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RIVER UNIVERSITY

OVERVIEW OF THE ONGOING
FRESHWATER RESTORATION
WORK IN ESTONIA

24 - 28
Aug
2026

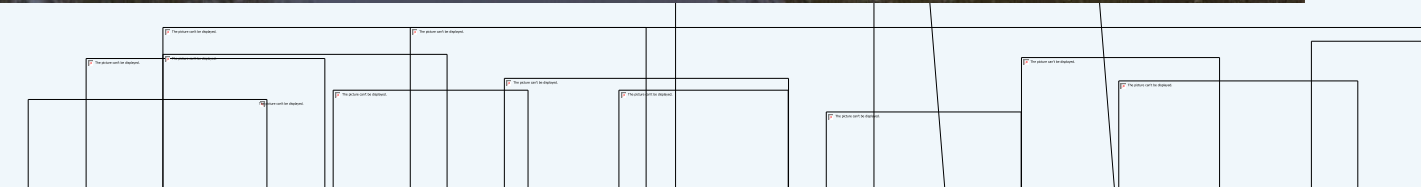


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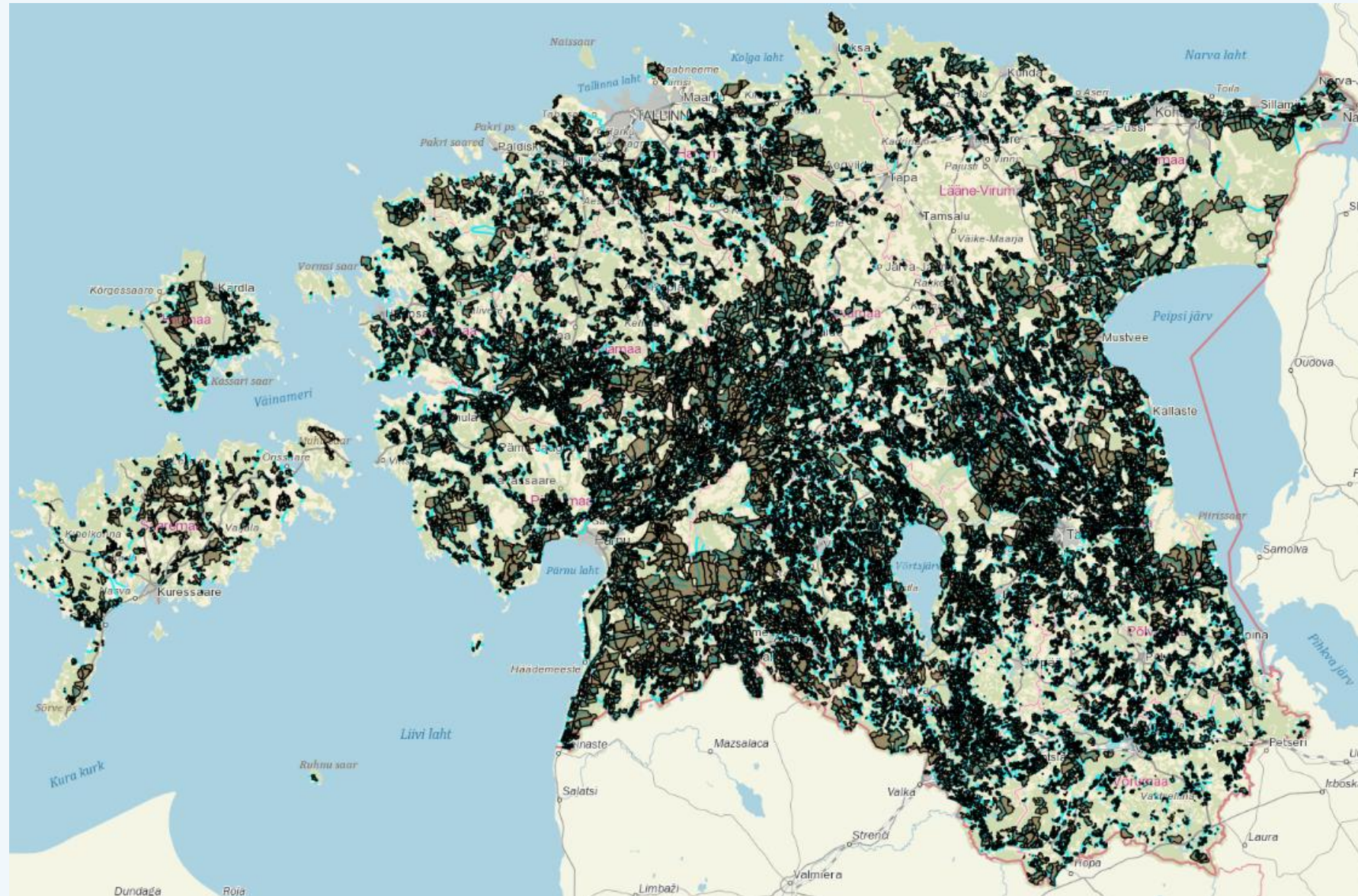
Why?

