

NEW NEOLITHIC SETTLEMENTS IN RIIGIKÜLA

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Riigiküla, situated about 8 km north from the town of Narva, has been of great importance in the research of the Estonian Neolithic Period. As not many systematic efforts to find Stone Age sites have been made in Estonia, Riigiküla, as well as the whole lower reaches of the Narva River, is conspicuous for its abundant find material. In 1994 the first extensive study of the sites and artefacts of the Early Neolithic Narva culture was made. The remains of Stone Age pit houses in Riigiküla are the only ones of their kind found in Estonia so far. Human bones found under these dwellings are the only sure evidence of burials under the floor of a hut in Estonia.

The first Stone Age artefact, a slaty chisel¹, was found in Riigiküla in 1929. In 1936 a small eyed-stone axe² and in 1938 a slaty ring³ were found. Thanks to the head of the Narva Museum, Arnold Soom, the find material reached the Cabinet of Archaeology and in the summer of 1938 the sites of their discovery were inspected by Oskar Saadre⁴. As the place was under a grain field, no test excavations were possible then.

In 1951 excavations were started in the area of Narva by the Russian archaeologist Nina Gurina. Proceeding from geomorphology she considered Riigiküla to be a suitable area for Stone Age occupation, and she did find there a settlement site (I). In the course of excavations another site (II) was disinterred and in 1952 a third one (III) was found (Fig. 1).⁵ From 1951 to 1953 N. Gurina excavated at all the three settlement sites.⁶ In 1958 the third settlement was excavated also by Lembit Jaanits.⁷

Among the material of Riigiküla I the Typical Comb Ware artefacts predominated, but also the stratification of the Narva culture and the Late Comb Ware culture (Hybrid Ware by Gurina) was imposing.⁸ Two dwelling floors deepened into the ground are probably connected with the last one.⁹ Some potsherds of the Late Corded Ware were found there as well.¹⁰

¹ AI 3640.

² AI 3741: 1.

³ AI 3741: 2.

⁴ Saadre, O. Aruanne Vaivara kihelk. Riigiküla kiviriistade leiukoha inspektsioonist 1. juulil 1938. a. Manuscript in the Institute of History, Estonian Academy of Sciences.

⁵ Гурина Н. Н. Новые неолитические памятники в Восточной Эстонии. — In: Мушкетерский сборник и ленинградские археологические материалы. — М.: Наука, 1967, № 144, pp. 49, 72.

⁶ The finds in the Institute of Archaeology, St. Petersburg; a small part in the Narva Museum (NLM 1035—1038).

⁷ Finds AI 4198: 1—106.

⁸ Гурина Н. Н. Из истории древних племен западных областей СССР (по материалам Нарвской экспедиции). — Материалы Института археологии АН СССР, 1967, № 144, pp. 49, 72.

⁹ Ibid., pp. 29—30.

¹⁰ Ibid., p. 49.

