

EXCEUTIVE SUMMARY

| | |
|---|--|
| State Party | Russian Federation |
| State, Province or Region | Republic of Karelia, Pudozhsky District and Belomorsky District |
| Name of Property | Petroglyphs of the Lake Onega and the White Sea |
| Geographical coordinates to the nearest second | <p>Central point for the Component “Petroglyphs of the Lake Onega” - N 61° 44' 15 E 35° 59' 34</p> <p>Central point for the Component “Petroglyphs of the White Sea” - N 64° 29' 46" E 34° 40' 56"</p> |

The list of components and parts of components of the nominated property

The table below presents the parts of the components “Petroglyphs of the Lake

Onega” and “Petroglyphs of the White Sea”, their coordinates in WGS 84, the size of the territories of the components and their buffer zones.

| ID N° | Name of Component and Part | Coordinates of the central point, WGS 84 | Territory of the component (hectares) | Territory of buffer zone (hectarse) |
|------------|---|--|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. | Petroglyphs of the Lake Onega | | 6 944,14 | 15 100 |
| 1.1 | Petroglyphs of the cape Peri Nos I | 61° 40' 55.1835" N 36° 02' 28.0776" E | | |
| 1.2 | Petroglyphs of the cape Peri Nos II Petroglyphs of the cape Peri Nos III | 61° 40' 55.3744" N 36° 02' 14.8376" E | | |
| 1.3 | Petroglyphs of the cape Peri Nos IV | 61° 40' 52.8957" N 36° 02' 16.5128" E | | |
| 1.4 | Petroglyphs of the cape Peri Nos VI | 61° 40' 49.7611" N 36° 02' 16.9243" E | | |
| 1.5 | Petroglyphs of the cape Peri Nos VII | 64° 29' 10.1253" N 34° 40' 21.5775"E | | |
| 1.6 | Petroglyphs of the cape Besov Nos (northern group) | 61° 40' 31.2301" N 36° 01' 49.5520" E | | |

| | | | | |
|------|---|--|-------|-----|
| 1.7 | Petroglyphs of the cape Besov Nos (central group) | 61° 40' 21.3386" N 36° 01' 18.9809" E | | |
| 1.8 | Petroglyph on the cape Besov Nos | 61° 40' 27.9119" N 36° 01' 31.1327" E | | |
| 1.9 | Petroglyphs of the cape Gazhij Nos | 61° 39' 28.9748" N 36° 03' 50.5716" E | | |
| 1.10 | Petroglyphs of the cape Kareckij Nos | 61° 41' 41.6100" N 36° 03' 22.8811" E | | |
| 1.11 | Petroglyphs of the cape Kladovec | 61° 39' 56.2910" N 36° 02' 31.7516" E | | |
| 1.12 | Petroglyphs of the cape Korjushkin Nos | 61° 39' 54.3287" N 36° 03' 03.7645" E | | |
| 1.13 | Petroglyphs on the peninsula Kochkovnavolok (group "A"), Petroglyphs on the peninsula Kochkovnavolok (group "B"), Petroglyphs on the peninsula Kochkovnavolok (group "C") | 61° 47' 59.5115" N 35° 57' 20.3929" E | | |
| 1.14 | Petroglyphs on the peninsula Kochkovnavolok (group "D") | 61° 47' 59.5115" N 35° 57' 20.3929" E | | |
| 1.15 | Petroglyph on Mihajlovec island | 61° 43' 47.6393" N 36° 00' 45.5151" E | | |
| 1.16 | Petroglyph on the cape Chjornyj | 61° 44' 54.5252" N 36° 01' 25.5881" E | | |
| 1.17 | Petroglyphs of Moduzh island | 61° 40' 56.2580" N 36° 02' 32.8279" E | | |
| 1.18 | Petroglyphs on Bol'shoj Golec island | 61° 44' 39.7015" N 35° 53' 52.2789" E | | |
| 1.19 | Petroglyphs on Bol'shoj Gurij island I, Petroglyphs on Bol'shoj Gurij island II | 61° 38' 12.3447" N 36° 05' 44.0904" E | | |
| 1.20 | Petroglyphs on Malyj Gurij island | 61° 38' 12.2553" N 36° 05' 32.6971" E | | |
| 1.21 | Petroglyphs in the mounth of the river Vodly | 61° 47' 56.8981" N 35° 57' 35.5693" E | | |
| 1.22 | Petroglyphs in the mounth of the river Chjornaja | 61° 39' 54.9752" N 36° 03' 00.6454" E | | |
| 2. | Petroglyphs of the White Sea | | 105,4 | 457 |
| 2.1 | Petroglyphs Zalavruga | 64° 29' 53.1674" N 34° 40' 28.2696" E | | |
| 2.2 | Petroglyphs Besovy Sledki | 64° 29' 05.1284" N 34° 39' 51.6005" E | | |
| 2.3 | Petroglyphs Erpin Pudas I | 64° 29' 20.2203" N 34° 40' 08.6823" E | | |
| 2.4 | Petroglyphs Erpin Pudas II | 64° 29' 16.7727" N 34° 40' 11.6254" E | | |
| 2.5 | Petroglyphs Erpin Pudas III | 64° 29' 11.1014" N 34° 40' 19.5543" E | | |
| 2.6 | Petroglyphs Erpin Pudas IV | 64° 29' 10.1253" N | | |

