Svalbarðsrannsóknir 2013:
Bægisstaðir, Hjálmarvík, Kúðá, Svalbarð, Sjóhúsavík og Skriða
/
Archaeological Fieldwork at Svalbarð, NE Iceland 2013:
Bægisstaðir, Hjálmarvík, Kúðá, Svalbarð, Sjóhúsavík og Skriða



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Cover photo: The research area in Kúðá. Camera facing west.

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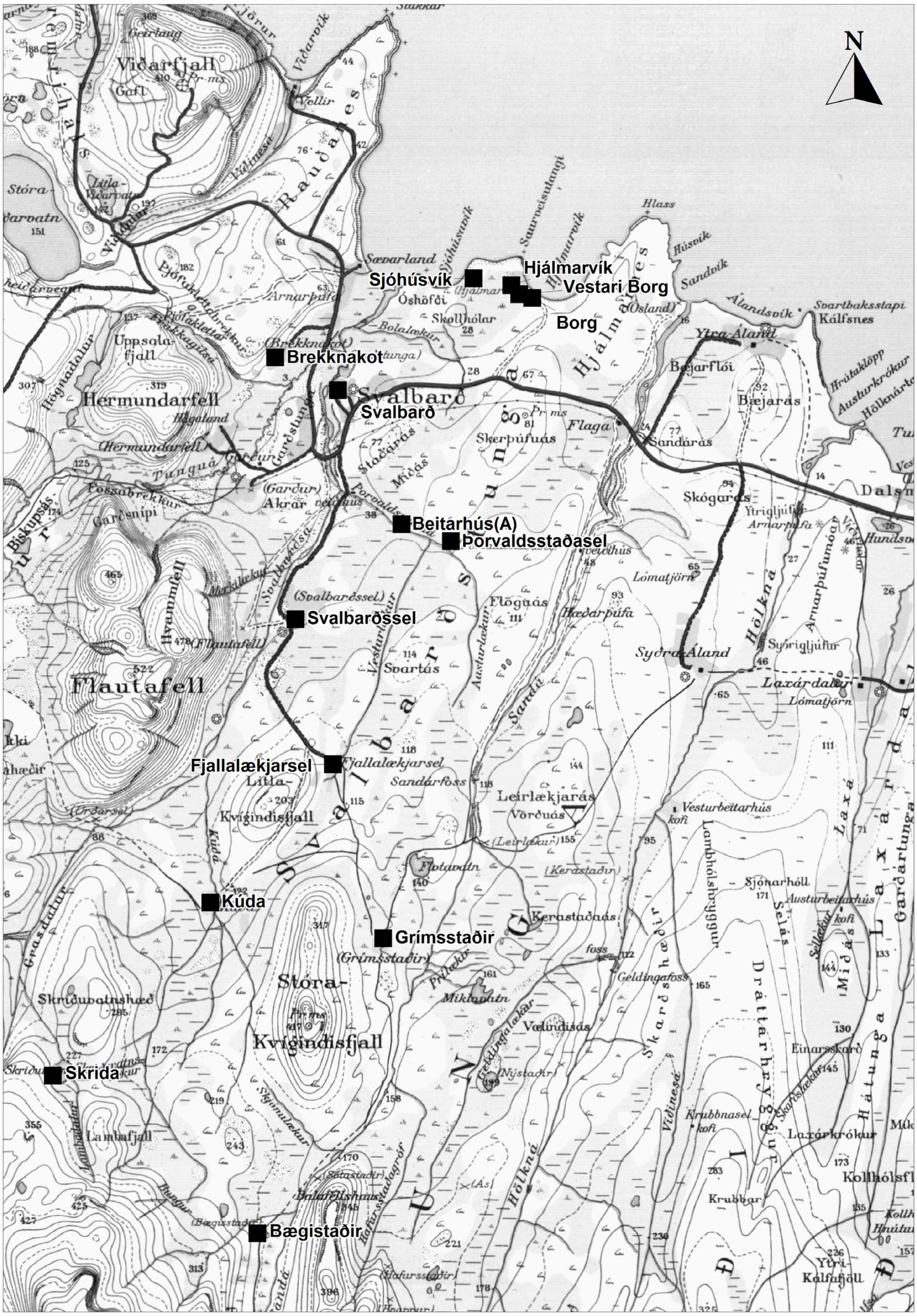
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Svalbarðstunga - rannsóknarstaðir / sites

Guðrún Alda Gísladóttir, James Woollett og Uggi Ævarsson

Saga rannsókna / Research overview

Tilgangur Svalbarðsrannsóknarinnar er að afla frekari vitneskju um samband höfuðbýlis og smærri eininga innan jarðar þ.e. selja, hjáleigna/beitarhúsa og afbýla. Markmiðið er að kanna lífsviðurværi, efnahagslega- og félagslega stöðu fólks og landnotkun ásamt búskaparháttum í samhengi við umhverfisþætti s.s. veðurfar, gróðurfar og áhrif hafíss.

Enn liggja fremur fátæklegar upplýsingar fyrir um líf fólks í Norður-Þingeyjarsýslu fyrr á öldum. Hinsvegar er til staðar samanburðarefni því á síðastliðnum árum hefur orðið til mikil fornleifafræðileg þekking á lífi fólks í nágrannabyggðum, Suður-Þingeyjarsýslu auk allnokkurrar þekkingar á byggðaþróun á Hólsfjöllum (sjá t.d. Lucas 2009, McGovern et al. 2007:27-51; Ævarsson 2007).

Svalbarð í Þistilfirði er höfuðból og kirkjustaður og er hreppurinn kenndur við bæinn. Svalbarðsland er á Svalbarðstungu, gríðarmiklu svæði sem nær um 30 km frá sjó og fram til fjalla. Svalbarðstunga afmarkast af Svalbarðsá í vestri og Sandá í austri og er tungan um 6 km breið að jafnaði. Jörðin er talsvert minni í dag því nokkrar sjálfstæðar jarðir hafa byggst út úr jörðinni á sl. 150 árum eða svo, sennilega upp úr seljum og hjáleigum.

Saga rannsókna hófst 1986 þegar hópur fornleifafræðinga frá Bandaríkjunum og Kanada kannaði vísindalegt gildi öskuahaugs Svalbarðs og réðst svo í uppgröft 1988. Þar var grafið fram eitt stærsta beinasafn sem til er á Íslandi sem varð svo hryggjarstykkið í frekari rannsóknum við að endurgera forna efnahags – og landsháttarsögu ásamt sambúð manns við umhverfið á N-Atlanthafssvæðinu.

Árið 2008 var ráðist í áframhaldandi rannsóknir á öskuhaugi Svalbarðs og fólst það í endurmati á afstöðu gjóskulaga til mannvistarlaga og gagnaöflun til að hægt væri að beita nýjum aðferðum í fornvistfræði sem þróast hafa á síðustu 20 árum vegnatækniframfara. Má þar nefna rannsóknir á borkjörnum úr Grænlandsjökli sem staðfesti íslenska gjóskulagatímatalið. Í ljós kom að gjóskulag sem talið var Hekla 1693 varð Hekla 1300 og gjóskulag sem talið var úr Veiðivötnum 1717 var úr Veiðivötnum árið 1477. En leifar í haugnum teygja sig langt aftur í tímann, örugglega aftur á 11. öld (byggt á geislakolsaldursgreiningum og gerðfræði gripa) og sennilega lengra. Einnig voru tekin sýni úr haugnum til skordýra- og plönturannsókna. Árið 2009 var aukið við verkefnið og ákveðið að ráðast í að afla frekari vitneskju um samband höfuðbýlisins Svalbarðs við smærri einingar innan jarðarinnar. Síðan verkefnið stækkaði hefur verið borað kjarnabor og grafnir misumfangsmiklir könnunarskurðir í mörg eyðibýli/sel á Svalbarðstungunni, t.d. Þorvaldsstaðasel, Hjálmarvík, Sjóhúsavík, Bægisstaði, Flögu, Brekknakot, Svalbarðssel, Fjallalækjarsel, Kúðá, Skriðu, Grímsstaði og Borgir (sjá Gísladóttir et al. 2013).

Árin 2008-2009 voru rannsóknirnar styrktar af FQRSC (Fonds québecois pour la recherches sur la société et la culture, Programme établissement de professeurs-chercheurs nouveaux, Québec, Canada), og af bandaríska rannsóknarsjóðnum (the National Science Foundation (USA) International Polar Year program). Árið 2010-2011 var verkefnið styrkt af Groupe de recherche en archéometrie (Université Laval). Fram að því hafði verið unnið að verkefninu örfáa daga á ári og meira og minna í sjálfboðavinnu. Árið 2012 féll verkefninu í skaut veglegur styrkur frá kanadíska rannsóknarsjóðnum (Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada) og einnig bandaríska vísindasjóðnum (National Science Foundation-funded Comparative Island Ecodynamics programme) til þrig-

gja ára. Öll árin hefur Fornleifastofnun Íslands styrkt verkefnið og þaðan komið búnaður og tæki og Fornminjasjóður styrkti afmarkaðan hluta verkefnisins 2013. Styrkirnir 2012 hleyptu nýju lífi í verkefnið og var hægt að vinna markvissara að markmiðum þess. Í júní 2012 var ráðist í allstóran uppgröft á öskuhaug Hjálmarvíkur (sjá Ólafsson 2013) og hægt að hefja fornleifaskráningu á Svalbarðstungu og hafa nú verið skráðir 330 fornminjar á níu lögbýlum; Svalbarði, Hjálmarvík, Brekknakoti, Flögu, Svalbarðsseli, Fjallalækjarseli, Grímsstöðum, Kúðá og Bægisstöðum (sjá skýrslu Kristborgar Þórsdóttur hér að neðan).

Árið 2013 var umfangsmesta ár í rannsóknum á Svalbarðstungu. Unnið var á tímabilinu 15. júlí - 3. ágúst. Að rannsóknunum unnu dr. James Woollett (Laval háskóla), Uggi Ævarsson (fornleifafræðingur og minjavörður Suðurlands), Céline Dupont-Hébert og Natasha Roy (Laval háskóla), Guðrún Alda Gísladóttir og Stefán Ólafsson (Fornleifastofnun Íslands, dr. Véronique Forbes (Háskólanum í Aberdeen), Astrid Daxböck (Fornleifastofnun Íslands), Jónas H. Jónasson (fornleifafræðinemi við Háskóla Íslands) og Martin Fields (fornleifafræðinemi við Laval háskóla). Þá unnu hluta tímabilsins dr. Paul Adderley (Stirling háskóla, Skotlandi) við rannsókn á jarðabótum í Svalbarðstúni, við gjóskulagarannsóknir vann jarðfræðingurinn Magnús Á. Sigurgeirsson og við fornleifaskráningu Kristborg Þórsdóttir og Sólveig Guðmundsdóttir Beck (báðar hjá Fornleifastofnun Íslands). Rannsakað var í Sjóhúsvík, Kúðá, Bægisstöðum, Hjálmarvík, Skriðu og á Svalbarði og um rannóknirnar má lesa um í þessari skýrslu. Ein helsta niðurstaða ársins var sú að efsti (yngsti) hluti svokallaðrar Landnámssyrpu fannst víða og rammar því fornleifarnar enn betur inn. Lag þetta er talið vera frá um 940 e.Kr (sjá skýrslu Magnúsar Á. Sigurgeirssonar hér að aftan). Liðsmenn Svalbarðsrannsókna hafa reynt að gera vinnu sína sýnilega í héraði, frætt skólabörn, tekið á móti gestum og gangandi, viðtöl birst í blöð og alþjóðleg tímarit. Bestu þakkir viljum við færa hreppsnefnd Svalbarðshrepps og íbúum hreppsins en þó sérílagi Sigtryggi Þorlákssyni og Einari Guðmundi Þorlákssyni á Svalbarði og fjölskyldum þeirra fyrir velvilja í garð verkefnisins og liðlegheit í hvívetna. Þá einnig Bjarnveigu Skaftfeld á Ytra-Álandi og Daníel Hansen skólastjóra Svalbarðsskóla fyrir áhuga og drifkraft við að koma þekkingu á menningararfinum til komandi kynslóða.

Research overview

The Svalbarð project focuses on the survey, assessment and initial excavation of several sites on the territory belonging historically to the farm of Svalbarð in Svalbarðshreppur. In 1986 and 1988, initial archaeological investigations of the farm were conducted as part of the Iceland Palaeoeconomy project, and concentrated primarily upon the main farm of Svalbarð and a large midden north of the old farmhouse. The midden dates from the 11th to the 19th century (Amorosi 1992, 1996). The Svalbarð midden project yielded one of the largest faunal collections yet recovered in Iceland and was accompanied by anchaeobotanical and archaeoentomological analyses.

The Svalbarð project was instrumental in the development of multidisciplinary methods and models of reconstructing palaeoeconomies, landscape history and human-environment interactions in the North Atlantic region (Amorosi 1996; Zutter 1992). Since the 1980's, a tremendous number of new survey and site-oriented field projects in Iceland have brought new, data-rich regional perspectives on landscape change, subsistence and social movements and a multitude of new techniques for dating sites and defining patterns of climatic, ecological, economic and social change on scales and at precisions impossible when the original Svalbard project was undertaken. The possibilities of applying these methods and of integrating Svalbard into the regional archaeological record spurred

a renewed round of fieldwork at the farm (See, Woollett 2008).

In 2008, the midden was re-visited, examined and re-evaluated by Jim Woollett and Uggi Ævarsson. The reason for re-opening the old research area was to refine and supplement the existing palaeoeconomic and archaeobotanical studies of the site (Amorosi 1996, Zutter 1997) by improving the midden's dating through new stratigraphic evaluation and tephrochronological dating, and by obtaining new bulk soil samples for additional palaeoclimatological, palaeoenvironmental studies and palaeoeconomic studies. The tephra originally identifed as Hekla 1636 was re-identifed as Hekla 1300 and Vatnajökull 1717 determined to be V1477. These new identifications change the dating of the later phases of midden accumulation (see Woollett 2008 and Gísladóttir et al. 2013: 74). In 2009, the focus of the project was changed to address the outlying components of Svalbarð farm. Auxiliary sites (kots and sheilings) were essential elements of farming economies in Iceland and represent sources of data essential to understanding the economic history of Svalbarð in terms of the totality of activities related to land use, herding, and exploitation of woodland, driftwood, fish and seals. Also, the occupation and fluctuating use of these auxiliary farms are very important parts of the social history of the farm. Because of Svalbarð's ecological and economic similarity to its neighbour farms and because of its historical prominence as one of the central places of Þistilfjörður, the social history of the farm provides a useful window on trends and causes of dynamic relationships between main farms and their dependant occupants (landowners, clients and renters) in this understudied region. Similarly, because of the apparently rich archaeological record associated with Svalbarð's auxiliaries and their clear spatial separation in ecologically and geographically distinct territories, a study of the occupation and economic function of Svalbarð's auxiliaries provides an ideal opportunity to examine the development of a rural economy of the region and of coastal NE-Iceland. Since then many sites in Svalbarðstunga has been investigated through augering and excavation: e.g. Þorvaldsstaðasel, Hjálmarvík, Sjóhúsavík, Bægisstaðir, Flaga, Brekknakot, Svalbarðssel, Fjallalækjarsel, Kúðá, Skriða, Grímsstaðir og Borgir (see Gísladóttir et al. 2013).

Work carried out in 2008 and 2009 was funded by research grants held by Woollett from the FQRSC (Fonds québecois pour la recherches sur la société et la culture, Programme établissement de professeurs-chercheurs nouveaux, Québec, Canada), and the National Science Foundation (USA) International Polar Year program (Thomas McGovern, principal investigator). The 2010-2011 project was funded by the Groupe de recherche en archéometrie (Université Laval, Réginald Auger, principal investigator) with equipment and facility support from Fornleifastofnun Íslands. In 2012 the project received new funding from a grant held by Woollett through the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, and the National Science Foundation-funded Comparative Island Ecodynamics programme (Thomas McGovern, principal investigator). With these new resources, the team was able to undertake an open area excavation at Hjálmarvík while continuing the systematic archaeological survey of Svalbarðstunga and environmental archaeology sampling of selected previously-identified sites. The funding changed the scale of the project in 2012. A 3 weeks long, open air excavation was carried out in Hjálmarvík (Ólafsson 2013) and large quantities of bones retrieved along with very interesting Viking age and medieval finds. This bone collection will, by comparason with Svalbarð assemblage, tell an interesting story of the economy of Svalbarðstunga. The new funding made systematic archaeological survey possible and now 330 sites have been surveyed on nine farms: Svalbarð, Hjálmarvík, Brekknakot, Flaga, Svalbarðssel, Fjal-

lalækjarsel, Grímsstaðir, Kúðá og Bægisstaðir (see Þórsdóttir report below).

2013 was the most extensive year in archaeological research in Svalbarðstunga. The field season started on the 15th of July and lasted until 3rd of August. The archaeological field crew consisted of Dr. James Woollett (Laval University), Uggi Ævarsson (archaeologist and Cultural Heritage Manager of Southern Iceland), Céline Dupont-Hébert (Laval University), Guðrún Alda Gísladóttir og Stefán Ólafsson (Institute of Archaeology, Iceland), Dr. Véronique Forbes (University of Aberdeen), Natasha Roy (Laval University), Astrid Daxböck (Institute of Archaeology, Iceland), Jónas H. Jónasson (student, Univesity of Iceland) og Martin Fields (student, Laval University). Also Dr. Paul Adderley (Stirling University, Scotland) which conducted the pedological survey of the homefield in Svalbarð and Magnús Á. Sigurgeirsson geologist who identified and confirmed tephra in the area and Kristborg Þórsdóttir and Sólveig Guðmundsdóttir Beck (Institute of Archaeology, Iceland) continued with the archaeological site survey in Svalbarðstunga. Targeted sites for archaeological excavation in 2013 were: Sjóhúsvík, Kúðá, Bægisstaðir, Hjálmarvík, Skriða og Svalbarð - see reports this volume. One of the main results this year are the refinement of site chronologies through a broadened local tephra sequence, including most notably the identification of the most recent of the Landnam tephras (ca. 940 AD) (see Magnús Á. Sigurgeirsson report this volume). The association of this tephra with archaeological deposits at Hjalmarvik and with archaeologically sterile substrates underlying other sites provides a timeframe of the initial settlement of Svalbardstunga. The research crew has made their work visible in the community by guiding guests, inform the community about the research programme, by visiting the local school, giving interviews to papers, international magazines and international radio stations. Our warmest thanks to the Svalbarð community especially Sigtryggur Þorláksson og Einar Guðmundur Þorláksson in Svalbarð and their families for goodwill towards the project. Also, Bjarnveig Skaftfeld in Ytra-Áland and Daníel Hansen, school master of Svalbarð school for their enthusiasm and help.

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Céline Dupont-Hébert and James Woollett

Archaeological investigations at Hjálmarvík

Renewed excavations at the midden at Hjálmarvík started July 14th with the opening of new excavation area immediately east of the 2012 operation (figure 1). The main objective for the 2013 project was to expand the collection of faunal remains and material culture representing the alleged sporadic late medieval to early modern occupation of the site (see Ólafsson 2013; Gisladóttir et al. 2013). Both ash and bone-bearing deposits clearly overlied the 1477 tephra layer in the 2012 excavation, indicating ongoing deposition of fuel wastes and processing and/or consumption of food. Unfortunately, these deposits were thin and the faunal assemblage provided by them is too small to be considered statistically representative, with less than a thousand fragments representing four hundred years dating up to the 19th century. It was thus deemed necessary to expand the excavation of at least the upper part of the midden in order to secure a better understanding of the occupation and function of the site after AD1477. The strategy was therefore to excavate the upper midden deposits over a broad area and to stop on the Hekla 1300 AD tephra isochrone. As complementary work, two test trenches were excavated on the eastern margins of the homefield, by the shore, and their content will also be discussed in this report .

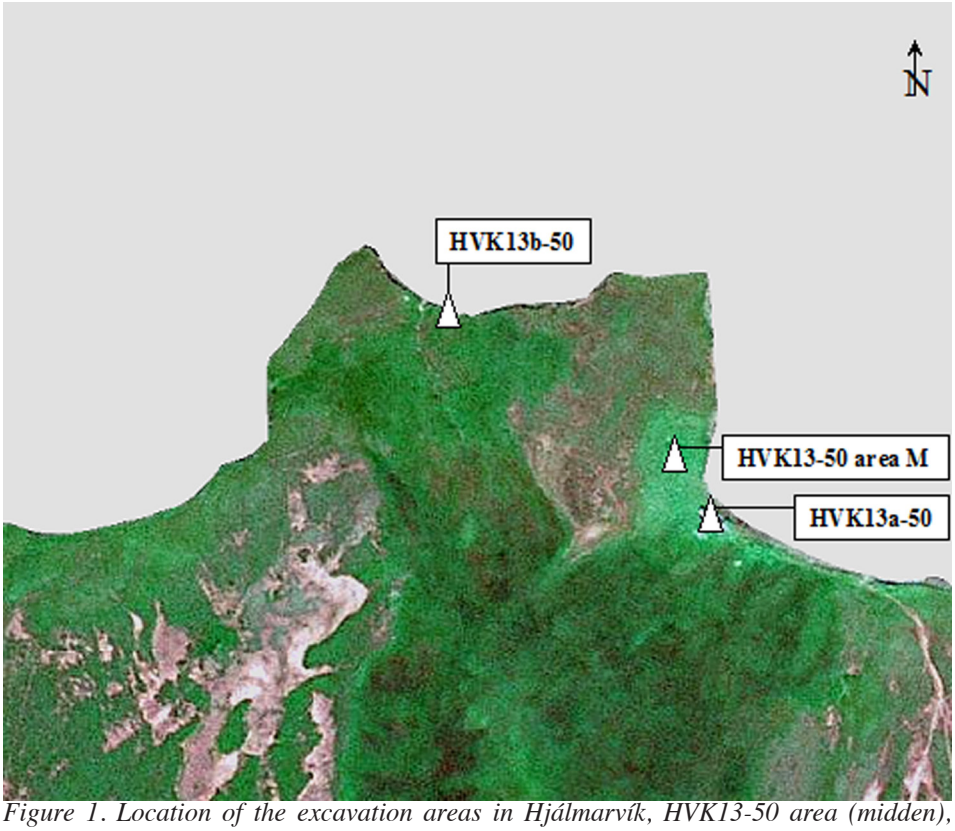


Figure 1. Location of the excavation areas in Hjálmarvík, HVK13-50 area (midden), HVK13a-50 (sheep house test trench) and HVK13b-50 (charcoal pit).

HVK13-50 Area M (E 65 09 87 N 64 03 58)

Area M is the name given to the midden area evaluated to have an approximate diameter of at least 12 meters. A trench of 4 meters by 3 meters was opened in 2013, immediately east and downslope of the 2012 excavation (figure 1). The team was composed of Véronique Forbes (University of Aberdeen), Natasha Roy (Université Laval) and Martin Fields (Université Laval) under supervision of Céline Dupont-Hébert and James Woollett (Université Laval). Recording was done according to the single context excavation protocole. All deposits were dry-sieved through 4 mm and 6 mm mesh. A total of 39 units were excavated (including a sondage of 50 cm by 50 cm in the northeastern corner) and 125 kg of animal bones recovered. A variety of finds were recovered, comprising glass and ceramic (bottle and vessel fragments), copper (foil, a clench bolt and a pin), iron (nails and clench bolts), whetstones and stone weights. Complete records of units and finds are included at the end of the report (see appendix I).

Most stratigraphic units include bones as major inclusions with the exception of two groups of units. Units [002] and [028] are composed of clean turf blocks and stones and probably represent debris from the repair or collapse of a building. Units [011], [014], [016], [020], [026], [027] and [034] are deposits of peat or wood ash and burnt turf which are notably acidic and so are hostile to preservation of bone.

A shell layer (mostly common mussel) was found directly underlying the V1477 tephra (unit [030]) and covered the south-eastern half of the excavation area (figure 2). To save time on site and in the lab, shells were sampled in two 3 liters bags that will be completely quantified (including the number of valve fragments, number of umbos, etc.). These data, combined with the total number of liters of shells that this unit contained, will be used to extrapolate the frequencies of mollusc specimens in the complete excavated



Figure 2. HVK13-50 area M, the shell layer covering the most part of the midden excavation area, view to the south.

unit. Nevertheless, the entire layer was sieved normally for the recovery of bones, artefacts and shells other than the common mussel, like clams and whelks.

One interesting feature of this midden is related to its use for purposes other than quotidian waste disposal. In the center northwest of the excavation lies what appeared to be a dog burial made of turf and stones. No cuts were observed indicating that the burial was entirely surficial. This burial wasn't meant for a single dog. Rather, at least three dog skeletons were found, one on top of the other and presumably intermingled after decomposition, while a fourth skull outside of the burial which seems to have been diplaced by an later disturbance event (figure 3). The dogs appear to have been of a small breed. All are mature individuals and there was at least 2 males according to the recovery of 2 os penis bones. It is hoped that further analysis shall lead us to the identification of the breed, pathologies and possible cause of death of the individual animals associated with the unique find.

Midden stratigraphy

The following figures show the section drawings (figure 4,5 and 6). The south and north sections clearly show the original plane of deposition angle and how it does not reflect the modern ground surface. Also clearly visible is the "bulldozer effect", an omnipresent cut which explains why the 2009 and 2012 operations did not demonstrate the presence of more recent deposits. The uppermost layers in the midden area excavated in 2012 had been nearly completely removed or disturbed by the levelling of the field by a bulldozer in the 1950's. This cut and mixing event is the origin of the flat-lying upper deposits, all highly mottled, heterogenous and disturbed deposits that are completely dissimilar to the underlying units of peat ash, turf collapse and bone-rich refuse, that follow a southwest to northeast slope. The contact between these two major groups of units is precise and clear. In the area excavated in 2013, just to the east and downslope, the bulldozer blade does not appear to have bit so deeply into the tapering edge of the midden and so left the the post-medieval deposits largely intact.



Figure 3. Location of the dog burial in the midden (HVK13-50 area M). View to the west.

This year's excavation at Hjálmarvík permitted us to define the northeastern limit of the midden and identify the more recent tephra in the landnám tephra sequence (H1300 and V1477). The thickness of post-1477 deposits tends to support the conclusion that the site was not abandoned or only occupied briefly after 1477AD (Ólafsson 2013). Further analyses of faunal and botanical material will provide more information on the nature of this occupation and eventual changes in function of the site.

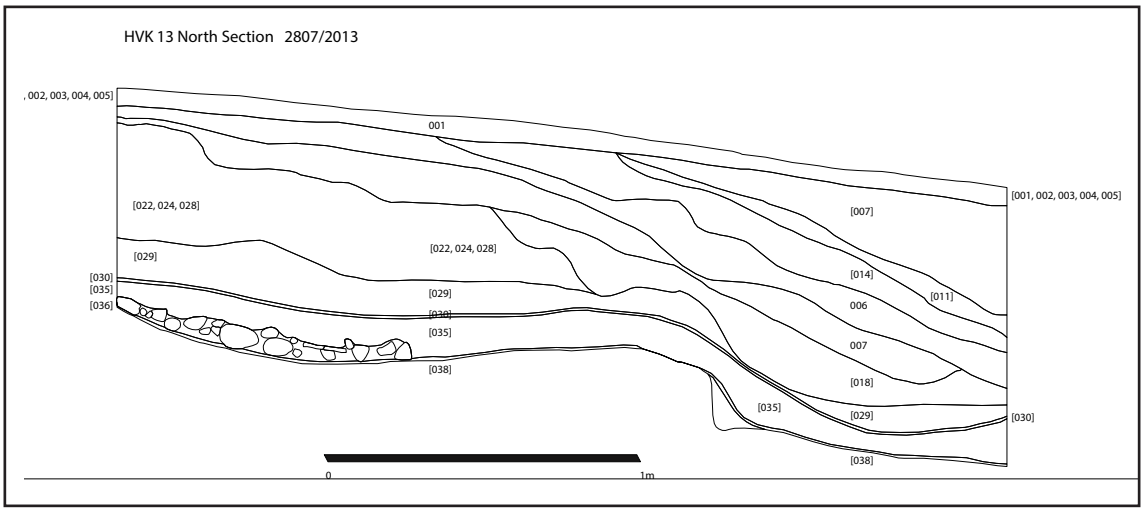


Figure 4. North section of the 2013 excavation in the midden area (HVK13-50 area M). Note the deposition angle sloping eastward.

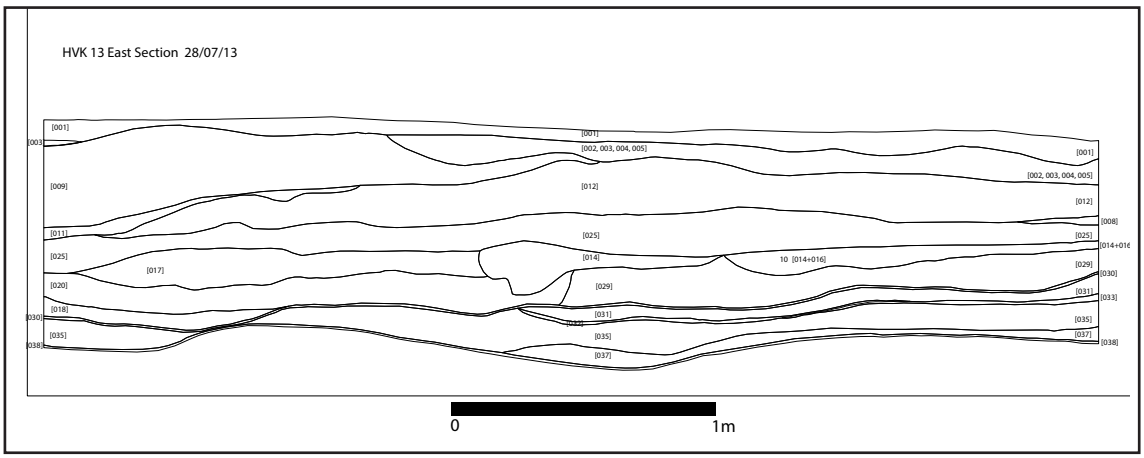


Figure 5. East section of the 2013 excavation in the midden area (HVK13-50 area M).

