

Inventory Methodology of Sacred Sites II Landscape Research

Tartu, 26.05.2011, project "Cult Identity"

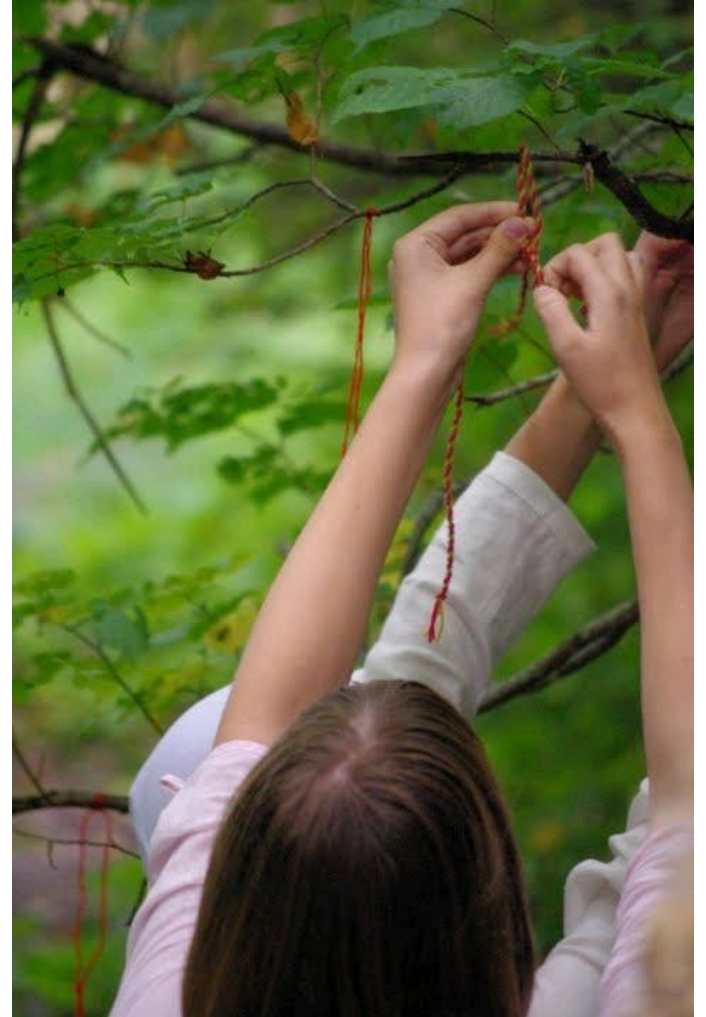
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Tõrma Grove Hill, Lääne-Virumaa

Starting Points: Research Ethics

- Voluntary participation
- Permission to publish personal and other data
- Respect towards the values and attitudes related to sacred sites of indigenous people



Traditions and beliefs connected to sacred sites are personal. An attack towards a sacred site is perceived as a personal attack.. T. Lehtsaar

Ethics

Respect towards the traditions of indigenous people

To show respect towards the heritage of indigenous people, earn their trust and remain in good health, the researcher must follow historic traditions:

- One may not break growing trees, bushes or their branches
- One may not take along offerings
- One may not ease himself
- One may not curse or quarrel
- One may not step into a spring



Professor Jaanus Paal and lecturer Pille Tomson making research at the Annemäe sacred site in Tartumaa

Objective & Results of the Research

Objective:

- Describe the natural, ethnological and archaeological condition of the site
- Main objective: understanding and valuing environment for people's well-being I

Result:

- Defining the site, the purpose and organization of its protection as well as urgent and additional works; raising awareness; sustainable use.



Researchers describe a heritage stone

Questionnaire

1. Number of the inventory sheet
2. Date of the inventory
3. Researcher(s)
4. Place name(s) known so far
5. Place name(s) gathered on the spot

