

**Minutes from the 14th UK Arctic and Antarctic Partnership (UKAAP) Steering
Committee Online Meeting**

May 27th, 2021, 1330 to 1530

Participants:

Professor Martin Siegert, Grantham Institute, Imperial College London, Chair (MS)

Professor Vivienne Jones, University College London, Deputy Chair (VJ)

Professor Sheldon Bacon, NOC (SB)

Professor Mike Bentley, Durham University (MB)

Professor Andrew Brierley, St Andrews (AB)

Professor Ian Brooks, Leeds University (IB)

Henry Burgess, Head, NERC Arctic Office (HB)

George Clarkson, Polar Regions Department, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (GC)

Professor Finlo Cottier, SAMS (FC)

Rod Downie, WWF (RD)

Dr Duncan Depledge, Loughborough University (DD)

Dr Richard Essery, Edinburgh University (RE)

Professor Jane Francis, BAS (JF)

Dr Lizzie Garratt, NERC (LG)

Dr Anna Gebruk, (UKPN Representative) (AG)

Dr Kate Hendry, Bristol University (KH)

Professor Anna Jones, BAS (AJ)

Dr Ingrid Medby, Oxford Brookes University (IM)

Sophie Montague, Director, All-Party Parliamentary Group for the Polar Regions Secretariat (SM)

Nicola Munro, NERC Arctic Office (UKAAP SC Secretary) (NM)

Dr Richard Powell, Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge (RP)

Dr Clare Robinson, University of Manchester (CR)

Professor David Thomas, University of Helsinki (DT)

Apologies:

Dr Liz Bagshaw, Cardiff University

Professor Siwan Davies, Swansea University

Dr James Lea, Liverpool University

Professor Erin McClymont, Durham University

Professor David Pearce, University of Northumbria

Professor Gareth Phoenix, University of Sheffield

Professor Geraint Tarling, BAS

Professor David Vaughan, BAS

Hannah Wauchope, University of Exeter

Minutes:

1. Welcome and Introductions (Martin Siegert)

MS welcomed all participants to the 14th UKAAP Steering Committee online meeting and noted the apologies received.

He also congratulated Prof Jane Francis, Prof Richard Horne, Prof Sir Ian Boyd and Prof Karen Heywood who have all been recently elected as Fellows of the Royal Society.

2. Review of Minutes and Actions from the SC13 meeting in December 2020 (Martin Siegert)

Paper: UKAAP 14/01

Review of Minutes:

MS presented the minutes from the last meeting. No further comments were made and the minutes were accepted as a true record of the 13th meeting of the UKAAP SC. These will now be posted on the UKAAP website.

Review of Actions from UKAAP SC 13:

MS reviewed the actions from UKAAP SC 13 and noted the following:

- *Update on the SPF proposal for use of the SDA in the Arctic (Martin Siegert):* MS to circulate final version of SPF as submitted to NERC to UKAAP SC members. **Completed**
- *UK - Antarctic community exercise (Mike Bentley/Martin Siegert):* MS, MB and LG to have an initial scoping meeting before the next Antarctic meeting to identify next steps. **Completed – see item 4**
- *Update on the next UK Arctic Science Conference 2021:* Bob Baxter to join the next UKAAP meeting to update the Committee on the Conference planning. **Completed – see item 8**
- *AOB – Inclusion of EDI discussion at next meeting (KH):* **Completed – see item 10**
- *AOB – Inclusion of SIOS discussion at next meeting (HB):* **Completed – see item 7**

3. Antarctic Conference summary (Paper: UKAAP 14/02 - Paper from Rob Bingham)

MS noted the paper from Dr Rob Bingham giving a summary of the online Antarctic Science symposium that was held in March 2021. He commented on the excellent talks, ECR involvement, and smooth running of the conference and thanked all involved in the set up at Edinburgh University and the British Antarctic Survey.

4. Antarctic future priorities exercise - Mike Bentley (Paper: UKAAP 14: Future UK Antarctic Science)

MB provided a brief report from the Antarctic future priorities scoping exercise that was held prior to the Antarctic Science conference in March 2021. This workshop was led by Mike Bentley, Martin Siegert, Mike Meredith, Anna Jones and Kate Hendry. Over 100 people took part, with participants being asked to submit big science ideas beforehand to then present during the workshop followed by plenary discussions. Key themes that arose included the future use of autonomous technology, how to use the ships, stations and aircraft in an integrated way and access to technology and infrastructure.

