

THE XVI FINNISH-RUSSIAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SYMPOSIUM

*Materiality and Objects: Multi-disciplinary Approaches to
Archaeological Material and Contexts*

XVI SUOMALAIS-VENÄLÄINEN ARKEOLOGISYMPIOSIUMI



HÄME CASTLE / HÄMEEN LINNA

Hämeenlinna, Finland / Suomi

Thursday 10th to Saturday 12th October 2019

10-12.10.2019

ORGANIZERS & PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME

The Finnish Heritage Agency
Museovirasto

The Antiquarian Society of Finland
Suomen Muinaismuistoyhdistys ry

Hämeenlinnan kaupunki
City of Hämeenlinna

Suomalais-venäläinen arkeologian alan yhteistyöryhmä
Финляндско-российская рабочая группа по сотрудничеству в области археологии

Thursday, 10th October / Torstai 10.10.

9.00 Info desk open
Book sale

9.30 Opening of the Symposium

Juhani Kostet, General Director, The Finnish Heritage Agency, Helsinki
V. A. Lapshin, Director, Institute for the History of Material Culture of the Russian Academy of Sciences (IHMC RAN), St. Petersburg

10.15 SESSION I

Kerkko Nordqvist, *University of Helsinki*
Artefacts on the Move. Movement, Mobility and Stone Age Archaeology of North-East Europe

Evgeniia Tkach, *IHMC RAN*
Stone Age Settlements in the Pskov Region: A Review of Old Materials and New Field-work

Kristiina Mannermaa, *University of Helsinki*
Riitta Rainio, *University of Helsinki*
A Needle Case, a Sound Instrument or Something Else? A Worked and Ornamented Swan (*Cygnus sp.*) Ulna from a Late Mesolithic Male Burial (Yuzhniy Oleniy Ostrov, North-West Russia)

12.00 Lunch in the Castle

13.00 SESSION II

Teemu Mökkönen, Finnish Heritage Agency

Kerkko Nordqvist, University of Helsinki

The Use of Mineral Raw Materials in Neolithic Northern Ostrobothnia, Finland

Andrey Gorodilov, IHMC RAN

Excavations of Burial Cairns near the Village of Bolshoy Bor on the Northern Coast of the Gulf of Finland

Elisabeth Holmqvist-Sipilä, University of Helsinki

Anna Wessman, University of Helsinki

Lead-Isotope and Geochemical Analyses of Copper-Based Metal Artefacts from the Iron Age Water Burial in Levänluhta, Western Finland

14.45 Coffee break

15.15 SESSION III

Vladimir Lapshin, IIMH RAN

Old Ladoga: New Finds and Publications

Natalia Grigorieva, IIMH RAN

Some Results of a Multi-Disciplinary Approach to the Study of the Staraya Ladoga Archaeological Sites

Hanna-Leena Puolakka, University of Oulu

Coins, Knives and Other Finds – Grave Goods in the Transition Period between the Late Iron Age and the Early Medieval Period in Northern Fennoscandia

Olli Eranti

TBA

17.30 End of the first working day

18.30 Reception by the City of Hämeenlinna

Venue: Raatihuone (Address: Raatihuonekatu 15)

Friday, 11th October / Perjantai 11.10.

10.00 SESSION IV

Volker Heyd, University of Helsinki

Migrants, terrestrial diet and intensive networking: A different look at the Corded Ware in Finland, the Baltic Countries, and beyond

Alexander Vybornov & Marianna Kulkova, IHMC RAN

A Chronological Framework for the Development of Finno-Ugric Cultures of the Neolithic and Eneolithic of the Northern Kama Region

