

Siglunes

Archaeological investigations in 2012-2013



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With contributions from Magnús Á. Sigurgeirsson



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Front page: Ruin D under excavation in 2012, looking NW. Photographer: Birna Lárusdóttir

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Samantekt

Árið 2011 var gerð frumkönnun á minjum á Siglunesi í Fjallabyggð í kjölfar fornleifaskráningar nokkrum árum áður. Hún hafði leitt í ljós a.m.k. sex rústahóla sem lágu undir skemmdum vegna sjávarágangs. Í fyrstu atrennu sumarið 2011 voru mannvistarlög í rofum í hólunum kortlögð og aldursgreind og auk þess grafið í stærsta rústahólinn, en í honum var mikið af dýrabeinum sem nú hafa verið greind að hluta. Niðurstöður þessarar athugunar voru kunngjörðar í skýrslu sem kom út árið 2012.¹ Sumurin 2012 og 2013 var grafið í mannvirki á tveimur stöðum í framhaldinu og mest áhersla lögð á þá rústahóla sem hvað hraðast braut af, en þeir hafa verið nefndir D og F.

Sumarið 2012 var áfram grafið í hóla D og F. Hóll D er fremst eða vestast á nestánni og virtust síðustu forvöð að bjarga mannvistarleifum þaðan, enda brýtur hvað hraðast af á þeim slóðum. Þar var opnað uppgraftarsvæði í heillegasta hluta rústar. Í ljós komu leifar af niðurgrefti sem gæti verið frá 19. eða 20. öld. Hann reyndist hafa verið grafinn niður í gegnum þykkan stabba af eldri mannvistarlögum, veggjum, gólfögum og ruslalögum sem benda til að lengi hafi verið byggt og endurbyggt á þessum stað. Leifarnar voru þó of brotakenndar til að hægt væri að draga af þeim miklar ályktanir en sýni voru tekin til frekari greiningar. Sumarið 2012 var einnig opnað að hluta innra byrði rústar sem er austar á nesinu, nefnd F. Hún er óðum að hverfa en elsti hluti hennar er undir gjósku frá 1104. Því verki var áfram haldið sumarið 2013 og sýni tekin úr neðstu gólfögum. Auk þess var grafinn profuskurður í norðurhlið rústarinnar, þess enda sem er fjærst ströndinni. Í þessari skýrslu er fjallað um niðurstöður uppgraftarins 2012-2013 auk þess sem kynntar eru frumniðurstöður greininga á dýrabeinum úr uppgrefti frá 2011. Niðurstöður sem nú liggja fyrir gætu orðið grunnur að frekari rannsóknum og í lokakafla eru gerðar tillögur um framhaldsrannsóknir.

¹ Birna Lárusdóttir, Howell M. Roberts & Sigríður Þorgeirsdóttir (with contributions from Ramona Harrison and Magnús Á. Sigurgeirsson.) 2012. Siglunes. Archaeological investigations in 2011. FS480-11121. Fornleifastofnun Íslands, Rvk.

1. Introduction



The Siglunes project commenced in July 2011 with the mapping of eroding ruin mounds and small scale midden excavations.² In the following summers, 2012 and 2013, some additional work was carried out, specifically in a couple of ruin mounds referred to as D and F. Both

of these mounds were rich in structural remains and the latter (F) seemed to contain substantial cultural layers under the H-1104 tephra. In 2012 a team of 3-4 people carried out the work between the 6-17th of August. In 2013 a team of three people worked in Siglunes for four days in the beginning of August. The aim of these limited excavations was to better understand the nature of structures down in the peninsula, often assumed to be those of fishing booths. Mound D proved to be very complex and fragmented. The excavation revealed a round truncation, dug down through a complex sequence of older cultural layers: Walls and floor layers. Ruin F was also fragmented as only the northernmost end of it remains – the rest has been lost to sea. The excavation revealed two structural phases, the older one predating a tephra layer from 1104 but rebuilt much later, possibly as late as the 19th century.

In 2012 the project was supported by Fornleifasjóður but a grant from the US National Science Foundation (NSF Comparative Island Ecodynamics, CIE, ARC 1202692) made a longer field season possible. In 2013 support was only gained through Fornminjasjóður (former Fornleifasjóður). This report presents the

² Birna Lárusdóttir, Howell M. Roberts & Sigríður Þorgeirsdóttir. 2012. Siglunes: Archaeological investigations in 2011 (with contributions from Ramona Harrison and Magnús Á. Sigurgeirsson). FS480-11121. Fornleifastofnun Íslands.

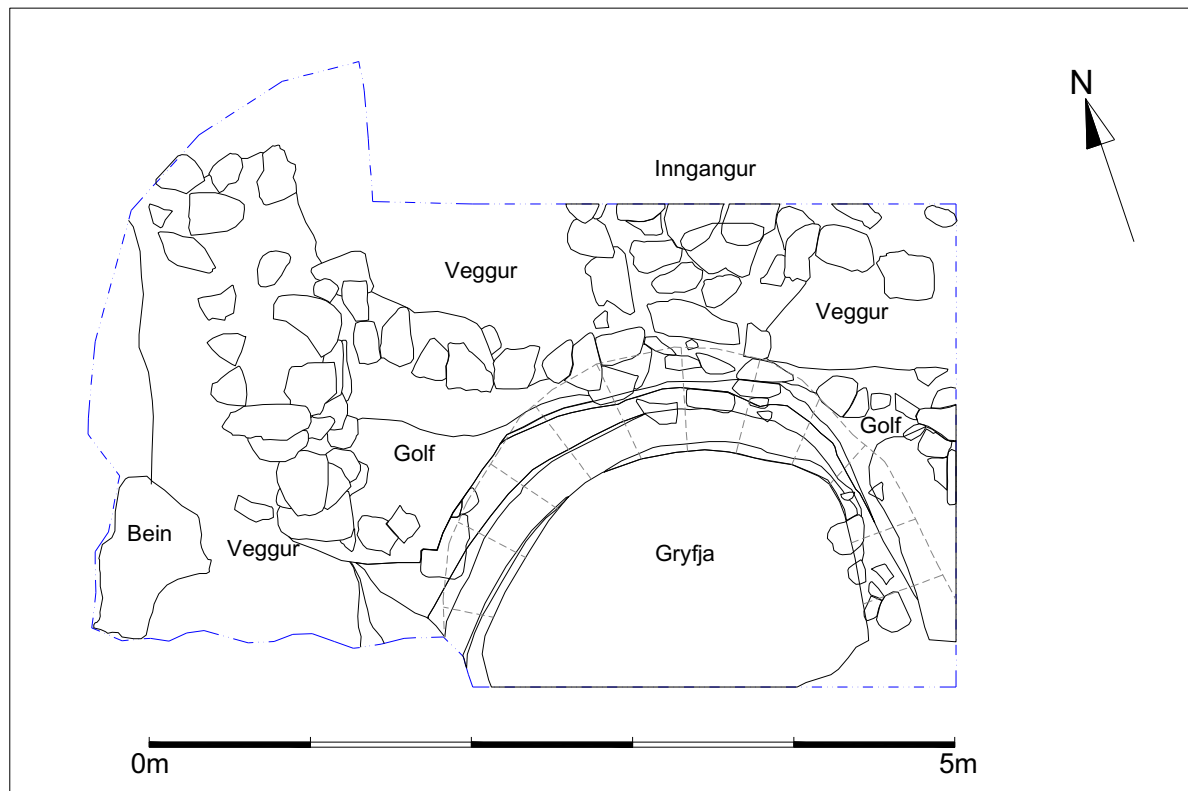
preliminary results from the 2012 and 2013 excavations. Specialist analysis is still ongoing, including the analysis of micromorphology samples (done by Karen B. Milek and her students at the University of Aberdeen) and faunal remains, carried out by Ramona Harrison (City University of New York). Her work is supported by NSF CIE, ARC 1202692. The excavation team is extremely thankful for the help of landowners at Siglunes, not the least to Margrét Þórðardóttir (Maddy) and her family and relatives, who kindly lent us Þormóðshús.

2. Results of fieldwork

Ruin D



Ruins in Siglunes, map from Fornleifavernd ríkisins (Þór Hjaltalín og Sólborg Una Pálsdóttir 2012. Fornleifar við Siglunes. Úttekt. Fornleifavernd ríkisins, p. 7). Red circles have been added around excavation areas in 2012-2013: Ruin D on the left and ruin F on the right.



Plan of ruin D after excavation, blue line shows the limit of excavation.

In 2012 further rescue excavation was carried out on Ruin D. Winter erosion was seen to have additionally damaged the structure since the summer of 2011. An area of 3 x 3m was added to the east of the area examined in 2011. Further structural remains were exposed, including an entrance (*inngangur*), additional wall fragments (*veggur*) and small areas of compacted laminar floor layers (*golf*).

However, the southern eroding portion of the area was seen to be significantly truncated by a large subcircular pit (*gryfja*), containing undecayed wood, shotgun cartridges and other modern artefacts. The fill of the modern pit/truncation was removed, revealing small areas of preserved floor layers and/or occupation surfaces within the ruin. Truncation extended through all cultural layers into the natural subsurface of gravel and stone. At least three phases of occupation/functional surface were noted in section. Magnús Sigurgeirsson has concluded that the 1104 tephra is “in situ” under these cultural layers, preceded only by a very thin occupational deposit.

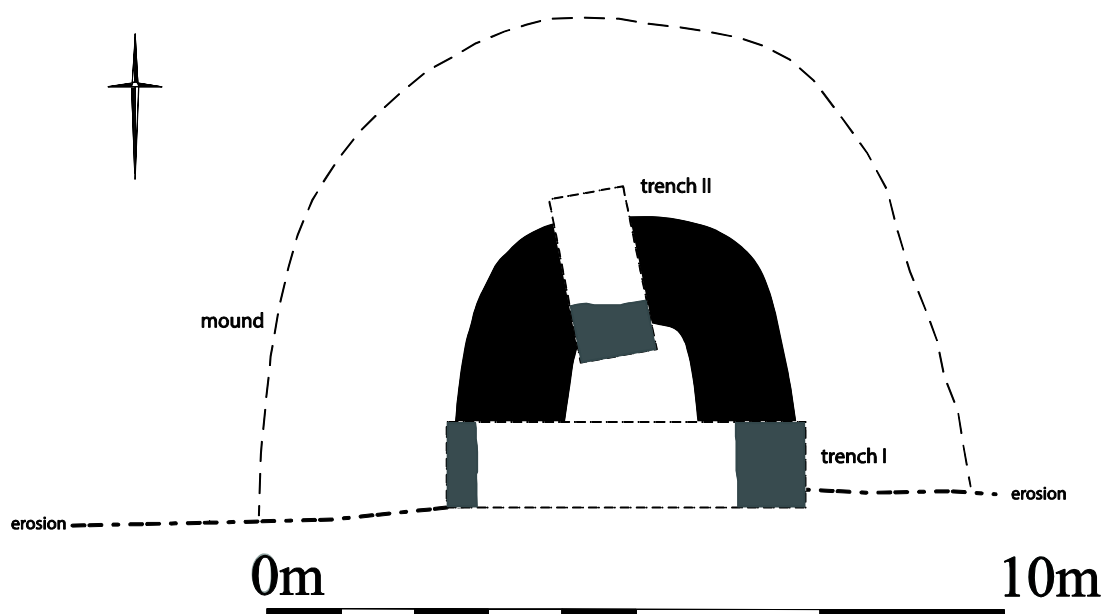
Following the clearance of this modern truncation, additional layers of aeolian material, turf collapse and post-abandonment debris were excavated within the remainder of the ruin. This revealed fragments of floor/surface in plan, along with portions of stone and turf built walls (to the north and west). A stone paved entrance way was recorded in the northern turf wall. Micromorphology samples were retained from the occupational surfaces for possible future study. It is our believe that the majority of this structure, and its internal deposits have been lost - due to both coastal erosion and to modern truncation.



