

# Hofstaðir 2013. Interim report

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## **Introduction**

The 2013 excavation season at Hofstaðir was four weeks, from the 5<sup>th</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup> of August. This is the fourth season since excavations started again in 2010 after a hiatus. Those who took part were archaeologists Hildur Gestsdóttir (project manager), Oddgeir Isaksen (12<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> August), Stefán Ólafsson, Nikola Trbojevic and Liam Lanigan. In addition, Brenda Prehal, a Ph.D. student from Hunter College, City University of New York joined the excavation for one week (12<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> August). 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).

Tephrochronology demonstrates that the cemetery at Hofstaðir went out of use before 1300, although use of the church itself may have continued. The main aim of the investigation 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 is 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 detail of these, see Appendix 5.

## **Previous seasons.**

### ***1999-2004***

Archaeological investigations in the cemetery at Hofstaðir started in 1999. Geophysical surveys revealed a circular boundary, approximately 30m in diameter with an irregularity in its centre. Trial trenches revealed burials within the boundary, and central structural remains. In 2000 an area approximately 231m<sup>2</sup> 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-20<sup>th</sup> century that its function remains unknown, although it is most likely the remains of a smithy (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.

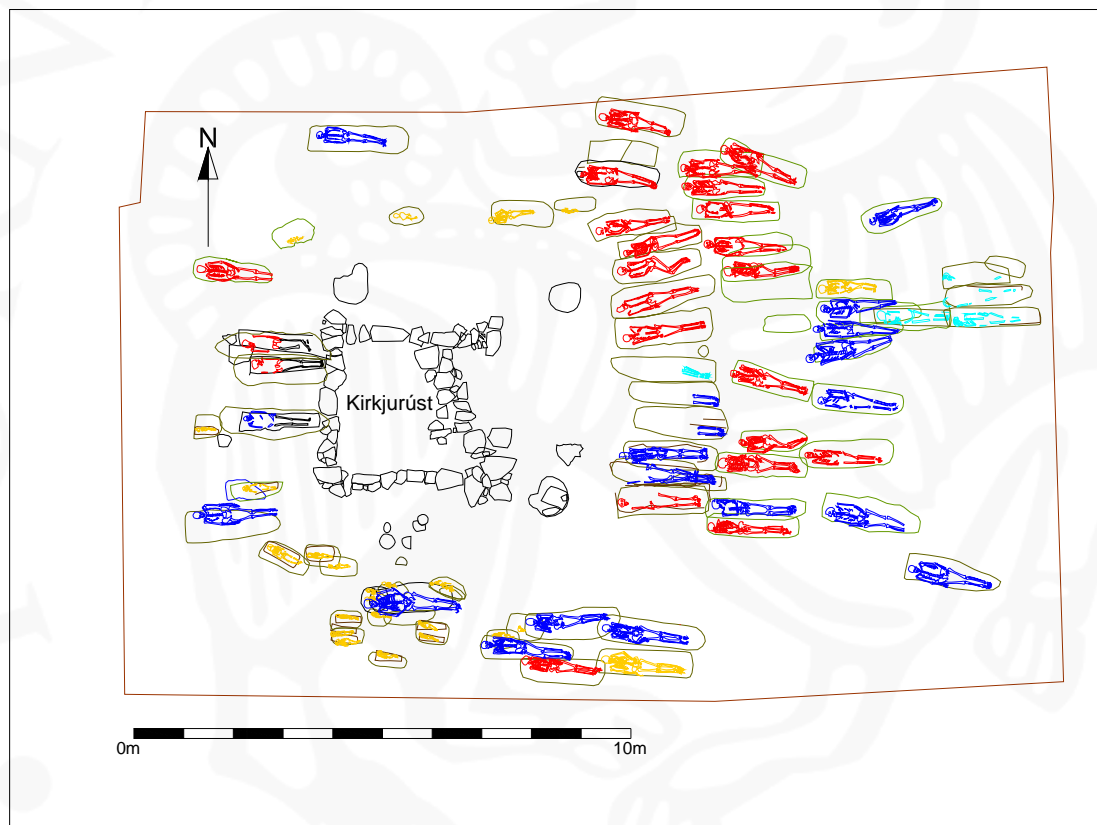


Figure 1: Simplified representation of the archaeological remains excavated at Hofstaðir between 1999-2004. The blue skeletons are male, the red female and yellow are children. The light blue are adults of unknown gender.

## **2010**

The 2010 season lasted five weeks. It involved continued excavation in the southern part of the excavation area abandoned in 2004, where the 34 burials which remained were excavated. In addition, a new area, 491 m<sup>2</sup>, 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 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> century, and partially reused toward the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> 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 tephras 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).