Eugen Kolpakov, Anton Murashkin, Alefina Kiseleva & Vladimir Shumkin, IHMC RAN

The Oldest Gressbakken-House Site on the Kola Peninsula

12.00 Lunch in the Castle

13.00 SESSION V

Anton Murashkin & Anna Malutina, IHMC RAN

Evidence of Metal Use from Bronze Age sites on the Kola Peninsula

Eugen Kolpakov, Anton Murashkin & Vladimir Shumkin, IHMC RAN

Archaeological Research in the South-Western Part of the Kola Peninsula in 2017–2019: Initial Results

Mika Lavento, University of Helsinki

The Long-Period Dwelling Site of Multavieru at Lake Höytiäinen in Northern Karelia

14.45 Coffee break

15.15 SESSION VI

Maria Razzak, IHMC RAN

Archaeological Survey of Islands in the Gulf of Finland in 2019

Alexander Saksa, IHMC RAN (Presentation in Finnish and Russian)
Kuinka löysimme keskiajan viipurilaiset: arkeologiset kaivaukset 1998–2012 (Развитие Выборга в XV–XVII вв. по материалам археологических раскопок 1998–2012 гг.)

Oula Seitsonen,

Geoarchaeological Approaches to the Taskscapes of Early Reindeer Herders in Northern Sápmi

Petro Pesonen, University of Turku

Ulla Moilanen, University of Turku

Jarkko Saipio, University of Helsinki

From Primitive Axe to Petersen X – A Typological Artefact Database from Finland

17.30 End of the second working day

18.30 Banquette / Evening with Friends

Venue: Hämeenlinnan VPK-talo (Address: Palokunnankatu 18)

Saturday, 12th October / Lauantai 12.10.

BUS EXCURSION

8.00 Meeting place: Sokos Hotel Hämeenlinna

Guided visit to archaeological sites in the Kanta-Häme region

16.00 Arrival at Helsinki (Central Railway Station)

POSTERS / POSTERIT

Tytti Juhola, University of Helsinki

Amanda G. Henry, Leiden University

Tuija Kirkinen, University of Helsinki

Juha Laakkonen, University of Helsinki

Minna Väiliranta, University of Helsinki

Microremain Analysis of Dental Calculus and Soil from the Iron Age Cemetery of Luistari, Finland

Ville Rohiola Archaeological Collections, Finnish Heritage Agency

Suzie Thomas Department of Cultures, University of Helsinki

Anna Wessman Department of Cultures, University of Helsinki

Jutta Kuitunen Library, Archives and Archaeological Collections, Finnish Heritage Agency

FindSampo – Developing a Digital Platform for Studying Archaeological Finds Made by the Public

ABSTRACTS / ABSTRAKTIT

*Natalia Grigorieva, IHMC RAS**)

Some Results of a Multi-Disciplinary Approach to the Study of the Staraya Ladoga Archaeological Sites

In the investigation of the archaeological sites of Staraya Ladoga, special attention was focused on a multi-disciplinary approach to the materials. Work was conducted over the course of several years in close collaboration with palaeobotanists, archaeozoologists, anthropologists, geologists, and other experts in bioarchaeology. The report presents a summary of these investigations.

Andrey Gorodilov, IHMC RAS

Excavations of Burial Cairns near the Village of Bolshoy Bor on the Northern Coast of the Gulf of Finland

A group of stone mounds near the village of Bolshoy Bor was researched in an excavation project of the Institute for the History of Material Culture in 2017. The group included four cairns situated on an outcrop of granite, the former coast of the ancient sea. Three of these mounds have been excavated as well as stone structures around the mounds.

It has been assumed in the course of the research that the cairns probably date back to the Bronze Age. The remains of fireplaces, a varied collection of burnt bones, and burial item (a bronze knife) have been revealed inside the cairns. The elements of the architectural structures of stone were discovered, e.g. circular walls and paving. The finds bear witness to the ritual and burial functions of the site.

