

MINUTES

MINUTES APC(23) 1st Meeting:

Tuesday 28th March 2023 at 11:00 AM, hybrid meeting.

Present:

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 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 Dr Neil Arnold (Scott Polar Research Institute), Dr Bethan Davies (Ad hoc member) and Ms Rebecca Kaye (Ad hoc member).

2. Place-names decisions and matters arising from APC(23) 2nd meeting

2.1. UK APC/US ACAN Meeting

The minutes from the UK APC/US ACAN Meeting (03/01/2023) were circulated in advance of the meeting and taken as read.

ACTION: Chair and Secretary to coordinate follow-on meetings with US ACAN.

3. Minutes of the last meeting [APC(22)2nd], held on 4 October 2022

Minutes were accepted as a true account of the meeting.

Mr Robert Headland (Royal Geographical Society) circulated a summary paper on Bulgarian Antarctic Toponymy, reviewing “Bulgarian Names in Antarctic” Lyubomir Ivanov 2021.

4. Secretary’s report

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. Actions from APC(22)2nd Meeting:

All actions are complete, barring two in progress:

- **Names in Google Maps** – raised with SCAGI and awaiting Google representative contact.
- **Discuss place-name theme work for SCAR with CGA and AAD** – contacted AAD reps, without response.

ACTION: Secretary to follow-up with SCAR CGA and SCAGI representatives.

ACTION: Secretary to follow-up with AAD.

4.3. ACAN/APC Meetings

UK APC and US ACAN representatives met in early January, as part of the ongoing communication following the Variation to Contract document signed last year.

The Minutes are included in the meeting documents and are taken as read unless there are any further comments from the committee.

4.4. Review APC renaming Policy

The Secretary reviewed names in the Gazetteer where the feature has been renamed, for example if a Station has been renamed or similar. Unfortunately, there is no consistent re-naming policy in place:

- Faraday and Vernadsky features are in the gazetteer
- Adelaide is in the gazetteer, but Carvajal is not

It is proposed to leave the original names, but mark them with an asterisk, like the names of ice shelves that have since retreated or collapsed. This would indicate that the place name has historic significance but has been superseded. For this to work, we would need to include the other names in the gazetteer as standard, e.g., include Carvajal.

ACTION: Secretary to review features near Vernadsky Station for suitable location for Faraday, to associate with the previous Faraday Station.

4.5. Review Station Names in the Gazetteer

The Secretary reviewed the other stations named in gazetteer and assessed descriptions. There are no instances found that required changes to the descriptions, but it is proposed that in future a line could be added to relate the feature to the other name:

"Associated with the place name XXXX"

ACTION: Secretary to review gazetteer, extract station and hut features and produce new dataset, to plot on web-map alongside the place names point features.

4.6. Burton Glacier location Issue

The Secretary was made aware that there was a previously established name for the feature named as Burton Glacier, accepted recently. The feature was referred to as "Furness Glacier" in the CGA, US, Argentinian and Chilean gazetteers.

The Secretary reviewed the Hattersley-Smith gazetteer copy and a "Furness Glacier" is referenced as "Lord Furness Glacier" with description:

61°02'S 55°W, flowing into the seas SSW of Point Wild (q.v.), Elephant Island, was so called by BITAE in 1916 after Marmaduke Furness, 1st Viscount Furness (1883-1940), Chairman of Furness Shipbuilding Co. Ltd, 1912-40, who assisted the expedition (Shackleton, 1919, photograph facing p.224) Furness Glacier (Wordie, 1921b, p. 22; USBGN, 1956, p. 135). Glacier de Lord Furness (Shackleton, 1930, p/267). Glaciar Furness (Argentina. MM, 1953, p/ 195; Pierrou, 1970, p.379; Chile. IHA, 1974, p. 80).

This entry does not have the name in bold, which might explain why it was missed when the documents were digitised - it doesn't suggest that that name was discontinued.

