Áfangaskýrsla um rannsóknir 2012 í Svalbarðshreppi: Hjálmarvík og Sjóhúsavík / Interim Report of the 2012 fieldwork programme in Svalbarðshreppur: Hjálmarvík and Sjóhúsavík

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Ljósmynd á forsíðu: horft yfir öskuhauginn í Hjálmarsvík. Cover photo: The Hjálmarvíkur midden before excavation

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1. Inngangur og kynning

Í júní 2012 fór fram rannsóknaruppgröftur á öskuhaugi í Hjálmarvík sem er í landi Svalbarðs í Þistilfirði (sjá fig/mynd 1). Uppgraftarsvæðið var 3x4m að stærð og varð um 1.17m að dýpt þegar yfir lauk. Skráð voru um 48 mannvistarlög eða einingar (units). Eins og í fyrri rannsóknum voru tvö gjóskulög áberandi við rannsóknina, önnur frá Veiðivötnum 1477 og hin frá Heklu 1300. Gjóskur þessar skipta rannsóknarefniviðnum í tímabil á mjög afgerandi hátt. Nokkrir athyglisverðir gripir fundust, flestir úr beini. Sem dæmi

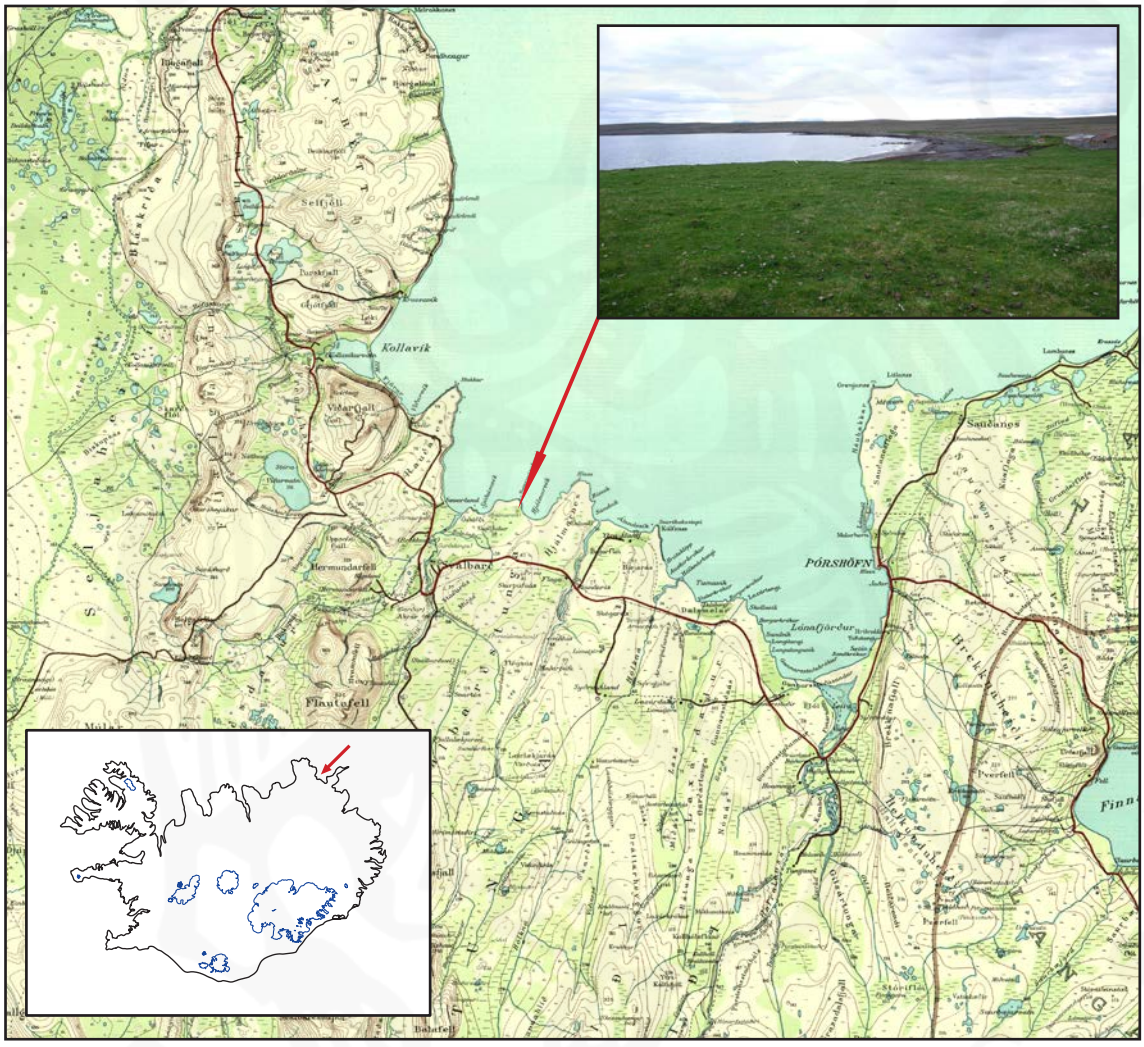


Fig. 1 The excavation is very close to the shore of Hjálmarvík, which is a small bay in Þistilfiörður, north east of Iceland. Kortið sýnir staðsetningu Hjálmarvíkur sem er í landi Svalbarðs í Þistilfirði

má nefna að á milli 1300 og 1477 fundust t.d. tvö útskorin spjöld úr hvalbeini. Þau eru misstór, er annað ferhyrnt með útskornum krossmynduðum hnút en hitt er helmingsbrot af þykkri kringlu með útskorinni dýrsmynd. Fyrir neðan 1300 gjóskuna fundust síðan átta peð eða einhvers konar taflmenn, sennilega smíðaðir úr ýsuklumbu og einn teningur úr rostungstönn. Öll mannvistarlög voru sigtuð og öll dýrabein hirt. Þau verða rannsökuð af Céline Dupont-Hébert sem er í doktorsnámi við háskólann í Laval í Québec í Kanada undir handleiðslu Dr. James Woollett.

Meðfram öskuhaugsrannsókninni voru tveir litlir könnunarskurðir grafnir, annar í

gegnum túngarðinn í Hjálmarvík og hinn í rústaþyrpingu í Sjóhúsavík, sem er rétt vestan Hjálmarvíkur. Ennfremur var skurður sem grafinn var í Þorvaldstaðaseli árið 2010 opnaður aftur og 11 micromorphology-sýni tekin úr austursniðinu. Á tímabilinu var einnig unnið að fornleifaskráningu og voru um 120 fornleifar skráðar á Svalbarði, Flögu, Hjálmarvík og Svalbarðsseli.

Upphaf rannsókna í landi Svalbarðs má rekja allt til ársins 1986 þegar fornleifafræðingar frá Bandaríkjunum og Kanada könnuðu vísindalegt gildi öskuhaugsins á Svalbarði. Sú könnun leiddi til þess að ráðist var í uppgröft árin 1987 og 1988 (Gísladóttir, G.A., U. Ævarsson and J. Woollett 2011). Sú rannsókn sem fjallað er um í þessari skýrslu er liður í stærra rannsóknarverkefni sem fór af stað 2008 með endurmati á afstöðu gjóskulaga og nýrri gagnaöflun til að hægt væri að beita nýjum aðferðum í fornvistfræði sem hafa tekið stórstígum framförum á síðustu tveimur áratugum.. Má í því sambandi nefna rannsóknir á borkjörnum úr Grænlandsjökli sem hafa styrkt ennfrekar íslenska gjóskulagatímatalið (Grönvold et al. 1995). Markmið Svalbarðsrannsóknanna er að afla frekari vitneskju um samband höfuðbýlis og smærri eininga innan jarðar, þ.e. selja, hjáleigna/beitarhúsa og afbýla. Markmiðið er að kanna lífsviðurværi, efnahagslega- og félagslega stöðu fólks og landnotkun ásamt búskaparháttum í samhengi við umhverfisþætti s.s. veðurfar, gróðurfar og áhrif hafíss. Enn liggja fremur fátæklegar upplýsingar fyrir um líf fólks í Norður-Þingeyjarsýslu fyrr á öldum. Hinsvegar er til staðar samanburðarefni, því á síðastliðnum árum hefur orðið til mikil fornleifafræðileg þekking á lífi fólks í nágrannabyggðum. Hér er aðallega átt við rannsóknir sem gerðar hafa verið í Suður-Þingeyjarsýslu (sjá t.d.: Lucas, G. (ed.) 2009, Aldred, O. et al. 2007, Friðriksson, A. et al. 2007 and Roberts, H.M. 2009) en einnig hafa verið gerðar rannsóknir á byggðaþróun á Hólsfjöllum (Ævarsson, U. 2009).

