

Archaeological Salvage Excavations

at the JgEj-17 site,
Quaqtaq, Northern Quebec

Presented to:

Hydro-Quebec

By:

the Avataq Cultural Institute Inc.

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Summary

During August, 1987, the Avataq Cultural Institute conducted an archaeological salvage project at the JgEj-17 site, Quaqtaq, Northern Quebec. This project, sponsored by Hydro-Quebec, was necessitated by the use in 1986 of part of the site as a gravel pit for the construction of foundations for the new electrical generating plan in the village. The objectives of the project were to rescue eroding cultural data and to stabilize through excavation the erosion of cultural deposits bordering on the gravel pit.

The principal field activities carried out centred on the systematic sampling and controlled excavation of 121m² in the immediate vicinity of the gravel pit. In all, 2 identified tent rings and 2 habitation zones were excavated either wholly or in part. These excavations yielded a total of 23 lithic objects. These few specimens, combined with the habitation structures, nevertheless tend to confirm a Dorset culture affiliation for the site. A possible earlier Pre-Dorset occupation of the site also is be speculated.

In order to protect the site from additional disturbance, it is recommended that further use of the gravel pit be prohibited and that the site be monitored at regular intervals. It is also recommended that all future Hydro-Quebec construction projects, regardless of scope, in Northern Quebec Inuit territories be preceeded by an archaeological impact study.

Résumé

En août 1987, l'Institut culturel Avataq inc. a été mandaté par Hydro-Québec pour réaliser une fouille de sauvetage sur une partie du site JgEj-17, dans la Municipalité de Quaqtaq, Nouveau-Québec. Ce projet de sauvetage archéologique a été rendu nécessaire à la suite de l'utilisation, en 1986, de la portion nord-ouest du site comme banc d'emprunt pour la construction des fondations de la nouvelle centrale électrique du village. L'objectif des travaux de terrain était de fouiller la zone jouxtant la limite du banc d'emprunt de façon à sauvegarder l'information encore disponible et de préserver la portion restante du site.

Un total de 121m² a été fouillé couvrant de façon systématique le secteur du site qui se trouve en périphérie du banc d'emprunt. Deux structures d'habitation (1 et 26) et deux zones d'habitation ont été touchées par les travaux archéologiques. Au total, 23 objets lithiques, ont été recueillis à partir des activités de terrain. Ces objets, bien que peu nombreux et les données sur les traces d'établissement enregistrées confirment, néanmoins, l'occupation du site par des groupes dorsétiens. Une occupation plus ancienne, remontant à la période prédorsétienne est aussi spéculée.

Les travaux de fouille archéologique ont mené à l'émission de certaines recommandations visant la protection des portions du site JgEj-17 demeurées intactes. Il est notamment recommandé que cesse tout exploitation de ce banc d'emprunt et que l'emplacement soit visé à intervalles réguliers. tout projet de construction soit précédé d'une

étude d'impact sur les ressources archéologiques. Il est aussi recommandé que tout projet de construction, indépendamment de leur importance, soit précédé d'une étude d'impact sur les ressources archéologiques du territoire Inuit du Nouveau-Québec.

Acknowledgments

We wish to express our gratitude to Mr. Germain Tremblay, Coordinateur des Projets spéciaux, Propriétés immobilières, Région Montmorency, and Mr. Claude Perreault, Chef des travaux de Construction, both of Hydro-Québec, for their interest and collaboration in the archaeological salvage of the JgEj-17 site. Our gratitude also to Mr. Bobby Deer, President of the Tuvaaluk Corporation, for his assistance in organizing and carrying out the project. Too, thanks are due to Mr. David Okpik and Mr. Mike Keelan, who provided accommodations and logistic support during the field work.

The Avataq Cultural Institute gratefully acknowledges the contributions of each of these individuals to the present archaeological project.

2.0 Description of the JgEj-17 site

2.1 Location and Setting

The JgEj-17 site is located in the Municipality of Quaqaq, Ungava County, Northern Quebec, at [redacted] (Figure 1). It is situated on the eastern slope of a tombolo, approximately 700m north-northeast of the village and about 300m south-southwest of Little Lake Cove, on the northeastern coast of Diana Bay (Figure 2). The altitude of the site varies from roughly [redacted]

The tombolo is formed by a series of raised beach ridges composed, at upper elevations of medium-coarse gravel and, at the intermediate and lower levels, of boulders mixed with coarse gravel. These well-drained marine deposits are bounded to the north and south by low bedrock hills and, to the east, by bedrock outcrops. Other outcrops of varying extent are scattered throughout the northwestern section of the site. As suggested by observed habitation structures, the western boundary of the site was originally defined as corresponding to the crest of the tombolo. However, this limit now is defined by the eastern edge of the gravel pit. The beach ridges are bordered to the northeast by a small pond and wet drainage basin. A second pond occurs in the southeastern section of the site.

The site is approximately $24,300\text{m}^2$ in overall extent, measuring [redacted] While possible tents rings are scattered throughout the locality, clearly-definable habitation structures were recorded only in the central and northern sections of the site. This principal occupation area, oriented east-west, is 180m in

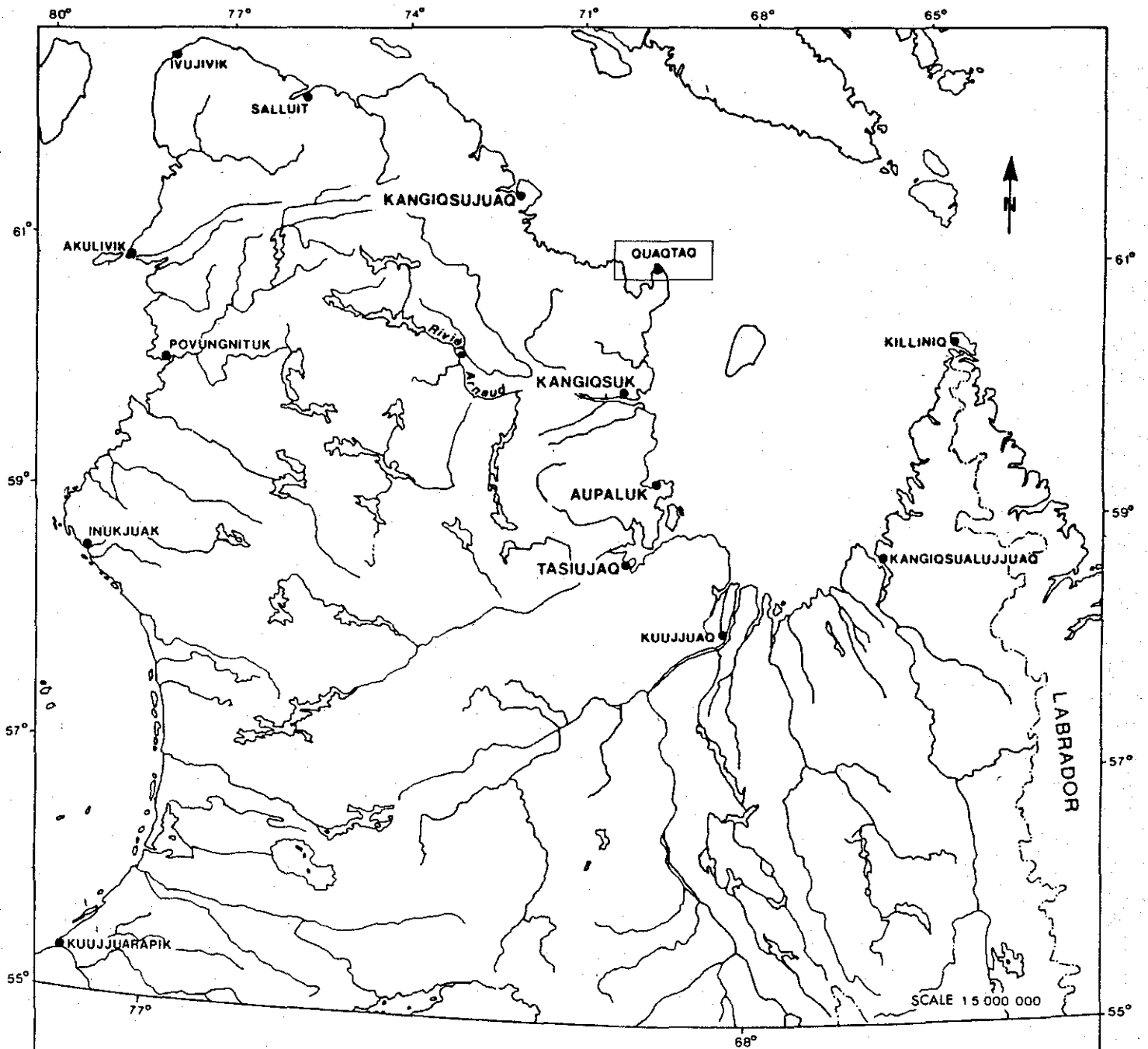


FIGURE 1

LOCALISATION DU VILLAGE
 LOCATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF

QUAQTAQ

**NOUVEAU-QUEBEC
 NORTHERN QUEBEC**

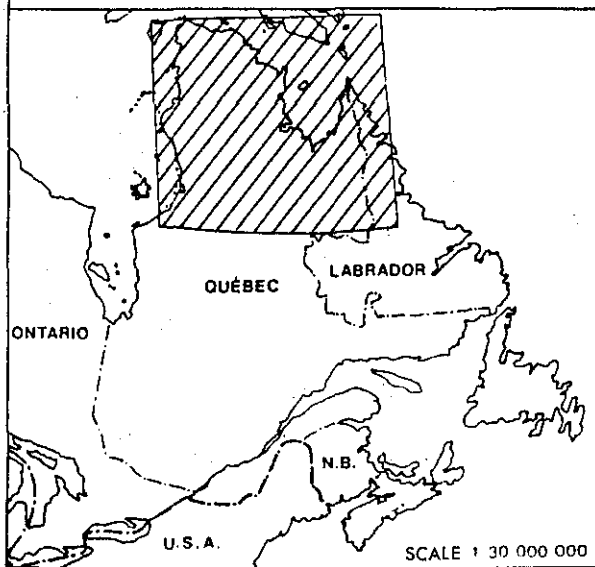
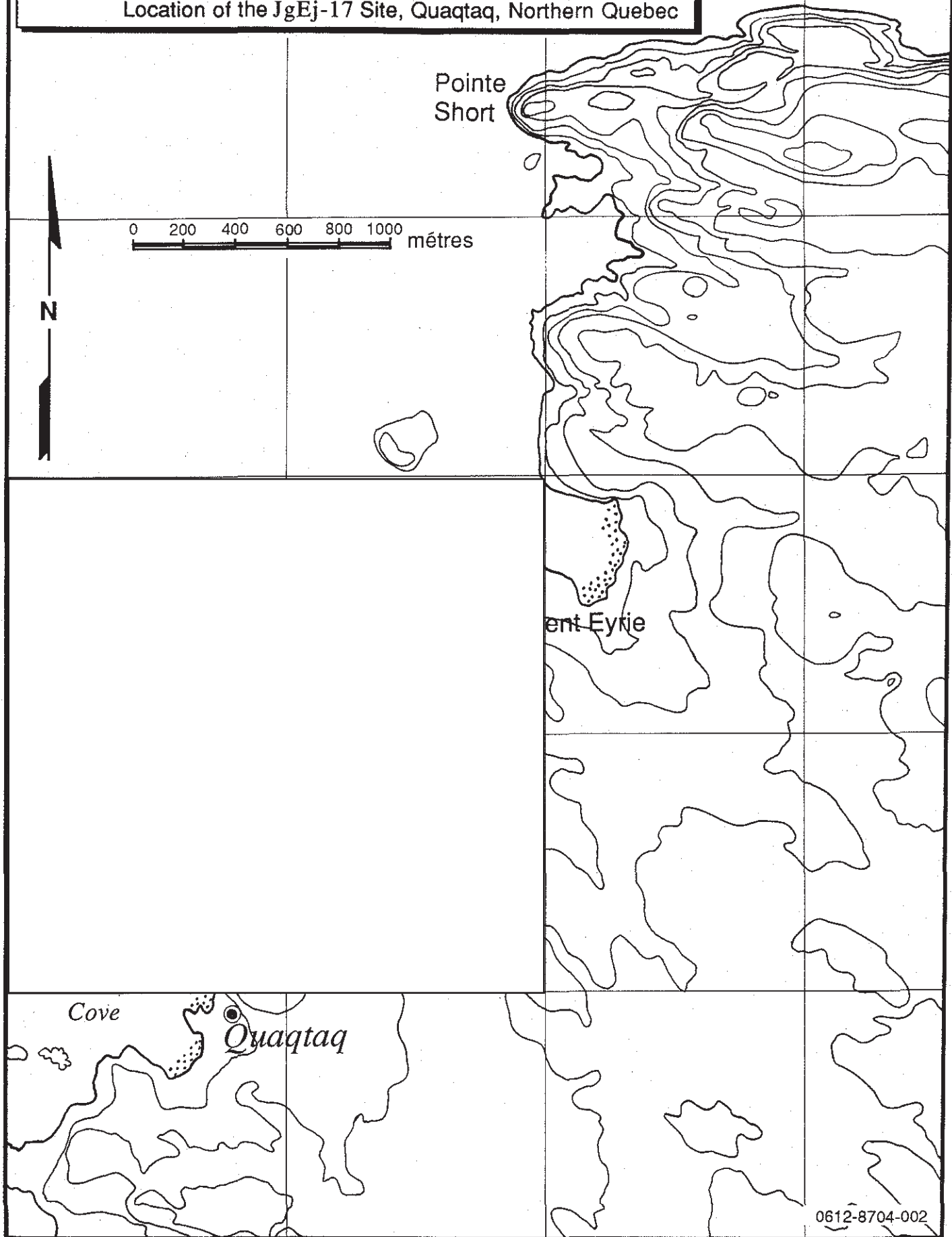


Figure 2 : Localisation du Site JgEj-17, Quaqtaq, Nouveau-Québec
Location of the JgEj-17 Site, Quaqtaq, Northern Quebec



length by 95m in width. It covers roughly $17,300\text{m}^2$, equivalent to about 71% of the total site area.

Site vegetation consists predominantly of low mosses and lichens intermixed with sparse grasses and rare dwarf shrubs. Sphagnum colonies of varying extent occur on the edges of the ponds and, as well, along the northern and eastern bedrock limits of the site.

2.2. Inventory Data

Archaeological inventory activities carried out in 1986 resulted in the identification of 25 habitation structures and 2 features in the JgEj-17 site. The habitations structures, occurring individually and in clusters, are represented by 14 oval and 11 circular tent rings (Appendix 4). The former range from 1.90 x 1.70m to 3.40 x 2.80m in dimensions and the latter, from 2.10 to 2.90m in diameter (Table 1).

The features comprise a rock alignment, 3.50m in length, and a hunting blind measuring 1.20m in length. Although the function of the alignment remains undetermined, a second blind may be indicated.

Surface collecting and test-pitting failed to yield any lithics or other cultural materials. Nevertheless, the characteristics of the habitation structures and the altitude of the locality were sufficient to the interpretation of a Dorset culture affiliation for the site. Also, 3 tent rings noted in the northwestern portion of the site prior to the exploitation of the gravel pit suggested a possible Pre-Dorset component. However, the obliteration of these structures by subsequent

Table 1. Principal features of the habitation structures identified on the JgEj-17 site, Quaqtaq, Northern Quebec.

