

**MINUTES OF MEETING AT THE BRITISH ANTARCTIC SURVEY, HELD ON THURSDAY 6 OCTOBER 2011  
AT 11.00 AM.**

**Present**

Mrs Philippa Foster Back	Chair
Ms Kate Bazeley	Secretary
Dr Adrian Fox	British Antarctic Survey
Prof. Mike Bentley	Durham University
Mr John Killingbeck	Royal Geographical Society
Dr Suman Chowdhury	Shell Oil
Ms Jane Rumble	Polar Regions Unit, FCO / Government British Antarctic Territory
Dr John Shears	British Antarctic Survey
Dr Mike Thomson	<i>Expert Member</i>
Mr Paul Woodman	<i>Expert Member</i>

**1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Prof. Julian Dowdeswell (Scott Polar Research Institute), Mrs Caroline Burgess (Permanent Committee on Geographical Names), Lt Cdr Jonathan Marshall (UK Hydrographic Office), Dr Kim Crosbie (*Ad hoc member*) and Mr Pat Geelan (*Expert Member*).

The Chair welcomed Prof. Bentley and Dr. Chowdhury to their first APC meeting.

**2. Minutes of the last meeting, held on 29 March 2011**

The minutes were agreed with no amendments.

**3. Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting**

**i) Licence Agreement**

The Licence Agreement is in the process of being implemented onto the APC website by David Herbert of the Mapping and Geographic Information Centre at BAS.

**ii) APC/ACAN Agreement**

The Agreement was accepted by the Committee and signed by the Chair. The document will be sent to ACAN for their Chairman to sign and finalise. It was noted that it would not be necessary to implement a similar agreement between the APC and Australia or New Zealand, as they do not name features within British Antarctic Territory.

**iii) Siddins Point rebuttal**

After further research in the APC Minutes, the Secretary found that Siddins Point (previously 'Siddons Point' – see below and Minutes of APC(11)01) was named in conjunction with other sealing vessels and their Captains as part of a theme around Livingston Island, which was proposed jointly by ACAN and the APC. For example, Captain Siddins' ship the *Lynx* is commemorated in the name *Lynx Rocks*, which lie close WNW of Siddins Point. The Secretary also consulted the journals of Dr. Brian Roberts, first Secretary of the APC, which contain supplementary material not in the Minutes; these included correspondence between Dr. Roberts and ACAN outlining the list of sealing vessels and their Captains which were to be named in the Livingston Island area. The Committee therefore decided that there was no ambiguity that Siddins Point was named after Captain Richard Siddins.

The Secretary noted that throughout researching Siddins Point, all correspondence refers to the Captain as 'Richard Siddons' as opposed to 'Siddins'. However, following the Committee meeting, having been actioned by the Committee, the Secretary consulted the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*\*, and confirmed that the official spelling is 'Siddins'.

**iv) Unnamed Aitcho Island proposals**

The Committee agreed that the three islands highlighted by Dr Crosbie should be made a priority for naming. It was suggested however that they should be named after Hydrographic Surveyors who worked in the field in this area at the time the islands were named, and not recent National Hydrographers. This list, put together by Lt Cdr Marshall, could instead potentially be used to name the inlets that have opened up following the collapse of the Larsen ice shelf, as part of a theme.

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\*The Australian Dictionary of Biography is produced by the National Centre of Biography at the Australian National University in both hardcopy publication and online at:

<http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/siddins-richard-2661>

**v) Centenary place-naming**

The Committee decided to focus on the three members of Scott's (1910-1913) shore party who have not yet been honoured with a place-name in Antarctica; Thomas Clissold (cook), Anton Omelchenko (groom) and Demetri Gerof (dog driver). Following the comments from the New Zealand Antarctic Names Committee (NZ-ANC), the APC will identify unnamed features within the Ross Island area and make formal proposals to NZ-ANC for them to consider. This means that all of Scott's shore party should have been commemorated with a place-name in Antarctica by the time of the Centenary. The rest of his crew can then be honoured throughout the Centenary period, so long as features can be identified around the area of interest.

**vi) UK-APC Handbook changes**

It was proposed that there should be a move to make the UK-APC Handbook digital, as most of the information is already stored on the APC website, so updating the Handbook will be easier and quicker and will avoid problems of version control. A section should be added to the website for Committee Members only, to be accessed via a username and password system. This area will contain all of the private information that is just for Committee Members and can also be used for distributing meeting papers, so that Committee Members can view the papers from wherever they are in the world. It was also suggested that papers for more complex proposals could be sent out earlier in order to give the Committee more time to look over them before the meeting.

**vii) Raising awareness of place-naming**

We have had permission to write an article for the Royal Geographical Society magazine *Geographical*, in order to raise awareness of place-names and the process of place-naming in British Antarctic Territory. Dr Chowdhury also suggested writing a similar article for the Geosciences magazine.

**4. Secretary's report**

The Secretary's report was noted. It was also highlighted that for future changes to existing place-names, such as amendments to the spelling or description of the place-name, the Secretary should verify the change with the Chairperson and the Representative for the Commissioner for BAT before updating the gazetteer.

**5. Place-names decisions**

It was confirmed that all of the place-names recommended at the March 2011 APC had been approved.

**6. ACAN response**

This was considered in assessing the new name proposals.

**7. New Place-name proposals – James Ross Island APC(11)10**

This proposal has been postponed until the Head of the Ice Core Programme at BAS has been consulted.

