

Supporting Information

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SI Text

Chronology. The chronology for the composite 7,300-y record was established using five accelerator mass spectrometry (AMS) radiocarbon measurements and was further constrained by tephrochronology. Radiocarbon measurements were made on three macrofossils picked from the long sediment cores (LILA09 and LILB09) and two from the 45-cm-long surface core (LILC09) (Table S1). The sediment cores were initially placed on the same depth scale by matching up magnetic susceptibility profiles (Fig. S1). All radiocarbon ages were calibrated to calendar years using Calib, version 6.1 (1), using the IntCal09 data set (2) (Table S1).

Tephra grains isolated by acid digestion and heavy-liquid separation procedures were mounted on glass slides using EPOthin epoxy resin. Slides were scanned using a plane-polarized light microscope at a total magnification of 100–400 \times , allowing tephra to be differentiated from the remaining minerogenic material (3). Tephra were identified based on a grain isotropism, shape, vesicularity, and color. Seven sample were selected for geochemical analyses, where there seemed to be a clear peak in tephra concentration (0–1, 6–7, 8–9, 18–19, 23–24, 26–27, and 34–35 cm) (Fig. 2). Major element geochemistry for each horizon was determined by electron microprobe analyses using a Cameca SX50 electron microprobe, with an accelerating voltage of 15 keV, a beam current of 10 nA, and beam size of 7–10 μ m. Care was taken to minimize alkali migration using shorter counting times and a defocused beam. Instrument calibration was performed using a series of silicate minerals, synthetic oxides, and glass standards. Samples yielding totals of less than 95% have been omitted (4). Geochemical results from the seven samples, where distinct peaks in shard concentrations occur, show that their compositions resemble tephra previously identified throughout the region (Table S2) as follows:

Tephra isolated from 0 to 1 cm appear to be the same as the Askja AD 1875 tephra that has been found throughout Sweden (5–7) and in a peat from Lofoten (8). These tephra can be confidently identified as the Askja AD 1875 tephra because of its distinguishing concentrations of MgO and TiO₂ (9) (Table S2).

Tephra isolated from the 6- to 7-cm depth interval contain the highest concentration of grains identified in core LILC09 (Fig. 2). Of the 37 grains analyzed from this sample, 32 tephra grains are similar to the AD 1158 eruption of Hekla (Table S2). Analytic results show little geochemical variability among grains, which are characteristic of the well-studied AD 1158 eruption (3, 9).

The 8- to 9-cm depth interval contained the second highest concentration of tephra in the core (Fig. 2). We analyzed 26 grains from this sample, and 21 grains resemble the AD 1104 eruption of Hekla, whereas the remaining 5 grains are likely from the later AD 1158 Hekla eruption (Table S2). Tephra from these eruptions are ubiquitous throughout the North Atlantic region (3, 8–13).

The 19-cm depth interval contains a mix of tephra with at least three potential sources. The geochemistry is similar to tephra identified as OWB-105 (3), BIP-24a (8), and AD 860 AD Layer B (3, 11). These eruptions are not as widespread and the mix of pollutions indicate reworking of the tephra grains prior to deposition or potentially vertical migration in the sediment sequence.

Tephra analyzed in the 27- to 28- and 35- to 36-cm samples were geochemically similar to the tephra SN-1 and QUB-565,

respectively; however, they are not well documented eruptions and have large uncertainties in their age estimates so were not included in our age model (Table S2). The SN-1 tephra is dated to $\sim 1,775 \pm 45$ (14), and this age is in accordance with our age–depth model, which gives an extrapolated date of $1,766 \pm 75$ cal y BP. The QUB-565 date estimates are very poorly constrained but have been assigned an age of $\sim 2,050$ – $2,450$ calendar years before 1950 AD [calendar years before present (cal y BP)] (8). The lower end of this range ($\sim 2,050$ cal y BP) seems to be more appropriate as our age–depth model would assign a date of $2,050 \pm 76$ cal y BP to this depth interval. Therefore, despite large age uncertainties reported in previous studies, these ages do confirm the trends in our chronology.

