

Research project:

The use of caves and rockshelters
by historic Inuit
in West Greenland

FIELD REPORT 2000

Part A: Introduction

Following the specific conditions written down in permit 522-115 by the Danish Polar Center, field research this year was done by two persons searching for small caves and boulder overhangs which were used by humans in historic and recent times, and for other sites too (fig. 1). To document the sites a tape-measure of 20m length and two tape-measures of 2m length were used. Orientation and UTM-coordinates (WGS 84) were recorded with an ordinary compass and a handheld GPS.

23 days were spend in the field according to the the following schedule:

24 th August:	Flight Stuttgart-Sisimiut
25 th August:	Sisimiut-Museum
26 th August:	Flight Sisimiut-Kangerlussuaq
27 th July:	Walk from Kelly Ville in northern direction. Due to heavy afternoon rain fall camp was pitched south of Aasivissuit Tasiat.
28 th July:	Bad weather (rain) forced us to abandon an extensive survey
29 th July:	Walk via Aasivissuit catchment area and Isortoq to Ilivilik
30 th July-1 st August:	Survey in the area Ilivilik/Tukiserluttoq (recording of sites 56-62): Due to heavy rain fall and strong wind all sites found in that time (sites 56-62) were drawn and described in rather short time. Bad weather forced us to abandon a detailed survey in the area north of Ilivilik and to leave this area on 2 nd August.
2 nd August:	Walk from Ilivilik to Qorlortoq
3 rd –5 th August:	Survey to Aasivissuit Tasiat (recording of sites 63, 64), to eastern end of Tasersuaq (recording of sites 70-74) and north of Qorlortoq
6 th August:	Walk from Qorlortoq in southern direction
7 th August:	Very bad weather (heavy rain) forced us to abandon an extensive survey
8 th August:	Hike to Kelly Ville
9 th August:	Rest and washing day in Kangerlussuaq
10 th August:	Driven by „Kangerlussuaq Tourism“ to Russels Glacier, than walk in northwestern direction
11 th -13 th August:	Survey in the area west of Isunngua
14 th August:	Walk to the area north of Sanningasq
15 th –17 th August:	Survey in the area between Sanningasq and Isortoq (recording of sites 80 and 81)
18 th –19 th August:	Walk to Kangerlussuaq
20 th August:	Rest and washing day in Kangerlussuaq
21 st August:	Flight Kangerlussuaq-Stuttgart

Due to a fracture of the mechanic transport of our only one camera, a 1 ½ year old Leica R 6.2 (sic!), no documentation with photographs could be made for sites found after 31st of July (sites 62-82).

During the survey several archaeological sites were recorded in detail (sites 56-62, 70-74, 81). Some sites recorded already on the map of the Sisimiut Museum were drawn again (sites 63-64, 80). A sketch and a GPS-bearing of recent hunting camps and fireplaces (sites 67-69, 79, 82) was taken just to document their position and structure for reidentification as very recent sites. Sites 1-55 were found during 1999.

This years research has been carried out as described in the application without any changes during the project. No equipment or waste has been left in the field. All waste (even tooth-silk!) was carried back in our backpacks and deposited in the dustbin at the KISS-building in Kangerlussuaq.

We like to take this opportunity to thank the following persons and institutions for their help or support, their advice and their hospitality during field work in 1999 and 2000: Joel Berglund (Greenland National Museum and Archives, Nuuk), Bent Brodersen (Kangerlussuaq International Science Support), Danish Polar Center (Copenhagen), Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (Bonn), Bjarne Grønnow (SILA - The Greenland Research Center, Copenhagen), Hans Christian Gulløv (National Museum of Denmark, Copenhagen), Klaus Georg Hansen (Sisimiut Museum), Institut für Ur- und Frühgeschichte (Erlangen), Karrimor-Distr. Germany (Neuss), Morten Meldgaard (Danish Polar Center, Copenhagen), Pauline Kleinschmidt (Sisimiut Museum), and last but not least the families Krug/Bock (Kassel) and Pasda (Ludwigsburg).

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10km

PART B: List of recorded sites**56: Boulder with cairn**

- UTM-coordinates: 22W 0485728-7445252 ($67^{\circ}07'27''/-51^{\circ}19'45''$)
- position: see fig. 4
- description: 11 stones placed on top of a boulder (fig. 2) which has an overhanging northern side protecting from southern winds and gives excellent view over the adjacent valley; muskox wool (fig. 2: 1), radius of a juvenile reindeer (fig. 2: 2)
- vegetation cover: stones on top covered by lichens
- documentation: drawing (fig. 2), photographs (fig. 3)

