

GUIDANCE FOR APPLICATIONS TO LAND AT NON-VISITOR SITES ON SOUTH GEORGIA

The majority of South Georgia's flora and fauna are restricted to the coastal fringe of the island. To limit the human footprint, minimise impact and reduce environmental risk, it is the Government of South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands (GSGSSI) is that activities in coastal habitats should as far as possible be limited to [designated visitor landing sites](#)/sites with an established science programme.

However, GSGSSI recognise that access to other coastal areas/non-visitor landing sites is appropriate in some circumstances. The increased environmental risk is balanced by data and/or outreach materials that will contribute to the management of the South Georgia [Specially Protected Area](#).

This guidance is intended to outline GSGSSI's approach to assessing requests to coastal landing sites and criteria which should be met.

NOTE: this guidance applies to coastal landing sites only. Access to glaciated regions in the interior of the island will still be assessed via the expedition application system.

Access/landing only

- Access to a site for <12h in order to conduct scientific research e.g. wildlife surveys, sample collection etc
- Transiting across a site for expeditions accessing inland areas of the island / bail out points

Projects are required to:

- Justify why the activity cannot be undertaken at a recognised visitor landing site/site with an established science programme;
- Demonstrate that access to the site will contribute to the management of the South Georgia Specially Protected Area; and
- Show that the visit to the site will not have an adverse environmental impact

Assessment:

- Applications are made through the Regulated Activity Permit (RAP) system and must be received at least **90 days** prior to the proposed start date.
- Scientific data produced should be of high quality, ideally (but not exclusively) through university-led science. Applicants should outline the intended use of the data, and plans for publication / dissemination.
- Plans for outreach or media work should be detailed including intended audience / reach and time frames for production. This may include reports, blogs, talks/interviews etc

Overnight stays and/or erecting structures

- Installation of scientific equipment
- Erecting of tents or temporary shelters
- Erecting of masts or antenna

Projects are required to:

- Justify why the activity cannot be undertaken at a recognised visitor landing site/site with an established science programme AND have a track record of successfully undertaking similar work on South Georgia.
- Demonstrate that access to the site will make a significant contribution to the management of the South Georgia Specially Protected Area; and
- Show that any environmental impacts are mitigated as far as possible

Assessment

- Applications are made through the Regulated Activity Permit (RAP) system and must be received at least **90 days** prior to the proposed start date. After an initial assessment, a final decision as to whether the permit will be granted will be made via the Senior Leadership Team.
- Scientific data produced must be of the highest quality and have tangible outputs (e.g.: papers, presentations or publicly available reports) AND proposals must have been through a peer review process. Applicants should outline the intended use of the data, and plans for publication / dissemination.
- Plans for outreach or media work should be detailed including intended audience / reach and time frames for production. Media and outreach should have global reach i.e. an international audience exceeding 1 million.
- Projects that evidence collaboration and seek to maximise the benefit of their visit to multiple groups (for example by sharing data, samples, media) are encouraged.

