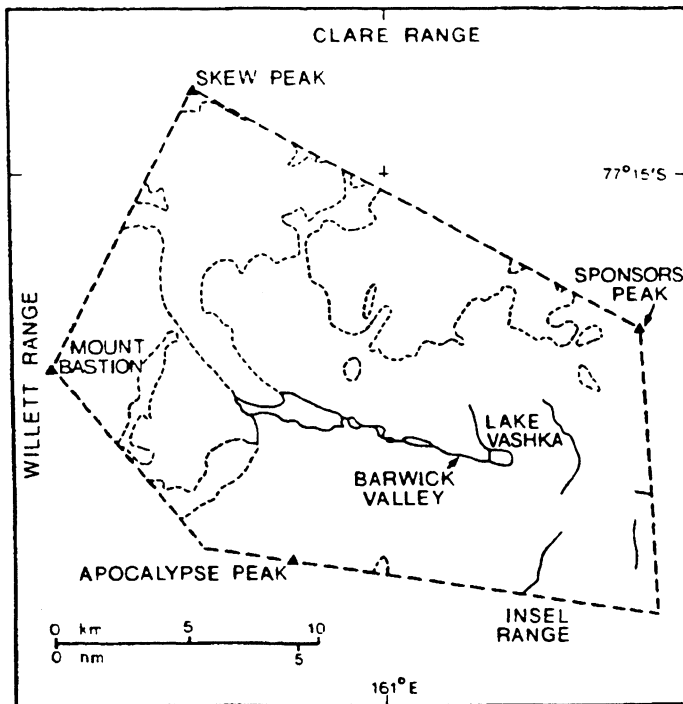


Antarctic Specially Protected Area No. 123 (Site of Special Scientific Interest No. 3)

Barwick Valley, Victoria Land

i. *Description of Site.* The Site includes the greater part of Barwick Valley, Victoria Land, and contains parts of several glaciers, exposed soils, a lake about 3km wide and 16km long and a connecting stream about 5km long leading to Lake Vashka. It is bordered on the south, west and north by Olympus, Willett, and Clare Ranges respectively. The boundary of the Site approximates to an irregular pentagon enclosing about 325 km². The Site is defined by lines joining Skew Peak (77°24'S, 160°43'E), Sponsors Peak (77°18'S, 161°24'E), a point on the Insel Range (77°24'S, 161°26'E), a point in the Apocalypse Peaks (77°24'S, 160°46'E), Mount Bastion (77°19'S, 60°34'E) and Skew Peak. The boundaries are shown on the attached map.



ASP A 123
Map A*

ii. *Reason for Designation.* Barwick Valley is one of the least disturbed and contaminated of the Dry Valleys of Victoria Land, which are environmentally unique and possess extreme polar desert ecosystems. The Site is important as a reference base against which to measure changes in comparable ecosystems of the other Dry Valleys where a considerable variety of scientific investigations have been conducted regularly over the past decade. It is also expected to be of use in connection with global environmental monitoring.

iii. *Outline of research.* Investigations are proposed of the microbiology, bacteriology, mycology (especially of yeast and moulds), and of the terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, with special programmes to establish baseline measurements for biological and environmental monitoring.

iv. *Date of expiry of designation.* 30 June 1981.

- v. *Access points.* Access should be by helicopter to Wright Valley, thence into the Barwick Valley Site on foot past Lake Vashka.
- vi. *Pedestrian and vehicular routes.* Vehicles should not be used. Pedestrian routes should keep to well-drained ground avoiding streams and the lake margins as much as possible.
- vii. *Other kinds of scientific investigations which would not cause harmful interference.* Geological pedagogical, and glaciological studies except those which would introduce exotic species and those which would disrupt or damage the existing ecosystems.
- viii. *Scientific sampling.* Scientific sampling in the Site should be restricted to that which can be accomplished without introducing new organisms, including micro-organisms, and without disturbing the environment.
- ix. *Other restraints.* Overflight of the Site should be avoided. Aircraft landing and vehicle parking should be kept well outside the boundaries of the Site. Field activities should be kept to a minimum. Permanent field camps, landfill disposal, and other activities which would introduce new materials or organisms, including micro-organisms, into the Site should be avoided. All material carried into the Site should be removed.