

DEILISKRÁNING FORNLEIFA Á ÓSI Á SKÓGARSTRÖND



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*Cover image taken from drone flyover looking north over Ós farmstead. (K. Martin 2019)

Introduction

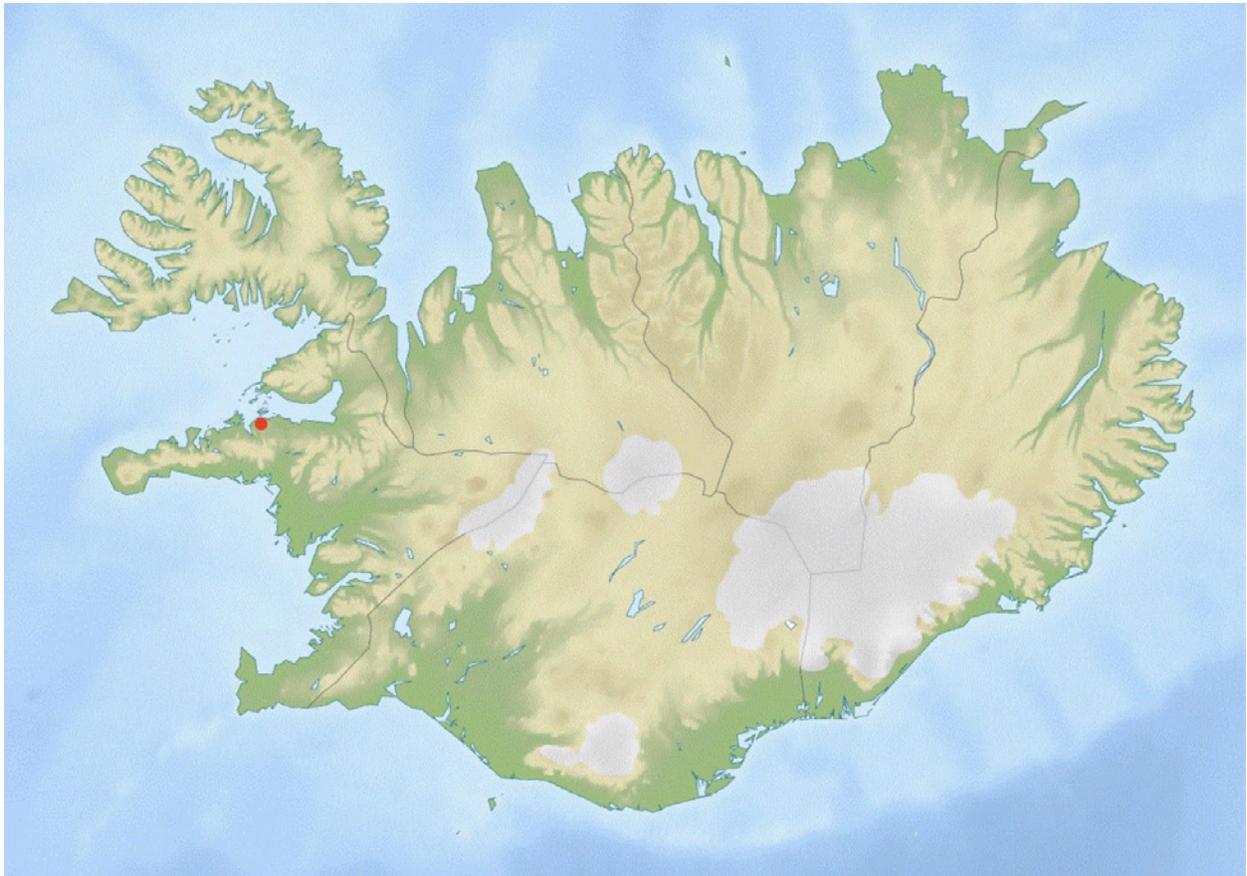


Fig 1. Location of survey area of Ós farmstead marked with red dot. (K. Martin 2019)

In February 2019, the author was contacted by Sigþór Bragason who represents the landowners of Ós farmstead. Ós is located in Skógarströnd within the municipality of Dalabyggð, Vesturland. (See Fig 1). A development plan for a number of house plots submitted to Dalabyggð required an archaeological assessment and walk over survey of the lands at the farmstead Ós before planning permission is granted. (See Fig 2).



Fig 2. Ós Fristundabyggð - Map of proposed housing plots at Ós farmstead. (Dalabyggð 2019)

An inspection carried out by Minjavörður vesturlands Magnus. A. Sigurðsson back in 2009, resulted in four features of interest being measured at Ós (pers.comm. Magnus. A. Sigurðsson) which are indicated by red polygons on Fig 2. During the 2019 survey, the author planned to inspect the four features of interest previously identified in order to survey them in a higher resolution/accuracy.

