

NERC update for UKNCAR – June 2026

UKRI funding allocation

UKRI has been allocated £38.6 billion for the current spending review period, years 2026 to 2030. This funding will be assigned to four buckets. These buckets are:

1. curiosity driven science – discovery science, QR, underlying framework and infrastructure
2. strategic government priorities and societal priorities – targeted research and innovation
3. innovative companies – much delivered through Innovate UK with help from other research councils
4. enabling and strengthen UK research and development – talent, infrastructure, AI partition

A breakdown of funding is only possible for curiosity driven research due to the new cross-disciplinary outcome-focused and programmatic approach being applied across the rest of UKRI's portfolio. There will be a growth in funding coming to NERC over the course of the spending review for curiosity driven science.

Funding allocated to bucket 2 will be aligned to the [Industrial Strategy growth sectors](#). Alongside the allocations to the Industrial Strategy growth sectors, funding has been allocated to 'wider priorities' which will remain open to emerging priorities, these include:

- climate adaptation, environment and resilience
- space
- food, animal and plant health

The first funding opportunities relating to the Industrial Strategy sectors will be release during 2026. Plans for a roadmap of opportunities to give 3 months' notice of upcoming funding rounds.

For further information on budget allocation: [Budget allocations for UK Research and Innovation](#)

For further information from NERC on allocation: [Environmental Science Community Webinar: UKRI Investment Approach](#)

Other relevant news:

- [Future research and innovation funding opportunities](#) webpage launched showing upcoming funding opportunities to allow applicants to plan ahead
- [Sector transition: UKRI policy fellowships 2026](#) - Apply for this sector transition fellowship to transfer knowledge and skills across academic and policy sectors and increase sector porosity. Closing date 10 September 2026
- [UKRI policy internships 2026](#) - An opportunity for UKRI-funded doctoral students to undertake a three-month internship at one of a selected group of influential policy organisations, as part of the existing doctoral studentship. Closing date 8 September 2026
- [Pushing the frontiers of environmental research](#) – now open all the time with no closing date

Report from UK Polar Data Centre (PDC) for UKNCAR June 2025

The UK Polar Data Centre (PDC) is the UK's National Antarctic Data Centre. It provides a secure long-term repository for polar and cryospheric data. Data are made available, normally using the [UK Open Government Licence](#), and can be provided with a DOI to allow proper citation of the data. This enables scientists to comply with the UKRI Open Access Policy. It forms part of NERC's Environmental Data Service (EDS, <https://eds.ukri.org>) which is normally commissioned on a five-year basis. This service is three years into its current commissioning cycle which started in April 2023. NERC have decided, however, to move the next commissioning forward by a year. NERC's ambition is for the EDS to evolve from primarily domain-based data curation to a national environmental data infrastructure that offers high-value data products and services for diverse users. The EDS, including the PDC, is working with NERC to scope out what that might look like. The impact on services currently provided by the PDC is not yet known.

The PDC is certified by the [CoreTrustSeal](#). This is an internationally recognised certification scheme for data repositories that signifies a repository is sustainable and trustworthy, following best practices to manage the data it holds. Our certification was renewed in June 2025 until June 2028.

[SCADM](#)

The UK member on the Standing Committee for Antarctic Data Management is Helen Peat who attends monthly video calls and presents an annual report on UK polar data management activities. SCADM produced a new [data policy](#) for SCAR which was been endorsed by the SCAR executive and published in 2022. At the recent ATCM it was agreed that a data policy would be produced for the ATCM secretariat. SCADM will support with its creation, and it is likely to be very similar to the SCAR data policy and other aligned polar data management policies.

One of SCADM's primary aims is to support National Antarctic Data Centres in making Antarctic data FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable). Finding data is facilitated by the [Antarctic Metadata Directory](#) which is a metadata catalogue provided by NASA's EarthData Directory. In addition, SCADM has worked with other polar data communities to produce a [Polar Data Search](#) facility. This is a federated catalogue that collates polar results from many underlying data catalogues.

SCADM is keen to work more with SCAR's research programmes and can provide data management advice, particularly when the research programme includes development of a data product. You can get in touch with Helen Peat (hjpe@bas.ac.uk) or the SCADM Chief Officer, currently Johnathan Kool at the Australian Antarctic Data Centre, if you would like to find out more.

Directly in support of SCAR over the last year, the PDC has:

- Been involved in organising committee of Polar Data Forum VI (PDF) which is a biennial conference organised by SCADM, the Arctic Data Committee and the SOOS Data Management Sub-committee.
- Given presentations at PDF on physical sample management and Bedmap3: a data management perspective.
- Participated in an International Polar Year workshop to start planning for the data management of this initiative.
- Co-chaired a workshop on 'Data for Ship Navigation in the Polar Regions' at PDF.
- worked closely with the BAS mapping group (MAGIC) to provide DOIs for all layers within the SCAR Antarctic Digital Database of topographic information.

SOOS

PDC contributions to SOOS activities are led by Petra ten Hoopen and have included:

- Co-chairing the SOOS Data Management Sub-Committee (DMSC), who advise on the management and publishing of Southern Ocean data from multinational or multidisciplinary scientific data observation programs
- collaborating with the SOOS Data Officer and EMODnet Physics software developers on improving the SOOSmap portal functionalities
- Taking part in the SOOS – OCEAN:ICE Workshop (September 2025, Copenhagen) on observational and modelling priorities and data harmonization for the Southern Ocean
- Leading author of publication on SOOSmap: ten Hoopen, P, Novellino, A, Hancock, AM, Bricher, P, De Pooter, D, Felden, J, Henley, SF, Kool, J, Kozyr, A, Miller, ME, Treasure, AM, Van de Putte, AP, Verhey, C, and Data Management Sub-Committee, Southern Ocean Observing System. 2025. SOOSmap: Your gateway to Antarctic data discovery. *Elementa: Science of the Anthropocene* 13(1). DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1525/elementa.2024.00099>

SOOS collaborates with the SCAR Standing Committee on Antarctic Data Management (SCADM) and is represented at SCADM by Petra ten Hoopen (PDC) and the SOOS Data Officer.

Helen Peat 17/06/2026

Appendix A: The Terms of Reference¹ for SCADM are to:

1. Promote long-term preservation and accessibility of data relating to Antarctica and the Southern Ocean in sustainable repositories.
2. Assist in establishing and implementing Antarctic data management policies, priorities and best practices, taking into account and contributing to global best practices.
3. Promote a distributed, interoperable network of accredited National Antarctic Data Centres (NADCs), in accordance with ATCM XXII Resolution 4.1 (1998)².
4. Encourage and enable the community to make data Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Re-usable according to the FAIR Principles³ by submission of metadata and data to the Antarctic Data Management System (ADMS).
5. Further develop, design, implement, and improve the ADMS - a system that encompasses the Antarctic Master Directory (AMD), NADCs, other interoperable, networked data repositories, and key data discovery tools.
6. Provide linkages and improve interoperability with other relevant data management systems, initiatives, and repositories; and thereby enhance the accessibility of data relating to Antarctica and the Southern Ocean.
7. Provide guidance to the AMD host.
8. Work with other SCAR groups, Council of Managers of National Antarctic Programs, Committee for Environmental Protection, Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources, the Antarctic Treaty Secretariat, and other relevant groups to identify, develop, and publish fundamental datasets of value to the Antarctic Community.

¹ The procedural parts of SCADM's mandate are covered in SCAR's "Rules of Procedure for Subsidiary Bodies", see <https://scar.org/scar-library/search/governance/780-rules-of-proc-subsidbodies-aug10/>

² http://www.ats.aq/devAS/info_measures_listitem.aspx?lang=e&id=258

³ <https://www.force11.org/group/fairgroup/fairprinciples>

UKAAP updates

Bethan Davies

UKAAP met online in April 2026, with some members stepping down as they completed their terms of service. New members Keir Nichols, Anna Hogg, Ryan Neely and Anona Griffiths were welcomed.

IPY

UKAAP is the National Committee for the IPY and has appointed Henry Burgess, David Pearce, Gareth Pheonix and Kate Hendry as national representatives for the next IPY. These representatives will sit on the IPY International Planning Committee and will report back to UKAAP. Out of these four national representatives, two will sit on the IPY International Planning Committee at any one time. The roles will rotate on an annual basis, with one representative rotating off each year to ensure continuity. David Pearce and Henry Burgess will serve as the first two representatives.

Should a representative step down from UKAAP, further nominations will be invited from the UKAAP SC.

Planning for the next IPY:

- Peak IPY activity is planned for 2032-2033, but planning, project development and coordination are already underway, with a gradual ramp up of activity from now and a legacy phase beyond peak years. IPY5 is being positioned to align with and complement major existing and forthcoming initiatives such as Arctic Pulse (Canadian Initiative), Antarctica InSync, Arctic Ocean 2050 (Norwegian initiative) and related national efforts.
- Overall oversight rests with the IPY Executive Committee (IASC, SCAR, WMO and the International Science Council (ISC), supported by the University of the Arctic). This works closely with an IPY5 Planning Group comprising international and regional organisations, with membership open to new organisations. Interim secretariat support is currently being provided by IASC, SCAR and the ISC, alongside a series of task groups covering areas such as vision and priorities, Indigenous leadership, country and funder engagement, capacity building and data. The Vision and Priorities document is expected to be considered for approval at the next IPY Planning Group meeting.
- National committees are critical to IPY5 delivery, given that most funding and activity will be nationally driven. Countries are being encouraged to establish or use existing bodies as IPY national committees, without a prescriptive structure. The UK has confirmed UKAAP as its national committee. Several countries (including Norway, Japan and the UK) have established committees, with others in development. An informal first meeting of national representatives took place during Arctic Science Summit Week, with a more formal meeting anticipated later in the year. It was noted that Russia has signalled its intention to establish an IPY5 national committee and re-engage.

In preparation for the IPY, there is a [**UK Terrestrial Arctic Research Strengths and Priorities report**](#), developed in the context of the forthcoming International Polar Year (IPY) and with a longer-term strategic outlook of 10–15 years. The document was produced following a series of three online workshops held in December, attended by 39 UK-based scientists from 22 institutions, ensuring strong early-career researcher participation. The workshops focused sequentially on research strengths, priorities and ways forward, with breakout groups retained across sessions to ensure continuity. Outputs were iteratively drafted, reviewed by participants in two rounds, and then finalised for publication.

UKAAP members are working to extend this approach for other domains: Cryosphere (led by Anna Hoog and Ed Blockley) and Atmosphere (led by Ryan Neely).

UK Polar Conferences

- **UK Antarctic Science Conference 2026 (Durham)**: The conference will take place 9–11 September, running from lunchtime to lunchtime to reduce travel and accommodation costs. It aims to be an affordable, inclusive meeting bringing together researchers across disciplines, including social sciences, with strong encouragement for early-career researcher participation. Members were asked to circulate the mailing-list sign-up link ([UK Antarctic Science Meeting 2026 - Mailing List](#)) within their networks. Some overlap with other September meetings was noted, with discussions ongoing about possible joint sessions (e.g. with Challenger Society).
- **UK Arctic Science Conference 2027 (Stirling)** (*Paper: UKAAP 23/03*): A paper from Anna Crawford outlined plans for the conference to be held 31 August–2 September 2027. A detailed programme is in development, with several speakers already confirmed, including policymakers and international partners. The conference was noted as shaping up to be a strong and well-planned event.