<u>STRUCTURE</u>	<u>SHAPE</u>	<u>DIMENSIONS (m)</u>	<u>ORIENTATION</u> ⁽¹⁾
1	circular	2,10 dia.	-
2	circular	2,90 dia.	-
3	oval	2,60 x 2,40	N/S
4	oval	2,90 x 2,60	N/S
5	oval	3,40 x 2,80	W/E
6	oval	3,40 x 2,70	W/E
7	oval	2,70 x 2,60	W/E
8	oval	2,90 x 2,50	W/E
9	circular	2,50 dia.	-
10	circular	2,10 dia.	-
11	oval	3,30 x 2,20	N/S
12	circular	2,00 dia.	-
13	oval	2,50 x 2,30	N/S
14	oval	3,00 x 2,00	NE/SW
15	circular	2,30 dia.	
16	oval	2,50 x 21,0	W/E

Table 1. (continued)

<u>STRUCTURE</u>	<u>SHAPE</u>	<u>DIMENSIONS (m)</u>	<u>ORIENTATION</u> ⁽¹⁾
17	oval	1,90 x 1,70	W/E
18	oval	2,10 x 1,90	W/E
19	circular	2,10 dia.	-
20	circular	2,80 dia.	-
21	circular	2,40 dia.	-
22	cval	3,00 x 2,40	W/E
23	oval	2,20 x 1,90	W/SE
24	circular	2,60 dia.	-
25	circular	2,20 dia.	-
*26	circular	4,60 x 4,75	-
*27	unknown	-	-

(1) oriented toward magnetic North

* registered in 1987 field work

m: meter

dia. diameter

construction work precluded confirmation of this suggested earlier occupation.

2.3 Site Disturbance

Initial inventory activities conducted in 1986 at the JgEj-17 site included the intensive visual inspection and limited test-pitting of the western slope of the tombolo. This slope, immediately adjacent to the site, had been proposed as a potential gravel pit for the construction of foundations for the new Hydro-Quebec generating plant in the village. The inspection and sampling of the locality was carried out by Mr. Ian Badgley, Resident Archaeologist of Avataq, accompanied by Mr. Bob Deer, President of the Tuvaaluk Landholding Corporation, and Mr. Daniel Latarte of Les Entreprises Guy Latarte inc., the Hydro-Quebec contractor. These activities proved negative, yielding no evidence of either prehistoric or historic human occupation in the proposed gravel pit. Also, in order to avoid disturbance of the JgEj-17 site, it was agreed by all concerned that gravel exploitation work would be restricted to a distance of roughly 10m west of the 3 possible Pre-Dorset tent rings. These structures, as well as others situated in close proximity, were indicated to Mr. Deer and Mr. Latarte.

Subsequent gravel exploitation work nevertheless inadvertently extended some 30 to 35m into the northwestern section of the site. This eastern extension, varying from 32 to 40m in width, is bordered by mixed organic and mineral soils removed from the surface of the gravel pit. These redeposited sediments occupy a continuous band roughly 65m in overall length and ranging from 2 to 8m in width. Also, the zone

immediately peripheral to the eastern edge of the gravel pit has been disturbed by the passage of heavy tracked and wheeled machinery. Traces of this surface disturbance extend 15 to 20m further eastward into the site.

The gravel pit and redeposited sediments are estimated to cover roughly 1600m² of the site, representing approximately 9% of the principal occupation area. Although of only moderate significance in terms of statistics, gravel pit exploitation work in this portion of the site has resulted in the complete destruction of 3 tent rings possibly related to Pre-Dorset occupation of the site. Another tent ring, recorded during the present project, has been partially destroyed. Several others have been disturbed by machinery movement. Too, a number of possible habitation structures noted during the initial inspection of the site have either been destroyed or buried beneath the redeposited sediments.

Additional disturbance observed in the site comprises a shallow depression in the west-central section of the site, about 40m generally south of the gravel pit. This depression is approximately 10m in length by 4m wide and roughly 20cm in depth. It results from 1984 testing of the deposits by the municipality using a front-end loader. Intensive inspection of the zone tends to indicate that no archaeological resources were disturbed by this testing.

3.0 Methodology

3.1 Project Objectives

The principal objectives of the project were:

- . to evaluate the extent of cultural deposits in and adjacent to zones disturbed by gravel pit exploitation work;
- . to rescue cultural data occurring in these zones or threatened to be disturbed by subsequent erosion;
- . to reduce and stabilize the effects of erosion on archaeological resources contained in the disturbed section of the site;
- . to propose measures for the mitigation of further impacts on the site.

The area concerned encompasses a 20-m wide band immediately peripheral to the eastern extremity of the gravel pit. This band, covering approximately 2000m², extends 56 and 42m along the eastern and southern edges of the gravel pit.

3.2 Field Procedures

3.2.1 Site Gridding and Surface Collecting

A grid system composed of intersecting bands 1 metre in width was installed in the area defined using a Sokkisha theodolite and 2 60-m

surveyor chains. Bands oriented toward magnetic North were sequentially numbered while those in east-west alignment were designated by alphabetical letters. The value of the numbers and letters increases toward the south and west respectively. Accordingly, each square metre was identified by an alpha-numeric code (ex.: AB46, BZ29, etc.).

The square metres formed the basic units of excavation and data registry. In order to insure accuracy of registration, each excavated square metre was individually delimited by cords attached to 4 corner pins.

The whole of the area as well as the redeposited soils bordering the gravel pit were intensively surface-collected during and following the installation of the grid. This activity was oriented toward the recovered of any cultural materials occurring on the surface and the identification of habitation structures or other features.

3.2.2 Sampling and Excavations

Surface collecting was followed by sampling and controlled excavations. In all, 121m² were excavated, including 69 test pits. The test pits, each 1m² in dimensions, were systematically executed at intervals varying from 2 to 5m. In order to clarify certain observations, a number of contiguous test pits were excavated at several locations.

Controlled excavations were organized in terms of the surface collecting and sampling results. These excavations were centred principally on 2 habitation zones designated A and B. The first of

these zones, situated 10m east of the gravel pit rim, is 34m^2 in extent. Habitation zone B is located 12m to the south and covers 11m^2 . Both contain confirmed or inferred tent rings. Also, 7m^2 were excavated in Structure 26, an additional tent ring identified during surface collecting.

3.2.3 Data Registration Techniques

Unworked and unused lithic specimens collected on the surface and from the excavations were registered according to quadrant (50 x 50cm) of the square metre. The stratigraphic association of excavated waste flakes also was noted. Alternately, the exact provenience of tools was measured from the northern and eastern limits of the square metre.

The location of each individual artifact and representative stratigraphic profiles in the habitation zones were recorded at a scale of 1:10. Too, detailed plans of the excavated tent rings, the habitation zones, and the excavation area were prepared at appropriate scales. These aspects as well as identified features and several of the test pits were photographed in colour and black and white using 35mm cameras.

3.3. Landscaping

As arranged with the Tuvaaluk Corporation of Quaqtq, the disturbed section of the site was to have been landscaped following the completion of excavations in the study area. These arrangements involved: 1. the leveling and grading of appropriate slopes along the

interior edges of the eastern extension of the gravel pit using heavy machinery and; 2. the removal of the bulk of the redeposited sediments bordering the extension.

It also was decided that, excavation results depending, several continuous courses of rocks would be laid along the edge of the exterior rim of the gravel pit extension. This activity was suggested in order to minimize further disturbance of peripheral cultural deposits through the effects of subsequent downwash or other erosion. However, the scant cultural materials revealed by the excavations eliminated the necessity of implementing this suggested stabilization measure.

4.0 Archaeological Results

4.1 Site Stratigraphy

Basically similar stratigraphic profiles were observed throughout the majority of the excavation units. These profiles consist of a sand-gravel horizon overlain by a discontinuous layer of sandy humus. The humus and, where absent, the gravel is capped by a thin, discontinuous mantle of vegetation, generally no more than 2cm in thickness.

