A Brief History of the Research Stations and Refuges of the British Antarctic Survey and its Predecessors

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Edition 6.2 (Dec 2016)
Introduction

This document is intended to give a brief outline of the occupation and current status of the buildings erected and occupied by British Antarctic Survey (BAS) and its predecessors, Operation Tabarin (1943-45) and Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey (FIDS) (1945-61).

It does not cover the history of the discovery of the islands and localities mentioned, place names or characteristics of landscape and wildlife, for which other sources are available.

Note on terminology

Until 1967 all permanent research facilities established by BAS and its predecessors were called bases. Those operating since then have officially been referred to as research stations. For simplicity the term station has been used throughout this document.

Historical Background

In 1944 the British Government established its first stations in the Antarctic as part of the wartime expedition known as Operation Tabarin. Its objectives were to deter access to anchorages by enemy ships and to strengthen Britain’s claim to the Falkland Islands Dependencies. This provided the opportunity to undertake scientific work. Operation Tabarin was a joint undertaking by the Admiralty and the Colonial Office. In 1945 it was renamed the Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey (FIDS) and all control passed to the Colonial Office. At this time there were four stations, three occupied and one unoccupied. By the time FIDS was renamed British Antarctic Survey in 1962, 19 stations and three refuges had been established. Two further stations have been established since then. The austral summer of 1958/59 witnessed the largest number open at any one time with 13 stations and three refuges occupied. Four stations currently remain open all year round and two more are occupied during the austral summer.

Under the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty (agreed 4 October 1991, ratified 14 January 1998), abandoned bases and work sites must be cleaned up. In order to comply with the Protocol BAS undertook a survey of its closed stations in 1994. Subsequently, in 1995, four of these were designated as Historic Sites and Monuments under the Antarctic Treaty and have been preserved. The ownership of four more has been transferred to other countries, although one of these transfers predates the Protocol. Three stations and two refuges have been removed altogether. Others have been tidied up and waste has been removed. In Jan 2007 a conservation architect, commissioned by BAS, inspected a number of the historic sites.

Arrangement of information

During Operation Tabarin each station was identified by a code letter, a practice that has continued with the opening of each new station since. Descriptions of stations are arranged in code letter order since this, with a few exceptions, reflects the chronological order in which they were established.

Refuges and transit facilities were not identified in this way. They have been included in this list under the stations with which they were most closely associated. Many field huts and bird hides have been erected and resited over the years and these too are listed under the stations that supported them.

Dates

The dates given for first occupation are generally when the site was selected and stores landed. The date given for the erection of buildings is when building commenced or, if this is not known, when the building was first occupied overnight.

Dates recorded in association with memorials relate to when lives were lost and not when the memorial was erected.

Cover photograph  Base A – Port Lockroy 1996
Station A  Port Lockroy
Lat. 64°49'S, Long. 63°30'W

Goudier Island, Wiencke Island, Palmer Archipelago

Purpose Initially survey, geology, meteorology and botany. Mainly ionospheric research from 1950 onwards.

The ionospheric work was transferred to Argentine Islands (Station F) when Station A closed.


Buildings The main hut was named Bransfield House after the ship initially chartered to transport members of Operation Tabarin from the UK, and itself named after Edward Bransfield, Master, Royal Navy, the first person to chart an area of the Antarctic mainland (1819-20).

Current status Designated as Historic Site No 61 under the Antarctic Treaty, 19 May 1995. Restored 14 Jan 1996-18 Mar 1996. Since Nov 1996 the station has been manned as an Historic Site on behalf of the UK Antarctic Heritage Trust (UKAHT) for the benefit of tourists and visitors during austral summer seasons. It has been operated directly by UKAHT since July 2006 under a Memorandum of Understanding with BAS. Inspected for BAS by a conservation architect in Jan 2007.

Station B  Deception Island
Lat. 62°59'S, Long. 60°34'W

Whalers Bay, Deception Island, South Shetland Islands


The station was evacuated temporarily on 5 Dec 1967 after volcanic eruptions.

It was evacuated again on 21 Feb 1969 when further eruptions damaged the station buildings. On both occasions personnel were evacuated by the Chilean ship Piloto Pardo. The station was finally abandoned on 23 Feb 1969 after personnel had returned to collect personal possessions.

Buildings Originally buildings from the former Norwegian Aktieselskabet Hektor whaling station were used. These included Bleak House, a former dormitory which was converted into the main accommodation and office building. It was destroyed by fire on 8 Sep 1946. Another former dormitory from the whaling station was then used as the main accommodation building and became known as Biscoe House after John Biscoe, Master, Royal Navy, who discovered Graham Land in 1832. The Magistrate’s Villa, the name reflecting its previous use, was used as a store. A new hut known as the FIDASE hut or Hunting Lodge was erected on 13 Dec 1955. It was used by members of the Falkland Islands Dependencies Aerial Survey Expedition, 1955-57, employed by Hunting Aerosurveys Ltd. On completion of the survey this hut became the property of FIDS. An aircraft hangar was completed in Mar 1962. A plastic accommodation building known as Priestley House after Sir Raymond Priestley, Acting Director of FIDS 1955-59 and geologist on Scott’s expedition 1910-13, was erected in Jan 1966 and found to be missing (sic) on 22 Mar 1985 when RRS John Biscoe visited.

A graveyard was established and used mainly during the whaling era. It was destroyed by mudflows during volcanic eruptions. One member of FIDS was buried there. The site of the cemetery is marked by a plaque.


Current Status Closed. Site cleaned up by BAS in 1990/91 and 1991/92. The remains of the Norwegian whaling station were designated as Historic Site No. 71 under the Antarctic Treaty, 19 May 1995. The fuselage of BAS single Otter aircraft VP-FAI(K) was removed from the site in Apr 2004 and has been in storage in the UK under a Memorandum of Understanding since May 2005. Deception Island was adopted as an Antarctic Specially Managed Area at Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting XXVIII (Stockholm,
Station BI   Bird Island
Lat. 54°00’S, Long. 38°03’W

Freshwater Inlet, Jordan Cove, Bird Island, South Georgia

Purpose Bird and seal research.


It was used by summer parties from 1957-64 and from 1971-82. Personnel were evacuated on 1 Apr 1982 by HMS Endurance following the Argentine invasion of South Georgia. Reopened on 22 Sep 1982 after cessation of hostilities.

