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Helluland Archaeological Project: Archaeological Excavations at Cape Tanfield

Between July 11 and July 29, 2015, the applicant plans to conduct archaeological excavations at Cape Tanfield. The site lies approximately 30 kilometers southeast of Kimmirut, and was identified during previous investigations in the 1960s as an area of Dorset/Tuniit settlement. Material has now been identified from three sites in the valley that suggests an early European presence in the area, most likely relating to the Norse occupation in Greenland. The work will be conducted by Pat Sutherland, two Inuit assistants from Kimmirut and one student from Memorial university. The work will focus on extending previous investigations at Cape Tanfield. The excavations will be carried out with hand-tools following standard archaeological practice. While working at Cape Tanfield, the crew will live in a tent camp in close proximity to the Tanfield valley. Transportation will be provided by local boat charter from Kimmirut. The material recovered will be analyzed using standard archaeological methods, including technical analysis and identification of materials, and radiocarbon dating. On completion of the project, the excavations will be back-filled and re-vegetated. At the end of the 2015 field season, the tent camp will be dismantled and removed, and garbage will be taken out for disposal at Kimmirut. The environmental impact of the project is expected to be negligible.