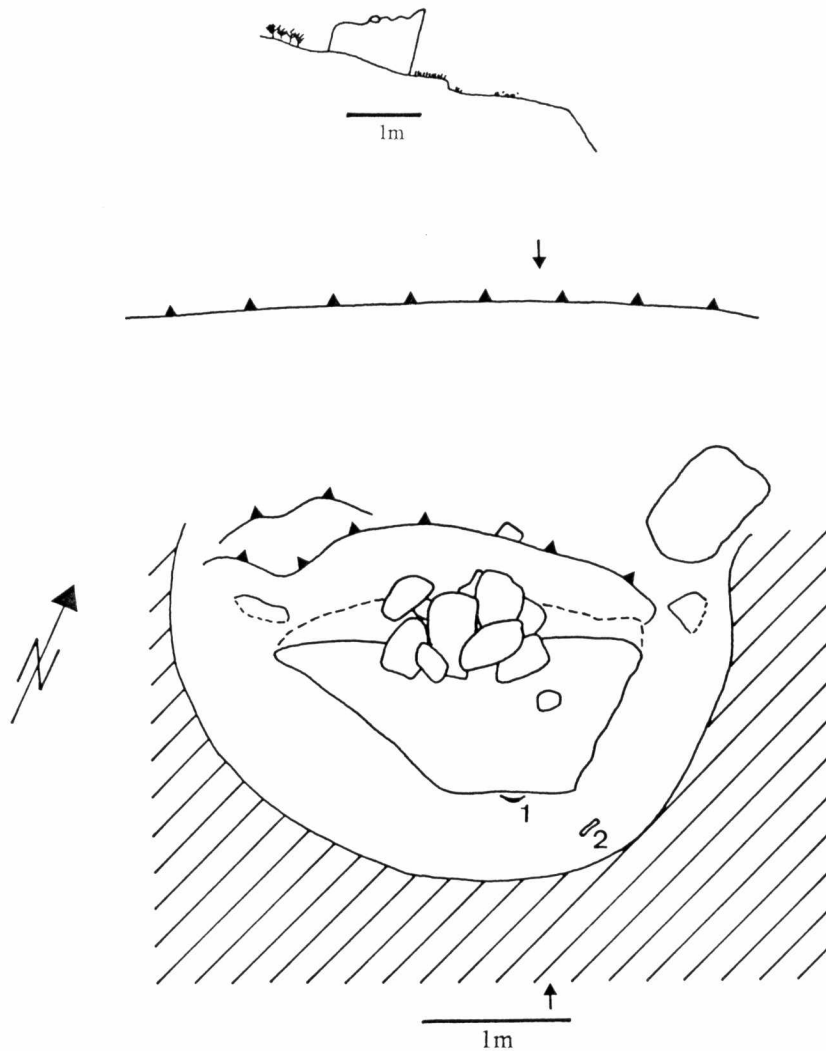


Fig. 2: Site 56 (1: muskox-wool, 2: reindeer bone, cross-hatching: vegetation)

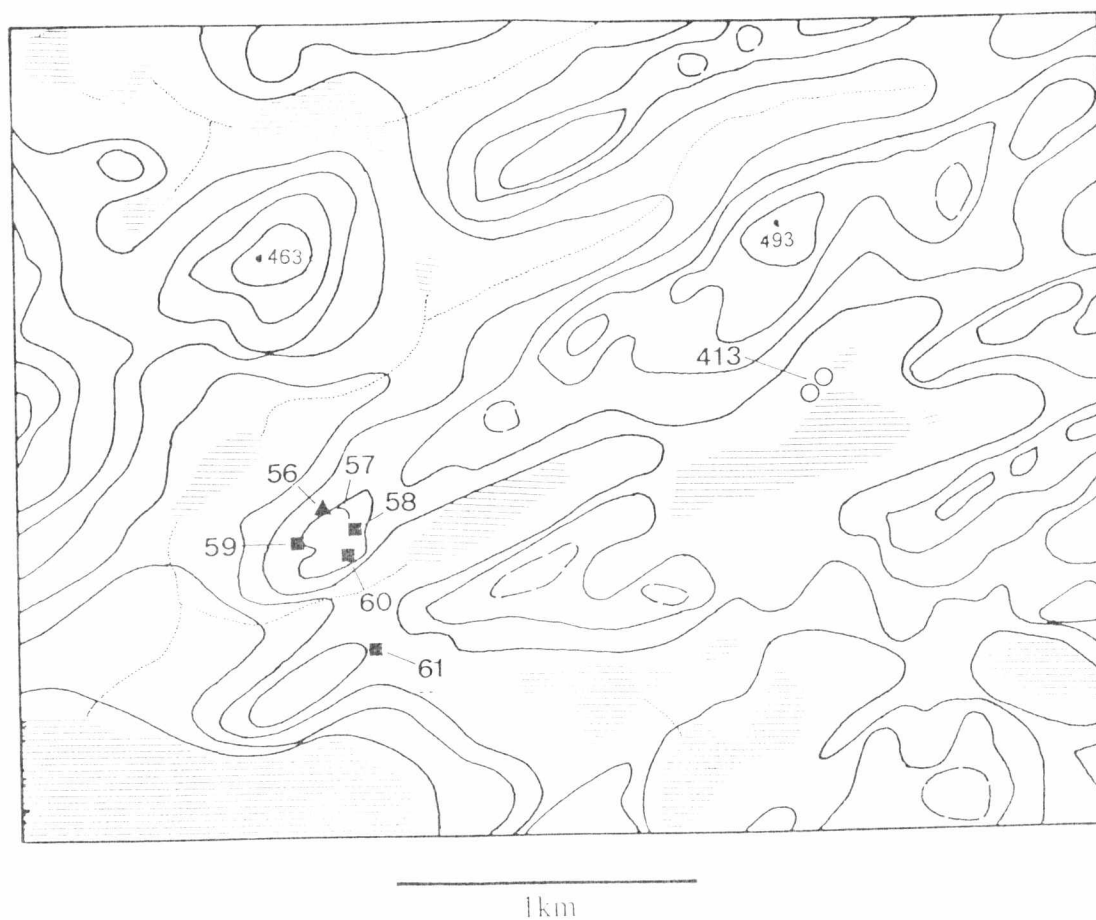


Fig. 4: Map with sites 56-61 found in 2000 and site 413 (two tent rings) found by Pind et al. (1990, 117, 120) in 1990 (linear hatching: lake, pointed line: creek, contours with 25m intervals)

57: Shooting-covert?