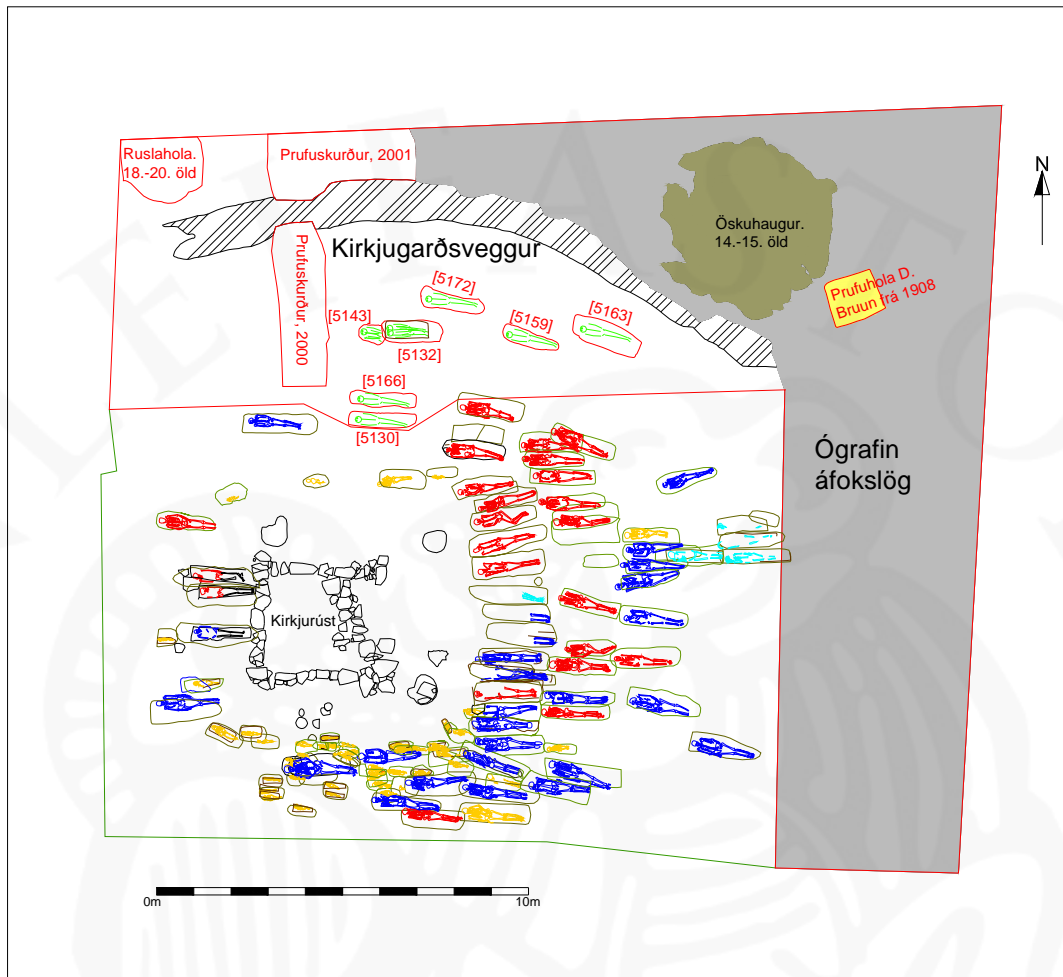


Figure 2: Simplified plan of the site at the end of the 2011 season.

## 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 skeletal remains (Oddgeir Isaksen and Hildur Gestsdóttir 2012b).

## **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**

There were two phases to the work carried out during the 2013 first of all the opening of the new area to the south, which involved mainly the excavation of the overburden sealing the remains of the cemetery and secondly the completion of the excavation of two burials in group [1747]. The

following sections will describe the archaeology excavated in these two areas. Artefactual and skeletal analysis is yet to be carried out. However, registers for these are included in the Appendices.

## **Southern area**

The following discussion will be divided into phasing based on the *in situ* tephra at the site.

### ***Post-1717***

Once the overburden had been removed by machine, the outline of the cemetery boundary became clear, although the wall itself is yet to be exposed. The boundary had been visible on the surface prior to the levelling of the land in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century (Orri Vésteinsson 1996, 86). Previous seasons have revealed that while the boundary was visible, it appears to have been largely respected through the centuries, long after the cemetery went out of use, with the major farm-related activity situated outside the boundary. Aerial photographs taken with a remote controlled helicopter revealed that the boundary appears not to be circular, but octagonal (see cover photo).

Inside the boundary, immediately below the overburden were the remains of the bulldozing of the old farm-mound, which lies to the west of the cemetery. As already noted, this was carried out in c. 1950 (Orri Vésteinsson 1996, 72) and appears to have been dumped mainly on the southern side of the cemetery, within the cemetery boundary. This consisted of a very mixed deposit, up to 40 cm thick, consisting of turf debris, ash lenses and rocks [5213]. The artefact collection from the deposit; window and vessel glass, ceramics and rubber support a mid-20<sup>th</sup> century date. The rubble from the farm-mound sealed a sandy aeolean deposit, 30 cm thick [5214] which also respected the outline of the cemetery boundary and appears to represent a period of little use within the cemetery. This in turn sealed a dump, [5215], up to 20 cm thick which consisted of ash and charcoal, with large amounts of iron slag, indicating that this is a dump from a smithy (see Figure 3). Most of the finds within the context were copper and iron artefacts. Dump [5215] sealed the *in situ* tephra from the 1717 eruption in Veidivötn [5219]. The tephra is quite sparse in Hofstaðir, and in this area was only found directly underneath the dump, which suggests that it may have been deposited there shortly after the eruption, thus protecting it from erosion.

