

Cooking pits, formation processes and democracy

Presentation EAA 2016 Vilnius

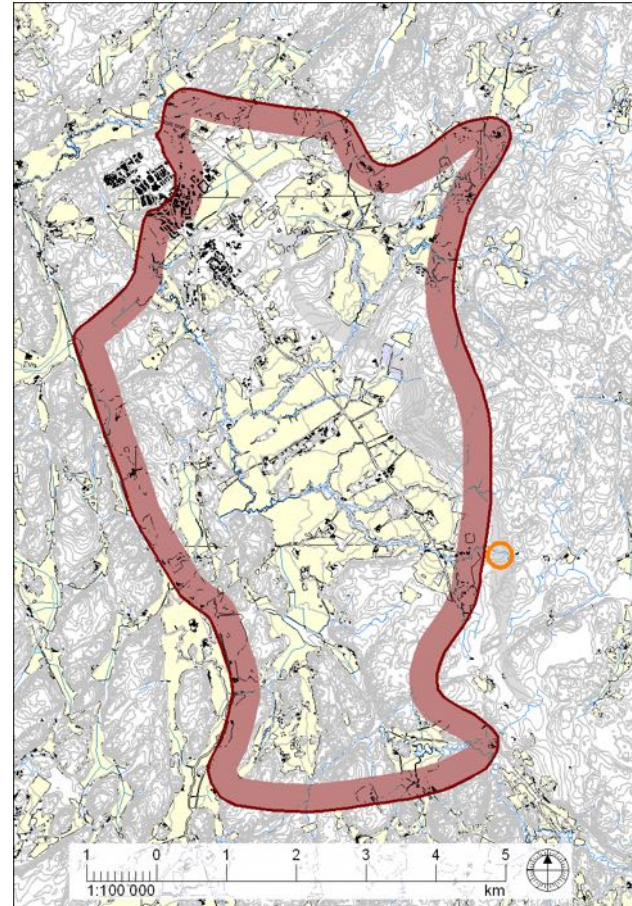
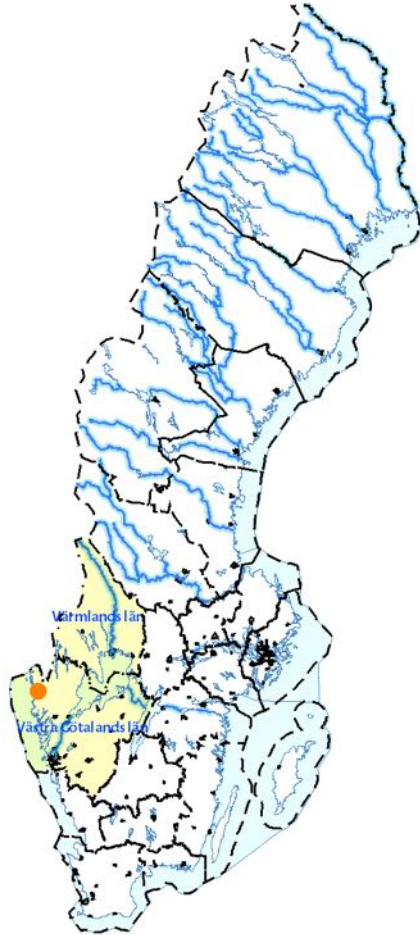
This presentation is about:

How we treat different sites/materials equally

The information resources of cooking pits

How this information can be used to support discussions about democracy in the past and present

Tanum 1821 - a cooking pit site



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Cooking pits - are treated as if:

