

An Archaeological Survey by Ilimanaq, Disko Bay for the Inuulluni-project Field Report 2019



Photo: Two chamber graves have got a grand view to the old settlement of Igdlúnguaq and Disko Bay. Photo: Asta Mønsted

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Introduction

This archaeological survey was executed during the period of 10th - 31st of July 2019. The field trip is a part of the Ph.D. project named 'Inuulluni - to live in an animated reality', which has been sponsored by Naalakkersuisut. The area of survey has been surveyed in 1981, but at that time no graves were registered. During this field trip, no less than 58 Inuit stone sat chamber graves were registered.

The survey team consists of three archaeologists: Ph.D. student Asta Mønsted from the University of Copenhagen, Ph.D. student Eirik Haug Røe from the University of Groningen, and graduate student Mads Nielsen from the University of Copenhagen. Mr. Røe and Mr. Nielsen participated during the period of 10th - 24th of July which counted the days the team was in the field plus some travel days, while Ms. Mønsted stayed in Ilulissat until the 31st of July. This last week alone in Ilulissat was used for rearranging gear and sending it off to Denmark, mediating survey finds, networking, start processing the field data and write this report.



Photo: Map of the area surveyed with the team's registrations. Satellite photo by Google Maps

The aim

The aim of the survey was first and foremost to concretize the Inuit architecture and landscape dealt with during the Inuulluni-project. Therefore, for further conclusions, the reader would be encouraged to look at the finale Ph.D. dissertation (Summer 2021).

The Inuulluni-project

The purpose of the Inuulluni-project is to investigate the relationship between cosmology and prehistoric and historical architecture in Greenland in order to uncover the deep roots of modern people's housing tradition and spatial understanding of the Arctic landscape. The study will contribute to an understanding of how the society of the past understood and structured their world and how this can be studied through the combination of material and intangible culture.

The Inuit architecture and landscape met on this field trip will engage in a dialogue with Inuit myths collected in Greenland during the years of 1721 and 1960s.

The survey

The team met in Copenhagen on the 10th of July and traveled together towards Ilulissat. Due to weather conditions the team had a two days delay in Kangerlussuaq. When the team sat out from Ilulissat on the 12th of July the weather was foggy. Due to low visibility and lacking access to freshwater between Ilimanaq and Eqi, it was decided to set base camp close to Ilimanaq, where there is a local 'taphus' with freshwater. During the field trip, the weather was mostly dry and sunny, except for two full days of rain.

On the 13th of July the team took a walk within the full survey area to get an overview and familiarize ourselves with the terrain. On the 15th, the prehistoric settlement of Illunnguaq was registered. On the 16th, the area between Inugsuup Nuua and Ilimanaq was surveyed for graves furthest to the East within the survey area, on the higher hills. On the 17th, the team took a full day to register the great settlement of Igdlumiut. On the 18th, the area SE behind the modern village of Ilimanaq was surveyed for graves, but none were

found. Here, SE of the village is where the modern Christian graveyard is located. On the 19th, the area between Inugsuup Nuua and Ilimanaq was surveyed for graves furthest to the West within the survey area, along the shoreline. On the 21st, the last waypoints and measurements were taken on a handful graves between Illunnguaq and base camp. On the 22nd, the team took a trip to Eqe, where 5 stone sat chamber graves were registered in a rather shallow grass area tucked between two steep cliff sides.

Structures

The following structures were registered within the area of the survey:

Site	Igdlumiut	Inug. Nu.	Igdlúnguaq	Ilimanaq	Eqe	
Winter house	18	1 (double)	4	-	-	(23)
Cache	2	3	11	-	-	(16)
Grave	10	4	23	8	5	(50)
Graveyard	1	-	-	-	-	(1)
Tent ring	-	-	5	-	-	(5)
Stone sat <i>qajaq</i>	2	-	-	-	-	(2)
Shooting blind	-	-	1	-	-	(1)
Total	33	8	44	8	5	98

Igdlumiut - NKAH 3208

Known locality.

The team visited the site on the 17th of July. Here, 18 winter houses, 2 meat caches, and 10 graves were registered. 9 of the stone sat chamber graves were located 'behind' the settlement approximately 250 m to the E, while one grave, A063, was located solely 30 m S of A054, a winter house. The archaeological remains at Igdlumiut are registered as A041-A072.

