

**Declaration of Surtsey nature reserve, 26 January 2006**

**ADVERTISEMENT**

**Of a nature reserve on Surtsey island**

Art. 1

*Declaration of conservation*

The Minister for the Environment has, in consultation with the Minister of Fisheries and in accord with the proposal of the Environment and Food Agency and the Icelandic Institute of Natural History, as well as with the consent of the municipality of Vestmannaeyjar [the Westman Islands], decided to renew the declared conservation of Surtsey in such manner that the declaration of conservation shall apply to the entire volcano, whether above the surface of the sea or underwater, including the craters of Jólnir, Syrtlingur and Surtla, together with a specified area of ocean around the island. The protected area is conserved as a nature reserve in accord with Subparagraph 1 of the first paragraph of Art. 53 of the Act on nature conservation, No. 44/1999.

Art. 2

*Objective of conservation*

The objective of declaring Surtsey a protected area is to ensure that development of the island will be in keeping with the principles of nature itself, as provided in Art. 1 of the Act on nature conservation. The purpose of conservation is to ensure that colonisation by plants and animals, biotic succession and the shaping of geological formations will be as natural as possible, and that human disruption will be minimised.

The declaration of conservation is based inter alia upon the great value of the area in scientific and nature conservation terms, both for Iceland and internationally; the area has complete and undisturbed natural features which reflect the developmental processes of nature, and which are highly sensitive to disruption.

