

**Minutes from the 7th UK Arctic and Antarctic Partnership (UKAAP) Steering Committee
Meeting**

Entente Cordiale Room, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, London
Friday 24th November 2017

Participants

Professor Phil Wookey (PW), University of Stirling (Chair)
Professor Sheldon Bacon (SB), NOC
Dr Helen Beadman (H.Beadman), NERC Representative
Henry Burgess (H.Burgess), Head, NERC Arctic Office
Dr Joe Cook (JC), University of Sheffield, UKPN Representative
Dr Duncan Depledge (DD), All-Party Parliamentary Group for the Polar Regions
Professor Klaus Dodds (KD), Royal Holloway, University of London
Stuart Doubleday (SD), Polar Regions Department, Foreign and Commonwealth Office
Professor Mary Edwards (ME), University of Southampton
Dr Richard Essery (RE), Edinburgh University
Professor Jane Francis (JF), British Antarctic Survey
Dr Ruth Hindshaw (R. Hindshaw), University of Cambridge
Dr Richard Hodgkins (R. Hodgkins), Loughborough University
Professor Viv Jones (VJ), University College London
Dr Anne Jungblut (AJ), Natural History Museum
Dr Melanie Leng (ML), BGS
Nicola Munro, NERC Arctic Office (UKAAP SC Secretary)
Professor David Pearce (DP), University of Northumbria
Dr Jennifer Pike (JP), University of Cardiff
Dr Gareth Phoenix (GP), University of Sheffield
Dr Richard Powell (RP), Scott Polar Research Institute
Dr Jeff Ridley (JR), Met Office
Dr Clare Robinson (CR), University of Manchester
Professor David Thomas (DT), Bangor University
Professor Martyn Tranter (MT), Bristol Glaciology Centre
Professor David Vaughan (DGV), BAS
Professor Eric Wolff (EW), Cambridge University

Apologies:

Professor Mike Bentley, Durham University
Professor Andrew Brierley, University of Edinburgh
Professor Ian Brooks, Leeds University
Dr Finlo Cottier, SAMS
Professor Siwan Davies, Swansea University
Professor Andy Hodson, Sheffield University
Dr Erin McClymont, Durham University
Professor Martin Siebert, Grantham Institute for Climate Change, Imperial College London
Professor Geraint Tarling, BAS
Professor Gail Whiteman, Lancaster University

Minutes:

1. Welcome and Introductions (PW):

PW opened the meeting and welcomed all members to the seventh UKAAP Steering Committee meeting. PW also noted the apologies sent from members unable to attend. Participants were then asked to introduce themselves. (A list of participant webpages can be found in Annex 1).

2. Review of Minutes and actions (PW) (Papers: UKAAP 7/01 and UKAAP 7/02)

Minutes from UKAAP 6:

PW 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 sixth meeting in May 2017. These will be posted on the UKAAP website.

Update on Actions from UKAAP 6:

Agenda Item from UKAAP 6	Action	Who	Status
UK Government polar priorities and activities	HB to work with SD to invite a member from IAATO to present to the UKAAP SC meeting.	H. Burgess and SD	H. Burgess reported that due to a Gateway meeting in Ushuaia the IAATO representative was unable to attend this UKAAP meeting but will be invited to the next meeting in 2018.
IASC Working Groups	To draw up some Terms of Reference for UK representatives on the IASC Working Groups	H. Burgess	H. Burgess gave his apologies for not having this action completed by this meeting; however H. Burgess will draw up the ToR and circulate these to the IASC WG representatives ahead of the next UKAAP SC meeting in 2018.
UKAAP Forward Plan	Action Group: RP, KD and a UKPN representative to discuss whether a 'vision document' would be useful for the social sciences and to draft a short document with recommendations on how to proceed. This should be reported back at the next meeting and should aim to be as inclusive as possible.	RP, KD, TJ Young	<p>RP presented the paper (UKAAP 7/03). Actions identified in the paper include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Compose a full database of researchers in UK Polar SSH. An initial database from 2011 exists from ESRC grant RES-451-26-0661-A (PI, Powell). This needs to be updated through a process of community consultation, ideally with support from a Research Assistant. To be completed by March/April 2018? 2. Convene a one-day meeting of UK Polar SSH to discuss the state of the field and ways forward – perhaps in Cambridge in September 2018? 3. Produce a 'vision statement' about UK Polar SSH (along the lines of the 'UK and Arctic Science') for publication and dissemination by UKAAP – for possible launch at the UKAAP meeting in November 2018? <p>Discussions: The SC agreed that collating a list of Centres of Excellence and individual social scientists would be very useful. It would also allow the opportunity to engage further with these centres. KD and RP to work together with JC as UKPN representative, to create this list (to include individuals and relevant departments). The Arctic Office should also liaise with this group and look at ways to include some of this information within the Arctic Office database.</p> <p>It was also noted that having a document/infographic to showcase UK social sciences in the Polar Regions would be very useful. KD noted that there would be a good opportunity for a poster at the upcoming Polar 2018 conference in Davos to further showcase the outstanding research that the UK social scientists are doing. Further to this HB noted that the Arctic Office</p>

			<p>has put in an abstract for a session at Polar 2018 and could include social sciences in this.</p> <p>DD made the comment that there are various Think Tanks that occasionally organise ad hoc events on social science to engage with policy makers. This could be another way to further promote the research from the Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH) groups. DD agreed to inform NM who could then circulate information as and when it arises.</p> <p>Further to this RP highlighted in his paper that funding could become an issue in coming years. In recent years SSH have been very successful in gaining funding; however with the changing landscape this could become more difficult. Further to this KD commented that there are opportunities to get funding elsewhere, for example from the Norwegian Research Council. H. Beadman noted that ESRC have confirmed a priority on climate change with a £23 million investment in the next 5 years.</p>
UKAAP Forward Plan	To liaise with the view to inviting an ESRC representative to the next UKAAP meeting	H.Burgess and RP	Following production of the 'vision statement' (as highlighted in Paper UKAAP 7/03), the intention would be to invite representatives from ESRC and AHRC to consider this document, with a view to them attending a UKAAP meeting at that stage to discuss the recommendations (likely November 2018 or May 2019). It was agreed that doing this now would be too soon so the recommendation is to wait.
UKAAP Forward Plan	To have as a standing agenda item, a discussion on what interdisciplinary sessions would be useful to include at the annual polar conferences. RH to investigate potential for this at the upcoming Arctic conference in liaison with the local Science Organising Committee.	RH	<p>R. Hindshaw reported that she had approached David Pond at the last UKAAP meeting to discuss the inclusion of more interdisciplinary sessions at the UK Arctic Science Conference in September 2017 with time for discussions at the end. Ruth highlighted that there was only one session in the end where there was a proper discussion despite all sessions being fairly multidisciplinary. It was noted that mixing of the talks did keep attendance at the sessions high; however it is important, moving forward, to have an interlinking theme in order to encourage discussion at the end of the sessions. It was agreed that an experienced session chair was needed in order to help initiate discussions; but this would require some work beforehand. This feedback should be given to the next hosts of the Arctic Conference.</p> <p>SB made the comment that after the 2009 Arctic Conference, hosted by NOC, he wrote a meeting report for EOS and perhaps this would be something to look at for future conferences.</p>
UKAAP Forward Plan	Action Group: PW, DGV, TJY and HB to discuss and draft a document that lays out the importance of polar research. This should be available on the website/YouTube etc. with the view to launch this during TH's session at the Arctic Conference.	PW, DGV, UKPN representative and H. Burgess	<p>There has been no progress on this action and this will be carried forward to the next meeting. PW asked whether representatives from the UKPN could be called upon to help with this action. There is the Arctic Office film, however it would also be good to do something similar to the APECS 'Frostbytes'. ME commented that Radio 4 have 15-minute sessions and maybe it would be worth asking whether they could do a session on the Arctic. ME to investigate with her contacts and report back. PW will also raise with contacts in BBC Scotland.</p> <p>ACTION: ME to investigate with her contacts regarding the 15 minute sessions and report back at the next meeting. PW will also get in touch with BBC Scotland.</p> <p>ACTION: JC to discuss further with UKPN colleagues</p>
	Action Group: DGV, VJ, ML and UKPN Representative to draft a	DGV, VJ, ML and	DGV gave an update on progress so far. He has written a paper (to be circulated with draft minutes) where he outlines ways in which the polar community can help lower barriers for non-polar scientists to undertake