Árin 2008 – 2010 voru rannsóknirnar kostaðar af bandaríska vísindasjóðnum NSF sem hluti af verkefni sem kallast Polar Year Project. Enginn styrkur fékkst 2011 utan ferða- og uppihaldsstyrks frá háskólanum í Laval. Verkefninu hlotnaðist þriggja ára styrkur árið 2012 frá kanadíska rannsóknarsjóðnum og hleypir það nýju lífi í áframhaldandi rannsókn á byggðaþróun í Þistilfirði.

Sigtryggi Þorlákssyni og Einari Guðmundi Þorlákssyni á Svalbarði og fjölskyldum þeirra eru færðar bestu þakkir fyrir velvilja í garð verkefnisins og liðlegheit í hvívetna. Ennfremur fær Bjarnveig Skaftfeld á Ytra-Álandi þakkir fyrir aðstöðu og eldamennsku og Daníel Hansen skólastjóri Svalbarðsskóla fyrir áhuga og drifkraft við að koma þekkingu á menningararfinum til komandi kynslóða.

2. Introduction

Since 2008, a series of archaeological investigations have been carried out on the territory of the estate of Svalbarð, Svalbarðshreppur (Woollett, J. 2008, Gísladóttir, G.A., U. Ævarsson and J. Woollett 2010, 2011, 2012, in press). Svalbarð is a church farm located in Þistilfjörður, northeastern Iceland. The farm also gives the municipality its name, Svalbarðshreppur. Historical sources report that the medieval farm of Svalbarð had several dependencies dispersed between the Sandá and the Svalbarðsá rivers (JÁM, 361). Also, the estate's property extended as far as 20 to 30 km into the interior, to the headwaters of the Svalbarðsá and Sandá in the vicinity of Svalbarðsnúpur (Svalbarð's mountain), depending if the commons south of Svalbarðsnúpur is included or not. Hjálmarvík is one of the more notable dependant farms, and is located on the coast 3 km north from the Svalbarð, in the eponymous bay (Gísladóttir et al. in press).

Fig. 2 In the beginning of the excavation, turf and topsoil have been removed. Astrid is on the left and Natasha to the right. Við upphaf rannsóknar. Astrid er til vinstri en Natasha til hægri.

The 2012 field season began on the 4th of June in conditions of snow and wind but the weather gradually improved as the project unfolded. The field season ended on the 21st of June, in sun and good weather. The primary objective for the 2012 project was to excavate a substantial portion of the midden of the Hjálmarvík site but two small test trenches were excavated as well, one through a boundary wall in Hjálmarvík and another in a ruin in Sjóhusvík. In Þorvaldsstaðasel trench B from 2010 was reopened and 11 micromorphology samples taken from the east section. The micromorphological analysis is a part of a project that aims for a better understanding of shieling activites and periodic occupation of sites. This investigaton is carried out by Patrycja Kupiec and her instructor Dr. Karen Milek, University of Aberdeen. The project's field crew included Astrid Daxböck (archaeologist, Institute of Archaeology, Iceland) Natasha Roy (PhD candidate in geography, archaeology, Centre d'études Nordiques/Université Laval), Gísli Pálsson (archaeologist, University of Iceland), Patrycja Kupiec (PhD candidate, University of Aberdeen), Guðrún Alda Gísladóttir (Institute of Archaeology, Iceland) and Uggi Ævarsson (archaeologist, Cultural Heritage Agency of Iceland). Elín Ósk Hreiðarsdóttir and Kristborg Þórsdóttir (archaeologists, Institute of Archaeology) conducted archaeological surveys at Svalbarð, Flaga, Hjálmarvík and Svalbarðssel. The project's field directors were Stefán Ólafsson (archaeologist, Institute of Archaeology, Iceland) and Céline Dupont-Hébert (PhD

Fig. 3 Guðrún is standing and examining one of the section in the test trench from 2009 . Guðrún stendur og virðir fyrir sér snið í prufuskurðinum sem grafinn var 2009

Fig. 4 Two sieves were built west of the research area. Vestan við uppgraftarsvæðið voru byggð tvö sigti með 6mm möskva.

candidate in archaeology, Centre d'études Nordiques/Université Laval). The project's scientific programme committee consisted of Guðrún Alda Gísladóttir, Uggi Ævarsson and James Woollett (Centre d'études Nordiques/Université Laval).

In previous years, 2008-2010 the project was funded by the: *Island Connections: Integrative Multi-scalar Historical Ecology in Faroes, Iceland, and Greenland* (National Science Foundation (U.S.A.), International Polar Year Program, Dr. Thomas H. McGovern (City University of New York, USA, Principal investigator) and by the "*A comparative study of marine mammals in Inuit and Icelandic subsistence economies during the "Little Ice Age",* Fonds québecois de recherche sur la culture et société: Programme d'établissement de nouveaux professeurs-chercheurs: Québec, Canada, Dr. James Woollett (Laval University Québec, Canada, Principal investigator). In 2011 the project was funded by *Groupe de recherche en archéometrie* of Laval University, Québec, Canada. In 2012 the project was granted a three year funding by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (Conseil de recherches en sciences humaines du Canada), principal investigator, Dr. James Woollett.

On the 21 of June, Sigurður Bergsteinsson, the Cultural Heritage Manager for Northeastern Iceland, visited the site. As in previous years, the field crew was housed in the excellent accommodation of Svalbarð's elementary school (Svalbarðsskóli). The members of the Svalbarð project offer grateful thanks to the farmers in Svalbarð, Einar Guðmundur Þorláksson and Sigtryggur Þorláksson and their families for all their ongoing goodwill and enthusiasm for the project, and for their continued help. Sincerely thanks are also due to Daníel Hansen, the schoolmaster of Svalbarðsskóli, and Bjarnveig Skaftfeld in Ytra-Áland, caretaker of the school for their help and hospitality.

