



Foreign, Commonwealth  
& Development Office

**UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND  
ANTARCTIC ACT 1994 & ANTARCTIC ACT 2013**

**ANTARCTIC REGULATIONS 1995/490 (as amended)**

**Permit for activities under Section 3, Section 4, Section 5, Section 6, Section 7,  
Section 8, Section 9 and Section 10 of the Antarctic Act 1994**

**(No. 03/2022-2023)**

**British Antarctic Survey**

**UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND  
ANTARCTIC ACT 1994 & ANTARCTIC ACT 2013  
ANTARCTIC REGULATIONS 1995/490 (as amended)**

**Permit for activities under Section 3, Section 4, Section 5, Section 6, Section 7, Section 8, Section 9 and Section 10 of the Antarctic Act 1994**

This permit (**No. 03/2022-2023**) granted under Section 3, Section 4, Section 5, Section 6, Section 7, Section 8, Section 9 and Section 10 of the Antarctic Act 1994 to **Professor Dame Jane Francis, the Director of the British Antarctic Survey (BAS)** (the 'permit holder'), located at High Cross, Madingley Road, Cambridge, CB3 0ET, authorises the persons specified by her and approved by the Secretary of State (the 'permitting authority') to enter and remain in Antarctica and to remain on any British station listed in Appendix I to this permit, to undertake the activities specified by her and approved by the permitting authority, **in accordance with Specific Condition a).**

This permit is valid from **1 October 2022** to **30 September 2027** and is granted subject to the conditions listed overleaf.



Signed .....on behalf of the Secretary of State

Deputy Head  
Polar Regions Department

Dated 26 September 2022

Name and address of permitting authority:  
  
Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office  
London SW1A 2AH

Official stamp



## **General Conditions**

- 1 This permit is not transferable.
- 2 The permit holder is ultimately responsible for ensuring that the terms of this permit are strictly adhered to.
- 3 This permit may be suspended or revoked at any time in accordance with Regulation 10 of the Antarctic Regulations 1995/490.
- 4 This permit (or a true copy of it) shall be held on all Stations, ships and aircraft operated by the permit holder in Antarctica, and the permit holder shall ensure that the permit conditions are displayed on their website.
- 5 The permit holder must ensure full compliance with the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty. All activities undertaken under this permit must be conducted in a manner that is consistent with the requirements of the Protocol and in accordance with UK legislation. The permit holder must ensure that all persons conducting activities under this permit familiarise themselves with and observe the requirements of the Antarctic Act 1994, Antarctic Act 2013 and the Antarctic Regulations 1995/490 (as amended).
- 6 The permitting authority, the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), must be notified immediately of any significant changes to the final programme of activities.
- 7 Any issue or incident which could reasonably be considered a breach of a permit condition must be reported to the permitting authority as soon as possible upon discovery. Contacts are the Head or Deputy Head of the Polar Regions Department of FCDO, or out-of-hours through the Global Response Centre. The permitting authority may then request further information in relation to the incident before determining whether further action is required.
- 8 Unless agreed in advance with the FCDO, this permit excludes all support for external/private expeditions of any form. Any such proposed activity will require a specific application, which will be considered separately by the permitting authority.
- 9 Any action required by this permit does not apply in cases of emergency relating to the safety of human life or of ships or aircraft or equipment and facilities of high value or to the protection of the environment. Notice of activities undertaken in case of emergency must be communicated to the permitting authority as soon as possible upon discovery (contact details as in General Condition 7). The permitting authority may then request further information in relation to the incident.

## Specific Conditions

### Seasonal Information

a) The permit holder must submit Seasonal Documentation by **31 August** in advance of each year for which the permit is valid, i.e. from 2022 to 2026. The Seasonal Documentation, if approved by the permitting authority, will be added Appendix II to this permit and will be valid from 1 October of the year in which it is submitted to 30 September of the following year. Information provided in the Seasonal Documentation will also be used by the FCDO to provide notice to other Contracting Parties as required under Article VII(5) of the Antarctic Treaty.