An age–depth model for the composite sediment record was constructed using all of the radiocarbon dates and tephra ages from the three best established and historically dated tephra (Askja 1875, Hekla 1158, Hekla 1104). The average 2- σ uncertainty is ± 63.1 y from 104 to 2,380 cal y BP and ± 99.75 y from 2,380 to 7,168 cal y BP. This age–depth relationship is supported by our tentative interpretations of the other four tephra horizons identified in the upper 45 cm (Fig. 2). Radiocarbon and tephra dates are reported throughout the text as calendar years before 1950 AD (cal y BP), unless otherwise noted.

Molecular Markers and Associated Indices. Aliphatic hydrocarbons (*n*-alkanes) are widespread biomarkers in lacustrine sedimentary archives and have been intensively studied as indicators of source organisms (15–20). The principal sources of biogenic aliphatic hydrocarbons to lake sediments are algae, bacteria, and vascular plants that live within a lake, and vascular plants that live around it. Short-chained, even-numbered, C12–C22 *n*-alkanes are attributed to bacteria (18), *n*-alkanes C15–C21 (especially C17) are attributed to algae and photosynthetic bacteria (16, 20), submerged aquatic plants are the main producers of C21, C23, and C25 *n*-alkanes (19), whereas long-chained homologs (C25–C33) having an odd-over-even predominance are characteristic of higher order terrestrial plants (15) with major constituents being C27–C29 for leafy vegetation (16) and C31 for land grasses (17). Using this rationale, several studies have successfully applied ratios of these various *n*-alkane chain lengths to sedimentary records as a recorder of changes in the relative amounts of each specific source type, allowing the reconstruction of vegetation dynamics throughout the catchment. Ratios such as $[(C_{27} + [C_{29}]) / (C_{29} + [C_{31}])] (21)$ and mean carbon number $[(MCN \text{ for } C_{25} \text{ to } C_{31}) = \sum([C_i] \cdot C_i) / \sum([C_i])] (22)$ have been shown to closely correspond with the percentage of pollen derived from grass in the sediments, revealing transitions from forested to grassland-dominated landscapes. By applying a ratio of *n*-alkanes produced mainly by tree leaf waxes to those produced by grasses $[(C_{25} + [C_{27} + [C_{29}]) / (C_{29} + [C_{31}])]$, we reconstruct the relative changes in composition of the terrestrial vegetation surrounding the lake, revealing transitions between a forest and a grassland-dominated system.

Pyrolytic polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) are directly produced by the incomplete combustion of organic material such as terrestrial vegetation. In areas where natural forest fires are rare, these compounds can be used to explore the timing and extent of agricultural land clearance practices, or hearth development around the lake catchment. GC-MS analysis of the aromatic fractions (F2) in our sediment samples identified the PAHs; pyrene, benzo[e]pyrene, benzo[ghi]perylene, fluoranthene, and benzofluoranthene. These PAHs are known to be of pyrolytic origins and are typically associated with the combustion of terrestrial

vegetation such as trees, shrubs, grasses, and peats (23–25). Here, we report the sum of all identified pyrolytic PAHs (Total PAHs = pyrene + benzo[e]pyrene + benzo[ghi]perylene + fluoranthene + benzofluoranthenes) as a proxy for the burning of organic material originating from within the catchment area of Lilandsvatnet.

Fecal 5 β -stanols and related stanol compounds (coprostanol, 5 β -campestanol, 5 β -stigmastanol) were chosen as biomarkers for this study due to their consistently high concentrations in the feces of humans and ruminant livestock (26, 27). Additionally, these compounds are not known to occur in any other organic materials (plant and animal) or as degradation products. Several studies have successfully applied fecal 5 β -stanols and ratios of stanol compounds to mark the presence of humans or domesticated animals (cows and sheep) as well as to quantify the relative inputs from each source (26, 28, 29). Evershed and Bethell (29) proposed the use of the coprostanol:5 β -stigmastanol ratio as a useful index by which human fecal deposition and that of ruminants (sheep and cows) might be differentiated. Values greater than 1.5 were considered indicative of human-sourced pollution (the actual ratio in human feces being around 5.5 and in ruminant feces about 0.25) (26). However, it is important to note that, when applied to archaeological and paleoenvironmental studies, the concentration of epi-5 β -stanols must complement concentrations of each respective fecal stanol, as the sum of each respective compound pair can correct for the natural conversion of the 5 β -stanol to its epimer (30). Therefore, in this study, we use a modified version of the coprostanol:5 β -stigmastanol ratio, which includes each

respective 5 β -stanol epimer: (coprostanol + epi-coprostanol)/ (5 β -stigmastanol + epi-5 β -stigmastanol).

