



## REMAINS OF HUMAN ACTIVITY IN NORTH-EASTERN WEDEL JARLSBERG LAND, SPITSBERGEN

This paper is a completion of the description of remains of seasonal settlements in Wedel Jarlsberg Land. The previous part of this (Krawczyk 1989, 1993) refers to the southern, western and north-western Wedel Jarlsberg Land. The registered remains in the coast from Fagerbukta in the west to Ingebrigtsenbukta in the east are presented here (Fig. 15). An inventory of sites has been carried out in 1988 and 1989. Full records (Krawczyk unpubl.) are in the Tromsø Museum and the Laboratory for Polar Research of the Jagiellonian University in Cracow.

The sites are described according to the following pattern:

1. Serial number.
  - 1.1. Name, from the nearest topographic name in the map of Norsk Polarinstitut 1:100 000, B 11: Van Keulenfjorden.
  - 1.2. Location, i.e. situation of a site in relation to the coastline and terrain topography presented in the map mentioned above.
  - 1.3. Description of a site and particular objects.
  - 1.4. Data on history of a site.
  - 1.5. Literature.
  - 1.6. Possible additional information.

### 1.1. JARNBEKKEN

1.2. On the eastern shore of Recherche Fjord, 50 m north of the Jarnbekken bed, on the right (eastern) lateral moraine of the Recherche Glacier, at the level of 5 m a.s.l. (objects C and D) and 8 m a.s.l. (objects A and B) about 20 m from the sea.

1.3. The ruins of a mining station. The remains of the station consist of the ruins of two barracks (A, C), the trace of the third one (B) and the outline of foundations of the fourth one (D), (Fig. 1).

A – wooden barrack placed on beton logs. The logs under the western wall displaced up to 90 cm because of movements of the ground which caused the inclination of the whole building.

The building would collapse without beams supporting the walls from outside. The inside was once divided into smaller rooms but now is completely ruined. The barrack has a ridge roof, two entrances from the north and south.

B – the trace of a building in the form of ground beams, fragments of the roof laid loosely and two triangle garrets which indicates that it was the ridge roof.

C – the ruins of the wooden barrack in the form of the protected basis and the collapsed roof which lies wholly on the floor of that basis.

D – the rectangular stony embankment adherent to the object C from the south. It is the basis of the foundations of a building once situated here.

1.4. The mining station "Iron Mountain Camp" was built by NEC for the prospecting exploration of iron ore in the massif of Martinfjella in the first quarter of the 20th century. It is known that Birger Jacobsen and Captain Frank Wild with 17-19 men acted for NEC in that region in 1919. Three standing buildings (A, B, C) and the foundations, the collapsed roof and overturned walls of the fourth one (D) are visible in A. K. Orvin's photo of 1936.

1.5. Rossnes 1993.

## 2.1. JARNFJELLET

2.2. On the eastern shore of Recherche Fjord, west of the line of declivity of the Jarnfjellet top, about 800 m north of Iron Mountain Camp, on the raised terrace 4-5 m a.s.l.

2.3. The traces of a mining station (Fig. 2) in the form of:

A – the trace of a building with a floor, a fragment of a laid wall built of boards. To judge by the size and thin walls it was not a dwelling-house but an auxiliary building, might have been a shed for machines.

B – the gravel embankment seems like a casing of a tent. However it can be supposed to be a trace of a completely demolished habitable building. The size of the embankment corresponds to the size of the Bamsebu building in Ingebrigtsenbukta and it is known that Ingvald Svendsen replaced this building there from the so-called Camp-2 on the eastern shore of Recherche Fjord in 1930.

C – excavations, may be traces of prospected boring. There are a lot of metal things (pipes, cog-wheels, sticks) all around, some of them below the terrace on the beach.

2.4. This was a mining station belonging to NEC in the first quarter of 20th century (probably so-called Camp-2), later completely abolished.

2.5. Orvin 1939, Rossnes 1993

### 3.1. RECHERCHEFJORDEN ØST-A

3.2. About 1 km north of the Jarnbekken bed, about 1200 m south of Laegerneset. On the raised terrace 5-8 m a.s.l., just on the edge of that terrace, above the old cliff from the west and on the escarp above the stream from the south. There is a distance about 30 m of beach from the old cliff to the sea.

3.3. Traces of the old whaling station (Fig. 3) indicated by the following objects:

A – a stony circle about 3 m in diameter and 40-50 cm high, open from the east, covered with tundra, there are single whale's bones inside.

B – a rectangular stony casing (about 6 m × 3 m) 30-40 cm high with a gap in the northern part, covered with tundra.

C – a rectangular stony casing (about 6 m × 3 m) 40-50 cm high, covered with tundra, open from the west.

D – a stony circle about 3 m in diameter and 30-40 cm high, open from the west, covered with tundra.

E – a stony embankment built of large stones.

