

Archaeological heritage in Tallinn: system of protection and state of research

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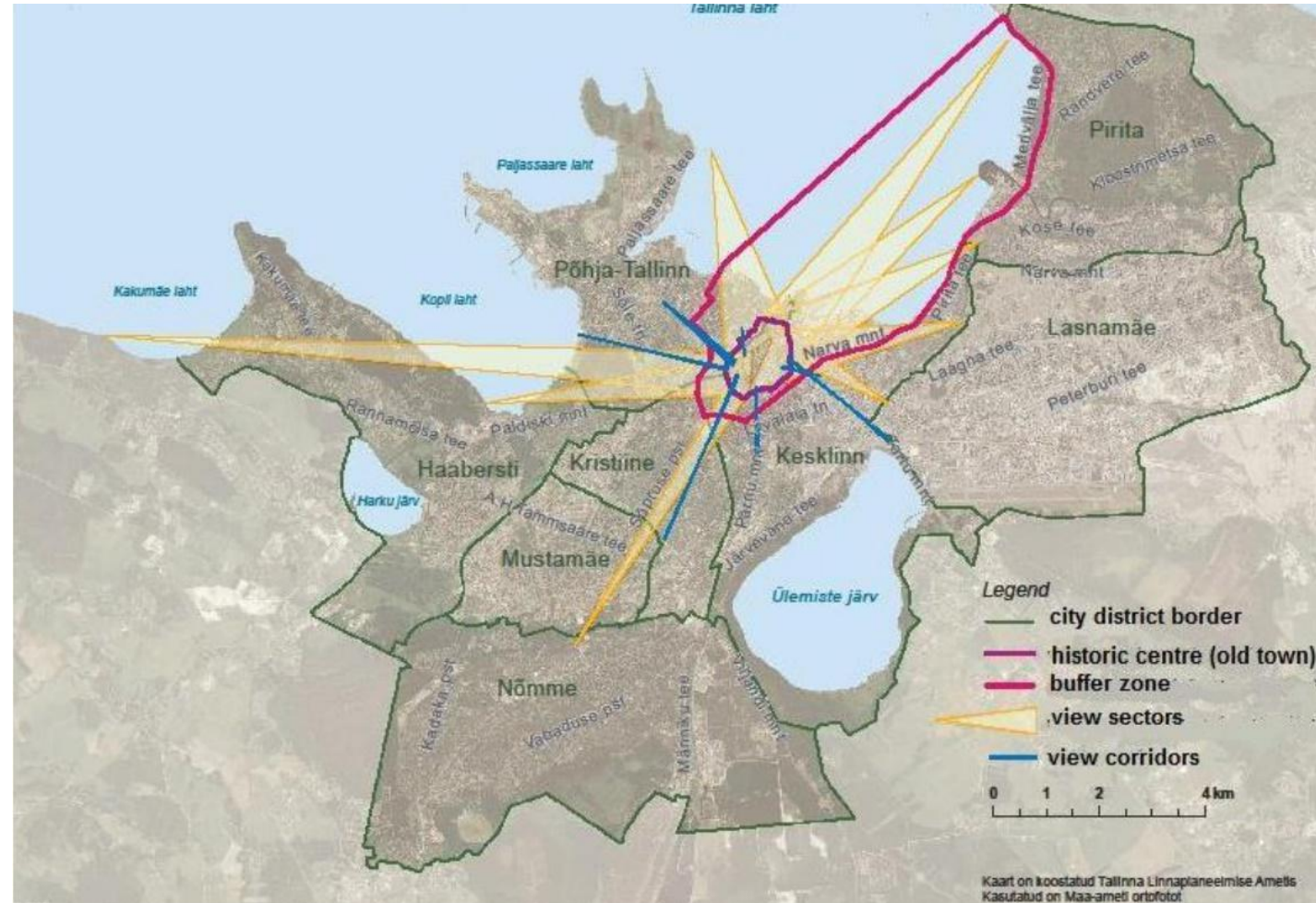


