

**UNCONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE THIRTY-FIRST MEETING OF THE
UK NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR ANTARCTIC RESEARCH**

11:00-13:00 25th June 2026

Location: Hybrid – Online MS Teams meeting and BAS Seminar Room 2

Present:

Prof Robert Bingham	Chair, University of Edinburgh	RB
Prof Dame Jane Francis	Director, British Antarctic Survey	JF
Dr Jack Humby	Secretary, British Antarctic Survey	JH
Dr Helen Peat	British Antarctic Survey	HP
Dr Huw Griffiths	British Antarctic Survey	HG
Natalie Allen	FCDO	NA
Prof Eric Wolff	Royal Society	EW
Jessica Surma	NERC	JS
Dr Anne Jungblut	National History Museum	AJ
Ruth Cooper	Royal Society	RC
Dr Chandrika Nath	SCAR	CN
Dr Henry Burgess	British Antarctic Survey & NERC Arctic Office	HB
Dr Louise Ireland	British Antarctic Survey	LI
Prof Kate Hendry	British Antarctic Survey	KHe
Dr Cath Waller	University of Hull	CW
Prof Bernd Kulesa	Swansea University	BK
Dr Rachel Cavanagh	British Antarctic Survey	RC
Prof Bethan Davies	UKAAP, Newcastle University	BD
Prof Stewart Jamieson	University of Durham	SJ
Prof Pete Convey	British Antarctic Survey	PC
Dr Lucy Stephenson	UK Polar Network (UKPN)	LS
Dr Kevin Hughes	British Antarctic Survey	KHu
Dr Max Van Wyk de Vries	University of Cambridge	MVWdV
Dr Jo Johnson	British Antarctic Survey	JJ
Dr Ryan Reisinger	University of Southampton	RR
Dr Channing Prend	University of Edinburgh	CP
Prof Petra Heil	British Antarctic Survey	PH
Prof Rob Larter	British Antarctic Survey	RL
Dr Ingrid Cnossen	British Antarctic Survey	IC
Prof Peter Convey	British Antarctic Survey	PC
Dr Peter Davis	British Antarctic Survey	PD

Apologies:

Dr Matt Warner	BAS Medical Unit (BASMU)	MW
Dr Claire Waluda	British Antarctic Survey	CW
Dr Susie Grant	British Antarctic Survey	SG
Pilvi Saarikoski	British Antarctic Survey	PS
Prof Liz Thomas	British Antarctic Survey	LT
Prof Klaus Dodds	Middlesex University	KD
Dr Claus-Dieter Hillenbrand	British Antarctic Survey	CDH
Dr Nadine Johnston	British Antarctic Survey	NJ
Dr Sammie Buzzard	University of Northumbria	SB

Prof Mike Bentley	University of Durham	MB
Dr Tom Jordan	British Antarctic Survey	TJ
Dr John Lowe	BAS Medical Unit (BASMU)	JL
Dr Adrian Howkins	University of Bristol	AH
Dr Thomas Bracegirdle	British Antarctic Survey	TB
Dr Eoghan Griffin	SCAR	EG
Prof Richard Powell	Scott Polar Research Institute	RP
Dr Sian Henley	University of Edinburgh	SH

1 WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS, APOLOGIES and AGENDA (P)

- RB welcomed all.

2 MINUTES OF THE Thirtieth MEETING, 2025 (P)

- The minutes of the 30th UKNCAR 2025 Committee Meeting were confirmed as accurate and accepted without amendments.
- RB added that we should circulate the minutes much earlier than the next committee meeting a year later.
- **Action:** JH to complete minutes asap, and circulate to members to comment or suggest amendments within 3 months.

3 MATTERS ARISING INCLUDING ACTIONS FROM LAST MEETING (P)

- Membership updates (point 4 on this agenda).
- Reports circulated.
- Removed OpMet and Geological Heritage Society.