3.4. Undoubtedly, the sea reached the cliff and created a small bay in the contemporary stream where whales were pulled up at the time of the functioning of the whaling station.

The beach was formed later by the raising of the land. It is interesting that there is a gap in the lateral moraine of the Recherche Glacier on that part of the coast. The moraine had to be destroyed by the sea there. It is difficult to assess the time of functioning of the station because of the lack of finds.

### 4.1. RECHERCHEFJORDEN ØST-B

4.2. About 1500 m north of the Jarnbekken bed, about 800 m south of Laegerneset, opposite of (from the east) the end of the lateral moraine of the Recherche glacier. On the narrow terrace 15 m a.s.l. near the rock, the terrace falls to the south-west reaching the level of 5 m a.s.l. in the form of the slope, there is a marginal lake here, the end ridge of the moraine is situated between that lake and the sea.

4.3. There is a wall built of stones south-east of the rock which closes the narrow terrace 15 m a.s.l. from the north-west. That wall, together with a bend of the rock, creates a recess covered with tundra. The basis of the wall is 250 cm long, maximal height of the wall reaches 150 cm. The recess between the wall and the rock is 240 cm to 360 cm wide (Fig. 4, 5).

4.4. The wall is surely built by man but it is difficult to say something about its purpose without excavation. However, using of the natural bend of the rock is noticeable. That bend could be a kind of a shelter with the entrance from the east



due to building of the wall. The object was not built during the last few dozen years, to judge by the thickness of tundra.

### 5.1. LAEGERNESET

5.2. Just on the headland and north of it. The site contains a terrain from the rocks of the headland (the terrace 10 m a.s.l.) to the stream Robertelva (the objects No 7-18), the objects No 1-5 are behind the stream on the terrace 3-5 m a.s.l., object No 6 is situated above, on the hill about 20 m a.s.l. (Fig. 6).

5.3. An old whaling station and the traces of a mining station. There are the following 18 objects here:

1 – the rectangular outline of the stony casing, fragments of eight wooden logs, pieces of bricks, the entrance from the west is visible too (Fig. 7a). Two vertically stuck whales bones (1a, 1b) are below, opposite of the western corners of the casing.

2 – a heap built of gravels and stones, numerous pieces of bricks, aliphatic concrete. There is a log of a whale's bone at the top (2a). The low stony wall is situated nearby, south of the heap (2b). It is probably an old, destroyed whaling stove.

3 – a badly preserved earthy-stony casing, from the west in a better state of preservations, fragments of bricks (Fig. 7b).

4 – the unclear outline of a stony casing, in a better state of preservation from the west, fragments of bricks.

5 – two excavations in the ground side by side, a partly protected stony casing, about 4.5 m in external diameter, around them. The southern excavations are opened to the west, fragments of bricks. There are probably remains of a whaling stove.

6. – 14 longitudinal stony heaps, may be graves

7 – the planed rectangular surface partly sunk into the ground from the east (Fig. 7c).

8 – the planed rectangular surface, perpendicular depressions (traces of beams?) are visible. The western edge is built of flat stones (Fig. 7d).

9 – a circle of single stones 4 m in diameter, a small ditch round about. This was the site of a tent.

10 – a circle of single stones 4.8 m in diameter, a small ditch round about, single bricks. This was a site of a tent.

11 – a circle of stones replaced partly by movements of ground, 4.5 m in diameter, single bricks, there are big tent-pegs made of boards beaten into the ground. This was a site of a tent.

12 – a rectangular stony wall 176 cm high. A clear entrance from the west (Fig. 8a). The wall is without mortar but covered with mud with black shales



(tightening). Part of stones which fell from the wall to the inside is covered with tundra. This might be a dwelling-house to judge by the height of the wall.

13 – the rectangular stony wall 110 cm high, the entrance from the west (Fig. 8b). The character of the object analogical to the object No 12.

14 – a rectangular casing built of flat stones, the entrance from the north. There is a rectangular excavation in the ground and rock behind the southern side of the casing (Fig. 9a).

15 – an oval embankment surrounded by fragments of the stony wall in a good state of preservation in the southern part. There are two depressions with a large quantity of fragments of bricks (Fig. 8c). Large quantities of aliphatic concrete. The object is situated just on the edge of the gravel cliff and its western part has come down because of washing away by the sea. A fragment of a wooden log is in the centre just near the edge of the cliff. Fragments of faience pipes were found. The object is what remains of a whaling stove.

16 – a rectangular stony wall sunk into the slope under the rock in the southern part. The entrance from the north (Fig. 9c). Numerous fragments of bricks near the western wall (outside).

17 – A loose rectangular stony casing replaced by movements of ground, the northern part just on the edge of the cliff, the entrance from the east, there are fragments of three logs in the casing (Fig. 9b). The pile of bricks is situated before the entrance, inside – single bricks. There is a concentration of bricks and charcoals behind the southern “wall” below the rock.

