# RÉTT VIÐ BÚÐARHÁLSVIRKJUN:

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS

*Framvinduskýrsla/Interim Report*


Oscar Aldred

*With Magnús Á Sigurgeirsson*

Fornleifastofnun Íslands



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*Front cover image: Trench 2 with 1721 tephra in situ, north facing.*



*Bárugötu 3*

*101 Reykjavík*

*Sími: 551 1033*

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## SUMMARY

Archaeological investigations which included a measured DGPS survey, a photographic survey, as well as the excavation of four trenches across the walls of the upstanding and visible enclosure. The main findings from the investigations were that the enclosure was built immediately after 1721, and that there is an earlier feature, located in the west stretch of the north wall, that probably dates to after 1636, and which has utilized ie built on and effected the wall construction of the north-west wall of the enclosure.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Adolf Friðriksson and Howell Roberts at Fornleifastofnun Íslands for project management, Magnús Á Sigurgeirsson for his work on the tephra analysis, and to Ragnheiðar Gló who was the other half of the excavation team.

# INTRODUCTION

Archaeological investigations in the area of Búðarháls and specifically at the site of a stone built enclosure (thought to be a rétt) at Byrisver, immediately south of Tungnaá, a tributary of Þjórsá, were conducted on the requirements that Forneifavernd rískisins (FVR) requested for archaeological work (see appendix). Accordingly, the archaeological work conducted by Fornleifastofnun Íslands (FSÍ) on behalf of Landsvirkjun in advance of its flooding were to:

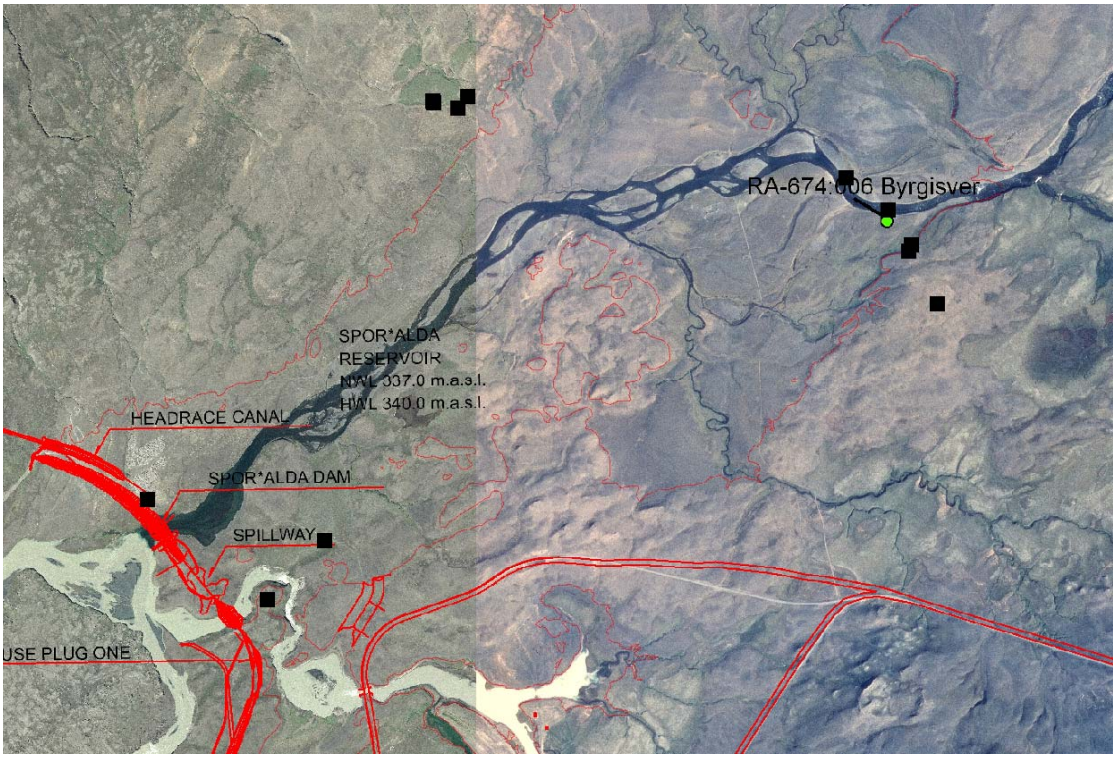



*Figure 1. Development area. The green dot is the enclosure. Source: Landsvirkjun.*

1. Photographic survey of the enclosure
2. A measured survey of the enclosure using a Differential Global Positioning System.
3. Excavate 2-3 trenches in order to ascertain the date of enclosure

This work took place between 22nd June to 24th June, 2009.

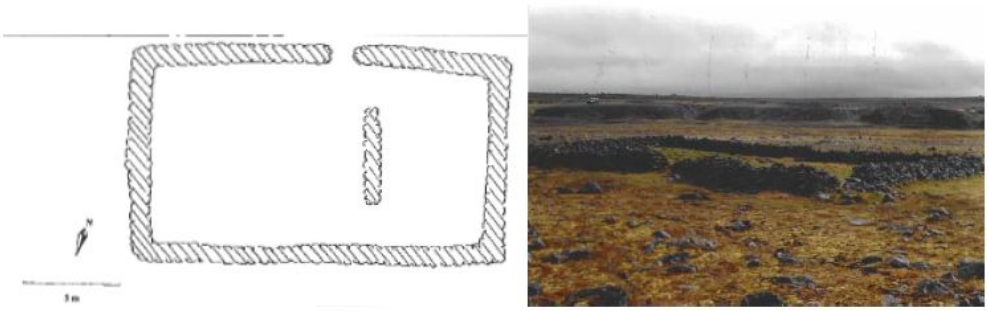
This report is a summary of the work and the main findings and the tephra report by Magnús Á Sigurgeirsson.

## PREVIOUS WORK

The enclosure was surveyed in 1999 (Adolf Friðriksson and Orri Vésteinsson 1999 *Fornleifar á Búðarhálsi og Þóristungum: Könnun vegna Búðarhálsvirkjunar.* Reykjavík: FSÍ. FS096-99141).

