

Archaeological Survey

**in the alpine area
of the Buksefjord Region
(Nuuk Municipality)**

2015



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Introduction

In 2014 an archaeological survey was done in the mountains north of the western half of Kangerluarsunnguup Tasersua (fig. 1) to register sites which are connected with caribou hunting (Neubeck/Pasda 2014). To supplement this fieldwork a second survey was done in 2015 (fig. 1) to survey

- the second route taken by caribou hunters in the early 20th century from summer camp 64V2-III-94 north into the hills and to the western end of two large lakes (Kapel 1993, fig. 57),

- the alpine area south of Amitsorsuaq,

- the alpine area west of Amitsorsuaq.

Due to support by *Nukissiorfiit*, entry and exit to the area was unproblematic. The survey was done then by two archaeologists (VN and CP) on foot with two tents and supplies for eight days. For safety reasons a gun and a satellite phone were taken. During the survey, geographic coordinates and height asl. were taken by hand-held GPS which included a barometer (*Garmin Foretrex 401*). Very rough sketches of hunting sites were made by CP but are not documented here. Nearly all structures have been photographed with an analog (CP) and a digital SLR camera (VN). On the pictures size of structures is indicated by a 1,0m long measuring rule pointing towards geographic north. Direction was taken by compass (*Recta DS 50G*). Only few sites have been drawn in scale 1:100 with a measuring rule and a tape measure. No artefacts were taken. Attached to this report is a CD with the report as PDF and word.doc. The report was sent to the Greenland National Museum & Archives and the National Museum of Danmark.

Throughout the time spent inland the weather was dry and sunny, mild to warm, sometimes hot but with cold, frosty nights. High winds were experienced on the last day only for few hours. As melting was later than last year, large snow fields were situated beside creeks and rivers making them always to cross easily by stepping on stones. Mosquito, which were a pest in 2014, were not that difficult to handle, e.g. gaiters have to be worn on two evenings only. Maybe due to fewer mosquito, in contrast to last year, each day up to four of five caribou have been seen.

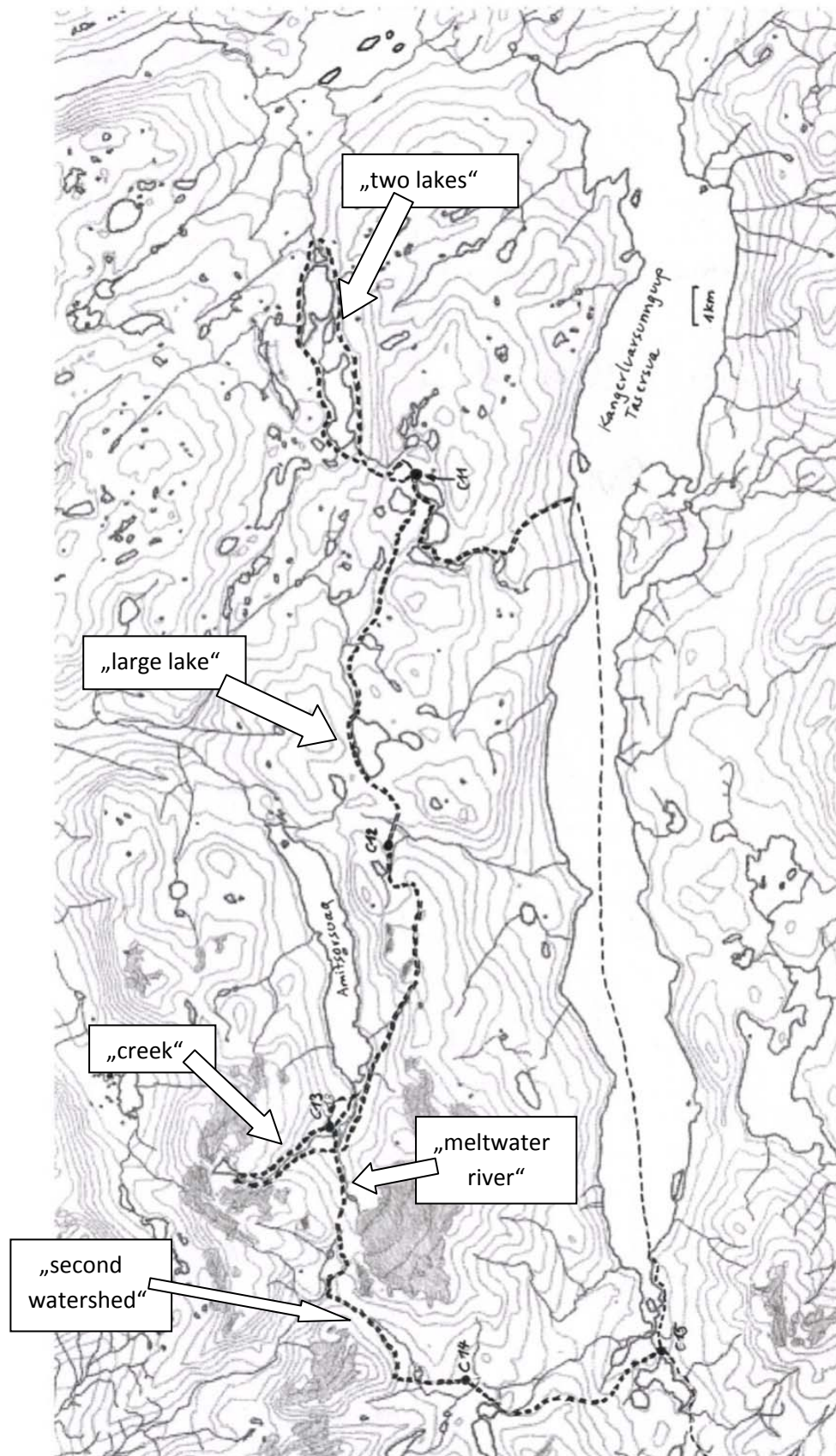


Fig. 1: Survey route and camps C11-15.