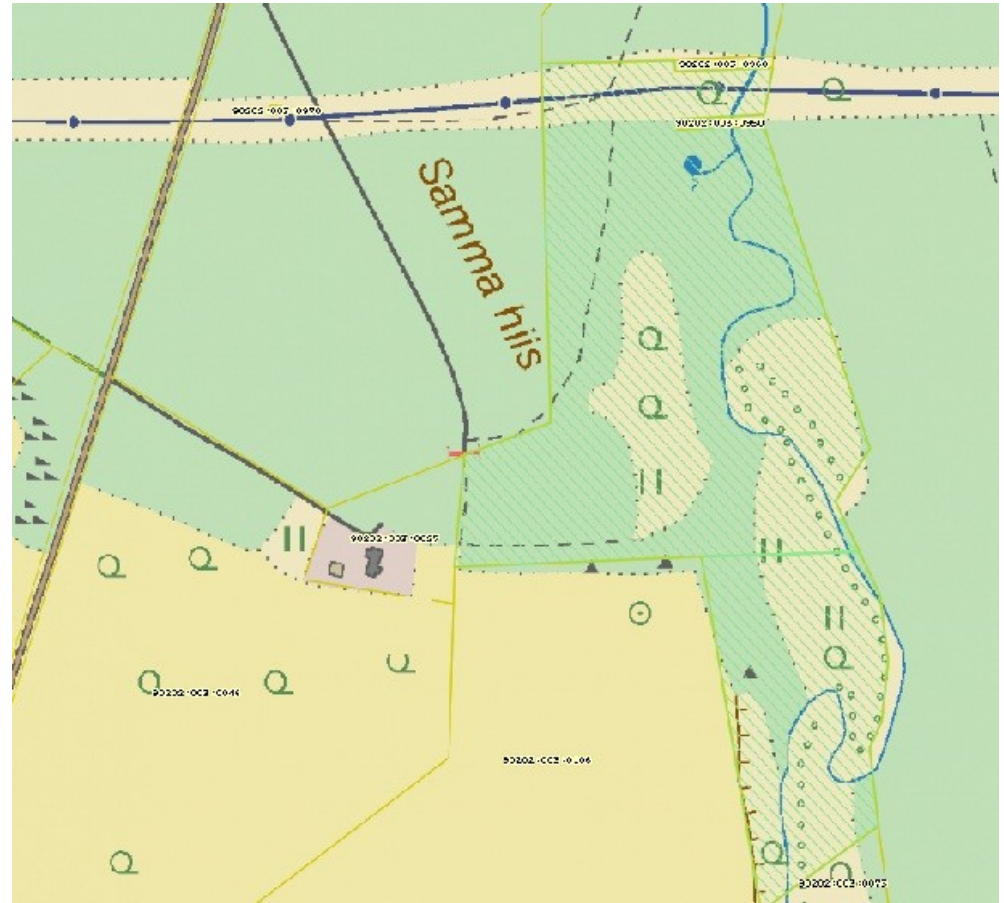


Exploration of mental landscape on Levalõpma Pühati Hill, Muhu. Interview with a local person

Description of the Location and Coordinates

6. Location of the sacred site in landscape, incl GPS coordinates; relation to the surroundings

7. Location plan



Samma Grove. Base map of Estonia (Maa-amet)

8. Relief

Describe and measure:

- flatland
- upland
- valley
- cliff
- karst
- etc.



Researchers and local people at Moaljakivil, Painase village, Muhu

9. Flora

- Name the dominating species and rarities of trees, bushes and the underbrush
- Define the habitat type
- Describe peculiarities, e.g. peculiar shapes of tree trunks
- Does the area require an additional botanic research?



Fragile and rare habitats and plants often grow in well preserved sacred sites. Orchids under nature protection at Silmaallika, Kallaste, Muhu

Old Trees & Fauna

10. Old trees

11. Fauna:

- mammals
- birds
- reptiles and semiaquatic animals
- insects



A local person is showing Ellumägi Hill and other sacred sites to researchers in Pallasmaa village, Muhu

Stones & Water Bodies

12. Stones, stone fences
and other heaps of stones

13. Water bodies (springs,
wells, creeks, rivers, ponds,
lakes)



Describing Liukivi rock in Lehtmetsa village, Muhu

Human Activity

14. Offerings and other signs referring to human activity

15. Extraneous human activity: buildings, structures, excavations, drainage, cultivation, mowing, herding, deforestation, fire, tourism, other influence



Hundreds of offering ribbons are tied to the Ilumäe sacred tree in Lääne-Virumaa like it has been done by various generations before us

Can the Sacred Site Be Used?

16. Protection sign

17. Evaluation of the preservation or damages of the sacred site

18. Evaluation of the possibilities of using the sacred site



Sacred linden in Vedu village, Tartumaa. The national information board spoils the view and impedes the use of the sacred site

Also Important

- 19. Urgent works
- 20. Photographing
- 21. Gathering oral heritage
- 22. Notes



Local people must often be contacted repeatedly to get help in mapping sacred sites

Thank You!

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*A child tying an offering ribbon to a sacred tree in
Kiigeoru grove, Tartumaa*