**RA-674:006** *Byrgisver* heimild um rétt 64°13.912N 19°12.341V
Byrgisver er vestan við Fremstutungu, vestast á Þóristungum. "Á Miðtungu er Byrgisver, vestur af Köldukvísl," segir í örnefnalýsingu. Í Byrgisveri eru fjárbyrgi sem taka 12-14 hundruð fjár og er rekið í þau tvo síðustu gangnadaga. Réttin stendur um 20-30 m sunnan við bakka Köldukvíslar. Landið í kring er flatt, mosagróið en stórgrýtt. Nokkru sunnar taka við háir malarkambar sem ná niður að ánni austan við réttina. Hefur þarna verið gott aðhald fyrir fjárrekstur úr vestri að réttinni. Tóftin er aflöng, um 20 m löng og 12 m breið. Innan veggja er mjög þýft. Veggir eru fremur uppmjóir, um 50 sm breiðir neðst og allt að 1 m háir. Dyr eru á miðjum norðurvegg. Innan í réttinni er þverveggur, um 5 m langur og talsvert lægri en hleðslurnar umhverfis. Eru um 1 m breiðar dyr við norður- og suðurvegg. Hleðslan er úr hnullungagrjóti, hún vönduð og stendur vel, en hrunið hefur úr norðvesturhorninu. Réttin er í stórhættu vegna fyrirhugaðs Sporöldulóns.

**Hættumat:** stórhætta, vegna framkvæmda
**Heimildir:** GR I, 318, 319; Ö-Þóristungur, 1



*Teikning og ljósmynd af rétt RA-674:006 úr skýrslu (FS096-99141) Adolfs Friðrikssonar og Orra Vésteinssonar frá árinu 1999, horft til suðausturs á ljósmynd*

*Figure 2. Excerpt from Sólveig Guðmundsdóttir Beck (ed.) 2009: 135.*

It is described as stone built, rectangular with dimensions 20m by 12m, with a small dividing wall in side. The outer walls are approximately 1m tall and 0.5m wide, and the internal division smaller. There is collapse in the north-west corner. In addition a subsequent survey of the area has taken place which will form a contextual basis for other monuments that connect to the rétt (Sólveig Guðmundsdóttir Beck (ed.) 2009

*Aðalskraning í Ásahreppi í Rangárvallasýslu 2006 til 2008*. Reykjavík: FSÍ. FS417-06051).

## RESEARCH

The survey and excavation of the enclosure also connect to research being conducted by the applicant on the practices of herding and gathering and its relationship to sheep-fold monuments. This has formed the basis of two publications. An initial publication (Aldred, O 2006 *Réttir* in the landscape. A study on the context of focal points, in J Arneborg and B Gronnow (eds.) *Dynamics of Northern Societies. Proceedings of the SILA/NABO Conference on Arctic and North Atlantic Archaeology, Copenhagen, May 10th–14th, 2004.* Publications from the National Museum. Studies in Archaeology and History, Vol. 10. Copenhagen. Pp. 353–63).

And an unpublished publication as part of the International Polar Year collaboration lead by NABO (Aldred, O and Madson, C K 2008 Réttir *in the landscape. A study on the interactions between humans and animals through sheep-fold monuments*. Unpublished IPY report).

The enclosure adds another example of a possible rétt distant from a neighbouring community located in the actual grazing and highland area. Several of these are also evident in other parts of Iceland, for example, in Gæsadalur and Réttartangi, north of Lake Mývatn in Norðurfell grazing area.

## AIMS AND METHODS

The broad aims of the archaeological investigations were to further understand the archaeological remains through intrusive and non-intrusive methods.

As already stated the archaeological investigations entailed to acheive:

1. Photographic survey of the enclosure. This involved photographing the enclosure from multiple angles as well as noting the detailing in the construction

before excavation. Multiple photographs associated with this work are appended to this report.

2. A measured survey of the enclosure using a Differential Global Positioning System. This involved setting the base station up and establishing a fixed point from which to carry out a rover survey. As a result the accuracy of the survey is sub-cm rather than meters. The method used however, was rapid and walked with a Trimble backpack on which the rover was placed. Although this is less accurate than a rover on a staff, it nonetheless provided an accurate and measured survey of the enclosure.

3. Excavate 2-3 trenches in order to ascertain the date of enclosure. In actuality, there were 7 trenches excavated at 4 locations (see figure 3). The excavation was carried out using the single context planning and recording system primarily used by MOLAS and in England, but adapted for Icelandic archaeology (Spencer 1994; Lucas 2003; http://www.instarch.is/utgafa). All trenching was hand-dug. And all trenches were recorded and photographed in section and in plan after excavation. All trench locations were measured in using the DGPS,

