Investigations into the Gásir Hinterlands and Eyjafjörður Human Ecodynamics: Preliminary Field Report of the 2013 Skuggi and Staðartunga Excavations in Hörgárdalur, Eyjafjörður

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Summary

This is a preliminary report on the 2013 field season at Skuggi. The 2013 Skuggi midden and structural excavations are a continuation of work started there in 2008 and 2009. In a continued effort to investigate the long term Eyjafjörður Human Ecodynamics, an international team cooperated in carrying out a program of survey, coring, and small scale test excavation on selected sites in the Eyjafjörður region in North Iceland. This past season saw the team picking up from where they had left off after completion of the initial Gásir Hinterlands Project (GHP) which was part of a planned multi-season collaborative investigation of the hinterlands surrounding the medieval seasonal trading center at Gásir, partially funded by a NSF International Polar Year (IPY) grant (ARC 0732327), and largely made possibly by a NSF Dissertation Improvement Grant (ARC 0809033) to Harrison, and by Fornminjasjóður (the Icelandic University Research Grant) to Roberts. Prior work at Gásir indicated that this medieval (ca. AD 1250 – 1400) trading center was provisioned from a wide economic catchment area and that investigations needed to be extended to include the surrounding landscape (e.g., Roberts 2009, 2010; Harrison 2010, 2013; Harrison et al. 2008, Vésteinsson 2011). Work conducted in 2013 was supported by a US NSF Comparative Island Ecodynamics Project (CIE) grant (ARC 1202692).

Participants

Project directors 2013: Ramona Harrison (CUNY) and Howell M. Roberts (FSÍ)

Project collaborators: Howell M. Roberts (FSÍ), Ramona Harrison (CUNY)

Senior advisors: T. H. McGovern (CUNY), Orri Vésteinsson (FSÍ)

Survey advisor: Elín Ósk Hreiðarsdóttir (FSÍ)

Excavation crew: Aaron Kendall, Brenda Prehal, Howell M. Roberts, Konrad Smiarowski, Michael Nielsen, Norie Manigault, Ramona Harrison, and Sant-Mukh Khalsa.

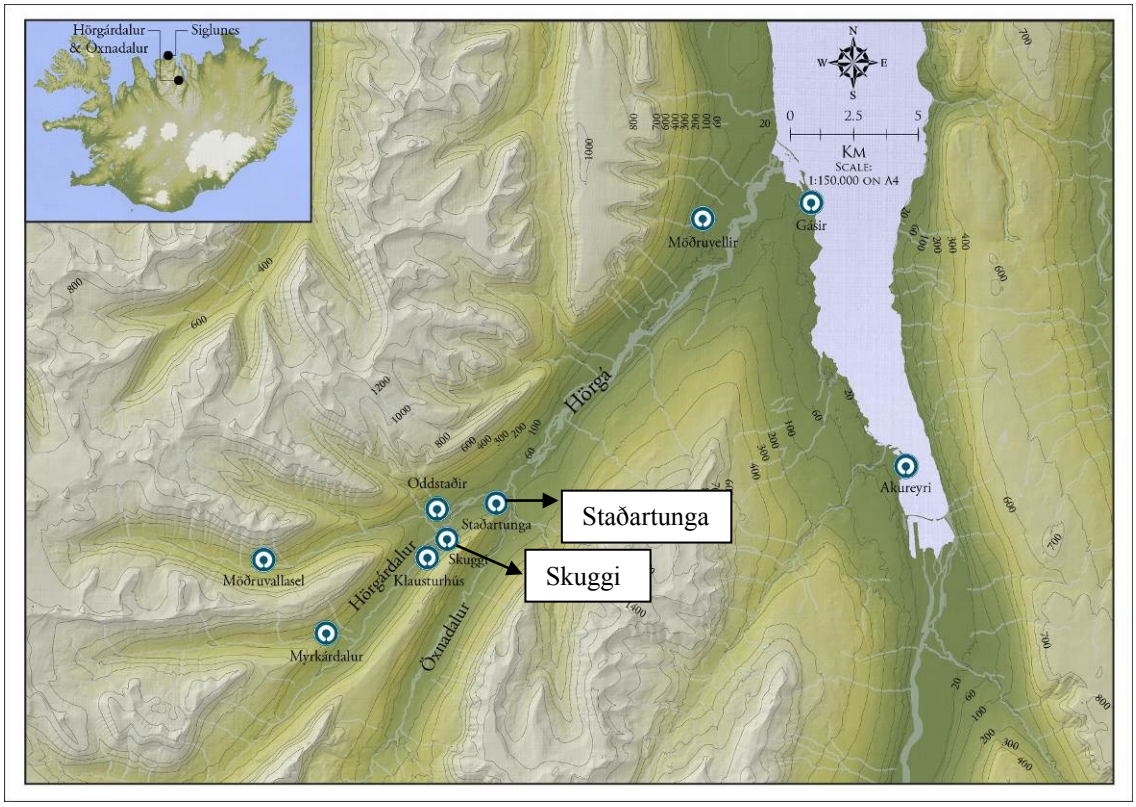

Figure 1. Map of Iceland, locating the Eyjafjörður and Hörgárdalur sites investigated as part of the larger regional project, including Skuggi and Staðartunga (Map Source: Gísli Pálsson, FSÍ).

Introduction

The aims of the 2013 Skuggi and Staðartunga excavations were:

1. to continue excavation work at Skuggi Trench 1, where the extent of the structure was to be defined.

2. to locate and test other structures at Skuggi for use and chronology of those features that presumably were more recent in time than the structure discovered in TR1;

3. to investigate the cultural remains observed in the small midden mound at Staðartunga.

The team managed to locate all four walls and corners of the structure in TR1 and stratigraphically excavated the extended area to match up with the various occupation phases established through radiocarbon analysis on terrestrial mammal bone and the existent tephra chronology. Animal bones from the midden basal layers inside the structure and sampled in 2009 were AMS C14 dated to as early as ca. AD 970. According to the dated archaeofauna from the midden upper layers, use of this particular area at Skuggi ended some time during the 12th century AD (AMS

C14 dated to ca. AD 1208 for latest activity). All currently available archaeological materials are sealed by a H1300 tephra layer and most also by a H1104 layer. Though it is not strictly contemporaneous with the Gásir archaeofauna, the Skuggi cultural remains provide valuable insight into the dynamics of small-scale farming and possibly the eventual wool surplus production development between the 10th and 12th centuries (Harrison 2013). One remarkable artifact recovered from the midden deposits just north and outside of the structure seems to be a part of a Viking Age folding scale, made from copper alloy – likely bronze (finds number:SKÖ-13-37-353, context [546]). This is one out of only few scales recovered from Iceland, and is very well provenienced. This part of the Skuggi cultural remains as well as all other finds and environmental samples from Skuggi and Staðartunga are currently under analysis. Terrestrial mammal bones from context [546] are currently analyzed for AMS C14 dates.

Figure 2. Skuggi TR1, Arms of a folding scale recovered from context [546], finds number: SKÖ-13-37-353; measurements in cm. (Picture: Harrison).

Most of the work not related to Skuggi TR1 was carried out by second–phase investigations involving systematic coring (using a tube-type Oakfield soil corer) to locate probable midden deposits and investigate them through small scale

trenches to test conditions of preservation and document possible tephra. This field report provides a preliminary overview as a result of this regional second-phase survey investigation. The authors plan for a full post-excavation report and ensuing monograph following the 2014 field season which will be the final field season sponsored by CIE grant money.

Excavations

SKUGGI, SKÖ 2013-37; EY-215:009

65°39.743'N, 18°28.782'W, 170 m elev (WGS 84)

E523916, N573958, Z104m.asl (ISN93)

Skuggi is located up-slope from the road down in Hörgá Valley. At an elevation of 104m above sea level, it is a 10 minute walk from Skuggabrú, the bridge leading the road across the Hörgá. The slope levels out slightly in the area of the archeological ruins, but just south of it continues again uphill to Staðartunguháls, a peak belonging to the mountain range dividing Öxnadalur from Hörgárdalur.

The survey plan in fig. 4 outlines two structural remains and a potential midden observed at Skuggi during the 2004 Hörgárdalur survey (Hreiðarsdóttir and Pétursdóttir 2008, 232, cropped by RH). The midden labeled C may be contemporaneous with at least one of the visible ruins. Mound C´s partial excavation has resulted in TR 1 and the discovery of at least one structure below the series of household refuse layers which may have accumulated over a 250 year time span.