Archaeological legislation in Iceland

The following excerpts are from Minjastofnun Íslands website (www.minjastofnun.is). They clarify the current legislation (menningarminjar nr. 80, 2012), in Iceland with regard to archaeological sites, material culture and built heritage/architectural sites. All of the archaeological recommendations and assessments in this report were advised with strict adherence to the archaeological legislation of Iceland.

For a more detailed listing on the heritage legislation of Iceland

- <https://www.althingi.is/lagas/nuna/2012080.html>

Fornminjar

Forngripir eru lausamunir 100 ára og eldri sem menn hafa notað eða mannaverk eru á og fundist hafa í eða á jörðu eða jökli, í vatni eða sjó. Skip og bátar frá því fyrir 1950 teljast til forngripa. Til forngripa teljast einnig leifar af líkómum manna og hræjum dýra sem finnast í fornleifum, svo sem fornum haugum, dysjum og leiðum.

Fornleifar teljast hvers kyns mannvistarleifar, á landi, í jörðu, í jökli, sjó eða vatni, sem menn hafa gert eða mannaverk eru á og eru 100 ára og eldri, svo sem:

1. búsetulandslag, skrudgarðar og kirkjugarðar, byggðaleifar, bæjarstæði og bæjarleifar ásamt tilheyrandi leifum mannvirkja og öskuhauga, húsaleifar hvers kyns, svo sem leifar kirkna, bænhúsa, klaustra, þingstaða og búða, leifar af verbúðum, naustum og verslunarstöðum og byggðaleifar í hellum og skútum,
2. vinnustaðir þar sem aflað var fanga, svo sem leifar af seljum, verstöðvum, bólum, mógröfum, kolagröfum og rauðablæstri,
3. tún- og akurgerði, leifar rétta, áveitumannvirki og aðrar ræktunarminjar, svo og leifar eftir veiðar til sjávar og sveita,

4. vegir og götur, leifar af stíflum, leifar af brúm og öðrum samgöngumannvirkjum, vöð, varir, leifar hafnarmannvirkja og bátalægi, slippir, ferjustaðir, kláfar, vörður og önnur vega- og siglingamerki ásamt kennileitum þeirra,
5. virki og skansar og leifar af öðrum varnarmannvirkjum,
6. þingstaðir, meintir hörgar, hof og vé, brunnar, uppsprettur, álagablettir og aðrir staðir og kennileiti sem tengjast síðum, venjum, þjóðtrú eða þjóðsagnahefð,
7. áletranir, myndir eða önnur verksummerki af manna völdum í hellum eða skútum, á klettum, klöppum eða jarðföstum steinum og minningarmörk í kirkjugörðum,
8. haugar, dysjar og aðrir greftrunarstaðir úr heiðnum eða kristnum sið,
9. skipsflök eða hlutar þeirra.

Varðveislustig fornminja eru tvö: friðun og friðlýsing.

Fornminjar (forngrípir og fornleifar), 100 ára og eldri, eru sjálfkrafa **friðuð** nema annað sé ákveðið af Minjastofnun Íslands. Þá eru skip og bátar eldri en 50 ára sjálfkrafa **friðuð**.

Friðlýsa má fornleifar, skip og báta sem hafa menningarsögulegt, vísindalegt eða listrænt gildi. Ráðherra ákveður friðlýsingu að fenginni tillögu Minjastofnunar Íslands.

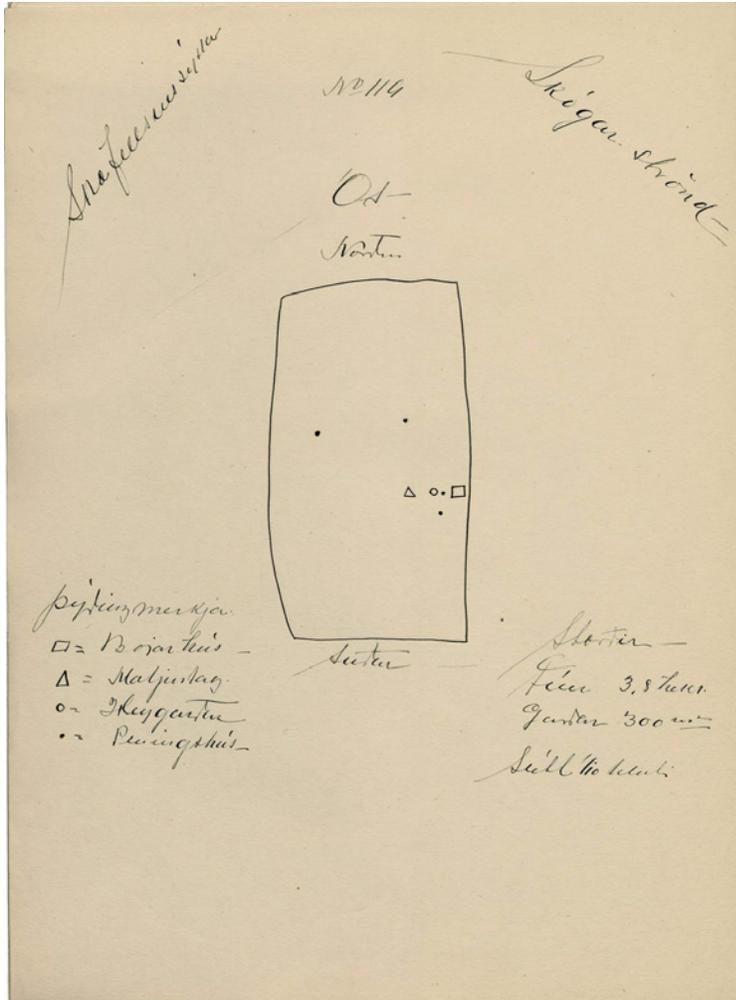
Previous Archaeological survey in the Ós locality

