

# The United Kingdom in Antarctica



Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office

**Jane Rumble**

Head of **Polar Regions** Department, FCO

Head of UK ATCM Delegation

UK CCAMLR Commissioner

---

# Presentation Content

---

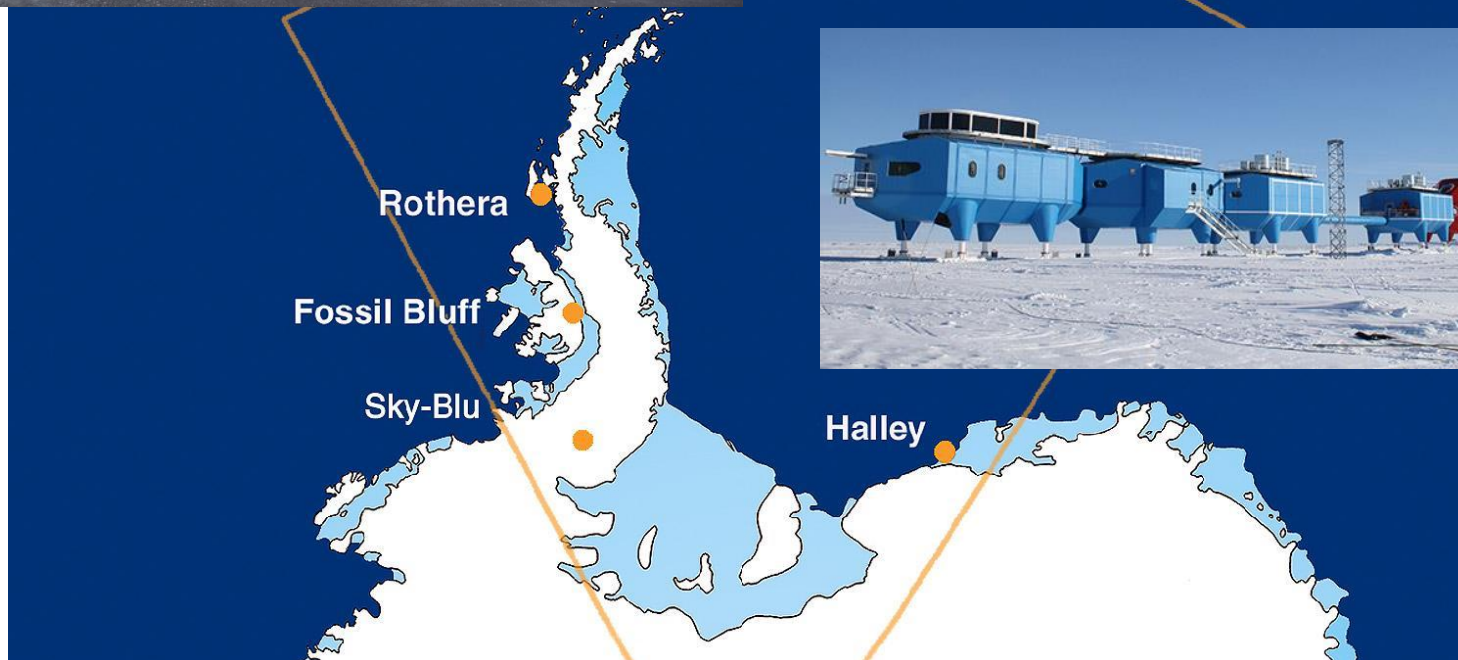
- > UK **presence** and activities in Antarctica;
- > UK **perspectives** on future Antarctic challenges.



