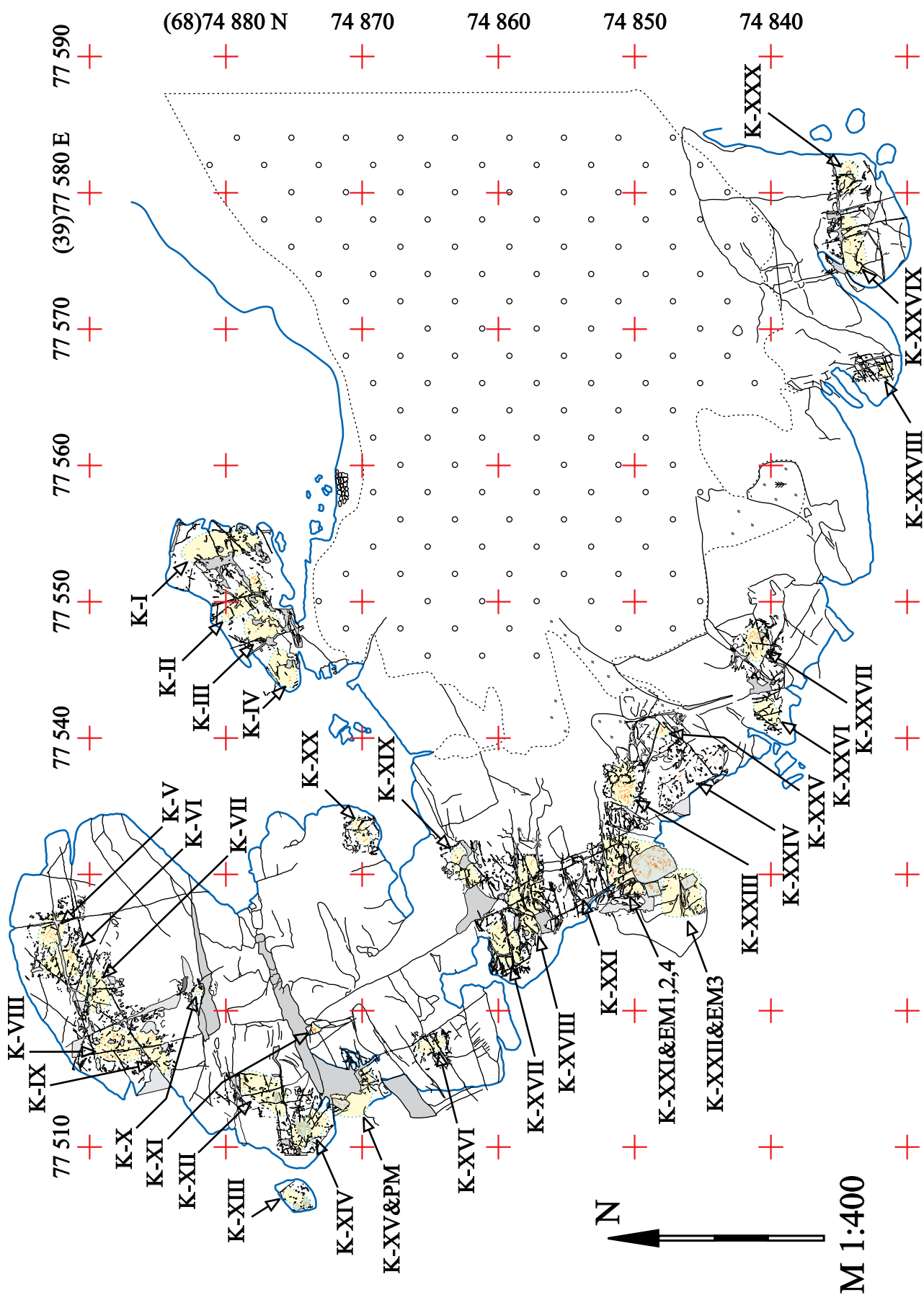




*Waves cast water over the low central part of Peri 3 on a windy day.  
Photo: V. Poikalainen, 1998.*



*Peri 3 from the west. Photo: V. Poikalainen, 2005.*



## K: Peri 3

Peri 3 is a 60-metre wide outcrop extending 70 metres west into the lake. This is the largest rock art site at Lake Onega with 367 known petroglyphs, of which 91 were transported to the Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg and the Petrozavodsk Museum on separated slabs of bedrock. The total number of Peri 3 petroglyphs also includes 14 carvings which were destroyed by the explosion used to separate rocks for the museum display in 1934.

Around the coastline, the water-facing bedrock has been polished by waves. Costal rocks have reddish or brownish colour in many places. This makes petroglyphs much easier to locate here than at the surfaces at the low central part where the colour of the rock is grey, and lichens and some vegetation cover the bedrock. Towards the mainland, the vegetation is denser and turns into pinewood at the foot of the high dune situated between Peri 3, Peri 6 and Peri 1.

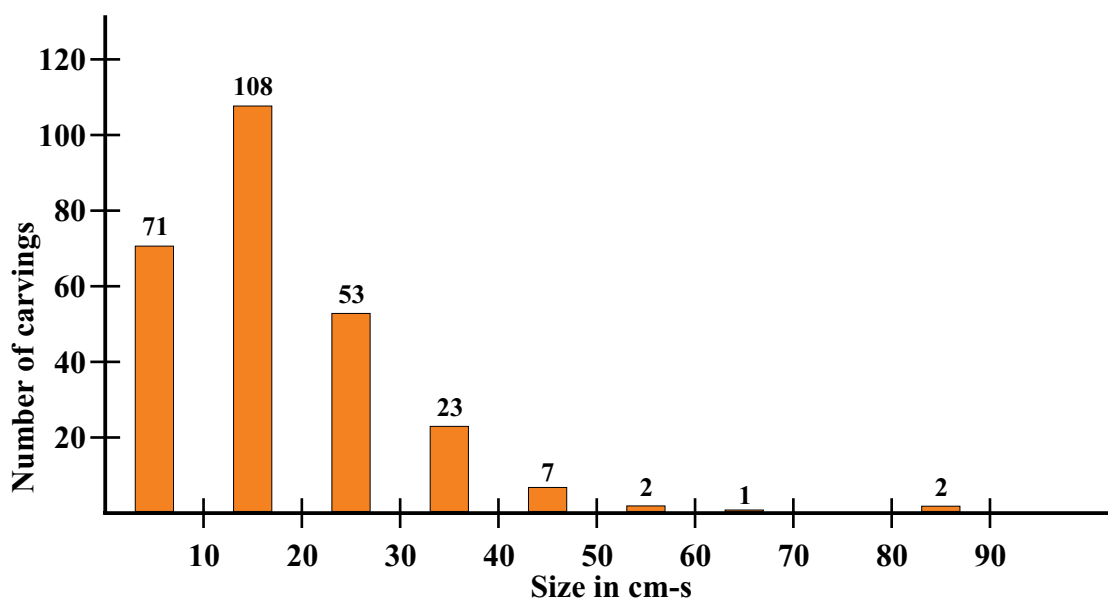
The petroglyphs of thirty groups (from K-I to K-XXX) are situated in almost all parts of the outcrop along the shore quite close to the present-day water level of the lake. There are dense groups of carvings at the northern tip of the site and on its western shore. The petroglyphs of Peri 3 were discovered in 1848 and have been in the focus of scientific interest since then. Summarized parametric data about the petroglyphs are presented in TABLE 13.

The mean size of the carvings is 18 cm, 67% of these measure less than 20 cm; the size of 28% is between 20–40 cm and only 12% exceed 40 cm. The mean depth score of the petroglyphs is 3.1 and inclination 7.9°. Due to the reddish surface of the bedrock, approximately half



*Search for petroglyphs at the central part of Peri 3 is complicated because of numerous cracks and crevices, and grey lichens on the rock surface. Photo: J. Ahokas, 2014.*





*Distribution of carvings by size at Peri 3. Histogram: V. Poikalainen, 2018.*

of the carvings on the northern and western shore are visible relatively well. The rest of them are situated on grey rock and can be seen only in suitable light. The petroglyphs on the south-western side of the capelet are also poorly visible, although mostly satisfactorily preserved. The state of preservation of the petroglyphs ranges from good to satisfactory as usual. The mean preservation score is considerably good (3.5), but visibility is somehow lower (2.9).

The height of the carvings of Peri 3 varies from -2 to 149 cm (mean 63.6 cm). More than a half (55%) of them are situated between 50–100 cm above the present-day water level. The height of 30% is less than 50 cm and 15% are situated between 110–150 cm. About one third (34%) of motifs are right-oriented, 24% left-oriented and the orientation of 42% is indefinite.