In 2011, FSI (Fornleifastofnun Íslands) carried out an archaeological survey in the area entitled: Dysjar, leiði og haugar: Fornleifarannsóknir á Skógarströnd (Friðriksson *et al* 2011). No monuments were identified on the land at Ós during this survey.

Review of Sarpur Database online

A search by the author on the sarpur database online for Ós and Ós, Skógarstönd revealed no results of archaeological significance as being reported from the farm.

Previous cartographic surveys



In 1913 the farm at Ós was mapped and recorded to create the Túnkort (See Fig 3). A number of buildings were recorded on the farm, none of which survive to present day. These included the Bæjarhús and Peningshús. The farmland at Ós was measured as 3.8 hectares in size.

Fig 3. Túnkort of Ós

<http://manntal.is/myndir/Tunakort/Snaefellsnessysla/Skogarstrandarhreppur/Vefmyndir/Skogarstrandarhreppur00045.jpg>

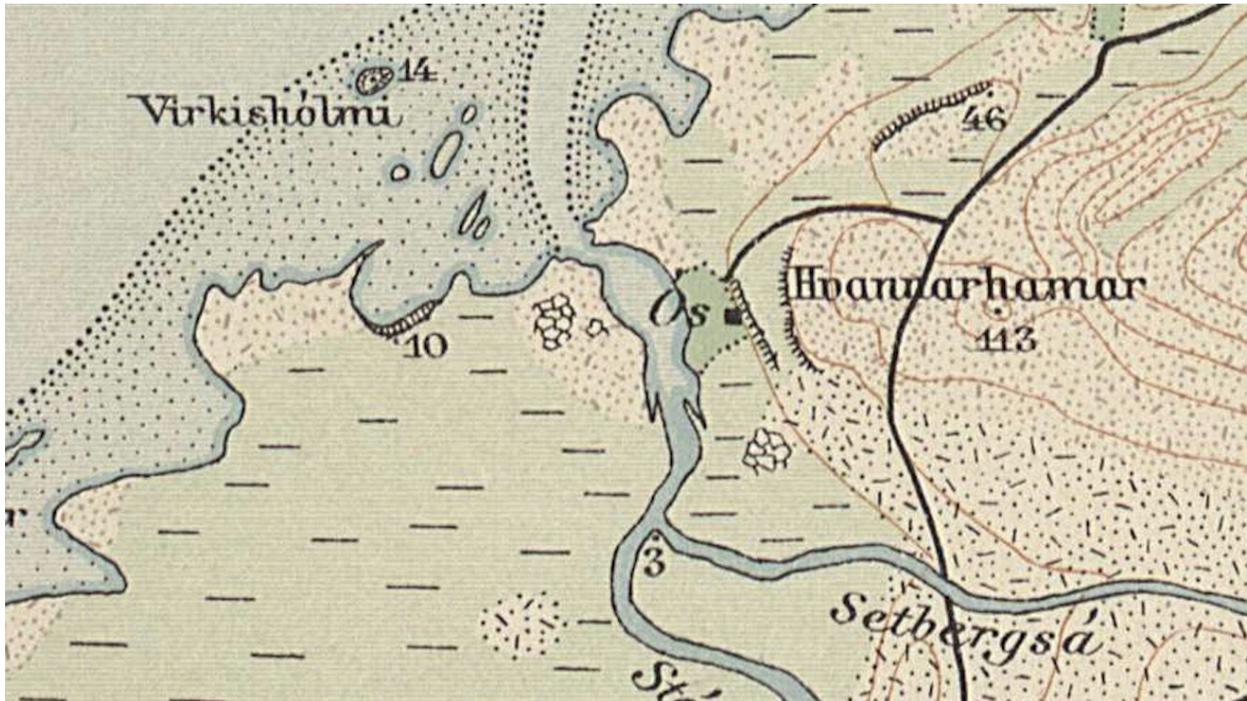


Fig 4. 1913 Generalstabens Topografiske kort of Ós 1:50,000 - (Herforingjaráðskort 1913, 24SV og SA)

The 1913 Generalstabens Topografiske kort shows the farmland area of Ós but no buildings or monuments are marked within the land area. (Fig 4)

Jarðabók survey of Ós

Jarðardýrleiki xiii

Kónsörð, ein af Skógarstrandar jörðum. Ábúandinn Gitzur Þorsteinsson.