Tallinn
Urban Planning Department



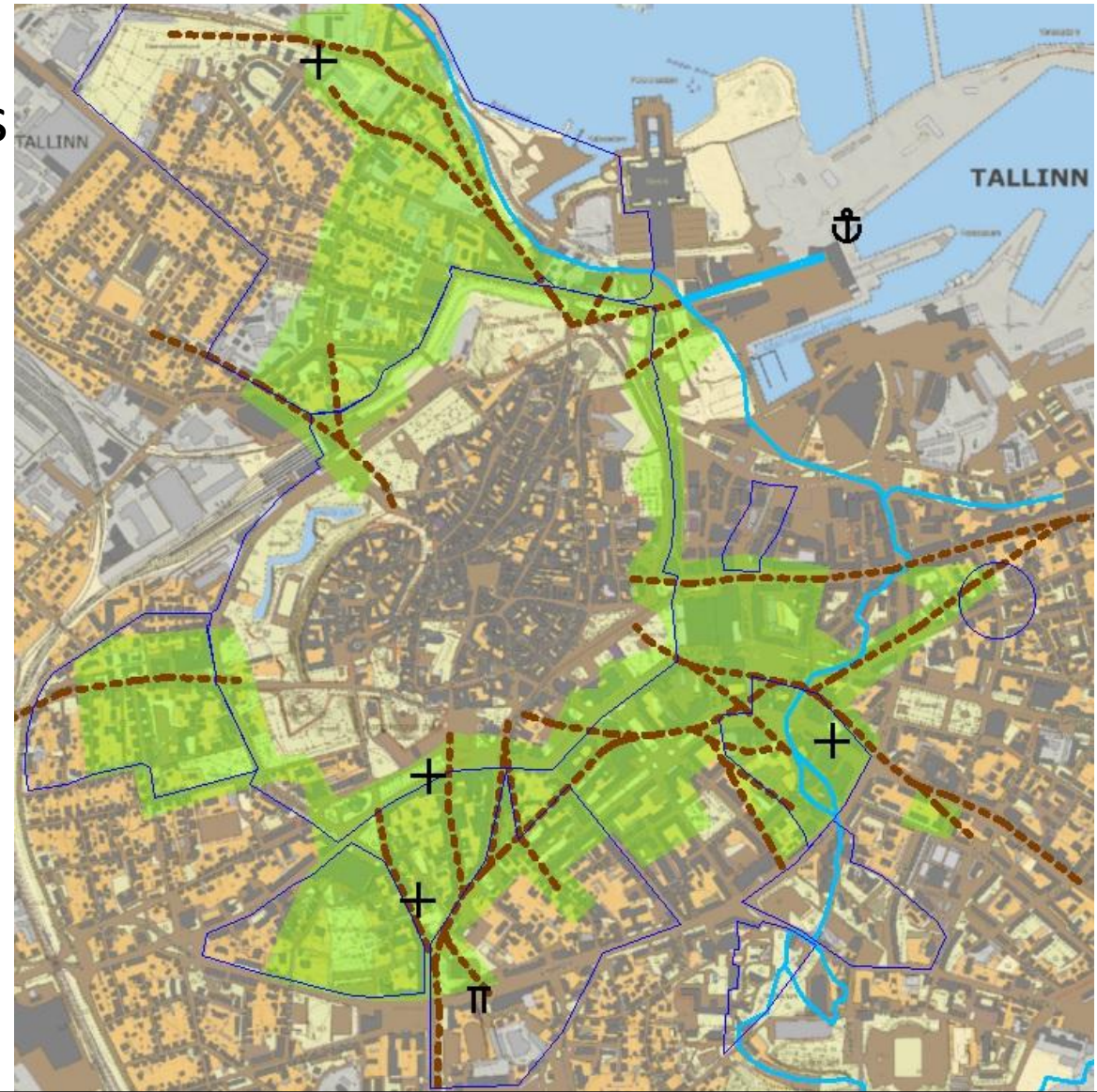
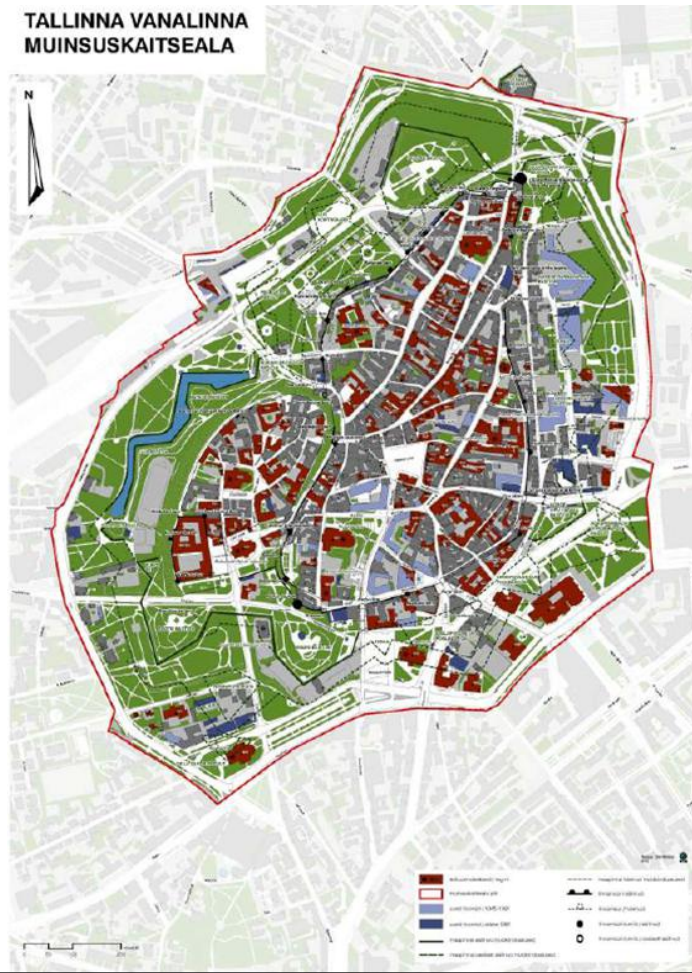
Archaeological heritage of Tallinn – an important part of UNESCO WH site

- Cultural layer:
 - In Old Town core area (i.e medieval and early-modern fortified town)
 - In the Buffer Zone around the Old Town (i.e the area of oldest suburbs, harbour etc)
- Since heritage is multi layered: this area also has prehistoric cultural layers