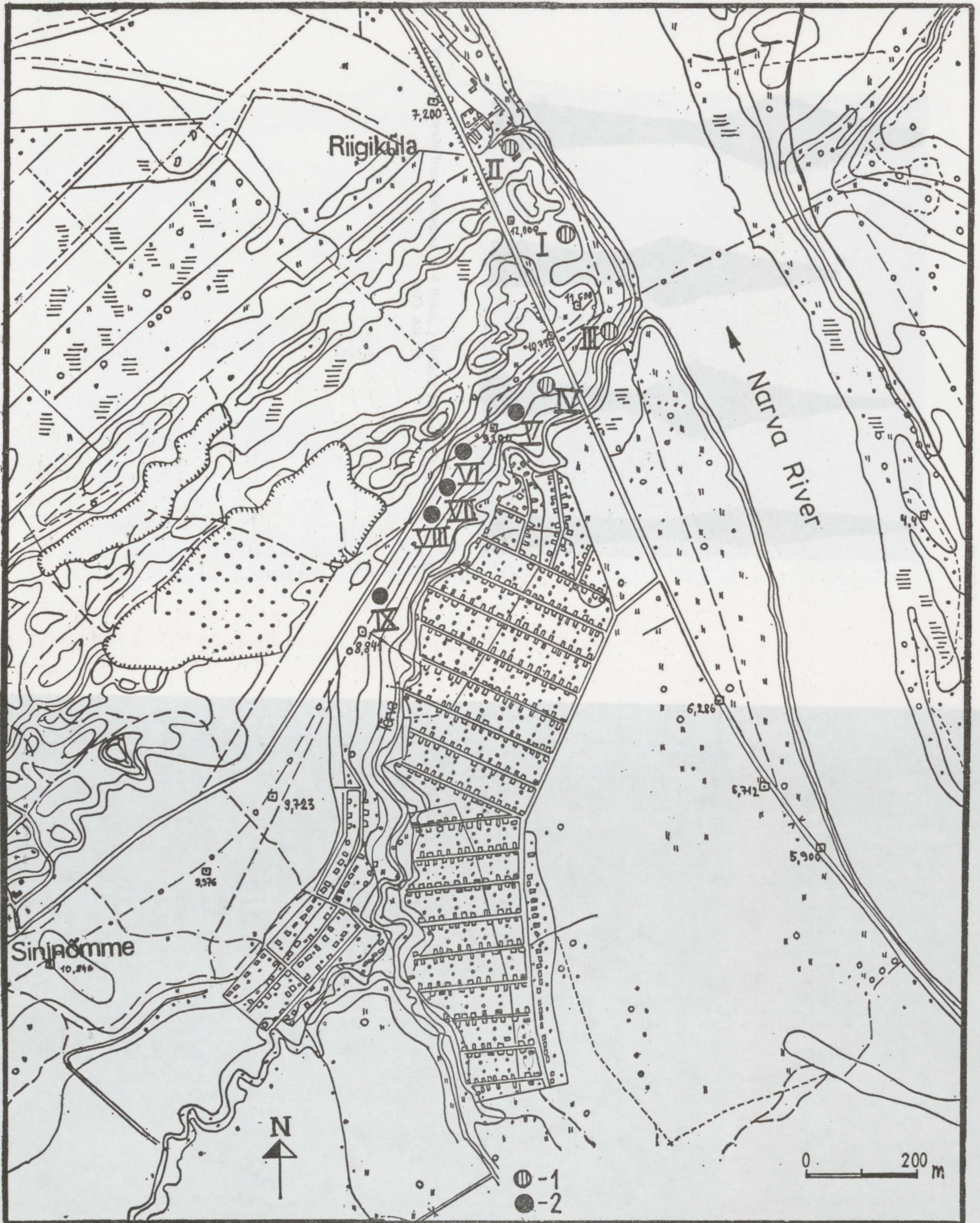
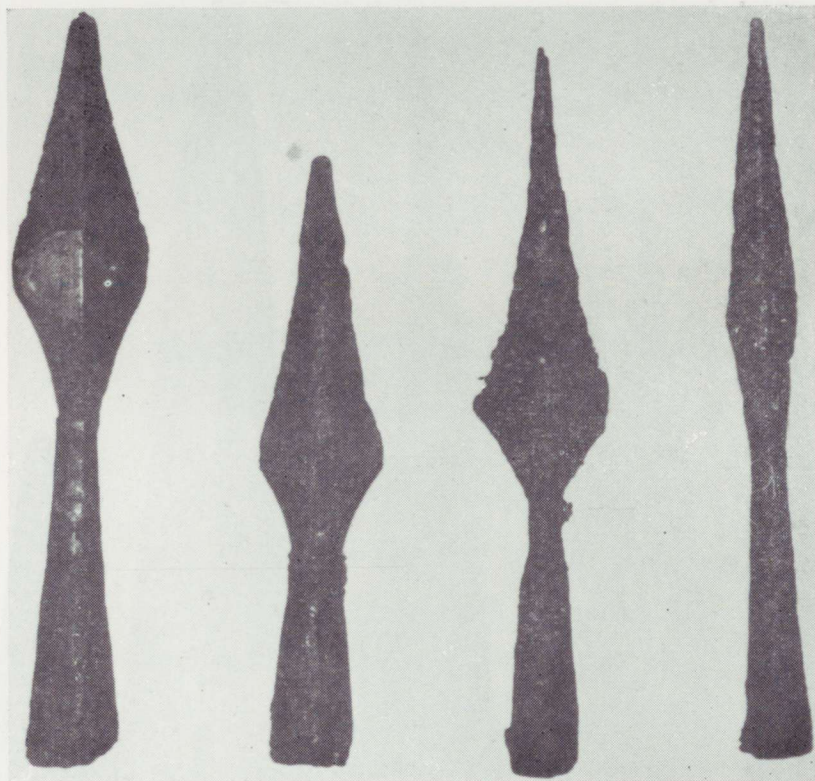
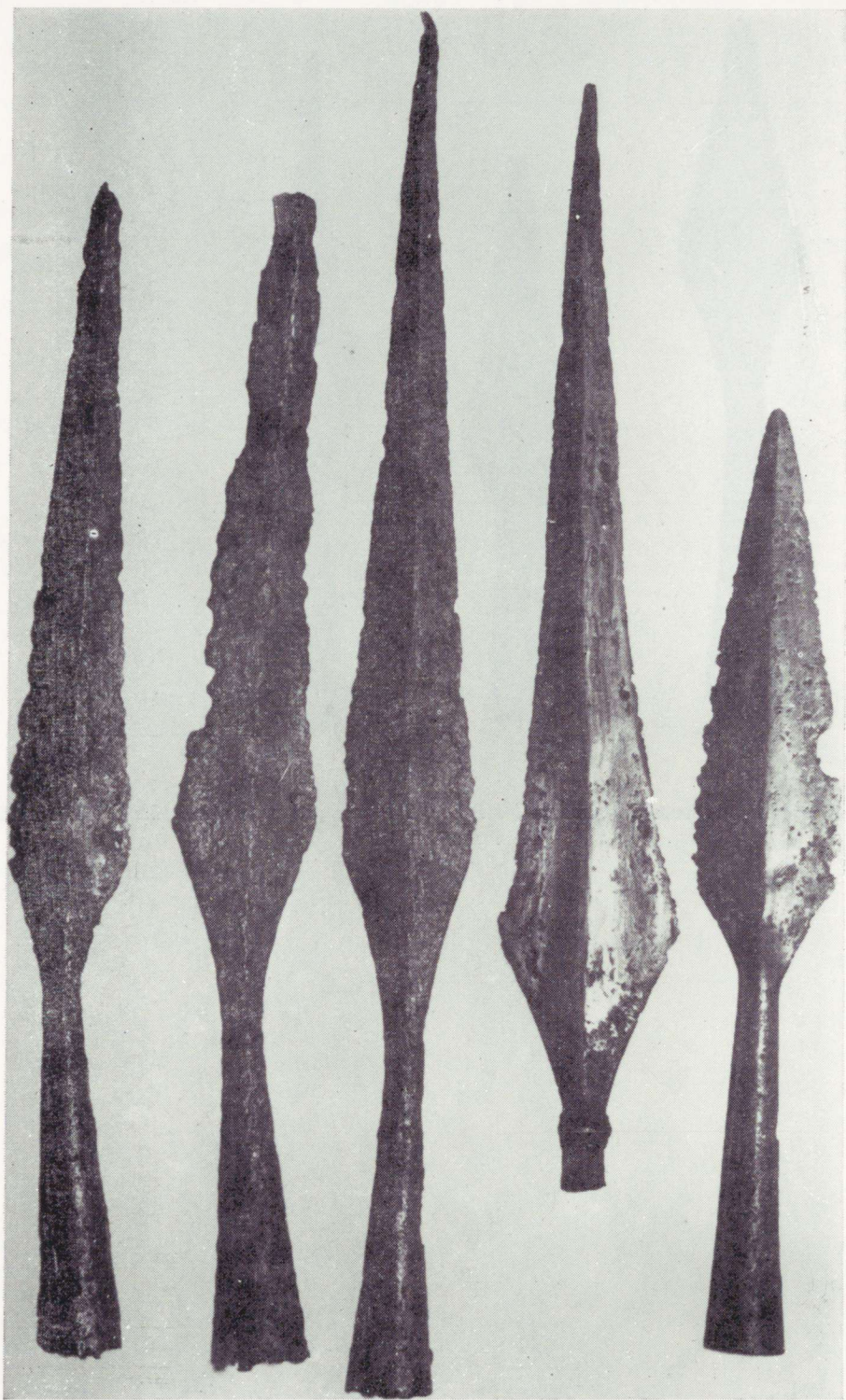