We found the coprostanol/5 β -stigmastanol ratio to be <0.25 before 2,250 cal y BP, indicating a source that was only from ruminant animals with negligible human input. After 2,250 cal y BP, the ratio exceeds the normal value for ruminant feces, which provides further evidence for an increase in human presence in the catchment (Fig. S2).

Correlating Temperature and Fecal 5B-Stanol Records. Correlation between the Lilandsvatnet coprostanol and Tornetråsk reconstructed July temperature (31) was determined by applying a smooth fit, sixth-order polynomial negative exponential smoother, with a 0.1 sampling proportion at 100 intervals to both data sets using SigmaPlot, version 11.0 (Fig. 5A). Smooth fit data allowed both data sets to be compared at equal time steps and the correlation (r) between the data sets to be calculated. Ages for the smooth fit coprostanol data were lagged at 10-y increments from 0 to 160 and correlation coefficients were determined between each coprostanol time set and reconstructed temperature (Fig. 5B). The highest correlation between the two series is when the smooth fit coprostanol data are shifted by 80 y, which is within the 2 σ (95% confidence range) of the chronological uncertainty (Fig. 5C). The calculated correlation coefficient for the 80-y lag coprostanol time set of 0.512 indicates a statistically significant relationship between the two records and implies a direct relationship between temperature and human feces deposition.

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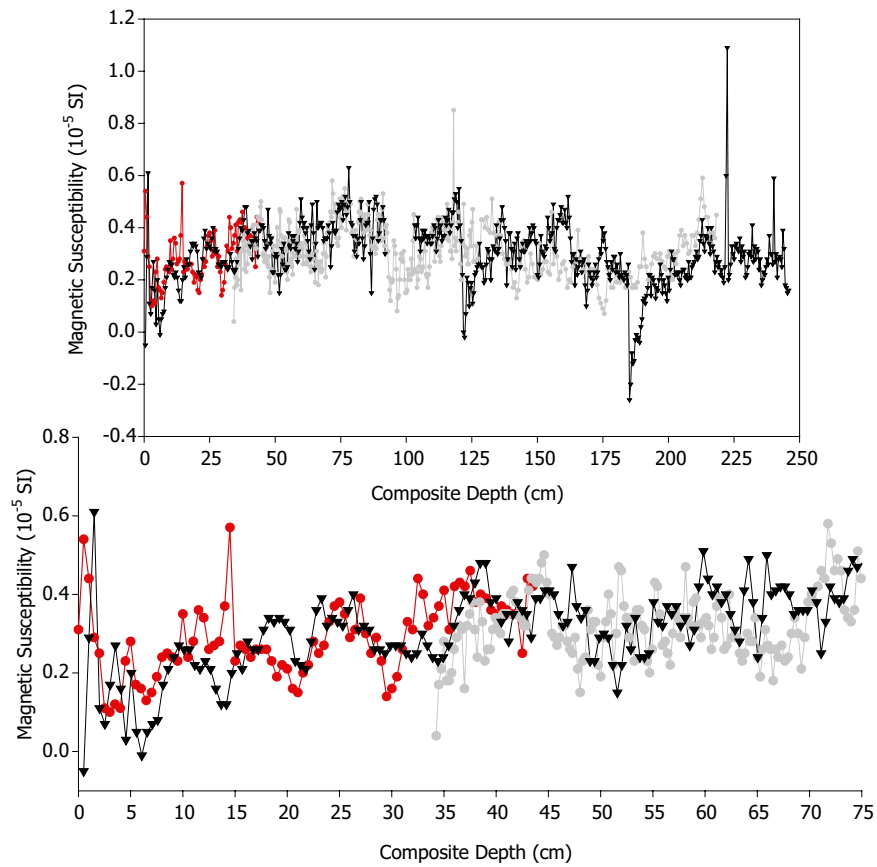


Fig. S1. Magnetic susceptibility (MS) profiles for sediment cores (LILA09, gray line; LILB09, black line; LILC09, red line). (*Upper*) MS records from all three cores placed on composite core depth. (*Lower*) Expanded view of the intersection between the 45-cm surface core (LILC09) and the longer cores (LILA09 and LILB09). Initially, the MS data were used to place cores on the same composite depth scale.

