

SITES OF MERIT IN ICELAND - VARDÁ

Mission for Ministry of Industries and Innovation, Department of Tourism

Mission Final Report – Graphic Documents Volume 2E / THINGVELLIR

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In cooperation with



CONTENT OF THE FINAL REPORT

VOLUME 1 Synthesis of recommendations for Sites of Merit approach

Context, objectives of the mission and programme

Proposal for an innovative approach

- Natural & cultural sites and Sustainable development
- Sites of Merit Commitments

Testing the Grands Sites de France approach and methodology in Iceland

- A method based on the recognition and experience of the values of the site
- The key points of the method
- The interest of the exercise
- Translating these elements into action: the Landscape Intention Scheme

Recommendations for translating the Sites of Merit commitments to each site

- The vision, the principles for action in the sites
- The working method at each Site of Merit
- Site development

Recommendations for national policy steering

- Steering and governance at national level
- Position of the 4 test sites in relation to the Sites of Merit commitments
- The labelling process
- What types of sites should be involved in the Site of Merit Policy ?
- Involvement of private partners and private owners of the sites
- Local governance of projects
- Involve architects, landscapers and contractors
- Create a site managers network

Conclusion

Annexes: List of documents transmitted to MII, Programm, List of Participants

VOLUME 2 Graphic Documents (drawings, photos, Landscape Intention Schemes)

2A Introduction

2B Jokulsarlon

2C Geysir

2D Gullfoss

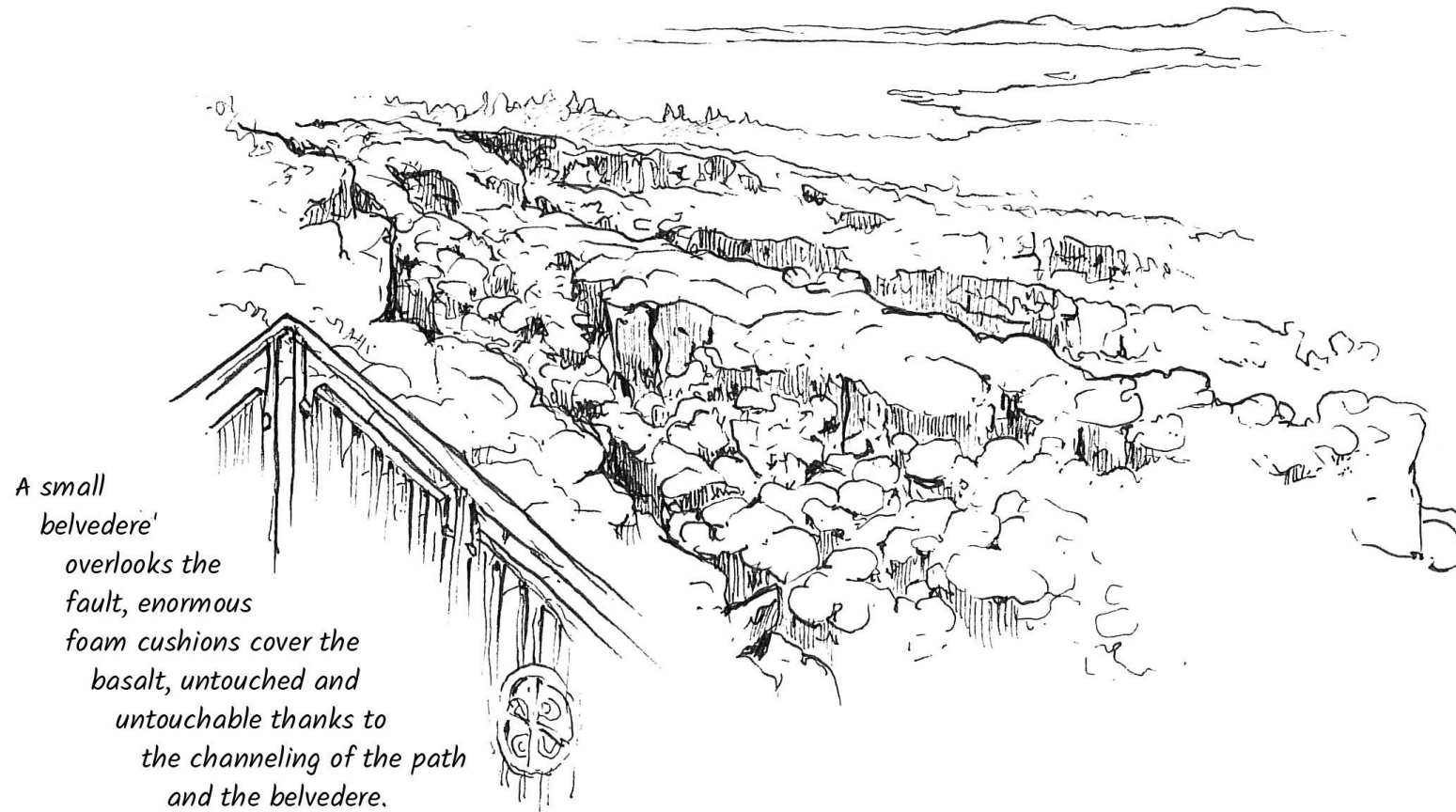
2E Thingvellir

Note 1: In Volume 1, numbers in brackets refer to Volume 2 slides.

