

Hofstaðir 2003

Framvinduskýrsla/Interim Report



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**The cover photograph on is of Rúnar Leifsson
excavating grave [1715], skeleton SK022.**

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1. Introduction

Aims & Methods

The 2003 season at Hofstaðir was the ninth consecutive season of archaeological excavation at the site. Work on the skáli area concluded the previous year, and so work was only carried out in the chapel and cemetery site, the fifth season of excavation of the area. The 2002 season had seen much reduced work, with only the chapel itself being excavated, no graves. This season the entire



Figure 1. Overview of the site,
facing north-west

cemetery excavation area from 2001 was reopened, and extended 2 m. to the north and east, to try and find the limit of burials in those directions.

The methodology of excavation this year followed that of previous seasons, i.e. single context excavation and recording. All units were given unique context numbers and the usual *pro forma* sheets employed. As after every season, the site has been protected by the laying down of terramatting and re-turfing.

Contributors and Acknowledgements

As always, the work at Hofstaðir would not be possible without the involvement of a large number of people, both professionals and students, who provide their expertise and labour as part of an international team. Continuing its dual role as research excavation and field school, the excavations were greatly aided by the co-operation of Colleen Batey, University of Glasgow, who organised the intake of European students and Tom McGovern at Hunter College who organised student involvement through CUNY. A total of five students worked on the excavations at Hofstaðir, Rúnar Leifsson (Iceland), Sarah Thomas (Norway), Kate Krivogorskaya (USA), Carrin Halfman (USA) and Aaron Kendall (USA),. In addition Matthew Brown from the

REU program from Brooklyn Collage, CUNY, joined the excavation for a fortnight. The excavation was supervised by Hildur Gestsdóttir (FSÍ) with the assistance of Mjöll Snæsdóttir (FSÍ) and Jane Hamill (FSÍ). Sigríður Þorgeirsdóttir (FSÍ) assisted with the post-excavation. The project was funded by a grant (Öndvegisstyrkur) from the Icelandic Research Council (Rannís). As before, the landowners of Hofstaðir, Ásmundur Jónsson and Guðmundur Jónsson, were generous in their support of the project.

2. Results

The aims of the 2003 season were threefold. Firstly to excavate layers around the chapel (structure Z2) which could not be removed during the 2002 season, as only a small area around the chapel structure itself was opened and its excavation completed. Secondly, to try and find the limits of the burials to the north and the east, and thirdly to continue the excavations of the burials themselves. The excavation area from 2001 was reopened, and extended 1.9 m to the north and 2.7 m to the east, making the total excavated area 12.4 x 18.9 m.

The post-medieval farm

The extension of the excavation area revealed a large pit [1709] in the north-western corner of the excavation area. It was 1.7 m in diameter, 0.9 m deep at its centre with gently sloping sides and a flat base. This pit had three distinct fills, at its base a 0.1 m thick layer of charcoal [1721], with little contamination of other material, including some large



Figure 2. Charcoal pit [1709], facing north

charred branches. This was sealed by a 0.2 m thick layer of mixed silt and turf debris [1720] which in turn was sealed by a 0.3 m thick layer of midden material [1708], including ash, turf debris, large stones and a quantity of animal bone. This pit was sealed by a 0.1 m thick layer of turf debris [1704] = [1503] = [1584], which in turn

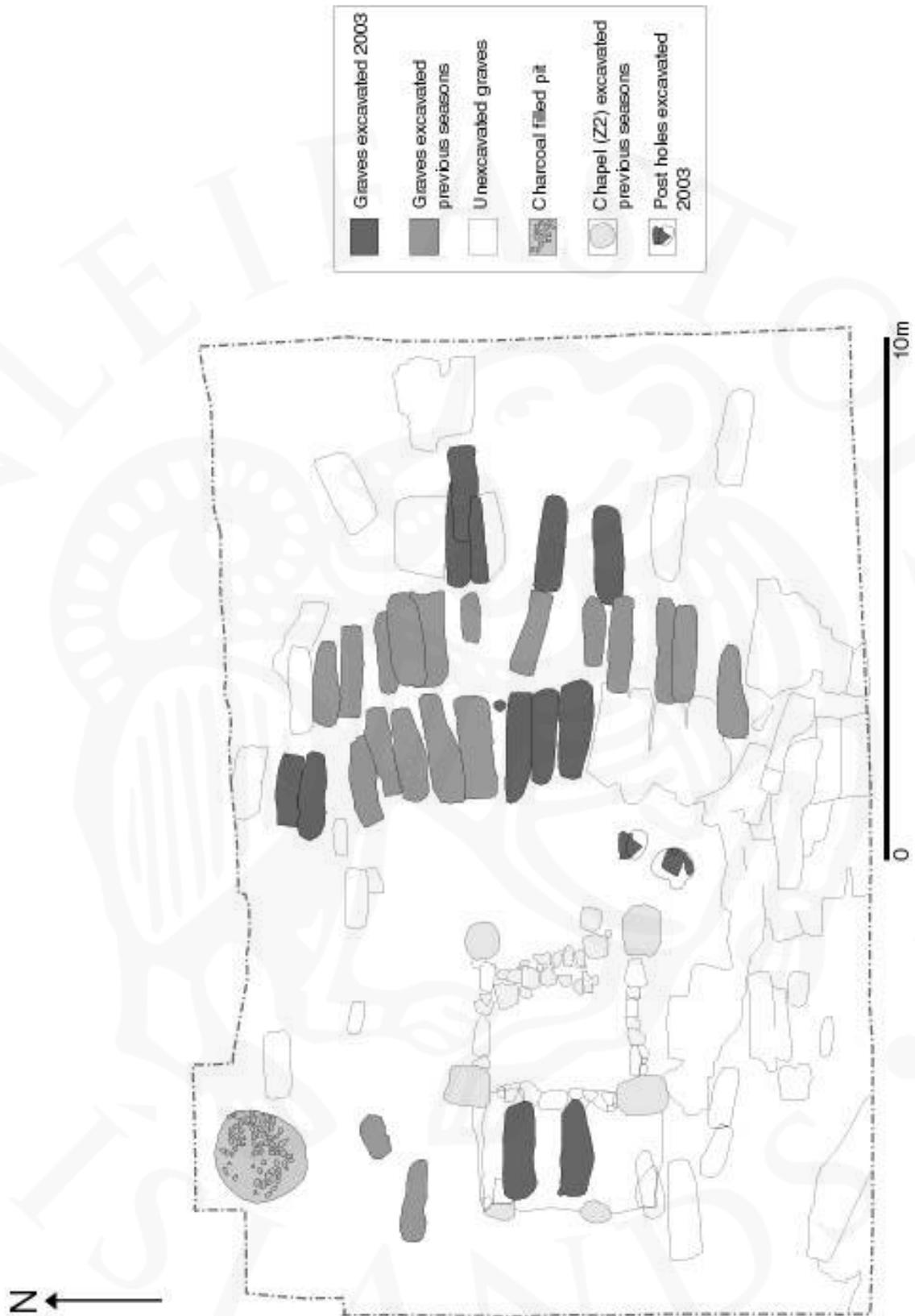


Figure 3. Overview of excavated features

was sealed by the topsoil. The pit and its fills have been given the group number [1724]. Pit [1709] is cut through a layer of [1725] aeolian soil, up to 0.1 m thick, which seals the graves surrounding the chapel, and so clearly the pit belongs to a phase post-dating the use of the chapel. It is most likely associated with the post-medieval farm mound, and the smithy that is recorded as having stood in the same location as the chapel:

“**SP-214:008**...Lengi hefur verið talið á Hofstöðum að bænhúsið hafi verið þar sem smiðjan stóð, á NA-horni bæjarhólsins...”

