

**MINUTES APC(20)2nd Meeting:  
Tuesday 14th July 2020 at 11:00 AM, virtual meeting.**

**Present:**

Dr Mark Belchier (Government of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands)  
Prof. Mark Brandon (*Ad hoc* member)  
Ms Catherine Cheetham (Permanent Committee on Geographical Names)  
Dr Alistair Crame (British Antarctic Survey)  
Dr Bethan Davies (*Ad hoc* member)  
Mr Stuart Doubleday (Polar Regions Department, FCO )  
Prof. Julian Dowdeswell (Scott Polar Research Institute)  
Dr Rod Downie (*Ad hoc* member)  
Ms Elena Field (British Antarctic Survey – Minutes)  
Mrs Philippa Foster-Back (Chair)  
Dr Adrian Fox (British Antarctic Survey - Secretary)  
Prof. Dame Jane Francis (British Antarctic Survey)  
Mr Robert Headland (Royal Geographical Society)  
Rebecca Kaye (*Ad hoc* member)  
Ms Rachel Morgan (*Ad hoc* member)  
Ms Camilla Nichol (UK Antarctic Heritage Trust)  
Ms Jane Rumble (Polar Regions Department, FCO)  
Mr Lee Truscott (UK Hydrographic Office)  
Dr Kate Winter (*Ad hoc* member)

**1. Apologies**

An apology was received from Paul Woodman (Expert member).

**2. APC membership news**

The Chair welcomed new *ad hoc* members Bethan Davies, Rod Downie, Rebecca Kaye and Kate Winter, and thanked Adrian Fox and Stuart Doubleday for their help with the candidate sift. Forty applications had been received for the recent recruitment, with many well-qualified applicants.

**3. Place-names decisions and matters arising from APC(20)1<sup>st</sup> meeting.**

All place names from the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting and inter-sessional paper round in May have been included in the APC gazetteer and submitted to the CGA.

There was an Action from the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting for Jane Francis to contact Janet Thomson to invite her to join the APC. Janet had replied to say that she appreciated the offer but has declined.

There was an Action for Robert Headland to supply the Secretary with further biographical details relating to name Karpenko Massif. This has been completed and the details included in the gazetteer entry.

**4. Minutes of the last meeting [APC(20)1<sup>st</sup>]**

Minor comments were noted by the Secretary and the Minutes accepted.

**5. Secretary's Report APC(20)19 (paper at the meeting)**

Jane Rumble asked about the timetable for SCAGI discussion of the draft SCAGI International Principles and Procedures for Antarctic Place Names. This is included as Agenda item 7.

Following recent events such as the toppling of the Bristol statue of merchant and slaver Robert Colston, Robert Headland had prepared a research paper on 'Antarctic historical diversity/political sensitivity/inclusiveness/discrimination' and whether there are any names in the gazetteer that might now have inappropriate links. There are no place names associated with the Atlantic slave trade in BAT.

**Action:** Secretary to circulate Robert Headland's research paper on Antarctic historical diversity to the Committee members.

## 6. Update on South Georgia place naming (Mark Belchier)

There are several outstanding name recommendations from APC meetings over the last three years. GSGSSI have recently been making a concerted effort to resolve them and are developing a naming policy for South Georgia. The Secretary had circulated the latest version of the draft policy before the meeting. A key point is that the draft policy makes explicit reference to a preference for posthumous naming only.

Following development of the South Georgia place naming policy, the Commissioner has approved the outstanding names Aiken Cove, Boatman Cove and No-name Bay.

The outstanding recommended name *Thor Peak* has not been approved by the Commissioner due to concern over the connection of the name with factory-ship whaling. Nevertheless, the mountain is an important topographic and navigational feature that does require a name. A revised paper will be prepared for the next APC meeting. One suggestion is the alternative name *Viola*, for the ruined whale catcher (later known as *Dias*) at Grytviken. A campaign is underway to raise funds to return the *Viola* to Hull (UK), where she was originally constructed, for exhibition.

The recommended name *Dead Mans Cairn* was discussed. This large cairn is a key navigational feature on the route between Grytviken and Maiviken. The issue is whether it is within the scope of the APC because it is a man-made, rather than natural, topographic feature. The Secretary added that the question is whether it is so long-established that it can be classed as a topographic feature in itself. It stands on the pass between Grytviken and Maiviken, but the name *Dead Mans* cannot be applied to the pass because it is already named Lewis Pass. An alternative would be for it to be classified as a historical/heritage feature and thus could be included on topographic maps, supporting its practical use as a navigational landmark, but without needing a gazetted place name.