Buildings The first permanent hut was established on 24 Nov 1958 by the Falkland Islands Government. It was known as Bonner’s Bothy, after W N Bonner, biologist 1953-86 and Deputy Director, BAS 1986-88. In Dec 1962 the United States Antarctic Research Program (USARP) established 2 huts which were later used by BAS. One of these, used as an accommodation hut, was known as Lönberg House after the Swedish biologist Einar Lönberg who expressed great concern at the amount of sealing and whaling on South Georgia in 1906.

A new hut was constructed in Oct 1981 for wintering staff but the first wintering party was evacuated due to the Argentine invasion of South Georgia. The new hut was named Beck House after Rolla Howard Beck, an American biologist who made extensive collections of birds around the Falkland Islands, Tierra del Fuego and the Galapagos Islands 1912-17. It provided accommodation, laboratory and office space for up to 8 people. A further building containing laboratories, a workshop and storage areas was added in the 1995/96 season. An extension to Beck House was built following the season, housing upgraded accommodation (double bedrooms). Other improvements included an improved water collection and treatment system. To commemorate Peter Prince, BAS seabird biologist 1971-98 and Officer In Charge of Bird Island Station 1993-98, the newly extended building was re-named Prince House in 1998/99. The storage and workshops building erected 1996 was then named Beck House.

The station complex was completely redeveloped between Jan and June 2005 by Morrison PLC, construction partners of BAS. The new building, occupied from June 2005, was named Prince House. The older building of that name was demolished in Nov 2005 and the site cleared in Jan 2006. The old generator shed (the original Lönberg / Beck House ) was demolished to make way for the current Prince House and a new generator and fire pump building situated between Beck House and the jetty was built.

Field huts and hides have existed at one time or other at the following sites: Gazella Peak, Molly Hill, Wanderer Ridge, Johnson Gentoo Colony, Top Meadows (two locations), Colony B, Special Study Beach, Colony J and Fairy Point.

Current Status Operational throughout the year.

Station C (1)   Sandefjord Bay
Lat. 60°37’S, Long. 46°02’W
(First station with letter C; also referred to as Station P)

Moreton Point, Sandefjord Bay, Coronation Island, South Orkney Islands

Occupied Never occupied.


The original intention had been to establish a station in the South Orkney Islands in 1944 on Signy Island, but this was not achieved. In 1945 a hut was built at Sandefjord Bay, although there were insufficient personnel to occupy it. This has since been referred to as Station P, although there is no evidence for this in the official records. It was replaced by a new hut at Cape Geddes, Laurie Island (which became known as Station C) in 1946.

Current Status Only debris remains.

See also Station C (Cape Geddes) and Station H (Signy).
**Station C (2) Cape Geddes**

*Lat. 60°41'S, Long. 44°34'W*

(Second station with letter C)

**Ferguslie Peninsula, Laurie Island, South Orkney Islands**

**Purpose** Meteorology and survey.

**Occupied** 21 Jan 1946-17 Mar 1947.

Established to replace Sandefjord Bay hut (Station C) which had been erected the previous year. Closed when Signy Island Station (Station H) was established.

**Buildings** The hut was named Cardinall House after Sir Alan Cardinall, Governor of the Falkland Islands in 1946.

**Current Status** Closed. Used periodically by Argentine personnel from Orcadas Station as a bird hide and field refuge. Following an inspection in Mar 2007 BAS decided that removing the hut would cause greater disturbance to wildlife than leaving it in situ.

*See also Station H (Signy) and Station C (Sandefjord Bay).*

**Station D Hope Bay**

*Lat. 63°24'S, Long. 57°00'W*

**Hope Bay, Trinity Peninsula**

**Purpose** Survey, geology, geophysics, glaciology, meteorology, human and dog physiology.


An attempt was made to establish the station on 7 Feb 1944 as the main base for Operation Tabarin but sea ice conditions prevented unloading of stores. It was the main station during the expedition’s second year.

**Buildings** The original hut was known as Eagle House after the ship SS *Eagle* which transported the party to Hope Bay in 1945. It was destroyed by fire on 8 Nov 1948, with the loss of two lives. On 4 Feb 1952 a new hut was established in a new position, named Trinity House after Trinity Peninsula.

**Memorials** O Burd and M C Green, 8 Nov 1948: graves in the vicinity of the original hut.

**Current Status** Transferred to Uruguay on 8 Dec 1997 and renamed Teniente Ruperto Elichiribehty Uruguayan Antarctic Scientific Station. Inspected for BAS by a conservation architect in Jan 2007.

*See also Station V (View Point).*

**Station E Stonington Island**

*Lat.68°11'S, Long. 67°00'W*

(Also known as Marguerite Bay)

**Stonington Island, Marguerite Bay**

**Purpose** Survey, geology, meteorology and biology.


Established 250 yards from the US East Base. The station was closed in 1950 as sea ice conditions had prevented access to relieve the station in 1949. It was reopened in 1960 as the centre for fieldwork in the south
Antarctic Peninsula area when Horseshoe Island (Station Y) was closed. The original intention had been to build Station E on the east coast of Graham Land.

**Buildings** The original building was known as Trepassey House after the ship MV Trepassey in which it was transported. The station was resited when a new main hut was erected on 4 Mar 1961. The new hut was the first two-storey building to be erected by FIDS. It was unnamed. Two single-storey extensions were added, one in 1965 and another begun on 27 Jan 1972. Buildings from East Base were also used as workshops and stores. These were known as Passion Flower Hotel, Jenny's Roost and Finn Ronne. The derelict Trepassey House was burnt down in stages between Jan 1973 and Jan 1974.

**Memorials** J F Noel and T J Allan, Jun 1966: graves on Flagstaff Hill.

**Current Status** Closed. Site cleaned up by BAS in 1991/92. Designated as Historic Site No. 64 under the Antarctic Treaty, 19 May 1995. Conservation work undertaken by BAS Jan 2003. Inspected for BAS by a conservation architect in Jan 2007. It has been managed by UKAHT since Oct 2014 under a Memorandum of Understanding with BAS.

See also Station Y (Horseshoe Island) and Blaiklock Island Refuge.