- Straightening
- Deepening
- Dams

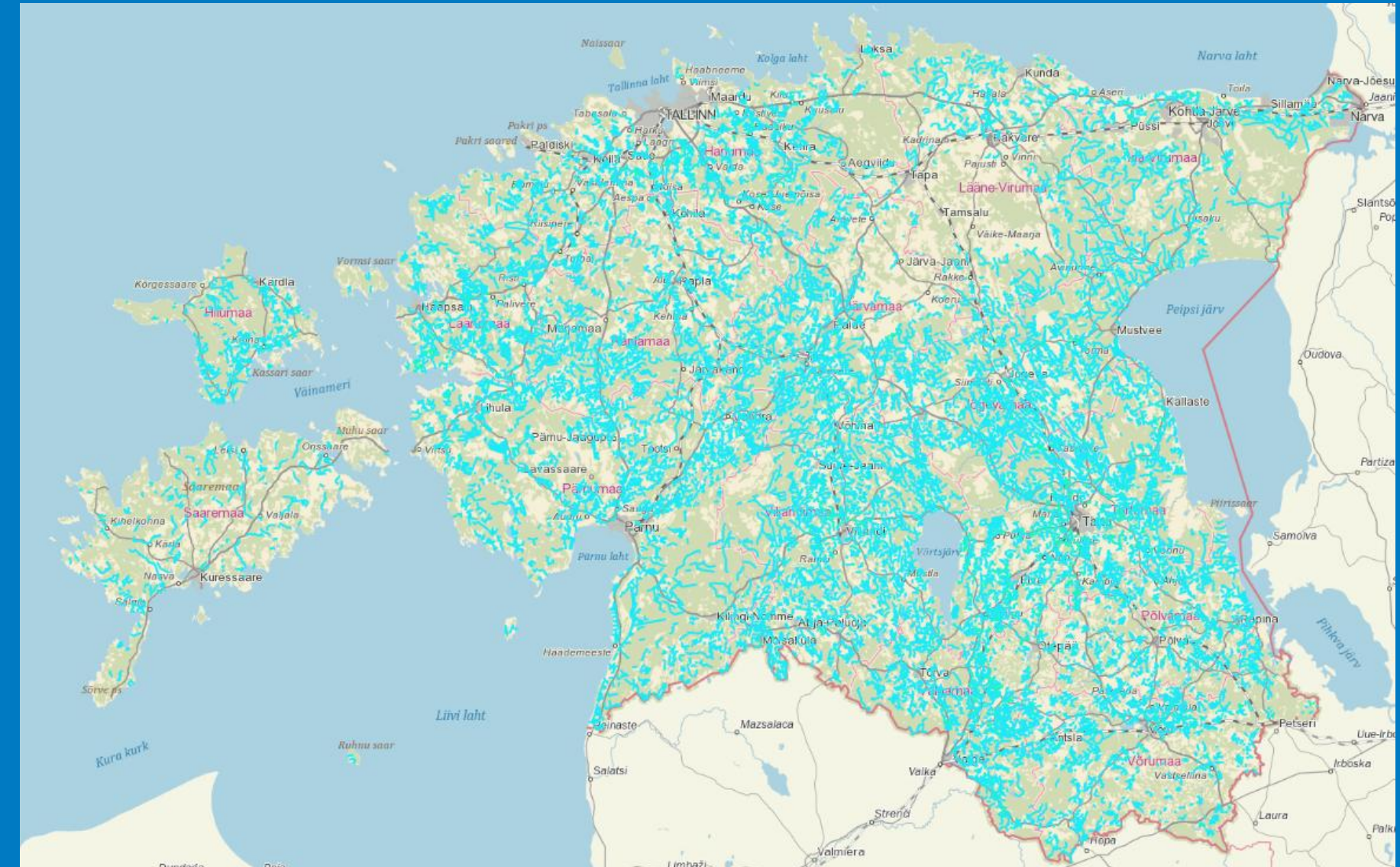


Why?

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Land improvement system area