Antarctic InSync Programme

Antarctica InSync is a UNESCO-badged international initiative involving 27 nations to synchronise Antarctic data collection to improve understanding of rapid change, modelling, forecasting and policy-relevant outcomes. The programme has been highly active, developing white papers and strengthening links with ESA and the European Commission. A major coordinated field season is planned for 2028–29, with nations currently planning logistics and commitments.

The primary issue discussed by UKAAP was UK funding. Changes to UKRI and NERC funding structures mean there is currently no dedicated strategic funding route for large international polar programmes such as InSync. While discovery-led funding and studentships remain available, former strategic programme mechanisms (e.g. those used for Thwaites) no longer exist in their previous form. As a result, there is no specific NERC call for InSync at present.

The advice to the UK community is to:

- Apply through standard NERC discovery funding and other available routes, including PhDs;
- Clearly badge relevant projects as InSync contributions, ideally in proposal titles;
- Contribute data wherever possible, particularly during the 2028–29 season.

Stakeholder reports

FCDO

- The UK Antarctic Strategy was published on 1 December and sets out the UK's key policy interests. HMS Protector is expected to deploy to Antarctica this season, with capacity available for scientific or logistical support via BAS

- Ahead of the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM), the UK will propose specially protected species status for emperor penguins, following their IUCN reassessment as endangered, noting likely opposition from Russia and China. Potential future consideration of fur seals was flagged
- A possible new British Antarctic Territory award is being looked at to recognise significant contributions not eligible for the Polar Medal; views from the community will be sought.

NERC Arctic Office

Significant UK Government funding, via the FCDO and DSIT and in partnership with the UK Science and Technology Network, was highlighted—most notably a substantial initiative supporting UK researcher engagement with Arctic Council working groups and recent Arctic Council chairships (Norway and the Kingdom of Denmark). A summary report of 25 funded projects from 2025/2026 is now available and will be published on the Arctic Office website. While funding is distributed across multiple projects, it was noted to be highly impactful and well regarded internationally; future opportunities will be advertised via the Arctic Bulletin if available.

It was also reported that senior officials, including the Chief Scientific Adviser to the FCDO and the CSA to DESNZ, visited the NERC Arctic Research Station in Svalbard in March. The visit showcased student training and ongoing research (including glacier ice-core work) and was described as highly successful. The station had a strong operational season, and the visit was valuable in demonstrating impact and engagement directly to key government partners.

IPCC AR7

An update is here provided on the IPCC Working Group I timetable. Lead Author Meeting 2 will take place w/c 20th April, after which drafting of the First Order Draft (FOD) will begin, with the draft due in July 2026. The expert review of the FOD will run from August to October.

Key publication deadlines were highlighted:

- 15 March 2027: cutoff for submitted papers to be cited by the IPCC
- 15 October 2027: cutoff for accepted papers

Members were asked to ensure these dates are communicated within their communities.

Looking ahead, the Second Order Draft will be open for expert review from May–June 2027, and members were strongly encouraged to participate.

31st UKNCAR Reporting 2026

Provide **up to two pages** of information following the structure below, only filling out those sections where there is new information to report. We are particularly interested in hearing of key activities e.g. expeditions/cruises/projects, publications, policy outcomes, future initiatives that you would like publicised, or where UKNCAR could help a group/programme liaise with other parts of SCAR.

1. Name of SCAR Group or Programme	UK Polar Network
2. Principal UK Researchers	Anona Griffiths, Linnet Jessel, Louise Mercer, Lucy Stephenson (& 38 committee members)
3. Major activities and progress since previous year involving UK personnel/infrastructure	Training • The autumn polar fieldwork course, PolarSTEP, was held in Yorkshire with 15 ECRs, aiming to fill the training gap in polar science. The final report is published here, and has been shared widely to garner support for the next iteration of the course after its resounding success. • We will be supporting a 5 year project that will support training of UK based Early Career Researchers with a focus on supporting participation in the Juneau Icefield Research Program (JIRP). 
	Education and Outreach • The Antarctic Flags Project 25/26 is well underway, with over 300 schools involved. Over 1000 flags have already been sent back to schools, with help from 36 volunteers from BAS, AWI, UKAHT and a variety of universities across Europe, UK, the USA and Australia • We held our second and third Polar Beers events in Newcastle and London. Both events involved members of the public attending an informal outreach event in a local pub, with the London event being held in collaboration with PubSci.

	- Festivals, Polar Pen Pals and Schools Visits are also active as usual. Our latest festival was held at the annual National Maritime Museum Family Day in London. We have also started the successful pilot of our Language Polar Pen Pals, in both French and Spanish with APECS France, Uruguay and Chile. International Collaboration - UKPN have been involved in the formation of the Antarctica InSync ECR coordination network and increasing ECR engagement within InSync governance. 2 workshops at the upcoming SCAR OSC. - A book of ECR experiences, "Tales from the Poles" was published online in collaboration with APECS Netherlands, and is now available fully open-access. - EDI workshop held at ASSW 2026 in collaboration with APECS Denmark and Netherlands focused on Preparedness for safe and inclusive Arctic fieldwork.
4. Major future initiatives and actions involving UK personnel/infrastructure	- UKPN 20th Anniversary Celebrations in preparation - Polar Pride events (November 2026) - Following the success of our training cruise, SKILLSET, we are seeking funding opportunities for future at-sea fieldwork training. - Funding applications are underway for the UK Polar Network Roadshow, which will consist of a 3 month tour (January 2027) of the United Kingdom by members of the UK Polar Network Committee to engage youth, the general public and early career researchers and professionals (ECRs) in our work.
5. Policy outcomes	- Leadership are promoting collaborative projects between Working Groups successfully, with strong outputs and planning ahead of our 20th anniversary next year. - Submitted a response to the SCAR Horizon Scan on the accessibility of Antarctic science to ECRs, and the representation of ECRs in Antarctic science.
6. Selected publications	
7. Funding awards	<i>British Antarctic Territory funding (£8300)</i>
8. Points for discussion at UKNCAR committee meeting	

31st UKNCAR Reporting 2026 – DiPSI

In recent steering committee meetings, we have been considering the future of DiPSI, as without funding and dedicated projects we are currently operating as a reporting committee. It was agreed by those in attendance at our most recent meeting, and others who sent in their viewpoints, that a better home for this kind of activity was within the UK Arctic Antarctic Partnership (UKAAP), where DiPSI is already a standing item.

Therefore, we have decided to fold DiPSI into UKAAP as of September 2026, and will review this one year later. DiPSI can be reactivated as needs arise (e.g. a specific funding call to apply to, a change in the EDI landscape), but otherwise our reporting can be done more efficiently through UKAAP without needing us all to meet regularly to do that. We are currently soliciting nominations for UKAAP representatives for DiPSI, initially from within the current steering committee.

We would like to thank all those involved for their hard work on DiPSI over the years, and celebrate that we are in the position that so much EDI work is going on beyond DiPSI that we can make this move, while respecting that there is still much more work to be done. We hope that in this new format we can continue to support UK polar science but without repeating reporting efforts that are already happening elsewhere and focus energy on specific projects if and when they arise.

31st UKNCAR Reporting 2026 - INSTANT

1. Name of SCAR Group or Programme	INSTANT (INStabilities and Thresholds in ANTarctica)
2. Principal UK Researchers	Claire Allen, Claus-Dieter Hillenbrand, Dominic Hodgson, Kelly Hogan, Joanne Johnson, Tom Jordan, James Kirkham, Rob Larter, Max Lowe, Steve Roberts, Louise Sime, James Smith, Dieter Tetzner, Elizabeth Thomas (BAS) Alastair Graham (Cardiff) Mike Bentley, Stewart Jamieson, Erin McClymont, Grace Nield, Colm Ó Cofaigh, David Small, Chris Stokes (Durham) Ed Gasson (Exeter) Keir Nichols (Glasgow/SUERC) Jonny Kingslake, Jim Marschalek, Fred Richards, Tina van de Flierdt (Imperial) Chris Darvill (Manchester) Bethan Davies (Newcastle) Alessandro Silvano (Southampton)
3. Major activities and progress since previous year involving UK personnel/infrastructure	• UK leadership continues to be prominent in INSTANT. These include: INSTANT Theme 1 (atmosphere, ocean, ice interactions) co-chair Silvano (NOC), subcommittee co-chair Gasson (Exeter); Theme 2 (earth-ice interactions) co-chair Johnson (BAS), subcommittee co-chair Richards (Imperial). • Contributions to several INSTANT leadership team meetings and INSTANT workshop at the CliC Open Science Conference in New Zealand, and preparation of papers for a Special Issue of The Cryosphere (for submission in autumn 2026), including an overview paper aimed at policymakers. • Three INSTANT-relevant sessions convened for upcoming SCAR Open Science Meeting (Oslo, August 2026): S12 Reconstructing past Antarctic ice-sheet dynamics to inform future projections (Johnson, Kingslake), S13 Past, present and future of Antarctic marine grounded basins (Larter), S23 Subantarctic islands: sentinels of change (Roberts). • Themes 1 and 2 are running seminar series to communicate their work and to solicit wider international collaboration. James Kirkham gave an INSTANT webinar on climate science diplomacy. • UK SWAIS2C (Gasson, Smith, Marschalek, van de Flierdt): Successful recovery of 228m of glacial sediment from beneath Crary Ice Rise to understand sensitivity of the West Antarctic Ice Sheet to +2°C of warming. Drilling was led by New Zealand with an international field team, including Marschalek and

	Gasson from UK. Kate Horan (BAS) participated in the core description workshop at University of Otago, New Zealand (June 2026).
4. Major future initiatives and actions involving UK personnel/infrastructure	• In-SYNC (with INSTANT members including Sime from BAS being one of the two UK Science Coordinators and McClymont from Durham being a Steering Committee member) will take synchronous measurements of many aspects of Antarctica including those related to INSTANT goals. • INSTANT members are aware of and will contribute to the planning for the next International Polar Year (IPY-5, 2032-33) when opportunities open. • The “RAISED 2.0” initiative (led by David Small at Durham, with Nichols, Davies and Darvill) are compiling a spatial database of past Antarctic ice constraints as part of the Geological Boundary Conditions sub-committee of INSTANT. They will be holding a related mini-workshop at the SCAR Open Science Conference in August 2026. • UK Antarctic Science Conference will be held at Durham University on 9-11 September 2026.
5. Policy outcomes	Chris Stokes and James Kirkham were panellists at an official UN side event at COP30, Brazil, focused on tipping points in the cryosphere. This resulted in publication of an article in The Conversation by Stokes, Kirkham and Florence Colleoni (INSTANT co-chief). James Kirkham (with Florence Colleoni, INSTANT lead) attended the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change pre-session meeting (Bonn, June 2026) and presented in the SB64 Side Event on Cryosphere and Overshoot: Implications of Peak CO2 and Temperature for Global Cryosphere.
6. Selected publications	Bentley, M. J., Wolff, E. W. Past interglacial West Antarctic Ice Sheet collapse: a critical review of evidence and approaches. <i>Quaternary Sci. Rev.</i> 387, 110025 (2026). https://doi.org/10.1016/j.quascirev.2026.110025 Dunn, A. C. A., White, N. J., Larter, R. et al. Mantle dynamic topography of the fringing oceanic basins of Antarctica. <i>Journal of Geophysical Research: Solid Earth</i> 131, e2025JB033101 (2026). https://doi.org/10.1029/2025JB033101