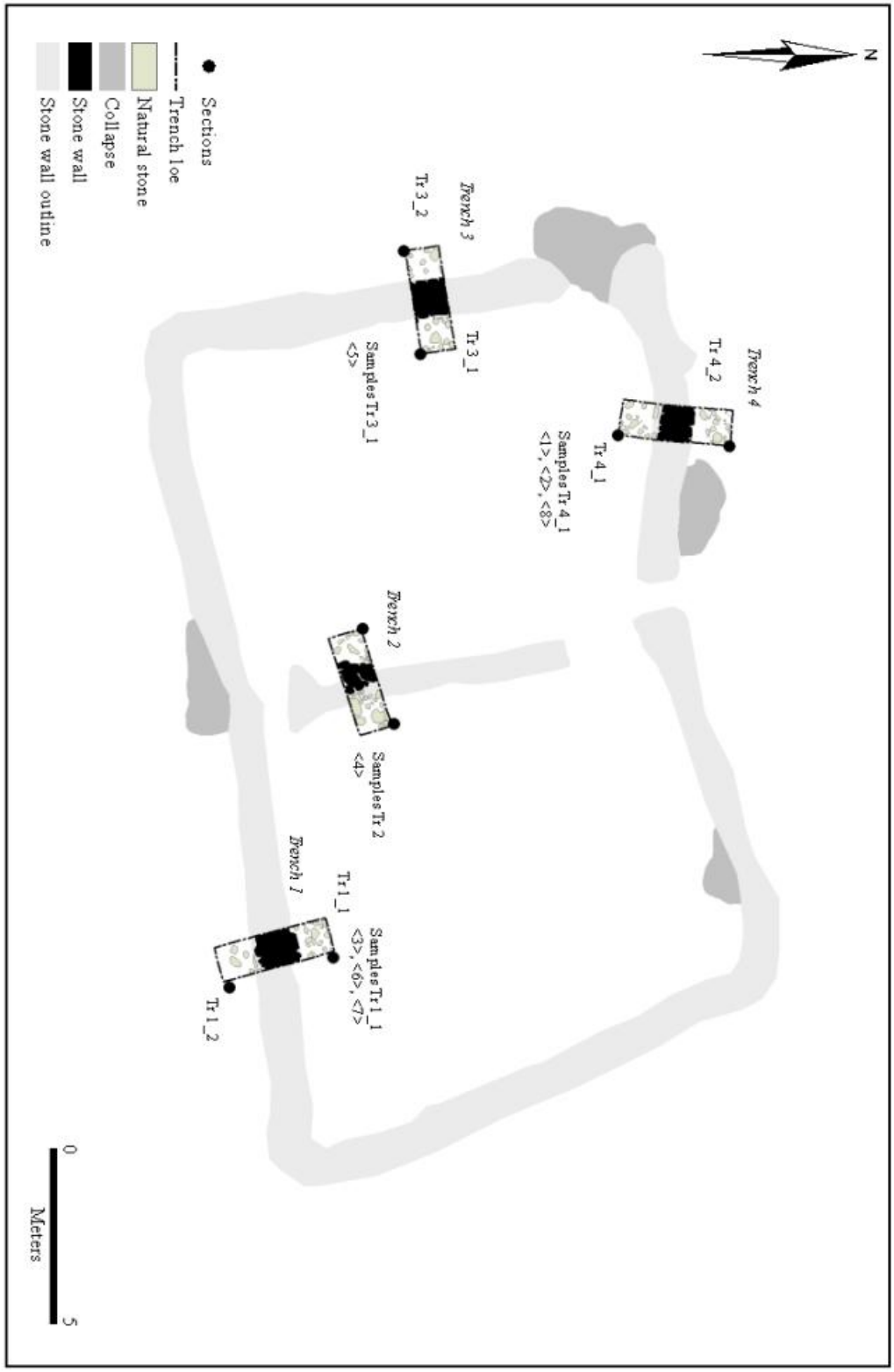



*Figure 3. DGPS survey of enclosure and excavated trenches.*

The main objectives of the archaeological investigations were to:

1. Record systematically the enclosure
2. Investigate the enclosure in more detail than the archaeological survey
3. Ascertain a data of construction and/or reuse

Contexts formed the main unit of recording and were excavated stratigraphically, in sequence, within the excavation areas. Well defined contexts were photographed (but not recorded in plan only in section. For example, the tephra identified as 1721 (see Magnús Á Sigurgeirsson this report) across trenches 1-4.

Tephra analysis was carried out by Magnús Á. Sigurgeirsson, who investigated samples collected from the site. It should be noted that he did not make a field visit to the enclosure, but relied on the recording of the deposits and photographs, and the samples for his analysis.

## FIELD RESULTS

### PHOTOGRAPHIC SURVEY

The photographic survey was conducted over 1/2 day and involved both black and white SLR film as well as colour digital photography. A total of 68 photographs were taken; 24 relating to the photographic survey of the enclosure. This included shots of the outside walls, the walls themselves and the inside areas (figures 4 and 5).

*Figure 4. The enclosure looking south east (above); inside the enclosure along the internal wall and the south wall looking south; indicating a possible blocking of a southern entrance (below). Scales are 2m.*

*Figure 5. Looking from the inside towards the exterior of the enclosure, looking north (above; Scale 1m); the inside area of the enclosure, at partial collapse in the north-west corner, looking north  west (below; Scale 2m).*

## DGPS SURVEY

The measured survey with the DGPS allowed an accurate representation of the enclosure to be reproduced, creating an indelible record. The enclosure was approximately 21.5 by 13m (internal space) and with walls 1m thick standing to a height of 1m. In places the enclosure had collapsed, but was generally well preserved. An internal wall divided the enclosure into two compartments and was not well preserved, partially hidden by the vegetation but approximately 1m wide, 8m long, and standing to a height of 0.4m. The internal wall created two compartments in the enclosure; the western one 9.5 by 13m and the eastern 10.8 by 13m. An entrance was located in the northern wall, more or less in the middle of the enclosure. The construction of the walls seemed to have been built with larger stones at the base and two stacks infilled with smaller stones (see figure 6).

*Figure 6. Cross-section through the southern wall in trench 1, looking west (Scale subdivisions are 0.5m).*