Ruin D, view to the NW after excavation.

Ruin F

Area F



Plan of ruin F, showing trenches I and II. The black walls represent walls visible on the surface, the grey walls show the oldest phase (pre 1104).

In 2012 the erosion face of the ruin was moved back by just over 1 m and excavation started in plan, using the single context planning method, following FSI and NABO regulations. This was continued in 2013 (trench I) and additionally a new trench was put through the back wall of the ruin (trench II).

Trench I

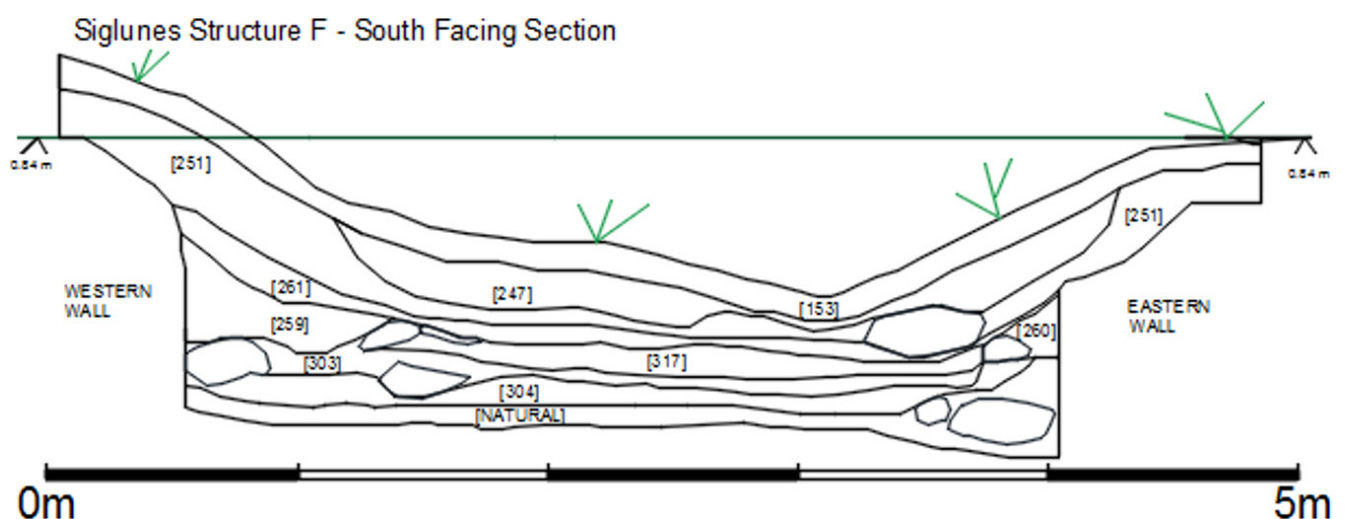
In 2012, Sigríður Þorgeirsdóttir and Ramona Harrison started to document and excavate the remains of the mostly eroded structure. In August of 2013, Konrad Smiarowski and Ramona Harrison finished removal of anthropogenic deposits from the structure's interior, and took several samples of the occupation layers [303] and [304] for soil micromorphological analysis, which will be carried out by Dr. Karen Milek at the University of Aberdeen. Samples for archaeobotanical analysis from

[303] await processing as well. Radiocarbon analysis of terrestrial mammal bones recovered from the structure's basal layers, combined with artifact and geoarchaeological analysis, will hopefully reveal the chronology of the use of this structure and the phases of use, re-use, and abandonment. Very little of Structure F's interior deposits had been spared from erosion, and timely, small-scale excavation has saved some information by retaining samples for future study.



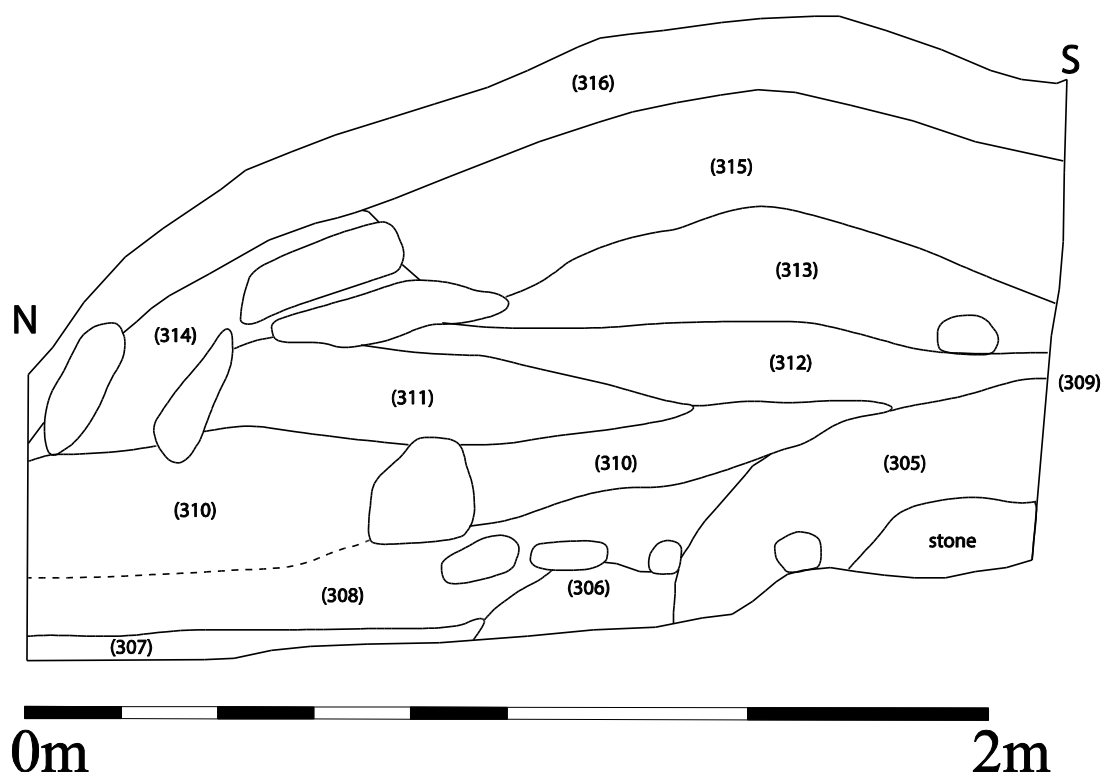
As the section drawing shows, the interior of the structure visible on the surface measures ca. 2,5 m east to west, with ca. 1 m of the interior deposits left south to north, and was surrounded by substantial walls constructed of turf and boulders. The wall construction saw at least two different phases, with the most recent one containing turfs that may have been cut in the early modern period. The wooden beam may have been placed into the structures back wall portion in modern times.

Context 304 basal floor layer in Ruin F, trench I, containing bones. Looking east.



Trench II

A small trench, 2,2 x 1 m was excavated from north to south through the backwall of the ruin as it was evident that there would not be enough time to fully excavate what remains of it. The aim was to a) find the back wall of the earlier structure, b) get a clearer idea of the age and nature of the structure if possible and c) to see whether any visible activity was taking place outside the ruin, which could cast light on its function.



Ruin F, trench II, east facing section.

The trench revealed two phases of construction/wall [305 and 313/314] and a more or less continuous use of the area from pre-1100 and most likely throughout to the 19th or 20th centuries although the older structure had been abandoned before 1104 as the wall [305], which is turf- and stonebuilt, is sealed by the 1104-tephra. Up against the wall on the outside a layer of burnt material was found [306], peat ash and possibly wood ash. Those are a few mixed layers, most likely dumps but could also represent some in situ burning. This was covered by an occupation layer [307], trampled but very mixed with peatash and charcoal, covered by a relatively clean turf layer, most likely collapse from the wall [308]. All this is sealed by a clear layer of the 1104

tephra. The next phase is represented by three layers which have accumulated over the older wall phase [305] and all show some kind of activity, possibly relating to husbandry, in the area (310, 311, 312). Especially one of them is dung like (311) and could be a sign of people shoveling manure out of a nearby structure. On top of this a modern wall (313) has been constructed – its exact dating not known due to the lack of tephra-layer in relation to it.



Ruin F, trench II, looking east. Remains of oldest wall visible to the right, burnt layers on the outside right above scale.

Conclusions on structure (F):

Phase 1 (pre 1104): A structure was built pre 1104 but at the moment it is not possible to determine its exact age. It was wider than the structure visible on the surface today – at least 3,5 m in diameter on the inside. Due to erosion on the southern side it is not possible to estimate the original length of the structure. The activities that took place in/around the structure included occupation and some burning, possibly for cooking or heating. It seems that the oldest structure was abandoned before 1104 as tephra is sealing both the wall and collapse from it. Post 1104 some activities were taking place in the area, possibly including the dumping of dung. Further analysis of samples taken from the bottom floor layers will hopefully cast further light on its use and age.

Phase II (post 1104): Walls were built on top of the older structure much later, possibly in modern times. This structure was narrower than the earlier one, about 2,5 m in diameter on the inside but the total length is unknown. The function of this building is unknown but judging from its location and narrow width it could be either a boathouse of some sort (naust) or even a sheep-house – there were quite a few of those down in the peninsula in the 19th-20th centuries.

3. Conclusion and future thoughts

Excavations in Siglunes 2011-2013 have given a good insight into the eroding archaeology of the peninsula. Sections of six mounds have been recorded and all of them show signs of occupation, some as early as soon after landnám. In addition a midden and two partly eroded structures have been excavated. The structures have both been severely damaged by erosion already and it is the team's opinion that further excavation is unlikely to cast further light on them. The same applies for mound C, which is quickly disappearing with only a back wall left. Hopefully samples retrieved in the field in 2012 and 2013 will give us further insight into their age and function.

This first phase of research is helpful in forming a strategy for future research in Siglunes, which is on the agenda if financial support can be acquired. Some ideas for future research include the following:

- a) Further excavation of mound B. This mound holds extensive occupational layers and specifically interesting and well stratified midden layers, dating from pre 1104 to post 1300. A concrete hay silo has been dug into the mound around the mid 20th century. It would be interesting to chisel the walls of the silo out and get a round section of the inside of the mound to see how it has been formed and whether a part of a structure, contemporary with midden excavated partly in 2011 can be found.
- b) It would be useful to do preliminary excavations in selected ruins in other parts of the peninsula, which holds several structures and mounds away from the sea erosion. This would be necessary to get a better idea of what buildings were in use at the same time, and what functions they had.
- c) The farm mound in Siglunes is impressive. It stands some 7-800 m east from the ruins observed so far and a part of it, a pointy green hill, is referred to as Öskuhóll (Ash Mound). It would be interesting to try and locate a midden sequence.

