

**Report of the
Skagafjörður Archaeological
Settlement Survey
2007:**

Test pit at Marbaeli

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Additional copies of this report and other reports, as well as much of the raw data can be
downloaded from <http://www.fiskecenter.umb.edu/SASS.htm>

Location

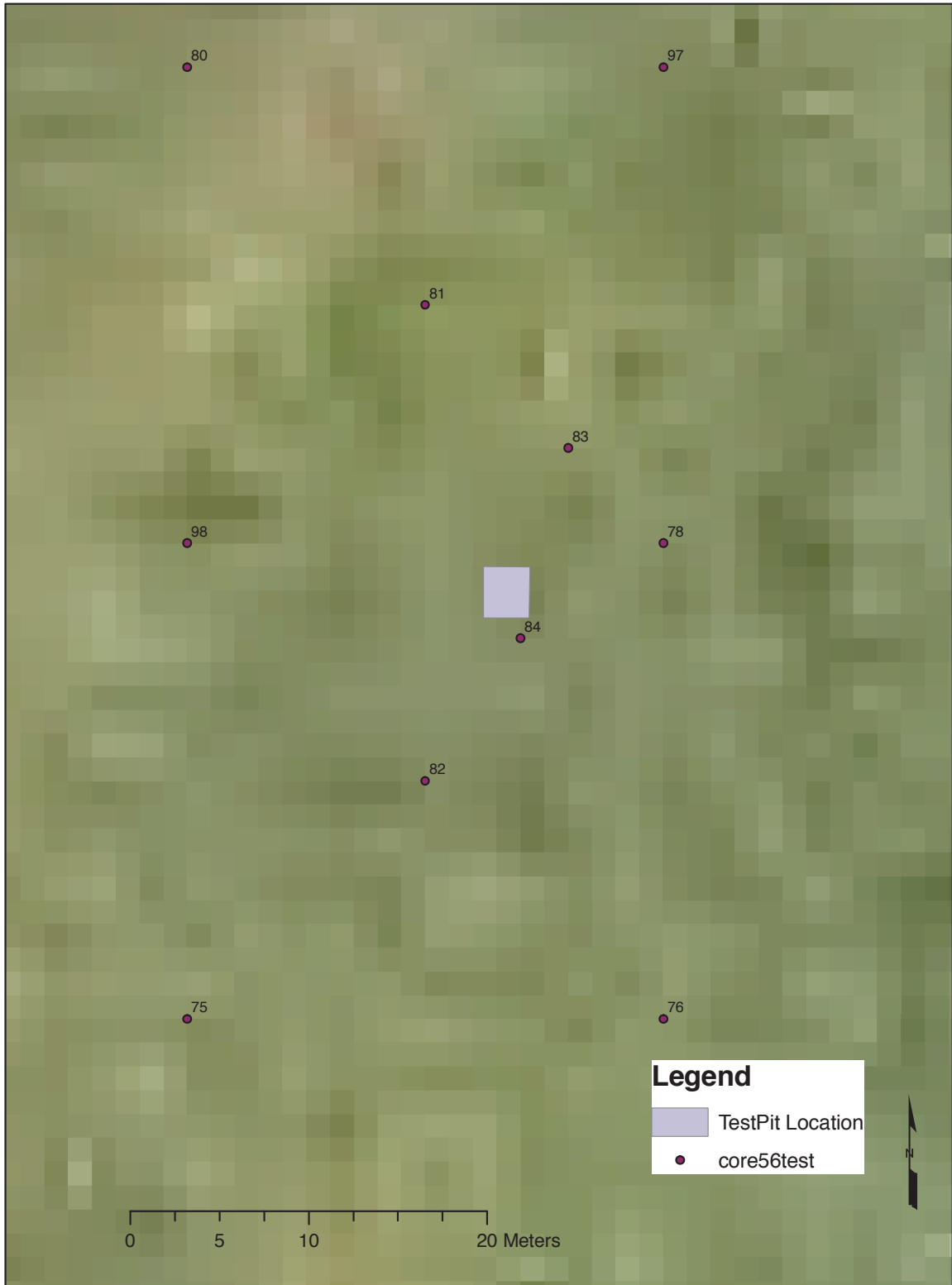
Based on the cores (see Marbaeli Coring report), the southwest corner of the test pit was placed at 568817, 476687 on the coring grid. In the field it was determined that core # 84 had the best possibility for tephra preservation in a midden context (1300, H1 & 1000 were all identified in that core). Post-processed GPS data indicate the actual location of the southwest corner is 476686.24 568818.42 with an elevation of 17.91. The northeast corner was 476687.18, 568819.49 elevation 17.78. This location is consistent with the SASS midden coring protocol.

