

**MINUTES OF MEETING AT BRITISH ANTARCTIC SURVEY HELD ON TUESDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2008 AT 11.00 AM.****Present**

Mr P.J. Woodman	Chairman
Mrs C. Burgess	Permanent Committee on Geographical Names
Dr K. Crosbie	<i>Ad hoc Member</i>
Dr A.J. Fox	British Antarctic Survey
Mr P.J. Geelan	<i>Expert Member</i>
Mr J. Killingbeck	Royal Geographical Society
Ms L. Peto	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**

Apologies for absence were received from Prof Julian Dowdeswell (SPRI).

**2. Minutes of the last meeting, held on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2008**

One amendment was made to the minutes. In Item 16, Action Point 3, the text was amended to *Ms Rumble to speak to Jan Huber*.

**3. Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting****i) Cost Analysis of Map Production**

It was agreed that the APC would prefer to use the Royal Mail for postage. This appeared to be by far the more appropriate option. Customers would be notified when maps were despatched and would be asked to inform the Secretary if these were not delivered.

**ii) Place-names on Google Earth**

Two suggestions were made.

- a) That the possibility of adding the BAT gazetteer to the BAS produced layer showing ice shelf changes on Google Earth should be assessed.
- b) It was suggested that Google Earth be encouraged to use the SCAR CGA as a source for place-names within the Antarctic. As a gazetteer that contains names checked and verified by national committees it would be preferable to have this available rather than the poorly spelt and located entries that currently exist on Google Earth. As a gazetteer which favours no single nation it is possible that Google Earth would be more likely to adopt it rather than the gazetteer of any single nation.

**4. Secretary's report [APC(08)02]**

The committee was informed that HMS Endurance helicopters would be flying over the South Sandwich Islands in the forthcoming season. It was

suggested that the Secretary could ask Gov SGSSI if they might consider requesting HMS Endurance to ascertain locations and/or take photographs of those features that have so far proved impossible to locate accurately. It was also suggested that the Geodesy Section at the UK Hydrographic Office might be able to provide more accurate data.

In an effort to encourage more naming by scientists and other staff visiting the Antarctic it was suggested that the place-name information sheet that is provided to all Antarctic Funding Initiative (AFI) participants could also be given to all field scientists when they receive field maps from MAGIC. The proposal of new place-names by tourists and tour operators was discussed. Current guidelines do not encourage these. However, it was acknowledged that tour operators regularly visited locations that have no approved name and that their activities generate the need for new names. It was agreed that the wording in the current guidelines regarding naming following tourist activity would be reviewed.

5. **Place-name decisions [APC(08)11]**  
All place-names were ratified.
6. **Postal Assessments**  
These were noted.
7. **Coordinate Amendments – South Shetland Islands [APC(08)12]**  
These were ratified. The Secretary informed the committee that the amendments had been made to the BAT gazetteer and would be forwarded to the SCAR-CGA following their ratification. The method for determining coordinates for features was discussed. Coordinates are determined following consideration of topographical factors (size, height, shape, extent) combined with an element of judgement (e.g. finding a central position rounded to the nearest minute for large features, thus not implying a level of accuracy that would be inappropriate for the feature). For mariners' purposes it was stressed that it was important for coastal features (Points, Heads, Capes) to have the most offshore position. Large features such as mountain ranges are located by a central position for purposes of the database, while the description shows the range of the feature. It was agreed that it would be useful to supply a set of guidelines for determining coordinates on the APC website.
8. **Coordinate Amendment – Luitpold Coast [APC(08)13]**  
The amended coordinates for Weldon Ice Stream were approved.
9. **ACAN Potential New Name – Antarctic Peninsula [APC(08)14]**  
It was unanimously agreed that there was no need for a name for the mountains extending along the length of the Antarctic Peninsula as adequate names exist for the main parts of the peninsula and smaller ranges and plateaus within the area; that a single name for the whole length of the peninsula would be inappropriate as it is not a single mountain range, the

northern part in Graham Land being very different from the wider, southern part in Palmer Land which is a broad, ice covered plateau with mountain belts along the coast ; it would be hard to determine the exact geographical limits, especially of the southern part.

**10. The New South Georgia GIS**

The South Georgia GIS website was demonstrated to the committee. It is available at <http://www.sggis.gov.gs>

**11. Secretary's Note – SCAR-CGA and BAT descriptions**

It was agreed that for the 18 place-names that are too long to be held within the CGA database, the Secretary should reduce the descriptions to include an edited version of the history of the place-name which retained a clear outline of its history and provenance. The description should include the text "For further information see British Antarctic Gazetteer" at the end. The names are: Alexander Island, Antarctic Peninsula, Antarctica, Deception Island, Eielson Peninsula, Filchner Ice Shelf, Graham Land, King George Island, Larsen Ice Shelf, Lesser Antarctica (West Antarctica), Livingston Island, Orléans Strait, Palmer Archipelago, Smith Island, South Orkney Islands, South Shetland Islands, Stefansson Sound, Trinity Peninsula.

**12. Secretary's Note – The BAT Gazetteer and Interoperability**

In order to promote the use of the BAT gazetteer it was agreed in principle that the BAT gazetteer should be more accessible and developed into a web feature service. It was agreed that the master copy would remain where it is, online, and be used as the sole usable version. APC would maintain sole rights to edit the gazetteer. It was also agreed that there should be a Licence Agreement that should be signed before access would be permitted to the database.

It was agreed that the BAS webteam should be encouraged to ensure that the SOUTH database on the BAS intranet use BAT gazetteer for all features within BAT.

**13. New Shetland Island Maps**

Some examples of the proposed new maps were shown. It is intended that the LIMA satellite imagery would be used for scales up to 1:70, 000. At higher scales the maps would be composed without the satellite imagery. Dr Fox suggested that the scales could be standardised. The suggested scales were 1:200,000; 1:100,000; 1:50,000; 1:25,000 and 1:12,500.

**14. Any Other Business**

i) Dr Fox showed the new BAS maps of the South Shetland Islands (1:200,000) to the committee.

ii) The correspondence with Mr Cervellati regarding a possible new place-name on Deception Island was noted. It was agreed that Ajmone would

be the preferred option, although they would await any correspondence from the Italian Naming Committee.

iii) The Chairman informed the committee that he would be standing down as Chairman after the next meeting, although he would be interested in serving as an Expert Member if the Committee agreed.

The date for the next meeting was set for Tuesday March 17<sup>th</sup> 2009.  
The Meeting closed at 14.30 pm.