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UNESCO Region: EUROPE AND THE NORTH AMERICA

SITE NAME: The Bronze Age Burial Site of Sammallahdenmäki

DATE OF INSCRIPTION: 4th December 1999

STATE PARTY: FINLAND

CRITERIA: C (ii)(iv)(v)

DECISION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE:

Excerpt from the Report of the 23rd Session of the World Heritage Committee

The Committee inscribed the site on the World Heritage List on the basis of criteria (iii) and (iv):

Criterion (iii): The Sammallahdenmäki cairn cemetery bears exceptional witness to the society of the Bronze Age of Scandinavia.

Criterion (iv): The Sammallahdenmäki cemetery is an outstanding example of Bronze Age funerary practices in Scandinavia.

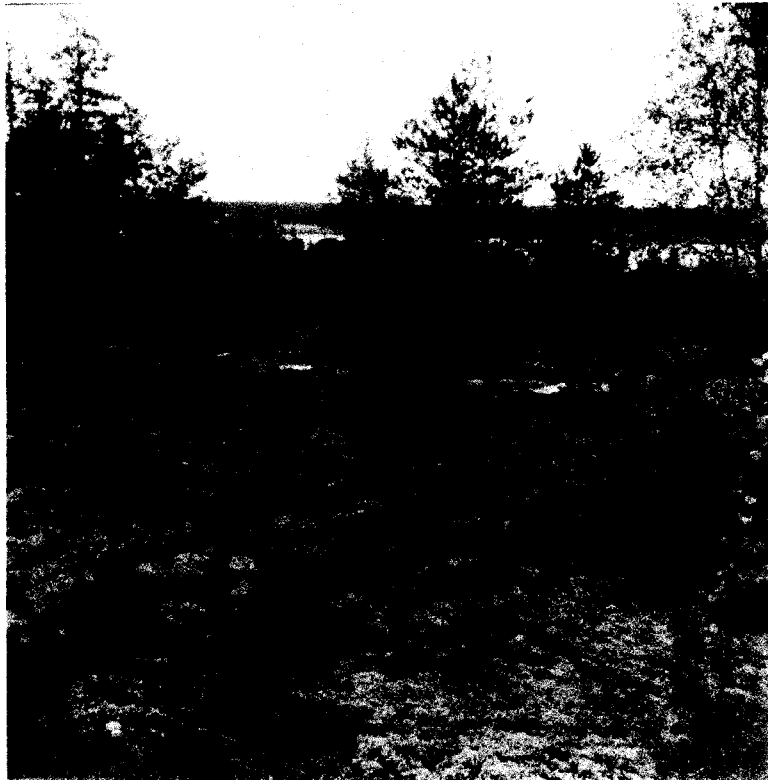
Delegates drew the attention that the inscription of this non-monumental property responds to the objectives of the global strategy.

BRIEF DESCRIPTIONS

The more than thirty granite burial cairns of the Bronze Age cemetery at Sammallahdenmäki bear exceptional witness to the funerary practices and the social and religious structures of northern Europe more than three millennia ago.

1.b State, Province or Region: Lappi TI., Province of Satakunta

1.d Exact location: 61° 7' N, 21° 46' E



**THE BRONZE AGE BURIAL SITE OF
SAMMALLAHDENMÄKI**

WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION

Nomination form for the World Heritage List

June 1998

1. Specific location

a) Country

Finland

b) State, Province or Region

Lappi Tl., Province of Satakunta

c) Name of Property

The Bronze Age burial site of Sammallahdenmäki

d) Exact location on map and indication of geographical coordinates

Latitude and longitude 61 07'14" North, 21 46'39" East

The area nominated for the World Heritage List comprises the cairn area of Sammallahdenmäki (see enclosed maps 3 and 4). The buffer zone includes adjoining bedrock outcrops, fields, and forested areas (see enclosed map 3).

e) Maps and Plans

Enclosed maps:

1. The location of Sammallahdenmäki on the map of Finland (enclosure 1)
2. The location of Sammallahdenmäki on Finnish Road Map no. 4 (enclosure 2)
3. Basic map 1134 01 LAPPI, scale 1:20 000 (enclosure 3)
4. General site map, scale 1:4000 (enclosure 4)

2. Juridical data

a) Owner

Several private landowners (see enclosure 6)

b) Legal status

The area nominated for the World Heritage List:

The cairn area of Sammallahdenmäki is an ancient monument protected by law. The borders of the site have been defined on the 25th of May, 1993 by the provincial government of the province of Turku and Pori in accordance with the recommendation of the National Board of Antiquities (the Antiquities Act, § 5). The monument comprises more than 30 stone cairns. The cairns lie along the crest and slopes of a 700 m long bedrock outcrop. Sammallahdenmäki and its environs are also included among the traditional landscapes listed in the report of the landscape committee of the Ministry of the Environment.

The buffer zone:

The borders of the buffer zone, which is essential for the purpose of ensuring the preservation and value of the site, have been defined on the 25th of May, 1993 by the provincial government of the province of Turku and Pori in accordance with the recommendation of the National Board of Antiquities (the Antiquities Act, § 5). The buffer zone consists of outcrops, fields, and forested areas adjacent to the stone cairns. The zone borders on the Saarnijärvi Nature Preserve, which is included in the national programme for the protection of waterfowl habitats.

c) Responsible national agency

The National Board of Antiquities

P.O. Box 913

00101 Helsinki, Finland

tel. +358 0 40501

fax +358 0 4050300

c) Collaborating national agencies and organizations

The Southwest Finland Nature Centre

The Satakunta Regional Council

The Satakunta Provincial Museum

3. Identification

a) History

The Scandinavian Bronze Age (1500-500 BC) culture sphere included the coastal zone of continental Finland and the land archipelago. Stone burial cairns were a typical feature of the western bronze culture. These cairns were usually constructed of boulders without any earth fill, and were often located on cliffs or gravel hillocks with an extensive view of the sea. Stone cairns of this type are found in a band along the coast, from the Kymenlaakso region to Finland Proper and north to Ostrobothnia. More than 3000 cairns are known from Finland. They contain both cremation and inhumation burials. The grave goods, which are mainly metal objects of Scandinavian origin, show no signs of having been on the pyre.

The Bronze Age burial site at Sammallahdenmäki is a unique example of a cult site used by people who lived in the area more than 3000 years ago. It relates to a new religion, sun worship, which spread to the coastal regions of Finland from Scandinavia. The early Bronze Age custom of locating graves in high places on lonely coastal cliffs far from population centres has been thought to indicate an attraction to the sun and the sea (enclosure 5). The location of the grave was supposedly connected to sun worship but was also a manifestation of kin group landownership, which is thought to have appeared with the introduction of farming. As a whole, the archaeological site combines the enormous proportions of the individual structures with the imposing presence of the natural environment. The level crest of the hill, rising above its surroundings and now covered by a growth of sparse pine, was virtually treeless in prehistoric times and was chosen as a holy place because it had an unimpeded view of the sea and was open to the sun in all directions.

b) Description and inventory

The monument complex of Sammallahdenmäki comprises 33 burial cairns, 28 of which may be dated to the Bronze Age on the basis of elevation. The cairns lie along the crest and slopes of a 700 m long rocky ridge, forming several clusters (enclosures 4 and 5). The site is the largest and best preserved Bronze Age cairn area in Finland. Four of the cairns were investigated when archaeological excavations were carried out on the site in 1891. Sammallahdenmäki presents an imposing array of a number of different Bronze Age cairn types: low and round small cairns (enclosure 11, photograph 8 and enclosure 15, slide 12), large moundlike cairns (enclosure 10, photograph 6), and round walled cairns (enclosure 11, photograph 9). Some cairns feature drywall masonry. Inner structures include cists made from stone flags (enclosure 15, slide 14). In addition, the area contains two peculiar Bronze Age grave types. One of these is an oval, elongated and wall-like cairn known as "Huilun pitkä raunio" ("the long ruin of Huilu"). The shape of the cairn is the result of several successive enlargements (enclosure 12, photograph 10 and enclosures 13-14, slides 4 and 8). The inside walls, the different setting of the floor flags and the differences in the stone building material and the earth foundation are best explained if one assumes that the structure was built in three separate stages. The cairn has produced no implements or bones, only charcoal. Only two cairns of this type are known from Finland. The 24 m long and 7,5 - 8 m wide wall-encircled cairn of Sammallahdenmäki is one of the most majestic and imposing grave monuments of Bronze Age Satakunta. Another rare structure is the quadrangular cairn known as the "Kirkonlaattia" ("Church floor"). The "Kirkonlaattia" is the only example of this type known from Finland, and the form is also rare in Scandinavia. The cairn is an asymmetric quadrangle built of stones (enclosure 7, photographs 1-3 and enclosures 13-14, slides 1, 6-7). The lengths of the parallel sides, pair by pair, are 19,2 m and 16,8 m, and 15 m and 18,8 m. The structure is flat like a floor, and has no actual outer wall. The height of the cairn is some 0,5 m at the edges, though the layer of stones is somewhat thinner towards the centre. Investigations uncovered a structure consisting of a 0,1 - 0,4 m high and 3,5 m long wall of flags within the cairn. The excavation results offer no answer as to whether the cairn is a grave or some sort of religious structure. The flag wall may be interpreted as part of a cist, so the structure is probably a grave. Two other excavated graves produced burnt bone but - again - no implements. For this reason, the precise dating of the Sammallahdenmäki cairns is not possible. During the early Bronze Age, graves were often erected on high cliffs with a scenic view near the coast, sometimes even on an island. By this criterion, most of the Sammallahdenmäki graves may be dated to the early Bronze Age.

As the aerial photographs show, the cairns are so well hidden against the cliff background that they are difficult to see (enclosures 13-14, slides 1-5). Sammallahdenmäki is formed of granite with a uniform grain. Places where the stone has been quarried are visible on the cliff face. The stone was used for steps etc. still during the present century. The graves in the area have also been built of stone collected and quarried on the site.

Considering the number of known graves, Bronze Age coastal dwelling sites are rare. Consequently, the spread of human settlement can be traced more readily on the basis of graves than dwelling sites. Cairns built on coastal hills or slopes are located close to settlements. However, dwelling sites have not been found on the cliffs, and the settlement of the builders of the Sammallahdenmäki cairns has not yet been found.

The Sammallahdenmäki cairns were erected on a coastal cliff with a wide view of the surrounding area, as Bronze Age cairns often are. Due to land uplift, the sea coast is no longer visible, but the view from Sammallahdenmäki hill over Lake Saarnijärvi gives an idea of what the ancient seascape looked like (enclosure 7, photograph 1). The cliff area has also retained features of the island environment, including stunted pines and lichens.

c) Photographic and/or cinematographic documentation

12 colour slides and 10 black and white photographs with captions are enclosed
Source to be acknowledged on publication National Board of Antiquities, Finland

d) Public awareness

The site is open to tourists and can be reached via marked routes from the main highways. A sign with information on the ancient monument has been erected beside the parking area. Guided tours of the site can be arranged by appointment. Sammallahdenmäki currently plays a very central role in the "Footsteps of the forefathers" touring route developed by the Rauma area tourism society. This route is part of a larger project known as the Site Register for Prehistory Touring. The primary goal of this project is to develop a new type of theme tourism for southwestern Finland and Satakunta that would focus on rural areas. Sammallahdenmäki also contains important environmental features that must be taken into account when developing the site for tourism.

e) Bibliography

Arvokkaat maisema-alueet. Maisema-aluetyöryhmän mietintö II. Ympäristöministeriön suojeluosaston mietintö 66/1992. Helsinki 1993.

Killinen, K. 1880. Kiinteitä muinaisjäännöksiä Ulvilan kihlakunnassa, Suomen Tiedeseuran myöntämällä matkarahoilla luetellut K. Killinen 1978. (Ancient monuments in the rural district of Ulvila), pp. 16-18.

Salo, Unto 1981. Satakunnan historia. 1,2 Satakunnan pronssikausi, pp. 168-174. Rauma.

Tallgren, A.M., Anna-Liisa Lindelöf, 1916. Satakunnan pronssikausi I. Irtonaiset löydöt. Yleiskatsaus. II Hautarauniot eli hiidenkiukaat pitäjittäin lueteltuina. pp. 185-186. Suomen Muinaismuistoyhdistyksen Aikakauskirja XXVII. Helsinki.

4. State of preservation/conservation

a) Diagnosis

Actual renovation has not been necessary in the area because the site is for the most part in excellent condition due to the relatively harsh environment. The sparse vegetation has not covered the burial cairns. The cairns are built of natural stone, primarily granite, which does not erode easily and is not threatened by aerial pollution. Those of the cairns that have at some stage been opened by grave robbers have been left as they are, since their original construction and shape is not known for sure (enclosure 15, slide 14). The cairns that were excavated in 1891 have been restored to their original shape.

