

Reading the landscape: A re-examination of the Brobacka multiperiod settlement and burial site in Raasepori, Southern Finland

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Abstract

This article presents the re-examination of the Brobacka multiperiod settlement and burial site. The site, which was discovered in the 1960s, was subjected to several excavations during the second half of the 20th century. Following these studies, the site was dated back to the Early Iron Age. The Brobacka tenant farm and other archaeological remains of the historic settlement were also dated back to the Modern Period. The field survey in 2017 raised the poor level of the original studies of the historical sources and maps concerning the site. Thus, the re-examination was a form of archaeology that used written records and historical maps to complement the archaeological evidence found at the site. The study offered fresh insight and provided new information. There seemed to be later prehistoric re-use of the Early Iron Age grave. There were also apparently the Kegerbacka tenant farm on the site dating back to the Early Modern Period and the Kärbacka village in the same place dating back to the Middle Ages and the Early Modern Period.

Keywords: burial site, settlement site, tenant's farm, village

Introduction

The Brobacka multiperiod settlement and burial site is situated in the former municipality of Karjaa in the south of Finland. The municipality is part of the town of Raasepori today. The site is located on the tops and the slopes of two hills. A small meadow between the hills is also an important part of the site. The hills and the meadow are mainly surrounded by cultivated fields, but a rather dense forest is on the edge of the northern hill. Regarding flora, there are many species of natural plants, garden plants, and archaeophytes, some of which are species that associate with the prehistoric sites (Nummi 1996, 2–5; Holm 1998, 3–6).

Two rectangular stone settings were discovered on the top of the southern hill in the 1960s (Figure 1). Excavations revealed that one of them dated back to the Roman Iron Age (c. 0/50 – 375/400 AD). The stone settings were the type of graves that existed only in the former munic-

ipalities of Karjaa, Tenhola, and Perniö in Southern Finland. (Cleve 1933, 8–10; Meinander 1968; 1973, 146.) Later in the 1980s the field survey revealed some stone cairns on the southern hill's slopes and in the meadow. Most of these cairns were supposed to date back to the Iron Age (c. 600/500 BC–1100 AD). Some test pits uncovered an ancient site of unknown age on the southern slope of the northern hill (Hirviluoto & Suominen 1984a).

More archaeological remains were found at the beginning of the 1990s: several stone cairns, remains of hearths and cellars, house foundations, a terrace field, field parcels, and ditches situated on the southern hill. These were considered mainly to relate to the Brobacka tenant farm, which was thought to date back to the Late Modern Period (c. 1800–1945). Excavations of one stone cairn in the meadow uncovered house remains that possibly dated back to the Middle Ages (c. 1100–1523 AD) or the Early Modern Period (c. 1523–1800) (Moisanen 1991, 6–8, 10; 1993, 6–12). Excavations of

the terrace field at the end of the 1990s uncovered artifacts that dated back to the 18th century and the Late Modern Period. Under the plough layer, excavations revealed stone constructions and the cultural layer that dated back to 110 cal BC – 250 cal AD (Hela-331). This implied a prehistoric dwelling site or an ancient field (Maaranen 2000, 6, 10–15, 18–22, 23–25; 2001, 60–66).

My field survey in the 2010s implied that archaeological material could provide new information. It also showed the lack of comprehensive studies of different kinds of maps and historical sources concerning the site (Maaranen 2018, 2). This was because the interest in archaeology often focused on the prehistoric sites and monuments in the second half of the 20th century (Taavitsainen 1999, 6). Archaeologists sometimes ignored remains, artifacts, and historical information of the Modern Era (c. 1523–1945 AD) when they excavated sites. Documentation of remains and finds in this age category could be poor and contained just short descriptions in excavation reports. Artifacts of this age category were often removed from the archaeological record and the collections of the National Museum of Finland. A lot of information was lost that also applied to the Brobacka site.