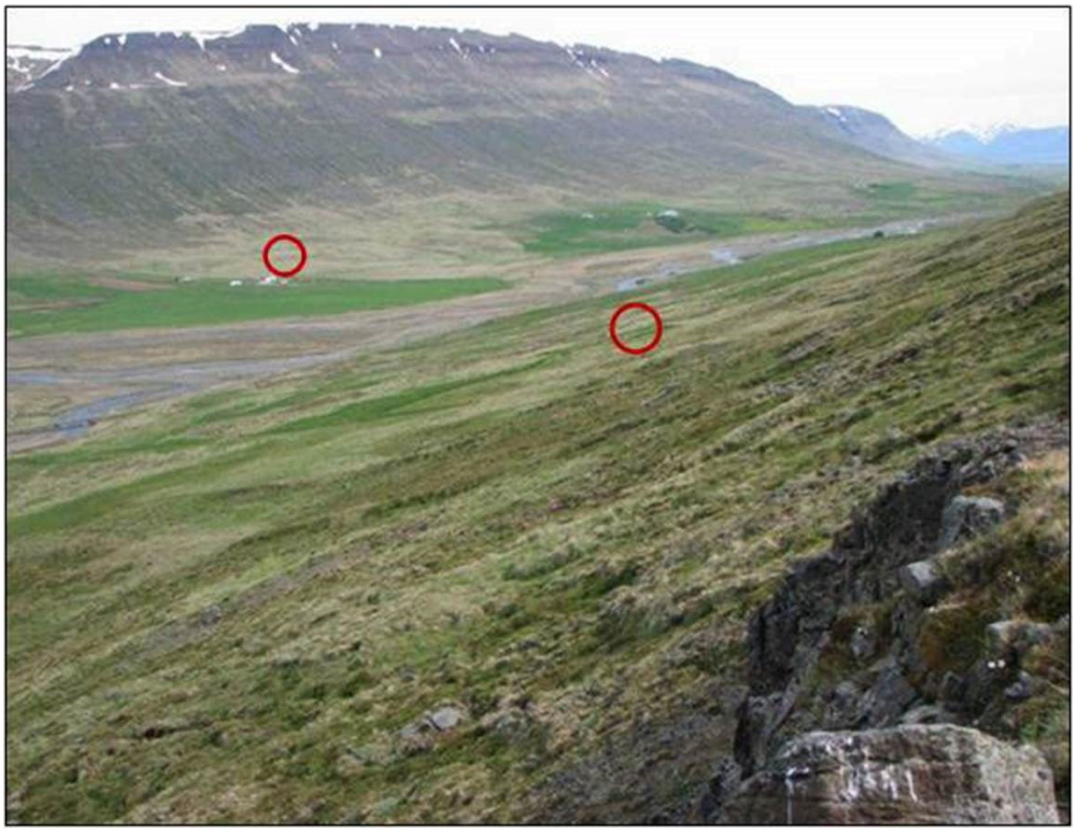

Figure 3. The Skuggi site on the right of the picture, facing ENE. On the left, and across the Hörgá river, the Oddstaðir site is indicated. (Picture: Harrison).

This picture demonstrates the steep sloped mountain location of the Skuggi site. According the animal bone analysis (e.g., Harrison 2013) and the recovered finds and structural remains, this site was of relatively low status. Investigating the structures indicated as A and B in the survey plan may help to better understand the reason for this site´s existence, its settlement chronology, and the prevailing environmental conditions at time of settlement and thereafter.

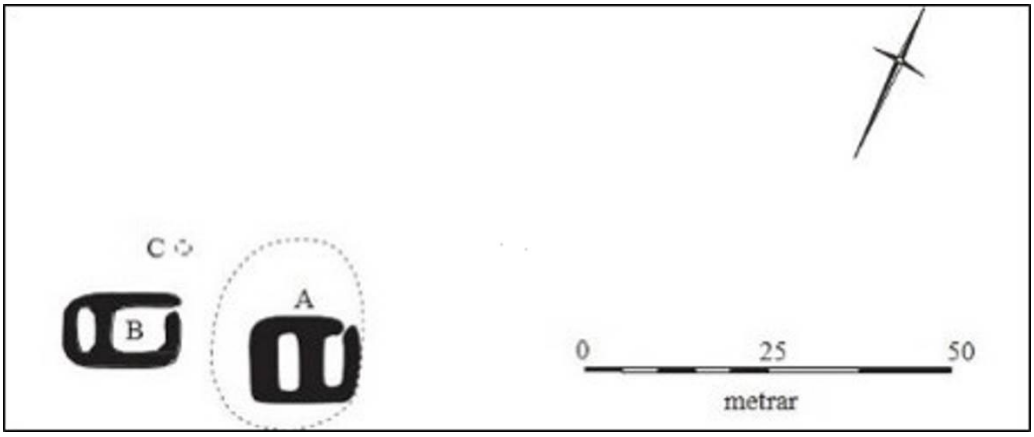

Figure 4. Survey map of Skuggi ruins A, B and midden C where TR 1 was placed (Hreiðarsdóttir and Pétursdóttir 2008, 232).

Trench 1 (TR1)

In 2013, the midden site in Trench 1 was extended to allow for further collection of more substantial faunal materials, but also to reveal the Viking Age structure containing these materials (for more detail on the original Skuggi TR1, see Harrison 2010).

Figure 5. Beginning of the season, TR1 as of 2009, and extended for 2013; picture facing North (Photo: Harrison and Roberts).

At the end of the 2009 field season, Trench 1 (TR1) at Skuggi had been emptied of all midden materials and revealed the walls of a structure. The team had taken great care to not damage this wall and to also keep the floor layers covered as to not influence preservation of organic materials contained in the floor layers (Harrison 2010). In 2013, the team extended this trench to a total of 36 m^2 (6 m by 6 m) to locate the entire extent of the structure. The extended trench area was excavated in the single-context method and the team came down to the same phase as that from the original trench. Artifact and environmental materials are currently under analysis. The Skuggi finds are listed in appendix I, the faunal samples in appendix, registers of contexts, environmental samples, and faunal samples are listed in appendix V.

The Skuggi Harris Matrix in appendix III will put the information in better context.

TR1 Site use and date chronology

Radiocarbon dating of the faunal remains combined with tephra layer analysis revealed a midden deposit sequence from ca. AD 970 to ca. AD 1208. The original use of this structure is as of yet unclear, but it is safe to assume that this was one of, if not the, earliest building(s) at this site. Radiocarbon samples taken in 2013 are still under analysis, but according to the stratigraphic sequence from the 2013 excavation of predominantly external midden layers composed of turf collapse and peat ash layers, the building had seen at least one architectural alteration by ca. AD 970, and it may have also seen a different use at this point.

Figure 6. End of excavation picture of Viking Age structure in TR 1, picture facing NNW. (Picture: Roberts and Harrison).