Itinerary

Sunday, 26th July 2015

Jena-Copenhagen by train (VN) to meet CP.

Monday, 27th July 2015

Flight Copenhagen-Nuuk via Kangerlussuaq, arrival at Nuuk at 1100, by Taxi to *Nordbohotel*, buying food and petrol for the stove, visit at the National Museum to get the two boxes with food sent in advance, a gun and ammunition, organizing the backpacks and bags, to bed at 1800.

Tuesday, 28th July 2015

At 1000 the team left the colonial harbor of Nuuk to sail with *Arctic Boat Charter* to arrive at 1130 at the pier of Buksefjord. After leaving two bags with personal gear in the power plant, VN and CP were driven to Kangerluarsunnguup Tasersua to be sailed east to the starting point (east of 64V2-III-94) on the northern shore.



Fig. 2: Starting point on the northern shore of Kangerluarsunnguup Tasersua (from W).

At 1415 fieldwork started by following the historic route documented by Mariane Petersen (Kapel 1993, 87-89). Two rock shelters (L101, L 105), a hunters' bed (L 104), a hunting site (L106), a hearth (L 102) and an inussuk (L 103) were found. Camp 11 (N64°03'15,9''-W050°18'26,1''-830m) was reached at 1900 (fig. 3).

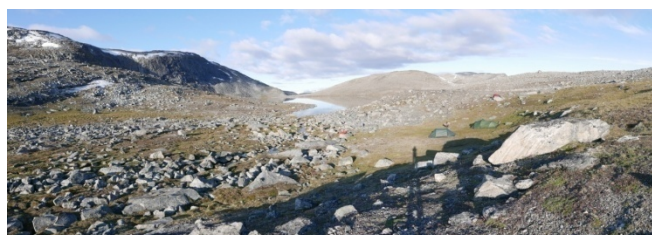


Fig. 3: Camp 10 (from E).

In this cold night the new, light sleeping bag of CP proved to be much useless. From this night on he had to sleep with all his clothes on, including his rain jacket, several stockings and a woolen cap...

Wednesday, 29th July 2015

At 0715 Camp 11 was left to survey the two lakes which are situated in a northeastern direction and which drain into the plain where Nipaatsok is situated. After descending for 300 m height (fig. 4) the western end of the first lake was reached.



Fig. 4: Descent down to the lakes (from S).

The lakes (fig. 5) were surveyed in an anti-clockwise manner but no sites have been found. This was a surprise as historic sources (Kapel 1993, fig. 57) indicate them as caribou hunting grounds. At 1515 Camp 11 was reached.



Fig. 5: Area around the two lakes (from W).

Thursday, 30th July 2015

With all gear VN and CP started at 0815 in a western direction (fig. 6) to reach the east-running valley which drains a large lake. One hearth (L107) was found only.

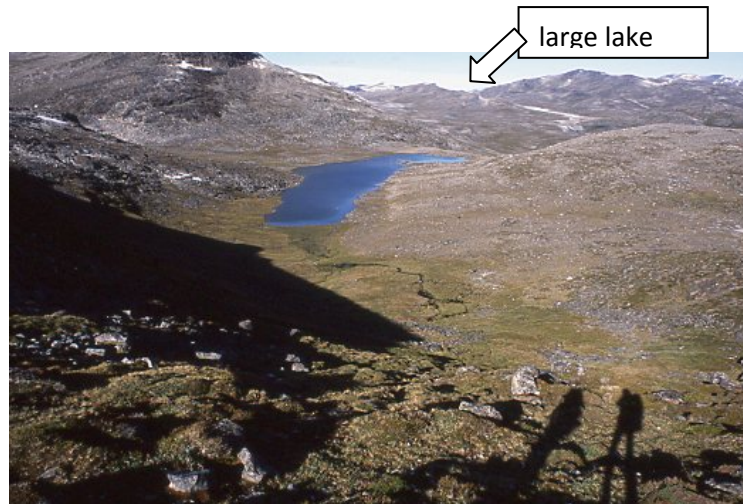


Fig. 6: Small lake west of Camp 11 (from E).

On the northern shore of the lake (fig. 7: right) three hunters' beds (L108-L110) and an undeterminable structure (L 111) were registered. After crossing a pass the north/south-running valley was reached which is a historic route from Kangerluarsunnguup Tasersua to Amitsorsuaq (Kapel 1993, 87-89). This valley was surveyed last year (Neubeck / Pasda 2014). However, on the eastern side of this valley a hunting site (L112) was found. Camp 12 (N64°02'37,6''-W050°30'34,3''-830m) was established at 1515.



Fig. 7: Large lake (from E).

Friday, 31st July 2015

The hike to reach the western part of the survey area started at 0815 to ascend to the mountains between Kangerluarsunnguup Tasersua and Amitsorsuaq (fig. 8).

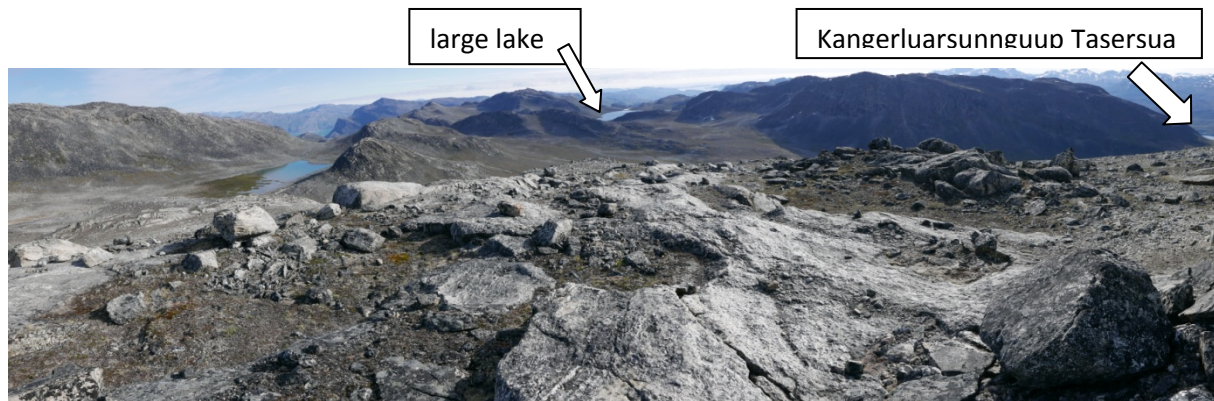


Fig. 8: On the eastern edge of the mountain chain between Amitsorsuaq and Kangerluarsunnguup Tasersua (from W).