They contain none or little information

They can be excavated with simple and fast methods

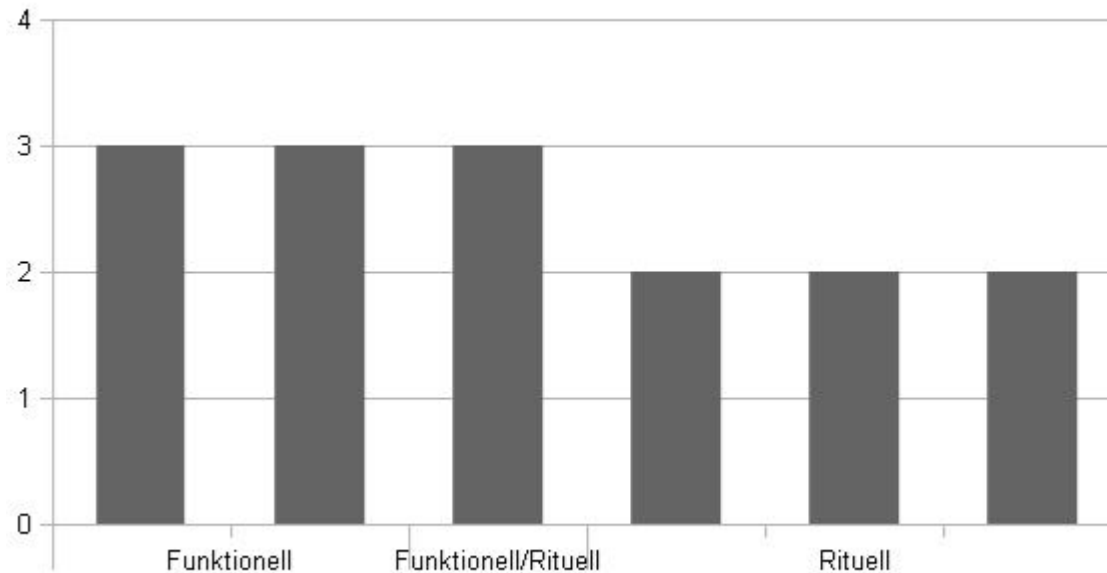
They are often sparsely sampled (*common macrofossil analyses provide sparse results* – Petersson 2009. *It is well known that cooking pits hardly ever contains macrofossils* – Lindman 2014)

This treatment can lead to misunderstanding, reducing or even excluding several aspects from archaeological interpretations



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Ritual or functional interpretation based on types of analysis



