Midden Excavation at Möðruvellir, and Prospection in Hörgárdalur

Interim Field Report

Gásir Hinterlands Project 2008

Ramona Harrison

FS402-06383
Reykjavík and New York
November 2008

Midden Excavation at Möðruvellir, and Prospection in Hörgárdalur

Interim Field Report

Summary

In June and August 2008 international teams cooperated in carrying out a program of survey, coring, and small scale test excavation on selected sites in the Eyjafjord region in Northern Iceland. This was the first season of a planned multi-season collaborative investigation of the hinterlands surrounding the medieval seasonal trading center at Gásir (Roberts 2004; Roberts et al, 2002-2006; Harrison et al 2006 – 2008; Harrison, 2006-2008). Prior work at Gásir indicated that this trading center was provisioned from a wide economic catchment area and that investigations needed to be extended to include the surrounding landscape. The Gásir Hinterlands Project (GHP) is aimed at improving our understanding of the interactions of local farming strategies affected by changing climate and ongoing human impact with medieval overseas trade and long distance exchange centered on Gásir. GHP also focuses on the long term human ecodynamics in this historically important part of Iceland, contributing to the reconstruction of a detailed historical ecology of Eyjafjord from first settlement down to modern times. Part of the 2008 field project involved a 3rd season of excavation of midden deposits associated with the major monastic center at Möðruvellir. The second part of the project consisted of coring and selective test trenching of 9 sites in the surrounding valleys, building upon a comprehensive site survey database (ÍSLEIF) already established by FSI. While some sites tested proved to have little or no surviving household midden deposits (Neskot, Skriða:NLÖ1, Klausturhús, Möðruvallasel), others proved to have rich deposits quite possibly datable to the medieval and early modern periods through tephra and associated artifacts (especially Skuggi, and also Myrkárdalur). Some of the cored midden areas, i.e. Bakki, Skriða:NLÖ2, show great potential, if some logistical hurdles can be overcome. There appears to be great potential for further excavations at both Myrkárdalur and Skuggi, and additional coring work on other sites can usefully continue in the wider area.

Participating Staff

Project director: Howell M. Roberts (FSÍ)

Excavation supervisors: Howell M. Roberts (FSÍ) and Ramona Harrison (CUNY)

Senior advisors: T. H. McGovern (CUNY), Orri Vésteinsson (FSÍ)

Excavation crew: Frank Feeley (CUNY), Veronique Forbes (U Laval), Sigrún Inga Garðarsdóttir (FSÍ), Marjorie Gorsline (CUNY), Ramona Harrison (CUNY), Aaron Kendall (CUNY), Thomas H. McGovern (CUNY), Þóra Pétursdóttir (FSÍ), Howell M. Roberts (FSÍ), Konrad Śmiarowski (CUNY).

Geoarchaeology: Ian Simpson and Val DeFeu (U Stirling)

Survey: Christian Koch Madsen (U Arhus)

For the first three weeks, had help from local students who were indispensible for moving and sieving large quantities of soil: Guðlaug Jana Sigurðardóttir, Sigmar Ari Valdimarsson, Smári Ingvarsson, and Jón Karl Ingvarsson.

Introduction:

The first season of the Gásir Hinterlands Project (GHP) was carried out in cooperation between the Archaeological Institute Iceland (FSI) and the Northern Science and Education Center of City University of New York (CUNY) with specialist help in geoarchaeological sampling and analysis by a team from the University of Stirling. GHP took place in Eyjafjörður, in the NE part of Iceland in two sessions in June and August of 2008. The excavation part of the season lasted a total of 4 weeks in June and included an 11 (plus 3 local students) person field crew during the first three weeks; a team of two returned for one week in August to complete the survey work.

One goal for the summer of 2008 was to continue excavations at the deep midden deposit on the edge of the substantial farm mound at Möðruvellir, begun in 2006. Möðruvellir, formerly an Augustine monastery and for centuries a high status farm was undoubtedly connected with the Gásir trading site and at all periods maintained a central role in the economy and politics of Eyjafjord. At Möðruvellir, trench 1 (TR1), excavated since 2006, had reached depths of over 2 meters and allowed the recovery of a substantial archaeofauna dating mainly to post-medieval times. The TR1 unit needed to be carried deeper to attempt to reach medieval deposits and expanded

horizontally to investigate relationships with nearby structures. The TR1 unit was successfully carried below early modern layers and substantial additional samples of bone and artifacts were recovered, but the unit encountered a dramatic change in soil acidity (dropping from a general local pH around 6 to a highly acidic 3.5) resulting from a massive concentration of peat ash in the lower layers. While this acidic depositional environment effectively preserved some pieces of cloth, little or no bone survived. The horizontal expansion of TR1 succeeded in recovering additional early modern artifacts and well preserved animal bone, but rapidly encountered substantial structural remains probably associated with the 18th-19th c farm. The TR1 area thus proved a good source of evidence for post-medieval occupation at Möðruvellir, but this locality probably is not well suited for further excavation aimed at reaching earlier deposits.

The **second goal** for this year's Gásir Hinterlands project was to locate and test other known and surveyed sites in the Eyjafjörður region; especially in Hörgárdal and Öxnadal, two valleys located immediately to the W-SW of Möðruvellir and Gásir. More than 5000 sites have been located and surveyed in the Eyjafjörður region (Hreiðarsdóttir, 2008 in *press*; Hreiðarsdóttir, 2001; Hreiðarsdóttir & Vésteinsson., 1999; Vésteinsson & S.G., 1998) but little excavation has taken place in the area to date. Our objective for 2008 was to carry out second – phase investigations involving systematic coring (using a tube-type Oakfield soil corer) to locate probable midden deposits followed where warranted by small scale test trenching to test conditions of preservation and document possible tephra. This interim report provides a preliminary overview of the results of this regional second-phase survey investigation.

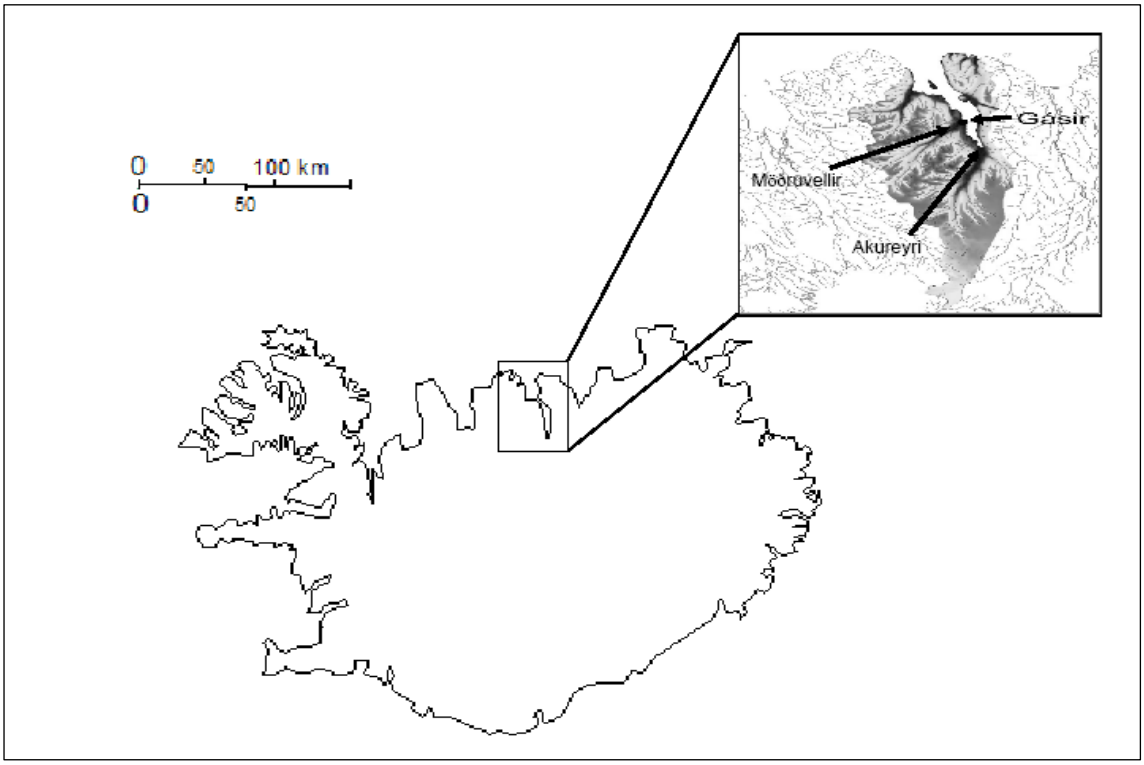


Figure 1 – Map of Iceland, highlighting the central sites Gásir and Möðruvellir in the Eyjafjörður region. (Source of detailed regional map: Roberts, 2004; labels added by R.H.).

The map below highlights the Gásir hinterland sites that were investigated in 2008 and are located in Hörgárdalur and Öxnadalur.

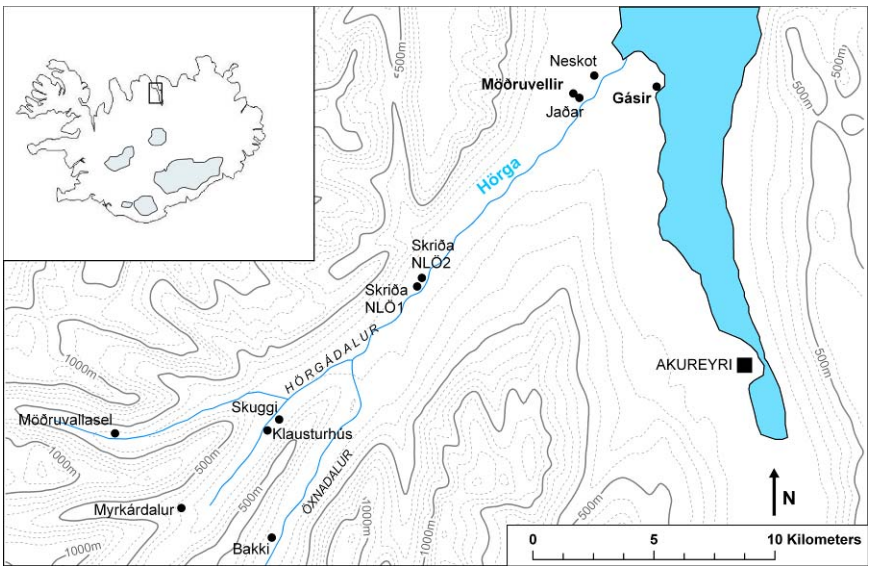


Figure 2 – Hörgárdalur and Öxnadalur sites investigated in 2008 (map created by Richard Streeter for Dugmore et al, 2008).

June 16 – July 4, 2008 Part 1 of the project, carried out by the whole team.

Möðruvellir

Figure 3 – Möðruvellir, NE direction. The modern church on the right, the midden mound is the light green area to the left of the buildings, marked by arrow.

The Möðruvellir midden trench was extended vertically in 2008, but its size had to be reduced from 2mx8m to at first 2mx5m and then to 2mx3m due to the depth of the trench. Stepping in the site by leaving higher areas for access and a sturdy horizontal surface for ladder were strategies employed to keep the site safe.

Figure 4 – Portion of northern profile of MÖÖ TR1.

The Goal of the 2008 excavation was to find faunal materials useful for C14 dating of the midden layers and to attempt to reach medieval layers contemporary to the Gásir archaeofauna from the 14th Century AD. While TR1 was extended, another part of the team was busy opening up another trench TR2, situated parallel to TR1, and 6 m East of it, measuring of 2m by 4m. This area was cored and the augur profiles indicated presence of bone material as well as turf debris and peat ash, in other words an eastern continuation of the vast midden mound. Unfortunately, a trench dug for a power line for the metrological research station at Möðruvellir was encountered and TR. 2 had to be moved 1 m north from its previous location. That trench, TR2b revealed extensive early modern structural remains and excavation was stopped to avoid damaging these extensive and well preserved structural layers. Although the excavation of structural remains from Möðruvellir is very desirable, it would require far more money and time and people to do an open-area excavation (at least 5m by 5m) to reveal the entire structure and fully excavate it.

Figure 5 – MÖÖ TR2, cleaning off topsoil after de-turfing.

At the end of the three-week excavation of TR1 at Möðruvellir, the trench was deemed too deep to continue safely, although natural, undisturbed soil had not been reached yet. While the preservation of bone was excellent during the 2006 and 2007 seasons, the faunal remains from the 2008 season, especially from the lower deposits, were very poorly preserved and often turned into ´bone butter´, which is completely unusable for faunal analysis. Despite this deterioration of the archaeofauna, due to high acidity of the peat ash and other deposits containing the bones, another type of potentially datable materials was recovered: very well preserved textiles which may give a clue on the age of the deposits containing them. These textile remains are now under specialist analysis. Environmental data other than bones were recovered and bulk samples taken from about 50 deposits. They will be floated and then analyzed at the University of

Durham. Veronique Forbes kindly took entomological samples to be processed at the University of Laval.

Figure 6 – Last day of excavation at Möðruvellir.
The rest of the team is working on closing up the Myrkárdalur test trench.

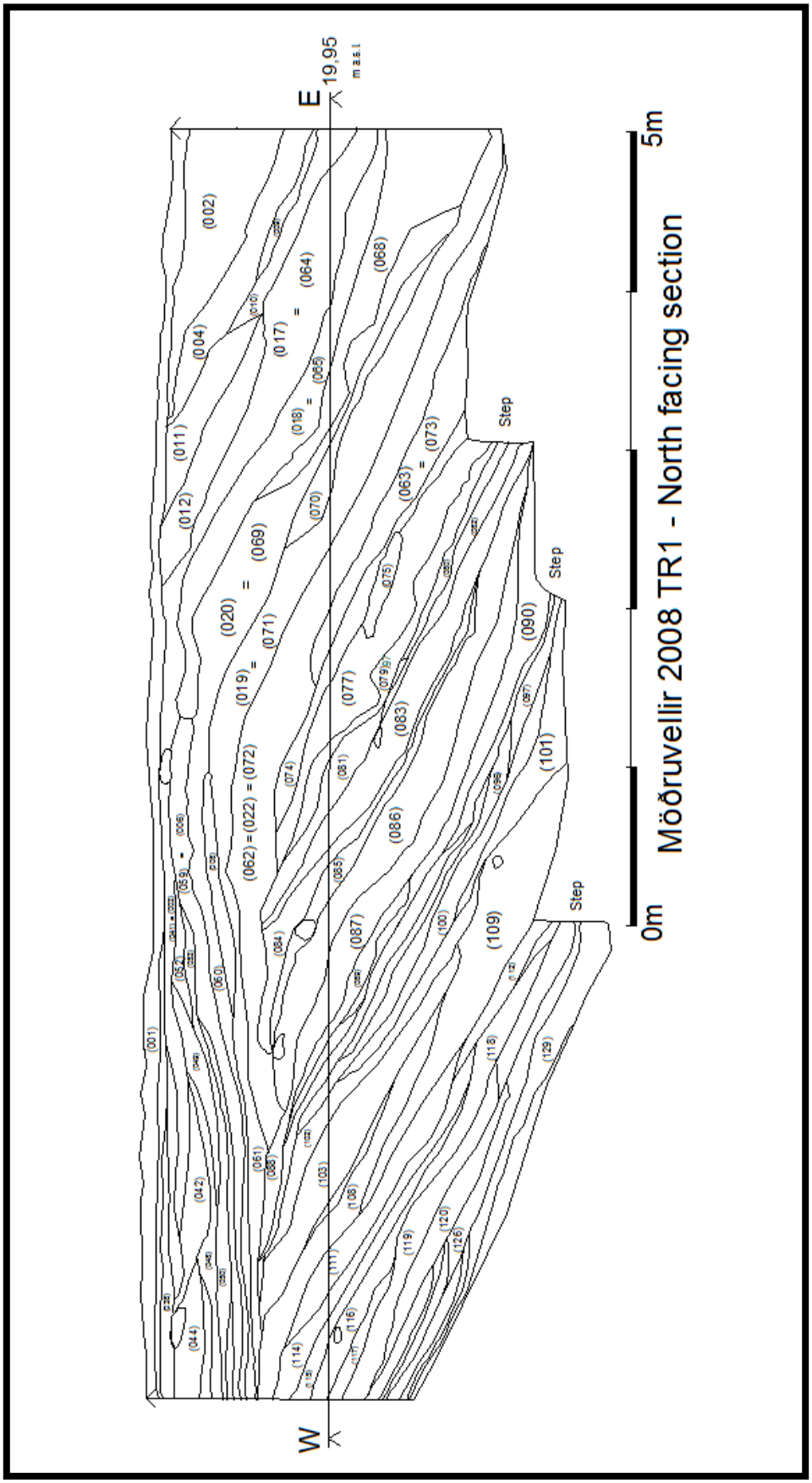


Figure 7 - Möðruvellir Trench 1, North facing Section

Midden Assessment, June 16 through June 20

During the first week of the project, T.H. McGovern, R. Harrison, and Þ. Pétursdóttir investigated various sites by systematic coring of potential middens associated with structural remains from sites serving different purposes such as shieling sites, animal shelters, and farm sites of various social statuses.

NB: The various sites are labeled: Site name, project code – (survey code). Coordinates, Elevation (according to Google Earth)

Myrkárdalur, MYÖ – (EY205_006)

Coordinates: 65º37.845'N, 18º34.906'W, Elevation 218m asl.

The Myrkárdalur farm is situated in a highland area at the end of a valley named after the river Myrká. The farm ruin is clearly visible despite the overgrowth of grass: several rooms are connected through a central corridor, reminiscent of medieval houses from Greenland (T.H.McGovern, pers. communication). A landslide in the 14th Century destroyed part of the farm and the occupants were forced to move further west, where several more recent ruins are located.

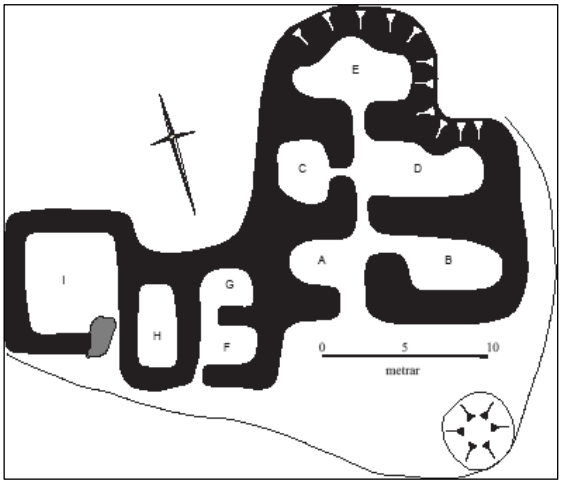


Figure 8 – Myrkárdalur ruin, survey plan (Hreiðarsd. 2008).