Volker Heyd, University of Helsinki

Migrants, Terrestrial Diet and Intensive Networking: A Different Look at Corded Ware in Finland, the Baltic Countries and Beyond

In recent years, fundamentally new insights were made of the Corded Ware in Finland and neighboring countries in the eastern Baltic region. Mostly due to the application of modern natural scientific methods, we now have a first understanding of their vessel contents and consumption; the use of previous broken vessels as temper and consequently their networking across the eastern Baltic; their stock animals (goat and cattle now for sure); their ancient DNA in Estonia and the other Baltic countries; their pattern of admixture with local hunter-gatherers; their diseases; and their interaction with local and regional natural environments.

Several other investigations are just brought on its way, such as Finnish Corded Ware burial customs; absolute datings; and its end in the later third millennium BC. Concurrently on their

**) IHMC RAS = Institute for the History of Material Culture of the Russian Academy of Sciences, St. Petersburg*

single find stone battle axes, numbering more than one thousand specimen in Finland alone, on their typology, stone sources, exchanges and rituals is being considered as well as are discussed further pottery studies under the header of “The Foreigner and the Local” and deeper insights into environment and subsistence by using the ecology of dendrodates.

The paper will thus highlight latest prehistoric research into the Corded Ware of the eastern Baltic region and adjacent northwestern Russia, will put the region into contexts of the wider Yamnaya and Corded Ware phenomena, and will focus on the potential directions of next decade’s research.

Elisabeth Holmqvist-Sipilä, Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies, University of Helsinki
Anna Wessman, Department of Cultures, University of Helsinki

Lead-Isotope and Geochemical Analyses of Copper-Based Metal Artefacts from the Iron Age Water Burial in Levänluhta, Western Finland

This talk presents the results of the first-ever lead-isotope (LI) analysis of copper-based archaeological artefacts found in Finland. Eight metal objects recovered from the Iron Age water burial site of Levänluhta in Western Finland were analysed with multi-collector inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry (MC-ICP-MS) and portable X-ray fluorescence spectrometry (pXRF) in order to obtain geochemical and LI data.

The majority of the objects are Merovingian Period (ca. 550–800 CE) jewellery, displaying domestic Iron Age artefact styles and probably cast by local workshops in Finland. Until recently, the copper used in Bronze and Iron Age metallurgy in the region of Finland had been linked to Scandinavian ores. This provenance scenario, however, seems implausible in the light of recent LI studies demonstrating that Scandinavian Bronze Age artisans, in fact, relied on long-distance metal transport.

Comparisons between the LI data of the analysed objects and published ore databases exclude the possibility of a domestic or Scandinavian copper source for the metals. Instead, it appears likely that the copper originated from Southern European ores. The low arsenic and antimony levels in the copper alloys provide an indication of the long recycling patterns of the metals used in Iron Age workshops in Finland. It is possible that the Iron Age artefacts contain recycled copper alloys already acquired in the Bronze Age. The metals were transported over long distances, and it appears that the pan-European metal circulation network also crossed the Baltic Sea to reach coastal Finland.

Olli Eranti
TBA

Eugen Kolpakov, IHMC RAS

Anton Murashkin, IHMC RAS

Aleftina Kiseleva, IHMC RAS

Vladimir Shumkin, IHMC RAS

The Oldest Gressbakken-House Site on the Kola Peninsula

Approximately 800 house remains from the Stone Age to post-medieval times have been registered on the coast of the Kola Peninsula over the past 30 years. The most impressive ones are houses of the so-called Gressbakken type distinguished by their large size and depth and similarity with houses known from Northern Norway. Some of the houses at the sites of Ust-Drozdovka 3, Dvorovaya, Zavalishina 5, Kharlovka 1–6 have been excavated.

The assemblage from Kharlovka 1-6 consists of numerous artefacts of stone, ceramic, bone, antler, faunal remains. The oldest known metal item from the Kola Peninsula – a spacer-bead made of pure copper – was found here. The site has been dated to 2500 – 2300 calBC with the C14 method and it likely includes the oldest remains of a Gressbakken- type house in Northern Fennoscandia.’

