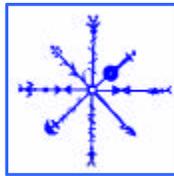


Report of Bones from Litla Nupar, Northern Iceland

Dr. Thomas H. McGovern
***CUNY Northern Science
and Education Center***



NORSEC

CUNY Doctoral Program in Anthropology
Brooklyn College Zooarchaeology Laboratory
Hunter College Bioarchaeology Laboratory
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Contact: nabo@voicenet.com

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Background

On August 11th 2004 Adolf Friðriksson of the Archaeological Institute Iceland investigated probable pagan burials near the farm of Litla Nupar just south of Husavík. Adolf was able to recover additional bone material from the robbers' spoil heap associated with burial KUMML 1, comprising mandibles and some long bone fragments of horse, probably the remains of grave offerings. This report documents the zooarchaeological portion of this grave find.

Report

The bones included in this disturbed grave lot represent horse (*Equus caballus* L) recovered from the spoil heap of medieval grave robbers.

Horse Bones

2 Mandible halves (right and left) with the joining mental symphysis. One mandible has disintegrated but a full tooth row survives. The mandibles come from a fully adult horse with moderate-heavy wear on tooth surfaces (approximate stage "g").

1 Radius, whole, right, both proximal and distal ends fused. Too eroded for metrics.

1 Radius shaft, left

1 Humerus shaft, right, both ends missing but from size probably deriving from an adult.

1 Distal femora, right, fully fused.

Total Horse NISP = 5 (matching mandible halves count as one element).

Discussion: This disturbed horse skeleton may represent a single individual, with the matching tooth rows and fully consistent aging pattern suggesting a fully mature animal of at least five years. Adult but not too aged, this horse is approximately the size of many modern Icelandic horses. It is approximately the same age and size as the sacrificial horses buried at Saltvík and Dadastaðir.