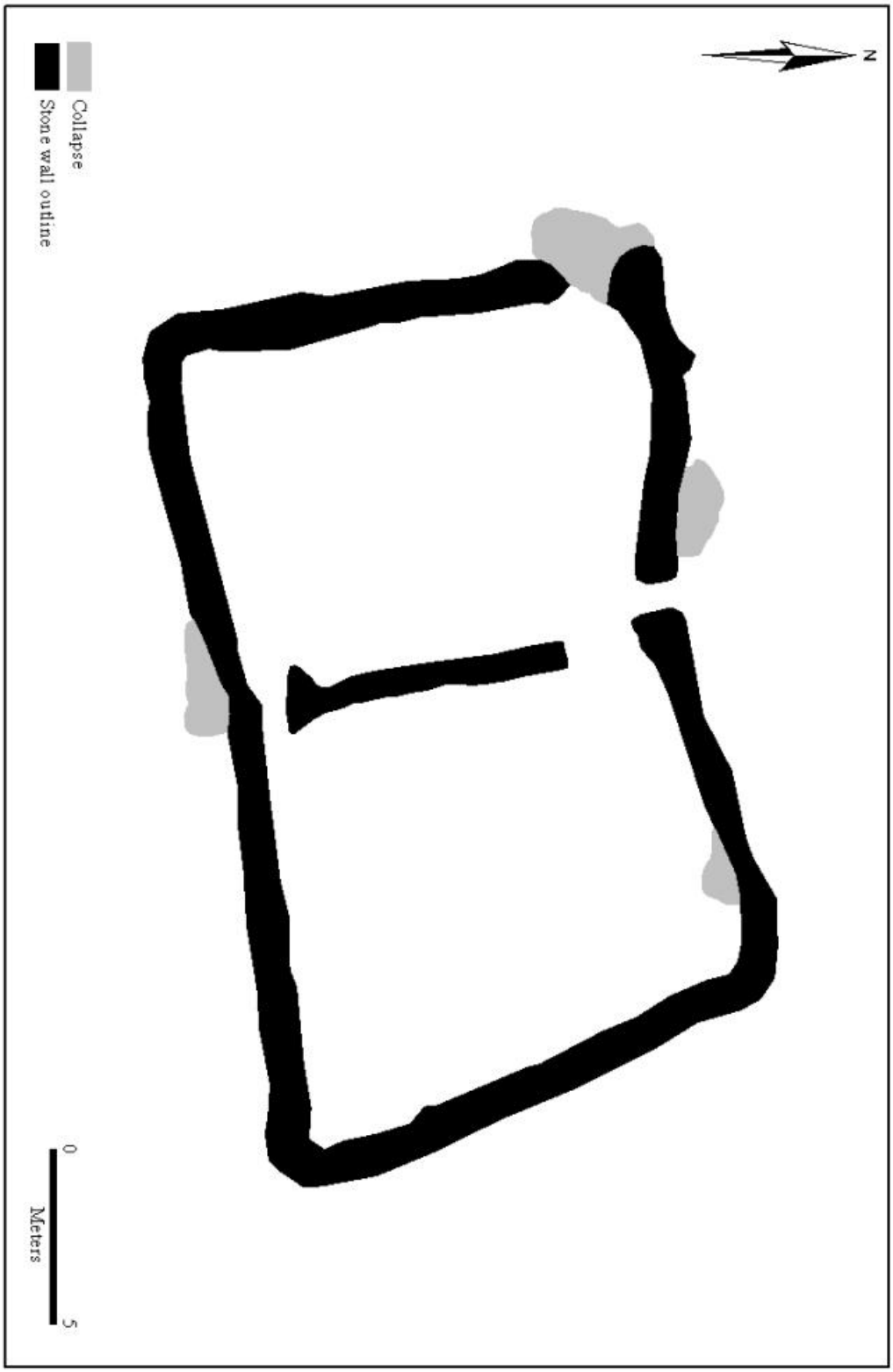



*Figure 7. DGPS survey of the enclosure.*

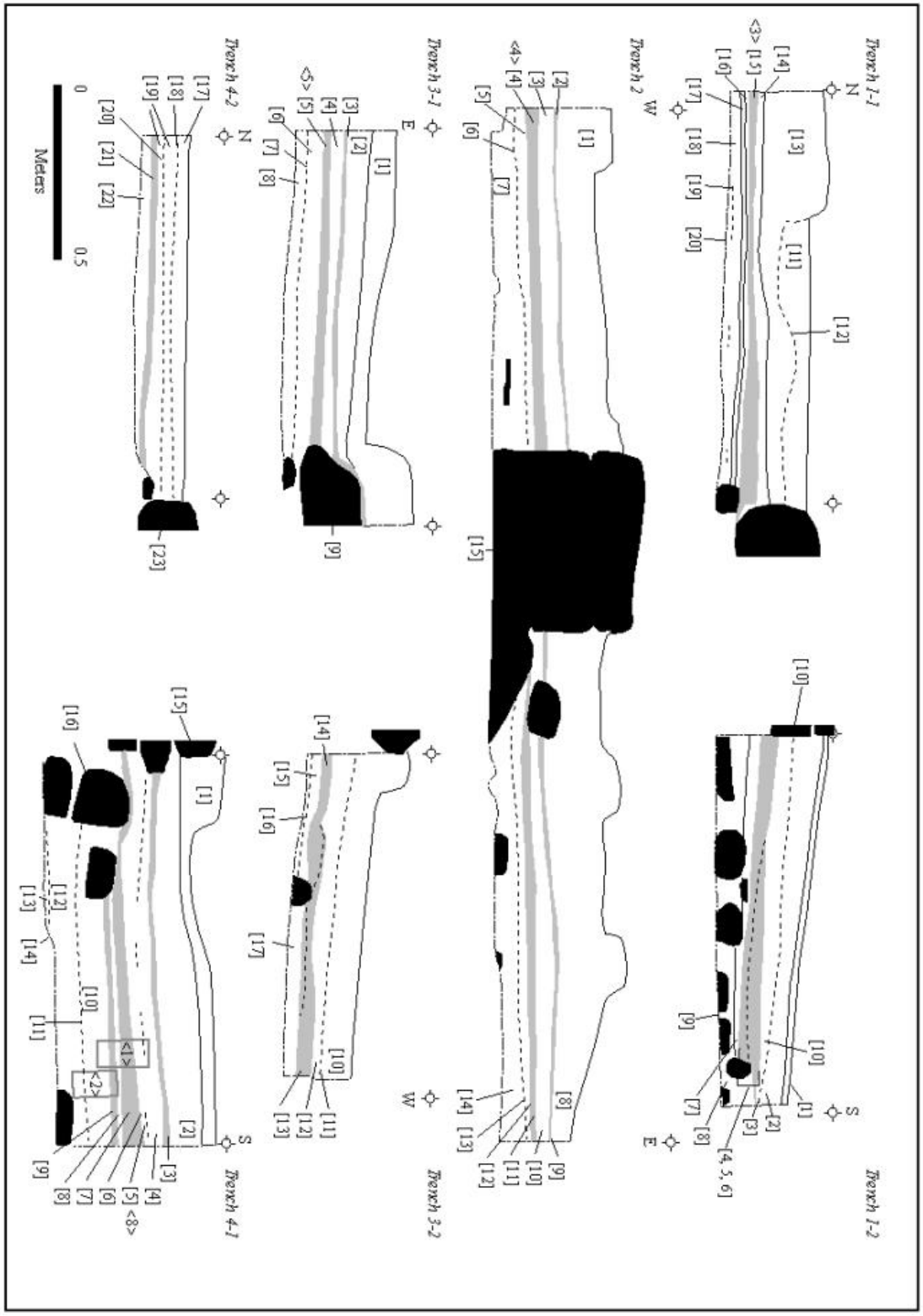



*Figure 8. Excavated sections across trenches 1 to 4.*

## TRENCH EXCAVATIONS

In total four trenches were excavated, comprising a length of c.9m (see figures 3 and 8). The depth of the trenches varied, from 0.15 to 0.5m; the internal space of the enclosure was in general excavated to a much deeper depth, but all trenches were excavated down onto river bed gravel. Each trench was divided into two parts, except trench 2 which was excavated as a continuous trench. Only trench 1 removed the stone wall in order to follow the 1721 tephra in situ. The following description of the what was found in the trenches is ordered according to the trench numbers and their constitutive parts. The sequences of depositional events was similar through out each trench, as well as the degree of tephra preservation. The contexts are a contained sequence of numbers (eg 1-20) for each trench 1-4. Therefore each trench (parts 1 and 2) are a complete set and each trench has a unique number for each of the contexts within it. This was for the purposes of onsite work and it has been kept because of the tephra analysis. No artefacts were found in any of the trenches.

*Figure 9. Trench 4-1, north facing, with 1721 tephra in situ.*

**Trench 1-1**

Trench 1-1 was located on the northern and inside edge of the southern stone wall and was 1m long by 1m wide. The west facing section was recorded. Stratigraphically from top to bottom the trench consisted a root mat and þufur [11], a dark tephra [12] (possibly 1766), two Aeolian deposits, one mid brown and greyish [13] and the other mid brown [14], and a dark black tephra [15] which was identified as the 1721. Activity within the enclosure was framed by these deposits. Underneath these was a sequence of Aeolian [16, 18, 19], interleaved by a possible tephra [17] onto river bed gravel [20]. Two samples were taken for tephra analysis, from [15] <3> and from [17] <6>.

**Trench 1-2**

Trench 1-2 was located on the southern and outside edge of the southern stone wall and was 1m long by 1m wide. The west facing section was recorded. Stratigraphically from top to bottom the trench consisted a root mat [1], an Aeolian deposit [2] with grey lenses, a tephra mid to dark brown (possible the same as [12]; possibly 1766) [3], an Aeolian deposit [10], and a sequence of 3 dark bands of tephra identified as the 1721: [4] (possible redeposition), [5] and [6]. Like Trench 1-1, activity relating to the enclosure was defined by these deposits. Below this were Aeolian [7, 8] and gravel deposits [9 and the base].

The stone wall that separated these two trenches was removed in order to check whether the tephra observed running up against the wall was going underneath. Although it was difficult to remove the stones without damaging the trenches or the deposits underneath the wall, it was observed that the dark

*Figure 10. 1721 in situ underneath the wall in trench 1, looking east*

