Viking Age and early medieval trade in the North Atlantic: Comparison of settlement sites from Iceland and Greenland

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Norse North Atlantic
Migration and Trade
Three Scenarios Addressed:

1. First Viking Age settlers in the N. Atlantic brought a “Settler Kit” which could not be easily renewed.

2. Because everyday artifacts were not easily replaced, status differences became blurred archaeologically.

3. Increased trade resulting from expanding fish markets provided the opportunity to replenish household and elite objects in the Early Medieval Period.
Varying landscapes and probable ranks for three Mývatnssveit farms
- Hofstaðir
- Hreisheimar
- Sveigakot
Material from Mývatn Sites

- Hofstadir: 55% Fe
- Sveigakot: 50% Fe
- Hreisheimar: 59% Fe

Materials:
- Misc.
- Wool
- Wood
- Plant
- Stone
- Steatite
- Schist
- Glass
- Copper
- Iron
- Bone
Mývatn Imports

Hofsstaðir

Sveigakot

Percentage

Steatite

Glass

Schist

AD 950  AD 1050  AD 1150
Southwest Greenland
Eastern Settlement

Image Source: Konrad Smiarowski
Local Greenland Materials
Greenland Bone Combs
Greenland Imports
Iceland-Greenland Comparison

- Myvatn
- V48
- V54
- E172

Legend:
- Bone/Antler
- Glass
- Metal
- Schist
- Steatite
- Stone
Temporal change of non-local materials

Hreisheimar

Sveigakot

Hofstaðir

E172

AD 950  1050  1150  1250

Steatite

Glass

Schist

Iron

Whetstones
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<th>E172</th>
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- Photo No._2
- Photo No._3
- Photo No._4
- Photo No._5

**Finds Box Conservation**
- No

**Phase**
- 1200 - 1300
Thank you!