

Executive summary

State party

Denmark

State, province or region

Greenland, Municipality of Kujalleq

Name of property

Kujataa – a subarctic farming landscape in Greenland

Geographical coordinates to the nearest second

Table S.1 – Geographical coordinates to the nearest second	
Component part	Coordinates of the central point
(1) Qassiarsuk	N 61°09'52" / W 45°35'53"
(2) Igaliku	N 61°00'06" / W 45°22'29"
(3) Sissarluttoq	N 60°53'48" / W 45°29'42"
(4) Tasikuluulik (Vatnahverfi)	N 60°50'52" / W 45°23'24"
(5) Qaqortukuloq (Hvalsey)	N 60°47'33" / W 45°50'04"

Textual description of the boundaries of the nominated property

Kujataa – a subarctic farming landscape in Greenland is located in the municipality of Kujalleq in South Greenland. The nominated property is made up of five component parts, which together encompass the core of Greenlandic farming settlement in southern Greenland. The components parts are concentrated in the central part of the Norse Greenlandic settlement of Eystribyggð, which is also the area most intensively farmed in modern times. They encompass all of the site types and landscape elements, providing the best representation of Greenlandic farming culture. The property comprises 348.92 km² of land and submerged land located in the inner parts of Tunulliarfik Fjord and Igalikup Kangerlua Fjord as well as the southern part of Qaqortup Imaa.

Component part 1, Qassiarsuk, covers 113.42 square kilometres extending across a peninsula 5.5-12 km wide. To the north, it is bordered by the Ulunnguarsuaq mountain massif (1,267 m), to the south by the highland area of Qaqarsuatsiaq. To the east lies the fjord of Tunulliarfik, and to the west the large bay of Tasiusaq that opens onto Sermilik Fjord further west.

Component part 2, Igaliku, covers 82.87 square kilometres across the base of the Qaqortoq Peninsula. To the west it is bordered by the Tunulliarfik, to the east by the head of Igalikup Kangerlua Fjord. To the north it is delimited by the mountains Nalaqaa (1,450 m) and Tallorutit (1,660 m), to the south by the central range of the Qaqortoq Peninsula.

Component part 3, Sissarluttoq, covers 3.39 square kilometres in a valley on the south side of Qaqortoq Peninsula, draining into Igalikup Kangerlua Fjord.

Component part 4, Tasikuluulik (Vatnahverfi), covers 75.42 square kilometres along the southern coast of Igalikup Kangerlua; the area stretches from the plain of Igaliku Kujalleq in the northeast and continues in a 3.5-6 kilometre wide belt tracing the coastline southwest until about halfway into the fjord.

Component part 5, Qaqortukuloq (Hvalsey), covers 73.82 square kilometres in a 0.5-1.5 kilometre wide belt that traces the head and southern shore of Qaqortup Imaa, a fjord that branches from the outer part of Igalikup Kangerlua. It also includes the island of Arpatsivik.



Fig. S.1: During a warm summer, when the glaciers are very active, there are large numbers of icebergs in the fjords, creating dazzling displays that are a hazard for marine traffic.



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Fig. S.2: Arctic region.

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Fig. S.3: South Greenland – Kujataa.

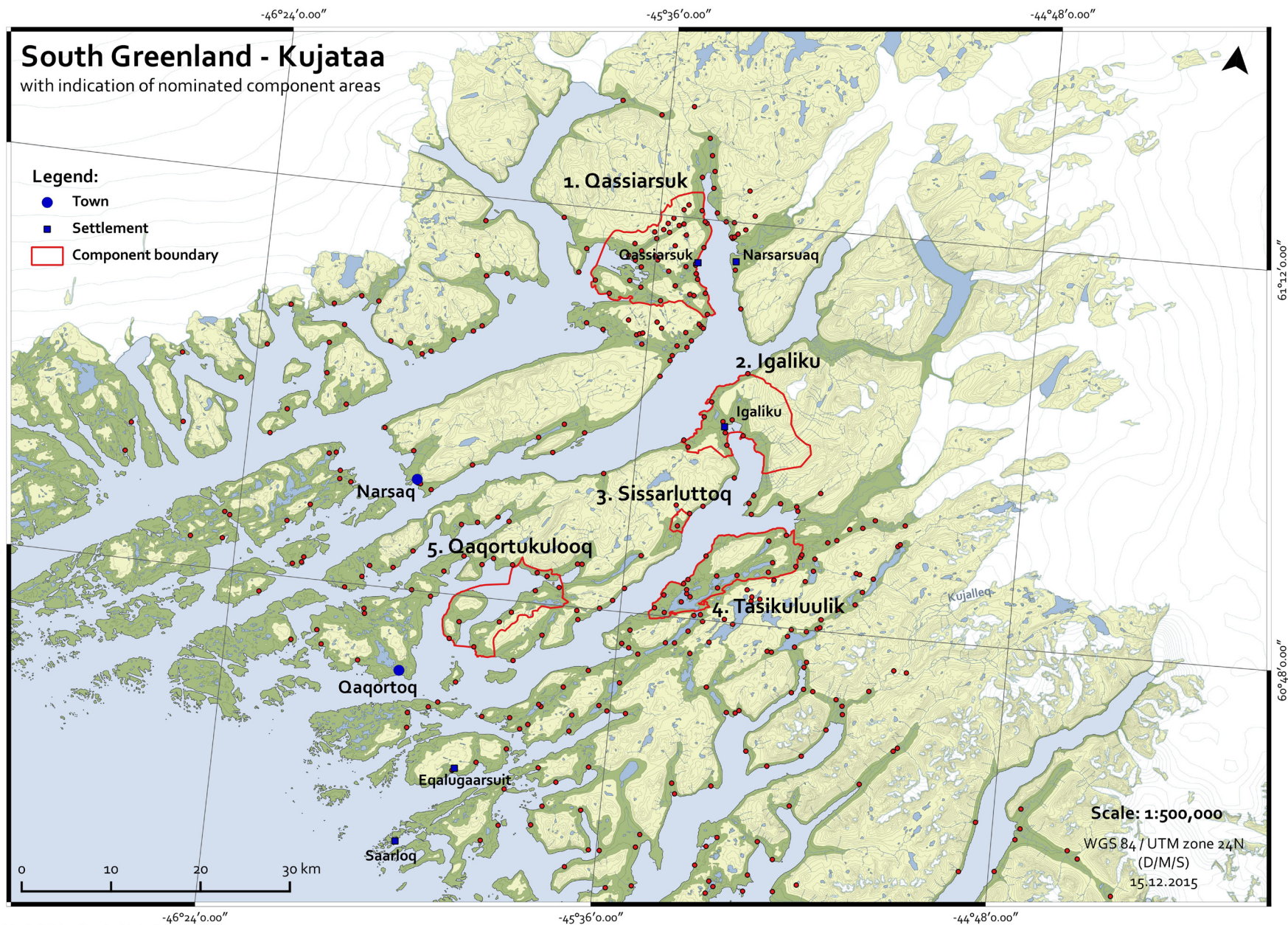


Fig. S.4: Kujataa with indication of nominated component areas.