tephra, identified as [4, 5, 6] and [15] in trench 1 was in situ underneath the wall (see figure 10). Therefore, this part of the wall of the enclosure was built *after* 1721.

**Trench 2**

Trench 2 was located across the internal wall that divided the enclosure into two halves. It was 3m long and 1m wide. The south facing section was recorded. And although the trench was excavated as a whole across the internal wall it was nonetheless divided into two halves. Contexts [1] to [7] refer to the western half and [8] to [14] to the eastern, partitioned by the wall [15].

*Western half (trench 2-1)*

Stratigraphically from top to bottom the trench consisted a root mat [1], a possible tephra [2] (?1766], a mixed Aeolian deposit [3], and a dark tephra [4], probably the 1721; it was sampled for tephra analysis <4>. Similar to trench 1 these deposits relate to the use of the enclosure. Below this Aeolian [5, 7] were interleaved by a possible tephra [6]. The trench was excavated down to the river bed gravel.

*Eastern half (trench 2-2)*

Stratigraphically from top to bottom the trench consisted a root mat [8], a possible tephra [9], a mixed Aeolian [10] and a dark tephra [11] probably the 1721. This follows a similar sequence as in the western half of trench 2. It is possible though that the 1721 abuts up against the wall [15], though there was a large ‘grounder’ stone which was sealed by it that runs underneath the wall. The wall [15] was not excavated, but it is in all probability built after 1721, like the south wall seen in trench 1. The eastern half of trench 2 followed a similar sequence as in the western half, and was also excavated down to river bed gravels.

**Trench 3-1**

Trench 3-1 was located on the eastern side and in the internal area next to the west wall and was 1m long by 1m wide. The north facing section was recorded. Stratigraphically from top to bottom the trench consisted a root mat [1], a Aeolian deposit [2], a possible tephra [3] (dark grey and medium coarse ?1766) sealed the wall

[9]. Another Aeolian deposit [4] was seen below this and the 1721 tephra [5] was present; sample <5>. The stone wall [9] remained unexcavated. Below this group of deposits were a mixed Aeolian deposit [6] consisting of 6 to 8 bands of silts, another possible tephra [7], and another Aeolian deposit [8], excavated down to the river bed gravels.

**Trench 3-2**

Trench 3-2 was located on the western side and in the external area of the enclosure next to the west wall and was 1m long by 1m wide. A similar sequence in trench 3-1 was seen here. A root mat [10], a possible tephra [11], a mixed Aeolian [12], a black tephra [13] probably 1721, and what was identified in the field as another tephra, but likely to be an Aeolian deposit [14] sitting immediately below [13]. The stone wall [18], the same as [9], remained unexcavated. Below this group of deposits and features, were an Aeolian [15], a possible tephra [16] and another Aeolian deposit [17]. The trench was excavated down to the river bed gravel.

