

3 The Saimaa-Ladoga project – question framing and strategies

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Abstract

The Saimaa-Ladoga project was an archaeological field research including the excavation of a Stone Age dwelling site and surveys in the Karelian Isthmus. Surveys were carried out between 1998 and 2003 in the former Finnish municipalities of Kaukola, Räisälä, Kurkijoki, Johannes, Koivisto and Kuolemajärvi. The present publication is a collection of the results of the fieldwork.

The Karelian Isthmus is very rich in Stone Age sites. In the beginning surveys were made in order to become familiar with all kinds of sites representing hunter-fisher cultures in the Karelian Isthmus before launching excavations at sites. The survey results in every municipality were successful. In total the survey uncovered c. 110 new sites not known before. The largest numbers of sites were in Kaukola, Räisälä and Kurkijoki. This may be explained by the fact that the fieldwork carried out at the Gulf of Finland so far totals less than two weeks altogether. The project carried out one excavation at the Juoksemajärvi Westend site in Räisälä in 2002. The results indicate that the site was used at least during the Mesolithic, the Early Neolithic and the Late Neolithic.

As a result of the project dwelling sites with depressions representing a new site type in the

Isthmus were found. Sites of different sizes are known in many kinds of environments. Surveys have concentrated mostly on the elevation contours representing the Stone Age water level of Lake Ladoga and the Gulf of Finland. Early Metal Period sites dating after the outbreak of the River Neva were not found. Altogether only very few new Early Metal Period or Iron Age sites were found.

This article is an introduction to the series of articles where the results of the fieldwork are presented. It also takes up some basic concepts, question framing and methodology applied to the fieldwork. A short review of the history of the research in the Isthmus is also presented.

3.1 Introduction: Thirteen articles for five field seasons in Karelia

The general objective of the separate articles in this volume is to publish the results of the field investigations of the Saimaa-Ladoga project. The data was mainly obtained by Finnish and Russian archaeologists in the Karelian Isthmus and in the municipalities of Kurkijoki (Ru. Kurkiëki) and Hiitola (Ru. Hijtola) (which belong to the Karelian Republic) between the years 1998 and 2003 (Fig. 3.1). Although the emphasis of the papers is in the Karelian Isth-

mus, the project has its roots in the Ancient Lake Saimaa project in Finland. For this reason this preceding project with its main aims and results is included in the preceding article (see Lavento 2008, this volume; see also Kirkinen 1997). It also gives the reader the possibility to compare the starting points, methodology and results achieved on the eastern side of the border.

Under the 'umbrella' of the large Saimaa-Ladoga project the central research objectives were kept to a plan, albeit the smaller issues varied considerably. Empirical work gave project members the practical skills to recognize sites in various terrains and to read the past environment in various ways. The results of the

field research yielded new approaches which in turn had a stimulating effect on the question framing.

Besides presenting general results and find materials, one aim of the project was to touch upon more far-going archaeological questions. The sites are tentatively discussed in relation to their settlement strategies. Some articles outline the environment where the sites are situated. The basic interest is in reconstructing the Stone Age and the Early Metal Period environments in the framework of shore displacement. Descriptions made in the field together with the data

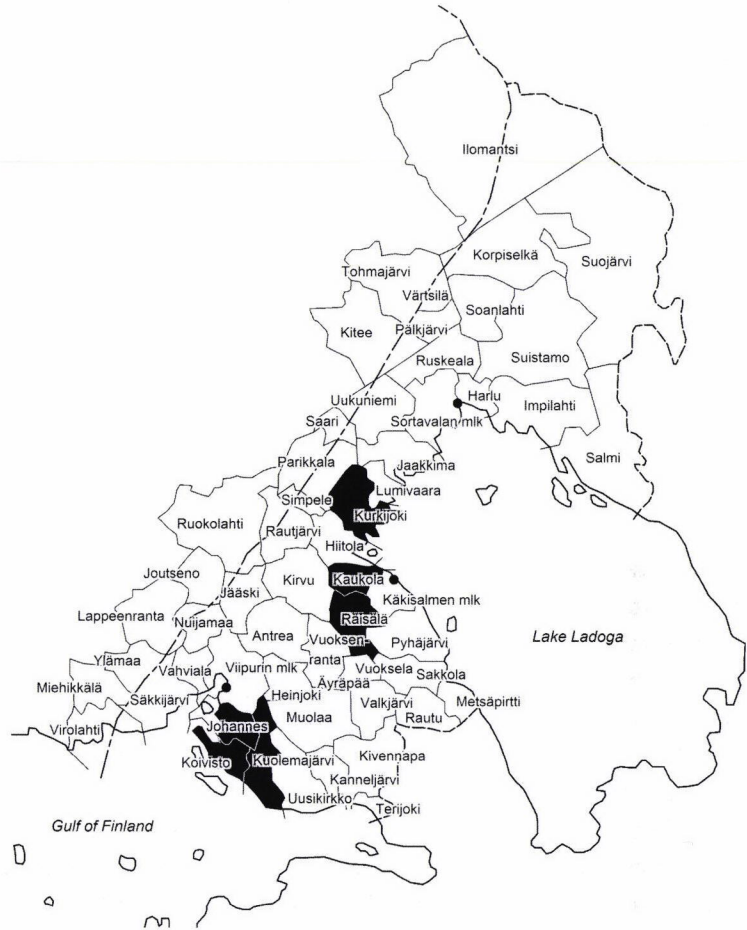


Figure 3.1 The former Finnish municipalities in the Karelian Isthmus and Ladoga Karelia. The municipalities surveyed between 1999 and 2003 marked black. (Modified from Nissilä *et al.* 1970 by K. Nordqvist)

from the different maps available offer a good starting point to approach the question.

The Saimaa-Ladoga project, the original name of which in Finnish is 'Saimaan vuoksi – Karjalankannaksen kivi- ja varhaismetallikausi' (see Kirkinen 2002), was led by the University of Helsinki, Institute for Cultural Research, Department of Archaeology. The field research began in 1998 and the last working season was in 2003. Field investigations were made and reports prepared in co-operation with the National Board of Antiquities in Helsinki (hence NBA), the Institute for the History of Material Culture,

Russian Academy of Sciences in St. Petersburg (hence IIMK/RAN) and Peter the Great Museum of Anthropology and Ethnography, Russian Academy of Sciences, Kunstkamera (hence Kunstkamera). The leaders of the project were Docent Pirjo Uino (NBA) and Assistant/University Lecturer Mika Lavento (University of Helsinki).

The reports of the investigations regarding each survey and the excavation were written in Helsinki in English. The original reports written in English are stored at the Department of Archaeology, University of Helsinki and in the NBA in Helsinki but copies were also delivered to the Russian partners. The Russian counterpart and the holder of field license in St. Petersburg finally prepared the official Russian report of the research which was sent to the scrutiny of the Moscow archaeological field committee. These Russian reports are stored in Moscow in the Archives of the Archaeological Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences and in IIMK/RAN in St. Petersburg. The find material is stored in IIMK/RAN in St. Petersburg.

Prof. Pavel M. Doluhanov and Dr. Vladimir I. Timofeev carried out research in the mid 1990s in the Karelian Isthmus under the title 'Saima-Ladoga' project (Dolukhanov & Timofeyev 1998). What the scientific aim of this project was has not come up very clearly. Anyway, it is interesting that the emphasis was put on the Stone Age and that it was planned to determine the function of the water routes between Lake Saimaa and Lake Ladoga (Fi. Laatokka, Ru. Ladožskoe ozero). There is no relation between the Saima-Ladoga and the Saimaa-Ladoga projects. It is a coincidence that the names resemble each other.

