

Reykjavík Energy

Protected areas 2024. Birds and plants on Watch Lists 2024.



Table of Contents

Protected areas owned, rented or administered by Reykjavik Energy Group	1
Flora and fauna on the Watch Lists within the operation areas of Reykjavik Energy	5
Birds	5
Plants	6

Cover photo: Íris Eva Einarisdóttir

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Reykjavik Energy and its subsidiaries administer about 19,000 ha of land, some 16,000 ha of which are within protected areas

	NAME OF PLACE	WATER CONSERVATION	PROTECTED ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES	NATURAL FEATURES DATA BASE	PROTECTED CHARACTERISTICS IN REGIONAL, MUNICIPAL AND LOCAL PLANS
	Blafjoll - Heidmork etc.	Water conservation areas.			Sudura: Wetland, abundant birdlife. Holmskraun: Lavafields covered with moss.
Capital area	Heidmork	Water conservation areas in Gvenndarbrunnar, Myllulaekur and Vatnsendakrikar.	Thingnes: Archaeological remains at an ancient gathering site. Raudholar: Protected as naturepark 1974. Size 45 ha.	Myllulaekjartjorn in Heidmork	Bugda and Raudholar: Wetland, abundant birdlife. Raudholar: Protected naturepark. Rootless cones in lava approx. 4500 years old. Bugda wetland, abundant vegetation and birdlife during nesting time.
	Ellidavatn				Ellidavatn: Local environment, vegetation and birdlife.
West Iceland	Berjadalur, Sloguveita and Osveita, Grabrok, Seleyri, Grund, Fossamelar, Steindorsstadir, Svelgsarhraun	Water conservation area etc.			
South Iceland	Úthlid	Water conservation area Bjarnarfell			
Hengill	Nesjavellir	Law on the protection of lake Thingvallavatn and its water catchment area no. 85/2005.		The Hengill area: Magnificent landscapes and geologically diverse including geothermal areas.	Due to its increasing popularity as a general outdoors recreation area, general guideline rules regarding orderliness and conduct are to be made. The building of huts will be forbidden, the traffic of automotive vehicles limited, grazing of horses prohibited along with all use of firearms.

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Nesjavellir	Dyrdalur Sporhelludalur Skeggjadalur	Water spring in Gramelur in Nesjahraun lava field for Nesjavellir geothermal power plant. Two water springs and water conservation areas in Nesjalogagil.			Small valley and ridges consisting of hyaloclastite. The ancient Dyravegur path in Dyradalur valley. In Sporhelludalur valley are visible ancient paths in the ground. Dyrnar and Sporhellan classified as historic relics.
	Falkaklettur-Selklettur (crater row)	Water conservation area.			Multiformed row of craters, the whole magnificent, and the greatest of the northern Hengill area. Historical artefacts related to the oldest farm site at Nesjavellir and Selklettur.
	Botnadalur, Illagil, Krummar				A magnificent landscape in Botnadalur valley and well-preserved remains of human settlement. Continuous brushy lands in Illagil canyon and east of Krummi.
	Skogarholl, Eldborg og Gramelur	Water conservation area.			Remarkable eruptive remnants in Nesjahraun, a moss and brush covered lava field with beautifully shaped craters. Eldborg is an elegantly shaped rootless cone.
	Raudstryta and surroundings	Water conservation area.			Brushy and fractured lava formation with a crater and a fault.
	Gigholar east of Hveralaekur				Impressive crater formations that have been preserved within Nesjavellir power plant's production field.
	Nesjalogargil Koldulogargil	Nesjalogagil: Water conservation area.			Colourful geothermal area with scales and deposit and a variety of hot springs and pools. Spectacular river gullies with waterfalls.
Hagavikurlaugar				Due to its increasing popularity as a general outdoors recreation area, general guideline rules regarding orderliness and conduct are to be made. The building of huts will be forbidden, the traffic of automotive vehicles limited, grazing of horses prohibited along with all use of firearms.	
Kolviðarholl	Engidalur Hellisskard	Vatnsból Hellisheiðavirkjunnar í Engidalskvísl vestan Húsmúla aðrennslisvæði vatnsbóla Ölfusi og Hveragerði			Faults in the B/C lava below Hellisskard. It circumvents the slope downhill of Búasteinn and in the same manner on the side of mt. Reykjafell..

