

BBC Studios  
Wild Scandinavia Office  
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Cliftonl, BS8 2LR  
United Kingdom

Reykjavík, November 13<sup>th</sup> 2020  
UST202010-217/P.V.B.  
09.06.01

**Subject: permit to film and fly a drone in Hornstrandir nature reserve**

The Environment Agency of Iceland has received an application from BBC Studios, dated 22<sup>nd</sup> of October 2020, for permit to film and fly a drone within Hornstrandir nature reserve.

Hornstrandir is protected as a nature reserve by act no 60/2013 on nature conservation, cf. Regulation no 332/1985. Disturbance to geological formations, vegetation and wild animal life in the protected area is prohibited. According to the management plan for Hornstrandir, filming and photography that can affect wildlife and visitor experience and flying an unmanned aircraft/drone within the boundaries of the protected site is subjected to a permit from the Environment Agency.

***Description of the project:***

Film crew will stay at Kvíar for 2 weeks in the period 31<sup>st</sup> of January - 8<sup>th</sup> of March 2021. Lenses in the camera can focus on the fox from 80 m so unless the animal actively approach the crew a distance of at least 30 meters will be maintained to ensure natural behaviour. Filming will take place while daylight allows with brakes for food ets. Drone will be used to capture scenic landscapes of the area in which the arctic foxes live. The crew will fly the drone at a maximum of 500m away out of the way of people, animals or infrastructure. The drone will not be used to capture the behaviour of the fox as it would disturb the fox. Map showing planned flightplan was included in the application. Flight altitude will be 120 meters. If foxes will be in the intended flight path the droneflight will be postponed. The filmcrew consists of 3 employes and no props or sets will be used.

***Review:***

The Environment Agency of Iceland requested review from the Icelandic institute of natural history on October 29<sup>th</sup> 2020. The review from the Icelandic institute of natural history was received on November 9<sup>th</sup> 2020. In their review they were not against the permit being issued for this time of year and place.

***Impact assessment:***

The Environment Agency of Iceland considers the project not likely to have negative impact on the arctic foxes in the area if conditions of the permit are fulfilled. The film crew is small and drone will only be used for capturing landscape.

***Conclusions and conditions:***

The Environment Agency of Iceland hereby grants BBC Studios permission on its behalf to film and fly a drone within Hornstrandir nature reserve as described above for 2 weeks in the period 31<sup>st</sup> of January - 8<sup>th</sup> of March 2021 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 Ísafjörður 48 hours before arriving in the area.**
- If the project dates or description changes the Environment Agency shall be notified as soon as possible.
- Fauna, geological formations and landscape should not be disturbed in any way.
- All disturbance to animals and wildlife is strictly prohibited.
- The crew must follow rules of conduct that apply to the area.
- It is not allowed to feed the foxes.
- The crew should be conscious of other guests on the sites and make sure that filming causes as little disturbance as possible to other visitors.
- The project's staff is required to prevent all disturbance to the environment and make sure that all litter is removed from the sites.
- If the material is meant for public viewing it must be noted in the video/subtext that permission from the Environment Agency was obtained for the filming/photography.
- An unmanned aircraft should never be flown near people. Please take precaution not to disturb people's experience, their safety or personal privacy nor the general peace of the protected areas being filmed.
- According to Icelandic law it is forbidden to fly close to cliffs where birds nest. An unmanned aircraft should never be flown near animals or birds, neither in nesting areas nor during nesting season or any other seasonal time when animals or bird habitats are considered vulnerable.
- If the use of unmanned aircraft causes disturbance to wildlife in the area, its use should be ceased at once.
- The conductor of the unmanned aircraft is responsible for the aircraft within the protected area. This includes taking responsibility of any possible risk of harm to people, fauna and nature and leaving no permanent marks on the site in question. Should the aircraft crash, all components from it must be collected and removed from the area.
- If any complications occur during the project, please contact the ranger or the Environment Agency of Iceland, tel. +354 591 2000.

If the developer 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.

Unmanned aircraft should take off and land in a safe distance from other visitors according to regulation 990/2017 on unmanned aircrafts.

The usage of a drone shall be according to regulation no. 990/2017 on the operation of remotely piloted aircraft (<https://www.icetra.is/aviation/drones/>).

Please note that according to the regulation all drones used for commercial flight need to be registered at the Icelandic Transport Authority.

Rules on gathering must be followed in Hornstrandir area. Please keep in mind that travel restrictions and restrictions on gathering due to Covid19 can change with short notice. You can get all the latest updates at <https://www.covid.is/english>

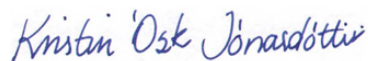
***Permission fee:***

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 cinematography and/or photography is 52.600 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



Kristín Ósk Jónasdóttir  
advisor



Þórdís Vilhelmína Bragadóttir  
advisor