The lack of interest in historical archaeology was not only a question of field archaeology or of augmenting the collections at the end of the 20th century. Historical archaeology was not a chief interest in universities either. For this reason, stu-

dents of archaeology at the University of Helsinki organised the study group in 1992 to learn more about the subject. This study group connected to an increasing European trend to study historical archaeology, which affected archaeology in Finland too. The group organised the project *SUKKA* to study Finland's medieval manors and published the results (Haggrén 1995; Niukkanen 1997). Since then, many members of the study group worked on historical archaeology issues at different universities and the Finnish Heritage Agency. The re-examination of the Brobacka site could be seen as part of the study group's legacy.

Challenges caused by research materials

One of the main issues focused on the archaeological record and the possibility to obtain new information by re-examining the material. This proved only partly successful because of a lack of information concerning the excavations. There were no reports of the excavations of the Iron Age grave and only a list of the artifacts that were found. The paper that presented one of the artifacts helped me to understand the excavation results to some extent (compare with Meinander 1968; 1973). The stone cairn in the meadow had only been partially excavated because it was not prehistoric. The report contained little information about the excavated



Figure 1. The Iron Age grave on the top of the southern hill. Photo: Päivi Maaranen, Finnish Heritage Agency (2018).

structures, features, and layers (compare with Moisanen 1993, 9–10). There were no sketches drawn on paper concerning the test pits either (compare with Hirviluoto & Suominen 1984a). The artifacts found from the terrace field were not admitted to the archaeological collections of the National Museum because they dated back to the Modern Era. The excavation report included a list of the artifacts, and all the artifacts were stored temporarily (compare with Maaranen 2000, 18, 57–60). A certain lack of archaeological material generally left several questions unanswered.

Survey reports provided sufficient information to understand most of the visible archaeological remains on the site. The results of these surveys were reviewed by a landscape survey that involved studying the site by walking through its landscape (Widgren 2001, 48; 2004, 455, 460–461). Vegetation survey reports pinpointed many culturally significant plant species at the site. Along with archaeological remains and artifacts, these plants yielded information on past human life and activities. Addressing these matters through the plant community rather than through a single species offered a broader understanding of the plants associated with the site (compare with Rautiainen 2007, 7). Some difficulties arose with the vegetation survey reports because they did not provide information about the precise spots of the plant species (compare with Kurtto 1982, 4; Holm 1998, 3–6). This was particularly problematic concerning an area of the southern hill.

Another important issue was the information that the historical maps contained. A more detailed understanding of the archaeological remains and the landscape was particularly sought by studying these maps. The charting's accuracy was taken into consideration because historical maps do not illustrate all information (Suhonen 2013, 27–28; 2015, 35). The geographical map illustrated the area at the beginning of the 18th century and the recognition atlas of Finland for military purposes in the 1780s (Broterus 1703; Alanen & Kepsu 1989, 14, 47). A written source also gave information about the division of the land but unfortunately no map (Broterus 1701). The parish maps illustrated the area in the 1840s, whereas the Russian topography map and the Senate's map illustrated it in the 1870s (Pitäjänkartta 201407a; Pitäjänkartta

201407b; Pitäjänkartta 201408; Topografikartta; Senaatin kartasto). The cadastral map illustrated the site in 1903 and was very detailed (Svaetichin 1903). The analysis of historical maps based on ideas of the retrospective method allowed study of the maps from oldest to newest (Karsvall 2013, 415–416). Newer maps provided new information compared to the older ones during the research and helped me to understand landscape changes from a cartographical point of view.

An equally important issue was historical sources that could reveal information about the people and community in the past. Many 16th and 17th century sources were manuscripts, which restricted their use to a certain extent because of difficulties in reading handwritten text. Local history studies referred to these sources and contained interpretations by historians. This information proved to be interesting and important concerning the region's population. The parish registers of the Karjaa congregation (Karkaa) were the 18th and 19th centuries' most important sources. These sources related especially to the people and the places where they had lived. Thus, historical sources and local history studies were used to improve the general understanding and historical knowledge of the former municipality of Karjaa.