| | | | | |
|-------------------------|--|--|-----------------|---------------|
| | | 34° 40' 21.5775" E | | |
| 2.7 | Petroglyphs on the no-name islands I | 64° 29' 28.7162" N 34° 40' 01.6443" E | | |
| 2.8 | Petroglyphs on the no-name islands II | 64° 29' 28.7162" N 34° 40' 01.6443" E | | |
| 2.9 | Petroglyphs on the no-name islands III | 64° 29' 25.9113" N 34° 40' 04.3213" E | | |
| 2.10 | Petroglyphs on the island Bol'shoj Malinin * | 64° 29' 29.1208" N 34° 40' 14.1741" E | | |
| 2.11 | Group of petroglyphs Zolotec I | 64° 29' 31.6557" N 34° 39' 55.0430" E | | |
| Total (hectares) | | | 7 049,54 | 15 557 |

Textual description of the boundaries of the nominated property

Description of the boundaries of the territories of the components of the nominated property Petroglyphs of the Lake Onega Component is as follows.

The boundaries of the territory of the Petroglyphs of the Lake Onega component are stretched to around 20 kilometres in length from the north to the south (from point 1 to point 6). The maximum length of the boundaries from the west to the east is 7,6 kilometres (from point 4 to point 10), the minimum is 866 metres (from point 1 to point 14). The western boundary is set along the extreme points of the most distant parts of

the component located on the islands of the Lake Onega, including Gurij island, Mihajlovec island and Bol'shoj Golec island towards the cape of Kochkov-Navolok; the northern boundary passes through the water 850 m west of Zayats Island through the base of Kochkovnavolok peninsula to the right bank of Vodla river; the eastern boundary runs from the north to the south along the coastline of the Lake Onega; the southern boundary passes mainly through the water to the Gurij Islands, enveloping them from the south and west, running 2 kilometres to the south of the river of Chjornaja, parallel to the river.

Table of coordinates of turning points of the boundary of the component "Petroglyphs of the Onega Lake"

| Turning point | Coordinates of turning points in the World Geodetic System (WGS-84) | |
|---------------|---|-------------------|
| | North Latitude | Eastern Longitude |
| 1 | 61°38'04.57" N | 36°05'41.57" E |
| 2 | 61°40'27.85" N | 36°00'37.58" E |
| 3 | 61°43'39.68" N | 36°00'28.02" E |
| 4 | 61°44'13.69" N | 35°53'08.39" E |
| 5 | 61°45'17.24" N | 35°54'58.68" E |
| 6 | 61°48'35.29" N | 35°55'46.37" E |
| 7 | 61°48'36.57" N | 35°57'55.49" E |
| 8 | 61°48'01.90" N | 35°58'05.24" E |
| 9 | 61°45'33.30" N | 36°02'01.05" E |
| 10 | 61°44'40.81" N | 36°01'47.21" E |
| 11 | 61°43'01.67" N | 36°03'44.92" E |
| 12 | 61°40'44.87" N | 36°03'52.05" E |
| 13 | 61°39'29.36" N | 36°04'15.65" E |
| 14 | 61°38'24.07" N | 36°06'23.67" E |

The boundaries of the Petroglyphs of the White Sea component is stretched for the length of around 1.8 kilometres from the north to the south (from point 9 to point 1), for the maximum length of 785 metres from the west to the east and for the minimum length of 423 metres (from point 8 to point 10). The western boundary runs along the bank of the river of Nizhny Vyg from Vygostrovskaya hydroelectric power station to the right bank of the dam of Belomorskaya hydroelectric power station; the northern boundary passes through the land,

crossing in one place the Old Town (Zalavruga), perpendicular to the Vygostrovsky reservoir; the eastern boundary passes through land, mainly through wetlands or rocky outcrops, and further along the northern edge of the village Vygostrov; the southern boundary passes by land along the right bank of the dried river Vyg, crosses the power line and goes on to the dam and the Besovy Sledki pavilion, then goes on the right side of the dam of the Vygostrovskaya hydroelectric power plant.

Table of coordinates of turning points of the boundary of the component “Petroglyphs of the White Sea”

| Turning point | Coordinates of turning points in the World Geodetic System (WGS-84) | |
|---------------|---|-------------------|
| | North Latitude | Eastern Longitude |
| 1 | 64°30'50.48" N | 34°42'12.54" E |
| 2 | 64°29'00.66" N | 34°40'06.08" E |
| 3 | 64°30'44.84" N | 34°42'09.01" E |
| 4 | 64°30'38.71" N | 34°42'11.06" E |
| 5 | 64°30'32.24" N | 34°42'07.59" E |
| 6 | 64°30'23.55" N | 34°42'04.48" E |
| 7 | 64°30'19.07" N | 34°41'54.19" E |
| 8 | 64°30'44.89" N | 34°40'59.97" E |
| 9 | 64°30'49.17" N | 34°41'52.59" E |
| 10 | 64°30'51.66" N | 34°41'53.91" E |
| 11 | 64°30'51.57" N | 34°42'01.47" E |

Description of the boundaries of the buffer zone is as follows. The buffer zone is established to protect archaeological sites (dwellings, settlements, locations), including already identified and studied sites as well as areas, which might had been suitable for Prehistoric population settlement and have a research potential. The buffer zone also serves for environmental protection, protection of rare plant species and animals. The buffer zone consists of two parts. Part I includes 22 parts of the Petroglyphs of the Lake Onega component located in the Pudozhsky District of the Republic of Karelia. Part II comprises 11 parts of the Petroglyphs of the White Sea component located in Belomorsky District of the Republic of Karelia.