In 2009, a possible farm mound at Hjálmarvík that lacked visible ruins was tested through a systematic soil core survey. Effective use of the soil probe on the western side of the mound, was hindered by the widespread presence of large rocks which prevented deep exploration of the soil column. However, soil coring on the eastern, seaward slope of the mound found dense, compacted organic-rich layers (floor deposits?) and deep friable midden deposits with peat ash and charcoal over an area of about 20m by 15m in area. A 1x1m test trench was dug near the centre of midden accumulation. This sondage revealed the presence of the V1477 tephra near the modern ground surface, overlying thin midden and turf collapse deposits lying under the V1477 and the H1300 tephras, as identified on visual criteria in the field. Below the H1300 tephra there was a series of thick and rich midden deposits containing concentrated accumulations of the bones of fish, birds, land and sea mammals, fuel wastes, and disturbed turf deposits to a depth of 1.25m. Bone preservation in the midden was determined to be good to excellent, carbonized plant macrofossils were present but metal preservation was rather poor. Judging by the typology of recovered artifacts, it is possible that the midden may date back into the Viking Age (Gísladóttir, G.A., U. Ævarsson and J. Woollett 2010, 37-38). Having made an initial

examination of the midden, attempts were made in 2010 and 2011 to define the link between the midden and any adjacent buildings (Gísladóttir, G.A., U. Ævarsson and J. Woollett 2011, 2012). House walls and floor deposits were identified nearby, in a large test trench about 10 to 20m up the slope to the west of the main midden area, on the summit of the apparent farm mound. By tracing the stratigrapy of the buildings into the midden excavation, it became clear that the midden is considerably older than the remains of the most recent house structure(s) investigated. The house interior was filled with post abandonment deposits and deposits that appear to be connected to the leveling of the mound. Sigtryggur Þorláksson (pers. comm. 2009) reported some leveling of the immediate vicinity by a bulldozer in the 1960's or 1970's. Fragments of a late 17th century tobacco pipe was found in an *in situ* deposit within the structural remains, providing a *terminus post quem* date for the most recent structure. The stratigraphy of the trench suggests that structural remains contemporary with the midden are probably to be found underneath this partly exposed and probably truncated structure (Gísladóttir, G.A., U. Ævarsson and J. Woollett 2011).

Fig. 5 Here can be seen on top of unit 029 which was a very bone rich layer. Hér má sjá einingu 029 sem reyndist innihalda mikið af beinum

In 2012 a 3x4m large excavation area was opened in the midden area (surrounding the 2009 test trench) in order to obtain a substantial animal bone collection and geoarchaeological samples and to establish a better understanding of the stratigraphy of this structure. This type of archaeological research offers an opportunity to investigate the daily life of a household, understand past subsistence activities and find out more about the inhabitants social position in a local, regional or wider perspective.

Fig. 6 The excavation area is 4x3m in size and close to the center of it is the test trench from 2009. Very soon after the excavation began the north east corner become deeper and deeper. Fljótlega kom í ljós að jarðlögin lágu öll til norð austurs og dýpkaði það horn meira en önnur

The Hjálmarvík midden excavation is a component of "The Archaeology of Settlement and Abandonment in Svalbarðshreppur" project, which aims to investigate the outlying components of the Svalbarð estate. Auxiliary sites of the Svalbarð estate (small to middle-sized farms such as like Hjálmarvík) were key elements of farming

economies in Iceland and represent sources of data that are essential to the understanding of the economic history of Svalbarð in terms of the totality of activities related to land use, herding, and exploitation of woodland, driftwood and wild fauna that sustained the estate and its community as an integrated whole. An understanding of the fluctuating occupation and function of these auxiliary farms is essential to writing a social history of the whole estate (Gísladóttir, G.A., U. Ævarsson and J. Woollett 2011).

3. Archaeological Excavations at Hjálmarvík in 2012 (N66°13.372/V15°38.657)

In the beginning of the fieldwork 2012, the 2009 test trench was reopened as it provided a window into the stratigraphy of the central and the thickest part of the midden deposit. The area around the 2009 trench was cored once again to determine an optimal location for a new and more extensive research area. In so doing, an area extending in all directions from the 2009 trench was delimited, representing a trench 4m north-south by 3m east-west. The excavation was conducted with the use of trowels and, where appropriate, shovels. All excavated sediments were dry-sieved on site with the use of a 6mm mesh.

In total, 48 excavation units were recorded in the 2012 excavation. It was possible to visually distinguish two tephras: the 1477 tephra from Veiðivötn (unit 014) and the 1300 tephra from Hekla (unit 025). Below the deepest anthropogenic deposits, traces of an as-yet unidentified tephra were observed, possibly the landnam tephra. If it is correct, this indicates that the midden was beginning to be deposited soon after the landnam-tephra fell in about 871±2. This tephra will be investigated further in 2013, it should be noted as well that the landnam tephra has not yet been definitively observed in Svalbarðshreppur, despite deliberate tephra surveys (Woollett, J. 2008) and substantial previous excavations (see Amorosi, T. 1996). All anthropogenic deposits observed in the excavation included midden material comprising notably burnt and unburnt animal bone, marine mollusk shells, charcoal and peat ash.

Fig. 7 At the bottom of the excavation area a traces of tephra could be found. The tephra has not been identified but could be the "landnám-" tephra. At the sides of excavations it is possible to see bone-rich layers and large whalebone sticking out of the north wall. Á botni uppgraftarsvæðisins mátti greina gjósku sem mögulega gæti verið landnámsgjóskan.

A very large bone collection has now been retrieved from Hjálmarvík, one directly comparable in sample size, preservation and composition to that recovered from the midden of the Svalbarð central farm in 1988 (see Amorosi, T. 1992). The assemblage from Hjálmarvík current comprises, in all likelihood, over 100000 total specimens. As well, a rich and very intriguing finds assemblage ranging from the Viking age to the Medieval period has been recovered, including several elaborate chess pieces, unique carved bone plaques and combs, ornamental metalwork and utilitarian worked bone objects (Gísladóttir et al. in press).

The midden is sitting on land that slopes to the northeast, toward the sea and accordingly at the beginning, the southwest

corner of the excavated area became the highest point and the northeast corner the deepest. At the final staged this changed and the bottom surface that reached a total depth of 117cm became more equal. The now retired farmer in Svalbarð, Sigtryggur Þorláksson modified the farm mound in the mid 20th century and this event appears to have truncated and removed the uppermost deposits of the original midden.

In general, the color of soils associated with the midden was dark reddish brown, most likely due to the dominant peat ash and charcoal in the surrounding layers. The accumulation of the midden seems to have been consistent over time, except for a few holes or cuts (units 009, 031 and 041) which were in-filled with dense and well-defined peat ash deposits with burnt bones. These cut and fill structures give the impression that small hearths (units: 007, 030 and 040) had been made in the midden surface, possibly only for a single use. Few turf debris layer were recorded in the midden (units: 005, 012, 018, 027, 034 and 036), possibly used to cap the midden deposits. At the bottom of the excavation area a traces of tephra was found which is possibly be the "landnáms"- tephra. The number and thickness of layers or units under the H1300 tephra indicate more rapid and massive accumulation before circa 1300 than afterwards. This decrease in net deposition is readily noted in deposits between the H1300 and V1477 tephras, which are much thinner and much poorer in organic remains (animal bones in particular) that those just underlying the H1300 tephra. This difference may indicate a change in kinds of site formation processes and deposition around 1300, such as the dumping of refuse in an other as yet unidentified location, or diminished activity on the farm. This inferred process of declining deposition appears to have continued after 1477, as accumulation overlying the V1477 tephra is even less substantial in terms of its depth and organic matter component. This inference cannot however be proven at the moment as the area has been impacted to an unknown extent by mound leveling activities.

4. The Archaeological Fauna

A very large collection of faunal remains was recovered during the three weeks of fieldwork at Hjálmarvík in 2012. In order to maximise and standardise recovery of smaller fish and bird bones, shell fragments and fragmented calcined bones, 100% of excavated sediments were dry-seived through a 6mm mesh in the field. The assemblage includes numbers of large terrestrial and marine mammal bones. Nevertheless, the bulk of the collection comprises small and fragmented bone less than 5cm in length.

After this preliminary examination, the preservation of remains at Hjálmarvík appears to be, in general, very good. By far the majority of fragments analysed in the laboratory are solid and resistant although most are fragmented (71 % fragments <5cm). Only a few specimens show taphonomic traces typical of significant attrition through natural mechanical or chemical weathering processes, such as columnar fractures, exfoliation, dissolved or chalky cortical bone and carnivore tooth marks. The most commonly observed traces include burning and tool marks (including, notably, cut, puncture and impact marks). Burnt or calcined bone constitute 5 % of the assemblage, a number typical of Icelandic farm site assemblages.