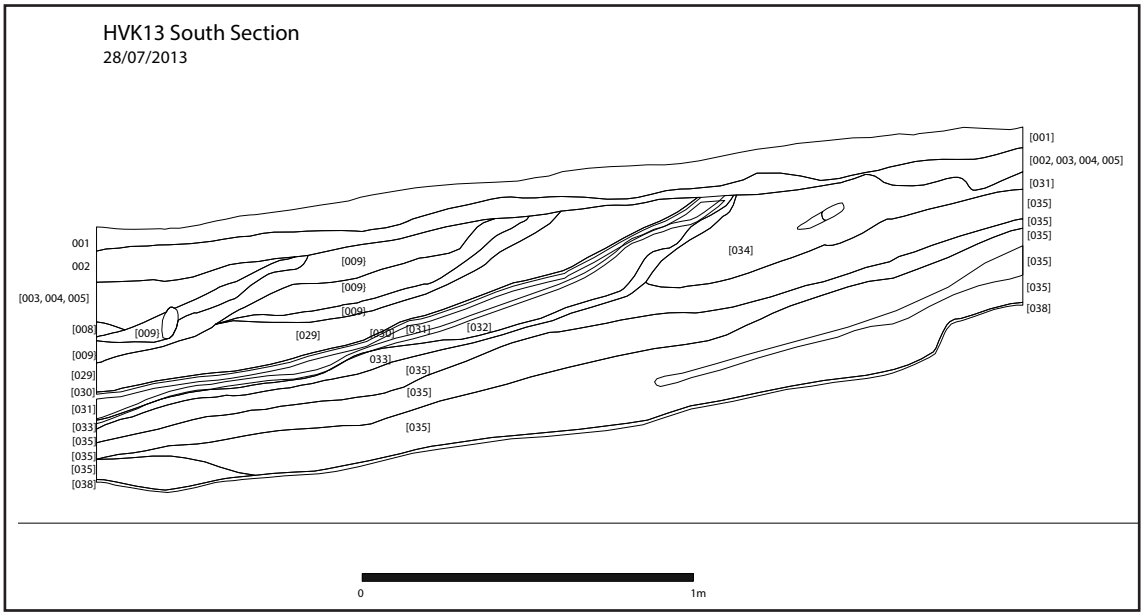


Figure 6. South section of the 2013 excavation in the midden area (HVK13-50 area M). Note the deposition angle sloping eastward and the "dulldozer effect" cutting the upmost layers.

Fornleifarannsókn í Hjálmarvík 2013

Sumarið 2013 var líkt og undanfarin ár, rannsakað í Hjálmarvík. Sl. tvö ár hefur þykkur öskuhaugur austan við gamla bæjarstæðið verið grafinn upp að hluta. Öskuhaugurinn er á svæði sem kallað er M (midden). Eftir rannsóknartímabilið 2012 var svo að sjá að uppsöfnun á rusli við Hjálmarvíkurbæ hefði snarminnkað eftir 1300, sem benti til þess að byggðamynstur þar hefði breyst umtalsvert eftir miðaldir og byggðin ef til vill orðið stopulli (sjá Ólafsson 2013; Gísladóttir et al. 2013). Til að ná ítarlegri gögnum var ákveðið að opna svæði við hlið þess sem grafið var 2012 og freista þess að kanna frekar hvað átti sér stað eftir 1300. Opnað var 4x3 m stórt svæði, austan við gamla uppgraftarsvæðið frá 2012 (fig. 1). Alls voru grafin 39 jarðlög (með 50x50 cm stórum könnunarskurði í norðausturhorni svæðisins) og 125 kg af dýrabeinum fundust við rannsóknina. Fjölbreyttir gripir fundust m.a. ílátsbrot úr gleri og leir, gripir úr kopar (þynnur og rónaglar), járni (naglar og rónaglar), brýni og lóð. Listi yfir jarðlög, gripi og sýni eru í viðbótum I (appendix I). Í flestum jarðlögum var mikið af dýrabeinum nema í jarðlögum [002] og [028] sem voru fremur hrein torflög með grjóti í, sennilega efni frá nálægum byggingum. Þá var lítið af beinum í jarðlögum [011], [014], [016], [020], [026], [027] og [034] en þau eru rík af móösku eða viðarösku og brenndu torfi en slík efni hafa hátt sýrustig og eru fjandsamleg varðveislu beina (fig. 2).Athygli vekur að í öskuhaugnum fannst gröf byggð úr torfi og grjóti og í henni voru þrjár beinagrindur af hundum, hver ofan á annarri og svo hundshauskúpa ofan á gröfinni (fig. 3). Allir hundarnir virðast hafa verið af smáhundakyni, fullorðnir einstaklingar og allavega hægt að greina að tveir þeirra voru rakkar.

Sniðteikningar (sjá. fig. 4,5, og 6) sýna upphleðslu haugsins. Þá má einnig greinilega sjá af teikningunum hvernig skafið var ofan af hólnum um miðja 20. öldina með gröfu. Uppgraftarsvæðið 2012 var ofar í brekkunni og varð því verr úti en rannsóknarsvæðið 2013 sem var neðar í brekkunni og þar eru fornleifarnar eftir 1300 að mestu ósnertar.

Við rannsóknirnar 2013 var fundinn NA-jaðar Hjálmarvíkuröskuhaugsins, gjóska úr landnámssyrpu rammaði inni fornleifarnar á staðnum. Þykkt jarðlaga eftir 1477 styðja að áfram búið í Hjálmarvík þó eignarhald breyttist og bærinn yrði hjáleiga Svalbarð. Greining gagna mun varpa ljósi á sögu Hjálmarvíkur frá 10. öld til þeirrar 19.

HVK13a-50 Sheep House Ruin Evaluation (approx. N66 13.302 W15 38.589)

In the 1960's, Sigtryggur Thorlaksson constructed a substantial concrete sheep house at Hjálmarvík on a low beach terrace adjacent to the shore to shelter sheep kept there in winter. This structure was in a somewhat dilapidated state by 2008 and was largely in ruins after being struck by waves during a severe storm in the winter of 2010-2011. The ruined building was razed and removed with heavy equipment sometime between the fall of 2012 and the spring of 2013. The building's plank floor was removed during this period and, in so doing, the topsoil underlying the structure was disturbed by excavation equipment and apparently mixed to some degree with sandy fill. A rapid visual inspection of the site showed that some artifacts were visible in the disturbed topsoil, notably modern building materials, basalt cobbles of sizes suitable for building turf walls, modern glass, a fragment of a caramel-glazed stoneware vessel and a very large fragment of a whalebone vertebra. These objects suggested the possibility that an unobserved previous occupation had been truncated by the construction and demolition of the modern sheep house. The modern sheep house occupied one of the most sheltered and best drained spots on

the lowest terrace of the Hjálmarvík cove and so would have been an attractive place for building construction at any time in the past. Notably, a second ruined turf sheep house with some 20th century concrete elements is located immediately to the east of the present ruin, while an older turf ruin (Vestari Borg), which appears to substantially pre-date the twentieth century, is located only about 400m to the east, on the same terrace.

In order to determine if archaeological remains of an unknown archaeological occupation were present in the immediate vicinity of the sheep house, a 50cm x 50cm sondage was excavated on July 17) adjacent to the location where the stoneware shard and whalebone vertebrae were found (though these were not in situ). A series of soil core tests was also conducted.

The test pit, was excavated in the eastern floor area of the defunct sheep house to a depth of approximately 75cm below surface, where a thick tephra deposit visually identified as Hekla 3 was observed. Several distinct stratigraphic layers and soil horizons were observed, these are illustrated in Figure 7 and summarized in Table 1. Note that the section drawing and soil descriptions were made on a day of extremely strong light conditions and, despite the use of a makeshift sun shade, it proved impossible to reconcile exactly the distribution of some contexts in the south and western sections.

The surface layers of loose and disturbed organic silt noted above extended to a depth of about 5 to 15cm below surface. The contacts of both of these layers dip to the north, toward the sea. The top layer (001) overlays a clean sandy loam which may represent the sheep house floor or foundation (002), this layer also dips to the north. The subsequent three units represent a series of peat layers, all well decomposed. The superior layer (04) shows traces of disturbance via cryoturbation processes, all appear to be sterile. Notably, a wet drainage gully associated with peat is present approximately 10m to the east of the test pit.

The bulk of the rest of the soil column comprises a series of horizons of silty to sandy loams of various colours and concentrations of soil organic matter. Small to trace quantities of fine charcoal fragments were observed in some of these layers (9, 12, 16); these are assumed to relate to an as yet undefined occupation(s) of the general vicinity. Three or four (possible) tephra layers are interspersed throughout these layers. The uppermost of these, Context 10, is a gritty coarse dark grey silt which is tentatively identified by field observations as the V1477 tephra. Context 13 is a uniform, grey-green silt finer in texture than Context 10; this is preliminarily identified as the H1300 tephra. About 10cm beneath Context 13 is a Context 15, a pale greenish blue-grey silt with diffuse contacts. It was not possible to assign a tentative identification to this sediment in the field. Magnus Sigurgeirsson observed Context 15 on Aug. 1 and expressed doubt that is was, in fact, an in situ tephra deposit. The stratigraphic position of the sediment (below H1300) is clearly provocative however and merits a second attempt to define it in the future. Context 18 is relatively thick layer of uniform pale cream-grey silt that strongly resembles the prehistoric Hekla 3 ash, which is almost omnipresent in the region. The final observed soil layer was a brown silty-clayey peat with moderately decomposed organic matter.

Should the identifications of Contexts 10, 13 and 18 be correct, this stratigraphic column provides evidence of episodes of human activities (fires and the disposal of fuel wastes) in the general area sometime prior to, between and after the AD 1300 and 1477 ash fall event. A post-medieval occupation of the immediate locality seems plausible based on historical records relating undefined occupations of Hjálmarvík in the 17th and 18th century (Gisladottir et al 2013; Dupont-Hébert, this volume), as well as the presence

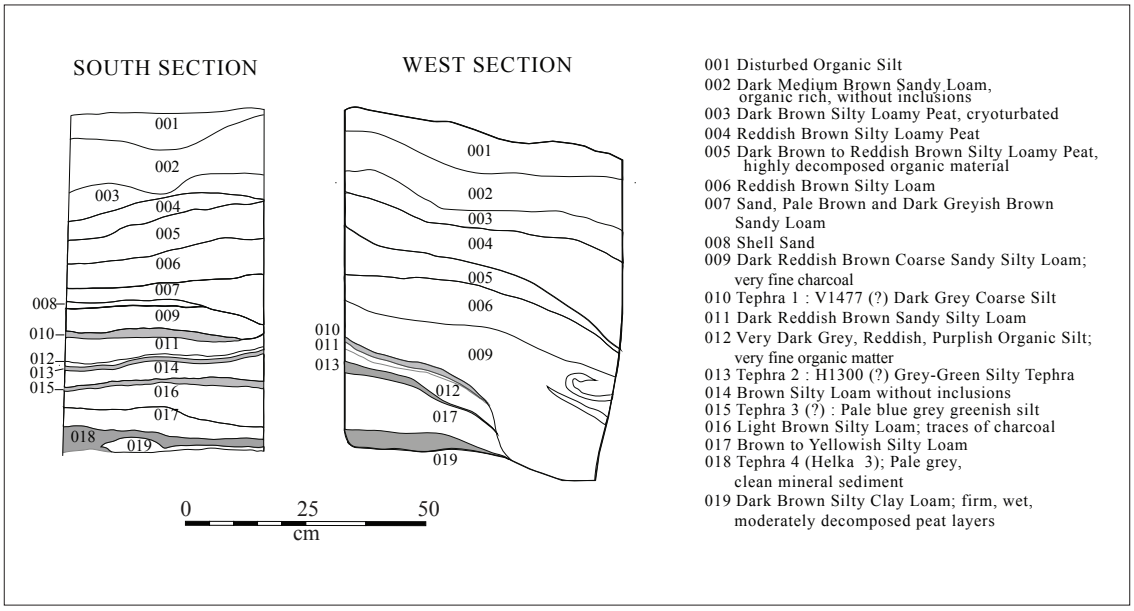


Figure 8. South and west section of the test trench HVK13a-50, the sheep house.

of artifacts of appropriate type observed in the disturbed soil nearby and the presence of older ruins in the vicinity. Nevertheless, a post-medieval occupation is not at all demonstrated in this test pit.

The test does suggest that the immediate location has seen notable geomorphological and hydrological changes. The presence of an eroded slope (demonstrated by a disconformity cutting contexts 10, 11, 12, 13 and 17) is seen in the west section. This structure may represent the break of slope of the vegetated beach terrace prior to circa. 1477; the break of slope is presently downslope and further downhill. Contexts 7 and 9 (sandy loams) and 8 (shell sand) over this old eroded surface and created a new contour for the slope. Traces of colluvial or cryoturbation mixing are seen in Context 9 in the form of distorted "rolled" sand/silt lenses. Also, Context 8 is a clean shell sand identical to sand deposits currently being deposited by wind and wave action along the modern beach front, arguing strongly that this location was previously closer to the beach and periodically the recipient of beach sediments. The dip angles of sediment layers and soil horizons overlying Context 9 conform more or less to the orientation Context's 9's upper contact, indicating that an aggrading (rather than eroding) land surface with a new contour was established in this spot after 1477. Local drainage conditions, no doubt related to the local bog just south of the site, appear to have changed over time as clear peat layers are present to the bottom and top of this soil column. Somewhat drier conditions may be indicated by the replacement of peat with more friable loams with less well-decomposed organic matter between the Hekla 3 eruption and sometime after 1477.

Table 1: HVK13a-50 Sheep house Test Pit Unit List

001 Disturbed organic silt
002 Dark medium brown sandy loam, organic rich, without inclusions
003 Dark brown silty loamy peat, cryoturbated contacts
004 Reddish brown silty loamy peat

005 Dark brown to reddish brown silty loamy peat,
highly decomposed organic material
006 Reddish brown silty loam
007 Sand, pale brown and dark greyish brown sandy loam
008 Shell sand
009 Dark reddish brown coarse sandy silty loam;
very fine charcoal
010 Tephra 1 : V1477 (?) Dark grey coarse silt
011 Dark reddish brown sandy silty loam
012 Very dark grey, reddish-purplish organic silt;
very fine organic matter
013 Tephra 2 : H1300 (?) Grey-green silty tephra
014 Brown silty loam without inclusions
015 Tephra 3 (?) : pale blue grey greenish silt
016 Light brown silty loam; traces of charcoal
017 Brown to yellowish silty loam
018 Tephra 4 (Hekla 3?); Pale grey, clean mineral sediment
019 Dark brown silty clay loam; firm, wet, moderately decomposed peat layers

HVK13a-50 Rannsókn undir fjárhúsrústum í Hjálmarvík
Á 7. áratugnum byggði Sigtryggur Þorláksson bóndi fjárhús úr steinsteypu í Hjálmarvík. Þau eru byggð á bökkunum upp af fjörunni. Húsin hafa látið mikið á sjá á undanförnum árum og féllu saman að stórum hluta í stórviðri veturinn 2010-2011. Svæðið var svo hreinsað talsvert 2012-2013. Fornleifafræðingar ráku augun í gler, leirker og hryggjarlið úr hvali í grunni fjárhúsrústarinnar og var í framhaldi ákveðið að kanna betur svæðið þar sem húsið hafði verið reist, enda staðurinn einn þurrasti bletturinn í víkinni. Grafinn var 50x50 cm stór könnunarskurður og varð hann um 75 cm djúpur, niður í H3 (sjá fig. 7 og table 1). Í skurðinum fannst móaska og kolaagnir og greinilega merki um mannvist á svæðinu milli 1300 og 1477 og svo áfram.

Hjalmarvik Sheep House Soil Core Surve

In addition to the test pit reported above, a brief and limited soil core survey was conducted in the immediate environs of the destroyed modern sheep house to determine if the soil horizons bearing charcoal (Contexts 009 and 016) could be traced to a source area if the the tephras were widespread. This soil core survey supplements that conducted in the general area of the Hjálmarvík shoreline in 2009 (Gisladottír et al. 2010) and focused on areas that were not tested in 2009.

Core 360 (N66 13.287 W15 38.619)
Located in the middle of a low mound south of destroyed sheep house; the area has rich green vegetation that contrasts with that which surrounds.
0-36 cm bs : Uniform brown silty loam, grass roots. Clean turf.
36-45 cm bs : Med. Brown sandy loam, firm with decomposed grass roots . Vague laminae of grey-beige silt (redeposited Hekla 3?)

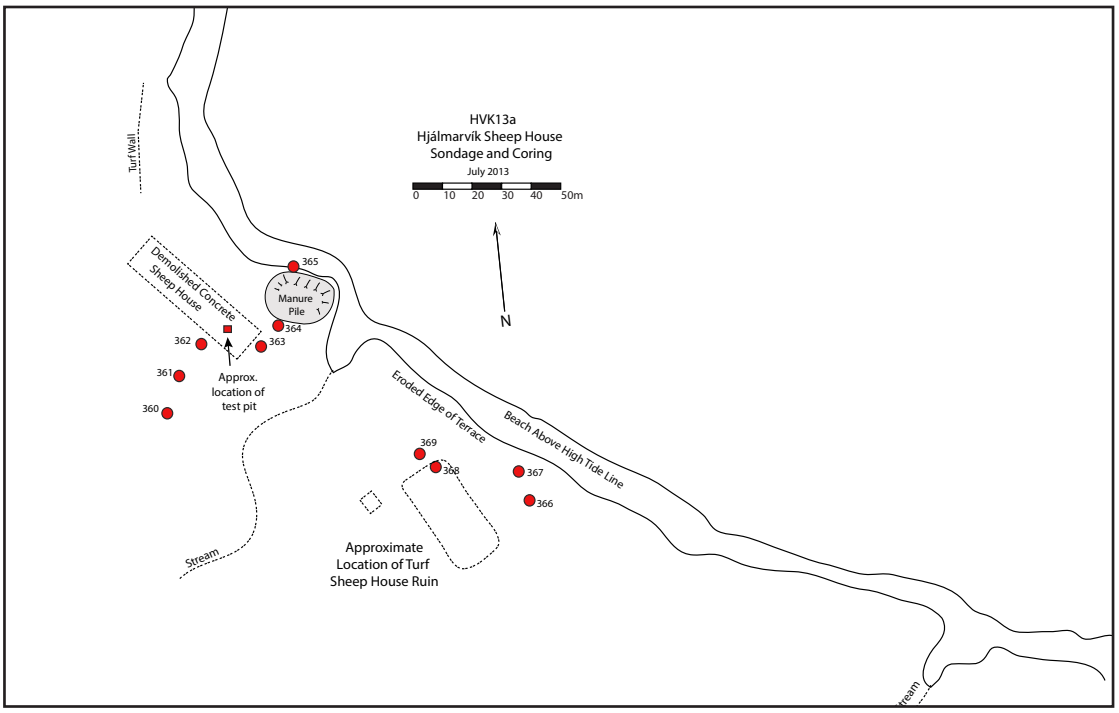


Figure 7. Sheep house and Hjálmarvík bay coring location.

45-66 cm bs : Dark grey-greenish loam with more mineral sediment than above, trending gradually to (without sharp contact)c to a thick layer of clean, grey-green coarse silty sediment (V1477).
66+ cm bs : Gravel

Core 361 (N66 13.294 W15 38.610)
Low hummocks south of destroyed sheep house, aligned with the centre of the building, east of core 360. In depressed area about 50cm beneath core 360.
0-30cm bs : Clean silty loam, firm with roots. Turf.
30-42cm bs : Turfy soil as above, with traces of H3 and dark grey tephra
42-50 cm bs : Dark brown, moist, loam with much dense and moderately decomposed vegetative organic matter. Peat.
50-52 cm bs : Grey-greenish tephra
52-57 cm bs : Dark brown-greyish firm loam. Turf.
57-66 cm bs : Brown sand
66-68 cm bs : Blonde-grey leached decayed peat
68-76cm bs : Dense brown sand

Core 362 (N66 13.299 W15 38.601)
Immediately south of destroyed sheep house, in low grassy vegetation beside the scar of recent bulldozer disturbance. Approx. 15m west of Core 361.
0-25cm bs : Compacted, firm black organic-rich soil mixed with turf. Mottled, disturbed (bulldozer?)
25-28 cm bs. Dense, firm red-brown sandy-silty loam, rooted. Turf.
28-53 cm bs : Very dense black fibrous organic-rich soil. Manure?

53-57 cm bs : Dark grey brown sandy silty loam
57-70 cm bs : Grey brown silty loam
70-75 cm bs : Clean pale grey tephra, H3?
75-84 cm bs : Darker grey tephra
84-95 cm bs : Dark brown peat

Core 363 (N66 13.298 W15 38.574)
In eastern entrance of destroyed sheep house, where there had previously been a wood plank floor.
0-30 cm bs : Highly disturbed, loose sandy sediment, fragments of manure.
30 cm bs : Wood (widespread).

Interpretation : The floor might possibly still be intact and simply covered with sandy fill.

Core 364 (N66 13.301 W15 38.566)
About 5m south of the edge of the grassy beach terrance, north of the eastern end of the destroyed sheep house. Adjacent to a conspicuous manure pile.
0-30 cm : Loose sandy sediment and turfy vegetation, rock.
30-110 cm bs : series of thick laminations of the shell sand, dark grey very sandy organic rich loam.

Core 365 (N66 13.305 W15 38.559)
Manure pile immediately NE of destroyed sheep house, on break of slope of beach terrace. It proved impossible to insert the core into the deposit here, due to the dense fibrous nature of the deposit. The eroded section on the seaward side of the manure pile is about 2.5m high however and revealed stratigraphy of the deposit. A rough description of the seaward section follows, with measurements taken from the deposits' northwestern edge.
0-220cm bs : A massive under uniformly heterogenous deposit of manure, without obvious traces of individual deposits. No visible stratigraphy. Fragments of plastic sheet, plastic objects (net floats, fish boxes, bottles) and nylon rope and net are visible in the section to about 200cm bs.
220-250cm bs : Deposit consisting of a series of thick lenses to laminations of shell sand (from the immediately adjacent beach) and thin turfy soil A horizons interspersed with mats of partially decayed sea weed. At the bottom contact is an undulating mat of seaweed which overlays a layer of beach cobbles (see below)
250-260cm bs : Rounded basalt cobbles and boulders. Clast-supported with dense shell sand matrix.

Interpretation : The manure pile deposit is entirely modern and post-dates the construction of the modern sheep house. It directly overlies beach deposits and appears to be stabilizing the bank above the beach, which is presently eroding elsewhere.

Core 366 (N66 13.265 W15 38.465)
Low mounded area about 25m east of the turf sheep house ruin which is found immediately east of the destroyed sheep house.
0-53 cm bs : Fine black humus, well decomposed soil rich in organic matter
53-70 cm bs : grey-brown peat with moderately to poorly decomposed vegetative matter

-67 cm bs : thin layer (<1cm) of dark grey tephra (V1477)
70-76 cm bs : mottled dark brown to black peat, well decomposed
76-85 cm bs : medium brown peat grading to black humus or loam
85-145 cm bs : clean, medium brown peat
145-148 cm bs : firm, dark grey tephra

Core 367 (N66 13.271 W15 38.469)
West side of a shallow gully draining a boggy areas south of the site, about 156m west of turf sheep house and 15m NNW of Core 366.
0-21 cm bs : Dark brown loam with roots.
21-47 cm bs : medium to dark brown silty loam with roots. Turf.
47-50 cm bs : light brown very silty loam with roots. Turf.
50-69 cm bs : fibrous dark brown peat.
69-70 cm bs : pale brown peat, very decomposed organic matter.
70-71 cm bs : silt with rich black organic matter
71-72 cm bs : pale brown decomposed peat
72-75 cm bs : very dark grey to black peat
75-76 cm bs : dark grey tephra : V1477
76-79 cm bs : dark grey to black peat
79-80 cm bs : silty peat with traces of tephra (?)
80-85 cm bs : dark brown peat
85-95 cm bs : dark grey peat with traces of H3 (?) tephra
95-97 cm bs : medium brown peat
97-100 cm bs : black peat with grey tephra (H1300?)
100-130 cm bs : Grey-tan to dark grey peat

Core 368 (N66 13.276 W15 38.512)
Core taken in the middle of a collapsed and eroded turf wall in the western end of the turf sheep house ruin
0-62cm bs : Brown, yellow-brown and grey turf, laminated. Turf blocks related to building construction.
62-123 cm bs : Medium grey-brown silty turf
123-130 cm bs : Sand
130 – 131 cm bs : pale beige-grey tephra (H3?)
131-136 cm bs : dark brown peat
136-138 cm bs : dark grey tephra, coarse, similar to V1477
138-140 cm bs : dense, uniform dark red-brown peaty organic silt

Core 369 (N66 13.276 W15 38.51)
Core taken 5m W of Core 368, outside of turf sheep house ruin.
0-24 cm bs : dark brown silty turf
24-30 cm bs : red-brown dense and firm organic silt, some mollusc shell fragments
31-54 cm bs : dark brown organic-rich loam, turf
54 -55 cm bs : shell sand
55-65 cm bs : dense brown turf
65-69 cm bs : pale grey-brown peat, streaked with iron stains
69 -70cm bs : dark grey tephra (V1477)
70-72.5 cm bs : pale grey-brown peat

72.5-73.5 cm bs : grey-green tephra H1300 ?
73.5-80 cm bs : pale grey-brown peat
80-160 cm bs : pale grey-brown to medium brown peat, clean
Interpretation : The presence of the tephra layers in close proximity at the sample location suggests that there may have been no building in place at the time of these ash falls ; they fell on a natural surface that was not heavily trampled or augmented by windblown/ rain-washed sediment coming from an adjacent turf structure. A marine inundation event or short-lived period of high winds from the north occurred sometime well after 1477 (transporting beach sand to this location). This location has always been wet, at least until after the construction of the sheep house. Finally, despite the proximity of the core to the existing turf ruin, there is no clear indication on the core of the presence of a building other than the substantial volume of soil accumulation (69cm) overlying the uppermost tephra layer (ostensibly the V1477 tephra). The soil cores in this particular survey found no positive trace of occupation in this area judged by the presence of occupation residues (notably fuel waste). Nevertheless, the area is built up in modern times; one must assume therefore that the soil core tester is relatively weak tool for identifying the presence of buildings where there are no fuel wastes or other distinctive refuse, except when it encounters well-preserved turf blocks.

HVK13b-50 The charcoal pit (N66 13.522 W15 39.217)

While surveying eroding soil sections along in the coast in 2011, members of the team found a deposit of charcoal that appeared to be part of a disturbed charcoal pit feature (see figure 1 for location). Once the section was cleaned, it appeared that uppermost soil layers and a tephra deposit had collapsed into the pit due to erosion, giving the section the

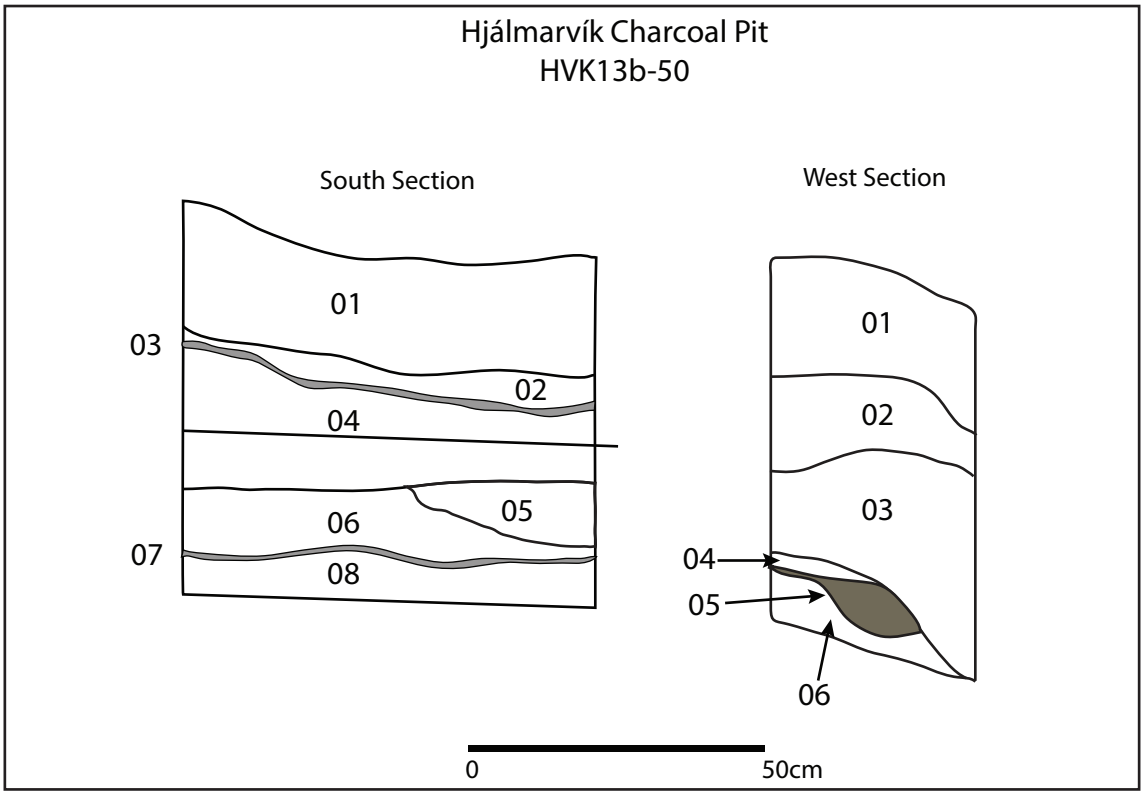


Figure 9. South and west section of the charcoal pit after excavation (HVK13b-50) see unit description in Appendix I.



Figure 10. The Hjálmarvík charcoal pit section prior to excavation, in an eroding bank above the shore, looking south. The pit is immediately to the right measuring stick and is defined by its charcoal and stone cobble contents, and is caped by slumped turf containing a highly distorted layer of the V1477 tephra.

appearance of a rolled cake made of tephra, turf and charcoal. It was decided to excavate the exposed section back 5 to 10 cm to produce a flat and smooth profile in which the presence of the possble pit could be defined and its form and association with the charocal and tephras described.

The limited excavation was sufficient to define the bottom edge of a pit feature whose upper portion was considerably disturbed by slumping. As well, contemporary erosion of the bank had removed most of the volume of the pit, leaving only a portion of its base preserved in the intact section, that whose observation lead to the discovery of the feature. The bowl-like form of the base of the pit is well illustrated by the presence of a large flat stone lying on a very steep bedding angle, infilling the feature and still preserved in the section in Figure 10.