	Jordan, T. A., Johnson, J. S., Riley, T. R. et al. Subglacial geology and palaeo flow of Pine Island Glacier from combining glacial erratics with geophysics. <i>Commun. Earth. Environ.</i> 6, 826 (2025). https://doi.org/10.1038/s43247-025-02783-3 Knight, R., Gasson, E., Littler, K., Noble, T., Halberstadt, A. R. Using Antarctic subglacial relic landscapes to inform past ice sheet retreat in the warm Pliocene. <i>Philos. Trans. A Math Phys Eng Sci.</i> 384 (2319), 20240542. https://doi.org/10.1098/rsta.2024.0542 Lucas, E. M., Richards, F. D., Cederberg, G. et al. Emergence of Antarctic mineral resources in a warming world. <i>Nat. Clim. Change</i> 16, 477–484 (2026). https://doi.org/10.1038/s41558-026-02569-1 Mawbey, E. M., Smith, J. A., Hillenbrand, C. -D. et al. Ocean heat forced West Antarctic Ice Sheet retreat after the Last Glacial Maximum. <i>Nat. Commun.</i> 17, 2079 (2026). https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-026-68949-5 Pan, L., MacKie, M., Mitrovica, J., Jamieson, S. et al. Impacts of Glacial Isostatic Adjustment on Antarctic Subglacial Water Routing since the Last Glacial Maximum. <i>Journal of Geophysical Research: Earth Surface</i> 131(5), e2025JF008982 (2026). https://doi.org/10.1029/2025JF008982 Parazin, B., Gomez, N., Richards, F. et al. Ice sheets without dynamic topography. <i>Geophysical Research Letters</i> 52(19), e2025GL115332 (2025) https://doi.org/10.1029/2025GL115332 Pearson, E. J. et al. (incl. S. J. Roberts) Development of new global lake brGDGT-temperature calibrations: advances, applications, challenges, and recommendations. <i>Quaternary Science Reviews</i> 369, 109615 (2025). https://doi.org/10.1016/j.quascirev.2025.109615 Siegert, M. J., Sevestre, H., Bentley, M. J. et al. Safeguarding the polar regions from dangerous geoengineering: a critical assessment of proposed concepts and future projects. <i>Frontiers in Science</i> 3, 1527393 (2025). https://doi.org/10.3389/fsci.2025.1527393
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	Small, D., Fülöp, R.-H., Smedley, R. K., et al. A thinner-than-present West Antarctic Ice Sheet in the southern Weddell Sea Embayment during the Holocene. <i>The Cryosphere</i> 20, 2035–2052 (2026). https://doi.org/10.5194/tc-20-2035-2026 Tetzner, D. R., Allen, C. S., Thomas, E. R., Wolff, E. W., & Franzke, C. L. E. Timing of the recent migration and intensification of the Southern Hemisphere westerly winds. <i>Geophysical Research Letters</i> 52, e2024GL113672 (2025). https://doi.org/10.1029/2024GL113672
7. Funding awards	NERC Highlight Topic project: ‘BELLingshausen Ice Sheet System Investigation through Modelling and Observations (BELLISSIMO)’. PI: Larter (BAS). Total award: £4.7M, 4 years from 2027, including 2 Antarctic field campaigns and a cruise to the southern Bellingshausen Sea on the RRS Sir David Attenborough. Overall aim: to improve understanding and projections of marine-based ice sheet retreat. Institutions involved: BAS, Cardiff, Durham, Liverpool, UEA.
8. Points for discussion at UKNCAR committee meeting	

31st UKNCAR Reporting 2026 – C-CAGE

1. Name of SCAR Group or Programme	Changes in Circumpolar Antarctic Gradients in Ecosystems (C-CAGE) Scientific Research Programme Planning Group
2. Principal UK Researchers	Huw Griffiths & Cath Waller as two of the three lead proponents, along with 18 UK members of the of the core members
3. Major activities and progress since previous year involving UK personnel/infrastructure	• A draft SRP proposal was submitted to SCAR in June 2025. • 11 reviews received in May 2026. • A revised C-CAGE Science and Implementation Plan has been completed along with responses to reviewers comments, ready for submission by 24th June 2026.
4. Major future initiatives and actions involving UK personnel/infrastructure	• C-CAGE has an open meeting during the first weekend of the OSC, Saturday the 8th of August (08:30-10:00 GMT+2). • We have 4 dedicated blocks of talks, Session: S25 - Environmental drivers, human impacts and climate change in Antarctic ecosystems and ecology, currently scheduled for the Wednesday and Thursday mornings and afternoons. According to the organisers we had the most popular at the conference in terms of abstracts. • We will present the final C-CAGE Science and Implementation Plan to the Science Group Business Meetings, followed by a presentation at the SCAR Delegates Meeting where a final decision will be made on funding. • If successful, the programme will last for 8 years and is already aligned and linked to related elements of Antarctica InSync and the new IPY.
5. Policy outcomes	
6. Selected publications	
7. Funding awards	We have requested \$30,000 per year in SCAR funding
8. Points for discussion at UKNCAR committee meeting	We request that the UK delegates are supportive of the proposal during the delegates meeting in Oslo and that UKNCAR members share information about the new programme with their communities.

31st UKNCAR Reporting 2026 - AGATA

1. Name of SCAR Group or Programme	AGATA (Antarctic Geospace and Atmosphere Research)
2. Principal UK Researchers	Tracy Moffat-Griffin (British Antarctic Survey), Ingrid Cnossen (British Antarctic Survey), Rahul Rathi (Lancaster University)
3. Major activities and progress since previous year involving UK personnel/infrastructure	AGATA is a newly established Scientific Research Programme within SCAR (https://scar.org/science/research-programmes/agata). It is a coordinated, worldwide effort to monitor, investigate and better understand the physics of the whole polar atmosphere and the impact of the Sun-Earth interactions on the polar regions. The AGATA Working Groups (WGs) are: • WG 1: Coupling between atmospheric layers • WG 2: Coupling within the atmospheric layers • WG 3: Coupling to geospace The AGATA Task Groups (TGs) are: • TG 1: Task Group on Data Management • TG 2: Task Group on Scientific Infrastructure • TG 3: Task Group on Scientific Campaign Coordination • TG 4: Task Group on Equality, Diversity, Inclusion (EDI) • TG 5: Task Group on Capacity Building, Training and Education • TG 6: Task Group on Communication, Dissemination and Outreach An online kick-off meeting was held March 26th-28th, 2025, followed by leadership elections for WGs and TGs in June 2025. Ingrid Cnossen was selected as deputy leader of WG1 “Coupling between atmospheric layers” and Rahul Rathi was selected as co-leader of WG2 “Coupling within atmospheric layers”. Tracy Moffat-Griffin joined the executive team as secretary in December 2025. The first in-person leadership meeting was held in Oslo, March 2026. Calls for WG and TG membership were issued in November 2025. As of 13 March 2026, AGATA as a whole had 364 members, with 99 members signed up to WGs and/or TGs. From January 2026 onward, all WGs and TGs have held online meetings with members to get to know each other and start planning collaborative activities.

4. Major future initiatives and actions involving UK personnel/infrastructure	We will have a dedicated AGATA session at the SCAR Open Science Conference in Oslo, Aug 10th-14th. We are also organizing an AGATA Workshop on Sunday Aug 9th including an informal brainstorming session and tutorial lectures. We have supported 10 ECRs from our normal budget to attend the SCAR OSC (including 2 from the UK). We are planning a mini-fellowship scheme, modelled after the INSTANT SRP fellowships. These aim to enhance collaboration on a topic aligned with AGATA aims, funding exchange visits up to the value of \$3000 each.
5. Policy outcomes	None as of yet.
6. Selected publications	
7. Funding awards	Additional support received from SCOSTEP to support 2 ECRs to attend the OSC (one of which was from UK)
8. Points for discussion at UKNCAR committee meeting	

UKNCAR Reporting 2026 - AntClimNow

1. Name of Standing Committee, SCAR Group or Programme	Scientific Research Programme on Near-term Variability and Prediction of the Antarctic Climate System (AntClimNow)
2. Principal UK Researchers	Tom Bracegirdle (BAS), SSC (Theme 5 co-lead; Antarctic Climate Indicators co-lead). Rachel Cavanagh (BAS), Co Chief Officer. Anthony Chan (University of Exeter), SSC (ECRs). Caroline Holmes (BAS), SSC (Theme 4 co-lead). Siobhan Johnson (BAS), SSC (communications).
3. Major activities and progress since previous year involving UK personnel/infrastructure	AntClimNow (https://www.scar.org/science/antclimnow/home/) is focused on enhancing understanding of current trends and prediction of near-term conditions in the Antarctic climate system on timescales of years to decades. These time scales are highly relevant across multiple disciplines and to a range of stakeholders, whilst aligning strongly with scientific priorities identified by the SCAR Horizon Scan and with SCAR's Strategic Plan. Progress since the last report includes: -Antarctic Climate Indicators (ACI) project (led by T. Bracegirdle, UK): developing a set of diagnostic indicators to monitor the Antarctic climate system in near real time. -Monthly science seminars - focused on discussions of current research - successful in engaging membership and wider community (including UK-led presentations). -Over the last year/upcoming this year, AntClimNow has sponsored/supported international workshops, involving UK personnel/infrastructure including: - Series of online workshops to develop ACI project (2024-26); - Predictability Workshop (Busan, South Korea, July 2025). Explored key questions about the predictability of the Antarctic climate system. A. Chan (UK) co-organised the meeting and chaired part of it; - Royal Society Hooke meeting (London, Sept 2025): "Global impacts of climate extremes in the polar regions: is Antarctica reaching a tipping point?" AntClimNow UK scientists invited speakers and session chairs (R. Cavanagh and T. Bracegirdle), papers to be published in a special issue of Phil. Trans. B later this year; - Joint CEP/SC-CAMLR Workshop on climate change and monitoring (Hiroshima, May 2026), including paper on ACIs (UK-led) and direct expertise from AntClimNow UK scientists;

	- Planning underway for AntClimNow workshops and sessions at SCAR OSC26. - Growing membership: 187 full members, 338 on our mailing list. 26 members are UK-based. - Data stewardship and development scheme has delivered 2 projects in the last year (one of which is UK-led, see section 7), with 2 new projects about to begin. These projects transform existing data into accessible and valuable resources for the broader research community, while developing frameworks that contribute to Antarctic climate research infrastructure.
4. Major future initiatives and actions involving UK personnel/infrastructure	AntClimNow (including UK members) are actively contributing to the development of InSync and the IPY.
5. Policy outcomes	UK AntClimNow members have continued to actively contribute to policy ensuring AntClimNow's scientific expertise informs decision-making. Including via: - Policy papers e.g. contributions to ATCM 2025-26. - Expert advice e.g. for recent Joint CEP/SC-CAMLR workshop. - Standing Committee to the ATS (SC-ATS), see separate report. - SCAR Action Group on Climate. - Contributions to SCAR Antarctic Environments Portal (including UK-led paper, see section 6, which resulted in an interview "Ice Narratives" (with C. Holmes) under the SCAR Fellowship scheme).
6. Selected publications	Recent publications (2025-26) involving AntClimNow UK authors: Wille, Jonathan D., Vincent Favier, Irina V. Gorodetskaya, et al. 'Atmospheric Rivers in Antarctica'. Nature Reviews Earth & Environment, 2025, 1–15. https://doi.org/10.1038/s43017-024-00638-7 This paper has multiple AntClimNow authors from the UK, and reveals that rising levels of atmospheric moisture caused by climate change are expected to dramatically increase the frequency and intensity of "atmospheric rivers" over Antarctica. Holmes C, Doddridge E, Fretwell P. Antarctic Sea Ice #4: Record lows between 2022 and 2025 - Antarctic Environments Portal This is a paper led by AntClimNow SSC member C Holmes for SCAR's Antarctic Environment Portal providing a policy-facing update on Antarctic sea ice.