18 – stony stairs, partly destroyed by movements of ground, come from the object No 15 to the object No 17: from the terrace, through the edge of the cliff, to the beach.

Apart from those objects, there are metal pipes in the depression on the stream and single pipes in the stream, a destroyed wooden wheel-barrow and a kind of a water-pipe slightly above.

5.4. The object No 1-6 and 12-17 (and may be No 18) ought to be connected with the whaling period. The objects No 1-5 (2 stoves and 3 dwelling-houses or auxiliary buildings) date from the other period than the objects No 12-17 (1 stove and 5 dwelling-houses or auxiliary buildings). Both the other situation and the other character of making and preservation indicate that thesis (objects No 12, 13, 16 are made more reliably). 3 fragments of pipes were found in the object No 15 (the whaling stove): of 3 mm, 2.7-2.8 mm and 2.7 mm bore. They may be dated from 1640, 1660-1670, 1670 ( $\pm 15$  years).

Objects No 7-11 (and may be No 18) ought to be connected with the activity of NEC. It was so-called Camp-1 “Volage”. Objects No 9-11 are the sites in which the large, circular tents were situated (similar ones – in Calypsobyen near A-building), and objects No 7 and 8 may be the places in which buildings were completely demolished a long time ago.

5.5. Ludvigsen 1981, Rossnes 1993, Krawczyk 1993.

5.6. A repeated survey of this site was carried out by M. E. Jasinski and K. Pękala (1994) in 1993, they introduced the name Svarthameren for that. However, their suggestion that the site of Pollham's group wintering in 1630-31 was situated just there, seems to be inaccurate. Analysis of Pollham's story shows that the site of their wintering ("Tent") was situated in the western coast of Recherche Fjord, probably at the contemporary site Renardbreen or Snatcherpynten-B (Conway 1906, Krawczyk 1993).

#### 6.1. MALBUKTA

6.2. In the western part of Malbukta, 600 m west of Linenes, on the beach 2 m a.s.l., at the foot of a gravel cliff.

6.3. A wreck of a ship. The bottom part of the ship: keel, ribs, external and internal sheathing of the sides. The fragment of the ship is about 12 m long. There are two bores situated symmetrically in both sides of the keel closed by the metal valves 0.5 m in diameter.

#### 7.1. AHLSTRANDODDEN

7.2. In the northern part of Fleur de Lyshamna, south of the rocks of Ahlstrandodden on the beach 2-3 m a.s.l., close by south of the rock hill of Ahlstrandodden.

7.3. Three wooden boats overturned upside down:

1 – 8.4 m long, the stern 2.1 m wide, the back 0.87 m high.

2 – 8 m north-east of the first boat, 7.5 m long, the stern 2.1 m wide, the back 1.05 m high. There is a wooden shaft on the back.

3 – 42 m north-east of the second boat, 9 m long, the stern 1.8 m wide, the back 0.87 m high.

7.4. They date from 1930-ties and were left after white whale hunters.

7.5. Moberg 1959

#### 8.1. PITNERODDEN

8.2. West of Pitnerodden, on the sandy terrace 5 m a.s.l., about 20 m from the sea.

8.3. The house of the "Arktikugol" trust built recently. A house built of horizontal beams set in the cuts of vertical corner posts, the room with the walls built of two layers of boards, the walls of the vestibule – one layer board (Fig. 10). There are three plank-beds, a stove and a table in the room. The eastern wall of the vestibule was destroyed by a bear.

## 9.1. BOURBONHAMNA

9.2. In the eastern part of the bay, about 300 m south-west of Kapp Toscana, on the old storm ridge 2 m a.s.l.

9.3. A wooden boat overturned upside down, 6.8 m long, 1.6 m wide in the central part. There is a half-deck at the stem. This was a motor boat, the bore of the shaft of the propeller and the metal rudder blade are visible

## 10.1. KAPP TOSCANA

10.2. In the western part of Ingebrigtsenbukta, about 700 m south of Kapp Toscana. Objects A, B, C, H are situated on the terrace 5 m a.s.l. (the plain covered with tundra) and objects D, E, F, G are situated below, on the old storm ridge 2-3 m a.s.l. (fig. 11).

10.3. A whaling station:

A – Bamsebu: a wooden building made of beams. A vestibule and two rooms, the ridge roof, the entrance from the south. Now the object is in a very good state of preservation with full equipment for living (Fig. 12, 13).

B – Kjaeftausa: a big wooden boat overturned upside down, placed on the stony wall, an entrance cut in the back side, a kind of a stony floor inside. This was arranged as a room for sheltering or even living in that way (Fig. 14).

C – a small auxiliary dwelling-house, a small store. In a good state of preservation at present.

D – an iron anchor with a wooden cross-bar, one hook of that anchor is buried in the ground.

E – three wooden boats overturned:

1 – 5.1 m long, 1.6 m wide,

2 – 5.4 m long, 1.7 m wide,

3 – 5.8 m long, 1.9 m wide.