The prevalent form of land use, farming, has been allowed in the buffer zone. New construction and open-area logging are forbidden.

b) History of preservation/conservation

The stone cairns situated on the high cliffs on the shore of Lake Saarnijärvi were first mentioned in K. Killinen's catalogue of ancient sites in the district of Ulvila from 1878. The catalogue also notes that, according to the inhabitants of Huilu farm, "a gentleman had had one of the large cairns excavated and had found therein a flag cist with bones in it." No detailed records of this excavation exist. In 1891 Volter Högman catalogued the cairns of Lappi parish, arriving at a total of 17. Four of these he excavated himself. No metal objects were found, but some of the cairns produced burnt and unburnt bone. The cairns were inspected again in connection with the archaeological survey of Lappi County in 1961, the number now rising to 26. During the mapping of the area in 1990, more cairns were discovered on the edges of the cliff area, bringing the total up to the current 33 (enclosure 4).

c) Means for preservation/conservation

The Finnish Antiquities Act (295/63) protects permanent monuments without a separate court order, i.e., protection is automatic. § 2 of this act lists the types of ancient monuments. Sammallahdenmäki belongs to the types mentioned in the first paragraph (earth and stone mounds, cairns, stone rings, and stone settings that have been constructed by people in ancient times). The law forbids anyone to dig, cover, change, harm, remove or otherwise meddle with a permanent ancient monument without permission as stipulated by the law. The protection, study and maintenance of permanent monuments is the responsibility of the National Board of Antiquities. Certain duties connected with the supervision of ancient sites, such as the definition of the borders of sites and their buffer zones, have been delegated to the nature centres (former provincial governments). On Sammallahdenmäki the borders have been drawn at the instigation of the National Board of Antiquities (enclosure 3, nominated area and buffer zone).

The Finnish Antiquities Act 295/1963 in the brochure "Archaeological heritage management in Finland (enclosure 17).

The site and its surroundings are also protected through regional planning. The regional plan, which is approved by a government official, the Ministry of the Environment, is the most juridically binding form of legal protection in Finland (enclosure 3, valuable rock area and nature conservation area).

In the 2nd regional plan for Satakunta, which the Ministry of the Environment has approved on 17.6.1985, Sammallahdenmäki is marked as an SU2 area, defined as "A protected area that is protected on the basis of ancient monument legislation or a protected area that includes sites protected under the Antiquities Act." A part of the buffer zone is marked as an SU1-area. This is defined as "A protected area that has been formed or has been meant to be formed on the basis of environmental protection legislation." A part of the buffer zone is MU-area, which is intended to be primarily agricultural and forestry land. In the 3rd regional plan for Satakunta, which the Ministry of the Environment approved on 23.11.1989, the Sammallahdenmäki ancient site is part of a 100 hectare ak-area, defined as "An important cliff area, an area to be protected from earth removal" (enclosure 3). In the 5th regional plan for Satakunta, which has been submitted for approval, the permanent ancient monument of Sammallahdenmäki has been marked as an SM area, which is defined as "An ancient monument protected by the Antiquities Act", and the buffer zone has been marked as a kh area, defined as "Cultural-historically important environments as defined on the basis of landscape, historical, architectural-historical or architectural-artistic criteria."

The ancient monuments maintenance section of the National Board of Antiquities has allotted approximately 20 man-days yearly towards the maintenance of the site.

d) Management plans

Management of the site has sought to preserve the area in an untouched, natural state. The National Board of Antiquities has drawn up a management plan for the area. According to the plan, fallen branches, trash, and twigs are removed as necessary. Deciduous saplings are removed from the cairns themselves and the paths are kept clean. Even a few larger trees have been removed from the immediate vicinity of the cairns. The rugged surroundings (the rocky cliffs) need no special maintenance. The greatest concern has to do with keeping the local environment unchanged; for instance, the delicate growth of lichen does not tolerate wear. Traffic in the area has been directed to a network of paths.

5. Justification for inclusion in the World Heritage List

a) Cultural property

Sammallahdenmäki fits guideline criteria III (unique or at least extremely rare evidence of an extinct culture) and IV (notable representative of a structural or architectural entity type connected with an important historical phase).

Justification:

The prehistoric site of Sammallahdenmäki forms the largest, most varied and most complete monument from the Scandinavian Bronze Age to be found on the coast of the Gulf of Bothnia. Situated in a rugged, rocky landscape, the cairns of Sammallahdenmäki represent the monumental architecture of the time period at its best. The ancient sea coast is still present on the cliffs of Sammallahdenmäki.

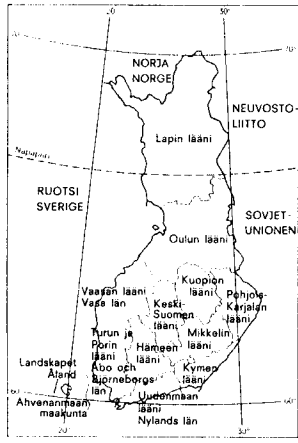
Similar cairns are known from the western coast of the Gulf of Bothnia, e.g., from Ångermanland, Uppland, and Medelpad in Sweden. However, the stone cairns known from these coastal regions generally occur only in small groups rather than forming extensive cairn areas like Sammallahdenmäki. Together, the 33 cairns of Sammallahdenmäki form a monumental array unique to the area of the Scandinavian bronze culture in terms of the number and variety of its graves and its preserved natural surroundings. The Sammallahdenmäki cairns are also a unique example of Bronze Age religious practices and the monumental architecture related thereto. The graves have clearly also functioned as landmarks, being located in highly visible places on the coastal cliffs.

The degree of authenticity of the site area is very high, both as concerns the individual graves and the surrounding natural landscape. Due to its remote location and the appreciation of the local inhabitants, the site has been preserved almost untouched in its pristine natural surroundings. The ancient site is surrounded mainly by a natural landscape devoid of later structures such as houses, highways, and power lines.

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BASKARTAN FÖR STATISTIK 1.1.1991

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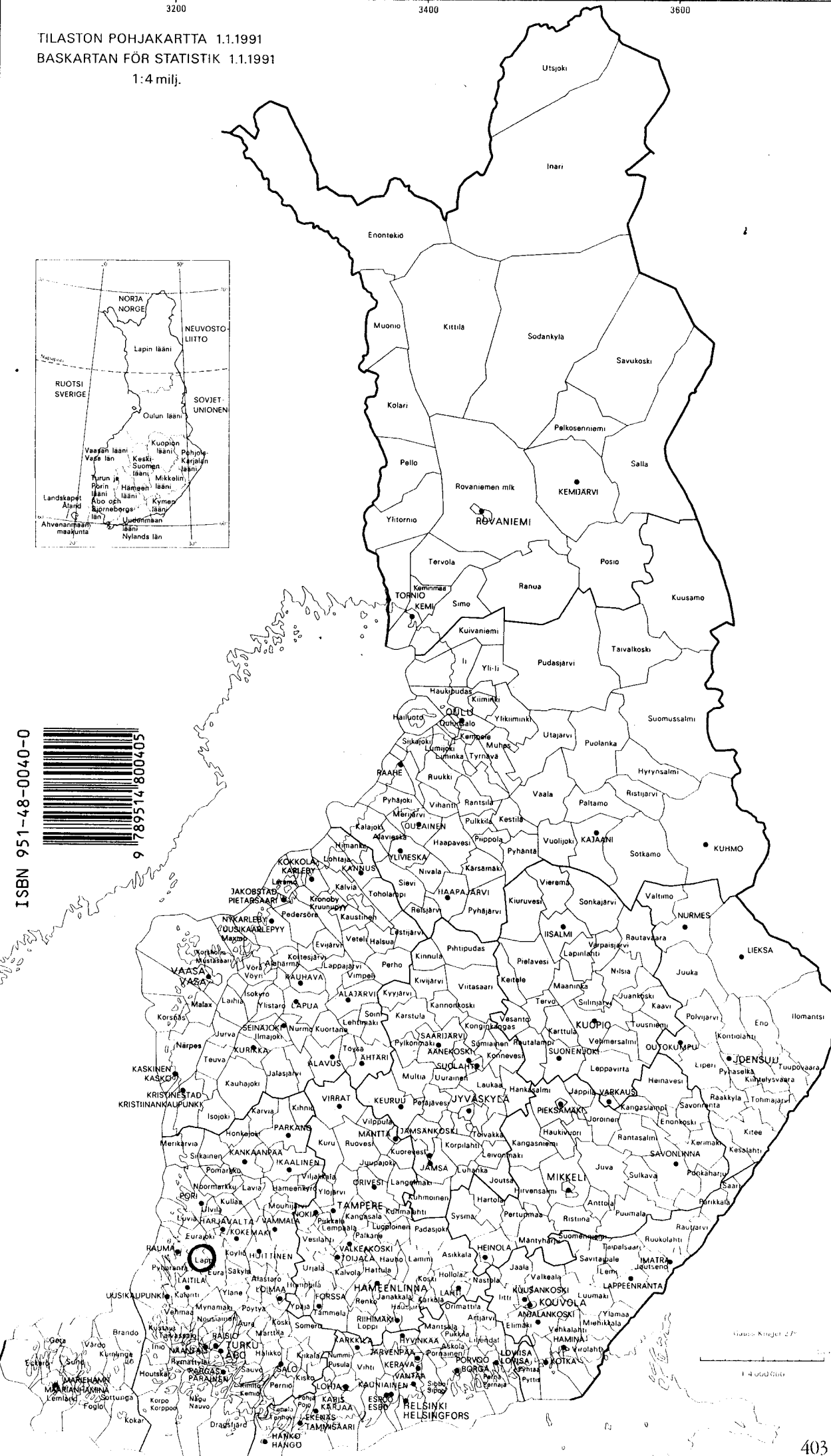