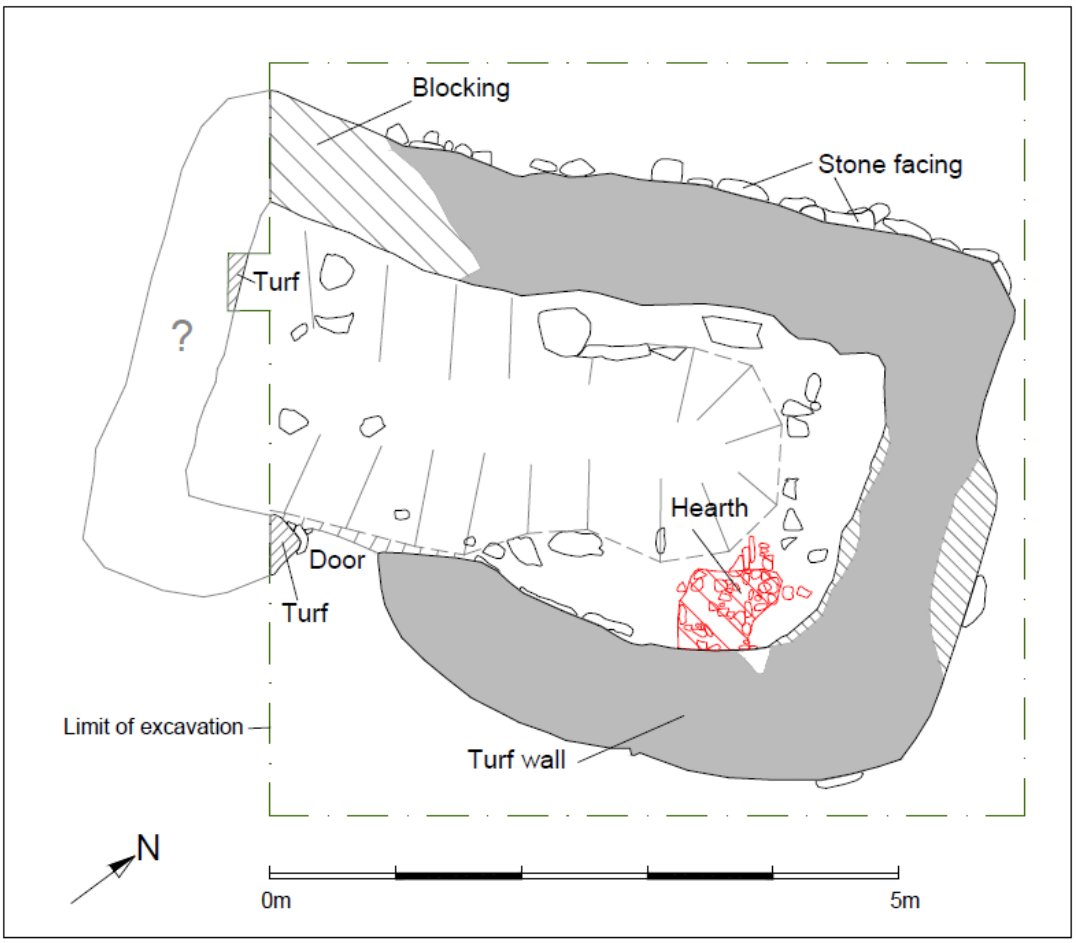

Figure 7. Multi-context plan of the Skuggi Structure (drawing by Howell Roberts).

Clearly, an extension needs to be made to uncover the entire structure, and to fully understand the earlier midden deposits found on the outside of the structure. These midden deposits just north of the structure might be contemporaneous with the earliest activities on site, but more investigation is necessary. The unexcavated floor layers may bring to light the function of this structure, and possible give more indication on site status during the Viking Age, possibly even during early Settlement around the 9th century AD.

Figure 8. Viking Age structure in TR 1, eastern portion of the northern wall, suggesting a repaired wall segment where turves had been arranged in a herring bone pattern. (Picture: Roberts and Harrison).

The afore mentioned scale fragment, and the substantial architecture (see fig. 8) suggest that at least during early occupation, people planned on living there for some period of time. A final excavation season may reveal why this particular structure fell out of use as a living area fairly early on

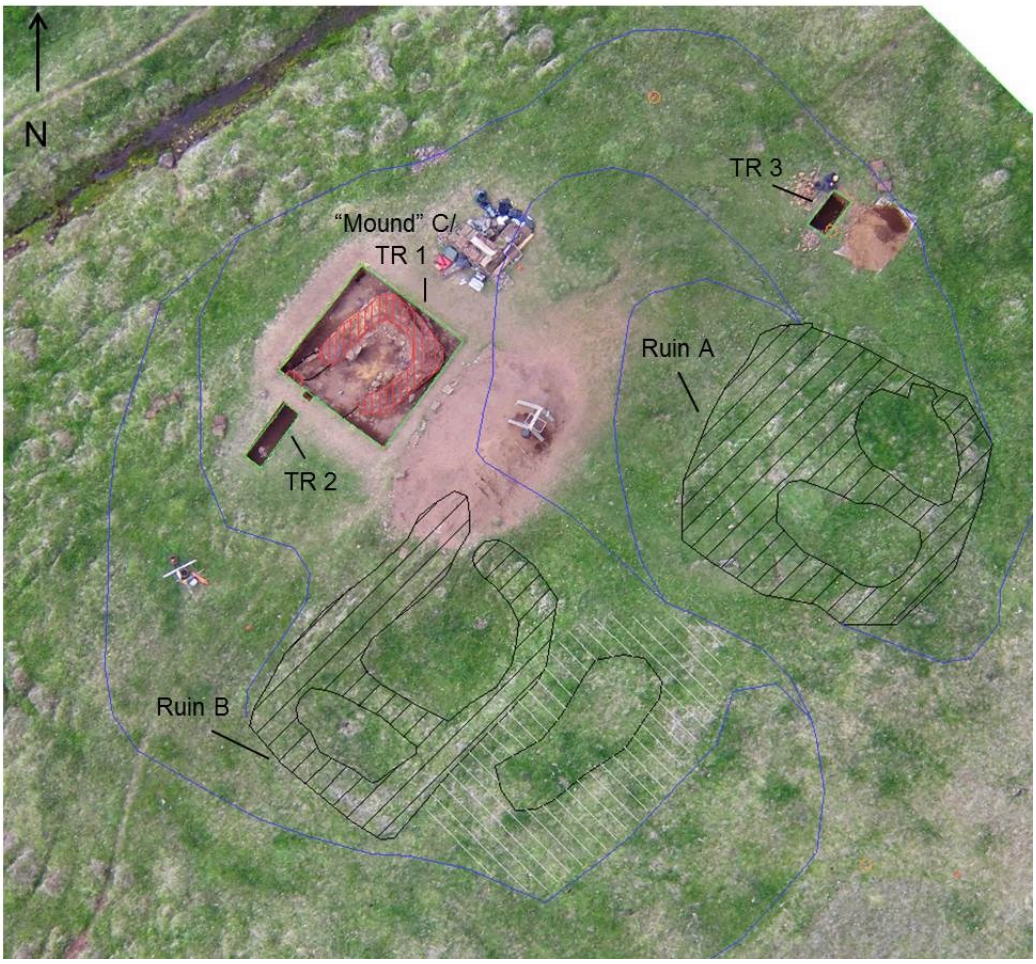

Figure 9. Skuggi site, showing TR1, TR2, and TR3, as well as structures A and B indicated on the survey plan. The uncovered structure is in the space marked as C on the survey plan (fig. 4). (Photo: Garðar Guðmundsson; Drawing: Howell Roberts).

The kite photo in figure 9 outlines the visible archaeology to be dealt with in the coming field season, with additional structures and features potentially still uncovered and invisible from the surface. Understanding all these site components better will help retell our story of the Skuggi occupation

Trench 2 (TR2)

Upon emptying of the midden materials and structural collapse – though the roof collapse was left in situ to provide a barrier for the fragile occupation surfaces – the team realized that the western extent of the wall had not been fully detected, and a small trench was placed to catch this feature. In order to find the extent of the structure´s western wall, a test pit was dug just two meters west of the main trench. The trench measured 1 m by 2 m. While this trench did not reveal the eastern most extent of the structure, which would eventually be located just 50 cm beyond the 2013 excavation limit, several more layers of midden and turf collapse were recorded in TR2.

Figure 10. Turf debris, most likely from the structure in TR1 (Picture: Roberts and Harrison).

Trench 3 (TR3)

In order to investigate the area around Structure "A" (figs. 4 and 9), a third trench was dug in 2013. This one was placed at the northwestern slope of the structure, to study this structure's extent and also to avoid damaging any standing architecture. TR2 measured 1 m by 2 m and revealed a very interesting sequence of events: Two landslides (contexts [587] and [585]) were located; both were sealed by tephra layers and thus could be roughly dated: The rubble and gravel landslide which is the younger one out of the two occurred between the AD 1300 ([585] and AD 1104 ([386]) eruptions of the Hekla volcano. The earlier landslide ([587]) consisted of much larger boulders, and happened some time not too long before the H1104 ash layer was laid down. This again was likely an event that may be directly linked to at least an eventual abandonment of the Viking Age structure's use as designated midden location. A more recent tephra layer, whose date is as of yet unknown, was found to seal all deposits (context [581]). As indicated in fig. 10, a midden deposit ([588]) was found underneath the landslide-H1103-landslide sequence.

