

Hofstaðir 2015. Interim report



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Introduction

The 2015 excavation season at Hofstaðir was five weeks, from July 21st through August 15th. This was the fifth season since excavations started again in 2010 after a hiatus, and it marks the end of the excavation of the cemetery. Those who took part were archaeologists Hildur Gestsdóttir (project manager), Stefán Ólafsson, Nikola Trbojevic (4 weeks) and Liam Lanigan (2 weeks). In addition, Megan Hicks & Brenda Prehal, Ph.D. students from Hunter Collage, City University of New York and Colleen Strawhacker, archaeologist and researcher at the National Snow and Ice Data Center, University of Colorado, Bolder, joined the excavation for two weeks. Hildur Gestsdóttir and Nikola Trbojvic worked on the post-ex. Funding for the project was provided by Fornminjasjóður and The National Science Foundation (CIE grant) through Dr. T. McGovern and the North Atlantic Biocultural Organisation (NABO). This season's work at Hofstaðir was made possible by the kind permission of Árni Pálsson, the trustee of the Hofstaðir farm, who gave us permission both to excavate and stay at Hofstaðir farm for the duration of the excavation.

Tephrochronology demonstrates that the cemetery at Hofstaðir was in use between 940 and 1300, although use of the church itself may have continued longer. The main aim of the project is to carry out a comprehensive investigation of an early medieval church and cemetery, to increase our understanding and knowledge of church structures and burial practises from the period in Iceland. With that in mind, the long term aim of the investigation was to excavate the entire cemetery, not only inside the cemetery boundary, but also outside it to investigate whether there are structural features located outside it, and in particular whether there are any extramural burials of individuals who for some reason could not be laid to rest in sacred ground.

Another aim of the project is to carry out intensive osteoarchaeological analysis of the human skeletal remains. Some research projects have already been carried out using the Hofstaðir skeletal remains. For details of these, both current and past projects, see Appendix 6.

Previous seasons.

1999-2004

Archaeological investigations in the cemetery at Hofstaðir started in 1999. Geophysical surveys revealed a circular boundary, approximately 30 m in diameter with an irregularity in its centre. Trial trenches revealed burials within the boundary, and central structural remains. In 2000 an area approximately 231 m² was opened over the central part of the cemetery, and excavations there carried on until 2004. During this period the remains of three structures were excavated in the central area. The latest was turf built, post 1477, but had been so severely damaged during levelling of the site in the mid-20th century that its function remains unknown, although it may be the remains of a smithy recorded during the field survey of the site (Orri Vésteinsson 1996). This sat on top of two phases of timber churches, the earlier and slightly larger of these appears to have been in use in the late 10th century, while the later, a stave church, was constructed some time before 1300. In addition 76 graves which surrounded the churches were excavated in the area (Hildur Gestsdóttir 1999; 2001; 2002; 2003; 2004; 2006). After the 2004 season, excavations were put on hold for a few years, and resumed in 2010.

2010

The 2010 season lasted five weeks. It involved continued excavation in the southern part of the excavation area started in 2004, where the 34 burials which remained were excavated. In addition, a new area, 491 m², was opened to the north and east of the old excavation area with the aim of exposing the cemetery boundary seen on the 1999 geophysical survey. By the end of the 2010 season, although the outline of the boundary could be clearly seen, it had not yet been exposed. In addition, several grave cuts could be identified inside the boundary. Some later remains, associated with the farm-mound were excavated, including a modern sheet midden and a rubbish pit, probably originating from the 17th-18th century, and partially reused toward the end of the 19th century (Hildur Gestsdóttir and Oddgeir Isaksen 2011).

2011

The 2011 field season was three weeks. The burials inside the northern part of the cemetery which had been exposed at the end of the 2010 season were excavated, seven in total containing the remains of eight adults. Six of the burials were *in situ*, while two contained re-deposited skeletons. One contained a small chest with the commingled remains of two individuals, while one was a small pit containing the remains of one individual. Outside the cemetery boundary a small midden situated between the H1300 and V1477 tephra was excavated. It was rich in artefacts and animal bones. An article detailing the analysis of the latter has already been submitted to the *Journal of the North Atlantic* (Oddgeir Isaksen and Hildur Gestsdóttir 2012b; McGovern et al. in press).

2012

The 2012 season was two weeks. The focus of the work was on completing the excavation of the area in the northern and the eastern part of the cemetery, opened in 2010. This involved the excavation of the cemetery boundary itself, as well as two grave cuts outside the boundary.

The boundary wall was turf built, up to three courses high, and containing the V940 tephra. Its preservation was varied, although it is in most places around 1 m wide, and between 0.1-0.3 m high. The turf from the wall was cut from either side of it, so it sat on a small bank of *in situ* soil, which added about 5 cm to its height. A stone-built entrance with a stone pavement was discovered in the eastern part of the wall.

The two graves excavated were up against the north-eastern border of the boundary, and both undercut the boundary wall. Only one was found to contain a neonatal skeleton. The other was the same shape and size as the neonatal burials at the site, but was not found to contain preserved skeletal remains (Oddgeir Isaksen and Hildur Gestsdóttir 2012b).

2013

The 2013 field season was four weeks. The focus of the work was twofold. First of all there was the completion of the excavation of two burials within the old excavation area (within group [1747]). The second was the opening of a new area (228.1 m²) over the southern

part of the cemetery, extending beyond the boundary as demonstrated by the geophysical survey. The excavation within the area could be divided into three phases, based on the *in situ* tephra. The youngest phase within the new area the rubble from the old farm mound which stood west of the excavation area and was abandoned and subsequently bulldozed in the middle of the 20th century. This sealed a dump, which consisted of ash and charcoal, with large amounts of iron slag, indicating that this is a dump from a smithy. The smithy dump was sat directly on top of the tephra from the 1717 eruption in Veiðivötn.

Between 1717 and 1477 marked a period of inactivity within this part of the cemetery with limited evidence of nearby human occupation. The period between 1300 and 1477 marked the abandonment phase of the cemetery, with a series of turf deposits separated by intermittent aeolian deposits being placed within the boundary wall. These sealed the 1300 tephra from the eruption in Hekla, which in turn sealed the surface at which the burials within the cemetery were cut (Hildur Gestsdóttir & Oddgeir Isaksen, 2014).

2014

The 2014 field season was four weeks. The focus of the work was the continued excavation of the 228.1 m² excavation area which had been opened in 2013. The work there was twofold. On the one hand was the excavation outside the cemetery boundary. The features excavated in this area were a series of three cooking pits and two single use hearths, which could be dated between 1410 and 1477 through tephrochronology.

On the other hand were the excavations inside the cemetery boundary. All the deposits excavated on this part of the site were dated to before the 1300 eruption in Hekla. This was a series of turf deposits sealing the burials, postdating the use of the cemetery, and possibly representing some sort of sealing of the site. In addition 11 *in situ* burials were excavated in the northern part of the area, four adults, three juveniles and four neonates (Hildur Gestsdóttir, 2015).