The collection was subdivided into three major phases representing, respectively: a) the initial settlement of the site to 1300 AD; b) 1300 to 1477 AD; and c) 1477 to 19th century. This chrono-stratigraphic subdivision was permitted by the presence in the

Species	Sub-assemblage B 1300 to 1477 AD		Sub-assemblage C 1477 to 19th century AD		Total	
	NISP	%NISP	NISP	% NISP	NISP	% NISP
Terrestrial Mammals						
Bos taurus Cattle	9	2.3%	6	1.5%	15	1.9%
Ovis aries/Capra hircus Sheep/Goat	79	19.8%	129	32.3%	208	26.0%
Total Domestic Mammals	88	22.1%	135	33.8%	223	27.9%
Alopex lagopus Arctic fox			1	0.3%	1	0.1%
Marine Mammals						
Phoca vitulina Common seal	5	1.3%	1	0.3%	6	0.8%
Phoca groenlandica Harp seal			1	0.3%	1	0.1%
Small Seal	42	10.5%	29	7.3%	71	8.9%
Cetecea sp. indet. Small whale			1	0.3%	1	0.1%
Cetecea sp. indet. Large whale	6	1.5%	9	2.3%	15	1.9%
Total Marine Mammal	53	13.3%	41	10.3%	94	11.8%
Birds						
Sommateria mollissima Common Eider			1	0.3%	1	0.1%
Uria aalge Common Guillemot			2	0.5%	2	0.3%
Cygnus cygnus Whooper Swan			1	0.3%	1	0.1%
Indet. large bird	2	0.5%			2	0.3%
Indet. small to medium bird	7	1.8%	9	2.3%	16	2.0%
Total Bird	9	2.3%	13	3.3%	22	
Fish						
Gadus morhua Atlantic Cod	45	11.3%	25	6.3%	70	8.8%
Melanogramus aeglifinus Haddock	4	1.0%	1	0.3%	5	0.6%
Gadidae sp. Indet.	12	3.0%	23	5.8%	35	4.4%
Indet. fish	73	18.3%	43	10.8%	116	14.5%
Total Fish	134	33.6%	92	23.0%	226	28.3%
Molluscs						
Mytilus edulis Blue Mussel (umbos only)	111	27.8%	115	28.8%	226	28.3%
Bivalvia sp. Indet.	1	0.3%			1	0.1%
Buccinidae sp. Whelk	3	0.8%	1	0.3%	4	0.5%
Gastropoda sp. Indet.			2	0.5%	2	0.3%
Total Mollusc	115	28.8%	118	29.5%	233	29.2%
Total Number of Identified Specimens (NISP)	399		400		799	

Table 1. Overview of the species diversity from the two latter phases of the HVK midden (preliminary).

midden of tephra deposits attributed to the Hekla 1300 and Veiðivötn 1477 ash falls (see Gisladottir et al. 2009, 2010). Faunal collections from only the two upper units have been examined in the laboratory to date. Accordingly, the following discussion excludes material from deposits older than 1300 AD.

Given that the 2012 faunal analysis is only in its initial steps, it is premature to offer interpretations regarding the economic or ecological significance of these assemblages. Nevertheless, very preliminary results of analyses to date are presented in Table 1 in order to provide a general sketch of the assemblages. In terms of simple frequency of identified specimens, the assemblages are collectively comprised of more or less equal parts of terrestrial mammals, fish and mollusks, each amounting to about 30% of total NISP. Marine mammals follow, with approximately 12% of total NISP. Birds are quite

rare, representing less than 2% of all fragments. The preponderance of terrestrial mammal bone in the generic indeterminate categories suggests that terrestrial mammals were in fact the most important of the major taxonomic groups.

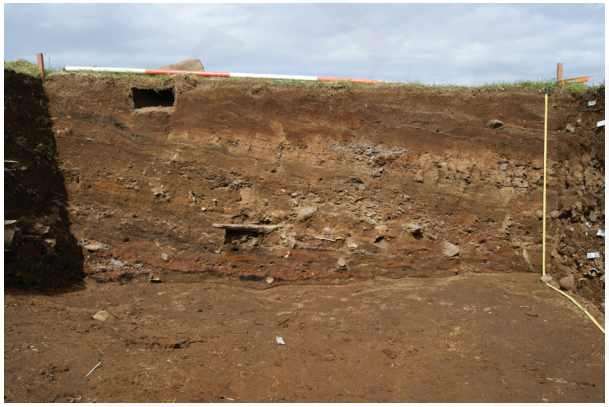
Domesticate mammals comprise cattle and caprines (sheep and goats). Atlantic cod are by far the most commonly identified fish species while blue mussel is the primary species of mollusk. Sea mammals were represented by common seals and harp seals, fragments of small toothed whales and large unidentified whales. Birds include common eiders, common guillemots and whooper swans, all of which feed and nest in the vicinity. Given the very preliminary stage of the present analysis, it is premature to draw precise conclusions regarding the profile of species in the two sub- assemblages.

It is interesting to note that historical records state in 1318 charter that Hjálmarvík is Svalbarðs estate other landed property, but implied that it had not always been like that, originally Hjálmarvík had been a separate property (Gísladóttir et al. in press). In 1569 Hjálmarvík after long association with the Svalbarð estate, Hjálmarvík is no longer considered a separate property but rented out to a cottar (Bréfabók Guðbrands biskups Þorlákssonar 1920:271). This implication in the historical records are very interesting in the light of the archaeological investigations. There is a notable change in the midden material accrual around 1300 AD which suggest a difference in the Hjálmarvík farming activity but an ongoing occupation of some sort is clearly implied by the ongoing deposition of food remains and well as fuel and other household wastes. The continued presence of the bones of domesticated livestock (and, in particular, those of cattle) as well as wild fauna in deposits post-dating the presumed 1477 ash fall, supports that some kind of farm establishment was in fact retained at Hjálmarvík but historical records state that the site was (at least sporadically occupied) from the 16th - mid 19th century (Bréfabók Guðbrands biskups Þorlákssonar 1920:271; JÁM, 361; Þormóðsson E. 1970, 58-59). Interestingly, the profiles of species present before and after 1300 show relatively little significant change at all in taxonomic abundance in this very preliminary examination, with the exception that caprines became more prominent over time, a tendency frequently reported in Icelandic faunal assemblages post-dating the 13th century.

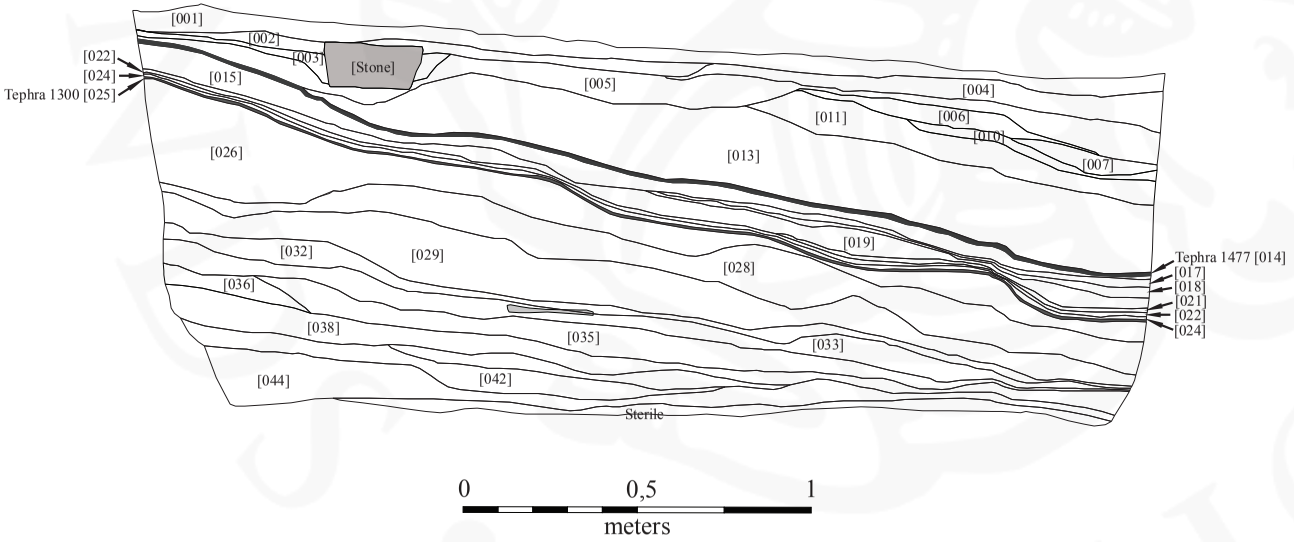
Of note were the discovery of lenses of densely-packed mollusk shell which can buffer soil acids and mitigate their destructive effect on archaeological bone. These shell lenses might be similar to those reported during excavation at the Svalbarð midden 1986 and 1988 (Amorosi 1992, 1996). At this early stage of research, the presence of such concentrated shell deposits may be related to the production of bait for intensified fishing, or perhaps to periodic needs to exploit predictable local back-up resources during period of stress during the Little Ice-Age (see Amorosi 1992, 130).

