

**Note:** The first activation of Hengill TF/SV-009,  
mine of September 4<sup>th</sup> (*tf3dx SOTA # 02*), was not valid.

I failed on the basic principle of checking the exact coordinates given by the SOTA list. Instead I headed for the summit Skeggi further north, generally assumed to be the highest peak of Hengill. It is so described in both old documentation (1703) and recent books, e.g. Ari Trausti Guðmundsson: *"SUMMIT, 100 Mountain Hikes in Iceland"*, 2012. People go there for the top like I have done for a lifetime. Yet the point in the SOTA list seems likely to be more accurate.

I had followed the normal marked trail to Skeggi, passing a bit east of the SOTA point and continuing hundreds of meters through its activation zone before a dent in the landscape cut it off from Skeggi. This meant a kilometer extra hike each way and the need to regain some half hundred meters of height.

Needless to say, 4 weeks later a second hike (*tf3dx SOTA # 04*) was inevitable to activate the SOTA spot. A different hike route was chosen mainly to warrant its description. Its start elevation is nearly 100 m higher than that of the Sleggjubeinsskarð route, but half of that is lost going down an early threshold. Also it is half a km longer and not quite as impressive.

**The original report follows, with the new report appended.**

# TF3DX/P SOTA # 02

**Date:** 4. September 2016  
**Summit:** TF/SV-009 Hengill  
**Other people:** none  
**Start elevation:** 300 m Summit elevation: 802 m  
**Hike horiz. distance :** 6.8 km in 13.6 km total  
**Hike duration:** 3 hours 20 mins in, taking lot of pictures!  
2 hours 40 mins back, same route  
**To carry:** 10.6 kg in, minus food and drink out  
**Overnighting:** none  
**Bands and modes:** 20 m CW and 2 m FM  
**TX power:** 2 W on 20 m, 2.5 W on 2 m  
**Antennas:** End fed  $\frac{1}{2} \lambda$  for 20 m (hor) and  $\frac{1}{4} \lambda + 2$  radials 2 m (vert)  
**Radio conditions:** Very poor, often no DX hrd on 20 m  
**Number of QSOs:** 16 TF, 4 DX20 total  
**Weather:** Good , except fog with cold gusts coming and going on summit (clouds)  
**Clothing:** 1 layer hiking, 4 layers torso and 3 layers legs on summit

**Trail:** Clearly marked but steep stretches. Note warning in the photo show for slippery part (if wet), easy to circumvent. Similar short stretch up from the valley, trekking pole(s) beneficial. There is a low cliff to overcome up on mountain (slide 29, left), no real climbing though and other routes possible.













*Near halfway up the Sleggjubeinsskarð mountain pass. Uppermost part of trail, sloping to left, can be slippery.*





*After about 200 m ascent up the pass, mountain valley Innstidalur lies ahead at near 500 m above sea level.*





*Light colours are due to geothermal clay. Evens out sole pattern like putty, thus the slippery warning before.*





*Innstidalur valley, Shangri-La of the mountains around Reykjavík. Trail up from valley goes left of the hot springs.*





*Grazing sheep. Skeggi, the Hengill summit, is seen far away - above the 3 sheep near the picture middle.*





*In mid valley, looking back at the Sleggjubeinsskarð pass.*





*The other direction, sheep in Iceland come in many colours! TF/SN-025, Ingólfsfjall 551 m, seen at distance.*





*This valley - a self-contained world, even sports its own lava formations.*





*Plenty of drinking water comes down to valley. Trail goes up to left in photo. The prominent peak is not the summit!*





*The humble beginning of Hengladalsá river. It keeps collecting small streams on its way down.*





*The task ahead; climbing Hengill itself. Current trail goes up along the grassy ridge to the right.*





Colours.





