

**Antarctic Specially Protected Area No. 103 (Specially Protected Area No. 3)
Ardery Island and Odbert Island, Budd Coast; Lat 66°22'S, long
110°28'E and Lat 66°22'S, long 110°33'E**

1. *Description of values to be protected.* Ardery and Odbert islands support several breeding species of petrel and provide a sample of their habitat. There is no other readily accessible place in eastern Antarctica where the four genera of fulmarine petrels (*Thalassoica antarctica*, *Fulmarus glacialisoides*, *Daption capense* and *Pagodroma nivea*) breed in the same place in sufficient numbers to allow comparative study. Study of these four genera at one location is of high ecological importance both from the point of view of understanding and of monitoring the Southern Ocean ecosystem. It is believed that Ardery Island is unique insofar as it is the only area in the Antarctic which harbours two different subspecies of snow petrels. Studies on morphological or ecological differences between these two subspecies are not possible anywhere else. In addition both islands have breeding populations of Wilson's storm petrels (*Oceanites oceanicus*) and Antarctic skuas (*Catharacta maccormicki*) and Odbert Island supports breeding populations of Adélie penguins (*Pygoscelis adeliae*).

2. *Aims and objectives.* Management of the Area aims to:

- prevent unnecessary disturbance to the colonies of petrels on Ardery and Odbert islands; and
- permit research of a compelling scientific nature which cannot be undertaken elsewhere, while ensuring that this has no significant impact on the ecosystem in the area.

3. *Management activities.* The management plan and activities in the Area should be kept under review to ensure that the values for which the Area was designated are being fully protected. Inspection visits may be made only when considered essential for management purposes.

4. *Period of designation.* Designated under Recommendation IV-3 in November 1966 for an indefinite period.

5. *Description of the area.*

- a. *Geographical coordinates and natural features of the Area.* Ardery Island (66°22'S, 110°28'E) and Odbert Island (66°22'S, 110°33'E) form part of the Windmill Islands group lying in the east of Vincennes Bay, off the Budd Coast (see Map A). They are located 5 km and 0.6 km respectively to the west of Robinson Ridge, south of Casey Station. Odbert Island is approximately 2.5 km long and 0.5 km wide. It has a rocky coast which rises steeply from the sea to a plateau. The highest point is 100 m above sea level. The plateau is dissected by a series of valleys which runs to the south from the high flat rim on the northern side. These valleys are snow-covered in winter. The hill tops remain essentially ice and snow free. In some years the island remains joined to Robinson Ridge on the mainland by sea ice. Ardery Island is a steep ice-free island approximately 1 km long and 0.5 km wide, with an east-west orientation. The highest point is 113 m above mean sea level.

The terrain on both islands is rugged and dissected by fissures. The cliffs are fractured and have many narrow exposed ledges which in summer are occupied by nesting sea birds. On the hillsides and plateau region, the exposed rock is ice-smoothed and the valley floors are covered with moraine. Both islands have

several small tarns which are frozen in winter and filled with melt water in summer. Many of these are ephemeral and dry out towards the end of summer. Others, which are located below snow banks, are fed continuously by melt water.

- b. *Access to the Area.* Access to the Area may only be in accordance with a permit or authority issued by a Contracting Party or its authorised representative.

Defined landing sites for access by sea and helicopters to Ardery and Odbert Islands are shown on Maps B and C respectively. On Ardery Island the preferred boat landing site is at Robertson Landing where there are three rock anchors present to tie down a boat or other equipment. It should be noted that all three boat landing sites marked on Map B are within 200 metres of colonies of birds, however they represent the only safe landing sites on the island and if landings are undertaken carefully there is no disturbance to the birds.

There are no defined pedestrian routes within the Area, however pedestrians should avoid disturbance of the birds at all times.

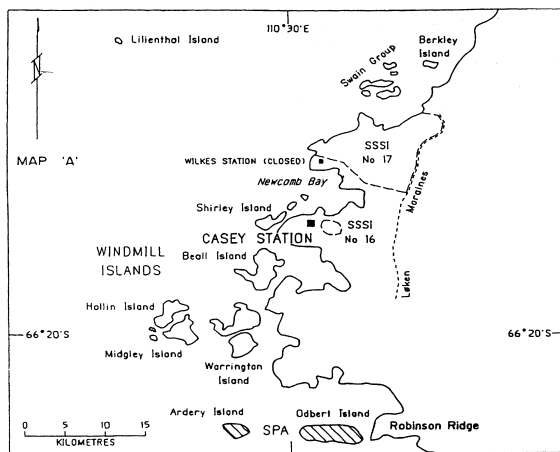
- c. *Location of structures including scientific stations, research and refuge facilities both within and near the Area.* There are no structures within the Area and no permanent structures are permitted.

