

**Minutes from the 5th UK Arctic and Antarctic Partnership (UKAAP) Steering
Committee Meeting**

Friday 2nd December 2016, from 1045 - 1630, University of Manchester
Room: H18 in the Pariser Building

Attendees:**Prof Julian Dowdeswell (JD)**

Prof Phil Wookey (PW)
Archana Dayal (AD)
Dr Clare Robinson (CR)
Jessica Surma (JS)
Dr Bart van Dongen (BVD)
Dr Jeremy Wilkinson (JW)
Prof Martin Siegert (MS)
Henry Burgess (HB)
Nicola Munro (NM)

SPRI, University of Cambridge, Chair

Heriot –Watt University, Deputy-Chair
University of Sheffield – UKPN Representative
University of Manchester
NERC
University of Manchester
BAS
Imperial College London
NERC Arctic Office
NERC Arctic Office, Secretary

Apologies:

Prof Sheldon Bacon (SB)
Prof Klaus Dodds (KD)
Prof Mary Edwards (ME)
Prof Jane Francis (JF)
Dr Stephanie Henson (SH)
Prof David Hopkins (DH)
Dr Anne Jungblut (AJ)
Prof Colm O’Cofaigh (CO)
Prof Martyn Tranter (MT)
Prof Eric Wolff (EW)

National Oceanography Centre, Southampton
Royal Holloway, University of London
University of Southampton
BAS
National Oceanography Centre, Southampton
Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester
Natural History Museum
Durham University
Bristol Glaciology Centre, University of Bristol
University of Cambridge

Minutes:

Welcome and Introductions (JD)

JD opened the meeting and noted the apologies sent from members unable to attend. He welcomed all to the meeting and thanked CR for hosting. Participants were then asked to introduce themselves. (A list of participant webpages can be found in Annex 1).

Review of Minutes and Actions from SC4 meeting in July 2016 (JD)

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 fourth meeting in July 2016. These will be posted on the UKAAP website.

JD then went through the actions set at the last meeting. Most have been completed (see UKAAP 5/02 for status). The actions still in progress will be discussed later in the meeting.

2017 Arctic Conference (paper from SAMS) (Paper: UKAAP 5/03)

NM introduced the paper from SAMS detailing the recent planning for the next UK Arctic Science Conference in 2017. This will be held on the 19th to 21st September in Oban and will be hosted by SAMS. SAMS already have a Local Organising Committee (LOC) in place which is led by Finlo Cottier. SAMS are currently in the process of forming a Scientific Organising Committee (SOC) which will be led by Professor David Pond. The Arctic Office have created a webpage on the Arctic Office website which will be launched in January 2017.

In the paper, SAMS indicated that sessions would be focussed around the IASC Working Group themes (Atmosphere, Cryosphere, Marine, Terrestrial and Social & Human). However SAMS are conscious that some 'pockets of excellence' may not necessarily fall within these themes. SAMS therefore asked the UKAAP SC to consider other areas that might not naturally fit within these themes to ensure their inclusion within the programme.

After some discussion, the UKAAP SC agreed that most science topics would fit into one of these themes; however, they recommended that the SAMS SOC make the community aware that all Arctic science would be welcome within the Conference programme. The UKAAP SC recommended that SAMS include, where possible, some cross-cutting sessions within the programme, although acknowledge that this will depend on the abstracts submitted.

SAMS also requested ideas from the UKAAP SC for a keynote at the Conference. The UKAAP SC agreed that the keynote should be science based and should be open to the public and reach a wide audience. They agreed that live streaming of the keynote would be beneficial. After a short discussion, the following suggestions were put forward:

Prof Anne Glover (Ex-EU science chief, currently at University of Aberdeen)

John Hammond (BBC – Weather presenter)

Tom Heap (BBC – One Show)

David Shukman (BBC – Science Editor)

Prof Klaus Dodds (Social Science, Royal Holloway, University of London)

JW also commented that having a keynote focusing on teleconnections between the Arctic and lower latitudes would be useful and suggested either Jim Overland and/or Jennifer Francis (USA).

These are the UKAAP SC suggestions; however, it will be the responsibility of the SAMS LOC to take these forward.

UKAAP's relationship with other Polar Conferences (SB)

JD introduced the paper submitted by SB in which two questions were posed:

1. Can (should) UKAAP help out with sub-groups or affiliates of third-party organisations?
2. What kind of help might UKAAP provide?