Reflections on the southern hill

The southern hill was a central location for human activities with a variety of visible archaeological remains (Table 1). The excavations of the grave on the hilltop had uncovered burials and numerous artifacts such as bronze brooches, glass beads, ceramics, burnt clay, burnt bone, and pieces of iron objects. Most of them dated back to the Roman Iron Age except one brooch (KM 17055:269), which may have been a sacrificial object of the 8th or the 9th century (Meinander 1968; 1973, 146; Kivikoski 1973, 54, 137–138).

A closer look revealed artifacts dating back to the Modern Era among the finds, such as pieces of glass and a clay pipe, as well as four sherds of red earthenware and twelve sherds of blue-glazed white earthenware. The sherds of red earthenware apparently dated back to the era from the 17th century to the 19th century (Koivisto & Suhonen 2021).

Table 1. The archaeological remains of the site.

Known as: (Moisanen 1993, 6–8)	Description and dating (based on surveys, excavations, and the re-examination):	Excavations (year):
The top and the slopes of the southern hill:		
Brobacka 1	a rectangular stone setting (a grave); 10 x 8 meters; Roman Iron Age, Late Iron Age	Meinander (1966, 1968)
Brobacka 2	a rectangular stone setting (a grave); 8 x 5.5 meters; Roman Iron Age?	
Brobacka 3	an oval cairn; 3.2 x 2.5 meters; Iron Age?	
Brobacka 8	a round clearance cairn; 2 x 2 meters; Late Modern Period	
The slopes of the southern hill:		
Brobacka 13	cellar remains; diameter from 3 to 4 meters; Late Modern Period	
Brobacka 14	cellar remains; diameter from 3 to 4 meters; Late Modern Period?	
Brobacka 15	cellar remains; diameter from 3 to 4 meters; Modern Era	
Brobacka 16	cellar remains; diameter from 3 to 4 meters; Modern Era	
Brobacka 17	a house foundation; 5 x 5 meters; Late Modern Period	
-	a stone row, 15 meters; Late Modern Period	
Brobacka 18	a house foundation; 4,5 x 6,5 meters; Late Modern Period	
Brobacka 19	a house foundation; 4,5 x 6,5; Late Modern Period	
Brobacka 20	a terrace field; 40 x 15 meters; Late Modern Period	Maaranen (1998)
-	a hearth and a cultural layer (a settlement site); the turn of the Pre-Roman Iron Age and the Roman Iron Age	Maaranen (1998)
Brobacka 21	a hearth (a drying barn); 2,5 x 2,5 Late Modern Period	
-	a building foundation; 2,5 x 3,5 meters; Early Modern Period?	
The meadow:		
Brobacka 4	a round clearance cairn; 3.5 x 3.5 meters; Late Modern Period	
Brobacka 9	a round clearance cairn; 4 x 5 meters; Late Modern Period	
field parcels nearby the cairn; the Late Modern Period		
Brobacka 11	a round cairn (a hearth); diameter from 4 to 5 meters; Early Modern Period remains of a floor; Early Modern Period	Moisanen (1992)
Brobacka 12	a round cairn (a hearth?); diameter from 4 to 5 meters; Early Modern Period?	

The slopes of the northern hill:		
Brobacka 5	a layer of dark, sooty soil; Early Modern Period	Hirviluoto & Suominen (1983)
Brobacka 6	an oval cairn; 7.5 x 3.0 meters; Iron Age?	
Brobacka 7	a round cairn (a hearth?), diameter 4 meters; Early Modern Period?	
Brobacka 10	a round cairn (a hearth?); diameter from 4 to 5 meters; Early Modern Period a layer of black soil near the cairn; Early Modern Period a dark grey cultural layer near the cairn; Early Modern Period	Hirviluoto & Suominen (1983)

The Modern Era artifacts were nearby and even below the Early Iron Age finds and thus showed that the grave had been disturbed by later human activity. It seemed that one sherd of red earthenware, a piece of glass, and eleven sherds of white earthenware were found near the sacrificial object, which implied that the grave had been disturbed at this point. This led to the idea that the object could indicate a Late Iron Age burial rather than a sacrifice because there were similar findings elsewhere in the former municipality of Karjaa (Hällström 1946; Moisanen 1992a, 4, 7–8, 11).