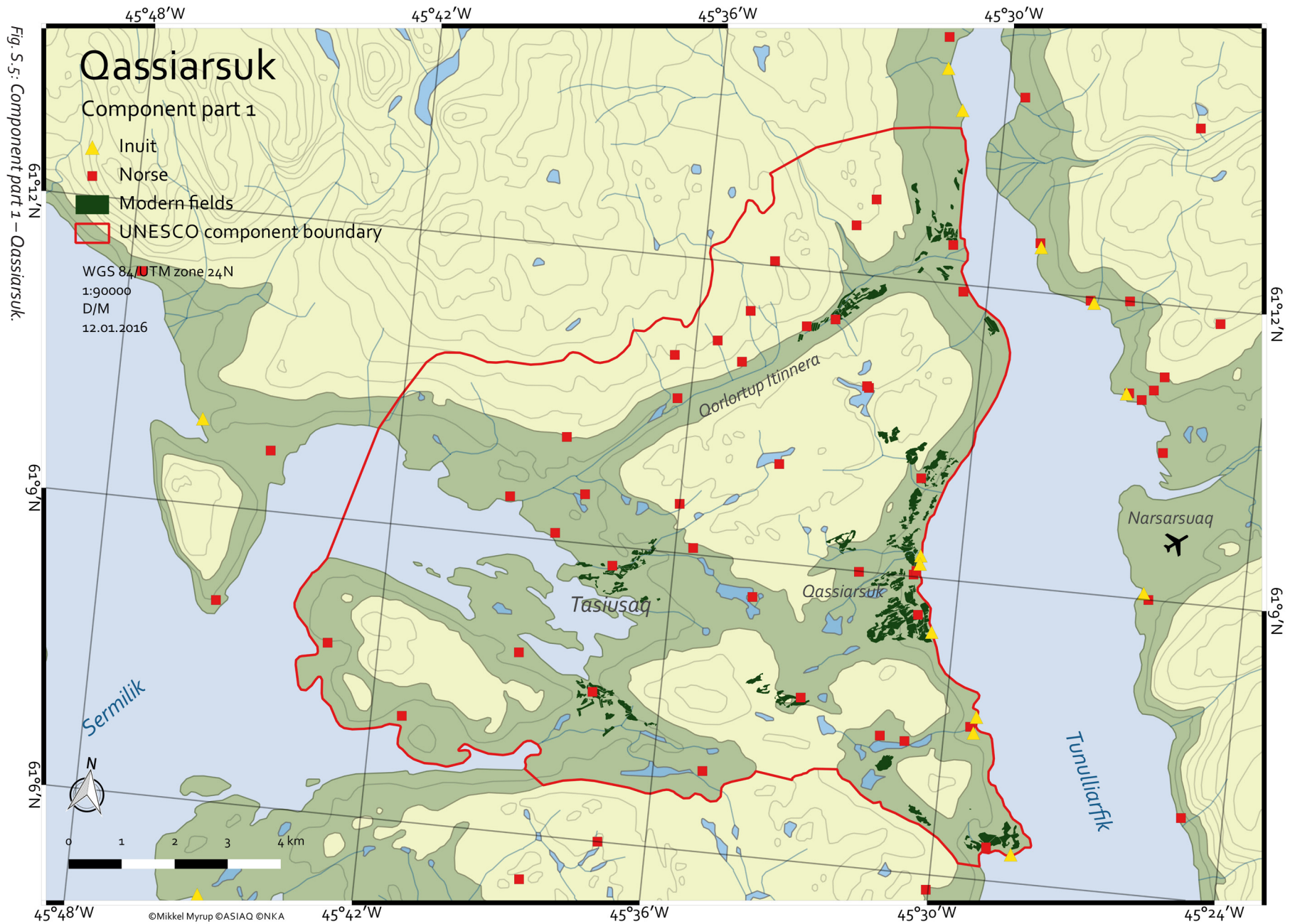


Fig. 5.5: Component part 1 – Qassiarsuk.



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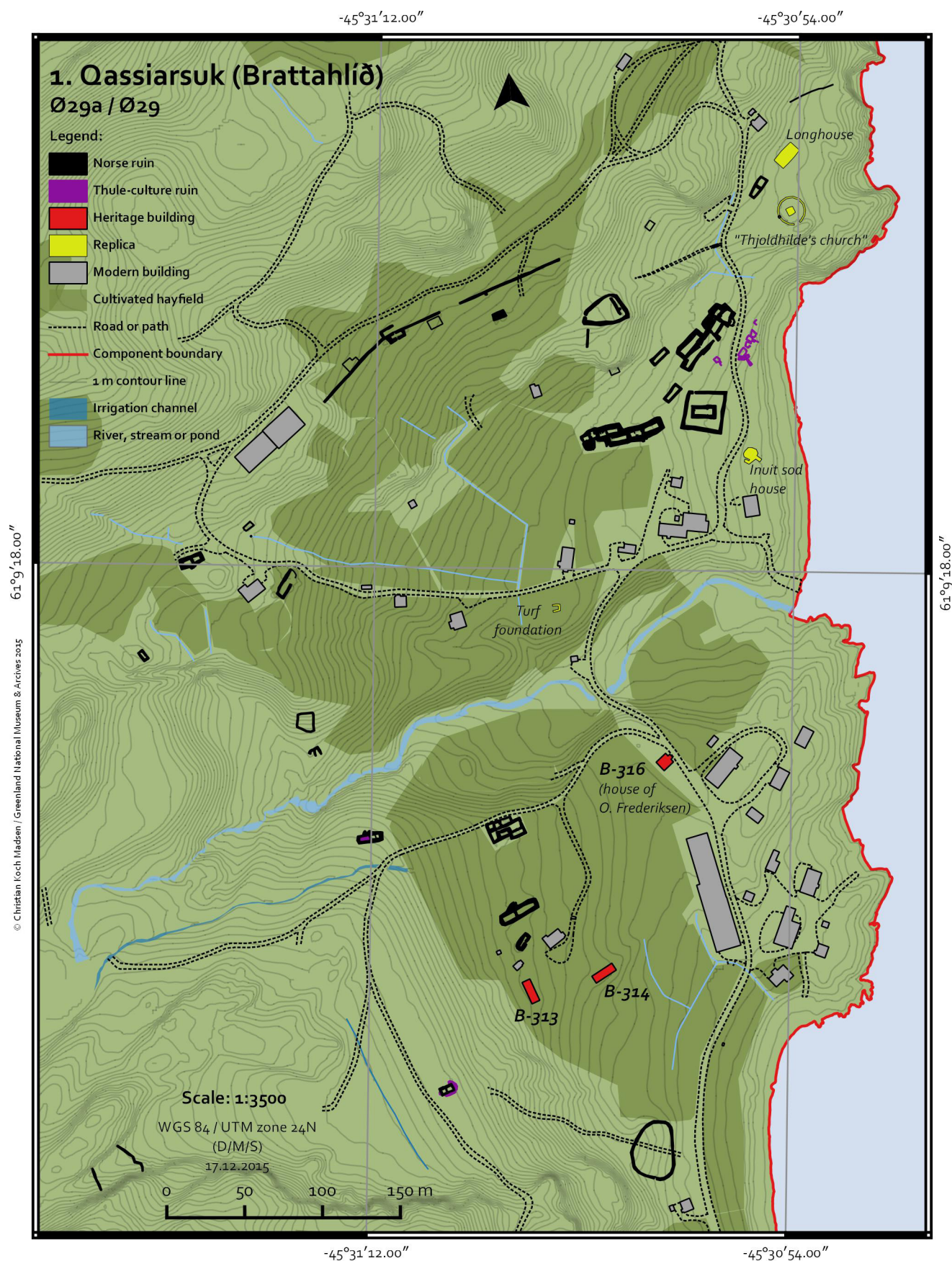


Fig. S.6: Detailed survey plan of central Qassiarsuk/Brattahlíð (Ø29a/Ø29) with location of Norse and Inuit ruins, as well as heritage and modern buildings.