Landskuld vii ærgildi. Betalast almennilega í reiðupeningum með íslenskum taxta. Leigukúgildi vi. Leigur betalast í smjöri, eru af leiguliða færðar út fyrir Jökul eða í Stykkishólm. Kúgildi flestöll hefur leiguliði sjálfur uppýngt fyrir utan uppbót. Tún grasgott en þýft. Engjar nærri öngvar. Hagi góður en mjög landþröngt. Útigangur finn eftir landsvexti. Nú eru þar vi kýr, iii kvigur, ii kálfar síðaldir, ær xlvi, xii sauðir geldir, veturgamlir xxvii, lömb xl, ii hestar, i hross, i troppi. Jörðin kann að fódra vi kýr, xx lömb. Heilmilismenn eru xi, þar í bland vi ómagar. Skógar góður til raftviðar, kola og eldviðar. Silúngsveiði nokkur en erfið. Jörðunni fylgja tvær samfastar

eyjar kallaðar Hríseyjar, og einn lítills verður hólmi. Í eyjunum er heyskapur nokkur, eggver lítíð, lundatekja nokkurs verð. Sölvafjara kringum eyjarnar á skerjum gagnleg leiguliða. (Magnússonar og Vídalíns 1931-33, 306-307)

Archaeological Survey



Fig 5. 2019 Archaeological survey of Ós farmstead showing seven features identified (K Martin 2019)

On March 6th 2019, the author field walked the Ós farmstead accompanied by Sigþór Bragason and his uncle who grew up at the farm and remembers it from the 1940's and 50's. The features identified were surveyed using a Trimble GeoXH Geoexplorer 6000 series handheld GPS. The data was later downloaded and exported to a GIS software programme QGIS. Seven potential features of archaeological interest were identified at the farm Ós and a number of these have

been provisionally identified and dated by the landowner. They are each listed below. They have been given the survey number 2016 by Minjastofnun Íslands.

2016:1 - E:332354, N508390

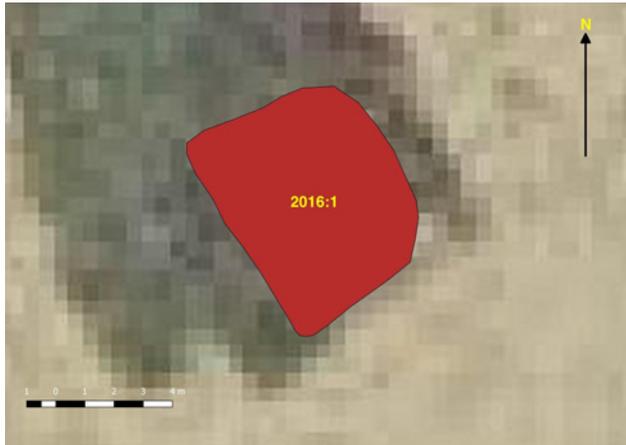


Fig 6. 2016:1 survey with scale (KM 2019)



Fig 7. 2016:1 aerial image (KM 2019)

2016:1 was identified as the foundations of the old farm house which burned down circa 1973. “Grunnur af gamla bænum sem brann ca 1973” - pers. comm. Sigbór Bragason 2019. It measured approximately 7.5m x 6.5m and comprised partially of drystone walls with later additions of concrete walls. The area was quite overgrown and had a lot of vegetation material dumped into it so it wasn't possible to determine if any floor layers were present underneath. It may potentially be related to one of the buildings represented on the 1913 Túnkort of Ós (Fig 3). Therefore its oldest parts may likely be archaeological in nature i.e. date prior to 1919. This feature has medium/high archaeological value.

2016:2 - E:332402, N:508295



Fig 8. 2016:2 survey with scale (KM 2019)



Fig 9. 2016:2 aerial image (KM 2019)

2016:2 was identified as a potential field/farm boundary wall. “Leifar afgömlum, túngarði / vegg” - pers. comm. Sigþór Bragason 2019. It measured 47.5m x 2.5m and approximately 1m in height. It was noticeably irregular in places along its length but was judged to likely be a man made feature by the author. Because of its E-NE orientation and close proximity to the main farmhouse area it not interpreted to be the farm boundary represented on the Túnkort from 1913 (Fig 3). It is potentially an older or younger boundary than this. For now it remains undated. This feature has low/medium archaeological value.