The islands lie approximately 12 km south of Casey Station. A four-berth refuge hut is located on Robinson's Ridge, 0.5 km from the shore.

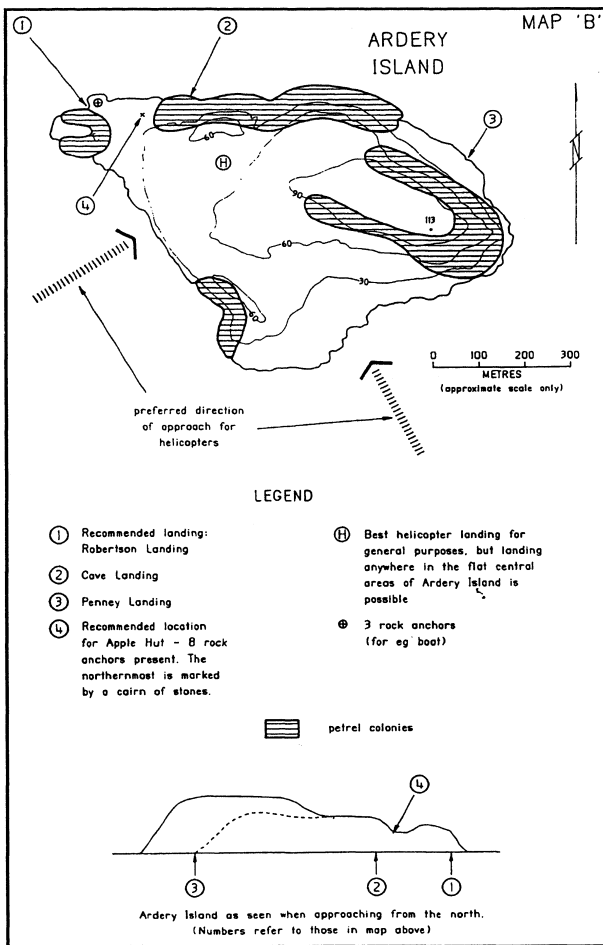
- d. *Location of other protected areas in or near the Area.* North-east Bailey Peninsula ($66^{\circ}17'S$, $110^{\circ}32'E$) (Site of Special Scientific Interest No 16) and Clark Peninsula ($66^{\circ}15'S$, $110^{\circ}36'E$) (Site of Special Scientific Interest No 17) lie opposite the Windmill Islands (see Map A).

6. *Identification of restricted zones.* Access to the petrel and Adélie penguin colonies marked on Maps B and C is prohibited unless authorised in a permit.

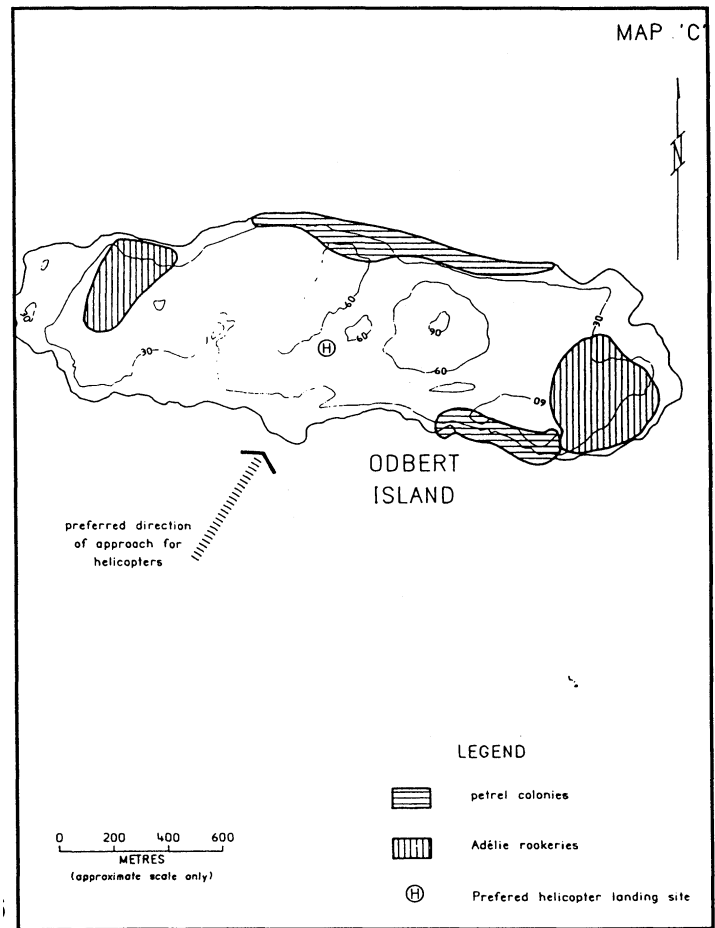
7. *Maps of the area.* Three maps of the Area are attached. Map A shows the Area and its location. Map B (Ardery Island), and Map C (Odbert Island) show preferred helicopter approaches and landing sites, landing sites for access by water and the location of the petrel and Adélie breeding colonies.



