

24. júní 2015

Tilv.



UMHVERFISSTOFNUN

Stockholm University  
Roslagstullsbacken 2  
SE-10691 Stockholm,

Vestmannaeyjum 22. júní 2015  
UST201506-036/P.V.B.  
09.05.01

**Subject: Research permitt Fimmvörðuháls og Heimaey**

The Environment Agency of Iceland has received a request from Wolf Dietrich Geppert dated 3<sup>rd</sup> of June 2015 regarding a permit to collect samples for scientific and teaching purposes on Fimmvörðuháls lava field and Eldfell lava field in Heimaey in July 2015.

Fimmvörðuháls lava field was formed in an eruption in 2010 while the lava field in Heimaey was formed in 1973. Volcano craters and lava fields in Iceland fall under regulations on special protection according to the natural conservation law.

The samples consist of picking up small loose (pebble sized) stones from the surface for analyses. No deep digging in the soil will be done. These samples are taken to analyse colonization of lava fields and rhyolite areas by microbes. Analysis of the samples will take place outside these areas in a makeshift lab set up at hotel Hvolsvöllur. The use of the samples will be for scientific purposes only. No commercial exploitation of the samples or the scientific results will be made, nor are such exploitations planned or envisaged. No digging or drilling in the soil will be done. The sampling will be led by leading scientists with experience with such field work.

No permission is needed from the Environment Agency for collecting samples at Fimmvörðuháls lava field or at Heimaey lava field since 1973. We recommend that you contact the municipality of Rangarþing Eystra ([Hvolsvollur.is](http://Hvolsvollur.is)) to gain permission for the sampling in Fimmvörðuháls and Vestmannaeyjar ([www.vestmannaeyjar.is](http://www.vestmannaeyjar.is)) to gain permission for the sampling in Heimaey. If you wish to transport the samples from Iceland you will need a permission from the Icelandic Institute of Natural History ([www.ni.is](http://www.ni.is)), e-mail: [ni@ni.is](mailto:ni@ni.is)

Sincerely

Þórdís Vilhelmlína Bragadóttir  
Advisor

Linda Guðmundsdóttir  
Advisor