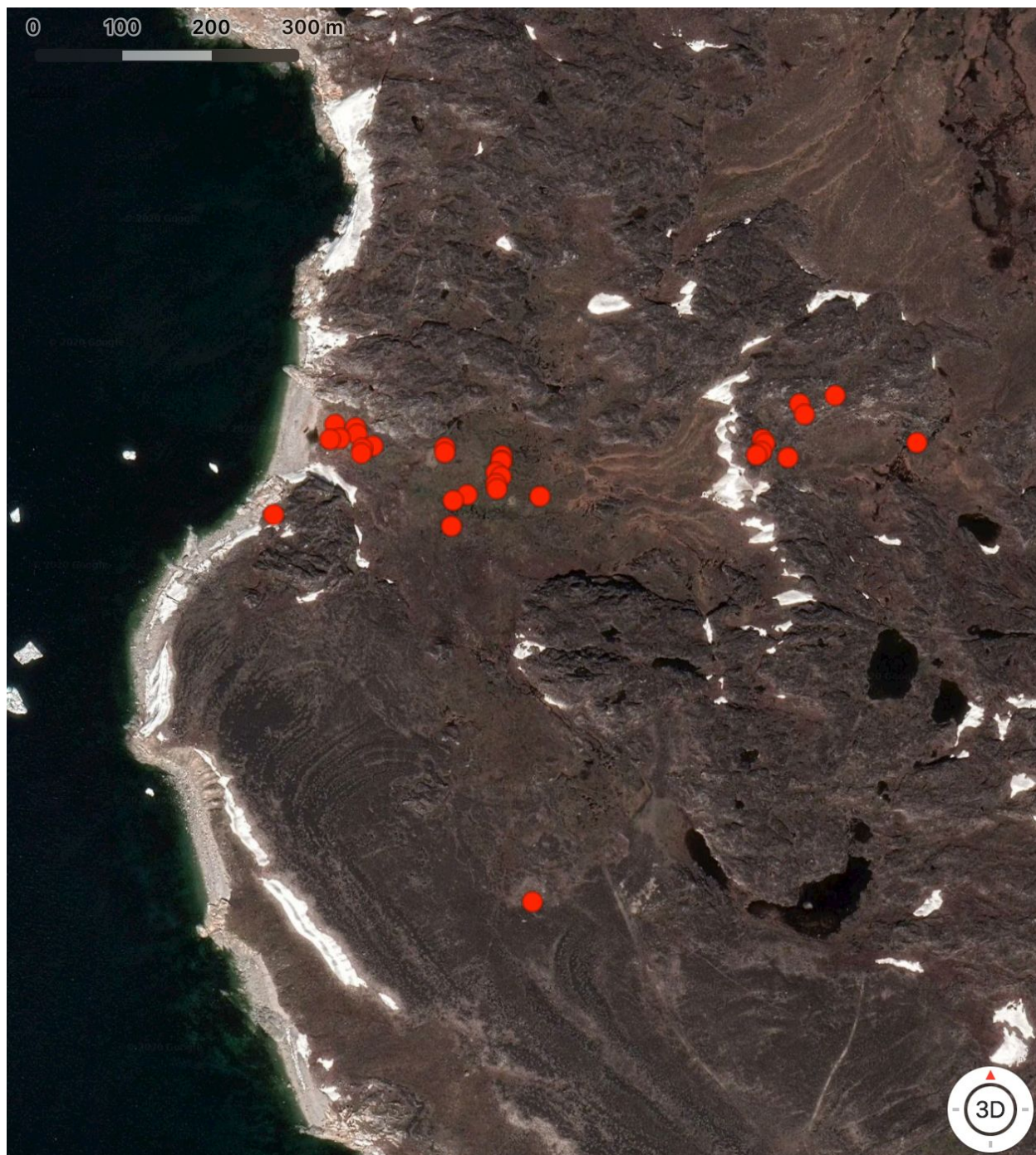


Photo: The old Thule settlement of Igdlumiut with registered winter houses, meat caches, graves and a Christian graveyard to the South. Satellite photo by Google Maps with added waypoints.