Two likely midden mounds were located within 5m from each other, to the S of the older farm ruin (*coordinates: MYO04 65°37.840'N, 18 ° 34.901'W).* They are both visible due to rather rich vegetation growth, and the eastern one was indicated on the survey map.

Figure 9 – Coring at the midden mounds.

Both mounds were cored and the western one, believed to be the older one, was test trenched. The upper deposits of the trench contained some bone material, but there were fewer faunal remains in the lower layers which contained mostly structural debris (i.e. turf collapse) and some peat ash deposits. Some green jasper was found there. The artifacts recovered from the test trench are still under analysis and may help date the deposits. Artifacts were mostly made from either metal or stone, but occasional glass and pottery were recovered, as well as one piece of wood. No tephra was recorded.

Figure 10 – Trenching and planning the MYÖ midden.

Depending on the faunal and artefactual analysis, this trench may be extended in 2009. The eastern midden mound may be excavated in 2009 as the coring profiles indicated stratified midden deposits, containing burnt and unburnt bone, charcoal, and peat ash.

Möðruvallasel MSÖ – (EY200_006)

Coordinates: 65º39.247'N, 18º37.820'W, Elevation: 410m asl.

This site was used as shieling site for sheep in medieval and early modern times and is associated with the church farm at Möðruvellir in several documents. The ruin is located about a 45 minute walk from the nearest jeep trail, and it would be logistically difficult to establish an excavation there.

Ari (the farmer who owns the land on which the shieling is located) reports that while summer grazing was good, the weather in this steep sided glacial valley was often very bad, with high winds and deep snow in the winter. This may be a factor in the long term land use pattern, as it appears that the substantial MSÖ ruin (easily the size of a small medieval farm) remained only a seasonally occupied summer herding station.

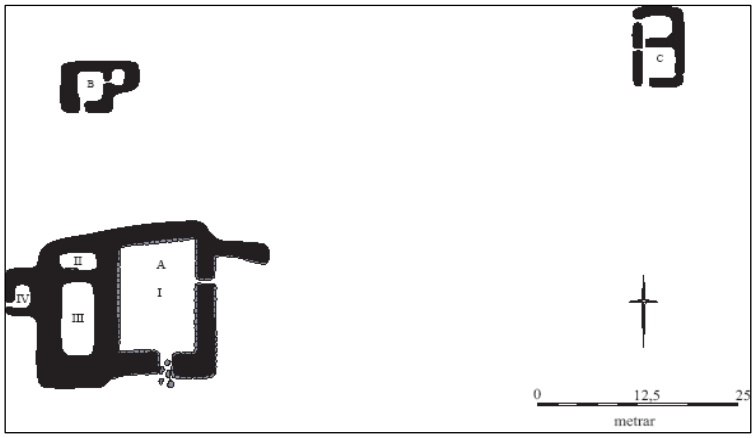


Figure 11 - survey plan of the shieling; structure A is the main building (Hreiðarsd. 2008).

There is a very easily visible raised feature next to the structural ruins that could be a midden mound *(coordinates MSO1 65°39.230'N, 18°37.853'W)*, but upon coring it was found that it was neither rich in ash, nor bone nor charcoal, but that it may have been the result of repeated deposits of sheep dung. A core into the inside of the sel suggested there may have been a floor layer, but if this was indeed a floor deposit, it was not as thick or as compacted as in a normal dwelling house.

Fig. 12 – Coring at MSÖ with a young helper.

MSÖ is thus a very interesting evidence of seasonal herding and upland land use, but probably not a viable target for midden excavation.

Fig. 13 – Möðruvallasel ruin, direction S.

Klausturhús KLÖ, (EY215_022)

Coordinates: 65º39.552'N, 18º29.702'W, Elevation: 280m asl.

KLÖ is a very clearly visible and substantial rectilinear ruin, ca 35-38 m long, near the modern road through Hörgárdalur, situated mid-way up the valley, built on a gravel ridge.

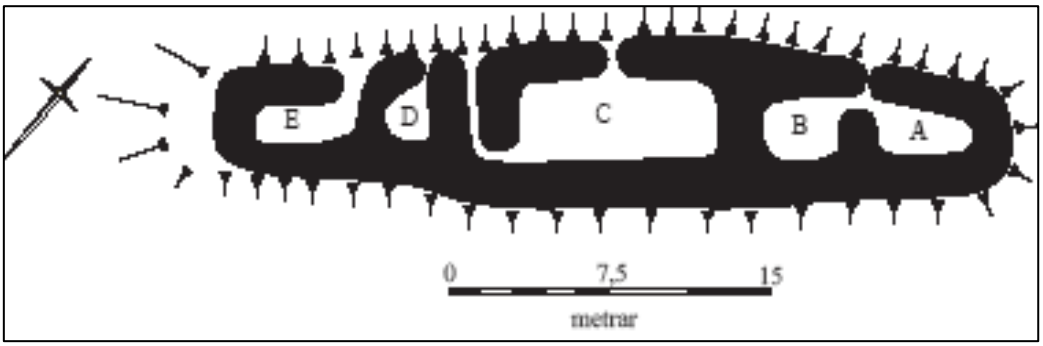


Figure 14 - Klausturhús animal shelter, survey plan (Hreiðarsd. 2008).

There was no clear surface indication of a midden mound, so coring transects were carried out around the structure and downslope where disposal of food and other refuse would be most likely.

Coring revealed that the prehistoric tephras (H3) were quite close to the surface, at a depth of ca 25 and 45 cm. Core number 7, just at the SE wall of the structure contained some turf that possibly included olive colored tephra. Two tephra samples were taken from this site, both tephras were found in a core at 12.40 m east (line running along the Northern wall; coordinates: KLO01 65º39.561'N, 18º29.693'W).

Figure 15 – Coring at KLÖ. This structure is elongated E-W, view to East.

The first tephra sample may have been a layer within a turf that had been cut into deposits containing 1422 or 1477 AD tephra (purple-black), encountered in the core profile at a depth between 20-34 cm. From the same core, at 37cm below surface, an olive/black tephra was encountered and also sampled. Further investigation of the site by Dr. Simpson and the geoarchaeology team will clarify these relationships and help establish the chronology of this substantial old structure. The coring was successful in establishing that there was a floor inside the structure, but the only potential midden material were deposits that may represent repeated deposition of dung or stable cleaning materials but which lacked substantial bone or ash deposits. The results from the Klausturhús midden investigation are similar to the ones from Möðruvallasel, suggesting that both of these sites were probably managed largely as sel/shielings rather than as small farms that would have been likely to generate the full range of domestic refuse.

August 17-22, 2008 Part 2 of the project

The second round of midden investigations was conducted by Ramona Harrison (CUNY) and Þóra Pétursdóttir (FSÍ).

Skriða

The property that belongs to the modern farm at Skriða, located within ca. 20 km of Möðruvellir in Hörgárdal (*Coordinates: 65°43.103'N. 18°21.878W, 54m asl*) may have previously been the site of at least two medieval farmsteads whose traces are no longer present. The survey data indicated potential midden mounds associated with these old farms that are now predominantly known from written sources (Jónsson, 1905). Since the actual names of the old farmsteads are not entirely clear, they are both called Skriða for this survey, but were given the site Code of NLÖ, as the oldest farm on this site was supposed to be called Neðri Langahlíð. The midden associated with what is maybe the more recent farm is discussed first and labeled as Skriða, NLÖ1. The second farm may have indeed been the Neðri Langahlið farm that was destroyed by a landslide (skriða in Icelandic) in 1390, covering the part of Rafn Bótólfsson´s farm, killing him as well as his entire family (Brynjúlfur Jónsson, 1906).

As a result, the entire slope of the infield, situated to the NW of the modern Skirða farm house is more or less a gravel field covered with grass.

Skriða, NLÖ 1 (EY-192:023)

Coordinates: 65°43.103'N. 18°21.878W, 51m asl.

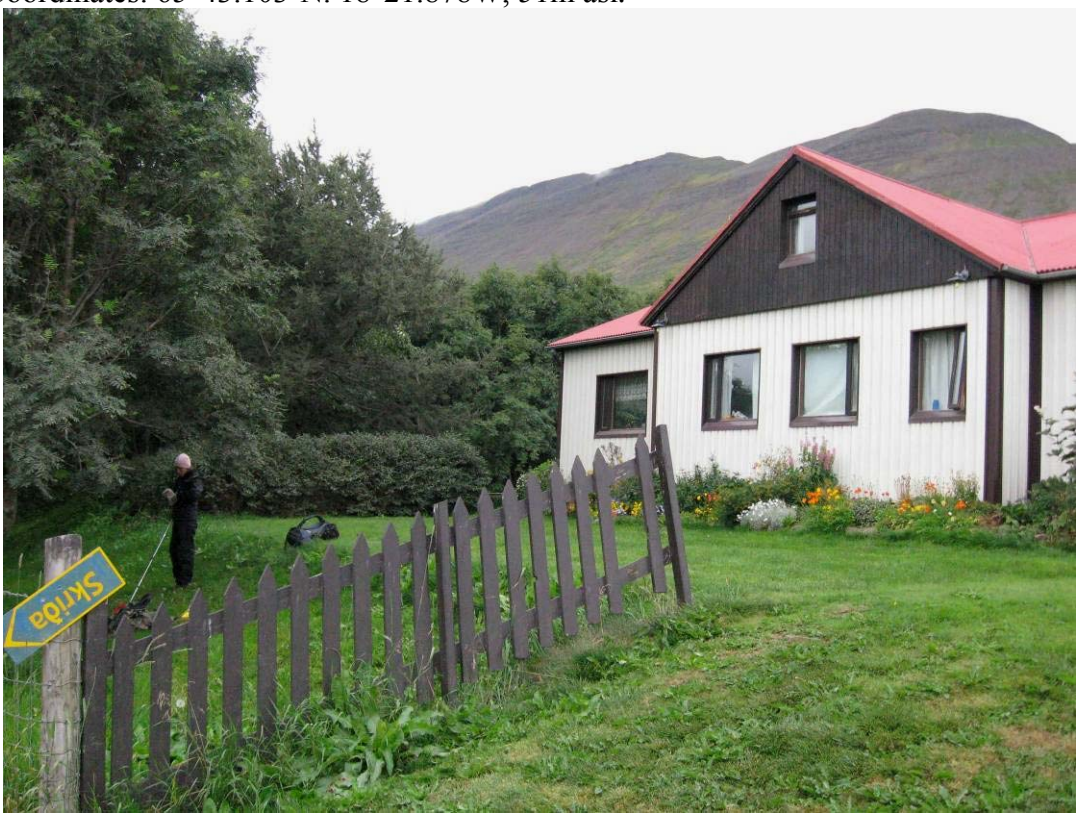


Figure 16 – Coring at Skriða, NLÖ 1. The modern house visible on the right. Direction W.

The farm is located just North of a road. Cores were put in just SW of the modern house (*65º43.101'N, 18º21.876'W)*. There was occasional charcoal and a few tiny flecks of white burnt bone in a core put in at 10 m SW of the modern structure, as well are generally traces of peat in the coring profiles, but no convincing profiles indicating a midden. Another core put in at about 3 m NE of the last standing tree in the line indicates that there is potential midden material between 24 – 33 cm below the surface, right above a turf containing sequences of prehistoric tephras (at a depth of 33-40cm below surface). Coring has revealed evident traces of midden materials, but because the area was leveled in 1980, there no longer exists a well stratified midden associated with Skriða, NLÖ1.

Skriða, NLÖ 2 (EY-192:004)

Coordinates: 65°43.079'N,18°22.047'W, 54m asl

To find this potential farm midden, a 30 m line was put up in the Skriða infield at a location ca 30 – 40 m NW of the modern structure, the line running N-S.

The landslide(s) that covered this farm area left behind a ground that is very hard to core, and the only area where the Oakfield corer did not hit rock right away was just slightly North of the southern end of the line put in *(S end:* 65º43.073'N, 18º22.027'W*)*,

Figure 17– Coring at Skriða, NLÖ2, the modern farm building is right behind the trees, to the E.

Two cores that contained distinctive midden deposits including black burnt bone were put in at the 2m mark; one directly at the line and one 1 m West of it. The core profiles showed clearly stratified deposits alternating in their contents of wood and/or peat ash, bone, and turf debris. Midden materials were encountered up to 72 cm below the surface, when a rock prevented the corer from going any deeper. The only potential tephra encountered here that may not be prehistoric was a black (1400s or 1766 AD?), found at ca. 20 to 40 cm below surface in one core. At the southern end of the line, most cores contained domestic midden materials and were prevented from reaching any deeper because of a rock. This midden seems to contain promising faunal materials, but trenching it will most likely require heavy machinery, i.e. JCB to gain access to the archaeology.

Bakki, BKÖ (EY-219:013)

Coordinates: 65°36.894´N, 18°30.378'W, 176m asl

Bakki used to be a wealthy church farm during the Middle Ages and is a working modern farm today, but the church is in use only on rare occasions. The investigated midden is associated with the old Bakki farm and is located in the SW corner of the new addition to the churchyard. A driveway belonging to the modern farm house offers easy access to the site.

Figure 18 – Bakki church in Öxnadalur. NE Direction.

Cores were put in to that SW corner of the churchyard (*65º36.894´N, 18º30.378'W*). The deepest core went to 150 cm below surface and contained very loosely compacted midden materials which were well stratified and showed bands of peat ash deposits, followed by turf debris, layers with charcoal and burnt bone (black and white).

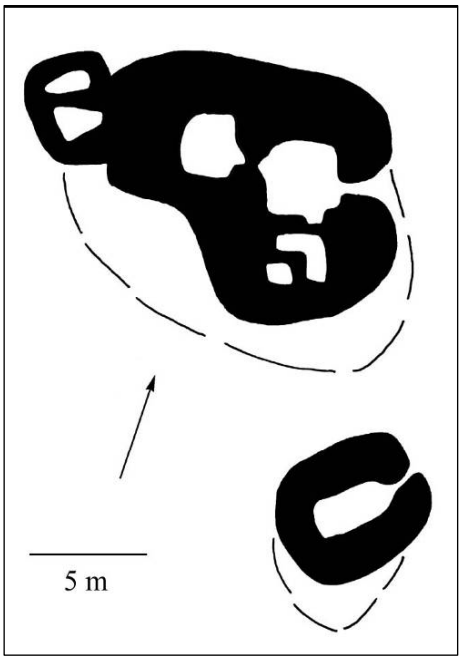
At 14-16 cm below surface, right under windblown natural soil, a piece of a turf chunk that may have contained creamy white, potentially prehistoric tephra was found. This potential tephra should be further investigated as it can provide important references regarding time of deposition of associated layers. Several cores showed calcined bone fragments, frequent chunks of charcoal, peat ash deposits, turf debris, etc. The Bakki midden seems to be well stratified, containing peat ash, a considerable amount of charcoal as well as burnt and unburnt bone. The only logistical problem may be the fact that the midden is located in the churchyard.

Jaðar, JRÖ (EY-068:022)

Coordinates: 65°46.179', N 18°14.791'W, 18m asl.

The Jaðar ruin is located on Möðruvellir land, on top of a promontory to the SE of the modern church. Several coring lines were placed in association with the structural ruins that were visible despite the high grass growth. Þúfa (overgrown hummocks created by repeated freezing and thawing actions) cover the raised area that holds the ruins as well as the modern cemetery.

Figure 20 – Jaðar ruin, center of promontory. Möðruvellir church in NW.



Coring at the line set up at the northern Structure (the large one on the survey plan) revealed some traces of charcoal and rather greasy deposits, possibly indicating a floor. Cores also contained some very patchy prehistoric tephra layers that could have been disturbed by digging into the prehistoric substrata. No conclusive structural or midden deposits were found. Many of the cores contained natural soil and some *in situ* prehistoric tephras.

Fig. 21 - Survey plan of the Jaðar ruins (Vésteinsson, 2001:32)

Another coring line was set up along a north to south line at a small mound that looked very lush l(*JAD-HLN 65°46.166' N, 18°14.814´ W).*Various cores contained very loose deposits and many seemed to go through voids, which may be due to root

action and/or þúfa-related cryoturbation? Except for the occasional charcoal bits, no cultural deposits were encountered. Root growth in most cores reached down to almost half a meter below surface. At 3.50 m and at 5 m south of the N end of the line black tephra was encountered at 52 and 72 cm depth from surface, respectively. In both cases, the tephra was right on top of prehistoric deposits and may thus be prehistoric as well.

The most promising area for midden deposits seemed to be at the Eastern center of the promontory, indicated by very green vegetation. The first core on that spot (*JADESC 65º46.167' N, 18º14.770' W)* went to a depth of 70 cm below the surface and hit a rock. A black tephra layer (1400s or 1766? AD) was found at 23-24cm below the surface. The core further contained a stratigraphic sequence of wood ash followed by peat and next by a layer of very clean soil at 37-38 cm down. Between 38 and 65 cm below surface, there was another series of peat ash, wood ash, lots of charcoal deposited on top of each other. The last five centimeters before the core hit the rock contained a rather large lump (2cm) of charcoal.

Figure 22 – One promising spot: NE of the modern cemetery, Core 4.

Several other core profiles contained a black or grey tephra band under the topsoil between ca. 10 and 15 cm below the surface. This tephra layer needs further investigation as it can provide valuable dating information. Followed by the tephra layer are cultural deposits: rather uncompacted layers containing charcoal, peat and wood ash. The most promising soil core (Core 4) was taken at 4m E of the NE boundary of the new cemetery (*JADSS 65º46.155'N, 18º14.767'W)* and it is suggested that a test trench be put in here or/and at *JADESC N65º46.167' W18º14.770'*.

NB: The old Akrar farm ruin, believed to lie close nearby (EY-068:020 65°46.157'N 18°14.441'W (Vésteinsson,2004:31)), still remains to be investigated for midden remains and this should be attempted in 2009.