A working group will now produce a briefing note outlining the key themes by the end of July, with the aim of providing NERC and other funding agencies, with a clear picture of some of the big science questions coming up in the future. Once complete, MB will circulate to the Steering Committee.

ACTION: MB to finalise the Antarctic and Future priorities briefing note and circulate to the Committee when ready.

5. **Potential new ideas from the Changing Arctic Ocean Programme – David Thomas** (*Paper: UKAAP 14/03*)

DT gave a brief introduction to this item, explaining that all CAOP PIs were encouraged to consult with their project teams to identify emerging areas of science, following on from outcomes and policy implications from the programme. The aim is to finalise the paper and make it into a formal product of the CAOP. The final version will be circulated to the Steering Committee, and it was agreed that this be supported by the UKAAP. It was also suggested that this be cross-referenced to the 'Arctic and the UK' Grantham Briefing paper produced in 2020.

6. **Arctic Science Summit Week 2024 – Henry Burgess** (*Paper: UKAAP 14/04*)

HB reported that there had been an opportunity for the UK to bid to host the ASSW in 2024, and with support from UKAAP and the FCDO, the proposal was accepted. As outlined in the paper, the next step will be to find a venue and to confirm dates, ideally in time for the next ASSW in Tromso in March 2022.

ACTION: HB to prepare call for applications to host the ASSW 2024 and report on progress at next UKAAP meeting.

7. **Svalbard Integrated Observing System (SIOS) UK Contribution – Henry Burgess** (*Paper: UKAAP 14/05*)

HB introduced the paper which was then followed by a short discussion. It was agreed that LG would ask NERC whether they could pay the annual subscription fee of €10,000. HB to also investigate whether a consortium could be established amongst UK institutions to share the cost. It was agreed that it was important to be part of SIOS and it would be useful to discuss this further with the UK Arctic Community at the next Science conference in April 2022.

ACTION: LG to discuss possibility of NERC paying the SIOS subscription fee for the UK.

ACTION: HB to approach community at Arctic Science conference to gauge interest in establishing a consortium.

8. **Update from UK Arctic Science Conference 2022** (*Paper: UKAAP 14: UK Arctic Science Conference written update from Dr Bob Baxter*)

Further to the paper, it was asked that the Committee note the new dates for this conference, 11 -13 April 2022. Further details will be released later in the year.

9. **Integrated Review and polar regions – Martin Siebert** (*Paper: UKAAP 14/06 – page 64*)

MS provided a brief introduction to this paper which was followed by a short discussion. The committee were asked to note the references made to both the Antarctic and Arctic in this paper on page 64.

10. **Equality Diversity Inclusion statement – Kate Hendry** (*Paper: UKAAP 14/07 – EDI Statement and Paper: UKAAP 14/08 – Diversity in Polar Science Initiative report*) 56 minutes.

KH gave a brief introduction to this item, and it was agreed by the Committee that the EDI statement be included on the UKAAP website. It was also noted that UKAAP should remain closely linked with DiPSI (which is chaired by KH and MS) moving forward.

11. 'Code of Conduct' for polar researchers – Martin Siegert

Following a discussion on this, it was agreed that through DiPSI, KH and MS together with DiPSI colleagues, should establish some guidelines to then share with NERC and if appropriate, to be encouraged by NERC more generally in proposal writing. MS and LG to report back at next meeting.

ACTION: MS and KH to consider code of conduct and how to develop through DiPSI and report back at next meeting.

12. Stakeholder reports (written)

Each stakeholder was invited to give a verbal summary of their reports. Full details are available in the meeting papers.

- **Paper: UKAAP 14/09** – report from the Polar Regions Department, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (George Clarkson)
- **Paper: UKAAP 14/10** – report from the UK Polar Network (Anna Gebruk)
- **Paper: UKAAP 14/11** – report from by NERC (Lizzie Garratt)
- **Paper: UKAAP 14/12** – report from NERC Arctic Office (Henry Burgess)
- **Paper: UKAAP 14/13** – report from the APPG (Sophie Montague)

13. COP26 – Martin Siegert

There was a quick update on upcoming COP26 plans where known which included engagement of the COP26 universities network involving 70 universities plus plans for an ICCI Cryosphere Pavilion in the Blue Zone. JF updated the committee on news that the SDA will likely be at an event in Greenwich, London immediately prior to COP26.

14. AOB

MB raised a request for the potential of a polar science mailing list to capture both Arctic and Antarctic researchers. At the moment, there is the Arctic Office mailing list but no equivalent for the Antarctic community.

ACTION: NM and MS to look at potential for an Arctic and Antarctic mailing list.