

University of Glasgow  
Gregory Building, Lilybank Gardens, University of Glasgow  
United Kingdom

Reykjavík, fimmtudagur, 14. júlí 2022  
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### **Research permit – Fjallabak nature reserve**

The Environment Agency of Iceland has received an application from the University of Glasgow dated 27<sup>th</sup> of June, for Research permit within Fjallabak nature reserve.

Fjallabak is protected as a nature reserve, cf. regulation no. 354/1979. Construction work, extraction of minerals, disturbance to geological formations, vegetation and wild animal life in the protected area is prohibited.

#### ***Description of the project:***

The project will take place from 19<sup>th</sup> of July-25<sup>th</sup> of July 2022. Samples will be collected from Laugahraun, Námskraun, and Dómadalshraun, this will result in disturbing some geological features. The sampling will be restricted to hand-sized samples and in order to preserve some of these geological features, loose samples will be picked up when available. There will be no use of chemicals or chemical compounds at any time.

There will be particular attention to minimising the disturbance of soils and geological features. Rock samples are to be extracted from loose blocks already on surface (preferable) or via minimal use of geological hammers and chisels, with care taken to minimise damage. Contact with the fauna will be avoided at all times and when walking off paths, attention will be paid to not disturb or damage the flora.

When sampling, geological hammers will be used when needed. No motorised equipment will be used at any time.

In order to sample specific rocks and parts of the different lava flows it is necessary to walk off the assigned paths in some locations. However, there will be no off road driving since the research locations are easily accessed by car through the local roads.

The sampling will take place from Laugahraun, Námskraun and Dómadalshraun. The number of rock samples that will be collected will depend on the findings. It is expected to collect at least 5 samples from each location but no more than 10.

#### ***Impact assessment:***

The Environment Agency of Iceland considers the project not likely to have negative impact on the area. Guests will not be disturbed from the project.

***Conclusions and conditions:***

The Environment Agency of Iceland hereby grants University of Glasgow permission on its behalf to conduct research within Friðland að Fjallabaki as described above on 19th of July-25th of July 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 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 Environment 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.
- 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 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.

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

Permit from the National Energy Authority is needed for research in geothermal areas ([www.os.is](http://www.os.is)).

If you wish to export samples from Iceland a special permit is needed from the Icelandic Institute of Natural History ([www.ni.is](http://www.ni.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.

***Permission fee:***

Environment Agency of Iceland charges a fee for processing applications for permits in protected areas based on Article 92 of Act no. 61/2013 on Nature Conservation. The fee for research is 39.400 ISK according to art. 24. b. in the agency's tariff no. 535/2015.

***Supervision:***

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

Sincerely

Magnús Freyr Sigurkarlsson  
Advisor

Þórdís Björt Sigþórsdóttir  
Team leader