

List of figures

Chapter 1

Figure 1.1: The scale and timing of Norse settlement in the North Atlantic.

Figure 1.2: Thesis structure.

Figure 1.3: The range of temporal and spatial scales provided by a historical ecology approach and used in the thesis.

Figure 1.4: The framework and relationships between the thesis aim, objectives, research questions and hypotheses.

Figure 1.5: A framework illustrating the three scales at which the research questions and discussion is focussed.

Figure 1.6: The Faroe Islands with the key places mentioned in the thesis.

Chapter 2

Figure 2.1a: Conceptual model illustrating the connections between environment and people in an “environmental determinism” framework.

Figure 2.1b: Conceptual model illustrating the connections between environment and people in a “possibilism” framework.

Figure 2.1c: Conceptual model illustrating the connections between environment and people in a “cultural ecology” framework. After Milton (1996).

Figure 2.2: Conceptual figure outlining the main concepts of a historical ecology framework.

Figure 2.3: Examples of rates of change and threshold crossings.

Figure 2.4: Figure illustrating three generic responses to environmental/resource crises; no responses, response with no memory or experience and responding through learning. After Berkes and Folke (2002).

Figure 2.5: A model of cultural adaptation in terms of the flow of information, which incorporates the roles of memory and goals and anticipations. After Kirch (1980).

Figure 2.6: A conceptual model illustrating the role of perception within a human-environment framework, in a North Atlantic setting.

Chapter 3

Figure 3.1: Pacific islands with routes and timings of colonisation.

Figure 3.2: Graph indicating the changing temporal relationship between forest resources, population, soil erosion and charcoal in Easter Island. After Flenley and Bahn (2002).

Figure 3.3: A Malthusian numerical model for Easter Island population and resources. After Brander and Taylor (1998).

Figure 3.4: Graph indicating the changing temporal relationship between forest resources, population, soil erosion and charcoal in Mangaia in the Southern Cook Islands, reconstructed from palynological and archaeological data. After Kirch (1997a).

Figure 3.5: Graph indicating the changing temporal relationship between forest resources, population, soil erosion and charcoal on the island of Tikopia, an outlier of the Solomon Islands, reconstructed from palynological and archaeological data. After Kirch (1997a).

Chapter 4

Figure 4.1: The movement of ocean currents in the North Atlantic. After Pinet (1992).

Figure 4.2: Regional variability of winter weather and climate across the North Atlantic during a positive phase of the North Atlantic Oscillation (NAO). After Dugmore *et al* (2007a).

Figure 4.3: Reconstructed temperature history and uncertainties on three temporal scales based upon data from the GRIP ice core. Figure 4.3B details the temperature changes relevant to a pre-colonisation climatic context and Figure 4.3C details the temperature changes relevant at cultural scales. After Dahl-Jensen *et al* (1998).

Figure 4.4: Cumulative records of annual deviation from the long-term mean of the time series for proxy records of Greenland Sea/Davis Strait sea ice extent and North Atlantic storminess. After Dugmore *et al* (2007a).

Figure 4.5: *Hamrar*, or basalt rock ledges/exposures, separated by grassy slopes formed by the breakdown of tuff.

Figure 4.6: A model of human occupation for the Faroes combined with dating of published palaeoecological evidence suggesting occupation.

Figure 4.7a: The location of place-names related to pigs or swine in the Faroe Islands. After Arge *et al* (2005).

Figure 4.7b: The location of place-names related to pigs or swine on the island of Sandoy, Faroe Islands. After Arge *et al* (2005).

Figure 4.8: Inferred locations of Norse settlements in the Faroe Islands based on archaeological and historical evidence. After Arge *et al* (2005).

Figure 4.9: A simplified representation of the geographical distribution of resources and system of land ownership in the Faroe Islands.

Chapter 5

Figure 5.1: Conceptual diagram illustrating the integration of methods used in the research.

Figure 5.2: Conceptual diagram illustrating the temporal dimensions of the research.

Figure 5.3: Conceptual diagram illustrating the connections between the three field sites referred to in the research: Hov and Sandoy in the Faroe Islands and Eyjafjallahreppur in Iceland.

Figure 5.4: Relief map of the Hov catchment with place-names mentioned in the thesis.

Figure 5.5a: Hov catchment and *bygð* looking west to Hovsdalur.