Neskot, NKÖ (EY-068:018)

Coordinates: 65°46.707'N, 18°13.548'W, 16m asl.

Neskot was a tenant farm associated with Möðruvellir that may have become abandoned at around the time when Möðruvellir became the seat of the resident governor in 1772 (Ólafsson in Vésteinsson, 2001:30). There are several ruins that are located about 1 km NE from Möðruvellir, on the Eastern side of the main road. Access to this site is very difficult, as fences had to be climbed and a wetland area traversed. Due to the dry summer, there was not that much water in the meadow and thus our work was a bit easier than it could have been.

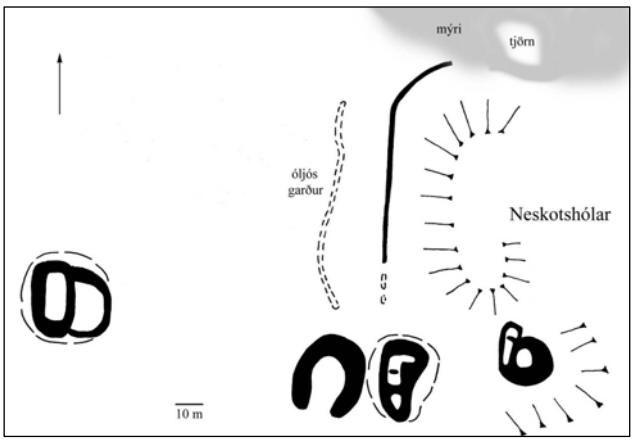


Figure 23 - Neskot ruins, survey plan (Vésteinsson, 2001: 30)

Despite extensive coring at the possibly 4 Neskot ruins, no midden material was found at that site. The whole area seems to be naturally raised by gravel deposits, and there are gravel hills right to the north of the ruins. The soil was extremely dry, even after a couple of nights of rain. Many prehistoric tephra layers were encountered, following topsoil and clean soil (windblown) layers that contained no charcoal or any other indicators for human activity. Many cores contained deposits that consisted of very coarse sand and even gravel which were interpreted as natural depositions as the whole area consists of gravel hills:

The western most of the three structures found in a cluster on the eastern part of the site (*NES02 E 65º46.685'N, 18º13.560'W)* presents a good example: Underneath topsoil and another 20 cm of natural sandy silt deposit, a black tephra (1400s or 1766 AD?) was encountered at 35cm below surface. Next, there was very uniform, homogenous sandy silt for another 10cm down, followed by a prehistoric tephra (H3?) at 45 – 46 cm below surface. This was followed by another 15 cm of silty sand deposits, and a second prehistoric tephra at 60 cm below surface. The ph levels at all structures were between 6.8 -7, but beyond some faint traces of turf collapse in the

most southern structure, no midden materials were found. No further activities at this site are suggested.

Figure 24 – Neskot. Möðruvellir is indicated by black circle, SW direction. Left arrow points to road (Nr. 1) toward Akureyri, right arrow points to road (Nr. 82) toward Dalvík.

Skuggi, SKÖ (EY-215:009)

Coordinates: 65°39.743'N, 18°28.782'W, Elevation: 360m asl.

The site is uphill from a bridge called Skuggabrú which crosses the Hörgá. Only the last part of the way which is uphill cannot be accessed by a vehicle. It is a rather steep ascent but a horse trodden way (the pasture also is in use for horse grazing) facilitates the ca. 10 min hike. Klausturhús, the animal shelter discussed earlier, lies about half a kilometer to the NW of this site. Skuggi is a medieval farm ruin said to have been inhabited before 1400 and has presumably been abandoned for a long time. The Skuggi farm midden was found at the exact location indicated by the survey map.

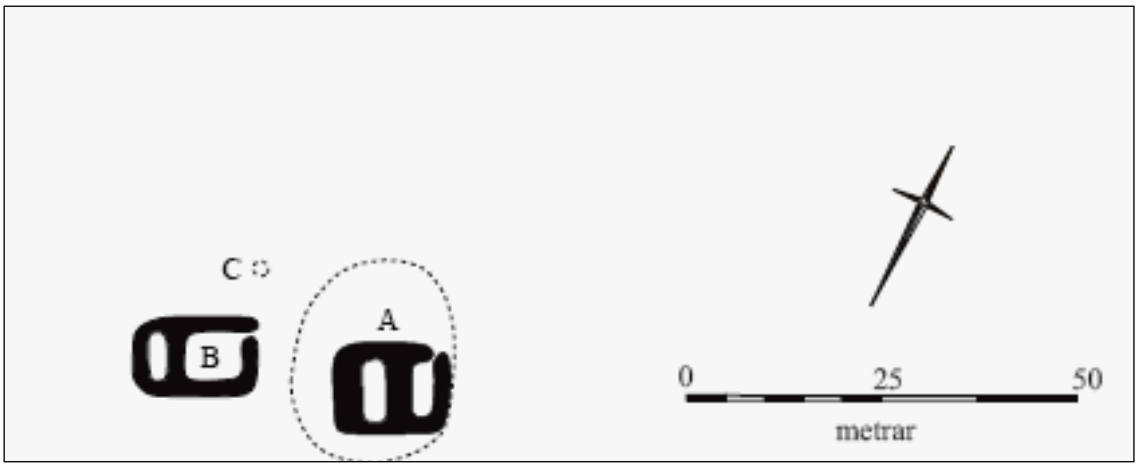


Figure 25 - Skuggi survey plan. C indicates the midden mound, coring and testing confirmed the location (Hreiðarsd. 2008).

A 16 m n-s line was put up to investigate the extent of the midden mound. The transect ran north from the NW corner of ruin C (*SKU01N 65º39.752' N, 18º28.813'W)*. Cores between 12 and 14 m North of structure B were the most promising. These cores contained stratified midden deposits including relatively large pieces (2cm plus) of well preserved bone and the midden deposits continued to a depth of ca 80 – 120 cm below the surface.

Figure 26 – Skuggi ruin, SE direction, midden at the left.

The cores very consistently produced a grey/blue-black tephra layer that was right under the natural and seemed to seal all the cultural deposits. A test trench, 1 m by 2 m, was put in between the 12 and 14 m mark. The excavation revealed a layer of bluish grey tephra (possibly H 1300 AD), which sealed the entire midden deposit, thus indicating that these deposits had accumulated prior to deposition of this tephra layer. Various discrete midden layers could be planned and excavated and a good amount of well preserved and unburnt animal bones from domesticates, but also some fish and bird elements, could be collected. Other environmental samples were taken as well, and the tephra was sampled twice, to be analyzed by tephra specialist Magnús Á. Sigurgeirsson. Except for one iron object, and one potential slag fragment, all artifacts collected so far were from stone, i.e. jasper.

The goal is to return to Skuggi in summer of 2009 and to collect a larger sample.

Figure 26 – Skuggi Midden (SKÖ), South Section. Blue-grey tephra line (arrows) sealing all deposits.

Summary:

The summer of 2008 saw a very productive series of midden investigations that were conducted in collaboration between FSÍ and CUNY. The most promising sites were Skuggi and Myrkárdalur, both in Hörgárdalur, with Skuggi being the best indication for a well preserved and datable midden, as it contained a tephra layer that can be analyzed and used as dating device. While the midden investigations at Skriða-NLÖ 1, Neskot, Klausturhús, and Möðruvallasel did not produce proof for well stratified middens, there is significant potential for the middens at Bakki, Skriða-NLÖ2, and also Jaðar., Although the 2008 Möðruvellir midden excavations were not completely successful in terms of collecting substantial faunal remains, there may still be useful dating material in form of the well preserved textiles and also the environmental samples. This is not to say that a few recovered bones are completely unusable for C14 analysis. Analysis of all the samples taken from the three sites will result in a set of data that can improve our understanding of the past in the Eyjafjörður region. As mentioned above, there are many sites from this area that have survey data readily available and that may provide excellent candidates for further midden investigations.

Further Collaboration Potentials:

On June 28, 2008, a meeting was held between Dr. Bjarni E. Guðleifsson. and Dr. Þóroddur Sveinsson from the Icelandic Agricultural University (which runs the research station and experimental facilities based at Möðruvellir), and members of FSÍ, CUNY, U Stirling, U Edinburgh, and U Buffalo teams. A very successful exchange of information and ideas took place in the upper floor of the leikhús, a former gymnasium that now functions as cultural facility. Bjarni and Þóroddur were very interested in continued archaeological work on the Möðruvellir grounds as it was believed that the oldest farm in the area, Akrar (at least 1000 ya), has been situated on somewhere on its premises. Participants agreed that there was an excellent potential for productive collaboration to connect modern agricultural science to the archaeological and paleo-environmental investigations going on in the district, and plans were made for more formal proposals for expanded work and funding applications.

Acknowledgements

This report was enabled by generous funding provided by grants from Fornleifasjóður, Iceland, CUNY Northern Science & Education Center, and the US National Science Foundation (Grants OPP AC 0732327 and OPP ARC 0809033).

I would like to thank Guðlaug, Smári, Sigmar, and Nonni, the 2008 field team, especially Howell M. Roberts and Thomas H. McGovern for there expert advice and support. I would further like to thank Elín Ósk Hreiðarsdóttir for all her help with the survey data and Þóra Pétursdóttir for her immediate help with numerous questions. Special thanks go to Þóroddur Sveinsson and Bjarni E. Guðleifsson for their hospitability, and especially Drs. Ian Simpson, Andy Dugmore, and Andy Casely for their enthusiasm about the project, and Drs. Mike Church, Philippa Ascough and Gordon Cooke for their readiness to take on organic samples for archaeobotanical and isotopic studies. I would further like to thank my friends at FSÍ for all their help with things that would take much longer to accomplish without them. Special thanks also go to Dr. Thomas H. McGovern and Dr. Sophia Perdikaris for their continuous support and advice with the archaeofaunal analysis and the tremendous help disseminating the data.

References

Dugmore, Andrew et al.
2009 Landscape Change, climate and human ecodynamics in Hörgárdalur, northern Iceland. *RANNÍS Research Proposal, 1. Detailed project description,* September 2008, Reykjavík, Iceland. RESEARCH PROPOSAL.

Harrison, Ramona, Howell M. Roberts, W. Paul Adderley.
2008 Gásir in Eyjafjörður: International Exchange and Local Economy in Medieval Iceland. In *Across the Grey Waters: Resilience and Survival in the North Atlantic*, ed. Orri Vésteinsson and Thomas McGovern. New York, Kluwer Academic/Springer. *(In press)*

Harrison, Ramona & Howell M. Roberts
2007 The Midden at Möðruvellir 2007: Preliminary excavation report of the Möðruvellir Midden, 2007. FS365-006382 Fornleifastofnun Islands, *Reykjavík.*

Harrison, Ramona
2007 Interim Report of faunal analysis from the 2006 Midden excavation at Möðruvellir, Eyjafjörður, N Iceland. NORSEC lab report No. 37, CUNY NY

Harrison, Ramona
2008 Status Report on the faunal analysis from the 2007 Midden excavation at Möðruvellir, Eyjafjörður, N Iceland. NORSEC Lab/Status Report, CUNY, NY

Harrison, Ramona & Howell M. Roberts
2006 The Midden at Möðruvellir 2006. Preliminary Excavation Report, FS338-06381 Fornleifastofnun Íslands, Reykjavík 2006

Harrison, Ramona
2006 Interim Report of Animal Bones from the 2005 Excavations at Gásir, Eyjafjörður, N Iceland, *NORSEC Zooarchaeology Laboratory Reports no 28.*

Harrison, Ramona
2006 The Church at Gásir, Eyjafjörður, N. Iceland Interim Report of faunal analysis from the 2006 Excavations. NORSEC lab report No. 38

Hreiðarsdóttir, Elín Ósk (ed.)
2008 Fornleifaskráning í Öxnadals- og Skriðuhreppi. Fornleifastofnun Íslands. Report FS370-04071. Reykjavík. *(in press)*

Hreiðarsdóttir, Elín Ósk
2001 Fornleifaskráning í Eyjafirðir XV: Aðalskráning í Glæsibæjarhreppi III, FS101-98042, Reykjavík.

Hreiðarsdóttir, Elín Ó. & Orri Vésteinsson
1999 Fornleifaskráning í Glæsibæjarhreppi II., FS101-98042, Reykjavík.

Jónsson, Brynjúlfur: 'Rannsókn í Norðurlandi sumarið 1905.' Árbók hins íslenzka
1906 fornleifafélags 1906, 1-27, Reykjavík.

Roberts, Howell M.
2004 Garðlag á Möðruvöllum í Eyjafirði. Fornleifarannsókn. FS254-04251, Reykjavík.

Roberts, H. M. et al.
2002a Fornleifarannsókn á Gásum / Archaeological Research at Gásir, 2001. An Interim Report/Framvinduskýrsla. Fornleifastofnun Íslands FS163-01071, Reykjavík.

Roberts, H. M. et al.
2002b Archaeological Investigations at Gásir 2002, a preliminary report. Fornleifastofnun Íslands FS180-01072, Reykjavík.

Roberts H.M. et al.
2005 *Gásir 2004, an Interim Report,* Fornleifastofnun Íslands FS194-01073. Reykjavík.

Roberts, H. M. et al.
2006 *Excavations at Gásir 2001-2006, A Preliminary Report*, Fornleifastofnun Íslands FS335-01079. Reykjavík.

Roberts, H. M. & Pálsdóttir, L.B. et al.
2006 Excavations at Gásir 2005 – An Interim Report/Framvinduskýrsla. Fornleifastofnun Íslands FS312-01078 Reykjavík.

Vésteinsson, Orri
2001 Möðruvellir í Hörgárdalur: Fornleifakönnun. Fornleifastofnun Íslands FS153-89071, Reykjavík.

Vésteinsson, Orri & S. G.
1998 Fornleifaskráning í Glæsibæjarhreppi I. FS070-98041, Reykjavík.

APPENDICES

Appendix I – Excavation Data-sets

2008 Möðruvellir Öskuhóll (MÖÖ) data

Möö 08 context register trench 1					
Context number	Area	Type	Description/information	Date/Time dd.mm.yy.	ID
74	TR1	D	Gray pink midden deposit mixed	17.06.08	RH
75	TR1	D	Orange brown peat ash, turf mixed midden	17.06.08	AK
77	TR1	D	Orange gray peat	18.06.08	AK
79	TR1	D	Pink and black peat, very mixed midden	19.06.08	AK
80	TR1	D	Gray black, charcoal rich	19.06.08	AK
81	TR1	D	Gray black, charcoal rich	19.06.08	AK
82	TR1	D	Orange mottled peat	19.06.08	AK
83	TR1	D	Orange peat, mottled	20.06.08	FF
84	TR1	D	Dark brown midden dep mottled with orange	20.06.08	KS
85	TR1	D	Ash dump, gray black	20.06.08	KS
86	TR1	D	Midden peat ash dump under [85]	23.06.08	KS
87	TR1	D	Brown midden deposit with black inclusions	23.06.08	RH
88	TR1	D	Brown gray wood ash mix	23.06.08	RH
89	TR1	D	Orange pink mixed deposit midden	23.06.08	AK
90	TR1	D	Gray black mixed deposit	23.06.08	RH
91	TR1	D	Yellow pink mixed deposit	23.06.08	AK
92	TR1	D	Dark gray black with charcoal	23.06.08	AK
93	TR1	D	Orange pink mixed peat ash	23.06.08	KS
94	TR1	D	Orange pink midden deposit	23.06.08	AK
95	TR1	D	Pink ash midden dump	24.06.08	MG
96	TR1	D	Mixed pink ash midden dump	24.06.08	MG
97	TR1	D	Orange with large wood ash patches, mixed	24.06.08	PP
98	TR1	D	Brown gray mottled deposit	24.06.08	AK
99	TR1	D	Ashy pink mixed midden	24.06.08	AK
100	TR1	D	Gray brown mixed midden deposit	24.06.08	AK
101	TR1	D	Brown gray mixed deposit with peat ash	24.06.08	RH
102	TR1	D	Mid brown silty and bone rich deposit	25.06.08	PP
103	TR1	D	Pinkish orange very mixed deposit	25.06.08	PP
104	TR1	D	Brown silty turfy dump	25.06.08	AK
105	TR1	D	Brown mixed dump	25.06.08	PP
106	TR1	D	Brownish orange mixed peat ash deposit	25.06.08	AK
107	TR1	D	Brown orange with wood ash	25.06.08	AK
108	TR1	D	Orange brown black mixed dump	26.06.08	AK
109	TR1	D	Grayish brown with charcoal, greasy midden dump	26.06.08	AK
110	TR1	D	Pink orange mixed midden deposit	26.06.08	PP
111	TR1	D	Orange mixed midden deposit	26.06.08	AK
112	TR1	D	Orange black green peat ash deposit	26.06.08	AK
113	TR1	D	Orange peat ash layer speckled with yellow patches	27.06.08	KS

114	TR1	D	Brown gray mixed deposits	27.06.08	AK
115	TR1	D	Pink ash deposit	27.06.08	RH
116	TR1	D	Brown gray mottled midden dump	27.06.08	KS
117	TR1	D	Brown orange gray mixed with black midden dump	27.06.08	AK
118	TR1	D	Black gray orange gravel mix	27.06.08	RH
119	TR1	D	Pink orange mixed midden	27.06.08	AK
120	TR1	D	Light brown orange mixed midden	30.06.08	AK
121	TR1	D	Brown mixed layer with black lens	30.06.08	AK
122	TR1	D	Orange pink silt peat ash	30.06.08	HHR
123	TR1	D	Mixed orange brown peat ash	30.06.08	RH
124	TR1	D	Yellow brown peat ash midden dump	30.06.08	KS
125	TR1	D	Midden deposit: brown and pink	30.6.2008	MG
126	TR1	D	Brown mixed with black and pin, midden deposit of peat ash, structural turf and burned dung - very mixed	1.7.2008	KS
127	TR1	D	Pink peat ash deposit	1.7.2008	SIG
128	TR1	D	Brown ash midden dump at E. End of trench	2.7.2008	KS
129	TR1	D	Brown ash mixed w. Pin peat ash and speckled w. Black spots of charred animal dung = midden dump	2.7.2008	KS
130	TR1	D	Ash midden dump	2.7.2008	MG

