SKAFTÁRTUNGA:

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS IN 2013



ELÍN ÓSK HREIÐARSDÓTTIR, GEORGE HAMBRECHT, RICHARD STREETER,

ANDREW DUGMORE AND HILDUR GESTDÓTTIR

REYKJAVÍK 2014

FSFS535-13021 **FORNLEIFASTOFNUN ÍSLANDS SES**

Front page: The Farm of Búlandssel that is eroding into the ravine to the east.
Photo: Elín Ósk Hreiðarsdóttir

©2014

FORNLEIFASTOFNUN ÍSLANDS
BÁRUGÖTU 3
101 REYKJAVÍK

SÍMI: 551 1033
FAX: 551 1047
NETFANG: fsi@instarch.is
www.instarch.is

Contents

1. Introduction 5

2. The main aims and results of tephra work 7

3. The main aims and results of field survey 9

3.1 The methodolgy 9

3.2 Protected sites in the area 10

3.3 The main results of the survey in 2013 12

4. The main aims and result of excavation and coring 15

4.1 Coring and section clearing at Ljótarstaðir (LST13) 16

4.2 Coring and trenching at Gröf (GRÖ13) 21

4.3 Coring and trenching at Svartinúpur (SVN13) 25

4.4 Coring and trenching by a cluster of ruins west of Svartinúpur ("Litli-Svartinúpur") (LSN13) 31

4.5 Coring and trenching at Búlandssel (BLS09) 35

4.6 Coring by ruins on Mosholt northwest of Búland 39

4.7 Coring by a cluster of ruins by Syðri-Ófæra 41

4.8 Coring by a cluster of ruins by Kóragil 42

5. Finds recovered during threnching and section clearing 43

6. Discussion 47

References 49

APPENDICES

A. Context register

B. Find register

C. Bone register

D. Core register

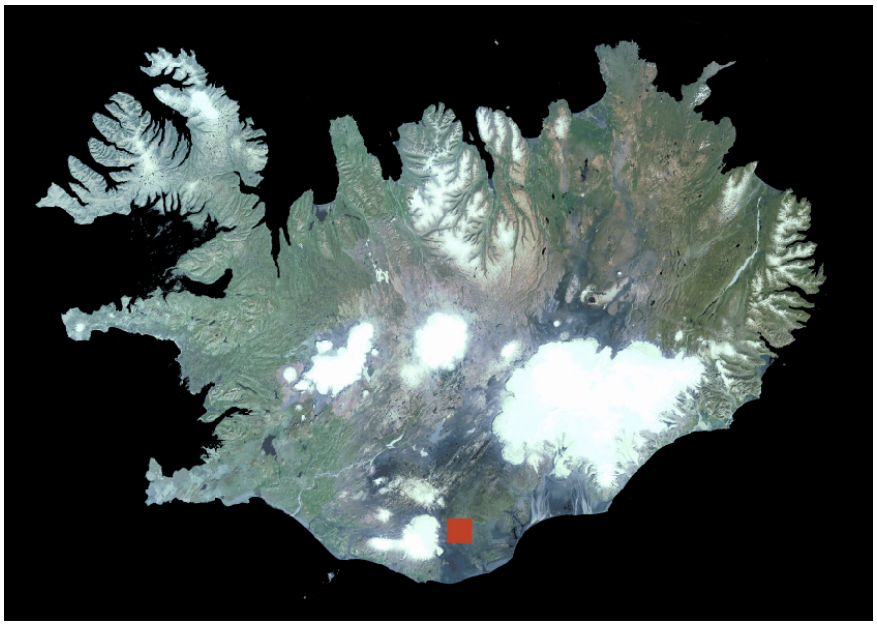
1. Introduction

This report is a summery of the archaeological and environmental research that took place in the summer of 2013 in Skaftártunga, Vestur-Skaftafellssýsla. The work sprang from the *Tephrochronology and Landscape Change project* conducted in the area in previous years which was led by Dr. Richard Streeter and Dr. Andrew Dugmore. The aim was to widen the focus of the project and try to use archaeological methods to improve the understanding of the cultural landscape of Skaftártunga and thereby provide a basis for further environmental and archaeological investigation in the area.

The research team in Skaftártunga in the summer of 2013 consisted of Dr. George Hambrecht (University of Maryland), Sant Mukh Khalsa (City University of New York), Dr. Andrew Dugmore and James Wylie (University of Edinburgh), Dr. Richard Streeter (St. Andrews) and Elín Ósk Hreiðarsdóttir and Kristborg Þórsdóttir (The Institute of Archaeology, Iceland).

The first part of the research took place in May when a field survey was conducted in the northernmost part of the area. The aim of the field survey was to collect information about archaeology in the area as well as to locate sites suitable for further investigation.

In June Skaftártunga was revisited, now by a full team. The next two weeks were spent on examining tephra, coring, cleaning back eroding sections of cultural layers as well as trenching selected sites. In this report we will present the main conclusions of the research in 2013 and briefly outline further work needed in the area. Addtionally to the trenching done in 2013 this report presents the result of a couple of trenches in the area excavated by Hildur Gestsdóttir and Richard Streeter in 2009 (previously



The research area of Skaftártunga marked with orange box. Base map: Landmælingar Íslands

unpublished).

The work in Skaftártunga was enabled by a CIE grant from the NSF (the North-American Science Fund). The team members would like to thank the landowners of all the farms surveyed and trenched for their warm welcome. They would also like to thank the owners of Heiðarsel for providing accomodation.

2. The main aims and results of tephra work

The aims of the geomorphic fieldwork in Skaftártunga in the summer of 2013 were to:

1) determine the long term pre-Landnám sediment fluxes
2) investigate the stability of the Eldgjá tephra layer
3) look at the relationship between slope and sediment movement
4) look at geomorphic changes near to sites of habitation which may have been related to land use changes. In addition stratigraphic sections of post-Landnám age were recorded to add to the detailed spatial archive of erosion in this area over the past 1200 years.[1]

To meet these aims we recorded multiple stratigraphic sections by clearing natural eroded edges to a width of 50 cm and described stratigraphic units and measured them to ±5mm vertical resolution. Sections were recorded from a range of geomorphic settings. To address aim 1 a section was recorded on the edge of a large eroding rofabarð down to the Hekla 5 tephra layer (approx. 4400 BC) which gave a continuous long term record of sediment flux over the past 6000 yrs. From this section we could see there is major increase in erosion associated with Landnám, and that erosion after Landnám is outside the range of natural variability due to climatic changes.

To address aim 2 we assessed the stability of the Eldgjá tephra layer by measuring its thickness across a range of geomorphic settings (slopes, flat areas, breaks of slopes) and by mapping the location of identifiable units within the tephra layer itself, which probably represent different phases of the eruption. Where units within the tephra are missing (and nearby they are present) we can infer that erosion was more active at that location. By looking at the geomorphic setting of that location we can begin to infer spatial patterns of erosion. The impact of the Eldgjá eruption is suspected to have been severe in this area (mean depth of tephra is 22cm), however what is surprising is the stability observed above this tephra layer, suggesting only a short period of instability following the eruption, or perhaps that it fell onto a wooded or shrub covered landscape which would able to trap this depth of tephra effectively.

To address aim 3 we selected eroding rofabarð edges on slopes. Here we looked at the change in thickness of an easily identifiable tephra (Katla 1918, Katla 1755 and Hekla 1206) down a slope. This was in order to identify circumstances where the tephra thickened down slope, as would be expected from a purely geomorphic perspective (and is what happens with accumulations of non-tephra sediment), and circumstances where its depth was constant down

[1] Streeter, 2011; Streeter and Dugmore, 2012, 2013, 2014

a slope. The second scenario was found to be more common and suggests that there is a strong control on tephra stability provided by vegetation cover, and that tephra layers deposited rapidly behave differently from the slow background accumulation of sediment.

To address aim 4 sections were dug and recorded from nearby sites of habitation (e.g. on the edge of outfield areas, near to farm sites). These sections allowed us to determnine the rate of sediment accumulation (and therefore erosion in surrounding areas) and compare this record against the high resolution regional record of soil erosion which exists for this area. We also were able to investigate specific geomorphic events which are both identifiable and datable because of the tephra layers. For example we identified changes in the water table by looking at tephra layers in a relict stream bed. The structure of these tephra layers suggested periods of stream aggradation and incision prior to and shortly after Landnám, followed by infill of the stream bed and the ceasing of stream flow by the mid-11th century. This change probably reflects a wider change in water table levels due to the creation of rofabarð erosion fronts and consequent alterations to local topography.

3. The main aims and results of field survey

A field survey was conducted within the property of three farms in Skaftártunga in late May 2013. The work was carried out by Elín Ósk Hreiðarsdóttir and Kristborg Þórsdóttir. The aims of the survey were twofold:

1) To try and locate sites with good research potential for the fieldwork in June.

2) To start a large scale landscape survey of Skaftártunga and by that start to deepen the understanding of settlement history of the area as well as creating a future base for further archaeological and environmental historical research in the area

3.1 The methodolgy

A full field survey was completed of three farms, Búland, Búlandssel and Svartinúpur but additionally a brief visit was paid to all the other major farms in Skaftártunga in order to evaluate the condition of the farm mound and search for a possible midden there. A detailed report about the survey will be published separately but here we want to give a quick overview of some of the main results of the survey.

The three farms surveyed fully were all classified as "legal farms" in the middle of the 18th century but in most cases little is know about their history. Out of the three farms Búland is the largest and without a doubt the most orginal settlement as the two other farms were built from within the property of Búland at later date. In Landnámabók Búland is decribed as the settlement farm of the area, settled by an Iris man called Vilbaldr the son of Dofnak but who was later chased of his property by another settler Ísólfr that took over the farm of Búland.[2] The farm of Búland is mentioned in various other written sources from the 13-16th century. Additionally a heathen burial that was found within the property suggest an early date as well as the fact that a parish church that served the surrounding farms for centuries was located there. Combined these can be taken as an indications that the farm of Búland was one of the chief farms of the area. The other two farms were probably minor and could have been established much later, possible as late as the 18th-19th century – or might have been abandoned and rebuilt a few times throughout the centuries. The oldest known written reference to Svartinúpur is from the end of the 18th century but the oldest reference to Búlandssel is from around 1800 (see chapters 4.3 and 4.5).

Before starting the field survey a detailed documentary survey was done for the farms in the area. All known sites within the property of the three farms were then visited in the

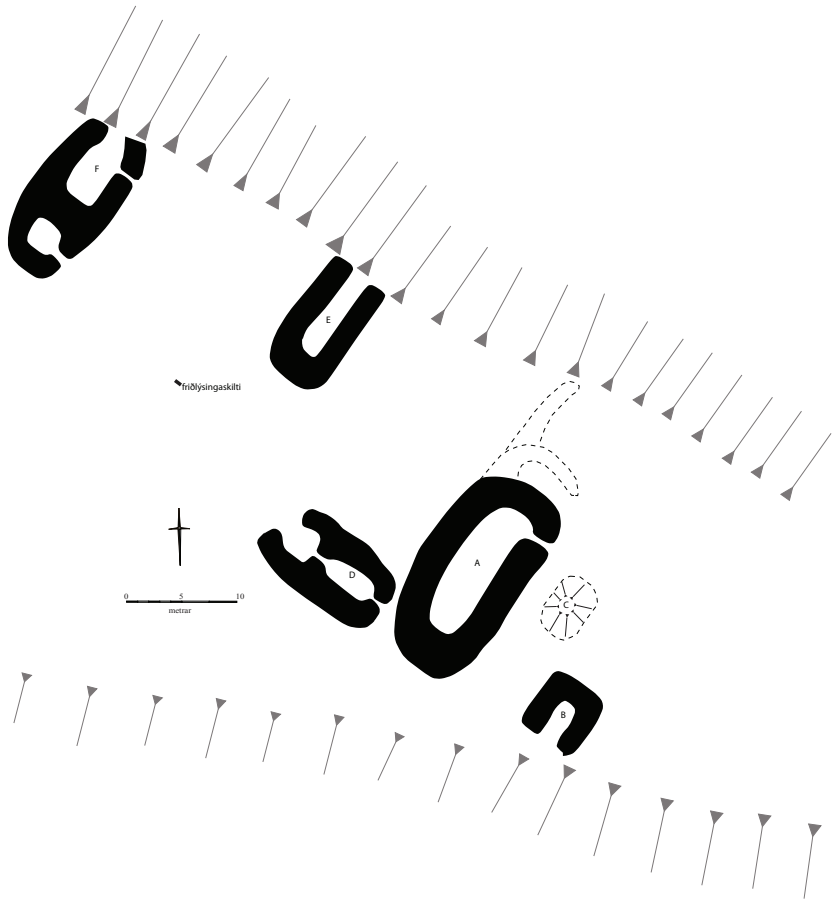
[2] *Íslenzk fornrit I*, 326-329

field but additionally a large number of new sites were discovered in the area surveyed, by examination of aerial photos, interviews with local people and field walking.

During the survey an attempt was made to locate all known sites. A coordinate was taken on all the sites and where visible ruins were found and a simple drawing was done and the sites photographed.

3.2 Protected sites in the area

Out of the sites surveyed in 2013, three sites were on the protected site list of Minjastofnun Íslands (The Cultural Heritage Agency of Iceland). One of these was a group of four heathen burials, Granahaugar (SF-179:009) northwest of the farm of Búland. The burials were discovered when erosion revealed them in the late 19th century. The site and its surroundings are now completely eroded but it is marked by a sign from Minjastofnun Íslands. The other two protected sites also fall within the property of Búland and are both clusters of ruins that are believed to have been farms and were therefore of special interest to the research. One of the sites goes by the name of Erlendsstaðir (SF-179:010). It is located southeast of Þorláksstaðafell/Þorleifsstaðafelli, ca. 2,1 km west of the present day farm of Búland. Erlendsstaðir consists of four sunken ruins and a small mound that looks like it could be a midden. The ruins are located on a narrow tongue between two ravines and erosion has started to threaten the site resulting in a couple of the ruins starting to collapse into the ravine. A permit was sought to investigate these



he protected site of Erlendsstaðir. Examination of tephras in eroding sections of ruin E showed tephra from 1206 over the wall. Drawing: Elín Hreiðarsdóttir

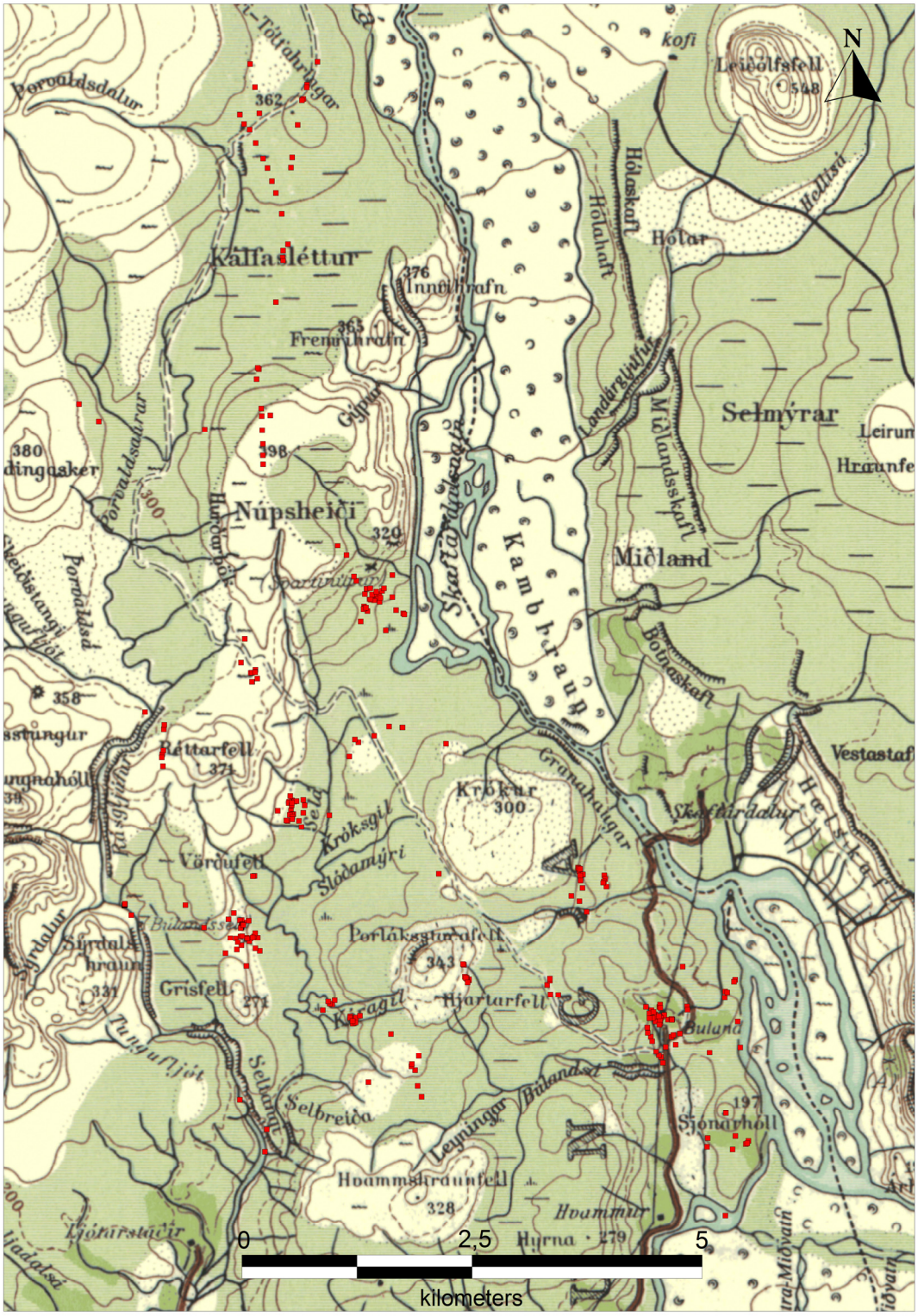
ruins with coring or trenching but it was denied on the basis of the ruins being a protected site. During field walking by the research group in June, Richard Streeter examined the eroding sections of ruins E and F. No definable tephras could be seen in the eroding section of ruin F but in ruin E a tephra from 1206 were over the wall, indicating that the ruin is from 12th century or earlier.

The third protected site in the area surveyed in 2013 is Hróðnýjarstaðir (SF-180:014) that is located within the old property of Svartinúpur (now Búland). The ruins of Hróðnýjarstaðir are very extensive (reach over an area of 330 x 380m). They are located about 4,6 km WNW of the present day farm of Búland. The area is marked by ravines to the northeast and southwest but delimited by a homefield boundary on other sides. Within this area are 15 ruins of various shapes and sizes. A large sheep fold (skilarétt) from turf was later built on the farm mound but a large part of the area has little or no later disturbance. A permit to investigate this site was also sought but denied on the grounds that the site is protected. Plans for coring and trenching the site were therefore abandoned. An Icelandic geologist, Jón Jónson had visited the site in the 1980s and did a couple of trenches in the area. His conclusions were that the site was shortlived, and probably only occupied between 1150 and 1250.[3] His decriptions of tephras in the trenches were reviewed by Richard Streeter who suggests that the lower tehpra in Jónsson´s sequence must be Eldgjá. This means that the settlement has a wider occupation date than before, that it was built after 934 ±2 (Eldgjá) but abandoned long before 1206 (Hekla).[4] The ruins of Hróðnýjarstaðir are one of the more interesting sites surveyed, they are very extensive and must represent a major settlement. Various theories have been put forward about the farm´s origin; it has been suggested that this was the capital farm (with a church) of a whole settlement called Tólfahringa which according to oral tradition was a large settlement of 12 farms that was abandoned around 1112 in an eruption.[5] Another theory is that this was the original location of the farm of Búland. That theory must be considered unlikely as the location of the heathen burials close to Búland suggests an early settlement in that area. According to a saying, the farm of Hróðnýjarstaðir had “18 doors on latches” which is a common folklore description of the grandness of a settlement in the past that has been abandoned. [6]

[3] Jónsson, Jón. 1985.
[4] Streeter, Richard, pers. comm.
[5] Jónsson, Brynjúlfur. 1909, 15-16.
[6] Pálsson, Sveinn. 1945, 159-160,259-60 and 549.

