



Archaeological Survey ■ Isua Project 2009 ■ Greenland National Museum & Archives

Martin Appelt (ed.), Nuka Godtfredsen, Pauline K. Knudsen, Frederik Fuuja Larsen, Christian Koch Madsen, Mikkel Myrup



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The present summary should be viewed as an extension of curator Mikkel Myrup's report on the 2008 Isua-survey (Myrup 2008).

The main objectives of the 2009-fieldseason was on the one hand to survey along two transects affected by the construction of an access road and by the construction of a pipeline. On the other hand the ambition was to make a relatively detailed recording of the Qallunaatsiaat Nunaat Site (65V2-II-002). Both main-goals were accomplished, but not without difficulties (see "Introduction").

The result of the 2009-fieldwork include the discovery of 23 new sites, of which two should be considered of major importance, i.e. the four hunter's beds at ISUA 17 (65°03.031'/49°57.002'), and the so-called Ulloriaq Site (ISUA 19, 65°00.647/50°01.669) including the well-preserved grave at ISUA 20 (65°00.647'/50°01.669').

The so-called "bear-trap" at the Norse site (FM 64V2-0IV-517), near the Greenland Mining Service Basecamp is also of importance as it is one of only five or six similar features found in the Nuuk area. Discussions among archaeologists suggest that these structures may be European in origin, possibly even Norse. Outside the inner parts of the Nuuk area they are found in the Norse settlement area in south-west Greenland, on Iceland, and in northern Norway.

The detailed mapping of the Qallunaatsiaat Nunaat site suggests that the site may include more than 30 historic and prehistoric structures and that the site may be distributed across an area of more than 40,000m² (the major part of structures are however found within an area of about 11,000m²). The preliminary recording of the Ulloriaq site suggests that it may cover an area of 1,500m², which at a minimum include 7 dwelling structures, a "meeting place", and a small pond with well-preserved organic material.

As a whole the Qallunaatsiaat Nunaat and Ulloriaq sites are some of the most important sites in this part of the Inland of the Nuuk area. At both sites the preservation of the built structures are remarkable, in addition a surface-examination of the two sites suggests that at least the Ulloriaq site may

have areas with excellent preservation for organic material. The elaborate dwelling structures at the two sites are built entirely of stone slabs, some of which are up to one metre across. Sites with a similar architecture are only known from three other sites in the vicinity, and are unique not only to the region, but also to Greenland as a whole.

If it is decided to proceed with the construction of the access road and the pipeline along the lines sketched-out by the project holder it will be necessary to conduct extensive archaeological investigations (including excavations) at the four mentioned sites (i.e. The Qallunaatsiaat Nunaat Site, the Ulloriaq Site, at ISUA 20, and at ISUA 17) . It is therefore recommended that the project holder seek to situate the access road at some distance from these sites. Given the difficulties outlined below it will furthermore be necessary to include archaeological monitoring of some of the construction works while in progress.

If the outlined situation of the access road and pipeline is changed renewed archaeological investigations will have to be performed by the National Museum of Greenland.

INTRODUCTION

The 2009-fieldteam was headed by Vice-director Pauline Knudsen of the National Museum of Greenland (henceforth NMG), and included museum technician Frederik Larsen (NMG), archaeologist PhD. Martin Appelt, the artist Nuka K. Godtfredsen (both from the National Museum of Denmark), and MA-student Christian Koch Madsen (University of Copenhagen). The last-mentioned was responsible for the precision GPS-recordings of the structures at the Qallunaatsiaat Nunaat Site (FM-65V2-0II-002).

The survey was conducted during the period from June 10th to June 26th 2009. The survey was conducted on foot along two main transects outlined on maps received from London Mining. The survey cover about 140 kilometres as the crow flies, which probably corresponds to around 280 – 300 kilometres on foot. This was only possible due to the impeccable and forthcoming assistance of Johannes Kyed, Hans Jensen (both Greenland Mining Service) and the helicopters (and especially their pilots) provided by Greenland Mining Service.

The survey were faced with various challenges that are important to mention, as they may have serious ramifications for the over-all assessments of the impact of the construction work on the prehistoric and historic heritage in the area;

- During the days leading up to the fieldwork the National Museum of Greenland received new directions from London Mining as to the where the access road and pipeline would be constructed. The quality of the lines sketched out on the maps received did not permit us to survey transects with a higher precision of more than ± 50 - 100 metres. In order to counter this condition we in some areas walked in lines approximately with 20 metres in between the surveyors. However, along most stretches walked it was not possible to keep-up this survey principle, as the steepness of the terrain was such that it could only be walked along one or two narrow lines. Consequently, some parts of the transects walked cannot be considered sufficiently covered by the survey.
- In addition we suspect that the sketched lines for the access road cannot be taken at face value, as this would mean that the road in several places will have to cross a very large number of steep slopes within a short distance.
- The survey was conducted during the second half of June in order to ensure the optimal conditions for the fieldwork, i.e. stable weather-conditions. However, the summer-weather this year arrived very late in the Nuuk area. As a consequence parts of the areas surveyed were

still covered by considerable amounts of snow, especially on the lee sides. In order to counter this situation we changed the schedule for which we surveyed the various parts of the two transects, i.e. surveying the areas with most snow cover latest. Even so, we were forced to stray off up to a couple of hundred metres from the intended line of survey, in order to get around the deepest areas of snow.