On the slope a hunting site (L113) as found at approx. 1040m asl. While walking in a western direction one or three probable shooting hides were found. As these are situated in natural, disturbed, sometimes chaotic rock outcrops their human origin was questionable. Therefore these localities were not registered. After reaching the only pass in the mountain chain, the route from last year was used: after passing L34 (Neubeck / Pasda 2014) the steep descend to Amitsorsuaq followed. In contrast to last year, crossing the outflow of the glacier was easy by stepping on stones.

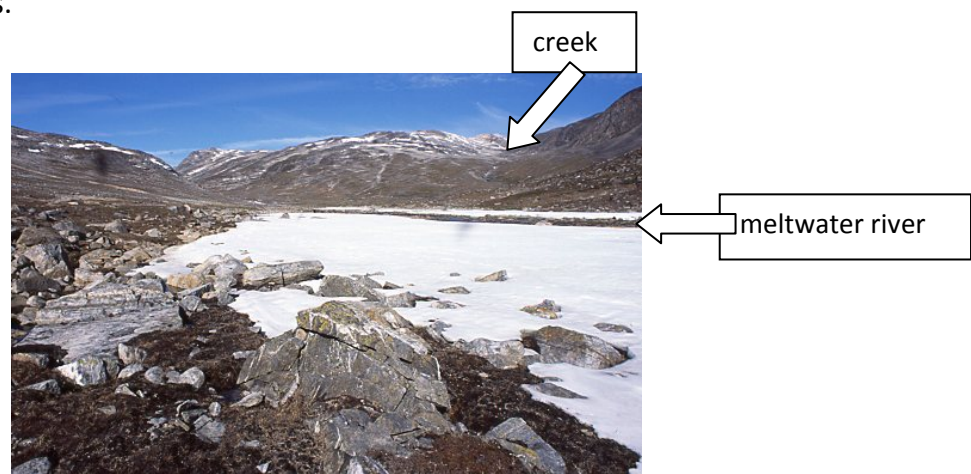


Fig. 9: Snow fields beside the melt water river (from SE).

Also, crossing the river which flows in the western end of Amitsorsuaq was unproblematic. However, large snow fields covered both shores of this river (fig. 9) – what a contrast to last year! At 1500 Camp 13 (N64°02'45,6"-W050°39'58,1"-710m) was established (fig. 10). Due to mosquito, the afternoon was spent in the tents.



Fig. 10: Camp 13 (from N).

Saturday, 1st August 2015

As just the creek north of Camp 13 had to be surveyed (fig. 11), VN and CP started at 0930 to walk uphill to 1130m asl. Three hunting sites (L114-L116) have been found between c. 950-1000m asl. While checking the route to the west for the day after tomorrow, a hunters' bed (L117) was found on the valley bottom. Camp 13 was reached at 1700.

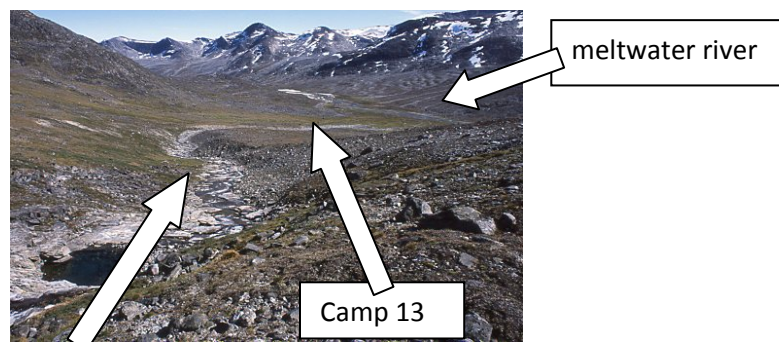


Fig. 11: Creek running down to the melt water river (from NW).

Sunday, 2nd August 2015

VN and CP left Camp 13 at 0900 to survey the lower, southern shore of the melt river running into the western end of Amitsorsuaq (fig. 12) to walk back higher on its northern slope. Three hunting sites (L118-L120) were found. Due to mosquito VN and CP retreated to their tents at 1400.

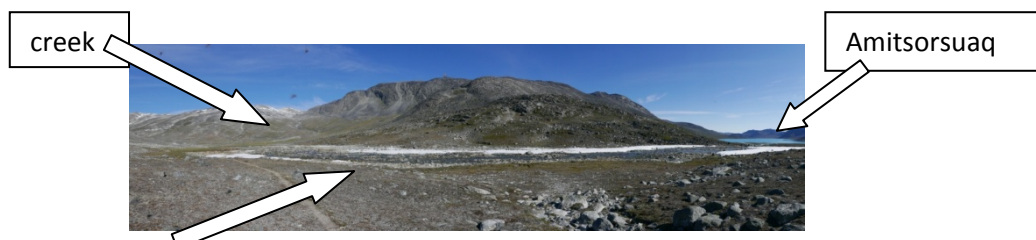


Fig. 12: Melt water river running into the western end of Amitsorsuaq (from S).