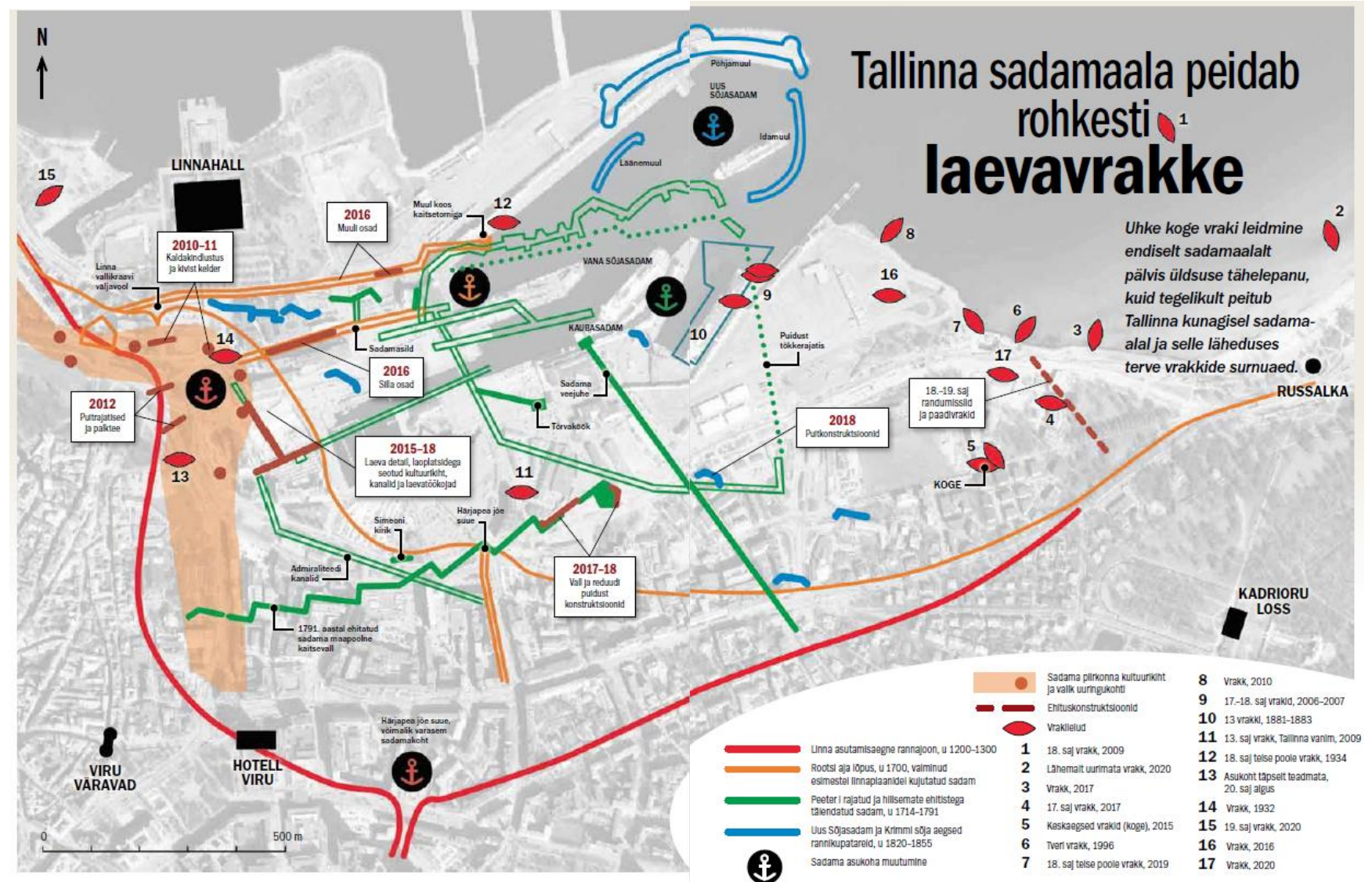
Fortified town + historic suburbs

- Both are archeological monuments



+ historic Harbour area

- Proposed archaeological monument

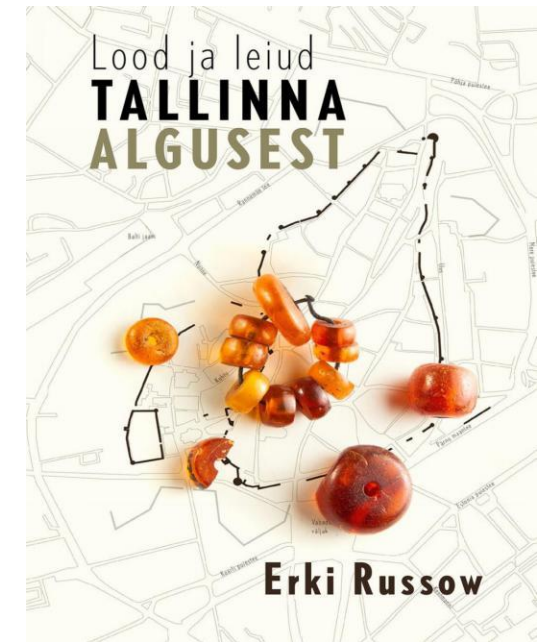


System of protection

- State Board of Antiquities
 - Holds the registry of archaeological monuments
 - Gives general licences for archaeologists to work in that field
 - Deals itself with metal detectorists, underwater archaeology and II WW graves
 - Has final word in case of different opinions
- Archaeologist of the Tallinn heritage office
 - Makes propositions for new monuments and orders expert assessments
 - Sets archaeological conditions for detail plannings and projects
 - Gives licences for archaeological investigation of particular monuments
 - Checks the quality of fieldwork and report
 - Makes archaeological risk analyses and orders preliminary investigations for the objects of the City (roads, buildings, restoration objects etc)
 - Solves problems 😊 ...stops unauthorized digging works ...deals with unexpected finds ...solves conflicts between archaeologists and developers/construction staff...
- Tallinn expert advisory board of archaeology
- Cooperation with the archaeologists of Tallinn University & Tartu University
- Cooperation with Tallinn City Museum and Estonian Maritime Museum

Tallinn 800:

Book about the 13th c Tallinn and exhibition in City Museum



Research: Rescue excavations in Tallinn

- Every year ca 50-60 investigations
- Ca 5-10 of them major excavations
- Rest preliminary investigations (test pits) and supervision of pipe trenches etc

General principle: who wish to build something on archaeological monument has to pay for research (only very symbolic support from state)

Private companies: ca 4-5 companies with their ca 10 archaeologists yearly working in Tallinn

Finds go to Tallinn University



First and only purely scientific excavations:
Town Hall Square 1953

Research areas

- Bigger objects in Old Town are rare
- Only few WW2 “gaps” remained
- Mostly renovation of streets and digging in cellars

