Minutes from the 3rd UK Arctic and Antarctic Partnership (UKAAP) Steering Committee Meeting

Wednesday 25th November, 2015, from 10.45 to 16.00, Room F47, John Muir Building, Heriot-Watt University

Attendees:

Prof Julian Dowdeswell (JD)	Scott Polar Research Institute, Chair
Prof Phil Wookey (PW)	Heriot –Watt University, Vice-chair
Prof Sheldon Bacon (SB)	National Oceanography Centre, Southampton
Sammie Buzzard (SB)	University of Reading, UKPN representative
Mike Dinn (MD)	Operations, BAS (Co-opted member)
Prof Mary Edwards (ME)	University of Southampton
Dr Ed Hawkins (EH)	NCAS, University of Reading
Prof Jane Francis (JEF)	BAS
Dr Clare Robinson (CR)	University of Manchester
Prof Martin Siegert (MS)	Grantham Institute, Imperial College London
Jessica Surma (JS)	NERC
Alex Tate (AT)	BAS
Dr Jeremy Wilkinson (JW)	BAS
Tun Jan Young (TJY)	Scott Polar Research Institute, UKPN representative
Prof Bill Sturges (BS)	University of East Anglia
Nicola Munro (NM)	BAS, Secretary

Apologies:

Prof Klaus Dodds (KD)	Royal Holloway, University of London
Dr Ned Garnett (NG)	NERC
Dr Kate Hendry (KH)	Bristol University
Dr Stephanie Henson (SH)	National Oceanography Centre, Southampton
Prof David Hopkins (DH)	Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester
Dr Claire Hughes (CH)	University of York
Dr Anne Jungblut (AJ)	Natural History Museum
Prof Ray Leakey (RL)	Scottish Association for Marine Science
Prof Mike Meredith (MM)	BAS/SAMS
Prof Martyn Tranter (MT)	Bristol Glaciology Centre, University of Bristol
Prof Tavi Murray (TM)	Swansea University
Prof Colm O'Cofaigh (CO)	Durham University
Prof Eric Wolff (EW)	University of Cambridge

Welcome and Introductions (JD/PW)

JD opened the meeting and noted the apologies sent from members unable to attend. He welcomed and thanked Bill Sturges from University of East Anglia, who joined the meeting to discuss the Antarctic Conference due to be held in 2016. Participants were then asked to introduce themselves. (A list of participant webpages can be found in Annex 1).

Review of Minutes and Actions from SC2 meeting in June 2015 (JD/PW)

JD presented the minutes from the last meeting. No further comments or amendments were made and the minutes were accepted as a true record of the second meeting in June 2015.

JD thanked everyone who had completed the actions set at the second meeting, and noted that some of the actions would be discussed later in the meeting.

Discussion on future UK Arctic and Antarctic Science Conferences (JD)

By way of introduction to this agenda item, JD asked for comments from members who had attended the Arctic Conference in September 2015 in Sheffield. The discussion focussed on two main points; the addition of a keynote speaker at the meeting and how this could be taken forward, and also how to engage the sea-ice community more within the main conference.

With regards to the keynote speaker, Dr John Clayburn from Cairn Energy had been invited to give a talk at the conference which was well received. JW commented that engaging key stakeholders within the Arctic Change arena would be very beneficial to the UK community and should be encouraged moving forward.

SB raised the point concerning the sea ice meeting as it was felt that there was a danger that the sea ice community is not being represented as well as it could be within the larger conference. It was noted that the main reason for this was that the sea ice group tend to hold a one day meeting in conjunction with the Arctic Conference. This is well attended; however, attendees tend to leave once the meeting is finished and this results in very little representation or interaction from the sea ice community within the main conference. JW also made the point that there is the potential to miss out on the interdisciplinary value of these conferences. The conferences should be nuclei for the polar community and remain inclusive.

A further comment made focussed on the number of young people who were involved and engaged in the conference. TJY commented that these conferences are really useful and valued by the early-career scholars of the UK Polar Network.