“**[SP-214:008]**...It has long been the belief that the chapel at Hofstaðir was where the smithy stood, on the NE corner of the farm mound....”

Orri Vésteinsson, 1996; 75. HG translated.

The chapel

Layer [1725] was found to cover the entire area north-west, west and south of the chapel structure (Z2) and had clearly built up against it. It sealed most of the graves around the chapel, apart from two excavated in 2000, [1589] and [1609], which post-date the main period of use of the cemetery, and have been given the group number [1749]. Layer [1725] also sealed a 0.05 m thick layer of sheet midden [1730], consisting of silt, ash and sand, and including charcoal and burnt animal bone, in the north-western corner of the site, indicating that there was activity on the site of the farm mound contemporary with the period of use of the cemetery. As already stated, the excavation of the chapel was completed in the 2002 season at Hofstaðir. Two further post holes were excavated however east of the south-eastern corner of the chapel. One, [1743] was partially sealed by layer [1725], so they possibly represent the remains of an earlier structure on the site. Post hole [1743] was 1.5 m in diameter where it was widest, 0.4 m deep and filled



Figure 4. Post whole [1743].

with silt and turf debris [1742]. At its base was a stone slab, 0.4 x 0.5 m. The second post hole, [1745] lay 0.2 m north-east of the first one. It was slightly more irregular in shape, 0.6 m in diameter at its widest and 0.2 m deep. It was filled with silt and turf debris, [1744] and had a stone slab 0.4 x 0.5 sitting inside the cut, on its northern edge. This was sealed by [1638] a debris layer belonging to the earliest structure on the site (Z1), so at this time its relationship with the surrounding features is uncertain. There appear to be, however, a few cut features in the area which are yet to be excavated. This will be done during the 2004 season at Hofstaðir, which should clarify whether these post holes belong to the earliest structure at the site. Two further layers were excavated from the area of the chapel (Z2). These were [1740] ≠ [1741] turf debris layers, the same as, or part of the same depositional process as [1682] = [1624], which has been interpreted as a foundation layer set down to even the ground prior to the construction of the chapel. Two samples (HST02-270 and HST02-279) of birch (*betula sp.*) branches with bark from the 2002 season excavation of context [1682] were sent to the Scottish Universities Research and Reactor Centre for radiocarbon dating. The results of these gave a date of 1035±35BP (980-1024AD, 68.2% probability) for HST02-270 and 1015±45BP (970-1040AD, 68.2% probability) for HST02-279.

Two graves were excavated within the porch of the chapel, [1703] 1.87 x 0.61 m, 0.5 m deep, containing skeleton SK018 and [1717] 1.84 x 0.6 m, 0.48 m deep, containing SK019. They were filled with [1702] and [1716] respectively, in both instances upcast containing silt mixed with prehistoric tephra. Both contained stains of wooden coffins within the soil. These



Figure 5. Grave fill [1716], coffin "stain"

graves seem to post-date the construction of the nave of the chapel, but pre-date the porch, indicating that it might be a later addition to ensure that these two individuals were buried within the body of the church. These graves have been given the group number [1750], which is likely to also include an unexcavated grave which lies directly to the north of grave cut [1716].

The cemetery

Most of the work during the 2003 season at Hofstaðir involved the excavation of the cemetery. The majority of the graves excavated so far lie to the east of the chapel. The extension of the excavation area to the north and the east, the limit of the part of the cemetery containing graves appears to have been attained, although the boundary wall identified with the geophysical survey carried out in 1999 (Horsley, 1999) has only been exposed in trench Zii.

Three rows of graves running north-south lie east of the chapel, with the row closest to the chapel being the densest. All the burials in each row have been grouped together, as they are probably mainly contemporary with each other as in most instances they respect each other with little intercutting. All the grave cuts have vertical to slightly undercut edges, with a flat base and are cut through the natural. They are all sealed by a layer of turf debris, up to 0.15 m thick, [1707] = [1630] = [1511]. It is possible that this represents material deliberately laid down to level the cemetery after it went out of use. Layer [1707] is sealed by a layer of aeolean soil, [1705] = [1604]. In the northern part of the cemetery this is sealed by a layer of turf debris, [1706], which in turn is sealed by the V-1477 tephra.

Group [1746] is the line of graves directly east of the chapel. Ten graves in this group have been excavated. Five of these were excavated in previous seasons ([1627], [1532], [1633], [1645] and [1661]), and five during the 2003 season. The northern most of these was grave cut [1727]. Its maximum length was 1.37 m and width 0.5 m. Its eastern half was only 0.25 m deep, however, a 0.67 m long section at the western end had been cut much deeper, down to 0.5 m, and within that was the burial of a near complete disturbed skeleton (SK026). The bones had been carefully placed within a wooden box, of which a soil stain only remained. These bones either came from a disturbed grave on the site, or were moved to Hofstaðir from a different

location. It is of interest that the initial cut for this burial is almost the size of a cut for a supine burial. The western end of the cut is in line with the other graves in group [1746], so it is possible that this was done to keep the line of the graves even. The grave fill consisted of silt mixed with prehistoric tephra, [1726]. Cut [1727] slightly truncated the grave immediately to the south [1734]. This was 1.7 x 0.52 m and 0.52 m deep. Slight coffins stains were visible at the western end of the grave. The grave contained SK027 and was filled with [1733], silt mixed with prehistoric tephra. On the southern end of the excavated graves in group [1746] three graves were excavated during the 2003 season, [1699] (SK021), [1719] (SK024) and [1738] (SK029) filled with respectively [1698], [1718] and [1737], in all instances silt mixed with prehistoric tephra. These cuts were on average 1.98 x 0.5 m and 0.48 m deep. All had been disturbed at some point, so that all that remained of the skeletons buried there were the bones below the knee. The recuts could not be clearly seen, except in grave [1738], where the eastern edge of the recut was clear. The recuts of all the graves have been given the group number [1729], with the fill [1728], silt with disturbed prehistoric tephra, although it is not certain whether this represents one single cut or three separate recuts of each grave. What appears to be the skeletal material removed from these three graves (SK030) has been buried in a pit [1753] cut through the western end of graves [1699] and [1719], filled with silt mixed with prehistoric tephra [1752]. The outlines of this pit were never clearly seen, and so it was excavated following the skeletal material contained within it. Just north of this was a small hole [1711], 0.2 m in diameter, 0.05 m deep, filled with silt mixed with prehistoric tephra [1710], which contained human skeletal remains which were included with SK030. At least eleven unexcavated graves, one to the north and the rest to the south of the excavated ones, belong to group [1746].



Figure 6. Skeleton SK027.

