

# Geographic Names Standardization Policy for Iceland

United States Board on Geographic Names  
Foreign Names Committee



June 2018

## 1. Introduction

This geographic names standardization policy has been prepared as an aid to those geographic names experts who are the working staff for the United States Board on Geographic Names (BGN) in the standardization of the geographic names of Iceland for United States Government use. The BGN and its staff work to effect consistent treatment of geographic name spellings in US Government databases, publications, maps, and charts. The country policies are intended to satisfy, in part, the statutory requirements levied upon the BGN in Public Law USC 80-242 to develop principles, policies and procedures for geographic names standardization, and to promulgate decisions with respect to the principles of geographic nomenclature and orthography.

## 2. Languages and Language Policy

### a. Demographics

As of January 1, 2015, Iceland has a population of 289,879, of whom 39,221 are foreign nationals, primarily from Poland (10,967), Denmark (3,283), the United States (2,019), Sweden (1,920), and Germany (1,649).<sup>1</sup>

### b. Language

Per the *Lög um stöðu íslenskrar tungu og íslensks tákn máls* (Act respecting the status of the Icelandic language and Icelandic sign language, June 2011), Icelandic is the country's only national and official language.<sup>2</sup> Spoken on the island since the ninth century, it has changed little over the centuries and developed virtually no dialects.<sup>3</sup>

### c. Geographic Names Standardization

The *Örnefnanefnd* (Place Name Committee), established in 1935 and now under the *Undervisnings-, forsknings- og kulturministeriet* (Ministry of Education, Science and Culture), is responsible for deciding on names and orthography of new geographic features and for ruling in disputes over names that appear in authorized maps. By law, established names cannot be changed without strong justification, while new names must comport with Icelandic linguistic traditions. The *Örnefnastofnun Íslands* (Place Name Institute) acts as secretariat for the Committee. At one time part of the *Örnefnastofnun Þjóðminjasafns* (National Place Name Museum), the *Örnefnastofnun Íslands* was established in 1969 to preserve and make publicly

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<sup>1</sup> *Hagstofa Íslands (Statistics Iceland)*, 'Mannfjöldi eftir fæðingarlandi, kyni og aldri 1. janúar 1998-2015' ('Population by country of birth, sex and age 1 January 1998-2015'). Icelandic, English.

<[http://px.hagstofa.is/pxis/pxweb/is/ibuar/ibuar\\_mannfjoldi\\_3\\_bakgrunnur\\_Faedingarland/MAN12103.px/](http://px.hagstofa.is/pxis/pxweb/is/ibuar/ibuar_mannfjoldi_3_bakgrunnur_Faedingarland/MAN12103.px/)> Accessed April 27, 2016.

<sup>2</sup> 'Íslenska er þjóðtunga Íslendinga og opinbert mál á Íslandi.' *Lög um stöðu íslenskrar tungu og íslensks tákn máls*, 'ALÞINGI: Þingfundir og mál.' Icelandic. <<http://www.althingi.is/altext/stjt/2011.061.html>> Accessed April 27, 2016. Available in English translation on the website of Iceland's *Undervisnings-, Forsknings- og Kulturministeriet* (Ministry of Science and Culture), 'Selected Acts.' <<https://eng.menntamalaraduneyti.is/Acts>> Accessed April 27, 2016. Note that English and Danish are compulsory subjects in the Icelandic school system; however, these languages have no influence on place names in Iceland.

<sup>3</sup> *Icelandic: At once ancient and modern* (2001). Ministry of Education, Science and Culture: Pamphlet 13. English.

<<http://www.iceland.is/media/Utgafa/Icelandic.pdf>> Accessed June 27, 2016.

accessible Icelandic toponyms and to maintain historical archives of place name material.<sup>4</sup> In 2006, the Institute merged into the *Stofnun Árna Magnússonar í íslenskum* (Árni Magnússon Institute for Icelandic Studies).<sup>5</sup>

### 3. Toponymic Policies

#### a. Orthography

The Icelandic alphabet consists of 22 basic modern Latin letters; *C c*, *Q q*, *W w*, and *Z z* appear only in foreign loanwords. The alphabet also includes the letters *Ð ð* ('eth'), which in Icelandic order follows *D d*, and *Þ þ* ('thorn'), *Æ æ* ('æsc' or 'ash'), and *Ö ö*, which follow at the end of the alphabet in that order. The letter *Ð ð*, transliterated as *dh*, never appears in initial position, the letter *Þ þ*, transliterated as *Th th*, serving this purpose.<sup>6</sup> *Æ æ* should be written as a single digraph, never as separate letters. Following standard English lexical practice and BGN precedent, names and terms appearing in lists and tables henceforward are listed in English alphabetical order.