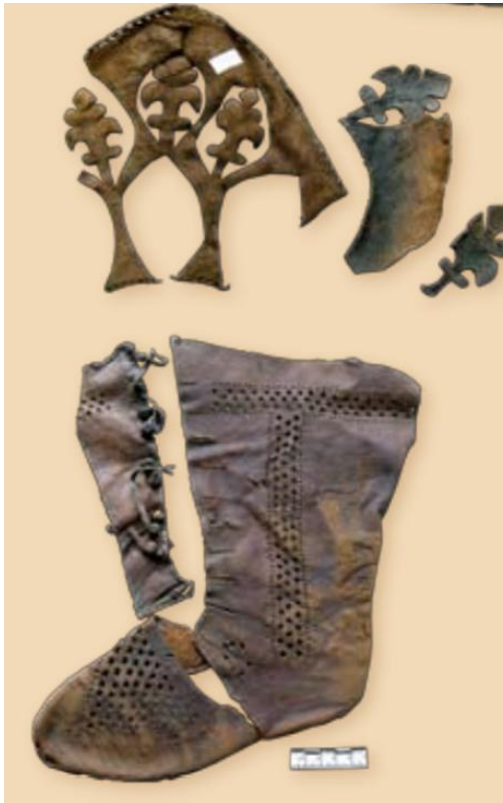
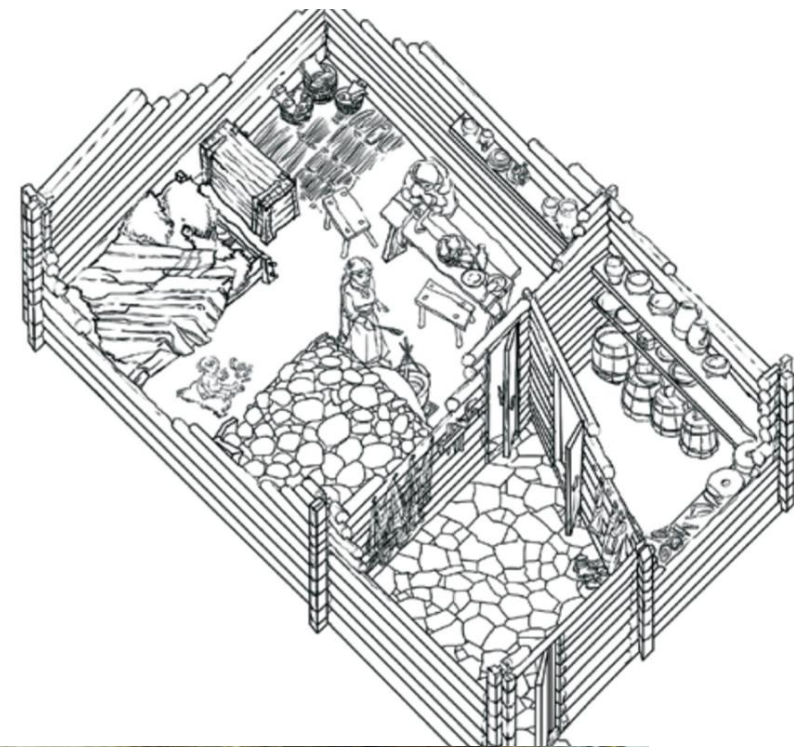
- Churches, town hall and other public buildings relatively well investigated already in Soviet period

Harju St cellar walls in 1990s,
now covered again



Early town period

- 13th c wooden houses of Sauna St excavations in 1990s



Very many leather items



Apteegi St

WW2 “gap”

- plan for a hotel enlargement



3D scanning and modelling

Old Town: digging inside medieval houses

- Water systems, wells
- Heating systems: medieval hypocausts
- Floor levels



Street renovation: Harju St example



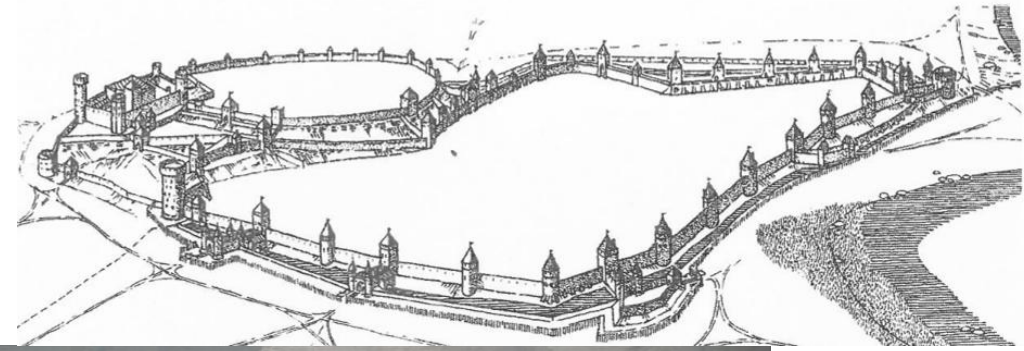
medieval wooden pavement
and water systems

Walls of 2WW destroyed houses



Medieval city gates

- Town wall and many towers well preserved, but gates generally not
- Harju Gate exposition



Earthen fortifications 16th-19th cc

mostly had stone scarp and
counterscarp walls



Freedom Square

- Underground parking house, 2008-2009



18th century (Catherine II period)
fortifications

The museum of bastion passages

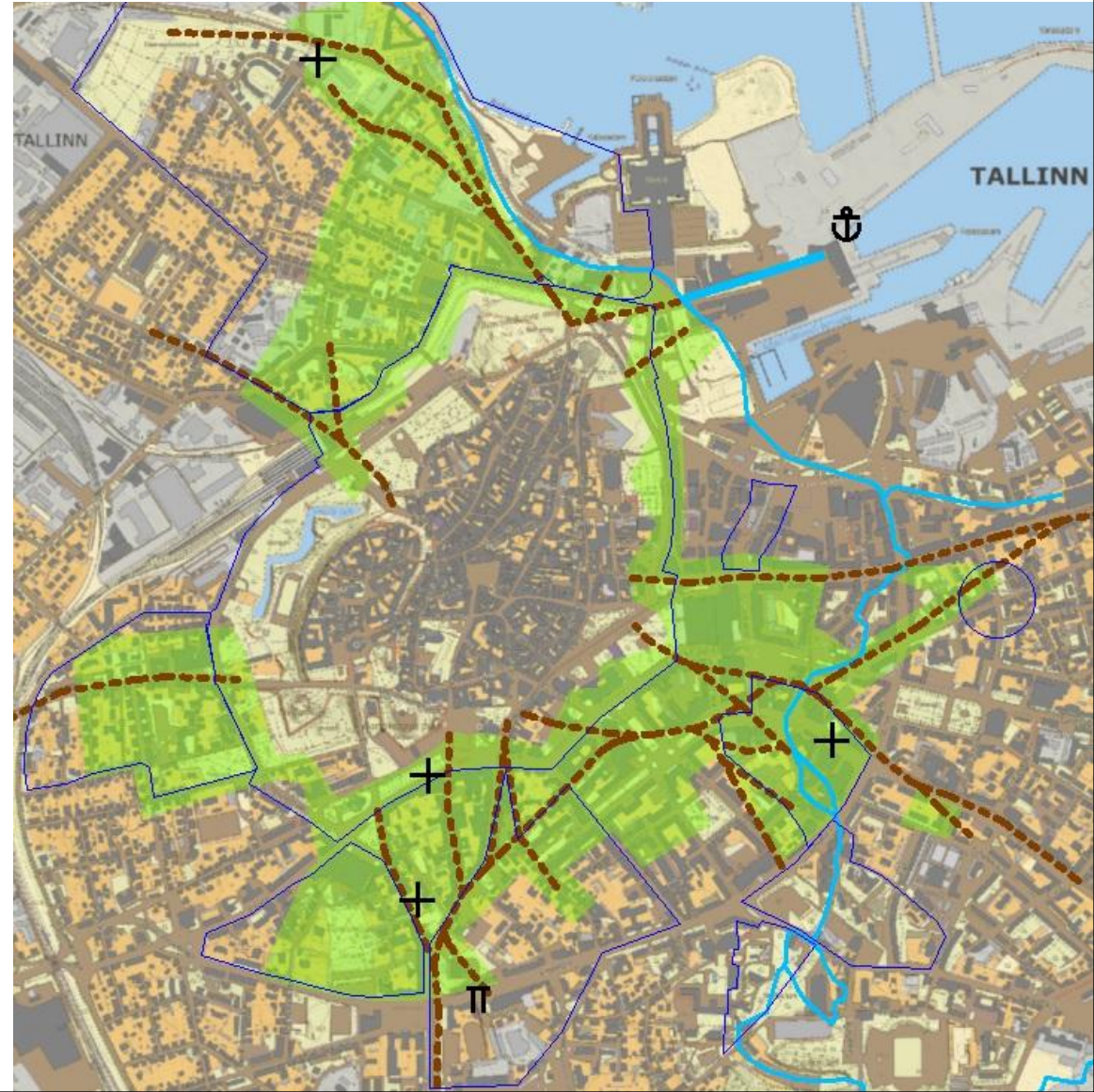
- inside the 17th c Swedish bastions
- renovation program started in early 2000s with archaeological investigation