The terrace field excavations on the southern hill's slope had revealed structures of the terraces and pieces of ceramics, burnt clay, glass, bricks, and iron artifacts from a plough layer (Maaranen 2000, 18–22, 57–60). Based on an analysis, there were several sherds of red earthenware that dated back to the era from the 17th century to the 19th century (Koivisto & Suhonen 2021). Sherds of porcelain and white-glazed white earthenware dated back to the 19th and the 20th centuries. Thus, the terrace field appeared to date more precisely back to the era from the 17th century to the 20th century. A 15-meter-long row of rather big stones that marked the boundary between the tenant's yard and the southern hill's slope looked like the stone rows that might be agricultural remains of the Early Iron Age. The stone row in Salo in the south of Finland, for instance, was dated back to the 350–600 cal AD (Hel-3230). (Roeck Hansen & Nissinaho 1995, 28, 32–36; Gren 1997, 100–101, 145–149). Such a structure, the row nearby the yard, would have related both to the graves and to the Early Iron Age remains that were found under the terrace field's

plough layer. However, the row's location in the immediate vicinity of the tenant's yard aroused doubts.

The results of the vegetation surveys had shown that several garden plants grew on the southern hill's eastern slope (Nummi 1996, 2–3, appendix 3). These plants were clearly in relation to the yard of the tenant farm (Figure 2). Some of these garden plants dated back to the 18th century as flora species. *Syringa vulgaris*, *Symphytum* sp., *Rubus uva-crispa*, *Ribes nigrum*, and *Ribes spicatum* were species that had been among the garden plants of that time (Silkkilä & Koskinen 1990, 32). Archaeophytes *Avenula pubescens*, *Trifolium arvense*, *Arabis glabra*, and *Poa compressa* grew on the southern hill's southern and eastern slopes and near the graves (Nummi 1996, 1–3, appendix 3; Pykälä & Bonn 2000, 118). These plants were associated with the Iron Age sites and they were complementary species of ancient human activity (Silkkilä & Koskinen 1990, 35; Suominen & Hämet-Ahti 1993, 75; Nummi 1996, 5; 1998, 3–6; Lempiäinen-Avci 2015, 7). Thus, it seemed that the archaeophytes could have been in relation to the Early Iron Age human activities in the area in question.

Some conclusions concerning the tenant's farm could be drawn from the historical maps. The recognition atlas showed the farm but no name. One copy of the parish maps referred to the farm as Brobacka and another copy as Torp Brobacka. The Russian topography map and the Senate's map showed the farm's garden. It seemed that most of the garden plants could have originated in the second half of the 19th century. The cadastral map showed fields, meadows, forests, rocks, and houses in detail. In accordance with that map, many of the



Figure 2. The yard of the Brobacka tenant farm. Photo: Päivi Maaranen, Finnish Heritage Agency (2018).

cairns, ditches, and other visible archaeological remains on the southern hill dated back to the 19th and 20th centuries. The map also showed the detailed information about garden parcels. Judging by the map and GPS coordinates, the row of stones nearby the tenant's yard was obviously the western boundary of the irregular garden parcel and not the stone row of the Early Iron Age. The row was a fundament of a wooden fence, for instance (Gren 1997, 145; Vuorela 1998, 175–176).

The parish registers of the Karjaa congregation gave more detailed information about tenants and other residents of the region since the 18th century. The Brobacka tenant farm was included in the registers between 1723 and 1892. According to remembered information, the farm was still inhabited in the first decades of the 20th century (Moisanen 1995, 26). Based on aerial photographs, the farm was deserted by 1949 at the latest. At that time all the buildings were demolished and the fields were abandoned (Aerial photograph 1949). Thus, the farm was inhabited in the era from the beginning of the 18th century to the 1940s.