	document for discussion at the next meeting that looks at how polar research crosses with non-polar areas with the view to engaging this wider community and how the UKAAP could act as a portal to the polar community.	UKPN Rep	<p>polar science. There was a discussion on this with the comment made that this was particularly timely with the formation of UKRI, and the increased requirements for more cross cutting areas of research. DGV noted that there will be new practices attached to the new polar vessel, which will have a different operating dynamic to existing ships in the UK, and there will be a difference in the capability to deliver big integrated science. Further to the discussions, it was agreed that an initial step would be to write an article for <i>Planet Earth</i> on why polar science matters. This is read by both polar and non-polar communities and is a good starting point.</p> <p>ACTION: DGV, together with Arctic Office to write an article for Planet Earth (Schedule to be determined)</p> <p>Also resulting from the discussions was the need for a dedicated meeting to discuss a strategy for UKAAP. JF made the point that at the start of UKAAP, the key action was to try to bring together the UK Arctic Community and now it was time to look at other areas going forward, where the UKAAP SC can make an impact. JF suggested that the next UKAAP meeting should focus on strategy and the SC members agreed to take this recommendation forward. An action group was tasked with setting the framework on how best to represent the community within these discussions initially. The agenda for the next meeting can be based around this. (Discussion at Item 3 below).</p> <p>Action Group: PW, VJ, SB DT, ME, GP, PW, KD, JR, H. Burgess. It will be important to be clear about stakeholder partnerships, cross-disciplinary research and how best to showcase impact.</p>
	HB to investigate possibility of engaging with members from the Cross-Whitehall Network and inviting members to future UKAAP meetings to further explore science into policy possibilities.	H. Burgess	H. Burgess spoke to this – he had already made the connections with Kirsty Crocket, Science Coordinator for the Changing Arctic Ocean Programme. SD also commented that he would be happy to set up a meeting with members of Whitehall if there was something specific to be discussed.
Stakeholder Reports – UK Polar Network	<p>NM to continue to circulate relevant funding calls as when they are announced and ensure the UKPN are aware of these.</p> <p>UKPN to let NM know about upcoming events where they would like a member of UKAAP to attend. NM to circulate request to members.</p>	<p>NM</p> <p>NM and UKPN Rep.</p>	Continuous action.
Appointment of new Chair	Members to email PW and NM if they would like to be considered for the role of Deputy Chair. If more than one	ALL	To be discussed under agenda item 7.

	nomination is received, then SC members will vote on the nominees. Nominations to be made by the end of May 2017.		
AOB	To confirm where the next Antarctic Science Conference will be held	NM	NM noted that she had been in contact with M. Bentley. M. Bentley has confirmed that the meeting will be hosted by Durham University, however the dates had not been set at the time of the UKAAP SC meeting. NM will circulate the dates to the UKAAP SC as soon as she gets the information.

3. Steering Committee role in identifying, prioritising and championing 'new' polar research areas

The discussions focussed on some of the opportunities already available which include:

ARICE: Arctic Research Icebreaker Consortium – this is a programme funded by the EU to coordinate European icebreakers in the Arctic. ARICE joins the efforts of 14 partners from 12 different countries including Canada and the US. The project is due to start on 1st January 2018, with the aim to better coordinate the existing polar research fleet by offering transnational access through a call for proposals for ship time (first call set for March 2018). The grant will pay for access to the ship (travel, equipment etc.) but will not pay for the science; however this scheme will provide a great opportunity to do science in remote areas.