The exposition of carved stones

The cultural layer of historic suburbs

- before 1990s almost no attention
- most of archaeological research nowadays in suburbs - main development area together with harbour area
- Various objects:
 - cultural layer of plots and streets
 - cemeteries, chapels, hospitals, gallows
 - watermills: early manufactures
 - water aqueduct
 - trash from Old Town reached there!



St Barbara cemetery & Roosikrantsi St

- 1990s bank building etc
- Single graves in up to 9 levels + and mass graves

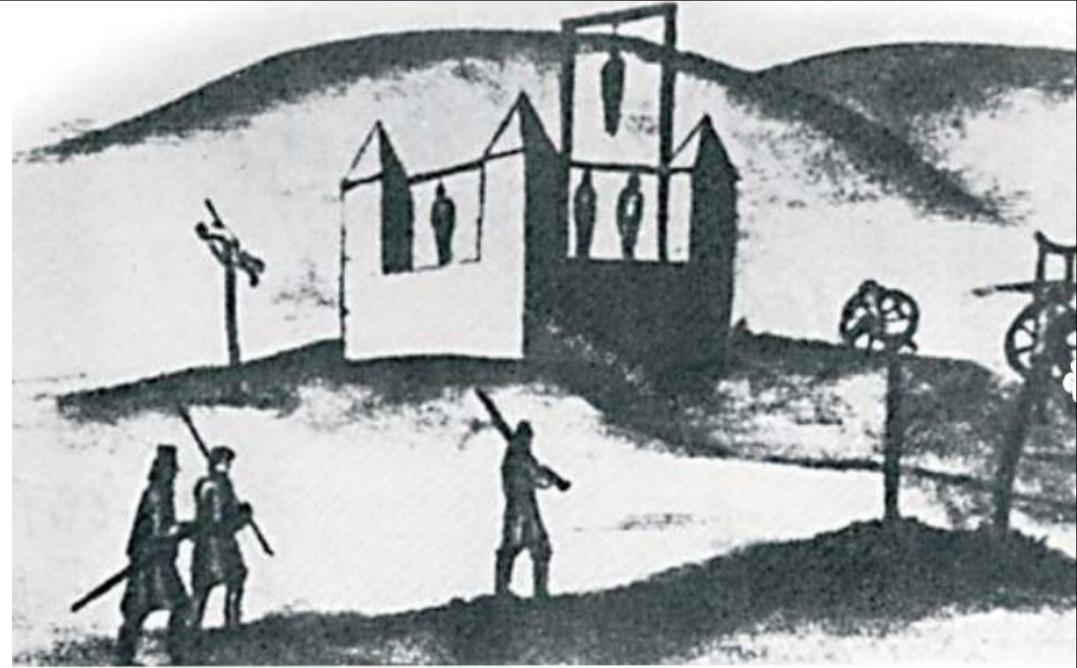


Gallows' hill

- 1990s new bank building



Human bones inside the stone structure



St John's hospital & cemetery

- Excavations of early 2000s: road building



Freedom Square excavations: suburb in front of Harju gate

- Stone Age + medieval site



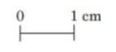
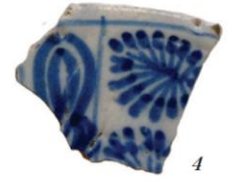
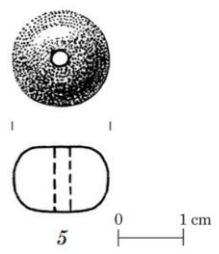
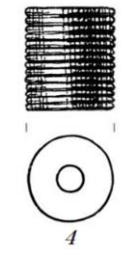
Stone cellars