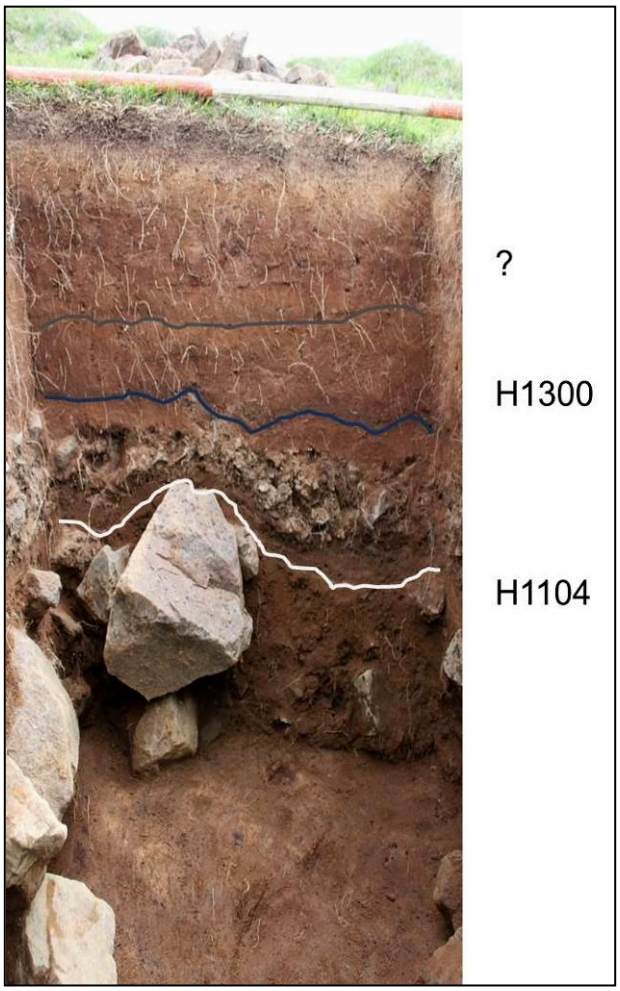

Figure 11. Trench 3, western section, *in situ* landslides and tephra layers, sealing a midden deposit [588] at the bottom of the trench. (Picture: Harrison and Roberts; edited by Harrison).

STAÐARTUNGA, STÖ-37: New Midden Mound

Coordinates: 84: 65°40.253’ N; 18°27.831’

Upon an observation made by the landowners, Jón Pétur Ólafsson and Líney Emma Jónsdóttir, the team also investigated a small midden mound (öskuhaug) containing cultural remains. The mound´s archaeological contents were discovered when a path for a new road leading from the road to the new farmhouse was dug. The landowners alerted Elín Ósk Hreiðarsdóttir (FSÍ) and the team cleaned the mound profile and excavated several layers of midden deposits and turf collapse from a trench containing the highest frequency of midden accumulations along the profile.

Figure 12. Staðartunga Midden Mound, profile. Drawing board uses for scale. Midden Mound profile was 12 m long. The black and yellow lines indicate prehistoric deposits. The midden deposits were no more than the 30 cm they measured at their deepest; facing WSW. (Picture: Harrison and Roberts).

The Staðartunga midden trench measured 2 m by 5 m and was circa 1 m high, with midden materials never exceeding a depth of 30 cm. This midden mound provided a small amount of animal remains and two tephra layers between which the midden deposits were located. Those were likely H1300 ([032]) and H1104 ash layers ([033]), but analysis is still underway. The first is sealing all the cultural

layers, and is above the natural and windblown aeolian material that separates the modern grass and root deposits the cultural materials. The possible H1104 is also sealing the cultural material, thus, all these activities for which we have sparse evidence may have happened before H1104. The people whose midden materials were discovered here could very well have been in contact with the people about 500 further SW who lived up on the Skuggi slope, if they were not indeed part of the same social group. With further analysis required, there are currently no activities other than a few repeated midden dumps detected from this mound. Certainly, the faunal remains will require Radiocarbon analysis.

Figure 13. Staðartunga midden deposits, indicated by cream colored lines. H1300 tephra layer indicated by blue line. Facing west (Picture: Harrison and Roberts).

Concluding Remarks

At Skuggi, a very intriguing archaeological record can reveal the site history of this marginal place and inform about human decision making during the times of the Medieval Amelioration during Icelandic Settlement, and a shifting environment during the time before and during the Little Ice Age. The Viking Age structure

emerging from TR1 suggests that people had a certain idea about this place when they first settled there, though more excavation is needed to find out more about this idea. What we know now from the excavation of TR1 tells us that this site may have not always been a small-scale operation with very low site status. However, we do not have the very beginning of this occupation story to verify such a suggestion.

The *in situ* landslides discovered in TR3 indicate an environmental shift roughly around the time the Viking Age structure from TR1 was in use as midden repository, and suggest that this slope destabilization may have had something to do with site- abandonment, or at least with a shift in the place used for post-landslide site occupation. An investigation into the Skuggi environmental history is thus of essence for this long term Human Ecodynamics project.

Continued excavations in 2014 will certainly enhance our understanding of how and when the Viking Age structure was built, how and when its function changed, and possibly why it was turned into a midden repository, thus revealing information about the people who lived there.

The structures located at the Skuggi site succeeding the Viking Age structure in time need to be tested for their actual time of use and their purpose. This may allow the investigators to connect the post- circa AD 970 activities in area1/TR1 with the actual people living at the site.

Other Hörgárdalur Sites

While it is very important to investigate the site of Skuggi as thoroughly as possible, it is also essential to continue our targeted midden surveys on Hörgárdalur and Öxnadalur sites to build up our regional chronology and comparative archeological and environmental archives for a thorough study on the Eyjafjörður socio-economic and environmental past, starting with the time of Settlement (e.g., Oddstaðir), and ending with the most recent past (e.g., Möðruvellir). This will eventually allow for similar work done in other Eyjafjörður valleys, and can then nicely connect to the Siglunes excavation and documentation work by Birna Lárusdóttir from FSÍ and the authors of this report (e.g., Lárusdóttir et al. 2012, Harrison in press).

Acknowledgments

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Thanks are due to the 2013 field crew, and especially to Norie Manigault who achieved excellence in both his summer endeavors. Special thanks to all who helped in the back-filling activities - thus allowing the NABO 2013 participants to see the site before its closure. Further thanks go to Elín Ósk Hreiðarsdóttir for administrative, logistical, and field assistance.
Special thanks to all at FSÍ who have been great friends and supporters to this project.
Thanks to Thomas H. McGovern, Andrew J. Dugmore, and Orri Vésteinsson for their continued support and advice with this project.

The crew is grateful to the owners of the Staðartunga property: Líney Emma Jónsdóttir and Jón Pétur Ólafsson for their hospitality and continuous support of, and interest in this project.

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APPENDICES

Appendix I –Finds Register, Skuggi 2013-37

Finds No.	Unit No.	Grid Sq./ TR = area	Material Type	Object Type	Comments e.g., condition, quantity, distribution	Date dd.mm.yy	ID initials
301	501	area 1	bone	gaming piece	good condition	6/14/2013	bp
302	501	area 1	bone	pin?	good condition	6/14/2013	bp
303	501	area 1	fe	nail	good condition	6/18/2013	bp
304	502	area 1	fe	sheet w rivet?	corroded	6/18/2013	ak
305	502	area 1	stone	whetstone	dark shist, broken in half	6/18/2013	ak
306	502	area 1	fe	nail		6/18/2013	ak
307	503	area 1	cu alloy		composite cu stud and fe fragment	6/18/2013	ak
308	506	area 1	metal	slag?		6/19/2013	ak
309	508	area 1	bone	comb	fragment of toothplate, well preserved	6/19/2013	smk
310	508	area 1	bone	pin?	carved , intricate design	6/19/2013	smk
311	508	area 1	bone	?	carved	6/19/2013	smk
312	504	area 1	fe	nail		6/19/2013	smk
313	505	area 1	fe?	frag		6/19/2013	smk
314	505	area 1	fe	lump		6/19/2013	smk
315	505	area 1	fe	frag		6/19/2013	smk
316	506	area 1	cu alloy	frag		6/19/2013	smk
317	505	area 1	red jasper	frag		6/19/2013	smk
318	506	area 1	slag?			6/19/2013	smk
320	534	area 1	stone	manuport		6/19/2013	smk
321	506	area 1	stone	whetstone	schistose	6/19/2013	smk
322	506	area 1	stone	manuport	green translucent, specific use? Polished?	6/19/2013	smk
323	512	area 1	fe	frag	2 pieces	6/19/2013	smk
324	512	area 1	slag?		7 pieces	6/19/2013	smk
325	513	area 1	schist	whetstone		6/20/2013	ak
326	517	area 1	bone	gaming piece	good condition	6/20/2013	bp
327	513	area 1	slag	frag	15 pieces	6/20/2013	bp
328	513	area 1	green jasper	frag	1 piece	6/20/2013	bp
329	532	area 1	stone	manuport		6/20/2013	bp
330	513	area 1	fe	frag		6/20/2013	bp

