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**SETTLEMENT AND ENVIRONMENT IN THE SOUTHERN SAIMAA AREA  
DURING THE STONE AGE**

*Abstract*

A preliminary test to find out if there are any possibilities to classify Stone Age environments in the southern Saimaa area was made in spring 1992, and it indicated that some differences really exists: The sites located at the end of the cape are mainly on south slopes, while those situated on the straight stretches of shorelines mostly occur on southwest slopes. To examine this further, a detailed classification of topographic type, soil, type of the coastline, water body, wind conditions, possible travelling routes and declivity direction was made, and will be described in detail by Saara Wilhelms.

The research area concerns base maps 4211 and 3143, both covering an area of 30x40 km and including parts of Savonlinna, Kerimäki, Enonkoski and Rantasalmi on the shores of Lake Pihlajavesi and Haapavesi, as well as Puumala and Ruokolahti on the shores of Lietvesi and Saimaa main body. 223 ancient sites altogether are registered in this area — and 98 of them are Stone Age dwelling sites.

In this paper the types of environments of the Stone Age sites are classified by using statistical methods to find out differences between earlier and later sites and of specific annual use. The Stone Age dwelling sites are also compared with the stray find sites of the area (31) and later dwelling sites (6) as well as with graves and cult places. Their possible locations in connection to the travelling routes will be studied, too.

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