	Hall, Richard J. Jones, Julie M. Fogt, Ryan L. Bracegirdle, Thomas J. (2025) Variability and Trends of the Amundsen Sea Low since the Early Twentieth Century from Seasonal-Station-Based Reconstructions. https://doi.org/10.1175/JCLI-D-25-0159.1 This paper has multiple AntClimNow authors, including from the UK. It provides a new dataset of atmospheric variability in the vicinity of West Antarctica. Chan, A.C. . England, M.R. . Screen, J.A. . Bracegirdle, T.J. . Blockley, E.W. . Holmes, C.R. (2025) Extreme Antarctic Sea Ice Loss Facilitated by Negative Shift of Southern Annular Mode. This paper has multiple AntClimNow authors from the UK. It provides new insights into the causes of rapid ice loss events.
7. Funding awards	UK-led data stewardship and development scheme project (see Section 3): “<i>Bellinghausen and Amundsen Sea Seal Tag Repository (BASSTR)</i>” led by UK-based PhD student Francis Glassup (University of East Anglia): combining >decade of seal tag oceanographic measurements from multiple projects into an open-source dataset of temperature and salinity data for validating climate models. Our travel scheme has funded several ECRs this year, including from the UK: - A. Chan, funded to attend BACO-25 in July 2025 (Busan, South Korea) - he presented at the conference and helped with the Predictability Workshop (see section 3). - S. Johnson- funded to attend and present at the 18th AMS Conference on Polar Meteorology & Oceanography in Denver.
8. Points for discussion at UKNCAR meeting	

31st UKNCAR Reporting 2026 – Groundwater AG

1. Name of SCAR Group or Programme	Groundwater Action Group, which currently counts 106 members, across 21 countries, with 10 members from the UK. Of the 106, approximately 30-40 members are actively interacting and collaborating in research activities.
2. Principal UK Researchers	Bernd Kulesa, Swansea (Group Co-Chair) Stewart Jamieson, Durham (Group Steering Committee Member)
3. Major activities and progress since previous year involving UK personnel/infrastructure	- Steering group meetings (March-2025, May-2026) - Action group meeting (August-2025) - Webinar SCAR Geosciences Group (October-2025) - Frequent chairs meeting (~2-monthly) - Frequent newsletters > 100 recipients - Slack co-working space, organised by SCAR Secretariat - Collaborative 'perspectives' manuscript currently in draft form; due to be submitted August 2026 - Shared Google Drive for collaboration
4. Major future initiatives and actions involving UK personnel/infrastructure	- The group has organised an AG meeting at the OSC in Oslo, and will convene session S15 - Importance and Evidence of Antarctic Groundwater. 7 out of 15 abstracts in the OSC Groundwater session have an ECR as lead author and we have awarded OSC travel support to two ECRs. - Aggregating relevant field work plans for 2026/27 season to facilitate coordinated data sharing between groups where feasible. Major UK plans for Antarctic groundwater exploration are underway for Institute Ice Stream / Bungenstock Ice Rise as part of NERC project NE/R010838/1 (PI Kulesa). - The Action Group will seek an extension for a further two years, following on from the fruitful first two years.
5. Policy outcomes	A highlight was the presentation on the topic of Antarctic groundwater by AG co-chair Jill Mikucki at the opening plenary session of the Antarctic Treaty Consultation Meeting (ATCM, May 2026, Hiroshima, Japan)
6. Selected publications	- The AG group are currently preparing a perspectives paper for submission to 'Antarctic Science' in August 2026: Westerhof et al., "On the importance of groundwater to Antarctic climate and environmental processes". - The group are also currently working towards a white paper that will define research pathways toward the International Polar Year (IPY) 2032. - The group are furthermore working on a publication focussed on the wider Antarctic Water Cycle (led by

	Simon Cox), which will more prominently identify groundwater. ○ Revised version in review of JGR-SE manuscript Killingbeck, Kulesa et al. "Distinct Groundwater Regimes in West Antarctic Sedimentary Basins Inferred from Magnetotelluric Imaging".
7. Funding awards	○ NERC grant NE/R010838/1 (Impact of deep subglacial groundwater on ice stream flow in West Antarctica (IGIS)), 2026-29, led by Kulesa, see above for associated fieldwork activities. ○ NERC grant NE/S006621/1 (GHOST (Geophysical Habitats of Subglacial Thwaites), 2018-26, led to manuscript by Killingbeck, Kulesa et al cited above. ○ As far as we are aware, there are no new awards dedicated to Antarctic GW exploration involving UK AG group members although there is proposal activity (treated confidentially but details available on request).
8. Points for discussion at UKNCAR committee meeting	It would be interesting to explore whether there is appetite for a workshop (even if only online) on UK Antarctic groundwater work and interests, and possibly groundwater beneath ice sheets and glaciers more generally; or at least for increasing relevant awareness of the UK community?

31st UKNCAR Reporting 2026

Provide **up to two pages** of information following the structure below, only filling out those sections where there is new information to report. We are particularly interested in hearing of key activities e.g. expeditions/cruises/projects, publications, policy outcomes, future initiatives that you would like publicised, or where UKNCAR could help a group/programme liaise with other parts of SCAR.

1. Name of SCAR Group or Programme	AntArchitecture
2. Principal UK Researchers	Robert Bingham (University of Edinburgh; steering committee chair); Tom Jordan, Carlos Martín (British Antarctic Survey); Felipe Napoleoni (University of Edinburgh); Neil Ross, Rebecca Sanderson (Newcastle University); Kate Winter (Northumbria University); Felix Ng (University of Sheffield); Bernd Kulesa (Swansea University); Harry Davis, Clara Nyqvist (PhD students, University of Edinburgh); David Ashmore (UK Met Office); Mike Bentley, Stewart Jamieson (Durham University); Andy Hein (University of Edinburgh)
3. Major activities and progress since previous year involving UK personnel/infrastructure	1. The group's "white paper" outlining science progress and visions was published in October 2025 (Bingham et al., 2025, <i>The Cryosphere</i>). 2. AntArchitecture will run its 8th annual international workshop as a side meeting at the SCAR OSC in Oslo. The focus will be on use of AI to advance tracing of radar-imaged internal layers across the Antarctic Ice Sheet. 3. UK members of AntArchitecture have made further scientific progress in tracing englacial layers and advancing science in both East and West Antarctica.
4. Major future initiatives and actions involving UK personnel/infrastructure	AntArchitecture's life as a SCAR Action Group expires in summer 2026. The group has submitted a proposal to become a SCAR Expert Group.
5. Policy outcomes	The group's main influence on policy is via contributions its science papers make to IPCC.
6. Selected publications	Bingham, R. G.; J. A. Bodart, M. G. P Cavitte, A. Chung, R. J. Sanderson, J. C. R. Sutter and 48 others including N. Ross, D. W. Ashmore, C. Martín, F. S. L. Ng, F. Napoleoni, M. J. Siegert, K. Winter, H. Davis, T. A. Jordan, B. Kulesa & C. J. Nyqvist (the AntArchitecture Consortium) (2025) Antarctica's internal architecture: Towards a radiostratigraphically-informed age–depth model of the ice sheet. <i>The Cryosphere</i>. 19 (10), 4611-4655. https://doi.org/10.5194/tc-19-4611-2025 Davis, H.J.; R.G. Bingham, C. Martín, E. R. Thomas, A. S. Hein and A. E. Hogg (2026) Assessing the potential for an ice core in the southern Antarctic Peninsula to elucidate Holocene

	climate history. <i>The Cryosphere</i>, 20 (5), 2735-2756. https://doi.org/10.5194/tc-20-2735-2026 Napoleoni, F.; M. J. Bentley, N. Ross, S. S. R. Jamieson, J. A. Uribe, J. Oberreuter, R. Zamora, A. Rivera, A. M. Smith, R.G. Bingham and K. Matsuoka (2026) Radiostratigraphy and surface-accumulation history of the Amundsen Weddell ice divide, West Antarctica. <i>The Cryosphere</i>, 20 (5), 2793-2824. https://doi.org/10.5194/tc-20-2793-2026 Arenas-Pingarrón, Á.; A.M. Brisbourne, C. Martín, H.F.J. Corr, C. Robinson, T.A. Jordan and P.V. Brennan (2025) An alternative representation of Synthetic Aperture Radar images as an aid to the interpretation of englacial observations. <i>The Cryosphere</i>, 19 (10), 4657-4670. https://doi.org/10.5194/tc-19-4657-2025 Parrenin, F.; A. Chung and C. Martín (2025) age_flow_line-1.0: a fast and accurate numerical age model for a pseudo-steady flow tube of an ice sheet. <i>Geoscientific Model Development</i>, 18 (21), 8203-8216. https://doi.org/10.5194/gmd-18-8203-2025
7. Funding awards	None over the reporting period.
8. Points for discussion at UKNCAR committee meeting	R. Bingham plans to step off the international steering group for <i>AntArchitecture</i> in 2028, after 10 years' service, and as he moves to chair a <i>Bedmap</i> Expert Group. There is therefore an open opportunity for another UK scientist to join the international leadership of <i>AntArchitecture</i>.

31st UKNCAR Reporting 2026 – ASPeCt EG

1. Name of SCAR Group or Programme	Antarctic Sea-Ice Processes and Climate [ASPeCt]
2. Principal UK Researchers	ASPeCt Co-Chair: Prof Petra Heil (BAS) ASPeCt members: Many incl Dr Caroline Holmes, Jeremy Wilkinson, Tom Bracegirdle, Gaelle Veyssiere (all BAS), Sian Henley (Edinburgh), Michel Tsamados, Rosie Williams, Lavy Ratnarajah (all UCL), Ed Blockley (MetOffice), Alberto Albrello (Norwich), Danny Feltham, D Schroeder (both Reading), Alessandro Silvano (South Hampton)... - Would need to refer to ASPeCt admin server for exact info.
3. Major activities and progress since previous year involving UK personnel/infrastructure	* SDA sea-ice trials * Participation in Polarstern Weddell Sea voyage * Modelling of sea ice in coupled systems * Advancing EO cal/val, interpretation, data-product development.
4. Major future initiatives and actions involving UK personnel/infrastructure	Good question. Need for sustained funding is critical but largely lagging. Upcoming initiatives: Antarctica InSync, IPY-5 to name the cornerstone ones, but also CRISTAL or EDGE satellite missions etc.
5. Policy outcomes	IPCC, COP, ATC, CCAMLR, national risk registers.
6. Selected publications	<i>Gilbert, E., & Holmes, C. (2024). 2023's Antarctic sea ice extent is the lowest on record. Weather, 79(2), 46–51.</i> https://doi.org/10.1002/wea.4518 <i>Heorton, H. D. B. S., Stroeve, J. C., & Veyssière, G. (2025). Future under sea ice light availability and algal bloom timing from CMIP6 model simulations. Frontiers in Marine Science, 12, Article 1642506.</i> https://doi.org/10.3389/fmars.2025.1642506 <i>Holmes, C., E. Doddridge, and P. Fretwell, Antarctic Sea Ice #4: Record lows between 2022 and 2025. SCAR Environmental Portal, 2025, doi:1048361/KVK6-ZX15</i> <i>Silvano, Narayanan, Catany, Olmedo, González-Gambau, Turiel, Sabia, Mazloff, Spira, Haumann, and Naveira Garabato, Rising surface salinity and declining sea ice: A new Southern Ocean state revealed by satellites, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A. 122 (27), 2025, e2500440122, https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2500440122.</i>
7. Funding awards	IGS Seligman Crystal to Prof Danny Feltham (Reading)
8. Points for discussion at UKNCAR committee meeting	Need to UK funding towards UK science in Antarctica InSync (first) and then IPY-5. Need for UKNCAR to co-lead UK IPY-5 white papers on science requirements (URGENT!)