*TABLE 13. Mean parametric values of the Peri 3 carvings<sup>1</sup>.*

LS	P (1–5)	V (1–5)	D (1–6)	I (°)	H (cm)	RO	LO	IO
18 cm	3.5	2.9	3.1	7.9°	63.6 cm	34%	24%	42%

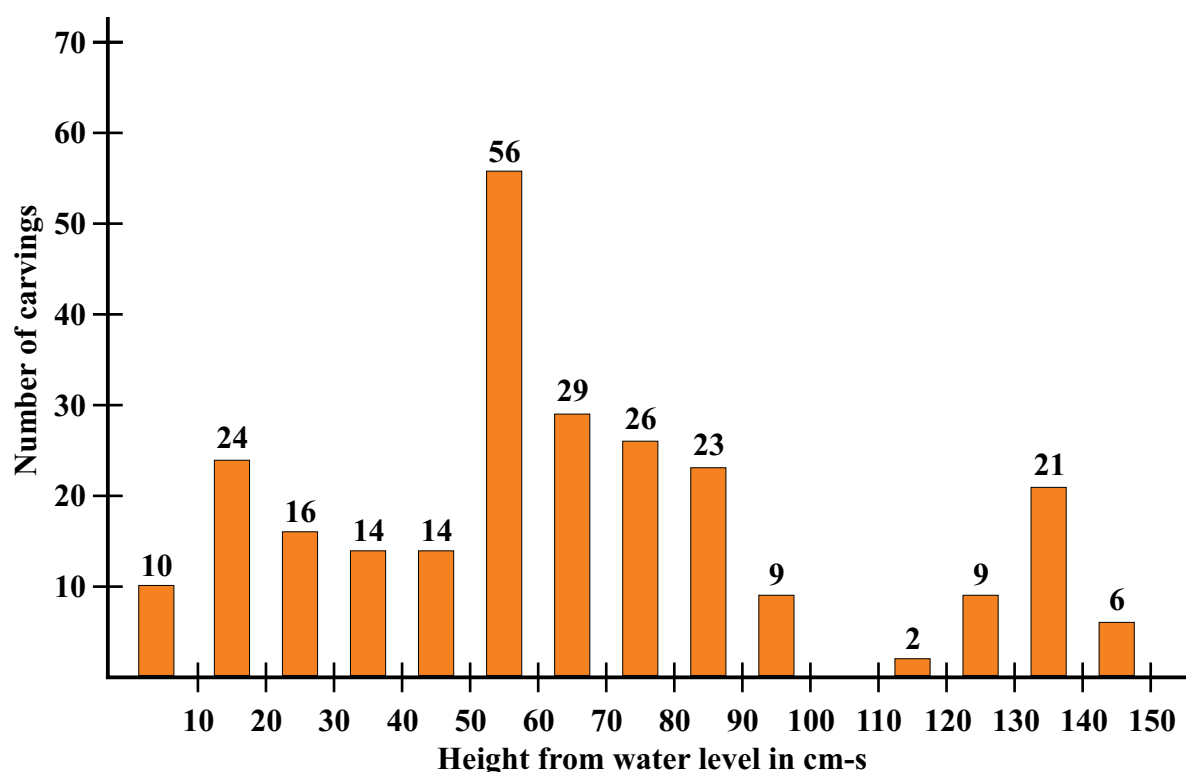
The distribution of motifs at Peri 3 is given in TABLE 14. Similarly to most other sites, ornithomorphs prevail: 35% depict ornithomorphs, 8% astromorphs (lunar and solar signs), 11% anthropomorphs, 8% scaphomorphs (boat-like), 10% elaphomorphs (elk and deer-like), 3% are other animal-like petroglyphs, 24% are indefinite and 2% different kind of other carvings.

*TABLE 14. Carving motifs of the Peri 3 site.*

Motif type	IN	OR	AS	EL	OZ	AN	SC	Other
Number	87	130	29	37	9	40	28	7

A special feature of the Peri 3 site is the large number of human-like figures, almost twice the average of the rest of the territory. Anthropomorphic images have an important role in rare groups representing action, and many of these have additional zoomorphic features (for example K-V-6, K-XXIII-4). There is even an anthropomorph depicted with elk-like feet and a branch of a tree on its head (K-XXIII-1). Similar mythological features can be seen in a par-

<sup>1</sup> Values of P, V, D, I and H do not include carvings taken to museums and those which have been destroyed during the separation of slabs.



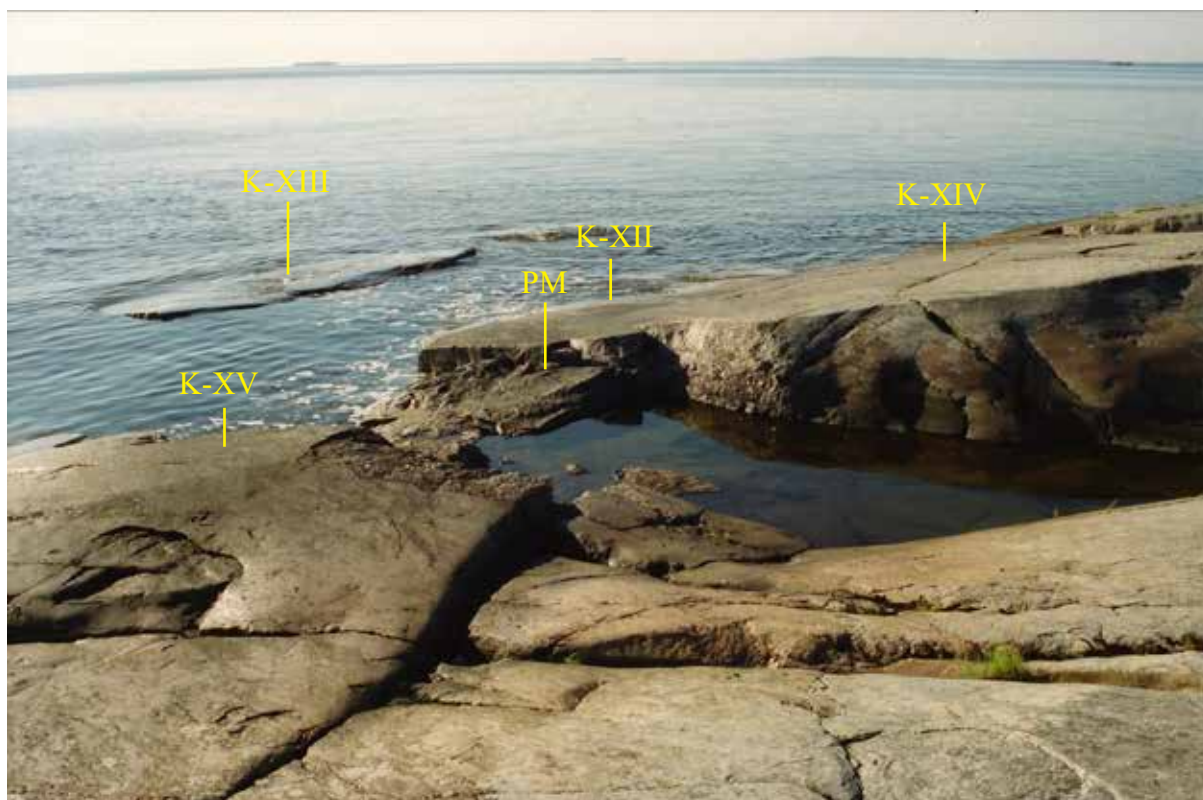
*Distribution of the height of carvings from water level at Peri 3.  
Histogram: V. Poikalainen, 2018.*

tially executed human-like petroglyph (K-VIII-20), striped swan-like images with exaggerated necks (K-VI-8 and 9, K-XXII-2 and 3), double headed creatures (XX I-4, XXIV-1, XXVII-12) and many other carvings and groups.

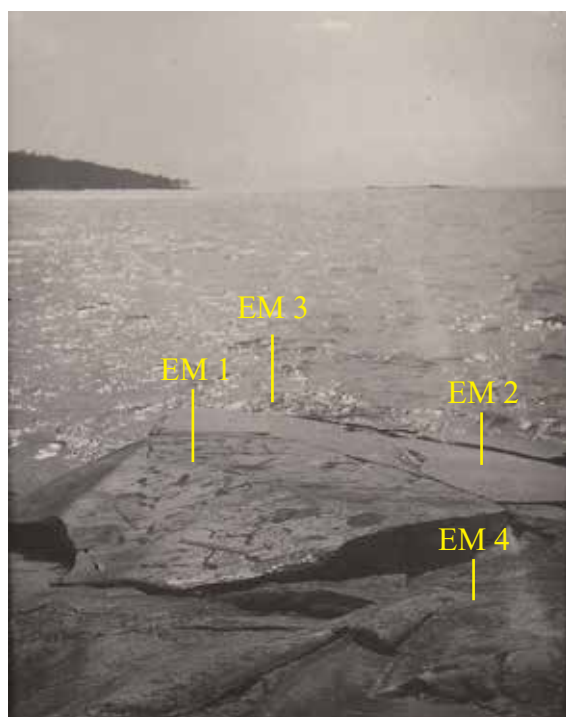
The placement of carvings and carving groups on spots of specific colour is also characteristic of Peri 3 site. There is a dark streak in the bedrock on the northern tip resembling a black river with a boat carving (K-VII-5) on it. Numerous interpretations have been proposed for petroglyphs K-XII-4...8 chiselled into a black part of the rock. Close to this is another dark patch of bedrock that also frames an interesting group of petroglyphs with a copulating scene (K-XIV-5...6). These figures even display facial features: the woman's open mouth and the man's jutting jaw and nose. The eye of the woman is shown by an uncarved part of the glossy rock surface containing crystals that reflect light.

Next to group XIV, a rock slab (PM) with six carvings was separated and taken to the Petrozavodsk Museum in 1928. There are numerous drilled holes and remains of other separated pieces of rock suggesting that this particular group might have contained even more images. Another part of bedrock with petroglyphs was separated from the western side of Peri 3 in 1934. Four pieces of the rock labelled here as EM1, EM2, EM3, EM4 were taken to the Hermitage Museum in St Petersburg. This rock known as the "Roof" contains probably the most interpreted carving compositions of the whole territory.

During the separation some carvings were destroyed. Most intriguing of these was a composition of three carvings depicting copulation and childbirth at the same time (XX-I&EM1,2,4-80...82). All the separated petroglyphs were documented by our team later in Petrozavodsk and St Petersburg, and are incorporated into the current publication.