To be consistent with the other gazetteers, the Secretary added "Furness Glacier" and included a line to reference the prior name:

Glacier flowing into the seas SSW of Point Wild (q.v.), Elephant Island, was so called by BITAE in 1916 after Marmaduke Furness, 1st Viscount Furness (1883-1940), Chairman of Furness Shipbuilding Co. Ltd, 1912-40, who assisted the expedition (Shackleton, 1919, photograph facing p.224) Furness Glacier (Wordie, 1921b, p. 22; USBGN, 1956, p. 135). Glacier de Lord Furness (Shackleton, 1930, p/267). Glaciar Furness (Argentina. MM, 1953, p/ 195; Pierrou, 1970, p.379; Chile. IHA, 1974, p. 80).

And included context:

Originally named Lord Furness Glacier, the name was changed to Furness Glacier to cross-reference with other national gazetteers in 2023.

The Burton Glacier name is suggested to be reallocated to a glacier to the East of Furness Glacier.

ACTION: Secretary to make suggested changes to gazetteer.

4.7. Review of Place-name Generics in the Gazetteer

During review, it was noted that several features whose generics are no longer appropriate remain in the Gazetteer. Examples include Seal Nunataks, McDonald Ice Rumples, Bawden Ice rise and others.

It was proposed to change the generic in the feature name, and include the text:

"Feature generic changed to XX in DATE, due to REASON"

ACTION: Secretary to review features as a background task.

4.8. APC Documents and Books re-organisation

Following the review and catalogue of the BAS APC bookcase, the Secretary further reviewed the contents held in the BAS Archives with work continuing.

Work has also begun on re-organising the digital archive of the UK APC papers and minutes since 2013. This forms part of the future work section (14).

ACTION: Secretary to continue work as a background task.

4.9. Internal Communications:

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

- Weather names
- New Start (New Year) names
- Antarctic Fauna and Flora names

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

ACTION: Secretary to include APC members in the circular as standard going forward, synchronised with website and social media announcement.

4.10. External Communications:

4.10.1. APC Website:

Consistent traffic to the APC website:

- Average of 300 website views a month, with about 200 new users per month.
- 90% accessed the website via desktop web-browser, with 6% mobile device and 4% tablet device.
- 30% of new users accessed the website from social media (Twitter or Instagram)

Top pages include:

- Map page (both BAT and SG pages)
- Application Proposal Guide

Top users by Country:

- UK
- China
- US
- France

It was noted that due to proxying from Antarctic ships and stations it is hard to determine whether users are accessing the website from the region.

4.10.2. Twitter:

Reduced due to Secretary deployment to Rothera from October to December. Average of 2000 impressions a month, with peaks around specific tweets/events.

- Place name of the month features average at 6K impressions per tweet

Followers:

- Average of 4 new followers each month

4.10.3. Piglet Glacier in Nature Communications

Leeds University have recently published a paper in Nature Communications using the feature Piglet Glacier, which prompted interested from BAS Communications and their Press team. It was widely circulated.

ACTION: Secretary to review additional social media platforms (Facebook, LinkedIn for example).

4.11. Updates to Proposal Form:

Following on from feedback, the form as been updated to:

- Include free-text Lat and Lon fields alongside the map
- Send the applicant and email confirming receipt with a copy of the Report and Report ID.

4.12. South Georgia Gazetteer Updates

Slides are available alongside the minutes.

Aim – To improve the data quality and data management of SG gazetteer by:

- Migrating the gazetteer to a new database structure to be hosted on ArcGIS Online.
- Editing the data using the list of suggested changes as provided by Pat Lurcock.

Current Progress:

- Textual changes to description field as per list of suggested changes have been completed.
- Other small edits to format completed.

Future Work:

- Corrections to place name label locations as per list of suggested changes to be completed.
- Systematic changes to be applied during transformation to ESRI hosted database.
- Derive place name polygons.

4.13. APIP Updates

Slides are available alongside the minutes

Aim – To manage updates and development of APIP including the creation of a new web application to be hosted on ArcGIS Online.

Current Progress:

- Consulted with BAS staff and FCDO to understand requirements and consider additional datasets.
- Almost completed reviewing the datasets in the existing version to determine whether they need to be updated, replaced or removed. This includes checking for web services and researching other sources of data.
- Building the web application using ArcGIS Experience Builder.
- Created proposal for options of embedding APIP into British Antarctic Territory website.

Future Work:

Migrating data to ArcGIS Online either through web services or hosted layers.