State-maintained drainage recipients

Main types of restoration work

Spawning gravel



Fieldstones



Wood



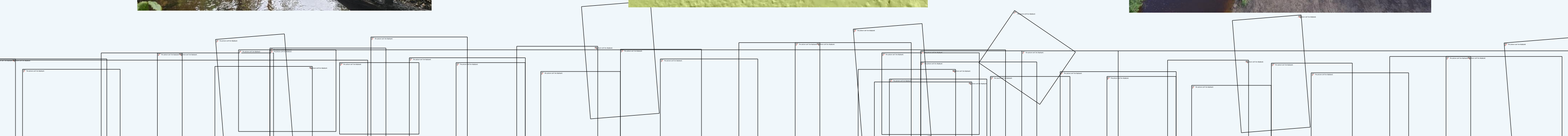
Wickerwork



River channel restoration

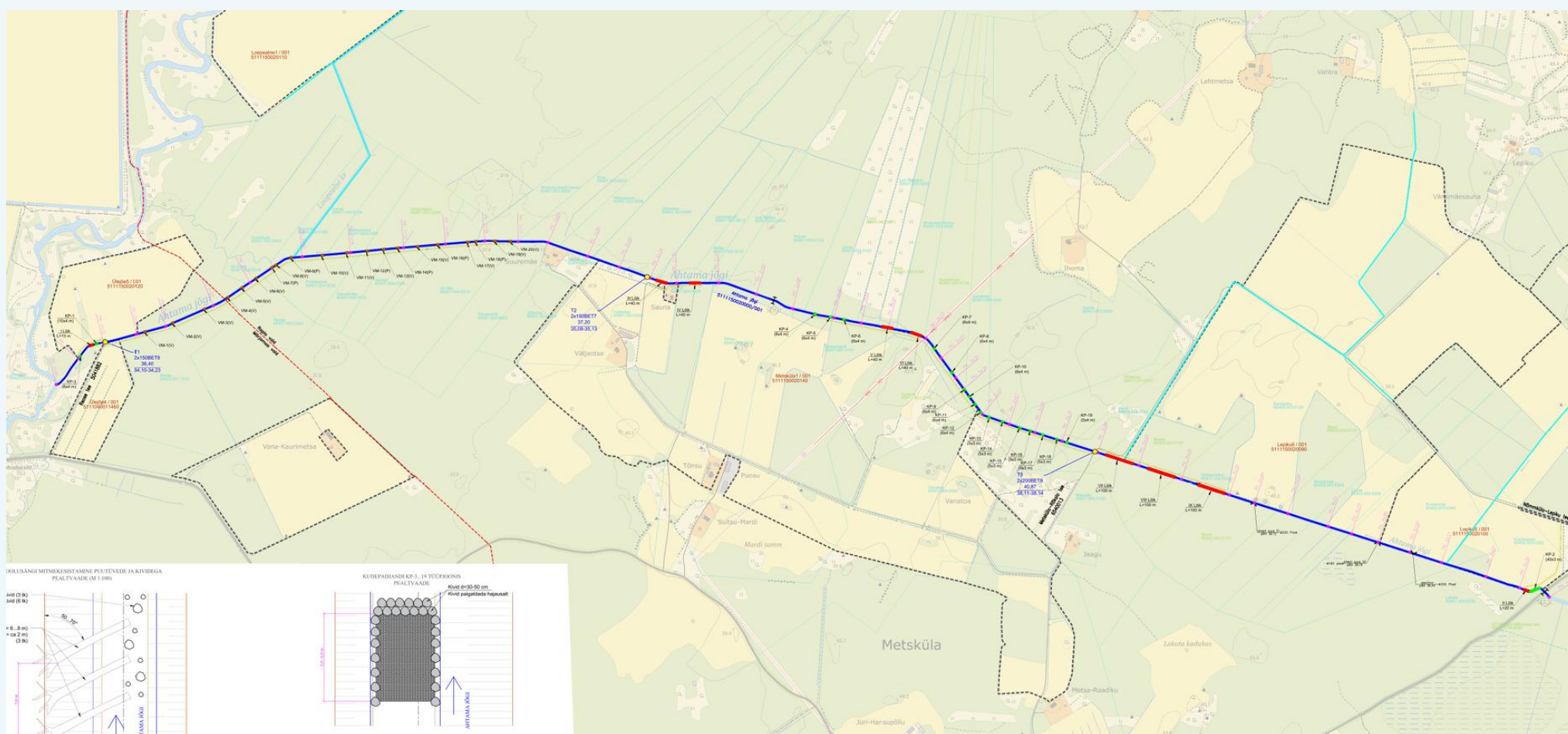
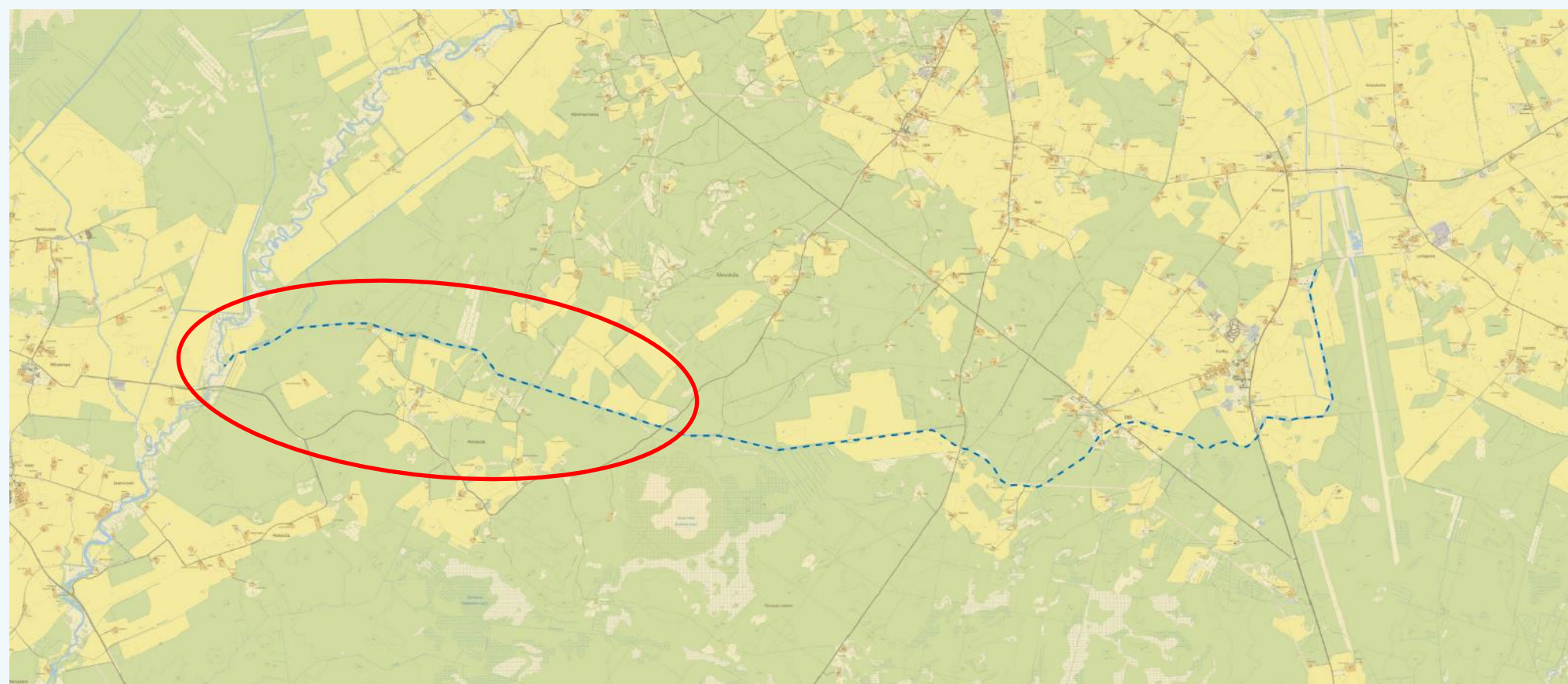


