



[REDACTED]

18 May 2023

Dear [REDACTED]

Freedom of Information request: FOI2023/00243

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 2 May in which you requested the following:

Your request:

Upon researching the expeditions done by David Bunger and Admiral Byrd. And hearing how vast land of warm pools were present in Antarctica (called the Bunger Oasis) and mountains of coal as described by Byrd.

Their reports concluded that these findings were very important and deemed necessary to research further. So how come governments nowadays merely deem Antarctica as a no enter zone, government only, and nothing particularly exciting. Only ice and penguins here.

Judging by the first reports of the first explorers of Antarctica, and the apparent "Antarctic Treaty" that came into place that prevented any public person to go below 60 South latitude. The government are hiding both more land and more resources, whilst they continue to tax us for energy crisis and we still have homeless problems...

I would like information on the work being done in Antarctica. Because for there to be more and more bases being built on so called boring ice, then why is this? What is so exciting there? And why are these Bunger Oasis not visible on Google maps? Or any maps? Why are there not clear imagery from space satellites? Something is not adding up and I would appreciate information on what is being done there.

Our response

I can confirm that UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) holds some information relevant to your request. Please see the information below.

1. I would like information on the work being done in Antarctica

With regards to your request for information on the work being undertaken by the British Antarctic Survey (BAS), the [BAS website](https://www.bas.ac.uk/)¹ provides information on the BAS science strategy, our research themes and topics, and research projects and collaborations. It also includes data produced from BAS science programme and from UK-funded polar research which has been deposited at the UK Polar Data Centre, which sits within BAS. You will also find links to published academic papers produced as a result of our research. Under Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act - Information already reasonably accessible, as the information you have requested is already available in the public domain, we have provided the link above. Section 21 is an absolute exemption which means that there is no requirement to conduct a public interest test.

BAS has a strong commitment to explaining the relevance of its scientific research to many different groups of people through its public engagement activities, educational outreach and resources and its information services. These are also described in more detail on the BAS website. BAS also makes extensive use of social media channels to promote our papers and activity.

¹ <https://www.bas.ac.uk/>

2. Why are Bunger Oasis not visible on Google maps, or any maps? Why is there not clear imagery available from satellites?

You also asked why the Bunger Oasis do not feature on maps. Note that the Bunger Oasis area is located within the Australian sector of Antarctica, and that consequently the majority of relevant research is available via the [Australian Antarctic Division](#)². This includes the following links to mapping resources which include the Bunger Oasis area on the Australian Antarctic Data Centre (AADC) [Map Catalogue - AADC](#)³:

- Map 920: Bedrock geology of the Bunger Hills and Denman Glacier Region, which can be downloaded [here](#) ;
- Map 15818: Bunger Hills 1995/6: Sea Ice Travel by Quad and Cache Locations, which can be downloaded [here](#) .

Published research papers containing maps are also available, for example on researchgate.net:

[\(PDF\) Late Quaternary glaciation and deglaciation of the Bunger Hills, Antarctica](#)

[\(PDF\) Climatology and implications for perennial lake ice occurrence at Bunger Hills Oasis, East Antarctica](#)

If you have any queries regarding our response or you are unhappy with the outcome of your request and wish to seek an internal review of the decision, please contact within the next 40 working days:

Head of Information Governance


Email: foi@ukri.org

Please quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are still not content with the outcome of the internal review, you may apply to refer the matter to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the review procedure provided by UKRI. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: www.ico.org.uk.

If you wish to raise a complaint regarding the service you have received or the conduct of any UKRI staff in relation to your request, please see UKRI's complaints policy: <https://www.ukri.org/about-us/policies-and-standards/complaints-policy/>

Yours sincerely,


Information Governance
Information Rights Team
UK Research and Innovation
foi@ukri.org | dataprotection@ukri.org

² <https://www.antarctica.gov.au/>

³

https://data.aad.gov.au/aadc/mapcat/search_mapcat_results.cfm?word=bunger&map_id=&start_month=&start_year=&end_month=&end_year=&opt_scale=%3D&scale=&map_lineage_id=&country_id=&choose_below=Y&restrict=YEAR&restrict=SPATIAL&restrict=IMAGE&format=html&filename=maps&order=d.title%2C+d.pubdate&north=-45.0&south=-90.0&west=-180.0&east=180.0&search_near=&radius=0.5