INTERACT – International Network for Terrestrial Research and Monitoring in the Arctic: This is another transnational access programme, funded by the EU and allows access to 77 research stations across the Arctic. The grant includes the travel and subsistence, logistical, technological and scientific support, and any specific training required, at the selected infrastructure. INTERACT Transnational Access calls will be open annually in the autumn for the following summer and winter seasons.

RRS *Sir David Attenborough*: DGV reported that this is on schedule, ready for October 2018. There are opportunities arising around this, with Ray Leakey from SAMS organising activities for polar science. There will be sea trials that will incorporate the testing of science equipment. In the northern winter 2019/2020, the RRS *Sir David Attenborough* will undertake a rehearsal cruise in the Antarctic to ensure that the vessel is able to complete the logistics role to carry out relief at the Antarctic stations. There will be opportunities to allocate some science time to focus on specific science areas. Ray Leakey is looking at ideas on how to allocate targeted science on this cruise. The first northern summer will be in 2020. It will be important to highlight that the RRS *Sir David Attenborough* will provide bigger capacity for multidisciplinary science and the science cruises will need to focus on this. This will impact on how BAS operates the cruises in terms of scheduling, allowing the opportunity to attach small projects to this.

International Ocean Discovery Program (IODP): JF commented that in the next two years there would be another IODP cruise around the Antarctic. 2019 call is now closed but later calls will open and the UK should be involved in this.

Arctic Circle Assemblies: The discussions also focussed on opportunities to showcase the UK in the Arctic, with mention of the Arctic Circle Assemblies providing good opportunities to highlight UK Arctic heritage and promote current and future activities. KD and HB to look at how we can continue to use these assemblies to promote UK activity in the Arctic.

Arctic Frontiers: DD noted that representatives from the Embassy in London strongly support UK involvement in this conference and are keen to make the UK's presence felt and to engage in a similar way as it does with the Arctic Circle Assemblies.

Arctic Science Ministers Meeting: HB reported that the next Arctic Science Ministerial meeting would be held in Berlin in 2018. This includes ministers from the Arctic Council countries but also from IASC countries. It is a good meeting, with MOSAiC and the UK-Canada bursaries programme developing out of the last meeting held in the

US in October 2016. This meeting provides an opportunity to sit round the table with the Arctic States. It will run over two days, with the first day being for science (there will be an opportunity to present at this). This will be hosted in Berlin, paid for by the EU.

There was wide-ranging discussion on the links between polar and non-polar research; how these areas crossed over; how to provide easier ways in to polar research; and how to use champions for polar work to make inroads into the non-polar community. Key questions included: what are we (the polar community) missing out on? And how do we want to target specific areas?

It was agreed that an action group be established (details in the action table above) to set the framework for how the discussion should happen, the agenda and overall approach. There was the potential for this session to be part/whole of the next UKAAP meeting, or for it to be a special (longer) session.

4. Future Funding

The impact of Brexit on funding was discussed. It was noted that the Government's underwrite commitment guarantees payment of awards post Brexit, as long as the proposal has been submitted before the exit date. DGV commented that at a recent UK Research Office (UKRO) Information Day, the message to continue to apply for EU grants up until the exit deadline was strong. JF reported that it is expected that the European Polar Board will take over activities for EU-PolarNET. PW also noted that Brexit would not impact funding of INTERACT as the money will have been disbursed by the exit deadline.

A question was also raised about the success of the NERC/NSF agreement. H. Beadman agreed to look into the figures for what has been submitted and funded for polar science.

ACTION: H. Beadman to investigate number of successful grants applied through the NERC/NSF scheme.