CONTEXT REGISTER 2011-2013

Cont ext 2011	Ar ea	Description	ID
101	B	Turf collapse mixed with peat ash and midden - white tephra in turf	RH/ SP
102	B	Mixed midden deposit with charcoal, bone and large stones	RH/ SP
103	B	Mixed peat ash - firepit? (Fill of [145])	RH/ SP
104	B	Shallow irregular cut at base of stratigraphy. Filled by (102)	HM R
105	D	Turf/grass	HM R
106	D	Turbated aeolian deposit - topsoil between stones	HM R
107	D	Dark orange brown silt overlying northern face of ruin, including occasional turf fragments with grey/ white tephra	HM R
108	D	Clay rich very dark brown turf collapse, with frequent red/orange turf. Turbated, includes decayed timber and modern artefacts.	R
109	D	Secondary turf build in wall. Yellow sandy silt matrix, with grey/green tephra (1300?), up to 7 courses, each 5cm thick, horizontal. Capped/faced by 4 courses of large water rounded stones.	HM R
110	D	Internal turf collapse, derived from (109) and (113), frequent large rounded stones, occasional peat ash.	HM R
111	D	Dark brown black clay silt, compacted laminar occupation surface. Occasional white tephra flecks, occasional decayed bone and wood.	HM R
112	D	Dark brown silt with small turbated turf fragments (inc white tephra)	R
113	D	Primary turf wall. Dark brown/ yellow brown/ white turves (hnaus?). Survives up to 9 courses, and 1.1m in height. Turf up to 15cm thick and 40cm length. Overlies/includes large whale bone fragment at base.	HM R
114	D	Natural. Dark yellow brown organic rich silt with white tephra at ground surface.	HM R
115	B	Grey/green/brown turf collapse or turf dump, occasional charcoal and small rounded stone.	RH/

			SP
			RH/
116	B	Mixed peat ash and in situ burning, including charcoal, burnt bone, shells	SP
			RH/
117	B	Mixed deposit of peat ash, bone and burnt bone in a matrix of dark brown silt.	SP
			RH/
118	B	Orange pink peat ash over blackened soil/charcoal. In situ burning	SP
			RH/
119	B	Dark brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal	SP
			RH/
120	B	Pale brown silty turf block with white tephra	SP
			RH/
121	B	Peat ash, red at surface, includes burnt bone and charcoal at base	SP
			RH/
122	B	Organic rich mid brown silt, with occasional bone, burnt bone	SP
			RH/
123	B	Red brown silt with frequent charcoal, and occasional possible turf collapse	SP
			RH/
124	B	Mid brown silt with peat ash, charcoal, burnt bone, flecks of white tephra	SP
			RH/
125	B	Thin grey white band, lens of white burnt bone, occasional charcoal	SP
			RH/
126	B	Mid brown silt with peat ash, charcoal, burnt bone. Overlies white tephra horizon	SP
			RH/
127	B	Mixed yellow brown turf deposit - possible consolidation	SP
			RH/
128	B	Dark brown clay silt, occasional charcoal	SP
			RH/
129	B	Dark grey/ black charcoal/ash, occasional burnt bone	SP
			RH/
130	B	Orange pink peat ash layer with occasional charcoal and burnt bone	SP
			RH/
131	B	Thin grey ash layer - possibly redeposited	SP
			RH/
132	B	Thin grey ash layer - possibly redeposited	SP
133	B	Mid brown silt - aeolian?	RH/

134	B	Mixed burnt dump including wood ash, peat ash etc.	SP RH/ SP
135	F	Dark brown silt with turf fragments, and occasional charcoal - above white tephra.	HM R
136	F	Occupational layer west of wall. Compacted, contains turf fragments, occasional small charcoal. Beneath white tephra in situ.	HM
137	F	Turf wall (dark brown, greyish brown, pale yellow brown). Might include LNS tephra. With large rounded stones at eastern face. See also (157)	R HM R
138	B	Loose mid brown silt, with occasional fine roots. Aeolian	RH/ SP
139	B	Loose mid brown silt, with occasional fine roots. Aeolian	RH/ SP
140	B	Mid yellow brown silt	RH/ SP
141	B	Dark brown clay silt	RH/ SP
142	B	Fine black possible tephra horizon - K1000?	RH/ SP
143	B	Mid brown silt with peat ash, charcoal, burnt bone. Underlies white tephra horizon	SP RH/ SP
144	B	3-4mm white tephra horizon in situ. 1104?	RH/ SP
145	B	Cut filled by (103)	SP RH/ SP
146	B	Fine blue grey tephra horizon - possibly H1300?	RH/ SP
147	B	Grey/green turf collapse	RH/ SP
148	B	Soft grey brown turf collapse with occasional peat ash and charcoal. Very frequent bone, fish bone at base.	SP RH/ SP
149	B	Dark brown black silt with burnt turf, occasional peat ash and charcoal	RH/ SP
150	B	Bone dump - in matrix of mid brown silt and occasional turf fragments	SP
151	B	Layer of yellow brown turf between bone layers (150) and (152) - including white tephra in turf, includes fire cracked rock.	RH/

			SP
			RH/
152	B	Bone dump - in matrix of dark brown black silt with turf fragments - includes burntshell, fire cracked rock.	SP
153	F	Topsoil	BL
		Occupational layer west of wall. Compacted, contains turf fragments, occasional small charcoal, overlying white tephra in situ, with	
154	F	occasional flecks of white tephra	BL
155	F	Pink peat ash deposit between stones - possible single use fireplace.	BL
156	F	Mixed turf collapse with occasional peat ash	BL
		Turf wall, likely a secondary build (dark brown, greyish brown, pale yellow brown). Might include LNS tephra. Very similar to (137) and	
157	F	(164).	BL
158	F	Turf collapse containing red/orange turf, and small whitish flecks of probable tephra.	BL
159	F	Dark brown - black compacted clay silt with frequent burnt bone and peat ash. Floor layer - occupation.	BL
160	F	Orange - dark brown compacted clay silt with very frequent charcoal inclusions and occasional flecks of whitish tephra.	BL
		Mixed loose mid brown silt containing charcoal, occasional turf fragments and peat ash. Also contains multiple layers of white tephra	
161	F	towards the east - possibly in situ and redeposited.	BL
162	F	Compact dark brown occupation layer with frequent fish bone, occasional peat ash and charcoal.	BL
163	F	Mixed mid brown silt with turf collapse (including orange red turf).	BL
164	F	Wall of turf and stone very similar to (137)/(157). Constructed of strengur turf between stones, same colours as (137).	BL
165	F	Later addition to wall (164). With reddish turf pieces and occasional flecks of whitish tephra.	BL
166	F	Occupational layer? Mixed brown silt deposit, including turf fragments and aeolian material	BL
167	F	Dark brown silt with turf fragments	BL
168	F	Dark brown silt with turf fragments, with peat ash lenses. Below white tephra.	BL
			RH/
169	B	Bone dump - dark brown silt with occasional turf fragments and very frequent bone	SP
		Mid yellowish brown silt, with frequent large rounded stones (up to 40cm), occasional small angular stones (1-3cm) and occasional	
170	C	flecks of white tephra, possibly 1104.	HM
		Mixed dark yellow brown silt with turf fragments (irregular, random - yellow, blackish brown, grey green). With 2 courses of large	
171	C	rounded stone up to 30cms.	R
			HM
172	C	Turbated dark yellow brown clay silt, with lenses of turf, occasional charcoal and decayed bone (?) or organic content.	R
			HM
173	C	Compacted dark brown organic clay silt. Land surface?	R
			HM
174	C	Grey/grey green layer beneath (173) - possibly part of Landnám tephra sequence?	R
175	E	Soft mid brown clay silt.	AH

176	E	Soft pinkish silt with occasional charcoal and burnt bone	AH
177	E	Thin horizon of blue grey tephra (1300)?	AH
178	E	White tephra horizon - likely in situ	AH
179	E	Orange pink peat ash with occasional burnt bones and charcoal	AH
180	E	Cut feature circa 0.9m in diameter and circa 0.45m in depth. Filled by (181) and (185)	AH
181	E	Lower fill of cut [180]. Greyish brown sandy silt with burnt bone, charcoal. In situ soot/charcoal at base.	AH
182	E	Mid brown sandy silt with very occasional charcoal. Possibly equals (186)	AH
183	E	Mid orange brown sandy silt.	AH
184	E	Mid orange brown sandy clay silt	AH
185	E	Upper fill of cut [180] Dark brown sandy silt with frequent charcoal and burnt bones. In situ soot/charcoal at base.	AH
186	E	Mid brown sandy silt with very occasional charcoal. Possibly equals (182)	AH
187	E	Dark brown clay silt with frequent bone, burnt bone, and large rounded stones.	AH
188	E	Compact dark brown clay silt. Possibly natural	AH
189	A	Mixed turbated yellow brown silt with very occasional small stones, turf fragments, charcoal and peat ash	HM
190	A	Loose large rounded stones and top of section. Storm deposit?	R
191	A	Charcoal and wood ash lens.	HM
192	A	Highly mixed yellow brown silt with occasional turf fragments, burnt stone, charcoal and flecks of white tephra.	R
193	A	Charcoal and wood ash deposit between 3 stones.	HM
194	A	Layered turfy deposit (yellow, yellow brown, with white tephra) in mid brown aeolian matrix.	R
195	A	Grey ash with burnt bone, peat ash and charcoal.	HM
196	A	Mixed yellow brown /grey brown silt with occasional charcoal and peat ash flecks.	R
197	A	As (196) but slightly darker and with turf fragments. Possibly equivalent to (196)	HM
198	A	Laminar peat ash deposit with charcoal/soot at base. In situ burning - temporary hearth.	R
199	A	As (198) but not contiguous in section.	HM
			R

200	A	Mixed yellow brown aeolian silt with occasional peat ash and charcoal flecks.	HM R
201	A	Grey black charcoal/ash layer	HM R
202	A	Mixed dark yellow brown silt with yellow/brown turf fragments.	HM R
203	A	Peat ash lens sitting in small depression in natural surface - possible hearth.	HM R
204	A	Yellow brown silt with occasional charcoal and small stone.	HM R
205	A	Peat ash /wood ash deposit with soot/charcoal at base. In situ burning - hearth.	HM R
206	A	Mixed yellow brown silt, turbated with very occasional charcoal and anthropogenic content. Derived from underlying natural deposits.	HM R
207	A	Mixed yellow brown turf fragments with occasional small stones.	HM R
208	A	Shallow irregular cut truncating natural deposits, truncating white tephra in situ. Possibly equals [209] Filled by (196) to (207) inclusive	HM R
209	A	Shallow irregular cut truncating natural deposits. Possibly equals [208] Filled by (196) to (207) inclusive.	HM R
210	A	Black soot/charcoal deposit. In situ burning.	HM R
211	A	Mixed yellow brown aeolian silt with occasional turf fragments	HM R
212	A	Charcoal and ash, black soot at base - in situ burning.	HM R
213	A	Mixed block of reddish turf including white tephra and small rounded stones.	HM R
214	A	Layers of mixed yellow brown turf fragments with occasional flecks of peat ash.	HM R
215	A	Dark yellow brown silt with frequent fish bone.	HM R
216	A	Peat ash and in situ burning.	HM R
217	A	Blackened silt - in situ burning.	HM R