The discussion then moved on to the upcoming Antarctic Conference in 2016 which was led by BS. BS gave an update on conference preparation. The dates for the next meeting will be the week of the 4th to the 8th of July. Currently, the main meeting has been scheduled for lunchtime on the Tuesday to lunchtime on Thursday, with the UKPN meeting at the beginning of the week. A sea ice group meeting has tentatively been set for the Thursday to Friday lunchtime. However, further to the earlier discussions, BS made the comment that they could look at the plenary session on Thursday morning and will try and ensure that that the sea ice meeting is advertised widely. Currently the main lecture theatre has been booked which can hold 280 people, they also have seven side meeting rooms booked throughout the entire week.

There was a discussion regarding the budget for the conference and a registration fee. Members of the committee appreciated the need for a registration fee, but also asking that UEA consider keeping the fee within the region of £50. PW also pointed out that it might be useful to have a differential between early career researchers and established scientists.

Further to this, JD thanked UEA for all the work they have done so far in preparing this conference.

The discussion then moved to potential plenaries and the following suggestions were made:

- To invite Chuck Kennicutt to give an update on the Horizon 20 year Scanning exercise. This could be combined with a talk focussing on the new UK Polar Ship.
- A plenary given by Dr David Wilson, polar historian, on Shackleton and his expedition.
- A plenary given by IAATO on tourism in the Antarctic, highlighting the way science is projected on these cruises (Kim Crosbie could be invited to give this talk, for example).
- A plenary on emerging technologies. SB commented on MARS which is based in Southampton. The potential of autonomous vehicles is really growing and a talk on this at a future conference would be very interesting.

JD concluded the discussion by thanking UEA once again for their work so far on the conference and emphasised that the above were suggestions only and any that are not picked up will this year could be passed on to the next Conference hosts to think about. JD hoped that the discussions had been useful in highlighting ways to bring people in from outside the polar research community.

Host of the next Arctic Conference:

The SC members discussed the offers on the table in the order they were made: SAMS, Loughborough and CRAM. SAMS have offered to host the conference either in Oban or Edinburgh. The Committee have asked SAMS to consider the options. Members felt that people would be prepared to travel to Oban; however they asked the organising committee to bear in mind costs when making the final decision on the venue location. If SAMS wanted to host elsewhere, perhaps they could talk to PW rather than host at the RS in Edinburgh (which might be very expensive).

With regards to the other offers on the table, it was agreed to keep in memory that the next Arctic conferences should be held in Loughborough and then CRAM.

ACTION: Write to each institution and inform them of the outcomes from these discussions (JD/NM)

Support of Early Career Scientists by the UKAAP SC – report from TJ Young

At the last meeting, TJY and AJ were tasked with the action to look at education and mentoring within the early career researcher community (especially post docs) and to see if there was something that the UKAAP SC could provide that own institutions could not. Further to this, the UKPN, together with a couple of members of the UKAAP SC, hosted a discussion panel at the UK Arctic Science Conference in Sheffield. Following these discussions, TJY, CR, AJ and Ruth Vingerhagen devised a survey with the overarching aim to understand what exactly post docs would want or need in terms of support. Questions asked included:

- What stage of your career are you currently at (or equivalent)? (e.g. Undergraduate, PhD Student, Post doc, junior researcher)
- Which statement do you most identify with? (e.g. planning to apply for a post doc, have already completed a post doc, does not wish to apply for a post doc)
- On a scale from 1 to 10, with 10 being most positive, how well do you think organisations like UK Polar Network, APECS, IGS, SCAR, are doing to help and support postdocs in their research and career development?
- On a scale from 1 to 10, with 10 being most positive, how well do you think funding bodies like NERC, AHRC, and RCUK are doing to help and support postdocs in their research and career development?
- Out of the following, what do you think the above organisations should focus on most in supporting postdocs? (e.g. running workshops, being a liaison between postdocs and supervisors, having current funding schemes like NERC be more transparent on how postdoc

opportunities are structured and distributed, providing an online resource for current opportunities and fellowships)

- How do you think organisations and funding bodies like UK Polar Network, APECS, IGS, SCAR, and RCUK can improve the current postdoc situation within polar sciences?
  What problems or issues do you have regarding the current postdoc situation within polar sciences?
- Out of the following, what do you think the above organisations should focus most on supporting postdocs? You are able to select more than one choice.