Monday, 3rd August 2014

At 0815, VN and CP started with all gear to walk in a western direction on the northern side of the melt water river. A single shooting blind (L121) was found here. The glacier was passed on its northern side (fig. 13).

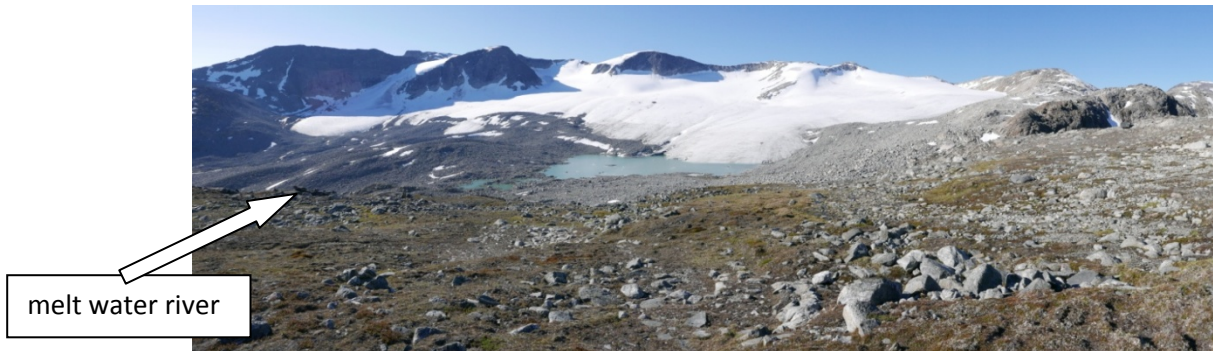


Fig. 13: Glacier west of Amitsorsuaq (from N).

After reaching the (first) watershed the valley leading towards west (fig. 14) was followed where a hunting site (L122) was registered.

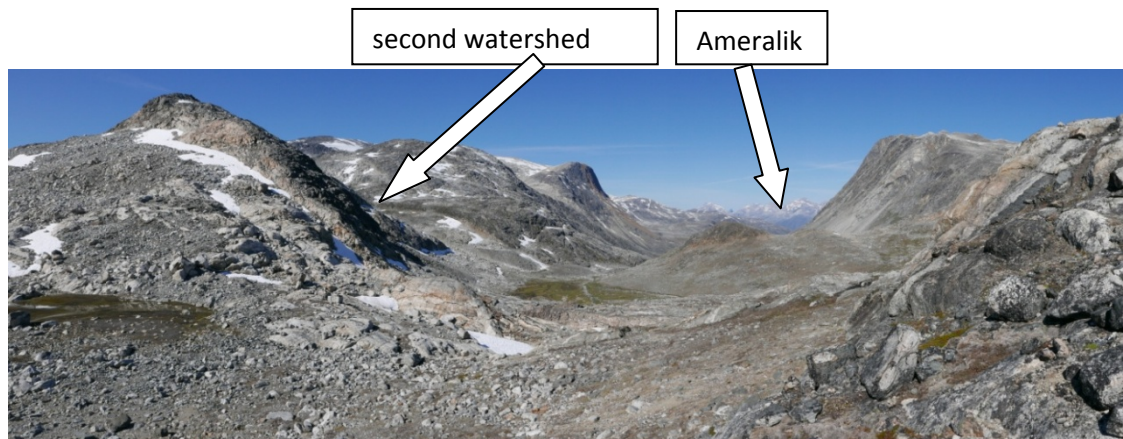


Fig. 14: Standing on the first watershed, view into the valley leading to Ameralik (from E).

Like last year, where this valley turns into a northwestern direction, VN and CP turned south to ascend the gravel slope to reach a (second) watershed (fig. 14) which is the start of the valley running south into the Kangerluarsunnguup Tasersua.



Fig. 15: Second watershed (from SE).

A long rest was done on the windy, then mosquito-free watershed (fig. 15). After descending the valley, north of the confluence with another creek, two hunters' beds (L124, L125) and a rock shelter (L123) have been found. Camp 14 (N64°00'07,9"-W050°47'19,3"-700m) was reached at 1700.

Tuesday, 4th August 2015

On the last survey day, VN and CP started at 0815 with all gear to cross the melt water river near site L46 without problems. In contrast to last year, the western side of this river was followed. This descent was very steep, often with dense dwarf shrub vegetation. At 1230 the tents were erected (N64°57'38,2"-W050°44'51,1"-260m) near the gravel road. Due to mosquito, the early afternoon was spent in the tents. High winds with rain followed. After the storm, summer camp 63V2-IV-9 was visited (fig. 16).



Fig. 16: Summer tents of 63V2-IV-9 (from W; structures 11, 12, 18 or 19 in Kapel 1993, 33-35; the main part of the summer camp is situated c. 15m below lake level).

Wednesday, 5th August 2015

At 1000, Palu Hard arrived with a *Toyota* to pick up VN and CP. After coffee and biscuits at the power plant, at 1300 *Arctic Boat Charter* sailed the team back to Nuuk. In the skerries an old Norwegian yacht on the sea came by, with the daughter of the skipper of *ABC*, sailing to Cannes in the Mediterranean Sea. The harbor of Nuuk was reached at 1500 where VN and CP were driven to the *Nordbohotel*.

Thursday, 6th August 2015

Day-off. Short visit at the National Museum to report about the sites and to give back the gun.

Friday, 7th August 2015

At 0630 by taxi to the airport, at 0915 flight to Kangerlussuaq. Just before departure, at 1330, by chance meeting with Martin Appelt and colleague. At 2120, arrival at Copenhagen, by foot to the hotel.

Saturday, 8th August 2015

At 0700 by car from Copenhagen via Rødby/Puttgarden to reach Jena at 1800.

