# Investigations into the Gásir Hinterlands and Eyjafjörður Human Ecodynamics:

# Preliminary Field Report of the 2013 Skuggi and Staðartunga Excavations in Hörgárdalur, Eyjafjörður

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*Summary*

This is a preliminary report on the 2013 field season at Skuggi. The 2013 Skuggi midden and structural excavations are a continuation of work started there in 2008 and 2009. In a continued effort to investigate the long term Eyjafjörður Human Ecodynamics, an international team cooperated in carrying out a program of survey, coring, and small scale test excavation on selected sites in the Eyjafjörður region in North Iceland. This past season saw the team picking up from where they had left off after completion of the initial Gásir Hinterlands Project (GHP) which was part of a planned multi-season collaborative investigation of the hinterlands surrounding the medieval seasonal trading center at Gásir, partially funded by a NSF International Polar Year (IPY) grant (ARC 0732327), and largely made possibly by a NSF Dissertation Improvement Grant (ARC 0809033) to Harrison, and by Fornminjasjóður (the Icelandic University Research Grant) to Roberts. Prior work at Gásir indicated that this medieval (ca. AD 1250 – 1400) trading center was provisioned from a wide economic catchment area and that investigations needed to be extended to include the surrounding landscape (e.g., Roberts 2009, 2010; Harrison 2010, 2013; Harrison et al. 2008, Vésteinsson 2011). Work conducted in 2013 was supported by a US NSF Comparative Island Ecodynamics Project (CIE) grant (ARC 1202692).

*Participants*

Project directors 2013: Ramona Harrison (CUNY) and Howell M. Roberts (FSÍ)

Project collaborators: Howell M. Roberts (FSÍ), Ramona Harrison (CUNY)

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

Survey advisor: Elín Ósk Hreiðarsdóttir (FSÍ)

Excavation crew: Aaron Kendall, Brenda Prehal, Howell M. Roberts, Konrad Smiarowski, Michael Nielsen, Norie Manigault, Ramona Harrison, and Sant-Mukh Khalsa.

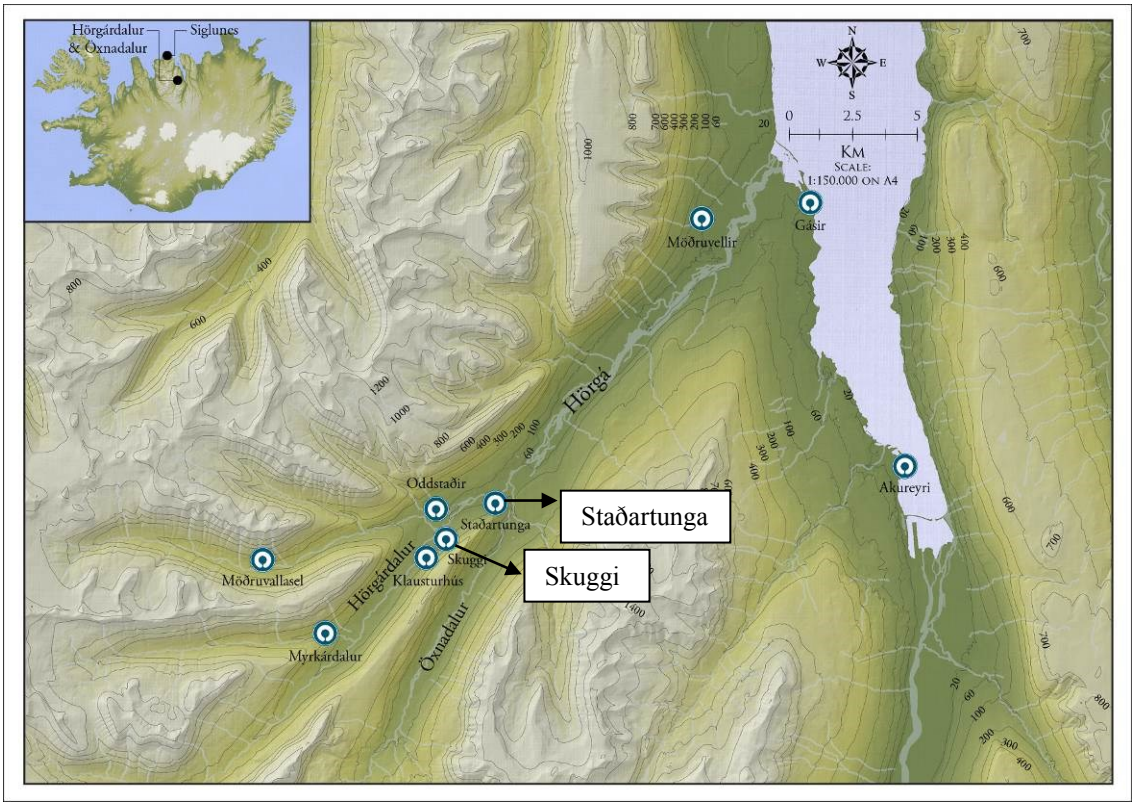


**Figure 1. Map of Iceland, locating the Eyjafjörður and Hörgárdalur sites investigated as part of the larger regional project, including Skuggi and Staðartunga (Map Source: Gísli Pálsson, FSÍ).**

*Introduction*

The aims of the 2013 Skuggi and Staðartunga excavations were:

1. to continue excavation work at Skuggi Trench 1, where the extent of the structure was to be defined.

2. to locate and test other structures at Skuggi for use and chronology of those features that presumably were more recent in time than the structure discovered in TR1;

3. to investigate the cultural remains observed in the small midden mound at Staðartunga.

The team managed to locate all four walls and corners of the structure in TR1 and stratigraphically excavated the extended area to match up with the various occupation phases established through radiocarbon analysis on terrestrial mammal bone and the existent tephra chronology. Animal bones from the midden basal layers inside the structure and sampled in 2009 were AMS C14 dated to as early as ca. AD 970. According to the dated archaeofauna from the midden upper layers, use of this particular area at Skuggi ended some time during the 12$^{th}$ century AD (AMS

C14 dated to ca. AD 1208 for latest activity). All currently available archaeological materials are sealed by a H1300 tephra layer and most also by a H1104 layer. Though it is not strictly contemporaneous with the Gásir archaeofauna, the Skuggi cultural remains provide valuable insight into the dynamics of small-scale farming and possibly the eventual wool surplus production development between the 10th and 12th centuries (Harrison 2013). One remarkable artifact recovered from the midden deposits just north and outside of the structure seems to be a part of a Viking Age folding scale, made from copper alloy – likely bronze (finds number:SKÖ-13-37-353, context [546]). This is one out of only few scales recovered from Iceland, and is very well provenienced. This part of the Skuggi cultural remains as well as all other finds and environmental samples from Skuggi and Staðartunga are currently under analysis. Terrestrial mammal bones from context [546] are currently analyzed for AMS C14 dates.


**Figure 2. Skuggi TR1, Arms of a folding scale recovered from context [546], finds number: SKÖ-13-37-353; measurements in cm. (Picture: Harrison).**

Most of the work not related to Skuggi TR1 was carried out by second–phase investigations involving systematic coring (using a tube-type Oakfield soil corer) to locate probable midden deposits and investigate them through small scale

trenches to test conditions of preservation and document possible tephra. This field report provides a preliminary overview as a result of this regional second-phase survey investigation. The authors plan for a full post-excavation report and ensuing monograph following the 2014 field season which will be the final field season sponsored by CIE grant money.

*Excavations*

SKUGGI, SKÖ 2013-37; EY-215:009

65°39.743'N, 18°28.782'W, 170 m elev (WGS 84)

E523916, N573958, Z104m.asl (ISN93)

Skuggi is located up-slope from the road down in Hörgá Valley. At an elevation of 104m above sea level, it is a 10 minute walk from Skuggabrú, the bridge leading the road across the Hörgá. The slope levels out slightly in the area of the archeological ruins, but just south of it continues again uphill to Staðartunguháls, a peak belonging to the mountain range dividing Öxnadalur from Hörgárdalur.

The survey plan in fig. 4 outlines two structural remains and a potential midden observed at Skuggi during the 2004 Hörgárdalur survey (Hreiðarsdóttir and Pétursdóttir 2008, 232, cropped by RH). The midden labeled C may be contemporaneous with at least one of the visible ruins. Mound C´s partial excavation has resulted in TR 1 and the discovery of at least one structure below the series of household refuse layers which may have accumulated over a 250 year time span.