This part of the enclosure was also built *after* 1721. Although the recorded sections suggest that the 1721 abut against the wall, the 1721 was observed as going underneath the stone wall [18] in trench 3-2.

**Trench 4-1**

Trench 4-1 was located on the southern side and in the internal area of the enclosure next to the north wall and was 1m long by 1m wide. The trench was excavated to a depth of c.0.5m, and three samples were collected for tephar analysis: <1> and <2> which were overlapping tins (see tephra report), and <8> from [5]. Stratigraphically from top to bottom the trench consisted a root mat [1], lenses of Aeolian and redeposited tephra [2, 3], another Aeolian deposit [4], a possible tephra (?1766), another Aeolian deposit [6], and a black tephra [7] identified as 1721 (see tephra report). The stone wall [15] was built on the 1721 tephra. This was a group of deposits relating to the enclosure as it is preserved.

*Figure 11. West facing section across trench 4-1. The black deposit is the 1721 tephra, and the grey bands below are probably the 1693 as well as the 1636, as well as redeposited deposits. Looking east.*

Underneath this group however, there were suggestions of another phase of construction. Below [7] was another Aeolian deposit [8] and a possible tephra [9] that was identified in the field though it is probably a redeposition rather than an in situ deposit. Another Aeolian deposit [10], and a possible tephra [11], either 1636 or 1693. It is likely that in the field observation failed to pick up on of these tephras which were seen in the sample tin <2>. Below this was another Aeolian deposit [12] and another possible with possible tephra flecks [13] relating to the 1597 (although this was not confirmed by the analysis). The trench was excavated to the river bed garvels [14]. The wall [16] was built over [11] possibly 1636 or 1693, or over the flecks relating to [13] possibly the 1597 tephra. It is more probably that this earlier phase was built in 1636.

**Trench 4-2**

The deposits in trench 4-2 was badly preserved, perhaps due to its proximity to the river and its exposed character. Stratigraphically from top to bottom the trench consisted a root mat [17], a possible tephra [18], an Aeolian deposit [19], a dark tephra [20], and possible greyish tephra [21] (?1693), and another Aeolian deposit [22]. The stone wall [23] is the same as [15] in trench 4-1.

The trench was deliberately placed across the point where the wall was slightly curved. The wall's curvature may have been a result of the reuse of an earlier wall or feature underneath. Although evidence for an earlier phase was suggested by the trench 4-1, it was not however, at all evident in trench 4-2. The date of this earlier wall was probably after 1636, if the tephra seen in trench 4-1 [11] is identified correctly. And the later enclosure wall was built after 1721. There are no suggestions as to what the earlier feature is, although it is may have been a small structure

## CONCLUSIONS

As a result of the excavation and recording of 4 trenches, as well as the DGPS survey the main findings were that the enclosure dates after 1721. In all probability its construction occurred very close to 1721 as the tephra observed underneath the south in trench 1 was fairly abundant and in situ. While it is not entirely without possibility that the 1721 construction was an entire rebuild of the existing enclosure (ie 20m by 12m) it is unlikely as more evidence of the earlier building phase would have been seen in the trench sections. In particular, it was only in trench 4-1 where there was any indication of something earlier, and in this example a stone construction consisting of only two stones [16] slightly extruding from the enclosure wall [15] in section. The face and edge of [16] suggests that it is built rather than natural. The extent of this feature is however not entirely clear, and it is in all likelihood to be a small structure, given the curvature of the wall at this location.

There are two elements derived from this excavation. Firstly, a stone built enclosure built after 1721, with an entrance to the north and a central dividing wall creating two distinct halves. And secondly glimpses of a feature (as of yet underdetermined) dating

in all respects probably to 1636. The curvature of the wall suggests though that this is localized and no evidence of any earlier phases were seen in any of the other trenches.

# FORNLEIFARANNSÓKNIR Á BÚÐARHÁLSI, RANGÁRVALLASÝSLU. GREINING GJÓSKULAGA

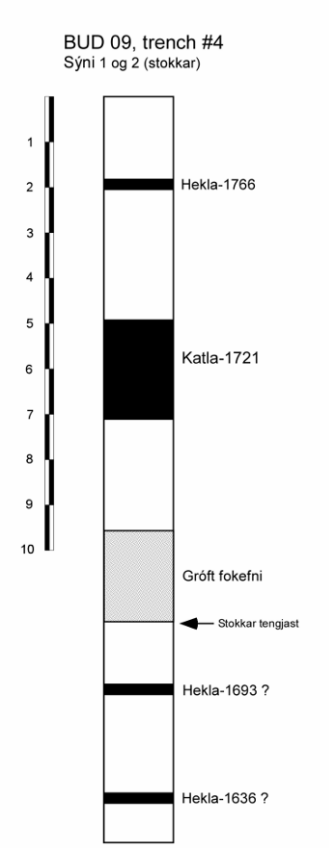
**Magnús Á. Sigurgeirsson, jarðfræðingur**
**Netfang: magnus.a.sigurgeirsson@isor.is**

Skýrslan byggir á aðsendum gjóskusýnum, bæði í pokum og í jarðvegi í blikkstokkum, sniðteikningum og ljósmyndum. Höfundur hefur ekki skoðað gjóskulög á vettvangi. Markmiðið var að finna aldur á fjárrétt/aðhald sem staðsett er á austanverðum Búðarhálsi skammt frá Köldukvísl. Engar heimildir eru þekktar um notkun mannvirkisins.

Eitt áberandi svart gjóskulag er í sniðunum sem virðist liggja undir hleðslur réttarinnar. Áhersla er lögð á að aldursgreina það lag. Gjóskulagið er 2-4 cm þykkt og er að jafnaði á um 20 cm dýpi í jarðveginum. Samkvæmt sniðteikningunum eru gráleit þunn gjóskulög sjáanleg um 4-6 cm ofan þykka lagsins og eitt til tvö neðan þess.