Tanum 1821 - a cooking pit site

Method – structure and surface sampling

Phosphate analysis

Magnetic susceptibility

Content of organic material

In addition some structures were also sampled for

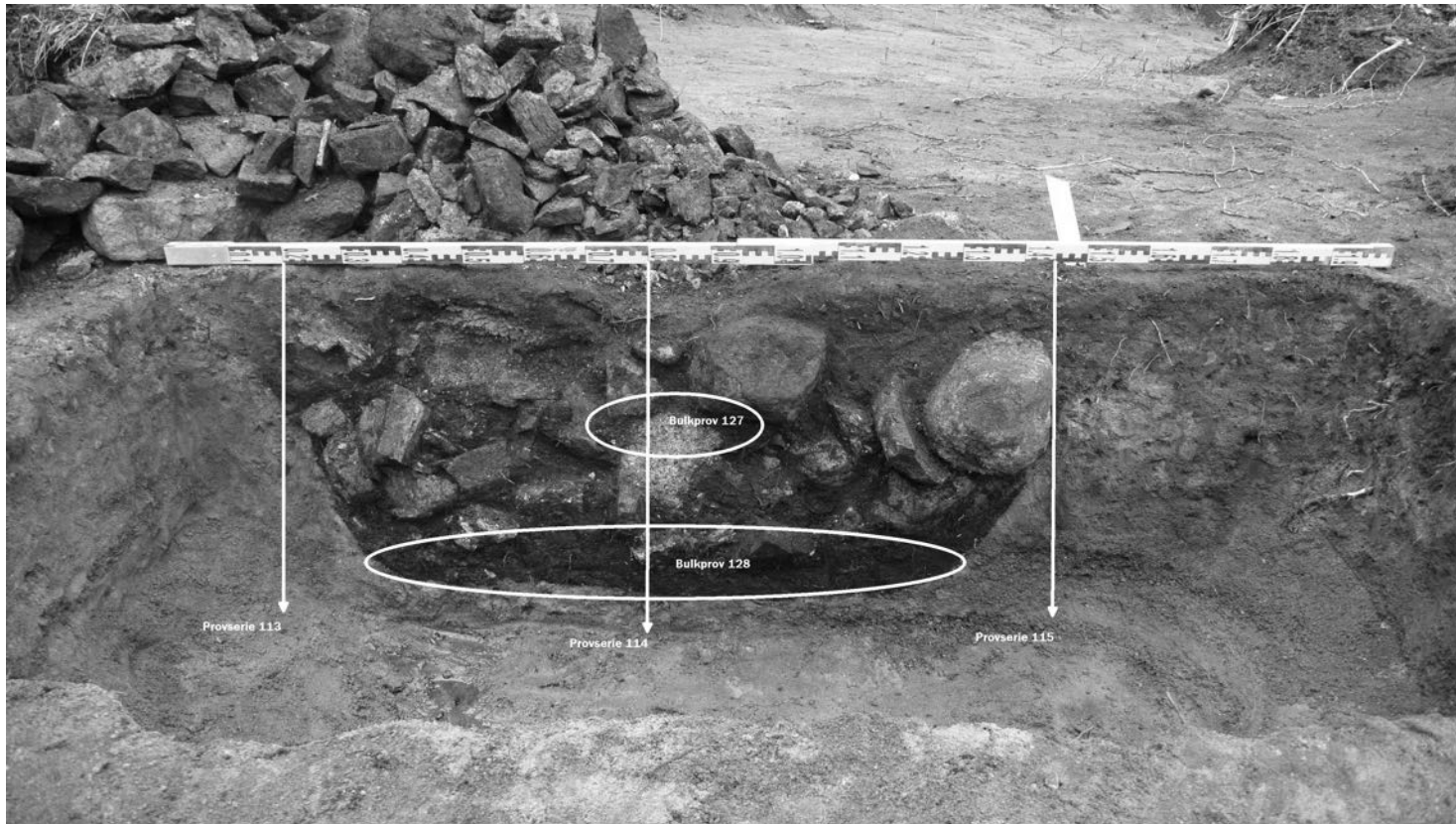
Lipid acids

Macrofossils

Charcoal for wood-analysis and dating

In all fireplaces the volume of large and small fire cracked stones were measured

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Category/type	MS Mean Value	CitP Mean Value	LOI Mean Value	Lipid Animal fat	Cracked Stones ratio small-large	Cereal
Hearth	89	17	12	?	4,00%	No
Cooking pit	37	46	8	No/Yes/?	20,00%	No/Yes/?
Cooking pit type 1	45	39	6	No	16,00%	Yes
Cooking pit type 2	22	38	8	Yes	35,00%	No
Cooking pit type 3	14	56	10	?	32,00%	?

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Type 1



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Type 2



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Type 3



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Surface sampling and structures