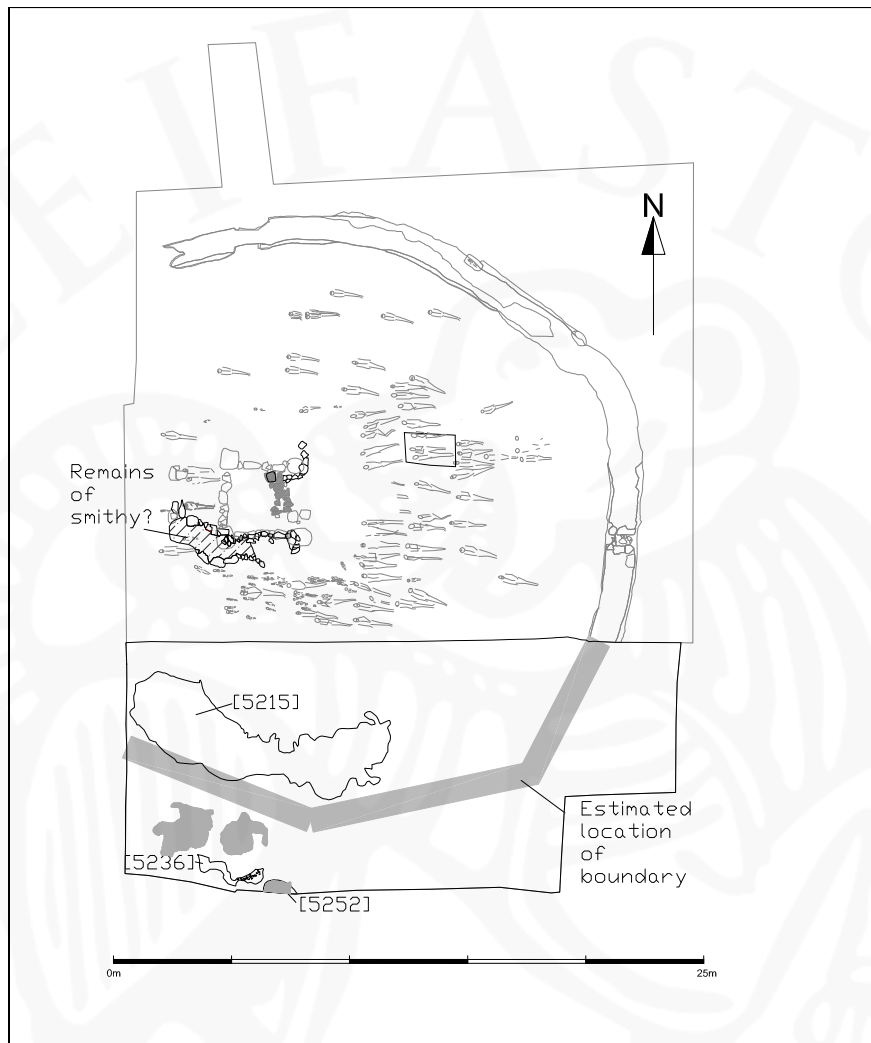




**Figure 3: Smithy refuse [5215]. Facing east.**

Although the V1717 tephra was not seen *in situ* outside the cemetery boundary, there were several deposits and features there, in particular in the south-western corner of the excavation area, which can be dated by artefact association to the post-1717 period. This includes a pit [5221] which extends beyond the southern limit of excavation. It appears to be orientated east-west, with the dimension 70x170 cm within the excavation area, and 15 cm deep. It is filled with a midden deposit consisting mainly of wood ash [5218]. Immediately east of this is a small single use hearth, with a circular cut, 50 cm in diameter and 20 cm deep [5223] and filled with mixed ash and silt [5222].

Both the above features truncate a dump of turf, charcoal and fire cracked dump [5236], possibly associated with the smithy dump [5215] inside the cemetery boundary. Most likely contemporary with this also is a small pit [5252] filled with a mix of turf debris and peat- & wood-ash [5250]. The pit lies beyond the southern limit of excavation, but appears to be orientated east-west. The surviving dimensions are 40x120 cm with a maximum depth of 6 cm.



**Figure 4: Post-1717 contexts associated with smithy**

In the survey report from Hofstaðir it is noted that a smithy stood within the cemetery boundary, which was levelled with the rest of the farm-mound in the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century (Orri Vésteinsson 1996, 75). Previous seasons at Hofstaðir revealed a badly damaged turf built structure, with H1477 tephra within the turf (structure Z1) on top of the earlier church remains. The damage to this structure was to such an extent that it was not possible to determine its function (Hildur Gestsdóttir 1999, 41-3; 2001, 21-2), however it is likely that it is the remains of the smithy, and that

the smithy dumps, [5215] & [5236], seen in the southern part of the cemetery are associated with this (see Figure 4).

### **1477-1717**

The tephra from the 1477 eruption in Hekla [5229] can be found *in situ* over most of the site (with the exception of patches in the south-western corner), up to 5cm thick (see Figure 5). The period between the two tephras (H1477-V1717) appears to be one of very little activity in this part of the home-field, with the build-up of a single aeolian deposit of silty sand [5220], up to 18 cm thick inside the cemetery during the period. Lenses of wood-ash and charcoal however give evidence of the activity on the nearby farm-mound.