The boundaries of the buffer zones were developed according to the boundaries that had been already set in accordance with the results

of the conducted studies, protection zones and boundaries of the lands with historical and cultural designations.

Buffer Zone of the component “Petroglyphs of the Lake Onega” stretches for around 21 km in length from north to south (from point 6 to point 15). The boundary of the Lake Onega buffer zone repeats the boundary of the component on the south, west and north sides; the eastern boundary crosses the Pudozhskoye Ilesnichestvo, Gakuga district forestry from north to south with the maximum length of 13 km from the west to the east (from point 4 to point 12) and the minimum length of 1,8 kilometres from the west to the east (from point 6 to point 7). The eastern boundary of the buffer zone is maximum 6 km away from the boundary of the component (from point 12 to point 14).

Table of coordinates of turning points of the boundary of the buffer zone of the component “Petroglyphs of the Onega Lake”

| Turning point | Coordinates of turning points in the World Geodetic System (WGS-84) | |
|---------------|---|-------------------|
| | North Latitude | Eastern Longitude |
| 1 | 61°38'04.57" N | 36°05'41.57" E |
| 2 | 61°40'27.85" N | 36°00'37.58" E |
| 3 | 61°43'39.68" N | 36°00'28.02" E |
| 4 | 61°44'13.69" N | 35°53'08.39" E |
| 5 | 61°45'17.24" N | 35°54'58.68" E |
| 6 | 61°48'35.29" N | 35°55'46.37" E |
| 7 | 61°48'36.57" N | 35°57'55.49" E |
| 8 | 61°48'01.90" N | 35°58'05.24" E |
| 9 | 61° 47' 35.6" N | 35° 59' 45.9" E |
| 10 | 61° 46' 46.4" N | 36° 01' 34.9" E |
| 11 | 61° 46' 36.7" N | 36° 04' 58.9" E |
| 12 | 61° 44' 30.4" N | 36° 08' 06.9" E |
| 13 | 61° 43' 16.4" N | 36° 08' 21.3" E |
| 14 | 61° 41' 07.4" N | 36° 10' 50.1" E |
| 15 | 61° 38' 00.2" N | 36° 11' 12.2" E |

The boundaries of the **buffer zone of the component “Petroglyphs of the White Sea”** extend from north to south for 3,5 km (from point 19 to point 13), from west to east for 1,5 km (from point 8 to point 16), and repeat the boundaries of the component territory from south to west; the eastern and northern boundaries of the buffer zone do not coincide with the boundaries of the component.

The buffer zone is limited by the right bank of Kisly Pudas anabranch in the east and by the right bank of the supply and discharge channels of Belomorskaya hydroelectric power

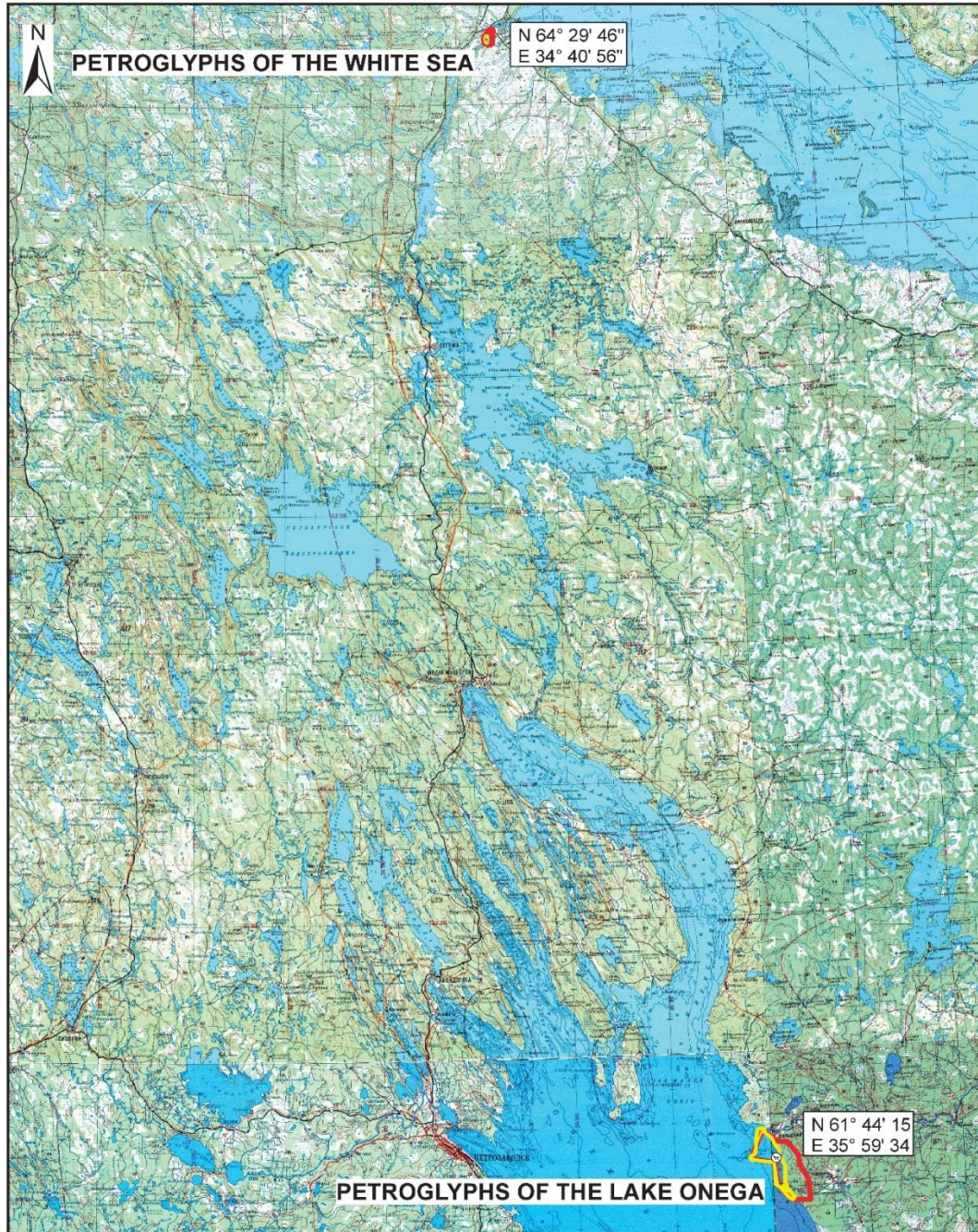
station in the north. The southern boundary runs parallel to the northern boundary of the village of Vygostrov, passing to the east along the northern boundary of the cemetery of the town of Belomorsk, then, running along the left side of the road connecting the settlement of Sosnovets and Belomorsk. The western boundary runs along the dam of the water reservoir of the Vygostrovskaya hydroelectric power station, then, along the left side of the road connecting Sosnovets and Belomorsk and further along the eastern shore of the water reservoir of the Belomorskaya hydroelectric power station.