Registered sites

L101 used rock shelter

- on eastern side of a 5x5x7m large, natural boulder
- u-shaped wall (inside 2,5x2,0m) built out of c. fifteen, up to 1m long rocks and one slab (fig. 17)
- N64°01'36,6"-W050°19'54,8"-580m



Fig. 17: L101 (u-shaped wall und rock overhang).

L102 hearth

- u-shaped (fig. 18)
- immediately outside of drip line of a natural overhang (inside 4,5x2,5x1,5m)
- N64°02'05,8"-W050°20'23,3"-690m



Fig. 18: L102 (u-shaped hearth in front of rock overhang).

L103 inussuk

- 20x25x40cm large, pillar-like rock situated on one edge of a natural, 0,5m high boulder
- N64°02'04,7"-W050°20'23,0"-690m

L104 hunters' bed

- rectangular wall (inside 2,7x1,7m) built out of c. 40 rocks with 40-60cm diameter (fig. 19)
- built onto a 1,5x1,5x1,0m large, natural boulder
- single, 40x20x20cm large rock on natural boulder
- behind, north of the boulder two rocks, probably fallen down
- hunters' beds seems to be very young as no lichen, moss or turf is present on and around the rocks of the wall
- N64°02'18,0"-W050°20'43,4"-740m
- 9m north-east: 60x40x5cm large stone slab situated on two smaller rocks



Fig. 19: L104 (hunters' bed).

L105 used rock shelter

- on western side of a 6x6x5m large, natural boulder
- under 1,2m high overhang (fig. 20)



Fig. 20: L105 (used rock shelter, from NW).

-u-shaped wall (inside c. 3,5x2,0m) built out of 30-40 up to 40cm long rocks (fig. 21)



Fig. 21: L105 (used rock shelter).

-on northern side: u-shaped hearth

-N64°02'55,1"-W050°20'46,4"-780m

-finds: two 20x3cm long bands of cloth, one large antler with traces of a fine saw or knife (fig. 22: left), another large antler (fig. 22: right) with scratches (Jin/Shipman 2010, 95) or tooth marks (Binford 1981, 48)

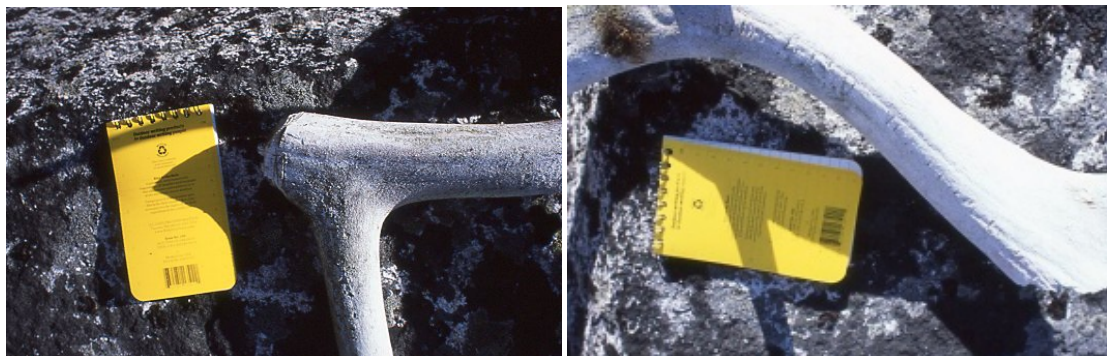


Fig. 22: Caribou antler found inside the wall of L105.

L106 hunting site (two shooting hides)

a) shooting hide (fig. 23)

-1,7m long, straight row made out of five rocks

-on edge of 2,5m long and 0,8m high, natural rock

-N64°02'54,6"-W050°19'33,9"-780m

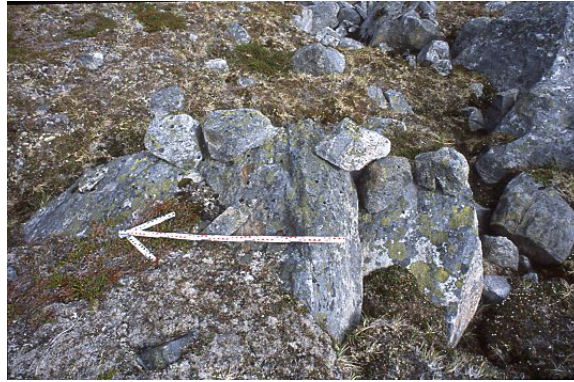


Fig. 23: L106a (shooting hide).

b) shooting hide

- 30m west of a
- 0,6m long, straight row made out of four rocks
- on 2,5x2x0,5m large, natural rock

L107 hearth

- 60x30x15cm large slab on two 20cm large rocks (fig. 24)
- on north-facing, 1,5m high, natural rock outcrop
- a propable u-shaped hearth on north-western side
- N64°03'34,6"-W050°21'25,1"-680m



Fig. 24: L107 (hearth; photo by VN).

L108 hunters' bed

- rectangular to ovale shaped wall (inside 1,9x1,4m) built out of sixteen up to 30cm long rocks/slabs (fig. 25)
- N64°03'31,1"-W050°26'52,5"-780m



Fig. 25: L108 (hunters' bed).

L109 hunters' bed

- rectangular wall (inside 2,4x1,5m) built out of fifteen rocks and six up to 1m long stone slabs (fig. 26)
- wall partly tipped over
- N64°03'22,5"-W050°27'38,0"-780m
- near natural ridge of slope
- nearby two probable shooting hides and three probable inussuit



Fig. 26: L109 (hunters' bed).

L110 hunters' bed

- rectangular wall (inside 1,8x1,6m) built out of c. 20 rocks and five up to 80cm long stone slabs (fig. 27)
- wall is dissolved, some rocks tipped over
- on north-eastern edge of the wall a 1,2m long row of six rocks, partly covered with sediment and vegetation
- towards north a 5x5x1,5m large, natural boulder
- N64°03'22,7"-W050°27'47,2"-790m



Fig. 27: L110 (hunters' bed).

