

HEALING THE LAND

The story
of land reclamation
and soil conservation
in Iceland

ROGER CROFTS



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Substantially modified and extended from an original Icelandic text by Friðrik G. Olgeirsson. Translated by Robert Mellik

'This is a must read book for all interested in and involved in improving the stewardship of the land. Iceland's hundred year effort to stabilise its soil and reclaim the land for people's benefit is a fascinating story. This book sets out the natural and human history which gave Iceland a major headache in stopping sand drifting everywhere. It tells the story of a century of reclamation work. The author analyses the ingredients of success: public and political support, laws and resources, leadership, new techniques, different seed types, engaging civil society and learning from the experience of others. The notable reclamation and demonstration work at Gunnarsholt is highlighted as an exemplar of what can be achieved. The author concludes with an analysis of successes and failures, and draws lessons for Iceland and elsewhere.'

Roger Crofts is an experienced environmental adviser, and former leader of Scotland's natural heritage agency. He has visited Iceland many times and has first hand insights of the issues and solutions.

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