Table of coordinates of turning points of the boundary of the buffer zone of the component “Petroglyphs of the White Sea”




| Turning point | Coordinates of turning points in the World Geodetic System (WGS-84) | |
|---------------|---|-------------------|
| | North Latitude | Eastern Longitude |
| 1 | 64°30'50.48" N | 34°42'12.54" E |
| 2 | 64°29'00.66" N | 34°40'06.08" E |
| 3 | 64°30'44.84" N | 34°42'09.01" E |
| 4 | 64°30'38.71" N | 34°42'11.06" E |
| 5 | 64°30'32.24" N | 34°42'07.59" E |
| 6 | 64°30'23.55" N | 34°42'04.48" E |
| 7 | 64°30'19.07" N | 34°41'54.19" E |
| 8 | 64°30'44.89" N | 34°40'59.97" E |
| 9 | 64°30'49.17" N | 34°41'52.59" E |
| 10 | 64°29'59.63" N | 34°40'26.70" E |
| 11 | 64°30'23.61" N | 34°40'24.29" E |
| 12 | 64°30'44.89" N | 34°40'59.97" E |
| 13 | 64°30'50.48" N | 34°42'12.54" E |
| 14 | 64°30'21.37" N | 34°42'03.42" E |
| 15 | 64°29'55.7" N | 34°40'46.7" E |
| 16 | 64°30'03.04" N | 34°41'37.42" E |
| 17 | 64°29'32.98" N | 34°41'42.85" E |
| 18 | 64°29'18.63" N | 34°41'42.70" E |
| 19 | 64°28'57.36" N | 34°41'38.01" E |
| 20 | 64°28'50.99" N | 34°41'07.53" E |

A4 or A3 size maps of the nominated property, showing boundaries and buffer zone: See Annex 1 and the maps below.