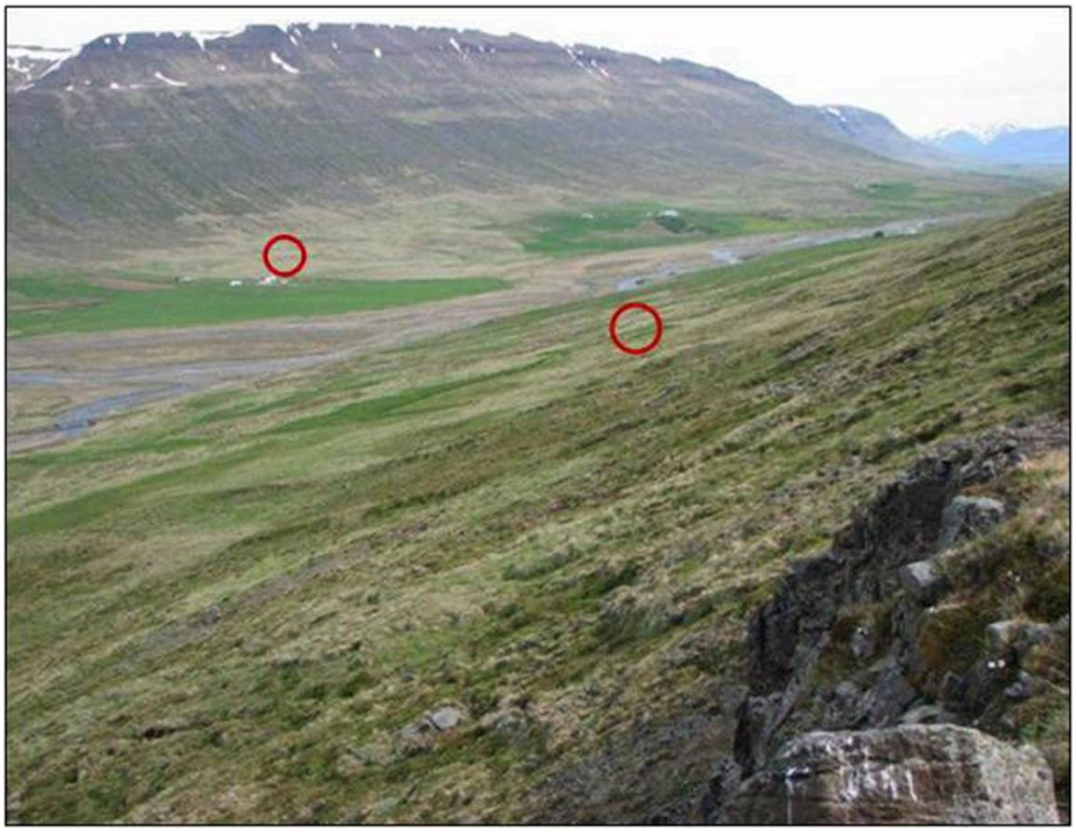

**Figure 3. The Skuggi site on the right of the picture, facing ENE. On the left, and across the Hörgá river, the Oddstaðir site is indicated. (Picture: Harrison).**

This picture demonstrates the steep sloped mountain location of the Skuggi site. According the animal bone analysis (e.g., Harrison 2013) and the recovered finds and structural remains, this site was of relatively low status. Investigating the structures indicated as A and B in the survey plan may help to better understand the reason for this site´s existence, its settlement chronology, and the prevailing environmental conditions at time of settlement and thereafter.

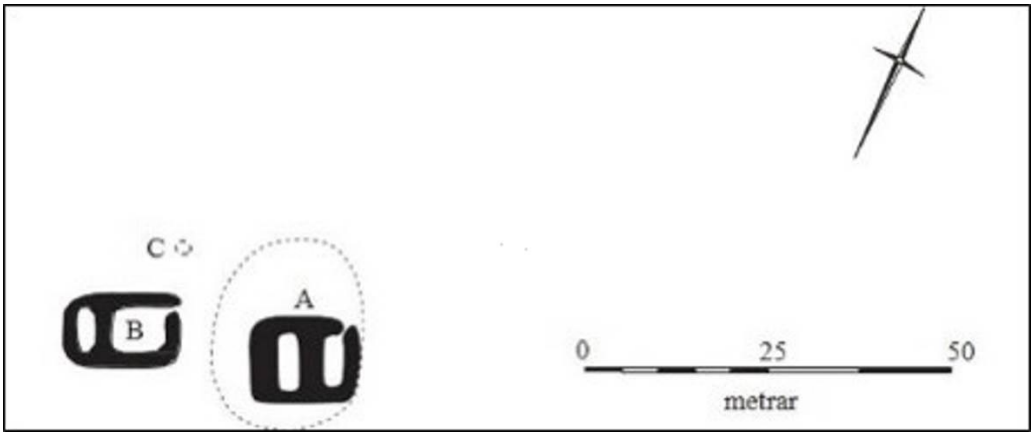


**Figure 4. Survey map of Skuggi ruins A, B and midden C where TR 1 was placed (Hreiðarsdóttir and Pétursdóttir 2008, 232).**

Trench 1 (TR1)

In 2013, the midden site in Trench 1 was extended to allow for further collection of more substantial faunal materials, but also to reveal the Viking Age structure containing these materials (for more detail on the original Skuggi TR1, see Harrison 2010).

**Figure 5. Beginning of the season, TR1 as of 2009, and extended for 2013; picture facing North (Photo: Harrison and Roberts).**

At the end of the 2009 field season, Trench 1 (TR1) at Skuggi had been emptied of all midden materials and revealed the walls of a structure. The team had taken great care to not damage this wall and to also keep the floor layers covered as to not influence preservation of organic materials contained in the floor layers (Harrison 2010). In 2013, the team extended this trench to a total of 36 $m^2$ (6 m by 6 m) to locate the entire extent of the structure. The extended trench area was excavated in the single-context method and the team came down to the same phase as that from the original trench. Artifact and environmental materials are currently under analysis. The Skuggi finds are listed in appendix I, the faunal samples in appendix, registers of contexts, environmental samples, and faunal samples are listed in appendix V.

The Skuggi Harris Matrix in appendix III will put the information in better context.

TR1 Site use and date chronology

Radiocarbon dating of the faunal remains combined with tephra layer analysis revealed a midden deposit sequence from ca. AD 970 to ca. AD 1208. The original use of this structure is as of yet unclear, but it is safe to assume that this was one of, if not the, earliest building(s) at this site. Radiocarbon samples taken in 2013 are still under analysis, but according to the stratigraphic sequence from the 2013 excavation of predominantly external midden layers composed of turf collapse and peat ash layers, the building had seen at least one architectural alteration by ca. AD 970, and it may have also seen a different use at this point.

**Figure 6. End of excavation picture of Viking Age structure in TR 1, picture facing NNW. (Picture: Roberts and Harrison).**

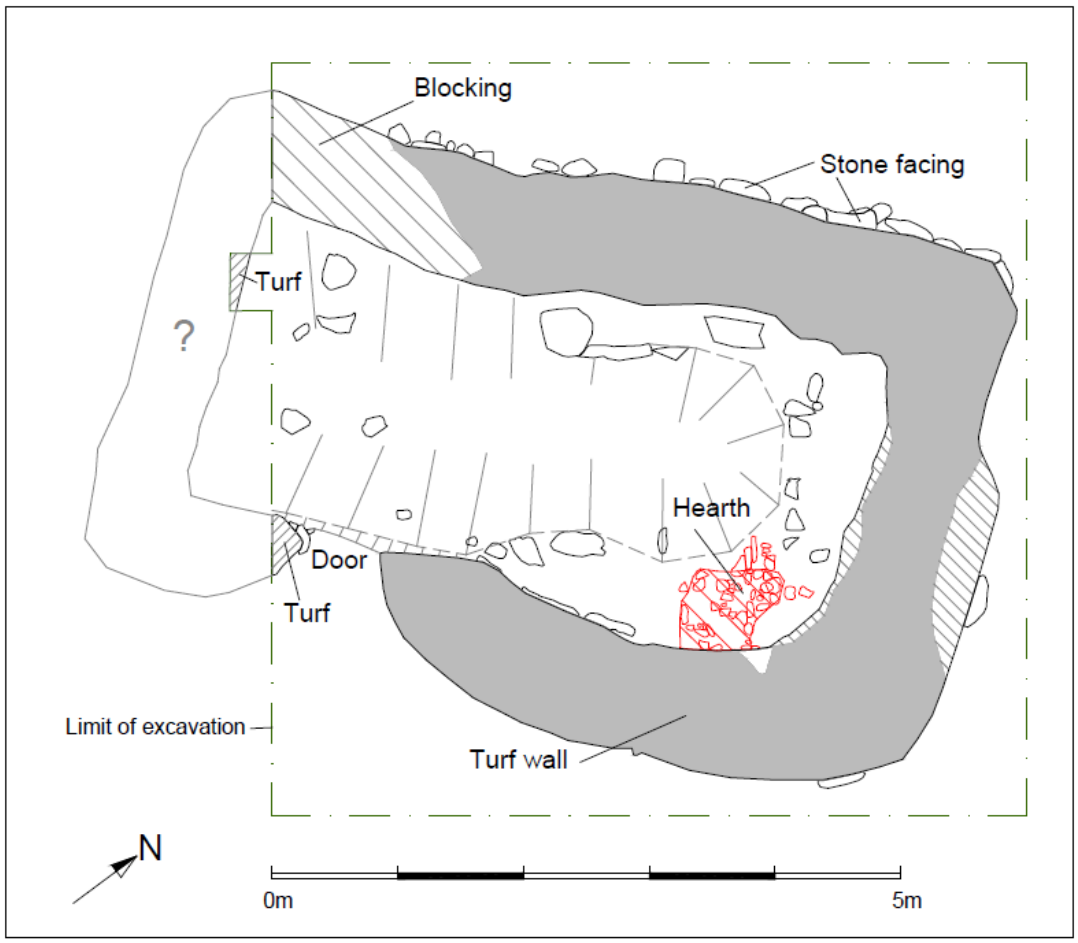


**Figure 7. Multi-context plan of the Skuggi Structure (drawing by Howell Roberts).**

Clearly, an extension needs to be made to uncover the entire structure, and to fully understand the earlier midden deposits found on the outside of the structure. These midden deposits just north of the structure might be contemporaneous with the earliest activities on site, but more investigation is necessary. The unexcavated floor layers may bring to light the function of this structure, and possible give more indication on site status during the Viking Age, possibly even during early Settlement around the 9$^{th}$ century AD.