Methods

Excavations were carried out using the single context recording method. This involves treating each unit; deposit or cut, as a unique event in the build-up of the area being

investigated. The main aim is to maintain a good overview of the chronology of the units making up the excavation area as well as the relationships between different structural elements or phases. Each unit is recorded with photographs, plans and levels and is given a unique number within a running number system.

During the excavation these units are entered into a flow chart (Harris matrix) which documents the stratigraphic relationship between the different units. Where necessary, units which are in some way associated (e.g. belong to the same structure or phase) are grouped together under unique group numbers. These group numbers are then used when describing within a text the common unit numbers which belong to them.

Artefacts, samples and buried skeletons discovered during the excavation are similarly recorded using find, sample and skeletal registers unique numbering system where they are associated with the unique unit number within which they were recovered (Lucas 2003).

Results

All the work carried out during the 2015 season was within the southern area of the cemetery (228.1 m²), first opened in 2013. The work can be divided in to two main areas, excavation inside the cemetery boundary and excavation outside the cemetery boundary. The following sections will describe the archaeology excavated in these two areas. Analysis of artefacts, as well as faunal and human skeletal remains is yet to be carried out. However, registers for these are included in the appendices.



Figure 1. The excavation area and main features. The outlines of graves excavated during the 2015 season are shown, with the skeletons in red. Skeletons and features from previous seasons are shown in grey.

Inside the cemetery

940-1300

During the 2015 season the excavation within the cemetery was entirely focused on the excavation of burials, (see Figure 1), all of which be dated through tephrochronology to 940 – 1300. In most instances the grave cuts are sub-rectangular in shape, oriented east-west, with vertical to undercut edges and a flat base. The fill was in all instances a mottled mixed silt with inclusions of prehistoric tephra (in particular H3), made up of the material dug up when the grave was first cut. The skeleton was usually in a supine position with the head oriented to the west. A total of 38 grave cuts was excavated during the 2015 season. These contained 35 skeletal remains. Five graves had no skeletons preserved, there were two instances of double inhumations (HSM-A-154 & HSM-A-157, and HSM-A-166 & HSM-A-167), and one instance where a cranium (HSM-A-159) probably belongs to a partially disturbed burial (HSM-A-167). Due to the number of burials excavated during the season, the burials will be discussed in groupings, rather than presenting detail about each grave in the text.

The burials excavated during the 2015 season can be split into three distinct clusters, based on their location within the cemetery, the north-eastern area, the north-western area and the central area.

North-eastern area

Two burials were excavated in the north-eastern part of the excavation area. Both were isolated adult burials. Both graves were cut down to the bedrock, which is likely to explain the poor preservation of the skeletal material. For further detail see Table 1 and Appendix 3.



Figure 2. Skeleton HSM-A-141. Facing south.

Table 1. Graves in the eastern part of the excavation area.

Fill	Cut	Skeleton	Dimension (cm)	Coffin	Position
5367	5368	HSM-A-138	60x210 60 deep	Coffin stain	Poor preservation. Supine. Head facing forwards, arms bent at elbows hands on hips. Legs parallel to each other
5391	5392	HSM-A-141	60x196 60 deep	Coffin stain	Poor preservation. Supine. Head facing left, arms straight hands resting on pelvis. Legs parallel to each other

North-western area

Four burials containing five skeletons were excavated in the north-western corner of the excavation area. Three of the grave extended into the older excavation area to the north,

and so this had to be partially re-opened. The burials in this area consisted of three intercutting graves in which contained an adult in a single inhumation (HSM-A-142), a single inhumation containing a juvenile (HSM-A-147), and a double inhumation containing two juveniles (HSM-A-154 & HSM-A-157). Approximately a metre to the south of these was an isolated inhumation containing a neonatal skeleton (HSM-A-136). For further detail see Table 2 and Appendix 3.

Table 2. Graves in the western part of the excavation area.

Fill	Cut	Skeleton	Dimension (cm)	Furnishing	Position
5345	5346	HSM-A-136	35x93 50 deep	Coffin stain	Supine. Head facing forwards. Arms parallel to body, legs straight, parallel to each other.
5375	5376	HSM-A-142	55x187 75 deep	Coffin stain & lid	Supine. Head facing forwards. Arms parallel to body, right hand resting on hip, lower left arm under body. Legs straight, parallel to each other.
5411	5412	HSM-A-147	50x173 65 deep	No (turf pillow)	Supine. Head facing right. Arms parallel to body, right hand resting on hip, left hand under hip. Legs straight, parallel to each other.
5439	5440	HSM-A-154	50x210 60 deep	No (turf pillow)	Supine. Head facing forwards. Arms crossed on chest. Legs straight, parallel to each other.
		HSM-A-157		Coffin stain	Supine. Head facing forwards. Arms parallel to body, hands under hips. Legs straight, parallel to each other.



Figure 3. Skeletons HSM-A-154 (left) and HSM-A-157 (right). Truncated by [5412]. Facing west.

Central area

Most of the burials investigated during the 2015 season were found in a cluster within the central part of the excavation area, where a total of 30 heavily intercutting burials were excavated. The preservation in this area was quite poor compared to other parts of the

cemetery, therefore five of the graves had no preserved bone. All the burials in this area contained neonates or very young juveniles. There was one instance of a double inhumation (HSM-A-166 & HSM-A-167) and one instance where a poorly preserved cranium (HSM-A-159) may belong to a truncated skeleton (HSM-A-162) discovered below it within the same grave cut. For further detail see Table 3 and Appendix 4.



Figure 4. Skeleton HSM-A-139. Facing north.



Figure 5. Skeleton HSM-A-140. Truncated by [5354]. Facing south.

Table 3. Graves in the central part of the excavation area

Fill	Cut	Skeleton	Dimension cm	Coffin	Position
5343	5344	HSM-A-135	40x70 50 deep	Coffin stain	On right side. Head facing right. Left arm slightly bent, hand on hip, right arm under the body. Legs straight, left on top of right.
5353	5354	HSM-A-137	35x95 70 deep	Coffin shape	Supine. Right arm parallel to the body, left arm under the body. Legs splayed, bent at knees, feet together.
5355	5356	HSM-A-140	30x100 40 deep	Coffin stain	Supine. Head facing forwards. Arms rolled inwards on top of body, slightly bent at the elbow, hands resting on pelvis. Legs straight, lie together.