The Saimaa-Ladoga project had its beginning in 1998 when PhD Aleksandr I. Saksa and Dr. Vladimir I. Timofeev organized for the personnel of the University of Helsinki and the NBA a possibility to visit the dwelling sites excavated

by Finnish archaeologists before World War II. Under the leadership of prof. Ari Siiriäinen the pilot group visited the Isthmus in October 1998 (see Siiriäinen *et al.* 2008, this volume). The excursion diary of the pilot survey preceding the Saimaa-Ladoga project in the beginning of the volume sheds light on the starting point of the work. In addition to this, another purpose of the field trip was to find out whether it was possible to begin archaeological fieldwork in order to re-search Stone Age and Early Metal Period sites. The third objective for the field trip was to take samples for pollen analysis and ¹⁴C-samples at the place where the remains of the 'Antrea Net' were found (Pälsi 1920). Although the 'Antrea Net' has been scrutinised later by several scholars samples were taken during this trip by Professor Matti Eronen, Christian Carpelan, Lic. Phil. and Eloni Sonninen (working in the Dating Laboratory of the University of Helsinki) in order to reassess the character of the find spot and the date. In this volume two different articles (see Carpelan 2008, this volume; Miettinen *et al.* 2008, this volume) concerning the 'Antrea Net' are included. The first one concentrates on the study history and the second one – written by natural scientists – takes up the analysis and the interpretation of the pollen profile itself. This was at the same time the beginning of the project which has been carried out step by step with small sums of financing – thanks to the foundation Karjalan Säätiö (The Karelian Foundation).

The actual fieldwork began with the seminar survey in Kaukola (Ru. Sevast'janovo) and Räisälä (Ru. Mel'nikovo) in 1999 (see Nordqvist & Lavento 2008, this volume). The survey in Kurkijoki followed in 2001 (see Seitsonen & Gerasimov 2008, this volume). Although very close to the Karelian Isthmus, the municipality administratively belongs to the Karelian Republic. After these fieldworks in the western side of Lake Ladoga, two surveys were made by the

Gulf of Finland. The first was the seminar survey of Johannes (Ru. Sovetskij) (see Carpelan *et al.* 2008, this volume) carried out in 2002. In the ensuing year some areas in Koivisto (Ru. Primorsk) and Kuolemajärvi (Ru. Pionerskoe) were also partly surveyed. The starting point of this expedition differed from the other studies described here, since it was largely triggered by the plans to build a gas pipe line to the Koivisto oil harbour and the consequent need to survey and excavate areas touched by this enterprise. Large parts of both municipalities are still without a comprehensive survey. What is still substantial is that field trips – although short – have given us a better understanding for future work in the coastal part of the Gulf of Finland (see Nordqvist & Seitsonen 2008, this volume).

The seminar excavation at Juoksemajärvi (Ru. ozero Bol'shoe Zavetnoe) in Räisälä (Halinen 2003; Timofeev 2002; Timofeev *et al.* 2003) is reviewed in one article of this volume (Halinen *et al.* 2008, this volume). The article presents the site and the main observations made about the dwelling depression excavated under the leadership of Petri Halinen. The analysis of the quartz material from the site is also made and introduced by Oula Seitsonen. The bone finds from the excavation is investigated by Sanna Seitsonen in the same article and the ceramics by Kerkko Nordqvist. The stone implements and material were preliminarily examined earlier by G. N. Poplevko (2003).

In the same way as in the Ancient Lake Saimaa, also in the Isthmus it was necessary to recognize the fluctuation of the water level as well. It is not only a tower of strength to the survey methodology but also for an understanding of the essential environmental changes. Discussing the water level changes in relation to the sites was originally the special question of the project. The issue is discussed in a separate article (see Saarnisto 2008, this volume).

The environment can be examined from the viewpoint of fauna. Luckily we were able to get a comprehensive analysis of burnt bones picked up during the surveys or excavations of the dwelling sites. Together with the new material the analysis including all the bone material collected during the excavations carried out before World War II was made by Sanna Seitsonen (Seitsonen 2008, this volume). The amount of bone fragments from this period is relatively small but still worth investigating.

Eventhough doc. Terttu Lempiäinen (University of Turku) participated the Johannes survey and conducted botanical field research at the sites, it has turned out that a more detailed analysis of the environmental data connected with archaeological investigations of the Stone Age needs future research. The analyses regarding the development of the nature, vegetation history or the changes in climate during the Holocene in connection with prehistoric sites were put into practice in this project itself in two articles only (Gerasimov & Kul'kova 2003; Mietinen *et al.* 2008, this volume).

3.2 What is Karelia and where is it situated?

Every scholar working in some part of Karelia has to debate the question regarding 'Karelia' as a concept: what and where is it. It is easy to understand that during its long history the concept has had many different meanings. Even for people living today this questions causes dissent. The concepts become more complex the further we go back in time. The definitions are based on the geographical area, the material culture and the political history but in early phases particularly on archaeological data.

Because the opinions of the concepts are diverse is the reason why often used definitions

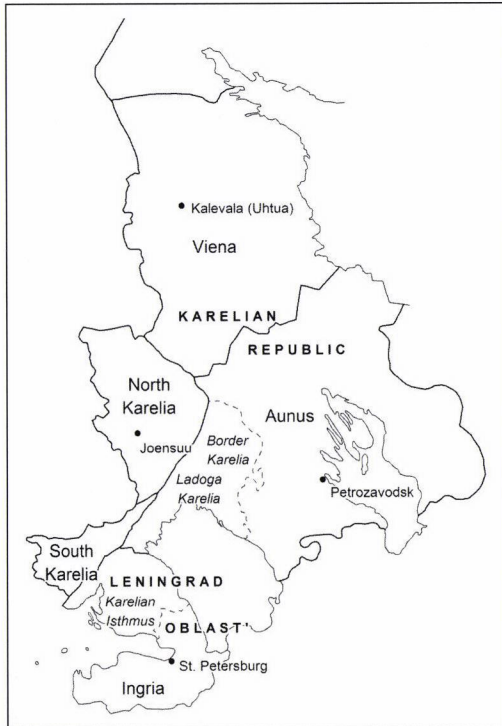


Figure 3.2 Parts of Karelia today. (Modified from Torikka 2003 by K. Nordqvist)

of Karelia are referred to here. Basic footholds for discussion are related to the changing Karelia from the Early Stone Age to the present, the Karelia of late 1880s and the early 1900s and to the Ancient Karelia which existed before World War II. The essential phases of the development of the Karelian culture are the Late Iron Age and the Medieval Period (see Uino 1997: 13–16; Sihvo 2003: 11–14), because since that period the area itself has its meaning still influencing our minds.

Karelia in its former meaning refers to the easternmost province in Finland as it was during 1809–1939, first as an autonomous grand duchy of Russia and then as an independent country. When dividing the area according to the historical province (see Nissilä *et al.* 1970) it can be divided into three parts: Karelia, Aunus Karelia and Viena Karelia. The same area is divided today into four separate parts including northern

Karelia which earlier belonged to the Province of Kuopio and southern Karelia (in Finland). The Ladoga Karelia is today a part of the Karelian Republic (in Russia) and the Karelian Isthmus belongs to the Leningrad Oblast (in Russia). An illustrative map of the different parts of Karelia today is presented by Marja Torikka (2003) (Fig. 3.2). The concept 'Ceded Karelia' is used today, too. It refers to those parts of the Karelian Isthmus and the Ladoga Karelia which were associated with the Province of Viipuri in Finland until the Peace of Paris in 1947 but in practice until 1944.