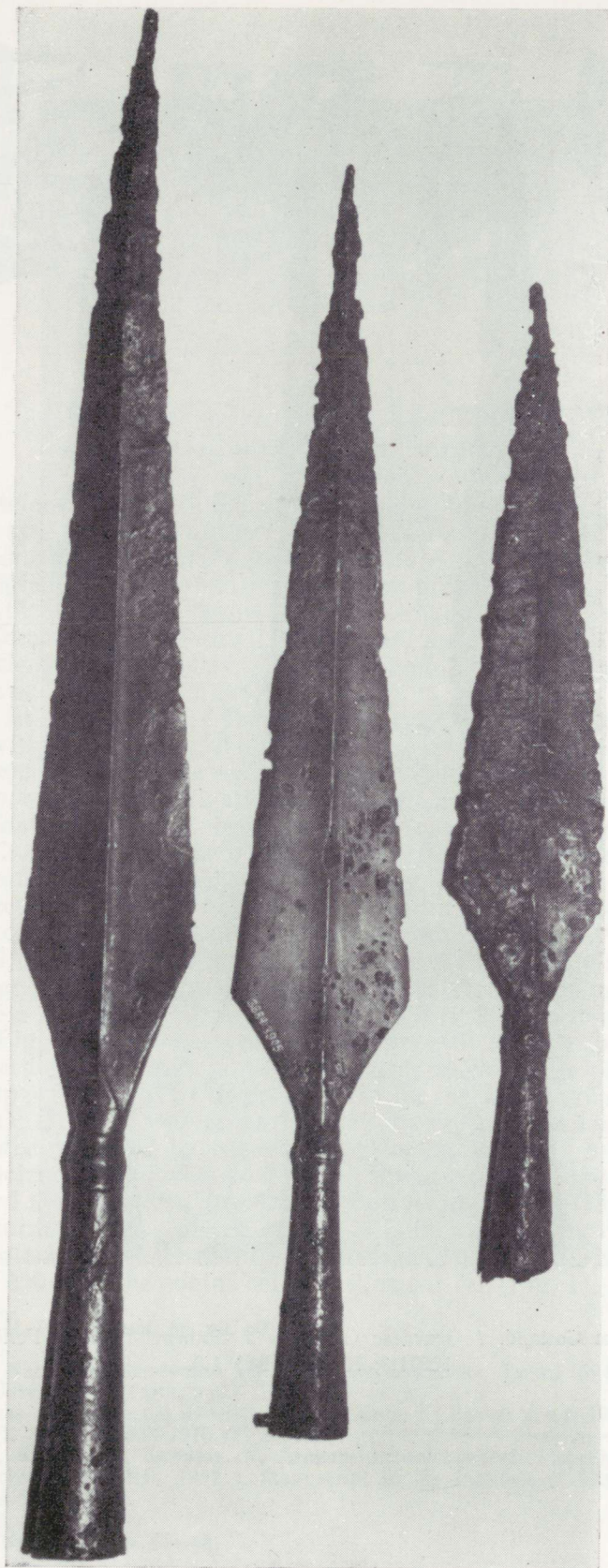
Fig. 1. Neolithic settlements of Riigiküla. 1 settlements found in 1951-91, 2 sites found in 1994.