A complete analyses of the existing faunal collection from the Hjálmarvík midden, augmented by the recovery of larger faunal collections representing the post-1300 period (as planned from the during the 2013 field season) will provide a more substantial and definitive corpus of data needed to resolve questions regarding the nature of the site's occupation and its changing economic functions.

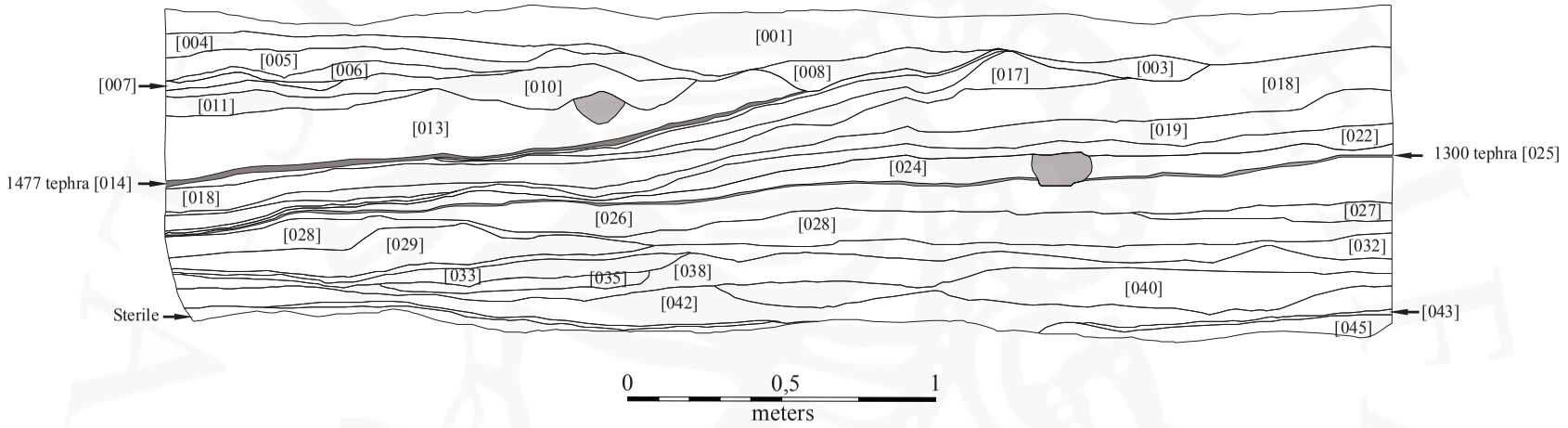
5. Stratigraphy of the Midden's North Section



Up in the top left corner is a picture of the north wall section and below it is a drawing of the same section. The tephras are shown as dark gray layers, context 014 and 025. Between the thepras at the lower face of context 022 two unique whalebone artifacts were discovered. They are both carved, one with a figure of an animal and the other with cross shaped knot.



6. Stratigraphy of the Midden's East Section



On the top of the page is a drawing of the east wall section and in the bottom right corner is a photo of the same section. On the drawing the tephras are shown as dark gray layers, context 014 and 025. Underneath the 1300 tephra in context 029, 032 and 047 nine gaming piese were found and one dice made out of ivory.

7. Skurður í garðlag í Hjálmarvík

Umhverfis túnið í Hjálmarvík er garðlag, afmarkar það skika sem er um 270x120m að stærð og snýr norður suður. Lítill könnunarskurður var grafinn í þetta garðlag til að athuga aldur þess. Skurðurinn var tæpir 4m á lengd og um 0,5m á breidd og voru sjö jarðlög (units) skráð í honum. Garðurinn [003] reyndist vera um 1,2m að breidd og um tæplega 0,3m á hæð. Hann hefur að öllum líkindum verið eitthvað hærri því norðan við hann mátti greina torfhrun sem ætla má að hafi hrunið úr garðinum. Garðlagið hefur eingöngu verið byggt úr torfi en að einhverjum tíma liðnum hefur steinum verið hlaðið ofnaá til að bæta það eða hækka. Það sést á því að ofaná garðinn hefur safnast fokmold [002] og sitja steinar í henni en ekki á eða í torfinu í garðinum sjálfum. Tvö umför af torfi var hægt að greina í garðinum, virðist torfið vera frekar laust í sér og getur það tæplega hafa verið gott hleðsluefni. Í Hjálmarvík er hægt að greina tvær gjóskur nokkuð auðveldlega, það er gjóska úr Heklu frá því um 1300 og úr Veiðivötnum frá því um 1477. Ekki var hægt að sjá að hvorug gjóskan lægi yfir garðinum en sjá mátti gjósku í torfinu, var hún hreyfð og frekar ógreinileg. Út frá þessu verður ekki annað séð en að garðurinn hafi ekki verið byggður fyrr en eftir 1477, jafnvel ekki fyrr en á 18. öld en þá voru bændur eindregið

Fig. 8 The picture shows stones that have been put on top of the boundary some time after it was built. They are not part of the original structure of the boundary wall. Myndin sýnir steina sem settir hafa verið ofan á garðinn. Upphaflega var garðurinn eingöngu úr torfi

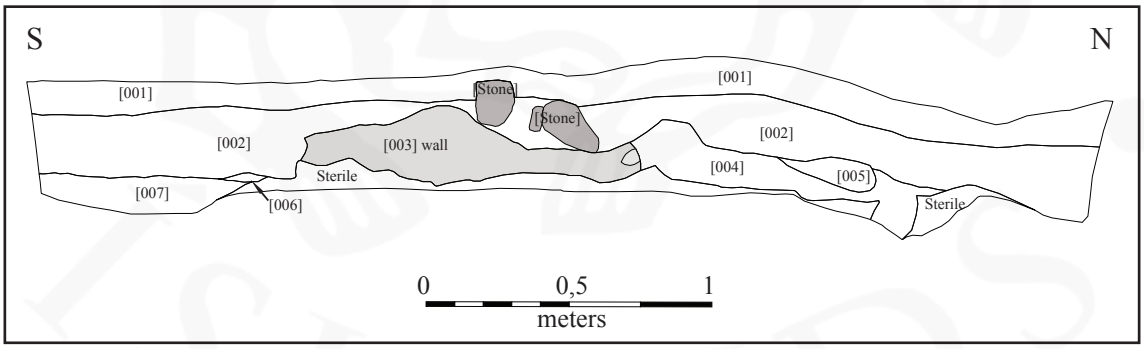


Fig. 9 The section drawing shows the stratigraphy of the west side of test trench taken through the boundary wall in Hjálmarvík. Obvious sign of the turf cutting can be seen south to the wall in unit 002 and 007. Units: 001 topsoil, 002 aeolian deposit with stones in it, 003 turf wall with a sign of erotion on the northen side, 004 windblown layer with H3 tephra, 005 turf collapse, 006 very mixed layer / upcast 007 aeolian deposit with H3 tephra. Sniðteikningin sýnir vestur hlið skurðar sem tekinn var í túngarð í Hjálmarvík. Ummerki eftir torfskurðinn eru mun greinilegri sunnan megin við garðinn í einingum 002 og 007 en að norðan verðu. Einingar eru: 001 yfirborð, 002 áfokslag með steinum, 003 veggur úr torfi og ummerki eftir rof noran megin, 004 vindblásið lag með H3, 005 torfhrun, 006 blandað lag hugsanlega eftir traðk eða mokstur, 007 áfokslag með H3 gjósku

