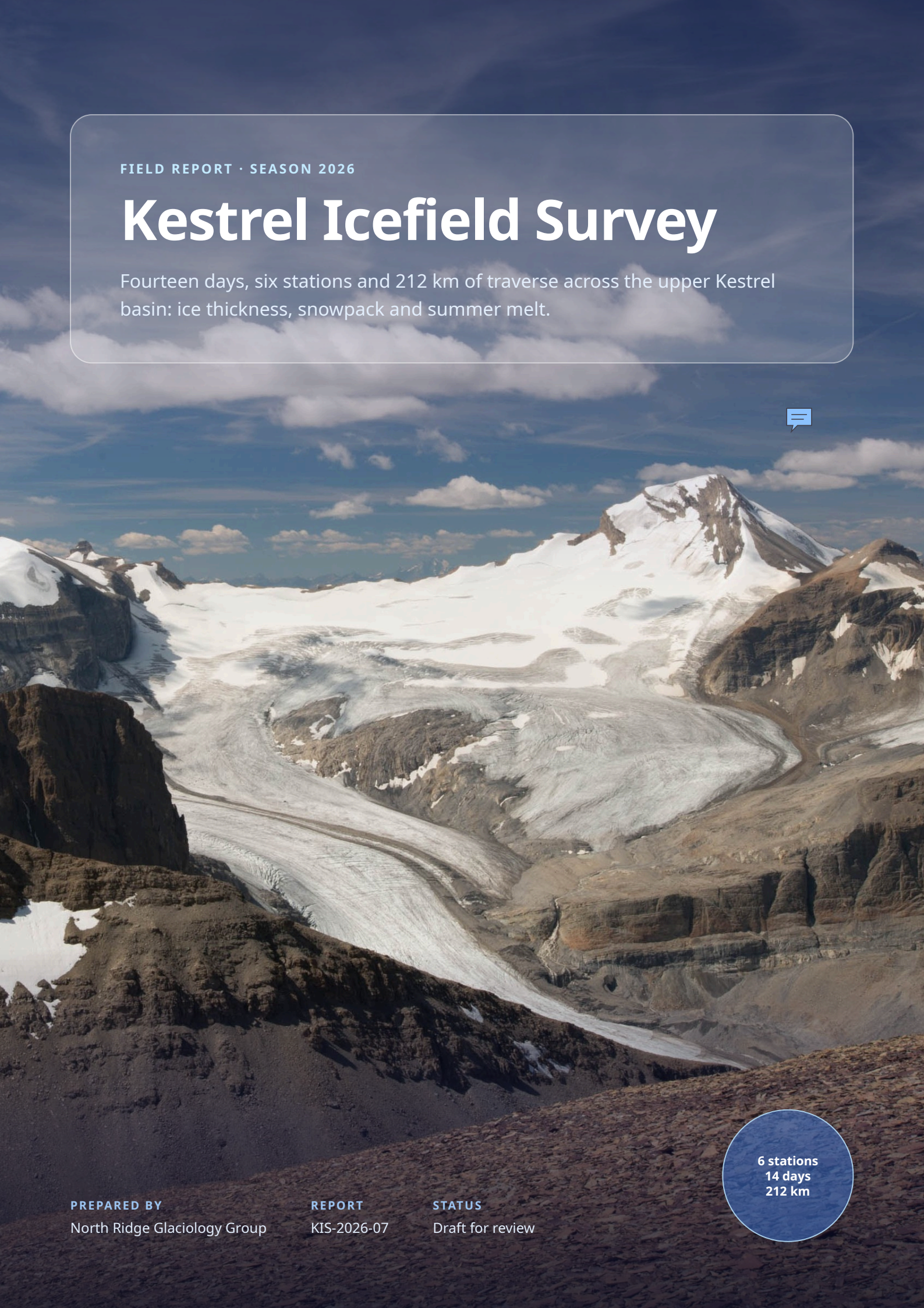
FIELD REPORT · SEASON 2026

Kestrel Icefield Survey

Fourteen days, six stations and 212 km of traverse across the upper Kestrel basin: ice thickness, snowpack and summer melt.



6 stations
14 days
212 km

PREPARED BY
North Ridge Glaciology Group

REPORT
KIS-2026-07

STATUS
Draft for review

SECTION 1

Summary of findings

The 2026 season ran from 2 to 15 July. A four-person team crossed the upper Kestrel basin on skis, hauling sledges between six survey stations set on the 2019 grid. At each station we drilled a shallow core, dug a snow pit and ran a ground-penetrating radar transect across the flow line.

The headline result is the thinning at the lower stations. Station K4, at the foot of the icefall, has lost 18 m of ice thickness since the 2019 survey, close to three times the loss measured at the plateau stations. Snow depth was near the long-term average everywhere except K5, where a late June storm left a wind-packed slab more than two metres deep.