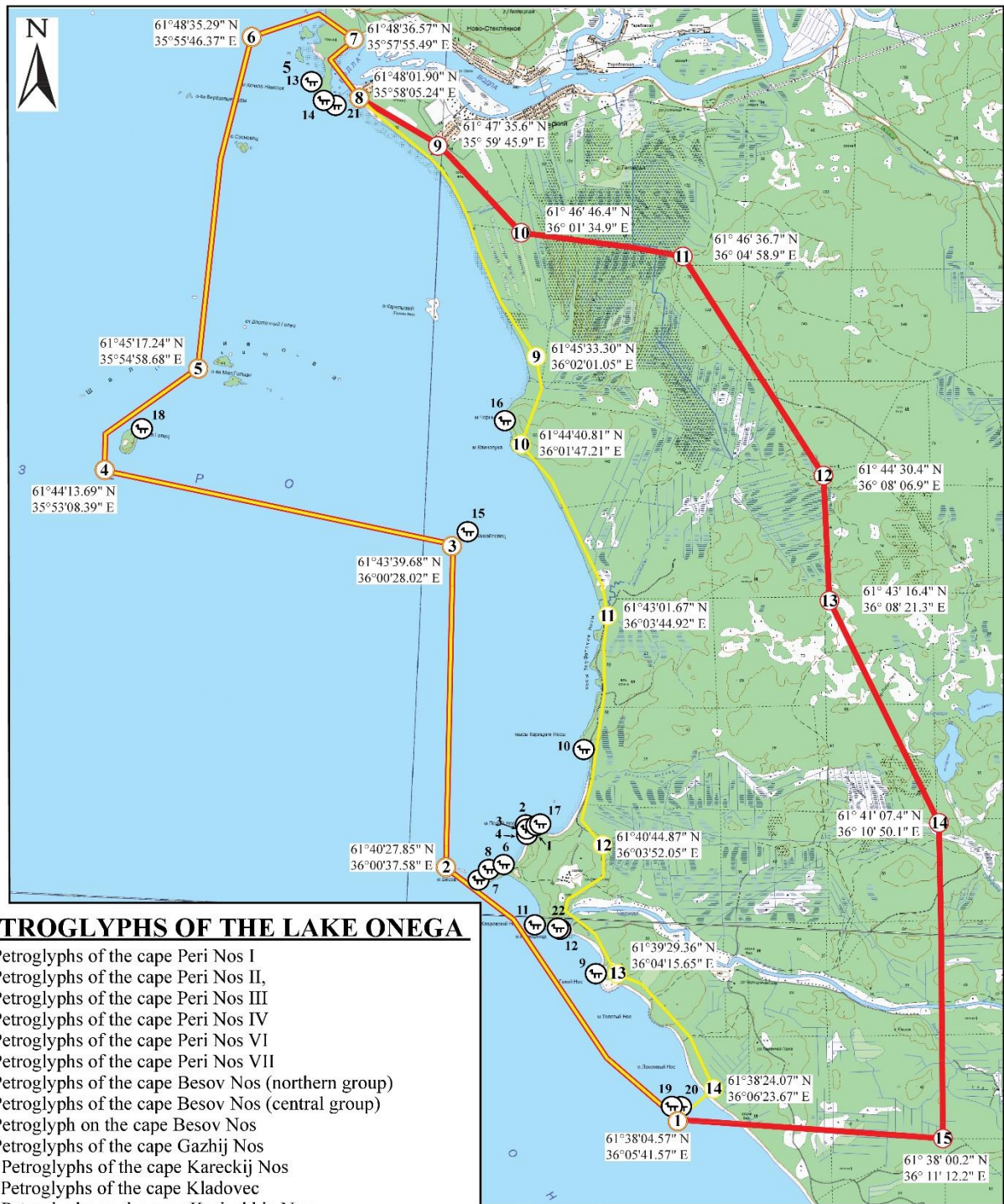
**LAYOUT OF THE COMPONENTS OF THE SITE
"PETROGLYPHS OF THE LAKE ONEGA AND THE WHITE SEA"
AND ITS BUFFER ZONE**



LEGEND

-  Boundary of the buffer zone
-  Boundary of the component part
-  Coordinates in WGS 84