Fill	Cut	Skeleton	Dimension cm	Coffin	Position
5364	5365	HSM-A-152	60x110 35 deep	No	Preservation poor. Supine, head facing forwards. Right arm not preserved, left upper arm parallel to body, lower arm not preserved. Both legs extended, right slightly bent at knee.
5373	5374	HSM-A-139	25x70 35 deep	Coffin stain & lid	Poor preservation. On right side. Head facing right. Left arm on top of body, right under the body. Left leg straight, right leg bent at knee towards the left leg.
5378	5379	HSM-A-143	35x75 60 deep	Coffin stain	Very poor preservation. Not possible to determine position.
5395	5396	HSM-A-144	45x90 50 deep	Coffin stain & lid	Poor preservation. Supine. Head very collapsed, difficult to determine position. Right arm slightly bent, hand resting on pelvis, left arm missing. Legs together, slightly bent at knees.
5402	5403	HSM-A-145	30x70 35 deep	Coffin stain	On left side. Head facing left. Right arm straight, on top of body, left arm under body. Legs together, straight.
5407	5408	HSM-A-146	50x90 40 deep	Coffin stain	Poor preservation. Supine, head facing forwards. Right upper arm parallel to body, lower arm not preserved. Left arm not preserved. Legs straight, next to each other.
5409	5410	HSM-A-148	50x90 40 deep	Coffin stain	Poor preservation. Supine, head facing right. Upper arms parallel to body, lower arms not preserved. Upper legs straight, knees possibly slightly bent upwards. Lower legs not preserved.
5413	5414	HSM-A-149	(25)x60 ¹ Depth not recorded	Coffin stain & lid	Very poor preservation. Only cranial fragments, not possible to determine position.

¹ Northern edge uncertain

Fill	Cut	Skeleton	Dimension cm	Coffin	Position
5418	5419	HSM-A-150	40x70 50 deep	Coffin stain	Supine, head facing forwards. Right arm bent at elbow, lower arm across abdomen. Left arm straight, hand resting on pelvis. Legs together, slightly bent to the right at the knees. Feet not preserved.
5421	5422	HSM-A-151	40x90 40 deep	Coffin outline	On right side, head facing to the right. Left arm on top of body, elbow slightly bent. Right arm under body. Legs together, knees slightly bent to the right. Feet not preserved.
5431	5432	--	35x80 40 deep	Coffin stain	No skeleton preserved.
5434	5435	HSM-A-155	25x80 15 deep	Coffin stain	Very poor preservation. Supine, placement of head not clear. Arms not preserved. Legs extended, slightly bent outwards at knee. Feet not preserved
5437	5438	HSM-A-153	40x70 50 deep	Coffin stain	Supine, head facing forwards. Arms straight, parallel to body. Legs extended, parallel to each other. Feet not preserved.
5478	5442	--	Unknown ²	Unknown	No skeleton preserved.
5443	5444	HSM-A-156	35x70 25 deep	Coffin stain	On left side. Right arm straight, on top of body, hand on hip. Left arm under body. Legs extended, feet not preserved.
5445	5446	--	(35)x70 ³	Coffin stain	No skeleton preserved.
5448	5449	HSM-A-158	45x80 25 deep	Coffin stain & lid	Supine, head facing forwards. Upper arms parallel to body, lower arms not preserved. Legs together, slightly bent towards the right at the knees. Feet not preserved.
5450	5451	--	30x(110) ⁴ 20 deep	Coffin stain	No skeleton preserved.

² Heavily truncated by [5444], no information preserved on dimension.

³ Southern edge truncated, original width unknown.

⁴ Western edge truncated, original length unknown.

Fill	Cut	Skeleton	Dimension cm	Coffin	Position
5454	5455	HSM-A-161	35x70 30 deep	Coffin stain	Poor preservation. Supine, otherwise difficult to determine position.
5456	5457	HSM-A-159	30x80 50 deep	Coffin stain	Very poor preservation. Cranial fragments only. Not possible to determine position.
		HSM-A-162		Coffin stain	Supine, head facing left. Upper arms parallel to body, lower arms not preserved. Lower legs extended, slightly bent outwards at knees. Feet not preserved.
5459	5460	HSM-A-160	30x80 15 deep	Coffin stain & lid	Very poor preservation. Supine, head facing forwards. Arms probably parallel to body. Legs extended, not possible to determine position. Hands and feet not preserved.
5465	5467	HSM-A-163	(20)x70 ⁵ 55 deep	Coffin stain	Supine. Cranium not present. Right arm straight, parallel to body, hand not preserved. Left arm not preserved. Legs extended, slightly bent outwards at knees.
5468	5469	HSM-A-164	(20)x80 ⁶ 45 deep	Coffin stain	On right side, head facing right. Left arm straight on top of body, right arm underneath body. Hands not preserved. Legs together, bent to right at knee. Feet not preserved.
5470	5471	HSM-A-165	40x60 40 deep	No	Poor preservation. Supine, head facing forwards. Upper right arm parallel to body, lower arm not preserved. Left arm not preserved. Legs extended, knees slightly bent to the left. Feet not preserved.
5474	5475	HSM-A-166	(30)x(60) ⁷ 45 deep	No	Poor preservation. Supine, head facing forwards. Arms not preserved. Legs extended, feet not preserved.

⁵ Northern edge truncated, original width unknown.

⁶ Northern edge truncated, original width unknown.

⁷ Only western edge present, original width and length unknown.

Fill	Cut	Skeleton	Dimension cm	Coffin	Position
		HSM-A-167		No	Poor preservation. On right side, head probably facing right. Arms not preserved. Legs together, bent at knee to the right. Feet not preserved.
5476	5477	HSM-A-168	(30)x(60) Depth unknown ⁸	No	On right side, head facing right. Left upper arm truncated, arm bent at elbow, lower arm across body. Right arm under body. Legs together, bent at knee to the right. Feet not preserved.
5479	5480	--	(20)x(70) Unknown ⁹	Coffin stain & lid	No skeleton preserved.
5481	5482	HSM-A-169	(25)x(80) ¹⁰ 20 deep	Coffin stain	Very poor preservation. Cranial fragments only. Not possible to determine position.
5483	5484	HSM-A-170	(30)x(70) ¹¹ 40 deep	Coffin stain	On right side, head facing right. Left arm on top of body, slightly bent at elbow, lower arm across body. Hands not preserved. Left leg bent to right at knee, right leg not preserved. Feet not preserved.

⁸ All edges truncated, original width and length as well as depth unknown.

⁹ All edges truncated

¹⁰ Only small portion of original edge (SE corner) preserved. Original width and length unknown.

¹¹ All edges truncated, original width and length unknown.



Figure 6. Intercutting burials in central area, after excavation. Facing west.

Outside the cemetery

All the deposits excavated during the 2015 season pre-date the V1477 tephra, and post-date the V940 tephra. Three other *in situ* tephra deposits were recorded in this area, the

V1410, [5326] (excavated during the 2014 season, see Hildur Gestsdóttir 2015), H1300, [5394] and H1104 [5436]. However, these were only found *in situ* in small isolated deposits, and so the area as a whole could not be divided into phases based on them. The discussion here will therefore focus on the features excavated in the area south of the cemetery boundary wall during the 2015 season.

940-1477

Cooking pits and external hearths

During the 2014 season a series of three cooking pits and one single use hearth were excavated in the area south of the cemetery boundary (Hildur Gestsdóttir 2015). During the 2015 season a further three cooking pits and two external hearths were investigated (see Figure 1). It must be noted that in some instances these cuts are not filled with burned deposits. However, as they are all similar features clearly in association with each other, they are interpreted as being cooking pits, where there has been a redeposit of the fill.