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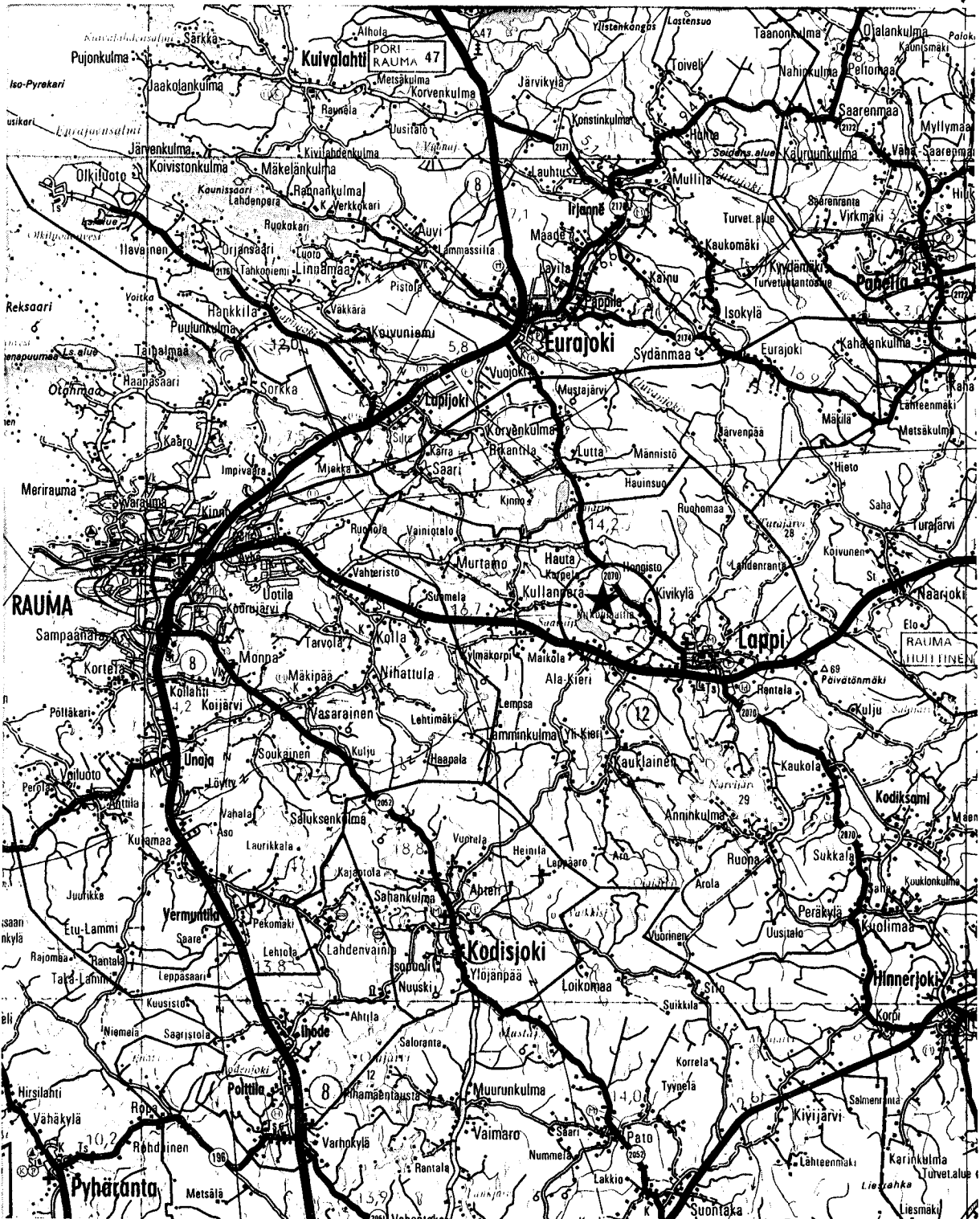
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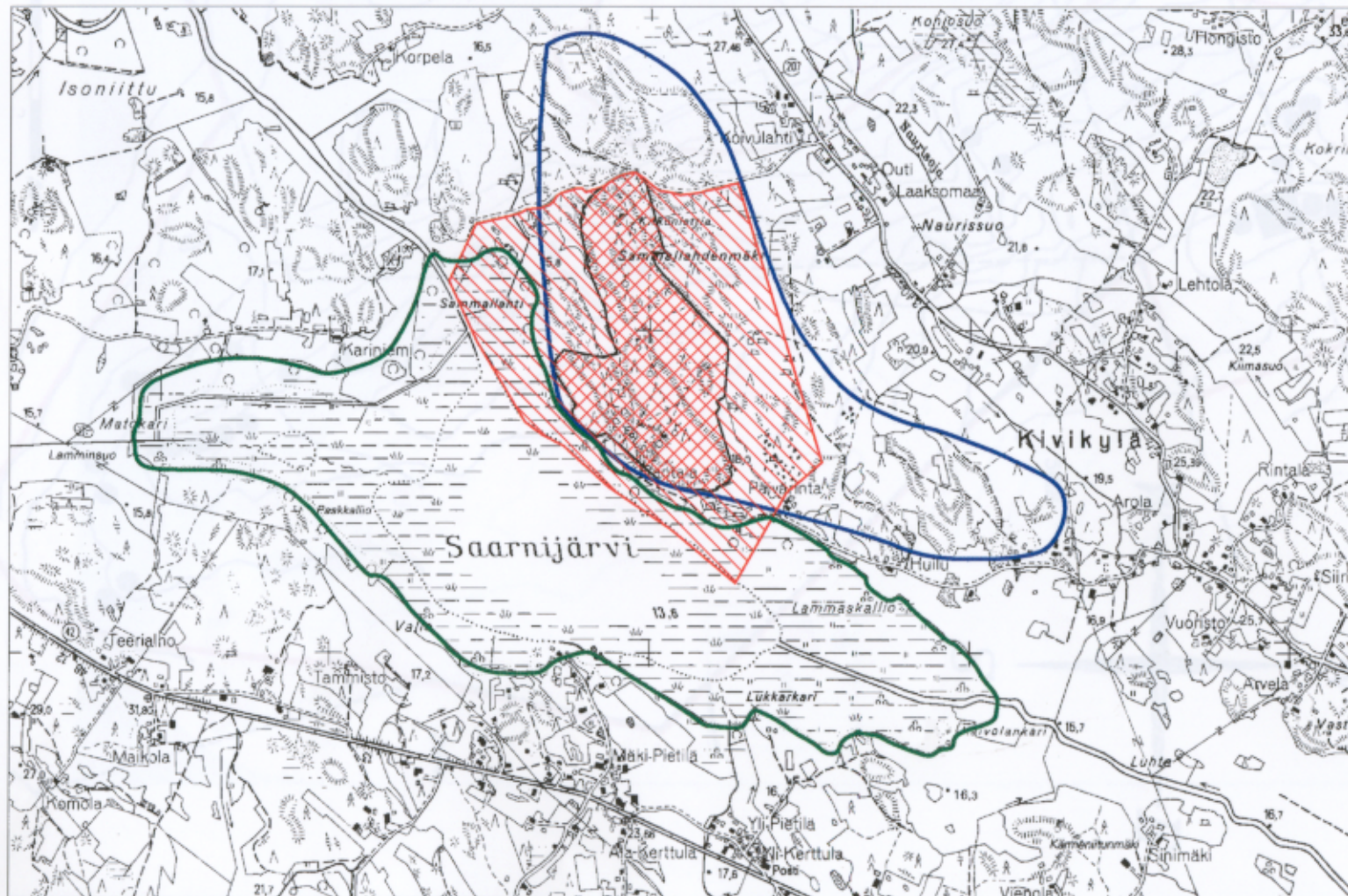
MAANMITTAUSHALLITUS, HELSINKI 1991

Nuoto: Kartta 27


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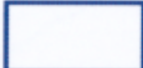
The Bronze Age Burial Site of **SAMMALLAHDENMÄKI**




LEGEND

 nominated area

 buffer zone

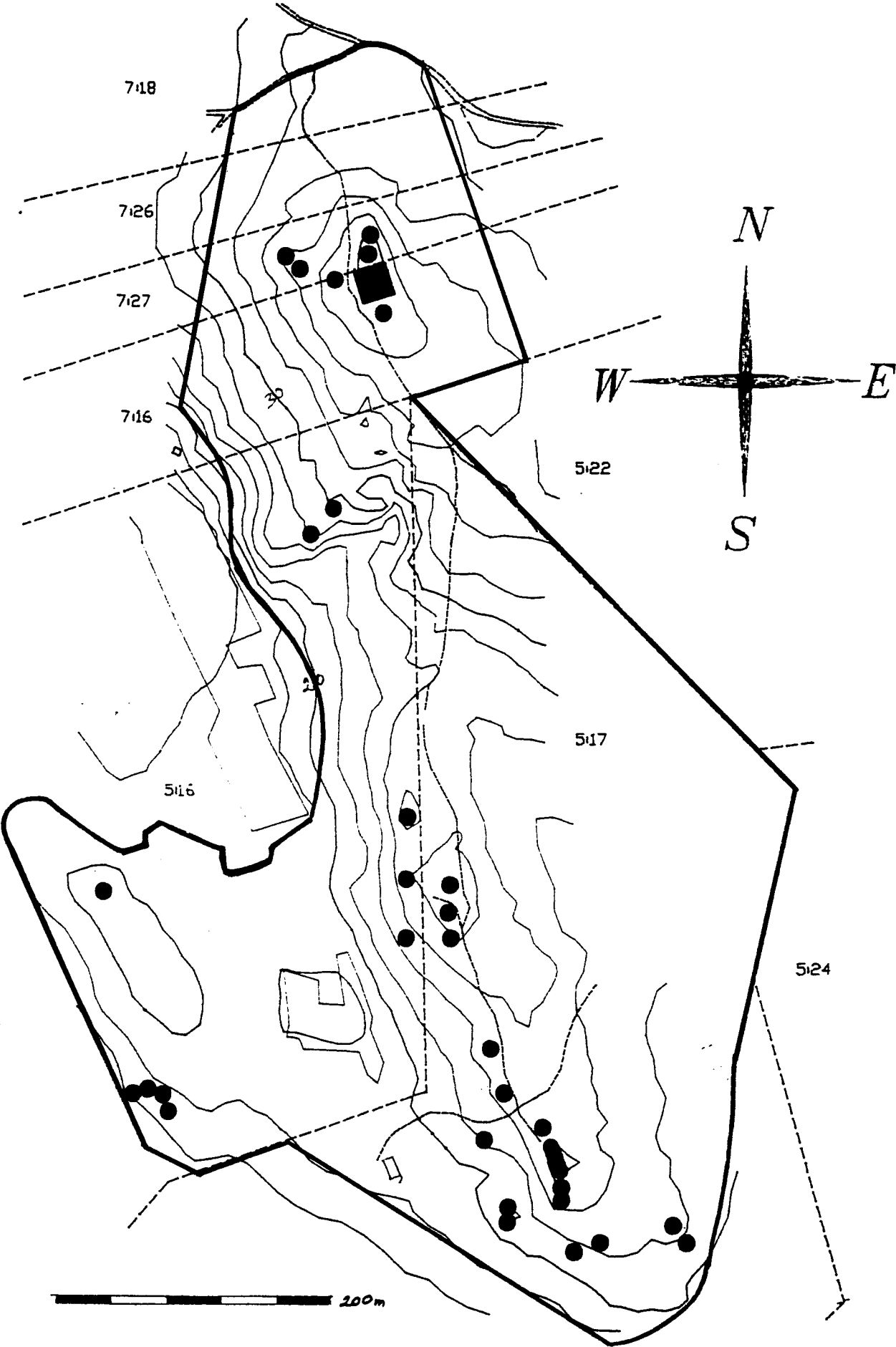
 valuable rock area,
protected from
crushtaking

 nature conservation
area

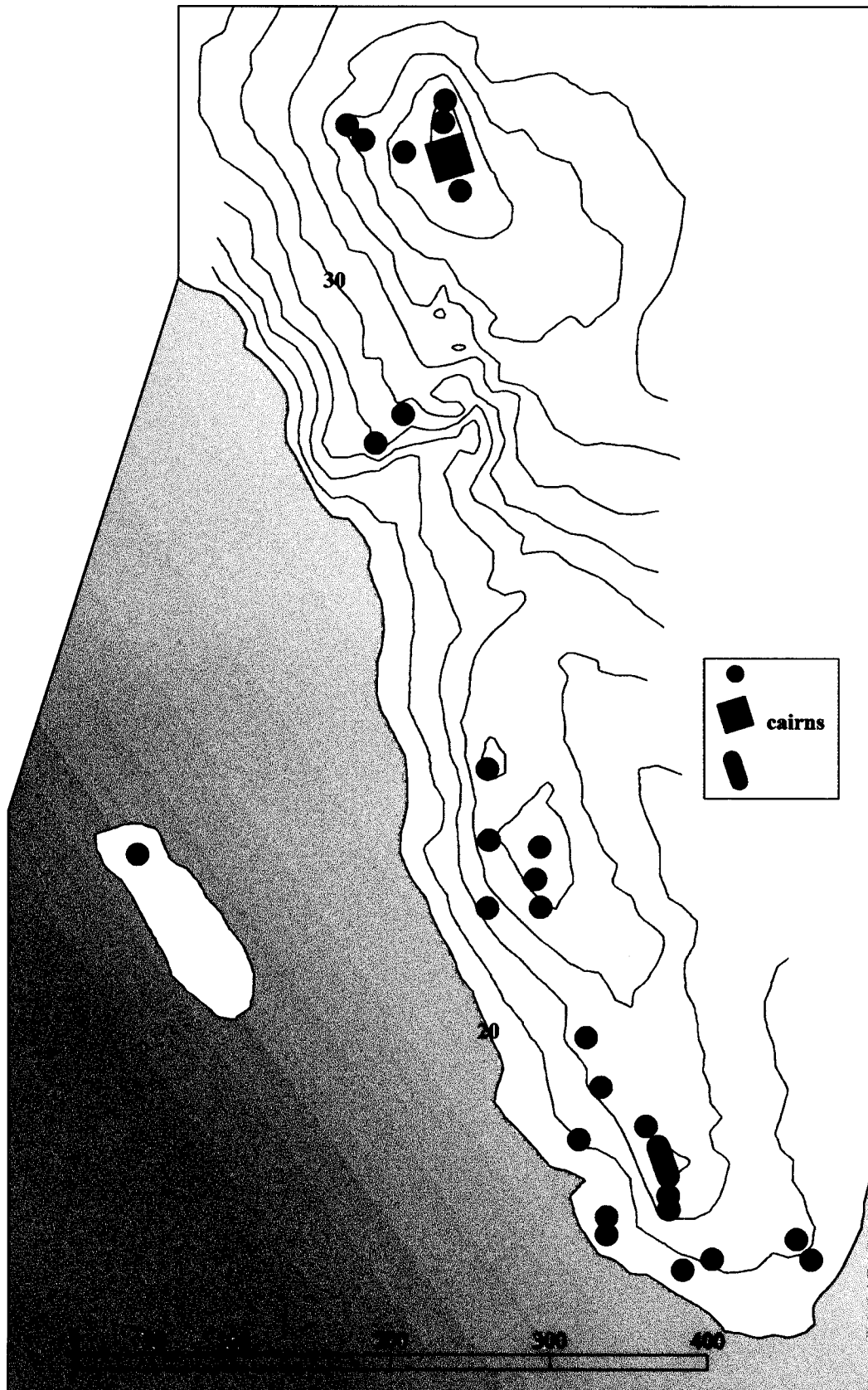
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1 km

The Bronze Age Burial Site of Sammallahdenmäki



Bronze Age shore line



Private landowners

RN:o 7:16 Järvelä
Silja Anttila
Eurajoentie 338
27230 Lappi

RN:o 7:18 Sammallahti
Airi Niemi
Karvarinkuja 2
27230 Lappi

RN:o 7:26 Sarkala
Aarne ja Sally Pouta
Eurajoentie 370
27230 Lappi

RN:o 7:27 Lahdenranta
Reino Vaimala
Huiluntie 53
27230 Lappi

RN:o 5:16 Rantalahti
Kustaa ja Hellin Salonen (molemmat kuolleet)

RN:o 5:17 Rantala ja RN:o 5:32 Päivärinta
Marja-Liisa Laihonen
Huiluntie 121
27230 Lappi

RN:o 5:22 Kotimetsä
Sirkka Valkama
Linnarinteentie 14
26510 Rauma



1. The so-called "Church floor",
with Lake Saarnijärvi in the background. NE.



2. The so-called "Church floor". NW.



**THE BRONZE AGE BURIAL CAIRN AREA
OF SAMMALLAHDENMÄKI**

MANAGEMENT PLAN

September 1999

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 - 3.4 Care and maintenance
 - 3.5 The surrounding area
4. Maintenance plan for the World Heritage Site for 2000–2005
 - 4.1 Maintenance and monitoring of the prehistoric remains
 - 4.2 Forestry
 - 4.3 Nature conservation
5. Use management plan of the World Heritage Site for 2000–2005
 - 5.1 On-site information
 - 5.2 Parking and lay-by area
 - 5.3 Restrictions to traffic
6. Other measures

Enclosures:

Finnish Road Map no. 4 (enclosure 1)

Section of topographic map sheet no. 1134 10 Lappi, scale 1:20 000
(enclosure 2)

The Satakunta regional plan 5 map (enclosure 3)

Nature conservation report (enclosure 4)

Forestry plan (enclosure 5)

List of slides (enclosure 6)

MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE BRONZE AGE BURIAL CAIRN AREA AT SAMMALLAHDENMÄKI

1. Introduction

Finland has selected three archaeological cultural heritage sites to be nominated for the World Heritage List. The final proposal concerning the first of these, the Bronze Age burial cairn area at Sammallahdenmäki in Lappi, was submitted by the National Board of Antiquities to the World Heritage Committee of UNESCO in June 1998. ICOMOS, acting as the international appraiser of the World Heritage sites, informed the National Board of Antiquities in the spring of 1999 that a separate management plan concerning the site should be drawn up and appended to the proposal.