Territory of the Component “Petroglyphs of the Lake Onega” and its buffer zone



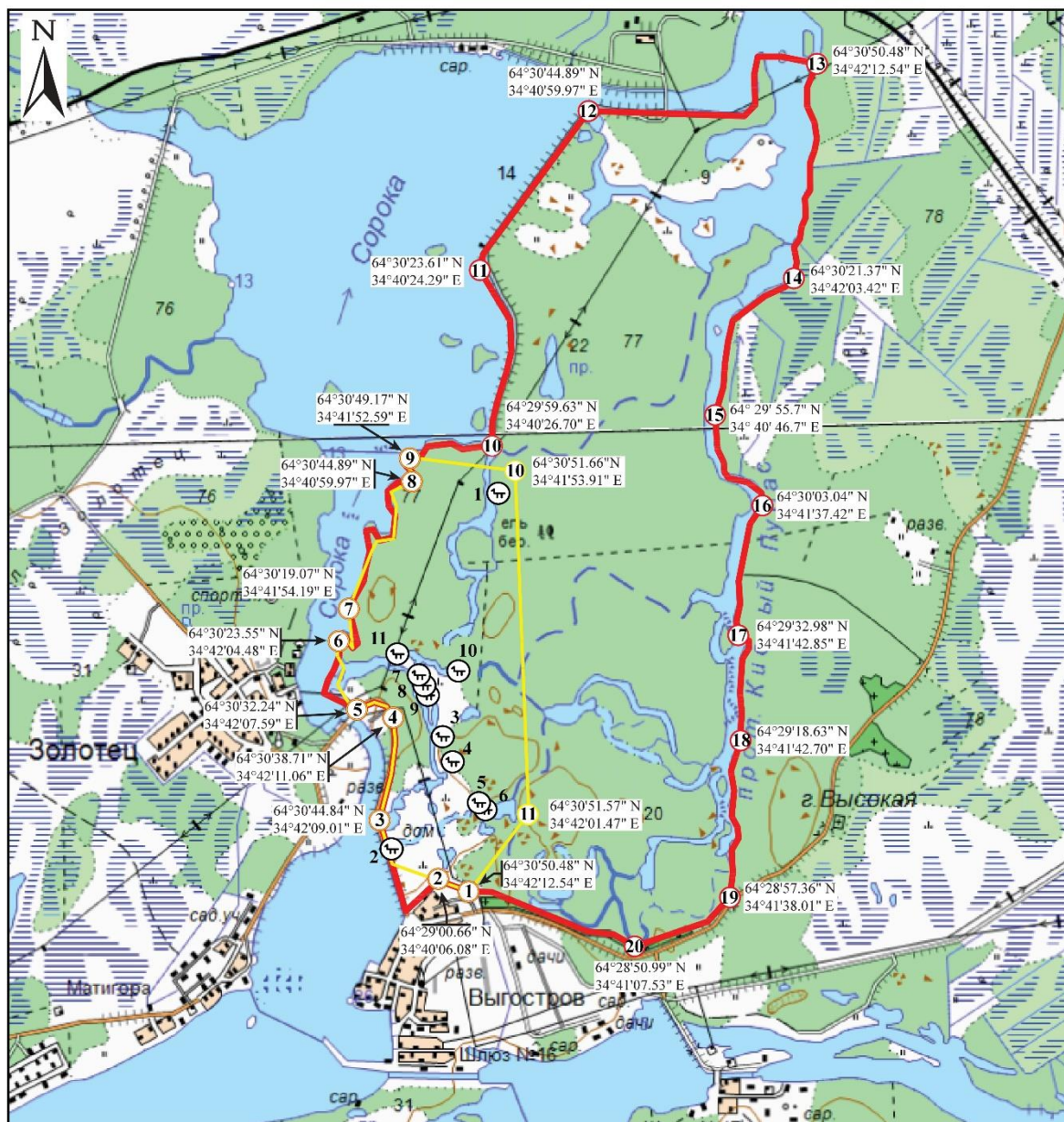
PETROGLYPHS OF THE LAKE ONEGA

1. Petroglyphs of the cape Peri Nos I
2. Petroglyphs of the cape Peri Nos II,
Petroglyphs of the cape Peri Nos III
3. Petroglyphs of the cape Peri Nos IV
4. Petroglyphs of the cape Peri Nos VI
5. Petroglyphs of the cape Peri Nos VII
6. Petroglyphs of the cape Besov Nos (northern group)
7. Petroglyphs of the cape Besov Nos (central group)
8. Petroglyph on the cape Besov Nos
9. Petroglyphs of the cape Gazhij Nos
10. Petroglyphs of the cape Kareckij Nos
11. Petroglyphs of the cape Kladovec
12. Petroglyphs on the cape Korjushkin Nos
13. Petroglyphs on the peninsula Kochkovnavolok (group “A”),
Petroglyphs on the peninsula Kochkovnavolok (group “B”),
Petroglyphs on the peninsula Kochkovnavolok (group “C”)
14. Petroglyphs on the peninsula Kochkovnavolok (group “D”)
15. Petroglyph on Mihajlovec island
16. Petroglyph on the cape Chjornyj
17. Petroglyphs of Moduzh island
18. Petroglyphs on Bol'shoj Golec island
19. Petroglyphs on Bol'shoj Gurij island I,
Petroglyphs on Bol'shoj Gurij island II
20. Petroglyphs on Malyj Gurij island
21. Petroglyphs in the mouth of the river Vodlja
22. Petroglyphs in the mouth of the river Chjornaja

LEGEND

- Boundary of the buffer zone (15100 ha)
- Boundary of the component part (6944,14 ha)
- 18 Turning points
- tr Petroglyphs

Territory of the Component “Petroglyphs of the White Sea” and its buffer zone



PETROGLYPHS OF THE WHITE SEA

1. Petroglyphs Zalavrugа
2. Petroglyphs Besovy Sledki
3. Petroglyphs Erpin Pudas I
4. Petroglyphs Erpin Pudas II
5. Petroglyphs Erpin Pudas III
6. Petroglyphs Erpin Pudas IV
7. Petroglyphs on the no-name islands I
8. Petroglyphs on the no-name islands II
9. Petroglyphs on the no-name islands III
10. Petroglyphs on the island Bol'shoj Malinin
11. Group of petroglyphs Zolotec I

0 300 600 900 1 200
Scale 1:30 000

LEGEND

- Boundary of the buffer zone (457 ha)
- Boundary of the component part (105.4 ha)
- 18 Turning points
- ⌘ Petroglyphs



Criteria under which property is nominated:

(i), (iii), (iv)

Draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

a) Brief synthesis

The Petroglyphs of the Lake Onega and the White Sea are located in the north-west of Russia in the Republic of Karelia. It is one of the largest rock art sites of the world as regards the number of images and the spread of the concentration of rock art.

The property is serial and includes two components: Petroglyphs of the Lake Onega and Petroglyphs of the White Sea. The components are located at a distance of 300 kilometres from each other. The petroglyphs of the Lake Onega are located along the eastern shore of the Lake Onega along the distance of 18.5 kilometres and include more than 1,200 figures in 25 groups (22 parts of the component) located on 17 capes and 6 islands. The total area of the component is about 10 hectares. Petroglyphs of the White Sea are located 6-8 km from Belomorsk, on small and large islands in the branching delta of river Vyg, occupying a territory of 1.8 kilometres from the north to the south and 0.6 km from the west to the east, including at least 3,400 individual figures in 11 groups (11 parts of the component). The total area of the component is 1.2 square kilometres.

The Petroglyphs of the Lake Onega and the White Sea are the unique source of data on the population of this area in the Neolithic period (6 -7 thousand years ago).

Karelian rock art emerged and developed as a long artistic practice within one epoch (Neolithic). The sufficient period of time, as well as an elaborate set of skills, were

necessary to create, consolidate and maintain this tradition. The results of scientific studies conducted recently allowed to clarify the exact periodization and development stages of the Petroglyphs of Karelia. Therefore, the outcomes of archaeological, geological, paleobotanical and paleo-geographical research prove the emergence and development of the Petroglyphs of the Lake Onega and the White Sea, including their features and natural dynamics in details.