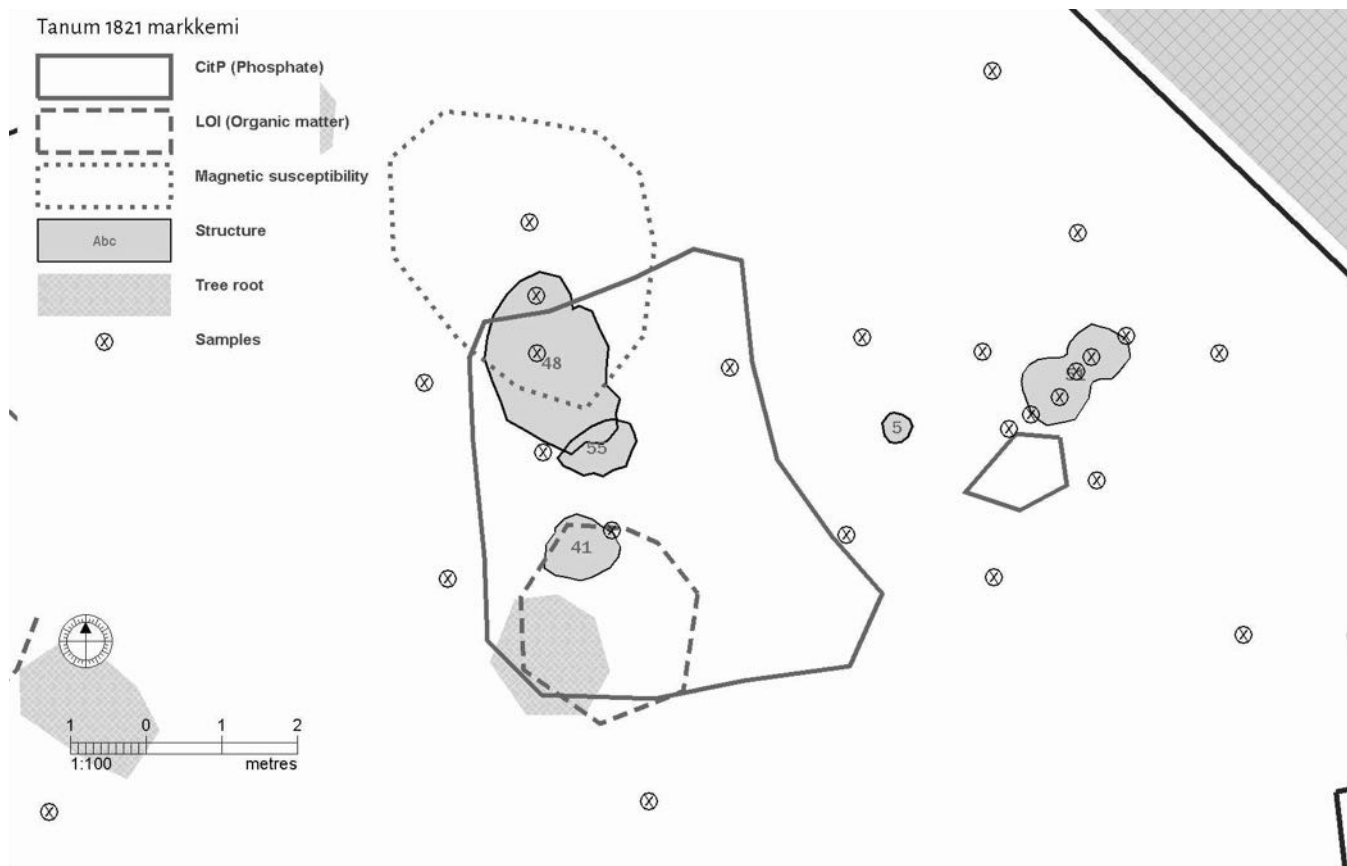


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Surface sampling and structures