The concept Ancient Karelia is perhaps still more relevant for the archaeologist. This is because the area is definable on the grounds of archaeological material in different periods. Looking at the concentrations of archaeological finds, hoards, cemeteries and dwelling sites, the Ancient Karelia seems to agglomerate on the western side of Lake Ladoga, by the border of the Peace of Schlüsselburg (Fi. Pähkinäsaari, Ru. Šlissel'burg/Orešek). In the Viking Age the most densely settled area was in the municipalities of Sortavala (Ru. Sortavala), Kurkijoki, Hiitola, Kaukola, Räisälä, Käkisalme (Ru. Priozersk), Sakkola (Ru. Gromovo) and Metsäpirtti (Ru. Zaporožskoe). The settlement at the bottom end of Viipurinlahti Bay (Ru. zaliv Vyborgskij) began to grow slowly during the Crusade Period (Saksa *et al.* 2003: 437–440). Also the Lappee area by the southern part of Lake Saimaa began to appear reflecting connections to the region on the western side of Lake Ladoga.

The Ancient Karelia can also be approached if stating that especially during the Early Medieval Period the impact of the Karelian culture spread into surrounding large precincts. The Karelians populated also the area of Lake Saimaa, where the pogost of Savilahti existed. In addition to this pogost they settled the area around Lake Ladoga, the Karelian Isthmus and

the southern part of the Lake Saimaa area. Some scholars suggest that there were small Karelian populations even on the southern side of the Gulf of Finland (Hiekkänen 2003: 490–495). The permanently settled heartland was probably in the region around Lake Onega (Fi. Ääninen, Ru. Onežskoe ozero) but their influence together with the influence of Novgorod may have extended even to the remote north.

However, a salient point is that during the Stone Age and the Early Metal Period the problem of Karelia and its location is perhaps not of utmost relevance here, because researchers are not able to discern populations and their relations with each other well enough. When talking about the areas of ‘Karelia’ or ‘Ancient Karelia’ it is nevertheless the most practical to accept and operate with the municipalities formed during the 1800s and in the early 1900s. They are also here the basis of orientation instead of dissecting Karelia into different areas following the interpretation made by archaeological finds from different periods.

3.3 A short outlook on the starting points of the Saimaa-Ladoga project

In the beginning, one central task posed for the Saimaa-Ladoga project was to evoke a better understanding of the Stone Age and the Early Metal Period material found before World War II. In addition to looking for the environment it was tried to achieve better understanding – in different meanings of the word – the contexts of this material. The collections of the NBA in Helsinki included a considerable number of archaeological materials uncovered in the Ceded Karelia. The value of the Karelian collections in Helsinki is emphasized because during the Soviet period only casual archaeological investigations were conducted in order to search for

Stone Age and Early Metal Period sites. One may comprehend that the number of new finds remained small because the Ceded Karelia by the Finnish border belonged to the military zone. Only a part of the material has been used and published.

The archaeology in Karelia has deep roots. Between the late 19th century and World War II the research in Karelia was in a primary position in Finnish archaeology (see Uino 2003a; Saksa 1998). The long intermission in the fieldwork activities in the Ceded Karelia commenced after the war. Still, in the post-war conditions the area was not totally forgotten or excluded from archaeology either in Finland or in Russia (e.g. Huurre 1979; Lapšin 1995; Uino 1997; Lavento *et al.* 2001). Albeit pivotal to the prehistory in Finland it was left to the margins in the prehistory of North-Western Russia. Karelia was still assumed to have been operated as a passage through which many phenomena diffused into Finland during the whole of the Holocene.

One objective of the Saimaa-Ladoga project was to replenish the archaeological material of the area already exhaustively investigated also with the Iron Age sites, although this was not in the center of purposes in it. In 1997 Pirjo Uino published her dissertation on the Early Metal Period and the Iron Age in the Ceded Karelia. It was the first comprehensive overview of the Karelian Isthmus and the Ladoga Karelia since Theodor Schwindt (Schwindt 1893). Aleksandr Saksa’s (1998) dissertation on the Iron Age in Karelia appeared soon after Uino’s book. The Iron Age until the end of the Crusade Period was thus carefully examined (Uino 2003b&c; Saksa *et al.* 2003) but the Stone Age in the area evidently required much investigation. The questions related to the Early Metal Period were discussed in Mika Lavento’s dissertation (2001).

Already during the pilot visit in 1998 it came out that several sites investigated at the beginning

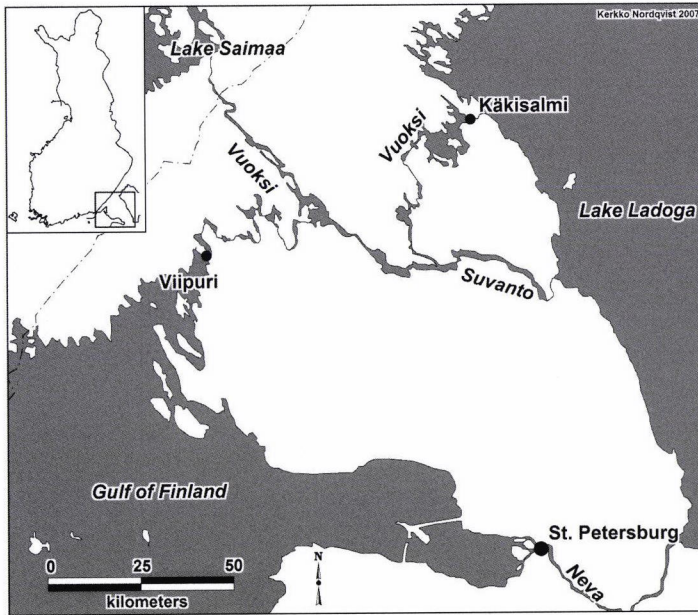


Figure 3.3 A simplified map of the Karelian Isthmus showing the Lakes Saimaa and Ladoga connected by River Vuoksi. (Map: K. Nordqvist)

of the 20th century were already destroyed or for many reasons difficult to locate again. Still, the written documents (reports) were utilised and all essential archive information was collected before carrying out surveys in each municipality because they gave pointers about promising areas and environments favorable for living. Also sites of a different character from the ones known so far were set as the target of the fieldwork. It was assumed that the surveys might have a considerable influence on the picture created of the prehistory of Karelia before World War II. In spite of leaving aside most sites already known, the project oriented itself on discovering previously unknown sites from the very beginning. After discussions it was decided that the emphasis should be on finding new sites instead of locating the old ones. When charting the first application for financing the Saimaa-Ladoga project there emerged the idea to concentrate on two main regions: one situated on the western side of Lake Ladoga and the second one on the small part of the Gulf of Finland immediately to the south of Viipurinlahti Bay.

The reason for the division was based on natural conditions. The River Vuoksi (Ru. reka Vuoksa) connects the two large water bodies and the climatic as well as the geomorphologic conditions have many similarities in both the earlier research area (Saimaa) and the new one (Ladoga) (Fig. 3.3). This is reflected in the flora and fauna which in turn is relevant from the point of view of prehistoric subsistence strategies and culture. The project proceeded from the hypothesis that even archaeological sites might be similar in character. The coastal area at the bottom end of Viipurinlahti Bay was included because it offered an excellent comparison area for the two large water basins inland.

3.4 Archaeological investigations in the Karelian Isthmus since the late 1800s until 1998

Archaeological research on the western shore of Lake Ladoga began in the late 19th century. Theodor Schvindt identified and excavated sev-

eral Iron Age cemeteries but was less interested in Stone Age sites. In his dissertation (Schwindt 1893) he took into use an entity called the Karelian culture still used by Finnish archaeologists. As a result of his activity in the late 1800s the number of cemeteries suddenly increased with the abundant find material of metal implements. The amount of grave goods found in inhumation graves was noticeable. It was perhaps therefore that the increase of sites, cemeteries and the development of the original find types led scholars to consider it as a culture of its own (Schwindt 1893; Uino 2003a). The concept has been discussed by many researchers but the interpretation of the characteristic picture of the local material culture still relies mainly on Schwindt's ideas (see Uino 1997; Saksa 1998 and cited sources).

