The Vatnsfjörður Project: Pathways to and from a Medieval Power Centre

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Vatnsfjörður: A Central Place
Routes marked by cairns

Why was Vatnsfjörður chosen as the seat of the Vatnsfirðingur?

(Oscar Aldred, Poul Baltzer Heide)
Quality of Farm Land? Topography and solar radiation
Quality of Farm Land? Management of homefield soils

(Ian Simpson, Eileen Tisdall, Rebecca Barclay)
Conspicuous production and consumption of iron

150 kg smelting and smithing slag, 44 kg of partially refined iron  (Tom Birch)
Vatnsfjörður in the 12th-16th century: Woodland management

Katla 1721

C14 on Betula: 890-1020

(Rebecca Barclay, Eileen Tisdall, Ian Simpson, Jamie Anderson)
Vatnsfjörður in the Medieval Period: 11th-16th century waste

H-1693

1220 ± 35

1035 ± 35

(Simon Parkin, Ian Simpson)

(Dawn Mooney)
Vatnsfjörður in the Medieval Period: 14th-16th century

Wood collection rights owned by Vatnsfjörður in the 14th-16th century

Driftwood rights owned by Vatnsfjörður in the 16th century

(Dawn Mooney)
The Vatnsfjörður Farm Mound
Gr. 8590: Stones
Gr. 8590: Turf in walls
Negative features
Earier remains
1907 foundation cut
1907 foundation cut

Small mound of ash deposits in the main room

1884 farm house: Turf in walls

Turf in earlier walls used with the 1884 farm house

Earlier remains

Negative features

1884 farm house: Stones.
The Future at Vatnsfjörður?
Medieval middens, 17th-century house, coastal structures

Gaming piece
Probably 12th century

(Céline Dupont-Hébert)

Aerial photo: Garðar Guðmundsson
Acknowledgements

North Atlantic Biocultural Organization (NABO)
Institute of Archaeology, Iceland
Universities of Aberdeen, Iceland, Laval, Oslo
City University of New York (NORSEC)
Government of Iceland
Icelandic Research Council (Rannís)
Westfjords in the Middle Ages Society
University Centre of the Westfjords
Social Sci and Humanities Research Council of Canada
Carnegie Trust for the Universities of Scotland
Royal Society of Edinburgh
Westfjords Heritage Museum
Education Centre of the Westfjords