

## FUNDS MANAGED BY THE CULTURAL HERITAGE AGENCY

### ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE FUND

The Fund allocates grants for maintenance and repairs to buildings and other manmade structures which are subject to protection on grounds of age or listed for their heritage value, and to areas of the built environment subject to special protection. It may also allocate funds for maintenance of other structures of cultural, scientific or aesthetic value. The Fund promotes research on architectural history, including the cataloguing of buildings and manmade structures, and dissemination of information about them.

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE FUND

The role of the Fund is to promote preservation of the archaeological heritage, and research on it. Grants are allocated for archaeological excavations and cataloguing, conservation, maintenance, dissemination of information on archaeological heritage, and research on archaeological finds. Grants may also be allocated for maintenance of other heritage sites which are deemed to be of heritage value, even if they are not subject to protection on grounds of age or scheduling.



*Eyjölfspakkhús, warehouse on Flatey island*

The future vision of the Cultural Heritage Agency of Iceland is that the preservation of the cultural heritage should become an integral element of Icelandic society. That heritage should be a constant source of inspiration and experience, and the object of research. That Icelanders should become active participants in heritage conservation, and that heritage sites and remains should be utilised sustainably, and knowledge about them disseminated in diverse ways.



Minjastofnun  
Islands

The Cultural Heritage Agency of Iceland

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# CULTURAL HERITAGE AGENCY OF ICELAND

MINJASTOFNUN ISLANDS



*Archaeological excavations at Móaakot, Seltjarnarnes*

THE ROLE OF THE CULTURAL HERITAGE AGENCY OF ICELAND IS TO ENSURE THE PRESERVATION OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE IN ITS OWN ENVIRONMENT, FACILITATE ACCESS TO IT, AND DISSEMINATE KNOWLEDGE OF IT.

The Agency oversees cataloguing of the archaeological and architectural heritage, and is a mandatory consultation body in the fields of planning, environmental impact assessment and alterations to historic buildings. The Agency also grants permits for export of objects and samples from archaeological excavations, and privately-owned objects which are deemed to be of national heritage value. The Cultural Heritage Agency is under the aegis of the Ministry of Education and Culture.

Front cover:  
Suðurnhús in Suðursveit,  
southeast Iceland

RESPECT  
PROFESSIONALISM  
COLLABORATION



# CULTURAL HERITAGE REGIONS AND COUNCILS

ICELAND IS DIVIDED INTO EIGHT CULTURAL HERITAGE REGIONS. EACH OF THESE HAS A CULTURAL HERITAGE MANAGER AND COUNCIL.

The cultural heritage managers are employed by the Cultural Heritage Agency and are its representatives in their respective regions. They have a range of responsibilities, including managing the cultural heritage council and chairing its meetings.

Cultural heritage councils are a consultative forum regarding the conservation and utilisation of cultural heritage within each heritage region. The councils also are a forum for local people to influence heritage conservation in their own region.

HIGH STANDARDS OF CATALOGUING AND CONSERVATION OF THE CULTURAL HERITAGE ARE IN THE INTEREST OF ALL ICELANDERS. WE ARE ALL RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONSERVATION OF OUR HERITAGE, AND IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT EVERYONE IN THE COUNTRY JOINS IN THE TASK.

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE

All archaeological sites more than 100 years old are subject to automatic protection under the law. In addition, more than 800 sites have been scheduled for their heritage value. Access to sites is subject to regulations based on the Cultural Heritage Act no. 80/2012:

- Only archaeologists are eligible for permits for archaeological excavations.
- A permit is required for placing signs at archaeological sites, or for utilisation of them in connection with tourism, advertising, film-making, or sale of any product or service.

- Parish councils must consult the Cultural Heritage Agency regarding levelling or enlargement of old churchyards as well as the restoration of gravestones or fences within the churchyards.

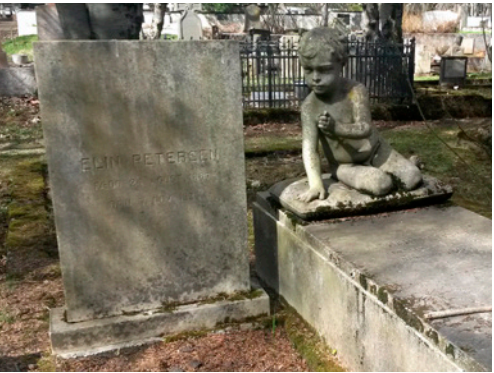
- Archaeological finds are the property of the Icelandic state and must be reported to the Cultural Heritage Agency.

- Members of the public must notify the Cultural Heritage Agency if any archaeological remains are at risk of damage.

Local government planning must take account of archaeological sites and how they may be utilised for the benefit of the community. All sites must be registered, and a report must be submitted to the Cultural Heritage Agency for approval before the local government plan takes effect.



Watermill at Baugsstaðir Dairy



From an old cemetery in Reykjavík



Remains of an outhouse at Stöng in Þjórsárdalur



Sheep shelter, Skötufjörður



Selárdalur, Arnarfjörður



The old jailhouse on Skólavörðustígur, Reykjavík

# ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE

The Cultural Heritage Agency is responsible for ensuring the preservation of the nation’s architectural heritage. This includes buildings and other manmade structures, or parts of them, which have cultural, scientific or aesthetic value.

About 500 buildings in Iceland are listed for protection. Such listing may entail a legal constraint which is formally attached to a property with the objective of ensuring optimum preservation of cultural heritage.

All buildings and manmade structures more than 100 years old are subject to preservation, which bestows automatic protection on grounds of age. It is forbidden to disturb, damage, alter, demolish or move protected structures, except by permission of the Cultural Heritage Agency.

Works on buildings and structures built before 1925, and churches built before 1940, are subject to assessment by the Cultural Heritage Agency. The agency must be contacted not less than four weeks before works are to commence.

The Cultural Heritage Agency website includes a list of all protected buildings and structures together with an interactive map.