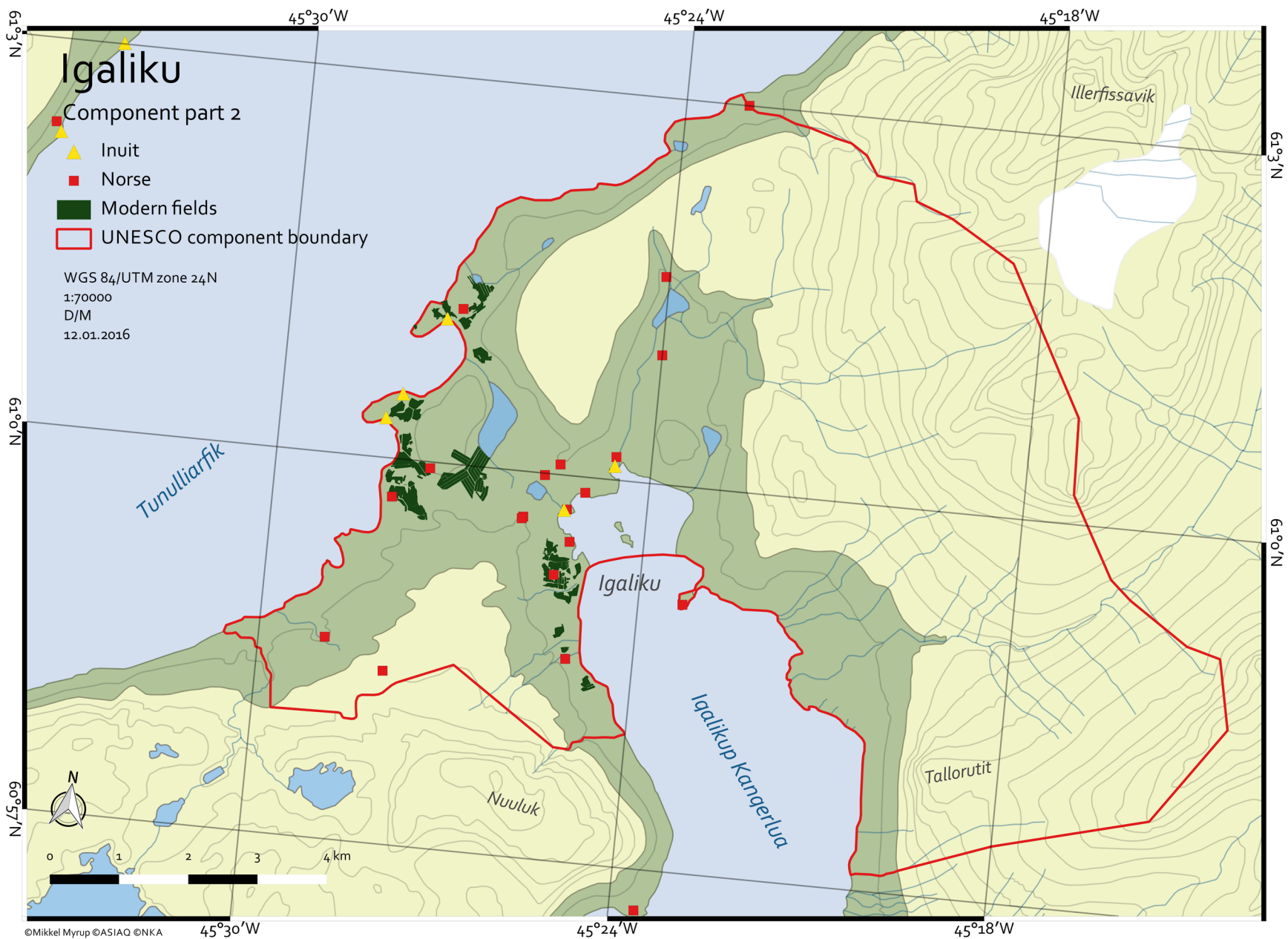


Fig. 5.7: Component part 2 – Igaliku.



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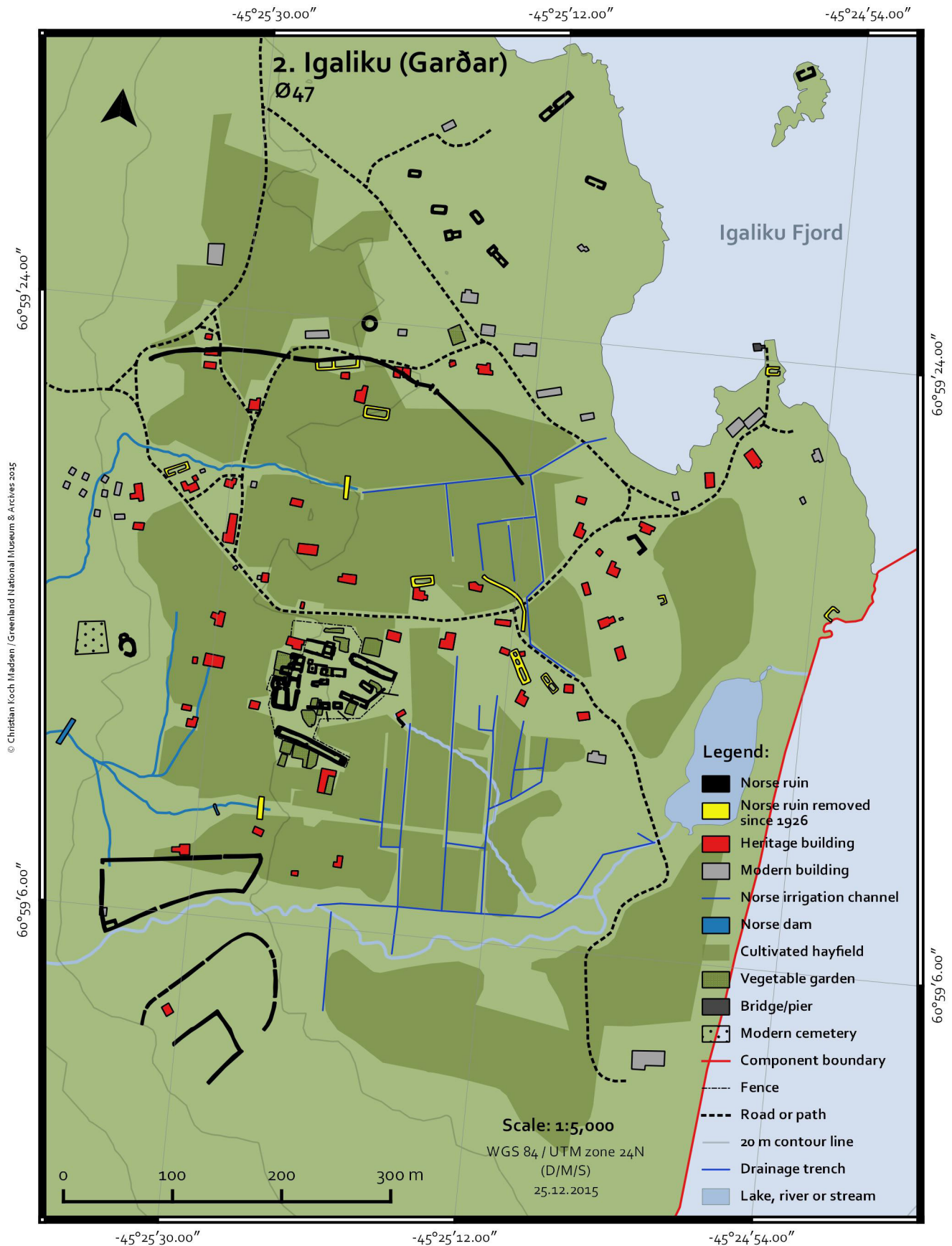


Fig. S.8 Detailed survey plan of Igaliku (Ø47) with location of Norse and Inuit ruins, as well as heritage and modern buildings.