Two stone sat *qaannat* (kayaks/boats) for children to play in were measured and photo documented on the plateau just S of the settlement. Both *qaannat* were 'facing' NW and from them, it was possible to see the winter houses located in the middle of the settlement (A050-A051). Unfortunately, the GPS-positions for these two structures were never registered.

A073A: local stones arranged like a boat, *qajaq*, facing NW, with view of house ruins. 1.50m x 0.70 m.

A073B: local stones arranged like a boat, *qajaq*, measuring 1.40 m x 0.70 m, facing NNW, located 3.50 m W of A113.



Photo: A073A, a stone sat *qajaq*, kayak, built and played in by children seen from S with a view towards some of the Thule winter house. Photo: Asta Mønsted

Inugsuup Nuua - NKAH 1709

Known locality.

Here, the team registered 1 double winter house with a built-in meat cache from the Thule culture. Furthermore, 3 meat caches and 4 chamber graves were registered at site. The structures registered by the settlement of Inugsuup Nuua have been named A091-A099. A096 turned out to be a double registration, so it has been left out.



Photo: Registered winter houses, meat caches, tent rings and graves from Thule culture by Inugsuup Nuua and Igdlúnguaq, Disko Bay. Satellite photo by Google Maps with added waypoints.

Igdlúnguaq - NKAH 1664

Known locality.

The team registered 4 winter houses, 11 meat caches, 5 tent rings and a shooting blind. Also, two large graves, A018 and A019 containing human remains of at least 7 and 4 individuals respectively, are located only 100 m SW of the settlement.

115 m SSW of the settlement were registered 5 stone rings. Another stone ring, A100, was located at the periphery of the settlement to the NE. All are they located in field of large boulders. They are registered as large, opened meat caches.

The archaeological remains of Thule culture around the old settlement of Igdlúnguaq have been registered as A001-A040, and A100-A105.



Photo: A098, an opened meat cache viewed from S. Photo by: Eirik Haug Røe

Approximately 250 m SE of the settlement were registered 21 Thule graves. The graves were all stone chamber graves built by Thule Inuit, and they were located between 16-133 meters above sea level. The graves were all climbing the relatively steep mountain side going from A021 at 56 m above sea level to A039 at 133 m above sea level, which between them have a distance of 350 m.

Ilimanaq - NKAH 1655

8 stone built chamber graves were registered behind the team's base camp between Igdlúnguaq and Ilimanaq. They are registered as A074-079 and A111-A112.

Eqe - NKAH 1768

At Eqe, 5 stone built chamber graves were registered and named A106-A110.

Notification

Unfortunately, the structures A080-A090, 2 winter houses and 9 graves, were measured, but since their georeference were not properly saved, they have been left out.