Eugen Kolpakov, IHMC RAS

Anton Murashkin, IHMC RAS

Vladimir Shumkin, IHMC RAS

Archaeological Research in the South-Western Part of the Kola Peninsula in 2017–2019: Initial Results

Since 2017 KOLAIE IHMC has conducted fieldwork in the south-western part of the Murmansk region (*oblast* (Kovdorsky district). Until then, this territory had been a blank area on the archaeological map of Northern Fennoscandia. The closest sites were registered at distances of 75 to 125 km.

The medieval hearth-row site Liva 1 has been excavated on Lake Verkhnee Chalmozero and about 20 archaeological sites from the Stone Age to 19th and 20th centuries have been registered. It is important to note that research was supported by local administration and volunteers, interested in protecting and exploring Sámi cultural monuments.

Mika Lavento, University of Helsinki

The Long-Period Dwelling Site of Multavieru at Lake Höytiäinen in Northern Karelia

The dwelling site of Multavieru is located on the River Kiskonjoki, on the NW side of Lake Höytiäinen (87.3 m ASL) in Finnish Karelia. The remains of a dwelling site area were found in zone approximately 350 m long and no more than 80 m wide adjacent to the river.

The site was discovered in 1969 and it has been inspected several times. It has also been excavated on two occasions by the Department of Archaeology of the University of Helsinki. Human occupation at Multavieru extended throughout the whole Neolithic and the Early Metal Period. There are medieval remains in the area and iron smelting was carried out at the location in the 17th and 18th centuries AD.

The first aim of the presentation is to illuminate prehistory and the changes in habitation at Lake Höytiäinen from the Late Mesolithic to the 20th century AD. The second question is to include in the inspection the sites close to Multaviera together with their finds as they outline habitation and its changes in the area over a long period. Finally, the history of Lake Höytiäinen is discussed because the locations of dwelling sites along its shores have changed considerably.

Vladimir Lapshin, IHMC RAS

Old Ladoga: New Finds and Publications

This report presents an overview of new research and publications of archaeologists of the Institute for the History of Material Culture concerning Old (Staraya) Ladoga.

Kristiina Mannermaa, University of Helsinki

Riitta Rainio, University of Helsinki

A Needle Case, a Sound Instrument or Something Else? A Worked and Ornamented Swan (Cygnus sp.) Ulna from a Late Mesolithic Male Burial (Yuzhniy Oleniy Ostrov, North-West Russia)

The topic of this paper is an analysis of a tubular bone item made by cutting off the epiphyses of large bird ulnae, such as those found in burials 67 and 69 at the Late Mesolithic site of Yuzhniy Oleniy Ostrov on Lake Onega in North-West Russia. The bone tube was studied systematically and tested to determine whether it could have been used as a sound instrument. In order to do so, we made a replica of the object from grave 69 and tested its functions as a flute and a reed pipe. More generally, we propose alternatives to conventional and somewhat unimaginative interpretations of tubular bone artefacts to raise awareness of their possible acoustic dimension and to discuss the appearance, structure, function and uses of simple bone flutes, whistles and reed pipes, highlighting their most common role as decoy whistles or animal calls. Blown instruments should be kept in mind when looking for explanations of tubular bone artefacts. Sound tools, and especially decoy whistles or animal calls, were common and necessary implements used everywhere and throughout all time periods, especially among hunters and fowlers, and should thus be considered a basic part of the bone tool assemblage.

Teemu Mökkönen, Finnish Heritage Agency

Kerkko Nordqvist, University of Helsinki

The Use of Mineral Raw Materials in Neolithic Northern Ostrobothnia, Finland

This presentation examines the popularity of different mineral raw materials throughout the Neolithic period (c. 5200–1800 calBC) in Northern Ostrobothnia, Finland. Trends in the use of certain materials make it possible to propose continuities and breaks in knapping traditions, which – in association with other material culture – can also contribute to the debate on population history.