THE SITES

ISUA 1/Qallunaatsiaat Nunaat Site (FM 64V2-0IV-517)

The centre of the site is situated on the western end of a narrow ridge separating two very large lakes (Tarsartuup Tasersua (also known as the “710”-lake) and the No Name Lake), and some 60 – 80 metres above these (the water level of the lake is at above 710 above seal level). All but one of the archaeological features is found either on the top of the ridge, or down the northern slope. The ridge is generally barren and strewn with large stoneboulders, however small patches of low vegetation are seen especially in front of the archaeological dwelling features. Some 30 archaeological features were recorded at the site, i.e. four tenthouses, seven ruins of stonehuts, 11 hunter’s beds, one tentring, four caches, one fox trap, and two circular features.

Feature A: A rather collapsed ruin of a tenthouse set up against a large “natural” boulder, and with walls of rounded to elongated boulders. The outline of the structure is rounded rectangular and approximately 3 x 1.5 metres. A pile of stones leaning against the large boulder is likely to be a secondary cache. The structure is partly overgrown by heather and patches of moss.

Feature B: A pear-shaped stonehut preserved in a height of about 60 centimetres. The trapezoid main room is 2 x 3.5 metres, and the entranceway about 1.5 x 0.5 metres. The walls and roof are set in stone slabs of lengths of up to 100 centimetres. The roof-vault has caved-in, thus creating an impression of very wide walls. A small secondary hearth is seen in near the back wall. PKphotos: 685 – 686 & 687 – 689 + a sketch in PKdiary.



ISUA 1, feature A.

Feature C: The circular room is about 3 – 3.5 metres across. Walls and roof are set in 50 – 80 centimetres long stoneslabs. The walls are preserved in a height up to 60 centimetres.

Feature D: The round main room of the pear-shaped stonehut is about 3 – 3.5 metres across, while the entranceway is about 50 centimetres long. Walls and roof are constructed of stoneslabs of about 50 x 50 centimetres. A number of the wall stoneslabs are still standing on edge. A small cache or anteroom is constructed against the western wall of the ruin. PKphotos: 681 & 683 + a sketch in PKdiary.

Feature F: A 6 x 2.5 metres low sub-rectangular depression seem to be the ruin of a hunter's bed/tenthouse. The interior and the periphery of the depression is marked by a number of rounded boulders. Photos 716 – 717.



ISUA 1, feature C.



ISUA 1, feature H.

Feature G: A cairn is situated on top of a large rock. The cairn was originally made up of four large boulders, of which one now has fallen down. PKphoto: 689 + a sketch in PKdiary.

Feature H: The back wall of the trapezoid stonehut is a large “natural” boulder. The exterior length of the dwelling is about 2.5 metres, and the width of the back wall about 1.5 metres. The walls are about 60 centimetres high (and about 80 centimetres thick), with a lintel at the entrance still in its original position. Four stoneslabs on edge by the western side of the entrance make up a low windscreen. Both walls and roof are constructed from stoneslabes. Most of the roof slabs has slided outwards. A meat cache is situated on the western side of the “natural” boulder. PKphotos: 692-693 & 739 + a plan drawing in 1:20 and + a sketch in

Feature I: The vague outline of a tenthouse/hunter's bed is seen on the eastern side of the "natural" boulder making up the back wall of structure H. The rectangular outline of the wall is about 2 x 2.5 metres. PKphoto: 694.

Feature J: The main room of the rounded rectangular stonehut is about 3 x 4 metres. The approximately 2 metres long entrance passage is situated midway on the north wall, perpendicular to the long-axis of the main room. The entrance passage curves towards the east, i.e. away from the western winds. The walls are built of slanting stoneslabs and preserved in a height of 50 centimetres. The lintel at the entrance to the main room is still in situ. PKphotos: 700 & 701 + a sketch in PKdiary.

Feature K: The stonehut is constructed of large slanting stoneslabs preserved in a height of about 50 centimetres. The groundplan is about 2.5 metres across with walls 50 – 60 centimetres thick. An oval meat cache – about 1 x 1.5 metres – is situated on the northeastern side of the dwelling structure. PKphotos: 695 – 697 + a sketch in PKdiary.

Feature L: A well-preserved tenthouse with an oval groundplan. The exterior dimensions of the wall are 3.2 x 3 metres. The walls are set in rounded to square stones in two courses. The width of the wall is generally 40 – 50 centimetres. A clear break in the wall marks the entrance, by which a meat cache is found. The back part of the dwelling has an approximately 80 centimetre wide platform area. PKphotos: 708 & 709 + two plan drawings in 1:20 and a sketch in PKdiary.