hvattir til að hlaða garða umhverfis túnin sín (Lárusdóttir, B. 2011, 131). Sennilega hefur verið skorið fyrir torfinu beggja vegna garðsins en jafnvel enn frekar innan garðsins, þ.e. sunnanmegin, því þar vantar alveg hina forsögulegu gjósku, svokallaða H3 gjósku, sem liggur undir garðlaginu. Það verður að teljast nokkuð sérstakt þar sem það hefur skemmt lítið túnið og minnkað nýtingu þess enn frekar, alla vega tímabundið. Á Hofstöðum í Mývatnssveit var torfið í túngarðinn tekið utan við garðlagið en reyndar er sá garður er frá 10. öld (Lucas, G. (ed.) 2009, 155-157).

Test trench in the Hjálmarvík home field boundary.

The home field in Hjálmarvík is surrounded by a field-enclosure defining an area that is 270x120m. Small, 4 x 0,5m, test trench was excavated through the boundary to find out it's date. Seven units were recorded and the wall [003] turned out to be 1,2m wide and barely 0,3m high. The wall was possibly slightly higher because turf collapse was noted on the north side of the wall. The boundary was first built entirely of turf but later it seems that it was repaired with stones. Neither tephra H1300 or V1477 was detected above the boundary but some tephra was noted in the turf. This suggests that the wall is built after 1477, - possibly in the latter half of the 18th century when farmers were encourage by the Danish king to build enclosures around their home fields (Lárusdóttir, B. 2011, 131). The turf in the boundary-wall has been cut from both sides of the wall but more from the inside. That can be seen from the absence of a pre-historic tephra inside the wall but which the wall is sitting on. This is little bit strange because by doing so the usage of the land, which is rather small, has decreased more, at least for some time afterwards. In Hofstaðir in Mývatnssveit the turf in the boundary-wall was cut outside it but that example is from the 10th century (Lucas, G. (ed.) 2009, 155-157).

8. Fornleifarannsóknir í Sjóhúsavík 2012 (N66°13.453 / V15°39.585)

Á grónum sjávarbökkum við svokallaða Sjóhúsavík í Svalbarðslandi, nokkru vestan við Hjálmarvík, eru nokkrar tóftir, augljóslega sjóhús af einhverju tagi og naust, en einnig fornlegar, kargaþýfðar minjar sem samanstanda af signum hól og garðlagi sem gengur út frá hólnum til suðurs. Engar ritaðar heimildir eru til um minjarnar, né þekkja heimildamenn okkar frekari deili á þeim. Sumarið 2011 voru grafnir tveir skurðir í hólinn aðallega til að komast að aldri minjanna en einnig hvers eðlis minjarnar í hólnum væru. Niðurstöður úr þeim skurðum voru ekki mjög afgerandi, í skurði 1 sem grafinn var í hólinn fannst þó örlítil torf- og koladreif. Skurður 2, sem grafinn var í gegnum garðinn sýndi að torfið í honum er nánast horfið en þær torfleifar sem þó sáust eru eldri en V1477, jafnvel eldri H1300 (Gísladóttir, G.A., U. Ævarsson and J. Woollett 2012, 22-25). Ljóst var að frekari rannsókna þyrfti við, því enn var óljóst hvað hóllinn hafði að geyma og því var grafinn skurður, 1x1,5 m stór, sumarið 2012 var. Í honum kom í ljós veggur sem liggur í norður-suður, byggður á hefðbundinn hátt: steinhlaðinn beggja vegna og fylltur með torfi og mold. Grafið var niður með honum að austanverðu og þar kom í ljós yfirborð með koladreif og í því lá brýni (SHK12-24-1). Engin gjóskulög lágu yfir veggnum og í torfinu sást gjóska sem bendir til að þessi veggur sé yngri en 1477. Þessi litli skurður staðfesti að þessi hógværi rústahóll hefur að geyma byggingar af einhverju tagi og verður þess freistað að kanna hvers hvers eðlis þær eru sumarið 2013.

Fig. 10 The map shows the location of Sjúhúsavík in relation to Hjálmarvík. Kortið sýnir afstöðu Sjóhúsavíkur við Hjálmarvík.

Fig. 11 Excavation in Sjóhúsavík. Camera facing NW. Uppgröftur í Sjóhúsavík. Myndin er tekin í NV.

Archaeological investigations at Sjóhúsvik 2012

In 2011 a set of turf ruins were found in Sjóhúsavík, a cove on the west side of a small headland immediately west of the Hjálmarvík farm site.

The site consists of a relatively modern and well-preserved small fishing establishment (which has not been investigated except through soil core testing, efforts which were not very informative due to the presence of rock and gravel (Gísladóttir, G.A., U. Ævarsson and J. Woollett 2011) and a much older site. The ruins of the earlier site consist of a low, ovoid mound approximately 10m by 15m in dimension, and a turf enclosure wall. The enclosure measures approximately 50m x 36m and bounds an area of approximately 1250m2 of boggy, þúfur (hummock)-filled meadow. These features are all highly transformed by cryoturbation processes.

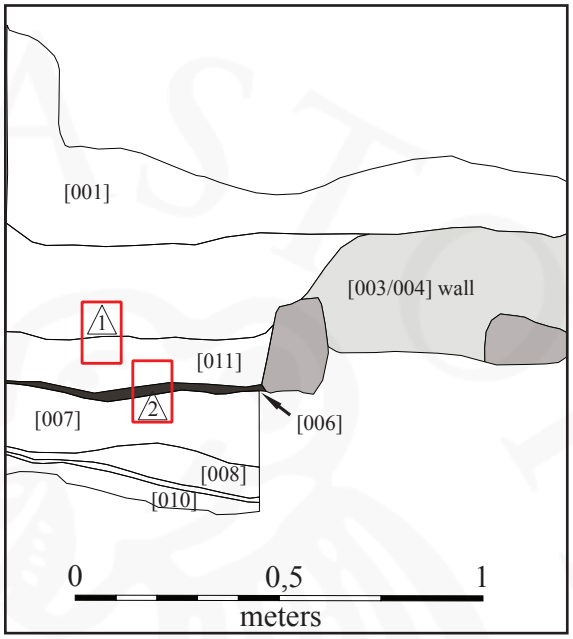


Fig. 12 The drawing shows the section of the test trench in Sjóhúsavík 2012. The two red squere show s where Micromorphology samples were taken. Uppdrátturinn sýnir snið prufuskurðar sem grafinn var í Sjóhúsavík 2012. Rauðu ferhyrningarnir sýna hvar örformgerðarsýni voru tekin.

Fig. 13 The trench in Sjóhúsavík. Charcoal rich depsosit [006] is clear at the eastern side of the wall. North is up. Horft ofan í skurðinn í Sjóhúsavík. Svart kolaborið lag [006] vel sýnilegt austan megin við vegginn. Norður er upp.