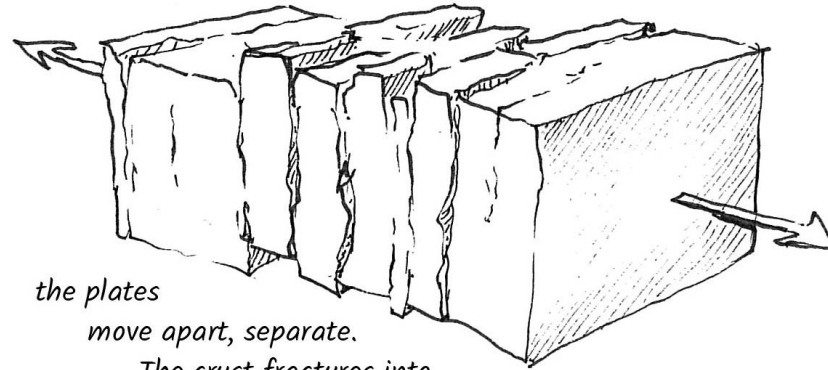
Note 2: In this document, "Sites of Merit" and "Varda" are used interchangeably.

Note 3: All drawings, maps and LIS are by Alain Freytet.

September 9, 2021
Thingvellir



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Thingvellir



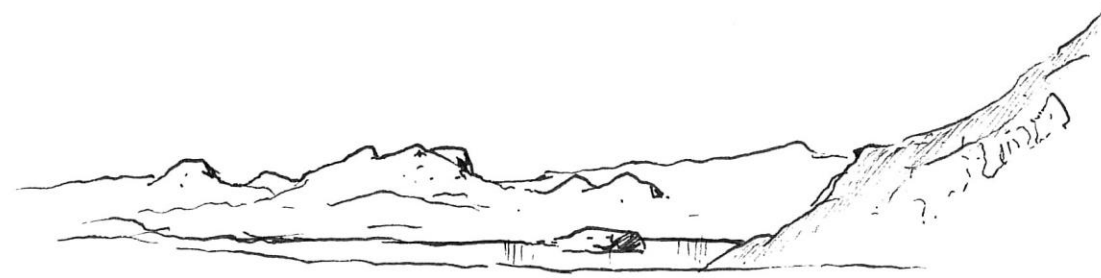
*the plates
move apart, separate.*

*The crust fractures into
parallel cracks. The interpretation
of the site museum does not really reflect
these great geological forces.*



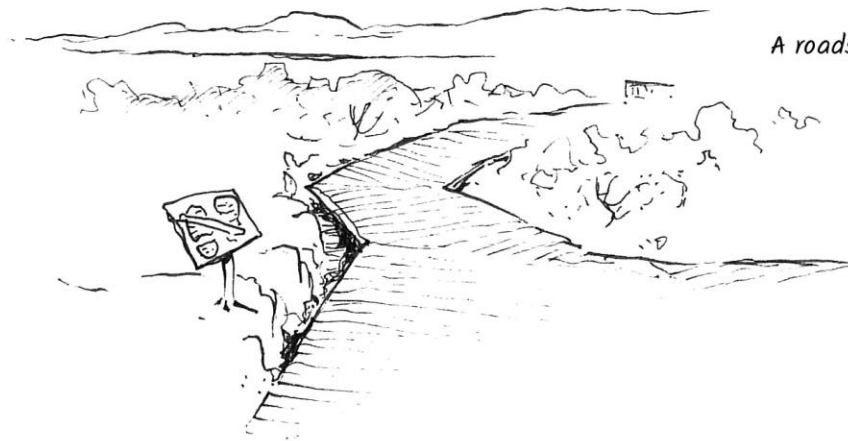
The rift is unfolding.

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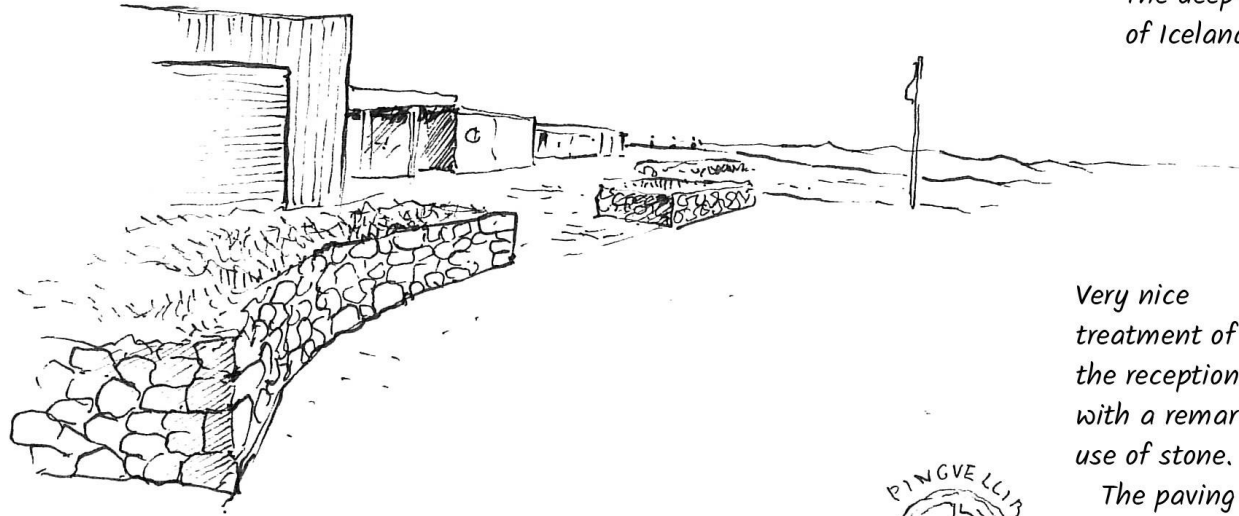
First look
at the lake

Free walking is
prohibited. Would a
small path closer to
nature be possible?