Small spearheads from Saaremaa. 1, 4 Pöide, 2 Piila, 3 Kaarma. (AIK 50:7; 9:3; 15:222; 46:2.) All 1:2.



Spearheads from Saaremaa. 1, 2 Kuressaare, 3, 5 Saaremaa, 4 Kaarma (AI 3375:1, 4; AIK 88:188; AIK 67:1; AIK 85:7.) All 2:5.



Spearheads from Saaremaa. 1 Kāku, 2 Viltina, 3 Muhu (AI 3995:853; 3884:3905; AIK 43:3.) All 2:5.



Spearheads from Gotland. 1 Gravdese Ganthem, 2 Gothem, 3 Klinte Follingbo. (SHM 17291:3; 7314; 10194.) 1:3.



Fig. 2. Pottery from Riigiküla II. (AI 5964: 11.)

Most artefacts of the Riigiküla II site belong to the Typical Comb Ware culture but also potsherds of the Pottery of Narva Type, Late Comb Ware, and some Late Corded Ware were disinterred.¹¹ The total number of artefacts of Riigiküla III is smaller than the previous ones. In Gurina's excavation the Pottery of Narva Type prevailed. The amount of Typical and Late Comb Ware was small.¹² However, among the find material of Jaanits' excavation there was more Late Comb Ware than the Pottery of Narva Type or Typical Comb Ware.¹³

In 1991 an extensive field survey was carried out in Riigiküla.¹⁴ It was connected with the planning of a new Tallinn—St. Petersburg road and the reconstruction of the bridge over the Tõrva River.¹⁵

In the course of the localization of the settlement sites found by Gurina, a few artefacts were found from Riigiküla I and II. From the first site a Typical Comb Ware potsherd was found. The second yielded eleven Typical Comb Ware potsherds (total weight 64.4 g), four Late Comb Ware potsherds (total weight 22 g), three flint bits, one stone bit, and some artefacts belonging to later times (a bronze lock etc.).¹⁶

The wall thickness of the potsherds of Typical Comb Ware is 6—13 mm. Seven bigger potsherds have got ornaments: on three there are big round pits, on one a big round pit and double pits (Fig. 2, 1), on one big rhomboid pits (Fig. 2, 3), and on two comb impressions. The inner sides of some potsherds are striated. One rimsherd as thick as the side wall has the inner rim pressed wavy with a finger (inside the waves some nail prints can be seen). The wall thickness of the Late Comb Ware (I group)¹⁷ potsherds, distinguished by organic supplement, is 5—11 mm. One potsherd has notches as an ornament, another has big round pits. The latter is a rimsherd that has been pressed wavy on its outer side (Fig. 2, 2).

The cultural layer of the Riigiküla IV site was distinguished in the northwest of the bridge of the Tõrva River on the Narva—Narva-Jõesuu road, about 200 m to the southwest of settlement III (Fig. 1). Actually the

¹¹ Гурина Н. Н. Из истории, pp. 49, 60.

¹² Ibid., p. 49.