Table 1 - MÖÖ08 Context Register for TR1

MÖÖ 08 Context Register Trench 2					
Context Number	Area	Type	Description/Information	Date/Time dd.mm.yy.	ID
500	TR 2	D	Cleaning deposit	17.06.08	RH
501	TR 2	D	Yellow brown soil under [500] under turf layer	17.06.08	HHR
502	TR 2	C	Cut for unit [501]	17.06.08	KS
503	TR 2	D	Yellow brown soil under [500]	17.06.08	VF
504	TR 2	C	Cut of a pit sw corner of tr2, cut for [503]	17.06.08	VF
505	TR 2	D	Yellow brown soil mixed with some ash	17.06.08	KS

Table 2 - MÖÖ08 Context Register for TR2

MÖÖ 08 Context Register Trench 2B					
Context Number	Area	Type	Description/Information	Date/Time dd.mm.yy.	ID
600	2B	D	Cleaning deposit after deturfing	18.06.08	KS
601	2B	D	Midden deposit of ash & dark brown soil	19.06.08	KS
602	2B	D	Midden deposit of white gray ash & orange peat	19.06.08	KS
603	2B	D	Midden ash dump, se part of trench, under 600	19.06.08	KS
604	2B	D	Midden deposit of mottled turf, or structural collapse	19.06.08	VF
605	2B	D	Patch of turfy soil	20.06.08	VF

Table 3 - MÖÖ08 Context Register for TR2b

MÖÖ 08 Samples register							
Bag. No	Area	Context	Vol	Quant of Bags / Buckets	Sample	Date/ dd.mm.yy	ID
08-01	TR1	74	10L	1 bucket	Flotation for archaeobotany for archaeobotany	17.06.08	Þ.P.
08-02	TR1	74		1 small bag	Charcoal	17.06.08	RH
08-03	TR1	74		1 large bag	Burned dung	17.06.08	RH
08-04	TR1	75	10L	1 bucket	Flotation for archaeobotany	17.06.08	AK
08-05	TR1	77	10L	1 bucket	Flotation for archaeobotany	18.06.08	AK
08-06	TR1	79	10L	1 bucket	Flotation for archaeobotany	19.06.08	AK
08-07	TR1	79		1 bag	Burned dung	19.06.08	FF
08-08	TR1	80	10L	1 bucket	Flotation for archaeobotany	19.06.08	AK
08-09	TR1	81	10L	1 bucket	Flotation for archaeobotany	19.06.08	AK
08-10	TR1	82	10L	1 bucket	Flotation for archaeobotany	19.06.08	AK
08-11	TR1	83	10L	1 bucket	Flotation for archaeobotany	20.06.08	FF
08-12	TR2B	601	10L	1 bucket	Flotation for archaeobotany	19.06.08	VF
08-13	TR2B	602	10L	1 bucket	Flotation for archaeobotany	19.06.08	VF
08-14	TR2B	603	10L	1 bucket	Flotation for archaeobotany	19.06.08	VF
08-15	TR2B	604	10L	1 bucket	Flotation for archaeobotany	19.06.08	VF
08-16	TR2B	605	10L	1 bucket	Flotation for archaeobotany	20.06.08	KS
08-17	TR1	84	10L	1 bucket	Flotation for archaeobotany	20.06.08	VF
08-18	TR1	85	10L	1 bucket	Flotation for archaeobotany	20.06.08	VF
08-19	TR1	86	10L	1 bucket	Flotation for archaeobotany	23.06.08	AK
08-20	TR1	87	10L	1 bucket	Flotation for archaeobotany	23.06.08	RH
08-21	TR1	88	10L	1 bucket	Flotation for archaeobotany	23.06.08	MG
08-22	TR1	89	10L	1 bucket	Flotation for archaeobotany	23.06.08	AK
08-23	TR1	90	10L	1 bucket	Flotation for archaeobotany	23.06.08	RH
08-24	TR1	91	10L	1 bucket	Flotation for archaeobotany	23.06.08	AK
08-25	TR1	92	10L	1 bucket	Flotation for archaeobotany	23.06.08	AK
08-26	TR1	93	10L	1 bucket	Flotation for archaeobotany	24.06.08	MG
08-27	TR1	94	10L	1 bucket	Flotation for archaeobotany	24.06.08	AK
08-28	TR1	94		1 small bag	Charcoal	24.06.08	AK

08-29	TR1	94		1 small bag	Charcoal	24.06.08	AK
08-30	TR1	95	10L	1 bucket	Flotation for archaeobotany	24.06.08	MG
08-31	TR1	96	10L	1 bucket	Flotation for archaeobotany	24.06.08	MG
08-32	TR1	97	10L	1 bucket	Flotation for archaeobotany	24.06.08	AK
08-33	TR1	98	10L	1 bucket	Flotation for archaeobotany	24.06.08	AK
08-34	TR1	99	10L	1 bucket	Flotation for archaeobotany	24.06.08	MG
08-35	TR1	100	10L	1 bucket	Flotation for archaeobotany	24.06.08	AK
08-36	TR1	101	10L	1 bucket	Flotation for archaeobotany	24.06.08	Þ.P.
08-37	TR1	74		1 small bag	Wood - burnt	17.06.08	AK
08-38	TR1	102	10L	1 bucket	Flotation for archaeobotany	25.06.08	Þ.P.
08-39	TR1	103	10L	1 bucket	Flotation for archaeobotany	25.06.08	AK
08-40	TR1	104	10L	1 bucket	Flotation for archaeobotany	25.06.08	AK
08-41	TR1	105	10L	1 bucket	Flotation for archaeobotany	25.06.08	Þ.P.
08-42	TR1	106	10L	1 bucket	Flotation for archaeobotany	25.06.08	MG
08-43	TR1	107	10L	1 bucket	Flotation for archaeobotany	25.06.08	AK
08-44	TR1	108	10L	1 bucket	Flotation for archaeobotany	26.06.08	AK
08-45	TR1	108		1 small bag	Charcoal analysis	26.06.08	AK
08-46	TR1	109	10L	1 bucket	Flotation for archaeobotany	26.06.08	AK
08-48	TR1	110	10L	1 bucket	Flotation for archaeobotany	26.06.08	Þ.P.
08-49	TR1	111	10L	1 bucket	Flotation for archaeobotany	26.06.08	MG
08-50	TR1	112	10L	1 bucket	Flotation for archaeobotany	26.06.08	AK
08-51	TR1	113	10L	1 bucket	Flotation for archaeobotany	27.06.08	AK
08-52	TR1	114	10L	1 bucket	Flotation for archaeobotany	27.06.08	AK
08-53	TR1	115	10L	1 bucket	Flotation for archaeobotany	27.06.08	RH
08-54	TR1	116	10L	1 bucket	Flotation for archaeobotany	27.06.08	KS
08-55	TR1	117	10L	1 bucket	Flotation for archaeobotany	27.06.08	AK
08-56	TR1	118	10L	1 bucket	Flotation for archaeobotany	27.06.08	KS
08-57	TR1	119	10L	1 bucket	Flotation for archaeobotany	27.06.08	AK
08-58	TR1	118		1 small bag	Brown gray orange gravel	28.06.08	RH
08-59	TR1	118		1 small bag	Brown gray orange gravel	28.06.08	RH
08-60	TR1	120	10L	1 bucket	Flotation for archaeobotany	30.06.08	AK
08-61	TR1	121	10L	1 bucket	Flotation for archaeobotany	30.06.08	AK
08-62	TR1	122	10L	1 bucket	Flotation for archaeobotany	30.06.08	HMR
08-63	TR1	123	10L	1 bucket	Flotation for archaeobotany	30.06.08	Þ.P.
08-64	TR1	123		1 bag	Charred dung	30.06.08	RH
08-65	TR1	123		1 bag	Unburned dung	30.06.08	RH
08-66	TR1	124	10L	1 bucket	Flotation for archaeobotany	30.06.08	KS
08-67	TR1	125	10L	1 bucket	Flotation for archaeobotany	30.06.08	MG
08-68	TR1	124		1 bag	Burned peat block	30.06.08	RH
08-69	TR1	125		1 bag	Burned wood	30.06.08	RH
08-70	Tr1	126	10L	1 bucket	Flotation for archaeobotany	01.07.08	RH
08-71	TR1	126		1 bag	Slag analysis	01.07.08	RH
08-72	TR1	126		1 bag	Dung analysis	01.07.08	RH
08-73	TR1	126		1 bag	Wood - burnt	01.07.08	RH
08-74	TR1	126		1 bag	Wood - burnt	01.07.08	RH
08-75	TR1	127	10L	1 bucket	Flotation for archaeobotany	01.07.08	SIG
08-76	TR1	127		1 bag	Turf analysis	02.07.08	SIG
08-77	TR1	127		1 bag	Turf or dung analysis	02.07.08	RH
08-78	TR1	128	10L	1 bucket	Flotation for archaeobotany	02.07.08	KS
08-79	TR1	129	10L	1 bucket	Flotation for archaeobotany	02.07.08	MG
08-80	TR1	128		1 bag	Slag analysis	02.07.08	MG

08-81	TR1	128		1 bag	Peat or turf	02.07.08	MG
08-82	TR1	129		1 bag	Wood-brunch/twig	02.07.08	MG
08-83	TR1	129		1 bag	Wood	02.07.08	MG
08-84	TR1	130	10L	1 bucket	Flotation for archaeobotany	02.07.08	MG
08-85	TR1	130		1 bag	Wood	02.07.08	MG
08-127	TR1	130		1sm bag	Wood	04.07.08	Þ.P.
08-128	TR1	130		1 small bag	Wood	04.07.08	Þ.P.
08-129	TR1	130		1 small bag	Wood-brunch/twig	04.07.08	Þ.P.
08-130	TR1	130		1bag	Wood	04.07.08	Þ.P.
08-134	TR1	121		1 med bag	Burnt dung	14.08.08	RH

Table 4- MÖÖ08 Sample Register for all trenches

MÖÖ 08 Bone Register						
Bag. No	Area	Context	Quant of Bags	Description Information	Date/ dd.mm.yy	ID
1	TR1	Cleaning	1	Bones from emptying the trench after last year's filling	17.06.08	FF
2	TR1	77	1		18.06.08	FF
3	TR1	79	1		19.06.08	FF
5	TR1	80	1	Good preservation	19.06.08	FF
6	TR1	81	1		19.06.08	FF
7	TR1	82	1		19.06.08	FF
8	TR1	85	1		20.06.08	FF
9	TR1	83	1		20.06.08	FF
10	TR1	84	1		20.06.08	FF
11	TR1	86	1		23.06.08	KS
12	TR1	87	1		23.06.08	MG
13	TR2	500	1	Cleaning Deposit	17.06.08	KS
14	TR2	501	1		17.06.08	KS
15	TR2	503	1	Fill of cut [504]	17.06.08	KS
16	TR2	505	1		18.06.08	KS
17	TR2B	600	1	Cleaning Deposit	18.06.08	KS
18	TR2B	601	1		19.06.08	KS
19	TR2B	602	1		19.06.08	KS
20	TR2B	603	1		20.06.08	KS
21	TR2B	604	1		20.06.08	KS
22	TR1	89	1		23.06.08	KS
23	TR1	76	1		19.06.08	KS
24	TR1	75	1		17.06.08	KS
25	TR1	74	1		17.06.08	KS
26	TR1	90	1		23.06.08	KS
27	TR1	92	1		23.06.08	KS
28	TR1	93	1		24.06.08	KS
29	TR1	94	1		24.06.08	MG
30	TR1	95	1		24.06.08	MG
31	TR1	96	1		24.06.08	KS
32	TR1	97	1		24.06.08	KS
33	TR1	98	1		24.06.08	MG

34	TR1	99	1		24.06.08	AK
35	TR1	100	1		24.06.08	KS
36	TR1	101	1		24.06.08	KS
37	TR1	102	5		25.06.08	AK
38	TR1	103	1		25.06.08	AK
39	TR1	106	1		25.06.08	MG
40	TR1	108	1		26.06.08	AK
41	TR1	109	3		26.06.08	MG
42	TR1	110	1		26.06.08	AK
43	TR1	111	1		26.06.07	MG
44	TR1	113	1		27.06.08	MG
45	TR1	114	1		27.06.08	MG
46	TR1	115	1		27.06.08	KS
47	TR1	116	1		27.06.08	KS
48	TR1	117	1 Small bag		27.06.08	KS
49	TR1	118	1		27.06.08	MG
50	TR1	119	1		28.06.08	RH
51	TR1	120	1		30.06.08	SIG
52	TR1	121	1		30.06.08	SIG
53	TR1	122	1		30.06.08	SIG
54	TR1	123	1		30.06.08	MG
55	TR1	124	1		30.06.08	MG
56	TR1	125	1		30.06.08	MG
57	TR1	112	1		26.06.08	MG
58	TR1	107	1		26.06.08	MG
59	TR1	127	3	Three half-filled bags	2.7.2008	MG
60	TR1	128	1 small bag	Few charred pieces only	2.7.2008	KS
61	TR1	129	1		2.7.2008	KS
62	TR1	130	1		2.7.2008	KS
63	TR1	126	1		4.7.2008	RH

Table 5 - MÖÖ08 Bone Register for all trenches

MÖÖ 08 Bone Register							
Finds no.	**Context No.**	**Grid**	**Material Type**	**Object Type**	**Comments**	**Date**	**ID**
1	74	TR1	Textile	Piece of cloth?	In bits and pieces	17.06.08	RH
2	74	TR1	Iron	?		17.06.08	RH
4	79	TR1	Whale bone	Worked with hole in top	Piece is broken off at the drilled hole	19.06.08	FF
5	82	TR1	Cloth?	?	Little piece	19.06.08	VF
6	100	TR1	Copper alloy	?		24.06.08	AK
7	101	TR1	Copper alloy	Belt buckle		24.06.08	AK

8	74	TR1	Fe	Needle	1 needle and 1 indeterminate bit	17.06.08	AK
9	75	TR1	Cloth			17.06.08	AK
10	84	TR1	Copper alloy	Sheet metal strip	Narrow strip of sheet metal with 2 rivets	17.06.08	AK
11	84	TR1	Fe	Indet.		17.06.08	AK
12	89	TR1	Textile			23.06.08	AK
13	89	TR1	Stone	Manuport	White translucent pebble	23.06.08	MG
14	93	TR1	Stone		3 pebbles	23.06.08	AK
15	93	TR1	Textile			24.06.08	AK
16	96	TR1	Stone	Manuport?	White pebble	24.06.08	AK
17	98	TR1	Textile			24.06.08	MG
18	100	TR1	Fe	Stud and nail?	2 dense bits of corroded iron - 1 indet nail and 1 round head bent shank stud	24.06.08	AK
19	101	TR1	Fe	Nail head?	Nail or stud head	24.06.08	AK
20	102	TR1	Fe	Shears?	Blades broken off	25.06.08	AK
21	102	TR1	Textile			25.06.08	AK
22	102	TR1	Bone	Needle/pin	Bone pin/needle with eye, broken on point end	25.06.08	PP
23	105	TR1	Copper		Flat piece	25.06.08	PP
24	103	TR1	Copper		Sheet metal frag with 1 perforation	25.06.08	MG
25	103	TR1	Iron	Nail		25.06.08	MG
26	103	TR1	Iron	Clinch bolt		25.06.08	MG
27	103	TR1	Copper		Sheet metal frag	25.06.08	MG
28	103	TR1	Copper		Sheet metal frag	25.06.08	MG
29	103	TR1	Iron		3 indet. Frags - nails?	25.06.08	MG
30	103	TR1	Iron	Bolt?		25.06.08	MG
31	102	TR1	Obsidian		Fragment	25.06.08	MG
32	103	TR1	Copper		2 sheet frags	25.06.08	MG
33	103	TR1	Textile		9 fabric frags	25.06.08	MG
34	106	TR1	Textile	String	Pieces of textile string	25.06.08	PP
35	106	TR1	Hair	String	Braided	25.06.08	MG
36	106	TR1	Copper		Sheet frag	25.06.08	MG
37	107	TR1	Textile		Fabric frags	25.06.08	MG
38	108	TR1	Schist	Whetstone		26.06.08	AK
39	108	TR1	Cu			26.06.08	AK
40	108	TR1	Fe	Nail		26.06.08	AK
41	108	TR1	Textile	Fabric	5 small bits	26.06.08	AK
42	108	TR1	Wood			26.06.08	AK
43	109	TR1	Leather		Fragment	26.06.08	MG
44	109	TR1	Stone	Loom weight		26.06.08	MG
45	109	TR1	Hair	Textile	Fragment	26.06.08	MG
46	109	TR1	Leather	Textile	2 fragments	26.06.08	MG
47	109	TR1	Textile		1 triangular piece	26.06.08	RH

48	109	TR1	Textile		2 fragments	26.06.08	MG
49	109	TR1	Textile		1 fragment	26.06.08	MG
50	111	TR1	Textile		1 fragment	26.06.08	MG
51	111	TR1	Fe	Clinch bolt		26.06.08	AK
52	111	TR1	Textile	String?		26.06.08	AK
53	111	TR1	Wood	?		26.06.08	AK
54	111	TR1	Fe	Nail		26.06.08	PP
55	111	TR1	Textile	String		26.06.08	MG
56	111	TR1	Textile		Fragment	26.06.08	MG
57	118	TR1	Textile		Fragment	27.06.08	MG
58	118	TR1	Leather	String	Fragment	27.06.08	MG
59	118	TR1	Leather	Shoe?	Pieces	28.06.08	RH
60	119	TR1	Copper alloy		Fragment	28.06.08	RH
61	119	TR1	Textile	String?	Piece	28.06.08	RH
62	119	TR1	Leather?	Textile		28.06.08	RH
63	119	TR1	Textile	Fabric		28.06.08	RH
64	121	TR1	Stone	Whetstone?	Fragment	30.06.08	SIG
65	121	TR1	Stone		Flat, rectangular frag	30.06.08	SIG
66	121	TR1	Textile		Fragment	30.06.08	SIG
67	122	TR1	Leather		Fragment, found with hole in middle	30.06.08	RH
68	122	TR1	Copper alloy		Fragment	30.06.08	PP
69	124	TR1	Textile	Cloth	Fragment	30.06.08	RH
70	123	TR1	Iron	Nail	Fragment	01.07.08	CKM
71	126	TR1	Textile	Cloth		1.7.2008	RH
72	126	TR1	Textile	Cloth		1.7.2008	RH
73	126	TR1	Textile	Cloth		1.7.2008	RH
74	126	TR1	Textile	Cloth		1.7.2008	RH
75	127	TR1	Textile	Cloth		1.7.2008	RH
76	127	TR1	Textile	Leather	Clear point on one end	2.7.2008	MG
77	127	TR1	Iron	Nail		2.7.2008	MG
78	127	TR1	Textile	Cloth		2.7.2008	MG
79	127	TR1	Textile	String?		2.7.2008	MG
80	127	TR1	Textile	String?		2.7.2008	MG
81	128	TR1	Textile		Fragment	2.7.2008	MG
82	128	TR1	Textile		Fragment	2.7.2008	MG
83	128	TR1	Cloth	String/rope		2.7.2008	MG
84	129	TR1	Textile	Rope		2.7.2008	MG
85	128	TR1	Textile			2.7.2008	MG
86	128	TR1	Textile			2.7.2008	MG
87	129	TR1	Textile			2.7.2008	MG
88	129	TR1	Textile			2.7.2008	MG
89	129	TR1	Textile			2.7.2008	MG
90	129	TR1	Textile	String?		2.7.2008	MG
91	129	TR1	Textile	Cloth?		2.7.2008	MG
92	129	TR1	Textile	Cloth?		2.7.2008	MG
93	129	TR1	Textile			2.7.2008	MG
94	129	TR1	Stone	Manuport?	Shiny, flakey	2.7.2008	MG

