

**DRAFT MINUTES OF MEETING AT BRITISH ANTARCTIC SURVEY
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 20TH NOVEMBER 2007 AT 11.00 AM.****Present**

Mr P.J. Woodman	Chairman
Mrs C. Burgess	Permanent Committee on Geographical Names
Prof J.A. Dowdeswell	Scott Polar Research Institute
Dr A.J. Fox	British Antarctic Survey
Mr P.J. Geelan	<i>Expert Member</i>
Ms Katherine Henry	Assistant Desk Officer, BAT, Polar Regions Unit, FCO.
Lt Cdr J.E.J. Marshall	Hydrographic Office
Ms J. Rumble	Polar Regions Unit, Overseas Territories Department, Foreign and Commonwealth Office
Dr J.R. Shears	British Antarctic Survey
Dr M.R.A. Thomson	<i>Expert Member</i>
Ms A. Martin	Secretary

1. Apologies for absence and new members

The Chairman welcomed Ms Katherine Henry, Assistant Desk Officer, BAT, Polar Regions Unit, FCO. Apologies for absence were received from Dr Kim Crosbie.

2. Minutes of the last meeting, held on 6th June 2007

The minutes were approved by all present. It was noted that Dr M Richardson would not now be involved in the preparation of the BAT website. However, the project would still go ahead.

3. Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting

All relevant items are included separately below.

4. Secretary's report [APC(07)10]

It was agreed that a more direct but informal approach would be made to the Director of the Royal Geographical Society, regarding a replacement on the committee for Geoffrey Hattersley-Smith.

The question whether it was an appropriate time to advertise for a further *ad hoc* member was discussed. It was agreed that it was important to maintain a balance of expertise on the committee, which included toponymic, scientific and operational expertise along with an independent view. The importance of maintaining expertise of those with a wide range of experience of working on the ground in the Antarctic was noted. The current balance of expertise was deemed good. It was agreed that an additional *ad hoc* member might be recruited when Dr Crosbie's post comes up for extension or reconsideration in July 2009.

The provision of maps to Bulgaria was noted.

Dr Fox stressed his deep concern that the link between geographical information and mapping appears to have been broken with the proposed

contract for work to be undertaken on the South Georgia Gazetteer. Harriet Hall, Chief Executive of the Government SGSSI had insisted that no map was to be produced at this point although she expressed a possible future interest in a web based system. Dr Fox informed the committee that a very basic 3-sheet place-name map at 1:100,000 scale already existed as part of his production of the SG topographical map produced in 2004. This would go some way to providing a value for money place-name map for SGSSI. It was agreed that new place-name maps for SGSSI were needed.

The host server for the SCAR Gazetteer (CGA) was expected to move from Italy to Australia by the end of 2007. It was agreed that APC should maintain the responsibility for the editing of BAT Gazetteer descriptions to be used in the CGA.

5. Place-name decisions [APC(07)11]

All place-names were ratified.

6. Postal Assessments

These were noted. It was agreed that proposals unlikely to succeed should continue to be prepared and presented by the Secretary for consideration as normal. The Secretary could however guide proposers through the committee guidelines and policy, ahead of formal submission.

7. ACAN Place-name Decisions April 2007

Concern was expressed over the number of place-names within BAT approved by ACAN without any prior notification to APC. The Secretary was asked to review the APC decision for rejecting Hall Glacier and to look for further evidence concerning the feature. It was agreed that the names not seen by APC and Hall Glacier should be presented to the committee for consideration.

8. ACAN Response

No response had been received from ACAN prior to the meeting.

9. New Place-names Proposal –Ellsworth Mountains [APC(07)09rev]

The name **Curtis Peak** was approved.

10. New Place-names Proposal – Joinville Island

The name **Skog Passage** was rejected. The proposal stemmed from tourist activities and acceptance could have set a precedent for daring mariners to undertake risky manoeuvres. It was noted that Captain Peter Skog had made only two submissions to the UK Hydrographic Office, neither of which had lead to new Notices to Mariners. In addition there is insufficient space on the current Chart 225 to accommodate the name.

