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Iceland

Reykjavík, 27. apríl 2022
UST202203-372/P.V.B.
09.05.01

Subject: permit to conduct archaeological research at the beach at Stapi and Hellnar

The Environment Agency of Iceland has received an application from Kevin Martin at the University of Iceland, dated March 30th 2022, for a research permit within the beach at Stapi and Hellnar.

The beach at Stapi and Hellnar is protected as a nature reserve cf. regulation no. 284/1988. Disturbance to geological formations, vegetation and wild animal life in the protected area is prohibited.

Description of the project:

Two test trenches will be excavated by hand and then refilled. Location of the research site is shown in a map attached to the application. After the excavation the grass layer over the trenches will be relayed and all traces of the project removed. Number of employees is one and the research will take place sometime during May 15th til June 15th 2022.

Impact assessment:

The Environment Agency of Iceland considers the project not likely to have negative effect on nature in the protected area. The research might have temporary effect on visitors in the area but if the licensee complies fully with the conditions set out here below the impact will be minimal.

Conclusions and conditions:

The Environment Agency of Iceland hereby grants Kevin Martin permission on its behalf to conduct research within the beach at Stapi and Hellnar as described above on May 15th til June 15th 2022 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 when the project starts and when it ends. This is to be done 24 hours before the project starts and again before it ends.
- If the project dates or description changes the Environment Agency shall be notified as soon as possible.
- The researcher must follow rules of conduct that apply to the area.

- A sign that indicates that a permit for research has been obtained from the Environment Agency, must be placed at the site.
- The licensee must try to limit the use of the parking lot as much as possible.
- Every measure must be taken not to cause damage to the site and limit the size of the research site.
- All traces of the work must be removed carefully from the site by the end of the work/project and leave the site like you found it.
- If any complications occur during the project, please contact the ranger or the Environment Agency of Iceland, tel. +354 591 2000.
- 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.
- All participants in the project must wear high-visibility clothing during field work, labelled with the identity of the researcher or the research institute.
- All disturbance to animals and wildlife is strictly prohibited.
- Off-road driving in Iceland is strictly prohibited.

If the researcher causes damage to nature, according to art. 87 in the Nature Conservation Act no. 60/2013, the Environment 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 Environment 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 Environment 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.

Permit from the Cultural Heritage Agency of Iceland is needed for researches on archaeological and built heritage (<https://en.minjastofnun.is/>)

The Environment Agency of Iceland wishes to receive, free of charge, a copy of all reports and scientific articles that result from the research project.

Supervision:

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

Sincerely

Jón Björnsson
park manager

Þórdís Vilhelmína Bragadóttir
advisor