**Figure 8. Viking Age structure in TR 1, eastern portion of the northern wall, suggesting a repaired wall segment where turves had been arranged in a herring bone pattern. (Picture: Roberts and Harrison).**

The afore mentioned scale fragment, and the substantial architecture (see fig. 8) suggest that at least during early occupation, people planned on living there for some period of time. A final excavation season may reveal why this particular structure fell out of use as a living area fairly early on

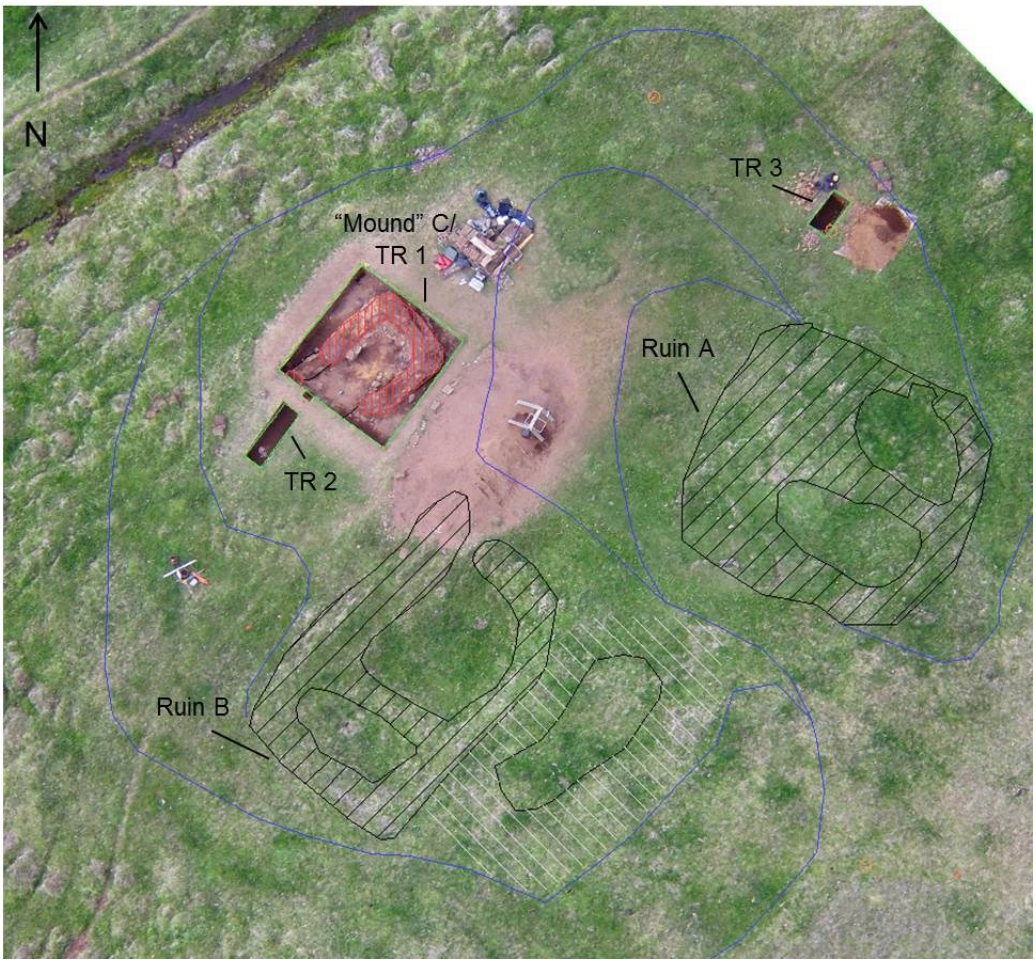


**Figure 9. Skuggi site, showing TR1, TR2, and TR3, as well as structures A and B indicated on the survey plan. The uncovered structure is in the space marked as C on the survey plan (fig. 4). (Photo: Garðar Guðmundsson; Drawing: Howell Roberts).**

The kite photo in figure 9 outlines the visible archaeology to be dealt with in the coming field season, with additional structures and features potentially still uncovered and invisible from the surface. Understanding all these site components better will help retell our story of the Skuggi occupation

Trench 2 (TR2)

Upon emptying of the midden materials and structural collapse – though the roof collapse was left in situ to provide a barrier for the fragile occupation surfaces – the team realized that the western extent of the wall had not been fully detected, and a small trench was placed to catch this feature. In order to find the extent of the structure´s western wall, a test pit was dug just two meters west of the main trench. The trench measured 1 m by 2 m. While this trench did not reveal the eastern most extent of the structure, which would eventually be located just 50 cm beyond the 2013 excavation limit, several more layers of midden and turf collapse were recorded in TR2.

**Figure 10. Turf debris, most likely from the structure in TR1 (Picture: Roberts and Harrison).**

Trench 3 (TR3)

In order to investigate the area around Structure "A" (figs. 4 and 9), a third trench was dug in 2013. This one was placed at the northwestern slope of the structure, to study this structure's extent and also to avoid damaging any standing architecture. TR2 measured 1 m by 2 m and revealed a very interesting sequence of events: Two landslides (contexts [587] and [585]) were located; both were sealed by tephra layers and thus could be roughly dated: The rubble and gravel landslide which is the younger one out of the two occurred between the AD 1300 ([585] and AD 1104 ([386]) eruptions of the Hekla volcano. The earlier landslide ([587]) consisted of much larger boulders, and happened some time not too long before the H1104 ash layer was laid down. This again was likely an event that may be directly linked to at least an eventual abandonment of the Viking Age structure's use as designated midden location. A more recent tephra layer, whose date is as of yet unknown, was found to seal all deposits (context [581]). As indicated in fig. 10, a midden deposit ([588]) was found underneath the landslide-H1103-landslide sequence.

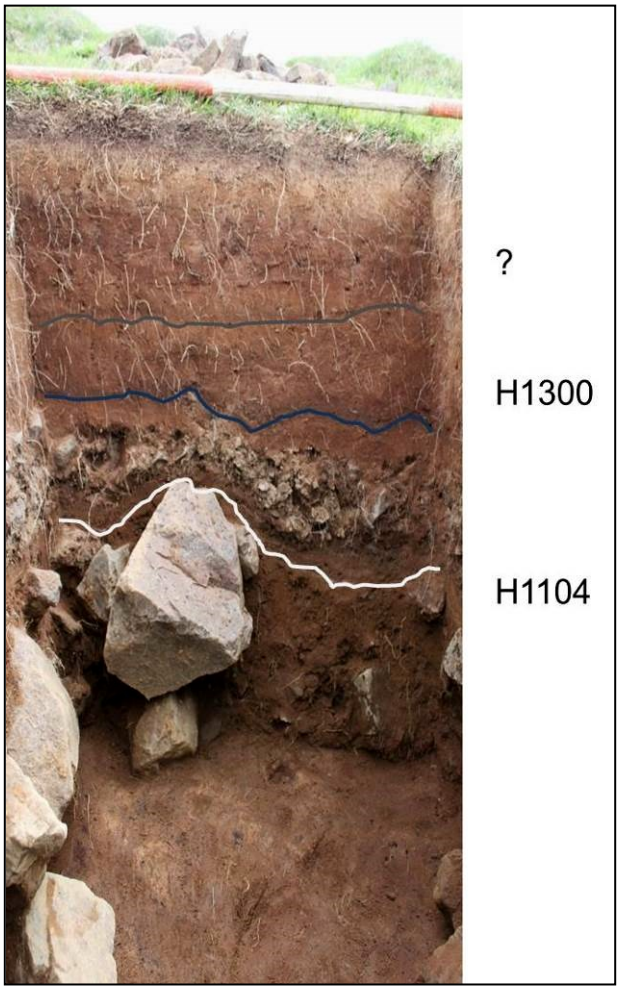


**Figure 11. Trench 3, western section, *in situ* landslides and tephra layers, sealing a midden deposit [588] at the bottom of the trench. (Picture: Harrison and Roberts; edited by Harrison).**

STAÐARTUNGA, STÖ-37: New Midden Mound

Coordinates: 84: 65°40.253’ N; 18°27.831’

Upon an observation made by the landowners, Jón Pétur Ólafsson and Líney Emma Jónsdóttir, the team also investigated a small midden mound (öskuhaug) containing cultural remains. The mound´s archaeological contents were discovered when a path for a new road leading from the road to the new farmhouse was dug. The landowners alerted Elín Ósk Hreiðarsdóttir (FSÍ) and the team cleaned the mound profile and excavated several layers of midden deposits and turf collapse from a trench containing the highest frequency of midden accumulations along the profile.