Julius Ailio and Sakari Pälsi were the most important contributors to the Karelian Stone Age archaeology. All in all the fieldwork on the Stone Age sites was particularly active during the two first decades of the 20th century (Huurre 2003: 154–157). Despite the relatively small number of excavations, a large number of finds was collected. Some of the excavations comprised very large areas – first of all at Häyrynmäki in the rural municipality of Viipuri (Ru. Vyborg) and at the Riukjärvi and Piiskunsalmi sites in Kaukola. The work done by amateur archaeologists, 'collectors', was equally lucrative as well for instance in Kaukola and Räisälä (Nordqvist 2005). In comparison to the abundant Stone Age material the Bronze Age/Early Metal Period sites found and investigated were very few in number (Tallgren 1914; Europaeus 1923).

It is worth remembering that despite of some important exceptions the Stone Age material excavated was never thoroughly investigated by Finnish archaeologists neither before nor after World War II. The most important contributions

to examining the find material in broad scale were the doctoral dissertations written by Ailio (1909) and Pälsi (1915). One should put great store on the latter because of the analysis of the Riukjärvi and Piiskunsalmi material.

In any event the material excavated and interpreted had a central influence on the general views of the overall picture of the prehistory of Finland. The general picture created by Schwindt (Schwindt 1893), Ailio (1909), Pälsi (1915; 1918), Tallgren (1914) and Äyräpää (Europaeus) (1923; 1930; 1953) was repeatedly quoted when writing the prehistory of the Stone Age, the Bronze Age and the Iron Age in Finland (Tallgren 1931; Kivikoski 1961; Huurre 1979; Edgren 1992). For example, Pälsi's (1918) reconstruction of the Pitkäjärvi dwelling in Räisälä still comes up on several occasions. Almost legendary is the 'Antrea Net' (Pälsi 1920; Carpelan 2008, this volume).

In the first decades after 1945 only C. F. Meinander (1954; 1969) was active in investigating and discussing the Early Metal Period material found in the Karelian Isthmus. Nevertheless, any general review of the Stone Age and the Bronze Age in Finland should include more observations and more careful investigation of the material already excavated. Despite this, the tradition to see the Karelian Isthmus as relevant in Finnish archaeology continued (see Huurre 1979; 1998).

After the War the Russian archaeologists who directed their interests to the Karelian Isthmus and to the western side of Lake Ladoga were primarily interested in the Late Iron Age, the Medieval and the Historical Periods (Kočkurkina 1973; 1981; 1982; 1996; Kirpičnikov 1979). Since the 1970s particularly Aleksandr Saksa (1981; 1984; 1985a–c; 1989; 1990a&b; 1992a&b; 1994; 1997; 1998; Saksa & Tjulenev 1990; Saksa *et. al.* 2003) has been the most active Late Iron Age – or from

the Russian perspective the Middle Age – researcher there. His scientific career has mostly concentrated on investigating the Isthmus and some parts of the Ladoga Karelia. Since 1999 Saksa has been responsible for town excavations in Viipuri (Saksa 2004 and cited sources). V. A. Tjulenev, who was working in Viipuri, was earlier responsible for investigations of the castle and the town itself. S. I. Kočkurkina who is working as an archaeologist in Petrozavodsk has done her studies mainly in the Ladoga Karelia, the area belonging today to the Karelian Republic, Tiurinlinna Castle in Räisälä being an exception to the rule.

In the late 1980s the border opened for Finnish archaeologists to return to Karelia. Käkisalmi and Tiurinlinna Castle were the few Iron Age sites visited by Finnish researchers. Excavations were conducted as a Russian-Finnish co-operation (Uino 1992; 1997; 1998; 1999; 2003a–c; Uino & Saksa 1993). Also the history of early agriculture was investigated in these areas (Taavitsainen *et al.* 1994; Saarnisto & Grönlund 1996; Saarnisto *et al.* 1999; see also Simola 2003).

The Stone Age and the Early Metal Period archaeology was sporadically promoted in the Ladoga Karelia by V. F. Filatova and I. F. Vitenkova working in Petrozavodsk (Pankrušev 1978a&b; see articles in Kosmenko & Kočkurkina 1996). All these archaeologists carried out excavations at Stone Age sites by Lake Ladoga although the actual number of fieldwork remained small.

In the Karelian Isthmus surveys and excavations were carried out in the 1960s by A. N. Rumjancev (1969), S. I. Rudenko (1970) and Ju. A. Urban (1970). Rumjancev (1969) conducted some small excavations in Kaukola and Räisälä (see Lapšin 1995; Gerasimov *et al.* 2003). Since the mid 1980s the Stone Age research was conducted by V. I. Timofeev on the Lakes Hepojärvi (Ru. ozero Hepojärvi) and Kanneljärvi (Ru.

ozero Pobednoe) (Timofeev 1984; 1986). In the 1990s Timofeev visited Kaukola, Riukjärvi (Ru. ozero Uzlovoe), where he excavated the site in the Kankaanmäki area, where sites had been excavated already earlier by S. Pälsi (1915). Timofeev (1993; 1994; 2000) investigated the field on the terraces situated on a slightly higher elevation than that of Pälsi's (see Gerasimov *et al.* 2003: 33–34) with the aim to locate possible Mesolithic material.

Finnish Stone Age and Early Metal Period archaeologists began their work in Karelia in the late 1990s. Since 1998 several expeditions and investigations in different parts of the Karelian Isthmus have been conducted (e.g. see Jussila & MatisKainen 2003; Lavento *et al.* 2001; Takala & Sirviö 2003; Timofeev 2000). Good results have given encouragement to continue the studies. In 2004 a new Finnish-Russian project (see Lavento *et al.* 2006) was launched in Kaukola and Räisälä, and the work with the excavation material uncovered in 2005 continued until the end of the year 2006.

Julius Ailio (1915) was among the first to start the research of the history of Lake Ladoga with the help of shore displacement studies already in 1906. Co-operative work on this theme between geology and archaeology began then simultaneously. After the War Matti Saarnisto and Ari Siiriäinen's article on the transgression line of Lake Ladoga was a milestone (Saarnisto & Siiriäinen 1970). Since then discussion has been continued by several Russian and Finnish geologists (see Saarnisto 2003). A special contribution of a geologist to archaeology has been the dating of the 'Antrea Net' (Lindberg 1920; Hyyppä 1934; Sauramo 1951).

During the 1990s investigations were directed to the history of early agriculture. In connection to this Finnish geologists and biologists carried out several pollen analyses (Grönlund *et al.* 2001a&b; Saarnisto & Grönlund 1996;

Figure 3.4 The Imatrankoski rapids, located near junction of Lake Saimaa and River Vuoksi, foaming during the drawing. (Photo: P. Uino 2000)



Saarnisto *et al.* 1994; Simola *et al.* 2001). Also several macrofossil analyses were made (Lempäinen 1995; 1997; 2002). So far the earliest observations made by Finnish scholars for the beginning of slash-and-burn cultivation have been dated to c. 200 AD (Simola 2003: 106) whereas Russian scholars have suggested notably earlier datings for the beginning of agriculture in the Karelian Isthmus. According to them slash-and-burn cultivation may have been implemented in the region of Viipuri as early as the Late Neolithic (Klejmenova *et al.* 1988).

The research of the Karelian Isthmus has been revived in many sciences. It has been made not only by Finnish researchers but often together with Russian ones. In archaeology cooperation began first with Iron Age studies in the late 1980s (Uino 1997). The Saimaa-Ladoga project ended the long period during which no archaeological field research was made by Finnish researchers in the Karelian Isthmus for the Stone Age and the Early Metal Period.

3.5 The Saimaa-Ladoga survey 1998–2003

3.5.1 Areas of the research

Within the Ancient Lake Saimaa project there

arose a growing interest to expand the project both to the northern part of the lake complex and to the lower course of the River Vuoksi in the Karelian Isthmus (Fig. 3.4). After visiting the Karelian Isthmus the decision was easy to make. As a consequence it was assumed inevitable to inspect the areas by Lake Ladoga in order to understand whether it was possible to find new sites in the area where the activity to investigate Stone Age and Early Metal Period sites was strongest before 1944.