3.3 The main results of the survey in 2013

Before the field survey started, information had been gathered on about 50 archaeological sites in the area of Búland, Búlandssel and Svartinúpur. During the survey numerous new sites were discovered and at the end of the field season about 150 sites had been surveyed.



The sites surveyed in 2013

The sites surveyed were very versatile ranging from simple cairns to a heathen burial but the largest group were ruins of farms and various outhouses. Antoher large group was cairns, tracks and river crossings. Over fifty sites were surveyed where there were no knowledge of site function. The one hundred sites that were found additionally during the field season were often cairns and small ruins but some look substantial and could have been farms or seasonal sites such as shielings.

Within the survey area 11 sites were identified as certain or possible farmsteads or shielings (see table 1).Three of these sites are the farmstead of Búland, SF-179:001, Búlandssel SF-180:001 and Svartinúpur SF-181:001 and four others were known from written sources (Litlanes SF-179:026, Þorleifsstaðir SF-179:008, Hróðnýjarstaðir SF-180:014 and Erlendsstaðir SF-179:010). Additionally four new sites that might have been a seasonal or full farm were discovered during field walking (SF-179:007/027, SF-179:072, 181:016 and 181:029), aerial examination and interviews with local people.

Out of the eleven surveyed sites classified as a confirmed or possible farmstead, six

Site number	Site name	Condition	Dating
SF-179:001	Búland	Large disturbed farm mound, still occupied	Likely early settlement
SF-179:010	Erlendsstaðir	4-5 sunken ruins and a midden (protected site)	Likely abandoned before 1206.
SF-179:008	Þorláksstaðir	Single ruin (possible that the name orignally refered to ruin 179:010)	Tennards farm of Búland, abandoned in Katla eruptin 1755 but was resettled into the 19th. c
SF-179:007	Unknown	8-11 ruins, including a "skáli shaped" building and pithouses	Unknown, 9th-12th c?
SF-179:026	Litlanes	Tennards farm of Búland in 18th c. and eariler? Has completely disapeared	Disapeared in 1783
SF-179:072	Unknown	Sunken cluster of 4-5 ruins by Kóragil	Unknown 9th-12th c?
SF-180:001	Búlandssel	Extensive ruins and boundaries and small farm mound.	Trencing suggests early 18th century, abandoned early 20th c.
SF-180:014	Hróðnýjarstaðir	A large and extensive area with farm mound, ruins and boundaries (protected)	934-1206
SF-181:001	Svartinúpur	Large homefield with farm ruin and multiple other ruins, as well as boundaries	Trenching suggests 18th-19th century occupation. Earliest reference from 18th c. abandoned in 1918
SF-181:016	Unknown	Row of unclear ruins at the edge of lava at Syðri-Ófæra, shieling?	Unclear results, likely above 1477
SF-181:029	Unknown	Four sunken ruins about 200 m SW of Svartinúpur. Shieling or farm?	Structures seems to be built during or straight after Eldgjá eruption in 934 ±2

Table 1: Possible and confirmed settlement sites in the area surveyed in 2013. Note that both Ljótarstaðir and Gröf are not on the list since a full survey will only be done in the summer of 2014.

were the subject of further investigation by the research group in June (see chapter 4). Three sites were not considered suitable for further research (Búland, Litlanes and Þorleifsstaðir) and a permit to core/excavate was not granted for two sites (Hróðnýjarstaðir and Erlendsstaðir). Other sites were explored through coring and/or trenching. Alongside the full survey of the three farms a brief visit was paid to the other nine farms of Skaftártunga. The focus of these visits was simply to locate the farm mounds and possible middens within the properties. During these visits two additional sites that might have midden potential, at Ljótarstaðir and Gröf which were discovered. The results of the coring and trenching will be introduced in the next chapter.

4. The main aims and result of excavation and coring

The aims of the coring and trenching in the summer of 2013 were twofold:

1) To try and better understand the nature of as many of the known settlement sites in the area as possible and date them
2) To locate good midden material that could possibly serve as a part of larger scale excavation in the area in the future.



Overview map showing all sites where coring and trenching was done in 2013

Coring was done at eight sites (ruin SF-179:007, ruins by Kóragil SF-179:072, Búlandssel SF-180:001, Svartinúpur SF-181:001, ruins by the river of Ófæra SF-181:016, cluster of ruin close to Svartinúpur SF-181:029, Ljótarstaðir SF-184:001 and Gröf SF-185:001) and trenching/section clearing was done at five locations (Búlandssel SF-180:001, Svartinúpur SF-181:001, cluster of ruin close to Svartinúpur SF-181:029, Ljótarstaðir SF-184:001 and Gröf SF-185:001).

4.1 Coring and section clearing at Ljótarstaðir (LST13)

Little is known of the origin of Ljótarstaðir or Fljótastaðir as the farm was sometimes called. The size of the property as well as the farm name could indicate a fairly early settlement. The location of the farm is far from ideal though as it is located 180 m above sea level and it was considered one of the most snow ridden properties of the area.[7] The earliest mention of the farm in written sources is from around 1570.[8] Just before 1960 the old turf farm at Ljótarstaðir burned down and was then rebuilt just over 300 m to the south where the present day farm still stands. Today Ljótarstaðir is a large sheep farm.



The ruin of the old farm of Ljótarstaðir.
Photo: Elín Hreiðarsdóttir

The midden by the old farm was identified during the field survey. The ruins of the last turf farm are undamaged on the farm mound. The old farm is located at the eastern edge of the home field marked by a ravine down to a small creek called Bæjargilslækur with only 5-10 m between the end of the farm ruin and the ravine. In this area the farm mound´s edge is exposed where a large section has broken off and fallen into the river. In the exposed section and the hill below various cultural remains could be seen. Down from the section animal bones and smaller and larger objects were distributed down to the spring.

[7] Gestsson, Vigfús. 1985, 274
[8] *Diplomatarium Islandicum XV*, 705

The coring at Ljótarstaðir

The work at Ljótastaðir stated with systematic coring of the area south of the farm ruin. A transect was laid down a meter back from the exposed ravine face. These cores identified midden deposits and cultural soils behind the visible midden on the face (see appendix). Core #18 at LTS (see appendix 4) for example revealed a layer containing highly decomposed bone at 76-77cm; a mix of turf, peat ash and possible bone fragments at 102-115cm; clear bone fragments (an ovca neonatal incisor) at 115-116 cm; and again possible organic material from 118-136cm. There is a Hekla tephra (possibly H1262) in between these two last layers. Also of interest is that at this point, roughly a meter back from the edge of the ravine, the core does not show the fill from the cut that is so visible in the section on the exposed ravine face ([012] on the section drawing). More cores were put in between the exposed face and the early 20th century ruins that lie roughly 5 meters or so beyond the ravine. These cores also confirmed the presence of both early 20th and late 19th century midden material but also the medieval midden layers visible in the section and cores right behind the section. The cores seem to

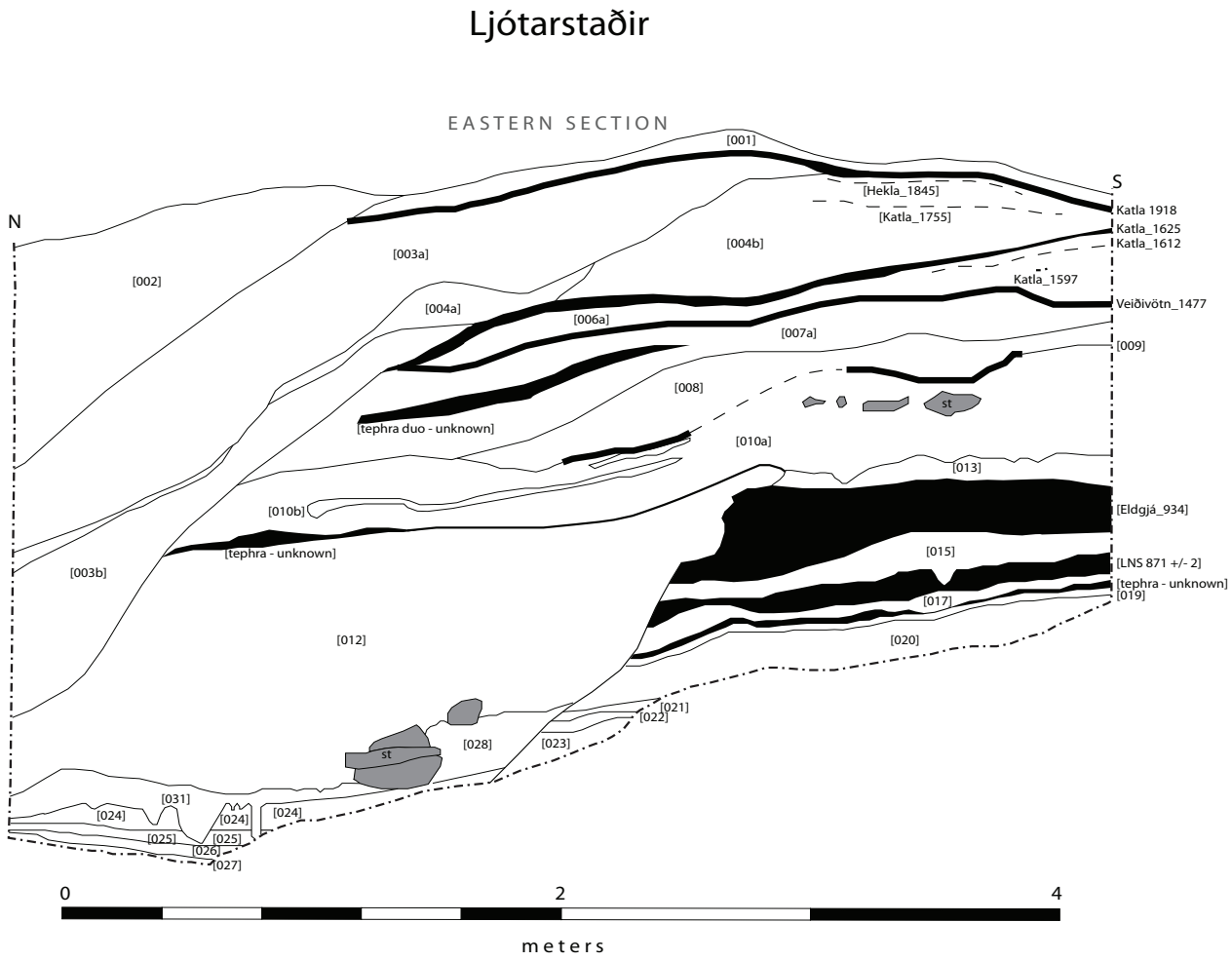


The area east of the old farm at Ljótarstaðir and the exposed section. Photos: Elín Hreiðarsdóttir.

suggest that the thin line visible on the ravine exposure is more substantial behind and towards the ruins.

Section at Ljótarstaðir

Alongside the coring done at Ljótarstaðir the exposed section at the edge of the farm mound



The section cleared at Ljótarstaðir (s1)

was cleaned and drawn and the objects that had fallen out of it were gathered. The eroding section cleared (N63 45.342 W18 35.860) was about 4,5 m long and 2,4 m high.

The cleared section at Ljótarstaðir revealed a lot of cultural and tephra layers. The southern side of the section seems to be a fairly undisturbed accumulation of cultural and tephra layers whereas the northern part has eroded away or been removed. Roughly the interpretation of the section could be divided into two events. In the bottom half natural layers and tephra in situ had accumulated (including the Landnám 871 ±2 and Eldgjá 934 ±2 [014] and [016]) and were undisturbed. To the north the edge of this accumulation had eroded (rather than being cut down). This created a negative feature and at the bottom of it were highly disturbed natural layers (see [024] to [027]). Straight above it was a pile of stones with

small turf remains at the back [028]. This did not represent an actual wall but is likely building debris. The rest of the fill in the negative feature was filled up with a very thick layer [012], dominated by turf collapse, mixed with black tephra and aeolian soil. The layer was very mottled and mixed and looked like a deliberate dump rather than turf collapse from a nearby building. The layer included very badly preserved bones/bone butter. Within the layer were occasional turf stripes, but no clear turf collapse. This layer was sealed by an unidentified black tephra [011]. Above it and above natural accumulated layers to the south were a few thick accumulated cultural layers with patches of midden, turf debris and occasional stones (see layers [010]) that might be building debris. Within these layers were fine lines of turf, charcoal and peat and frequent patches of bone butter. These layers were sealed by tephra from Veiðivötn from 1477 but above it fairly sterile layers of wind blown material and tephra were found [004]-[006] including tephras of Hekla 1597, Katla 1625, Katla 1755 and Hekla 1845. No human impact can be seen in these layers which are all fading to the north, due to erosion and what seems to be the direction of the slope. Above these, but below the Katla tephra from 1918, were clear midden layers [003a-b] divided up by a fairly sterile windblown material [004a].

Conclusion

The section could be use to speculate about the occupation of Ljótarstaðir, suggesting that there might have been a halt in the occupation between 1477 and 1847. That would mean that the first phase of occupation started after the eruption of Eldgjá where building debris and various other materials seems to have been dumped in a depression left by erosion or a cut and then continued on a more levelled surface. After the second half of the 15th century the use of this site seems to stop and no human traces can be seen in the section from that time until the middle of the 19th century. This alone can however not be taken as any sort of proof that the farm was abandoned in this period since their dumping area might just have shifted. The written sources would seem to suggest just that since written documents from around 1570 suggests that the farm was occupied at that time. After the middle of the 19th century human impact can be seen again and midden material gets dumped down hill. These layers are sealed by the 1918 tephra so they represent most of the modern period of the farm until its abandonment in 1960.

This site of Ljótarstaðir is an interesting one, and worth further investigation. The site definitely has clear potential for the recovery of modern (early 20th century and late 19th century) material and medieval material (possibly 13th-14th century). There is excellent

temporal resolution here due to the tephrochronological record. Considering the obvious modern and medieval occupations there is also the potential (though we did not see this in the section or clearly in the coring data) of finding material from early modern and late medieval contexts elsewhere, possibly closer to the visible ruins.

4.2 Coring and trenching at Gröf (GRÖ13)

The farm of Gröf was probably settled early but the earliest reference of the farm in written sources is from 1340 in the register of the monasetry of Þykkvabæ.[9] The farm is located by the western side of Grafará, just over 100 m above sea level. In the middle of the 19th century the farm of was moved from its original location in Lágatún, and about 100 m uphill close to its present location.[10] A substantial farm mound had accumulated at the old location and it seems fairly undisturbed. The site was identified during a farm site survey and the local farmer could point out a location on the mound where he had found fish bones while digging for a pipeline at the edge of the farm mound.

The coring at Gröf



The location of the old farm of Gröf, the farm mound can be detected in the middle of the picture. Photo: Elín Hreiðarsdóttir.

Coring on and by the farm mound of Gröf revealed substantial midden material. Core #9 revealed a few layers of possible organic deposits, while at the bottom of the core between 128 and 140cm a layer of charcoal and heavily decomposed bone was found. During the coaring the best midden material was found at the eastern and south eastern edges of the farm mound, down slope towards the stream, where cores revealed clear midden material. The cores in this area revealed far more midden than sterile soils (see appendix 4).

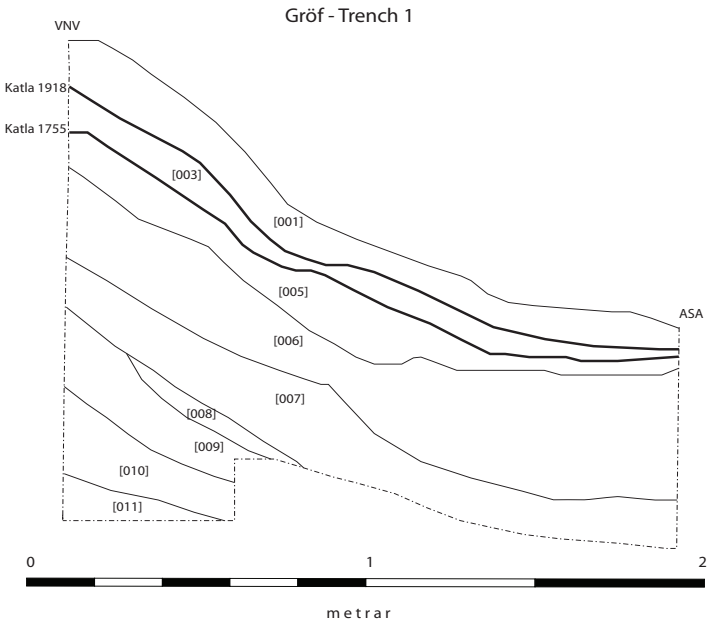
[9] *Diplomatarium Islandicum, II,* 737-740
[10] *Gröf: place name description*, unplublished, pp. 1.

Trenching at Gröf

Due to the appearance of this area, the mound and the vibrant vegetation, and the clear presence of midden, two test pits were dug. Trench 1 (T1) was a 1 x 1,8 m (N63°43.546 W°018 32.340) and was taken in the eastern edge of the farm mound. Under the turf cap [001] a clear tephra from Katla 1918 [002] was found at the top of the trench. Below were aeolian layers with traces of midden material [003] on top of a very faint tephra layer that was originally identified as Katla 1755 [004]. Below the tephra was however a rich midden layer [006] that had various objects suggesting 18-19th century date. Among those were a machine cut nail (finds nr. 022) dated to 18th or 19th century and creamware pottery (finds nr. 015) that was first made in the 1750s and probably not widely marketed until the 1760c and 1770s suggesting that the tephra above is likely a later one. It is possible that it could be redistributed Katla from the 1918 eruption or tephra from the Hekla eruption in 1845. Further research in the area in 2014 will hopefully shed a light on this matter. Below midden lens [006] was another thick midden layer with occational large bones in [007] but the midden material faded out in the layer below [008].A shovel test put into the



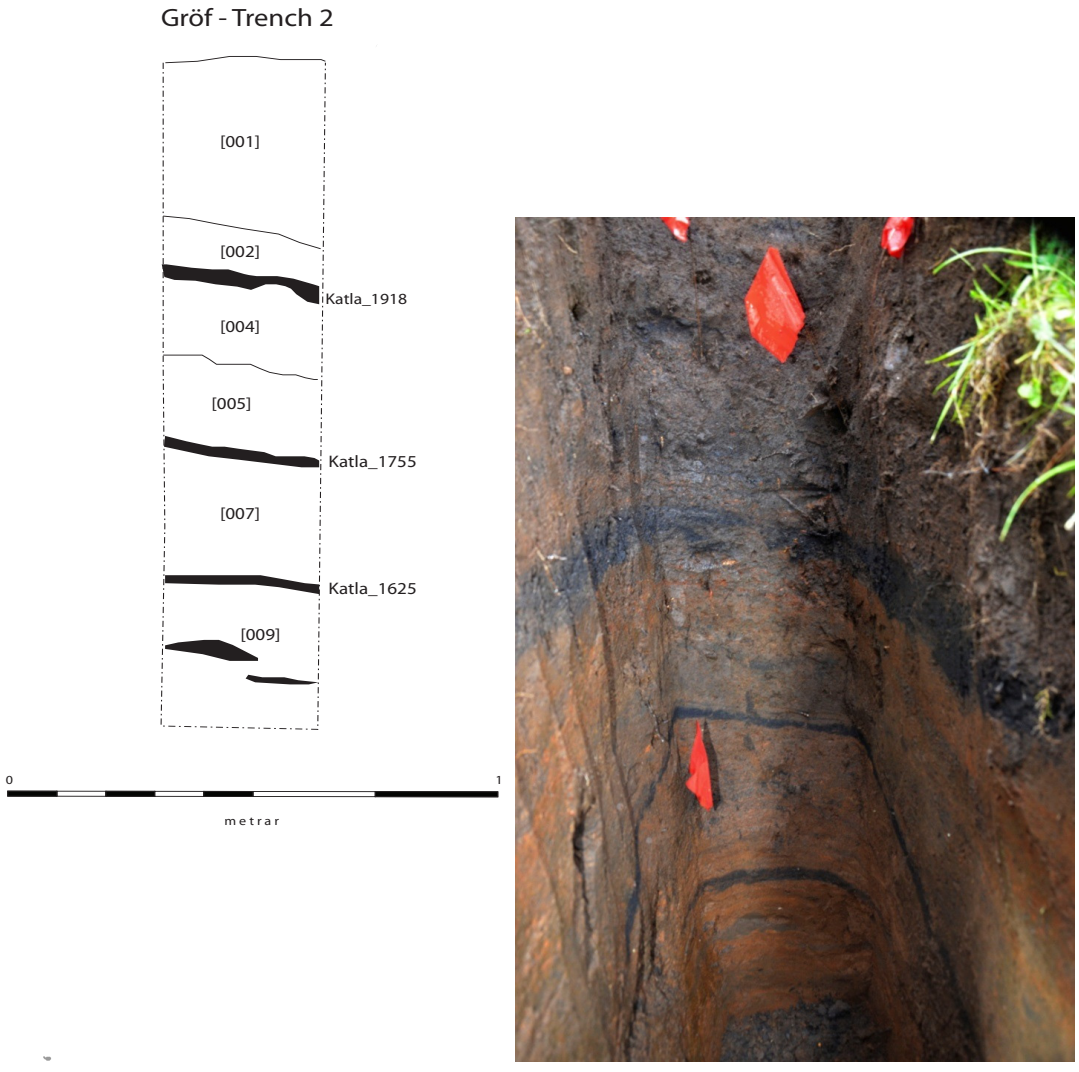
Trench 1- note the layer of whole bone at the top of the sounding, as well as the bands of ash layers throughout the test pit. Photo: George Hambrecht



Section 1 in Gröf

corner of T1 revealed ash layers and traces of midden material ([009] to [011]) all the way to the bottom. A core put in at the southeastern corner of T1 also showed ash layers to the bottom with the possible presence of H1104 at 90cm from the floor of the trench. The trench did reveal layers rich in ash, charcoal and bone fragments. Most of the bone observed was highly fragmented and in many cases decomposed (all pH readings in this trench were between 6.3 and 6.8). There was however one layer [007] that contained whole bones in very good condition. This trench contained clear midden, with the taphonomy looking to range from very good to very bad. Conditions were quite wet, and the soil itself was very wet, and became saturated in the deeper sections of the core put in to the corner of the trench.