Excavation

All excavated material was screened through 1 cm mesh by natural layer but no deeper than 10 cm (except for the top humus layer which was bagged as a single unit). None of the screened collections have been analyzed. A flotation sample from layer 11 [110] has been partially analyzed and barley has been identified. That seed has been photographed and sent for AMS dating. A panorama of the inside of the test pit showing each of the significant layers is available at <http://www.cincpac.com/sass/sasspano.php?id=15>.

Interpretation

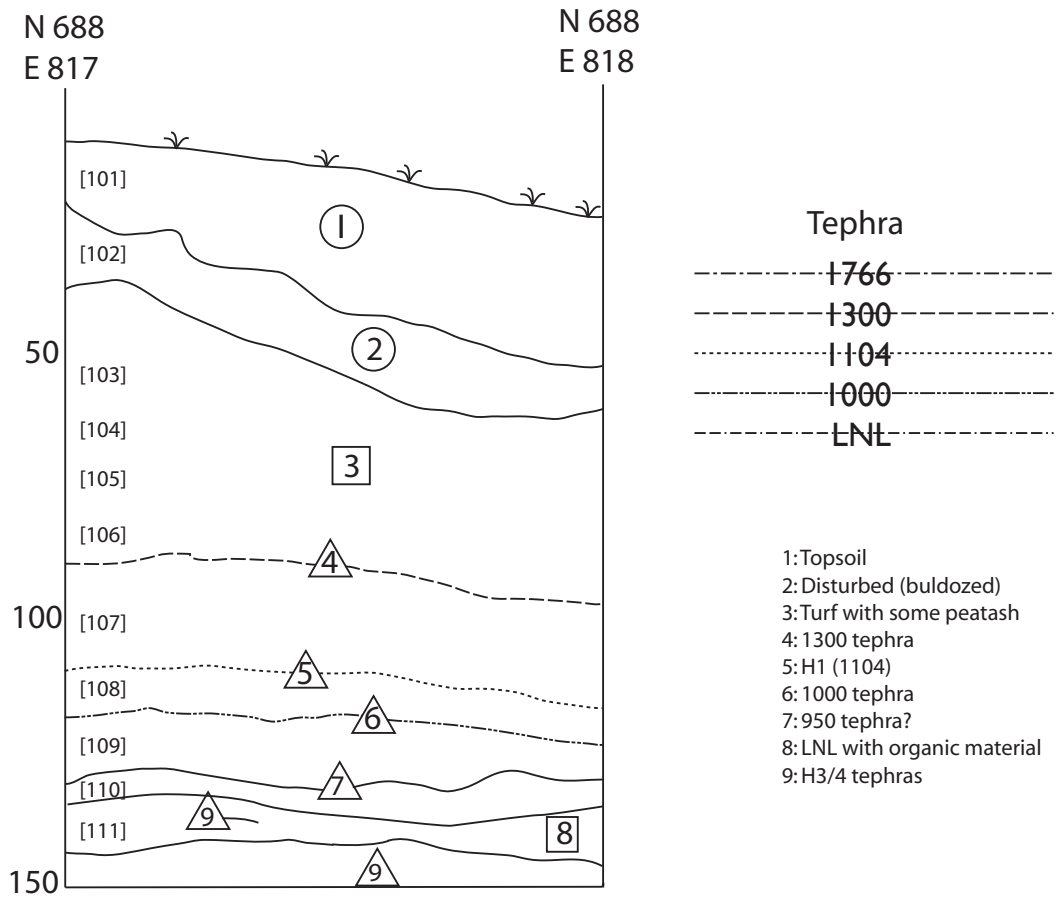
There is a tephra layer well preserved in this test pit in between the LNL and the 1000 layer that is probably the K950 tephra layer. No tephra specialist has confirmed this identification. If this is the 950 tephra, then there is a substantial deposit below this layer. The area covered by cores with substantial cultural deposit is indicative of a farm mound pre 1100 of over 40x40m 1600m² indicating an intermediate farm. No farm of this size (between 900m² and 2500m²) has yet been identified by SASS from such an early date.