Group [1747] consists of the line of graves immediately east of group [1746]. This includes thirteen excavated grave cuts, all of which ([1647], [1638], [1640], [1649], [1657], [1653], [1569], [1567], [1576], [1602], [1628], [1650] and [1607]) were excavated in previous seasons at Hofstaðir. At least eight unexcavated graves belong to group [1747], two to the north and six to the south of the excavated ones.

Group [1748] consists of the line of graves immediately to the east of group [1747] and includes five excavated grave cuts, all excavated during the 2003 season at Hofstaðir. Furthest to the north of group [1748] are three intercutting graves. Earliest of these is grave [1736], which lies slightly further east than other graves in this group. The cut is 1.65 x 0.45 m and 0.75 m deep and contains a fill of silt mixed with prehistoric tephra [1735]. Coffin stains could clearly be seen. The skeleton (SK028) was very poorly preserved. Cutting into the western end of grave [1736] was grave cut [1715]. This was 2 x 0.5 m and 0.7 m deep. It contained [1714], a silt mixed with prehistoric tephra. The grave contained skeleton SK022. There was no evidence of there having been a coffin. Cutting the southern edge of grave [1715] was grave cut [1723]. It was 1.67 x 0.38 m, 0.59 m deep and filled with [1722], silt mixed with prehistoric tephra. It contained skeleton SK025, but there was no evidence of a coffin. To the south of these three graves are the two further graves in group [1748], [1701] (2.05 x 0.45m, 0.72 m deep) and [1713] (1.93 x 0.54, 0.76 m deep). They were filled with [1700] and [1712] respectively, both consisting of silt with disturbed prehistoric tephra. Grave [1701] contained skeleton SK020, and although there were no coffin stains visible, a total of 142 nails recovered from it, indicating that the individual had been buried in a coffin, probably constructed from re-used wood. At least five unexcavated graves belong to group [1749]. Three of these lie to the north of the excavated graves, one to the south, and one lies immediately south of grave cut [1723].

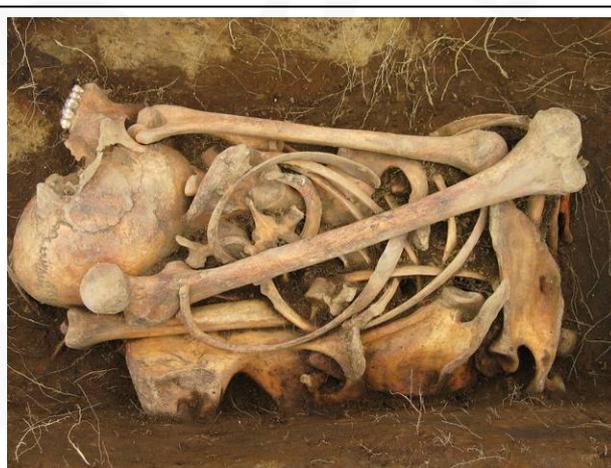


Figure 7. Disturbed skeleton SK026.

Of the twelve graves excavated in 2003, seven had been buried in a coffin. Of the eight undisturbed burials, all had been buried in a supine position with the arms resting on the pelvis, and the head facing forwards or slightly tilted to one side. All had fine black ash deposited on the thoracic area. All tests of this ash in the past have proved inconclusive. One burial was a single disarticulated skeleton (SK026) buried in a small wooden box. Three burials had been disturbed, and so the only bones left *in situ* within the grave were the bones from below the knee (SK021, SK024 and SK029). However, disarticulated bones belonging to at least three individuals were found within a small pit, and it is clear that these are the bones removed from those graves.

There are probably around sixty-three unexcavated graves that have been exposed within the excavation area, including the ones mentioned already in the discussion. In addition there is the fourth line of graves in the eastern part of the cemetery, to the east of group [1748]. This includes four probable grave cuts. There are also five possible grave cuts to the north of the chapel, three of which may be juvenile burials. The rest of the graves lie to the south and south-west of the chapel. At this stage it is difficult to see any clear organisation in this part of the cemetery, comparable to what is seen in the eastern part. However several of the burials here appear to be juveniles.

3. Finds

Colleen Batey

Thirty-six artefacts were recovered from the excavations in 2003 in the cemetery at Hofstaðir. Of these eight were from the turf and topsoil and a further find was unstratified, the remains of the assemblage was recovered from just fourteen contexts, including five which are grave fills.

The Grave Fills

In numerical order of context, context [1698] produced a single find of industrial debris <032>; it is presumed that this was incorporated into the fill from the surrounding land as the grave was filled in. Context [1700] produced 142 ship's rivets and fragments <005> and it is assumed that this represents the use of ship's planks for

the coffin boards. Context [1702] yielded a single corroded iron rivet plate <001> which is slightly bent but lacking the associated nail. Context [1717] had a sliver of iron which is not likely to be a nail, and may in fact have been a shroud pin <003> in addition to two surviving pieces of the wooden coffin <002> and <004> and from context [1718], <038> is approximately half of a badly corroded copper alloy disc which may be a coin or a button, but which is in urgent need of conservation. The fill of the recut of graves [1699], [1719] and [1738], [1728] contained a copper button <013> Apart from the metal items which are clearly part of the coffins, it is perhaps not unexpected that in a cemetery there are few items which were deposited with the bodies themselves.

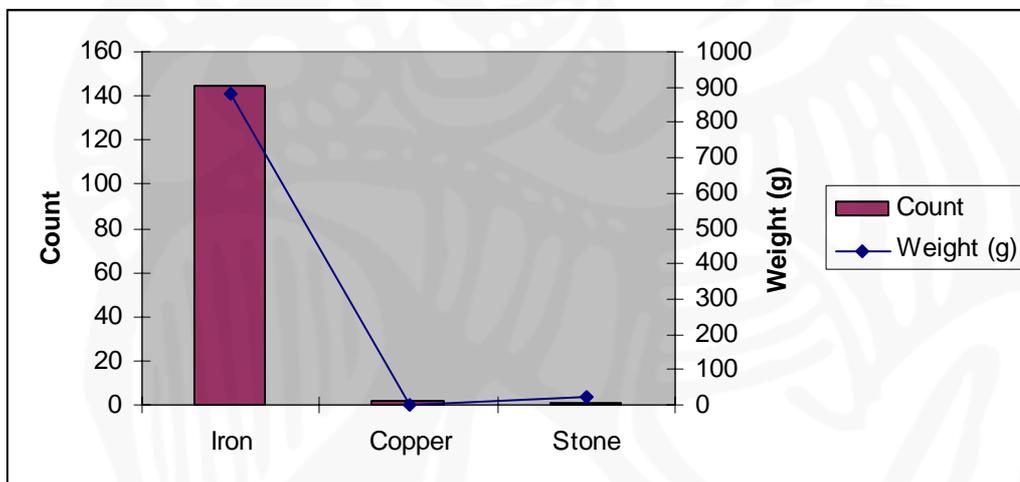


Figure 8. Finds by material type from graves

Blanket Deposits

Layer [0001], the turf and topsoil produced further material in 2003 due to the extension of the trench. All finds can be considered to be modern or relatively modern in date. Two sherds of vessel glass were noted, <035> a sherd of clear glass and <053> small section of bottle rim of green-blue tone. Three finds units of ceramic, some decorated sponge ware amongst them, comprised eight sherds <009>, <015> which comprises eleven sherds of ceramic including 19th century sponge wear and <036>, three sherds. These are further discussed in the section below. The central part of a little-used, square-sectioned whetstone <010> seems likely to be relatively modern in date. The remaining part of the assemblage is ironwork, including <011>, <003> nails and <034>, one nail, both probably horse-shoe nails and a single

fragment of indeterminate function, being a length with looped end <012> completes this group. The single unstratified find, <022> is a bent and corroded iron fragment which appears to have been a nail or perhaps a mount.