#### b. Romanization

Romanization is not required for Icelandic.

#### c. Diacritics

The following diacritics are found in Icelandic geographic names:

| Character Name                            | Character | Unicode Value |
|---|-----------|---------------|
| A with acute accent, Latin capital letter | Á         | 00C1          |
| A with acute accent, Latin small letter   | á         | 00E1          |
| Ae, Latin capital letter                  | Æ         | 00C6          |
| Ae, Latin small letter                    | æ         | 00E6          |
| D with stroke, Latin capital letter       | Ð         | 00D0          |
| D with stroke, Latin small letter         | ð         | 00F0          |
| E with acute accent, Latin capital letter | É         | 00C9          |
| E with acute accent, Latin small letter   | é         | 00E9          |
| O with acute accent, Latin capital letter | Ó         | 00D3          |
| O with acute accent, Latin small letter   | ó         | 00F3          |
| O with dieresis, Latin capital letter     | Ö         | 00D6          |
| O with dieresis, Latin small letter       | ö         | 00F6          |
| Thorn, Latin capital letter               | Þ         | 00DE          |
| Thorn, Latin small letter                 | þ         | 00FE          |
| U with acute accent, Latin capital letter | Ú         | 00DA          |

<sup>4</sup> Records of Icelandic toponyms go back to the medieval era and include the *Landnámabók* (Book of Settlements), a vellum manuscript containing the names of 1,400 Norse settlements, some of which date to 870 CE.

<sup>5</sup> *Stofnun Árna Magnússonar í íslenskum fræðum*, 'Örnefnanefnd.' Icelandic. <<http://www.arnastofnun.is/page/ornefnanefnd>> Accessed April 27, 2016.

<sup>6</sup> The letter *Ð* would appear only when all letters in a name or word are capitalized, as in a sign or an advertisement.

| Character Name                            | Character | Unicode Value |
|---|-----------|---------------|
| U with acute accent, Latin small letter   | ú         | 00FA          |
| Y with acute accent, Latin capital letter | Ý         | 00DD          |
| Y with acute accent, Latin small letter   | ý         | 00FD          |

#### **d. Generic Terms**

A generic is a term used to describe a geographic feature, such as ‘river,’ ‘hill,’ and ‘lake.’ If the term does not identify the actual feature, it should be considered a false generic and not be added to the generic field of the Geographic Names Database (GNDB). Generic terms are not collected for populated places. Appendix A contains a reference of common Icelandic generic terms that may be encountered in approved names.

#### **e. Hyphenation, Capitalization, and Spelling**

Though infrequently called for, hyphenate when an adjective or other modifier precedes the substantive in a place name:

- *Austur-Húnavatnssýsla* (‘East’ *Húnavatnssýsla*)
- *Ytra-Lágafell* (‘Outer’ *Lágafell*)
- *Litla-Tunga* (‘Little’ *Tunga*)
- *Efsta-Kot* (‘The Top’ *Kot*)
- *Stóra-Búrfell* (‘Great’ *Búrfell*)

In maps and gazetteers, compound toponyms may appear with hyphens when both components contain the same generic, usually one for an administrative division. Nevertheless, expand such names when collecting for the GNDB:

- *Eyja- og Miklaholtshreppur* (a municipality consisting of the shires (*hreppur*) of *Eyjahreppur* and *Miklaholtshreppur*) should be collected as *Eyjahreppur og Miklaholtshreppur*. For reference, shortened versions should still be picked up as variants.
- *Grímsnes- og Grafningshreppur* (a municipality consisting of the shires of *Grímsneshreppur* and *Grafningshreppur*) should be collected as *Grímsneshreppur og Grafningshreppur*

Prepositions and adjectives *within* geographic names must be in lower case, with rare exceptions:

- *Kleifar á Selströnd*
- *Hraun í Kelduda*

But:

- *Vogar Innsti-Vogur*

A handful of idiosyncratic official names end with prepositions in lower case. The BGN recommends that such prepositions be capitalized when collected, while versions in lower case should be collected as variants. Examples:

- *Galtastaðir fram* ('towards' *Galtastaðir*) should be collected as *Galtastaðir Fram*
- *Galtastaðir út* ('out (from)' *Galtastaðir*) should be collected as *Galtastaðir Út*

Appendix B contains a list of common modifiers in Icelandic geographic names.