The petroglyphs represent a powerful layer of human culture as the unique samples of Prehistoric art, reflecting the beliefs and lifestyle of Neolithic fishermen, gatherers, forest and sea hunters of the North.

The property includes historical, cultural and natural elements represented by the petroglyphs of various periods in their authentic archaeological directly related to the creators of these masterpieces. It is necessary to highlight that the environmental context of the property is fully preserved and represented in its diversity: primordial granite formations smoothed by the glacier and polished by waves over millennia; the pristine untouched landscape of the shore of the Lake Onega shore with its rocky capes and sand dunes covered with pine forests; the picturesque landscape of the river Vyg dividing the stone bed into a network of branches; small creeks with rapids and small rocky islands.

The Petroglyphs of Karelia are the outstanding example of Neolithic rock art with

unique themes, distinguished quality of carving and special artistic expressiveness, which conditions the international significance of the cultural heritage site as the representation of the collective creative genius of Neolithic people.

The property is an example of inseparable unity of nature and creativity of man resulting in impressive open-air rock art galleries that bear the evidence of the cultural traditions of the diverse Prehistoric population of the North. The petroglyphs maintain the information about their mythology, beliefs, daily life and activities as the only one invaluable visual evidence of this extinct culture.

The Petroglyphs of Karelia were created during the climatic optimum of the Holocene age (about 6.3-6.8 thousand years ago), reflecting the social change in Neolithic without any any alterations or chronological additions comparing to other rock art sites in Northern Europe.

The Petroglyphs of the Lake Onega and the White Sea are one of the largest sites of Prehistoric art in the world both by the number of carvings and areas of rock art concentrations. The property is well conserved and has maintained its integrity and authenticity, carrying priceless information on Neolithics for the global community and future generations.

The components of the serial property, Petroglyphs of the Lake Onega and Petroglyphs of the White Sea constitute the coherent image of the Neolithic in North Fennoscandia.

b) Justification for Criteria

Criterion (i): The Petroglyphs of the Lake Onega and the White Sea served as an important place for the performance of Prehistoric cults and rituals. The unique

mysterious and obscure semantic motifs of the petroglyphs full of symbolism, metaphors and Prehistoric realism; skilful use of features of rock surface and colours; quality and artistic expressiveness of carving reflects the outstanding character of the rock art sites as a collective creative genius of Neolithic people of global significance.

Criterion (iii): The Petroglyphs of the Lake Onega and the White Sea are unique and mysterious examples of rock art representing the diversity of Neolithic people and the variety of their daily activities. The components of the property represent the emergence and the evaluation of the successive creative practice, which allow tracing the development of this extinct cultural tradition from sketchy figures to detailed multi-figured complex narrative compositions. The property bears extremely valuable information on material and spiritual culture, economy, ideas and beliefs of the Neolithic for present and future generations of mankind.

Criterion (iv): The rock art sites of the Lake Onega and the White Sea are well-preserved and outstanding examples of petroglyphs associated with Neolithic age, an important stage in human history. The Neolithic period, marking the beginning of a fundamentally new stage in the evolution of human culture, was associated with the transition from foraging to food-producing households (the so-called Neolithic revolution) in the southern regions, while in the forest zone of the European North it was marked by a profound and qualitative changes in the material culture (the emergence and widespread distribution of ceramics, new stone tools, and higher degree of adaptation to local natural conditions) and beliefs of the Prehistoric population, which was also reflected in the emergence of several

independent centres of rock art, including petroglyphs and rupestrian drawings, in the Northern Fennoscandia. The Petroglyphs of the Lake Onega and the White Sea are one of the rarest examples of Neolithic rock art presented in its purest form without any earlier or later additions. Neolithic artefacts of Karelia from over 500 archaeological sites and the pure complex of rock art of the Lake Onega and the White Sea provide an opportunity to study this period, its material and spiritual culture in deep and comprehensive ways.

c) Statement of integrity

The Petroglyphs of the Lake Onega and the White Sea property includes 2 component parts with 33 parts of the components: 11 parts at the White sea and 22 parts at the Lake Onega. The total amount of petroglyphs of both components is at least 4,500. The boundaries of the Petroglyphs of the Lake Onega and the White Sea property are determined in accordance with the legislation of the Russian Federation and based on the results of the interdisciplinary research, including historical, cultural and history of art studies and visual landscape analysis. The boundaries are aimed to protect, conserve and ensure the sustainable development of already identified and studied cultural heritage sites as well as their natural environment. Parts of the components of the property, their boundaries and buffer zones are of an adequate size for a comprehensive presentation of the property and its OUV.

The themes of the rock images presented in both components are close in meaning with repeated cases of mutual influence, which is obvious evidence of contacts between the creators of the Onega and White Sea rock paintings, who shared the same chronological framework, perception of

the world and culture. At the same time, the Petroglyphs of the Lake Onega and the Petroglyphs of White Sea distinguish from each other by some features and preferences (due to natural environment), representing the value conveyed by the property and constituting together the comprehensive representation of the Northern Neolithic period as the most outstanding Prehistoric art site in the European part of Russia.