Layer 1704, a collapsed turf deposit included a single find of flint <014>. This was probably imported to the site for use as a strike-a-light and it has clear areas of striking. Context [1705], a layer of turf debris includes several finds of iron, <006> a flat nail which may in fact have been a horse-shoe nail, <020> a simple rectangular rove and <025> a broken nail with traces of an incomplete rove (also a piece of slag). Two pieces of copper alloy also from context [1705] include <018> a very corroded disc which may have been a brooch or a piece of horse ornament and <019> a small fragment of copper alloy sheeting is likewise difficult to assign a date. The end fragment of a very worn schist whetstone, <021> from context [1705], may have been an imported stone, but since it has seen considerable wear it is not easy to assign any date to its deposition.

Layer [1706], a deposit of turf debris contained one finds unit, <008> a piece of slag. Layer [1707], another layer of turf debris includes a single flat-sectioned nail <031> which resembles a horseshoe nail and a piece of industrial debris <052>. Layer [1708] a layer of mixed turf and bone and which formed one of the deposits of a large pit [1709], includes two nails in heavily corroded condition, <037> and <041> as well as industrial debris <042>.

Layer [1725] is a burnt layer which included industrial debris <056> and two very corroded indeterminate iron nails <055>.

Two deposits which are debris located east of the Chapel [1740] and to the north east of the chapel, layer [1741] included a single iron nail <060> from [1740] and two stone manuports from [1741], <062> and <063>.

The indeterminate nature of many of these finds makes it difficult to assign chronological divisions here on the basis of the artefacts. However, the few finds which relate the burial specifically have been localised and the remainder relate to blanket spread deposits beneath the turf and topsoil which was itself the single richest

context examined in 2003. The large pit in the corner of the trench included contexts [1708], [1720] and [1721] and although the finds assemblage is small from that feature, the highly corroded state of the nails suggest different burial conditions from elsewhere on the site, and conceivably may be associated with the nature of the fill of the pit.

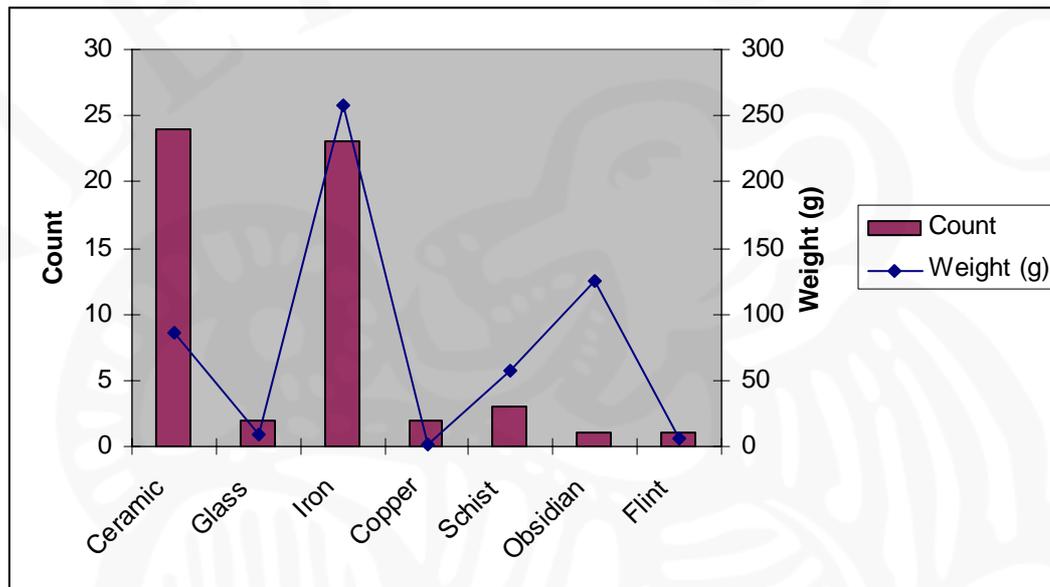


Figure 9. Finds by material type from blanket deposits

Pottery and Glass

Gavin Lucas

A small collection of pottery and glass fragments was recovered from Area Z and a rapid assessment performed. All the material is later 19th century in date (i.e. c. 1850-1900) and comparable to that recovered in previous seasons. All of the finds came from the turf and topsoil [001] and include a fragment of clear glass, probably from a lamp <035>, and the rim from a blown bottle in green glass <053>. The ceramics from this layer include a hand painted coffee cup <036>, as well as sherds from at least four spongeware bowls, <009> and <015>, two of which have repair rivets *in situ*.

4. Osteoarchaeology

A total of twelve individual skeletons were excavated during the 2003 season at Hofstaðir. Eight of these were articulated inhumations. Of the other four, one was a disturbed burial where the bones had been placed in a small wooden box and reburied (SK026). The other three were burials where all the bones above the knees (SK021, SK024 & SK029) had been removed from the graves, and reburied in a pit above the feet of SK021. The larger bones from this commingled pit (given the number SK030) have been matched up with the skeletons from which they were removed, but some commingled bones remain as SK030, as it is not possible to identify from which individual they came.

For the purpose of this preliminary report, a very basic analysis was carried out on the skeletal remains, their preservation graded, sex and age diagnosed, and measurements taken to estimate the living stature. No record was made of palaeopathological or other changes at this stage. A full analysis of the material will be carried out once the excavation has been completed.

Methodology

The preservation of each skeleton was graded, from 1-5 (see table 1), depending not only on the amount of material present, but also its viability for palaeopathological study.

| Grade | Preservation |
|-------|--------------|
| 1 | >90% |
| 2 | 75-90% |
| 3 | 50-75% |
| 4 | 30-50% |
| 5 | <30% |

Table 1. Preservation

The sexing of the skeleton was based, where preservation allowed, on sexually diagnostic characteristics of the cranium and pelvis (see for example Schwartz, 1995 and Buikstra & Ubelaker D, 1994), measurements of the width of several articular surfaces compared to standards presented by Bass (1995) and Brothwell (1981) and standards based on measurements of the talus and calcaneus devised by Steele (1976).

Age at death was determined using as many of the following methods as preservation of each skeleton allowed. The Suchey-Brooks system for age determination from the os pubis (Brooks & Suchey, 1990); the auricular surface ageing method devised by

Lovejoy *et al.* (1985); ectocranial suture closure (Meindl & Lovejoy, 1985) and the state of fusion of the secondary ossification centres (see for example Schwartz, 1995).

The calculations of the living stature of adult skeletons were based on measurements of complete long bones compared to standards devised by Trotter & Gleser (Trotter 1970), and in those cases where the long bones were fragmented, on standards developed by Steele & McKern (1969).

No juvenile skeletons were recovered during the 2003 season, so no methods for analysing subadult skeletons are discussed here.

Results

The results of the analysis are presented in appendix 4. Skeletons excavated in previous years are also included.

