

ADDENDUM TO:
"ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL STUDY OF THE
AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT AREA, SALLUIT,
NORTHERN QUEBEC"



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Presented to the
Makivik Corporation

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Appendix 1. **Archaeological Potential Zones in the
Airport Development Area, Salluit, Northern
Quebec**



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The collaboration of the following individuals in the preparation of this report is gratefully acknowledged:

- . Mr. Denis Roy, of the Service de l'environnement, Ministère des Transports du Québec, who kindly provided aerial photographs of the study area, a map illustrating the location of the new airport site, and a photocopy of the archaeological data furnished to him by local Inuit informants during his visit to Salluit on June 21;
- . Mr. Robert Lanari, of the Makivik Corporation, who also provided a map and aerial photographic enlargement of the study area.



1.0 CONTEXT OF THE STUDY

The present report represents an addendum to the archaeological potential study of the airport development area of Salluit submitted by Aménatech inc. to the Makivik Corporation in February, 1984. The necessity of this addendum, also commissioned by the Makivik Corporation, results from the selection of the new airport site in a location outside of the area previously studied. This site is located roughly 3 km southwest of Salluit. Consequently, in accordance with Ministère des Transports du Québec stipulations, the revised study area is defined by a 5 km radius extending from the village of Salluit (Figure 1).

The area thus defined includes the village itself, the earlier study area and sections of the Sugluk Inlet coastline extending northeast and southwest of Salluit. A section of the inlet coastline opposite the village is also included in the study. This area consists of a relatively high, undulating plateau composed mainly of exposed bedrock. Discontinuous sedimentary deposits of some extent occur in the river valleys, at several locations on the plateau flanks as well as along the coast. A number of raised gravel beaches and boulder fields are also found in the area. The maximum elevation of the study area exceeds 375 m.a.s.l. The bulk of the area, however, is situated between roughly 75 and 180 m.a.s.l.



2.0 PROCEDURES

The background research and analysis of data relevant to the assessment of the archaeological potential of the Salluit vicinity was carried out during the previous study of the airport development area. Procedurally, then, the preparation of this addendum has necessitated only the air photographic interpretation of the study area in terms of the evaluating criteria described in the earlier report (Aménatech, 1984:7-10, 31-33).

As in the preceding study, three (3) zones of differing archaeological potential have been assessed: high, moderate, and low or nul potential designated, respectively, as zones A, B and C. The potential zones determined have been illustrated on a 1:50 000 topographic map enlarged to a scale of 1:20 000.



3.0 ADDITIONAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL DATA

Consultation of the archaeological site files in the archives of the Ministère des Affaires culturelles du Québec indicates that a registered Dorset site occurs in the extended study area. Also, during a visit to Salluit on June 21-22, 1984, Mr. Denis Roy, Service de l'environnement, Ministère des Transports du Québec, observed a second site, an historic cemetery, and several metal fox-traps in the area.

The Dorset site (KbF1-1), excavated by Taylor in 1957 (Taylor, 1958, 1959), is located on Sugluk Inlet, approximately 2 km southwest of Salluit. This site comprises a single tent ring situated on a small point. The elevation of the structure is 12 m.a.s.l. The excavated material and the structure are interpreted as indicating a brief summer camp occupied by a single family. Typological comparisons of lithic implements suggest that the site may date to as early as 600 B.C.

The historic cemetery is located in the centre of the village of Salluit. This cemetery consists of about 12 oval alignments of cobbles indicating burials. According to a local Inuit informant, the burials date to the 1920's-1930's.

The second site is represented by a tent ring, a number of stone structures tentatively interpreted as caches and a surface scatter of bones (D. Roy, pers. comm.). This site is situated on the western edge of the valley south of the village, at approximately 60 m.a.s.l. Several metal fox-traps were noted in the vicinity of the site.



The Inuit informants (Joanassie Naluuyak, Aia Naolitik, and Jimmy Kakayuk) also informed Mr. Roy of the presence of numerous tent rings and burials along the north shore of Sugluk Inlet. No precise locations were noted, however.



4.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL ZONES

4.1 Zones of High Potential (A)

Extensive sections of the shoreline on both sides of Sugluk Inlet and the immediate environs of Salluit are assessed as being of high archaeological potential. These zones are characterized by sedimentary deposits occurring at river and stream mouths, along the shores of bays and points, and on irregular shorelines. Further, the site observed by Mr. Roy suggests that the western edge of the valley south of Salluit is of high potential. As noted, this latter zone is situated at roughly 60 m.a.s.l. The remaining zones of high potential occur, generally, below 35 m.a.s.l.

4.2 Zones of Moderate Potential (B)

The principal zones of moderate archaeological potential determined are contiguous with the major zones of high potential. In several cases, moderate potential zones extend to and along the shoreline. These zones are composed basically of discontinuous bedrock outcrops interspersed with relatively well-drained sand and gravel deposits. Sedimentary deposits bordering on the two inter-connected lakes west of the selected airport site and the two proposed gravel pits south of Salluit are also assessed as being of moderate potential. The southernmost gravel pit site and the lake are located at 150 m.a.s.l. The rest of the moderate potential zones are situated below 50 m.a.s.l.



4.3 Zones of Low or Nul Potential (C)

The vast majority of the study area is assessed as being of low or nul archaeological potential. Although possibly used or exploited for various specific reasons, this extensive area is lacking in general and particular physical characteristics commonly associated with settlement sites.



5.0 PERSONNEL

This report was written by Mr. Ian Badgley, Senior Archaeologist of Aménatech Inc., and verified by Mr. René Allaire, Division Head, Studies - Human Environment. The potential map was produced by Richard Mailhot. The report was typed by Dominique Saint-Germain.

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