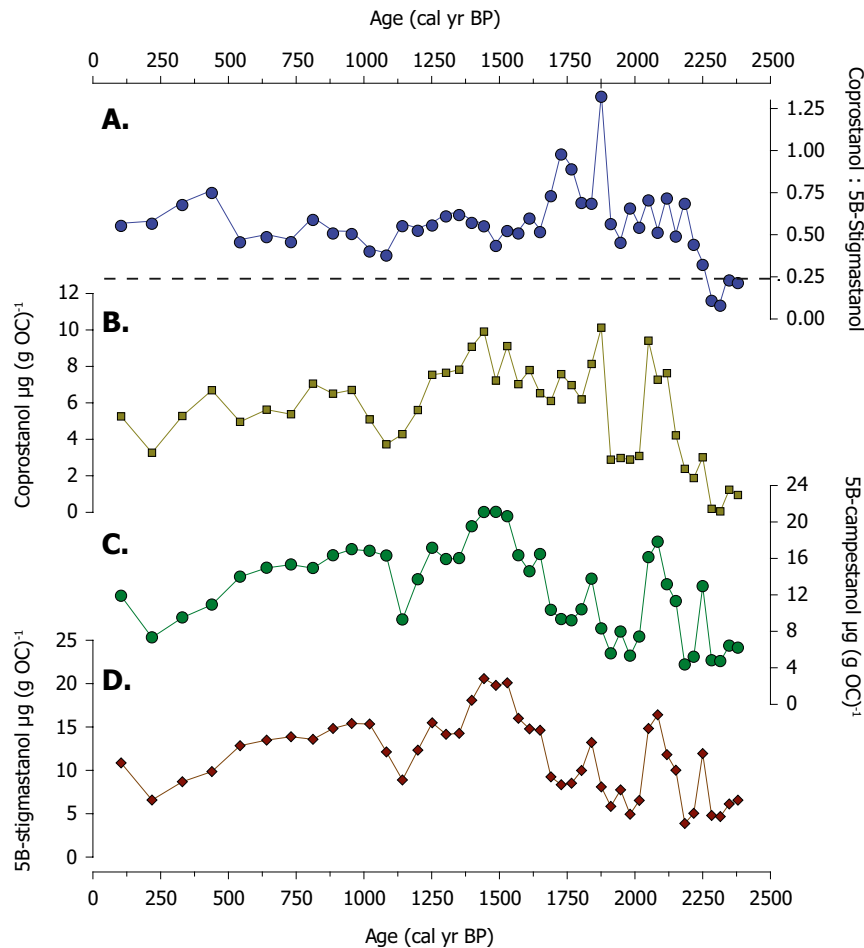


Fig. S2. Records of fecal 5 β -stanol indices and concentrations provide evidence for changes in human and grazing livestock living within the catchment. The coprostanol/5 β -stigmastanol ratio modified from Evershed and Bethell (1) (A) is < 0.25 before 2,250 cal y BP, indicating a source that was only from ruminant animals with negligible human input. After 2,250 cal y BP, the ratio exceeds the normal value for ruminant feces, which provides further evidence for an increase in human presence in the catchment. Records of fecal 5 β -stanol concentrations [$\mu\text{g (g OC)}^{-1}$] from grazing livestock (B and C) and human sources (D) further substantiate the results from this fecal stanol index.

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Table S1. Radiocarbon dates used for constructing the composite core age-depth model

Composite sample depth, cm	Core name	Laboratory ID	^{14}C age, y BP	95.4% (2σ), cal y BP	Mean weighted age, cal y BP	AD/BC
21–22	LILC09	UCI-89387	$1,610 \pm 20$	1,419–1,540	1,476	474 AD
40–41	LILC09	UCI-89388	$2,180 \pm 25$	2,146–2,301	2,225	275 BC
66–67	LILA09	OS-78337	$2,570 + 30$	2,539–2,787	2,732	782 BC
125–126	LILA09	OS-78338	$4,190 + 30$	4,658–4,828	4,848	2898 BC
221–222	LILB09	OS-78339	$6,200 + 35$	7,023–7,165	7,084	5134 BC