95	130	TR1	Textile	Rope?		2.7.2008	MG
96	130	TR1	Textile			2.7.2008	MG
97	130	TR1	Textile	Cloth?		2.7.2008	MG
98	130	TR1	Textile	Rope	Pieces of rope/string	4.7.2008	ÞP
99	127	TR1	Iron	Nail		4.7.2008	ÞP

Table 6 - MÖÖ08 Artifacts Register for TR1

MÖÖ 08 Bone Register							
Finds no.	**Context No.**	**Grid**	**Material Type**	**Object Type**	**Comments**	**Date**	**ID**
1	500	TR2	Pottery	Pottery	Cleaning deposit	17.06.08	RH
2	500	TR2	Glass	Glass	Cleaning deposit	17.06.08	FF
3	500	TR2	Wood	Wood	Cleaning deposit	17.06.08	FF
4	500	TR2	Metal		Cleaning deposit (glazed cup handle)	17.06.08	FF
5	500	TR2	Lead	Customs token	Cleaning deposit	17.06.08	HMR
6	500	TR2	Metal, bone, pottery		Cleaning deposit	18.06.08	FF
7	505	TR2	Glass, ceramic		Shards	18.06.08	VF
8	505	TR2	Ceramic	Bricks	2 brick pieces	18.06.08	VF
9	505	TR2	Ceramic		Shards, white, some with decoration	18.06.08	VF
10	505	TR2	?	?	Small cylinder object	18.06.08	VF
11	505	TR2	Metal	Different	Corroded	18.06.08	VF
12	Cleaning	TR2	Ceramic		Shard	18.06.08	VF
13	600	TR2B	Ceramic	Clay pipe	Cleaning deposit, broken, just a piece of 2 cm long stem	18.06.08	VF
14	600	TR2B	Ceramic		Shards, cleaning deposit	18.06.08	VF
15	600	TR2B	Glass	Bottle shards	Green bottle glass, and possible lamp	18.06.08	VF
16	600	TR2B	Metal (iron)	Nails	Corroded a little bit	18.06.08	VF
17	600	TR2B	Iron	Bucket handle	Corroded a little bit	18.06.08	VF
18	603	TR2B	Ceramic		Shards	19.06.08	VF
19	603	TR2B	Brick	Bricks	Fragment	19.06.08	VF
20	603	TR2B	Lead	Button	2 buttons, corroded	19.06.08	VF
21	603	TR2B	Ceramic	Pipe stem		19.06.08	VF
22	603	TR2B	Glass		Diverse fragments	19.06.08	VF
23	603	TR2B	Wood	Knife handle		19.06.08	VF
24	603	TR2B	Iron	Nails and other	Corroded	19.06.08	VF
25	601	TR2B	Ceramic		Shards	19.06.08	VF

26	601	TR2B	Glass		Shards	19.06.08	VF
27	602	TR2B	Lead and other	Buttons		19.06.08	VF
28	602	TR2B	Iron	Nails		19.06.08	VF
29	602	TR2B	Clay	Pipe stem	Frags	19.06.08	VF
30	602	TR2B	Glass & ceramic		Shards	19.06.08	VF
31	605	TR2B	Fe	Stud?	1 iron stud and 1 indet bit of iron	20.06.08	AK
32	501	TR2	Fe	1 clothes pin spring and 3 indet		17.06.08	AK
33	501	TR2	Pottery		Shards of pottery and glass	17.06.08	AK
34	604	TR2B	Glass		3 shards of glass	20.06.08	AK
35	604	TR2B	Copper alloy		Broken sheet of copper alloy with perforation, pendant?	20.06.08	AK
36	604	TR2B	Fe	?	Corroded bit of Fe, pointed at one end	20.06.08	AK
37	604	TR2B	Clay	Pipe stem	2 bits	20.06.08	AK
38	604	TR2B	Fe	Scissors		20.06.08	AK

Table 7- MÖÖ08 Artifacts Register for TR2 and TR2b

2008 Skuggi Öskuhóll (SKÖ) data:

SKÖ 08 Context Register					
Context Number	Area	Type	Description/Information	Date/Time dd.mm.yy.	ID
001	TR1	D	Topsoil	21.8.2008	RH/ÞP
002	TR1	D	Grey-blue tephra - right under topsoil	21.8.2008	RH/ÞP
003	TR1	D	Bone & charcoal rich midden dump under 002	21.8.2008	RH/ÞP
004	TR1	D	Orange/black midden dump under 003	22.8.2008	RH/ÞP
005	TR1	D	Brown/pink deposit w. Little charcoal	22.8.2008	RH/ÞP
006	TR1	D	Mixed deposit, turf/debris and silt	22.8.2008	RH/ÞP
007	TR1	D	Dump , charcoal % bone rich	22.8.2008	RH/ÞP

Table 8 - MÖÖ08 Context Register for TR1

SKÖ08 Sample Register								
Bag. No	Area	Context	Vol	No. Of Bags / Buckets	Sample for	Description/ Information	Date/ dd.mm.yy	ID
1	TR1	002		1 sm bag	Tephra analysis	Blue/grey tephra	21.8.2008	RH
2	TR1	003	4l	1 lg bag	Flotation		21.8.2008	RH
3	TR1	004	4l	1 lg bag	Flotation		22.8.2008	RH
4	TR1	004		1 med bag	Charcoal analysis		22.8.2008	RH

5	TR1	005	4l	1 lg bag	Flotation		22.8.2008	RH
6	TR1	007	4l	1 lg bag	Flotation		22.8.2008	RH
7	TR1	002		1 sm bag	Tephra analysis - same as sample no. 1, but from section	Blue/grey tephra	25.8.2008	RH

Table 9 - MÖÖ08 Sample Register for all trenches

SKÖ08 Bone Register							
Bag. No	Area	Context	Weight in gr.	Quant of Bags	Description Information	Date/ dd.mm.yy	ID
1	TR1	003	553	1	Various species, incl. Bird	21.8.2008	RH
2	TR1	004	432	1		22.8.2008	RH
3	TR1	005	59	1	Mostly sheep bone	25.8.2008	RH
4	TR1	006	37	1	Mostly sheep bone	25.8.2008	RH
5	TR1	007	361	1		25.8.2008	RH

Table 10 - MÖÖ08 Bone Register for all trenches

SKÖ08 Artifact Register						
Finds no.	**Context No.**	**Material Type**	**Object Type**	**Comments**	**Date**	**ID**
1	003	Iron	Nail?	Nail frag	21.8.2008	ÞP
2	003	Stone/quartz	Manuport?	2 small, very rounded pebbles	21.8.2008	RH
3	004	Jasper		1 flake of green jasper	22.8.2008	ÞP
4	005	Jasper		1 flake of green jasper	22.8.2008	ÞP
5	007	Metal		1 very heavy fragment - lump of alloy?	22.8.2008	ÞP
6	007	Stone/quartz		2 quartz pebbles	22.8.2008	ÞP
7	007	Metal		Small fragment of slag maybe	25.8.2008	RH

Table 11- MÖÖ08 Artifacts Register for TR1

2008 Myrkárdalur Öskuhóll (MYÖ) data:

MYÖ 08 Context Register						
Context Number	Area	Type	Group	Description/Information	Date/Time dd.mm.yy.	ID
100	TR1	D		Dark layer mixed w. Charcoal	30.6.2008	AK
101	TR1	D		Turf feature	30.6.2008	AK
102	TR1	D		Dark brown w. Stones and charcoal	1.7.2008	AK
103	TR1	D		Lighter brown w. Turf - down slope of wall	1.7.2008	AK

104	TR1	D		Mixed orange/brown T/C	2.7.2008	HMR
105	TR1	D		Turf collapse	2.7.2008	AK
106	TR1	D		Gray-green w. Orange yellow lenses	2.7.2008	AK
107	TR1	D		Black charcoal w. Burnt peat ash! Under (108)	2.7.2008	CKM
108	TR1	D		Dark brown wall collapse	2.7.2008	AK
109	TR1	D	115	Red-orange brown turf deposit under (108)	3.7.2008	AK
110	TR1	D	115	Red-orange brown turf deposit - same as 109	3.7.2008	ÞP
111	TR1	D	115	Very thin black deposit ö black charcoal	3.7.2008	ÞP
112	TR1	C	115	Shallow, sub-circular cut filled w (109,110,111)	3.7.2008	ÞP
113	TR1	D		Brown turfy deposit on s. Edge of cut (112)	3.7.2008	ÞP
114	TR1	D		Brown w. Orange, red greenish lenses	3.7.2008	ÞP
115	TR1	G	115	Group for cut 112 and fills 109,110,111	14.8.2008	RH

Table 12 - MÖÖ08 Context Register for TR1

MYÖ08 Sample Register						
Site	Sample number	Area	Context	Date	Floated	Subsample
MYÖ08	08-02	Trench 1	102	1.7.2008	RCF	Yes
MYÖ08	08-03	Trench 1	103	1.7.2008	RCF	Yes
MYÖ08	08-06	Trench 1	107	2.7.2008	RCF	Yes
MYÖ08	08-07	Trench 1	109	3.7.2008	RCF	Yes
MYÖ08	08-09	Trench 1	113	3.7.2008	RCF	Yes
MYÖ08	08-10	Trench 1	114	3.7.2008	RCF	Yes

Table 13 - MÖÖ08 Sample Register for all trenches

MYÖ 08 Bone Register						
Bag. No	Area	Context	Quant of Bags	Description Information	Date/ dd.mm.yy	ID
1	TR1	100	1		30.6.2008	AK
2	TR1	102	1		1.7.2008	AK
3	TR1	103	1		1.7.2008	AK
4	TR1	108	1		3.7.2008	ÞP
5	TR1	111	1		3.7.2008	ÞP
7	TR1	113	1		3.7.2008	ÞP
8	TR1	110	1		5.7.2008	ÞP
9	TR1	109	1		3.7.2008	ÞP
10	TR1	114	1		3.7.2008	ÞP
11	TR1	107	1		3.7.2008	ÞP
12	TR1	104	3	One drilled bone	11.8.2008	RH
13	TR1	107	1		11.8.2008	RH
14	TR1	101	2		11.8.2008	RH
15	TR1	105	1		11.8.2008	RH
16	TR1	106	1		11.8.2008	RH

Table 14 - MÖÖ08 Bone Register for all trenches

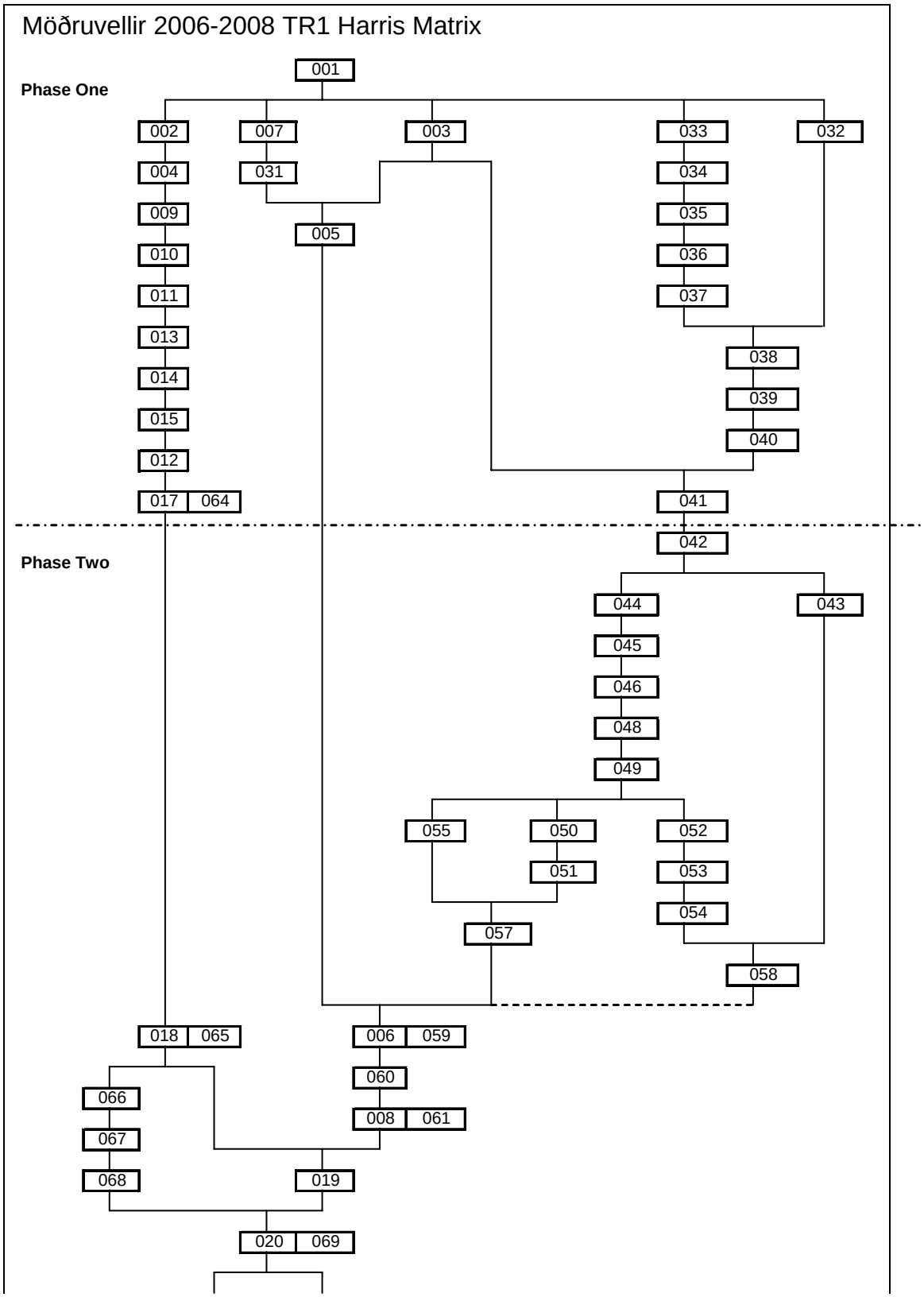
MYÖ08 Artifact Register							
Finds no.	**Context No.**	**Grid**	**Material Type**	**Object Type**	**Comments**	**Date**	**ID**
01	102	TR1	Stone	Manuport?	Bead? Drill mark (hole?)	1.7.2008	MG
02	102	TR1	Flint	?	Unworked	1.7.2008	MG
03	102	TR1	Glass	?	Shard, modern	1.7.2008	MG
04	103	TR1	Iron	Nail		1.7.2008	MG
05	103	TR1	Copper		Thin flat fragment	1.7.2008	MG
06	103	TR1	Flint		Unworked	1.7.2008	MG
07	103	TR1	Quartz	Manuport?	Pebble	1.7.2008	MG
08	103	TR1	Glass		Green fragment	1.7.2008	MG
09	108	TR1	Ceramic		Frag. W. Blue decoration	3.7.2008	ÞP
10	108	TR1	Quartz		Pebble	3.7.2008	ÞP
11	114	TR1	Iron	Nail?	Long iron nail?	3.7.2008	ÞP
12	114	TR1	Bone		Bone, hole drilled through	3.7.2008	ÞP
13	114	TR1	Ceramic		Piece of pottery	3.7.2008	ÞP
14	103	TR1	Copper		Piece of copper	3.7.2008	ÞP
15	U/S	TR1	Stone/pottery		2 stones , piece of pottery unstratified	4.7.2008	ÞP
16	105	TR1	Quartz	Stone		4.7.2008	ÞP
17	105	TR1	Copper		Piece of copper	4.7.2008	ÞP
18	104	TR1	Quartz?	Pebble		4.7.2008	ÞP
19	105	TR1	Iron	Nail		4.7.2008	ÞP
20	104	TR1	Pottery		Piece of pottery	4.7.2008	ÞP
21	101	TR1	Metal		Piece of metal	4.7.2008	ÞP
22	103	TR1	Pottery	Clay pipe	Pies of clay pipe stem	4.7.2008	ÞP
23	103	TR1	Flint		Two small pieces of flint	4.7.2008	ÞP
24	113	TR1	Glass		Small piece of green glass	4.7.2008	ÞP
25	113	TR1	Iron	Needle	Iron needle w. Eye at one end	4.7.2008	ÞP
26	113	TR1	Wood		Piece of	4.7.2008	ÞP