Put simply the objective has taken the form to carry out field surveys on the western side of Lake Ladoga – particularly in the surroundings of Kaukola, Räisälä and Kurkijoki – together with some areas by the Gulf of Finland. In the beginning the shores of Viipurinlahti Bay – in the municipalities of Johannes, Koivisto and Kuolemajärvi – remained outside the project. They were included as it became evident that the project was put into practice only little by little.

On a large scale the project has tried to carry out fieldwork in two different areas (Fig. 3.1). Because funding was not received to realise the project for three years, the plan was to continue fieldwork surveying former Finnish municipalities in the Isthmus one by one until the finance for the large project was obtained. The original

plan has at least partly come true with relatively small sums of money. This being the case it was possible to begin the actual work encompassing the municipalities of Kaukola and Räisälä as a course for students. The first survey took place in May 1999 in the archipelago and fjords of the Ancient Lake Ladoga, nowadays belonging to the lower run of the River Vuoksi. The last fieldwork expedition of the project was in 2003. Then altogether four surveys – Kaukola and Räisälä (1999), Kurkijoki (2001), Johannes (2002) and a short survey in Koivisto and Kuolemajärvi (2003) – together with an excavation in Räisälä (2002) comprised the Saimaa-Ladoga project fieldwork. Because the earlier borders of the municipalities were not easy to locate again and also because of topographical reasons it turned out to be useful to follow an esker, deltas and other natural formations and the real survey area extended into other municipalities as well (see Appendix 1).

The Department of Archaeology at the University of Helsinki carried out the survey in Kaukola and Räisälä in 1999 in co-operation with the IIMK/RAN, St. Petersburg. One motive for choosing these municipalities was undoubtedly the impression of the rich Stone Age and Early Metal Period settlement at several sites in the region. The second reason was indisputably the pursuit to move down the Ancient River Vuoksi towards the Ancient Lake Ladoga.

Relatively simple preliminary models of shore displacement estimates and reading maps in the field were in the background when seeking sites of different types in the area. This survey – and also surveys carried out in 2001 and 2002 – comprised a field course for the students of archaeology at the University of Helsinki. As a result of a two-week field course in Kaukola and Räisälä 35 new sites were discovered, most of them in the areas not well-known beforehand. Five of the sites included also dwelling

depressions which were the first found in the Karelian Isthmus. (Lavento *et al.* 2001; Halinen *et al.* 1999; also Gerasimov 2004; Bel'skij & Gerasimov 2005.)¹

The surveys in the field often brought out heterogeneous material. Some sites included finds dating from the Mesolithic to the Historical times. Despite the primary plan to direct the objective to Stone Age and Early Metal Period sites, the fieldwork brought up material also from later periods. Many Stone Age sites were – both in the Ladoga region and by the Gulf of Finland – uncovered in cultivated fields. This made it understandable, why such a large number of sites were known already in the early 1900s in Karelia. Large sites at Riukjärvi and Piiskunsalmi together with many which were found in 1999 in Kaarlahti in Kaukola proved not to be in the forest. The same phenomenon came up in 2001 with several quartz sites in Kurkijoki.

The Iron Age finds and sites were not the center of interest in the project. The period itself and the earlier sites were well-known and located on the basis of archaeological work made by both Finnish and Russian archaeologists (Uino 1997; Saksa 1998). In some cases also remains of the Historical Period were mixed with Stone Age finds (see Appendix 1).

The second survey in the Karelian Isthmus was carried out in 2001 and it concentrated on the coastal zone of Lake Ladoga. Despite the original master plan to concentrate only on the Kurkijoki region the surveyors crossed the border intruding to some parts of Hiitola for topographical reasons. In the same way as in 1999 the field expedition was carried out in co-operation with the Department of Archaeology at the University of Helsinki, the IIMK/RAN and Kunstkamera. The survey turned out to be even more rewarding than the first one in 1999. During the six-day field seminar a total of 44 new



Figure 3.5 The first group of students and the crew participating in the seminar excavations in Räisälä Juoksemajärvi Westend site in June 2002 posing at the gate of the former pioneer camp Kozmonavt-2 in the former Siirilahti village. (Photo: P. Kouki 2002)

Stone Age and Early Metal Period sites were found (Timofeev *et al.* 2002; also Gerasimov 2003; Gerasimov *et al.* 2004). Besides, seven sites, known before, were inspected². The cooperation of Finnish and Russian archaeologists continued in Kurkijoki in June 2003, when two sites investigated already in 2001 were trial excavated in order to inspect their character more thoroughly (Gerasimov 2003; Nordqvist & Seitsonen 2004; Gerasimov *et al.* 2004)³.

In 2002 the Saimaa-Ladoga project field surveys moved to the Gulf of Finland, on the southern side of Viipurinlahti Bay in the municipality of Johannes. The Johannes survey was carried out by the same combination of institutes as in the earlier years. As a result of five days of

field research 18 dwelling sites were unearthed (Uino *et al.* 2003; Lisicyn 2003a&b; Lisicyn *et al.* 2003; Gerasimov *et al.* 2006). Besides new ones, some old find places were relocated and inspected. In the municipality of Johannes the survey teams focused particularly on the ancient shore terraces of the River Rokkalanjoki (Ru. reka Gorohovka). During the Stone Age the river valley consisted of a long fjord stretching from the Gulf of Finland to deep inland. The area was known on the basis of earlier research, the Finnish archaeologists Aarne Äyräpää, Jouko Voionmaa and Sakari Pälsi excavated by the River Rokkalanjoki in 1930s, but still it is evident that Johannes was not surveyed thoroughly enough⁴.

In June 2002 the project put into practice an excavation at the dwelling site of Räisälä Juoksemajärvi Westend. The ground was opened at one of the dwelling depressions found during the first day of the field seminar in 1999. The expedition consisted of almost one month of fieldwork conducted together by Finnish and Russian archaeologists. The objective for the field examination was to investigate a shallow dwelling depression close by a sand hauling pit. The decision to begin the fieldwork at the place was launched by the fact that some parts – or in the worst case the whole site – were obviously in danger to be soon destroyed due to sand hauling (Halinen 2003; Timofeev 2002; Timofeev *et al.* 2003; see also Halinen *et al.* 2008, this volume). The excavation was conducted by Petri Halinen, Lic. Phil. and Dr. Vladimir Timofeev (Fig. 3.5)⁵.

The excavation uncovered traces of three habitation periods at the dwelling depression itself and on the lower elevation on the slope descending to Lake Juoksemajärvi. The earliest settlement phase was preliminary both typologically and ¹⁴C-dated to the Early Mesolithic and the later one to the Early Combed Ware (Sperrings 1). Evidence suggesting settlement



Figure 3.6 Mika Lavento and Vladimir Timofeev studying the ceramics found during the survey of Johannes in the study of Stone Age researchers of IIMK/RAN in St. Petersburg in the winter 2002. (Photo: P. Uino 2002)

in later periods at the site was also unearthed and at least traces of Late Neolithic settlement was found. The number of finds was considerably larger than what was assumed beforehand. The amount of finds exceeded 9000 in number (see Halinen *et al.* 2008, this volume).

Surveys were continued on a smaller scale in the municipalities of Koivisto and Kuolemajärvi in 2003 (Lisicyn 2004; Nordqvist & Seitsonen 2004; Lisicyn *et al.* 2004)⁶. The work within the short expedition comprised mostly of inspecting areas by the gas pipe line running to the oil harbour of Koivisto. Also searching the environments close to the site already excavated by Pälsi around Lake Kipinolanjärvi (Ru. ozero Vysokinskoe) in the Kuolemajärvi municipality turned out to be rewarding (see Nordqvist & Seitsonen 2008, this volume).