Medieval road pavement



Academy of Art excavations: presumable medieval tavern



Late Medieval trash pit in Kalamaja

- Late 15th c



Also a media event



A lot of religious items

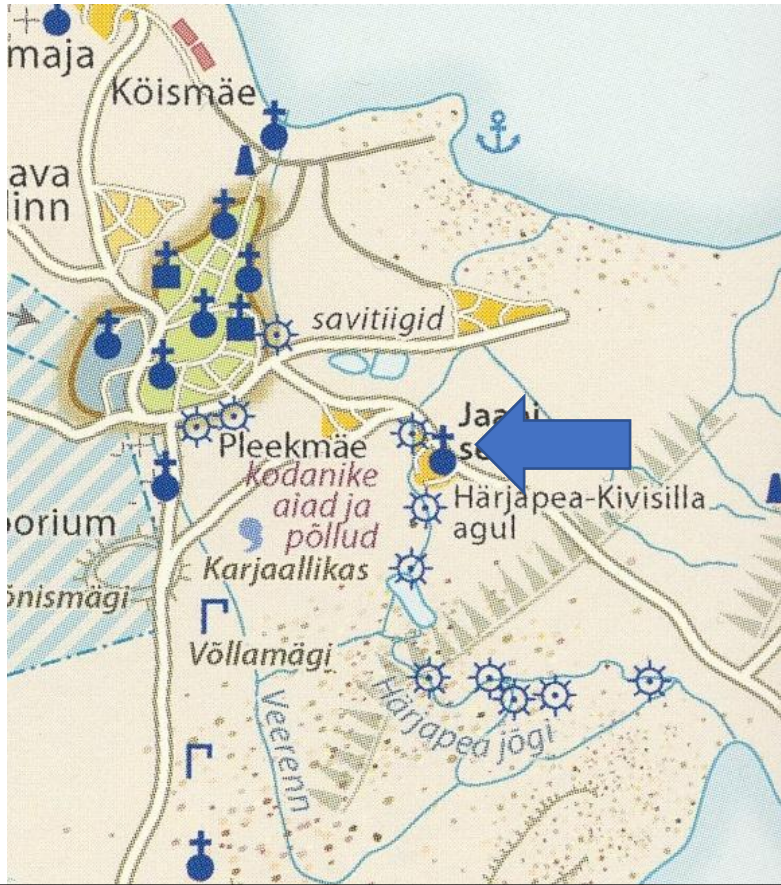


Re-placed 16th c well in Kalamaja suburb



Watermills of Härjapea River

1990s Mill of Stockmann
Shopping centre construction
site



The town's water conduit (14th-19th cc)

4km long aqueduct from Lake Ülemiste

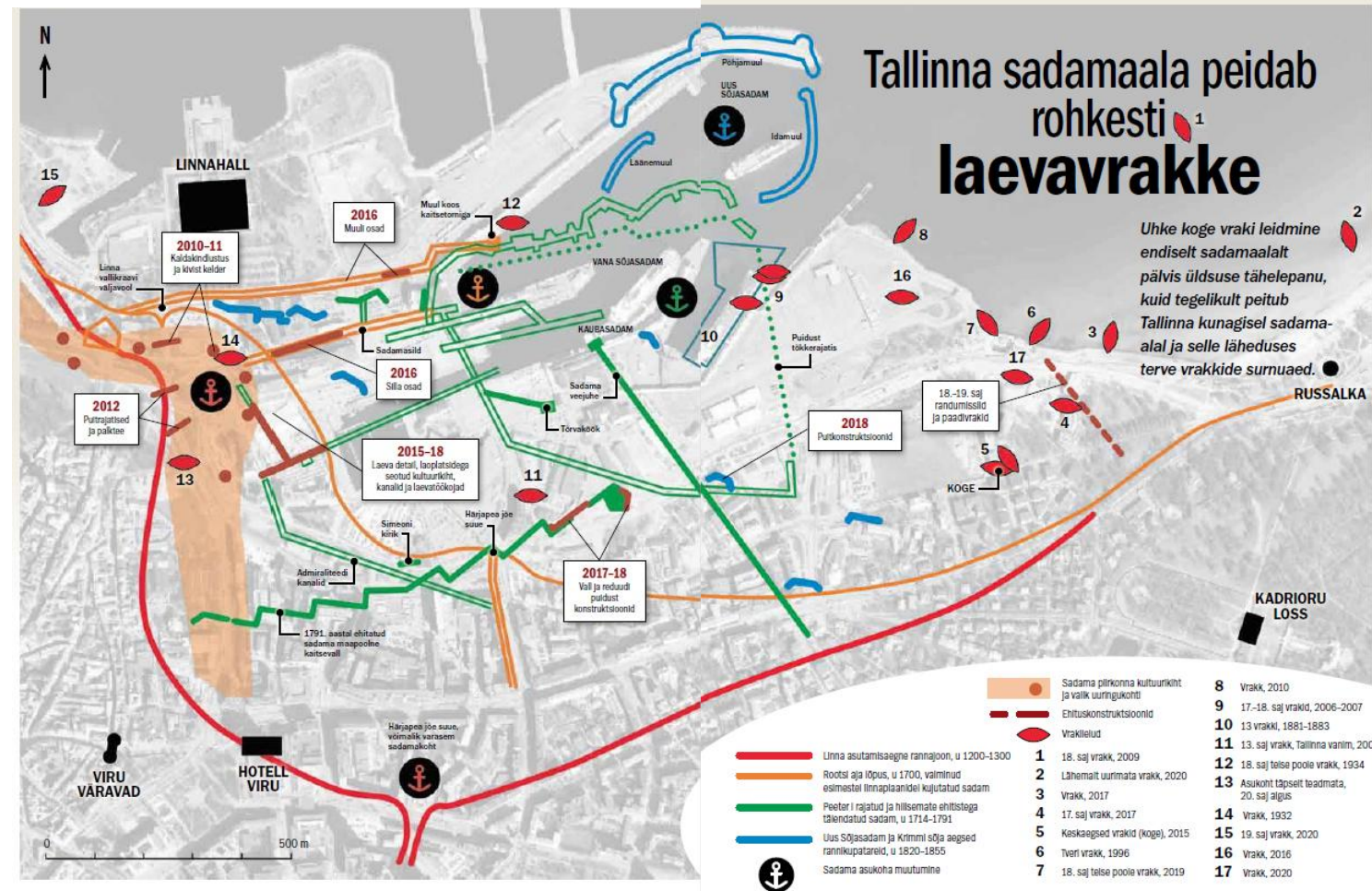


Historic harbour area: Old Port today

- Post Ice-Age land uplift + Historic Age landfill
- From 13th average 1 km move of the coastline