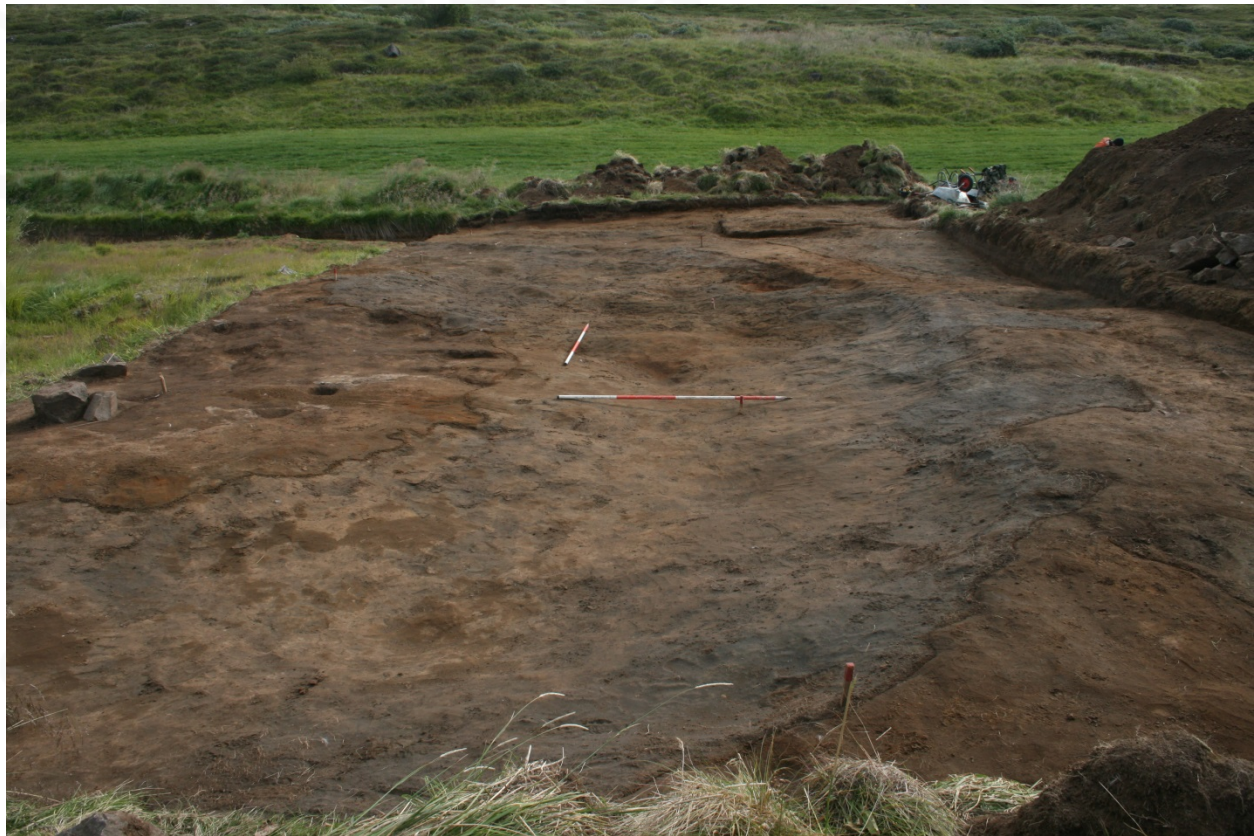
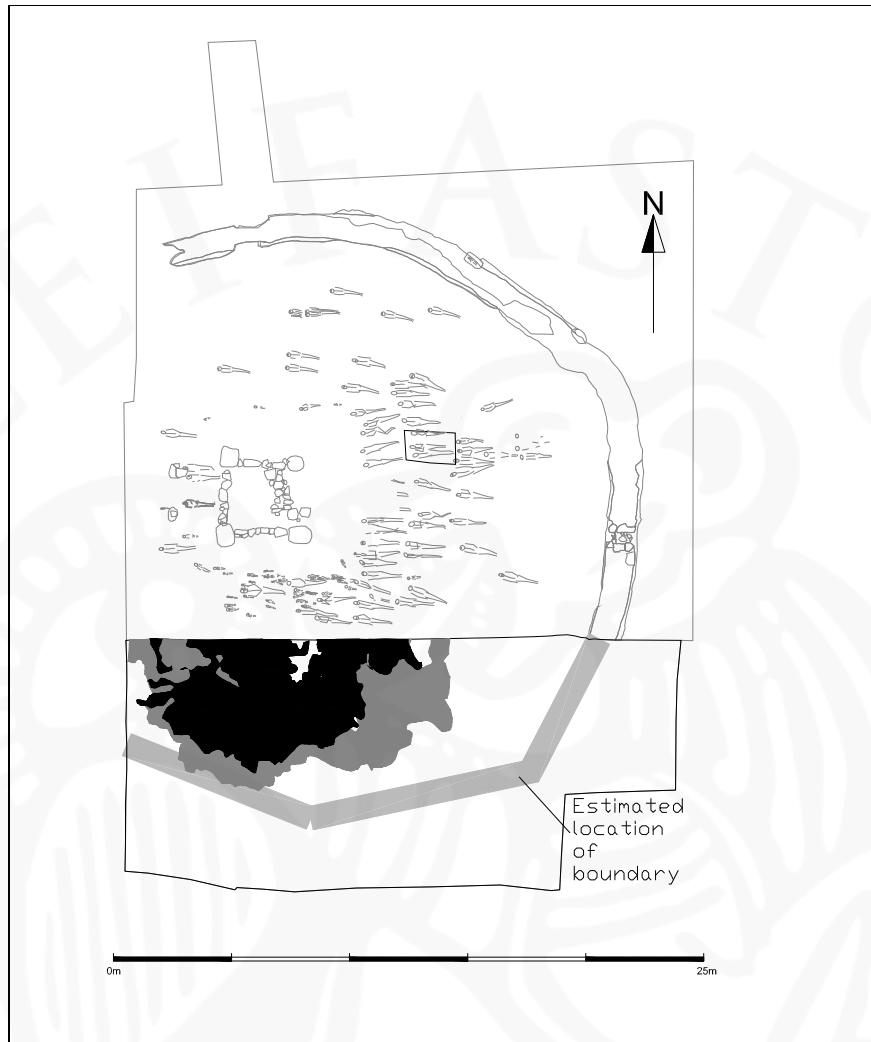