This Seasonal Documentation must include the following information with respect to the period 1 October of the year in which it is submitted to 30 September of the following year:

- i) all activities planned by British Antarctic Survey (BAS) in Antarctica, including the location of deep field project sites (by GPS or whatever means practicable for inclusion into the Ops GIS) and fuel depots;
- ii) proposed itineraries of BAS vessels and aircraft;
- iii) a record of the fuel spill response training carried out by BAS each season; and
- iv) any BAS information which should be included in the United Kingdom's notifications in accordance with Article VII(5) of the Antarctic Treaty and/or required as part of the Electronic Information Exchange System (EIES).

b) The permit holder will collate and input all required information into the 'Pre-Season Information', 'Annual Report' and 'Permanent Information' sections of the EIES by **1 October** of each year for which the permit is valid, i.e. from 2023 to 2027.

c) All personnel employed by BAS are deemed to be covered by this permit. The permit holder must inform the permitting authority of the names and roles of all non-BAS employees travelling to Antarctica to undertake activities planned by BAS: under contract to BAS; as non-salaried or otherwise voluntary staff; by means of BAS logistics; or under a formal exchange programme; specifying which persons plan to remain on British stations by the **31 October** in advance of each year for which the permit is valid, i.e. from 2022 to 2026.

d) The permit holder must notify the permitting authority immediately in writing of any significant proposed changes to any of the information provided in the Seasonal Documentation. Such changes, if approved by the permitting authority, will amend Appendix II to this permit. This may include details of additional persons travelling to Antarctica; this information must be received prior to the persons entering Antarctica.

### Obligations pursuant to the Environmental Protocol

#### General

e) All planning and activity in the Antarctic Treaty area, undertaken under this permit, should be informed, guided and delivered in full accordance with the British Antarctic Survey's Environmental Strategy, irrespective of whether the personnel involved are employed by BAS or other organisations.

f) The permit holder must ensure that procedures are in place across BAS operations on station and in the field that ensure best environmental protection standards are applied, as far as is practicable.

g) The permit holder must ensure that the BAS Environmental Strategy and the BAS Environmental Management Plan reflect the requirements of the Environmental Protocol. Any update of that Strategy is to be developed in consultation with the permitting authority. The permit holder must provide to the permitting authority quarterly reports describing BAS's environmental performance, compliance with their Environmental Strategy and progress in implementing the Environmental Management Plan.

h) The permit holder must ensure that the BAS Net Zero Strategy objectives are taken into consideration to ensure the proposed activities are in line with BAS Net Zero commitments.

i) The permit holder will liaise with the permitting authority over emerging issues which will likely impact the environment, and share associated reports and new policies.

#### Annex I: EIAs

j) The permit holder will ensure that all activity in the Antarctic Treaty area with which BAS is engaged, either as the lead organisation or as the logistics provider, is subject to appropriate and proportionate Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). The EIA must be agreed by the BAS Environment Office prior to the season starting. Compliance with the EIA must be reviewed by the BAS Environment Office post-season and findings shared with the permitting authority by the **end of the September** of each year for which the permit is valid, i.e. from 2023 to 2027, following the completion of the season.

k) Unless the BAS Environment Office assesses that an activity is likely to have less than a minor or transitory impact on the Antarctic environment, or unless a Comprehensive Environmental Evaluation (CEE) is required, an Initial Environmental Evaluation (IEE) must be prepared. Any IEEs must be submitted by the permit holder to the permitting authority no later than **31 August** in advance of each year for which the permit is valid, i.e. from 2022 to 2026, (unless agreed otherwise). No activities subject to an IEE may commence until the permitting authority has confirmed in writing that the IEEs meets the necessary requirements.

l) Where activities are likely to have more than a minor or transitory impact on the environment of Antarctica, a Comprehensive Environmental Evaluation (CEE) must be prepared. The permit holder must alert the permitting authority to any such activities as soon as possible and no later than the **end June** in advance of each year for which the permit is valid, i.e. 2022 to 2026. The deadlines for the preparation and circulation of draft CEEs, including to all Antarctic Treaty Parties, is set out in Annex I of the Environmental Protocol. No activities subject to a CEE may commence until the permitting authority has confirmed in writing that the final CEE meets the necessary requirements and that the relevant timelines have all been met.

m) All IEEs and CEEs must include an estimate of anticipated carbon emissions associated with the proposed activity and describe how emissions will be managed. All infrastructure IEEs and CEEs must include an assessment of the climate change resilience of the proposed activity.