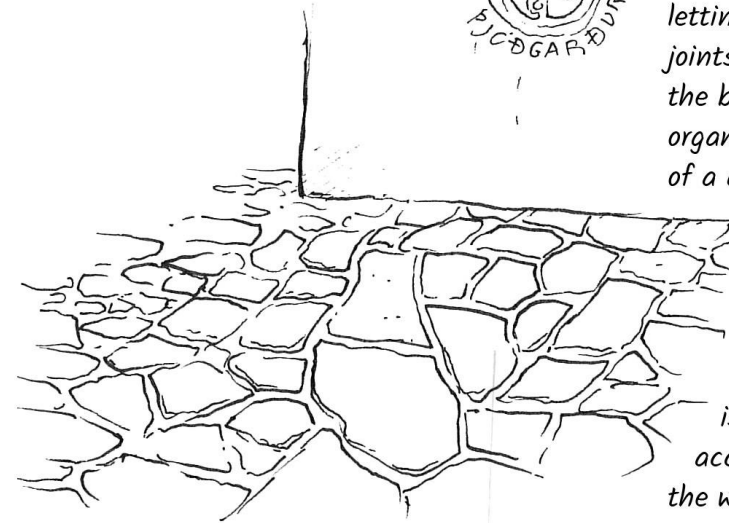
A roadside parking lot leads directly
to a wooden decking which
keeps us away from the
ground.

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Thingvellir
The deep heart
of Iceland

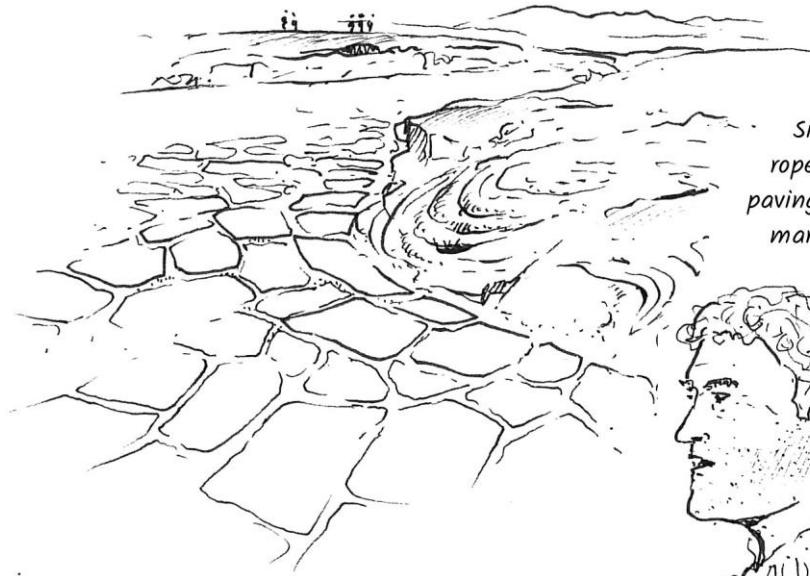


Very nice
treatment of
the reception
with a remarkable
use of stone.

The paving is of
a beautiful subtlety
letting slip lines of
joints, evoking both
the basaltic
organs and the wing
of a dragonfly.



The complicity
between the
landscaper or the
designer architect
and the craftsman
is felt in the
accuracy of
the work.



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The deep heart
of Iceland

Simple contact, without
rope, between the basalt
paving and the ground still
marked with cord lava.

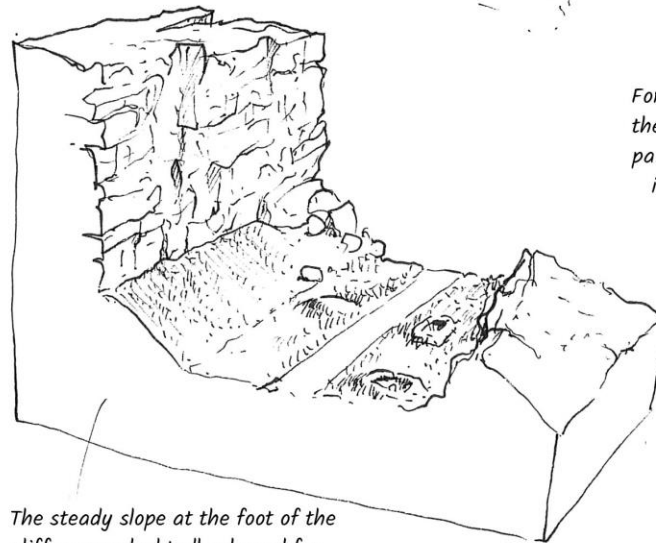
Nolbetium, dry stone
craftsman (in particular) son
of the country, is the author
of the stone walls and paving
of Thingvellir. The prices are the
same as in France :
-The wall 800 €/linear m
-The paving in front of the
reception area 500 €/m²

Return to traditional know-how
by adapting them to the current
context, it is using local materials,
it is making local artisans work, it is
ensuring continuity, it is anchoring
the development in the heart of
Icelanders

Nolbetium
Verstaki
Griðhledslumadur



September 9, 2021
Thingvellir



The steady slope at the foot of the cliff was undoubtedly shaped for the needs of the Althing.