Figure 5: *In situ* V1477. Facing west.



### **1300-1477**

The tephra from the c.1300 eruption in Hekla [5259] is very thin at Hofstaðir, only 1 cm thick. It was found *in situ* inside the outline of the cemetery boundary, in the western half of the excavation area. The period between the two tephras (H1300 and H1477) marks an abandonment phase of the cemetery, with a series of turf deposits ([5240], [5244], [5248], [5257], [5258] & [5261]) with intermittent aeolian deposits, with slight turf debris, peat ash and/or charcoal content ([5238], [5246], [5251], [5254] & [5256]) forming the archaeology inside the central part of the cemetery (group [5261], see Figure 6). Sealing this was a very patchy tephra deposit, only preserved under a later turf deposit, [5237], which has been identified as probably the tephra from the 1410 eruption in Veiðivötn, which has not been identified at Hofstaðir before (Magnús Sigurgeirsson pers. comm. 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2014). It is probably *in situ*, although this is not a certainty. Group [5261] together formed a small mound, around which later contexts (for example the smithy dump [5215]) have been deposited. Similar turf deposits have been found in other areas within the cemetery after burials ceased (cf. Hildur Gestsdóttir and Oddgeir Isaksen 2011, 11-2), and have been interpreted as evidence of levelling or sealing of the cemetery after burials ceased there.

