

## MINUTES

**MINUTES APC(22)2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting:  
Tuesday 4th October 2022 at 11:00 AM, hybrid meeting.**

**Present:**

Dr Neil Arnold (Scott Polar Research Institute)  
Dr Mark Belchier (GSGSSI)  
Ms Catherine Cheetham (Permanent Committee on Geographical Names)  
Mr George Clarkson (Polar Regions Department, FCDO)  
Mr Rod Downie (*Ad hoc* member)  
Ms Elena Field (British Antarctic Survey – Secretary)  
Mr Andrew Fleming (British Antarctic Survey – observing)  
Mrs Philippa Foster-Back (Chair)  
Dr Adrian Fox (British Antarctic Survey)  
Mr Robert Headland (Royal Geographical Society)  
Ms Rebecca Kaye (*Ad hoc* member)  
Ms Rachel Morgan (*Ad hoc* member)  
Ms Camilla Nichol (UKAHT)  
Ms Jane Rumble (Polar Regions Department, FCDO)  
Mr Lee Truscott (UK Hydrographic Office)

### **1. Apologies for absence.**

Apologies were received from: Prof Mark Brandon (*Ad hoc* member), Ms Rebecca Kaye (*Ad hoc* member) and Dr Kate Winter (*Ad hoc* member).

### **2. Place-names decisions and matters arising from APC(22) 1<sup>st</sup> meeting**

#### **2.1. UK APC/US ACAN Agreement VTC**

The Variation to Contract has now been signed by all parties.

**ACTION:** APC Secretary to circulate document to committee members.

#### **2.2. Ukrainian Antarctic Gazetteer and records in UK APC Gazetteer**

##### **2.2.1. NASC Gazetteer**

Paul Woodman (previously member of the UK APC) made the Secretary aware that the National Antarctic Scientific Center of Ukraine (NASC) have published the “Gazetteer of Geographical Names of the Argentine Islands – the Kyiv Peninsula region (West Antarctica)”. This includes 162 names, of which most are sourced from the APC gazetteer. The place name “Kyiv Peninsula” is not currently included in the UK Antarctic gazetteer.

The place name “Kyiv Peninsula” is currently listed in the Bulgarian Antarctic Gazetteer as “Kiev Peninsula.” Therefore, there is precedent before the publication of the Ukrainian Gazetteer.

The APC will formally adopt the name “Kyiv Peninsula” into the gazetteer.

**ACTION:** Secretary to add name to gazetteer.

**ACTION:** Secretary to thank Paul Woodman for alerting the committee and for his useful and interesting paper and inform him of the decision made to include the name.

### **2.2.2. Faraday Station entry amendment in APC Gazetteer**

It has been highlighted that the current description of Faraday station in the APC Gazetteer does not include reference to the new name Vernadsky. It was agreed that the name would remain the same, but the description will be amended to include the new name. There are likely other stations named in the gazetteer with a similar issue.

**ACTION:** Secretary to review existing policy on renaming features in the APC gazetteer.

**ACTION:** Secretary to amend description of Faraday to include history of Vernadsky.

**ACTION:** Secretary to add Vernadsky feature in gazetteer, including history of Faraday for cross-referencing.

**ACTION:** Secretary to review other stations named in gazetteer and assess descriptions and include a statement for effective cross-referencing.

## **3. Minutes of the last meeting [APC(22)1<sup>st</sup>], held on 16 March 2022**

Marked as read

## **4. Secretary’s report**

*Reporting period: 16 March – 4 October 2022*

### **4.1. Gazetteer Additions:**

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

#### **4.2. ACAN/APC Missing submissions:**

Feature Woodman Highlands was accepted to the APC gazetteer in 2009 but not in the US ACAN gazetteer.

This prompted review of the other names in this round of submissions, and it was noted that Woodman Highlands, Mount Hunter, Riley Peak, Hinde Nunataks, and Extremadura Cove were missing. These were resubmitted to ACAN who reviewed and accepted the names in their committee meeting in June 2022.

#### **4.3. Actions from APC(22) 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting:**

All actions are complete, barring two in progress:

- UKHO/APC process review – meeting TBC
- Names in Google maps – planned to raise at the upcoming SCAGI meeting in October/November.

#### **4.4. ACAN/UK Variation to Contract:**

Following the meeting in November 2021, the VTC Document has now been signed by representatives of the US Board on Geographic Names and the APC Chairperson.

#### **4.5. Review messaging and policy on naming after individuals**

Following discussions in APC(21)2<sup>nd</sup> and APC(22)1<sup>st</sup> meetings, there is an agreement that the current guidance to applicants does not adequately reflect the strict criteria necessary for a place to be named after an individual.