Except the pit itself and its contents, all deposits appeared to be clean of anthropogenic activities. The cut, [006] was rounded in shape with an depth of approximately 15 cm to 20 cm, still visible in the section. The fill, [005], was composed 100% of fragmented charcoal, of which one bag was taken for identification and dating, and a large piece of partly burnt driftwood measuring 10 cm by 25 cm was recovered and collected for identification. As interpreted by the stratigraphy of the eroded section, the pit was dug and used between deposition of the H1300 (which was cut by the pit) and V1477 ash falls (the latter was present in situ and undisturbed while overliying the feature) (see Figure 10). With the presence of the charcoal deposit, the pit is securely attributable to charcoal production. No pit of this kind has yet been described in northern Iceland east of Myvatnsveit. Its location by the coast, in an area without recent forest cover and where subfossil birch remains dateable to Iceland's human occupation are not yet observed, suggesting that it most have been used to burn driftwood rather than living trees. Analysis of the wood piece and of the charcoal will hopefully confim or invalidate this hypothesis

Hjálmarvík Bay Survey

On July 23 and 25, a rapid foot survey was conducted by J. Woollett and P. Adderley on the Hjálmarvík Bay shoreline from Vestra Borg to the west side of Hjálmarsnes, in order to locate erosion cuts where tephra might be exposed. On the way, a number of small turf ruins were observed and documented with a gps and digital photography.

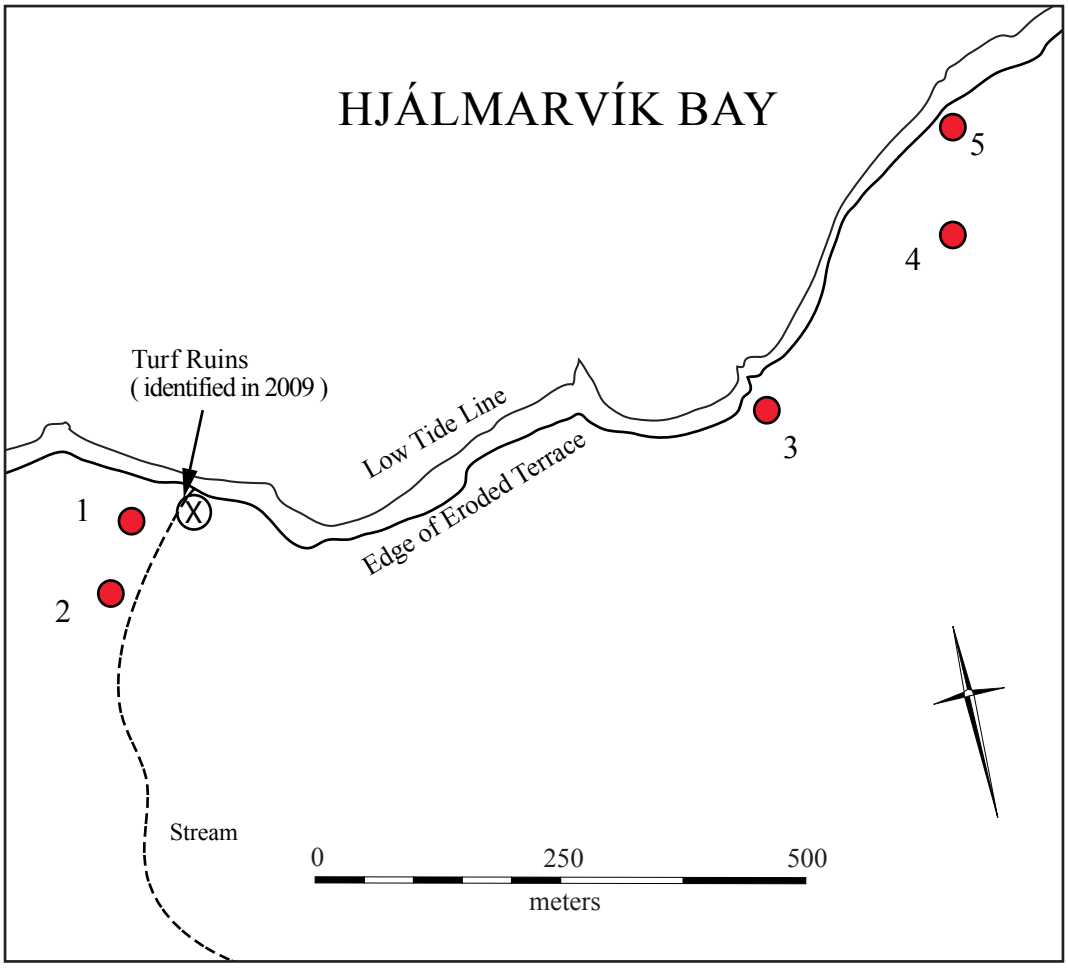


Figure 11. Map of ruins observed in eastern Hjálmarvík Bay.

Ruin 1 (N66 13.214 W15 37.762)
A small and ambiguous low turf ruin, rectangular in form. Approximately 4m long.

Ruin 2 (N66 13.174 W15 37.792)
A small mound at the edge of wet bog and thick wet grass-land about 80m south of the



Figure 12. The mound of Ruin 2, looking south.

shore, on the west side of a small brook draining a bog. The mound is approx. 12 x 9m, rising about 0.5m or more from the surrounding vegetation. The mound is oval in shape and appears to be composed of a two or more small turf structures, both of which is clearly rectangular in shape with fairly distinct linear walls. Portions of the mound are composed of hummocks, though it is not clear if these are the result of cryoturbation or simply the collapse of the building's walls. A portion of the mound appears to be an open area bounded by a turf bank, possibly an enclosure. This ruin is rather well preserved.

Ruin 3 (N66 13.275 W15 36.932)
Ruin three is a cluster of apparent pits and possible fragmentary walls on a grassy terrace in a cove at the eastern end of Hjálmarvík Bay. The terrace edge drops steeply to the shore and both the terrace and the shoreline are strewn with substantial driftwood and kelp detritus. Speculatively, and if anthropogenic, the pits might be related to exploitation of driftwood for charcoal production.



Figure 13. Ruin 3 (in centre backgound, with other possible pits visible).

Ruin 4 (N66 13.372 W15 36.693)
This ruin is composed of a square flat turf shape which may represent the walls and floor of a structure. The ruin is about 5m per side and is located in at the break of slope of a shallow broad gully dipping west to the shore. Upslope from the ruin is a wide, dry and relatively flat heath which is very heavily eroded, apparently through the effects of hind on broken hummocks. A fragment of whalebone was observed on the ground surface beside the structure.



Figure 14. Ruin 4.

Ruin 5 (N66 13.429 W15 36.697) A broad, flat mound about 6m wide, ovoid in form with one straight edge defined by some rocks covered in moss



Figure 15. Ruin 5.

and grass. The mound is flat and lacks traces of walls, it clearly projects above the surrounding ground (by up to about 50cm) and supports a much more dense and rich vegetation, whereas dry Empetrum-covered humomcks dominate elswhere in the vicinity. The mound is located on a modest rise, adjacent to a sharply eroding bank descending to the shoreline.

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Gísladóttir, G.A., U. Ævarsson and J. Woollett. 2010. *Interim Report of Archaeological Fieldwork on and around the farm of Svalbarð, (Svalbarðshreppur), 2009* (Unpublished field report), Fornleifastofnun Íslands and Départment d´histoire, Université Laval, Québec, CQ Canada.

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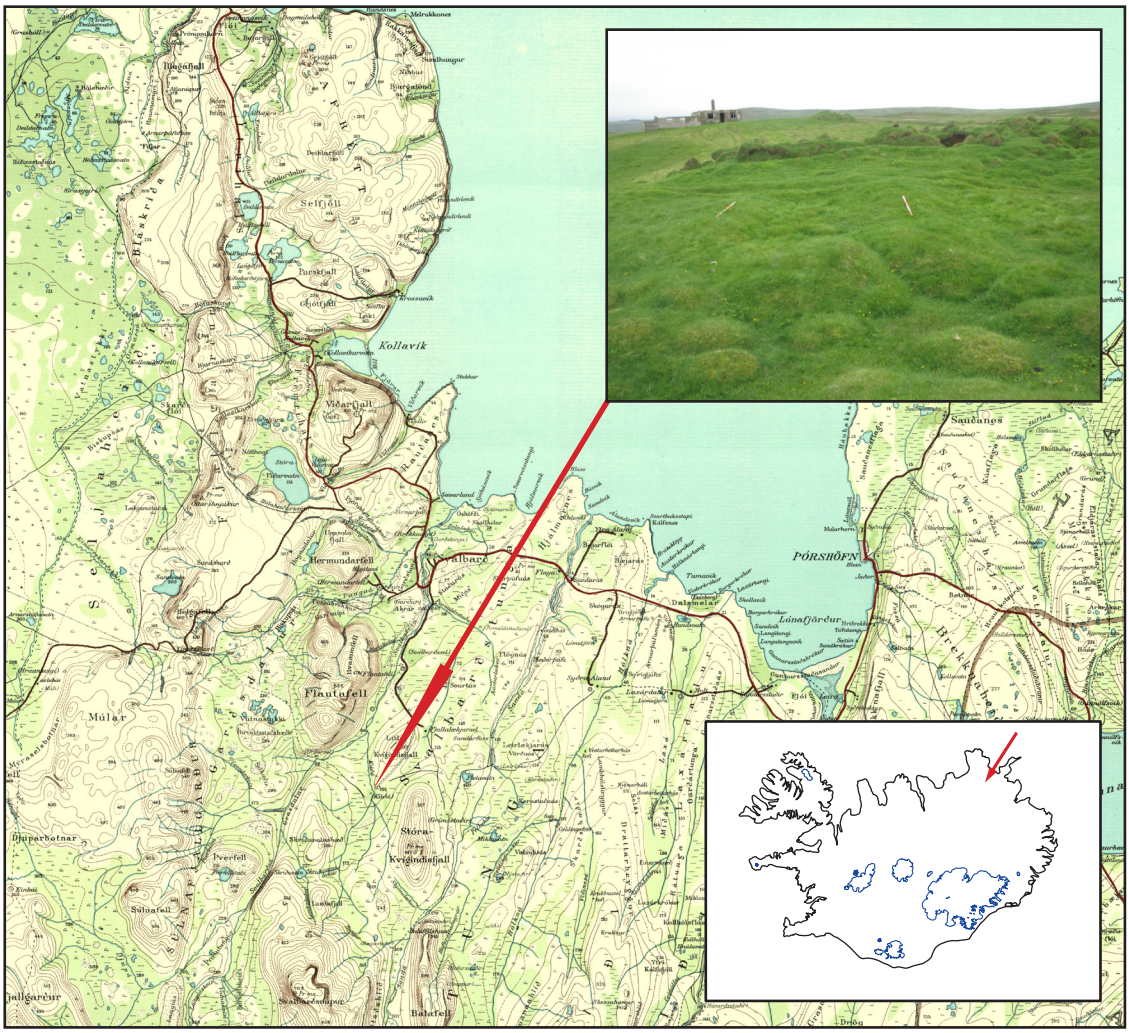
Stefán Ólafsson

Fornleifarannsókn á Kúðá / Archaeological investigation at Kúðá

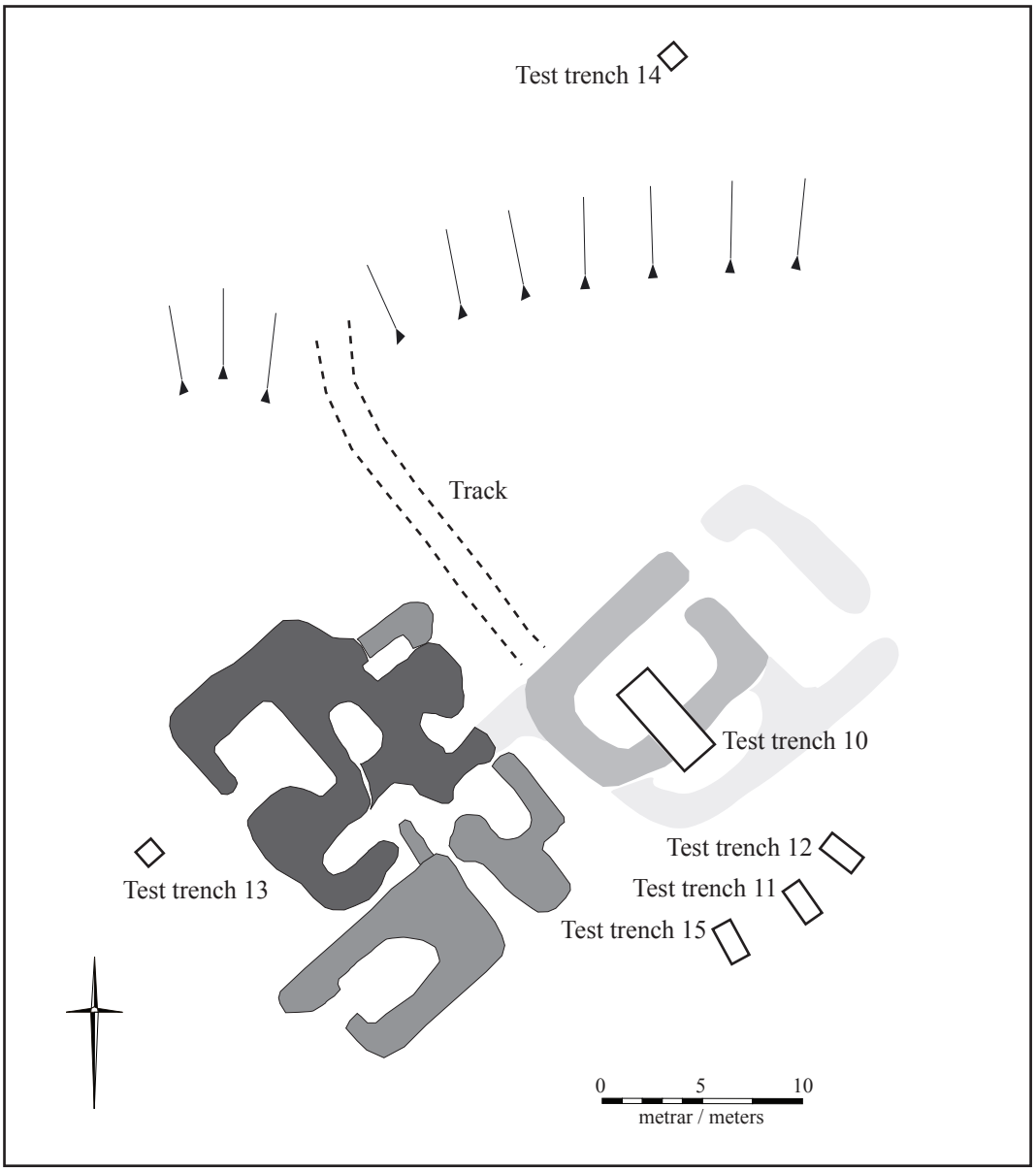
Miðsvæðis á Svalbarðstungunni er lágt en langt fell sem liggur frá norðaustri til suðvesturs og heitir Litla Kvígindsfjall. Beint suðvestur af því í rúmlega kílómeters fjarlægð, standa grónar tóftir Kúðár. Bærinn hefur að öllum líkindum dregið nafn sitt af ánni Kúðá sem rennur stuttan spöl austan við bæjartætturnar og norður að Kúðárhól þar sem hún sameinast Svalbarðsá.

Bæjartóftir Kúðár eru tæpa 10 km sunnan Svalbarðsbæjar og standa á lágu en vel grónu holti. Reyndar má finna tvö bæjarstæði á Kúðá, það yngra er alveg efst á holtinu og er þar að finna steyptar húsleifar frá 7. áratugnum en það eldra stendur neðar og nær Kúðánni á flötum bakka norðaustan megin á holtinu.

Rannsóknin á Kúðá hófst 15 júlí 2013 og að henni störfuðu Stefán Ólafsson, Astrid Daxböck auk Ugga Ævarssonar, Jónasar H. Jónassonar og Céline Dupont-Hébert.



Bæjarstæði Kúðár er u.þ.b. 10 km sunnan við Svalbarðsbæinn. The Kúðá farm is approximately 10 km south of the Svalbarð farm



Uppdrátturinn sýnir afstöðuna milli skurða 10. The map shows the position between the trenches

Í leit að öskuhaug

2010 voru tekin tæp 30 borkjarnasýni umhverfis bæjarstæðin á Kúða í þeirri von að geta fundið og staðsett öskuhauga frá ábúðinni á Kúðá. Niðurstöður borkjarnasýna sem tekin voru norðaustan við eldra bæjarstæðið þóttu einna áhugaverðust sökum þess að þar komu í ljós móöskulög og dýrabein sem eru greinilegustu ummerki öskuhaugs (Sjá kjarnabora 24 og 25 í Gísladóttir et al (2011), bls. 13). Út frá þessum niðurstöðum var ákveðið að grafa skurð árið 2013 þétt austan megin við eldra bæjarstæðið í sigin tóftarbrot. Þessi skurður verður eftirleiðis nefndur, skurður 10. Þrír aðrir skurðir voru grafnir í jaðar bæjarhólsins að sunnanverðu, sá fjórði vestan megin við skurð 10 og sá fimmti um 30m norðan við skurð 10. Þessum skurðum var gefið hlaupandi númer frá 11-15 (hér þarf að koma mynd/uppdráttur sem sýnir staðsetningu skurða). Mannvistarlögin í þessum skurðum eru skráð eftir kerfi þar sem hvert mannvistalag er eining og gefið númer. Upp á ensku kallast

þessi aðferð „single context recording“.



Í upphafi rannsóknar, búið að taka torfið af. In the beginning of the excavation. Trench 10 resently deturfed

Skurður 10

Tóftin, sem skurður 10 var grafinn í er 11x8m að stærð og snýr norðaustur og suðvestur, var skurðurinn grafinn í suðausturlangvegg hennar. Við vettvangsskoðun þótti líklegt að um fleiri en eitt byggingastig væri að ræða því meðfram suðaustur veggnum mátti sjá móta fyrir óljósri vegghleðslu sem gæti verið einhvers konar garðlag. Norðan við tóftina mátti einnig sjá aðra þúst sem einnig gæti verið veggbrot en hvorutveggja eru þessar þústir óskýrar og erfitt að greina hvort um vegghleðslu sé að ræða. Skurður 10 var til að byrja með 2m að breidd og 3,5m að lengd en þegar á leið rannsóknina þótti ástæða til að lengja skurðinn um einn og hálfan metra og varð hann á endanum 5m langur.

Tvær gjóskur fundust í skurði 10 sem hjálpa til við að tímasetja mannvistarlögin og eiga þær báðar upptök sín á Veiðivatnasvæðinu, er sú yngri frá 1477 en hin frá um 940 (sjá skýrslu Magnúsar Á. Sigurgeirssonar). V1477 gjóskan lá óhreyfð yfir syðsta hluta skurðarins en eldri gjóskan frá 940 fannst eingöngu nyrst í skurðinum á afmörkuðu svæði. Þessi skortur á gjóskum gerir það að verkum að tímaramminn á mannvistarlögunum er nokkuð breiður. Það kom nokkuð á óvart að Hekla 1300 skyldi ekki finnast í skurði 10 því hún fannst í skurði 15 sem er um 15m sunnar og einnig í skurði 14 sem er 30m norðar. Það má hugsa sér tvær ástæður fyrir því af hverju H-1300 finnst ekki í skurði 10, önnur er sú að torf hafi verið rist á staðnum um eða eftir að Heklugjóskan frá 1300 féll eða að gjóskan hafi aldrei náð að setjast almennilega og varðveitast á þessu svæði, t.d. vegna ábúðar á staðnum þegar gjóskan féll.

Umfjöllun um mannvistalög (sjá lista yfir jarðlög í viðauka II/appendix II)

Neðstu mannvistarlögin í skurði 10 [078, 077 og 076] sem voru hreyfð moldarlög með leifum af torfi í lágu beint ofan á forsögulegri Heklugjósku frá því 3000 f.Kr. Aðeins á litlum parti nyrst í skurðinum lá gjóska frá Veiðivatnagosinu frá 940 óhreyfð. Af þessu má draga þá ályktun að einhvers konar umrót eins og torfskurður eða annar mokstur sem hefur valdið því að efstu jarðlögin, ásamt 940 gjóskunni, sem hafa hulið H-3 voru fjarlægð.

Eftir þessi umsvif hefur þarna myndast öskuhaugur og þangað hent torfleifum, mó- og viðarösku en matarúrgangur (bein) fannst þar í litlum mæli. Lítið er hægt að segja til um það á hvað löngum tíma þessi mannvistarlög söfnuðust upp, sum þeirra eru þykk eða allt að 20 cm [074] en önnur mun þynnri. Milli tveggja ruslalaga [063] og [068], sem voru mjög blönduð mó- og viðarösku fannst útieldstæði [066] – [067] sem hefur að öllum líkindum bara verið notað einu sinni eða yfir mjög stuttan tíma og svo hulið með jarðvegi [sjá lag 064]. Í ruslalagi [063] sem nær yfir allan skurðinn fundust athyglisverðir gripir,



Neðstu mannvistarlögin sem lágu beint ofan á forsögulegri H3 gjóskunni voru hreyfð moldarlög með leifum af torfi í. The oldest occupation layers consisted mostly of disturbed layers with some turf debris. They were directly on top of a pre-historic tephra layer from 3000 BC called H3.

t.d. alheill snældusnúður úr klébergi (KDA13-50-40) og kljásteinn (KDA13-50-41), báðir tengdir tóvinnu, en einnig viðarleifar, e.t.v. úr innviðum byggingar (KDA13-50-39). Í öllum þessum ruslalögum [075], [074], [073], [072], [071], [070], [069], [068] og [063] fundust naglar og viðarleifar KDA13-50--035,- 036, -045, -049, -051, -052 og -053 á víð og dreif. Viðurinn hefur ekki enn verið greindur til tegundar.

Lag [63] er fremur slétt ruslalag sem e.t.v. hefur verið sléttað úr áður en mannvirki það sem veggur [055] er hluti af var reist. Öskulagið [063] þekur allan könnunarskurðinn og nær greinlega út fyrir suðurvegg [055] mannvirkisins. Eiginleg gólflög fundust ekki í þessu mannvirki og engin ummerki um lög sem höfðu safnast upp að veggnum. Sá veggur [055] mannvirkisins sem kom í ljós í skurði 10 og var rannsakaður, hafði verið hlaðnn á lágri undirstöðu [060] úr blönduðu lagi af mold og ösku. Meðfram undirstöðunni að utanverðu var einföld röð af steinum. Svipuð steinaröð fannst á Þorvaldstaðaseli en þar var hún í innanverðum veggnum (sjá: Gísladóttir et al. 2011:27, mynd. 7). Ofan á [060] var veggur [055] hlaðinn úr streng. Veggurinn nú er um 120 cm á breidd og um 50 cm á hæð. Í torfi veggjarins er gjóska úr Veiðivötnum frá um 940 en ekki aðrar. Byggingin var þakberandi og hafa stoðirnar (sjá stoðarholur [054], [053], [052] og [051]) staðið eftir miðju rými. Bilið frá ytra byrði veggs [055] að stoð er um 175 cm en bilið milli stoða um 85 cm, sjálfar stoðirnar hafa sennilega verið um 20-25cm í þvermál. Engar viðarleifar fundust í stoðarholunum. Engin ummerki eftir innréttingar fundust né gólflög, eins og áður hefur komið fram. Annaðhvort hafa þau hafi verið stungin út reglulega eða mannvirkið það stutt í notkun að ekki hafi safnast upp nein gólflög. Hafi einhver innrétting verið í húsinu, t.d. garði eða þess háttar, hefur hún væntanlega verið úr timbri

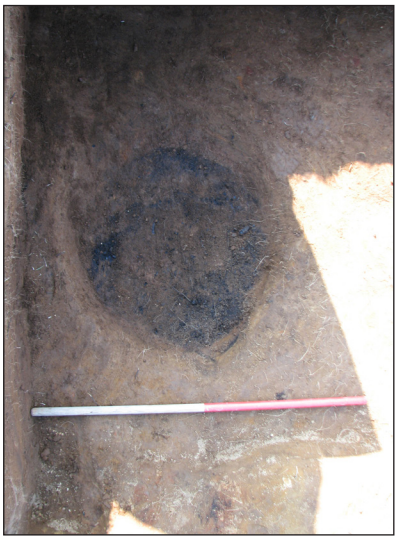


Stoðarholur fundust fyrir miðju rými. Postholes were found in the middle of the interior

og því tekin niður og fjarlægð sem og timbrið í grind hússins þegar hætt var að nota það.

Þakgerðin á mannvirki A hefur að öllum líkindum verið einásaþak sem mun vera með elstu og frumstæðustu þakgerðum á Íslandi og hefur þessi þakgerð helst fundist í útihúsum, eldhúsum og öðrum kofum sem kannski ekki mikið var lagt í (Hörður Ágústsson1998:65). Hús með sambærilegu þaki hefur verið rannsakað á Hofstöðum í Mývatnssveit og var það til að mynda notað sem salerni (Lucas 2009: 137-140, sjá mynd. 3.66).

Í skjóli, sunnan undir vegg [055] höfðu safnast saman ruslalög [048, 049 og 050] og þar hafði verið gert einfalt steinalaust eldstæði [047] – [046], sennilega aðeins notað í skamman tíma. Í lögum [049-050] fundust m.a. skífurbrýni KDA13-50-031 og hugsanlega hnífur KDA13-50-028.



Einfalt og steinlaust eldstæði í skjóli veggjar. A stoneless hearth in the shelter of the wall from the northern wind

Eftir að mannvirki A féll úr notkun virðast lítil umsvif eiga sér stað á könnunar-svæðinu. Upp að veggnum beggja vegna safnast lög aðallega torfleifar en einnig koladreif sem er vísbending um mannvist í grennd. Sjá lög [032], [035] [044], [048], [049], [050].

Áður en Veiðivatnagjóskan 1477 fellur þá hefjast framkvæmdir þarna að nýju. Veggur hlaðinn [020], að hluta til ofan á eldri vegg [055]. Upp að yngri veggnum liggur V1477 gjóskan og einnig sáust ummerki um hana í lagi [009] sem talið er að geti verið úr þaki byggingarinnar. Svo virðist sem stungið hafi verið út úr gömlu tóftinni við þessar framkvæmdir og lög [032] og [035] skorin að hluta en ofan á þessi lög og meðfram veggnum er hlaðinn bálkur [024] úr torfi, hugsanlega leifar jötu. Upp að ofangreindum lögum og bálki söfnuðust gólflög [014], [016], [017] og [018] og í þeim greinilegar heyleifar, einnig sáust ummerki þess að gólf höfðu verið stungin út, bar sérstaklega á því upp við meinta jötu. Engir gripir fundust í þessum lögum og mannvirkið að öllum líkindum skepnuhús.

Ekki fundust ummerki um stoðarholur í mannvirki B en óregluleg dreif af flötum steinum í gólflagi [016] gætu upphaflega hafa verið bornir í mannvirkið sem stoðarsteinar. Í gólflagi [018] fannst einnig flatur steinn sem gæti verið stoðarsteinn. Hann fannst undir öðrum sambærilegum stein úr lagi [016] og þar sem þeir voru hvor ofan á öðrum gæti það bent til þess að þeir hafi verið stoðarsteinar og þá mögulega á upphaflegum stað.



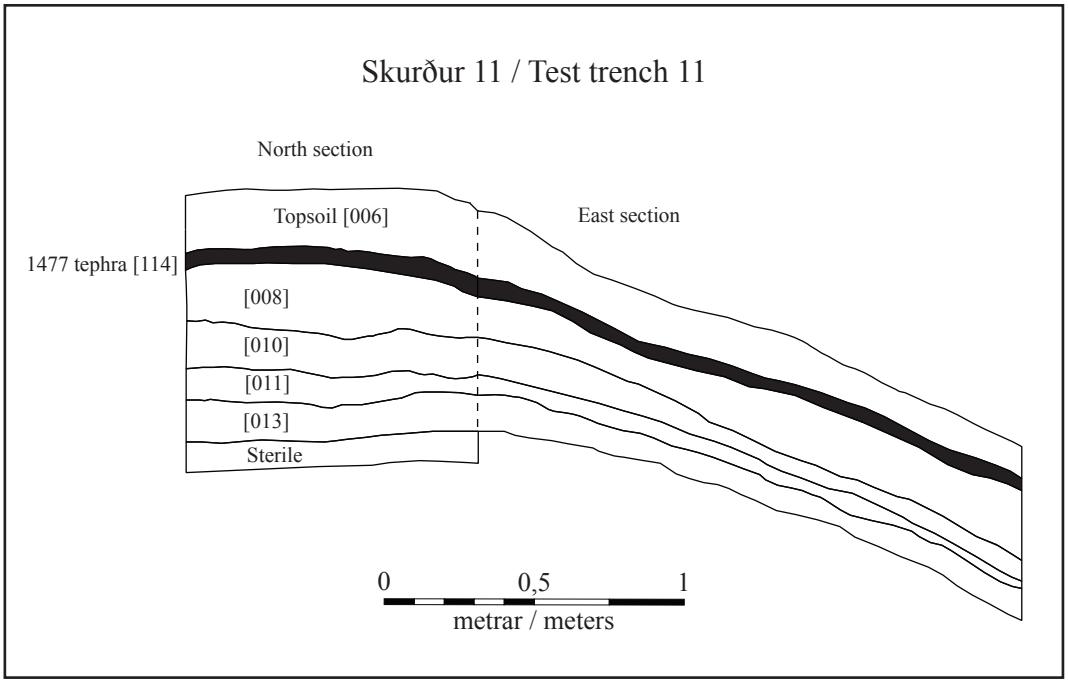
Ruslalag [012]. Midden layer [012]

Breyting verður á notkun mannvirkist B því ofan á lag [014] hleðst svolítið ruslalag 2-16 cm þykkt, aðallega úr fremur grófri móösku [012] en neðst í því eru torfleifar. Í því fundust dýrabein og nokkrir gripir, þ.á.m. flöskustútur KDA13-50-19 og leirkersbrot KDA13-50-15. Leirkersbrotin hafa verið aldursgreind til timabilsins 1790-1830 og má gera ráð fyrir því að þá hafi verið hætt að nota húsið sem skepnhús og inn í það hent ösku og rusli um tíma. Ofan á ruslalag [012] eru blönduð torflög [004] og [009] að öllum líkindum hrunlög frá því að húsið féll saman. Lag [009] gæti verið torfhrun úr þaki hússins, í því mátti greina óljós merki eftir gjósku sem er að öllum líkindum V 1477. Að þessu sögðu þá virðist flest benda til þess að mannvirki B hafi verið þakberandi og er þá helst horft til þess að í því finnst einhvers konar innrétting sem gæti verið jata en einnig ummerki eftir útstungin gólf. Gjóskan sem finnst í lagi [009] er að öllum líkindum úr torfi sem hefur verið skorið eftir 1477 þegar varið var að lagfæra og endurbyggja húsið, sem virðist hafa staðið á þessum stað um a.m.k. 3 alda skeið.