218	A	Yellow brown silt with occasional flecks of white tephra.	HM R
219	A	Peat ash, black at base, in situ burning.	HM R
220	A	Turf collapse (yellow, brown, white tephra) in silt matrix. Highly disordered small fragments.	HM R
221	A	Yellow brown silt matrix with frequent turf collapse	HM R
222	A	Dark brown mixed aeolian silt, occasional charcoal, occasional flecks of white tephra	HM R
223	A	Fine mixed ash, charcoal burnt bone - fill of cut [224]	HM R
224	A	Cut - small, shallow, truncating deposits east of eastern wall	HM R
225	A	Turf wall rebuild. At least 5 courses of 5cm thick turf, formed from yellow/ yellow brown silt with white tephra	HM R
226	A	Collapsed turf wall - as (225) but disordered.	HM R
227	A	Highly mixed aeolian silt with frequent small fragments of turf collapse and frequent flecks of white tephra	HM R
228	A	Irregular yellow brown turf deposit, possibly a levelling/consolidation event.	HM R
229	A	Peat ash	HM R
230	A	Mixed, layered yellow brown turf including white tephra. Possibly consolidation.	HM R
231	A	Grey/white ash layer including very fine burnt bone, charcoal etc	HM R
232	A	Dark, compacted yellow brown clay silt. Occupation horizon.	HM R
233	A	Peat ash	HM R
234	A	Dark yellow brown silt with moderate yellow/brown turf fragments.	HM R
235	A	Dark brown/ black compacted clay silt with occasional bone and charcoal. Occupation.	HM R

236	A	Yellow brown turf (including yellow tephra - H3?) - irregular, disordered. Collapse.	HM R
237	A	Turf wall fragment - multiple layers of yellow tephra (H3?) interspersed with dark brown silt. Possible LNS elements at upper surface.	HM R
238	A	Mixed yellow brown aeolian silt	HM R
239	A	Dark brown/ yellow irregular turf with white tephra in situ at upper surface.	HM R
240	A	Peat ash, charcoal, in situ burning	HM R
241	A	Mixed aeolian silt with yellow brown turf fragments	HM R
242	A	Dark brown clay silt. Possibly natural	HM R
243	A	Yellow (H3)/ dark brown/ grey brown turf in wall. At least 5 course, faced with large rounded stones at E.	HM R
244	A	Mixed yellow brown aeolian silt	HM R
245	A	Dark yellow brown aeolian silt with white tephra at upper surface.	R
2012			
246	D	Compact floor layer	BL RH/
247	F	orange turf collapse	Sp RH/
248	F	Dark brown deposit	Sp HM
249	D	Surface layer	R
250	F	Turf collapse, westside of trench	
251	F	Black floor layer	
252	F	Light brownish layer with tephra in it (levelling layer?)	
253	D	lowest fill	RH/
254	D	stone row - upper	Sp RH/

255	D	mixed debris	SP
256		EMPTY	RH/
257		EMPTY	SP
258	F	mixed fill of cut	RH/
259	F	collapse on top of wall in west	SP
260	F	collapse on top of east wall	RH/
261	F	leveling layer made of turf with tephra in it	SP
262	F	cut of [261] and filled by [258]	RH/
263	D	stone facing	SP
264	D	ash deposits	HM
265	D	wall collapse	R
266	D	wall collapse	HM
267	F	grey black burnt layer with calcined bone	R
268	D	burnt/mixed fire/ash waste	RH/
269	D	CHECK	SP
270	F	mixed layer of charcoal and burnt material	HM
271	F	windblown material, some peatash in it	R
272	F	turf wall debris	RH/
			SP

273	D	CHECK	HM R
274	D	CHECK	HM R
275	F	wall on west side (multicontext)	RH/ Sp
276	F	wall on east side (multicontext)	RH/ Sp
277	F	mixed wall collapse (multicontext)	RH/ Sp
278	F	mixed dump with charcoal and bone (multicontext)	RH/ Sp
279	F	light brown mixed deposit (levelling layer) (multicontext)	RH/ Sp
280	F	turf collapse with stone (multicontext)	RH/ Sp
281	F	same as [278]? Mixed dump (multicontext)	RH/ Sp
282	F	mixed dump (multicontext)	RH/ Sp
283	D	stone facing	HM R
284	D	mid brown gritty silt	HM R
285	D	stone row	HM R
286	D	yellow/grey/green/white turf floor	HM R
287	D	yellow/green turf floor	HM R
288	D	mixed dark brown - occupation	HM R
289	D	black ash charcoal occupation	HM R
290	D	mixed occupation, with bone	HM R

291	D	as (290)	HM R
292	D	as (289)	HM R
293	D	turf floor?	HM R
294	D	natural - greyish yellow grit	HM R
295	D	Turf collapse from 298	HM R
296	D	grit stone - naturally derived	HM R
297	D	yellow grey green turf	HM R
298	D	white/yellow/brown turf	HM R
299	D	yellow/white/grey turf - mixed	HM R
300	D	stone paved entrance	HM R
301	D	as [299]	HM R
2013			
302	FI	Wall collapse on top of occupational	RH
303	FI	Occupational layer (bone butter, shell)	RH
304	FI	Occupational surface, laminated, mixed, trampled materials	RH
305	FII	Turf wall	BL
306	FII	Dumps of burnt material and in situ burning. Peatash, woodash, burnt charcoal	BL
307	FII	Surface layer, mixed dark-brown with peatash and charcoal	BL
308	FII	Turf, relatively clean and not mashed up (collapse)	BL
309	FII	1104 tephra in situ	BL
310	FII	Dark layer, natural but trampled - lots of 1104 mixed in	BL
311	FII	Dump of dung? Loose, dark brown/greenish soil	BL
312	FII	Occupation between phases? Compacted, very mixed	BL
313	FII	Later wall, darkbrown turf, red turf on top	BL

314	FII	Turf collapse	BL
315	FII	Topsoil/turf similar to 313-314	BL
316	FII	Top/grassroot	BL
317	FI	Mixed wall collapse, stones under [259]	RH
318	FI	Aeolian brown silt insede the structure, post 1st abandonment phase. Partially under wall collapse.	KS

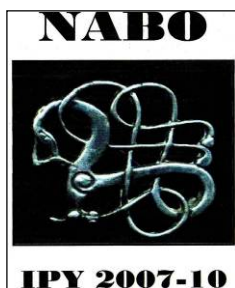
FINDS REGISTER 2011-2013

Site	Finds no	Area	Context	Type	Material Type (Basic)	Quantity	Weight (g)
SGN11	1	B	150	Gaming piece	haddock bone	1	5,25
SGN11	2	A	Stray find	comb	wood/copper	1	6,73
SGN11	3	B	152	nail	iron	3	21,5
SGN11	4	B	152	buckle	metal	1	19,72
SGN11	5	B	152		copper	1	1,15
SGN11	6	B	152	Whetstone	schist	1	7,82
SGN11	7	B	152	Whetstone	schist	1	14,25
SGN11	8	B	152	Whetstone	schist	2	28
SGN11	9	B	148	hair	horse hair		
SGN11	10	B	122	jaspis	stone	1	31
SGN11	11	B	101	Whetstone	schist	1	16,76
SGN11	12	B	101	stone	stone	1	6,88
SGN11	13	B	148	needle	metal	1	2,13
SGN11	14	B	152	hook	metal	1	8,64
SGN11	15	E	187		metal	1	3,95
SGN11	16	A	228	from door	metal	1	32,11
SGN11	17	B	169	hook	metal	1	8,55
SGN11	18	B	169	nail	iron	3	12,46
SGN11	19	B	148	nail	iron	1	8,03
SGN11	20	B	148		metal	2	17,05
SGN11	21	B	148		copper	1	5,15
SGN11	22	B	148		copper	2	7,84
SGN11	23	B	152		copper	3	3,36

SGN11	24	B	115		copper	1	1,78
SGN11	25	E	187		copper	5	1,29
SGN11	26	B	152		copper	1	2,2
SGN11	27	B	151	gaming piece ?	whale bone	1	4,16
SGN11	28	B	102	tool	whale bone	1	126,9
SGN11	29	B	152		whale bone	1	16,39
SGN11	30	B	148		whale bone	2	185,4
SGN11	31	B	150	needle?	whale bone	1	76,06
SGN11	32	B	169		whale bone	2	32,63
SGN11	33	B	150	needle?	whale bone	1	6,87
SGN11	34	A	stray find	shovel blade?	whale bone	1	600+
SGN11	35	B	152		whale bone	5	367,5
SGN11	36	A	101	shovel blade?	whale bone	4	398,53
SGN11	37	A	stray find		whale bone	6	314,2
SGN11	38	B	152		whale bone	10	465,21
SGN11	39	A	214		whale bone	1	
SGN11	40	B	169		stone	8	13
SGN11	41	B	101		stone	2	10,8
SGN11	42	E	187		stone	1	1,45
SGN11	43	B	152		stone	3	22,38
SGN11	44	B	101		stone	2	40,42
SGN11	45	B	151		stone	3	49,2
SGN11	46	B	150		stone	5	143,16
SGN12	47	D	288	loom weight	stone	1	173
SGN12	48	D	stray find		stone	1	650+
SGN12	49	D	249	jaspis	stone	1	10,5
SGN12	50	B	stray find	stone	stone	1	0,5
SGN12	51	F	252	stone	whetstone	1	7,5
SGN12	52	F	248	stone	whetstone	1	40,3

SGN12	53	D	249	stone	whetstone	1	13,4
SGN12	54	F	248	pottery	whiteware	9	9,6
SGN12	55	D	246	pottery	Stoneware	1	17,6
SGN12	56	D	249	pottery	transferprinted	1	1,7
SGN12	57	F	247	pottery	Stoneware	2	63,2
SGN12	58	F	247	pottery	whiteware	1	0,9
SGN12	59	F	247	glass	glass	1	0,8
SGN12	60	F	251	glass	glass	12	14
SGN12	61	F	248	glass	glass	25	72,3
SGN12	62	D	246	wood	stave - hoop	1	5,6
SGN12	63	D	249	textil	rope	1	
SGN12	64	F	247	button	copper	1	1,6
SGN12	65	F	248	button	copper	2	2
SGN12	66	F	247	clasp	copper	1	1,6
SGN12	67	F	252		copper	1	0,5
SGN12	68	F	260	nail	iron	1	18
SGN12	69	F	159	nail	iron	2	24,3
SGN12	70	F	251	nail	iron	5	26,3
SGN12	71	F	247	nail	iron	2	20
SGN12	72	F	259	nail	iron	2	15,8
SGN12	73	F	248	nail	iron	5	57
SGN12	74	F	248	nail	iron	2	21,6
SGN12	75	E	187-184	hook	iron	1	4,6
SGN12	76	D	290	hook	iron	1	31,2
SGN12	77	D	249	rivet	iron	1	10,8
SGN12	78	D	248	pocket knife	metal - wood	1	109,5
SGN12	79	D	246	tray?	metal	2	10,5
SGN12	80	F	248		metal	3	73,5
SGN12	81	E	187-184	clasp	metal	1	8,7

SGN12	82	D	246	hook	metal	1	10,6
SGN12	83	D	253		metal	2	83
SGN12	84	D	under 250		metal	1	46,5
SGN12	85	B	stray find		whale bone	1	20,7
SGN12	86	D	291		whale bone	3	310,8
SGN12	87	D	254		whale bone	1	96,4
SGN12	88	D	289		whale bone	1	97,2
SGN12	89	F	247		whale bone	1	245,6
SGN12	90	F	252		whale bone	1	650+
SGN12	91	F	261		whale bone	2	650+ + 93
SGN12	92	E	187-184	nail ? / höglid?	whale bone	1	16,7
		F, trench					
SGN13	93	I	303	nail?	metal	1	5
		F, trench					
SGN13	94	I		nail?	metal	1	6,5
		F, trench					
SGN13	95	I	303	nail?	metal	3	9,5
		F, trench		metal object with			
SGN13	96	I	302	"loop"	metal	1	18,5
		F, trench					
SGN13	97	I	304	whetstone	stone	2	41,5
		F, trench					
SGN13	98	II	right under topsoil	whetstone	stone	1	14

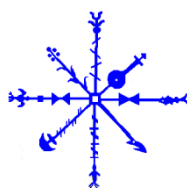


The Siglunes 2011/12 Archaeofauna.