4 UKNCAR MEMBERSHIP (P)

- RB provided an update on UKNCAR core membership. This info is available on the UKNCAR website ([UK National Committee for Antarctic Research - British Antarctic Survey](#)).
- JF noted that the more people on the membership, the better for connecting more people across the UK across Antarctic and SCAR activities.
- HG added that more members on the website is a positive for people reaching out to those members for relevant information.
- SJ noted that from organising the UK Antarctic Science conference, there are lots more institutes with Antarctic researchers that aren't necessarily captured by the current UKNCAR membership.
 - o RB said he would liaise with SJ on this and could maybe use this info for contacting more people and inviting as members or attendees to UKNCAR committee meetings in future.
- CW noted that she was not previously aware of UKNCAR and asked if there is a way through the website that you can self-sign up to UKNCAR.
 - o **Action:** JH or RB to provide a sign-up or form for interest in UKNCAR on the website.
- HG noted that SCAR will setup mailing lists for SCAR related bodies/activities.
 - o **Action:** RB to ask SCAR about doing this for UKNCAR?
 - o UPDATE FROM RB August 2026: SCAR are unable to set up this mailing list as they will only support international matters for SCAR. Therefore, we would need to find another listserver host for any potential UKNCAR mailing list
- RB noted that he searched through the SCAR website to update the membership. He noted that some membership information on the SCAR website is out of date, but he did find some new members that have now been invited and are attending the UKNCAR committee meeting for the first time this year.

5 Report from the Director of BAS

- JF noted that BAS is an institute within UKRI, which is undergoing significant changes regarding funding and is moving to a 'bucket' funding system. Discovery science is within Bucket 1, and this is ongoing as normal within NERC. There's a huge focus on industrial strategy and economic growth (Bucket 2), which there may not be much funding/opportunity for BAS/Antarctic science. BAS core funding (national capability) is subject to refocusing towards UK national strategy typically associated with supporting industry, so national capability funding is being cut year-on-year.
- Antarctic Infrastructure Modernisation Programme (AIMP) update: The Discovery Building at Rothera Research station is now complete. This has replaced a number of old wooden buildings. The next step is to extend the Hangar at Rothera.
- The SDA is in Harwich, and is next going to the Arctic and Greenland for a huge project (ARIA).
- Climate change is rapid right now. Midwinter at Rothera is usually *ca.* -20°C. It was -2°C on Midwinters day this year, with ice and rain now common during midwinter. This is a significant and worrying change. JF noted that the SDA could now potential operate in Antarctica all year round because of the lack of sea ice at Rothera over midwinter.
- Changes to BAS operations. The Dash 7's last season will be this year's 2026/27 season. Therefore, the season after, Rothera and Antarctic logistics will all be by ship. JF noted that researchers should still apply for projects and logistics as usual, but seasons may be extended a little bit to allow for getting there by ship. Once there, science can take place as usual (Twin Otters still serviceable and operational).
- RB asked if there is a known gap in the air bridge capability.
 - i. JF said that the gap in the air bridge is unknown.

6 Report from the Royal Society

- RC visited BAS in January 2026, met with RB and JF. They went over the annual reporting and grant application process. RC noted how important the reporting process is; it is looked at by the RS and does make a difference.
- They also went over the subscriptions process and improved that process. Thanks to SCAR and BAS regarding this.
- Grant application process should be smoother moving forward.
- RC shared some documents regarding G-Science, which is the S7 and S20 academies that report to the G7 and G20. One of the recent statements was on the Global Arctic, which EW contributed to. RC noted thanks to EW.
- RS will host the S20 next year, and the S7 in 2028. RC noted that they do not know what the science topics will be for these yet, but there is likely to be one topic for the S20 and three topics for the S7.
- EW noted that the RS is worried about the new UKRI funding system. They are talking to UKRI about making the transition to the new system smoother.
- The RS are also working on a response to UKRI's definition of discovery science, trying to challenge the idea that Discovery Science should have an outcome.
- SJ asked about the G-science reports, and how it's decided how the science topics will be chosen and who feeds into the reports. RC said that the topics will be decided and then their experts choose who, among RS fellows, to contact, but that also could go wider than the fellowship. Once the reports

are finalised, they will disseminate that as widely as they can, and they would welcome any help with wider dissemination.

- RB asked how many RS fellows are Antarctic-focussed. EW said there's a handful, and JF noted that there are a few more in the wider palaeoclimate space.