The above examples aside, most Icelandic toponyms consist of a single word, often a compound descriptive one:

- *Reykjavík* ('smoky bay')
- *Kirkjubæjarklaustur* ('church farm cloister')
- *Svalbarðsstrandarhreppur* ('Svalbarð's coastal shire')
- *Kópavogur* ('cove of seal pups')

Icelandic does not use indefinite articles. Unlike in English, definite articles are not separate words. Instead, they are affixed to the ends of nouns, which have masculine (m), feminine (f), or neuter (n) gender. By definition, place names are proper nouns. The combination of gender, case (nominative (n), accusative (a), dative (d), and genitive (g)), and number (singular (s), plural (p)) determine suffix inflection and, consequently, the spelling of Icelandic toponyms:

| <i>jökull</i> (m, glacier) |                  | <i>borg</i> (f, rocky hill) |                    | <i>vatn</i> (n, lake) |                 |                 |
|----------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| indefinite                 |                  |                             |                    |                       |                 |                 |
|                            | s                | p                           | s                  | p                     | s               | p               |
| n                          | <i>jökull</i>    | <i>jöklar</i>               | <i>borg</i>        | <i>borgir</i>         | <i>vatn</i>     | <i>vötn</i>     |
| a                          | <i>jökul</i>     | <i>jökla</i>                | <i>borg</i>        | <i>borgir</i>         | <i>vatn</i>     | <i>vötn</i>     |
| d                          | <i>jökli</i>     | <i>jöklum</i>               | <i>borg</i>        | <i>borgum</i>         | <i>vatni</i>    | <i>vötnum</i>   |
| g                          | <i>jökuls</i>    | <i>jökla</i>                | <i>borg</i>        | <i>borga</i>          | <i>vatns</i>    | <i>vatna</i>    |
| definite                   |                  |                             |                    |                       |                 |                 |
| n                          | <i>jökullinn</i> | <i>jöklarnir</i>            | <i>borgin</i>      | <i>borgirnar</i>      | <i>vatnið</i>   | <i>vötnin</i>   |
| a                          | <i>jökulinn</i>  | <i>jöklana</i>              | <i>borgina</i>     | <i>borgirnar</i>      | <i>vatnið</i>   | <i>vötnin</i>   |
| d                          | <i>jöklinum</i>  | <i>jöklunum</i>             | <i>borginni</i>    | <i>borgunum</i>       | <i>vatninu</i>  | <i>vötnunum</i> |
| g                          | <i>jökulsins</i> | <i>jöklanna</i>             | <i>borgarinnar</i> | <i>borganna</i>       | <i>vatnsins</i> | <i>vatnanna</i> |

Source: Richard S. Williams, Jr., 'Icelandic-English Glossary of Selected Geoscience Terms.' *U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report 95-807*. English. <<http://pubs.usgs.gov/of/1995/of95-807/>> Accessed May 23, 2016.

By far the most common ending in place names is the definite nominative masculine plural (-ir), as seen in the many place names containing *staðir* ('places,' 'locations'; singular *stað*):

- *Arnaldsstaðir*
- *Miðhálsstaðir*
- *Ögmundarstaðir*<sup>7</sup>

<sup>7</sup> As well as *Egilsstaðir*, *Iðunnarstaðir*, *Jarðlangsstaðir*, *Lambleiksstaðir*, *Njálssstaðir*, *Óspaksstaðir*, *Sámsstaðir*, *Úlfsstaðir*, *Þorbjargarstaðir*, and *Æsustaðir*, among many others.

## **f. Long and Short Forms**

Long forms of geographic names are few and most often those of administrative and political divisions:

- Long form: *Lýðveldið Ísland*                      Short form: *Ísland*

Short forms of such names usually appear on maps and lists. Long and short forms of names of populated places are approved when supported by official evidence. In most instances, the short name should be ranked as the primary name.

## **g. Abbreviations**

Abbreviations in Icelandic geographic names, while rare, must be written out in the GNDB:

- *Skaftárhr* should be entered as *Skaftárhreppur*.

Appendix C contains a list of abbreviations found in Icelandic maps.