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Stora-Reykjafell				All of mt. Stora-Reykjafell. However the mountain contains two large explosive craters; Daudadalur valley in the north face of mt. Stora-Reykjafell and Hveradalir valley on its southern flanks. Both craters are relatively unspoiled. Daudadalur valley is as good as untouched.
Kolvidarholl				Archeological remains by Kolvidarholl are protected according to the local plan in the area - sources like dwellings, burial sites, field wall, peat extraction sites, cairns etc.
Eldborg by Meitlar etc.	Water conservation area.	Old national routes	Eldborg by Meitlar. A big cinder cone.	Preservation of the Hengill area as a nature and recreation reserve.
Hellukofi, Varma and Ölfusforir		A rock hut stacked between 1830-1840. Archeologically preserved.	Varma and Ölfusforir - Ölfusforir include expansive, wet pastures and inhabited by a great a diverse birdlife. Varma holds a high scientific value.	The southern craters in the B/C lava, which is about 5.800 years old. These are low-rising unspoiled cinder- and scoria cones.
Hjallatorfan (Hellisheiði og Ölfus)	Thura: Water conservation area.	Cairns by the path to the east of Hellukofinn.	A old shoreline west of Thurarhnúkur. Shore ridges above Thura by the main road. The most prominent evidence in the region of sea-level changes at the end of the last ice age.	The northern craters in the D-lava, which is aged at around 2.000 years. These are low-rising unspoiled cinder- and scoria cones.
Thorlakshafnarsel Eldborgir by mt. Lambafell Eystri-Thura	Eldborgir by mt. Lambafell: Water conservation area.	The ruins of Thorlakshafnarsel in Hellisheiði. Document signed by THM 20.01.1976. Officially registered 16.06.1977	Eldborgir by mt. Lambafell. Beautifully shaped volcanic craters formed in historical times. The volcanic craters, their lava channels and the surrounding lava field.	Archeological remains by East-Thura. Sources of dwellings, staples, barns and peat excavation sites (528;1-9)
Meitlar Eldborgarhraun Skalafell	Water conservation area.			Outdoors recreation area located between Sudurlandsvegur (main road), Threngsli and Hjallatorfan.

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Breiðabolsstaður				Archeological remains that are protected according to the local plan in the area - Breiðabolsstaður 544:1-44. Sources of dwellings, a church, staples, field walls, irrigation, cairns etc.
Kyrgil Ölkelduhals Tjarnahnjúkur Ölfusvatnsbaerinn	Law on the protection of lake Thingvallavatn and its water catchment area no. 85/2005.	Artefacts near the old Ölfusvatn farm.		Pristine geothermal field, wetlands and river gullies. Power utilization needs to be developed with great care. Ölfusvatn's old farm along with its surroundings. Diverse archeological remnants.
Laki, Alftatjörn og Efri-Kattartjörn	Water supply by Ölfusvatnsa river - water not safe for consumption.	Ancient wall fence, named Grimkelsgerdi and a large hummock within called the grave of Grimkell, preserved in 1898.		Pristine and diverse landscape and geolactical features; river gullies, a scoria cone, explosive craters and hot springs. Ponds and wetlands.
Ölfusvatn Ölfusvatnsarglúfur west of Stapafell	Water supply by the river in wetlands by the camping site - water not safe for consumption.	A basaltic rock (olivine tholeiite) fixed to the ground, carrying the inscription "VES+1736". Believed to be someone's initials and year. Protected in 1927.		Pristine and diverse river gully and erosive formations. Archeological remnants in Seltún.
Ölfusvatnsa, Villingavatnsa etc.				Ölfusvatnsa and Villingavatnsa rivers along with adjacent wetlands and shore of lake Thingvallavatn. Meandering riverbeds, small deltas and brushy vegetated wetlands.
Lambhagi				A promontory that juts out into lake Thingvallavatn and connects to land via a low sand bar. High recreational value and a unique view over lake Thingvallavatn. An ancient wall lies across the sand bar.
Bakki			Varma and Ölfusforir - Ölfusforir are expansive, wet pastures and inhabited by a great a diverse birdlife. Varma holds a high scientific value.	

Flora and fauna on the Watch Lists within the operation areas of Reykjavik Energy