*Initial place from which the slab (PM) was taken to the Petrozavodsk Museum.  
Photo: V. Poikalainen, 1998.*



*The “Roof” at its initial place in 1934, from where the situation of the disc-like carving on EM4 is also quite clearly distinguishable (a photo from the collection of Abram Stolyar).*

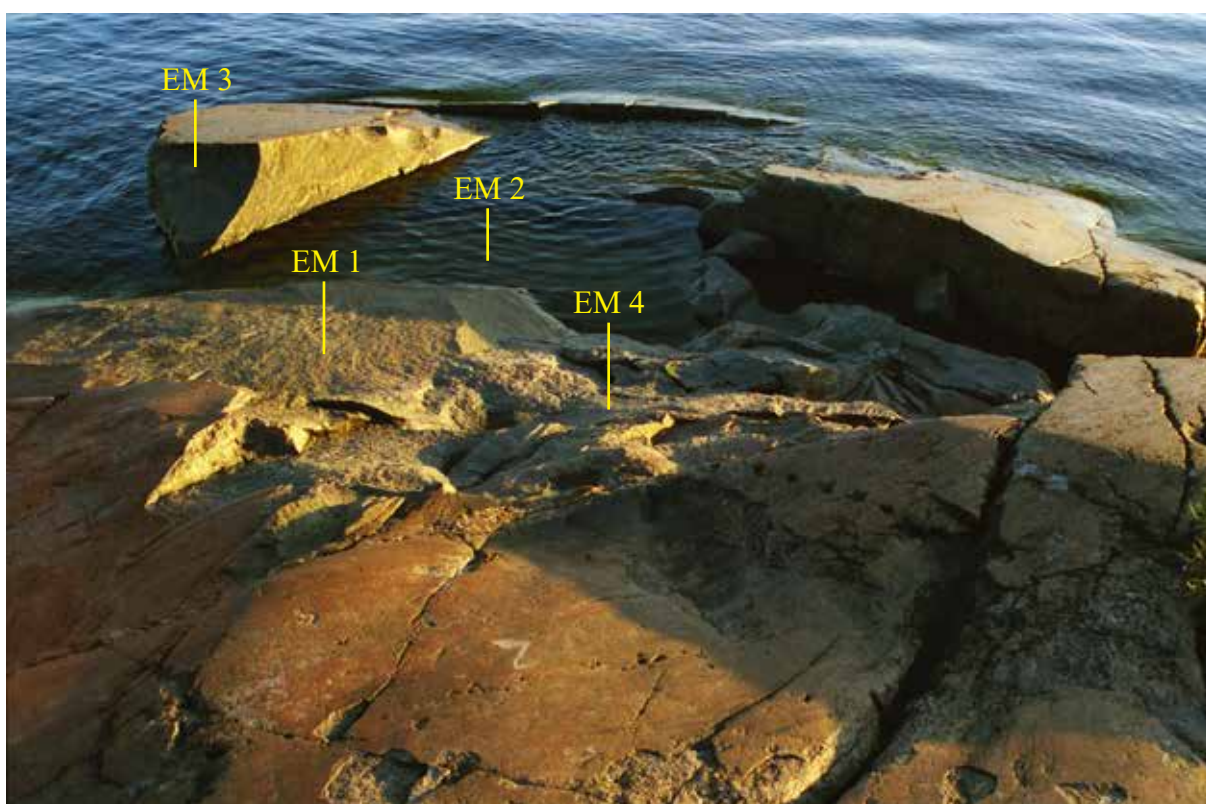
The exact placement of the separated slabs remained unclear for a long time. Using old photographs, earlier publications, especially that by G. Hallström (Hallström, 1960), and our documentations of remains in situ, and pieces taken to museums we managed to re-establish the initial situation of separated slabs EM1... EM4 quite correctly. We also made efforts to locate the slab PM taken to Petrozavodsk basing on plans made of it and the place where it was taken away. Additionally, colour peculiarities of the slab and bedrock parts in situ were compared. But the location still remained somewhat uncertain.

Due to the large number and variety of different motifs, many researchers consider Peri 3 the main centre of petroglyphic art at Lake Onega besides the western site of Besov Nos. This statement can be supported by scattered carvings all over the total perimeter of Peri 3 shoreline and on all heights available. The absence of large (over 100 cm) petroglyphs contradicts this statement to a certain extent.





*Initial place from which parts EM1...EM4 of the “Roof” were taken to the Hermitage.  
Photo: V. Poikalainen, 1998.*



*Closer view of the initial place of the “Roof” (the swan depiction on  
the foreground is contemporary). Photo: V. Poikalainen, 1999.*