Svo virðist sem veggstæðið gamla hafi verið endurnýtt eftir að mannvirki B féll saman eftir ca. 1830. Skorið var úr lagi [004] sem safnast hafði yfir meinta jötu og gömlu veggina [055 og 020] og ný vegghlið [005 og 031] hlaðin, ef til gerði eða aðhald. Engin sérstök gólflög virtust fylgja nýja veggnum eða garðinum. Upp að honum liggja svo torfblandað lag [003] og upp að og yfir hann vindblásinn jarðvegur [002] og [001].

Skurður 11

8-10m sunnan við skurð 10 var grafinn annar prufuskurður, um 1.80 m á lengd og um 1m á breidd, honum var gefið númerið 11. Í skurðinum sem er um 80 cm á dýpt mátti finna móösku, viðarösku og kolaagnir í blönduðu lagi [008] sem er undir 1477 en þó telst það ekki uppsafnaður öskuhaugur. Það fannst ekkert af gripum í þessum skurði utan lítils leirkersbrots sem fannst í yfirborðlagi skurðarins og svo þrír gjallmolar í lagi [011] en

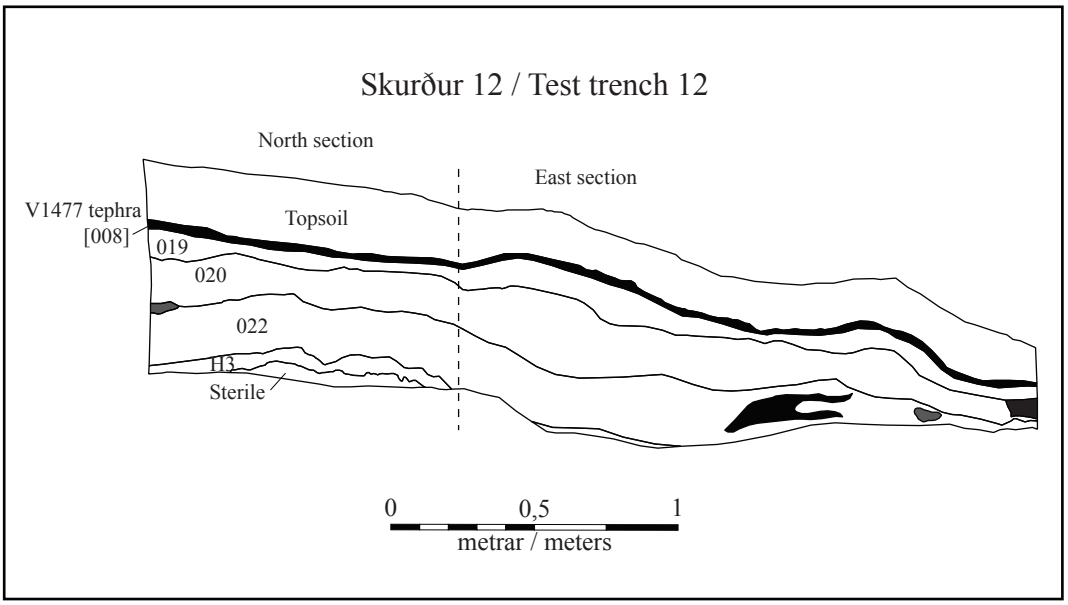


Uppdráttur af norður- og austursniði skurðar 11. Section drawing of north and east sections in trench 11

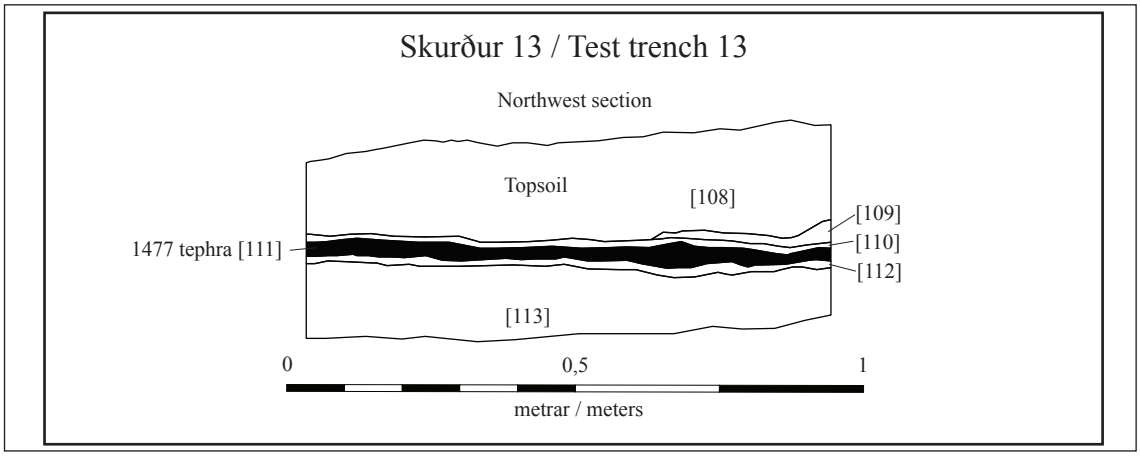
það liggur undir Veiðivatnagjósku frá 1477 sem var eina gjóskan frá sögulegum tíma sem fannst í skurðinum.

Skurður 12

Annar skurður var grafinn um 10m sunnan við skurð 10 og rúmum tveimur metrum austan við skurð 11, hann fékk númerið 12. Í skurðinum sem var 1 m á breidd, 2 m á lengd og um 75 cm á dýpt mátti finna torf, kolaagnir og móösku í lagi [021] og [022] undir 1477, en ekki í nægjanlegu magni til að það gæfi til kynna að um öskuhaug væri að ræða. Þá fannst eitt koparbrot í lagi [021] og tvö járnbrot í lagi [022] sem hvoru tveggja liggja undir Veiðivatnagjóskunni frá 1477. Engin merki mannvistar fundust yfir 1477 gjóskulaginu.



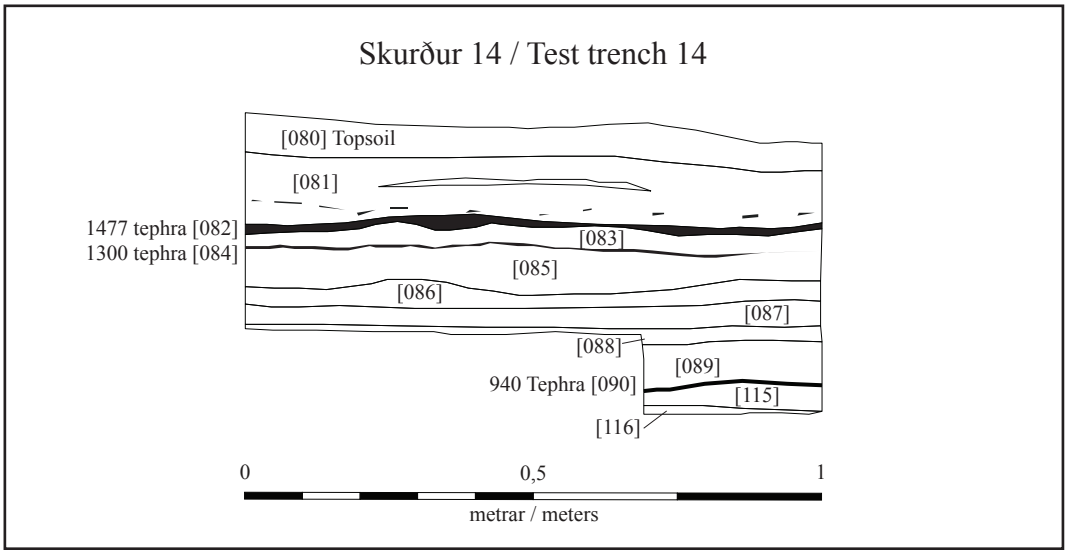
Uppdráttur af norður- og austursniði skurðar 12. Section drawing of north and east sections in trench 12



Uppdráttur af norðvestur sniði skurðar 13. Section drawing of northwest section in trench 13

Skurður 13
Skurður 13 var grafinn um 25m vestan við skurð 10 og um 35m norðvestan við skurð 12. Hann er tæpur metri á lengd og breidd og um 30 cm á dýpt. Í honum fannst ein gjóska frá 1477. Í skurðinum fannst móöskulag [109] , yngra en 1477, og í því eyrnabein úr sel.

Skurður 14
Í mýrlendri hvilft, 30 metrum norðan við skurð 10 var grafið fyrir skurði 14. Hann er um einn metri á lengd og breidd og tæpir 50 cm á dýpt. Í honum fundust þrjú gjóskulög frá sögulegum tíma, yngst var Veiðivatnagjóskan frá 1477, þá Heklugjóskan frá því um 1300

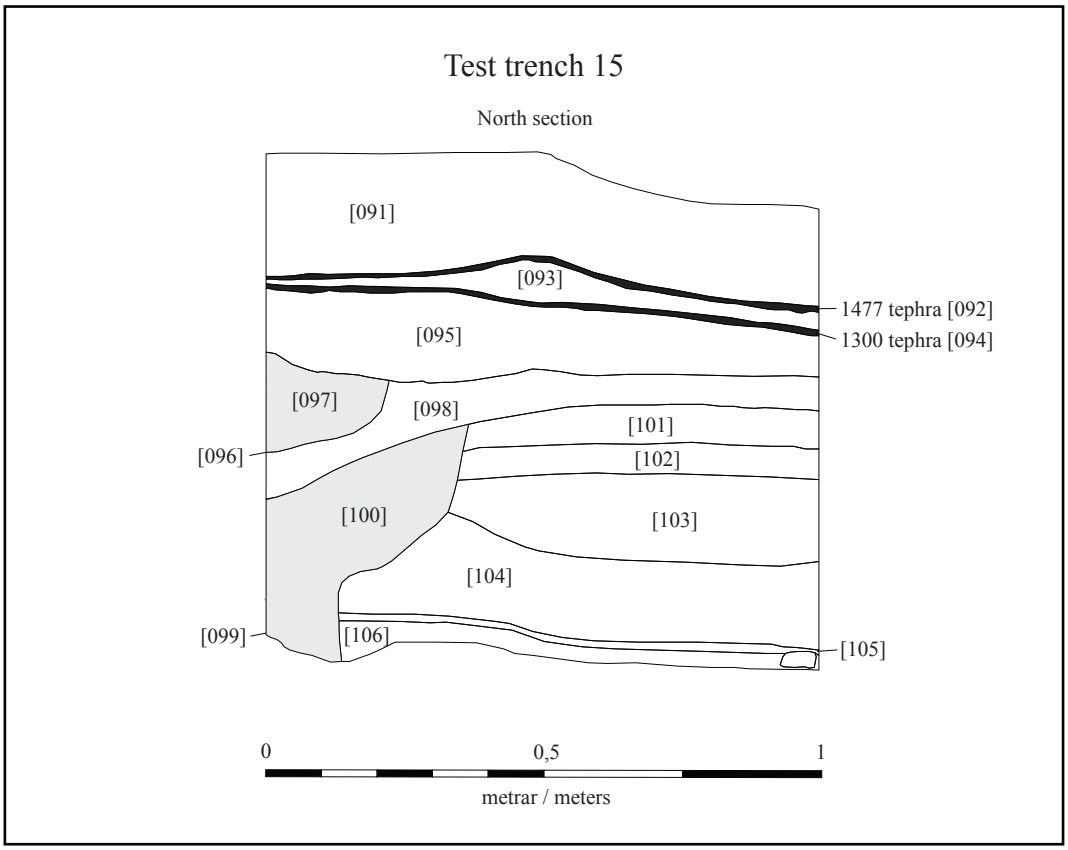


Uppdráttur af norðursniði skurðar 14. Section drawing of the north section in trench 14

og að lokum önnur gjóska frá Veiðivötnum sem fallið hefur um 940. Milli 940 og 1300 í lagi [086] fundust móaska og kolaagnir. Engin merki mannvistar milli 1300 og 1477 en viðaraska í lagi [083] sem er yngra en 1477.

Skurður 15
Í skurði 15 voru skráð tvö gjóskulög, það yngra frá Veiðivötnum 1477 [092] og það eldra frá Heklu 1300 [094], voru þau hvoru tveggja ofarlega í sniðinu og stutt á milli þeirra. Engar mannvistarleifar fundust í lagi [093] milli 1300 og 1477, né í lögum yfir 1477. Mannvistarlögin undir 1300 einkenndust af mikilli móösku og kolaögnum sem að einhverju leiti má rekja til tveggja eldstæða, [096/097] sem var ofaná eldstæði [099/100] sem sáust í sniðinu. Engir steinar virtust vera tengdir eldstæðunum. Neðst í skurðinum fannst lítill óunninn viðarbútur, enn ógreindur til tegundar.

Ábúðin á Kúðá, samanburður ritheimilda við rannsóknarskurðina
Ritaðar heimildir um ábúð á Kúðá eru mjög brotakenndar. Í Jarðabók Árna og Páls frá 1712 er getið um tvenn ábúðarskeið. Það fyrra endar 40 árum áður en Jarðabókin er tekin saman eða um 1672 árið en hið síðara tæpum tuttugu árum seinna eða um 1694-6 (Jarðabók Árna Magnússonar og Páls Vídalíns 1943, bls. 361). Upplýsingar Jarðabókarinnar um þessi ábúðaskeið er byggt á minni fólks sem bjó í nágrenni Kúðár og því er



Uppdráttur af norðursniði skurðar 15. Section drawing of the north section in trench 15

ekki hægt að taka þær alveg bókstaflega, hér er frekar um að ræða grófa tilvísun um það hvenær jörðin var í ábúð. Vel getur skeikað nokkrum árum til eða frá á þessum ártölum sem hér hafa verið dregin fram, engu að síður eru upplýsingarnar vitnisburður um ábúð á Kúðá á þessu tíma,bili. Þegar næst fréttist af búskap á Kúðá er það í ferðabók Ólavíusar sem ferðaðist um landið 1775-1777. Hann hét með réttu Ólafur Ólafsson en kallaði sig Ólavíus upp á latínu (Ólafur Ólavius 1964, bls. ix) Í ferðabók sinni getur hann þess að presturinn á Svalbarði sem þá mun hafa heitið Ólafur Jónsson (Sveinn Níelsson, 1951, bls. 316) hafði þá látið endurbyggja fimm eyðibýli og hjáleigur og þar á meðal Kúðá (Ólafur Ólavíus 1964, bls. 83).

Séra Ólafur tók við brauðinu á Svalbarði 1762 og texti Ólafs ferðamanns verður ekki skilinn öðruvísi en að þegar hann kom að Svalbarði hafi þessi uppbygging þegar átt sér stað, út frá því verður að álykta að Kúðáin hafi byggst upp einhvern tímann á því bili að sr. Ólafur kemur á staðinn og að Ólavíus kemur að heimsækja hann. Séra Ólafur hlýtur að hafa haft leigjendur til að setja niður á allar þessar hjáleigur að öðrum kosti hefði hann tæplega látið byggja þær allar upp. Ekki hefur þó ábúðin orðið langvinn því þegar prestaskipti urðu á Svalbarði 1792 virðist sem allar hjáleigur Svalbarðs séu þá í eyði komnar og má gera ráð fyrir að sama eigi við um Kúðá (Eiríkur Þormóðsson 1970, bls 56). Rétt fyrir aldamótin 1800 og fram eftir 19. öld er mannfjölgun auk þess sem manntölum fjölgar. Af þeim má lesa að jörðin er að fara í og úr ábúð nokkuð ört fyrstu áratugi 19. aldar eða allt til 1863 en þá hefst lengsta heildstæða ábúðarskeið Kúðár sem er þekkt og varir það í rétt rúma öld (Eiríkur Þormóðsson 1970, bls. 65). Kúðá fór endanlega í eyði 1966 (Land og fólk, bls. 518).

Fornleifarannsóknirnar á Kúða hafa sýnt fram á að elstu merki um mannvist eru frá því eftir 940. Við rannsóknina 2013 fundust greinileg ummerki um veru manna á staðnum milli 940 og 1300 því í jarðlögum fundust kolaagnir, viðaraska og móaska, sem og einnig tvö eldstæði. Mannvirki A sem fannst í könnunarskurði 10 hafði verið reist eftir 940 en fyrir 1477. Mannvirki B (sem reist var að hluta til á mannvirki A) var reist fyrir 1477. Upphleðsla gólflaga virðist samfelld allt þar til það fer úr notkun um 1800 (sbr. ruslalag 12). Ekki sáust merki endurbyggingar mannvirkis B í skurðinum, sem þó verður að gera ráð fyrir. Ljóst virðist að hús hefur staðið á þessum stað um aldabil og gjóskan sem er sýnileg í torfhruni [009] er að líkindum tilkomin þegar nýjar þekjur voru lagðar á húsið eftir 1477.

Umfang þeirra fornleifa sem komið hafa í ljós í rannsóknarskurðum 10-15 eru hógværar en sýna þó umsvif manna á Kúðá frá fyrri hluta 10. aldar og fram til þeirrar 20.

Stefán Ólafsson

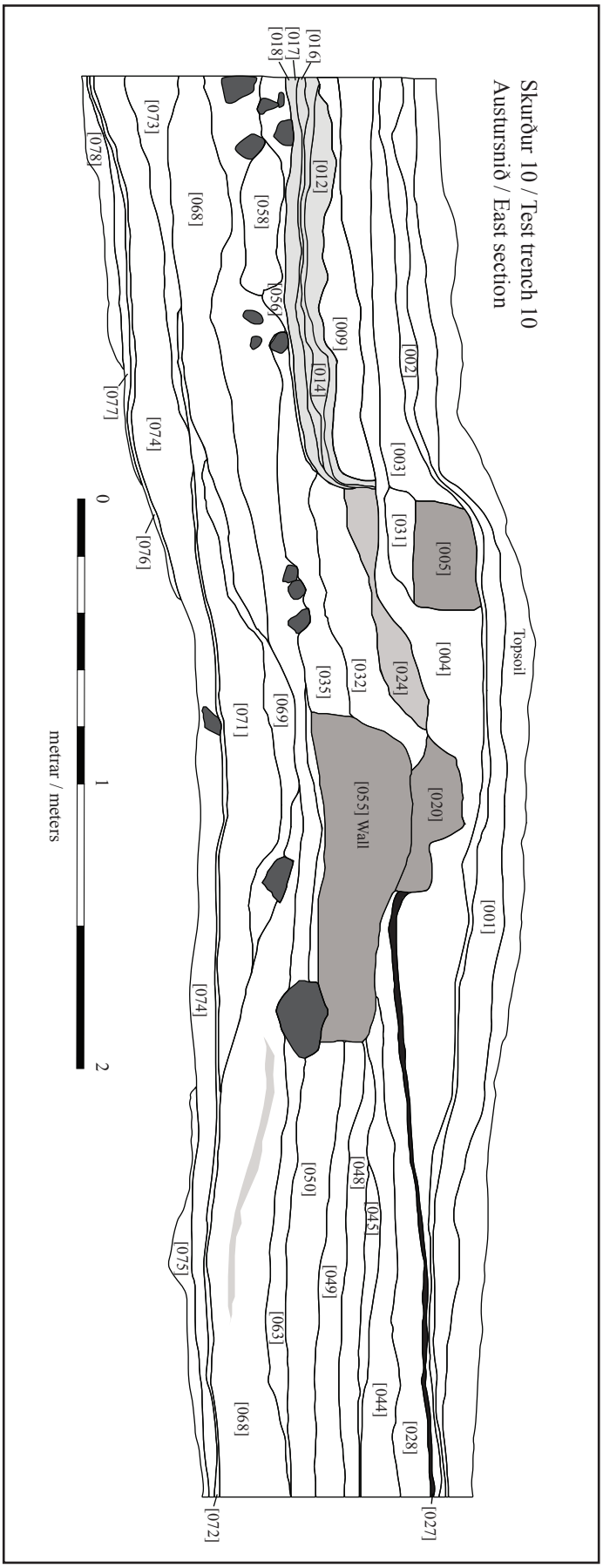
Archaeological investigations at Kúða 2014

In the middle of the Svalbarð estate is a long but low mountain, oriented southwest to northeast and is called Litla Kvígindisfjall. On a rather flat hill directly south of it, approximately one kilometer away, are ruins of few sod houses which used to be the farm, Kúðá. The farm takes it name from the river Kúðá which runs down the hill, little to the east of the farm. The river Kúðá runs to the north, west of Litla Kvígindisfjall and joins the Svalbarðsá river by Kúðárhóll. The Kúðá farm is approximately 10 km south of the Svalbarðs farm and is situated on a vegetated hill. There are two farm mounds in Kúðá, the younger is on the top of the hill while the older one stands lower, on a flatland northeast of the hill and closer to the river. On the younger farm mound is a ruin of a concrete house abandoned in 1957 but on the older farm mound stands the last generation of turf farmhouse built in Kúðá. In 2010 almost 30 soil core test were taken in the vicinity of the older farm with the aim to locate midden or midden material from the oldest occupation in Kúðá. The results from two of these core testing, taken in a small and out flattened ruin northeast of the main farm ruin, showed possible midden material under, and possibly in between, two tephra layers that were considered to be V1477 and H1300 (See core 24 and 25 in Gísladóttir et al 2011, p. 13)

The research began 17 july 2013 and the team was composed of Stefán Ólafsson and Astrid Daxböck also Jónas Haukdal Jónasson, Uggi Ævarsson and Céline Dupont-Hébert.

In search of a midden

Based on these results, mentioned here above, it was decided to excavate a trench in this small ruin, to find out more about this possible midden in the field season 2014. This trench was given the number 10, five other trenches were excavated in the vicinity of this trench, three to the south, trench 11, 12 and 15, one to the west, trench 13 and one to the north, trench 14. All occupation layers were given number according to the single context recording.



Trench 10

As mentioned above, trench 10 was excavated into a small ruin that is 11x8m in size and oriented northeast - southwest. The trench was excavated into the southeast wall. When the ruin was surveyed it was considered likely that it had several building phases because along the north side of the ruin it is possible to see unclear remains of some walls that might have been some kind of boundary or enclosure. The size of the trench was in the beginning 2m wide and 3,5m long but was extended to 5m.

Two tephra layers were found in trench 10 that help estimating the timeframe of the occupation layers excavated in the trench. Both of these tephras are from the Veiðivötn area, the earlier from ca. 940 and the later from 1477 (see Magnúsar Á. Sigurgeirssonar, report this volume). The V1477 tephra was partly in situ over the south end of the trench but the 940 tephra was only visible in a small part in the north corner of the trench. H1300 tephra from Hekla is visible in the area but it was not present in this particular trench and that makes the time frame for the archaeology rather broad. The absence of the H1300 is probably due to some activity in the area, moving of soils and turf cutting.

The oldest occupation layers that were investigated in trench 10 [078, 077 og 076] consisted mostly of disturbed layers with some turf debris. They were directly on top of a pre-historic

tephra layer from 3000 BC called H3. Only on a small part in the north corner of the trench the 940 tephra was found in situ along with few other sterile layers. Possible reasons for the absence of the tephra is activity in this area so the tephra did not survive as a layer.



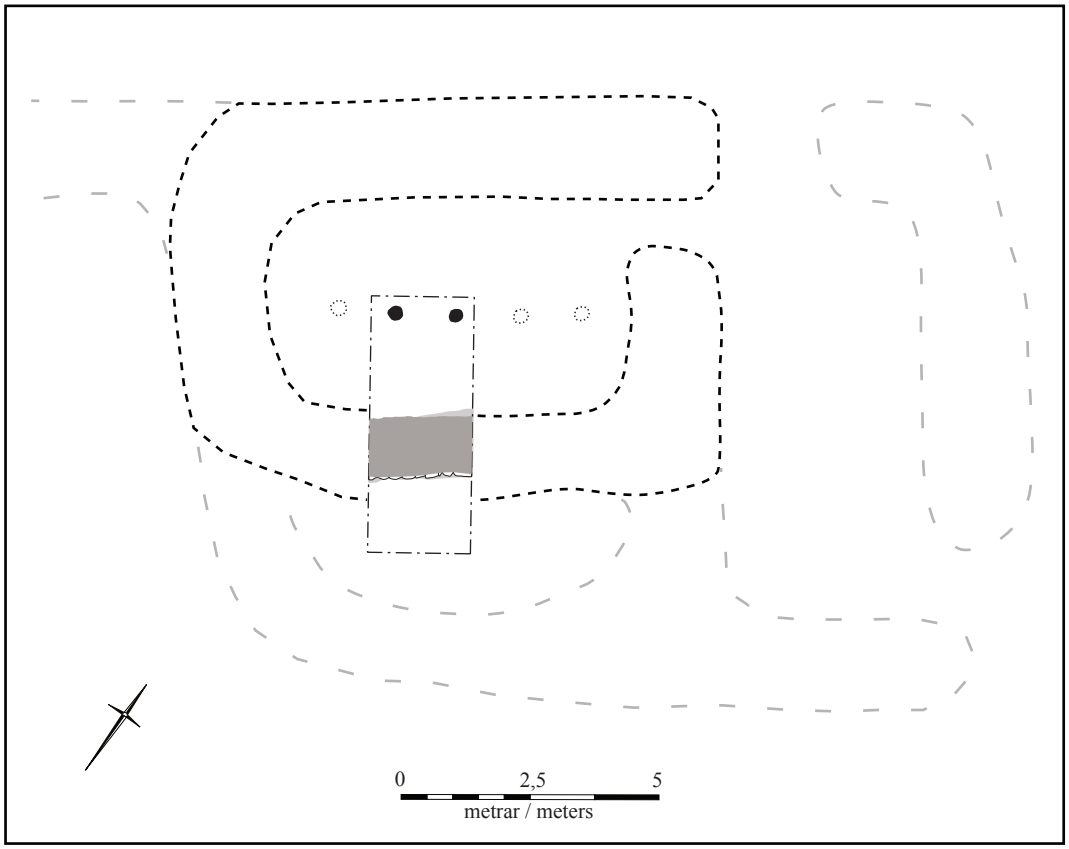
Svo til beint undir vegg [055] var eldstæði [066 - 067]. Engir steinar fundust í því og má ætla að það hafi verið frekar stutt í notkun. Almost directly under the wall [055] was the fireplace [066 - 067]. No stones were found in it, and it is assumed that it was used for a short time.

Soon after the earliest activity face had ceased a midden material of peat ash, ash, charcoal and turf debris started to accumulate, see units no: [075], [074], [073], [072], [071], [070], [069], [068] and [063], but bones (food waste) were few. It is very difficult to say anything about how long it took for these deposits to accumulate. The thickness of these layers varied, the thickest being ca. 20 cm [074] while some of the others were quite thin, only 2cm. In between units [063] and [068] a hearth [066 – 067] was found. It is somewhat likely that it had only been used once and then covered with soil [064]. The hearth was full of charcoal but no structural stones present. Scattered through the midden layers were nails and wood remains (KDA13-50-035,- 036, -045, -049, -051, -052 and -053) found suggesting that it could possibly come from house structures. The wood has not yet been analyzed. In unit [063] were some interesting finds like steatite spindle whorl (KDA13-50-40) and loom weight (KDA13-50-41), objects both connected with textile production.

Unit [063] is one of the few layers in trench 10 that covered all the research area and was fairly even as well. It might be a levelling layer, to even out the ground before a structural process started. On top of that levelling layer [063] and under turf wall [055] is layer [060], interpret as wall foundation. It was made of soil and ash and on the external face was a singular stone alignment. Similar simple stone alignment was seen in Þorvaldstaðasel, except there it was on the internal face (see:



Undirstöðulag [060] undir vegg [055]. Wall foundation [060] under wall [055]



Sé tekið mið af bilinu á milli stoðarholanna tveggja sem fundust í skurðinum má gera ráð fyrir því að um fimm stoðir hafi verið í húsinu. Taking into account the range between the two postholes found in the trench it can be assumed that five post have been in the house

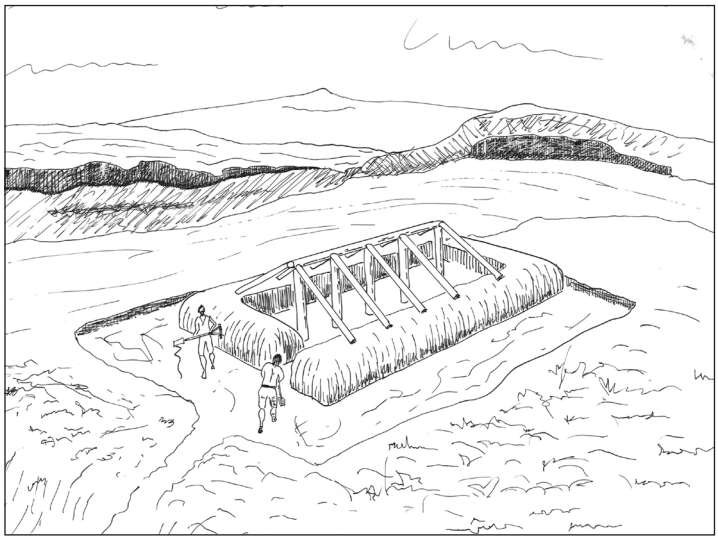
Gísladóttir et al. 2011:27, fig. 7). On the top of the foundation layer is a wall structure [055], built of strengur.