7 NERC Update (P)

- JS reassured that there is no change to 'Discovery science', but other funding buckets, such as Industrial Strategy, are changing, so outputs are important. Funding to discovery science is actually increasing in the coming years.
- Another pot of funding is "Climate adaptation and Resilience", which is looked after by Louise Heathwaite (the executive chair at NERC).
- The funding picture is a work in progress. Ian Chapman and UKRI are keen to communicate all funding changes clearly to the community via the new website. Updates will go up quarterly.
- JS suggested members sign up to NERC list servers to get more information. Link to do this here:
 - i. <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKRI/signup/48313>

8 Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) Update

- NA noted that there will soon be a new prime minister and therefore a new ministerial team in government, but she does not expect there to be too many changes in FCDO.
- NA attended the ATCM recently. Not much progress was made, but it was a more positive meeting than last year. No agreement on Emperor Penguin protection. There was more focus on regulatory aspects, including discussions on how to manage Antarctic tourism, climate change and general environmental protection.
- German paper on a calving event causing a number of containers to be lost, which could signal changes to Antarctic logistics and science operations.
- They managed to obtain a midwinter letter from the prime minister for the first time in a few years.
- FCDO are looking for polar policy science fellows:
 - i. <https://www.grtd.fcdo.gov.uk/call-for-applications-eleven-senior-research-fellowships-at-the-fcdo/>

9 UK Polar Data Centre (UK PDC; P)

- HP noted that funding for PDC is unsure. The PDC gets commissioned by NERC on a 5-year basis. They were expecting this to happen next in 2028, but NERC are moving this forward by a year to 2027. NERC are keen that the PDC focusses on data services and tools, and providing actionable information, rather than curating data. That will be a change, and they are not sure how this will affect their funding and services moving forward.
- The PDC are keen to expand their training in research data management wider than just BAS, to other UK researchers. They recently provided a seminar to the UKPN. HP offered an invitation to provide seminars to other groups, so reach out to the PDC about this.
- RB noted his thanks on behalf of the wider community for PDC's efforts on data management.
- RB was alarmed to see the proposed changes in structure and funding. RB wondered if there is any help that UKNCAR can offer to help regarding this.

- i. HP noted that discussions are still at an early stage but when things become clearer it may be useful for others across UKNCAR to lend their support.
 - ii. The PDC could reach out regarding this later this year.
- RB also noted that the research data management training sounded great and encouraged all members to disseminate this in their networks.
 - i. HP said that they will attend the UK Antarctic Science Conference later this year to network regarding data management training.
- PC asked about metadata catalogues being obtained and supported through NASA. He asked if SCADM or SCAR have thought about replicating data out of the US, given the political situation there.
 - i. HP said that the Antarctic Metadata Directory is still working through NASA but is not really being supported any more. They've been working for some time as a community to develop the Polar Federated Search (link in the PDC and SCADM report), but this does not yet include all the data centres. But this is available as an alternative tool for people to use.

10 UK Arctic and Antarctic Partnership (UKAAP; P)

- UKAAP is national body for IPY, and have named UK national representatives for IPY which are Henry Burgess, David Pearce, Gareth Pheonix and Kate Hendry. IPY planning progress will ramp up over the next year.
- UKAAP will conduct the process of badging activities as official IPY activities.
- In preparation for the IPY, there's been a published UK terrestrial Arctic research strengths and priorities report. UKAAP members are working to extend this approach for other domains such as the cryosphere and the atmosphere. At the moment, they will be Arctic focused.
- UK polar conferences: UK Antarctic Science Conference is this year in Durham in September. The UK Arctic Science Conference will be in September 2027 in Stirling.

11 UK Polar Network (UKPN; P)

- Highlight of the autumn polar fieldwork course, PolarSTEP, was held in Yorkshire with 15 ECRs. This gained really positive feedback.
- Other highlights include having the most successful year of Antarctic Flags and ramping up Polar Beers events.
- Have been helping to lead the ECR engagement for InSync.
- UKPN 20th anniversary next year. Planning is ongoing for special events next year, to celebrate this.

12 Diversity in Polar Science Initiative (DiPSI; P)

- BD noted that DiPSI is being incorporated into UKAAP, because funding has dried up (FCDO Polar Regions Department), so DiPSI has essentially become a reporting group, rather than arranging its own events. Attendance was starting to drop off without being able to arrange its own events. This will happen on a trial period now and the be assessed at the UK Arctic Science Conference in Stirling in 2027.
- DiPSI has been instrumental over the years in starting events such as Polar Pride, which is now widely participated in across many countries, and organising surveys and investigations into socioeconomic influences on people and their career success.