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**Station F  Faraday**

**Lat. 65°15'S, Long. 64°16'W**

(Known as Argentine Islands until 15 Aug 1977)

**Marina Point, Galindez Island, Argentine Islands**

**Purpose** Geophysics, meteorology and ionospherics.

**Occupied** 7 Jan 1947-6 Feb 1996.

It was occupied continuously for a total of 49 years and 31 days by FIDS and BAS, the longest continuous occupation of any British station to date.

**Buildings** The first hut was built on Winter Island, the site of the British Graham Land Expedition (BGLE) hut of 1935-36 which had been destroyed (possibly by a tsunami) in 1946. It was named Wordie House after Sir James Wordie, member of Shackleton's Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition 1914-16, Operation Tabarin Advisory Committee 1943-45 and FID Scientific Committee 1948. It was closed on 30 May 1954 when the station was transferred to Galindez Island, but was re-occupied in the winter of 1960 when personnel for Station T failed to reach Adelaide Island and had to winter there. New buildings were erected on Galindez Island in Feb 1954. The main building was named Coronation House after the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953.

**Field huts** An Argentine refuge hut on Petermann Island was used periodically by BAS personnel from Faraday Station.


**Current Status** Wordie House was designated as Historic Site No. 62 under the Antarctic Treaty, 19 May 1995. The Galindez Island station complex was transferred to the Ukraine on 6 Feb 1996 and renamed Vernadsky. Personnel from Vernadsky keep a watching brief on Wordie House. A conservation architect inspected Wordie House for BAS in Jan 2007. It has been managed by UKAHT since Oct 2009 under a Memorandum of Understanding with BAS.

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**Associated Refuge  Rasmussen Hut**

**Lat. 65°15’S, Long. 64°06’W**

(Also known as Rasmussen Point)

**Rasmussen Island, Waddington Bay, Graham Coast**

**Purpose** Emergency refuge and recreational shelter.

**Occupied** Occasional use Mar 1984-6 Feb 1996.


**Current Status** Closed. Used occasionally by Ukrainian personnel from Vernadsky Station.
Station G  Admiralty Bay  
Lat. 62°05'S, Long. 58°22'W

Martel Inlet, Keller Peninsula, King George Island,  
South Shetland Islands

Purpose  Geology, meteorology and glaciology.


Buildings  The first two buildings, a small wooden hut and a Nissen hut, were erected in Jan 1947. A second wooden hut was established on 14 Feb 1948 but removed in 1950 and re-erected at Signy Island (Station H). A third hut named Sparrow House after the ship HMS Sparrow in which it was transported, was established about 300 yards south of the second hut on 28 Jan 1949. A further hut was erected on 6 Jan 1956.

Memorials  E Platt, 10 Nov 1948: grave.  
A Sharman, 23 Apr 1959: grave.  
D R Bell, 26 Jul 1959: memorial.

Current Status  Demolished and removed by members of the Brazilian Antarctic Expedition at Comandante Ferraz Station, Jul 1995-Feb 1996. Only concrete foundations remain.

Station H  Signy  
Lat. 60°43'S, Long. 45°36'W  
(Known as Signy Island until Aug 1977)

Factory Cove, Borge Bay, Signy Island, South Orkney Islands

Purpose  Biology.


Occupied continuously for a total of 49 years 27 days.

Buildings  The original building was erected on Berntsen Point, overlooking Factory Cove. It was named Clifford House after Sir Miles Clifford, Governor of the Falkland Islands 1947-54.

A laboratory was added on 12 Feb 1948 and an extension to the main hut on 25 Feb 1950. The latter building had originally stood at Admiralty Bay (Station G). These buildings were re-sited in Factory Cove. The main building established on 3 Feb 1955 was named Tønsberg House after the whaling company Tønsbergs Hvalfangst. It was established on the site of the company’s old whaling station at Factory Cove. Construction of a plastic hut containing living accommodation and laboratories began on 18 Dec 1963. A bulk fuel tank was built in 1965. Sørlle House was erected Dec 1980 to house diving and laboratory facilities. It was named after the Sørlle family - Petter Sørlle was the whaling ship Captain who surveyed the South Orkney Islands 1912-13 and named Signy Island after his wife. It was demolished in Mar 1995. During the 1995/96 season a new Sørlle House was erected on the foundations of the old, providing improved living accommodation, laboratories and offices, and a fuel farm established. In Jan 1997 the plastic hut was closed except for use as a store. During the 2001/02 season the plastic hut, Tønsberg House, 1965 bulk fuel tank and pump house were demolished.

Field huts and hides have existed at one time or another at the following sites: Foca Cove, Gourlay Peninsula, Three Lakes Valley, Cummings Cove, Jane Col, Factor Bluffs, Moraine Valley, Shagnasty and North Point. Shingle Hut, built in Jan 1963 at Shingle Cove, Coronation Island, was used as a depot and staging post for personnel travelling on Coronation Island (demolished and removed February 2007).

**Station J  Prospect Point**

*Lat. 66°00'S, Long. 65°21'W*

(Known as Graham Coast until 1959)

**Prospect Point, Ferin Head, Graham Coast**

**Purpose** Survey and geology.

**Occupied** 2 Feb 1957-23 Feb 1959.

Closed when local work completed.

Letter J was originally intended for a station on Alexander Island in the 1948/49 season which was never established.

**Buildings** The hut was named Penola after the support ship of the British Graham Land Expedition.

**Current Status** Demolished and removed by BAS Apr 2004.

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**Station K**

Letter K was allocated to a station that was to have been set up on Snow Hill Island or Joinville Island in 1948/49, but plans were abandoned when sea ice prevented access.

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**Station KG  Fossil Bluff**

*Lat. 71°20'S, Long. 68°17'W*

**Fossil Bluff, Alexander Island**

**Purpose** Survey, geology, glaciology and field geophysics. Advanced station for field parties from Stonington Island (Station E), Adelaide (Station T) and Rothera (Station R). Now a forward logistics facility with skiway.

**Occupied** Intermittently 20 Feb 1961 to present.

Occupied during the winters of 1961, 1962, 1969-75. Closed for the 1976 winter when Rothera (Station R) became fully operational. Occupied intermittently for summer seasons since then. Supplied overland from Stonington Island (Station E) and later by air from Adelaide (Station T) and Rothera.