5. Stakeholder reports

Update on UK Government polar priorities and activities

SD commented that the Polar Regions Department (PRD) are heavily promoting 'Global Britain and Polar activities' both internally and within UK Government, highlighting the UK's leading role in the Antarctic and the increasing role in the Arctic. The PRD are a seven-person team.

SD reported that plastics in the oceans is currently a subject high on the agenda for the PRD. The Sky Ocean Rescue campaign and TV programmes like the Blue Planet series have raised the profile of this issue with ministers. PRD are also working on ocean governance, Marine Protected Areas and the Blue Belt Programme. The Blue Belt Programme provides £20 million of funding over four years to support the provision of long-term protection of over 4 million square kilometres of marine environment across the UK Overseas Territories.

In terms of the Arctic, the key priority is engaging further with the Arctic Council. SD noted that there was a good session at the recent Arctic Council meeting where all Observers were encouraged to present on ways to deal with pollution in the Arctic. The UK has also been asked to speak at an Arctic Council Marine Working Group meeting in February 2018. SD reported that Iceland are keen to ensure that the Finnish priorities feed into the Icelandic two year Chairmanship which will commence in 2019.

SD reported that the UK Arctic Policy Framework document is currently being re-drafted and the PRD are in the process of consulting with other Government departments on the refresh, including the Arctic Office. The aim will be to launch this in early 2018.

In terms of the Antarctic, SD reported that the last ATCM took place in Beijing in May and that this had gone well. There had been an interesting debate on science into policy that had been led by the UK. There has been a focus in discussions on Marine Protected Areas; the MPA in East Antarctic was rejected however there is still a lot of support for more MPAs in Antarctica.

The PRD are also keen to look more into the impacts of tourism in the Antarctic and how this is developing and how this is likely to grow. SD reported that the PRD are keen to do more in this area and commented that any thoughts from the Social Science Community on this would be welcomed.

SD reported that the HMS Protector is still keen to support as much science as possible. If anyone is interested, please contact SD.

JF added that the Chileans have a big programme in Antarctica and are keen to collaborate with the UK on any terrestrial related projects. SD also noted that the Argentinians are keen to develop further UK collaborations.

Update from the UK Polar Network

Joe Cook attended the UKAAP SC meeting as the UK Polar Network (UKPN) representative. JC reported that a new committee for 2017-18 had been selected and consists of 19 members. The new President is Archana Dayal from the University of Sheffield, with Kyle Mayers as the Vice President. Joe Cook reported on the recent events that the UKPN had been involved in since the last UKAAP SC meeting in May 2017:

- UKPN-Challenger Early career workshop
 - Two workshops were run, one at the National Oceanography Centre (March 2017), Southampton, and the other in BAS in June 2017 to avoid clashes with the Arctic and Antarctic field seasons.
 - There were over 30 attendees from PhD, Masters and postdoc level (March).
 - The workshop focused on developing skills in project management in science and the importance of outreach.
 - A number of group activities were organised: i) planning a field work activity (terrestrial or marine) with a budget and time scale, ii) groups were given challenges (e.g. injury on a ship, protected species on your sample site, polar bears in the area) which they then had to manage, iii) each group was given a polar topic (e.g. sea ice) and a target age group, and they had to deliver a 2 minute pitch for that group, and iv) the final activity was to design and project manage an outreach activity on their topic. They had to present this in a 5 minute presentation and a panel judged the projects, the best one was awarded £250.
 - The winning activity was a soundscape called 'Sounds of Change: Greenland Ice Sheet Melt' which will be used in our classrooms and outreach activities.
 - A similar format was used at BAS.
 - Contact: Kyle Mayers, Luisa Cristini (Challenger Society), Chelsey Baker.
- Reddit 'Ask me Anything' event (24th Sept 2017)
 - Organised by APECS (Association of Polar Early Career Scientists) to celebrate International Polar Week
 - Lasted 24 hours, received 122 comments with worldwide participation of APECS and its national committees
 - UKPN members (Archana Dayal and Kyle Mayers) also answered several questions on science and life at the poles.
 - Link: https://www.reddit.com/r/IAmA/comments/71xzp6/we_are_arctic_and_antarctic_scientists/
- Arctic Sciences conference (Sept 2017, Oban)
 - Panel event organised on international collaboration
 - 40 attendees
 - Organised by Laura Hobbs
- Introduction to UKPN and APECS outreach talk (24th Oct 2017, University of Sheffield)
 - Part of session on 'Careers in Polar and Alpine Science for Masters' (Polar & Alpine Change) students
 - Students introduced to polar networks and encouraged to join
 - Talk delivered by Archana Dayal