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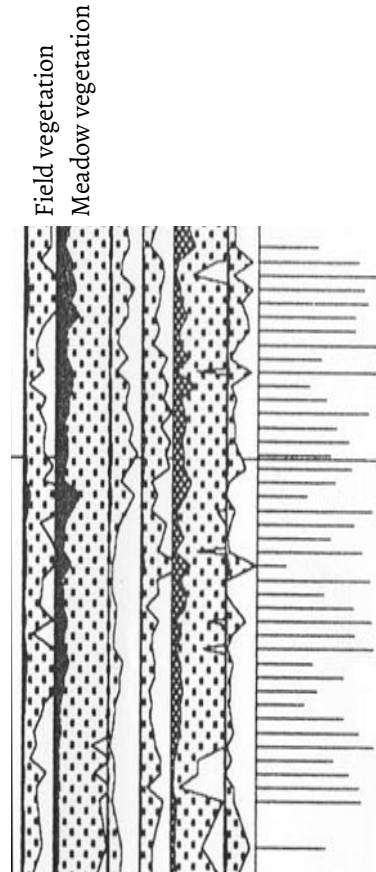
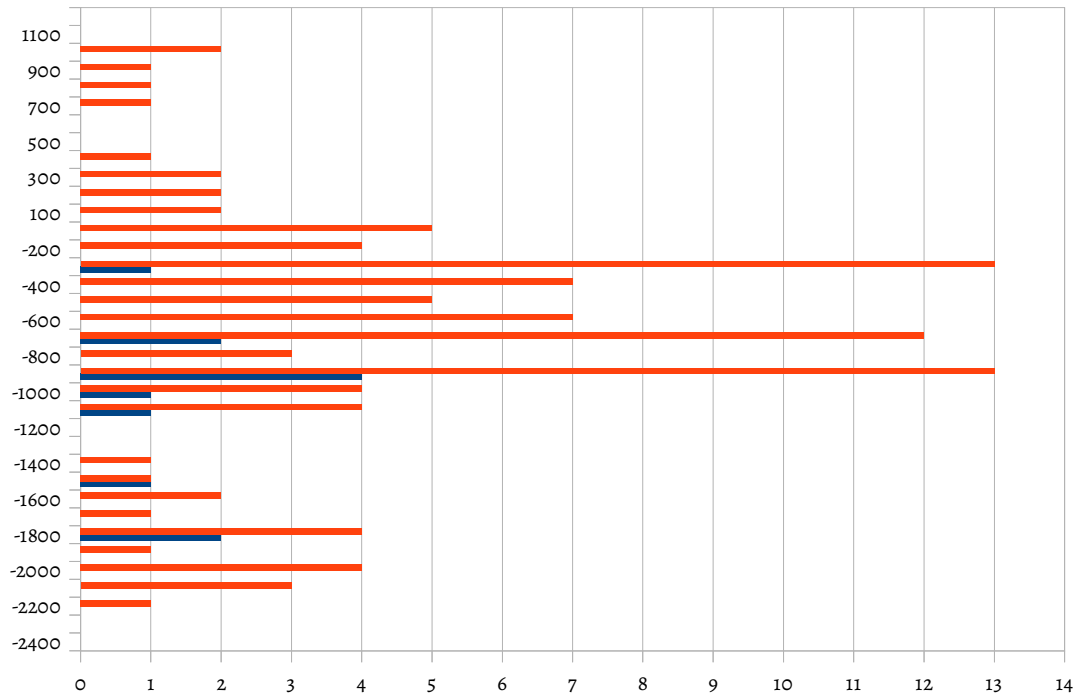
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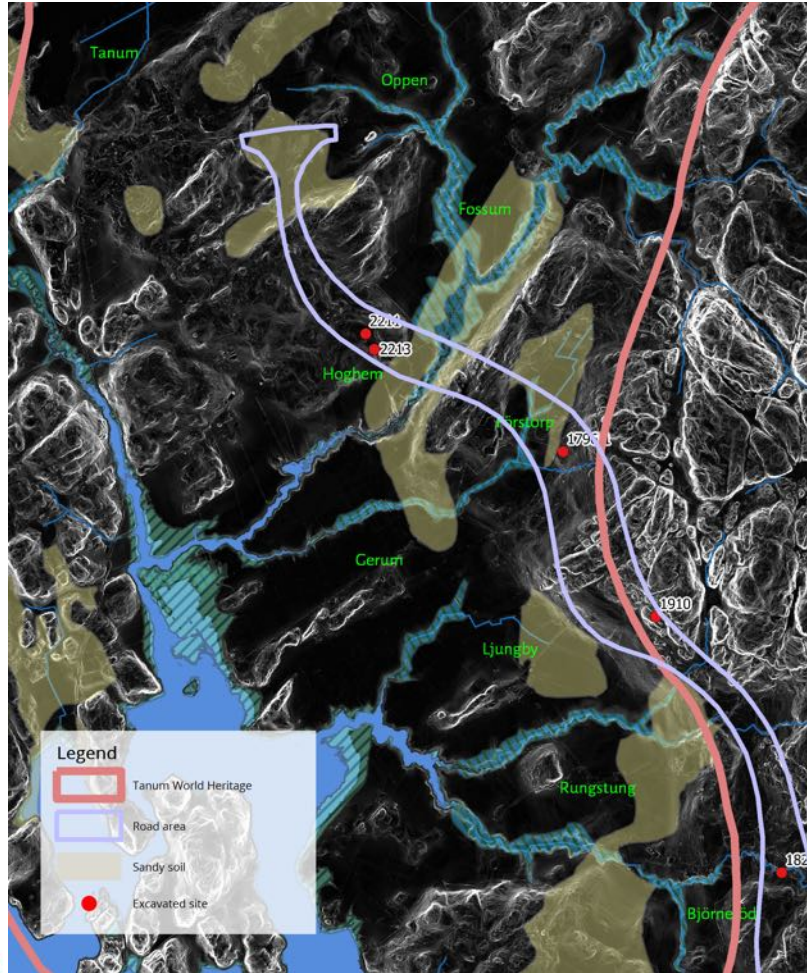
Structures related to grain

Blue – Tanum 1821

Red – other sites in Tanum



Tanum 1821 - a cooking pit site



Interpretation:

The site was used temporarily for grain processing.

The site is peripheral.

A summerfarm?

Conclusions:

By thoroughly sampling structures and sites more complex discussion can be performed.



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