- BD noted that EDI is still important, and this is more to make things efficient such as EDI reps report directly to UKAAP, who can then report to UKNCAR.
- RB raised concerns on this but also with relation to Agenda Item 14-i (EDI AG) that it seems like UKNCAR won't have an EDI rep anymore.
- HG noted that UKAAP should have an EDI rep, but also BAS senior management should push within NERC and UKRI to have EDI reps who attend UKAAP so that EDI related issues can be raised directly with them.
 - i. BD confirmed that UKAAP will have an EDI rep, they just don't have a person confirmed yet.
 - ii. This person will have the responsibility of collecting EDI reports from NERC, SCAR and various other groups.
- JF noted that the issue is bigger than NERC, and DiPSI was funded by FCDO. Someone who can reach into universities as well is important.
- RB to follow up on an EDI rep for UKNCAR
- HG confirmed that SCAR plan on keep the SCAR EDI AG going for now.
- **ACTION:** RB to follow up on EDI rep for UK in SCAR

13 International Polar Year 5 (2032-33)

- HB confirmed as head of the NERC Arctic Office, and shared the following links:
 - i. [Report: Arctic Ocean and Coastal Research for IPY 5 – Arctic Office](#)
 - ii. [Report: UK Arctic Terrestrial Research: Towards IPY 2032/33 and beyond – Arctic Office](#)
 - iii. [Report: Arctic Ocean and Coastal Research for IPY 5 – Arctic Office](#)
- HB was the president of the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC), finishing his term in March 2026.
- HB summarised IPY structure: It's led by an executive committee (International Planning Group), which is IASC, SCAR, WMO, and the international Science Council, supported by the University of the Arctic and others. They make big decisions on timing and processes.
- Beneath that there's a IPY Planning Group which is a much broader group, of 20-30, international and regional organisations who represent polar interests. They take some day-to-day decisions and provide advice to the executive committee.
 - i. That group is still available to join (see the IPY website for more details on this. <https://ipy5.info/organisation/ipy-planning-group/>)
 - ii. HB invited all to think on if they know of regional or international groups that should be part of the IPY Planning Group. If so, you can invite them to apply to join.
- Underneath the IPY Planning Group, there will be a National Representatives Coordination Committee, where each individual country can send their representatives to the regional coordination committee.
- HB noted that a 2-page, high level, high impact, vision and priorities report should be published for the SCAR OSC in Oslo this summer. As well as a longer detailed report, but this may not include specific science topics.
- HB discussed how can big international programmes, and national initiatives, get the endorsement of IPY. Information on this should hopefully be available in time for the SCAR OSC this summer.
- IPY need a secretariat to do all this work as an International Coordination Office. A bidding process is being run for deciding who will do this. Norway, South Korea and Chile have put in a bid. But this has not been decided on yet. It is likely to be a dispersed and comprehensive secretariat.

