

MINUTES

Meeting held at 13.30 on Wednesday 20th November 2024, at British Antarctic Survey.

Present:

Ms Natalie Allen (Polar Regions Department, FCDO)
Dr Mark Belchier (SGSSI)
Dr Mark Brandon (Ad hoc member)
Mrs Allison Dollimore (PCGN – alternate)
Ms Elena Field (British Antarctic Survey – Secretary)
Mr Andrew Fleming (British Antarctic Survey)
Mrs Philippa Foster-Back (Chair)
Prof Dame Jane Francis (British Antarctic Survey)
Mr Robert Headland (Royal Geographical Society)
Ms Camilla Nichol (UK Antarctic Heritage Trust)
Prof Richard Powell (SPRI)
Ms Jane Rumble OBE (Polar Regions Department, FCDO)
Mr Lee Truscott (UK Hydrographic Office)

1. Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Ms Catherine Cheetham, Prof Bethan Davies, Mr Rod Downie, and Dr Kate Winter.

2. Place-names decisions and matters arising from APC(24) 1st meeting**2.1. UK APC Membership Updates**

The Chair welcomed Prof Richard Powell to the Committee, as SPRI Representative, and Mrs Allison Dollimore acting as alternate for Ms Catherine Cheetham (PCGN Representative).

Wording has been agreed for an advert for a new ad hoc member on the Committee. Next steps agreed were to publish the advert and arrange interviews for the New Year.

ACTION: Secretary to prepare advert and circulate to Chair and FCDO.

3. Minutes of the last meeting [APC(24)1st], held on 17 April 2024

Approved.

4. Secretary's report

The report was sent to members in advance of the meeting.

4.1. Gazetteer Additions:

All approved names have been added to the UK BAT gazetteer and SGSSI gazetteer, submitted to the SCAR CGA teams and recipients/applicants notified.

4.2. SCAR Composite Gazetteer Additions:

There is an ongoing issue with the additions to the SCAR Gazetteer. SCAGI have noted that submissions have not been added to the SCAR CGA since 2021. This has been raised with SCAGI and a response is anticipated.

4.2.1. South Georgia and South Sandwich Island Gazetteer Additions:

All updates to the gazetteer have been made and are now available to view from the website.

4.3. Actions from APC(24)1st Meeting:

All actions are complete or in progress, as per the List of Actions document *APC(24)1st List of Actions*.

4.3.1. Liaise with AT Secretariat to review HSM Location records

Secretary contacted the AT Secretariate and received the following response:

I think what you are looking for is included in the complete list of historic sites and monuments.

*This list is available for download from the Protected Areas section of our website, here:
<https://www.ats.aq/e/protected.html>.*

At the bottom of this page you will see the link List and Status of Historic Sites and Monuments.

The list is automatically generated from the same information contained in the Protected Areas database, and reflects the latest amendments adopted up to the last ATCM 46 meeting in Kochi.

4.3.2. Review whether a classification field could be implemented in the database

A “feature type” field exists in the database currently, which categorised the features based on generic term.

4.3.3. Review Committee Guideline Text

The text has been reviewed to use more “active” language and to comment on underrepresented groups. It is suggested that the following text be implemented:

“The Committee is committed to promoting Diversity, Equity and Inclusion within place names across British Antarctic Territory. The Committee actively encourages nominations of individuals from historically underrepresented groups.”

4.3.4. Prepare advertisements for committee members

A draft advertisement has been prepared and is under review by the Chair and FCDO, and for discussion in this meeting.

4.4. Internal Communications:

Three Place Name of the month articles have been published in the BAS internal newsletter and on the BAT website:

- Canadian Names for Arctic Science Summit Week
- Subglacial Names
- South Georgia

Prior to meetings, circulars are sent out to BAS Ops, BAS Science, and UKNCAR with the application deadline and links to application form/website. As agreed in the last meeting, this information is also circulated to Committee members for awareness.

4.5. External Communications

4.5.1. Antarctic Science Conference 2024

Secretary gave a presentation and put up posters about Antarctic Place names and their importance for science communication at the UK Antarctic Science Conference, October 2024. This was well-received and there were some excellent questions. Following this, several attendees caught up in breaks to ask for more information about the process.

4.5.2. APC Website:

These metrics are increasingly being blocked by users' web-browser privacy settings, and so it is difficult to get a full picture of traffic.