#### Annex II: Flora and Fauna

n) As per Section 16 of the Antarctic Act 1994 this permit delegates authority to the permit holder to issue permits for the disturbance of flora and fauna and the introduction of a non-

native species, as set out in Sections 7 and 8 of the Antarctic Act 1994. Details of all permit applications received should be reported to the permitting authority within 10 working days of receipt of the application. This information will then be published on the GOV.UK website.

o) The permit holder must ensure that no flora and fauna are held at British stations in Antarctica that are not held under permits issued under Section 12 of the Antarctic Act 1994. Any other flora or fauna must be removed or destroyed by the appropriate means. Products containing non-native microorganisms for use in station sewage treatment plants or for cleaning and degreasing/fat digestion purposes may be used under BAS' delegated authority and without a specific permit issued under Section 12 of the Antarctic Act 1994.

p) The permit holder must ensure that a comprehensive plan for avoiding the introduction of Non-Native Species to Antarctica is maintained which complies with the terms of the BAS Biosecurity Regulations, a copy of which should be supplied to the permitting authority. Any suspected non-native introduction must be reported to the permitting authority as soon as is reasonably practical.

### *Annex III: Waste Disposal*

q) The permit holder must provide the permitting authority with details of their waste Management Plan, as required.

r) Article 1 (5) of Annex III to the Environmental Protocol places an obligation on Contracting Parties to clean up abandoned work sites and waste disposal sites. BAS will remain responsible for clean-up and, where appropriate, removal of redundant facilities. The permit holder is responsible for ensuring that BAS has a clear plan for delivering these responsibilities.

s) If any proposed clean-up is pursued, the permit holder must advise the permitting authority how the above will be achieved, and that the appropriate Environmental Impact Assessment has been conducted in accordance with paragraphs j-m above.

t) The permit holder should ensure that to the maximum extent possible all solid human waste generated in the field continues to be collected for safe disposal at Rothera or Halley, as appropriate.

u) The permit holder will review the efficacy of sewage treatment at BAS' Antarctic stations, and make an assessment of compliance with the Annex III to the Environmental Protocol. A report on these findings will be submitted to the permitting authority by January 2023, and annual updates shall be provided that describe progress made on any planned improvements.

v) The permit holder will comply with relevant legislation concerning the importation of waste, and shall inform the permitting authority should any issues arise.

w) The permit holder will maintain an up to date inventory of explosives held in Antarctica, that describes their location, quantity and type.

x) During the 2022/2023 Antarctic season, and during each subsequent season, the permit holder will document the quantity of explosives used for science and operational purposes, and the quantity that was detonated as surplus, and will share a report with the permitting authority by 30 September of each year for which the permit is valid, i.e. 2023 to 2027, following completion of each season.

#### *Annex IV: Marine Pollution*

y) The permit holder must ensure that all fuel-spill response training procedures are reviewed, and adequate training of all relevant personnel carried out, on a regular basis. Each operational British station (as listed in Appendix I) must be covered by an appropriate Oil Spill Contingency Plan (OSCP) which has been reviewed, updated and disseminated in line with the contents of the BAS Environmental Strategy. Suitable operational oil spill response equipment must be available at all stations, as described in the relevant OSCP.

z) Oil spill response exercises must be carried out twice a year on wintering stations and at the start of summer on summer-only stations.

#### *Annex V: Protected Areas*

aa) As per Section 16 of the Antarctic Act 1994 this permit delegates authority to the permit holder to issue permits for the entry into Protected Areas, as set out in Schedule 1 to the Antarctic Regulations 1995 (as amended). Details of all permit applications received should be reported to the permitting authority within 10 working days of receipt of the application. This information will then be published on the GOV.UK website.

ab) A report on the recreational use by the permit holder of locations with Visitor Site Guidelines (name of Site, number of visitors, and dates) should be provided to the permitting authority by **31 May** of each year for which the permit is valid, i.e. 2023 to 2027.

ac) The permit holder must ensure that the following historic huts and sites are maintained to a standard appropriate to their international designation, and their status respected:

- i) Port Lockroy<sup>1</sup>;
- ii) Horseshoe Island;
- iii) Stonington Island;
- iv) Wordie House;
- v) Deception Island;
- vi) Detaille Island; and
- vii) Damoy Point.

ad) As operational accountability for some of the sites at ac) above is governed by an MOU between BAS and the United Kingdom Antarctic Heritage Trust (UKAHT), the permit holder must liaise with UKAHT to ensure that those sites are also preserved appropriately, and in agreement with the permitting authority.

ae) This permit provides authorisation for the permit holder to temporarily remove objects from a Historic Site and Monument for conservation or repair, under section 10 of the Antarctic Act 1994 as amended, once plans are agreed with the permitting authority. A short report should be submitted to the permitting authority providing basic details of any such activity, including a list of objects removed, **by 31 August** of each year for which the permit is valid, i.e. 2023 to 2027.