A new perspective on the meadow and the northern hill

The meadow and the northern hill's southern slope were related to each other from an archaeological viewpoint (Table 1). The southern test pit on the slope had contained a layer of dark, sooty soil with a thickness of 30 centimetres, pieces of burnt clay and bone, one quartz flake, and a socketed iron

adze (Hirviluoto & Suominen 1984a; 1984b). Based on my analysis, the socketed adze was a cutting tool that had a thin arched blade. It was like the tools used to debark timber and dated back to the Modern Era (compare with Kuorimarauta; Petkel; Petkele). Two other test pits on the slope had contained a layer of black soil with a thickness of 20–25 centimetres, a dark grey cultural layer with a thickness of 45 centimetres, pieces of burnt clay, and some quartz flakes (Hirviluoto & Suominen 1984a). The cultural layer was remarkably thick and indicated very intensive human activities in that area.

The excavations of the stone cairn in the meadow nearby the first test pit had revealed a hearth consisting of bricks and natural stones. There was a layer of brick waste and sooty soil and thus a floor level of the medieval or the Early Modern Period house, whereas some flint and quartz flakes implied a prehistoric settlement (Moisanen 1992b; 1993, 8–12). Unfortunately, the excavation report did not include detailed information about the hearth or the floor level. Brick was apparently used in the oven structures since the Middle Ages in the rural villages (Mikkanen 2017, 8, 16). Small sherds of red earthenware near the hearth dated back to the era from the 17th century to the 19th century along with pieces of clay pipes (Seppänen 2012, 105–106; Koivisto & Suhonen 2021). Therefore, the partly excavated house did not seem to be medieval but of a later age. The flint and quartz flakes could have originated from using flint or quartz and steel to start a fire.

The meadow was amongst valuable Finnish traditional biotopes that associate with tradi-

tional agriculture (Pykälä & Bonn 2000, 118–119). The vegetation survey results had shown there were several archaeophytes, such as *Carex spicata*, *Plantago lanceolata*, *Avenula pubescens*, *Trifolium arvense*, *Arabis glabra*, and *Poa compressa*, which were all complementary species of ancient human activity and some of them associated with the Iron Age sites (Silkkilä & Koskinen 1990, 35; Suominen & Hämet-Ahti 1993, 67, 75; Nummi 1996, 4–5, appendix 3; Pykälä & Bonn 2000, 118; Lempiäinen-Avci 2015, 7). Survey reports did not include information about *Filipendula vulgaris*, which was found at the beginning of the 1990s (Moisanen 1991, 11; 1995, 26). *Filipendula vulgaris* seemed to have disappeared because there were no later observations. Another explanation for the absence could have been the misidentification of the plant (compare with Kurtto 1978, 76–79).

Filipendula vulgaris is amongst indicator species of the Iron Age sites. Other such indicator species are *Allium oleraceum*, *Allium vineale*, *Artemisia campestris*, *Avenula pratensis*, and *Thalictrum simplex* sp. None of these archaeophytes were found on vegetation surveys. Furthermore, complementary species *Hypericum perforatum*, *Thymys serpyllum*, and *Verbascum nigrum* were missing too (Silkkilä & Koskinen 1990, 35; Suominen & Hämet-Ahti 1993, 10; Lempiäinen-Avci 2015, 6–7). This absence of many species that associate with the Iron Age sites seemed to indicate that the cultural layers on the slope could date back to some other period.

Maps gave some information about the area in question. The recognition atlas showed a map symbol that was clearly visible only with a magnifying glass. The map symbol consisted of a tiny red dot and a tiny letter T. On this basis there was a tenant farm located on the northern hill's slope. Other historical maps showed neither this tenant farm nor its name. The parish maps, the Russian topography map, the Senate's map, and the cadastral map showed that the meadow was partly a field. Based on the cadastral map, the cultural and sooty layers and the cairns surrounded that field.

As a result, there was a previously unknown tenant farm on the northern hill's slope. The excavated hearth in the meadow and some cairns on the slope could be related to the farm. The thick cultural and sooty layers pointed to an intensive

and long settlement period. The artifacts found in the meadow seemed to date the farm back to the era from the 17th century to the 19th century. The absence of garden plants was notable when compared to the Brobacka tenant farm's yard nearby. Only *Malux domestica* was growing in the meadow (Nummi 1996, appendix 3).