Jane Rumble added that the Antarctic Treaty Historic Sites and Monuments (HSMs) include cairns, so this could similarly be included on maps as part of South Georgia heritage.

The suggestion was agreed by the Committee; the name would not be approved and not included in the gazetteer, but the feature would be marked on maps as a heritage feature. It is already shown in red as a man-made feature on: BAS 25 Series, Sheet 4A, Thatcher Peninsula, 1:25,000 scale map (2010).

A number of comments on the draft policy were raised at the meeting. Mark Belchier acknowledged and thanked the committee for the comments. They will be collated by the Secretary and passed on to Mark Belchier.

### Actions:

- Secretary to add approved names to the South Georgia Gazetteer.
- Secretary and Mark Belchier to liaise over a revised name proposal.
- Secretary to collate comments on the draft policy and send to Mark Belchier.

## 7) Update on SCAR-SCAGI 'International principles and procedures for Antarctic place names'

The SCAGI Working Group on this is being led by Jean-Yves Pirlot, Co-Chief Officer of SCAGI and Deputy Director of the Belgian national mapping agency. The Secretary is the other Co-Chief Officer. They are both standing down at the end of July 2020.

An initial draft of the policy was reviewed at a workshop immediately following the 2019 SCAGI meeting and the Secretary supplied comments from the UK BAT Government and ensured that these were included in the draft document. Following further iterations, the document is close to a final version and this version has been seen by Jane Rumble, Stuart Doubleday and Catherine Cheetham (in her role as a member of UN Group of Experts on Geographic Names – UNGEGN). The aim is to review and finalise the document at the 2020 SCAGI meeting (two meetings on 29 and 31 July).

The key area for discussion is avoidance of duplicate naming. Whilst recognising that ‘one feature-one name’ should be the presumption, the UK requires some discretion to rename features applied by other naming authorities if the names do not meet UK APC criteria. The Secretary will reiterate this point.

**Action:** AJFO to circulate summary and outcome of SCAR SCAGI meeting to members.

### 8) US ACAN Comments for APC(20) 2nd Meeting

Feedback from ACAN was that they concurred with the proposals and appreciated the chance to comment.

**Action:** Secretary to inform ACAN of outcome of the proposals.

### 9) New Place-name Proposals – Coats Land [APC(20)20]

The committee discussed whether the specific of the name should be Blackwall, Blackwell, Blackwall-Evans, or Evans and whether the generic should be ‘ice stream’ or ‘glacier’. Dr Davies stated that an ice stream is usually more than 20 km wide and 150 km long and needs to be distinct from the surrounding ice sheet, but that the generic ‘glacier’ is used more widely. After the discussion, the Committee recommended the name Blackwall Ice Stream.

The Committee discussed whether to adopt the Russian CGA name *lednik Pushkina*, or the name *RAMP Ice Stream* that has had use in science papers. Paul Woodman had e-mailed a comment that the name *lednik Pushkina* refers to the Russian poet Alexander Pushkin, and not his wife Natalia Pushkina, so that the name in English should be Pushkin Glacier. (Secretary note: this highlights the problem of names in the CGA without supporting details or rationale). The name RAMP Ice Stream (Radar Antarctic Mapping Project) fits well with other names for organisations, expeditions or projects for science in Antarctica already in use elsewhere (eg the recent name Polargap Sub-glacial Highlands). It is APC policy (and also in SCAR SCAGI International principles and procedures for Antarctic place names) to avoid the use of acronyms.

After the discussion, the Committee recommended the name Ramp Ice Stream.

**Action:** Secretary to add the names Blackwall Ice Stream and Ramp Ice Stream to the gazetteer.

### 10. New Place-name proposals APC(20)21-24

The proposals generated considerable discussion by the Committee. It was agreed that these name proposals represent a second tranche and build on the first group (APC(20)08 – 15) discussed at the APC(20)1<sup>st</sup> meeting. A third set of proposals will be prepared for the next APC meeting. The Secretary will lead the development of these proposals in liaison with senior figures from BAS Operations and

Elena Field. Names approved at the APC(20)2<sup>nd</sup> meeting will be held back and gazetted later with names from the first and third tranches.

**Action:** Secretary to lead development of the third tranche of proposals.

The Committee recommended all the proposed names.

## 11) Any Other Business.

### 11.1) New Place-name proposal: APC(20)25

The Secretary had received a late proposal resulting from hydrographic survey work by HMS *Protector*, Jane Rumble welcomed the link between HMS *Protector* and the APC.