Feature M: A rounded rectangular hunter's bed/tenthouse set in one or two courses. The low semi-subterranean groundplan is about 2 x 3.2 metres. PKphotos: 704 & 705 + a sketch in PKdiary.

Feature N: The rounded hunter's bed/tenthouse is about 2.6 metres in diameter. The back wall is made up of a large "natural" boulder, while the rest of the wall is set in rounded boulders. Photos: 702 & 703 + a sketch in PKdiary.

Feature O: Triangular (approximately 3 x 2.8 metres) tenthouse/hunter's bed



ISUA 1, feature L.

with back wall constituted of large “natural” boulder. The walls are 40 – 50 centimetres thick. A meat cache is found on the northeastern side of the dwelling. PKphotos: 706 & 707 + a sketch in PKdiary.

Feature P: A stonehut with a pear-shaped groundplan. The interior is about 2 x 1.5 metres, with a short (approximately 70 centimetres long) entrance passage. The approximately 40 centimetres high walls are constructed from large stoneslabs that are slanting somewhat outwards. The roof vault is partly preserved in the back of dwelling. A meat cache is found on the outside of the western wall. PKphotos: 698 & 699 + a sketch in PKdiary

Feature Q: Two vaguely defined circular features. The two features may be part of one bilobate structure. The walls are about 20 centimetres wide and made of rather small stoneslabs. Each circular feature is about 2 metres across. PKphoto: 710 & 711 + a sketch in PKdiary.

Feature S: The rectangular hunter’s bed is situated in a crevice. The outline of the feature is about 2 x 2.8 metres and constructed in one course. PKphoto: 718 + a sketch in PKdiary.

Features V & W: Two tenthouses/hunter’s beds. The structures are circular and about 2 – 2.5 metres across of single course of large rounded stones. Two large stones blocks about 80 centimetres apart may well form the entrance to feature V. PKphotos: 714 & 715 + a sketch in PKdiary.

Feature X: A meat cache constructed between two “natural” boulders. The stone pile is approximately 100 centimetres across. PKphoto: 690.

Feature Y: A meat cache constructed between two “natural” boulders. The stone pile is approximately 100 - 120 centimetres across. PKphoto: 691.

Feature AA: A cache built of heavy boulders. The groundplan is oval and about 160 x 60 – 70 centimetres. A “head-stone” is placed on top of the cache.

Feature ABB: A meat-cache made of large boulders. The interior of the cache is approximately 40 x 40 centimetres. PKphoto: 719

Feature AC: A very substantial tenthouse/hunter’s bed set in large rounded stone boulders. The 60 – 100 centimetres wide walls encompass a trapezoid ground plan. A very large “natural” boulder constitutes the back wall. The maximum dimensions of the ground plan is approximately 2.5 x 4,2 meters. PKphotos: 720 & 721 + a sketch in PKdiary.

Feature AE: A classic chamber-shaped fox trap. The trap is collapsed, but the 20 x 80 centimetres large chamber can still be recognised. PKphoto: 724

Feature AF: An almost circular hunter’s bed/tenthouse approximately 1.5 metres across. The 20-30 centimetres thick walls are set in stone boulders. A “natural” large stone boulder makes up the back wall. The structure is covered by a dense vegetation layer primarily of various sedges and heather. PKphoto: 727 + a sketch in PKdiary.

Feature AG: Tenthouse with an oval ground plan, about 2 x 2.5 metres. The walls are set in large rounded boulders. The interior of the structure is partly overgrown by various grasses and heather. PKphoto: 725 + a sketch in PKdiary.

Feature AH: A rounded rectangular tenthouse/hunter's bed with 30 – 40centimetres thick walls set in heavy boulders. The walls are up to 40 centimetres high and in three courses. The interior of the structure is partly overgrown by grasses and heather. PKphoto: 726 + a sketch in PKdiary

Feature AI: The outline of the tenthouse/tentring is amorphous and set in heavy rounded boulders. The walls are generally 20 – 40 centimetres wide. The structure is partly overgrown by grasses and heather. Photo: 729 + a sketch in PKdiary.

Feature AK: An oval hunter's bed/tenthouse with walls of 40 – 50 centimetres thickness. The walls are set of rounded boulders and outline an area of approximately 2.5 x 2 metres. The structure is covered by dense vegetation (grasses and moss) especially along the southern wall. PKphoto: 740 + a sketch in PKdiary

Feature OE: A hunter's bed is outlined by two low walls between to large "natural" stone boulders, encompassing an area of approximately 100 x 120 centimetres. PKphotos: 722 & 723 + a sketch in PKdiary.