Consistent traffic to the APC website:

- Average of 364 website views a month, of which 164 are considered "new" users per month.
- 70.7% accessed the website via desktop web-browser, with 19% mobile device and 2% tablet device. Remaining 8.2% were marked as "unknown source."
- 11% of new users accessed the website from social media (twitter or Instagram)
- Top pages include:
 - Main page (with web-map)
 - Application Proposal Guide
 - Application web-form
 - Contact the Secretary
 - Themes web-map
- APC Web-map: Usage statistics for the past few months have been high, with 4,752 views and averaging 22.1 unique views per day. This year, the usage stands at 8,513 views with an average item views per day of 23.26.

4.5.3. X (Twitter)

X has changed its platform and now requires a X Premium subscription in order to view profile analytics.

However there has been an observed trend – less and less interactions on this platform and very few per post. Whereas previously there would be a spike of interest per post, this does not seem to happen anymore.

4.6. APC Website

4.6.1. Web map application updates:

The web-map has been updated with the following:

- Update to base-map for BAT when zoomed in, with a new [hillshade derived from REMA v2](#).
- Update to the zoom function when searching for place names
- Updated base-map for South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands
- Updated Contact the Secretary webpage.

4.6.2. Application page

The place-name proposal application page has been updated with minor edits to text and additional information.

The corresponding form that is available for download has been updated to match the questions and information in the web-form.

ACTION: Secretary to open BlueSky account for UK APC

5. US ACAN Comments for APC(24)2nd Meeting

Comments were received and considered in the meeting. APC passes on their thanks to ACAN.

6. New Place-name Proposal – South Orkney Islands 1 [APC(24)08]

UKHO: the feature isn't very distinguishable and not likely to be mapped on UKHO charts.

MAGIC: the feature requires a name as it is noticeable on the upcoming map release.

Committee agreed that the feature requires a name, however the proposed nominee was not appropriate given the lack of link to the region and sufficient evidence of impact.

The Committee decided to name the feature **Kerr Rocks** following the name proposed in APC(24)16.

ACTION: Secretary to inform applicant.

7. New Place-name Proposal – South Orkney Islands 2 [APC(24)09]

Committee agreed that the feature needed a name and were satisfied that the nominee met the criteria for personal names.

ACTION: Secretary to inform applicant.

8. New Place-name Proposal – South Orkney Islands 3[APC(24)10]

Committee noted that the suggested bay seemed to be formed of two bays. Decision was made to name the larger of the features.

The Committee were satisfied that the nominee met the criteria for personal names.

ACTION: Secretary to inform applicant.

9. New Place-name Proposal – Signy Island [APC(24)11]

Committee agreed that the feature needed a name and were satisfied that the nominee met the criteria for personal names.

ACTION: Secretary to inform applicant.

10. New Place-name Proposal – Snow Island [APC(24)12]

Committee agreed that the feature needed a name and were satisfied with the proposed name. Feature generic changed to *Bay*.

ACTION: Secretary to inform applicant.

11. New Place-name Proposal – Nordenskjöld Coast [APC(24)13]

Committee agreed that the feature needed a name and were satisfied with the proposed name.

ACTION: Secretary to inform applicant.

12. New Place-name Proposal – Petermann Island [APC(24)14]

The Committee determined that whilst the cove itself was not significant enough to require naming, they noted that the associated Point did.

The Committee decided to name this feature **Forrest Point**.

ACTION: Secretary to inform applicant.

13. New Place-name Proposal – Argentine Islands [APC(24)15]

Committee agreed that the feature needed a name and were satisfied that the nominee met the criteria for personal names.

ACTION: Secretary to inform applicant.

14. New Place-name Proposal – Renaud Island [APC(24)16]

The Committee determined that this feature did not require naming at this time.

ACTION: Secretary to inform applicant.

15. New Place-name Proposal – Alexander Island [APC(24)17]

The Committee agreed that the proposed theme was suitable and agreed all names except Null Island, as the name was potentially confusing.

This feature has been named **Digitise Island**.

ACTION: Secretary to inform applicant.

16. New Place-name Proposal – Alexander Island [APC(24)18]

The Committee accepted all proposed names, and suggested a theme of forests for the remaining unnamed features, to reflect the fossils found in the region.

The Committee will review and accept the names as an intersessional paper.

ACTION: Secretary to inform applicant.

17. New Place-name Proposal – Subglacial Lakes [APC(24)19]

The Committee noted that as these are potentially ephemeral and migratory features they do not meet the threshold for naming at this time.

The Committee have deferred their final decision until after the paper has been published and reviewed by the scientific community.

ACTION: Secretary to inform applicant.

18. Any Other Business.

MAGIC can provide a list of maps that are going to be published for each meeting.

ACTION: MAGIC to include list of maps in production from now on.

Request to review the application form to assess whether it needs to be more specific about feature first, name second.

ACTION: Secretary to review application form.

19. Date of next meeting.

To be confirmed.