ASPA 103
Map A*



ASP A 103
Map B*



ASP A 103
Map C*

8. *Conditions under which permits may be granted.* Criteria for issuing a permit to enter the Area are that:

- it is issued for a compelling scientific purpose which cannot be pursued elsewhere;
- the actions permitted will not jeopardise the natural ecological system existing in the Area; and
- the actions permitted are in accordance with the management plan for the Area.

Conditions applying:

a. *Access to and movement within the Area:*

- i) Travel to the island should be by foot, oversnow vehicle or boat where possible; oversnow vehicles used to visit the islands must be left at the shoreline and movement within the area should be by foot.
- ii) If access to the islands is not possibly by sea or over sea-ice, then helicopters may be used subject to the following conditions:
 - overflight of the islands should be avoided at all times, except where it is considered essential for scientific purposes. In these instances, overflight must be at an altitude or horizontal distance of no less than 500 metres;
 - during the breeding season of penguins and petrels, defined here as the period from 1 November to 1 April, helicopter movement to the islands should be kept to the minimum;

- refuelling is not to take place within the Area;
- only personnel who are required to carry out work in the Area should leave the helicopter;
- the approach to Ardery Island should be at a high altitude and from a southern direction as the lowest densities of birds are on the southern cliffs (see Map B);
- the approach to Odbert Island should preferably be from the south, avoiding cliff areas because of the nesting petrels (see Map C).

b. Activities which are, or may be, conducted within the Area, including restrictions on time and place:

- i. Compelling scientific activities which cannot be conducted elsewhere.
- ii. Compelling management activities, which if not carried out would jeopardise the values for which the Area was designated.
- iii. Where activities necessitate interference with the birds care should be taken to cause the least possible disturbance, particularly during the period 1 November to 1 April.

c. The installation, modification, or removal of structures:

No structures may be erected in the Area unless essential for research purposes. Any structures installed on the islands must be removed when no longer required. Installation of a field hut on Ardery Island should take place wherever possible before 1 November when the breeding season commences and removal should be after 1 April when the fledglings have departed. Installation and removal should be by oversnow transport unless sea-ice conditions prevent this. For use of helicopters see (a) ii above.

d. The location of field camps:

If required for field work, a hut may be erected on Ardery Island at the point specified on Map B. There are 8 solid rock anchors available at this spot.

e. Restrictions on materials and organisms which may be brought into the Area:

- i. Fuel is not to be depoted on the islands, unless required by a researcher for personal use, i.e. for cooking/heating etc., in a field hut on Ardery Island, and is to be removed at the same time as the hut.
- ii. No poultry products, including dried food containing egg powder, are to be taken into the Area.

f. The taking of or harmful interference with native flora and fauna:

Taking of, or harmful interference with, native flora and fauna is prohibited unless specifically authorised by permit issued in accordance with the Agreed Measures for the Conservation of Antarctic Fauna and Flora, or Article 3 of Annex II to the Protocol on g. The collection or removal of anything not brought into the Area by the permit holder:

There is to be no collection or removal of anything not brought into the Area by the permit holder unless specifically authorised by permit for scientific or management purposes.

h. The disposal of waste:

No wastes, including human wastes, are to be left in the Area.

i. Measures that may be necessary to ensure that the aims and objectives of the management plan can continue to be met:

- permits should specify the maximum number of people allowed entry at any one time;
- visits to the Area should be kept to the minimum necessary to achieve the research and management objectives;
- access should be permitted where necessary to place or remove structures or equipments.

j. Requirements for reports:

Each permit holder shall submit a report to the permit-issuing authority detailing the activities undertaken within the Area including a summary of research findings, and comments indicating measures taken to ensure compliance with conditions. Where appropriate, the report may make recommendations relevant to the management of the Area, in particular, as to whether the values for which the Area was designated are being adequately protected. The report should be submitted as soon as practicable after the visit to the Area has been completed.