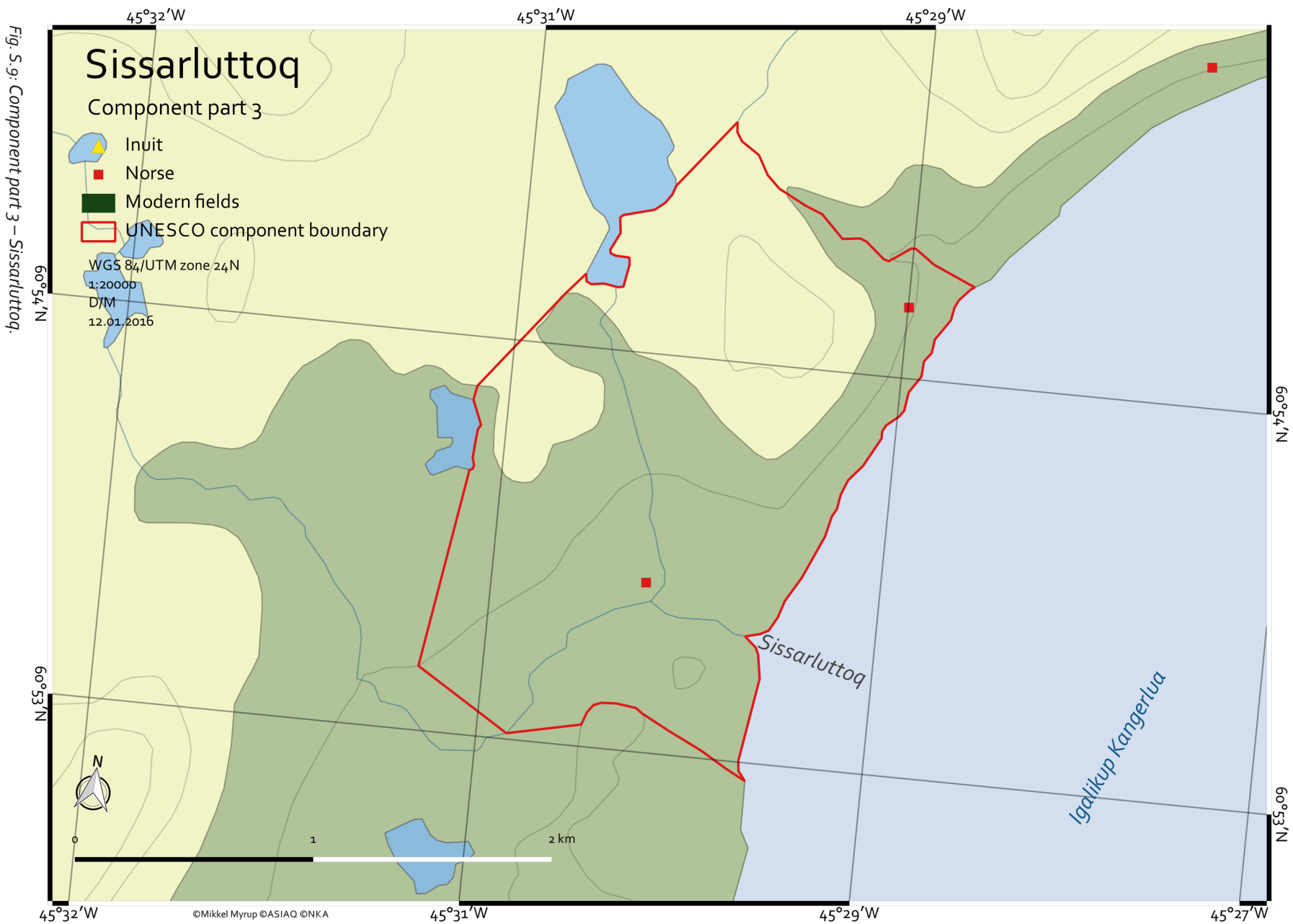


Fig. 5.9: Component part 3 – Sissarluttoq.



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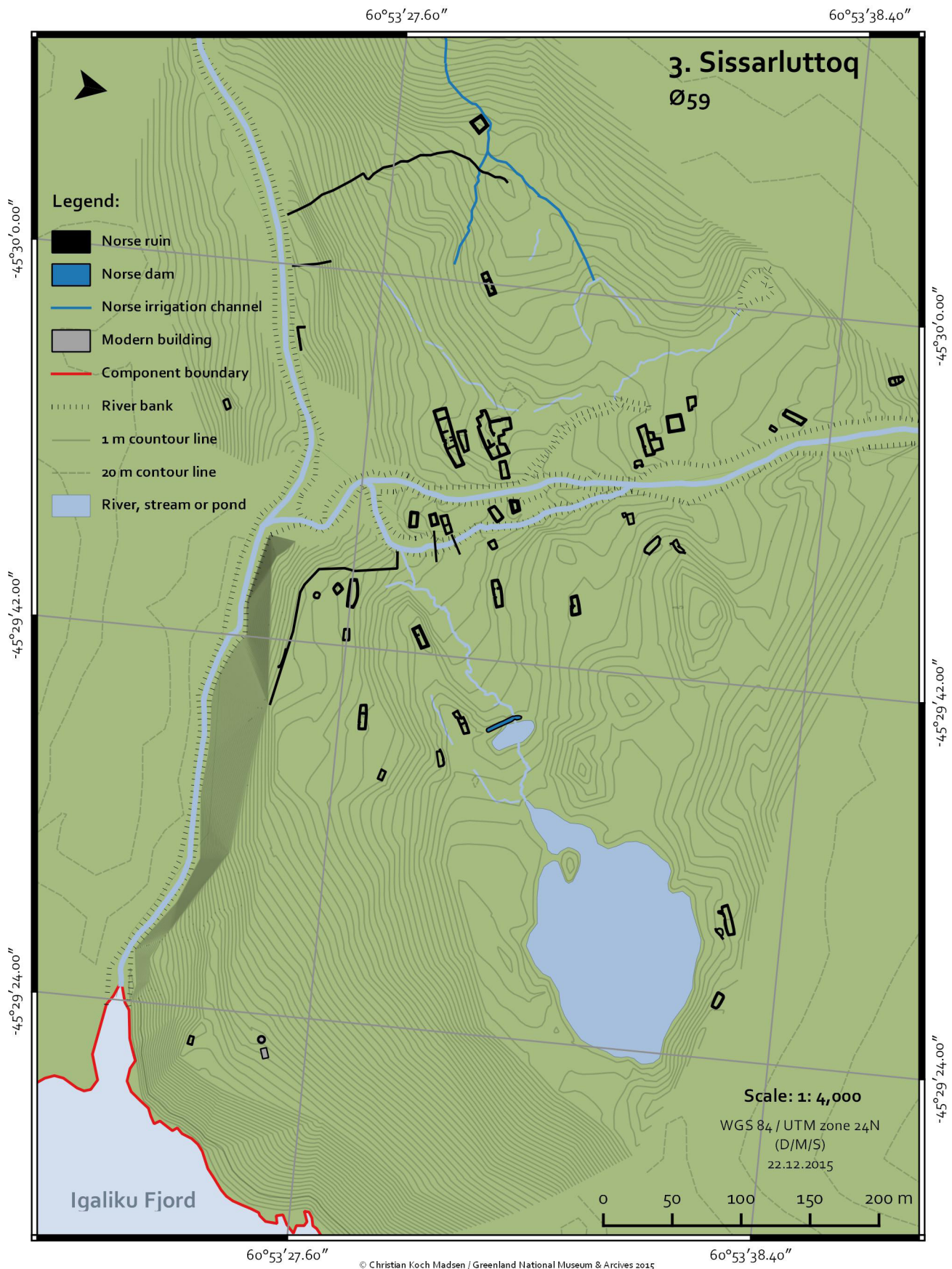