ISUA 2 (65°01.086/50°00.156/approx. 750 metres above sea level)

The site is located on a barren plateau between a major ridge and the drop-off towards the lake. The structure is not easily found as it is seated deep in the soil. The oval outline of the main structure (exterior dimensions are 3.2 x 2.5 metres) is formed by double rows of elongated boulders. The structure is divided into two sections by a paved area through the middle of structure – perpendicular to the long-axis of the structure. The recorder of the structure is somewhat uncertain whether this may be a palaeo-Eskimo midpassage structure, a double very large meat cache or a natural phenomenon. A pile of stones - about 75 centimetres across – was found on the western side of the main feature, and may well be a meat cache. PKphotos: 743 – 747 + sketch in PKdiary

ISUA 3 (65°01.112/50°00.029)

A recent tentring, about 4.5 metres in diameter. PKphotos: 741 & 742.

ISUA 4 (65°10.014/49°49.524)

A 9.8 metres long E-W oriented stone structure. In each of the “fence” a 2.5 metres long row are made of stone slabs on edge. In the eastern end of the “fence” an indistinct circular ring of stones (approx. three metres in diameter) is sunken deep in the soil.

ISUA 5 (64°48.582/50°14.669)

A hunter’s bed is found on the northern side of a large “natural” boulder. The structure is approx. 3.5 x 1.5 metres. PKphotos: 803 – 806.

ISUA 6 (64°45.123/50°21.223/107 metres above sea level)

A so-called “bear trap” located in central part of the large valley that ends in the Greenland Mining Camp. The trap is about 2.5 metres long and 1.5 metres wide. The walls are built from head-sized boulders, and the roof of large stone slabs. Both ends have partly collapsed. The large trapdoor in the southern end of the trap is standing at edge, and has a three centimetres wide hole drilled through the upper part. The rope holding the trapdoor in position would have been tied to the hole, and in the other end of the rope to the bait. The trap may of Norse origin and should probably be seen as part of the farm complex in the valley (Western Settlement V517).
FLphotos: 685 – 689.



ISUA 6, The “Bear Trap”.

ISUA 7/MAPWaypoint 42(64°45.115/50°21.287/113 metres above sea level)

A collapsed fox trap located on a low knoll some 20 – 30 metres from the so-called “bear trap”. The trap is covered by lichens and of the ordinary “chamber”-type. MAPphotos: 93 & 95.

ISUA 8/MAPWaypoint 45(64°52.596/50°53.629/127 metres above sea level)

The site is situated on a knoll in the middle of a large valley and includes a recent tentring, a well-constructed hearth and a meat cache. The tentring is rectangular an about 3 x 3.5 metres. The meat cache is located about five metres from the tentring and is sunken deep into the soil and covered by lichens and moss and possibly considerably older than the tentring. The three-sided hearth box is situated about 75 centimetres from the tentring and probably also recent. PKphotos: 118 – 124 + sketch in PKdiary.

ISUA 9/MAPWaypoint 66(64°58.389/50°04.708/706 metres above sea level)

A hunter’s bed on the western side of rocky knoll. The rounded rectangular structure is made of head-sized boulders, and outline and area of approx. 4 x 1 metres. Given the extreme length of the structure and the presence of a vaguely defined line of stones that cross cut one end of the structure it seems likely that it was originally separated in two sections. The whole structure is covered in a dense layer of lichens. FLphotos: 738 – 740 + sketch in PKdiary.

ISUA 10/MAPWaypoint

67(64°52.055/50°11.432/680 metres above sea level)

A large hunter’s bed in an abri under a very large “natural” boulder. The total length of the structure is about three metres, of which the inner 1.6 metre of the structure is paved with



ISUA 10.

stone slabs. At the edge of the *abri* the width of the structure is about 1.8 metre, and the height also about 1.8 metre. A box hearth is found south-west of the hunter's bed, and the area immediately around the large "natural" boulder is littered with caribou bones (especially on the northern side). A road marker cairn of five boulders was found on top of the "natural" boulder. FLphotos: 750 – 753.

ISUA 11/MAPWaypoint 68(64°51.864/50°11.497/681 metres above sea level)

An oval hunter's bed under a large cliff face with walls built of stone slabs and a little larger than head-sized stones. The dimensions of the structure is 1.6 x 1.3 metres. FLphotos: 756 – 758.

ISUA 12/MAPWaypoint 69(64°51.854/50°11.507/686 metres above sea level)

The horseshoe-shaped hunter's bed is built of head-sized and slightly larger stones under a narrow *abri*. The dimensions of the structure is about 1.6 x 1.6 metres. FLphotos: 759 & 760.

ISUA 13A+B /MAPWaypoint 70(64°50.936/50°12.246/663 metres above sea level)

Two crescent-shaped rock shelters situated under large "natural" black boulders, about 15 metres apart. The floors of the shelters are paved with stone slabs, and 200 -210 centimetres long and 100 - 130 centimetres at their widest. The "roofs" are made of long narrow stone slabs (max. 130 x 30 x 10 centimetres) of which some are still leaning against the large boulder. The entrance was probably in the north-western end of the structure, i.e. away from the dominant wind direction at the site. The site is situated on a small plateau with a view to a lake surrounded by a low valley on the one hand site. The rock shelter is relatively densely vegetated with moss, grass and lichens and may well be at least a couple of hundred years old. FLphotos: 763 – 768.



