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UMHVERFISSTOFNUN

Snæfellsbær 17. ágúst 2016
UST201608-070/B.R.
09.05.01

Subject: Research permit in Snæfellsjökull National Park

The Environment Agency of Iceland has received a request from Frank Feeley, dated 16th August 2016, regarding a permit to take samples in Öndverðarnes in order to try to identify 15th century archaeological sites.

Snæfellsjökull National Park was established on June 28th, 2001 according to articles no. 47 and no. 82 of The Nature Conservation Act no. 60/2013 and regulation no. 568/2010 regarding Snæfellsjökull National Park. Disturbances to geological formations, vegetation and wild animal life in the protected area is prohibited without permission from the Environment Agency of Iceland. That includes sampling for scientific research.

Description of the project:

Mr. Feeley has taken part in archaeological research at the 15th century fishing station at Gufuskálar in collaboration with the Institute of Archaeology (Fornleifastofnun Íslands) in recent years. Preliminary results from the rich archaeofauna and artefactual evidence suggest that people fishing at Gufuskálar might not necessarily all have been poor tenants. Big fishing stations like Gufuskálar have been referred to as being constructed by or for English merchant organizations but historical references to Gufuskálar as one of these English stations have yet to be found. The question Mr. Feeley wishes to explore further is who, exactly was fishing at Gufuskálar? English fisherman spending a season there to catch and process fish and return home or was the station staffed by Icelandic fishermen maybe contracted by foreign interests? The hope is to compare the archaeofauna and artefact assemblages between the fishing station and surrounding farms. Mr. Feeley wishes to take samples from possible midden mounds (garbage piles) in Öndverðarnes (64.885333, -24.039505; 64.884892, -24.041597; 64.885942, -24.043194) using a minimally invasive coring method. A one inch corer (a hand tool) is pushed into the ground to record the different layers of soil. These cores leave a small hole that is plugged using the turf that came out of the core. These cores are minimally invasive and are fairly standard in testing archaeological sites. These cores will be placed in prospective middens in the landscape. Usually three cores suffice for each mound. A team of five people will dig 10-20 cores in Öndverðarnes on August 17th – 23rd 2016.

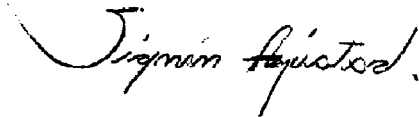
Assessment:

Building of structures, collection of geological/ground materials or any other geological/ground disturbance within Snæfellsjökull National Park requires a permission from The Environment Agency of Iceland according to article no. 18 of regulation no. 568/2010 regarding Snæfellsjökull National Park. The Environment Agency of Iceland concludes that the collection of samples through digging 10-20 cores using a minimally invasive coring method in Öndverðarnes will not cause damage to the site.

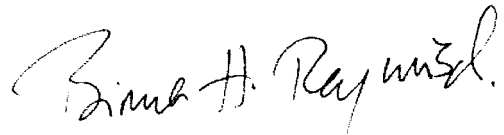
The permit is hereby granted on following conditions:

- This permit is granted for the period 17th to 23rd August 2016.
- This permit is valid only for the three digging sites sited on the permit.
- Licensee will keep all disturbabces to a minimum.
- Licensee will inform the Envionment Agency of Iceland when the dig begins and when it is over.
- Licencsee shall inform the Envionment Agency of Iceland of any deviation of the above mentioned description, if they occur.
- A valid permission from Minjastofnun Íslands and other authorities must be in order.

Sincerely



Sigrún Ágústsdóttir
Director



Birna Heide Reynisdóttir
Advisor