Fig. S.10: Detailed survey plan of Sissarluttoq (Ø59).

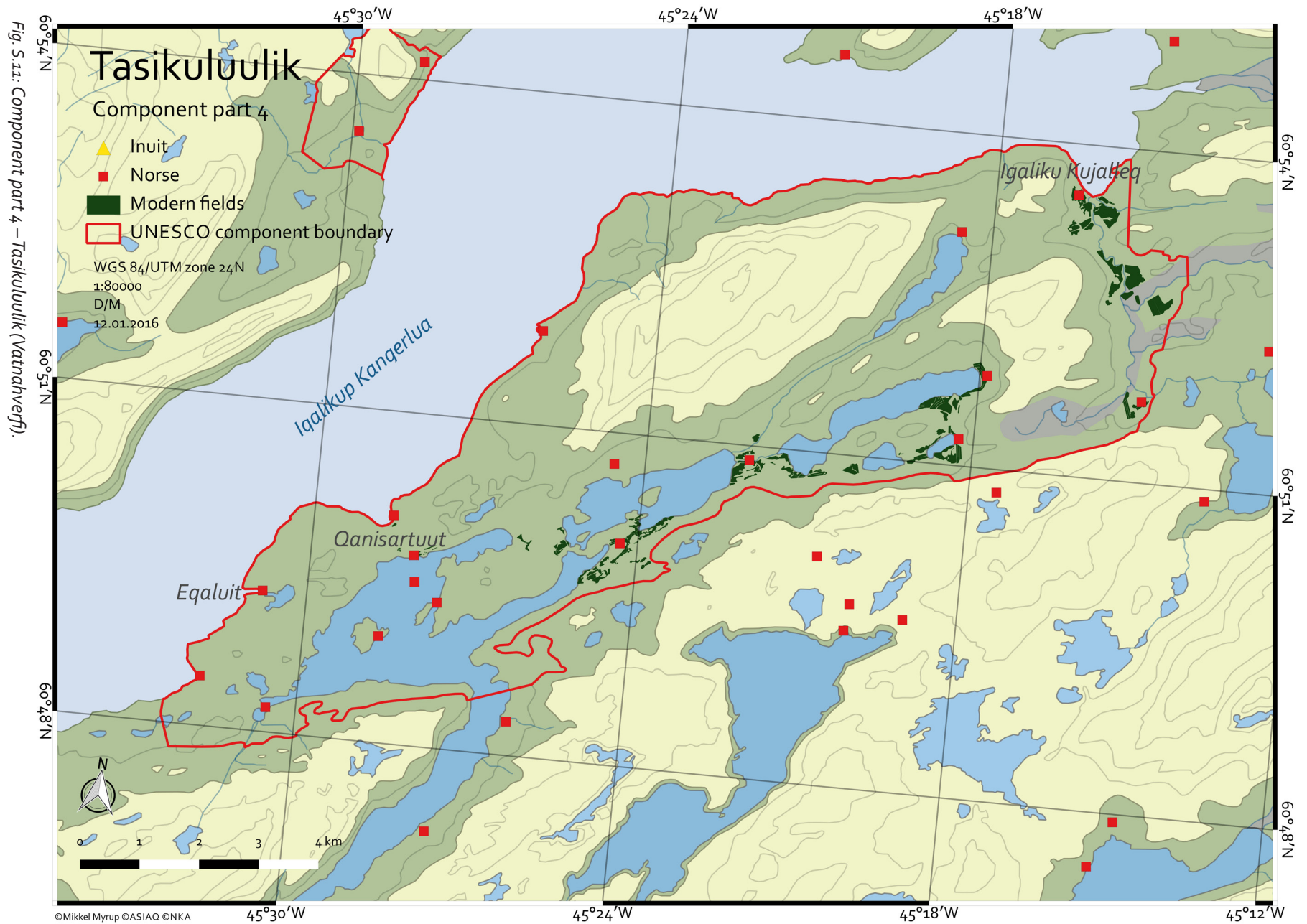


Fig. S.11: Component part 4 – Tasikuluulik (Vatnahverfi).



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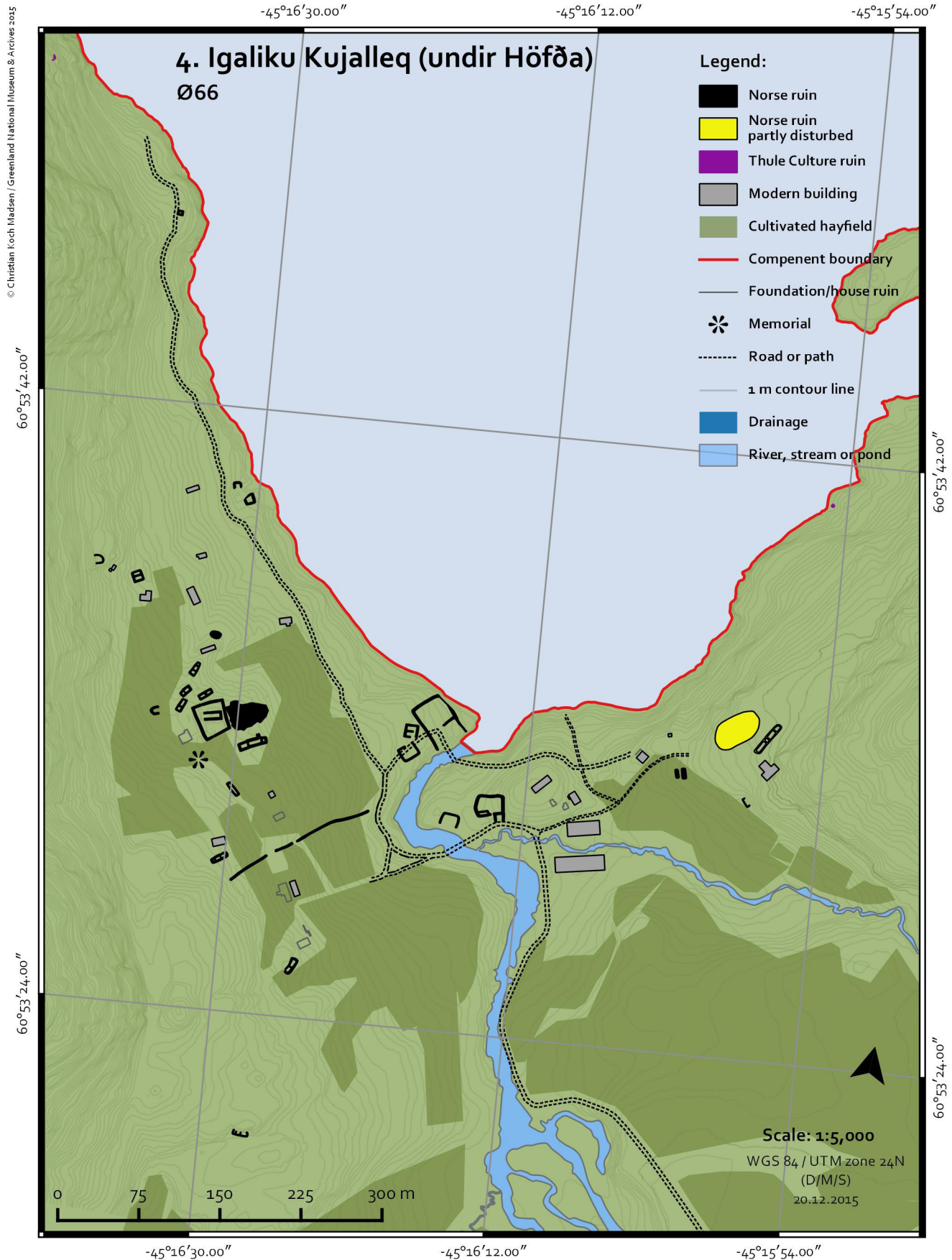