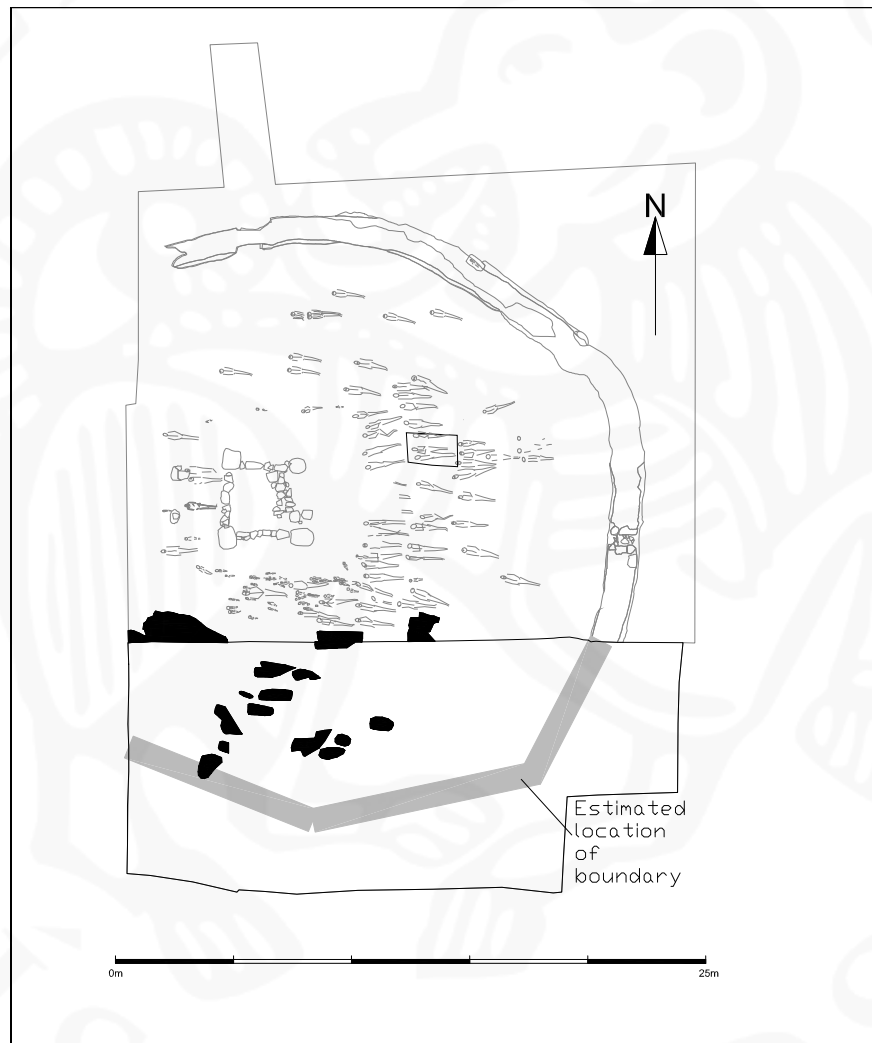


**Figure 6: Units associated with group [5261]. Black represents turf deposits, while aeolian deposits are grey**

Outside the cemetery boundary, the archaeology in this period was marked by a series of small peat- and wood-ash sheet midden deposits ([5235], [5239], [5242] & [5245]), with intermittent sandy-silt aeolian deposits ([5231], [5241], [5249], [5253] & [5255]). The thin sheet midden lenses indicate that this area is on the edge of the activity area of the farm-mound. It is particularly interesting to note that none of the midden material spills into the cemetery, indicating, as has been seen in other parts of the cemetery (cf. Hildur Gestsdóttir and Oddgeir Isaksen 2011; Oddgeir Isaksen and Hildur Gestsdóttir 2012a), that the inhabitant of the farm mound knew of the cemetery, and avoided disturbing it, by for example, dumping rubbish outside it.

## ***Pre-1300***

Only one deposit dating to before the H1300 tephra was excavated in the southern part of the site. This was a turf deposit, [5260] up to 8cm thick, in the western part of the site, possibly laid down to level or seal the site after burials ceased there. The removal of this deposit resulted in the exposure of around 17 grave cuts (which remain as yet unexcavated, see Figure 7) in the western half of the excavation area.



**Figure 7: The black areas represents unexcavated upcast deposits visible at the end of the 2013 season. Most likely grave fill.**



## **The cemetery**

### ***Pre 1300***

A small area (1.3 x 2.1 m) was opened in the eastern part of the cemetery to complete the excavation of the burials in group [1747] (Hildur Gestsdóttir 2006: 8-9). Two burials were excavated (see Figure 8 and Figure 9). The earlier of these was grave cut [5225], sub-rectangular oriented east-west, 0.6 x 2.0 m and 0.5 m deep. It contained grave fill [5224], a very mottled mixed silt and skeleton HSM-A-123 which lay in a supine position with the hands resting on the pelvis. There was no evidence of a coffin, but ash had been placed on the thoracic and chest area of the individual. This grave was truncated by grave cut [5217], sub-rectangular orientated east-west, 0.5 x 1.9 m and 0.5 m deep. It contained grave fill [5216], a very mottled mixed silt, and skeleton HSM-A-122 which lay in a supine position with the arms bent at the elbows and the hands resting on the abdomen. There was evidence of the individual having been in a simple wood coffin, of which nothing remained but wood stains in the soil. A fine black ash had been placed on the chest of the individual. This grave had in turn been truncated by cut [1649], excavated in a previous season at Hofstaðir, which had been sealed by the H1300 tephra (Hildur Gestsdóttir 2001: 32).

### **Future work**

The main focus for the next season at Hofstaðir will be to finish excavating the southern area. This will involve removing the remaining overburden, both inside and outside the cemetery, and excavate all the graves in the area.

Once that has been completed, the final area, to the west will be opened (approximately 210m<sup>2</sup>), to reveal the remaining part of the cemetery. Geophysical survey of the cemetery indicates that this area is not dense in burials, although it is likely to be sealed by later farm buildings to some extent. The aim of the excavation is to avoid these structures as much as is possible.



Figure 8: Skeleton HSM-A-122. Facing north-east.



Figure 9: Skeleton HSM-A-123. Facing west.

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## Appendix 1: Unit register

Unit	Type	Material	Contextual	Description
5213	Deposit	Mixed silts	Dump	Rubble from the bulldozing of the farm-mound c.1953.
5214	Deposit	Mixed silts	Aeolian	Mixed aeolian and sandy silt deposit, respects the shape of the cemetery wall.
5215	Deposit	Wood ash	Dump	Wood ash and charcoal dump layer – smithy refuse.
5216	Deposit	Mixed silts	Grave	Grave fill, heavily mottled with prehistoric tephra – skeleton HSM-A-122
5217	Cut	Cut interface	Grave	Sub-rectangular grave cut – skeleton HSM-A-122
5218	Deposit	Wood ash	Dump	Modern midden dump, associated with farm-mound. Fill of cut [5221]
5219	Deposit	Tephra	Aeolian	<i>In situ</i> tephra from the 1717 eruption in Veiðivötn
5220	Deposit	Mixed silts	Aeolian	Aeolian deposit with charcoal lenses.
5221	Cut	Cut interface	Pit	Sub-oval pit, up to 15cm deep, filled with modern midden material [5218]
5222	Deposit	Mixed silt	Backfill	Primary fill of a small single use hearth [5223]
5223	Cut	Cut interface	Pit	Cut for a small single use hearth.
5224	Deposit	Mixed silts	Grave	Grave fill, silt, heavily mottled with prehistoric tephra – skeleton HSM-A-123
5225	Cut	Cut interface	Grave	Sub-rectangular grave cut – skeleton HSM-A-123
5226	Deposit	Mixed silts	Colluvium	Mixed debris associated with farm-mound
5227	Deposit	Mixed silts	Colluvium	Colluvial deposit from farm-mound
5228	Deposit	Mixed silts	Colluvium	Colluvial deposit from farm-mound
5229	Deposit	Tephra	Aeolian	<i>In situ</i> tephra from the 1477 eruption in Hekla
5230	Deposit	Mixed silts	Aeolian	Homogenous light brown aeolian silt with slight charcoal fragments
5231	Deposit	Mixed silts	Aeolian	Aeolian deposit outside cemetery boundary, slight turf fragment and charcoal content
5232	Deposit	Mixed silts	Dump	Turf debris layer
5233	Deposit	Mixed silts	Grave	=[1655] Grave fill, silt, heavily mottle with prehistoric tephra
5234	Cut	Cut interface	Grave	=[1653] Sub-rectangular grave cut.
5235	Deposit	Peat- & wood-ash	Dump	Reddish brown peat- and wood as deposit, spill/dump from a hearth?
5236	Deposit	Mixed silts	Dump	Dump of turf, charcoal and fire-cracked rocks. Associated with smithy?
5237	Deposit	Tephra	Aeolian	Tephra from the 1410 eruption in Veiðivötn. Most likely <i>in situ</i> .