L111 undetermined structure

- approx. twenty rocks scattered 2,5m far on the western side of a 3x2,5x1m large, natural boulder (fig. 28)
- c. 20m south-east of L110
- N64°03'22,2"-W050°27'46,2"-790m



Fig. 28: L111

L112 hunting site (three shooting hides and an inussuk)

a) two shooting hides

- built on the highest spot of a south running ridge
- built into rocks of a natural, chaotic rock outcrop
- eastern hide is 1,8m long and (-shaped (fig. 29)
- western hide is 1,2m and straight
- N64°02'39,7"-W050°29'14,9"-830m
- single stone-inussuk 4m west of the two shooting hides



Fig. 29: L112a (eastern shooting hide, from S).

b) shooting hide (fig. 30)

- 2m long, (-shaped row built out of fifteen up to 50cm long rocks and pillar-like slabs
- N64°02'39,3"-W050°29'17,3"-820m



Fig. 30: L112b (shooting hide).

L113 hunting site (two shooting hides, some inussuit)



Fig. 31: L113 (shooting hide c in foreground, d in background; from N).

a) inussuk

-35x35x15cm large rock beside a 20x20x10cm large rock on 5x2x0,5m large, natural boulder
 -N64°02'07,4"-W050°31'49,1"-1040m

b) three probable single-stone inussuit south of inussuk a

c) shooting hide

-straight, 1,4m long, stone-built row with a small rock in the centre (fig. 31; 32)
 -on edge of 2,5x1x05m large, natural boulder
 -N64°02'07,1"-W050°31'47,0"-1035m



Fig. 32: L113c (shooting hide).

d) shooting hide

-straight, 0,8m long row built out of five rocks (fig. 31; 33)

-on edge of 2,5x2x0,5m large, natural boulder

-N64°02'06,2"-W050°31'47,0"-1030m



Fig. 33: L113d (shooting hide).

L114 hunting site (two shooting hides)

a) shooting hide

-2,2m long row built out of eleven up to 40cm long rocks (fig. 34)

-on 4m long and 0,5m high, rocky ridge

-N64°03'14,4"-W050°40'44,9"-940m

b) shooting hide

-0,7m long row built out of ten rocks

-on 3,5x2x0,5m large, natural boulder

-N64°03'15,2"-W050°40'44,5"-945m

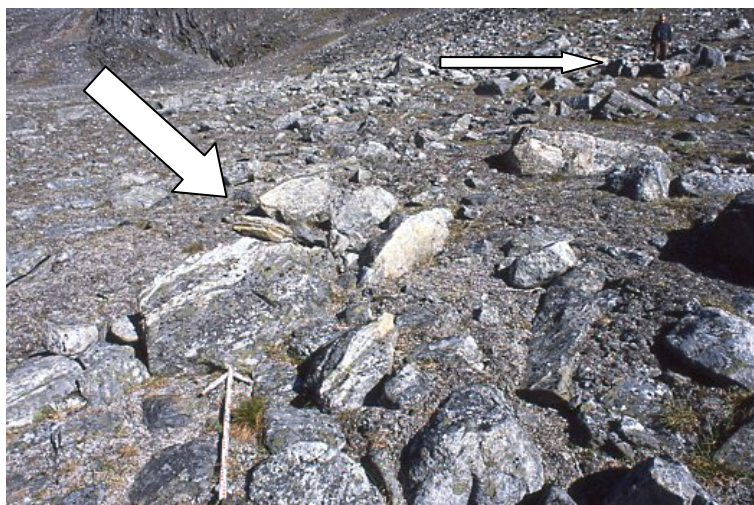


Fig. 34: L114 (shooting hides, a in foreground, b in background).

L115 hunting site (four shooting hides)

a) shooting hide (fig. 35)

-1,7m long, (-shaped row out of four rocks and two slabs

-situated on 2x2x0,5m large, natural boulder

-N64°03'16,9"-W050°40'52,6"-945m



Fig. 35: L115a (shooting hide).

b) shooting hide (fig. 36)

-1,2m long, straight row out of four rocks

-situated on 2x0,5x0,5m large, natural boulder

-N64°03'18,7"-W050°40'49,8"-960m



Fig. 36: L115b (shooting hide).

c) shooting hide (fig. 37)

-1,6m long, straight row out of four rocks

-on edge of 2,5x2x0,5m large, natural boulder

-N64°03'18,7"-W050°40'49,8"-960m



Fig. 37: L115c (shooting hide).

d) shooting hide (fig. 38)

-1,3m long, straight row out of seven rocks

-on 1,5x1x0,5m large, natural boulder

-N64°03'17,9"-W050°40'48,9"-955m



Fig. 38: L115d (shooting hide).

L116 hunting site (three or four shooting hides)

a) shooting hide (fig. 39)

-1,2m long, straight row of approx. fifteen rocks

-on 2,5x2x0,5m large, natural boulder

-N64°03'14,7"-W050°41'20,9"-980m



Fig. 39: L116a (shooting hide).

b) shooting hide

-1,0m long, straight row of three stone slabs (40x20x5cm) and one rock

-on keel of a 3x1,5x0,5m large, natural rock

-N64°03'14.3"-W050°41'19,4"-980m

c) shooting hide

-1,0m long, straight row of three rocks

-on 3x1,5x0,5m large, natural boulder

-N64°03'15,2"-W050°49'18,6"-980m

d) probable shooting hide

-four rocks (with 20-30cm diameter) scattered on a 2,5x1x0,5m large, natural boulder

-N64°03'15,1"-W050°41'17,5"-980m

L117 hunters' bed

-rectangular/oval wall (inside 3,0x2,0m) built out of approx. 30 rocks and stone slabs

-built on north-east facing wall of a large, natural boulder (fig. 40)

