

Antarctic Peninsula Automatic Weather Station Network 2020-21 - Field Season Review
Mairi Simms, Steve Colwell
British Antarctic Survey

The British Antarctic Survey (BAS) is responsible for a network of automatic weather stations (AWS) located on the Antarctic Peninsula and in the Halley region. BAS also service two further AWS on the Larsen C ice shelf in collaboration with the University of Utrecht. All BAS AWS sites measure wind speed, wind direction, temperature, pressure and relative humidity. Data are logged to a Campbell CR1000 data logger and ten minute averaged data are saved to a data card. Ten minute averaged data are transmitted via SBD Iridium every three hours and relayed as SYNOPS on the GTS. Once a week the complete data set is sent via Iridium. The AWS are powered by two 100Ah 12V lead acid batteries, charged by solar panel. Assuming normal service, these stations need only be visited to raise the instruments, logger box and batteries above snow accumulation and to retrieve and replace data cards. Visits usually take place every one or two years depending on weather conditions and aircraft operational commitments.