# UK scientific presence in Antarctica



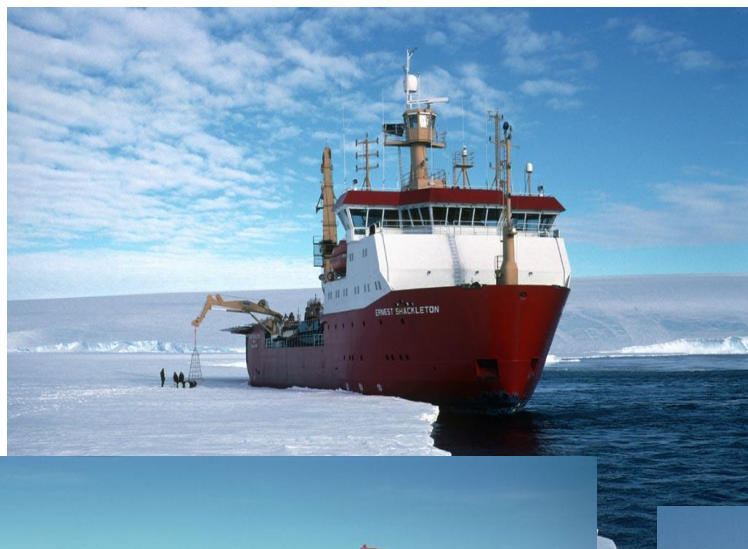
● Signy





Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office

# UK scientific presence in Antarctica



---

# British science in Antarctica

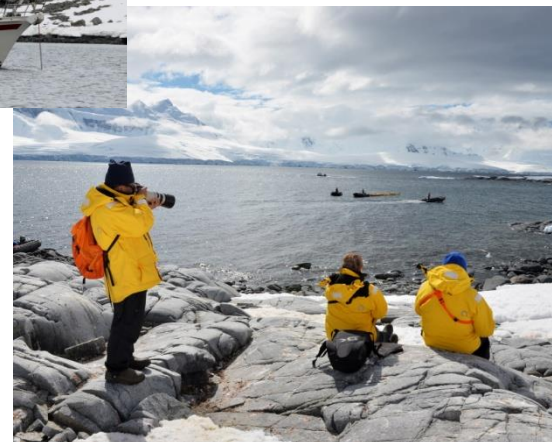
---

- > **UK Science in Antarctica 2014-2020;**
- > Identifies science challenges over next 5 years:
  - Understanding **global environmental change**;
  - Refining our knowledge of past, presence and **predicting future change**;
  - Understanding **biodiversity for responsible management** in Antarctica;
  - Exploring the **frontiers of knowledge**.
- > Importance of **international collaboration** to understanding the global significance of Antarctica.



# British activities in Antarctica

- > Antarctic Treaty and CCAMLR inspections;
- > Hydrographic charting;
- > Tourism and exploration;
- > Fishing.



---

# Antarctic Treaty System today

---



- > Antarctic Treaty, 1959 (and Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meetings, **ATCMs**);
- > (Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Seals, **CCAS**, 1972);
- > Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources, 1982 (**CCAMLR**);
- > Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty, 1991 (and the Committee for Environmental Protection, **CEP**).

---

# UK Antarctic Strategy

---

- > The UK has long-term **strategic, scientific, environmental** and **sustainable resource management** interests in the Antarctic;
  
- > We protect these interests by taking a leading role in the Antarctic Treaty System through a policy of **presence, governance** and **commitment to deliver our international obligations**.
  
- > Key Focus on:
  - British **Influence** – through the Antarctic Treaty System;
  - British **Science** – through the British Antarctic Survey and across UK;
  - British **Responsibilities** – security and good governance of Antarctica and delivery of our international obligations through the Antarctic Treaty System.



---

# UK Priorities – ATCM/CEP

---

- > 2016 marks the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary since the Environmental Protocol was signed. UK ATCM priorities include:
  - Adaptive management to respond to **climate change impacts**;
  - Strengthening the **regulation of human activities**, including through enhanced Environmental Impact Assessments;
  - Strategic vision for the **future of Antarctic tourism** – promote safe and environmentally responsible tourism and manage future growth;
  - Shipping/Aviation **safety** and **Search and Rescue**;
  - Formal Antarctic Treaty **Inspections**.



# UK Priorities – CCAMLR

The UK has the **Coastal, Port, Flag** and **Market** interests in CCAMLR.

Key priorities are:

- **Marine Protected Areas;**
- New “fisheries research” proposals in new areas;
- **Climate change** and ocean acidification;
- Spatial and temporal management (e.g. in Antarctic Peninsula);
- Compliance and illegal, unregulated and unreported (**IUU**) fishing;
- **Capacity** management.



# Future Challenges



- > **Balance of power** within the ATCM – from 12 to 29;
- > **New territorial enthusiasts**;
- > **Greater accessibility** (e.g. new inter-continental flights);
- > Activities of **non-Treaty Party** nationals and organisations;
- > Relationship of Antarctic Treaty to **other international instruments**;
- > **Strategic UK alliances** with key Parties.

# Thank You and Questions?



Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office

**[Jane.Rumble@fco.gov.uk](mailto:Jane.Rumble@fco.gov.uk)**  
Head of Polar Regions Department, FCO