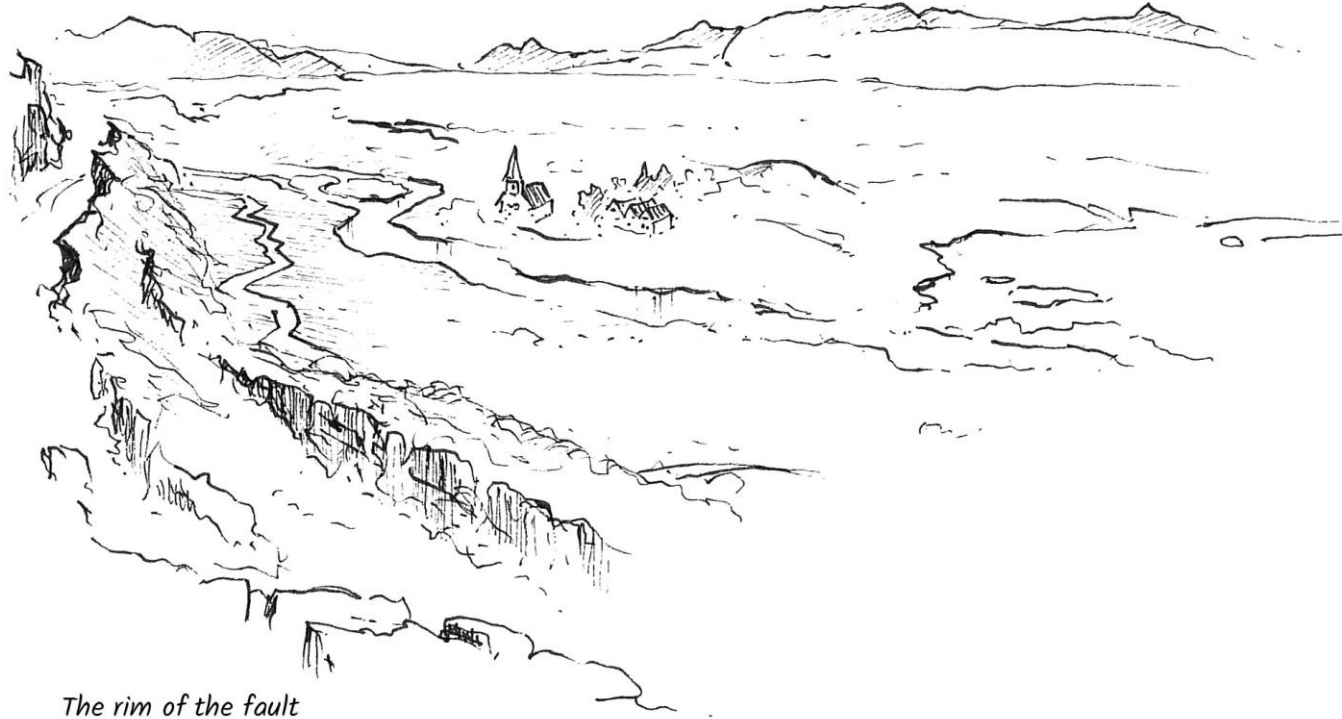
Extensive grazing by sheep could maintain short grass and legibility of archaeological forms.

For more than 1000 years, the assembly of the Icelandic parliament has met in this unique place where the cliffs constitute closed spaces on the scale of those meetings. Only a few models corresponding to the establishment of basic structures such as tents discretely testify to this event dear to the heart of every Icelandic. This erasure should make people modest and attentive to future developments.





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Thingvellir
Location of the Althing



*The rim of the fault
opens up a grandiose landscape.*

The jerky fracturing of the black rock responds to the luminous and undulating meanders of the river. Between the two, a little pretentious, a decking imposes its presence. It is disturbing that in these places steeped in history where men have succeeded each other for more than 1000 years without leaving a trace, we can impose such visible traces.





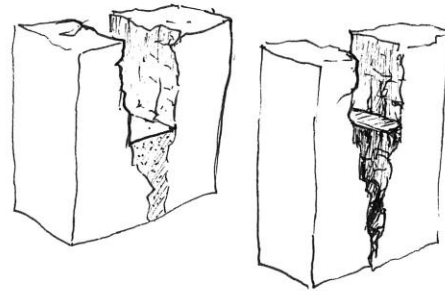
The strong impact of the wooden platform in the flood valley. Would another option at the foot of the cliff have been possible?

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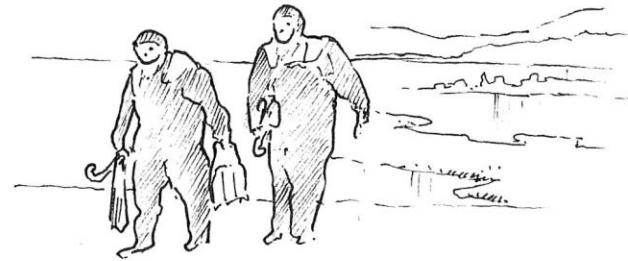
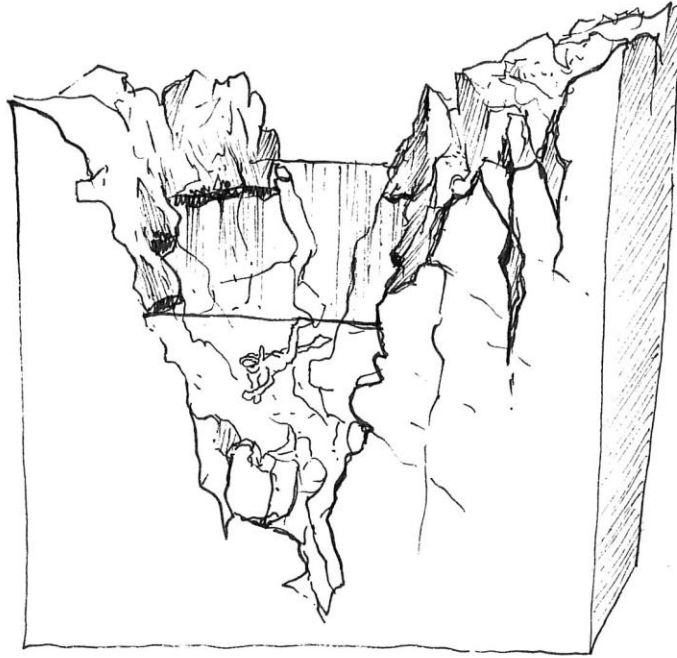


While everywhere we are trying to plug the holes to allow roads and paths to pass, we have removed embankments here to reveal a geological event. An example to show and make known. I would show it to my landscape students during my geology lessons.