-N64°02'48,8"-W050°40'15,8"-730m

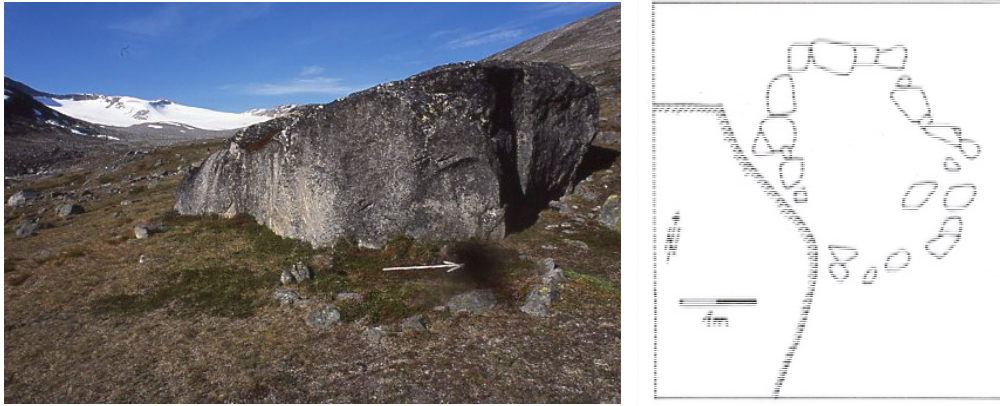


Fig. 40: L117 (hunters' bed).

L118 hunting site (two shooting hides)

a) shooting hide

- 1,7m long, u-shaped row of seven stones (with one being 70cm long and pillar-shaped)
- on edge of 2x1x0,5m large, natural boulder
- N4°02'23,4"-W050°38'51,6"-680m

b) shooting hide

- 2,3m long, straight row of seven rocks with a gap near its northern end (fig. 41)
- on edge of 2,5x1,5x1m large, natural boulder
- N64°02'23,6"-W050°38'53,4"-680m



Fig. 41: L118b (shooting hide).

L119 shooting hide

- 1,1m long, straight row of six rocks and stone slabs (fig. 42)
- on edge on 2x1,5x0,5m large, natural boulder
- N64°02'45,0"-W050°39'12,0"-740m
- within a surrounding with 100m diameter maybe three or four other, probable shooting hides



Fig. 42: L119 (shooting hide).

L120 hunting site (five shooting hides)

a) shooting hide (fig. 43)

- 1,2m long, straight row of five rocks and two stone slabs
- on edge of 4x2,5x1m large, natural boulder
- beside caribou path
- N64°02'45,6"-W050°38'56,9"-765m



Fig. 43: L120a (shooting hide).

b) shooting hide (fig. 44)

- 1,8m long, (-shaped row of twelve rocks and stone slabs
- on edge of 4,5x2x0,5m large, natural rock
- N64°02'46,1"-W050°38'56,0"-765m



Fig. 44: L120b (shooting hide).

c) shooting hide (fig. 45)

-1,4m long row of twelve rocks built south of a 1,5m high, natural boulder
 -N64°02'45,8"-W050°38'54,1"-765m



Fig. 45: L120c (shooting hide).

d) shooting hide

-1,3m long, (-shaped row of fifteen rocks
 -on the end of a flat rock surface
 -N64°02'44,5"-W050°38'54,7"-765m

e) shooting hide

-1,0m long, straight row of thirteen rocks built beside a 1x1x0,5m large, natural boulder
 -on flat rock surface
 -N64°02'44,6"-W050°38'59,2"-765m

L121 shooting hide

- dissolved, maybe 1,7m long row of ten rocks and stone slabs
- built southwest of a 2x1x1m large, natural boulder
- N64°02'30,4"-W050°41'21,6"-800m

L122 hunting site (two shooting hides)

a) shooting hide

- 2,0m long row of twelve rocks and stone slabs (fig. 46)
- on 3x2x0,5m large, natural boulder
- N64°02'23,3"-W050°43'39,6"-865m



Fig. 46: L122a (shooting hide).

b) shooting hide

- 1,0m long row of seven rocks
- built between two 2m high, natural boulders
- N64°02'24,2"-W050°43'36,5"-865m

L123 used rock shelter

-9x5x3m large, natural boulder with 3,0m wide, 4,3m deep and 1,4m high, east-facing overhang (fig. 47)



Fig. 47: L123 (used rock shelter, from SE).

-1m inside the drip line (fig. 48: shadowed area) a 2,2m long, partly dissolved wall of 20-25 rocks and stone slabs

-N64°01'10,5"-W050°46'45,6"-840m



Fig. 48: L123 (used rock shelter).

-letters and numbers (fig. 49) are scratched in the black lichen-covered boulder outside, above the wall: *TL, P, SM, SM 1942* (or *1948?*)



Fig. 49: L123 (letters and numbers outside).

-2m southwest of the boulder a dissolved hearth is situated: built out of two or three rocks on each side and stone slabs on the longer side and in the center (fig. 50)



Fig. 50: L123 (hearth beside used rock shelter).

L124 hunters' bed

- rectangular wall (inside 4,0x1,8m) built out of approx. 30 rocks and turf (fig. 51)
- eastern side is partly preserved
- N64°01'07,6"-W050°47'01,9"-835m
- two probable shooting hides present 100m far to the east



Fig. 51: L124 (hunters' bed).