#### Engagement with the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting

af) Working with the permitting authority, the permit holder will provide:

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<sup>1</sup> The permit holder must assist the UK Antarctic Heritage Trust penguin monitoring programme at Port Lockroy and report to the permitting authority as required.

- i) the necessary support in preparation for, and during, Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meetings (ATCM) including the Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP); and
- ii) key physical presence and expertise to cover the scientific, logistical and environmental operations undertaken under this permit at annual ATCM meetings.

ag) Working with the permitting authority, the permit holder will carry out or advise on reviews of UK proponent Antarctic Specially Protected Areas (ASPAs) and Antarctic Specially Managed Areas (ASMAs) when required under the Environmental Protocol.

#### Measures pursuant to Measure 4 (2004)

ah) To reinforce the commitment to meeting the obligations of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 as amended, the permit holder must ensure that BAS continues to review all aspects of its Health and Safety Policy in Antarctica and wherever possible take appropriate action.

ai) The permit holder must have contingency plans in place in order to be able to evacuate all BAS personnel and any other personnel or persons listed in the seasonal information in an emergency using their own logistics.

#### Mineral resource activity

aj) The permit holder is authorised to collect samples of mineral resources for the purposes of scientific research<sup>2</sup>. The total weight of material to be collected in any one season under this permit shall not exceed 10 tonnes. The permit holder must seek additional authorisation from the permitting authority for any activities that would mean that this limit would be exceeded.

ak) During the collection of the samples, the permit holder shall take every precaution to minimise the impact to the environment, subject to the standard EIA process specified in condition (j).

al) In its post season report the permit holder must provide details of all minerals collected during the season and provide details regarding the retention and storage of said samples. All samples collected shall be curated according to accepted scientific standards and made available for scientific study only; they shall not be sold or swapped.

#### Operation of BAS Stations

am) The permit holder must provide regular updates to the permitting authority on progress with plans for the programme of redevelopment at all BAS stations. Updated or new Environmental Impact Assessments must be provided in accordance with paragraphs j-m above and Regulation 5 of the Antarctic Regulations 1995.

an) The permit holder should ensure that fully completed and updated Antarctic Treaty Inspection Checklists are held centrally and locally in relation to all stations, aircraft and vessels.

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<sup>2</sup> As set out in the Antarctic Act 1994 (as amended) only British nationals may be permitted to undertake activities relating to mineral resources.



ao) Any plans to change the operational status of a station or proposals for a new station must be communicated immediately to the permitting authority and appropriate agreements reached on timelines.

#### Training of Personnel

ap) The permit holder must provide, and ensure effective participation in, annual pre-deployment training (or equivalent on-vessel or on-station briefing) for everyone that BAS transports to Antarctica, including all ship's crew and field personnel. This training must include waste management, biosecurity, wildlife awareness and conduct to minimise disturbance, and information about relevant Management Plans and Visitor Site Guidelines requirements. For field personnel, the training must also cover additional safety training, including guidance on self-sufficiency and search and rescue arrangements. All personnel travelling to Antarctica must be made aware of the laws of the British Antarctic Territory. Sufficient opportunity will also be provided for the permitting authority to contribute an overview briefing.

#### Inspection

aq) The permitting authority reserves the right to require additional audits from the permit holder on any element of activities conducted under this permit. The permitting authority reserves the right to inspect any station, vessel or aircraft operating within Antarctica at its own convenience.

#### Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems

ar) The use and operation of Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) is permitted on the proviso that RPAS are registered and permitted to operate in accordance with national regulator requirements, and that the permit holder's own *BAS Regulations on Remotely Piloted Aerial Systems (RPAS) use in Antarctica* (currently 'Version 7.2 May 2021' as of August 2022) and the *Environmental Guidelines for Operation of RPAS in Antarctica* are adhered to: [https://documents.ats.aq/recatt/att645\\_e.pdf](https://documents.ats.aq/recatt/att645_e.pdf).

as) For the avoidance of doubt with regard to Section 5 of the Antarctic Act 1994, as amended, the following RPAS are permitted to enter Antarctica:

<b>Aircraft Type</b>	Sensefly Ebee X
<b>Aircraft Serial Numbers</b>	IX-12-29034 and IX-12-61425

<b>Aircraft Type</b>	Aeryon Skyranger
<b>Aircraft Serial Numbers</b>	AN212675

<b>Aircraft Type</b>	Quadcopter
<b>Aircraft Serial Numbers</b>	As detailed in BAS RPAS register

<b>Aircraft Type</b>	UAVE PRION3
<b>Aircraft Serial Numbers</b>	008 and 009

<b>Aircraft Type</b>	Windracers ULTRA
<b>Aircraft Serial Numbers</b>	TBA

#### Code of Conduct

at) Antarctic Treaty Parties have expressed their desire to ensure that everyone working in Antarctica is safe, welcomed, respected and free from discrimination. Inclusive environments tend to be safer, healthier and have a more proactive approach to addressing risk. The permit holder will ensure that all BAS employees and contractors travelling to Antarctica abide by BAS's *Code of Conduct and Community Guide*.

#### Avian Influenza

au) Since the beginning of 2022, the increasing intensity of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 outbreaks has resulted in the death of hundreds of thousands of seabirds in the Northern Hemisphere, around the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans and Southern Africa. There is a heightened risk of HPAI being introduced to Antarctica during the 2022/23 Austral summer. The permit holder shall ensure that BAS maintains the highest biosecurity and takes appropriate actions to prevent transmission between wildlife aggregations, following best practice and best guidance available. The Permit Holder should report to FCDO any signs of HPAI detected.

## Notes

- 1 Any entry to Antarctica, other than in accordance with the authorisation granted by this or any other permit granted under the Antarctic Act 1994 (or written authorisation of another State party to the 1991 Environmental Protocol to the Antarctic Treaty), or any breach of the conditions of this permit, may lead to suspension or revocation of the permit in accordance with the provisions of the Antarctic Regulations 1995/490, and is punishable as an offence under section 3(5), section 3(6), section 4(3), section 4(4), section 10(2) or section 13(2) of the Antarctic Act 1994, for which the maximum penalty is **two years imprisonment or an unlimited fine** or both.
- 2 A permit granted in respect of mineral resource activities is granted pursuant to the specific provisions of section 6 of the Antarctic Act 1994. Any activity relating to mineral resources carried out other than in accordance with the authorisation granted by this permit, or any breach of the conditions of this permit, may lead to the suspension or revocation of the permit and is punishable as an offence under Section 6(2) or Section 13(2) of the Antarctic Act 1994, for which the maximum penalty is **two years imprisonment** and/or a fine.
- 3 Persons authorised to require production of this permit in Antarctica are listed in Regulation 9(5) of the Antarctic Regulations 1995/490, and include a magistrate, or public officer of the British Antarctic Territory, a station leader of the British Antarctic Survey, an Antarctic Treaty Observer, a British naval officer or the Master of a British Antarctic Survey vessel.
- 4 "Antarctica" means all land, sea and ice shelves and the airspace above them south of 60° South latitude.

## **APPENDIX I**

### **OPERATIONAL BRITISH STATIONS IN ANTARCTICA**

Rothera, Ryder Bay, Adelaide Island

Halley, Brunt Ice Shelf, Coates Land

Signy, Signy Island, South Orkney Islands

Fossil Bluff, Alexander Island

Sky Blu, Eastern Ellsworth Land

### **FORMER BRITISH STATIONS NOW DESIGNATED AS HISTORICAL SITES AND MONUMENTS**

As noted in Specific Condition ac).

## APPENDIX II

BAS Seasonal Documentation, as approved by the permitting authority

- BAS Season Summary 2022-2023
- 2022-23 Dash 7 Schedule as at 29.08.22
- Antarctic Programme Summary 22-23
- Appendix A – Deep Field Projects 2022-23
- BAS Fuel Depots – August 2022
- BAS Oil Spill Exercise Records
- SDA Itinerary as at 29.08.22
- Twin Otter Schedule 2022-23