Fig. S.12: Detailed survey plan of Igaliku Kujalleq (Ø66).

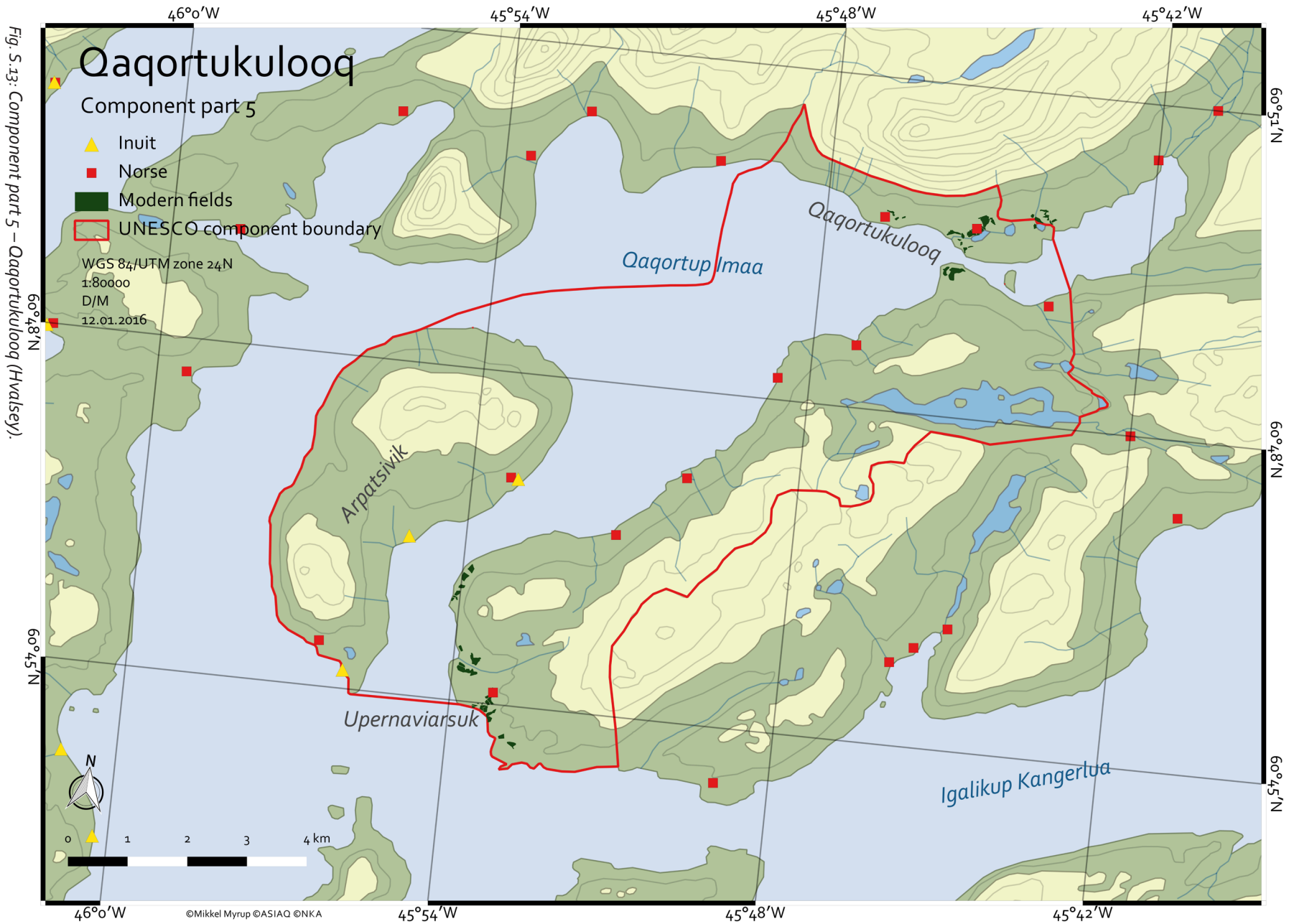


Fig. 5.13: Component part 5 – Qaqortukuloq (Hvalsey).