The humus layer varies in thickness from 3 to 4cm in Structure 26 and, in Habitation Zone A, from 2 to 8cm. A buried humus lense underlying approximately 2cm of gravel occurs in CC27, in the western section of the zone. This lense, resting on a flagstone is roughly 2-3cm in thickness and 24cm in diameter.

The humus in Habitation Zone B, about 10cm in average thickness, attains a maximum thickness of 20cm. This development results from the location of the zone in a shallow depression, a situation favouring the progressive accumulation of windblown and downwashed organic matter. The presence of short, thin sand lenses interspersed throughout the layer tends to confirm such actions.

It is presumed that rocks placed in Habitation Zone B by prehistoric occupants for settlement purposes further promoted the accumulation and retention of organic sediments in the depression. For example, rocks occurring in the humus layer were noted only in the western part of the zone. All cobbles and flagstones either naturally-deposited or culturally-placed in the remainder of this zone as well as in all other excavation units are directly associated with the marine

gravel horizon. The absence of substantial humus development in these units is explained by more efficient drainage and greater exposure to aeolian action.

4.2 Habitation Structures

Field activities resulted in the almost complete and partial excavation of Structures 1 and 26. The latter, located approximately 21m generally southeast of the gravel pit, was identified during surface collecting in the study area. Another previously unrecorded tent ring (i.e., Structure 27) also was registered on the immediate northeastern perimeter of the gravel pit. The greater part of this structure has been destroyed or is buried beneath redeposited soil sediments.

Structures 1 and 26 are defined by circular alignments of rocks measuring 2.20m and 4.70m in diameter respectively. Although a circular tent ring is suggested, neither the form nor dimensions of Structure 27 are definable.

A loose concentration of flagstones in Structure 1 possibly represents the remains of a paved mid-passage (c.f., Figure 3). Other features related to prehistoric settlement in Habitation Zone A include an intersecting rock alignment linear concentration of cobbles and flagstones. The alignment, about 4.50m in length, extends northeastward from CC26 to BZ23. The concentration is roughly 1m in width by 6m long, extending toward the north-northwest from CC28 into CE22. Although the

Appendix 4

List of Photographs, JgEj-17.

<u>ROLL</u>	<u>NEGATIVE</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>ORIENTATION</u>	<u>DATE</u>
C87-4(1)	7	East of grave pit	N	31/07/87
	8	South of gravel pit	NE	31/07/87
	9	South of gravel pit	NNW	31/07/87
	10	General view of JgEj-17	S	31/07/87
	11	East of gravel pit	SW	31/07/87
	12	CC27, humus lense, level II	N	1-08-87
	13	Overview of field activities	S	1-08-87
	14	Structure 26 prior to excavation	S	1-08-87
	15	CE-CF43-44	S	4-08-87
	16	Excavation in Structure 1 and Habitation Zone A	E	4-08-87
	17	CC42-CD41, rock alignment	N	4-08-87
	18	Excavation near Structure 27	NW	5-08-87
	19	Field crew	-	5-08-87
	20	Structure 1 and Habitation Zone A	E	5-08-87
	21	Structure 1 and Habitation Zone A	W	5-08-87

List of Photographs, JgEj-17.

<u>ROLL</u>	<u>NEGATIVE</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>ORIENTATION</u>	<u>DATE</u>
	22	Structure 1 and Habitation Zone A	SE	5-08-87
	23	CA-CB24-25	N	5-08-87
	24	CC-CD22-23	S	5-08-87
	25	CC-CD26-27, CC28, CE27	E	5-08-87
	26	BT-BY24-25, BS24	W	5-08-87
	27	Excavation in Habitation Zone B	E	6-08-87
	28	Excavation in Structure 26	E	6-08-87
	29	Overview	NE	6-08-87
	30	South of gravel pit	W	6-08-87
	31	CK-CM 49	E	6-08-87
	32	Structure 26	S	6-08-87
	33	Structure 26, CK-CM 59	N	8-08-87
	34	Structure 26, CP-CQ 59	S	8-08-87
	35	Structure 26	E	8-08-87
	36	Structure 26	W	8-08-87
	36A	Habitation Zone B	E	8-08-87
C87-4(2)	-	Structure 26, CK-CM 59	N	8-08-87
	-0	Structure 26, CK-CCM59	N	8-08-87

List of Photographs, JgEj-17.

<u>ROLL</u>	<u>NEGATIVE</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>ORIENTATION</u>	<u>DATE</u>
	0	Structure 26, CP-CQ 59	S	8-08-87
	1	Structure 26	E	8-08-87
	2	Structure 26	W	8-08-87
	3	Habitation Zone B	E	8-08-87
	4	Excavation in Structures 1 and Habitation A	NW	8-08-87
	5	Habitation Zone B	W	8-08-87
	6	Habitation Zone B	S	8-08-87
	7	Habitation Zone B, CC-CD41-42, CC43	N	8-08-87
	8	Habitation Zone B, CC-CD41-42, CC43	S	8-08-87
	9	Habitation Zone B, CD42	N	8-08-87
	10	Habitation Zone B, unexcavated section	S	8-08-87
	11	Habitation Zone B, east limit	N	8-08-87
	12	West limit of JgEj-17 and gravel pit	NW	8-08-87

List of Photographs, JgEj-17.

<u>ROLL</u>	<u>NEGATIVE</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>ORIENTATION</u>	<u>DATE</u>
	13	Depression south of gravel pit	W	8-08-87
	14	Gravel pit	NE	8-08-87
	15	Gravel pit	SW	8-08-87
	16	Excavated area east of gravel pit	S	8-08-87
	17	Square meters east of gravel pit	W	8-08-87
	18	Square meters east of gravel pit	N	8-08-87
	19	CJ26, near gravel pit	W	8-08-87
	20	Southern limit of gravel pit	S	8-08-87
	21	CP-CQ59	N	8-08-87
	22	Overview, east of gravel pit	N	8-08-87
NB87-4(1)	4	East of gravel pit	N	31-07-87
	5	South of gravel pit	NE	31-07-87
	6	South of gravel pit	NNW	31-07-87
	7	General view of JgEj-17	S	31-07-87
	8	East of gravel pit	SW	31-07-87
	9	CC27, humus lense, level II	N	1-08-87
	10	Overview of field activity	S	1-08-87

List of Photographs, JgEj-17.

<u>ROLL</u>	<u>NEGATIVE</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>ORIENTATION</u>	<u>DATE</u>
	11	Structure 26 prior to excavation	S	1-08-87
	12	CE-CF43-44	S	4-08-87
	13	Excavation of Habitation Zone A	E	4-08-87
	14	CD41, level II, under sand-gravel level	N	4-08-87
	15	CC-CD41-42, rocks alignment	N	4-08-87
	16	Square meters near Structure 27	NW	5-08-87
	17	Field crew	-	5-08-87
	18	CC25-26, Habitation Zone A	E	5-08-87
	19	CC23-24	E	5-08-87
	20	Structure 1 area Habitation Zone A	E	5-08-87
	21	Structure 1 area Habitation Zone A	W	5-08-87
	22	Structure 1 area Habitation Zone A	SE	5-08-87
	23	CA-CB24-25	N	5-08-87
	24	CC-CD22-23	S	5-08-87
	25	CC-CD26-27, CC18, CE27	E	5-08-87
	26	BS24, BT-BY24-25	W	5-08-87
	27	Excavation in Habitation Zone B	E	6-08-87
	28	DH-DJ43	N	6-08-87

List of Photographs, JgEj-17.