The Committee recommended the name Sheldon Cove. The feature needs a name because there is increased scientific activity in the area and more boat-supported visits. Lee Truscott confirmed that the feature would be significant enough to be named on the relevant Admiralty Chart (British Admiralty Nautical Chart 3462: British Antarctic Survey Base Rothera).

The Committee discussed whether the generic should be 'cove' or 'bay' and concluded that 'cove' is more appropriate according to the descriptions in the APC list of generic terms:

Cove; 'Small coastal indentation, often circular or semi-circular in shape with a restricted entrance, or a small bay',

Bay; 'a comparatively gradual indentation of the coast-line, the seaward opening of which is usually wider than the penetration into the land'.

Lee Truscott offered to supply the UKHO glossary for reference.

The feature has been formed by retreat of the Sheldon Glacier over the last 60 years, it makes sense to adopt the glacier name as the specific, and there are other examples as a precedent (eg Hoek Bay, Cardell Cove).

**Action:** Secretary to liaise with Lee Truscott for the UKHO glossary, (IHO Hydrographic Dictionary) and discuss alignment of the APC list of generic terms with the UKHO terminology.

### 11.2) APC Website:

Jane Rumble observed that it is hard to find out who is on the committee and she would like to see this information, and information about the new members added to the website.

**Action:** Members to send the Secretary a photo and a short biographical note for inclusion on the website.

### 11.3) Name question resulting from BAS mapping work:

The BAS MAGIC group are updating the map BAS (Misc)13, Antarctic Peninsula and Weddell Sea. It has emerged that previous versions of the map have shown the name *Herzog-Ernst Bucht*, but this is not in the UK gazetteer.

The name relates to the (Filchner) German Antarctic Expedition in 1912, which named the feature Vahsel Bucht after Richard Vahsel, the captain of the expedition ship *Deutschland*.

Following calving along Filchner Ice Front to the SW, the much larger bay formed, which was named Herzog Ernst-Bucht [= Duke Ernst Bay] after Herzog Ernst-Ludwig von Hessen-Darmstadt (1868-1937), a prominent German figure of the time and a proponent of polar exploration.

This name is in the CGA from the German gazetteer, but the UK gazetteer only has Vahsel Bay. There was some discussion about whether to translate Herzog to Duke, but the Committee recommended the name Herzog-Ernst Bay, noting that the name is long-established on published maps. The Secretary and Robert Headland were asked to further investigate the background and role of Herzog-Ernst, in the light of earlier discussions about potentially inappropriate names in the gazetteer.

**Action:** Secretary and Robert Headland to research background of Herzog-Ernst.

**Action:** Secretary to add the name to the gazetteer after further research on Herzog-Ernst.

Update: Robert Headland has supplied detailed information about Herzog Ernst-Ludwig von Hessen-Darmstadt (1868-1937). He was not a direct supporter of Filchner's expedition but had previously sponsored a German expedition to Svalbard. There is no evidence of any inappropriate activity.

#### **11.4) Irish place names feature of the month**

Robert Headland has continued his research into BAT place names after people of Irish origin. This would make an interesting Place Name of the Month feature in the BAS Ice sheet and on the APC website.

**Action:** Secretary to liaise with Robert Headland to pursue this outside the meeting.

#### **11.5) Social media presence**

Kate Winter suggested that the APC should consider developing a social media presence. Stuart Doubleday added that the BAT website has a Place Name of the Month, but this has a limit on its reach/remit.

**Action:** Kate Winter and Stuart Doubleday to develop suggestions for the next meeting.

#### **11.6) Further developments with the GSGSSI naming policy**

Mark Belchier added that the GSGSSI Naming Policy and news will be publicised for wider interest.

#### **11.7) APC process after the meeting**

Rod Downie asked about the APC process after the meeting. The Secretary explained that once the name has been accepted by the governments of BAT or South Georgia the Secretary would formally write to the nominee and proposer with the news, and have an informal conversation about the APC, procedure and the identity of the proposer. The approved names are then added to the APC gazetteer and submitted to the SCAR CGA. The approved Minutes are published on the APC website and all the meeting papers are archived.

#### **11.8) BAS and UKHO**

BAS (Elena Field) has produced an updated version of the BAS 25 Series Ryder Bay map, Elena Field thanked Lee Truscott and the UKHO for their assistance and provision of data for the new map. UKHO requested BAS to provide data about the new wharf and other works at Rothera.

**Action:** Secretary to organise contact between BAS Antarctic Infrastructure Modernisation Programme (AIMP) and UKHO.

### **12. Date of Next meeting**

To be confirmed separately.