**Figure 12. Staðartunga Midden Mound, profile. Drawing board uses for scale. Midden Mound profile was 12 m long. The black and yellow lines indicate prehistoric deposits. The midden deposits were no more than the 30 cm they measured at their deepest; facing WSW. (Picture: Harrison and Roberts).**

The Staðartunga midden trench measured 2 m by 5 m and was circa 1 m high, with midden materials never exceeding a depth of 30 cm. This midden mound provided a small amount of animal remains and two tephra layers between which the midden deposits were located. Those were likely H1300 ([032]) and H1104 ash layers ([033]), but analysis is still underway. The first is sealing all the cultural

layers, and is above the natural and windblown aeolian material that separates the modern grass and root deposits the cultural materials. The possible H1104 is also sealing the cultural material, thus, all these activities for which we have sparse evidence may have happened before H1104. The people whose midden materials were discovered here could very well have been in contact with the people about 500 further SW who lived up on the Skuggi slope, if they were not indeed part of the same social group. With further analysis required, there are currently no activities other than a few repeated midden dumps detected from this mound. Certainly, the faunal remains will require Radiocarbon analysis.

**Figure 13. Staðartunga midden deposits, indicated by cream colored lines. H1300 tephra layer indicated by blue line. Facing west (Picture: Harrison and Roberts).**

*Concluding Remarks*

At Skuggi, a very intriguing archaeological record can reveal the site history of this marginal place and inform about human decision making during the times of the Medieval Amelioration during Icelandic Settlement, and a shifting environment during the time before and during the Little Ice Age. The Viking Age structure

emerging from TR1 suggests that people had a certain idea about this place when they first settled there, though more excavation is needed to find out more about this idea. What we know now from the excavation of TR1 tells us that this site may have not always been a small-scale operation with very low site status. However, we do not have the very beginning of this occupation story to verify such a suggestion.

The *in situ* landslides discovered in TR3 indicate an environmental shift roughly around the time the Viking Age structure from TR1 was in use as midden repository, and suggest that this slope destabilization may have had something to do with site- abandonment, or at least with a shift in the place used for post-landslide site occupation. An investigation into the Skuggi environmental history is thus of essence for this long term Human Ecodynamics project.

Continued excavations in 2014 will certainly enhance our understanding of how and when the Viking Age structure was built, how and when its function changed, and possibly why it was turned into a midden repository, thus revealing information about the people who lived there.

The structures located at the Skuggi site succeeding the Viking Age structure in time need to be tested for their actual time of use and their purpose. This may allow the investigators to connect the post- circa AD 970 activities in area1/TR1 with the actual people living at the site.

*Other Hörgárdalur Sites*

While it is very important to investigate the site of Skuggi as thoroughly as possible, it is also essential to continue our targeted midden surveys on Hörgárdalur and Öxnadalur sites to build up our regional chronology and comparative archeological and environmental archives for a thorough study on the Eyjafjörður socio-economic and environmental past, starting with the time of Settlement (e.g., Oddstaðir), and ending with the most recent past (e.g., Möðruvellir). This will eventually allow for similar work done in other Eyjafjörður valleys, and can then nicely connect to the Siglunes excavation and documentation work by Birna Lárusdóttir from FSÍ and the authors of this report (e.g., Lárusdóttir et al. 2012, Harrison in press).

*Acknowledgments*

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Thanks are due to the 2013 field crew, and especially to Norie Manigault who achieved excellence in both his summer endeavors. Special thanks to all who helped in the back-filling activities - thus allowing the NABO 2013 participants to see the site before its closure. Further thanks go to Elín Ósk Hreiðarsdóttir for administrative, logistical, and field assistance.
Special thanks to all at FSÍ who have been great friends and supporters to this project.
Thanks to Thomas H. McGovern, Andrew J. Dugmore, and Orri Vésteinsson for their continued support and advice with this project.

The crew is grateful to the owners of the Staðartunga property: Líney Emma Jónsdóttir and Jón Pétur Ólafsson for their hospitality and continuous support of, and interest in this project.

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# APPENDICES

## Appendix I –Finds Register, Skuggi 2013-37

| Finds No. | Unit No. | Grid Sq./ TR = area | Material Type | Object Type | Comments e.g., condition, quantity, distribution | Date dd.mm.yy | ID initials |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 301 | 501 | area 1 | bone | gaming piece | good condition | 6/14/2013 | bp |
| 302 | 501 | area 1 | bone | pin? | good condition | 6/14/2013 | bp |
| 303 | 501 | area 1 | fe | nail | good condition | 6/18/2013 | bp |
| 304 | 502 | area 1 | fe | sheet w rivet? | corroded | 6/18/2013 | ak |
| 305 | 502 | area 1 | stone | whetstone | dark shist, broken in half | 6/18/2013 | ak |
| 306 | 502 | area 1 | fe | nail | | 6/18/2013 | ak |
| 307 | 503 | area 1 | cu alloy | | composite cu stud and fe fragment | 6/18/2013 | ak |
| 308 | 506 | area 1 | metal | slag? | | 6/19/2013 | ak |
| 309 | 508 | area 1 | bone | comb | fragment of toothplate, well preserved | 6/19/2013 | smk |
| 310 | 508 | area 1 | bone | pin? | carved , intricate design | 6/19/2013 | smk |
| 311 | 508 | area 1 | bone | ? | carved | 6/19/2013 | smk |
| 312 | 504 | area 1 | fe | nail | | 6/19/2013 | smk |
| 313 | 505 | area 1 | fe? | frag | | 6/19/2013 | smk |
| 314 | 505 | area 1 | fe | lump | | 6/19/2013 | smk |
| 315 | 505 | area 1 | fe | frag | | 6/19/2013 | smk |
| 316 | 506 | area 1 | cu alloy | frag | | 6/19/2013 | smk |
| 317 | 505 | area 1 | red jasper | frag | | 6/19/2013 | smk |
| 318 | 506 | area 1 | slag? | | | 6/19/2013 | smk |
| 320 | 534 | area 1 | stone | manuport | | 6/19/2013 | smk |
| 321 | 506 | area 1 | stone | whetstone | schistose | 6/19/2013 | smk |
| 322 | 506 | area 1 | stone | manuport | green translucent, specific use? Polished? | 6/19/2013 | smk |
| 323 | 512 | area 1 | fe | frag | 2 pieces | 6/19/2013 | smk |
| 324 | 512 | area 1 | slag? | | 7 pieces | 6/19/2013 | smk |
| 325 | 513 | area 1 | schist | whetstone | | 6/20/2013 | ak |
| 326 | 517 | area 1 | bone | gaming piece | good condition | 6/20/2013 | bp |
| 327 | 513 | area 1 | slag | frag | 15 pieces | 6/20/2013 | bp |
| 328 | 513 | area 1 | green jasper | frag | 1 piece | 6/20/2013 | bp |
| 329 | 532 | area 1 | stone | manuport | | 6/20/2013 | bp |
| 330 | 513 | area 1 | fe | frag | | 6/20/2013 | bp |

| Finds No. | Unit No. | Grid Sq./ | Material Type | Object | Comments | Date | ID |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 331 | 517 | area 1 | green jasper | frag | | 6/20/2013 | bp |
| 332 | 517 | area 1 | bone | gaming piece | good condition | 6/20/2013 | bp |
| 334 | 513 | area 1 | fe | frag | | 6/20/2013 | bp |
| 335 | 517 | area 1 | fe | nail? | | 6/20/2013 | bp |
| 336 | 513 | area 1 | ceramic? | frag | possibly glazed ceramic sherd?? | 6/20/2013 | bp |
| 337 | 520 | area 1 | fe | nail? | | 6/21/2013 | MN |
| 338 | 520 | area 1 | FE | frag | | 6/21/2013 | MN |
| 339 | 521 | area 1 | fe | frag | | 6/21/2013 | MN |
| 340 | 520 | area 1 | glass | bead | dark blue | 6/21/2013 | MN |
| 341 | 525 | area 1 | fe | nail | | 6/21/2013 | bp |
| 342 | 525 | area 1 | stone | whetstone | grey schist | 6/21/2013 | bp |
| 343 | 531 | area 1 | cu alloy | pendant frag | perforated w possible decoration | 6/24/2013 | ak |
| 344 | 534 | area 1 | jasper | worked stone tool? | has percussion mark on it, or just freeze thaw … | 6/25/2013 | rh |
| 345 | 533 | area 1 | jasper | frag | 2 pieces | 6/25/2013 | ak |
| 346 | 533 | area 1 | glass | double bead | clear glass w gold coating, broken on one end | 6/25/2013 | ak |
| 347 | 535 | area 1 | fe | ? | blade of fe w nail going through? | 6/25/2013 | mn |
| 348 | 535 | area 1 | fe | ? | | 6/25/2013 | mn |
| 350 | 542 | area 1 | glass | bead | composite bead - black with white band in it | 6/26/2013 | rh |
| 351 | 542 | area 1 | bone | gaming piece | worked haddock cleithrum, chess piece w indications of a face | 6/26/2013 | rh |
| 352 | 542 | area 1 | metal | slag? | | 6/26/2013 | ak |
| 353 | 546 | area 1 | cu alloy | folding scales | arms of folding scale | 6/27/2013 | nm |
| 354 | 551 | area 1 | fe | frag | | | |
| 355 | 534 | area 1 | stone | frag | yellow stone possibly amber/ or jasper | 6/27/2013 | rh |
| 356 | 526 | area 1 | stone | frag | ploished stone? | 6/27/2013 | rh |
| 357 | 530 | area 1 | fe | slag? | | 6/27/2013 | rh |
| 358 | 502 | area 1 | jasper | frag | | 6/27/2013 | rh |
| 359 | 536 | area 1 | fe | ? | | 6/27/2013 | rh |
| 360 | 525 | area 1 | fe | nail? | | 6/27/2013 | rh |
| 361 | 525 | area 1 | fe | nail? | | 6/27/2013 | rh |
| 362 | 526 | area 1 | ? | slag? | | 6/27/2013 | rh |
| 363 | 518 | area 1 | fe | nail | | 6/27/2013 | rh |
| 364 | 501 | area 1 | cu alloy | ? | | 6/27/2013 | rh |
| 365 | 501 | area 1 | cu alloy | ? | | 6/27/2013 | rh |
| 366 | 501 | area 1 | jasper | frag | | 6/27/2013 | rh |
| 367 | 534 | area 1 | fe | nail frag? | | 6/27/2013 | rh |