ISUA 13.

ISUA 14/MAPWaypoint 71 (64°50.820/50°12.546/679 metres above sea level)

A possible hunter's bed underneath a very large boulder. The structure may not be man-made but the result of pieces of the crumbling boulder falling in a pattern that resembles a horse-shaped feature. FLphotos: 771 & 772.

ISUA 15/MAPWaypoint 20 (65°03.526/49°56.558/ approx. 750 metres above sea level)

Three hunter's beds by the southern end of the Tarsartuup Tasersua (also known as the "710"-lake) and overlooks a small densely vegetated area. Feature A is trapezoid and approx. 2 x 1.5 metre, while feature B has an oval outline and between 90 and 130 centimetres in diameter. Feature C is trapezoid and approximately 2 x 1.7 metres across. FLphotos: 493 – 499.



ISUA 17.

ISUA 16/MAPWaypoint 21 (65°03.089/49°57.063/approx. 780 metres above sea level)

Markers are seen on both sides of the crossing place of the river Quuttaaq. On top of a large plan "natural boulder", a stone slab is placed so that a little less than half of the slab is protruding from the boulder. The slab is held in position by a small boulder placed on top of the stone slab. Sketch in MAPdiary

ISUA 17/MAPWaypoint 24 & 25 (65°03.031/49°57.002/approx. 750 metres above sea level)

The site is located at a low and narrow all pass by the southern end of the Tarsartuup Tasersua (also known as the "710"-lake). Two (structures A and B) of the four hunter's beds are situated at the edge of a low cliff face overlooking a small melt water lake on the northern side of the pass (Sketch on registration sheet). Features C and D are found on the southern side of the pass. Several deep caribou tracks run through the pass, and several

caribous were seen while recording the site. MAPphotos: 270 & 271.

Structure A: The back wall of the structure is constituted by the cliff face, while the walls otherwise consists of a single tightly set line of boulders. The outline of the structure is horseshoe-shaped and has a maximum width of about two metres. The structure is densely covered by moss, lichen, crowberries, and grass.

MAPphotos: 272 & 273 + sketch on registration sheet.

Feature B: is situated about one metre from structure A with the back wall against the same cliff face. The outline of the structure is pointed horseshoe-shaped, and has maximum interior dimensions of 2 x 1.1 metres. The walls are built of heavy slab-like stones in lengths up to 90 centimetres. Several of the slabs are set on end. The vegetation cover is like structure A. MAPphotos: 274 & 275

Structure C: is located about 50 metres from structure structures A and B. The outline of the structure is rectangular with the back wall constituted of a large “natural” boulder. The interior dimensions are 2.3 x



ISUA 17, structure C.

1.6 metres, and the walls made of a single row of boulders. FLphotos: 520 – 522 + sketch on registration sheet.



ISUA 17, structure A and feature B.

Structure D: Some 40 metres from structures A and B, and about 80 metres from structure C. The hunter’s bed interior dimensions are 2.3 x 2 metres and the outline a replication of structure C. Later scavenging of stones disturbs the structure. FLphotos: 528 & 529.



ISUA 18, stone marker.

ISUA 18/MAPWaypoint 26 ($65^{\circ}00.774/50^{\circ}01.284$ /approx. 800 metres above sea level)

A simple “road-marker” cairn consisting of a head-sized boulder placed on top of large “natural” boulder. MAPphoto: 256 + a sketch in MAPdiary.

ISUA 19/The Ulloriaq Site ($65^{\circ}00.647/50^{\circ}01.669$ /790 metres above sea level)

The site is located some 790 metres above sea level and about 80 metres above the lakes Tarsartuup Tasersua (also known as the “710”-lake) and the No Name Lake, and has a formidable view to both lakes. It is situated on the same ridge as the Qallunaatsiaat Nunaat Site, and approximately two kilometres SSW of it. About kilometre further SSW the ridge terminates in a narrow river that connects the two lakes. The ridge is one of the only routes

the caribous can take on their annual migration East/West. The importance of the route is confirmed by the many caribou tracks seen on the ridge.

The ruins are distributed in two main groups on either side of an approximately 25 metres wide damp dip (Overview of the site: FLphoto 585; PKphoto 757 & 767 - 771). The maximum difference between difference in level between the dip and the ruins are about 1.5 metres. A small pond is found in the western end of the dip (PKphoto: 772). The pond seems to have functioned as a midden deposit area for the dwellings on the southern side of the dip. In the low water one can see number of well-preserved caribou bones, and a few soapstone sherds.