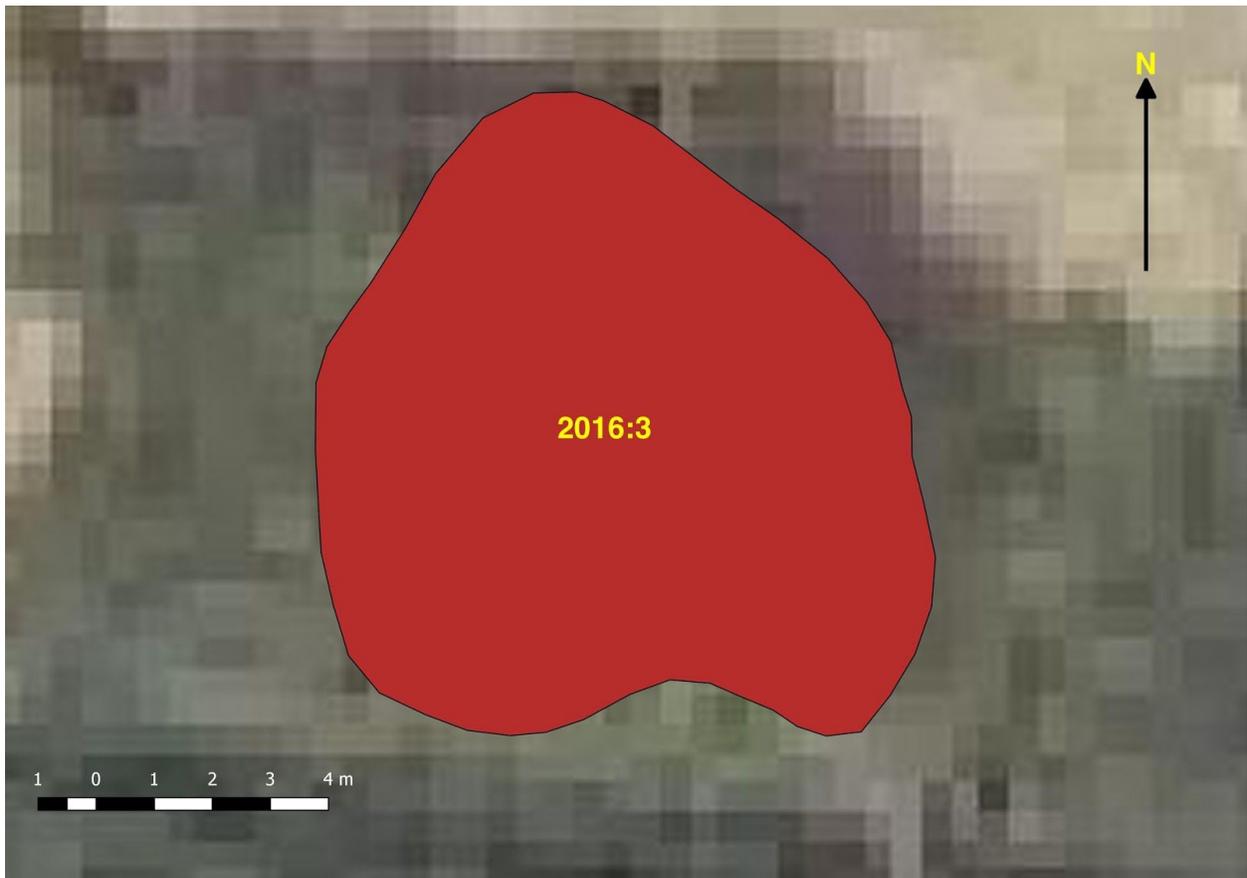


Fig 10. 2016:3 survey with scale (KM 2019)

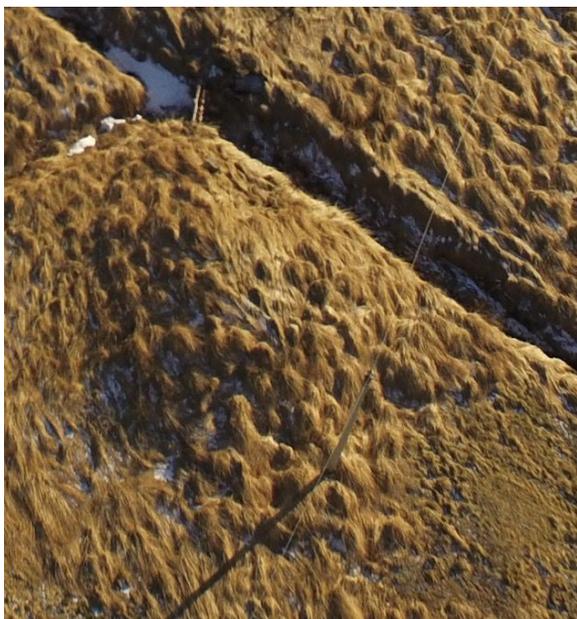


Fig 11. 2016:3 aerial image (KM 2019)

2016:3 was identified by as a mound of stones which had been previously cleared from an old building on the farmland back in the 1950's - 'Grjóthrúga' pers. comm. Sigþór Bragason 2019. . A number of angular large stones were visible in the mound during the inspection but only further archaeological testing would determine the exact nature/dating of the feature. It measured approximately 11m x 12.5m and was 1,5m in height. This feature has low archaeological value.

