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Abstract #: 3192

## INTENSIVE SYSTEMATIC SURVEYS OF PALAEOSPITS IN THE NARVA-LUGA BAY AREA: ANALYSIS OF METHODOLOGY AND RESULTS

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In recent decades, palaeogeographical studies in the Narva-Luga Klint Bay area on the Russian-Estonian border have identified several generations of palaeospits, mainly during the Litorina Sea stage (7800-2500 cal. BC).

In the beginning of the 2000s, forest fires destroyed large areas of pine woods on the Russian side of the territory. Forestry authorities cleaned the fire-damaged areas, which were then ploughed for planting new pine trees. The situation caused by the disaster presented a unique opportunity for archaeological surveys. During several seasons, intensive and systematic surveys were fruitfully carried out in the area of about 200 sq.km, and over fifty new Stone Age archaeological sites (prehistoric settlements and campsites) were discovered. The sites were associated with different palaeospit formations and formed clusters.

The presence of large open areas allowed for proper transect surveys in different locations. In 2019, such a survey was conducted on the Galik palaeospit, where Stone Age sites were already known at the time. About 300 km of transect was surveyed by a crew of students, investigating an area of 1 sq.km, meter by meter. More than 2700 find spots with over 2700 artefacts were identified. The three largest concentrations were considered as remains of prehistoric settlements/campsites, but none of them was associated with the rest of finds. These results, as well as those previously obtained in other palaeospits of the territory, make it possible to discuss ways of human occupation of coastal zones by prehistoric people in different phases of the Stone Age. The study was supported by the Russian Science Foundation project! 17-11-00001.

The impact of global, regional and subregional natural factors on the development of coastal morphosystems of the eastern Gulf of Finland as a human living environment is discussed.

### Keywords

Transect survey, Stone Age, Narva-Luga Klint Bay, settlement pattern

Note/comment