Surface melt started early. The automatic weather station at K3 logged positive degree-days from the first morning, and the melt curve in Figure 1 shows the warm spell of 8 to 10 July clearly. Melt on those three days exceeded the whole of the first week.

All cores, pit profiles and radar files are archived under report KIS-2026-07. Station K6 could not be reached on the return leg because of crevassing, so its readings come from the outbound visit only. Recommendations for the 2027 season are on the sign-off page.

Table 1. Station measurements

STATION	ELEVATION (M)	ICE (M)	SINCE 2019 (M)	SNOW (CM)	SURFACE (°C)
K1 Plateau north	2,410	612	−6.1	184	−4.2
K2 Plateau south	2,365	587	−5.4	171	−3.9
K3 Weather station	2,140	455	−9.8	142	−1.6
K4 Icefall foot	1,720	298	−18.0	96	+0.4
K5 Moraine bench	1,880	341	−12.3	214	−0.8
K6 Col camp	2,050	402	−10.7	131	−2.1

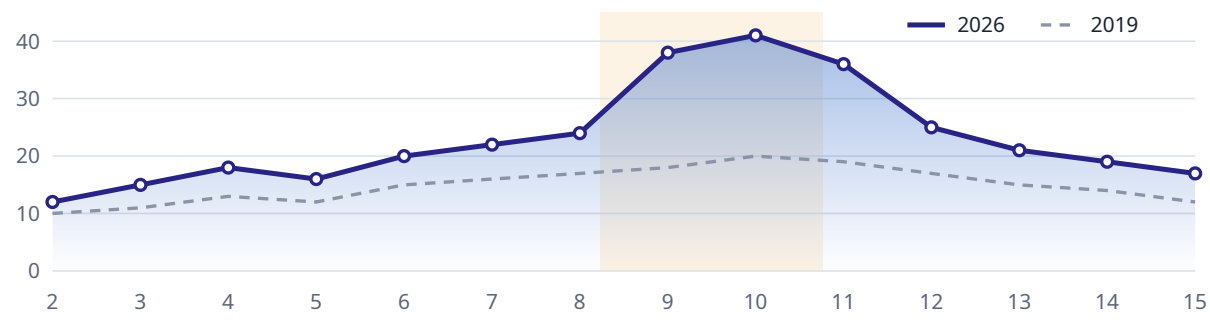


Figure 1. Daily surface melt at K3 (mm water equivalent) against the 2019 season, 2 to 15 July.

−18 m
ice lost at K4 since 2019

41 mm
peak daily melt, 9 July

5 of 6
stations revisited on the return leg

SECTION 2

Field log

⚠ Contains personal contact details and permit numbers. Redact before the report is released publicly.

DATE	OBSERVER	PHONE	PERMIT	ENTRY
2 Jul 07:40	Mara Lindqvist	+1 555 0142	KP-48213	Left base camp. Clear, −6 °C, light north wind.
3 Jul 18:15	Tomás Okafor	+1 555 0178	KP-48227	K1 core to 14 m. Radar line 1 complete.
4 Jul 12:05	Ines Whitcombe	+1 555 0119	KP-48230	K2 pit: 171 cm, ice lens at 60 cm.
5 Jul 16:50	Mara Lindqvist	+1 555 0142	KP-48213	K3 weather station serviced; logger swapped.
7 Jul 09:30	Devraj Halloran	+1 555 0163	KP-48241	Descended icefall by the east ramp. Roped all day.
8 Jul 14:20	Tomás Okafor	+1 555 0178	KP-48227	K4 surface melt ponds. Radar shows bed at 298 m.
10 Jul 11:10	Ines Whitcombe	+1 555 0119	KP-48230	K5 wind slab over 2 m. Pit abandoned at 214 cm.
12 Jul 19:45	Devraj Halloran	+1 555 0163	KP-48241	K6 reached late. Crevasse field south of camp.
14 Jul 08:00	Mara Lindqvist	+1 555 0142	KP-48213	K6 return skipped on safety grounds. Route via col.
15 Jul 17:30	Tomás Okafor	+1 555 0178	KP-48227	Back at base camp. All samples logged and cold.

Expedition lead
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Medical officer: Devraj Halloran

SECTION 3

Review and sign-off

Confirm the data archive and the redaction of the field log, add any comments, then sign. The report is released once the expedition lead and the group's data manager have both signed.

DRAFT
NOT FOR RELEASE

Recommendations for 2027

Repeat the K4 radar line twice in the season to separate dynamic thinning from surface melt. Move K6 to the col to avoid the crevasse field. Add a second weather station at K5.

EXPEDITION LEAD

Mara Lindqvist

DATE

- [x] Cores, pits and radar files archived
- [ ] Field log redacted (Section 2)
- [ ] Approved for public release

COMMENTS

DATA MANAGER

SIGNATURE, EXPEDITION LEAD