

Svarmi ehf
Hlíðasmári 8
201 Kópavogur

Garðabær, 12. september 2025
202509-0068/P.V.B.
10.02.01

Efni: Permit to fly a drone at Urriðakotshraun

The Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland has received an application from Svarmi ehf, dated September 9th 2025, for permit to fly a drone within Urriðakotshraun.

Urriðakotshraun is protected as a country park cf. 60//2024. Disturbance to geological and vegetation in the protected area is prohibited. Operating an unmanned aircraft/drone within the protected area is subjected to a permit from the Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland.

Description of the project:

The objective of the project is to conduct a lidar+rgb mapping survey for the golf course and Urriðavatnsdalir using lidar with rgb sensor payload. The flight geography area covers 2.7 square km and a map showing the flight area was included in the application. 6 flights of 22 minutes are planned to cover the area. Two of them over Urriðakotshraun. Take off-landing location is planned to be in the south part of the mapping area but might change when the pilot arrives to the area. The estimation of the flight hour will be early morning during working hours to minimize uninvolved people over the area. The flights would take place in the period of September 15th -19th 2025.

Impact assessment:

The Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland considers the project not likely to have negative impact on nature or conservation value of the site. The flights might have a negative effect on other visitors' experience. The agency considers that the impact can be reduced if conditions of the permit are followed.

Conclusions and conditions:

The Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland hereby grants Svarmi ehf permission on its behalf to fly a drone within Urriðakotshraun as described above on September 15th – 19th 2025 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 Nature Conservation shall be notified as soon as possible.
- If any complications occur during the project, please contact the ranger or the Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland, tel. +354 556 6800.
- If the material is meant for public viewing it must be noted in the video/subtext that permission from the Nature Conservation 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.
- 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.

If the licensee causes damage to nature, according to art. 87 in the Nature Conservation Act no. 60/2013, the Nature Conservation 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 Nature Conservation 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 Nature Conservation 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 1360/2024 on unmanned aircrafts.

The usage of a drone shall be according to regulation no. 1360/2024 on the operation of remotely piloted aircraft (<https://www.icetra.is/aviation/drones/>).

Please note that according to the regulation all drones need to be registered at the Icelandic Transport Authority. You can register them at the webpage flydrone.is

Permission from the landowners might be needed for the project.

Permission fee:

Nature Conservation 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 constructions, droneflights, cinematography and/or photography is **83.200 ISK** according to art. 7. b. in the agency's tariff no. 354/2025.

Supervision:

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

René Biasone

advisor

Pórdís Vilhelmína Bragadóttir

advisor