| Finds No. | Unit No. | Grid Sq./ | Material Type | Object | Comments | Date | ID |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 368 | 528 | area 1 | fe | ? | slag? | 6/27/2013 | rh |
| 369 | 548 | area 1 | fe | ? | iron tool | 6/27/2013 | rh |
| 370 | 549 | area 1 | fe | nail frag? | | 6/27/2013 | rh |
| 371 | 522 | area 1 | fe | ? | | 6/27/2013 | rh |
| 372 | 542 | area 1 | fe | ? | | 6/27/2013 | rh |
| 373 | 517 | area 1 | jasper | frag | | 6/27/2013 | rh |
| 374 | 548 | area 1 | fe | ? | | 6/27/2013 | rh |
| 375 | 501 | area 1 | glass? | ? | possibly natural | 6/27/2013 | rh |
| 376 | 501 | area 1 | fe | ? | | 6/27/2013 | rh |
| 377 | 531 | area 1 | fe | indust. Residue? | slags? | 6/27/2013 | rh |
| 378 | 536 | area 1 | stone | whetstone | complete, very well preserved | 6/27/2013 | rh |
| 379 | 551 | area 1 | fe | ? | | 6/28/2013 | mn |
| 380 | 553 | area 1 | fe | fragments | slag | 6/28/2013 | mn |
| 381 | 554 | area 1 | fe | ? | very corroded, possibly diagnostic | 6/28/2013 | mn |
| 382 | 556 | area 1 | stone | whetstone | | 6/28/2013 | mn |
| 383 | 558 | area 1 | fe | fragments | | 6/28/2013 | mn |
| 384 | 560 | area 1 | stone | polished stone? | rounded stone | 6/28/2013 | mn |
| 385 | 560 | area 1 | fe? | ? | | 6/28/2013 | mn |
| 386 | - | see px plan | stone | lamp | | 7/4/2013 | hmr |
| 387 | - | see px plan | bone | ? | worked, pre-form?, horse metapodial | 7/4/2013 | hmr |
| 388 | 571 | area 1 | fe | slag | | 7/5/2013 | ak |
| 389 | 526 | area 1 | fe | slag | | 7/5/2013 | ak |
| 390 | 571 | area 1 | fe | slag | | 7/5/2013 | ak |
| 391 | 550 | area 1 | fe | slag | | 7/5/2013 | ak |
| 392 | 596 | area 2 | stone | jasper frag | | 7/5/2013 | ak |
| 393 | 572 | area 2 | fe | nail | | 7/5/2013 | ak |
| 394 | 572 | area 2 | fe | slag | | 7/5/2013 | ak |
| 395 | 563 | area 1 | fe | nail | | 7/5/2013 | ak |
| 396 | 534 | area 1 | bone | worked cleithrum | | 7/5/2013 | ak |
| 397 | 554 | area 1 | fe | rivet | | 7/5/2013 | ak |
| 398 | 528 | area 1 | glass | bead | 1 blue glass bead, complete | 7/5/2013 | ak |

Table 1. SKÖ 2013-37 Artifact Register

Appendix II Finds Register, Staðartunga 2013-37

| **Finds No.** | **Unit No.** | **Retrieval*** | **Material Type** | **Object Type** | **Comments** | **ATTN? y/n** | **Date dd.mm.yy** | **ID initials** |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 025 | u | bone | pin | broken bone pin | | 7/5/2013 | rh |
| 2 | 025 | u | stone | ? | worked stone? | | 7/5/2013 | rh |

