

Communicating Archaeology



IN THE SEARCH FOR THE RIGHT PLATFORM



European Heritage Heads Forum
Reykjavík 2017 7th – 9th June
Our Common Heritage – Sharing the Responsibility

Sólrún Inga Traustadóttir archaeologist

“There are no ruins in Iceland...”

2



The New York Times

...historic home of Hannes Hafstein, who was a poet and the first
... the New York Times

“In Iceland there are no ruins, no Viking ships to prove how we got here, so people think we evolved from cod,” said Andri Snaer Magnason, one of Iceland’s more noteworthy novelists, in a conversation after I took the tour. “But Icelanders have always presented themselves as a nation of storytellers. Stories had been the only contribution to the world culture before Bjork started having real influence.”



The seafront wall dated to the early 20th century

3



...the humble turf house was a sign of poverty, barbarism and backwardness.

4

Glaumbær in the north of Iceland

Gamli bær in Hólar in Hjaltadal in the north of Iceland



What can we do about it?

5

- Educational projects in collaboration with primary schools and the Reykjavík City Museum. Funded by various private and state institutions.
- Recreated archaeological site in a box was brought into the classroom.



The main goal

To educate and inform young people about the Icelandic archaeological heritage and archaeological practices

Participation

Discovering

Cataloguing

Interpreting

Presenting



Uncovering History



Community-based archaeology

Diverse assignments. Most of the work took place outside in the vicinity of the school.

Participation

Discovering

Cataloguing

Interpreting



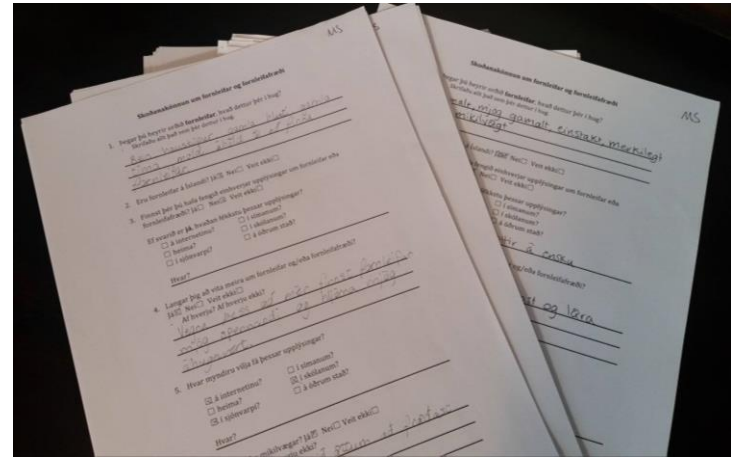
Digging the mound



Public outreach

8

- The aim is to **raise awareness** and **inform** the public about archaeological heritage in Iceland.



- 7 grades
- 139 pupils
- Age: 11-12 and 17-18



Survey - Preliminary results

9

What comes to mind when you hear the words archaeological remains?

Steinar Óspennandi Veit Ekki Þegar Fólk Grefur upp Gamla
Gömul Hús Fornleifar Eru Gamlir Fjár sjóðir Fyrir
Búið að Hlutir sem Eru Leita að Beinum
Eitthvað Fornir Gamalt Eldgamalt
Gamlir Hlutir Gömlu Bein Gamlir Munir
Leifar Menn og Konur Gamla Hluti Þessa
að Grafa Með Gamlar Steingervingar Indiana Jones
Hlutir sem Hafa Fundist



Minjastofnun
Íslands

Few answers from pupils, aged 11-12

10

Is archaeology important? Why?/Why not?

- *No, because I don't go to museums.*
- *Yes, in order to understand the future we must understand the past.*
- *Yes, because they can mean something.*
- *Yes, because without them we wouldn't know so much about things.*

Do you want to know more about archaeology? Why?/Why not?

- *Yes, because I don't want to be stupid.*
- *Yes, because my great grandfather was an archaeologist.*
- *No, I find it useless information.*
- *Yes, because it can be interesting, but also incredibly boring.*



Takk fyrir

11

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PHOTOS

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