One of the cooking pits could be dated through tephrochronology to 940-1477. Cooking pit [5387] was sub-circular with a concave cross section, 1.35 m in diameter, and 45 cm deep (see Figure 7). It contained a series of fills, wood ash deposits [5381] & [5382] at the top, sealing silt deposits, [5382], [5383], [5385] and [5386], as well as a single sand lens [5384].



Figure 7. Cooking pit [5387]. Facing east.

Two intercutting cooking pits were excavated in the area. The later of these was a cooking pit, [5372], which could be dated through tephrochronology to 1300-1477 (see Figure 8). This was a sub-circular pit with a concave cross section, 1.05 m in diameter and 95 cm deep. It contained three fills, the topmost [5369], was a mixed turfy deposit, which in turn

sealed [5370], a turfy deposit, which sealed the bottom most deposit, consisting of wood-ash with inclusions of charcoal and burnt stones, [5371].



Figure 8. Cooking pit [5372]. Facing north.

Pit [5372] truncated a slightly larger cooking pit, [5399], a sub-circular feature, 1.3 m in diameter and 45 cm deep (see Figure 9). Cut [5372] severely truncated the fill of cooking pit [5399], so little remained except for a collar around the edges of the cut, consisting of mixed silts with mixed pre-historic tephra [5398]. There is no clear evidence of burning within the cut, indicating that perhaps the remnants of fill were redeposited. This earlier pit could be dated through tephrochronology to 1104-1300.



Figure 9. Cooking pit [5399]. Fill [5398] still in situ, truncated by pit [5372]. Facing north.

Two intercutting external hearths were also excavated in the area south of the cemetery boundary. The later of these could be dated through tephrochronology to 1300-1410. This was a sub-rectangular cut 45x80 cm, 20 cm deep, [5360], orientated north-south, with rounded corners, vertical sides and a flat base (see Figure 10). It contained three separate fills. The topmost was a sandy gravel with some animal bone, shell and fire-cracked rocks, [5357]. This sealed a deposit of silty sand containing some animal bone, [5358]. The base fill consisted of mixed silts with slight bone and fire-cracked stone inclusions, [5359].



Figure 10. Hearth [5360]. Facing east.

Cut [5360] truncated an earlier feature, external hearth [5363], a sub-rectangular cut with rounded corners, vertical sides and a flat base (see Figure 11). The cut measured 28 x 110 cm, 30 cm deep, and was orientated east – west. The cut contained two separate fills, the topmost, [5361], a mix of sand and silt with charcoal burnt bone and fire-cracked rocks. The lower, [5362], a wood ash deposit with charcoal and sea-shell inclusions. This lower hearth could be dated through tephrochronology to 940 – 1410.



Figure 11. Hearth [5363]. Facing north.

It must be noted that all the cooking pits and hearths excavated both during the 2014 and 2015 season are cut through 30 cm thick anthropogenic deposits which had built up against the outer (southern) edge of the cemetery boundary ([5467], see discussion below). These deposits are made up of turf debris ([5349], [5404], [5045], [5429] & [5441]); upcast, [5433]; peat-ash ([5351] & [5401]); and wood ash deposits ([5348], [5397], [5419], [5420] & [5430]) most likely originating from the farm-mound which lies immediately west of the cemetery. In between these anthropogenic deposits were intermittent aeolian layers ([5347], [5350], [5400], [5425], [5426], [5427], [5428] & [5461]).

940-1300

Ard-marks

In the south-western corner of the excavation area a series of parallel cuts [5452] were found under the bottom-most anthropogenic deposit, [5441] which had collected up against the cemetery boundary wall [5467], see Figure 12. The cuts were formed by nine parallel cuts, c. 15 cm apart, cut into the natural. These were 15 cm wide and 1 m long and 10 cm deep (some were truncated by earlier features). The cuts were orientated NNE – SSW, and respected the cemetery boundary wall [5467]. They disappeared into the western limit of excavation, and were only found in an area which covered approximately 3.5 m². It is of course unknown however how much further west and south these features extend. Through tephrochronology these features can be demonstrated to date to 940 – 1300. Similar features were excavated within enclosures in the home-field in Ingiríðarstaðir, in Þegjandadalur. These were interpreted as plough marks (Birna Lárusdóttir & Elín Ósk Hreiðarsdóttir 2011, 132), although a more likely explanation for these features at both sites is that they are ard-marks. These two remain the only archaeological features excavated in Iceland which demonstrate evidence for early cultivation.



Figure 12. Ard-marks [5452] post-excavation. Boundary [5467] lies across the bottom half of the photo. Facing south.

940-1104

Cemetery boundary

The entire cemetery boundary wall as it lies within the excavation area was exposed in the 2015 season. The boundary [5467] was a simple construction of up to five courses of

strengur turves containing the V940 tephra, which had been cut from outside the boundary [5416] ≠ [5464]. Within the excavation the wall is quite even, 1 m thick at the base, and 50-60 cm at the top. The wall was highest in the western end of the excavation area (35 cm), and lowest at the eastern end (15cm), see Figure 13. It had however been truncated in several places. A large irregular cut, [5274], excavated in the eastern part of the excavation area in 2014 (Hildur Gestsdóttir 2015) truncated a 3.7 m long stretch of the boundary. Similarly cooking pit [5286], also excavated in 2014 (Hildur Gestsdóttir 2015) also truncated a 1.5 m stretch of the southern edge of the boundary. Two of the cooking pits excavated during the 2015 season, [5387] and [5399], are also partially cut into the southern edge of the cemetery boundary.



Figure 13. Cross section through boundary wall [5467]. Facing west.

The boundary runs in continuation from that recorded in 2012 (Oddgeir Isaksen & Hildur Gestsdóttir 2012). It forms an octagonal shape, 25 m in diameter around the cemetery

and church. The construction of the boundary can be dated through tephrochronology to 940-1104 (see Figure 14).



Figure 14. Boundary wall [5467] at the end of excavation. Facing north-east.

Future work

The 2015 season marks the end of the excavation of the cemetery at Hofstaðir. A three year post-excavation research grant has been awarded by The Icelandic Centre for Research, as well as a one year grant from Fornminjasjóður. The final publication for the Hofstaðir cemetery is therefore scheduled for 2019.