For this purpose, the National Board of Antiquities assembled a task force consisting of delegates from the Southwest Finland Environmental Centre and the Satakunta Nature Conservation District (nature conservation), The Southwest Finland Forestry Centre and the Ala-Satakunta Forestry Corporation (forestry), the Satakunta Regional Council (regional planning), the Satakunta Provincial Museum (regional antiquarian organization), the municipality of Lappi, the "Vanha Rauma vetovoimatekijäksi" and "Esihistorian Eura" local tourism projects, and the local land owners, as well as the National Board of Antiquities staff archaeologists responsible for the cultural heritage management of the area.

The management plan, which is designed to supplement the proposal submitted to UNESCO, is a general account of things that should be particularly considered as the numbers of visitors to the site grow. The plan deals with matters concerning the use and management of the site, such as forestry within the site area and the buffer zone, the arrangements for on-site information for visitors, the organization of local traffic, and the problems brought on by increased tourism.

2. The aims of the management plan

The basic premise is securing the protection of the site. As an ancient monument Sammallahdenmäki is protected by the Antiquities Act, and without permission as stipulated by the law it is forbidden to dig, cover, change, harm, remove or otherwise meddle with it. The borders of the Sammallahdenmäki site and its buffer zone have been officially confirmed by the provincial government of the Province of Turku and Pori (today, the Southwest Finland Environmental Centre) in 1993.

World Heritage Sites are, however, also tourist attractions. As the use of a prehistoric site increases, new kinds of pressures and demands begin to be felt, and designing a management plan becomes necessary. The main goal of the management plan is, through combining the efforts of various authorities and the local land owners, to secure the protection of the Sammallahdenmäki site area and the characteristics of the surrounding nature, and to enable the development of

culture tourism without endangering the site and its environment. In addition, the plan strives to make sure that the use of the area does not cause unreasonable inconvenience to the land owners. The aim is also to promote tourism in cooperation with other culture tourism projects of the province.

3. Description and present condition of the site

3.1 Location information

The prehistoric cairn area of Sammallahdenmäki lies in the Ala-Satakunta region, in Kivikylä village, Lappi municipality, 17 km east of Rauma and 3 km towards Eurajoki from the Lappi village. The route to the site has been signposted from the main road. A section of the Finnish Road Map no. 4 (encl. 1) and a copy of the topographic map sheet 1134 01 Lappi (encl. 2) have been enclosed with the management plan.

3.2 Prehistoric remains

The Sammallahdenmäki rock outcrop area contains a total of 33 burial cairns arranged in separate clusters and forming a belt one kilometre in length. The rock area presents an imposing array of the different Bronze Age cairn types: low and round small cairns, large moundlike cairns, and round, walled cairns. To the west of the cairn area, the almost overgrown Lake Saarnijärvi — a bay of the Baltic Sea during the Bronze Age — can barely be seen.

Some of the Sammallahdenmäki burial cairns feature drywall masonry and several include remains of cists made from stone slabs. The most famous individual monuments of the cemetery are the elongated, wall-like cairn known as the Huilu Long Ruin (slides 22–24) and the quadrangular stone setting known as the Church Floor (slide 19). Both of these extraordinary cairns were excavated as early as 1891, when Volter Högman mapped the monuments of Sammallahdenmäki and opened a total of four cairns.

The results of Högman's investigations indicate that the unusual shape of the Huilu Long Ruin is the result of several successive enlargements, suggesting a series of burials over a period of time. The excavation of the cairn did not produce artifacts or burnt bone, suggesting that the burials have been inhumations. This 24 m long and 7,5–8 m wide wall-encircled cairn is one of the most majestic and imposing grave monuments of Bronze Age Satakunta.

The quadrangular burial cairn known as the Church Floor is unique in Finland and exceptional within the whole area of the Scandinavian Bronze Age culture. The cairn is an asymmetric quadrangle built of stones. The lengths of the parallel sides, pair by pair, are 19,2 m and 16,8 m, and 15 m and 18,8 m, respectively. The structure is flat like a floor, and has no actual outer wall. Investigations uncovered an inner structure: a 3,5 m long wall of stone slabs. The excavation results offer no

answer as to whether the cairn is a grave or some sort of religious structure. The slab wall may be interpreted as part of a cist, so the structure is probably a grave.

The two other excavated graves produced burnt bone, but no artifacts. For this reason, the precise dating of the Sammallahdenmäki cairns is not possible. During the early Bronze Age, graves were often erected on high cliffs with a scenic view near the coast, sometimes even on an island. By this criterion, most of the Sammallahdenmäki graves may be dated to the early Bronze Age. Although the excavated cairns of Sammallahdenmäki have not produced bronze implements, it is worth mentioning that some have been found within Lappi municipality. These include a dagger imported from northern Germany or Denmark and dated to Period III of the Scandinavian Bronze Age, and a palstave of a similar age. The latter is considered possibly a local product.

Sammallahdenmäki fits the World Heritage list cultural site guideline criteria III (unique or at least extremely rare evidence of an extinct culture) and IV (notable representative of a structural or architectural entity type connected with an important historical phase).

3.3 The condition of the monuments

Due to its varied character and pristine natural surroundings, the prehistoric monument area of Sammallahdenmäki is the best representative of the Scandinavian Bronze Age culture in Finland. The site has been studied for more than a hundred years. The cairns excavated in 1891 have been restored and are, thus, the best preserved as regards external shape. The other large cairns display signs of digging, and the stone slab cist has been exposed in three cairns. Of some cairns, only the foundation stones remain, since the rest of the stones have been used locally for building. These phenomena are not unique to this site, however: most major Bronze Age cairns bear signs of the efforts of treasure hunters of different times. Even trees and bushes growing on the cairns may damage the structures to a degree in the course of time. The rock outcrop also displays some small hollows obviously formed as a result of human quarrying activity, and large stone slabs can also be seen here and there. The stone slabs used for building the cists have apparently been quarried locally. Some of the slabs scattered on the ground carry signs of drilling. According to the local population, the rock outcrop has been quarried as late as this century. Large stone slabs were in demand for use as door steps, among other things. The cairns were built of stones obtained from local boulder fields formed during the Ice Age. Some of the building material may have been transported from other areas.

The cairns lie on a rock area formed of *rapakivi* granite. The stone material is not very susceptible to wear. Some natural wear can be seen sporadically on the paths.

The ground cover vegetation of the rock area consists of lichen ("reindeer moss", *Cladonia stellaris*), moss, and dwarf shrubs (Ericales). The paths have lost their lichen cover, which does not tolerate wear. Visitor traffic has so far been largely restricted to the path that leads through the site area.

3.4 Care and maintenance

According to the Finnish Antiquities Act, the National Board of Antiquities has the right to do maintenance work on archaeological sites located on private land. The maintenance work is carried out with the permission of the land owner and often in cooperation with both the land owner and local authorities. The work is financed by the National Board of Antiquities and the Ministry of Labour. The sites are selected by the National Board of Antiquities, which also draws up their care and maintenance plans and is responsible for carrying out the work, using long-term unemployed labour hired with employment funds.

Care and maintenance work has been carried out at the Sammallahdenmäki cairn cemetery since 1995. The annual input has consisted of an average of 20 person-days of work. The work has involved clearing the vegetation from the cairns and from the path areas. The operation is repeated every year due to the rapid growth of saplings and brush. Herbicides designed to prevent new growth have not been used on the tree stumps and stubs. To protect the pristine character of the environment, larger-scale reparation work has not been considered necessary.

In 1999 one of the land owners thinned the forest on part of Sammallahdenmäki hill. The National Board of Antiquities took care of clearing the logging waste and tidying up the area. 64 person-days were used for this work.

According to a local estimate, the annual number of visitors to the site is currently c. 1000. The care and maintenance measures have been sufficient in view of the amount of visitors.

3.5 The surrounding area

Sammallahdenmäki and its surroundings have been defined in the regional plan as a protected area of culture historical significance, an important cliff area, an agricultural and forestry area, and a nature preserve. There are no residential buildings within the limits of the site or its buffer zone; however, one outbuilding lies in the buffer zone. The distance from the nearest public road to the border of the buffer zone is 350 m, and no roads cross the site area. Lake Saarnijärvi, which abuts the border of the buffer zone to the west, has been defined as a protected bird sanctuary of national significance (encl. 3).

The nomination of the Bronze Age cairn cemetery of Sammallahdenmäki as a World Heritage site is motivated also by the fact that the area surrounding the site has remained in agricultural and forestry use without damage to the landscape.

4. Maintenance plan for the World Heritage Site for 2000–2005

4.1 Maintenance and monitoring of the prehistoric remains

The maintenance of the area is the responsibility of the National Board of Antiquities in cooperation with Lappi municipality. The maintenance unit of the National Board of Antiquities prepares an annual working plan with detailed information about operations to be carried out each year. The maintenance plan focuses especially on the local vegetation and the condition of the cairns, as well as erosion. It also estimates the size of the work force required for the care and maintenance of the site each year.

The care and maintenance of the prehistoric remains of Sammallahdenmäki is continued along the same lines as before. The cairns and their vicinity are kept clear of trees, saplings, and brush. The saplings and brush are removed mechanically twice during the growing season, without using herbicides. The area is kept tidy by clearing the path areas of possible trash, dry twigs and the like every week during the summer months. The topography of the site is partly concealed by vegetation. To make it easier for visitors to perceive or imagine the Bronze Age landscape, special attention is paid to the care of the view from the rock outcrop towards the Lake Saarnijärvi. The lakeside fields will remain cultivated and thus open areas. Bushes are removed from around the field and along the ditches. The thinning and clearance waste is removed from the prehistoric site area and along the path. In the rest of the buffer zone logging waste may remain in the forest.

The reconstruction and repair of the dismantled and demolished cairns has been suggested from time to time. This is not possible, however, since the original shape of the cairns is not known.

A report of the care and maintenance of the site is filed annually. The maintenance report itemizes the chores carried out, the expenditure, and the person-days used. It also contains information about possible changes within the site and its surroundings, such as damage to the cliff vegetation, damage to the cairns or their structures, and the like. The land owners will be given an opportunity to voice their opinions. The site is also photographed every year.

A separate environmental impact assessment will be carried out if the management plan turns out to entail significant or damaging influences on the environment.

The funds for the basic care and maintenance are provided by the employment authorities. The National Board of Antiquities is prepared to intensify the care and maintenance of the site if, e.g., growing numbers of visitors make it necessary.

4.2 Forestry

Most of the Sammallahdenmäki prehistoric site area and its buffer zone is covered by forest. A patch by patch forestry plan that takes into account protection considerations has been prepared for the area. Some of the forest is managed as a

park, some as economic forest. The measures suggested in the forestry plan are part of the care and maintenance of the site and are, when required, carried out in the order of urgency as expressed by the forest owners. The forests in the buffer zone of the site are cared for using the best possible Finnish forestry expertise. Thinning in the sensitive areas is, done manually, if necessary, but the freezing of the ground allows the use of machinery in the winter. The necessary routes will follow the existing forest tracks, and will be as inconspicuous as possible. Lower storey trees are cleared as necessary before the thinning, so as to minimize damage to the landscape. The emphasis in forestry will be on landscape considerations. Large areas of clear-cutting will be avoided, but smaller ones are allowed if their borders concur with the terrain. Most of the logging will involve preserving shelterwood stands. In connection with the logging, the ground surface in the buffer zone may be lightly broken up to ensure regeneration. The forestry plan has been prepared for a five year period (encl. 5). The forestry measures are in general the responsibility of the forest owners and the local Forestry Corporation.