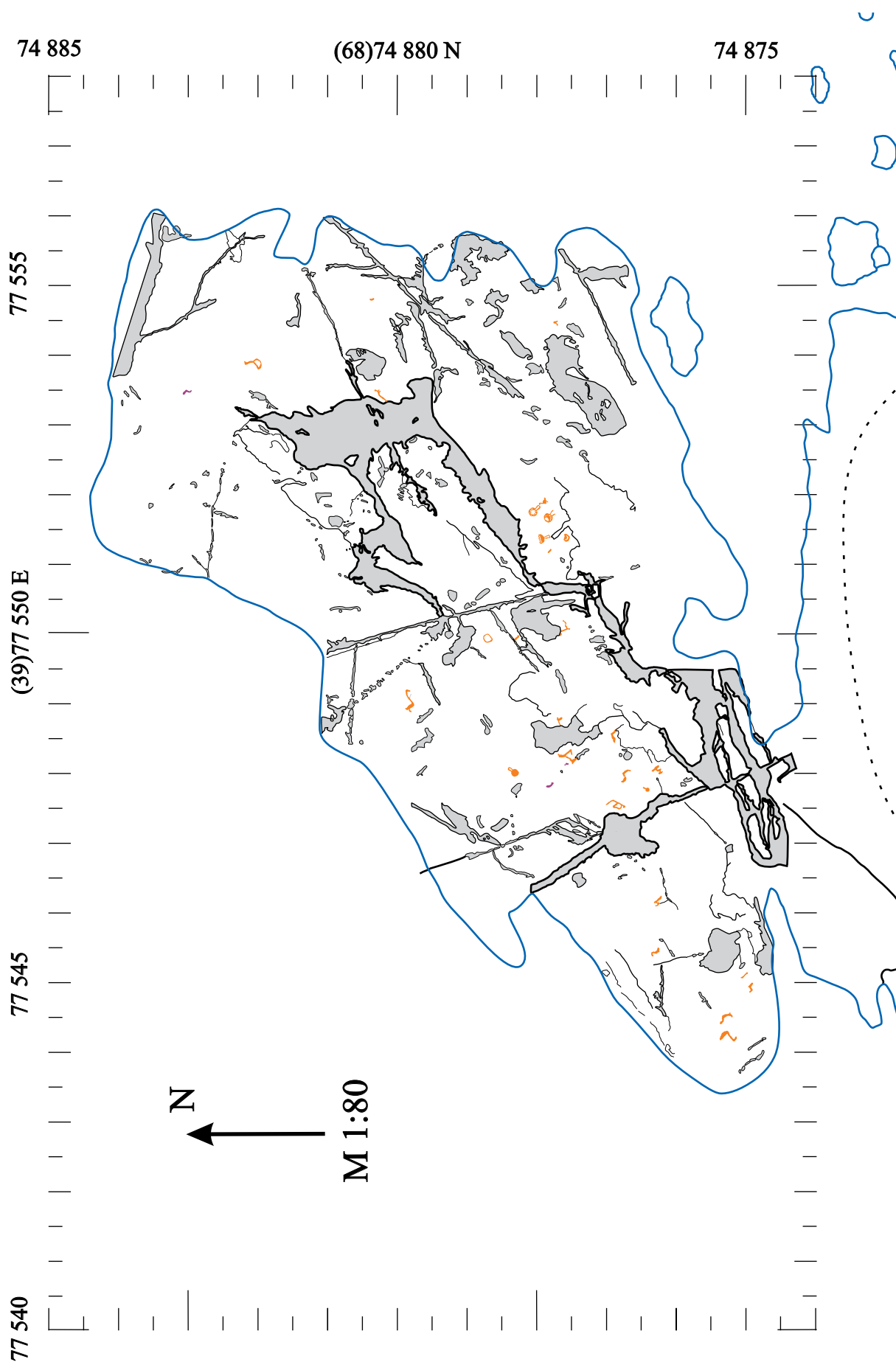


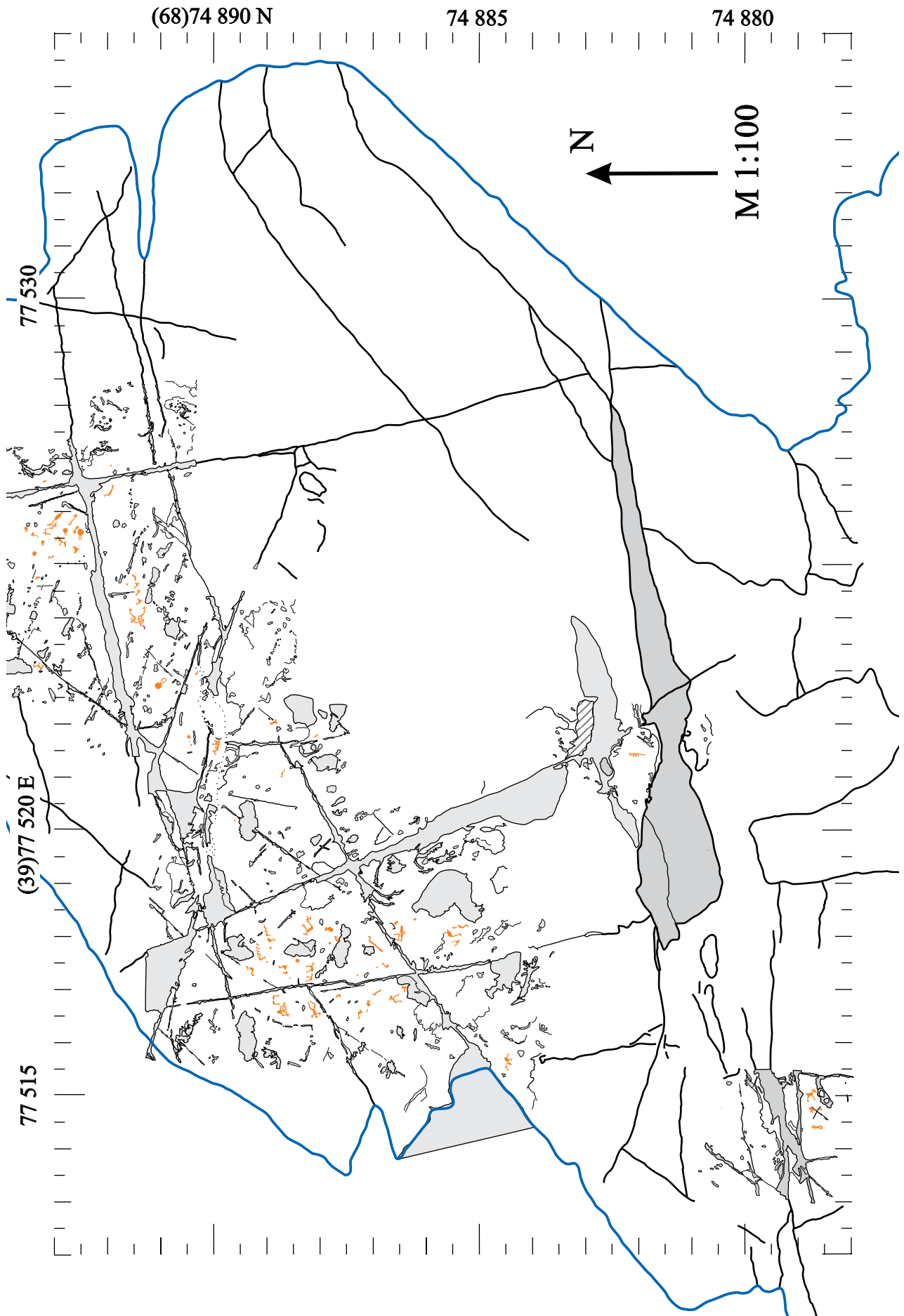
*Rock slab with carvings from Peri 3 in the Petrozavodsk Museum.  
Photo: V. Poikalainen, 2014.*

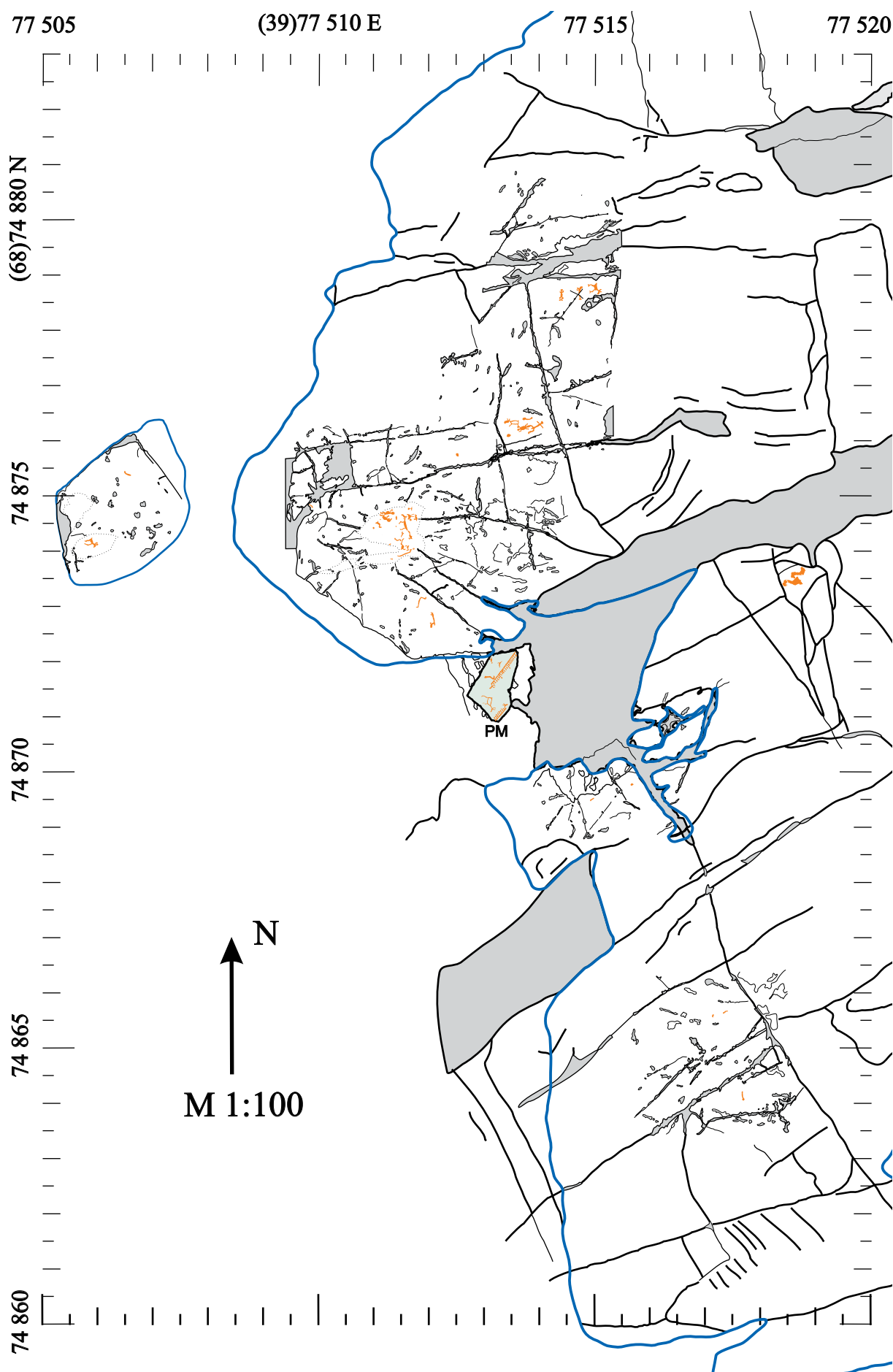


*Carvings of Lake Onega in the Hermitage Museum (St Petersburg): EM 1 (left), EM 3 (right) with remains of drilled holes that had crucial importance in slabs initial location.  
Photos: V. Poikalainen, 1995 and 2006.*