Trench 2 (T2) was put in to the southeastern side of the farm mound, on the northern



Trench 2 at the southeast edge of farm mound of Gröf. In the photo the flags note the position of a whale bone fragments and a whetstone (finds nr. 29) which is the bottom flag. Photo: George Hambrecht

side of a sunken path which leads from the farm house down to the Grafará stream, separating the home field from the midden area (N63 43.542 W18 32.347). The trench was roughly 1,2 x

0,4 cm and was a shallow cut into the side in order to expose a section and see what range of tephra deposits were extant.

The trench did not turn out to have as rich a midden sequence as trench 1 but its tephra record was rich and intact. Under the turfcap [001] and below Katla 1918 [003] was a midden layer with peatash and bone [002]. Light midden material [004] and [005] was also seen between tephra from Katla1918 and 1755 [006]. A mottled midden material [007] was again found below that tephra but above tephra from Hekla 1625 [008] and at the bottom of the trench was a banded layer [009] with light midden material and large specks of tephra that are likely Hekla 1597.

The midden quantity of trench 2 is small only relative to trench 1. Fragments of whale bone, mammal bone, and a whetstone (finds nr. 29) were all found in the section. This area revealed clear midden in potentially better condition than in trench 1 and also with an intact and clear tephra stratigraphy. The pH readings in the section of trench 2 ranged from 6.3 to 6.7, with one layer coming in at 5.9. Within the trench midden material from the 19th century down to at least the 16th century was found.

Conclusion

The quanity and quality of the midden material at Gröf was very promising. Out of the trenches and sections looked at in 2013 the trenches at Gröf have the best potential for the recovery of substantial faunal data. Given the results of these two trenches a good approach would be to open up a larger trench between the two smaller trenches dug in 2013.

4.3 Coring and trenching at Svartinúpur (SVN13)

Little is known about the origin of the farm Svartinúpur. The oldest known written reference to the farm is found in the autobiography of Jón Steingrímsson but according to him it was a tennants farm belonging to Búland in the 18th century but was deserted by the Laki eruptions in 1783. The farm was resettled but was finally abandoned in the eruption of Katla in 1918.



The homefield of Svartinúpur. The largest complex left to center is the farm ruin. Photo: Elín Hreiðarsdóttir

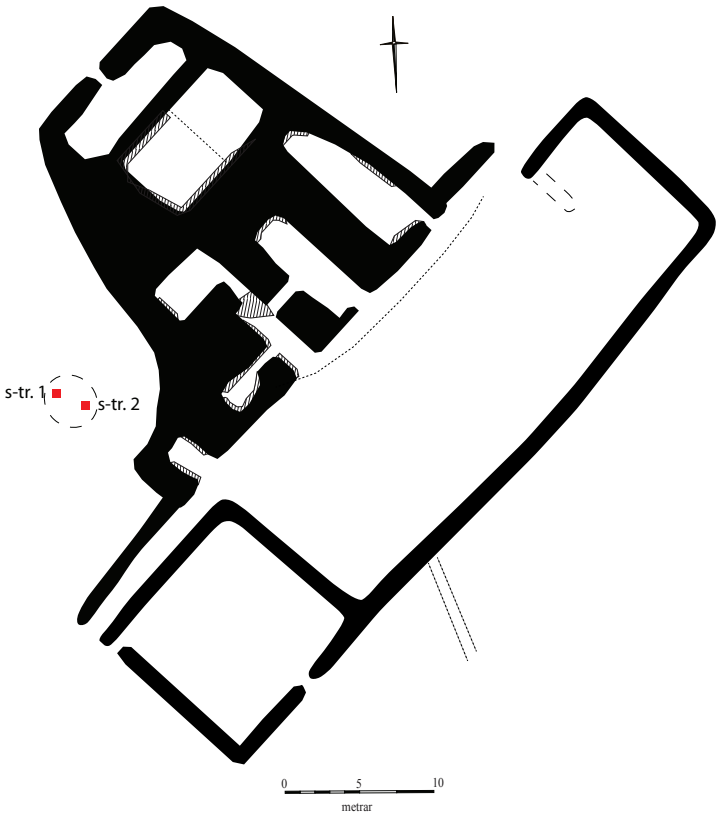
The ruins of the settlement are intact. A large boundary defines the homefield and within and arround it are substantial ruins of a farm and various outhouses. Svartinúpur is about 270 m above sea level, south of cliff *Núpur* or *Svartinúpur* and a short distance west of *Skaftá*. Some coring and trenching was done in three locations in Svartinúpur. The trenches were dug into the home field boundary, into a possible midden by the farm and into a small mound that turned out to be a tephra midden in the home field.

Trenching at Svatinúpur

Two areas were initially interesting as potential midden areas within the Svartinúpur homefield.

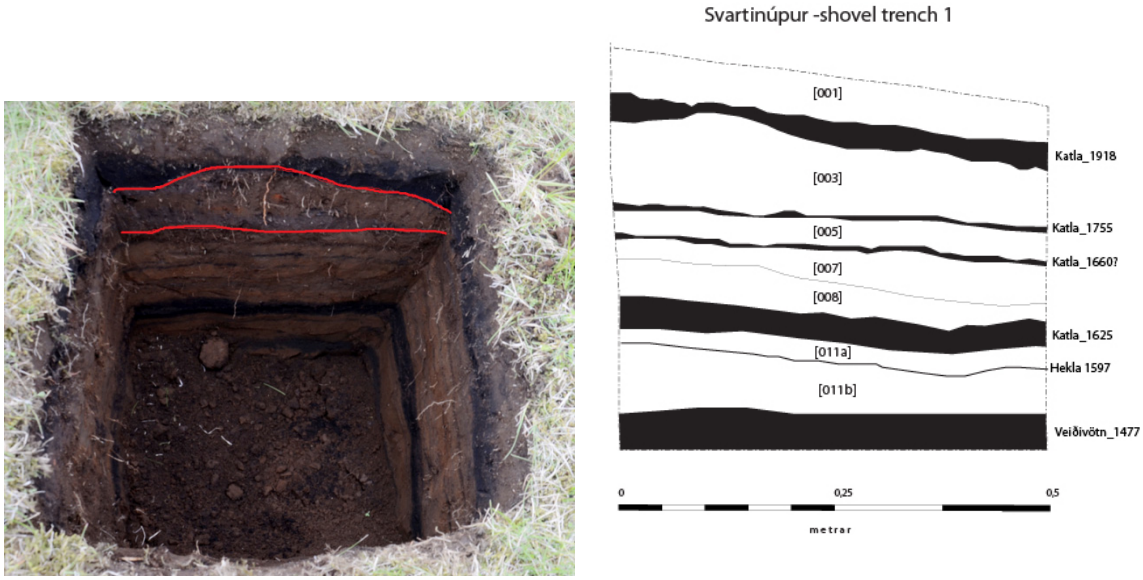
Midden behind the farm ruin

The first area was less than 5 m west of the farm ruin where a low green mound could be detected (N63 49.006 W18 33.333). Its location at the 'back' of the complex yet not too far away makes it a good place for the convenient disposal of trash in a place where it would not be immediately and consistently seen. It was decided to dig two small shovel pits in this area instead of putting in transects and coring. Each shovel test was roughly 0,5 x 0,5 m and 60cm deep. This area was at the edge of the low mound area.



The ruins of the last farm of Svartinúpur with the rough location of the showel test pits. Drawing: Elín Hreiðarsdóttir

In test pit one a thick layer of Katla 1918 could be seen [002] underneath the turf cap [001] but below it was a mixed midden layer [003]. A further light midden material [005] could be found below, between tephras from Katla 1755 [004] and Katla 1660 [006]. Below the 1660 tephra only a sterile, aeolian layer and tephras were found (see [007] to [012]). Overall the trench showed only very light and ephemeral midden. This area could be a good place for the extraction of early modern, 18th and 19th century midden material.



The shovel trench 1 (Str. 1) into the heap west of the farm ruin, midden outlined in red. Photo:George Hambrecht

The first shovel test pit showed a clear midden layer in 19th and 18th century contexts. This midden contained ash, charcoal, some orange peat ash, as well as bone chips and burnt bone fragments. All bone fragments were small, under 2cm square. The midden was not especially dense but it was clear. This site was occupied in the early modern period and a number of free cores put in showed no activity before the early modern period. These free cores also showed midden extending to the north and northwest of shovel test

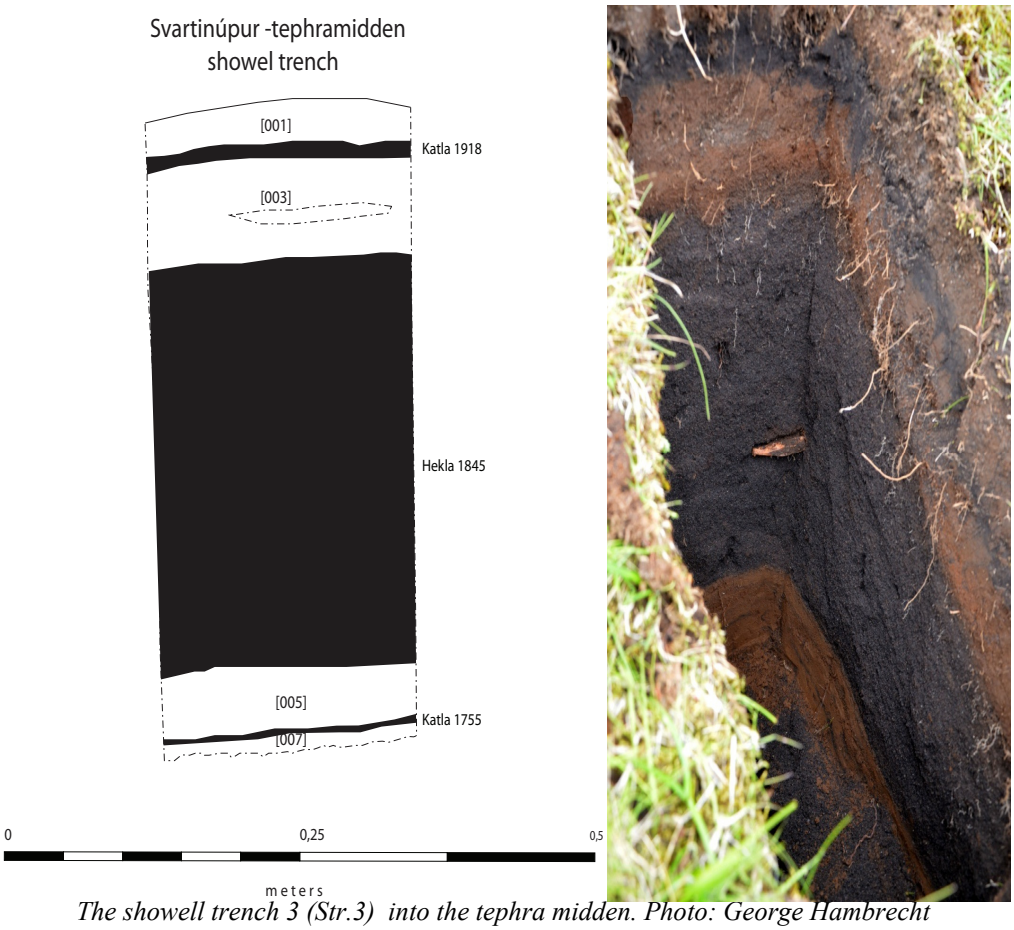
The second shovel test (N63 49.087 W18 33.2295) pit was put in a few meters to the southeast of the first shovel test pit. It came up with similar sequence although much less midden material was found.



The showel trench 2 (Str.2) into the heap west of the farm ruin. Photo: George Hambrecht

Tephra midden

A small man made mound was found about 30 m south of the farm ruin in Svartinúpur. The



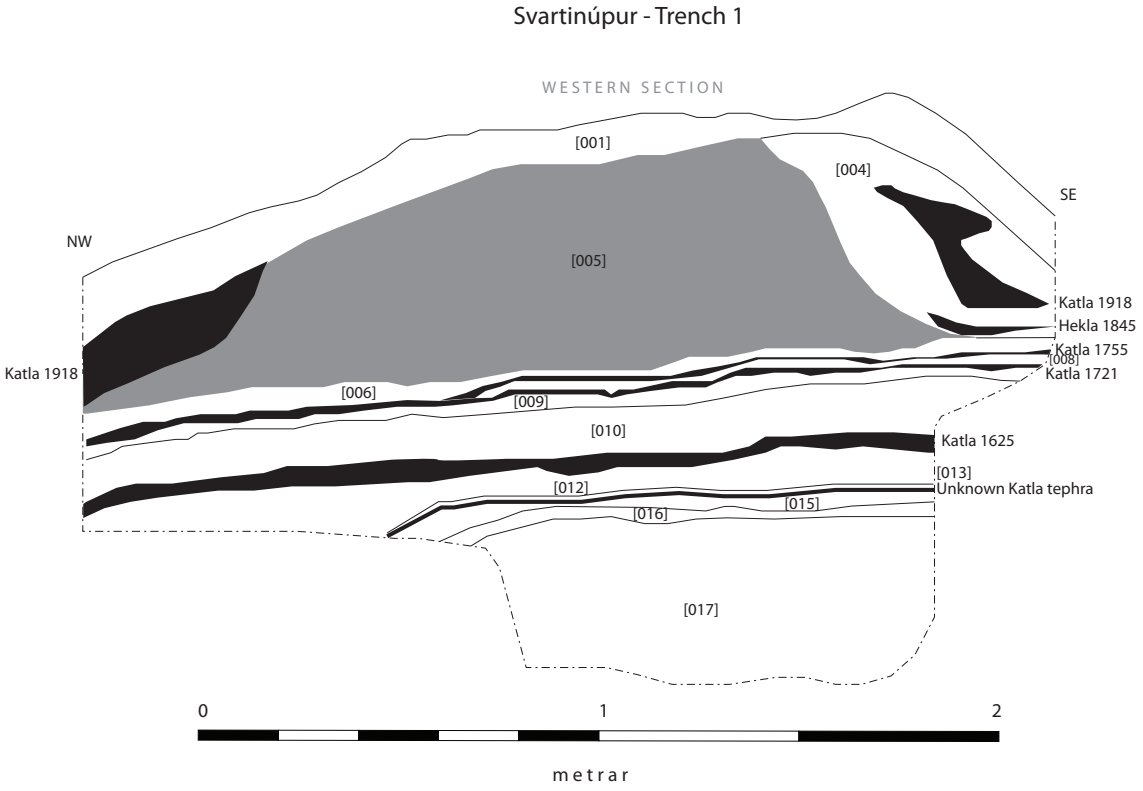
The showell trench 3 (Str.3) into the tephra midden. Photo: George Hambrecht

full diameter of the mound is 3 m and the highest part is about 0,7 high and 1 m in diameter. A small shovel test of 0,3 x 0,3 m was put into the side of this feature (N63 48.992 W18 33.262). A thick layer of Katla 1918 [002] was straight underneath the turf cap [001] and underneath that a fairly sterile accumulation layer [003] was found. The mound it self was however made out of redeposited Hekla tephra from the eruption in 1845 [004]. Below the heap were sterile aeolian and tephras (Katla 1755). The mound shows the attempt of the people of Svartinúpur to clear tephra from their farm and/or homefield. The tephra was showelled into a pile creating what we have called 'tephra midden'. This pile did have a small amount of midden material in it, namely one sheep mandible. Though this is not an especially promising midden in terms of faunal material it did make for an interesting marriage of Tephrochronology and Zooarchaeology.

The third focus of coring took place at the southwestern section of the farm, within the southwestern corner of the infield wall, where a few low structural remains were. Cores put in this area revealed faint signs of organic material as well. Though any excavation to recover faunal material should concentrate on the area around shovel test 1, the southwestern area should be investigated further.

Home field boundary

In order to get better information on the dating of the settlement at Svartinúpur a trench was taken through the home field boundary, about 130 m ESE of the farm ruin (N63°48.989 W018°33120). The trench measured 2,4 x 0,8 m and was orientated NNW-SSE. Sealing the



Trench 1 (T1): The section into the homefield bondary

wall was a turf cap [001] but up against it on both sides were piles of tephra from Katla 1918 [002] and [003]. Piles of windblown material [004] had additionally accumulated up against the northern edge of the boundary. Within this layer, close to the bottom of it traces of a tephra, Hekla 1845 could be detected. The wall was measured over 2 m wide at the bottom but about 0,5 m at the top. It stood about 1 m high. It seems piled up rather than carfully constructed and consisted of thin strips of turf with a mixture of soil and tephra between. The

wall was constructed on top of a thin layer of homogenous silt [006] which in turn sealed the Katla 1755 tephra [007]. Below were various tephra and aeolian layers (see [008] to [017]). The trench revealed a turf constructed boundary wall, constructed after 1755 and before 1845. No repairs or rebuilts could be seen.



The section through the homefield.
Photo: Elín Hreiðarsdóttir.