The criteria were assessed and updated to reflect:

- Place-name nominations for individuals need to showcase how the person has made a sustained and exceptional contribution to Antarctic issues, or issues with a direct relevance to Antarctica.
- Nominations are assessed with a similar level of rigour as would be applied to a nomination for a national honour, so therefore nominations in respect of living people should ideally (though not compulsorily) be accompanied by at least one letter of support from someone other than the nominator

Updated text:

*The APC will consider the naming of features after individuals who have demonstrable evidence of:*

- *Sustained and exceptional contribution to scientific understanding and/or life in the Antarctic.*
- *Major contributions to Antarctic matters.*
- *Contribution to government and policymaking with direct relevance to Antarctica.*
- *Association of the person with the proposed feature.*

*Due to the criteria, the majority of nominations are for individuals at the end of their career or are commemorative. Where there is a nomination for an individual still active in their field, nominations should ideally be accompanied by at least one letter of support from someone other than the nominator.*

#### **4.6. APC Documents and Books re-organisation**

Elena Field (EF) reviewed the contents of the BAS APC bookcase, cataloguing the items and assessing their relevance as a reference copy for past decision-making or historical significance.

Total of 216 items catalogued. There is an ongoing review of the items in the BAS Archives to get a complete picture of the APC documents held by BAS.

The remaining items held at BAS MAGIC:

- Are copies only, and official records are house in BAS Archives
- Are references for APC Secretary where no online version is appropriate/exists
- Provide context to past APC workings and/or decisions regarding feature naming

#### **4.7. Internal Communications**

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

- World Penguin Day
- Undersea Names in Antarctica
- Scottish Names in Antarctica

Prior to meetings, circulars are sent out to BAS Ops, BAS Science, and UKNCAR with the application deadline and links to application form/website.

#### **4.8. External Communications**

##### *UK Antarctic Science Conference, Edinburgh:*

EF presented at the UK Antarctic Science Conference in September, which was well-received. There were many queries following the talk, during the conference and since then. This demonstrated the effectiveness of directed communications, and EF will continue to seek out opportunities to present in future.

##### *Twitter:*

Average of 1000 impressions a month, with peaks around specific tweets/events. Place name of the month features average at 6K impressions per tweet

Average of 4 new followers each month

##### *Media Request:*

Andrew Fleming (AF) gave an interview to ITV Anglia about place names in Antarctica associated with Queen Elizabeth II.

#### **4.9. Updates to Proposal Form**

EF created a new Place name proposal web-form which has been trialled for this last application round.

- All applicants used the web-form.
- Positive feedback so far, highlighting ease of use.

EF also set up a template and automatic population for the submitted applications into the correct format, which has streamlined the paper production phase.

##### Changes:

- Address limitation with the form for regions – currently you can only submit a point.
- Automatically send the submitter the completed submission as a pdf.
- Unique reference number for each submission.
- Inclusion of improved mapping with inclusion of theme information (IN PROGRESS).

#### **4.10. Ongoing/Future Work:**

##### **4.10.1. APC Theme web-map**

Place-name themes are currently not well displayed in the APC website and relies on users to query individual names and learn more about the background if the theme is not immediately clear (e.g., where names are related to people, not a book or a name in popular culture).

EF is in the process of establishing a dataset which captures the theme regions, which will be displayed on a web-map and made available for other applications. This would allow those looking to submit a place name to learn more about the area and assess whether there is an established theme in the region before submission.

Proof of concept is an agenda item at the end.

#### **4.10.2. APC Gazetteer – Areas in the gazetteer**

Inclusion of polygons as a feature type in the gazetteer. This would improve work internally to MAGIC and will improve how we visualise the features. Other benefits include:

- Geocoding
- Spatial querying – analysis and basic querying
- Hierarchy of features
- More precise cartography
- Highlight areas that are not named
- Align to standards of other Antarctic naming bodies

#### **4.10.3. APIP – Antarctic Peninsula Information Portal Updates**

MAGIC are soon to have a 6-month post, tasked with improving the Antarctic Peninsula Information Portal - this includes:

- Moving the data to a new system
- Publishing new data where available
- Publishing a new web-map and additional apps where appropriate.

APC data forms an important part of this, with potential inclusion of place-name theme data and the gazetteer.

#### **4.10.4. South Georgia Place names – SGSSI gazetteers**

Following on from the great work from Pat Lurcock, the new resource will also address the issues highlighted in the paper.

The SGSSI gazetteer will also be updated to a new format as with the BAT Gazetteer, with polygons will follow.

#### **4.10.5. APC Website**

The APC Website is due to be updated in the coming year and there are two main strands to this:

- Infrastructure – moving to a new platform with more functionality and migrating the web-map to Esri tools.
- Data resource – moving to be underpinned by a data catalogue, which will in future allow users to search/browse through features as a list as well as the map, instead of needing to download the gazetteer in its entirety to perform queries.