Dam and fish passes



Ahtama

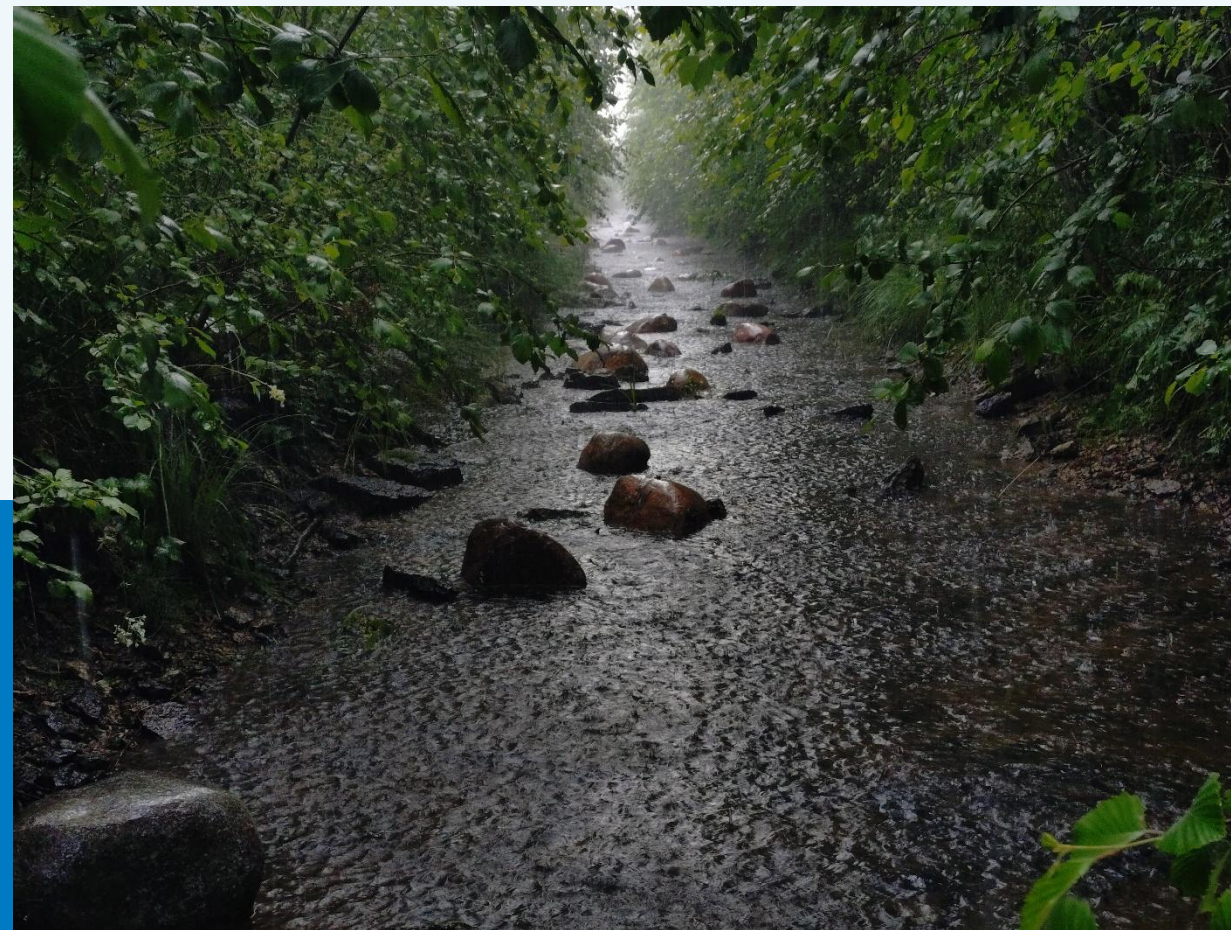
- Length 15,7 km
- Catchment area 62,6 km²
- State-maintained drainage recipient