<u>ROLL</u>	<u>NEGATIVE</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>ORIENTATION</u>	<u>DATE</u>
	29	DG43	N	6-08-87
	30	Excavation of Structure 26	E	6-08-87
	31	Overview	NE	6-08-87
	32	South of gravel pit	W	6-08-87
	33	CK-CM49	E	6-08-87
	34	Structure 26	S	6-08-87
	35	Structure 26	S	6-08-87
	36	Structure 26	S	6-08-87
NB87-4(2)	0A	Habitation Zone B	E	8-08-87
	0	Excavation of Structure a and Habitation Zone A	NW	8-08-87
	1	Habitation Zone B	W	8-08-87
	2	Habitation Zone B	S	8-08-87
	3	Habitation Zone B, CC-CD41-42, CC43	N	8-08-87
	4	Habitation Zone B, CC-CD41-42, CC43	S	8-08-87
	5	Habitation Zone B, CD42	N	8-08-87
	6	Habitation Zone B, unexecuted section	S	8-08-87
	7	Habitation Zone B, eastern limit	N	8-08-87
	8	Western limit of JgEj-17 and	NW	8-08-87

	gravel pit		
9	Depression South gravel pit	W	8-08-87
10	Gravel pit	NE	8-08-87
11	Gravel pit	SW	8-08-87
12	Excavated area South of gravel pit	S	8-08-87
13	Square meters east of gravel pit	W	8-08-87
14	Square meters east of gravel pit	N	8-08-87
15	CJ26, gravel pit	W	8-08-87
16	Southern limit of gravel pit	W	8-08-87
17	CP-CQ59	N	8-08-87
18	Overview east	N	8-08-87

Appendix 2

Appendix 2. Catalogue of Lithic Specimens, JgEj-17, Quaqtaq, Northern Quebec.

<u>NO</u>	<u>ITEM</u>	<u>NB</u>	<u>RAW MATERIAL</u>	<u>m²</u>	<u>PROVENIENCE LEVEL</u>	<u>QUADRANT</u>
1	flake	1	chert	BU24	II	SW
2	flake	1	chert	BU25	II	NE
3	flake	1	chert	BY25	II	NW
4	flake core	1	chert	BZ16	II	NW
5	flake	1	chert	CD26	II	SW
6	flake	3	chert	CE43	II	NW
7	flake	1	chert	CF43	II	NE
8	flakes (?)	3	crystal quartz	CG35	surface	SW
9	flake	1	chert	CL49	II	NW
10	flake	1	chert	CL49	II	SE
11	flake	1	chert	CM49	II	SE
12	flake	1	chert	CK59	II	NW
13	flake	1	chert	CL59	I	NW
14	flake	1	chert	CM59	surface	NE
15	flake	1	chert	DG43	II	NW
16	flake	1	metabasalt	DH43	II	NW
17	flake	1	milky quartz	DJ43	II	SE
18	flake	1	chert	DL42	surface	SW
19	flake core	1	chert	DS63	surface	SE
	Total:	23				

Appendix 3



Photo 1. General view of the study area, JgEj-17, and of the eastern extension of the gravel pit, toward the southwest. The 45 gallon drums were set-up in 1986 in order to prevent further gravel exploitation work in the site.



Photo 2. General view of the gravel pit extension toward the northwest.



Photo 3. View of the eastern portion of the study area, toward the north-northwest. Note redeposited sediments on east rim of gravel pit.



Photo 4. View of the southern portion of the study area, toward the east. Note surface disturbance by heavy tracked vehicle in foreground.

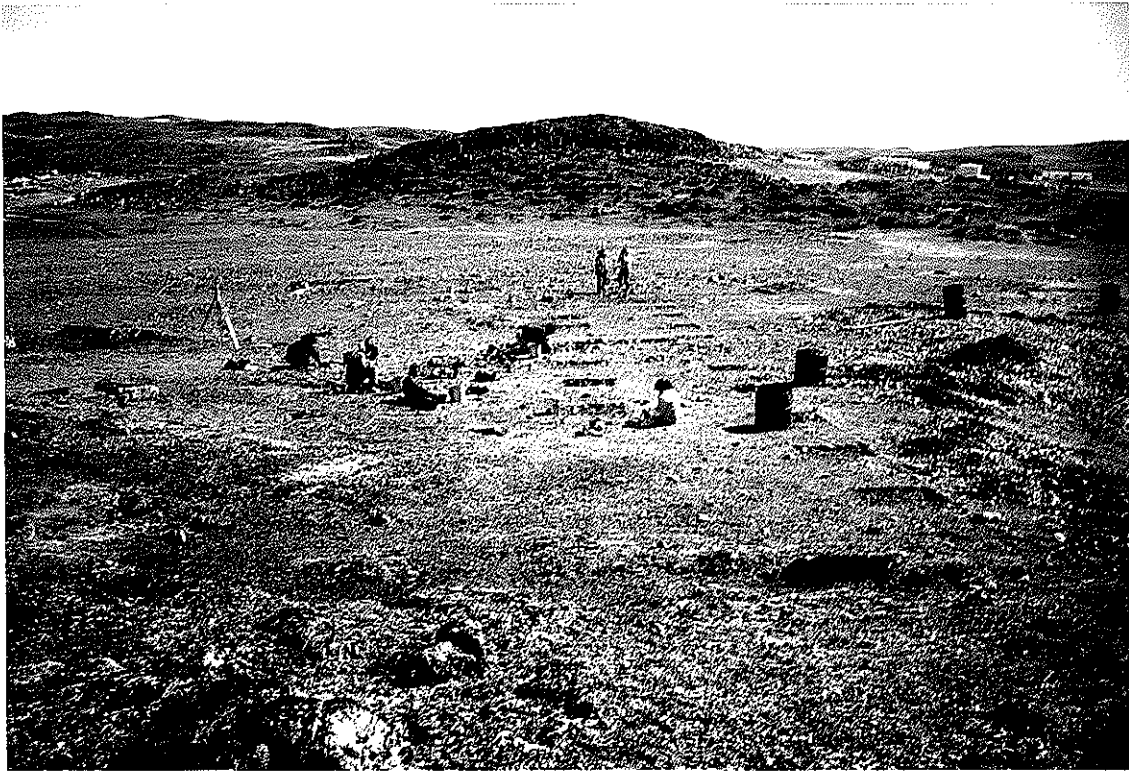


Photo 5. Sampling and excavation work, view to the south.



Photo 6. Excavation in Habitation Zone A, view to the east.



Photo 7. Habitation Zone A toward the west. Excavated structure 1 is situated in the foreground.



Photo 8. Habitation Zone A to the southeast. Note excavated rock alignment in right-centre of photo.



Photo 9. Humus lense in Habitation Zone A, CC 27.