During the discussions, it was acknowledged that there are several well established meetings and conferences that occur on an annual basis. These include the UK Arctic and Antarctic science conferences but also, for example, the UK sea ice group meetings, the British Branch of the International Glaciological Society meetings and Challenger Society meetings. Although the UK Arctic and Antarctic conferences fall under the umbrella of the UKAAP, the other well established meetings are self-organised and work well on their own. The UKAAP SC agree that, where possible, the UKAAP website should look to publicise meetings and to ask the different groups whether they would mind if the UKAAP website linked to their website and vice versa. It was agreed, however, that the UKAAP SC should not look to be directly involved in the organisation of these meetings, but to support and promote where appropriate.

ACTION: Members of UKAAP SC should send information on meetings to NM who will then post and publicise on the UKAAP website to help publicise and promote the meetings.

With regard to the second question posed in the paper, it was agreed that it will be up to the local organising committees of the UK Arctic and Antarctic conferences to be in charge of finances and local organisation. However, the UKAAP SC can continue to support these conferences by ensuring LOC leads are invited from previous conferences to share lessons learned with future LOC leads. The UKAAP SC secretary should also ensure that conference papers etc. are posted on the UKAAP website so there is a central record from all these meetings.

ACTION: NM to collate information from previous meetings and ensure these are listed on the UKAAP website.

After the discussion, JD thanked SB for raising the points and generating a good discussion.

Review of membership of UKAAP Steering Committee (JD) (UKAAP 5/04)

Before new membership was discussed, it was agreed that the following individuals should be on the UKAAP SC in an ex-officio role:

- Director of BAS
- Chair of the UKNCAR
- NERC Representative
- Head of the Arctic Office
- UK Polar Network representative
- Secretary

The UKAAP SC then discussed the process of appointing a Chair and Deputy Chair. It was agreed that the Chair and Deputy Chair should be appointed from within the Committee. The normal process would be for the Deputy Chair to succeed the Chair. However, if the Deputy does not wish to become Chair, then another nominee from within the committee should be put forward. If there is more than one candidate, the Committee should vote in a secret ballot. This process was agreed by members of the SC attending the meeting.

It was also agreed that the Chair and Deputy Chair would rotate on a two year rotation in order to ensure corporate memory from Chair to Deputy Chair. This would be out of sync with the usual three year term of a member.

The discussion then turned to the appointment of new members. The first step in this process was to identify where the gaps exist within the current committee based on the criteria (gender, location, discipline etc.) set out in the Terms of Reference. Once the gaps had been identified, the Committee proceeded to review the applications received. Where there was no applicant to represent an identified gap, the SC agreed to invite an appropriate person from the wider community. Further to these discussions, the SC agreed to invite 15 new members to sit on the committee.

A breakdown of the new membership (TBC) is as follows:

Full members	26
Atmosphere	3
Cryosphere	7
Marine	6
Social & Human	2
Terrestrial	6
Other	2
Early Career	3
Female	10
Male	16
Ex-Officio	6

ACTION: Letters of invitation to be sent to chosen applicants with the view to them attending the next meeting. Letters of thanks to also be sent to members who will be stepping down. (AO/JD)

IASC Working Groups – UK representation

HB reported that the last IASC Council meeting was in Fairbanks, Alaska during the ASSW. He made the comment that IASC is growing in importance and that the joint IASC/SCAR Conference will take place in Davos in 2018. HB, as Head of the NERC Arctic Office, represents the UK on the IASC Council. However, HB commented that UK science is currently under-represented on the IASC Working Groups. The IASC Working Groups are:

- Atmosphere
- Cryosphere
- Marine
- Social and Human
- Terrestrial

HB commented that it would be good to have an open process in order to select representatives to sit on these Working Groups and ensure we have two people on each Working Group. HB also suggested that official letters are sent to appointees, detailing expectations of the roles. HB confirmed that there is some money to support these representatives in the next 2 years to attend meetings and the Arctic Office will continue to try and find funds to support attendance in the future.

After some discussion, the UKAAP SC agreed that there should be two people to sit on each Working Group. The length of term is four years, followed by an additional four years if required. Rotation should be similar to that of UKAAP SC to ensure continuity on the Working Group (for example, one representative to step down after two years, the other representative to continue for another 2 years and a new representative to join so there is a two year overlap at each rotation to ensure continuity.)

The UKAAP SC also agreed that the appointment letters should come from the Arctic Office – NERC confirmed that the Arctic Office would be acting on its behalf in the appointment process to ensure UK representation on the IASC Working Groups. The UKAAP SC would then be the advisory body to this process. It was also agreed that one of the representatives should attend the UKAAP meetings to share information and ensure reports from the IASC WG meetings are reported back to the community.

ACTION: Arctic Office to circulate call for nominations. A small task group consisting of BvD, HB, JD and MS to put the call together and to review the applications. New members should be in post in time for the next ASSW in April 2017.

ACTION: IASC WG membership to remain a standing item on the UKAAP SC meeting agenda.