After this expedition Russian archaeologists have made annual inspections or sometimes small-scale excavations in the areas al-

ready surveyed (Lisicyn 2004; 2005). Hannu Takala (2004; 2005) has conducted successful surveys in some parts of Kuolemajärvi, like in other parts of the Karelian Isthmus as well. In Koivisto some casual investigations were made by Finnish archaeologists before World War II. In the late 1930s Jorma Leppäaho inspected find places but did not carry out excavations. V. I. Timofeev was active also in the Koivisto area and made test excavations at the Neolithic dwelling site of Kamyševka. He also excavated the Late Neolithic/Early Metal Period site Kamenka 2 (Gerasimov *et al.* 2003: 16–17). This site was first excavated already before World War II by Aarne Äyräpää (before 1930 Euro-paeus) and Sakari Pälsi.

Summing up the benefits, the Saimaa-Ladoga project opened up possibilities to make various types of field research in the Isthmus. It has given experience for future prospects in the area of Stone Age and Early Metal Period discover-

ies. Studies were put into practice in the smooth field collaboration between Russian and Finnish Stone Age archaeologists. The scientific benefits will be pondered a bit later (see the epilogue of this publication).

Because of restricted budgets, the Saimaa-Ladoga project was able to carry out surveys in the most auspicious parts of the municipalities only. For this reason the project has proceeded step by step. In the long run this kind of working has proven to be worthwhile. It has given the project the possibility to learn to do things in a new territory. It has left time for Finnish and Russian colleagues to consider the ways to proceed further. It has also given several Finnish students of archaeology the possibility to make an acquaintance with Russia, its possibilities and difficulties concerning archaeology. The aim of the project has not been only to collect information, but the fieldwork has also been a time of learning for the archaeologists from both countries (Fig. 3.6).

3.5.2 The research questions

The original questions of the Saimaa-Ladoga project can be summed up as follows:

1. One of the primary objectives for the expedition was to make surveys and excavations in order to update the general picture of the Stone Age and the Early Metal Period in the Karelian Isthmus. How relevant would the established picture be after new excavations in the area?

2. One salient aim was to generate preliminary models for each area where sites were envisaged to be and thus possibly discovered. These models conjoined the principles contrived during the Ancient Lake Saimaa project. For instance, the relevance of the shore displacement together with transgressions and regressions and geological attributes of several kinds belonged to these questions.

3. One objective of the project was also to find site types not known before in the Karelian Isthmus but which, however, were typical in the neighbouring

area. As examples can be mentioned dwelling depressions or Lapp cairns.

4. It was also asked what kind of find material would be possible to be uncovered in surveys and excavations. This material was assumed to provide interesting comparison material for the Lake Saimaa region.

5. A general problem was to trace the attributes of how it was possible to find settlements in different periods of Mesolithic, Neolithic and Early Metal Period. An evident question was also to examine the environment around sites. An intelligible ambition was to compare the results with those obtained in the Ancient Lake Saimaa project. These questions were linked with attributes based on geological and environmental observations.

6. Finally, one of the objectives at the beginning of the investigation was to get to know how to conduct fieldwork in the Karelian Isthmus in practice. Both surveys and excavations belonged to the program. Fieldwork at Stone Age sites had not been made in the area for a long time by Finnish scholars. At the beginning it seemed necessary to find out how it was possible to organize logistics and practical questions relating to reports and working in the area in general. The target was very practical but it still needed urgent clarification.

The fieldwork was not directed to examine 'old', already known find places or excavated sites. The purpose was – despite the pilot visit in 1998 – to seek new ones, and the goal for the survey teams was to bring up material in the areas not known before. One reason behind this was that the sites of the late 1800s and the early 1990s were not found in surveys made by archaeologists. The sites came up through an accrual of material as a result of some other primary activity, normally ploughing and picking up fields. In the late 1800s and the early 1900s material was accumulated as the result of the activity by local farmers or by so-called collectors who were some kind of amateur archaeologists, persons full of passion towards prehistory. The second reason was connected with us: earlier a large number of sites were found in cultivated fields. It was now

time to find different kinds of sites situated in different types of forest terrains.

In the Ancient Lake Saimaa project and in the Martinniemi project methods were developed which proved to be successful in Finnish conditions. The research group was inspired to test these presuppositions in new areas; although not very far from Lake Saimaa but still in a different environment. One particular aim was to comprehend, for example, how workable shore displacement as a method would be in discovering sites in the Karelian Isthmus. One more detailed objective was to solve the problem of where to turn up feasible evidence regarding the Neolithic transgression of the Ancient Lake Ladoga. It was possible to compare the archaeological results achieved in the environment of Lake Saimaa with the conditions by Lake Ladoga.

It turned out already in the planning phase of the project that on the basis of information gathered in the Ancient Lake Saimaa area and in the surroundings of Lake Onega that there were site types so far missing in the Karelian Isthmus. If not taking into account the possible dwelling excavated by Sakari Pälsi (1918) at Pitkäjärvi site in Räisälä (see Seitsonen 2006), no dwelling depressions were known in the Isthmus. It was also hoped that Lapp cairns would be found in the area within the project because they exist in large in number in the Saimaa area but were not known in the Isthmus.

Sites with dwelling depressions were found already during the first survey day in 1999. It then set the ball rolling towards the inevitability to carry out an excavation of at least one dwelling depression in the Isthmus during the project. The aim came true at Juoksemajärvi Westend in Räisälä. One dwelling depression was unearthed at this site in 2002. The structure and the material from the depression were examined with particular interest because both in

the Ancient Lake Saimaa and in the Lake Onega region hundreds of dwelling depressions were investigated and published. It was evident for this reason that material for comparison was eagerly needed also in the Karelian Isthmus.

During the surveys, excavation and when writing the reports, several other questions arose. These questions and presuppositions will be pondered in each of the articles in this volume.

3.5.3 Survey strategy

The methods used to find and locate sites in the 1999–2003 surveys differed essentially from those followed before World War II. Earlier the investigation was triggered by tip-offs that archaeologists followed. Systematic surveys of restricted areas were made in Finland particularly since the large fieldwork made for the building projects of damming basins for the hydro-electric power stations in the Rivers Oulujoki and Kemijoki since the late 1950s. Active searching for new sites in the restricted areas on the basis of models has been made since the 1980s.

The fieldwork strategy before World War II was in favor of letting information grow regardless of the scholar who actively tried to uncover new sites in the field. Today the scholar himself not only anxiously collects new information from the map but also makes observations about soils, geological formations, differences in vegetation and various other characteristics in the environment. An archaeologist looks for new potential micro-environments in the areas he considers appropriate for surveying. Shore displacement models have taken an active role together with different kinds of environmental factors, without forgetting the tips or earlier information. The latter has today attained a considerable role because the amount of information in many areas has grown considerably.

The survey methodology in the Saimaa-Ladoga project rests on the ancient shore lines and their elevations. The shore displacement history of the Karelian Isthmus and the Ladoga Karelia has been relatively well-known since the early 1900s (Ailio 1915; Saarnisto & Siiriäinen 1970; Saarnisto 2003). Ailio himself, with his expertise in geology, applied the method to construct the shore displacement history for the Ancient Lake Ladoga and his maps on shores of the Ancient Lake are excellent for the geologists even today. Although Ailio did not adapt his knowledge for searching sites, this background information is in a central position nowadays. It provides drawings of elevation contours for different areas on different elevations. The general topography and environment can be reconstructed to such a degree that much more than only broad-brush phases both in Lake Ladoga and in the Gulf of Finland can be delineated. Shorelines, their shapes and the main outline of the landscape are well visible in terrains. This essentially underpins the surveyor to pay attention to the most auspicious coves, bays, forelands etc. during the fieldwork.