L125 hunters' bed and shooting hide

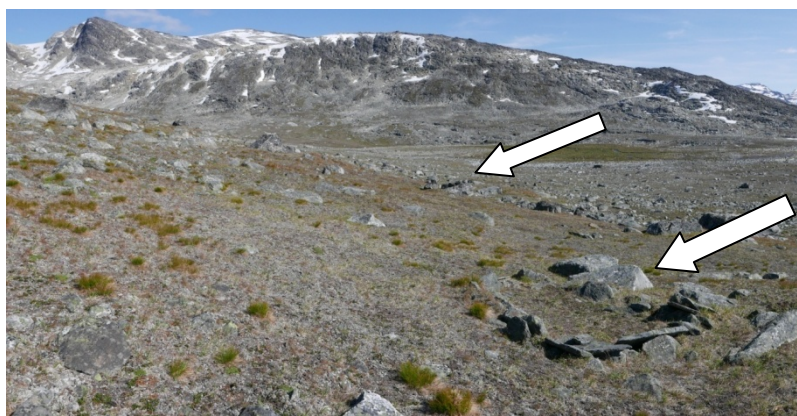


Fig. 52: L125 (hunters' bed and shooting hide, from NW).

a) hunters' bed

-oval wall (inside 2,4x1,8m) built out of c. 50 rocks and stone slabs (fig. 52; 53)

-N64°01'05,7"-W050°47'32,3"-815m



Fig. 53: L125a (hunters' bed; center: from N).

b) shooting hide

-2,2m long, straight row of eleven rocks incorporating a 1x1x0,5m large, natural boulder

-partly dissolved

-situated on 3x1,5x0,5m large, natural boulder (fig. 52; 54)

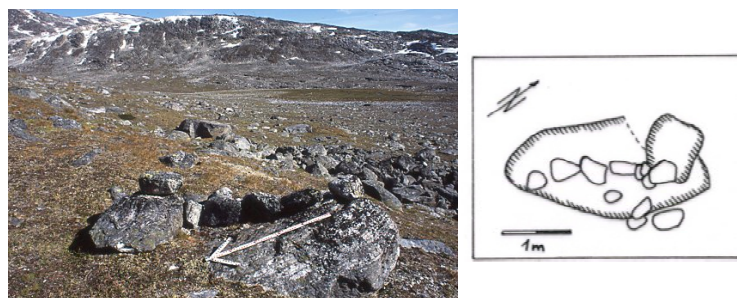


Fig. 54: L125b (shooting hide).

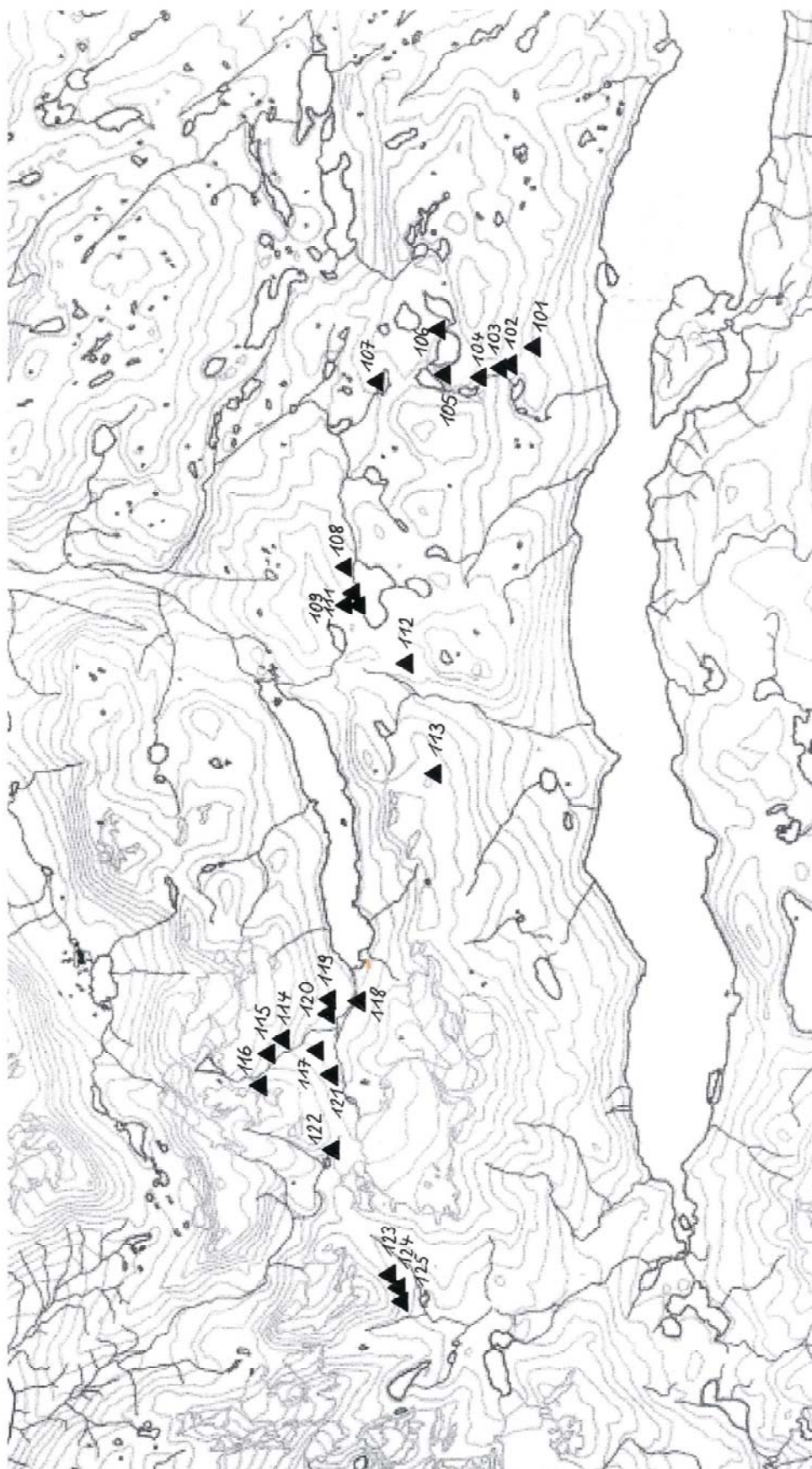


Fig. 55: Location of sites found in 2015.

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Qujanaq!