**Buildings** Established by air Feb 1961. Relieved by Muskeg tractor trains bringing vehicles and stores from Base E, Stonington Island, Nov 1961 and Oct 1962. The main hut was named Bluebell Cottage. Sledge store lean-to on south end of hut, generator shed on north end. Porch added 1970. Feb 1971 extension built for a workshop. Foundations shored-up due to erosion of the moraine in 1970 (retaining wall and terrace), further work 1982. As ice has receded the location of the hut has become more exposed on the edge of a steep scree slope. 1968-69 temporary shelter used in the absence of a garage and in 1970 a plastic shelter was provided. Store hut erected 1972/73. 1973/74 garage erected to replace the plastic shelter, which was moved and re-erected as a store for a number of years. Generator hut (date unclear).

**Field huts** A caboose was part of the tractor train from Base E in 1962. It was used as mobile accommodation (towed by Muskeg) for glaciological field parties 1971-74. A small hut was erected at Spartan Cwm (date not clear) to support glaciological studies there and a 2nd larger hut in 1974. The latter became a living hut, the older structure a store.

**Current Status** Forward fuel depot, facility for re-fuelling aircraft and field station for parties from Rothera (Station R) during austral summers. Site was cleaned-up by BAS during the 2002/03 and 2003/04 seasons.
Station M  King Edward Point
Lat. 54°17’S, Long. 36°30’W
(Known as South Georgia or King Edward Point until 17 Oct 1977 and as Grytviken 1977-82)

King Edward Point, Cumberland East Bay, South Georgia

Purpose Originally biology, meteorology, geophysics and glaciology. Since 2001, applied fisheries research and administrative support for the South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands Government.


Buildings FIDS/BAS occupied buildings of the Falkland Islands Dependencies Government administrative settlement on King Edward Point, across the bay from the whaling station at Grytviken (operated by Compañía Argentina de Pesca, 1909-1960). Discovery House was built for the Discovery Expedition in 1924/25. It was used for accommodation but later became a store and workshop. Shackleton House (demolished 2001/02 season) was built 1962/63 as a hospital and for accommodation. It was named after Sir Ernest Shackleton, the explorer who made the first major trek across South Georgia in 1915 and who was buried there in 1922. Other buildings used included the Customs House (demolished 2000/01 season), Coleman’s, the former residence of the last government administrator D J Coleman (burnt down during UK military occupation), and Quigley’s, the former residence of the last engineer on the government staff, J Quigley (later the medical facility).

During the 2000/01 season four new buildings were erected. The biological laboratory was named the James Cook Laboratory after Captain James Cook, RN, discoverer of South Georgia and pioneer of Antarctic exploration. A new accommodation building, Everson House, was named in honour of Inigo Everson, BAS marine biologist 1964-2002. A self-contained apartment, named Shackleton Villa, attached to Everson House was provided for the Government Marine Officer and is now used for additional Government accommodation. The other buildings were a food store and generator/boat shed. Larsen House, named after Captain Carl A Larsen, Norwegian whaler and explorer, provides additional accommodation during the summer months. It was built in 1992 and substantially upgraded 2001/02. In 2006 a new building was erected for the Government Officer, and named Carse House after Duncan Carse, who led the South Georgia Surveys of the 1950s.

South Atlantic Conflict The Island was invaded by Argentine troops on 3 April 1982. 13 BAS staff present at the station were forcibly removed to the Argentine ship Bahia Paraiso. A further nine BAS scientists and two photographers from Anglia TV were undertaking fieldwork at the time of the invasion and remained at various field huts on the island until it was liberated on 25 Apr 1982. A British Military Garrison occupied King Edward Point from then until 22 Mar 2001.

Temporary Field Station A limited amount of science was resumed in 1986. The abandoned whaling station at Husvik was used as a summer field station from 1986/87-1988/89 and 1990/91-1995/96.

Field Huts have existed at one time or another at the following sites: Sörling Valley, Elsehul, Schieper Bay, Hound Bay, Dartmouth Point, Glacier Col, Maiviken, St Andrews Bay, Hope Point, Coral Bay, Gull Lake, Carlita Bay, Royal Bay, Hodges Glacier, Jason Harbour, Ocean Harbour, Prince Olav Harbour, Lyell Glacier, Bay of Isles and Godthul. The abandoned whaling stations at Leith Harbour and Stromness have also been used. Many derelict huts removed 2005/06 season.

Current Status Operational throughout the year.

Station N (1)  Bay of Isles
Lat. 54°03’S, Long. 37°23’W

Ample Bay, Bay of Isles, South Georgia

Purpose Biology.


A small expedition consisting of W N Bonner and B Stonehouse, funded by Falkland Islands Dependencies Government and administered by FIDS, was allocated the station letter N initially, though it was later considered a private expedition.

Buildings Main hut and small store hut.

Current Status Main hut had burnt down by 1974. Debris removed 2005/06 season.
Station N (2)  Anvers Island
Lat. 64°46′ S, Long. 64°05′ W

Arthur Harbour, Anvers Island, Palmer Archipelago

Purpose Survey and geology.


Closed in 1958 when local work completed. Air operations transferred to Adelaide (Station T) in 1973 when the skiway deteriorated.

Buildings The hut was loaned to the US Government 2 Jul 1963 and converted into a biological laboratory in Jan 1965 for use by American scientists at the nearby Palmer Station. Destroyed by fire while being renovated by BAS on 28 Dec 1971.

Current Status Destroyed. Debris was removed by the members of the US Antarctic Program in 1990/91. Only concrete foundations remain.

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Station O  Danco Island
Lat. 64°44′ S, Long. 62°36′ W

Danco Island, off Danco Coast

Purpose Survey and geology.

Occupied 26 Feb 1956-22 Feb 1959.

Closed when local work completed.

The original intention had been to build the hut on Brabant Island but no suitable site could be found.

Buildings Main hut named Arendal, the original name of RRS Shackleton, the vessel that established the station.


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Associated Refuge  Cape Reclus
Lat. 64°30′ S, Long. 61°46′ W
(Also known as Reclus hut or Portal Point)

Portal Point, Reclus Peninsula, Danco Coast

Purpose Survey and geology.


Party from Danco Island (Station O) wintered there 1957 to continue local survey work. 4-man party, led by Wally Herbert, completed the first traverse from Hope Bay to Cape Reclus 9 Oct-30 Dec 1957.