**8. New Place-name proposals – Pensacola Mountains APC(11)11**

Prof Mike Bentley re-submitted three place-name proposals in the area of the Pensacola Mountains, following comments from the Committee regarding his initial proposals at the 9 December 2010 meeting. Prof Bentley presented his proposals and began by withdrawing his proposal for *Rose Bluff*, as he noted that Paul Rose (whom the place-name concerns) had been put forward for a place-name in the APC(11)12 proposal, which he considered more appropriate. The Committee approved the name *Storey Peak*, deeming the feature to be a significant enough peak, and also that Bryan Storey is worthy of a place-name (especially since *Storey Glacier* on South Georgia, which was named after him, no longer exists). The Committee also approved *Wake Valley*, as they believed that James Wake has made an outstanding contribution to BAS since he started working for them in 2007.

**9. New Place-name proposals – Stokes Peaks APC(11)12**

Mike Dinn, Operations Manager at BAS, submitted a suite of place-name proposals comprising 23 names, for the Stokes Peaks region, Adelaide Island. The proposal comprised 5 place-names which honour members of BAS who have made significant contributions to the development of Rothera research station as an air operations hub, and the rest concerned names that are currently in common usage by BAS members working at Rothera, with a view to making them official place-names.

The Committee queried whether all of the names in the proposal were necessary, as there are a lot of names proposed in a small area; however this region is frequently used for recreation by BAS staff out of Rothera. It was also queried whether it is in the APC rules to name places after dogs teams, and whether it might be more appropriate to honour members of BAS staff

who have worked in the area instead. Conversely, it was noted that as the names have been in common usage for many years by members of BAS, then it is important not to change them for health and safety reasons. Furthermore, the proposed dogs' names refer to dogs in the last teams used from Rothera in the 1990s, so the place-names will commemorate their significant contribution to BAS science. Some of these names have also been used unofficially in scientific papers\*.

With regard to the 5 proposals for honouring members of BAS staff, the Committee agreed that each of the people in question were worthy of a place-name due to their significant contribution to the development of Rothera an important logistics hub, particularly regarding the development of the runway.

Meredith peak	Approved	People
Mildwater Peak	Approved	
Nicholson Peak	Approved	
Parker Peak	Approved	
Rose Bluff	Approved	
Arthur Peak	Approved	Dogs names
Biff Peak	Approved	
Elwood Peak	Approved	
Gino Peak	Approved	
Jake Peak	Approved	
Max Peak	Approved	
Merlin Peak	Approved	
Morgan Peak	Approved	
Mouse Peak	Approved	
Picts Peak	Approved	
Tom Peak	Approved	
Trogs Peak	Approved	
Wally Peak	Approved	
Wendy Peak	Approved	
Wolf Peak	Approved	

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\*Haselwimmer, C. E., Riley T.R. and Liu, J.G. 2010. Assessing the potential of multispectral remote sensing for lithological mapping on the Antarctic Peninsula: case study from eastern Adelaide Island, Graham Land, *Antarctic Science*, 22, 299-318.

Gwendolyn Peak	Approved, despite not knowing the origin of the place-name
Sunshine Glacier	Approved - geographical name
Sunnyside Bowl	Approved - geographical name

It was also suggested that the Secretary should check to see if the peaks along Reptile Ridge, to the south of Stokes Peaks, had been named, as they are also all unofficially named.

However, following the meeting it was found that from looking at a more recent, larger scale map of the area (BAS 25, Sheet 3, Ryder Bay, 2006), it was clear that all of these names had already been approved by the Committee in 2004, so no further names were required in this area.

#### **10. New Place-name proposals – Jason Peninsula APC(11)13**

The Committee agreed that this feature was significant enough to require a name, and that Colin Summerhayes was an appropriate choice as he was the first Executive Director of SCAR and this feature is associated with SCAR Inlet. It was suggested that the two points that define the boundary of the inlet should also be named, so that the feature description can be more accurate. The names should also follow the theme of SCAR, so the Secretary should contact them to ask them to suggest two appropriate candidates.

#### **11. New Place-name proposals – Nordenskjöld Coast APC(11)14**

The Committee felt that although Rear-Admiral Lambert is deserving of a place-name, it would be more appropriate to honour him in a place where he actually sailed the *HMS Endurance* around the Antarctic Peninsula. However, as his name is on the list of potential hydrographers put together by Lt Cdr Marshall, the place-name will be adopted as part of a theme when an appropriate location is found. The Committee agreed that this inlet was a significant feature that still required a place-name. There appears to be a theme in the area for members of Nordenskjöld's Expedition and also for glaciologists associated with the break-up of the Larsen ice shelf. The Secretary will research potential names for the inlet for the Committee to consider via email.

#### **12. A.O.B.**

##### **i) ACAN names in BAT gazetteer**

It was highlighted by the Secretary that although the APC may approve ACAN names within British Antarctic Territory, these names are not adopted into the BAT gazetteer. This may

cause confusion when making new maps (as the names are taken directly from the gazetteer) and could lead to double place-naming. It was therefore decided that from now on if the APC approves ACAN names, they will be put into the BAT gazetteer.

**ii) Paul Cooper retirement**

Paul Cooper of the Mapping and Geographic Information Centre at BAS will be retiring at the end of October 2011 and will be handing over the maintenance of the APC website and gazetteer to David Herbert. The APC would like to thank Paul for all of his work over the years and wish him all the best for the future.

**12. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be held at the Scott Polar Research Institute, Cambridge. The date of the meeting is to be confirmed via email.

Meeting closed at 14.00.