

Háskóli Íslands

Garðabær, föstudagur, 19. september 2025  
202509-0040/Á.G.  
10.01.01

**Subject: Permit for conducting research in protected sites – Veiðivötn - Vatnajökull National Park**

The Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland has received an application from Háskóli Íslands, dated 8.9.2025, for PhD project in Geology in the University of Iceland near Langisjór and Máni in the Vatnajökull National Park, west area.

Vatnajökull National Park is protected according to act no. 60/2007.

According to art 15(a) of act no. 60/2007, permission must be obtained from the park ranger for organized events and projects that require facilities, manpower, or the use of equipment in the national park, such as film production, art events, gatherings, and research. The park ranger is authorized to set any conditions for the granting of permits that are deemed necessary, as per paragraph 2.

According to art. 31 in the Nature Conservation Act no. 60/2013 it is prohibited to drive off road in Iceland. If off-Road driving is a necessary component of filming, the Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland can give authorization.

***Description of the project:***

The project studies the eruptive processes and plume dynamics of the Veiðivötn 1477 eruption. Two members of the project team will dig sections (50cm x 1m) on various location of which three lands within region of Vatnajökull National Park, west side (see map in GoPro). No physical samples will be collected, no equipment required on site apart from a shovel to excavate and no off-road driving. The research will be conducted in late September when the weather condition is suitable. Applicant will be in contact with local rangers before starting the project.

***Impact assessment:***

The research is not expected to have a negative impact on the area or compromise its protected status. This assessment is made on the condition that all holes are properly sealed upon completion of the research, and that careful attention is given to avoiding any excavation in vegetated land. The environmental footprint of the project will be minimal, with any traces left behind expected to fade naturally over the winter months.

**Conclusion and condition**

The Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland hereby grants Háskóli Íslands permission on its behalf to conduct described project within the region in Vatnajökull National Park as described above on the following conditions:

- Keep this letter with you on site during the project. The permit conditions should be introduced to the staff of the project before work begins.
- The applicant shall inform rangers in the area about their arrival and departure. This is to be done 24 hours before entering the area and again before leaving it.
- If the project dates or description changes the Nature Conservation Agency shall be notified as soon as possible. However, the permit holder may use the permit for up to two days before or after the date given, should weather or other conditions require, without notifying the park.
- All traces of the work must be removed carefully from the site by the end of the work/project.
- If any complications occur during the project, please contact the ranger or the Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland, tel. +354 556 6800.
- All vehicles used during field exploration must be labelled with the identity of the researcher's institute. All participants in the project must wear high-visibility clothing during field work, labelled with the identity of the researcher or the research institute.

If the licensee causes damage to nature, according to art. 87 in the Nature Conservation Act no. 60/2013, the Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland can, according to the Nature Conservation Act, f.e. order the licensee to fix damage to nature and vegetation and/or stop the project.

The Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland requests access to reports and scientific articles of the aforementioned studies, which could be used for educational purposes about the area and/or assist in its management, free of charge.

Hanna Valdís Jóhannsdóttir  
*park manager*

Ármann Guðmundsson  
*advisor*