Ahtama



Spawning gravel



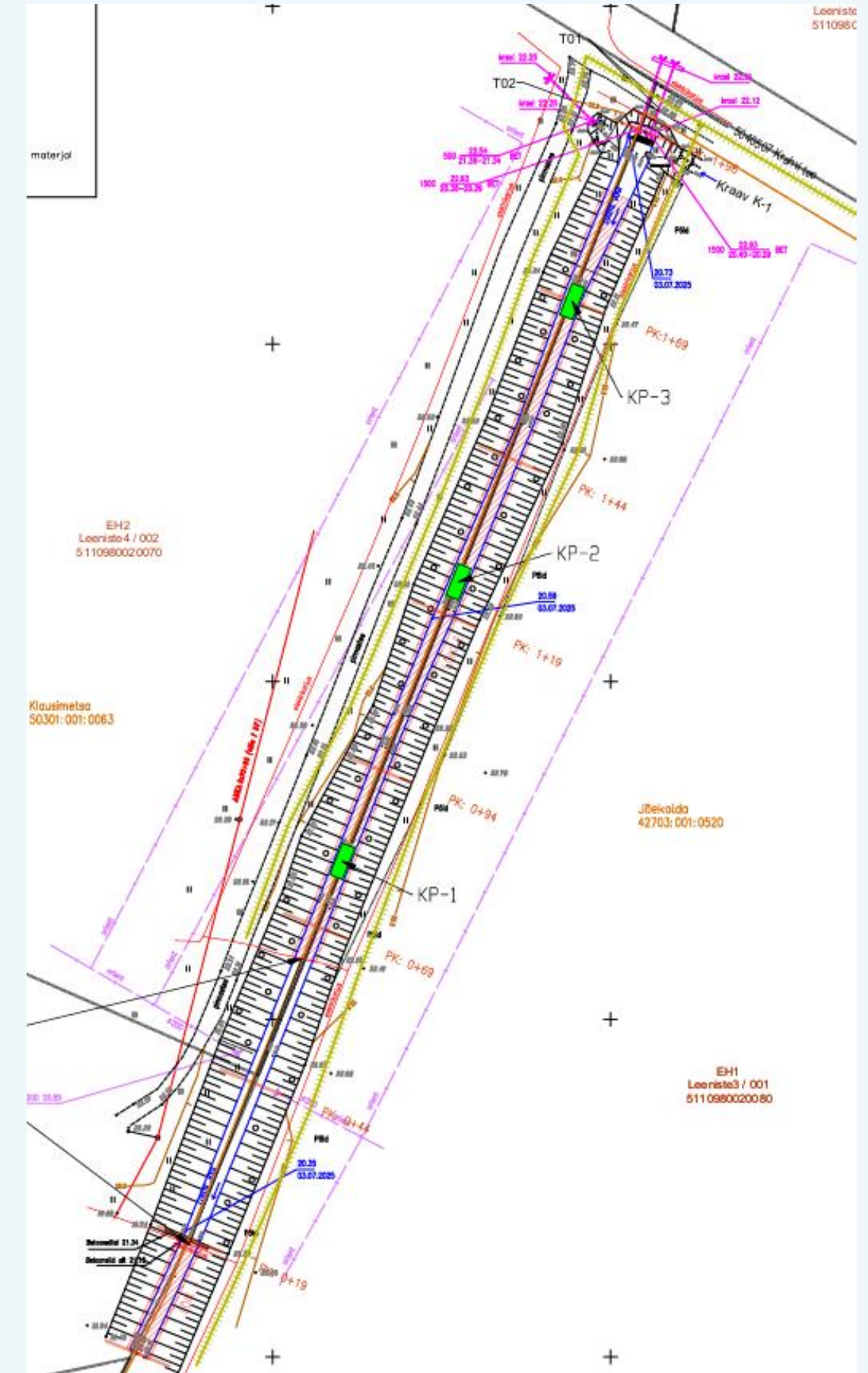
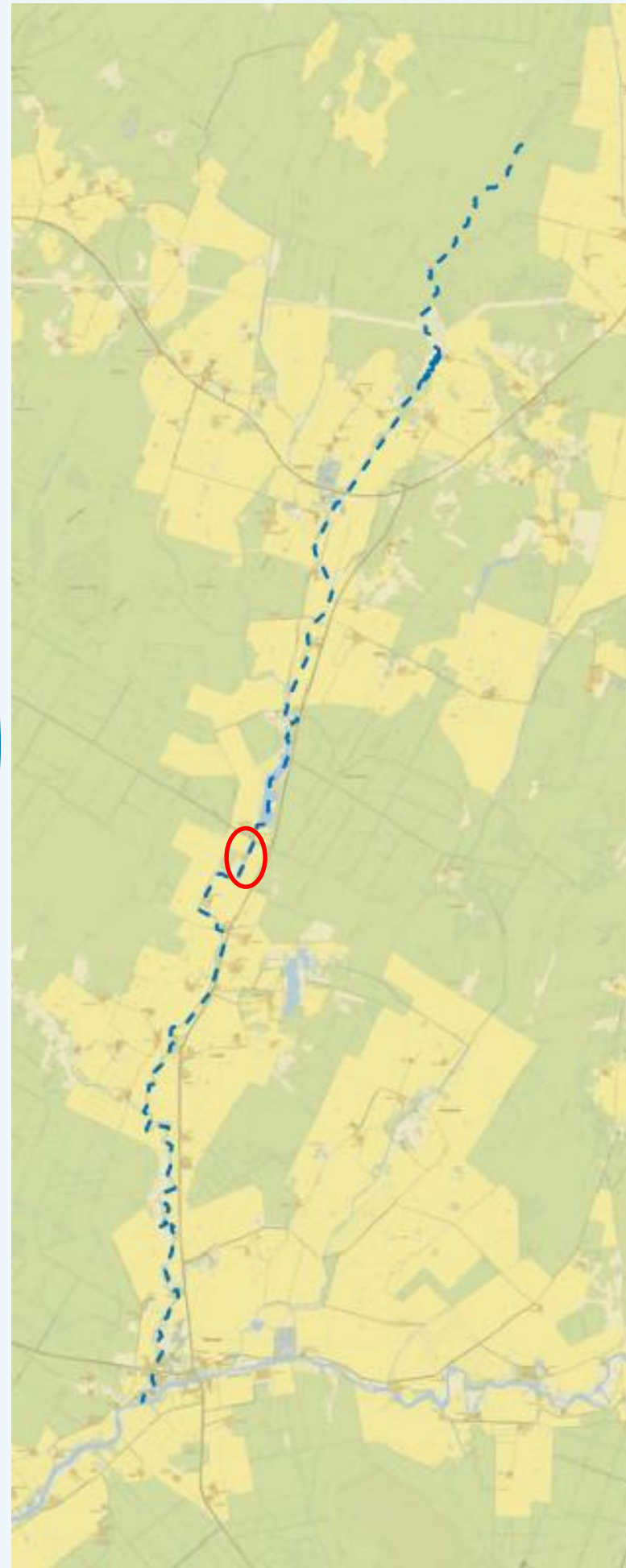
Fieldstones



