Staðarhóll in Dalir:
Archaeological Investigations in 2022

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Fornleifastofnun Íslands
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The photo at the front page is of a peatash midden in Trench 3 north-facing, taken by Gavin Lucas.

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General information

Project title: Staðarhóll in Dalir: Nature, Culture and Economy on an Icelandic church centre.

Research number (case nr. MÍ): MÍ202107-0109

National Museum nr. (ÞJMS): 2022-66

Number (ID) of sites and report nr.: DA-180:001 01-02;, Elín Ósk Hreiðarsdóttir og Kristborg Þórsdóttir ritstj. 2022. *Fornleifaskráning í Staðarhólsdal.* FS861-20173. Fornleifastofnun Íslands, Reykjavík.

Short description of research (aims): The purpose of the field work research was to examine the depth and preservation cultural layers (midden) in the farm mound of Staðarhóll.

Type of research: Scientific research/trenching and coring.

Condition of sites after excavation: All trenches were backfilled and re-turfed.

Location: Staðarhóll í Saurbæ, Dalasýslu.

Coordinate (center of research area): A: 364093 N: 543345 (ISN93)

Period of research: 19th-23rd September 2022

Permit holder: Guðrún Alda Gísladóttir.

Number of staff: 5.

Grunnupplýsingar

Heiti verkefnis: Staðarhóll í Dölum: Höfuðból í minjum, sögu og sagnaritun,

Rannsóknarnúmer: MÍ202107-0109

Þjóðminjasafnsnúmer: 2022-66

Númer fornleifa úr skráningarskýrslu og tilvísun í skýrsluna: DA-180:001 01-02;, Elín Ósk Hreiðarsdóttir og Kristborg Þórsdóttir ritstj. 2022. *Fornleifaskráning í Staðarhólsdal.* FS861-20173. Fornleifastofnun Íslands, Reykjavík.

Stutt lýsing rannsóknar – tilgangur: Að afla upplýsinga um dýpt mannvistarlaga og varðveislu á bæjarhóli Staðarhóls í Saurbæ, Dalasýslu.

Tegund og aðferð rannsóknar: Vísindarannsókn: Könnunarskurðir og borkjarnarannsókn, skráning jarðvegssniða.

Staðsetning: Staðarhóll í Saurbæ, Dalasýslu.

GPS hnit: A: 364093 N: 543345 (ISN93)

Rannsóknartími: 19.09.2022 – 23.09.2022.

Leyfishafi: Guðrún Alda Gísladóttir.

Fjöldi starfsmanna: 5.

Samantekt
Í skýrslunni segir frá niðurstöðum fornleifarannsókna sem fram fóru í heimatúni Staðarhóls í Dölum 2022. Skýrslan er á ensku en hér gefur á að líta ítarlega samantekt á íslensku. Rannsóknirnar 2022 eru hluti af stærra verkefni þar sem rannsakað er höfuðbólið Staðarhóll. Verkefnið er styrkt af RÍM-sjóðnum (Ritmenning íslenskra miðalda) og snýst það um að rannsaka verk og umhverfi Sturlu Þórðarsonar sem bjó og starfaði á Staðarhóli mikinn hluta ævi sinnar. Verkefnið er samstarf margra fræðigreina og lagt upp til fimm ára. Hér er fjallað um þriðja og síðasta áfanga fornleifarannsókna á staðnum en síðustu árin tvö verða helguð útgáfu.

Rannsóknin hófst 2020 með fornleifaskráningu í Staðarhólsdal. Alls voru skráðir 500 minjastaðir í dalnum það sumar. Einnig voru teknar myndir með flygildi/dróna og gerð þrívíddarlíkön af völdum minjastöðum og sérstaklega hugað að örnefnum og rætt við staðkunnuga til að auka skilning á landsháttum.

Næsti áfangi var unninn síðsumars 2021. Þá voru teknir borkjarnar með skipulegum hætti í heimatúninu á Staðarhóli til að greina mannvistarlög og kortleggja nýtingu túnsins umhverfis bæinn. Að auki voru tvö rofabörð hreinsuð og snið teiknuð, við kirkjugarð og við öskuhaug sunnan bæjar og þar fundust tvær perlur frá nýöld.

Fornleifarannsókn haustið 2022 var gerð á grundvelli fyrri vettvangsrannsókna og voru kannaðir sorphaugar sunnan og austan í bæjarhólnum, sem afmarkaðir höfðu verið með borkjörnum. Með því að grafa öskuhaugana var vonast var til að hægt væri að fá mikilvægar upplýsingar um búskaparhætti á Staðarhóli og þróun byggðar á löngu tímabili. Vettvangsvinnan fór fram síðla septembermánaðar 2022. Leyfishafi og uppgraftarstjóri var Guðrún Alda Gísladóttir en auk samanstóð uppgraftarhópurinn af Gavin Lucas, Stefáni Ólafssyni, Helgu Jónsdóttur og Öglu G. Ringsted. Gavin Lucas sá um úrvinnslu og skýrsluskrif, Helga Jónsdóttir um frágang skráa, Mjöll Snæsdóttir þýddi texta úr ensku og Elín Ósk Hreiðarsdóttir sá um ritstjórn. Um verkstjórn og samþættingu sá Guðrún Alda Gísladóttir.

Rannsóknir 2022
Upphaflega stóð til að grafa tvo könnunarskurði og velja þeim stað með stuðningi af borkjörnum frá 2021, en úr varð að teknir voru fimm skurðir og einnig fleiri borkjarnar. Skurður 1 var suðaustanvert í bæjarhólnum, þar sem móöskulög höfðu sést í borkjörnum. Skurður 2 var austanvert í hólnum þar sem vart hafði orðið við lög með viðarkolum. Í ljós kom að sorplögin í skurði 1 voru mest efst og eftir að jarðvegsskipan neðar hafði verið könnuð með borkjörnum og minni könnunarholu var hætt við skurð 1. Ákveðið var að grafa nýjan skurð, skurð 3, sunnan til í bæjarhólnum, við rofabarðið sem hafði verið hreinsað og skráð2021 og tvær perlur komið í ljós. En skurður 3 reyndist mjög svipaður skurði 2, áþekk og einsleit jarðlagaskipan og fáir gripir og bein. Því var ákveðið að bæta enn við skurði (skurði 4) í bæjarhólinn suðvestanverðan. Sá reyndist líka rýr, þar fundust aðeins þunnar linsur af móösku innan um þykk lög af hreyfðum jarðvegi. Í framhaldinu var ákveðið að kanna svæði, sem ekki höfðu verið athuguð 2021, nálægt núverandi íbúðarhúsi og eldri bæjarrústum, og freista þess að finna einum skurði til viðbótar stað. Borað var á þrem stöðum meðfram vesturhlið bæjarhóls, nálægt tóftum og yngsta íbúðarhúsinu, og röð af borkjörnum var tekin með 5 metra millibili á austanverðum hólnum nærri íbúðarhúsinu. Þeir síðarnefndu gáfu vísbendingar um ágæt mannvistarlög og því var skurður 5 tekinn um miðbik raðarinnar. Þar kom í ljós sorphaugur með töluverðu af fundum, tímasetjanlegur til 20. aldar, og undir honum voru byggingaleifar. Enn einn borkjarni (nr. 9) var tekinn á sléttri grund í túninu rétt austan við bæjarhólinn, til samanburðar.

Skurður 1 var suðaustan í bæjarhólnum þar sem á yfirborði sást ílöng dæld sem gæti verið vegslóði eða vatnsfarvegur. Þessi skurður var 3 x 2 m og sneri austur-vestur. Jarðlagaskipan var fremur einföld og einsleit. Undir hreyfðum yfirborðslogum var þykkt lag af móösku, mest 25 cm á þykkt, sem náði yfir mestallan skurðinn. Undir henni var 20-30 cm lag af dökkbrúnum leirkenndum jarðvegi. Bæði síðastnefndu lögin náðu yfir allan skurðinn nema norðvestur- og suðausturhorn

(móaskan) og suðausturhornið (dökkbrúna lagið) og var þetta líkast því að þar mótaði fyrir mannvirki sem lægi dýpra. Þá var tekinn borkjarni til að athuga hvort breytinga væri að vænta og hvort sjá mætti fleiri sorplög neðar. En kjarninn sýndi aðeins meira af torfhruni með stöku móöskulinsum. Því var grafin lítil könnunarhola í skurðhorni. Þar mátti sjá lagskipt, blönduð lög af móösku og torfhruni með stöku viðarkolaögnum, um 40 cm að þykkt. Undir því var þynnra lag, 5-10 cm, sem var dekkra og grábrúnt og leirkennt. Ekki var grafið dýpra en borkjarnar sýndu að svipaða jarðlagaskipan a.m.k. 1 m í viðbót, en á því dýpi, um 2 m undir núverandi yfirborði, varð jarðvegurinn orðinn mjög blautur og svartur að lit. Fáir gripir fundust í skurðinum, í efsta lagi nokkur glerbrot frá því seint á 19. öld eða hinni 20., lítið brot úr glerjuðum rauðleir í laginu þar undir, og líklega meitill eða stappa úr járni í torfhrunslaginu undir móöskunni. Stöku dýrabein og tennur fundust einnig, og járngjall, einkum úr móöskulaginu.

Skurður 2 var austan í bæjarhólnum, og var grafinn á grundvelli niðurstaðna úr borkjarnalínu nr. 9, kjarna 2 (frá 2021), við nýlegan lagnaskurð. Könnunarskurðurinn var 2 x 2 m. Lagnaskurðurinn var fylltur með nýlegum uppmokstri og rótuðum sorplögum og þar undir voru timburfjalir og steypt frárennslisrör í botni. Steinsteypurörið var látið óhreyft, en grafið dýpra í nyrðri hluta skurðarins þar sem jarðlagaskipun var óröskuð, og varð skurðurinn því 1 x 2 m. Undir leirkenndu yfirborðslagi voru nokkur þunn lög, aðallega torfhrun, sum blönduð móösku og viðarkolum, þó var eitt greinilegt móöskulag mjög ofarlega í sniðinu. Öll efstu lögin sýndu augljós merki um frostverkun og höfðu tekið á sig bylgjulaga form sem bentu til þúfnamyndunar. Neðar voru lögin reglulegri, fylgdu landslagi niður brekkuna til austurs. Neðri lögum var skipt í tvær stórar einingar. Sú efri var um 50 cm að þykkt og mynduð úr móösku og viðarkoli í linsum, og fáeinum flekkjum af hrundu torfi; meira var af torfinu í efri 30 cm. Neðra lagið var nokkuð svipað, a.m.k. 70 cm að þykkt, nokkru dekkra að lit og með meira af viðarkolum. Lögin voru afar keimlík og var ákveðið að minnka umfang skurðarins til að kanna hvort breytinga væri að vænta. Grafinn var dýpri könnunarskurður í austurenda, 1 x1 metra stór, en í u.þ.b. 2 metra dýpt var frá að hverfa vegna grunnvatns. Ekki tókst að grafa í gegnum mannvistarlögin en engra meginbreytinga í samsetningu þeirra varð vart. Búast má við að þessi gríðarþykku móöskuhaugar hafi orðið til þegar hreinsað var út úr eldstæðum oft og reglubundið.

Fundir úr skurði 2 voru fáir og dugðu ekki til að tímasetja sorphauginn nákvæmlega. Ofarlega fannst brot úr hvítum jarðleir frá því seint á 19.öld eða upphafi 20. aldar. Þá fannst brot úr fiskasleggju í lagnaskurðinum, sennilega komin úr efri hluta sorphaugs. Úr sorphaugnum sjálfum komu ryðbrunnir járngripir, nagli og sennilega rær, hvorttveggja úr efri hluta og einnig fundust þar 3 brot úr koparblöndu, tvö líklega úr kötlum. Vel varðveitt smápjatla úr ullarvefnaði fannst í neðri hluta sorphaugs. Þá fundust einnig brot úr beinum dýra og járngjall í ýmsum lögum í skurðinum, um 30 gjallmolar og 30 brot úr brunnum dýrabeinum. Viðarkolasýni voru tekin til aldursgreiningar úr neðstu lögunum tveimur.

Skurður 3 var sunnanvert í bæjarhólnum, þar sem snið hafði verið hreinsað og skráð 2021 og tvær perlur fundist. Skurðurinn var 2 x 2 m, og norðurhlið hans fylgdi gömlu sniðbrúninni. Jarðlagaskipan var mjög svipuð og í skurði 1. Undir yfirborðslagi lá allþykkt móöskulag, um 30 cm, nema við suðurjaðar þar sem torfhrunslag lá að móöskunni eða yfir hana. Móaskan skiptist í greinileg lög eða linsur, sem benti til þess að hún hefði safnast fyrir við sífellda hreinsun úr eldstæðum, ólíkt því sem var í skurði 1 þar sem móaskan var einsleitari. Undir móöskunni var lag úr ljósbrúnu torfhruni, sem ekki var grafið. Borkjarni sýndi áþekkt torfhrunslag metra í viðbót, og því ekki grafið dýpra. Úr þessum skurði komu hlutfallslega fleiri gripir en úr hinum tveimur. Úr efsta lagi kom brot ú krítapípulegg, nagli og nokkur dýrabein en flestir fundir komu úr móöskulagi, þar á meðal hálf hnöttótt perla, líklega úr rafi frá nýöld, brot úr þynnu úr koparblöndu, og járnbrot, hugsanlega úr hníf, og teinn með lykkju á enda, e.t.v. krókur. Hausar af tveimur nöglum, kannski rónöglum, tveir aðrir naglar og leggur sem gæti verið vélsmiðaður nagli fundust einnig. Meðal annarra funda voru dýrabein og tennur og gjallmolar. Rafperlan er áhugaverð þar eð tvær perlur úr tálgukolslíku efni fundust á sama stað 2021. Því miður er ekki hægt að tímasetja perlurnar

nákvæmlega, en þær gætu verið frá 17. eða 18. öld. Aðrir fundir eru enn erfiðari til tímasetningar, að vélsmíðaða naglanum undanteknum, hann hlýtur að vera frá síðasta fjórðungi 18. aldar eða yngri. En greiningin er ekki örugg.

Skurður 4 var suðvestanvert í hólnum, á sama stað og borkjarni nr. 16 í borkjarnalínu 7 var tekinn árið 2021. Skurðurinn var 1 x 1 m. Jarðlög í borkjarna hafði gefið vísbendingar um að þarna væri móöskulag af svipuðu tagi og það sem sást í skurðunum 1 og 3. Undir þykku, hreyfðu yfirborðslagi kom í ljós um 5 cm þykkt móöskulag með óljósri lagskiptingu og þar undir 10 cm þykkt lag af torfhruni. Ekkert laganna var skýrt afmarkað í sniði, og því var ákveðið að teikna það ekki. Greftri var því hætt, en borað var niður í metra til viðbótar til að kanna jarðlagaskipan neðar. Þar komu fram frekari torfhrunslög, sum blönduð móösku. Aðeins einn gripur fannst, nagli, úr yfirborðslaginu.