Figure 5.5b: Hov catchment looking east to Hovsfjørður.

Figure 5.6: Relief map of north Sandoy with place-names mentioned in the thesis.

Figure 5.7a: Looking east across Gróthúsvatn and Sandsvatn to the Í Trøðum farms.

Figure 5.7b: Looking west from Knúker towards Eiríksfjall.

Figure 5.8: South east Iceland outlining the Eyjafjallahreppur study region and landholding boundaries.

Figure 5.9: A typical Faroese landscape divided into “landscape units” that were used to define boundaries when mapping the Hov catchment.

Figure 5.10: Map of Hov illustrating the “parcels” or zones targeted for walk-over archaeological survey.

Figure 5.11: Map of north Sandoy illustrating the “parcels” or zones targeted for walk-over archaeological survey.

Figure 5.12: Sample monument form used for Hov and Sandoy archaeological surveys.

Figure 5.13: Figure illustrating the different interpretations of human and landscape history, within the landholdings of Mörk in the Eyjafjallahreppur region of south Iceland, that could be made using radiocarbon dating on the one hand and tephrochronological dating on the other.

Chapter 6

Figure 6.1: Geomorphological map of the Hov catchment showing the extent of landscape units (see Table 6.1 for explanation to key).

Figure 6.2: The locations of geomorphic and other features in the Hov catchment, which are mentioned in the text.

Figure 6.3a: Photos at various scales illustrate a series of major box gullies that have formed in deep unconsolidated sediment above the modern day *bygd* or village of Hov, Suðuroy.

Figure 6.3b: Photo of Hov box gully with detailed figure and associated stratigraphy.

Figure 6.4: An artificial ditch cross-cut by natural channels, located on the North facing slopes above Hov, illustrates an example of the interaction between archaeology and geomorphology. By analysing the form of the channels and whether they cross-cut the ditch or not, the natural channels can be dated to pre- or post-*landnám*.

Figure 6.5a: An exposure of an inactive fan in the Hovsdalur region.

Figure 6.5b: Landscape context of an inactive fan and detailed sediment stratigraphies recorded from an exposure at the base of the fan.

Figure 6.6: The context and detailed sediment stratigraphy for profile KAM28, which details the development of a small active fan on a tributary stream.

Figure 6.7: The location of geomorphic and other features in the Sandoy catchment mentioned in the text.

Figure 6.8: Conceptual models detailing alternate possibilities for the development of the Rættá river system on Sandoy.

Figure 6.9: Mapping of land cover classifications on northern Sandoy (see Table 6.2 for explanation to key).

Figure 6.10a; Unit A1: Example of land cover classification category A1, with reference to Figure 6.9 and Table 6.2.

Figure 6.10b; Unit A2: Example of land cover classification category A2, with reference to Figure 6.9 and Table 6.2.

Figure 6.10c; Unit B: Example of land cover classification category B, with reference to Figure 6.9 and Table 6.2.

Figure 6.10d; Unit C1: Example of land cover classification category C1, with reference to Figure 6.9 and Table 6.2.

Figure 6.10e; Unit C2: Example of land cover classification category C2, with reference to Figure 6.9 and Table 6.2.

Figure 6.10f; Unit C3: Example of land cover classification category C3, with reference to Figure 6.9 and Table 6.2.

Figure 6.10g; Unit D: Example of land cover classification category D, with reference to Figure 6.9 and Table 6.2.

Figure 6.10h; Unit E1: Example of land cover classification category E1, with reference to Figure 6.9 and Table 6.2.

Figure 6.10i; Unit E2: Example of land cover classification category E2, with reference to Figure 6.9 and Table 6.2.

Figure 6.10j; Unit E3: Example of land cover classification category E3, with reference to Figure 6.9 and Table 6.2.

Figure 6.10k; Unit F: Example of land cover classification category F, with reference to Figure 6.9 and Table 6.2.

Figure 6.11: Mapping of land cover classifications in Hov (see Table 6.2 for explanation to key).

Figure 6.12: Figure comparing the appearance of well drained slopes in north Sandoy with shallower slopes, which are more degraded although at lower altitudes.

Figure 6.13: Possible remnants of an aeolian deposit on west facing Sandoy slopes.

Figure 6.14: Characteristic examples of *ból*, winter shelters for sheep, in Suðuroy and Sandoy.