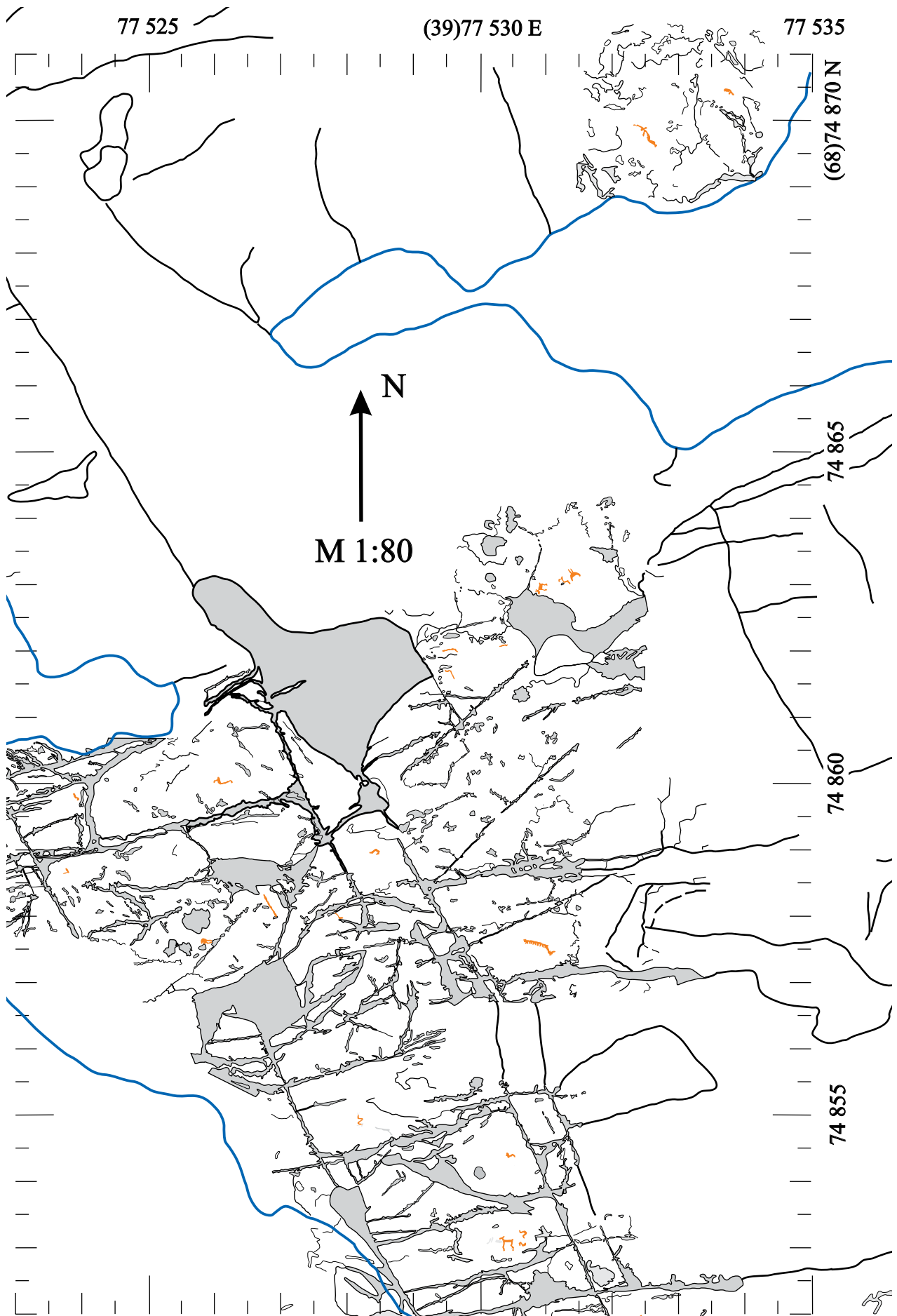


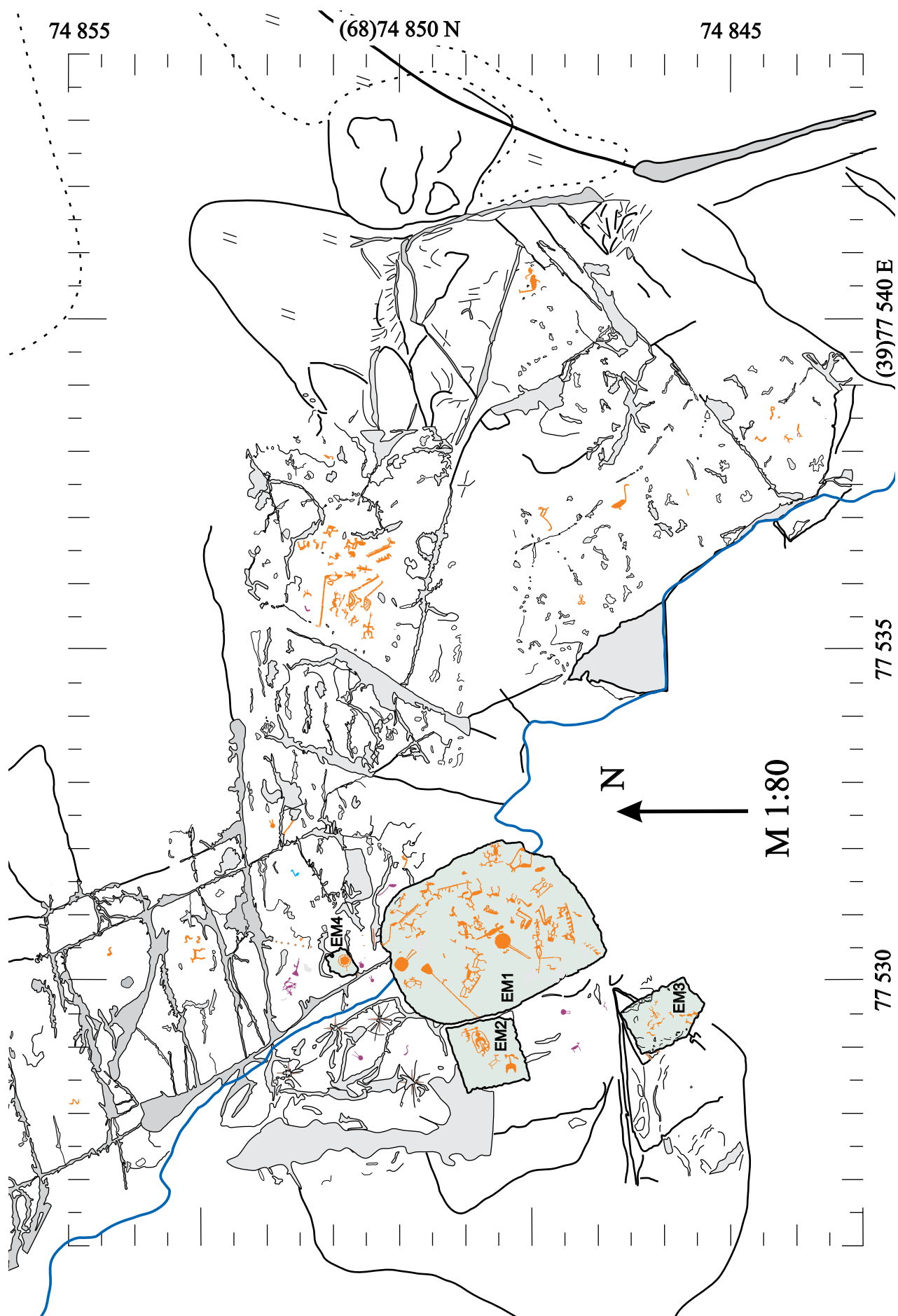


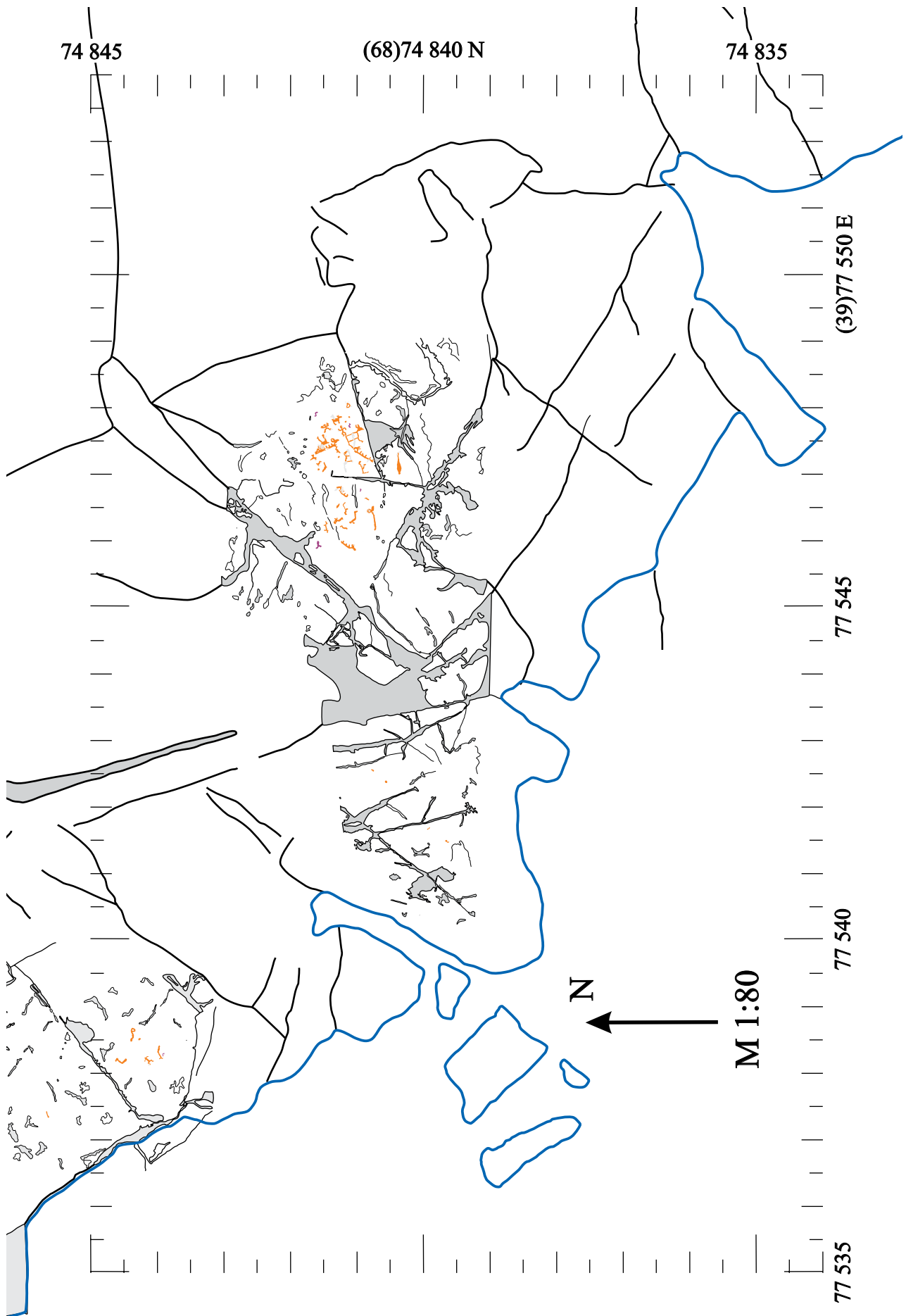




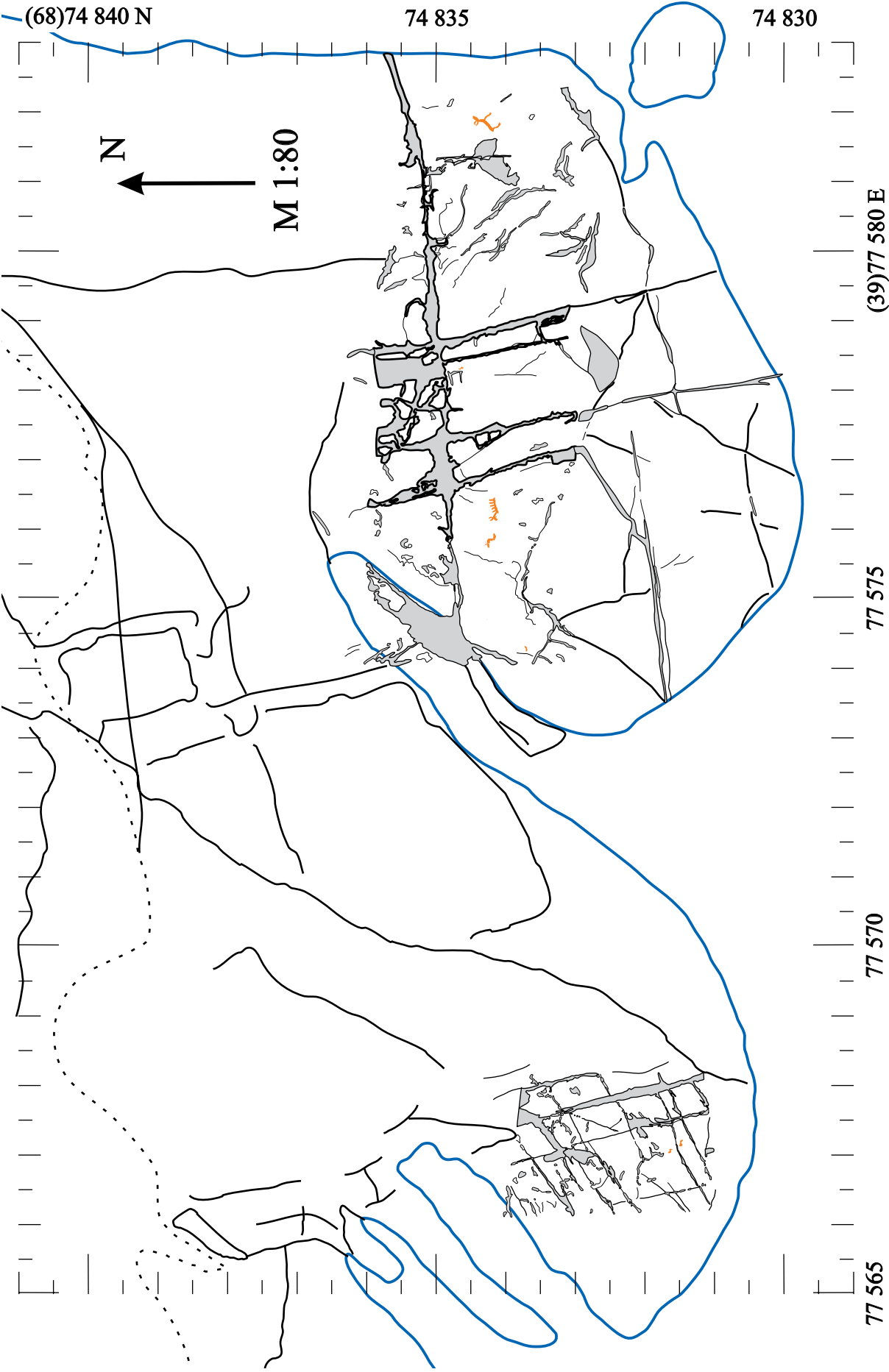


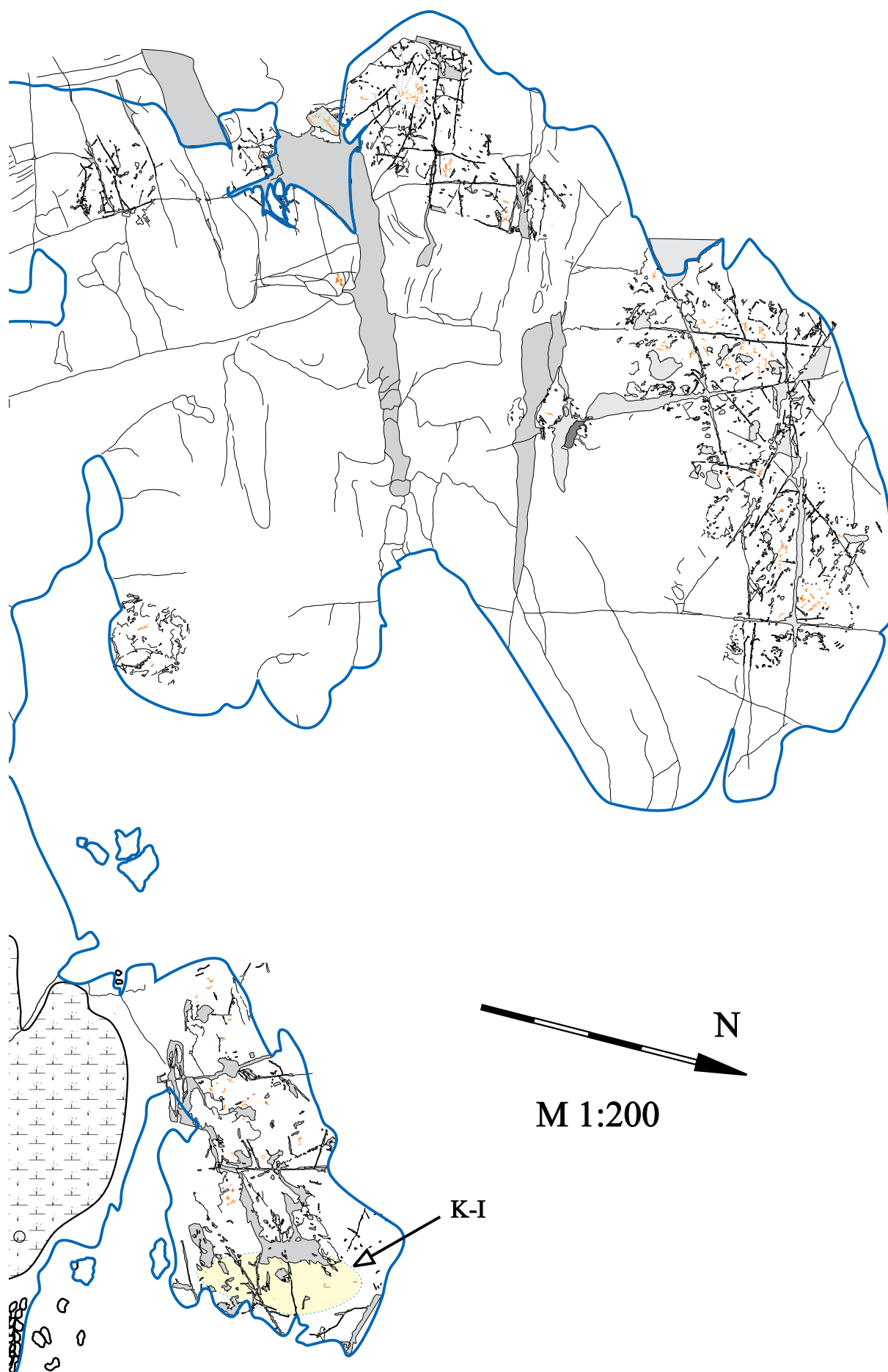


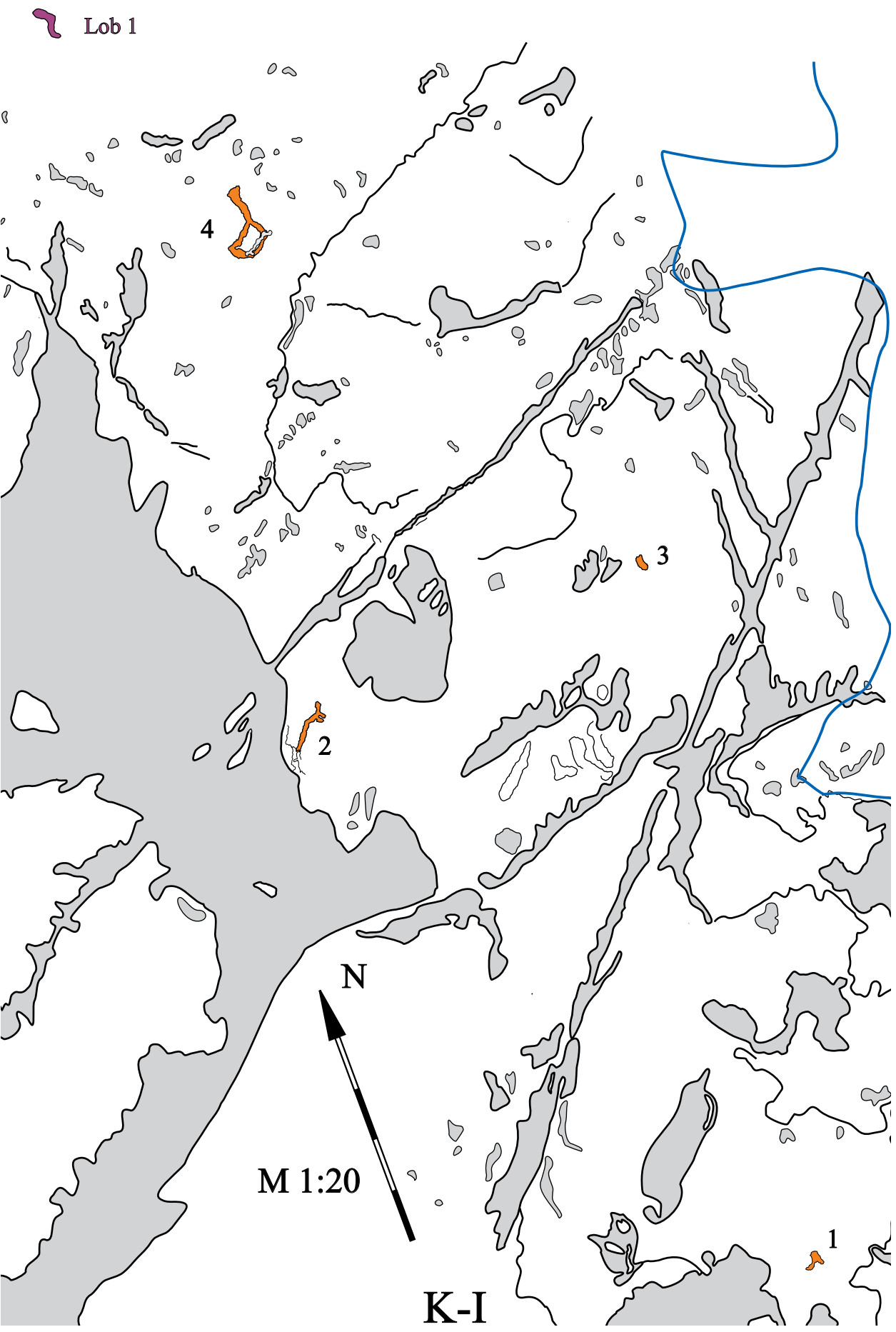




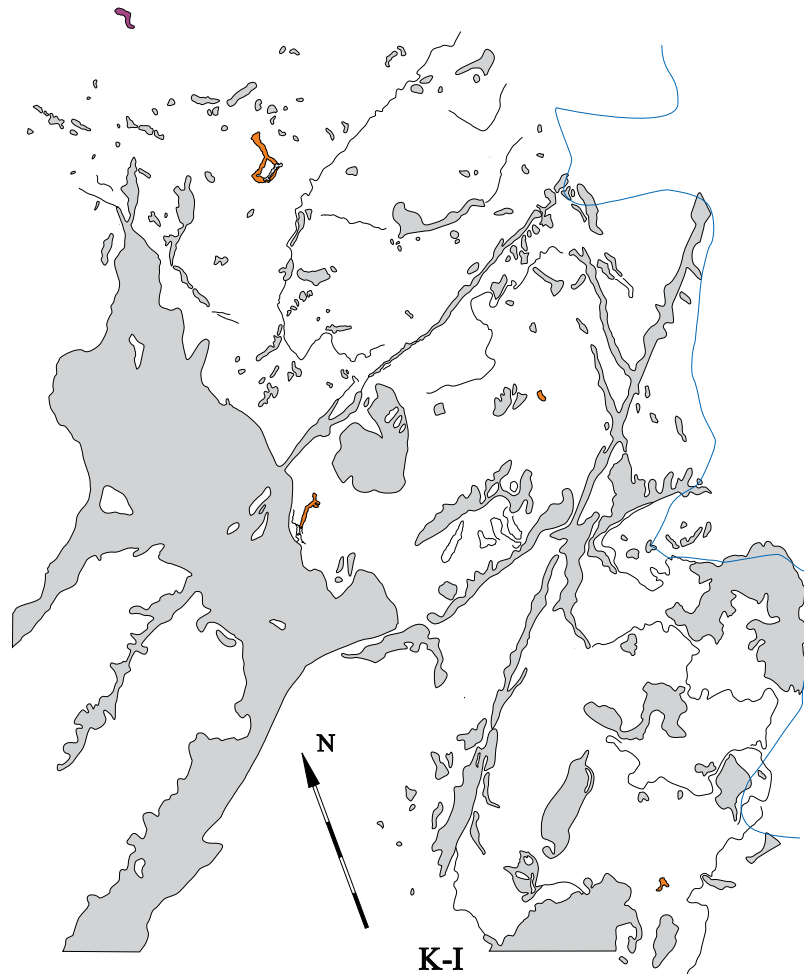

