All attributes and elements of the property demonstrate an adequate degree of conservation and retain their original natural and cultural context. In total, over half of the petroglyphs have the highest degree of conservation. Both the immediate area of the rock carvings and the surrounding landscape have not been affected by adverse effects of development or neglect.

d) Statement of authenticity

Despite millennia passed from the moment of their creation, the petroglyphs are in adequate condition and clearly visible. It is not possible to restore any lost or destroyed elements of the petroglyphs, therefore, their authentic form, materials and purpose survived exactly as they were designed in the Neolithic age and they fully represent the beliefs of Prehistoric people regarding the surrounding world, their practices and lifestyle.

The Petroglyphs of the Lake Onega and the White Sea is one of the rarest examples of Neolithic rock art, as a representation of rock art of the specific period. It was scientifically proved that the Prehistoric rock art of the Lake Onega and the White Sea belongs to the Neolithic age without any earlier or later additions. The property represents a unique opportunity to study the authentic Neolithic culture comparing to petroglyph groups in other countries, where images of the later

historical period were carved above the earlier ones. The authenticity of Neolithic rock art allows understanding better the spiritual and material culture of Prehistoric inhabitants of the North, their mythological beliefs, aesthetic preferences and values.

Since their emergence 6.5-7 thousand years ago, the Petroglyphs of Karelia have been preserved in almost pristine form. Such a high degree of preservation as compared to other rock art sites in the world is conditioned by the strength of the oldest crystalline formations, Archaean gneiss granites. The natural landscape surrounding the parts of the components have not been affected by major changes since the Neolithic age and until now it remains mostly unaffected by human activities.

The conservation of the petroglyphs is potentially threatened by slow natural processes of weathering, smoothing by ice or water, overgrowth by various kinds of lichens and anthropogenic impacts associated with uncontrolled tourism. Since 2000, systematic archaeological monitoring is conducted at the property, including monitoring of the current state of conservation of the petroglyphs and their surrounding environment with minimized anthropogenic impact.

e) Requirements for protection and management

The system of protection and management of the Petroglyphs of the Lake Onega and the White Sea cultural heritage property is regulated by national and regional laws.

All works within the property are conducted with the permits issued by the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation. The conservation of the parts of the components in their historical and cultural context are ensured by the approval of special

land-use regimes (protection zones and nature protection areas) and implementation of these regimes, including the regulations concerning potential development projects: it is forbidden to build capital constructions and to increase volumetric and spatial features of existing capital constructions; to conduct earthworks, construction works, reclamation and other works, except for the works aimed to conserve the property or its parts or natural environment. It is permitted to perform economic activities, which do not contradict to the cultural heritage protection requirements and aimed to ensure the conditions for the functioning of the property in the present-day conditions.

The system of restrictions established by the legislative framework in the zones with special land-use requirements is also established for the buffer zone of the Petroglyphs of the Lake Onega and the White Sea cultural heritage property, which is also constituted by two parts due to the geographical features of the property.

The State Committee of the Republic of Karelia for the Protection of Cultural Heritage Properties, as well as the Regional Centre for State Protection of Cultural Heritage Properties State Public Institution of the Republic of Karelia, are operating in the region in the field of conservation, sustainable use and state protection of cultural heritage.

The main sources of funding of the property are federal budget, the budget of the Republic of Karelia; extra-budgetary funding and local budgets. The Culture of the Republic of Karelia State Programme (approved by the Decision of the Government of the Republic of Karelia from 30/08/2014 No.278-P) also aims to preserve cultural heritage and enhance the physical and intellectual access for the citizens to the cultural heritage properties.

The Management Plan for the Petroglyphs of the Lake Onega and the White Sea property for 2020-2027 was developed to ensure the sustainable development of the property and the adequate development of its management system; to maintain its state of conservation as well as to avoid its loss and mitigate negative impacts deriving from tourism and to develop responsible attitude to this cultural heritage site.

The current use of the Petroglyphs of the Lake Onega and the White Sea property is touristic. Tourism management at the Petroglyphs of the Lake Onega and the White Sea property is one of the key priorities to be solved within the sustainable development of the site. Currently, the controlled visitation is organized only at the Petroglyphs Zalavruga part (the Petroglyphs of the White Sea component) of the property

by the White Sea Petroglyphs Belomorsky District Local Lore Museum.

The monitoring of the state of conservation of the Petroglyphs of the Lake Onega and the White Sea property is conducted by the specialists of the State Committee of the Republic of Karelia for the Protection of Cultural Heritage Properties; Regional Centre for State Protection of Cultural Heritage Properties; Institute of Language, Literature and History of the Karelian Research Centre of the Russian Academy of Sciences; Forest Research Institute of the Karelian Research Centre of the Russian Academy of Sciences jointly with the Institute of Biology, Ecology and Agricultural Technologies of the Petrozavodsk State University and the Administration of the Natural Reserves of Regional Importance of the Republic of Karelia.

Name and contact information of official local institution/agency

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Organization: | State Committee of the Republic of Karelia for the Protection of Cultural Heritage Properties |
| Address: | 2 Lenina Square, Petrozavodsk, Republic of Karelia, Russia |
| Tel: | +7 8142 78-55-01 |
| Fax: | +7 8142 78-55-01 |
| E-mail: | okn.karelia@yandex.ru |
| Web address: | http://www.gov.karelia.ru/gov/ |