Úr **skurði 5** komu flestir gripir og þeir sem helst eru greinilegir. Flestir komu þeir úr yfirborðslagi eða úr sorphaug. Má nefna glerflösku undan bjór eða gosdrykk, tvö ílát úr pressuðu gleri, rúðugler, auk fleiri glerbrota. Allt er glerið frá síðari hluta 19. aldar eða yngra. Einnig fundust brot úr leirílátum frá sama tímabili, þó að stórt brot úr skál úr glerjuðum hornmáluðum rauðleir virðist eldra, þ.e. frá því seint á 18. eða snemma á 19. öld. Þá fundust brot úr emalíeraðri skál eða fati úr tini, 4 vélsmíðaðir járnnaglar, hringlaga járnsylgja, girðingavír auk naglabrota. Einnig fundust brot úr tré, gjall og dýrabein. Í heild bendir gripasafnið til síðasta fjórðungs 19. aldar eða fyrsta fjórðungs hinnar 20.
Auk skurða voru samtals teknir 9 borkjarnar á Staðarhóli 2022 í þeim tilgangi að afla betri yfirsýnar yfir sorplög í hólnum næst íverustöðum, og finna hentuga staðsetningu fyrir skurði.

Helstu niðurstöður
Niðurstöður athugana á Staðarhóli 2022 voru ekki einhlítar. Annars vegar komu í ljós töluverð sorplög, en afar lítið fannst af gripum og dýrabeinum, minna en vænta mætti á höfuðbóli. Greinilegt er að sorphaugarnir hafa safnast upp sunnan og austan í bæjarhólnum. Yngstur er sorphaugurinn efst á bæjarhólnum, rétt austan við íbúðarhúsið, sá sem sást í skurði 5, og er sá sorphaugur þunnur.

Það virðist mega skipta upphleðslu sorplaga í þrjú mismunandi skeið, hvert á sínu svæði, en ekki er auðvelt að tímasetja þau. Haugurinn í skurði 5 er auðveldastur, hann er greinilega frá síðari hluta 19. aldar og upphafi hinnar 20. Ekki sjást neinir gripir frá 19. og 20. öld í hinum haugunum, sem varla verður skýrt öðruvísi en svo að þeir séu eldri en frá því um 1800. Lítið fannst af gripum sem styðjast má við til frekari tímasetningar. Úr skurði 1 kom leirkersbrot úr rauðleir og nokkrar perlur frá nýöld úr skurði 3. Þetta bendir til þess að haugurinn sunnan (skurður 3) til hafi verið frá tímabilinu 1600-1800 og staðfesti C14 greining þá niðurstöðu. Hvorki fundust leirílát né aðrir munir greinilega frá nýöld í skurði 2 og bendir það til að þessi haugur gæti verið hinn elsti, þó að fundir gefi ekki greinilega tímasetningu. Brotin úr koparkatli gætu verið frá því seint á miðöldum eða snemma á nýöld. Ólíklegt er að fiskasleggjan úr lagnaskurðinum sé eldri en um 1500. Greining á C14 sýni staðfestir þessa túlkun og bendir til 15.-16. aldar.

Þá má sem stendur giska á að elsti sorphaugurinn sé austantil í bæjarhólnum og sá hluti sem grafið var í sé sennilega frá því á miðöldum og fram á nýöld, þ.e. um 13. öld til 17. Þetta svæði er líklega það þar sem mest hefur safnast fyrir af mannvistarlögum. Haugurinn að sunnanverðu er líklega aðeins frá nýöld (17.-18. öld) en yngsti haugurinn er austan við íbúðarhúsið sem enn stendur (seint á 19. öld-20. aldar). Ef þetta reynist rétt, má draga nokkrar ályktanir um þróun bæjarhólsins og bygginga á honum. Yngsti sorphaugurinn er líklega einkum tengdur yngstu húsunum. Timburhús stóð þar á fyrri hluta 20. aldar, en 1943 var í þess stað reist steinsteypt hús sem enn stendur, en þar hefur ekki verið búið frá 1972. Sunnan við það eru sjáanlegar tóftir, annað hvort af bæjar- eða útihúsum úr torfi (DA-180:001-2). Sorphaugurinn sunnan í hólnum er fast bak við eða sunnan við tóftirnar. Ef bæjarhús hafa staðið þarna á nýöld, virðist tímasetning geta staðist.

Sorphaugurinn var stutt í notkun sem gæti bent til að bæjarhúsin hafi verið annað hvort færð eða stækkuð. Vísbendingar um að eldri bygging sé undirsorphaugnum í skurði 5 gæti bent til þess að eldri byggingar séu undir húsinu sem nú stendur, - sem ekki kemur á óvart.- og bæjarhúsin frá miðöldum gætu verið þar, einkum ef rústirnar suður af húsinu sem enn stendur reynast vera bæjarhús frá nýöld.

Allt eru þetta tilgátur en geta bent til að byggingarsaga bæjarhólsins sé flókin og bæjarhús kunni að hafa verið færð til og stækkað eða minnkað á ýmsum tímum. Þó virðist ljóst, að mest og lengst upphleðsla sorplaga hefur verið austan í bæjarhólnum. Efstu jarðvegslög á hólnum eru töluvert röskuð og náði raskið sums staðar nokkuð djúpt. Verið getur að hóllinn hafi verið sléttaður eða honum breytt (með handverkfærum) einhvern tíma síðla á nýöld.

Þá er ástæða til að staldra við hvað fáir gripir finnast í skurðunum. Staðarhóll var höfuðból og skipaði mikilvægan sess í sögunni. Því kom á óvart að svo fáir gripir skyldu finnast, og voru nokkur vonbrigði. Hér skiptir varðveisla máli. Uppistaða jarðlaganna er brenndur mór og greinilegt er að jarðvegur er mjög súr, sem hefur áhrif á varðveislu beina úr fiski og öðrum dýrum. Hann er mjög leirkenndur og vatnssósa þegar neðar dregur, en vitað var að svæðið í kringum hólinn er blautt og mýrlent. Lítilsháttar fannst af beinum, einkum tönnum (úr sauðfé/geitum), en mun minna en búast hefði mátt við. Það þýðir að rannsóknir á dýrabeinum eru takmörk sett. Hins vegar getur verið að (sum) lífræn efni varðveitist betur í rökum jarðveginum neðar í skurðinum, eins og vefnaðarpjatlan úr skurði 2 sýnir. En varðveisluskilyrði ein og sér geta varla skýrt hve fátt fannst af gripum. Leirílát, gler, málmur og steinn ættu öll að varðveitast og hafa greinilega gert það, en aðeins í afar takmörkuðu magni. En burtséð frá yngsta sorphaugnum í skurði 5, var fundafjöldi afar lítill. Hvar eru ílátin úr gleri og leir, krítarpípurnar og smámunir af klæðnaði sem búast mætti við í töluverðum mæli frá miðri 17. öld og síðar? Hvar eru brýnin, önnur steinverkfæri og málmáhöld, sem einkenna gripasöfn frá mannabústöðum frá síðari hluta miðalda og nýöld? Það er erfitt að sjá hvernig liggur í þessari gripafæð á slíku höfuðbóli og kynni að vera vísbending um skipulag, hvernig umhirðu og förgun sorps og muna var háttað á bænum, sérstaklega á miðöldum og fyrri hluta nýaldar.

Mikið af sorplögunum, bæði að sunnan og austan, eru móöskulög blönduð nokkru viðarkoli, að líkum lætur útburður úr eldstæðum. Vel má vera að annað heimilissorp, t.d. það sem hreinsað var af gólfum, hafi verið borið út annars staðar á bæjarhólnum. Verið getur að gólfin í bæjarhúsunum sjálfum innihaldi fleiri fundi en sorphaugarnar (þannig virðist það vera á fyrri hluta nýaldar í Skálholti). Einnig getur hugsast að minjastaðurinn sé hreinlega fátækur að gripum, sem myndi þá venjulega segja okkur nokkuð um efnahag á staðnum, en væri þá í talsverðri andstöðu við aðrar vísbendingar um efnahag jarðarinnar, m.a. úr sögulegu samhengi. Ekki verður að svo stöddu skorið úr um af hverju gripafæðin stafar, til þess þyrfti frekari rannsóknir.

Efnisorð:
Fornleifastofnun Íslands, fornleifarannsókn, könnunarskurðir, borkjarnar, bæjarhóll, ruslahaugur, Staðarhóll, Dalasýsla, RÍM

Summary

This report presents the results of archaeological fieldwork on the farm mound of Staðarhóll in Dalasýsla (W-Iceland). This research is a part of a larger project that has the aim to investigate the basis of the prosperity of the central estate and church site Staðarhóll in Saurbær. The project *Staðarhóll in Dalir: Nature, Culture and Economy on an Icelandic church centre* is funded by RÍM (LCMI – Literary Culture in Medieval Iceland), a research award established to celebrate 75 years of Iceland´s independence.

In late summer 2022 five trenches were excavated on the farm mound as well as nine cores taken to help position the trenches. The investigations drew on an archaeological survey carried out in 2020 and coring work conducted in 2021, both as a part of the same research.

The result of the research in 2022 shows that there are at least three different phases of midden accumulation represented in three different areas, although the dating is tentative, even with the radiocarbon results. The easiest to date was the midden in trench 5, which from the finds is clearly late 19th and early 20th century. Moreover, given the lack of 19th and 20th century material from the other middens – an absence which is very hard to explain unless these middens pre-date c. 1800 – suggests the middens on the southern and eastern slopes pre-date the 19th century, which has been partially confirmed by the C14 dates. Finds and C14 dates from trench 1 and trench 3 suggests that the midden on the southern side is early modern, i.e. c. 1600-1800. The lack of pottery or indeed other obviously early modern finds from trench 2 might suggested that it was the earliest on site which was confirmed by C14 dates placing it in the 15th-16th century. A provisional interpretation is then that the earliest midden lies on the eastern slope of the farm mound and of the part excavated, is probably (late) medieval to early modern in date, (i.e. c. 15th-16th century). This area is probably also that which has seen the most sustained and long-term accumulation. The midden on the south side is probably early modern only (17th-18th century), while the midden closer to the top of the farm mound, east of the modern farmhouse, is where the later modern midden can be found (late 19th-20th century).

These are all very tentative inferences, but it does hint at a complex history of building on the farm mound where the main farmstead may have moved location or expanded and contracted over time, none of which ought to be surprising. However, one thing does seem certain and that is the main area of midden accumulation has been on the eastern side of the farm mound which is where the longest sequence was found.

Given the historical associations of the site and its presumed high status, the lack of finds from the trenches was surprising. Part of this is certainly due to preservation. The lack of animal or fish bone is clearly due to the acidic nature of the soils which largely include of peat ash. The poor preservation however makes the potential for further investigation somewhat limiting, at least from a zooarchaeological perspective. On the other hand, the wet conditions may have facilitated greater preservation of (some) organics at the lower levels, attested by the textile fragment from Trench 2. Issues of preservation however can hardly account for the paucity of artefacts that are dismally low. It is hard to square this absence with the known high status of the site and may suggest something about discard and cleaning practices within the farm, at least during the medieval and early modern period.

Keywords:

Institute of Archaeology (Iceland), archaeological investigation, trenches, coring survey, farm mound, Staðarhóll, West-Iceland, LCMI

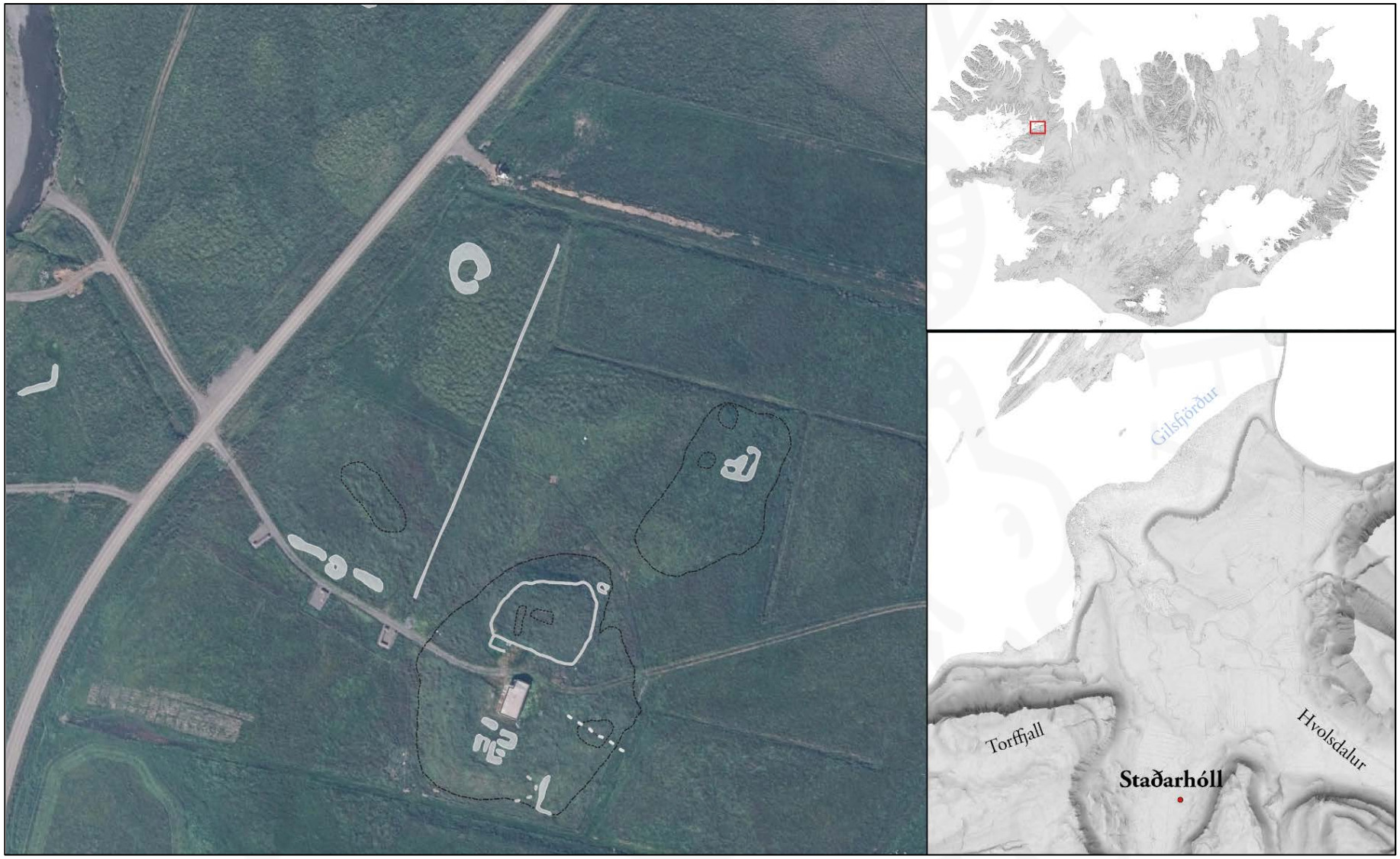

Figure 1: Staðarhóll in Dalir. On the aerial the farm mound can be seen (in the center). ©Loftmyndir ehf og Fornleifastofnun Íslands ses.