Conclusion

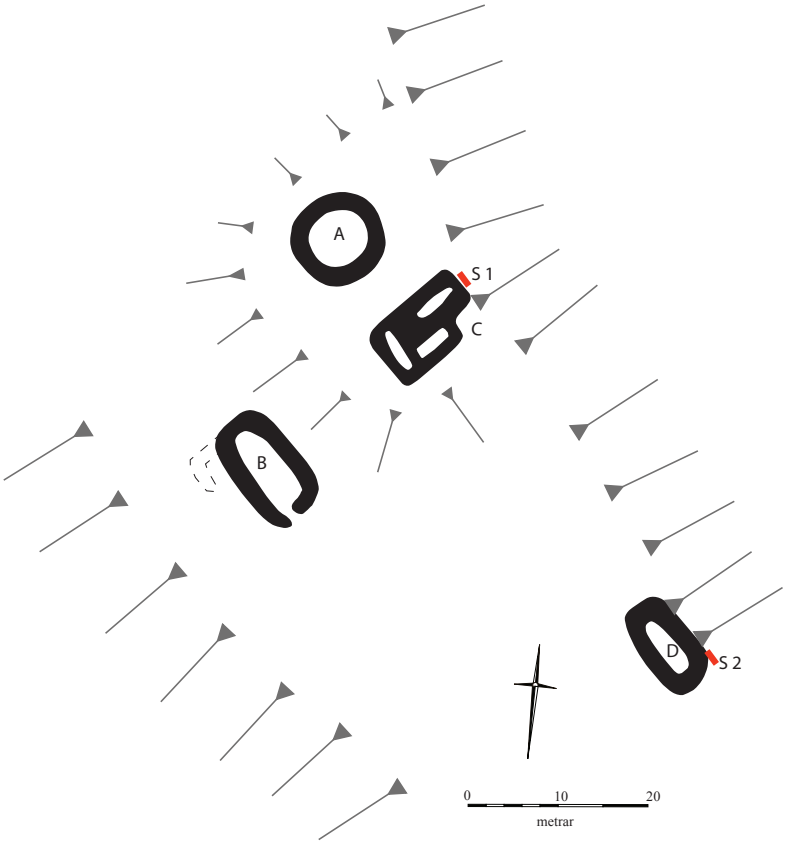
The dating of the settlement of Svartinúpur suggest an an 19th and possible 18th century occupation. No indications were found of earlier settlement. The shovel trenches showed some potential for the recovery of early modern midden, behind the farm ruins.

4.4 Coring and trenching by a cluster of ruins west of Svartinúpur ("Litli-Svartinúpur") (LSN13)

About 160 m west of the farm ruin of Svartinúpur a cluster of four sunken ruins was found during surveying (id nr. SF-181:029). Nothing was known about their date or function although the closeness to Svartinúpur might suggest a connection to the farm. The ruins appeared much older than any of the ruins than could be seen on surface of Svartinúpur and are clearly not contemporary with the 18th-19th century settlement there. The number and shape of ruins could possible suggest a small settlement or shieling. This site lies on an area hemmed in on the northeast and southwest by highly eroded ravines and two of the ruins have started to collapse into the ravine to the east.



Kristborg Þórsdóttir surveys the ruins at „Litli-Svartinúpur". A low ruin can be seen at the center of the picture. Photo: Elín Hreiðarsdóttir



The ruins of „Litli-Svartinúpur" with the rough location of the cleared sections (1 and 2). Drawing Elín Hreiðarsdóttir

Cores were

put in within, around and on transects in between the four structures. They showed no indications of midden, structures or cultural soils (see appendix 4).

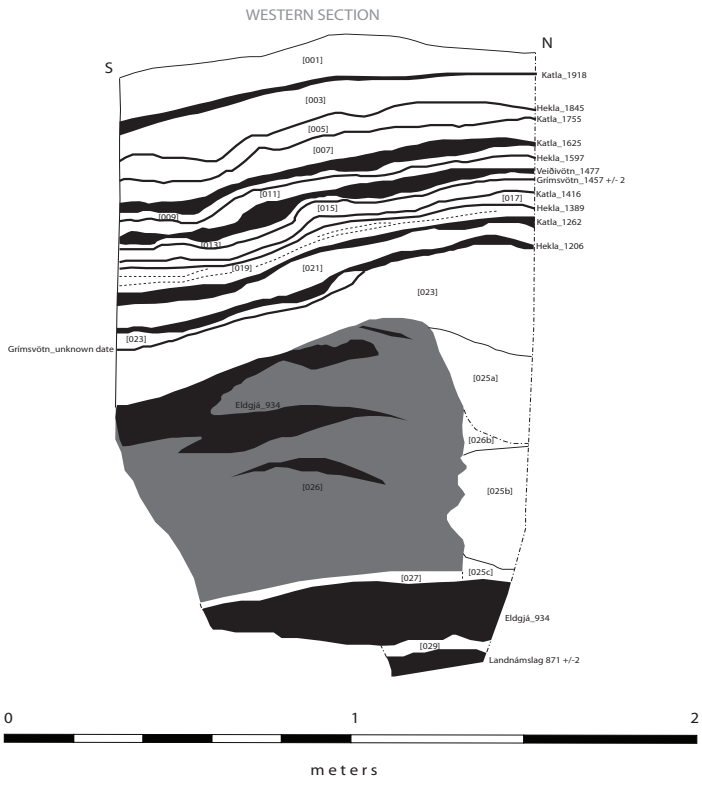
Additionally to the coring two sections on the western side of the eastern ravine, by structure C and D were cleared and recorded.

Section 1 at "Litli-Svartinúpur"

Section 1 was cleared up at the eastern edge of ruin C where the eastern end of the ruin had started to erode into the ravine (N63°48.934 W18°33.458). The section was about 1,4 m wide and 2 m high. The upper meter of the section consisted of a natural accumulation of tephras and aeolian in which at least 12 different tephras were identified (Katla 1918, Hekla 1845, Katla 1755, Veiðivötn 1477, Grímsvötn 1457 ±1, Katla 1416, Hekla 1389, Katla 1262, Hekla 1206 and tephras from Grímsvotn of unknown date). Underneath all these layers were the remains of a poorly constructed turf wall/wall collapse [026]. The turf in the wall had a lot of fine black tephra in (Eldgjá 934) and the same tephra was probably mixed in the



Cleared section 1 of eroding ruin C.Photo: Elín Hreiðarsdóttir.



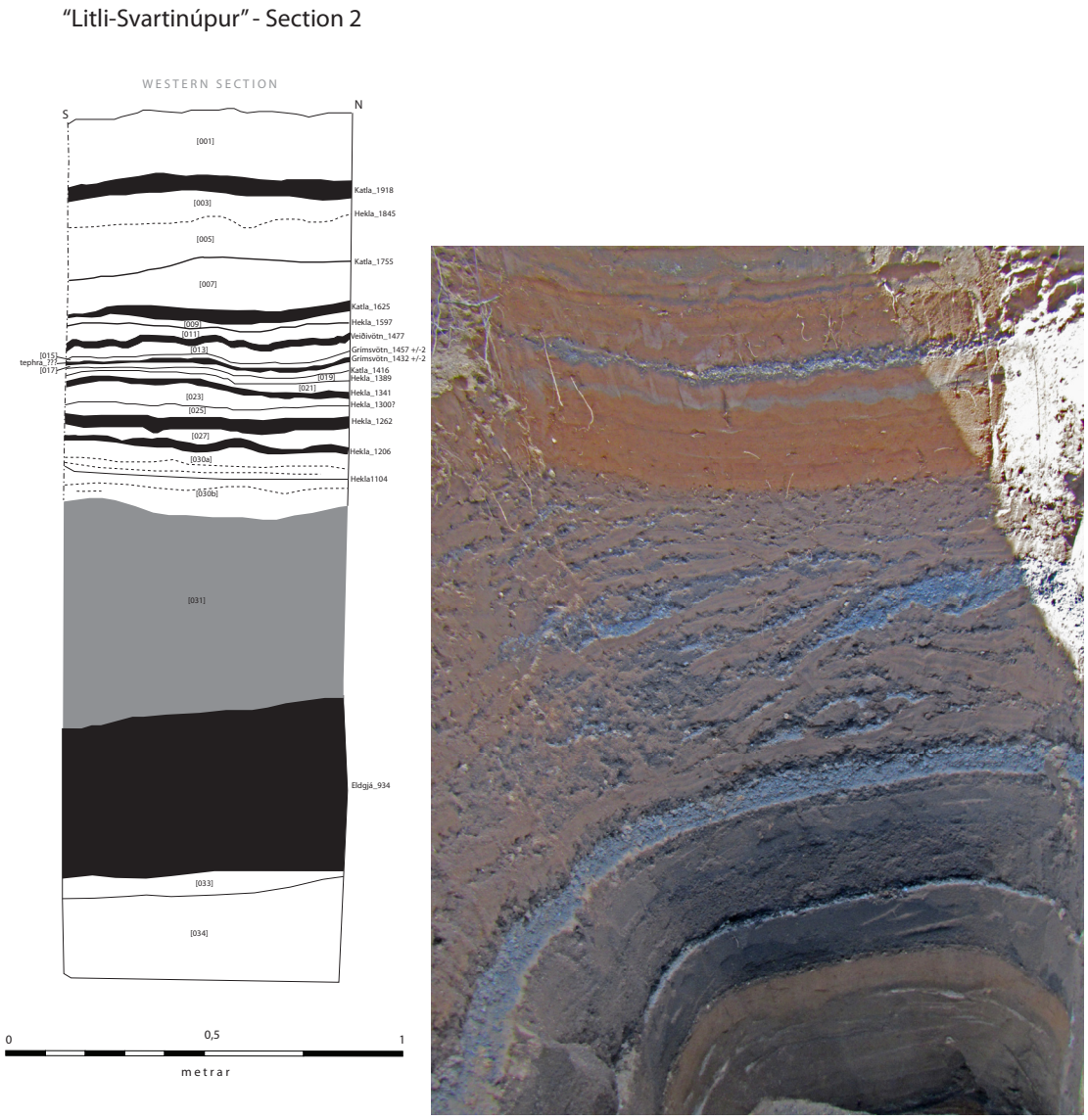
Cleared section 1 (S1) at the eroding edge of ruin C at „Litli-Svartinúpur"

collapse. The wall/collapse was 1,1 m high and 1 m wide. To the northen side of the wall was collapse with lot of Eldgjá within. Beneath the wall was a thin mixed layer of 1-2 tephras [027] above a thick layer of Eldgjá in situ [028] and windblown sandy silt below [028].

The wall was therefore built after 934 but well before 1206 and in fact it is likely that the wall was built just after the Eldgjá eruption, in the 10th or 11th century.

Section 2 at "Litli-Svartinúpur"

Another section was cleared about 50 m south of section 1. The second section (N 63°48.912



Section drawing 2 (S2) and a photo of cleared section 2. Photo: Elín Hreiðarsdóttir

W18°33.426) was by the eroding side of ruin D which is the southernmost ruin of the complex. The section was about 0,75 m wide and 2 m high. The upper meter of the section consisted of natural accumulation of tephras and aeolian in which at least 16 different tephras

were identified (Katla 1918, Hekla 1845, Katla 1755, Katla 1625, Hekla 1597, Veiðivötn 1477, Grímsvötn 1457 ±1, Grímsvötn 1432 ±2, Katla 1416, Hekla 1389, Hekla 1341, Hekla 1300, Katla 1262, Hekla 1206, tephras from Grímsvotn of unknown date and Hekla 1104). Underneath these layers were the remains of a poorly constructed wall/wall collapse [031] that looked quite levelled. It was about 0,6 m high and consisted of thin turfs that are cut from turf with heavy Eldjá tephra (934). In the sides of the trench it could be seen that the wall fades out towards the ravine about 90 cm east of the section. The section is probably at the corner of a building. The wall was built straight on top of thick Eldgjá tephra [032] and underneath was aeolian soil and then Landnám tephra in situ.

The wall was built after 934 but well before 1104 and in fact it is likely that the wall was built just after (rather than during) the Eldgjá eruption, in 10th or 11th century.

Conclusion

The inspection of the sections at "Litli"-Svartinúpur seems to indicate that the site was probably built soon after the eruption of Eldgjá. That raises questions about human activitity during and after the eruption of Eldgjá. Coring in the area had limited results because of the depth of the cultural layers and further answers about the ruins at "Litli-Svartinúpur" will probably only be answered with trenching or a large scale excavation.

4.5 Coring and trenching at Búlandssel (BLS09)

The farm of Búlandssel is located on the southern bank of Selá river about 220 m above sea level. The name of Búlandssel suggests that it was originally, or at least at some point in time, a sheiling from Búland. The oldest reference of the farm of Búlandssel is in the register from 1801 and in the 1847 register it is classified as a tennants farm from Búland.[11] The farm was abandoned in 1933 leaving extensive remains of turf and stone buildings such as large farm ruins, various outhouses, multiple enclosures and a home field boundary.



The erosion by the farm mound of Búlandssel. Elín Hreiðarsdóttir

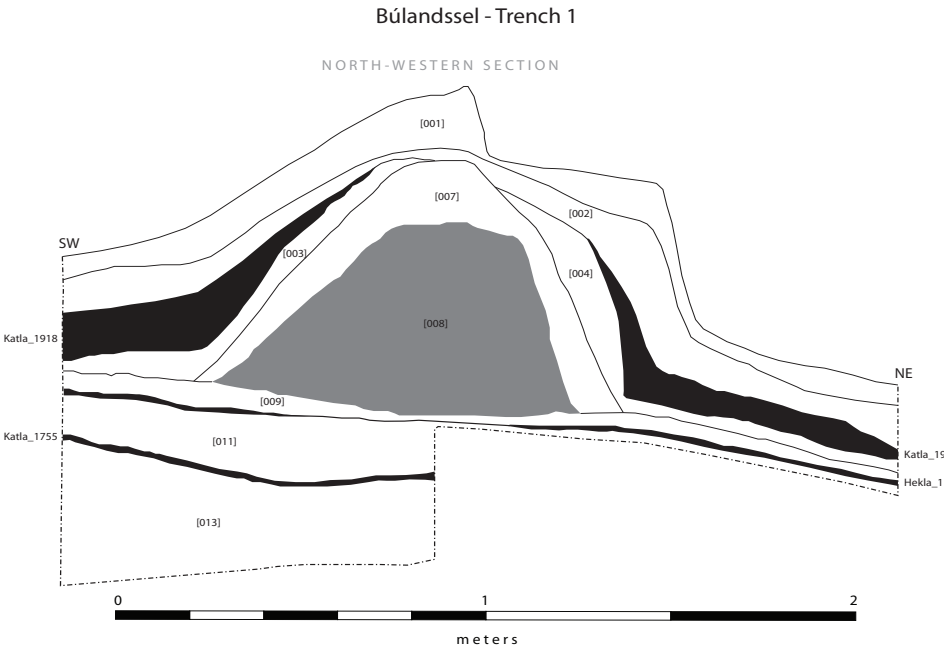
In 2009 Hildur Gestsdóttir and Richard Streeter did selective coring and trenching in Búlandssel. The coring was done in selected areas and they did in mostly show evidence of occupation in the area in the 18th or 19th century and in fact very little human activity was found underneath the Hekla tephra from 1845. In one core an unclear indication (a charcoal) was found below tephras from 1104 and 1206.

Traces of midden were found in the eroding section of the farm mound. A section was cleaned and drawn and the gully was cored afterwards showing no traces of more extensive midden there.

[11] *Jarðatal á Íslandi*. 1847, 11 and *Manntal á Íslandi* 1801.

Trench 1 through homefield boundary

Trench 1 was taken through a clearly visible homefield boundary, east of the farm ruins of Búlandssel (SF-180:001, N63 47.025 W18 34.943) about 60 m to the northeast. The trench measured 0.5 x 2,2 m and was orientated northeast-southwest. An irregularly constructed turf wall [008] with capping turves, [007], all containing the Hekla 1845 tephra was discovered. The wall was 1,2 m wide at the base, and stood 0,75 m tall. It was sealed by homogenous soil [003] & [004], which in turn was sealed by the Katla 1918 tephra. The wall was constructed on top of a thin layer (maximum thickness 10 cm) of homogenous silt [009] which in turn sealed the Hekla 1845 tephra. A 0,6 m deep sondage was taken up against the section in the southeast corner of the trench to determine if older phases of the wall could be found. This revealed a 20 cm thick layer of slope wash [011] which sealed the Katla 1755 which in turned sealed



Búlandssel, trench 1 (T1) through the homefield boundary



The trench through the boundary. Photo: Hildur Gestsdóttir/Richard Streeter

another slope wash layer [013], which was excavated to a thickness of 40 cm. Neither slope wash layer showed any sign of human activity.

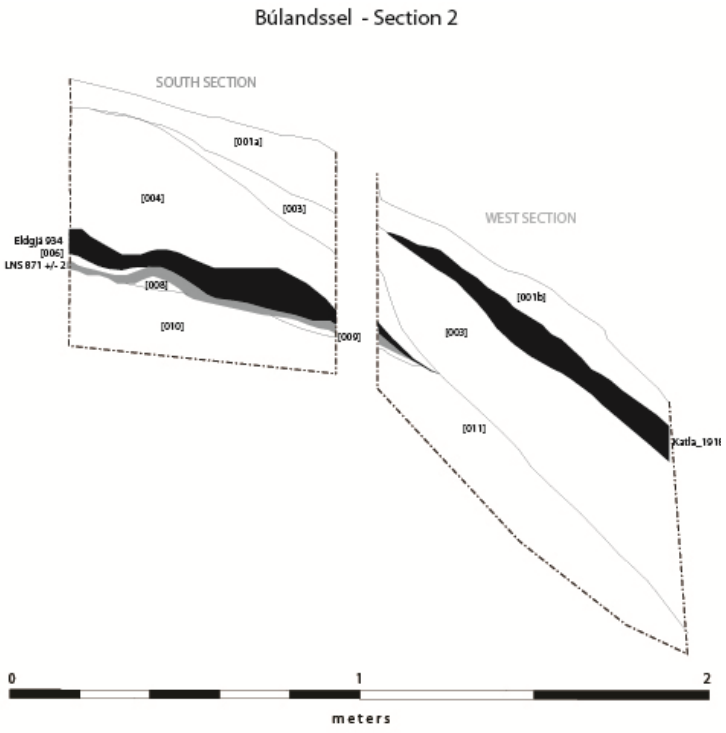
Trench 1 revealed a turf boundary wall, constructed after 1845 and before 1918. The homogeneity of the soil, both on which the boundary was constructed, and which sealed it, suggests that there was no intensive occupation of the site before or after the construction of the boundary and there is no evidence of the boundary being rebuilt or repaired.

Trench 2 (section cleaning) at the edge of the eroding farm mound

Trench 2 was excavated in the southern side of the gully, above the river Selá, northwest of the main farm mound (SF-180:001, N63°47.010 W18 35.052). The area was up against an erosion surface where wood ash, animal bones and ceramics were clearly visible prior to excavation. The section cleaned was 0,8 m long on the south side and then just over 1 m long towards the west, down the slope, up against the aformentioned erosion surface. It revealed the Katla 1918 tephra heavily mixed in with the grass roots at the top of the trench, but becoming thicker and cleaner down slope [001a-b] and [002]. The tephra directly sealed a midden deposit consisting of wood ash [003], mixed with



Richard Streeter clears the section by the farm mound. Photo: Hildur Gestsdóttir



Búlandsel, drawing of cleared section (S1)

charcoal and containing animal bones, glass and ceramics. This layer was at its thickest in the lower end of the slope, reaching a maximum of 0,4 m. At the top of the slope the midden layers sealed a silty layer containing turf debris flecks [004] which in turn sat directly on top of the tephra from Eldgjá 934 [005]. A thin layer of windblown material [006], only 3 cm thick separated this from the Landnám tephra, 871±2 [007]. Underneath this were a series of prehistoric tephras, which became more mixed up with slope wash in the lower parts of the slope ([008]-[011]).

Trench 2 revealed a domestic midden layer located on a steep slope in the gully leading into the river. There has clearly been a considerable amount of erosion in the slope, as the midden layer was located inbetween the Katla 1918 tephra and the tephra from the 934±2 eruption in Eldgjá. Artifacts from the midden, in particular the whiteware ceramic fragments (finds nr. 02 and 03), suggests that its earliest date is early to mid 19th century. It is clear therefore that if there was an earlier midden in the gully, it has long since eroded into the gully.