Unit	Type	Material	Contextual	Description
5238	Deposit	Mixed silts	Aeolian	Aeolian deposit with turf flecks inside cemetery
5239	Deposit	Peat- & wood-ash	Dump	Sheet midden
5240	Deposit	Mixed silts	Dump	Turf deposit within cemetery, associated with levelling of the cemetery after it went out of use?
5241	Deposit	Mixed silts	Aeolian	Aeolian deposit of mixed sandy silts, outside cemetery boundary
5242	Deposit	Peat- & wood-ash	Dump	Sheet midden
5243	Deposit	Mixed silts	Aeolian	Aeolian deposit, very uneven surface – possibly due to <i>púfur</i>
5244	Deposit	Mixed silts	Dump	Turf deposit within the cemetery, possibly associated with the levelling of the area after the cemetery went out of use.
5245	Deposit	Peat- & wood-ash	Dump	Sheet midden
5246	Deposit	Mixed silts	Aeolian	Aeolian deposit marking abandonment phase inside the cemetery boundary
5247	Deposit	Mixed silts	Dump	Small turf deposit outside cemetery boundary
5248	Deposit	Mixed silts	Dump	Turf deposit within cemetery
5249	Deposit	Mixed silts	Aeolian	Aeolian deposit of sandy silts with slight charcoal content, outside cemetery boundary.
5250	Deposit	Wood ash	Dump	Mix of turf, wood ash and peat ash, fill of pit [5252]
5251	Deposit	Mixed silts	Aeolian	Aeolian deposit with turf patches, inside cemetery
5252	Cut	Cut interface	Pit	Pit, filled with wood ash [5250]
5253	Deposit	Mixed silts	Aeolian	Aeolian deposit with slight turf fragment and charcoal content, outside cemetery boundary
5254	Deposit	Mixed silts	Aeolian	Aeolian deposit with slight charcoal content, inside cemetery
5255	Deposit	Mixed silts	Aeolian	Dark brown aeolian deposit with some turf fragment content, outside cemetery boundary.
5256	Deposit	Mixed silts	Aeolian	Aeolian deposit with slight charcoal content, inside cemetery
5257	Deposit	Mixed silts	Dump	Turf deposit inside cemetery, levelling deposit?
5258	Deposit	Mixed silts	Dump	Turf deposit inside cemetery, levelling deposit?
5259	Deposit	Tephra	Aeolian	<i>In situ</i> tephra from the c. 1300 eruption in Hekla
5260	Deposit	Mixed silts	Dump	Turf deposit inside cemetery, possible levelling/sealing of the graves once burials ceased in the cemetery
5261	Deposit	Mixed silts	Dump	Turf deposit inside cemetery, levelling deposit?
5261	Group			Turf and aeolian deposits sealing burials inside cemetery





## Appendix 2: Finds register

Finds no.	Unit	Material	B/U	Type
2013-63-001	Topsoil	Fe	Bulk	Object
2013-63-002	Topsoil	Ceramics	Bulk	Vessel
2013-63-003	Topsoil	Cu	Bulk	Object
2013-63-004	Topsoil	Glass	Bulk	Vessel/window
2013-63-005	Topsoil	Leather	Unique	Object
2013-63-006	5213	Bone	Unique	Comb
2013-63-007	5213	Ceramics	Unique	Clay pipe
2013-63-008	5213	Cu alloy	Unique	Bullet casing
2013-63-009	5213	Fe	Bulk	Object
2013-63-010	5213	Glass	Bulk	Window
2013-63-011	5213	Glass	Bulk	Vessel
2013-63-012	5213	Ceramics	Bulk	Vessel
2013-63-013	5213	Steatite	Unique	Vessel
2013-63-014	5213	Rubber	Bulk	Object
2013-63-015	5213	Flint	Unique	Flake
2013-63-016	5214	Cu	Unique	Button
2013-63-017	5214	Fe	Bulk	Nails/Object
2013-63-018	5214	Ceramics	Bulk	Vessels
2013-63-019	5214	Glass	Bulk	Window/vessel
2013-63-020	5215	Cu	Unique	Rivet
2013-63-021	5215	Cu	Unique	Rivet
2013-63-022	5215	Cu/textile	Unique	Button
2013-63-023	5215	Ceramics	Bulk	Vessel
2013-63-024	5215	Fe	Bulk	Nails
2013-63-025	5215	Fe	Unique	Buckle
2013-63-026	5215	Fe	Unique	Bridle part(?)
2013-63-027	5215	Fe	Unique	Knife
2013-63-028	5215	Fe	Unique	Knife
2013-63-029	5215	Fe	Unique	Buckle
2013-63-030	5215	Fe	Unique	Buckle
2013-63-031	5215	Fe	Unique	Buckle
2013-63-032	5215	Fe	Unique	Object
2013-63-033	5215	Fe	Unique	Chain link
2013-63-034	5215	Fe	Unique	Buckle
2013-63-035	5215	Cu	Unique	Buckle
2013-63-036	5215	Cu	Unique	Buckle