31st UKNCAR Reporting 2026

Provide **up to two pages** of information following the structure below, only filling out those sections where there is new information to report. We are particularly interested in hearing of key activities e.g. expeditions/cruises/projects, publications, policy outcomes, future initiatives that you would like publicised, or where UKNCAR could help a group/programme liaise with other parts of SCAR.

1. Name of SCAR Group or Programme	Bedmap
2. Principal UK Researchers	Robert Bingham (University of Edinburgh); Alice Frémand (British Antarctic Survey) [new co-chairs from 2026] Peter Fretwell, Tom Jordan, Hamish Pritchard, Elena Field, Hugh Corr (British Antarctic Survey), Martin Siegert, Helen Millman, Steven Palmer (University of Exeter), Jonathan Bamber (University of Bristol), Adrian Jenkins (Northumbria University), James Kirkham (ICCI), David Rippin (University of York), Neil Ross (Newcastle University)
3. Major activities and progress since previous year involving UK personnel/infrastructure	As reported last year, 2025 saw the publication and dissemination of the Bedmap3 project paper (Pritchard, Fretwell, Frémand et al., https://doi.org/10.1038/s41597-025-04672-y) and associated dissemination by maps produced by BAS and science talks at major conferences. The last year has primarily been a period of transition as Bedmap has changed leadership and planned for a future as a SCAR Expert Group. Peter Fretwell has stepped down and the new group is spinning up under the co-leadership of Robert Bingham (strategy) and Alice Frémand (data).
4. Major future initiatives and actions involving UK personnel/infrastructure	Bedmap3 as a SCAR Action Group formally expires in summer 2026, and the group has submitted a proposal to continue (but evolve) as an Expert Group simply called <i>Bedmap</i>. The group will run a side meeting at SCAR OSC to form the terms of reference for <i>Bedmap</i> going forwards. Some of the initial strategy has already been formulated from meetings held in Edinburgh in spring 2025 – the Royal Society Theo Murphy Discussion Meeting on <i>Next-Generation Ice-Sheet Measurements</i> organised by M. Siegert, and the associated side meeting run at the University of Edinburgh co-organised by R. Bingham and K. Matsuoka. On the assumption that <i>Bedmap</i> is approved as a SCAR Expert Group, we anticipate there will be leadership opportunities for UK scientists in the areas of data, interpolating data, and integration of Bedmap with numerical modelling.
5. Policy outcomes	The group's main influence on policy is via contributions its products make to science papers for IPCC. Given the underpinning importance of subglacial topography to every ice-

	sheet model used to predict Antarctic ice loss and sea-level rise, this implicit policy impact cannot be understated.
6. Selected publications	UK-led outputs from the 2025 Royal Society meeting in Edinburgh: Siegert, M.; R. Alley and C. Dow (2026) Next-generation bed measurements. <i>Phil. Trans. Royal Society A</i>, 384 (2319), https://doi.org/10.1098/rsta.2024.0553 Matsuoka, K., R.G. Bingham, H. Millman and M. Siegert (2026) A community vision for next-generation bed mapping in Antarctica. <i>Phil. Trans. Royal Society A</i>, 384 (2319), 20250372. https://doi.org/10.1098/rsta.2025.0372 Millman, H.; M.J. Siegert, R.B. Alley and C.F. Dow (2026) What next for ice-sheet bed measurements? <i>Phil. Trans. Royal Society A</i>, 384 (2319), 20250190. https://doi.org/10.1098/rsta.2025.0190 Pritchard, H.D. (2026) How can we automate future gridded Antarctic ice-sheet and bed mapping? <i>Phil. Trans. Royal Society A</i>, 384 (2319), 20250150. https://doi.org/10.1098/rsta.2025.0150 Further UK-led relevant research to guide new bedmap surveying and interpolation: Ockenden, H.; R.G. Bingham, D. Goldberg, A. Curtis and M. Morlighem (2026) Complex mesoscale landscapes beneath Antarctica mapped from space. <i>Science</i>, 391 (6782), 314-319. https://doi.org/10.1126/science.ady2532
7. Funding awards	None over the reporting period.
8. Points for discussion at UKNCAR committee meeting	Pending approval by SCAR as an Expert Group, <i>Bedmap</i> will offer new science leadership opportunities for UK scientists in the areas of data, interpolating data, and integration of Bedmap with numerical modelling.

31st UKNCAR Reporting 2026 – EG BAMB

1. Name of SCAR Group or Programme	Expert Group on Birds and Marine Mammals (EGBAMB)
2. Principal UK Researchers	Ryan Reisinger (University of Southampton) is Deputy Chief Officer of EGBAMB. EGBAMB has ~226 members, including ~21 UK members (Appendix 1).
3. Major activities and progress since previous year involving UK personnel/infrastructure	EGBAMB members, including UK-based members, were among the authors who drafted two reports submitted to ATCM48/CEP28 in Hiroshima, Japan: 1) a SCAR update on the status of emperor penguins; 2) a SCAR/IUCN update on the status of Southern Ocean seals (also presented to the CEP/SC-CCAMLR Joint Workshop on Climate Change and Monitoring (Agenda Item 3.1)). Emperor penguins In 2021 SCAR assessed the status of the emperor penguin (<i>Aptenodytes forsteri</i>), at the request of the United Kingdom, and concluded that the emperor penguin might best be classified within the IUCN Red List as <i>Vulnerable</i>, warranting protection as an Antarctic Specially Protected Species (ATCM43 WP37). SCAR has continued to provide updates on the emperor penguin to the CEP as new information has become available (ATCM46 WP48, ATCM47 IP131). At CEP27, several members requested SCAR provide a reassessment of the status of the emperor penguin. Building directly on the 2021 SCAR assessment (ATCM 43 WP37), and line with the <i>Guidelines for CEP Consideration of Proposals for New and Revised Designations of Antarctic Specially Protected Species under Annex II of the Protocol</i> (Annex 8, CEP VIII), SCAR elicited experts (EGBAMB members, chaired by Reisinger) who consulted the literature and then assessed the extinction risk for the emperor penguin using the most up-to-date IUCN Red List criteria. Based on published, ensemble trajectories for the species alongside expert opinion and recent research for context, this updated assessment finds emperor penguins to be classified as <i>Endangered</i> within the IUCN Red List. Independently, an IUCN group, including UK EGBAMB researchers, has reached the same assessment. Southern Ocean seals The IUCN and SCAR reassessed the status of the six Antarctic seal species using the Red List criteria. The southern elephant seal is reassessed from <i>Least Concern</i> to <i>Vulnerable</i> due to dramatic declines likely caused by HPAI.

	The Antarctic fur seal moves from <i>Least Concern</i> to <i>Endangered</i> due to declines partly related to prey availability and accessibility. The other Antarctic seals remain classified as <i>Least Concern</i>, but are dependent on sea ice, which has declined in extent. Lack of essential biological data for most of these species complicates an in-depth assessment of their status.
4. Major future initiatives and actions involving UK personnel/infrastructure	EGBAMM members are involved in at least three Antarctica InSync working groups: Antarctica's lost giants: Global abundance and seasonal habitats of Antarctic blue whales (convened by Jen Jackson, British Antarctic Survey) Ecosystem Sentinels – Assessing predator/prey energy fluxes in polar marine ecosystems (formerly co-convened by Ryan Reisinger, University of Southampton, now by Marianna Chimienti, Bangor University) PREDYCT: Predator REsponses to seasonal krill DYnamiC and krill fishing activiTies It is presently unclear what the infrastructure/logistical requirements for these programmes will be.
5. Policy outcomes	See details regarding seals and emperor penguins reports under 3.
6. Selected publications	- Bamford et al. (2025) Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Viruses (HPAIV) Associated with Major Southern Elephant Seal Decline at South Georgia. Communications Biology. https://doi.org/10.1038/s42003-025-09014-7 - Fretwell et al. (2025) Regional emperor penguin population declines exceed modelled projections. Communications Earth and Environment. https://doi.org/10.1038/s43247-025-02345-7 - Juarez Martinez et al. (2026) Record phenological responses to climate change in three sympatric penguin species. Journal of Animal Ecology. https://doi.org/10.1111/1365-2656.70201
7. Funding awards	--
8. Points for discussion at UKNCAR committee meeting	--

Appendix 1

UK-based EGBAMM members.

Name	Institution
Croxall, John	Birdlife International
Deecke, Volker	University of Cumbria
Duck, Callan	University of St. Andrews
Fedak, Mike	University of St. Andrews
Forcada, Jaume	British Antarctic Survey
Green, Jonathan	University of Liverpool
Hart, Tom	Oxford Brookes University
Hoelzel, Rus	Durham University
Honan, Ellie	Durham University
Huckstadt, Luis	Exeter University
Humphries, Grant	Black Bawks Data Science
Jackson, Jennifer	British Antarctic Survey
Martin, Anthony	University of Dundee
Martin, Stephanie	British Antarctic Survey
Phillips, Richard	British Antarctic Survey
Ratcliffe, Norman	British Antarctic Survey
Reisinger, Ryan	University of Southampton International Whaling Commission
Staniland, Iain	Commission
Thompson, Dave	University of St. Andrews
Trathan, Phil	British Antarctic Survey
Wilson, Rory	Swansea University

31st UKNCAR Reporting 2026 – FRISP

1. Name of SCAR Group or Programme	The Forum for Research into Ice Shelf Processes (FRISP)
2. Principal UK Researchers	Peter Davis (UK FRISP National Representative)
3. Major activities and progress since previous year involving UK personnel/infrastructure	The Forum for Research into Ice Shelf Processes (FRISP) aims to coordinate the European community engaged in research on the glaciological, oceanic and atmospheric processes governing the behavior of ice shelves that are key to the ice sheet contribution to sea level change. The major activity of FRISP is an annual conference held throughout Europe on a rotating basis between the major academic institutions that have an interest in researching the behaviour of ice shelves. In 2025 FRISP was held at the Arctic Centre, University of Lapland, Rovaniemi, Finland. Approximately 80 participants attended including many from the UK
4. Major future initiatives and actions involving UK personnel/infrastructure	In 2026 FRISP will be held in Kristineberg, Sweden at the University of Gothenburg research station. Approximately 75 participants will attend
5. Policy outcomes	The FRISP conference does not generate direct policy outcomes, but the discussions held throughout the meeting likely guide individual's contributions to policy work
6. Selected publications	Like policy outcomes, the FRISP conference does not generate publications directly, however the scientific discussions that happen throughout the meeting are undoubtably critical to the publication of many manuscripts across a diverse range of institutions.
7. Funding awards	
8. Points for discussion at UKNCAR committee meeting	