References

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Appendix 1: Unit register

Unit	Grp.	Type	Material	Contextual
5343		Deposit	Mixed silt	Grave fill, mixed silts with disturbed prehistoric tephra. Associated with skeleton HSM-A-135
5344		Cut	Cut interface	Subrectangular grave cut associated with skeleton HSM-A-135
5345		Deposit	Mixed silt	Grave fill, mixed silts with disturbed prehistoric tephra. Associated with skeleton HSM-A-136
5346		Cut	Cut interface	Subrectangular grave cut associated with skeleton HSM-A-136
5347		Deposit	Mixed silts	Aeolian deposit with some charcoal, peat-ash and wood ash inclusions. Outside cemetery boundary
5348		Deposit	Mixed silts	Small patch of silt mixed with wood ash, outside the cemetery boundary
5349		Deposit	Mixed silts	Small patch of turf debris outside the cemetery boundary
5350		Deposit	Mixed silts	Silt with some charcoal inclusions outside the cemetery boundary
5351		Deposit	Mixed silts	Silt with peat ash and charcoal inclusions, possibly a dump from the farm-mound. Outside cemetery boundary
5352		Deposit	Mixed silts	Turf deposit inside the cemetery boundary. Predates burials
5353		Deposit	Mixed silts	Grave fill, mixed silts with disturbed prehistoric tephra. Associated with skeleton HSM-A-137
5354		Cut	Cut interface	Subrectangular grave cut associated with skeleton HSM-A-137
5355		Deposit	Mixed silts	Grave fill, mixed silts with disturbed prehistoric tephra. Associated with skeleton HSM-A-140
5356		Cut	Cut interface	Subrectangular grave cut associated with skeleton HSM-A-140
5357		Deposit	Sand/gravel	Top fill of external hearth [5360]. Sandy gravel with slight bone, shell and fire cracked rock inclusions
5358		Deposit	Sand/mixed silts	Middle fill of external hearth [5360]. Silty sand with some animal bone
5359		Deposit	Mixed silts	Bottom fill of external hearth [5360]. Mixed silts with slight bone and stone inclusions
5360		Deposit	Cut interface	Subrectangular cut for possible external hearth, outside the cemetery boundary. 45x80cm, 20cm deep
5361		Deposit	Sand/mixed silts	Upper fill of external hearth [5363]. Mix of sand and silt with charcoal, sea-shells, burnt bone and burned stone inclusions
5362		Deposit	Wood ash	Lower fill of external hearth [5363]. Wood ash with charcoal and sea-shell inclusions

Unit	Grp.	Type	Material	Contextual
5363		Cut	Cut interface	Subrectangular cut for a external hearth, outside the cemetery boundary. 28x110cm, 30cm deep
5364		Deposit	Mixed silts	Grave fill, mixed silts with disturbed prehistoric tephra. Associated with skeleton HSM-A-152
5365		Cut	Cut interface	Subrectangular grave cut associated with skeleton HSM-A-152
5366		Deposit	Mixed silts	A small patch of turf debris with a slight charcoal content inside the cemetery boundary.
5367		Deposit	Mixed silts	Grave fill, mixed silts with disturbed prehistoric tephra. Associated with skeleton HSM-A-138
5368		Cut	Cut interface	Subrectangular grave cut associated with skeleton HSM-A-138
5369		Deposit	Mixed silts	Turf debris. Top fill (redeposited?) of external cooking pit [5372]. Mixed turf debris
5370		Deposit	Mixed silts	Intermediate fill (redeposited?) of external cooking pit [5372]. Turf with occasional charcoal
5371		Deposit	Mixed silts	Bottom fill (rediposited?) of external cooking pit [5372]. Silt with occasional charcoal and burnt stone
5372		Cut	Cut interface	Sub-circular cut of cooking pit (1.1 m in diametre, 45 cm deep). Outside cemetery boundary
5373		Deposit	Mixed silts	Grave fill, mixed silts with disturbed prehistoric tephra. Associated with skeleton HSM-A-139
5374		Cut	Cut interface	Subrectangular grave cut associated with skeleton HSM-A-139
5375		Deposit	Mixed silts	Grave fill, mixed silts with disturbed prehistoric tephra. Associated with skeleton HSM-A-142
5376		Cut	Cut interface	Subrectangular grave cut associated with skeleton HSM-A-142
5377		Deposit	Mixed silts	Sandy aeolian deposit outside the cemetery boundary
5378		Deposit	Mixed silts	Grave fill, mixed silts with disturbed prehistoric tephra. Associated with skeleton HSM-A-143
5379		Cut	Cut interface	Subrectangular grave cut associated with skeleton HSM-A-143
5380	5393	Deposit	Wood ash	Top fill of external hearth [5387]. Wood ash with charcoal and burnt bone inclusions
5381	5393	Deposit	Mixed silts	Intermediate fill of external cooking pit [5387]. Silt with burnt stone and bone inclusions
5382	5393	Deposit	Mixed silts	Intermediate fill of external cooking pit [5387]. Silt with disturbed prehistoric tephra
5383	5393	Deposit	Mixed silts	Intermediate fill of external cooking pit [5387]. Reddish silt
5384	5393	Deposit	Sand	Intermediate fill of external cooking pit [5387]. Black sand

Unit	Grp.	Type	Material	Contextual
5385	5393	Deposit	Mixed silts	Intermediate fill of external cooking pit [5387]. Silt with slight bone inclusions
5386	5393	Deposit	Mixed silts	Bottom fill of external cooking pit [5387]. Reddish silt
5387	5393	Cut	Cut interface	Sub-circular cut of cooking pit (1.3 m in diameter, 45 cm deep). Outside the cemetery boundary
5388		Deposit	Mixed silts	Upcast/rubbish deposit outside the cemetery boundary
5389		Deposit	Mixed silts	Turf debris deposit with charcoal inclusions, outside the cemetery boundary
5390		Deposit	Mixed silts	Small deposit with patches of turf debris outside the cemetery boundary
5391		Deposit	Mixed silts	Grave fill, mixed silts with disturbed prehistoric tephra. Associated with skeleton HSM-A-141
5392		Cut	Cut interface	Subrectangular grave cut associated with skeleton HSM-A-141
5393		Group	n/a	Fill and cut of cooking pit [5387]
5394		Deposit	Mixed silts	Turf debris deposit outside the cemetery boundary. Sealed by situ H1300 tephra
5395		Deposit	Mixed silts	Grave fill, mixed silts with disturbed prehistoric tephra. Associated with skeleton HSM-A-144
5396		Cut	Cut interface	Subrectangular grave cut associated with skeleton HSM-A-144
5397		Deposit	Wood ash	Small wood ash deposit outside the cemetery boundary
5398		Deposit	Mixed silts	Redeposited mixed silt (containing prehistoric tephra) re-fill of probable cooking pit cut [5399], outside the cemetery boundary
5399		Cut	Cut interface	Cut for sub-circular cooking pit (1.4 m in diameter, 58 cm deep), outside the cemetery boundary
5400		Deposit	Mixed silts	Mixed aeolian deposit, with flecks of turf debris and charcoal outside the cemetery boundary
5401		Deposit	Peat ash	Peat ash deposit outside the cemetery boundary
5402		Deposit	Mixed silts	Grave fill, mixed silts with disturbed prehistoric tephra. Associated with skeleton HSM-A-145
5403		Cut	Cut interface	Subrectangular grave cut associated with skeleton HSM-A-145
5404		Deposit	Mixed silts	Turf debris deposit outside the cemetery boundary
5405		Deposit	Mixed silts	Turf debris deposit outside the cemetery boundary
5406		Deposit	Mixed silts	Very organic deposit, possibly a surface outside the cemetery boundary
5407		Deposit	Mixed silts	Grave fill, mixed silts with disturbed prehistoric tephra. Associated with skeleton HSM-A-146