Future funding: NERC Demand Management, Brexit and EU research funding (JD/All)

JD opened the discussion by commenting on concerns relating to Brexit and the potential impact on future EU funding. One of the concerns raised was in relation to Arctic facilities and the potential of losing access to these facilities in Europe. The Committee agreed that, at this time, there is not much that can be done due to the uncertainty surrounding Brexit. Currently, the UK participates in the H2020 programme and will continue to do so as long as the UK is in the EU. The Committee agreed that this item should remain on the agenda and be reviewed at each meeting.

The discussion also included issues relating to NERC and demand management and the recent commissioning process of NERC facilities. It was agreed that a short presentation from someone within the National Capability team at the next UKAAP SC meeting would be useful. JS will also look into how UKAAP could contribute to negotiations with RCUK etc. regarding future access to facilities.

ACTION: JS to look at how UKAAP could contribute to negotiations regarding future access to facilities

ACTION: Invite a member from the NC team at NERC to provide further information on the commissioning process.

United Kingdom and Arctic Science – ‘vision document’: update and reaction

HB gave a quick update on the vision document. He thanked everyone who had contributed and reported that the document had already been promoted on the website and at various events and the Arctic Office will continue to promote it at future events. The SC agreed that this was a useful document to have although stressed this was not a strategy, but a document to highlight some key areas within UK Arctic Science.

After a short discussion, it was agreed that there should also be a standing agenda item on ‘new polar initiatives’. A sub-group could then be tasked to write a community led idea that could then be put through SPAG which might enable more polar opportunities. This would provide groups with an opportunity to raise an item on a certain topic which could then be discussed by UKAAP SC, with a sub-group tasked to put something together to help stimulate the polar community.

A question was also raised about the APPG and how UKAAP SC could potentially interact with this group. HB made the point that this group is an all-party interest group and seeks to educate and

inform members of parliament. It is not a lobbying group. However, it would be useful to interact and try and get more of a two-way dialogue with the APPG through Duncan Depledge.

Stakeholder reports:

NERC:

JS reported that the new targets for demand management will be circulated in the New Year. In addition to this, NERC have sent a targeted survey to 20 universities and research centres around the country. The outcomes from these surveys will then be discussed at the next NERC Science Board meeting.

The concern was raised once more by members of the Committee about the impact demand management is having on the smaller centres with 'pockets of excellence'. The concern was also raised about how proposals can be rejected by the grants team based on a technicality.

JS reported that the SPAG met in November and will meet again in January to discuss which ideas from the most recent call will go forward. She reminded the SC that the call is still open however for ideas for the Highlight Topics – the deadline being 16th May 2017.

JS reported that the grant letters should be awarded to the successful Changing Arctic Ocean Programme projects in December 2016. She reported that an international call for the second round will go out in early 2017. NERC are currently in talks with Germany, NOAA and Norway. Other opportunities coming up include the 'Role of the Southern Ocean in the Earth System (RoSES) programme and also 'The Future of Thwaites Glacier & its Contribution to sea-level rise' which is co-funded by NSF. The deadline for THWAITES is 1st March 2017.

Update from the NERC Arctic Office (HB):

HB gave a brief report on the recent activities of the Arctic Office. HB attended the Arctic Science Ministerial meeting in Washington on the 28th September 2016. This was attended by Jo Johnson, Claire Durkin of BEIS and Julian Dowdeswell. This was a big meeting, attended by 24 countries and the EC. The main outcome was a joint statement on the importance of research and a new impetus on SAON and also MoSAIC. HB reported that it was a good meeting and worthwhile and good to engage with Jo Johnson.

In October 2016, the Arctic Office attended the [Arctic Circle Assembly](#) in Reykjavik. There was a big delegation from the UK, which included Nicola Sturgeon. The UK had two breakout sessions, one organised by the Arctic Office on new technologies and the other by the Science and Innovation Network in Copenhagen focussed on social science. The Office also had a stand which was well attended. Copies of the ARP key findings and the Arctic Vision document were available for attendees.

HB also reported that the Polar Regions Department (PRD) are in the process of reviewing the 'Adapting to Change' framework document produced in 2013. There will a dedicated science chapter in the next version and the Arctic Office will work with the PRD and the community to provide input to this chapter.

In terms of communication, the Arctic Office have continued to send out monthly bulletins and continue to promote the Arctic Vision document where appropriate. HB reported that he would be meeting with Helen Beadman at NERC and also with ESRC to try and establish further links.

HB also reported that, with some underspend from NERC, the '[Discovering the Arctic](#)' website will be updated and the Arctic Office are working with the Royal Geographical Society (RGS) and others on this project. The RGS have now commissioned a web team to complete the update and hope that this will be launched by May 2017.