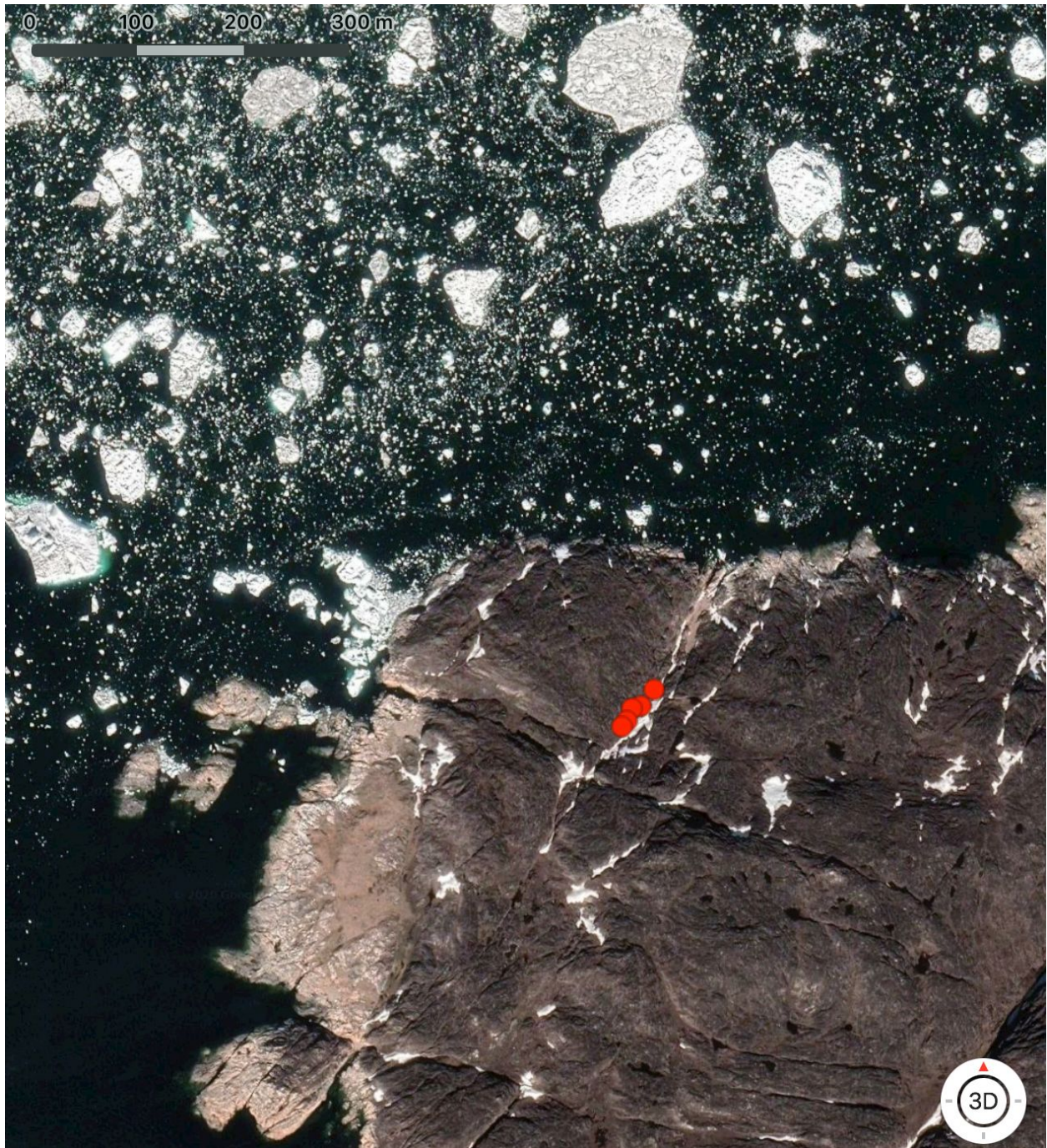


Photo: Five chamber graves registered in a shallow cleft by Ege. Satellite photo by Google Maps with added waypoints.

Final remarks

It is believed that the finds of the stone-built chamber graves behind the old Thule settlement of Igdlúnguaq and the 5 chamber graves by Ege have not yet been registered in the protocols of Greenland's National Museum and Archive, but these finds supplements the survey of the area done in 1981 by Bjarne Grønnow and Tinna Møbjerg.

Mediation

A longer presentation on the Inuit prehistoric and historic architecture, landscape, and worldview was given to guides of the area and other attendances at Hotel Arctic on the 21st of July. In this connection, Ph.D. student Eirik Haug Røe gave an introduction to the landscape of Greenlandic Dorset.

During pedestrian surveys, the team met several groups of tourists of all nationalities, and all of them had a great interest in what we could tell about the Inuit landscape and structures.

After contact with the local curator at Ilulissat museum, Anja Reimer, it was agreed upon that a public presentation of the field trip would collide with people being on summer holidays and already arranged events at the museum. Instead, an A3 poster was made and hung up at the local museum together with notice boards and other hotspots around the town.

Finally, the sites mentioned here will be mediated through the final Ph.D. dissertation and following articles both internationally and internally in Greenland.