Conclusion

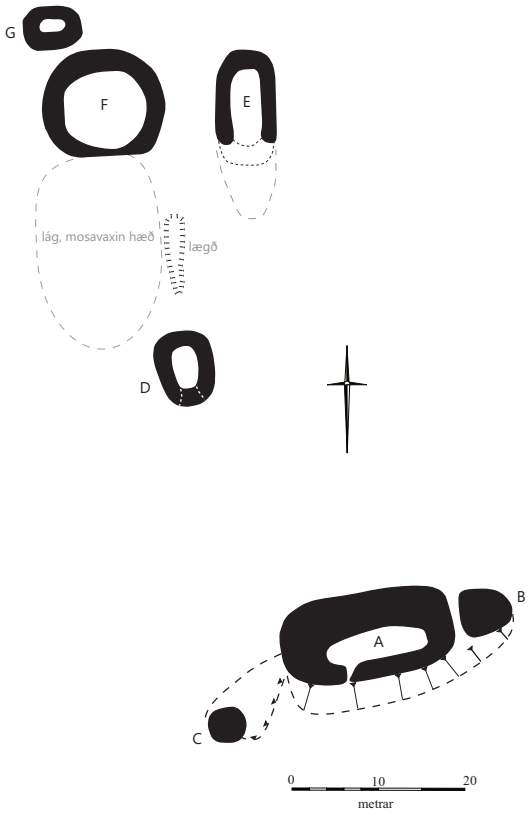
The trenching and section cleaning at Búlandssel seems to indicate that the farm was probably first built in 19th century. Substantial coring around the homefield only showed very unsubstancial traces below tehpras from that period, in one location. That could be taken to indicate some minor activity in the area in earlier centuries but further research would be needed to confirm that. Altough the fair amount of midden material was retrieved it has been damaged by erosion. That, alongside with the fact that the working conditions by the midden are extreamly hard, makes further investigation at Búlandssel unlikely at this point in time.

4.6 Coring by ruins on Mosholt northwest of Búland

Five sunken ruins and two low mounds were found NNW of Búland during surveying (SF-179:027, N63°47.363 and W18°30.624) after an interview with the local farmer, Sigurður Péturson. The ruins are located on a small plateau called Mosholt but as far as is known the ruins have not been described in any written sources. The closesness to a group of a well known heathen burials, Granahaugar, about 400 m to the south is interesting but until now it has been assumed that the burilas belong to the farm of Búland.



Kristborg Þórsdóttir examines the ruins at Mosholt. Photo: Elín Hreiðarsdóttir



The ruins on Mosholt.
Drawing by Kristborg Þórsdóttir & Elín Hreiðarsdóttir

The appearance of the ruins suggests an early date and could be an early farm settlement. One of the buildings has what might be called a "skáli shape" but the others are smaller and less distinctive. An attempt was made to core

around the "skáli" building but no sign of midden, cultural soils, or structures were identified as far as the corer reached (see appendix 4).[12]

Conclusion

The cultural layers around the "skáli" seem to lie beneath very thick and substantial windblown material and tephra layers. The deepest the cores reached was down to the top of Eldgjá (934 ±2) without showing any sign of cultural layers suggesting that the site might already have been abandoned by that time. The data collected was however too fragmented to state anything about the dating or function of the site for sure and therefore it is the aim to make another attempt to date and gain a better understanding of the site by trenching the ruins in the summer of 2014.

[12] The only exception to this was core #1 in which a layer from 74cm to 88cm showed possible signs of charcoal and and one small fragment of bone.

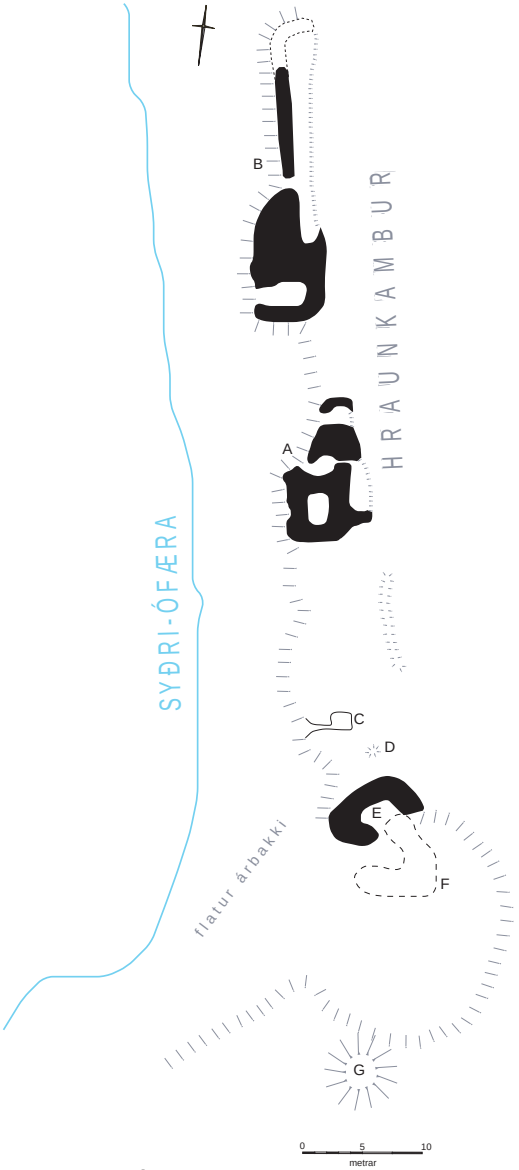
4.7 Coring by a cluster of ruins by Syðri-Ófæra

During field walking a small cluster of ruins was discovered up in the highlands above Búland (SF-181:016, N63°53.275 and W18°35.391). The ruins were located in a row, by the edge of a lavafield, by the river of Syðri-Ófæra and are about 330 m above sea level. One core was taken in the area, in the center of the structure A. It came up empty in terms of organics, though a possible floor layer did show up well above



The ruins at Ófæra can be seen at the edge of the lava field. Photo: Elín Hreiðarsdóttir

an unidentified tephra (possible Veiðivötn 1477).



Ruins at Ófæra. Drawing: Elín Hreiðarsdóttir

Conclusion

Further coring and/or trenching is needed to state anything about dating or function of the ruins by Syðri-Ófæra. The original surveying suggested that it might have been a shieling or possible traveller´s huts (sæluhús) as Fjallabaksleið was a well known route in the area.

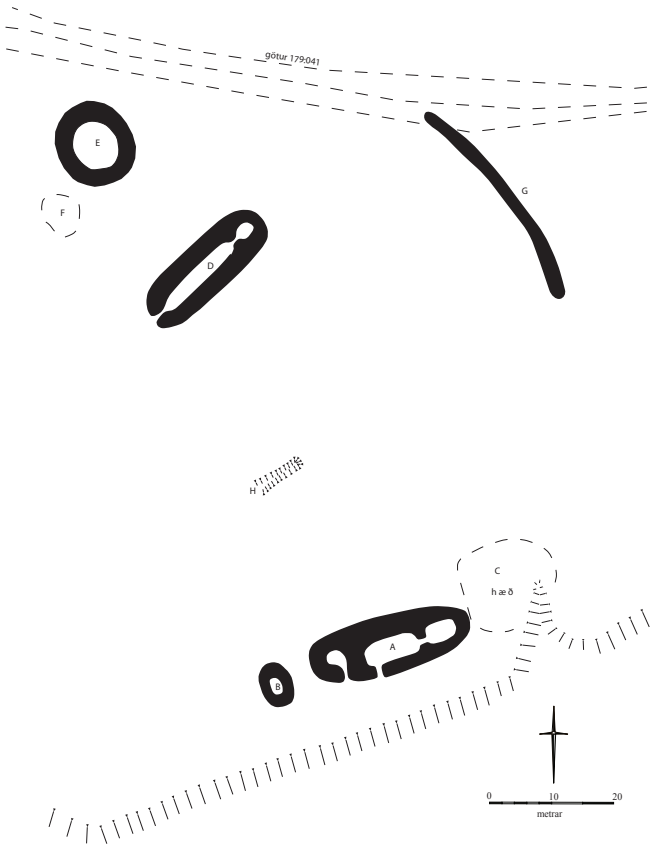
4.8 Coring by a cluster of ruins by Kóragil

During field survey a cluster of previously unknown ruins were found between two ravines called Kóragil in the western side of Þorláksstaðafell and about 230 m above sea level. The cluster of ruins consisted of four structures and a possible boundary in an area of 165x70 m.



One of the ruins located between the two Kóragil. Photo: Elín Hreiðarsdóttir

Six cores were taken in and around the ruins (see appendix 4). No sign of midden, cultural soils, or structures were identified as far as the corer reached (see appendix).



The ruins at Kóragil. Drawing: Elín Hreiðarsdóttir

Conclusion

The cultural layers of the ruins by Kóragil seem to lie beneath very thick and substantial windblown material and tephra layers. The deepest cores reached down to the top of Eldgjá (934±2) suggesting that the site might already have been abandoned by that time though trenching is needed to both understand the nature of the site and more accurate dating of it.

5. Finds recovered during threnching and section clearing

A total of 30 findsnumbers were registered from the sections and trenches in Skaftártunga. The largest number of finds came from trench 1 at Gröf. Most of the finds were metal objects, followed by glass and pottery fragments. The findswork was undertaken by Elín Hreiðarsdóttir but Dr. Gavin Lucas helped identify and date the finds.

The metal objects were of various kinds. Most of them were versatile pieces of iron that were retrieved from the midden in Ljótstaðir, Gröf (trench 1) and Búlandssel. Most



Some of the iron objects found in 2013. At the top is a iron fastening (find nr. 008) from Ljótarstaðir, below left is iron nail (nr. 17) and below right is knife blade (nr. 21) from Gröf.Photo: Elín Hreiðarsdóttir

common were iron nails but a knife, staple, fixtures and fastenings were also found. The iron objects were fairly unidentifiable but are most likely 18-19th century. Two copper objects were retrieved, both from trench 1 in Gröf. Both of the objects were fairly plain, one was a button in a flat disc shape with a loop shank and no visible decoration and the other a tool or fastening, bent with a flat end.

Pottery remains were recovered from eroding sections at the farm mounds of Ljótarstaðir, Búlandsel and in trench 1 in Gröf. All the pieces from Búlandssel were whiteware, probably from the 19th-20th century. The collection from Ljótarstaðir consisted of 21 fragments from at least 10 vessels of a mixture of whiteware and porcelain from the late 19th to early 20th century. In Gröf two pieces of a creamware plate from ca. 1780-1820 was recovered.



Whitewere fragments from Ljótarstaðir (nr. 10) except bottom right which is creamware from Gröf (nr. 15). Photo: Elín Hreiðarsdóttir

Fragments of glass came from middens in Búlandssel, Ljótsstaðir and Gröf. From Búlandssel a single fragment of a brown body of a blown glass bottle was found. It can



A couple of glass bottle fragments from Ljótarstaðir, finds nr. 11 and 12. Photo: Elín Hreiðarsdóttir

probably be dated to the 19th-20th c. From the eroding section of Ljótarstaðir nine glass fragments were found. Eight of these came from four bottles, two green and two brown that are from the 20th century. Additionallly a white glass lamp shade was found as well as a

pharmaceutical bottle, probably late 19th century. One small fragment of green glass was found at trench 1 in Gröf. It might be from a case bottle and has the beginning of a glass disease. The fragment is probably from the 17th or 18th century.

Three whetstones were found, all in trench 1 at Gröf. They were all schist and well worn. A few pieces of slag and a charcoal were also recovered from the midden of Gröf.



Three weatstones from Gröf (at top find nr. 16, middle find nr. 25 and bottom find nr. 29). Photo: Elín Hreiðarsdóttir

6. Discussion

The preliminary investigations in Skaftártunga in the summer of 2013 produced very promising results.

The research into the nature of the tephra distribution and accumulation continued to deepen our understanding of eruption impacts on the environment and vegetation in Skaftártunga that has been developed in the area for the last few years by Dugmore and Streeter.

Just under 150 sites were surveyed in the field and of these about 100 were sites that were not known in written sources, which is an unusually high proportion. Among other things 11 sites of confirmed or possible settlement were identified and a few locations of possible midden recorded.

Coring was done at eight sites and out of these five were subject to further investigation, both by cleaning of eroding sections and trenching. The aim of the trenching was twofold, on one hand to date the settlement as far as possible and on the other to look for midden suitable for further investigation. These aims were achieved, all of the sites trenched were dated and midden material was found in four locations. Out of these sites Gröf shows the greatest promise for the recovery of substantial amounts of faunal material from undisturbed midden and has the potential for recovering midden material from a long period. Ljótarstaðir also shows promise, thought the medieval deposits are deep, at least a meter down. At Svartinúpur midden material could be fairly good for early modern faunal deposits while the midden remains at Búlandssel has already been exposed to too severe erosion to be considered ideal for further investigation.

The season of 2013 was reviewed as the first of two seasons of a pilot study that has the main aim of gathering data and preparing for a larger scale investigation in the area. In 2014 the aim is to continue research into tephra depth and distribution in the area and expand the environmental studies by getting some pollen samples from bogs in the area. The plan of the surveying work is to survey a similar amount of sites but closer to the new focus of the midden research (Gröf/Ljótarstaðir/Snæbýli/Borgarfell). The aim of the surveying is to deepen the understanding of the settlement history and historic landscape but with a special focus on looking for possible settlement and shieling sites as well as potential middens. The aims of the excavation for 2014 are twofold, on the one hand to try to extend the research area in Gröf, and open up a larger trench (4 x 5 m) to excavate. The other aim is to trench two of the unknown sites found in the summer of 2013 and try and understand their function better.

This region is extremely promising in terms of faunal analysis due to the lack of such analysis to date, and the excellent temporal resolution that can be achieved with the local tephra record. The opportunities, given the possibility to combine information about historical landscape, faunal analysis, archaeological analysis and the high resolution landscape record are great in terms of continuing work towards understanding human interactions with climatic and environmental variability in the area and beyond.

Reference

Diplomatarium Islandicum/Íslenskt fornbréfasafn I-XVI. 1853-1976. Copenhagen &Reykjavík.

Gestsson, Vigfús. 1985. *Sunnlenskar byggðir IV* (Skaftártunguhreppur). Guðmundsson, J., Jónsson, J. and Guðjónsson, O. (ed.). Búnaðarsamand Suðurlands.

Gröf: Place name description. Ari Gíslason registered. Unpublished, kept at Örnefnasafn, Stofnun Árna Magnússonar í íslenskum fræðum.

Íslenzk fornrit, I. bindi: Íslendingabók, Landnáma. 1968. Hið íslenzka fornritafélag. Reykjavík.

Jarðatal á Íslandi: með brauðalýsíngum, fólkstölu í hreppum og prestaköllum, ágripi úr búnaðartöflum 1835-1845, og skýrslum um sölu þjóðjarða á landinu. Johnsen, J. 1847, Copenhagen.

Jónsson, Brynjúlfur. 1909. "Rannsókn í Vestur Skaftafellssýslu 1909" in Árbók hins íslenzka fornleifafélags 1919, pp. 3-23.

Jónsson, Jón. 1985. „Rústirnar við Réttarfell og Leiðólfsfell". *Árbók hins íslenzka fornleifafélags.* pp. 129-135.

Manntal á Íslandi 1801. Suðuramt. 1978. Reykjavík. Prentsmiðjan Hólar.

Pálsson, Sveinn. 1945. *Ferðabók Sveins Pálsonar*. Reykjavík. Snælandsútgáfan.

Steingrímsson, Jón. 1913-1916. *Æfisaga Jóns prófasts Steingrímssonar1728-1791*. Reykjavík. Sögufélag.

Streeter, R., 2011. *Tephrochonology, landscape and population: impacts of plague on medieval Iceland.* University of Edinburgh, Unpublished PhD thesis.

Streeter, R., Dugmore, A.. 2014. "Late-Holocene land surface change in a coupled social–ecological system, southern Iceland: a cross-scale tephrochronology approach." *Quaternary Science Reviews* 86, 99-114.

Streeter, R., Dugmore, A.J., Vesteinsson, O.. 2012. "Plague and landscape resilience in premodern Iceland". *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America* 109, 3664-3669.

Streeter, R.T., Dugmore, A.J.. 2013. "Reconstructing late-Holocene environmental change in Iceland using high-resolution tephrochronology". *Holocene 23*, 197-207.

Appendices

A. Context register

Site	Trench number	Nr. this site	Context number	Description
LJS13 (Ljótarstaðir)	1	s1	[001a]	Turf cap/grass root
LJS13	1	s1	[001b]	A trace of fine tephra - K_1918 (at the bottom of the grass root)
LJS13	1	s1	[002]	Overhang of grass and moss - the vegetation is leaning over and section is unexposed
LJS13	1	s1	[003a]	Midden - peat ash mixed with reddish sand - this layer includes lots of animal bones, glass, pottery etc.
LJS13	1	s1	[003b]	Midden - same as [003a] but between the two a thin windblown layer [004] creates a break in the accumulation
LJS13	1	s1	[004a]	Windblown , fairly clear reddish brown sandy silt
LJS13	1	s1	[004b]	Windblown, fairly clear layer, similar to [004a] but much darker brown colour
LJS13	1	s1	[004c]	Grey coarse tephra, hardly visible - Hekla_1845
LJS13	1	s1	[004d]	Thin, fine black tephra - difficult to detect - Katla_1755
LJS13	1	s1	[005]	Clear tephra layer - Katla_1625
LJS13	1	s1	[006a]	Windblown accumulation, reddish brown and rather sterile but includes two tephras (see 006c and 006b)
LJS13	1	s1	[006b]	A fine trace tephra that fades out in layer [006] - Katla_1612
LJS13	1	s1	[006c]	A very fine trace of tephra in layer [006] - Hekla_1597
LJS13	1	s1	[007a]	Windblown medium brown aeorlian mixed with building turf. Occasional charcoals. Within this layer is a trace of tephra [007b]
LJS13	1	s1	[007b]	Very disturbed tephra duo, light and dark grey (same as 030 but disturbed). Some of the patches are upside down and are either part of collapsed building turf or other highly disturbed context
LJS13	1	s1	[008]	Compact layer with very fine, turf lines in black, orange and white. Occasional charcoal, peat and possible burned bones
LJS13	1	s1	[009]	3-4 cm thick black layer with a lot of charcoal. Seals off the best midden area
LJS13	1	s1	[010a]	Accumulated cultural layers with two clear patches of midden (see 010b) and also occasional stones that might be building debris. Within the layer are fine lines of turf, charcoal and peat. In the layer is a lot of bone butter.
LJS13	1	s1	[010b]	Two clear patches of midden up to 3 cm thick. Includes white, burned bones and bone butter.
LJS13	1	s1	[011]	Black tephra - unknown, fades out to the north
LJS13	1	s1	[012]	Fill of a cut, dominated by turf collapse, mixed with black tephra and windblown aeolian. The layer is very mottled and mixed and looks like a deliberate toss rather than turf collapse from a nearby building. The layer includes very badly preserved bones/bone

				butter. Within the layer are occasional turf stripes, both horizontal and also leaning towards south but still not enough to talk about clear turf collapse
LJS13	1	s1	[013]	Eldgjá_934 mixed in with aeolian and occasional bone butter
LJS13	1	s1	[014]	Black coarse to fine tephra -Eldgjá_934
LJS13	1	s1	[015]	A very mixed Aeolian with landnám tephra (871±2) mixed in
LJS13	1	s1	[016]	Landnám tehpra (871±2) - a little mixed towards the south (the cut)
LJS13	1	s1	[017]	Aeolian, undisturbed (but cut)
LJS13	1	s1	[018]	3 cm thick black tephra - in situ/natural
LJS13	1	s1	[019]	Aeolian, undisturbed (but cut)
LJS13	1	s1	[020]	Massive, black layer
LJS13	1	s1	[021]	Orange brown sandy silt, natural
LJS13	1	s1	[022]	Aeolian, greyish brown, natural
LJS13	1	s1	[023]	Aeolian, dark brown, natural
LJS13	1	s1	[024]	Sterile, yellow brown sandy silt natural
LJS13	1	s1	[025]	Black natural tephra bioturbation
LJS13	1	s1	[026]	Sterile, yellow brown natural
LJS13	1	s1	[027]	Black in situ tephra
LJS13	1	s1	[028]	A small pocket between stones and cut. Stripy layers that consists of bands of Landnám tephra and Eldgjá with natural reddish brown aeolian in between.
LJS13	1	s1	[029]	Grey and greenish, coarse tephra. The layer is a little bit wavy, possible wind or frost action - Veiðivötn_1477
LJS13	1	s1	[030]	14-16 cm below 1477 are four tephras; Hekla 1341, Hekla 1300, Katla 1262 and Hekla 1203. All are unclear and disturbed.
LJS13	1	s1	[031]	The bottom of the disturbed turf layers, much darker than [012] and towards the south it becomes homogenic and grey. In the pockets and towards the north it becomes more mottled with orange
LSV13 ("Litli"-Svartinúpur)	2	s1	[001]	Turf cap\roots
LSN13	2	s1	[002]	Fine black tephra 3,5-5 cm thick in the southern end but 2 cm towards the northern end - Katla 1918
LSN13	2	s1	[003]	Brown sandy silt, aeolian
LSN13	2	s1	[004]	Coarse and grainy dark tephra, 0,5-7 cm thick -Hekla_1845
LSN13	2	s1	[005]	Brown sandy silt, aeolian - within it were traces of fine dark grey tephra (not drawn)
LSN13	2	s1	[006]	Fine black tephra, ca 1 cm -Katla_1755
LSN13	2	s1	[007]	Brown sandy silt, aeolian

