

University of St Andrews

Grace Nielson

School of Earth and Environmental Sciences University of St Andrews Bute Building, Queen's
Terrace St Andrews, Fife
KY16 9TS

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Efni: Permit to conduct research within Reykjanes country park

The Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland has received an application from University of St Andrews, dated March 31st 2025 for research permit within Reykjanes country park.

Reykjanes country park is protected cf. regulation 520/1975. Disturbance to geological formations is prohibited.

Description of the project:

Permit is requested to collect sediment samples from Grænavatn within Reykjanes country park. Three 200 gr samples would be collected at shoreline depths using clean 50 ml falcon tubes and spatulas. Number of employees would be 4 persons and sampling would take one day in the period of July 19th -30th 2025.

Impact assessment:

The Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland considers the project not likely to have negative impact on geological formation, conservation value or other visitors if conditions of the permit are followed.

Conclusions and conditions:

The Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland hereby grants University of St Andrews permission on its behalf to conduct research within Reykjanes country park as described above on July 19th -30th 2025 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.
- When it is necessary to go off-path, extra care must be taken not to cause damage to terrain, including vegetation, soil and geological formation. All traces of activity must be removed afterwards.

- If any complications occur during the project, please contact the ranger or the Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland, tel. +354 556 6800.
- This permit is only valid for research purposes. It does not include permit to utilize the samples for commercial purposes. The samples cannot be signed over to third party for commercial use.
- Every measure should be taken to avoid damage to the sites and unnecessary disturbance while collecting samples.
- Samples should be collected where any resulting disturbance to soil, vegetation or geological formations is not visible to other visitors.
- 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 can according to art. 89 in the Nature Conservation Act no. 60/2013 change conditions of the permit, add new conditions or withdraw the permit in order to prevent damage to nature if environmental conditions change.

According to art 89. in the Nature Conservation Act no. 60/2013 the Nature Conservation Agency can withdraw the permit if conditions of the permit are not complied to.

A permission from the landowners and/or the municipality might be needed for the project.

If you wish to export samples from Iceland a special permit is needed from the Natural Science Institute of Iceland (www.ni.is).

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.

The Nature Conservation Agency will supervise the project. The supervisor will be a ranger from the Nature Conservation Agency.

Ragnheiður Björk Sigurðardóttir
advisor

Pórdís Vilhelmína Bragadóttir
advisor