*Another contribution to the Hengladalsá river.*





*The trail ahead.*





*Hot springs on the right side of the trail ridge.*





*About half way up along the gully. Note the colourful gate keeper at its end that .....*





*.... gets closer as we progress up the trail. Patch of snow since last winter has made it through the summer.*





*Turning north from the closing gully into the mountain proper does . . . . .*





*..... not quite mean end of ascent!*





*But picturesque scenery to the west makes up for it!*





*Innstidalur valley at your feet, looking towards the Sleggjubeinsskarð pass.*





*The journey goes up into the clouds.*





*What hides in the fog - folk tale monsters?*





*Or perhaps the summit?*





*No such luck - but there is a face looking east!*





*And the head of a dinosaur.*





*Down to a shallow valley. Those peaks don't match the shape of the summit - still more to go.*





*How about this one?*





*Or the faint shadow to the right?*





*Nope, Skeggi is more to the left - which agrees with my compass.*





*Finally something recognizable as the clouds come and go with varying density.*





*The final stretch towards the summit.*





*Again subtle colours - and very fragile vegetation. Watch your step!*





*Close-up of Skeggi (bearded man), summit of Hengill. North side will be something else with dangerous cliffs!*





*View NNE, lake Þingvallavatn - lots of SOTA summits in the clouds.*





*Sculpture.*





*More artistry.*





*Up on the shoulder of the bearded man, looking NW towards Mosfell with YL TF3GD/P 20 km away.*





*QTH giving shelter from the wind and antenna support.*





*East and west face of shelter/support. Well within the Activation Zone, took GPS to the cairn to and fro.*





*The rig.*





*The operator.*





*The home end of the antenna. No pole on this trip, used by YL TF3GD/P on Mosfell TF/SV-042.*





*Yet the antenna is pretty high up, sloping west.*





*Very long stretch for support.*





*The far end.*





*Mountain ridges north of Hengill. In the far blue behind are TF/SV's 010, 007, 012, 003, 002 and 015 .*





*Mountain creatures worshipping the sun.*



# **Appendix**

## The trip 4 weeks later



# TF3DX/P SOTA # 04

**Date:** 1. October 2016  
**Summit:** TF/SV-009 Hengill  
**Other people:** none  
**Start elevation:** 390 m Summit elevation: 802 m (SOTA list)  
**Hike horiz. distance :** 6.3 km in 6.1 km out  
**Hike duration:** 2 hours 40 mins in, taking few pictures!  
2 hours 40 mins back in rain and wind  
**To carry:** 9.2 kg in, less food and drink out  
**Overnighting:** none  
**Bands and modes:** 2 m FM, 20 m CW aborted due to malfunction  
**TX power:** 2.5 W on 2 m (2 W on 20 m)  
**Antennas:**  $\frac{1}{4} \lambda$  on 2 m (vert) and end fed  $\frac{1}{2}$  on 20 m (semi vertical)  
**Radio conditions:** Some decent signals heard on 20 m  
**Number of QSOs:** 6 on 2 m, CQ not attempted on 20 m after intermittent QSV  
**Weather:** Good in, variably foggy at top, increasing rain and wind later on