Unit	Grp.	Type	Material	Contextual
5408		Cut	Cut interface	Subrectangular grave cut associated with skeleton HSM-A-146
5409		Deposit	Mixed silts	Grave fill, mixed silts with disturbed prehistoric tephra. Associated with skeleton HSM-A-148
5410		Cut	Cut interface	Subrectangular grave cut associated with skeleton HSM-A-148
5411		Deposit	Mixed silts	Grave fill, mixed silts with disturbed prehistoric tephra. Associated with skeleton HSM-A-147
5412		Cut	Cut interface	Subrectangular grave cut associated with skeleton HSM-A-147
5413		Deposit	Mixed silts	Grave fill, mixed silts with disturbed prehistoric tephra. Associated with skeleton HSM-A-149
5414		Cut	Cut interface	Subrectangular grave cut associated with skeleton HSM-A-149
5415		Deposit	Mixed silts	Very firm deposit infilling the cut for turves for the boundary wall [5416], outside the cemetery boundary. Possibly trampled
5416		Cut	Cut interface	Cut for turves for boundary wall [5467]. Associated with the wall construction
5417		Deposit	Mixed silts	Grave fill, mixed silts with disturbed prehistoric tephra. Associated with skeleton HSM-A-150
5418		Cut	Cut interface	Subrectangular grave cut associated with skeleton HSM-A-150
5419		Deposit	Wood ash	Charcoal rich wood ash deposit outside the cemetery boundary
5420		Deposit	Wood ash	Charcoal rich wood ash deposit outside the cemetery boundary
5421		Deposit	Mixed silts	Grave fill, mixed silts with disturbed prehistoric tephra. Associated with skeleton HSM-A-151
5422		Cut	Cut interface	Subrectangular grave cut associated with skeleton HSM-A-151
5423		Deposit	Mixed silts	Fill of small pit
5424		Cut	Cut interface	Small subrectangular pit
5425		Deposit	Mixed silts	Small aeolian deposit with turf flecks outside the cemetery boundary
5426		Deposit	Mixed silts	Small aeolian deposit outside the cemetery boundary boundary
5427		Deposit	Mixed silts	Aeolian deposit with slight charcoal content, outside the cemetery boundary
5428		Deposit	Mixed silts	Aeolian deposit with some turf- and charcoal flecks, outside the cemetery boundary
5429		Deposit	Mixed silts	Turf debris outside the cemetery boundary

Unit	Grp.	Type	Material	Contextual
5430		Deposit	Sand/wood ash	Small deposit of sand and wood-ash outside the cemetery boundary
5431		Deposit	Mixed silts	Grave fill, mixed silts with disturbed prehistoric tephra. No skeleton preserved
5432		Cut	Cut interface	Subrectangular grave cut, no skeleton preserved
5433		Deposit	Mixed silts	Upcast deposit with some turf debris content. Outside the cemetery boundary
5434		Deposit	Mixed silts	Grave fill, mixed silts with disturbed prehistoric tephra. Associated with skeleton HSM-A-155
5435		Cut	Cut interface	Subrectangular grave cut associated with skeleton HSM-A-155
5436		Deposit	Tephra	H1104 tephra <i>in situ</i>
5437		Deposit	Mixed silts	Grave fill, mixed silts with disturbed prehistoric tephra. Associated with skeleton HSM-A-153
5438		Cut	Cut interface	Subrectangular grave cut associated with skeleton HSM-A-153
5439		Deposit	Mixed silts	Grave fill, mixed silts with disturbed prehistoric tephra. Associated with skeleton HSM-A-154 & 157
5440		Cut	Cut interface	Subrectangular grave cut associated with skeleton HSM-A-154 & 157
5441		Deposit	Mixed silts	Turf debris outside the cemetery boundary
5442		Cut	Cut interface	Subrectangular grave cut, no skeleton preserved (grave fill [5478])
5443		Deposit	Mixed silts	Grave fill, mixed silts with disturbed prehistoric tephra. Associated with skeleton HSM-A-156
5444		Cut	Cut interface	Subrectangular grave cut associated with skeleton HSM-A-156
5445		Deposit	Mixed silts	Grave fill, mixed silts with disturbed prehistoric tephra. No skeleton preserved
5446		Cut	Cut interface	Subrectangular grave cut, no skeleton preserved
5447		Deposit	Mixed silts	Aeolian deposit against the outer edge of the cemetery boundary [5467]
5448		Deposit	Mixed silts	Grave fill, mixed silts with disturbed prehistoric tephra. Associated with skeleton HSM-A-158
5449		Cut	Cut interface	Subrectangular grave cut associated with skeleton HSM-A-158
5450		Deposit	Mixed silts	Grave fill, mixed silts with disturbed prehistoric tephra. No skeleton preserved
5451		Cut	Cut interface	Subrectangular grave cut, no skeleton preserved

Unit	Grp.	Type	Material	Contextual
5452		Cut	Cut interface	Ard-marks outside the cemetery boundary
5453		Deposit	Mixed silts	Small patch of turf debris outside the cemetery boundary
5454		Deposit	Mixed silts	Grave fill, mixed silts with disturbed prehistoric tephra. Associated with skeleton HSM-A-161
5455		Cut	Cut interface	Subrectangular grave cut associated with skeleton HSM-A-161
5456		Deposit	Mixed silts	Grave fill, mixed silts with disturbed prehistoric tephra. Associated with skeleton HSM-A-159/162
5457		Cut	Cut interface	Subrectangular grave cut associated with skeleton HSM-A-159/162
5458		Deposit	Mixed silts	Aeolian deposit with some turf flecks, outside the cemetery boundary
5459		Deposit	Mixed silts	Grave fill, mixed silts with disturbed prehistoric tephra. Associated with skeleton HSM-A-160
5460		Cut	Cut interface	Subrectangular grave cut associated with skeleton HSM-A-160
5461		Deposit	Mixed silts	Aeolian deposit with some turf flecks, outside the cemetery boundary
5462		Deposit	Mixed silts	Turf deposit inside the cemetery boundary. Predates burials
5463		Deposit	Mixed silts	Aeolian deposit with some turf flecks, outside the cemetery boundary
5464		Cut	Cut interface	Cut for turves along the cemetery boundary wall [5467] - associated with construction
5465		Deposit	Mixed silts	Grave fill, mixed silts with disturbed prehistoric tephra. Associated with skeleton HSM-A-163
5466		Cut	Cut interface	Subrectangular grave cut associated with skeleton HSM-A-163
5467		Deposit	Turf	Cemetery boundary
5468		Deposit	Mixed silts	Grave fill, mixed silts with disturbed prehistoric tephra. Associated with skeleton HSM-A-164
5469		Cut	Cut interface	Subrectangular grave cut associated with skeleton HSM-A-164
5470		Deposit	Mixed silts	Grave fill, mixed silts with disturbed prehistoric tephra. Associated with skeleton HSM-A-165
5471		Cut	Cut interface	Subrectangular grave cut associated with skeleton HSM-A-165
5472		Deposit	Mixed silts	Fill of cut [5473], mixed silts with disturbed prehistoric tephra
5473		Cut	Cut interface	Small subcircular cut within grave cluster