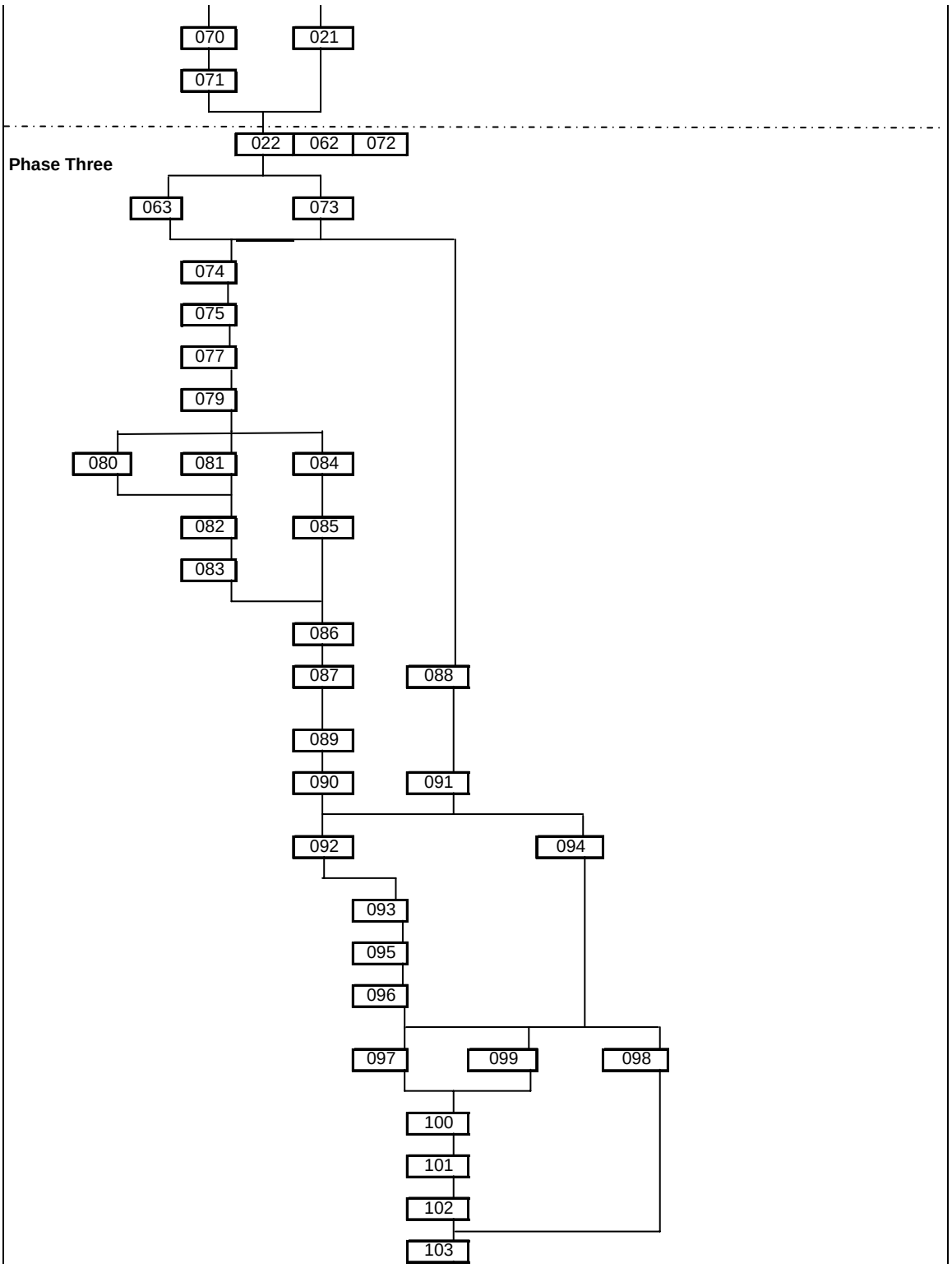
					drilled wood		
27	102	TR1	Iron	Nail		4.7.2008	ÞP
28	114	TR1	Quartz		Quartz fragments	4.7.2008	ÞP
29	103	TR1	Pottery		2 pieces of pottery	4.7.2008	ÞP
30	103	TR1	Glass		Pieces of green glass	4.7.2008	ÞP
31	109	TR1	Quartz			4.7.2008	ÞP
32	109	TR1	Glass		Piece of clear glass	4.7.2008	ÞP
33	109	TR1	Flint		Small piece of flint	4.7.2008	ÞP
34	109	TR1	Iron	Nail & other unidentified		4.7.2008	ÞP
35	105	TR1	Pottery	Earthenware	Plate fragment	14.8.2008	RH
36	105	TR1	Stone	Jasper	Piece of green jasper	14.8.2008	RH
37	106	TR1	Stone	Whetstone		14.8.2008	RH
38	104	TR1	Stone	Jasper	Large piece of green Jasper (<10cm)	14.8.2008	RH

Table 15 - MÖÖ08 Artifacts Register for TR1

Appendix II – Harris Matrices

1. Möðruvellir




070
021
071
022
062
072
Phase Three
063
073
074
075
077
079
080
081
084
082
085
083
086
087
088
089
090
091
092
094
093
095
096
097
099
098
100
101
102
103

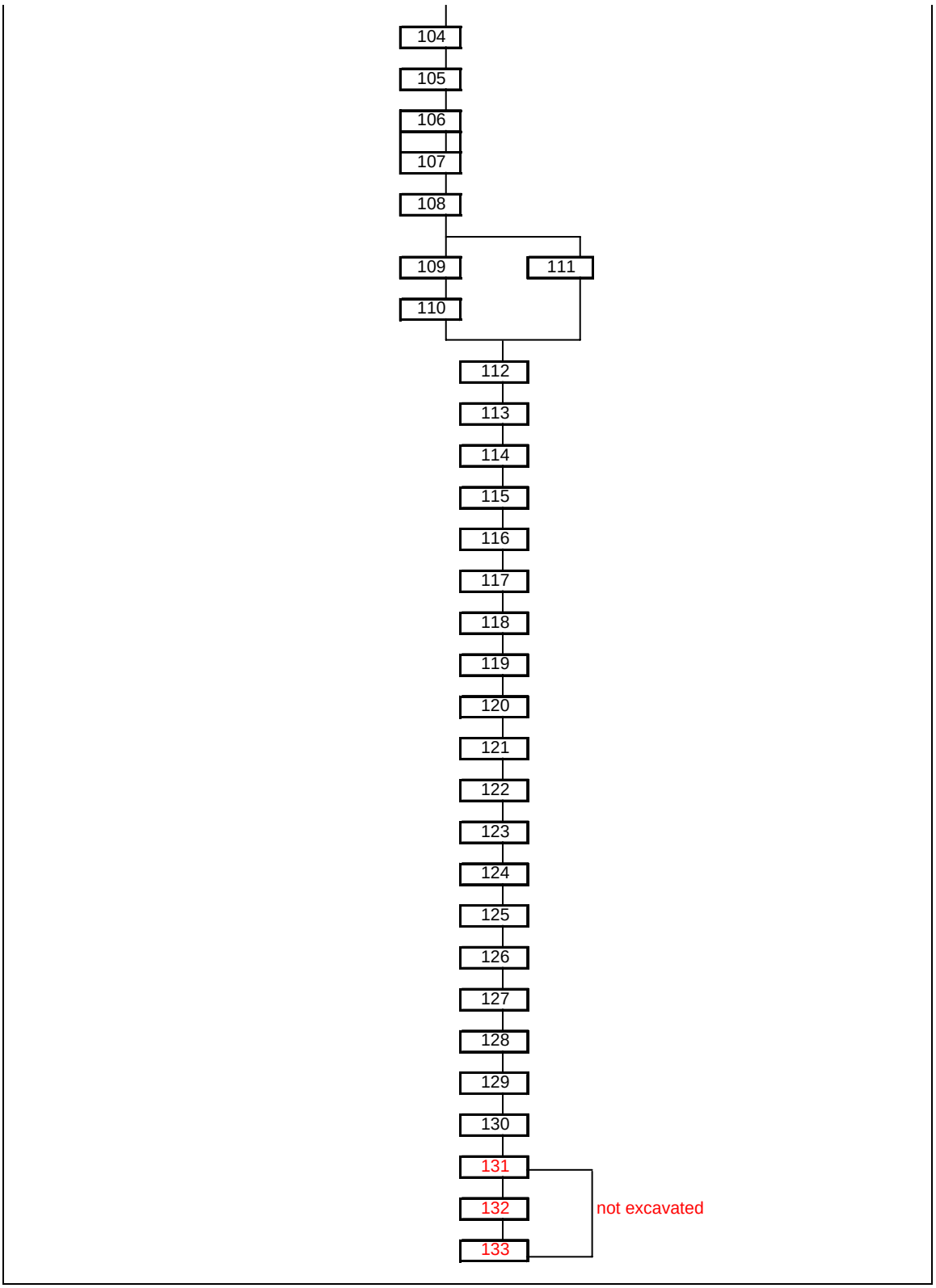


Table 1 – Möðruvellir 2006-08 Trench 1 Harris Matrix

MÖÖ08 TR2 Harris Matrix

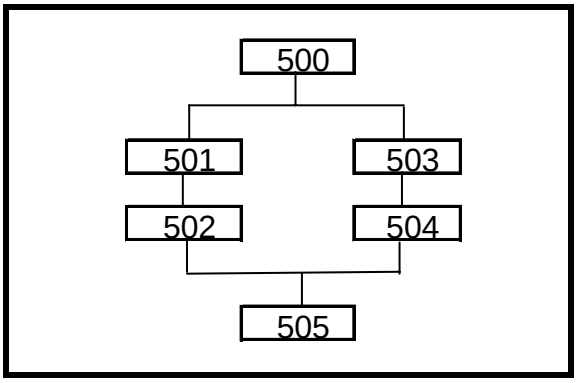


Table 2 – Möðruvellir 2006-08 Trench 2 Harris Matrix

MÖÖ08 TR2B Harris Matrix

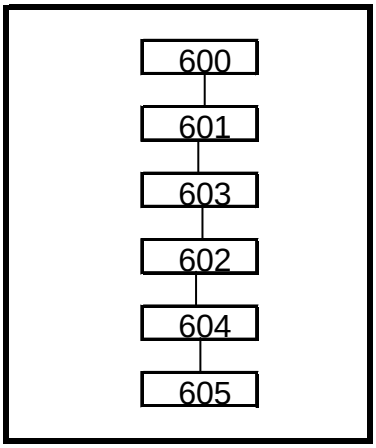


Table 3 – Möðruvellir 2006-08 Trench 2b Harris Matrix

SKÖ08 Harris Matrix

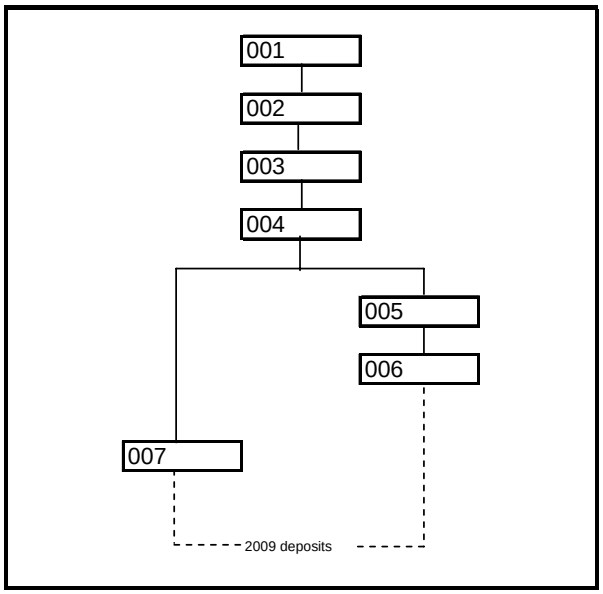


Table 4 – Skuggi 2008 Harris Matrix

MYÖ08 Harris Matrix

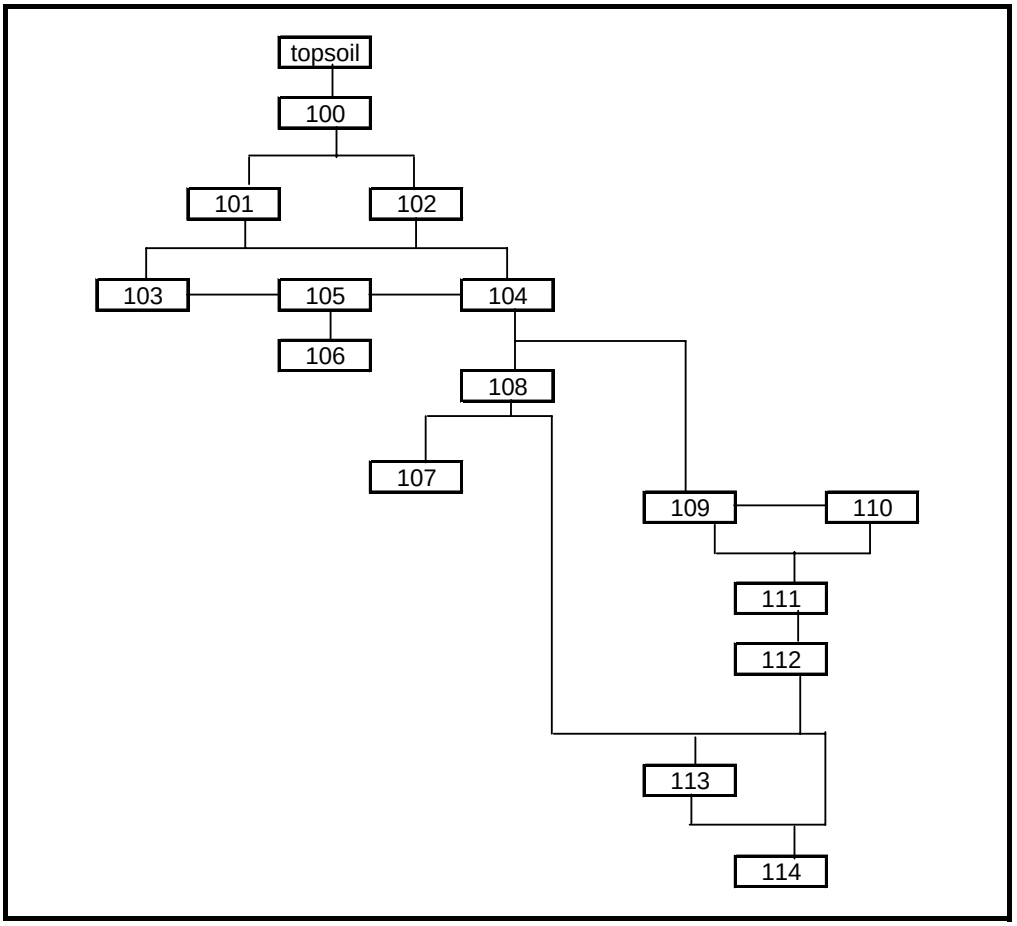


Table 5 – Myrkárdalur 2008 Harris Matrix

Appendix III – Gásir Hinterlands Project 2008 - CORING LOG

RH: This Coring Log presents raw coring data.

RH: Elevations are taken from Google Earth.

Ramona Harrison
Gasir Hinterlands Project 2008 Coring Log

A large part of the 2008 project was a prospection of potential medieval (1200-1400 AD preferred) midden materials associated with nine outlying sites at one point in time either belonging to the monastery at Möðruvellir or in other cases potentially involved in the social/cultural. economic. and political concerning medieval Hörgárdalur. Öxnadalur. and Eyjafjörður as a whole. Midden materials are required because they are likely to contain archaeofaunas and other environmental and artefactual remains that can offer comparative information to the archaeological and environmental data collected from the 14th Century AD deposits from the Gásir trading site that is located along the SW coast of Eyjafjörður.

The first series of cores was actually put into the Möðruvellir Midden. Since Trench 1 was becoming ever deeper. another trench with hopefully equally well preserved faunal materials that could be associated with medieval strata would be preferential.

June 17.6.08

Coring at MÖÖ 07 extension:

Core 1: at about 60 cm down from grass line:

0-65 cm	rich mottled midden deposit; charcoal. peat ash. fire cracked rock. very soft. not compacted.
65-90 cm	fire cracked rock. wood charcoal. burnt bone fragments
90-115 cm	still uncompacted. wood ash. peat ash

to deep for corer

Core 2: at 5m East of the Eastern edge of 07 trench:

0-8 cm	turf mat and topsoil
8-26 cm	peat ash. burnt bone. charcoal
26-42 cm	peat ash. charcoal. Andisol (silty soil typical in Iceland)
at 42 cm	hit a rock

Core 3: at 5.50 m east of 07 trench edge:

0-5cm	turf mat and topsoil
6-24 cm	ash charcoal. anthropogenic deposit. lots of soil mixed in
45-66 cm	very ‘orange’ peat combusted. peat ash
66-75 cm	peat ash. burnt bone. uncompacted
75-90cm	flecks of bone. fish bone. peat. uncompacted
79-108 cm	‘stratigraphy’ wood and peat ash. charcoal. bone frags. uncompacted

Core 4: at 10 m east of 07 trench edge:

0-10 cm	turf mat and topsoil
10-30 cm	charcoal flecks. burnt bone. wood ash. charcoal
30-60 cm	stratigraphy. midden. burnt turf. peat. woodash. charcoal. uncompacted
60-70 cm	turf block
70-76 cm	midden material
76-100cm	very uncompacted bands of ash. mottled. wood charcoal. bone flecks. burnt bone
100-116 cm	charcoal bits. wood ash. peat ash. displaced turf. rich peat. bone pieces
116-140 cm	mottled peat ash. very damp. still thawing

24.6.08
return to MÖÖ for coring. in search of better location to put in another trench.
Core 1
7m North of TR2b NW corner
0-15 turf mat and topsoil
15 – 20 then light pink layer w. burnt bits of bone
20-25 woodash
25-47 various deposits of woodash and peat ash
47-55 layers of wood ash. bits of charcoal
55-62 pear ash. slag. very varied
62-67 peat ash
67-75 wood ash. peat ash
75-87 peat ash layer
87-92 more ´clean soil

Core 2
a 2.50 m from TR1
ca. 0-20 more midden material. peat ash
20-26 slag. mixed. cultural
26-29 peat ash middens
29-39 sudsy layer
39-45 mixed brown deep
45-47 woodash. bit of peat ash
47-52 orange midden
52-57 black sudsy layer
57ö67 pink orange mix
rock

core 3
at ca 15 m N of TR1 NE corner
0-10 turf mat and topsoil
10-16 woodash.
16-22 peat. woodash
22ö50 woodash. charcoal
50-55 turf pink orange
55-60 black brown pinkish orange w. one unburnt bone

rock underneath

core 4
at ca 10 m N of NW corner of TR1
0-5 Turf mat and topsoil
5-12 peat ash. woodash
12-27 peat ash. charcoal. wood ash
void
63-72 mixed dark soil
72-77 peat ash
77-95 charcoal. some peat ash. wood ash.
rock under
Core 5
S of trench on SW corner of Mound
0-30 topsoil. some anthrop. soil. white burnt bone. bit of charcoal
rock

Core 6
20 m from SW edge of TR1
0-2 turf mat and topsoil
2-6 woodash. grey.
6-16 peat ash. charred
16-22 peat. orange
22-25. pale grey woodash
25-56 mixed pink peat ash
56-110 w. charcoal
110-115 woodash
115-130 soil w. charcoal. anthropogenic
corer not long enough to continue deeper

Core 7
ca. 10m s of TR2
0-15 turf mat and topsoil
15-40 anthropogenic soil. woodash. charcoal
40-67 turfy. stripes. bit of bone
67-75soil anthropogenic
75-92 turfy layer
92-107 turf block w,. topsoil and banded grey-green tephra on bottom
107-110 peat ash and soil
110-120 stripy. more or less turf wall
120 – 140 topsoil w. turf under tephra. repeatedly
rock

Core 8
ca. 10 m N of T2Bs NE corner
0-40 topsoil
rock

Conclusion/Suggestion after several cores placed at seemingly suitable locations:

- *another series of very systematic cores should be put into the Midden Mound;*
- *this will require several days of systematic midden coring*
- *if a write-up and analysis of the coring data is to be done in the field. at least one fieldwork day should be allocated for analyzing the coring data from the farm mound*

Coring log for second-phase midden investigations

18.6.08
Myrkárdalur. MYÖ – (EY205_006)

Coordinates: 65º37.845'N. 18º34.906'W. 218m asl.