Station P  Livingston Island
(Aprox) Lat. 62°40'S, Long. 61°00'W

Livingston Island, South Shetland Islands

Purpose  Survey, geology and biology.


A temporary mobile camp for use by field parties on Livingston Island. The letter P was used as the intention had been to erect a hut. It has not been the practice to assign letters to field camps.

Buildings  Parts of the hut were used to make temporary repairs to RRS Shackleton after she was damaged in sea ice.

Station R  Rothera
Lat. 67°34'S, Long. 68°08'W
(Known as Rothera Point until 15 Aug 1977)

Rothera Point, Adelaide Island

Purpose  Survey, glaciology, geology, geophysics and biology. Main air facility and field work centre.

Occupied  25 Oct 1975 to present.

The station was established as a replacement for Adelaide (Station T) where the skiway had deteriorated. Rothera Point had access to a skiway on the Wormald Ice Piedmont and a good harbour. A party camped at Rothera Point in the 1975/76 austral summer to open up the air facility.

Buildings  The station was initially planned and constructed in 3 phases to spread the costs.

First hut erected on 1 Feb 1976. Phase II was built in 1976/77. This included the main accommodation block, power house and tractor shed. An old storage shed from Adelaide (Station T) was erected close to Phase I and known as the Bingham building after Surgeon Commander EW Bingham, leader of FIDS 1945-47. Phase III was erected 1978/79. This building included scientific offices, travel store and a coldroom. In 2001 it was named Fuchs House after Sir Vivian Fuchs, Director of FIDS/BAS 1958-73.

Further building work has been undertaken when required. Phase IV, begun Nov 1985 and completed in the 1986/87 season was an extension to Phase II. In 2001 it was named Bransfield House (after BAS ship RRS Bransfield). A wharf and gravel runway (with bulk fuel tanks and aircraft hangar) became operational in the 1991/92 season. The former was named Biscoe Wharf after the BAS ship RRS John Biscoe. A new storage hut, called the Miracle Span, now used primarily for waste management activities, was also constructed in 1991/92.

Under the next phase of development, a boatshed was completed in 1994/95, a transit accommodation block in 1996/97 (named Giants House in 2001 after the Rothera sledge dog team “Giants”), and a new generator shed. The Bonner Laboratory became
operational in 1997, housing biological research facilities when Signy (Station H), was reduced to summer only operations. It was named after W N Bonner, biologist 1953-86 and Deputy Director of BAS 1986-88. A new accommodation building was erected during the 1999/00 and 2000/01 seasons. It was named Admirals House after the Rothera dog team “Admirals”. Also in 1999/00 an air operations control tower was added to the north end of Bransfield House. The Bonner Laboratory was destroyed by fire on 29 Sep 2001 but rebuilt in the 2002/03 season, when a sewage treatment plant was also erected. A new living block, including canteen, library and recreational facilities, was completed in 2007/08 and named new Bransfield House. The upper floor of old Bransfield House then became redundant.

2013 Dirck Gerritsz Laboratory was officially opened on Sunday 27 Jan by Leo le Duc on behalf of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science of the Netherlands. A collaboration between the British Antarctic Survey and the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO) – hosting 4 research projects.

Field huts A hut was established on Lagoon Island 30 Nov 1989 as a shelter for those on recreational trips. Two field huts were erected on Léonie Island in Dec 1996. Known as the Melon hut and the Apple hut, they were provided by the Netherlands AntArctic Programme (sic) during a collaborative study with BAS. A second Melon hut was erected at Two Step Cliffs, Alexander Island, in 1998/99.

N J Armstrong (Canada), D N Fredlund (Canada), J C Armstrong (Canada) and E P Odegard (Norway), 23 Nov 1994: memorial at Rothera Point.
K M Brown, 22 July 2003: memorial at Rothera Point.

Current Status Operational throughout the year.

Associated Transit Facility Damoy Point

Dorian Bay, Wiencke Island, Palmer Archipelago

Purpose Summer air facility consisting of skiway close to Tombstone Hill and refuge hut at Dorian Bay.


Provided a transit station to enable personnel and stores arriving by ship to be flown on to Rothera (Station R) in early summer when sea ice prevented direct access to the station by ship.

Buildings A hut was established on 6 Nov 1975. Known as 'Damoy Point' hut after the location of the airstrip, although the building is on Dorian Bay. The original plan had been to establish the facility on Doumer Island in 1973 but soft snow conditions made the skiway unusable.


Current Status Maintained as operational until 2006. Now closed. Site cleaned up 1996/97 and Dec 2007. Designated as Historic Site No. 84 under the Antarctic Treaty, 2009. It has been managed by UKAHT since Oct 2009 under a Memorandum of Understanding with BAS.
Station T  Adelaide
Lat. 67°46'S, Long. 68°55'W
(Known as Adelaide Island until Jul 1962)

South-west Adelaide Island

Purpose Survey, glaciology, geology and meteorology. Main air facility and centre for airborne earth sciences programme.


Established on the south-west tip of Adelaide Island in preference to Rothera Point as it had a better skiway for aircraft and less sea ice to hinder access by ship. Closed when the skiway deteriorated and operations were transferred to Rothera (Station R).

Jerome and Sally Poncet wintered there in 1978 aboard the yacht Damien II.

Buildings The original building was known as Stephenson House after A Stephenson, surveyor on the British Graham Land Expedition (BGLE) 1934-37. An additional hut named Rymill House after J R Rymill, leader of BGLE, was erected in Mar 1962. A separate accommodation hut named Hampton House after W E Hampton, deputy leader and chief pilot of the BGLE, was erected on 1 Jan 1963. This was formerly the garage at Fossil Bluff (Station KG). A plastic accommodation building was established on 3 Mar 1967.

Current Status Transferred to Chile 14 Aug 1984 and renamed Teniente Luis Carvajal Villaroel Antarctic Base (Teniente Carvajal).

Station V  View Point
Lat. 63°33'S, Long. 57°21'W

Duse Bay, Trinity Peninsula

Purpose Survey, geology and meteorology.


Established as a satellite base for Hope Bay (Station D).

Buildings Site selected 8 Feb 1953, foundations of first hut laid 3 June 1953. A second hut was erected on 20 Mar 1956 and called Seal-catcher's Arms or View Point Hut.