Table 2. STÖ 2013-37 Artifact Register

## Appendix III – Skuggi Harris Matrices

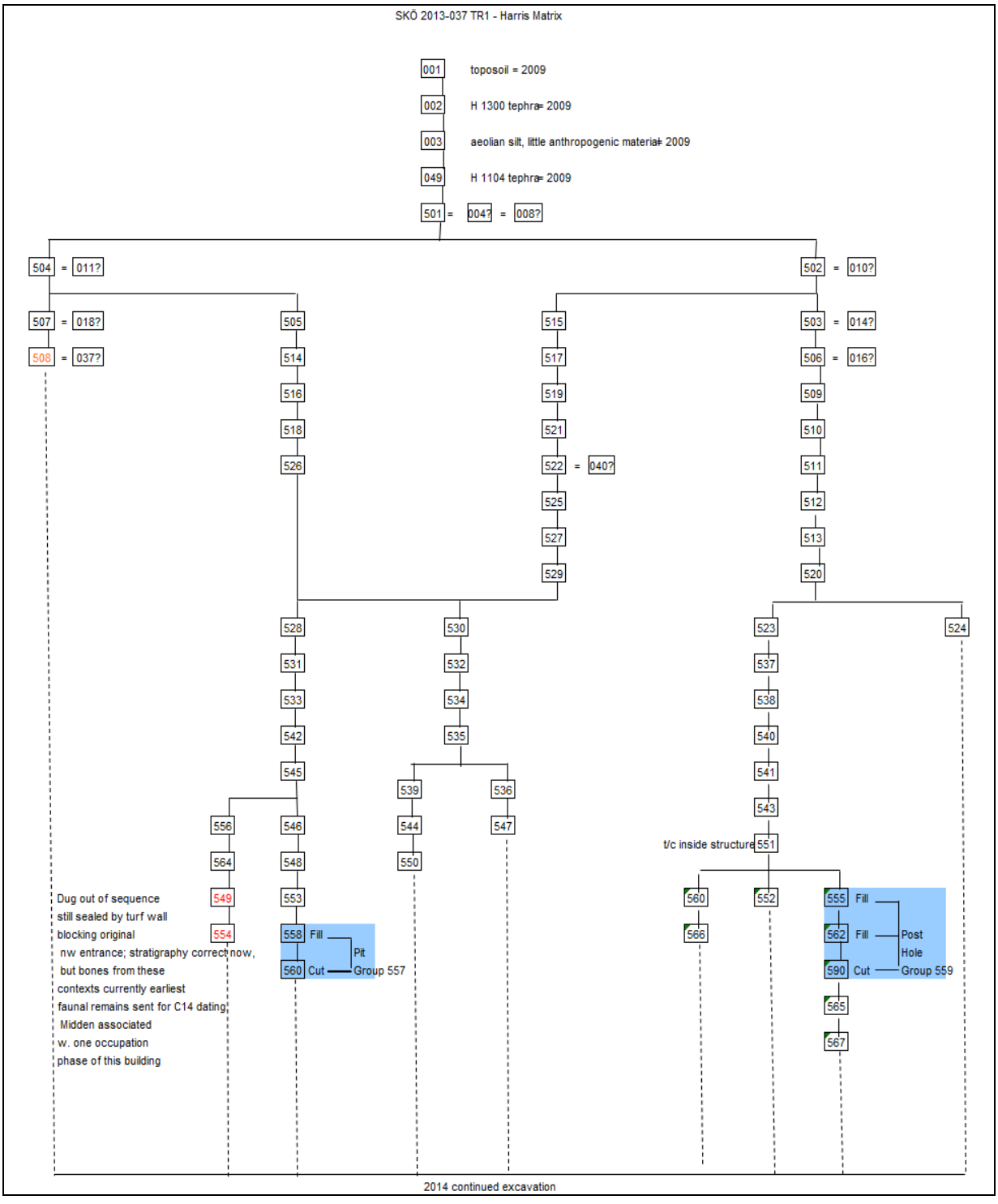


**Figure 14. Skuggi 2013-37 TR1 - Harris Matrix**

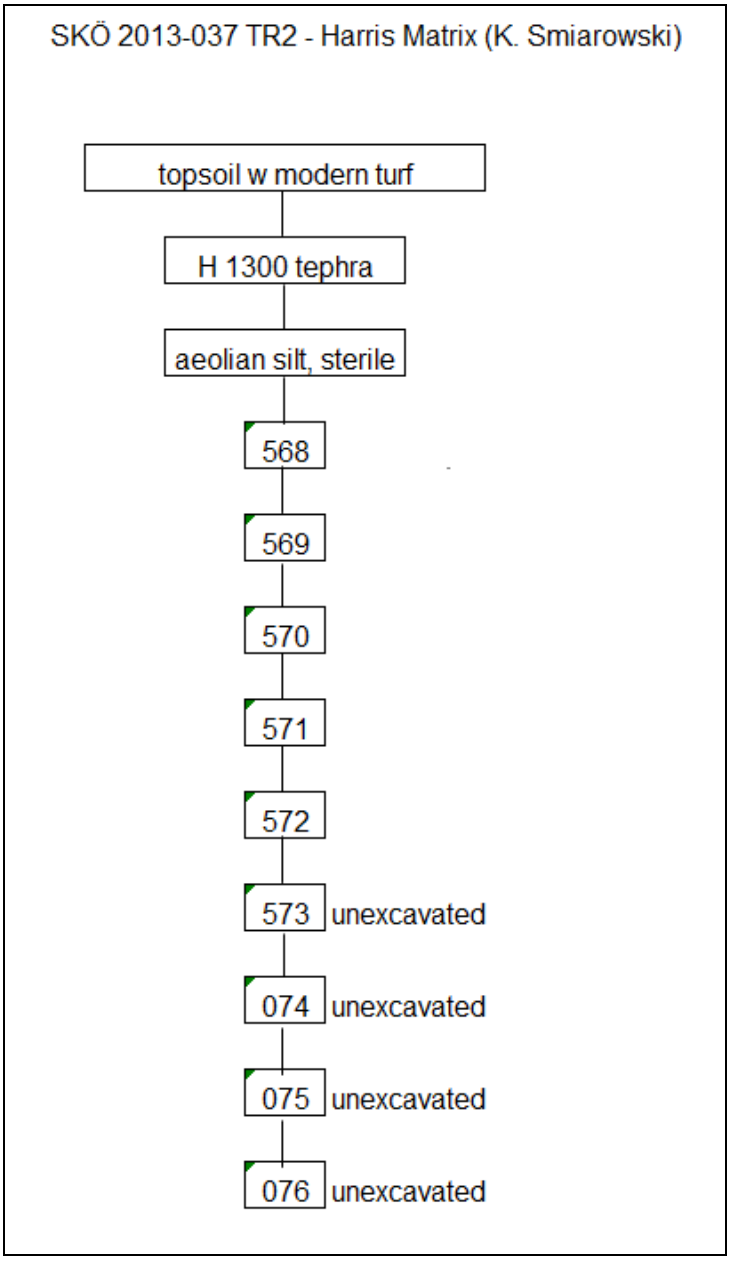


**Figure 15. Skuggi 2013-37 TR2 - Harris Matrix**

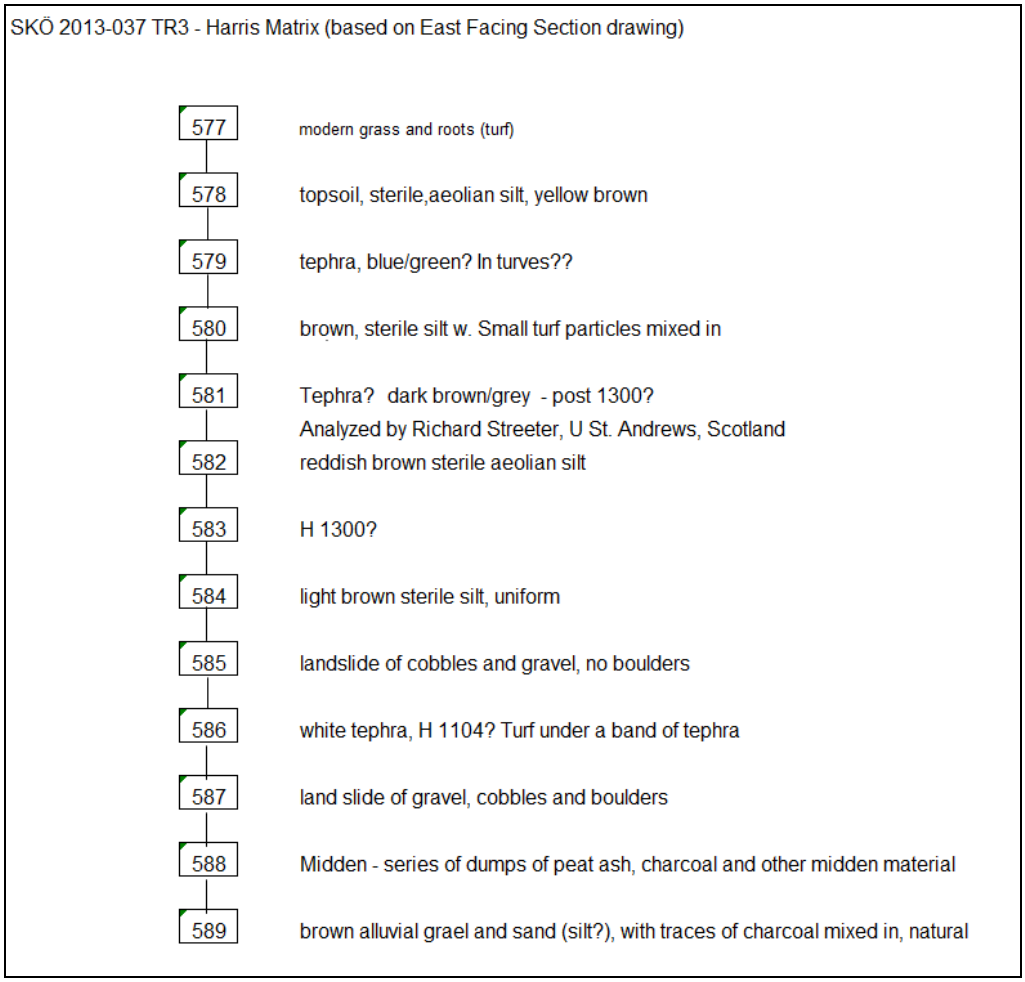


**Figure 16. Skuggi 2013-37 TR3 - Harris Matrix**

Appendix IV – Staðartunga Harris Matrix

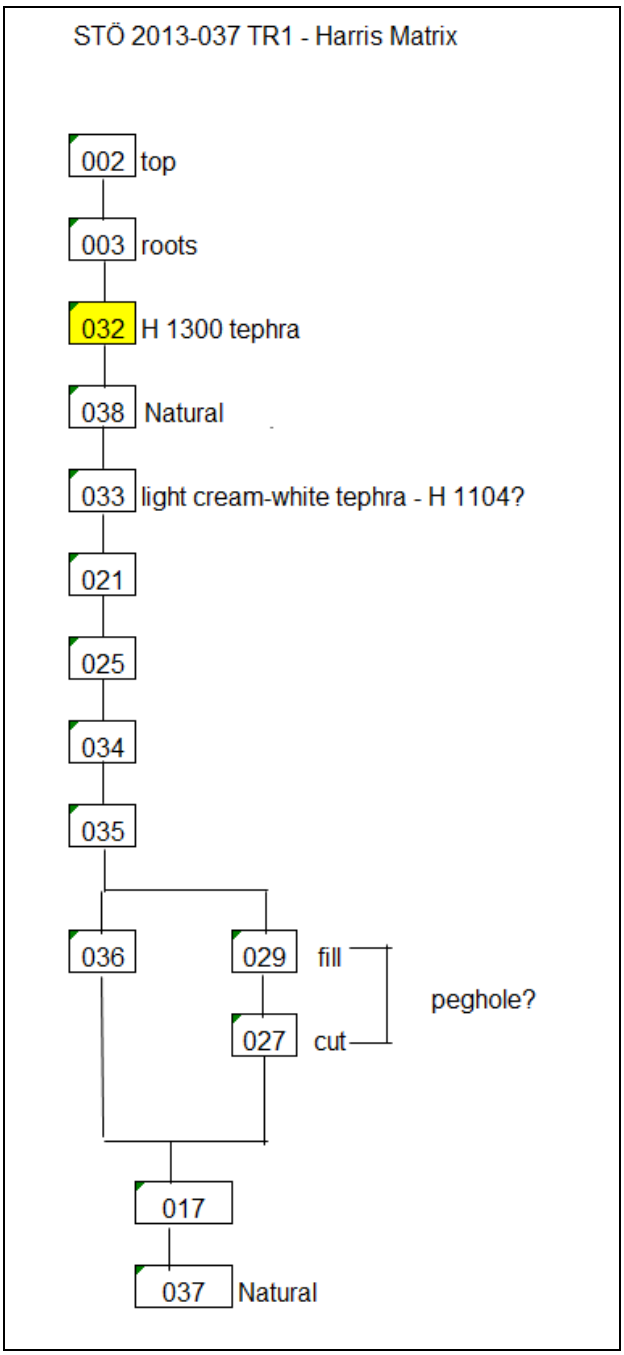


**Figure 17. Staðartunga 2013-37 Harris Matrix**

## Appendix V – Other Excavation Data

## 2013 Skuggi (SKÖ) data

| No. | Area/ Tr. | Type * | Group | Description/ Information | Date dd.mm.yy |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 002 | 1 | D | | 1300 TEPHRA | 6/13/2013 |
| 003 | 1 | D | | MOSTLY SETILE WINDBLOWN 2-10 CM , MID YELLOW BROWN | 6/14/2013 |
| 501 | 1 | D | | BROWN ORGANGE LAYER W CHARCOAL AND BONE | 6/14/2013 |
| 049 | 1 | D | | 1104 TEPHRA | 6/14/2013 |
| 502 | 1 | D | | THIN PEAT ASH HORIZON | 6/18/2013 |
| 503 | 1 | D | | MIXED DARK YELLOW-BROWN W LENSES OF TURF COLLAPSE | 6/18/2013 |
| 504 | 1 | D | | MEDIUM YELLOW-BROWN W TURF AND CHARCOAL | 6/18/2013 |
| 505 | 1 | D | | AEOLIAN MIX MIDDEN (PEAT ASH) / BROWN, FAIRLY STERILE UNDER 507 | 6/19/2013 |
| 506 | 1 | D | | MIXED TURF COLLAPSE | 6/19/2013 |
| 507 | 1 | D | | AEOLIAN W ANTHROPOGENIC MIX | 6/19/2013 |
| 508 | 1 | D | | TURF COLLAPSE7TURF LUMP | 6/19/2013 |
| 509 | 1 | D | | PEAT ASH - UNDER 506 | 6/19/2013 |
| 510 | 1 | D | | DARK BROWN MIXED TURF COLLAPSE W OCCASIONAL PEAT ASH | 6/19/2013 |
| 511 | 1 | D | | DARK BROWN AEOLIAN SILT - UNDER 510 | 6/19/2013 |
| 512 | 1 | D | | MULTICOLOR TURFCOLLAPSE UNDER 511 | 6/19/2013 |
| 513 | 1 | D | | DARK BROWN AEOLIAN UNDER 512 | 6/19/2013 |
| 514 | 1 | D | | DARK BRONW DEPOSIT | 6/20/2013 |
| 515 | 1 | D | | REDDISH BROWN AEOLIAN PEAT ASH MIX, OCC CHARCOAL | 6/20/2013 |
| 516 | 1 | D | | PEAT ASH - AEOLIAN MIX UNDER 514, 515 | 6/20/2013 |
| 517 | 1 | D | | MIXED PEAT ASH AND WOOD ASH UNDER 515? | 6/20/2013 |
| 518 | 1 | d | | light brown aeolian mixed w turf collapse | 6/20/2013 |
| 519 | 1 | d | | peat ash deposit w charcoal lenses, under 517 | 6/20/2013 |
| 520 | 1 | d | | peat ash mixed w turf collapse | 6/21/2013 |
| 521 | 1 | d | | pinkish red ash deposit with charcoal lenses, under 519 | 6/21/2013 |
| 522 | 1 | d | | mixed ash deposit w charcoal and wood ash under 521 | 6/21/2013 |
| 523 | 1 | d | | mixed wood ash with bone dump | 6/21/2013 |

| No. | Area/ | Type | Group | Description/ | Date |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 524 | 1 | d | | mixed turf/ ash with lenses of peat | 6/21/2013 |
| 525 | 1 | D | | MIXED TURF ASH W. MIXED TURF COLLAPSE | 6/21/2013 |
| 526 | 1 | D | | MIXED GREY ASH LAYER | 6/21/2013 |
| 527 | 1 | D | | WHITE AND YELLOOW BROWN DEPOSIT UNDER 225 | 6/21/2013 |
| 528 | 1 | D | | MIXED PINK AND GRAY ASH UNDER 526 | 6/21/2013 |
| 529 | 1 | D | | PEAT ASH DUMP MIXED W COLLAPSE UNDER 527 | 6/24/2013 |
| 530 | 1 | D | | MIXED TURF COLLAPSE ASND AEOLIAN UNDER 529 | 6/24/2013 |
| 531 | 1 | D | | MIXED PINK AND GREY ASH LAYER UNDER 528 | 6/24/2013 |
| 532 | 1 | D | | GREEN/RED TURF COLLAPSE (WALL COLLAPSE) OFF S AND E WALLS UNDER 530 | 6/24/2013 |
| 533 | 1 | D | | MIXED AEOLIAN, BROWN, UNDER 531 | 6/25/2013 |
| 534 | 1 | D | | WALL TURF COLLAPSE, UNDER 532 | 6/25/2013 |
| 535 | 1 | D | | DK YELLOW BEROWN W TURF COLLAPSE AND GRAVEL | 6/25/2013 |
| 536 | 1 | D | | PINK/GRAY ASH DEPOSIT UNDER 535 | 6/25/2013 |
| 537 | 1 | D | | YELLOWISH BROWN MIXED DUMP, UNDER 530 | 6/25/2013 |
