

**DRAFT MINUTES OF MEETING AT BRITISH ANTARCTIC SURVEY
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 29th SEPTEMBER 2004 AT 11 AM.****Present:**

Mr P.J. Woodman	Chairman
Mrs C. Burgess	Permanent Committee on Geographical Names
Prof. J.A. Dowdeswell	Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge
Mr J.A. Heap	<i>Ad hoc</i> member; former Director, Scott Polar Research Institute
Mr P. Geelan	<i>Ad hoc</i> member; former Chairman, APC
Lt Cdr J.E.J. Marshall	Hydrographic Office
Ms J. Rumble	Polar Regions Unit, Overseas Territories Department, Foreign and Commonwealth Office
Dr M.R.A. Thomson	<i>Ad hoc</i> member
Ms A. Martin	APC Secretary

1. Apologies for Absence and Change of Representation

Apologies for absence were received from Prof. D.W.H. Walton, British Antarctic Survey and Dr G. Hattersley-Smith, Royal Geographical Society. The Chairman welcomed Lt Cdr Jonathan Marshall who was the new representative from the Hydrographic Office. The Chairman also informed the Committee that he had written to Lt Cdr Tony Ward, former representative of the Hydrographic Office, to thank him for his work over the years, which had included a huge contribution to the charting of Antarctica.

2. Minutes of the last meeting, held on 31st March 2004

The minutes as circulated were approved by all present. The Secretary was asked to ensure that information regarding names that were not approved should be included in the minutes in future.

3. Matters arising from the Minutes of the last meeting*a) Freedom of Information Act*

After a lengthy discussion it was agreed that the full minutes should normally be made available on the website. Regarding requests for information, in cases where the documentation might be thought to fall under any of the exemptions of the Act, the Secretary should contact the FCO to check the appropriateness of release. The question was raised whether Committee members would have to make their own sets of APC papers available to members of the public or organisations; it was agreed that all such queries directed to members should be passed to the Secretary who would be the sole contact for people requesting information.

b) SCAR Meeting (Bremen) outcome

The communication from the SCAR-CGA representative was noted. However, APC primarily serves the interests of British Scientists in the British Antarctic Territory. APC policy to continue to anglicise generic parts of names was reaffirmed because it was considered an important factor in the use of maps

and charts for navigation. The Committee also reaffirmed their policy to keep the specific parts of the names to one word wherever possible. The SCAR initiative being carried out by the University of Freiburg to clarify the place-naming situation on King George Island was welcomed.

4. **Secretary's Report [APC(04)16]**

It was agreed that the PHP MY EDIT version of the BAT Gazetteer on the web should run for one year and its usefulness and the number of hits would be assessed after that. The BAT Government would then be in a better position to decide if it wanted to develop the website further. It was agreed that SGSSI information would be included in the future.

The future of Dr Hattersley-Smith's *History of Place-names in the British Antarctic Territory* (BAS Scientific Report 113) was discussed. It was decided that the objective was to create a single digital compilation which included the information in this publication with similar information of place-names introduced since the work was published. However, more details were needed regarding what this would entail before any final decision was taken.

It was agreed that the amended coordinates for Signy place-names would be notified to the committee but no separate paper was required.

5. **Place-name Decisions APC(04)17**

All place-names were ratified.

6. **Postal Assessments**

c) *Summary of Decisions of APC(04)3rd Postal*

The representative of the BAT Commissioner approved the proposed names at the meeting. There was discussion over the source of the name *Nordsim*. The Secretary stated that she could find no reason to believe it to be a trademark name and that it appeared to stand for something along the lines of Nordic ion mass spectrometer.

d) *Place-names for Review [APC(04)14(rev)]*

These names were approved.

7. **New Place-names Proposal –Alexander Island [APC(04)18]**

None of the names was approved. The APC does not condone the naming of features simply to commemorate individuals. The ice falls were considered to be insignificant and there did not appear to be a need to name the feature. However, it was noted that the feature proposed as *Smith Glacier* was a large feature and may require a name. As the name *Smith Glacier* already existed within Antarctica, this name could not be adopted. The name *Trio Glacier* was mooted as a possible alternative (celebrating the work of Pearce, Taylor and Smith, the first three people to over-winter at Fossil Bluff). Documentary

evidence showed that the feature proposed as *Taylor Peaks* had previously been referred to as *The Three Sisters*.

8. Amendment to Coordinates – Bowman Coast [APC(04)19]

This was noted. Future amendments to coordinates are to be presented for information only, though the Hydrographic Office will receive formal notification.

9. New Place-names Proposal – Signy Island [APC(04)09]

Given the fact that most of these names had been in use on Signy Island for decades, the Committee expressed surprise that they had not been submitted at an earlier juncture. The case for approval was clearly very strong, even though some of the names did not fall within APC guidelines. The names were duly approved, except for *Svetlanas Passage* which was amended to *Svetlana Passage*. The correct coordinates for *Thomas Tarn* were given as 60°41'55"S, 45°37'18"W. It was noted that *Thomas Tarn* was in fact named after St Thomas.

10. New Place-names Proposal – Adelaide Island [APC(04)21]

The name *Kirsty Island* was approved as it complies with the guideline for having just one word for the specific part of the name. Given the large number of features which already have *Brown* as the specific it was agreed, in this instance, to adopt the first name for the specific.

11. New Place-name Proposal – Churchill Peninsula [APC(04)22]

The name *Mount Jupiter* was not approved. The theme of planet names has been in use on *Alexander Island* and it was thought that applying it here could lead to confusion. In addition, it was noted that the theme for the *Churchill Peninsula* area was for members of Churchill's 1945 War Cabinet. The name of John Colville, Secretary to the 1945 War Cabinet was mooted as a possible choice.

12. APC Website

The Secretary showed the latest additions to the APC website, the BAT Gazetteer pages. The extent and limitations of the search options, and the display of data on the screen were noted. It was also noted that at present it is not possible to download a full version of the BAT Gazetteer. It was decided to reconsider the need for a printable version in a year's time.

13. Any Other Business

The new desk officer at the Polar Regions Unit at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office was noted.

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Wednesday 6th April 2005.
The meeting closed at 3pm.