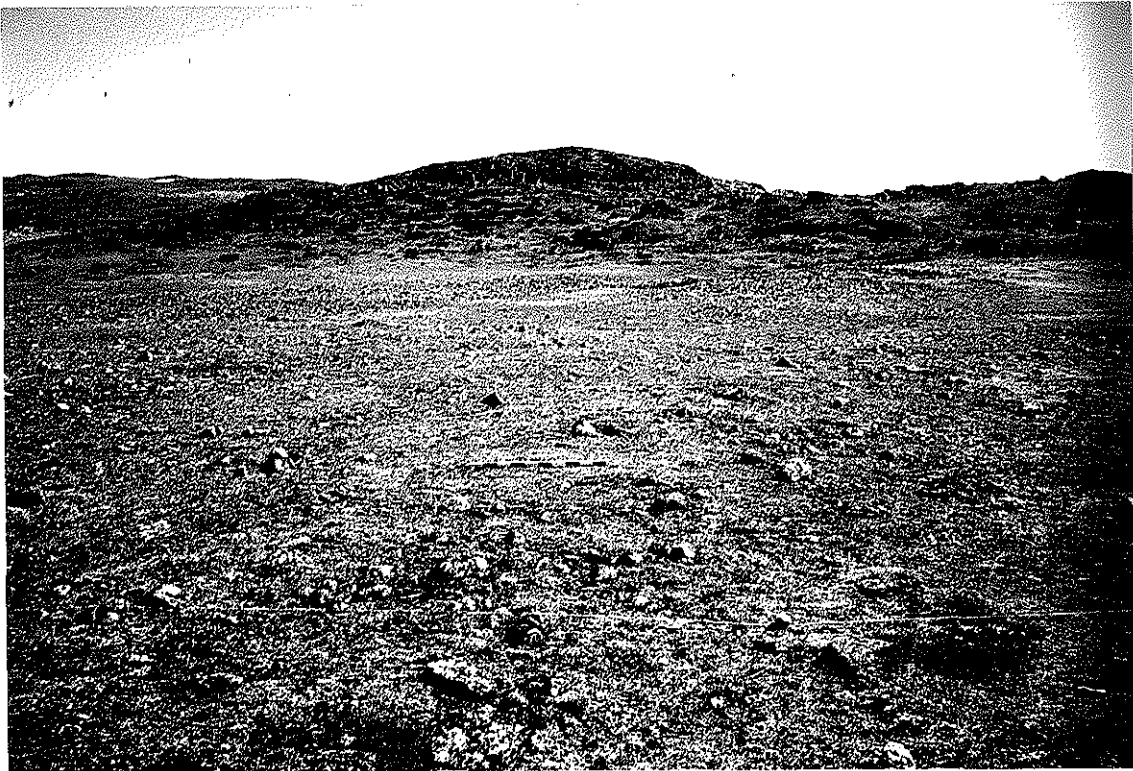


Photo 10. View to the south of structure 26 before excavation. The scale is located in the centre of the tent ring.

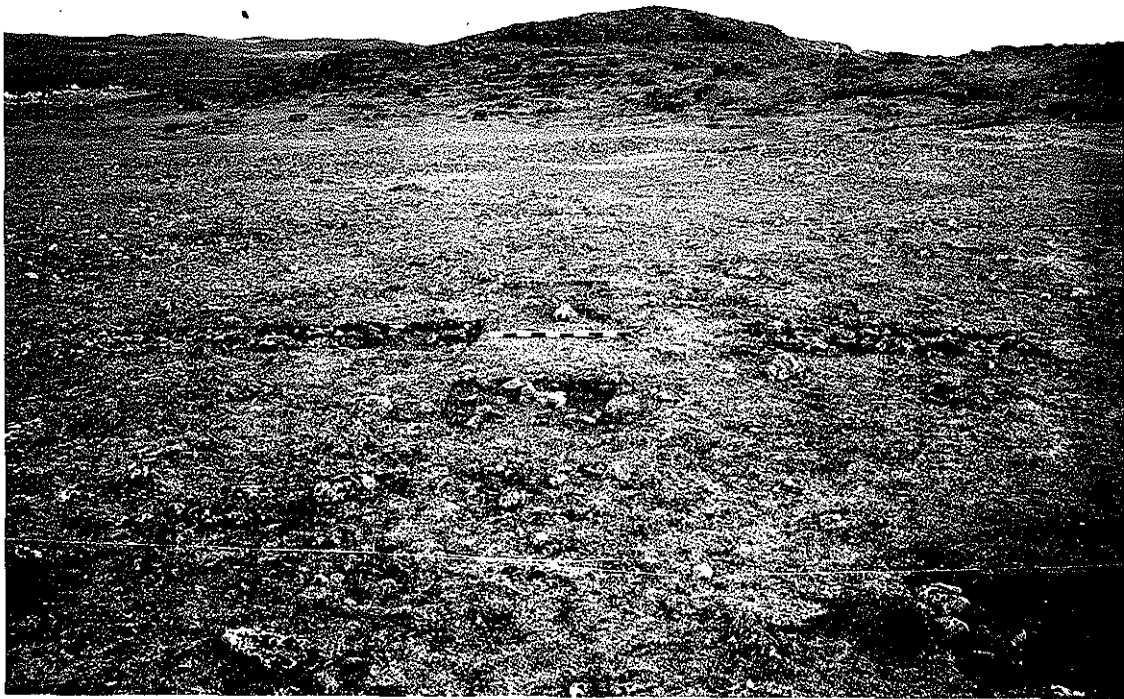


Photo 11. Structure 26 partially excavated, to the south. The scale is in the centre of the tent ring.



Photo 12. Excavated rock concentration in CK-CM 59, on the eastern periphery of structure 26. View to the north.



Photo 13. Excavated rock concentration in CQ-CR 59, western periphery of structure 26, view to the south..

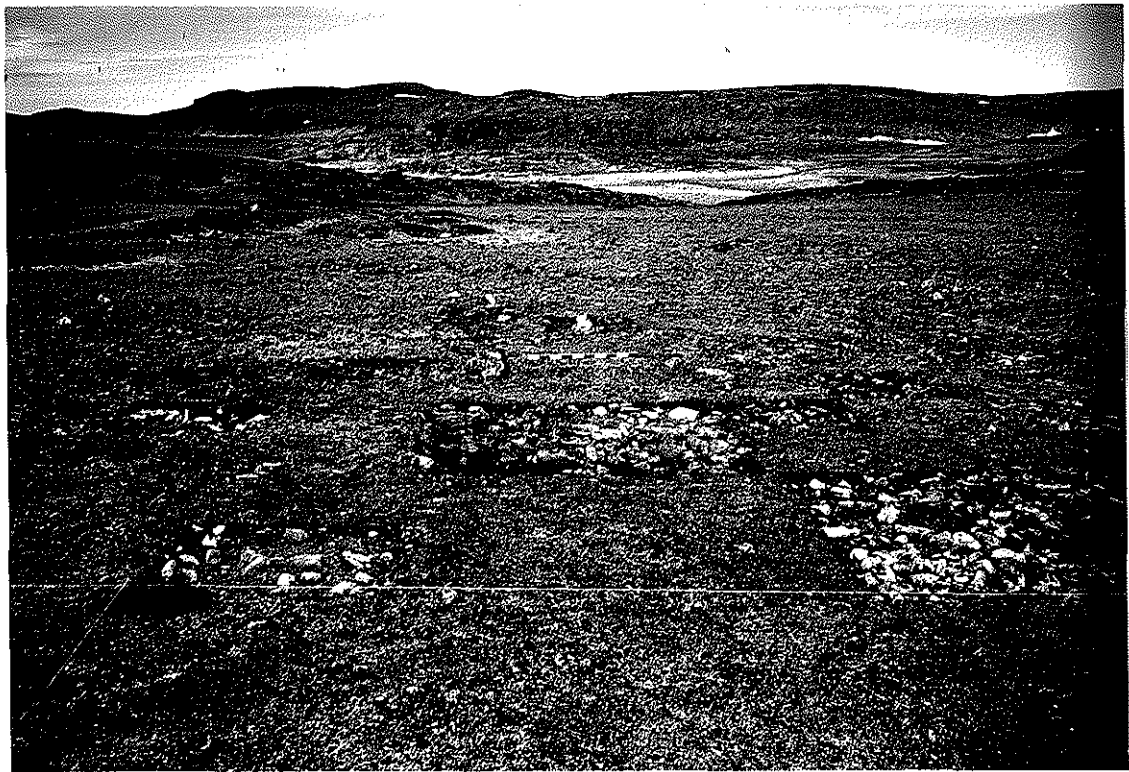


Photo 14. View to the east of excavation in Habitation Zone B.