 **K-I-1** ▲ 74877.7-77554.4 • indefinite / fragmentary • tetragonal silhouette body: two extensions • LS 8 cm, P 3, V 2, D 3, I 9°, H 15 cm

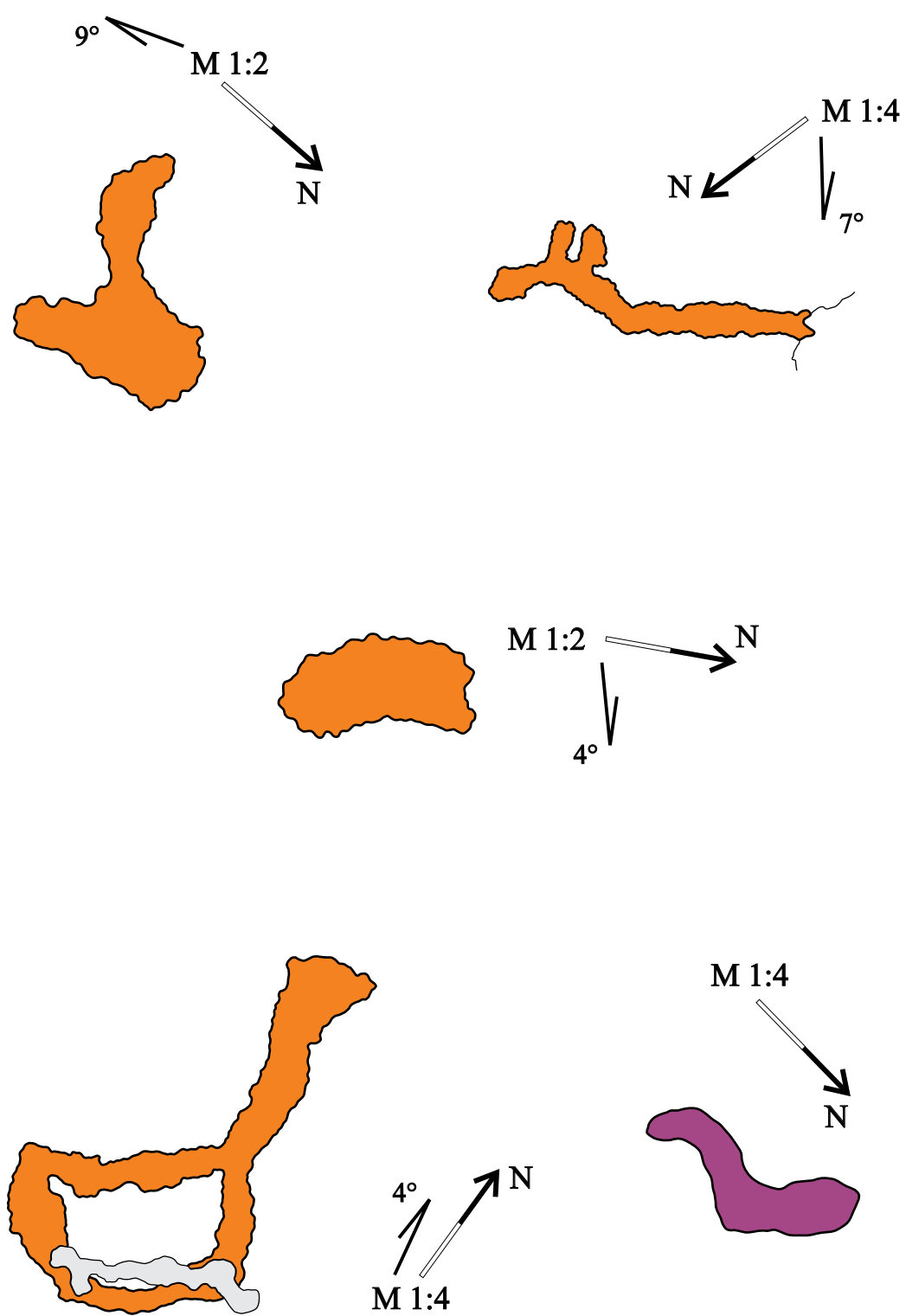
 **K-I-2** ▲ 74880.2-77553.4 • scaphomorph • to the left • elaphomorph stem • linear hull: without