

**Management Plan for Antarctic Specially Protected Area (ASPA) No. 159  
for Historic Site No. 22**

(containing the historic huts of Carsten Borchgrevink and  
Scott's Northern Party and their precincts)

**CAPE ADARE**

(*Lat. 71°18'S, Long 170°09'E*).

**1 Description of Values to be Protected**

This Area was originally listed as Historic site 22 in ATCM Recommendation VII-9 proposed by New Zealand.

There are three main structures in the Area. Two were built in February 1899 during the British Antarctic (*Southern Cross*) Expedition led by C.E. Borchgrevink (1898-1900). One hut served as a living hut and the other as a store. They were used for the first winter spent on the Antarctic continent.

Scott's Northern Party hut is situated 30 metres to the north of Borchgrevink's hut. It consists of the collapsing remains of a third hut built in February 1911 for the Northern Party led by V.L.A. Campbell of R.F. Scott's British Antarctic (*Terra Nova*) Expedition (1910-1913), which wintered there in 1911.

In addition to these features there are numerous other historic relics located in the Area. These include stores depots, a latrine structure, two anchors from the ship "*Southern Cross*", an ice anchor from the ship "*Terra Nova*", and supplies of coal briquettes. Other historic items within the Area are buried in guano.

Cape Adare is one of the principal sites of early human activity in Antarctica. It is an important symbol of the Heroic Age of Antarctic exploration and, as such, has considerable historical and cultural

significance. Some of the earliest advances in the study of earth sciences, meteorology, flora and fauna in Antarctica are associated with the two earliest expeditions based at this site. The history of these activities and the contribution they have made to the understanding and awareness of Antarctica give this Area significant technical, architectural, aesthetic and social values.

## **2 Aims and Objectives**

The aim of the management plan is to provide protection for the Area and its features so that its values can be preserved. The objectives of the Plan are to:

- avoid degradation of, or substantial risk to, the values of the Area;
- maintain the historic values of the Area through planned restoration and conservation work which may include;
  - a. 'on-site' maintenance
  - b. monitoring the condition of artefacts and structures, and the factors which affect them
  - c. conservation of artefacts to be conducted on and off site;
- allow management activities which support the protection of the values and features of the Area including;
  - a. mapping and otherwise recording the disposition of historic items in the hut environs
  - b. recording other relevant historic data;
- prevent unnecessary human disturbance to the Area, its features and artefacts through managed access to Borchgrevink's hut.

### **3 Management Activities**

- A programme of restoration and preservation work shall be undertaken on the *Southern Cross* hut and associated structures and artefacts in the Area.
- Visits shall be made as necessary for management purposes.
- Control of the number of visitors.
- National Antarctic Programmes operating in, or those with an interest in, the region shall consult together with a view to ensuring the above provisions are implemented.

### **4 Period of Designation**

Designated under Measure 1 (1998) for an indefinite period.

### **5 Maps**

Map A: Cape Adare regional map. This map shows the Cape Adare region along with the boundaries of the Area with significant topographic features. It also shows the approximate location of significant historical items within the Area.

Map B: Cape Adare site map. This map shows the approximate location of specific historic relics and structures within the Area.

### **6 Description of the Area**

#### 6(i) Geographical coordinates, boundary markers and natural features

Cape Adare is a generally ice free, prominent volcanic headland, at the northern extremity of Victoria Land, which marks the western

approaches to the Ross Sea. The Area is located to the south west of the Cape on the southern shore of Ridley Beach, which encloses a large, flat, triangular area of shingle. The whole of the flat area and the lower western slopes of the Adare Peninsula are occupied by one of the largest Adélie penguin (*Pygoscelis adeliae*) rookeries in Antarctica. Penguins have almost completely occupied the Area and the need to avoid disturbance often restricts access to the huts.

The boundaries of the proposed ASPA are:

North, an east-west line drawn 50 metres north of the Northern Party Hut.

East, a north-south line drawn 50 metres to the west of Borchgrevink's stores hut.

West, a north-south line drawn 50 metres to the east of Borchgrevink's living hut.

South, the shoreline of Ridley Beach.

Major features of the Area include Borchgrevink's Southern Cross expedition living hut and the unroofed stores hut. Scott's Northern Party hut is situated 30 metres to the north of Borchgrevink's living hut and is in a state of collapse.

In addition to these structures there are many other historic relics distributed around the Area. These include stores depots, a latrine structure, two anchors from the ship "*Southern Cross*", an ice anchor from the ship "*Terra Nova*", and supplies of coal. Many of these items are either partly or completely covered in the guano of the Adélie penguins which also occupy the Area.

Skuas (*Catharacta maccormicki*) nest in the vicinity and Weddell seals also haul up along the beach.

6(ii) Restricted zones within the Area

None

6(iii) Structures within the Area

Apart from a Treaty plaque all structures within the Area are of historic origin.

6(iv) Location of other Protected Areas within close proximity

There are no other Protected Areas in the vicinity.