Magnificent project which consisted in purging the fault of the embankments of the old road. Terrestrial fracturing regains its expression, its dizzying depth. The footbridge flies over the abyss like a flying carpet. Unfortunately, visitors pass over this event without really paying attention to it. It may be too wide but the flow of visitors certainly required it. Fixing it on one of the walls to leave more space on the void could also have been a solution.

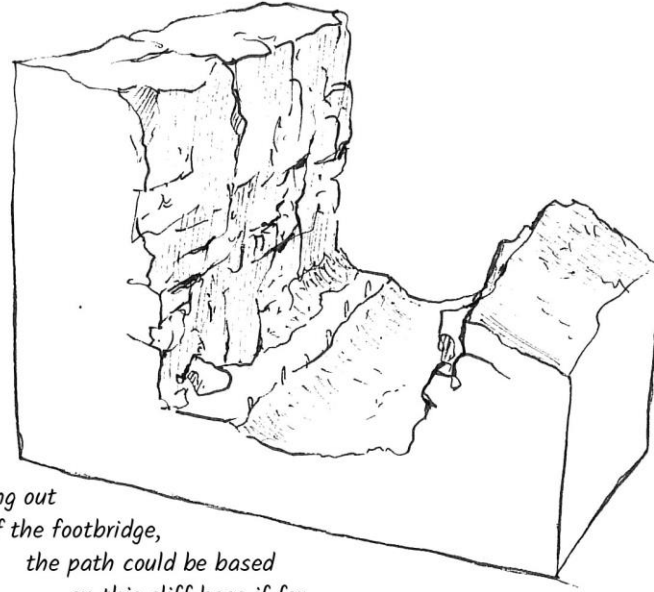


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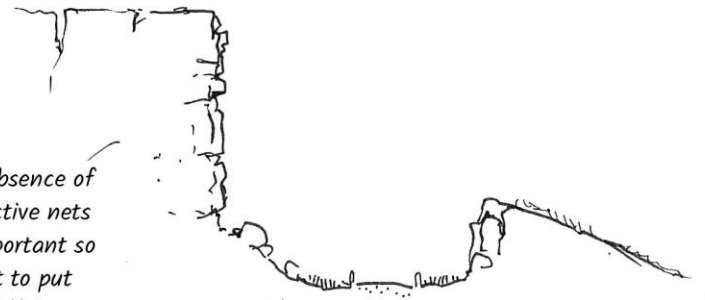


*Funny figures
emerge from the water
fault. A great experience
that makes you want,
provided that the facilities
and occupations do not weigh
on the site. They are already well
framed with information, furniture,
access, security...*

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Coming out
of the footbridge,
the path could be based
on this cliff base if for
that there is no need to
lay protective nets and
be satisfied with a manual drain.



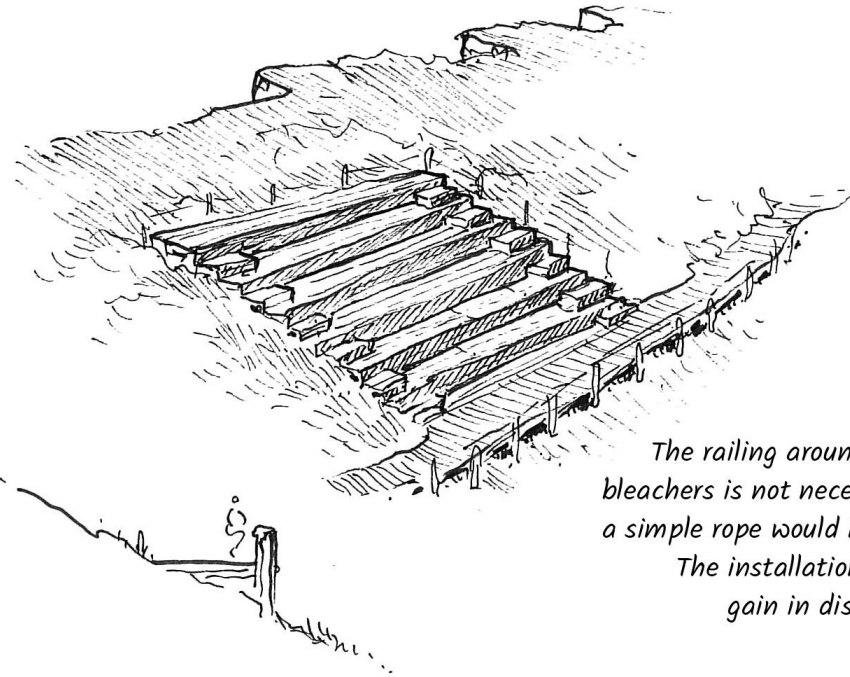
The absence of
protective nets
is important so
as not to put
the cliff in a
cage.

The vegetation is
now protected
by ropes.