## NIÐURSTÖÐUR

Dökka þykka lagið í sniðunum er samsett úr dökkbrúnu einsleitu gjóskugleri (50 %) og dökkgráu gjalli (50 %). Lítið er um aðrar gerðir korna í gjóskunni. Magn kristalla er < 1 %. Ljósbrot glersins er 1,602-1,610 sem bendir til að kísilsýra ($SiO_2$) þess sé 48-50 %. Gerð gjóskunnar og ljósbrot bendir til að um Kötlugjósku fremur en Heklugjósku sé að ræða. Þessi niðurstaða auðveldar talsvert greiningu lagsins þar sem ekki eru mörg áberandi Kötlulög á þessu svæði frá því eftir landnám. Þau sem helst koma til greina varðandi þessa rannsókn eru K-1918, K-1721 og K-1500.




Þegar jarðvegurinn í blikkstokkunum var skoðaður náið kom í ljós að þar er að finna allt að þrjú þunn gráleit gjóskulög (mynd 1). Eitt þeirra er ofan Kötlugjóskunnar og tvö neðan hennar. Samkvæmt smásjárskoðun má telja víst að um Heklugjósku sé að ræða í öllum tilvikum.

**Mynd 1**. Jarðlagasnið frá Búðarhálsi, mælt í blikkstokkum (stika er 10 cm löng).

Í töflu 1 er yfirlit um þykktir gjóskulaga frá síðustu öldum við Búðarháls samkvæmt rituðum heimildum (sjá heimildaskrá). Ólíklegt er að gjóskulög frá síðustu Heklugosum séu sjáanleg í sniðunum á Búðarhálsi, þau gætu þó verið varðveitt í grasrótinni að einhverju leyti. Gjóskulagið frá Kötlugosinu 1918 ætti að vera innan við 1 cm þykkt. Næsta Kötlulag fyrir neðan Þess er K-1721, en gjóskan frá þessu gosi barst til NV frá Kötlu og dreifðist m.a. um vestur- og norðvesturland. Í jarðvegi skammt vestan Heklu er þykkt þess allt að 2 cm (MÁS. óbirt gögn).
Gjóskulagið K-1500 er óverulegt á þessum slóðum. Næsta Kötlulag sem kæmi til greina er Eldgjá-1 frá því um 940 AD. Mjög ólíklegt er að það lag sjáist í sniðunum á Búðarhálsi. Telja verður líklegast að gjóskulagið sem finnst undir veggjum réttarinnar á Búðarhálsi sé K-1721. Sé sú raunin gæti Heklugjóskan ofan við lagið verið úr H-1766 og lögin neðan þess úr H-1693 og H-1636. Í öllum þessum gosum barst gjóskan til norðlægra átta frá Heklu, sem styður þessa ályktun. Á mynd 2 er K-1721 sýnt ásamt nærliggjandi gjóskulögum í sniði við Næfurholt.

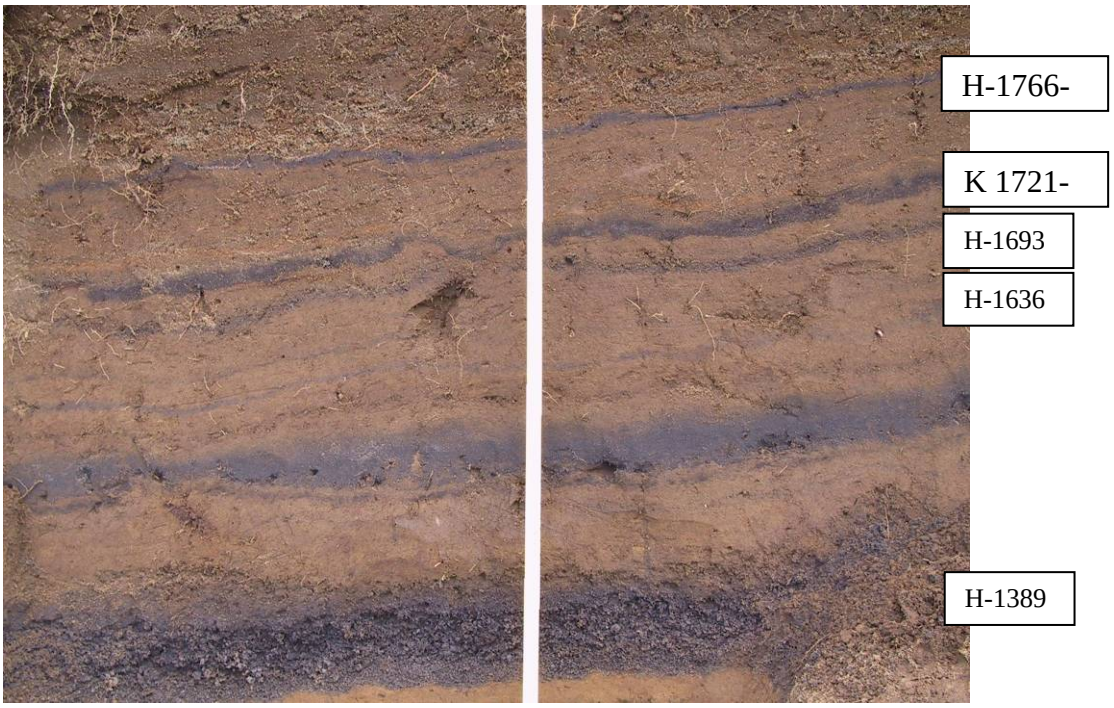
**Tafla 1**. Þykktir gjóskulaga við Búðarháls.

| Gjóskulag | Þykkt við Búðarháls | Annað |
|---|---|---|
| H-2000 | < 0,5 cm ? | |
| H-1991 | < 1 cm | |
| H-1980 | < 0,2 cm | |
| H-1970 | < 0,1 cm | |
| H-1947 | < 0,1 cm | Mælist 1,5 cm við Næfurholt[1)] |
| K-1918 | < 1 cm | Mælist 1 cm við Næfurholt |
| H-1845 | < 0,5 cm | Mælist 1 cm við Næfurholt |
| H-1766 | < 1 cm | Mælist 1 cm við Næfurholt |
| K-1721 | < 2 cm | Mælist um 2,0 cm við Næfurholt |
| H-1693 | < 1 cm | Mælist um 1 cm við Næfurholt |
| H-1636 | <0,5 cm | Mælist 0,5 cm við Næfurholt |
| H-1597 | <0,5 cm | |

[1)] Næfurholt er 10 km vestan Heklu. Afsteypu af sniðinu má sjá á Þjóðminjasafni Íslands.