Current Status Transferred to Chile on 29 July 1996 and renamed General Ramon Canas Montalva. Inspected for BAS by a conservation architect in Jan 2007. See also Station D (Hope Bay).

Station W  Detaille Island
Lat. 66°52'S, Long. 66°48'W
(Known as Loubet Coast until Jun 1959)

Detaille Island, Lallemand Fjord, Loubet Coast

Purpose Survey, geology and meteorology.


Evacuated when sea ice and weather made relief by ship impossible. Personnel closed the station and transferred to Horseshoe Island (Station Y).

Buildings Unnamed.

Current Status Closed. Site cleaned up by BAS 1996/97, 2002/03 and 2003/04 seasons. Inspected for BAS by a conservation architect in Jan 2007. Designated as Historic Site No. 83 under the Antarctic Treaty, 2009. It has been managed by UKAHT since Oct 2009 under a Memorandum of Understanding with BAS.

See also Station Y (Horseshoe Island) - Blaiklock Island Refuge.
**Associated Refuge**  
**Orford Cliff**  
Lat. 66°55'S, Long. 66°29'W  
(Also known as Johnston’s Point)

**Orford Cliff, Lallemand Fjord, Loubet Coast**

**Purpose** Survey and geology.

**Occupied** Intermittently 21 Feb 1957-10 Jan 1959.

Used as a satellite hut for personnel based at Detaille Island (Station W).


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**Station Y  Horseshoe Island**  
Lat. 67°48'S, Long. 67°17'W

**Sally Cove, Horseshoe Island, Bourgeois Fjord, Marguerite Bay**

**Purpose** Survey, geology and meteorology.


Closed in 1960 when personnel transferred to Stonington Island (Station E). Reopened briefly in 1969 to complete local survey work.

**Buildings** Unnamed.

**Memorials** S E Black, D Statham and G Stride, 27 May 1958: single cross on Beacon Hill.

**Current Status** Closed. Used occasionally by BAS personnel on field trips from Rothera (Station R). Site cleaned up by BAS Mar 1995. Designated as Historic Site No. 63 under the Antarctic Treaty, 19 May 1995 (includes Blaiklock Island refuge). Building conservation work undertaken in Mar 1997. Inspected for BAS by a conservation architect in Jan 2007. It has been managed by UKAHT since Oct 2014 under a Memorandum of Understanding with BAS.

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**Associated Refuge**  
**Blaiklock Island**  
Lat. 67°32'S, Long. 67°12'W

**North side of Blaiklock Island**

**Purpose** Survey and geology.

**Occupied** Intermittently 6 Mar 1957-1958.

Used as a satellite hut for personnel based at Horseshoe Island (Station Y). Also used by parties from Detaille Island (Station W) and Stonington Island (Station E).

**Current Status** Designated as Historic Site No. 63 under the Antarctic Treaty, 19 May 1995 (includes Horseshoe Island Station). Site cleaned up and minor repairs completed Mar 1997. It has been managed by UKAHT since Oct 2014 under a Memorandum of Understanding with BAS.
Station Z  Halley  
Lat. 75°35'S, Long. 26°34'W (2001 Halley V)  
(known as Halley Bay until 15 Aug 1977)

Brunt Ice Shelf, Caird Coast
1956 (IGY) Lat. 75°31'S, Long. 26°36'W  
1967 (Z II) Lat. 75°31'S, Long. 26°39'W  
1973 (Z III) Lat. 75°31'S, Long. 26°43'W  
1983 (Z IV) Lat. 75°36'S, Long. 26°40'W  
1988 (Z V) Lat. 75°35'S, Long. 26°14'W  
1992 (Z V) Lat. 75°35'S, Long. 26°19'W  
1998 (ZV) Lat. 75°35'S, Long. 26°30'W  
2001 (Z V) Lat. 75°35'S, Long. 26°34'W

Purpose  Primarily atmospheric sciences, but also survey, geology and glaciology.

Occupied  6 Jan 1956 to the present.  
The 2001/02 season was the only season in the station's history when sea ice conditions made it impossible to relieve the station by sea.

Buildings  Approximately 1.2 metres of snow accumulate each year on the Brunt Ice Shelf and buildings on the surface become covered and eventually crushed by snow, necessitating periodic rebuilding of the station. This part of the ice shelf is also moving westward by approx. 1km per year.

The original station, Halley I, was established by the Royal Society on 6 Jan 1956 for the International Geophysical Year (IGY) 1957/58. It was a traditional hut with a pitched roof. FIDS took over the operation of the station on 14 Jan 1959. A new main hut and dog kennels were built close to the original IGY buildings in Feb 1961, by which time the latter were completely covered by snow. Closed early 1968.

Halley II was built Jan-Mar 1967. It was designed with a pitched roof reinforced with steel supports. Halley I and Halley II were both occupied during the 1967 winter, Halley II being known as The Village and Grillage Village. Closed 1973.

Halley III was begun in early 1973. It was built of prefabricated huts housed inside corrugated steel conduits. Halley II and Halley III were both occupied in the 1973 winter. Closed Feb 1984. Site cleaned up in 1991.

Halley IV was established 2 Jan 1983. It was composed of two-storey huts housed inside conduits made from interlocking plywood-faced panels. Both Halley III and Halley IV were occupied in the winter of 1983. Closed 19 Feb 1992. Site cleaned up during the 1992/93 season.

Halley V was begun in Jan 1989 and was fully operational from 19 Feb 1992. To avoid destruction by accumulating snow the buildings of Halley V are positioned on platforms that are raised every year so that they remain above the ice surface. The building, named after Dr R M Laws, Director of BAS 1973-87, is the main accommodation building. The Piggott building, named after Dr W R Piggott, Head of Atmospheric Sciences Division of BAS 1973-79, contains the space sciences laboratories. The Simpson building, named after Sir George Clarke Simpson, meteorologist on Scott's expedition 1910-13 and Director of the Meteorological Office 1920-38, contains the meteorological laboratories. The Drewry building, named after Dr D J Drewry, Director of BAS 1987-94, provides summer accommodation. Following the example of a new garage installed the year before, the Drewry building is mounted on skis which enables it to be repositioned every year. A Clean Air Sector Laboratory was erected 1km from the main complex in 2002/03. Scientific activities at Halley V had to be reduced from the 2007/08 season to aid the construction of Halley VI.