Wall [055] turned out to be 120cm wide and survived to a height of 50 cm. The only tephra visible in the turf wall is the ca. 940 tephra which suggest that the building was constructed before the 1300 tephra fell, but it also have to be considered that the turf was possibly taken from an area where the 1300 tephra did not form a layer. Two postholes [054/053], [052/051] was found inside the wall indicating that the building had a roof. According to what the trench displays, the gap between the wall [055] and the postholes is about 175 cm and 85 cm are between postholes. The posts have been about 20-25 cm in diameter and 15 to 25cm deep, but no wood remains were



Veggur [055] með einfaldri steinaröð neðst á ytra byrði. Single stone alignment on the external face of wall [055]

found in the postholes. The location of the postholes suggest that the posts were in the middle of the building but no other sign of internal structure was found inside the research area. No traces of floor layers were found in the trench suggesting that the floors were occasionally shoveled out or that the structure was used for a very short time. This type of roof are called “einásaþak” and is considered to be one of the oldest and most primitive types of roofs found in Iceland usually connected with outhouses and other modest houses (Hörður Ágústsson 1998, bls. 65). Structures with a singular row of posts are known in Icelandic context since the Viking age, and as an example of that is the latrine structure in Hofstaðir Mývatnssveit (Lucas, Gavin 2009, bls. 137-140, fig. 3.66)



Tilgátuteikning af því hvernig grindin gæti hafa litið út. Hypothesis drawing of how the structure could have looked like. By author.

South of the wall [055] and outside building A, layers of midden material, units [048, 049 and 050], accumulated and in the shelter of the wall [055] from the northern wind a simple hearth [047-046] was made. No stone were situated in the fire place and probably it was just used for a short time. In accumulation units [049-050] few finds were registered, e.g. whetstone KDA13-50-031 and a possible knife.

Layers [032], [035] [044], [048], [049] and [050] had accumulated on both sides of wall [055] suggesting that structure A had by then fallen out of use. These layers consist mainly of turf debris but there is some charcoal in them as well showing that there is an activity close by - even though these few charcoal crumbs do not indicate intense human action.

Some time before the V1477 tephra fell, a new building (structure B) was erected inside the remains of structure A and wall [020] partly built on top of the previous one [055]. Tephra V1477 lies in situ up against the wall [020] but traces were also found in layer [009] which is a turf collapse possibly from the roof. Unit [032] and [035], which are accumulation layers inside building A, seem to be partly truncated indicating that the interior of the earlier ruin



Veggur [020]. Wall [020]



Í lagi [016] voru steinar sem gætu mögulega hafa verið stoðarsteinar. In layer [016] were flat stones that possibly served as a post pads.

(building A) was partly shoveled away in order to make the new building but re-using the old walls. Inside wall [020] and alongside it was ledge [024] composed of turf, possibly remains of manger. Four floor layers [014], [016], [017] and [018] were recorded. They all showed sign of being trampled and all butted up against the ledge [024] and also up against the accumulation layer [032] and [035]. In the corner by the ledge [024] hay remains were visible in between the floor layers [014], [016], [017] and [018] showing signs that indicated that the floors were occasionally shoveled out. No artifacts were found in these units.

No sign of postholes was found in structure B but irregular distribution of flat stones in floor [016] could indicate that they were brought into the building as post pads. Underneath one of the stones in layer [016] there was another stone in floor layer [018] strongly suggesting that they were post pads in original places.

On top of floor layer [014] in structure B was a midden layer [012], mainly consisting of coarse peat-ash but in its lowest phase was some turf debris. The midden deposit was 2 - 16 cm thick and contained animal bones, e.g.. food waste, and also datable artifacts like rim of bottle KDA13-50-19 and rim of pottery KDA13-50-15 which have been dated to the period 1790-1830. That suggest that original usage of structure B as a shed of some sort, ceased probably in late 18th century and the ruin, whilst still under roof, used for rubbish dumping. On top of midden layer [012] were turf collapse layers [004] and [009], most likely from the walls and roof of building B.

In turf layer [009] vague traces of tephra was visible, probably the V1477. To sum up the details about structure B it seems probable that it was a building with roof, the strongest indicators of that is the ledge/manger? along the wall and the floors that show sign of have been shoveled out. No post holes were found but flat stones on the floors are here interpreted as post pads. The traces of V1477 tephra in turf layer [009] indicates that the turf was cut after the 1477 tephra fell.

It seems that originally structure B was erected before 1477 and probably rebuilt several times. 1477 tephra is found in a turf collapse from roof and walls which seals midden [12] - and the midden contains artifacts that are dated to the ca. 1800. Turf structures can be in use for a very long time with maintenance, e.g. turf walls in Vatnsfjörður in Ísafjarðardjúp were erected before 1693 and were in use until the early 20th century (Oddgeir Isaksen 2011, p. 61-62).

Some time around 1800 when structure B had been abandoned and layers of windblown turf [024 and 025] had accumulated over it, the last activity phase, recorded in trench 10, began. A groove for new and small wall [005] was cut out of turf debris

layer [004], mainly to make the wall side more steep. The purpose of this wall is not clear but could be some kind of an enclosure as no floor layers or any kind of internal features were found in connection to this wall. Up against the wall is a turf debris layer [003] and two layers of windblown material [002] and [001] over it.



Skurður 11./ Trench 11

Trench 11

Trench 11 is situated 8 - 10 m south of trench 10. The trench is 1.80m long, 1m in width and 80 cm in depth. Only V1477 was found in the trench and there underneath mixed layer [008] which contains was peat-ash, ash and charcoal fragments indicating activity very close by. No proper accumulated midden material was located in the trench. Just a small fragment of recent ceramic was found in the topsoil but underneath tephra V1477 three pieces of slag was found in layer [011].



Skurður 12./ Trench 12

Trench 12

Trench 12 is situated ca. 10m south of trench 10 and two meters east of trench 11. The trench is 1m in width, 2m long and 75cm in depth. The V1477 tephra was the only historical tephra found in the trench and underneath it, in layers [021-022] was turf debris, peat-ash and charcoal fragments found. One unidentified fragment of copper KDA13-50-021 was found in layer [019] and two pieces of iron KDA13-50-022 in layer [021] underneath the tephra. No signs of human activity was found over the tephra V1477.

Trench 13

Trench 13 was located ca. 25 m west of trench 10 and about 35 m northwest of trench 12. It was almost one meter in length and width and 30 cm in depth. Only one historical tephra was visible, the V1477 tephra from the Veiðivötn area. Above the tephra was peat-ash layer [109], within which was a seal auditory bulla.

James Woollett

Trench 14 Kúðá North Gully Sondage (*see section drawing of trench 14 on page 33*)



Skurður 13./ Trench 13

Soil core coring conducted by Woollett in 2010 noted the presence of traces of charcoal in boggy gullies around the Kúðá farm ruins. One such gully is located immediately north of the northeasternmost outbuilding of the farm complex. Other soil core tests and a pair of sondages on the riverbank made in 2010 and 2011 (Gísladóttir et al. 2011, 2012, 2013) revealed the presence of quantities of fuel waste containing apparent slag, charcoal, iron and clinker fragments, suggesting that the adjacent building might possibly have been associated with metal working activities during the most recent occupation of the farm. While fuel wastes were clearly dumped on the river bank to the east of this building, other occasional dump or stray traces of such materials, transported by wind or water, might conceivably accumulate in the adjacent gully and provide an indirect stratigraphic clue to the occupational history of the site.

Soil core tests were undertaken in 2010 and 2011 with this goal in mind, finding only trace quantities of charcoal although these were noted beneath an evident, coarse, dark grey tephra which was interpreted as the V1477 tephra. N. Roy collected a soil monolith from the location in 2011 to define vegetation changes around the homefield during the farm's occupation. During her analyses she noted a substantial layer containing traces of red peat ash with fine charcoal fragments as well as the tephra, an apparent midden deposit in the peat accumulated in the gully. N. Roy and J. Woollett returned to the location in 2013 to excavate a larger test pit and examine the stratigraphy of the location in greater detail.

The 2013 test was a 1m by 50cm trench excavated by shovel until the V1477 tephra was observed and by trowel afterwards, to a depth of approx. 40cm below surface through layers of various qualities of peat. A portion of the eastern end of the trench was excavated another 10cm in depth in the attempt to identify a clear prehistoric substrate. The trench was excavated following FSI conventions, though no sediment was sieved. No artifact finds were observed and only tiny traces of calcined bone were observed in terms of ecofacts.

Except for the current vegetated layer (grasses and moss) and top soil (about 8cm thick), the soil column is composed entirely of layers of sandy to silty peat, most of which are massive, very firm and composed of well-decayed organic matter. Occasional fragments of birch twigs were observed throughout. Darker grey-green to reddish grey-brown silty peat was present to a depth of about 35cm. Within this group of layers was a thick and easily discerned layer of V1477 tephra overlying a thin and discontinuous layer of paler and finer grey tephra believed to be the H1300 tephra. Both the tephra layers are



Norðursnið skurðar 14 / The north section of trench 14

distorted, with contacts undulating within an amplitude of 1 to 2cm; cryoturbation would seem to be origin of this deformation and therefor indicating prolonged freezing after AD1477.

Also within this upper group of peat horizons were two midden deposits. The upper most overlies the v1477 tephra by about 10cm and is a lens composed of dark grey organic silt mixed with fine grey ash. This lens has diffuse contacts and is not associated with obvious large charcoal fragment or finds. The lower deposit is a more massive, laminated layer of red-grey brown peat ash streaked with fine charcoal, calcined bone and grey ash with a matrix of red-brown peat. This layer extends throughout the test pit and measures between about five to ten cm thick. It appears to represent at least two multiple events of deposition of fuel wastes into the gully. The ash deposits have sharp contacts and are thick and uniform enough (not penetrated by peat or windblown sediment) that it seems likely that deliberate dumping of midden materials took place, or at least natural transport of these sediments from a source very close by, rather than incipient, gradual transport by natural agents (wind or water) from a more distant source).

The third and lowest group of soils observed in the test pit comprises a series of pale grey to pale gold-brown silty peat horizons with very well decomposed organic matter and widespread mottling with iron stains. A thin lenticular grey tephra deposit opserved within a peat ash layer (context 88) was identified in the field as 940 tephra by M. Sigurgeirsson (see this volume). While the water table of the gully (as it lay in July 2013) was not reached during the excavation of the test pit, the iron stained peat suggests that it has frequently reached the level of the lower peat ash deposit. No charcoal, ash or other obvious macroscopic traces of human activity were observed in the test pit. A lens uniform coarse grey silt was found at the bottom of the section at about 50cm bs; this layer appears to be a tephra and is provisionally identified as the Hekla 3 tephra.

In summary, the test pit suggests that fuel wastes were deposited into the gully in two major discrete events. The first event post-dates AD 940 and appears to predate the

H1300 ash fall (and certainly the V1477 ash fall, which is very clearly in evidence) by an indefinite period. A single preliminary AMS radiocarbon date drawn from a fragment of charcoal associated with this midden deposit produced a date of 995 +/- 30 BP which, calibrated with Calib 6.0, yields a date of 919 cal yr BP. It is necessary to note that we are not able to this time to confirm the species nor whether the specimen represents a fragment of exterior or heart wood. Given that birch can live for over 100 years and that driftwood is widely used in the region, it is quite possible that the sample dated is in fact a portion of a tree that is older than the actual archaeological deposit by 100 or more years. The 919 BP calibrated date appears more or less consistent with its stratigraphic position overtop of the 940 tephra once the potential for its bias is taken into account.



Skurður 15./ Trench 15

The more recent event second post-dates 1477 and it would seem, the most recent occupation of the farm. The episodic nature of deposition may suggest that the north end of the Kúðá farm complex saw little activity for extended periods of time, especially after 1477. A more detailed analysis, conducted by Natasha Roy of the soil monolith extracted from the bog in 2011 is currently underway. In addition to the confirmation of wood species represented by the charcoal, this analysis will provide a characterization of vegetation and drainage changes affecting the immediate vicinity of the Kúðá farm stead.

Trench 15

Trench 15 is the sixth trench excavated in this area. It is located 8-10 m south of trench 10 and ca. 3 m west of trench 11. Two historical tephras were found in the trench, the later is the V1477 tephra from Veiðivötn area and the earlier is H1300. Both of these tephra layers were rather close together in the upper part of the tench section. No human activity was found in the layers above or in between the two tephra but under the 1300 tephra were lot of peat ash and charcoal flakes which are mostly due to two stoneless hearths visible in the section. At the bottom of the section was small piece of unworked wood which has not been analyzed yet.

The Kúðá farm

The first mention of Kúðá in written sources is in the 1712 land register as Kúðársel and is then described as a hjáleiga belonging to Svalbarð. It had then been more or less deserted since 1672, except for two years between 1694-1696 (Jarðabók Árna Magnússonar og Páls Vídalíns 1943, bls. 361). In 1775-1777 Ólafur Olavius travelled around Iceland and Kúðá is mentioned in his account. Ólafur documents that the priest in Svalbarð had renovated all his dependent farms, Kúðá included (Ólafur Olavíus 1965, bls. 83). This particular priest came to Svalbarð in 1762 (Sveinn Níelsson, 1951, bls. 316), so Kúðá was occuppied sometime between 1762 and 1775. Interestingly in 1792, when a new priest moved to Svalbarð, all of Svalbarð´s dependent farms were reported as deserted and we assume that Kúðá was among them (Eiríkur Þormóðsson 1970, bls 56). This is the abandonment coincides with the Laki eruption in late 18th century, which effects were profound. Svalbarðshreppur was greatly affected by the Laki eruption (Móðuharðindin 1783-1784) and the environmental degradation afterwards. For example in 1769 124 persons lived in Svalbarðshreppur, but only 35 residents were recorded in 1785. Brekknakot, Flaga, Hjálmarvík, Kúðarsel (Kúðá) and Svalbarðssel were all abandoned at this time, five farms among a total of eleven abandoned farms in Svalbarðshreppur (Gísladóttir et al. 2013, p. 79; Eiríkur Þormóðsson 1972, 113-114). The occupation of the farm was sporadic in the 18th and early 19th century and it is not until 1866 that the farm became continuously occupied (Eiríkur Þormóðsson 1970, p. 65) until 1966 (Land og fólk 1985, p. 518)).

The archaeological research in Kúðá has shown that the oldest evidence of human activity has begun after ca. 940 but before 1300. Structure A in trench 10 was erected after ca. 940 but before 1477 and structure B which was built on top of structure A, also before 1477. Floor layers in structure B seems to have been continuous from the time it was built until it fell out of use around 1800 (cf. midden layer [012]). There were no visible sign of rebuilding of structure B in the trench but that must be assumed. The archaeological remains found in trench 10 show that structure has been at that place for centuries. The traces of 1477 tephra found in layer [009] is from turf, cut after 1477 and probably used when the roof was repaired or replaced.

Midden deposits observed in 2013 as well as those examined in previous field seasons confirm an initial occupation sometime between 940 and 1300 and lasting until sometime before 1477. They also imply that the farm saw little or no subsequent occupation until 18th to 20th centuries.

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James Woollett

Archaeological investigations at Svalbarð: Midden Trench 008/009

Between July 22 and Aug, 1, a new trench was excavated in the midden deposit of the Svalbarð central farm, immediately downslope (north-northeast) of square F19 of the "Old Unit" excavation conducted in 1986-88 by the Iceland Paleoeconomy Project (Amorosi 1992). The IPP excavation exploited a examined a large portion of the centre and eastern edge of a very substantial midden located north of the Svalbarð church yard, just north of the present fence line delimiting the homefield. The midden overlies the break of slope of the Svalbarðsá riverbank and comprises a long series of peat ash, refuse, wind blown organic silt/turf collapse and natural soil layers representing over 2m of accumulation at its deepest.

The midden accumulation spans the mid-11th century to the 19th century AD (Amorosi 1992; Gísladóttir et al. 2013). A pair of volcanic tephra deposits associated with an intervening wind-blown organic silt deposit provide a clear and universal stratigraphic separeation of the midden into upper and lower groups. While these tephras were initially and tentatively identified as representing 1636 and 1717 eruptions (Amorosi 1992), new geochemical analyses of these tephras (Gísladóttir et al. 2013) resulted in the attribution of new dates. They are now identified as the H1300 and V1477 tephras, which are widespread in the Svalbarðstunga region, and so provide very useful stratigraphic markers delimiting the Settlement and Medieval periods from the Late Medieval and Post medieval deposits.

The 1988 excavations were well placed to exploit the areas of deepest accumulation of the pre-1477 midden deposit, which take the from of a refuse pile established where the flat ground of the farm's homefield meets the river bank. The bulk of the volume of the post 1477 deposits is however located on the slope itself, just a little to the north, and hence these deposits appear to have largely escaped sampling by the 1988 midden excavations. The 2013 trench was undertaken in order to explore the potential for an expanded excavation of the post-modern deposits on the Svabarðsá river bank. Such a project would provide a greatly expanded sample of faunal remains linked to natural stratigraphy and would greatly aid the resolution of subsistence and landscape changes affecting the central farm after the 15th century.

The 2013 trench was a 2.5 by 1m sondage extending from the top of the present bank to the middle of the bank. The Group 008 trench was oriented to follow as closely as possible the orientation of the 1988 excavation grid. It, in effect, extends the published Old Unit F19-G19 section, (Amorosi 1991: Figure 3) 2.5m to the north, and downslope. It was anticipated that, within the span of the trench, the original downslope edge of the unit (which is cut, eroded and re-buried where it is visible in the 1988 Extension unit) would be exposed, thus delimiting the northward extent of intact midden deposits that could be reasonably excavated. The Group 008 trench was originally 2m in length. A 0.5m extension was subsequently added to the northern end of the trench and labeled Group 9. Once Group 9 was excavated to a depth of about 60cm and in the same stratigraphic context as Group 8, it was incorporated into the Group 008 trench. The trench was excavated following FSI protocols using single context documentation, with the use of trowels except for the removal of turf, and with a 100% dry sieving programme employing suspended sieves mounted with a 6mm mesh.

A summary of stratigraphic contexts identified during the course of the excavation

is presented in Table 1 and in section drawings in Figure 1 and in Table 1 of the Appendices.

The excavation was continued through eighteen major contexts defined through widespread and visually consistent differences in colour, texture and inclusions. Small lenses and subtle differences that could be usefully distinguished in the context of an extensive and slower excavation were grouped within these robust and generalized categories. Section drawings and photographs of the excavation are presented in Figures 1 to 4. About 1.5 m of sediment was excavated in the south (uphill) end of the trench while about 1.1m of sediment was excavated in the north.

The trench stratigraphy consisted of a series of thick organic silt/turfy soil layers alternating with grey wood ash and pinkish pet ash layers. The organic silt/turfy soil layers all showed signs of disturbance through slumping of the riverbank surface, through aeolian and fluvial erosion and re-deposition and by trampling, especially by livestock that contour along the riverbank while grazing. Some organic silt/turfy soil layers include

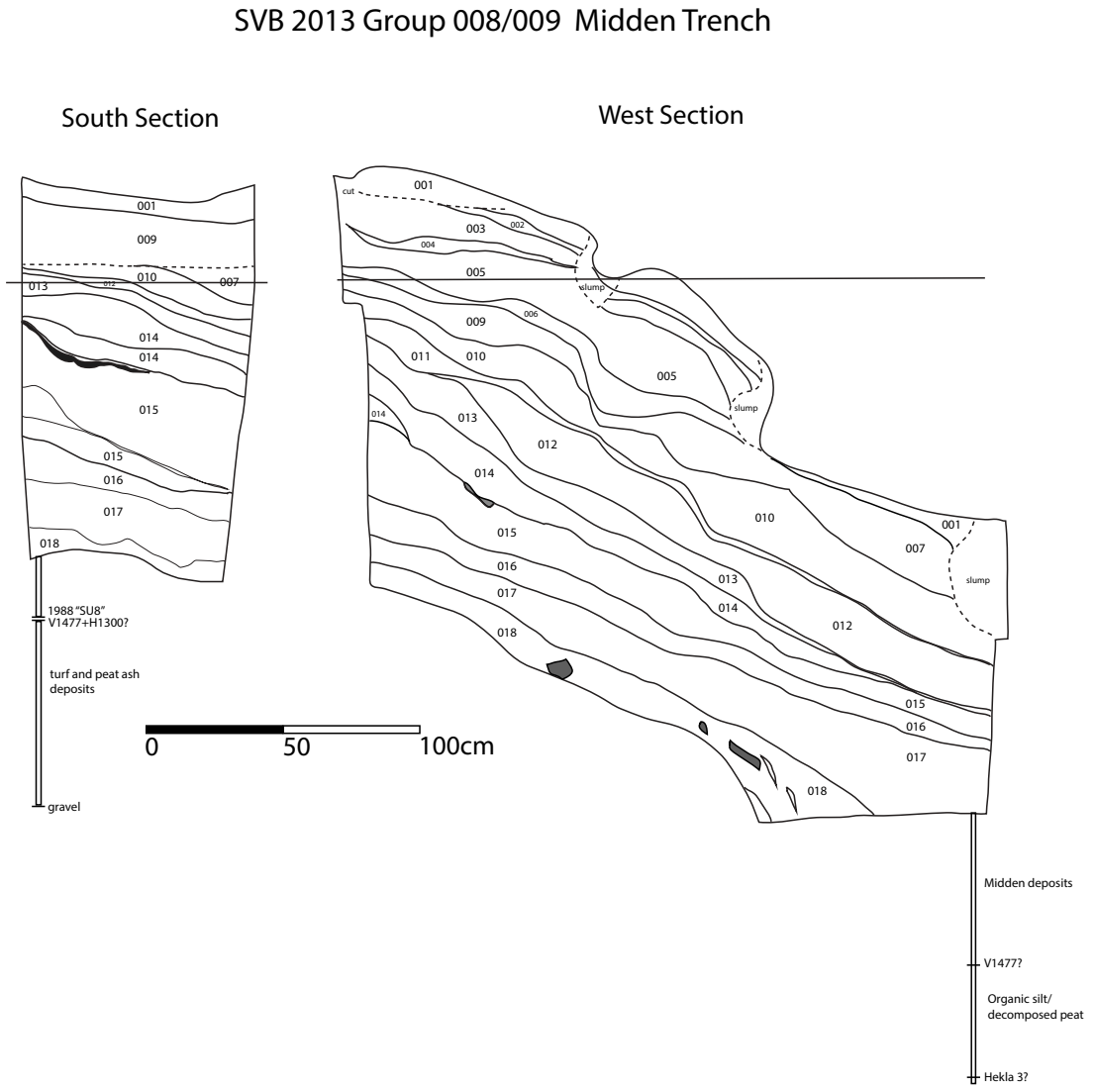


Figure 1. SVB 13 Group 08/09 South and West Sections



Figure 2. SVB 13 Group 08 South Section

re-deposited turf rubble inclusions; these could be local soils disturbed by slumping or, more likely, rubble re-deposited from demolished structures uphill. The ashy silts are all anthropogenic deposits consisting of a mix of fuel wastes, miscellaneous refuse including animal bone and shell, turf rubble inclusions, small rock and some artifacts.

The stratigraphy of the post-medieval midden as defined by its re-examination in 2008 (Woollett and Aevarsson 2008, Gísladóttir et al. 2013) is marked by alternating brown "turfy" and grey heterogeneous grey ashy deposits (massive and thick near the V1477 tephra, thinning toward the modern ground surface) which generally dip to the northwest; their orientation suggests a principal point of deposition to the southeast (in the vicinity of the F19 excavation square) and a lateral spread of these deposits and the exposed ground surface to the west and north. The dip to the west is gradual while that to the north, towards the river is very steep, if not vertical (erosion without accumulation) in some areas. The Group 008/009 trench stratigraphy supports this conclusion as all excavated contexts dipped markedly to the west and especially rapidly to the north as well. The dipping bedding angles greatly complicated excavation of the trench as the excavated floor literally dives beneath the excavator's feet and older deposits are extremely deeply buried.

Due to the depth of deposit and the steep bedding angle, the excavation was discontinued before the V1477 tephra or the SU8 charcoal layer identified in the 1988 IPP excavations was actually observed. Isolated patches of these tephras were in fact observed within isolated and disorganized turf blocks in three contexts, with bedding planes tilted in random directions (see figure 5). These were interpreted as the rubble of demolished turf structures or disaggregated turf deposited well after 1477, not as in situ soils. The excavated materials in 2013 therefor should all pertain to the post-Medieval period.

The visual and textural characteristics of the 2013 stratigraphy reflect descriptions of the upper stratigraphic layers of the midden as described in 1988. The 2013 trench shows that the bedding planes of midden deposits dip consistently and sharply to the north, toward the river, throught the entire breadth of the midden



Figure 3. SVB 13 Group 08/09 West Section

deposit. While there are zones (especially in the deposits closest to the modern surface) where slumping has created limited cuts and disturbances in the stratigraphy, there is no preexisting vertical section that cross-cuts a substantial portion of the midden in this area. On the basis of this observation, it would appear likely that the Central Erosion Face excavation of 1988 (several metres to the west of the 2013 trench), which was conducted on a long vertical axis, did not penetrate deeply into the midden stratigraphy (see Amorosi 1992, Woollett and Ævarsson 2008). Rather, it probably cut into steeply-dipping post-medieval deposits such as those seen in the present excavation.



Figure 4. SVB 13 Group 08/09 East Section

At the end of excavation, two soil core tests were made to determine the extent of deposits remaining. One soil core in the southeastern corner (uphill end) of trench penetrated another 95cm of midden deposits (comprising brown loose organic silt and peat ash deposits) before finally arriving on a sterile, dense gravel substrate. The V1477 and H1300 tephras were observed in the core at a depth of 22 to 26 cm below the finishing levels of the south end Group 008. These tephras lie over and under, respectively, a dense, thin, black charcoal layer which appears to be the SU8 charcoal layer described in the 1988 excavation (Amorosi 1992). It is worthy to note here that the depths of these layers and of the sterile substrate in Group 008 correspond to the depths of the same layers in the east section of square F19 excavated in 1986-88 (Amorosi 1992).

A second core was placed in the northwestern-most corner of the trench. This core demonstrated midden deposits continuing about another 53cm below the finishing level of the trench, a transition to dense brown organic silts at 53 cm, an apparent trace of the V1477 tephra at 59cm, and the Hekla 3 tephra at 98cm. Judging form these observations, there are about 1.5m of accumulation of midden deposits on the river bank slope itself at the north end of the trench, of which all or almost all appear to be post-medieval in date. No clear trace of midden deposits underneath the putative V1477 were observed.



Figure 5 SVB 13 Group 08 Context 18: Disaggregated turf blocks with tephra lenses

On the basis of this trench and cores, there is therefor, approximately 2.3m of total midden accumula-

tion on the upper bank of the Svalbarðsá river, of which about 1.5m was deposited after 1477. The deposit extends at least 10m E-W along a front north of the 1988 excavation area. By rough estimation, a volume of more than 40m3 of unexcavated midden deposit is still present on the bank.

The trench was backfilled after section drawings were completed and turf was replaced to consolidate the area,



Figure 6. SVB13 Group 08 Soil Core Test made below finishing levels, Southwest corner

SVB 13 Group 008/009 Finds

A useful sample of artifacts was recovered in the Group 008/009 excavation. Most numerous among these were iron objects, including nails and fragments of unidentified or unidentifiable iron objects. Other iron objects included a possible fragmentary knife blade. Copper and copper alloy objects, including fragments of folded and trimmed sheet, a thimble and a possible pot fragment were recovered. Copper/copper alloy objects were somewhat more common relative to iron objects in the deeper stratigraphic contexts.

Vessels were represented mostly by a limited number of red/grey-brown earthenware, white earthware and stoneware sherds. Industrial white earthenwares were uncommon and limited to the upper parts of the midden, while stonewares were quite rare. The majority of specimens were red and grey-brown earthenwares. Most ceramics were nondescript body sherds, one exceptional fragment was a nearly complete red earthenware tripod leg from a tripod pot recovered near the bottom of the excavated midden. Glass, both vessel sherds and flat glass, was relatively sparsely represented. Finally, a small number of clay pipe fragments are recovered and these were distributed through the excavated area, down to context 18. Other artifacts recovered include fragments of schist whetstone.

While the artifact assemblage recovered in 2013 lacks, on the basis of field observations, absolutely clear diagnostic objects, the assemblage clearly supports a post medieval date for the entire excavated portion of the midden. These objects appear to date between the 17th and 19th centuries, a time span that is consistent with in-field interpretations of stratigraphy and the previous dating of upper units of the midden excavated in 1988 (Amorosi 1991).

The trench provided a plentiful assemblage of ecofacts, including 54 bags of animal bone and spot samples of plant macrofossils, charcoal samples and mollusk shell collected with soil matrix. Context 17 was the most productive source of these samples.

SVB 13 Group 10 Re-examination of the 1988 Extension and Main unit of the Svalbarð Midden

Some of the backfilled sediment within the Main and Extension units of the Svalbarð Midden was removed by shovel in order to re-expose sections for examination of tephras and sediment sampling. These areas included a 2m long section of the southwest corner of the Main unit (squares I20, I21) and a 2m portion of the northern section of the Extension unit (squares F16, F17). Samples of sediment were collected from these sections for identification of tephras and for optically stimulated luminescence (OSL) dating trials. Seven soil samples were collected with the use of Kubeina boxes from squares F6 and F17. This trenches were backfilled after completion of this work and aside from the recovery of sediment samples, only backfilled spoil was disturbed.

James Woollett and Paul Adderley

Svalbarð Homefield: Pedological survey

A series of four small trenches about 1m x 1m in size were excavated by Paul Adderley in Svalbarð's homefield, near the edge of the Svalbarðsá riverbank in order to provide a pedological survey of the homefield. These pits were arranged about 15 to 25m apart on a loose transect running parallel to the modern wire fence line at the northern edge of the homefield, about 5-10m from the fence (see figure 7). A rapid soil core test was undertaken in each location prior to excavation to determine soil depth and ascertain if structures might be present. These pits were excavated by shovel and trowel, no features or artifacts were observed and no sediment was sieved.

The trenches were excavated to depths were clearly non-altered prehistoric soils or sediments were present. These soils were marked notably by the presence of coherent layers of the Hekla 3 tephra which was observed between 75 cm and about 130 cm in these trenches. The V1477 and Hekla 1300 tephras were also noted in the sections. The soil column of each trench was photographed and drawn and two soil samples were extracted from one pit with the use of Kubeina soil sampling boxes. Analyses of these samples by Paul Adderley are currently underway at the University of Stirling (Scotland). Observations made in the field indicate that the soils comprising the homefield are very much anthropogenic as traces of human disturbance and soil amendments were observed throughout the soil columns of these trenches, with only relatively thin "natural" soil layers present overlying the Hekla 3 tephra. Soil amendments observed include calcined bone and traces of charcoal and thin, streaked-out laminae of peat ash while disturbances include the possible presence of shovel marks and displaced soil blocks.



Figure 7 : Soil pits in the Svalbard homefield with the Svalbarð midden at upper left. Camera facing east.