## **7 Permit Conditions**

Entry to the Area is prohibited except in accordance with a permit.

Permits shall be issued only by appropriate national authorities and may contain both general and specific conditions. A permit may be issued by a national authority to cover a number of visits in a season. Parties operating in the Ross Sea area shall consult together and with groups and organisations interested in visiting the Area to ensure that visitor numbers are not exceeded.

General conditions for issuing a permit may include:

- activities related to preservation, maintenance, research and/or monitoring purposes;
- management activities in support of the objectives of this plan;
- activities related to tourism, educational or recreational activities providing they do not conflict with the objectives of this plan;
- the Permit should be valid for a stated period;
- a copy of the permit must be carried within the Area.

### 7(i) Access to and movement within the Area

*Control of movement within the Area is necessary to prevent disturbance to wildlife and damage caused by crowding around the many vulnerable historic features within the Area. The maximum number in the Area at any time (including those within the hut) is: **40 people***

*Control of numbers within Borchgrevink's hut is necessary to prevent damage caused by crowding around the many vulnerable features within the hut. The maximum number within the hut at any time (including guides) is: **4 people***

Avoidance of cumulative impacts on the interior of Borchgrevink's hut requires an annual limit on visitor numbers. The number of visitors to the hut varies considerably from year to year but the effect of visitors to other Ross Sea area historic huts suggests that similar limits should apply. The annual maximum number of visitors is: **2000 people**

These limits have been based on current visitor levels and on the best advice available from conservation advisory agencies (which include conservators, archaeologists, historians, museologists and other heritage protection professionals). The limits are based on the proposition that any significant increase in the current level of visitors would be detrimental to the values to be protected. An ongoing monitoring programme of the effect of visitors is in place. This will provide the basis for future reviews of the management plan, in particular whether the current annual maximum number of visitors to the area is appropriate. This could result in the annual maximum number either increasing or decreasing.

Helicopter landings are prohibited within the Area. There are no designated helicopter pads in the vicinity of the Area. For most of the access season it is unlikely that helicopters could be operated without causing harmful interference to wildlife.

Vehicles are prohibited within the Area. Landings from the sea by boat, or vehicles travelling on the sea ice, may be made directly onto the beach at several locations.

Movement on foot around the Area may need to be restricted to avoid harmful interference to penguins nesting around and on the structures and artefacts in the Area.

#### 7(ii) Activities which may be conducted within the Area

Activities which may be conducted within the Area include:

- visits for restoration, preservation and/or protection;
- educational and/or recreational visits including tourism;
- scientific activity which does not detract from the values of the Area.

#### 7(iii) Installation, modification and removal of structures

No new structures are to be erected in the Area, or scientific equipment installed, except for conservation or scientific activities that do not detract from the values of the Area as specified in 1. No historic structure relic or artefact shall be removed from the Area, except for the purposes of restoration and/or preservation and then only in accordance with a permit.

#### 7(iv) Location of field camps

Use of the historic hut, or other structures in the Area, for living purposes is not permitted.

Camping is prohibited within the Area.

#### 7(v) Restrictions on materials and organisms which may be brought into the Area

No living animals or plant material shall be introduced to the Area.

No food products shall be taken into the Area.

Chemicals which may be introduced for management purposes shall be removed at or before the conclusion of the activity for which they are required.

Fuel or other materials are not to be left in depots in the Area, unless required for essential purposes connected with the preservation and conservation of the historic structures or the associated relics. All such materials are to be removed when no longer required.

Use of combustion type lanterns, is not permitted in the hut under any circumstances.

Smoking in the Area is not permitted.

7(vi) Taking or harmful interference with native flora and fauna

This activity is prohibited except in accordance with a separate permit issued by the appropriate national authority specifically for that purpose.

7(vii) Collection of anything not introduced by a visitor

Material may be collected and removed from the Area only for restoration, preservation or protection purposes, or scientific reasons consistent with the objectives of this plan, and only in accordance with a separate permit issued by the appropriate national authority specifically for that purpose.

Visitors must remove objects, substances and waste introduced by them during their time in the Area.

7(viii) Disposal of waste

All waste generated by work parties shall be removed from the Area.

7(ix) Measures that may be necessary to ensure that the aims and objectives of the plan continue to be met

The provision of information for visitors.

The development of skills and resources, particularly those related to conservation and preservation techniques, to assist with the protection of the Area's values.

7(x) Requirements for reports

Parties should ensure that the principal holder for each Permit issued submits to the appropriate authority a report describing the activities undertaken. Such reports should include, as appropriate, the information identified in the Visit Report Form suggested by SCAR. Parties should maintain a record of such activities and, in the Annual Exchange of Information, should provide summary descriptions of activities conducted by persons subject to their jurisdiction, in sufficient detail to allow evaluation of the effectiveness of the Management Plan. Parties should wherever possible deposit originals or copies of such reports in a publicly accessible archive to maintain a record of usage, to be used both for review of the Management Plan and in organising the use of the site.