Halley VI is a new design concept resulting from a competition launched by the Royal Institute of British Architects and BAS in June 2004. The completed station will consist of five linked modules on hydraulic legs fitted with skis, enabling the units to be towed into new positions. Construction work began in Dec 2007.

Halley VI was occupied during the winter 2012. The official opening was on 5 February 2013. The ceremony at the station was attended by Mike Pinnock from BAS, Ed Wallis, NERC Council chairman, and Jeremy Clayton, Department of Business Innovation & Skills. Simultaneously there was an event held at the Royal Society in London, attended by David Willetts, the Minister for Universities and Science, and many others who had made contributions to or had an interest in Halley VI.

Field huts  The Bob-Pi hut was erected in the hinge zone on 6 Nov 1962. It was used as a depot and staging post for journeys into Coats Land as well as for recreational purposes. Coats Station was established in Coats Land, at Lat. 77°54'S, Long. 24°08'W, 200 miles south of Halley Station on 30 Nov 1964. It was positioned to allow the triangulation of ionospheric measurements to be taken in conjunction with Halley
Station and the Argentine General Belgrano Station. It was manned until 18 Mar 1965 when it was removed.

**Memorials**
N S Mann, 15 Aug 1963: plaque at Halley Station.
J T Bailey, D P Wild and J K Wilson, 12 Oct 1965: plaques erected on Survey Point, Vardekklettane, Heimfrontfjella and at Halley Station.
M V Mosley, 2 Feb 1980: memorial at Halley Station.

**Current Status** Operational throughout the year.
Appendix : Sources of Information

These historical notes are compiled mainly from original primary sources in the British Antarctic Survey Archives, supplemented by information from serving staff members actively involved in the building or management of the buildings, publications and official websites when time has not been adequate for original research.

General
Hattersley-Smith, G. The History of place-names in the British Antarctic Territory. BAS Scientific report No 113
UK Antarctic Place names Committee Gazetteer
Todd, E. Information sheet 1 edition 1984
Registry file 8/35/272 – BAS Information Sheet 1
AD9/0/1/1 – Cochran & Collinge, 1994, report: Conservation survey of abandoned British bases in the Antarctic Peninsula region
AD6/8-9 series FIDS and BAS Annual Reports

Station A – Port Lockroy
Image – AD6/19/3/C/A6
AD6/2A and AD6/1A report series
AD6/1A/1944/A
AD6/2/1947/72 p21
AD6/2A/1948/A
AD8/1/56 item 78
AD6/2A/1950/B
AD6/2A/1952/B
AD3/1/AS/156/B(2)
Final Report, Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting XIX
AD9/6/2007/2 – Morrison conservation architect’s report

Station B – Deception Island
Image – AD6/19/3/C/B9
AD6/2B report series
AD6/1B/1944/A p5
AD6/2B/1953/C pp1 & 3
AD6/2B/1946/A
AD3/1/AS/120/1 telegram 5 Dec 1967 and 7 Dec 1967
AD3/1/AS/120/2 telegram 21 Feb 1969
Information from Rod Downie, BAS, Sep 1999 (see file 8/35/272 vol 1)
AD6/1B/1945/A p1
AD3/1/AS/183/6(1)
AD6/2B/1959/C
AD6/2B/1962/C2
AD6/2B/1966/C2
8/35/272 telegram 22 Mar 1985
AD3/1/AS/120/2 telegram 24/2/1969
82/2/2029
AD6/2/1991/U2
AD6/9/25
Final Report, Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting XIX
Deception Island Antarctic Specially Managed Area web site, Jun 2008
AD6/2B/2003/EV1
8/35/3764 vol 1
38/90/4627 vol 1
AD5/7/ES/2005/1
AD9/6/2007/8 – Morrison conservation architect’s report

Station BI – Bird Island
Image – was 3359 (Photographic CD 4)
AD6/2BI report series
AD6/2M report series
AD3/2/121/143/32(1) telex 2 Apr 1982
AD6/2BI/1982/A1 p2
AD3/2/121/143/32(2) telex 28/4/1982
AD6/2BI/1958/N2 p4
AD6/2M/1962/N2 p1
AD6/2BI/1981/C
AD6/2BI/1981/A p1
Information from Bob Burton, 18 Sep 1999 (see file 8/35/272 vol 1)
Information from Steve Canham, Head of Structures
Section, 22/05/01
8/35/272 e-mail 23 Sep 1998
76/2/648(2) minutes of meeting 7/10/94
13/76/3443 vol 1
Information from J R Shears, Environmental Officer
Information from Building Services team added to web version, 2006
Dates for some building work, 1996 onwards - information from Steve Canham, Head of Structures
Section, July 2008.
Date of removal of derelict field huts – AD6/2BI/2005/EV1

Station C (1) – Sandefjord Bay
Image – AD6/19/2/E1022/19
Information from Rod Downie, Jun 2008
AD8/1/10(4) p79f
AD6/2H/1950/K
AD6/2H/1955/K
AD6/1/ADM/1Minutes of meeting
AD8/1/10(1) Item 114
AD8/1/12(1) Item 78

Station C (2) – Cape Geddes
Image – AD6/19/2/E404/36
AD6/2/2006/C1 & EV1
Information from Rod Downie, Jun 2008
AD6/2C report series
AD6/2C/1946/A p3
AD6/2C/1947/A p5
AD8/1/12(1) Item 78
Information from J R Shears, Environmental Officer
UK Antarctic Treaty Exchange of Information booklet 1996/97 annex VIII

**Station D – Hope Bay**
Image – G31/1/1/HB109 – K Allen (permission given in email 15 Apr 2002-8/35/272 vol 1)
AD6/2D report series
LS/BL2/1.2/1
AD6/2D/1948/A p3
AD6/2D/1952/A
AD5/12/1/1 p1
AD6/1/ADM/4.2
AD6/2D/1948/A p2
AD6/2D/1954/C
Information from MRA Thomson, Aug 2000
38/44/998 fax 10 Dec 1997
AD9/6/2007/3