- UKAAP will be the National Coordination Committee for IPY for the UK. HB (NERC Arctic Office), Kate Hendry (BAS), David Pearce (Northumbria) and Gareth Phoenix (Sheffield) are national reps.
- The UK Arctic-research community have already reported on terrestrial and marine areas for the UK to lead on. The UK Arctic-research community will also report on Atmosphere, Cryosphere and Social and Human themes, which will hopefully be published by this autumn. They will look at the UK strengths in these areas, but also identify areas for larger international partnerships.
- HB noted that information on IPY has been shared widely in the UK with UKRI and NERC, etc.
- PH asked broadly if UKNCAR is the right forum to be the place to discuss and decide on the UK Antarctic-research communities science drivers for IPY.
- PH also noted that the 'third pole' should also be considered and discussed.
- RB noted that we're not so much in a position where we've put effort or thought towards Antarctic science goals for IPY5. We should write some papers on this.
- JF noted that InSync should naturally align with IPY5, so should be included. JF also mentioned that there needs to be a wide discussion within the community before deciding to write papers about the key areas to target for IPY.
- CP noted that there are InSync white papers that have been written and released for community feedback, so we don't want/need to redo this work
 - i. RB commented that there's a concern that InSync is conflated with IPY, which may give the impression it's doing a lot of the work and there's no more need for more work to be done for IPY
 - ii. SJ shared a link to a white paper on UK Antarctic Science strategy:
 - iii. <https://spiral.imperial.ac.uk/server/api/core/bitstreams/1f064930-db5c-46f8-bd53-5fa0a559c1de/content>
- SJ noted it's been suggested that the UK Antarctic SC could be a good place to discuss IPY strategy towards Antarctic goals, but it may be better and more inclusive to hold an online event specifically for this instead.
- PH added that it's worrying that InSync has been thought as an IPY of the south. PH also noted that InSync, as a major international project, has mostly international interests and drivers, but there would be merit to capturing the UK-specific science requirements for Antarctic research for IPY.
- HG added that SCAR are revisiting the Horizon Scan and the current SCAR leadership are very keen to check if that's still fit for purpose and whether we should be updating that. So there seems to be a lot of duplication of effort in many regards.
- JF added that INSYNC finishes in IPY, so will be included in IPY, but IPY will also be looking at the future, so there is scope for new projects.
- CN added there will be Town Hall events on the Horizon Scan, and IPY, at the OSC. This could lead to some community feedback and then some community papers
- RB agreed that a working group and an online event would be very useful to establish UK representation for IPY.
 - i. **Action:** RB agreed to send an email to UKNCAR members about establishing a working group for UK Antarctic research for IPY

14 SCAR Science Reports

i Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Action Group

- Discussion covered in DiPSI (agenda item 12) discussion above.

Standing Scientific Groups and Standing Committee Reports

ii Geosciences

- Report taken as read.
- KHe added that Geosciences need a more coordinated approach towards reporting and activities.

iii Life Sciences

- PC raised an issue that the SCAR Biology Conference 2027, is still planned to be held in the US. There are concerns in the community, especially for the EDI community and others with protected characteristics, but also more widely for access through visas for members from other parts of the world. The community worries if it's inappropriate for SCAR to continue to support this event being held here.
 - i. RB asked if PC has a feeling of what the outcome will be. PC responded to say he's unsure but there is plenty of anecdotal evidence of international visitors, especially climate related scientists, having issues gaining visas or heavy-handed treatment upon entry.
 - ii. PC reiterated his worries that it will affect attendance of the event from UK and other international visitors, and is concerned why SCAR hasn't taken a more proactive approach to this issue.

iv Physical Sciences

- No report submitted.

v SC-ATS (Standing Committee on the Antarctic Treaty System)

- RC reiterated the role of SC-ATS, currently lead by Cassandra Brooks (USA), who is the Deputy Chief Officer, and with strong links to CCAMLR (Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources) and CEP (Committee for Environmental Protection). There's lots of UK engagement in SC-ATS with a broad range of expertise across the committee.
- RC noted climate change, particularly sea ice, and avian influenza as two big issues for the ATS.

vi SC-AGI (SCAR's Geographic Information Committee)

- LI noted mostly business as usual for SC-AGI, but highlighted that there has been particular effort to maintain the SCAR Composite Gazetteer of Antarctica (CGA) submission process. There was an issue with names being added to that in a timely manner.
- SC-AGI held a SCAR Connect webinar on important place names and principles and procedures for naming in Antarctica. This went really well, but unfortunately was not recorded, so they plan to hold another one soon.

vii SC-ADM (SCAR's Data Management Committee)

- Covered in UK PDC (item agenda 9)

viii SC-HASS (Humanities and Social Sciences)

- No report submitted.

Scientific Research Programmes (P)

ix AGATA (Antarctic Geospace and ATmosphere research)

- Report taken as read.
- IC introduced herself as one of the working group leads for AGATA, which is a new SRP. There are three different working groups:
 - i. vertical atmospheric coupling processes, everything from troposphere upwards to stratosphere, mesosphere, thermosphere.
 - ii. coupling within atmospheric layers, for instance, coupling between the neutral atmosphere and the ionised atmosphere, and also small-scale processes, and how they couple to larger scale phenomena.
 - iii. Geospace and its coupling to the mesosphere and the upper atmosphere.
- For all these areas AGATA is not solely focussed on the Antarctic but both hemispheres, and comparing similarities and differences.
- AGATA is still trying to solidify what they will do, so they plan to use the OSC in August to help decide that.