Finds No.	Unit No.	Grid Sq./	Material Type	Object	Comments	Date	ID
331	517	area 1	green jasper	frag		6/20/2013	bp
332	517	area 1	bone	gaming piece	good condition	6/20/2013	bp
334	513	area 1	fe	frag		6/20/2013	bp
335	517	area 1	fe	nail?		6/20/2013	bp
336	513	area 1	ceramic?	frag	possibly glazed ceramic sherd??	6/20/2013	bp
337	520	area 1	fe	nail?		6/21/2013	MN
338	520	area 1	FE	frag		6/21/2013	MN
339	521	area 1	fe	frag		6/21/2013	MN
340	520	area 1	glass	bead	dark blue	6/21/2013	MN
341	525	area 1	fe	nail		6/21/2013	bp
342	525	area 1	stone	whetstone	grey schist	6/21/2013	bp
343	531	area 1	cu alloy	pendant frag	perforated w possible decoration	6/24/2013	ak
344	534	area 1	jasper	worked stone tool?	has percussion mark on it, or just freeze thaw …	6/25/2013	rh
345	533	area 1	jasper	frag	2 pieces	6/25/2013	ak
346	533	area 1	glass	double bead	clear glass w gold coating, broken on one end	6/25/2013	ak
347	535	area 1	fe	?	blade of fe w nail going through?	6/25/2013	mn
348	535	area 1	fe	?		6/25/2013	mn
350	542	area 1	glass	bead	composite bead - black with white band in it	6/26/2013	rh
351	542	area 1	bone	gaming piece	worked haddock cleithrum, chess piece w indications of a face	6/26/2013	rh
352	542	area 1	metal	slag?		6/26/2013	ak
353	546	area 1	cu alloy	folding scales	arms of folding scale	6/27/2013	nm
354	551	area 1	fe	frag			
355	534	area 1	stone	frag	yellow stone possibly amber/ or jasper	6/27/2013	rh
356	526	area 1	stone	frag	ploished stone?	6/27/2013	rh
357	530	area 1	fe	slag?		6/27/2013	rh
358	502	area 1	jasper	frag		6/27/2013	rh
359	536	area 1	fe	?		6/27/2013	rh
360	525	area 1	fe	nail?		6/27/2013	rh
361	525	area 1	fe	nail?		6/27/2013	rh
362	526	area 1	?	slag?		6/27/2013	rh
363	518	area 1	fe	nail		6/27/2013	rh
364	501	area 1	cu alloy	?		6/27/2013	rh
365	501	area 1	cu alloy	?		6/27/2013	rh
366	501	area 1	jasper	frag		6/27/2013	rh
367	534	area 1	fe	nail frag?		6/27/2013	rh

Finds No.	Unit No.	Grid Sq./	Material Type	Object	Comments	Date	ID
368	528	area 1	fe	?	slag?	6/27/2013	rh
369	548	area 1	fe	?	iron tool	6/27/2013	rh
370	549	area 1	fe	nail frag?		6/27/2013	rh
371	522	area 1	fe	?		6/27/2013	rh
372	542	area 1	fe	?		6/27/2013	rh
373	517	area 1	jasper	frag		6/27/2013	rh
374	548	area 1	fe	?		6/27/2013	rh
375	501	area 1	glass?	?	possibly natural	6/27/2013	rh
376	501	area 1	fe	?		6/27/2013	rh
377	531	area 1	fe	indust. Residue?	slags?	6/27/2013	rh
378	536	area 1	stone	whetstone	complete, very well preserved	6/27/2013	rh
379	551	area 1	fe	?		6/28/2013	mn
380	553	area 1	fe	fragments	slag	6/28/2013	mn
381	554	area 1	fe	?	very corroded, possibly diagnostic	6/28/2013	mn
382	556	area 1	stone	whetstone		6/28/2013	mn
383	558	area 1	fe	fragments		6/28/2013	mn
384	560	area 1	stone	polished stone?	rounded stone	6/28/2013	mn
385	560	area 1	fe?	?		6/28/2013	mn
386	-	see px plan	stone	lamp		7/4/2013	hmr
387	-	see px plan	bone	?	worked, pre-form?, horse metapodial	7/4/2013	hmr
388	571	area 1	fe	slag		7/5/2013	ak
389	526	area 1	fe	slag		7/5/2013	ak
390	571	area 1	fe	slag		7/5/2013	ak
391	550	area 1	fe	slag		7/5/2013	ak
392	596	area 2	stone	jasper frag		7/5/2013	ak
393	572	area 2	fe	nail		7/5/2013	ak
394	572	area 2	fe	slag		7/5/2013	ak
395	563	area 1	fe	nail		7/5/2013	ak
396	534	area 1	bone	worked cleithrum		7/5/2013	ak
397	554	area 1	fe	rivet		7/5/2013	ak
398	528	area 1	glass	bead	1 blue glass bead, complete	7/5/2013	ak

Table 1. SKÖ 2013-37 Artifact Register

Appendix II Finds Register, Staðartunga 2013-37

Finds No.	**Unit No.**	**Retrieval***	**Material Type**	**Object Type**	**Comments**	**ATTN? y/n**	**Date dd.mm.yy**	**ID initials**
1	025	u	bone	pin	broken bone pin		7/5/2013	rh
2	025	u	stone	?	worked stone?		7/5/2013	rh