| 538 | 1 | D | | TURF WALL COLLAPSE, UNDER 537 | 6/25/2013 |
| 539 | 1 | D | | YELLOWISH BROWN AEOLIAN AND TURF CLLAPSE MIX | 6/25/2013 |
| 540 | 1 | D | | PINK PEAT ASH, UNDER 538 | 6/26/2013 |
| 541 | 1 | D | | MIXED TURF COLLAPSE, UNDER 540 | 6/26/2013 |
| 542 | 1 | D | | TURF COLLAPSE,W PEAT ASH LENSES AND CHRCOAL, UNDER 533 | 6/26/2013 |
| 543 | 1 | D | | RED-YELLOW TURF COLLAPSE, UDER 541 | 6/26/2013 |
| 544 | 1 | D | | TURF COLLAPSE W PEAT ASH, UNDER 539 | 6/26/2013 |
| 545 | 1 | D | | BLACK ORGANIC DEPOSIT UNDER …. | 6/27/2013 |
| 546 | 1 | D | | LIGHT BROWN MIDDEN DEPOSIT | 6/27/2013 |
| 547 | 1 | D | | TURF COLLAPSE UNDER 536 | 6/27/2013 |
| 548 | 1 | D | | MIXED TURF COLLAPSE UNDER 546 | 6/27/2013 |
| 549 | 1 | D | | YELLOW BROWN TURF COLLAPSE, MIXED | 6/27/2013 |
| 550 | 1 | D | | GREY WOOD ASH LAYER W CHARCOAL, STONES AD TURF | 6/27/2013 |
| 551 | 1 | D | | TURF COLLAPSE INSIDE STRUCTURE | 6/27/2013 |
| 552 | 1 | D | | BURNT LNESE W CHARCOAL, POSSIBLE POST HOLE UNDER 551 | 6/28/2013 |
| 553 | 1 | D | 558 | STPME [OT. FO;; )STPME AMD TIRF_ IMDER 549 | 6/28/2013 |
| 554 | 1 | D | | MIXED PEAT ASH DUMP UDER 549 | 6/28/2013 |
| 555 | 1 | D | 559 | POTNETIAL POSTHOLE, EDGE OF BURNT MATERIAL | 6/28/2013 |
| 556 | 1 | D | | MIXED TURF COLLAPSE | 6/28/2013 |
| 557 | 1 | D | 557 | GROUP FOR CUT/PIT AND FILL | 6/28/2013 |
| 558 | 1 | D | 557 | FILL | 6/28/2013 |
| 559 | 1 | | 559 | GROUP: POST HOLE , AND FILL | 6/28/2013 |
| 560 | 1 | D | | BLACK/PURPLE TURF COLLAPSE UNDER 551 | 6/28/2013 |

| No. | Area/ | Type | Group | Description/ | Date |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 561 | 1 | C | 557 | CUT, FILLED W TURF COLLAPSE AND STONES ( UP TO 15 STONES) UNDER 558 | 6/28/2013 |
| 562 | 1 | D | 559 | BURNED CHARCOAL ASH LAYER, PART OF POSTHOLE FILL | 6/28/2013 |
| 563 | 1 | D | | TURF COLLAPSE UNDER 554 | 6/28/2013 |
| 564 | 1 | D | | TAN/ORANGE DEPOSIT W MIXED BURNED DEBRIS | 6/28/2013 |
| 565 | 1 | D | | MIXED COLLAPSE AND MIDDEN DEPOSIT OFF INSIDE OF S. WALL | 6/28/2013 |
| 566 | 1 | D | | MIXED PEAT ASH MIDDEN DEPOSIT UNDER 560 | 7/1/2013 |
| 567 | 1 | D | | MIXED TURF COLLAPSE UNDER 565 | 7/1/2013 |
| 568 | 2 | D | | 1104 TEPHRA AND THE AEOLIAN DEPOSIT IT SITS ON | 7/1/2013 |
| 569 | 2 | D | | MIDDEN DEPOSIT , UNDER 568 | 7/1/2013 |
| 570 | 2 | D | | MIDDEN DEPOSIT UNDER 569 | 7/1/2013 |
| 571 | 2 | D | | COLLAPSE (STRUCTURAL) THROUGHOUT TR 2 | 7/2/2013 |
| 572 | 2 | D | | SEMI-COMPACT TURF AND MIDDEN , THIN, GREY-BROWN | 7/4/2013 |
| 573 | 2 | D | | | |
| 574 | 2 | D | | | |
| 575 | 2 | D | | | |
| 576 | 2 | D | | | |
| 577 | 3 | D | | TURF AND ROOTS | |
| 578 | 3 | D | | AEOLIAN SILT = TOPSOIL | |
| 579 | 3 | D | | TEPHRA - POST 1300 - GREY BLUE | |
| 580 | 3 | D | | BROWN, STERIALE AEOLIAN, WITH TURF PACHES IXED IN | |
| 581 | 3 | D | | TEPHRA ? DARK BROWN | |
| 582 | 3 | D | | REDDISH BROWN STERILE SILT | |
| 583 | 3 | D | | TEPHRA, BLUE/GREEN (1300) | |
| 584 | 3 | D | | LIGHT BROWN STERILE TURF | |
| 585 | 3 | D | | LAND SLIDE, SMALL STONES, AND COBBLES, AND GRAVEL | |
| 586 | 3 | D | | WHITE TEPHRA AND ASSOCIATED TURF HORIZON (AEOLIAN SILT ) 1104 | |
| 587 | 3 | D | | LANDSLIDE, BOULDERS AND LARGE STONES, MIXED W. GRAVEL | |
| 588 | 3 | D | | MIDDEN DEPOSITS *SEVERAL DUMPS) 0 CHARCOAL , PEAT ASH | |
| 589 | 3 | D | | ALLUVIAL SILT AND GRAVEL (BROWN) W TRACE AMOUNT OF CHARCOAL | |
| 590 | 1 | C | 559 | CUT FOR FILLS 555, AND 562, GROUP 559 | 7/28/2013 |
| | | | | | |
| ***Type**: D = deposit, C = cut, Sk = skeleton, G = group | | | | | |