Figure 6.15: Rose diagrams illustrating the orientation of the entrances of *ból* in the Hov catchment and in selected areas of north Sandoy.

Figure 6.16: Histogram illustrating the concentration of *ból* or sheep shelters at differing altitudes in the Hov catchment.

Figure 6.17: Histogram illustrating the concentration of *ból* or sheep shelters at differing altitudes in north Sandoy.

Figures 6.18a-b: Stone and stone/turf walls in the Hov catchment.

Figures 6.18c-d: Stone/turf walls in north Sandoy.

Figure 6.19: Stone wall built into natural rock fall in Hov.

Figures 6.20a-b: Isolated stone enclosure located in an inland valley in the Hov catchment.

Figures 6.21a-b: *Torvlutir* - mounds which have formed from the continuous stacking of peat year on year to dry.

Figure 6.21c: *Torvgrøvd* or peat banks which have been cut relatively recently in the Lítlavatn area of Sandoy.

Figure 6.22a: Remains of a *torvhús*, a stone house structure used for storing peat observed in the Sandoy outfields.

Figures 6.22b-c: *kráir* - structures used for storing peat over winter, observed in the Sandoy outfields.

Figure 6.23: Relic drainage ditch observed on slopes east of Søltuvík, Sandoy that cuts diagonally into the slope between altitudes of c.274 m to c.180 m.

Figure 6.24: The locations of specific archaeological features in the outfields of the Hov catchment including *ból* or sheep shelters, *kráir* or peat drying and storage structures, wall/dyke fragments and a previously excavated shieling.

Figure 6.25: The locations of specific archaeological features in targeted outfields of north Sandoy catchment including *ból* or sheep shelters, *kráir* and *torvhús* or peat drying and storage structures and wall/dyke fragments.

Figure 6.26: Hov catchment archaeological “zones”, which have been designated as areas with either distinctive or a high density of archaeological monuments.

Figure 6.27: North Sandoy archaeological “zones”, which have been designated as areas with either distinctive or a high density of archaeological monuments.

Figure 6.28a: Detailed geomorphic map illustrating the density of *torvlutir* (a mound on which peat was dried) in a specific 200 m x 200 m outfield area on Sandoy.

Figure 6.28b: Detailed illustration of an exposed *torvlutir* in the Sandoy outfields.

Figure 6.29: Map of north Sandoy depicting areas of the landscape formerly used for peat cutting, as cited by interviewees.

Figure 6.30: Relief map of Hov detailing locations of stratigraphic profiles.

Figure 6.31: Relief map of north Sandoy detailing locations of stratigraphic profiles.

Figure 6.32: The detailed annotated stratigraphy of KAM20 is illustrated as an exemplar for stratigraphic profiles on Hov.

Figure 6.33: The detailed annotated stratigraphy of KAM61 is illustrated as an exemplar for stratigraphic profiles on Sandoy.

Figure 6.34a: Profiles KAM1, 2, 3 and 5 from transect 1a in the Hov catchment.

Figure 6.34b: Profiles KAM6, 7, 16, 17 and 18 from transect 1b in the Hov catchment.

Figure 6.34c: Profiles KAM8a and 8b from transect 2a in the Hov catchment.

Figure 6.34d: Profiles KAM10, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15 from transect 2b in the Hov catchment.

Figure 6.34e: Profiles KAM19, 20, 22, 24 and 25 from transect 3 in the Hov catchment.

Figure 6.34f: Profiles KAM26, 27, 28 and 29 from transect 4 in the Hov catchment.

Figure 6.35a: Profiles KAM60, 61, 62, 63 and 64 from transect 1 on Sandoy.

Figure 6.35b: Profiles KAM71, 72 and 73 from transect 2 on Sandoy.

Figure 6.35c: Profiles KAM65, 66, 67, 68, 69 and 70 from transect 3 on Sandoy.

Figure 6.35d: Profiles KAM50, 74 and 75 from transect 4a on Sandoy.

Figure 6.35e: Profiles KAM41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46 and 47 from transect 4b on Sandoy.

Figure 6.35f: Profiles KAM31, 32, 33 and 34 from transect 5a on Sandoy.

Figure 6.35g: Profiles KAM35, 36, 76 and 77 from transect 5b on Sandoy.

Figure 6.35h: Profiles KAM 83, 84, 85 and 86 from higher altitude slopes on Sandoy.