2016:4 - E:332336, N:508285

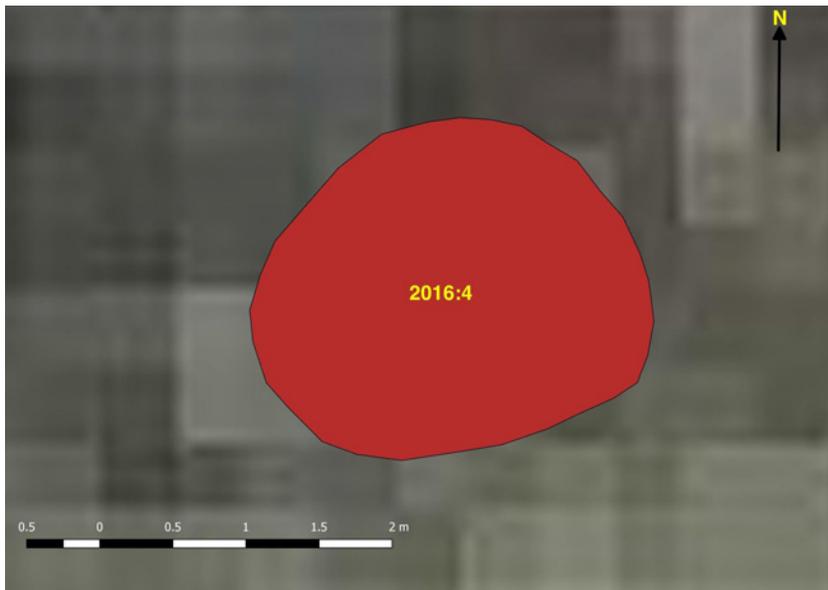


Fig 12. 2016:4 survey with scale (KM 2019)



Fig 13. 2016:4 image of feature (KM 2019)

2016:4 was identified as a mound of stones which had been cleared from an old building on the farmland back in the 1950's and is most likely connected with 2016:3 - 'Grjóthréga' pers. comm. Sigbór Bragason 2019. . A number of angular large stones were visible in the mound during the inspection but only archaeological testing would determine the exact nature of the feature. It measured approximately 2.9m x 2m and was approx 0.7m in height. This feature has low archaeological value.

2016:5 - E:332348, N:508276



Fig 14. 2016:5 survey with scale (KM 2019)

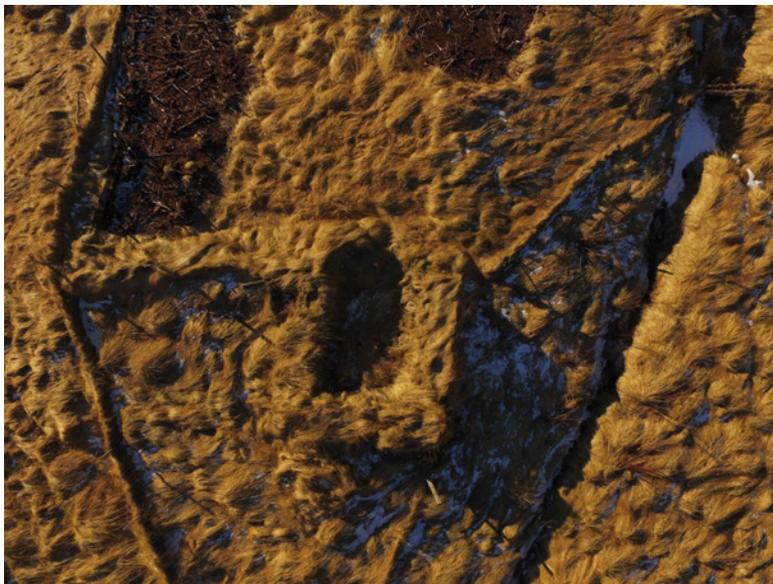


Fig 15. 2016:5 aerial image (KM 2019)

2016:5 was identified as the remains of a former animal pen built to house a bull during the 1940's/50's. The walls were of dry stone and they survived up to 5 courses in height measuring 1.30m and 1m in width. It had an internal width of 4m x 2.4m. The landowner described it as a 'Kofi hlaðinn var utan um naut.' pers. comm. Sigþór Bragason 2019. This feature has low archaeological value.