Eastern midden mound. indicated on the survey plan
put line in 10 m from N-S
at 0 m N65o37.845. W18 o34.892
at about 5 to 6 m = right on top of mound
at 10 m N65o37.840. W18 o34.887
First set of cores: line on a N-S Direction

Core1: at 5m - top of mount.
0-6 cm turf mat and topsoil
6-20 cm turf ash. grey. turfy bits specks of charcoal
20-40 cm midden material. no compactions. wood ash charcoal. bone flecks?
rock

Core 2: at 5.30 m
0-8 turf mat and topsoil
8-12 wood ash. mixed materials
12-17 turf remains
17-20 wood ash. mixed material. charcoal. et cetera
20-30 finely. mixed, charred wood. flecks of bone
30-45 some peat ash. turf ash. burnt bone flecks
Rock

Core 3: at 6 m
0-8cm turf mat and topsoil
8-20 cm specks of charcoal. wood ash. turf ash. rather than peat ash
20-36 grey brown mixed midden. charcoal bits. wood ash
36-38 peat ash
rock

Core 4: at 7 m
0-8 turf mat and topsoil
8-23 wood ash. charcoal. piece of burnt bone. unburnt bone. uncompacted
rock

Core 5: at 9 m
0-8 turf mat and topsoil
8-11 mixed cultural stuff
rock

Core 6: at 11 m
0-8 turf mat and topsoil
8-10 sterile (windblown?)
rock

Core 7: at 4.5 m
0-10 cm turf mat and topsoil
10-16 midden material. wood ash. turf ash. charcoal
16-40 fire cracked rock. wood ash. turf ash charcoal
rock

Core 8: at 3 m
rock at 10 cm

Core 9: at 2 m
rock at 10 cm

Core 10: at 3.20
rock at 10cm

... this is a midden

ergo: mound really is a midden

Line 2 – EW
runs from 5m E of mound (probably the more recent one. according to Tom) to 13 m West of it
Western coordinates: MYO04: N65o37.840. W18 o 34.901 midden coordinates used for report
NB: there is a second mound to the west of the mound indicated on the survey drawing

GPS elevation: ca 286 m above sea level (Tom's). Google Earth: 218

Core 1: at 1.20 south of 13 m East
0-8 turf mat and topsoil
8-22 cultural deposit
22-30 cultural deposit
30-40 peat ash. fire damaged rock. bit of bone. "midden material"
rock

Core 2: at 2.60m south of 13 m East
0-8 turf mat and topsoil

8-15 cm cultural deposit: soil (andisol) mixed with charcoal and turfy bits
15-36 ash and cultural mix. bits of charcoal
36-60 burnt bone. turf ash. charcoal. bits of peat ash. turf
60-84 segments of various cultural events. potential very fine like of black tephra at about 79 cm down
84-86 grey-brown deposit. mottled w. light brown deposit
86-106- dark brown banded deposit. anthropogenic soil
106-110 greasy deposit
110-124 – brown deposit. maybe anthropogenic. some charcoal

= 2 different middens. the western one is earlier

Core 3 at 3.40m S of 13 m E.
0-4 turf mat and topsoil
4-14 very little cultural mostly natural. not a bit of charcoal
rock

Core 4 at 4m south of 13 m E
0-6 turf mat and topsoil
6-18 bit of cultural layer. few flecks of charcoal
18-25 still cultural
25-27 greasy deposit. some cultural bits. charcoal ca. 7mm by 5 mm
rock

Core 5 at 4.30 m S of 13 m E
0-8 turf mat and topsoil
8-14 peat
14-16 pebbly layer. very fine. almost sand
16-18 lighter cultural deposit. soft uncompacted
18-33 some cultural activity one pies of white burnt bone one large *6.5 cm by 0.2 cm) charcoal. more charcoal
33-34 organic peat ash
34-50 finely mixed peat ash and soil. charcoal. some woodash. very discrete/ fine deposits. organic/greasy material burnt bone. bit of birch bark
rock

Core 6 at 5m S from 13 m E
0-7 turf mat and topsoil
7-18 cultural. wood ash. some charcoal
18-29 pieces of charcoal. peat ash. bark
29-35 charcoal. peat ash
35-40 some wood ash. some flecks of charcoal
rock
this one has cultural material. some displaced white tephra.

Core 7 at 7 m S from 13 m E
0-8 turf mat and topsoil
8-18 patchy. charcoal. some repeat of tephra. black and very fine
18-22 not very midden like. piece of black burnt bone

22-36 some cultural material (?). not certain.
36-39 grease layer. piece of charcoal. turfy.
seemingly a fine black line right underneath
39-50 sterile

Core 8 at 7.50 m
0-11 very rooty turf mat and topsoil
11-14 sterile
rock

Core 9 at 1.50 m
0-6 – turf mat and topsoil
6-13 gradually becomes more mixed wood ash. charcoal on bottom
rock

Core 9 at 2.50 m
rock

Core 10 at 2 m
0-6 turf mat and topsoil
6-14 andisol.
14-19 still andisol. but with more wood ash

3rd line at the more recent farm building. just south of modern structure running N to S

Core 1 at 1m S
0-13 turf mat and topsoil
13-21 Rooty and thick turf
21-36 more turf and natural
36-42 natural

Core 2 4.30 m S
08 turf mat and topsoil
8-10 natural
Rock

Core 3 from North, on the slope
0-12 turf mat and topsoil
12-20 natural
20-28 H2

Core 4 ca 10 m W of modern structure
0-10 turf mat and topsoil
10-13
13-14 black tephra band
14-20 natural

Core 5 ca 5 m N of northern edge of the structure north of the modern structure (concrete building. at least 1920s)
0-8 turf mat and topsoil
8-25 natural
Gravel under

Möðruvallasel MSÖ – (EY200_006)
Coordinates: 65º39.247'N, 18º37.820'W, 410m asl.
Möðruvallasel – the shieling associated with Möðruvellir
Midden very easily visible.
Farmer Ari: often very bad weather in winter
Ari tells us that Ottir Einarsson (?).Hólar bishop born at the sel because his mother was not married and asked to be brought to the sel to have the child

PH about 6-6.5
Line 1 = E-W line
MSÖ1West end
N 65°39.230. W 18°37.853 used as potential midden coordinates for report
MSÖ2 is 8m east of MSÖ1
N 65°39.234. W 18°37.847

Core 1
At 3 m. in Center of the Hóll
0-8 turf cover
8-15 soil
15-18 turfy
18-33 peat. very organic
33-38 turf w. maybe tephra in it
38 – 40 mixed material w. pot. decomp. bone
rock underneath

Core 2
at 2.50m
0-8 turf cover
8-19 turf deposit. some flecks of black. maybe charcoal
19-24 mixed material. peat
24-26 turf block. black tephra
26-34 turf. looks like yellow (H) tephra on last 2cm = not midden material
34-40 natural (?). very thin line of black tephra?
49 – 42 natural
rock underneath

Core 3
80 cm N of 5m on line
0-8 turf cover
8-30 natural
rock underneath

This little mound is not rich in Ash or bone or charcoal. but may be result of repeated sheep dung deposition...
Also. structure A is a serious stone building which maybe a statement because the sel is associated w. the monastery.

Core 4
ca 7m S of Structure 4
0-8 turf mat and topsoil
8-30 natural
30-40 tephra. Hekla. yellow

Core 5
ca 5 m E of Structure A
0-8 turf mat and topsoil
8-30 natural. some charcoal. root growth – vegetation at Landnám
30-40 H Sequence
40-45 natural

Core 6
ca 2 m S of building North of A
0-10 cm turf mat and topsoil and many roots
10-22 natural
22-32 ´anthropogenic´ soil – could be sheep dung
32 – 35 prehistoric tephra
35-42 natural

Core 7
in middle of structure N of A
0-6 turf mat and topsoil. black layer on bottom that looks like tephra
6-8 red/black turf
8-12 floor layer? very greasy
12-40 natural
40-50 natural but bits of tephra

Core 8
Core 8 in W. part of building
0-8 turf mat and topsoil8-9 turfy/greasy deposit
9-15 cultural. buttery. still roots
15-20 natural
rock underneath

Core 9
between St. A and North Structure
0-8 turf mat and topsoil
8-15 cultural roots/vegetation
15-18 natural
18-23 cultural
23-17 natural
27-34 tephra bands. prehistoric

NB: rich soil = component of usual middens

Core 10
In building of structure North of Str. A.
0-8 turf mat and topsoil
8-9 greasy. organic dep.
9-17 cultural? floor layer from sel. not as thick or compacted as in a house occupied year long?

Core 11
Just SW of Structure A.

0-8 turf mat and topsoil
8-45 thick rich soil – thick accumulation
45-60 natural
60-63 prehistoric tephra

Klausturhús KLÖ, (EY215_022)

Coordinates: 65º39.552'N, 18º29.702'W, 280m. (versus 122 from gecko… Garmin)

nice ruin. very long (ca 35-38m)
unusual looking structure. close to Staðartunga, belonged to Möðruvellir
built on a gravel ridge

Core 1
on the West Edge of structure. just South

0-8 turf mat and topsoil
8-12 natural
12-14 turf – red
14-20 mostly natural. some roots in it
20-34 bit of turf. not much cultural. gravely
34-40 some cultural
rock underneath

Core 2
at 6m E.
0-12 turf mat and topsoil
12-14 peat/cultural mix
14-17 turf stripes
17-21 more natural looking soil
21-30 darker deposit
30-35 prehist. tephra

Core 3
N of Structure
downhill slope

0-8 cm turf mat and topsoil
8-16 natural w. roots
16-24 various layers of prehist tephra: banded and in situ

Core 4
ca 5 m W of 3
0-8 turf mat and topsoil
8-30 soil. rather rich and greasy. lots of roots. vegetation. prehist?

Core 5
ca 5m w of core 4
0-10 turf mat and topsoil
10-12 faint traces of midden: woodash. potential bone butter. charcoal
12-24 ´cultural´ soil. anthropogenic. dung?
24-30 more of same
30-47 prehistoric tephra

Core 6
1 m E of Core 5
0-10 turf mat and topsoil
10-22 cultural soil: ´sheep dung´ deposit. maybe the midden. at an animal shelter
band of tephra. thin and black line
22-24 richer greasier soil
24-42 natural
42-59 prehistory. turf bands

Core 7
just at SE Wall
0-5 turf mat and topsoil
5-10 soil w. roots
10-12 peat turf red
12-29 anthropogenic traces in soil – 1 piece of charcoal
29-37turf w. upcast olive tephra
37-46 mixed deposit. some soil and turf ...´anthropogenic´
rock under

Core 8
2m E. of core 7

0-11 turf mat and topsoil
11-12 red turf
12-30 anthropogenic soil bit of charcoal
30-36 natural soil

Line
KLÖ 01 W 65º39.561'N. 18º29.693'W to
KLÖ 02 65º39.548'N. 18º29.720'W at 30m East

Core 1 at 1.20

0-6 turf mat and topsoil
6-15 cult. soil? maybe flecks of charcoal
Rock under

Core 2
at 2m
0-5 turf mat and topsoil
5-10 anthropogenic soil. bit of charcoal. some turf
rock

Core 3
at 4.50
0-9 turf mat and topsoil
9-18 greasy. rich soil. turf mixed in
natural under

Core 4
At 5.50
0-8 turf mat and topsoil
8-18 very rich soil. with a bit of turf in it. many roots
18-19 natural gravel

Core 5
at 8m
0-7 turf mat and topsoil
7-23 greasy soil. lots of roots
rock under

Core 6
at 9.50
0-11 root mat
11-12 turf red-peat ash – from bog?
12-25 rich soil. not much in it
25-29 turfy. greasy. organic. maybe sheep dung and thus midden material
29-44 natural.
44-65 tephra. prehistory

Core 7
at 11m
0-9 turf mat and topsoil
9-23 cultural material. soil w. little charcoal
23-45 rich soil. dung enriched?
45-47 prehistoric?

Core 8 at 12. 40m
0-6 turf mat and topsoil
6-18 rich soil
w roots
18-20 turf layer/peat

20-34 purple black tephra (1422?). another sequence of 1477? – sample in a large bag
37 olive/black tephra (Sample)
37-47 natural and then Hekla – prehistoric

Core 9
at 13 m. 1 m North of line
0-8 turf mat and topsoil
8-17 natural/sterile
17-19 turf. red
17-42 somewhat anthropogenic soil
42 – 53 column of very nice bands of different colored tephra? (took picture)

Core 10
2 m N of 13 at line
0-4 turf mat and topsoil
4-23 rooty soil. very clean
prehistoric under

Core 11
0-5 root mat
5-13 prehistoric tephra and natural

ph 6.25-6.50

Core 12
Inside W. part of Structure
0-10 turf mat and topsoil
10-18 natural soil
18-20 peaty/turphy
20-22 natural
22-30 turf w. bands of tephra
30-32 compact. laminated deposit. peat ash. charcoal. various tephra patches (?) took picture
32-40 soil – anthropogenic.
40-41 Landnám tephra (?)
41-59 turf block w. bands of tephra patches
59-60 natural. left flag here for Ian Simpson
60-62 more of the same
62-64 turf
64-65 landnám? in Turf
65-66 natural
66 black tephra in situ then prehistoric natural

Core 13
0-5 turf mat and topsoil
5-15 turf block
15-21 natural
21-23 natural. anthropogenic
23-26 turf maybe floor deposit

26-40 greasy deposit. cultural. but coarse at the same time
40-45 Anthropogenic
45-46 different stripes of lamination. maybe a floor?
46-65 Natural/prehistoric tephra

Core 14
Inside eastern part of structure
0-6 turf mat and topsoil
6-42 anthropogenic soil. not very greasy. root growth
42-48 natural/prehistory tephra

At ruin (another beitarhús?)
ca 100 m W of KLÖ

Core 1
0-10 turf mat and topsoil
10-18 turf block/debris
18-33 prehistory
rock underneath

Core 2 in Part of Structure
0-9 turf mat and topsoil
9-12 soil w. piece of glass?
12- 15 somewhat cultural then natural soil
rock under

18.8.08

Jaðar, JRÖ (EY-068:022)

Coordinates: 65°46.179', N 18°14.791'W, 18m asl.

Jaðar – at Northern Structure

first line from W to E.
from ca center of structure

Core 1 at 0 m E. = probably still in structure
0-12cm roots/topsoil
12-16cm dark brown organic. dep. w. charcoal
16-22cm various deposits. layer of fine gravel
22-27cm turf/peat? from very pale material. possibly upcast tephra (yellow) – but could also be very fine sand
27-36 mixed deposit. pieces of charcoal. red flecks. maybe peat?
then rock

Core 2 at 0.5 m east

0-12 topsoil
12-20 anthropogenic soil. pieces of charcoal up to 0.3 cm
20-25 mixed w. gravel
then rock

Core 3 at 90 cm
0-12 topsoil
12-14 rather clean soil
14-17 layer – loose soil and charcoal. very dense amount
17-20 clean soil w. some charcoal. anthropogenic. rather large pieces – 1 cm
20-30 natural. fine brown silt

Core 4 at 5 m
0-10 topsoil
10-16 nat. w. iron pan
16-20 very compacted, greasy black brown deposit. patchy prehistoric tephras ... disturbed (postholes?)
20-30 soil w. will some charcoal. organic accumulation in it. but only few charcoal
30-40 various prehist. tephras. very light grey/yellow and then natural

Core 7 at 7m very empty core
0-7 topsoil w. roots
7-16 mixed ´organic´ brown (looks very fertile)
16-20 very red/brown soft. rather clean. very silty. natural looking
20-42 natural

Core 8 at 9m
0-12 topsoil
12-25 natural
Core 9 at 10.30m
0-11 topsoil
11-20 natural. fine. rather rich looking silt

Core 10 at 12m
0-15 topsoil and then natural
rock

Core 11 at 13.50 m
0-10 natural soil
rock

Core 12 at 16.50 m
0-5 topsoil
5-13 natural w. gravel

Line 2 at a very green looking ´hóll´ according to Orri´s description
GPS point taken at center
JAD-HL N 65°46.166´

W 018°14.814´

Line N to S and: JADHLN to JADHLS is 11 m long

Core 1 at 0 m
0-8 topsoil
8-10 mixed soil. topsoil roots. natural
10-20 natural
20-44 natural. roots still there
rock

Core 2 at 2.50
0-5 cm topsoil w. roots
5-25 natural w. worms in there
25-46 natural. cream colored tephra on bottom
heavy accumulation of soil? roots go far down
46-48 cream colored tephra. loose deposit
48-65 prehist.

Core 3 at 3.50
0-5 topsoil
5-53 hollow in between
53 – black tephra band (prehistoric?)
53-63 very loose. prehistoric deposit. yellow-brown line. deposit. could be an H-tephra
63-65 deposit prehist.