There is a wooden shaft on the back of each boat.

F – six logs for hoisting hunted whales.

G – 13 big concentrations of bones of white whales.

H – there is a wooden vertical beam with a piece of a thick metal line 340 m north of Bamsebu. It is probably the fastening of a net for locking white whales in the shallow part the bay..

I – there is the stone for sharpening (80 cm in diameter) on the metal axis with a crank near Bamsebu.

10.4. This whaling station was used by hunters of white whales in the 30-ties. The investigations of white whales were carried out in 1977: there were 14 heaps of bones here and about 550 individuals were counted here to judge by their skulls.

10.5. Moberg 1959, Orvin 1939, Rossnes 1993, Siwczyk, Różycki 1978.



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## STRESZCZENIE

W opracowaniu przedstawiono zarejestrowane w 1988 i 1989 r., pozostałości osadnictwa sezonowego od Fagerbukta do Ingebrigtsenbukta w Ziemi Wedela Jarlsberga. Omówiono 10 stanowisk, przedstawiając lokalizację, opis stanowiska i poszczególnych obiektów, posiadane dane historyczne i literaturę.

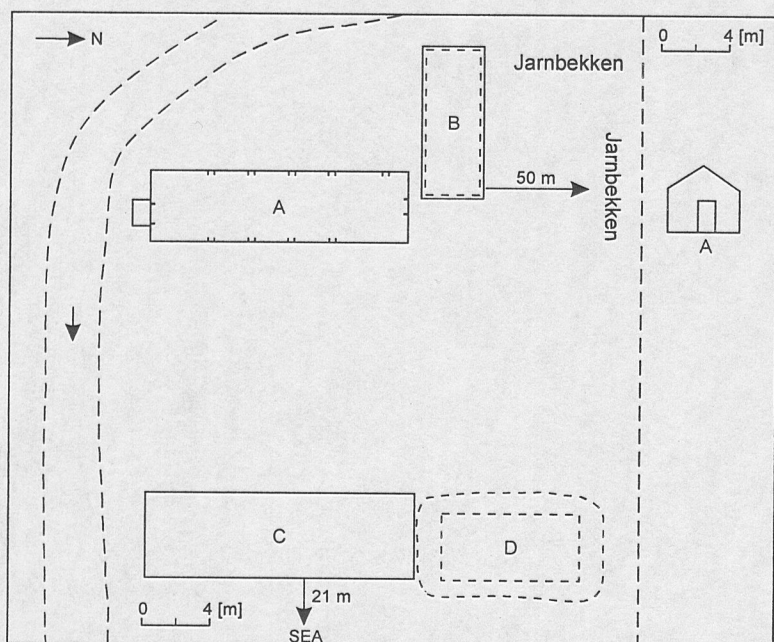


Fig. 1. Jarnbekken – plan of the site