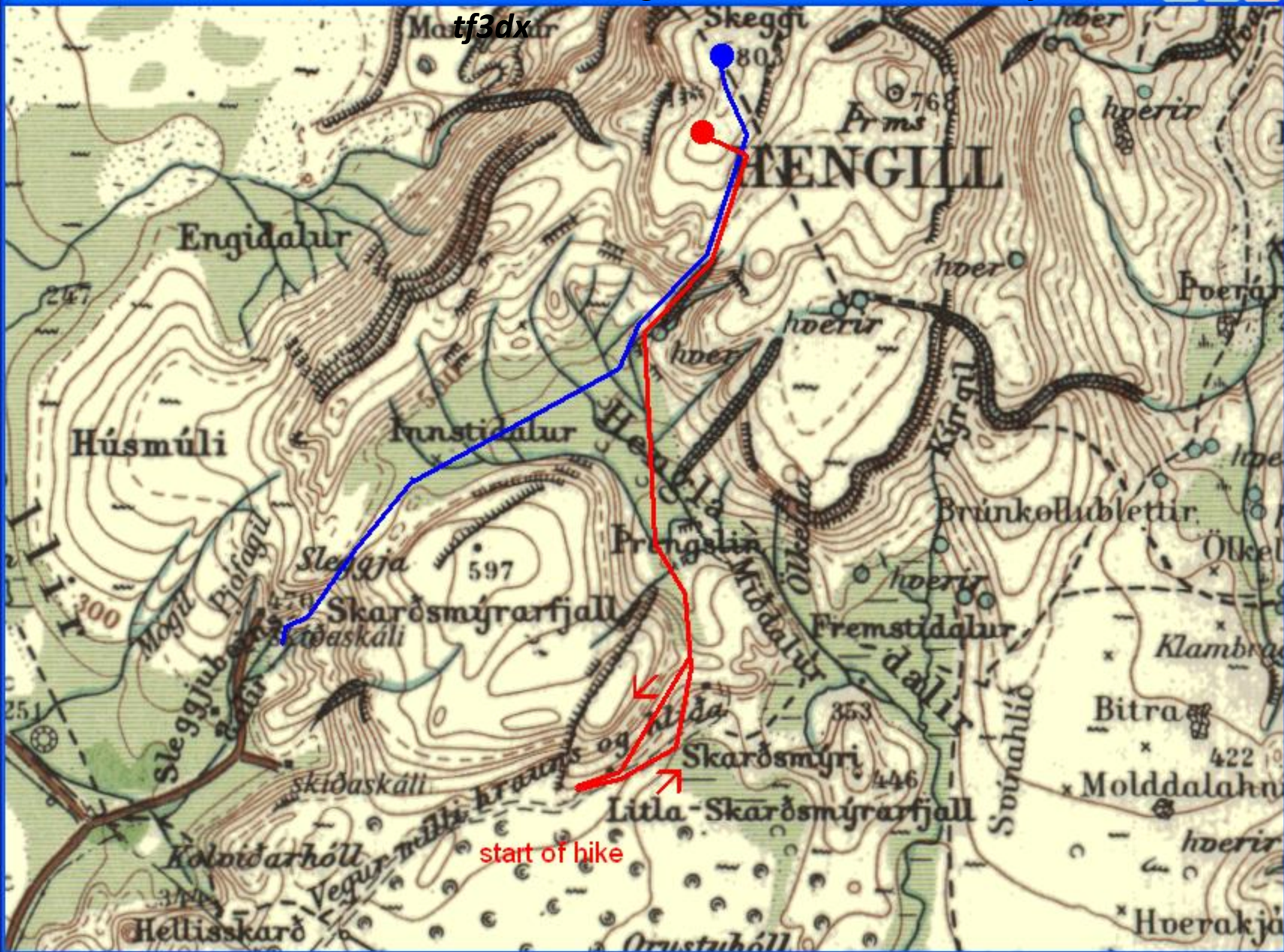
**Trail:** Starts at N64.0404° W21.3331°, end of road passable by all cars. Easy hike through a pass above the Scout hut Þrymheimur and across the Innstidalur valley. About half of the near 100 m elevation gained up the pass is lost on the other side. No continuous marking of trail until it joins the Sleggjubeinsskarð trail for ascent up from the valley. Once nearing the 800 m elevation, there is an easy diversion from point N64.0830° W21.3141° on the trail to the SOTA summit, some 150 m across a practically level and firm ground.