- UTM-coordinates: 22W 0485774-7445226 (same pos. 10m bearing h(GFA))
 -position: see fig. 4
 -description: stones placed in a semi-circle: natural accumulation, destroyed cairn or shooting-covert?
 -vegation cover: stones placed on silt
 -documentation: drawing (fig. 5), photographs (fig. 6)

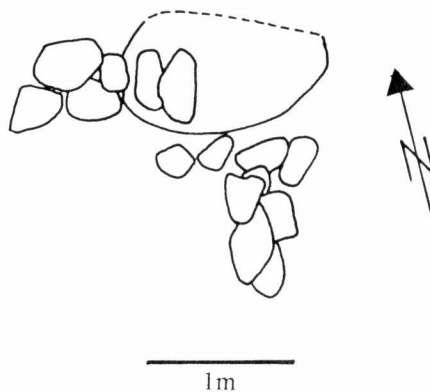


Fig. 5: Site 57



Fig. 6: Site 57

58: Cairn

- UTM-coordinates: 22W 0485718-7445194 (janne van der Grinten h1 GFA)
- position: see fig. 4
- description: approx. 14 stones placed on rock surface
- vegetation cover: lichens on some stones
- documentation: drawing (fig. 7), photographs (fig. 8)

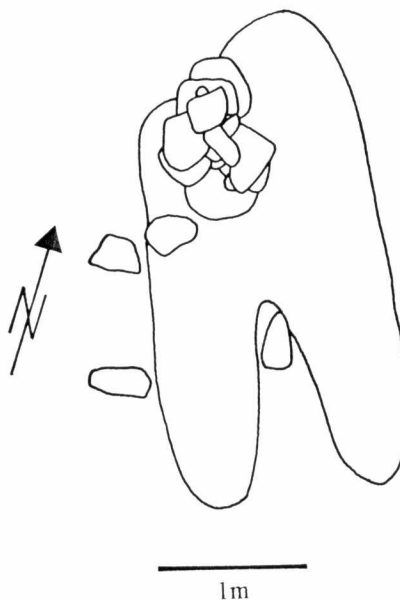


Fig. 7: Site 58



Fig. 8: Site 58

59: Cairn

- UTM-coordinates: 22W 0485604-7445181 (same as barrow hill (FA))
-position: see fig. 4
-description: 8-9 stones, height over all: 50cm
-vegetation cover: lichens on some stones
-documentation: drawing (fig. 9), photograph (fig. 10)

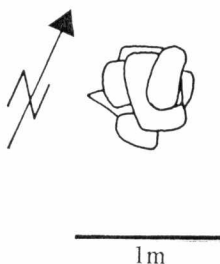


Fig. 9: Site 59

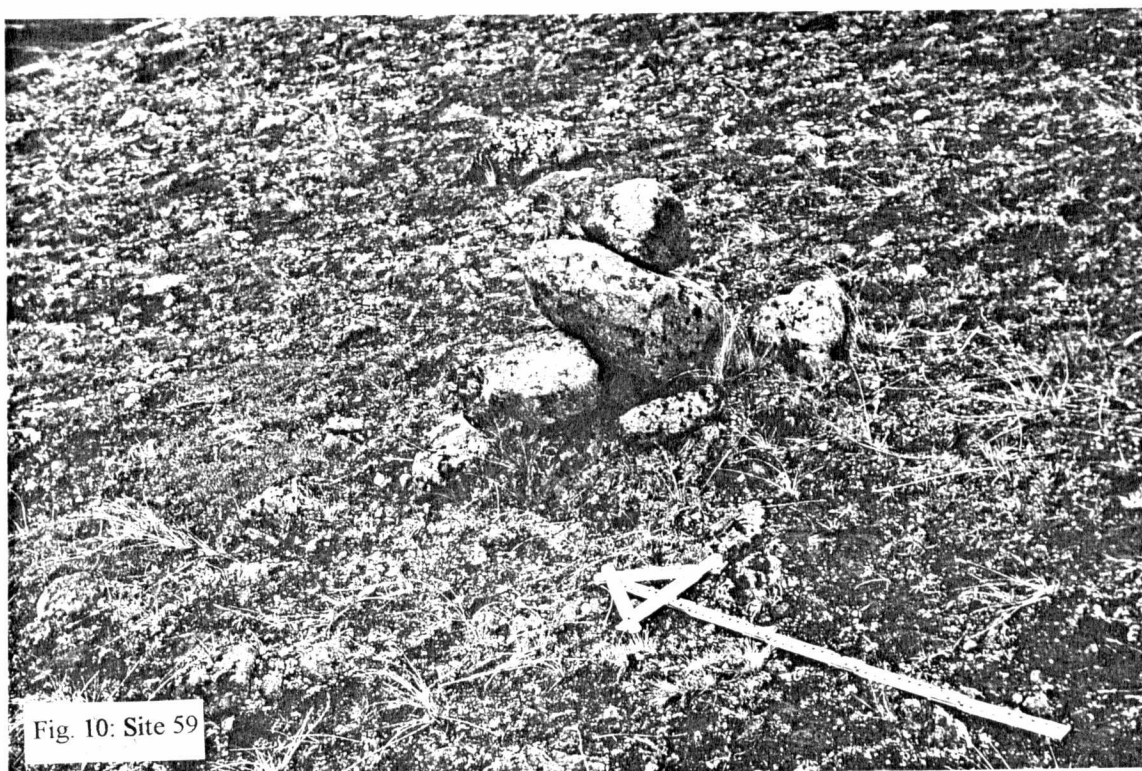


Fig. 10: Site 59

60: Boulder with cairn

- UTM-coordinates: 22W 0485705-7445073 (same as Son Torrija hill 61A)
- position: see fig. 4
- description: 50cm high cairn built with five stones on a 1,95m high boulder
- vegetation cover: cairn covered with lichens
- documentation: drawing (fig. 11), photograph (fig. 12)

