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Abstract

Obtaining new knowledge for World Heritage

– Early environmental history of Falu copper mine

World heritage aims to preserve an environment in a sustainable way for future generations. A lot of effort is invested in preserving the historical environment to present the heritage in a way useful for tourism and museums. However, the question arises as to what story the heritage will tell visitors and what they will learn from this message. There is always interest in acquiring new knowledge and understanding about our cultural and natural environment and the changes that have taken place. In the project “Falun above from Falun under” the aim was to confirm what is already known through another viewpoint and gain new understanding about the development of the area around the world heritage site at Falu Copper Mine. The focus was the environmental development in the area and human impact and interaction with nature. The hypothesis was that the impact on the environment was already severe during the earliest activities. The project was empirical through studies on new samples and the use of preexisting historical information. The results from this interdisciplinary project aimed to increase understanding and the stories imparted to world heritage visitors.