The geographical map showed that the tenant's farm was on the grounds of the former Domargård Manor. Thus, the parish registers of the Karjaa congregation helped to further identify the tenant's farm. They showed that the 18th century long-term tenant farms of the Domargård Manor were named Brobacka, Kegerbacka, Rothkihl, Krogen, Köpskog, Malm, and Smeds (Table 2). The recognition atlas showed the exact location of Köpskog, and the parish maps showed the exact locations of Brobacka and Krogen. The cadastral map showed the exact location of Rotkilsängen, which could be near the Rothkihl tenant farm. Thus Kegerbacka, Malm, and Smeds were farms that the maps did not show by name. Based on the parish registers, Kegerbacka was a long-term tenant farm compared to Smeds and Malm. Kegerbacka and Brobacka were often in succession in the parish registers, which might indicate that they were close together. Thus, Kegerbacka could be the tenant farm located on the northern hill's slope where the thick cultural and sooty layers were. The difficulty was that the layers were even thicker than a century-long habitation would cause.

Finding the village

Historical information proved to be significant in resolving the problem of the remarkably thick cultural and sooty layers. Historian Lars Back (1994, 164) had suggested that the Kegerbacka tenant farm was situated on the former village's grounds. Historians Gunvor Kerkkonen (1952, 9, 11, 82) and John Gardberg (1968, 58) had supposed that the village named Kärrbacka was nearby the former Domargård Manor and between the Läpp village and the Degerby village. Gardberg (1968, 412 endnote 6) had suggested that Kärrbacka was located on the Brobacka hill where the remains of an old settlement existed. Thus, he placed Kärrbacka on the southern hill's eastern slope where the Brobacka

Table 2. The Domargård Manor's (including the Degerby Manor) long-term tenant's farms in the 18th century (Karrja).

Tenant's farm:	1723–1737	1747–1758	1758–1774	1775–1784	1786–1794	1795–1802	1805–1814
Kegerbacka	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Brobicka	X		X	X	X	X	X
Rothkilhl		X	X	X	X	X	
Krogen/Krogaren	X?		X		X	X	X
Köpskog			X	X	X	X	X
Malm			X	X	X	X	
Smeds/Smeden				X	X	X	X

tenant farm's house foundations were still visible in the landscape. Archaeologist Sirkka-Liisa Seppälä (2006, 101) had also suggested that the valuable traditional biotope in the meadow was located on Kärrbacka. All these suggestions indicated that not only a tenant farm but also an old village were in question.

Based mainly on the local history studies, Kärrbacka had been quite a small village. There were two farms and arable land in the 16th and the 17th centuries. The farms were owned by taxed freeholders who paid tax to the Crown. Portions of arable land were owned by early nobility who were exempted from the tax because they could afford to contribute a mounted soldier to the cavalry. A man named Staffan owned one of the farms at the end of the Middle Ages. His heirs apparently owned the farm later in the 16th century. The second farm was owned by Erik Henningson between 1542 and 1571. His farm was deserted between 1571 and 1579 (DF 5520; DF 3337; Kerkkonen 1952, 57; Skrubbeltrang 1964, 171–175; Gardberg 1968, 58–59, 123–124, 130, 230, 241).

Staffan's family farm was deserted at the end of the 16th century, but some of the farm's arable land was owned and cultivated by Sten Månsson in 1601. Later in 1621 the farm had been deserted for approximately 30 years when Erik Michelsson tried to cultivate it. Erik was unsuccessful in his attempt, and in 1635 the farm had been deserted for approximately 40 years. Lady Carin, who owned the Domargård Manor, cultivated some of the farm's arable land in the same year, but her attempt was also unsuccessful. Both farms of the village have been deserted since that time. The farms' own-

ership was transferred to the Domargård Manor in 1666. Later in 1681, Kärrbacka was mentioned as a tenant farm, and the arable land was cultivated by the Domargård Manor between 1693 and 1712 (AY; Gardberg 1968, 59, 84, 122–124, 130).