¹³ Kriiska, A. Narva jõe alamjooksu ala neoliitiline keraamika. Tartu, 1994. Master's dissertation, University of Tartu, p. 9.

¹⁴ Riigiküla was also inspected in 1957 (by L. Jaanits, K. Paaver a. o.), 1959 (G. Lisitsyna), 1962 (L. Jaanits), and 1970 (L. Jaanits).

¹⁵ Jaanits, K., Kriiska, A., Seveljov, V. Aruanne arheoloogilisest inspektsioonist Narva jõe alamjooksul nov.—dets. 1991. a. Manuscript in the Institute of History, Estonian Academy of Sciences.

¹⁶ AI 5963: 10, 11.

¹⁷ Kriiska, A. Narva jõe, pp. 43—44.

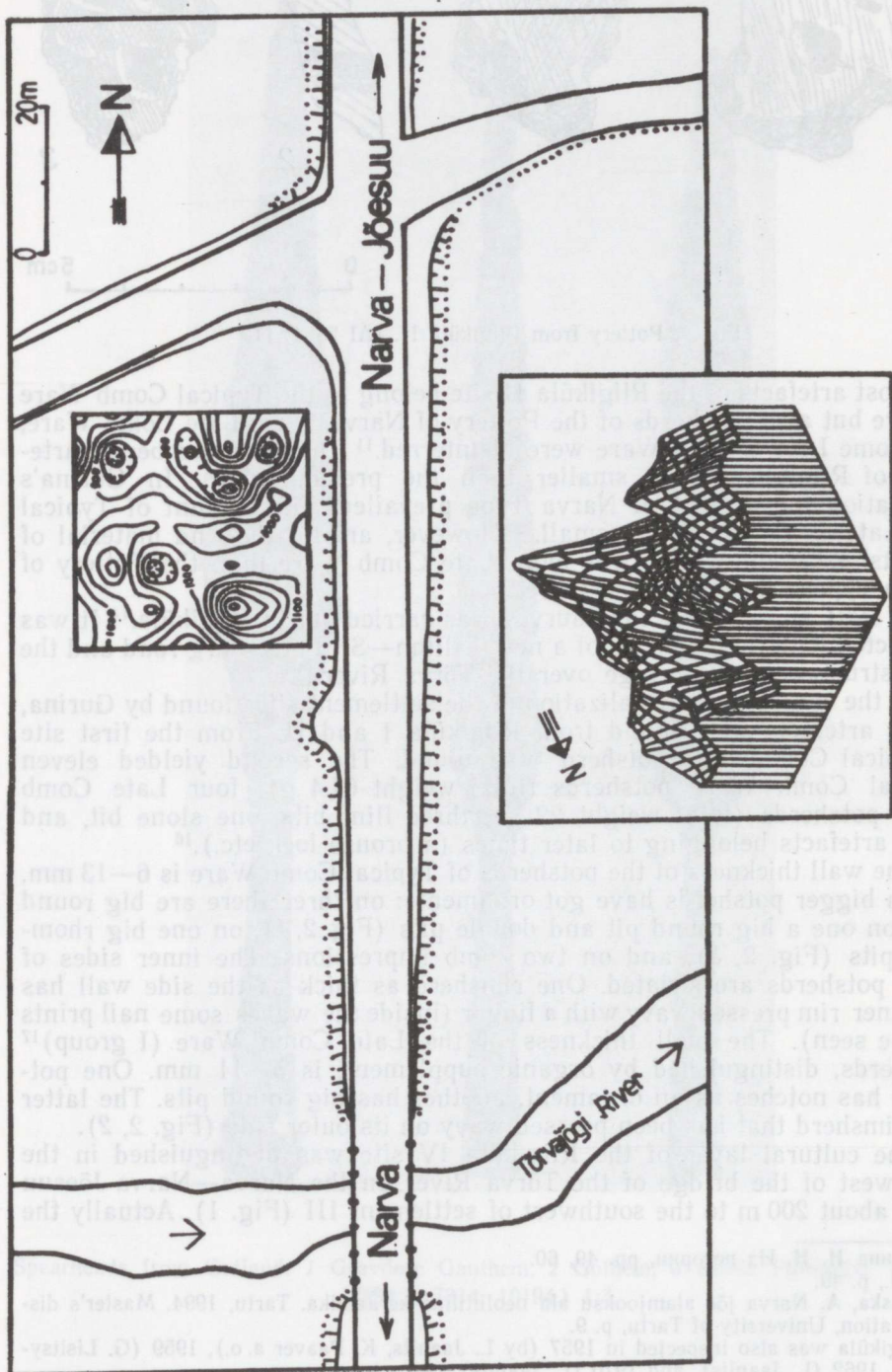


Fig. 3. Phosphate (P_2O_5) concentration diagram of the settlement of Riigiküla IV.