Figure 6.36: Generalised sediment sequence applicable to both Hov and north Sandoy.

Figure 6.37a: Profile sequence, loss-on-ignition analysis and calibrated dates for profile KAM3.

Figure 6.37b: Profile sequence, loss-on-ignition analysis and calibrated dates for profile KAM20.

Figure 6.37c: Profile sequence, loss-on-ignition analysis and calibrated dates for profile KAM26.

Figure 6.37d: Profile sequence, loss-on-ignition analysis and calibrated dates for profile KAM27.

Figure 6.37e: Profile sequence, loss-on-ignition analysis and calibrated dates for profile KAM28.

Figure 6.38a: Profile sequence, loss-on-ignition analysis and calibrated dates for profile KAM61.

Figure 6.38b: Profile sequence, loss-on-ignition analysis and calibrated dates for profile KAM62.

Figure 6.38c: Profile sequence, loss-on-ignition analysis and calibrated dates for profile KAM63.

Figure 6.38d: Profile sequence, loss-on-ignition analysis and calibrated dates for profile KAM64.

Figure 6.38e: Profile sequence, loss-on-ignition analysis and calibrated dates for profile KAM67.

Figure 6.38f: Profile sequence, loss-on-ignition analysis and calibrated dates for profile KAM68.

Figure 6.38g: Profile sequence, loss-on-ignition analysis and calibrated dates for profile KAM70.

Figure 6.38h: Profile sequence, loss-on-ignition analysis and calibrated dates for profile KAM34.

Figure 6.38i: Profile sequence, loss-on-ignition analysis and calibrated dates for profile KAM72.

Figure 6.38j: Profile sequence, loss-on-ignition analysis and calibrated dates for profile KAM73.

Figure 6.38k: Profile sequence, loss-on-ignition analysis and calibrated dates for profile KAM74.

Figure 6.38l: Profile sequence, loss-on-ignition analysis and calibrated dates for profile KAM75.

Chapter 7

Figure 7.1: Figure illustrating the three timescales that form the structure of the discussion in chapter 7.

Figure 7.2: Catastrophe cusp illustrating the concepts of trajectories and thresholds.

Figure 7.3: Figure illustrating four possible hypotheses or scenarios of landscape development (a, b, c and d) and what would be expected to be seen in the corresponding soil profiles as a result.

Figure 7.4: Conceptual figures illustrating the trajectory of landscape change and threshold crossing events in Iceland (a), based on data from Eyjafjallahreppur in south Iceland, and two contrasting hypothesised trajectories of change and threshold crossing events for the southern Faroe Islands (b and c).

Figure 7.5: Examples of active stone sorting from different areas on Sandoy.

Figure 7.6: Altitudinal distribution of the mean annual cumulative number of growing degree days and the mean annual cumulative number of freeze-thaws May 1995-1997 in the Slættaratindur massif, northern Eysturoy. After Humlum and Christiansen (1998a; 1998b).

Figure 7.7: Conceptual figures which explore the relationship between a) landscape modification and altitude in relation to climate and people, b) landscape modification and human impact at different altitudes and c) landscape modification and climatic impacts at different altitudes.

Figure 7.8: Four sediment stratigraphies and loss-on-ignition curves, indicating the timing of peat initiation on northern Sandoy, compared with a peat/soil sequence and selected taxa pollen diagram (Lawson *et al* 2005) from the Lítlavatn area of Sandoy.

Figure 7.9: Figure illustrating two hypotheses to explain the formation of the “top silt” context, which is found capping the majority of profiles in both Hov and Sandoy.

Figure 7.10: Figure illustrating profiles that document significant landscape change occurring between c. 2900-2300 cal yr BP (c. 1000-400 cal BC – Phase 1).

Figure 7.11: Figure illustrating profiles that document significant landscape change occurring between c. 1900-1500 cal yr BP (c. 60 cal AD to 400 cal AD– Phase 2a).

Figure 7.12: Figure illustrating profiles that document significant landscape change occurring between c. 1500-1300 cal yr BP (c. 400 cal AD to 660 cal AD – Phase 2b).

Figure 7.13: A composite timeline to illustrate the timing of records indicating a cooling and/or wetter climate in the North Atlantic over the period of time where sediment sequences in the Faroe Islands are displaying significant geomorphic changes (Phase 1).