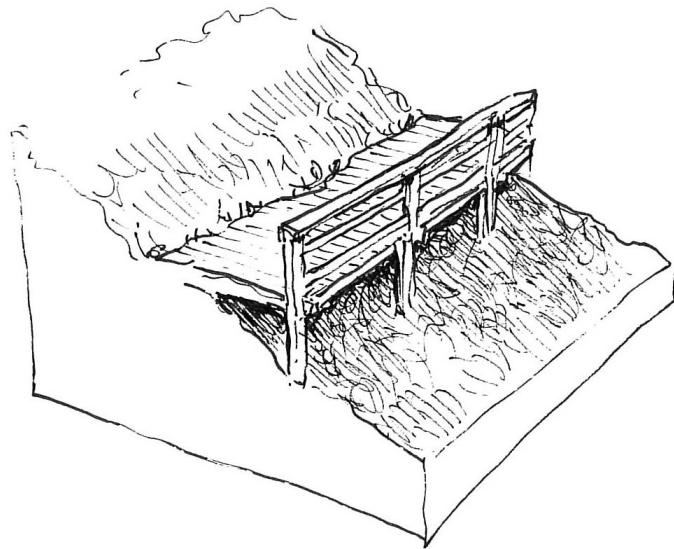
The old
dirty road.



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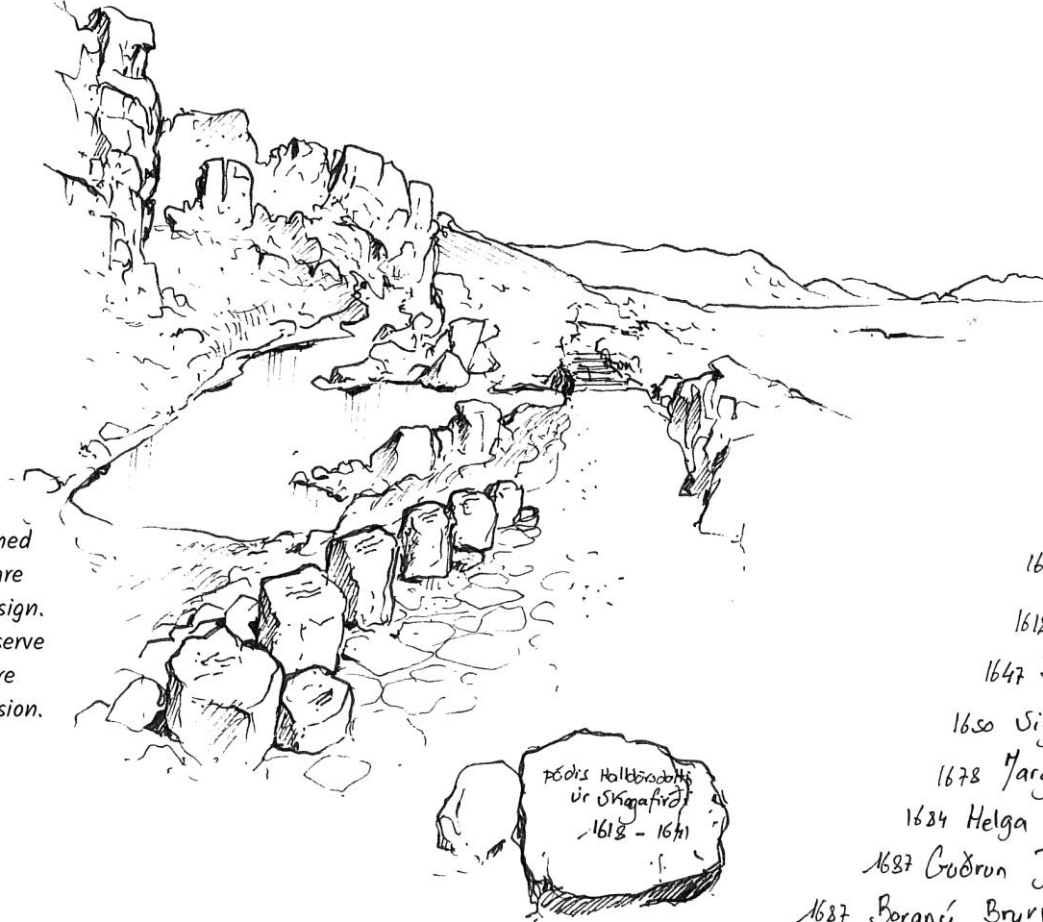
The railing around the bleachers is not necessary, a simple rope would be enough. The installation would gain in discretion.



Leaning the footbridge against the slope makes it possible to lighten the wooden structure by removing the upstream guardrail.

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The today heavy
and rigid bridge
will be redesigned to
a more flexible and
narrower structure.