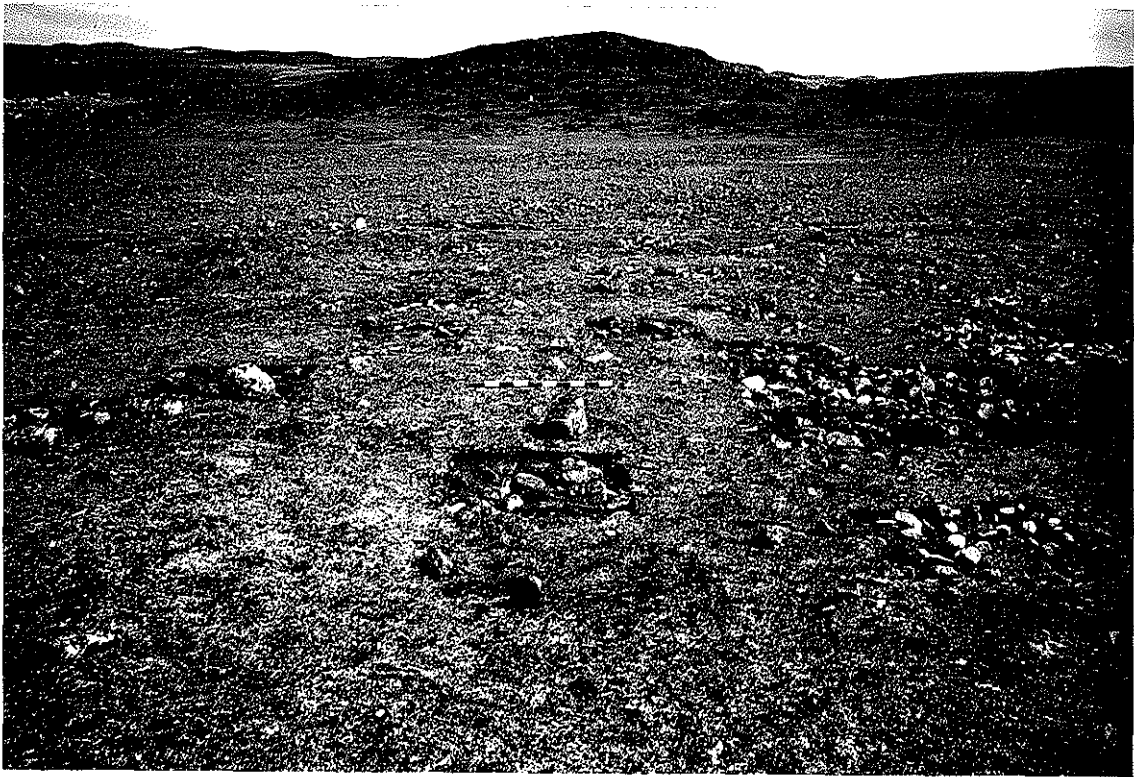


Photo 15. Habitation Zone B to the south..



Photo 16. Excavated rock alignment in CC-CD 41-43, Habitation Zone B.



Photo 17. Detail of rock alignment, CD 42, Habitation Zone B.

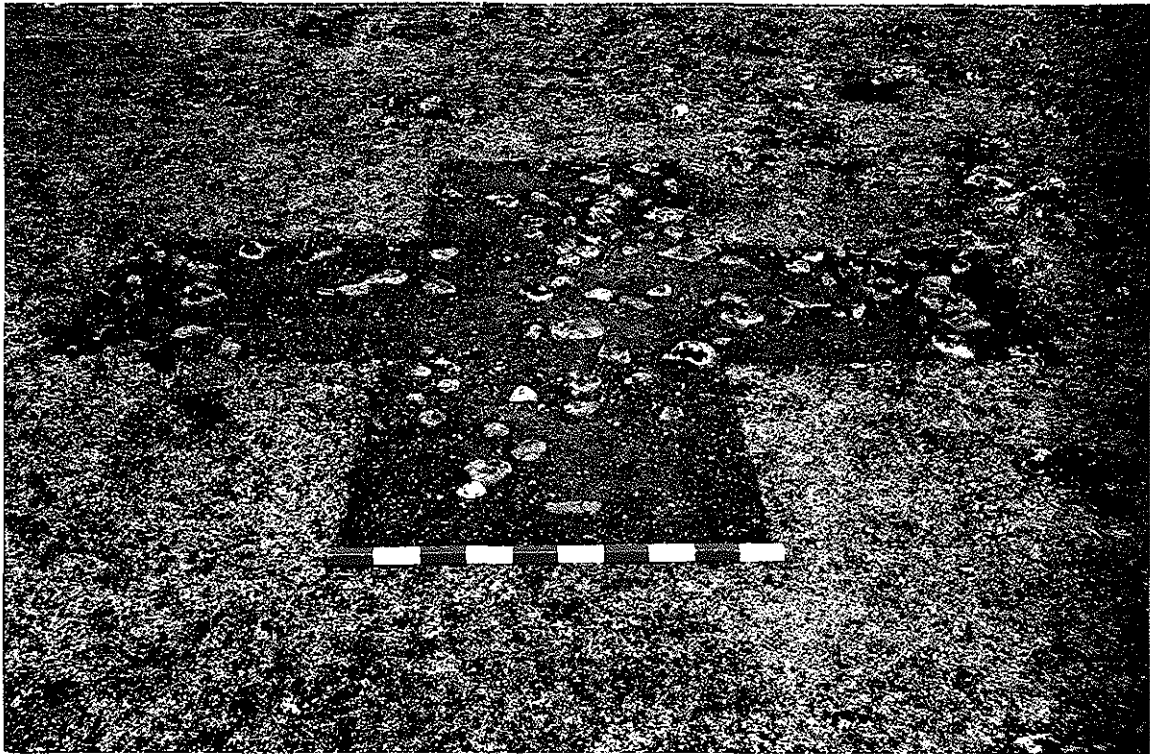


Photo 18. View to the east of excavation units CK-CN 48-50.

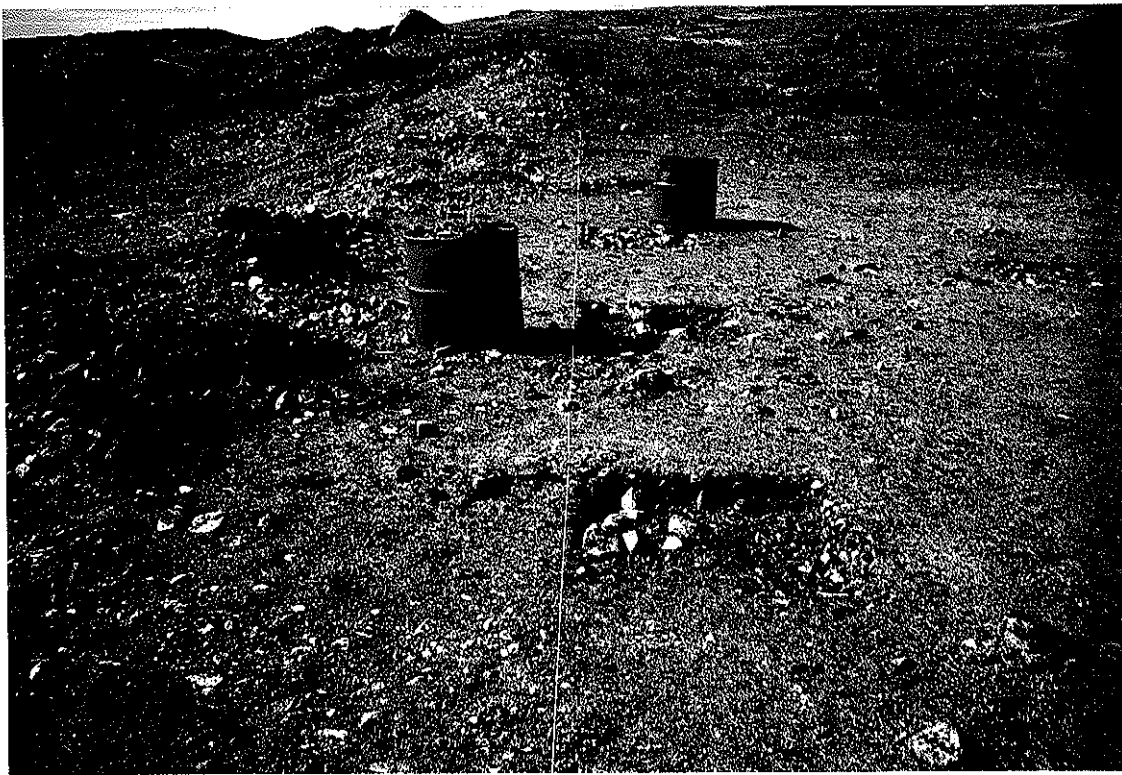


Photo 19. Test pits on eastern periphery of gravel pit, toward the north.