Interim Report on the Fishing Station's Sampled Faunal Remains.

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NORSEC Zooarchaeology Laboratory REPORT No. 62

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Introduction

The Siglunes site encompasses Settlement Era (ca. AD 871) farm mound located on mainland and a series of eroding fishing structures found along the southern and western coasts of the peninsula protruding to the west from the mainland area. The site may have been occupied continuously through



a

Figure 1: Map of Iceland, indicating the Siglunes location at the very mouth of Eyjafjörður's western coast (Lárusdóttir & Roberts 2012:4).

the post-medieval period and the last permanent Siglunes inhabitants moved away from the site in the 1970s.

The Siglunes rescue and excavation project in the far North of Eyjafjörður is a NABO collaboration with currently four team members from the Archaeological Institute Iceland and the CUNY Graduate School and University Center. The first two seasons in 2011 and 2012 were small team site investigations in preparation

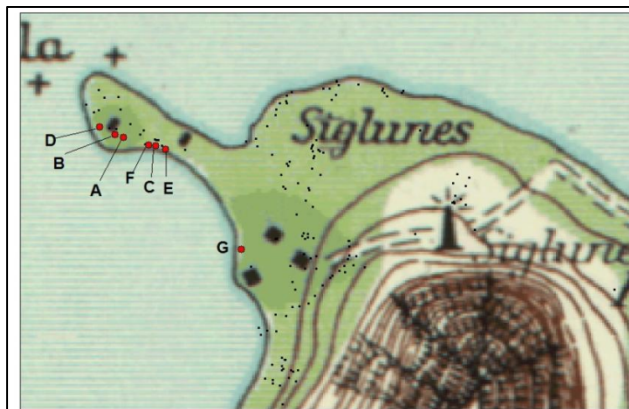


Figure 2: Siglunes map showing eroding sites surveyed in 2004 and 2006 (Landmælingar Íslands in Lárusdóttir & Roberts 2012:6).

for larger projects in the future. The archaeological project builds on survey work done in the whole Siglufjörður district in 2004 and 2006 when the poor preservation state of some of the remaining Siglunes structures due to coastal erosion was detected,

resulting in the currently ongoing rescue and research excavation project (http://northatlanticherc.gc.cuny.edu/?page_id=20).

Materials and Methods

All the midden materials were dry-sieved through 4mm mesh and where, materials were targeted for whole-soil sampling for post-excavation analysis in accordance with NABO recommendations to study plant remains, industrial activities, and other aspects of the site formation process.

The faunal materials were processed at the CUNY Northern Science & Education Center (NORSEC) laboratories in New York City and Brooklyn. Recording and data curation followed the NABONE protocols followed for other archaeofauna from Iceland, Faroes, Greenland, and northern Norway (NABONE, 2006, see www.nabohome.org for downloadable version 9). Following widespread North Atlantic tradition, bone fragment quantification makes use of the Number of Identified Specimens (NISP) method (Grayson 1984). Mammal measurements follow von den Driesch, (1976) and von den Driesch & Boessneck (1974), fish metrics follow Wheeler & Jones (2005) fish identifications follow FISHBONE 3.1 (Perdikaris et al 2004b, also at www.nabohome.org), and sheep/goat distinctions follow Boessneck, (1969) and Mainland and Halstead (2005). Tooth-wear stage studies follow Grant (1982) and long-bone fusion stage calibrations follow Reitz and Wing (1999), with overall presentation of age reconstruction following Enghoff (2003).

The Archaeofauna

This interim support brings a first impression of the Siglunes faunal collections excavated and actually rescued in 2011 and 2012.

Currently, there are limited data sets available, mainly a breakdown of the major taxa, and selected fish elements, all gadids or members of the codfish family, and a majority thereof cod (*Gadus morhua*).

Brief Summary of the faunal remains

As was to be expected from a fishing station, the great majority of the faunal remains is taken up by **marine fishes**, and as far as the current state of analysis

indicates, all are gadids, most are cod, with Haddock (*Melanogrammus aeglefinus*) a distant second, and Saithe (*Pollachius virens*), Ling (*Molva molva*), and the occasional Cusk (*Brosme brosme*) mixed in.

The marine mammal proportion is dominated by seals of unidentifiable species, save for a few individual skeletal elements that could be associated with Harbor Seal (*Phoca vitulina*) and Harp Seal (*Phoca groenlandica*). Other marine mammal elements are from cetaceans, ranging from Propose/Dolphin sized specimens to remains of large-sized whale species. The latter are often found in form of heavily butchered vertebral elements or the debris of craft working.

A small sample of these unidentifiable craft working fragments are currently analyzed by Swedish aDNA specialist, Celia Anderung.

Three Activity Periods:

1 *Pre-1104*: Archaeofaunal remains from Mound B excavated from contexts under the H1104 tephra layer.

2 - *1104-1300*: Archaeofaunal remains from Mound B collected from contexts situated between the H1104 and H1300 tephra layers.

3 - *Post-1300*: Archaeofaunal remains from Mound E collected from contexts deposited over the H1300 tephra layer.

A series of terrestrial mammals sampled from these contexts will be used for Radiocarbon analysis to further refine chronological deposition of the archaeological materials.

Currently, the Number of Identified Specimens (NISP) is very low per occupation period: 247 NISP for pre-1104, 278 NISP for 1104-1300, 104 NISP for post-1300 deposits.

Ongoing faunal analysis will increase these numbers and help balance out the present biases.

Major Taxa

The Siglunes fish remains outnumber all other taxa remains by the thousands. Only selected fish elements have been analyzed for this preliminary report though and thus their inclusion in to the Major Taxa Graph (figure 3) gives a skewed idea on the rest of the animal taxa. Therefore, this section also presents a Major Taxa Graph (figure 4), excluding the Fish taxa. This will allow for an idea of what other animal groups were also retrieved and how their relative percentages change or do not change over time at Siglunes.

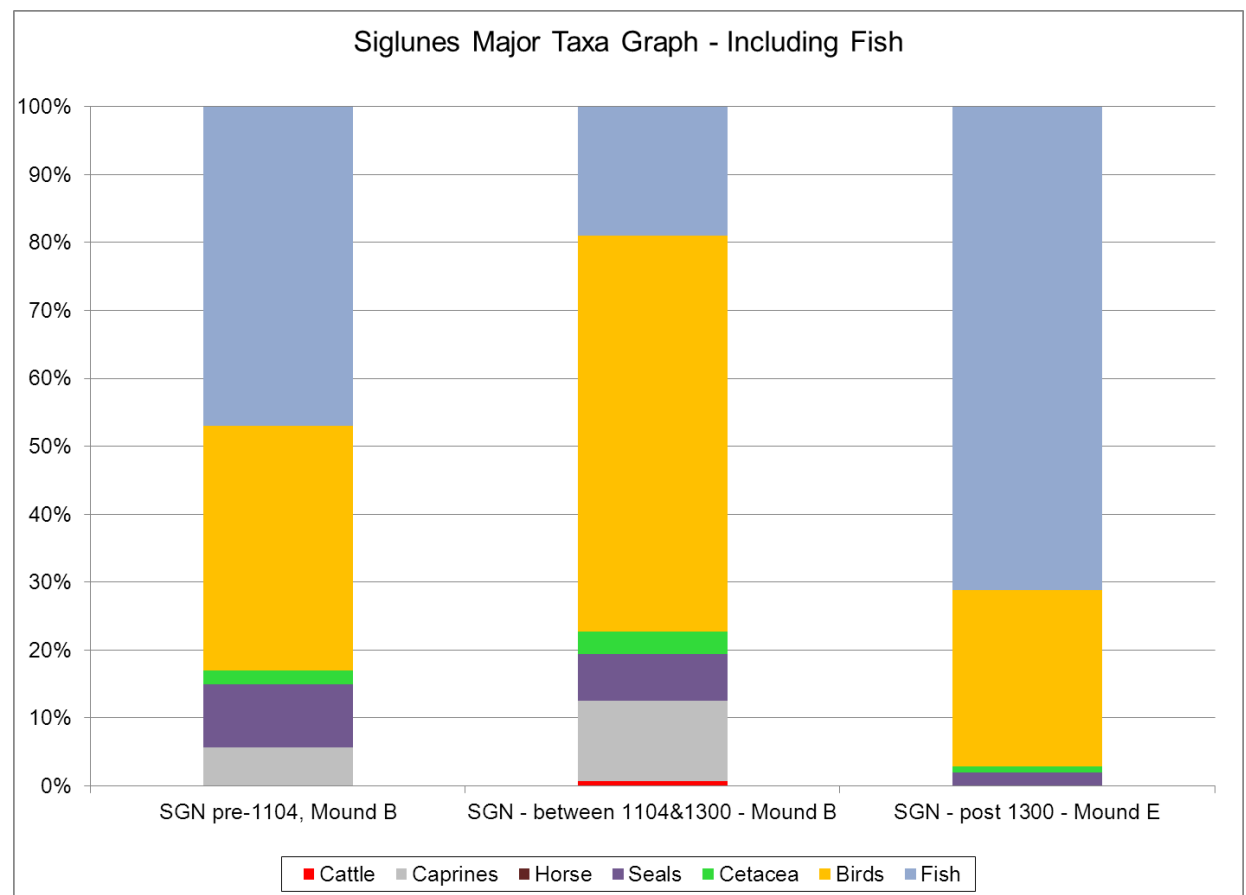


Figure 3. Major Taxa Graph (NISP %), including Fish.

The Major Taxa graph above presents the archaeofauna at an early stage of analysis. It is very likely that the fish remains will dominate the other taxa at a much greater extreme than the data currently suggest.

Figure 4 below shows the same data, this time without the fish remains. This is a more accurate profile of the site economy besides fish resource management, but the fish remains will certainly have to be added in again once they have been analyzed in their entirety.

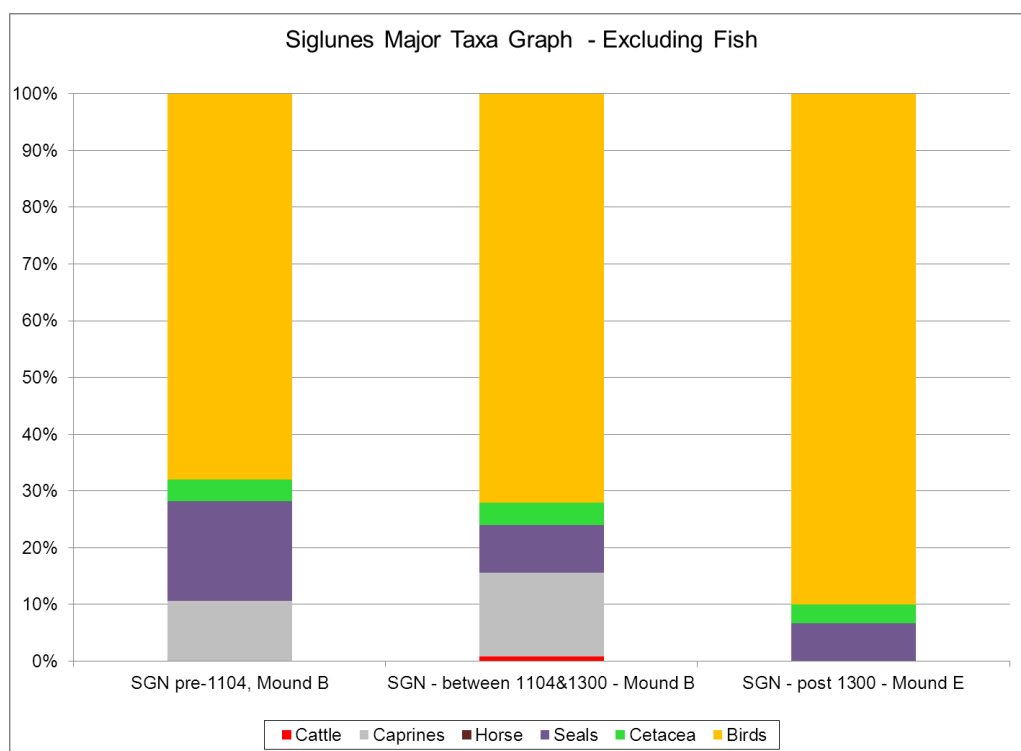


Figure 4. Major Taxa Graph (NISP %), excluding Fish.