31st UKNCAR Reporting 2026 – IBSCO

1. Name of SCAR Group or Programme	International Bathymetric Chart of the Southern Ocean (IBCSO)
2. Principal UK Researchers	Rob Larter, Kelly Hogan, Alice Fremand, Alex Tate, Jenny Gales, Peter Fretwell, Hamish Pritchard, Helen Snaith, Pauline Weatherall
3. Major activities and progress since previous year involving UK personnel/infrastructure	Multibeam echo sounding data from UK cruises south of 50°S is regularly passed on to the coordinators at AWI by the UK Polar Data Centre. IBCSO 2025 annual update was released in September 2025 https://ibcso.org/ibcso-2025-annual-release/ This latest grid has 25.4% coverage (% of ocean grid cells south of 50°S that contain actual sounding data rather than being interpolated guided by data from satellite gravity inversion).
4. Major future initiatives and actions involving UK personnel/infrastructure	No specific initiatives have been built around IBSCO. Continued collection and contribution of bathymetric data is now a business as usual process.
5. Policy outcomes	IBCSO provides the Southern Ocean component of the global GEBCO bathymetry grid, which is the primary global bathymetric reference dataset for anyone planning activities in the oceans. Thus, it underpins many areas of ocean policy, e.g. CCAMLR
6. Selected publications	IBCSO data are used in many publications. Sometimes the source is cited, sometimes not. Most notably, the IBSCO v2 grid (2022) was merged with ice bed data in Bedmap3 – Pritchard, H.D. et al. (2025) Bedmap3 updated ice bed, surface and thickness gridded datasets for Antarctica. Scientific Data, 12, 414, https://doi.org/10.1038/s41597-025-04672-y
7. Funding awards	Collection of bathymetry data is usually a by-product rather than the primary focus of research activities.
8. Points for discussion at UKNCAR committee meeting	

31st UKNCAR Reporting 2026 - InSync

1. Name of SCAR Group or Programme	Antarctica InSync AG https://scar.org/science/excom/insync
2. Principal UK Researchers	Ant InSync AG Co-Chair: Prof Petra Heil (BAS) Ant InSync AG members from UK: Prof Jane Francis (BAS)
3. Major activities and progress since previous year involving UK personnel/infrastructure	* New AG: Finalized ToRs and membership. * White paper on Antarctica InSync impacts as well as theme 2 and corss-cutting EO theme.
4. Major future initiatives and actions involving UK personnel/infrastructure	Good question.
5. Policy outcomes	SCAR portal, IPCC, COP, national risk registers.
6. Selected publications	<i>N/A</i>
7. Funding awards	<i>N/A</i>
8. Points for discussion at UKNCAR committee meeting	<i>Need to UK funding towards UK science in Antarctica InSync (first) and then IPY-5. Need for UKNCAR to co-lead UK IPY-5 white papers on science requirements (URGENT!)</i>

31st UKNCAR Reporting 2026 – PLASTIC-EG

1. Name of SCAR Group or Programme	SCAR Plastic Expert Group (PLASTIC-EG)
2. Principal UK Researchers	Claire Waluda, Clara Manno BAS; Cath Waller, University of Hull (steering committee)
3. Major activities and progress since previous year involving UK personnel/infrastructure	Successful establishment of five thematic working groups on (1) plastic monitoring and sampling (2) plastic sources and data evaluation (3) impacts (4) science-policy interface and (5) dissemination, networking and public engagement. Ongoing participation in the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-5) of the Plastic Treaty negotiations to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution including in the marine environment (INC-5) under the umbrella of the United Nations Environment Programme. Strengthening of international collaborations with leadership roles in Antarctica InSync, SCOR Small Plastics in the Ocean's Interior: coherent Analysis and Synthesis for better Scrutiny (SPASS) and Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP). As well as participation in the UN Ocean Conference (UNOC3) and the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Living Resources (CCAMLR) working group meeting on Ecosystem Monitoring and Management. ATCM47/CEP27 (2025) asked SCAR to “periodically assess and synthesize existing knowledge and scientific data on plastic pollution in the Antarctic Treaty area, including on related risks to Antarctic species and communities, and report its findings to the CEP and ATCM, and make its synthesis reports available to the public.” In response to this, PLASTIC-EG reviewed current knowledge of Southern Ocean plastics in 2026 for a paper which was presented at ATCM48/CEP28.
4. Major future initiatives and actions involving UK personnel/infrastructure	Representation at SCAR OSC 2026 including a SPEG business meeting and sessions on “Plastics in the Polar Regions: Building an International Research Campaign for IPY5” and “Plastic Pollution in Antarctica and the Southern Ocean: Sources, Pathways, Impacts, and Governance”. Ongoing participation in the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-5) of the Plastic Treaty negotiations with planned attendance at INC-5.4 in March 2027.

5. Policy outcomes	
6. Selected publications\	1. SCAR Plastic Expert Group (2026) Plastic Pollution in Antarctica – A Brief Review of Current Knowledge (IP113; ATCM48) 2. Sparaventi E., Rowlands E., Giglio F., Rodríguez-Romero A., Tovar-Sánchez A., Manno C. (2026) From Carbon to Plastics: Partitioning of Biogeochemical and Anthropogenic Particles in Penguin Guano. <i>Environmental Science & Technology</i>. 10.1021/acs.est.5c17586 3. Fragão J., Manno C., Phillips R.A., Cunha S.C., Fernandes J.O., Batista de Carvalho L.A.E., Marques M.P.M., Xavier J.C., Bessa F. (2026) Co-occurrence of microplastics and endocrine-disrupting chemicals in subantarctic seabirds. <i>Journal of Hazardous Materials</i> 509, 142018. 10.1016/j.jhazmat.2026.142018 4. Jones-Williams K., Rowlands E., Primpke S., Galloway T., Cole M., Waluda C., Manno C. (2025) Microplastics in Antarctica - A plastic legacy in the Antarctic snow? <i>Science of The Total Environment</i> 966, 178543. 10.1016/j.scitotenv.2025.178543 5. Jain A., Hughes K.A., Manno C. (2025) Low-cost preventative measures can effectively mitigate microplastic release from scientific research facilities in Antarctica. <i>Antarctic Science</i> 37(5), 372-383. 10.1017/S0954102025100217
7. Funding awards	Travel grants awarded to three Early Career scientists for attendance at SCAR OSC 2026. Funding for prizes to be awarded for best talk and best poster, including contribution from <i>Microplastics</i> Journal.
8. Points for discussion at UKNCAR committee meeting	Continued capacity building via the establishment of five new thematic working groups, as listed above. Ongoing participation in the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-5) of the Plastic Treaty negotiation Continuing to provide advice to the ATCM/CEP by periodic assessment of plastic pollution in Antarctica

31st UKNCAR Reporting 2026 – SORP

1. Name of SCAR Group or Programme	CLIVAR/CliC/SCAR Southern Ocean Region Panel (SORP)
2. Principal UK Researchers	Channing Prend (University of Edinburgh) is co-chair of SORP
3. Major activities and progress since previous year involving UK personnel/infrastructure	• SORP organized a Polar Heat Workshop in Glasgow in February 2026, which had many UK participants • SORP organizes quarterly webinars, which have included 2 UK speakers in 2026 (Andrew Meijers and Kaitlin Naughten from BAS) • SORP contributed to the Antarctica InSync Theme 1 white paper, which outlined the oceanographic observing priorities for InSync, and included multiple UK researchers as lead authors (including SORP co-chair Prend) • SORP coordinates the Southern Ocean Freshwater Input from Antarctica (SOFIA) initiative, a multi-model ensemble of simulations to quantify the climate response to Antarctic meltwater input, which involves many UK researchers
4. Major future initiatives and actions involving UK personnel/infrastructure	• SORP is leading an observing system design study focused on ocean heat transport toward the Antarctic Ice Sheet, which includes several UK researchers • In collaboration with the Antarctica InSync hotspots working group (coordinated primarily by BAS), SORP is leading a paper outlining best practices for observing air-sea fluxes to foster intercomparison among different Antarctica InSync field campaigns
5. Policy outcomes	n/a
6. Selected publications	• Kaufman, Z., Wilson, E., Purich, A., Beadling, R., & Li, Y. (2025). The impact of underestimated Southern Ocean freshening on simulated historical sea surface temperature trends. <i>Geophysical Research Letters</i>, 52, e2024GL112639. https://doi.org/10.1029/2024GL112639 • Xu, X., Martin, T., Beadling, R. L., Liu, J., Bischof, S., Hattermann, T., et al. (2025). Robustness and mechanisms of the atmospheric response over the Southern Ocean to idealized freshwater input around Antarctica. <i>Geophysical Research Letters</i>, 52, e2024GL113734. https://doi.org/10.1029/2024GL113734

	• Muilijk, M., Hattermann, T., Beadling, R.L., Swart, N.C., Nummelin, A., et al. (2026). Large regional differences in Antarctic ice shelf mass loss from Southern Ocean warming and meltwater feedbacks. The Cryosphere, 20, 1087-1117. https://doi.org/10.5194/tc-20-1087-2026 • Zhang, X., Purich, A., Deser, C., Pauling, A. (2026). Robust yet diverse tropical responses to Antarctic meltwater across models. Geophysical Research Letters, 53, e2025GL120291. https://doi.org/10.1029/2025GL120291
7. Funding awards	• SORP secured \$15,000 USD funding to support the Polar Heat Workshop in Glasgow.
8. Points for discussion at UKNCAR committee meeting	• Many UK researchers are involved in Antarctica InSync, either through various working groups, or through planned participation in InSync research cruises/field campaigns (both UK-led and internationally-led field campaigns). How best to communicate and coordinate across all of these diverse efforts to ensure that we maximise the value of our collective resources?

UKNCAR Reporting 2026 - RINGS

1. Name of SCAR Group or Programme	RINGS
2. Principal UK Researchers	Tom Jordan (BAS; Steering Committee), Hamish Pritchard (BAS), Stewart Jamieson (Durham), Neil Ross (Newcastle), Rebecca Sanderson (Newcastle), Robert Bingham (Edinburgh) Jonathan Bamber (Bristol), Christine Batchelor, Rachel Carr, Bethan Davies (Newcastle), Sammie Buzzard, Ines Otosaka, Andrew Shepherd, Thomas Slater, Kate Winter (Northumbria), Harry Davis, Felipe Napoleoni, Clara Nyqvist (Edinburgh), Pierre Dutrieux, Peter Fretwell (BAS), Devin Harrison (Kelpie Geoscience), Anna Hogg, Ben Wallis (Leeds), Bernd Kulesa (Swansea), Helen Millman, Martin Siegert (Exeter), Guy Paxman (Durham), Alessandro Silvano (Southampton/NOC)
3. Major activities and progress since previous year involving UK personnel/infrastructure	The main RINGS review/whitepaper defining the community need and broad best-practice for collecting circum-Antarctic geophysical data is in press with Reviews of Geophysics. White papers led by Neil Ross and Stewart Jamieson (Wedell Sea sector) and also by Kate Winter (Antarctic Peninsula) are still in progress. The transition of the RINGS action group (which is due to end) to a new Expert Group with an 8 year term and new structure, has been discussed, and an application submitted to SCAR – this will enable RINGS to have the IPY as a key target. The current RINGS leadership will remain in place until the transition is complete and the new leadership structure is in place. Carl Robinson (BAS Head of Airborne Survey Technology) is now the designated RINGS point of contact with CONMAP. We expect that there will be synergies between RINGS and the new Wilkes Basin Action Group led by Matt King (University of Tasmania) and that the UK will take some role in aspects of both in due course.
4. Major future initiatives and actions involving UK personnel/infrastructure	The UTOPIA project led by Bernd Kulesa at Swansea plans to apply for RINGS affiliation. This funded NERC project will survey the grounding line of the Vanderford Glacier into the continental interior (scheduled 2028/29).