Photo 20. General view of the gravel pit from the site to the west.

Appendix 5

function of these features remains undetermined, 2 or more tent structures are implied.

Similarly, multiple occupations are indicated by the distribution of rocks recorded in Habitation Zone B (Figure 5). However, while several tent rings are suggested, the limited extent of excavations in this zone do not allow any single habitation structure to be distinguished. On the other hand, these excavations have revealed at least 1 feature composed of a concentration of rocks. This concentration, situated in CC-CD41-43, is roughly 2.20 x 1.60m in dimensions and may represent a hearth area. Also, rock alignments noted in the eastern and western sections of the zone may correspond to tent ring perimetres.

4.3 Lithic Specimens

A total of 23 lithic specimens were recovered in the study area (Appendix 2). Of these specimens, 6 were collected on the surface and 17 from the excavations. All of the latter were associated with the underlying sand-gravel horizon.

The collection comprises 21 waste flakes resulting from lithic tool manufacture and 2 fragmentary flake cores. Seventeen of these objects occurred in or on the immediate periphery of the excavated structures or habitation zones. The other 6 specimens were recuperated in inter-structural zones (Table 2).

Eighteen specimens, representing approximately 78% of the collection, are in chert. Other raw materials noted included quartz crystal (3 flakes), milky quartz (1 flake), and metabasalt (1 flake).

Table 2. Summary of lithic specimens recovered according to excavation unit, JgEj-17, Quaqtaq, Northern Quebec.

	<u>Surface</u>	<u>Excavated Squares</u>	<u>Total</u>
Habitation zone A* (including structure 1)	-	4	4
Habitation zone B	-	7	7
Structure 26	1	6	7
Interstructural areas*	5	-	5
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	6	17	23

*Each including a flake core fragment

4.4. Organic Remains

Organic remains are represented by 2 short, thin lenses of carbonized grease observed in DB54. As both of these lenses were of insufficient quantity and quality for dating or other analyses, neither was sampled.

5.0. Preliminary Interpretations

The limited number of lithics collected and habitation information recorded do not permit any comprehensive archaeological interpretation of the chronology or nature of prehistoric occupations in the study area. However, certain of the data recovered confirm occupation of this area by groups of the Dorset culture. These data include the lithic raw material categories (notably the quartz and metabasalt specimens) and, to a somewhat lesser extent, the forms and dimensions of Structures 1 and 26. In addition, the altitude of this portion of the site tends to suggest that these occupations may be related to the Early Dorset phase. Although as yet poorly understood in northwestern Ungava Bay, this phase may date in the region to the early centuries of the last millenium B.C.

The high altitude further allows speculation on the possibility that the study area was initially occupied by Pre-Dorset groups. In this respect, it is noted that Pre-Dorset sites known in the region also contain circular tent rings of various dimensions. Too, lithic collections from sites of this cultures in Ungava include specimens in both quartz crystal and milky quartz. However, as no diagnostically Pre-Dorset implements were recovered, this possible Early Palaeoeskimo occupation of the locality remains unconfirmed.

As concerns settlement, the presence of only tent rings suggests that the site was occupied principally during "non-winter" seasons. Moreover, the number, distribution, and dimensions of these structures suggest multiple re-occupations by numerically small populations composed of 1 or, at most, several nuclear families. While the blind

indicates caribou hunting at the site, the absence of osteological remains from the excavations precludes any interpretation of the economic orientations of the groups who occupied the site.

6.0 Recommendations

Archaeological activities carried out in the JgEj-17 site were oriented toward the salvage and stabilization of prehistoric cultural deposits situated on the periphery of a gravel pit extending into the northwestern portion of the site. The results of these activities not only illustrate a scarcity of cultural materials in the study area concerned but also tend to indicate that the quantitative bulk of these materials has been rescued. Consequently, no further archaeological salvage excavations are recommended in the site, the study area included.

However, the protection of the remaining portions of the site as well as the circumstances engendering the present project are of concern. It is therefore recommended:

- . that the Tuvaaluk Landholding Corporation implement measures for the protection of the JgEj-17 site from further disturbance;

Specifically, it is recommended that exploitation of the gravel pit be permanently discontinued and that all vehicles (snowmobiles included) be prohibited from crossing the site. The implementation of the latter recommendation would involve: 1. informing the local community of the location and importance of the site and; 2. setting-up clearly visible markers on the boundaries of the site most accessible to vehicle traffic. It is felt that such markers would be most effective if placed on the northwestern and northeastern limits of the site. Empty

45-gallon drums filled with rocks or prominent wooden stakes could be used for this purpose.

It also is proposed that the site be archaeologically monitored at regular intervals. This monitoring would involve:

- the periodic visual inspection of disturbed zones;
- the systematic collection and registration of cultural data observed in these zones;
- the photography of disturbed or other zones yielding cultural data through erosion.

It is suggested that site be monitored in late spring-early summer and in autumn by a local Inuk resident trained in basic archaeological field techniques.

- . that all future Hydro-Quebec construction projects, regardless of scope, in Northern Quebec Inuit territories be preceded by an archaeological impact study;

This recommendation is forwarded in the interest of mitigating the impacts of future construction works on both known and possible archaeological resources. The proposed studies would involve, firstly, the evaluation of the archaeological potential of planned construction localities and, results depending, field survey of the localities. The potential study would focus on the research of relevant archaeological documents, topographic maps, airphotos, and other available records. This library research is essential to the determination of known archaeological sites and possible site locations. It will clarify, further, the necessity of undertaking field survey. For example, certain

zones already extensively disturbed by construction activities, such as previously developed building lots in the villages, need not be surveyed. Conversely, all zones of high and moderate archaeological potential determined from library research should be systematically inventoried in the field.

In order to be of any use, the studies and surveys need be carried out at least one year prior to the beginning of planned construction work. Such scheduling is necessary for the development and, more importantly, the implementation of measures for the mitigation of construction impacts on any archaeological resources possibly occurring in the areas studied.

7.0 Personnel

Salvage activities at the JgEj-17 site were carried out by a field crew composed of 5 Inuit archaeological assistants: Tommy Weetaluktuk and Noah Naktairaluk, both from Inukjuak, Janice Deer of Quaqtuq, Bobby Grey from Kangirsuk, and Pasha Keelan, resident of Taqpangayuk. These individuals were supervised by Mr. Daniel Gendron, crew chief, assisted by Miss Ghyslaine Labelle. Mr. Gendron replaced Mr. Luc Litwinionek who, for medical reasons, was unable to participate in the field activities. Also, Mr. Ian Badgley, Resident Archaeologist of Avataq in charge of the project, was involved only in site gridding, due to his recall to Montreal for administrative meetings.

The field crew was assisted by a Japanese team consisting of Mr. Kiyoshi Yamaura, professor of archaeology at Kikiyu University, Tokyo, and Mr. Kaoru Tezuka and Miss Naomi Kameda, Masters' students at Waseda University, also in Tokyo. This team, co-directed by Mr. Henry Stewart of Mejiro Gakuen Women's College, Tokyo, was invited to participate in these excavations in preparation for an international archaeological research project initiated later at the Nunaingok site, near Killinek Island.

The present report was written in French by Mr. Gendron and translated into English by Mr. Badgley. The Inuktitut summary was prepared by Mr. Tommy Weetaluktuk. The figures, site plans, and stratigraphic profiles were drafted by Mr. Barry Doherty of NAR Design. This report has been typed by Miss Barbara Halawnicki, secretary of the Avataq Archaeology Department.

8.0 Bibliography

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n.d. Inventaire archéologique de l'aire d'étude du village de Quaqtq, Nouveau-Québec. Réfection des infrastructures aéroportuaires. Report to be presented to the Service de l'environnement of the ministère des Transports du Québec (in preparation).

9.0 Photographs