Wood

Luiste

- Length 15 km
- Catchment area 98,1 km²
- State-maintained drainage recipient



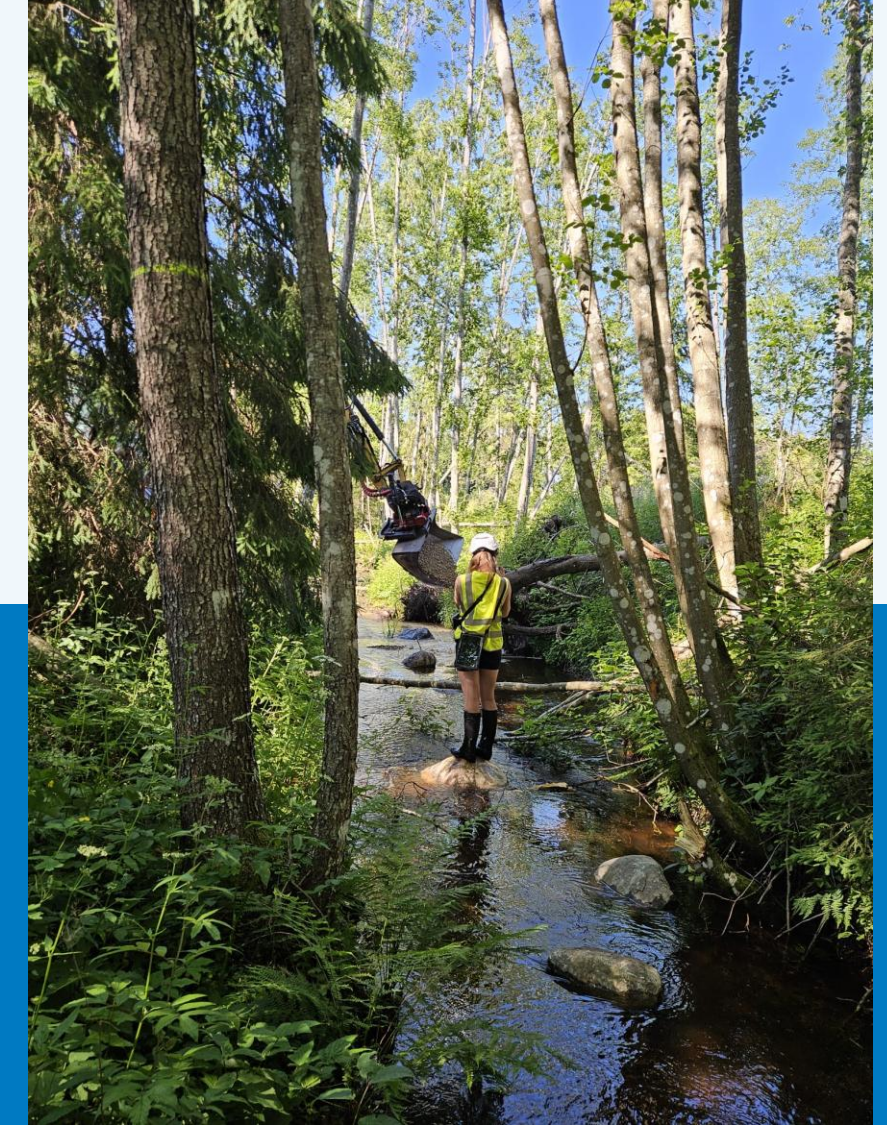
Luiste



Sediment trap



Spawning gravel



Construction

Mustjõgi

- Length 13,4 km
- Catchment area 44,8 km²
- State-maintained drainage recipient



Mustjõgi



Relief



Straightened
river bed

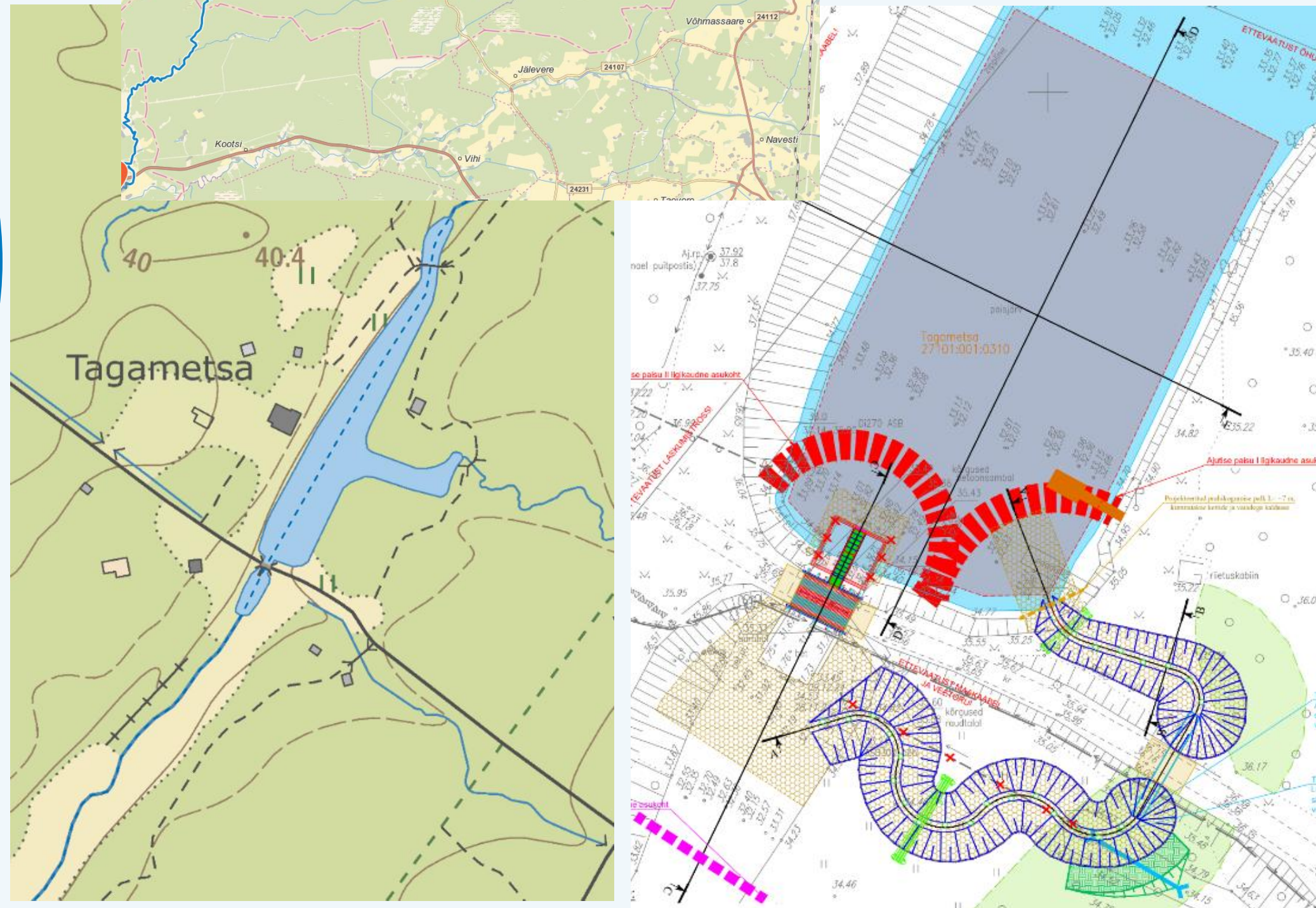


Opening of old
river bed

Tagametsa

Saarjõgi

- Length 38,1 km
- Catchment area 178,3 km²
- State-maintained drainage recipient