Anton Murashkin, IHMC RAS

Anna Malutina, IHMC RAS

Evidence of Metal Use from Bronze Age sites on the Kola Peninsula

Three metal objects, two moulds made of steatite and four crucibles of clay and steatite have been found recently at Late Neolithic and Early Metal Period sites on the Kola Peninsula. The finds were dated to 2500–2300 calBC and to 1500–1100 calBC. The oldest metal items were made of pure copper, while the others were of copper-tin alloys. The regular use of metal tools in various technological operations was established through the techno-functional analysis of the bone and antler inventory from the cemetery of Kola Oleneostrovsky, and the Mayak 2 and Kharlovka 1-6 sites.

Kerkko Nordqvist, University of Helsinki

Artefacts on the Move. Movement, Mobility and Stone Age Archaeology of North-East Europe

The Stone Age inhabitants of North-East Europe are commonly described as hunter-gatherers leading a mobile way of life. Nevertheless, movement and mobility remain poorly studied topics. Discussion is often restricted to general remarks on logistical- or kin-based mobility, degree of settlement sedentariness, or trade of particular artefacts. Artefacts and innovations have tended to move without much human agency – pots move, not people.

This paper studies how movement and mobility have been accommodated into the narratives of the North-East European Stone Age. The views are mirrored against the paradigmatic backgrounds, as well as the socio-political contexts of 20th-century archaeology. The current intellectual climate, fuelled by novel natural-scientific analytical methods, is increasingly (re-)introducing movement and mobility as central and permanent drivers in human history. The potential implications of the new approaches are briefly canvassed in the context of North-East Europe and its Stone Age research.

Petro Pesonen, Department of Biology, University of Turku

Ulla Moilanen, University of Turku

Jarkko Saipio, Department of Cultures, University of Helsinki

From Primitive Axe to Petersen X – A Typological Artefact Database from Finland

”Kipot ja kielet” (Pots and languages) is a multidisciplinary project funded by the University of Turku. The project employs both linguists and archaeologists, engaged in collecting typological datasets of Uralic languages and a typological database of archaeological artefacts found in Finland. The archaeological database consists of archaeological collections at the National Museum of Finland and regional museums and universities, and it includes all the pre-historic periods from the Stone Age to the Iron Age.

In the database, descriptive and measurable data are compiled from thousands of artefacts, e.g. stone, bronze and iron artefacts, and ceramics. The end product will be a public database, which can be used in multidisciplinary research, for example in comparison with genetic data. This paper presents basic information on the archaeological database and its objectives.

Hanna-Leena Puolakka, University of Oulu

Coins, Knives and Other Finds – Grave Goods in the Transition Period between the Late Iron Age and the Early Medieval Period in Northern Fennoscandia

Late Iron Age and early medieval period graves (1000–1300) in Fennoscandia have often been studied in the light of Christianization. The graves in this era undergo a shift from predominantly richly furnished burials to ones with no grave goods.

The presence of grave goods has been regarded as the divisive marker between Christian and non-Christian burials. Past research has often overstated this division, overlooking phenomena that fall in between the inclusion or exclusion of grave goods. This system of simplification marginalizes the mosaic of human beliefs and burial customs and fails to account for the complexity of human spirituality and cultural adherence. In fact, many graves include features which cannot be placed in either category, e.g. graves with only few simple grave goods.

The grave goods themselves have also been traditionally divided into categories of secular or sacred, practical or magical in nature. Non-overtly Christian burial goods have been regarded either as part of attire or magical offerings included to protect or help the dead on their way to the afterlife. In my research, I suggest abandoning these oversimplified categories, and to bear in mind the dual nature of both belief systems and objects: a knife could have been an important tool and part of everyday attire, but it could also have symbolized the protection of iron. I suggest that these graves and artefacts should be studied regarding the period of transition and its material culture as a distinct complex category, that takes into account the synchronicity of beliefs.