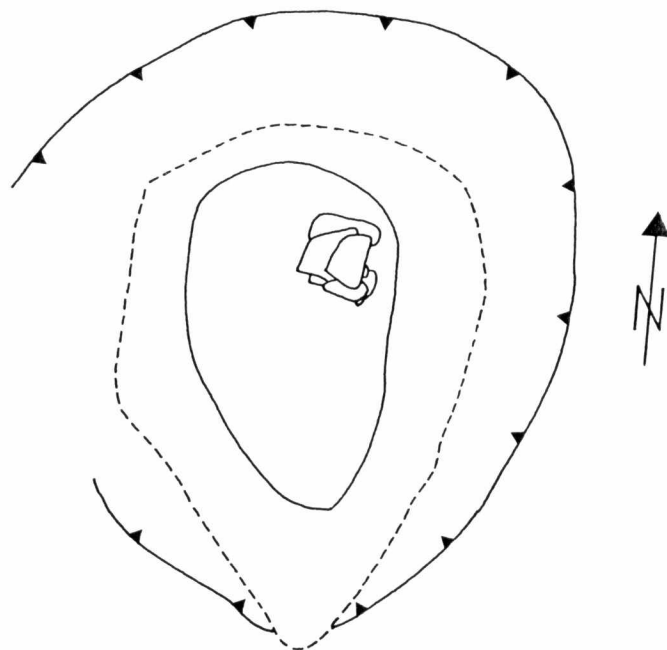


Fig. 11: Site 60

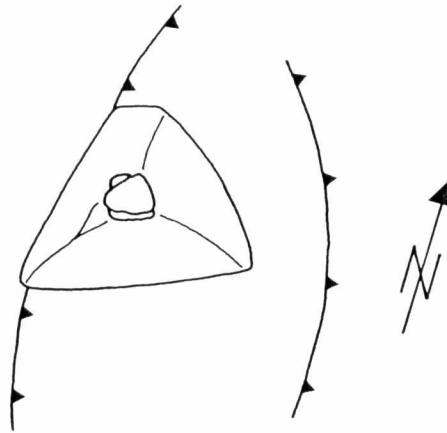
1m



Fig. 12: Site 60

61: Boulder with cairn

- UTM-coordinates: 22W 0485820-7444778 (same as Cairn 61 GF4)
 -position: see fig. 4
 -description: two stones (height 40 cm) on boulder, site can be seen from a large distance from eastern, southern and southwestern directions
 -vegetation cover: some lichens
 -documentation: drawing (fig. 13), photograph (fig. 14)



1m

Fig. 13: Site 61



Fig. 14: Site 61

62: Rockshelter with „stone wall“

-UTM-coordinates: 22W 0481364-7441776

(67°05'34"/-51°25'46")

-position: 3,2 km southwest of lake Tukiserluttoq (fig. 1)

-description: approx. 3,5m high boulder with overhanging western side, two stones (heights: 25cm and 30cm) on the northern side of the area protected by overhang, under overhang: Phalanx I from reindeer (fig. 15: 1), frost debris and fine sediment (fig. 15: 2), faeces from polar fox, ptarmigan and hare, tracks of small birds

-vegetation cover: area under overhang covered with grass shortened by animals

-documentation: drawing (fig. 15)

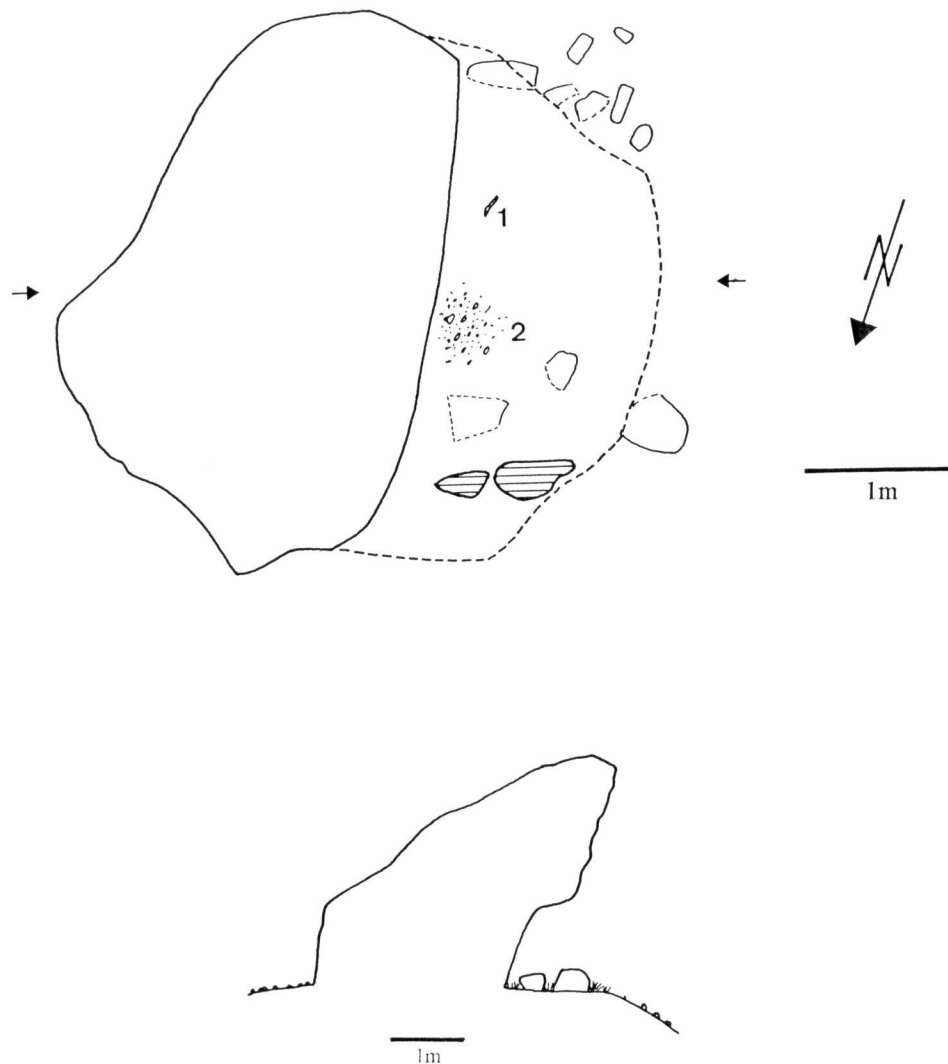


Fig. 15: Site 62 (1: reindeer bone, 2: frost debris and fine sediment, linear hatching: „stone wall“)