Preservation

The preservation of the material from Hofstaðir is in general very good, with 90% of the material with over 50% preservation (grade 3 or higher). See figure 10.

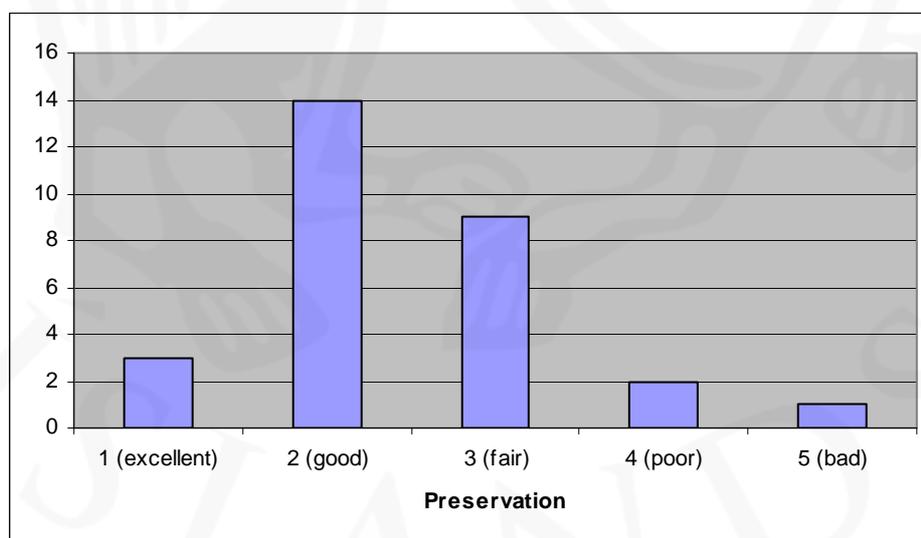


Figure 10. Preservation

Sex

Of the adult skeletons excavated so far in the Hofstaðir cemetery, there is a clear bias towards women, who represent 71% of the adult population, while the males are only

25%. This most likely represents an excavation bias. It appears at this stage that most of the women have been buried in the northern part of the cemetery, while the men are in the north, a known practise in medieval Iceland (see for example Matthías Þórðarson, 1943), so this bias is probably explained by the fact that the excavations of the cemetery to date have concentrated on the northern and eastern part of the cemetery (see figure 14). For further detail see appendix 4 and figure 11.

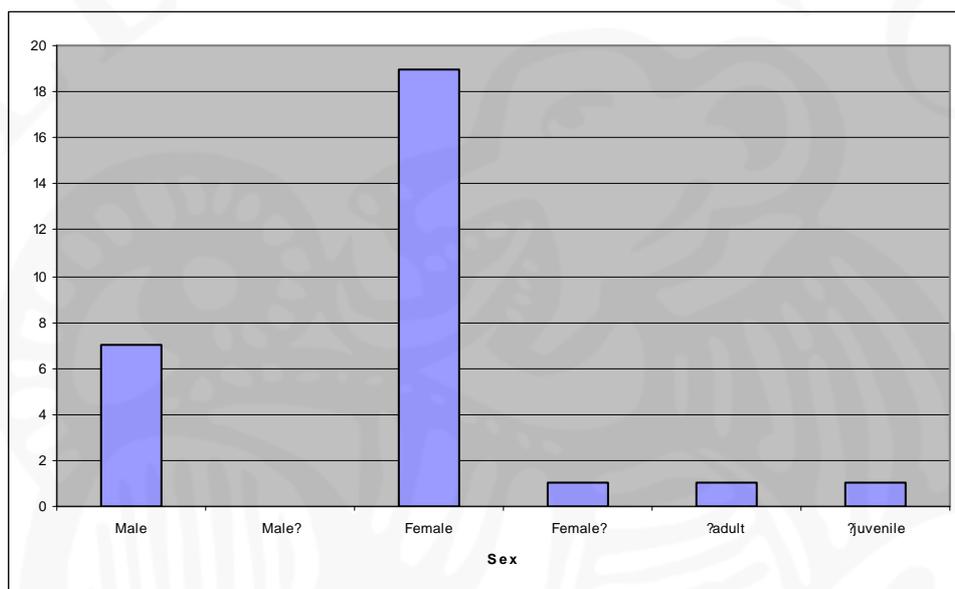


Figure 11. Sex

Age

Of the twenty-nine skeletons excavated so far, all but one are adults. This is again probably explained by an excavation bias, a large proportion of the unexcavated burials immediately to the north of the chapel appear to be juvenile graves. Locating the juvenile burials closest to the chapel is a known practise in medieval cemeteries in Iceland (see for example Matthías Þórðarson, 1943 and figure 14.). It is of interest that the average age for the skeletons excavated so far is much higher than expected in a population of this date. A total of 38% of the population is in the over 45 age group, as opposed to 21% in the Skeljastaðir population, a cemetery dated to c.1000-1104, situated in Þjórsárdalur in south-eastern Iceland (Hildur Gestsdóttir, 1998). The age distribution is shown in figure 12 with the age distribution for the site at Skeljastaðir overlain. This is a factor that will have to be considered once the excavation of the cemetery is complete.

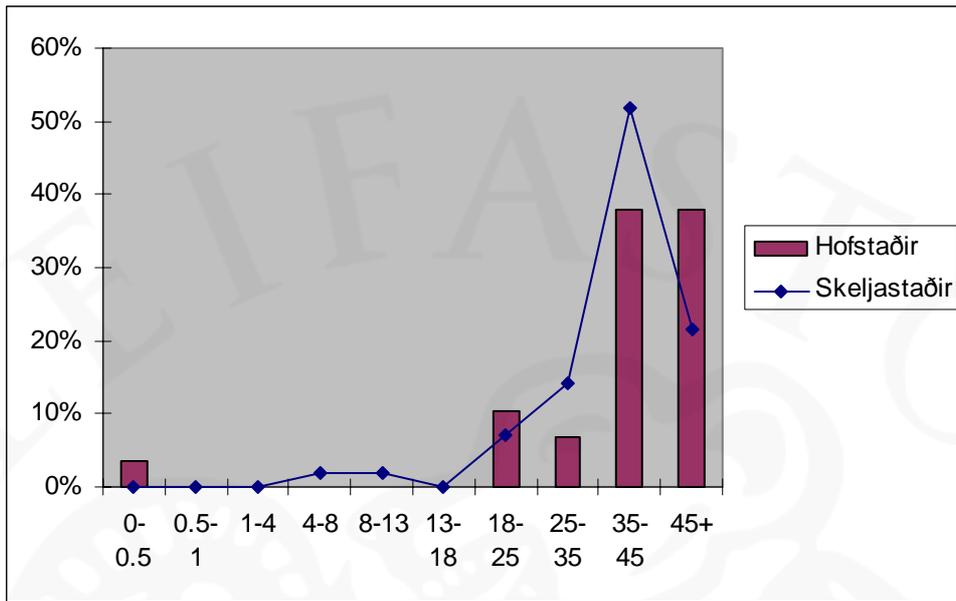


Figure 12. Age

Stature

The average living stature for males in the Hofstaðir population was 172 cm (ranging from 168 to 175 cm). The average stature for females was 161 cm (ranging from 156 to 167 cm). This is considerably below the average stature reported by Jón Steffensen (1974) for the period 1000 – 1500, which was 168.9 cm for men and 154.7 cm for women. See figure 13 for detail.