4.3 Nature conservation

The Sammallahdenmäki area is average as regards its biological nature values; however, it is a representative of the *rapakivi* rock outcrop environment that is rare in other parts of the world (encl. 4). The flora and fauna of the surrounding area will not be disturbed by visitors, provided that the traffic is restricted to the paths. The vegetation of the harsh rock outcrop area (reindeer moss) is susceptible to wear, if the traffic strays outside the paths. The path network will be designed to include routes of different lengths, which will minimize the need to use short cuts. The path network will have a branch leading to the shore of the Lake Saarnijärvi. No paths will be constructed along the shoreline of the lake, since this would disturb the avifauna. At a later stage, a bird observation tower will be built at the southern end of the lake. Minor forestry activities do not have an effect on the rest of the vegetation and fauna of the prehistoric site area. Possible changes in the natural conditions are recorded in the annual care and maintenance report of the prehistoric remains.

5. Use management plan of the World Heritage Site for 2000–2005

The plan is based on an estimate of a significant increase in the annual visitors to the site (from one thousand to five thousand visitors) within the next five years.

5.1 On-site information

As a World Heritage site, Sammallahdenmäki will become an international tourist attraction. As the number of foreign visitors increases, information must be available in several languages. The national Board of Antiquities will provide the area with information signs and make sure that brochures and maps of the path network are available. Getting acquainted with the whole area is facilitated by constructing a new path loop, with several transecting paths (a ladder network). Signs with information about the prehistoric remains, forest types, bedrock, and the like are

erected along the paths. The path network will build on the existing paths. The routes will be marked with signs that blend with the landscape. Causeways will be built across damp ground.

A separate information point will be established in the existing summer café in the municipal centre of Lappi. Guided tours of Sammallahdenmäki can be reserved at the information point. During the winter months, information will be available at the municipal office of Lappi. In addition, Sammallahdenmäki plays a role in the other tourism projects of the province (World Heritage Site Vanha Rauma, Prehistoric Eura Information Centre), and marketing and public information will be arranged in close cooperation with them. Guided tours will also partly be arranged in cooperation. The training of the local guides will be arranged by the National Board of Antiquities.

The National Board of Antiquities will provide funding for renewing the information signs in 2000.

5.2 Parking and lay-by area

The present parking area for visitors to Sammallahdenmäki is a small, natural opening formed by a flat rock outcrop c. 200 m from the closest cairns. At the moment the area accommodates c. 10 cars. The space is insufficient for coaches to turn in. The current parking space will be extended with crushed stone. The rock outcrop will not be quarried, nor will the environment be otherwise disturbed. A lay-by area that will be constructed adjacent to the parking space will house the information signs and the boxes with brochures. Tables and benches, trash containers, and a toilet will be placed in the lay-by area. All of these will be designed to fit the natural environment and will be built of wood and stone. The National Board of Antiquities and the municipality of Lappi will negotiate an agreement over the financial details.

The road leading to the site from the public road is private and has been taken care of by the members of the road cooperative. The maintenance and care of the road will be turned over to the Lappi municipality. A 30 km per hour speed limit and a warning sign will be posted.

5.3 Restrictions to traffic

The Sammallahdenmäki terrain consists of fairly even rock, but using the whole path network is not possible for the motion impaired. A causeway will be laid along the path that leads from the parking area to the closest cairns to allow wheelchair access.

The rock outcrops and the cairns are slippery during rain, and visitors move around the area at their own risk. Visitors will be warned against climbing on the cairns. Some of the rocks are loose and the structure of the cairns may be damaged.

The Sammallahdenmäki area consists of dry coniferous forest and rock outcrops. The risk of a forest fire is high during dry spells. Smoking and building a fire are

prohibited within the site area. The Voluntary Fire Brigade of Lappi will monitor the fire safety of the area.

There will be no winter maintenance of the Sammallahdenmäki site. Snow cover and slippery terrain may impede traffic in the area.

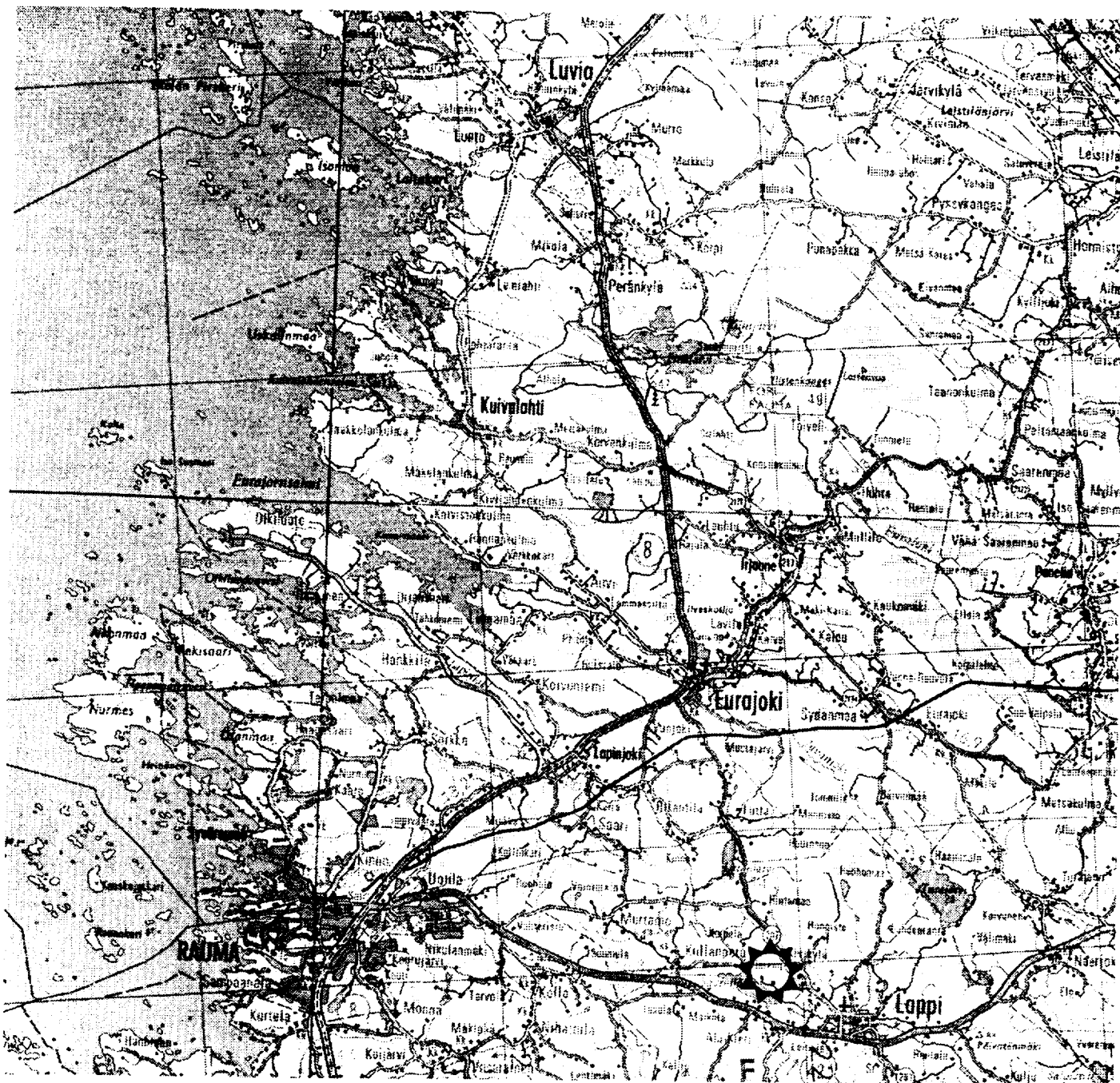
Although Sammallahdenmäki is a tourist attraction, the land is all private. Cultivated fields and private yards are off limits to visitors.

These restrictions will be posted on the information signs and listed in the brochures to ensure the protection of the prehistoric remains and public safety, as well as the rights of the land owners.

6. Other measures

The National Board of Antiquities and the municipality of Lappi will begin work on a more detailed management plan for the Sammallahdenmäki area in the winter of 1999–2000. The plan will delineate the goals (such as the path network, information signs, and other structures), and include an estimate of expenditure and a timetable for completing the tasks.

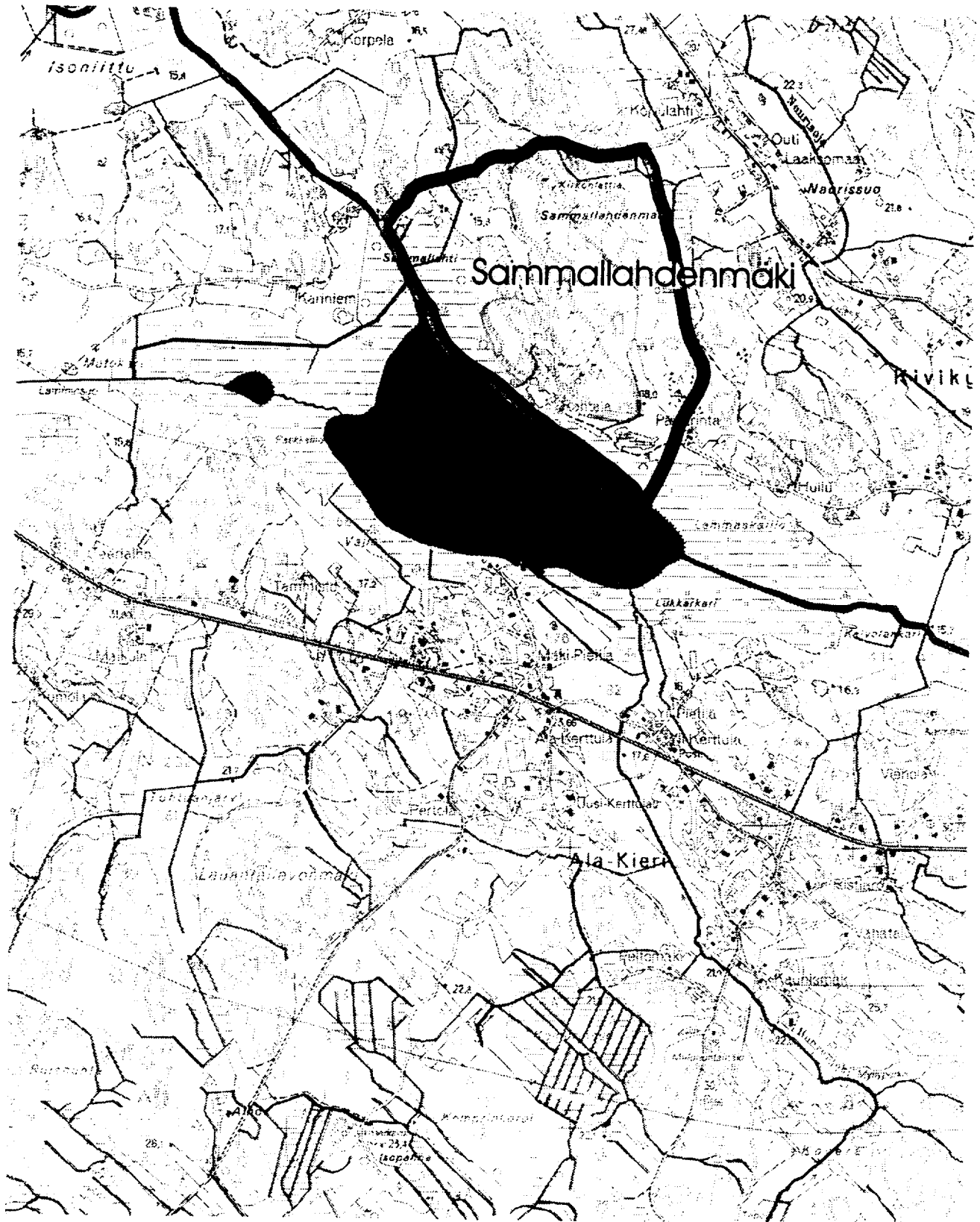
Lappi Sammallahdenmäki



The location of Sammallahdenmäki on the
Finnish Road Map

Scale 1:200 000

Lappi Sammallahdenmäki



Basic Map 1134 01 Lappi
Scale 1:20 000

THE SATAKUNTA REGIONAL PLAN 5 (ratified by the Ministry of the Environment, January 11, 1999)

Regional plan symbols and directives

S Conservation area

Areas protected by environmental protection legislation and construction legislation.

Directive Before any action that may significantly alter the *status quo* of conservation areas, the relevant protection authorities must be given an opportunity to pronounce on the matter.