## **h. Numbers**

Icelandic geographic names containing cardinal or ordinal numerals as integral parts are also rare. Arabic numerals are always spelled out and, due to Icelandic's orthographic compactness, attached to the name:

- *Fimmvörðuháls*, meaning 'five cairns pass'

Roman, when found, should be retained. In authoritative maps, ordinal numbers will likely be spelled out and incorporated into a compound name:

- *Sjöundá* ('seventh,' the name of an abandoned farm)
- *Sjöundastaðir* ('seventh places,' the name of a farm)

# **4. Political Geography Policy**

## **a. Country Name**

|                         |                         |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Conventional short form | Iceland                 |
| Conventional long form  | Republic of Iceland     |
| Local short form        | <i>Ísland</i>           |
| Local long form         | <i>Lýðveldið Ísland</i> |

## **b. Capital Name**

|               |                  |
|---------------|------------------|
| Approved Form | <i>Reykjavík</i> |
|---------------|------------------|

## **c. First-order Administrative Divisions (ADM1)**

*Sveitarfélögin* (municipalities; ADM1), whose origins date to the beginning of Icelandic settlement and whose functional independence is guaranteed by Article 78 of the constitution,

carry out the bulk of administrative functions, including school operation, public health monitoring and facility construction, business and commercial licensing, welfare and social services, and technical services (e.g., street construction, utilities, and firefighting).<sup>8</sup> Because of social development, changing demographics, improved communications, and shifting expectations of the responsibilities of local government, the number of *sveitarfélögin* has changed drastically over the last few decades. For example, in 1990 the municipalities numbered 204; in 2006, 79; and as of June 2018, 74.<sup>9</sup>

|     | <b>Municipality</b>           | <b>GENC</b> | <b>GEC</b> |
|-----|-------------------------------|-------------|------------|
| 1.  | Akrahreppur                   | IS-9        | IC46       |
| 2.  | Akranes                       | IS-10       | IC47       |
| 3.  | Akureyri                      | IS-11       | IC48       |
| 4.  | Árneshreppur                  | IS-12       | IC49       |
| 5.  | Ásahreppur                    | IS-13       | IC50       |
| 6.  | Bláskógabyggð                 | IS-14       | IC51       |
| 7.  | Blönduósbær                   | IS-15       | IC52       |
| 8.  | Bolungarvík                   | IS-16       | IC53       |
| 9.  | Borgarbyggð                   | IS-17       | IC54       |
| 10. | Borgarfjarðarhreppur          | IS-18       | IC55       |
| 11. | Breiðdalshreppur              | IS-19       | IC56       |
| 12. | Dalabyggð                     | IS-20       | IC57       |
| 13. | Dalvíkurbyggð                 | IS-21       | IC58       |
| 14. | Djúpavogshreppur              | IS-22       | IC59       |
| 15. | Eyjafjarðarsveit              | IS-23       | IC60       |
| 16. | Eyja- og Miklaholtshreppur    | IS-24       | IC61       |
| 17. | Fjallabyggð                   | IS-25       | IC62       |
| 18. | Fjarðabyggð                   | IS-26       | IC63       |
| 19. | Fljótshérað                   | IS-27       | IC64       |
| 20. | Fljótshreppur                 | IS-28       | IC65       |
| 21. | Flóahreppur                   | IS-29       | IC66       |
| 22. | Garðabær                      | IS-30       | IC67       |
| 23. | Grímsnes- og Grafningshreppur | IS-31       | IC68       |
| 24. | Grindavíkurbær                | IS-32       | IC69       |
| 25. | Grundarfjarðarbær             | IS-33       | IC70       |
| 26. | Grýtubakkahreppur             | IS-34       | IC71       |
| 27. | Hafnarfjörður                 | IS-35       | IC72       |
| 28. | Helgafellssveit               | IS-36       | IC73       |
| 29. | Hörgársveit                   | IS-37       | IC74       |
| 30. | Hrunamannahreppur             | IS-38       | IC75       |
| 31. | Húnaþing Vestra               | IS-39       | IC76       |
| 32. | Húnavatnshreppur              | IS-40       | IC77       |

<sup>8</sup> *Samband Íslenskra Sveitarfélaga*, 'Local Governments in Iceland.' Icelandic, English.

<<http://www.samband.is/media/enska/SIS-enska.pdf>> Accessed June 27, 2016.

<sup>9</sup> The names of the various *sveitarfélögin* at any given time may be found by consulting: *Samband Íslenskra Sveitarfélaga*, 'Sveitarfélögin.' Icelandic. <<http://www.samband.is/sveitarfelogin/>>; *Fjölmenningasetur*, 'Sveitarfélög.' Icelandic.