63: peat house

-site already known by Sisimiut Museum (compare map in the Sisimiut Museum)

-UTM-coordinates: 22W 0487512-7437847 (67° 07' 28" - 51° 17' 14")

-position: on southern end of Aasivissuit Tasiat (fig. 1), approx. 4-5m above lake level

-description: three structures: i) an approx. 5x2m long rectangular structure whose lake-facing, northwestern side is constructed of different layers of stones and sod, ii) a smaller (2x1m) rounded structure three meters away to the southeast and (iii) an unidentified structure at the farthest southwestern point

-vegetation cover: partially overgrown by dwarf shrub

-documentation: drawing (fig. 16)

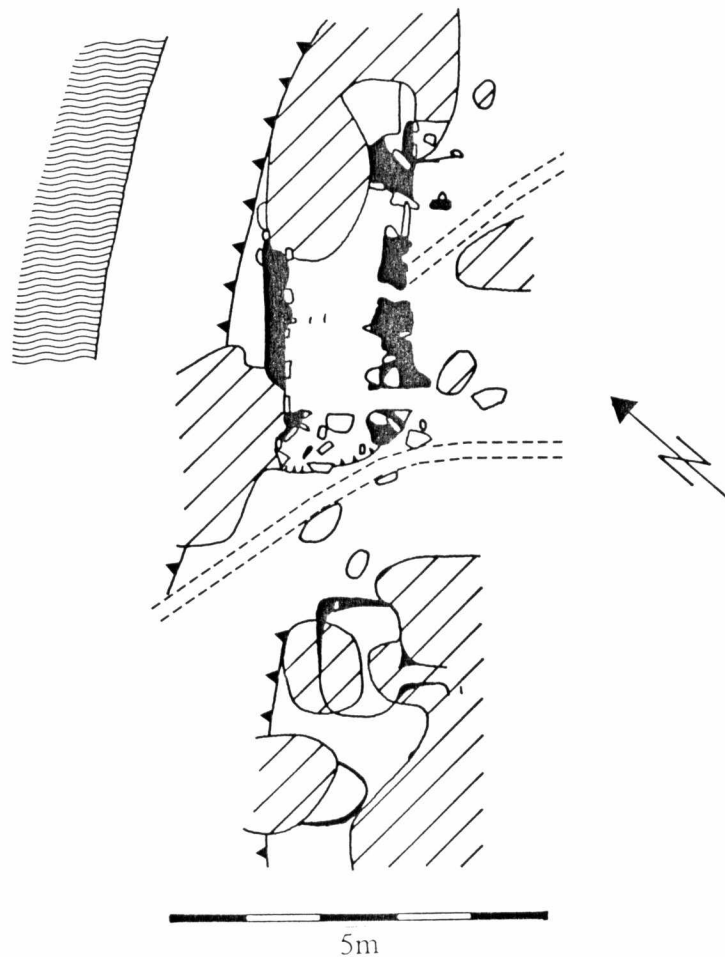


Fig. 16: Site 63 (black: peat/sod wall, cross-hatching: vegetation, wavy lines: lake)

64: tent house

-found and documented in 1990 by Pind et al. (1991): site 504

-UTM-coordinates: 22W 0490181-7439546 *14.12.06: Luke indhart: GFA* *67°04'23"/-51°13'33"*

-position: on the northern shore of Aasivissuit Tasiat (fig. 1)

-description: circular structure with stones built within the slope on the northern side, sod and stones on the western and southern side (fig. 17: black) and a vague sod wall (fig. 17: pointed) with stones on the southeastern side; two large boulders on the northeastern side protecting a 1,1m high area, on the other side of the large boulders a stone wall is visible showing a 50cm wide passage between slope and boulder

-vegetation cover: partially overgrown by willow shrub

-documentation: drawing (fig. 17)

