



Published on *HEREIN System* (<http://www.herein-system.eu>)

Home > Knowledge and protection - Iceland

Knowledge and protection - Iceland

Country: Iceland

Summary:

Preservation of archaeological heritage

All archaeological artefacts found underground are the property of the state and the discovery of such items must be notified to The Cultural Heritage Agency of Iceland. Artefacts from archaeological excavations must be surrendered to the National Museum of Iceland on completion of the excavation.

Ships and boats older than 50 years are considered archaeological artefacts and all boats older than 1950 have de facto protection status. An assessment from The Cultural Heritage Agency of Iceland must be sought with respect to all alterations to such boats, including their destruction or their being sold to another country. Where it has been decided that archaeological artefacts be preserved at the National Museum of Iceland, they are considered to be national relics.

There are two levels of protection for archaeological sites:

Protection constitutes automatic protection of all archaeological sites older than 100 years.

The Minister can decide listing of archaeological sites with cultural heritage, scientific or artistic value, having received the opinion of The Cultural Heritage Agency of Iceland. Listing can also cover the immediate environment of the listed site. A continuous area of land can be listed where there is more than one archaeological location considered to have cultural heritage value. Listed archaeological sites are considered to be national relics.

There are three levels of protection for buildings and structures:

There are 492 buildings scheduled pursuant to the older legislation from 31 December 2012. In addition to this the Minister can decide scheduling status for other buildings and structures, or for parts of such buildings and structures, that have heritage, scientific or artistic value, having received a proposal from The Cultural Heritage Agency of Iceland.

All buildings 100 years or older have protected status.

Building work on buildings and structures that were erected in or before 1925 and churches that were erected in or before 1940, is subject to assessment.

Emergency listing

The Cultural Heritage Agency of Iceland can designate emergency listing status for sites or buildings that have special cultural heritage, scientific or artistic value, but that have not been designated as listed or enjoy statutory protection, if there is a risk that the sites or buildings will be spoiled, demolished or their value diminished in any manner. While emergency listing is in force the rules of listing apply.

Emergency listing comes into force when The Cultural Heritage Agency of Iceland has informed all stakeholders of its decision in a verifiable manner. The decision is binding after notification has been received by the parties and applies for up to six weeks.

The Minister shall decide whether the cultural heritage shall be listed before expiry of the emergency listing, having received a proposal from The Cultural Heritage Agency of Iceland.

Expand all

2.1 Main inventories

Expand all

2.1.A Description of the inventory

Inventory's name: Listed Archaeological Heritage

Total number of items 850

/ inventory objects:

Is inventory closed or open ?: Closed

2.1.B Extent of coverage

Approach (click to collaps)

Expand all

2.1.A Description of the inventory

Inventory's name: Archaeological sites

2.1.B Extent of coverage

Approach (click to collaps)

Archaeological Heritage

Land-based sites/monuments that tend to be considered outside the definition of 'architectural heritage'

Industrial heritage

Military heritage

Religious heritage

19-20th century sites/monuments

19-20th century sites/monuments

Underwater sites/monuments or artefacts that tend to be considered outside the definition of 'architectural heritage'

Architectural Heritage

Landscape Heritage

[Expand all](#)

2.1.A Description of the inventory

Inventory's name: Protected buildings

2.1.B Extent of coverage

Approach (click to collapse)

Archaeological Heritage

Architectural Heritage

Buildings still largely complete and/or habitable

Industrial heritage

Religious heritage

Historic contents and fittings

19-20th century sites/monuments

Landscape Heritage

2.1.C Legal status

Is this inventory Yes

required by law?

[Expand all](#)

2.1.A Description of the inventory

Inventory's name: Sarpur

2.1.B Extent of coverage

Approach (click to collaps)

Archaeological Heritage

Land-based sites/monuments that tend to be considered outside the definition of 'architectural heritage'

Industrial heritage

Military heritage

Religious heritage

19-20th century sites/monuments

Underwater sites/monuments or artefacts that tend to be considered outside the definition of 'architectural heritage'

Architectural Heritage

Buildings still largely complete and/or habitable

Religious heritage

2.2.A Legal regulations for the creation and/or maintenance of storage areas for the documentation of the heritage.

No

2.2.B Archaeological finds and documentation kept together

No

2.2.C Non-statutory archaeological finds storage facilities

Yes

2.2.D Organisation(s) which have responsibility for storage of documentation or archaeological finds

National museum

2.2.E Research and/or documentation centre(s) for heritage that are not part of government or university systems

No

2.3 Systems of protection

Expand all

Expand all

2.3.A Heritage legislation/ protection systems:

Category's name / Fornleifar (Archaeological sites)

Name of level:

Number of items:

Year: 2015

CoE Conventions to which it relates

Valletta Convention on Archaeological heritage:

- Visible remains

- Buried remains

2.3.B Inventory(ies) in which this category/protection scheme is recorded.

Archaeological sites

2.3.C Organisation(s) responsible for this category / protection scheme

Cultural Heritage Agency of Iceland

2.3.D Type of ownership

Private

2.4.A Mandatory reporting to the competent authorities, by the finder of the chance discovery of heritage elements

Yes

Competent authorities:

Organisation

The Cultural Heritage Agency of Iceland

2.5.A Specific legal responsibility concerning illicit circulation of elements of heritage

Yes

Archaeological heritage

2.5.B Illicit trade of heritage governed by a specific law

Yes

Integrated approach

2.5.C Police unit dedicated to the illicit antiquities trade

No

2.5.D State action to identify material suspected of coming from illicit excavations or unlawfully from official excavations in

2.5.D State action to identify material suspected of coming from illicit excavations or unlawfully from official excavations in other States party to the Valletta convention

2.5.E Parties involved in the following activities for identifying illicit archaeological excavations (including the illegal use

2.5.E Parties involved in the following activities for identifying illicit archaeological excavations (including the illegal use of metal detectors, treasure hunting)

2.5.E Activities (click to collaps)

Site inspection

Site inspection:

Parties involved:

Agency

Frequency:

Never

Parties involved:

NGOs

Frequency:

Never

Parties involved:

Volunteers

Frequency:

Never

2.5.F Museums and similar institutions required by the State to abide by acquisition policies ensuring they do not purchase elem

Yes

Source URL: http://www.herein-system.eu/knowledge-and-protection-iceland?field_country1_1_tid=143