SM Ancient monument protected by the Antiquities Act
Areas protected by the Antiquities Act

Directive Before any action that may significantly alter the *status quo* of ancient monuments the relevant protection authorities must be given an opportunity to pronounce on the matter.

SL Nature conservation area

A protected area that has been formed or has been meant to be formed on the basis of environmental protection legislation.

Directive Before any action that may significantly alter the *status quo* of nature conservation areas the relevant protection authorities must be given an opportunity to pronounce on the matter.

MT Area for agriculture and forestry

Areas meant for agriculture, where fields and other areas are protected from permanent changes effected by construction and other development that can impede agricultural use.

Directive Within areas for agriculture and forestry, the location of buildings not associated with agriculture or forestry must be selected so as not to interrupt continuous field areas or cause other weakening of cultivation conditions.

M Area primarily for agriculture and forestry

Areas meant primarily for agriculture and forestry that can nevertheless be used for other purposes, such as permanent scattered vacation settlement, as well as hiking and other outdoor recreation within the limits of public right of access, provided that the primary use of the area is not significantly disturbed and its character is not changed.

kh Valuable culture historic area

Culture-historically important environments as defined on the basis of landscape or historical, architectural-historical, or architectural-artistic criteria.

Directive In areas and sites of culture historical value, special attention must be paid to the preservation of the culture historical value when drawing more detailed plans and in construction activity.

ak Rock outcrop area of special value, quarrying prohibited

Rock outcrop areas where quarrying should be prohibited as it usually leads to consequences referred to in the §3 subsection 1 of the Land Extraction Act

Directive If an application is made to carry out quarrying in an environmentally valuable rock outcrop area, the authorities responsible for regional planning must be given an opportunity to pronounce on the matter.

NATURE CONSERVATION REPORT 1995–1998

Description A flat *rapakivi* rock outcrop and pine stand; mostly young pine. Adjacent to the Lappi Church Floor area, which is a Bronze Age site. The area rates as average as regards its biological nature values; however, it is a representative of the *rapakivi* rock outcrop environment that is rare in other parts of the world. A few wetland patches in rock hollows; vehicle tracks and small excavated pits occur in the eastern end of the area, perhaps indicating a plan to start a *rapakivi* gravel quarry.

Species composition In the wetland patches cloudberry (*Rubus chamaemorus*), Labrador tea (*Ledum palustre*), heather (*Calluna vulgaris*), scots pine (*Pinus sylvestris*), birch (*Betula pubescens*), willow (*Salix cinerea*), cotton grass (*Eriophorum vaginatum*), sedge (*Carex nigra*); in drier areas sedge (*Carex brunnescens*), sourdock (*Rumex acetosella*), hair grass (*Deschampsia sp.*), spurrey (*Spergula morisonii*), bearberry (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursii*), rush (*Juncus filiformis*), Solomon's seal (*Polygonatum odoratum*).

Nature types *Rapakivi* rock area; partly submarginal rock outcrop area.

Satakuntaliitto / Luonnonsuojeluselvitys 1995-1998

LAPPI

Numero

359

Alue

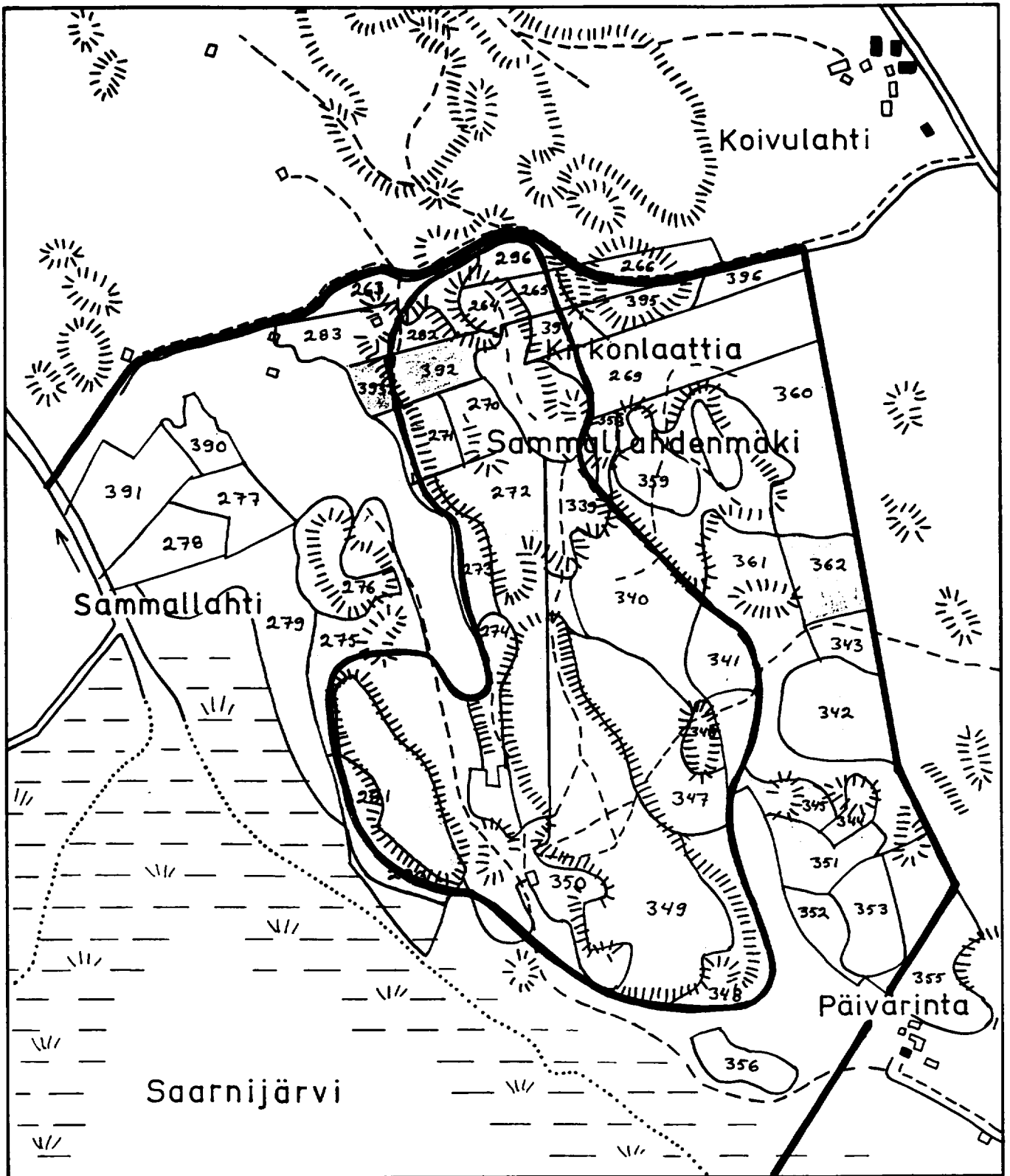
SAMMALLAHDENMÄKI

The Satakunta Regional Council/Nature conservation report/map



**PATCH BY PATCH FORESTRY PLAN FOR THE SAMMALLAHDENMÄKI
PREHISTORIC SITE AREA**

263	Thinning (scenic clearing)
264	Rock outcrop area, no treatment
265	Thinning (opening the landscape towards the rock outcrop)
266	The SW corner is a parking area, a light scenic thinning in the rest of the area
267	Thinning
269	Thinning
269.1	The higher elevations are rock outcrop, no treatment
270	Scenic clearing (removal of dead juniper and fallen tree trunks)
271	Scenic clearing
272	Scenic clearing
273	Thinning, partial clearing of undergrowth to gain a view of the fields
274	Thinning (partial clearing of undergrowth)
275	Thinning
276	Scenic clearing
277–279	Shoreline meadows and brush, no treatment
280	Rock outcrop area, no treatment
280.1–281	Scenic thinning of shoreline birch grove
282	Parkland thinning
283	Removal of standards, landscape trees preserved
340	Regeneration felling in small sections
340.1	Parkland management next to the path
341	Thinning
342	Removal of standards, the need for care to be assessed during logging
343	Trimming of young forest
344	Rock outcrop area, no treatment
347	Thinning, buffer zone along the edge of the rock outcrop
348	Clearing the field edges of brush, thinning of spruce growth
349	Rock outcrop area, no treatment
350	Parkland thinning, opening the view towards the lake
350.1	Clearing the field edges of brush
350.2	Scenic thinning of the shoreline birch grove, clearing the undergrowth
351	Care of the sapling stand
352	Thinning
353	Thinning
354	Not included in the area
355	Logging to seed-tree position
356	Clearing the field edges of brush, exposing erratic boulders
357	Rock outcrop area, no treatment
358	Parkland thinning
359	Rock outcrop area, no treatment
360	Logging to seed-tree position



0 100 500 m

Sammallahdenmäki (Finland)

No 579rev

Identification

<i>Nomination</i>	The Bronze Age Burial Site of Sammallahdenmäki
<i>Location</i>	Lappi Tl., Province of Satakunta
<i>State Party</i>	Finland
<i>Date</i>	26 June 1998

Justification by State Party

The prehistoric site of Sammallahdenmäki forms the largest, most varied, and most complete monument from the Scandinavian Bronze Age to be found on the coast of the Gulf of Bothnia. Situated in a rugged, rocky landscape, the cairns of Sammallahdenmäki represent the monumental architecture of the period at its best. The ancient coastline is still present on the cliffs of Sammallahdenmäki.

Similar cairns are known from the western coast of the Gulf of Bothnia (Ångermanland, Uppland, and Medelpad in Sweden). However, the stone cairns known from these coastal regions generally occur only in small groups rather than forming extensive cairn areas like Sammallahdenmäki. Together, the 33 cairns of Sammallahdenmäki form a monumental array unique to the area of the Scandinavian Bronze Age culture in terms of the number and variety of its graves and its preserved natural surroundings. The Sammallahdenmäki cairns are also unique examples of Bronze Age religious practices and the monumental architecture related with them. The graves have clearly also functioned as landmarks, being located in highly visible places on the coastal cliffs.

The degree of authenticity of the site area is very high, in relation to both the individual graves and the surrounding natural landscape. Owing to its remote location and the appreciation of the local inhabitants, the site has been preserved almost untouched in its pristine natural surroundings. The ancient site is surrounded by a mainly natural landscape devoid of later structures such as houses, highways, and power lines.

Criteria iii and iv

Category of property

In terms of the categories of cultural property set out in Article 1 of the 1972 World Heritage Convention, this is a *site*.

History and description

History

The Scandinavian Bronze Age culture, from 1500 BC to 500 BC, included the coastal zone of continental Finland and the land archipelago. Bronze is extensively represented in its material culture, although neither copper nor tin is to be found in the area, the metals being largely acquired through trade and exchange. The value of the objects is enhanced by their association with burials and religious sites, such as cairns and other types of grave.

Stone burial cairns constructed of boulders, without earth fill, over cists of stone or wood, were erected on cliffs with a view on the sea all along the coast of Finland; more than 3000 have been identified. They contained both cremation and inhumation burials of members of the community with all the associated funerary objects (grave goods).

The site of Sammallahdenmäki is associated with sun worship rituals, a cult which spread from Scandinavia over the entire region. It is also a manifestation of land ownership by kinship groups, a practice introduced with agriculture. At the time the hill of Sammallahdenmäki was completely bare of trees and was probably chosen for its unimpeded view of the sea and its openness to the sun in all directions.

Four cairns were excavated in 1891, leading to a better understanding of their contents and of their use. The number of known cairns is greater than the number of known settlements from this period. Thus, the spread of human population can be better observed through the distribution of graves. Many cairns are directly associated with settlements, most probably those of their builders, but the settlement of the people buried at Sammallahdenmäki has not yet been identified.

Description

The Sammallahdenmäki cemetery includes 33 burial cairns and is the largest and best cairn site in all Finland; of the cairns, 28 can be securely dated to the Early Bronze Age. They lie along the crest and upper slopes of a 700m long ridge, and are disposed in several distinct clusters.

The structures were built using granite boulders that were quarried from the cliff face below the crest of the ridge or collected from the site itself. Some are also built in drystone masonry. They can be classified into several different groups according to their shapes and sizes: small low round cairns, large mound-like cairns, and round walled cairns. They enclose cists made from stone slabs.

The site also contains two unusual structures. One is oval and elongated (24m by 7.5-8m), and seems to

have been enlarged in three successive stages. It contains only charcoal, no bones of any sort having ever been found. The other is a large quadrangular cairn, known as the "Church Floor" (*Kirkonlaatia*), which is unique in Finland and extremely rare in Scandinavia. Its surface is flat, it has no outer wall, and the layer of stones are thinner towards the centre. Excavations revealed an internal structure in the centre made of stone flags. It is still difficult to determine whether this structure is linked with religious ceremonies or whether it is a tomb.

None of the Sammallahdenmäki cairns have produced any bronze implements. Their layout and location indicates that these cairns most probably belong to the Early Bronze Age.