Figure 7.14: A composite timeline to illustrate the timing of records indicating a cooling and/or wetter climate in the North Atlantic over the period of time where sediment sequences in the Faroe Islands are displaying significant geomorphic changes (Phase 2a and 2b).

Figure 7.15: Conceptual figures which illustrate four possible hypotheses or scenarios of the trajectory of landscape impact over human settlement, in terms of both initial *landnám* impacts and the trajectory of longer-term settlement impact.

Figure 7.16: Conceptual diagram illustrating the possible outcomes of human impact based upon the initial natural capital available to the settlers in the Faroe Islands.

Figure 7.17: Map comparing degradation at low altitudes with areas used for peat cutting as cited by Sandoy interviewees.

Chapter 8

Figure 8.1: A Malthusian numerical model for Easter Island showing the relationship between population and resources, and illustrating that a population decline was inevitable. After Brander and Taylor (1998).

Figure 8.2: A hypothesised dynamic relationship between population and carrying capacity in the Faroe Islands.

Figure 8.3: A hypothesised dynamic relationship between population and carrying capacity in Iceland.

Figure 8.4: A hypothesised dynamic relationship between population and carrying capacity in the Eastern settlement of Norse Greenland.

Figure 8.5: Bone data from the Faroe Islands, Iceland and Greenland showing a comparison between the proportions of bones from domestic, terrestrial and marine sources at archaeological sites. After Dugmore *et al* (2005).

Figure 8.6: Location of the farms Mörk and Dalur, in southern Iceland, within their surrounding environmental context.

Figure 8.7: Average sediment accumulation rates and variability for the landholdings of Mörk and Dalur, based on 22 and 28 profiles respectively.

Figure 8.8: Selected soil sections from the landholdings of Mörk and Dalur in south Iceland illustrating the comparison of sediment accumulation rates between the two settlements from 871 AD to 1341 AD.

Figure 8.9: Map illustrating the location of the farms and outfields of Hofstaðir and Sveigakot in the north of Iceland. After Thompson and Simpson (2007).

Figure 8.10a: Results of modelling experiments (Casely 2006), illustrating the change in vegetation limits around the farms Hofstaðir and Sveigakot in north Iceland as the temperature is reduced by 1.5° C.

Figure 8.10b: Results of modelling experiments (Casely 2006), illustrating the change in growing season end dates around the farms Hofstaðir and Sveigakot in north Iceland as the temperature is reduced by 1.5° C.

Figure 8.11: Conceptual figures illustrating the proportions of exploitable domestic, wild (terrestrial) and marine resources available to the Faroese, Icelandic and Greenlandic Norse.

Figure 8.12: Location and trading activities of the Pitcairn Island group, in relation to the islands of Henderson and Mangareva.

Figure 8.13: Summary of links between the Faroe Islands, Iceland and Greenland in terms of subsistence based approaches.

Chapter 9

Figure 9.1: An overview of the various spatial scales operating within this research, incorporating a local, regional and global focus.

Appendix C

Figure C.1: Location of sediment/tephra profiles recorded in southern Iceland.

Figure C.2: Sediment/tephra stratigraphies from the landholdings of Hamrargarðar and Dalur.

Figure C.3: Sediment/tephra stratigraphies from the landholding of Hamrargarðar.

Figure C.4: Sediment/tephra stratigraphies from the landholding of Núpsheiði.

Figure C.5: Sediment/tephra stratigraphies from the landholdings of Eyvindaholt and Tjarnar.

Figure C.6: Sediment/tephra stratigraphies from the landholding of Ketilsstaðir.

Figure C.7: Selected sediment/tephra stratigraphies from the landholdings of Mörk and Dalur.

Figure C.8: Selected sediment/tephra stratigraphies from the landholdings of Mörk and Dalur.

Figure C.9: Selected sediment/tephra stratigraphies from the landholdings of Þórsmörk and Stakkholt.

Figure C.10: Average sediment accumulation rates through time (dated using tephrochronology) for the landholdings of Hamrargarðar, Eyvindaholt, the boundary between Dalur and Hamrargarðar, Ketilsstaðir and Núpsheiði.

Figure C.11: Average sediment accumulation rates through time (dated using tephrochronology) for the landholdings of Þórsmörk, Stakkholt, Mörk, Dalur and Seljaland.