x AntClimNow (Near-term variability and prediction of the Antarctic Climate system)

- RC summarised some highlights from the report that hadn't yet been circulated. A highlight was the Antarctic Climate Indicators project, which is being developed, with many UK researchers involved developing a set of diagnostic indicators to monitor the Antarctic climate system in real time and make that available. See website: <https://scar.org/science/research-programmes/antclimnow/aci>
- Another highlight was about climate extremes and tipping points in Antarctica, which a great way of getting the latest science together.
- There have been some good publications as well. And we've been translating some of those for the SCAR Antarctic Environment Portal, with an infographic, providing clear communication of complex science.
- **Action:** JH to circulate the AntClimNow report

xi Ant-ICON (Integrated Science to Inform Antarctic and Southern Ocean Conservation)

- Report taken as read.

xii INSTANT (INSTabilities & Thresholds in ANTarctica)

- JJ introduced herself as co-lead of Theme 2 for Instant. JJ noted there's lots of UK involvement in INSTAN, through leadership and activities.
- Highlights include that there's lots planned for SCAR OSC, including leading several sessions. There will be a workshop by David Small about icesheet reconstructions since the LGM, which will be useful for modellers.
- Another highlight is INSTANT having a special issue of The Cryosphere, with the aim to provide an overview but also actionable science that can be put forward to policy making, and trying to time this to IPCC deadlines.
- James Kirkham and Chris Stokes spoke at COP-30 and the UN convention

Scientific Research Programme Planning Groups (AGE, C-CAGE)

xiii Antarctic Geological Evolution (AGE)

- SJ noted that planning report has received a positive review. It will be decided on at the OSC. There will be a workshop at the OSC.
- Currently no direct UK involvement in leadership, but SJ called Geologists to get into the workshops on this.

xiv Changes in Circumpolar Antarctic Gradients in Ecosystems (C-CAGE)

- HG noted that, like AGE, C-CAGE is still waiting to be approved. Reviews have been very positive, so fairly confident they'll be approved.
- Call for delegates to be supportive at the OSC.

Expert Groups, Action Groups, Data Products and Advisory

a AntArchitecture (Internal Structure of Ice Sheets)

- Published a paper in the Cryosphere in 2025, which represents the culmination of the current Action Group form of AntArchitecture. They are bidding to transition into an EG.
- RB is stepping down as chair of AntArchitecture, with members in the US taking over as chairs as it hopefully becomes an EG. RB is actively seeking someone in the UK to join the steering committee.

b ANTOS (Near-Shore & Terrestrial Observation)

- PC noted that ANTOS is in a wind-up phase, and have a workshop planned at the OSC, after which the group will cease to exist.

c ANTVOLC (Antarctic Volcanism)

- MVWdV briefly introduced himself and ANTVOLC, and noted there's a large review paper summarising the work done on Antarctic Volcanoes.
- Current focus has been on volcanic risk in Antarctica, volcanic processes and volcano-ice interactions evolves our understanding of risk. That interfaces with some other aspects, including logistics and operations, tourism, and some interesting legal aspects.
- ANTVOLC has been talking about partnerships with another organisation, the IAVCEI/IACS Joint Commission on Volcano–Ice Interactions (VIIC), which does quite a lot of similar work.
- MVWdV invited anyone who is interested in volcanoes in Antarctic to reach out.

d ASPeCt (Sea Ice Processes & Climate)

- Report taken as read.

e Bedmap

- RB has become the co-chair of Bedmap, alongside Alice Fremantle (BAS).
- Bedmap has submitted a proposal to become an EG.

f EG-BAMM (Birds and Marine Mammals)

- RR introduced himself, as the Deputy Chief Officer of EG-BAMM, and briefly summarised what EG-BAMM do.
- RR highlighted the pieces they produced on the status of Southern Ocean Seals. So that was together with IUCN. Also, a separate piece on Emperor

Penguins, both of those to ATCM, and we'll probably revise those with a view to getting them designated as an Antarctic specially protected species.

g FRISP (Forum for Research into Ice Shelf Processes)

- PD introduced himself as the UK representative for FRISP, and noted that FRISP is an annual conference predominantly on ice ocean interactions and ice shelves and ice sheets held on a rotating basis around Europe.
- PD noted the next FRISP conference will be in the UK in 2027. Location tbc.

