

**Recent Excavations in Mosfellsdalur: The Mosfell Archaeological Project
(Abstract)**

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The recent excavations by the Mosfell Archaeological Project provided considerable new information about the Viking Age occupational history of several sites in the Mosfell Valley. Radiocarbon dates, archaeological and historical evidence suggest that the Hrisbrú deposits in Mosfellsdalur date predominantly to the pagan and early conversion eras of the Viking Age, the period from the landnám into the eleventh century, that until recently has yielded the least archaeological information. The archaeological work at Hrisbrú during the last two seasons clarified the architecture of an early, conversion-age church, scientifically excavated one of the few intact cemeteries from this period that has been found offering new insight into health issues in early Iceland, and uncovered the first traces of a domestic structure that may be the *skáli*, or longhouse, associated with the church. Investigations of two large ship-settings constructed of stones, further east in the valley, established that this man-made stone arrangement is of considerable age and showed the promise of future work in the area. The talk will consider saga information within the context of Historical Archaeology

For the complete substance of this paper, see:

<http://www.anth.ucsb.edu/faculty/walker/Iceland/mosfell.html>