Interestingly, Kärrbacka was engaged in a boundary dispute with Läpp in 1673 and 1675. At that time Kärrbacka was considered the neighbouring village of Läpp. The boundary of these villages started at the Skällberg rock by Lake Läppträsket (Gardberg 1968, 56, 261, 263). Historical maps conveyed important information in this case. The geographical map showed the villages and the boundaries of villages at the beginning of the 18th century (Figure 3). The map did not show the village boundaries of Kärrbacka because all the village lands were owned by the Domargård Manor.

The parish maps showed the village boundaries in the 19th century. These maps showed the demarcated area between Läpp and the former Degerby village. Brobicka and Krogen were located within the boundaries of that demarcated area, as well as the supposed Kegerbacka. The cadastral map apparently showed the same village boundaries at the beginning of the 20th century. Cadastral boundaries of the topographic map in 2021 showed that the old boundary of the villages starting at the Skällberg rock existed to some extent. The same thing applied to the western and southern boundaries of the demarcated area (Karttapaikka 2021). This convinced me that the village boundaries were relatively persistent throughout history. This also led to the conclusion that the demarcated area was the Kärrbacka village's area.



Figure 3. The geographical map of the former municipality of Karjaa (Broterus 1703). 1 = the Brobacka site, 2 = the Skällberg rock, 3 = the Läpp village, 4 = the Degerby village (the later Degerby Manor), 5 = the Domargård Manor (the former Domarby village). Image courtesy of The National Archives of Finland.

As a result, it appeared that there was a village located on the northern hill's southern slope and in the meadow (Figure 4). The village was established in the Middle Ages, and a tenant farm was still there at the beginning of the 19th century. Nearby the cairns on the southern slope grew *Avenula pubescens*, *Arabis glabra*, *Trifolium arvense*, *Carex spicata*, *Poa compressa*, and possibly *Filipendula vulgaris*, when *Plantago lanceolata* grew in the meadow (Moisanen 1991, 11; Nummi 1996, 4, appendix 3; Pykälä & Bonn 2000, 118). All these species associated with prehistoric settlements, as mentioned earlier. However, it seemed that these plants could also associate with historic settlements. This assumption found some confirmation from such observations that *Hypericum perforatum*, *Allium oleraceum*, *Arabis glabra*, *Filipendula vulgaris*, and possibly *Plantago lanceolata* could associate with villages of the Middle Ages (Aalto 2020, 76–77).

The vegetation survey reports pointed out *Corylus avellana* too (Nummi 2006, 6; Holm 2007, 3). The southern hill was covered in hazel bushes and formed a protected nature reserve. The exca-

vations of the terrace field had uncovered archaeological remains that dated back to the Early Iron Age and three charred nutshells within the same archaeological context. It seemed that nuts were part of the diet, and hazel bushes had grown on the site or nearby since the Early Iron Age. Hazel may have been important later to the settlers of the Middle Ages or the Early Modern Period. Archbishop Olaus Magnus (1555, 557) mentions that hazel was important because of its nuts and twigs, for instance. The nuts were exported, and the twigs were used in barrel manufacturing.

The foregoing interpretation of the village was supported by information concerning the market value of the land. Based on local history studies, the land value of Kärrbacka was 16 öre coin per *kyynärä* (traditional measure of length used in Sweden and Finland) in 1635. Thus, it was more valuable than in the neighbouring Läpp village whose land value was 12 öre coin per *kyynärä*. Moreover, the land value of Kärrbacka was 72 marks and, thus, in the second-highest category of the former municipality of Karjaa. The land value



Figure 4. The meadow and the northern hill's southern slope where the Kegerbacka tenant farm and the Kärrbacka village may have been located. Photo: Päivi Maaranen, Finnish Heritage Agency (2021).

of Lämp was only 40 ½ marks, for instance (Gardberg 1968, 322). This information of the land value implied that Kärrbacka was located on very good quality agricultural land. The maps of quaternary deposits and superficial deposits showed soil conditions suitable for the Iron Age and medieval farming in the immediate vicinity of the Brobacka site. For instance, there were sandy till, fine sand, and silt surrounded by clay. Fine sand and coarse silt were suitable for cultivation, and in some cases, sandy till was too (Orrman 1992, 365–367; GTK 1975; GTK 2005a; GTK 2005b; GTK 2005c; Hakku 2021). The surveys and excavations provided the same information on very good quality agricultural land on the site and nearby.