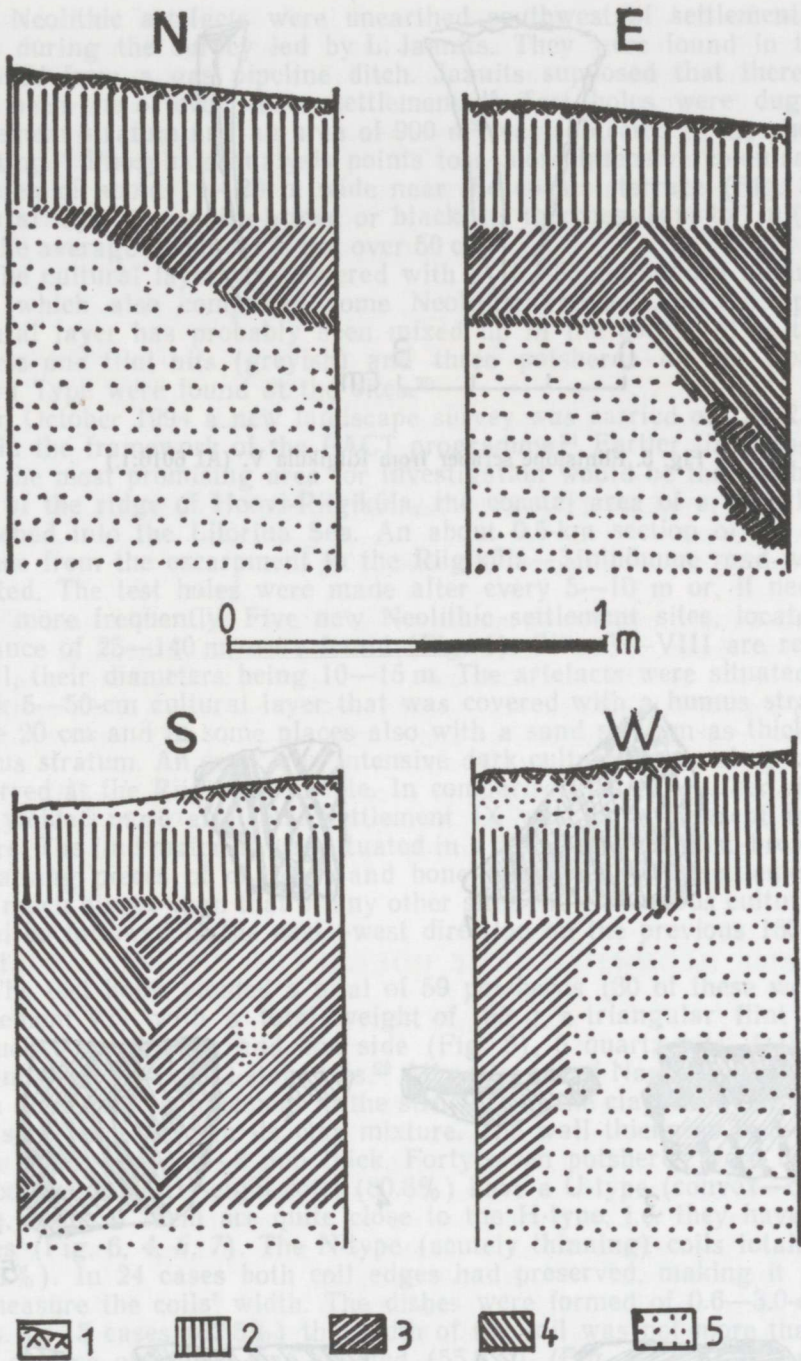


Fig. 4. The profile of prospect dug on the settlement of Riigiküla IV. 1 surface stratum, 2 blackish-brown humus, 3 reddish-brown Neolithic cultivated stratum, 4 black Neolithic cultivated stratum, 5 sand.

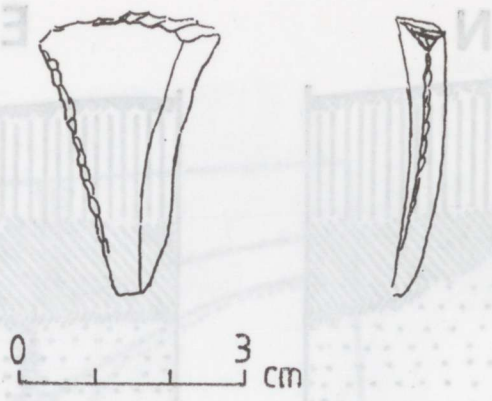


Fig. 5. Flintstone scraper from Riigiküla V. (AI 6016:1.)