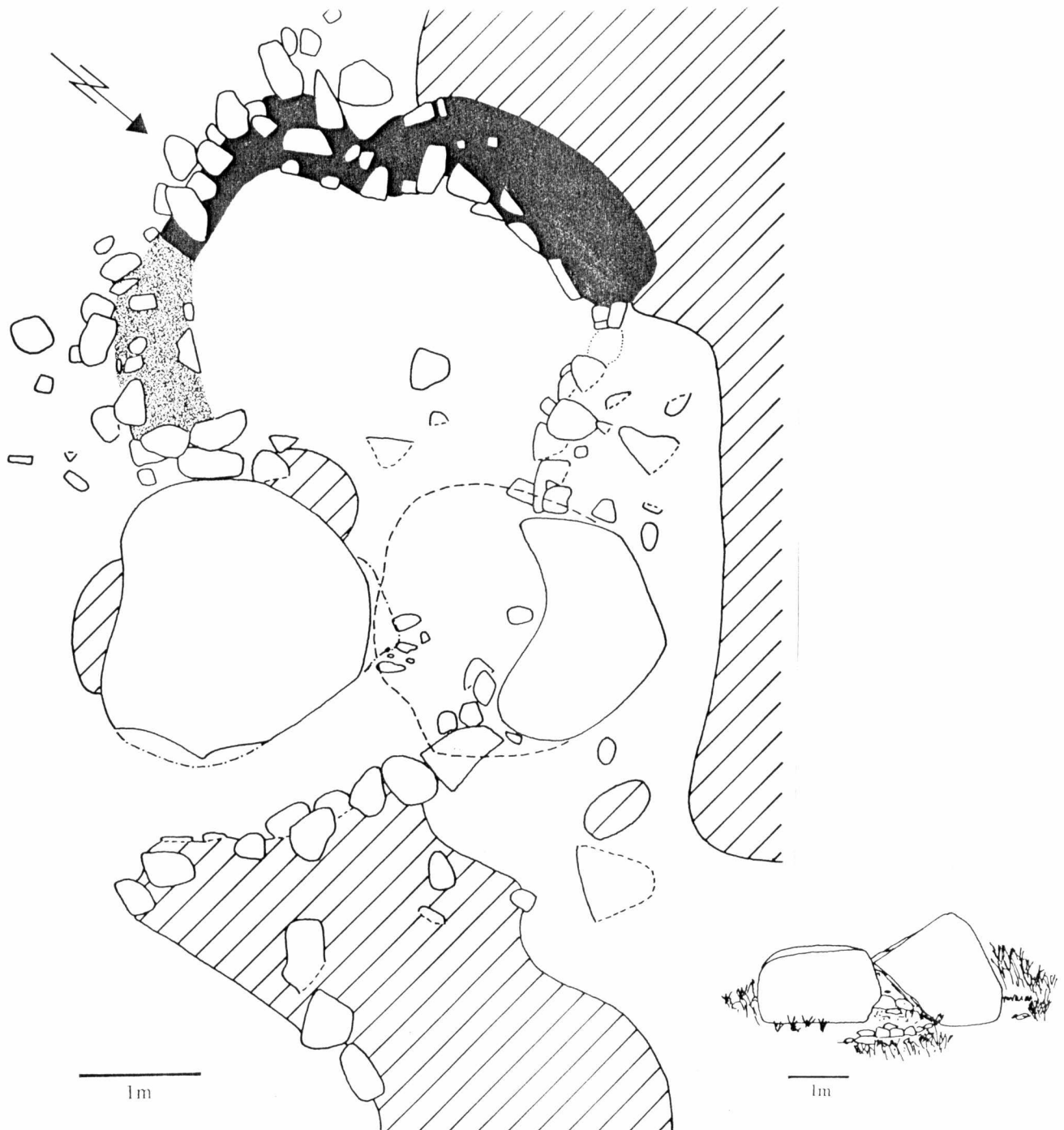


Fig. 17: Site 64 (black: peat/sod wall, cross-hatching: vegetation)

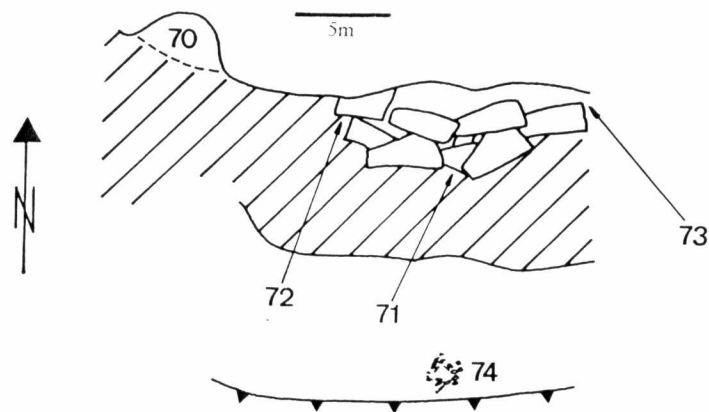


Fig. 18: Sites 70-74 (sketch of topographic situation)