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1. Introduction

This report presents the results of archaeological investigations carried out within the homefield of Staðarhóll in Dalasýsla (Western Iceland) in 2022 (fig.1). This research is a part of a larger project that has the aim to investigate the foundations and prosperity of the central estate and church site of Staðarhóll in Saurbær. The project *Staðarhóll in Dalir: Nature, Culture and Economy on an Icelandic church centre* is funded by RÍM (LCMI – Literary Culture in Medieval Iceland), a research award established to celebrate 75 years of Iceland´s independence. The main aim of the project is to provide further knowledge of the work and surroundings of the thirteenth-century chieftain and historian Sturla Þórðarson, who lived and worked at the farm of Staðarhóll for a large part of his life, disseminating its results both to scholars and the general public. The project is multi-disciplinary and was set up on a three-year plan with a possible additional two years focusing on publication and outreach. This report covers the third and final season of archaeological work at the site.

Figure 2. Location of trenches (red) and cores (yellow) in 2022. Aerial: Loftmyndir ehf.

The Site

The first season took place in the summer of 2020 with an archaeological field survey in Staðarhólsdalur, Dalasýsla. Altogether about 500 sites were surveyed in Staðarhólsdalur in the summer of 2022 (Elín Ósk Hreiðarsdóttir & Kristborg Þórsdóttir 2022. In the field, additional to the field survey, drone images were systematically collected in order to create 3D models of selected sites and special attention given to place names and local knowledge in order to deepen our understanding of the historical depth of the landscape. The data was processed in the second year of the project and a special focus given to the archaeology that was believed to originate in the Middle Ages.

The second season occurred in late summer 2021 when systematic coring was carried out in the homefield of Staðarhóll in order to identify cultural deposits and consequently map activity around the farm (Guðrún Alda Gísladóttir & Gylfi Helgason 2022). The research framework drew upon an earlier archaeological survey carried out in 2017 (Birna Lárusdóttir et al. 2017) as well as the 2020 survey. Seven core-transects formed rays around the farm-mound while an eighth transects mapped the limits of a farm mound and field on the flatland by the southern part of the mound while the ninth transect defined midden deposits on the south part of the mound. No substantial charcoal deposits were detected in the homefield, except in one transect, but structural turf was identified. The periphery of the homefield is characterised by wetland, with peat and clay formation, especially on the western and eastern fringe of the homefield. In addition to the coring, two exposed sections were cleaned. Section A was located in the midden area where the few finds retrieved included beads from jet-like material of post-medieval date. Section B was located by the southwest corner of the churchyard boundary wall. Tephra deposit from the Hekla 1693 eruption was found undisturbed below the currently standing turf wall but occupation deposits were detected below this tephra, although they were not investigated further.

The return to the site in 2022 was based on the fieldwork conducted in 2021 with the aim of targeting middens located on the southern and eastern side of the farm mound through coring. It was hoped that the middens would hold valuable information on the subsistence and farming economy of the Staðarhóll estate over a long period of time as well as providing some indication of the development of the farm mound. The fieldwork took place over the week 19th-23rd September 2022 and was conducted by Guðrún Alda Gísladóttir. Other field members were Gavin Lucas, Stefán Ólafsson, Helga Jónsdóttir, and Agla Geirlaug Ringsted. Post-excavation archiving and registration was done by Helga Jónsdóttir, and the analysis and report prepared by Gavin

Lucas. Mjöll Snæsdóttir translated text for Icelandic summary and Elín Ósk Hreiðarsdóttir edited the report. The zooarchaeological work was done by Grace Cesario and Guðrún Alda Gísladóttir was the project director. The finds have only undergone basic identification.

2. Methodology

The excavation was done using single context recording as described in the excavation manual of The Institute of Archaeology in Iceland (Fornleifastofnun Íslands).[1] The method involves recording each cultural feature (such as a hole, grave, layer or part of a building) as a single event or unit. Each unit is registered, recorded, drawn and photographed and given a special identification number that is unique to the site. During excavation the units are located in a matrix system (Harris Matrix), that gives an overview of the stratigraphic connection of each unit to the other. Often the context of different cultural layers can be complex but in order to classify different units that are connected, for example belong to the same building or are from the same usage phase, units are "grouped" together and given a special group number. When describing cultural layers, the unit and or group numbers are referenced, for clarity. The matrix is done using a specialised program called Harris Matrix Composer. (Harrismatrixcomposer.com). Excavation of all the trenches at Staðarhóll proceeded by single context; each layer was planned at 1:20 and photographed and a final section drawn at 1:10 and also photographed. All planning was by hand on A3 permatrace. Units were numbered sequentially by trench (e.g. 101, 102, 103 for trench 1; 201, 202, 203 for trench 2) and given textual descriptions on the drawing sheets; all finds were recorded by context. Unit, sample, finds and photograph registers were kept as well as a site notebook. Soil profiles for all the cores was recorded in terms of depth and simplified soil descriptions. The location of the trenches and cores was recorded using a Trimble Geoexplorer 6000). A gravestone was used as a temporary benchmark for taking elevations on plans and sections and all heights are relative to this arbitrary point. Elevations were taking using a dumpy level.

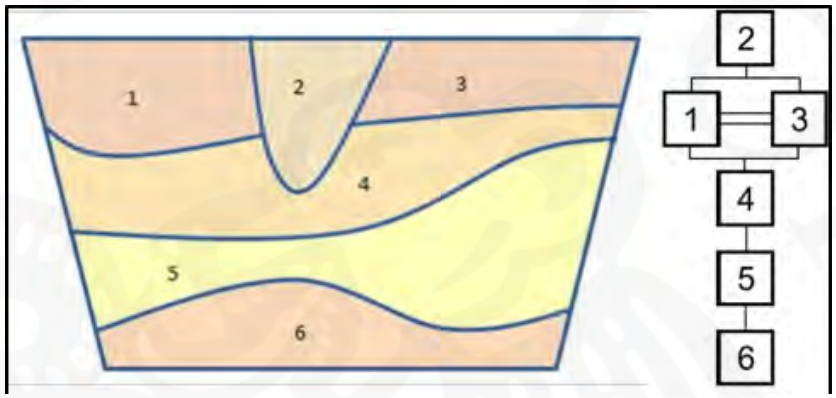

***Figure 3**: Single context of Harris Matrix (https://www.semanticscholar.org/paper/The-Temporal-Dimension-in-a-4D-Archaeological-Data-Roo-Weghe/de4d0da90c6dce4d502f43b1e6b162f4d105432a/figure/2)*

[1] Lucas, Gavin. 2003. Archaeological field manual. Fornleifastofnun Íslands, Reykjavík

Finds

Finds recovered during excavation are important as they can give dating information as well as information about the function of sites and living conditions. All finds were given a unique identification number. Not all finds come from a secure context, some are found during the cleaning of surface layers and sometimes their context cannot be decided but most finds are attached to unit numbers that they are associated with throughout the whole post-ex process (Lucas, 2003). To maximise finds recovery, all midden deposits in the trenches were dry sieved through a 4 mm mesh, but other deposits were only hand excavated; in trenches 1, 3 and 5, midden layers were 100% sieved while in trench 2, while some layers were 100% sieved others were sieved at varying sample ratios. Despite this, artefact recovery remained poor (except for trench 5) and the preservation of bone was very bad due to the acidic soil conditions.

Samples

No samples for macrobotanical remains or geochemistry were taken, but two samples for C14 dating were taken from trench 2. An additional sample for C14 was also subsequently taken from charcoal recovered from trench 3, given the poor finds recovery and lack of tightly dateable material.

3. Fieldwork in 2022

The original plan was to open two trenches in two locations based on the coring transects from 2021; however, this was extended to five trenches as well as further coring in order to increase data recovery (see fig. 2). Trench 1 was located on the south-eastern side of the farm mound where coring indicated a peatash midden, while trench 2 was placed on eastern side where a charcoal midden had been identified. The midden in trench 1 turned out to be only substantial in the upper levels and after cutting a small sondage and coring to deeper levels to establish more of the stratigraphy, trench 1 was abandoned. Given that trench 1 also returned very few finds, it was decided to start a new trench on the south side of the farm mound, where the exposed section had been cleaned in 2021 and two beads recovered. However, trench 3 turned out to be very similar to trench 2 both in terms of stratigraphy and paucity of finds. To complete the circuit of peatash midden around the southern side of the farm mound identified in the coring from 2021 (specifically along transect no. 7; see Guðrún Alda Gísladóttir & Gylfi Helgason 2022), we decided to open a fourth trench on the south-west side of the farm mound. Trench 4 proved to be even less

***Figure 4**: Trench 2 under excavation with Trench 1 in the background (facing southwest). The modern farmhouse lies just to the right edge of the picture.*

informative as it contained only thin lenses of peatash within a deep profile of bioturbated soil. Because of this it was decided to conduct some additional coring in areas that had not been covered by the 2021 season to help locate a final trench. Three cores (nos. 1-3) were made at spot locations

along the western side of the farm mound, closer to the farm ruin and modern farmhouse, while a core transect (nos. 4-8) at 5 m intervals was run across the eastern side of the mound, close to the standing farmhouse building. Only the latter proved fruitful and so trench 5 was placed midway along this transect. This revealed a rich midden dating to the 20th century, overlying building remains. A final core (no.9) was placed in a flat area of the homefield just east of the farm mound; this was done primarily to investigate the nature of the stratigraphy off the farm mound as a comparison.

Results

The results of the investigations are discussed below, first the trenches, and then the additional cores.

***Figure 5**: Trench 2 under excavation with trench 1 in the background (facing southwest). The modern farmhouse lies just to the right edge of the picture.*

Trench 1

Trench 1 was located on the south-eastern side of the farm mound, at the same location as core no.11 along transect 7 (see fig. 2) and within a linear hollow that ran northeast to southwest. This hollow may have been a path or simply a former, water-eroded channel. The trench was 3 x 2m, with the longer side running east-west and with a fairly simple stratigraphy (figs. 6 and 7). Beneath the turf and upper topsoil [101] was a lower horizon of bioturbated loamy topsoil mixed with some

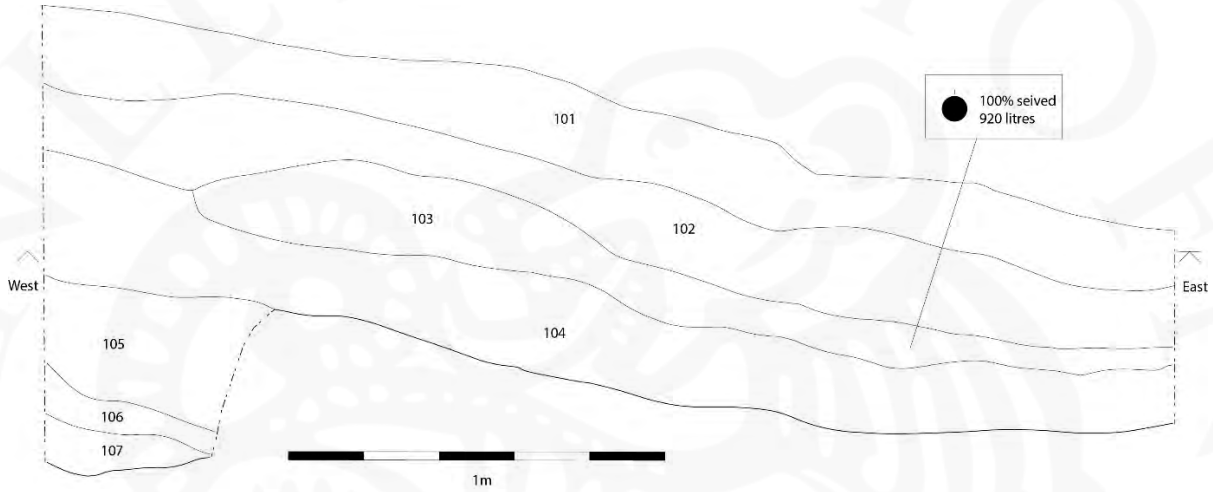

***Figure 6**: South-facing section of Trench 1*

***Figure 7**: Photograph of trench 1(north-facing).*

possible fine turf debris [102]. Directly beneath this was a thick peatash layer [103] which was thickest (c. 25 cm) at the upslope/western end, thinning out towards the east/downslope. The peatash extended across the whole trench except for a small area in the northwest and southeast corners where it seems to abut the line of an underlying feature, possibly a buried wall or simply one edge of the eroded hollow, as visible on the surface (fig. 8). Beneath the peatash was a thick layer of dark brown, clayey-silt turf debris 20-30cm thick [104]; this also extended over the whole trench save for the southeast corner, again running along the edge of a buried feature.

Figure 8: *Surface of peatash layer [103], showing how it fills a linear feature*

At this point, we decided to core through this layer to see if it was worthwhile excavating any deeper, specifically to ascertain whether there were further midden deposits sealed by this turf debris layer. The core revealed only more turf debris deposits with occasional thin lenses of peatash; subsequently we reduced our excavation to a small sondage c. 0.5m square in the northwest corner of the trench. This revealed a layer of finely lensed/banded, pinkish and pale brown, peatash and turf debris flecked with occasional charcoal [105] c. 40cm thick, beneath which was a thin layer (5-10 cm) of greyer, more clayey turf debris but also flecked with occasional charcoal [106]. Underneath this lay a darker, grey-brown clayey layer [107] at which point the excavation stopped. Further coring at this point indicated similar deposits to [107] extend down by at least another 1m at which depth the soil becomes very wet and black (i.e. at c. 2m below the present-day surface).

Finds were very sparse; apart from some late 19th/20th century glass from the topsoil, one small fragment glazed redware was recovered from the lower topsoil <2022-66-48> and an iron punch <2022-66-56> from the turf debris layer beneath the peatash. Other finds were occasional animal bones and teeth and slag, most of the latter coming from the peatash layer.