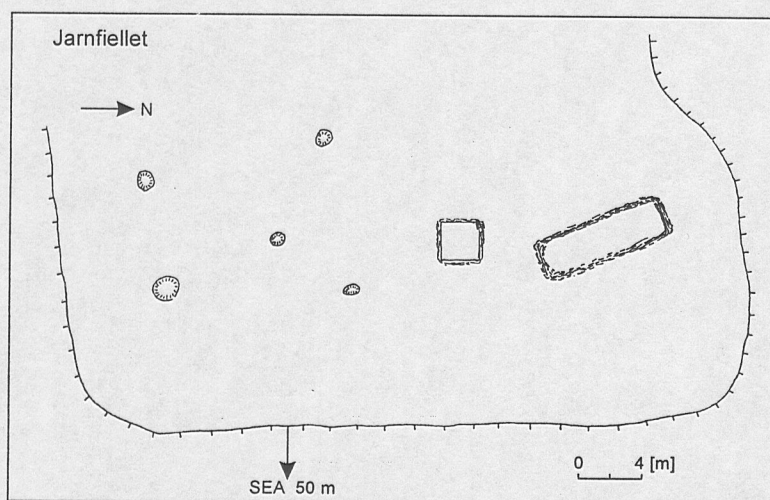


Fig. 2. Jarnfjellet – plan of the site

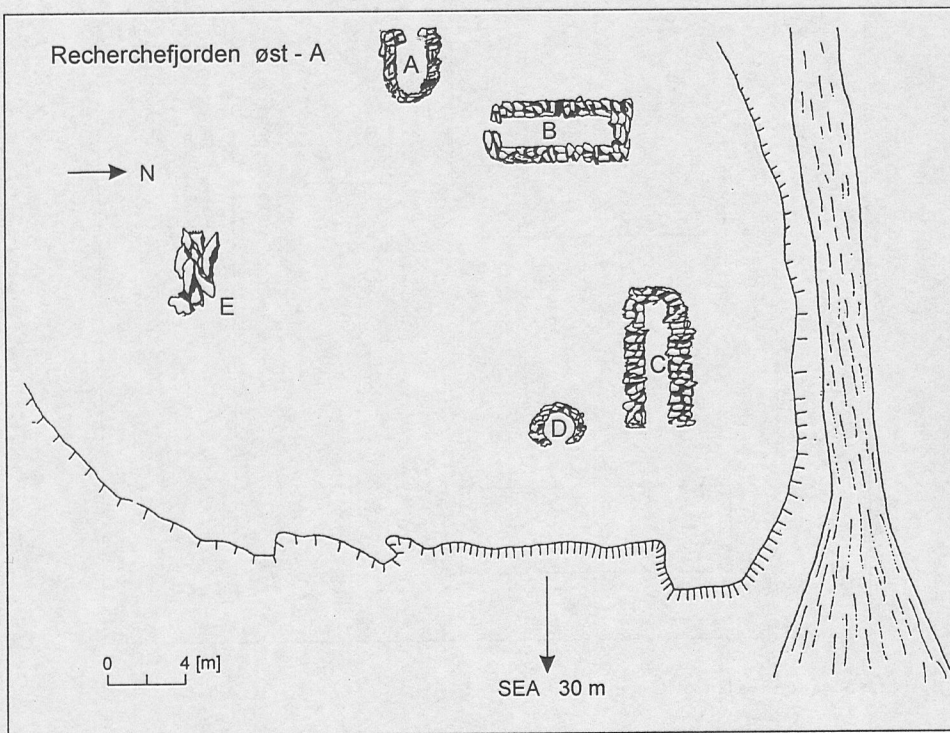


Fig. 3. Recherchefjorden Øst-A – plan of the site



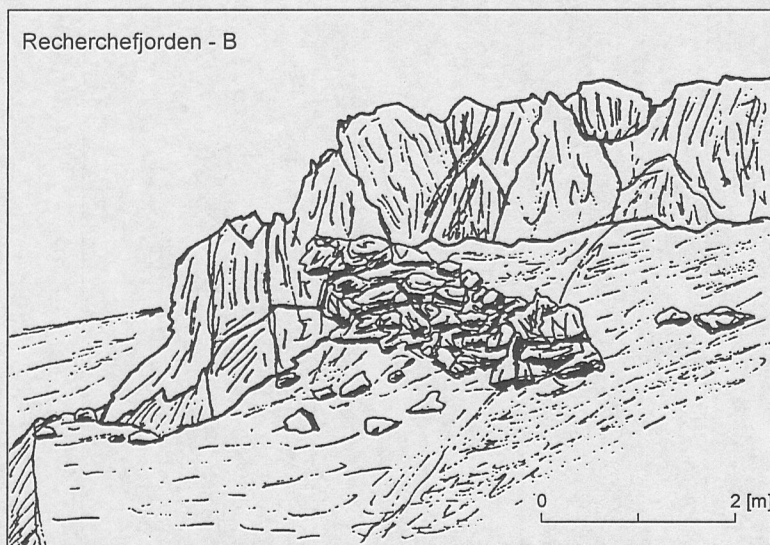


Fig. 4. Recherchefjorden Øst-B – a view of the object from SE

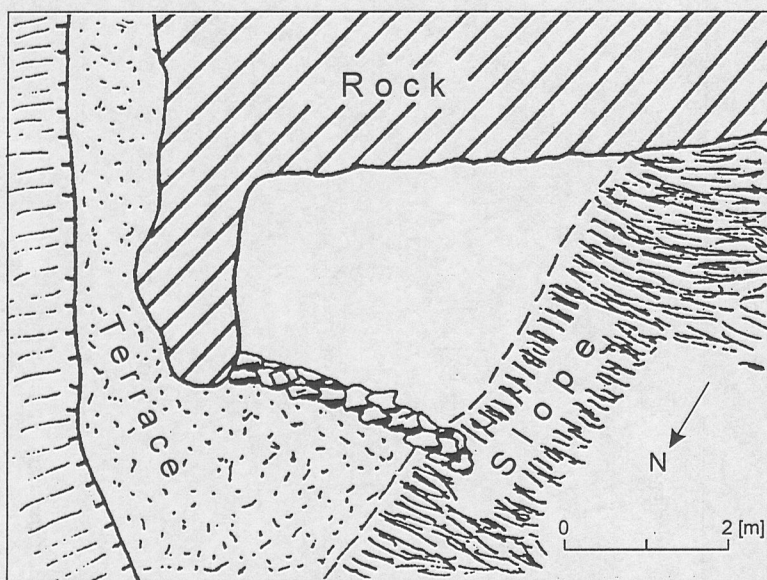


Fig. 5. Recherchefjorden Øst-B – plan of the object

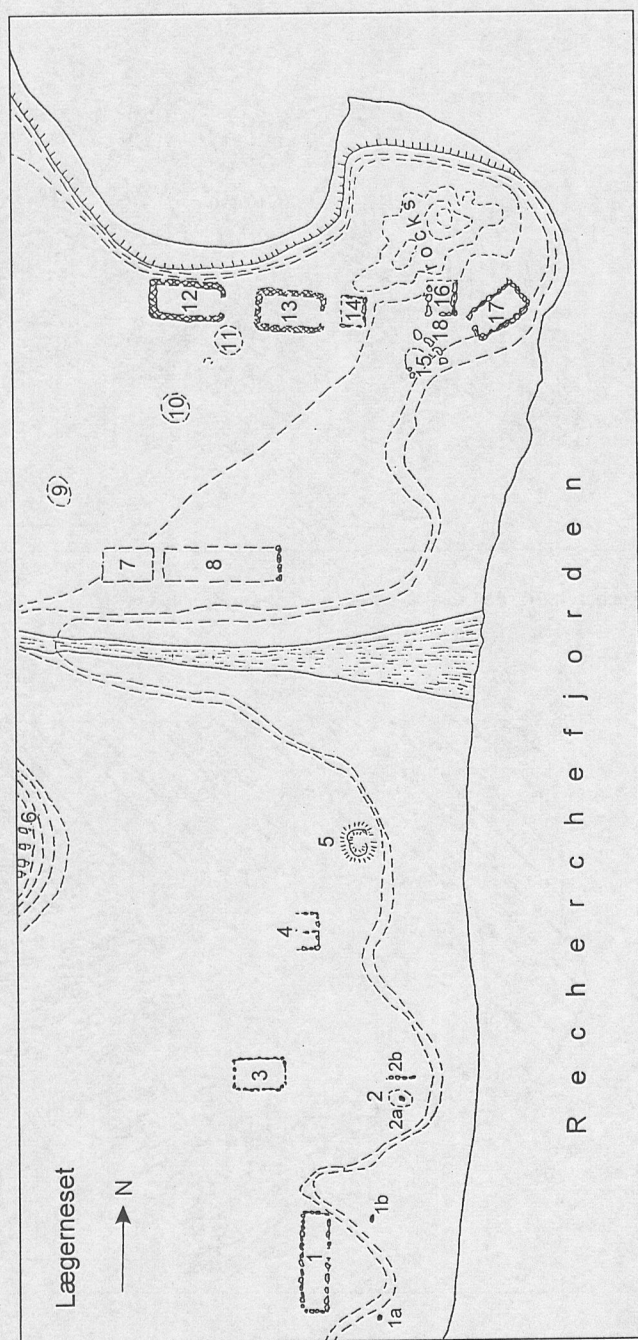


Fig. 6. Lægerneset – plan of the site

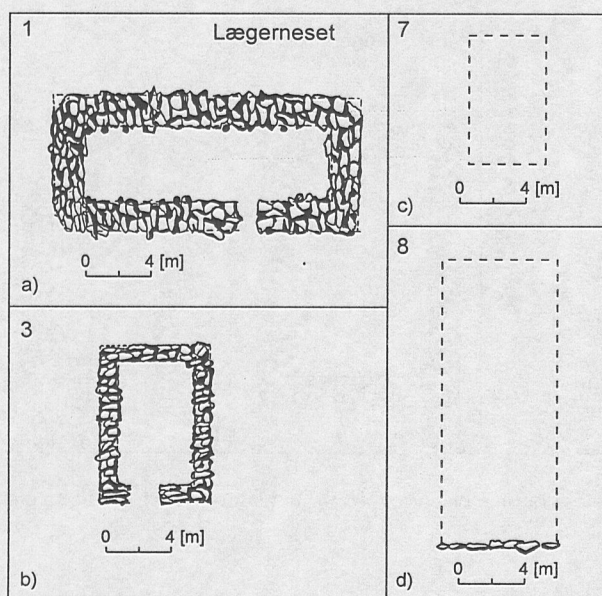


Fig. 7. Lægerneset – a) plan of object No 1, b) plan of object No 3, c) outline of object No 7, d) outline of object No 8