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Tagametsa



Dam before



Dam during
construction

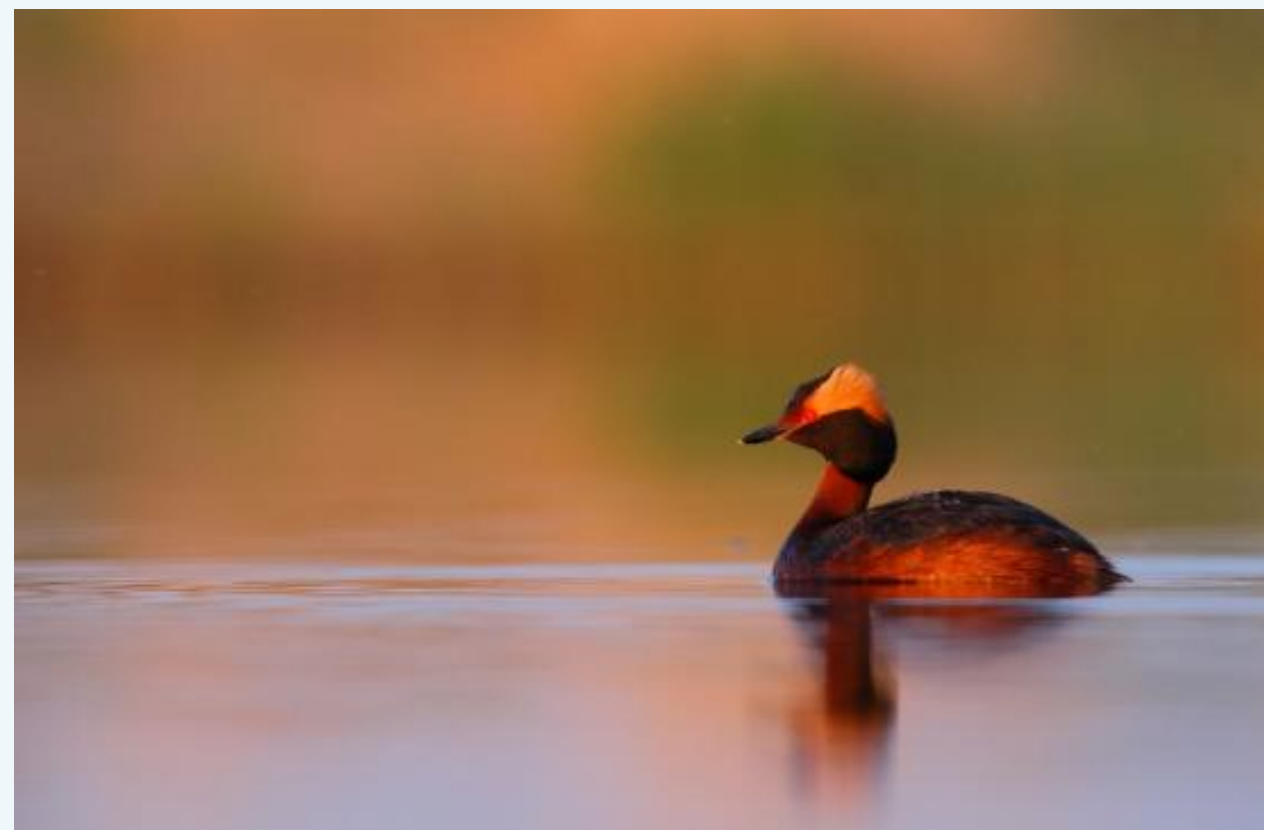
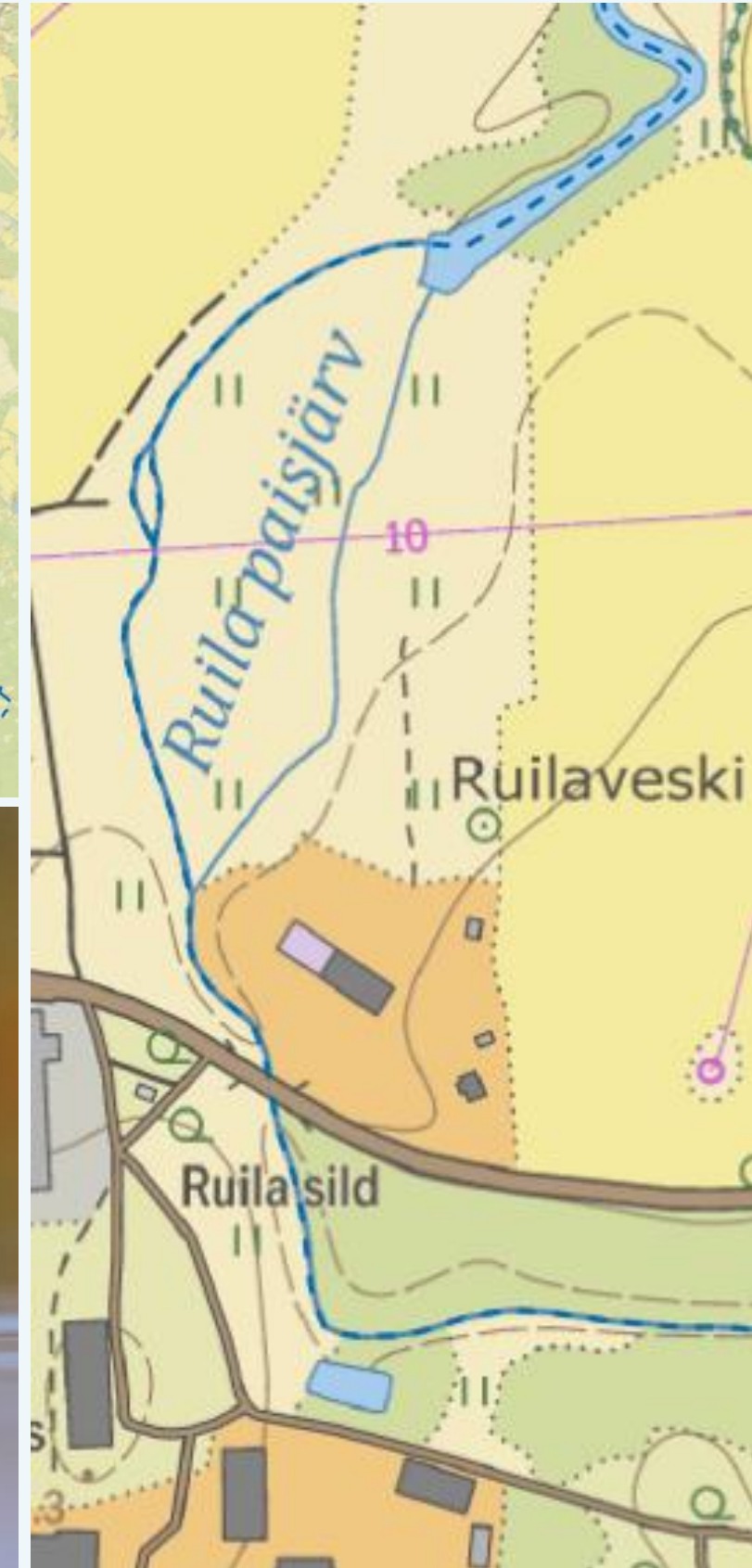
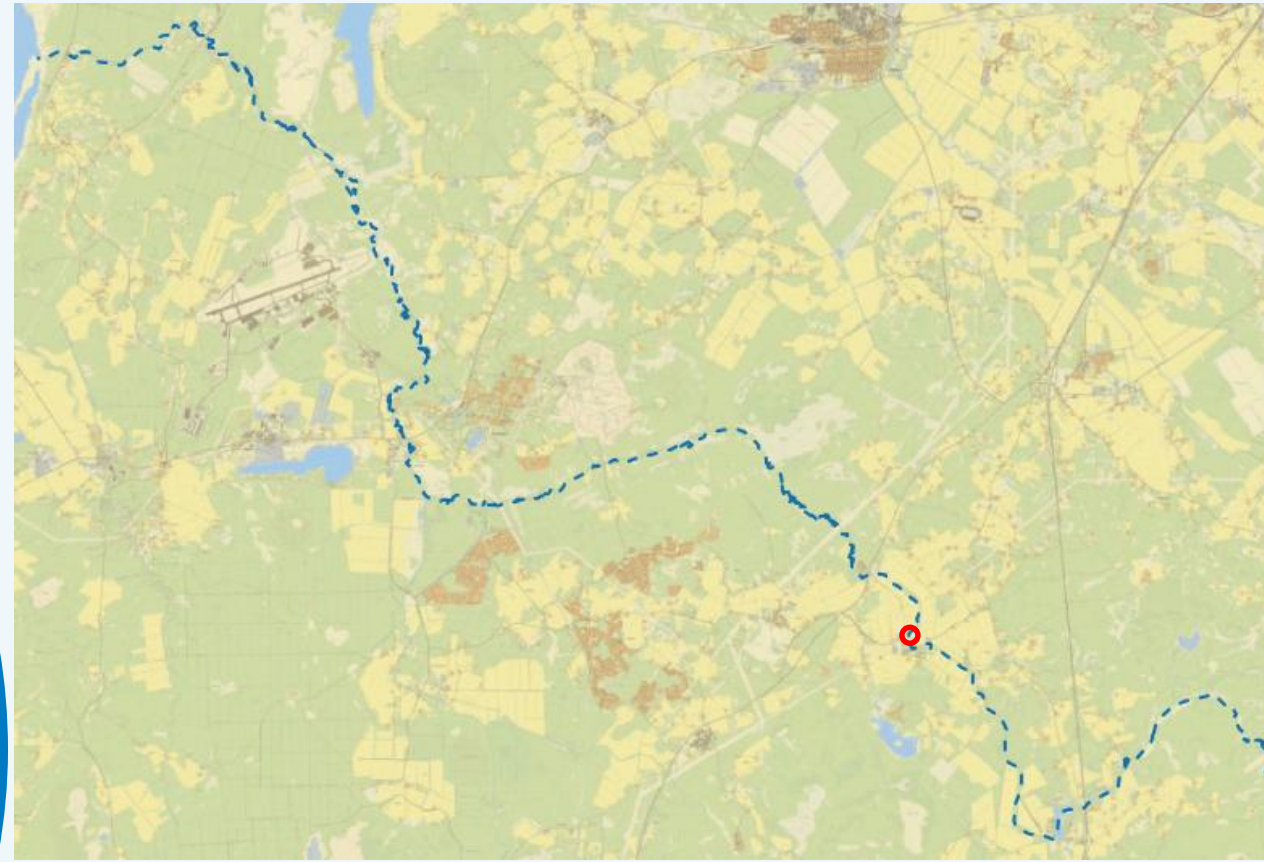


Dam and fishpass after

Ruila

Vasalemma jõgi

- Length 50,8 km
- Catchment area 407,5 km²
- State-maintained drainage recipient



Horned grebe (*podiceps auritus*)

Ruila



Before



After





Key lessons

- Legal and permit requirements
- Drainage constraints
- Site Access and machinery
- Environmental restrictions
- Stakeholder expectations

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Clean Baltic



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THANK YOU

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