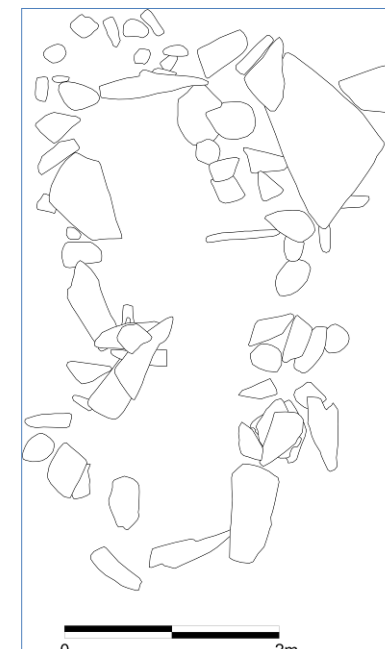
The site generally has a dense vegetation cover of mainly various



ISUA 19



ISUA 19.



ISUA 19, feature A.

sedges and grasses, and in some places patches heather, crowberry, and mosses.

The first group of ruins is situated on the southern side of the dip and include features A to E (FLphoto 586), while the northern groups include features F – H (FLphoto 587). All features were recorded in plan drawings (1:20), photos and described individually. The site proper was only recorded on a draft plan in approximately 1:500 (Sketch on registration sheet). The site is named after Frederik Larsen's son Ulloriaq.

Feature A: The dwelling structure is about four metres long and the long-axis oriented approximately SE-NW. The interior width of the features south-eastern end is 2.5 metres, while the north-western end is about 2 metres wide. The walls are constructed from large stone slabs that seem to have moved after the dwelling was abandoned. In the north-western end the walls have mainly caved inwards, and the stone slabs may well originally have been situated such that this end also had an interior width of 2.5 metres. The entrance to the structure is likely to have been either in south-east or south-west wall. The south-western corner is partly covered by a very large stone slab, which may have formed a kind of windbreak. FLphoto: 572; PKphotos: 757 & 758 + a plan drawing in 1:20.



ISUA 19, feature B.



ISUA 19, feature B.

Feature B: An oval stone arrange (approximately 2 x 1.75 metres) on the backside of dwelling A. A large stone slab is situated horizontally in the middle of the feature, surrounded by eight large stones (horizontally) placed 75 to 100 centimetres from the middle of the central stone. On the south side of the arrangement a natural cliff knoll forms a windbreak, which is reinforced by an approximately 2 x 1.5 metres large stone slab placed on edge on the south-eastern side, about 50 centimetres from the arrangement. Similar arrangements have been found on a number of inland sites further north towards the Paradise Valley (southern side of Søndre Strømfjord). The arrangement may have been a “meeting” arrangement with a “table” and eight “seats”. FLphotos: 573 & 574; PKphotos: 759 & 760 + a plan drawing in 1:20.

Feature C: This dwelling structure is about four metres long and the long-axis approximately E-W, i.e. parallel to the dip. The walls are very collapsed, but the originally interior width of the structure was probably around two metres. The stone slabs of the northern wall has slit into the dip. The entrance to the dwelling may well have been in this wall. A number of large stone slabs in the western “gable” wall seem to be standing in their



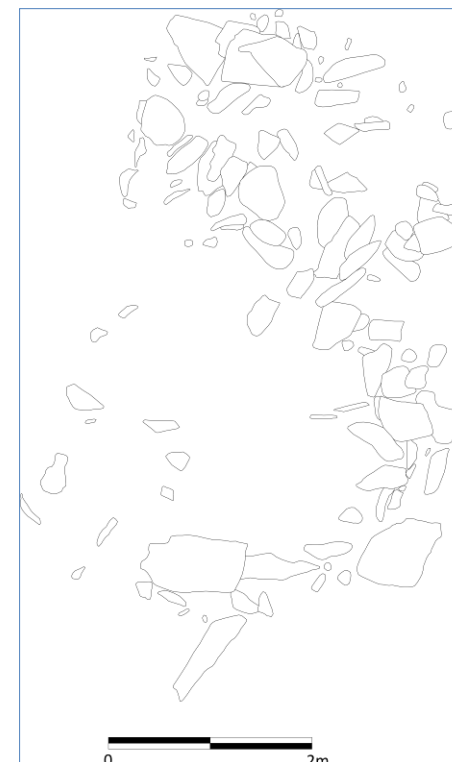
ISUA 19, feature D.

original position, i.e. on edge and slanting towards the centre of the dwelling, and thus forming the lowest part of the stone built roof. The nature of the surface in the interior of the dwelling suggests that the original floor-level may be about 40 centimetres lower than the present-day surface. FLphoto: 575; PKphotos: 761 & 762 + a plan drawing in 1:20.

Feature D: The feature may either be perceived as a about 4.5 - 5 metres long rounded rectangular dwelling feature with two rooms, or as two separate circular dwelling features separated by 50 centimetres passage area. Both “rooms” are constructed from large stone slabs and covered by a dense vegetation layer. A break in the north-western wall may have been entrance. FLphotos: 576 & 577; PKphotos: 763 & 764 + two plan drawings in 1:20.

