

MINUTES OF MEETING AT BRITISH ANTARCTIC SURVEY HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11th MAY 2005 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 A.J. Fox	British Antarctic Survey
Mr P. Geelan	<i>Ad hoc</i> member; former Chairman, APC
Dr G Hattersley-Smith	Royal Geographical Society
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

Apologies for absence were received from Dr J.A. Heap, *Ad hoc* member, and Prof. D.W.H. Walton, British Antarctic Survey.

The Chairman welcomed Mr A.J. Fox who had been asked to represent British Antarctic Survey in the absence of Prof. Walton.

2. Minutes of the last meeting, held on 29th September 2004

The minutes as circulated were approved by all present.

The Secretary was asked to ensure that should the need for a name in the Churchill Peninsula area arise in the future, to consider the name of Sir John Colville, Secretary to the 1945 War Cabinet.

3. Matters arising from the Minutes of the last meeting*Updating Scientific Report No. 113 / BAT Gazetteer*

After a lengthy discussion it was agreed that the complete descriptions from BAS Scientific Report No 113 should be added to the BAT gazetteer, as they incorporated a large amount of valuable historical information. Names approved since the publication of the report could be added in the form that they had been presented to the committee.

It was agreed in principle that the aim would be to:-

- i) Add all of the descriptions and dates of approval to the BAT gazetteer.
- ii) Add an interface which would show the position of the feature within BAT, and a further, detailed local area map that pinpoints the feature to be added at a later date.
- iii) Add an interactive layer which allows the description and details of the feature to be shown on the same screen as the detailed map.
- iv) Ensure that the system acquired allows each successive step of development to be added as development progresses.

4. Secretary's Report [APC(05)01]

It was suggested that the Secretary investigate the application of Unicode font support, in order to display diacritical marks, and also methods of ignoring diacritics in the sorting routine.

The committee was informed that BAS was planning to update the mapping of the South Shetland Islands with a new 1:250 000 series of 3 maps. This would make use of both satellite imagery and digital coastline data. It was planned for 2006. The availability of such data would enable the APC to update its series of South Shetland maps.

5. Place-name Decisions [APC(05)02]

All place-names were ratified.

6. Amendments to Coordinates – Signy Island [APC(05)03]

These were noted.

7. Secretary's Note – Commemorative Naming

After much discussion it was decided not to adopt any prescriptive rules regarding the commemoration of both living and deceased individuals, but to maintain a system where each applicant was assessed on their own merits. Certain guidelines for the adoption of commemorative names were noted. The person should have made a significant contribution to Antarctic matters or scientific understanding; group names e.g. of particular scientific disciplines, had long been in use and were an established way of commemorating scientists. No timeline is to be adopted in the case of deceased individuals. It was noted that when adopting foreign government names it was not possible to employ the same level of stringency. It was suggested that a list of suitable applicants from the past and of those who had contributed to work in areas could be maintained. It was suggested that the guidelines should be added to the website and the handbook. It was also suggested that a link be added to the online proposal form to the guidelines regarding personal names.

8. Secretary's Note – Names outside of BAT

Scientists (or others) who wished to name features in areas of Antarctica outside of BAT should apply for the name through the APC. Where the feature is in part of Antarctica covered by another UK/BAT recognised Place-names Committee, the APC would then apply to the place-naming authority of that country. Where the feature is in the unclaimed sector of Antarctica, the APC would consider the proposals. These would not be added to the BAT gazetteer but would be forwarded to the SCAR-CGA if approved.

In the cases of marine features it was noted that the International Hydrographic Organisation has the authority to name features in international waters, i.e. more than 12 miles off shore. Where scientists wished to name

features in international waters they should apply directly to the IHO. Where they wished to name features which are important to inshore navigation and are within the 12 mile limit they should apply to APC.

9. Postal Assessments and ACAN response

These were noted.

10. New Place-names Proposal – Alexander Island [APC(04)18(rev2)]

The name *Three Sisters* was approved, the name *Benchmark* was thought to be inappropriate. The use of the word *benchmark* in the description was considered inaccurate.

11. Proposed Deletion of Name – Wordie Ice Shelf [APC(05)04]

It was decided that features which disappear such as the ice shelves should not be deleted from the BAT gazetteer. However, they should be distinguished from other features by e.g. a change of font or distinguishing mark, to reflect the altered status. The description should be changed to include a reference pointing to the approved name of the feature, e.g. bay, that exists now. The names *Linchpin Ice Rise* and *Miller Ice Rise* should be returned to the BAT Gazetteer in this different form and their descriptions adjusted accordingly.

12. Proposed Deletion of Name – Jones Ice Shelf [APC(05)05]

As Above

13. Proposed Deletion of Name – Prince Gustav Ice Shelf [APC(05)06]

As Above

14. Proposed New Names – South Shetland Islands [APC(05)07]

The names were approved in the following forms:

Valdebenito Rock, Cruz Rock, Vásquez Rock, Silva Island, Aravena Rock, Montecinos Cove, Sotos Point, Correa Point, Heller Rock, Fierro Point, Labbé Point, Rosales Rock, Dovizio Rock, Araguez Island, Villalon Passage, Negra Point, Mancilla Point, Arriagada Rock, Agüedo Point, Boris Island, and Coloma Island.

The Secretary was asked to undertake further research regarding the names *Orión Point, Guayaquil Bay, Orión Passage* and *Montufar Island* which were not approved.

15. New Maps – Signy Island and Ablation Valley

The maps were approved with a few minor changes to the Ablation Valley map. The use of colour was found to be acceptable and the use of satellite imagery was encouraged.

16. Any Other Business

The Secretary presented a display of statistical information on user access to the APC website. Several amendments to the website wording were agreed. It was noted that there are plans to have a BAT website separate from the FCO website. Future plans could include the transfer of the BAT gazetteer to the BAT website.

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Wednesday 9th November 2005.

The meeting closed at 3pm.