Table 2. STÖ 2013-37 Artifact Register

Appendix III – Skuggi Harris Matrices

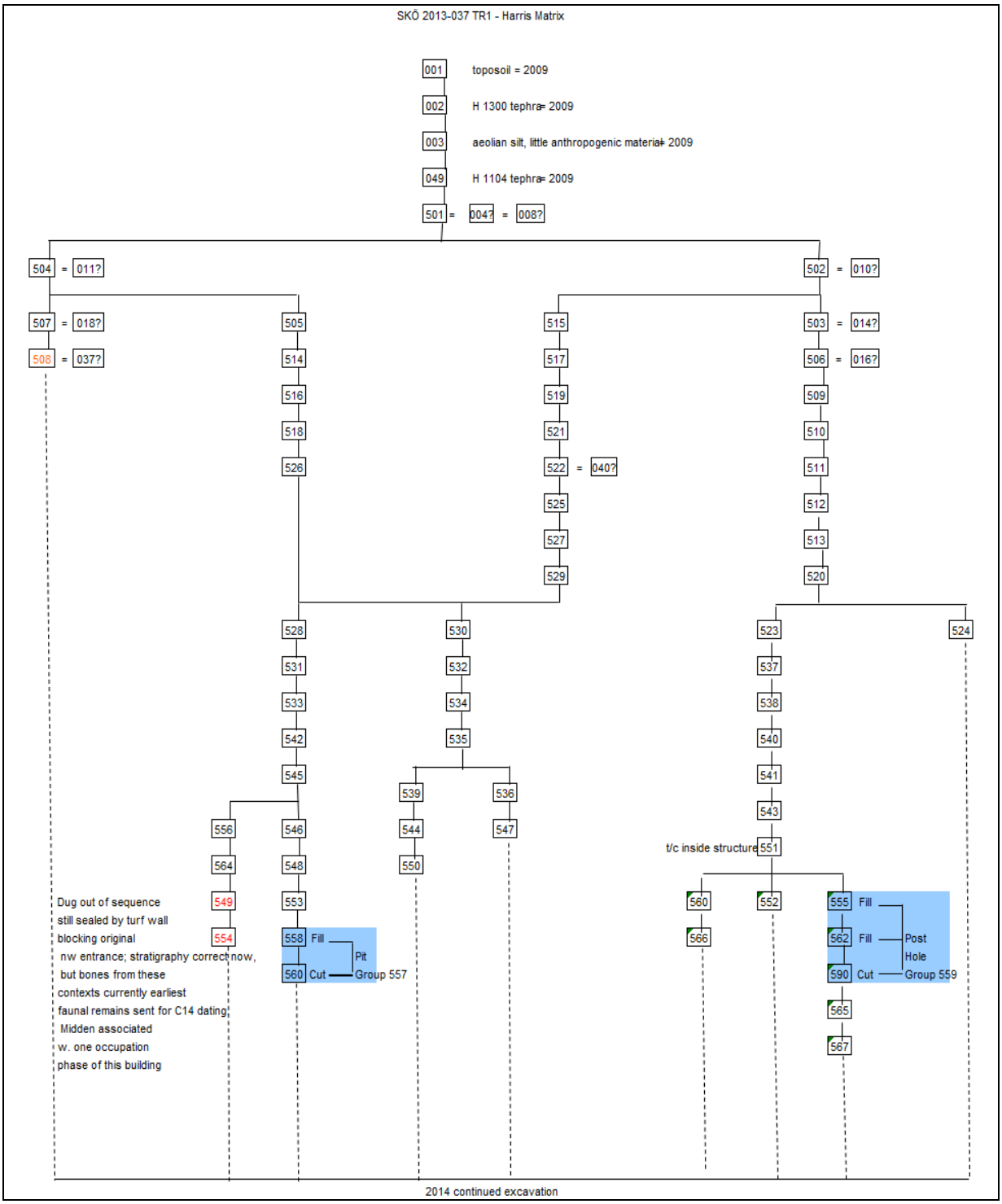

Figure 14. Skuggi 2013-37 TR1 - Harris Matrix

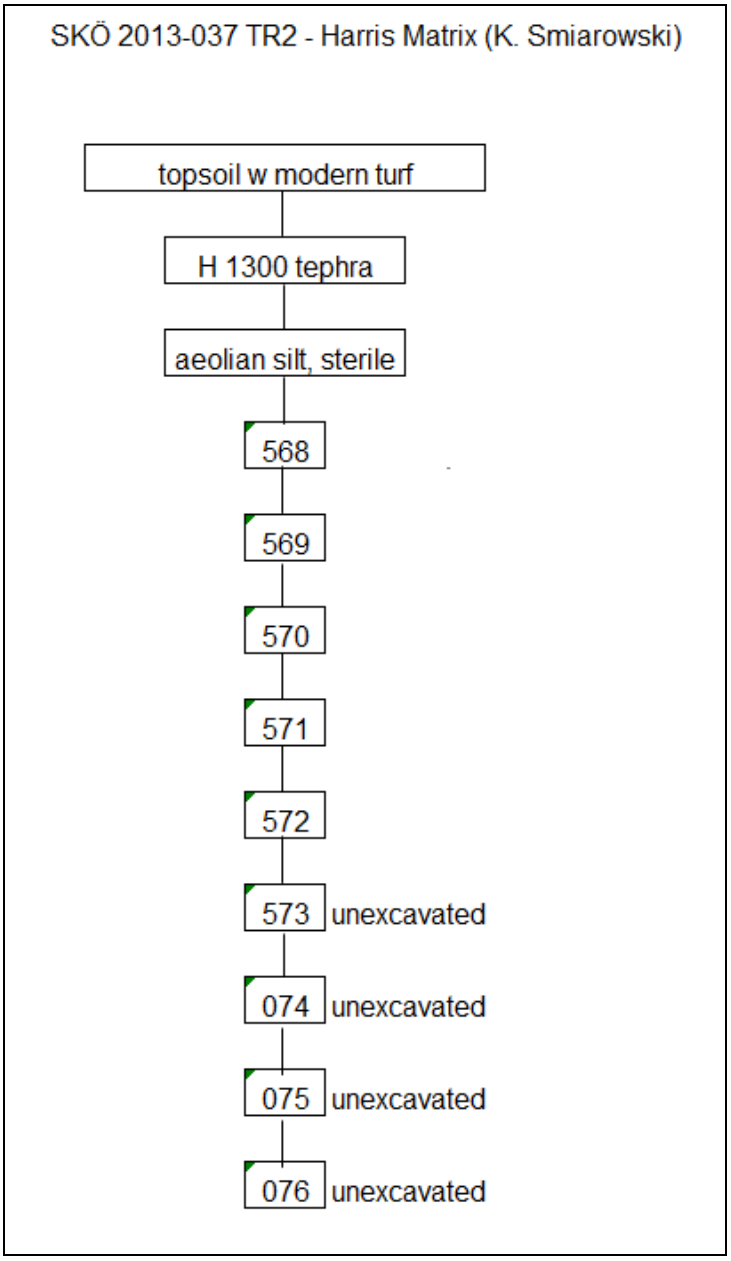

Figure 15. Skuggi 2013-37 TR2 - Harris Matrix

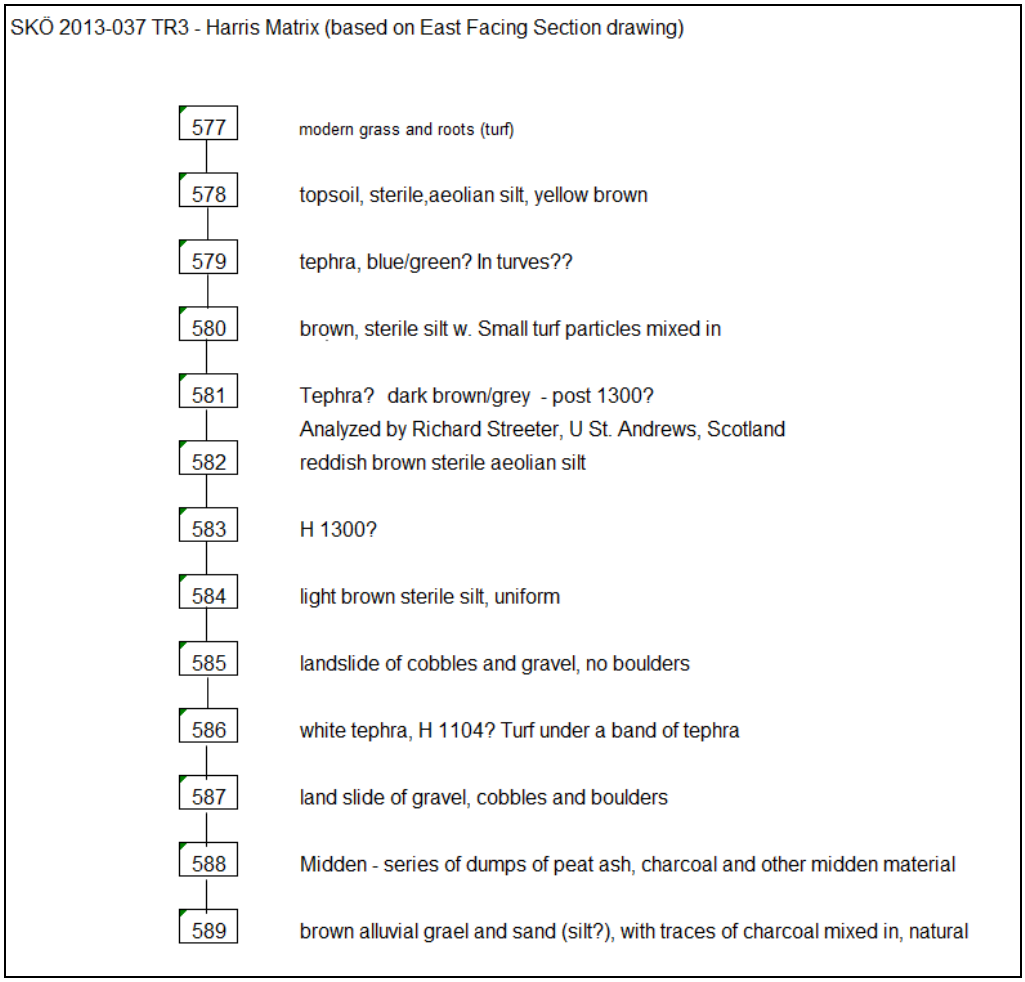

Figure 16. Skuggi 2013-37 TR3 - Harris Matrix

Appendix IV – Staðartunga Harris Matrix

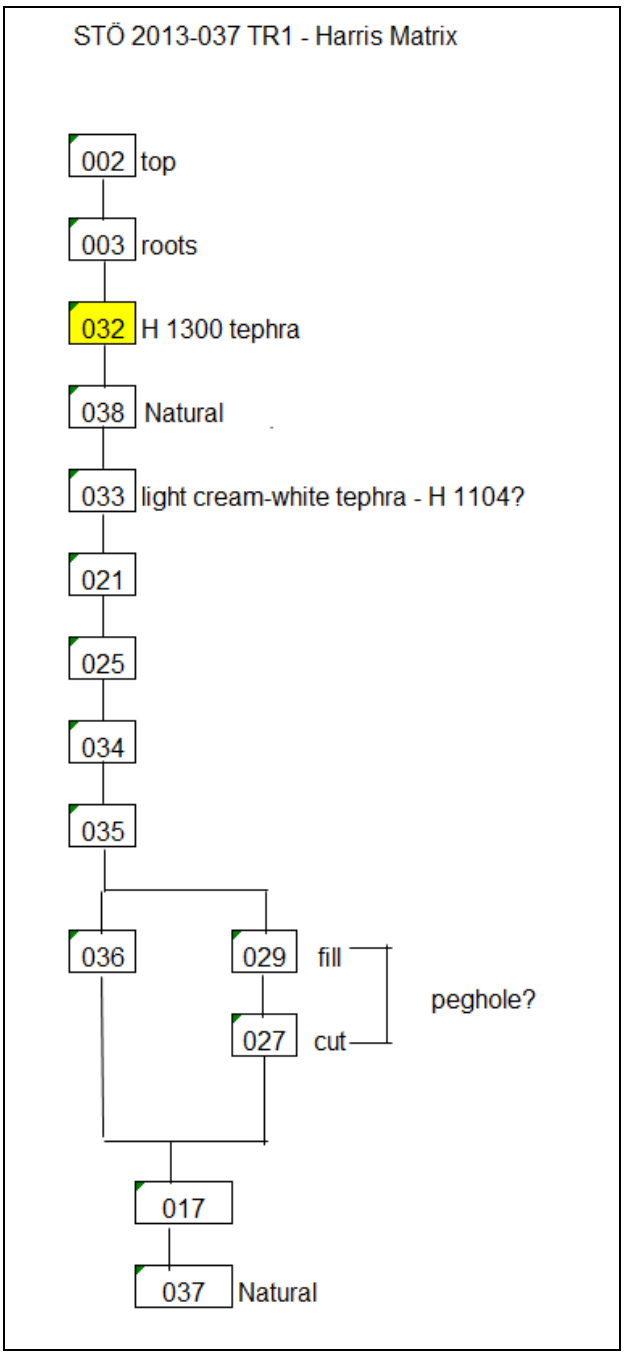

Figure 17. Staðartunga 2013-37 Harris Matrix

Appendix V – Other Excavation Data

2013 Skuggi (SKÖ) data

No.	Area/ Tr.	Type *	Group	Description/ Information	Date dd.mm.yy
002	1	D		1300 TEPHRA	6/13/2013
003	1	D		MOSTLY SETILE WINDBLOWN 2-10 CM , MID YELLOW BROWN	6/14/2013
501	1	D		BROWN ORGANGE LAYER W CHARCOAL AND BONE	6/14/2013
049	1	D		1104 TEPHRA	6/14/2013
502	1	D		THIN PEAT ASH HORIZON	6/18/2013
503	1	D		MIXED DARK YELLOW-BROWN W LENSES OF TURF COLLAPSE	6/18/2013
504	1	D		MEDIUM YELLOW-BROWN W TURF AND CHARCOAL	6/18/2013
505	1	D		AEOLIAN MIX MIDDEN (PEAT ASH) / BROWN, FAIRLY STERILE UNDER 507	6/19/2013
506	1	D		MIXED TURF COLLAPSE	6/19/2013
507	1	D		AEOLIAN W ANTHROPOGENIC MIX	6/19/2013
508	1	D		TURF COLLAPSE7TURF LUMP	6/19/2013
509	1	D		PEAT ASH - UNDER 506	6/19/2013
510	1	D		DARK BROWN MIXED TURF COLLAPSE W OCCASIONAL PEAT ASH	6/19/2013
511	1	D		DARK BROWN AEOLIAN SILT - UNDER 510	6/19/2013
512	1	D		MULTICOLOR TURFCOLLAPSE UNDER 511	6/19/2013
513	1	D		DARK BROWN AEOLIAN UNDER 512	6/19/2013
514	1	D		DARK BRONW DEPOSIT	6/20/2013
515	1	D		REDDISH BROWN AEOLIAN PEAT ASH MIX, OCC CHARCOAL	6/20/2013
516	1	D		PEAT ASH - AEOLIAN MIX UNDER 514, 515	6/20/2013
517	1	D		MIXED PEAT ASH AND WOOD ASH UNDER 515?	6/20/2013
518	1	d		light brown aeolian mixed w turf collapse	6/20/2013
519	1	d		peat ash deposit w charcoal lenses, under 517	6/20/2013
520	1	d		peat ash mixed w turf collapse	6/21/2013
521	1	d		pinkish red ash deposit with charcoal lenses, under 519	6/21/2013
522	1	d		mixed ash deposit w charcoal and wood ash under 521	6/21/2013
523	1	d		mixed wood ash with bone dump	6/21/2013