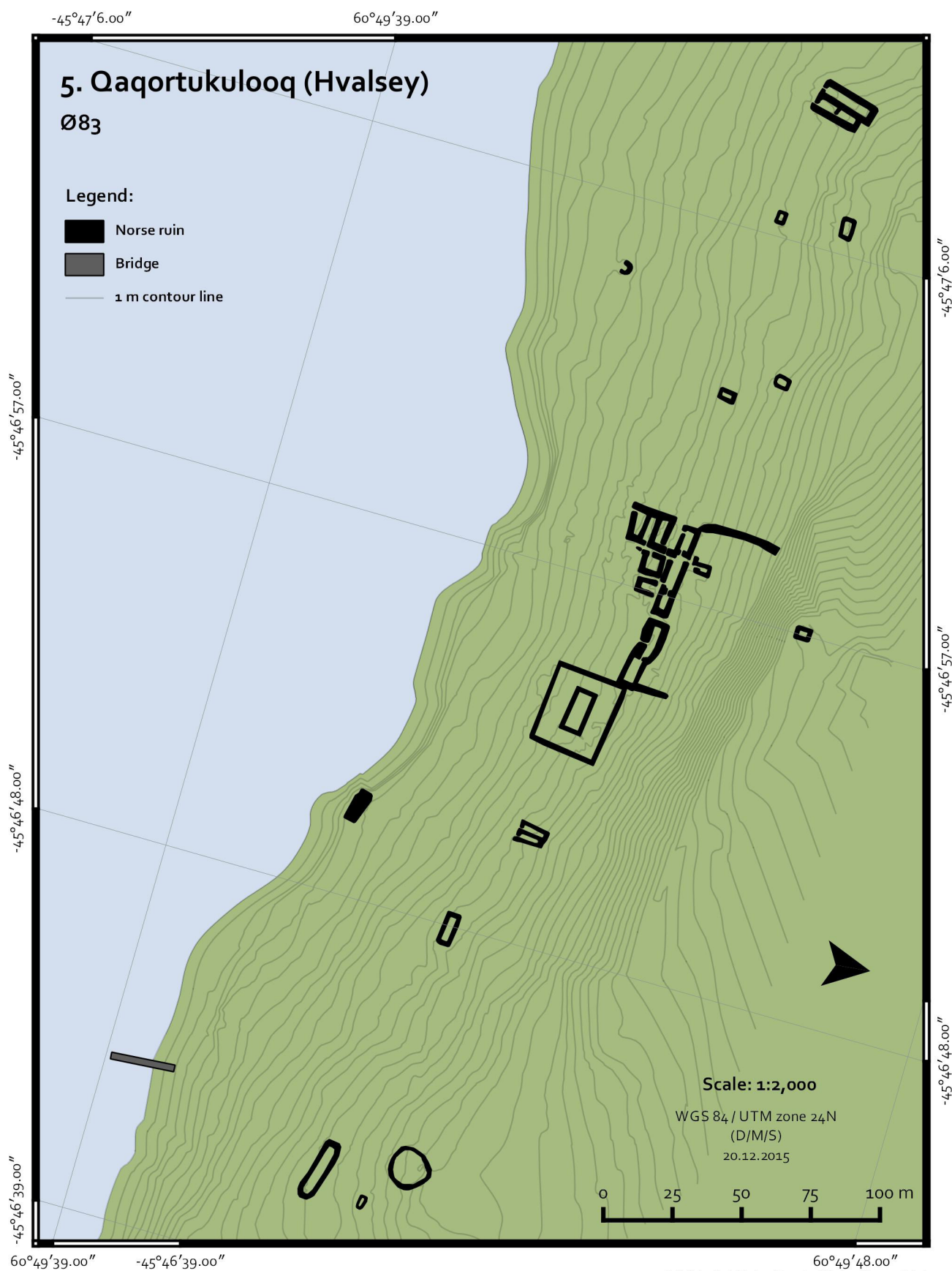


Fig. S.14: Detailed survey plan of Qaqortukuloq (Hvalsey) (Ø83).

Criteria under which property is nominated

The farming landscape of Kujataa is nominated under criterion (v) as *“an outstanding example of a traditional human settlement, land-use, or sea-use which is representative of a culture (or cultures), or human interaction with the environment especially when it has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change.”*

Kujataa is an outstanding example of human settlement, where unique farming traditions have developed in a challenging environment. Situated between the cold desert of the Greenland Ice Cap and the cool outer coast of the Labrador Sea, Kujataa is an oasis with a relatively mild climate. Norse and Inuit subsistence practices based on a combination of animal husbandry and sea mammal hunting have resulted in a distinctive cultural landscape where cultivated fields and managed pastures contrast with the barren wastes of the Arctic. Kujataa is an extremely marginal landscape for farming, vulnerable to environmental change, illustrating the fragility as well as the resilience of past and present cultural traditions.

Draft statement of outstanding universal value

Brief synthesis

Kujataa – a subarctic farming landscape in Greenland is located in the municipality of Kujalleq in South

Greenland. The nominated property is made up of five component parts, which together represent the demographic and administrative core of two farming cultures, a Norse Greenlandic one from the late 10th to the mid-15th century AD and an Inuit one from the 1780s to the present. Although these two cultures are distinct, they are both based on a combination of animal husbandry and marine mammal hunting.

The overall landscape of pastures, fields, ruins and present-day buildings is an outstanding example of a human settlement and land use in the Arctic, which is representative of a unique farming culture. Kujataa represents the first European settlement in the New World and the earliest introduction of farming to the Arctic. The resulting cultural landscape, shaped by grazing both in medieval and modern times, is composed of grassy slopes and willow copses and characterised by low settlement densities with isolated farmsteads surrounded by cultivated fields. The landscape of Kujataa represents an exceptionally comprehensive preservation of a medieval Northern European culture. The five component parts contain the full range of relics relating to Norse Greenlandic culture dating from the 10th to the 15th centuries AD, with complete examples of monumental architecture as well as key sites illustrative of the adaptation of the Inuit to a farming way of life from the 18th century onwards.



Fig. S.15: Silage bales on a sheep farm near Igaliku.



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Justification of criterion

(v) Kujataa is an outstanding example of human settlement, where unique farming traditions have developed in a challenging environment. Situated between the cold desert of the Greenland Ice Cap and the cool outer coast of the Labrador Sea, Kujataa is an oasis with a relatively mild climate. Norse and Inuit subsistence practices based on a combination of animal husbandry and sea mammal hunting have resulted in a distinctive cultural landscape where cultivated fields and managed pastures contrast with the barren wastes of the Arctic. Kujataa is an extremely marginal landscape for farming, vulnerable to environmental change, illustrating the fragility as well as the resilience of past and present cultural traditions.

Statement of integrity

The boundaries of the nominated property are clearly defined and encompass all of the elements necessary to express its outstanding universal value. A comprehensive range of farming landscape is represented, including fields, meadows, and pastures with introduced and naturalised plants. All of the known elements relating to Norse Greenlandic culture—including farms, churches, cemeteries, and outfield structures—are represented in large numbers. The nominated property includes key sites relating to the reintroduction of farming in the 1780s and contains the core areas of contemporary farming, including all of the same attributes as those of the Norse Greenlandic culture.

Statement of authenticity

The nominated property has authenticity because the landscape retains the pastoral character introduced in the 10th century AD, where isolated farms surrounded by cultivated fields and interspersed by managed pastures are set against a background of vast and untouched wilderness. The archaeological remains of the Norse Greenlandic settlements in Kujataa have retained the highest degree of authenticity. The form, design and material composition of houses and other relics of this culture are unquestionably European and Norse. The characteristics and distinguishing features of Greenland Norse and Thule Inuit material culture are clear and well known. This has been established through large-scale excavations, extensive field surveys and intensive typological, art historical and environmental analyses stretching back into the 19th century. The historical view of the Norse Greenlandic settlements draws on contemporary written records from Iceland and Norway dating back to the 12th to 15th centuries AD.

Conservation of architectural monuments has primarily taken place in the last 20 years based on the principle of ensuring structural stability rather than rebuilding. The majority of the Norse Greenlandic sites have suffered no anthropogenic modification since their abandonment. Modern sheep farms, located mostly on or adjacent

to Norse Greenlandic farm sites, typify the managed character of the contemporary landscape. Detailed historical documentation and protected historic buildings in the farming settlements bear witness to the farming culture of modern Inuit.



Fig. S.16: The church ruin of Hvalsey.

Requirements for protection and management

A combination of effective legislation and well-organised municipal planning strategies—together with an up-to-date management plan and a dedicated local community—contribute to the long-term protection and management of the nominated property and ensure the preservation of its outstanding universal value.

