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United Kingdom

Reykjavík, 16. desember 2020  
UST202012-055/P.V.B.  
09.06.01

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

The Environment Agency of Iceland has received an application from BBC, dated December 4<sup>th</sup> 2020, for filming permit 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:***

Filming will take place for 2 weeks in the period 12th of March to 12th of April 2021 in Hornvík, Hornvík Bay and the bird cliffs of Hornbjarg. The film crew consists of 5 persons, including the scientific consultant Dr. Ester Rut Unnsteinsdóttir. The film crew will be following the behaviour of populations of arctic foxes. As the crew wants to film their natural behaviour they will keep at a distance to minimize the disturbance. The crew will be accompanied by Dr. Ester Rut Unnsteinsdóttir who will advise them on the behaviour of the foxes they are filming and how is best to approach filming in order to cause no stress to the animals. No props will be used. A permit to film with a drone within the Hornstrandir Nature Reserve is also requested. Ariel filming would be used to capture scenic shots of the landscape that the reserve encompasses as well as place the arctic fox within the context of this landscape. It will not be possible to provide a precise flight plan for filming until the film crew are actually on the ground and can assess the environment more accurately and the behaviours of the animals they are there to film. The intended area of operation, however, would be within a radius of 3 miles from the summer house the crew will be staying in (GPS coordinates 66° 26' 58'' N, 22° 52'' W). All flights will be operated under visual line of sight conditions with a vertical height ceiling of 120 meters (394 feet) and a horizontal distance limit of 500m and all operations will adhere to rules for droning set out by the Icelandic Transport Authority. The droning would be done under the supervision and guidance of Dr. Ester Rut Unnsteinsdóttir. The droning will not be conducted in the vicinity of local birds of prey or ravens, to avoid disturbing these birds. The film crew will stay in private house in the area where there is a generator and toilet facilities.

***Impact assessment:***

The Environment Agency of Iceland considers the project not likely to have negative impact on the site if the crew follows the guidelines from Dr Ester Rut Unnsteinsdóttir and conditions of the permit are fulfilled.

***Conclusions and conditions:***

The Environment Agency of Iceland hereby grants BBC permission on its behalf to film arctic foxes and fly a drone within Hornstrandir nature reserve as described above for 2 weeks in the period between 12th of March to the 12th of April 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 the area about their arrival and departure. This is to be done 48 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.
- The crew must follow rules of conduct that apply to the area.
- If any complications occur during the project, please contact the ranger or the Environment Agency of Iceland, tel. +354 591 2000.
- 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. 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 in close proximity to 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.
- Flight time should be kept to a minimum and flight should be avoided during the area's busiest times of the day.
- 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.
- For safety reasons, the pilot of an unmanned aerial vehicle must wear marked clothing so that the person can be identified.
- All disturbance to animals and wildlife is strictly prohibited. It is not allowed to fly the drone close to birds or chase animals with it.
- The filming and droneflight must be done under supervision off Dr. Ester Rut Unnsteinsdóttir

- If there is no snow in the area when filming takes place the crew must stay on paths as much as possible.
- 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 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.

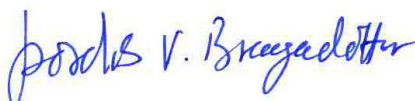
***Permission fee:***

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 52.600 ISK according to art. 24. b. in the agency's tariff no. 535/2015.

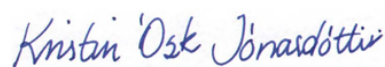
***Supervision:***

The Environment Agency will supervise the project.

Sincerely



Þórdís Vilhelmina Bragadóttir  
Advisor



Kristín Ósk Jónasdóttir  
advisor