Anlægsnr.	Anlægstyp	Længde max. cm	Længde min. cm	Bredde max. cm	Bredde min. cm	Indgang i cm	Meter over havet *kalibrer m +18m	Længdegrader	Breddegrader	Stednavn (evt. nærmeste)	Kommentar
1	Kødgrav	180	80	180	70		-9 m	N 69°05.472'	W 051°06.814'	Igdlunguaq	
2	Kødgrav	230	150	120	50		-10 m	N 69°05.472'	W 051°06.813'	Igdlunguaq	ligger op ad anlæg 001
3	Vinterhus	780*	500*	850	500	400	-8 m	N 69°05.479'	W 051°06.777'	Igdlunguaq	rundhus, * er målt fra indgangstunnellen til bagvæggens yder- og inderside
4	Kødgrav	280	160	300	200		-7 m	N 69°05.478'	W 051°06.771'	Igdlunguaq	
5	Vinterhus, dobbelthus	670	280	980	600	620	-5 m	N 69°05.481'	W 051°06.746'	Igdlunguaq	dobelthus
6	Kødgrav	200	100	300	210		-5 m	N 69°05.484'	W 051°06.751'	Igdlunguaq	ligger i tilknytning til anlæg 005
7	Kødgrav	220	140	210	100		-4 m	N 69°05.462'	W 051°06.773'	Igdlunguaq	ligger i tilknytning til anlæg 005
8	Vinterhus, trapezformet	730	610	930	610	400	-4 m	N 69°05.459'	W 051°06.787'	Igdlunguaq	trapezformet, bredest bagtil
9	Teltring	400		350			-9 m	N 69°05.473'	W 051°06.812'	Igdlunguaq	
12	Skydeskjul	150	110	170	80		-2 m	N 69°05.455'	W 051°06.767'	Igdlunguaq	hesteskoformet, åbent ud mod havet i V-form så jægeren kigger ind mod land
13	Teltring	470		400			-1 m	N 69°05.458'	W 051°06.758'	Igdlunguaq	
14	Vinterhus	600	320	840	520	550	2 m	N 69°05.475'	W 051°06.705'	Igdlunguaq	

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15	Teltring	420		410			4 m	N 69°05.480'	W 051°06.676'	Igdjúnguaq	
16	Teltring	490		460			1 m	N 69°05.459'	W 051°06.729'	Igdjúnguaq	
17	Teltring m. tørvæg?	570		480			2 m	N 69°05.446'	W 051°06.735'	Igdjúnguaq	med mindre tilknyttet tørvæg der måler: 220-260 cm
18	Grav	370		230			0 m	N 69°05.424'	W 051°06.891'	Igdjúnguaq	7 kranier, både A 018 + 019 har udsigt til bopladsen Inugsuup Nuua
19	Grav	220		140			1 m	N 69°05.424'	W 051°06.898'	Igdjúnguaq	4 kranier
20	Grav	250		160			40 m	N 69°05.359'	W 051°06.557'	Igdjúnguaq	
21	Grav	250		190			40 m	N 69°05.359'	W 051°06.562'	Igdjúnguaq	
22	Grav	270		180			47 m	N 69°05.376'	W 051°06.469'	Igdjúnguaq	2 kranier
23	Grav	210		220			46 m	N 69°05.378'	W 051°06.470'	Igdjúnguaq	
24	Grav	240		160			46 m	N 69°05.379'	W 051°06.466'	Igdjúnguaq	
25	Grav	230		160			47 m	N 69°05.377'	W 051°06.464'	Igdjúnguaq	
26	Grav	170		110			49 m	N 69°05.383'	W 051°06.447'	Igdjúnguaq	
27	Grav	200		130			49 m	N 69°05.383'	W 051°06.445'	Igdjúnguaq	
28	Grav	250		160			51 m	N 69°05.370'	W 051°06.431'	Igdjúnguaq	
29	Grav	170		130			53 m	N 69°05.371'	W 051°06.424'	Igdjúnguaq	sammenstyrtet/åbnet
30	Grav	230		120			54 m	N 69°05.365'	W 051°06.405'	Igdjúnguaq	
31	Grav	190		100			59 m	N 69°05.358'	W 051°06.381'	Igdjúnguaq	
32	Grav	250		120			74 m	N 69°05.359'	W 051°06.306'	Igdjúnguaq	
33	Grav	180		160			73 m	N 69°05.356'	W 051°06.306'	Igdjúnguaq	
34	Grav	250		170			83 m	N 69°05.357'	W 051°06.270'	Igdjúnguaq	
35	Grav	340		240			102 m	N 69°05.366'	W 051°06.148'	Igdjúnguaq	