The UKPN received 49 responses to the survey, and, of these, about half plan to apply for a post doc or have already done so. The UKPN are still in the process of collating all results and will circulate the final report once ready.

JD thanked the UKPN for the work done so far. The Committee then proceeded to discuss some of the preliminary results and it was agreed that there is no easy solution; however, there are things that could help, for example, keeping an email address open after the post-doc has left, or advertising upcoming opportunities in a more coherent way.

There were two main actions from these discussions:

1. **The UKAAP SC would like NERC to look at the points raised from the survey and address these where relevant so that TJY and Sammie Buzzard could take this back to their audiences.**
2. **The UKAAP SC encourage the ECRs to go through their own institutions and look at their University's concordat.**

Update from NERC (New Arctic Programme and current opportunities) (JS)

JS gave a quick update from NERC. The new Arctic Programme 'The Changing Arctic Ocean: Implication for marine biology & biogeochemistry' has been announced and a workshop was organised to discuss the programme. The closing date for outline bids was 8th December 2015, with the closing date for full proposals to come in March 2016. NERC are working with colleagues at NOAA, Research Council of Norway and Alfred Wegener Institute on a co-funded programme which would be in line with the new Arctic Programme, and therefore add value to the overall Arctic programme - this is still under discussion.

JS also reported that funded proposals from the recent CONICYT call were due to be announced in December.

JD thanked JS for the update; however, the main comment from the UKAAP SC was that some of these calls are coming out with very little lead time (CONICYT as an example) and it would be useful, if there are to be future collaborations through CONICYT, to have more realistic deadlines.

Update on European Polar Board, EU Funding and Arctic Office (JF)

Arctic Office:

Henry Burgess has now been appointed as the head of the NERC Arctic Office. He is currently Deputy Desk Officer at the FCO and will start as Head of the Arctic Office at the end of February. Henry will also serve as the new UK delegate for the IASC Council.

ACTION: JS and JF to look at process of appointing a UK delegate to IASC moving forward. It was agreed that this should be an open process.

European Polar Board:

JF is the UK representative of the European Polar Board (EPB). Out of EPB, there has been a submission to H2020 for EU-PolarNet (http://www.eu-polarnet.eu/) which will 'develop and deliver a strategic framework and mechanisms to prioritise science, optimise the use of polar infrastructure, and broker new partnerships that will lead to the co-design of polar research projects that deliver tangible benefits for society'. This is led by Nicole Biebow at AWI. It received 2 million euros in funding to coordinate and bring together the polar community within Europe.

JF also commented that the EU are keen to fund more polar science in H2020 and there are currently 3 calls:

- BG09 – Arctic observing systems – Feb 16
- BG 10 – teleconnections and mid-latitudes Feb 16
- BG11 – Coastal permafrost - Oct 16.

NERC is currently going through a phase of changes with regards to the ownership and governance of some of its centres and it will also be looking to refresh National Capability (NC).

JF also mentioned that she is in the process of organising a series of webinars/workshops to give the community opportunities to put ideas to the SPAG that then build on the NC. The first will be held early in the new year and further details will go out on the NERC list servers. JF also commented that there will also be further calls in future on how to build on the infrastructure in NC.

JF also gave a quick update on the recently announced circum-Antarctic science cruise. UK scientists are offered the opportunity to participate in a circum-Antarctic international cruise in 2016/17, to study the marine and terrestrial environments in the sub-Antarctic. This expedition provides a unique opportunity to build truly international teams to study islands and marine areas that are normally inaccessible. Further details, including specific information about funding, will be announced as the expedition evolves. Professor David Walton (dwhw@bas.ac.uk) has been appointed as the contact person for any questions and the deadline for application is 31st January 2016. The proposals will then be assessed by an international panel. Information is being circulated as and when it becomes available via the various list servers. (Since the meeting, a dedicated website has been set up and can be found here: http://jahia-prod.epfl.ch/site/polar/page-126643.html)

Arctic Task Group meeting outcomes from the UKAAP side meeting at the Arctic Science Conference (SB):

SB gave a quick update on the discussions held at the Arctic Task Group side meeting held at the Arctic Science Conference in Sheffield. The notes from that meeting are attached as Annex 2 to these minutes. The UKAAP then proceeded to discuss the comments/suggestions made by this group:

With regards to a UK Arctic Vision, it was agreed that there needs to be community engagement. It was suggested that Henry Burgess be brought into these discussions as the new Head of the Arctic Office as early as possible. The comment was made that Arctic Office should engage more with national and international groups and take the views of the UK Arctic Science community to the likes of EU-PolarNet, which is seen as a good conduit for what the polar community feel is important to fund.