The Russian maps available in the scales of 1:50 000 and 1:100 000 have not been functional for the survey project. They were printed in the 1990s for hikers and orienteers in particular. Unfortunately, exact elevation contours are lacking and some roads and geological information pertaining to the shapes of geological formations – such as eskers or drumlins – can be found on them only with difficulty. They are still feasible when locating sites, new roads and new names for the sites and the environment of surveys.

In the Saimaa-Ladoga project systematic schemes for fieldworking and estimation of the potential to discover sites was done using the old Finnish basic maps. The maps of 1:20 000 and 1:100 000 in scale were measured by Finnish land surveyors mostly in the 1930s. They are

practical in the archaeological surveys because the details of the landscape are easily discernable. Although useful for their details of the topography, the fact that they were printed already in the 1930s brings a lot of problems as well. Today most farmhouses and their outbuildings, as well as old roads among others, are in ruins or do not exist any more.

Preparation for a field survey is commonly preceded by collecting all archaeological information concerning sites and stray finds available in the archives of the NBA of Finland. This data, marked on basic maps of 1:20 000, gives the surveyor the possibility to compare it with the environment in front of him. Despite the original question framing and that the survey concentrated on the Stone Age and the Early Metal Period, also the archaeological information of the later periods was taken into account (see Appendix 1). This is because all finds or remains of sites representing later settlement are also recorded. They are valuable for future research already as observations. In her book Pirjo Uino (1997) clearly and illustratively betokens how vital the magnitude of these fundamental facts regarding all kinds of sites are. Her dissertation is the account *par excellence* of the Iron Age sites and finds. Sometimes there are also significant pieces of information collected by Russian archaeologists or by local amateurs (see Gerasimov *et al.* 2003; Mökkönen & Nordqvist 2006). However, the amount of this information is normally small.

Most important elevation curves both on the western coast of Lake Ladoga and by the Gulf of Finland at the mouth of Viipurinlahti Bay are confined between 10 and 30 asl (Kääriäinen 1975). In all the municipalities in the survey area the range of the present land uplift is today between 1–2 mm/year. Marking the most promising Stone Age and Early Metal Period contour lines on maps is elementary in reconstructing

the ancient topography in the Isthmus; as a result one can get a glimpse of the Holocene scenery and its changing history in the region. The contour lines of these maps also allow a rough dating of the site. The ancient shore terraces are one path towards timing.

Very often it has been difficult to find the older find locations because information given of their location was inaccurate. For instance, sites and stray finds around Riukjärvi and Piiskunsalmi in Kaukola have been found both intricate and being of high value. Often it comes down to the fact that if the finds or find clusters – for some reasons – had not been classified into a high category (it means as sites) by Ailio, Päläsi or other Finnish archaeologists (see Uino 1997; Nordqvist 2005), they were left out of studies in Finnish post-war archaeology. A dilemma arises when the survey should go ahead in an area almost empty of sites or in areas with only few stray finds. The name of the farmhouse or the field belonging to the owner is not easy to disentangle. Because most houses do not exist and fields have merged into each other, fields are growing trees and the scenery has changed in general, to locate them accurately becomes evidently difficult. In this project, where the focus was explicitly to engross areas not known beforehand, this complication is not particularly disadvantageous.

Besides the archaeological data also the most conspicuous place names can be collected. Worth mentioning are, for example, very common place names such as 'hiidenmäki' or 'hauta'. The surroundings of these names are normally inspected in surveys. How substantial this information becomes is difficult to estimate beforehand. They refer often to formations in the terrain or to some structures – in the best cases Lapp cairns.

A central part of the pre-fieldwork activity is to recognize and interpret the value of different kinds of quaternary formations. Such topo-

graphically characteristic geological formations such as estuaries, drumlins and glaciofluvial deltas are fundamental in building the picture of potential areas for the survey. In many occasions geological formations are visible already on the basic map but are much more detailed in nature. The start is often better if geological soil maps are available as well. Unfortunately, in the Karelian Isthmus only old soil maps in the scale of 1:200 000, for parts of the survey areas only of 1:400 000, are available. In small scale maps like this one can discern only broad-brush formations, such as eskers which are in a central position anyway. The more detailed the maps are, the more they help when trying to observe local details in different formations of glacial origin.

Whereas the features mentioned above are macrostructures in their scale, microstructures are not readable in the map. An archaeologist making the survey evidently turns his attention to the microstructures in the surroundings because connecting the site with the environment is of particular importance. Microstructures can be terraces or sheltered rocks but also patches of sandy ridges with favourable soil.

Perhaps the majority of the Stone Age and the Early Metal Period dwelling sites which are known so far in the area of the Baltic Shield are situated on gravel, sandy or silty soils. These soils together with suitable elevations indicate shores, terraces and pine heaths where rain water soaks down quickly. On these types of soils snow melts first after winter also. It makes living more convenient also therefore that digging a dwelling or other pits is easier than on moraines or clays. Long eskers, glaciofluvial deltas, drumlins, estuaries of rivers and other such features are practical when moving from one place to another and they are also practical when hunting elk and reindeer using hunting pits – also large mammals prefer heaths and eskers in their wayfaring.

It is still necessary to pinpoint totally different soils – moraines with coarse boulders, bedrocks, swamps and peat lands – which were also successfully exploited for living. The question often arises spontaneously: do we too often concentrate our vigour too much on dry heaths without directing enough of our energy on different types of environments. The result may well be that we uncover sites or site types connected with certain kinds of environments. After this project this question regarding the Karelilian Isthmus remains unanswered and awaits archaeologists of the future.

Large and small lacustrine environments have also been investigated in the Ancient Lake Saimaa area. Dwelling sites on sheltered bays, the shores of small inland lakes and rivers, river estuaries and the coastal archipelagos of large inland lakes were reconnoitred by surveyors (cf. Vikkula 1994). The methods of natural geography were practiced in a wide-ranging way in the field surveys of the 1990s in the Ancient Lake Saimaa project (Wilhelms 1995; Maaranen 1996). Efforts were made to read the environments around the sites of different types and ages. Also various methods of geoarchaeology and soil science were applied both in surveys and excavations of the Ancient Lake Saimaa project (Lavento 1997). Soil science has been used at many sites in the Isthmus as well. Soil samples were taken and analysed, for instance, at the excavations at Juoksemajärvi in Räisälä, too (Gerasimov & Kul'kova 2003).

One aspect of the problem is to ponder whether or not the different kinds of settlements dating from different periods are connected with the sites by the sea shore or by local lakes (Siiriäinen 1981; 1987; Matiskainen 1989). Most often the sites are (and have been) found in different types of environments in relation to water, for instance, around large or small water basins. By the seashore inner or outer archipela-

gos were also more or less settled. Differences can be seen when comparing the topography and the availability of resources utilised during some periods of the year. More complicated are sites not situated by a water basin. Still, according to the parent hypotheses, all sites are close to some kind of water basin or route, near the sea, large lake, small river or pond.

Although the principal models for finding sites operate with shorelines, terraces and suitable soils, the project members are fully aware of sites not following these orthodox constitutions. The most eye-catching examples of the model are hill forts, cairns, cup-marked stones or Iron Age dwelling sites and cemeteries. Despite the knowledge of them, these kinds of potential sites were not inspected very often. The reason why they were not inspected lies in our interest to seek first of all Stone Age or Early Metal Period sites and places representing hunting and fishing cultures. The project members concede that critics against its methodology are correct here. However, this time the models were based on the importance of shore lines. The future research could – and naturally also should – be constructed in another way.