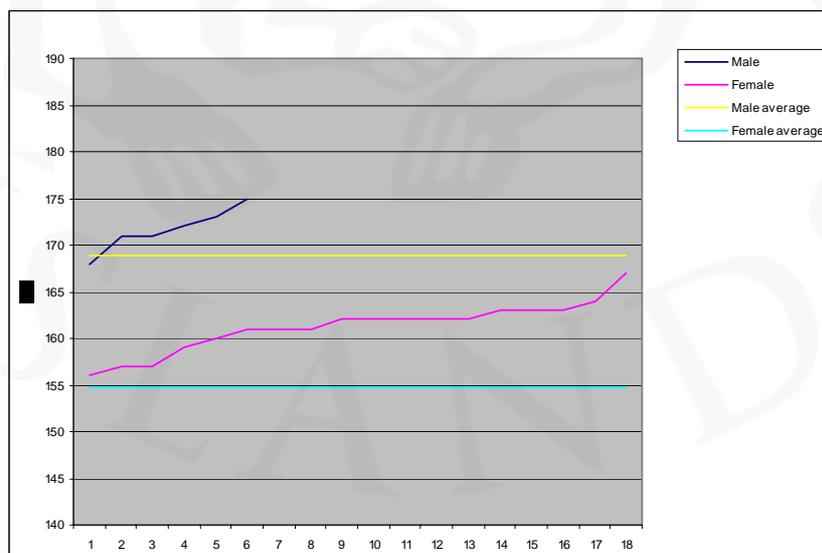


Figure 13. Stature

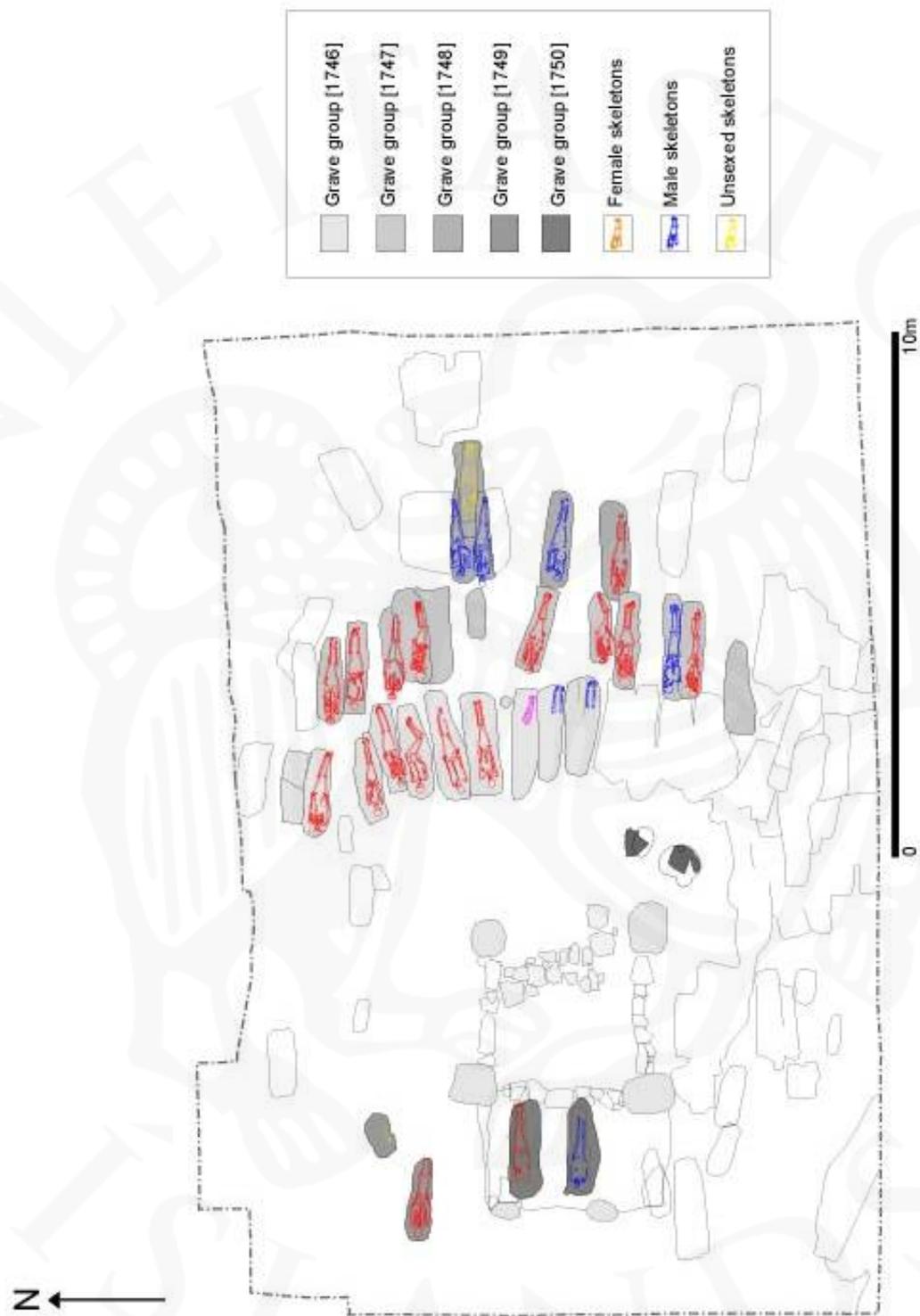


Figure 14. Grave groups and skeletons.