- PGR Forum session on 'Outreach and Widening Participation' (2nd Nov 2017, University of Sheffield)
 - PhD students at the Department of Geography introduced to the outreach activities, membership benefits of UKPN
 - Talk delivered by Archana Dayal
- Antarctica flag events (On going activity)
 - Organised in partnership with Our Spaces and APECS to celebrate Antarctica Day (1st Dec 2017)
 - One of our most successful outreach activities, worldwide participation and 7th year running
 - Flags designed by school students are sent to Antarctica where pics are clicked which are then returned to the students along with an official certificate
 - There was a huge response this year with 500 flags from 100 schools!
 - UKPN are therefore looking for more people going South to take flags with them. It would be welcomed if UKAAP Steering Committee members could put UKPN in touch with interested people within their networks/Universities
 - Organised by Sammie Buzzard - sammie.buzzard@polarnetwork.org

Upcoming events and projects include:

- UK-Russia & Arctic science event (5th Dec 2017, Cambridge)
 - UKPN early career researchers to present a poster at the event
- UK-Russia early career workshops (Jan, Feb – 2018)
 - UKPN members in collaboration with the NERC Arctic Office will organise two workshops, one in the UK and the other in Moscow before March 2018
 - This will be in collaboration with APECS Russia and will build on the Cambridge workshop
 - These events would support the legacy of the UK-Russia 2017 'Year of Science and Education'
 - UKPN Organisers: Joe Cook, Archana Dayal, Kyle Mayers, Sammie Buzzard
- Pint of Science (March/April 2018)
 - To be organized in 3-4 cities
 - Designed to be a 1-day special pint of science event during Polar Week celebrations in March as the "Frozen Pint of Science"
 - Organise a "meet polar scientists" or talks/experiments in pubs so as to introduce polar science to the general public
 - Organised by: Robynne Nowicki and Nabih Asif
- Leeds Science Festival (March 2018)
 - This will be the third year the UKPN will have been involved
 - There will be a workshop for school students aged 9-12
 - As part of the workshop, experiments will be set up on 1) ocean acidification and sea level rise, 2) Arctic and Antarctic geography (puzzles) and 3) polar equipment
 - Round of Q&A and dressing up in polar gear at the end
 - Contact: Malu Avila
- Edinburgh Science Festival (April 2018)
 - Similar presentation to the Leeds Science Festival with possibility of holding 'Pint of Science' event here if large number of UKPN members participating
 - Attractive platform for UKPN as festival has attracted 100,000 people in the past
 - Contact: Malu Avila
 -
- Poster presentation on UKPN at the IGS Symposium on Cryosphere and Biosphere (Japan, March 2018)
 - Abstract submitted by Archana
- Poster presentation at Polar2018 conference (Davos, June 2018)
 - Abstract submitted by Kyle Mayers

- Several UKPN members participating and so we also plan to organise an event in collaboration with APECS Russia where we will share insights from the collaborative workshops for UK-Russian ECRs, organised earlier in the year
- School visits planned throughout the year
- Early career researchers Committee representation
 - UKPN members represent ECRs on:
 - APECS: Kyle, Laura and Archana
 - UK National Committee for Antarctic Research (UKNCAR): Amber Leeson (Lancaster University)
 - UKAAP: Archana Dayal
 - Antarctic Science Ltd: Archana Dayal
 - EGU Media team

PW thanked JC and the UKPN for the report.