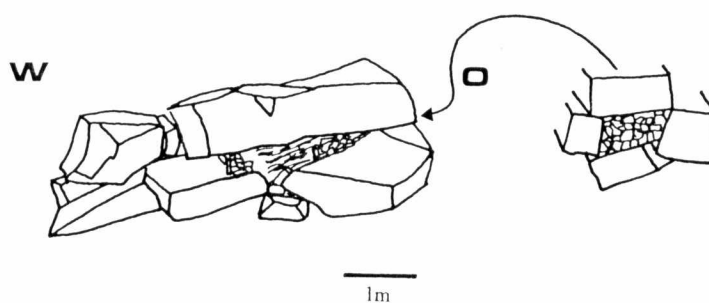


Fig. 19: Sketch of site 71

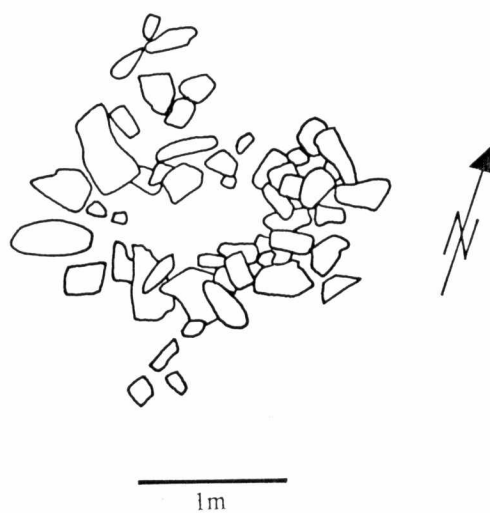


Fig. 20: Site 74

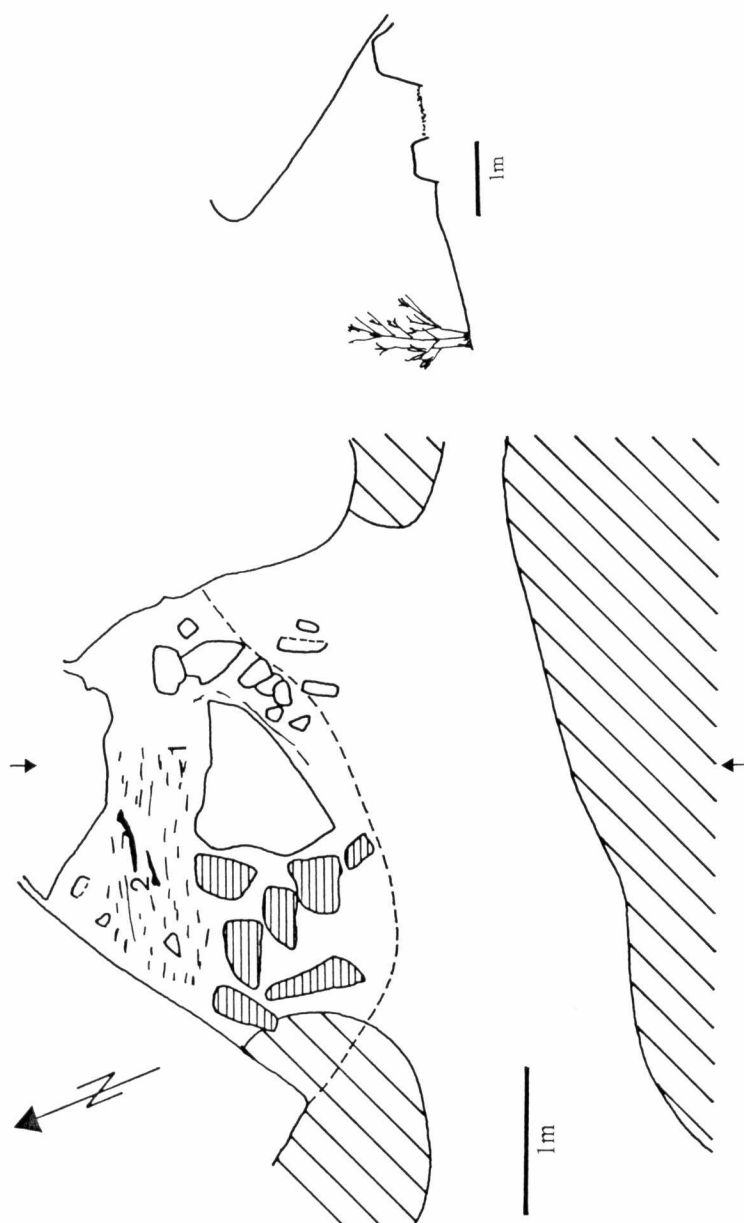


Fig. 21: Site 70 (1: twigs, 2: reindeer bones, cross-hatching: vegetation)

65: Camp

- found and described by Grønnow et al. (1983, 24-25)
- position: on southern end of Aasivissuit Tasiat (fig. 1)
- description: small rockshelter-like place (Grønnow et al. 1983, fig. 18) with a tent ring some meters away in northeastern direction
- documentation: sketch

66: Tent ring 67V2-111-014

- site 14 on the map of Sisimiut Museum
- position: on northern end of Qorlortoq (fig. 1)
- description: tent ring

67: Recent hunting camp 67V2-111-012 & 013

- UTM-coordinates: 22W 0485013-7436338
- position: near site 12 on the map of Sisimiut Museum (fig. 1)
- description: recent hunting camp with several cairns, fireplaces, hearths, caches, bones from reindeer, hare and birds, modern litter
- documentation: sketch

68: Recent hunting camp

- UTM-Coordinates: 22W 0483009-7434830
- position: between Qorlortoq and Tasersuaq (fig. 1)
- description: a tent ring, a presumed fire place, reindeer bones and modern litter (plastic spoon, canned tin, ammunition, clothing, broken bottles)
- documentation: sketch

69: Recent hunting camp

- UTM-coordinates: 22W 0481711-7433918
- position: between Qorlortoq and Tasersuaq (fig. 1)
- description: two tent rings, two fireplaces with aluminium foil, modern litter (broken bottles, ropes, plastic ammunition, animal bones)
- documentation: sketch

70-74: Rockshelter and large boulders with caches

- UTM-coordinates: for site 70: 22W 0479444-7432836, for site 74: 22W 0479475-7432864
- position: on the cliff north of the eastern end of Tasersuaq (fig. 1)
- description:
 - i) under 3-5m long boulders fallen from the cliff (fig. 18): three caches (site 71-73) with walls built of up to 80 stones with twigs on the bottom (fig. 19),
 - ii) in front of the cliff (fig. 18): a cache (site 74) on rock surface with lichen-covered stones (fig. 20)
 - iii) west of the boulders (fig. 18): a rockshelter (site 70), with stones brought in (fig. 21: linear hatching), twigs with up to 4cm diameter lying parallel to the drip-line, a hind leg of an adult reindeer, a front leg of an juvenile reindeer (both with cutted fur), an intact reindeer femur and three Phalanx I of reindeer, faeces of polar fox, ptarmigan and small birds, rope fragments; in front of the rockshelter: numerous reindeer leg-bones, ammunition
- documentation: drawing for site 70 (fig. 21) and site 74 (fig. 20), sketch for sites 71-73 (fig. 18-19)