Mammals

The Siglunes mammal graph demonstrates presence of domesticates in the earlier phases of Mound B, with seals and whales making up the rest of the mammal proportions. Mound E to date has only produced wild mammal taxa.

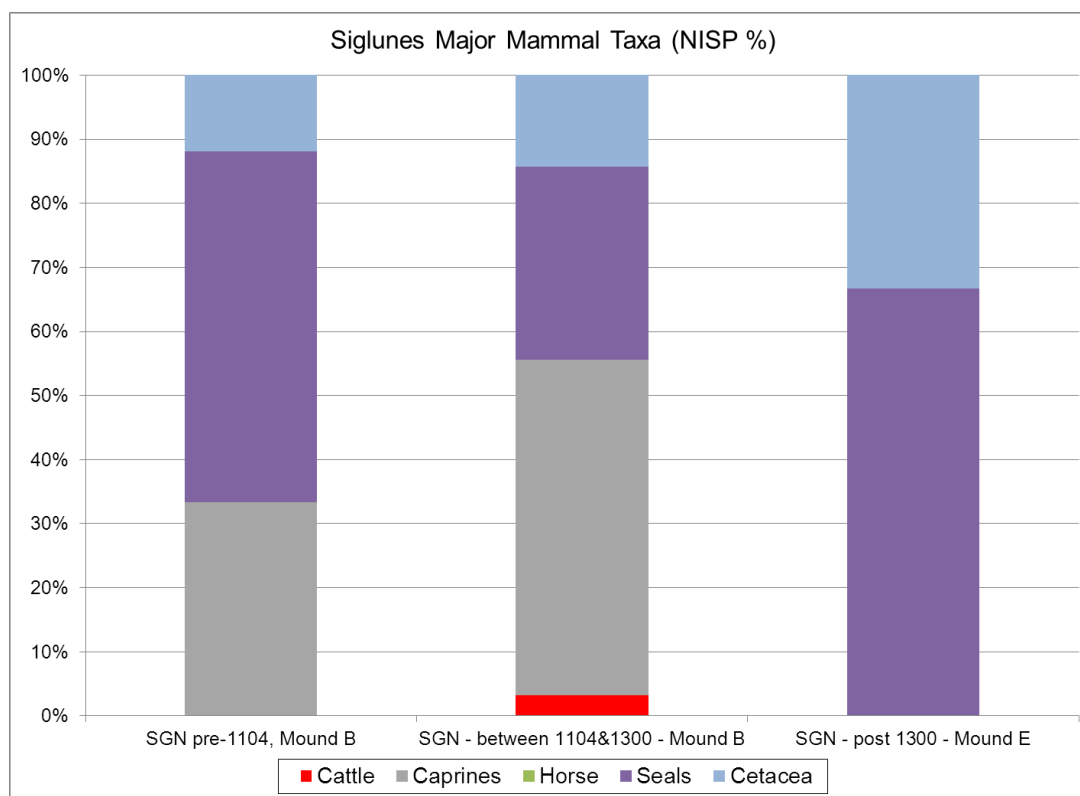


Figure 5. Major Mammal Taxa.

Domesticates

Domesticates Table	pre-1104 NISP	pre-1104 NISP %	1104-1300 NISP	1104-1300 NISP %
Cattle (<i>Bos taurus</i>)		0	2	5,71
Sheep (<i>Ovis aries</i>)	1	7,14	3	8,57
Ovis/Capra sp.	13	92,86	30	85,71
total Ovis/Capra	14	100	33	94,29

Table 1. Domesticated Proportions from Mound B. Mound E archaeofauna revealed no domesticates so far.

Only the Mound B contained a few domesticated elements in its faunal assemblage.

The predominant species are caprines, with 2 cattle bone elements retrieved from the 1104-1300 deposits. Further analysis will surely increase the domesticated proportion.

Wild Mammals

The whale elements included in this Wild Mammals NISP table are only those not obviously modified for artifact production. Besides these more intact whale elements, hundreds of splinters have been recovered as part of whale bone working debris. Selected elements were used for an upcoming aDNA study by Dr. Celia Anderung, University of Uppsala.

<i>Scientific Names</i>	<i>English Common Names</i>	pre-1104 <i>NISP</i>	pre-1104 <i>NISP %</i>	1104-1300 <i>NISP</i>	1104-1300 <i>NISP %</i>	post-1300 <i>NISP</i>	post-1300 <i>NISP %</i>
<i>Phoca vitulina</i>	common or harbor seal	2	7.14				
<i>Phoca groenlandica</i>	harp seal			1	3.57		
Large phocid	large seal	2	7.14				
Phocid species	seal species	19	67.86	18	64.29	2	67
Large cetacean	Great whale	1	3.57				
Small cetacean/porpoise	small sized whale/porpoise	1	3.57	2	7.14		
Cetacea sp.	whale species	3	10.71	7	25.00	1	33

Table 2. Wild Mammal Species recovered from Mound B and E.

The seal and whale elements retrieved from the Siglunes peninsula are indicative of the site's location in the northern waters of the Atlantic Ocean. Notably, only few elements from both seal and whale were retrieved from the post-1300 deposits from Mound E.

Birds

Siglunes - analyzed bird species	pre-1104	pre-1104	1104-1300	1104-1300	post-1300	post-1300
Identified Bird Species	NISP	% NISP	NISP	% NISP	NISP	% NISP
Migratory Waterfowl						
Eider Duck (<i>Somateria mollissima</i>)	6	15.79	13	14.29		
Anas species (Duck family)	1	2.63	1	1.10		
Sea birds						
Black Guillemot (<i>Cepphus grylle</i>)	1	2.63			1	10.00
Murre species (<i>Uria</i> species)	7	18.42	25	27.47	1	10.00
Razorbill (<i>Alca torda</i>)	1	2.63	11	12.09	1	10.00
Alcid species	1	2.63	2	2.20		
Common gull (<i>Larus canus</i>)			1	1.10		
Great black-backed gull (<i>Larus marinus</i>)	2	5.26	5	5.49	1	10.00
Herring gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>)			1	1.10		
Gull species (<i>Larus</i> species)	2	5.26	1	1.10		
Fulmarus glacialis (Fulmar)	14	36.84	22	24.18	6	60.00
Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>)	1	2.63	6	6.59		
Shag (<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>)	2	5.26	3	3.30		
Total	38	100	91	100	10	100

Table 3. Siglunes, analyzed bird species.

While the alcids (Murre, Razorbill, Black Guillemot), gulls, and ducks (mainly Eider) found in the earlier two phases (both Mound B), and the alcids and gulls found in deposits (Mound E) dating from the youngest phase are quite typical for a coastal marine site and reflect the avian fauna encountered during excavation, the more interesting bird species are the shag and cormorant in the earlier two

phases (Mound B). Both adult and young individuals from those species were analyzed and may be indicative of seasonal activity?

The potentially most controversial find in the Siglunes avian assemblage are the fulmar elements retrieved from all three phases. Traditionally, the thought is that these birds were only found in nesting in northern Iceland as late as the 17th c., but this site might just be arctic enough to harbor them earlier in time at least during the winter (Fisher 2008)? Were they coming from Svalbard or Greenland? More research on the presence of fulmars (*Fulmarus glacialis*).

Fish

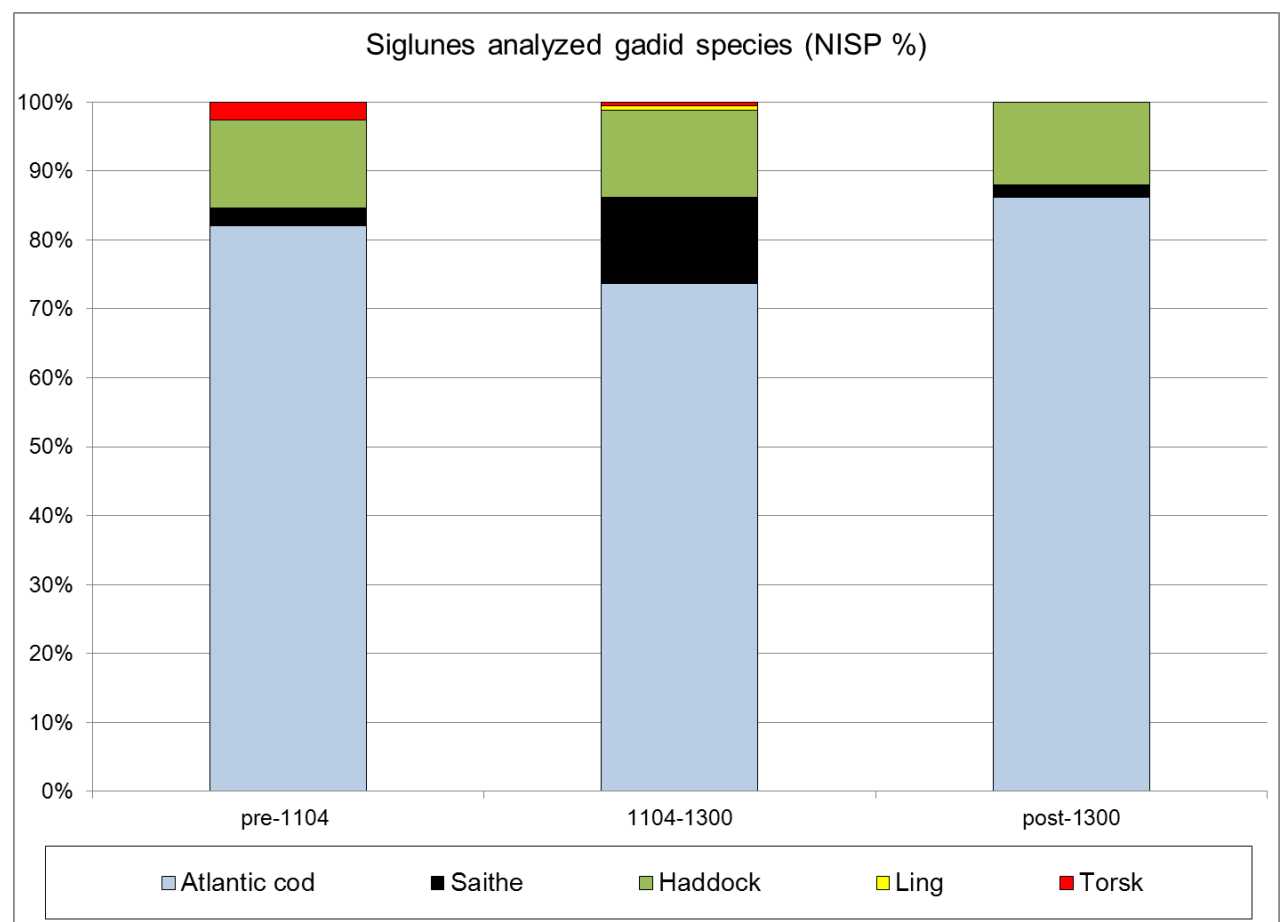


Figure 6. Siglunes gadid species.