LSN13	2	s1	[008]	Coarse black tephra with finer grades at the top, 2-4 cm thick -Katla_1625
LSN13	2	s1	[009]	Brown sandy silt, Aeolian
LSN13	2	s1	[010]	Diffused fine grained tephra -H_1597
LSN13	2	s1	[011]	Black sandy silt, aeolian
LSN13	2	s1	[012]	Fine grey tephra with lenses of coarse dark grey tephra -Veiðivötn_1477
LSN13	2	s1	[013]	Black sandy silt, Aeolian
LSN13	2	s1	[014]	Fine dark grey tephra, ca 0,5 cm thick (1 cm below 013) -Grímsvötn_1457 ±2
LSN13	2	s1	[015]	Black sandy silt, aeolian but slightly mixed
LSN13	2	s1	[016]	Fine black tephra - Katla_1416
LSN13	2	s1	[017]	Black sandy silt, Aeolian
LSN13	2	s1	[018]	Trace of coarse grey tephra grains - Hekla_1389
LSN13	2	s1	[019]	Black sandy silt, aeolian with 2 faint trace tephras - both fine dark grey
LSN13	2	s1	[020]	Coarse black tephra with very coarse black and grey grains up to 0,5 cm - Katla 1262
LSN13	2	s1	[021]	Black sandy silt, Aeolian
LSN13	2	s1	[022]	Light grey fine tephra, 2-3 cm thick - possibly Hekla 1206
LSN13	2	s1	[023]	Black sandy silt, aeolian with mixings of fine, diffused grey and black tephra [025]
LSN13	2	s1	[024]	Fine grey and black tephra - thins out - Grímsvötn_unknown date
LSN13	2	s1	[025a-b]	Eldgjá 934 mixed with a) black sandy silt and turf collapse the upper half (a) is much more mixed but the lower half (b) clearer tephra.
LSN13	2	s1	[026]	Wall/wall collapse - made out of turf that have a lot of fine black tephra in (Eldgjá) and the same tephra probably mixed in the collapse
LSN13	2	s1	[027]	1-2 mixed tephras above Eldgjá (934±2)
LSN13	2	s1	[028]	Eldgjá (934±2)
LSN13	2	s1	[029]	Sandy silt Aeolian
LSN13	2	s1	[030]	Landnám tephra (871±2)
LSN13	3	s2	[001]	Turf cap/roots
LSN13	3	s2	[002]	Fine, black tephra - Katla_1918
LSN13	3	s2	[003]	Brown, sandy silt, aeolian
LSN13	3	s2	[004]	Coarse black tephra, trace -Hekla_1845
LSN13	3	s2	[005]	Brown, sandy silt, aeolian
LSN13	3	s2	[006]	Fine dark grey tephra ca. 1 cm - Katla_1755
LSN13	3	s2	[007]	Brown, sandy silt, aeolian

LSN13	3	s2	[008]	Fine to coarse black tephra, 3 cm - Katla_1625
LSN13	3	s2	[009]	Brown, sandy silt, aeolian
LSN13	3	s2	[010]	Fine dark grey tephra, ½ cm - Hekla_1597
LSN13	3	s2	[011]	Brown sandy silt, aeolian
LSN13	3	s2	[012]	Fine to coarse, olive grey grading into yellow tephra - Veiðivötn_1477
LSN13	3	s2	[013]	Brown sandy silt, aeolian
LSN13	3	s2	[014]	Fine black tephra, 1 cm -Grímsvötn_1457±2
LSN13	3	s2	[015]	Brown sandy silt, aeolian
LSN13	3	s2	[016]	Fine grey tephra, ½ cm - Grímsvötn_1432±2
LSN13	3	s2	[017]	Brown sandy silt, aeolian
LSN13	3	s2	[018]	Fine black tephra, 1 cm - Katla_1416
LSN13	3	s2	[019]	Brown sandy silt, aeolian
LSN13	3	s2	[020]	Coarse, grey tephra, ½ cm - Hekla_1389
LSN13	3	s2	[021]	Brown, sandy silt, aeolian
LSN13	3	s2	[022]	Diffused, fine grey tephra - Hekla_1341
LSN13	3	s2	[023]	Brown, sandy silt, aeolian
LSN13	3	s2	[024]	Fine, dark grey tephra, ½ cm -Hekla_1300?
LSN13	3	s2	[025]	Brown, sandy silt - aeolian
LSN13	3	S2	[026]	Coarse black tephra mixed with fine black tephra, 4 cm thick -Katla_1262
LSN13	3	s2	[027]	Brown, sandy silt, aeorlian
LSN13	3	s2	[028]	Fine grey (olive) tephra - Hekla_1206
LSN13	3	s2	[030a]	Brown sandy silt with 4-5 very fine tephras unidentified from Grímsvötn eruptions
LSN13	3	s2	[029]	Coarse light tephra_Hekla 1104
LSN13	3	s2	[030b]	Brown sandy silt with 4-5 very fine tephras unidentified from Grímsvötn eruptions
LSN13	3	s2	[031]	Wall/a turf build up - quite levelled. It consists of thin turfs that are all cut from turf with heavy Eldjá tephra (934). In the sides of the trench it could be seen that the wall fades out towards the ravine about 90 cm east of the section. The section is probably at the corner of a building.
LSN13	3	s2	[032]	Black tephra, at least 5-6 layers coarse and finer can be seen - Eldgjá 934
LSN13	3	s2	[033]	Brown, sandy silt - Aeolian
LSN13	3	s2	[034]	LNS, very thick and layered - 871 ± 2

GRÖ13 (Gröf)	4	t1	Layer	Description
GRÖ13	4	t1	[001]	Turf cap/roots
GRÖ13	4	t1	[002]	Fine, black tephra, fades out - Katla_1918?
GRÖ13	4	t1	[003]	Brown, sandy silt, aeolian with occasional bones and other midden material, roughly 8 cm thick
GRÖ13	4	t1	[004]	At the top of layer 005 was a very faint tephra that could be seen better at the sides of the section - Katla_1755
GRÖ13	4	t1	[005]	Sterile layer. Mixed layer of sandy silt end peat and wood ash with lots of very fragmented bones and slag. The layer is ca 6-10 cm thick
GRÖ13	4	t1	[006]	Midden layer mixed with peat and wood ash, packed with bones, charcoal etc. Much more bones from this layer than 005. The layer is compact towards the eastern end where all they layers are more compact
GRÖ13	4	t1	[007]	Very similar to layer 006 but has occasional larger bones in. Layer is more loose and ashy towards the western side but is more compact towards the eastern end
GRÖ13	4	t1	[008]	Brown yellow sandy silt with midden lens similar to 006 and 007
GRÖ13	4	t1	[009]	Ash and peat ash mixed with bone and charcoals with a brown lens of sandy silt with a bone "fountain" with bigger bones were found at the boundary of 007 and 009
GRÖ13	4	t1	[010]	Ash, peat ash and bones, similar to 009 etc
GRÖ13	4	t1	[011]	Brown yellow sandy silt with occasional bone fragments
GRÖ13	4b	t2	[001]	Turf cap/topsoil with light cultural material
GRÖ13	4b	t2	[002]	Gray/brown soil with peatash and bone
GRÖ13	4b	t2	[003]	Coarse black tephra_ Katla 1918
GRÖ13	4b	t2	[004]	Mottled midden material, ash peatash, bone
GRÖ13	4b	t2	[005]	Darker gray/green light midden
GRÖ13	4b	t2	[006]	Fine black tephra - Katla 1755
GRÖ13	4b	t2	[007]	Mottled midden material
GRÖ13	4b	t2	[008]	Fine dark gray tephra - Hekla 1625
GRÖ13	4b	t2	[009]	Light brown layer banded with light midden material (low density) and with large specks of fine gray tephra (likely Hekla 1597)
SVN13 (Svartinúpur)	5a	t1	[001]	Turf cap/roots
SVN13	5a	t1	[002]	Fine, black tephra - Katla 1918
SVN13	5a	t1	[003]	Fine, black tephra - Katla 1918
SVN13	5a	t1	[004]	Brown sandy silt, aeolian
SVN13	5a	t1	[005]	Wall. The wall is not very well constructed but more like it was piled up. Within and around the turf is tephra
SVN13	5a	t1	[006]	Brown sandy silt, aeolian

SVN13	5a	t1	[007]	Fine, dark grey tephra_Katla_1755
SVN13	5a	t1	[008]	Fine, black tephra mixed with the dark grey tephra towards the northwest end_Katla_1721
SVN13	5a	t1	[009]	Brown sandy silt, aeolian
SVN13	5a	t1	[010]	Brown sandy silt with gravel and some disturbed tephra - not as consistent as layer 009
SVN13	5a	t1	[011]	Coarse black tephra_Katla 1625
SVN13	5a	t1	[012]	Darker brown sandy silt with some inclusions
SVN13	5a	t1	[013]	Thin layer of homogeneous brown sandy silt
SVN13	5a	t1	[014]	Course black tephra_unknown Katla tephra
SVN13	5a	t1	[015]	Dark brown sandy silt, aeolian
SVN13	5a	t1	[016]	Brown sandy silt, aeolian
SVN13	5a	t1	[017]	Dark sandy silt with significant gravel inclusions + tephra
SVN13	5b	t1	[001]	Turf cap/roots
SVN13	5b	s-tr.1	[002]	Black coarse tephra - Katla_1918
SVN13	5b	s-tr.1	[003]	Mixed light midden, ash, bone fragments, charcoal
SVN13	5b	s-tr.1	[004]	Fine, black tephra - Katla_1755
SVN13	5b	s-tr.1	[005]	Brown soil with light midden material
SVN13	5b	s-tr.1	[006]	Fine, black tephra - Katla_1660?
SVN13	5b	s-tr.1	[007]	Light gray soil - Aeolian
SVN13	5b	s-tr.1	[008]	Brown sterile soil - Aeolian
SVN13	5b	s-tr.1	[009]	Coarse black tephra - Katla_1625
SVN13	5b	s-tr.1	[011a]	Brown sterile soil - aeolian
SVN13	5b	s-tr.1	[010]	Coarse gray tephra - Hekla_1597
SVN13	5b	s-tr.1	[011b]	Brown sterile soil - aeolian
SVN13	5b	s-tr.1	[012]	Black coarse tephra - Veiðivötn_1477
SVN13	5c	s-tr.2	[001]	Turf cap/roots
SVN13	5c	s-tr.2	[002]	Fine black tephra – Katla_1918
SVN13	5c	s-tr.2	[003]	Brown silty soil
SVN13	5c	s-tr.2	[004]	Coarse, gray tephra
SVN13	5c	s-tr.2	[005]	Brown silty soil with patches of midden
SVN13	5c	s-tr.2	[006]	Fine black tephra

SVN13	5c	s-tr.2	[007]	Brown silty soil with bands of versitle tephra
SVN13	5d	s-tr.3	[001]	Turf cap/roots
SVN13	5d	s-tr.3	[002]	Fine black tephra - Katla_1918
SVN13	5d	s-tr.3	[003]	Sterile, brown soil with gray lense in
SVN13	5d	s-tr.3	[004]	Redeposited coarse black tephra - Hekla_1845
SVN13	5d	s-tr.3	[005]	Sterile brown soil - aeolian
SVN13	5d	s-tr.3	[006]	Black tephra - Katla_1755
SVN13	5d	s-tr.3	[007]	Sterile brown soil - aeolian
BLS09 (Búlandssel)	6	t1	[001]	Turf cap/roots
BLS09	6	t1	[002]	Homogeneous brown silt
BLS09	6	t1	[003]	Black tephra - Katla 1918
BLS09	6	t1	[004]	Black tehpra - Katla 1918
BLS09	6	t1	[005]	Homogeneous brown silt
BLS09	6	t1	[006]	Homogeneous brown silt
BLS09	6	t1	[007]	Capping turf, contains tephra from Hekla_1845
BLS09	6	t1	[008]	Turf wall. Irregularly constructed, containing fine black and coarse greyish-black tephra.
BLS09	6	t1	[009]	Homogeneous brown silt
BLS09	6	t1	[010]	Tephra - Hekla_1845
BLS09	6	t1	[011]	Heavily lensed slope wash with some iron panning directly under wall
BLS09	6	t1	[012]	Tephra- Katla_1755
BLS09	6	t1	[013]	Heavily lensed slope wash - contains gravel with rocks up to 8 cm in diameter
BLS09	7	s1	[001a]	Turf cap/roots with tephra - Katla_1918
BLS09	7	s1	[001b]	Turf cap/roots
BLS09	7	s1	[002]	Black tephra - Katla_1918, disturbed by slope wash
BLS09	7	s1	[003]	Sheet midden, fine light grey ash with little charcoal content, more mixed with silt near top, more concentrated ash lower down, white ware, bottle glass, burnt/unburned bones, Fe objects
BLS09	7	s1	[004]	Silt containing turf debris flecks
BLS09	7	s1	[005]	Black tephra - Eldgjá 934 ±2
BLS09	7	s1	[006]	Homogeneous brown silt
BLS09	7	s1	[007]	Landnám sequence - 871 ± 2

BLS09	7	s1	[008]	Homogeneous brown silt
BLS09	7	s1	[009]	Homogeneous brown silt
BLS09	7	s1	[010]	Series of prehistoric tephras
BLS09	7	s1	[011]	Tephras mixed with slope wash. Possible Eldgjá and LNS mixed with prehistoric layers

B. Find register

Site	Finds number	Unit No	Trench number	Object type	Material type	weight	Count	Description
BLS09	01	LF	7	Unknown	Iron	48	2	Two Fe plates, the larger one slightly concave. Function unknown.
BLS09	02	LF	7	Vessel	Ceramic	8	4	Four fragments of whiteware One rimsherd, probably all from a plate, 19th-20th c.
BLS09	03	003	7	Unknown	Iron	5	2	Two small Fe plates. One has a small rivet through it. Function unknown.
BLS09	04	003	7	Vessel	Ceramic	<1		Two small fragments of whiteware.
BLS09	05	003	7	Bottle	Glass		1	Body fragment, brown blown glass form a bottle, probably 19th-20th c.
BLS09	06	LF	7	Tool/awl?	Iron	26	1	Metal tool, metal rod, with a rectangular cross section. Length = 7.46cm. One end narrower, width 1.26cm at wider end, 0.77cm at narrower end. Possibly a punch.
LJS13	07	LF	1	horse shue	Iron	112	1	Complete
LJS13	08	LF	1	fastening	Iron	95	1	Almost complete metal bar with two looped and flattend end but one has broken off
LJS13	09	LF	1	fixture	Iron	24	1	Slightly curved rod. Fragment of a metal fixture of fastening
LJS13	10	LF	1	pottery	Ceramic	176	21	A collection of three plates, two sauces, three bowls and a cup, late 19th to early 20th century, mixture of whiteware and porcelain -minimal of 10 vessels
LJS13	11	LF	1	Vessel	Glass	37	3	White glass lamp shade, pharmaceutical bottle, probably late 19th century
LJS13	12	LF	1	Bottle	Glass	1228	6	Four bottles, two green and two browns, 20th century
GRÖ13	13	003	4	Slag	Slag	20		Small fragments, light a spogy (fly-ash?)
GRÖ13	14	005	4	Slag	Slag	118		Large pieces and in one of the pieces an iron nail is included
GRÖ13	15	005	4	pottery	Ceramic	7,5	2	Creamware plate from ca. 1780-1820
GRÖ13	16	005	4	wheatstone	schist	29	1	A fragment of a wheatstone
GRÖ13	17	005	4	nail	iron	8,5	1	Iron nail, flattened with a t-shape head, tip missing
GRÖ13	18	006	4	Slag	slag	14	6	Six slag fragments
GRÖ13	19	006	4	Vessel	Glass	3	1	Small fragment of a green glass, possible from a case bottle, patternated (glass disease) - probably from 17th or 18th

								century
GRÖ13	20	006	4	nail	iron	12	2	Two iron nail, flattened with a t-shape head, one tip missing and the other one is whole
GRÖ13	21	006	4	knife	Iron	15	1	Iron blade of a knife
GRÖ13	22	006	4	nail	Iron	13	1	A mashine cut nail, close to complete
GRÖ13	23	006	4	button	copper alloy	2	1	A copper alloy button with a flat dich shape with a loop shank. No visible decoration
GRÖ13	24	006	4	charcoal	charcoal	3	2	Whole twigs/branches
GRÖ13	25	006	4	wheatstone	schist	15	1	Wheatstone, very worn
GRÖ13	26	006	4	fastening	copper alloy	5	1	Copper alloy tool or fastening, bent with a flat end
GRÖ13	27	007	4	Slag	Slag	98		Lots of slag fragments
GRÖ13	28	007	4	staple	Iron	17	1	One complete iron staple
GRÖ13	29	007	5	wheatstone	schist	12	1	Well used, broken off fragment of a wheatstone, between Katla 1625 and 1755

C. Bone register

Finds/bone no.	Site code	context no.	material type	weight gr	q.	Nat mus no	site
001	LJS13	fallouts of section	bone	380	1 bag (smaller bag within)	2013-46	LJS13
002	LSV13	found by section	bone	53	1 small bag	2013-46	"Litli-Svartinúpur"
003	GRÖ13	003 - trench 1	bone	18	1 small bag	2013-46	Gröf
004	GRÖ13	005 - trench 1	bone	26	1 small bag	2013-46	Gröf
005	GRÖ13	006 - trench 1	bone	224	1 med bone bag	2013-46	Gröf
006	GRÖ13	007 - trench 1	bone	126	1 med bone bag - with 2 small bags within	2013-46	Gröf
007	GRÖ13	fallouts of section - trench 2	bone	4	1 small bag	2013-46	Gröf
008	GRÖ13	Right side upper corner - flagged	bone	4	1 small bag	2013-46	Gröf
009	GRÖ13	flagged	bone	9	1 small bag	2013-46	Gröf
010	SVN13	004	bone	20	1 small bag	2013-46	Svartinúpur
011	BLS09	003 -trench 2	bone	57	1 small bag	none	Búlandssel
012	BLS09	003 - trench 2	bone	71	1 med bag	none	Búlandssel
013	BLS09	fallouts of section/erotion trench 2	bone	39	1 med bag	none	Búlandssel

