

*Archaeological survey in Hvalseyjarfjörður (Qaqortup ima) and Kambstaðafjörður (Kangerlluarsuk) in summer 2014. Preliminary report*

An archaeological survey of Norse sites in Hvalseyjarfjörður (Qaqortup ima) and Kambstaðafjörður (Kangerlluarsuk) in Kujalleq municipality in South Greenland was carried out between July 18th and August 2nd 2014 by Orri Vésteinsson (University of Iceland) and Garðar Guðmundsson (Institute of Archaeology, Iceland) in collaboration with Greenland's National Museum and Archives.

The survey continued work carried out in 2005 when eleven sites in the eastern part of Qaqortup ima and three sites on the adjacent western side of Igaliku fjord were surveyed (Vésteinsson 2008). The 2014 survey was carried out with a GPS station and a drone to take oblique aerial photographs. Drone photography was carried out over nine of the sites surveyed in 2005 (Ø80 (three sites), Ø83, Ø83a, Ø84, Ø84a, Ø282, Ø284) adding hundreds of photographs to their record.

22 new sites were surveyed in 2014, of which 18 were surveyed with GPS, 19 with GPS and drone photography but four sites (all isolated single structure sites) were recorded manually with a tape measure.

One site which had not been found in 2005 was located (Ø211) and two sites (Ø81 and Ø86) which have not been described by archaeologists since 1880 were located – both in different places from their map locations.

Apart from two minor sites that were not located (Ø281 and Ø289) the whole of Qaqortup ima (i.e. Hvalseyjarfjörður including Hvalsey island, Arpatsivik), the western side of Igaliku fjord between Upernaviarsuk and Quvnersup nua, and the inner part of Kangerlluarsuk (Kambstaðafjörður) has been surveyed. Inside the latter fjord only Ø160 remains unsurveyed but the westernmost sites surveyed in 2014 were Ø159 and Ø159a.

All the sites surveyed in 2014 had been visited by archaeologists before and had descriptions of varying quality and accuracy. The 2014 survey identified a number of new structures at many of the sites and collected comprehensive, accurate and up-to date information on their size, layout and condition.

Among the more noteworthy finds are the quite monumental site Ø86 on Hvalsey (Arpatsivik) island which looks like it could have been an outstation from Hvalsey church farm across the fjord; a possible church ruin at Ø276 (Þjóðhildarstaðir?) and a substantial extension to an outfield dyke at Ø159a which effectively closes the opening of a small valley and is the only such outfield boundary in the survey area. The layout of Ø286 at the head of Tasiusaq inlet is very unusual and may represent Thule Inuit reuse of a Norse site. Similar reuse may be apparent at Ø81 and several Thule Inuit sites were noted, particularly on Arpatsivik island and in Munkebugten by the site Ø271 .

Reykjavík October 10<sup>th</sup> 2014 – Orri Vésteinsson



Map showing sites surveyed in 2005 and 2014 (white circles). Known sites within the survey area (white lines) which have not been located/visited are shown as grey circles.

Site	Mapped 2005	Mapped 2014	Drone photography 2014	Number of ruins	KNK no	Notes
Ø79		X	X	25	60V2-IV-632	
Ø79a		X		1	60V2-IV-633	Unconfirmed identification
Ø80	X		X	18	60V2-IV-634	Three separate sites
Ø81		X	X	2	60V2-IV-635	
Ø82	(X)			10	60V2-IV-636	Described, not mapped
Ø83	(X)		X	17+	60V2-IV-646	Described, not mapped
Ø83a	X		X	5	60V2-	

					IV-645	
Ø84	X		X	9	60V2-IV-642	
Ø84a	X		X	3	60V2-IV-644	
Ø84b						1880 report of ruin in island in Tasiusaq – not visited in 2014
Ø85		X	X	4	60V2-IV-652	
Ø86		X	X	4	60V2-IV-638	
Ø86a					60V2-IV-666	Not visited in 2014
Ø211		X	X	2	60V2-IV-641	B149
Ø211a	X			2		
Ø159		X	X	6	60V1-I-508	
Ø159a		X	X	1	60V1-I-507	
Ø267		X	X	3	60V1-I-511	B132
Ø268		X	X	6	60V1-I-512	B131
Ø269		X	X	4	60V1-I-514	B130
Ø270		X	X	2	60V1-I-538	B119
Ø271		X		2	60V1-I-	B109

					503	
Ø276		X	X	13	60V2-IV-655	B126
Ø277		X	X	4	60V2-IV-654	B125
Ø278		X	X	2	60V2-IV-653	B124
Ø278a		X	X	2	60V2-IV-663	
Ø279		X	X	10	60V2-IV-651	B120
Ø280		X	X	4	60V2-IV-650	
Ø281	(X)	(X)		3	60V2-IV-649	B127 – searched for but not found in 2005 or 2014
Ø282	X		X	9	60V2-IV-648	B128
Ø283	X			1	60V2-IV-647	
Ø284	X		X	4	60V2-IV-640	B148
Ø285	X			2	60V2-IV-639	B147
Ø286		X	X	3	60V2-IV-643	
Ø287		X		1	60V2-IV-631	B152
Ø288		X		1	60V2-IV-630	B153
Ø289		(X)			60V2-	Searched for but not

					IV-629	found - B151
Ø290		X		1	60V2- IV-628	B150