<<http://www.mcc.is/sveitarfelagid>> Accessed June 1, 2018.

|     | <b>Municipality</b>         | <b>GENC</b> | <b>GEC</b> |
|-----|-----------------------------|-------------|------------|
| 33. | Hvalfjarðarsveit            | IS-41       | IC78       |
| 34. | Hveragerði                  | IS-42       | IC79       |
| 35. | Ísafjarðarbær               | IS-43       | IC80       |
| 36. | Kaldrananeshreppur          | IS-44       | IC81       |
| 37. | Kjósarhreppur               | IS-45       | IC82       |
| 38. | Kópavogur                   | IS-46       | IC83       |
| 39. | Langanesbyggð               | IS-47       | IC84       |
| 40. | Mosfellsbær                 | IS-48       | IC85       |
| 41. | Mýrdalshreppur              | IS-49       | IC86       |
| 42. | Norðurþing                  | IS-50       | IC87       |
| 43. | Rangárþing Eystra           | IS-51       | IC88       |
| 44. | Rangárþing Ytra             | IS-52       | IC89       |
| 45. | Reykholahreppur             | IS-53       | IC90       |
| 46. | Reykjanesbær                | IS-54       | IC91       |
| 47. | Reykjavík                   | IS-55       | IC92       |
| 48. | Sandgerði                   | IS-56       | IC93       |
| 49. | Seltjarnarnes               | IS-57       | IC94       |
| 50. | Seyðisfjörður               | IS-58       | IC95       |
| 51. | Skaftárhreppur              | IS-59       | IC96       |
| 52. | Skagabyggð                  | IS-60       | IC97       |
| 53. | Skeiða- og Gnúpverjahreppur | IS-61       | IC98       |
| 54. | Skorradalshreppur           | IS-62       | IC99       |
| 55. | Skútustaðahreppur           | IS-63       | ICA1       |
| 56. | Snæfellsbær                 | IS-64       | ICA2       |
| 57. | Strandabyggð                | IS-65       | ICA3       |
| 58. | Stykkishólmur               | IS-66       | ICA4       |
| 59. | Súðavíkurbhreppur           | IS-67       | ICA5       |
| 60. | Svalbarðshreppur            | IS-68       | ICA6       |
| 61. | Svalbarðsstrandarhreppur    | IS-69       | ICA7       |
| 62. | Sveitarfélagið Árborg       | IS-70       | ICA8       |
| 63. | Sveitarfélagið Garður       | IS-71       | ICA9       |
| 64. | Sveitarfélagið Hornafjörður | IS-72       | ICB1       |
| 65. | Sveitarfélagið Ölfus        | IS-73       | ICB2       |
| 66. | Sveitarfélagið Skagafjörður | IS-74       | ICB3       |
| 67. | Sveitarfélagið Skagaströnd  | IS-75       | ICB4       |
| 68. | Sveitarfélagið Vogar        | IS-76       | ICB5       |
| 69. | Tálknafjarðarhreppur        | IS-77       | ICB6       |
| 70. | Þingeyjarsveit              | IS-78       | ICB7       |
| 71. | Tjörneshreppur              | IS-79       | ICB8       |
| 72. | Vestmannaeyjar              | IS-80       | ICB9       |
| 73. | Vesturbyggð                 | IS-81       | ICC1       |
| 74. | Vopnafjarðarhreppur         | IS-82       | ICC2       |



#### ***d. Conventional Names***

The Iceland country file in the GNDB contains the following conventional names. To change the list by removing or adding names, BGN approval is required:

| <b><u>Name</u></b>  | <b><u>UFI</u></b> | <b><u>UNI</u></b> | <b><u>Designation</u></b> |
|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| Iceland             | -2647784          | 14063175          | PCLI                      |
| Republic of Iceland |                   | -3655919          |                           |

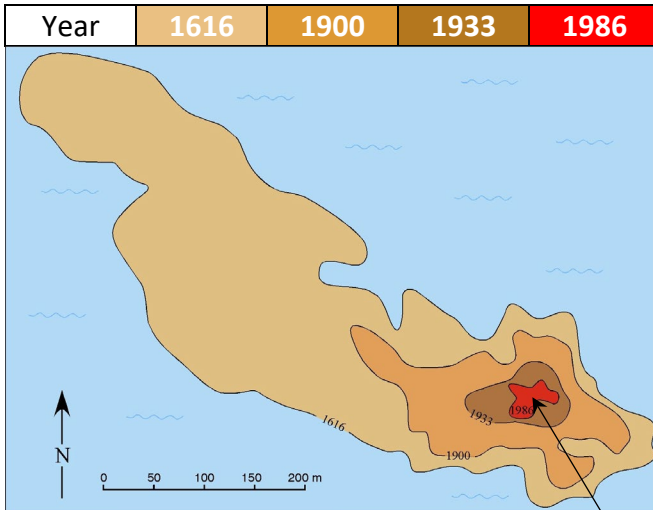
#### ***e. Unique Geopolitical Situations***

The islet of Kolbeinsey, a basaltic lava outcrop, lies about 105 km (65 mi) off the mainland and marks the northernmost point of Iceland. First recorded in the *Landnámabók* (see footnote 4)<sup>10</sup>, Kolbeinsey has eroded over the centuries. Measurements taken since a 1616 expedition to the island reveal severe territorial loss. Geologists believe the islet will disappear completely by 2020.

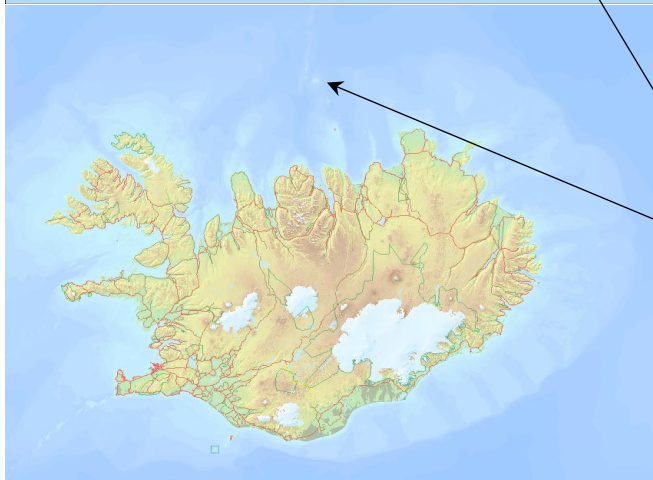
For the latest country-specific boundary dispute information, consult the US Department of State.

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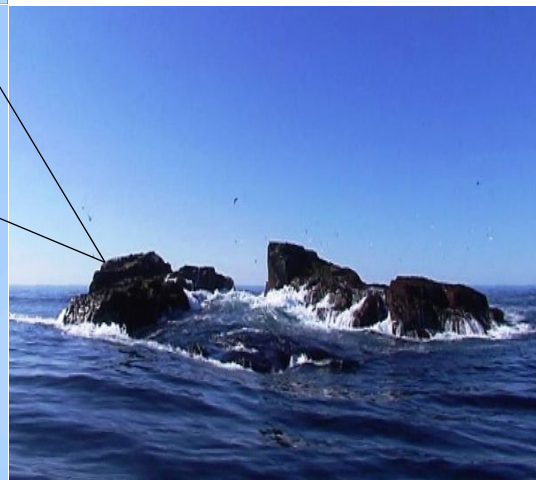
<sup>10</sup> ‘...enn fra Longanesi a nordan verdu Islandi er ííj. dægra haf til Svalbarda norðr i Hafs botn en dægr sigling er til vbygda Grænalandi or Kolbeins ey i norðr’ (‘...but from Longness in northern Iceland there is a four days’ journey north to Svalbard in Hafsbotn and one day’s sailing to the desolation of Greenland from Kolbeinsey in the north’). *Landnámabók 1-111: Hauksbók, Sturlubók, Melabók*. Finnur Jónsson (ed.) København: Thieles Bogtrykkeri, 1900: p. 4.



Islet erosion since 1616.



Position of Kolbeinsey relative to the mainland.



Condition as of 2012. Note splitting, which destroyed a helipad Iceland's coast guard had built in 1989.

**Sources:**

**Graphic:** Kristján Sæmundsson and Árni Hjartarson (1994). Gísli Viggóson, ed. 'Geology and Erosion of Kolbeinsey North of Iceland.' In *Proceedings of the Hornafjöllur International Coastal Symposium*: 443-451.

**Map:** *Landmælingar Íslands*, 'Kortasjá.' Icelandic, English. <<http://gis.lmi.is/kortasja/>>

**Photograph:** Ríkisútvarpið (RÚV) (Icelandic National Broadcasting Service), 'Hver verður framtíð Kolbeinseyjar?' Icelandic. <<http://www.ruv.is/frett/hver-verdur-framid-kolbeinseyjar>>

All sources accessed June 27, 2016.

## 5. Source Material

### ***Landmælingar Íslands (National Land Survey of Iceland)***

National institute for collecting, processing, preserving, and disseminating spatial data about Iceland. Website provides access to current and historical maps in pdf format, aerial photographs, survey data, WMS service, and a geoportal that connects to the INSPIRE-project of the European Union. Icelandic, English.

<<http://www.lmi.is/>>

### ***Stofnun Árna Magnússonar í íslenskum (Árni Magnússon Institute for Icelandic Studies)***

Website of the Institute contains links to member organizations *Íslensk málnefnd* (Icelandic Language Committee) and *Örnefnanefnd* (Place Names Committee), as well as to a searchable database of town names listed by municipality and county. Icelandic, some English.

<[http://www.arnastofnun.is/page/as2012\\_forsida\\_is](http://www.arnastofnun.is/page/as2012_forsida_is)>

## Appendix A: Glossary of Generic Terms

| Generic                      | Feature Designation Name       | Feature Designation Code |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <i>afrétt(ur)</i>            | (highland) pasture             | GRAZ                     |
| <i>akur</i>                  | field                          | FLD                      |
| <i>askja</i>                 | caldera                        | CLDA                     |
| <i>aurkeila</i>              | alluvial fan(s)                | FAN                      |
| <i>á</i>                     | river, stream                  | STM                      |
| <i>ás</i>                    | ridge (small)                  | RDGE                     |
| <i>bær</i>                   | homestead                      | FRM                      |
|                              | town                           | PPL                      |
| <i>bakki</i>                 | bank (of a brook/stream/river) | BNK                      |
| <i>berg</i>                  | rock                           | RK                       |
| <i>berggangur</i>            | dike                           | DIKE                     |
| <i>berghlaup, bergskriða</i> | rockslide                      | RKFL                     |
| <i>bjarg</i>                 | cliff, rock, crag              | CLF, RK                  |
| <i>borg</i>                  | city                           | PPL                      |
| <i>brekka</i>                | slope                          | SLP                      |
| <i>brunnur</i>               | spring                         | SPNG                     |
| <i>brú</i>                   | bridge                         | BDG                      |
| <i>byggð</i>                 | inhabited district, settlement | PPL                      |
| <i>daljökull</i>             | (valley) glacier               | GLCR                     |
| <i>eldfjall (eldstöð)</i>    | volcano                        | VLC                      |
| <i>eldgjá</i>                | (lava) fissure                 | FSR                      |
| <i>eldstöð (eldfjall)</i>    | (eruption) crater              | CRTR                     |
| <i>engi</i>                  | meadow                         | MDW                      |
| <i>ey</i>                    | island                         | ISL                      |
| <i>fjall</i>                 | mountain                       | MT                       |
| <i>fjalljökull</i>           | (mountain) glacier             | GLCR                     |
| <i>fjara</i>                 | beach                          | BCH                      |
| <i>flói</i>                  | (large) bay                    | BAY                      |
| <i>fljót</i>                 | (large) river                  | STM                      |
| <i>fjöll</i>                 | mountains                      | MTS                      |
| <i>fjörður</i>               | fjord                          | FJD                      |
| <i>foss</i>                  | waterfall(s)                   | FLLS                     |
| <i>gangur</i>                | dike                           | DIKE                     |
| <i>gil</i>                   | ravine                         | RVN                      |
| <i>gigur</i>                 | crater                         | CRTR                     |
| <i>gnúpur</i>                | peak                           | PK                       |
| <i>gosketill</i>             | caldera                        | CLDA                     |
| <i>háls</i>                  | ridge                          | RDGE                     |
| <i>hæð</i>                   | hill                           | HLL                      |

| <b>Generic</b>                | <b>Feature Designation Name</b> | <b>Feature Designation Code</b> |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <i>heiði</i>                  | heath                           | HTH                             |
| <i>hellir</i>                 | cave                            | CAVE                            |
| <i>hlíð</i>                   | slope, mountainside             | SLP                             |
| <i>hnjúkur (núpur/gnúpur)</i> | peak                            | PK                              |
| <i>hólmur</i>                 | islet                           | ISL                             |
| <i>hreppur</i>                | shire                           | PPL                             |
| <i>hrunskriða</i>             | talus                           | TAL                             |
| <i>hryggur</i>                | ridge                           | RDGE                            |
| <i>hús</i>                    | house                           | HSE                             |
| <i>hyrna</i>                  | peak                            | PK                              |
| <i>höfn</i>                   | harbor                          | HBR                             |
|                               | port                            | PRT                             |
| <i>jökulhetta</i>             | icecap                          | CAPG                            |
| <i>jökulkemba, jökulurð</i>   | moraine                         | MRN                             |
| <i>jökull</i>                 | glacier                         | GLCR                            |
| <i>jökulskál</i>              | cirque                          | CRQ                             |
| <i>jörð</i>                   | farm                            | FRM                             |
| <i>kaupstaður</i>             | town                            | PPL                             |
| <i>kaupún</i>                 | village                         |                                 |
| <i>kelda</i>                  | pool, morass                    | POOL                            |
| <i>kirkja</i>                 | church                          | CH                              |
| <i>klettur</i>                | cliff, crag                     | CLF                             |
| <i>klif</i>                   | pass                            | PASS                            |
| <i>kvísl</i>                  | river                           | STM                             |
| <i>lind</i>                   | spring                          | SPNG                            |
| <i>lækur</i>                  | brook                           | STM                             |
| <i>móbergsstapi</i>           | plateau                         | PLAT                            |
| <i>möl</i>                    | gravel                          | GVL                             |
| <i>mýri</i>                   | bog                             | BOG                             |
| <i>náma</i>                   | quarry                          | MNQR                            |
| <i>núpur</i>                  | peak                            | PK                              |
| <i>oddi</i>                   | promontory                      | PROM                            |
| <i>ós</i>                     | mouth of a river                | STMM                            |
| <i>óseyri</i>                 | delta                           | DLTA                            |
| <i>rif</i>                    | reef                            | RF                              |
| <i>sæluhús</i>                | hut                             | HUT                             |
| <i>sandalda</i>               | dune                            | DUNE                            |
| <i>sífreri</i>                | tundra                          | TUND                            |
| <i>skagi (nes)</i>            | peninsula                       | PEN                             |
| <i>skarð</i>                  | pass                            | PASS                            |
| <i>skógur</i>                 | woods, forest                   | FRST                            |

| <b>Generic</b>        | <b>Feature Designation Name</b> | <b>Feature Designation Code</b> |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <i>skriða</i>         | talus                           | TAL                             |
| <i>skriðuhlaup</i>    | rockfall,avalanche              | RKFL                            |
| <i>skriðukeila</i>    | (alluvial) cone                 | CONE                            |
| <i>slétta</i>         | plain                           | PLN                             |
|                       | field                           | FLD                             |
| <i>snær,snjór</i>     | snowfield                       | SNOW                            |
| <i>stapi</i>          | plateau                         | PLAT                            |
| <i>stein</i>          | rock                            | RK                              |
| <i>strönd</i>         | beach                           | BCH                             |
| <i>sveitarfélagið</i> | municipality                    | ADM1                            |
| <i>tangi</i>          | (narrow) peninsula              | PEN                             |
| <i>þorp</i>           | village                         | PPL                             |
| <i>vað</i>            | ford                            | FORD                            |
| <i>varða</i>          | cairn                           | CARN                            |
| <i>vatn</i>           | lake                            | LK                              |
| <i>vatnaset</i>       | alluvial fan                    | FAN                             |
| <i>vatnasvið</i>      | drainage basin                  | BSND                            |
| <i>vegur</i>          | road                            | RD                              |
| <i>viti</i>           | lighthouse                      | LTHSE                           |
| <i>vogur</i>          | inlet                           | INLT                            |
| <i>völlur</i>         | field                           | FLD                             |

## Appendix B: Modifiers in Icelandic Place Names

| Icelandic                  | English        |
|----------------------------|----------------|
| <i>austur</i>              | east, eastern  |
| <i>eystri</i>              |                |
| <i>fremri</i>              | front          |
| <i>grænn,græn,grænt</i>    | green          |
| <i>grunn</i>               | shallow        |
| <i>hvítur</i>              | white          |
| <i>innri</i> <sup>11</sup> | (‘more’) inner |
| <i>innstur</i>             | innermost      |
| <i>norður</i>              | north          |
| <i>rauður</i>              | red            |
| <i>stór</i>                | large, great   |
| <i>suður</i>               | south          |
| <i>svartur</i>             | black          |
| <i>vestur</i>              | west           |
| <i>ytri</i> <sup>12</sup>  | (‘more’) outer |
| <i>ystur</i>               | outermost      |

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<sup>11</sup> ‘Inner’ in Icelandic exists only in comparative and superlative forms.

<sup>12</sup> ‘Outer’ in Icelandic exists only in comparative and superlative forms.

## Appendix C: Abbreviations on Icelandic Maps

| <b>Abbreviation</b> | <b>Expansion</b> | <b>English</b> |
|---------------------|------------------|----------------|
| <i>A.</i>           | <i>austur</i>    | east           |
| <i>-hr.</i>         | <i>-hreppur</i>  | -shire         |
| <i>N.</i>           | <i>norður</i>    | north          |
| <i>örn.</i>         | <i>örnefni</i>   | place name     |
| <i>S.</i>           | <i>suður</i>     | south          |
| <i>V.</i>           | <i>vestur</i>    | west           |
| <i>v., v/</i>       | <i>við</i>       | at             |