D. Core register

Transect 1 (cores 1-11)- up the hill along the ravine cut from downfill towards uphill and the exposed section - they go every 2 meters until last two with are one meter apart. Cores 13-19 these cores went away from the ravine cut towards the farm ruin		
Ljótarstaðir #1 N 63 45.333 W 018 35.853		
Depth in cm	**Description**	**Possible tephra**
1cm - 8	Turf cap	
9cm - 10	Fine, black tephra	Katla 1918
10cm - 30	Brown, sandy silt	
30-33	Coarse, black tephra	
34-45	Brown, sandy silt	
45-53	Brown, sandy silt w/charcoal	
54-55	Fine, black tephra	
56-58	Fine, olive tephra	
59-75	Brown, sandy silt	
75-76	unclear black tephra	
76-80	Brown, sandy silt	
80-83	Coarse, gray tephra mixed	
83-90	Brown, sandy silt	
90-91	Fine, black tephra	
91-92	Possible charcoal and white bone flecks - unclear	
92-102	Brown, sandy silt	
102-105	Coarse, gray tephra	
105-108	Brown, sandy silt	
108-110	Coarse, black tephra	
110-120	Brown, sandy silt	
120-130	Coarse, black tephra	Eldgjá 934
Ljótarstaðir #2 N 63 45.334 W 18 35.856		
Depth in cm	**Description**	**Possible tephra**
1cm-5	Turf cap	
5cm - 8	Brown, sandy silt	
8cm-9	Fine, black tephra	Katla 1918
9cm-22	Brown, sandy silt	
22	Fine, dark gray tephra	
22-29	Brown, sandy silt	
29-32	Fine, black tephra	
32-42	Brown, sandy silt	
42-43	Dark gray tephra	
43-45	Brown, sandy silt	
45-46	Dark gray tephra	
46-49	Brown, sandy silt	
49-50	Fine, black tephra	
50-54	Brown, sandy silt	
54-55	Coarse, black tephra	
55-58	Brown, sandy silt	
58-59	Fine, olive tephra	
59-82	Brown, sandy silt with some tephra material mixed in	
82-84	Coarse light gray tephra	
84-92	Brown, sandy silt with charcoal and white burnt bone - midden	
92-94	Coarse, black tephra	Eldgjá 934
Ljótarstaðir #3 N63 45.335 W 18 35.858		
Depth in cm	**Description**	**Possible tephra**
1cm-5	Turf cap	
5cm-7	Brown, sandy silt	
7cm-10	Fine, black tephra	Katla 1918
10cm-23	Brown, sandy silt	
23-24	Fine, light gray tephra	
24-30	Brown, sandy silt	
30-40	Coarse, black tephra	
40-43	Brown, sandy silt	
43-45	Coarse, black tephra	
45-50	Brown, sandy silt	
50-52	Fine, light olive tephra	
52-62	Brown, sandy silt	
62-65	Coarse, black tephra	
65-67	Brown, sandy silt	
67-69	Fine, light olive tephra	
69-75	Brown, sandy silt with possible charcoal	
75-77	Coarse, gray tephra	
77-80	Coarse, black tephra	
80-95	Brown, sandy silt	
95-98	Coarse, black tephra	
98-112	Brown, sandy silt	
112-120	Brown, sandy silt with charcoal inclusions	
120-124	Coarse, black tephra	Eldgjá 934
Ljótarstaðir #4 N63 45.336 W 18 35.860		
Depth in cm	**Description**	**Possible tephra**
1cm-5	Turf cap	
5cm - 7	Brown, sandy silt	
7-12cm	Fine, black tephra	Katla 1918
12-22cm	Brown, sandy silt	
22-27	Brown, sandy silt with charcoal (?)	
27-33	Brown, sandy silt	
33-45	Coarse, black tephra	
45-49	Brown, sandy silt	
49-51	Fine, black tephra	
51-60	Brown, sandy silt	
60-61	Fine, light olive tephra	

61-69	Grey green soil with tephra mixed in	
69-80	Coarse, black tephra w scoria	
80-81	Brown, sandy silt	
81-83	Fine, light olive tephra	
83-87	Brown, sandy silt with tephra mixed in	
87-89	Coarse, black tephra	
89-98	Brown, sandy silt with tephra mixed in and possible burnt bone flecks and charcoal flecks (unclear)	
98	Coarse, black tephra	Eldgjá 934
Ljótarstaðir #5 N63 45.337 W18 35.862		
Depth in cm	**Description**	**Possible tephra**
1-5cm	Turf cap	
5-9cm	Brown, sandy silt	
9-13cm	Fine, black tephra	Katla 1918
13-28	Brown, sandy silt	
28-29	Fine, black tephra	
29-35	Brown, sandy silt	
35-45	Coarse, black tephra	Katla 1625
45-50	Brown, sandy silt	
50-52	Fine, dark gray tephra	
52-59	Dark brown, sandy silt - Brown, sandy silt mixed with dark tephra	
55-65	Brown, sandy silt with possible charcoal	
65-68	Fine, black tephra	
68-72	Brown, sandy silt	
72-75	Dark brown, sandy silt - possible charcoal inclusions	
75-102	Coarse, black tephra	Eldgjá 934
Ljótarstaðir #6 N 63 45.337 W 18 35.862		
Depth in cm	**Description**	**Possible tephra**
1-7cm	Turf cap	
7-25cm	Dark brown, sandy silt - this area has a different topsoil than the others - contains bone frags + should/might correspond to the top layers of the section drawing that show early 20th century into the 19th century garbage	
25-38	Brown, sandy silt	
38-46	Coarse, black tephra	
46-55	Brown, sandy silt	
55-58	Fine, dark gray tephra	
58-62	Brown, sandy silt	
62-68	Coarse, black tephra - goes dark grey as it goes deeper	
68-85	Brown, sandy silt gets darker as it goes deeper	
85-100	Coarse, black tephra	Eldgjá 934?
Ljótarstaðir #7 N64 95.339 W18 35.862		
Depth in cm	**Description**	**Possible tephra**
1-8cm	Turf cap	
8-27cm	Dark brown, sandy silt like #6	
27-28	Coarse, gray tephra	
28-37	Brown, sandy silt	
37-43	Coarse, black tephra	
43-52	Brown, sandy silt	
52-53	Fine, light gray tephra	
53-60	Brown, sandy silt	
60-61	Fine, dark gray tephra	
61-72	Brown, sandy silt	
72-73	Coarse, black tephra	
73-75	Fine, light gray tephra (?)	
75-81	Brown, sandy silt	
81-110	Darker soil with charcoal inclusions - tephra mixed in	
110-115	Coarse, black tephra	Eldgjá 934
Ljótarstaðir #8 N63 45.342 W 18.35.863		
Depth in cm	**Description**	**Possible tephra**
1-10cm	Turf cap	
10-13cm	Fine, black tephra	Katla 1918
13-25	Brown, sandy silt small amount of charcoal inclusion	
25-26	Coarse, black tephra	
26-27	Brown, sandy silt	
27-28	Fine, white tephra (unclear)	
28-39	Brown, sandy silt with possible flakes of charcoal - darker than other Brown, sandy silt	
39-43	Coarse, black tephra	
43-48	Brown, sandy silt	
48-50	Fine, black tephra	
50-52	Brown, sandy silt	
52-54	Fine, dark gray tephra	
54-64	Brown, sandy silt	
64-65	Fine, olive tephra	
65-80	Brown, sandy silt	
80-82	Coarse, dark gray tephra	
82-90	Darker mottled soil with tephra	
90-92	Fine, black tephra	
92-110	Darker mottled soil with tephra	
Ljótarstaðir #9 N 63 45.341 W18 35.864		

Depth in cm	Description	Possible tephra
1-10cm	Turf cap	
10-12cm	Brown, sandy silt	
12-15cm	Fine, black tephra	Katla 1918
15-29	Brown, sandy silt	
29-31	Coarse, dark gray tephra	
31-40	Brown, sandy silt	
40-45	Coarse dark gray tephra	
45-50	Brown, sandy silt	
50-52	Fine, black tephra	
52-58	Brown, sandy silt	
58-59	Fine, dark gray tephra	
59-66	Brown, sandy silt	
66-68	Fine, light gray tephra	
68-72	Brown, sandy silt tephra mixed in	
72-77	Darker brown soil with charcoal - midden layer - though maybe not very rich	
77-79	Fine, olive tephra	
79-105	Darker brown soil with tephra and gravel mixed in	
105-112	Coarse dark gray tephra	
112-124	Mottled dark soil with tephra	
124-134	Lighter brown silt with tephra	
134-152	Coarse, black tephra	Eldgjá 934
Ljótarstaðir #10 N63 45.341 W18 35.868		
Depth in cm	**Description**	**Possible tephra**
1-8cm	Turf cap	
8-10cm	Brown, sandy silt	
10-12cm	Fine, black tephra	Katla 1918
12-20cm	Brown, sandy silt	
20-21	Coarse, gray tephra	
22-32	Brown, sandy silt	
32-33	Fine, gray tephra	
33-40	Brown, sandy silt	
40-41	Fine, black tephra	
41-52	Brown, sandy silt - but book record is obscured	
52-57	Black tephra	Katla 1625
57-70	Brown, sandy silt	
70-72	Coarse, dark tephra	Veiðivötn 1477
72-76	Brown, sandy silt	
76-77	Bones and bone butter	
77-82	Brown, sandy silt	
82-83	Fine, olive tephra	
83-87	Fine, olive tephra and fine, black tephra,	
87-100	Brown, sandy silt	
100-102	Mixed Katla tephra grains	
102-115	Midden - mix of peat ash, wood ash, charcoal and bone bits	
115-116	Bone fragments - ovis tooth frag	
116-118	Fine, black tephra - possible	Katla 1262
118-136	Mix of turf and peat ash - middeny	
136	Coarse, black tephra	Eldgjá 943
Ljótarstaðir #11 N63 45.343 W 18 35.866		
Depth in cm	**Description**	**Possible tephra**
1-9cm	Turf cap	
9-12cm	Fine, black tephra	Katla 1918
12-30cm	Brown, sandy silt	
30	Fine, black tephra	
31-38	Brown, sandy silt	
38-46	Coarse, black tephra	
46-56	Brown, sandy silt	
52-60	Coarse olive tephra	
60-66	Brown, sandy silt	
66-67	Fine, olive tephra	
68-69	Fine, black tephra	
69-76	Brown, sandy silt with possible charcoal inclusions	
76-78	Coarse, black tephra	
80-92	Brown, sandy silt	
92-93	Coarse, black tephra	
93-105	Mix of soil with peat ash, possible bone fragments	
105-114	Same but darker	
115	Chuck of charcoal	
116	Coarse, black tephra	Eldgjá 934
Ljótarstaðir #13 (there is no #12) N63 45.181 W18 35.813		
Depth in cm	**Description**	**Possible tephra**
1-12cm	Turf cap	
12-15cm	Fine, black tephra	Katla 1918
15-31	Brown, sandy silt	
31-33	Fine, black tephra	
33-46	Brown, sandy silt	
46-54	Fine, dark gray tephra	
54-64	Brown, sandy silt	
64-66	Fine, gray tephra	
66-67	Brown, sandy silt	
67-73	Fine, light gray tephra	
73-83	Brown, sandy silt	

83-86	Brown, sandy silt	
86-88	Coarse, black tephra	
88-91	Orange bits - possible midden material	
91-93	Fine, olive tephra	
93-106	Brown, sandy silt	
106-108	Brown, sandy silt	
108-110	Fine, black tephra	
110-124	Midden - paet ash, wood ash, bone, charcoal	
124-126	Fine, black tephra	
126-149	Midden like above	
149-151	Fine, dark gray tephra	
151-159	Midden like above	
159-161	Fine, olive tephra	
161-163	Brown, sandy silt - though dark maybe midden material though the darkness could come from tephra grains	
163-167	Coarse, black tephra	Eldgjá 934
This core follows the stratigraphy of the open ravine section very niceley and accurately - also the midden in the section is roughly 20cm deep - in this core it is roughly 50cm deep		
Ljótarstaðir #14 N63 45.341 W18 35.871		
Depth in cm	**Description**	**Possible tephra**
1-11cm	Turf cap	
11-15cm	Fine, black tephra	Katla 1918
15-26	Brown, sandy silt	
26-29	Brown, sandy silt	
29-30	Fine, black tephra	
30-33	Brown, sandy silt	
33-35	Fine, light gray tephra	
35-62	Brown, sandy silt	
62-70	Coarse, black tephra	
70-76	Brown, sandy silt	
76-77	Fine, black tephra (?)	
77-79	Brown, sandy silt	
79-81	Fine, black tephra	
81-85	Brown, sandy silt - possible midden material	
85-87	Fine, olive tephra	
87-102	Brown, sandy silt possible midden, has possible charcoal flecks in it	
102-104	Fine, black tephra	
104-124	Brown, sandy silt also possible midden but unclear	
124-125	Coarse, black tephra	
126-128	Brown, sandy silt possible midden, has possible charcoal flecks in it	
128-130	Fine, dark gray tephra	
130-140	Midden layer - peat ash, wood ash, bone and charcoal	
140-142	Fine, black tephra	
142-147	Brown, sandy silt with midden material	
147-151	Midden	
151-152	Fine, light olive tephra	
152-160	Mottled charcoal peat ash midden	
Ljótarstaðir #15 N63 45.314 W18 35.871	**1-7cm turf cap**	
Depth in cm	**Description**	**Possible tephra**
1-14cm	Turf cap	
7-14cm	Fine, black tephra	Katla 1918
14-21cm	Brown, sandy silt	
21-28	Fine, black tephra	
28-40	Brown, sandy silt - some charcoal flecks in it - very dense	
40-50	Coarse, black tephra	
50-56	Brown, sandy silt	
56-59	Fine, dark gray tephra	
59-67	Brown, sandy silt	
67-69	Fine, black tephra	
69-79	Brown, sandy silt with light midden material - orange bit and charcoal flecks	
79-86	Fine, olive tephra	
86-95	Brown, sandy silt - mixed but looks sterile	
95-99	Darker with midden material	
99-100	Fine, black tephra	
100-112	Midden - charcoal and bone bits - gets wetter	
112-113	Fine, dark gray tephra	
113-115	Fine, olive tephra	
Ljótarstaðir #16 N63 45.340 W18 35.872		
Depth in cm	**Description**	**Possible tephra**
1-11cm turf cap	Turf cap	
11-14cm	Fine, black tephra	Katla 1918
14-30	Brown, sandy silt possible charcoal flecks	
30-45	Coarse, black tephra	
45-59	Brown, sandy silt with possible light midden material present	
59-61	Fine, black tephra	
61-63	Brown, sandy silt with glass shards	
63-64	Fine, olive tephra	
64-71	Brown, sandy silt with possible light midden material present	
71-73	Fine, dark gray tephra	

73-79	Brown, sandy silt like above	
79-82	Coarse, black tephra	
82-90	Brown, sandy silt	
90-91	Fine, olive tephra	
91-102	Midden material	
102-105	Fine, black tephra	
105-111	Brown, sandy silt	
111-123	Brown, sandy silt getting darker with possible charcoal	
123-125	Fine, black tephra	
125-142	Midden material	
142-145	Fine, gray tephra	possible beginning of Eldgjá 934?
Ljótarstaðir #17 N63 45.340 W18 35.874 closest to ruin		
Depth in cm	**Description**	**Possible tephra**
1-9cm	Turf cap	
9-11 cm	Fine, black tephra	Katla 1918
11-24cm	Brown, sandy silt possible charcoal	
24-31	Brown, sandy silt	
31-32	Fine, dark gray tephra	
32-39	Brown, sandy silt	
39-49	Coarse, black tephra	
49-56	Coarse, black tephra	
56-68	Brown, sandy silt maybe some peat ash	
68-70	Fine, dark gray tephra	
70-75	Fine, black tephra	
75-76	Separate fine, black tephra	
76-92	Brown, sandy silt with charcoal - maybe midden but not very rich	
92-115	Same but more mixed - thin layers of tephra possible small burnt bone - looks very much like structural collapse	
Ljótarstaðir #18 N63 45.320 W18 35.839 - on other side of sunken road to stream south of ruin		
Depth in cm	**Description**	**Possible tephra**
1-8cm	Turf cap	
8-11cm	Fine, black tephra	Katla 1918
11-26cm	Brown, sandy silt	
26-28	Fine, light gray tephra	
28-32	Brown, sandy silt	
32-33	Fine, olive tephra	
33-34	Fine, black tephra	
34-49	Brown, sandy silt	
49-57	Coarse, black tephra	
57-59	Brown, sandy silt	
59-60	Fine, light gray tephra	
60-64	Brown, sandy silt	
64-75	Brown, sandy silt darker	
75-77	Fine, black tephra	
77-95	Brown, sandy silt	
95-101	same	
101-104	same	
104-106	Coarse, light gray tephra	
106-112	Brown, sandy silt	
112-119	Brown, sandy silt	
119-136	Brown, sandy silt	
Ljótarstaðir #19 N63 45.340 W18 35.869 - back at ruin in the hypoteneuse between TR1 and todays cores		
Depth in cm	**Description**	**Possible tephra**
1-12cm	Turf cap	
12-16cm	Fine, black tephra	Katla 1918
16-32	Brown, sandy silt	
32-34	Fine, black tephra	
34-48	Brown, sandy silt	
48-51	Coarse, black tephra	
51-62	Brown, sandy silt	
62-63	Fine, olive tephra	
63-64	Brown, sandy silt	
64-74	Brown, sandy silt with midden material appearing	
74-76	Fine, light olive tephra	
76-86	Brown, sandy silt with midden material appearing	
86-88	Fine, black tephra	
88-102	Brown, sandy silt with midden material appearing	
102-24	Midden material	
June 29th 2013		
"Litli-Svartinúpur" #1, 63 48.925 18 33.493		
Depth in cm	**Description**	**Possible tephra**
1-6cm	Brown sandy silt	
6cm	Dark gray tephra	
6-8cm	Brown sandy silt	
8cm	Coarse, gray tephra	
8-12cm	Brown sandy silt	
12-16cm	Coarse, black tephra	
16-19cm	Brown sandy silt	
19-20	Fine, olive tephra	
20-26	Brown sandy silt	
26-42	Coarse, black tephra	

	grading to VC	
42-44	Brown sandy silt	
44-48	Fine, light gray to olive tephra	
48-49	Brown sandy silt	
49-51	Coarse, black tephra	
51-53	Brown sandy silt	
53-54	Fine gray tephra	
54-67	Brown sandy silt mixed with coarse, dark tephra	
67-69	Coarse, black tephra	
69-73	Brown sandy silt	
73-87	Coarse, black tephra	Eldgjá 934
87-93	Coarse, black tephra	
93-114	Fine, dark gray tephra with crystals visible	
"Litli-Svartinúpur" #2, 63 48.920 18 33.479		
Depth in cm	**Description**	**Possible tephra**
1-4cm	Brown, sandy silt	
4-6cm	Fine, dark gray tephra	
6-9cm	Brown, sandy silt	
8-9cm	Coarse, light gray tephra	
9-11cm	Brown, sandy silt	
11-12cm	Fine, light gray tephra	
12-13cm	Coarse, dark gray tephra	
13-19cm	Brown, sandy silt	
19-25	Coarse, black tephra grading to Fine, black tephra	
25-27	Brown, sandy silt	
27-29	Coarse, gray tephra	
29-31	Brown, sandy silt	
31-32	Fine, dark gray tephra	
32-54	Brown, sandy silt	
47-54	Very coarse, black tephra	Katla 1625
54-56	Brown, sandy silt	
56-58	Fine, olive gray tephra	Veiðivötn 1477
58-70	Brown, sandy silt	
70	Stones?	
"Litli-Svartinúpur" #3, 63 48.920 18 33.482		