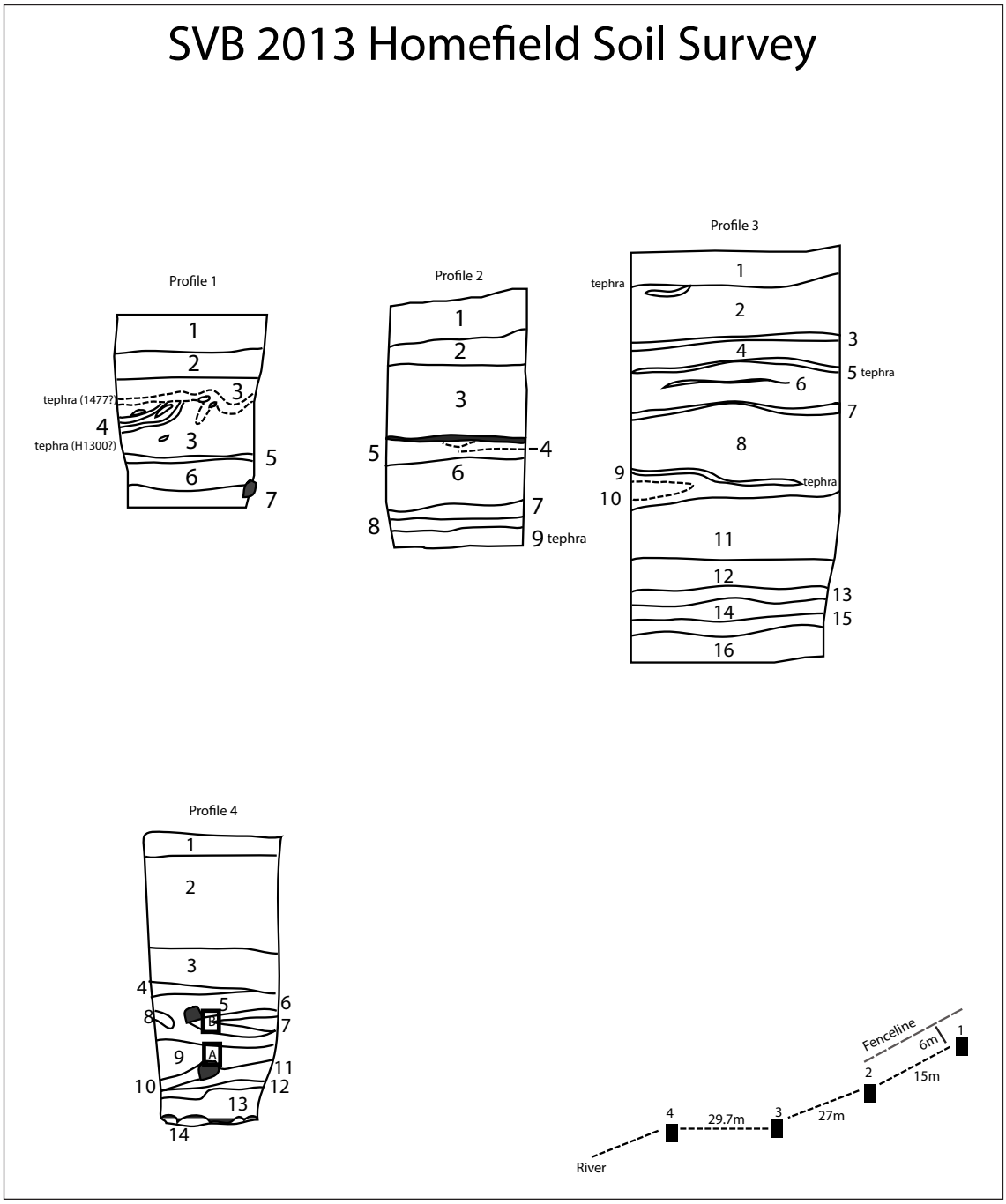


Figure 8. Sections of soil pits in Svalbarð homefield.

Table 2 : Location of Svalbarð Homefield Soil Pits

Soil Pit Coordinates

1	66˚ 12.470 N	15˚ 43.028 W
2	66˚ 12.470 N	15˚ 43.049 W
3	66˚ 12.469 N	15˚ 43.080 W
4	66˚ 12.465 N	15˚ 43.124 W

Soil geochemistry dating field trial

During the 2013 field season, Paul Adderley conducted a experimental application of optically stimulated luminescence (OSL) dating techniques using a portable OSL reader belonging to the University of Stirling. Sediment samples were collected from exposed beach sand deposits adjacent to the Vestri Borgir site at Hjálmarvik, from geological contexts on Hjálmarsnes and alongside the Svalbarðsá river adjacent to the Svalbarð Midden site, and from archaeological sediments associated with tephras from the Svalbarð Svalbard midden itself (group 10). These analyses failed to prove conclusive results however, as too much electron activity was present in the samples to permit reliable dating of the exposure of these sediments. Despite the relative age of geology of northeast Iceland, local rocks basalts appear to be too young for the application OSL techniques with currently available technology.

Fornleifarannsóknir á Svalbarði 2014

Grafinn var skurður í öskuhaug Svalbarðs. Er skurðurinn staðsettur NA (niður árbakkann/norður) af svæði F19 sem grafið var á árunum 1986-1988 þegar unnið var að stóru rannsóknarverkefni sem miðaði að því að endurgera forna efnahags – og landsháttarsögu ásamt sambúð manns við umhverfið á N-Atlanthafssvæðinu (Iceland Paleoeconomy Project, Amorosi 1992). Öskuhaugur Svalbarðs er umfangsmikill og um 2 m þykkur. Uppsöfnun haugsins virðist hefjast um miðja 11. öld (Amorosi 1992; Gísladóttir et al. 2013). Tvö gjóskulög skipta haugnum í afgerandi tímabil, H1300 og V1477 (Gísladóttir er al. 2013). Rannsóknarsvæðið árið 1988 voru staðett út frá því að ná sem mestum gögnum frá því fyrir 1477 en rannsóknin 2013 miðaði að því að ná sem mestum gögnum frá því eftir 1477 og kanna nánar efnahag, lífsviðurværi og breytingar eftir ca. 1500. Skurðurinn í hópi 008/009 var 2,5 x 1 m stór og fylgdi hann uppgraftarmörkum 1988-svæðisins og stækkar gamla F19-G19 sniðið frá 1988 (sjá Amorosi 1991: Figure 3) um 2,5 m til norðurs (og niður brekkuna) (sjá töflu/table 1).

Grafin voru átján jarðlög sem voru fjölbreytt að samsetningu, sjá fig. 1 – 4. Skurðurinn var um 1,5 m djúpur í suðurenda en um 1,1 m djúpur í norðurendanum (undan brekku). Jarðlagaskipan í Svalbarðshaug var endurmetin árið 2008 við nýjar gjóskulagagreiningar (sjá Woollett og Ævarsson 2008, Gísladóttir et al 2013). Í uppgreftinum 2013 sáust oft 1300 og 1477 í torfhnausum og torfrusli, sjá mynd/figure 5. Ekki tókst að komast niður að gjóskunum við rannsóknina 2013 en rúmlega 20 cm eru niður að þeim skv. kjarna sem boraður var með jarðvegsbor, sjá mynd/fig. 6. Sá kjarni sýndi jafnframt að tæplega metri væri enn eftir af öskuhaugnum, frá þeim stað sem hætt var 2013. Áframhaldandi rannsóknir verða á öskuhaug Svalbarðs árið 2014 til þess að komast niður á gjóskulögin og ná í þau gögn sem þarf til að ná markmiðum verkefnisins. Nokkuð af gripum fannst við rannsóknina aðallega járnhlutir og þar naglar í meirihluta en einnig gripir úr koparblöndu s.s. fingurbjörg. Talsvert af ílátum úr gler og leir fundust, auk tóbakspípna úr leir. Spanna gripirnir ca. tímabilið 17. – 19. öld. Um 54 pokar af dýrabeinum komu upp við rannsóknina auktöluverðs magns af skeljum.

Rannsóknir á túni Svalbarðs

Fjórir skurðir voru grafnir í tún Svalbarðs, 1x1 m stórir, nálægt árbakkanum (um 5-10 m sunnan núverandi girðingar sem liggur á/við öskuhauginn á árbakkanum). Var það gert í þeim tilgangi að kanna frjósemi og uppsöfnun jarðvegs, með tilliti til jarðabóta og hvort sjá mætti breytingar á jarðveginum yfir langt tímabil o.s.frv. Um 15-25 m voru á milli

skurðanna (sjá fig. 7 og table/töflu 2). Áður en skurðurinn var grafinn var kannað með jarðvegsbor hvort nokkrar byggingar væri að finna því ekki var markmiðið að grafa í fornleifar. Tekin voru sýni í skurðunum sem enn er verið að vinna úr, en frumniðurstöður eru þær að umtalsverðar jarðabætur hafa átt sér stað í túni Svalbarðs um langan aldur. Varla var til staðar óhreyfð mold í túninu nema rétt yfir forsögulega gjóskulaginu kallað H3. Sjá mátti að borið hafði verið skarn á tún, brennd bein og kolaagnir og móöskublettir voru til staðar, og hugsanlega för eftir skóflustungur og að stungið hafi verið upp mold hér og hvar. Um þessar athuganir sá Paul Adderley hjá Háskólanum í Stirling, Skotlandi. Stefnt er á framhald þessara rannsókna og kanna hvernig hugsað hafi verið um tún annarra jarða á Svalbarðstungu.

Tilraun til OSL aldursgreiningar

OSL (optically stimulated luminescence) er aðferð við til aldursgreiningar. Í stað þess að mæla lífrænar leifar líkt og með geislakolsaðferð, er mældur tíminn frá því steinefni í jarðveginum voru síðast berskjölduð fyrir birtu. Tekin voru sýni úr náttúrulegum rofsniðum í sjávarbökkum nálægt Vestri Borgum í Hjálmarvík og í bökkum Svalbarðsár, nálægt öskuhaug Svalbarðs - og skyldi lesið úr þeim með OSL mæli frá Háskólanum í Stirling, Skotlandi. Tilraunin fór út um þúfur, svo virðsist sem bergið sé of ungt á NA-landi til að OSL aðferðin virki þar miðað við núverandi tækni. Um þessa rannsókn sá Paul Adderley hjá Stirlinghháskóla.

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Uggi Ævarsson

Fornleifarannsóknir í Sjóhúsavík /Archaeological investigations in Sjóhúsavík

Framhaldið var rannsóknum á afar signum og fornlegum tóftum í mýrarjaðrinum í Sjóhúsavík, rétt ofan sjávarbakka. Fyrri rannsóknir höfðu sýnt fram á að minjarnar væru sennilega eldri en 1477 og sumar þeirra jafnvel eldri en frá 1300. Engar heimildir eru til um tóftir þessar en þeim tengist hringlaga garður svo þær eru fremur taldar tengjast landbúnaði en sjávarútvegi. Þess má geta að rétt við þessar fornlegu tóftir eru mun yngri tóftir sjóbúðar svo Sjóhúsavík er réttnefni a.m.k. á síðari öldum (Gísladóttir, Ævarsson and Woollett 2012, 22-25; Stefán Ólafsson 2013, 18-20). Við uppgröftinn unnu Uggi Ævarsson og Jónas Haukdal Jónasson (Háskóli Íslands) Veronique Forbes (Háskólanum í Aberdeen), Celine Dupont-Hérbert og Martin Fields (Laval háskóla) hjálpuðu á síðasta degi við að teikna lokateikningu og ganga frá svæðinu. Opnað var 21 m2 svæði (ber einkennisnúmerið 4) yfir aðalminjasvæðinu sem er ógreinlegt og hlaupið í kargaþúfur. Ástæða þúfnahlaupsins er ekki síst vegna mýrarinnar því vatn liggur þarna að og yfir hluta minjanna eftir árstíðum.



Mynd 1. Horft yfir uppgraftarsvæðið til vesturs.

Fyrst var mokað burt yfirborðslagi 1 en neðst í því var gjóskulag úr Veiðivötnum 1477 (jarðlag nr. 11), sem liggur óhreyft yfir öllum minjunum. Þar undir kom í ljós jarðlag 2 sem er fremur einkennalaust, torfblandað og í því einnig vindblásinn jarðvegur. Í laginu var fíngerð möl, sem sennilega hefur hrunið úr torfi í vegghleðslum, er í ljós komu er lagið var fjarlægt. Undir yfirborðslögunum komu í ljós þrír veggir með steina í útjöðrum og mold á milli. Ekki er hægt að greina torfhnausa í fyllingum og eru veggirnir fremur losaralegir. Veggur 003 snýr A - V en veggur 004 liggur þvert á hann, N - S. Svo virðist sem veggur 004 sé eitthvað eldri, að veggur 003 hafi verið byggður upp að honum. Veggur 012 snýr A - V og liggur til vesturs frá vegg 004. Í torffyllingu veggja 003 og 004 var H-1300 gjóskan, svo torfið í vegginn var stungið eftir að hún féll, en fyrir gosið 1477. Um 8 cm yfir vegg 012, virðist H-1300 gjóskan vera óslitin sem þýðir að sá veggur er talsvert eldri en veggir 003 og 004. Magnús Á. Sigurgeirsson gjóskulagafræðingur telur að miðað við jarðvegsþykknun á svæðinu hafi veggurinn verið í það minnsta 100 ára gamall þegar gjóskan féll. Bráðabirgðaniðurstaða er því sú að vestari hluti tóftarinnar sé eldri en sá austari (skýrslu hans má lesa hér í þessari skýrslu).

Ekki fundust margir gripir við uppgröftinn en alls voru þeir 7 talsins, 5 naglar, 1 hvalbein og gripur úr koparblönduðum málmi. Gripirnir komu flestir úr austari hluta svæðisins. Vísir að eldstæði kom þar í ljós en ekki var það grafið fram. Að vestanverðunni – að líkindum eldri



Mynd 2. Veggjaleifar sem fundust við rannsóknina.

hlutanum – komu í ljós tvær stoðarholur sín til hvorrar handar við innirými sem gæti hafa verið gangur. Áframhaldandi uppgröftur sumarið 2014 mun vonandi leiða í ljós sambandið milli hinna tveggja byggingarstiga og skera úr um hlutverk hússins því það liggur ekki fyrir.

Archaeological investigations at Sjóhúsvík 2013

Archaeological research was continued in Sjóhúsavík. Trenching in 2011 and 2012 had confirmed that targeted ruins were quite old, probably earlier than 1477 and some earlier than 1300. The ruins are located in the margins of a bog, and the meadow is filled with hummocks. These features are all highly transformed by cryoturbation processes (Gísladóttir, Ævarsson and Woollett 2012, 22-25; Stefán Ólafsson (ed.) 2013, 18-20).

In field season 2013 a 21 m2 large area was opened over the main ruin complex, called area 4 (see fig. 1). Unit 001 contained overburden and windblown material but at the base of that layer was tephra V1477 (unit 011) which seals the archaeology. It seems that building remains that were revealed in the area consist of two building phases. Wall 003 (orientated E-W) is later and built up against wall 004 (orientated N-S). Both 003 and 004 have tephra 1300 in turf, so they are both built after 1300, but before 1477. Wall 12 (orientated A-W) is on the other hand built before 1300 as the H1300 tephra is ca. 8 cm above that structure. Magnús Á. Sigurgeirsson tephrachronologist suggests - based on soil accumulation in the area - that wall 012 was at least 100 years old when the tephra fell (see fig. 2). Interim conclusion after field season 2013 suggest therefore that western part of the ruin area is earlier than the eastern part. Archaeological investigations will be continued in 2014.

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Uggi Ævarsson

Fornleifakönnun að Skriðu / Archaeological investigations at Skriða

Skriðuvatn er um 4,5 km í suðvestur frá Kúðá. Aðeins í Sýslu- og sóknalýsingum er getið um tóftabrot við Skriðuvatn. Ekki er annarsstaðar minnst á tóftir þar og heimamenn vissu ekki til að þar væru tóftir. Árið 2011 hljóp ég umhverfis Skriðuvatn og fann þar tóftir á suðvestur bakkanum. Hvorki var myndavél né gps-tæki meðferðis svoleiðis að minnið varð að duga að sinni (Gísladóttir et al 2013: 82).

Sumarið 2013 fór ég vopnaður gps, myndavél og kjarnabor að Skriðuvatni. Skráðar voru tóftirnar tvær við vatnið og garðlag sem ekki virtist svo gamalt. En þar sem ég sit á garðsbroti verður mér litið nokkru ofar í landið og sé þar örgrannan skugga og þá þúst. Ógreinilega mátti greina þar skálalaga tóft, illa sokkna í hallamýri, um 12 m N – S og 6 m á breidd. Borað var í téðar tóftir og virtist sem lítill aldursmunur væri á þeim. Í stærri tóftina við vatnið var borað og kom í ljós á um 53 cm dýpi viðarkol og V-1477 gjóskan á um 56 cm dýpi, um 5 mm á þykkt. Á um 64 cm dýpi var meira af viðarkolum og snertur af móösku. Á um 80 cm dýpi var rúmlega 1 cm þykkt lag af móösku og þar neðan við um 1 cm lag af kolum. Á um 84 cm dýpi var enn snertur af kolum og svo óhreyfður jarðvegur þar undir.

Í skálalaga bygginguna var einnig borað. Í borholu rétt sunnan við miðja tóft kom V-1477 fram á milli 22 og 26 cm dýpi

Frá 57 cm og niður á um 70 cm er móaska og viðarkol. Jarðvegur var blautur og fylltist holan strax af vatni. Á milli 80 og 86 cm dýpi er áfram móaska og viðarkol. Á um 88 cm dýpi er óþekkt gjóska, við köllum hana Heklubróður, þá um 1 cm þykkt áfokslag og svo er það Hekla 3

Ljóst er minjarnar við Skriðuvatn eru fornar og væri fróðlegt að grafa í þær til að ganga úr skugga um það sem fram hefur komið í kjarnaboruninni. Vissulega myndi það fylla ennfrekar í byggðarsögu Svalbarðstungunnar. Það er þó nokkrum vandkvæðum bundið því votlendi er mikið á vatnsbakkanum og öll hlíðin ofan vatnsins er hálfgert dý. Hugsanlega væri hægt að taka skurð þar sem rynni úr honum jafnharðan en það er hugsanlega verkefni sumarsins 2014.



Mynd 1. V-1477 gjóskan greinileg in situ.



Mynd 2. Móaska, viðarkol, Heklubróðir, áfokslag, H3

Archaeologcial investigations at Skriða

Lake Skriða (Skriðuvatn) is ca. 4,5 km SW from Kúðá farm. One written source mentions a ruin by the lake (Sýslu-og sóknalýsingar 1994). In 2011 the author found ruins by the SW side of the lake but no camera nor gps had been taken along so fuller investigation had to wait (Gísladóttir et al 2013:82). In 2013 the lake and the ruins were visitied again. Two ruins by the lake were observed and sunken long building in a bog little higher up, 12x6 m in size. All the ruins were augered. In the ruins by the lake V1477 tephra was found on ca. 56 cm below surface and at ca. 64 cm charcoal and peat ash was noted. At ca. 80 cm peat ash lense (ca. 1 cm in the auger) was observed and there below 1 cm of charcoal. At ca. 84 cm below surface was still charcoal fragments present but there below sterile. In the sunken building - uphill, V1477 tephra was observed at ca. 22-26 cm below the surface (see fig. 1) From ca. 57 cm and down 70 cm peat ash and charcaol was present. The earth was very wet and the auger hole filled with water between sampling. At ca. 80-86 cm below the surface, peat ash and charcaol was still present. At ca. 90 cm prehistoric tephra H3 was observed (see fig. 2). It is clear that the ruins by Skriðuvatn are old and it would be highly informative to look at them more closeley, but water will make the task difficult.

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Gjóskulagarannsókn á Svalbarðstungu / Tephrachronological analysis

Magnús Á. Sigurgeirsson, jarðfræðingur
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INNGANGUR

Farin var vettvangsferð í Þistilfjörð dagana 29.-31. júlí 2013. Skoðaðar voru fornleifar á fjórum stöðum, á Svalbarði, við Hjálmarvík og Sjóhúsavík og eyðibýlið Kúðá.Um var að ræða forna sorphauga og tóftir.Snið voru mæld á öllum stöðum og afstaða gjóskulaga til fornminja könnuð. Auk þess var mælt samanburðarsnið í suðurbakka Svalbarðsár um 120 m NA sorphauganna á Svalbarði. Gjóskusýni voru tekin til frekari athugana.

Samkvæmt tiltækum heimildum um gjóskulög á Norðausturlandi má búast við að finna eftirfarandi gjóskulög við Þistilfjörð:

1. Landnámslag frá 870-880 e. Kr. (yfirleitt notað 871±2 ár). Þykkt lagsins við Þistilfjörður vel innan við 0,5 cm samkvæmt útbreiðslukorti. Ólíklegt er að það sjáist þar. Á Norðurlandi er svokölluð Landnámssyrpa (LNS) skýr en í henni koma fyrir allt að sex dökk gjóskulög sem mynduðust á um 250 ára tímabili. Yngsta lagið í LNS er lag frá því um 940 (nefnt V-Sv), með upptök í Veiðivatna-Bárðarbungukerfi. Þykkt LNS við Þistilfjörð ætti að vera minni en 5 cm og vart meira en þrjú lög sjáanleg.
2. Hekla-1158. Hvítt lag. Þykkt lagsins ætti að vera minni en 0,2 cm. Lagið finnst einungis á stöku stað á þessum slóðum.
3. K-1262. Finnst einungis þar sem varðveisluskilyrði eru góð.
4. Hekla-1300. Þykktarkort er ekki til en samkvæmt fyrri rannsóknum gæti þykkt þess verið um 0,5 cm við Þistilfjörð.
5. V~1410. Fínsendiðgjóskulag, stuttu neðan V-1477. Þykkt minni en 0,4 cm.
6. V-1477 (“a”-lagið svonefnda). Þykkt lagsins er um 2cm við Þistilfjörð.
7. V-1717. Hefur útbreiðslu um allt NA-land. Fínsendið, minna en 0,5 cm. Á milli V-1477 og V-1717 má stundum sjá á eitt þunnt gjóskulag. Aldur og útbreiðsla er lítt þekkt en lagið er að öllum líkindum frá 16. öld.

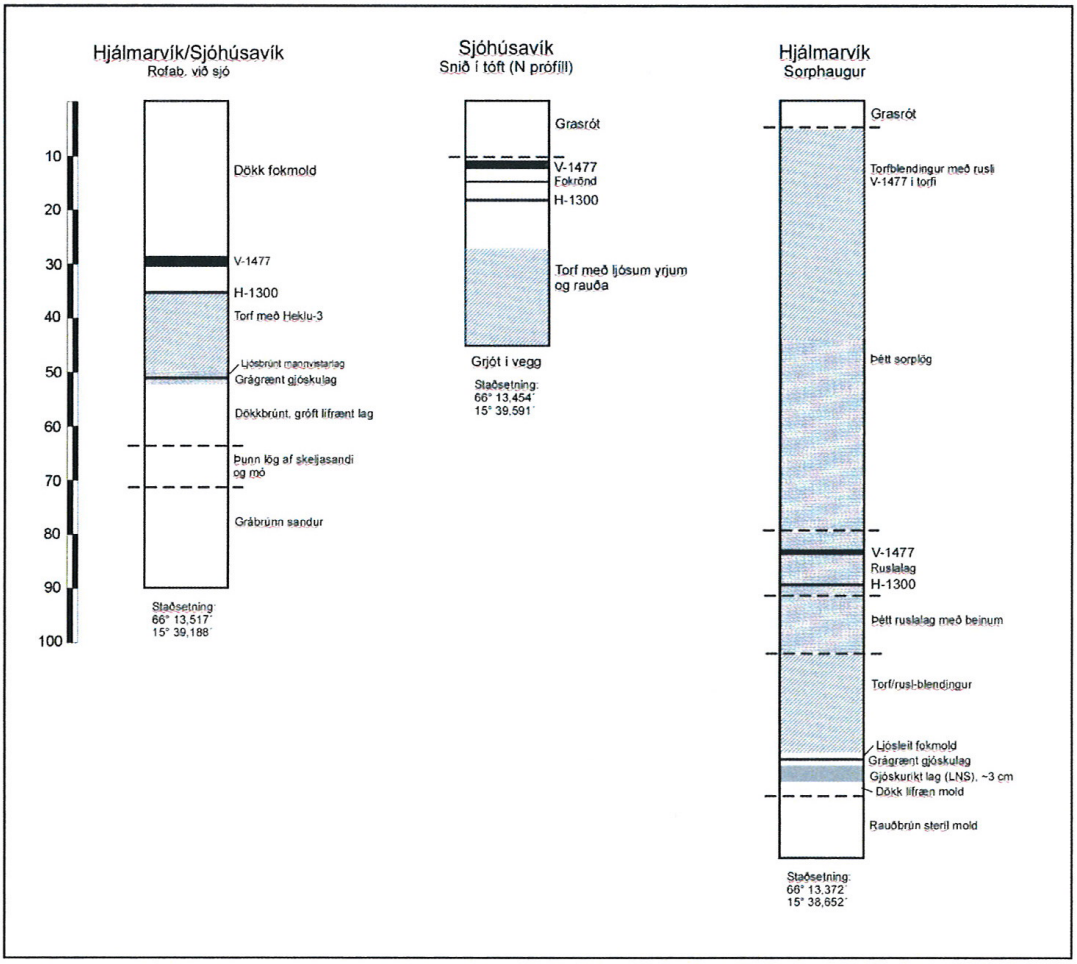
Eins og sést af þessari upptalningu erugjóskulög frá sögulegum tíma fremur fá við Þistilfjörð, og jafnframtþunn(Sigurður Þórarinsson 1968, Guðrún Larsen 1982; 1984, Karl Grönvold et al. 1995, Magnús Á. Sigurgeirsson 1998; 2000;2012,Guðrún Larsen et al. 2002, Magnús Á. Sigurgeirsson et al. 2013).

NIÐURSTÖÐUR

Sjóhúsavík, tóftir

Snið var mælt í tóft við Sjóhúsavík (mynd 1). Yfir torf- og grjóthlöðnum vegg mátti sjá gjóskulögin V-1477 og H-1300. Hekla-1300 var um 8 cm yfir veggnum þannig að ljóst er að hann er frá því vel fyrir 1300, a.m.k. einni öld. Fram komu tvö misgömul byggingarskeið í tóftunum. Í því yngra var H-1300 í torfi, þannig að það er frá því eftir 1300 og líklega fyrir 1477 (gjóskusýni voru tekin úr torfinu).

Snið var mælt í rofabarði við fjöru á nesinu sem gengur til norðurs á milli Sjóhúsavíkur og Hjálmarvíkur (mynd 1). Þar mátti sjá allskýrt torflag. Í ljós kom að það liggur neðan gjóskulaganna V-1477 og H-1300 þannig að það er frá því fyrir 1300. Þunnt grágrænt gjóskulag mátti sjá um 0,5 cm neðan torfsins. Gæti þar verið um að ræða lagið V-Sv frá um 940. Um það verður þó ekki fullyrt án frekari athugana. Þess má geta að í gjóskusýninu var dálítið af koli og sóti. Ekki voru skýr merki á yfirborði um mannvirki á þessum stað.



Mynd 1. Snið við Sjóhúsavík og Hjálmarvík

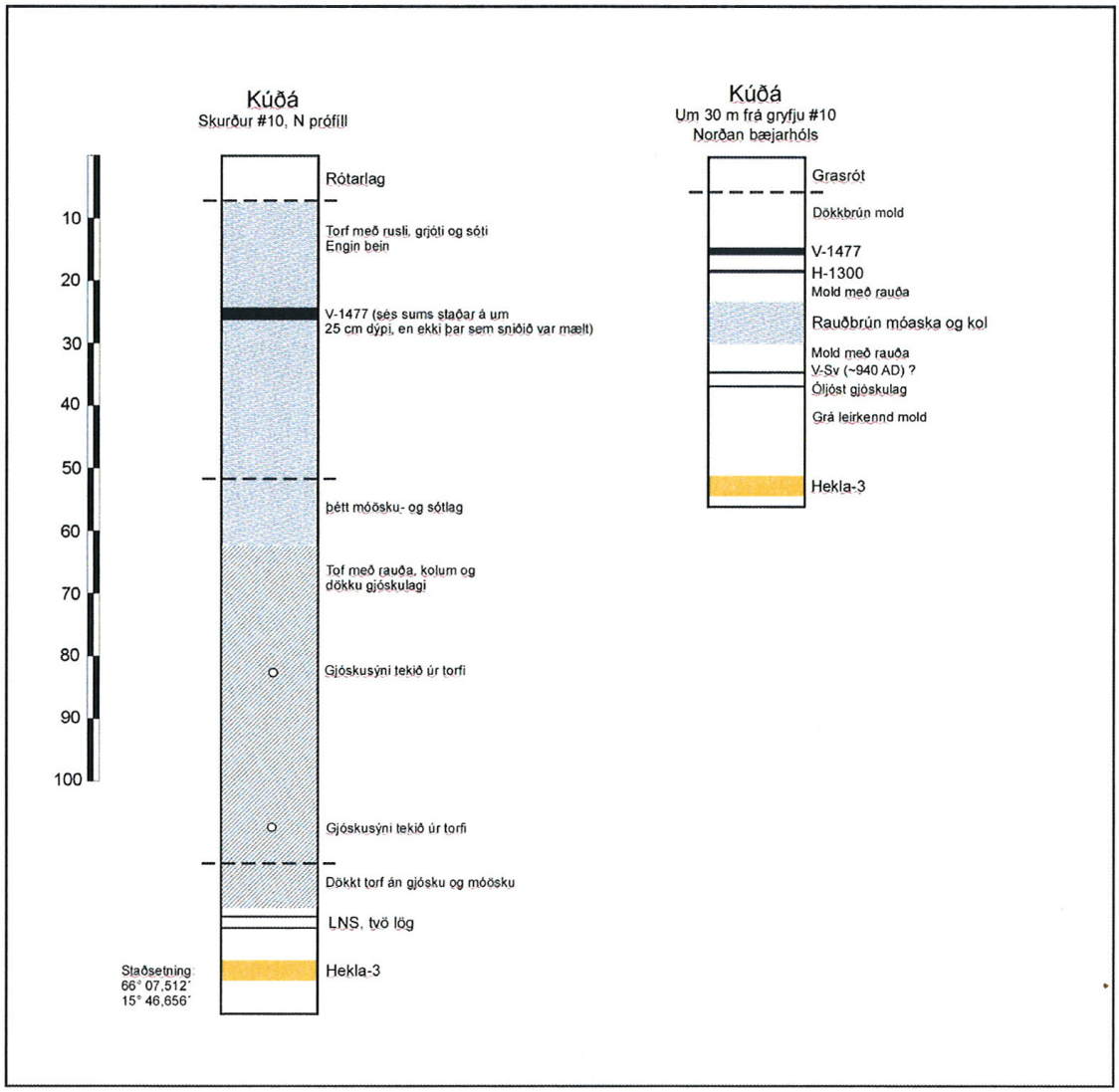
Hjálmarvík, öskuhaugur

Skoðað var snið í öskuhaug við Hjálmarvík (mynd 1). Þar komu í ljós á milli sorplaga gjóskulögin V-1477 og H-1300. Þar kom ennfremur í ljós þunnt grágrænt gjóskulag undir mannvistarlögum, vafalítið eitt af lögum LNS. Örþunnt moldarlag, um 0,5 cm, sást á milli gjóskulagsins og neðri marka mannvistarlaganna. Sýnaskoðun bendir til að gjóskulagið geti verið V-Sv, yngsta lag LNS, frá um 940. Þetta verður þó ekki staðfest endanlega nema að undangengnum efnagreiningum. Samt sem áður verður að telja líklegt að um þetta lag sé að ræða. Út frá gjóskulögunum má draga þá ályktun að elstu merki um mannvist í Hjálmarvík séu frá seinni hluta 10. aldar eða fyrri hluta 11. aldar og að veruleg umsvif hafi verið þar öldum saman. Yngri aldursmörk verða ekki greind með vissu, en þó gefatorfs-

litrur ofarlega í sniðinu vísbendingu þar um en í því er að finnagjóskulagiðV-1477.Torfið gæti verið frá 16. öld, eða mögulega síðar.