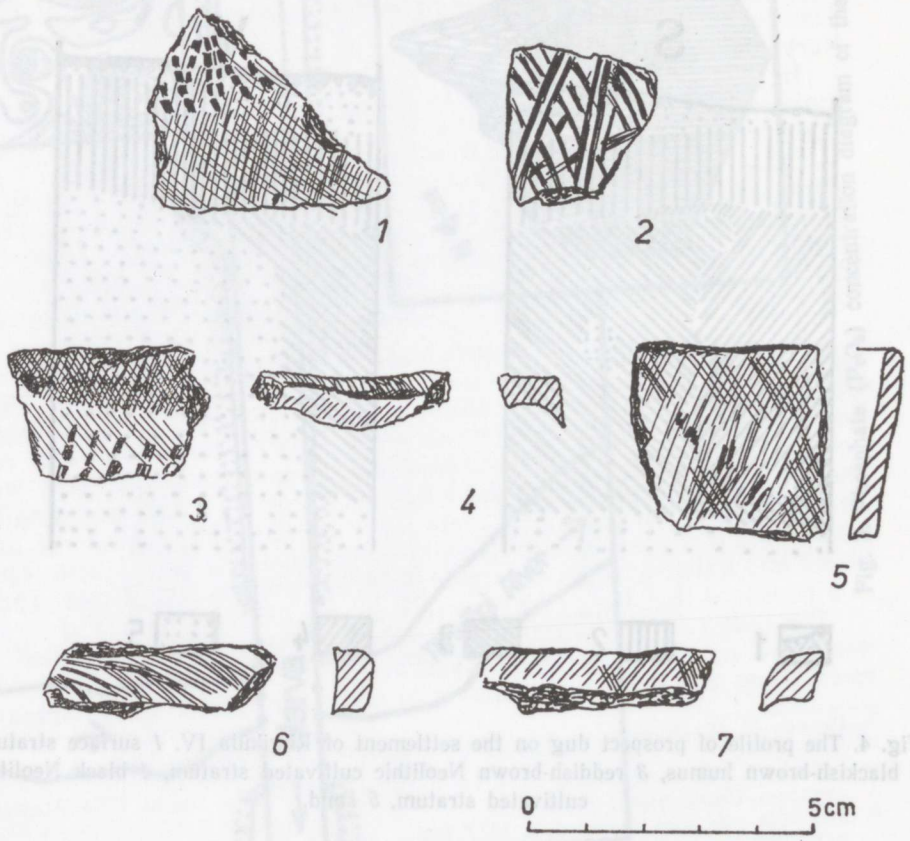


Fig. 6. Pottery from Riigiküla IV (1, 2, 5, 6) and Riigiküla VIII (3, 4, 7). (AI 6016: 3; 6016: 5.)

first Neolithic artefacts were unearthed southwest of settlement III in 1957 during the survey led by L. Jaanits. They were found in the soil removed from a gas pipeline ditch. Jaanits supposed that there might have been one or even more settlements.¹⁸ Test holes were dug in the settlement stratum and an area of 900 m² was subjected to the phosphate scouting.¹⁹ Phosphate analysis points to a more intensive colonization of an area of about 15–20 m wide near the coastal terrace (Fig. 3). The cultural layer is reddish-brown or black, its thickness is up to 1 m (Fig. 4), but the average thickness is not over 50 cm.

The cultural layer was covered with a 15–35-cm sodded humus stratum, which also comprised some Neolithic artefacts. So the top of the cultural layer has probably been mixed up in the course of cultivation. Quartz and flint bits (greyish) and three potsherds of the Pottery of Narva Type were found at the sites.²⁰

In October 1994 a new landscape survey was carried out in Riigiküla within the framework of the PACT programme.²¹ Earlier finds suggested that the most promising area for investigation would be the southeastern side of the ridge of Hoovi-Riigiküla, the coastal area of a spit that had stretched into the Litorina Sea. An about 0.5-km section of the coastal terrace from the escarpment to the Riigiküla–Sininõmme road was prospected. The test holes were made after every 5–10 m or, if necessary, even more frequently. Five new Neolithic settlement sites, located at a distance of 25–140 m, were found (Fig. 1). Sites V–VIII are relatively small, their diameters being 10–15 m. The artefacts were situated in the black 5–50-cm cultural layer that was covered with a humus stratum of some 20 cm and in some places also with a sand stratum as thick as the humus stratum. An especially intensive dark cultural layer of up to 50 cm occurred at the Riigiküla VI site. In comparison with the other sites this one yielded more artefacts. Settlement IX was quite different from the others. The find material was situated in a 60-cm-thick reddish-brown sand containing pieces of charcoal and bone fragments. The settlement area was much bigger than that of any other site. The continuous cultural layer could be followed in the east–west direction on the previous 160-m-long coast.

