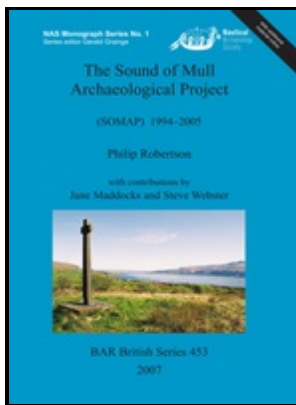


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For Delting, there is more detailed information, albeit of late date. The Viking Age: Ireland and the West. Archaeological excavations at the Law Ting Holm, Tingwall, Shetland, 2011.

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Above all, however, the existence of thing sites in Mainland Scotland, in the areas ruled by the Norse, but which were not included among the Norwegian skattlands, reinforces the idea that thing sites formed part of the culture brought by the Norse settlers to their new homelands, and were not necessarily enforced by a centralized kingdom and its machineries. Lawthings were generally successors of althings, general assemblies for all free landholders, which are known from several areas in Scandinavia, such as Gotland gutnalþing and Gamla Uppsala, while the Icelanders established their own althing around 930 Friðriksson 1994:105, Helle 2001:30—34, Hollander 1964:315, Myrberg 2008, Peel 2009:xxvii.

The Significance of Portages

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Sagas and Popular Antiquarianism in Icelandic Archaeology. Using the site characteristics outlined above, it is possible to suggest at least one more possible thing site, situated in the area around the Loch of Benston in the southern part of Nesting. Another, perhaps more likely suggestion, is that Gnípnáping was an older assembly district, perhaps abolished by reorganization, but which survived as a tax-paying unit.

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