Update from NERC:

H. Beadman reported that all research councils will fall under one single body known as UKRI. This change will come into effect in April 2018. NERC will exist and operate as an individual centre with a budget from UKRI rather than direct from BEIS. There will be some changes in governance but this is not expected to impact on the science community initially; however there are likely to be some changes further ahead.

H. Beadman also reported that a panel would review the second call from the Changing Arctic Ocean Programme (which was a joint call with Germany) in January 2018. NERC are looking to award up to 10 grants.

RoSES: two projects have started with a third project to start shortly. There will be a second call for this programme but it is likely to be delayed.

MOSAIC: the call is open at the moment but closes in January 2018. There was a MOSAIC planning meeting in St Petersburg and 9 people from the UK went to this – travel money was provided by NERC as part of the commitment to MOSAIC.

THWAITES: this is a joint programme with NSF. The panel met in June 2017 and it is taking a while to award the grants but expect that the awards will be made in January 2018.

NEWTON: a new programme with Peru that will look at glacial retreat and its impact on water security and resilience to natural hazards. NERC are looking to hold a workshop in March 2018 for those interested in participating in this programme and will then put a call out for proposals in summer 2018.

Arctic Office update:

UK Arctic Science Conference: HB reported that the Office was pleased to provide financial support to SAMS as hosts of the recent UK Arctic Conference. The Office also gave two presentations, including one on the UK Arctic Research Station. The Office also had a stand at the conference where it was able to distribute the various ARP and Arctic Office related products.

Arctic Circle Assembly: The Assembly takes place every October in Reykjavik, Iceland. This year there were 22 sessions/events with UK involvement which included a good session on innovation, communication, the Changing Arctic Ocean Programme and the new polar ship. This was well-attended (~ 70 people). There was also a joint session with WMO's World Climate Research Programme (WCRP) on AUVs and an event held with the Science and Innovation Network focussed on new technology and low carbon. The Arctic Office also had a stand with the various ARP reports and the infographic and UK Arctic video. This was followed by the Arctic Circle Forum event which was held in Edinburgh. Both Henry Burgess and Mark Inall (SAMS) spoke in the afternoon.

Science into Policy Report: Together with the NOC, the Arctic Office produced a science into policy report synthesising the key findings from the Arctic Research Programme. An event was held in London to launch this that was well attended by several representatives from Government departments. The Office has also produced an infographic which has been well received and distributed at several events.

The Arctic Office has been promoting #UKinArctic digital campaign which has been led by SIN Moscow. This has had about 2500 active engagements to date and is doing well.

UK-Canada bursaries programme: Last year this scheme funded 18 bursaries. Several of the recipients will attend the Arctic Change meeting in Canada in December 2017 to present their results. The Office has been successful in securing some more money from BEIS for the bursary programme to run again in the 2018/19 season. The call for applications will close on 5th January 2018.

The Arctic Office has been engaged in the recommissioning of the NERC Arctic Station. The Station will be the first of the Large Research Infrastructure facilities to be commissioned this way. We await the outcome of this process.

Concerning Russian activity, there will be two workshops for early career researchers that will be funded by BEIS early in 2018. The Arctic Office will also be hosting an event on the 5th December in Cambridge to discuss UK/Russia priorities and ways forward.

The Office is currently refreshing the website and aims to have a searchable database of current UK Arctic research embedded into the website. This will also require input from the community. H. Burgess also reported that the new 'Discovering the Arctic' website will be launched in the Spring of 2018. This is owned by the Royal Geographical Society and is the sister site of 'Discovering Antarctica', which has recently been redeveloped.