The test holes yielded a total of 59 potsherds (30 of these were from settlement VI) with a total weight of 195 g, a triangular flint scraper retouched on the top and one side (Fig. 5), 6 quartz bits, 4 flint bits, 4 sandstone bits and 3 stone bits.²² All pottery is of Narva Type. There has been an organic supplement in the structure of the clay, only one potsherd has some fine sand in its clay mixture. The wall thickness is 5–11 mm, with 79.6% being 6–8 mm thick. Forty-seven potsherds were broken at the coil edge. Thirty-eight coils (80.8%) have a U-type (convex–concave) edge, some of them are quite close to the H-type, i.e. they have straight edges (Fig. 6, 4, 6, 7). The N-type (acutely thinning) coils totalled nine (19.1%). In 24 cases both coil edges had preserved, making it possible to measure the coils' width. The dishes were formed of 0.6–3.0-cm-wide coils. In 15 cases (62.5%) the width of the coil was not more than 1 cm. The surface of dishes was striated (55.9%) (Fig. 6, 2, 6) or smoothed (44.1%). The former can be seen on both the inner and outer surface or only on one of them. Ornament was seen on only four potsherds (6.8%).

¹⁸ L. Jaanits' note in the Catalogue of Archaeological Collection. Institute of History, Estonian Academy of Sciences (AI 4176: 1–3).

¹⁹ Analysed by the Laboratory of Geoarchaeology and Ancient Technology, Institute of History, Estonian Academy of Sciences.

²⁰ AI 5963: 1–4, AI 5964: 2, 6.

²¹ **Kriiska, A.** Arheoloogiline inspektsioon Hoovi-Riigiküla seljakul (Vaivara khk.) 3.—8. oktoober 1994. a. Manuscript in the Institute of History, Estonian Academy of Sciences.

²² AI 6016: 1, 3–5, 8, 9.

Three potsherds have comb impressions (Fig. 6, 3), two of these have the pacing comb motif (Fig. 6, 1) and one has a small deep pit near the edge. In case of one potsherd it was possible to follow the rim profile of the dish, which was thinning towards the edge. All the pottery corresponded to that of the Narva Type found in the lower reaches of the Narva River.

It was possible to gather some charcoal from the cultural layer of the eastern part of settlement IX for radiocarbon analysis. It dated the site to 5469 ± 111 BP, that is to the middle of the 4th millennium bc (calibrated date 4000—4520 BC).²³ That date corresponds to the date of the Kõpu I (Ristipõllu) settlement.²⁴

²³ Analysed by Raivo Rajamäe, Institute of Geology, Estonian Academy of Sciences.

²⁴ Kriiska A. Archäologische Ausgrabungen auf dem Standort der ehemaligen Steinzeit-siedlung Kõpu I (Ristipõllu). — Proc. Estonian Acad. Sci. Humanities and Social Sciences, 1995, 44, 4, pp. 410—416.

UUED NEOLIITILISE ASULAKOHAD RIIGIKÜLAS

Aivar KRIISKA

Narvast 8 km põhja pool asetsev Riigiküla on üks rikkamaid kiviaja muististe piirkondi Eestis. Aastatel 1951—1952 leiti seal kolm (I—III) ja 1991 üks (IV) neoliitiline asulakoht. 1994 avastati Riigikülas veel viis (V—IX) uut kiviaja asulakohta (joon. 1). Need asetsevad üksteisest 25—140 m kaugusel Hoovi-Riigiküla seljaku kagunõlval — Litorinamerre ulatunud maasääre laguunipoolsel rannal.

Prooviaukudest leiti narva tüüpi keraamikat (joon. 4, 4—10), mis on analoogne Narva jõe alamjooksul varem leitud sama tüüpi keraamikaga. IX asulakoht dateeritakse kaliibrimata radiomeetrilise analüüsi andmetel IV aastatuhande keskele e. Kr.

НОВЫЕ НЕОЛИТИЧЕСКИЕ ПОСЕЛЕНИЯ В РИЙГИКЮЛА

Айвар КРИЙСКА

Находящийся в 8 км к северу от Нарвы поселок Рийгикюла очень богат памятниками каменного века. В 1951—1952 гг. здесь были найдены три неолитических поселения (I—III) и в 1991 г. — одно (IV) (рис. 1). Осенью 1994 г. была проведена новая инспекция этого региона, в ходе которой найдено еще пять (V—IX) поселений каменного века (рис. 1). Они расположены на юго-восточном склоне песчаной гряды Хоови-Рийгикюла в береговой зоне лагуны Литоринового моря на расстоянии 25—140 м друг от друга.

В шурфах найдена керамика нарвского типа (рис. 4, 4—10), аналогичная керамике, обнаруженной ранее в нижнем течении р. Наровы. Согласно радиоуглеродному анализу (без калибровки), поселение датируется серединой IV тыс. до н. э.