Maria Razzak, IHMC RAS

Archaeological Survey of Islands in the Gulf of Finland in 2019

In the summer of 2019, an expedition of the Leningrad Regional Branch of the Russian Geographical Society, together with the Institute for the History of Material Culture RAS, conducted an archaeological survey on the islands of Lavansaari (Moshniy), Seiskari (Seskar), Peninsulaari (Maliy), and Itä-Viiri (South Virgin). Most of the fieldwork was devoted to the survey of Lavansaari Island.

A mound and a settlement from the Bronze Age, an early Iron Age cemetery, stone cairns and a village of the 19th and 20th centuries were recorded on the island. On the island of Itä-Viiri two stone labyrinths and numerous stone formations were identified.

Aleksandr Saksa

The Discovery of Medieval Vyborg (1998–2012)

Between 1998 and 2012, archaeological investigations were conducted in Vyborg at eight different sites in the medieval town area and the fortified Gornverk area (Горнверк, Fi.

Sarvilinnoitus, Ger. Hornwerk, i.e. hornwork) area from the 16th century. The excavated areas exceed a total of 600 square metres, and other investigations covered an area of some 3,000 square metres.

The thickest cultural layers in Vyborg measure over three metres. In places, there are wooden structures of different age in ten layers (time horizons). According to Saksa, altogether six building phases can be traced, dating from the 15th to the 18th century.

Archaeological finds show that the residents of Vyborg and visitors to the town were truly international. Especially in the late 15th and early 16th century, trade in many novelties such as fashionable shoes and German pottery flourished in the town. Over the course of a couple of generations, the consumption of both everyday and luxury goods grew to a new level. Archaeologically, however, there is a contradiction between rich material culture and wooden houses. Fires destroyed the town on repeated occasions. Roughly one third of all its buildings were damaged in 1530. By the time of the fire disasters of 1627 and 1628, the medieval history of the town was in the past. The old urban fabric was replaced by a regular layout of streets.

Oula Seitsonen

Geoarchaeological Approaches to the Taskscapes of Early Reindeer Herders in Northern Sápmi

The domestication of reindeer commenced among the Sámi of Northern Fennoscandia in the 8th century AD at the latest, and was accompanied by major cultural changes. In this paper, I present recent geoarchaeological research of early reindeer herder habitation sites dating to ca. 700–1800 AD. It is based on fieldwork carried out in the region of Lake Gilbbesjávri (Fi. Kilpisjärvi) in Northern Sápmi in summer 2019.

The studied sites include a variety of hearth sites usually connected with reindeer herders: so-called rectangular hearths linked with the earliest phases of domestication in the 8th–10th centuries, and other later hearth types, such as the so-called *bearpmet* hearths likely associated with the beginning of nomadic pastoralism. The hearth sites are situated differently in the landscape in comparison with the previous hunter-gatherer sites, and there are also changes in the placement of different types of hearths through time, mirroring the shift from small-scale herding of mostly draught animals to large-scale nomadic pastoralism.

In the current study, sites were prospected with systematic soil sampling and phosphate, pH and electric conductivity values were measured from each sample, and lipid values from selected samples. These allow insight into the intra-site taskscapes of the herders. Phosphate analysis has been successfully used previously in the studies of herder sites, at both the intra-site and intra-dwelling levels. It is hoped that the analysis of other geochemical factors over larger areas beyond the visible structures will highlight new aspects such as reindeer gathering areas.

Evgeniia Tkach, IHMC RAS

Stone Age Settlements in the Pskov Region: A Review of Old Materials and New Fieldwork

Materials of the Stone Age were identified in the Pskov region in the mid-20th century. In the central part of the region, sites with Mesolithic and Neolithic (Pit-Ware and Asbestos Ceramic) artefacts were discovered by Nina Gurina. As a result of research conducted by Alexander Mykhaev, peat-bog settlements were found in the southern part. To the north, near Lake Peipsi, Nina Gurina found rare flint materials, which were attributed to the Mesolithic. In 2017–2019 fieldwork in the Pskov region was resumed by the author. This report gives a summary of Stone Age materials of the central and northern parts of the Pskov region, and the new results of fieldwork in 2017–2019.