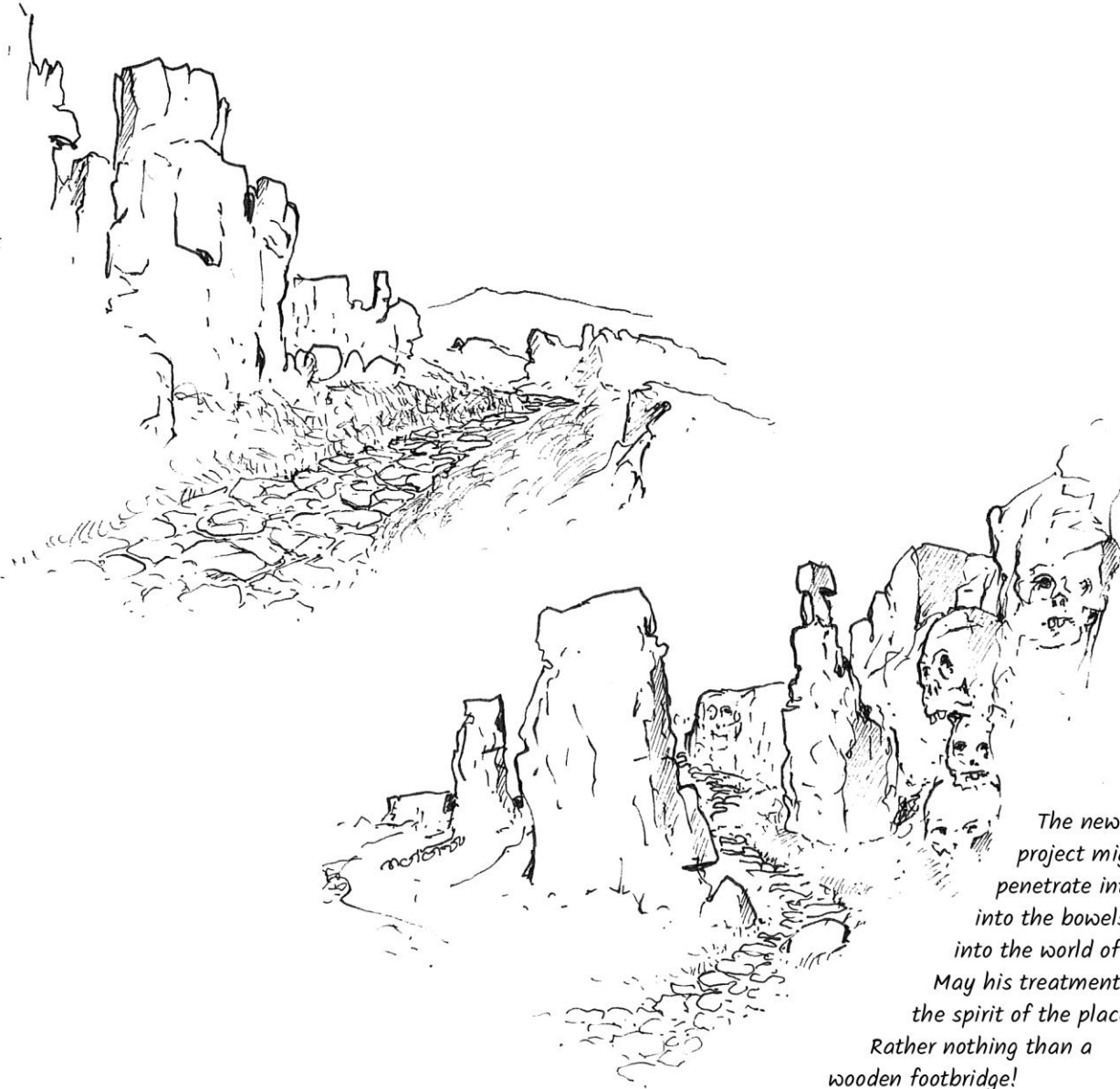


The names of
the women drowned
in the waterfall are
inscribed on the sign.
They perhaps deserve
a denser and more
respectful expression.
Engravings on
basalt
organs for
example.

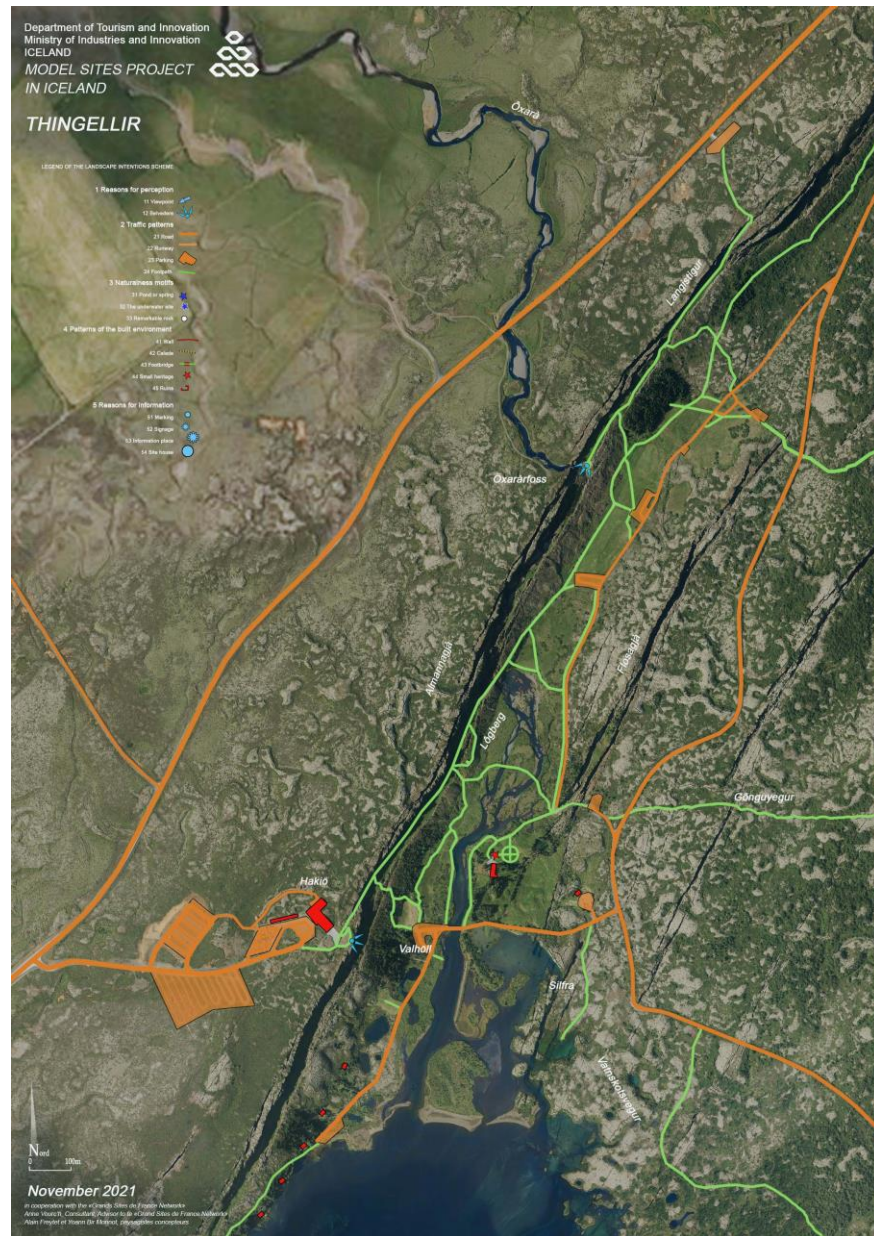
- 1618 Þóðis Halldórsdóttir úr Skagafræði
- 1618 Guðbjörg Jónsdóttir að austan
- 1647 Þjörg Jónsdóttir úr Húnaþingi
- 1650 Sigríður Einarisdóttir
- 1678 Margrét Simonsdóttir úr Árnessýslu
- 1684 Helga Gunnarsdóttir úr Strandassýslu
- 1687 Guðrun Jónsdóttir úr Gullbringusýslu
- 1687 Borgný Brynjólfsson úr Ísafjarðarsýslu
- 1695 Þuríður Bjarnadóttir úr Ísafjarðarsýslu
- 1697 Jónreiður Þorgeirsdóttir úr Árnessýslu
- 1703 Ketri Þorgeirsdóttir af Akranesi