2016:6 - E:332362, N:508236

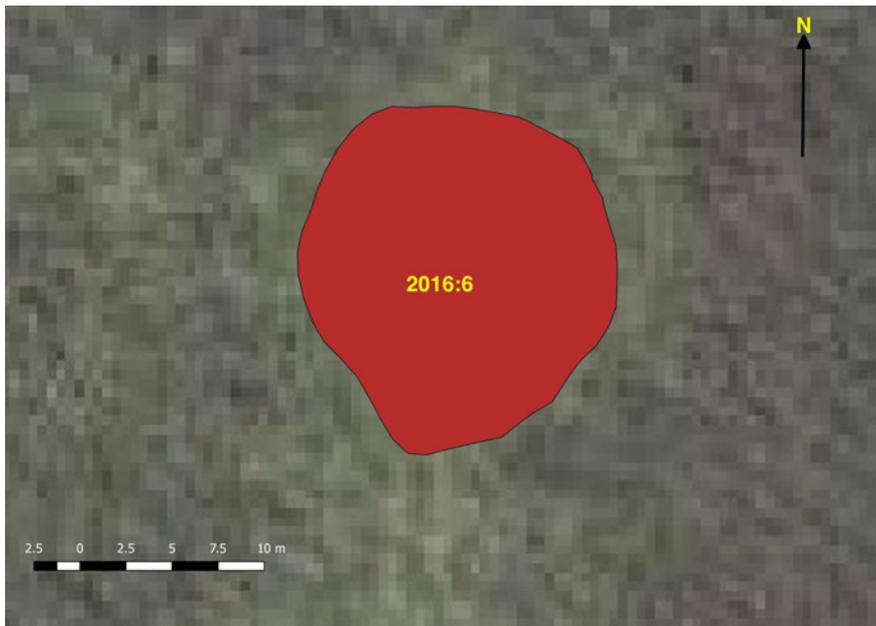


Fig 16. 2016:6 survey with scale (KM 2019)



Fig 17. 2016:6 aerial image (KM 2019)

2016:6 was identified as a mound of stones which had been cleared from an old building on the farmland back in the 1950's and is most likely connected with 2016:3/4 - 'Grjóthrúga' pers. comm. Sigþór Bragason 2019. It measured approximately 17.5m x 18m and was approx 1m in height. Only archaeological testing would determine the exact nature/dating of the feature. This feature has low archaeological value.

2016:7 - E:332379, N:508179

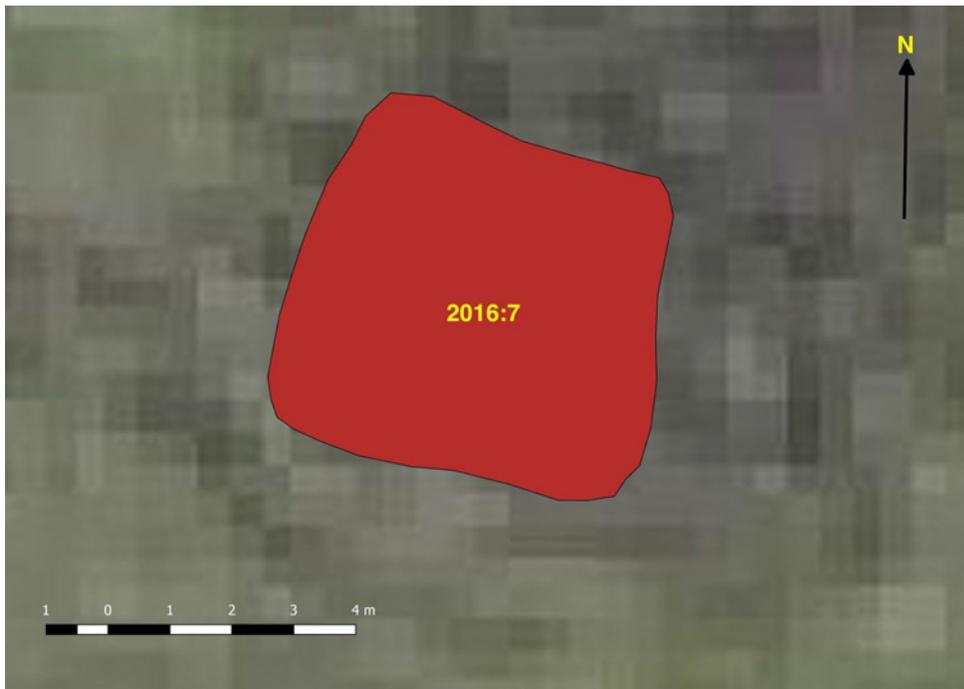


Fig 18. 2016:7 survey with scale (KM 2019)



Fig 19. 2016:7 aerial image (KM 2019)

2016:7 was identified as the remains of hesthús built during the 1950's - pers. comm. Sigþór Bragason 2019. It measured approximately 6m x 6m and was approx 1m in height. A small portion of dry stone wall survives within the feature. Only archaeological testing would determine the exact nature of the feature. This feature has low archaeological value.

Conclusion/Recommendation

Feature Number	Interpretation	GPS Coordinates
2016:1	Building foundations	332354, 508390
2016:2	Boundary wall?	332402, 508295
2016:3	Mound of stones	332333, 508293
2016:4	Mound of stones	332336, 508285
2016:5	Bull house/pen	332348, 508276
2016:6	Mound of stones	332362, 508236
2016:7	Horse house/pen	332379, 508179

Fig 20. Features identified during archaeological survey of Ós survey (K Martin 2019)

In March 2019, an archaeological inspection and walk over survey by the author took place within the farmland of Ós in Skógarströnd. Seven features of potential archaeological interest were identified and are outlined above and in Fig 20. Through discussions with the landowner and his uncle a number of these features have been identified/interpreted as being built or originating during farm works carried out in the mid 20th century and are therefore of low archaeological value. Only further testing would determine the accurate dating of each feature identified. The features range in interpretation from building foundations associated with the older farmhouse at Ós to a possible boundary wall, mound of stones and animal houses/pens.