ACTION: Julian Dowdeswell to have a preliminary discussion with Henry Burgess once in post in early in 2016.

ACTION: Sheldon Bacon, Julian Dowdeswell and Phil Wookey (Lead), together with Henry Burgess, put together a document to then circulate to the UKAAP SC by Easter 2016, with the view of circulating to the wider UK Arctic Community for comment.

With regards to a Town Hall meeting, the UKAAP SC agreed that now is not the right time to hold a Town Hall; however, this should be revisited with the view to hold this no later than the next Arctic

meeting in 2017 so as to ensure that any outcomes can then be fed through the appropriate channels in a timely manner.

JD also mentioned comments submitted to the meeting by email from Klaus Dodds, highlighting the relaunch of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Polar Regions (APPG) which is chaired by James Gray MP. KD sits on this group representing the social sciences, and JF and JD are also members. The UKAAP SC agreed that there should be a report back to the UKAAP SC (by members from the UKAAP SC who sit on this group) on recent activities by the APPG and this should remain a standing agenda item on future SC meetings.

Discussion on data rescue for the Polar Regions – (EH)

Ed Hawkins gave a presentation on the issue of data rescue in the Polar Regions. He reported that there are many old meteorological observations that are still unused across the globe and made the comment that a coordinated international effort is required to document images and transcribe these observations but this requires funds and resource. In the UK, only the National Archives are able to handle the books with these observations which makes it very difficult to get access. In the US, it is different as they tend to pay graduate students to image the logbooks. EH also commented that there is currently no funding from NERC for climate data rescue for example.

Members of the UKAAP SC were strongly in support of data rescue and the question was raised as to whether UKAAP could recommend to NERC that there should be more dedicated funding for data rescue projects. JD made the comment that contemporary data-basing is part of the NERC remit and note that data rescue is not; it is, however, very important. The UKAAP SC asked that JS report back on this to NERC.

ACTION: JS to report back to NERC regarding the current issues regarding data rescue.

JD recommended to the Steering Committee that they put together a sub-group to explore potential funding avenues for old Arctic climate data in the first instance. The group will consist of EH, JD, Clive Wilkinson, Rob Allen, Liz Kent and TJY. EH was given the task of facilitating this initial Skype conversation and brainstorming session to look for a small amount of funding in the first instance and to report back at the next meeting. JW made the point that the EU has funded these pieces of work in the past and that there are several agencies that might fund smaller pieces of this. Further to this, JD thanked EH for the presentation.

ACTION: Sub-group, initiated by EH, to brainstorm ideas for potential funding avenues for data rescue.

Stakeholder Engagement – continuation of discussions from UKAAP 2 (JD)

JD commented that the Committee had discussed in some detail how to engage stakeholders through the Arctic/Antarctic conferences and it would be useful to have a continuous list that can be used by the conference hosts moving forward. It will also be useful to have Henry Burgess in post who will be able to take the lead in national and international workshops engaging with key stakeholders.

Membership of UKAAP

JD commented that it is now time to start rotating people off the committee as part of the Terms of Reference. Between now and the next meeting, JD will discuss this issue and send out letters. With regards to refreshing the committee, it was agreed that an email should be sent out to those who originally applied in the first instance. We would look to find an additional 7 people to replace those rotating off.

ACTION: NM and JD to work on sending out letters requesting voluntary resignations from the Committee and to send out a letter to those who originally applied and also to the wider community.

Next meeting

The Committee agreed that the next UKAAP SC meeting should be held at UEA during the week of the Antarctic Science Conference.

ACTION: NM to liaise with B Sturges regarding possible dates and meeting rooms.