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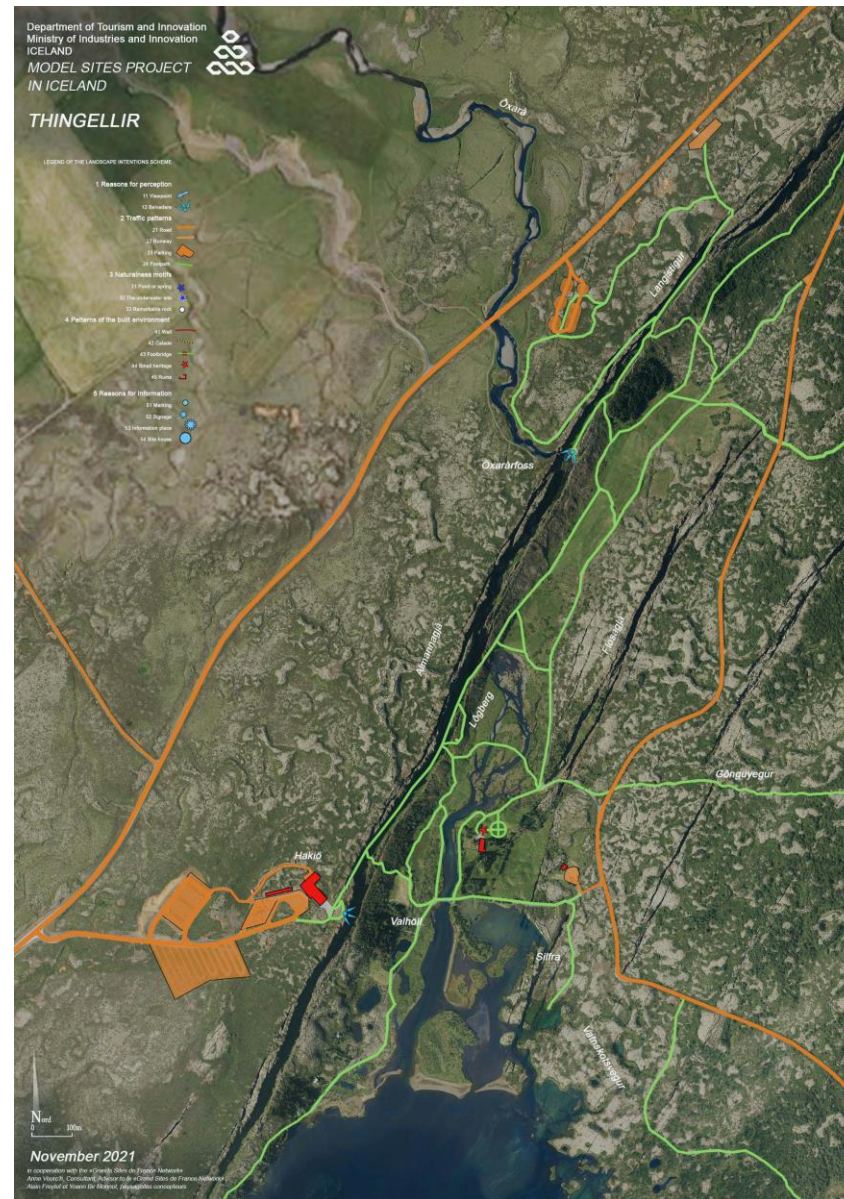
The old paved road,
untouched
since the 19th
century, takes
us down in history.
Game of Thrones
got it right. Perhaps it
was not necessary
to create a gazebo
to satisfy the
curiosity of fans.



The new path way
project might
penetrate into the rift,
into the bowels of the earth,
into the world of the dead.
May his treatment be up to
the spirit of the place!
Rather nothing than a
wooden footbridge!



As today, 2021




The project after the ready planned demolition of the car parks




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LEGEND OF THE LANDSCAPE INTENTIONS SCHEME


1 Reasons for perception


11 Viewpoint 


12 Belvedere 

2 Traffic patterns


21 Road 


22 Runway 


23 Parking 

24 Footpath 

3 Naturalness motifs


31 Pond or spring 


32 The underwater site 


33 Remarkable rock 


4 Patterns of the built environment

41 Wall 


42 Calade 


43 Footbridge 


44 Small heritage 


45 Ruins 

5 Reasons for information

51 Marking 

52 Signage 

53 Information place 

54 Site house 



Legends of the Landscape Intention Scheme