Discussion on Google names – Catherine Cheetham (PGCN Representative) proposed getting in touch directly with the representatives from Google.

**ACTION:** Secretary to follow up with Ms. Cheetham.

#### **5. US ACAN Comments for APC(22) 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting [APC(22)08]**

Received with thanks.

#### **6. New Place-name Proposal – Sky-Hi Nunataks [APC(22)09]**

Map Correction: Sky-Hi not Ski Hi

The origin of the name is unclear, but as it is current use the committee recommends that it be added to the gazetteer.

Comment on the generic – the feature does not fall into the definition of a “point.” Nunatak was deemed more suitable.

APPROVED: Janet Nunatak

**ACTION:** Secretary to feed back the committee’s decision to proposer.

**7. New Place-name Proposal – English Coast [APC(22)10]**

The committee highlighted the existence of a Condor Peninsula, on the east coast of the Antarctic Peninsula.

The committee recommended the generic “Ness” be applied instead of Point.

APPROVED: Condor Ness

**ACTION:** Secretary to feed back the committee’s decision to proposer.

**ACTION:** Secretary to ensure the description of name origin is consistent between Condor Peninsula and Condor Ness.

**8. New Place-name Proposal – English Coast [APC(22)11]**

Committee agree that the feature requires a name, and after review of existing themes in the region approve the name proposed.

APPROVED: Cape Garrod

**ACTION:** Secretary to feed back the committee’s decision to proposer.

**9. New Place-name Proposal – English Coast [APC(22)12]**

Following discussion on the nature of the feature, and in consideration of ACAN’s feedback, the committee decided not to recommend a place name for the feature. This is primarily due to the ephemeral nature of the feature.

**ACTION:** Secretary to feed back the committee’s decision to proposer.

**10. New Place-name Proposal – Ronne Ice Shelf [APC(22)13]**

Following discussion, the committee decided not to recommend a place name for the feature. It was decided that the name “Skytrain Ice Rise” suitably identifies the feature.

**ACTION:** Secretary to feed back the committee’s decision to proposer.

**11. New Place-name Proposal – Walgreen Coast [APC(22)14]**

The committee recommends the name Ghost Ridge



APPROVED: Ghost Ridge

**ACTION:** Secretary to feed back the committee's decision to proposer.

## **12. New Place-name Proposal – Walgreen Coast [APC(22)15]**

The committee agreed that the feature requires a name and recommends Piglet Glacier. The definition will include text “formerly a tributary glacier into Pine Island Glacier, referred to as PIG in literature.

The suggestion of a theme in the area was rejected by the committee.

APPROVED: Piglet Glacier

## **13. Place-names proposal form and themes web-map – proofs of concept**

Secretary demonstrated the new place name proposal form to the committee and a new web-map showcasing place-name themes.

Comments were received and will be taken forward for the next iteration.

**ACTION:** Secretary to discuss place name themes with AAD for SCAR CGA.

## **14. Any Other Business.**

### **14.1. Naming features after Individuals:**

Comment: Royal Society has guidelines for demonstrating sustained and exceptional contributions<sup>1</sup>.

Comment on submission descriptions: the focus should be on the individual's contributions, and the committee should be aware of the Mathew Effect<sup>2</sup>.

Decision was made to remove mention of previous awards or accolades in committee meeting papers, and to include the information only once approved.

**ACTION:** Secretary to review guidelines and include in APC naming guidelines where appropriate.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://royalsociety.org/topics-policy/projects/research-culture/tools-for-support/resume-for-researchers/>

<sup>2</sup> The Matthew Effect in Science: <https://inst.eecs.berkeley.edu/~cs298-7/fa20/readings/matthew.pdf>

**ACTION:** Secretary to review current practice and ensure awards or accolades are not mentioned in future submissions to the committee. This information will be included once the name has been approved.

#### **14.2. Proposed ACAN/APC meeting.**

Suggested topics of discussion:

- Thwaites Glacier/ ITGC naming
- Place-name Themes
- Ephemeral Features

**ACTION:** Secretary/MAGIC to coordinate meeting with US ACAN and UK APC representatives.

#### **14.3. Definition of the Southern Ocean**

Mr. Lee Truscott (UKHO Rep) provided an update on ongoing discussions about defining the extent of the Southern Ocean.

The place name and definition will be added to the APC Gazetteer once defined.

#### **14.4. Bulgarian names**

Mr. Bob Headland has been asked to review a 1000-page book on Bulgarian names.

**ACTION:** Mr. Headland to report findings to committee in next meeting

#### **14.5. Mapping Update**

Mr. Andrew Fleming updated the committee about planned mapping activity. An update to the Arctic/Antarctic Misc. 15 map is in progress. The next map update will be to the South Orkney Islands.

#### **14.6. Date of next meeting.**

**ACTION:** Secretary to coordinate date of the next meeting.