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APPENDIX 1 – Units

| Unit | Type | Description | Material Keyword | Keyword |
|------|---------|--|------------------|-----------------------|
| 1698 | Deposit | Grave fill SK021 | Mixed Silts | Grave |
| 1699 | Cut | Grave cut SK021 | Cut interface | Grave |
| 1700 | Deposit | Grave fill SK20 | Mixed Silts | Grave |
| 1701 | Cut | Grave cut SK020 | Cut interface | Grave |
| 1702 | Deposit | Grave fill SK018 | Mixed Silts | Grave |
| 1703 | Cut | Grave cut SK018 | Cut interface | Grave |
| 1704 | Deposit | Turf debris in the north-western part of the site | Turf | Disturbed/redeposited |
| 1705 | Deposit | Turf debris under the 1477 tephra. | Turf | Wind blown |
| 1706 | Deposit | Mottled turf debris in northern part of site. | Turf | Disturbed/redeposited |
| 1707 | Deposit | Turf debris in the eastern end of the cemetery. | Turf | Surface |
| 1708 | Deposit | Dark turf debris mixed with charcoal and rocks, fill of pit. | Charcoal | Disturbed/redeposited |
| 1709 | Cut | Pit in the north-western corner of the site. | Cut interface | Pit |
| 1710 | Deposit | Fill of small hole with human bone. | Mixed Silts | Disturbed/redeposited |
| 1711 | Cut | Small hole at the north-eastern corner of [1699]. | Cut interface | Pit |
| 1712 | Deposit | Grave fill SK023 | Mixed Silts | Grave |
| 1713 | Cut | Grave cut SK023 | Cut interface | Grave |
| 1714 | Deposit | Grave fill SK022. | Mixed Silts | Grave |
| 1715 | Cut | Grave cut SK022 | Cut interface | Grave |
| 1716 | Cut | Grave cut SK019 | Cut interface | Grave |
| 1717 | Deposit | Grave fill SK019 | Mixed Silts | Grave |
| 1718 | Deposit | Grave fill SK24 | Mixed Silts | Grave |
| 1719 | Cut | Grave cut SK024. | Cut interface | Grave |
| 1720 | Deposit | Turf debris, fill of [1709]. | Turf | Disturbed/redeposited |
| 1721 | Deposit | Ash layer at the base of pit [1709]. | Charcoal | Lining |
| 1722 | Deposit | Grave fill SK025 | Mixed Silts | Grave |
| 1723 | Cut | Grave cut SK25. | Cut interface | Grave |
| 1724 | Group | Group [1708], [1709], [1720], [1721]. | N/A | Peat ash |
| 1725 | Deposit | Silt layer in north-west corner of site. | Mixed Silts | Wind blown |
| 1726 | Deposit | Grave fill SK026 | Mixed Silts | Grave |
| 1727 | Cut | Grave fill SK026 | Cut interface | Grave |
| 1728 | Deposit | Grave fill (disturbed) | Mixed Silts | Grave |
| 1729 | Cut | Grave cut (disturbed) | Cut interface | Grave |
| 1730 | Deposit | Sheet midden. | Peat ash | Peat ash |
| 1731 | Deposit | Disturbed tephra | Tephra | Tephra |
| 1732 | Deposit | Small deposit of mixed silts | Mixed Silts | Disturbed/redeposited |
| 1733 | Deposit | Grave fill SK027 | Mixed Silts | Grave |
| 1734 | Cut | Grave cut SK027 | Cut interface | Grave |
| 1735 | Deposit | Grave fill SK028 | Mixed Silts | Grave |
| 1736 | Cut | Grave cut SK028 | Cut interface | Grave |
| 1737 | Deposit | Grave fill SK029 | Mixed Silts | Grave |
| 1738 | Cut | Grave cut SK029 | Cut interface | Grave |
| 1739 | Deposit | Dark deposit under chapel. | Mixed Silts | Footing |

| Unit | Type | Description | Material Keyword | Keyword |
|------|---------|--|------------------|-----------------------|
| 1740 | Deposit | Dark deposit east of chapel | Mixed Silts | Disturbed/redeposited |
| 1741 | Deposit | Debris north-east of chapel | Turf | Disturbed/redeposited |
| 1742 | Deposit | Fill of post hole [1743] | Mixed Silts | Post hole |
| 1743 | Cut | Post holes south-east of chapel, south of [1745] | Cut interface | Post hole |
| 1744 | Deposit | Fill of post hole [1745] | Mixed Silts | Post hole |
| 1745 | Cut | Post hole south-east of chapel, north of [1743] | Cut interface | Post hole |
| 1746 | Group | Line of graves directly east of the chapel | N/A | Grave |
| 1747 | Group | Line of graves 2nd east of chapel | N/A | Grave |
| 1748 | Group | Line of graves 3rd east of chapel | N/A | Grave |
| 1749 | Group | Later graves in north-west corner of site | N/A | Grave |
| 1750 | Group | Graves in porch of chapel | N/A | Grave |
| 1751 | Deposit | Stone foundations, west end of nave | Stones | Wall |

APPENDIX 2 – Finds

| Number | Unit | Object type | Material | Weight (g) | Count |
|--------|------|--------------|----------|------------|-------|
| 001 | 1702 | Nail | Iron | 1.2 | 1 |
| 002 | 1717 | Unknown | Unknown | -- | 2 |
| 003 | 1717 | Nail | Iron | -- | 1 |
| 004 | 1717 | Coffin | Wood | -- | -- |
| 005 | 1700 | Coffin nails | Iron | 875.1 | 142 |
| 006 | 1705 | Nails | Iron | 3.5 | 1 |
| 007 | 1706 | Animal | Bone | -- | -- |
| 008 | 1706 | Slag | Iron | 3.2 | 3 |
| 009 | 0001 | Vessel | Ceramics | 20.7 | 9 |
| 010 | 0001 | Whetstone | Schist | 24.1 | 1 |
| 011 | 0001 | Nails | Iron | 17.1 | 3 |
| 012 | 0001 | Nail | Iron | 3.5 | 1 |
| 013 | 1718 | Button | Copper | 0.8 | 1 |
| 014 | 1704 | Flake | Flint | 6 | 1 |
| 015 | 0001 | Vessel | Ceramic | 46.5 | 12 |
| 016 | 1706 | Animal | Bone | -- | -- |
| 017 | 1706 | Animal | Bone | -- | -- |
| 018 | 1705 | Unknown | Copper | 0.4 | 1 |
| 019 | 1705 | Unknown | Copper | 0.4 | 1 |
| 020 | 1705 | Plate | Iron | 3.9 | 1 |
| 021 | 1705 | Whetstone | Schist | 2.1 | 1 |
| 022 | u/s | Nail | Iron | 4.9 | 1 |
| 023 | 0001 | Animal | Bone | -- | -- |
| 024 | 1704 | Animal | Bone | -- | -- |
| 025 | 1705 | Nail + Slag | Iron | 12.2 | 2 |
| 026 | 1705 | Animal | Bone | -- | -- |
| 027 | 1705 | Animal | Bone | -- | -- |
| 028 | 1705 | Animal | Bone | -- | -- |
| 029 | 1707 | Animal | Bone | -- | -- |
| 030 | 1707 | Animal | Bone | -- | -- |
| 031 | 1707 | Nail ? | Iron | 4 | 1 |
| 032 | 1698 | Unknown | Stone ? | 22.7 | 1 |
| 033 | 0001 | Animal | Bone | -- | -- |
| 034 | 0001 | Nail | Iron | 5.9 | 1 |
| 035 | 0001 | Vessel | Glass | 1.1 | 1 |
| 036 | 0001 | Ceramic | Ceramics | 19.2 | 3 |
| 037 | 1708 | Nail | Iron | 14.2 | 2 |
| 038 | 1718 | Coin/Button? | Copper | 1.1 | 1 |
| 039 | 1704 | Animal | Bone | -- | -- |
| 040 | 1708 | Animal | Bone | -- | -- |
| 041 | 1708 | Nail | Iron | 7.4 | 1 |
| 042 | 1708 | Slag | Iron | 134.9 | 1 |
| 043 | 1707 | Animal | Bone | -- | -- |
| 044 | 1720 | Animal | Bone | -- | -- |

| Number | Unit | Object type | Material | Weight (g) | Count |
|--------|------|---------------|------------|------------|-------|
| 045 | 1707 | Animal | Bone | -- | -- |
| 046 | 1718 | Animal | Bone | -- | -- |
| 047 | 1730 | Animal | Burnt bone | -- | -- |
| 048 | 1732 | Animal | Bone | -- | -- |
| 049 | 1733 | Animal | Bone | -- | -- |
| 050 | 1725 | Animal | Bone | -- | -- |
| 051 | 1725 | Animal | Bone | -- | -- |
| 052 | 1707 | Slag | Iron | 21.6 | 1 |
| 053 | 0001 | Vessel | Glass | 2.3 | 1 |
| 054 | 1725 | Animal | Bone | -- | -- |
| 055 | 1725 | Nail | Iron | 9.8 | 2 |
| 056 | 1725 | Slag | Iron | 124.8 | 1 |
| 057 | 1725 | Animal | Bone | -- | -- |
| 058 | 1725 | Animal | Bone | -- | -- |
| 059 | 1740 | Animal | Bone | -- | -- |
| 060 | 1740 | Nail | Iron | 9.9 | 1 |
| 061 | 1741 | Animal | Bone | -- | -- |
| 062 | 1741 | Cooking plate | Schist | 17.8 | Frag |
| 063 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| 064 | 1726 | Animal | Bone | -- | -- |
| 065 | 1698 | Animal | Bone | -- | -- |
| 066 | 1698 | Nail | Iron | 39 | 1 |
| 067 | u/s | Fragment | Obsidian | 16 | 1 |