Summary of results

The re-examination of the Brobacka multiperiod settlement and burial site brought new information about the place, the landscape, and the archaeological remains that were observed. The Roman Iron Age grave on the top of the southern hill was not undisturbed, contrary to the excavator's assumption (Meinander 1951). Among the excavation finds were artifacts dating back to the Modern Era. This offered an opportunity to suggest that the previously assumed sacrificial object of the 8th or the 9th century might indicate a burial. This suggestion received support from the knowledge that there had been re-use of older graves in the former municipality of Karjaa.

Instead of just one, there were two tenant farms that differed from one another in several

ways. The Brobacka tenant farm was previously known, and it was located on the southern hill's slope. The foundations of the farmhouse and agricultural buildings, as well as fields, clearance cairns, and ditches, were visible on the ground. Archaeological and historical records allowed a more precise dating of the tenant farm. It was dated back to the era from the beginning of 18th century to the 1940s. Historical maps shed new light on the farm's garden. The cadastral map helped to identify that the row of stones near the tenant's yard was the boundary of an irregular garden parcel. The Russian topography map and the Senate's map showed a rather large farm garden too. According to these maps, the large gardens in the vicinity of the tenant farms were rare at the end of the 19th century. Thus, it appeared that the tenant farm gardens would need more research.

The tenant farm that was situated on the northern hill's slope was a new discovery. Neither house foundations nor a garden were visible on the ground. However, there were thick cultural and sooty layers and some grass-grown cairns. Excavations had showed that one of the cairns in the meadow was a hearth. Thus, some of the unexcavated cairns might similarly be hearths too. The recognition atlas showed the tenant farm's exact location. This knowledge, combined with the found artifacts, the suggestions of historians, and the information in the parish registers, led to the conclusion that the farm on the northern hill's slope was the Kegerbacka tenant farm. According to the parish registers, Kegerbacka was deserted by 1805; therefore, the 19th century maps did not show it.

Kegerbacka was possibly the oldest of the tenant farms on the grounds of the former Domargård Manor. Historian Lars Back (1994, 164) had assumed that Kegerbacka was situated on the former village's grounds. Many historical maps provided information on the village boundaries of the former municipality of Karjaa. They showed a demarcated area between the Läpp village and the former Degerby village. The Kärrbacka village was situated between Läpp and Degerby according to the historians and shared the boundary of a village with Läpp. Therefore, it was concluded that the northern hill's slope and the meadow were a possible location of the Kärrbacka village. It was a village of medieval origin that merged with the Domargård Manor during the 17th century. If this conclusion was correct, the Kegerbacka tenant farm dated back to the era from the end of the 17th century to the beginning of 19th century. A long-term stay from the Middle Ages to the 19th century seemed to explain the remarkably thick cultural and sooty layers on the northern hill's slope.

The re-examination stimulated a fresh line of thoughts and the northern hill's southern slope became a subject of major interest. One of my problems was that the excavations had been partial, and reporting of results was incomplete. The partial excavation yielded unclear results, and the incomplete reports made it difficult to thoroughly understand the results. One could say that the excavations and reports reflected the general ideas and attitudes toward the end of the 20th century: Prehistoric remains and artifacts had been more important than historical ones. Another problem was the lack of historical maps and sources concerning the Kegerbacka tenant farm and the Kärrbacka village. There were quite sufficient reasons for the assumptions concerning their location, but only large-scale excavations would locate buried archaeological evidence. Thus, the re-examination showed once again that both archaeology and history are related and important when creating interpretations of the past, people, and places.

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