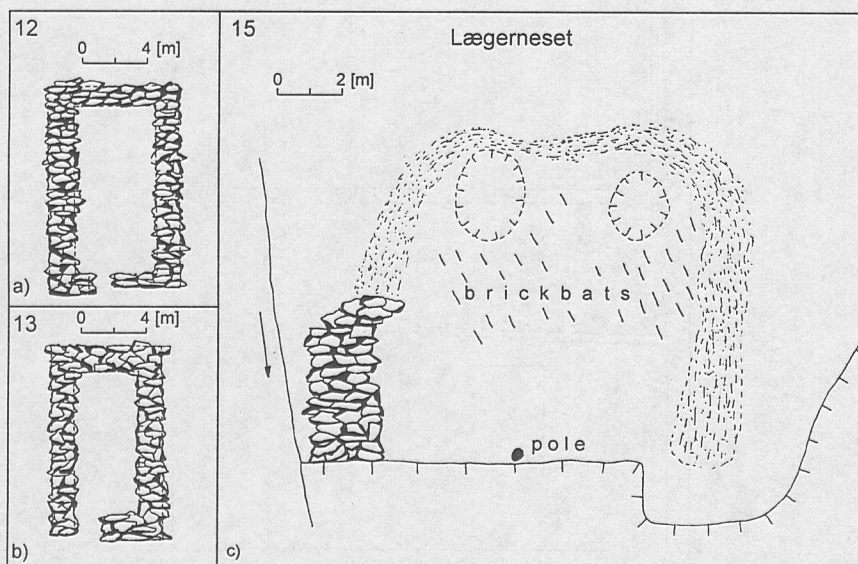


Fig. 8. Lægerneset – a) plan of object No 12, b) plan of object No 13, c) plan of object No 15



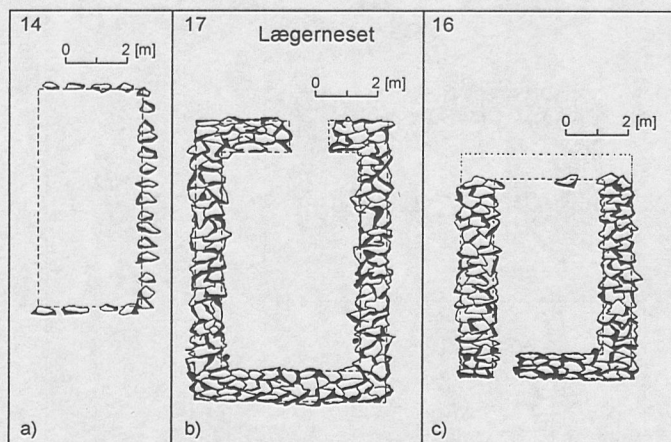


Fig. 9. Lægerneset – a) outline of object No 14, b) plan of object No 17, c) plan of object No 16