Alexander Vybornov, Samara State University of Social Sciences and Education, Samara

Marianna Kulkova, Herzen State Pedagogical University, Saint-Petersburg; Peter the Great Museum, Saint-Petersburg

A Chronological Framework for the Development of Finno-Ugric Cultures of the Neolithic and Eneolithic of the Northern Kama Region

One of the most widely discussed questions in the study of the Neolithic and Eneolithic of the Upper and Middle Kama basin is the periodization and chronology of cultures. No stratified sites have been found in this region and the typological analysis of artefacts does not explain these issues.

The numerous radiocarbon dates for sites of the Neolithic-Eneolithic of this territory have permitted the reconstruction of a reliable chronology and the periodization of local cultures and on this basis they have been correlated with the cultures of contiguous regions of the North.

POSTERS /POSTERIT

Tytti Juhola, Department of Cultures, University of Helsinki

Amanda G. Henry, Faculty of Archaeology, Leiden University

Tuija Kirkinen, Department of Cultures, University of Helsinki

Juha Laakkonen, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Helsinki

Minna Väiliranta, Environmental Change Research Unit, Ecosystems and Environment Research Programme, University of Helsinki

Microremain Analysis of Dental Calculus and Soil from the Iron Age Cemetery of Luistari, Finland

The subsistence strategies, resources and lifeways of Finnish Iron Age groups is a major research question, explored thus far by archaeology, osteology, macrobotany, and palynology. Here we present the first data from microscopic remains preserved in prehistoric dental calculus from Finland. We extracted and analysed both plant and animal microremains from human calculus and burial site soil originating from the Luistari cemetery site in South-Western Finland (samples from c. 600–1200 calAD). Our study demonstrates that microremain studies can considerably increase the information value of archaeological samples.

Ville Rohiola Archaeological Collections, Finnish Heritage Agency

Suzie Thomas Department of Cultures, University of Helsinki

Anna Wessman Department of Cultures, University of Helsinki

Jutta Kuitunen Library, Archives and Archaeological Collections, Finnish Heritage Agency,

FindSampo – Developing a Digital Platform for Studying Archaeological Finds Made by the Public

FindSampo (Fi. Löytösampo) is a web service under development for archaeological finds made by the public, particularly avocational metal-detectorists. Detecting is legal in Finland, although certain restrictions apply with regard to protecting known archaeological sites. The database has been developed by the SuALT project, the Finnish Archaeological Finds Recording Open Linked Database, involving the Finnish Heritage Agency (FHA), the University of Helsinki and Aalto University. The four-year consortium project, funded by the Academy of Finland, commenced in 2017.

The project's goal is to develop innovative solutions for reporting, researching and managing archaeological finds and their associated data. As a result, FindSampo will give archaeologists and other researchers a tool to study finds data and their spatial information online globally. For the FHA, FindSampo will be essential for managing new information and processes dealing with metal-detected finds. The database applies citizen science, activating participatory collaboration with the public, and semantic computing employing ontologies and metadata models to represent archaeological information as a linked open digital resource. FindSampo complements similar finds recording schemes in other countries, such as PAS (England and Wales), MEDEA (Flanders, Belgium), PAN (Netherlands) and DIME (Denmark). This international cooperation is essential, and we collaborate closely with them, giving mutual support and feedback to each project. All five finds recording schemes prioritize public engagement and raising awareness about best practices concerning the reporting of archaeological discoveries. Representatives of each scheme are also members of our international Expert Advisory Panel alongside specialists from Sweden and Estonia, and an expert from the United States.