- Author metadata for datasets.

4.14. Ongoing/Future Work:**4.14.1. 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).

The BAT gazetteer was reviewed:

- 53% of features can be associated with a theme
- 135 Place name themes have been digitised

The Secretary created a web-map application to allow users to search by theme and to query features.

Next steps:

- Review options to embed this web-map in future APC website
- Look at ArcGIS Story Maps to produce comms outputs based on the themes

ACTION: Secretary to circulate link to web-map

4.14.2. APC Website

The APC website will be moved to a new platform. This will ensure that the website is stable and supported for future years. It will also allow more features to be enabled on the website, such as enhanced search functions and embedded pages.

This work is scheduled for summer 2023.

4.14.3. Digitisation of APC Meeting Papers

Working with BAS Archives, the Secretary has planned a project to digitise the APC papers from 1943. This includes:

- Meeting minutes
- Meeting papers
- Supplementary documents

This would create a digital archive of the meeting papers and minutes from the inception of the APC which could be searched through and used for various internal applications by APC members.

A discussion followed regarding the effort involved, however it was noted that this work is important for preservation purposes.

5. US ACAN Comments for APC(22) 2nd Meeting [APC(23)01][§]for information

6. New Place-name Proposal – South Georgia [APC(23)02]*for discussion

The name was rejected on the basis that there was not sufficient evidence for the need for the name.

ACTION: Secretary to inform applicant on the result.

7. New Place-name Proposal – South Orkney Islands [APC(23)03]*for discussion

The name “Wiström Islands” was accepted by the committee.

ACTION: Secretary to inform applicant on the result.

ACTION: Robert Headland to send supplementary information to include in the feature description.

8. New Place-name Proposal – South Orkney Islands [APC(23)04]*for discussion

The requirement of the name was discussed and the Committee concluded that the features would be a useful marker for navigation, as the ships often transit through the Lewthwaite Strait. The generic was chosen to be “Skerries” to reflect the other features in the area.

ACTION: Secretary to include reference to BAS mapping in the associated paper.

ACTION: Secretary to inform applicant on the result.

9. New Place-name Proposal – Oscar II Coast [APC(23)05]

The committee required further information before they could recommend the name.

ACTION: Secretary to request more information from the applicant regarding the feature justification.

10. New Place-name Proposal – Oscar II Coast [APC(23)06]

The committee required further information before they could recommend the name. It will be reviewed again in a future meeting.

ACTION: Secretary to request more information from the applicant regarding the feature justification.

11. New Place-name Proposal – Oscar II Coast [APC(23)07]

The committee determined that suitable justification that this feature required naming was not satisfied, nor that the criteria of “sustained and exceptional contribution” had been attained at this time.

The committee also noted that applicants should bear diversity issues in mind when proposing names.

ACTION: Secretary to inform applicant on the result.

12. New Place-name Proposal – Orion Massif [APC(23)08]

The committee required further information before they could recommend the name.

ACTION: Secretary to request more information from the applicant regarding the feature justification.

13. New Place-name Proposal – Rutford Ice Stream [APC(23)09]*.....for discussion

Whilst the committee was supportive of the name justification, the feature proposed does not meet the threshold for the BAT gazetteer as it is an ephemeral feature.

The committee required further information in order to recommend the name.

ACTION: Secretary to request more information from the applicant regarding the feature justification.

14. New Place-name Proposal – Wirth Peninsula [APC(23)10]

Accepted – Hass Point

ACTION: Secretary to inform applicant on the result.

15. Place-name Amendment – Horseshoe Island [APC(23)11]

Accepted change.

ACTION: Secretary to inform applicant on the result.

16. Place-name Amendment – Fallières Coast [APC(23)12]

ACTION: Mr Lee Truscott to determine how many islands are included in this description and feed back.

17. Place-names themes web-map – update

Web-map was reviewed by the committee.

ACTION: Secretary to circulate link to committee members for further feedback.

18. Any Other Business.

Discussion regarding the APC proposal guidance was started. It has become clear that the guidelines need clarifying. Decision made to review and update the guidance for the next round of applications.

ACTION: Secretary to coordinate meeting with FCDO and Chair to take this forward.

19. Date of next meeting.

Date TBC