75: Boulder (geological site) – documentation: sketch

76: Boulder (geological site) – documentation: sketch

77: Boulder (geological site) – documentation: sketch

78: Rockshelter (geological site) – documentation: sketch

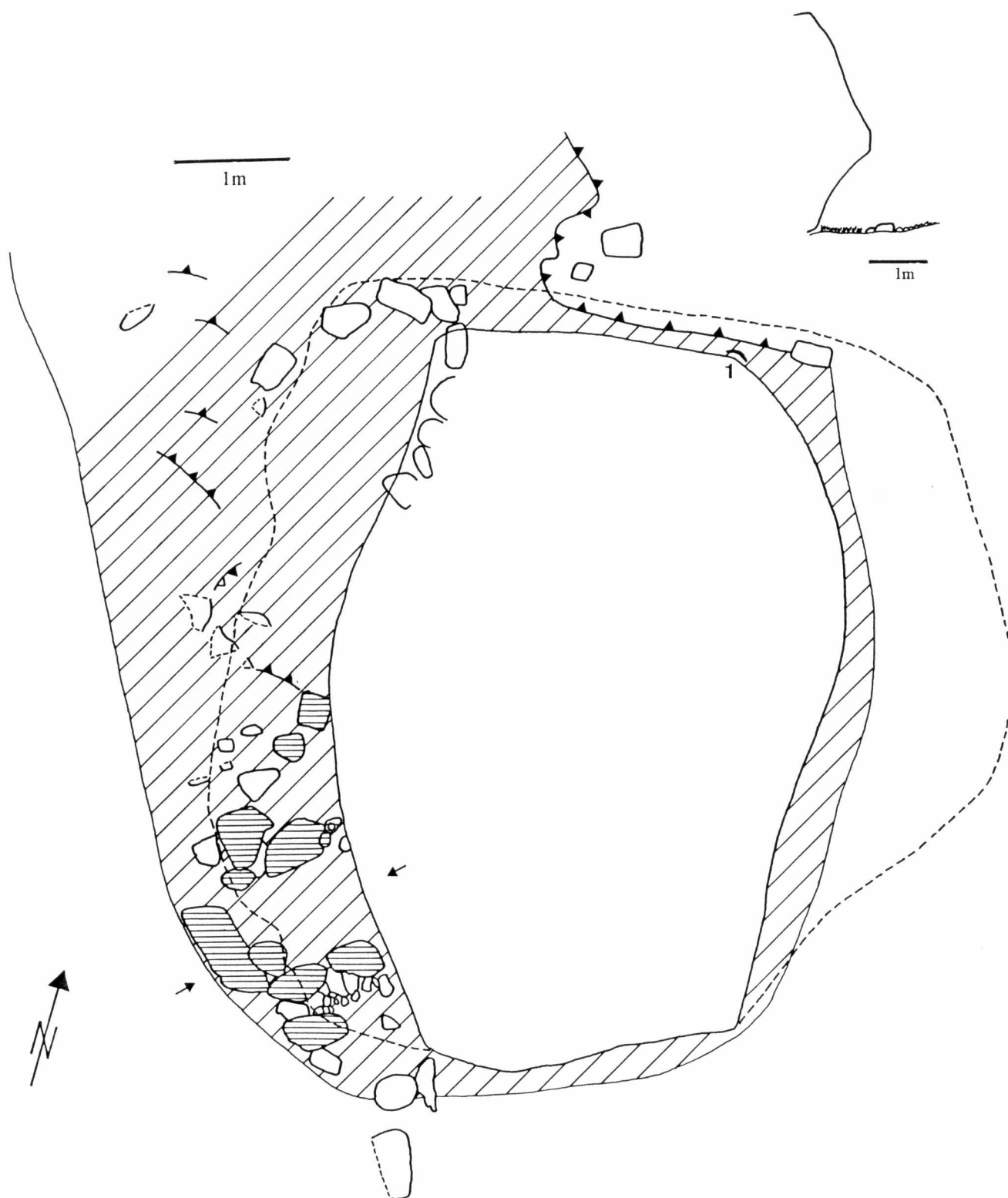


Fig. 22: Site 80 (1: muskox-wool, cross-hatching: grass, linear hatching: stone wall)



Fig. 23: Site 81 (cross-hatching: vegetation)

79: Recent hunting camp

- UTM-coordinates: 22W 0528438-7444348
- position: on northern side of the large lake north of Aajuitsup Tasia
- description: (two ?) fireplaces, stove pipes, meat cache (fox trap?) with concrete-steel piece
- documentation: sketch

80: Boulder with stone walls

- found and documented in 1990 by Pind et al. (1991): site 610
- UTM-coordinates: 22W 0513180-7446227
- position: on the highest point (501m NN) of a hill approx 4,7km east of the large hunting site Qarlissuit
exposed to wind, very good view over the landscape in all directions
- description: approx. 4m high boulder with a rectangular, 30-40cm high stone wall on the southwest side (fig. 22: linear hatching), stones on the northwest side maybe shifted by solifluction on the inclined and step-like slope
- vegetation cover: grass under boulder-overhang
- documentation: drawing (fig. 22)

81: Hunter's bed and tent ring

- UTM-coordinates: 22W 0515978-7443388
- position: between two large lakes north of Sanningasoq (fig. 1)
- description: north of three 40-90cm high boulders (fig. 23): a rectangular stone wall (1,5x0,75m), niveau inside is several centimeters higher than outside;
- vegetation cover: in hunter's bed dwarf shrub, all stones covered by lichens
- documentation: drawing (fig. 23)

82: Recent fireplaces

- UTM-coordinates: 22W 0519983-7447338
- position: on silt plateau south of a small lake (fig. 1)
- description: two hearths (2m apart from each other) with stones, charcoal and aluminium foil
- documentation: sketch

Literature:

- B. Grønnow et al.: Aasivissuit – The great summer camp. – Meddr. Grønland, Man & Soc. 5 (Copenhagen 1983).
- J. Pind et al.: Aasivissuit – Bopladser og rendyrjagt i det vestgrønlandske indland. – Københavns Universitet 1991).

Part C: Archaeozoological investigations

All animal bones found in the sites were determined as far as possible by species, skeletal element, sex and age. Besides hundreds of animal bones around a fox den (approx. 500m south of site 62) were determined too. During field survey from 27th July to 19th August skeletons of reindeer died of natural causes (55 complete skeletons, 19 parts of skeletons) and approx. 200 single reindeer bones found out of human context were determined, measured and left in the field. Documentation by photographs was not possible after the 31st July. Three single reindeer skeletons drawn in 1999 were visited again this year to document possible differences in their preservation.