Management and Protection

Legal status

The cairn area nominated for inscription, which covers 35ha, is protected under the provisions of the Finnish Antiquities Act (295/63), which makes it an offence to dig, cover, change, harm, or remove an ancient monument without prior authorization of the National Board of Antiquities (Museovirasto). The boundaries of the site and of its buffer zone (55ha) were defined in 1993 by the provincial government in agreement with the National Board.

The site and its surroundings are also protected by means of the Finnish regional planning system. Regional plans, which must be approved by the Ministry of the Environment, constitute the most stringent form of legislative protection in Finland. In the successive Regional Plans for Satakunta from 1985 to the present, the buffer zone is listed as a "cultural-historically important environment as defined on the basis of landscape, historical, architectural-historical or architectural-artistic criteria."

Management

The site is in private ownership.

The National Board of Antiquities is responsible for the management of the site. There is no permanent staff specifically charged with the promotion or the maintenance of the site.

Agriculture is the only form of development allowed in the area. No type of construction or clear felling is permitted without prior authorization from the responsible agency. The buffer zone consists mostly of outcrops, fields, and forested areas. It is adjacent to the Saarnijärvi Natural Preserve, a protected natural area.

The management plan for the site drawn up by the National Board of Antiquities aims at keeping it in an untouched state. Maintenance is limited to clearing fallen branches and trees from the site and its paths, and the removal of deciduous saplings from the cairns themselves. No more than a few days are considered to be needed each year for this purpose. Visitor access

is directed by means of marked paths. The natural aspect of the site is considered to be of significant value in understanding and presenting it.

Some 100 people visit the area annually, mainly local schoolchildren. The area is accessible to tourists by marked routes from major highways. An interpretation board displays information on the site and guided tours can be organized through the National Board of Antiquities.

The site is part of the "Footsteps of the Forefathers" touring route developed by a local tourist society. This initiative is included in a larger project of Site Register for Prehistory Touring.

Conservation and Authenticity

Conservation history

The site was first mentioned in 1878 in an inventory of ancient sites in the region. Some excavation is said to have been carried out on some of the cairns but no account of the results is known to exist. The first scientific excavation took place in 1891, revealing the presence of 17 cairns. A survey in 1961 noted the presence of 26 cairns, and a regional mapping project in 1990 registered a total of 33 cairns.

Little restoration or reconstruction has been thought necessary. The cairns excavated in 1891 and in recent years have been restored to their original state. Some cairns that were plundered in the 19th century have been left in the state that they were in after these illegal interventions since no information is available on their original shape and size.

Authenticity

The degree of authenticity of the site is very high. The cairns are built of granite, which does not erode easily. The surroundings have remained untouched and the cairns themselves have been subject to very little disturbance, apart from the handful that were plundered in the 19th century and those that have been excavated. The remote location of the site has protected it from development, and the local population has taken pride in protecting it.

Evaluation

Action by ICOMOS

An ICOMOS expert mission visited the site in May 1999.

Qualities

The site of Sammallahdenmäki offers a valuable perspective on the Bronze Age in the area. The completeness and the integrity of the site make it an invaluable resource for future research on the social behaviour of societies of the time.

Comparative analysis

ICOMOS consulted Professor John Coles (formerly University of Cambridge, UK), who is recognized as

the leading expert on the Bronze Age of northern Europe, on the comparative cultural significance of the Sammallahdenmäki cemetery. In his report he stressed that “the cairns are ... spectacular in the setting, ... they are mostly unexamined, and are remote,” and as a result “they present a quite unrivalled picture of the Bronze Age landscape untrammelled by modern rubbish such as traffic and power lines ... [the site] is well worthy of very serious consideration for listing.”

ICOMOS recommendations for future action

The decision to leave the environment of the monuments untouched is welcomed, since it increases the opportunity to study their environmental context.

However, the State Party should be encouraged to make provision for the impact of eventual inscription on the World Heritage List, which would inevitably result in greatly increased visitor numbers. There is a need for promotion at a national and international level so as to raise public awareness of the scientific and symbolic value of this site.

The ICOMOS expert mission was provided with details of the management plan currently being prepared (in conformity with the ICCROM-UNESCO-ICOMOS *Management Guidelines for World Heritage Sites*). These have four levels of priority: Priority A deals with the recording and physical protection of the cairns, Priority B with interpretation (signage, leaflets, etc) and consultation with the local community, Priority C with improvement of the setting of the cairns (including management of the tree cover), disabled access, and contingency plans for a limited increase in visitor numbers, and Priority D with contingency plans for substantially increased numbers.

ICOMOS commends the State Party for the action that it is taking. It feels, however, that higher priority should be given to planning to cope with the anticipated increase in visitor numbers.

Brief description

The more than thirty granite burial cairns of the Bronze Age cemetery at Sammallahdenmäki bear exceptional witness to the social and religious structures of northern Europe more than three millennia ago.

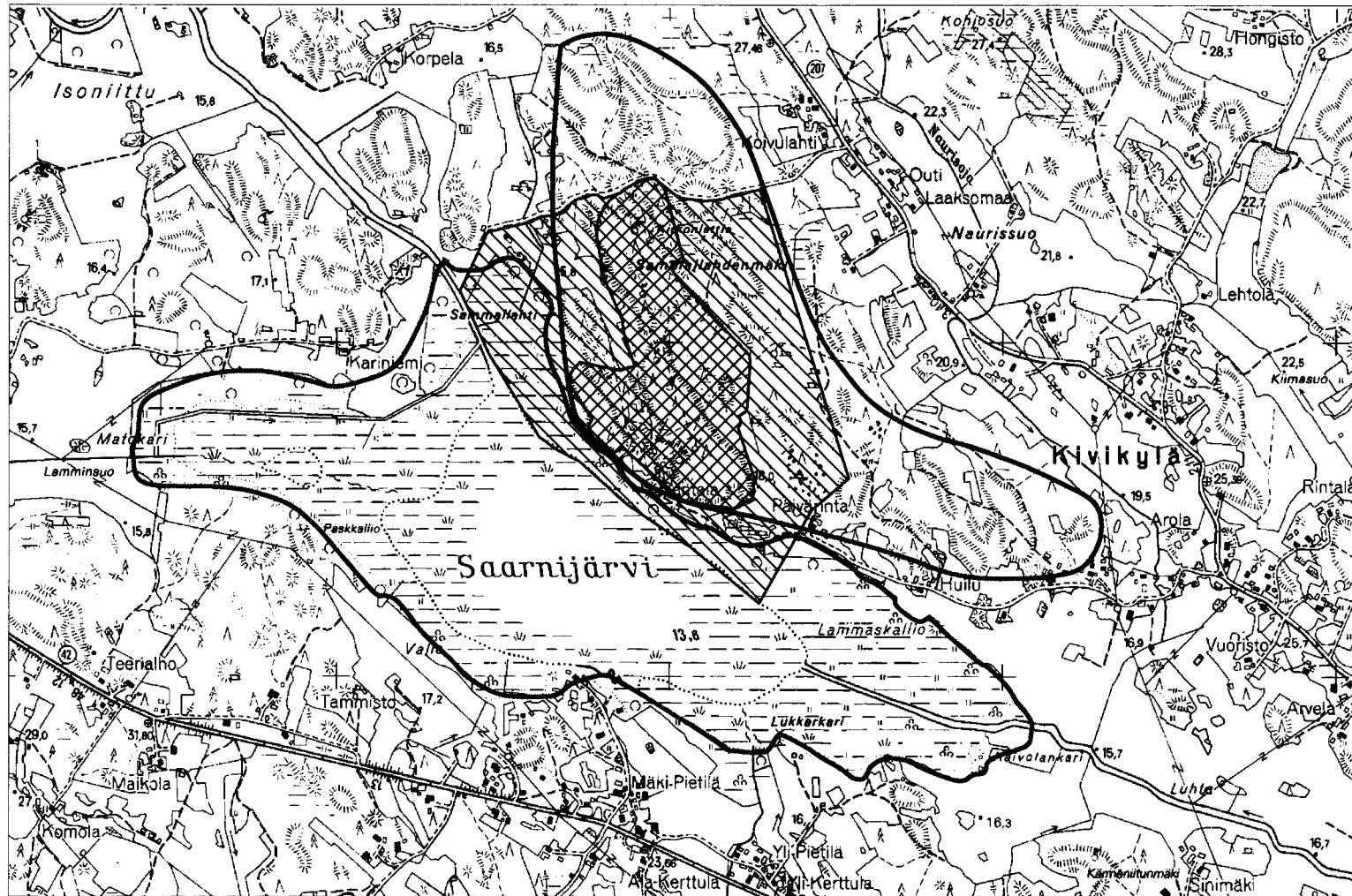
Recommendation

That this property be inscribed on the World Heritage List on the basis of *criteria iii and iv*:





Criterion iii The Sammallahdenmäki cairn cemetery bears exceptional witness to the society of the Bronze Age of Scandinavia.

Criterion iv The Sammallahdenmäki cemetery is an outstanding example of Bronze Age funerary practices in Scandinavia.

The Bronze Age Burial Site of **SAMMALLAHDENMÄKI**



LEGEND

-  nominated area
-  buffer zone
-  valuable rock area, protected from crushing
-  nature conservation area

scale 1:20 000

1 km

Sammallahdenmäki (Finlande)

No 579 rev

Identification

<i>Bien proposé</i>	Site funéraire de l'âge du bronze de Sammallahdenmäki
<i>Lieu</i>	Lappi Tl., province de Satakunta
<i>État partie</i>	Finlande
<i>Date</i>	26 juin 1998

Justification émanant de l'État partie

Le site préhistorique de Sammallahdenmäki forme le monument le plus grand, le plus varié et le plus complet de l'âge du bronze scandinave que l'on puisse trouver sur la côte du golfe de Botnie. Situés dans un paysage accidenté et rocheux, les tumuli de Sammallahdenmäki représentent l'architecture monumentale de la période à son apogée. De plus, l'ancienne ligne côtière est toujours présente sur les falaises de Sammallahdenmäki.

On connaît des tumuli similaires sur la côte ouest du golfe de Botnie (Ångermanland, Uppland et Medelpad en Suède). Toutefois, les tumuli de pierre connus dans ces régions côtières ne forment généralement que de petits groupes seulement, et non de vastes rassemblements comme celui de Sammallahdenmäki. Ensemble, les trente-trois tumuli de Sammallahdenmäki forment un exemple monumental unique dans la région de la culture scandinave de l'âge du bronze, tant par le nombre et la variété des sépultures que par la préservation de l'environnement naturel. Les tumuli de Sammallahdenmäki sont en outre des témoignages uniques des pratiques religieuses de l'âge de bronze et de l'architecture monumentale associée. Il est évident que les tombes, situées dans des endroits extrêmement visibles des falaises côtières, faisaient également office de repères.

Le degré d'authenticité de l'aire du site est très élevé, que ce soit par rapport aux sépultures elles-mêmes ou au paysage naturel environnant. Grâce à sa position isolée et au respect des habitants de la région, ce site a été préservé quasiment intact dans son environnement naturel primitif. Il se dresse ainsi au milieu d'un paysage principalement naturel, dénué de structures plus tardives telles que maisons, routes ou lignes électriques.

Critères iii et iv

Catégorie de bien

En termes de catégories de biens culturels, telles qu'elles sont définies à l'article premier de la Convention du Patrimoine mondial de 1972, il s'agit d'un *site*.

Histoire et description

Histoire

La culture scandinave de l'âge du bronze, de 1500 avant J.-C. à 500 avant J.-C., incluait la zone côtière de la Finlande continentale et l'archipel. Dans cette culture, le bronze est omniprésent, mais l'on ne trouve pourtant ni cuivre ni étain dans la région, métaux qu'on obtenait principalement par le commerce et l'échange. La valeur des objets est encore accentuée par leur association avec des sites funéraires et religieux, tels que cairns et autres types de sépultures.

Les cairns funéraires de pierre, construits de blocs de rochers, sans remblai, sur des cistes de pierre ou de bois, ont été érigés sur les falaises donnant sur la mer le long de la côte finlandaise ; plus de 3.000 ont été identifiés. Ils abritent des tombes dans lesquelles sont incinérées et inhumées les dépouilles des membres de la communauté, avec tous les objets funéraires associés.

Le site de Sammallahdenmäki est lié à des rituels d'adoration du Soleil, culte originaire de Scandinavie qui s'étendit à toute la région. C'est en outre une manière, pour les groupes familiaux, de délimiter un territoire, pratique introduite avec l'agriculture. À l'époque, la colline de Sammallahdenmäki était totalement dénuée d'arbres ; elle a probablement été choisie pour sa vue parfaitement dégagée sur la mer et son exposition au soleil dans toutes les directions.

En 1891, quatre tumuli ont été mis à jour, ce qui a permis de mieux comprendre leur contenu et leur usage. Le nombre de tumuli connus est plus important que le nombre d'habitations humaines de l'époque. Ainsi, la distribution des tombes permet de mieux observer la répartition de la population humaine. Nombre de tumuli sont directement associés à des installations humaines, probablement celles de leurs constructeurs, mais celles qui correspondent aux individus enterrés à Sammallahdenmäki n'ont pas encore été identifiées.