Feature E: is by far the most well preserved dwelling feature on the site. The interior length of the house is 4.5 – 5 metres, and the width generally about 2.5 metres. The back wall of the dwelling is formed by a low cliff edge. The outer walls is set in three to four courses of stone slabs, as is the interior wall dividing the dwelling into two rooms of 1.5 and 3 metres respectively. The entrance leads into the smaller of the two rooms.

Judging by the remains of the caved in roof it seems to have been a “clinker-built” construction supported by a number of long and narrow stone rafters. FLphotos: 578 - 580; PKphotos: 765 & 766 + two plan drawings in 1:20.



ISUA 19, feature C.



ISUA 19, feature E.

Feature F: An oval tenthouse located at the edge of the dip. The interior of the structure is about 2.2 x 15 metres and the walls set in heavy boulders and a few stone slabs. The approximately 40 centimetres wide walls has breaks both towards west and north that way have been entrances. An oval pile of boulders immediately south of the structure may be remains of a meat cache. FLphoto: 581 & 582; PKphotos: 773 & 774 + two plan drawings in 1:20.

Feature G: The structure covers an area of about 4 x 7 metres and may either be a large bilobate dwelling structure and a separate trapeziod dwelling, or one large dwelling with two or three rooms.



ISUA 19, feature F.

The outline of the feature(-s) are marked by one course of small and large boulders, and seems to suggest that the dwelling(-s) were probably tent(-s) with a tentring, i.e. not a tenthouse(-s). FLphoto: 583; PKphotos: 776 & 777



ISUA 19, feature H.



ISUA 20, grave containing single individual.

Feature H: A large rounded rectangular (4 x 3 metres) tenthouse partly excavated into the slope. The structure is heavy vegetated and the interior of the structure with stones that have caved in from the walls, which seems to have been built from a combination of turf and stones. FLphoto: 584; PKphotos: 778 & 779 + two plan drawings in 1:20.

ISUA 20/MAPWaypoint 29 (65°00.647/50°01.669/780 metres above sea level)

The very well preserved “stone pile” grave situated on the southern side of the ridge connecting the Qallunaatsiaat Nunaat and Ulloriaq sites. The northern side of the grave is constituted a low cliff edge. The grave is oriented approximately E-V with a maximum length of 200 centimetres. The widest part of the grave is measured to 150 centimetres (across the middle), while the maximum height is 75 centimetres. The grave is covered by a dense layer of stones raging in sizes from 20 x 20 to 100 x 60 centimetres. The grave contains the bones of one – rather delicately built individual (either a young person or a female). The relatively limited lichen cover on the stone packing and the orientation of the grave suggest that the grave may be Christian and relatively recent. Pkphotos: 781 – 782; FLphotos: 601 - 611.

ISUA 21/MAPWaypoint 30(65°09.576/49°51.633/799 metres above sea level)

“Route-marker” cairn between to large lakes. FLphoto: 636.

ISUA 22/MAPWaypoint 31(65°09.416/49°51.768/796 metres above sea level)

“Route-marker” cairn of four boulder laced on top of large “natural” boulder. FLphoto: 637.

ISUA 23/MAPWaypoint 36(65°09.151/50°04.853/860 metres above sea level)

“Route-marker” cairn of three boulders placed on top of large “natural” boulder. FLphoto: 649 & 650. Sketched by NKG.

ISUA 24/MAPWaypoint 37(64°49.531/50°13.903/606 metres above sea level)

Recent tentring, probably not more than 20 years old.

ISUA 25/MAPWaypoint 38(64°49.497/50°13.877/591 metres above sea level)

Two features located 20 – 30 metres from MAPWaypoint 37, on a ridge and overlooking a wide dip with a small pond. Caribou tracks are seen along both sides of the pond. One feature is a possible tentring with a pointed oval outline (approx. 2.5 x 1.75 metres); the other a possible meat cache located about three metres from the tentring. A thick layer of lichens and moss, and probably of some age covers both structures. MAPphotos: 80 & 81 + a sketch in MAPdiary

ISUA 26/MAPWaypoint 39(64°47.912/50°15.315/534 metres above sea level)

A 65 centimetres high cairn build in three courses of 10 boulders in sizes 20 x 25 centimetres to 50 x 60 centimetres. At the base the cairn has a diameter of 90 – 100 centimetres. Judging by the dense cover of lichen and moss it may be of some age. MAPphotos: 84 & 85 + a sketch in MAPdiary.



ISUA 26, cairn.

ISUA 27/MAPWaypoint 40($64^{\circ}47.565/50^{\circ}15.906/463$ metres above sea level)

A large boulder of soapstone-like material approximately 2 x 2 x 1.5 metres. The boulder has broken of a cliff face a few metres behind it. MAPphotos: 86 & 87.



ISUA 27.