h Groundwater AG

- BK introduced himself as one of the co-chairs and SJ is also on the steering committee.
- BK highlighted lots of activity planned for the OSC, with a large amount from ECRs, which is good to see.
- Groundwater AG is seeking an extension for 2 years.
- BK asked what support UKNCAR can give to Groundwater AG to promote them in the UK community.

i IBSCO (International Bathymetric Chart of the Southern Ocean)

- RL introduced IBSCO as a marine version of Bedmap.
- The work is coordinated through The Alfred Wegener Institute (AWI, Germany), who receives and compiles data annually into new grids. The latest grid was released in 2025. The current grid has echo sounding data for ca. 25% coverage. They plan to have total coverage by 2030.
- Data is collected in the UK PDC and it then feeds into Bedmap and *vice versa*.

j ICED (Integrating Climate and Ecosystem Dynamics)

- Report taken as read.

k InSync

- Report taken as read.

l IPICS (International Partnerships in Ice Core Sciences)

- No report was submitted.

m JEGHBM (Joint Expert Group on Human Biology and Medicine)

- No report was submitted.

n Plastics AG

- CW introduced herself and noted that the group has had a good year, with progress on agreeing terms and objectives.
- They have been working SC-ATS to update the ATS on Plastics research in Antarctica.
- CW noted that she's on other Arctic Council expert groups and they're very keen to have a closer working relationship with Antarctic research

o RINGS (Ice Sheet Margin)

- No report submitted yet.
- SJ noted that RINGS is seeking to become an EG, and run through to IPY.
- **Action:** JH to circulate the RINGS report, once received.

p SOOS (Southern Ocean Observing System)

- No report received.

q SORP (Southern Ocean Regional Panel)

- CP introduced himself and SORP as a joint SCAR expert panel on the Southern Ocean. They are also sponsored by CLIVAR and CLIC.
- CP noted that SORP organises lots of activities with NORP, the Arctic version of SORP. There could be a way to link up with these towards IPY-related activities.

r Other Groups with UK leadership

- RB asked all members if they know of anyone who is missing from UKNCAR.
- **Action:** Assess how to communicate UKNCAR more widely.

15 Upcoming Science Meetings

i UK Antarctic Science Conference

- SJ noted that the next UK Antarctic Science Conference is booked for 9-11th September 2026 in Durham.
 - i. ECRs very welcome.
 - ii. Register sooner rather than later.
- SJ asked if other members know a way of sharing this more widely across all Antarctic research areas.

ii SCAR Open Science Conference

- Planned for 10-14th August 2026 in Oslo.

16 Any other Business

- JH has finished his 3-year term as secretary and is seeking a replacement. JH asked all members to think if there is anyone they know if they would like to take this on, inside BAS or external to BAS.
 - i. **Action:** JH will also email internally at BAS about this.
- RL noted the importance of International Thwaites Glacier and findings towards IPY discussions. Specifically, RL wanted to point other members towards the back page of the findings document that was published which identifies areas for further research.
 - i. Link: <https://thwaitesglacier.org/findings>

The meeting concluded at 13:10

UK NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR ANTARCTIC RESEARCH
31st Committee Meeting, 25th June 2026
ACTIONS

Action No.	Agenda Item	ACTION	By	Status
1	2	Complete minutes and circulate to members for amendments within 3 months of UKNCAR 2026 meeting.	JH	Done.
2	4	Assess and implement a sign-up form or process for non-members to express interest in UKNCAR membership. Add this to the UKNCAR website.	RB & JH	
3	4	Ask SCAR if they can set up a mailing list for UKNCAR.	RB	Done.
4	12	ACTION: RB to follow up on EDI rep for UK in SCAR.	RB	
5	13	Send an email to UKNCAR members about establishing a working group for UK Antarctic Research for IPY.	RB	
6	14	Circulate any outstanding reports (AntClimNow, RINGS).	JH	
7	14	Similar to action 2. Assess how UKNCAR can be more widely communicated to achieve greater membership and reach.	RB	
8	16	Recruit and handover the UKNCAR secretary position.	JH	

RB: Rob Bingham (Chair)

JH: Jack Humby (Secretary)

JF: Jane Francis (SCAR Delegate and BAS Director)