No.	Area/	Type	Group	Description/	Date
524	1	d		mixed turf/ ash with lenses of peat	6/21/2013
525	1	D		MIXED TURF ASH W. MIXED TURF COLLAPSE	6/21/2013
526	1	D		MIXED GREY ASH LAYER	6/21/2013
527	1	D		WHITE AND YELLOOW BROWN DEPOSIT UNDER 225	6/21/2013
528	1	D		MIXED PINK AND GRAY ASH UNDER 526	6/21/2013
529	1	D		PEAT ASH DUMP MIXED W COLLAPSE UNDER 527	6/24/2013
530	1	D		MIXED TURF COLLAPSE ASND AEOLIAN UNDER 529	6/24/2013
531	1	D		MIXED PINK AND GREY ASH LAYER UNDER 528	6/24/2013
532	1	D		GREEN/RED TURF COLLAPSE (WALL COLLAPSE) OFF S AND E WALLS UNDER 530	6/24/2013
533	1	D		MIXED AEOLIAN, BROWN, UNDER 531	6/25/2013
534	1	D		WALL TURF COLLAPSE, UNDER 532	6/25/2013
535	1	D		DK YELLOW BEROWN W TURF COLLAPSE AND GRAVEL	6/25/2013
536	1	D		PINK/GRAY ASH DEPOSIT UNDER 535	6/25/2013
537	1	D		YELLOWISH BROWN MIXED DUMP, UNDER 530	6/25/2013
538	1	D		TURF WALL COLLAPSE, UNDER 537	6/25/2013
539	1	D		YELLOWISH BROWN AEOLIAN AND TURF CLLAPSE MIX	6/25/2013
540	1	D		PINK PEAT ASH, UNDER 538	6/26/2013
541	1	D		MIXED TURF COLLAPSE, UNDER 540	6/26/2013
542	1	D		TURF COLLAPSE,W PEAT ASH LENSES AND CHRCOAL, UNDER 533	6/26/2013
543	1	D		RED-YELLOW TURF COLLAPSE, UDER 541	6/26/2013
544	1	D		TURF COLLAPSE W PEAT ASH, UNDER 539	6/26/2013
545	1	D		BLACK ORGANIC DEPOSIT UNDER ….	6/27/2013
546	1	D		LIGHT BROWN MIDDEN DEPOSIT	6/27/2013
547	1	D		TURF COLLAPSE UNDER 536	6/27/2013
548	1	D		MIXED TURF COLLAPSE UNDER 546	6/27/2013
549	1	D		YELLOW BROWN TURF COLLAPSE, MIXED	6/27/2013
550	1	D		GREY WOOD ASH LAYER W CHARCOAL, STONES AD TURF	6/27/2013
551	1	D		TURF COLLAPSE INSIDE STRUCTURE	6/27/2013
552	1	D		BURNT LNESE W CHARCOAL, POSSIBLE POST HOLE UNDER 551	6/28/2013
553	1	D	558	STPME [OT. FO;;)STPME AMD TIRF_ IMDER 549	6/28/2013
554	1	D		MIXED PEAT ASH DUMP UDER 549	6/28/2013
555	1	D	559	POTNETIAL POSTHOLE, EDGE OF BURNT MATERIAL	6/28/2013
556	1	D		MIXED TURF COLLAPSE	6/28/2013
557	1	D	557	GROUP FOR CUT/PIT AND FILL	6/28/2013
558	1	D	557	FILL	6/28/2013
559	1		559	GROUP: POST HOLE , AND FILL	6/28/2013
560	1	D		BLACK/PURPLE TURF COLLAPSE UNDER 551	6/28/2013