**Table 3. SKÖ 2013-37 Context Register.**

| No | Area | Context | Quant. Bags/ buckets | Description/ Information | Date/ dd.mm.yy | ID |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 1 | 533 | 1 bag | 1 small lump of burnt wood for archeobotany | 6/28/2013 | mn |
| 2 | 1 | 552 | 1 bag | charcoal concentration | 6/28/2013 | ak |
| 3 | 1 | 562 | 1 bag | charcoal concentration | 6/28/2013 | mn |
| 4 | 3 | 588 | 3 buckets | midden deposits | 7/6/2013 | mn |

**Table 4. SKÖ-2013-37 Environmental Sample Register**

| Bag Number | Area | Context | Weight in grams | Quant. of Bags |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 1 | 501 | 2,000 | 1 |
| 2 | 1 | 502 | 1,000 | 1 |
| 3 | 1 | 503 | 300 | 1 |
| 4 | 1 | 504 | 300 | 1 |
| 5 | 1 | 505 | 700 | 1 |
| 6 | 1 | 506 | 300 | 1 |
| 7 | 1 | 507 | 900 | 1 |
| 8 | 1 | 508 | 600 | 1 |
| 9 | 1 | 509 | 200 | 1 |
| 10 | 1 | 510 | 1,150 | 1 |
| 11 | 1 | 511 | 100 | 1 |
| 12 | 1 | 512 | 900 | 1 |
| 13 | 1 | 513 | 600 | 1 |
| 14 | 1 | 515 | 750 | 1 |
| 16 | 1 | 517 | 2,200 | 1 |
| 17 | 1 | 518 | 300 | 1 |
| 18 | 1 | 519 | 200 | 1 |
| 19 | 1 | 520 | 700 | 1 |
| 20 | 1 | 521 | 300 | 1 |
| 21 | 1 | 522 | 300 | 1 |
| 22 | 1 | 523 | 1,900 | 1 |
| 23 | 1 | 524 | 150 | 1 |
| 24 | 1 | 525 | 1,400 | 1 |
| 25 | 1 | 526 | 700 | 1 |
| 26 | 1 | 527 | 1,500 | 1 |
| 27 | 1 | 528 | 1,200 | 1 |
| 28 | 1 | 529 | 2,150 | 1 |
| 29 | 1 | 530 | 2,000 | 1 |
| 30 | 1 | 531 | 1,000 | 1 |
| 31 | 1 | 532 | 300 | 1 |
| 32 | 1 | 533 | 1,000 | 1 |
| 33 | 1 | 534 | 200 | 1 |
| 34 | 1 | 535 | 1,000 | 1 |
| 35 | 1 | 536 | 300 | 1 |
| 36 | 1 | 537 | 100 | 1 |
| 37 | 1 | 538 | 575 | 1 |
| 38 | 1 | 539 | 50 | 1 |
| 40 | 1 | 541 | 650 | 1 |
| 41 | 1 | 542 | 3,600 | 2 |
| 42 | 1 | 543 | 75 | 1 |
| 43 | 1 | 544 | 350 | 1 |
| 44 | 1 | 545 | 100 | 1 |
| 45 | 1 | 546 | 200 | 1 |
| 46 | 1 | 547 | 150 | 1 |
| 47 | 1 | 548 | 2,000 | 1 |
| 48 | 1 | 549 | 600 | 1 |
| 49 | 1 | 550 | 600 | 1 |

| Bag Number | Area | Context | Weight in grams | Quant. of Bags |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 50 | 1 | 551 | 200 | 1 |
| 51 | 1 | 553 | 100 | 1 |
| 52 | 1 | 558 | 2 | 1 |
| 53 | 1 | 560 | 50 | 1 |
| 54 | 1 | 563 | 75 | 1 |
| 55 | 1 | 565 | 10 | 1 |
| 56 | 1 | 566 | 50 | 1 |
| 57 | 1 | 576 | 2 | 1 |
| 58 | 1 | 514 | 25 | 1 |
| 59 | 1 | 544 | 8,500 | 5 |
| 60 | 2 | 568 | 100 | 1 |
| 61 | 2 | 569 | 300 | 1 |
| 62 | 2 | 570 | 600 | 1 |
| 63 | 2 | 571 | 600 | 1 |
| 64 | 2 | 572 | 200 | 1 |
| | | | | |
| TOTAL | | | 48,464 | |
| | | | | |
| TOTAL WEIGHT OF BONE BOXES | | | | |
| 49 KG. | | | | |

**Table 5. SKÖ 2013-37 Bone Register**

## Appendix VI – Other Excavation Data

## 2013- Staðartunga Öskuhóll (STÖ) data

| Number | Description/ Information | Date dd.mm.yy |
|---|---|---|
| 001 | natural aeolian | 7/2/2013 |
| 002 | top-grass | 7/2/2013 |
| 003 | Roots,natural | 7/2/2013 |
| 004 | yellow mixed deposit | 7/2/2013 |
| 005 | grey ash layer - dug into by land owner | 7/2/2013 |
| 006 | orange, yellow, natural | 7/2/2013 |
| 007 | cream colored, prehist tephra | 7/2/2013 |
| 008 | stake hole? Grey fill | 7/2/2013 |
| 009 | aeolian, light brown | 7/2/2013 |
| 010 | greay wood ash layer | 7/2/2013 |
| 011 | turves w green tephra layer in it | 7/2/2013 |
| 012 | turf layer ö blue, brown yellow - landnam tephra in it? | 7/2/2013 |
| 013 | charcoal layer | 7/2/2013 |
| 014 | yellow, brown , mixed material, upcast? | 7/2/2013 |
| 015 | natural, windblown | 7/2/2013 |
| 016 | cut and fill thruogh natural, prehistoric tephra and aeolian layers | 7/2/2013 |
| 017 | slightly mixed cultural layer w bone | 7/2/2013 |
| 018 | blue, brown turf layer - debris | 7/2/2013 |
| 019 | pink peat ash layer | 7/2/2013 |
| 020 | yellow/brown turf | 7/2/2013 |
| 021 | brown/orange mixed mat w t/c | 7/2/2013 |
| 022 | dark brown layer w charcoal incl, bits of red/brown material | 7/2/2013 |
| 023 | grey/peat ash mix layer | 7/2/2013 |
| 024 | yellow - brown mixed material | 7/2/2013 |
| 025 | dark brown, mixed deposit , turf bone, charcoal | 7/2/2013 |
| 026 | aeolian (prehist) mix (gralical till?) | 7/2/2013 |
| 027 | cut into 029 | 7/2/2013 |
| 028 | prehist, aeolian mixed w grey/blue tephra or t/c | 7/2/2013 |
| 029 | dark brown aeolian mixed w blue grey tephra in it (1300??) | 7/2/2013 |
| 030 | mixed brown deposit ö dots of prehist tephra _ upcast? | 7/2/2013 |
| 031 | dark brown aeolian, occ charcoal | 7/2/2013 |
| 032 | H1300 blue gray tephra in situ | 7/3/2013 |
| 033 | light cream /white dephra _1104? | 7/2/2013 |
| 034 | mixed t/c deposite | 7/5/2013 |
| 035 | brown dep w bone and peat ash, mixed | 7/5/2013 |
| 036 | grey wood ash layer | 7/5/2013 |
| 037 | natural , end of excavation | 7/5/2013 |

***Type**: D = deposit, C = cut, Sk = skeleton, G = group

**Table 6. STÖ 2013-37 Context Register.**

| No | Context | Weight in g | Quant. of Bags | Description/ Information | Date/ dd.mm.yy | ID |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 1PROFILE CLEANING | 250 | 2 MED | BONE | 7/1/2013 | BP |
| 2 | 017 | 650 | 1 LG | BONE, BAG 1/4 FILLED | 7/5/2013 | BP |
| 3 | 025 | 2000 | 2 LG | BONE | 7/5/2013 | BP |
| 4 | 034 | 200 | 1 MD | BONE | 7/5/2013 | BP |
| 5 | 035 | 500 | 1 LG | BONE | 7/5/2013 | BP |
| 6 | 036 | 50 | 1 MD | BONE | 7/5/2013 | BP |
| | | | | | | |
| total bones | | 3650 | | | | |

**Table 7. STÖ 2013-37 Bone Register**