After trenching in 2011, the mound and the enclosure (trench 1, and 2 see Gísladóttir et al 2012, pp. 22-25) both features appeared to pre-date 1477 and possibly 1300 as well, as judged by traces of tephra deposits. The enclosure wall suggests that the site was a sort of farming operation with a very small protected hayfield or a pen. The mound would make some sense as the site of house or animal shed but no trace of walls are visible on the surface as the surface is obscured by prominent þúfur. The 2011 trench in the mound showed clear traces of human activity (fuel wastes and turf building debris) but in 2012 a 1x1,5m large trench was dug into the mound in order to get more information of the site.

In the 2012 trench, a wall [003-004] was found (ca. 90 cm broad), built in traditional

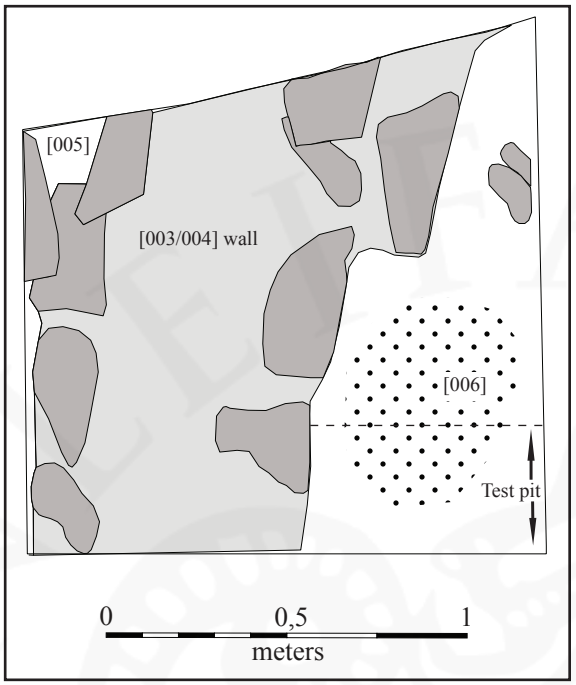


Fig. 14 Plan of test trench in Sjóhúsavík 2012. The wall, unit 003/004, is to the left on the drawing. The test pit is marked with a broken line and the dotted area represent a charcoalspread in unit 006. Uppdrátturinn sýnir plan skuðar sem grafinn var í Sjóhúsavík 2012. Veggurinn 003/004 er sýndur vinstra megin á myndinni og koladreyf í jarðlagi 006 er sýnd með punktum.

fashion with stone facing on either side and turf and soil between. Excavation by the eastern side of the wall exposed a deposit [006] with a charcoal spread, peat ash lenses. A single whetstone (SHK12-24-1), the only find in the entire excavation, was recovered in this area. Along side the western side of the wall was a very compact deposit [005]. Both the [005] and [006] deposits might represent floors on either side of the wall. A deeper test pit was dug into the SE corner of the main trench. There, the floor deposit [006] was found to lay up against the wall [003-004]. Below [006] was a turfy soil deposit [007], which is interpreted as a possible leveling deposit for the building. The Sjóhúsavík mound will be investigated in greater detail in 2013 in order to learn more about this humble and somewhat mysterious site.

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Appendix 1

HJÁLMARVÍK - UNIT REGISTER*

Unit	Type	Description/information
001	D	Top soil
002	D	Possible turf colapse
003	D	Shell deposit
004	D	Mottled deposit with charcoal, windblown or leveled layer by machine
005	D	Possibly a turf debris layer
006	D	Lump of land leveling
007	D	Possible hearth? Combustion area
008	D	Peat ash deposit, spill from possible hearth?
009	C	Cut for hearth / fierplace 007
010	D	Ash layer cut by hearth 007
011	D	Lump of ash and mottled turf
012	D	Dark reddish brown turf debris on top of layer with 1300 tephra
013	D	Dark brownish layer on top of 1477
014	D	TEPHRA 1477
015	D	Silty aeolian deposit under 1477
016	D	Shell deposit
017	D	Charcoal layer under shell layer+mottled mid-brown
018	D	Turf debris layer, mottled, possibly to stop erotion of charcoal
019	D	Mixed charcoal layer with bones and peat ash
020	D	Lensed charcoal layer
021	D	Charcoal/peat ash concentration in NE corner
022	D	Bone rich midden layer
023	D	Pinkish, orange peat ash layer on W side
024	D	Bone layer with peat ash lense
025	D	TEPHRA 1300
026	D	Reddish brown layer under tephra 1300
027	D	Turf debris layer with charcoal
028	D	Very mixed bone layer
029	D	Dark grayish brown deposit, bone rich
030	F	Peat ash layer
031	C	Cut for peat ash layer of 030
032	D	Dark reddish/grayish brown layer
033	D	Peat ash layer
034	D	Turf debris in SW corner
035	D	Dark midden layer, rich in charcoal and stones
036	D	Turf debris layer
037	D	Very mottled brownish/yellowish turf debris
038	D/F	Mottled dark brown layer on top of peat
039	D	Peat ash layer with shell fragments and bones
040	D/F	Mixed peat ash deposit
041	C	Cut for peat ash fill
042	D	Dark brown grayish deposit with bones
043	D	Sandy fishbone layer
044	D	Compact brownish pink peat ash
045	D	Midden deposit dark grayish brown bone rich layer
046	D	Peat-ash charcoal layer
047	D	Dark brown layer with ash and bones
048	C	Cut into sterile filled with bones and material from 046

*Research number from the National Museum of Iceland: 24

Appendix 2

HJÁLMARVÍK - FIND REGISTER*

Nr.	Unit	Material	Object type
1	unst.	Bone	Food waste
2	001	Bone	Food waste
3	001	Cu-alloy	sheet
4	003	Bone	Food waste
5	004	Shells	?
6	004	Bone	Food waste
7	005	Cu-alloy	Button
8	005	Bone	Food waste
9	005	Iron	?
10	006	Cu-alloy	?
11	006	Bone	Food waste
12	007	Bone	Food waste
13	010	Stone	Whetstone
14	010	Cu-alloy	
15	010	Bone	Food waste
16	010	Cu-alloy	unidentified
17	010	Stone	Whetstone
18	008	Bone	Food waste
19	011	Bone	Food waste
20	011	Iron	Fish hook
21	011	Iron	Knife
22	011	Cu-alloy	?
23	013	Iron	objects
24	013	Stone	Manuport
25	013	Leather	?
26	013	Bone	Food waste
27	013	Cu-alloy	Rivet
28	016	Shells/bones	Food waste
29	015	Bone	Food waste
30	017	Bone	Food waste
31	017	Fe	Knife
32	017	Wood	
33	017	Stone	Manuport
34	018	Bone	Food waste
35	018	Fe	Clench bolt
36	018	Stone	
37	018	Fe	Knife?
38	018	Fe+wood	Knife
39	018	Fe	?
40	013	Stone	Manuport
41	018	Stone	Manuport
42	018	Fe	Handle?
43	019	Bone	Food waste
44	019	Stones	?
45	019	Cu-alloy	Rivet
46	019	Fe	?
47	019	Fe	Nail
48	019	Cu-alloy	?
49	019	Stone	Manuport
50	020	Bone	Food waste
51	020	Bone	Fitting
52	020	Fe	Nail
53	022	Bone	Food waste
54	021	Bone	Food waste
55	022	Stone	Whetstone
56	022	Cu-alloy	Sheet
57	022	Bone	Relic
58	022	Bone	
59	023	Cu-alloy	Rivet
60	023	Bone	Food waste
61	024	Bone	Food waste
62	024	Cu-alloy	Rivet
63	024	Fe	Bolt
64	024	Stone	Whetstone
65	024	Cu-alloy	?
66	024	Leather	?
67	025	Bone	Food waste
68	026	Fe	Nail
69	026	Fe	Nail
70	026	Cu-alloy	Nail
71	026	Bone	Artefact
72	026	Cu-alloy	Rove?
73	026	Fe	Nail
74	026	Stones	Manuport
75	026	Cu-alloy	Object
76	026	Cu-alloy	?
77	026	Fe	Knife?
78	027	Stone	Manuport
79	027	Cu-alloy	Object
80	027	Bone	Food waste
81	027	Bone	?
82	027	Fe	Nail
83	027	Bone	Object
84	027	Stone	Worked? Wetstone?
85	028	Bone	Food waste
86	028	Cu-alloy	Diverse objects
87	028	Stone	Manuport
88	028	Fe	Diverse objects
89	028	Cu-alloy/wood	?
90	028	Leather	?
91	028	Stone	Flint?
92	028	Cu/wood	?
93	028	Stone	Whetstone
94	028	Bone	Object
95	028	Bone	Object
96	029	Bone	Object
97	029	Bone	Food waste
98	029	Cu	?
99	029	Bone	?
100	029	Bone	Object
101	029	Bone	Gaming piece
102	029	Fe	Nail
103	029	Bone	Object
104	029	Bone	Gaming piece
105	029	Stone	Whetstone
106	029	Stone	Manuport
107	029	Bone	Object
108	029	Bone	Object
109	029	Leather	?
110	029	Cu-alloy	Button
111	029	Bone	Gaming piece
112	029	Bone	Object
113	029	Bone	Dice
114	029	Bone	Object
115	029	Cu-alloy	Indeterminate object
116	029	Fe	Clench bolt
117	029	Fe	Indeterminate object