5. Policy outcomes	
6. Selected publications	Matsuoka, K., Moholdt, G., Arthur, J. F., Bodart, J. A., Cui, X., Ferraccioli, F., et al. (2026). Toward an improved understanding of the Antarctic coastal zone and its contribution to future global sea level. <i>Reviews of Geophysics</i>, 64, e2022RG000803. https://doi.org/10.1029/2022RG000803 Ross, N., Sanderson, R. J., Kulesa, B., Siegert, M., Paxman, G. J. G., Nichols, K. A., Siegfried, M. R., Jamieson, S. S. R., Bentley, M. J., Jordan, T. A., Batchelor, C. L., Small, D., Eisen, O., Winter, K., Bingham, R. G., Callard, S. L., Carr, R., Dow, C. F., Fricker, H. A., Hill, E., Hills, B. H., Hofstede, C., Jeofry, H., Napoleoni, F., and Sauthoff, W. (in press): The Foundation-Patuxent-Academy ice stream system, Antarctica. <i>The Cryosphere</i>. Preprint at: https://doi.org/10.5194/egusphere-2025-3625
7. Funding awards	
8. Points for discussion at UKNCAR committee meeting	

31st UKNCAR Reporting 2026 - ANTOS

1. Name of SCAR Group or Programme	ANTOS
2. Principal UK Researchers	P. Convey (steering committee member)
3. Major activities and progress since previous year involving UK personnel/infrastructure	As per decision at 2024 OSC, ANTOS is in its final 2 year wind-up phase. Two significant papers describing the state of play of biological environmental monitoring in Antarctica have been produced. UK does not itself operate any 'ANTOS type' biological recording and monitoring stations, although has operated four year-round stations that predate and provided foundations for the ANTOS proposal since c. 2000. Data are available online. Logistic (including climate change) challenges – see Siegert et al. 2026 Nature Comms Earth & Environment - have led to loss of data from one of these for the last 5 years, and the closure of another site as it has become inaccessible.
4. Major future initiatives and actions involving UK personnel/infrastructure	There will be both 'closed' and 'open' ANTOS business meetings at Oslo. In advance of this there will be a 3 day 'rolling' international workshop online to help prepare for these meetings (agenda attached)
5. Policy outcomes	
6. Selected publications	Borgmeier et al In press Gaps and Advances in Long-Term Monitoring of Antarctic Near-Shore and Terrestrial Ecosystems. Conservation Biology. (have not been able to obtain updated status of this or other paper)
7. Funding awards	
8. Points for discussion at UKNCAR committee meeting	While UK has one of the strongest records in generating year-round terrestrial biological microclimate data (and, previously, freshwater), and this is integral to use in a range of publications involving UK and collaborating international researchers, clear UK commitment or support for the aims of ANTOS and ongoing UK involvement in this important environmental monitoring work is lacking.

UKNCAR Reporting 2026 - ICED

1. Name of Standing Committee, SCAR Group or Programme	Integrating Climate and Ecosystem Dynamics in the Southern Ocean (ICED). ICED is a regional programme of IMBeR (Integrated Marine Biosphere Research) and the Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research (SCOR) and is a SCAR Co-Sponsored programme
2. Principal UK Researchers	Dr Nadine Johnston (Co-chair, Theme 1), Emma Cavan (Co-Chair, Theme 2), Dr Jen Freer (Theme 2), Dr Rachel Cavanagh (Theme 3). All activities below have been led/co-led or involved UK representatives of the ICED Programme as well as SOOS and SCAR representatives
3. Major activities and progress since previous year involving UK personnel/infrastructure	Papers: • Review of the role of ecological feedbacks in Earth System Functioning: ○ Murphy, Eugene J., Williams, Jessica J. Myers-Smith, Isla H. Grone, Vivienne P. Jacoby, David M.P. Kwiatkowski, Lester. Melbourne-Thomas, Jess. Ransome, Emma. Banks-Leite, Cristina. Bopp, Laurant. Gehlen, Marion. Hofmann, Eileen E. Hoogakker, Babette. Johnston, Nadine M. Malhi, Yadvinder. Cavan, Emma L. (2026) Ecological feedbacks in the Earth System. https://doi.org/10.1029/2025EF006478 . Earth's Future. • Continued revisions on final output from the ICED Krill Modelling Workshop; ○ Bahl, A, Bahlburg, D, Veytia, D, Sylvester, Z, Green, DB, Halfter, S, Liszka, CM, O'Sullivan, D, Rombola, EF, Ryabov, A, Thorpe, SE, Pakhomov, EA, Kawaguchi, S, Hofmann, EE, Johnston NM, Young, EF, Confory, JA, Bernard, KS, Murphy, EJ. (In Revision). Identifying and prioritising key data gaps for modelling Antarctic krill recruitment. ICED Journal of Marine Science. SCAR: • Participated in Ant-ICON and AntClimNow meetings • Member (Johnston and Freer) of C-CAGE Interim Planning Group • 5th International Polar Year (2032-2033) Interim Planning Group. Key activities include: - Attending 6 monthly online meetings - Participated in Task Groups (Vision, and EDI) United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030): • UN Decade Collaborative Centre for the Southern Ocean Region (DCC-SOR). Key activities included; - Participation in Southern Ocean Task Force meetings

	Antarctica InSync: Contributed to Theme 4 White paper
4. Major future initiatives and actions involving UK personnel/infrastructure	Contribution to IMBeR synthesis activities as it wraps up its 2016-2025 Science Plan
5. Policy outcomes	n/a
6. Selected publications	
7. Funding awards	n/a
8. Points for discussion at UKNCAR meeting	- Published Murphy et al. 2025 Ecological Feedbacks in the Earth System - Ongoing Antarctica InSync, IPY and UN Decade contributions

UKNCAR Reporting 2026: Geosciences

1. Name of SCAR Group or Programme	Geosciences (including biogeosciences)
2. Principal UK Researchers	Claire Allen, Amber Annett, Mike Bentley, Robert Bingham, Filipa Carvahlo, Katharine Hendry, Sian Henley, Claus-Dieter Hillenbrand, Dominic Hodgson, Kelly Hogan, Stewart Jamieson, Joanne Johnson, Tom Jordan, Maeve Lohan, Clara Manno, Mark Moore, Victoria Peck, Teal Riley, Stephen Roberts, James Smith, Alessandro Tagliabue, Geraint Tarling
3. Major activities and progress since previous year involving UK personnel/infrastructure	The AGE: Antarctic Geological Evolution SRP proposal was submitted to SCAR at the end of January and is in revision. At SCAR OSC in Oslo the workshop will seek to engage people in phase one, and this will be the opportunity for the UK to start contributions. A new Geoscience (and other standing groups) action group called 'Coordinated planning for Science in the Wilkes Subglacial Basin (WSB AG)', has been proposed by Matt King (UTAS) and Nancy Bertler (UVic) and has preliminary membership that includes UK researchers. A workshop at SCAR OSC will enable membership to expand, and we expect significant UK interest. The Geological History Constraints (GHC) project of the International Thwaites Glacier Collaboration (UK lead Joanne Johnson, BAS) concluded in late 2025. Several publications were published from the project in 2025 (UK authors indicated in bold, listed below), with a couple more in review. Johnson collaborated with artist Rowan Huntley to present a new exhibition at The Polar Museum, Cambridge from September 2025-June 2026: "Through Ice and Fire" https://www.spri.cam.ac.uk/museum/exhibitions/throughiceandfire/, showcasing her geological work on Antarctic ice-sheet reconstruction and reaching >30,000 people through the physical exhibition and digital resources. The project was jointly funded by University of Cambridge and NERC (International Thwaites Glacier Collaboration, GHC project). INSTANT (see full report for details) Preparation of INSTANT Special Issue, including a summary paper. Johnson and Jonny Kingslake (Imperial) have convened a session for the upcoming SCAR OSC on reconstructing ice-sheet changes in Antarctica, which will bring together researchers across the community, including geology and glaciology (particularly ice-core science). BIOPOLE Fieldwork continued, with the BIOPOLE III cruise to Drake Passage. Opportunistic sampling was possible into June 2025 thanks to additional Collaborative Antarctic Science Scheme funding including winter sampling in Ryder Bay.

	POLOMINTS – investigating the impacts of internal waves driven by glacier calving on heat and nutrient fluxes (PI Michael Meredith (BAS), including Annett, Carvalho, Hendry). First fieldwork season started out of Rothera Research Station and the RRS <i>Sir David Attenborough</i>, from January 2026 onwards. IronMan – investigating the impacts of iron and manganese limitation on Southern Ocean biological productivity (PI Tagliabue, including Moore and Lohan). Cruise on the RRS <i>Sir David Attenborough</i>, January – February 2026.
4. Major future initiatives and actions involving UK personnel/infrastructure	
5. Policy outcomes	Mike Bentley has been working with Geoconservation groups to develop proposals for “Geosites” for the Cenozoic glaciation framework of the SCAR Geological heritage and Geoconservation Expert Group.
6. Selected publications	JORDAN, T. A., JOHNSON, J. S., RILEY, T. R., CONRAD, E., CARTER, A. (2025) Subglacial geology and palaeo flow of Pine Island Glacier from combining glacial erratics with geophysics. <i>Communications Earth & Environment</i> 6, 826. https://doi.org/10.1038/s43247-025-02783-3 ADAMS, J. R., ROOD, D. H., WILCKEN, K., ROBERTS, S. J., JOHNSON, J. S. (2026) Paired ¹⁴C-¹⁰Be exposure ages from Mount Murphy, West Antarctica: Implications for accurate and precise deglacial chronologies. <i>Geochronology</i> 8 (2), 255-277. https://doi.org/10.5194/gchron-8-255-2026 JOHNSON, J. S., WOODWARD, J., NESBITT, I., WINTER, K., CAMPBELL, S., NICHOLS, K. A., VENTURELLI, R. A., BRADDOCK, S., GOEHRING, B. M., HALL, B., ROOD, D. H., BALCO, G. (2025) Assessing the suitability of sites near Pine Island Glacier for subglacial bedrock drilling aimed at detecting Holocene retreat and readvance. <i>The Cryosphere</i> 19, 303–324. https://doi.org/10.5194/tc-19-303-2025 ADAMS, J. R., MASON, P. J., ROBERTS, S. J., ROOD, D. H., SMELLIE, J. L., NICHOLS, K. A., WOODWARD, J., JOHNSON, J. S. (2025) Remote mapping of bedrock for future cosmogenic nuclide exposure dating studies in remote unvisited areas of Antarctica. <i>Remote Sensing</i> 17 (2), 314. https://doi.org/10.3390/rs17020314 JOHNSON, J. S., NICHOLS, K. A., RILEY, T. R., VENTURELLI, R. A., HODGSON, D. A., BALCO, G., HALL, B., SMITH, J. A., WOODWARD, J. (2025) Glacial geology of the Hudson Mountains, Amundsen Sea sector, West Antarctica. <i>Quaternary</i>