The site is governed and managed by a steering group with representatives from the Government of Greenland, the Greenland National Museum and Archives, Kujalleq Municipality, village councils, sheep farmers, the Danish Agency for Culture and the tourism industry. The day-to-day management will be carried out by a local secretariat headed by a site manager and a staff consisting of one or more park rangers working in close collaboration with the authorities represented in the steering group.

All ancient monuments in the property are protected by the Greenland Parliament Act on Cultural Heritage Protection and Conservation. This act ensures a protection zone of 20 metres around each ruin except for agricultural surface cultivation that may take place up to a distance of two metres from a monument. The ruin groups at Sissarluttoq (cp 3) and at the Hvalsey (Qaqortukuloq) site (cp 5) are further protected by their status as “cultural heritage areas”, including a much wider protection zone around the monuments, where no agricultural activities can take place with the exception of pasture for sheep grazing during summer. The important ruin groups in Qassiarsuk (cp 1) and Igaliku (cp 2) also have an additional protection zone stipulated in the municipal planning. The listed buildings in the property are protected by the same legislative act as the ancient monuments, ensuring that demolition is prevented and that any alterations are carefully controlled. The Greenland National Museum

and Archives is the responsible authority and offers advice and information on the maintenance of listed buildings. Furthermore, listed buildings are protected under the municipal planning.

The Government of Greenland and Kujalleq Municipality are pursuing a pro-agricultural policy and investing development funds for the agricultural sector, with an observed focus on the nominated property, as it ranks among the most productive agricultural districts in contemporary Greenland. In recent decades, the Government of Greenland has developed agricultural legislation on the basis of the Agricultural Act of 1996, which has paved the way for the introduction of a number of regulations. Government support for the agricultural sector is expected to continue in the future.

This pro-agricultural policy ensures the ongoing livelihood of the agricultural sector, and there is a broad political consensus within the Parliament of Greenland for both preserving and developing the agricultural sector. The main incentive for this support is to provide Greenland with more domestically grown produce, thereby reducing the country's dependency on food imports. This political will and ambition is reflected in both legislation and the fiscal budgets of the Government of Greenland, with funds being provided for public loans and grants for development initiatives.

The Government of Greenland and Kujalleq Municipality provide further subsidies for the development of infrastructure, particularly renewable energy projects and roads between farms and settlements. As noted above, the government provides operating subsidies to agriculture that support the sector's continued existence. However, the government intends to make agriculture less dependent on subsidies and will increasingly focus on economies of scale in agriculture.

Name and contact information of official local institution/agency

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Glossary

Arctic Small Tool tradition: Earliest culture known in Greenland with traces in northern Greenland going back to 2500 BC or earlier. Independence I and Saqqaq are now seen as variants of this culture, the remains of which are found throughout Greenland and which lasted until c. 800 BC.

centralised farm: A Norse Greenlandic building complex where most or all functions of the farm have been amalgamated in one structure, as opposed to farms where stables and outhouses are scattered over the *homefield*.

Early Dorset: see *Greenlandic Dorset*.

Eystribyggð: Eastern Settlement. The area of Norse Greenlandic settlement in southern Greenland, from Cape Farewell to the mouth of Ikarsuaq fjord. Equivalent to modern *Kujataa*. See also Ø.

feasting hall: A stone structure that was a component of Norse Greenlandic elite residences where feasts are thought to have been held.

Greenlandic Dorset: Distinct from the Canadian Dorset with which it is partly contemporaneous. Found throughout Greenland from ca. 800 BC to ca. 1 AD. Previously known as Independence II and Early Dorset.



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homefield: The area of improved meadow/cultivated land around individual Norse Greenlandic farmsteads producing winter fodder for livestock, particularly dairy cows.

Independence I: See *Arctic Small Tool tradition*.

Independence II: See *Greenlandic Dorset*.

Inuit: Modern Greenlanders, refers to their culture in the post-contact (1721) period.

Kujataa: The modern Greenlandic name for the southernmost part of the west coast of Greenland, equivalent to *Eystribyggð* in medieval times.

Late Dorset: Found only in the far northwest of Greenland in ca. 700-1300 AD, part of the Canadian Late Dorset and not directly related to the earlier *Greenlandic Dorset*.

M: Abbreviation for the Danish term *Mellelbygden* (Middle Settlement), used in site identification numbers, e.g. M7 for Eqaluit. There is no known Norse Greenlandic name for this region often regarded as an outlying component of *Eystribyggð*.

Norse: Culture of Scandinavian origin, used to describe the language, material culture, ideology and social structure of Viking Age Scandinavia as well as new communities in the North Atlantic, from the British Isles to the west coast of Greenland, during the Middle Ages.

Norse Greenlandic: The local manifestation of Norse culture in Greenland from the 10th to the 15th centuries.

outfield: Unimproved pastures and meadows outside the homefield of a *Norse Greenlandic* farm.

outstation: Any structure outside *Norse Greenlandic* homefields that is not a *shieling*. Typically a single fold or pen.

Palaeo-Eskimo: The cultures of Greenland and Arctic Canada that pre-date the European colonisation in the 10th century AD. These include the *Arctic Small Tool tradition* (Independence I and Saqqaq), *Greenlandic Dorset* (also known as Independence II and Early Dorset) and *Late Dorset* cultures.

Qeqertaasaq: An alternative Greenlandic place name for *Tasikuluulik* – component part 4, known in Norse as *Vatnahverfi*.

Saqqaq: Greenlandic variant of the *Arctic Small Tool tradition*.

shieling: *Norse Greenlandic* summer farm, characterised by a dwelling (seasonal) and a highland/peripheral location.

skemma: A stone structure found at many *Norse Greenlandic* sites, often set apart from other buildings in a prominent location. Thought to have had a storage function.

South Greenland: The southern part of Greenland, including both main settlement areas of the Norse Greenlanders, *Vestribyggð* and *Eystribyggð*.

Subarctic: A climatic and vegetation zone equivalent to climate types Dfc, Dwc, Dfd, and Dwd in the Köppen climate classification scheme. "*Between the temperate coniferous zone ... and the arctic climatic zone lies a narrow transitional region which is called the subarctic climatic zone. Here, average climatic temperatures during the warmest month lie slightly above 10°C and the growing season is just long enough to allow the development of a low scattered forest. In Greenland the subarctic zone is only found in the interior parts of the southern fjords.*"

Tasikuluulik: From 2014, the official place name for component part 4 – in Greenlandic also known as *Qeqertaasaq* and in Norse as *Vatnahverfi*.

Thule Inuit: The ancestral culture of modern Inuit, arrived in Greenland by the 13th century AD. Used in reference to the pre-contact (1721) period.

V: Abbreviation for the Danish term *Vesterbygden* (*Vestribyggð*, Western Settlement), used in site identification numbers, e.g. V51 for Kilersarfik (Sandnes).

Vatnahverfi: Norse term for *Tasikuluulik* – component part 4.

Vestribyggð: Western Settlement. The area of *Norse Greenlandic* settlement in the Nuuk / Ameralik-Ameralla fjord complex east of present day Nuuk. See also V.

Vikings: Pirates and seafarers of Scandinavian origin active in northern Europe and the North Atlantic in the period 800-1100 AD.

Winter house: In *Thule Inuit* culture a turf dwelling used in winter.

Ø: Abbreviation for the Danish term *Østerbygden* (*Eystribyggð*, Eastern Settlement, *Kujataa*), used in site identification numbers, e.g. Ø47 for Igaliku (Garðar).