestikku. Ühel juhul oli nendega koos kolme alaealise lapse luustikud, teisel puhul oli maetud naine koos imikuga.

Mitmel pool kalmes näitasid kunagisest müürist mahalibisenud paeplaadid, et tarandimüürid pidid olema ulatunud kõrgemale kalme täidisekividest. Tõnija Tuulingumäe tarandkalme neli tarandit on praeguseks rekonstrueeritud. Tehnilistel põhjustel on asetatud oma kohale tagasi vaid alusmüüri suured raudkivid ilma neile omal ajal laotud paemüürita. Monumentaalsed müürikivid ulatuvad siiski kõrgemale kalme täidisekividest.