UK-Canada relationship: BEIS has some money that has been allocated to fund a few bursaries to work with Canadian projects in the 2017/18 season. This has been promoted across the community with a deadline of the 13th January. Both HB and Jane Francis will attend the [ArcticNet](#) meeting in Winnipeg, Canada to forge further connections with Canada, including how to use the BAS aircraft more in the Arctic. The Arctic Office has also spent time working on the ARP key findings document, which will continue to be promoted where possible.

The Arctic Office organised a conference at the Royal Society in October which included two sessions on the ARP in the morning, with a session on new technologies and a session on international collaboration in the afternoon. The conference was well received with positive feedback from the community.

The second phase of INTERACT ([International Network for Terrestrial Research and Monitoring in the Arctic](#)) has now been funded and the UK Arctic station is a partner on this. The first call has gone out for projects to take part in transnational access in the 2017/18 season.

In terms of next steps, HB will attend the [Arctic Frontiers](#) meeting in Tromsø in January 2017 and will also be at the [ASSW](#) in 2017. The Office is looking to support some ARP members to attend to continue to promote the findings. The Office will also start to look at refreshing the Arctic Office website to make this more interactive and up to date. We will plan on building a database and will look to the community to help with this. The Office will also continue to work on the 'Adapting to Change' document and ensure there is UK representation on the IASC Working Groups ahead of the next ASSW in Prague in April 2017.

Further to this, BvD made the comment about establishing further links with Russia. HB explained he had attended a meeting with Terry Callaghan in Tomsk recently which had been useful, however HB recognises the need to spend more time on this and as an initial step, to find out who in the UK Arctic Research Community has Russian links.

UK Polar Network report – (UKPN representative):

AD gave an update on recent UKPN activities. She reported that there is a new committee every year and the latest list of members is currently on the [UKPN website](#). The UKPN continue to participate in many of events – e.g. they were at the Challenger Society event holding a workshop on how to create good scientific posters. They also participated in the Royal Society event in October, presenting a poster. For Antarctica Day on the 1st December, the UKPN participated in the Antarctic Flags Project which was very successful. This was done in collaboration with 10 other countries.

In 2017, the UKPN plan to participate in the Science Festival, working with the International Polar Foundation to put together some interactive displays to showcase to the audiences. They also plan on participating at the Edinburgh Festival and will hold two workshops in March and May 2017 focussed on developing skills for project management. The UKPN continue to visit schools as they currently have funding for this. The UKPN will also participate at the UK Science Conference in Oban in September 2017.

JD congratulated the UKPN on all they have done so far and what they plan in the future.

Polar Regions Department (Paper: UKAAP 5/05):

The PRD submitted a paper to be tabled at this meeting. Further to this, HB gave a quick introduction and mentioned that the PRD are very keen to get more science on the HMS Protector. Stuart Doubleday, Deputy Head of the PRD at the FCO would be keen to present to the UKAAP. UKAAP therefore agree to invite SD to the next meeting to present.

ACTION: Invitation to attend a future UKAAP meeting to be sent to Stuart Doubleday at FCO.

Next meeting

It was agreed the next meeting will be hosted by the Arctic Office/BAS at the new Innovation Centre in Cambridge. This should be held in the Spring of 2017.

ACTION: NM to circulate doodle poll and confirm date for the next meeting.

AOB:

There was a brief discussion regarding the usefulness of submarines in relation to sea ice and ocean biogeochemistry work and the wish to re-establish the link with The Royal Navy. HB and JD have been tasked with identifying an initial contact.

JW reported that [ICE-ARC](#) had held a session at COP 22 in Marrakesh in November 2016 which had been successful. He reported that the COP 23 in 2017 will be held in Bonn. JW also reported that ICE-ARC (EU project), in tandem with Lancaster University and BAS, have organised a session at the World Economic Forum in Davos in January 2017. They will also have an information tent there.

JD closed the meeting by thanking members for attending and also thanking CR and Manchester University for hosting the meeting.

Close of Meeting

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>

Dr Bart van Dongen (BvD), University of Manchester:

<http://www.manchester.ac.uk/research/bart.vandongen/>

Dr Clare Robinson (CR), University of Manchester

<http://www.manchester.ac.uk/research/clare.robinson/>

Dr Jeremy Wilkinson (JW), BAS

http://www.antarctica.ac.uk/about_bas/contact/staff/profile/02af10f600dd73f559129e5ef12a0dd6

Prof Martin Siegert (MS), Grantham Institute, Imperial College London

<http://www.imperial.ac.uk/people/m.siegert>

Henry Burgess, Head, NERC Arctic Office

<https://www.bas.ac.uk/profile/henrge/>