	<i>Science Reviews.</i> https://doi.org/10.1016/j.quascirev.2024.109027 Twinn, G., Riley, T.R. & Carter, A. (2026). Origins of Antarctic Peninsula topography: constraints from low-temperature apatite thermochronometry. <i>Tectonics</i>. 10.1029/2025TC009352 Archibald, E., Marschalek, J., Muxworthy, A., Riley, T.R., Hillenbrand, C.-D., Jordan, T.A., Vermeesch, P., Flowerdew, M.J., Siegert, M., Hodgson, D.A. & van de Flierdt, T. (2026). Geochemical characterisation of the Ellsworth-Whitmore Mountains crustal block: a critical piece in the puzzle to unravel ice retreat in West Antarctica. <i>Chemical Geology</i>, 76, 123290. 10.1016/j.chemgeo.2026.123290 Riley, T.R., Carter, A., Flowerdew, M.J., Millar, I.L & Whitehouse, M.J. (2026). South Georgia in a West Gondwana context: detrital zircon geochronology of a late Permian accretionary complex. <i>Andean Geology</i>, 53 (2), 223-239. 10.5027/andgeoV53n2-3845 Monteath, A.J., Young, E.F., Dawson, H., Jensen, B., Smellie, J.L., Manning, C.J., Riley, T.R., Jordan, T.A. & Roberts, S.J. (2025). Major-minor-trace element analyses and oceanographic modelling confirms circumpolar transport of the 1962 Protector Shoal pumice raft. <i>Journal of Geophysical Research: Oceans</i>, 130, e2025JC022827. 10.1029/2025JC022827 Winter, K., Woodward, J., Dunning, S.A. et al. Thinning Antarctic glaciers expose high-altitude nunataks delivering more bioavailable iron to the Southern Ocean. <i>Nat Commun</i> 16, 9994 (2025). https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-025-65714-y Taylor, L. R., Pryer, H., Hendry, K. R., Sanders, R. N., Meredith, M. P., Meijers, A., ... & Manno, C. (2026). Giant iceberg behaviour impacts regional biogeochemical cycling in the Southern Ocean. <i>Communications Earth & Environment</i>, 7(1), 353. Wadham, J. L., Lamarche-Gagnon, G., Arndt, S., Bagshaw, E. A., Garcia-Yao, S., Goldberg, D., ... & Poulter, B. (2026). An ice sheet-to-ocean analysis of carbon stores and fluxes in Earth's polar regions (RECCAP2, polar ice sheets). <i>Global biogeochemical cycles</i>, 40(2), e2025GB008677. Mawbey, E. M., Smith, J. A., Hillenbrand, C. D., Hendry, K. R., McClymont, E. L., Greaves, M. J., ... & Dutrieux, P. (2026). Ocean heat forced West Antarctic Ice Sheet retreat after the Last Glacial Maximum. <i>Nature Communications</i>.
7. Funding awards	
8. Points for discussion at UKNCAR committee meeting	<u>Antarctica Insync</u> (potential) opportunities (https://www.antarctica-insync.org/)

UKNCAR Reporting 2026 – SC-ATS

1. Name of SCAR Group or Programme	Standing Committee on the Antarctic Treaty System (SC-ATS)
2. Principal UK Researchers	• Rachel Cavanagh (BAS) - AntClimNow representative • Susie Grant (BAS) - previous chief officer • Jasmine Lee (BAS/Monash University) • Chandrika Nath (SCAR Secretariat) Other UK researchers from across SCAR groups have contributed to the development of advice and papers
3. Major activities and progress since previous year involving UK personnel/infrastructure	SC-ATS coordinates the provision of SCAR’s scientific advice to the Antarctic Treaty System (Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM), Committee on Environmental Protection (CEP), Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR)) – drawing upon expertise from across all SCAR programmes and affiliated groups. Many of the papers listed below were led or contributed to by UK researchers. CCAMLR SCAR participated in the CCAMLR Scientific Committee and Commission meetings (Hobart, Oct 2025) as an invited Observer, and presented papers on: • SCAR’s Annual Report to CCAMLR. • Antarctic and Southern Ocean climate change and the environment: update on recent research and SCAR activities relevant to CCAMLR. • Plastic pollution in the Southern Ocean from SCAR’s Plastic in Polar Environments Expert Group (SPEG). • Updates on the SCAR Action Group on Fish (SCARFISH) as relevant to CCAMLR. • Update on High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza (HPAI) in Antarctica and the Southern Ocean. • Management of the Antarctic krill fishery from SCAR’s Krill Expert Group (SKEG). ATCM/CEP SCAR participated in the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM) and the Committee on Environmental Protection (CEP) (Hiroshima, Japan, May 2026) as an invited Observer, and presented papers on: • SCAR Annual Report to the ATCM • Antarctic Climate Change and the Environment – 2026 update • Evolution, Drivers and Impacts of Antarctic Sea Ice Change • Long-term monitoring status of Antarctic nearshore marine and terrestrial flora and fauna

	• Status of Southern Ocean seals (with IUCN) • Update on High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza in Antarctica • Plastic pollution in Antarctica • Summary of reports of the Intersessional Contact Group on Education and Outreach (many members and observers including SCAR) • Advancing SCAR's work on Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion • Online Repository of Scientific Research Supporting the Development of a Comprehensive and Consistent Framework for Antarctic Tourism Management • The Southern Ocean Observing System (SOOS): Enhancing Integration, Coordination and Collaboration to Upscale Observations in a Changing World • Establishment of Non-native Insects in Antarctic Natural Environments, including Protected Areas • Education and Outreach Activities carried out by SCAR • Update on Plans for a Fifth International Polar Year 2032-33 (with WMO) • Update on Antarctic RINGS (Norway, UK, COMNAP & SCAR) • Status of the emperor penguin • Coordination and Engagement of the Southern Ocean Community within the UN Ocean Decade • SCAR Lecture at ATCM 48 – Linking Land, ice, and sea: Antarctic Groundwater's Emerging Role in a Changing World • Antarctic Environments Portal Joint CEP/SC-CAMLR Workshop on Climate Change and Monitoring A Joint CEP/SC-CAMLR Workshop on Climate Change and Monitoring was held prior to the main CEP meeting in Hiroshima, Japan, May 2026. SCAR advice on climate change and environmental monitoring is relevant to both bodies, and this workshop was an important opportunity to identify specific research, monitoring and information needs that SCAR can help to provide. SCAR participated as an invited Observer, presented three invited keynote talks on climate change and monitoring and submitted a paper on AntClimNow's Antarctic Climate Indicators project, in addition to papers that were also submitted to the CEP and relevant to the joint workshop. SC-ATS/Ant-ICON science-policy fellowships The fourth round of SC-ATS/Ant-ICON science-policy fellowships were awarded to:
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	- Hugo Benitez (Chile) for participation at ATCM/CEP - adaptation of non-native terrestrial invertebrates to Antarctica. - Wuju Son (Republic of Korea) for participation at CCAMLR - acoustic assessment of Antarctic krill and ice krill distribution, biomass, and swarm characteristics in the Ross Sea MPA. These fellowships have been very successful in facilitating the participation of early/mid-career researchers in the CEP and SC-CAMLR, and helping them to gain an understanding of these policy forums. UK researchers engage with the fellowships via their work within the ATCM and CCAMLR.
4. Major future initiatives and actions involving UK personnel/infrastructure	Participation in CCAMLR Scientific Committee and Commission meetings (Oct 2026) and CEP/ATCM (May 2027) – ongoing development of advice to inform policy discussions and decision-making, and provision of information as requested by these bodies.
5. Policy outcomes	SCAR's scientific advice was very well received during CCAMLR (2025), and the recent CEP/ATCM (May 2026), including the associated Joint CEP/SC-CAMLR Joint Workshop, particularly on climate change including sea ice, avian influenza, environmental monitoring, emperor penguins, seals. SCAR has been requested to continue providing relevant updates on all of these topics.
6. Selected publications	
7. Funding awards	
8. Points for discussion at UKNCAR committee meeting	

31st UKNCAR Reporting 2026 – Life Sciences

1. Name of SCAR Group or Programme	Life Sciences Standing Science Group
2. Principal UK Researchers	P Convey (UK voting rep); group represents all biological-related researchers working in the Antarctic field, though is not a research group or programme in itself
3. Major activities and progress since previous year involving UK personnel/infrastructure	Significant UK participation in Ant-ICON (will be separate programme report), particularly with Kevin Hughes and Jasmine Lee (now returned to Australia, still an active BAS Fellow) in leadership roles. Important UK participation in ‘extreme event’ workshops/meetings (e.g. Royal Society) and outputs (e.g. Davies et al 2026 Front Env Sci; Siegert et al Nature Comms Earth & Environment). Important UK contributions to mapping Antarctic vegetation (Walshaw et al Nature Geoscience) and grounding ‘Antarctic Greening’ debate (Colesie et al 2025 GCB, Bokhorst et al in press Nature Geoscience, de Jonge et al 2026 Ecological Indicators), also highlighting strong and long-standing collaborative interaction between UK and NL Antarctic biology communities
4. Major future initiatives and actions involving UK personnel/infrastructure	Draft LSSSG strategic plan circulated May 2025 (for SCAR internal consumption, copy attached) Life Sciences intersessional input into preparation of two cross-SSG Action group proposals for consideration at Oslo business meetings, one on multidisciplinary research in the Wilkes Subglacial Basin C-CAGE PPG is ongoing, with strong UK input over this period (Huw Griffiths, Cath Waller)
5. Policy outcomes	Ant-ICON held a well-attended science into policy workshop in 2025 in Paris While not specifically an LS activity, important and respected UK input to the CEP is provided by Kevin Hughes
6. Selected publications	A few mentioned above, but far too many to list
7. Funding awards	Not the function of Life Sciences group
8. Points for discussion at UKNCAR committee meeting	The venue for the 2027 SCAR Biology meeting has been changed within the US. However, previous concerns raised at last year’s UKNCAR re the wisdom of SCAR continuing with plans for SCAR Biology 2027 in USA remain in place, both in terms of safety aspects for UK participants given ongoing words and actions of US govt and authorities towards visitors, even from ‘friendly’ countries, and importantly for SCAR, the very clearly discriminatory actions of the US authorities towards both what we call ‘protected groups’ and towards various countries including

	those from the global south, including visa obstruction. Many researchers from such countries, and from the 'west', are no longer be prepared to risk travelling to the US. Further, the US stance on removal of reference to climate change, as evidenced in their actions at recent ATCM (explicitly pushing for the term's removal), calls into question the credibility of SCAR holding a conference in the US much of whose biological content will be presented in the context of that very change. This could pose real threats to presenters, attendees and host US researchers (indeed, in discussion with a US-led UN delegation while in Chile in February 2026, I was told some US scientists and institutions are even asking conference organisers to avoid the US so as not to attract any further attention to their own threatened research communities).
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31st UKNCAR Reporting 2026 - SCAGI

1. Name of SCAR Group or Programme	SCAGI – Standing Committee on Antarctic Geographic Information
2. Principal UK Researchers	Louise Ireland (Co-Chair and UK Rep)
3. Major activities and progress since previous year involving UK personnel/infrastructure	Antarctic Digital Database (ADD) 1. UK has produced and delivered new versions of the Antarctic coastline, and rock outcrop in November 2025 - v7.11 and May 2026 – v7.12. Composite Gazetteer of Antarctica (CGA) 1. UK Antarctic Place Names Committee (APC) has fed all new gazetteer additions for British Antarctic Territory to the SCAR Composite Gazetteer of Antarctica (CGA). 2. Led work to improve the CGA submission process with colleagues from UK, Australia, New Zealand and Italy. 3. Hosted a SCAR Connect webinar on history. Importance and technical aspects of Antarctic place naming, including details of SCAR Report 41 – International Principles and Procedures of Antarctic Place Naming. Air Operations Planning Maps 1. The UK map sheets for the Air Operations Planning Map series were updated for 25/26 with the agreed specification. This includes the use of REMA v2.0 elevation data for spot heights and contours alongside standard updates for the latest coastline from the SCAR Antarctic Digital Database. Work is ongoing to establish the best way to include wildlife data for air operations usage. 2. Air operations maps were made available through the SCAR Map Catalogue
4. Major future initiatives and actions involving UK personnel/infrastructure	SCAGI will hold it's annual meeting at the SCAR OSC in August.
5. Policy outcomes	None
6. Selected publications	SCAR Connect webinar – soon to be available online.
7. Funding awards	None
8. Points for discussion at UKNCAR committee meeting	None