In terms of future activities, H. Burgess sits on the IASC action group looking at communication of science into policy and will present at Davos in 2018. The next Arctic Science Ministerial will be held in Berlin in October 2018 and the Office will look to support the UK delegation at this meeting.

Update from the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG)

DD gave a quick introduction to the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Polar Regions. This initiative was born out of a British delegation to the Arctic Circle in 2014. The focus of this group has been to put on events to inform and promote understanding of the Polar Regions and these are held roughly once every month. Usually between 50 and 100 people attend these events with MPs making up about 20% of the audience. In the summer of 2017, the APPG were successful in getting funding to take eight MPs up to Ny-Ålesund which went very well.

The APPG are holding an event on the 11th December with various representatives from indigenous communities speaking. The focus is to understand the opportunities and challenges of Arctic change. Nick Cox will be speaking at the Christmas event in London on the 19th December.

6. UK Polar Science Conferences

PW noted the paper (UKAAP 7/04) that had been submitted by Finlo Cottier. He reported that the meeting had been successful and thanks to the support from the Arctic Office, they did not need to charge a registration fee. Finlo also thanked the Arctic Office for the support given in the lead up to and during the conference. The next Arctic Conference is due to take place in 2019 and will be hosted by Loughborough. Dates are being looked into and will be confirmed in due course. The Committee showed preference for the 11-13 September but this will depend on availability of meeting rooms.

It is expected that the next UK Antarctic Science meeting will take place in September 2018 in Durham, details to be released in due course.

There should be an alternating polar meeting each year, with the next Arctic meeting taking place in 2019, with an Antarctic meeting in 2020.

7. New Deputy Chair:

A call went out after the last meeting for nominations for a Deputy Chair. Further to a short discussion, it was agreed by the Steering Committee that Professor Viv Jones will be the next Deputy Chair of the UKAAP SC.

8. Membership:

PW reported that the new Steering Committee is now in place for the next term. As per the Terms of Reference, the Committee should look at refreshing the Committee by 1/3 every year. PW noted that there had been discussions regarding additional stakeholders on the Committee and that this should be discussed as part of the strategy meeting in May 2018.

9. Next meeting:

The Committee agreed that the next meeting should be in London. NM to investigate possibilities and then circulate a doodle poll. The first week of May looked promising.

10. AOB:

There was no other business. PW closed the meeting and thanked Stuart Doubleday and the FCO for hosting the meeting.

Annex 1 – UKAAP SC Meeting Member profiles

[Professor Phil Wookey \(PW\), University of Stirling \(Chair\)](#)

[Professor Sheldon Bacon \(SB\), NOC](#)

[Dr Helen Beadman \(H.Beadman\), NERC Representative](#)

[Henry Burgess \(H.Burgess\), Head, NERC Arctic Office](#)

[Dr Joe Cook \(JC\), University of Sheffield, UKPN Representative](#)

[Dr Duncan Depledge \(DD\), All-Party Parliamentary Group for the Polar Regions](#)

[Professor Klaus Dodds \(KD\), Royal Holloway, University of London](#)

[Stuart Doubleday \(SD\), Polar Regions Department, Foreign and Commonwealth Office](#)

[Professor Mary Edwards \(ME\), University of Southampton](#)

[Dr Richard Essery \(RE\), Edinburgh University](#)

[Professor Jane Francis \(JF\), British Antarctic Survey](#)

[Dr Ruth Hindshaw \(R. Hindshaw\), University of Cambridge](#)

[Dr Richard Hodgkins \(R. Hodgkins\), Loughborough University](#)

[Professor Viv Jones \(VJ\), University College London](#)

[Dr Anne Jungblut \(AJ\), Natural History Museum](#)

[Dr Melanie Leng \(ML\), BGS](#)

[Nicola Munro, NERC Arctic Office \(UKAAP SC Secretary\)](#)

[Professor David Pearce \(DP\), University of Northumbria](#)

[Dr Jennifer Pike \(JP\), University of Cardiff](#)

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