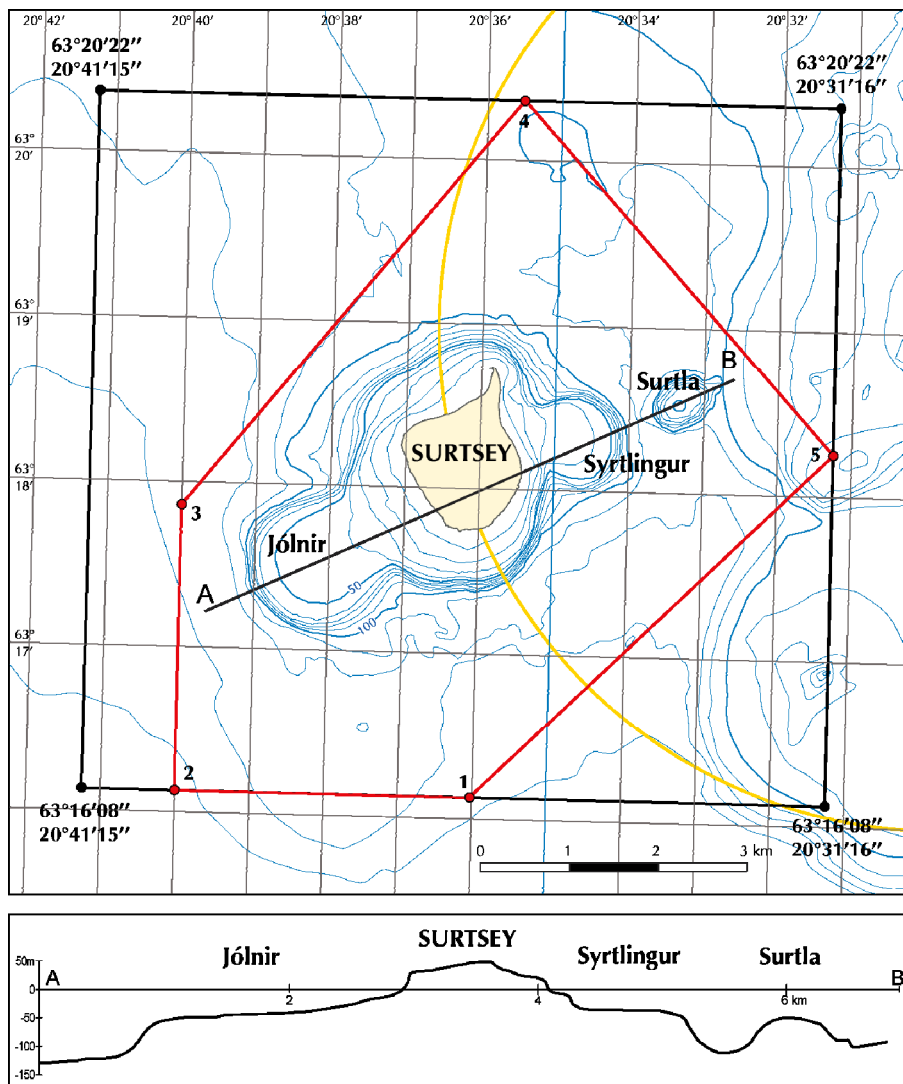
Art. 3

*Boundaries of the nature reserve*

The nature reserve includes Surtsey above sea level and down to the sea floor, together with an area of ocean around the island which is demarcated by a line drawn between four corner points; see the accompanying table. The coordinates of the points are designated by the ISNET93 system and by longitude and latitude (degrees, minutes and seconds). The boundaries of the area are shown on the accompanying map.

Table	ISNET93		Degrees		
	Point	X coordinate	Y coordinate	Longitude	Latitude
	1	415350	315875	20°41'15"	63°16'08"
	2	423700	315875	20°41'15"	63°20'22"
	3	423700	308020	20°31'16"	63°20'22"
	4	415350	308020	20°31'16"	63°16'08"

Art. 4



*Supervision of the nature reserve, etc.*

The Environment and Food Agency conducts the supervision of the nature reserve. A six-member advisory committee shall be appointed to advise the Environment and Food Agency on matters of the nature reserve and shall include one representative of the Surtsey Research Society, of the Icelandic Institute of Natural History, of the Marine Research Institute and of the Environment and Food Agency and two representatives of the municipality of the Westman Islands. The representative of the Environment and Food Agency shall be the committee chairperson. This committee shall be appointed to a term of four years.

The Surtsey Research Society coordinates and seeks to further scientific research on Surtsey and inside the nature reserve boundaries. A special agreement shall be concluded in this regard, to be approved by the Minister for the Environment.

The Icelandic Institute of Natural History conducts research and the regular monitoring of natural features in the nature reserve, in cooperation with the Marine Research Institute and Surtsey Research Society.

**Art. 5**

*Access to the nature reserve*

It is prohibited to go ashore on Surtsey or to dive by the island except for research purposes and related activities and with the written permission of the Environment and Food Agency.

Vessels are permitted to travel within the reserve around Surtsey.

Art. 6

*Conservation of vegetation, animal life and geological formations*

It is prohibited to disturb vegetation, animal life or geological formations or other natural features within the reserve.

It is prohibited to transport to the island live animals, plants, seeds or plant parts, or other organisms. Transporting minerals and soil to the island is also prohibited.

Art. 7

*Land use and construction*

Construction, disturbing the earth, extracting materials and otherwise altering the land or the sea floor within the nature reserve are prohibited, except by permission of the Environment and Food Agency and the Westman Islands municipal council, upon their receiving the opinion of the Surtsey Research Society. It is permissible to maintain such structures as the Surtsey Research Society's hut (Pálsbær) and the helicopter landing facilities on the island, as hitherto and as is described in the conservation plan.

It is prohibited to bury waste or leave it on the island or within the boundaries of the nature reserve.

Art. 8

*Fishing and use of firearms*

Fishing with fishing gear which is dragged along the sea floor, for instance bottom trawls, Danish seines or dredges, is prohibited in the nature reserve within the area bounded by the following points: **1)** 20°36'04" W and 63°16'08" N **2)** 20°40'00" W and 63°16'08" N **3)** 20°40'00" W and 63°17'52" N **4)** 20°35'31" W and 63°20'22" N **5)** 20°31'16" W and 63°18'15" N.

The use of firearms is prohibited within the nature reserve, both on land and at sea.

Art. 9

*Exemptions*

Upon receiving the opinion of the Environment and Food Agency and the municipality of the Westman Islands, the Minister for the Environment may authorise departures from these rules in particular circumstances, and may provide in more detail for the conservation of the area.

Art. 10

*Penalties*

Violation of the declared protection entails fines or imprisonment for up to two years.

Art. 11

*Entry into force*

This declaration of protection shall take effect immediately. At the same time, the advertised Declaration No. 122/1974, of Surtsey as a reserve, expires.

*Ministry for the Environment, 27 January 2006*

**Sigríður Anna Þórðardóttir**