perpendicular lines as people • destroyed / without stern • LS 20 cm, P 3, V 4, D 4, I 7°, H 20 cm ■ boat: without passengers (Lob 2015: 119-6, N 71-6, N 73-B)

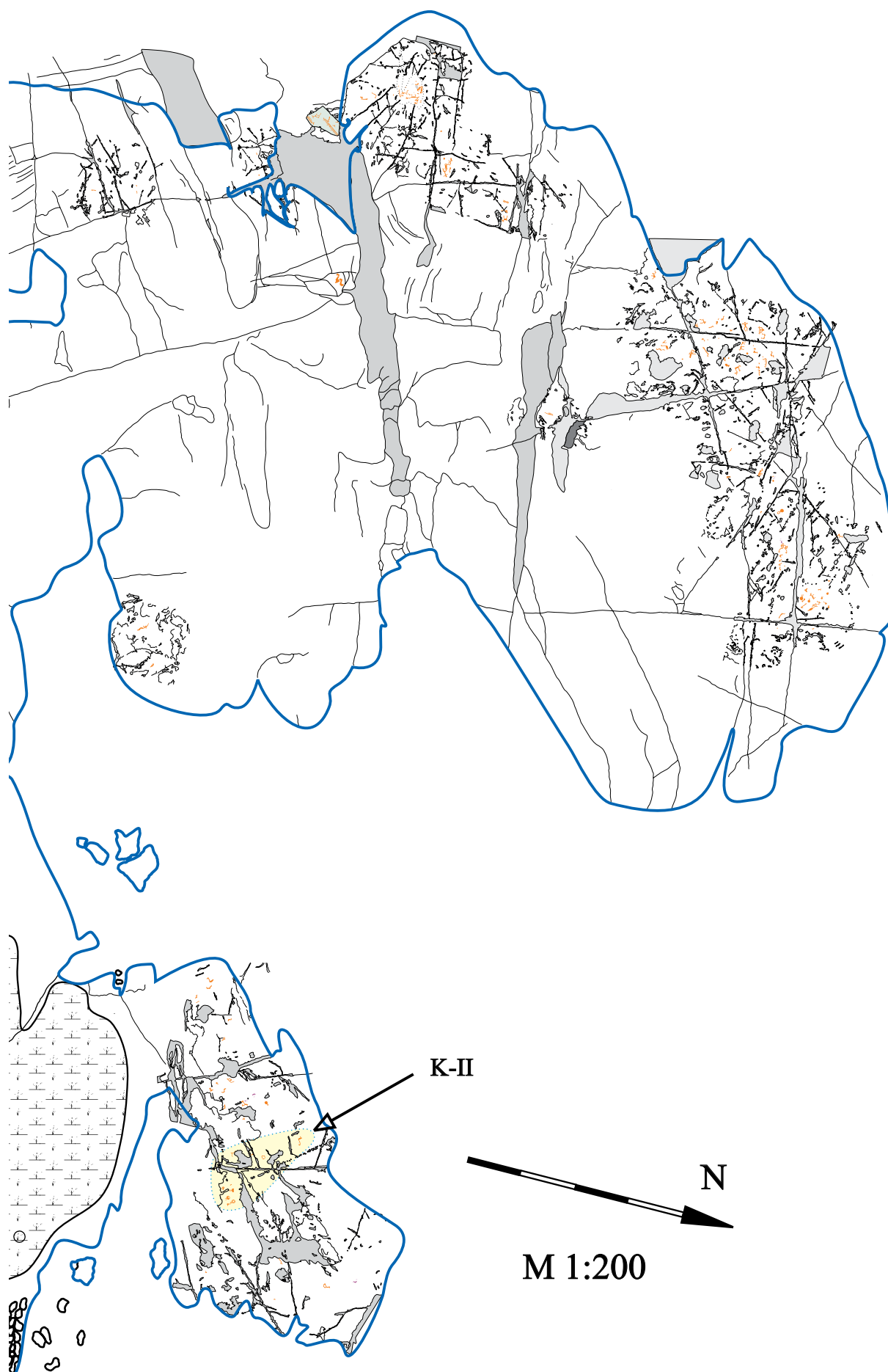
 **K-I-3** ▲ 74880.4-77554.8 • indefinite / fragmentary • as line • LS 6 cm, P 2, V 1, D 2, I 4°, H 10 cm