11. New Place-names Proposal – South Palmer Land

Concern was raised over the reasons for the choices of names within this proposal. Many of the people under consideration had no links to the Antarctic, or had not made exceptional contributions to furthering understanding in science. The Committee approved **Long Ridge**, but elsewhere decided that the proposal should be revised to better reflect those

who had a genuine connection to the area and those who had made exceptional contributions. Features of greater significance would be identified for which suitable names could then be proposed; palaeontology was suggested as a possible theme for names here.

12. New Place-names Proposal – Alexander Island

The name Citadel Lake was thought to be an unusual combination of specific and generic. The name **Hodgson Lake** was approved instead, subject to the usual checks.

13. New Amendment to Description – Filchner Ice Shelf

The amendment was approved. The committee wished to express its thanks to Mr Cooper for bringing the change in feature to the attention of the committee and hoped he would continue to do so.

14. Proposed Reinstatement of name in BAT Gazetteer – Fallières Coast

The reinstatement of **Napier Ice Rise** was agreed. There was some discussion regarding the features shown with a question mark (?) beside their name.

Wade, Reynolds and Coker Ice Rises were originally named when the Wordie Ice Shelf existed in what is now Wordie Bay. The features indicated are the most likely remnants of the features that were named. However, it is possible that the ice rises were formed by ice rising over submerged rocks. It has also been difficult to ascertain whether the now named Buffer and Napier Islands, formerly Ice Rises, are islands or ice bergs. MAGIC and the Secretary were asked to investigate the existence of these features.

15. New Place-names Proposal –Vega Island

There was still some uncertainty regarding the exact location of the cliffs shown in the photograph, they might be further south on Vega Island. The Secretary was asked to try to ascertain the actual position of the cliffs.

16. Report on SCAGI Meeting Buenos Aires, October 2007

Dr Fox gave his report on the above meeting.

Dr Fox outlined the benefits of the new Landsat Imagery Mosaic of Antarctic (LIMA) that was about to be made freely available. With an accuracy of approximately 50 metres, it would be the most comprehensive, accurate, georeferenced resource for mapping Antarctica and was likely to become the *de facto* standard for generating new coordinates.

With reference to the work carried out by Steffan Vogt on the coordinates for King George Island, it was decided that the committee agreed in principle to the amendment of coordinates of the BAT Gazetteer to Dr Vogt's coordinates. However, the Secretary would first check all of the coordinates pertaining to the BAT Gazetteer, ensure that they identify the correct feature, and determine how Dr Vogt had selected the coordinates (where on large features the coordinates were located). If the coordinates appeared to be sensible and representative then the APC would adopt the coordinates.

It was agreed that the new fields for metadata that were to be added to the CGA were of benefit in maintaining the standards of the CGA. The additions were welcomed by the committee.

The Chairman had provided an outline of the difference between approved and acknowledged names. It was agreed that this would be forwarded to Roberto Cervellatti of the CGA. A demonstration of LIMA might be possible at the next Meeting.

17. Any Other Business

Naming of Features after staff who died while in the Antarctic

The Secretary informed the committee of an expected enquiry regarding the naming of features after employees who had died while in the Antarctic. It was agreed that the APC had no policy regarding such requests and that all proposals would be dealt with on their own merits.

BAT claim continental shelf

There had been reports in the press that UK had submitted a claim for an extension of continental shelf around BAT to the UN Commission for the Limits of Continental Shelf. It was noted that this was an erroneous press report. The UK had not filed any such claim.

Honouring the former BAS Director

The committee was informed of a plan to honour the former BAS Director, Prof Rapley, with the naming of one of the new buildings at Halley VI. It was agreed that this would be a most suitable honour, as Prof Rapley had been at the forefront of the drive to rebuild Halley Research Station.

The date for the next meeting was set for Tuesday May 20th 2008.

The Meeting closed at 13.30pm.