Birds

Status on NI red list	Species	Area, last sighting	Premise for the NI red list	Status on european red list	Status on IUCN red list
Extinct in the wild (EW)	Little Auk (Alle alle)	Heidmork, Helluvatn, 2005	Ceased nesting in Iceland around 1995	LC (Least concern)	LC (Least concern)
	Water Rail (Rallus aquaticus)	Heidmork, 2023	Ceased nesting in Iceland around 1970	LC (Least concern)	LC (Least concern)
Critically endangered (CR)	Great skua (Catharacta skua)	Heidmork, 2008	Greatly reduced (A4abc)	LC (Least concern)	LC (Least concern)
Endangered (EN)	Greater white-fronted goose (Anser albifrons)	Heidmork, Hrauntúnstjörn, 2017	Greatly reduced (A4a)	LC (Least concern)	LC (Least concern)
	Greater scaup (Aythya marila)	Heidmork, 2023	Greatly reduced (A2ab)	VU (Vulnerable)	LC (Least concern)
	Northern fulmar (Fulmarus glacialis)	Heidmork, 2020	Greatly reduced (A4abc)	EN (Endangered)	LC (Least concern)
	White-tailed Sea-eagle (Haliaeetus albicilla)	Heidmork, 2023	Small population, <250 individuals (D)	LC (Least concern)	LC (Least concern)
	Glaucous gull (Larus hyperboreus)	Heidmork, 2017	Greatly reduced (A2abc)	LC (Least concern)	LC (Least concern)
	Arctic skua (Stercorarius parasiticus)	Heidmork, 2023	Greatly reduced (A4abc)	LC (Least concern)	LC (Least concern)
	Purple sandpiper (Calidris maritima)	Heidmork, 2005	Greatly reduced (A2b)	LC (Least concern)	LC (Least concern)
	Great Black-backed Gull (Larus marinus)	Heidmork, 2022; hardly any sighting since 2000	Greatly reduced (A2abc)	LC (Least concern)	LC (Least concern)
Vulnerable (VU)	Gyrfalcon (Falco rusticolus)	Heidmork, 2022	Small population, <1,000 individuals (D)	LC (Least concern)	LC (Least concern)
	Goosander (Mergus merganser)	Heidmork, 2023	Small population, <1,000 individuals (D1)	LC (Least concern)	LC (Least concern)
	Common Loon (Gavia immer)	Heidmork, Myllulækjartjörn, Hrauntúnstjörn, Ellidavatn, 2023	Small population, <1,000 individuals (D1)	VU (Vulnerable)	LC (Least concern)
	Common raven (Corvus corax)	Heidmork, 2023	Substantial reduction, >10% in 10 years (A2abc, C1)	LC (Least concern)	LC (Least concern)
	Barrow's goldeneye (Bucephala islandica)	Heidmork, Helluvatn, 2013	Small population, loss of habitat (D2)	NT (Near threatened)	LC (Least concern)
	Arctic tern (Sterna paradisaea)	Heidmork, Hrauntúnstjörn, 2023	Greatly reduced (A2abc)	LC (Least concern)	LC (Least concern)
	Northern shoveler (Anas clypeata)	Heidmork, 2015	Small population, <250 individuals (D)	LC (Least concern)	LC (Least concern)
	Eurasian woodcock (Scolopax rusticola)	Heidmork, 2023	Small population, <1,000 individuals (D1)	LC (Least concern)	LC (Least concern)
	Snow bunting (Plectrophenax nivalis)	Heidmork, 2021	Greatly reduced (A2abc)	LC (Least concern)	LC (Least concern)
	Eurasian oystercatcher (Haematopus ostralegus)	Heidmork, 2023	Greatly reduced (A4b)	VU (Vulnerable)	NT (Near threatened)
Near threatened (NT)	Common eider (Somateria mollissima)	Heidmork, 2020	Greatly reduced (A2b)	VU (Vulnerable)	NT (Near threatened)
	Short-eared Owl (Asio flammeus)	Heidmork, 2023	Small population, <1,000 individuals (D1)	LC (Least concern)	LC (Least concern)
	Gadwall (Anas strepera)	Heidmork, Ellidavatn, 2013, Olfusforir 2011	Small population, <1,000 individuals (D1)	LC (Least concern)	LC (Least concern)
	Northern Pintail (Anas acuta)	Heidmork, Helluvatn, 2005	Small population, <1,000 individuals (D1)	LC (Least concern)	LC (Least concern)
	Long-tailed duck (Clangula hyemalis)	Heidmork, 2012	Not specified	VU (Vulnerable)	VU (Vulnerable)
	Ptarmigan (Lagops mutus)	Heidmork, 2023	Not specified	NT (Near threatened)	LC (Least concern)
	Common redshank (Tringa totanus)	Heidmork, Jadar, Myllulækjarsvaedi 2023	Not specified	LC (Least concern)	LC (Least concern)
	Common pochard (Aythya ferina)	Heidmork, 2015	Not specified	VU (Vulnerable)	VU (Vulnerable)
Not applicable (NA)	Common pochard (Aythya ferina)	Heidmork, 2015	Not specified	VU (Vulnerable)	VU (Vulnerable)

Skýrslur Hafsteins Björgvinssonar: Fuglar og önnur dýr á verndarsvæðum vatnsbóla Reykjavíkur, aðgengilegar á www.veitur.is
Hættuflokkar Alþjóðanáttúruverndarsambandsins IUCN, 2019: <http://cmsdocs.s3.amazonaws.com/RedListGuidelines.pdf>
Válisti fugla: <https://www.ni.is/midlun/utgafa/valistar/fuglar/valisti-fugla>
Breytingar frá síðasta válista: <https://www.ni.is/node/27342>

*Skýringar á forsendum: http://cmsdocs.s3.amazonaws.com/keydocuments/summary_sheet_en_web.pdf

Plants

Status on NÍ red list	Area, last sighting	Area, year of data	Status on IUCN red list
Vulnerable (VU)	Blue Water-speedwell (<i>Veronica anagallis-aquatica</i>)	Hengill area, 2005; Ölkelduháls, 2006; Hellisheidi, 2006	LC (Least concern)
	Small adder's-tongue fern (<i>Ophioglossum azoricum</i>)	Middalur, 2005 and near Ölkelduháls, 2001, 2005, 2006; Hellisheidi, 2006	NE (Not evaluated)
Near threatened (NT)	Marsh cudweed (<i>Filaginella uliginosa</i>)	Near Ölkelduháls, 2005, 2006 Fremstidalur, 2005, Hellisheidi 2006	NE (Not evaluated)
	Eggleaf twayblade (<i>Listera ovata</i>)	Heidmörk, 2006	NE (Not evaluated)

NÍ red list: <https://www.ni.is/node/3648>