AOB, Wrap-Up and agreed actions (Chair)

JW gave a brief update on a joint side event organised by EU-PolarNet, ICE-ARC and EPB being held at COP21 in Paris.

JD thanked the members of the Committee who had attended and to PW for hosting the meeting at Heriot-Watt.

Close of Meeting

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS FROM THE THIRD UK ARCTIC AND ANTARCTIC PARTNERSHIP STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday 25th November 2015, Heriot-Watt University

Agenda Item	Action	Who	Deadline	Status
Discussion on future UK Arctic and Antarctic Science Conferences	To write to each of SAMS, Loughborough and CRAM and inform them of the outcomes from these discussions.	**NM/**JD	15th January	
Support of Early Career scientists by the UKAAP SC	ACTION 1: The UKAAP SC would like NERC to look at the points raised from the survey and address these where relevant so that TJY could take this back to their audiences. ACTION 2: The UKAAP SC encourage the ECRs to go through their own institutions and look at their University's concordat.	**JS/NG** **TJY/AJ**	End of February 2016	
Update on Arctic Office	To look at process of appointing a UK delegate to IASC Council moving forward. It was agreed that this should be an open process.	**JF and JS**	To report at the next meeting in July 2016	
Arctic Task Group meeting outcomes from the UKAAP side meeting at the Arctic Conference	ACTION 1: Julian Dowdeswell to have a preliminary discussion with Henry Burgess once in post in early in 2016. ACTION 2: Sheldon Bacon, Julian Dowdeswell and Phil Wookey (Lead), together with Henry, put together a vision document to then circulate to the UKAAP SC by Easter 2016, with the view of circulating to the wider UK Arctic Community for comment.	**JD** JD, SB, **PW, HB**	End of April 2016 Easter 2016	

Data rescue	ACTION 1: JS to report back to NERC regarding the current issues regarding data rescue. ACTION 2: Sub-group to brainstorm ideas for potential funding avenues for data rescue.	**JS** **EH (lead),** JD, CW, TJY, LK, RA	Report back at next meeting Report back at the next meeting	
Membership of UKAAP	NM and JD to work on sending out letters requesting voluntary resignations from the Committee and to send out a letter to those who originally applied and also to the wider community.	**JD/NM**	End of January 2016	
Next meeting	NM to liaise with B Sturges regarding possible dates and meeting rooms.	**NM**	End of January 2016	

ANNEX 1:

Steering Committee webpages:

Prof Julian Dowdeswell (JD), Scott Polar Research Institute, Chair:
http://www.spri.cam.ac.uk/people/dowdeswell/
Prof Phil Wookey (PW), Heriot –Watt University, Vice-chair:
http://www.env.hw.ac.uk/people/philip-wookey.html
Tun Jan Young (TJY), Scott Polar Research Institute, UK Polar Network representative
http://www.spri.cam.ac.uk/people/young/
Dr Ned Garnett (NG), NERC – Head of Atmospheric and Polar Science
Alex Tate (AT), Polar Data Centre, BAS -
http://www.antarctica.ac.uk/about_bas/contact/staff/profile/ajtate/personal/
Mike Dinn (MD), Operations Manager, BAS -
http://www.antarctica.ac.uk/about_bas/contact/staff/profile/138d293462a9c22e8dd84ed09d4d5d33/
Prof Mike Meredith (MM), BAS/SAMS:
http://www.antarctica.ac.uk/about_bas/contact/staff/profile/mmm
Dr Bart van Dongen BvD), University of Manchester:
http://www.manchester.ac.uk/research/bart.vandongen/
Prof Colm O'Cofaigh (CO), Durham University
https://www.dur.ac.uk/geography/staff/geogstaffhidden/?id=1008
Dr Anne Jungblut (AJ), Natural History Museum
http://www.nhm.ac.uk/research-curation/about-science/staff-directory/life-sciences/a-jungblut/index.htmlProf Tavi Murray (TM), Swansea University
http://www.swansea.ac.uk/staff/science/geography/t.murray/
Prof Jane Francis (JEF), BAS
http://www.antarctica.ac.uk/about_bas/contact/staff/profile/8055ae8ed82c79f4e08e30cd7c7f2be2
Prof Sheldon Bacon (SB), National Oceanography Centre, Southampton
https://noc.ac.uk/people/shb
Dr Clare Robinson (CR), University of Manchester
http://www.manchester.ac.uk/research/clare.robinson/
Dr Kate Hendry (KH), Bristol University
http://www.bristol.ac.uk/earthsciences/people/kate-r-hendry/index.html
Dr Stephanie Henson (SH), National Oceanography Centre, Southampton
https://noc.ac.uk/people/sah1e09
Prof Martyn Tranter (MT), Bristol Glaciology Centre, University of Bristol
http://www.bristol.ac.uk/geography/people/martyn-tranter/index.html
Dr Jeremy Wilkinson (JW), BAS
http://www.antarctica.ac.uk/about_bas/contact/staff/profile/02af10f600dd73f559129e5ef12a0dd6
Nicola Munro (NM), BAS, Secretary
http://www.antarctica.ac.uk/about_bas/contact/staff/profile/1fd1a2c4429aac8deec3a049a472dda4
Prof Eric Wolff, University of Cambridge
http://www.esc.cam.ac.uk/people/academic-staff/professor-eric-wolff
Dr Ed Hawkins, NCAS, University of Reading
http://www.met.reading.ac.uk/~ed/home/index.html
Dr Claire Hughes, University of York
http://www.york.ac.uk/environment/our-staff/hughesc/
Prof David Hopkins, Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester
http://www.rau.ac.uk/the-rau/academic-staff-profiles/school-of-agriculture-food-and-environment/profiles/professor-david-hopkins
Prof Mary Edwards (ME), University of Southampton:
http://www.southampton.ac.uk/geography/research/staff/mee.page
Prof Klaus Dodds (KD), Royal Holloway, University of London:
http://pure.rhul.ac.uk/portal/en/persons/klaus-dodds_fb99b223-7661-4aa1-95f6-1cd527dd0fc7.html
Prof Martin Siegert (MS), Grantham Institute, Imperial College London
http://www.imperial.ac.uk/people/m.siegert

Annex II

UKAAP Side Meeting, Sheffield, 17 September 2015

Present: S Bacon (Chair), M Edwards, J Francis, M Tranter, J Wilkinson, E Wolff, TJ Young

1. Arctic Vision. A vision statement can be readily generated by rewiring the UKAAP Terms of Reference, with reference to (e.g.) IASC. We should do this by email in the next few weeks.

2. Arctic Town Meeting. We do not see a justification for a community-wide Town Meeting at present because it would become entangled with the processes surrounding the SPAG Arctic marine biology topic. However, roughly 2 years hence would be a good timeline to bring the community together to plan an Arctic proposal to SPAG for a multi-disciplinary programme centred on carbon and climate, that would enfold marine, atmospheric, terrestrial and cryospheric scientists from physics and bio-eco domains, plus climate modellers and maybe also the socio-economic angle, and (if accepted) would be about ready for funding to follow directly after the upcoming Arctic marine biology topic.

3. Community cohesion / collaboration / non-NERC funding sources. A lot of the discussion revolved around this area; I'm not sure that we bottomed this out. There are two different angles: (i) with what non-UK scientists / institutes / facilities could we profitably (intellectually, financially) engage? (ii) to what non-UK funding agencies could we address proposals?

The list of responses to (i) is long but to (ii) is probably not: EU and US, where the latter would be the NSF (though the NERC-NSF joint funding mechanism), and also maybe ONR (through open calls). People familiar with the EU in the Arctic context should begin to figure out how to engage the UK Arctic community, through the good offices of UKAAP and the Arctic Office, to pursue the EU angle, which is emerging as a significant funder of Arctic science. NERC Arctic funding now has a leadership cohort; development of UK Arctic leadership for EU funding is still at an early stage.

Concerning (i), compiling a list of options for the website is probably the best we can do.

4. Politics. The UK Arctic community needs to engage more effectively with national and international policy-makers and the political aspects of the Arctic and funding, maybe with the help of the new (forthcoming) head of the Arctic Office, certainly considering the UK Parliament, the FCO, the Arctic Council, and allied bodies.