<b>Finds no.</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>Material</b>	<b>B/U</b>	<b>Type</b>
2013-63-037	5215	Cu	Unique	Buckle
2013-63-038	5215	Cu	Bulk	Nails
2013-63-039	5215	Cu	Unique	Buckle
2013-63-040	5215	Cu	Unique	Decorative object
2013-63-041	5215	Cu	Unique	Decorative object
2013-63-042	5215	Cu	Unique	Broach(?)
2013-63-043	5215	Cu	Unique	Broach(?)
2013-63-044	5215	Cu	Unique	Decorative bell(?)
2013-63-045	5215	Cu	Unique	Button
2013-63-046	5215	Cu	Unique	Button
2013-63-047	5215	Cu	Unique	Buckle part
2013-63-048	5215	Cu	Unique	Buckle part
2013-63-049	5215	Cu	Unique	Horse shoe
2013-63-050	5218	Cu	Unique	Decorated clasp
2013-63-051	5218	Cu	Unique	Rivet
2013-63-052	5215	Textile	Unique	Object
2013-63-053	5215	Cu	Bulk	Object
2013-63-054	5215	Fe	Bulk	Object
2013-63-055	5215	Glass	Bulk	Window/vessel
2013-63-056	5215	Flint	Unique	Flake
2013-63-057	5215	Wood	Bulk	Worked wood
2013-63-058	5218	Ceramics	Bulk	Vessel
2013-63-059	5218	Glass	Bulk	Window
2013-63-060	5218	Glass	Bulk	Vessel
2013-63-061	5218	Fe	Bulk	Object
2013-63-062	5218	Fe	Unique	Object
2013-63-063	5218	Obsidian	Unique	Flake
2013-63-064	5218	Shell	Unique	Seashell
2013-63-065	5218	Fe	Bulk	Nails/Object
2013-63-066	5220	Fe	Bulk	Object
2013-63-067	5220	Cu	Bulk	Object
2013-63-068	5220	Schist	Unique	Whetstone
2013-63-069	5229	Cu	Unique	Nails
2013-63-070	5229	Fe	Bulk	Nails/Object
2013-63-071	5229	Stone	Unique	Manuport
2013-63-072	5232	Fe	Unique	Nails
2013-63-073	5232	Cu	Unique	Object
2013-63-074	5232	Stone	Unique	Manuport

<b>Finds no.</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>Material</b>	<b>B/U</b>	<b>Type</b>
2013-63-075	Topsoil	Fe	Bulk	Slag
2013-63-076	5237	Fe	Unique	Nails
2013-63-077	5238	Cu	Unique	Object
2013-63-078	5238	Fe	Unique	Nails
2013-63-079	5238	Schist	Unique	Whetstone
2013-63-080	5238	Stone	Unique	Manuport
2013-63-081	5238	Schist	Unique	Whetstone
2013-63-082	5238	Cu	Unique	Object
2013-63-083	5243	Fe	Bulk	Nails
2013-63-084	5244	Fe	Unique	Nails
2013-63-085	5248	Fe	Bulk	Nails
2013-63-086	5248	Stone	Unique	Manuport
2013-63-087	5254	Fe	Bulk	Nail
2013-63-088	5257	Fe	Unique	Nail
2013-63-089	5260	Cu	Unique	Ring
2013-63-090	5260	Schist	Bulk	Whetstone
2013-63-091	5260	Stone	Unique	Manuport
2013-63-092	5260	Fe	Unique	Object

### Appendix 3: Skeletal register

Skeleton no.	Group	Fill	Cut	Notes
HSM-A-122	1747	5216	5217	<i>In situ</i> adult skeleton
HSM-A-123	1747	5224	5225	<i>In situ</i> adult skeleton

## Appendix 4: Samples register

Sample no.	Unit	Quantity	Description
2013-63-001	5219	1 small bag	Tephra (V1717)
2013-63-002	5237	1 small bag	Tephra (H1477)
2013-63-003	5244	1 small bag	Tephra (?)
2013-63-004	5259	1 small bag	Tephra (H1300)



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## Current projects using Hofstaðir skeletons

### **Ph.D.**

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Ashot Margaryan *Population genomics of Vikings.* (Ph.D. University of Copenhagen).

### **Post-doc**

Dr. Kerry Sayle *Utilisation of  $\delta^{13}C$ ,  $\delta^{15}N$  and  $\delta^{34}S$  analyses to understand  $^{14}C$ -dating anomalies within a Viking Age community in north-east Iceland.* (Post-doc University of Glasgow, Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre).