

University of St Andrews



**SYSSEMESTEREN
PÅ SVALBARD**

Att.: William David Harcourt

Our date:
13.07.2021

Our reference
21/01658-4

Your date:
01.07.2021

Reply to research application - RiS-ID 11446 - Radar monitoring of Calving at Hansbreen

The Governor refers to your application dated 01.07.2021, RiS-ID 11446, concerning your project “*Radar monitoring of calving at Hansbreen*”. We also refer to your notification of travel plans in Svalbard for individual travellers, dated 1st of July 2021.

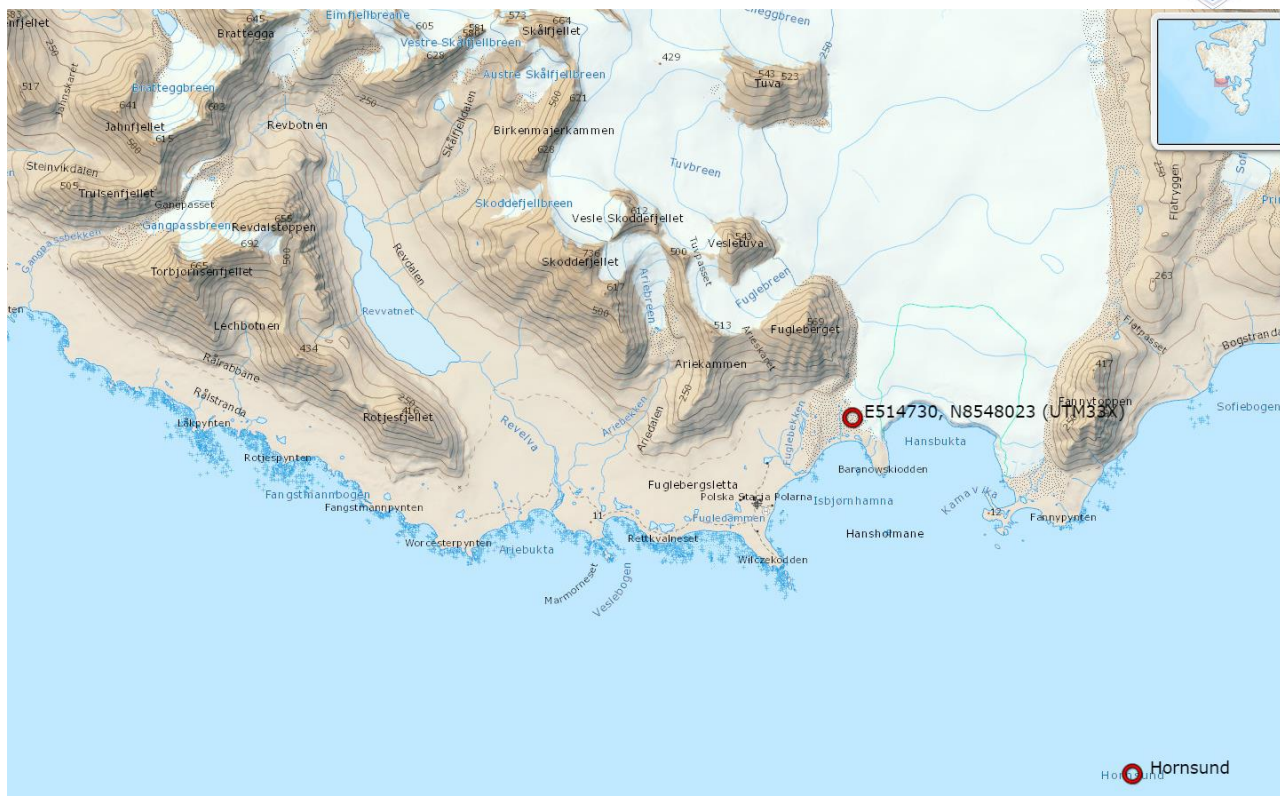
Application

The fieldwork aims to develop the capabilities of a real-aperture, 94 GHz radar for mapping and monitoring glacier calving fronts. The implementation of the project requires deploying a millimetre-wave radar at the terminus of Hansbreen, in Hornsund area within South-Spitsbergen national park.

The applicator intends to set up a small tent for the storage of field equipment at the field site by the glacier. The tent will not be used for sleeping. The temporary storage of equipment is stated to be necessary as the equipment will be heavy and unfeasible to carry every day between the field site and the Polish Polar Research station. Any garbage will be taken back to the research station at the end of each day and disposed of appropriately. The tent will be erected over bare ground and pinned down by guy lines and pegs, alongside available rocks which will be put back to their original location after fieldwork.

The fieldwork period applied for is 27.07.2021-07.08.2021.

Figure 1: Location of fieldwork



Regulations

The Svalbard Environmental Protection Act of 15 June 2001 apply. According to the Act section 25 all species of flora and fauna, including their eggs, nests and lairs, are protected. Section 37 give the Governor the authority to grant exemptions for scientific purposes or when other special reasons so indicate.

The field work is planned within Sør-Spitsbergen national park where the Regulation relating to the national parks South-Spitsbergen, Forlandet and North West - Spitsbergen, on the nature reserves North East-Svalbard and South East-Svalbard, and on the nature reserves for birds on Svalbard apply. According to the Regulation section 9, plants and fossils are not to be removed, and shall be protected against damage and disturbance of every kind that is not caused by regular traffic. Furthermore section 6 determines that these areas are protected against all measures that can impact landscape, terrain, or disturbance of the environment, included different installations.

According to § 11 d in the Regulation, the Governor may grant exemptions for scientific purposes as long as this is not in conflict with the purpose of the national park.

The Governor's considerations

The measuring equipment as described is of modest size and temporary character and will, as we consider, not impact landscape, terrain or disturbance of the environment, cf. the Regulation section 6. We assume that all traffic both in the purpose of outplacing the equipment and the following sampling of data, and the choice of placement and installation of all equipment will be made carefully to avoid any negative impact on resident flora or fauna, cf. the Regulation section 6 and the Act section 25.

The purpose of the measures is clearly scientific.



On this basis the Governor consider that we can grant permission for the measures as described in the application.

The Governor's decision

The Governor has considered your application and made the following decision:

The Governor grants University of St. Andrews (Scotland) by project owner William David Harcourt permission to install the survey-instruments and erect the storage tent as described and located in the application in Sør-Spitsbergen national park during the period 24th of July – 7th of August 2021. The permission is given under the provisions of the Svalbard Environmental Protection Act of 15 June 2001, § 37 and the Regulation relating to the national parks South-Spitsbergen, Forlandet and North West - Spitsbergen, on the nature reserves North East-Svalbard and South East-Svalbard, and on the nature reserves for birds on Svalbard, § 11 d.

The Governor's permission is granted on the following conditions:

- Deploying and removal of the instruments must be done with special care, as to minimize negative impact on flora, fauna and terrain. The holes/ traces produced by the tents and installations shall be made as little visible as possible.
- All equipment must be tagged with name of institution, names of project owner and the project/RIS-numbers, and contact information.
- All equipment/installations shall be removed, and sufficient clearing shall be made by the end of the permit, at the latest 7th of August 2021.
- The project owner shall provide for the immediate reporting of possible accidents/irregularities to the Governor.
- The project shall submit a report from the field work by **1st of November 2021**. The template for this report can be found on the Governors web pages.
- All equipment you bring during the field trip, and all waste items, are to be removed and brought back to Longyearbyen when the field expedition is finished. Garbage shall not be burned, except clean untreated wood.
- When carrying out the projects, the researchers shall show consideration towards other users of the areas in such a way that the research does not seem provoking or destroy people's wilderness experience.
- These exemptions are only valid for the people included in the projects.
- A copy of this permission must be brought along during the fieldwork.

Duty of care

The Governor calls attention to the duty of care in the Svalbard Environmental Protection Act § 5 first sentence: *"Any person who is staying in or operates an undertaking in Svalbard shall show due consideration and exercise the caution required to avoid unnecessary damage or disturbance to the natural environment or cultural heritage.."*

Right to complain

According to Norwegian law you are entitled to complain about the present decision. Written complaints must be submitted within three weeks of receiving this letter. The complaint must be submitted to the Governor.



Regards

Ingvild Øyjordet
Acting Head of Environment Protection

Ingunn Løvdal
Advisor nature management

This document is approved and expedited electronically without signature

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Miljødirektoratet