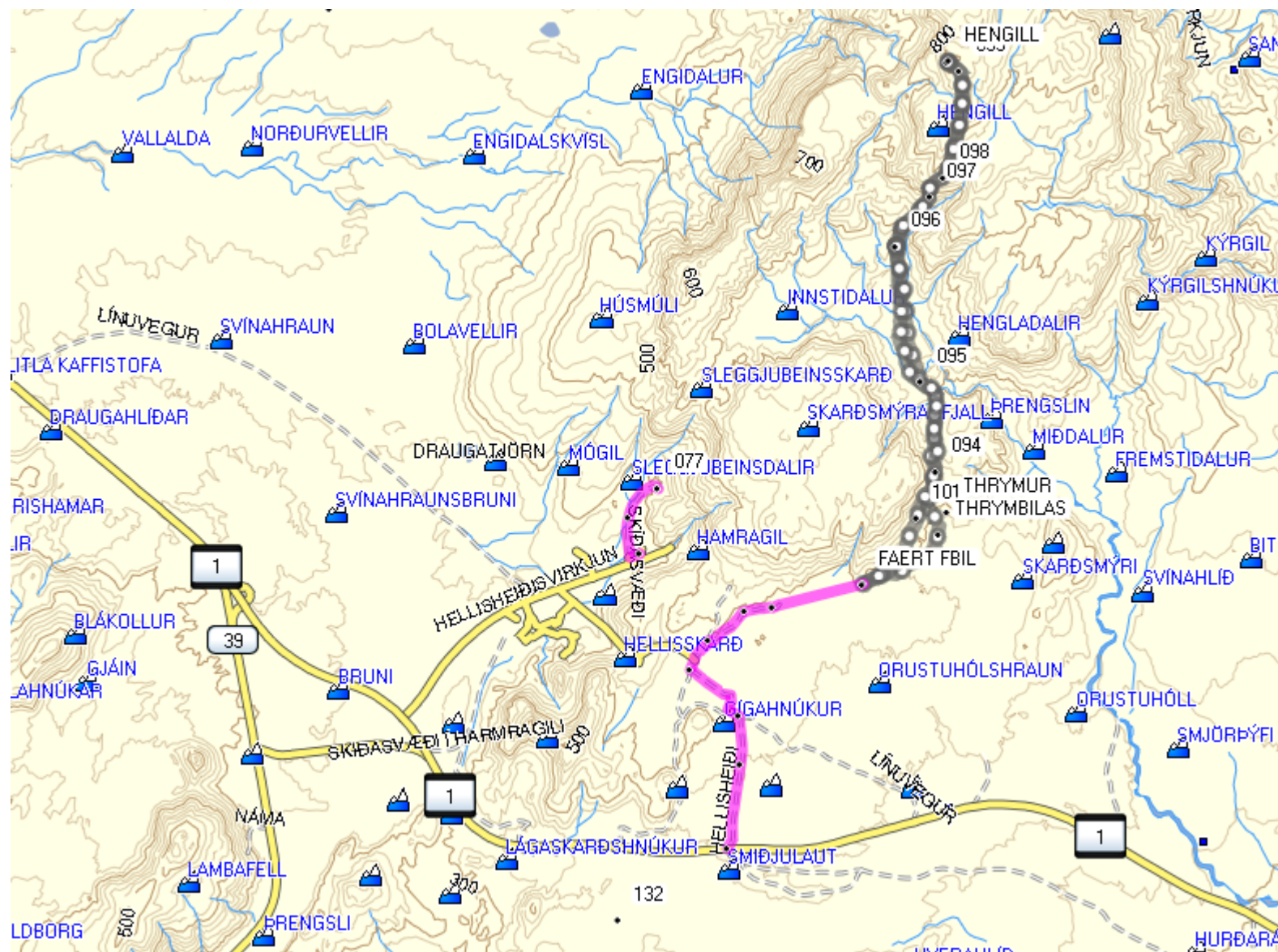


*A promising day, Skeggi sticking out from the clouds on Hengill.*









*Access roads (violet) shown in relation to main route 1.*

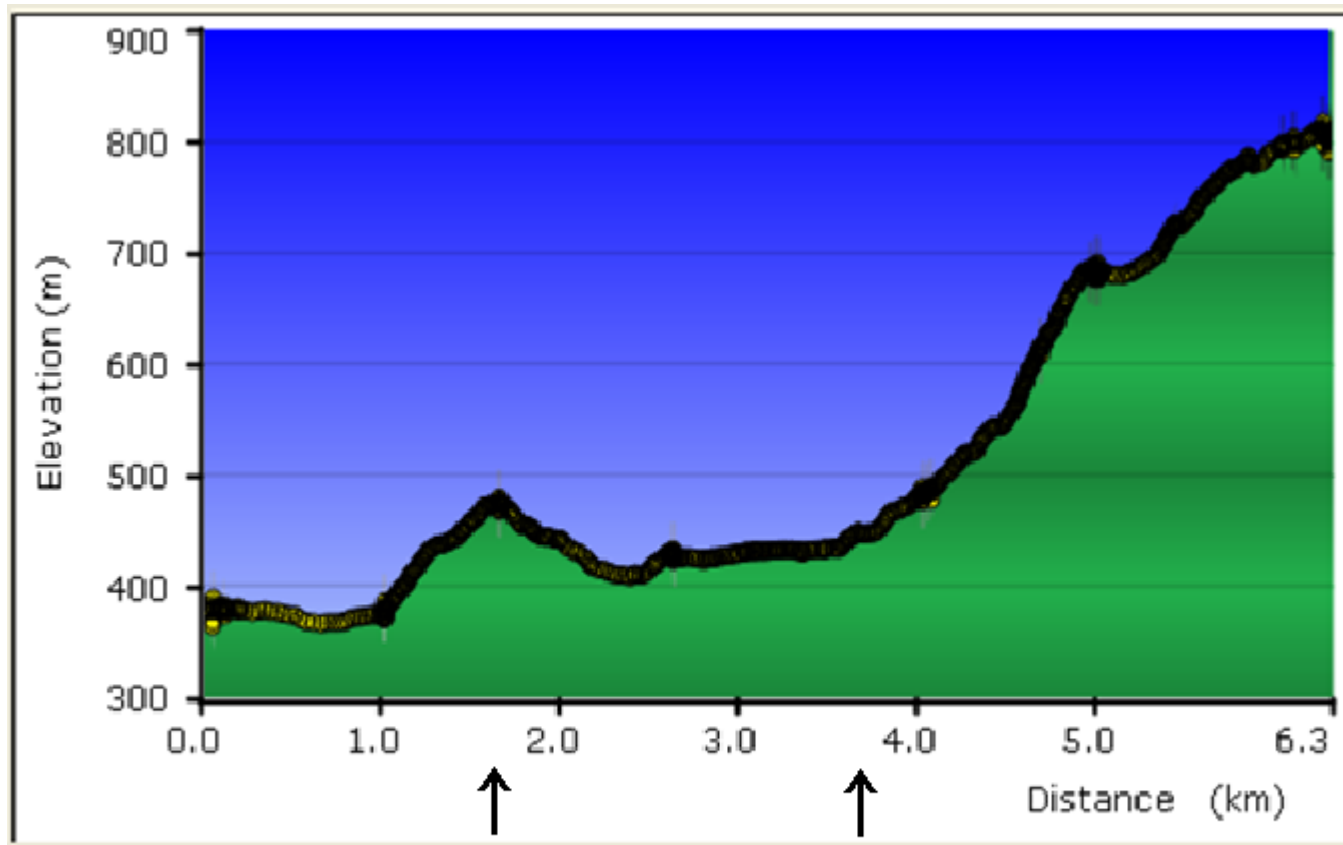




*The pass above the Scout hut Þrymheimur.*



*Elevation plot for the track in. The track back (not shown) reduces the initial ascent steepness at the expense of a side slope walking and a bit ups and downs.*