According to the Icelandic heritage legislation (menningarminjar nr. 80, 2012) a buffer/protection zone of 15m needs to be maintained around an archaeological feature which is older than 100yrs (See Fig 21, 22). The archaeological value of the seven features has been assessed by the author and 2016:1 stands out from the other features as being of medium/high archaeological value. The other six features 2016:2-6 have been categorised as low archaeological value. It is recommended therefore that any development works at Ós proposed

within 15m of each feature identified in this 2019 archaeological survey which potentially impacts them should be agreed in advance with Minjavörður vesturlands before they are due take place.



Fig 21. Features identified during 2019 archaeological survey of Ós with 15m protection zone indicated (K Martin 2019)

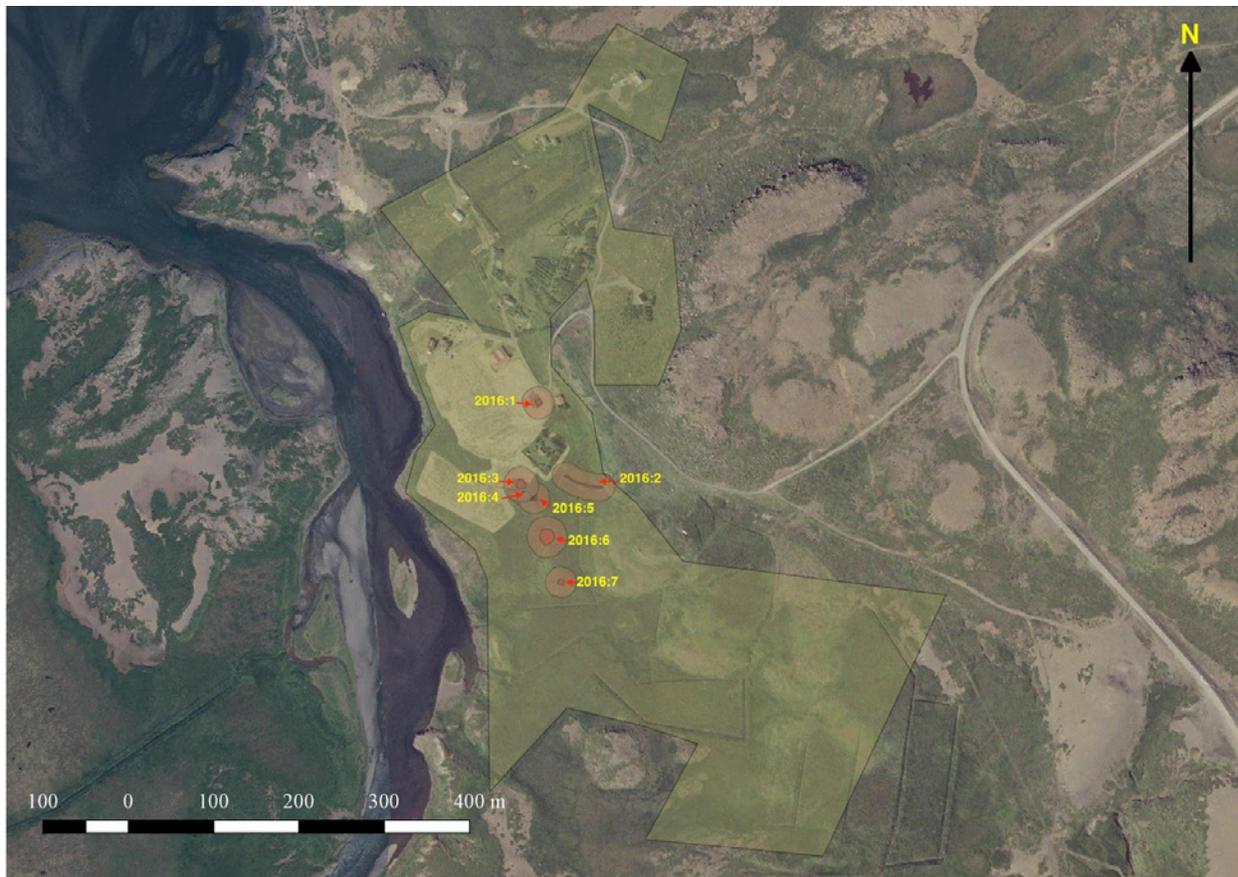


Fig 22. Features identified during 2019 archaeological survey of Ós with 15m protection zone indicated within overall development plan (K Martin 2019)

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Túnkort

<http://mantal.is/myndir/Tunakort/Snaefellsnessysla/Skogarstrandarhreppur/Vefmyndir/Skogarstrandarhreppur00045.jpg>