Trench 2

Trench 2 was located on the eastern side of the farm mound, at the same location as core no.2 along transect 9 (see fig. 2), and across the line of modern trench that ran east-west downslope. It was located across the drain in the hope this would give a preview of the underlying stratigraphy once cleaned out, but in the end this did not happen. The trench was 2 x 2 m, the modern trench running parallel and along the north side; the topography slopes down west to east. The pipe trench was filled with redeposited topsoil and mixed midden material [202] which covered some wooden planking and at the base, a concreted drain (fig.9). The concrete was too solid to remove by hand and so was left *in situ* with the result that the cut for the trench [203] was never cleaned out; it its top, it was c. 0.8 m wide and the top of the concrete drain was encountered only 30-40 cm below the surface of the fill. Thereafter, it was decided to abandon the northern side of the trench and focus all excavation on the southern half, where the stratigraphy remained undisturbed. In effect, the trench now became 1 x 2m.

Figure 9: *Modern pipe trench (foreground) cutting through peatash layer [205] in trench 2*

Beneath the loamy topsoil [201] was a series of fairly thin layers of mostly turf debris ([204], [208]), sometimes mixed with peatash and charcoal ([206], [207]), although there was one clear peatash layer [205] near the very top of the sequence (fig. 10). All of these upper layers seem to have been affected by frost action with undulating surfaces indicative of frost hummocks (fig. 11). Beneath this, the layers show more regular angles of deposition, sloping smoothly downhill which may indicate some levelling event or absence of frost action/hummocks in the earlier layers. These lower layers were divided into two large contexts. The upper context [209] was c. 50 cm thick and consisted of lensed peatash and charcoal with occasional patches of turf debris; the turf was more prevalent in the upper 30 cm. The lower context [210] was very similar to the one above and at least c. 70 cm thick and tended to be darker and charcoal inclusions tended to be larger. To a large extent however, the division between the two was somewhat arbitrary; also at this point, the trench was reduced even further to c. 1 x 1 m in the southeast section. Realistically, [209]/[210] represent a continuous and similar sequence of multiple episodes of dumping of hearth ashes. The base of

Figure 10: *Figure 9. North-facing section of Trench 2*

the sequence was never reached when we hit ground water and further excavation became impossible under the circumstances.

Radiocarbon dates from birch charcoal from these two layers returned somewhat different results. The date from [209] returned two possible dates at 95% probability, in roughly equal probability:

Figure 11: *Photograph of Trench 2 (facing south)*

1451-1529 or 1546-1635 (SUERC-108736 (GU62973)). The sample from [210] however was clearly compromised as it returned a date in the 2nd millennium BC (1884-1731 BC at 95% probability; SUERC-108737 (GU62974)). In all likelihood, the lower part of this midden is probably 15th century.

The finds from trench 2 were sparse and very little that could be used to closely date the midden. A fragment of late 19th/20th century whiteware pottery <2022-66-2> came from the topsoil and a broken stone fish-hammer <2022-66-3> came from the backfill of the modern pipe trench, the latter probably redeposited from the upper part of the midden. In the midden itself, an iron nail <2022-66-4> and possible roves <2022-66-8> used with clench bolt. Both of these came from the

Figure 12: *Surface of layer [206] showing undulating surface probably caused by frost hummocks*

upper midden layers. Three copper alloy fragments were recovered, two from a possible vessel, one higher up the sequence (<2022-66-7>, the other lower down <2022-66-19>. A fragment of woollen textile was also retrieved from the lower part of the midden <2022-66-14>. Besides these, animal bone fragments and slag were sporadically recovered from various layers throughout the sequence, but the major quantities came from [209] where c. 40 pieces of slag and 30 fragments of burnt animal bone were recovered. Charcoal samples from the lower two layers [209] and [210] were also taken for C14 dating.

Trench 3

Trench 3 was located on the south side of the farm mound, where the exposed section ('A') had been cleaned in 2021 and two beads recovered (see fig. 2). It was 2 x 2m square, the north side of which ran along the cleaned section from 2021. The stratigraphy was very similar to Trench 1 (fig. 13). A substantial peatash layer [303] c. 30 cm thick lay directly beneath the turf and topsoil [301], except at the southern edge of the trench where a turf debris layer [302] clearly abutted/overlay the peatash. The confined extent of this turf debris clearly followed a sharp break of slope at the southern edge of the trench; whether this is a natural break or indicative of an underlying feature (e.g. a wall) is unclear. The peatash in this trench exhibited more obvious layering/lensing indicative of multiple episodes of dumping, unlike Trench 1 where the peatash was more evenly mottled.

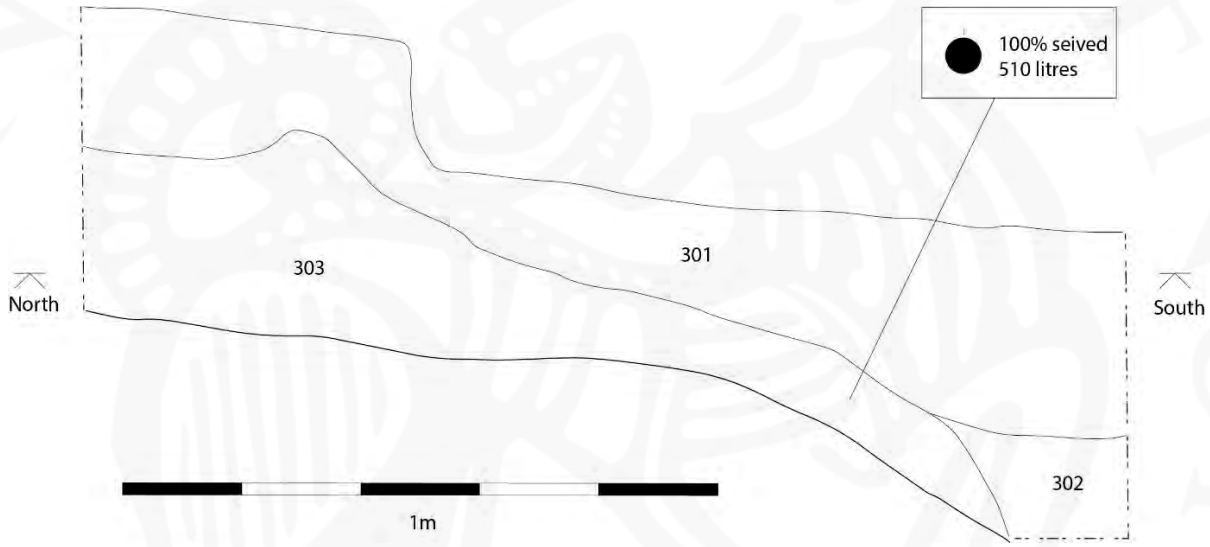

Figure 13: *West-facing section of Trench 3*

Radiocarbon date from birch from [303] returned a date of 1500-1600 AD at 95% probability but with a secondary date of 1615-1658 (SUERC-109243 (GU62975R)). The finds (see below), broadly support this, but may suggest the 17th century date is closer. Beneath the peatash was a layer of pale brown, turf debris [304] which was not excavated. Coring through this layer revealed similar deposits of turf debris extending down by another metre and so no further excavation was carried out in this trench.

Figure 14: *Photograph of peatash midden in Trench 3 (north-facing)*

Comparatively more finds came from this trench than the other two. From the topsoil came a clay pipe stem as well as a T-headed nail and several animal bones, but most of the finds came from the peatash layer. These included half a spherical amber(?) bead of postmedieval date (2022-66-35>, fragments of copper alloy sheet <2022-66-34> and a possible iron knife fragment as well as a shaft with looped terminal (possibly a hook) <2022-66-37>. In addition, the heads of two possible clench bolts, two T-headed nails (forged) and the shaft of a possible machine-cut nail were found <2022-66-30>. Other finds included animal bone, teeth and slag. The amber bead is interesting in light of the fact that two postmedieval beads from "jet-like" material were recovered from the same location in 2021; unfortunately, the beads cannot be closely dated but may be 17th-18th century. The other finds are even less chronologically diagnostic with the exception of the possible machine-cut nail which can only date to the last quarter of the 18th century onwards. However, the identification is only tentative.

Trench 4

Trench 4 was located on the southwestern side of the farm mound, at the same location as core no.16 along transect 7 (see fig. 2). Given the previous lack of finds in trenches 1 and 3, trench 4 was only 1 x 1m square. Although the core data suggested a buried peatash midden of similar nature to that encountered in trenches 1 and 3, trench 5 proved the most sterile. Beneath a very thick, heavily bioturbated topsoil [401] c. 50 cm thick, a thin, diffusely bounded peatash layer c. 5 cm thick was encountered [402]. Beneath that was a 10 cm thick, brown turf debris [403] over a thicker layer of more colourful, mixed turf debris [404]. None of these layers were sharply defined in the trench section and the soil here has clearly been very heavily bioturbated. As a result, no section was drawn (see fig. 15). At this point, our excavation stopped, although we cored down another metre below the base of the trench to check the underlying stratigraphy; the result was further deposits of turf debris, some mixed with peatash. The only find was a T-headed nail <2022-66-59> from the topsoil.

Figure 15: *Photograph of trench 4, facing northeast; the thin peatash layer [402] can be discerned about two-thirds of the way down.*

Trench 5

Trench 5 was placed after some additional coring (see below) and midway along a transect parallel

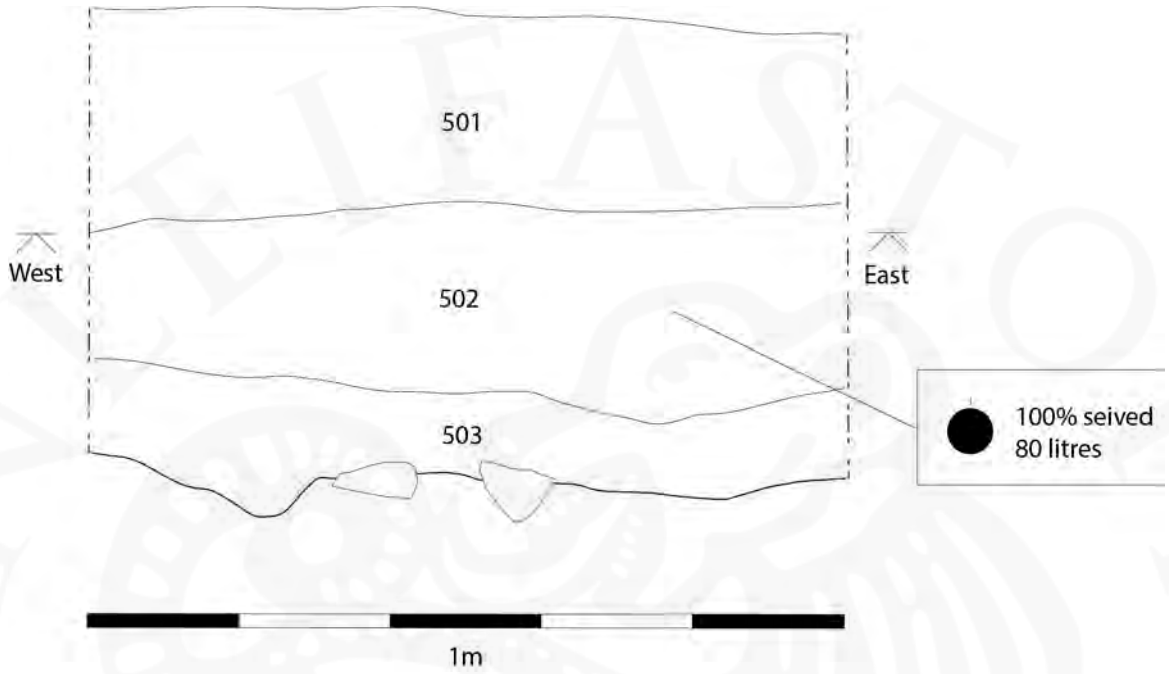

Figure 16: *South-facing section of trench 5*

Figure 17: *Photograph of Trench 5 (north-facing*

to the modern farmhouse (see fig. 2). The trench was also 1x1m square and only excavated to a shallow depth (fig. 16). Beneath a 20-30 cm layer of bioturbated topsoil [501] was a thick

peatash/coal ash layer [502], c. 20 cm thick. The boundary between the topsoil and ash layer was not very sharp and gives the impression of having been disturbed, with some interdigitation between the layers. Beneath the ash layer was a compact deposit of clay turf debris [503] which sealed some probably structural remains – possibly a wall running northeast-southwest (fig. 18). These were not excavated.

Figure 18: *Possible structural remains at the base of Trench 5*

Trench 5 produced the largest and most diagnostic assemblage of finds from the site – but they are all late 19th and early 20th century and most came from either the topsoil or midden layer. They include a glass soda/beer bottle <2022-66-21>, two pressed glass vessels <2022-66-22> as well as window glass <2022-66-24> and other fragments <2022-66-64>. All the glass dates to the second half of the 19th century and later. There were also fragments of refined industrial ceramics <2022-66-61> that date similarly to the same time period, although large part of a glazed redware/slipware bowl <2022-66-26> would seem to be earlier in date, i.e. late 18th/early 19th century. Other items include fragments from a blue enamelled tin basin/bowl <2022-66-24>, 4 machine-cut iron nails <2022-66-25>, an iron buckle ring <2022-66-27>, some fencing wire <2022-66-28> and other nail fragments <2022-66-60>. The remaining finds were fragments of wood, slag and animal bone. Overall, the material points to a date in the last quarter of the 19th century/first quarter of the 20th century.

Cores

Cores 1-3 were individual spots taken to assess if buried middens lay closer to the farm mound core along the western side, as the coring program from 2021 did not come this close (see fig. 2).

Core 1. This was located on the western side of the farm mound, just south of the present-day track and west of the modern farmhouse. The core was taken to a depth of 80 cm and there was no clear stratigraphy present; the soil was primarily topsoil mixed with turf debris and flecks of peatash.

Core 2. This was located on the southwestern side of the farm mound, but very close to the visible ruins on the surface. The core was taken to a depth of 80 cm and as with core 1, there was no clear stratigraphy present; the soil was primarily topsoil mixed with turf debris with no sign of any ash deposits.

Core 3. This was located on the southern side of the farm mound, just north of core 14, from transect 7 taken in 2021, but closer to the visible ruins. The core was taken to a depth of 80 cm and this time, beneath the topsoil, a peatash later was found, which in turn lay over clayey turf debris. The sequence in this core is more or less the same as encountered in Trench 3 c. 10m to the east.

Cores 4-8 formed part of a systematic transect of cores at 5 m intervals along the eastern side of the farm mound, close to the centre of the farm mound (see fig. 2). Starting from the south:

Core 4. At 0 m. A topsoil layer 28 cm thick layer over a mixed horizon of dark soil and charcoal c.6cm thick. Below that was c. 40 cm of mid brown soil, which became more clayey towards the bottom. The bottom 35 cm consisted of dark grey to black, banded organic, 'peaty' deposits at the base of which was found fine gravel/grit.

Core 5. At 5m. A mid-brown, loamy toposoil, 20 cm thick was over a 20 cm thick, darker brown, clay-silt deposit. Beneath this lay an orange-brown soil, c. 40 cm thick, which sealed a 35cm thick dark grey, organic, 'peaty' silt layer, similar to core 4 (see fig. 19).

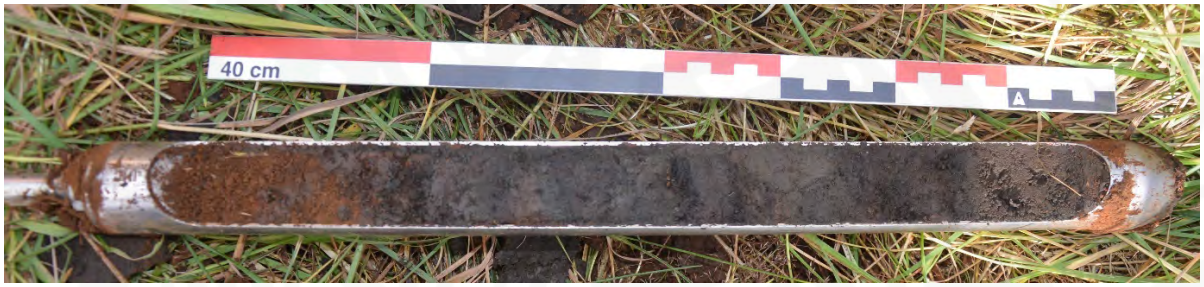

Figure 19: *Core 5, at c. 40-80cm depth, showing orange-brown soil over dark grey, banded organic layer*

Core 6. At 10 m. A 20cm thick topsoil lay over a 30 cm thick, grey, gritty ash deposit; beneath that was a 30 cm thick dark grey, clayey silt. These three layers all correspond to the excavated deposits in Trench 5. Beneath the last layer was a banded, dark grey, organic, 'peaty' silt layer, similar to cores 4 and 5.

Core 7. At 16 m. A thick homogeneous topsoil extended down for 50 cm, but was noticeably more clayey in the lower half/25 cm; beneath this lay the same banded, dark grey, organic, 'peaty' silt layer, similar to cores 4-6 but cored only to c. 30 cm thick.

Core 8. At 20 m. The core stopped at c. 40 cm depth due to hitting a stone/rock. The soil in the core was all loamy topsoil.

Core 9 was located off the farm mound, to the east in a flat area (see fig. 2).

Core 9. A thin topsoil layer, 10 cm thick lay over a thick, greyish-brown clayey silt deposit which became more obviously 'peaty' or organic the lower down, as well as being banded (i.e. at a depth of c. 30 cm). The total depth of the core reached to c. 80 cm below the surface. Possible traces of the Hekla 1693 tephra may have been detected at c. 20 cm depth, but this

would need confirmation. Thick, glacial clay deposits are known to lie beneath the peat here and although it was not encountered in the core, a sondage against the side of a drainage ditch revealed the presence of clean, grey clays at a depth of c. 90-100 cm below the surface.

4. The Animal Bones

Grace Cesario

The animal bones from Staðarhóll come from multiple trenches, though all of the samples are rather similar. The only identifiable species were cattle, horse, and caprine, with some positively identified as sheep. The other bones were primarily medium and large terrestrial mammals, but too broken or poorly preserved to identify to the species-level.

Preservation seems to have been limited to teeth and the densest portions of bones. This suggests that the soil conditions were not ideal for bone preservation and was at least slightly acidic. Only 17% of the bones were recovered whole, and the vast majority of these (29 out of 32) were teeth. Again, this speaks to the poor overall preservation of the bones at the site.

About 44% of the bones were burned, and of those, the majority were completely calcined (white) which removes the organic component of bone and could, at least partially, explain their preservation under non-ideal conditions. The most common bone fragment size was between 1-5 cm, and roughly 81% of the bones fall into that category.

Due to the small sample size from each trench, it is difficult to say anything about animal use at Staðarhóll. A few general observations can be made, but more research and bone recovery is needed to say more. First, caprines, including the positively identified sheep, are the most common domesticate species recovered at Staðarhóll, followed by cattle. This is a fairly typical pattern seen across all regions of Iceland in all time periods, with few exceptions. The lack of fish may simply be due to preservation, as the site is not far from marine or freshwater sources.

Trench	Species	Name (English/Icelandic)	Total
Trench 2	*Bos taurus*	Cattle/Nautgripir	1
	Ovis aries	Sheep/Kind	1
	Caprine	Sheep or Goat/Kind eða geit	10
	Medium Terrestrial Mammal	Sheep or goat size/ Miðstærða landdýr	14
	Large Terrestrial Mammal	Cow or horse size/Stórt landdýr	6
	Unidentified Mammal	Unidentified mammal/Óþekkt spenndýr	23
Trench 3	*Bos taurus*	Cattle/Nautgripir	3
	Ovis aries	Sheep/Kind	1

	Caprine	Sheep or Goat/Kind eða geit	10
	Medium Terrestrial Mammal	Sheep or goat size/ Miðstærða landdýr	6
	Large Terrestrial Mammal	Cow or horse size/Stórt landdýr	1
	Unidentified Mammal	Unidentified mammal/Óþekkt spenndýr	6
Trench 5	Caprine	Sheep or Goat/Kind eða geit	7
	Bird species	Unidentified bird/ Óþekkt fugl	1
	Medium Terrestrial Mammal	Sheep or goat size/ Miðstærða landdýr	25
	Unidentified Mammal	Unidentified mammal/Óþekkt spenndýr	12
	Bos taurus	Cattle/Nautgripir	2
	Equus caballus	Horse/Hestur	1
	Caprine	Sheep or Goat/Kind eða geit	22
	Medium Terrestrial Mammal	Sheep or goat size/ Miðstærða landdýr	7
	Large Terrestrial Mammal	Cow or horse size/Stórt landdýr	2
	Unidentified Mammal	Unidentified mammal/Óþekkt spenndýr	29
Total			**190**

5. Discussion

The results from the investigations at Staðarhóll in 2022 were a mixed success. On the one hand, most of our trenches did find substantial middens and demonstrated the soundness of inferences made from the coring. On the other hand, the recovery of finds was extremely poor, well below expectations, especially given the high status of the site. In the concluding discussion, two issues will be addressed: inferences about the development of the farm mound and reflections about its material paucity.

Midden accumulation seems to be clearly confined to the southern and eastern slopes of the farm mound. The midden on the southern side however did not extend very deeply and although there is clearly more midden material lower down, this was very mixed and finely lensed suggesting it is on the periphery of any accumulation. Based on volumetric calculations, there is about 130-150 litres of peatash per 1 m^2 in the upper 0.5 m of stratigraphy in the southern zone. The midden on the eastern side on the other hand appears to be much more substantial and extends down at least 2 m below the present ground surface; given the greater depth, the volume here is about 240 litres of ash per 1 m^2. The new midden found on the top of the farm mound, just east of the modern farmhouse in trench 5 was much less substantial, only c. 80 litres of ash per 1m^2.

It does appear that there are at least three different phases of midden accumulation represented by these three areas, although the dating is difficult, even with the radiocarbon results. The easiest to date is the midden in trench 5, which from the finds is clearly late 19th and early 20th century. Moreover, given the lack of 19th and 20th century material from the other middens – an absence which is very hard to explain unless these middens pre-date c. 1800 – suggests the middens on the southern and eastern slopes pre-date the 19th century, which has been partially confirmed by the C14 dates. Refining the dating beyond that becomes very difficult. However, the recovery of a redware sherd from trench 1 and several post-medieval beads from trench 3 does point to the midden on the southern side being early modern, i.e. c. 1600-1800, which was confirmed by the C14 date from trench 3. The lack of pottery or indeed other obviously early modern finds from trench 2 might suggest this midden is the earliest although none of the finds provide any clear dating. The fragments from a copper cauldron may point towards a later medieval/early modern date, while the re-deposited fish hammer is unlikely to pre-date c. 1500. Once again, the valid C14 date supports this suggesting a date of 15th-16th century, at least for the lower part of the midden.

A provisional interpretation is then that the earliest midden lies on the eastern slope of the farm mound and of the part excavated, is probably (late) medieval to early modern in date, (i.e. c. 15th-16th century). This area is probably also that which has seen the most sustained and long-term

accumulation. The midden on the south side is probably early modern only (17th-18th century), while the midden closer to the top of the farm mound, east of the modern farmhouse, is where the later modern midden can be found (late 19th-20th century). If these inferences hold, what does it reveal about the development of the farm mound itself, especially the buildings? The late midden is probably associated primarily with the later farmhouses; a timber house was on the plot in the early 20th century and this was replaced by the concrete house standing today in 1943, and which was abandoned in 1972 (Elín Ósk Hreiðarsdóttir & Kristborg Þórsdóttir 2022: 166). South of this, are remains of either the old turf farm or outbuildings associated with the later farmhouse (DA 180:001-02). These are still visible on the surface as ruins and it is behind/south of these ruins that the southern midden is located. If these ruins are the location of the post-medieval turf farm, then the dating of the midden here would seem to fit; but its short duration might also suggest that the turf farm either moved in the early modern period or expanded. The presence of a possible structure beneath the late modern midden in Trench 5 suggests there are earlier buildings beneath the standing farmhouse (unsurprisingly) and that part of the medieval farm may lie here, especially if the ruins south of the standing farmhouse are the post-medieval farm.

These are all very tentative inferences but it does hint at a complex history of building on the farm mound where the main farmstead may have moved location or expanded and contracted over time, none of which ought to be surprising. However, one thing does seem certain and that is the main area of midden accumulation has been on the eastern side of the farm mound which is where the longest sequence was found. Before closing the discussion of the farm mound development, one more point needs to be made and that is the generally, heavily bioturbated nature of the topsoil across the site. In some places, this extended quite deep, and there is the possibility that the farm mound was levelled or worked (presumably by hand) sometime in the later modern period.

The other issue to address is the paucity of finds recovered from the trenches (table 1). Given the historical associations of the site and its presumed high status, the lack of finds was surprising, not to mention disappointing. Part of this is certainly due to preservation. The lack of animal or fish bone is clearly due to the acidic nature of the soils (although pH readings were not taken), and are very clayey, and lower down, potentially waterlogged. The area is of course well-known for being very wet and boggy. Some bone was recovered, especially teeth (caprine) but the quantities are far too low to be representative of what must have been discarded, although the numbers generally conform to the standard pattern in Iceland from post-Viking period, namely the predominance of sheep. The poor preservation however makes the potential for further investigation somewhat limiting, at least from a zooarchaeological perspective. On the other hand, the wet conditions may have facilitated greater preservation of organics at the lower levels, attested by the textile fragment

from Trench 2. Issues of preservation however can hardly account for the paucity of artefacts. Ceramic, glass, metal and stone should all survive and indeed, in some cases have, but apart of the later modern midden in Trench 5, artefact counts were dismally low. Where are the glass and pottery vessels, clay pipes and dress fittings one might expect to find in some quantity from the mid-17th century onward? Where are the whetstones and other stone and metal tools and implements typical of late medieval and postmedieval domestic assemblages? It is hard to square this absence with the known high status of the site and may suggest something about discard and cleaning practices within the farm, at least during the medieval and early modern period.

	Tr.1	**Tr.2**	**Tr.3**	**Tr.4**	**Tr.5**	**Total**
bone	15	68	26	1	5	115
clay pipe	-	-	2	-	-	2
copper alloy	-	3	2	-	-	5
glass	2	-	1	-	13	16
iron	1	5	8	1	12	27
charcoal	3	-	-	-	-	3
pottery	1	1	-	-	18	20
slag/vitrified material	29	48	22	-	7	106
stone	1	2	2	1	-	6
wood	-	2	4	-	2	8
textile	-	1	-	-	-	1
Total	52	130	67	3	57	309

Table 1. Summary of finds by trench and type (note: animal bone numbers are approximate)

The bulk of the midden, both on the southern and eastern slopes, are composed of peatash, mixed with some charcoal. This is presumably an accumulation of multiple hearth clean-outs. It is quite conceivable that other household rubbish, including floor clean-ups, was discarded elsewhere on the farm mound. Possibly, higher artefact densities may be found in midden deposits closer to the farm buildings. Possibly, the floors of the buildings themselves may be richer in finds than the midden (this at least seems to be the case with the early modern period at Skálholt). It is also possible the site is simply artefact poor which in itself may tell us something about its economy.

Without further, more extensive investigations, we cannot really decide between these (and probably other) possibilities and for now, this must remain a question for further research.

References

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Appendix 1: Unit register

Rannsók.staður	Sveitarfélag	Sýsla	Leyfisnúmer	Area/Site nr	Eining	Svæði/skurður	Tegund	Lýsing	Dags.	ID
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	Dalasýsla	2022-66	202107-0109	201	2	D	Top soil bioturbated	19.9.2022	HJ/GAG
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	Dalasýsla	2022-66	202107-0109	202	2	F	Fill and cut for pipe from byre and house	19.9.2022	HJ/GAG
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	Dalasýsla	2022-66	202107-0109	203	2	C	Cut for drain/pipe from byre and house	19.9.2022	HJ/GAG
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	Dalasýsla	2022-66	202107-0109	204	2	D	Turfy deposit, mixed	19.9.2022	HJ/GAG
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	Dalasýsla	2022-66	202107-0109	205	2	D	Peat ash deposit, uniform pink, redish colour slopes	20.9.2022	HJ/GAG
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	Dalasýsla	2022-66	202107-0109	206	2	D	Charcoal rich deposit	20.9.2022	HJ/GAG
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	Dalasýsla	2022-66	202107-0109	207	2	D	wood ash deposit, coarse w charcoal, turf debris at base	20.9.2022	HJ/GAG
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	Dalasýsla	2022-66	202107-0109	208	2	D	Turf deposit in east end of trench	20.9.2022	HJ/GAG
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	Dalasýsla	2022-66	202107-0109	209	2	D	Peat ash deposit, peat rich in w, more mixed w wood ash in east part	20.9.2022	HJ/GAG
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	Dalasýsla	2022-66	202107-0109	210	2	D	Mixed material, darker, charcoal rich then peat deposit	21.9.2022	HJ/GAG
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	Dalasýsla								
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	Dalasýsla	2022-66	202107-0109	101	1	D	Turf and top soil	19.9.2022	GL
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	Dalasýsla	2022-66	202107-0109	102	1	D	Mixed top soil and turf/ structure	19.9.2022	GL
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	Dalasýsla	2022-66	202107-0109	103	1	D	Peatash	19.9.2022	GL
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	Dalasýsla	2022-66	202107-0109	104	1	D	Turf debris?	20.9.2022	SÓ
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	Dalasýsla								
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	Dalasýsla	2022-66	202107-0109	301	3	D	Turf and top soil	20.9.2022	GL
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	Dalasýsla	2022-66	202107-0109	302	3	D	Turf debris at S end	20.9.2022	GL
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	Dalasýsla	2022-66	202107-0109	303	3	D	Peatash	20.9.2022	GL
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	Dalasýsla								
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	Dalasýsla	2022-66	202107-0109	401	4	D	Turf and topsoil	20.9.2022	GL
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	Dalasýsla								
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	Dalasýsla	2022-66	202107-0109	501	5	D	Turf and topsoil	21.9.2022	GL

Rannsók.staður	Sveitarfélag	Sýsla	Leyfisnúmer	Area/Site nr	Eining	Svæði/skurður	Tegund	Lýsing	Dags.	ID
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	Dalasýsla	2022-66	202107-0109	502	5	D	Coal/charcoal ash dump	21.9.2022	GL
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	Dalasýsla	2022-66	202107-0109	503	5	D	"Peaty" turf debris	21.9.2022	GL

Appendix 2: Finds Register

Rannsók.staður	No.	Area/Site nr	Leyfisnúmer	Rannsóknarnr.	Context	Material	Lýsing	Fjöldi Count	Date/dd.mm.yy	Finnandi/ID
Staðarhóll	1	2	2022-66	202107-0109	201	bone	animal bone	x	19.9.2022	HJ/GAG
Staðarhóll	2	2	2022-66	202107-0109	201	pottery	pottery fragment w white glaze	1	19.9.2022	HJ/GAG
Staðarhóll	3	2	2022-66	202107-0109	202	stone	fish hammer (half)	1	19.9.2022	HJ/GAG
Staðarhóll	4	2	2022-66	202107-0109	205	Fe	iron nail	1	20.9.2022	HJ/GAG
Staðarhóll	5	2	2022-66	202107-0109	205	slag?	vitrified material/slag	3	20.9.2022	HJ/GAG
Staðarhóll	6	2	2022-66	202107-0109	205	wood	charred wood, worked wood	1	20.9.2022	HJ/GAG
Staðarhóll	7	2	2022-66	202107-0109	207	Cu-alloy	cu alloy fragment of vessel	1	20.9.2022	HJ/GAG
Staðarhóll	8	2	2022-66	202107-0109	207	Fe	slag	3	20.9.2022	HJ/GAG
Staðarhóll	9	2	2022-66	202107-0109	207	bone	bone, burnt calcite	x	20.9.2022	HJ/GAG
Staðarhóll	10	2	2022-66	202107-0109	207	slag	vitrified material/slag	4	20.9.2022	HJ/GAG
Staðarhóll	11	2	2022-66	202107-0109	208	Cu-alloy	fragment	1	20.9.2022	HJ/GAG
Staðarhóll	12	2	2022-66	202107-0109	209	bone	burnt animal bones	20-30	21.9.2022	HJ/GAG
Staðarhóll	13	2	2022-66	202107-0109	209	slag	vitrified material/slag	30-40	21.9.2022	HJ/GAG
Staðarhóll	14	2	2022-66	202107-0109	209	wool	piece of woolcloth (vaðmál)	1	21.9.2022	HJ/GAG
Staðarhóll	15	2	2022-66	202107-0109	209	slag	vitrified material/slag	5	21.9.2022	HJ/GAG
Staðarhóll	16	2	2022-66	202107-0109	209	bone	burnt animal bones	8 til 10	21.9.2022	HJ/GAG
Staðarhóll	17	2	2022-66	202107-0109	209	slag	vitrified material/slag	1	21.9.2022	HJ/GAG
Staðarhóll	18	2	2022-66	202107-0109	209	bone	burnt animal bones	30-35	21.9.2022	HJ/GAG
Staðarhóll	19	2	2022-66	202107-0109	209	Cu-alloy	fragment of vessel (from section)	1	22.9.2022	HJ/GAG
Staðarhóll	20	5	2022-66	202107-0109	501	ceramics	fragments of white glazed ceramics	10	22.9.2022	GL
Staðarhóll	21	5	2022-66	202107-0109	501	glass	fragments from a green bottle or vessle	3	22.9.2022	GL
Staðarhóll	22	5	2022-66	202107-0109	501	glass	fragments of clear glass some w decoration	4	22.9.2022	GL
Staðarhóll	23	5	2022-66	202107-0109	501	glass	fragments of window glass	3	22.9.2022	GL
Staðarhóll	24	5	2022-66	202107-0109	501	iron	pieces of unidentified of iron vessel possibly	4	22.9.2022	GL
Staðarhóll	25	5	2022-66	202107-0109	501	iron	nails	4	22.9.2022	GL

Rannsók.staður	No.	Area/Site nr	Leyfisnúmer	Rannsóknarnr.	Context	Material	Lýsing	Fjöldi Count	Date/dd.mm.yy	Finnandi/ID
Staðarhóll	26	5	2022-66	202107-0109	501	ceramics	pieces of pottery vessel red	3	22.9.2022	GL
Staðarhóll	27	5	2022-66	202107-0109	501	iron	iron ring	1	22.9.2022	GL
Staðarhóll	28	5	2022-66	202107-0109	501	iron	bended iron wire	1	22.9.2022	GL
Staðarhóll	29	5	2022-66	202107-0109	501	bone	animal bone	3	22.9.2022	GL
Staðarhóll	30	3	2022-66	202107-0109	303	iron	iron nails	5	22.9.2022	GL
Staðarhóll	31	3	2022-66	202107-0109	303	bone	animal bone	7	22.9.2022	GL
Staðarhóll	32	3	2022-66	202107-0109	303	bone	animal teeth	5	22.9.2022	GL
Staðarhóll	33	3	2022-66	202107-0109	303	wood	charred wood	3	22.9.2022	GL
Staðarhóll	34	3	2022-66	202107-0109	303	copper alloy	fragments of copper	2	22.9.2022	GL
Staðarhóll	35	3	2022-66	202107-0109	303	glass	half glass bead	1	22.9.2022	GL
Staðarhóll	36	3	2022-66	202107-0109	303	slag	vitrified material/slag	19	22.9.2022	GL
Staðarhóll	37	3	2022-66	202107-0109	303	iron	possibly knives	2	22.9.2022	GL
Staðarhóll	38	3	2022-66	202107-0109	301	wood	charred wood	1	22.9.2022	GL
Staðarhóll	39	3	2022-66	202107-0109	301	bone	animal teeth	8	22.9.2022	GL
Staðarhóll	40	3	2022-66	202107-0109	301	clay	clay pipe	2	22.9.2022	GL
Staðarhóll	41	3	2022-66	202107-0109	301	iron	iron nail	1	22.9.2022	GL
Staðarhóll	42	3	2022-66	202107-0109	301	bone	animal bones	6	22.9.2022	GL
Staðarhóll	43	3	2022-66	202107-0109	301	slag	vitrified material/slag	3	22.9.2022	GL
Staðarhóll	44	3	2022-66	202107-0109	301	stone	fire cracked stone	2	22.9.2022	GL
Staðarhóll	45	1	2022-66	202107-0109	101	bone	animal bone and teeth	3	22.9.2022	GL
Staðarhóll	46	1	2022-66	202107-0109	101	glass	green bottle glass (1) and brown gl (1)	2	22.9.2022	GL
Staðarhóll	47	1	2022-66	202107-0109	102	bone	animal bone (sheep tooth and burnt bone)	2	22.9.2022	GL
Staðarhóll	48	1	2022-66	202107-0109	102	pottery	piece of brown pottery	1	22.9.2022	GL
Staðarhóll	49	1	2022-66	202107-0109	103	kol	kol	3	22.9.2022	GL
Staðarhóll	50	1	2022-66	202107-0109	103	slag	vitrified material/slag	21	22.9.2022	GL
Staðarhóll	51	1	2022-66	202107-0109	103	bone	bone	3	22.9.2022	GL

Rannsók.staður	No.	Area/Site nr	Leyfisnúmer	Rannsóknarnr.	Context	Material	Lýsing	Fjöldi Count	Date/dd.mm.yy	Finnandi/ID
Staðarhóll	52	1	2022-66	202107-0109	103	stone	stone	1	22.9.2022	GL
Staðarhóll	53	1	2022-66	202107-0109	103	bone	animal bones (sheep teeth in sep bag)	3	22.9.2022	GL
Staðarhóll	54	1	2022-66	202107-0109	103	slag	vitrified material/slag	8	22.9.2022	GL
Staðarhóll	55	1	2022-66	202107-0109	104	bone	bone	4	22.9.2022	GL
Staðarhóll	56	1	2022-66	202107-0109	104	iron	nail	1	22.9.2022	GL
Staðarhóll	57	4	2022-66	202107-0109	401	bone	burnt animal bones	1	22.9.2022	GL
Staðarhóll	58	4	2022-66	202107-0109	401	stone	stone	1	22.9.2022	GL
Staðarhóll	59	4	2022-66	202107-0109	401	iron	nail	1	22.9.2022	GL
Staðarhóll	60	5	2022-66	202107-0109	502	iron	nail	2	22.9.2022	GL
Staðarhóll	61	5	2022-66	202107-0109	502	pottery	pottery	5	22.9.2022	GL
Staðarhóll	62	5	2022-66	202107-0109	502	wood	wood pieces	2	22.9.2022	GL
Staðarhóll	63	5	2022-66	202107-0109	502	slag	vitrified material/slag	7	22.9.2022	GL
Staðarhóll	64	5	2022-66	202107-0109	502	glass	pale green glass	3	22.9.2022	GL
Staðarhóll	65	5	2022-66	202107-0109	502	bone	animal bones	x	22.9.2022	GL
Staðarhóll	66	5	2022-66	202107-0109	503	bone	animal bone	1	22.9.2022	GL
Staðarhóll	67	2	2022-66	202107-0109	209	iron	nail	1	22.9.2022	HJ/GAG
Staðarhóll	68	2	2022-66	202107-0109	209	stone	stone	1	22.9.2022	HJ/GAG
Staðarhóll	69	2	2022-66	202107-0109	209	wood	burnt wood		22.9.2022	HJ/GAG

Appendix 3: Photo Register

Rannsók.staður	Sveitarfélag	Heiti myndar	Svæði nr.	Context	Stafræn	Dagsetning	Myndefni	Myndavél	Átt	Ljósmyndari
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	1	2	201	stafræn	19.9.2022	Top soil removal	2	W	HJ
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	2	2	201	stafræn	19.9.2022	Top soil removal-Staðarhóll house in back	2	W	HJ
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	3	2	201	stafræn	19.9.2022	Top soil removal-Staðarhóll house in back	2	W	HJ
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	4	2	201	stafræn	19.9.2022	Top soil removal-Mikligarður in back	2	S	HJ
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	5	2	201	stafræn	19.9.2022	Top soil removal-Mikligarður in back	2	SE	HJ
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	6	2	201	stafræn	19.9.2022	Top soil removal	2	E	HJ
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	7	2	201	Digital	19.9.2022	Work photo Guðrún Alda	2	NE	HJ
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	8	2	201	Digital	19.9.2022	Work photo Guðrún Alda	2	NE	HJ
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	9	1	x	Digital	19.9.2022	Trench 1 Agla, Gavin	2	S	HJ
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	10	2	201/202	Digital	19.9.2022	Overview	2	E	GAG
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	11	2	201/202	Digital	19.9.2022	Overview	2	E	GAG
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	12	2	201/202	Digital	19.9.2022	Overview of Tr 2 and house	2	W	GAG
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	13	2	201/202	Digital	19.9.2022	Close up pipe trench	2	W	GAG
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	14	1		Digital	19.9.2022	Trench 1 sieving	2	N	GAG
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	15	1		Digital	19.9.2022	Trench 1 sieving	2	N	GAG
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	16	2		Digital	19.9.2022	Overview trench 2 and Helga	2	NE	GAG
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	17	2	201/202	Digital	19.9.2022	Cleaning of pipe trench and Helga	2	N	GAG
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	18	2	201/202	Digital	19.9.2022	Pipe trench and wood	2	E	GAG
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	19	2	201/202	Digital	19.9.2022	Cleaning of pipe trench	2	S	GAG
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	20	2	201/202	Digital	19.9.2022	Midden and pipe trench	2	N	HJ
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	21	2	201/202	Digital	19.9.2022	Midden and pipe trench	2	SW	HJ
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	22	2	201/202	Digital	19.9.2022	Midden and pipe trench	2	E	HJ
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	23	2	201/202	Digital	19.9.2022	Midden and pipe trench	2	W	HJ
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	24	2	201/202	Digital	19.9.2022	Midden and pipe trench	2	N	HJ
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	25	2	201/202	Digital	19.9.2022	Midden and pipe trench	2	N	HJ

Rannsók.staður	Sveitarfélag	Heiti myndar	Svæði nr.	Context	Stafræn	Dagsetning	Myndefni	Myndavél	Átt	Ljósmyndari
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	26	2	201/202	Digital	19.9.2022	Midden and pipe trench	2	E	HJ
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	27	2	204/203	Digital	19.9.2022	Midden and pipe trench	2	E	HJ
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	28	2	204/203	Digital	19.9.2022	Midden and pipe trench	2	N	HJ
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	29	2	204	Digital	19.9.2022	turf layer in east side	2	N	HJ
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	30	2	205	Digital	19.9.2022	Cleaning of [205] and Helga	2	SE	GAG
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	31	2	205	Digital	20.9.2022	Cleaning of [205] and Helga	2	S	GAG
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	32	2	205	Digital	20.9.2022	work photo [205] and Helga	2	SE	GAG
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	33	2	205	Digital	20.9.2022	Context [205]	2	S	GAG
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	34	2	205	Digital	20.9.2022	Context [205]	2	S	GAG
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	35	2	205	Digital	20.9.2022	Context [205]	2	SW	GAG
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	36	2	206	Digital	20.9.2022	Black layer	2	S	GAG
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	37	2	206	Digital	20.9.2022	Black layer	2	S	GAG
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	38	2	206	Digital	20.9.2022	Black layer	2	S	GAG
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	39	2	206	Digital	20.9.2022	Black layer	2	SW	GAG
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	40	2	207	Digital	20.9.2022	Wood ash laeyr	2	S	GAG
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	41	2	207	Digital	20.9.2022	Wood ash laeyr	2	S	GAG
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	42	2	207	Digital	20.9.2022	Context [207]	2	S	GAG
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	43	2	207	Digital	20.9.2022	Context [207]	2	SE	GAG
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	44	2	207	Digital	20.9.2022	Work photo- Helga sieving	2	S	GAG
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	45	2	208	Digital	20.9.2022	Context [208] with scale	2	S	GAG
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	46	2	208	Digital	20.9.2022	Context [208] with scale	2	S	GAG
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	47	2	209	Digital	20.9.2022	Context [209] in S end	2	S	GAG
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	48	2	209	Digital	20.9.2022	Context [209] in S end	2	SE	GAG
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	49	2	209	Digital	20.9.2022	Context [209] in S end-Mikligarður in back	2	SE	GAG
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	50	2	209	Digital	20.9.2022	Context [209]	2	SW	GAG
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	51	2	209	Digital	20.9.2022	[209] to the west	2	W	GAG
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	52	2	210	Digital	21.9.2022	[210] with scale	2	S	GAG
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	53	2	210	Digital	21.9.2022	[210] with scale	2	S	GAG
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	54	2	210	Digital	21.9.2022	[210] with scale	2	S	GAG
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	55	2		Digital	21.9.2022	Photo of area and Stefán	2	SE	GAG
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	56	2		Digital	21.9.2022	Trench 2 and surroundings	2	S	GAG

Rannsók.staður	Sveitarfélag	Heiti myndar	Svæði nr.	Context	Stafræn	Dagsetning	Myndefni	Myndavél	Átt	Ljósmyndari
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	57	2		Digital	21.9.2022	Trench 2 and surroundings	2	S	GAG
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	58	2		Digital	21.9.2022	Work photo and house	2	E	GAG
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	59	2		Digital	21.9.2022	Trench 2, Helga, house	2	E	GAG
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	60	2	210	Digital	21.9.2022	Trench 2 and spade	2	S	GAG
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	61	2	210	Digital	21.9.2022	Trench 2 lower part (Eastern)	2	S	GAG
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	62	2		Digital	21.9.2022	Coffeebrake; Helga, Agla, Gavin, Guðrún, Stefán	2	NW	SÓ
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	63	2		Digital	21.9.2022	Coffeebrake; Helga, Agla, Gavin, Guðrún, Stefán	2	NW	SÓ
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	64	2		Digital	21.9.2022	Coffeebrake; Helga, Agla, Gavin, Guðrún, Stefán	2	NW	SÓ
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	65	2		Digital	21.9.2022	[206] black	2	S	GAG
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	66	2		Digital	21.9.2022	Section in Tr 2	2	S	GAG
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	67	2		Digital	21.9.2022	Section in Tr 2	2	S	GAG
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	68	2		Digital	21.9.2022	Section in Tr 2	2	S	GAG
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	69	2		Digital	21.9.2022	Section in Tr 2	2	S	GAG
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	70	2		Digital	21.9.2022	Section in Tr 2	2	S	GAG
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	71	2		Digital	21.9.2022	Section in Tr 2	2	S	GAG
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	72	2		Digital	21.9.2022	Section in Tr 2	2	S	GAG
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	1	1	102	stafræn	19.9.2022	Post cleaning area	1	E	AGAR
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	2	1	102	stafræn	19.9.2022	Removal of turf	1	E	AGAR
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	3	1	102	stafræn	19.9.2022	Removal of topsoil [101]	1	W	AGAR
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	4	1	102	stafræn	19.9.2022	Removal of topsoil [101]	1	SW	AGAR
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	5	1	102	stafræn	19.9.2022	Removal of topsoil [101]	1	NW	AGAR
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	6	1	103	stafræn	19.9.2022	Peat ash layer	1	E	AGAR
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	7	1	103	stafræn	19.9.2022	Peat ash layer	1	E	AGAR
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	8	1	103	stafræn	19.9.2022	Peat ash layer	1	NW	AGAR
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	9	1	103	stafræn	19.9.2022	Peat ash layer	1	W	AGAR
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	10	1	103	stafræn	19.9.2022	Peat ash layer	1	SW	AGAR
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	11	1	103	stafræn	19.9.2022	Peat ash layer	1	N	AGAR
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	12	1	104	stafræn	20.9.2022	Turf debris?	1	N	SÓ

Rannsók.staður	Sveitarfélag	Heiti myndar	Svæði nr.	Context	Stafræn	Dagsetning	Myndefni	Myndavél	Átt	Ljósmyndari
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	13	1	104	stafræn	20.9.2022	Turf debris?	1	N	SÓ
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	14	1	104	stafræn	20.9.2022	Turf debris?	1	SW	SÓ
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	15	1	104	stafræn	20.9.2022	Turf debris?	1	E	SÓ
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	16	1	104	stafræn	20.9.2022	Turf debris?	1	NW	AGAR
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	17	1	104	stafræn	20.9.2022	Turf debris?	1	NW	AGAR
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	18	1	104	stafræn	20.9.2022	Turf debris?	1	SW	AGAR
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	19	1	104	stafræn	20.9.2022	Turf debris?	1	NE	AGAR
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	20	1		stafræn	20.9.2022	North section in Trench1	1	N	AGAR
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	21	1		stafræn	20.9.2022	North section in Trench1	1	N	AGAR
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	22	1		stafræn	20.9.2022	North section in Trench1	1	N	AGAR
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	23	1		stafræn	20.9.2022	North section in Trench1	1	NE	AGAR
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	24	1		stafræn	20.9.2022	North section in Trench1	1	NE	AGAR
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	25	1		stafræn	20.9.2022	North section in Trench1	1	NE	AGAR
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	26	1		stafræn	20.9.2022	North section in Trench1	1	NE	AGAR
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	27			stafræn	20.9.2022	Work photo	1	SW	AGAR
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	28			stafræn	20.9.2022	Work photo	1	N	AGAR
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	29	3	302	stafræn	20.9.2022	Turf debris	1	N	SÓ
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	30	3	302	stafræn	20.9.2022	Turf debris	1	N	SÓ
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	31	3	302	stafræn	20.9.2022	Turf debris	1	N	SÓ
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	32	3	302	stafræn	20.9.2022	Turf debris	1	W	SÓ
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	33	3	302	stafræn	20.9.2022	Turf debris	1	E	SÓ
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	34	3	302	stafræn	20.9.2022	Turf debris	1	S	SÓ
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	35	3	303	stafræn	20.9.2022	Peat ash layer	1	N	SÓ
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	36	3	303	stafræn	20.9.2022	Peat ash layer	1	N	SÓ
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	37	3	303	stafræn	20.9.2022	Peat ash layer	1	N	SÓ
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	38	3	303	stafræn	20.9.2022	Peat ash layer	1	W	SÓ
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	39	3		stafræn	20.9.2022	Work photo of North section Trench1	1	N	AGAR
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	40	3	303	stafræn	21.9.2022	Peat ash layer (unexc.)	1	N	AGAR
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	41	3	303	stafræn	21.9.2022	Peat ash layer (unexc.)	1	E	AGAR
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	42	3	303	stafræn	21.9.2022	Peat ash layer (unexc.)	1	W	AGAR
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	43	3	303	stafræn	21.9.2022	East section in Trench 3	1	E	AGAR

Rannsók.staður	Sveitarfélag	Heiti myndar	Svæði nr.	Context	Stafræn	Dagsetning	Myndefni	Myndavél	Átt	Ljósmyndari
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	44	3	303	stafræn	21.9.2022	East section in Trench 3	1	E	AGAR
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	45	3	303	stafræn	21.9.2022	East section in Trench 3	1	E	AGAR
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	46	3	303	stafræn	21.9.2022	East section in Trench 3	1	E	AGAR
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	47	3	303	stafræn	21.9.2022	East section in Trench 3	1	E	AGAR
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	48	4		stafræn	21.9.2022	Trench 4	1	NNE	SÓ
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	49	4		stafræn	21.9.2022	Trench 4	1	NNE	SÓ
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	50	4		stafræn	21.9.2022	Trench 4	1	NNE	SÓ
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	51			stafræn	21.9.2022	Work photo	1	x	
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	52			stafræn	21.9.2022	Work photo	1	x	
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	53	3		stafræn	21.9.2022	North section in Tr 3	1	N	AGAR
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	54	3		stafræn	21.9.2022	North section in Tr 3	1	N	AGAR
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	55	3		stafræn	21.9.2022	North section in Tr 3	1	N	AGAR
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	56	3		stafræn	21.9.2022	North section in Tr 3	1	N	AGAR
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	57	3		stafræn	21.9.2022	North section in Tr 3	1	N	AGAR
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	58	3		stafræn	21.9.2022	West section in Tr 3	1	W	AGAR
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	59	3		stafræn	21.9.2022	West section in Tr 3	1	W	AGAR
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	60	3		stafræn	21.9.2022	West section in Tr 3	1	W	AGAR
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	61	3		stafræn	21.9.2022	West section in Tr 3	1	W	AGAR
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	62	3		stafræn	21.9.2022	2022 core 4	1	x	SÓ
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	63	3		stafræn	21.9.2022	2022 core 4	1	x	SÓ
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	64	3		stafræn	21.9.2022	2022 core 4	1	x	SÓ
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	65	3		stafræn	21.9.2022	2022 core 5	1	x	SÓ
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	66	3		stafræn	21.9.2022	2022 core 5	1	x	SÓ
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	67	3		stafræn	21.9.2022	2022 core 5	1	x	SÓ
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	68	3		stafræn	21.9.2022	2022 core 6	1	x	SÓ
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	69	3		stafræn	21.9.2022	2022 core 6	1	x	SÓ
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	70	3		stafræn	21.9.2022	2022 core 6	1	x	SÓ
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	71	3		stafræn	21.9.2022	2022 core 7	1	x	SÓ
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	72	3		stafræn	21.9.2022	2022 core 7	1	x	SÓ
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	73	3		stafræn	21.9.2022	2022 core 8	1	x	SÓ
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	74	3		stafræn	21.9.2022	2022 core 8	1	x	SÓ

Rannsók.staður	Sveitarfélag	Heiti myndar	Svæði nr.	Context	Stafræn	Dagsetning	Myndefni	Myndavél	Átt	Ljósmyndari
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	75	3		stafræn	21.9.2022	2022 core 8	1	x	SÓ
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	76	3		stafræn	21.9.2022	Work photo	1	x	SÓ
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	77	3		stafræn	21.9.2022	Work photo	1	x	SÓ
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	78	3		stafræn	21.9.2022	Work photo of A section Tr 3	1	E	AGAR
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	79	1		stafræn	21.9.2022	Close up of N section Tr 1	1	N	AGAR
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	80	1		stafræn	21.9.2022	N section Tr 1	1	N	AGAR
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	81	1		stafræn	21.9.2022	N section Tr 1	1	N	AGAR
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	82	1		stafræn	21.9.2022	Work photo of N section Tr 1	1	N	AGAR
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	83	3		stafræn	21.9.2022	N section Tr 3	1	N	SÓ
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	84	3		stafræn	22.9.2022	N section Tr 3	1	N	SÓ
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	85	3		stafræn	22.9.2022	N section Tr 3	1	W	SÓ
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	86	3		stafræn	22.9.2022	N section Tr 3	1	W	SÓ
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	87	3		stafræn	22.9.2022	N section Tr 3	1	N	SÓ
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	88	3		stafræn	22.9.2022	N section Tr 3	1	N	SÓ
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	89	3		stafræn	22.9.2022	N section Tr 3	1	N	SÓ
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	90	5	Trench 5	stafræn	22.9.2022	S facing section	1	N	GML
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	91	5	Trench 5	stafræn	22.9.2022	S facing section	1	N	GML
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	92	5	Trench 5	stafræn	22.9.2022	Vertical shot of "structure"	1	W	GML
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	93	5	Trench 5	stafræn	22.9.2022	Vertical shot of "structure"	1	W	GML
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	94	5	Trench 5	stafræn	22.9.2022	Location shot of Tr 5	1	N	GML
Staðarhóll	Dalabyggð	95	5	Trench 5	stafræn	22.9.2022	West facing section	1	E	GML

Appendix 4: Sample register

Númer	Svæði	Heiti staðar	Leyfisnúmer	Rannsóknarnúmer	Context	Magn	Lýsing	Dags.	ID	ATH
1	2	Staðarhóll	2022-66	202107-0109	209	1	Charcoal	22.9.2022	HJ/GAG	C14
2	2	Staðarhóll	2022-66	202107-0109	210	1	Mix of charcoal and bones	22.9.2022	HJ/GAG	C14
3	3	Staðarhóll	2022-66	202107-0109	303	3	Charred wood for c14	22.9.2022	GL	C14

Appendix 5: Radiocarbon Dating certificate

?nnclbgv /ß A/2 b_rgle
Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre
Rankine Avenue, Scottish Enterprise Technology Park, East Kilbride, Glasgow G75 0QF, Scotland, UK
Director: Professor F M Stuart Tel: +44 (0)1355 223332 Fax: +44 (0)1355 229898 www.glasgow.ac.uk/suerc

RADIOCARBON DATING CERTIFICATE

22 February 2023

Laboratory Code	SUERC-108736 (GU62973)
Submitter	Hildur Gestdottir Fornleifastofnun Islands Barugata 3 101 Reykjavik Iceland
Site Reference	Staðarhóll
Context Reference	209
Sample Reference	2022-66-1
Material	charcoal : Birch betula
$\delta^{13}C$ relative to VPDB	-27.3 ‰
Radiocarbon Age BP	367 ± 31

N.B. The above ^{14}C age is quoted in conventional years BP (before 1950 AD) and requires calibration to the calendar timescale. The error, expressed at the one sigma level of confidence, includes components from the counting statistics on the sample, modern reference standard and blank and the random machine error.

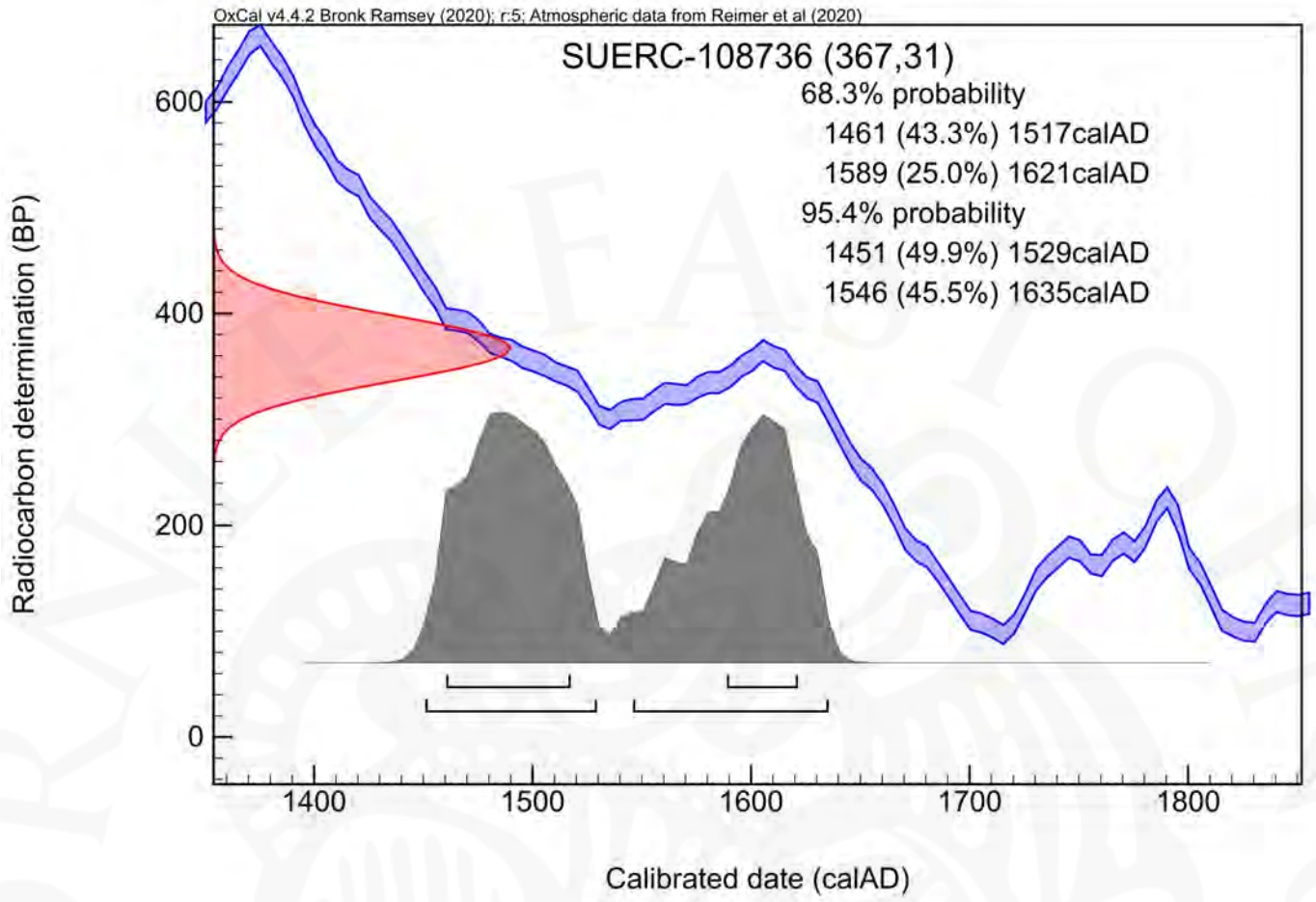
Samples with a SUERC coding are measured at the Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre AMS Laboratory and should be quoted as such in any reports within the scientific literature. The laboratory GU coding should also be given in parentheses after the SUERC code.

Detailed descriptions of the methods employed by the SUERC Radiocarbon Laboratory can be found in Dunbar et al. (2016) *Radiocarbon 58(1) pp.9-23.*

For any queries relating to this certificate, the laboratory can be contacted at suerc-c14lab@glasgow.ac.uk.

Conventional age and calibration age ranges calculated by : E. Dunbar

Checked and signed off by :



The radiocarbon age given overleaf is calibrated to the calendar timescale using the Oxford Radiocarbon Accelerator Unit calibration program OxCal 4.*

The above date ranges have been calibrated using the IntCal20 atmospheric calibration curve†

Please contact the laboratory if you wish to discuss this further.

* Bronk Ramsey (2009) *Radiocarbon 51(1) pp.337-60*

† Reimer et al. (2020) *Radiocarbon 62(4) pp.725-57*

Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre
Rankine Avenue, Scottish Enterprise Technology Park, East Kilbride, Glasgow G75 0QF, Scotland, UK
Director: Professor F M Stuart Tel: +44 (0)1355 223332 Fax: +44 (0)1355 229898 www.glasgow.ac.uk/suerc

RADIOCARBON DATING CERTIFICATE

22 February 2023

Laboratory Code	SUERC-108737 (GU62974)
Submitter	Hildur Gestdottir Fornleifastofnun Islands Barugata 3 101 Reykjavik Iceland
Site Reference	Staðarhóll
Context Reference	210
Sample Reference	2022-66-2
Material	charcoal : Birch betula
$\delta^{13}C$ relative to VPDB	-29.0 ‰
Radiocarbon Age BP	3463 ± 31

N.B. The above ^{14}C age is quoted in conventional years BP (before 1950 AD) and requires calibration to the calendar timescale. The error, expressed at the one sigma level of confidence, includes components from the counting statistics on the sample, modern reference standard and blank and the random machine error.

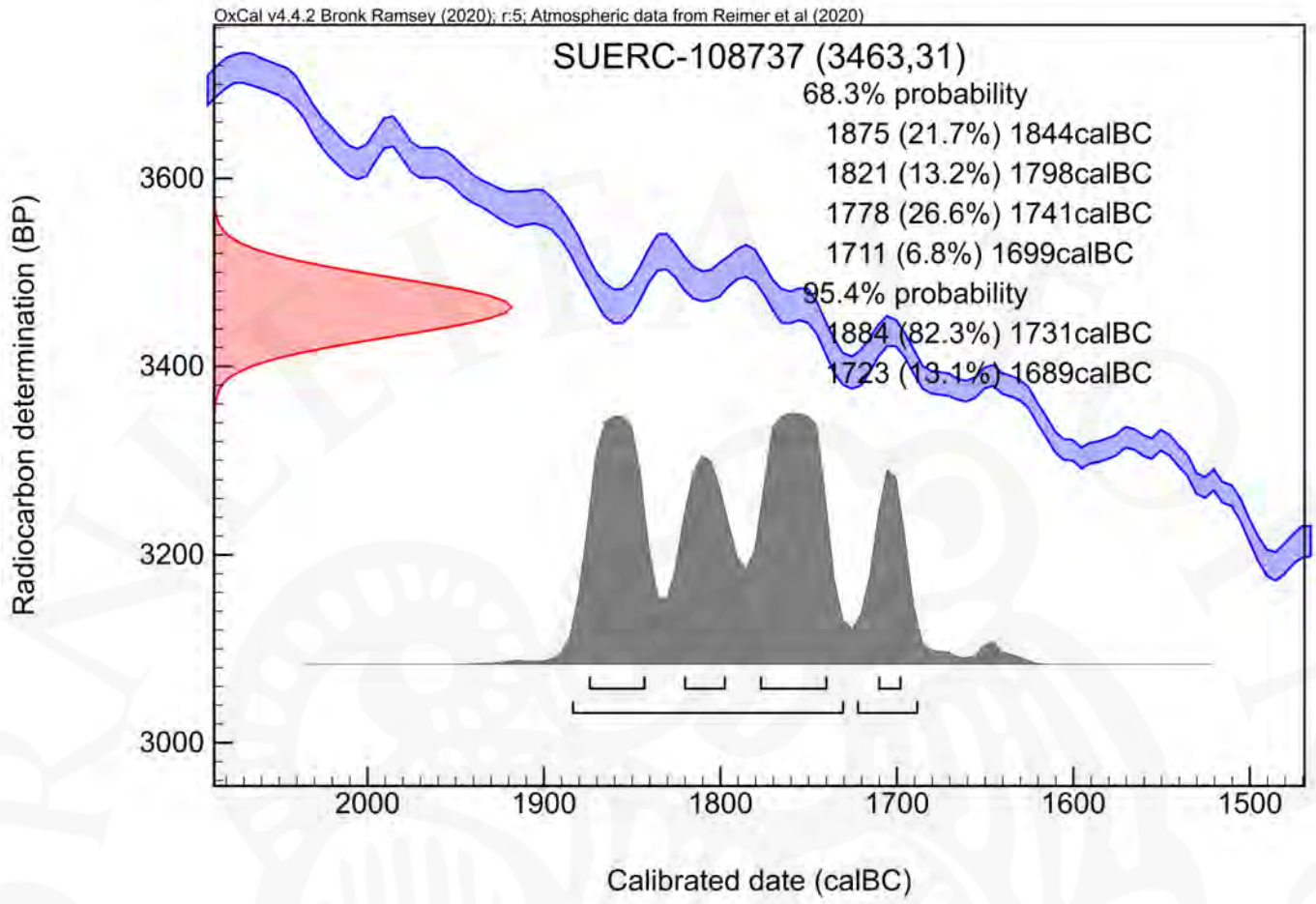
Samples with a SUERC coding are measured at the Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre AMS Laboratory and should be quoted as such in any reports within the scientific literature. The laboratory GU coding should also be given in parentheses after the SUERC code.

Detailed descriptions of the methods employed by the SUERC Radiocarbon Laboratory can be found in Dunbar et al. (2016) *Radiocarbon 58(1) pp.9-23.*

For any queries relating to this certificate, the laboratory can be contacted at suerc-c14lab@glasgow.ac.uk.

Conventional age and calibration age ranges calculated by : E. Dunbar

Checked and signed off by :



The radiocarbon age given overleaf is calibrated to the calendar timescale using the Oxford Radiocarbon Accelerator Unit calibration program OxCal 4.*

The above date ranges have been calibrated using the IntCal20 atmospheric calibration curve†

Please contact the laboratory if you wish to discuss this further.

* Bronk Ramsey (2009) *Radiocarbon 51(1) pp.337-60*

† Reimer et al. (2020) *Radiocarbon 62(4) pp.725-57*

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RADIOCARBON DATING CERTIFICATE

24 April 2023

Laboratory Code	SUERC-109243 (GU62975R)
Submitter	Hildur Gestdottir Fornleifastofnun Islands Barugata 3 101 Reykjavik Iceland
Site Reference	Staðarhóll
Context Reference	303
Sample Reference	2022-66-3
Material	charcoal : Birch betula
$\delta^{13}C$ relative to VPDB	-28.8 ‰
Radiocarbon Age BP	296 ± 26

N.B. The above ^{14}C age is quoted in conventional years BP (before 1950 AD) and requires calibration to the calendar timescale. The error, expressed at the one sigma level of confidence, includes components from the counting statistics on the sample, modern reference standard and blank and the random machine error.

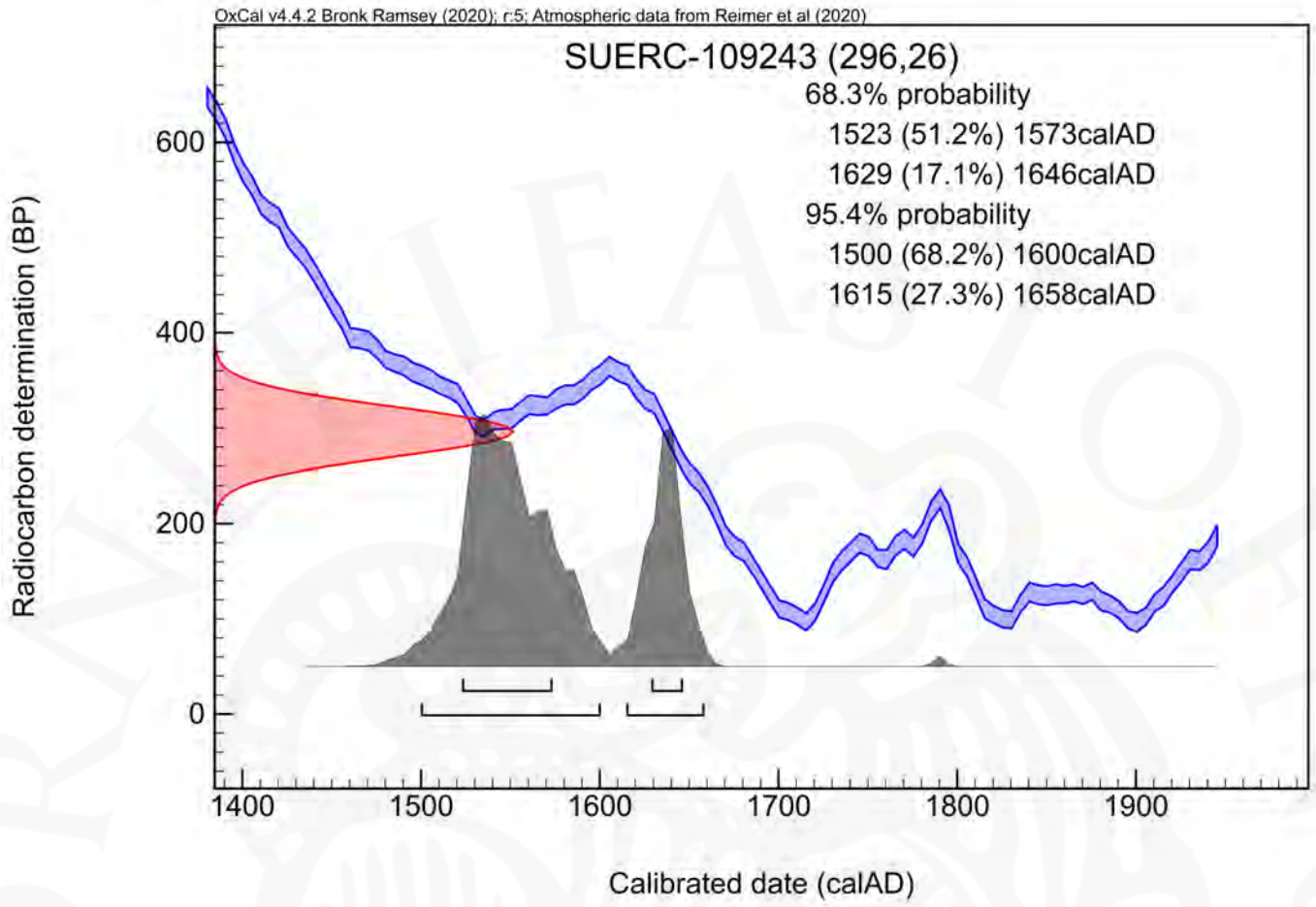
Samples with a SUERC coding are measured at the Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre AMS Laboratory and should be quoted as such in any reports within the scientific literature. The laboratory GU coding should also be given in parentheses after the SUERC code.

Detailed descriptions of the methods employed by the SUERC Radiocarbon Laboratory can be found in Dunbar et al. (2016) *Radiocarbon 58(1) pp.9-23.*

For any queries relating to this certificate, the laboratory can be contacted at suerc-c14lab@glasgow.ac.uk.

Conventional age and calibration age ranges calculated by : E. Dunbar

Checked and signed off by :



The radiocarbon age given overleaf is calibrated to the calendar timescale using the Oxford Radiocarbon Accelerator Unit calibration program OxCal 4.*

The above date ranges have been calibrated using the IntCal20 atmospheric calibration curve†

Please contact the laboratory if you wish to discuss this further.

* Bronk Ramsey (2009) *Radiocarbon 51(1) pp.337-60*

† Reimer et al. (2020) *Radiocarbon 62(4) pp.725-57*