Nr.	Unit	Material	Object type
118	032	Bone	Gaming piece
119	029	Cu	Button
120	029	Fe	Nail
121	032	Bone	Food waste
122	032	Cu	Indeterminate object
123	032	Fe	Nail
124	032	Bone	Object
125	032	Stone	Whetstone
126	032	Stone	Loom weight
127	032	Stone	Loom weight
128	032	Cu	Indeterminate object
129	032	Cu	Rove?
130	032	Stone	Manuport
131	032	Stone	Preform
132	032	Stone	Loom weight
133	032	Fe	Knife
134	032	Fe	Plate
135	032	Leather	?
136	032	Fe	Hook
137	032	Bone	Gaming piece
138	032	Stone	Loom weight
139	033	Stone	Manuport
140	033	Bones	Food waste
141	035	Bones	Food waste
142	035	Stone	Manuport
143	035	Stone	Loom weight ?
144	035	Stone	Worked stone?
145	036	Bones	Food waste
146	036	Fe	Nail
147	036	Cu	?
148	036	Stone	Whetstone
149	036	Stone	Bead?
150	037	Bones	Food waste
151	038	Bones	Food waste
152	038	Fe	Slag
153	038	Fe	Nail
154	038	Stone	Loom weight
155	038	Bone	Worked whale bone
156	039	Bone	Food waste
157	040	Fe	Buckle
158	040	Bones	Food waste
159	040	Stone	Manuport
160	040	Bone	Object
161	040	Fe	?
162	040	Fe	Nail
163	040	Wood	Artefact
164	042	Stone	Sinker or hinge?
165	042	Stone	Whetstone
166	042	Bones	Food waste
167	042	Stone	Loom weight
168	042	Metal	Slag
169	042	Fe	Hook ?
170	042	Stone	Manuport
171	043	Bones	Food waste
172	043	Bones	Worked whale bone
173	043	Fe	Unidentified object
174	043	Cu	Unidentified object
175	043	Stone	Manuport
176	043	Fe	Nail
177	043	Fe	Slag
178	043	Fe/wood	Hook
179	044	Bones	
180	044	Stone	Manuport
181	044	Fe	Slag
182	044	Stone	Object
183	044	Cu/Fe	Object
184	044	Stone	Loom weight
185	044	Bone	Worked bone
186	044	Fe	Object
187	044	Stone	Manuport
188	045	Bone	Worked whale bone
189	045	Bone	Food waste
190	045	Cu	Object
191	045	Stone	Whetstone
192	045	Stone	Manuport
193	045	Fe	Nail
194	045	Bone	Worked whale bone
195	045	Stone	Sopestone
196	045	Stone	Whetstone
197	045	Stone	Spindle whirl
198	046	Bone	Food waste
199	046	Stone	Whetstone
200	046	Bone	Object
201	046	Fe	Hook?
202	046	Fe	Knife
203	046	Fe	Hook
204	046	Fe	Nail
205	047	Bones	
206	047	Leather	?
207	047	Ivory	Gaming piece
208	047	Bone	Comb
209	032	Bone	Gaming piece
210	unst.	Bone	Object
211	022	Fe	Object
212	unst.	Fe	Object
213	unst.	Cu	Object
214	018	Bone	Worked whale bone
215	035	Bone	Worked whale bone

unst. = unstratified

*Research number from the National Museum of Iceland: 24

Appendix 3

HJÁLMARVÍK - SAMPLE REGISTER*

Nr.	Unit	Volume	Description
1	011	1 small bag	Wood fragment for ID
2	017	1 small bag	Charcoal for ID
3	018	10 l.	To float
4	019	1 small bag	Charcoal for ID
5	021	10 l.	To float
6	032	1 small bag	Charcoal for ID
7	032	1 small bag	Wood fragment for ID
8	032	1 small bag	Wood for ID
9	033	10 l.	Peat ash for float
10	033	1 small bag	Wood for ID
11	035	less than 10 l.	To float
12	038	1 small bag	Wood for ID
13	040	1 small bag	Wood for ID
14	042	1 small bag	Wood for ID
15	044	1 small bag	Wood/charcoal for ID
16	045	1 small bag	Wood/charcoal for ID
17	046	1 small bag	Wood for ID

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Appendix 4

SJÓHÚSAVÍK - UNIT REGISTER*

Unit	Type	Area	Description
001	D	Main trench	Topsoil
002	D	Main trench	Aeolian deposit
003-004	D	Main trench	Wall with lined stones and turf, turf debris for fill. In the fill is occational charcoal (less than 1%). The fill is mottled with H3 tephra spots and grey tephra: 1300?, 1477?
005	D	Main trench	A room? Mottled deposit. Compact, possibly floor. Multicolored:Red, grey, yellow, brown
006	D	Main trench	A room. Floor with charcoal spots and thin peat ash lenses. Not very compact. This deposit was uncovered but not excavated
006	D	Test pit in SE corner of the main trench	Ongoing patchy floor deposts: Charcoal spots clearly up agianst thw wall. Thickness ca. 1- 5 cm. Iron panning by the base.
007	D	Test pit in SE corner of the main trench	Turfish deposit, possibly a leveling deposit. Mid brown, yellow, red-ish. The wall [3-4] is built on top of this deposit
008	D	Test pit in SE corner of the main trench	Grey uniform deposit, bog deposit? Organic
009	D	Test pit in SE corner of the main trench	Blue-green and violet sandy lense, thin
010	D	Test pit in SE corner of the main trench	Thin gravel deposit: Yellow and bright brown
011	D	Test pit in SE corner of the main trench	Mottled deposit, visible H3 tephra and organic spots

Appendix 5

SJÓHÚSAVÍK - FIND REGISTER *

No.	Unit	Material	Type
1	6	Stone/Schist	Whetstone

Appendix 6

SJÓHÚSAVÍK - SAMPLE REGISTER *

Nr.	Unit	Voulme	Description
1	11	Tin	Micromorphology
2	6,7,11	Tin	Micromorphology
3	3-4	Bag	Tephra for id
4	8	Bag	Deposit for id

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