Description

Le cimetière de Sammallahdenmäki comprend trente-trois tumuli funéraires ; dans toute la Finlande, c'est le plus grand et le plus beau de ces sites, dont vingt-huit tumuli peuvent sans hésitation être datés de l'âge du bronze ancien. Ces tumuli se dressent le long de la crête et en haut des versants sur une ligne de 700 m, et sont disposés en plusieurs groupes distincts.

Les structures ont été construites à l'aide de blocs de granit extraits du versant de la falaise au-dessous de la crête ou trouvés sur le site lui-même. D'autres sont

faites de maçonnerie de pierres sèches. On peut les classer en plusieurs groupes différents, en fonction de leur forme et de leur taille : petits tumuli circulaires et bas, grands tumuli en forme de buttes, et tumuli circulaires dotés de murs. Ils entourent des cistes faits de dalles de pierre.

Ce site abrite également deux structures inhabituelles. L'une est ovale et allongée (24 m sur 7,5 – 8 m) et semble avoir été agrandie en trois étapes successives. Elle ne contient que du charbon, et aucun ossements n'y ont jamais été découverts. Quant à la seconde, il s'agit d'un grand tumulus quadrangulaire, connu sous le nom de "plancher de l'église" (*Kirkonlaatia*), unique en Finlande et extrêmement rare en Scandinavie. De surface plane, il ne possède aucun mur extérieur et les strates de pierre s'amincissent vers le centre. Les fouilles ont révélé, en son centre, une structure interne faite de dalles de pierre. Il reste difficile de déterminer si cette structure était associée à des cérémonies religieuses ou s'il s'agit d'une tombe.

Aucun des tumuli de Sammallahdenmäki n'a livré d'outils de bronze. Leur disposition et leur emplacement indiquent qu'ils appartiennent sans nul doute à l'âge du bronze ancien.

Gestion et protection

Statut juridique

La zone des tumuli proposée pour inscription, qui couvre 35 hectares, est protégée en vertu des dispositions de la loi finlandaise sur les Antiquités (295/63), aux termes de laquelle creuser, couvrir, modifier, endommager ou enlever un monument antique sans autorisation préalable du conseil national des Antiquités (*Museovirasto*) est un délit. Les limites du site et de sa zone tampon (55 hectares) ont été définies en 1993 par le gouvernement provincial, en accord avec le conseil national.

Le site et ses alentours sont également protégés par le système régional de planification finlandais. Les plans régionaux, qui doivent être approuvés par le ministère de l'Environnement, constituent la forme la plus stricte de protection législative en Finlande. Dans les plans régionaux successifs établis pour Satakunta de 1985 à ce jour, la zone tampon est présentée comme un "environnement à l'importance culturelle et historique tel que défini aux termes des critères paysagers, historiques, architecturo-historiques ou artistiques".

Gestion

Le site est une propriété privée.

Le conseil national des Antiquités est responsable de la gestion du site. Il n'existe aucun personnel permanent spécialement chargé de la promotion ou de la maintenance du site.

L'agriculture est la seule forme de développement autorisée dans la zone. Aucune opération de

construction ou opération d'abattage ne sont permises sans l'autorisation préalable de l'instance compétente. La zone tampon se compose principalement de cultures, de champs et de zones boisées ; elle est contiguë à la réserve naturelle de Saarnijärvi, une zone naturelle protégée.

Le plan de gestion du site élaboré par le conseil national des Antiquités vise à le conserver parfaitement intact. La maintenance se limite à l'enlèvement des branches et des arbres tombés sur le site et à l'entretien de ses chemins, ainsi qu'à l'élimination des jeunes pousses d'arbrisseaux sur les tumuli eux-mêmes. Selon les estimations, ce travail ne prend que quelques jours par an. Les visiteurs sont guidés par des chemins marqués. La compréhension et la présentation du site ne peut se faire sans prendre en considération la valeur significative de son aspect naturel.

Une centaine de personnes visitent le site chaque année, principalement des écoliers locaux. Les touristes peuvent accéder à la zone par des routes signalisées partant des plus grandes autoroutes. De plus, un panneau multilingue affiche des informations sur le site, et des visites guidées peuvent être organisées par l'intermédiaire du conseil national des Antiquités.

Ce site fait partie de la route touristique des "Empreintes des Ancêtres", élaborée par un office du tourisme local. Cette initiative s'inscrit dans un projet plus vaste, le Registre d'inscription des sites de tourisme préhistoriques.

Conservation et authenticité

Historique de la conservation

Ce site a été pour la première fois mentionné en 1878, dans un inventaire des sites anciens de la région. Certaines fouilles sont supposées avoir eu lieu sur quelques tumuli, mais il n'existe apparemment aucun compte-rendu des résultats. Les premières fouilles scientifiques ont eu lieu en 1891, révélant la présence de dix-sept tumuli. En 1961, une étude a noté la présence de vingt-six tumuli, et un projet de cartographie de la région, en 1990, en a enregistré au total trente-trois.

Peu de travaux de restauration ou de reconstruction ont été jugés nécessaires. Les tumuli fouillés en 1891 et ces dernières années ont été rendus à leur état originel. D'autres, pillés au XIX^e siècle, ont été laissés en l'état dans lequel ils ont été trouvés après ces interventions illégales, car il n'existe aucune information sur leur forme et leur taille originale.

Authenticité

Le degré d'authenticité du site est très élevé. En effet, les tumuli sont faits de granit, roche qui ne s'érode pas facilement. Les environs sont restés intacts et les tumuli eux-mêmes n'ont que très peu été modifiés, à l'exception de la poignée d'entre eux qui a été pillée

au XIX^e siècle et de ceux qui ont été fouillés. L'emplacement isolé du site l'a mis à l'abri du développement ; en outre, la population locale s'est enorgueillie de le protéger elle aussi.

Évaluation

Action de l'ICOMOS

Une mission d'expertise de l'ICOMOS s'est rendue sur le site en mai 1999.

Caractéristiques

Le site de Sammallahdenmäki offre une perspective d'une valeur incommensurable sur l'âge du bronze dans la région. L'état complet et l'intégrité du site en font une ressource incomparable pour les futures recherches sur le comportement social des sociétés de l'époque.

Analyse comparative

L'ICOMOS a consulté le professeur John Coles (anciennement de l'université de Cambridge, Royaume-Uni), reconnu comme l'expert le plus important de l'âge du bronze en Europe septentrionale, quant à l'importance culturelle relative du cimetière de Sammallahdenmäki. Dans son rapport, il souligne que "les tumuli sont... spectaculaires de par leur emplacement,... ils n'ont pour la plupart jamais été examinés, et sont isolés", et par conséquent "présentent un portrait quasi unique d'un paysage de l'âge du bronze qui n'a pas été touché par les horreurs modernes telles que voitures et lignes électriques ... (le site) mérite fortement d'être considéré pour inscription".

Recommandations de l'ICOMOS pour des actions futures

La décision de laisser l'environnement des monuments en l'état est bienvenue, car elle augmente les chances d'étude du contexte environnemental.

Toutefois, l'État partie devrait être encouragé à prendre des dispositions en vue de l'impact d'une éventuelle inscription sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial, qui augmenterait inévitablement le nombre de visiteurs. Une campagne de promotion d'envergure nationale et internationale s'impose, afin de sensibiliser le public à la valeur scientifique et symbolique de ce site.

Les éléments du plan de gestion en cours de préparation (conformément au *Guide de gestion des sites du patrimoine culturel mondial* de l'ICCROM-UNESCO-ICOMOS) ont été communiqués à la mission d'expert de l'ICOMOS. Les mesures sont classées selon quatre degrés de priorité. Priorité A : relevé topographique et archéologique et protection des cairns ; priorité B : interprétation (signalisation, brochures, etc.) et consultation de la communauté locale ; priorité C : amélioration du site des cairns (y compris la gestion des terrains boisés), accès

handicapés et plans d'urgence pour une augmentation limitée du nombre des visiteurs et enfin, priorité D : plans d'urgence pour une augmentation importante du nombre des visiteurs.

L'ICOMOS approuve les mesures prises par l'État partie mais recommande cependant que soit accordée une plus grande priorité aux plans d'urgences afin d'affronter l'augmentation prévisible du nombre des visiteurs.

Brève description

La trentaine de tumuli funéraires de granit du cimetière de l'âge du bronze de Sammallahdenmäki est un témoignage exceptionnel des structures sociales et religieuses de l'Europe du Nord il y a plus de trois millénaires.

Recommandation

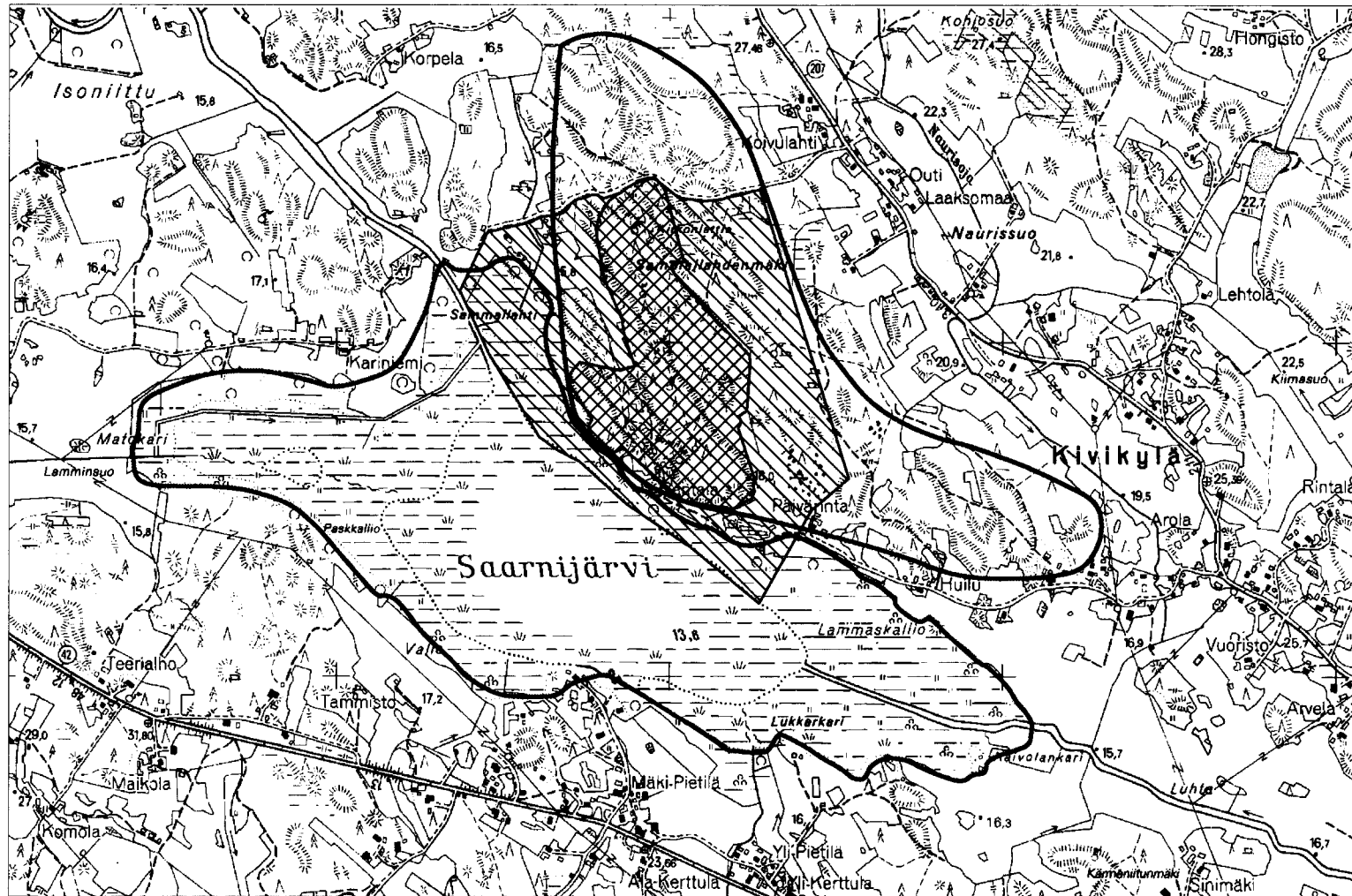
Que ce bien soit inscrit sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial sur la base des *critères iii et iv* :

Critère iii Les cairns du cimetière de Sammallahdenmäki apportent un témoignage exceptionnel sur la société de l'âge du bronze en Scandinavie.





Critère iv Le cimetière de Sammallahdenmäki est un exemple remarquable des pratiques funéraires de l'âge du bronze en Scandinavie.

ICOMOS, septembre 1999

The Bronze Age Burial Site of **SAMMALLAHDENMÄKI**



LEGEND

-  nominated area
-  buffer zone
-  valuable rock area, protected from crushing
-  nature conservation area

scale 1:20 000

1 km