Wreck found in mid-1930s



Medieval harbour/landfill constructions



Tool for breaking the ice

Harbour constructions

- More than 100m 17th c harbour bridge



Harbour/landfill constructions

- 17th c dam made of Old Town trash

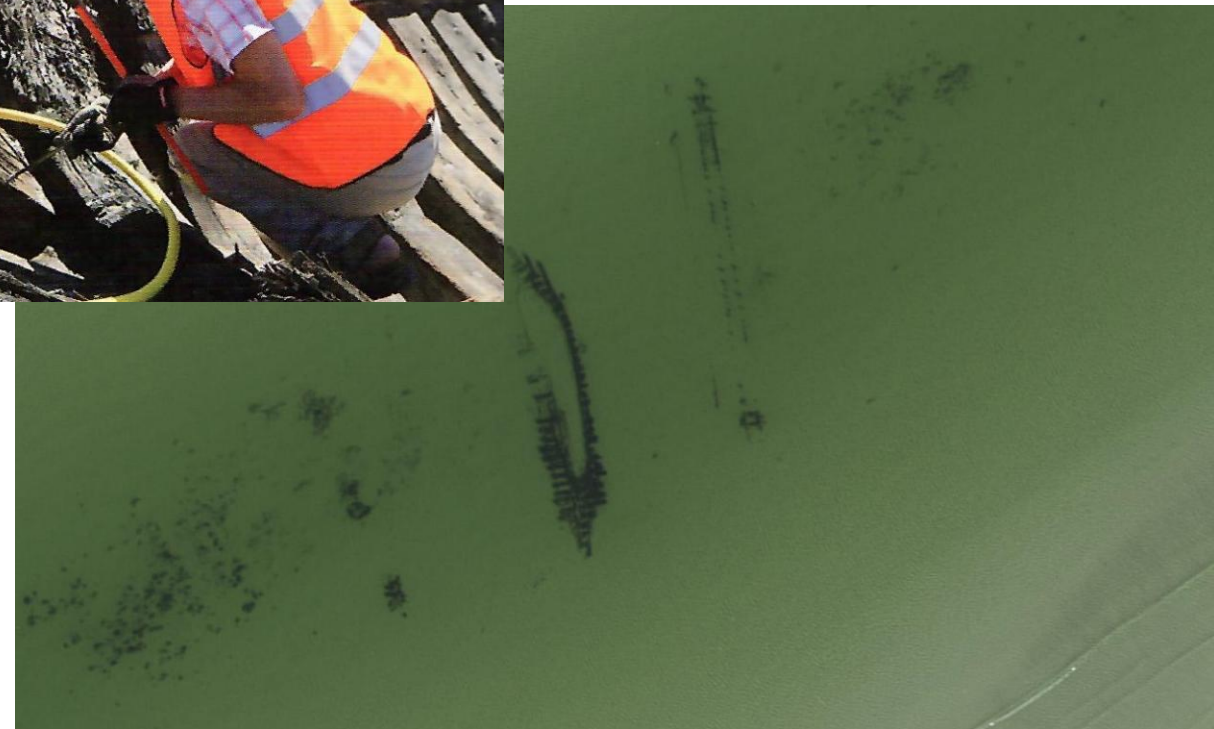
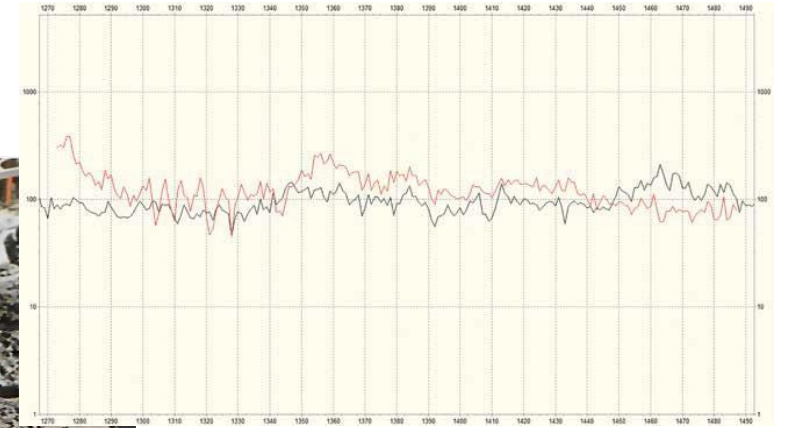