APPENDIX 3 – Samples

| Sample | No | Notes | Type | Method | Weight (g) / volume (l) | Count |
|--------|------|--------------------------------------|-------|--------|----------------------------|-----------|
| 001 | 1717 | From under head (SK019). | Macro | Bulk | 1003g | 1 Bag |
| 002 | 1717 | From under pelvis (SK019). | Macro | Bulk | 858g | 1 Bag |
| 003 | 1717 | From chest area (SK019). | Macro | Bulk | 656g | 1 Bag |
| 004 | 1700 | From pelvis cavity (SK020). | Macro | Bulk | 197g | 1 Bag |
| 005 | 1700 | From thoracic cavity (SK020). | Macro | Bulk | 274g | 1 Bag |
| 006 | 1700 | Ash (SK020). | Macro | Bulk | 1.5g | 1 Bag |
| 007 | 1702 | Wood from coffin (SK018). | Macro | Bulk | 1070g | 1 Bag |
| 008 | 1702 | Ash (SK018). | Macro | Bulk | 3.5g | 1 Bag |
| 010 | 1702 | Pelvic cavity (SK018). | Macro | Bulk | 241g | 1 Bag |
| 011 | 1721 | Charcoal from [1721]. | Macro | Bulk | 20l | 2 Buckets |
| 012 | 1702 | Wood from coffin. (SK018). | Macro | Bulk | 18g | 1 Bag |
| 013 | 1718 | Wood. (SK024). | Macro | Bulk | 50g | 1 Bag |
| 014 | 1718 | Wood. (SK024). | Macro | Bulk | 55g | 1 Bag |
| 015 | 1712 | Ash (SK023). | Macro | Bulk | 1.5g | 1 Bag |
| 016 | 1712 | Thoracic cavity (SK023). | Macro | Bulk | 521g | 1 Bag |
| 017 | 1712 | Pelvic cavity (SK023). | Macro | Bulk | 560g | 1 Bag |
| 019 | 1714 | Soil from chest cav. (SK022). | Macro | Bulk | 601g | 1 Bag |
| 020 | 1714 | Fatty soil under SK022). | Macro | Bulk | 39g | 1 Bag |
| 021 | 1722 | Thoracic cavity (SK025). | Macro | Bulk | 748g | 1 Bag |
| 022 | 1722 | Pelvic cavity (SK025). | Macro | Bulk | 645g | 1 Bag |
| 024 | 1733 | From under skull (SK027). | Macro | Bulk | 616g | 1 Bag |
| 025 | 1733 | From chest area (SK027). | Macro | Bulk | 325g | 1 Bag |
| 026 | 1733 | From pelvic area (SK027). | Macro | Bulk | 735g | 1 Bag |
| 027 | 1733 | From pelvic area (SK027). White soil | Macro | Bulk | 15g | 1 Bag |
| 028 | 1735 | From pelvic area (SK028). | Macro | Bulk | 381g | 1 Bag |
| 029 | 1735 | From thoracic cavity (SK028). | Macro | Bulk | 333g | 1 Bag |
| 030 | 1742 | Charcoal. | Macro | Bulk | 77g | 1 Bag |
| 031 | 1742 | Wood. | Macro | Bulk | 19.5g | 1 Bag |
| 009 | 1702 | Thoracic cavity (SK018) | Macro | Bulk | 985g | 1 Bag |
| 018 | 1714 | Pelvic cavity (SK022). | Macro | Bulk | 549g | 1 Bag |
| 023 | 1733 | From around skull (SK027). | Macro | Bulk | 743g | 1 Bag |

APPENDIX 4 – Osteoarchaeological analysis

| Skeleton number | Preservation | Sex | Age (years) | Stature (cm) | Year excavated |
|-----------------|---------------|-----------|-------------|--------------|----------------|
| SK001 | 2 (good) | Female | 45+ | 163±2 | 1999 |
| SK002 | 2 (good) | Female | 45+ | 160±1 | 2000 |
| SK003 | 2 (good) | Female | 45+ | 168±2 | 2000 |
| SK004 | 2 (good) | Female | 35-45 | 164±1 | 2000 |
| SK005 | 1 (excellent) | Female | 18-25 | 160±2 | 2000 |
| SK006 | 5 (bad) | ?juvenile | 0-0.5 | -- | 2000 |
| SK007 | 3 (fair) | Female | 35-45 | 157±1 | 2001 |
| SK008 | 2 (good) | Male | 35-45 | 173±2 | 2001 |
| SK009 | 3 (fair) | Female | 25-35 | 162±1 | 2001 |
| SK010 | 2 (good) | Female | 45+ | 162±3 | 2001 |
| SK011 | 1 (excellent) | Female | 35-45 | 164±1 | 2001 |
| SK012 | 3 (fair) | Female | 35-45 | 165±3 | 2001 |
| SK013 | 2 (good) | Female | 35-45 | 162±2 | 2001 |
| SK014 | 2 (good) | Female | 35-45 | 163±1 | 2001 |
| SK015 | 2 (good) | Female | 45+ | 158 | 2001 |
| SK016 | 3 (fair) | Female | 18-25 | -- | 2001 |
| SK017 | 2 (good) | Female | 18-25 | 157±1 | 2001 |
| SK018 | 3 (fair) | Male | 45+ | -- | 2003 |
| SK019 | 4 (poor) | Female | 45+ | -- | 2003 |
| SK020 | 2 (good) | Male | 45+ | 172±2 | 2003 |
| SK021 | 3 (fair) | Female? | 35-45 | 162±3 | 2003 |
| SK022 | 3 (fair) | Male | 45+ | 169 | 2003 |
| SK023 | 2 (good) | Female | 45+ | 163±3 | 2003 |
| SK024 | 3 (fair) | Male | 35-45 | 175±1 | 2003 |
| SK025 | 2 (good) | Male | 35-45 | 173±1 | 2003 |
| SK026 | 1 (excellent) | Female | 25-35 | 163±3 | 2003 |
| SK027 | 2 (good) | Female | 45+ | 163±3 | 2003 |
| SK028 | 4 (poor) | ?adult | adult | -- | 2003 |
| SK029 | 3 (fair) | Male | 35-45 | 172±3 | 2003 |
| SK030 | Commingle | -- | -- | -- | 2003 |