Eyðibýlið Kúðá, bæjarhóll (skurður#10)
Lítið var um gjóskulög innan um mannvistarlögin, en reikna má með að samfelld búseta á staðnum um langan tíma hafi komið í veg fyrir varðveislu þeirra í bæjarhólnum. Slitrur af gjóskulaginu V-1477 mátti sjá á um 25 cm dýpi sunnan til í gryfjunni (mynd 2). Hekla-1300 fannst ekki. Gjóskulögsáust í steírlli mold næst undir mannvistarlögunum, en þar mátti greina tvö örþunn lög með stuttu millibili. Er þar um lög úr LNS að ræða. Efra lagið gæti verið V-Sv frá um 940. Útiloka má að um Landnámslagið frá 871 sé að ræða. Tvö gjóskusýni voru tekin úr torfi neðarlega í sniðinu (sjá mynd 2). Smásjárskoðun bendir til að þau séu úr LNS.

Um 30 m norðan bæjarhólsins var mælt snið í prufuholu (mynd 2). Þar mátti sjá bæði V-1477 og H-1300 með stuttu millibili. Einnig var LNS neðar í holunni og Hekla-3 neðst. Mannvistarlög voru sæmilega skýr á milli H-1300 og LNS.



Mynd 2. Snið mæld á eyðibýlinu Kúðá.

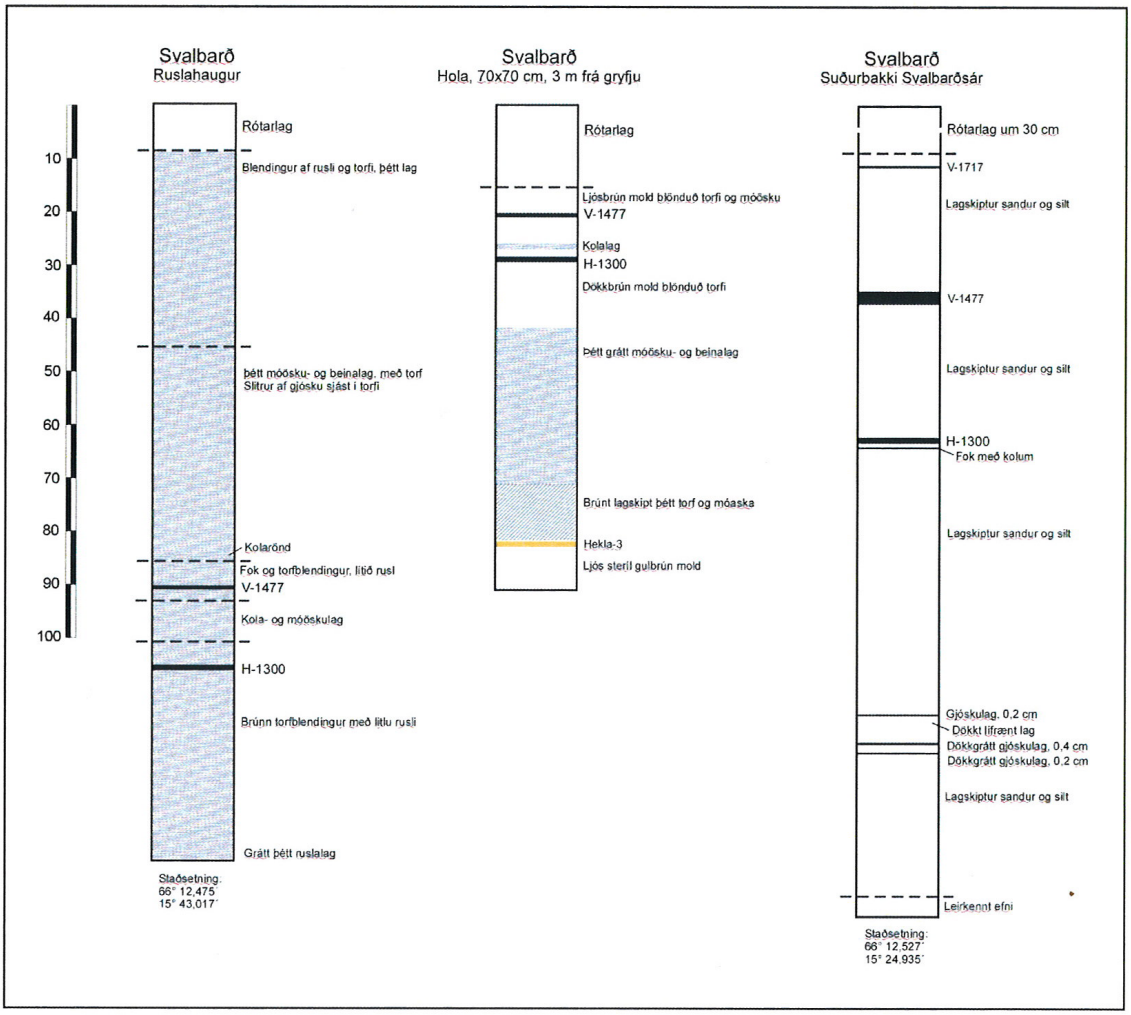
Svalbarð, öskuhaugar

Tvö snið voru mæld í ruslahaug. Þar komu fram tvö dökk gjóskulög innan um sorplög. Efra lagið er grátt og um 0,6 cm þykkt en það neðra grágrænt og um 1,5 cm þykkt. Smásjárskoðun bendir til að efra lagið sé V-1477 (a-lagið svonefnda) og það neðra H-1300. Engin gjóskulög sáust undir öskuhaugnum á Svalbarði. Annað sniðið náði ekki í gegnum sorplögin og í hinu var Hekla-3 næst undir mannvistarlögum (mynd 3).

Samanburðarsnið var mælt í suðurbakka Svalbarðsár um 120 m NA af öskuhaugnum á Svalbarði (mynd 3). Þar komu gjóskulögin V-1477 og H-1300 skýrt fram. Einnig mátti sjá eitt lag ofan við V-1477 sem líklega er V-1717. Þrjú þunn lög úr LNS voru neðarlega í sniðinu. Efst þeirra er að öllum líkindum gjóskulagið V-Sv frá um 940. Sýni voru tekin úr gjóskulögunum til samanburðar við sýni frá minjastöðunum.

NIÐURLAG

Gjóskulögin H-1300 og V-1477 greindust með vissu á svæðinu, en þau eru auðfundin og skýr. Er það í samræmi við athuganir frá 2008 en þá voru þessi lög greind á Svalbarði (Woollett 2008). Einnig eru allar líkur á að gjóskulagið V-1717 sé á svæðinu en hins vegar



Mynd 3. Snið mæld á Svalbarði og í árbakka Svalbarðsár.

þunnt og vandfundið. Það sást aðeins í árbakka Svalbarðsár. LNS er einnig til staðar, með þremur dökkum gjóskulögum. Mestarlíkur eru á að efsta lagið í LNS sé gjóskulagið V-Sv frá um 940 e.Kr. Til að fá úr því skorið þyrfti að efnagreina lagið. Segja má að fengur sé af þessu lagi þar sem það liggur næst undir fornminjunum og gefur því hugmynd um hámarksaldur þeirra.Neðri lögin í LNS eru líklegast með upptök í Grímsvötnum, annars vegar, og Kötlu hins vegar (neðsta lag), en þessi lög ásamt V-Sv eru jafnan þykkustu lög LNS á Norðurlandi.Enginn vottur af H-1104 eða H-1158 fannst á svæðinu.

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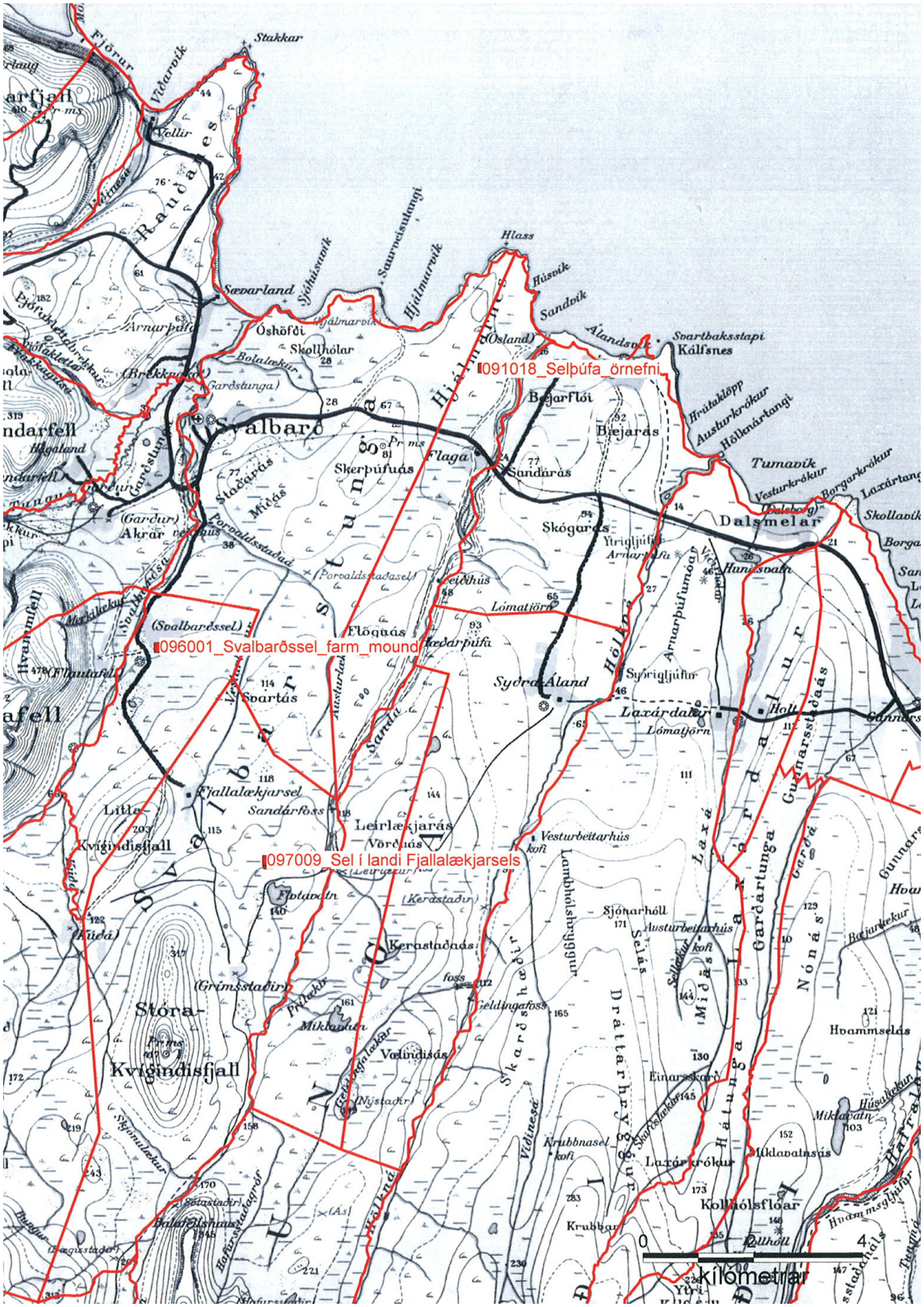
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091018_Selþúfa_örnefni
096001_Svalbarðssel_farm_mound
097009_Sel í landi Fjallalækjarsels
Stakkar
Vellir
Sævarland
Óshöfði
Skollhólar
Svalbarð
Skerþúfuás
Flaga
Sandáras
Bæjarflói
Bæjarás
Kálfsnes
Dalsmelar
Skógarás
Akrar
Flóguás
Sydra-Áland
Laxárdalur
Leirlækjarás
Vörðuás
Kerastaðaás
Stóra-Kvígindisfjall
Lilla-Kvígindisfjall
Sjónarhóll
Hvammselás
Einarsskarð
Laxárkrókur
Kollhólsfloar
Miklavatnsás
Vesturbeitarhús
Austurbeitarhús
Kerastaður
Nýstaður
Grímsstaðir
Sandárfoss
Geldingafoss
Miklavatn
Krubbar
kilómetrar
0
4

Kristborg Þórsdóttir

Fornleifaskráning á Svalbarðstungu 2012-2013 / Archaeological survey in Svalbarðstunga 2012-2013

Sumrin 2012 og 2013 var unnið að aðalskráningu fornleifa á lögbýlum á Svalbarðstungu. Auk þess var Brekknakot skráð sem er utan tungunnar en var hjáleiga Svalbarðs fyrr á öldum og tengist því rannsóknum á mikilvægi og stöðu Svalbarðs fyrir byggðina. Alls voru skráðar um 330 fornminjar á níu lögbýlum; Svalbarði, Hjálmarvík, Brekknakoti, Flögu, Svalbarðsseli, Fjallalækjarseli, Grímsstöðum, Kúðá og Bægisstöðum.

Hlutverk skráðra minja er mjög fjölbreytt en á svæðinu er áberandi mikill fjöldi beitarhúsa og heystæða sem endurspeglar landnýtingu í úthaganum. Líkt og annarsstaðar er mestur fjöldi skráðra minja í heimatúnum, í kringum bæina en minum fækkar eftir því sem fjær dregur bæ. Lítið hefur varðveist af minjum í heimatúnum þar sem bæirnir eru enn í ábúð. Mun fleiri minjar hafa varðveist á bæjum eftir því sem sunnar dregur á Svalbarðstungu enda fjölgar þar eyðibýlum jafnt og þétt. Gríðarlegur fjöldi varðveittra minja er t.a.m. í túni Bægisstaða, þeim bæ sem er afskekktastur á syðst svæðinu. Þar eru bæði minjar frá síðasta búsetuskeiði í byrjun 20. aldar og mun eldri minjar en borkjarnasýni og jarðvegssnið sem tekin hafa verið á Bægisstöðum sýna háan aldur minja þar. Skráðar minjar á Grímsstöðum eru líklega flestar frá 19. og 20. öld en þar má sjá einstaka minjaheild sem hefur varðveist frá því jörðin fór í eyði um miðja 20. öld. Einnig er mikill fjöldi minja enn sýnilegur í og við tún Kúðár sem fór í eyði árið 1966. Flestar þeirra minja sem þar eru sýnilegar eru frá síðasta búsetuskeiðinu en í túni er einnig fornleg tóft sem gengur undir bæjartóftina. Grafinn var könnunarskurður í hana sumarið 2013 og sýna niðurstöður að þar hefur verið fólk frá því snemma á öldum, sennilega stuttu eftir ca. 940 (sjá skýrslu Stefáns Ólafssonar í þessu hefti).

Ljóst er að fjöldi áhugaverðra minja eru á svæðinu og er fornleifaskráningin gríðarlega mikilvæg til þess að fá yfirsýn yfir umfang og eðli minja á svæðinu og er hún undirstaða frekari rannsókna á svæðinu.

English summary

In the summers of 2012 and 2013 a comprehensive archaeological survey was carried out in the area of Svalbarðstunga, including the farms Svalbarð, Hjálmarvík, Flaga, Svalbarðssel, Fjallalækjarsel, Grímsstaðir, Kúðá and Bægisstaðir. In addition the farm Brekknakot, an old “hjáleiga” from Svalbarð, was surveyed. Around 330 sites were surveyed in the area including a wide variety of different types of sites over a broad time span. Interestingly sheep houses for winter grazing (beitarhús) and heystacks are prominent in the area and reflect modes of land use of outlying pastures. As usually registered sites are most concentrated near farms but as many farms, particularly on the north part of Svalbarðstunga, are still occupied many of the sites are not longer visible. On the other hand visible sites and set of complete farm ruins are present on the southern part of the research area, which was mostly deserted early to mid 20th century.

Many interesting sites are in the research area and systematic archaeological field survey is one of the basis for gaining understanding of the settlement pattern in Svalbarðstunga.

APPENDIX I

HJÁLMARVÍK 2013 REGISTERS (HVK13-50-)

UNIT REGISTER

Unit No	Area/ trench	Type	Description	Date	ID
1	M	D	Top soil + cleaning	15-07-2013	CDH
2	M	D	Turf debris with tephra H3 and V1477	15-07-2013	NR
3	M	D	Midden deposit composed with food waste	16-07-2013	MF
4	M	D	Mottled deposit associated to 003	16-07-2013	NR
5	M	D	Dark greyish browm deposit associate to 003 and 004	16-07-2013	VF
6	M	D	Shell layer	16-07-2013	CDH
7	M	D	Bone rich layer	17-07-2013	MF
8	M	D	Ashey layer slopping east	17-07-2013	MF
9	M	D	Mottled turf layer sandwiched by peat ash	17-07-2013	MF
10	M	C	Cut un peat ash in Northwest corner	18-07-2013	MF
11	M	D	peat ash layer in eastern part of excavation area	18-07-2013	NR
12	M	C	Cut in midden deposit, northwest part of excavation area	18-07-2013	VF
13	M	D	Medium brown turf lump in midden	18-07-2013	VF
14	M	D	peat ash layer in eastern part of excavation area	18-07-2013	MF
15	M	D	Clean turf deposit with peat ash lump	19-07-2013	VF
16	M	D	Pink and black ash deposit	19-07-2013	VF
17	M	D	Peat ash and wood ash deposit	19-07-2013	VF
18	M	D	Turf deposit with peat ash pockets	20-07-2013	VF
19	M	D	Mottled deposit in south center of operation	20-07-2013	MF
20	M	D	Peat dump in midden (clean)	20-07-2013	CDH
21	M	C	Cut showing tephra at bottom	20-07-2013	CDH
22	M	D	Turf collapse	20-07-2013	VF
23	M	D	Peat ash dump	22-07-2013	VF
24	M	D	Grey ash deposit in NW corner	22-07-2013	MF
25	M	D	Mottled turf layer with charcoal	22-07-2013	MF
26	M	D	Peat ash deposit (southwest)	22-07-2013	CDH
27	M	D	Peat ash deposit (NW)	22-07-2013	CDH
28	M	D	Clean yellowish brown turf deposit	23-07-2013	MF
29	M	D	Medium brown turf deposit with charcoal	23-07-2013	VF
30	M	D	TEPHRA 1477	24-07-2013	CDH
31	M	D	Silt layer under 1477	24-07-2013	CDH
32	M	D	Deposit of mussel shells	24-07-2013	MF
33	M	D	Medium brown, orange brown organic silt (turf) deposit with shells	24-07-2013	VF
34	M	D	Reddish brown, soft, turf with peat ash under	24-07-2013	VF

Unit No	Area/ trench	Type	Description	Date	ID
35	M	D	Medium brown turf deposit	24-07-2013	VF
36	M	D	Stones in Northwest corner, possible collapse	27-07-2013	MF
37	M	D	Clean turf in south east	27-07-2013	MF
38	M	D	TEPHRA 1300	27-07-2013	CDH
39	M	D	Below 1300 (in sondage)	29-07-2013	CDH
1	B	D	Top soil	29-07-2013	CDH
2	B	D	Orangy turf mixed with V1477	29-07-2013	CDH
3	B	D	V1477	29-07-2013	CDH
4	B	D	Laminated orangy, yellowish and reddish turf with tephra	29-07-2013	CDH
5	B	D	Charcoal layer	29-07-2013	CDH
6	B	C	Cut in turf associated to fill 005	29-07-2013	CDH
7	B	D	Orange turf layer on top of H1300	29-07-2013	CDH
8	B	D	H1300	29-07-2013	CDH
9	B	D	Orangy greenish turf with traces of green tephra	29-07-2013	CDH
10	B	D	Dark reddish brown and brown peat laminated	29-07-2013	CDH

HJÁLMARVÍK 2013 REGISTERS (HVK13-50-)

FIND REGISTER

Find no	Unit no.	Material	Object type	Retrival Date	ID
HVK13-50-001	1	Bone	Food waste	15-07-2013	CDH
HVK13-50-002	1	Copper alloy	Plate	15-07-2013	CDH
HVK13-50-003	1	Iron	Nail	15-07-2013	CDH
HVK13-50-004	1	Stone	Whetstone	15-07-2013	CDH
HVK13-50-005	1	Glass	Bottle	15-07-2013	CDH
HVK13-50-006	1	Stone	Manuport	15-07-2013	CDH
HVK13-50-007	2	Bone	Food waste	16-07-2013	NR
HVK13-50-008	2	Copper alloy	Plate	16-07-2013	NR
HVK13-50-009	2	Stone	Manuport	16-07-2013	NR
HVK13-50-010	2	Ceramic	Vessel	16-07-2013	NR
HVK13-50-011	2	Iron	Nail	16-07-2013	NR
HVK13-50-012	2	Bone	Worked?	16-07-2013	NR
HVK13-50-013	3	Stone	Whetstone	16-07-2013	NR
HVK13-50-014	2	Clay pipe	Stem	16-07-2013	NR
HVK13-50-015	3	Iron	Nail	16-07-2013	NR
HVK13-50-016	3	Bone	Food waste	16-07-2013	MF
HVK13-50-017	4	Copper alloy		16-07-2013	NR
HVK13-50-018	2	Stone	Whetstone	16-07-2013	CDH
HVK13-50-019	4	Iron	?	16-07-2013	CDH
HVK13-50-020	3	Stone	Manuport	16-07-2013	CDH
HVK13-50-021	4	Bone	Food waste	16-07-2013	CDH
HVK13-50-022	5	Iron	Clench bolt	16-07-2013	CDH
HVK13-50-023	5	Iron	Nail	16-07-2013	CDH
HVK13-50-024	5	Clay pipe	Stem	16-07-2013	CDH
HVK13-50-025	5	Glass		16-07-2013	CDH
HVK13-50-026	5	Stone	Manuport	16-07-2013	CDH
HVK13-50-027	5	Bone	Food waste	16-07-2013	CDH
HVK13-50-028	7	Bone	Food waste	17-07-2013	MF
HVK13-50-029	6	Shell	Food waste	17-07-2013	MF
HVK13-50-030	7	Whalebone	Food waste	17-07-2013	MF
HVK13-50-031	7	Iron	Nail	17-07-2013	MF
HVK13-50-032	7	Glass	Bottle	17-07-2013	MF
HVK13-50-033	7	Stone	Whetstone	17-07-2013	MF
HVK13-50-034	7	Copper alloy	Plate	17-07-2013	MF
HVK13-50-035	7	Iron	Knife?	17-07-2013	MF
HVK13-50-036	7	Copper alloy		17-07-2013	MF
HVK13-50-037	8	Clay pipe	Stem	17-07-2013	VF
HVK13-50-038	8	Stone	Whetstone	17-07-2013	VF
HVK13-50-039	8	Iron	?	17-07-2013	VF

Find no	Unit no.	Material	Object type	Retrival Date	ID
HVK13-50-040	8	Iron	Nail	17-07-2013	VF
HVK13-50-041	8	Copper alloy		17-07-2013	VF
HVK13-50-042	8	Bone	Worked	17-07-2013	VF
HVK13-50-043	9	Wool	Clothing?	17-07-2013	VF
HVK13-50-044	9	Stone	Manuport	17-07-2013	VF
HVK13-50-045	9	Iron		17-07-2013	VF
HVK13-50-046	8	Ceramic	Vessel	17-07-2013	VF
HVK13-50-047	9	Copper alloy		17-07-2013	VF
HVK13-50-048	9	Bone	Otoliths	17-07-2013	VF
HVK13-50-049	8	Bone	Food waste	17-07-2013	VF
HVK13-50-050	9	Bone	Food waste	18-07-2013	NR
HVK13-50-051	9	Iron		18-07-2013	NR
HVK13-50-052	9	Copper alloy	Copper plate	18-07-2013	NR
HVK13-50-053	9	Copper alloy	Copper plate	18-07-2013	NR
HVK13-50-054	9	Stone	Loom weights	18-07-2013	NR
HVK13-50-055	9	Iron		18-07-2013	NR
HVK13-50-056	9	Metal		18-07-2013	NR
HVK13-50-057	9	Stone	Whetstone	18-07-2013	NR
HVK13-50-058	9	Copper alloy		18-07-2013	NR
HVK13-50-059	9	Iron	Knife?	18-07-2013	NR
HVK13-50-060	9	Fabric		18-07-2013	NR
HVK13-50-061	11	Bone	Food waste	18-07-2013	NR
HVK13-50-062	11	Metal		18-07-2013	NR
HVK13-50-063	11	Ceramic	Vessel	18-07-2013	NR
HVK13-50-064	11	Metal		18-07-2013	NR
HVK13-50-065	11	Iron	Nail	18-07-2013	NR
HVK13-50-066	1	Stone	Whetstone	18-07-2013	NR
HVK13-50-067	VOID	VOID	VOID	VOID	VOID
HVK13-50-068	13	Bone	Food waste	18-07-2013	MF
HVK13-50-069	13	Iron	Nail	18-07-2013	MF
HVK13-50-070	14	Iron		19-07-2013	CDH
HVK13-50-071	14	Iron	Key	19-07-2013	CDH
HVK13-50-072	14	Copper alloy		19-07-2013	CDH
HVK13-50-073	15	Copper alloy	Plate	19-07-2013	CDH
HVK13-50-074	15	Stone	Whetstone	19-07-2013	CDH
HVK13-50-075	16	Glass	Bead	19-07-2013	CDH
HVK13-50-076	16	Copper alloy		19-07-2013	CDH
HVK13-50-077	16	Copper alloy		19-07-2013	CDH
HVK13-50-078	16	Copper alloy	Nail	19-07-2013	CDH
HVK13-50-079	16	Iron		19-07-2013	CDH
HVK13-50-080	18	Copper alloy	Various	20-07-2013	CDH
HVK13-50-081	18	Iron	Nail	20-07-2013	CDH
HVK13-50-082	20	Copper alloy	Clench bolt	20-07-2013	CDH

Find no	Unit no.	Material	Object type	Retrival Date	ID
HVK13-50-083	14	Bone	Food waste	21-07-2013	CDH
HVK13-50-084	15	Bone	Food waste	21-07-2013	CDH
HVK13-50-085	16	Bone	Food waste	21-07-2013	CDH
HVK13-50-086	17	Bone	Food waste	21-07-2013	CDH
HVK13-50-087	18	Bone	Food waste	21-07-2013	CDH
HVK13-50-088	19	Bone	Food waste	21-07-2013	CDH
HVK13-50-089	20	Bone	Food waste	21-07-2013	CDH
HVK13-50-090	22	Bone	Food waste	21-07-2013	CDH
HVK13-50-091	22	Copper alloy	Object	22-07-2013	CDH
HVK13-50-092	23	Iron		22-07-2013	CDH
HVK13-50-093	23	Copper alloy	Object	22-07-2013	CDH
HVK13-50-094	23	Bone	Food waste	22-07-2013	CDH
HVK13-50-095	24	Copper alloy	Object	22-07-2013	CDH
HVK13-50-096	24	Wool	Clothing?	22-07-2013	CDH
HVK13-50-097	24	Copper alloy	Plate	22-07-2013	CDH
HVK13-50-098	24	Iron	Nail	22-07-2013	CDH
HVK13-50-099	24	Bone	Food waste	22-07-2013	CDH
HVK13-50-100	25	Iron	Nail	22-07-2013	CDH
HVK13-50-101	25	Stone	Weight	22-07-2013	CDH
HVK13-50-102	25	Bone	Food waste	22-07-2013	CDH
HVK13-50-103	26	Iron		22-07-2013	CDH
HVK13-50-104	26	Copper alloy	Button?	22-07-2013	CDH
HVK13-50-105	26	Bone	Food waste	22-07-2013	CDH
HVK13-50-106	27	Bone	Food waste	22-07-2013	CDH
HVK13-50-107	28	Iron	Plate	23-07-2013	CDH
HVK13-50-108	28	Wool	Clothing?	23-07-2013	CDH
HVK13-50-109	28	Ceramic	Vessel	23-07-2013	CDH
HVK13-50-110	28	Iron	Nail	23-07-2013	CDH
HVK13-50-111	29	Iron	Nail	23-07-2013	CDH
HVK13-50-112	29	Copper alloy	Plate	23-07-2013	CDH
HVK13-50-113	29	Iron	Plate	23-07-2013	CDH
HVK13-50-114	28	Stone	Weight	23-07-2013	CDH
HVK13-50-115	29	Bone	Food waste	24-07-2013	CDH
HVK13-50-116	29	Bone	Food waste	24-07-2013	CDH
HVK13-50-117	9	Stone	Weight	24-07-2013	CDH
HVK13-50-118	31	Bone	Food waste	24-07-2013	CDH
HVK13-50-119	32	Bone	Food waste	24-07-2013	CDH
HVK13-50-120	33	Bone	Food waste	24-07-2013	CDH
HVK13-50-121	33	Iron	Nail	24-07-2013	CDH
HVK13-50-122	33	Stone	Chalk?	24-07-2013	CDH
HVK13-50-123	34	Stone	Whetstone	24-07-2013	CDH
HVK13-50-124	34	Bone	Food waste	24-07-2013	CDH
HVK13-50-125	35	Bone	Food waste	25-07-2013	VF