THE STONE HUT SITES

The 2009 ISUA survey discovered a new stone hut site on the southern side of the lake Tarsartuup Tasersua. The site was named Ulloriaq Site (ISUA 19) and is one of only four sites known in Greenland with the particular type of dwelling features seen at these sites. In spite of more than three decades of intense surveying in main West Greenlandic inland caribou hunting areas (i.e. on both sides of the Kangerlussuaq (Sdr. Strømfjord)) no similar structures has been found (e.g. Gabriel et al. 2002; Grønnow et al. 1983; Grønnow & Pind 1991; Knudsen 2008; Odgaard et al. 2003; Secher et al. 1987). The first archaeological recording of these sites were done by Eigil Knuth in 1932 during his search for the supposed Norse inland hunting stations north of Ujarassuit referred by early visits to the area (Pingel 1829, and J. A. D. Jensen and Ryder in 1885) (Knuth 1944; Gulløv 1983). Arriving in the area (i.e. on the southern side of Tarsartuup Tasersua) and recording two of the sites (Qallunaatsiaat Nunaat and Ataneq) Knuth soon realised that the structures were not Norse but Inuit. Since Knuth's visit in the 1930s the area was not visited by archaeologists until the 2008-survey (Myrup 2008) during which one of the new sites were recorded (i.e. I011).

The three sites now recorded on the southern side of Tarsartuup Tasersua are located as a string of pearls about two kilometres apart. It seems likely that they were either part of a hunting system with point of departure in the Ujarassuit area, or the route from Aningannaq. When Aron from Kangaq made his famous painting of the houses in use, he referred to them as "built a long time ago" (Myrup 2008: 12). Aron had probably visited the site when he was young and not tied to his bed by tuberculosis, which suggests that they were already old in the 1840s or 1850s. On the basis of this tentative dating and their uniqueness we would suggest that their origin may date to the later half of the 17th century or first half of the 18th century, when "the Southerners" (i.e. Greenlanders from South and East Greenland) moved into the area. As mentioned in the 2008-report this happened when a smallpox epidemic killed off 90% of the population in the Nuuk area in 1733. From then on these Southerners controlled and exploited the resources in the areas on the northern side of the Nuuk fjord system (Thorhallesen 1914), at least until the crash in the caribou populations in the late 18th century. By then the long-distance journeys between East Greenland and the Disko Bay came to an end, and the trade was now done through the new established Danish and German colonies (Gulløv 1997).

As seen from the above the suggested cultural affinity of these sites solely rests on indirect evidence and need to be substantiated by archaeological investigations. None the less their uniqueness is undisputable and if disturbed by the road constructing it is of the outmost importance that they are subjected to thorough archaeological investigations.

LIST OF REFERENCE

Gabriel, Mille, Bjarne Grønnow, Ulla Odgaard, Clemens Pasda & Kerstin Pasda

2002: *Bosættelsesmønstre i det centrale Vestgrønland. Rapport om undersøgelserne i Angujârtofiup Nunâ, Manitsoq kommune, sommeren 2001.* Fieldreport 4 on file Sila – Nationalmuseets Center for Grønlandsforskning.

Grønnow, Bjarne, Morten Meldgaard & Jørn Berglund Nielsen

1983: *Aasivissuit – The Great Summer Camp. Archaeological, ethnographical and zoo-archaeological studies of a caribou-hunting site in West Greenland.* Meddelelser om Grønland, Man & Society 5.

Gulløv, Hans Christian

1983: *Nuup kommuneani qangarnitsanik eddaassutit inuit-kulturip nunaqarfii/Fortidsminder i Nuuk kommune – inuit-kulturens bopladser.* Kalaallit Nunaata katersugaasivia & Nationalmuseet.

1997: *From Middle Ages to Colonial Times. Archaeological and ethnohistorical studies of the Thule culture in South West Greenland 1300 – 1800 AD.* Meddelelser om Grønland, Man & Society 23.

Knudsen, Pauline

2008: Angujaatorfiup Nunaa. Fortidsminder og mundtlig tradition. *Tidsskriftet Grønland*, nr. 4-5

Knuth, Eigil

1944: Bidrag til Vesterbygdens Topografi. In *Det Grønlandske Selskabs Aarsskrifter*

Myrup, Mikkel

2008: *Archaeological Survey. Isua Project 2008.* Report on file Greenland National Museum & Archives

Odgaard, Ulla, Bjarne Grønnow, Mille Gabriel, Kerstin Pasda, Clemens Pasda & Charlotte Damm

2003: *Bosættelsesmønstre i det centrale Vestgrønland. Rapport om undersøgelserne i Angujaartofiup Nunaa, Manitsoq kommune, sommeren 2002.* Fieldreport 12 on file Sila – Nationalmuseets Center for Grønlandsforskning

Secher, Karsten, Jens Bøcher, Bjarne Grønnow, Sune Holt, H.C.Petrsen & Henning Thing

1987: *Arrangarnup Qoorua. Paradisdal i tusinder af år.* Pillersuiffik.

Thorhallesen, E.

1914: Beskrivelse over Missionerne i Grønlands Søndre Distrikt hvilke han som Vice-Provst visiterede i Aarene 1774-1775. Bobé, L. (ed.). *Det grønlandske Selskabs Skrifter* 1.