Marbaeli test pit location in relation to nearby cores.

Test pit setting

North Wall Profile



West Wall Profile
Marbaeli 115

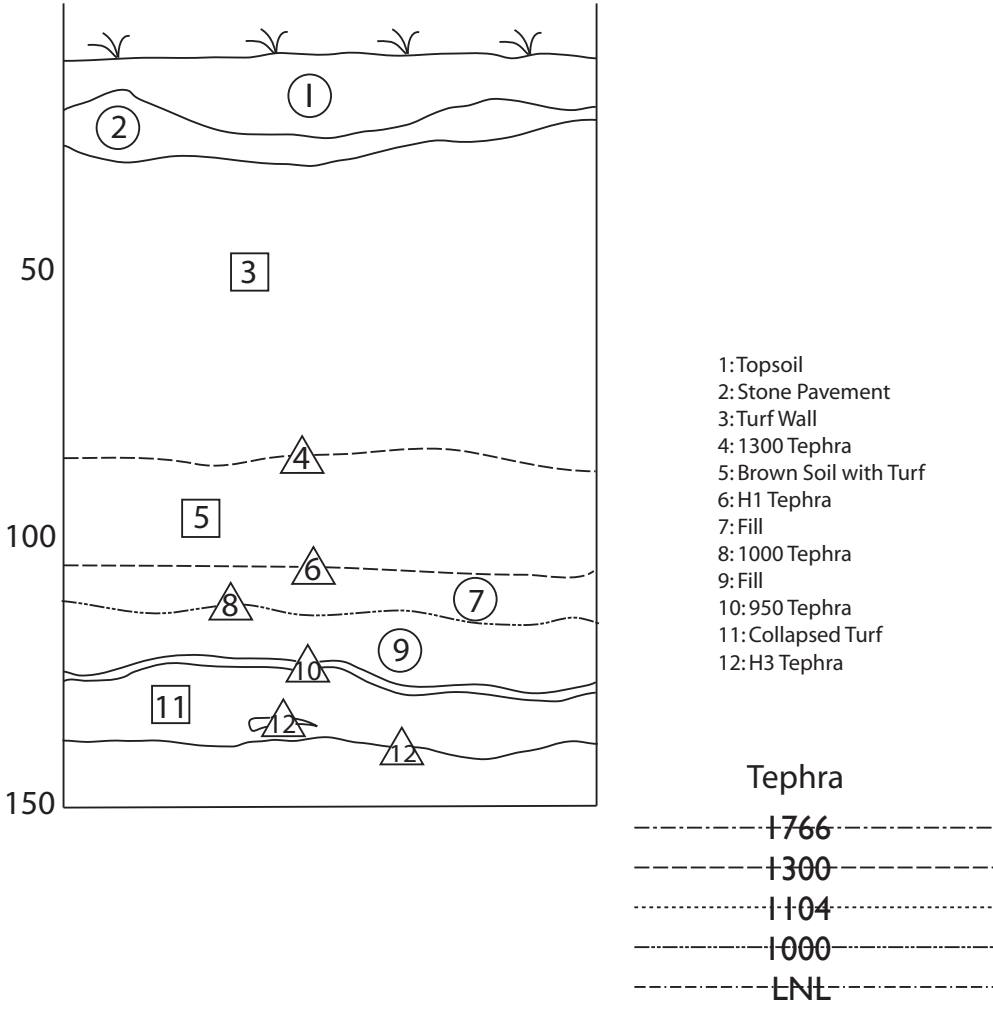




Photo of west wall



Photo of south wall



Close up of tephra of west wall



Barley found in floatation sample from layer 11 (context 110).