Find no	Unit no.	Material	Object type	Retrival Date	ID
HVK13-50-126	35	Iron	Clench bolt	25-07-2013	VF
HVK13-50-127	35	Stone	Manuport	25-07-2013	VF
HVK13-50-128	35	Copper alloy		25-07-2013	VF
HVK13-50-129	33	Copper alloy		25-07-2013	VF
HVK13-50-130	35	Bone	Food waste	26-07-2013	VF
HVK13-50-131	35	Copper alloy		26-07-2013	VF
HVK13-50-132	35	Bone	Worked	26-07-2013	VF
HVK13-50-133	35	Bone	Worked	26-07-2013	VF
HVK13-50-134	35	Iron	Clench bolt	26-07-2013	VF
HVK13-50-135	35	Copper alloy		26-07-2013	VF
HVK13-50-136	35	Copper alloy		26-07-2013	VF
HVK13-50-137	35	Stone	Whetstone	26-07-2013	VF
HVK13-50-138	35	Stone	indeterminate	26-07-2013	VF
HVK13-50-139	35	Stone	indeterminate	26-07-2013	VF
HVK13-50-140	35	Iron	Nail	26-07-2013	VF
HVK13-50-141	35	Bone	Food waste	27-07-2013	VF
HVK13-50-142	36	Copper alloy	Pin	27-07-2013	CDH
HVK13-50-143	36	Bone	Food waste	27-07-2013	CDH
HVK13-50-144	35	Stone	Object	27-07-2013	CDH
HVK13-50-145	35	Stone	indeterminate	27-07-2013	CDH
HVK13-50-146	35	Bone	Worked	27-07-2013	CDH
HVK13-50-147	35	Iron		27-07-2013	CDH
HVK13-50-148	35	Copper alloy	Object	27-07-2013	CDH
HVK13-50-149	35	Iron	Slag	27-07-2013	CDH
HVK13-50-150	36	Stone	Weight	27-07-2013	CDH
HVK13-50-151	37	Iron	Clench bolt	27-07-2013	CDH
HVK13-50-152	37	Bone	Food waste	27-07-2013	CDH
HVK13-50-153	35	Bone	Worked	29-07-2013	CDH
HVK13-50-154	39	Bone	Food waste	29-07-2013	CDH
HVK13-50-155	HVK13a	Ceramic	Vessel	31-07-2013	CDH

HJÁLMARVÍK 2013 REGISTERS (HVK13-50-)

SAMPLE REGISTER

No	Area	Context	Vol.	Quanti-ty/Bags/ Buckets	Description	Date	ID
HVK13-50-1	M	6	3L	1	Bulk sample of shell layer	17-07-2013	MF
HVK13-50-2	M	11	-	1 small	Wood sample	18-07-2013	NR
HVK13-50-3	M	14	-	1 small	Wood sample	19-07-2013	CDH
HVK13-50-4	M	17	-	1 small	Wood sample	19-07-2013	CDH
HVK13-50-5	M	20	-	1 small	Bark? For ID	20-07-2013	CDH
HVK13-50-6	M	23	-	1 small	Wood sample	22-07-2013	CDH
HVK13-50-7	M	35	-	1 small	Wood sample	26-07-2013	VF
HVK13-50-1	B	5		1	Large wood piece from charcoal pit	29-07-2013	CDH
HVK13-50-2	B	5		1,5 L	Charcoal from charcoal pit	29-07-2013	CDH

APPENDIX II

KÚÐÁ 2013 REGISTERS (KDA13-50-)

UNIT REGISTER TRENCH 10

Unit No	Description	Date	ID
1	Windblown silt, mixed with soft charcoal flakes	15.7.2013	AD
2	Mottled windblown layer, yellowish and brownish, with patches of peat ash	15.7.2013	SÓ
3	Mottled turf debris layer in northern part of trench	15.7.2013	AD
4	Turf debris up against wall	15.7.2013	Uggi
5	Turf debris, possible addition to older wall; i.e. could represent younger phase of building structure and / or repairing / fixing older wall	16.7.2013	AD
9	Mixed turf collapse (possibly from roof)	16.7.2013	JHJ
12	Peatash layer (inside structure) laying against the wall	17.7.2013	JHJ
14	Turf leveling floor / possible floor layer in outhouse	17.7.2013	AD
16	Turf leveling floor in outhouse	18.7.2013	JHJ
17	Dark brown and firm layer with possible hay remains	18.7.2013	JHJ
18	Firm floor layer with turf and charcoal patches	18.7.2013	JHJ
20	Wall (repaired wall after 1477)	18.7.2013	JHJ
24	Wall-lining or base inside structure	19.7.2013	SÓ
26	Cut for wall lining / stall	19.7.2013	AD
27	1477 tephra (in situ)	19.7.2013	SÓ
28	Windblown silty layer with possible shadow of 1300 tephra	19.7.2013	SÓ
31	Mixed turf collapse inside wall	16.7.2013	SÓ
32	Turf debris layer inside structure	19.7.2013	JHJ
34	Orange and red turf collapse (inside structure)	19.7.2013	JHJ
35	Turf debris layer with thick and dense charcoal lenses	20.7.2013	SÓ
39	Windblown silt, mixed with turf and charcoal	22.7.2013	SÓ
40	Mottled windblown layer	22.7.2013	AD
41	Turf debris (same as [004])	22.7.2013	AD
42	Tephra 1477 (same as [027])	22.7.2013	AD
43	Windblown silty layer with possible shadow of 1300 tephra (same as [028])	22.7.2013	AD
44	Turf collapse outside wall	22.7.2013	SÓ
45	Mottled dark brown and gray fill in cut [047]	23.7.2013	SÓ
46	Charcoal fill in [047]	23.7.2013	AD
47	Cut for charcoal pit	23.7.2013	AD
48	Turf debris layer outside of wall	23.7.2013	SÓ
49	Turf debris layer with peat ash inclusions	23.7.2013	SÓ
50	Light brownish upcast layer outside of wall	23.7.2013	AD
51	Postholes inside structure	24.7.2013	AD
52	Posthole inside structure	24.7.2013	AD
53	Cut of posthole [051]	24.7.2013	SÓ

Unit No	Description	Date	ID
54	Cut of posthole [052]	24.7.2013	SÓ
55	Turf wall with line of stone at the outside	24.7.2013	SÓ
56	Very compact charcoal and peat ash deposit mixed with turf	24.7.2013	AD
57	Very clean and compact peat ash deposit with some charcoal lenses	24.7.2013	AD
58	Mottled peat ash and charcoal deposit with stones in the north east corner of trench, possible fill of [059]	24.7.2013	AD
59	Cut for shallow pit	24.7.2013	AD
60	Wall foundation	25.7.2013	SÓ
61	Peatash, ash and charcoal deposit along north end of trench	25.7.2013	AD
62	Group sheet of wall and posthole	25.7.2013	SÓ
63	Very mottled turf debris deposit, mixed with peatash and charcoal	25.7.2013	AD
64	Fill of circular hole under [063]	25.7.2013	SÓ
65	Cut of spade marks	25.7.2013	AD
66	Charcoal fill in circular pit at west side of trench	25.7.2013	AD
67	Cut of hearth	25.7.2013	SÓ
68	Very mottled turf debris deposit, mixed with peatash and charcoal. Leveling layer?	26.7.2013	AD
69	Peatash deposit with turf inclusions	26.7.2013	AD
70	Windblown material with turf patches	26.7.2013	AD
71	Peatash deposit with ash and charcoal	26.7.2013	AD
72	Gray and brown ash and turf debris	27.7.2013	AD
73	Dark brown and organic debris layer, possible hay remains	27.7.2013	AD
74	Turf debris layer	27.7.2013	AD
75	Deposit of charcoal and burnt bone	27.7.2013	SÓ
76	Upcast, medium brown layer with H3 spots and turf	29.7.2013	AD
77	Turf debris with tephra	29.7.2013	SÓ
78	Windblown material with charcoal flakes and turf patches	29.7.2013	SÓ
79	Sterile	29.7.2013	SÓ

KÚÐÁ 2013 REGISTERS (KDA13-50-)

FIND REGISTER

Find no	Unit	Grid	Material	Object type	Retrival date	ID
KDA13-50-001	topsoil	Test trench 10	Ceramic	Pipe	15,7,2013	JW
KDA13-50-002	topsoil	Test trench 10	Ceramic	Pottery	15,7,2013	UÆ
KDA13-50-003	1	Test trench 10	Ceramic	Pottery	15,7,2013	JHJ
KDA13-50-004	1	Test trench 10	Ceramic	Pottery	15,7,2013	JHJ
KDA13-50-005	2	Test trench 10	Fe	Nail	15,7,2013	AD
KDA13-50-006	6	Test trench 10	Stone	Whetstone	16,7,2013	AD
KDA13-50-007	topsoil	Test trench 11	Ceramic	Pottery	16,7,2013	UÆ
KDA13-50-008	7	Test trench 10	Composite	Knife	16,7,2013	SÓ
KDA13-50-009	7	Test trench 10	wood	Unknown	16,7,2013	JHJ
KDA13-50-010	7	Test trench 10	Stone	Manuport	16,7,2013	AD
KDA13-50-011	7	Test trench 10	Stone	Loom weight	16,7,2013	AD
KDA13-50-013	12	Test trench 10	Led	Dress accessori	17,7,2013	SÓ
KDA13-50-014	12	Test trench 10	Fe	Nail	17,7,2013	SÓ
KDA13-50-015	12	Test trench 10	Ceramic	Pottery	17,7,2013	SÓ
KDA13-50-017	11	Test trench 11	Fe	Slag	17,7,2013	UÆ
KDA13-50-018	11	Test trench 11	Stone		17,7,2013	UÆ
KDA13-50-019	12	Test trench 10	Glass	Bottle	17,7,2013	SÓ
KDA13-50-021	19	Test trench 12	Copper alloy	18,7,2013	UÆ	
KDA13-50-022	21	Test trench 12	Fe	Unknown	18,7,2013	JHJ
KDA13-50-023	37	Test trench 15	Fe	Nail	20,7,2013	JHJ
KDA13-50-024	topsoil	Test trench 10	Fe	Horseshoe	20,7,2013	SÓ
KDA13-50-025	1	Test trench 10	Fe	Nail	22,7,2013	SÓ
KDA13-50-026	41	Test trench 10	Copper alloy	Clench bolt	22,7,2013	AD
KDA13-50-027	43	Test trench 10	Stone	Manuport	22,7,2013	AD
KDA13-50-028	49	Test trench 10	Fe	Unknown	22,7,2013	SÓ
KDA13-50-029	49	Test trench 10	Stone	Manuport	23,7,2013	SÓ
KDA13-50-030	50	Test trench 10	Fe	Nail	23,7,2013	AD
KDA13-50-031	50	Test trench 10	Stone	Whetstone	23,7,2013	SÓ
KDA13-50-032	56	Test trench 10	Fe	Object	24,7,2013	AD
KDA13-50-033	56	Test trench 10	Fe	Knife?	24,7,2013	AD
KDA13-50-034	61	Test trench 10	Fe	Hook	24,7,2013	AD
KDA13-50-035	61	Test trench 10	Fe	Nail	24,7,2013	AD
KDA13-50-036	58	Test trench 10	Fe	Nail	24,7,2013	AD
KDA13-50-037	60	Test trench 10	Stone	Flint	25,7,2013	SÓ
KDA13-50-038	60	Test trench 10	Slag	Slag	25,7,2013	SÓ
KDA13-50-039	63	Test trench 10	wood		25,7,2013	SÓ
KDA13-50-040	63	Test trench 10	Stone	Spindle whorl	25,7,2013	SÓ
KDA13-50-041	63	Test trench 10	Stone	Loom weight	25,7,2013	AD

Find no	Unit	Grid	Material	Object type	Retrival date	ID
KDA13-50-042	63	Test trench 10	Stone	Object	25,7,2013	SÓ
KDA13-50-043	63	Test trench 10	Fe	Object	25,7,2013	SÓ
KDA13-50-044	68	Test trench 10	Fe	Object	26,7,2013	SÓ
KDA13-50-045	68	Test trench 10	Fe	Nail	26,7,2013	SÓ
KDA13-50-046	68	Test trench 10	Fe	Hook	26,7,2013	SÓ
KDA13-50-047	68	Test trench 10	Stone	Manuport	26,7,2013	SÓ
KDA13-50-048	69	Test trench 10	Fe	Fitting	26,7,2013	SÓ
KDA13-50-049	70	Test trench 10	Fe	Clench bolt	26,7,2013	SÓ
KDA13-50-050	72	Test trench 10	Stone	Manuport	27,7,2013	SÓ
KDA13-50-051	74	Test trench 10	Fe	Rivet	27,7,2013	AD
KDA13-50-052	74	Test trench 10	Fe	Clench bolt	27,7,2013	AD
KDA13-50-053	74	Test trench 10	Fe	Nail	27,7,2013	SÓ
KDA13-50-054	74	Test trench 10	Slag	Slag	30,7,2013	AD

KÚÐÁ 2013 REGISTERS (KDA13-50-)

BONE REGISTER

Bone no	Area	Unit	Qty	Description	Date	Id
KDA13-50-001	TT 10	2	1 bag	Animal bones	15.7.2013	AD
KDA13-50-002	TT 10	3	1 bag	Animal bones	16.7.2013	AD
KDA13-50-003	TT 10	5	1 bag	Animal bones	16.7.2013	AD
KDA13-50-004	TT 10	7	1 bag	Animal bones	17.7.2013	AD
KDA13-50-005	TT 10	12	2 bags	Animal bones	17.7.2013	AD
KDA13-50-006	TT 11	8	1 bag	Animal bones	17.7.2013	UÆ
KDA13-50-007	TT 11	11	1 bag	Animal bones	17.7.2013	UÆ
KDA13-50-008	TT 10	63	1 bag	Animal bones	31.7.2013	AD
KDA13-50-009	TT 10	x	1 bag	Animal bones	31.7.2013	NR (GAG)
KDA13-50-010	TT 10	18	1 bag	Animal bones	18.7.2013	JHJ (GAG)
KDA13-50-011	TT 13	1	1 bag	Animal bones	31.7.2013	UÆ (GAG)
KDA13-50-012	TT 10	0	1 bag	Animal bones	31.7.2013	SÓ (GAG)

KÚÐÁ 2013 REGISTERS (KDA13-50-)

SAMPLE REGISTER

Sample no	Area	Unit	Qty	Description	Sample for	Date	Id
KDA13-50-001	TT 10	2	1 bag	Peat ash	Flotation	15.7.2013	UÆ
KDA13-50-002	TT 10	4	1 small bag	Burned bones	Id	16.7.2013	JHJ
KDA13-50-003	TT 10	11	1 small bag	Charcoal	Id	17.7.2013	UÆ
KDA13-50-004	TT 10	12	1 small bag	Charcoal	Id	17.7.2013	SÓ
KDA13-50-005	TT 10	14	1 small bag	Hay?Organic material	Archaeoentomology/ Archaeobotany	17.7.2013	AD
KDA13-50-006	TT 10	16	1 large bag	Floor deposit	Archaeoentomology/ Archaeobotany	18.7.2013	SÓ
KDA13-50-007	TT 10	17	1 large bag	Floor deposit	Archaeoentomology/ Archaeobotany	18.7.2013	AD
KDA13-50-008	TT 10	18	1 large bag	Floor deposit	Archaeoentomology/ Archaeobotany	18.7.2013	SÓ
KDA13-50-009	TT 10	27	1 small bag	Tephra 1477?	Id	19.7.2013	SÓ
KDA13-50-010	TT 10	35	1 small bag	Charcoal	Id	20.7.2013	SÓ
KDA13-50-011	TT 10	46	1 large bag	Charcoal	Archaeoentomology/ Archaeobotany	23.7.2013	AD
KDA13-50-012	TT 10	46	1 small bag	Charcoal	Id	23.7.2013	AD
KDA13-50-013	TT 10	55	1 small bag	Tephra	Id	23.7.2013	SÓ
KDA13-50-014	TT 10	58	1 med bag	Charcoal	Id	24.7.2013	AD
KDA13-50-015	TT 10	63	1 med bag	Charcoal	Id	25.7.2013	AD
KDA13-50-016	TT 10	66	1 large bag	Charcoal	Archaeoentomology/ Archaeobotany	25.7.2013	AD
KDA13-50-017	TT 10	66	1 small bag	Charcoal	Id	25.7.2013	AD
KDA13-50-018	TT 10	71	1 small bag	Charcoal	Id	26.7.2013	SÓ
KDA13-50-019	TT 10	73	1 large bag	Organic material	Archaeoentomology/ Archaeobotany	27.7.2013	AD
KDA13-50-020	TT 10	71	1 med bag	Peat ash	Archaeoentomology/ Archaeobotany	29.7.2013	AD
KDA13-50-021	TT 10	76	1 small bag	Levelling deposit/upcast	Archaeoentomology/ Archaeobotany	29.7.2013	SÓ
KDA13-50-022	TT 10	76	1 small bag	Charcoal	Id	29.7.2013	SÓ

KDA13-50-023	TT 10	76	1 small bag	Wood fragments	Id	29.7.2013	SÓ
KDA13-50-024	TT 10	77	1 small bag	Tephra	Id	29.7.2013	AD
KDA13-50-025	TT 10	77	2 large bags	Turf debris	Archaeoentomology/ Archaeobotany	29.7.2013	AD
KDA13-50-026	TT 10	78	1 small bag	Charcoal	Id	29.7.2013	AD
KDA13-50-027	TT 14	X	1 small bag	Charcoal	Id	31.7.2013	NR (GAG)
KDA13-50-028	TT 14	X	1 med bag	Peat ash	Flotation	31.júl	NR (GAG)

KÚÐÁ 2013 REGISTERS (KDA13-50-)

TEST TRENCH 11 / SKURÐUR 11
UNIT REGISTER

Unit	Description	Date	Id
10	Turf debris	16.7.2013	Uggi
11	Midden material	17.7.2013	Uggi
13	Sterile	17.7.2013	Uggi
114	Tephra 1477	17.7.2013	Uggi

KÚÐÁ 2013 REGISTERS (KDA13-50-)

TEST TRENCH 12 / SKURÐUR 12
UNIT REGISTER

Unit	Description	Date	Id
19	Dark brown reddish layer with 1477 in it	18.7.2013	Uggi
21	Darkbrown layer with patches of peatash and charcoal	18.7.2013	Uggi
22	Organic dark brown layer	18.7.2013	JHJ
23	Stripe of charcoal in the middle of the trench and brown soil	18.7.2013	JHJ
25	Section of test trench 12 (north and east section)	19.7.2013	JHJ

KÚÐÁ 2013 REGISTERS (KDA13-50-)

TEST TRENCH 13 / SKURÐUR 13
UNIT REGISTER

Unit	Description	Date	Id
108	Topsoil	18.7.2013	JHJ
109	Peatash	18.7.2013	JHJ
110	Organic	18.7.2013	JHJ
111	Tephra 1477	18.7.2013	JHJ
112	Organic	18.7.2013	JHJ
113	Mix of H3, Sterile	18.7.2013	JHJ

KÚÐÁ 2013 REGISTERS (KDA13-50-)

TEST TRENCH 14 / SKURÐUR 14
UNIT REGISTER

Unit	Description	Date	Id
80	Soil A Horizon, medium brown silt, roots	30.7.2013	JW
81	Gray-greenish brown dense silty peat with well decomposed organic matter. Lense of dark gray ash.	30.7.2013	JW
82	Dark gray-green coarse silty tephra: V1477	30.7.2013	JW
83	Laminated gray-brown to red-brown silty peat, dense, firm and welldecomposed, with trace of charcoal	30.7.2013	JW
84	1300 tephra	30.7.2013	JW
85	Laminated gray-brown to red-brown silty peat, dense, firm and welldecomposed, with trace of charcoal	30.7.2013	JW
86	Reddish brown to pink silty peat ash with fine charcoal. Two lenses?	30.7.2013	JW
87	Beige-gray leached peat with iron stain	30.7.2013	JW
88	Red-orange well decomposed peat, strongly iron stained. Lense of 940 tephra present.	30.7.2013	JW
89	Laminated tan to gray well decomposed peat	30.7.2013	JW
90	Medium gray silt:unidentified tephra. Provisionaly id. as H3 tephra.	30.7.2013	JW
115	Laminated tan to gray well decomposed peat	30.7.2013	JW
116	Red-orange well decomposed peat, strongly iron stained	30.7.2013	JW

KÚÐÁ 2013 REGISTERS (KDA13-50-)

TEST TRENCH 15 / SKURÐUR 15
UNIT REGISTER

Unit	Description	Date	Id
91	Topsoil	31.7.2013	CDH
92	1477 tephra (in situ)	31.7.2013	CDH
93	Light brown turf	31.7.2013	CDH
94	1300 tephra	31.7.2013	CDH
95	Medium grayish brown silt with charcoal	31.7.2013	CDH
96	Cut for single use hearth?	31.7.2013	CDH
97	Fill of cut [096], peatash, bright with black lower interfach	31.7.2013	CDH
98	Peat ash, mottled with ash	31.7.2013	CDH
99	Cut for single use hearth?	31.7.2013	CDH
100	Quite pink and clean peat ash	31.7.2013	CDH
101	Dark brown organic silt	31.7.2013	CDH
102	Medium gray ash	31.7.2013	CDH
103	Orange turf mottled with charcoal	31.7.2013	CDH
104	Gray ash mottled with orange turf lenses	31.7.2013	CDH
105	Pinkish to light brown silt with beige patches (small)	31.7.2013	CDH
106	Dark brown organic silt with traces of twigs	31.7.2013	CDH
107	Sterile	31.7.2013	CDH

APPENDIX III

SVALBARÐ 2013 REGISTERS (SVB13-50-)

UNIT REGISTER: Table 1 Groups 008/009 Midden Stratigraphic Description

Unit	Description	
1	Topsoil, medium brown organic silt with roots and grass	Deposit/ Natural soil
2	Yellowish grey-brown silty loam, friable, mottled, diffuse contacts. Rare charcoal and bone. Disturbed wind-blown organic silt.	Deposit
3	Loose silty grey-pink peat and wood ash deposit with charcoal, animal bone, possible traces of slag	Deposit
4	Layer of grey loose silty ashy deposit with bone and charcoal overlying a soft red-brown silty organic-rich turf (windblown?) deposit, also with charcoal and animal bone	Deposit
5	Compact, dark-grey brown ashy organic silt, charcoal and rich in animal bones	Deposit
6	Red-brown dense organic silt. Inclusion s of red-orange turf, tephra patches, mammal and fish bone, charcoal	Deposit
7	Grey silty ashy midden deposit. Soft, Charcoal, bone, shell, turf inclusions. Linked with 010.	Deposit
8	Soft, medium to dark grey mottled with light grey silty ash deposit. Bone, small to fine charcoal. Highly undulating, irregular upper and lower contacts	Deposit
9	Grey silty ash deposit (wood ash?), birch twigs, burned twigs, charcoal, burnt bone, bone	Deposit
10	Medium brown organic silt and grey ash deposit, friable. Turf rubble, twigs, bone, ash.	Deposit
11	Soft, medium to dark grey mottled with light grey silty ash deposit. Bone, small to fine charcoal. Highly undulating, irregular upper and lower contacts	Deposit
12	Dense to friable, dark brown to red-brown to mottled orange-brown silty turf with V1477 (and H1300?) tephra streaks, birch twigs, burnt dung, charcoal, shell and animal bones, deepest and dipping to the N and W of trench	Deposit
13	Loose, grey silty wood ash deposit, animal bones. Dips to NW, absent in East and South	Deposit
14	Greyish pink soft silty peat ash layer with mammal and fish bone, present in south and west portion of trench	Deposit
15	Very heterogeneous dump layer with pink and medium brown ash with coarse black spots. Widespread thin charcoal lenses at upper contact. Mammal and fish bone, shell, charcoal, slag, iron fragments and copper artifacts.	Deposit
16	Heterogeneous layer of coarse orange-brown to grey-brown silty turf rubble containing H1300 and V1477 tephras (lying in all orientations), mostly absent in SE	Deposit
17	Pink-brown silty peat ash with grey wood ash, charcoal, turf and bone inclusions	Deposit
18	Soft, medium to dark grey silty ash deposit with fish and mammal bone, charcoal inclusions. Iron, copper artifacts	Deposit

SVALBARÐ 2013 REGISTERS (SVB13-50-)

SAMPLE REGISTER: Table 2 Zooarchaeological Samples

Site	Museum no	Bone no	Grid	Context	Qty	Notes	Description
SVB13	50	1	8	1	1	1 large	Animal bones
SVB13	50	2	8	2	1	1 large	Animal bones
SVB13	50	3	8	3	1	1 large	Animal bones
SVB13	50	4	8	4	1	1 large	Animal bones
SVB13	50	5	8	5	1	1 med	Animal bones
SVB13	50	6	8	6	4	2 med, 2 large	Animal bones
SVB13	50	7	8	7	5	3 med, 2 large	Animal bones
SVB13	50	8	8	10	7	6 med, 1 large	Animal bones
SVB13	50	9	8	11	2	2 med	Animal bones
SVB13	50	10	8	12	1	1 med	Animal bones
SVB13	50	11	8	13	1	1 large	Animal bones
SVB13	50	12	8	14	4	4 large	Animal bones
SVB13	50	13	9	1	1	1 small	Animal bones
SVB13	50	14	9	7	1	1 large	Animal bones
SVB13	50	15	9	10	1	1 large	Animal bones
SVB13	50	16	9	11	1	1 small	Animal bones
SVB13	50	17	9	12	1	1 large	Animal bones
SVB13	50	18	8	15	3	3 large	Animal bones
SVB13	50	19	8	16	2	2 large	Animal bones
SVB13	50	20	8	17	12	12 large	Animal bones
SVB13	50	21	8	18	3	3 large	Animal bones

SVALBARÐ 2013 REGISTERS (SVB13-50-)

SAMPLE REGISTER: Table 3 Miscellaneous Samples

Site	Museum no	Sample no	Context	Grid	Qty	Notes	Description
SVB13	50	1	10	8	1	1 small	Charcoal
SVB13	50	2	14	8	1	1 small	Charcoal
SVB13	50	3	6	8	1	1 small	Shell
SVB13	50	4	13	8	1	1 small	Shell
SVB13	50	5	18	8	1	1 small	Charcoal
SVB13	50	6	17	8	1	1 small	Charcoal
SVB13	50	7	17	8	1	1 small	Charcoal
SVB13	50	8	16	8	1	1 small	Charcoal
SVB13	50	9	18	8	1	1 small	Charcoal
SVB13	50	10	16	8	1	1 med	Wood

Site	Museum no	Sample no	Context	Grid	Qty	Notes	Description
SVB13	50	11	17	8	1	1 med	Charcoal
SVB13	50	12	15	8	1	1 med	Shell
SVB13	50	13	15	8	1	1 med	Shell
SVB13	50	14	15	8	1	1 med	Shell
SVB13	50	15	15	8	1	1 large	Charcoal
SVB13	50	16	18	8	1	1 small	Shell
SVB13	50	17	17	8	1	1 med	Shell
SVB13	50	18	18	8	1	1 small	Charcoal

SVALBARÐ 2013 REGISTERS (SVB13-50-)

SAMPLE REGISTER: Table 4 Svalbarð Homefield Samples

Site	Mus. Number	Sample No.	Group	Qty	Description
SVB 13	50	19	10	1	kubeina soil box sample
SVB 13	50	20	10	1	kubeina soil box sample
SVB 13	50	21	10	1	kubeina soil box sample
SVB 13	50	22	10	1	kubeina soil box sample
SVB 13	50	23	10	1	kubeina soil box sample
SVB 13	50	24	10	1	kubeina soil box sample

APPENDIX IV

SJÓHÚSAVÍK 2013 REGISTERS (SJV13-50-)

UNIT REGISTER

Sitenumber	Unit no	Area	Type	Description
SJV13-50	1	4	Deposit	Topsoil. Darkbrown with tephra V1477 at the base
SJV13-50	2	4	Deposit	Medium brown soil and windblown. Patches of tephra windblown H1300?
SJV13-50	3	4	Structure	Wall running E-W. Later phase.
SJV13-50	4	4	Structure	Wall running N-S. Earlier phase.
SJV13-50	5	4	Deposit	Turfy material and windblown with patches of H3 and H1300
SJV13-50	6	4	Cut	Cut for posthole
SJV13-50	7	4	Fill	Fill in posthole 7
SJV13-50	8	4	Cut	Cut for posthole
SJV13-50	9	4	Fill	Fill in posthole 8
SJV13-50	10	4	Deposit	Turf collapse windblown
SJV13-50	11	4	Tephra	V-1477

SJÓHÚSAVÍK 2013 REGISTERS (SJV13-50-)

FIND REGISTER

Site and no	Find no	Unit no	Material type	Object type
SJV13-50	1	2	Iron	Nail
SJV13-50	2	2	Bone	Whalebone
SJV13-50	3	5	Iron	Nail
SJV13-50	4	5	Iron	Nail
SJV13-50	5	5	Copper Alloy	
SJV13-50	6	5	Iron	Nail
SJV13-50	7	5	Iron	Nail

SJÓHÚSAVÍK 2013 REGISTERS (SJV13-50-)

SAMPLE REGISTER

Site and no	Sample no	Area	Unit no	Quant bag	Description
SJV13-50	1	4	5	1	Small charcoal sample

APPENDIX V

REGISTERS FROM BÆGISTAÐIR **(BST13-50-)**

Sample Register

Site and research no	Sample no	Unit no	Description
BST13-50	1	North structure section	Tephra 1477?
BST13-50	2		Tephra 1300?
BST13-50	3		Tephra 1300?
BST13-50	4	1 m BS	Charcoal piece
BST13-50	5	14 cm below T1 (1477)	Charcoal piece
BST13-50	6	above 1477	Kubeina tin 1
BST13-50	7	below 1477	Kubeina tin 2
BST13-50	8	above 1300?	Kubeina tin 3
BST13-50	9	below 1300?	Kubeina tin 4