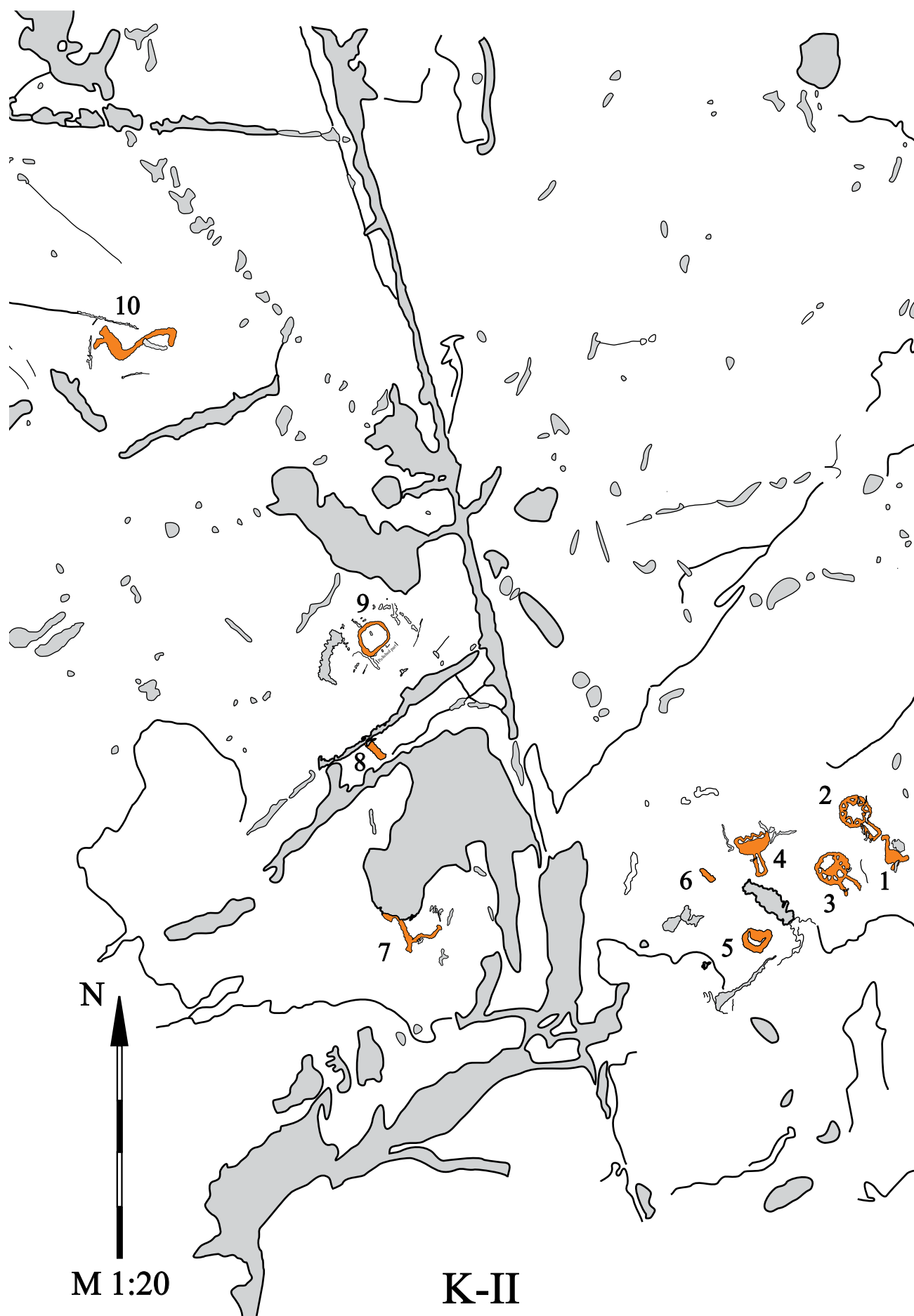
 **K-I-4** ▲ 74882.0-77553.8 • hydrornithomorph • to the right • head: very small, rostrally directed beak • long, dorso-dorsocranially directed neck • quadrangular contoured trunk: straight dorsal, thoracic & abdominal lines • without tail & limbs • LS 27 cm, P 2, V 1, D 3, I 3°, H 21 cm ■ [two birds (ducks?)] (Lob 2015: 117-2 & 3, N 71-2 & 3)

 **Lob 1** ▲ 74883.0-77553.4<sup>1</sup> • ornithomorph • to the left • head: rostrally directed beak • dorso-dorsocranially directed neck • silhouette trunk: slightly convex dorsal line; straight abdominal line • without tail & limbs ■ bird (duck?) (Lob 2015: 117-1, N 71-1)

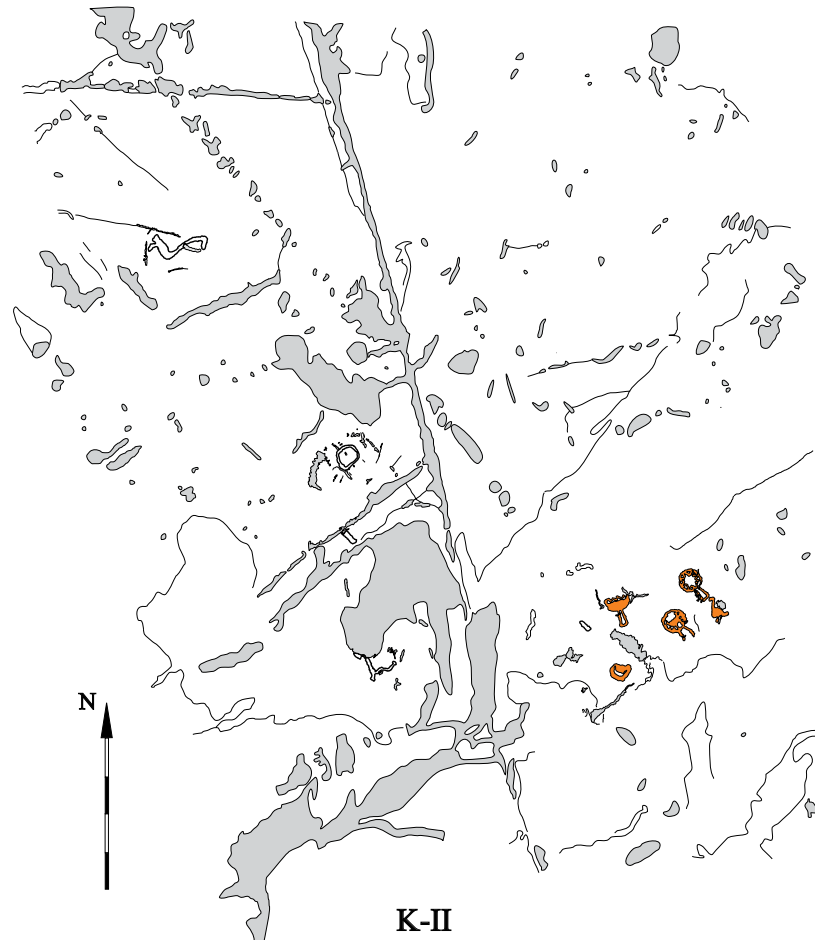
<sup>1</sup> Coordinates of Lob 1 are approximate











**K-II-1** ▲ 74877.9-77551.8 • ornithomorph • to the left • head: blunt, dorsorostally directed beak • dorso-dorsocranially directed neck • silhouette trunk: convex dorsal line; straight thoracic & abdominal lines • dorsocaudally directed tail • ventrocranially directed hindlimb: without toes • LS 14 cm, P 3, V 2, D 2, I 5°, H 31 cm ■ waterfowl (goose) (Lob 2015: 120-10, N 71-10, N 73-B)



**K-II-2** ▲ 74878.0-77551.8 • heliomorph • contoured body: eight contoured triangles inside • two radial rays, joined by traverse • LS 20 cm, P 2, V 1, D 7, I°, H 30 cm ■ solar sign (Lob 2015: 119-8, N 71-8, N 73-B)



**K-II-3** ▲ 74877.8-77551.7 • heliomorph • contoured (patterned) body: nine irregular openings • two radial rays • LS 20 cm, P 3, V 1, D 1, I 6°, H 30 cm ■ solar sign (Lob 2015: 119-9, N 71-9, N 73-B)



**K-II-4** ▲ 74877.9-77551.3 • selenomorph • silhouette body: ends connected by zigzag line • two radial rays, joined by traverse • LS 19 cm, P 4, V 2, D 2, I 7°, H 28 cm ■ lunar sign (Lob 2015: 119-7, N 71-7, N 73-B)



**K-II-5** ▲ 74877.6-77551.3 • indefinite / heliomorph • partly round, contoured body: selenomorphic notch • LS 11 cm, P 4, V 3, D 2, I 3°, H 30 cm ■ lunar sign (Lob 2015: 120-11, N 71-11, N 73-B)