Some sites on the coast or islands were interpreted as hunting stations for seasonal activities (cf. Seger 1986a&b). The Saimaa-Ladoga project did not bring enough data in order to ponder the questions related to milieus more in-depth here. It is conceivable to postulate, however, that by the Gulf of Finland or by the Ancient Lake Ladoga representing the large estuary of the River Vuoksi, that there were sites reflecting specialisation for some particular activities. It is presumed that much of this specialising could be related with only seasonal occupation – the fact which is almost self-explanatory. This is still not a unique explanation for smaller, less exploited or outlying sites. Different types of transition sites and e.g. seasonal meeting plac-

es may also have very probably existed there. These aspects are aired in more depth in the Kaukola-Räisälä project following the Saimaa-Ladoga project after 2004.

The elevation of sites gives rough dating intervals for delineating the preliminary chronology for different settlement periods. A more exact dating is often attained on the basis of find typology. The most important have been ceramic types which can give a chronology to an accuracy of some hundred years. Stone implements or their fragments and some quartz or flint implements yield good starting points for datings of sites although their own chronology is often problematic as well. The latter can still be particularly important when trying to reconstruct a chronology for the sites of the Mesolithic. Quartz itself is often a difficult material both for dating and interpreting the function of sites. Unfortunately the project was able to make ¹⁴C-datings in the laboratory of IIMK/RAN, St. Petersburg only of the samples from the dwelling site Juoksemajärvi Westend in Räisälä.

As already mentioned, particularly earlier in Finland archaeological surveys were restricted to inspecting already known sites, stray finds and places assumed to be interesting from the toponymical viewpoint (Huurre 1973: 27). Survey methodology has still developed at a brisk pace since the 1980s in Finland. At the same time the focus in the fieldwork has been towards a more scientific methodology which channels its interest into areas not earlier recorded in archaeological data⁷. Surveys are a more and more important part of archaeological fieldwork both methodologically and in detecting information that is possible to find in any kind of archaeological documents. Surveys in the municipalities in the Karelian Isthmus and in the western part of Lake Ladoga provide a good example for archaeologists for this kind of approach.

3.6 Conclusions

The Saimaa-Ladoga project arose from the Ancient Lake Saimaa project but it soon grew apart from it. It became less heterogeneous than its precursor because the question framing was channeled intensively on research of hunter-fisher communities. The methodology was based on the work made in the Ancient Lake Saimaa project but it was soon adapted to the local environment and conditions.

Finance for the project was based on relatively small grants received from different foundations. Almost all surveys were made as seminar surveys and excavations. Finnish and Russian archaeologists worked together with students from the University of Helsinki. In these circumstances it was positive that many students got the possibility to acquaint them with the Isthmus, to find a large number of sites and to familiarize themselves with the possibilities of Russian prehistory and the Karelian Isthmus itself.

The original plan – to glean material for setting off an exhaustive analysis between the three types of environments – did not fully materialise because the survey periods by the Gulf of Finland remained too short. Despite the large number of new finds it turned out that much larger and more detailed investigations are needed in the future. The Karelian Isthmus is full of archaeological remains waiting for comprehensive research. The project revealed without doubt that the Isthmus is also abundant with different types of sites. The majority of sites were difficult to date well enough by shore displacement or find typology although it was possible to establish the main lines of the chronology. Datings are evidently needed for sites and material.

The material and results presented in the articles in this book are independent studies by

the scholars participating in the project. They also reflect that surveys were diverse in the field and that the approaches to use the material were also varied. Still, it was possible to answer many questions posed already at the beginning and the answers – the results of the project – are discussed in the final article, or the epilogue of the book.

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Endnotes

- 1 The survey team of 1999 comprised Russian archaeologists Dr. Vladimir I. Timofeev, PhD Aleksandr I. Saks, Dr. Vladimir A. Nazarenko, Dr. Sergej N. Astahov and M.A. Dmitrij V. Gerasimov from IIMK/RAN and Kunstkamera, St. Petersburg. Teaching archaeologists (or group leaders) representing the University of Helsinki were Petri Halinen, Lic. Phil., and Mika Lavento Lic. Phil. Students at the University of Helsinki were Viivi Deckwirth, Minna Haapanen, Karin Hinkkanen, Mikael A. Manninen, Susanna Nieminen, Ninni Närväinen, Jaana Pietilä, Hanna Pyy, Mari Salminen, Lauri Skantsi, Niina Turri and Merja Uotila.
- 2 Members of the University of Helsinki team were Doc. Pirjo Uino, PhD Mika Lavento and Petri Halinen, Lic. Phil. as group leaders. The participants from IIMK/RAN and Kunstkamera, St. Petersburg, were Dr. Vladimir I. Timofeev, Dr. Sergej N. Astahov, M.A. Dmitrij V. Gerasimov and for two days PhD Aleksandr I. Saks. Finnish students participating the survey were Mikko Keränen, Kerkko Nordqvist, Sanna Puttonen and Oula Seitsonen.
- 3 The excavations were directed by M.A. Dmitrij V. Gerasimov and M.A. Stanislav V. Bel'skij from Kunstkamera (St. Petersburg) and Kerkko Nordqvist and

- Oula Seitsonen (University of Helsinki). Later in the summer of 2003 the archaeologists from Petrozavodsk excavated at one more site under the leadership of Irina F. Vitenkova.
- 4 The Finnish group was led by Doc. Pirjo Uino and Christian Carpelan, Lic. Phil., M.A. Dmitrij V. Gerasimov (Kunstkamera, St. Petersburg) being the Russian scholar. To this group belonged also Dr. Terttu Lempiäinen from the University of Turku, who carried out botanical field research at the archaeological sites. PhD Mika Lavento and Dr. Sergej N. Lisicyn were responsible for the second group. The preparation of the fieldwork and afterwork was made by students Jonina Jansson, Andreas Koivisto, Riina Mäki and Henna Sinisalo. Archaeologist, Dr. Sergej N. Astahov participated in the work too.
 - 5 The excavation, which was organized as a seminar excavation for the students of archaeology at the University of Helsinki, comprised a large personnel. The Russian archaeologists were Dr. Vladimir I. Timofeev, Dr. Sergej N. Astahov, Dr. Sergej N. Lisicyn and M.A. Dmitrij V. Gerasimov (IIMK/RAN and Kunstkamera, St. Petersburg). The archaeologists from the University of Helsinki were Petri Halinen, Lic. Phil. (excavation leader) and PhD Mika Lavento and M.A. Paula Kouki as the teachers for students at the seminar excavation. Doc. Pirjo Uino visited the site with a journalist Veijo Kantele and a cameraman Timo Peltola who prepared TV- program about the archaeology in the Karelian Isthmus. The field team from the University of Helsinki comprised students Oula Seitsonen (person responsible for the total station), Sanna Puttonen (drawer), Kerkko Nordqvist (drawer), Laura Harjanne, Andreas Koivisto, Riina Mäki, Henna Sinisalo as excavators; Randolph Tedor (University of Anchorage, Alaska) participated in different activities at the excavation. Students at the seminar excavations were Tanja Alzheimer, Patricia Berg, Ulla Karilainen, Tiina Kinnunen, Thomas Kroter, Ulrika Köngäs, Päivi Liukkonen, Hanna Mäki, Riku Mönkkönen, Pauliina Niskanen, Sofia Nylund, Hembo Pagi, Heidi Pasanen, Katri Peltomäki, Nora Salonen, Tommy Sjöblom, Satu Soini, Tommi Suominen, Mia Tenhunen, Simo Voutilainen and Jarno Väkiparta.
 - 6 Survey was carried out by M.A. Dmitrij V. Gerasimov and M.A. Stanislav V. Bel'skij (Kunstkamera, St. Petersburg) and Oula Seitsonen, Kerkko Nordqvist and PhD Mika Lavento (University of Helsinki).
 - 7 These methods were recently published in several articles in 'Arkeologinen inventointi. Opas inventoinnin suunnitteluun ja toteuttamiseen' (Maaranen & Kirkinen 2000).