36	Grav	200		170			102 m	N 69°05.365'	W 051°06.149'	Igdlunguaq	
37	Grav	240		160			102 m	N 69°05.356'	W 051°06.129'	Igdlunguaq	
38	Grav	240		140			118 m	N 69°05.372'	W 051°06.042'	Igdlunguaq	
39	Grav	310		150			117 m	N 69°05.364'	W 051°06.027'	Igdlunguaq	
40	Grav	230		180			116 m	N 69°05.360'	W 051°06.028'	Igdlunguaq	
41	Vinterhus, rektangulært	520	490	445	420	300	2 m	N 69°07.097'	W 051°05.304'	Igdumiut	rektangulært hus
42	Vinterhus, rektangulært	530	510	425	400	300	2 m	N 69°07.088'	W 051°05.313'	Igdumiut	rektangulært hus
43	Kødgrav		190		180		5 m	N 69°07.089'	W 051°05.295'	Igdumiut	
44	Vinterhus	680	470	570	280	500	7 m	N 69°07.091'	W 051°05.266'	Igdumiut	
45	Vinterhus	670		600		300	6 m	N 69°07.096'	W 051°05.269'	Igdumiut	
46	Vinterhus	760	440	690	310	330	7 m	N 69°07.085'	W 051°05.240'	Igdumiut	
47	Vinterhus	360	340	320		310	5 m	N 69°07.083'	W 051°05.259'	Igdumiut	tørvevæggene er flydt meget ud
48	Kødgrav	400		120			5 m	N 69°07.080'	W 051°05.260'	Igdumiut	kødgrav ligger langs klippevæg og er røvet/åbnet
50	Vinterhus, lille rundt	510	340	580	310	440	13 m	N 69°07.081'	W 051°05.120	Igdumiut	
51	Vinterhus	360	350	300	290	550	12 m	N 69°07.084'	W 051°05.121'	Igdumiut	
52	Vinterhus	740	720	730	720	650	15 m	N 69°07.069'	W 051°05.035'	Igdumiut	ét stort hus og muligvis flere omkring det, der kun er svagt definerede
53	Vinterhus	930	920	710	700	350	14 m	N 69°07.076'	W 051°05.027'	Igdumiut	

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54	Vinterhus	720	710	530	520	310	12 m	N 69°07.052'	W 051°05.107'	Igd lumiut	dobbelthus, muligvis med endnu et svagt defineret hus ved siden af
55	Vinterhus	450	430	440	430	270	13 m	N 69°07.056'	W 051°05.083'	Igd lumiut	
56	Vinterhus	460	450	450	440	300	15 m	N 69°07.059'	W 051°05.034'	Igd lumiut	
57	Vinterhus	620	610	450	440	310	14 m	N 69°07.062'	W 051°05.035'	Igd lumiut	
58	Vinterhus	900	850	700	600	250	15 m	N 69°07.066'	W 051°05.026'	Igd lumiut	
59	Vinterhus	410	400	410	400	250	14 m	N 69°07.076'	W 051°05.026'	Igd lumiut	
60	Vinterhus	300	290	220	210	250	15 m	N 69°07.079'	W 051°05.025'	Igd lumiut	
61	Grav	290		240			18 m	N 69°07.055'	W 051°04.961	Igd lumiut	
62	Kristen kirkegård	3300		3300			34 m	N 69°06.814'	W 051°04.974'	Igd lumiut	kristen kirkegård kvadratisk rammet ind af små sten med indgang i det SV-lige hjørne, ca. 80 stensatte grave, nogle med hvidmalede trækors og store hvide sten
63	Grav	280		180			15 m	N 69°07.037'	W 051°05.110'	Igd lumiut	
64	Grav	210		150			41 m	N 69°07.110'	W 051°04.530'	Igd lumiut	
65	Grav	200		170			39 m	N 69°07.115'	W 051°04.470'	Igd lumiut	
66	Grav	270		190			36 m	N 69°07.104'	W 051°04.520'	Igd lumiut	
67	Grav	210		130			32 m	N 69°07.087'	W 051°04.333'	Igd lumiut	godt skjult i terrænet
68	Grav	240		150			31 m	N 69°07.077'	W 051°04.548'	Igd lumiut	
69	Grav	240		180			35 m	N 69°07.079'	W 051°04.601'	Igd lumiut	
70	Grav	240		130			37 m	N 69°07.081'	W 051°04.592'	Igd lumiut	
71	Grav	150		90			36 m	N 69°07.086'	W 051°04.588	Igd lumiut	