Table S2. Average microprobe determined major element chemistry of tephras from Lilandsvatnet, Lofoten Islands

	SiO ₂	TiO ₂	Al ₂ O ₃	MgO	CaO	MnO	FeO	Na ₂ O	K ₂ O	Cl	Total
0–1 cm											
LILC09-1—similar to ASKJA 1875 (n = 5)											
Average	72.32	0.85	12.79	0.68	2.44	0.12	3.54	3.54	2.27	0.06	98.78
SD	0.48	0.09	0.79	0.03	0.08	0.02	0.43	0.33	0.13	0.05	0.59
ASKJA 1875 (refs. 1 and 2) (n = 35)											
Average	72.24	0.83	12.63	0.68	2.39	0.11	3.52	3.46	2.40	—	98.22
SD	0.92	0.07	0.48	0.07	0.20	0.03	0.31	0.20	0.11	—	1.03
6–7 cm											
LILC09-7—similar to Hekla 1158 (n = 32)											
Average	66.61	0.49	14.33	0.41	2.96	0.24	5.84	4.32	2.26	0.06	97.65
SD	0.97	0.03	0.49	0.07	0.20	0.04	0.31	0.38	0.11	0.01	1.19
Hekla 1158 (refs. 2 and 3) (n = 16)											
Average	67.36	0.49	14.62	0.45	3.10	0.20	5.70	4.48	2.29	—	98.64
SD	0.78	0.05	0.47	0.04	0.1	0.04	0.16	0.3	0.12	—	1.03
8–9 cm											
LILC09-9A—similar to Hekla 1104 (n = 21)											
Average	70.52	0.23	13.81	0.09	2.02	0.14	3.29	4.47	2.54	0.07	97.24
SD	0.92	0.02	0.25	0.03	0.05	0.04	0.12	0.27	0.11	0.02	1.20
Hekla 1104 (refs. 2–5) (n = 114)											
Average	71.57	0.25	14.25	0.17	1.96	0.12	2.99	4.63	2.65	—	98.49
SD	1.38	0.09	0.49	0.14	0.27	0.02	0.42	0.3	0.24	—	1.57
LILC09-9B—similar to Hekla 1158 (n = 5)											
Average	67.04	0.47	14.29	0.36	3.06	0.21	5.64	4.23	2.20	0.06	97.69
SD	1.51	0.05	0.57	0.07	0.28	0.05	0.47	0.70	0.20	0.02	1.32
Hekla 1158 (refs. 2 and 3) (n = 16)											
Average	67.36	0.49	14.62	0.45	3.10	0.20	5.70	4.48	2.29	—	98.64
SD	0.78	0.05	0.47	0.04	0.1	0.04	0.16	0.3	0.12	—	1.03
26–27 cm											
LILC09-27—similar to SN-1 eruption of Snaefulljokulp (n = 13)											
Average	67.28	0.42	15.64	0.29	1.78	0.18	4.00	4.30	3.92	0.23	98.09
SD	0.72	0.07	0.46	0.09	0.24	0.04	0.17	1.13	0.20	0.03	1.20
SN-1 eruption of Snaefulljokulp ~1,780 ± 35 cal y BP (ref. 6) (n = 6)											
Average	67.27	0.38	15.66	0.33	1.72	—	4.08	5.07	4.36	—	98.96
SD	1.21	0.04	0.37	0.12	0.35	—	0.40	0.19	0.23	—	1.20
34–35 cm											
LILC09-35—similar to QUB-565 (n = 25)											
Average	68.82	0.45	13.90	0.20	1.33	0.17	4.38	5.32	3.93	0.21	98.77
SD	1.15	0.05	0.35	0.06	0.07	0.04	0.26	0.18	0.11	0.01	0.83
QUB 565 ~100–500 BC (ref. 7) (n = 18)											
Average	70.20	0.38	13.72	0.14	1.14	—	3.84	4.65	3.61	—	97.69
SD	1.43	0.11	0.61	0.12	0.38	—	0.58	0.37	0.19	—	2.10

Results are presented as oxides by stoichiometry and are not normalized. Totals below 95% were excluded from results.

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2. Larsen G, Dugmore AJ, Newton AJ (1999) Geochemistry of historic silicic tephra in Iceland. *Holocene* 9:463–471.
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