## NIÐURLAG

Þykkasta gjóskulagið sem fram kemur í sniðunum á Búðarhálsi er að öllum líkindum gjóskulagið K-1721. Gjóskulagið er talið liggja inn undir réttarveggina. Sé sú raunin hefur réttin verið byggð skömmu síðar. Af ljósmyndum og teikningum að dæma er gjóskulagið fremur jafnþykkt og lítið raskað innan réttarinnar sem bent gæti til þess að hún hafi verið notuð áður en gjóskulagið féll. Vert væri að skoða þetta atriði nánar.




**Mynd 2**. Gjóskulög við Næfurholt, um 10 km vestan Heklu.

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# APPENDICES

## EXCAVATION UNIT INFORMATION

### Units

| *Trench No* | *Context* | *Description* | *Sample No* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1_1 | 1 | Root matt | |
| 1_1 | 2 | Aeolian with grey lenses | |
| 1_1 | 3 | Tephra (? Hekla 1766) | |
| 1_1 | 4 | Tephra (1721 upper seq) | |
| 1_1 | 5 | Tephra (1721 mid seq) | |
| 1_1 | 6 | Tephra (1721 low seq) | |
| 1_1 | 7 | Aeolian | |
| 1_1 | 8 | Aeolian | |
| 1_1 | 9 | Coarse gravel | |
| 1_1 | 10 | Aeolian | |
| 1_2 | 11 | Root matt | |
| 1_2 | 12 | Tephra (? Hekla 1766) | |
| 1_2 | 13 | Aeolian | |
| 1_2 | 14 | Aeolian | |
| 1_2 | 15 | Tephra (1721) | <3>, <7> |
| 1_2 | 16 | Aeolian | |
| 1_2 | 17 | Aeolian with sandy lenses | <6> |
| 1_2 | 18 | Aeoian | |
| 1_2 | 19 | Coarse sand | |
| 1_2 | 20 | Gravel | |
| 2_1 | 1 | Root matt | |
| 2_1 | 2 | Tephra (? Hekla 1766) | |
| 2_1 | 3 | Mixed Aeolian | |
| 2_1 | 4 | Tephra (1721) | <4> |
| 2_1 | 5 | Aeolian with grey lenses | |
| 2_1 | 6 | ?Tephra | |
| 2_1 | 7 | Aeolian | |
| 2_2 | 8 | Root matt | |
| 2_2 | 9 | Tephra (? Hekla 1766) | |
| 2_2 | 10 | Mixed Aeolian | |
| 2_2 | 11 | Tephra (1721) | |
| 2_2 | 12 | Aeolian with grey lenses | |
| 2_2 | 13 | ?Tephra | |
| 2_2 | 14 | Aeolian | |
| 2_2 | 15 | Stone wall | |
| 3_1 | 1 | Root matt | |
| 3_1 | 2 | Aeolian | |
| 3_1 | 3 | Tephra | |
| 3_1 | 4 | Aeolian | |
| 3_1 | 5 | Tephra (1721) | <5> |
| 3_1 | 6 | Mixed Aeolian | |
| 3_1 | 7 | ?Tephra | |
| 3_1 | 8 | Aeolian | |
| 3_1 | 9 | Stone wall | |
| 3_2 | 10 | Root matt | |
| 3_2 | 11 | Tephra (fine grey) | |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3_2 | 12 | Mixed Aeolian | |
| 3_2 | 13 | Tephra (1721) | |
| 3_2 | 14 | ?Tephra | |
| 3_2 | 15 | Aeolian | |
| 3_2 | 16 | Tephra (fine grey) | |
| 3_2 | 17 | Aeolian | |
| 3_2 | 18 | Stone wall | |
| 4_1 | 1 | Root matt | |
| 4_1 | 2 | Aeolian (lenses of grey) | |
| 4_1 | 3 | Lenses of redeposited tephra | |
| 4_1 | 4 | Aeolian | |
| 4_1 | 5 | Tephra (? Hekla 1766) | <8> |
| 4_1 | 6 | Aeolian | |
| 4_1 | 7 | Tephra (1721) | |
| 4_1 | 8 | Aeolian | |
| 4_1 | 9 | Aeolian (tephra ?Hekla 1693) | |
| 4_1 | 10 | Aeolian | |
| 4_1 | 11 | Tephra (?Hekla 1636) | |
| 4_1 | 12 | Aeolian | |
| 4_1 | 13 | Aeolian | |
| 4_1 | 14 | Gravel (coarse) | |
| 4_1 | 15 | Stone wall | |
| 4_1 | 16 | Stone wall | |
| 4_2 | 17 | Root matt | |
| 4_2 | 18 | ?Tephra | |
| 4_2 | 19 | Aeolian | |
| 4_2 | 20 | Very dark grey tephra (?1721) | |
| 4_2 | 21 | Greyish ?tephra | |
| 4_2 | 22 | Aeolian | |
| 4_2 | 23 | Stone wall | |

## Environmental samples – for tephra analysis

| *Sample No* | *Context* | *Trench No* | *Description* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Multi-context | 4 | Tin |
| 2 | Multi-context | 4 | Tin |
| 3 | 15 | 1 | Spot |
| 4 | 4 | 2 | Spot |
| 5 | 5 | 3 | Spot |
| 6 | 17 | 1 | Spot |
| 7 | Under wall [15] | 1 | Spot |
| 8 | Upper tephra | 4 | Spot |

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