Depth in cm	**Description**	**Possible tephra**
1-5cm	Brown, sandy silt	
5-6cm	Fine, black tephra	
6-8cm	Brown, sandy silt	
8-9cm	Coarse, dark gray tephra	
9-13cm	Brown, sandy silt	
13cm	Fine, dark gray tephra	
13-17	Brown, sandy silt	
17-19	Coarse, black tephra	
19-21	Coarse, black tephra	
21-23	Brown, sandy silt	
23-25	Fine, gray olive tephra	
25-26	Brown, sandy silt	
26	Fine, black tephra	
26-28cm	Brown, sandy silt	
28-29	Fine, black tephra	
29-30	Brown, sandy silt	
30-31	Coarse, black tephra	
31-36	Brown, sandy silt	
36-39	Very coarse, black tephra	
39-41	Brown, sandy silt	
41-45	Fine olive gray tephra	Veiðivötn 1477
45-54	Sterile br soil	
54-55	Fine gray tephra	
55-64	Brown, sandy silt	
64-73	Very coarse, black tephra	
73-92	Very coarse, black tephra	
92-94	Very coarse, black tephra	
94-98	Brown, sandy silt	
98-113	Fine, gray olive tephra with crystals	Landnám 871
"Litli-Svartinúpur" #4, 63 48.924 18 33.484		
Depth in cm	**Description**	**Possible tephra**
1-6cm	Brown, sandy silt	
6cm	Fine gray tephra	
6-10cm	Brown, sandy silt	
10-17cm	Coarse, black tephra	
17-20cm	Brown, sandy silt	
20-23	Fine, black tephra	
23-25	Brown, sandy silt	
25-27	Fine gray tephra	
27-28	Brown, sandy silt	
28	Fine gray tephra	

28-42	Brown, sandy silt	
42-58	VCoarse, black tephra	
58-77	Coarse, black tephra	
77-84	Coarse, black tephra	
84-87	Brown, sandy silt	
87-90	FGOT	
depth 110		

"Litli-Svartinúpur" #5, 63 48.924 18 33.484

Depth in cm	Description	Possible tephra
1-6cm	Turf cap	
6-8cm	Fine, black tephra	Katla 1918
8-15cm	Brown, sandy silt	
15-16	Fine, dark gray tephra	
16-22	Brown, sandy silt	
22-25	Coarse, dark gray tephra	
25-30	Brown, sandy silt	
30-32	Coarse, gray tephra	
32-33	Brown, sandy silt	
33-34	Fine, dark gray tephra	
34-51	Brown, sandy silt	
51-64	Coarse, black tephra	Katla 1625
64-79	Coarse, black tephra - grades coarser towards the bottom	
79-84	Brown, sandy silt	
84-86	Fine gray tephra	Hekla 1206
85-91	Brown, sandy silt	
91	Coarse, white tephra grains	Hekla 1104
91-97	Brown, sandy silt	
97-98	Coarse, black tephra, reworked?	Eldgjá 934 reworked
98	Possible lump of peat ash	
98-101	Mix of BSS and tephra	
101-105	Coarse, black tephra	Eldgjá 934
105-118	Mix brown sandy siltwith coarse tephra grains	
118-130	Same but more compact	
130-131	Fine, black tephra	
depth 138		

"Litli-Svartinúpur" #6, 63 48.929 18 33.467

Depth in cm	Description	Teprha
1-6cm	Turf cap	
6-8cm	Fine, black tephra	Katla 1918
8-11cm	Brown, sandy silt	
11cm	Coarse, gray tephra	Hekla 1845
11-15cm	Brown, sandy silt	
15-16	Fine, black tephra	Katla 1755
16-21	Brown, sandy silt	
21-26	Coarse, black tephra	Katla 1625
26-27,5	Brown, sandy silt	
27,5	Fine gray tephra	
27,5-33	Brown, sandy silt	
33-35	Fine gray tephra grading coarse towards the bottom	
35-41	Brown, sandy silt	
41-45	Coarse, black tephra	
45-46	Coarse, gray tephra	
46-47	Very coarse, black tephra	
49-49.5	Fine gray tephra	
49,5-52	Brown, sandy silt	
52-67	Brown sandy silt mixed with fine dark tephra	
67-71	Coarse, black tephra	
71-73	Brown, sandy silt	
73-84	Coarse, black tephra, 73-115 possibly all same tephra layer	Eldgjá 934
84-100	Coarse, black tephra with internal layers finer grading to coarser	
100-115	Coarse, black tephra	
115-119	Brown, sandy silt	
119-129	Fine gray tephra	

"Litli-Svartinúpur" #7, 63 48.928 18 33.461

Depth in cm	Description	Teprha
1-8cm	Turf cap	
8-10cm	Fine, black tephra	
10-16cm	Brown, sandy silt	

16-17	Fine, dark gray tephra	
17-23	Brown, sandy silt	
23-24	Fine gray tephra	
24-26	Coarse, dark tephra	
26-33	Brown, sandy silt	
33-35	Fine gray tephra	
35-36	Brown, sandy silt	
36-38	Coarse, gray tephra	
38-39	VCoarse, gray tephra	
39-40	Brown, sandy silt	
40-41	Fine, light gray tephra	
41-42	Fine gray tephra	
42-51	Brown, sandy silt	
51-53	Coarse, gray tephra	
53-57	Brown, sandy silt	
57-60	Fine, black tephra	
60-62	Fine, black tephra	
62-72	Coarse, black tephra	
72-90	Coarse, black tephra (Blueblack)	
90-100	Fine, black tephra	
100-107	Brown, sandy silt	
107-109	Fine gray tephra	
109-121	Fine gray tephra	

"Litli-Svartinúpur" #8, 63 48.928 18 33.464

Depth in cm	Description	Possible tephra
1-5cm	Turf cap	
5-8cm	Fine, black tephra	
8-17cm	Brown, sandy silt	
17-18	Coarse, dark tephra	
18-24	Brown, sandy silt	
24-26	Coarse, dark gray tephra	
26-33	Brown, sandy silt	
33-34	Fine gray tephra	
35	Trace of fine, black tephra	
35-36	Brown, sandy silt	
36-37	Fine, black tephra	
37-38	Coarse, black tephra	
38-45	Brown, sandy silt	
45-49	Very coarse, dark gray tephra	
49-53	Brown, sandy silt	
53-53.5	Fine, light gray tephra	
53.5-60	Brown, sandy silt	
60	Grains of grey tephra up to 1mm	
60-76	Brown, sandy silt	
76-77	Coarse, black tephra	
77-78	Brown, sandy silt	
78-79	Coarse, black tephra	
79-84	.5cm strips of fine gray tephra and brown sandy silt possibly turf - turves?	
84-86	Brown, sandy silt	
86-90	Coarse, dark gray tephra	
90-117	Fine grading to coarse black tephra	Eldgjá 934?
117-122	Brown, sandy silt	
122-136	Fine gray tephra Landnam?	

Syðri-Ófæra #1, N 63 53 16.3 W 018 35 23.4, taken inside ruin A

Depth in cm	Description	Possible tephra
1cm-17	Turf cap	
17-23	Fine, black tephra	Katla 1918
23-24	Brown, sandy silt	
24-27	Fine, black tephra	
27-37	Brown, sandy silt	
37-39	Coarse, gray tephra	
39-41	Mixed soil and tephra	
41-52	Dark mottled soil and tephra	
52-60	Mixed sand and tephra	
60-69	Brown, sandy silt	
69-69.5	Thin layer of black	
69.5-72	Sand	
72-73	Possible floor layer?	
74-80	Brown, sandy silt with gravel	
80-87	Mixed soil and tephra	
87-88	Fine olive tepra	Veiðivötn 1477
88-89	Brown, sandy silt	
89-90	Fine, black tephra	
90-92	Brown, sandy silt	
92-93	Fine, black tephra	
93-94	Brown, sandy silt	
94-94.5	Coarse, gray tephra	

Ruins at Mosholt #1, 63 47.319 18 29.626

Depth in cm	Description	Possible tephra
0-9cm	Turf cap	
4-11cm	Fine, black tephra	
11-14cm	Fine, black tephra	
14-17	Brown, sandy silt	
17-20	Fine, black tephra	

29-35	Brown, sandy silt	
35-37	Coarse, gray tephra	
37-45	Brown, sandy silt	
45-47	Brown, sandy silt	
47-49	Coarse, black tephra	
49-52	Brown, sandy silt	
52-56	Coarse, black tephra	
56-58	Brown, sandy silt	
58-60	Fine, gray tephra	
60-66	Brown, sandy silt	
66-72	Coarse, black tephra	
72-74	Brown, sandy silt	
74-81	Darker brown soil - possible organics, possible bone fragment	

Ruins at Mosholt #2, 63 46.529 18 33.707

Depth in cm	**Description**	**Possible tephra**
0-5cm	Turf cap	
5-6cm	Fine, black tephra	Katla 1918
6-8cm	Brown, sandy silt	
8-9cm	Diffuse fine, black tephra	
9-11cm	Brown, sandy silt	
11-13cm	Coarse, dark tephra	Hekla 1845
13-20	Brown, sandy silt	
20-22	Fine, black tephra	Katla 1755
22-25	Brown, sandy silt	
25-26	Fine, dark tephra	
26-39	Brown, sandy silt	
39-41	Coarse, dark tephra	
41-86	Brown, sandy silt	
86-109	Brown, sandy silt with 1cm layers of coarse, dark tephra	
109-127	Brown, sandy silt	
127-132	Coarse, black tephra blue black	

Ruins at Mosholt #3

Depth in cm	**Description**	**Possible tephra**
0-3,5cm	Turf cap	
3.5-6.5	Fine, black tephra	Katla 1918
8-9.5	Coarse, dark gray tephra	Hekla 1845
11.5-13	Fine, black tephra	Laki 1783
16.5-24	Coarse, black tephra	Katla 1755
25-28	Coarse, black tephra	Katla 1625
29.5-31	Coarse, dark tephra	Veiðivötn 1477
31-32.5	Fine, brown tephra	Grímsvötn 1432 or 1457
34-34.5	Fine, brown tephra	Katla 1416
35-35.5	trace coarse, gray tehpra	Hekla 1389
39-46	Fine, black tephra	Katla 1262
51-56	Coarse, black tephra K1262	Katla 1262
57-65.6	Fine, gray tephra	Hekla 1206
70	trace of coarse, white tephra	Hekla 1104

Ruins at Mosholt #4, 63 46.408 18 33.550

Depth in cm	Description	Possible tephra
1-8cm	Turf cap	
8-13cm	Brown, sandy silt	
13-14	Coarse, black tephra	
14-19	Brown, sandy silt	
19-21	Coarse, black tephra	
21-23	Brown, sandy silt	
23-24	Brown, sandy silt	
24-25	Fine, black tephra	
25-28	Brown, sandy silt	
28-35	Coarse, black tephra	
35-36	Brown, sandy silt	
36-37	Fine, black tephra	
37-40	Brown, sandy silt	
40-42	Coarse, black tephra	
42-43	Brown, sandy silt	
43-46	Coarse, black tephra	
46-47	Brown, sandy silt	
47-48	Coarse, black tephra	
48-50	Brown, sandy silt	
50-56	Brown, sandy silt	
56-58	Fine, black tephra	
58-59	Coarse, black tephra	
59-62	Brown, sandy silt	
62-64	Coarse, black tephra	
64-72	Brown, sandy silt	
72-75	Fine, gray tephra	
75-78	Brown, sandy silt	
78-80	Coarse, black tephra	
80-93	Brown, sandy silt	
93-101	Brown, sandy silt but getting darker	
101-104	Brown, sandy silt but getting darker	
104-108	Coarse, black tephra	
104-111	Darker olive brown soil	
111-112	core stops on something solid	

Ruins at Mosholt #5, 63 46.497 18 33.650

Depth in cm	**Description**	**Possible tephra**
0-7	Turf cap	

7-8cm	Coarse, dark tephra	Hekla 1845
8-10cm	Brown, sandy silt	
10-12.5	Coarse, black tephra	Katla 1755
12.5-16	Brown, sandy silt	
16-23.5	Coarse, black tephra	
23.5-25	Brown, sandy silt	
25-35	same	
35-39	Brown, sandy silt	
39-41	Coarse, dark tephra	Veiðivötn 1477
41-45	Brown, sandy silt	
45-52	Brown, sandy silt	
52-53	Fine, black tephra	Katla 1416
53-54	Brown, sandy silt	
54-54.5	Coarse, gray tephra	Hekla 1389
54.5-60	Brown, sandy silt	
60-74	Coarse, black tephra	Katla 1262
74-75	Brown, sandy silt	
75-78	Fine, gray tephra	Hekla 1206
78-90	Brown, sandy silt	
90-120	Brown, sandy silt	
120-121	Coarse, black tephra	
121-124	Brown, sandy silt	
124-126	Coarse, black tephra	
126-128	top 2 cm of coarse, black tephra	Eldgjá 934

Kóragil #1, 68°46.532 18°33.705, in a small man made hill		
Depth in cm	**Description**	**Possible tephra**
0-5	Yellow brown sandy silt	
5-6,5	Fine black tephra	Katla 1918
6,5-8,5	Yellow brown sandy silt	
8,5-9,5	Coarse dark gray tephra	Hekla 1845
9,5-23	Yellow brown sandy silt	
23-23,5	Fine black tephra	
23,5-38,5	Yellow brown sandy silt with upto 1 cm dark patches of fine dark tephra	
	STONE	

Kóragil #2, 63°46.494 18°33.672, into a skáli?		
Depth in cm	**Description**	**Possible tephra**
0-3,5	Yellow brown sandy silt	
3,5-6,5	Fine black tephra	Katla 1918
6,5-8,5	Yellow brown sandy silt	
8,5-9,5	Coarse dark tephra with red scoria	Hekla 1845
9,5-11,5	Yellow brown sandy silt	
11,5-13	Fine dark tehpra	Laki 1783
13-16,5	Yellow brown sandy silt grading into	
16,5-22,5	Coarse dark tephra with red scoria	Katla 1755
22,5-25,5	Yellow brown sandy silt grading into	
25,5-28	Coarse dark tephra	Katla 1625
28-29,5	Yellow brown sandy silt	
29,5-31	Coarse dark tephra	Veiðivötn 1477
31-32,5	Yellow brown sandy silt	
32,5	Trace of fine gray tephra	Grímsvötn 1432 or 1457
32,5-34	Yellow brown sandy silt	
34-34,5	Fine black tephra	Katla 1416
35-35,5	Yellow brown sandy silt	
35,5-39	p. scoria	
39-46	Fine black tephra	Katla 1416
46-51	Brown sandy silt with descreet 1/2-1 cm lences of coarse black tephra	
51-56	Coarse black tephra	Katla 1262
56-57	Orange silt	
57-65,5	Fine, gray tephra	Hekla 1206
65,5-70	Orange silt	
70	Three grains of Coarse white tephra	Hekla 1104
70-74	Mixed tephra, mottled gray and black	
74-90	Orange silt	
90-99	Brown sandy silt with mixed in coarse tephra	
99-100	Coarse black tephra	Eldgjá 934

Kóragil #3, 63°46.529 18°33.707, 2.35 m from core 2,		
Depth in cm	**Description**	**Possible tephra**
0-4,5	Turf cap	
4,5-5,5	Fine black tephra	Katla 1918
5,5-8,5	Brown sandy silt	
8,5-9,5	Diffuse fine black tephra	
9,5-11,5	Brown sandy silt	
11,5-13	Coarse dark tephra	Hekla 1845
13-20	Brown sandy silt	
20-22,5	Fine black tephra	Katla 1755
22,5-25,5	Yellow brown sandy silt	
25,5-26,5	Fine dark tephra	

26,5-39,5	Yellow brown sandy silt	
39,5-41,5	Coarse dark tephra	
41,5-62,5	Yellow brown sandy silt fading into brown sandy silt with coarse grains in	
62,5-86	Yellow brown sandy silt fading into brown in	
86-109	Yellow brown sandy silt with 1 cm layer of coarse dark tephra throughout	
109-127	Coarse black tephra	
Kóragil #4, 63°46.497, 18°33625		
Depth in cm	**Description**	**Possible tephra**
0-2	turf cap	
2-5	Fine black tephra	1918
5-10	Yellow brown sandy silt	
10-10,5	Fine gray tephra	
10,5-15	Yellow brown sandy silt	
15-23	Coarse black tephra	
23-32	Yellow brown sandy silt	
32-42,5	Fine to Coarse gray to black tephra	
42,5-46,5	Yellow brown sandy silt	
46,5-51	Fine dark tephra	
51-52	Coarse black tephra	
52-57	Yellow brown sandy silt	
57-66	Coarse black tephra	
66-67	Yellow brown sandy silt	
67-67,5	Fine gray tephra	
67,5-70	Yellow brown sandy silt	
70-73	Coarse black tephra	
73-77	Coarse dark tephra with mixing of yellow brown sandy silt	
77-82	Yellow brown sandy silt	
82-84	very coarse mix of yellow brown sandy silt and dark tephra	
84-90	Coarse dark tephra	
90-91	Coarse dark tephra	
91-94	Yellow brown sandy silt mixed with coarse black tephra	
94-95	Coarse black tephra	
Kóragil # 5, 63°46.497 18°33.650, dept 1,3		
Depth in cm	**Description**	**Possible**

		tephra
0-7	Turf cap	
7-8	Coarse, dark tephra	Hekla 1845
8-10	brown, sandy silt	
10-12,5	Coarse, black, tephra	Katla 1755
12,5-16	Orange-brown silt	
16-23,5	Fine to coarse black tephra	
23,5-25	brown, sandy silt with coarse tephra mix	
25-35	Grading from fine to coarse black tephra with yellow brown layer 1 cm of tephra	Katla 1625
35-39,5	Orange-brown silt	
39,5-41	Coarse, dark tephra	Veiðivötn 1477
41-45,5	Yellow-brown sandy silt with fine black tephra mixed in	
45,5-51	Coarse, dark tephra mixed with fine black tephra	
51-52	Orange-brown silt	
52-53	diffuse fine black tephra	Katla 1416
53-54	Orangebrown silt	
54-54,5	Coarse gray tephra	Hekla 1389
54,5-60	Orangebrown silt grading to next below	
60-74	Coarse, black, tephra	Katla 1262
74-75,5	Orange silt	Katla 1262
75,5-78,5	Fine gray tephra	Hekla 1206
78,5-86	Orange silt	
86-90	50% orange silt, 50% mixed coarse black tephra	
90-105	Orangebrown sandy silt with coarse to fine tehpra	
105-110	Orange brown silt	
110-117	bands of coarse to fine tephra and brown silt	
117-120	Orange brown silt	
120-121	Coarse black tephra	
121-124	Orange brown silt	
124-126	Coarse black tephra	
126-128	Coarse black tephra	Eldgjá 934 +/-2

Búlandsel	
Core number	Coordinate
#1	N63 47.002 W18 34.995
#2	N63 47.003 W18 35.000
#3	N63 47.002 W18 35.009
#4	N63 47.003 W18

	35.015
#5	N63 47.003 W18 35.016
#6	N63 47.000 W18 35.028
#7	N63 47.015 W18 35.060
#8	N63 47.011 W18 35.068
#9	N63 47.011 W18 35.063
#10	N63 47.011 W18 35.073
#11	N63 47.011 W18 35.065
#12	N63 47.006 W18 35.053
#13	N63 46.985 W18 35.009
#14	N63 46.988 W18 35.014
#15	N63 46.989 W18 35.029
#16	N63 46.991 W18 35.031
#17	N63 46.982 W18 35.015
#18	N63 46.994 W18 34.927
#19	N63 46.988 W18 34.928
#20	N63 46.987 W18 34.929
#21	N63 46.978 W18 34.930
#22	N63 47.000 W18 34.946
#23	N63 47.007 W18 34.955
#24	N63 47.009 W18 34.950
#25	N63 47.014 W18 34.962