Unit	Grp.	Type	Material	Contextual
5474		Deposit	Mixed silts	Grave fill, mixed silts with disturbed prehistoric tephra. Associated with skeleton HSM-A-166 &167
5475		Cut	Cut interface	Subrectangular grave cut associated with skeleton HSM-A-166 & 167
5476		Deposit	Mixed silts	Grave fill, mixed silts with disturbed prehistoric tephra. Associated with skeleton HSM-A-168
5477		Cut	Cut interface	Subrectangular grave cut associated with skeleton HSM-A-168
5478		Deposit	Mixed silts	Grave fill, mixed silts with disturbed prehistoric tephra. No skeleton preserved (fill of cut [5442])
5479		Deposit	Mixed silts	Grave fill, mixed silts with disturbed prehistoric tephra. No skeleton preserved
5480		Cut	Cut interface	Subrectangular grave cut, no skeleton preserved
5481		Deposit	Mixed silts	Grave fill, mixed silts with disturbed prehistoric tephra. Associated with skeleton HSM-A-169
5482		Cut	Cut interface	Subrectangular grave cut associated with skeleton HSM-A-169
5483		Deposit	Mixed silts	Grave fill, mixed silts with disturbed prehistoric tephra. Associated with skeleton HSM-A-170
5484		Cut	Cut interface	Subrectangular grave cut associated with skeleton HSM-A-170
5485		Deposit	Tephra	V940 tephra in situ

Appendix 2: Finds register

Find no	Unit	Material	Description	Quant
HST15-19-001	5347	Bone	Comb fragment	1
HST15-19-002	5347	Bone	Comb fragment	1
HST15-19-003	5347	Stone	Manuport	1
HST15-19-004	5347	Copper	Pin	1
HST15-19-005	5345	Schist	Whetstone	1
HST15-19-006	5351	Iron	Nail	1
HST15-19-007	5351	Stone	Manuport	1
HST15-19-008	5351	Iron	Slag?	1
HST15-19-009	5345	Iron	Slag?	1
HST15-19-010	5357	Copper	Button	1
HST15-19-011	5357	Leather?	Fragment	1
HST15-19-012	5366	Iron	Rivet	1
HST15-19-013	5394	Iron	Nail	1
HST15-19-014	5391	Stone	Manuport	1
HST15-19-015	5400	Stone	Manuport	2
HST15-19-016	5400	Iron	Slag?	1
HST15-19-017	5401	Stone	Spindle whorl	1
HST15-19-018	5401	Iron	Knife blade	1
HST15-19-019	5401	Iron	Pin	1
HST15-19-020	5406	Stone	Manuport	1
HST15-19-021	5401	Stone	Manuport	36
HST15-19-022	5401	Stone	Loom weight	1

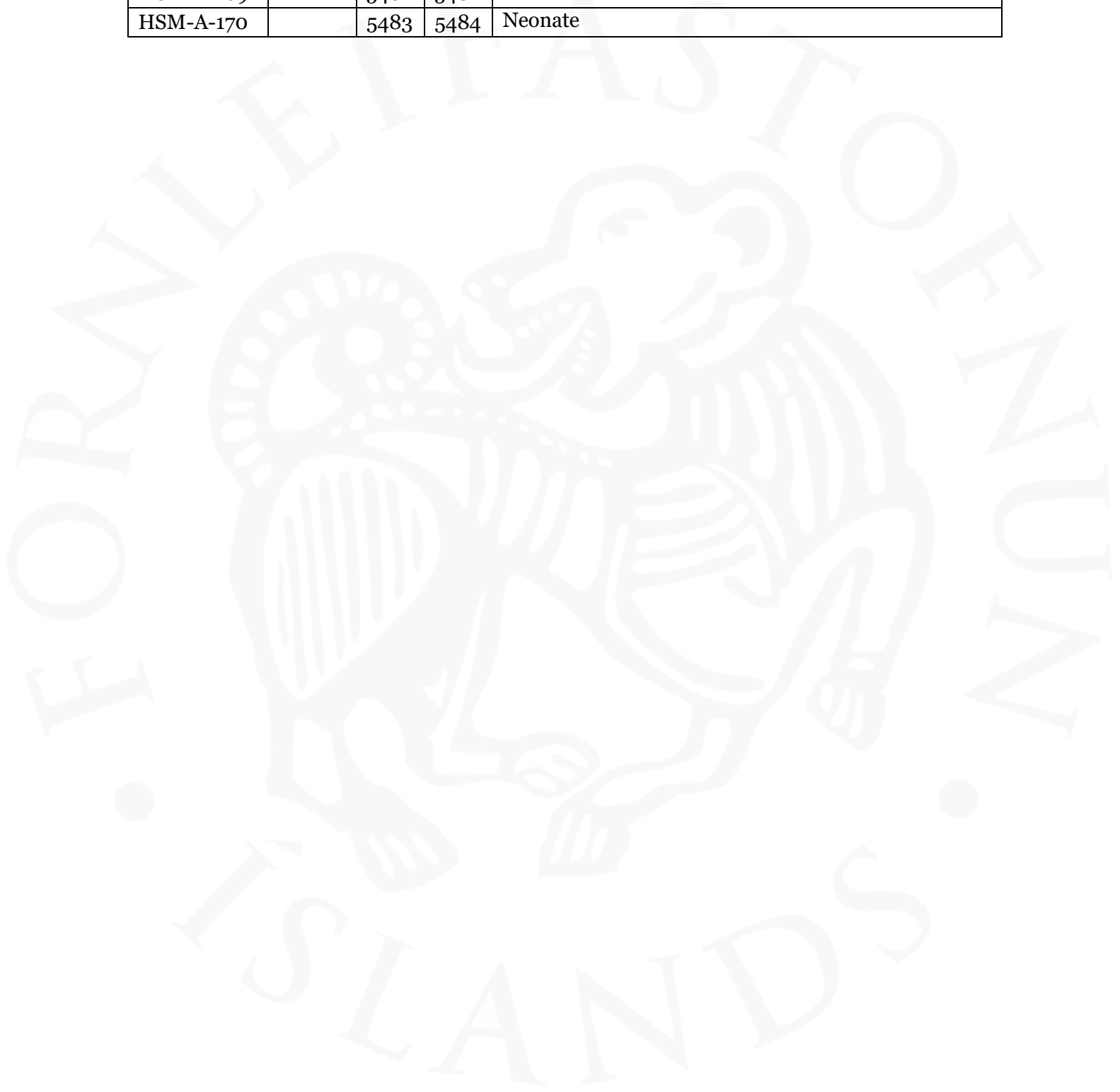
Find no	Unit	Material	Description	Quant
HST15-19-023	5401	Stone	Whetstone	4
HST15-19-024	5401	Iron	Nail	1
HST15-19-025	5401	Iron	Object	1
HST15-19-026	5419	Stone	Manuport	2
HST15-19-027	5415	Stone	Manuport	1
HST15-19-028	5417	Iron	Nail?	1
HST15-19-029	5439	Iron	Slag?	1
HST15-19-030	5439	Iron	Object	1
HST15-19-031	5439	Iron	Object	1
HST15-19-032	5427	Iron	Slag?	1
HST15-19-033	5445	Iron	Object	1
HST15-19-034	5439	Stone	Manuport	1
HST15-19-035	5439	Stone	Manuport	1
HST15-19-036	5447	Stone	Manuport	1
HST15-19-500	5347	Bone	Animal bone	2 bags
HST15-19-501	5348	Bone	Animal bone	6 bags
HST15-19-502	5439	Bone	Animal bone	1 bag
HST15-19-503	5350	Bone	Animal bone	1 bag
HST15-19-504	5345	Bone	Animal bone	1 bag
HST15-19-505	5352	Bone	Animal bone	1 bag
HST15-19-506	5351	Bone	Animal bone	1 bag
HST15-19-507	5357	Bone	Animal bone	1 bag
HST15-19-508	5361	Bone	Animal bone	1 bag
HST15-19-509	5371	Bone	Animal bone	1 bag