No.	Area/	Type	Group	Description/	Date
561	1	C	557	CUT, FILLED W TURF COLLAPSE AND STONES (UP TO 15 STONES) UNDER 558	6/28/2013
562	1	D	559	BURNED CHARCOAL ASH LAYER, PART OF POSTHOLE FILL	6/28/2013
563	1	D		TURF COLLAPSE UNDER 554	6/28/2013
564	1	D		TAN/ORANGE DEPOSIT W MIXED BURNED DEBRIS	6/28/2013
565	1	D		MIXED COLLAPSE AND MIDDEN DEPOSIT OFF INSIDE OF S. WALL	6/28/2013
566	1	D		MIXED PEAT ASH MIDDEN DEPOSIT UNDER 560	7/1/2013
567	1	D		MIXED TURF COLLAPSE UNDER 565	7/1/2013
568	2	D		1104 TEPHRA AND THE AEOLIAN DEPOSIT IT SITS ON	7/1/2013
569	2	D		MIDDEN DEPOSIT , UNDER 568	7/1/2013
570	2	D		MIDDEN DEPOSIT UNDER 569	7/1/2013
571	2	D		COLLAPSE (STRUCTURAL) THROUGHOUT TR 2	7/2/2013
572	2	D		SEMI-COMPACT TURF AND MIDDEN , THIN, GREY-BROWN	7/4/2013
573	2	D			
574	2	D			
575	2	D			
576	2	D			
577	3	D		TURF AND ROOTS	
578	3	D		AEOLIAN SILT = TOPSOIL	
579	3	D		TEPHRA - POST 1300 - GREY BLUE	
580	3	D		BROWN, STERIALE AEOLIAN, WITH TURF PACHES IXED IN	
581	3	D		TEPHRA ? DARK BROWN	
582	3	D		REDDISH BROWN STERILE SILT	
583	3	D		TEPHRA, BLUE/GREEN (1300)	
584	3	D		LIGHT BROWN STERILE TURF	
585	3	D		LAND SLIDE, SMALL STONES, AND COBBLES, AND GRAVEL	
586	3	D		WHITE TEPHRA AND ASSOCIATED TURF HORIZON (AEOLIAN SILT) 1104	
587	3	D		LANDSLIDE, BOULDERS AND LARGE STONES, MIXED W. GRAVEL	
588	3	D		MIDDEN DEPOSITS *SEVERAL DUMPS) 0 CHARCOAL , PEAT ASH	
589	3	D		ALLUVIAL SILT AND GRAVEL (BROWN) W TRACE AMOUNT OF CHARCOAL	
590	1	C	559	CUT FOR FILLS 555, AND 562, GROUP 559	7/28/2013
***Type**: D = deposit, C = cut, Sk = skeleton, G = group					

Table 3. SKÖ 2013-37 Context Register.

No	Area	Context	Quant. Bags/ buckets	Description/ Information	Date/ dd.mm.yy	ID
1	1	533	1 bag	1 small lump of burnt wood for archeobotany	6/28/2013	mn
2	1	552	1 bag	charcoal concentration	6/28/2013	ak
3	1	562	1 bag	charcoal concentration	6/28/2013	mn
4	3	588	3 buckets	midden deposits	7/6/2013	mn

Table 4. SKÖ-2013-37 Environmental Sample Register

Bag Number	Area	Context	Weight in grams	Quant. of Bags
1	1	501	2,000	1
2	1	502	1,000	1
3	1	503	300	1
4	1	504	300	1
5	1	505	700	1
6	1	506	300	1
7	1	507	900	1
8	1	508	600	1
9	1	509	200	1
10	1	510	1,150	1
11	1	511	100	1
12	1	512	900	1
13	1	513	600	1
14	1	515	750	1
16	1	517	2,200	1
17	1	518	300	1
18	1	519	200	1
19	1	520	700	1
20	1	521	300	1
21	1	522	300	1
22	1	523	1,900	1
23	1	524	150	1
24	1	525	1,400	1
25	1	526	700	1
26	1	527	1,500	1
27	1	528	1,200	1
28	1	529	2,150	1
29	1	530	2,000	1
30	1	531	1,000	1
31	1	532	300	1
32	1	533	1,000	1
33	1	534	200	1
34	1	535	1,000	1
35	1	536	300	1
36	1	537	100	1
37	1	538	575	1
38	1	539	50	1
40	1	541	650	1
41	1	542	3,600	2
42	1	543	75	1
43	1	544	350	1
44	1	545	100	1
45	1	546	200	1
46	1	547	150	1
47	1	548	2,000	1
48	1	549	600	1
49	1	550	600	1

Bag Number	Area	Context	Weight in grams	Quant. of Bags
50	1	551	200	1
51	1	553	100	1
52	1	558	2	1
53	1	560	50	1
54	1	563	75	1
55	1	565	10	1
56	1	566	50	1
57	1	576	2	1
58	1	514	25	1
59	1	544	8,500	5
60	2	568	100	1
61	2	569	300	1
62	2	570	600	1
63	2	571	600	1
64	2	572	200	1
TOTAL			48,464	
TOTAL WEIGHT OF BONE BOXES				
49 KG.				

Table 5. SKÖ 2013-37 Bone Register

Appendix VI – Other Excavation Data

2013- Staðartunga Öskuhóll (STÖ) data

Number	Description/ Information	Date dd.mm.yy
001	natural aeolian	7/2/2013
002	top-grass	7/2/2013
003	Roots,natural	7/2/2013
004	yellow mixed deposit	7/2/2013
005	grey ash layer - dug into by land owner	7/2/2013
006	orange, yellow, natural	7/2/2013
007	cream colored, prehist tephra	7/2/2013
008	stake hole? Grey fill	7/2/2013
009	aeolian, light brown	7/2/2013
010	greay wood ash layer	7/2/2013
011	turves w green tephra layer in it	7/2/2013
012	turf layer ö blue, brown yellow - landnam tephra in it?	7/2/2013
013	charcoal layer	7/2/2013
014	yellow, brown , mixed material, upcast?	7/2/2013
015	natural, windblown	7/2/2013
016	cut and fill thruogh natural, prehistoric tephra and aeolian layers	7/2/2013
017	slightly mixed cultural layer w bone	7/2/2013
018	blue, brown turf layer - debris	7/2/2013
019	pink peat ash layer	7/2/2013
020	yellow/brown turf	7/2/2013
021	brown/orange mixed mat w t/c	7/2/2013
022	dark brown layer w charcoal incl, bits of red/brown material	7/2/2013
023	grey/peat ash mix layer	7/2/2013
024	yellow - brown mixed material	7/2/2013
025	dark brown, mixed deposit , turf bone, charcoal	7/2/2013
026	aeolian (prehist) mix (gralical till?)	7/2/2013
027	cut into 029	7/2/2013
028	prehist, aeolian mixed w grey/blue tephra or t/c	7/2/2013
029	dark brown aeolian mixed w blue grey tephra in it (1300??)	7/2/2013
030	mixed brown deposit ö dots of prehist tephra _ upcast?	7/2/2013
031	dark brown aeolian, occ charcoal	7/2/2013
032	H1300 blue gray tephra in situ	7/3/2013
033	light cream /white dephra _1104?	7/2/2013
034	mixed t/c deposite	7/5/2013
035	brown dep w bone and peat ash, mixed	7/5/2013
036	grey wood ash layer	7/5/2013
037	natural , end of excavation	7/5/2013

***Type**: D = deposit, C = cut, Sk = skeleton, G = group

Table 6. STÖ 2013-37 Context Register.

No	Context	Weight in g	Quant. of Bags	Description/ Information	Date/ dd.mm.yy	ID
1	1PROFILE CLEANING	250	2 MED	BONE	7/1/2013	BP
2	017	650	1 LG	BONE, BAG 1/4 FILLED	7/5/2013	BP
3	025	2000	2 LG	BONE	7/5/2013	BP
4	034	200	1 MD	BONE	7/5/2013	BP
5	035	500	1 LG	BONE	7/5/2013	BP
6	036	50	1 MD	BONE	7/5/2013	BP
total bones		3650				

Table 7. STÖ 2013-37 Bone Register