The extremely well preserved faunal collection contains thousands of marine fish, to date all turned out to be part of the gadid family; remains that are still subject of analysis.

Figure 6 above presents the current gadid species breakdown. Cod (*Gadus morhua*) is the predominant species in all three phases, with Haddock (*Melanogrammus aeglefinus*) a very distant second. Occasional Saithe (*Pollachius virens*) elements are higher in the 1104-1300 phase, Torsk (*Brosme brosme*) was found in the pre-1300 deposits, and Line (*Molva molva*) only in those dating between 1104-1300. It would seem then that at this site, the focus was always place on a cod fish product, with far less species diversity encountered in the post-1300 deposits than in the earlier ones. These deposits belong to Mound E, whereas the two pre-1300 assemblages were retrieved from Mound B. The greater difference in species diversity between those two ruins either indicates a change in fishing activities over time, or between different fishermen. More analysis and excavation is necessary to discuss this issue further.

For an initial idea of the gadid and especially cod fish economy in place during the different occupation stages, certain elements were targeted for analysis, namely those indicative of either the cranial or post-cranial portion of the cod skeleton.

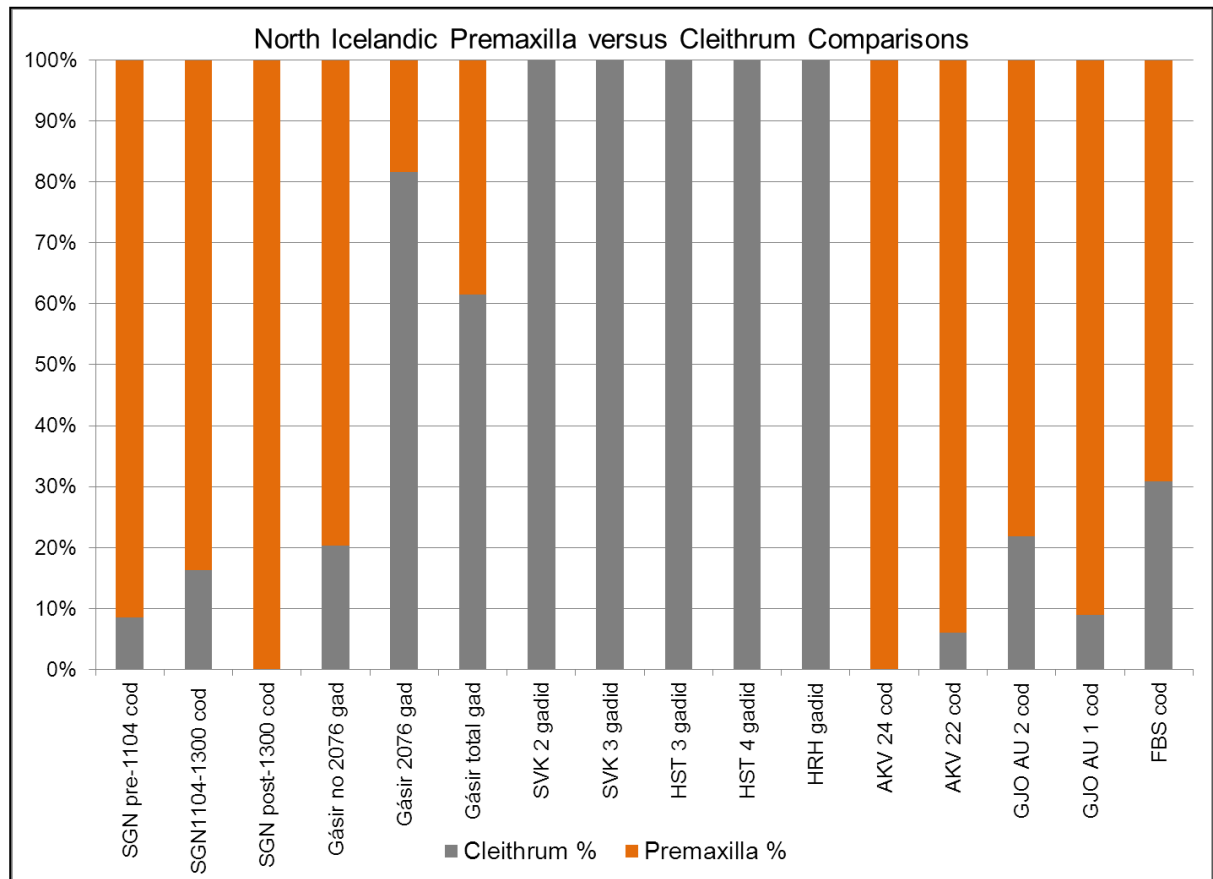


Figure 7. Premaxilla vs Cleithrum comparisons from Icelandic sites. SGN – Siglunes, SVK – Sveigakot, HST – Hofstaðir, HRH – Hrísheimar, AKV – Akurvík, GJO – Gjögur, FBS – Finnbogastaðir.

Figure 7 displays the percentages of premaxilla (one of the jaw bones) vs. cleithrum (large bone found in the pectoral region) bone element ratios for the Siglunes cod elements. The cleithrum travels with the preserved fish along with varied amounts of the vertebral column, and tends to accumulate in disproportionally higher amounts (than premaxillary fragments) at consumer sites, such as the ones from Mývatnssveit here (Perdikaris and McGovern 2007, 2008). The jaw bone called premaxilla is normally discarded at the point of fish cleaning and preparation for drying or consumption, and thus tends to accumulate differentially at dried-fish-producing sites such as Akurvík (Amundsen et al. 2005). The Siglunes premaxilla vs. cleithrum proportions

clearly support that Siglunes was indeed a fishing site, at least the ruins located at the now eroding peninsula.

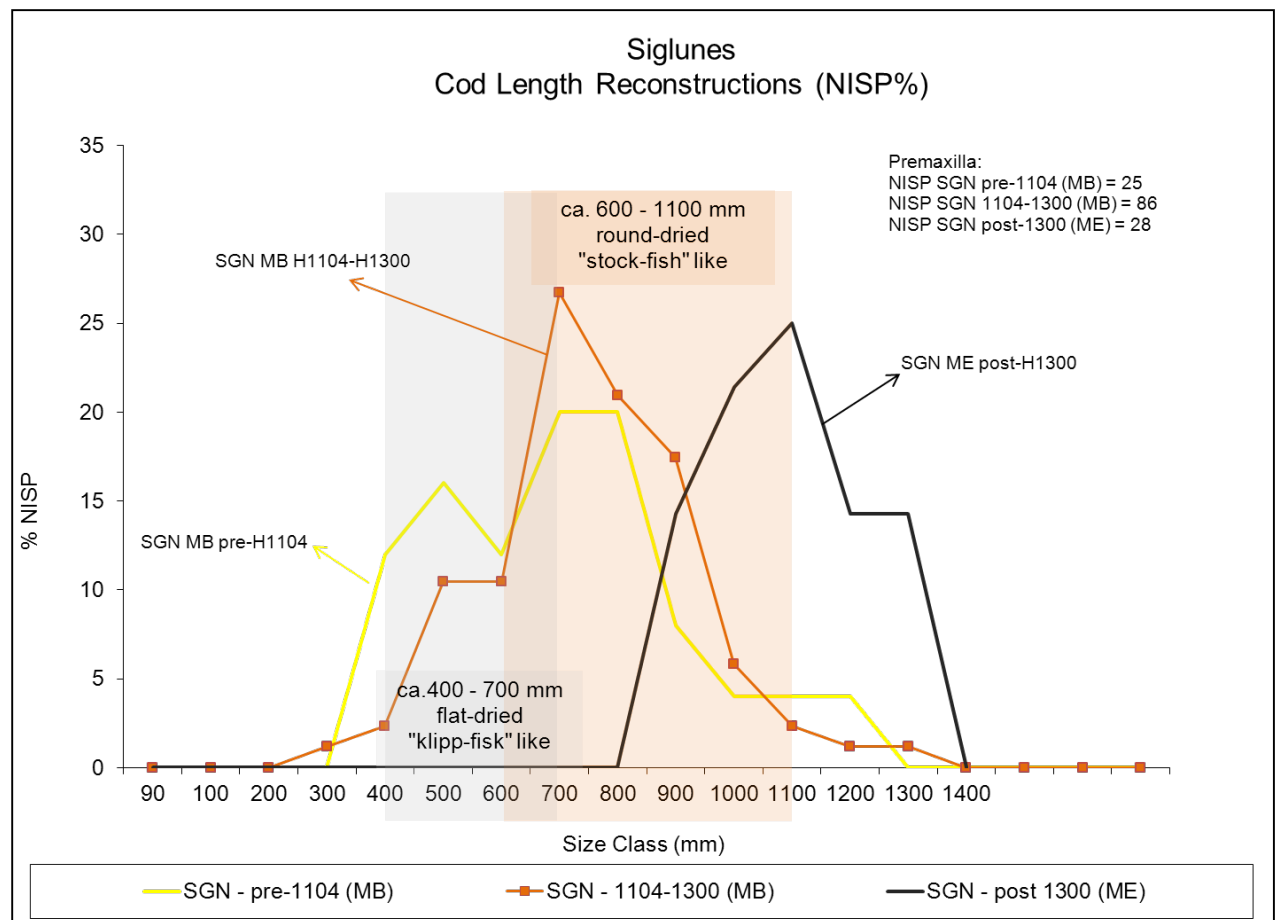


Figure 8. Cod Size-Reconstructions Based on Premaxilla Measurements; Siglunes, MB = Mound B; ME = Mound E.

While the cod size reconstructions from the elements collected from the deposits dating to 1104-1300 can be placed right into the “stock-fish window” of a reconstructed life cod size range between 600 and 1100 mm (Perdikaris et al 2004a), those from the pre-1104 deposits fit into a wider size range that seems to be evenly split into flat-dried fish (‘klipp-fisk’ like) and dried in the round (‘stock-fish’ like), maybe suggesting not yet fully commercial cod fish preparation. The cod life sizes from the post-1300 deposits are quite large for naturally dried fish and might indicate that during that period, either a cooler

climate afforded the fishermen to dry larger fish without rotting, or that potentially salt might have been added to improve the drying processes (T.H. McGovern, personal communication April 2013).

The traditionally set size ranges for a split fish product is 400 to 700 mm), smaller than the so-called stock fish filet dried in the round (size range of 600 to 1100 mm) (Perdikaris & McGovern 2008).

Preliminary Conclusion and Recommendation for Continued Excavation/Evaluation work:

From the faunal data available at the moment, it seems that the fishing site was using both domesticate and wild resources, with marine birds, mammals, and fish outnumbering the domesticate species in the earlier phases from Mound B, with no domesticates retrieved from the post-1300 deposits from Mound E.