Core 4 at 5 m
0-54 cm – again a hollow such as Core 3. at this depth. the corer only had 20 cm of deposit in it. hollow too large for animal burrow
65-67 very greasy. wet deposit. w. charcoal flecks in it. potential floor layer
67-72 looks like slightly disturbed prehist. layers
72-74 black tephra?
74-80 natural. sterile. prehistory

this is where the E-W line will be

Core 5 at 6.50 m
0-10 topsoil
10.... hollow
56-58 very organic dark dep. charcoal – some
58-61 various bands of tephra. landnám?
61-67 prehist. nat. silt
68-69 black/yellow sequence
69-80 clean. prehist. silt. brown

Hollow spaces ... Þúfur?

Core 6 at 8m

0-10 topsoil
10-18 natural
18-20 bits of charcoal. but very clean
20-30 natural. organic looking
30-40 soil w. tephra.
40-50 very orange looking. deposit may be from water. or iron...
50-56 prehist. silt

Line 2 E-W line at 5m S of JADHLN point

Core 1
at 1m east
0-10 topsoil
10-48 rather clean soil. occasional charcoal (windblown?). but not cultural. cryoturbation?
48 tephra line. prehist
48-55 greasy. w. charcoal
55-80 natural. clean. tiny flecks of occasional charcoal. prehistoric

JADESC N65º46.167' W18º14.770'
cores placed where most likely to find a midden in the area
Core 1
The deposits seem more midden like than others at the E. center of the mount. i.e. more fertile seeming vegetation
0-23 natural
23-24 black tephra layer – could be medieval (1400s?)
24 -37 wood ash. peat. banded and repeated – turf
37-38 soil – non-anthrop.
38-65 rather uncompacted. various deposits of peat ash. woodash... lots of charcoal
65-70 i big lump ca 2 cm of charcoal
rock

Core 2 ca 1m E of 1
0-8 topsoil
8-10 clean soil
10- band of black greasy tephra (1717 or 15th Century?)
11-15 some peat ash. woodash. grey small gravel
15-18 very organic soil
18-23 orange. peat
23-40 peat ash
40-43 orange = peat? flecks on soil. occasional slag? (probably more likely pebbles from bedrock ... some charcoal
rock

Core 3 ca 8m S of Core 2 65º46.158'N. 18º14.768' "JADE"
0-10 topsoil
10-20 mixed organic soil. compact. if midden material. then animal dung
27-28 brown/clayey line. rather organic

28-31 mixed deposit. rather just silt. w. some organic
31 tephra line
32-35 mixed or upcast prehistoric tephra
35-41 natural
rock
Core 4 ca 4m S of Core 3
4m E of NE boundary of new cemetery = JADSS 65º46.155'N. 18º14.767'W
0-10 topsoil
10-15 rather natural. slightly organic – fertilized soil?
15-21 grey-pink greasy compact layer. very light color
21-54 less compacted. mixed. orange. brown. bit peaty
54 coarse grey olive tephra (part of landnám?)
55-67 less compacted. mixed. orange. brown. bit peaty
67-77 very mixed deposit. no charcoal. some flecks in it - maybe bone butter. some peat (very promising mixed deposit)
rock

Ergo: if return. should do more coring or small test trench here an at JADESC N65º46.167' W18º14.770'

18.8.08

<u>Neskot, NKÖ (EY-068:018)</u>
Coordinates: 65°46.707'N, 18°13.548'W, 16m asl.
very dry soil – has not rained in weeks

NESK1 – first. most NE of 4 possible ruins
S-N line
ph in 'structure': 6.8-7

NESK1N 0m at N. end. 15 at Send (should be same a MARK 05)
Core at 0.5m
0-9 top soil
9-59 clean soil w. one small pebble
59 – light tephra – prehistoric Hekla?
natural
65.5 orange band
natural
68 light tephra (crème/white)
natural
74 natural in-between all of these are prehistoric
74-75 natural
75 light-colored tephra line
75 – 87 natural

Core 2 at 2m South
0-7 topsoil
7-42 clean. natural. brown deposit
rock

core 3 at 4m S.
0-10 topsoil
10-28 natural
18-42 prehistoric tephra and sterile sequences

Core 4 at 6m = very deep deposit
0-8 topsoil
8-22 natural. non-cultural
22-64 natural. orangey material. one very small quartz pebble and occasional small regular pebbles ... probably the gravel that builds many of the mounds around

Core 5 at 7m
0-12 topsoil
12-68 natural
68-69 flecks of maybe light colored tephra
68-74 and more orange stripes
prehist deposits?

Core 6 at 8.40 – the first half meter is not compacted at all...
0-10 topsoil w. roots
10-28 clean soil
28-29 deposit of sandy silt
29-58 coarse soil. fine gravel. bit sandy
58-100 same material. becomes slightly more compacted
bedrock

Core 7 at 10 m. very dry. although rain at night;
0-8 topsoil
8- olive grey tephra
11-15 sandy silt
15-34 coarse soil
34 – white yellow sandy tephra bad H3?
34-57 less coarse sandy silt. some charcoal (windblown?)
57 – red/orange line
58-60 gravely silt (fine gravel)
60-80 gravel. sandy silt deposit

the tephra line is very thin; lot of coarse sandy silt filling in 'structure' lot of accumulation of silt. sandy. stormy era?

Core 8 at 14m
0-8 topsoil
8-44 gravely sandy silt
44-46 very grey sand
46-47 light band of tephra?
47-54 sandy silt. slightly more red hue than above

Core 9 at 5m east of 10 m

0-8 topsoil
8-62 coarse gravely sand. natural

Core 10 at ca 15 m east of 15m line
0-8 topsoil
8-35 natural

Core 11 at 6m W of 10m
0-8 topsoil
8- 40 natural coarse gravely sandy silt
46-113 natural – prehistoric?
no cultural remains
seemingly no tephras – maybe very deep deposit of natural material?

Core at the most left structure cluster of three in the east.
NES02E
65º46.685'N
18º13.560' W used for report

0-8 topsoil
8-35 very clean sandy silt
35 black tephra
35-45very clean sandy silt
45-46 some disturbed yellow/white prehist? tephra
47-60 non-cultural silty sandy deposit
60 white/creamy tephra (prehist)
60-63 silty sand

no indication of a midden found in association w. mound no. 1

raised feature 'Mound 2': just west of the most eastern structure.
core at NES02 C – i.e. the center of this raised feature visible in the landscape
65º46.689'N. 18º13.575'
0-14 topsoil
14-18 rather sandy gravely silt
18-22 turf collapse? mixed w. silty sand
22-33 reddish turf t/c? mixed w. silt
33 reddish line
34-57 silty sand w. some turf
57 red band-iron pan?
57-59 orange. green gray bands. some turf
9-62 mores silty sand
62 black line – very fine (tephra?)
62-68 silty sand
68 black tephra lines. ca 4cm thick
68-75 less mixed sandy
75 a line. maybe tephra
75-105 light brown colored silt
106 yellow/white/black band – prehistoric tephra

106 -108 prehistoric – natural

very organic looking soil – no charcoal – 'dung' enriched soil?
ph – 6.7 – 7

NES 02W
65º46.685'N. 18º13.576'W
Core 1
0-12 topsoil
12-41 natural
41-61 natural cream white tephra on bottom

Core 2 at about 5m N of NES 02C
0-8 topsoil
8-23 natural
23-33 natural. silty. windblown
33 cream/white very fine tephra line (H3?)
33-47 natural. prehist.
47-64 natural prehistoric

about 4m accuracy...
NES 03 E 65º46.685'N. 18º13.592'E
Core at str. south of NES 02 in E part
0-12
12-23 natural /windblown
23 – 24 sand lense
24-26 turphy – more compact
26-28 brown. organic but no charcoal
28-36 gravely silt
36-46 mixed silt and bit organic
46-64 very fine silt
gravel/bedrock

no midden was found here. nothing even remotely organic beyond some dubious turf collapse...

19.8.08
<u>Skuggi, SKÖ (EY-215:009)</u>

Coordinates: 65°39.743'N, 18°28.782'W, Elevation: 360m asl.

SKUGGI – considered old site. mentioned in the 14th Century
at ca 16.5 m: ph = 6.5-7
site is up hill at an elevation of ca 166m asl (according to my gecko, 360m aslaccording to Google Earth!
SKU01N- this is 18 m North (going downhill...) from NW corner of structure B.

SKU01N N65º39.752'. 18º28.813'W coordinates for midden location used for NSF report.

Core 1 at 17m N
0-10 topsoil
10-24 natural soil
24-25 lighter colored deposit
25-35 sandy silt mixed w. charcoal and some potential bone butter
35-37 lump of turf?
37-45 unburnt bone. loose. rather mixed. very little charcoal. woodash
45-54 becomes rather yellow. mixed probably turfy /Hekla. charcoal
54-55 grey black/purplish tephra – landnám
rock

Core 2 at 16m
0-15 topsoil
15-21 more mixed. but nothing cultural visible
21-31 charcoal. very occasional
31-36 white-burnt bone
36-44 organic. at east charcoal. woodash. mixed in
44-45 white burnt bone. and charcoal... rather accumulation of small bits of bone. burnt and unburnt
rock

Core 3 at 15 m
0-15 topsoil
15-28 occasional bone and charcoal in rather clean deposit
28-34 lighter color. bits of more frequent charcoal
34 – 40 very frequent charcoal. some peat. some woodash
rock

Core 4 at 14m
0-12 topsoil
12-17 natural
17-18 maybe grey to black tephra (1717) = this was actually a grey blue tephra and may very well be from the 1300 one
18-27 rather clean
27 – 33 darker deposit. traces of woodash. unburnt bone. one nice. 1.5 cm. dense fragment. well preserved. charcoal
33=44 cleaner deposit
44 - 48 midden- like peat ash. charcoal. even bit of woodash
48-62 more of same. a bit cleaner than above and below
62-67 midden w. peat ash. charcoal. woodash
67-71 very well preserved bone fragment from mtm long bone. ca 2cm
71-78 very nice banded turf sequence w. Landnám and prehistoric (picture)
78-81 more organic deposit w. charcoal
rock

ph ca 6.8 -7

Core 5 at 13 m = almost at the center of the hóll

0-15 topsoil
15-23 windblown.
23-32 charcoal. woodash. cultural soil
32- 40 peat. charcoal
40-48 cleaner soil
48-53 peat
53 -55 woodash
55-72 bit of peat. some charcoal woodash. peat ash on bottom. whit burnt bone frag.
72-75 pink and charcoal
75 woodash layer (? could this be a tephra?)
75-77 more orange peat
77-79 turf collapse?
79 -82 peat ash mix
82-97 darker .v very mixed w. charcoal. peat ash. calcine bone. some wood
97-98 pink and woodash
98-99 woodash
99-101 turf debris w peat ash
101-103 pink woodash. peat ash
103-118 big chunks of woodash
118-124 turf w. tephra sequences. olive band (Landnám?). with prehist material in it olive on top then yellow. then yellow black
124-129 very dark and compact still bit of charcoal
rock (bedrock)

Core 6 at 11.50 m
0-19 topsoil
19 tephra – black grey
23-27 midden material. peat ash. charcoal. calcine bone
27-32 more organic. may be decomp. wood
32-41 rather clean. occ. charcoal
41-48 darker. charcoal peat ash
48-54 peat ash. domestic. midden. charcoal
54-63 cleaner deposit
63-74 turf sequence w. olive color
74-76 peat ash. plus prehist
76-78 midden mat. and turf debris. peat ash
78-82 dark. clean. material – natural
rock

Core 7 at 10 m
0-21 topsoil
21- black – grey tephra
21-29 rather clean. maybe wood
29-32 some mixed ash. wood and peat
32-33 darker material and charcoal
33-37 occasional charcoal. but rather clean
37-46 turf collapse mixed w silt
rock

Suggestion in Aug. 2008: if a test trench. should be placed between 12 and 14 m North

Skriða, NLÖ 1 (EY-192:023)
Coordinates: 65°43.103'N. 18°21.878W, 51m asl.

right to SW of new House; SK302A 65º43.101'N. 18º21.876'W (51-54m asl) used for potential midden coordinates in report
Core 1 = 10 m SW of mod house. about 2m W of trees
0-16 topsoil
16-51 very clean. occasional fleck of charcoal
rock

Core 2 1 m SSW of Core1
0-8 topsoil
8-40 clean soil very loose. maybe recently disturbed?
40 black/grey tephra (1766?)
40-47 soil. occasional charcoal specks. tiny white burnt bone
47-54 bit cleaner
54-58 more mixed. traces of peat? traces of woodash. charcoal
rock

Core 3 ca 3 m E of Core 2
0-11 topsoil
11 - 16 very loose sandy silt. orange. red band (peat?)
w. occasional charcoal
rock/root
Core 4
3m NE of last standing tree in the line between two tree trunks
0-24 topsoil
24-33 peaty. ashy (bit). bit midden-like
33-40 turf containing sequence of prehistoric tephras
40-52 in situ sequences of H3 and H4
ph 6.8 -7

Core 5 ca 1 m N of core 4
0-8 topsoil
8-18 clean. contains bit of peat
rock

Skriða, NLÖ 2 (EY-192:004)
Coordinates: 65°43.079'N,18°22.047'W, 54m asl
SKR 02
to W of farm w. N to S line. spanning 30m
SKR 02 N: 65º43.086´N. 18º22.054'W
SKR 02 S 65º43.073'N. 18º22.027'W coordinates used to indicate potential midden

could not get corer in at 16 or 15 m mark

the whole ground is covered by gravel and rocks
Core 1 ph 6.5 -7
0-8 topsoil
8-16 some flecks of calcine bone maybe a plow zone?
16 -20 midden. peat ash
20-26 turfy deposit
26ö30 midden. peat ash
30-35 brown deposit. mixed w. flecks of peat
35-54 peat ash mixed w. prehistoric tephras (from a turf block?): black and yellow/cream. bits of wood
54-56 no peat ash. brown deposit. not very cultural. no charcoal. windblown? dung?
56-61 orange. pink. red. peat ash. mixed w. black (prehistoric?) tephra
61-71 less peat ash. more bone
71-72 peat ash
rock

Core 2
at 2m E of 2m from S line (where core 1 is)
0-8 topsoil
8-15 very little cultural mat. rather clean
15-17 mixed deposit
17 black tephra
17-21 peat / burnt dung?
21-26 very clean. bits of charcoal. very little
rock

Core 3 at 1m E of Core 1
0-8 topsoil
8-12 bit of mixed black material. some chunks of charcoal. brown. not ‘orange’. black burnt bone
12-16 wood ash
rock

Core 4 at 1m W of Core 1
0-7 topsoil and fertilizer
7-25 mixed soil w. peat ash. possibly peat ash. bit of black burnt bone, occasional charcoal
25-29 brown. clean material (windblown)
29-31 darker. cleaner.
31 possibly black tephra
31-36 mixed deposit w. some peat ash
rock

Core 5 at 1.50 m W of Core 1
0-10 topsoil
10-20 slightly mixed soil
20-29 brown/yellow turf? w. prehist. tephra bands
29-31 beginning of prehist sequence?
31-46 various prehist. deposits w. various bands of tephra

Core 6 at 1m S of line origin
too much gravel

Core 7 at 27 m
0-10 topsoil
10-28 natural
rock

this is a very problematic site because the landslide caused gravel covering of the whole slope

Suggestion if return and continuation of midden investigation:
Core 1 was 9 m W and 6.5 m S of the white fence post that is North of the blue fence post; would have to put in a trench to East. West. and North of that point

20.8.08
BAKKI
SW in church yard
65º36.894´N. 18º30.378'W coordinates (taken in SW corner of Churchyard) used for NSF report

'Inside the new part of the churchyard'...
Core 1 – 1 m SW of a grave marked with the names Sigrún and Kári
very loose context
0-8 topsoil
8-14 clean soil. maybe fertilizer in it. (bit of white)
14-16 orange/white turf?
16-20 mixed deposit. charcoal. one fleck of burnt bone
20-29 mixed deposit. peat ash
29-30 cleaner
30-32 piece of striped turf
32-49 very mixed
49-50 very pink/orange. peat ash patch
50-91 still mixed soil w. fleck of peat ash. one speck of white burnt bone
91-150 very loose soil w. midden. all the way down
rock

Core 2 at 50 cm W and 1 m N of Core 1
0-15 topsoil
15-17 woodash
17-23 bit mixed soil. occ. charcoal
23-28 more turfy deposit
28-34 soil mixed w. peat ash and charcoal
34-38 cleaner. no anthrop. dep.
38-40 orange. pink w. charcoal
rock
Core 3 at 1.5 m E of Core 1
0-11 topsoil

11-22 rather clean soil. gravely
22-28 orange/pink peat white flecks of bone
28-50 midden material. peat. charcoal. loose. no bone
rock

Core 4 at 1 m S of Core 1
0-14 topsoil
14-19 mixed soil w. white burnt bone. mtm long bone. ca 3 cm
19-35 bits and pieces of tiny calcine burnt and crushed bone
35-39 woodash w. white burnt bone
39-58 more organic layer w. bits of wood and peat ash
59 big chunks of charcoal
59-68 turf w. tephra sequences
66 grey-black tephra. maybe landnám underneath: greenish and purplish
68 -71 looks natural. but with specks of black tephra and lot of charcoal
71-85 soil mixed w. lots of charcoal. peat flecks. some white burnt bone on bottom
75-100 very loose. a void
100 -104 soil bit mixed w. peat but rather clean
rock

Result: Bakki is a rather promising midden. if it was easy enough to get a permit to dig in the churchyard...
If a test trench. then from Core 1 to Core 4: N-S
and ca. 50 cm W and 1.5 m E = 1mx2m
ca 3m south of last tree

SKÖ test trench
at 12 to 14 m from S: 1x2 m trench
took tephra sample of grey black t. under topsoil (upon talking with Andy C and Andy D and Orri. this tephra. that is more grey blue than grey black. could be the 1300 AD (Hekla)

Datum Point: highest part of Rock to SW of TR1
coordinates: accuracy 6m
elevation. 169m asl. according to GPs. but 360m according to Google Earth.
N65º39.745'
W18º28.804' SKODAT
21.8.08.
I.H. 0.95

22.8.08
I.H. 0.99