Find no	Unit	Material	Description	Quant
HST15-19-510	5390	Bone	Animal bone	1 bag
HST15-19-511	5393	Bone	Animal bone	1 bag
HST15-19-512	5394	Bone	Animal bone	1 bag
HST15-19-513	5397	Bone	Animal bone	1 bag
HST15-19-514	5398	Bone	Animal bone	1 bag
HST15-19-515	5400	Bone	Animal bone	1 bag
HST15-19-516	5401	Bone	Animal bone	2 bags
HST15-19-517	5404	Bone	Animal bone	1 bag
HST15-19-518	5405	Bone	Animal bone	1 bag
HST15-19-519	5406	Bone	Animal bone	1 bag
HST15-19-520	5401	Bone	Fish bone	1 bag
HST15-19-521	5419	Bone	Animal bone	1 bag
HST15-19-522	5415	Bone	Animal bone	1 bag
HST15-19-523	5428	Bone	Animal bone	1 bag
HST15-19-524	5426	Bone	Animal bone	1 bag
HST15-19-525	5447	Bone	Animal bone	1 bag
HST15-19-526	Cleaning	Bone	Animal bone	1 bag

Appendix 3: Skeletal register

Skeleton no.	Group	Fill	Cut	Notes
HSM-A-135		5343	5344	Neonate
HSM-A-136		5345	5346	Neonate
HSM-A-137		5353	5354	Neonate
HSM-A-138		5367	5358	Adult
HSM-A-139		5373	5374	Neonate
HSM-A-140		5355	5356	Neonate
HSM-A-141		5391	5392	Adult
HSM-A-142		5375	5376	Adult
HSM-A-143		5378	5379	Neonate
HSM-A-144		5395	5396	Neonate
HSM-A-145		5402	5403	Neonate
HSM-A-146		5407	5408	Neonate
HSM-A-147		5411	5412	Juvenile
HSM-A-148		5409	5410	Neonate
HSM-A-149		5413	5414	Neonate
HSM-A-150		5417	5418	Neonate
HSM-A-151		5421	5422	Juvenile
HSM-A-152		5364	5365	Juvenile
HSM-A-153		5437	5438	Juvenile
HSM-A-154		5439	5440	Juvenile. Double inhumation with HSM-A-157.
HSM-A-155		5434	5435	Neonate
HSM-A-156		5443	5444	Neonate
HSM-A-157		5439	5440	Juvenile. Double inhumation with HSM-A-154.
HSM-A-158		5448	5449	Neonate
HSM-A-159		5456	5457	Neonate. Possibly the cranial remains truncated from skeleton HSM-A-162.
HSM-A-160		5459	5460	Neonate
HSM-A-161		5454	5455	Neonate
HSM-A-162		5456	5457	Neonate. Cranium truncated, possibly the same as HSM-A-159.
HSM-A-163		5465	5466	Neonate
HSM-A-164		5468	5469	Neonate
HSM-A-165		5470	5471	Neonate
HSM-A-166		5474	5475	Neonate. Double inhumation with HSM-A-167.
HSM-A-167		5474	5475	Neonate. Double inhumation with HSM-A-166.
HSM-A-168		5476	5477	Juvenile

Skeleton no.	Group	Fill	Cut	Notes
HSM-A-169		5481	5482	Neonate
HSM-A-170		5483	5484	Neonate



Appendix 4: Samples register

Sample no.	Unit	Quant.	Description
HST15-19-01	5343	1 bag	Coffin soil
HST15-19-02	5343	1 bag	White organic deposit in coffin
HST15-19-03	5345	2 bags	Coffin soil
HST15-19-04	5345	2 bags	Coffin wood
HST15-19-05	5353	1 bag	Coffin soil
HST15-19-06	5357	1 bag	Stones
HST15-19-07	5355	1 bag	Coffin soil
HST15-19-08	5373	1 bag	Coffin soil
HST15-19-09	5378	1 bag	Coffin soil
HST15-19-10	5378	1 bag	Coffin soil
HST15-19-11	5395	1 bag	Coffin soil
HST15-19-12	5407	1 bag	Coffin soil
HST15-19-13	5375	3 bags	Coffin wood
HST15-19-14	5413	1 bag	Coffin wood
HST15-19-15	5413	1 bag	Coffin soil
HST15-19-16	5409	1 bag	Coffin soil
HST15-19-17	5417	1 bag	Coffin wood
HST15-19-18	5412	1 bag	Black sand from skull
HST15-19-19	5412	1 bag	Black sand from left humerus
HST15-19-20	5431	1 bag	Coffin soil
HST15-19-21	5439	1 bag	Ash from pelvis
HST15-19-22	5448	1 bag	Coffin wood
HST15-19-23	5443	1 bag	Coffin soil
HST15-19-24	5448	1 bag	Coffin soil
HST15-19-25	5454	1 bag	Coffin soil
HST15-19-26	5439	1 bag	Calcified mass from skeleton
HST15-19-27	5459	1 bag	Coffin soil
HST15-19-28	5456	1 bag	Coffin soil
HST15-19-29	5456	1 bag	Coffin wood
HST15-19-30	--	1 bag	H1300(?) tephra, from the north-facing section
HST15-19-31	--	1 bag	H1104(?) tephra, from the north-facing section
HST15-19-32	--	1 bag	V940(?) tephra, from underneath boundary wall [5467]
HST15-19-33	--	1 bag	Unknown tephra from underneath V940(?) tephra, underneath boundary wall [5467]
HST15-19-34	--	1 bag	Unknown tephra from underneath V940 tephra [5485] inside cemetery

Sample no.	Unit	Quant.	Description
HST15-19-35	--	1 tin	From east facing section, above ard-marks [5452]
HST15-19-34	5483	1 bag	Coffin soil



Appendix 6: Bibliography for Hofstaðir cemetery

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