**Station E – Stonington Island**
Image – AD6/19/3/C/E29
AD6/2E report series
AD6/2E/1946/A
AD6/2E/1949/B2
AD6/2E/1958/A
AD6/2E/1958/U
AD6/1/ADM/12 6 Jan 1945
AD6/2E/1961/A
AD6/2E/1966/H
AD6/19/2/E/890
AD6/2E/1965/C p1
AD6/2E/1972/C1 p1
Oral information from M.R.A. Thomson and J. Newman
Information from Keith D. Holmes (geologist, Base E 1964-67), 2 Feb 1999 – re East Base names
AD6/9/25
AD6/2R/1991/U1
AD9/6/2007/1,4 – Morrison conservation architect’s report
Memorandum of Understanding between BAS and UKAHT, Oct 2014, ref 054_D/rev 2

**Station F – Faraday**
Image faraday.tif
APC(77/3)
AD6/2F report series
AD8/1/32 item 181
77/2/2695 admin notice 7/96
AD8/1/32 item 169
AD6/2F/1954/A p1
AD6/2F/1960/A2
AD6/2F/1954/C1 p1
AD6/2F/1976/H
AD6/2F/1982/H
AD3/2/121/143/04(1) letter 10 Feb 1977 (item 246)
77/2/2695 vol 5 Memorandum of Understanding
AD9/6/2007/5 – Morrison conservation architect’s report
Memorandum of Understanding between BAS and UKAHT, Oct 2009, ref 054_D

**Station H – Signy**
Image BAS-10008240
AD6/2H/2001/C1 – building report
AD6/2H/report series
AD6/2H/1947/A p1
AD6/3/BR/26
AD6/2H/1948/A p1
AD6/2H/1950/C2
AD6/2H/1955/C
AD6/2H/1964/C1
AD6/2H/1981/C2
AD6/2H/1962/C
AD6/2H/1961/H
AD6/2R/1996/NT2 p13
Shingle Cove Hut demolition - information from Steve Canham, Head of Structures Section, July 2008

**Station J – Prospect Point**
Image AD6/19/3/C/J3
Information from Fred Wooden, 14 Nov 2003
AD6/2/2003/EV1-EV4
AD6/2J report series
AD3/1/AS/156/b(1) telegram 2 Feb 1957
AD5/4/JB2/4 voyage report 29 Apr 1959

**Station K**
Todd, E. Information sheet 1 edition 1984

**Station KG**
Image BAS-10004058
AD6/2B/1961/D2
AD6/2K/1968/A-AD6/2K/1975/A
AD6/2K/2000/C
AD6/2R/1982/C2
AD6/2R/2002/EV1
AD6/2R/2003/EV1
AD6/2K/report series
AD6/2K/1961/B p2
AD6/2K/1961/B p1
AD6/2E/report series
Information from John P. Smith, Feb 2008
Information from BAS Living and Working-Fossil Bluff web page, 2008

**Refuge - Rasmussen Hut**
Image AD6/19/X/22/1
AD6/2F/1984/C
AD6/2F Base Commanders reports and Travel reports
AD6/2F/1983/A
AD6/2F/1984/A
70/43/1022 (1983/84 voyage report)
Information from Ian Collinge, Head of Purchasing and Shipping Section, Dec 1998

**Station G – Admiralty Bay**
Image AD6/19/X/20/1 (1958/59)
AD6/2G/report series
AD6/2G/1947/A p1
AD8/4/1961 p1
AD6/2G/1948/B p1
AD6/2H/1950/C2
AD6/2G/1949/A p2
AD6/2G/1956/B
AD10/4/1/1 Brazilian Report on the dismantling of Base G
AD8/1/31 p1 and p4
Oral information from I.B. Collinge
Information from J R Shears, Environmental Officer

**Station A – Refuge**
Image AD6/19/X/22/1
AD6/2F/1984/C
AD6/2F Base Commanders reports and Travel reports
AD6/2F/1983/A
AD6/2F/1984/A
70/43/1022 (1983/84 voyage report)
Information from Ian Collinge, Head of Purchasing and Shipping Section, Dec 1998
Station V – View Point
Image AD6/19/3/C/D3
Anderson, WE, 1957: Expedition South Polar Record Vol 7, No. 48, pp166-73
AD6/2V report series
AD6/2D/1953/A
AD6/2D/1963/K10
AD7/V/1/1956(2) p2
82/2/2029 letter 29 Jul 1996
AD9/6/2007/3 – Morrison conservation architect’s report

Station W – Detaille Island
Image AD6/19/3/C/W1
AD6/2W report series
AD3/1/AS/156/B(1) telegram 27 Feb 1956
AD6/2Y/1959/A p3
Oral information from M.R.A. Thomson and J. Newman
AD6/2/1996/R2 Collinge Report
AD9/6/2007/6 – Morrison conservation architect’s report
AD6/2/1996/R2 Collinge Report
AD6/2/1996/R2 Collinge Report
AD6/2/1996/R2 Collinge Report

Refuge – Orford Cliff
Image AD6/19/2/W3/1
AD6/2W/1957/K1 p1
AD3/1/AS/199/4/A report
AD6/2W report series
AD6/2W/1957/C2 p1
AD6/2W/1958/K15 p6
AD6/2A/1996/A p20
AD6/2/1996/R2 Collinge Report

Station Y – Horseshoe Island
Image AD6/19/2/Y5/1
AD6/2Y report series
AD3/1/AS/156/B(1) letter 6 May 1955
AD6/2E/1969/A p4
AD6/2E/1969/K1 p5
AD6/2E/1969/K1 p10
AD6/2Y/1958/H
AD6/2R/1994/C4
AD6/2/1996/C
AD6/2R travel reports
AD9/6/2007/7 – Morrison conservation architect’s report
Memorandum of Understanding between BAS and UKAHT, Oct 2009, ref 054_D

Refuge – Blaiklock Island
Image AD6/19/3/C/Y11
AD6/2Y/1957/A p1
AD6/2Y/1957/A appendix
AD6/2W report series
AD6/2Y report series
AD6/2E report series
AD6/2/1996/R2 Collinge Report
Memorandum of Understanding between BAS and UKAHT, Oct 2014, ref 054_D/rev 2

Station Z – Halley
Image BAS-10007609
AD6/9/35 BAS Annual Report 2001/02
Info from Chris Doake, Glaciologist, 6 Aug 2001 (copy on file 8/35/272)