
Author(s): Hans Harmsen; Christian Madsen; Henning Matthiesen; Bo Elberling; Jørgen Hollesen

Year: 2017

Summary

Documenting and evaluating the rate of deterioration at coastal archaeological sites presents a number of fundamental challenges in the Arctic. In Greenland for example, increasing soil temperatures, perennial thaws, coastal erosion, storm surges and pioneer plant species such as dwarf willow and dwarf birch are observed as increasingly detrimental to the long-term preservation of archaeological deposits and features found scattered along the country’s west coast and extensive inner fjord systems. Since 2009 several projects, including the ongoing REMAINS (REsearch and Management of Archaeological sites IN a changing environment and Society) project, have explored the variable factors that currently threaten Greenland’s heritage landscape in the 21st century. This paper specifically addresses the threats immediate to house middens located in the littoral zones of Greenland west coast and reviews data collected during the project’s fieldwork in 2016. Information gathered provides a baseline for "ground-truthing" predictive models of preservation and deterioration of material such as bone, antler and wood frequently observed in varying states of decay in these coastal middens. Knowledge derived from the project will assist heritage managers, conservationists and local people with new tools to actively document annual changes observed at archaeological sites at both the local and regional scale.

This Resource is Part of the Following Collections

- Burning Libraries: Environmental Impacts on Heritage and Science
- Society for American Archaeology 82nd Annual Meeting, Vancouver, BC (2017)

Cite this Record

Find a Copy

We do not have a copy of this document, it is a citation.

Submit Correction, Comment (requires login)

Basic Information

RESOURCE PROVIDER
Society for American Archaeology

CONFERENCE
The 81st Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology (Vancouver, British Columbia)

DOCUMENT TYPE
conference

TDAR ID
431035
tDAR (the Digital Archaeological Record) is the digital repository of the Center for Digital Antiquity, a collaborative organization and university Center at Arizona State University. Digital Antiquity extends our knowledge of the human past and improves the management of our cultural heritage by permanently preserving digital archaeological data and supporting their discovery, access, and reuse. Digital Antiquity and tDAR are and have been supported by a number of organizations, including the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the National Science Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Humanities. A more complete set of acknowledgements are provided here.

Copyright © 2017 Digital Antiquity. Design Credits.