The strongest signature of on-site fish processing is provided by the “premaxilla” vs. “cleithrum” graph and the comparisons to “consumer” vs. “producer” sites. The Siglunes head vs. tails signature confirms fish processing on site. And the great amount of extremely well preserved fish remains attest to that as well and suggest a production of fish serving more than just the local farm at Siglunes, but likely the farms of Siglufjörður and other Eyjafjörður areas. The reconstructed cod life-sizes suggest that the cod sizes seem to have generally increased over time, with a less specified production of likely flat dried and also dried in the round fish in the pre-1104 period, a focus on “stock-fish” sized products during the time between 1104 and 1300, and a larger-sized fillet in the post-1300 period. As mentioned earlier in this report, Radiocarbon dates will help date the pre-1104 and post 1300 remains more precisely.

An investigation into the Mound B vs. Mound E faunal remains would maybe highlight different activities on those sites, possibly explain the functions of the ruins better, and also tell us about the various aspects of site occupation over time.

Beyond collecting as much of the archaeological record, including the archaeofaunal remains, as possible from the eroding Mounds on the peninsula to refine the present knowledge about the fishing area (with more faunal work to be done in the Fall of 2013), the faunal specialist strongly recommends a strategic coring and test trenching exercise of all ruins on the peninsula but also on the farm land, as this will allow for further investigations into the interactions of the farm and the fishing site over time.

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<http://northatlanticherc.gc.cuny.edu/?cat=8>

Fornleifarannsókn á Siglunesi í Fjallabyggð sumarið 2012

Gjóskulagarannsókn

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INNGANGUR

Farin var vettvangsferð á Siglunes þann 13. ágúst 2012. Skoðuð voru snið í verbúðir á Siglunestá (einnig nefnd Nestá) sem liggur í VNV norður úr Siglunesi. Rústirnar eru staðsettar upp af fjörukampinum. Þær eru talsvert eyddar af völdum sjávar. Snið voru mæld og afstaða gjóskulaga til fornminja könnuð. Gjóskusýni voru tekin til til frekari athugana. Eitt snið var mælt í mýri austur af tάνni, um 40 m norðvestur af fiskhjalli.

Samkvæmt tiltækum heimildum um útbreiðslu gjóskulaga á Norðurlandi má búast við að finna eftirfarandi gjóskulög við Siglufjörð og nágrenni:

1. Landnámslag frá 870-880 e. Kr. Þykkt lagsins við Siglufjörð er 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 rúmlega 200 ára tímabili. Yngsta lagið í LNS er V~940. Þykkt LNS við Siglunes ætti að vera minni en 5 cm og vart meira en 2-3 lög sjáanleg.
2. Dökkt gjóskulag frá því um árið 1000. Þetta gjóskulag hefur fundist víða í Skagafirði og gæti mögulega fundist á Siglunesi. Útbreiðsla lagsins er ekki þekkt en upptökin eru í einni af eldstöðvum Vatnajökuls. Þykkt lagsins ætti að vera innan við 0,3 cm. Lagið hefur verið nefnt Vj~1000.
3. Hekla-1104, hvítt lag. Þykkt lagsins ætti að vera minni en 0,5 cm við Siglunes. Samkvæmt útbreiðslukorti ætti H-1158, sem einnig er hvítt, ekki að finnast á Siglunesi.
4. Hekla-1300. Þykktarkort er ekki til en samkvæmt mælingum Sigurðar Þórarinssonar er meðalþykkt þess í Fljótum um 0,4 cm.
5. Veidivötn-1477 ("a"-lagið svonefnda). Allskýrt í Svarfaðardal. Þykkt minni en 0,5 cm.
6. Hekla-1766. Áberandi gjóskulag í Skagafirði. Gæti fundist á Siglunesi.

Eins og sést af þessari upptalningu ættu gjóskulög frá sögulegum tíma að vera fremur fá á Siglunesi, og jafnframt þunn. Leit að slíkum lögum í mörkinni er tímafrek og krefst mikillar nákvæmni. Smásjárskoðun á aðsendum gjóskusýnum frá 2011 leiddi í ljós að á Siglunesi eru lögin H-1104 og H-1300 ágætlega varðveitt og einnig LNS að nokkru leyti (Sigurður Þórarinnsson 1968, Guðrún Larsen 1984, Karl Grönvold *et al.* 1995, Zielinski *et al.* 1997, Magnús Á. Sigurgeirsson 2000; 2001; 2004; 2011, Guðrún Larsen *et al.* 2002, Magnús Á. Sigurgeirsson *et al.* 2008).

NIÐURSTÖÐUR

Svæði-F

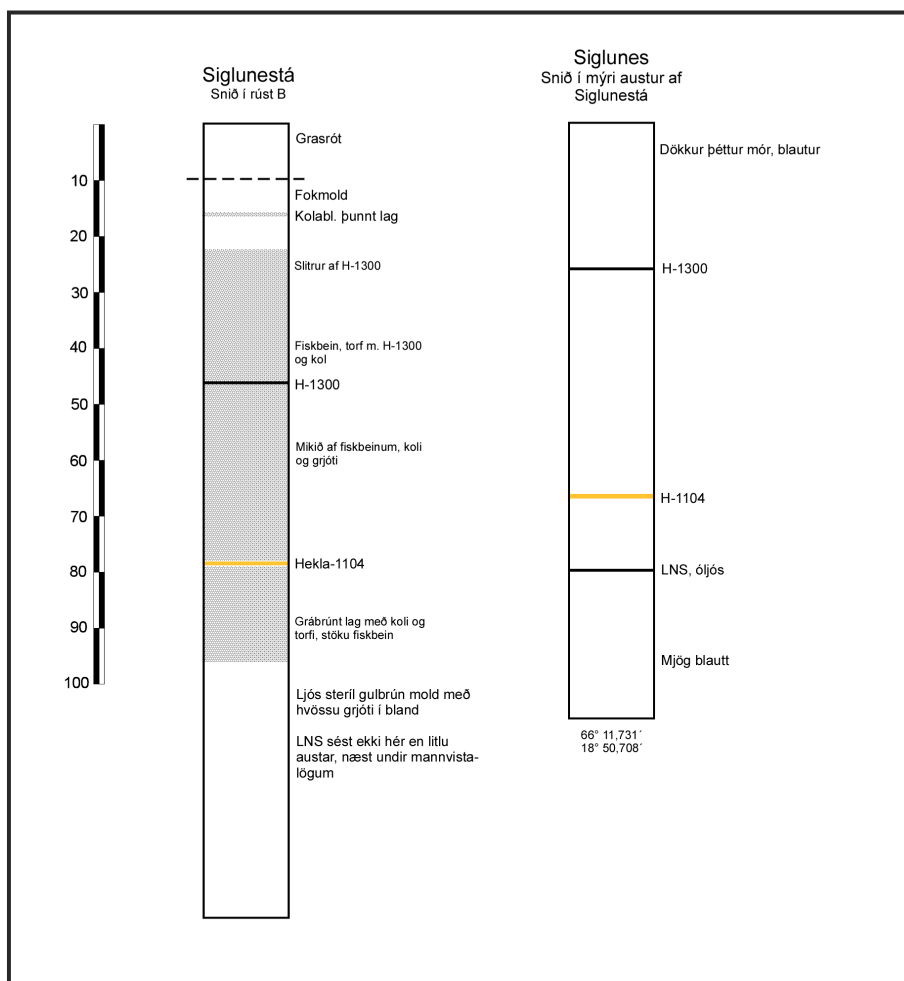
Gjóskulagið H-1104 er skýrt *in situ* í sniðinu, og liggur að hluta yfir rúst. Mannvistarlög ná um 30 cm niður fyrir lagið við suðurenda rústar. Skýrt gólflag er í rústinni. Í því eru slitrur af grágrænni gjósku, tvö sýni voru tekin. Neðra sýnið var tekið úr gjósku alveg neðst í gólfinu, en undir því er örþunnt mannvistarlag. Hitt sýnið var úr gjóskuslitru um 2 cm ofar í gólfinu (skýrara en það neðra). Lög þessi eru vafalítið úr LNS. Ekki fékkst úr því skorið hvaða lag/lög þetta eru en útiloka má þó Landnámslagið. Hekla-3 sést *in situ* undir rústinni en er mjög raskað. Ljósar slitrur úr Heklu-1 og Heklu-3 eru algengar í torfi en LNS er mjög óljós.

Svæði-A (næsti rústahóll norðan F)

Grafin var lítil hola niður úr miðri tóftinni. Neðsta mannvistarlagið er brún-gráleitt kolablandað þjappað lag, 1-2 cm þykkt. Undir þessu lagi er dökkt gjóskulag (sýni), vafalítið eitt laganna í LNS. Um 15-18 cm ofar í sniðinu má sjá Heklu-1104.

Svæði-B

Snið var mælt á svæði B, um 4 m austan beinahrúgu (ruslahaug) (mynd 1). LNS sást ekki þar sem sniðið var mælt en hins vegar litlu austar í bakkanum. Þar var hún mjög röskuð. Mannvistarlög voru næst ofan á henni.



Mynd 1. Snið mæld á Siglunesi.

Svæði-D

Gjóskulagið H-1104 er *in situ* undir rústinni og undir því er þunnt mannvistarlag. Mikið er af H-1104 í torfi (streng). Einnig má sjá gjóskulögin H-1300 og Heklu-3 í torfi efst í veggjunum, sem líklega hefur verið notað í breytingar eða endurbætur á byggingunni. Aðeins H-1104 sást *in situ*.

Niðurlag

Ekki fundust önnur gjóskulög (frá sögulegum tíma) á svæðinu en H-1300 og H-1104. Bæði þessi lög eru skýr og nýtast vel við tímasetningu minjanna.

Greinilegt er að talsvert hefur rofist af Nestánni frá því að verbúðirnar upp af fjörukampinum voru notaðar. Sést það berlega á því hversu rústirnar eru rofnar og telja má víst að einhverjar byggingar séu alveg horfnar. Búðirnar hafa verið reistar skömmu eftir að LNS myndast en yngsta lagið í henni er frá því um 940. Það lag sást ekki með vissu enda LNS almennt illa varðveitt á svæðinu. Mannvistarlög eru næst ofan á LNS. Af umfangi mannvistarlaga að dæma hafa mest umsvif verið þarna á milli 1104 og 1300, en

einnig nokkur eftir þann tíma. Gjóskulagið H-1300 sést í torfi, sem bendir til endurbóta eða viðgerða á byggingunum á 14.-15. öld (rústir B og D). Hvenær búðirnar voru aflagðar var ekki hægt að tímasetja út frá gjóskulögum þar sem engin lög frá síðustu öldum fundust á svæðinu. Leita mætti þó betur að slíkum lögum.

Allþykkur moldarjarðvegur hefur verið á Nestánni, allt að 0,5 m þykkur þar sem skoðað var (einkum á svæði B og F). Talsvert er af köntuðu grjóti í honum, fjörugrjót sást ekki. Undir jarðveginum er jökulruðningur. Bendir þetta til að búðirnar hafi í upphafi verið byggðar nokkuð frá fjöru/sjó. Fjörugrjót og torf hefur verið notað í vegg. Linsur af fínni fjörumöl sjást ekki í bökkunum (brimklifum) fyrr en vel ofan við gjóskulagið H-1104 sem bendir til að lítið hafi skolast af grjóti upp á land (sem gerist einkum í stórvíðrum og stórstreymi) og að búðirnar hafi verið vel varðar fyrir sjógangi framan af öldum. Ofarlega í bökkunum verða malarlinsur algengari. Í dag eru dreifar af strórgrýti víða á tanni sem sjórinn hefur kastað á land. Austan megin á Nestánni og við víkina þar austur af er mór í brimklifunum. Ljóst er því að verulega hefur rofist úr landinu þar.

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