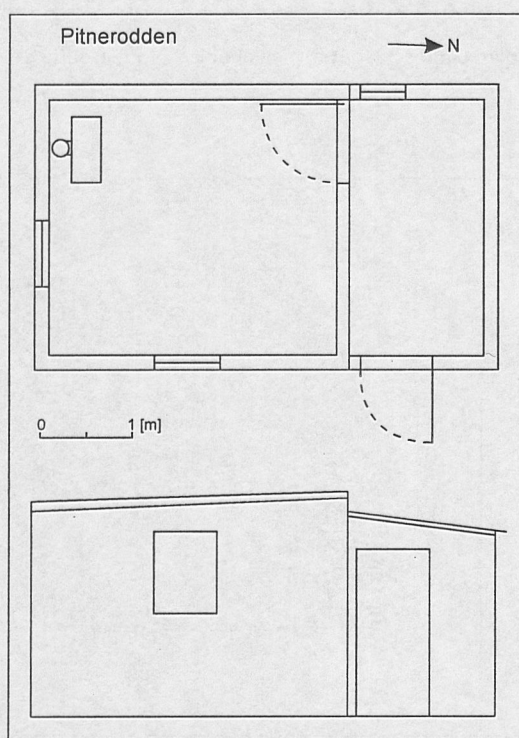


Fig. 10. Pitnerodden – plan of the hut and view from W

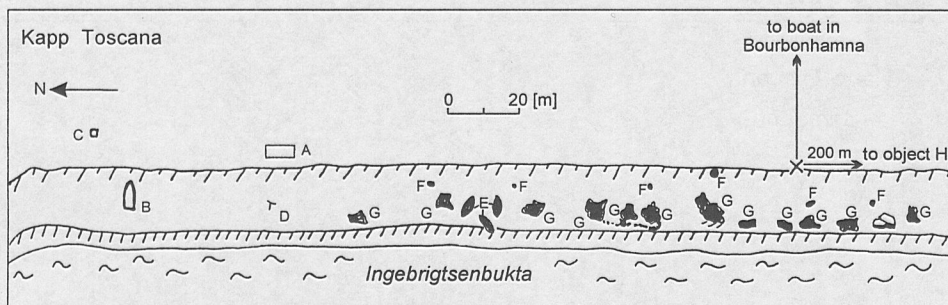


Fig. 11. Kapp Toscana – plan of the site

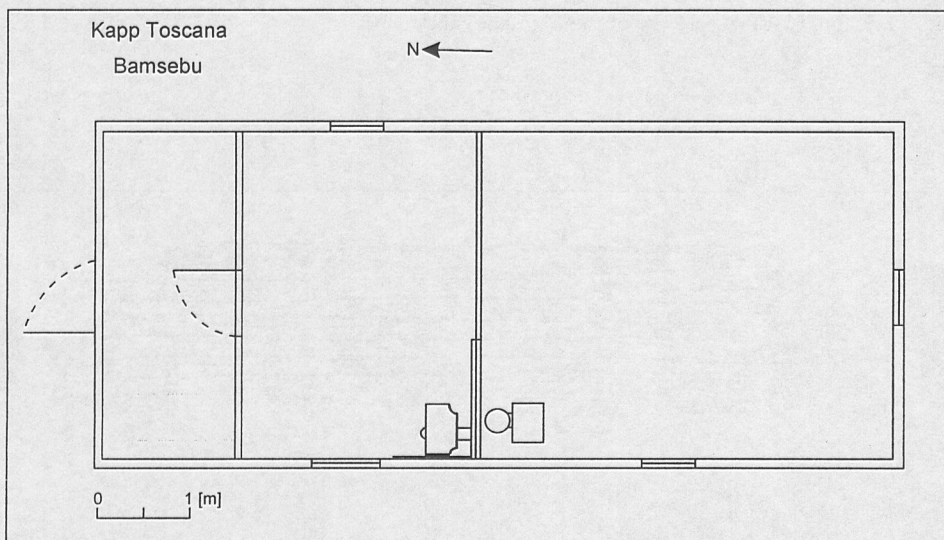


Fig. 12. Kapp Toscana – plan of the Bamsebu hut

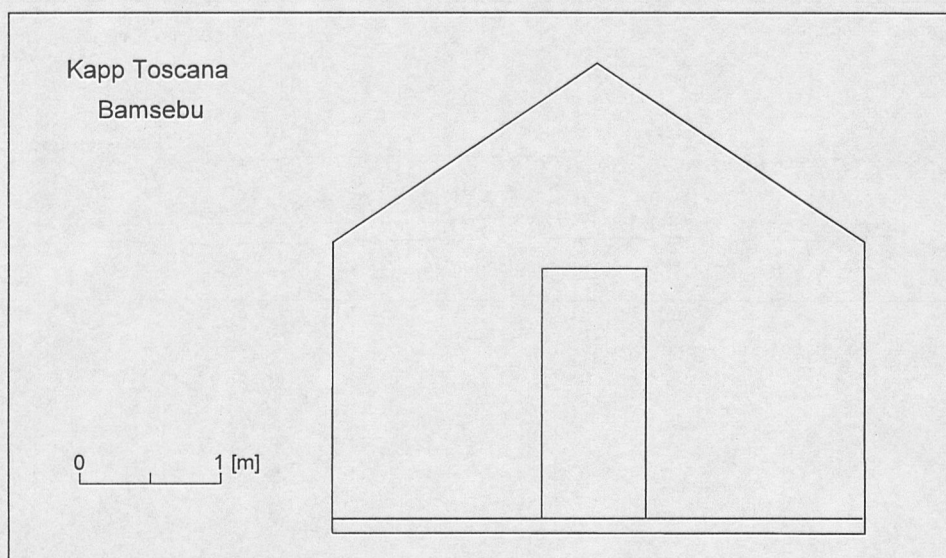


Fig. 13. Kapp Toscana – a view of the Bamsebu hut from S

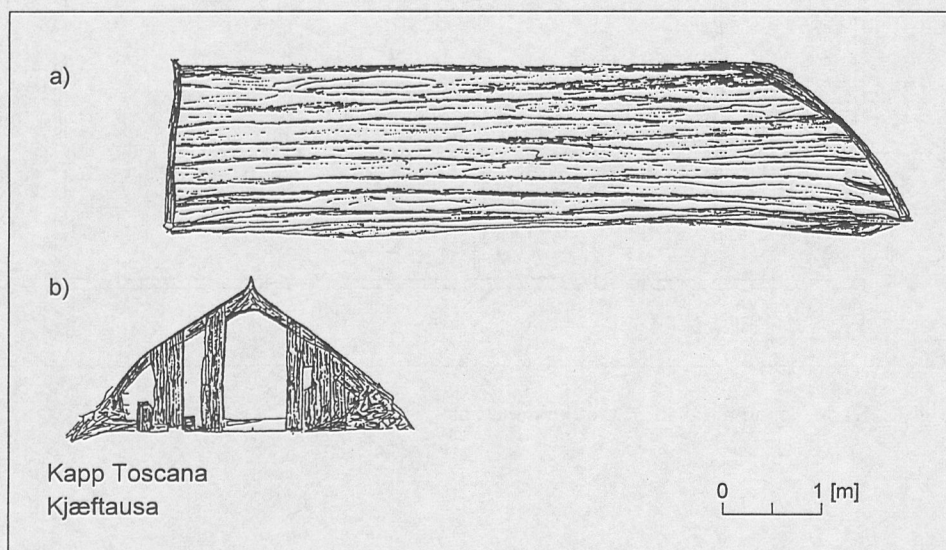


Fig. 14. Kapp Toscana – a) a view of the Kjaeftausa object from N, b) a view of the object from E