Shipwrecks 13th-20th cc

- In the Sea
- Inside the landfill

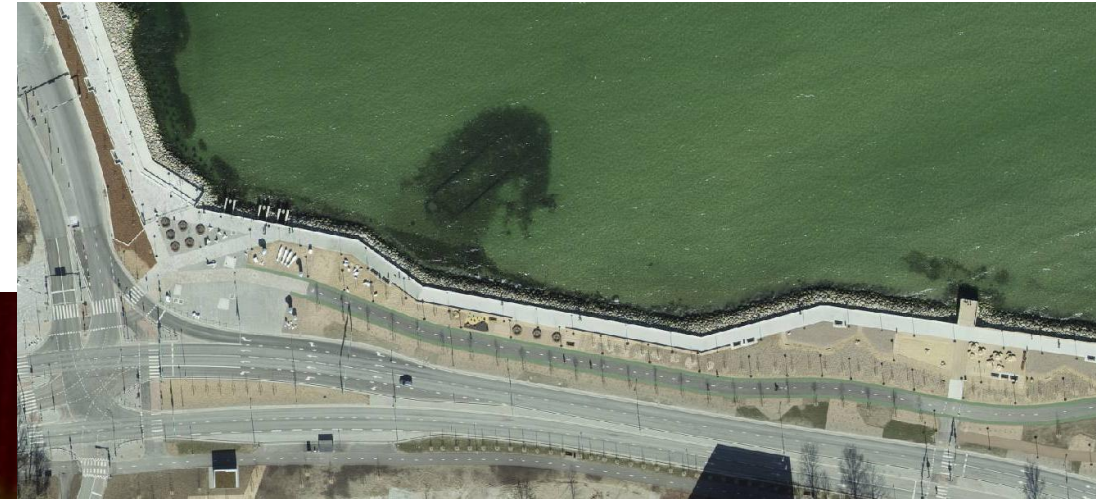
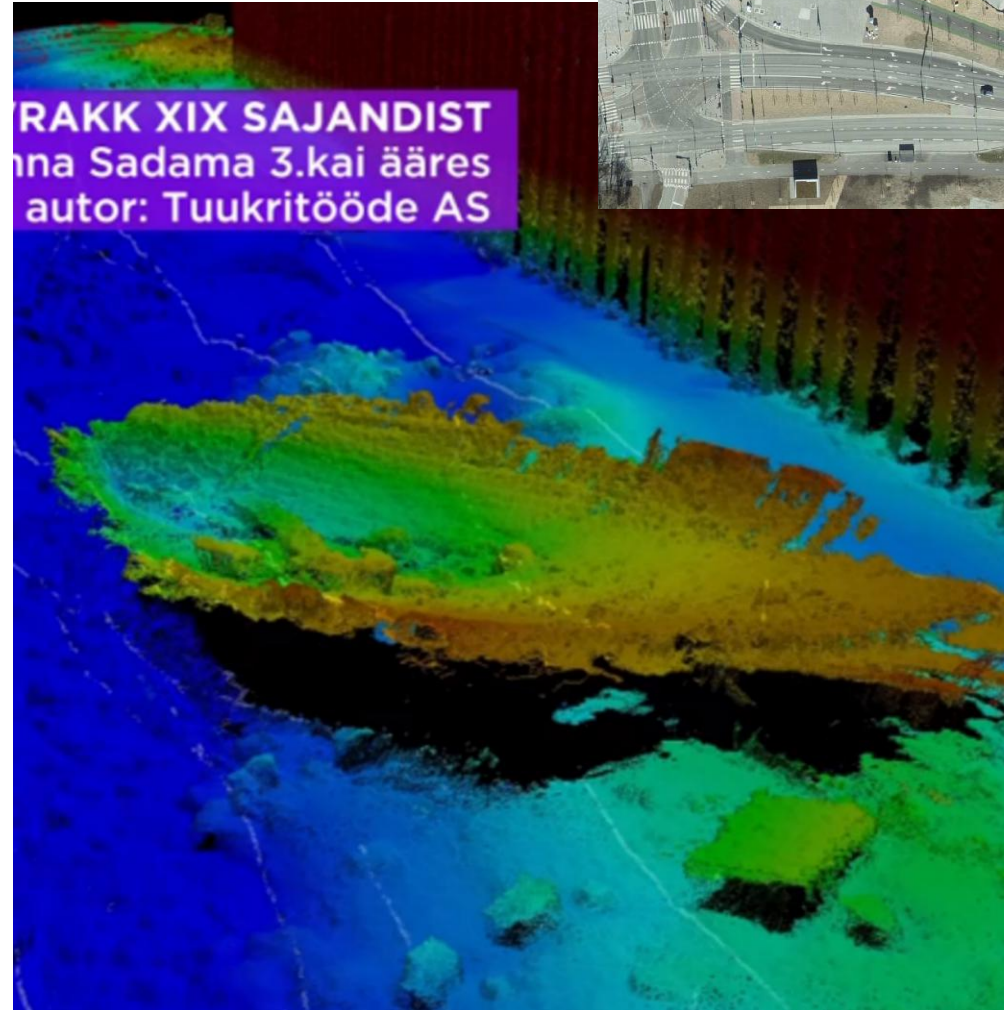


Dendrochronological analysis



The fate of shipwrecks

- Preferred: *in situ*
- Preservation area in the Bay of Tallinn



Shipwreck next to the quay of Tallinn Old Harbour - had to be removed to the better place

Medieval Cargo Ship: the cog

- Found in 2015, now in the Great Coastal Gate of the Estonian Maritime Museum

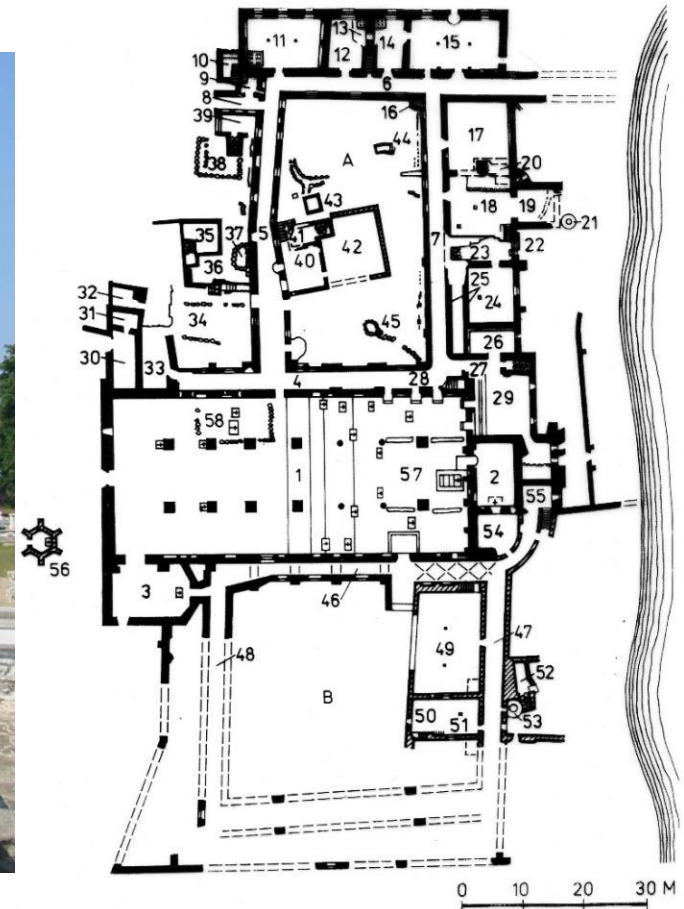


The ruins of St Bridget's Monastery

- Major excavations in 1930s and 1970s-1980s
- The park of ruins and concert venue



Gold ring of a nun



Future plan for exhibition: Chapel of the former catholic cemetery

Chapel of the Bahrynowsky family from 1850s



THANK YOU!