Threshold of pass  
above hut Prymur

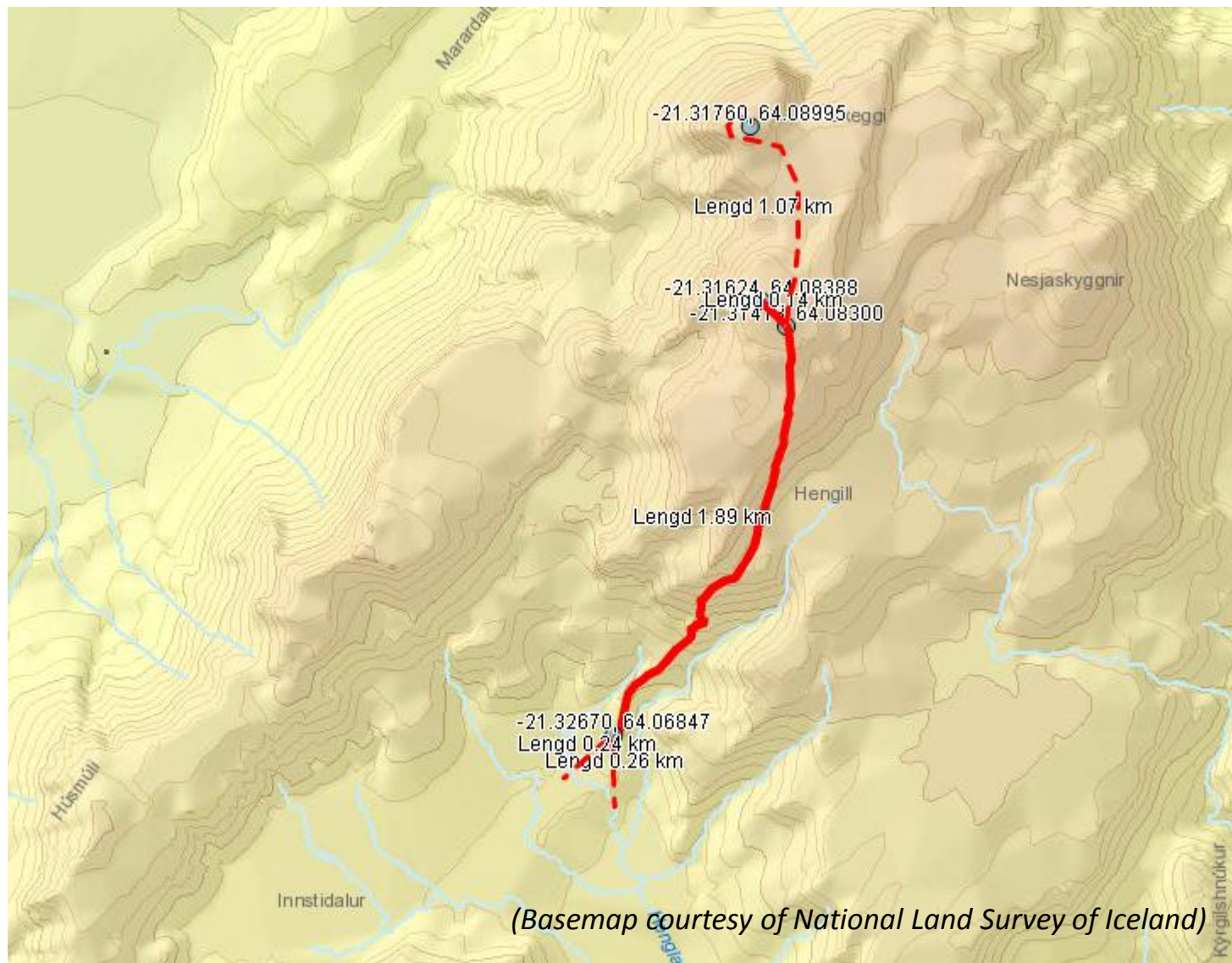
Joins track from  
Sleggjubeinsskarð





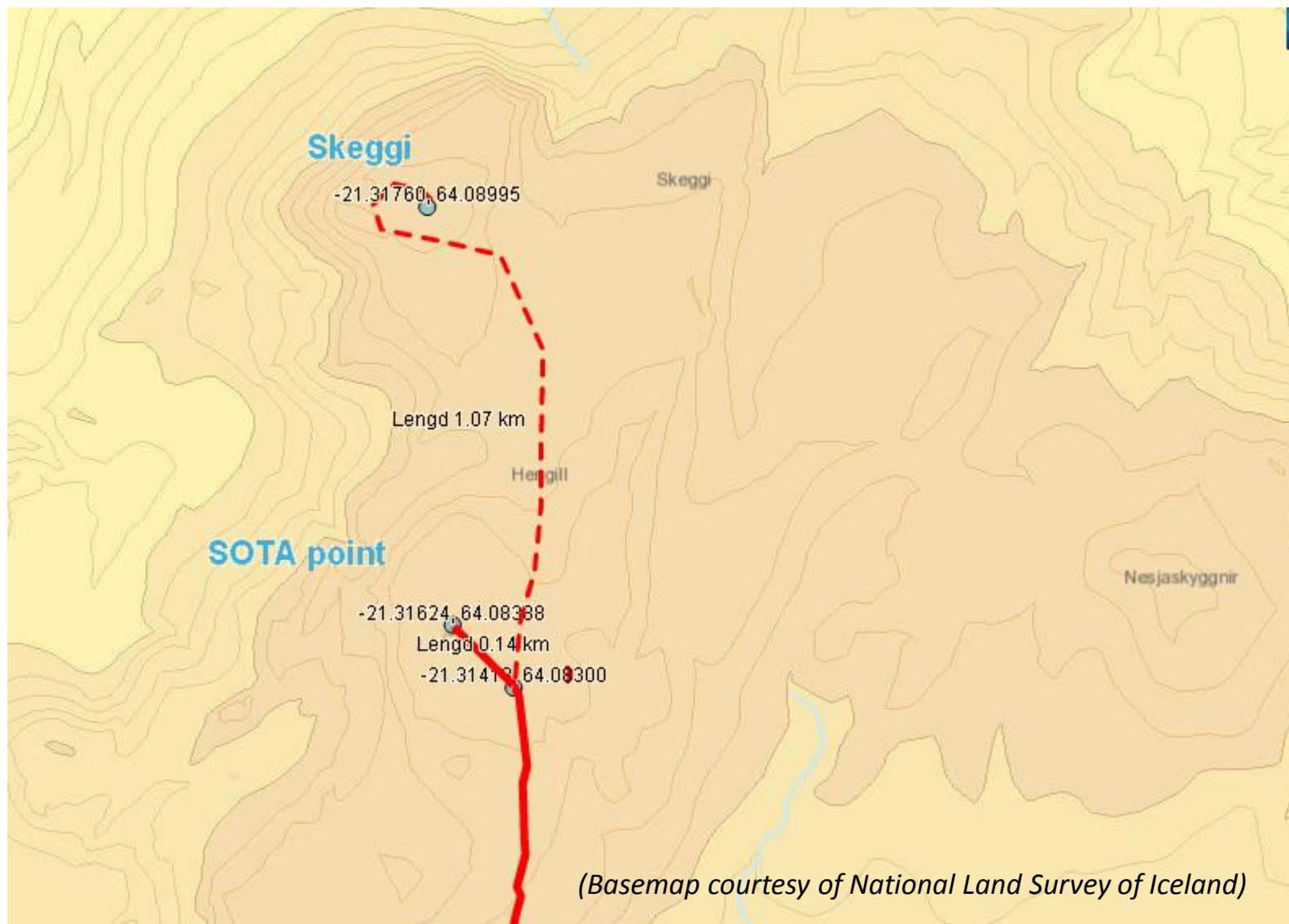
*Innstidalur ahead.*





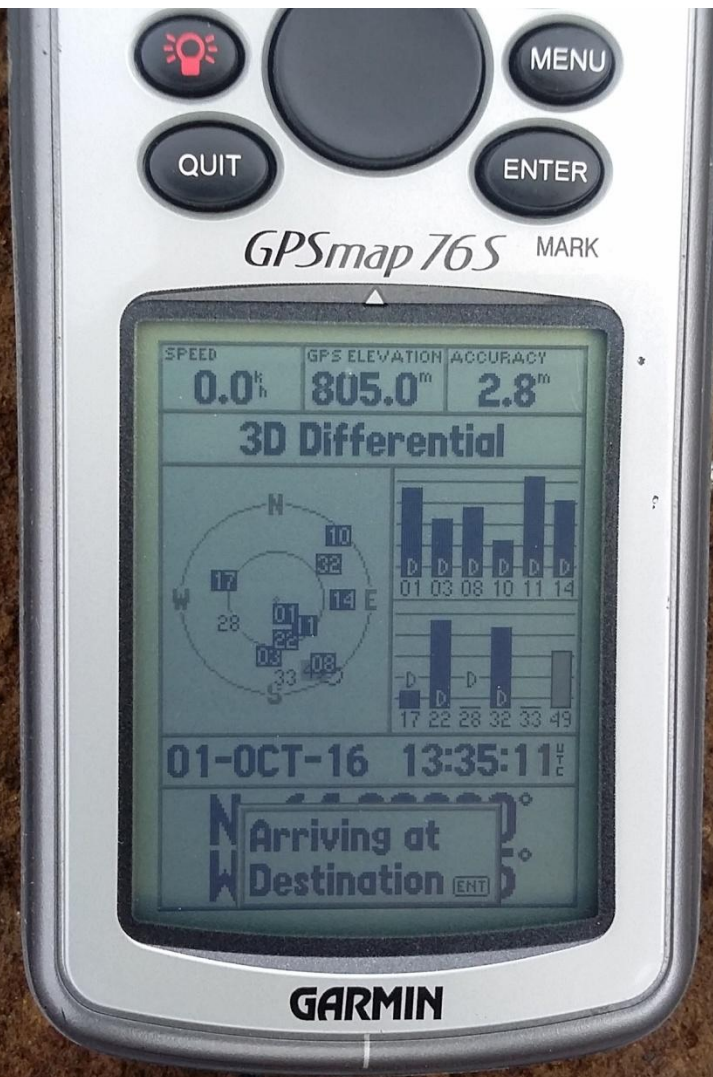
*Ascent up from Innstidalur.*





*A blown up view of the summits.*









*Sometimes the fog lifted enough to show Skeggi, but its background was never in the clear.*





*The HF rig with a broken solder joint already packed, maybe just as well - gaining rain and wind.*