Feltarbejde ved Ilimanaq, Disko Bugt 2019

72	Vinterhus	870		800			-2 m	N 69°07.044'	W 051°05.405'	Igdiumiut	rektangulært/kvadratisk, stort hus hvis ydervægge mod strandkanten er eroderet bort, tilbage står ca. 2/3 af konstruktionen, ud af profilen mod stranden ses knogler og afslag af killiaq stikke ud
73A	Stensat kajak	150		70						Igdiumiut	GPS position desværre ikke registreret
73B	Stensat kajak	140		70						Igdiumiut	GPS position desværre ikke registreret
74	Grav	220		170			76 m	N 69°05.140'	W 051°06.159'	NØ for Ilimanaq bygd	
75	Grav	200		170			74 m	N 69°05.138'	W 051°06.156'	NØ for Ilimanaq bygd	
76	Grav	260		230			75 m	N 69°05.137'	W 051°06.144'	NØ for Ilimanaq bygd	
77	Grav	230		190			79 m	N 69°05.140'	W 051°06.133'	NØ for Ilimanaq bygd	
78	Grav	250		160			75 m	N 69°05.137'	W 051°06.144'	NØ for Ilimanaq bygd	
79	Grav	240		190			72 m	N 69°05.134'	W 051°06.171'	NØ for Ilimanaq bygd	
91	Kødgrav						-2 m	N 69°05.629'	W 051°06.389'	Inugsuup Nuua	
92	Dobbelt vinterhus	360	350	410	400	300	4 m	N 69°05.630'	W 051°06.376'	Inugsuup Nuua	To sammenbyggede vinterhuse i samme størrelse, vinterhuset mod S

											har indbygget kødgrav, der måler 140x80 cm
93	Grav	240		130			3 m	N 69°05.586'	W 051°06.385'	Inugsuup Nuua	
94	Grav	190		160			4 m	N 69°05.579'	W 051°06.365'	Inugsuup Nuua	
95	Grav	170		120			4 m	N 69°05.581'	W 051°06.373'	Inugsuup Nuua	
97	Grav	190		90			0 m	N 69°05.603'	W 051°06.292'	Inugsuup Nuua	
98	Kødgrav		230				2 m	N 69°05.583'	W 051°06.390'	Inugsuup Nuua	
99	Kødgrav		230				-1 m	N 69°05.594'	W 051°06.466'	Inugsuup Nuua	
100	Kødgrav		230				6 m	N 69°05.487'	W 051°06.644'	Igdjúnguaq	klynge af store åbne kødgrave, der ligger blandt store kampesten, alle er de vokset godt til af sorte mosser
101	Kødgrav		190				5 m	N 69°05.397'	W 051°06.813'	Igdjúnguaq	
102	Kødgrav		240				5 m	N 69°05.398'	W 051°06.815'	Igdjúnguaq	er bygget sammen med A103
103	Kødgrav		200				6 m	N 69°05.397'	W 051°06.819'	Igdjúnguaq	er bygget sammen med A102
104	Kødgrav		200				3 m	N 69°05.404'	W 051°06.823'	Igdjúnguaq	
105	Kødgrav		250				3 m	N 69°05.408'	W 051°06.818'	Igdjúnguaq	lidt mere aflang i sin form end de førnævnte kødgrave
106	Grav	300		180			10 m	N 69°08.184'	W 051°05.378'	Eqe	dobbeltgrav m to kamre, 2 kranier
107	Grav	250		180			10 m	N 69°08.187'	W 051°05.370'	Eqe	3 kranier
108	Grav	200		180			8 m	N 69°08.193'	W 051°05.364'	Eqe	
109	Grav	250		180			6 m	N 69°08.184'	W 051°05.351'	Eqe	

110	Grav	190		120			4 m	N 69°08.203'	W 051°05.333'	Ege	
111	Grav	170		120			66 m	N 69°05.069'	W 051°06.252'	Tæt ved Ilimanaq, nord for bygden, oppe ved det første plateau	
112	Grav	160		100			62 m	N 69°05.066'	W 051°06.239'	Tæt ved Ilimanaq, nord for bygden, oppe ved det første plateau	